

#### 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

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# Travel Daily First with the news Tuesday 19th February 2019

**Drive**Away

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#### Dream coastal trips

**DREAM** Cruises is showcasing a series of Australian coastal voyages aboard its newly refurbished *Explorer Dream* over the 2019/20 summer season.

Trips include several seven-night Tasmania Explorer departures ex Sydney - see the **cover page**.



## **HLO** hits the headlines

HELLOWORLD Travel has been embroiled in a political controversy today, after revelations the company paid for a family holiday in Singapore taken by Federal Finance Minister, Senator Mathias Cormann.

The front page story in *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald* confirms the 2017 transaction on the HLO "staff and family travel" account, covering Perth-Singapore flights of Cormann, his wife and two children.

The trip took place just over a year ago, but Cormann only paid for the flights yesterday, after he and Helloworld Travel CEO Andrew Burnes were contacted by *Nine Publishing* reporters.

Cormann claims to have had "no idea" of the booking details, nor that his credit card had not been charged, while Burnes said it was "absolutely an administrative oversight" that the Senator's credit card had not been charged

The report makes no suggestion of impropriety, but notes that Andrew Burnes is Federal Treasurer of the Liberal Party, and that Helloworld holds the Whole of Australian Government

for the trip when it was booked.

and that Helloworld holds the Whole of Australian Government contracts for TMC services and accommodation which are overseen by the Federal Finance Department

**MEANWHILE** the stock market reacted poorly to Helloworld's first half results (*TD* yesterday), with the company's share price dipping 7% from \$6.20 down to \$5.76 after the announcement.

#### Today's issue of TD

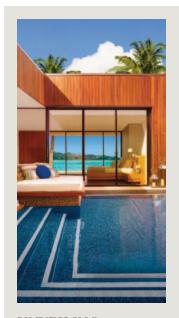
**Travel Daily** today has nine pages of news including a full page of pics from **AccorHotels**, a front cover wrap for **Dream Cruises**, plus full pages from:

- TMS Talent
- Tauck
- Windstar



#### Tauck ramps up Oz

TAUCK is running an incentive where agents can earn a free river cruise when six pax are booked or a free Tauck land journey when 20 pax are booked. The cruise line is also preparing to run free agent info sessions. For more info, see page 11.



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#### **CWT** rebrands

**CARLSON** Wagonlit Travel has officially changed its name, overnight unveiling its new threeletter identity as simply CWT.

The company said the new brand honours its heritage and digital leadership ambitions, as well as reflecting the "three pillars of its focused valued proposition" - simplifying corporate travel, connecting to unlock possibilities, and collaborating with businesses.





#### Memorable journeys

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

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# **BW** acquires WorldHotels

**BEST** Western Hotels & Resorts today announced the acquisition of the WorldHotels collection of independent properties, with the deal said to enhance the Best Western portfolio to include the "upper-upscale and luxury segments" of the market.

WorldHotels currently has about 300 members, described as a collection of "unique and special hotels and resorts in premier destinations around the world".

The acquisition settled last week, with Best Western saying WorldHotels would maintain its distinctive personality and individuality, while benefiting from Best Western's "robust and scalable e-commerce platform, strong partnerships, awardwinning sales and marketing support, and powerful revenue

"There is tremendous synergy between Best Western and

#### New role for Bijoy

**BIJOY** John has taken a new position at Booking.com, as the online accommodation specialist's Connectivity Partner Business Manager.

Based in Sydney, John takes up his role after just over three years at Tramada Systems, most recently as Head of Sales and Account Management.

Booking.com's Connectivity Partnerships team manages the ecosystem of tech firms providing IT solutions for the company's accommodation partners such as property management systems, channel managers, online booking engines and revenue management platforms.

WorldHotels," said Best Western CEO David Kong.

"By joining forces in this new partnership we will create competitive advantages for both companies," he said.

Geoff Andrew will continue as CEO of WorldHotels, with Kong saying the businesses would now focus on unlocking WorldHotels' potential by improving revenue delivery to its members.

"We truly believe our platform will build the WorldHotels brand and attract many more independence-minded, quality hotels to join," Kong added.

In Australasia WorldHotels members include the Stamfordbranded properties in Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland.

