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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 2nd October 2012

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ISSN 1834-3058


## Win a trip to Austria!

**THIS** month **TD** has partnered with the Austrian National Tourist Office, Austrian Airlines and Rail Plus to give away a sensational six-night holiday to Austria.

Readers need to simply arrange a dream itinerary to Austria by browsing the more than 250 'Unique Experiences' on offer - see full comp details on **page 9**.

## Footy tipping winners

**TRAVEL Daily** will name the winners of our exclusive travel industry AFL & NRL footy tipping competitions on Fri this week - stay tuned for the announcement.



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## easyway air link enhanced

**AGENTS** are set to benefit from enhancements made by Qantas Holidays & Viva! Holidays to the air booking process for domestic flights being rolled out today.

The streamlined booking process for domestic 'Package Booking' & 'Build Your Own Itinerary' options available through **easyway** will deliver "significant improvements," the Jetset Travelworld Group wholesalers suggest.

Upgraded benefits include the ability to quickly and effortlessly compare domestic fares between Qantas, Virgin Australia & Jetstar, a more efficient flight search option with filters and easy to read fare information display.

Fare searches display flight numbers, departure city/time, arrival city/time, fare type and cost, with the best available fare displayed and other fare options (for the same flight) viewed from a drop-down list.

Filter options include one-way price, departure/arrival times, trip duration, fare types & cabin.

The new offering also provides wholesale airfare commission on select fares which, when married

with land content, provides higher commission than if the transaction was made offline via Reservation Sales.

However the changes have consequences for agents who will no longer be able to import Sabre or Galileo record locators for domestic bookings, with QH/VH adding, "we look forward to making the booking for you."

**MEANWHILE**, Viva! Holidays has boosted wholesale commission for Virgin Australia domestic and short-haul int'l services from 2% to 3%, effective immediately.

## APT Kimberley 2013

**APT** has launched its Kimberley Wilderness Adventures program for 2013, featuring its co-owned Noble Caledonia small ship *MS Caledonian Sky* (**TD** 13 Jun).

The vessel features on 11-, 15- and 28-day Kimberley itineraries from Sep next year, such as the Kimberley, Kakadu & MS Caledonia Sky trip which includes 10 nights cruising from Darwin to Broome.

*Caledonia Sky* joins *Oceanic Discoverer*, *Coral Princess* and *Kimberley Quest II* in the Top End in APT's cruise option line-up.

Early booking SuperDeal savings of up to \$2,500 per couple are offered for bookings by 31 Dec.

See **page seven** for a range of other newly released brochures.

## Nine pages of news

**Travel Daily** today has nine pages of news and photos, plus full pages from: (**click**)

- TMS Asia Pacific jobs
- AA Appointments jobs
- Travel Trade Recruitment

## QF Int'l still bleeding

**QANTAS** Group passenger numbers for the month of Aug grew 2.4%, with Jetstar's Asian and Int'l operations stemming decreases closer to home.

Passenger numbers flying with Jetstar Asia jumped 19.4%, with load factors on the cusp of 82%.

QF Int'l traveller numbers fell for the month, dropping 4.2%, while capacity decreases on int'l services saw load factors increase to over 80% as a result.

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# Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 2nd October 2012



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## Scoot/Tiger Asian LCC pact

**SINGAPOREAN** low-cost carriers Scoot & Tiger Airways Singapore have signed a Memorandum of Understanding toward a number of wide-ranging joint initiatives.

The new partnership comes as Qantas & Jetstar await an overdue draft determination by the ACCC on a Joint Venture Coordination Agreement to expand the Jetstar model throughout Asia.

To be implemented in three phases, the Scoot/Tiger deal will open up a range of South-East Asian destinations served by Tiger to Australian travellers emanating from Scoot serviced ports of Sydney and the Gold Coast.

From today, Phuket, Ho Chi Minh City and Kuala Lumpur will

be made available for sale via Scoot's website, with a single ticket issued for all sectors and valid for travel from 15 Oct.

Scoot ceo Campbell Wilson said the LCCs operate complementary networks & "common philosophy of offering fuss-free service."

The cooperation requires pax to pass through immigration and collect bags in Singapore before proceeding to their next sector, steps the carriers will eliminate on rollout of the second phase.

Itineraries originating from the Asian cities going to Australia will go on sale from 02 Nov.

Travellers will be allocated a 15kg baggage allowance on the interline itinerary and will not need to purchase it as an add-on.

The later phase could see a need for applications for anti-trust immunity as cooperation deepens.

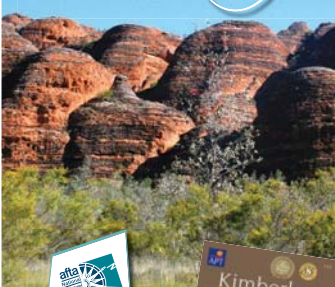
## Wyndham appoints

**MATT** Taplin has today been named as senior vice president of resort operations & property development for Wyndham Vacation Resorts Asia Pacific and Wyndham Hotel Group.

