

ENTIRE TRAVEL GROUP

TAHITI

INDULGE YOURSELF

SAVE UP TO \$2,000 PER COUPLE

BOOK BY 16 JUNE 2023



PEACE OF MIND BOOKING PLAN

EXCLUSIVE PACKAGES

SAFE TRAVEL OPERATOR

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest news including our **Sustainability page**, plus a full page from **Tourism Australia**.

New Swiss role

SWITZERLAND Tourism has appointed The Walshe Group to provide local marketing support in Australia and New Zealand.

With the goal of inspiring visitation to Switzerland, the Sydney-based tourism marketing company will oversee the DMO's trade and media campaigns.

The Walshe Group will also assist with the transition after the recruitment of a new Swiss Market Manager in Australia later this year, following the exit of Birgit Weingartner (**TD 09 May**).

CATO unveils new board

THE Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) elected four members to new two-year terms on its board at last week's AGM.

New blood added to CATO includes Chief Exploration Officer at The Explorer Society, Martin Edwards, who returns to the CATO board alongside Intrepid Group GM Sales & Partnership ANZ, Yvette Thompson.

The election also saw James Donnell, Finance Director at The Travel Corporation Australia re-elected alongside Julie King & Associates founder Julie King, complementing an 11-person team which boasts the recently re-elected Chair Dennis Bunnik (**TD 11 May**), as well as CATO MD Brett Jardine, Crooked Compass founder Lisa Pagotto, Sundowners Overland MD Liz Anderson, Entire Travel Group MD Brad McDonnell, Poynton Partners Lawyers Partner Aaron Zoanetti, and G Adventures Managing Director Sean Martin.

CATO Managing Director Brett Jardine paid tribute to two high profile candidates who were unsuccessful in their bid for a place on the board, including Chimu Adventures MD Chad Carey and Ingrid Berthelsen from Evolution Travel Collective.

"We are truly delighted to witness such a strong interest from our membership

to participate in the CATO Board, a testament to the board's outstanding credibility accomplishments," Jardine noted.

"CATO remains steadfast in its commitment to serving its members, confident that the fresh perspectives of the newly-elected board members will further enhance the organisation's strategic initiatives," he added.

Win a luxury stay!

TRAVEL advisors can win a two-night stay at a Luxury Lodge of Australia property when they attend a Signature Experiences of Australia Showcase event, which are running next month in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane - see the **back page** for details.

Unexpected Qld

TOURISM Australia is inviting agents to join its new Aussie Specialist 'Discover the unexpected in Queensland in winter' webinar on Thu 18 May at 11am AEST.

Participants who complete the quiz will also have the chance to win a \$2,000 accommodation voucher for Peppers Blue on Magnetic Island - **CLICK HERE**.

SIA A380 milestone

SINGAPORE Airlines' (SIA) flagship Airbus A380 has returned to Melbourne this morning for the first time since Jan 2020, and will operate daily flights until 28 Oct.

The extra capacity will raise the carrier's Melbourne operations to 110% compared to Jan 2020, marking the first destination in SIA's Aussie network to exceed pre-COVID capacity levels.

"This extra capacity is a huge win for consumers and with one-stop connections to an impressive range of destinations in south-east Asia, India and Europe," Melbourne Airport CEO Lorie Argus enthused.

Royal back to China

ROYAL Caribbean has announced its highly anticipated return date to the China market, revealing overnight that Apr 2024 will see the brand deploy its *Spectrum of the Seas* vessel to be based in Shanghai.

The cruise line will offer four- and five-night sailings to popular Japanese destinations such as Okinawa, Nagasaki and Osaka, as well as eight voyages from Hong Kong from Dec 2024 to ports in Japan, Taiwan, China & Vietnam.

MEANWHILE *Anthem of the Seas* will sail in Asia for the first time from Singapore from late 2024, with bookings to be made available on Royal Caribbean's website in the coming week.

For more in-depth detail on both of these stories, see today's **Cruise Weekly**.

