



DL goes double on LAX-SYD route

DELTA Air Lines has confirmed to *Travel Daily* that it will boost its existing 10 times-weekly nonstop service between Sydney and Los Angeles to double-daily, beginning mid-Dec through until end of Mar 2024.

The capacity increase, which DL also implemented for the peak holiday period in late-2022/early-2023, will help cater to rising demand between Australia and the US over the Xmas period.

The additional flights place the US carrier ahead of Qantas, which operates eight weekly flights on the SYD-LAX route.

The Delta Air Lines service will be operated by Airbus A350 aircraft, which offers Delta One Suites with fully lie-flat beds in Business class.

Lake Eyre extended

APT has announced eight extra 2023 departures for its Lake Eyre tour to cater for travellers' demand to witness Australia's largest inland lake "come to life" with the arrival of flood waters.

The seven-day Lake Eyre and Flinders Ranges small group 4WD journey from Adelaide is priced from \$5,295ppts, now with extra dates in Aug, Sep, and Oct.

APT Head of Product Australia Cher Lontok said she is "pleased" to announce the extra departures for the Lake Eyre tours, which she said are "always a popular choice, and they sell out fast".

For more details, **CLICK HERE** or call APT on 1300 278 278.

Indo drops rules

VISITORS to Indonesia are no longer required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, in what must be welcome news for Australia's many Bali-loving travellers - in fact, Indonesia is the second-largest outbound market for Aussies (**TD** 14 Jun).

However, DFAT is still advising a high degree of caution in the country due to security risks.

Tourism jobs recovering

JOBS in the tourism sector are now at their highest levels since their peak in Dec 2019, but still remain about 10% below pre-pandemic levels, according to newly released figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The Tourism Satellite Accounts report aims to explain the impacts of COVID-19 on tourism activity, and finds that in the Dec 2022 quarter there were 676,400 tourism jobs in Australia - up 12.1% on the prior quarter and a hefty 42% increase on Dec 2021.

While the growth is encouraging, it comes amid a 7% overall increase in jobs in the economy, meaning tourism is still suffering a significant lag.

The strongest quarterly growth was seen in cafes and restaurants, retail trade and accommodation, while year-on-year the biggest

change was an eight-fold increase in education and training jobs.

The growth was fuelled by both sexes, with jobs filled by men increasing 40.9% while jobs filled by women rose 43.2%.

The figures confirm that tourism comprises about 4.4% of the overall employment market, or one in every 23 total jobs.

The recovery is a big improvement from the low point of Jun-Dec 2020 when about 46% of tourism jobs disappeared.

Matthews to UTC

EXCLUSIVE

THE Unique Tourism Collection (UTC) has appointed hospitality sales professional Katey Matthews as Account Director Sales for Small Luxury Hotels of the World, Casa Angelina, The Brooklet and Simply Cuba Tours.

Matthews is well-known through former roles with Kokomo Private Island Fiji, The Leading Hotels of the World, Shangri-La and Aman Resorts.

More industry appointments on **page six** of today's *Travel Daily*.

AC reboots YVR-SIN

AIR Canada is expanding its international network with new non-stop flights between Vancouver and Singapore, with fares on sale now, signalling the carrier's return to Changi Airport after more than three decades.

From 03 Apr 2024, Air Canada will operate four-times weekly flights using 787 Dreamliners, offering connections across North America via Vancouver and access to Southeast Asia, India and Western Australia via Singapore.

Executive VP Revenue & Network Planning Mark Galardo said the airline "continues to adapt its int'l network strategy in response to evolving global trends and is broadening its presence in the Indo-Pacific region to capitalise on growing business links".

Giles Hawke to head Celebrity EMEA

GILES Hawke, the CEO of the Globus Family of Brands in the UK, is leaving the company to take up a new role as EMEA head of Celebrity Cruises.

Hawke has been with Globus for seven years, and in his new role with Celebrity replaces Jo Rzymowska, who announced her retirement from the Royal Caribbean Group last Dec.

Globus UK also recently confirmed the departure of Sales & Marketing Director Janet Parton, who will become Celestyal Cruises VP of Business Development for the UK, Europe and Australia (**TD** yesterday).

Heritage Line debut

GUESTS sailing aboard the upcoming Upper Mekong maiden voyage of Heritage Line's Anouvong will receive a raft of complimentary benefits.