#### Viking cruise saving

VIKING Cruises has released a \$3,600 saving offer on its popular "Grand European" river cruise.

The 15-day sailing between Budapest and Amsterdam is now priced from \$4,995 per person, not including airfares, for selected departures in Jul, Aug and Sep 2019 for guests who book between 08 Feb and 31 Mar - more info 138 747.

#### Windstar giveaway

**WINDSTAR** Cruises is giving Travel Daily readers the chance to win a seven-night cruise from Hong Kong to Shanghai departing 05 Mar on Star Legend.

To be eligible to score the trip agents must answer five simple questions posed by Windstar.

See page 12 for more information on how to enter.

#### Scoot \$299 Athens

SCOOT has launched a "Deal of the Decade" sale, including fares from Perth to Athens starting at just \$299 one way including taxes.

Offers also include flights from the Gold Coast to Singapore for \$139, and \$159 from Sydney and Melbourne, while deals are also available for flights to Japan (\$209), Thailand (\$149) and Hong Kong (\$189), not including bags.

Fares are on sale until 23.59 on Thu 28 Feb - flyscoot.com.



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South America \$1,049









#### SN switches GSA

**BRUSSELS** Airlines is moving its Australasian representation to the local operations of Lufthansa Group, bringing all of the LH family of carriers under a single roof effective from 01 Mar.

The new arrangement offers customers and partners a single point of contact for all Lufthansa Group airlines, which also include SWISS and Austrian Airlines.

The carrier was previously represented by Aviation Online. **LH Senior Director Sales** Southeast Asia & Pacific Heiko Brix said the move was one of the last steps in the global integration of Brussels Airlines into the Lufthansa Group, which acquired the remaining stake in SN two years ago (TD 16 Dec 16).

Lufthansa Group GM Sales Australia, Anil Rodricks, said SN complemented the large networks of Lufhansa, SWISS and Austrian Airlines, giving access to 23 destinations in Africa.

# Biz events inject \$187m

**BUSINESS** Events Australia has announced that the total economic value of events secured by Tourism Australia's (TA) Business Events Bid Fund (BFP) almost doubled in the past three months to reach a new milestone of \$187 million.

The program, which was launched in Jul 2018, aims to boost Australia's visitor economy by tapping into the Business Events sector.

Tourism Australia Managing Director, John O'Sullivan said the results demonstrated the fund's effectiveness in improving Australia's competitiveness in the global business events market.

"This is a direct result of the combined efforts of the Australian business events industry in securing these events, with the support of funds through the BFP which came into effect in Jul last year," he said.

The effectiveness of the BFP has also been reflected in the number of applications received by the Australian business events industry, with a total of 79 going through the application process since the program's launch, and 14 secured.

"Significantly, the BFP provides critical support for industry at the all-important bidding stage, when the BFP can provide a real competitive edge for Australia by helping offset event costs here," O'Sullivan added.

Business events remains one of the most significant sectors of Australia's visitor economy, and is the second largest contributor to overnight international visitor expenditure after China.

On average, every dollar invested by TA and industry through the BFP generates \$19 for the economy - more in today's issue of Business Events News.



# Window

IT'S not easy being green, a famous frog once lamented - but according to a group of German friends, it's also slightly tricky dressing up, colouring yourself blue and vying for a world record to have the highest number of smurfs gathered in the one place.

A total of 2.762 fans of the tiny, blue, elf-like creatures got together in the town of Lauchringen, close to the German border of Switzerland last Sat in an effort to blitz the record - blue faces, regulation white attire & curly hats aplenty.

It was the second time the group had attempted the record, after their first effort made three years ago fell "short" with just 2,149 participants.

# Imagine.

A place where tequila sunrises are more than just a drink.

DAYDREAM ISLAND



#### Chinese spend data

**ALIPAY** has published new insights into the spending habits of Chinese tourists visiting Australia, finding the most common transaction locations were pharmacies, duty-free stores, fish markets and supermarkets.

The figures showed that Australia ranked ninth globally in Alipay transaction volume over the 2019 Lunar New Year.

The report cited Chinese transaction volume increased by 110% and the average spend per person increased by 40%.

Spend at Australian duty-free stores increased a sizable 670% year-on-year, with spend per person also rising by 20%.

