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Travel Daily

on location in
Denver, Colorado

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you from IPW 2018 in Denver, courtesy of Visit USA and American Airlines.

TODAY IPW kicked off in earnest, with the show floor buzzing and thousands of meetings between buyers and suppliers taking place.

They rolled out the big guns at lunchtime, with a performance by iconic Eighties party band The B-52s which brought the house down at the massive Denver Convention Center.

It's the 50th anniversary of IPW which started in 1969 in New York under its former name of International Pow Wow, with fewer than 150 delegates.

Now it's 40 times bigger, with the party continuing tonight at Denver's Mile High stadium.

Qantas launches NDC

QANTAS has embraced IATA's New Distribution Capability (NDC) with the launch of a technology platform it says will give travel agents a digital evolution involving new capabilities and rich content (*TD* breaking news).

The Qantas Distribution Platform (QDP) has been developed in partnership with technology company Farelogix and is certified by IATA at NDC Level 3, its highest ranking.

Its introduction will allow the carrier to improve the functionality of agent channels, aligning them with the features of its consumer website qantas.com.

Trade partners will have access

to rich content including images of cabins and meals and the ability to book extras such as extra legroom seating.

It will also provide frequent flyer information and tier status.

"The Qantas Distribution Platform will enable our trade partners to provide customers with a more personalised experience, beyond what traditional technology has been able to deliver," said Qantas chief customer officer Vanessa Hudson.

The airline has announced Travelport, Serko and CTM as early adopters of the QDP and said it was working closely with other GDS and agency partners to take up the new technology.

Trade partners can access the QDP either via approved partner connections or directly by developing a connection to Qantas' NDC XML Application Program Interface (API).

For more details, [CLICK HERE](#).

CX A350-1000 to debut sooner

CATHAY Pacific will commence commercial flights using its new Airbus A350-1000XWB aircraft a month earlier than previously scheduled, with GDS displays indicating the inaugural flight will take place on 01 Jul this year, rather than 01 Aug.

The first flight will operate from Hong Kong to Taipei, followed the next day by Hong Kong to Bangkok and a week later to Manila and Singapore.

Long-haul flights using the A350-1000XWBs are scheduled to commence from 15 Sep 2018 between Hong Kong and Washington Dulles, followed by Tel Aviv on 03 Oct, Madrid from 28 Oct and Manchester effective from 01 Dec.

Cathay's A350-1000s will carry 334 passengers - 46 in business class, 32 in premium economy and 256 in economy - about 50 more than CX's A350-900s.

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BI one stop to LHR

ROYAL Brunei Airlines has announced that its daily flights from Melbourne to London will become a one-stop service from 28 Oct, decoupling from Dubai.

The flights will operate under flight numbers BI05/06 (MEL-BWN) and BI03/04 (BWN-LHR) using the carrier's Boeing 787s, with a travel time of 23h 10m.

The decoupling means BI will also offer MEL-BWN-DXB flights four times per week.



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Brand USA plans MegaFam

BRAND USA this morning announced it would bring 60 travel agents from Australia and New Zealand to America for a MegaFam later this year in partnership with Air New Zealand.

Taking place in Aug, the MegaFam will see participants split into six groups, each of which will spend several days exploring different parts of the US on "music-themed" itineraries, before gathering for a grand finale in Las Vegas.

The move was one of the major announcements made during the Brand USA press conference at US trade show IPW2018 in Denver this morning, with Brand USA ceo Christopher L. Thompson saying it's an opportunity to "showcase all that our nation has to offer".

Participants will be decided via an incentive campaign which kicks off on 06 Jun, and they will also be invited to attend Brand USA hosted roadshows in key cities across Australia designed to educate travel professionals about the US and "excite them to compete for a spot on the MegaFam," Thompson said.

Air New Zealand regional gm Kathryn Robertson said the fam was a fantastic opportunity to partner with Brand USA to "promote both the Air New Zealand experience as well as the diversity of everything the USA has to offer travellers".

The US is a key focus for Air New Zealand, which has been working hard to encourage Aussies to visit the Americas via its one-stop widebody connections over Auckland from major Australian capital cities.

Currently Air NZ flies daily from Australia to Honolulu, Houston, Los Angeles and San Francisco, with the carrier also recently announcing the addition of Chicago (**TD** 28 Mar) which will debut on 30 Nov.

