

## **AUSTRALIAN COASTAL CRUISES**

#### 1 NOV, 8 NOV & 15 NOV 2019 7 NIGHTS BRISBANE TO BRISBANE

Brisbane - Sydney - Newcastle - Gladstone - Sunshine Coast - Brisbane

Inside from \$1199 pp; Oceanview from \$1399 pp; Balcony from \$1699 pp

#### **22 NOV 2019 6 NIGHTS BRISBANE TO BRISBANE**

Brisbane - Sydney - Newcastle - Gladstone - Brisbane

Inside from \$1099 pp; Oceanview from \$1199 pp; Balcony from \$1499 pp

#### 28 NOV 2019 8 NIGHTS BRISBANE TO BRISBANE

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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 26th February 2019



#### Dream ex BNE

**DREAM** Cruises is highlighting its upcoming season of Brisbane departures aboard the newly refurbished *Explorer Dream* which will take place in Nov 2019.

Details of the Australian coastal itineraries can be viewed on the **cover page** of today's **TD**.



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## Nine retracts HLO claim

THE Sydney Morning Herald and The Age have both been forced to publish corrections and "statements of regret" in relation to editorials published last Fri about Helloworld, its CEO Andrew Burnes and his relationship with US Ambassador Joe Hockey.

The newspapers, both now part of Nine Entertainment Co, acknowledged accusations they made were "wrong" in suggesting that Helloworld Travel had won a competitive tender run by DFAT after a meeting between Hockey and then Helloworld senior exec Russell Carstensen in Apr 2017.

According to an ASX update issued by HLO late yesterday, the publications also acknowledged Hockey had informed DFAT about his Helloworld shareholding and friendship with Burnes before the meeting, and then excused himself from all discussions and decisions relating to the procurement of travel services.

"Helloworld Travel further notes that there were no travel management procurement processes underway for DFAT in the USA at the time of the meeting," the update added, with HLO reiterating that its executives and staff had "acted with integrity and honesty at all times".

Helloworld shares closed at \$4.95 yesterday, down over 20% since last week's first half results release followed by a series of allegations, which also included an administrative oversight meaning payment was not taken for flights booked by Finance Minister Mathias Cormann.

## Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today has nine pages of news and photos, a front cover wrap for **Dream Cruises**, plus full pages from:

- TMS Talent
- Windstar
- Sustainability Summit





## Windstar savings

WINDSTAR is promoting its "Beyond Ordinary Savings Event" offering a choice of additional perks for bookings by 18 Mar. Perks include up to US\$1,000 shipboard credit on select sailings, free gratuities or wi-fi. See more on page 11.



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## **Experience Co H1**

ADVENTURE tourism company Experience Co has posted a Net Profit Before Tax of \$7.4 million for H1 2019, a 59.1% increase on the previous corresponding period.

Revenue for the same period was also up by 42.3% to \$84.3 million, while Underlying Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) rose by 31.1% to \$17.3 million.

Driving the strong results were stabilising skydiving volumes - particularly in Australia where drop zone volumes were up 4.1% on the prior period.

Revenue from skydiving in Australia bumped up by 34% to \$54 million, while New Zealand increased by 19% to \$31m.

Experience Co's suite of Adventure Experiences saw revenue boosted to \$20.5 million and up by 104.9% on the back of the strategic acquisitions of Great Barrier Reef Helicopters, Big Cat and Tropical Journeys.

The company has stated the FY19 outlook will see Underlying EBITDA guidance change from \$30 million to \$33 million.

## Tramada, Mint "Pay Now"

TRAMADA Systems has enhanced its Payment Gateway module with Mint Payments, allowing customers to pay agency invoices directly to Mint without disclosing their credit card details to the travel agent.

The new "Tramada Pay Now" hyperlink can be automatically added to documentation generated by the Tramada platform, such as invoices and itineraries, sent to customers.

Clients can click on the Pay Now button to make either part or full payment of the invoice, with the credit card processed directly through Mint but the payment then linked back to the agency.

"This keeps the credit card details in the hands of the traveller, while providing speedy payment to the agent," said Mint Payments CEO Adam Jones, who explained the new system improved the customer experience by offering a booking-specific online payment portal.

He noted that Mint-Tramada agents were also able to earn Velocity points as Mint merchants.