Wendy Wu Tours

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS YOU'LL NEVER FORGET

JAPAN	VIETNAM
INDIA	EGYPT
SRI LANKA	CHINA

EXPLORE MORE

THE TRAVEL JUNCTION
BY FLIGHT CENTRE TRAVEL GROUP

OUR RES TEAM'S TAKING BOOKINGS NOW!

CALL 1800 003 903

EMAIL SALES@THETRAVELJUNCTION.COM.AU

CHOOSE HOW YOU BOOK WITH US

- PHONE SALES EXPERTS
- ONLINE BOOKING PLATFORM - HELLO
- 24/7 SUPPORT

If you are not already registered to book with The Travel Junction, please click on the link below to register

REGISTER NOW



Travello adds execs

ONLINE tour and experiences company Travello has added some serious experience to its board, with ex Tourism Australia chief Andrew McEvoy appointed as Chair and former Virgin Velocity CEO Phil Gunter assuming a position on the board.

The two big-name recruits were both involved in a major \$6.5 million capital raising in 2021 (TD 01 Jun 2021), as part of a stronger push into the Millennial market.

The business has seen its sales for this year increase by 240% on 2022, with overseas source countries' sales alone surging by 600%, while booking volumes have increased by 250% on 2022.

Travello also recently opened its first concept retail store in Cairns, offering customers a chance to sit inside a private jet experience.



If you want great package rates

TURN TAAP ON

ENJOY TODAY

www.expedia.com.au/taap

telephone
1800 726 618

email
expedia-au@discovertheworld.com.au

Battleface debuts in Oz

A **NEW** travel insurance provider has landed Down Under, with battleface announcing the launch of its partner platform in the Australian market.

Already established in Europe and the US, battleface offers flexible and customisable insurance for travellers, and allows partners to build their own tailored plan options with predetermined rates and benefits via its tech platform.

Battleface has already secured several partnerships in Australia via its API-driven platform, including with startup travel agency AWAI Travel, and Brisbane-based travel insurance company, Wise and Silent.

The platform enables partners to "embed travel insurance products within their purchase path as a seamless integration into their customer journey".

Battleface Managing Director Matt McLellan said, "when travel

insurance is unbundled into individual benefits, partners can build their own products on top of APIs with precise benefits driving higher conversion and overall customer satisfaction.

"By partnering with compatible brands across Australia we're able to offer customers access to products based on their actual travel needs and itineraries."

Standard cover from battleface includes trip cancellation protection up to \$40,000 per person, plus a personal liability insurance of \$2.5 million.

Customers will be able to access battleface's 24/7 emergency medical, travel, claims and customer service teams.

Launched in 2017, battleface travel insurance is now available in more than 185 countries.

Interested travel partners can reach out directly to the Australian team via partner@battleface.com.



Unlock European Trains with James Hooper



Know More, Sell Better

♦ **Passholder Fares:** SNCF passholder fares are now available **EXCLUSIVELY** through agent.raileurope.com, allowing you to book Eurail Passes and seats in one place: *Eurostar* (London ↔ Paris/Brussels/Amsterdam); *Thalys* (Paris ↔ Brussels/Amsterdam); *Lyrria* (France ↔ Switzerland), *TGV* (domestic France); *France-Italy high-speed*; *Trenitalia* (domestic Italy); and *Italy ↔ Switzerland*.

♦ **Swiss Travel Pass:** The Swiss Travel Pass covers all public transportation, discounts on cableways and much more. For a full list of benefits and to compare against the Eurail Pass [click here](#).

♦ **Incentive:** Receive \$10 for the 6th booking onwards; and a further \$5 for Eurostar, Thalys & LNER bookings. Capped at \$250 per agency per month.

♦ **Expert tip:** Train timetables are amended twice a year on the 2nd Sunday in Jun & Dec. At this time, some advance bookings might not be available. For help, see this [Booking Horizon](#) article or contact the [support team](#).

agent.raileurope.com | jhooper@raileurope.com (VIC, TAS, SA)
groberson@raileurope.com (NSW, ACT, QLD, WA & NT)

Unlock Easy Rail Access

Commission + Support + Flexi-pay + Incentives = **Rail Europe**

Fiona lands Doyle

LUXURY hotel group, The Doyle Collection, has appointed the newly-established Fiona Rose Representation to handle its sales strategy in Australia and NZ.

