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More magic for Oz

DISNEY Cruise Line has opened up sales today on additional Australia and New Zealand 'Disney Magic at Sea' voyages, due to popular demand.

Fans can immerse themselves in the magic of Disney on a special new season of two- to seven-night cruises from Oct 2024 to Feb 2025.

See the **back page** for details.

Hurtigruten leads the way

HURTIGRUTEN is offering a sneak peek of its first zero-emission cruise ship, which is set to launch in 2030.

Those who are especially curious to learn more about the world's most energy efficient cruise vessel, head over to **p6** for more details.

Aeronology ditches ETG

EXCLUSIVE

EXPRESS Travel Group (ETG) will no longer offer the Aeronology NDC-enabled ticketing and booking platform from 01 Jul.

In the wake of last week's shock announcement that Helloworld Travel Limited will purchase ETG for \$70 million (**TD** 22 Jun), it has emerged that Aeronology exercised an option to cancel the deal on 01 Apr, giving 90 days notice because "new commercial terms could not be reached".

Aeronology's agreement with ETG was initially inked three and a half years ago (**TD** 19 Dec 2019), with ETG CEO Tom Manwaring at the time saying it would help the business "leapfrog our competitors and provide the best in market travel services".

It's unclear at this stage how much of the Express Travel Group in Australia and NZ's First Travel Group are using the platform, which offers direct connections to the NDC systems of several major carriers as well as low-cost airlines, featuring ticketing,

Oman visa waiver

OMAN is encouraging more travel to its shores by allowing 103 countries to enter without a visa for stays up to 14 days, including Australian travellers.

The move will open up more stopover opportunities for Aussies travelling onward through the capital Muscat.

robotics, wholesale booking and payment services.

CEO Russell Carstensen claimed that Aeronology is the best multi-air channel ticket consolidation in the world.

"It's a Ferrari, I'm afraid ETG drove it like a Lada," he said, noting that with just a week left before the transition "I'm surprised ETG sat on their hands so long before they announced it to their customers".

"Now they are scrambling, and they shouldn't be...I would have been happy to assist with a well-managed transition," he said.

Silversea World '26

SILVERSEA has unveiled a series of exclusive events for its 140-day World Cruise 2026, which will visit 70 destinations.

The event calendar will kick off with a Bon Voyage reception in Fort Lauderdale, before guests embark *Silver Dawn* on 06 Jan.

The first in-destination World Cruise event will take place under the stars on a French Polynesia beach, where guests will participate in a cultural exchange and dine on traditional cuisine.

The itinerary also includes special events taking place on the Mystery Island in Vanuatu, as well as in Bali, India and Turkey, in addition to culinary experiences.

General sales for 'The Curious and the Sea' World Cruise 2026 are open now - **CLICK HERE**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest news, plus a front cover wrap from **CVFR Consolidation Services**, and full pages from:

- **Hurtigruten**
- **Disney Destinations**

CVFR offers more

AGENTS can enjoy a whole host of benefits when they join CVFR Consolidation Services, including 24/7 online ticket issuance and reissuance, 24/7 local ticket centre support via phone and email, and robotic ticketing.

The IATA-licensed Australian airline travel wholesaler is also independently owned and NDC-enabled - see the **cover page** for more details.



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Qantas makes credit push

QANTAS has revealed there is still around \$150 million worth of COVID credits to be used by passengers who booked through travel agents and third parties.

Overall, the carrier confirmed there is more than \$400 million in COVID credits still outstanding, and in response this morning launched a new Find My Credit tool designed to incentivise the use of credits before the 31 Dec deadline lapses.

The new tool works by simplifying the search process in locating bookings that are up to three years old, or may have been changed several times due to numerous waves of border changes during the pandemic.

"We know the credits system has been challenging because of the sheer complexity of putting millions of bookings in a holding pattern for up to three years," Qantas Chief Customer Officer Markus Svensson conceded.

"We've made a number of improvements to our systems along the way and that's clear from the amount of credit that has already been claimed.

