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We are delighted to announce the launch of Great Southern, a new Australian rail adventure from the owners and operators of The Ghan and Indian Pacific.

Great Southern will operate 16 departures between 6 December 2019 and 27 January 2020, embracing the wonders of Australia's south-east corner with journeys from Adelaide to Brisbane and vice versa.

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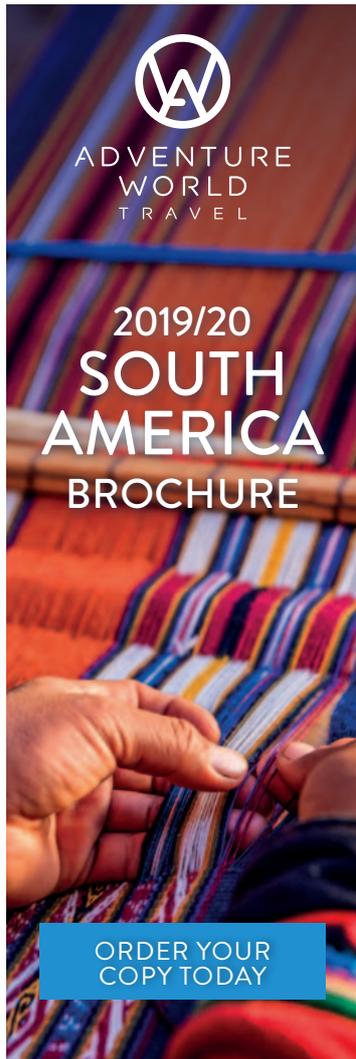
CANADA & ALASKA TRAVEL CONNECTION

VIEW HERE >

ENTIRE Travel Group

Pherous ups stake

CORPORATE Travel Management MD Jamie Pherous has continued his buying spree, with an ASX announcement today confirming he spent about \$650,000 last week purchasing 30,000 additional CTD shares to lift his total stake to 20,700,000.



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Consular demands drop

THE number of Australians requiring consular assistance overseas has fallen, according to new government figures that suggest awareness campaigns around safety and preparations are having an effect.

The Federal Government's Consular State of Play report for 2017-18 shows 11,880 people required help overseas in the year to 30 Jun, a decline of 4.6% on the 12,454 cases of 2016-17.

This was despite a rise in the number of Aussies travelling offshore, up 13% over the past five years to over 10.7 million.

Although down overall, assistance requests were up 8% to 967 in Thailand, the top country for consular help cases.

Requests were also up 13% in the Philippines, but down in other major countries including the US (-12%), Indonesia (-15%) and mainland China (-1%).

The number of cases involving

hospitalisation was down 7% to 1,585, including 101 cases in New Caledonia which has become the third biggest destination for hospital cases thanks to the popularity of cruising.

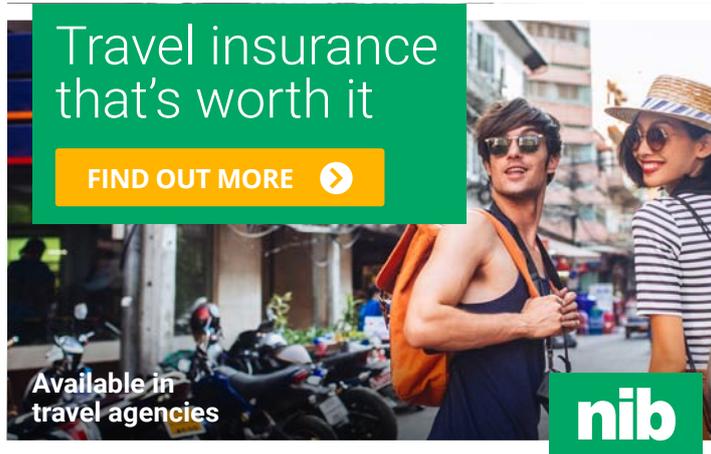
The number of cases involving deaths was steady at 1,671, though still up 36% over the past five years, with most involving natural causes and an aging traveller demographic.

