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France update

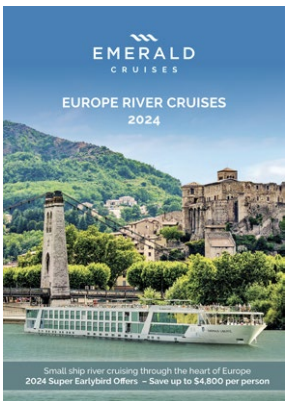
SMARTTRAVELLER is continuing to advise Australians to exercise a high degree of caution in France due to the threat of terrorism.

Major strikes are expected across the country throughout Mar, as well as demonstrations which may turn violent.

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AFTA summit shapes future

TODAY'S sold-out Women in Travel Summit convened by the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) is "the beginning of a conversation, a documentation of what we have achieved" in terms of female representation in the industry, according to AFTA CEO Dean Long.

In remarks which opened the all-day event, Long noted that in previous Parliamentary discussions alongside AFTA's Interim Head of Advocacy, LJ Loch, officials had asked how the travel industry had been able to achieve something they described as "unique in the private sector".

Currently 72% of front line positions in travel are held by women, along with about 74% of middle management roles.

"And this year 50% of senior executive positions in this industry are held by women - that's a testament to the people in this room," he said.

"You've worked hard, you've committed to this sector, and the sector has rewarded everybody in this room with hopefully a fulfilling career," Long said.

"Treasury asked us a really important question - which was, how did you do it? How did we achieve these amazing statistics?" he said - with these figures only replicated in around four other industries: childcare, high school and primary school teachers, and nursing - all of which are heavily publicly funded.

"And the terrifying answer to

that question was that we could not answer it," Long said.

Today's Summit is the first step in figuring out how the travel industry has come to this point, and hopefully continue its stellar trajectory in the future, he noted.

"It is a place marker in time, which all of you will be able to look back upon proudly as giving back to your sector and making it easier for the next generation of female leaders," he enthused.

Richard Taylor, AFTA's Director of Membership Experience, has been heavily involved in convening the event, and told **TD** "there's definitely a place for the celebration of International Women's Day, but there's also another side of it, which should be productive and should aim to genuinely make a difference for women in the travel industry".

The event is being emceed by Express Travel Group's Alicia Dopfer, while presenters include a strong line-up of female travel advisors, suppliers and industry stakeholders - more from the Summit on **page four**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of the latest news including photo pages from the **Cruise Lines International Association's (CLIA) Cruise Industry Awards** and today's **AFTA Women in Travel Summit**, plus a full page from **Bamboo Airways**.

SAA reminder

SOUTH African Airways is reminding trade partners in Australia who had clients with tickets for travel during the COVID period (20 Mar 2020 - 26 Aug 2021) who exchanged their ticket for an EMD/voucher, that these will expire on 31 Mar.

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Window Seat

A TRAVELLER has been praised on social media for his calm and “very Canadian” reaction to a recent debacle at Calgary Airport.

Not only did Ayden miss his WestJet flight by seconds, he also found himself locked in an airport hallway, where he was stuck for some hours without water, food...or a bathroom.

Despite making contact with some staff who said they couldn't help him, a call to US Customs finally saw him freed.

Ayden posted updates on TikTok [HERE](#), saying it “makes for a funny story”, and despite describing the ordeal as “not great”, he was all smiles.

WestJet later reached out with an apology - and may have had a bit of a clean-up on its hands too....

Cruise kicks up its heels

THE 20th Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia Awards on Sat (*TD* breaking news) saw around 500 people from across the sector celebrate survival, resilience and recovery at Sydney's Luna Park.

CLIA MD Joel Katz said travel agents across the region had shown incredible determination during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“These awards help celebrate their resilience and their passion for cruising as we sail into a new era...as cruising builds on its global renaissance, these awards pay thanks to the Australasian travel trade for its part in our success,” he said.

Some of the key winners included cruise legend Steve Odell who was inducted into the CLIA Hall of Fame for his decades-long industry contribution.

Robyn Sinfield from Home Travel Company took home the Cruise Champion category, while

there was a special surprise for *Travel Daily* publisher Bruce Piper who was awarded a one-off Media Cruise Champion award in a most unexpected honour.