"The majority of the COVID credits we hold can be converted into refunds but we can't do it automatically as the credit cards used for the purchase as far back as 2019 may have expired."

The Find My Credit is a web-based tool that can be accessed via qantas.com, allowing customers to search for COVID credits using their original booking reference - even in cases where it has been reissued or converted to a Qantas Pass.

Customers will need to enter their original booking details and surname or email address, with the system then able to search for credits and automatically email the details they need to redeem credits to the address on file.

About 80% of customers who have COVID credits have the option of a refund if they prefer, with Qantas noting those who've made bookings via an agent should contact them directly.

To further incentivise credit redemptions, Qantas has also announced customers can score double Frequent Flyer points for credit bookings made by 31 Jul.

INDEPENDENT, JUST LIKE YOU!

LET'S TALK:

STEVE LABROSKI 0409 287 547

JO HOWARD 0409 157 209

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Live it up with Luis

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has named Puerto Rican musician Luis Fonsi as the Godfather of its newest ship, *Norwegian Viva*, which will homeport in Puerto Rico from 15 Dec.

The "Despacito" singer will officiate the ceremonial breaking of a champagne bottle on the ship's bow during the naming ceremony in Miami on 28 Nov, before performing alongside a lineup of Latin entertainers for a night of celebrations.

Air Niugini delays

ONE of two Air Niugini Boeing 767s previously stranded in Australia due to mechanical issues has finally flown out of the country, while the second is still grounded in Brisbane, according to Flightradar24.

The grounded aircraft is waiting for an engine to be changed, while its fellow jet had its parts successfully shipped from the United States on the weekend.

The two aircraft were rendered unserviceable due to supply chain challenges in Brisbane on Sat, with the carrier's acting Chief Executive Officer, Gary Seddon, stating the disruption would lead to domestic and international disturbances to schedules.

Intrepid adds dates

INTREPID Travel has announced 300 new trip departures in its most popular travel destinations around the world, including Japan, Italy and Morocco.

Aussie travellers can choose from an additional 47 departures in Japan, with more than 200 spaces on existing itineraries, including a 12-day Japan Real Food Adventure.

Intrepid has also expanded its Morocco range with 193 extra departures providing more than 2,500 spaces, while the operator has also added an additional 70 departures with 868 spots on its European offerings.

For more info, [CLICK HERE](#).

QF seeks Fiji/Chile

QANTAS has this week submitted a request to the International Air Services Commission, seeking to renew capacity for 528 seats per week on the Fiji route, as well as 337 seats a week on the Chile route.

Other carriers and stakeholders have until 07 Jul to submit their own requests before a formal decision is made.

Duty-free Melbourne

MELBOURNE Airport is officially opening its new duty-free store run by Lotte on Thu.

The launch will include a mixologist serving drinks, a makeup artist offering free makeup tutorials, and fragrance testing by Jo Malone staff, at a formal retail launch this week.

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CANADA

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Freycinet, Tasmania



Window Seat

WHEN in Rome, please never do this to a major attraction.

A tourist has been caught on camera this week carving a message into the ancient walls of Rome's Colosseum using a set of keys, inscribing the word 'Hayley' onto the close-to 2,000 year-old building.

While the offender is still at large, if caught, he will require a very different type of keys to escape a prison cell, with the maximum punishment for vandalising the Colosseum carrying a one-year jail term.



The new face of Canberra

EXCLUSIVE

A NUMBER of travel agent famils to Canberra have been confirmed for later this year through Tourism Australia's (TA) Aussie Specialist Program, VisitCanberra can reveal.

Speaking with *Travel Daily* this morning, a spokesperson for the tourism body said engaging with the trade continues to be a top priority at upcoming TA Marketplace events around the world, while domestically, the nation's capital will market itself as being "ideally placed for day trips and weekends for [Aussies] looking to get away on a short break" from nearby regional towns and cities.

Around 90% of its visitor market is comprised of domestic travellers, and of those, 65% come from regional or metropolitan NSW within a three-hour drive radius, comprised of close to 950,000 people.