More news from IPW on **page 4**.

SAS high-speed wi-fi

SAS has announced the rollout of high speed satellite internet connectivity on its flights between Scandinavia and the rest of Europe, with 28 aircraft already featuring the service which is 10 times faster than traditional wi-fi.

New SIN Kempinski

KEMPINSKI Hotels has announced plans to open The Capitol Kempinski Hotel Singapore, described as the "first luxury heritage lifestyle destination in the city-state's downtown Civic District".

The project includes the shopping and dining destination Capitol Piazza, the Capitol Theatre, the Eden Residences Capitol and the The Capitol Kempinski Hotel, to open in Sep.

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Window Seat

THOSE crazy cats who run Japan's railway system have come up with a unique feline flavour for their latest bullet train, which will be completely themed around the popular Hello Kitty cartoon character. The high speed train, which is set to commence service between Osaka and Hakata at the end of next month, will be pink (of course) and adorned with some pretty bows.



But that's just the start of the branding, with concept renderings released overnight showing the treat that Kitty-lovers are in for.

Each carriage is different - some with Hello Kitty shops selling cute merchandise, Hello Kitty wallpaper, Hello Kitty seats and even a selfie spot (**pictured below**) where you can have your photo take with Kitty.



Travel scams on the rise

REPORTS of travel scams have risen dramatically as Australia's consumer watchdog investigates the highest levels of scammer activity ever recorded.

In its annual *Targeting Scams Report*, the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) says the total value of reported losses from scams in 2017 was \$340 million.

It was the first year in which the value of losses broke the \$300 million barrier, with more than 200,000 cases reported.

While incidents involving travel represent only a small portion of total reports, their number rose steeply over 2016.

The number of travel scams increased 71.1% to total 1,738 cases last year.

Overall losses amounted to \$83,403, though this value was down 44.7% from 2016.

"It's very worrying that

Australians are losing such extraordinary amounts to scammers," said ACCC deputy chair Delia Rickard.

"Some scams are becoming very sophisticated and hard to spot."

In its report, the ACCC says travel scams typically involve attempts to make people pay in order to claim a free or discounted holiday.

More than half the value of travel scams was lost in NSW, which suffered 452 cases worth \$42,652, an increase of 144.3%.

Victoria was hit by 424 cases worth \$11,882, though this was a decrease of 76.4% on 2016 levels.

Among trends highlighted by the ACCC was a rise in fraud involving cryptocurrencies.

It says about \$100,000 per month was lost in cryptocurrency scams between Jan and Sep last year, but this rose to \$700,000 in the month of Dec alone and totalled \$2.1 million by the end of the year.

NZ int'l visitors dip

THE number of international visitors to New Zealand dropped 9% in Apr when compared to the same month last year, with falls among most source markets except China.

Figures released by Stats NZ yesterday show arrivals were down 28,000 to 283,900, mainly due to this year's early Easter.

The number of Australians visiting New Zealand was down 20,800 from 2017 to 109,800 in Apr this year.

"Last year's Apr saw particularly high visitor numbers with Easter, Anzac Day and the school holidays all falling in the same month, making it an attractive option for many trans-Tasman holidaymakers," said Stats NZ population insights senior manager Brooke Theyers.

Arrivals from the UK & US were down 21% & 10% respectively.

Visitor numbers for the year to Apr were up 5.4% to 3.79 million.

Senior Retail Travel Consultant

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY to join one of Australia's best travel agencies.

Travelrite International Balwyn has a vacancy for an experienced, enthusiastic and successful Senior Retail Travel Consultant to join its busy and growing retail business in Balwyn, Melbourne.

Travelrite International, established in 1985, continues to enjoy strong and profitable growth in retail, cruising and across its range of unique special interest tours. We are looking for an experienced and enthusiastic senior consultant to join our team of 30 happy staff at Balwyn.

An attractive salary, with travel and other attractive benefits, will be paid.

Call Alex Ruggero, Retail Travel Manager, Travelrite International Balwyn toll free on 1800 630 343 or email alex@travelrite.com.au to set up a confidential interview.



DNSW appoints

FORMER Gold Coast Tourism cmo Jan Hutton has joined Destination NSW as general manager marketing.

Hutton was chief marketing officer of Gold Coast Tourism for over two years and prior to that was head of Deloitte consulting brand & marketing: Africa for Deloitte Africa.