Foreign Affairs Minister Marise Payne said it appeared more Australians were taking precautions before travelling. See **page five** for more.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news including a front cover page for **Great Southern Rail**, plus a photo page from **Independent Travel Group** and a full page from:

- AA Appointments jobs



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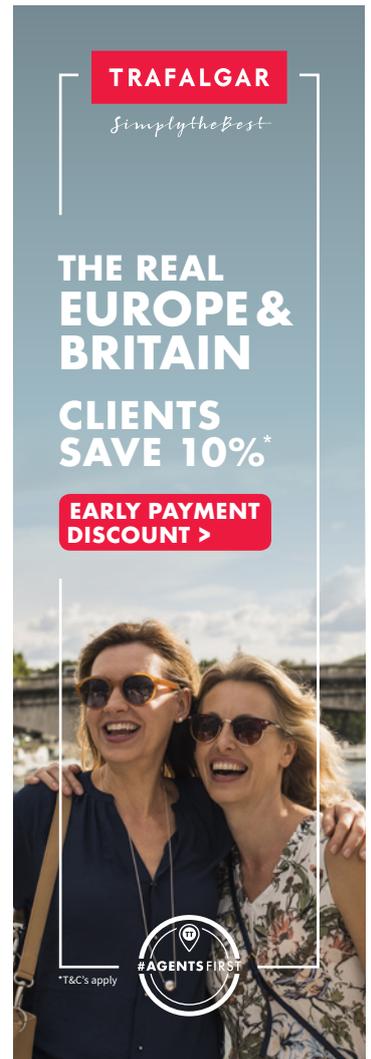
Available in travel agencies

nib

MSC cuts steel

MSC Cruises today held a formal steel-cutting ceremony for the newly named *MSC Seashore*, the first of two so-called "EVO" ships on order at Fincantieri with capacity for 5,632 guests.

More cruise news in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.



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Gate 1 commission

GATE 1 Travel has launched a new "Preferred tier" for its travel agent partners, offering higher commission for those who book three or more Gate 1 tours or river cruises in a year.

Commissions for online bookings have increased to 14% for escorted tours and 16% for river cruises, according to Gate 1 Travel Australia GM Kim Erskine.

"For those agents just getting to know Gate 1, they can earn up to 12% commission on a huge range of tours," she said, with up to 10% also payable on add-on transfers and optional tours.

See gate1travel.com.au.

Another GA delay

GARUDA Indonesia's resumption of non-stop flights from Jakarta to London Heathrow (**TD** 13 Nov) has been postponed again, with GDS screens now indicating the first flight open for reservation is on 13 Dec 2018.

New Aussie rail journey

GREAT Southern Rail has announced the launch of a new train service between Adelaide and Brisbane, with 16 departures in next year's inaugural season.

The new "Great Southern" route is the latest addition to the Journey Beyond portfolio which also includes the Indian Pacific between Sydney and Perth, and the Adelaide-Darwin Ghan.

The maiden Great Southern season will kick off on 06 Dec 2019 and continue to 27 Jan 2020 with the 28-carriage train carrying up to 214 guests per journey.

Onboard accommodation will include the option of Gold Single, Gold Twin and Platinum cabins, with "exceptional food and wine and world class hospitality at the heart of the Great Southern experience," the company said.



The two-night, three-day journey from Adelaide to Brisbane will

offer opportunities to experience the Grampians National Park, Canberra and the NW Coast, while the four-day southbound trip will include a beachside dining experience in northern NSW, a day in the Hunter Valley and Newcastle region, and the opportunity to take in Victoria's Twelve Apostles.

Great Southern opens for sale on Mon 03 Dec 2018, with fares starting at \$1,649pp for Gold Single accommodation, \$1,829pp for Gold Twin, and \$3,899pp for Platinum with all prices including onboard dining, beverages and Off Train Excursions.

The new product is being formally launched via the **cover page** of today's *Travel Daily*.

Sofitel Fiji upgrade

ACCORHOTELS Pacific today announced a multi-million dollar refurbishment of the Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa on Denarau Island.

The major project includes an expansion of the property's exclusive adults-only Waitui Beach Club, with the addition of 24 new beach cabanas, an undercover dining space and a new beachside cocktail bar.

The Sofitel will also revamp its "Luxury" guestrooms between Apr and Jun 2019, with upgrades to "Superior" and "Family" rooms to follow later next year.

All five restaurants and four bars will be enhanced, and new offerings for children will see the creation of an "Adolescent Zone" and a Waitui Beach Club for Kids.

Works will halt between 22 Dec and 13 Jan for the Christmas/New Year peak period "to ensure guests enjoy a relaxing break with no disturbance," according to GM Vincent Macquet.

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France protest alert

WIDESPREAD protests on the Champs Elysees in Paris on the weekend over high fuel prices have prompted an updated travel warning from DFAT which says Australians should maintain a safe distance from all public demonstrations.

TA kicks off BEA China Showcase

TOURISM Australia has today kicked off the Business Events Australia Greater China Showcase in Melbourne, with the event taking place outside China for the first time ever this year.