While traditional attractions like Australian Parliament House, The Royal Australian Mint, and The Australian War Memorial continue to play a central role in marketing collateral, Canberra is also looking to promote newer pull tourism factors such as hotel and cafe precinct NewActon, Dairy Road in Fyshwick, and the Kingston Foreshore.

VisitCanberra also noted new luxury apartment accommodation will be available just in time for the Floriade flower festival in Sep, news that arrives alongside a growing hotel occupancy rate across the city driven by the return of more events and better air connectivity.

In Jul 2023, Canberra will reopen int'l flights for the first time since 2020 when Fiji Airways launches direct Nadi-Canberra services, opening the city up to more int'l traffic from places like the West Coast of America.

VA WA pilot training

VIRGIN Australia pilots recently commenced training in Western Australia's first-ever Boeing 737NG full flight simulator.

In partnership with global aviation training leader CAE, VA's access to the simulator will reinforce the airline's commitment to WA, with 200 pilots already based in the state using the facility.

APT earlybird sale

THERE'S only one week left to take advantage of APT and TravelMarvel's Europe 2024 earlybird specials, which ends 30 Jun, including savings of up to \$5,400 per couple on TravelMarvel's 14-night European Gems river cruises.

Agents can also secure last-minute deals for their clients on 2023 Europe cruises, with a limited number of cabins still available - to find out more, call APT on 1300 278 278.

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Air NZ pax spike

AIR New Zealand carried 1.168 million passengers in May, an improvement of 31.1% on the same month last year.

Revenue passenger kilometres also improved by 112% to 2,364km, while load factor dropped away by 8.2 percentage points from 83.8% to 75.6%.

For the financial year to date, Air NZ carried 14.39m passengers.

MH17 sanctions

SANCTIONS have been placed by the Australian Government, on the people involved in the downing of Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 which killed 298 people, including 38 Australians, in Ukraine 2014.

The latest sanctions impose financial and travel bans on those who were convicted by the District Court of the Hague in Nov 2022, and also applies to Sergey Muchkaev, a Colonel with the Russian Armed Forces.

Bouncing back to China

KEY tourism and business leaders from across Australia have landed in China today, as part of a delegation led by Tourism Australia.

The visit is part of a push to entice Chinese travellers to return to Australia, and coincides with the launch of Tourism Australia's global campaign, Come and Say G'Day, in China later this week (**TD** 15 Nov 2022).

The delegation includes Tourism Australia Managing Director, Phillipa Harrison, state and territory tourism organisation leaders, business events leaders and airport representatives.

According to Harrison, the delegation will meet with China's major airlines, including China Southern and China Eastern, and travel providers such as Trip.com and Jinjiang Travel.

"China is such an important market for Australia's visitor economy and that's why the



timing of this visit with tourism and business events industry leaders is so critical as we welcome the return of Chinese travellers," Harrison said.

Seat capacity from China is expected to return to 54% this month, up from 42% in May, while Chinese visitor arrivals in Apr recovered to 33% of the pre-pandemic level, with a full recovery expected by 2026.

Prior to COVID, China was Australia's leading visitor market.

The delegation marks Tourism Australia's second visit to China this year, as part of continued efforts to drive the market's recovery (**TD** 01 Mar).

More India capacity?

DESTINATION NSW is reportedly in discussions with Qantas and Air India to increase capacity and direct flights between India and Sydney.

Air India is currently mulling flights to Sydney from Bengaluru, while due to high load factors, the Flying Kangaroo is also considering boosting Bengaluru-Sydney in the coming months.

Canada cruise rule

CANADA has announced new mandatory greywater regulations for cruise ships, which prohibit the discharge of greywater or treated sewage within three nautical miles from shore "where geographically possible".

A penalty of US\$190,000 will be imposed on vessels that fail to comply with the rules, which were first introduced in Apr 2022 on a voluntary basis.