Sheron Konig from Travel Associates Rockhampton is the Cruise Consultant of the Year, while agency winners included Ignite Travel Group as Large Cruise Agency of the Year for Australia; Perth's Bicton Travel which took home the Small Cruise Agency of the Year category; and Clean Cruising, named as Online Agency of the Year.

There were also awards for promotional campaigns, with winners including Hunter Travel Group, MTA Mobile Travel Agents and My Cruises.

Shaun Kavanagh from Princess Cruises took home the inaugural Cruise Line Champion - Australasia category - more from the CLIA's on [page six](#) in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

Vale Chris Woodruff

THE tourism sector across Australia is mourning the loss of former CEO of Melbourne Airport (MEL), Chris Woodruff.

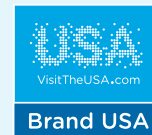
Woodruff led Melbourne and Launceston Airports from 2007 until 2015 and “left a lasting legacy at both”, Melbourne Airport CEO Lorie Argus said.

He oversaw the transformation of MEL's terminal precinct, including the construction of Terminal 4.

“Chris was highly regarded and will be remembered by many of our staff as a friendly and approachable leader, who enjoyed being out on the terminal floor and always had time to listen,” Argus expressed.

“He will be greatly missed and we send our heartfelt condolences to his family.”

Victorian Tourism Industry Council chief Felicia Mariani also extended her condolences, commenting, “what a terribly sad loss of a great visionary”.



The Brand USA MegaFam is BACK!

Agents: Experience one of five exciting itineraries showcasing East to West of the U.S. mainland plus Hawai'i.

[Register here](#)





Chinese giant awakening

DESPITE high airfares, Sabre data is indicating a significant outbound travel rebound as China reopens to the world.

Sabre's shopping and booking data has found strong demand among Chinese travellers, with inbound and outbound routes to and from the country surging from 26 Dec and 08 Jan.

This coincides with China's first announcement of its plans to drop quarantine for overseas visitors, and the country reopening sea and land crossings with Hong Kong.

This rebound is despite high airfares, which peaked at more than double pre-pandemic prices in Jan, and was still one-and-a-half times last month.

In fact, demand from China is outstripping supply, with the country's own airlines leading capacity growth, ahead of carriers from Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

As of 06 Feb, airline capacity for international routes to and from China has recovered to around 27% compared to the first quarter of 2019.

Capacity is expected to increase from Apr onward.

New booking habits suggest long-term travel confidence too, with a third of all inbound bookings and 43% of all outbound bookings made more than two months in advance.

Entire incentive

AGENTS will score a \$50 voucher for every Entire Travel Group Holiday Package booked via its website in Mar.

Every booking also enters the agent into a draw to win a \$5,000 Holiday Package, with the agent who makes the most bookings between 01 Nov 2022 to 30 Jun 2023 declared the winner.

CLICK HERE for details.

Travelport + Deem

TRAVELPORT has acquired Deem, furthering its investment in modern retailing and corporate travel.

The acquisition of Deem will fulfil a growing, post-pandemic need for a "tight, fully-integrated corporate tool that will provide access to all multi-source content, including NDC," Travelport Chief Executive Officer Greg Webb said.

Deem includes a suite of online booking and travel technology products for business travellers, travel managers, and more.

FCTG webinar

FLIGHT Centre's new travel webinar series, *Unpacked Business Travel*, will share savings and points hacks, with its first episode to take place on 15 Mar.

Launched through Corporate Traveller, the series will feature quarterly webinars and bi-annual, in-person events.

Register for free **HERE**.

Pietro for sale

PIETRO Gallus Estate outside Melbourne has been listed for sale by Anjo Holdings.

The winery has been operating for nine years, and occupies almost eight hectares.

Included in the sale is the winery's olive groves, grapevines, and a citrus orchard, Olivigna restaurant, tasting bar, spirit distillery, and a private residence.

CBRE Hotel's Scott Callow is managing the sale via an expression of interest campaign, which closes 12 Apr.

