

# STEP INTO A DREAM IN THE KIMBERLEY

The Kimberley is open for wondrous adventures this season. Explore the astonishing formations of the Bungle Bungle Range in Purnululu National Park, feel the thrill of legendary king tides at the Horizontal Falls / Garaangaddim, or connect with 60,000 years of living culture through profound Aboriginal experiences.

Now is the time to book your clients on a Kimberley adventure.

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AUSTRALIA  
WALKING ON A DREAM

♀ PURNULULU NATIONAL PARK, THE KIMBERLEY



## Kimberley's dream

**WESTERN** Australia is enticing travellers to 'Step into a Dream' and explore the wonders of the Kimberley region, from the Bungle Bungle Range in Purnululu National Park and the Horizontal Falls, to profound Aboriginal experiences - see the **cover page**.

## QF, CI grow partnership

**QANTAS** has announced the expansion of its partnership with China Airlines, allowing its loyalty customers to use their points to travel to more than 75 destinations around the world with the Taipei-based carrier.

Frequent Flyers can now use points to book Classic Flight Reward seats on all China Airlines flights, when previously they could only use points to travel between Australia and Taipei.

Qantas Loyalty CEO Olivia Wirth said the deal means customers now have more ways than ever to use their points.

"We receive great feedback from our members who have travelled to Taipei with China Airlines, and we know that having access to their full and expansive network will be welcome news," she explained.

Loyalty members can travel from Sydney to Da Nang in Economy using 37,800 points, from Melbourne to Amsterdam in Business using 159,000 points or Sydney to Taipei in Business using 75,000 points, with bookings to open shortly.

Qantas Frequent Flyers can also use their points on hotel stays in Taipei and other destinations through Qantas Hotels.

## China resumes visas

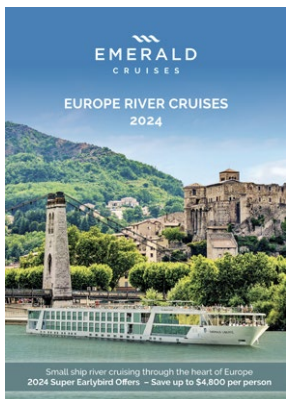
**CHINA** will start reissuing all categories of visas to foreign visitors from today, formally dropping the remaining cross-border control measures.

Areas in China that required no visas prior to the pandemic have now reverted to visa-free entry.



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## India DFAT update

**THE** Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has reissued its Smartraveller advice for India, with a review now advising Australians to reconsider their need to travel to the Atari-Wagah border crossing, the north-eastern states of Assam (except Guwahati), Nagaland and Manipur, Chhattisgarh and the border areas of neighbouring states due to a high risk of violence.

The advice level for India overall remains at "exercise a high degree of caution".

## Green cruise tools

**CRUISE** Lines International Association (CLIA) has created a new online toolkit containing information about how the cruise sector is pushing forward with sustainability innovations.

Details include environmental progress made aboard CLIA cruise lines' ships, as well as examples of cooperation between cruise lines, businesses, ports, and local authorities on how the industry is on track to achieving its 2050 carbon zero goals.

More geographies and languages will be included in a second edition to be released later in the year - more info **HERE**.

## Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today features six pages of news including our **Luxury** feature page, plus a front full page from **Tourism WA** and full pages from:

- The Travel Junction
- Entire Travel Group



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## Home reaches 1,000

**THE** growing success of Flight Centre's Independent division has been reflected in its digital platform Home reaching 1,000 members this week.

Advisors in the division, comprised of Travel Partners branded and affiliate agencies, Travel Associates at Home, Travel Associates Franchise and Flight Centre Independent, use the Home platform to support their businesses and access collateral such as marketing assets, reporting, ticketing, network support, and supplier portals.

"The Home platform has been designed with the needs of independent travel entrepreneurs in mind," FCTG Independent GM Nick Queale said.

"We are thrilled to see the platform gaining such traction, and we are committed to continuing to support the growth and success of our Home users." Flight Centre bills Home as

offering agents "a seamless experience" from the onboarding stage onwards, part of Flight Centre's ongoing strategy to empower advisors to back their entrepreneurial instincts.