He'll move from New Zealand to be based at Wyndham's Corporate Centre on the Gold Coast.

## QR denies oneworld

**QATAR** Airways chief Akbar Al Baker has emphatically denied plans to join the oneworld airline alliance, telling media last week "No, we will not. It's all rumours."



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## Overseas holiday intention rise

**MORE** Australians are currently mulling taking an international holiday in the next 12 months, compared to the August quarter last year, albeit very marginally.

According to the latest Roy Morgan Research Holiday Tracking Survey, 10% of Aussies are thinking about a trip abroad - up from 9% - and close to the peak level achieved in early Jan.

"With a more optimistic

outlook and the Australian dollar still at a high level, an increasing percentage of Australians are taking advantage and planning an overseas holiday," said Roy Morgan Research's Jane Ianniello.

Among the destinations which have seen increased interest are New Zealand, the UK, US, Bali and Thailand, she said.

Domestic holiday intention saw a slight dip, down from 55% in 2011 to 54% now.

Melbourne is the top domestic destination for holidays, growing in popularity in the "short-break" market, Ianniello added.

### BA \$250K DOT fine

**BRITISH** Airways has been slapped with a US\$250,000 fine by US transport regulators for breaking price advertising and baggage compensation rules.

The US Dept of Transportation said BA has not disclosed taxes & govt fees when promoting fares in emails and on websites, while also stating it would not pay compensation for loss, damage or theft from checked baggage - both violating DOT laws.

### EK MEL A380 debut

**MELBOURNE** Airport ceo Chris Woodruff said he was "thrilled" to welcome the arrival of Emirates' first daily nonstop A380 service between Dubai-Melbourne which touched down early this morning.

"Emirates is a valued customer of Melbourne Airport and the new A380 services to Auckland & Dubai confirm Melbourne's position as a key global destination," Woodruff said.

## Crystal lands prime positioning for NYE

**CRYSTAL** Cruises' *Crystal Symphony* is one of 10 vessels to attain a "premiere vantage point" for the Sydney Harbour New Year's Eve fireworks display.

*Crystal Symphony* has been short-listed to participate in the evening's grand flotilla in the 'Best Dressed' group, plus access to the eastern side of the Harbour Bridge near Sydney Cove.

## DJ up Indigenous staff

**VIRGIN** Australia chairman Neil Chatfield revealed in the carrier's Annual Report on Fri that it has grown its Indigenous Australian workforce from 4 to 81 in the past three years.

Chatfield also highlighted the "diversity" of the company, with women now accounting for 51% of the team and nearly half of Group Executive positions being held by women.

"Virgin Australia's greatest asset is its people and we will continue to focus on developing a diverse, engaged team to set us apart from others in the industry," Chatfield said.



## Window Seat

**BUSINESS** is firing on all cylinders...make that...barrels at a recently opened Las Vegas shooting range, which is offering visitors the opportunity to shoot Osama Bin Laden for themselves.

For \$200, guests can choose a weapon based on the exact gun type used in the very Navy Seal raid that killed Bin Laden.

And it isn't just for the gents, with Louis Vuitton handbags complete with a pouch for a handgun available for purchase.

**FOLLOWING** on from the recent opening of a museum dedicated to pizza (**TD** 10 Sep), the Italian city of Bologna has opened a tributary venue to the humble Italian gelato dessert delicacy.

Visitors to the museum can taste what the attraction describes as "historic flavours", as well as make their own from a huge range of possibilities.

Galleries of images charting the history of the treat are also available for gelato history buffs.



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## QF battles headwinds

**QANTAS** has confirmed nonstop flights from its Dallas/Fort Worth hub to Brisbane on Tue 27 Sep & Wed 28 Sep were hampered by strong head winds, requiring "brief stops" in Auckland.

A QF spokesperson told **TD** QF8 today was operating as normal.

## Quest open Whyalla

**EXPANSION** of the Quest brand has continued with the opening of a new hotel in Whyalla, SA.

The 56-room Quest Whyalla features a mix of studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments.

## Aurora body found

**THE** search for a British woman lost overboard while on a cruise aboard *P&O Aurora* was called off after her body was recovered off the Spanish coastline.

*Aurora* was operating a 14-night western Mediterranean cruise packed with Brits at the time of the 72 year-old's disappearance, UK's *Guardian* reported.

## Wellington campaign

**POSITIVELY** Wellington Tourism launched a 'Wellington Wishing Well' digital campaign on Fri that gives users the chance to select or make a personalised 'wish' for a chance to win that wish in Oct.

The promo is available on both PCs and mobile devices at [www.wellingtonwishingwell.com](http://www.wellingtonwishingwell.com).

## EK Glasgow precinct

**EMIRATES** has signed a ten-year agreement with the Glasgow City Council, in which it becomes the naming rights sponsor of the new so-named Emirates Arena, which will open its doors on Fri.

