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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news, plus a full front page from CVFR and a full page from Ponant.

Vietjet flash sale

VIETJET is holding another 24-hour flash sale for tomorrow, offering up to 88% off to celebrate the date.

Those who enter the code SUMMER88 when booking flights can access discounted fares, which are subject to availability.

Discounted fares can be used to fly to any destination on VietJet's flight network - [CLICK HERE](#).

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Tougher biosecurity support

THE Federal Coalition has thrown its support behind proposed new amendments to the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, which if successful will see greater border security powers imposed on travellers crossing the country's borders by plane or by ship.

Among the enhanced powers of government proposed under the latest amendment include targeting potential biosecurity risks by traveller class rather than solely on an individual basis, as well as formalising permission for the Director of Biosecurity to require any person to produce passports or official government travel documents to assess the level of biosecurity risk.

Travellers may also be profiled at that time for any future risk assessments at the border.

"These documents can be scanned and retained for as long as necessary to meet the purpose of this provision," National

Party of Australia Leader David Littleproud said in the House of Representatives last week.

"There is a penalty for not adhering to this provision...this amendment will formalise this request and include the purposes for providing these documents for determining the level of biosecurity risks associated with persons...for future profiling," Littleproud added.

The call to tighten up biosecurity for travellers entering Australia follows recent alarm over the potential for returning Aussies from Indonesia to import foot-and-mouth disease after trips to hotspots like Bali.

Flights last year were temporarily suspended between Perth and Port Hedland over the fear, while a flat out Bali ban on travel was also previously mulled but discounted as a solution.

The amendment is now before the Senate for final approval.

Cruise Month dates

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has revealed the themed dates for its big Cruise Month in Oct.

Coinciding with the start of the southern summer cruise season, ocean cruising will kick off proceedings (01-07 Oct), followed by river cruising (08-14 Oct), expedition cruising (15-21 Oct) & luxury cruising (22-28 Oct).

Full details will be announced in the coming weeks, including toolkit and social media asset info, agent webinars, competitions, cruise resources, images libraries, and more.

Pocket Ponant cash

IT'S time to pick up some Ponant pocket money this month.

Those who book a Kimberley cruise with the cruise line for next year during Aug can earn an additional \$250 per guest.

For full itineraries details and more, see [page 6](#).

find your

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Fewer trips, higher spend

AUSSIE travellers spent 50% more on accommodation in May 2023 than they did before the pandemic, according to new statistics from Tourism Research Australia (TRA).

Results for May show that domestic accommodation spend hit \$2.2 billion for the month, up a whopping \$800 million compared to May 2019.

Overall domestic tourism spend also exceeded pre-pandemic levels, with domestic travellers spending \$8 billion during May, representing a 38% increase compared to May 2019.

Aussies coughed up more money across all main expenditure categories than they did before COVID, including food and drinks (up 35%), shopping (up 60%), petrol (up 17%) and domestic airfares (up 9%).

Despite spending more on their domestic travel, Australians took less overnight trips in May 2023

compared to the same period last year (down 6%) and in pre-pandemic 2019 (down 8%).

Travellers also spent fewer nights away, dropping 6% on May 2019 and representing an 8% decrease compared to May last year.

There was a notable jump in domestic day trips for the month, with a 10% increase in spend and an 11% rise in the number of day trips taken versus May 2022, with spend also exceeding pre-COVID May 2019 by 8%, despite a 12% fall in day trips.

The ACT was the only state or territory that saw a positive trend in overnight visitor numbers for May 2023, up 20% on last year, while Tasmania and the NT experienced the biggest drops (down 27% and 25%).

Sydney (up 4%) and Melbourne (up 12%) were the only cities to attract more overnight visitors in May compared to last year, while regional WA was also up 9%.

Bonza leases jets

BONZA has activated a new way to combat supply chain challenges which have stifled its access to jets, formalising a reciprocal wet lease agreement with Canadian budget carrier Flair Airlines.

Under the terms of the deal, Bonza will temporarily lease two aircraft from Flair in Canada while it commences its recruitment pipeline on the Gold Coast, which was recently revealed as its next major hub (**TD 01 Aug**).

"The Canadian ultra-low-cost carrier reached out to support the commencement of operations at Bonza's Gold Coast base pre Christmas - a partnership that recognises the differing seasonal peaks between the two airlines," CEO Tim Jordan told *Travel Daily*.