The three-night cruise departs Luang Prabang on 27 Aug and takes in Laos, Thailand and Myanmar - more details **HERE**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of news including **Business Events News**, and a full page from **Silversea**.

Silversea sweet deals

SILVERSEA is offering some incredible deals, including reduced door-to-door all-inclusive fares by up to 25% and 15% reduced deposits for bookings made by 30 Jun - see **last page**.

Cheap rail trips

RAIL Europe is offering one-way fares from under \$50 for guests travelling from France to Italy between 06 Nov and 03 Dec.

Advisors can take advantage of the offer at agent.raileurope.com until 18 Jun.

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Wildlife Safari ATAS withdrawal

WILDLIFE Safari Australia (ABN 89 053 908 964) is no longer part of the Australian Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS).

The Perth-based Africa, India and Indian Ocean specialist voluntarily withdrew from ATAS yesterday, according to an update on the AFTA website.

CZ doubles MEL

CHINA Southern Airlines will expand capacity between Guangzhou and Australia later this month, including the introduction of an additional daily non-stop departure from Melbourne.

The move means CZ will operate 14 weekly flights from both Sydney and Melbourne effective from 24 Jun, with the Sydney route utilising Airbus A350-900XWBs and Melbourne services aboard Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners.

Boeing SAF jets on the way

BOEING has reported strong progress towards building 100% SAF-compatible commercial aircraft by 2030, its 2023 *Sustainability Report* has shown.

The aerospace manufacturer confirmed that it has established a plan for all materials, systems and part compatibility testing required to support certification in seven years' time, as well as the development of jet fluids needed to standardise testing of how SAF interacts with airplane materials and systems.

Boeing also provided an update about plans to build its first zero-emission, electric, autonomous

aircraft via a joint venture with Wisk, with the latter becoming the first air mobility company to join the FAA's voluntary Safety Management program.

On the same front, Boeing stated its selection by NASA to participate in the Sustainable Flight Demonstrator program will help inform future designs that could lead to a "breakthrough" in aerodynamics and future efficiency gains.

As part of the initiative, Boeing will lead the development of a full-scale Transonic Truss-Braced Wing demonstrator airplane, which uses two hybrid turbofans to burn conventional jet fuel on take-off, segueing to electric motors to power engines in flight.

MEANWHILE, Boeing has managed to reduce its overall greenhouse gas emissions by 16% as of the end of 2022 (off a 2017 base), in the pursuit of a 55% reduction by 2030.

EY ramps up Rome

ETIHAD Airways has announced an expansion of its Abu Dhabi-Rome flights from seven to 11 weekly frequencies.

The additional services will commence from 04 Nov this year.

TA promotion

TRAVEL Associates Australia has appointed Maddison Done as the group's Head of Marketing, a promotion from her previous role as National Marketing Manager.

The move will also see FCTG Global Brand & Marketing Leader Luxury Leisure, Anna Burgdorf, focus on brand and marketing strategies for the burgeoning FCTG Luxury Collection, and comes in the lead-up to this weekend's Travel Associates Global Luxury Business Leaders Conference in Singapore.

More appointments on **page 6**.

MSC plugs in

MSC Cruises has announced plans to utilise shore power facilities at more ports as soon as they become available, with at least 15 destinations to come online between 2024 and 2026.

The initiative also applies to fledgling luxury brand Explora - more in today's *Cruise Weekly*.

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Car rentals make big turn

THE car rental industry is shifting towards a range of new trends including Mobility as a Service (MaaS), strategic alliances, autonomous vehicles, and big data, according to a new report by Amadeus.

The big changes are being driven by an increased desire from consumers for wider car rental options, as well as challenges associated with emerging business models, disruption of supply chains, the sustainability curve, demand for seamless customer experiences and the need to maintain agile technologies.

Among the insights published in the report are the need for travellers to access a single service that enables city-based trip planning, cost comparisons and purchasing all in the one place, as well as vehicles that are more sustainable and convenient to pick up and operate, and a

choice of more autonomous driving vehicles as the rise of AI continues across all industries.

Encouragingly, the report also suggests the car rental market is continuing to grow, with global car bookings increasing by 23% in Q1 2023 when compared with the same period last year.

