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Highlights of Cunard's new 2024/25 season.



Australian
Circumnavigation

The popular Australian Circumnavigation is returning in late 2024, departing from either Sydney or Melbourne. Port highlights include Broome, Bali, Geraldton and Tasmania.



Queen Anne's maiden
World Voyage.

Queen Anne is embarking on her 107-night maiden World Voyage in January 2025 sailing to more than 30 ports in five continents, including Sydney and Auckland.



South America on
Queen Victoria.

Queen Victoria will sail west from Southampton, for 78 nights, taking in some of South America's gems including Brazil, Chile and Ecuador.



Alaska 2024.

Explore Alaska on one of Queen Elizabeth's Vancouver roundtrip voyages, seeing skyscraper tall glaciers and mirror-like waters.

[Download your marketing assets here](#)

QUEEN MARY 2

QUEEN VICTORIA

QUEEN ELIZABETH

QUEEN ANNE



MTA RENEE MCLENNAN

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.

TODAY launches with a visit to Star Wars Galaxy's Edge inside the Disneyland Park and the Rise of the Resistance ride.

This state-of-the-art attraction features multiple characters, as well as a highly thrilling escape from the First Order.

Agents will also be hosted to a special dinner at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel, where no one will leave hungry.

Finally, the group will venture back into Disneyland to a special viewing area for the 'Wondrous Journeys' nighttime spectacular - featuring amazing high-tech imagery.

Operators move on China

NEWS of China resuming the issuance of all categories of visas this week (*TD* 15 Mar) has already seen two local tour operators flag their imminent return to the Asian country.

Intrepid has indicated it hopes to bring its first international tourists back to mainland China since Jan 2020 from as early as Jun, with the operator now conducting a "full operational review" before resuming trips.

Intrepid currently offers 14 China itineraries, ranging from seven to 40 days in length, including an 11-day China Real Food Adventure and a 12-Day China Family Holiday.

Meanwhile Wendy Wu Tours (WWT) hailed the news "a major milestone" for travel and tourism, with the company excited at the prospect of reviving what was one of its biggest destination markets before the pandemic.

"This is clearly...one of the most

eagerly anticipated reopenings for Asian tourism following the pandemic," founder Wendy Wu said, adding "as the number one specialist travel company to China from Australia...we will be the first to know further details and we will of course announce further news accordingly."

Wu also revealed that the appetite for China touring from Aussies was "at an all-time high", and coupled with a backlog of tour departures from the last three years, WWT is now preparing itself for what it predicts will be one of the busiest times in its history.

While some operators have been enthusiastic to relaunch itineraries in China, others have taken a more watchful approach, with both Bunnik Tours and The Travel Corporation confirming to *Travel Daily* that there are no plans to reenter the Chinese market in the foreseeable future.

Today's issue of *TD*

Travel Daily today features five pages of news including **Business Events News**, plus a front cover from **Cunard** and full pages from **The Travel Junction & Entire Travel Group**.

SA's hidden secrets

AGENTS can discover South Australia's hidden secrets with Matt Baldock from the South Australian Tourism Commission, by joining the new Aussie Specialist webinar on Tue 21 Mar at 11am AEDT - register via the learning catalogue [HERE](#).

Cunard 24/25 live

CUNARD Line's new 2024/2025 voyages are now on sale, with highlights of the season including an exciting Australian program aboard *Queen Elizabeth*.

The amazing season also includes the popular Australian Circumnavigation - see the **cover page** for more information.

EXPLORER SALE ENDS SOON

BOOK YOUR CLIENTS' 2023, 2024 OR 2025 VOYAGE BEFORE PRICES INCREASE

The Viking Explorer Sale ends on 31 March, which means you only have a few weeks left to book your clients at these exceptional prices before prices increase. So don't miss out on saving your clients up to \$9,000 per couple on a collection of river, ocean and expedition voyages.

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Outbound travel rise in Jan

THE start of the year kicked off with a huge surge in travel, with close to 1.1 million Aussies returning from short-term trips overseas in Jan 2023 - up by 50% when compared to Dec 2022.

