

DREAM CRUISES

AUSTRALIAN COASTAL CRUISES

OCT 2019 - REB 2020

7N AUSTRALIAN DISCOVERY I SUNDAYS FROM 27 OCT TO 1 DEC 2019

Sydney - Newcastle - Gladstone - Sunshine Coast - Brisbane - Sydney Inside from \$1199 pp; Oceanview from \$1399 pp; Balcony from \$1699 pp

7N AUSTRALIAN DISCOVERY II 24 NOV 2019

Sydney - Newcastle - Gladstone - Brisbane - Sunshine Coast - Sydney Inside from \$1199 pp; Oceanview from \$1399 pp; Balcony from \$1699 pp

7N TASMANIA EXPLORER I 9 FEB 2020

Sydney - Port Arthur - Hobart - Melbourne - Burnie - Sydney Inside from \$1299 pp; Oceanview from \$1499 pp; Balcony from \$1899 pp

7N TASMANIA EXPLORER II SUNDAYS FROM 16 FEB TO 23 FEB 2020

Sydney - Hobart - Port Arthur - Burnie - Eden - Sydney Inside from \$1299 pp; Oceanview from \$1499 pp; Balcony from \$1899 pp

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Travel Daily First with the news Tuesday 5th February 2019

car & motorhome hire, free upgrades and more...



EK AFL winners

WE RECEIVED scores of entries for our Emirates Collingwood comp (TD 25 Jan), and EK has chosen the two lucky readers to have a pic taken with the Magpies.

The winners were Ben Guinane from APTI Melbourne and Michelle McCracken of APT Travel Group, and the correct answers were: (a) Emirates operates 109 A380s; (b) EK is celebrating 20 years of being a Collingwood Premier Partner; and (c) EK now flies to eight UK gateways.

Australian Dream...

DREAM Cruises is today promoting its upcoming series of Australian coastal cruises, with seven night voyages aboard Explorer Dream taking place between Oct 2019 and Feb 2020.

Inside cabins lead in at just \$1,199pp including taxes, gratuities and a \$100 dining credit - for more details see the cover page of today's Travel Daily.

AAT's Red Centre growth

EXCLUSIVE A NEW long-term multi-year

agreement between Voyages and AAT Kings is seeing The Travel Corporation significantly boost its investments at Ayers Rock Resort.

TTC CEO Brett Tollman yesterday confirmed the company was currently constructing eight new houses to support the growth of the business, accommodating up to 16 additional staff.

The new houses are due for completion next month, with Tollman saying soaring demand in the Red Centre has given the company confidence to "support the longer-term growth of our business, growth of the resort and also the development of new products and services".

Other ongoing works include the re-design and upgrade of the existing AAT Kings depot near Uluru, having outgrown the existing facility because the company's fleet is busier.

Tollman said the AAT Kings operation had doubled in size over recent years, adding "we always have and will continue to invest strongly in the most up to date and young fleet of coaches".

deals

He said growth was coming primarily through strong occupancy levels at Ayers Rock Resort, thanks in part to the promotion of the Field of Light supported by more flights.

The inbound Japanese market was particularly strong, he said, including AAT Kings' unique Field of Light sunrise tour.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has nine pages of news, a front cover wrap for Dream Cruises, a photo page from Switzerland Tourism, plus full pages from: TMS Talent

- Tauck
- Quest Apartment Hotels

TTC expanding Red Carnation portfolio

THE Travel Corporation's (TTC) upmarket Red Carnation Hotels brand is expanding in Africa, with the planned opening of a new lodge in the Okavango Delta.

Xigera Lodge has been operated by Wilderness Safaris, in which The Travel Corporation recently divested its ownership but in the process retained the Botswana property for Red Carnation.

TTC CEO Brett Tollman told TD the company was "spending a fortune" on Xigera, which will become a luxury 11-room lodge offering the best game viewing in the iconic African region.

Also on the agenda for Red Carnation is two new properties in Dublin and Edinburgh.

The new offerings are still the subject of negotiations with current property owners, with Tollman saying the company aims to address a shortage in the five star luxury market in both cities.