Tramada Systems Country Manager Australia/NZ Susan Enners said the platform also enabled consultants to set up reminders to send an invoice or itinerary to travellers when payment is due.

She said the new Mint gateway facility was mobile friendly, and was "of particular value for leisure or group travel with security-conscious clients" because there is no longer a need for agents to obtain credit card details from customers.

The new feature also saves agency time by eliminating the need for consultants to chase payments, and also speeds reconciliation by automatically updating the booking status.

## Malaysia extra flts

MALAYSIA Airlines has announced the launch of three new weekly services from Kuala Lumpur to Melbourne flying between 01 Jul and 30 Sep 2019.

The move will see Malaysia
Airlines provide a total of
60 weekly services from six
destinations across Australia and
New Zealand to Malaysia.

Malaysia Airlines has also revealed it will replace its B737-800s aircraft, currently operating the daily services between Perth and Kuala Lumpur, with the larger A330-200 jets.

The move is effective 01 Apr.

## Sustainability chats

SPEAKERS presenting at *TD's*Sustainability Summit on 30
Apr include CEO Cosmos Tours
& Avalon Waterways UK Giles
Hawke & Hurtigruten CEO Daniel
Skjeldam - see page 12 for more.





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TAAP Availability ©
TAAP Commission ©



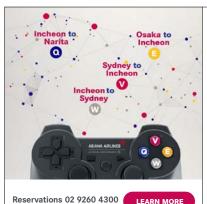
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## Apollo profit dips 8% to \$14.7m

**LISTED** motorhome specialist Apollo Tourism & Leisure has reported a "solid underlying performance" for the six months to 31 Dec, with revenue up for its Australian operations but increased operating costs impacting the overall result.

The statutory net profit after tax was \$14.7 million, with CEO Luke Trouchet saying the period had been one of consolidation as Apollo continued to invest in

//Srilankan Airlines

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people and infrastructure.

Key activity during the half included the acquisition of the Fleetwood RV, Coromal and Windsor caravan brands in Australia and the opening of rental branches in Hamburg and Paris as part of ongoing expansion in mainland Europe.

Australian rental revenue was up 3.6% year-on-year as a result of an expanded fleet and ongoing increases in international and domestic patronage.

In New Zealand rental demand rose 11.8%, while the 2017 acquisition of CanaDream boosted North American revenue by more than 20%.

Forward bookings for rentals remain positive, with current activity including the upcoming opening of two new USA rental branches in Anchorage and Miami in preparation for the FY19 summer peak season.

The recent appointment of former Hertz and THL Rentals senior executive Chris Rusden (TD 31 Jan 2018) as Apollo's Chief Operating Officer would be "vital to the continued expansion and success of the retail sales arm of the group," Trouchet added.

## Egyptair plots new Washington route

Star Alliance carrier plans to operate the route thrice weekly using Boeing 787-9 aircraft effective from 03 Jun.

Discover the lesser known of travelBulletin.

**CLICK** to read trave**l**Bulletin



## Lawyer casts doubt

**OPERATORS** were urged not to become complacent with the terms of service in their brochures as they may not hold up within Australian courts at last week's Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) crisis management conference.

Speaking at the event in Sydney, Aaron Zoanetti, Senior Associate of Pointon Partners Lawyers, explained terms and conditions in brochures may not be enough to indemnify operators from claims by clients if third party suppliers they utilise fail in their duty of care and service delivery.

Zoanetti pointed to several cases before the courts where magistrates ruled against the operator where breaches of contracts had occurred despite indemnifications appearing within the brochure terms and conditions.

"As the tour operator, you are responsible for your suppliers despite what your booking conditions say," Zoanetti said.

His solutions included "flowing down the risk to suppliers" through better contracts and service agreements.



## Window

CALLING all nervous flyers... the next time you find yourself performing your preferred ritual of luck before boarding a flight, you might want to check that you're not going to have to pay for it later.

A passenger boarding a Lucky Air flight in the Eastern Chinese province of Anquing was taken into custody by transport police and detained for seven days last week after admitting to throwing two one-yuan coins into one of the plane's engines.

The man, who said he tossed the currency because he "believed it would bring good luck" to the flight, caused the plane to be grounded overnight as a safety precaution, with stranded passengers having to be flown onwards to their final destination the next day.