SIA Perth Sale

SINGAPORE Airlines has announced the launch of promotional Perth Explorer Fares for travel from the Western Australian capital to selected destinations across Asia.

Fares in Economy lead in from \$598 to Singapore and \$675 to Bangkok, while Business enters at \$3,188 to BKK and \$3,318 to SIN.



FLY YOUR WAY

From the 3rd of March 2023, Fiji Airways will offer customers the option to customise how they travel based on their needs with four categories, **Lite, Value, Comfort, and Plus**.

All categories will include meals, beverages, inflight entertainment and a carry-on bag, with increasing value add-ons from Lite to Plus, such as checked baggage, ticket change and cancellation flexibility, seat selection and boarding priority.



VISIT FIJIAIRWAYS.COM

AFTA's first Women in Travel Summit



MORE than 180 travel industry people have gathered at the Swissotel Sydney today for the inaugural Women in Travel Summit convened by the Australian Federation of Travel Agents (see **page 1**).

The sold-out event, sponsored by Air NZ, is an all-day gathering featuring panel discussions, breakout sessions and personal development workshops.

The event has fostered robust discussions on how the sector excels in supporting women, as well as identifying areas for improvement in the coming years.

AFTA CEO Dean Long noted that travel is one of the country's workforce sectors with the highest concentrations of female participation, with the gathering expected to feed into future policy development across the sector.



PANEL session facilitator Roslyn Ranse from Travel Agent Achievers with AFTA CEO Dean Long.

ANGELA Middleton, Norwegian Cruise Line Senior Manager Sales Australia & NZ sharing a moment with Robyn Willis Inglis.

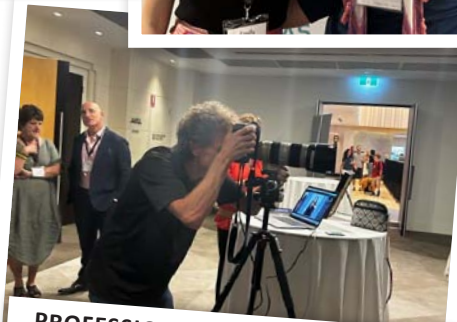


FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's Emily Foster and Jenny Chamberlain.

JEAN Summers from Globenet Travel with Air New Zealand's Kathryn O'Brien.



SOME of the energetic delegates from Air New Zealand, from left: Amanda Cassidy, Leanne Nguyen, and Kirstie Dyer-Grose.



PROFESSIONAL photos are being offered for participants to freshen up their profiles.

SUSAN Enners from Magnatech Travel Management Solutions alongside ANZCRO's Louise Bilbie, Kylie Qapp and Amy Mace.

NETWORKING kicked off early before proceedings kicked off with the panel discussions and presentations.



NORWEGIAN Cruise Line's representatives, Tahlia Shaw, Erica Tremko, Camilla Inwood and Anna Bathgate enjoying their time at the event.

THE presenters for the panel discussion on 'What Travel Does Well' included Roslyn Ranse, News Corp Australia's Kerrie McCallum, NTIA winner Lyn Wells from American Express Global Business Travel and NCL's Angela Middleton.



WA agents experience Dubai



EMIRATES recently hosted a group of incentive winners from Western Australia on a 'Dubai Experience' famil, which took place from 02-06 Mar.

After experiencing Emirates' hospitality onboard the carrier's flagship A380 as they were flown from Perth to Dubai, the agents were then able to experience the UAE city's history, culture, and best attractions.

Participants included Emirates' Anthony De Silva; Flight Centre's Shannon Ogden, Robyn Ogle and Celeste Franklin; Robyn Peirce, Travel Focus; Travel Associates' Michael McGrath; Ethan Roberts, Martini Travel; Sarah Butler, The Travel Directors; Michelle Cook, Capricorn Travel WA; Jamal Dahir, Sky Travel and Tours; Stacey Egan from Travel Key & Festival Travel.

Winter Murray deal

MURRAY River Paddlesteamers is offering travellers 10% off cruise fares for any of its winter sailings, plus free entry to the Moama Lights sound and light trail on select departures.