## Small ship, big guide

**THE** Small Ship Adventure Co has unveiled its 2012-13 brochure detailing luxury voyages across seven continents and features info on 20 different itineraries.

The guide also includes special day expeditions aboard Zodiac boats or kayaks to explore quiet atolls and coves.

Phone 1300 650 481 for info.

## DNSW soccer deal

**DESTINATION** NSW has signed a deal with Sydney FC to feature the Sydney.com logo on the back of the A-League team's match & training tops during 2012/13.

## eLong Expedia deal

**EXPEDIA** is set to expand its presence in the Chinese market, under the terms of an enhanced agreement with China-based online travel agency eLong.

Expedia already has a stake in eLong, and under the new deal the businesses will collaborate more closely, sharing knowledge and best practice more extensively as well as strategically cooperating on potential merger and acquisition activity.

"The agreement also allows Expedia to increase its presence in the Chinese market by amending certain non-competition provisions" which were previously entered into in connection with Expedia's investment in eLong.

Under the terms of the new deal Expedia will make an initial payment of \$7 million, and a subsequent payment to eLong in Nov 2015 based on a revenue sharing agreement.

## Pre-order Bowali pass

**BOWALI** Visitor Centre (BVC) in Kakadu National Park is offering visitors the ability to request advance park passes to speed up the collection process.

Visitors need to call BVC at least 24-hrs ahead of time to arrange purchases on (08) 8938 1120.

**WIN A DOUBLE MOVIE PASS**

**TO ROME WITH LOVE**

Every day this week *Travel Daily* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a double pass to see Woody Allens



new movie, *To Rome With Love*, courtesy of the **Italian Government Tourist Office** and **Hopscotch Films**.

Full of romance and humour, and set in one of the world's most enchanting cities, this star studded movie is not to be missed!

For your chance to win, be the first person to send in the correct answer to the daily question below.

**Name one of the scenic locations in To Rome With Love**

Email your answer to [Romecomp@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:Romecomp@traveldaily.com.au)  
Hint! Watch the movie trailer [here](#)



# Introducing Melbourne's first Emirates A380

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**The Emirates A380 - now flying to more destinations worldwide from Melbourne**

Destinations include Amsterdam, Auckland, London, Manchester, Moscow, Munich, Paris and Rome. For more information contact your Emirates' Sale Representative or the Emirates' Contact Centre on 1300 880 599.

## Park Hyatt Chennai

HYATT Hotels Corporation has opened its 30th hotel under the Park Hyatt collection in India and first in the 'gateway to Southern India', the Park Hyatt Chennai.

## Party time for an Excite launch



IT WAS time for a party recently at the Excite Holidays offices as the company celebrated the launch of its revamped branding,

logo and corporate identity.

The logo itself has seen the changing of the exclamation point from blue to red, while Excite's ethos as a whole has remained the same, albeit for a renewed desire to keep the upward growth patterns firmly in place.

Excite's founders were on hand to join the team in the celebration and ceo and co-founder George Papaioannou & fellow co-founder Nicholas Stavropoulos are pictured above letting their hair down.

## Topdeck Europe deals

YOUTH tour operator Topdeck is offering a 10% discount on its Europe 2013 touring program when booking by 28 Dec.

The deal reduces the cost of Topdeck's 20-day European Getaway to \$2,322 per person.

## Occupancy rates marginally up

AVERAGE room occupancy levels for the Jun quarter among accommodation establishments consisting of 15 rooms or more have remained largely stagnant compared to previous quarters according to figures out last week.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics released its quarterly findings from hotels, motels and serviced apartments, showing a 0.2% climb in occupancies to 63.1%, compared to Q1 for 2012.

Compared to the Jun quarter last year, occupancies rose 1%.

Over the last six years, motel occupancy has marginally clawed back market share from a Jun 2009 low, while hotels remain the most popular, closing with an average occupancy of 68.4% at the end of the Jun quarter.

State by state, WA posted the largest growth in patronage at 2.2%, while ACT hotels brought the national average down slightly with a 4.5% drop in occupancies.

## Clipper ups Baltics

STAR Clippers will double its number of Baltic 10- and 11-night Stockholm with St Petersburg sailings aboard *Star Flyer* in 2013 from three to six departures.

Sailings are planned for 25 May, 04, 16 (charter) and 25 Jun, and 06 and 16 Jul 2013.

Thirteen million room nights were reported for the month of Jun as a cumulative total, with NSW recording the lions share of occupancies for the month, with 30.8% of total room nights, followed by Queensland at 26.6%.

The Sunshine State however recorded the longest average stay with 2.6 days, ahead of WA at 2.5 days, while NSW, SA and Tas recorded the shortest at 2.0 days.

## Etihad/nasair c'share

ETIHAD Airways has signed a new codeshare agreement with Saudi Arabia's nasair to allow the Abu Dhabi-based carrier to place its 'EY' designator on flights to Jeddah and Medinah.