The airline has said it plans to sue the man, after the cancellation incurred airline losses of close to US\$20,900. Good luck sure isn't priceless.





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## JAL's rolling plan

JAPAN Airlines (JAL) has released an updated Medium Term Management Plan - Rolling Plan 2019 following a number of alcohol-related incidents.

The company said it was determined to act swiftly to "rebuild the foundation for a safe and secure operational structure".

JAL's Rolling Plan involves a number of initiatives including expanding networks and innovating better products and services, in addition to its safety goals, such as zero aircraft incidents and zero serious incidents.

Improvements in corporate culture and human resources development have been earmarked as key ways to rebuild safety and a sense of security.

Japan Airlines said it was aiming to restore public trust and increase corporate value overall, in an effort to help achieve long-term targets.

## Win a trip to Tahiti

**SOUTH** Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) has launched a competition for travel agents registered in the South Pacific Specialist Programme.

Agents can win an eight-night trip staying at Manava Suite Resort Tahiti and Manava Beach resort & Spa Moorea in Tahiti including buffet breakfast, along with transfers and island tours.

If you aren't already a specialist in the program, register to complete training by 10 May - CLICK HERE.

## Insight flight deal

INSIGHT Vacations has launched an air offer, with travellers able to fly return to Europe from \$899 when they book select 2019 Europe and Britain summer itineraries.

To take advantage of the deal, agents will need to secure their clients' trips before 31 Mar.

## **Qantas Queenstown flts**

QANTAS has announced it will launch new seasonal flights direct from Melbourne to Queenstown, New Zealand, to meet a growing demand from Aussies travelling to the city for ski trips.

Between 21 Jun and 27 Aug 2019, Qantas will operate three services per week between Melbourne and Queenstown, deploying a Boeing 737 aircraft and offering 10,000 seats on the route over the winter peak.

"Every year we see more and more Australians travelling across the Tasman to experience a ski season in New Zealand," said Qantas International Chief Executive Officer Alison Webster.

"These new flights from Melbourne will allow Victorians to fly direct, maximising the time they have on the slopes and to explore everything else this beautiful destination has to offer," she added.

The new flights will operate on Tue, Fri and Sun, and are in addition to the carrier's 33 existing Queenstown services available weekly in winter, operating from Sydney, Brisbane and via Jetstar from Sydney, Melbourne and the Gold Coast.

To celebrate the launch of the flights, Qantas is offering sale

fares from \$269 one-way in Economy class and \$599 one-way in Business class from Melbourne to Queenstown.

The deal is available via travel agents until 11 Mar.

**MEANWHILE,** Qantas Frequent Flyer has launched its first bricks and mortar store in Melbourne's Domestic Terminal One.

The new Frequent Flyer Rewards Room offers Qantas customers the opportunity to earn Qantas Points for window shopping, use points on purchases in-store, and learn more about the program.

Members can earn 100 Qantas Points just for walking into the retail space and providing their Qantas Frequent Flyer details, and earn six points per dollar spent for purchases with a credit/ debit card & "double dip" with a Qantas Points-earning credit card.

## \$1b bookings RMS

ACCOMMODATION technology company RMS Cloud has for the first time hit \$1 billion in bookings annually through its property management system.

The company attributed the growth to signing up more than 650 clients in the past 12 months.





## **Bonvoy campaign**

**MARRIOTT** International has launched a global marketing campaign introducing its updated rewards program, Marriott Bonvoy (TD 17 Jan).

The comprehensive campaign will encompass advertising across television, digital video, mobile, print, social media, out of home, and cinema, as well as special events and member access to partner experiences across sports and entertainment.

In addition, Marriott's websites and mobile apps, credit cards and original content such as Marriott Bonvoy guest-room television and digital publication Marriott Bonvoy Traveler will all reflect the new name.

"Our aim is to build awareness for Marriott Bonvoy and to inspire more people to travel," said Karin Timpone, Global Marketing Officer, Marriott International.

The campaign will be rolled out across 22 countries in 2019.

#### Air Vanuatu's A220

VANUATU'S national airline Air Vanuatu has signed an order for four Airbus A220 aircraft, which will make it the first Asia Pacific operator of the plane.

"We're proud to be the launch airline in the Pacific region for the Airbus A220," said Air Vanuatu's Chief Executive Officer Derek Nice.