Despite the boom, the number of overseas trips taken was still 21% lower than the pre-COVID level in Jan 2019, according to latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

New Zealand took the crown once again as the preferred destination choice for Aussies, accounting for 17% of all overseas trips in Jan, followed by Indonesia.

Meanwhile India outpaced the USA as the third most-popular travel destination, and was also the only country in the top 10 destinations for Jan to surpass levels from 10 years ago (up 52% from 216,720 in 2012).

The average length of an overseas trip was 16 days - down slightly from 17 days in 2021 -

with 'holidaying' listed as the main reason for travel for nearly half of all trips in Jan.

In less positive news, Australia's inbound tourism sector continues to lag behind 2019 levels, falling by 36% in Jan compared to Dec 2022 and remaining well below COVID-19 levels, reaching just 44% of Jan 2019 numbers.

New Zealanders made up most of Australia's international arrivals with 65,480 trips, followed by the UK (55,070) and the US (49,480).

South Korea and China were the only destinations in the top 10 visitor countries that recorded a rise in the number of trips taken in Jan compared to Dec.

Despite Queensland being the third most popular destination choice with 73,690 overseas arrivals, behind NSW (159,130) and Vic (109,950), the Sunshine State fell 48% short of its pre-COVID visitor levels - the lowest of all states and territories.

South Island deals

ADVISORS can now access a new collection of self-drive itineraries of NZ's South Island when they book through The Travel Junction's HELiO platform.

There are four road trip packages on offer, focusing on either wine, glaciers, breathtaking scenery, or a longer 16-day trip around the entire South Island.

Until 14 Apr, agents can also earn up to 15% commission for travel and stays until 31 Dec.

JQ Rarotonga 3X

JETSTAR is set to add a third weekly flight between Sydney and the Cook Islands when the route debuts on 29 Jun this year.

Initially flagged for a twice weekly operation, the A321neo LR services will now operate each Tue, Thu and Sun, with GDS indicating the expanded frequencies will be maintained into the Northern winter 2023/24 scheduling period.



Window Seat

A GROUP of 'extreme travellers' has just made the challenge of seeing as much of the planet as they can even harder this year.

The Most Travelled Group (MTG) was created in 2005 to challenge travellers to see more of the world's remote and daunting destinations, and this year the number of places to tick off the list increased from 1,000 to 1,500.

Making things even more difficult is the addition of the South Pole to MTG's list; previously contestants could claim they had visited most Antarctic regions by simply walking around polar region, now they have to navigate the whole of Antarctica.

Check out the full extreme leaderboard **HERE**.

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Crypto payment portal

ONLINE travel booking portal wentravel.com has launched, powered by white label travel marketplace provider Travlr, allowing travellers to access crypto payments for more than one million global travel options.

Travlr has partnered with digital currency payment processor RelayPay to launch the new marketplace, where travellers can discover, plan, and book travel using various popular cryptocurrencies, including Bitcoin, Ethereum and USDC.

Wentravel will give users a single platform with which to

access hotels, activities, touring, and cruising offers, as well as the ability to mix and match flights with all major airlines.

“There is an opportunity to capitalise on the ‘nest egg’ mentality around cryptocurrency and encourage users to utilise it for meaningful life experiences,” Travlr Chief Executive Officer Simon Te Hennepe said.

San Diego is back!

THE San Diego Tourism Authority is back in the Australian market, with Gate 7 appointed to represent the city located on the United States’ west coast.

Monique Campanella and Aimee Palmer can be contacted for marketing assets, content and famil opportunities.

Located in Southern California, San Diego is immediately adjacent to the United States-Mexico border.

ATAS termination

MELBOURNE-BASED Maximus Travels (ABN 60 618 460 156) is no longer a member of the Australian Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS) after failing to renew its participation under section 2.5 of the ATAS Charter.



DISNEYLAND Park is abuzz with 100 Australian and New Zealand travel agents exploring the attraction this week, all of whom are participating in the highly-coveted Disney100 Mega Famil.

