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JOURNEY BEYOND

Gold Premium sale

JOURNEY Beyond is showcasing the new Gold Premium offering on The Ghan and Great Southern rail adventures (**TD** 03 Aug).

With a host of premium inclusions the new travel style is on sale now - see the **cover page**.

Link adds WA members

EXCLUSIVE

THE addition of former Magellan member Martini Travel and high profile Express Travel Group agency Travel Associates Australia to the ranks of Link Travel Group (**TD** breaking news) sees the ranks of the fledgling faction continue to swell.

Established in May 2022 by Spencer Travel and Goldman Group as a joint venture with Flight Centre, the invitation-only Link pitches itself as a "selected group of industry heavyweights" with Link GM Scott Darlow saying both of the additions are "excellent businesses run by highly motivated, ambitious and successful people".

Russell Brown, MD of Travel

Associates Australia Pty Ltd (not to be confused with the Flight Centre brand of the same name), noted amid the rapidly changing industry landscape "now more than ever it is important to align our business with the right group to secure our future".

Martini Travel co-founder Rhett Martini said he was delighted the agency had been invited to join Link, adding that having access to Australia's widest range of supply and investment in technology "will ensure Martini Travel is well placed for years to come".

HLO completes buy

HELLOWORLD Travel (HLO) has formally completed its \$70 million acquisition of Express Travel Group (**TD** breaking news Fri).

"We are please to complete this acquisition and look forward to working with Tom Manwaring and his team as they continue to support their agent networks and customers in the years ahead," HLO MD Andrew Burnes said.

The effective date of completion is 01 Jul 2023, with the settlement coming in the lead-up to this week's ETGX conference in Singapore where Burnes and ETG chief Tom Manwaring will both address members.

HLO issued 3,647,998 shares worth \$10 million to Manwaring and Spyros Alysandratos on Fri, as the first tranche of the share-based component of the deal.

Entire Rocky offer

ENTIRE Travel Group is offering savings of up to \$1,170 per couple on 2024 Rocky Mountaineer journeys if booked before 31 Aug.

For more details and to make a booking, **CLICK HERE**.

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Myles is on air

TRAVEL Daily's own Myles Stedman is a special guest on the latest "Offloaded" podcast from The Travel Community Hub, appearing alongside Cruising With Honey's Honida Beram.

Triggered by Myles' recent *travelBulletin* influencer article, the intriguing chat is online now at travelcommunityhub.com.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest news, plus a front cover from **Journey Beyond** and full pages from:

- Entire Travel
- Ponant

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AFTA's big news

TOMORROW AFTA will unveil some major news relating to the evolution of the Association and the Australian Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS).

A webinar for AFTA members will be held at 10am AEST - to register **CLICK HERE** - while the wider industry can sign up to attend a session at 6pm by **CLICKING HERE**.

Qantas says 'Yes'

QANTAS Group has unveiled special livery on three of its aircraft in support of the Yes campaign, ahead of the upcoming referendum for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

The livery, featuring the Yes23 campaign logo, is featured on a Qantas Boeing 737, a QantasLink Dash 8 Turboprop and a Jetstar Airbus A320, with CEO Alan Joyce saying the carrier's support for the campaign continues its long commitment to reconciliation.

NCL/Globus tour

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) will team up with the Globus family of brands to tour Australia's regional areas through a new European consumer workshop series.

Kicking off on 29 Aug and continuing through to 05 Oct, the events will see attendees who register receive an NCL Latitude profile in order to be eligible for exclusive specials redeemable through travel agents only.

See the full list of dates **HERE**.

CZ to return to Brisbane

IN A major boost for Queensland's economy, China's largest airline has announced it will return services to the Sunshine State for the first time since the pandemic forced the closure of borders in 2020.

China Southern Airlines will restore flights between Guangzhou and Brisbane from 17 Nov, operating four times a week initially before moving to daily within two years.

Brisbane Airport estimates over the next three years, the rebooted services will create an extra 278,000 inbound seats alone, generating nearly \$441 million for the visitor economy.

The latest news follows several recent pushes by China Southern Airlines to restore capacity in the region, including to Melbourne (**TD** 15 Jun), Sydney (**TD** 04 May) and Christchurch (**TD** 04 Jul).

"Securing China Southern from Guangzhou is a game-changer, and an incredibly important step in rebuilding Queensland's international visitor economy after the pandemic,"

Maui fire update

TRAVELLERS with plans to visit West Maui in the coming weeks and months are being urged to reschedule until the fire-ravaged destination has recovered (**TD** 11 Aug), with hotels in the area temporarily halting bookings while they provide housing for affected employees and families.