"This is a reciprocal partnership that both airlines intend to leverage for many years to come," he added.

Flair Airlines is part-owned by Bonza investor 777 Partners.

FCM inks UniSuper

FLIGHT Centre's corporate travel division FCM has landed the travel management contract for super fund UniSuper.

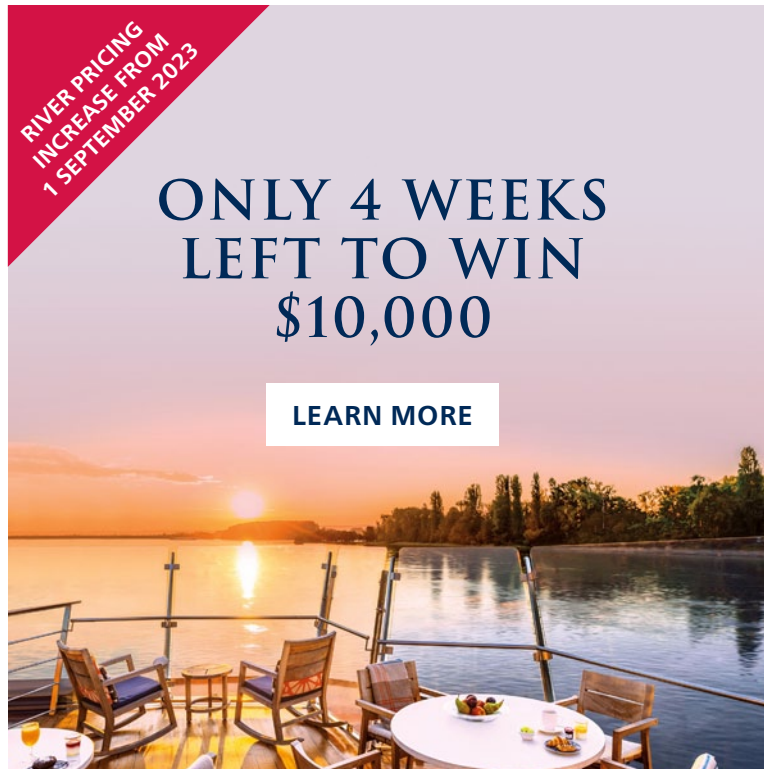
Flight Centre Corporate Managing Director ANZ, Melissa Elf, said the new agreement represents a "great match" given a mutual focus and success in the tertiary sector.

"Given UniSuper's long-standing service to the university sector and FCM's 23 University clients, it was a natural partnership," she said, adding that its new client had already seen a 96% online booking tool uptake.

Reviewed and win

TRAVEL Agent Finder (TAF) will award the 1,000th travel advisor who receives a review on its platform with a special prize.

The gift will celebrate the milestone of 1,000 client-submitted reviews of Aussie agents on the TAF website.



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See website for full T&Cs and permit number

Delta speaks Latin

MORE than 1,000 weekly flights to Latin America and the Caribbean have been added by Delta Air Lines from five big US ports, including Atlanta, NY (JFK), Detroit, Boston and Minneapolis.

The increased capacity will go live from Jan next year, to places like Cancun, San Juan, and more.

Join Wendy as VIP

TO CELEBRATE 25 years of operation, Wendy Wu Tours has unveiled a new VIP version of its Classic Mekong tour, which includes the appearance of the company's founder, Wendy Wu.

The 18-day trips departs on 10 Oct and boasts a 20-minute seaplane flight over Ha Long Bay, cocktails at Bitexco Tower, and a dinner experience with a local family in Saigon.

The itinerary also includes return flights and is priced from \$8,880ppts - to book and learn more details, see [HERE](#).

LJ's definitely ready to travel!



ONE of the many creative outfits worn for last week's sell-out CATO Travel Trivia event in Sydney (**TD** 14 Jun) was this giant novelty passport concept from AFTA communications chief LJ Loch of Alpha Consulting.

She was one of about 260 industry people at the gathering which was sponsored by a range

of CATO members including Intrepid Travel (Platinum), Lockton Insurance (Gold) and Tourism New Zealand (Silver).

The event was emceed by Jad Nehmetallah from *Gogglebox* and industry personality Julia Zaetta, who led plenty of hilarity including dance-offs for bonus prizes before each trivia round.