She will step into the role at the end of Jun.

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Starline offers celeb meet and greet

LOS Angeles-based Starline Tours has announced a new partnership with a group called OMG VIP which will allow travellers to take part in "intimate-setting meet and greet experiences with celebrities".

The company has also launched a new hop-on hop-off attraction pass which gives passengers access and transportation to 25 Los Angeles venues, including Universal Studios and Warner Bros. Movie Studios.

The Ultimate Three Day ticket pass costs US\$259, with one- and two-day options also available.

Another new tour launching in Jul will partner Starline's 80-year Los Angeles heritage with Young Hollywood, a producer of video content for Millennial and Gen Z audiences, offering a two-hour journey in a 24-passenger custom-designed bus complete with state-of-the-art audio and video.

Cirque VIP offers

VISITORS to Las Vegas can now take their Cirque du Soleil experience to a new level, with a new "watch like a VIP" offering available at the LOVE, O, KA and Mystere presentations.

The special offerings include behind-the-scenes tours, private VIP suites and lounges, artist meet-and-greet opportunities and food, drinks & merchandise.

They're available for both individual and group bookings - cirquedusoleil.com/las-vegas.

Jurassic closure

UNIVERSAL Studios Hollywood is running a "countdown to the extinction of 'Jurassic Park - The Ride'" as the attraction is set to be revamped from 03 Sep 2018.

It will be replaced by a completely reimagined thrill ride - still Jurassic-themed - which will feature "astounding special effects and never-before-seen dinosaurs" in 2019.

EagleRider Harley partnership



US MOTORCYCLE rental and travel company EagleRider is this week formally launching a partnership with iconic motorbike manufacturer Harley-Davidson.

The deal was signed about a year ago and is now coming to fruition, with EagleRider outlets rolling out in Harley-Davidson dealerships across the USA.

The pact gives EagleRider access to the latest Harleys, making it easier for more riders to experience the rapidly developing product line.

Speaking to **TD** at IPW in Denver today, EagleRider ceo Chris McIntyre said the agreement "just makes sense" for both

organisations - and provides significant benefits for Australian visitors because it enables point-to-point rentals and tours across the USA.

"It's a truly national network," he said, meaning riders can pick up a bike in one city, take an extended tour on many of America's iconic roads, and return it at their final destination.

Harley-Davidson's Anoop Prakash, **pictured** above left with McIntyre at IPW, said the bike maker expected the EagleRider deal to serve as an introduction to the brand, allowing potential buyers to experience a Harley before deciding to buy one.



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* selected flights from July 2018



A330-200 NEW BUSINESS CLASS

Trade Support: 1300 332 077

ETG focus on TTV

EXPRESS Travel Group (ETG) is turning its attention away from acquisitions and towards working with premium preferred suppliers to achieve a “better financial result for the company”, ceo Tom Manwaring has confirmed.

Manwaring told *Travel Daily* at the Select Travel Group conference last week that “we don’t have a list of potential acquisition targets,” but added the company is “always interested in talking to anybody about how we can partner up to increase TTV and to remain relevant”.

He noted that “merging has been shown in the past to not be the most effective way of growing your TTV,” explaining “it’s very hard to merge cultures and businesses”.

Last year, Express Travel Group purchased cruise wholesaler Creative Cruising from The Travel Corporation (**TD** Dec 20).

TA seeks South Korea partner

TOURISM Australia has issued a Request For Tender for trade representation in South Korea.

The successful tenderer will represent TA to the travel industry & Australian Government bodies in the country, as well as implement travel distribution and partnership including agent training, trade familiarisation trips and co-operative activity with trade partners.

Provision of market intelligence and reporting as well as strategy input into Tourism Australia’s Annual Operating Plan is also part of the brief.

The proposed contract is for an initial term of two years from 01 Jul 2018 through until 30 June 2020, with a tender closing date of 29 May.

There will also be an option to extend the term for a further year but there is no guarantee that options will be exercised.



TRAVEL Partners Victoria has boosted its agent numbers in the past 12 months to reach 21, prompting the group to hold its first dedicated Melbourne Day.

Hosted by Victorian-based bdm Chriss Perry, the info day aimed to help Travel Partners to grow their business and also develop relationships and a network of support as the team grows.

