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TRAVEL DAILY

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LATEST NETS

Data supplied by Concorde

- UA** Special 1 month *Short Term* fares to LAX/SFO plus a \$99 add-on to all UA online cities in the USA for depts to 31 Jul. Tkt by 31 Jan. From \$1290 to LAX/SFO, \$1379 to rest of the USA.
- KL** New KL/AZ nets to Italy/UK/Eur/Mideast via AMS/MIL for depts from 01 Jan.
- CX** Special *Enter the Dragon* nets to HKG. Sale/tktg extended to 31 Jan.
- 2T** Special *Sale* nets to Canada. Levels reduced for 30 Dec dep.
- BA** BA/QF *oneworld Explorer* fare. Routing and stopovers revised.
- BA** BA European Airpass. Zone 4 revised.
- BA** Comair pass. Domestic Sth Africa revised.
- GF** *Two for One* nets to SIN. Sale and travel dates revised.
- SR** Nets to UK/Eur/Mideast/Nth Afr. Levels extended to 31 Dec.
- CO** NZ/CO nets to Mex/Central Am. Levels extended to 30 Jun.

NZ radar glitch

AN air traffic control radar blackout caused widespread delays at airports throughout New Zealand yesterday.

Controllers had to rely on a back-up system for more than an hour till the problem was fixed. Times between flights were extended and aircraft grounded in some cases.

The country's aviation authority, Airways Corporation, said the problem was not linked to Y2K testing, which has been completed.

Harvey expansion

BARELY a week after its Stock Exchange debut, Harvey World Travel is moving to meet some of the objective outlined in its float prospectus.

It's understood the company will invite applications early next month for 2 key positions - e-commerce and Internet development mgr, and national retail mgr.

The group indicated in the prospectus that top priority is being given to Website development and e-commerce, with the intention of being able to offer online fulfilment for air, car and hotel bookings from the first half of next year.

The national retail job signals fast-track expansion of the network into high-profile shopping centres.

GST agent breakthrough

THE year is ending with what promises to be a much-needed breakthrough on GST negotiations within the industry.

A meeting in Sydney Wed of reps from all sectors, including IATA, individual airlines, TCF, wholesalers and so on, agreed that agents should be classified as re-sellers of travel for GST purposes rather than agents, with the aim of ensuring they won't have to pay GST on any discounts they offer.

The meeting, called by AFTA, also agreed that wholesalers will use 'recipient-generated' invoices reflecting both the commission and the GST payable on that commission.

AFTA chief exec Mike Hatton says the alternative would require agents to raise a tax invoice for every transaction, showing the commission and GST liability.

Hatton said those at the meeting showed great co-operation in trying to resolve GST issues vital to the retail sector.

But airlines still have to decide whether their accounting systems can cope with planned moves.

Agent special

QANTAS has new discounted fares to several destinations for agents selling international travel, according to two companies handling industry rates, Interline Reservation Service and World Interline Tours.

- Levels are:
 - New York/Jo'burg/Harare from \$849 plus taxes.
 - Los Angeles from \$710 plus taxes.
 - Tokyo/Nagoya from \$599 plus taxes.
 - Denpasar from \$480 plus taxes.
- The levels are also available to one companion.

The fares are on sale from 01 Jan for travel 20 Jan-31 Mar and

Contacts for booking:
Interline Reservation Service ph 02 9700 8711, fax 9700 8710, e-mail irssyd@ozemail.com.au
World Interline Tours ph 02 9954 262, fax 9922 1697, e-mail wit@gtaus.com.au

If so, AFTA will seek Tax Office sanction for the proposals.

A joint industry meeting with the Tax Office is scheduled for 19 Jan to sort out a number of issues.

Hatton says from AFTA's viewpoint, if the status of agents and the invoicing plan are sorted out, "the rest of it will fall into place".

In a report sent to agents last night, Hatton said companies should now be taking steps to ensure back office systems are ready to handle GST.

He said that although agencies with turnover below \$20m will remit GST quarterly, all should set up a system of producing monthly accounts to check their GST liability.

