

Mint NZ deals

MINT Payments has landed contract wins with two NZ travel brands, First Travel Group and World Travellers Group, exclusively providing the companies with its suite of payment services.

Mint said First Travel Group and World Travellers will benefit from enhanced card acceptance and B2B supplier payments, as well as platform integration and automation alongside "significant cost savings"

"These partnerships send a positive message that...Mint Payments is focused on improving client, agent and supplier experience during the booking and payment workflow," Mint Payments CEO Alex Teoh said.

Score a Disney trip

ENTRIES are now open to agents to score the first of 15 Magical Moment spots on the upcoming Disney100 Mega-famil, simply by sharing how they spread the magic of travel.

Submissions do not need to relate specifically to Disney, but should illustrate an occasion when an agent made a client's bucket-list trip come true, or a time when an advisor was there to lend a helping hand when a traveller needed them.

Winning agents will fly with United Airlines and experience Disneyland and Disney California Adventure Parks (TD 19 Jan).

Submit responses to land a spot on the Mar famil [HERE](#).

Emirates adds capacity

EMIRATES has further increased its commitment to the Australian market, announcing that it will soon add third daily services to its Dubai to Sydney and Melbourne routes.

From 26 Mar, flights to Melbourne will increase from two to three daily services between Emirates' Dubai hub via Singapore, while a third direct service will also commence to Sydney from 01 May, linking onward to Christchurch.

The latest news arrives as part of EK's plan to reach pre-pandemic levels by the middle of this year, with designs on operating up to 63 weekly flights to Australia and carrying more than 55,000 passengers a week.

"To have the two cities

operating back at pre-pandemic frequencies is a phenomenal milestone in our restoration of Australia capacity and testament to our longstanding commitment to flying down under," Divisional Vice President Australasia at Emirates Barry Brown said.

"We continue to record significant demand for our services, so we're dedicated to offering Australians and travellers more options to travel, including the likes of our new Premium Economy cabin," he added.

The new SYD and MEL frequencies added will be operated by Boeing-777 300ERs and offer travellers Economy, Business and First class seats.

Last week, EK also announced double daily Brisbane-Dubai services (TD 16 Jan).

DL unveils LAX/AKL

DELTA Air Lines has launched its first-ever service from Los Angeles to Auckland.

The airline will be the only American carrier to offer a service between the two cities, with the new flight to Auckland to commence on 28 Oct aboard an Airbus A350-900.

DL has also announced new services to France including Nice and added frequencies to Paris, as well as Tel Aviv, Geneva, London, and Edinburgh from its New York City and Atlanta hubs.

Many of the latest round of new route launches have not been flown by DL since early 2020.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest news.

Machu Picchu shuts

PERU'S most popular tourist site has been closed indefinitely as political protests across the country continue to stifle transport and industry.

The Peruvian Government announced that the Machu Picchu site, as well as the Inca trail hike leading up to the area, has been closed until further notice in a bid to protect tourists.

The move arrives after rail services to Machu Picchu were suspended last Thu (TD 17 Jan), after tracks were allegedly damaged by protesters.

Some Aussies were stranded last month at Machu Picchu following unrest (TD 16 Dec).

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Domestic spending boom

AUSTRALIANS travelling domestically racked up an overnight spend of \$11 billion for the month of Oct 2022 - up a whopping 42% on the equivalent pre-pandemic period.

The positive result was despite the number of overnight trips being down by 2% on pre-pandemic levels, according to Tourism Research Australia (TRA)'s latest domestic tourism report for Oct 2022.

Although travellers took slightly fewer trips in Oct 2022, those trips were longer (up 1% on Oct 2019) and generated more money, with visitors spending 45% more on average per trip than they did before the pandemic.

Aussies splashed more cash across all major categories, especially accommodation (up 66%), food and drink (up 37%),

and domestic airfares (up 29%).

Spend results were strong across all states and territories, with people visiting Queensland the biggest spenders, forking out 43% more than they did in Oct 2019.

Tasmania showed the most impressive growth in interstate spend compared to 2019, bringing in \$211 million - a 162% increase.

More Australians travelled to regional destinations in Oct 2022 compared to Oct 2019 as well, with a spend increase of 48% as and a 4% rise in overnight trips.

Although Australia's capital cities saw a 10% decrease in overnight trips during Oct 2022 compared to Oct 2019, they recorded the highest number of visitors since the start of the pandemic, and spend was up by 36%.