WIN 5 SILVERSEA CRUISES

Starting Monday, 4 February and running for the next 5 weeks, simply make a new booking on ANY Silversea voyage and go in the draw to win an all-inclusive Silversea cruise for you and a guest. The winner will be announced weekly. Sail your way through South East Asia in true Whispered Luxury, and experience the Silversea All-Inclusive Lifestyle on board Silver Shadow, sailing roundtrip from Singapore on 21 March, 2019 - valued at AU\$13,800 per suite.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR BDM, OR CALL OUR FRIENDLY RESERVATIONS DEPARTMENT ON +61 2 9255 0600



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Quest NewQuay

QUEST Apartment Hotels has launched the biggest property in its network, with the new Quest NewQuay in Melbourne's Docklands featuring 221 serviced apartments - one of nine new openings in Australia, NZ and the UK over the next two years - **p12**.



Memorable journeys

At SriLankan Airlines Business Class, we transform every journey into a luxurious experience. Immerse yourself in luxury onboard our A330-300 Aircraft, flying daily non-stop from Melbourne to Colombo.

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Concierge Travel Group sale

SYDNEY-BASED TMC Concierge Travel Group has been acquired by UK-based corporate and event travel business Reed & Mackay.

The sale, involving 100% of the business, became effective on 01 Feb, and includes all of the Concierge brands along with Alquemie, Elegant Resorts & Villas and Freighter Expeditions.

Concierge was founded in 1979 as Leggett World Travel by late industry pioneer Alan Leggett (*TD* 03 Nov 2011), and acquired by Don Ferguson and Michael Keating in 2001 who introduced the Concierge brand.

"The business had grown to a point whereby we had to make a decision how to take it to the next level," said the company's Chairman, Michael Keating.

"We felt the answer was to more deeply connect into international markets, so Reed & Mackay presented a perfect opportunity," he said.

Concierge Travel Group MD David Greenland will continue to lead the Asia-Pacific expansion of

Cairns Shangri-La renovations ready

THE Shangri-La Hotel at the Cairns Marina has completed the \$13 million upgrade of 184 guestrooms, with the nine month project including a complete transformation of bathrooms. The hotel said the renovation had "delivered a standard that surmounts every expectation".



Reed & Mackay which launched in Singapore in May 2018.

Reed & Mackay Group CEO, Fred Stratford, said "Australia is an important strategic market for our business, with many clients operating in the APAC region.

"Concierge Travel Group are known for delivering service of the highest quality and I look forward to working closely with the team there to deliver a unique proposition to the market," Stratford added.

It is expected that in time the Reed & Mackay brand will be rolled out to replace Concierge Business Travel, particularly as the company's proprietary technology becomes available to Concierge's corporate clients.

Concierge BT is a member of the CT Partners group, and has 45 Sydney-based staff.

Key long-term corporate clients of the business include the Australian Olympic Team.



Tollman downplays Brexit concerns

THE Travel Corporation says ongoing media speculation about a "hard Brexit" is overblown, with CEO Brett Tollman saying he expects calmer heads to prevail in the coming weeks as negotiations between the parties continue.

While TTC has a range of contingency plans in place to ensure travellers will not be disrupted by the currently planned pullout by Britain from the EU on 01 Apr, "we are highly confident that things will work out," he told **TD**.

Tollman said he believes it is likely that the deadline for Brexit will be extended to allow further negotiations between the UK and Europe, and in any event urged travellers not to put off plans to visit Britain, whether it was their first time or 20th visiting.

"We expect things will get sorted out," he said, allowing travellers to come and go freely.

ReadyRooms BINGO

53 prizes are up for grabs, including Trip DollarS, Accommodation in the Maldives, Spa Vouchers, Google Home Mini's and more!

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BIG

ATAN



Express TTC incentive launch

EXPRESS Travel Group (ETG) has unveiled details of an exclusive incentive in partnership with The Travel Corporation, which will see 20 top achieving agents each win a European "self-paced" famil.

Emirates and Dubai Tourism are also participating in the promotion, which is being dubbed "TTC Escapes with Express Travel Group".

ETG Executive GM, Ari Magoutis, said the incentive was "an exceptional opportunity for our agents to personally experience the diverse award-winning brands of The Travel Corporation and Emirates, along with an exclusive stopover experience in Dubai".

To be in the running consultants must register, complete a training element and then book any participating TTC brand and ticket a minimum number of EK flights through Express Ticketing between 04 Feb and 30 Jun 2019.

