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Travel Daily First with the news

Wednesday 5th June 2019





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Luxury Escapes adds air

EXCLUSIVE

LUXURY Escapes has launched a new fully inclusive air booking platform, with customers now able to add flights to bookings of any of its existing accommodation and tour packages.

The innovation means offers are now priced as "hotel" or "hotel+flights", with pricing for air based on two adults to give an overall package cost.

Travellers using the system to book flight-inclusive holidays are also shown a month-by-month grid indicating the cheapest time to travel, and then during the booking process can select from a number of airlines flying the particular route, with additional costs for more expensive carriers offered alongside the base price. The new offering went live on

Today's issue of TD

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

- Albatross Tours
- Travel Trade Recruitment

the Luxury Escapes Australian website yesterday, with Paul Gorman, the company's Senior Manager Owner Engagement, telling **TD** the enhancement would make it even easier for customers to book a holiday.

"It cuts down the time and effort of searching for flights through another website, and allows customers to view the best value months to travel up to one year in advance," he said.

Gorman said the platform offered both full service and low-cost carriers, and forecast it would drive further demand for the Luxury Escapes portfolio.

Viking wanderlust

VIKING Cruises has launched a "wanderlust cruise sale" with a host of collateral for agents to capitalise on the special offers currently available.

The marketing toolkit includes customisable flyers, a social media video and other digital assets to promote specific itineraries or general Viking product - for details see the cover page of today's TD.



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Discover how travel companies are missing out on business by not catering for single parent families in the June issue of *travelBulletin*.

CLICK to read

trave|Bulletin







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US travel growth decline

SENIOR members of the US travel sector have expressed concerns about the relative decline in international visitor growth to America in recent years.

This morning at the IPW 2019 conference in Anaheim, California US Travel Association (USTA) CEO Roger Dow highlighted that the US share of global long-haul travel has dropped from 13.7% in 2015 to 11.7% last year.

"That small percentage represents a huge number of visitors and impacts tens of thousands of jobs," he said.

"It's just so, so critical to us."

Dow and his colleagues told

IPW delegates of the efforts
they are making to lobby for the
sector in Washington, with an

Austria for Xmas

ALBATROSS Tours is today showcasing its 10-day Austrian White Christmas tour departing 19 Dec this year, which includes visits to four Christmas markets.

The trip takes in all of the key highlights of Austria as it journeys from Vienna to Lucerne in Switzerland - see page 10 for info.

overwhelming feeling of urgency in the face of a range of issues under the current administration.

USTA Chairman, Elliott Ferguson from Destination DC, spoke about US\$12 billion in budget cuts to America's National Parks, leading to significant maintenance issues.

A "Restore our Parks" Act being promoted in Congress aims to redress this, with Ferguson noting that about a third of the 318m annual visitors to US National Parks come from abroad.

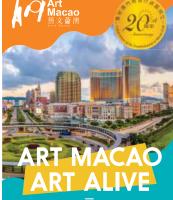
Dow also discussed border wait times, in response to feedback he had received from many IPW international delegates.

"The time you've spent at US Customs is unacceptably long, and it's unacceptable to me...we are expressing that right now to our government...we are going to speak very loudly about how important it is to address this."

Visa wait times have also dragged out, while Dow said his organisation had opened up a "meaningful dialogue" with President Trump and his team.

"There is hope," he said.

More from IPW on page eight.



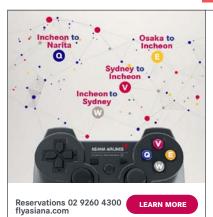
Macao's love of art has spread throughout the former Portuguese enclave with some of the Asian centre's giant resorts having special exhibits during the five-month Art Macao festival, to celebrate the 20th anniversary as a Special Administrative Region.

Galaxy Macau is celebrating the life of Princess Grace Kelly with works created by some of the world's most notable artists.

While Sands China - and such resorts as the Venetian Macao and the Parisian - has unveiled a museum-quality ceramics exhibition "All That's Gold Does Glitter – An Exhibition of Glamorous Ceramics" - 90 masterpieces from 13 countries and regions.







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*T&C's apply



HLO's new insight tech

AGENTS working across Helloworld Travel's branded. associate and HLO Business Travel networks will gain deeper insights into their performance using new technology launched at the company's recent Business Travel Summit in Ho Chi Minh City (TD 09 May).

