



## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features seven pages of the latest news including a special update from **Destination Canada** and our **Luxury** feature page, plus full pages from:

- Ponant
- CAPA

## \$250 Ponant bonus

**TRAVEL** advisors who book a 2024 Kimberley expedition for their clients will earn a \$250 bonus gift card per guest.

The incentive comes along with a comprehensive sales toolkit for the season - see **page eight**.

## Kingswell on air

**TRAVEL** Associates GM Australia and NZ, Rachel Kingswell, is the latest industry personality to feature on TD's "The Chat with Jenny" podcast.

This week's episode is now live at [traveldaily.com.au/thechat](http://traveldaily.com.au/thechat) or wherever you get your podcasts.

## Leisure demand strong - O'Shea

### EXCLUSIVE

**LEADING** travel industry stock market analyst John O'Shea has today issued an update predicting strong leisure travel demand, even in the face of high interest rates and soft economic growth.

Ord Minett's O'Shea has looked at historical statistics around the propensity of Australian households to spend on holidays, with about 6.5% to 7.5% of total income used for trips regardless

## Air China MEL boost

**AIR** China (CA) is lifting capacity on the Melbourne-Beijing route, seeing its flagship Airbus A350-900 flights ramping up to five weekly services by Feb 2024.

CA will also boost Sydney-Beijing to daily 777-300ERs, with the carrier offering onward connections to 18 European ports and limo transfers in Beijing and other Chinese ports for Business class passengers.

of economic conditions.

"This points to the fact consumers prioritise spending on holidays regardless of economic circumstances...holiday travel spend typically behaves as a non-discretionary spend item," he said.

O'Shea's new analysis, based on 10 key factors identified by his research, forecasts this trend will accelerate in the post-COVID world, saying he will not be surprised if, in the absence of a deep and prolonged recession, the proportion of income will increase to 8.5%-9.5% for an extended period.

He urged investors to look at stocks with exposure to global leisure travel markets.

## TTJ Thailand focus

**THE** Travel Junction (TTJ) has announced a new marketing partnership with the Tourism Authority of Thailand, offering a range of exclusive, "meticulously curated" packages in Bangkok, Phuket, Kanchanaburi and the Elephant Hills luxury tented camp.

Offers are priced from just \$1,099 per person with up to 15% commission for bookings via the HELiO platform or the TTJ res team on 1800 003 903.

The TAT-TTJ agreement focuses on providing travellers with "enriching and meaningful cultural experiences" and the top-selling travel advisor up to 01 Sep will win their own seven-night Thailand adventure - see [thetraveljunction.com.au](http://thetraveljunction.com.au).

## CAPA countdown

**THERE'S** now just over a month until the 2023 CAPA Centre for Aviation Asia-Pacific Summit in Brisbane on 14-15 Sep.

*Travel Daily* readers are being offered a special discount by using the code 'TD10' during the rego process - see the **last page**.



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## Party with Viking at NTIA

**THE** National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) Afterparty is set to be a Vor-tastic event, with Viking announced as the sponsor for the hotly anticipated celebration, set to take place in Melbourne on 18 Nov (**TD** 31 Jul).

"We are delighted to welcome Viking as our Afterparty sponsor and thank them for their generous support," AFTA CEO Dean Long shared.

"Just based on the very preliminary conversations we have already had with the team at Viking, the 2023 Afterparty is going to take travel's night of nights to a whole new level."

Viking MD Australia and New Zealand, Michelle Black, also expressed her excitement over the announcement.

"We are so excited to be sponsoring the Afterparty for travel's night of nights and can't wait to celebrate the success of our industry over the past 12

months," she enthused.

"We look forward to welcoming everyone to the NTIA Afterparty where, in true Viking style, it promises to be the best Afterparty yet!"

**MEANWHILE**, Viking has released the latest episode of Viking TV, where Chairman Torstein Hagen discusses his trip to Antarctica - watch it **HERE**.

## G Adventures Helm

**G ADVENTURES** has announced the appointment of Helm to lead its PR strategy in the Australia and New Zealand markets.

Helm, which has offices in Sydney and Brisbane, will work closely with the small group adventure operator's Brisbane and Melbourne based teams to bring brand awareness to new audiences in the market, through strategic marketing activity and "creative storytelling".

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## He's Worth more!

**OCEANIA** Cruises has appointed Jason Worth as VP International Sales, effective immediately.

The newly created role will see Worth supervise Oceania's sales teams in Asia-Pacific, as well as Europe and Latin America.

He has stepped up from Vice President & General Manager Asia-Pacific, with Business Development Manager James Sitters to also be promoted, to Director of Sales.