TTC Escapes is open to all

italktravel, Independent Travel Group and Select Travel Group agents for bookings across TTC brands including Trafalgar, Contiki, Insight Vacations, AAT Kings, Adventure World, Uniworld, Busabout, U by Uniworld, Luxury Gold, CostSaver and Inspiring Journeys.

ETG CEO Tom Manwaring said it was the first of an annual TTC Escapes program which reflects the group's "growing, long standing partnership with The Travel Corporation.

"We are pleased that we can bring together two of our preferred partners in TTC and Emirates to reward our members with this exclusive opportunity".

The incentive is part of a deeper relationship between Express and TTC which was unveiled in Shanghai last Nov at the Independent Travel Group Forum (*TD* 19 Nov 2018) - for more info see www.ttcescapes.com.au. You think you know the Mediterreanean, but do you know these gems? Read more in the February issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read traveBulletin

OS Alliance role

AUSTRIAN Airlines has divested its 8% stake in listed charter carrier Alliance Airlines, with speculation its shareholding is part of the 19.9% unveiled as being in Qantas hands late last week (*TD* 01 Feb).

A "substantial shareholder notice" lodged yesterday with the ASX indicates Austrian Airlines AG held just over 10 million shares in Alliance until last Fri - the same day Qantas blindsided the airline with the revelation it had acquired a significant stake.

Alliance Airlines works closely with QF rival Virgin Australia, under a charter partnership approved by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (*TD* 18 May 2018).

Alliance is also set to operate VA's services between Brisbane and Port Moresby using Fokker 100 aircraft from later this month, in turn freeing up a Virgin 737-800 to operate on the Tasman.



ENVIRONMENTALLY conscious tourists in search of sustainable dining options should be flocking to a London restaurant now serving grey squirrel lasagne.

Ivan Tisdall-Downs, the chef at Native restaurant in the city's Borough Market district, told news service *UPI* he had managed to source the squirrels from his wild boar supplier.

Widespread culling of the invasive rodents would have seen the meat normally go to waste, but Tisdall-Downs said squirrel was "one of the most sustainable proteins you can cook," tasting similar to rabbit.

Grey squirrels are considered an invasive species in the UK, with a lack of predators meaning populations are booming and taking over red squirrel habitats.

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Botswana's Sanctuary refresh



THE Sanctuary Baines' Camp in Botswana has unveiled an extensive refurbishment to its retreat-style accommodation.

Located above the Boro River in a private position bordering the Moremi Game Reserve in the Okavango Delta, the updated camp now includes larger rooms with extended decking.

Each of the six rooms offer "light and airy bedrooms" opening out onto curved terraces that overlook the river, with each featuring a Star Bath (**pictured**). Rooms include four poster beds that can be rolled out onto the terrace to enjoy a "sleeping under the stars" experience.

The camp also offers guests access to alfresco dining as well as a lounge area showcasing hanging chairs & intimate seating. The property is offering a number of deals on stays

throughout 2019, more **HERE**.

Hotel trend report

A NEW report released by guest acquisition platform SiteMinder has revealed a list of the top 12 hotel booking revenue makers of 2018, based on the total gross revenue of its customers.

According to the report, the top six booking channels included Booking.com, Expedia, direct bookings with hotels, global distribution systems, Agoda and Jetstar/HooRoo/Qantas.

AOT Group, Hotelbeds, Lido, Hostelworld Group, need it now, and HotelsCombined rounded out the top 12 list.

The report also states that the total number of trips to Australia reached 9.3m in 2018, a rise of 67% compared with 10 years ago.

New United Club

UNITED Airlines has welcomed a new United Club to its network, located at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

The club, which is the first of four new clubs set to open in 2019, offers eligible guests passing through the destination free wi-fi, wellness rooms and a range of specially curated local food and beverage options.

Further United Clubs are scheduled to open at a range of airports such as New Orleans, New York and North Carolina.

Bris cruise terminal

THE Port of Brisbane has announced two key contractors have been assigned as part of the construction of the city's new \$158 million Brisbane International Cruise Terminal.

Wharf construction is set to be undertaken by Brady Marine & Civil, while civil works and the terminal building will be delivered by Hindmarsh.

"The Port of Brisbane's \$158 million Brisbane International Cruise Terminal... is expected to contribute \$1.3 billion in net expenditure into the Brisbane economy alone over the coming two decades," said QLD Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Cameron Dick.

The new terminal is scheduled to open in time for the 2020 cruising season.