In turn, nasair will place the 'XY' code on 24 Etihad services across the Middle East, North Africa and Asia, out of Abu Dhabi.

The codeshare expects to kick in during their winter schedules, subject to regulatory approval.

MEANWHILE, Etihad Airways has adopted Sabre's codeshare, network and fleet management software to enhance planning and scheduling operations.

EY is also the launch customer for Sabre's network manager software which helps the carrier adjust schedules to improve connectivity through hubs.

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**Virgin** australia

## Secrets Retreats

A NEW luxury hotelier called Secret Hotels has launched into Asia featuring a collection of over 30 small independent properties.

Secret Hotels' collection are, so far, spread across Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand & Vietnam, with plans to expand into Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Singapore and Hong Kong on the cards.

Properties include The Pavilions in Bali and Kanaya Hotel in Japan.

Rates range from US\$150-700 per night - [secret-retreats.com](http://secret-retreats.com).

## AC appointment

AIR Canada has named Klaus Goersch as its new executive vice president & chief operating officer.

Goersch joins AC from AirTran Airways, where he was exec vp of operations and customer service and oversaw the operational merger of AirTran into Southwest Airlines over the last year or so.

## Choice member drive

CHOICE Hotels Australasia aims to secure more accom bookings for 2012 and add new members to its loyalty program through a marketing campaign that will see a guest win a Suzuki Swift Sport.

New and existing members of Choice Privileges can enter the promotion, receiving an entry in the draw for every booking made prior to 30 Nov - more comp info at [www.choicehotels.com.au](http://www.choicehotels.com.au).

## Travel Trade winner

MICHELE Corcoran from HWT Mt Isa has been named as the winner of last week's Travel Trade Recruitment mini-comp.

Her response to 'How to capture a client's attention when selling a tropical destination?' was: "I usually quote the price to my customers per hour for such a luxurious experience and they find that very appealing."

Michele has won a Clinique Travel Pack valued at \$70, courtesy of Travel Trade Recruitment.

## Loews TSA fast-track

LOEWS Hotels & Resorts, the US Customs & Border Protection's Global Entry & the Transportation Security Administration's 'Pre✓' programs have teamed to offer expedited screening at airports to select guests of the hotelier.

The pact will see Loews absorb the US\$100 online application processing fee for some loyalty reward members.

Global Entry enables low-risk international travellers pre-approved entry into the United States of America.

## PAL tickets at 7-Eleven

PHILIPPINE Airlines has begun accepting payment for domestic tickets via around 800 7-Eleven retail outlets in the Philippines.

The move allows pax who have booked tickets online and don't possess a credit card the ability to pay for their tickets using the ECPay's Payment Center in 7/11s.

## No wait check-in trial

BRITISH Airways will soon begin a trial of a new automated check-in system in which pax who opt-in will be automatically checked-in, assigned a seat and emailed a boarding pass 24 hours ahead of departure.

The trial will take place in France and if successful, will be expanded early in 2013, with the aim to have it available to all BA pax network-wide later that year.



## Bali Belly

Do you roll the dining dice when you go to Bali? Do you go for broke and eat from street stalls, or do you play it safe?

You can take precautions to lower the chances you'll get Bali belly (read about them on [SureSave.net.au](http://SureSave.net.au) and download the PDF for your customers), but there's no guarantee you won't get sick. That's because the most common ailment to strike travellers is Traveller's Diarrhoea (TD), and it's nothing to do with hygiene or food poisoning.

People used to talk about "a change in water" and that's not far from the truth. All water contains low-level bacteria, and you get used to the mix in your local supply. Change location, change the mix, and it can take a couple of days to become accustomed.

TD is the most common claim from Bali that we see at SureSave. Doctor's fees, a few medicines and in some circumstances deposits you lost on pre-paid bookings you couldn't use because you were restricted to being no more than 5 metres from a toilet!

TD is not fatal, even though a bad case may feel like it, but if you have the runs for more than a week you need medical help because you're in danger of becoming dehydrated. No need to stress about finding a doctor, it's time to use that assistance number that came with your SureSave policy, and let us do all the organising for you.



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## INTERNATIONAL RETAIL SALES CONSULTANT (Cairns based)

Air Niugini, the national airline of Papua New Guinea is looking for an experienced retail travel consultant (full time) to join our team in Cairns.

The successful candidate will have a strong background in retail sales in either an airline or travel agency and be fully conversant with CRS systems and international travel bookings. Strong organisational skills and an ability to be adaptable and work under pressure are a must. Applicants must also display a high degree of professional customer service and be willing to multi skill in other functions.

### KEY REQUIREMENTS:

- At least three (3) years experience in either airline or retail travel sales.
- Fully conversant with CRS systems.
- Excellent communication skills, well organised and be a team player.
- Travel qualifications highly desirable
- Ability to work under pressure whilst maintaining a professional manner
- Knowledge of PNG a distinct advantage

If you fit these requirements we would very much like to meet you. Please forward your application with detailed resume to: [mgrpxbne@bigpond.com](mailto:mgrpxbne@bigpond.com)

ATT: Charles Morley, Regional Manager Australia - Air Niugini no later than Wednesday 10 October 2012.