TA MD John O'Sullivan said hosting the Greater China Showcase locally provided an "outstanding opportunity to bring to life Australia's event delivery capabilities".

Sixty qualified buyers from China will take part in scheduled business sessions, with about 50 Australian industry reps in one-to-one appointments.

A full day of experiences in and around Melbourne will take place tomorrow, with the showcase also including a series of networking activities.



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Jayes Travel

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Sea Life \$5m exhibit

SEA Life Sydney Aquarium has opened a \$5 million new exhibit claimed to be the largest Great Barrier Reef display in the world.

The Day and Night on the Reef exhibit allows visitors to see aspects of the reef's marine life at different times of day, including expansive coral gardens glowing under night lights.

"Sea Life Sydney Aquarium is entering a new phase of innovation with this new interactive experience bringing to life the magic of the Great Barrier Reef," said the aquarium's General Manager Richard Dilly.

VS looks at Flybe acquisition

VIRGIN Atlantic has confirmed that it is in talks with the owners of UK-based regional carrier Flybe about a possible takeover.

Flybe launched a formal sale process earlier in the year, with rumours of the VS interest seeing the carrier's shares jump 50%.

Virgin Atlantic and Flybe already have a codeshare relationship, with any deal expected to provide regional passenger feeds for VS long-haul services as well as access to additional slots at London Heathrow Airport which have been exclusively reserved for UK domestic flights.

An acquisition would see Virgin Atlantic once again attempting to boost its presence within the UK domestic market, four years after closing its former "Little Red" operation which flew for just 18 months to Manchester, Aberdeen and Edinburgh (**TD** 07 Oct 2014).

Perth DoubleTree

HILTON today confirmed the Dec 2018 opening of the new DoubleTree by Hilton Perth Northbridge, with the 206-room property to be led by hotel mgr Tamer ElGhamry, ex Hilton Fiji.

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Vasco da Gama launch



CRUISE & Maritime Voyages (CMV) hosted a number of travel agents at the Gilbert Street Hotel in Adelaide last week in celebration of its new 2019/20 itineraries for *Vasco da Gama*.

As part of its 2019/20 Australasian season launch, CMV said, "it will be the world's first cruise line to visit Wallaroo and the first to visit four South

Australian ports in one voyage."

Vasco da Gama is expected to accommodate 8,400 cruise passengers from Adelaide next year, which is "more than double the number of guests compared with the 2018/19 season".

Pictured are Joseph Toleman, Phil Hoffmann Travel; Kate Lee, Cruise & Maritime Voyages; and Samantha Galea, CMV.

Air NZ safety video

AIR New Zealand's "It's Kiwi Safety" video has reached 20 millions views since its launch three weeks ago (**TD** 06 Nov).

The music video-style clip was the largest scale safety video that the airline has done, featuring a cast of 600 Kiwis from 30 community groups.

It has been a huge hit in China, with more than 10 million views.

CLICK HERE to watch it.

Luxperience 2019

LUXURY travel trade forum Luxperience will return to the International Convention Centre Sydney from 07-10 Oct, 2019.

The ninth edition of the event is promised to feature "an innovative program, new products, glittering events and insights into luxury travel trends".

Luxperience is seeking expressions of interest from suppliers of luxury and experiential travel.



Window Seat

PASSENGERS on a LOT Polish Airlines flight to China last week had to put their hands in their pockets to help pay for a new part, after workers refused to accept a bank transfer.

UK media report the incident happened at Beijing Int'l Airport, when one of LOT's 787s needed a new hydraulic pump.

For some reason the mechanics insisted on payment in cash, so the red-faced pilot asked passengers to chip in the \$500-odd required for the item.

They then also endured a 10-hour delay while the part was fitted before the plane could take off for Warsaw.

An airline spokesperson apologised for the "unusual situation," with passengers reimbursed when the flight landed in Poland.



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SAIL BEYOND

Industry aids smart travel



REPRESENTATIVES of the Australian travel industry were given formal recognition in Sydney last Fri at the launch of the inaugural 2017/18 Consular State of Play by the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT).

Key partners of DFAT including the Australian Federation of Travel Agents, the Insurance Council of Australia, Cruise Lines International Association, Council of Australian Tour Operators and airlines including Qantas and Virgin Australia were all singled out for the work they do to help promote safe and responsible

travel by Australians overseas.

Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs, said at the event "the most important thing Australians can do before they travel overseas is to be prepared and informed."

