

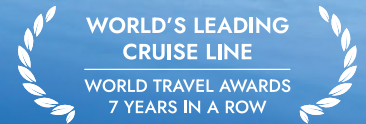
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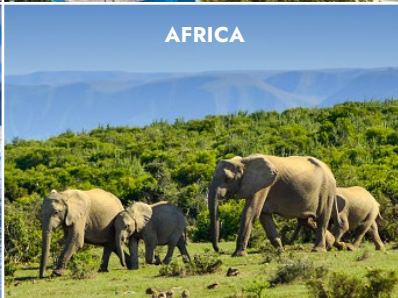
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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of the latest news, including photo pages from **Viking Cruises** and **Tourism NT**, plus a front cover wrap from **Norwegian Cruise Line** and a full page from **Switzerland Tourism**.

NCL in the spotlight

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is showcasing its international cruise offering to over 400 destinations worldwide, with sailings available through to 2025 - see the **front page** for more.

FJ 40% discounts

FIJI Airways is offering up to 40% off flights to popular travel destinations around the world, including Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Vancouver.

The sale ends 07 Apr - **CLICK HERE** for more info and to book.

LATAM to resume MEL-SCL

NON-STOP flights between Melbourne and Santiago will take off in Sep, with the resumption backed by Melbourne Airport and the Victorian Government.

Unveiled this morning, the services will initially operate three times a week from 02 Sep, giving Victorians a direct connection into South America.

LATAM Country Manager Oceania, Chris Ellis, said "there has been a huge demand for travel to the region, and we are thrilled to be able to meet the needs of travellers, starting with over 900 seats a week on our Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft".

"For the past year, we have been building our capacity in Sydney and it's a pleasure to be taking up residence again in Melbourne Airport as we expand our footprint in Australia".

Ben Carroll, Vic Minister for Industry and Innovation, said the new flights would "power our

economy by boosting exports, creating jobs and welcoming more tourists and students from Latin America," while MEL CEO Lorie Argus added that local exporters would benefit along with an increasing number of Victorians wanting to visit friends and family.

Flights ex MEL will depart each Tue, Thu and Sat operating under codes LA804/805.

JW Marriott Jeju

MARRIOTT International has announced the opening of the new JW Marriott Jeju Resort & Spa in South Korea.

The cliffside resort features 197 guest rooms with 28 suites, a host of spa and wellness experiences along with five culinary experiences including the hotel's signature BBQ and rotisserie restaurant called The Flying Hog.

See jw-marriott.marriott.com.

Lord Howe reopens

THE entire Permanent Park Preserve (PPP) on Lord Howe Island has been reopened effective immediately, after the successful treatment of areas impacted by myrtle rust.

The southern walking tracks are open, with the establishment of hygiene stations and rigorous protocols now put in place to monitor the situation.

"We are also working with airlines and travel agents to further enhance biosecurity measures before visitors arrive on the island, to minimise the risk of myrtle rust being transported onto our UNESCO World Heritage island in the future," said Trina Shepherd, Lord Howe Island Tourism's Executive Officer.

"The reopening of the PPP is a result of the combined effort of the community, visitors, LHIB, NPWS and Lord Howe Island Tourism cooperating for the continued protection of the unique values of Lord Howe."

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Window Seat

THE famous cuisine of New York City is being turned on its head through a new experience which demands guests attend in their most exposed state - literally.

The Fude Dinner Experience gathers those who want to meet, eat, and drink at a private dinner party - only clothing is not allowed.

Guests are asked to leave their robes at the door, after which, for US\$88, guests can come together to enjoy "a liberating space that celebrates our most pure selves, through plant-based cooking, art, nudity, & self-love."

It is not known whether napkins are allowed, and frankly, we hope so!

NT offers savings bonanza

EXCLUSIVE

AUSSIE travellers have a great opportunity to enjoy the Top End with great deals and savings in the shoulder season while international travellers remain below pre-pandemic volumes, Tourism NT Executive Director Tony Quarmby believes.

Speaking with *Travel Daily* during the Tourism NT Round Up event for agents over the weekend, the tourism chief said there was unprecedented flexibility and value-for-money to be enjoyed for at least another 18 months.

While Quarmby conceded that overall numbers remain down, the NT has performed "really well" over the peak season when the numbers factor in the business and VFR markets, but most encouragingly, visitor spend has hit "record levels".