"We believe that Home has the potential to revolutionise the travel industry by empowering independent travel entrepreneurs to succeed," Home Product Owner Peta Savidge said.

### Kick goals with APT

APT has launched its own AFL footy tipping comp ahead of the first round this Thu, with agents who register to play in the running for a range of prizes.

The free comp is open to all Aussie and NZ agents, with the winner scoring a seven-night Mekong river cruise.

Weekly winners score extra 2% commissions on APT/Travelmarvel bookings - start tipping [HERE](#).



### Swiss departure

**DIRECTOR** for Switzerland Tourism in Australia/New Zealand Livio Goetz is departing his Sydney-based role to take up a Country Manager role in Dubai.

Goetz will leave on 01 Jul, with a successor to be named soon.

### Bali plots bike ban

**BALI** is making news again this week, this time for plans to ban tourists from renting motorised bikes in a bid to reduce accidents.

In addition to the proposed bike ban, Balinese authorities have also mooted new powers to revoke visas for tourists breaking any traffic laws.

"This is a warning to all foreign nationals who visit Bali to be well behaved and respect Balinese culture," Bali's Governor Wayan Koster said.

The move follows a crackdown on tourists dressing in "inappropriate" ways while visiting Bali (**TD** 10 Mar).

## Travel Daily on location in Disneyland California

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you courtesy of Disney Destinations, which is hosting Disney100 at Disneyland Resort in California this week.

**WE START** today inside a Disneyland Park for a Character Breakfast at Plaza Inn, and everyone is eagerly awaiting experiencing the attractions.

A highlight is the new parade, Magic Happens, part of the Disney100 celebrations taking part across the Parks, then we take a quick 'Park Hop' across to Disney California Adventure Park for dinner at the Food and Wine Festival, followed by a visit to Avengers Campus, one of the recent additions to the park, providing the opportunity to ride the Web Slingers A Spider-Man Adventure.



CANADA

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## Bonza catering win

**BONZA** has awarded dnata with a multi-year contract to support its operations and services, as well as deliver its on-demand 100% Australian menu.

The global air services provider collaborated with Bonza to develop a range of Australian-made products, including meals, beverages, and snacks.

Dnata Catering now operates 15 facilities, providing in-flight services to 40 airlines in Australia.

## Kimberley discounts

**TRAVELLERS** can now book half-price tours and experiences in the Kimberley region through the Broome and Kununurra Visitor Centres as part of a \$6m WA Govt flood recovery package.

The discounted tours and experiences are valid for travel through to 30 Sep and will remain on offer until 30 Jun, or until funding is exhausted.

More details on offer [HERE](#).

## Egg-cited for Bali trips

**BALI** has reclaimed top spot as the most popular overseas destination for Aussie travellers for the upcoming Easter period, displacing traditional long-haul favourites such as London and LA.

According to new Webjet data, the Indonesian tourism hotspot accounted for one in every seven international trips booked this year for travel in Apr, up seven spots from last year.

The Easter period in 2022 saw most Aussies jetting off to London, which this year has slipped back to fourth place, while Delhi, Fiji and Wellington have all dropped down the list in favour of places such as Tokyo, Christchurch and Thailand.

In good news for the outbound sector, international travel bookings for the Easter period are up 45.7% in comparison to the same period in 2022, with Webjet confirming COVID-19 and restrictions were still hampering

booking confidence last year.

**MEANWHILE** a new study from Tripadvisor has found that Aussies are lusting after more "sun-drenched destinations" in the next couple of months, with over 90% of respondents suggesting they plan to take between one and two trips this year.

Close to half of Aussies said they plan on travelling more in the upcoming Easter holiday season than they did last year, with the split between international and domestic trips being 28% and 72% respectively.

High on the agenda for Aussies will be returning to a destination they have been to before, with three quarters of people planning a repeat visit, while 47% of travellers noted they plan to spend more on their biggest trip this upcoming season compared to the same period last year.

29% of Aussies will also travel less for shorter periods this year.



## Window Seat

**GREAT** news Australia, when it comes to the 10 worst tourist attractions around the world, we have missed the cut on the dubious new list compiled by digital luggage storage business Stasher.