The HLO Business Insights Dashboard allows agents to track key business metrics and identify areas where they need to focus their efforts to boost performance, providing benchmarking across the network.

HLO General Manager Independent and Corporate Networks David Padman said new features including incentive dashboards, forward sales functionality and airline incentives tracking, would help agents to plan for the future, and gain a better understanding of their cash flow.

"Providing our owners and managers with the ability to track in real time exactly where their performance is at with our preferred partners is game changing," he said.

"They can see when they are close to hitting a major incentive tier and do what they need to in order to achieve that tier, having this visibility allows our members to be much more strategic."

The dashboard has been developed in conjunction with business intelligence company, Resurg Group, and has been made available to agents working across the network at no cost.

HLO member and co-owner of Eastern Hill Travel Paul Gardner said the dashboard provided "invaluable" real-time data and boosted competitiveness.

"If you can't measure your performance you can't grow your performance," he said.



Gauci SeaLink COO

SEALINK Travel Group has appointed Donna Gauci as Chief Operating Officer.

Gauci replaces Anthony Hayes, who quietly vacated the role in Nov last year.

She has been with SeaLink for the past 13 years, most recently as GM Brand and Customer Experience since Feb 2018, prior to which she was GM SeaLink South Australia (TD 09 Feb 2018). She reports to CEO Jeff Ellison.

Topdeck Global GM

TOPDECK Travel has promoted Charles Knowlton from General Manager Tour Operations North America, Australia and New Zealand, to the role of Global General Manager.

He brings 15 years' experience in the travel and touring sector to the role and began with Topdeck in London in 2012 as a BDM.

Knowlton will officially step into the new role on 10 Jun.



Window

IF THERE'S going to be a bullet with your name on it, it's probably best that you have it.

That must have been the rationale behind Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom's decision to green light its unusual personalised bullet gift shop offering.

However, paranoid guests will have to look elsewhere for the cartridge shell with their name etched on its surface after the park pulled the souvenir, which was sold in a leather keychain holster with the slogan "The Right to Keep and Bear Arms", following a social media campaign by less than impressed guests.

The park has since opted to sell products that are more "family friendly".



Travel Daily

Wednesday 5th June 2019

travelBulletin Jun is out

THE latest issue of **travelBulletin** is now available to read, featuring a fascinating look at the challenges of travelling the world as a single parent.

Caroline Riches explores the opportunities travel companies can take advantage of in this often neglected market, citing the many misconceptions associated with solo parent travel ambitions.

Riches contends this "rapidly growing demographic" needs more TLC from tour operators, hotels and cruise lines.

The Jun issue of travelBulletin also includes destination features on Thailand, The United States of America, skiing, New Zealand and Christmas & winter holidays.

Readers can also learn about Thailand's push on the business



events industry and why the country is ramping up marketing efforts this year, plus all of the usual reliable and insightful analysis of the latest travel news.

CLICK HERE to read the online version of the edition.

TTA enjoy 15 years of fame



THE Travel Authority (TTA) Group gathered in Brisbane recently to plan the company's year ahead and celebrate 15 years of operation.

Staff flew in from Sydney, Canberra and Perth to stay at The Calile Hotel, where the theme for the weekend was "TTA TLC".

"That's TLC for our clients, for our suppliers and, of course, for each other," said The Travel Authority Group Managing Director Peter Hosper.

"After another amazing year, our 15th no less, we wanted to explore our opportunities to build on our ongoing success and refine what we do and how we do it," he added.

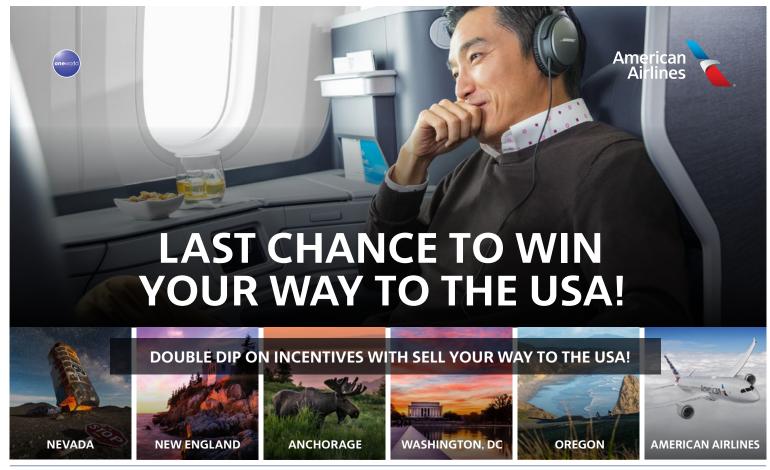
The weekend also included interactive planning sessions designed by InteractIF.