Qld's Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said.

"China is crucial to Tourism and Events Queensland's Blueprint for growing an \$11 billion international visitor economy on our runway to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games."

Australia has been active in attempting to woo more air connectivity from China, with both Qld government officials and Tourism Australia MD Phillipa Harrison flying to Australia's previously largest tourism source market earlier in the year to hold discussions with key airline executives (**TD** 01 Mar).

NoVacancy lineup

THE speaker lineup and schedule for hotel and accommodation industry expo NoVacancy 2023 has been revealed.

Leaders from Accor, IHG Hotels & Resorts, Destination NSW, Ovolo Hotels, Accommodation Australia, Hilton Hotels, Marriott International, Ecotourism Australia, Amadeus, Booking.com, Expedia Group, are among those who will take to the stage.

Taking place from 31 Aug to 01 Sep at the ICC Sydney Exhibition Centre, the event will include product launches, education and industry insights, networking opportunities and discussions about hotel marketing, technology, sustainability, design and more - secure your free ticket to NoVacancy **HERE**.



Travel Daily
ON LOCATION

FIJI

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you courtesy of Fiji Airways, which is preparing to welcome the arrival of its new Airbus A350-900 aircraft.

BEFORE the big welcome ceremony for its new A350-900 tomorrow, Fiji Airways is hosting a short fam to showcase the very best of what the tropical destination offers Aussie travellers.

While tomorrow will see the new jet arrive and a tour led by MD Andre Viljoen, for now we are staying at the beautiful Sheraton Tokoriki Island Resort before partaking in a Kokoda Cooking Class and a welcome dinner at Waitui House.

The new aircraft expands Fiji Airways' fleet and will be servicing the mid- and long-haul routes of Fiji Airways network.

MEL hits new high

MELBOURNE Airport processed 2.9 million passengers in Jul, representing 90% of the pax carried in Jul 2019 and marking a new post-COVID high.

More than half (55%) of MEL's international pax for the month were arrivals, with the top countries for non-Australian passport visitors being China, New Zealand, India, the United Kingdom and Vietnam.



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Register your interest now!

August 28 - September 19

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Window Seat

SOLID nap time might be a thing of the past on flights, with media reports suggesting that most of Generation Z believe it's acceptable to put their window shutter up when other people are trying to snooze.

The opinions are being gathered on TikTok, with a post from a US insurance broker criticising a passenger for keeping the window open blasted by users as selfish.

But the post was rebuked by a number of younger travellers, with one user posting "if you want to sleep, stay one more night in the hotel", while another proclaimed "I paid for it, I will absolutely leave it open".

Another more philosophical critic of the post simply said "you need to chill on life".

Premium tours in demand

AUSTRALIAN travellers are increasingly interested in booking premium tours, with two-thirds of those with a household income of over \$150,000 expressing a desire to take a high-end experience.

The insight was published in The Travel Corporation's (TTC) latest annual study of over 2,700 tour travellers, finding that even a healthy 37% of Aussies with an income lower than \$75k are interested in premium touring.

Around 30% of travellers who are interested in premium tours also stated they are seeking personalised service, and for those keen on luxury tours, the desire was even higher (37%).

Another clear finding of the new research was that Aussies have a strong appetite for tours that offer something new in the way of culture and experiences, with 61% of respondents suggesting this is a key driver of going ahead with a booking.

Off-the-beaten path adventures like exploring national parks or wine tasting in the countryside also ranked highly, with expert tour guides seen as a valuable commodity in unearthing these hidden gems, while 'bucketlist experience' also polled well as motivators to book a tour.

Interestingly, demographics appear to be driving different priorities for foodies, with the desire for food tours for those under 35s (46%) and 35-54 (36%) significantly higher than in it is for baby boomers (18%).

On another front, travelling with other "like-minded" travellers was viewed as more important than group size, the latter of which is often used as the forefront of sales pitches.

Solo travellers led the way with wanting the group to match their interests (43%) with around a quarter of couples (27%) also finding this a crucial factor.

BNE hits 20m pax

BRISBANE Airport (BNE) saw more than 20 million passengers pass through its domestic and international terminals in the 2023 financial year, inching the airport closer to its pre-pandemic level of 23.7 million pax in 2019.

BNE's domestic terminal has recovered to 98% of pre-COVID capacity, recording 16 million passengers for FY23, while the international terminal has further to go, with recovery only at 77% (4 million pax).