Worth will report to Senior Vice President Global Sales Nikki Upshaw, who said she is "delighted" he will be leading Oceania's int'l sales team.

Reporting in to Worth will be Sitters, Director of Sales, United Kingdom & Ireland Louise Craddock, Director of Business Development DACH Maik Schluter, Director of Sales CEMEA Riet Goetschalckx, and Sales Ops Manager James Thomas.

For more details, see today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

## Window Seat

**MANY** Australians have been watching The Ashes in the United Kingdom on television from their bed recently, but imagine watching the game live from your bed.

This is what is on offer at the new Hilton Garden Inn Manchester at Emirates Old Trafford (**pictured**), a property which is integrated into the cricket stadium.

The hotel has capacity for 250 rooms, many of which overlook the oval, allowing those staying during a test to skip the price of admission and watch from the comfort of their room.



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## Global air traffic upsurge

**GLOBAL** air travel recovery has continued to gain momentum, with new data from The International Air Transport Association (IATA) revealing total traffic is now at 94.2% of pre-COVID levels.

Jun statistics show a 31% rise in total traffic compared to the equivalent period last year, with international traffic climbing 33.7% versus Jun 2022, reaching 88.2% of Jun 2019 levels.

Overall domestic traffic for the month outpaced pre-COVID Jun 2019 by 5.1%, and gained 27.2% on Jun 2022.

Australia was the only domestic market to see a year-over-year traffic decline in Jun, slipping 1.7% compared to a year ago, however traffic remained 3.9% above 2019 levels.

Asia Pacific airlines enjoyed the largest growth out of all the regions by far, with a 128.1% increase in Jun 2023 traffic

compared to Jun 2022.

"The northern summer travel season got off to a strong start in June with double-digit demand growth and average load factors topping 84%," IATA Director General Willie Walsh said.

## Airbnb forecast up

**AIRBNB'S** projected third-quarter revenue has exceeded initial estimates of US\$3.22 billion, with the property rental company now expecting between \$3.3 and \$3.4 billion.

This comes after Airbnb's second-quarter results surpassed predictions, with the US\$2.5 million in posted revenue representing an 18.1% year-over-year above the expectation of US\$2.42 million.

Airbnb said it expects a boost from int'l travel, after cross-border travel to the Asia Pacific shot up by 80% in the second quarter.

## EK Premium Econ

**EMIRATES'** Premium Economy has shone in its first full year of service to Australia, with nearly 40,000 of us trading up to experience the cabin.

Debuting in Sydney 12 months ago (**TD** 11 Aug 2022) and in Melbourne earlier this year, customer response has been overwhelmingly positive, averaging a 90% load factor across its Australia services.

Emirates will continue rolling out the cabin this year.

## Tempo by Hilton

**THE** first Tempo by Hilton debuted overnight, bringing the stylish new lifestyle brand to Times Square.

The new 661-room hotel opened its doors as part of TSX Broadway, a new 46-storey mixed-used building.

Highlights include expansive views of Times Square and a buzzy cocktail lounge.

## European Showcase

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line is partnering with Globus family of brands to host a European Showcase across touring, as well as river and ocean cruising.

The consumer event series will be held from 29 Aug to 05 Oct in 28 rural locations across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

Guests will hear all about the range of itineraries and tours, new ports, and special offers available across Europe for 2024 and 2025.

Travel partners are encouraged to promote the events to their clients.

## Click Frenzy Travel

**CLICK** Frenzy Travel is coming on 23 Aug.

Airlines, hotels, tour operators, and other travel merchants are encouraged to showcase their best deals as part of the online sale event - **CLICK HERE**.

## Explore New Caledonia

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SB operates to/from Tontouta Airport

**AIR CALÉDONIE OPERATED FLIGHT**  
TY operates to/from Magenta Airport

## CX ups BNE-HKG by 50%

**CATHAY** Pacific (CX) will boost Brisbane flights by 50%, in a move that is set to deliver more than 76,000 inbound seats in the first year of operation.

CX will increase its services from four flights per week to six, catering for the tourism boost to

and from Hong Kong.

“This week 41 years ago we celebrated the arrival of the very first Cathay Pacific 747 to Brisbane, and today, we celebrate the expansion of this service as we slowly build back to full pre-COVID recovery,” Brisbane Airport Head of Aviation Marketing & Partnerships Oliver Philpot said.

The deal is the 23rd win for Queensland’s \$200 million Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, jointly supported by the state government, which has seen more routes from airlines including Korean Air, Air New Zealand, and Emirates.