"What is clear from our research is that technology plays a central role in helping traditional and new car rental providers create the experience and travel that consumers want," Amadeus Vice President, Mobility and Travel Protection, Hospitality, Peter Altmann said.

The report also noted there will be an even larger opportunity for the car rental market to target Generation Z travellers, with 70% not yet having a driver's licence, while sustainability will also be an important consideration for younger travellers when choosing vehicles to rent on trips.

UK ETA to cost £10

THE United Kingdom has revealed its upcoming Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) visa waiver will cost travellers entering the country £10 (A\$18) when it launches to a select number of countries on 22 Feb 2024.

All foreign travellers will need to pay the fee in time, unless they have a British or Irish passport, permission to live, work or study, or have a visa to enter the UK.

ETA requirements will apply to travellers coming to the UK for up to six months for tourism, visiting family and friends, and business, for study in the UK for up to three months on the Creative Worker visa concession, or transiting through the UK - including if you're not going through UK border control.

Travellers will need to apply online at GOV.UK, and will be able to apply on behalf of others, with the application to include travellers' personal details and passport information.

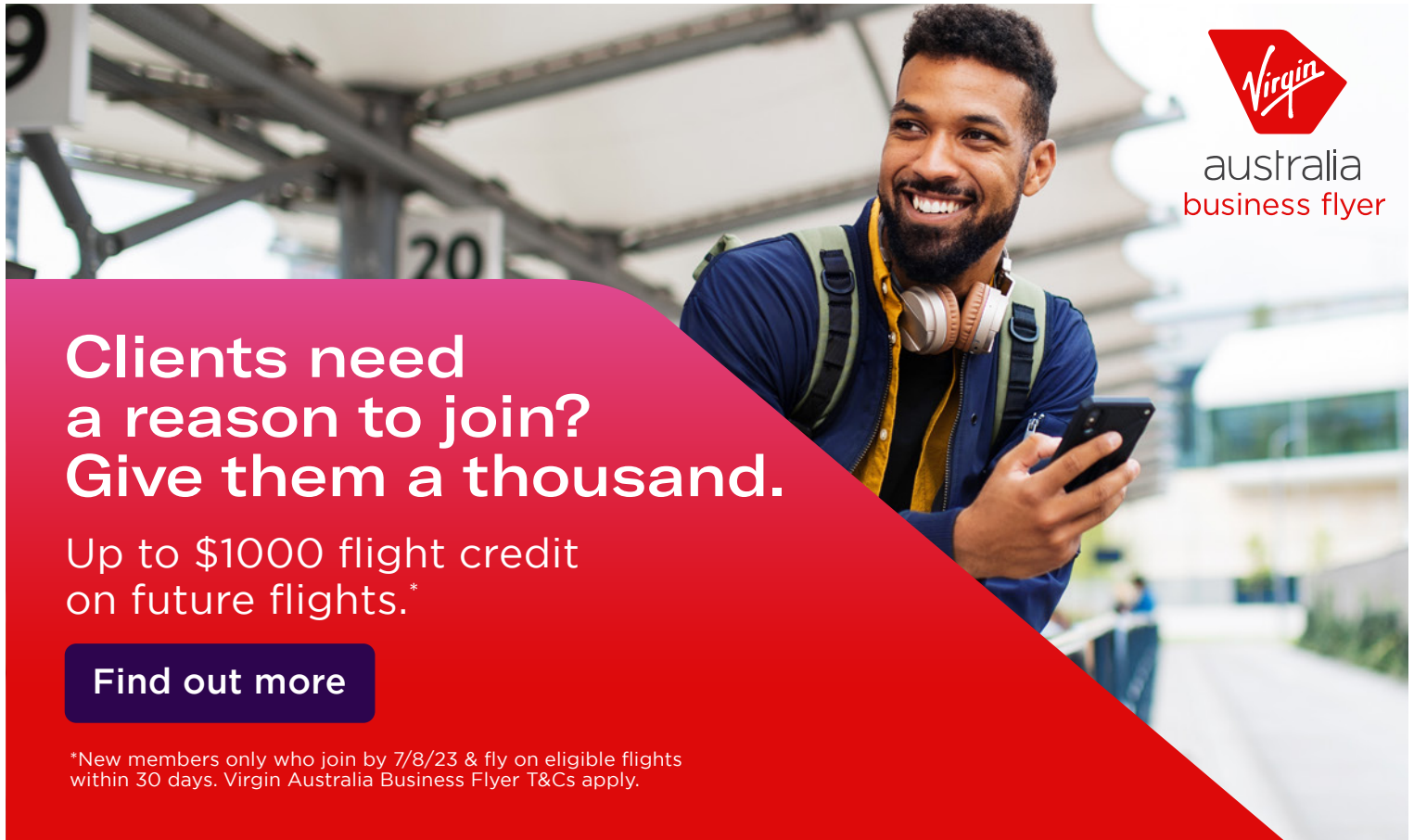
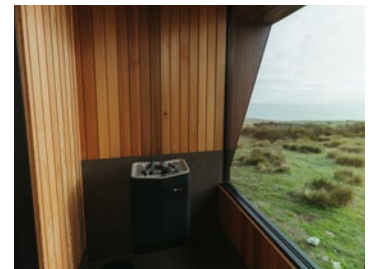
Kangaroo Is cabins