Founder Fiona Rose was most recently the Director of Global Sales Asia and Pacific for Luxe Hotels, and before that held senior sales roles with Fairmont and Westin Hotels & Resorts.

"We have no doubt that Fiona's deep knowledge of the Australian and New Zealand market will have a strong impact in bringing The Doyle Collection offering to a new audience," CEO of the hotel group Gordon Drake said.

The Doyle Collection boasts eight upmarket hotels in the United Kingdom, Ireland and the United States - for more info on the brand, see [HERE](#).

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO PLAN THE PERFECT QUEENSLAND HOLIDAY

LEARN MORE

Queensland AUSTRALIA



Window Seat

SOCIAL media has been held responsible for a plane crash, with a prominent US YouTuber admitting he purposely staged an accident in the hope of getting lots of online views.

29-year-old former Olympic snowboarder Trevor Jacob, who has about 140,000 subscribers on the platform, pleaded guilty after a long-running investigation into a video creatively titled "I Crashed My Plane", which shows him diving out of a small aircraft wearing a parachute after its engine failed mid-flight.

He claimed in the video that the plane malfunctioned while flying over the Los Padres National Forest in California.

However the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) noted he made no attempt to contact air traffic control, didn't try to restart the engine and could have actually safely glided to several landing spots.

In a plea agreement, Jacob admitted planning on making money from the video, & also agreed he hid the wreckage to obstruct investigations.

The offense carries a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison.

At the risk of encouraging him, you can still check it out at traveldaily.com.au/videos.

Six Senses Greece

SIX Senses has announced its first Greek resort, with the new property located on the island of Megalonisos and created in partnership with local ultra-luxury developer Grivalia Hospitality.

Planned for a 2027 opening, Six Senses Megalonisos will have 75 guest villas, three restaurants and 20 branded residences for sale.

IHG Access launch

IHG Hotels & Resorts has officially launched its IHG Access experiences platform in Australia.

The program gives IHG One Rewards loyalty scheme members the ability to redeem points for money-can't-buy experiences, event packages, sporting and entertainment tickets & more.

Launch offers include the opportunity to bid on an "Ultimate Isuzu Ute A-League Men's Grand Final Experience" as well as ticket packages for the match - see auctions.ihg.com.

PEPR wins Explora

EXPLORA Journeys has appointed PEPR agency as its public relations representative for Australia and NZ.

The move comes in the lead-up to the highly anticipated debut of *Explora I*, the first of six luxury newbuild ships for the MSC-owned venture.

According to the firm's website, other cruise clients represented by PEPR include Holland America Line, Aqua Expeditions, Cunard and European Waterways.

AFTA UPDATE

from Nina Hedges, Compliance Manager



GENERALLY speaking, it is the love for exploring our incredible world that drove most of us to join the

travel industry.

Therefore, ensuring we choose and offer products that contribute to the longevity of our world's sustainability is no doubt of equal importance.

The challenge many face with fulfilling this goal is wading through the alphabet soup of sustainability claims to find the products that genuinely do fulfil their greenness declarations.

Last week, the ACCC held their Global ICPEN Environmental and Sustainability Workshop, and AFTA was proud to represent ATAS businesses and the wider travel industry at this important event.

Through discussions with global leaders, it was clear that there is significant distrust in green claims that products represent and that, in Australia and beyond, there is a genuine need for regulation regarding sustainability statements.

There is information asymmetry in the market, and we require information to be available to us that is factual, easily understood and relevant to enable us to make informed choices.

With so many credible businesses in the travel industry carrying out incredible initiatives to protect our planet, regulation will ensure that the fog around sustainability claims will be lifted and these businesses genuinely doing the right thing will emerge and receive the recognition they deserve.