"These aircraft will be deployed to operate our current international and domestic network, including our newly announced non-stop Melbourne to Port Vila service, and will bolster plans to expand our network to new destinations throughout the South Pacific."

The order includes two A220-100 series aircraft with 108 seats and two A220-300 series aircraft with 133 seats, with the airline also purchasing rights for four additional aircraft down the track.

Delivery of the planes is expected in Jun 2020.

## **SKAL elects President**



**SKAL** International Perth 250 recently elected a new committee at its yearly AGM held this month at the EF Language School Perth.

Travellers Choice General Manager Sales Nicola Strudwick (pictured, centre left) was the newly elected President with support from now former President Alison Banks.

Other committee members include Vice President, Owen Frankhouser, Corestaff; Treasurer/ Secretary, Michael Collins, GCF Global; Immediate Past President, Alison Banks, TravelManagers; Committee member, Wendy Hernan, Zenith Payments;

Committee member, Donyale Sexton, Wetu; Committee member, Vicki Gordon, South African Airways; and Committee member, Stuart Chalmers, Excite Holidays.

"It's an honour and privilege to be representing the Perth Club as President especially given this year, we celebrate our 55th Anniversary," said Strudwick.

"It is a wonderful milestone and testament of the dedication and commitment of those before me that will drive our committee to ensure our club continues to grow in membership and diversity," she said.



## Immerse yourself in Malta

In the vibrant capital Valletta, your customers can indulge in the best of Maltese cuisine, revisit history in the medieval city of Mdina, or explore the grottos, caves, cliffs, and lagoons located throughout the islands. With over 300 days of sunshine, it is always a good time to

Book by 31 March 2019 for travel until 31 December 2019\*.

Fares per person from:

**Economy Class Business Class** 





\* Offer valid until 31 March 2019, 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 departures between 1 September – 20 September 2019, and 14 October – 28 November 2019. Business Class fares are valid for departures between 4 June – 31 December 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 and weekend surcharges may apply. For all other terms and conditions please review at time of booking. Flights to Malta start 4 June 2019.



## Africareps' client

AFRICAREPS has revealed it has successfully negotiated a contract to represent Grace Ethiopia in the Australia and New Zealand markets.

The Addis Ababa-based ground operator will work with Africareps to strengthen the visibility of its African packages in the local market, including custom tours in Ethiopia and neighbouring countries such as Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania and the Seychelles.

Grace Ethiopia offers multilingual tour guides, professional drivers, and vehicles suitable for traversing the terrain.

The operator also boasts partnerships with hotels and lodges in the African region.

The news follows the decision by previous client Kibran Tours to pull out of the Australia and New Zealand markets to focus on the United States, discontinuing its relationship with Africareps.

## **NZ** Jetstar delay

**AUCKLAND** Airport emergency services were notified yesterday evening about an issue on Jetstar flight 356 travelling from Napier to Auckland.

An engineering issue caused the flight to delay landing by 41 min.

#### LA's new website

**LOS** Angeles Tourism has launched a new destination site.

The update is designed to ensure a "faster response, enhanced search and better accessibility" while also featuring editorial to inspire travellers.

Additionally, the platform offers guides on hidden neighbourhoods, beaches and places to visit based on "astrological signs".

Other highlights include interactive maps, an events calendar and multilingual options.

To see the updated website, **CLICK HERE**.

## Travel Associates' Opera deal



LAST week Travel Associates hosted an intimate dinner at Sydney's Aria restaurant for its members ahead of announcing a new two-year partnership with Opera Australia.

Dubbed "Arts in Australia", the partnership includes naming rights for the Platinum Club at the Handa Opera on the Sydney Harbour site and sees the group

#### **D-EDGE** solutions

**HOTEL** technology provider Availpro and digital marketing platform Fastbooking have created a new brand for the hospitality industry called D-EDGE.

The new platform offers technology solutions to hoteliers.

able to provide more fine arts and cultural based experiences for their clients.

**Pictured** before a performance of Turandot is Travel Associates Danielle Galloway and Anna Burgdorf with Opera Australia CEO Rory Jeffes.

#### Sea World stunts

**SEA** World will launch a new ski show in Apr called Thunder Lake Stunt Show, which will feature stunts. action and comedy.

Sea World has partnered with Aussie stunt crew, Showtime FMX on the show to include water-ski, jet-ski and BMX performers.