Transaction volumes at supermarkets also saw a lift, up by 120% year-on-year.

The findings were based on Alipay's own transaction data, with a 2018 Nielsen study finding 99% of Chinese tourists use Alipay on their smart devices.

#### Ormina sell guide

**ORMINA** Tours has announced the launch of its 2019 Agent Comparison Guide for Northern Italy - the second such guide released for the region.

Key features include comparisons with similar tours on the market, tools for agents to better sell the region, and the pros and cons of every tour.

The guide can be downloaded for free online HERE.

#### **QF** double status

**QANTAS** has announced that passengers can earn double status credits when they book an eligible QF flight before 11.59pm AEDT on 22 Feb.

The offer is only valid for travel between 25 Feb and 31 Aug with the customer's Frequent Flyer membership number required to receive the double Status Credit points deal.

View more information regarding the offer HERE.

# SeaLink H1 profit up 15%

**SEALINK** Travel Group today cited "subdued trading conditions in the tourism sector" as it reported its results for the six months to 31 Dec, with a \$13m net profit after tax, up 15%.

Revenue was up 32% to \$130.4 million, mainly due to the inclusion of the company's newly acquired Kingfisher Bay Resort operations on Fraser Island in the full six-month period.

"The first half of 2019 was one of continued expansion of our product offerings to iconic Australian destinations," said MD Jeff Ellison.

He said the hospitality, touring and marine transport operation on Fraser Island was doing well, while the new service to Bruny Island in Tasmania was also performing above expectations.

However operations in South Australia were impacted by disruptions to services to Kangaroo Island due to unseasonal weather last Dec and a small drop in results from the PS Murray Princess.

The Captain Cook Cruises business in NSW and WA also disappointed, with a \$2 million drop in earnings resulting in EBITDA of just \$600,000 due to trading losses associated with new ferry services, continuing

difficult economic conditions, a general softening across some international markets and a tightening of domestic consumer spending.

On Sydney Harbour, sales dropped 9.5% year-on-year, mainly due to a decline in charter revenues to Harbour City Ferries.

"SeaLink's strategy of creating a balance between its tourism and transport operations has helped create a resilient earnings base in a more subdued stage of the domestic and international tourism environment cycle." Ellison said.

He confirmed the company was continuing to actively pursue acquisition opportunities that complemented SeaLink's core transport and tourism focus.

#### SilkAir to Busan

SINGAPORE Airlines' regional wing SilkAir has announced the 01 May launch of non-stop flights between Singapore and the Korean city of Busan.

Four weekly services are planned using a two class full-service Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft, with SilkAir to become the first carrier to operate scheduled services between the two cities.



# Travel Daily

Tuesday 19th February 2019

#### Liberty into Pacific

INDEPENDENT destination management company Liberty International Tourism Group has announced its launch into the Pacific, with plans to open offices in Sydney, Perth and Auckland.

Liberty International Tourism Group CEO Mario Enzesberger said the expansion was "simply a matter of time".

"Expanding to these new locations will enable us to provide on-ground services, to better co-ordinate and cater for groups travelling to both of these soughtafter destinations," he said.

Eugene De Villiers will lead the venture as Chief Executive Officer of Liberty International Australia and New Zealand.

De Villiers brings three decades of strategic hospitality and event management experience to the role and was most recently Chief Executive Officer for Engagement and Loyalty Services.

The launch now gives Liberty offices in 80 countries worldwide.

#### **Bonvoy benefits**

MARRIOTT International has revealed a range of new benefits for members in the Asia Pacific of its unified loyalty program, Marriott Bonvoy (TD 17 Jan).

The program has introduced special dining and spa benefits for members, who can now earn points even without a stay.

At over 2,800 restaurants and bars in Asia Pacific, members of Marriott Bonvoy can save between 10% and 20% on food and beverages.

Spa benefits include earning up to 10 points per US\$1 spent at participating spas across APAC.

From 25 Mar, members with children will receive discounts on kids' breakfasts.

On the Marriott Bonvoy Moments platform, VIP experiences at Maroon 5 concerts in seven locations in Asia have been added, and in Apr members will also be able to redeem their points for VIP access to the Hong Kong Sevens.