BA's A380 switch

BRITISH Airways will reportedly deploy an Airbus A380 on its London-Singapore route from Mar next year, adding an extra 200 seats of capacity.

The service is currently serviced by smaller Boeing 777-300ER planes, and while the switch will see extra capacity, it will likely mean the cutting of Club World seats on the route, which aren't offered on BA's A380s.

AA cuts NY to Doha

AMERICAN Airlines will dump its New York-Doha route from 29 Oct, exchanging the service for Doha to Philadelphia flights, according to airline schedules portal AeroRoutes.

Travellers impacted by the changes are being contacted by the carrier, with the new Qatar strategy a result of "continuous evaluations" of its network.

AA commenced services to Doha in Jun 2022.

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Galapagos limit?

TRAVELLERS to the Galapagos Islands may soon be charged higher visitation fees under new recommendations from the International Galapagos Tour Operators Association (IGTOA).

Responding UNESCO's latest 2023 *State of Conservation Report*, the body has written to the Ecuadorian Govt requesting to limit the growth of land-based tourism in the wildlife-rich destination, which is home to more than 2,000 unique species, with higher levies proposed as a major lever for change.

Other measures suggested include capping the number of tourists that arrive each year, similar to existing cruise ship limits to the islands.

"Well-managed tourism can continue to play an important role...but uncontrolled growth and no plan...is a potential recipe for disaster," the letter stated.

Jayride clocks 1 mil

JAYRIDE has exceeded its objective of an annualised rate of 1 million passenger trips booked.

The company exceeded the milestone last month, having first set the goal in Feb 2022, with 85,100 trips booked for Jul.

Trips increased last month in all major markets, including Europe, North America, Asia, and our own Oceania market.

Managing Director Rod Bishop said Jayride is delivering on the anticipated peak Q4-Q1 northern hemisphere summer season.

AA raises key issues in ACT



IMPORTANT issues affecting the hotel sector were discussed at Accommodation Australia's (AA) first board meeting in Canberra, including a proposed \$5 bed tax in Victoria flagged last week (**TD** 25 Jul).

AA CEO Michael Johnson said the mooted levy was rightly so a hot topic of conversation, one he feels would unfairly disadvantage the accommodation industry if it were to be implemented.

"Board members rightly saw the proposal as an unfair new tax on hotels and tourists at a time the sector still hasn't recovered from the impacts on COVID," he said.

"The proposed tax should be on the actual short-term rental market contributing to the lack of housing in Victoria - not on hotels which have nothing to do with rental problems," Johnson added.

Other issues discussed included the importance of Chinese tourism, international student cap migration, industrial relations, and vocational training.

Federal Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and

Multicultural Affairs, Andrew Giles, also stopped by as a special guest at the end of the meeting, where he spoke about a range of important industry issues.

The gathering represented the first time the merged entity, comprised of the former Tourism Accommodation Australia and The Accommodation Association, has held a board meeting.

Pictured: The Accommodation Australia Board with Speaker of the House of Representatives, Milton Dick.

The Leslie you know

LA COLLECTION has appointed Abigail Leslie as its new Senior Sales Manager.

The newly created position is based in Melbourne, with co-founder Craig Farrell saying it is the right time to appoint an experienced manager to assist promoting La Collection's portfolio of luxury properties to travel advisors across Australia.

Leslie specialises in corporate, group, and leisure travel.

Window Seat

AROUND 175 passengers were recently forced to return to Kochi on an Air India Express flight after guests on board complained of a noxious burning smell in the cabin.

However, when the plane safely touched down on terra firma, the cause of the pungent odour was not what anybody expected, with a crate of old onions in the cargo hold blamed.

The offending onions were promptly removed from the jet and passengers were able to take to the air hours later, with some speculating the rotting onions will be used as the basis for David Beckham's latest line of cologne.



Holiday park bought

THE Mandurah Coastal Holiday Park has been purchased by Equinox Group for \$13 million.

While there is not yet any confirmation as to what the new owners will do with the new asset, the WA holiday park has performed strongly and maintained steady returns through the pandemic, and is the only holiday park close to the Mandurah town centre.

