



JAL-QR c'share HND

JAL has announced it will operate direct flights between Doha and Tokyo Haneda for the first time from 31 Mar next year.

The flagged service will operate via codeshare with QR and will not impact existing c'shares in place on the Doha-NRT route.

Borland to lead QR in Oz

AS QATAR Airways looks to continue its growth in the local market, the Middle Eastern carrier has appointed experienced aviation executive Wayne Borland to lead the charge as Country Manager for the Australian Eastern market (**TD** breaking news yesterday).



While most of the senior sales experience he will bring to the business has been in the aviation industry, working in key roles across brands such as Etihad Airways, Aircalin, Air New Zealand and American Airlines, Borland has also spent time working in other travel vertical such as hotels, tourism representation and business travel.

These include a two-year stint managing 120 corporate and government clients with Carlson Wagonlit Travel, a senior sales position with Movenpick Hotels, and a short contract with Cook Islands Tourism to manage the Australian market.

"I am delighted to be joining such a prestigious airline and look forward to being part of Qatar Airways' ongoing growth in Australia," Borland said.

"I have been fortunate enough to have lived and worked in Sydney and Melbourne, London, Riyadh, LA, Jakarta and Beijing

during my career, allowing me to gain an international perspective of the travel industry," he added.

The appointment follows a new global CEO, Badr Al Meer, being appointed only last month. **AB**

A Hedda of her time

HURTIGRUTEN Norway Chief Executive Officer Hedda Felin (**pictured**) has been confirmed as a keynote speaker at the upcoming A Force for Good event taking place in Sydney on 08 Mar.

"Hedda Felin is not just a prominent executive but a true visionary in her field and her remarkable leadership at Hurtigruten has made her a respected figure," the event's founder Helene Taylor said.



More Sydney Moxy

THE Harbour City is set to get its second Moxy hotel, with Marriott International announcing a new location will be built on Pitt Street and open from Aug 2025.

Following its Sydney Airport property, Moxy Sydney Pitt Street will boast 314 rooms.






OFFER ENDS SOON

YOUR PARTNER WILL
FLY FREE
OR 50% OFF SOLO AIRFARE

SELECTED 2024 & 2025 DEPARTURES


JAPAN. SOUTHEAST ASIA.
CHINA. INDIA. SRI LANKA.
SOUTH KOREA. TAIWAN

SEE OFFER →

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest travel industry news.

itravel



JOANNE ROTHWELL

itravel Mobile, NSW

"itravel has a positive and inclusive company culture that fosters collaboration, innovation, and a sense of belonging."

LET'S TALK →

MOBILE | FRANCHISE | LINK | LUXE







SWITZERLAND

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

14 Days     *T&Cs apply

SAVE UP TO \$1,500* PER COUPLE

EXPLORE

SPEAK TO OUR TEAM OF EXPERTS TODAY.

The Chat
with Jenny

Travel Daily
A conversation with Lisa Pile

PROUDLY SPONSORED by
Regent
SEVEN SEAS CRUISES
AN UNRIVALLED EXPERIENCE

CLICK HERE to listen



Moroccan education & families

EXCLUSIVE

VISIT Morocco, through its partner on the ground in Australia Jones & Co, is planning to raise the profile of the north African nation with local travel agents.

Speaking with *Travel Daily* this afternoon, a spokesperson for Jones & Co said Morocco was preparing to increase its presence in the Australia market, viewing Aussies as a viable prospect to nurture and grow into the future.

“We’re planning to build a strong relationship with the travel agents community and we’re planning to travel to them, tell them the story of our beautiful destination and give them the right tools to sell it to their clients,” Jones & Co said.

Among the initiatives for the trade will also include family opportunities down the track, as well as greater levels of agent feedback and advice than the market had in place previously.

Australian visitation to Morocco has reached around 35,000 so far this year, with plans in place to grow that number substantially to roughly 100,000 people over the next five years.