The Winter Sun sale includes solo supplement savings and a free return train fare from Melbourne or free car parking, and applies to all Jun, Jul & Aug departures - use promo code WINTER1023 before 31 Mar [HERE](#).

Fiji Gateway update

FIJI Gateway Hotel has advised the slide at the Lagoon Pool is currently closed for maintenance, and is due to reopen 24 Mar - the pool remains open for use.

JQ Asia trials move

JETSTAR Asia has completed its second orientation flights from Changi Airport's Terminal 4, ahead of its relocation from T1 to T4 on 22 Mar ([TD 07 Dec 2022](#)).

"To ensure a smooth experience...these operational trials included system testing at every stage of the journey, from check-in through to boarding to clearing customs," Jetstar Asia Head of Flight Operations, Captain Geof Lui, said.

Jetstar Asia will initially operate more than 230 weekly services in and out of T4, to and from key destinations in Southeast Asia, with Jetstar Airways also making the move to operate from T4.

EK pays up

EMIRATES has been ordered to pay a customer NZ\$13,555 over "misleading and deceptive" advertising.

Mark Morgan from Tauranga took the airline to court after it promoted Business class features that were not available in New Zealand, including seats that could be reclined to lay flat.

Marriott acquires

MARRIOTT International has been given the green light to acquire the City Express brand portfolio from Hoteles City Express ([TD 20 Oct 2022](#)).

The deal will increase Marriott's presence in the Caribbean and Latin America region by around 45% to over 480 properties.

Bathurst festival

THE Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail has announced an expanded festival program for 2023, featuring a new visitor trail to the region's iconic heritage venues.

Visitors can immerse themselves in rare trades and heritage crafts at Bathurst Showground, where they can see blacksmiths, stonemasons, leather workers, woodworkers, textile makers and glass artists at work.

For the first time, ticket holders can also take a free shuttle bus running between iconic venues which are offering half-price entry, including Abercrombie House, Chifley Home, the Bathurst Railway Museum, Old Government Cottage, and more.

The festival, which takes place from 15-16 Apr, will also feature old-fashioned treats, live music, rides on the Cobb & Co, and hands-on activities like whip-cracking and wine stomping.

Tickets are priced at \$20 with kids under 16 permitted free entry - [CLICK HERE](#) for more info.

KE ups China flights

KOREAN Air has announced the resumption of services to China from 17 Mar, following the two countries' agreement earlier this month to increase the number of flights to pre-COVID levels.

The carrier will increase the frequency of its services between Korea and mainland China from 13 times per week to 84 times per week by the end of Mar, and to 99 times per week in May.

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CLIA celebrates award winners

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia's massive awards night celebration on Sat (see **p1**) was a joyous get-together, an incredibly stark contrast to the travails the sector has gone through since 2020.

The CLIA's at Sydney's Luna Park saw the cruise lines award top achievers and Cruise Champions from across Australia and New Zealand who have helped lead recovery, along with an amazing panoply of entertainment courtesy of the Brent Street Performing Arts school.

The evening also saw a big surprise for **Travel Daily's** Bruce Piper who received a special Media Cruise Champion award.

Lots more CLIA's coverage in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

ALL of the winners at the 20th CLIA Industry Awards celebrate resilience and recovery.



BICTON Travel's Byron Horne, Phil Smethurst and Carole Smethurst awarded Cruise Agency of the Year (Small) Australia by Jason Worth from Oceania.



ANTON Loeb from Carnival Cruise Line presents the Cruise Consultant of the Year - Australia award to Sheron Konig from Travel Associates Rockhampton.



IT'S all in the family for Online Agency of the Year - Australasia, Clean Cruising - Dan Russell, Jean Summers-Reeves, Anna Russell and Casey Russell.



JULIE Rogers from Ponant with Rachel Kingswell of Travel Associates.



ITRAVEL'S Megan Catterall, Mobile/Home Based Agent of the Year - Australia with Regent Seven Seas Cruises' Elsa McLean.



BRETT Dann from Hunter Travel Group catches up with Travellers Choice MD Christian Hunter.



RICHARD Taylor from AFTA with Savenio's Libby Orrock.