## Travel Associates' Italy taster



**THIS** week Travel Associates joined forces with Trafalgar and TV chef Adam Swanson to give clients a taste of Italy in South Australia.

The collaboration was designed to whet the appetite of travellers for the Trafalgar "Italian Culinary Adventure" group departure, which will be hosted by Swanson in Sep.

#### Fly Inverell to Syd

**REGIONAL** airline Fly Corporate has announced from 11 Mar it will offer flights between Inverell and Sydney, in addition to its Brisbane to Inverell service.

The new route will depart Inverell for Sydney four times weekly, on Mon, Tue, Thu and Fri, with return flights operating on Mon, Wed and Fri.

Fly Corporate CEO Andrew Major said "the convenient weekday flights will not only improve connectivity for business and tourism but will also put Sydney and Brisbane within easy reach of the people of Inverell and surrounding districts".

"The close working relationship with Council, Inverell Airservice Working Group, local business & the wider community has given us confidence that a Sydney service is viable & will be well supported."

A total of 35 Travel Associates' clients were treated to a mini adventure around SA, starting in the Adelaide markets at Lucia's for a coffee.

The group (**pictured**) then toured the market with Swanson guiding them to a few of the stalls for various tasting.

Next stop was the Barossa Valley, visiting Swanson's restaurant, Barossa Cucina, where a few participants helped make pizzas and the whole group tasted a number of Italian delicacies, washed down with Italian wine.

#### True North addition

**TRUE** North Adventure Cruises has added a new itinerary for its 32nd Kimberley season in 2019.

The 13-night Coast and Coral visits the Kimberley Coast, exploring King George Falls, Mitchell Falls and Montgomery Reef, before heading to the Rowley Shoals which offers passengers 300km² of pristine coral to explore.

The Kimberley Coast and the Rowley Shoals have long been popular options but this marks the first time the two have been combined in one itinerary.

The first departure of Coast and Coral itinerary embarks on 24 Aug onboard *True North*.

# Your premium travel career starts here

At Travel Associates we realize every day is different and every travel itinerary is unique. Take your travel career to the next level, working with premium product and suppliers to give your clients the travel experiences of their dreams.



Join us and take advantage of the benefits you deserve.

Find out more





# Life is a freeze at Intrepid



**EXPLORATION** work is currently taking place in Antarctica by members of the Intrepid Group ahead of the Oct 2020 charter of the *Ocean Endeavour* to be operated under the Peregrine Adventures flag (*TD* 11 Dec 2018).

As guests of Quark Expeditions to the polar region last week, Brett Mitchell, Regional Director APAC of Intrepid Group told *Travel Daily* the trip was part of developing the product and experiences that would be available to future guests.

Departures aboard the Ocean Endeavour will feature responsible tourism practices including carbon offsets, no use of single-use plastics on board and sustainable harvesting of seafood.

Mitchell also flagged future expansion in Antarctica with the group continuing to support Quark Expeditions sales to meet ongoing demand.

Mitchell is **pictured** left with Tom Beadle, Head of Product at Intrepid Group.



#### Alliance & Virgin

**ALLIANCE** Aviation Services has extended and expanded its wet lease agreement with Virgin Australia until late 2021.

The new agreement will see Alliance also operating international services, along with domestic for Virgin Australia.

"This extension includes increased contracted flying hours and Alliance is excited by the opportunity to commence operating international services on behalf of the Virgin Australia Group," said Alliance Chief Executive Officer Lee Schofield.

#### AIA traffic update

**AUCKLAND** Airport experienced total pax growth of 2.4% in Dec 2018, according to the Auckland Aiport monthly traffic update for Dec 2018.

During the period int'l pax numbers were up 3.3%, along with domestic pax which grew 2%, compared to Dec 2017.

The int'l growth was driven by additional seats to Asia (+38,000), along with increased services to Houston as well as Honolulu.

The new service to Chicago (*TD* 03 Dec 2018) also drove capacity increases on North America.

#### **Jetstar Asia priority**

JETSTAR Asia has extended its priority boarding to include travellers who purchase upfront seating in rows two to five, and customers who pay for extra legroom at rows one, 12 and 13.