Jones & Co could not confirm if Visit Morocco would set up a direct local presence in Australia, only stating that the decision is “yet to be confirmed”. *AB*

JQ boosts Tasman

JETSTAR has announced a significant boost to its New Zealand network, with 150,000 seats to be added across its domestic and trans-Tasman routes in 2024.

The ramp-up in capacity will start in Mar next year, and will see AKL to MEL rise to 13 return services a week, AKL to OOL (up to 13) AKL to BNE (up to 11) AKL to SYD (up to nine), and CHC to MEL (up to five) services a week.

Auckland influences

SLING & Stone has been chosen by Tataki Auckland Unlimited to lead public relations and influencer marketing in Australia.

The agency will be charged with helping to raise the profile of the Kiwi city’s Destination Partnership Programme, which aims to inspire more overseas leisure visitors and business events organisers to the country’s largest city.

“Aside from having had our own agency on the ground, we have been crafting and sharing the stories of New Zealand’s most exciting brands and talent for years, and we understand ‘brand Auckland’ deeply,” Sling & Stone’s Global Head of Consumer Kasi Talbot said.

Auckland welcomed 1.84 million international visitor arrivals in the year to Aug 2023.



MEL back to 2019

MELBOURNE Airport has become the first capital city airport in Australia to return to 100% international capacity, with Aircalin’s return tomorrow to officially restore 2019 volumes.

HLO fails to overturn

HELLOWORLD has lost its bid to overturn an unjustified dismissal ruling in New Zealand (*TD 19 Jul 2022*) after unsuccessfully arguing it should not have had to compensate two workers made redundant during the pandemic.

In Jul last year, Helloworld NZ was found by the Employment Relations Authority to have unjustifiably dismissed Cruise Marketing Manager Jacqueline Unsworth and Cruise Marketing Executive Whitney Towers two years earlier, with the company ordered to pay the women compensation of NZ\$20,000 each, as well as lost earnings and legal costs.



Sell the World’s Best Value Stopover

For a unique stopover experience, there is nowhere like Qatar. With year-round sunshine, stunning beaches, family fun and rich heritage, your clients can enjoy diverse activities and create lasting memories, starting from AUD 21*.

Register now on discoverqatar.qa/trade-partners

*Terms and conditions apply. Offer based on two people sharing a room for one night.

visit
QATAR

QATAR
AIRWAYS
القطرية



Custodians reflect on first year helming NTIAs



FOLLOWING all of the success of the Australian Travel Industry Association's (ATIA) latest NTIAs in Melbourne, the expert team assembled to help improve the awards event has this week reflected on their involvement.

The NTIA Custodians were recruited by ATIA to help shape the awards positively moving into the future, under the guidance of a wider representation of travel segments than ever before.

"The Custodians, appointed for the first time this year, generously volunteered their time and expertise to support the integrity of the NTIAs and worked diligently to ensure the awards

process is robust and impartial," ATIA commented this week.

Several of the members (**pictured**) have provided their thoughts and reflection this morning, including Norwegian Cruise Line Director of Sales Damian Borg, who said "becoming an NTIA Custodian was not just a responsibility, it was an opportunity to contribute to a vital aspect of the travel industry and provided me with the opportunity to work collaboratively with some amazing individuals".

Clean Cruising's Director of HR Jean Summers echoed Borg's sentiment, conceding she now

had a "much better appreciation of the challenges every awards program has to deal with".

"Did we get it all perfect? No, but we can continue to strengthen the program further and set a strong example of the integrity needed for awards programs throughout our industry," she observed.

The Little Travel Boutique's Ann-Catherine Jones added it is important for ATIA to continue to collaborate with those on the front line to ensure the awards remain relevant, while Globus' Head of Marketing Australasia, Chris Fundell, said the pleasing feedback he received since the NTIAs was testament to the good work of the Custodian team. *AB*

ASA stings carriers

AIR France, Lufthansa and Etihad have all had ads pulled by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in the UK over claims of greenwashing.