The airport's best-performing routes included Queensland's coal mining town of Moranbah, which recorded 49% more passengers than in FY19, followed by Hobart (up 24%) and Albury, which is a new market.

New Zealand retained its position as Brisbane's top international market, while the United States has become the third favourite, up from fifth in FY19, and notably, Fiji has grown above FY19 volumes at 108%.



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VietJet to double Oz

LOW-COST carrier VietJet is confident of carrying more than a million passengers on its flights between Australia and Vietnam before the end of the year.

The forecast was made as part of the carrier's first half operations report released late last week, with the lofty figure of more than one million pax based on the initial success of its new routes to Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane, as well as the impending launch of Perth to Ho Chi Minh City in Nov.

Testament to VietJet's sharp expansion trajectory in recent months, in the second quarter of 2023 alone, the airline opened 11 new international routes to Australia, Indonesia, and India, expanding its flight network to more than 120 routes.

United ups China

UNITED Airlines will resume Beijing flying and reintroduce its daily service to Shanghai, per an agreement between the US and China governments.

UA will resume flying daily between San Francisco and Beijing & Shanghai over the next few months, with services to SHA to increase from Oct.

Meanwhile, daily flying between San Francisco and PEK will resume from Nov.

"We are grateful for this positive step forward in US-China passenger air services, and we thank the many officials from both countries," United said.

Jayride board moves

AIRPORT transfer company Jayride has announced that Sam Saxton will retire from its board following the business's next Annual General Meeting.

Saxton has been on the board since 2012 and has been a key player in managing Jayride's audit and risk functions.

Delphine Cassidy, who is currently Chief Communications Officer of Orica, has been appointed as Saxton's replacement, bringing with her 20 years of accounting, risk management & corporate governance experience.

The appointment is effective immediately, however Cassidy will need to survive a re-election at the next AGM to continue.

Veriu announces first SA hotel

VERIU Group has announced the development of its first South Australian hotel, as it continues the roll-out of its aparthotel accommodation model.

Converted from an office, Veriu Adelaide will open midway through next year, developed in partnership with Pelligra Group.

The 111-apartment hotel will be located on King William Street in downtown Adelaide, and will offer a mix of modern studios, interconnecting studios, and one-bedroom suites, all with a fully equipped kitchen, designed to accommodate solo and group travel for business or leisure.

Australia gets a taste of DC



THE East Coast USA (ECUSA) team has been touring Australia to promote tourism to the cities of Boston, Philadelphia and Washington DC, which are linked by high-speed Amtrak rail.

At the Waterside Restaurant in Sydney, the ECUSA panel took a deep dive into lesser-known attractions in these historic cities, highlighting the Isabella Stewart Gardner museum in Boston, the Faberge Egg museum in DC, and Philadelphia's public art, which includes more than 4,000 murals.

The event was in run in partnership with Marriott Hotels and Delta Air Lines, which is boosting flight frequency from Australia to the USA.

Pictured: Elliott Ferguson, President and CEO of Destination DC; Martha Sheridan, President and CEO of Meet Boston; Gregg Caren, President and CEO of the Philadelphia Convention and

Visitors Bureau; Karryn Cutcheon Marriot International; Nicole Bennett, Delta Air Lines; and Corey Marshall, Canuckiwi.

Melia Halong Bay

MELIA Hotels International has announced the signing of a new hotel in Vietnam's Ha Long Bay, set to open in 2027 with 240 rooms and 302 serviced apartments across two towers.

The hotel will house four restaurants and bars, an indoor and outdoor swimming pool, a spa, and 2,000m² of meetings and events space.

Melia Halong Bay marks the next milestone in the Spanish hotel group's plan to expand its Vietnam portfolio, with five more Melia properties slated to open across the country within the next few years, including Gran Melia Nha Trang this quarter.

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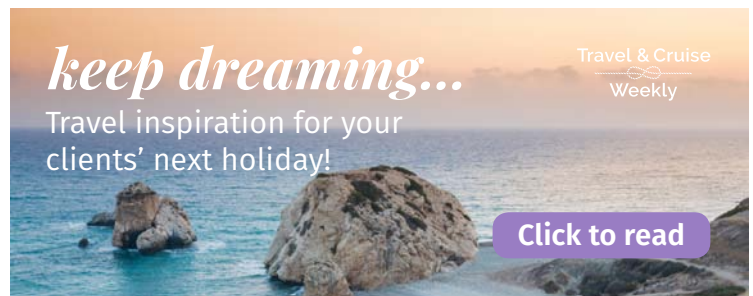
Melbourne 19 September, Aerial, South Wharf

Brisbane 20 September, Lightspace, Fortitude Valley

Sydney 21 September, View by Sydney, Walsh Bay

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Byron Bay's new Marvell



BYRON Bay in NSW is preparing to welcome its first five-star, luxury hotel, with Hotel Marvell set to open this month.