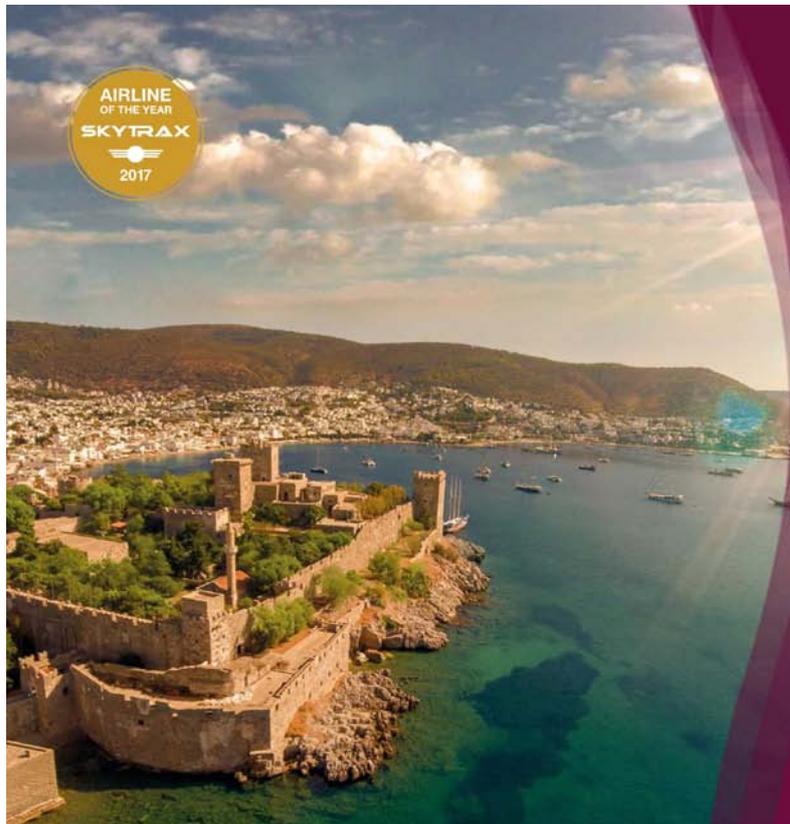
“We have already started looking at options for our next event, and I am excited to lead this inspiring group of travel go-getters,” Perry said.

The day included presentations from Ester Weiss of The Brazilian Travel Centre, Barbara Katsifolis of Borneo & Beyond,

Japan Airlines, Intrepid, Infinity Holidays, Royal Brunei, ANZCRO and On The Go Tours.

Pictured above in the back row are: Shelly Dodds, Travel by Design; Chiss Perry, bdm Travel Partners; Barbara Kaysifolis, Borneo & Beyond; Damon Macfarlane, 442 Travel Group; Esther Weiss, The Brazilian Travel Centre; Leonie Condor, TP Mobile; Michelle Barnett, Travel, Leisure and Cruise; Lunda Reid, Ezy Travel Guru and Jenny Wei, Sunday Holidays.

In the front row are: Raffaella Gatto, TP mobile; Traci Webb, Cloud 9 Travel; Jane Underwood, ATA Travel and Trica Stevenson, TP Mobile.



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Book by 30 May 2018 for travel until 31 March 2019*.

Fares per person from*:

		Economy	Business
Antalya	from AUD	1,195	6,315
Bodrum	from AUD	1,195	6,315
Adana	from AUD	1,185	6,305
Hatay	from AUD	1,185	6,305
Istanbul (Ataturk)	from AUD	1,095	6,115
Istanbul (Sabiha Gökçen)	from AUD	1,095	6,115



* Offer valid until 30 May 2018, unless sold out prior. Fares quoted above are for departures from Perth and are the lowest adult return prices per person including taxes, fees, and airport charges. Economy Class fares are valid for travel between 27 September – 30 November 2018, and 13 January – 31 March 2019. Business Class fares are valid for travel between 22 May 2018 – 31 March 2019. Other sale dates may be available. Other sale fares are available from Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, and Adelaide. Fares may vary due to currency or tax fluctuations. Seasonal surcharges and weekend surcharges may apply. For all other terms and conditions please review at time of booking. Flights to Bodrum start 12 June 2018, and flights to Antalya start 13 June 2018.

Bentours gets festively Nordic



THE team from Bentours was in full festive spirit last week as the Scandinavian specialist marked Norway's national day in its Melbourne office.