Air Canada signs

AIR Canada and Chorus Aviation, parent company of Jazz Aviation, have finalised an Amended and Extended Capacity Purchase Agreement that will secure Jazz Aviation's place in the airline's network for an additional 10 years.

The agreement also sees Air Canada completing a US\$97.26m equity investment in Chorus.

A&K's Queensland BDM Retires After 26 Years

After 26 very successful years at Abercrombie & Kent, including many years as the face of A&K to the trade in Queensland, Megan Middleton is retiring at the end of this week to focus on her family horticulture business and explore even more of the world.

Throughout her career, Megan has exemplified the A&K values – pioneering, courageous, trustworthy, stylish and welcoming – always acting with integrity and good humour, and forming incredible relationships with agents and clients.

A&K looking for new QLD Sales Manager

Megan's will be very big shoes to fill, but we're now on the lookout for our next great Queensland Agency Sales Manager. If you're passionate about travel and want to help Queensland agents build great businesses by delivering extraordinary travel experiences to their clients, we'd like to hear from you.

For more information on this role and other current vacancies at A&K, click here.





Diamond polished

PRINCESS Cruises' *Diamond Princess* has revealed a series of refreshed onboard renovations following a 14-day, multimillion dollar dry dock in Singapore.

Continuing Princess Cruises' "Come Back New Promise" commitment focused on investing more than \$450 million across the global fleet, the onboard enhancements include entertainment upgrades, a casino, a Lotus Spa & Fitness Centre and a new wine list.

Further general refurbishments were also completed, including an upgraded digital audio system for the Princess Theatre, Explorers Lounge and Club Fusion, and new furnishings in the Horizon Court.

Following the dry dock, the 2,670-passenger *Diamond Princess* will embark on a 12-night sailing to Phu My, Nha Trang, Hong Kong, Taipei, Osaka and Shimizu before returning to Yokohama for her 2019 Japan cruise season.

Tuesday 5th February 2019

Walk high country

VICTORIA'S High Country has launched a new site, Walk High Country, featuring more than 100 walks around the region.

The guided experiences include the Mt Buller, Ness Hinneberg, the Hike Priestess of Skadi Adventures; a guided High Country Hiking Tour around Mt Stirling; and the Bright Adventure Company's new three-hour guided adventure at Mount Buffalo, the Cathedral Explorer. More information on the walking tours can be found via www.walkhighcountry.com.au.

Tri Mantra Ironman

MANTRA Hotels has teamed up with Ironman Australia to become the accommodation provider at seven of its events, from Port Macquarie to Port Douglas, for the next three years.

To celebrate, Mantra Hotels is offering a 10% discount on stays at selected resorts.

NT arts campaign

THE Northern Territory has launched a new marketing campaign to promote its Aboriginal art and culture and encourage more holiday bookings to the Territory.

The campaign will promote the Territory's art centres, festivals, events, Aboriginal rock art sites, commercial and public art galleries as well as cultural tours.

"The world's biggest art gallery isn't in New York or Paris, it's right here, the NT," said NT Minister for Tourism, Sport and Culture, Lauren Moss.

"That's the message we'll be making sure is heard loud and clear around the country."

Watch the full arts campaign video **HERE**.

Accor uses its noodle

ACCORHOTELS has joined Canberra's Night Noodle Markets as the festival's official major accommodation partner, as part of Good Food Month.

The festival features Asian Hawker-style dishes from Hoy Pinoy, Churken, Shallot Thai, Mr Bao, Bangkok Street Food and What the Pho.

AccorHotels will be serving a candy-land inspired sweets stall.

The festival kicks off on 01 Mar at Reconciliation Place.

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US0.720

THE AUDUSD was weaker overnight as markets turned ahead of today's Reserve Bank of Australia meeting.

The AUDUSD fell 0.4% in its second-straight losing session along with the AUDEUR, which fell 0.1%.

The AUDNZD also fell 0.2%. The AUDGBP was ever- soslightly higher as the ongoing Brexit turmoil weighed heavily on the GBP.

Other than the RBA, the Aussie market is likely to be driven by key economic releases today such as the Dec retail sales, which are expected to be quite flat and the Jan trade balance numbers.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.720
UK	£0.552
NZ	\$1.042
Euro	€0.630
Japan	¥79·34
Thailand	ß22.45
China	¥4.813
South Africa	9.629
Canada	\$0.940
Crude oil	US\$55.26

AGENTINCENTIVE

WIN AN EDUCATIONAL TO ARGENTINA & BRAZIL VALUED AT \$20,000 EIGHT PLACES TO BE WON!