Featuring a tropical and colourful aesthetic, the property offers 16 hotel rooms, six suites, and two two-bedroom hotel rooms featuring private balconies, promising guests an experience of "relaxed luxury".

Guests can also enjoy a rooftop bar and pool and dine at the Bonito restaurant, led by chef Minh Le.

Sustainability is a priority for

Hotel Marvell, which sources its food and produce as locally as possible.

"Our passion for Byron Bay and our belief in the potential of this incredible destination inspired us to create Hotel Marvell," co-owner Scott Didier said.

"We want to offer our guests an unparalleled experience that combines the beauty of the surroundings with the luxury of our accommodations."

Room rates start from \$600 per night for a Hotel Room and \$780 for a Suite.

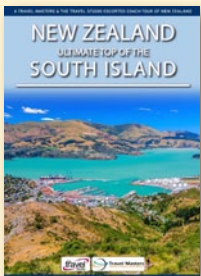
BROCHURES

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Oceania Cruises - Tropics & Exotics Collection

Oceania Cruises has unveiled a new brochure depicting the most tropical and exotic destinations in its 2024-2025 cruising season. Highlighting the OLife benefits, including the finest cuisine at sea in a variety of unique open-seating restaurants at no additional charge and much more, the travel handbook showcases the luxurious experiences available on board. All itineraries and departure dates are shown in the brochure, with most now including free pre-paid gratuities.



Travel Masters - NZ, Top of the South Island

Travel Masters & The Travel Studio have curated a new brochure to help travellers to explore the top of New Zealand's South Island in ultimate style. Boasting luxurious accommodation, fabulous cuisine and impeccable services, the 11-day journey departing on 04 Apr 2024 is an all-inclusive escorted small group tour. Travellers will have the opportunity to discover famous landmarks in Christchurch, Hokitika, Punakaiki and a lot more through a Business class coach experience.



Contiki - Travel Together

The new 58-page Travel Together brochure by Contiki encourages travellers to take part in one of its 350 trips around the world to destinations throughout Europe, Asia, the USA and Canada, with trips to suit every traveller, including shorter tours of less than 10 days, and adventures designed for solo travellers. Focusing on sustainability, the tour operator will increase visits to developing regions by 20% by 2025, as well as reducing food waste by 50% and much more by the same year.



Australian Air Safaris - 2024 Air Tour Guide

Suited for mature-aged travellers, the 2024 Air Tour Guide now offers more destinations, adventures and excitement through an array of experiences in Australia's most stunning and remote places. New tours added for 2024 include the wildflowers of WA, flying the High Country, and a five-day cultural feast of Western Victoria. More tours are available covering Down Under, with earlybird savings available until 30 Sep.

TOURISM & EVENTS, A LOVE STORY FOR THE AGES?

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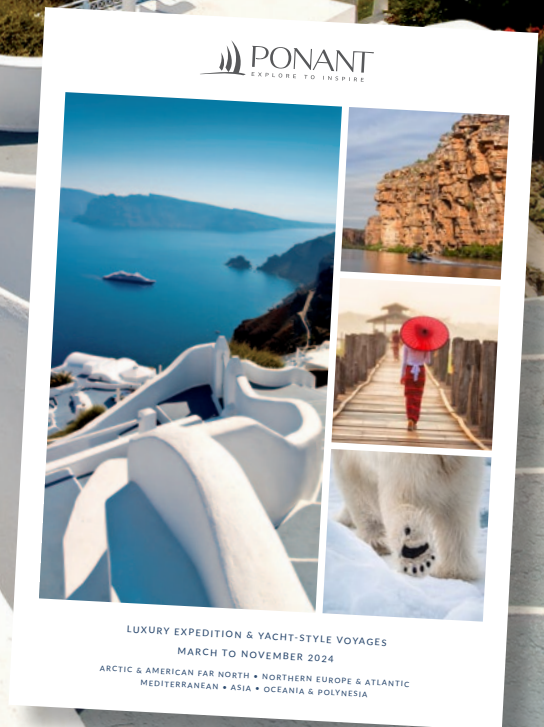
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