Only short listed applicants will be contacted.

Sell Garuda Indonesia for a chance to WIN a trip to BALI for YOU and a FRIEND!



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## ASP installs upgrade

ALICE Springs Airport has completed a \$2million upgrade of its radio navigation instrument landing system, used to assist aircraft landing in poor weather.

## Virgin expands regional footprint

INCREASED demand from the corporate sector has seen Virgin Australia increase its frequencies between Brisbane and a number of mining & key regional centres.


Beginning later this month, the carrier will link Brisbane and the mining town of Emerald in central Queensland with an additional weekday service, taking services from three daily to four, adding 950 weekly seats to the route.

Sun flights between the ports will increase from two to three, while a new Sat service will also be introduced.

From 12 Nov, Newcastle and Rockhampton will each benefit from an increased operation, with the former receiving a third daily flight, and the coastal Queensland city seeing an eighth daily flight.

The increased investment in the services come in line with a newly released television commercial

and marketing campaign by DJ using a tagline of "The Romance is Back" (TD breaking news Sat).

The TVC will accompany a media blitz encompassing online, print & social media advertising, and will feature VA's workforce appearing in a 60-second advert which can be viewed on  **Travel Daily TV**.

## Philippines update

THE Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade has updated its travel advice for the Philippines, advising of a warning by the US Embassy about a threat against American citizens in the Pasay City neighbourhood of metropolitan Manila.

The overall advice remains at the "High degree of caution" level.

## ADL to CHC non-stop

ADELAIDE and Christchurch Airports have put pen to paper on a Memorandum of Understanding in which they will work together to lobby for direct air access between the two cities.

CHC Airport has allocated NZ\$7.5m (AU\$5.9m) in support funding to the first airline able to commit to a daily service.

Both airports claim the route is "one of the largest under-served city pairs in Australasia", with CHC saying independent research shows more people would fly on the route if it was direct.

## Aviareps US for GF

GULF Air has named Aviareps offshoot AviaWorld as its new general sales agent for the USA and Canada.

The business will operate from offices in Houston, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Toronto and Vancouver to promote the airline's "attractive offer to Bahrain and beyond".

Gulf Air has a codeshare pact with American Airlines & customers will be able to connect via Bahrain to its European network including London Heathrow, Frankfurt, Rome, Copenhagen or Paris Charles de Gaulle.



## Brochures of the Week

WELCOME to *Brochures of the Week*, *Travel Daily's* Mon feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to [brochures@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:brochures@traveldaily.com.au).



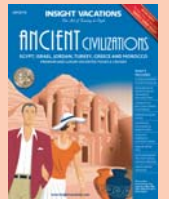
### Abercrombie & Kent - India, Orient & Europe 2013

Packed with more than 60 unique itineraries, the new guide from A&K offers journeys with custom accom packages designed to suit all budgets. Destinations available include Northern India, China, Vietnam, Italy, Spain, Eastern Europe and more. Sri Lanka is a new destination for 2013, along with new itineraries in the Chinese regions of Shanxi and Sichuan, as is Myanmar, Eastern Turkey, Northern Spain, Russia river cruising & motor yacht charters in Croatia.



### Insight Vacations 2013/14 Insight Gold & Ancient Civilisations

Continuing to evolve its product offering, Insight Vacations has released two supplementary brochures to add to its 2013/14 European line-up. Insight Gold details a line of elite

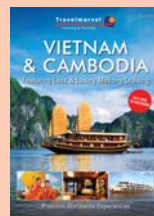


product across a variety of destinations including visits to famous wineries, priority entry to attractions and luxury hotels. Ancient Civilisations covers a range of historical themed itineraries delving into historical locations, all of which include visits to destinations rich in history including Greece, Egypt, Turkey, Israel, Jordan and many more.



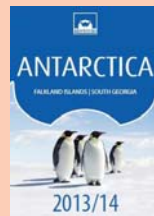
### Infinity Holidays - New Zealand 2012/13

Recently released onto agent shelves, the new guide to New Zealand from Infinity Holidays is as consumer friendly as ever, with a special fold-out holiday planner complete with a range of excellent suggestions to help put together an ideal trip. As an FIT guide, it offers a comprehensive product range, from airfares, hotels to suit every budget and style in every major town or city on the map, transport options including coach & private transfers, car hire, inter-island ferries, rail, day cruising and touring and much more.



### Travelmarvel - Vietnam & Cambodia 2013/2014

Fresh from its first brochure release to the destination last year, APT's Travelmarvel brand has gone bigger & better this year with expanded second edition offerings. New itineraries include the Laos city of Luang Prabang and the northern Vietnamese region of Sapa. The company has also expanded its range of Insider Experiences which this year include an overnight stay on a Halong Bay junk boat, cooking class in Hoi An and a visit to a Cambodian orphanage, with departures right through until Apr 2014.