Book your clients on an A&K journey before 15 June 2019 (for travel in 2019) and you could be winging your way to Latin America with Air New Zealand for a fabulous all-luxury 11 Day Abercrombie & Kent educational, travelling from Buenos Aires, through the Ibera Wetlands and Iguazu Falls to Rio de Janeiro this August/September.

For the full prize itinerary and competition details, click here.

Abercrombie & Kent AIR NEW ZEALAND



DL's Best in Class

DELTA Air Lines is set to welcome North America's first A220-100 aircraft this week when the plane departs New York's LaGuardia airport on 07 Feb.

To celebrate the arrival of the aircraft, Delta Air Lines has launched a three-part mini series called "Best in Class" that takes a behind-the-scenes look into the design and safety features of the new addition.

Viewers will hear from employees from across the business who have played a "critical role" in preparing the A220 to join Delta's fleet, as well as an overview of the assembly line and paint shop.

To view ep one, CLICK HERE.

WIN SCENT OF FEAR BY TONY PARK

This week Travel Daily and Swagman Tours is giving five lucky readers the chance to win *Scent of Fear* by Tony Park.

Afghanistan veteran Sean Bourke's

Africa's Sabi

Sand Game

SCENT FEAR TONY PARK

Reserve. Sean is determined to hunt down the elusive bomb maker who has introduced this destructive weapon to the war on poaching. But Sean is his own worst enemy. As bombs target Sean's unit, can he

get himself back on track and win the fight for Africa's wildlife - and Christine, his ex-wife - before it's too late?

To win, simply be the first person to send through the correct answer to the question below to:

tonypark@traveldaily.com.au

Name one image on the cover of his latest book.

Tuesday 5th February 2019

Chinese lure boost

THE Australian Government has announced an \$11 million injection of funding for the Approved Destination Scheme (ADS) to attract more Chinese tour groups to Australia.

The ADS scheme allows Chinese tourists to travel to Australia in guided groups organised by outbound tour operators approved by Australian and Chinese government authorities.

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Simon Birmingham said the ADS accounted for 25% of all Chinese visitors to Australia each year and around \$1 billion in tourism expenditure.

"It's a major reason why China is Australia's fastest growing and highest spending inbound... market," Birmingham said.

"The ADS is critical to making sure the thousands of Chinese tour group tourists who come to Australia have a cracking time whilst getting a taste for our country's world-class natural beauty, food and wine, iconic attractions & incredible wildlife."

Mumbrella deadline

FINAL entries for Mumbrella's Travel Marketing Awards are due by this Fri 08 Feb.

The awards will be presented at a full gala dinner evening at the Four Seasons Hotel Sydney on 11 Apr with hundreds in attendance. For more info **CLICK HERE**.

Fairfield in Japan

NAMBA Hospitality K.K has signed a franchise agreement with Marriott International to open the first Fairfield by Marriott in Japan.

The 300-room Osaka-based property is scheduled to open in 2020 and will boast features such as a 100-seat restaurant serving up buffet breakfast, a private room for parties and meetings, a gymnasium, and on-site parking. The hotel will be located in close proximity to Namba Station.

Oprah welcomes HAL ship



THE undisputed queen of the American TV screen Oprah Winfrey (**pictured**) was on hand last weekend to officially welcome *Nieuw Statendam* to the Holland America Line family.

The glittering dedication ceremony was streamed live throughout the world from Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, where Winfrey formally named the vessel to much fanfare.

Orlando Ashford, President of Holland America Line, joined the US icon up on stage to mark the celebratory occasion.

"We are deeply honoured to have Oprah Winfrey serve as the godmother of our newest ship in a celebration of our shared belief

Dominica recovery

CARIBBEAN nation Dominica almost doubled the amount of int'l arrivals between Oct and Dec 2018, recording 22,178 visitors.

The figure is a 95% increase on the same quarter in 2017, with the recovery attributed to optimistic marketing pushes following recent cyclone damage.



that travel has the power to open minds, build connections and inspire shared humanity across cultures," Ashford said.

"Oprah's magnetic energy and astounding ability to inspire others is admired around the world, and today was the perfect culmination of a memorable few days together on *Nieuw Statendam*," he added.