"The InteractIF guys are known for their 'make learning sticky' mantra," Hosper said.

"It wasn't easy cracking 15-yearold processes and practices apart to examine them, but our sessions were spot-on, informative and great fun."

The TTA Group includes The Travel Authority Corporate, Sydney, The Travel Authority Corporate & Resource, Fremantle, The Events Authority, The Cruise & Travel Authority Sydney, and The Cruise & Travel Authority, Terrigal.

Pictured: The TTA team.





Treadright projects

IN CELEBRATION of today's World Environment Day. The Travel Corporation's Treadright Foundation has unveiled new initiatives, including two new projects based in Colombia.

The Cotton-Top Protection project, in partnership with Provecto Titi, features a multidisciplinary on-site conservation program in Colombia dedicated to conserving the critically endangered cotton-top tamarin.

One of the most endangered primates in the world, the tamarin received this status in 1973 following the exportation of 20-40,000 of the species to the United States for bioresearch.

A crucial archeological site is also being developed at the El Congo-Ciudad Antigua research station, located on the western face of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in the country's Rio Frio basin, aiming to engage emerging tourist destinations in sustainable practices.

Blues or Maroons?

THIS is your last chance to join our exclusive State of Origin competition, with the Series beginning tonight in Queensland.

A football jersey of choice will be the spoils to he or she who can most accurately answer these questions three:

- Which player will score the first try in Game One?
- How many tries will be scored by the losing team in Game One?
- What will be the final score of

E-mail your best guesses to soocomp@traveldaily.com.au by 7.40pm to be in the running.



Virgin and Expedia

VIRGIN Australia and Expedia have announced a partnership which gives Virgin customers access to over 600,000 of Expedia's accom options, with VA's Velocity Frequent Flyer members able to earn points with these reservations.

To celebrate the launch, Velocity and Expedia are offering triple Velocity Points with every hotel booking until 13 Jun, earning members nine points per dollar spent on bookings.

New Traveltek CEO

MAL Barritt has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Traveltek, tasked with leading the company's global expansion strategy.

Barritt brings over 26 years of experience to the role and will guide the company's exploration of a larger offering of product and services, and expansion into new markets.

He will also oversee Traveltek's endeavours to improve its core product, enhancing the current services and support offered, as well as the launch of a new, "industry-first solution" due to launch late 2019.

Barritt joins from ITC Travel Group, and will be taking up his post in Aug.

Travel Daily on location on Spectrum of the Seas

Today's issue of TD is coming to you from the inaugural sailing of Royal Caribbean International's Spectrum of the Seas out of Shanghai.

TRAVEL Daily is enjoying a day at sea on board Royal Caribbean International's new ship, Spectrum of the Seas.

The new "Ultra" Quantum Class ship has loads of activities and entertainment to cater for everyone's needs.

The Sea Plex area is the indoor activity hub with an arcade games area as well as an oversized basketball court which is utilised for different activities including roller skating, glow in the dark laser tag and bumper cars.

Nearby is the rock climbing wall, Flowrider, Ripcord by iFly (simulated skydiving) and the all new Sky Pad, a bungee trampoline experience where participants wear a virtual reality headset to experience different adventures.

There are also various pools for kids and adults, allowing quest to do as much or as little as they please.