Famil winners named

JETSTAR and the Korea Tourism Organization have named the lucky winners of a famil trip to the South Korean capital of Seoul, with Lauren McRae of MTA Travel, Elyse Palmer of Travel Managers, and Julia Gogoasa of Go Now Travel each scoring a spot.

The three Aussie agents won flights on Jetstar plus transfers, accommodation and tours in Seoul, with the famil taking place from 05-08 Feb.

To win, agents needed to complete three of the five 'Jetstar: The Masterclass' modules via the Qantas Learning Hub, and explain in 50 words why they should go.

AFTA's new Women in Travel Summit

THE new Women in Travel Summit announced by AFTA this morning (*TD* breaking news) promises to "celebrate empowerment, diversity and inclusion", while also helping shape the future of the industry.

The event will feature a full day of keynote speakers, breakout sessions and panel discussions along with networking opportunities, with AFTA CEO Dean Long saying "we want to celebrate what makes our industry great and continue to progress our advocacy agenda as we shape the future of travel together".

"We want to celebrate the fact that 72% of front-line employees are women, and importantly 74% of our middle management positions are also held by women.

"This Summit promotes the value of diversity and inclusion and allows us to analyse how we continue our great travel culture."

Long noted that the 13 Mar date would allow participants to maximise their travel budgets by combining attendance with the CLIA Awards which take place in Sydney on Sat 11 Mar.

As well as inspirational presentations and an "Outspoken Women Masterclass", the event will feature a free "Headshot Studio" to allow delegates to have new professional photos taken, with the event to be followed by networking drinks from 4pm.

Register at afta.com.au.



Window Seat

IT WAS a very bad day at work for one British Airways flight attendant last week, who accidentally activated the emergency slide (*pictured*) as the aircraft prepared for take-off from Heathrow Airport.

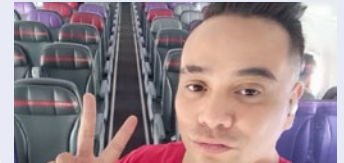
To make matters worse, it was the steward's first day on the job, costing the airline around A\$90,000 and some pretty damaging PR.

Irate BA bosses reportedly ordered the trainee flight attendant to undergo job training from scratch.



ONE traveller was really able to stretch out and enjoy the extra leg room, with Robbie Allen (*pictured*), recently posting to social media about his time on board a Virgin Australia flight from Sydney to Fiji where he was the only pax.

"The captain came and sat next to me and talked to me and the staff just gave me whatever I wanted," he said.



Tour brand savings

BOTH of Global Touring's brands have brands have launched savings, with Back-Roads Touring's 'Discover a New Local' promotion offering a discount of up to \$400 per couple on selected departures.

Trips to Europe are on sale until 02 Mar - [CLICK HERE](#).

Meanwhile, Topdeck has launched its new 'New Year, Real You' promotion, offering a saving of up to \$750 per person on its Get Social Trips.

The Topdeck promotion is available before 14 Feb - [HERE](#).

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WA tourism rescue

THE Western Australian Government has announced a \$6 million Tourism Flood Recovery Package to support Kimberley tourism businesses impacted by the recent floods.

The assistance package includes discounted flights, with Virgin Australia to offer around 19,000 cheaper airfares from Perth to Broome from \$219 one-way and Perth to Kununurra from \$259 one-way for travel from 27 Mar to 29 Oct 2023.

The state government, in conjunction with Tourism WA, will also launch a new national marketing campaign to help encourage more visitors to return to the region after the disaster.

The campaign will also be backed by a voucher incentive program to boost bookings for local tourism operators in both the East and West Kimberley, with the program still currently being finalised in consultation with the tourism industry.

UK plots new entry ETA

AUTHORITIES in Great Britain have announced a "New Plan for Immigration" which includes a Permission to Travel scheme, requiring any visitors to seek advance authorisation before entering the country.

The proposals include a new UK Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) system, scheduled to roll out later this year, with all travellers required to hold a digital approval to travel to the UK.

The UK Government said the move was in line with the approach taken by other countries including the USA (ESTA), Canada (ETA), Australia (eTA) and New Zealand (NZETA), with the EU also expected to finally launch its ETIAS scheme this year (**TD** 17 Nov 2016).