Celebrating the founding of Norway's constitution, the 17 May anniversary involved a Norwegian cake design competition, desk decorations

and dinner at Melbourne's Bluetrain restaurant.

One team member won a prize of a Bentours Follow the Lights tour and will chase the northern lights, sleep in a glass igloo and visit a traditional husky farm, among other highlights.

The team is **pictured** during its Norwegian celebrations.

Frasers China push

FRASERS Hospitality has opened its 16th property in China as part of a plan to almost double its presence in Chinese cities over coming years.

The debut of Fraser Suites Dalian in the norther province of Liaoning follows other recent openings by Fraser in Changsha, Tianjin and Shenzhen.

Crowne wellness

CROWNE Plaza Queenstown will target conference and incentive delegates with three new wellness packages.

Designed by local fitness company Peak Mountain Fitness, the packages include yoga, boot camp and mindfulness options, each "designed to enhance downtime in Queenstown's stunning alpine environment".

Aurora polar perk

AURORA Expeditions is offering a Polar Perks incentive program in which travel credits can be spent on activity add-ons.

By booking a 2019/20 Antarctic or 2020 Arctic voyage before 31 Jul, travellers will receive \$1,550 per person in Polar Perks which can be used for pre/post accom, tours, on-board credit, travel insurance and activities.



Money

WELCOME to Money, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

\$1AUD = US0.756

NEWS that the United States and China have reached agreement over future trade arrangements has boosted markets and helped the Australian dollar reach one-month highs in overnight trade. Lifted by gains in commodity markets, the Aussie was up 0.7% against its US counterpart today, and also made gains of 0.8% against the euro and 1.2% over a weaker Japanese yen.

The local currency was also up 1.1% against the British pound, which has weakened after recent data releases which suggest a delay in any interest rates hikes.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.756
UK	£0.563
NZ	\$1.083
Euro	€0.641
Japan	¥84.11
Thailand	฿24.19
China	¥4.743
South Africa	R9.531
Canada	\$0.9625
Crude oil	US\$72.55



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Wu's week five winner



WENDY Wu Tours has revealed the week five winner of its Mega Friends with Benefits incentive.

The recipient of a \$500 experience voucher was Carolyn Oakley from South Perth Travel in WA, who is **pictured** above with Sandy Battle, Wendy Wu bdm from WA (right).

The incentive runs for another three weeks with more \$500 prizes up for grabs, before the final major prize of a private tour for an agent plus three friends is drawn in Jun.

All bookings made before 15 Jun are eligible to enter - [CLICK HERE](#) for more details and T&Cs.

Darwin waterpark

DARWIN'S plan for a water theme park is one step closer to becoming a reality, with the Northern Territory Govt nominating the Stokes Hill Wharf area as its preferred site.

The govt has called for expressions of interest from the private sector to build and operate the park - more [HERE](#).

New route for CA

AIR China has announced it is launching a new service between Beijing and Hanoi, commencing 01 Jun this year.

The four-hour flight will be operated four times a week, on Tue, Thu, Fri and Sun.

Currently Air China flies four other routes from China to Vietnam.

Carnival Dubai port

CARNIVAL Corp and Dubai Tourism have signed an agreement to collaborate on a number of key areas to develop cruising to the emirate.

The two organisations will work together on the development of a new cruise terminal at Dubai Harbour, eventually becoming the main cruise hub, with cruise ships to be gradually redirected from Port Rashid to the new facility.

AFL

AFL ROUND 9 WINNER

Congratulations

SAMANTHA STILES

from *HelloWorld Daisy Hill*

Samantha is the top point scorer for Round 9 of *Travel Daily's* AFL footy tipping competition. She's won \$100 travel credit courtesy of Expedia.

Expedia **TAAP**



The major prize for the 2018 footy tipping competition is return economy class airfares to Dubai flying with **EMIRATES**.

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Dallas & Fort Worth unite



A SELECTION of travel media and industry reps experienced a taste of Texan hospitality earlier this month, when Visit Dallas and Visit Fort Worth joined forces to host their Annual Mission trade events in Sydney and Brisbane.

Guests at the Sydney Showground event on 07 and 08 May enjoyed a surprise performance by Austin Allsup, finalist in the 11th season of *The Voice* in the US, who entertained the crowd in between presentations by Visit Dallas pres Phillip Jones and Visit Fort Worth pres Bob Jameson.