The phrases that landed the three carriers in hot water with the ASA included Air France's use of the slogan "committed to protecting the environment", Lufthansa urging passengers to "fly more sustainably" on its planes, and Etihad espousing its "environmental advocacy".

In a move that is sure to send a shiver down the spines of travel marketers everywhere, the ASA said it used an AI system to detect the spurious ads, which uses the smart technology to search for exaggerated green claims.

Window Seat

A **NEW** attraction centred on the popular children's TV show *Bluey* is set to open next year in Brisbane, in what Queensland Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchcliffe has dubbed a "huge win" not only for fans of the show, but also for the state's tourism operators.

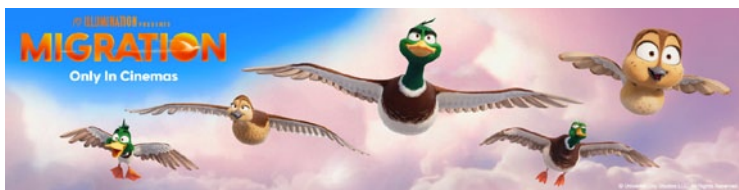
Tourism and Events Queensland predicts the real-life recreation of 'Bluey's World' will generate up to \$18 million in visitor spending once it opens in Aug 2024.

"The world-famous Brisbane-based Heeler family has taken global TV and streaming by storm with many embedded animated references in the show to the Queensland capital's landmarks and lifestyles," Hinchcliffe said.

"Bluey's World is where Australian and overseas families can connect with their favourite Heeler household and explore Queensland's world-class visitor experiences," he added.

The unique experience means visitors can journey through a life-size version of Bluey's bedroom, kitchen, and backyard complete with the show's signature Poinciana tree, while interactive play and soundscapes will also add to the immersion for visitors.

There will also be a gift shop, cafe and playground housed in a purpose-built, 4,000m² site, all located within Brisbane's state-of-the-art Northshore entertainment precinct in Hamilton.



Win 1 of 50 family passes to see Migration

With thanks to Universal Pictures & Solomon Airlines, *Travel Daily* is giving 50 readers who answer the below question a family pass to see the new Illumination film, *Migration*.

Solomon Airlines in collaboration with the film's release have just launched new livery on their A320 - keep a look out in the skies!

To enter tell us what is the newest Solomon Islands destination that Solomon Airlines flies direct to from Brisbane?

[Click here to enter](#)
[Click here for T&C's](#)



CORPORATE UPDATE

Navan downsizes ahead of IPO

THE parent company of CT Partners member Reed & Mackay has laid off 5% of its workforce, with the 145 or so jobs lost at Navan, formerly known as TripActions, believed to be part of cost-cutting measures in the lead-up to a planned float.

Navan itself is also a CT Partners member (**TD** 16 Dec 2022), with the company's core offering being a unified corporate travel and spend solution, with high touch requirements supported by Reed & Mackay offices globally.

The company was founded as TripActions about eight years ago and has attracted about US\$1.4 billion in investor funding which about 12 months ago valued the overall business at US\$9.2 billion.

It's understood Navan hopes to go public sometime in the first half of 2024, with a spokesperson confirming "the difficult decision to reduce the size of our global workforce by 5% to increase operational efficiencies as we continue to reinvent travel and expense through innovation".

"Navan has recorded strong growth over the past three years despite the challenges affecting our industry...we are refocusing efforts to move faster toward profitability as we enter the next phase of the company," the spokesperson added.

London-based Reed & Mackay acquired Australia's Concierge Travel Group in Feb 2019, and then the overall business was bought by TripActions, now



Navan, in May 2021 as part of a global expansion spree which has since also included German TMC Comtravo, Sweden's Resia AB, India's Tripeur and Spanish TMC Atlanta Agencia de Viajes. **BP**

Oz to Asia cheers

BUSINESS travel airfares between Australia and Asia are projected to decline by 5.1% in 2024, according to a new *Air Monitor 2024* report from Amex GBT Consulting.