Customers applying for a UK ETA will provide their biographic, biometric and contact details, and answer a short set of suitability questions, with the majority of

visitors expected to receive their authority within a short time of submitting their application.

The government said "this will increase our knowledge about who's seeking to come to the UK and prevent the arrival of those who present a threat".

"Instead of turning people away at our border or detaining them at a cost to the taxpayer, this approach will allow us to stop people travelling to the UK in the first place," a briefing paper said.

Airlines will be required to ensure passengers are properly documented for travel to the UK, with real-time feedback from Advance Passenger Information systems confirming permission to board guests on UK-bound flights.

Similar requirements will apply to rail and cruise operators.

The cost of a UK ETA has not been revealed, but the govt noted that applicants will need a credit or debit card to apply.

QF grows its share

QANTAS took the largest slice of the international aviation market share in Oct 2022 with 17.6%, followed by its budget subsidiary Jetstar with 12.3%, Singapore Airlines with 12.1%, Air New Zealand with 10% and Emirates with 6.9%.

The Qantas group (Qantas and Jetstar) accounted for 29.9% of total passengers carried in Oct 2022 - up 3.5% on its share for pre-pandemic Oct 2019.

Overall though, Australian airlines Qantas, Jetstar and Virgin Australia all experienced a slight decrease in total passenger market share for the month compared to the same pre-COVID period (32.3% in Oct 2022 versus 33.3% in Oct 2019).

Australia's international passenger traffic for the year ended Oct 2022 was 14.5 million - representing a 65.7% decrease over the pre-pandemic figure - with Sydney to Singapore the most popular international route.

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Ireland





Skal Club welcomes newcomers!



THE Skal Club of Melbourne welcomed three new members to the club last week with a breakfast held at the Ovolo Laneway on Bourke Street.

The newcomers included Kristy Moore from Moore Travel, Karsten Horne from Reho Travel, and Michele Duncan from Virtuoso.

The trio were joined by President Johannes Jungwirth from Skal Club of Bonne, who donated a gift from his hometown

for auction and assisted President Tara Strickland in a bilingual version of the Skal Toast - *Gesundheit!* (which means 'Good Health' in German).

Pictured: Tara Strickland, Kristy Moore, Michele Duncan, Karsten Horne and Richard Kellaway CRCTraveljobs.

Hurtigruten promotion

TO CELEBRATE Hurtigruten's 130th Anniversary, the company is offering savings of up to \$3,600 per cabin to explore Scandinavia's coastline inclusive of the Svalbard Archipelago and other lesser-known locations until 05 Feb.

CLICK HERE for more details.

Canberra hotel lists

SHAKESPEARE Property Group's Boutique Property Investment Fund Manager has listed Canberra's Abode Hotel and Apartments Woden for sale, with the expressions of interest for buyers closing on 06 Mar.

The property is located at 10 Bowes Street and is 10km south of the Canberra CBD and 5km from the Parliamentary precinct, providing access to all commercial centres within the ACT.

G'day app campaign

G'DAY Parks has launched a new brand campaign as part of its 'Here's Good' push, with the latest extension backed by new sponsorship of the *Hamish & Andy* podcast over summer.

Central to the campaign, which is rolling out across radio, YouTube, and bus advertising, will be promoting the G'day Parks booking app, with podcast promotions via *Hamish & Andy* poking fun at the fact that even someone as tech-challenged as Hamish can use it.

"As the only company in the sector with a dedicated booking app, we wanted to show that G'day Parks provides an easier and more rewarding way for Aussies to find and book their next holiday through a fun and cheeky campaign that cuts through," Chief Marketing Officer Lahnee White said.

P&O Australia Day

P&O Cruises Australia has told *Travel Daily* its goal of ensuring a good time is had by all on its Australia Day cruise had been "misinterpreted" internally, responding to reports the national flag and anthem were set to be cut from its voyages.

A P&O spokesperson said a lot of effort had gone into ensuring its Australia Day program celebrates "modern Australia in all its diversity", so that everyone on its vessels feel included - more information on the story in today's *Cruise Weekly*.

Back to Madagascar

SOUTH African carrier Airlink is preparing to resume flights between South Africa and Madagascar for the first time in almost three years from 30 Jan.

The announcement follows the lifting of Madagascar's COVID-19 travel restrictions and its subsequent ban on air services to and from South Africa.