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FARE CONDITIONS: Blackout Period: September 16 - 28, 2019. Seats are subject to availability. Seasonality and blackout dates apply. Fares quoted are inclusive of government taxes, fees and surcharges. Taxes and charges are subject to change with or without prior notice by the authority. Minimum/Maximum stay is 3D/3M for Economy, Premium Economy and Business Class. Minimum/Maximum stay does not apply for one-way fares. Weekend surcharge is AUD50 for SYD Outbound (FR/SA/SU departures). Ticket is non-transferable. Ticket is non-transferable is Economy. For Premium Economy, refund is usubject to AUD35 for totally unused tickets and non-refundable for partially used tickets. For Business Class, frest nebooking is free of charge and succeeding at AUD100. No-show fee is AUD15S for totally unused tickets and non-refundable for partially used tickets. Shange fee is AUD15S. A companied child's fare is 75% of adult fare. Infant fare for infant without a seat under 2 years is 10% of adult fare. 10% mileage accrual for Economy, 100% mileage accrual for Premium Economy, and 125% mileage accrual for Business Class. Baggage Allowance - Fare is inclusive of 7-kg handcarried baggage. Free baggage allowance will vary per route. Tickets issued online or outside of the Philippines does not include Philippine Travel Tax (PH tax). PH tax shall be paid directly at the airport before departure. PH tax is applicable to Philippine passport holders, foreigners holding a Philippine resident visa, and foreign tourists or expatriates who have stayed in the Philippines for more than one year. Other travel conditions apply.



ACT tourism boost

THE ACT Government has allocated \$133 million to support tourism, sport, events and the arts in its 2019/20 Budget.

The funding includes \$350,000 to boost Canberra's profile by hosting the 2020 Australian Tourism Awards, while a further \$1.77 million has been set aside for hosting the 2020 Women's t20 Cricket World Cup.

Tourism and Transport Forum CEO Margy Osmond welcomed the Territory's support for VisitCanberra, but called for a "longer-term commitment to destination marketing funding in the next budget year".

The TTF chief also welcomed the Government's \$193m investment in the Territory's transport infrastructure, which includes oversight of the construction of the light rail and the entire public transport network in Canberra.

Trafalgar presale

TRAFALGAR has launched a pre-sale deal for its 2020 Europe and Britain trips which are now guaranteed at 2019 prices.

"By keeping our trips for a limited time at 2019 prices, customers can book at a great price, secure their spot and let the excitement begin," said Trafalgar CEO Gavin Tollman.

Virtuoso in Vienna

GLOBAL luxury travel network Virtuoso is gearing up to welcome industry leaders to Vienna next year for its Virtuoso Symposium taking place 17-21 Mar, 2020.

The event is expected to attract 500 attendees and gather influential decision-makers in upmarket travel for networking and discussions on industry trends, challenges, and opportunities.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

All shook up by the US south



THE Globus family of brands Supertour has continued its jubilant expedition through the southern states of the US, the latest stop visiting Nashville and Memphis in Tennessee.

Donning their cowboys hats in preparation for a healthy dose of country music, the first port of call for agents was the Ole Red in Nashville, a popular Honky-tonk eatery inspired by musician Blake Shelton's hit of the same name.

The group were also able to brush up on their country music knowledge with a tour of the

Country Music Hall of Fame.

Other attractions visited in the musical city included the Ryman Auditorium, the historic RCA Studio B, and a live taping of the local radio show, Heroes Behind the Hits, affording the group an opportunity to meet and greet local Nashville musicians.

The next stop was the spiritual home of blues music, Memphis, where agents enjoyed a musicled city tour to chow down on some Memphis style ribs, wander through Elvis' former home Graceland, and attend a minor league baseball match.

Pictured: The group trying not to step on Elvis' blue suede shoes at Graceland.

Cook Is famil winners

THE winners of a famil to the Cook Islands have been selected for the *Travel Daily*, Cook Islands Tourism and Air New Zealand competition.

The 15 lucky agents are: Taegan Mosely, Christine Balch, Hector Palmer, Lexy Hartmann, Mervyn Leong, Brooke Wood, Maria Lamotta, Georgia Price, Jodie Hill, Eleni Vailas, Dylan Humphries, Kirstin Street, Elizabeth Katsidis, William Bragg, and Kellie Marshall-Milton.

The prize is return Economy flights from Syd to Rarotonga.

Disney roadshow

DISNEY Destinations is asking agents to come along and see what all the buzz is about as it continues its training trade events around the country.

Big ticket items to learn about include Disneyland's new Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge attraction.

The Disney Days Roadshow 2019 is set to take place in Kotara (24th Jun), Adelaide (01 Jul) and Perth (03 Jul) - register HERE.



Distribution & Reporting Specialist - Sydney

We are looking for an experienced Distribution and Reporting Specialist to join our Australian 'Ohana. Candidates must have exceptional analytical and pricing skills and experience within an airline or travel related company. Proficiency with Salesforce, SQL and Tableau highly preferred.