OFF-GRID accommodation company CABN has opened a new Kangaroo Island retreat (sauna pictured).

The launch of CABN X Cape St Albans marks the first time in more than 150 years this private property is accessible to visitors.

CABN X Cape St Albans is a collection of five eco-cabins, offering 400 acres of private land and unparalleled ocean views.

Cape St Albans is a headland located on the north coast of Kangaroo Island's Dudley Peninsula, which boasts panoramic views of the Southern Ocean, looking back towards the South Australian mainland.




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*New members only who join by 7/8/23 & fly on eligible flights within 30 days. Virgin Australia Business Flyer T&Cs apply.

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AA adds charges

AMERICAN Airlines has added a bag charge on international trips, with Basic Economy customers to face the new fee.

The first checked bag on a transpacific or transatlantic Basic Economy airfare will now cost a passenger US\$75.

Flights to a number of other destinations will cost anywhere from US\$30 to US\$45, with some countries excluded.

"We are simplifying our product offering to make it easier for customers," AA spokesperson Andrea Koos explained.

"With this change, our Basic Economy product will include all of the same features whether a customer is purchasing it for a domestic or international flight."

The power of G

G ADVENTURES' "powerful" new brand campaign, Bring on the World, is being billed by the operator as "part rally cry, part love letter" to "real travel".

The campaign aims to capture the type of travel G Adventures stands for: unforgettable experiences, deep connections, and a world-changing ethos, while at the same time inspiring travellers to welcome whatever their adventure brings their way.

The Bring on the World campaign is now live, and features a new anthem video ([HERE](#)) which champions real travellers: those who want to step outside their comfort zone and learn something new.

The best of the biz events sector



THE who's who of Australia's business events industry got together last week for the Meetings & Events Australia (MEA) National Awards to celebrate their achievements during 2021/22.

More than 200 guests convened at The Star Gold Coast to witness 35 awards be presented to the sector at a glamorous Awards Dinner, which followed MEA's annual conference, Evolve 2023 (*TD* 25 May).

Big winners on the night included Congress Australia, awarded 'Platinum Company of the Year'; ICMS Australia, which was bestowed the 'Platinum Event of the Year' gong for the 21st Int'l Meeting on Lithium Batteries 2022; and Susan Harris from Absolute Events & Marketing, who was named Platinum Event Professional of the Year.

Also taking home an illustrious accolade was Saxton Speakers Bureau CEO Anne Jamieson, who was presented with the Tourism

Australia-sponsored Outstanding Contribution Award.

For more business events news, see [page five](#).

Pictured: The three Platinum winners, including representatives from Congress Australia and ICMS Australia, and Susan Harris.

Iconic Fiji appeal

SYDNEY-BASED online fashion retailer THE ICONIC has announced an opportunity for Australian travellers to score themselves a trip to Fiji and multiple gift vouchers.

The company's new partnership with Tourism Fiji will see a five-night stay at the adults-only Tropical Island Resort in the Mamanuca Islands given away, with entrants needing to say in 25 words or less what makes the perfect island getaway.

The major prize includes private bure accommodation with plunge pool, two return flights on Fiji Airways, and more - enter [HERE](#).