Travellers with the valid tickets will be invited to board first and secure overhead storage for their carry-on bags.

Customers can purchase upfront seating from SGD9 onwards and additional carry-on baggage during the booking process or at Manage My Booking **HERE**.

#### Darwin exhibition

A NEW Wet Season exhibition by artist Bruce Munro, who was also the creator of the Field of Light exhibition, is set to light up the Darwin CBD.

The light exhibition is anticipated to bring "thousands of extra visitors during the traditionally quieter tourist period" and will run from Oct 2019 to Apr 2020.

Called *Bruce Munro: Tropical Light*, it will feature eight large-scale light installations through the CBD and Waterfront.



This week Celestyal Cruises and Travel Daily are offering readers the chance to win a \$50 Visa gift card everyday! For 2019-20, Celestyal Cruises are reintroducing mystical Istanbul, calling at Canakkale for the first time, the nearest town to the site of ancient Troy. Through Celestyal's brand new 7 Night 3 Continents itinerary, you can cruise to the Greek islands, Cyprus, Turkey, Egypt and Israel. Their cruise season will now start mid-March and go through to the end of December, and for the first time they are introducing celebratory Christmas and New Year cruises. Visit Discover Travel Shop to book today!

To win, be the first agent to send the correct answer to the question to celestyal@traveldaily.com.au.

2. Which three archaeological marvels are visited on the 8 Day Three Continents Cruise?

HINT: The answer can be found in the Celestyal Cruises 2019-20 Brochure **HERE** 







#### **New USA Busabout**

**BUSABOUT** has introduced a three stop Hop-on Hop-off Pass for the USA in response to the success of the travel company's new USA program.

The pass is available for \$479 and allows travellers to explore the West Coast of the US at their own pace using Busabout's coach network.

Passengers can choose to stop and explore cities such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego and Las Vegas.

#### Daydream claims

**QUEENSLAND'S** state building regulator is currently investigating claims of millions of dollars of late payments by Daydream Island owner, China Capital Investment Group.

Many subcontractors and suppliers have claimed they face being left out of pocket, but have agreed to finish the job, with the resort due to reopen in Apr.

#### Korea AKL change

be switching the aircraft used on between 31 Mar and 26 Oct.

The airline will operate its Boeing 787-9, replacing the 777-200ER currently serving the route.

#### **Another RCI Oasis**

**ROYAL** Caribbean Cruises has announced a new deal with French shipbuilder Chantiers de class ship for delivery in 2023.

"This order is a reflection of the exceptional performance of this vessel class and the extraordinary partnership between Chantiers de l'Atlantique and Royal Caribbean Cruises," said the cruise line's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Richard D. Fain.

announcement it will launch its fifth Oasis-class ship in 2021.

KOREAN Air has advised it will the Auckland-Seoul Incheon route

l'Atlantique to build a sixth Oasis-

The news follows Royal's

Neither of the new ships have been named at this stage.

#### THREE NEW ROLES, THREE **EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES**



Surry Hills, Sydney Competitive salaries + fantastic benefits

Viking is set to become the world's largest small-ship cruise company this year, so now is the perfect time to join our fun, supportive and rapidly expanding team!

We are looking for three creative and energetic individuals to fill three new Viking roles.

#### • Communications Manager

You will have at least seven years' experience in the communications industry, superior relationship-building skills and the ability to work under pressure.

#### • Marketing Coordinator

You will have at least one years' marketing experience with demonstrated success, and exceptional interpersonal and organisational skills.

#### • Graphic Designer

You will have at least five years' experience working as a graphic designer, with the ability to produce high quality, bespoke marketing collateral.

To apply, please send a cover letter and your resume to jobsau@vikingcruises.com. Applications close March 1, 2019.

### **AFTA UPDATE**

from Jayson Westbury



BREXIT; in part a word used to describe what could be called a total mess, a failure of the will of the people

or perhaps a political nightmare, but however you look at it as the deadline looms, it seems more cracks are appearing.

Even with a parliament that appears to be pulling itself apart at a time when it should be cooperating to get a result for the people who elected them, it seems that an agreeable outcome is further away than ever.

DFAT will be releasing regular updates on Brexit over the coming weeks and while for now there is no indication that any change will be required for Australians travelling to the UK or Europe, it is something that will need to be on everyone's watch brief.