Key Responsibilities

- Create AU fare, policy & procedure updates & distribute through the various platforms
- · Monitor and report on competitor pricing activity
- Build and improve on the current suite of reports available to HA Sales Team to locally track and analyse sales performance and make recommendations
- Action BSP Ticketing Authorities and ADM enquiries
- Act as a point of escalation for fare, GDS troubleshooting and customer relations enquiries

For more information and to apply please click here. Applications close 10 June.



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Celebrity Equinox reno



CELEBRITY Equinox is officially ready to sail the Caribbean, as the third ship to be "revolutionised" as part of Celebrity Cruises' \$500m investment in upgrades on a number of its ships.

Guests aboard the renovated vessels can experience refreshed staterooms and suites, digital enhancements including wi-fi upgrades and facial recognition technology and the renovated Craft Social relaxation space, featuring more than 40 craft beers as well as on-tap cocktails and comfort foods.

There are also new treatments available at the updated Spa by Canyon Ranch, and a selection of retail offerings, including John Hardy Boutique and Kate Spade.

For suite guests, the upgrade will give them access to "The Retreat", which includes an exclusive sundeck.

The bow-to-stern modernisation took place over 29 days in Cadiz and began on 04 May.

Celebrity Equinox is the third

of the cruise line's ships to be reworked under "The Celebrity Revolution".

Edge and Flora were the first two vessels to undergo the upgrades, with Silhouette the fourth, due for completion on 31 Jan 2020.

Five more ships are scheduled to undergo works which will be completed by 2023.

Pictured: "Craft Social", a casual beer and cocktail lounge featuring leather seating and flat-screen TVs which replaced Gastrobar.

Accor 1,100 APAC

THE recent launch of Accor's Sofitel Beijing Central marks the group's 1,100th hotel in the Asia-Pacific region.

With 38 brands in its portfolio, the group has heavily focused on further expansion across the luxury and lifestyle sectors, with Sofitel Beijing Central the 320th luxury/premium accommodation offering in the region.

ACCOMMODATION

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.



Quality Hotel Batman's Hill on Collins has unveiled its \$1.75 million new look across its 85 standard rooms of twin, gueen and family sizes. Located on Collins and Spencer in the heart of Melbourne, the renovation aimed to modernise the property's look,

while maintaining the hotel's historic charm.



Completing a 23-key inventory with the unveiling of its latest two-bedroom lodge is Capella Ubud, Bali. The full inventory now contains five terrace tents, four rainforest tents, eight river tents, five Keliki Valley tents and the most recently completed

Lodge, which offers unobstructed valley views.



Pullman Luang Prabang, Laos, has revealed its new facilities and sustainable event offerings, which include the largest events space in the city, the 116m2 Nam Khong Ballroom, a series of new flexible function spaces, and the intimate Le Salon

boardroom, with the trio of venues able to cater for up to 300 delegates.

Star team building

THE Melbourne Star Observation Wheel is now offering a number of corporate and team-building activities.

Packages on offer include The District Docklands scavenger hunts, competitive team-building challenges and the more relaxing, catered flights.

Sanctuary Nile reno

SANCTUARY Retreats' Sanctuary Nile Adventurer is currently undergoing a major renovation.

The refresh will aim to combine modern Egyptian culture with the country's heritage and focus on the lighting, 32 cabins and suites, restaurant and communal lounge, library, a new spa, a sun deck and pool and an open-air gym.

The ship is scheduled to return to the Nile this Sep for the 2020 season, offering three and fournight cruises between Aswan to Luxor and vice-versa.

A seven-night cruise is also available by combining dep.

Silversea correction

TRAVEL Daily would like to clarify that Silversea Cruises' 5% commission incentive only applies to 2020 expedition voyage bookings, not all bookings, as originally reported in yesterday's edition (TD 04 Jun).

Agents can also go into the draw to win one of four Silversea expedition cruises for two by making a new booking.

Coral discount

CORAL Expeditions is offering savings of 25% off bookings for two or more cabins on its 11-night Passage to the Solomons itinerary, departing 16 and 27 Oct.

These dates also offer free scuba diving at selected sites, led by a qualified instructor and including a range of equipment.

Other highlights of the voyage include a look at the tradition of canoe-building in Budibudi, exploring the Marovo Lagoon and famous ebony carvings and cultural visits to remote island communities.