“The support from the Queensland Government and Brisbane Airport is hugely valued as we increase our service from Brisbane to Hong Kong and beyond,” CX Acting Regional General Manager Southwest Pacific Sandeep Pillay said.

## TEQ funding boost

**THE** Qld Govt has increased the annual funding of Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) to \$125 million, as part of a new five-point plan to grow tourism in the state in the run-up to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Key points in the new strategy include reaching an inbound tourism value of \$11 billion, boosting events value to \$2 billion, and the delivery of bolder marketing campaigns.

## Marriott recruits

**MARRIOTT** International has beefed up its Asia Pacific team, appointing five new executives to spearhead its local growth plan.

Heading up the hiring spree is John Toomey, who has been recruited to the role of Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, Asia Pacific (excluding China).

His role will include looking after the brand, marketing, sales, distribution, revenue management, loyalty, customer experience and digital communications for the hotel.

Recruitment has also seen Oriol Montal appointed MD, Luxury, Asia Pacific (excluding China), where he will be charged with managing brands like The Ritz-Carlton, St. Regis Hotels & Resorts, EDITION, The Luxury Collection, JW Marriott and W Hotels Worldwide.

Further new blood includes Karen Kim as VP Global Design, Asia Pacific (excluding China), Andrew Newmark as Chief Human Resources Officer, Asia Pacific (excluding China), and Christina Chan as CFO, Asia Pacific (excluding China).

## Uluru rocks the small screen!



**ULURU** became a “rock star” on SBS Food last night, with Poh Ling Yeow and Adam Liaw serving up some great food as they kicked off *Adam & Poh’s Great Australian Bites* series.

The iconic sandstone formation, and its namesake Ayers Rock

Resort, took the spotlight in the first episode of the new series, which is also now available to stream on SBS On Demand.

The eight-episode show will follow the beloved chefs as they seek the answer to the often-asked but hard-to-answer question, “what is Australia’s national dish?”

The series kicked off with an exploration of indigenous food culture in the heart of Australia.

**Pictured** are Ling Yeow, Ayers Rock Resort chef Jayden Weetra, and Liaw.

## Ryanair slams DUB overnight flight cut

**RYANAIR** has slammed an order that will limit the number of overnight flights to and from Dublin Airport, labelling the move by local authority Fingal County Council a “stupid decision”.

The airline released a statement imploring Ireland’s Transport Minister, Eamon Ryan, to reverse the restriction, which stipulates that the average number of night flights between 11pm and 7am should not exceed 65.

The Irish low-cost carrier argued that the restriction period should be moved to between midnight and 6am, as well as arguing for nighttime restrictions to be scrapped because of its new aircraft, which are 50% quieter.

Ryanair CEO Eddie Wilson said he is prepared to resign if the decision is not reversed.

## Punthill Parra opens

**VERIU** Group’s second NSW property, Punthill Parramatta, has opened its doors to guests this week, offering a mix of modern studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments.

The 52-key apartment hotel offers guests a fully equipped kitchen, balcony, desk and fast, high-quality wi-fi, as well as in-room laundry facilities and secure on-site parking.

The property’s Church Street location places it close to the train station, as well as several local landmarks and attractions, including CommBank Stadium.



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# Canada - into the wild

**FROM** orcas to mountain goats, encountering Canada's phenomenal wildlife in its natural habitat is a humbling moment, shares Destination Canada.

Canada's west serves up ample opportunities to witness grizzly bears in the wild, with [Grouse Mountain Wildlife Refuge](#), located 15 minutes from downtown Vancouver, home to endangered grizzly bears and other wildlife.

Wilderness lodges, such as [Knight Inlet Lodge](#) and [Great Bear Lodge](#) offer bear-viewing tours from spring through autumn, with the chance to spot the rare

Kermode (Spirit) bear, a subspecies of black bear carrying a recessive gene that gives them a naturally white coat.

Moose roam freely all over the country, with [Algonquin Provincial Park](#) in Ontario home to about 3,500 of these quintessentially Canadian

creatures - spot them alongside lakes and rivers or strolling along park trails throughout this pristine wilderness.

Canada is also prime bird and whale-watching territory, with more than 30 species of whales roaming the waters along the Atlantic, Arctic and Pacific coasts,

with Quebec's St. Lawrence River being one of few places in the world where blue whales can be observed near the shore.

Likewise, boat and kayak tours provide up-close encounters with 500,000 adorable puffins on the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve in Newfoundland and Labrador.



## Majestic lords of the Arctic

**KNOWN** as the Polar Bear Capital of the World, the sub-arctic community of Churchill, Manitoba, is ideally positioned to view polar bears in the wild as they congregate and wait for the ice to freeze on Hudson Bay.