The carrier will operate its flagship Embraer E-Jet airliners on the Johannesburg-Antananarivo route, which will initially consist of a single weekly flight before increasing to three flights weekly from 14 Feb.

Airlink said it plans to reinstate daily services as demand grows.

Memphis love grows

AUSTRALIA has climbed to third spot in international visitation to Memphis, skipping past Germany to sit behind the United Kingdom and Canada.

The Tennessee city attracted a record 11 million visitors for the year of 2019 - 5% higher than the national average - with the Home of Blues, Soul & Rock 'n' Roll now on track to reach full recovery in late 2023 or 2024.

The city has seen a number of new hotels, experiences and restaurants emerge over the last couple of years, and also boasts a huge events line-up for 2023, including Memphis in May, Mempho Fest and Memphis Food & Wine Festival.

To learn more details about Memphis, **CLICK HERE**.

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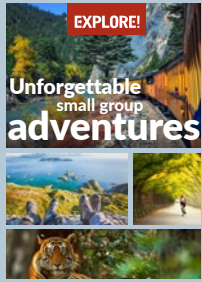
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BROCHURES

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.



Explore - Unforgettable Adventures 2023
Showcasing new and bestselling small group adventures across the globe, Explore has unveiled its brochure for the 2023-24 season. With categories ranging from classic discovery, walking and wildlife tours, to family and cycling tours, adventure-seekers will find plenty of inspiration for their next trip. One of the tours featured is the popular Highlights of Lebanon itinerary, a one-week walking holiday exploring the destination's fascinating history. Highlights include witnessing the 1,000-year-old Lebanon Cedars, and tasting locally produced red wine in Beirut.



Scenic - 2023/24 Japan & South Korea
Scenic has released its latest brochure featuring a selection of handcrafted itineraries exploring the best of Japan and South Korea. The luxury land journey collection features the new 15-day Japan Unveiled itinerary, which takes guests from the southern island of Kyushu in Fukuoka through to Honshu Island and Tokyo. The 2023/24 collection also highlights more exclusive Scenic Enrich experiences, such as private sumo wrestler demos, traditional tea-drinking ceremonies in Kimonos, and slow cruising on a traditional Japanese Yakatabune boat.

Air Malta links Lisbon

AIR Malta has launched Lisbon as a new destination for the carrier's upcoming northern summer season.

KM has loaded and opened for sale the Lisbon route, which will commence flying from 26 Jun.

The latest service will operate twice weekly on Mon and Thu through until 26 Oct, operated by an Airbus A320.

The Portuguese capital becomes the fifth new destination in Malta's route expansion for the summer, in addition to Naples, Nice, Palermo, and Tel Aviv.

Qantas shows pride

THE Qantas Sydney WorldPride Regional Grants program has opened to provide opportunities for LGBTQIA+ individuals who reside in regional Australia to participate in the 2023 Festival and Mardi Gras Parade.

Grant recipients (one from each state/territory) will receive two return Economy airfares from the winners' closest Qantas-operated domestic port to Sydney; as well as two nights' accommodation and two tickets to the Ruby Road Parade Viewing Area - **CLICK HERE** for further details.

JQ worst of a bad bunch

ON-TIME departures and arrivals figures for Dec were significantly lower than the long-term average for all routes, with just 70.8% of flights taking off on schedule, and 71.1% landing as planned, new data from BITRE has revealed.

Both rates fell well below the long-term average of 82.8% (departures) and 81.6% (arrivals), while the rate of cancellations was also more than three times the long-term average at 7.6%, compared to 2.1%.

Jetstar Airways was the least punctual airline for Dec, bottoming out in both the departure and arrival statistic (60.4% and 62% respectively), and also recorded the highest rate of cancellations for Dec, blowing out to 7.2%.

In contrast, JQ's full-service sister airline Qantas Airways was the most punctual carrier across both areas, arriving on time 73% of time in Dec, and departing as-programmed 71.9% of the time.

The Darwin-Perth route had the lowest percentage of on-time departures and arrivals for Dec, at 46.2% and 50% respectively.

Meanwhile, the Adelaide-Canberra route had the highest percentage of on-time arrivals and departures, at 90.2% and 89.2% respectively.

Armidale Regional Airport recorded the highest percentage of on-time arrivals (86.9%), while Mount Isa clocked up the highest percentage of on-time departures at 85.7%, and the busy SYD-MEL route had the most cancellations at over 9%.

Travel & Cruise
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