### Bentours - Antarctica 2013/14

The frozen continent offers so much in terms of scenery and the 10 voyages available in Bentours new guide details many unique ways to immerse yourself in it. The brochure includes a special Christmas voyage to South Georgia and to the rarely ventured Weddell Sea, where Antarctic explorer Ernest Henry Shackleton met his demise, as some of the new itineraries added. Tours also visit penguin colonies, seal habitats and old whaling stations.



### Sunsail Luxury Yacht Charters 2013

For next year, Sunsail has released a guide packed cover to cover with idyllic getaways on picture postcard blue seas around the world. Options include new bases in North America, flotilla routes in the Whitsundays and the Seychelles and many more. Destinations are backed up with top-quality photographs and maps, and the new brochure also includes information on the newest additions to the company's fleet in the Sunsail 444 & F40 series.

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**TRAFALGAR**



**AUSTRALIA'S** north west region turned on a show for this group of WA agents who recently explored Kununurra and the many surrounding areas as part of a six-day famil, courtesy of Australia's North West Tourism.

The group were flown from Perth to Kununurra with Skywest Airlines and enjoyed a variety of highlights including an overnight stay in the Purnululu National Park, home to the Bungle Bungle Mountain Range.

Other activities included guided walks to Echidna Chasm, Mini Palms Gorge, Cathedral Gorge,

sunset cruising on Lake Argyle and a trip along the Ord River.

Award winning rum was enjoyed at The Hoochery, and the group also learnt about sweet smelling aromas at the famous Sandalwood Factory, visited art galleries and inspected diamonds.

The group, **pictured**, consisted of Robyn Maher, Australia's North West Tourism; Nicola House, Escape Travel Ocean Keys; Maria Gerard, Motive Travel; Charlotte Bolter, Best of Western Australia; Jess Elari, Our Travel Agent; Stacey Pitman, Skywest Airlines; Lisa Ditchburn, Tertiary Travel; Courtney Bowen, RAC Travel Group; Vicki Poletti, Broome and The Kimberley Holidays; Leigh Cathcart, Jetset Travelworld Network and Ramon Fisher, Flight Centre Albany.

## Concordia suit axed

A **FLORIDA** judge has dismissed a class action lawsuit filed by 1000 businesses operating on the island of Giglio, where the *Costa Concordia* capsized, with the judge saying it should be refiled in Italy.

The action was originally filed in Miami, where Costa parent Carnival is based, instead of Italy where Costa is headquartered.

A number of lawsuits filed by passengers for emotional distress are still pending in the US, with Carnival hoping to have these cases moved to Italy, where laws are in place to limit such awards.

## New Mercure in Bali

**ACCOR** has opened its newest property in Bali with the debut of the 201-room Mercure Nusa Dua, the fourth Mercure in Bali.

The hotel features is located close to the Bali Collection Shopping Mall and is 25 mins from Denpasar Airport.



## AFTA UPDATE

The latest insights from AFTA's Chief Executive, Jayson Westbury

**WELL**, we have arrived at the beginning of the last quarter of 2012 and it would appear to me that we are in for a bumpy last quarter. The political scene in Canberra is getting hotter and hotter by the day with more drama unfolding than a dodgy US sitcom. It is amazing that our politicians have time to actually run the country. But then, that may well be the question.

For the travel industry, we are in a perfect storm for a good trading period. Interest rates are low and may even fall again before the end of the year. The Aussie Dollar continues to hold well despite everyone in the markets wishing for it to fall. Unemployment is low, people have jobs and are working, the economy is bubbling along and again, despite all the efforts of so many in the consumer media and at political policy setting level, Australians appear to have confidence beyond that which you would expect. So travel should be and let's hope will be at the top of people's minds as we go into this last quarter and towards the Christmas holiday period. I hope that everyone in the travel industry benefits from the Travel Perfect Storm.

After another fantastic grand final weekend with something for everyone including Sydney winning Melbourne's game and Melbourne winning Sydney's game, it really does not get any better than that. Both codes of football put on world class sporting events this year and I hope whichever was your code, you managed to enjoy the games. With now only 84 days till Christmas it feels like 2012 is moving faster by the minute. As I said at the top of this column, I do think we are in for a bumpy ride to the end of the year, but let's just hope that the travel industry for a change can whether the storm and close out the year on a high. All the best and good luck to everyone for the last quarter of 2012.



## Aussie taxes too high

A **STUDY** by Airport Parking and Hotels in the UK has identified Australia as having the highest tourist taxes of the 21 holiday destinations studied.

The research labelled Australia as having the highest Passenger Movement Charge and Airport Passenger Service Charge, which cost British travellers a combined £56.40 (AU\$87.70).