The findings were garnered from a combo of TripAdvisor and Google reviews, with (ominous drum roll please) the Hollywood Walk of Fame ranked the worst globally.

Other low scoring attractions included the Taj Mahal in India, the Great Wall of China, & the Grand Bazaar in Turkey.

Before we get too excited though, the highest score bizarrely went to the Hungarian Parliament Building in Budapest of all places, yes, we demand a full recount of the votes please Stasher.

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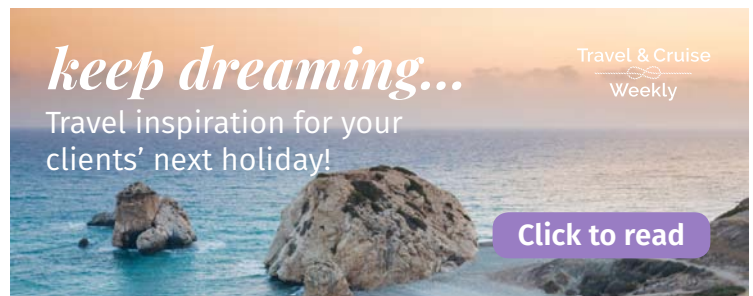


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## Bench Africa on top of the world



**BENCH** Africa gathered its team from across Australia for a fun evening of celebrations in Sydney on Mon, in recognition of the brand's 54th anniversary.

The team enjoyed Champagne and cocktails along with stunning views of the Sydney Harbour, as the business took the opportunity to revel in its achievements spanning more than five decades.

"This is the first time the team has been able to get together

since the pandemic, making the celebrations all the more special," Groups and Operations Manager Julie De Palo said.

"With the happy return of five previous staff members and one new staff member, we felt it was important to bring together old faces and new and celebrate our success as a team."

Some of the team **pictured:** Michelle, Emily, Simon, Alex, Lara, Rach, Julie and Andy.

## EL AL flights closer

**EL AL** has signed a Letter of Intent with the Victorian Government to operate direct services between Melbourne and Tel Aviv by Jun 2024, cementing earlier indications from the Israeli carrier (**TD** 22 Jul 2022).

The airline's intention is to operate three services per week, which are expected to add around 44,000 seats to Melbourne each year, delivering an estimated \$48m annually.

Israel is also an important market for Melbourne's education sector, with 45% of Israeli students in Australia enrolled in Victorian institutions.

## NZ out of the woods

**NEW** Zealand's State of National Emergency has ended today, with a national transition period now covering several of the island's regions, including Northland, Auckland, Waikato, and Tairāwhiti.

## New Saudi carrier

A **NEW** Saudi Arabian carrier called Riyadh Air will launch with a massive fleet of up to 72 787-9 Dreamliners.

The Public Investment Fund-owned Riyadh Air will purchase 39 Dreamliners, with options for 33 more jets, with Riyadh Air to support Saudi Arabia's goal of welcoming 100 million visitors per year by 2030 and transforming into a global aviation hub.

## Explore appoints PR

**EXPLORE** Worldwide has appointed tourism marketing agency Gate 7 to manage its PR in the Australian market.

The agreement will see Gate 7 promote Explore's range of small group tours to Aussie travellers, as well as its commitment to sustainable travel.

The agency's appointment comes after Explore added two sales consultants for the ANZ region last month (**TD** 28 Feb).

## BECOME A MODERN-DAY VIKING COMPETITIVE SALARY & BENEFITS



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## Viking 2025 river

**VIKING** Cruises has opened a selection of its 2025 Europe river cruise departures for sale, with past guests overnight being invited to secure their preferred dates and stateroom categories.

The program includes cruises on the Rhine, Main, Danube, Seine, Rhone and Douro rivers, while Viking's Egypt and Mekong river journeys for 2025 are also now open and available for booking.

Current offers, valid for bookings confirmed by 31 Mar, include savings of up to \$6,600 per couple - for more details call 138 747.

## Capella Sydney open

**SYDNEY'S** newest luxury hotel, Capella Sydney, has this morning welcomed its first guests after a seven-year restoration and renovation of the former Department of Education building in the city's "sandstone precinct".

Capella Sydney offers 192 guestrooms and suites across nine storeys, just moments from Circular Quay, the Opera House, and the Harbour Bridge.