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

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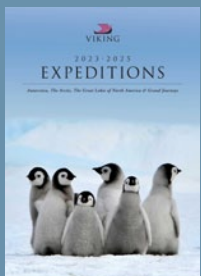
*35th anniversary offer: 10% extra discount on a selection of cruises. Offer not retroactive and only available on new bookings made between 1 June and 5 July 2023 inclusive. Offer applies to the port-to-port price only, exclusive of taxes, personal expenses and transport costs. Offer cannot be combined with the Free Solo Supplement, Flight Credit, or Roadshow Discount offers; All advertised prices are based on the Ponant Bonus fare per person, in Australian Dollars (AUD), based on a double occupancy in best available category of cabin, including port taxes and transfer, yield managed, correct at time of printing, are subject to availability and can be changed at any time; All Zodiac and shore excursions are included on luxury expedition itineraries unless specified; Open Bar includes wine, beer, French Champagne, spirits, and non-alcoholic beverages. Premium beverages and brands available at an additional cost; spa services on board are available at extra cost; included transfers, flights and accommodation are subject to terms and conditions. More conditions apply, refer to au.ponant.com. ABN: 35 166 676 517. Photographs: © Studio PONANT - Nick Rains, Oliver Touron.

BROCHURES

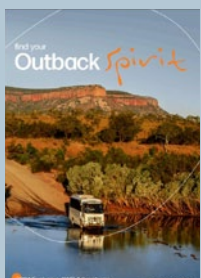
WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



BKB Holidays - Western Australia 2023-2024
BKB Holidays has launched its 2023/24 Western Australia brochure, a new addition jam-packed with a range of new itineraries to better assist travellers in planning the perfect Western Australia holiday. The travel guide features a dedicated section highlighting some of Western Australia's most popular self-drive routes for those eager to explore the region on the road. Also included in the brochure are a range of handpicked itineraries from the state's key Kimberley cruise partners, Eclipse Expeditions and Heritage Expeditions. Order your copy through TIFS or via email at fionaa@bkbholidays.com.



Viking - 2023-2025 Expeditions
Sailing from Jul 2025, the 13-day Into the Northwest Passage, the 15-day Canada & Greenland Explorer, and the 27-day Canada & the Northwest Passage have been added to Viking's latest 2023-2025 Expeditions brochure. The 158-page travel publication showcases over 20 itineraries that traverse the regions of Antarctica, the Arctic, the Great Lakes and Canada and more. The booklet also displays additional departure dates for current top-selling packages, including the Niagara & the Great Lakes, Panama & Scenic South America and Canadian Discovery cruises, which are available for sale and depart through 2025. Viking's 2023-2025 Expeditions brochure is available to order through TIFS, or by contacting Viking at 138 747 or visiting viking.com for more information.



Journey Beyond - Find your Outback Spirit
Find your outback zest with Outback Spirit's newest brochure, which explores the central regions of Down Under through the tour operator's fleet of Mercedes-Benz 4WDs. Boasting many all-inclusive tours, as well as sustainable travel styles in small group tours, Outback Spirit provides travellers with itineraries through Arnhem Land, the Kimberley, Queensland, Central Australia, the Pilbara & Southwest, South Australia and Tasmania.

The 165-page outback tour guide also contains details on exclusive camps and lodges for your client's expedition. Get your hands on the brochure **HERE** and visit outbackspirittours.com.au or call 1800 688 222 to learn more.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Travel & Cruise Weekly have ready-made social media toolkits to inspire your clients.

Cruising to Abu Dhabi



TOM Cruise brought his star power to Abu Dhabi International Airport's new Midfield Terminal yesterday, where key parts of the new *Mission Impossible* instalment were filmed.

In celebration of the film, which premieres in the Middle East tonight, the Hollywood actor unveiled custom *Mission: Impossible* livery on an Etihad Airways Boeing 787 Dreamliner (**pictured**).

One of the most thrilling action scenes in *Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One* was

filmed on the roof of the new terminal, while an Etihad First Class Lounge is also featured.

The scenes filmed at the Midfield Terminal required 21 days of preparation, seven days of filming production, and involved 762 cast, crew and suppliers, and marks the second *Mission: Impossible* movie to be filmed in Abu Dhabi.