On 09 May, Brisbane's trade

event brought together over 80 industry representatives to hear updates on the two cities.

A consumer event was also held between 05 and 06 May in a showcase first, with more than 18,000 show-goers enjoying bull riding, a bbq and a music festival.

Pictured are: Mark Thompson, Visit Dallas; performer Austin Allsup; Geoffrey Hutton, ceo Kent Marketing; Bob Jameson, Visit Fort Worth; Allsup's wife Chelsea; Mitch Whitten, Visit Fort Worth; Jane Yeates, Qantas and Lucy Rowe, Kent Marketing.

Delta nonstop

DELTA Air Lines is set to launch a new nonstop service from New York-JFK to Orange County, California, operating six times weekly, except on Sat.

The Boeing 737-700 aircraft service will take off from 15 Oct.

New SVP for Dusit

THAI hotel and property management group Dusit has appointed Marc Hediger to the role of svp development.

In his new role, Hediger will be responsible for the development team's global operations, with the exception of China.



OVER the past weekend I had the great pleasure of attending the Express Travel Group's Select Travel Group conference in Macao. The conference was held at the newly minted MGM Cotai Hotel and Casino and as brand-new hotels go, this one is terrific. The agenda for the conference talked to how travel agencies can re-think their approach to some of the more traditional ways and I was pleased to be able to present some of the recent research that AFTA has undertaken with consumers. A very big congratulations to the ETG team for delivering another fantastic conference in a city and venue that really never sleeps.

Macao is on fire, with the level of construction underway for more and more hotels and casinos and the level of development in infrastructure including the new ferry terminal and enhancements to the airport. Macao is preparing for the future onslaught of tourists from China that from what I could see are coming in droves. Australians also seem to like the spoils of Macao and I suspect we will see more and more Aussies heading to Macao over the coming years as it presents itself as a world class man-made destination.

As to research, one of the really interesting findings was the fact that after the consumers had been informed about what ATAS was and what it meant for the travel agency, 82% of those surveyed indicated that they would look for or seek out an ATAS travel agent when they looked to book a trip next time. What was also very interesting was that those ATAS agents who currently hold accreditation need to be talking about it more and as such AFTA will be launching in the coming weeks a broad-based industry education campaign to help agency owners and consultants understand how ATAS can help and the power that it brings to the agency. AFTA continues to embrace the consumer media with a deep-dive digital campaign and this continues to deliver large numbers of searches on the ATAS website as consumers look to confirm or find ATAS travel agents.

On a final note, I can't not mention the royal wedding. It's always such a spectacle and as I am travelling overseas currently, CNN, BBC and the Australian Network have an ongoing coverage going over every little detail. Monarchist or Republican, it's hard not to enjoy a Royal Wedding. I am sure Harry and Meghan are headed on a spectacular honeymoon and no doubt we will be watching more and more of this over the coming weeks and months.

Waldorf on the web

A NEW Waldorf Apartment Hotels website has launched, which the company said pushes "the book direct message".

The new portal details the four Waldorf Group Brands, includes a simpler booking engine, interactive maps and refreshed photography of properties.

See www.waldorf.com.au.

AVANI check-in

GUESTS making a booking online at any AVANI Hotels & Resorts around the world now have the option to complete a pre-arrival online check-in.

The secure process allows guests to arrive and find their room key card ready for immediate use, as well as make additional requests for their stay.

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Abu Dhabi experience of a lifetime

EARLIER this month, the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi and TravelCube hosted a group of Aussie travel agents, showcasing all that Abu Dhabi has to offer.

Agents experienced superior service on Etihad Airways departing from Sydney and Melbourne before arriving in Abu Dhabi for four full days of activities, ranging from dune bashing in the desert to sailing along the Arabian Gulf.

Highlights included time spent in the entertainment hub of Yas Island, with a visit to Ferrari World, Yas Waterworld and Yas Marina Circuit. The group was also lucky enough to spend a morning at the newly opened Louvre Abu Dhabi.

After jam-packed days, participants lapped up the warm hospitality staying at both Ritz-Carlton Abu Dhabi Grand Canal and Fairmont Bab Al Bahr and enjoyed a famous Fri brunch at the stunning Rosewood, Abu Dhabi.