Visit Anaheim hosted the group for an evening cocktail event at The Anaheim Hotel, with plenty of local suppliers in attendance.

The tourism body’s President and CEO, Jay Burrell, delivered a welcome address and informed attendees they are part of the single largest trade famil to be hosted this year.

An early start Wed morning meant the agents had the park to themselves, securing highly valued Main Street, USA and Disneyland Castle photos without other park guests in the picture!



Breakfast at the Plaza Inn was enjoyed with plenty of favourite Disney Characters in attendance, including Tigger, Chip & Dale and Winnie the Pooh.

Selfies at an arms distance was the flavour of the day as agents captured memories aplenty.

Disney100 is being celebrated across the Disneyland Resort in California, including new parade ‘Magic Happens’ and a nighttime spectacular, ‘Wonderous Journeys’.

Pictured: Agents in front of the famous Disneyland Castle and **inset** with special guest Dale at the Plaza Inn.



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Perth campaign

BUSINESS Events Perth has partnered with the City of Fremantle to launch a new marketing campaign to attract business events.

The push features videos with four local industry leaders, and aims to leverage the city's strong connection to maritime, logistics and defence industries, the arts, blue economy, sustainability and innovation.

Fremantle Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge described the city as offering "the complete experience for delegates in one of the most eclectic seaside destinations".

The campaign highlights Fremantle's unique event spaces, accommodation options, restaurants and bars, and more, as well as tourism experiences and attractions for pre- and post-conference touring programs.

VIVID SYDNEY '23 TO BE BIGGEST YET

THE program for this year's Vivid Sydney has been unveiled, and with international borders now fully reopened, it is expected to be the "biggest and best" yet.

Last year, the illustrious 23-day event attracted more than 2.5 million people and poured \$119 million into the NSW economy.

The festival will take place from 26 May to 17 Jun, with more than 300 free and ticketed events across 14 locations under the theme 'Vivid Sydney, Naturally', which will focus on connections with the natural environment.

"Vivid Sydney is NSW's biggest annual event and makes a significant social and economic contribution to our state," NSW Minister for Tourism and the Arts Ben Franklin said.

The program is "bursting with mesmerising displays from the world's brightest light artists", he added, featuring the biggest drone show in the Southern



Hemisphere, live performances, discussions with international thought leaders, and creative food experiences.

One of the main highlights of the festival will be Vivid LIVE 2023, the Sydney Opera House's contemporary music event featuring over 45 artists including indie rock icon Cat Power.

Other standout events and attractions include the 8.5km Light Walk, featuring 57 works from 13 countries; one-off dining

experiences and pop-ups with international and local chefs; Vivid House, an immersive 360° art experience; and Inside Out, an animated journey through three decades of Aussie décor and style.

Tickets to Vivid LIVE will go on sale tomorrow **HERE**, while the full Vivid Sydney 2023 program can be viewed **HERE**.

Pictured: This year's Lighting of the Sails will pay tribute to Australian artist John Olsen.

SA climate event

SOUTH Australia's inaugural Industry Climate Change Conference is set to take place on 20-21 Apr, and will be managed by the Adelaide-based All Occasions Group.

Around 250 companies have registered their interest in the state-run conference, which aims to inform businesses on sustainability and reducing carbon footprint, and will help position South Australia as a leader in climate change.

ICC Sydney to upskill five AV graduates

INTERNATIONAL Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney has kicked off its Audio Visual (AV) Graduate Program for the fourth time, with five AV professionals joining the venue after completing their tertiary education courses.

The year-long initiative will see the graduates work across all areas of the centre's AV and production services, including



audio, lighting, vision, rigging, staging and more, throughout a calendar of events.

The group will be mentored by the industry's leading AV professionals and get to work on a diverse range of events.

TrailGraze 2023

TASTING Trail's TrailGraze will return on 22-23 Apr, following the success of its inaugural event last year.

The festival will showcase the best food and beverage producers in north-west Tasmania, and will feature more than 30 producers, as well as workshops, tastings, live music, and behind-the-scenes tours.