AFTER 53 years services as an Air New Zealand flight attendant, Ron Twine (**pictured**) is in the air servicing his last round of drinks.

The still-spritley 74-year-old holds the record as the longest serving flight attendant in the Kiwi carrier's history, having started his career in 1970 when he was just 21.

"Being a flight attendant isn't a job, it's a lifestyle and something I have absolutely relished for 53 years and I'm going to find it really hard not to be with my friends and flying family," Twine lamented.

Highlights of his long tenure in the air include meeting and serving an assortment of celebrities from yesteryear, such as George Harrison, Cliff Richard, Brooke Shields, and Bill Haley and His Comets. But none of that star power compares to his true north star, his wife Nikki, a fellow flight attendant he met on board after making a joke about her tatty old luggage.



Disney
Magic at Sea

A SPECIAL NEW SEASON IS COMING TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IN 2024



Capricorn Coast

QUEENSLAND'S Capricorn Coast is set to assert itself as a business events destination, with \$20 million of funding secured for a new convention centre.

The development is expected to attract large-scale corporate and sporting events and bring more visitors to the region.

Located on the Yeppoon foreshore with views of the beach and Keppel islands, the venue will be constructed alongside the new Keppel Bay Sailing Club, which will also offer meetings rooms.

Federal MP, Michelle Landry, said the new centre will act as "the jewel in the crown of the Capricorn Coast".

Construction began earlier this year, and is expected to be completed within the next 12-18 months.

Big events for Qld

TWO major conferences are heading to Qld, including the inaugural CRAFTED Agritourism Conference, which is set to attract food tourism experts to the Sunshine Coast on 31 Jul.

Meanwhile, the Society of Radiopharmaceutical Sciences' 26th International Symposium on Radiopharmaceutical Sciences is expected to attract around 700 delegates over five days to the Gold Coast in May 2025.

ABEA UNVEILS WAY TO HAVE YOUR SAY

THE Australian Business Events Association (ABEA) is engaging all sectors of the business events industry through its newly released Membership Prospectus (**TD** 25 May).

The new body's membership options have been designed with inclusivity in mind, catering to different business needs and sizes, from small to large.

Members can participate in State & Territory Chapters, as well as Sector Pillars, which cover venues, suppliers, organisers, destination bureaus and tourism, and Special Interest Groups, focusing on sustainability, emerging leaders, WH&S/risks, education, skills and pathways.

The membership options are determined by turnover, and

include Platinum, Gold and Silver.

Platinum is suited for large businesses seeking more direct participation in the Association's advocacy, policy & research, while Gold has three tiers designed for medium-to-large businesses.

Small businesses and sole traders can also have a say in industry matters by joining one of the four tiers offered in the Silver category.

"In order for our industry to grow we need to take into account the wide variety of businesses that serve or work within the business events network," ABEA Chair Peter King explained.

"The Board has carefully considered that these businesses have different needs and face unique challenges, so it was crucial to create membership



options to suit these individual experiences," he added.

ABEA Director Nicole Walker (**pictured**) added that "we are dedicated to serving the whole of the business events industry and have created a structure that allows for everyone's voice to be heard, and opportunities for all challenges and successes to be shared".

Interested businesses can **CLICK HERE** for full membership benefits and options.

NZICC appoints

THE New Zealand International Convention Centre (NZICC) has promoted Alana Bicknell to the role of Director of Sales & Planning.

She will be tasked with building and leading the sales and events planning team, nurturing partnerships with suppliers, and maximising revenue opportunities.

Bicknell rejoined NZICC in 2022 as International Sales Manager, and since then has built strong relationships with clients and spearheaded a number of initiatives.

Racing gets stoned

THE Victoria Racing Club (VRC) has announced Curtis Stone Events (CSE) as its official Birdcage Enclosure Hospitality Partner.

The partnership will see renowned Aussie chef and TV personality Curtis Stone bring his culinary expertise to the Melbourne Cup Carnival Birdcage Enclosure at Flemington in Nov.

CSE will also deliver Lucky's, a new corporate hospitality experience in the Birdcage for up to 300 guests, serving all-day canapes & beverages.

Outback savings

OUT of the Ordinary Outback is offering a 20% discount on events and conferences at its flagship properties in outback NSW up to Oct 2025.