MONIQUE Dorey from Andrew Jones Travel, Sarah Hewitt from Travel Associates and Shari Sweeney from Flight Centre, sailing the Arabian Gulf on board *Prince of the Sea*.



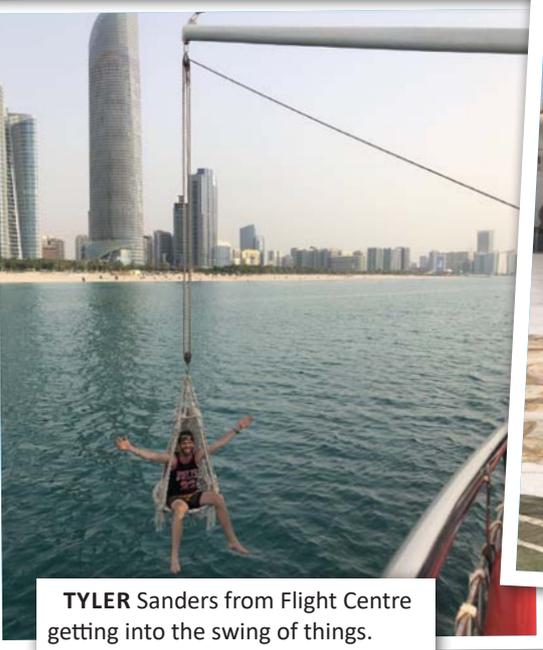
THE famil group discovering Abu Dhabi's desert landscape on safari.



EXPLORING the cultural district of Abu Dhabi with a visit to Louvre Abu Dhabi.



RICHARD Johnson from Flight Centre at Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital.



TYLER Sanders from Flight Centre getting into the swing of things.



BROOKE Cooper from Escape Travel experiencing Abu Dhabi's Grand Mosque.



TYLER Sanders from Flight Centre and Sarah Hewitt from Travel Associates.

Animal adventures in Africa



BENCH Africa recently treated nine agents to a 10-day Southern African adventure, kicking off the trip with five days exploring the wildlife of Botswana and Namibia.

Next stop was Zimbabwe, where Victoria Falls put on a show, with water levels at their highest.

The trip finished up at the Hwange National Park, where agents had the chance to walk with the wild animals, before canoeing down the Zambezi.

Pictured in the back row are:

Ann McKinnon, MTA Travel; David Hull, Travel Managers; Helen Mercer, My Adventure Travel Little Bourke; Joshua Irvine, Flight Centre Kalamunda; Lacey Stark, O'Sullivan & Turner Travel Associates; and Maria Tropiano, Bench Africa.

In the front row: Jill Cable, Travel & Cruise Belrose; Brittany Gellard, Cathie Rice Travel; Eleanor Gibson, Peninsula Travel and Roslyn Nielsen, Helloworld Mackay.

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Further details about TIME can be viewed **HERE** or email **TIME@traveldaily.com.au**

Travel Daily



Hawaiian surf-snow

HAWAIIAN Airlines has released a "Surf and Snow" special for flights from Australia to the US mainland, on sale to 29 Jun.

Gross return fares are from \$815 ex Brisbane to OAK/SFO/SJC in low season (18 Jan to 25 Mar, 2019), with other fares from major Aust cities available to points including LAX, LAS & NYC.

Dior arrives in SYD

SYDNEY Airport has welcomed a temporary new retailer at the T1 International terminal, with the unveiling of Australia's first Maison Christian Dior boutique.

Housed inside the Heinemann Tax & Duty Free store, the boutique offers travellers a range of scented candles, soaps and fragrances and will be open for a limited time.

Novotel iceskating

GUESTS staying at Novotel Wollongong Northbeach in Jul will have the chance to ice skate by the beach, with the hotel set to open an ice rink as part of its Beachside Ice Skating 2018 event.

The custom-made rink will be located on the hotel's terrace, and the property will also offer food, drinks, live music and DJs.

The rink opens 07 Jul to 22 Jul, midday to 7pm Sun-Thu, with two extra sessions on Sat at 8pm.

Traveliko no comm

A NEW online travel portal called traveliko.com is claiming to have a "zero commission policy" and aims to allow hotels to bypass OTAs.

The website claims to have replaced commission with a "subscription model that provides hotels with a free listing for up to 100 bookings per month, supplemented by premium options for a small fee".

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