"We're proud of our role in the film and our contribution to Abu Dhabi as a destination that attracts global talent," Abu Dhabi Airports Acting CEO Elena Sorlini enthused.

The movie will arrive in Australian cinemas on 13 Jul.

Icon-ic preparation

ROYAL Caribbean International's *Icon of the Seas* returned from the Baltic Sea on Fri, after successfully completing her penultimate sea trials.

Icon returned to Meyer Turku shipyard, where she is currently under construction, after testing her sailing performance, technologies, and equipment.

Next up will be a second round of sea trials later this year, when *Icon* is pushed to her limits.

UA's hassle-free tool

UNITED Airlines has launched a new feature on its mobile app to allow passengers the ability to present travellers more options when flights are cancelled.

Features of the new service include personalised re-booking options, bag tracking, as well as meal and hotel vouchers if their flight is delayed or cancelled.



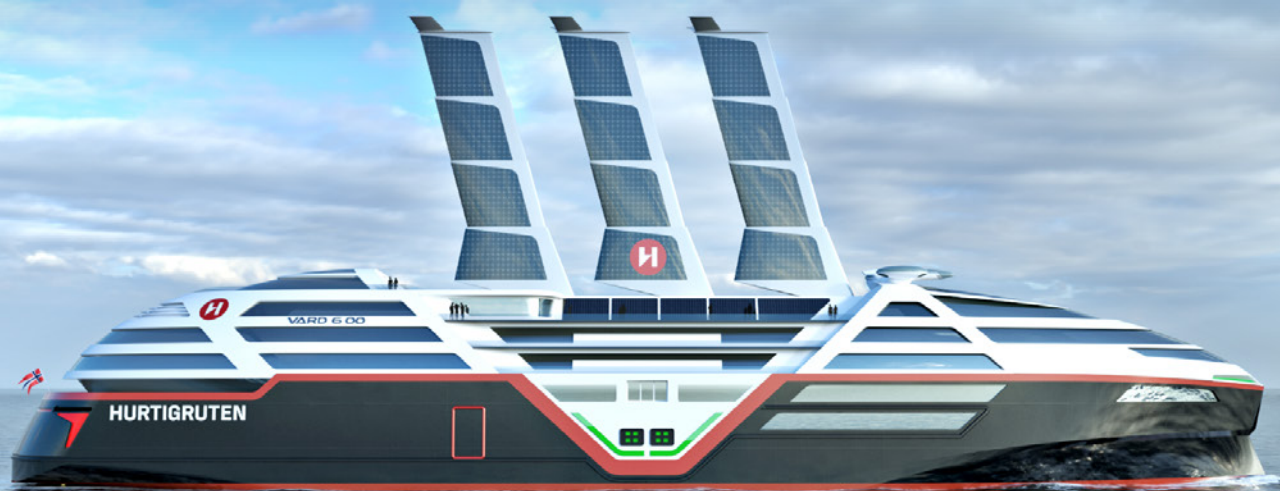
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A photograph of Goofy and Pooh the bear on the deck of a cruise ship. Goofy is on the right, wearing a red and white striped sailor shirt, white pants, and a white sailor hat with a blue band. He is pointing towards the right. Pooh is on the left, wearing a yellow shirt and a white sailor hat with a red band. They are standing on a wooden deck with a yellow railing. The background shows the blue ocean and a blue sky with white clouds.

Disney
**Magic
at Sea**

ON SALE THIS WEEK

Due to popular demand, Disney Cruise Line has announced more Australia and New Zealand voyages. **Disney Magic at Sea** will bring enchantment and cherished Disney friends to your shores for a special new season of 2 – 7 night cruises from **October 2024 to February 2025**.

Clients can immerse themselves in the magic of Disney storytelling with favourite Characters, imaginative dining, Broadway-style shows and themed parties throughout their sailing.

Castaway Club bookings open from 19 June

General On-Sale – 26 June

For more information on our Castaway Club sales window, visit DisneyTravelAgents.com.au



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