EXPEDITION MONTH - 5% BONUS COMMISSION + WIN A CRUISE

Celebrate Expedition month with us – sell any Silversea Expedition departing in 2020 and go into the draw to win an expedition voyage every week in June. Plus, receive 5% bonus commission for each new booking made on all Silversea Expedition 2020 bookings.

VIEW EXPEDITION MONTH FLYER

VIEW EXPEDITION SELLING TOOLS



Travel Daily

Wednesday 5th June 2019

Travel Daily on location in Anaheim, USA

Today's issue of Travel Daily is coming to you from IPW2019 in Anaheim, California, courtesy of Visit USA and American Airlines.

IPW attendees have a packed schedule this week, with days full of thousands of pre-scheduled appointments complemented by a huge variety of evening social activities.

Every participating destination is out to impress, with venues across Anaheim booked out tonight for a variety of parties and networking events.

The more than 6,000 delegates will flit between a succession of themed activities and activations, with the always raucous Texas party expected to be particularly popular with the Australasian guests.

See *TD*'s latest IPW photos at facebook.com/traveldaily.

Brand USA movie

BRAND USA this week confirmed details of its third film to be made for IMAX and giant screen theatres, with Into America's Wild following previous productions National Parks Adventure and America's Musical Journey which have been hailed for boosting visitors.

The movie is now in its final stages of production, and is expected to premiere in Washington DC in Feb 2020.

Visa waiver changes

AMERICA'S Visa Waiver Program (VWP), which allows visa-free travel for participating countries. is set for a transformation and possible expansion, under initiatives currently under way in Washington DC.

US Travel Association CEO Roger Dow said legislation currently being considered by Congress would see the program renamed as the Secure Travel Partnership, reflecting its strong focus on both security and travel facilitation.

There is also consideration of additional countries subject to finalisation of bilateral agreements, with Dow flagging negotiations with several European and South American nations.

Potential new VWP countries include Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia in Europe, as well as Israel alongside Brazil, Costa Rica and Argentina, he said.

Virtual Orlando

PROSPECTIVE visitors to Orlando, Florida, can now see exactly what's in store through a new website refresh showcasing 360° virtual reality previews.

The world-leading technology currently features a total of 88 tours and activities, with online visitors able to experience swimming with manta rays, riding a roller coaster and more.

Last year Orlando welcomed a whopping 75 million visitors, up 4%, with international arrivals at Orlando Airport up 11.7%.

Aussies in Anaheim for IPW



THERE are plenty of familiar faces in Southern California this week, with the large Australian and NZ delegation to the US Travel Association's annual IPW show among thousands of international visitors in town for the event.

Product specialists, tour operators, wholesalers, travel agents and media are among the contingent, investigating the latest and greatest in US product which will feature in upcoming programs to help satisfy the thirst of Australians for exploring everfurther reaches of the 50 states.

The group is being corralled by Lucy Rowe from Kent Marketing, President of Visit USA Australia

and Clinton White, who administers the organisation.

They are pictured top with Joe McCormack from Helloworld Travel, while inset is Flight Centre's Christie Hopp with Monique Roos from the US Commercial Service.

Lots more IPW pics and videos at facebook.com/traveldaily.



Register for the Qantas Channel

Responsible for a travel agency? Register* for the Qantas Channel by 30 June 2019 to be eligible to access a wide range of content for your customers.



Register now



*In order to enable your agency to access the Qantas Channel from 1 August 2019, you should register for the Qantas Channel via Qantas Agency Connect and enter into an agreement with your GDS or Approved Technology Partner to access the Qantas Channel prior to 30 June 2019. Acceptance of each agency into the Qantas Channel following registration is subject to Qantas' approval.



Amadeus ICM acq

AMADEUS has completed its acquisition of ICM Group Holding for an undisclosed sum.

ICM is the head office of ICM Airport Technics, which offers passenger automation and selfservice bag drop solutions for airports and airlines, which will fit into Amadeus' airport operations suite of offerings.

Banyan 25 years

BANYAN Tree Hotels & Resorts has celebrated its 25th anniversary by accomplishing its goal of a more than 25% groupwide reduction in single-use plastics in a year and offering deals across its portfolio.

The group achieved the feat by eliminating 4.2 million single-use plastic items.

NCL extends Take 5

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has extended its latest promotion, offering up to US\$3,000 in additional value for guests.