The Thunder Lake Stunt Show will run twice daily at Sea World.

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Now partnering with Virgin Australia + Delta Air Lines. Fly from Sydney, Brisbane, or Melbourne to join a Collette tour in 2019.



For full details see our website





## Auckand pax up

**AUCKLAND** Airport saw a 2.4% growth in passengers travelling through the facility in Dec, compared to the previous year.

The airport saw an increase of 3.3% in international passengers (excluding transits), with 1.05 million travellers arriving during the month, while domestic passengers grew by 2.0%.

Additional capacity from Asia (+38,000 seats), particularly Indonesia and Singapore, and the US (+16,000 seats) drove growth.

In total the airport saw 16,321 aircraft movements, up 2.7% from Dec 2017.

## Singapore growth

This marks the third consecutive year that Singapore has seen growth.

Spend from visitors also rose by

For 2019, the Singapore Tourism Board expects to see a rise of

**VISITOR** arrivals broke records again for Singapore in 2018, with 18.5 million travellers arriving, up 6.2% in 2018.

Record arrivals from seven

markets helped to achieve the numbers including from China, India, the Philippines, UK, USA, Vietnam and Germany.

1% to SG\$27.1 billion (AU\$28b).

1-4% in visitor numbers.

## SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Senior Marketing Officer **Temporary 12 Months Full-Time (Maternity Cover)** Start 27 March, 2019.

Singapore Airlines is offering an exciting opportunity for a highly motivated individual to join Sydney Sales Planning and Development team in

#### **Principal Accountabilities:**

- Provide Marketing administrative support
- Develop information brochures and prepare draft trade advice for
- Assist Marketing & Communications Executive with reviewing and ensuring brand compliance for all marketing materials
- Creating travel bookings and monitor prize winner travel requirements
- Assist with preparation and reconciliation of the national advertising
- Monitor and reconcile the national advertising and promotion budget
- Monitor and reconcile the national free of charge ticket budget
- Invoice reconciliation and verification
- Ad-hoc projects as required

#### Applicants should have the following qualifications and attributes:

- · Sound knowledge of SIA's products and services
- Strong analytical and numerical with budget experience
- Strong interpersonal skills
- High level of written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work under pressure and to meet deadlines
- Strong organisational and time management skills
- Knowledge of airline reservations will be beneficial
- Well-developed computer skills

The starting salary is A\$56,487p.a., plus superannuation.

Candidates must have Australian citizenship or permanent residency (PR) status.

Please submit your written application (cover letter and resume) addressed to Chin Yu Tan, Manager Sales Planning & Marketing Australia, via email to Maria\_Bernardo@singaporeair.com.sg by Monday 04th

Only suitable candidates will be accorded an interview. All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

## **Quest City Walk opens doors**



**CANBERRA** has a new accommodation option with the opening of Quest Canberra City Walk last week.

The property is the second for Quest in the national's capital.

Quest Canberra City Walk features 84 serviced apartments, conference facilities, high-speed unlimited wi-fi and is centrally located in the city's CBD.

ACT's Chief Minister Andrew Barr attended the opening celebrations, along with Quest General Manager - Franchise Operations David Ridgeway.

"The opening of Quest's second property is a further signal of the confidence investors have in our city," Barr said.

"The convenient central city location will no doubt have wide appeal to both the business and leisure traveller coming to Canberra," he added.

Pictured are: Malcolm Snow, CEO City Renewal Authority; Fahim Malik, Quest Canberra City Walk: Andrew Barr. ACT Chief Minister & David Ridgeway, Quest Apartment Hotels.

Malik, Snow and Ridgeway are also pictured inset checking out one of the hotel's apartments.

#### Crooked 2020 out

**CROOKED** Compass has released its 2020 itineraries five months ahead of schedule, following a huge surge in requests from travel agents.

Founder and Director Lisa Pagotto said the demand was "a great problem to have and we're overwhelmed by the positive feedback and enquiry level from the retail agent community".

In thanks for the increased support from agents (in part attributed to the new work with Evolution Travel Collective's BDM) Crooked Compass is offering their 2020 departures at 2019 prices.

Further savings are also available with half price deposits on 2020 trips when booked by 31 Mar.