"People are spending more

and staying longer and actually travelling further when they arrive in NT and we are really hitting records in this areas despite lower numbers," he said.

"The fact travellers have a lot of leave built up, they have credits with travel agents, saved money in the bank...and with travel now being much more reliable is why people want to get out there & spend" - more on **p7**.

Mead has talent

BEN Mead from Holidays of Australia & The World is the latest participant in Tourism Talent's video interview series, giving his frank and fresh insights into survival as well as the current travel market.

Mead's video appearance is now live at traveldaily.com.au/videos, while an interview with Tourism NZ MD Rene De Monchy is also available by **CLICKING HERE**.

Swiss travel deal

TRAVELLERS can enjoy an extra day for free when they purchase a four-day Swiss Travel Pass, or alternatively get 10 days of unlimited travel for the price of an eight-day pass - see the **last page** for details.

Rail Europe carrot

TRAVEL advisors can double their monthly rewards with Rail Europe from Apr to Jun, with those who ticket five bookings earning a \$10 bonus per booking thereafter, capped at \$250 per agency per month for bookings on Italy's Trenitalia trains.

Rail Europe is also offering qualified agencies who book Eurail and Swiss Travel Passes a further \$5 on top of the usual \$10 for the month of Apr, with TSNCF (French), Renfe (Spanish) and Swiss panoramic seat reservations to be rewarded in the same manner in the following months, the company said.



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STB to “push the envelope”

EXCLUSIVE

SINGAPORE wants to change its perception within the Australian market, a goal which is set to be propelled by the destination’s Tourism Board’s (STB) deal with Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG) (**TD** 31 Mar). Speaking with *Travel Daily*, STB Chief Executive Keith Tan said the destination wants to “push the envelope” with how Aussies think of Singapore.

“We feel that many Australian visitors, when they think of Singapore, there is a very fixed template...they know what they want to do in Singapore, it’s very tried and true, tried and tested options...we want to push the envelope.

“We think there’s a lot more that they can do in Singapore, that they can enjoy in Singapore, which may be just beyond their awareness.

“We want to ride on them on this partnership to help them understand what else they can do in Singapore.”

Tan wants the destination’s perception renaissance to be led by events - but not just the conference market which it is already known for.

“We really want to bring in a lot more high quality sports or entertainment or lifestyle events in Singapore, and traditionally it’s been difficult to reach out to international visitors about the events going on in Singapore.

“We really want to work with partners like Flight Centre to be able to do packages to raise awareness of events, new attractions, new offerings in Singapore...that’s quite important for us,” he added.

To achieve these goals, Tan said Singapore will tap into FCTG’s network of partners and agents.

EK UA codeshare

EMIRATES and United Airlines have activated their codeshare partnership to enhance connectivity to the US.

EK customers will have access to more than 150 American cities through Chicago, Houston, and San Francisco, while enjoying codeshare benefits for flights on United Airlines.

Meanwhile, expanded domestic US network coverage will complement Emirates’ web of 12 ports across the country which it operates to, as well as five other points across the Americas.

Vega in collision

APT Travel Group has confirmed damage has been done to its *Travelmarvel Vega* vessel after an incident involving a cargo ship.

The damage was caused late last week, and fortunately, there were no passengers on board, nor were any of the crew members on board the ship injured.

Zurvas back in Oz

VARIETY Cruises Director of Global Sales Jarrod Zurvas is leaving his post in Greece and relocating back to Australia due to family reasons.

Zurvas told his LinkedIn followers although he is sad to be leaving Variety, he is excited to return to his hometown of Brisbane, and is now on the hunt a new job opportunity in the Australian market.

Travelport tech boost

TRAVELPORT has secured a US\$200 million investment to fuel momentum and further propel its tech innovation.

Owners Siris Capital Group and Elliott Management have boosted their investment in the company following its strong first quarter results.

The \$200 million investment provides Travelport with significant liquidity while demonstrating investors’ strong belief in the company’s future.



VIKING

NEW 2023-2025 OCEAN BROCHURE

Our new 2023-2025 Ocean Cruises brochure is out now and available to order from TIFs. Featuring 250 pages of inspiring destinations and carefully curated itineraries and experiences to help you plan your clients’ next unforgettable journey.

[VIEW ONLINE](#)



Dom flights 10% below '19

AUSTRALIA saw 4.81 million travellers take to the skies on domestic flights throughout Jan, still 10% below the pre-pandemic level (5.35 million in Jan 2020), the latest aviation statistics from BITRE have revealed.