Tour operators like Churchill Wild and [Frontiers North Adventures](#) offer ways to see arctic wildlife while minimising guests' impact on the environment.

Visitors can climb aboard an

electric Tundra Buggy® with Frontiers North Adventures for a close-up view of the polar bears, with minimal disruption to their natural habitat due to its new, zero-emission vehicle technology.

Churchill is the only place in the world that offers a [walking tour](#), with Churchill Wild providing guided strolls on the tundra, in safe proximity to these majestic beasts and other mesmerising arctic wildlife, such as snowy owls and arctic fox.

## Have a howling good time

**VISITORS** to Alberta have the opportunity to interact with wild wolves and wolfdogs at the [Yamnuska Wolfdog Sanctuary](#) in the Rocky Mountains, not far from Banff.

This non-profit organisation provides a haven for abandoned wolfdogs, where they can roam

free among acres of landscape and dwell in the house with their human family.

Visitors can get to know these majestic creatures up close with an expert guide and, if you're lucky, they might even take a treat from your hand during a visit.



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### Atlantis Dubai rep

**NUMINOUS** Luxury Travel Representation has been appointed as the official agent for Atlantis Dubai in the Australia and New Zealand markets.

The agency will promote Atlantis The Royal and Atlantis The Palm in the leisure and MICE sectors through a series of education programs, as well as participating in all major trade shows, managing family trips, and handling day-to-day enquiries.

### Water in open space

**SPACE** travel operator Space Perspective's has formed a unique sales partnership with full-service yachting company Denison Yachting, with the pair to collaborate on cross-promotional opportunities and co-hosted events.

"The partnership is a unique opportunity to reach a new audience and positions us to redefine the possibilities of luxury adventure," Space Perspective's VP, Global Sales & Trade Edyta Teper said.

The space operator's balloon can seat eight passengers and offers meal and cocktail services, wi-fi access, and a lavatory.

## FIRST GLIMPSE AT THE STAR GRAND

**THE** Star Brisbane has offered a sneak peek of its venues and experiences, including The Star Grand, a five-star hotel with 340 luxury rooms overlooking Brisbane River.

Located within the \$3.6 billion, 12-hectare Queen's Wharf precinct, the accommodation property is replete with elegance, and features four Skyline Penthouse Suites, each with an oversized freestanding bathtub.

Guests will get exclusive access to three pools on the resort's Leisure Deck, an open-air public space the size of two football fields, as well as direct access to the Sky Deck, a 250-metre rooftop runway of restaurants and bars positioned 100 metres over the Brisbane River.

"We are incredibly excited to be able to share a first look inside The Star Brisbane - the



entertainment hub of the Queen's Wharf Brisbane precinct which will transform Brisbane as we know it," The Star Brisbane COO Kelvin Dodt said.

"From a selection of Brisbane's grandest hotels to delectable dining, spectacular sky-high views, and unique experiences for locals and tourists alike, The Star

Brisbane promises to celebrate the best of our river city."

Slated for a 2024 opening, The Star Grand will be surrounded by more than 50 venues, including luxury retail shops, a huge Sports Bar, a world-class Event Centre featuring Brisbane's largest ballroom, The Star's signature cocktail bar Cherry, and more.

### ONYX opens new luxury resort in the Maldives

**ONYX** Hospitality Group has officially opened the doors to Amari Raaya Maldives, marking the group's latest addition in the Southeast Asia luxury market.

Located just 45 minutes by seaplane from Velana International Airport on a private island, the luxury resort offers 187 beach and ocean villas with views of the serene Raa Atoll waters, as well as a spa and eight restaurants.

Guests can also participate in workshops hosted by local artists in the property's arts and crafts studio, plus a diverse range of activities, including snorkelling, water skiing, wakeboarding, ziplining, mini golf, archery, and more.

For a limited time, guests can save 40% on stays and enjoy benefits including a 30-minute photoshoot, as part of a special opening offer - see [HERE](#).

### Sustainability focus

**THE** luxury sector is set to focus more on sustainability in the near future, according to new global research from Communications Specialist.

The study shows that 94% of senior executives at luxury hotels expect sustainability to become a focal point for the sector over the next three years, while 22% believe there will be a dramatic increase.