Travellers who book a Balcony stateroom or above will be able to enjoy all five of NCL's "Free at Sea" offers, in addition to receiving \$200 onboard credit when they book their next Hawaii cruise holiday or \$100 to a range of other destinations offered.

The offer now expires 18 Jun.

MEL extends SITA

MELBOURNE Airport has extended its contract with technology partner SITA in light of forecasted passenger growth.

The technology is part of the airport's multi-billion dollar pipeline of investment that will work to see it welcome almost 70 million passengers annually by 2038.

Already providing the international terminal with flexible services for passenger check-in and bag drop, Melbourne Airport hopes to roll out this technology across other terminals to create more than 400 passenger touchpoints, including mobile and standard check-ins, gate boarding selfservice check-in kiosks and both hybrid and standard bag-drops.

The improvements are based on SITA's common-use platform, AirportConnect Open, already used at airports worldwide.

Jetstar Japan canc

JETSTAR Japan will cancel 70 domestic and international flights in Jun due to a pilot shortage.

According to the airline, the shortage is due to "multiple extended illnesses and delays to training", with normal scheduling expected to resume in Jul.

The cancelled flights will affect an estimated 7,500 customers.



This month Travel Daily and Singapore Airlines are teaming up to test agents' knowledge on Singapore Airlines for a chance to win two return Economy Class tickets to Singapore.

Simply enter by answering the weekly questions during the month and have the most creative response to the last question to win. Send your answers to singaporeairlines@traveldaily.com.au

1. How many destinations do Singapore Airlines, SilkAir and Scoot collectively fly to globally?

a) 75 cities b) Over 130 cities

c) 110 cities d) 80 cities



Fremantle push

A MAJOR destination marketing campaign has kicked off for Fremantle, WA.

One of the state's most-visited destinations, the historic port city has keyed in on attracting more interstate visitors.

The City of Fremantle identified tactical and brand-based destination marketing campaigns as a priority in its Destination Marketina Strateaic Plan. released Nov 2018.

The plan will feature an extensive outdoor campaign.

Regent's Suite Sale

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises is running a Suite Sale which includes more than 25 sailings departing this year.

Discounts of up to 55% are available on sailings to destinations such as the Mediterranean, the Baltic, Asia, Alaska, and the South Pacific.

Highlights include 55% off the 10-night Journey to the Tongass departure from Seward to Vancouver on 14 Aug and 47% off the 14-night Enlightened Passage cruise from Singapore on 06 Dec.



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FDITORIAL

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European Christmas Magic

by Stephen York

We had the most wonderful time on the Austrian White Christmas tour. We were lucky enough to stay in the Kirchenwirt Hotel in the tiny village of Leogang set among the rolling hills under the majestic snowy Alps. This nearly 700-year-old manor has plenty of history including how an archbishop used the hotel as a hideout for his mistress! The property has been lovingly restored and still holds so much of its character and heritage.

While on tour we enjoyed the local food, particularly the steaming hot wurst at the Christmas markets in Vienna. My second recommendation is trying authentic Weiner Schnitzel in its birthplace in Vienna. Then it is essential to try a few varieties of the delicious steaming hot glühwein.

The highlight evening for us was Christmas Eve. It started with a torch lit walk up the hill overlooking the town of Leogang at dusk. Looking down to the town, the church steeple was lit up and shone like gold. A perfect opportunity for photos! We then walked back to the hotel 'barn' for gluhwein and warm ginger biscuits.

After, we returned to the hotel for our 'blow out' Christmas Eve dinner. At 9.30pm, trumpets played from the top of the church bell tower, heralding the village to come for their traditional Christmas service. We all attended the service (in Austrian!) with the entire village of Leogang. A truly remarkable memory of Christmas eve which was spent with the locals, doing what they do every year.

Find out more about the Austrian White Christmas tour



Austrian White Christmas

10 DAYS | DEPARTS 19 DECEMBER 2019

- Celebrate Christmas over 4 nights in Leogang village in an 800 year old coaching Inn with a horse drawn carriage ride on Christmas Day
- Stay 3 nights in glorious Vienna
- Be guided through the staterooms of the magnificent Schönbrunn Palace and Melk Abbey
- Visit baroque Salzburg and visit the Silent Night Chapel, Kitzbuhel and Zell-am-See
- Stay in the winter resort of Innsbruck and visit Swarovski Crystal Worlds
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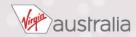
































































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