Travel Daily

THIS is the last issue of *Travel Daily* for 1999.

We'll be back on 06 Jan.

Thanks for your support during the year and have a pleasant Christmas/New Year. *Mike Heard*

Christmas 'appeal'

A HANDFUL of NSW travel agents are engaging in a Christmas appeal of a different kind.

They're asking the State's Administrative Decisions Tribunal to stay termination orders by the Travel Compensation Fund.

The TCF cut 26 memberships earlier in the month after failure to lodge financial statements and/or pay late lodgement penalties.

Appeals, which are normally granted, are not uncommon.

But on this occasion there's been a rash of them.

Those re-admitted will still face penalties and probably fairly stiff TCF conditions.

Cruise special

CREATIVE Cruising is offering a fare of \$199 per person for third and fourth passengers in a cabin on selected Jan and Feb 4-night and 7-night Carnival sailings from Los Angeles to Mexico.

The fare doesn't include port charges and pre-paid tips.

A flyer carries details.

Circulate TD to:

Consolidator shuffles top staff

CONSOLIDATED Travel has announced a number of changes in senior management.

Maro Tryon, gm NSW/ACT is retiring from the industry and will leave on 14 Jan after 18 years with the company.

Carl Frier, mgr SA/NT, will replace her, and SA/NT sales exec Richard Mussell will succeed Frier.

Also leaving the company is NSW/ACT sales mgr Sunil Joseph, to pursue other business interests.

Neil Robertson, ex Thai Int'l, will replace him on 10 Jan.

Consolidated group gm Warwick Blacker says Tryon has been a key contributor to the growth of the company in NSW/ACT.

Bali tattoo alert

AFTA has received a letter from a Sth Australian doctor warning that travellers getting tattoos in Bali are suffering reactions leading in some cases to scarring and permanent damage.

It's advising agents to pass on the warning to clients.

Trafalgar departure

TRAFALGAR Tours national sales co-ordinator Kate Gardner leaves the company today to pursue interests outside the travel industry.

She's been there nearly 7 years.

A replacement will be named in Jan.

Crash clarification

AOM French Airlines says some pictures today of the DC-10 crash in Guatemala show an AOM logo on the plane.

But the aircraft has been on dry lease to Cuban national carrier Cubana de Aviacion for about 3 years - i.e. it was maintained by Cubana and flown by Cubana crew.

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CP takeover cleared

THE Canadian Govt has approved the Air Canada takeover of Canadian Airlines, despite concerns that a bigger company will dominate the market.

Officials said the takeover is preferable to the almost certain demise of CP if nothing was done to overhaul the industry.

But approval comes with a range of conditions.

Air Canada has agreed to accept legislation to be introduced next year outlawing price-gouging.

It must continue service to all of its own and CP ports for three years.

And it has to protect jobs at both airlines for two years.

Fiji milestone

AN American was welcomed at Nadi Airport last night as Fiji's 400,000th tourist arrivals for 1999.

They flew in from Sydney on FJ910, helping to push Fiji arrivals worldwide to a record level for 12 months.

New tourism dr

TOURISM New South Wales has appointed Julie Webster dr marketing services and brand management.

She was with Citibank Ltd.

Correction

THE size of P&O's *Sky Princess* has increased significantly since yesterday's **TD** story. It's now 64,000 tons.

Ansett NZ lawsuit

A preliminary hearing into a lawsuit stemming from the crash of an Ansett NZ Dash-8 near Palmerston North in Jun 1995 got under way in Auckland yesterday.

Two passengers and a crew member died in the crash and a third pax died a few days later.

Twelve of the 15 survivors, who suffered serious injuries, are each suing the airline for NZ\$250,000 in exemplary damages.

At yesterday's hearing Ansett NZ was accused of "outrageous and flagrant disregard for passenger safety".

But the airline is strenuously denying the claims.

70 at Qantas Y2K 'party'

QANTAS says it will have more than 70 key staff on duty around the clock at Mascot New Year's Eve to monitor the rollover to 2000.

The airline won't have any domestic flights in the air at midnight on 31 Dec.