There's also an extensive Auriga Spa facility, a 20-metre heated indoor pool, and a ground-floor 'Living Room' retreat for guests.

Opening deals starting at \$1,500 per night per room - [capellahotels.com/sydney](http://capellahotels.com/sydney).

## VIRTUOSO TO HOST SOLD-OUT FIJI FORUM

**VIRTUOSO** will next week host almost 200 Australian and New Zealand delegates in Fiji for its first offshore Owner Managers Forum since 2019, which is now filled to capacity.

Kicking off on Sun, the three-day event aims to allow travel agency owners and managers to "gather in a collaborative setting that promotes learning, sharing and empowerment," according to Virtuoso regional GM Fiona Dalton.

"We couldn't be more excited," she told *Travel Daily*.

"With a new format to accommodate even more strategic networking and with



the incorporation of exceptional and curated professional development sessions for the benefit of both members and partners, we're excited to bring our community together in Fiji this weekend, a place with so much meaning for so many of us."

Key sponsors include Explora Journeys, Accor/Sofitel Fiji, Switzerland Tourism, Oceania Cruises and Seabourn, while Fiji Airways is also supporting the event which will see 45 supplier partners participating.

Tourism Fiji is also a sponsor of the event, which will showcase some of the destination's burgeoning luxury portfolio.

Presenters include motivational speaker Anthony Bonnici, social media experts Lauren Bath and Kait Rich, and corporate expert Teresa Hetherington, while *Travel Daily* will also be reporting on location from the Virtuoso Forum.

## Marriott Saudi deal

**MARRIOTT** International has signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia's tourism body Neom to open three properties on the upcoming Sindalah luxury island off the country's Red Sea coast.

Set to open in 2024, the project includes two Luxury Collection properties and one Autograph Collection hotel.

The nautical-focused Sindalah island development will feature a superyacht marina, 38 unique culinary offerings, more than 400 ultra-premium hotel rooms and 300 top-end suites plus a beach club, all located about 17 hours sailing time from the Mediterranean.

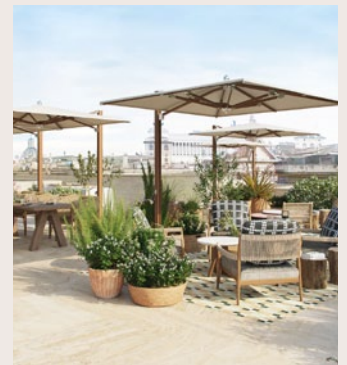
## Six Senses launches its first urban hotel in Italy

**SIX** Senses Rome will formally open in the historic Palazzo Salviati Cesi Mellini tomorrow.

It's the first Italian property for the brand, and debuts after a full restoration of the 15th century palace to house 96 guest rooms and suites.

Located close to key Rome landmarks such as the Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon, Six Senses Rome features a peaceful green oasis for guests, a rooftop terrace with panoramic views (**pictured**) and an extensive wellness offering including five treatment rooms, a hammam, meditation rooms and an outdoor yoga deck.

All-day dining is offered at the BIVIUM Restaurant-Cafe-Bar



as well as the NOTOS Rooftop, while the hotel also features a treasure trove of historic finds.

A dedicated "Earth Lab" will also showcase the hotel's sustainability efforts, with interactive talks and hands-on workshops for guests.

Travel & Cruise  
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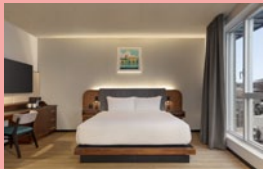
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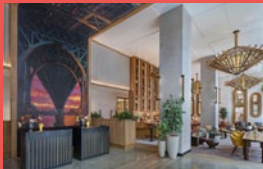


## ACCOMMODATION

**WELCOME** to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to [accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au).



The newly-opened 177-key Hyatt Hotels & Resorts **Hyatt Centric Ville-Marie Montreal** is located in the heart of Old Montreal in Canada, only steps away from the popular dining and shopping district, Place Jacques-Cartier. The property features modern-styled rooms, including five suites, as well as amenities such as a restaurant fusing Quebec and British cuisines, a rooftop pool (coming in winter 2023) and four meeting & event spaces spanning over 465m<sup>2</sup>.