"Smartraveller has one simple message for Australians travelling overseas. If you can't afford insurance, you can't afford to travel," the Minister said.

Pictured from left are Jayson Westbury CEO, AFTA; Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs and David Beirman Senior Lecturer - Tourism, UTS.

Wendy Wu Tours.

PARTNER FLIES FREE

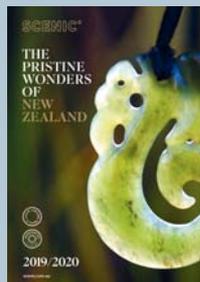
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BROCHURES

WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday 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.



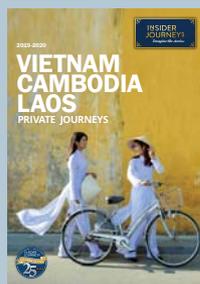
Scenic - Pristine Wonders of New Zealand 19/20

Scenic's latest New Zealand program features a selection of enhanced Scenic Freechoice options. New additions include a Taste of the Bay tour and a day trip to Akaroa now includes a cruise with opportunities to spot dolphins; penguins and fur seals. The program offers six itineraries ranging in length from six to 24 days, across the North and South Islands; including a six-day tour focused on the beautiful Bay of Islands and the 24-day Ultimate New Zealand program covering both North and South Islands. Highlights include the 15-day Royal New Zealand which ventures from Auckland to Christchurch.



A&K - Africa, Arabia & Persia 2019

Abercrombie & Kent's new look 2019 Africa, Arabia & Persia program offers travellers luxury private and small group journeys to over 20 destinations throughout Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Middle East and Iran. Over 30 private journeys feature in the brochure, venturing to destinations including Botswana, Zambia and South Africa to Uganda, Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Iran. There are luxury small group journeys, city stopovers, extensions and special enhancements available.



Insider Journeys - Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos 19/20

The Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos Private Journeys portfolio for 2019/20 features a selection of ready-to-book private itineraries, city explorer packages, accommodation, river cruising and sightseeing. The collection ranges from the highlights of Halong Bay and the Cu Chi tunnels, to venturing off the tourist trail in Southern Laos. The private travel options allow travellers the flexibility to explore the destinations at their own pace.



U by Uniworld - 2019

The Travel Corporation's river cruise brand for the "young and young at heart", U by Uniworld, has released its 2019 brochure. Using the augmented reality Zappar app, agents can bring the pages of the brochure "to life", to view U videos, interactive itineraries and photos. In 2019, U by Uniworld will operate four eight-day itineraries, plus an eight-day Dashing through the Danube cruise which includes visits to some of Europe's many Christmas markets along with other festive activities.

SYD Runway Run

MORE than 250 people laced up their joggers for a series of dashes along the runway at Sydney Airport for The Family Fun Runway Run yesterday.

The initiative kicked off the facility's six-week Community Christmas Giving Appeal.

"The appeal offers an unparalleled opportunity to raise crucial funds and awareness of the funding needed for early career cancer researchers," said Cure Cancer Chief Executive Officer Nikki Kinloch.

Drunk on a plane

KIRAN Jagdev has been jailed for six months after consuming eight cans of beer and two bottles of wine and repeatedly shouting "we are all going to die", on board a Jet2 flight from Tenerife to East Midlands Airport, according to the *BBC*.

The broadcaster says Jagdev also caused the person sitting in front of her to have a seizure, due to unruly behaviour which involved kicking the passenger's seat, along with swearing, crying and shouting.

On the Express to success



THE 2018 Independent Travel Group Forum in Shanghai saw the group's agency members and key supplier partners gather for three days of networking and education earlier this month.

The gathering included updates from CEO Tom Manwaring and several other senior executives, who outlined the strong performance of the last year (**TD** 16 Nov) as well as a host of new member initiatives.

A cocktail party at the trendy Lost Heaven venue on the opening evening was sponsored by The Travel Corporation, including a surprise appearance by Red Carnation Hotels MD Jonathan Raggett whose visit to Shanghai coincided with the ITG conference.

Wendy Wu Tours hosted a city tour, while on the closing night Expedia sponsored a fabulous gala dinner at the Hyatt on the Bund, where top achievers were awarded for their performance and a host of supplier prizes were awarded.

Photos on this page are among hundreds taken by **TD** over the weekend - lots more online at facebook.com/traveldaily.



THE Wendy Wu Tours team - including Wendy in person plus her Shanghai-based mum.