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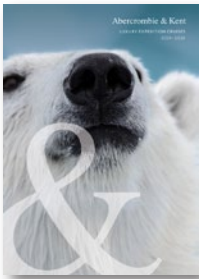
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A&K - Luxury Expedition Cruises 2024-2025

The 2024/25 season marks the most exciting chapter in A&K's 33 years of luxury expedition cruising, with its first expedition to the North Pole seeking to take customers to places they have never explored before. The North Pole Expedition Cruise: The Ultimate Frontier sails aboard *Le Commandant Charcot* with A&K's acclaimed Expedition Team leading the way. Also included are cruises in Greece, Turkey & Saudi Arabia, as well as Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Cruise passengers will also recognise a host of returning favourites in the latest brochure, including additional departures of the company's wildly popular Greek Isles and Japan cruises.



Scenic - The Captivating Wonders of Africa 24/25

Scenic is inviting keen safari explorers to enjoy the stunning coastlines, vibrant cities and savannah grasslands of Africa. Contained in the brand's latest brochure is a highly curated selection of handpicked itineraries, including the 27-day Ultimate African Expedition, which guides guests to see the Table Mountain, witness the famous Victoria Falls, and immerse themselves in renowned national parks like Kruger, Chobe, Massai Mara, and Amboseli. The journey is priced from \$26,595 per person, with an earlybird saving of \$1,000 per person also available for bookings made by 30 Nov.



Travel Associates - The Wonders of Canada

Suited for first time and returning travellers, Travel Associates has curated the ultimate travel guide to discover the wonders of Canada. Travellers can select meticulously designed itineraries, including personal recommendations from the brochure's editor. Along with the snowy alpiners and polar bear meet-and-greets, Travel Associates also reminds travellers to appreciate the urban landscape with an abundance of city escape options. More exclusive itineraries are available on the website.

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Barnes talks up sustainability



INTREPID Travel's Chief Customer Officer Leigh Barnes brought a travel perspective to premium marketing forum CMO Summit, which took place last week on the Gold Coast.

He joined a panel of marketing experts, including Channel Nine's

Director of Brand Michele O'Neill, to discuss the topic of 'marketing with a purpose'.

"Sustainability's not a spectator sport - that's our message," Barnes observed, adding it's "part of a movement that is bigger than any one person or company, learning from your mistakes and being transparent".

Pictured on stage: Kimberlee Wells, TBWA\Sustain; Barnes; Josette Addinall, Schneider Electric; and O'Neill.

WebBeds kicks goal

WEBBEDS has inked a new multi-year sponsorship deal to become Fulham Football Club's Official Sleeve Partner from this forthcoming 2023/24 season.

The Webjet division has experienced strong global growth over the last couple of years, with the latest deal set to see millions of eyeballs from Europe become more familiar with the brand.

"Partnering with Fulham FC is a key milestone for WebBeds and demonstrates our dedication to building our global brand, accelerating growth plans and setting new standards of excellence in delivering value to our hotel and travel industry partners worldwide," the brand's CEO Daryl Lee said.

WebBeds was launched by Webjet in 2013, now operating in over 140 countries.

Cape Town taxi threat

DFAT is advising Australian travellers that taxi strikes in Cape Town, South Africa have the potential to turn violent, possibly impacting multiple areas, including journeys to and from the main airport.

"Make sure you verify alternate routes recommended by your GPS are safe before undertaking, if safe to do so, consider delaying your journey and seek advice from your hotel or travel provider," DFAT said.

The best place to go for up-to-date information is on Cape Town Airport's Twitter feed and the City of Cape Town's feed.



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Book Kimberley 2024 during August and earn an additional \$250 per guest.

PONANT's Kimberley Luxury Expeditions redefine adventure with an unmatched blend of opulence and exploration. Modern staterooms and suites with luxury amenities ensure comfort whilst navigating through this untamed region. Expert naturalist guides lead immersive excursions to discover unique wildlife, ancient rock art and stunning landscapes. An unforgettable journey awaits, combining indulgence and discovery. Guests enjoy included excursions, all meals and an open-bar with PONANT.

[VIEW ITINERARIES](#)



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Terms & Conditions: \$250 gift card for every guest booked during the month of August 2023 for travel to The Kimberley in 2024. For new bookings only, not retroactive. Non-refundable deposit must be received by PONANT no later than 08 September 2023. Not available on Group Bookings. Not available with AD50 rates.