The operator offers MICE venues and group activities at Broken Hill Outback Resort, Copper City Hotel/Motel in Cobar, the Warramong on the Darling retreat at Wilcannia and more.

The offer applies to new bookings for more than 10 people - call the events team on 1300 679 688 for details.

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APPOINTMENTS

WELCOME to Industry Appointments, *Travel Daily's* Thursday feature which has the latest job appointments from across the industry. If you have just appointed someone to a new position and would like to update the industry email appointments@traveldaily.com.au.

Tim Chatfield has commenced his role as Director in Travel Trade APAC for **The Leading Hotels of the World** after a four-month stint as Managing Director for The Chatfield Collective. Chatfield will continue to be based in Sydney and has held various senior roles in major hotelier brands including IHG, Crown Resorts and the Grand Hyatt Melbourne.

Pro-invest Hotels has welcomed **Jean-Baptiste Robert** to the role of Regional Director Food & Beverages to further enhance the company's F&B experiences across its extensive property portfolio. Robert has over 25 years of experience and has spent 18 years working in Australia, and will be based in Pro-invest Australia's Sydney office.

Boasting more than 20 years of cruise experience, **Janet Parton** has joined **Celestyal Cruises** in the new role of VP, Business Development for UK, Europe & Australia. Parton will contribute to the cruise line's strategic development plans in Europe and Australia, but will remain based in the United Kingdom.

After a year working in the United States, **Charlie Riewoldt** has returned to Australia to join **Intrepid Travel** as its Key Partnerships Manager. Riewoldt will be based in the Melbourne office and help lead the sales and partnership operations in the Vic and Tas markets.

Viking invades more cities



VIKING'S popular Viking Vor training nights have returned, with more than \$30,000 worth of prizes to be won at each event.

The cruise line is taking its trade training program across Australia, after the success of Brisbane's Viking Vor night in Mar, holding events in a number of new locations, including Sydney, Newcastle, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Perth.

Named for the Norse goddess of wisdom, Viking Vor nights are an opportunity for travel advisors to be treated to a three-course meal and drinks, over which they will hear the latest news on the cruise line's expansive worldwide product from the sales team.

Sydney ([CLICK HERE](#)) and Perth ([CLICK HERE](#)) events have already sold out, but advisors are invited to join the waitlist.

Seats at other locations are limited - [CLICK HERE](#) for Melbourne, [CLICK HERE](#) for Canberra, [CLICK HERE](#) for Adelaide, and [CLICK HERE](#) for

Newcastle.

Pictured are the team from Flight Centre Queen Street Mall enjoying the Viking Vor night action in Brisbane.

Nature with Costa

COSTA Cruises has unveiled its National Geographic Day Tours for guests sailing the Mediterranean, Canary Islands, and Madeira.

The tours are led by expert local guides to "unexpected" routes, places and experiences, and includes insights on sea turtles in Naples, the countryside in Ibiza, the marine habitats of Mali Ston Bay, a protected beech forest in Rome, the oyster aquaculture in Dubrovnik, and much more.

voco in Vietnam

IHG Hotels & Resorts has opened its first voco brand hotel in Vietnam, with the 27-storey voco Ma Belle Danang to feature an all-day restaurant, a bar on the top floor, and a 24-hour gym.

Etihad Impossible

ETIHAD has linked with Paramount Pictures to celebrate the release of *Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One* on 12 Jul, with the carrier set to roll out flight specials and bespoke content for passengers on board.

Travellers will also be treated to a special Movie Snacks menu featuring themed mocktails inspired by the action film.

Aussie found dead

A WOMAN in her twenties from Qld has been found dead after disappearing while hiking alone in Canada on the weekend.

Julia-Mary Lane was travelling on the popular Bear Lake Trail when it is believed she lost her footing and fell down a ravine.

MH370 is no joke

THE Malaysian Government has reportedly sought the help of Interpol to track down a US comedian who made jokes about Malaysian Airlines flight MH370, which went missing in 2014.

Jocelyn Chia has defended the joke, telling the BBC that she was simply attempting to find humour in the tragedy, but Malaysian authorities have clearly not found the routine humorous, with Malaysian National Police Chief, Acryl Sani Abdullah Sani, announcing this week that an application would be filed with Interpol to get Chia's "full identity" and "latest location".

Interpol however has confirmed it is yet to receive such an application request.

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