Morocco was found to have the lowest holiday taxes of the places surveyed, which also included Hong Kong, India, Mauritius, China, the US, Kenya and Brazil.

## Voyager tech tie-up

**CORPORATE** travel management firm Voyager has formed a pact with UK-based info management systems provider Collabro, to add its Vantage POB (Personnel-on-demand) system into iVoyager.

## SYD/MEL share spoils

**OFF** the footy field, Accor's Sydney & Melbourne properties have reported their highest hotel occupancies for the year so far.

The company's four Olympic Park properties, which surround the ANZ Stadium which hosted the NRL Grand Final, all reported 100% occupancy.

## Experts in Starwood

**STARWOOD** has launched a new education program designed to boost the knowledge base for agents on 200 Starwood brand properties around the world.

Through Starwood Pro, agents will be able to view a four-minute video showcasing the range of available properties in the group.

The first module will be available until 14 Oct, with a range of prizes available for completion.

See [www.starwoodpro.com](http://www.starwoodpro.com).

## Stakes in Kingfisher

**CHAIRMAN** of the beleaguered Kingfisher Airlines, Vijay Mallya, is reportedly in talks with a number of foreign carriers over purchasing stakes in the airline, after India's Govt allowed buyouts up to 49%.

Over the weekend, Emirates emerged as a possible buyer.

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**Shangri-La Toronto**  
TORONTO has become the latest city to open a Shangri-La hotel, with the debut of a 202-room property strengthening the group's North American presence.

## Qantas makes cargo changeover

QANTAS has made a significant change to its cargo operation, agreeing to sell its 50% stake in courier service StarTrack Express to Australia Post, while also announcing the 100% acquisition of Australian Air Express from the national postal operation.

The two companies have held 50% shares in StarTrack in an agreement which began in 2003.

QF Group ceo Alan Joyce said the swapover will strengthen the carrier's cargo network.

"Through this acquisition, we

will be able to offer an integrated air freight product across domestic and int'l networks".

"By leveraging the best from both businesses and delivering efficiencies, we will provide a market leading service to our customers," Joyce added.

Qantas expects to yield nett proceeds of approx \$408m, plus completion adjustments of \$5m from the sale with a \$30m profit.

The mutual ownership change is still to be approved by the ACCC and Australia Post's shareholder.

## WIN a unique trip for two to Austria

Pick your favourite 3 Unique Experiences, put together your dream itinerary & win your personally designed trip to Austria!

During October, the **Austrian National Tourist Office**, **Austrian Airlines**, **Rail Plus** and **Travel Daily** are giving readers the chance to win a trip of a lifetime to Austria. Browse [unique.austria.info](http://unique.austria.info) for more than 250 "Unique Experiences", pick your favourite 3 and put together your dream itinerary.

The prize consists of:

- Two Return Economy Air Fares from Australia to Austria (flying Austrian Airlines into Vienna)
- 6 nights accommodation for 2 persons including breakfast
- Eurail Select Pass to travel through Austria linking your chosen experiences
- Sightseeing program associated with your choice of experiences
- Detailed itinerary depending on your choice of experiences

For example: [Learn to waltz](#) at Vienna's best address, dive into a glittering subterranean world in [Swarovski Crystal Worlds](#) near Innsbruck, listen to Haydn's music at the [Esterhazy Palace](#), or experience the magic of [Christmas in Salzburg](#) – the choice is yours!

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Browse [unique.austria.info](http://unique.austria.info) for more than 250 "Unique Experiences", pick your favourite 3 and tell us in 50 words or less why these make up your dream itinerary. Send your response to [ANTOcomp@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:ANTOcomp@traveldaily.com.au)



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**Austrian** Austrian National Tourist Office **Travel Daily**

## EK ramping up its ADL profile



EMIRATES continues to increase its profile in Adelaide ahead of scheduled launch of direct flights to Dubai in less than a month.

So, Emirates, in conjunction with Air Tickets, the recently held a promotion exclusively for agents from South Australia and Northern Territory to celebrate the impending arrival.

Up for grabs were a pair of tickets to UK/Europe via Dubai, with the prize taken out by Mark Carosi from Jetset Glynde.

From 01 Nov, Emirates will fly four times weekly to Adelaide using B777-300ER aircraft, upping the service to daily from 01 Feb.

Services will leave Dubai at 0155 on Tue, Thu, Fri & Sat, returning from Adelaide late the same evening.

**Pictured** above showing off his new tickets to fly, from left is Frank Gatta, Air Tickets; John Longo, Mark Carosi and Rick Pirone from Jetset Glynde with Steven Peters from Emirates.

## Plane crash in Nepal

PILOT error is believed to be the cause of a Sita Air plane which crashed near Kathmandu Airport.

The flight crashed two minutes after takeoff on Fri in its journey to Lukla, killing 19 passengers.

## GOL \$6b Boeing order

BRAZIL'S GOL Airlines has ordered 60 Boeing 737 aircraft, worth approx \$6bn at list prices.