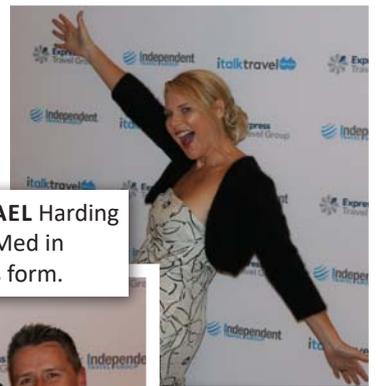
THE three best dressed men in the room.



TRAFALGAR MD Matt Cameron-Smith, Craig Hunt of Mandarin World Tours; and Jayson Westbury, AFTA.



RACHAEL Harding of Club Med in fabulous form.



INSIGHT'S Dave Farrar clearly has a handle on things.



CREATIVE Cruising's Jason Starling, the centre of attention.



THE Hunter Global Travel team - winners again in the italktravel awards.



Airbnb Plus NZ

AIRBNB has launched its Airbnb Plus offering in Auckland, marking the first time the tier of homes has been available in NZ.

The selection of properties features the highest quality homes which have been inspected and verified in person for cleanliness, comfort & design.

Airbnb Plus debuts with almost 50 homes across a range of neighbourhoods in Auckland.

WA ticket scalping

THE West Australian Government is set to introduce legislation to State Parliament this week to restrict the resale of event tickets.

The laws for ticketed events would allow consumers to resell tickets provided they weren't sold for over 10% of original sale price; & restrict the use of software designed to avoid security measures on ticket selling sites.

TNQ language app

TROPICAL North Queensland's Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park has launched a free multilingual app in a move to provide Japanese and Chinese visitors with a better understanding of Aboriginal culture.

"We have Chinese and Japanese speaking staff and tour groups have their own language guides, but this app will help our guests better understand the Djabugay culture," said Tjapukai General Manager Shirley Hollingsworth.

"We want visitors to learn some of the Djabugay language which has been brought back from the brink of extinction," she said

For more info, [CLICK HERE](#).

Firefly suspends

MALAYSIAN carrier Firefly is suspending all flights to Singapore from 01 Dec due to not having approval from its regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) to move from Changi to Seletar Airport, according to *The Straits Times*.

"Singapore is awaiting Malaysia's clarification of these concerns so the parties can have a constructive dialogue," the newspaper reports.



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Fly on South African Airways, Best Airline to Africa and travel with Australia's Best Speciality Wholesaler, Bench Africa, on the Highlights of Botswana Mobile Safari.

To win, all you need to do is have the most creative photo showing your 'Africa' face – the over the top, super excited or emotional expressions that many people make on seeing the incredible experiences that Africa offers. It can be from a trip you took to Africa or even from here (using your imagination)!



Send your entries to bench@traveldaily.com.au

Qld tourism mission

PROMOTING Qld tourism will be on the agenda for an upcoming Qld Govt seven-day trade mission to India and Singapore.

"India is a great source of capital investment for our state and is surging as a growth market for visitors to Qld," said the state's Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development Kate Jones, who added "Singapore is well-placed to help us take full advantage of emerging opportunities in the broader ASEAN region".

Village Outback GC

VILLAGE Roadshow Theme Parks will debut its new production, Australian Outback Spectacular's Heartland on the Gold Coast on 29 Nov.

The experience includes a three-course dinner - [CLICK HERE](#).

Auckland traffic

AUCKLAND Airport experienced passengers growth of 2.5% in Oct, with international passengers up 3.1% while domestic numbers grew by 3%.

Int'l pax growth was driven by additional capacity to Asia, Indonesia and Pacific Island routes, along with Australian arrivals growing by 7.8%.

Air NZ is also adding an additional weekly service on its Auckland to Gold Coast route to increase seats by 60% from Feb.

MHC campaign

MY HOLIDAY Centre (MHC) has returned from filming its "My Fiji" campaign with a new brand ambassador Natalie Gruzlewski.

The trip saw MHC shoot at over six resorts & included a helicopter trip over Tokoriki Island and a day at Malamala Beach Club.

A-LEAGUE
A-LEAGUE WINNER R5
Congratulations
JAMIE COOPER
from Create Travel Forest Lake

Jamie is the top tipper for R5 of *Travel Daily's* A-League footy tipping competition. They've won a \$250 travel voucher from Keith Prowse Travel.

A-League tipping competition is sponsored by Etihad Airways and Excite Holidays, with the top tipper for the season winning a trip to Manchester to see Manchester City play.

NSW permit LTPS/18/28921 / ACT permit TP 18/01724

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