As reported this week, the latest airline to call "goodbye times" is flybmi.

The news broke this week that the airline had collapsed and passengers were left to work it out for themselves.

The driving excuse by the failed executive of this airline - Brexit.

I guess it is better than other excuses used by failed airline executives, I think in the past 15 years the count is something like 815 airlines failed, so I would imagine there is now either an IATA Resolution or perhaps a handbook on what excuse is best to use.

It seems to me that the Brexit excuse may be a long bow.

Why is it that there is all the other airlines flying around Europe - and there are plenty of them still flying - yet this one calls it quits?

Fortunately for the Australian travel market, flybmi had little to no penetration and while

I am sure there will be some Australians caught up in this collapse, hopefully they paid with a credit card and can get a chargeback.

In fact, the notice issued at airports all over the flybmi network basically gives that advice to travellers as a first point of call.

That is, go see your bank and apply for a chargeback.

As I have said many times in the past, when an airline collapses the flow on ramifications are extensive for not only the travellers, but potentially for the travel agent as they may get trapped in the chargeback merrygo-round.

While we are yet to establish if there are any Australian travel agent claims, it is a very obvious demonstration of why the AFTA Chargeback Scheme is in place and important to travel agents as they look to mitigate their risk against these type of industry failures.

If you are not yet a part of the ACS scheme, perhaps today is the day to apply.

**CLICK HERE** for all the details. A final unrelated note, today marks the 77th Anniversary of the bombing of Darwin in World War II.

Flags in the NT on official sites will fly at half-mast from dawn till noon.

If you can believe it there is one person still alive (now 99 years old) who was part of the Australian squadron who bombed the submarine attack.

Brian Windspear is the sole living member of those times past and he is the most amazing Australian who is advocating for better recognition and today in Darwin there will be a plaque laid for remembrance of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in war. Lest we forget.

#### New life for AIME

**AIME** unveiled a reimagined event when it opened its doors for 2019 yesterday (TD 18 Feb).

The AIME Knowledge Program is now the largest business events education on a single day in Australia, with 500 participants and a variety of sessions.

Over 2,000 visitors are expected to attend the event which continues today and tomorrow.

#### Samoa 737 plan

SAMOA Airways has filed plans for its Boeing 737 MAX 9 aircraft operation, a lease placement from Air Lease Corporation (TD 17 Jan).

Beginning in Apr this year, the plane will service Apia-Auckland once daily from 02 Apr, Apia-Brisbane twice a week from 03 Apr and Apia-Sydney two times a week from 04 Apr.

# Travel Daily

Tue 19th February 2019

ACCORHOTELS took Valentine's Day up a notch and celebrated the entire week, taking its latest campaign "Feel Loved" to heart, recognising its loyalty members, clients and teams with various events and gestures, with one common goal - to make them feel truly valued and loved.

The entire AccorHotels network came together for clients to "Feel Loved" with exclusive events held across Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide, from breakfasts, lunches, dinners, high tea and OpenAir Cinema experiences.

Le Club AccorHotels members cosied up in the interactive Valentine's Day photo booth at Novotel Sydney Darling Harbour, while Platinum loyalty members enjoyed an exclusive evening at Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour

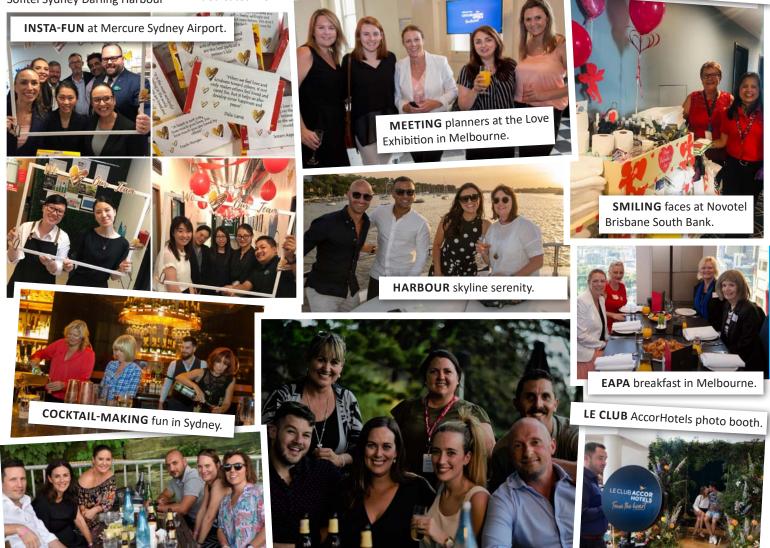


with AccorHotels Pacific COO, Simon McGrath and Senior VP, Commercial, Renae Trimble.