Following the ceremony, a gala dinner was held on board where guests were invited to participate in a maritime tradition of pouring Champagne over the ship's bell.

Nieuw Statendam is the sixth ship in the company's history to bear the name.

W Dubai opens

W HOTELS Worldwide has announced the opening of the 350-room W Dubai – The Palm.

The hotel is located on the Palm Jumeirah in Dubai, the largest man-made island in the world, and boasts an "electrifying style" and "evocative design".

Amenities include six beverage and food locations.



w www.traveldaily.com.au



Bulldogs at Mantra Mooloolaba



THE Western Bulldogs AFL team completed their fifth pre-season camp at Mantra Mooloolaba Beach in Qld last week.

They've also already booked for next year, and to commemorate their association with the property, the team presented hotel staff with a signed jersey to thank them for their hospitality.

Emirates CZ deal

EMIRATES and China Southern Airlines today announced a new codeshare agreement, with the pact adding eight new destinations in China to the EK global network.

The initial phase of the deal includes Fuzhou, Chongqing, Kunming, Xiamen, Chengdu, Nangjing and Xi'an, while China Southern passengers will be offered connectivity across the Middle East including to Rivadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Muscat, Kuwait and Cairo.

The agreement also includes EK flights to African destinations such as Lagos and the Seychelles. It's the first codeshare between Emirates and a Chinese carrier.

Jayride expansion

ASX-LISTED airport transfer marketplace Jayride Group Limited today confirmed the addition of 13 new countries to its destination portfolio.

CEO Rod Bishop said that means travellers can now book online and travel with Jayride in a total of 44 countries, with the additions including India, Cambodia, Fiji and French Polynesia in the Asia-Pacific.

In Europe Jayride has added 12 airports in Norway, 16 in Sweden, four in Denmark, nine in Finland and two in Iceland, while other country additions include Jamaica, Barbados, Curacao and the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean.

Italy travel update

SMARTRAVELLER has released a new travel advisory for Italy, including information about driving in summer and winter. Headlights must be used on main roads day and night, while snow chains or tyres are mandatory in mountainous areas.

AFTA Update from Jayson Westbury



of the Pig in the Chinese Lunar Year calendar, and Feb is the month of celebration as the new

year begins.

The Pig is the twelfth of the zodiac animals, and it is in that position because myth has it that the Pig was last to the party because it had overslept, which caused the delay in its arrival and relegated the Pig to last spot.

While I am sure this is a very interesting historical fact to all those readers of this column, the important point is that over the months of Jan and Feb this year about one third of all inbound Chinese tourists for 2019 will arrive in Australia - that's about 300,000 visitors.

China continues to be our most important inbound market and there appears to be little that will cause a decline in the forecast for a continued strong growth in movement from China to Australia.

For the outbound industry, it is also pleasing to see that the numbers of Australians heading to China continue to be strong and in growth which is a good sign for the continued and

NZ ramps up AIME

TOURISM New Zealand is gearing up to join a raft of exhibitors at the 2019 Asia **Pacific Incentives Meetings Event** (AIME), which is set to take place in Melbourne from 18 to 20 Feb. The 100% Pure New Zealand stand will span 135m², with a team of 35 representatives attending across the country. See more information regarding

the event HERE.

important aspect of the ongoing debate that tourism needs to be a two-way balance in order for larger markets to maintain an interest in Australia.

This is particularly important for China as the Chinese Government has so much control over where its citizens can travel and so we must ensure we maintain strong, frank and honest dialogue with the Chinese tourism industry and the government alike.

One of the main reasons AFTA supports the World Tourism Alliance, which was formed a few years ago in China, is to ensure that an open dialogue continues to ensure a strong understanding of the market, the needs of the market and how together Australia and China can achieve much greater results for each other by working together.

So to all those in the Australian travel industry that have an interest in China, a desire to travel to China, or have been talking to clients about a holiday in China, I wish you a very Happy Lunar New Year and all the very best for this the Year of the Pig.

As a final fun fact, if you were born in 1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995 or 2007, this is also your year as these are the previous "Years of the Pig" as the zodiac animal calendar falls.

NCL's touchdown

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has become the first major cruise line to run a TV commercial during the telecast of the Super Bowl LIII, which aired on Mon.

The Super Bowl advertisement formed part of the company's international TVC initiative, which included its first-ever Australia and New Zealand advertisements which were launched locally in Sep 2018.