But 13 international flights will be in progress, including a South Pole sightseeing charter due to leave Sydney and Melbourne that afternoon.

It'll be over Antarctic mountains when the clock strikes midnight.

There'll be 46 Qantas planes (10 international, 23 domestic and 13 regional) operating at midnight Greenwich Mean Time, the international standard time for aviation operations.

That's 11am on New Year's Day Australian Daylight Saving Time.

The last Qantas domestic flight on New Year's Eve will arrive in Sydney at 9.20pm from Melbourne.

The first domestic flight on New Year's Day will leave Perth at

US tightens airport security

AUSTRALIANS flying into the USA in coming days are going to notice much tighter airport security.

There's been a nationwide clampdown in response to fears that terrorists may be planning millennium violence.

The Federal Aviation Admin said yesterday that it will be making greater use of devices to check air travellers for trace amounts of explosives.

Airports also will be using more bomb-sniffing dogs, and uniformed police will be patrolling inside and outside terminals.

Europe rail launch

CIT Travel says there'll be no increases in Eurail or Europass prices in its new *Europe by Rail* brochure due out shortly.

Most Italian Rail Pass rates are up slightly, except the Kilometric.

And Eurostar prices are steady till 31 Mar, when they'll reduce.

1.30am for Sydney.

Qantas says that in addition to New Year's Eve monitoring, each business area within the airline has developed a continuity plan which can be activated at short notice if a critical "resource" such as a key computer system or piece of equipment fails at the rollover.

All business units have rostered staff to be on site or on call.

Double New Year

THERE are less expensive ways to celebrate New Year twice than by making a dash across the Atlantic from Paris to New York on a supersonic Concorde - as some of the rich and famous are doing.

Qantas is achieving the same effect with a service to Hawaii.

The 747 will leave Sydney at 6.30am on 01 Jan and arrive in Honolulu at 6.55pm on 31 Dec.

Ansett Y2K alert

ANSETT issued a note to agents overnight saying that if they experience problems booking any Ansett segment through normal channels during the rollover to 2000, they should call 13 11 22 to talk to a staff member.

New Canada options

ADVENTURE World has new options which can be linked to Rocky Mountain Railtours product (there's a new brochure).

Two and three-night packages include Whistler by boat and train, the Calgary Stampede, Seattle and a Victoria Clipper cruise to Victoria, and a Vancouver Is drive.

More Med cruises

YA'LLA Tours has extended its range of Mediterranean cruises by introducing back to back 7-night sailings between Athens and Rome on Royal Olympic's *Triton* from 16 May-10 Oct.

Fares for \$1560, including land touring.

Oz coach air add-ons

AUSTRALIAN Pacific Tours has \$99 air add-ons for use with its new Nthn Territory program.

WINDOW SEAT

A HILTON Hotels Corp survey in the US has found that 37% of people find holiday travel stressful.

And 20% of these believe it's more stressful than going to the dentist or getting married.

Women find holiday travel more of a problem than men, and they believe the only immediate way to ease the stress is to eat.

Some 500 people were polled.

"TO ERR is human. But to err so persistently is diabolical".

Vatican official Liberio Andreatta bemoaning the fact yesterday that administrative stuff-ups mean a large number of Rome's millennium projects won't be ready in time for next year's huge Holy Year influx of pilgrims and tourists.

THE American Automobile Assn in Texas is operating its Topsy Tow service for drunken drivers again this Christmas and New Year.

Between now and 02 Jan, drivers who've overdone the festive celebrating can call a toll-free number to have their car towed home, along with them and one companion.

A charge may apply, depending on the distance towed, but the first 25kms are free.

BRITISH pubs, an enduring tourism icon, are being accused of a massive rip-off.

Experts claim that short measures will see drinkers pay for 17 million pints of froth during Christmas and New Year alone.

That represents about \$75m worth of missing beer.

Drinkers' watchdog the Campaign for Real Ale says:

"Tis the season to be ripped off in many pubs.

"It's time this flagrant abuse of consumer rights was resolved".

The liquor industry requires glasses to be only 95% full.