Meeting planners were invited to the Love Exhibition at the Immigration Museum in Melbourne, and a night of cocktails, canapes and glamour at the renowned Christopher Hanna Salon & Lounge Bar in Sydney.

Hotel staff and teams went the extra mile to not only reward in-house guests, but recognised their own teams for their dedicated work.





ENJOYING the OpenAir cinema.



## Korean Air marks 50th birthday



KOREAN Air has announced that 10 of its aircraft will display a special emblem and slogan to mark its 50th anniversary celebrations this year.

#### **MONEY**

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

#### AU\$1 = US0.712

TRAVELLERS to New Zealand, Canada and China will all stretch their funds slightly further this week as the Aussie dollar rallied well against the respective currencies.

More broadly, the Australian dollar rose strongly at the end of last week, driven by a noticeable lift in investor sentiment in light of renewed optimism over US-Sino trade negotiations.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.712
UK	£0.551
NZ	\$1.040
Euro	€0.630
Japan	¥78.84
Thailand	ß22.26
China	¥4.823
South Africa	10.062
Canada	\$0.943
Crude oil	US\$66.25

The milestone livery will depict the number 50 with a plane flying over it and the slogan "Beyond 50 Years of Excellence".

Korean Air said the move is designed to emphasise its contribution during the last 50 years and the carrier's ambitions to make the next 50 years even more memorable.

More anniversary-themed aircraft will be added to the global network on 01 Mar, with the limited edition design to stay in place until the end of 2019.

Pictured: A B777-300ER aircraft.

#### **HK Disney record**

**HONG** Kong Disneyland Resort (HKDL) has reported a record high revenue and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) for the 2017/18 financial year.

EBITDA jumped by 48% to HK\$1.4 billion for the year ending 29 Sep 2018, while revenue rose by 18% over the same period.

The healthy financial result was driven by a bump in annual attendance which reached 6.7 million, up by 8% from the previous year.

Strong source markets included mainland China (34%) and international visitation (26%).

# **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



haven't already, register at www.rewardsbyviking.com.

The most creative entry will win! Send your entries to viking@traveldaily.com.au



#### **BA CityFlyer route**

**BRITISH** Airways subsidiary BA CityFlyer has launched a new nonstop connection between London City Airport and Munich Airport.

The new route is serviced by an Embraer E190 aircraft and means Munich is now connected to five London airports.

#### Hapag ship update

A MILESTONE has been reached in the construction of Hapag-Lloyd Cruises' new expedition ship MS Hanseatic Inspiration, with the new vessel's hull starting its transportation from Romania to Norway.

The hull weighs an estimated 6,500 tonnes and will be ferried 4,000 nautical miles from the Vard shipyard in Romania to a sister shipyard in Norway.

The 230-passenger Hanseatic Inspiration will be launched in the Belgian city of Antwerp on 13 Oct this year.

#### Kimberley res plan

**THE** West Australian Government has released a draft plan to jointly manage several reserves in west Kimberley with the land's traditional owners.

The proposal includes major parks such as Windjana Gorge National Park and the Tunnel Creek National Park, with the State Government currently encouraging public comment on the project.

View the draft plan HERE.

#### Contours' new tour

**CONTOURS** Travel has introduced a new cultural tour departing 12 Apr that allows travellers to experience Easter Week traditions in Peru.

The six-night trip will also include a visit to Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas, and the country's capital city, Lima.

The package is priced from \$2,259ppts (excluding flights). Call 1300 135 391 for more info.

#### 2018 AFTA TRAVEL PAGES, NOW WITH A COMPREHENSIVE SUPPLIER DIRECTORY.

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