THE MyCruises team celebrates winning Agency Cruise Promotion of the Year Australia with Tim Jones from sponsor Celebrity Cruises.

MICHAEL Krywyn, Express Travel group; Helloworld Travel's Mick Boylan and Skye Kirne from Skye Travel.

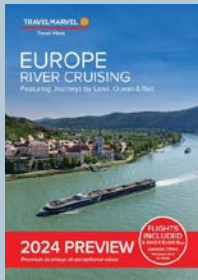


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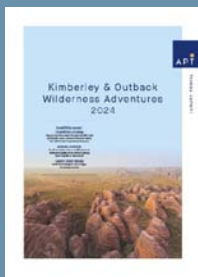


BROCHURES

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.



TravelMarvel – Europe River Cruising 2024
 TravelMarvel's Europe River Cruising 2024 presents two brand-new European itineraries showcasing vibrant experiences across the continent. The brochure highlights itineraries in some of the most distinctive locations across Europe as TravelMarvel details the most immersive and interactive experiences with a range of travel styles, river cruising, small ship coastal cruising, land and rail journeys. Book the 15-day European Gems river cruise or Springtime in the Netherlands & Belgium to enjoy Earlybird offers with flights Included & savings of up to \$1,000 per couple.



APT - Kimberley & Outback Wilderness Adventures
 APT released the Kimberley & Outback Wilderness Adventures 2024 brochure, describing the majestic destination with guests able to experience the wilderness by cruising through the coastlines to witness the magnificent wonders of Central Australia and encounter some of the most unspoilt places on earth. Whether it is a journey to the ends of the land or becoming immersed in the spiritual centre's cultural experiences, APT offers it all through luxury small ship expedition cruising, remote journeys and new luxury short breaks. Save up to \$4,600 per couple on 2024 departures.

BA, AA raise a glass

BRITISH Airways and American Airlines have launched a new experience at their joint premium lounge at the newly renovated Terminal 8 in JFK Airport.

Pax at Greenwich Lounge can now enjoy a variety of cocktails and mocktails at the new Bridge Bar, in partnership with brands Aviation American Gin, fronted by actor Ryan Reynolds, and Betty Buzz, founded by Reynold's wife and actress Blake Lively.

The lounge also features the new Tasting Room, a high-end tap room serving craft beers.

Utah training

TRAVEL agents can brush up on their Utah knowledge by undertaking the new Utah Specialist Academy.

Graduates will receive ongoing open access to the program and resources including up-to-date information, training updates, new Utah experiences to offer clients and access to the industry resource page.

Agents who complete the training by 30 Jun will be in the running to win a spot on a famil trip to Utah in Sep - **CLICK HERE** to register.

Champagne & caviar galore



A GROUP of lucky agents from across Australia will wrap up a famil trip tomorrow, after being hosted by Seabourn Cruise Line on an eight-night sailing aboard *Seabourn Encore*.

The cruise began in Singapore and included the line's signature beach event, Caviar in the Surf, which took place on Koh Kood Island in Thailand.

As part of the experience, the group (**pictured**) enjoyed champagne and caviar while wading in the water, as well as a buffet lunch complete with lobster and ribs, watersports activities & Thai-style massages.

AirJapan update

ANA Holdings' new airline, AirJapan, has revealed the products and services that will feature on its inaugural medium-haul international services (**TD 09** Mar 2022), set to launch in Feb 2024, initially to SouthEast Asia.

The brand concept of 'Fly Thoughtful' is applied throughout the 324-seat Economy class cabin, which features deeper reclining seats made of premium Japanese faux leather, while pax will be welcomed onboard with traditional Japanese music.

The cabin crew uniforms were also unveiled, with the design incorporating traditional Japanese cultural elements such as knots and layers.

Delta kids menu

KIDS will soon be able to taste meals prepared especially for them onboard Delta flights beginning 01 Apr.

The menu features meals prepared by the airline's chefs to be nutritiously balanced for children, consisting of a variety of fruits, vegetables, colours and textures.

The kid-friendly meals need to be pre-selected at least 24 hours prior to the flight, and are available on long-haul int'l flights and most domestic routes for customers travelling in First class.



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