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Winter fun in Switzerland

NINE lucky snow holiday specialists have recently returned from an adventure

fuelled weeklong ski trip to Switzerland. Spending time in four of the country's most popular ski resorts and villages of Zermatt, Andermatt, Engelberg and Grindelwald, the agents were treated to a host of winter activities including lots of skiing at every resort, zip-lining across the First Glider in Grindelwald, tobogganing, cliff walks, snow hikes and of course the all-necessary and important apres-ski!

Making their way from point to point with their handy Swiss Travel Pass, the group were not only impressed by the door-to-door luggage service, but also by

the sheer efficiency of the network. Their Glacier Express journey from Zermatt to Andermatt was a major jaw-dropping highlight, as was their stay at the newly opened Radisson Blu in Andermatt and their dinner experience at the stunning Chedi Andermatt.

Participating agents on the famil included Charlene Davis and Tegan Fritsche from Sno'n'Ski; Karen Edenborough from Flight Centre; Steph Laurenson and Kirsty Newsome from Skimax; Lindy Hill from Travel Managers; Sylvia Schmiedl from Travelplan; Melissa Tomkins from Mogul Ski World; and Penni Mason of Bayview Travel. Hosting the group was Mark Wettstein, Director of Switzerland Tourism Australia and New Zealand.

SWISS mountain lifestyle at the Apres-Ski Bus in Grindelwald.

GETTING spoiled with a divine dinner at the super luxurious Chedi Resort in Andermatt





in the Andermatt ski region in the heart of Switzerland.

TAKING in the spectacular panoramic views of the surrounding peaks from Titlis Glacier at 3km above sea level.





AGENTS were thrilled with their First Glider ride in Grindelwald -Jungfrau Region.



ENJOYING a perfect bluebird day skiing in Zermatt with the majestic Matterhorn in the backdrop.

TRAVELLING on the iconic Glacier Express from Zermatt to Andermatt.







in Engelberg-Titlis with cheese fondue in a mountain chalet.



Oakwood partners

COMMUNICATIONS provider Oakwood has joined forces with TravelClick in a strategic deal that will allow users to easily access, search and book a range of global furnished and serviced apartment accommodations in real time.

The revamped platform lets consumers and business travellers book their preferred properties online with immediate effect, giving users a "more streamlined solution with fewer points of contact" and "more transparency of pricing".

Carnival gets arty

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has announced a new partnership with American arts and crafts retailer The Michaels Company that aims to inspire kids and adults "to test their imagination and bring their vision to life".

"We are always on the lookout for ways to enhance our onboard experiences...this new partnership will provide a memorable, fun and creative outlet for our guests to make wonderful vacation memories together," said Chris Nelson, Vice President of Entertainment at Carnival Cruise Line.

Orion on the box

Tuesday 5th February 2019

VIKING Cruises' Orion vessel is set to feature on two episodes of Channel Nine's *Explore TV* this month, showcasing the brand's "unique ocean cruising style" as well as an overview of its 15-day Far East Discovery itinerary. The episodes will air at 4.30pm (AEDT) on 09 and 16 Feb.

DL weather waiver

DELTA Air Lines has issued a weather waiver for customers passing through Detroit and several other Michigan cities on 05 and 06 Feb, ahead of a predicted winter storm system. Guests passing through affected cities can make a one-time change to plans - more **HERE**.

Andaz sniffs deal

ANDAZ Hotels has partnered with The Society of Scent to deliver a series of scents based on what makes each hotel and location distinctive.

A custom scent will be developed for each property along with a unique "scent story" relating to experiences or amenities throughout 2019.

WIN A CRUISE

AND EXPERIENCE THE VIKING DIFFERENCE

This month Viking Cruises is giving *Travel Daily* readers the chance to win a deluxe veranda stateroom on New York, Bermuda & the West Indies departing on 10 October 2019 on Viking Sun.

To be in the running to win all you need to do is these two simple steps:

1. SNAP A PICTURE

Send us a photo showing your favourite Viking ocean cruise inclusion.

2. REGISTER FOR REWARDS BY VIKING

Entrants need to be registered for Rewards by Viking. Make sure you submit your Rewards ID number with your photo. If you

Bali meeting offer

THE Ritz-Carlton Bali has introduced a new package that aims to entice more business customers to the property.