There were 49,009 aircraft trips made during the first month of 2023, a huge uptick from the 36,866 taken in Jan 2022 and just shy of the 50,230 in pre-COVID Jan 2020.

For the year ending Jan 2023, 5.12 million passengers were carried on regular public transport (RPT) flights, up 113% on the year ending Jan 2022, but a decrease of 15% on the year ending Jan 2020.

Encouragingly, the report showed that capacity has skyrocketed, with available seat kilometres rising from 4.65 billion in Jan 2022, to 7.03b in Jan 2023.

Sydney was Australia's most popular domestic airport,

with 1.89 million passenger movements in Jan 2023, followed by Melbourne (1.88 million) and Brisbane (1.24 million).

Regional airports saw 1.85 million domestic passenger movements throughout Jan 2023 - a significant boost from the 1.30 million in Jan 2022, but still falling short of the 2.05 million in pre-COVID Jan 2020.

Chef goes beyond

JOURNEY Beyond has appointed Executive Chef of Eureka 89, Renee Martillano, to oversee the gourmet food division of the brand's entire Attractions and Dining division.

Martillano has been at the helm of the Journey Beyond-operated fine-dining restaurant in Melbourne for nine years, and will now extend her expertise to Journey Beyond Cruise Sydney & Darwin Harbour Cruises.

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Qatar F1 sponsorship off & racing



QATAR Airways celebrated its recent global Formula 1 partnership (**TD 27 Feb**) by hosting some of its key industry partners at last weekend's action-packed Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix in Melbourne.

With VIP access to the exclusive "Paddock Club" the lucky participants also enjoyed premium hospitality, the

opportunity to walk the pit lane and a front row seat to all of the racing action.

Pictured during some of the pre-race festivities are, from left: Luke Drake, Qatar Airways VP of Commercial Partnerships; CVFR Travel Group CEO Ram Chhabra; and Justin Kestel, QR Regional Manager for Australia and NZ.

More from the race tomorrow.

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- Customer Service Officer
- Senior Sales Administration Officer - Corporate

Darwin

- Customer Service Officer

For more information and to apply, visit singaporeair.com/aucareers. Applications close 17 April 2023.





Hong Kong update

TRAVELLERS entering Australia from Hong Kong are no longer required to undertake a pre-departure COVID-19 test.

Additionally, travellers no longer need proof of a negative COVID-19 test to board flights to Hong Kong, but will still have their temperatures checked on arrival and be referred to local health authorities if COVID-19 symptoms are present.

Dual citizenship is no longer recognised in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region - read the full travel advice **HERE**.

The Peninsula in Oz

THE Peninsula Hotels has announced the appointment of Wanderlust Union to oversee its PR and communications in Australia, as it ramps up awareness of its luxury portfolio.

The NSW-based marketing agency is tasked with handling the strategy, communications, PR, media relations, partnerships, and talent and influencer integration for the brand.

"Consolidating our communications and PR initiatives in Australia was an important, strategic step to secure and build brand awareness in this important market," Peninsula VP Brand Marketing and Communications, Carson Glover said.

NSW is the place to be



DESTINATION NSW held its annual New Product Workshop recently to provide an opportunity for NSW visitor economy businesses to meet with key domestic and international travel buyers.

The one-day workshop saw 21 NSW businesses showcasing stays and experiences to inbound tour operators, domestic wholesalers and online travel agents.

A new multi-day rail journey experience provider, new experiences at the Art Gallery NSW, and six agritourism experiences and stays were among the visitor offerings highlighted at the workshop.

Destination NSW CEO Steve Cox said the New Product Workshop

facilitated more than 500 buyer appointments.

"Attending this one-day event has opened a whole world of possibility and opportunity for our small business in regional NSW," Navigate Expeditions owner Jess Taunton enthused.

"Even if you have worked in tourism for years, you'll still find new information and meeting the team at Destination NSW is vital to putting your product forward on the international stage."

The New Product Workshop forms part of the NSW First Program, also delivered by Destination NSW, which aims to help businesses in the visitor economy develop, promote and sell visitor experiences.

Treasure Tahiti

TAHITI Tourisme is inviting travellers to 'Treasure Every Moment' in a new campaign being rolled out across all global markets.

A series of cinematic videos translated into six languages takes viewers on an immersive visit to the islands of Tahiti, showcasing the destination's local life, sustainability, landscapes and range of activities.