## EXPLORE THE ICONIC KIMBERLEY

### 2024 SAILINGS AVAILABLE

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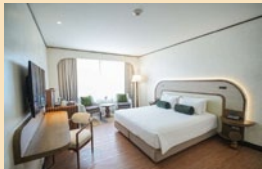
## ACCOMMODATION

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**Lennox Hotels Miami Beach** has reopened after a refreshment on its 118 guestrooms and lobby, as well as a new summer menu at the in-house restaurant Amalia and launch of its wellness program. The refreshment of the mid-1930s hotel

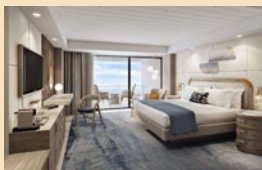
features new room linens, textured pillows, and more in all of its rooms, while the new menu lists dishes including fettuccine alfredo, pineapple tart tatin, and much more ranging from US\$15 to US\$42.



In a bid to elevate customer experience, Centara Hotels & Resorts has relaunched **Centara Udon** after remodelling. Located just a 15-minute drive from Udon Thani International Airport, the urban getaway has upgraded all of its 259 guestrooms, as well as a brand-new menu at the all-day restaurant Publico. To celebrate the relaunch, the hotel is currently offering a 15% discount on F&B (excluding alcohol).



The 413-key **Fairmont Washington D.C.** has completed a renovation on its three luxury suites. The Shenandoah Suite spanning over 110m<sup>2</sup>, and the two 102m<sup>2</sup> Magnolia suites have all been completely transformed. All of the suites overlooking the courtyard now share the same elements within, including a fully renovated bathroom featuring white and grey marble, new carpets and furniture with neutral and green fabrics.



Slated for completion in Nov, **Hotel La Jolla, Curio Collection by Hilton** is undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation to revamp all of its guestrooms and suites, meeting and event spaces as well as introducing Sea & Sky, which replaces the hotel's existing eatery, Cusp Dining & Drinks, on the 11th floor. The hotel is located on the pristine coastline of San Diego.



Minor Hotels has announced its expansion to Western Australia with the opening of **Oaks Perth Hotel** earlier this month. The 190-room hotel is conveniently located in the CBD, close to the city's restaurants and bars, as well as various renowned locations including the Yagan Square, Elizabeth Quay and more. An all-day diner and a 240m<sup>2</sup> meeting space are available for its guests.

## ADL opens new int'l lounge



**ADELAIDE** Airport has welcomed its first and only independent international departures lounge, with the official opening of the new Plaza Premium Lounge.

The space, which can cater for up to 137 passengers, is divided into several zones, including a bar (**pictured**), dining area, and quiet work booths.

The lounge was designed with sustainability in mind, with energy-efficient appliances, water-saving devices and 100% LED lighting, while natural stone, marble and granite touches offer a luxury feel.

Guests can also enjoy award-winning Australian drops at Plaza

Premium Group's (PPG) first specialty wine feature, as well as appreciate the South Australian artworks on display.

The Plaza Premium Lounge marks one of the final phases of Adelaide Airport's \$200 million terminal expansion project.

## MH MAX routes

**MALAYSIA** Airlines will shortly take delivery of its first new Boeing 737-MAX aircraft, enabling the rollout of the narrowbody's services on a range of the carrier's existing routes.

GDS screens indicate MAX87 flights from Kuala Lumpur to Bali, Jakarta, Kathmandu, Manila and Phuket over the coming months.

# The Chat

with Jenny

## A Conversation with Rachel Kingswell

Travel Associates AU NZ

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CAPA's home event, the CAPA Australia Pacific Aviation Summit is highly regarded as the key industry event for the region. Combining engaging presentations with panel discussions and Q&A sessions, the summit offers thought leadership, valuable networking opportunities, and in-depth insight on the issues and trends that shape the local and global airline industry.

The Summit will feature a concurrent stream dedicated to the Corporate Travel Community that will explore key themes specific to this part of the industry and welcome corporate travel managers from across the country.

**Register Now and Save with Code 'TD10'**



Aviation Stream

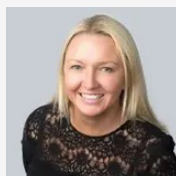


Corporate Travel Stream

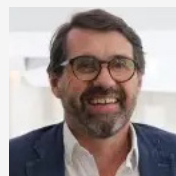
## Speakers Include



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Air New Zealand



**Stephanie Tulley**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Jetstar Airways



**Christian Bennett**  
Chief Sustainability Affairs & Sustainability Officer  
Virgin Australia



**Allistair Hartley**  
Chief Transformation Officer  
Virgin Australia Group



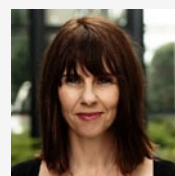
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**Andrew Barr**  
ACT Chief Minister  
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**Kiri Hannifin**  
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