The "Meet the Banjar" package combines a range of facilities for business travellers that "capture the local heritage and spirit" of Bali while "enriching the life of each attendee by producing extraordinary events".

The package can be tailored to suit each company, and includes the option to add an Indian Ocean Dinner for a more intimate dining option - more **HERE**.



haven't already, register at www.rewardsbyviking.com. The most creative entry will win! Send your entries to viking@traveldaily.com.au



Taipei lantern event

TAIPEI is set to host two sky lantern release parties this month when the New Taipei City Government hosts the popular tourist events on 16 and 19 Feb.

Taking place in the Pingxi District in new Taipei city, Taiwan, the event will see hundreds of lanterns rising into the sky at the same time, with travellers also invited to enjoy a range of tourist options in the city including the Taiwan Railway, traditional strip street houses, and the "quaint mini station".

CLICK HERE for more info.



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Travel Daily

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TMS Talent are celebrating 25 years in Recruitment!

To kick off our celebratory year, John Terry, Group Managing Director reflects on the evolution of the brand, our significant expansion and our exciting plans for the future. **Click to find out more**

Group Operations Travel Consultant - Sydney \$60K to \$70K + super

You'll love working close to home at this Northern Beaches travel wholesaler who manages special interest groups around the globe. An ideal role for those with experience who want to move away from consulting and focus on operations & logistics. **Call Susan or Click HERE**

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Corporate/Leisure Consultant - Sydney \$45K to \$55K + super

With flexible hours & on-site parking this is a great opportunity for an experienced consultant with corporate & leisure exposure to sell worldwide packages including cruise. Located on the North Shore you will love this boutique office environment. **Call Chloe or Click HERE**

www.tmstalent.com Click HERE to register as a Job Seeker in f y O

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Our commitment to delivering exceptional experiences and life changing moments are qualities that we believe you would be interested in learning more about. Therefore we would like to invite you and your clients to join us as we take you on a journey of discovery at an exclusive event.

Brisbane Tuesday 27th February 2019 Melbourne Wednesday 28th February 2019 Sydney Tuesday 5th March 2019

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#conditions apply

A NEW STANDARD OF APARTMENT HOTELS

Quest Apartment Hotels offers spacious serviced apartments in over 170 locations across Australasia, perfect for short and long stays for a home away from home experience. Take a look at some of the new Quest Apartment Hotels now open or opening soon in neighbourhoods around the country.



QUEST NEWQUAY, DOCKLANDS

Melbourne

TOTAL ROOMS: 221

Quest NewQuay brings a stunning new accommodation experience for both the business and leisure traveller. Located in the prime position of NewQuay and Docklands, adjacent to Melbourne's CBD, Quest NewQuay boasts unparalleled views over the Melbourne Skyline and has been strategically positioned just 20km from Melbourne Airport. It is also within walking distance of Marvel Stadium, minutes from Southern Cross Station, The District Docklands, Crown Casino and Melbourne Convention Centre.

Quest NewQuay offers the largest number of two and three-bedroom apartments in Melbourne's CBD. All apartments are well-appointed, light-filled and self-contained – there is a solution for any of your accommodation needs with a mix of studios, one, two and three-bedroom apartments.

QUEST SOUTH PERTH FORESHORE

NOW OPEN

South Perth TOTAL ROOMS: 90

Quest South Perth Foreshore boasts a prime position with easy and fast access to the South Perth Esplanade. Offering unparalleled views over the Swan River and Perth's City Centre, Quest South Perth Foreshore has been strategically positioned just 3km from Perth CBD making it just short of a 5-minute drive to corporate offices in Perth. The location also benefits from a range of major tourist attractions including Perth Zoo, South Perth Foreshore, The Old Mill and Sir Mitchell Park.

NOW OPEN

This brand-new apartment hotel in South Perth offers studios, one, two and three-bedroom apartments.





QUEST ST KILDA ROAD

OPENING MID-FEBRUARY 2019

Quest St Kilda Road is located in a prime position between Commercial Road and Toorak Road, with easy access to Melbourne City and within walking distance of the Domain precinct, The Alfred Hospital, Albert Park Lake, Fawkner Park, the Shrine of Remembrance and Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens.

Quest St Kilda Road offers 104 stunning and bright, light-filled apartments offering a combination of studios, one, two and three-bedroom apartments.



Melbourne

TOTAL ROOMS: 104