To book, contact Crooked Compass on 1300 855 790 or email info@crooked-compass.com.

Agents can also schedule a training and information session with a BDM by CLICKING HERE.



# Travel Daily

Tuesday 26th February 2019

## **DriveAway marks milestone**



CLAIRE Turner from DriveAway has celebrated the milestone of 20 years with the company, with colleagues marking the special occasion with a cake and a shout-out as thanks for her long-standing dedication to the company.

DriveAway has a proud history of loyal employees, including its management team of seven members which collectively have 103 years' experience at the company between them.

The 12-strong sales and support team also bring over 110 years' of collective experience to the car rental company, with CEO Chris Hamill also nudging over 25 years' experience within the car rental industry.

Pictured: DriveAway's Nathan Baber, National Industry Sales Manager; Claire Turner, SE QLD/ North NSW BDM, and Mike Hall NSW North & North QLD BDM celebrate Turner's milestone with a cake.



## **AFTA UPDATE**

from Jayson Westbury

AS INDUSTRY
award nights
go, the CLIAs
definitely take
centre stage at
this time
of year,
and all of

us at AFTA extend a heartfelt congratulations to all the winners who took out the prizes on Sat night. As one of the significant travel industry trade associations in Australia, CLIA is well placed to deliver these awards of celebration for travel agents and the distribution partners who represent and sell cruises of all shapes and sizes to the Australian and New Zealand public.

Awards nights, as we well know at AFTA take a lot of time, effort, energy and money to produce and this year's CLIA awards clearly once again delivered for all involved both in the production of the night and in delivering worthy winners in a range of welldesigned categories. Cruising is an important part of the tapestry of the Australian travel industry, and all of the suppliers and others who sponsored these CLIA awards should also be congratulated for supporting such a fantastic program of success and excellence for the Australian travel industry. So to all of the winners, congratulations - long may you cruise.

CLIA also inducted Karen Christensen, the Managing Director and Senior Vice President for Australasia for Crystal Cruises into the CLIA Hall of Fame, and again this is of significance for both Karen and the cruise industry both here in Australia but also across the globe.

Karen is the quintessential cruise executive and has dedicated the past 30 years of her life in the service of the cruise industry, having been an executive of the International Cruise Council Australasia (ICCA, which has subsequently become a part of CLIA) and serving cruise companies over the past decade during the era of such significant growth.

It is a true delight when industry associations recognise the work of an industry executive in this way as it adds such a value to the awards event themselves but also allows everyone across the industry to stop for just a moment and acknowledge someone who has served beyond themselves.

For Karen, I am sure this is a great honour and I extend a warm & worthy congratulations to her on her induction to the CLIA Hall of Fame.

So now that the CLIA awards season has closed, attention across the industry will turn to the NTIA with finalists to be announced in the coming weeks. It is so great that Australia enjoys such well-run industry association lead award events and a big thank you to CLIA for this ongoing celebration of industry.

## Marriott to add 30

MARRIOTT International has announced it plans to open more than 30 luxury properties around the world in 2019, including in Aspen, Ibiza, Venice and Cairo, plus the debut of the Ritz-Carlton Perth.

The new properties will "meet the needs of the evolving luxury traveller" and be opened under a range of the company's luxury brands, which includes Ritz-Carlton, Ritz-Carlton Reserve, St. Regis, W, The Luxury Collection, EDITION, JW Marriott, & Bulgari.

"Our eight unique luxury brands provide distinct experiences that appeal to different types of luxury travellers," said Tina Edmundson, Global Brand Officer and Luxury Portfolio Leader, Marriott International.

## thl reports growth

GLOBAL tourism operator thl has posted a record result for its half year figures to 31 Dec 2018, with its Earnings Before Interest and Tax (EBIT) up 4% to \$34.7m on the prior corresponding period (PCP).

CEO Grant Webster said "We have continued to see returns and profit improve in the core business and we see ongoing opportunities for improvements in our operating model", with the business seeing a "strong increase in the core business profitability despite a challenging vehicle sales market in the USA".

Rental and services revenue showed growth of 6% on the PCP, with the New Zealand RV business hitting "new records" following the half year Lions tour.



## Crystalbrook reveal plans



## **MONEY**

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

## AU\$1 = US0.716

**FIRMER** commodity prices and gains in global stocks have seen the Aussie dollar rebound against most of the majors this week.