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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.

TravelCard has named **Michael Storozhev** as its Chief Underwriting Officer. Storozhev's prior experience includes a six-month stint with Cover-More as its GM Strategic Underwriting AUS/NZ and Head of Global Insurance Products and Underwriting.

Brenton Reidy has become the Business Development Manager Vic/SA/WA/Tas at **MSC Cruises** after three years away from the cruise sector. Reidy will spearhead growth activities with the cruise line and had previously worked with Stuba and Carnival Australia in similar roles.

Michael O'Leary has begun his role at **Ponant** as its new Product Development Manager, where he will aim to deliver exceptional guest services and achieve ambitious sustainability goals. O'Leary was formerly the Director of italktravel.

Linden Cleary continues her journey with **Tourism Tasmania** as its Chief Marketing Officer, where she will be overseeing the process of the team's brand 'Come Down For Air' and 'Off Season' program. Cleary brings with her over 15 years of experience and was the Acting CMO.

Amadeus expands

AMADEUS has announced the expansion of its Travel4Impact Network to welcome organisations across the Pacific.

The social innovation network, run in partnership with IE University, aims to improve the competitiveness and social and environmental impact of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the travel sector.

Initially launched in Spain and then Europe over the first two editions, applications for the third edition opened at the beginning of Mar, with more than 30 SMEs expected to participate this year.

Successful applicants will be provided with support in the development of their digital strategies, the social and environmental impact of their value proposition and the sustainability of their business.

Ipswich Visitor Guide

THE 2023 Ipswich Visitor Guide has been released this week, featuring a detailed write up of more than 100 local tourism businesses in the region.

This year's magazine features info on overnight itineraries, new things to do, accessibility options, plus local tips - download [HERE](#).

Rotty draft plan out

THE Western Australian Government has opened up its Rottne Island Draft Management Plan (**TD 11 Jul 2022**) for public comment.

The plan details key priorities for the island's natural and cultural resources, facilities and visitor experiences during the next five years, including significant commitments to sustainability.

See the full plan [HERE](#).

WA puts money where Exmouth is



TOURISM WA, along with partners Qantas and Australia's Coral Coast, recently invited 50 Melbourne trade travel guests to the West Beach Pavilion in St Kilda to celebrate the launch of direct services from Melbourne to Exmouth from 30 Apr.

The guests were treated with WA specialties including seafood and wine at the exclusive event.

Tourism WA MD, Carolyn Turnbull, said the new direct flights will allow more access to the popular destination in WA.

"It's fantastic that tourists will soon have even more options to

fly direct to Exmouth and explore WA's World Heritage listed Ningaloo Reef," she said.

"Tourism WA is committed to making it easier for tourists to fly direct to regional Western Australia and we thank our partner Qantas for making this...a reality," Turnbull added.

The service will operate twice-weekly until Oct, saving travellers more than three hours compared to existing routes.

Pictured: Sonia Holt, The Walshe Group; David O'Malley, Australia's Coral Coast; Mel Johnson, Jessica Woodford, Sueanne McCumstie Tourism WA; Christine Poole, The Walshe Group; as well as Qantas representative Kylie.

MEL 81% of 2019

MELBOURNE Airport saw a total of 2,312,697 travellers pass through its terminals in Feb, representing 81% of the number of passengers processed in the same month in pre-COVID 2019.

Compared to Feb 2022, the number of international pax processed at MEL grew by 346%, while domestic pax numbers rose by 64%, despite Feb usually being the quietest month of the year.

The highest number of international arrivals to MEL, apart from Australians, were passport holders from India, New Zealand, China and the UK.

LOT SIA codeshare

LOT Polish Airlines look set to resume codeshare operations in partnership with Singapore Airlines on several SQ routes to Australian cities.

GDS screens currently indicate that from 29 Oct LOT flight numbers are being offered on SIA services from Singapore to Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, Sydney and Melbourne as well as Auckland, Christchurch, Hanoi and Taipei.

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