The new marketing push follows the release of Tahiti's new tourism strategic plan (**TD 21 Dec 2022**), which seeks to cap visitation in order to maintain the destination's pristine environment.

Magnifica in Darwin

MSC Magnifica has arrived in Darwin for the first time ever 87 days into her 119-day world cruise from Genoa.

The vessel was welcomed by a formal arrival party, which included travel agents and media who were able to familiarise themselves with the ship.

Commercial Director, Lisa Teiotu, said MSC gained important feedback from advisors, stating the porting in NT was an important chapter in the line's Musica class history.

MSC Magnifica departed the Italian city of Genoa in Jan.



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The Vikings conquer Brisbane

OVERLOOKING the stunning Brisbane skyline, Viking was proud to recently host its first Viking Vör trade training night since 2019 with a record number of agents joining this legendary industry event.

Named after the Norse goddess of wisdom, the Viking Vör, the training night was an opportunity for savvy advisors to be treated to the latest update on Viking's expansive worldwide product over a Viking-themed three-course meal and drinks.

To top the night off, Viking gave away over \$45,000 worth of prizes to agents in attendance.

HOST Andrew Gill, Leon Hill Qld Commercial Manager and Keira Smith Director of Sales with cruise winner Angie Reilly from Flight Centre Cruise.



FIONA Gent from MTA taking home Rewards by Viking points and Neil Kirby from Travel Masters winning Viking marketing dollars.



EIRINI Hatzellis, Belinda Ferguson, and Kelly Campbell from Savenio dressing up!



TRACEY Rivers, Dee Stephens and Rachel Slattery all won the last-minute river cruises thrown in by Michelle, hence no envelopes.



HATS off to Craig Fyfe Travel's namesake!



IT WAS a full house at the Viking Vör night.

THE MTA team journeyed to France for the evening.



MARGY and Katrina at MTA looking like the Vikings.



RACHEL Williamsen and Nicola Sinclair from Travel Associates Cleveland strike a pose.



LISA Dodds from itravel thinks the night is 'vor-tastic'!



LEANNE Flanagan Smith and Sarah MacKenzie at Backtrack Travel enjoying their time.



ON SHOW Travel's Margaret Ong taking out the wooden spoon award.



THE team from Flight Center Hyperstore Queen St Mall.

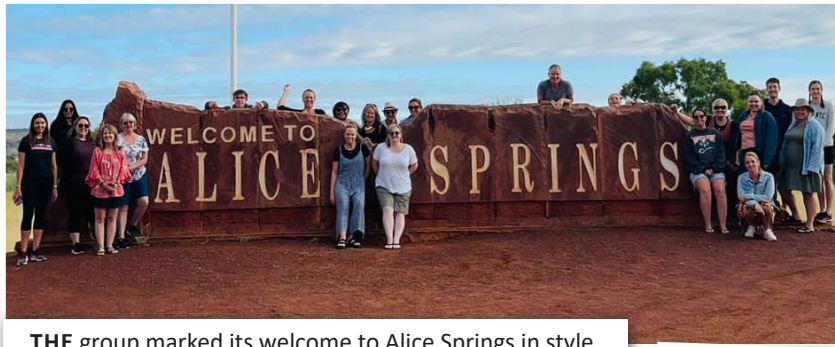
Alice Springs is truly a wonderland

TOURISM NT'S Round Up fam! for 2023 kicked off in Alice Springs on Fri, with agents shown many of the great tourist attractions in person to get a flavour of why the Red Centre should be a sought-after holiday destination for Aussies across the country.

Highlights of the first two days of the six-day tour of the Top End included a speed-dating event with local suppliers at the Lasseters Convention Centre, a bike ride around Alice Springs hotspots, and an Emu Run Experience visiting the spectacular Standley Chasm, Ormiston Gorge and Ellery Creek Big Hole.

Sat night was capped off with a delicious bbq dinner, a damper-making class, as well as an astronomy presentation at the uniquely charming Earth Sanctuary, located just 30 minute's drive from Alice Springs.

The group of lucky travel advisors from across the country will now push on to visit Kings Canyon, a special Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience, a helicopter ride over Kings Canyon, and, of course, to see the one and only Uluru.



THE group marked its welcome to Alice Springs in style.



THE Tourism NT team, Miriam Schreiner, Alice Bowden, Monika Tonkin and Tony Quarmby, welcome agents on the opening night of the big Round Up event.