Travellers to the United States, Japan, China, the UK, New Zealand and Canada will all get a little bit more bang for their collective bucks at the moment.

The biggest gains were made against the British pound, with the AUD/GBP up 0.22%.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.716
UK	£0.546
NZ	\$1.041
Euro	€0.631
Japan	¥79.60
Thailand	ß22.41
China	¥4.794
South Africa	9.916
Canada	\$0.945
Crude oil	US\$67.12

**CRYSTALBROOK** Collection Hotels and Resorts has unveiled the first preview image of its proposed development at Crystalbrook Supervacht Marina in Port Douglas (TD 27 Sep).

The render provides the first look at its 100-room, five-star planned property which also includes a destination Eleme Day Spa, a signature panoramic bar and cafe, 15 apartments and five waterfront villas.

Crystalbrook Collection said it intended to lodge a Development Application (DA) in the coming months and would commence construction when formal approvals were received.

## Wilpena discount

**THE** Wilpena Pound Resort is offering 25% savings on threenight stays as part of its SA Naturally Winter package.

Prices for the SA-based property lead in at \$188 per night.

The promotion is valid for stays between 01 Jun and 31 Aug.

**CLICK HERE** for more info.

## **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

#### 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



#### LOT's new route

**POLISH** Airlines (LOT) has announced the launch of a new service from Brussels to Budapest commencing in Sep.

Tickets for the new route are on sale now.

## Madagascar DFAT

**SMARTRAVELLER** is reminding Aussie travellers to exercise a "high degree of caution" when travelling to Madagascar as it continues to battle a measles outbreak.

Currently the island nation has 114 districts out of 116 affected by the outbreak and 91 declared an "epidemic situation".

## **Europcar expands**

**EUROPCAR** Mobility Group has expanded its global footprint with the acquisition of its Finnish and Norwegian franchisees.

The purchase grows its corporate network to 20 nations.

#### Free tourism course

**THE** University of Queensland has announced the third run of its free online course covering Tourism and Travel Management.

The first two phases of the course attracted more than 20,000 students from 200 countries/regions and was developed in partnership with Tourism and Events Queensland.

Interviews with leading Queensland practitioners and policy-makers giving their perspective on the tourism industry are included in the course structure.

#### **Emirates Airshow**

**EMIRATES** will showcase its flagship Airbus A380 for two days at the first ever Saudi International Airshow taking place 12-13 Mar at Al Thumamah Airport in Riyadh.

Visitors can tour the aircraft's interior and experience its refreshed onboard lounge.

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

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Travel Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994. Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication EDITORIAL

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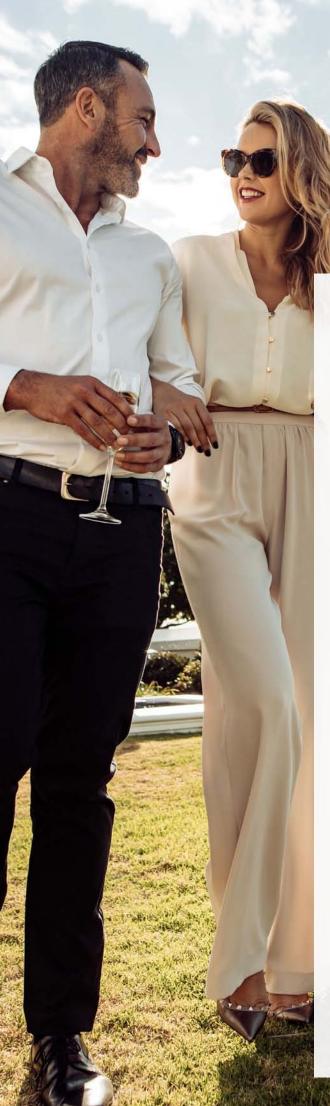
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The Sustainability Summit is a one-day event providing the opportunity for the Australian travel and tourism sector to share best practice, discuss initiatives and encourage one another to ensure future generations can continue to enjoy exploring the globe.

Register now to attend Earlybird tickets on sale until 15 March

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER** 

## Speakers include:



Giles Hawke Global Lead -Sustainability, CEO UK, Cosmos Tours & Avalon Waterways

**Daniel** Skjeldam CEO. Hurtigruten



More speakers to be announced soon

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