**Marriott's Moxy Williamsburg** has debuted in Brooklyn on Bedford Avenue. The 216-room hotel has four dining and drinking venues including Mesiba, serving Levantine cuisine, Bar Bedford to savour both coffee and cocktails, the high-energy sound room, Jolene, and opening in autumn, LilliStar, a rooftop bar that will allow diners to enjoy the views of Williamsburg Bridge and the Manhattan skyline. The urban retreat also features three meeting studios which can be combined to accommodate larger groups.



Experience the Northern Lights at **Island Shangri-La Hong Kong's** enhanced guest rooms and suites. Guests can choose from four diverse themed rooms, Princess World, Space Travel, Safari Park, and Northern Lights. The renovated rooms will also feature in-room pantries, adaptable desk tables, integrated in-house technology and a daybed creating an ideal space for parents and kids.

## NEP bans solo treks

**NEPAL** has announced a blanket ban preventing solo travellers from trekking through the country's remote regions, forcing visitors to hire a government-licensed guide or join a group.

The restriction will help prevent tourists from going missing in rural areas, resulting in costly search-and-rescue missions.

The decision comes five years after the country's government banned solo hikers from climbing Mount Everest.

## TranzAlpine adds

**KIWIRAIL** has announced a new Scenic Plus option aboard its TranzAlpine rail service.

The new Scenic Plus ticket includes a personalised host service, locally produced cuisines, dedicated seats & large panoramic windows, as well as premium boarding with luggage check-in.

The Scenic Plus experience is now available for bookings on the TranzAlpine route, which will begin on 14 Apr.

## Dylan joins accessibility panel



**AUSTRALIAN** Paralympian, media personality and disability advocate, Dylan Alcott, will take part in a panel discussion at Tourism Australia's 2023 Destination Australia Conference taking place tomorrow.

Alcott, who was declared 2022 Australian of the Year, will join a panel of experts to discuss how Australia can become a more accessible destination.

Accompanying him on stage will be founder and Director of Let's Go Surfing, Brenda Miley; Vacayit Head of Content, Lisa McEwan; and Gayle O'Brien, Acting Deputy Director-General, Tourism for the Queensland Government.

The Developing a Tourism Product Accessible to All panel will be moderated by Nine Network television presenter, Karl Stefanovic, who will also emcee the conference.

Taking place at the International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney under the theme 'Come and Say G'Day', the full-day conference will also include discussions on the return of aviation,

opportunities for Indigenous tourism, travel outlook and trends, and much more.

**CLICK HERE** to register.

## Indigenous wisdom

**MORE** than 550 Indigenous tourism delegates have come together in Perth this week for the 2023 World Indigenous Tourism Summit (WITS).

The four-day program, which opened on Mon with a cultural evening on the Great Lawn at Crown Perth, includes plenary sessions and panel discussions examining the challenges and opportunities in Indigenous Tourism.

The WA Government also provided an update on the *Jina: Western Australian Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2021-2025*, with the event representing the first time it has been held in Australia, hosted this year by the Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators' Council.

Next year's summit is set to be held in Taiwan.



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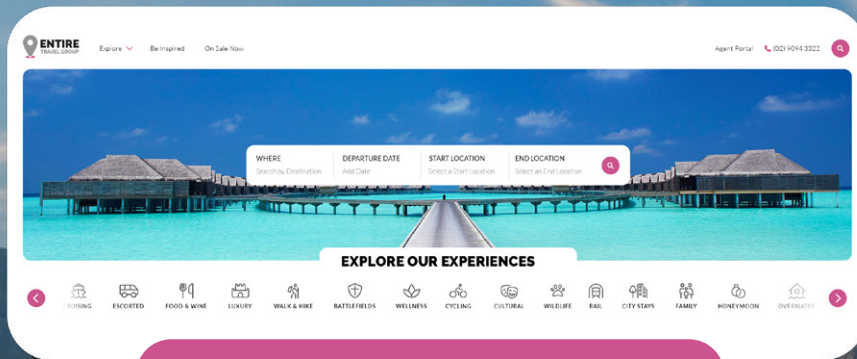


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