STRIKING a pose at the awe-inspiring Standley Chasm in the West MacDonnell Ranges.



CRUISING the streets of Alice Springs aboard some very durable bikes on day two.



WHILE not taking a dip, agents did dive into the excitement at Ellery Creek.



JUST a dash of beer and self-raising flour made for some delicious damper baked at the stunning Earth Sanctuary.



NICOLE Casben from Helloworld on the NSW South Coast taking in the unrivalled view of the Ellery Creek Big Hole.



SPEED-DATING bought plenty of smiles to the faces of agents and suppliers who found their perfect match in the NT.

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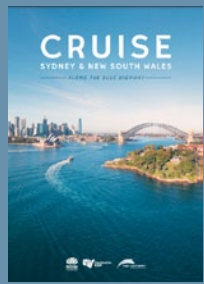
BROCHURES

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.



Silversea Cruises- Grand Voyages Collection 24/25

The new Silversea Grand Voyages collection 2024/2025 showcases the ultimate way to explore the world by water. The brochure aims to service the desires of the curious-minded through eight different regions, with itineraries including the 57-day Grand Pacific 2024 voyage, departing from Tokyo and arriving in Sydney. Also on offer is the 71-day Grand South America route sailing roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale. The grand voyages offer the most authentic experience of each region, providing an unparalleled access to the very best local attractions.



Destination NSW - Cruise Sydney & NSW

Destination NSW is showcasing Sydney and wider NSW as an eminent cruise destination in its brochure, 'Along the Blue Highway'. Key attractions at each of NSW's nine ports are laid out among the pages, as well as berth details and port parameters. The seaside town of Batemans Bay is one of the cruise destinations highlighted, which offers an array of water sports and a relaxed coastal lifestyle. The brochure also highlights Kiama, which boasts coastal walks, scenic rainforest trails, beautiful beaches and two magnificent blowholes.

Carnival's wild side

THE success of the inaugural GLOW event at Sydney Zoo's Light Festival has enticed Carnival Cruise Line back as a major sponsor for GLOW 2023.

"It's a pleasure to be taking our partnership with Sydney Zoo to the next level this year, both brands have an incredibly strong connection to fun, so families have a lot to look forward to," Carnival Cruise Line VP Kara Glamore said.

The partnership extends across events, activations, memberships, and joint marketing activity.

QR AFL Swans deal

QATAR Airways will remain as the Sydney Swans' official airline partner under a new multi-year sponsorship deal.

The initial partnership dates back to 2016, with Qatar Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker, stating he was pleased about the extension with the Sydney-based AFL club.

Through the new deal, the airline will receive prominent branding at Sydney Swans home games and training, and adds to a range of global sponsorship arrangements around the world.

P&O raises a glass to Qld



P&O Cruises has kicked off its national 90th anniversary Thank You tour, with *Pacific Encounter* arriving in Brisbane over the weekend.

More than 90 guests including crew, suppliers and cruise enthusiasts, were on board to partake in celebrations, which included a colourful streamer throwing ceremony.

Guests also enjoyed an indigenous version of Happy Birthday performed by world renowned didgeridoo player Jahmarley Dawson (pictured), while the ship's captain cut the 90cm tall cake, followed by the pouring of the impressive 90 glass champagne tower.

Carnival Australia and P&O Cruises President, Marguerite Fitzgerald, said the brand chose to launch its 90th Thank You tour in Queensland as it holds almost 40% of the cruise line's market.

"Over the past decade, more than 1.5 million guests have experienced the wonders of Queensland, and by 2025, that number will reach two million people, both interstate and

internationally," she said.

Across 2022/23, P&O Cruises will see more than 118 ship visits across Queensland, pouring more than \$500 million into the state's economy.

Pacific Encounter will soon head to Fremantle, followed by Sydney and Melbourne.

Vista raises the bar

THE inaugural voyage of Oceania Cruises' *Vista* in May will see the introduction of three uniquely designed shows composed by artists and dance members led by famous *Dancing with the Stars* choreographer, Britt Stewart.

Headliners, *The Anchor Inn*, and *Into the Night* will each perform widely-recognised music, song and dance choreography aboard the cruise line's new Allura Class.

President Frank Del Rio Jr emphasised the new productions are just the beginning in continuing to implement never-before-seen entertainment alongside the cruise line's proud itineraries.



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