It is the largest order from a single airline in South American aviation history.

## The Ultimate Dubai

NATIONAL Geographic Channel will soon begin production of a 10-part documentary series into the inner-workings of Dubai International Airport.

Aimed at highlighting the fourth busiest air terminus in the world, the series will go to air next year.

## PER filling its shops

PERTH Airport has announced it has awarded retail space to six food and beverage outlets in its new terminal under development.

LS Travel Retail will operate a convenience store in both airside & landside locations and will occupy space with Hudsons Coffee, Four Alls Brew House and Perth Airport's first Subway outlet.

 **Supplier Updates**

**WELCOME** to *Supplier Updates*, *Travel Daily's* new regular feature.

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Previous business development experience in travel or tourism is essential.

To find out more about these opportunities or to apply [CLICK HERE](#)

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With so many fantastic opportunities available in Adelaide, you would be crazy hesitating on your next career move. If you have a minimum 12 months international travel consulting experience, possess an enthusiastic attitude & are excited about your next challenge, apply now. Great salary packages on offer together with a number of locations across Adelaide. Don’t delay, send your CV to AA Appointments

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## Finding talent within the Australian Travel Industry

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**Brisbane - \$50-65K + Super + Incentives - Ref 2611A**

A highly experienced Senior Corporate Travel Professional is needed by a leader in Travel Management. Move to a TMC where your hard work is financially rewarded and career progression encouraged. This is a fantastic opportunity to step away from repetitive reservations and to move into an exciting and diverse position and this is also a chance to work with a stable, secure and growing corporate company where your efforts are recognised and rewarded.

**For more information, please call Sarah on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#)**

### Business Development Manager

**Sydney - \$60K DOE + Super + Targets - Ref 220**

Calling all target driven travel professionals! A leading Global Travel Company is seeking an experienced Business Development Manager to join their new division. Are you are a sales guru with solid experience sourcing new business, implementing strategies and building relationships? If you enjoy getting out on the road, meeting clients on a daily basis and working to sales targets I want to hear from you today. You will receive excellent support and training.

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### Travel Consultant

**Canberra - \$35-45K + Super + Targets - Ref 2258-NCR**

Wonderful chance for a junior/ intermediate consultant. You will have some GDS experience and have fantastic product knowledge. You will be given some amazing support by one of the leading names in the travel industry - offering repeat clientele a mix of cruise, hotel, tours and flight packages. You will be working to target so some excellent experience would be needed - ideally a minimum of 18 months, with strong GDS skills. This really is a fantastic chance!

**For more information, please call Natalie on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#)**

### Wholesale Travel Consultant

**Adelaide - \$35-40K + Super + Targets - Ref 2375**

A wonderful role for a candidate with personality and experience! You would be offering amazing customer service along with amazing product- you will reach your targets in no time! We are looking for a candidate that is a real team player and loves the travel industry - this company will help you grow with fantastic internal movement and amazing fams on offer. You would have amazing product knowledge and at least 2 years' experience in the travel industry.

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### Senior Travel Consultant

**Brisbane - \$40-50K + Super + Bonus - Ref 2551A**

Do you have extensive travel industry experience with long haul, high end & luxury bookings? Yes, then this could be the role you have been waiting for. I have a niche travel agency in the Brisbane area looking for an experienced senior travel consultant to join their friendly team. High end, repeat clientele are the focus here with lucrative bookings waiting to be made. Call me confidentially to discuss your next career move & this rare role in the Brisbane travel market.

**For more information, please call Sarah on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#)**

### Travel Consultant

**Sydney - \$DOE + Super + Commission - Ref 254**

A fast paced, exciting new role, booking corporate, high end clientele anything from flights to Perth to Caribbean cruises. I need experienced consultants who are keen to sell and work to high levels of customer service. You will be rewarded with a competitive salary package and several other perks of the travel industry! I am always seeking bright new candidates for different roles so if this isn't you, don't worry! Send your CV - we have other opportunities too!

**For more information, please call Lynsey on (02) 9113 7272 or click [APPLY](#)**

### Travel Consultant - Part Time

**S. Melbourne - \$45K + Super + Targets - Ref 2431A**

A rare part time opportunity working for a family run & established travel agency in Melbourne's South Eastern Suburbs has arisen. Use your fantastic customer service skills and solid CRS / Ticketing experience in this Travel Consultant position. The successful candidate can expect flexible working days, excellent support and a great working environment. If you have minimum 3 years' experience and are looking for a chance to work flexible hours, please call today.

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### Bespoke Leisure & Corporate Consultant

**Perth - \$45k-55K DOE + Super + Incentives - Ref 238**

Are you highly experienced in both leisure and corporate travel? If you pride yourself on exceptional customer service then this is the challenging and rewarding role you are looking for. This role is all about creating bespoke itineraries in leisure and business travel for your discerning clients. No two days the same you will be selling worldwide itineraries for a highly reputable company who will reward you with an excellent salary package!

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