Across all regions, airfare fluctuations forecasts demonstrate a mix of trends, with a broad outlook of increased price stability likely for 2024.

North America is expected to see minor changes in fares within the region (less than 1%) and to Europe (+0.3% Business class), while airfares to Asia are projected to decline.

Prices for Business class flights within Europe are predicted to rise by around 1%, with declines in prices between Europe and the Middle East (-3.5%) and South America (-3.9%).

Despite strides in rebuilding balance sheets, the aviation industry continues to grapple with debt, the report stated.

Help Travel Advisors discover your destination

Travel Daily Training Academy



[CLICK HERE FOR AN INFO PACK](#)

Time for some lip Balmer



PETE Balmer from Cruise and Coach World is a one very happy man this week after winning a trip to Fiji through a recent promotion with Expedia TAAP.

Balmer was the biggest booker for Marriott Hotels in Fiji through Expedia TAAP in Nov, and he was rewarded for his amazing efforts with two return flights to Fiji with Fiji Airways, as well as four nights' accommodation in Fiji thanks to

Marriott Hotels, and all airport transfers provided courtesy of Rosie Holidays.

The clearly jubilant winner is **pictured** above near his office accepting his well-deserved prize alongside an equally beaming Expedia TAAP Queensland Business Development Manager Simone Barnett. **AB**

Etihad flies to Bali

ETIHAD Airways will start flying non-stop to Bali from the UAE four times a week from 23 Apr.

"We are thrilled to announce our first-ever flights to Bali, this exciting development follows closely on the heels of our dynamic Summer 24 schedule, reinforcing our dedication to expanding our network in tune with the needs of our customer," the carrier said.

Vietnam in Perth

VIETNAM Airlines' inaugural non-stop flight between Ho Chi Minh City and Perth touched down at Perth International Airport last night, marking the start of a new three-weekly route between the two cities.

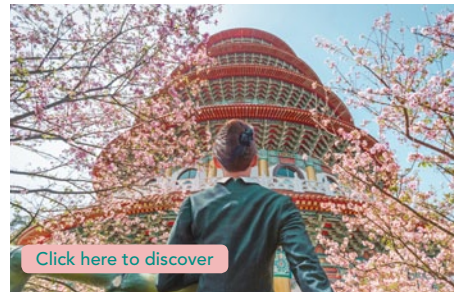
The new thrice-weekly flights will provide nearly 43,000 inbound seats to WA each year.

Travel & Cruise Weekly

Connect with your clients and ramp up your social media content

[CLICK HERE](#)

Looking for ready-made social media content? *Travel & Cruise Weekly* have ready made agent toolkits featuring email signatures, images, and social media tiles to inspire your clients.



[Click here to discover](#)

The reward for amazing sails



SPECIALS

Send your special deals to:
specials@traveldaily.com.au

Trafalgar has extended its Black Friday Sale offerings until 11 Dec, with savings of up to 15% available on select 2024 worldwide tours. Travellers can now enjoy the 11-day Irish Experience from \$4,527 instead of the original listed price of \$5,325. More offers are available, secure your spot with a \$200 deposit [HERE](#).

The 2024 Wave Offer by **Celebrity Cruises** is live now, offering travellers to buy one and get one up to 75% off on second guest. More bonus incentives are also available between savings per stateroom and on board credit per stateroom. Applicable on select sailings from now until 30 Apr 2026 - call on 1800 003 002 to book.

Travelmarvel is offering savings of up to \$5,000 per couple on its Essential Vietnam and Cambodia itinerary in 2024. Spanning just shy of two weeks, the tour will bring travellers to explore the remote villages of Vietnam and Cambodia, authentic local cuisines, as well as sailings across the Mekong River. Call 1300 300 036 to book before 29 Feb 2024.

Up to 30% off select sailings are available for a limited time with **Virgin Voyages** in 2024 between 02 Jan and 30 Jun. Eligible until 13 Dec, itineraries include the line's sailing throughout the Caribbean and Europe regions aboard the *Scarlet Lady* or the *Valiant Lady*. A free US\$600 Bar Tab will be added to these select sailings. Book [HERE](#).

Qantas is celebrating the festive season by launching discounted fares to up to 60 domestic locations, valid for bookings until midnight AEDT on 12 Dec. The Feels like Christmas Sale offers one way fares from Sydney to Brisbane from \$145, Melbourne to Adelaide from \$119, Perth to Cairns from \$290, and more combinations at unbeatable rates. Book your domestic holiday during the break [HERE](#).

Enjoy a luxe summer voyage aboard Ponant's 184-guest *Le Jacques Cartier* across southern Australia with **Cruise Traveller's** latest deal. Savings of up to \$10,810 are available per couple, while solo travellers can sail at less than half price, as well as bonus flight credit for bookings made before 31 Dec. Departing on 10 Dec 2024, the 13-night cruise will sail from Perth and concludes in Hobart. Call 1800 507 777 to book.

The Mysa Motel on the Gold Coast is inviting travellers to unwrap their last-minute luxury gift for Christmas. Valid for bookings before 11 Dec and stays until 24 Mar 2024, travellers can save up to 25% off on a four-night stay at the property. Book your last minute getaway by calling The Mysa Motel on 0407 467 976.

Explore **Hurtigruten's** Green Friday Offer which includes savings of up to 45% on Classic Coastal voyages, as well as the line's new premium voyages, The North Cape Express and The Svalbard Express. Eligible for a vast range of itineraries across the 2023-24 season, the Green Friday Offer is valid until Christmas Eve. Call 1300 322 062 for more.

DELTA Air Lines and Tourism Los Cabos recently hosted nine of Flight Centre's top sellers who scored themselves a free trip to Mexico after outperforming colleagues in a recent incentive.

The group enjoyed Delta Comfort Plus flights from Sydney to Los Angeles, including a stop-off at DL's new Sky Way at LAX, before continuing to Los Cabos.

Advisors were also hosted for two nights at the Marquis Los Cabos, a luxury adults only resort, followed by three nights at Corazon Cabo Resort & Spa, Cabo San Lucas.

Further highlights included an ATV tour through the desert over sand dunes and taking in the views of oceanside cliffs, a visit to San Jose del Cabo village, and an adventure through Todos Santos, a quaint Mexican town situated at the foot of the Sierra de la Laguna mountain range.

The whirlwind Mexican trip was

rounded out by a very special day on a private sailing tour with Cabo Adventures.

Donning some swim gear and sunnies, the agents cruised past the famous Land's End Arch, Lover's Beach & a sea lion colony, and were even lucky enough to spot a pod of whales during a whale watching experience. **AB**

Pictured sunning themselves on the Los Cabos adventure are: Derek Yardy, Flight Centre Pro-hub team; Aliko Andreou, Flight Centre Eastgardens; Holly Flanagan, Flight Centre Goulburn; Amanda Manning, Flight Centre Martin Place; Stephanie Mirikles, Flight Centre Parramatta; Christine Khouzam, Flight Centre First & Business Class; Britney Farnsworth, Flight Centre Narellan; Tom Kennan, Flight Centre Macquarie; Daniel Williamson, Flight Centre Hurstville; Nicole Laurie, Delta Air Lines (hostess).

EDITORIAL

Editor - Adam Bishop
Associate Editor - Myles Stedman
Journalists - Janie Medbury, Matthew Wai
Publisher - Bruce Piper
Editorial Director - Damian Francis
Associate Publisher - Anna Piper
info@traveldaily.com.au

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan
Advertising Operations - Nicki Harford
advertising@traveldaily.com.au

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

Travel Daily operates by paid subscription to people within the travel industry - sign up at www.traveldaily.com.au.