We are in a green transition period with consumers, regulators and businesses all looking for collaboration.

Consumers want regulation to ensure they can rely on a claim's legitimacy, governments want consumers to make green choices to protect the environment and we need regulators to enforce this process.

Regulation of sustainability claims will be a critical trend for the next five years and businesses will spend more time and money focusing on how they communicate and substantiate them.

The days of being able to slap a green leaf onto products to represent sustainability are very much numbered.

Ensuring you are a member of ATAS, Australia's largest and most credible accreditation scheme, will be more vital than ever during this time and we are committed to supporting and educating all of our members through this green transition period.

QR, BA boost pact

QATAR Airways is expanding its codeshare network with British Airways to a range of destinations served from London Heathrow, including South Africa.

Effective 18 May, QR will codeshare on BA flights from LHR to Cape Town, Johannesburg, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt & Nuremberg.

AKL back to 81%

AUCKLAND International Airport traffic during Mar totalled 81% of pre-pandemic levels.

International passengers (excluding transit) amounted to 76% of Mar 2019 figures, while transit passengers sat at 58% and domestic totalled 88%.

The Mar 2023 total was 1.51m pax, the highest since Feb 2020.

Do you love quality enquiry from a fiercely loyal client base?

Are you looking to utilise your impressive knowledge of Africa, the polar regions and South America to name just a few?

Celebrating 40 years in business next year, Back Track Adventures is seeking an experienced **travel specialist** to **join the family**.



Email leanne@backtrack.com.au to apply.





Big eco-Phocus

FRANCE'S banning of short-haul flights in an effort to reduce carbon emissions (TD 14 Dec 2022) is just the "tip of the iceberg" in terms of the regulatory challenges the travel industry faces as a result of sustainability initiatives, new research from Phocuswright has revealed.

Increasing regulatory challenges is one of five key drivers behind change for the industry identified in the global travel market research company's new *Green Innovation* report.

The report also details a growing share of consumers eager to act on sustainable travel, and suggests that companies should enable travellers to make sustainable choices during the shopping and booking process.

Travel companies should actively pursue innovation when it comes to sustainable practices and products, the report recommends, as well as establish an action plan to meet specific carbon emission reduction targets.

The *Green Innovation* paper arrives ahead of the upcoming Phocuswright Europe Conference, which takes place in Barcelona on 12-14 Jun, and will focus on sustainability as a key topic.

For more information on the report, [CLICK HERE](#).

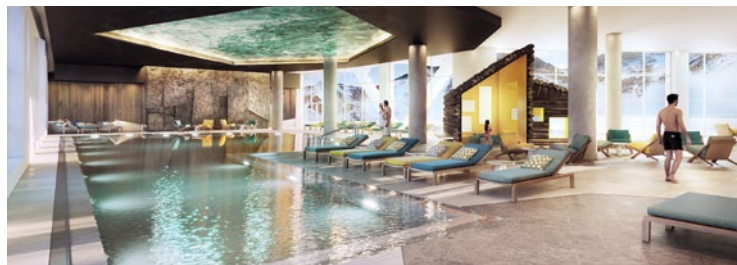
SUSTAINABILITY AT THE FOREFRONT

EXCLUSIVE

CLUB Med will have sustainability at the forefront of its design and construction principles moving forward, General Manager Pacific Michelle Davies told *Travel Daily*.

The company's vanguard builds a foundation for it to say "we need to do more", Davies believes, a proposition it is in full control of, as the owner-operator of all of its resorts.

Club Med's newest property in Tignes, France (pictured), which opened in Dec, is one such example that has been constructed from the ground-up with a number of sustainability focused elements built in, resulting in its 'Green Globe' certification, which assesses the sustainability performance of



travel businesses.

"We have solar panelling across all of the balconies of the resort, which then look to fuel the electricity within the entire resort," Davies said.

"There's been a huge amount of work on the type of construction that we use, in terms of the supplies that we use to ensure we're using sustainable materials.

"We've used a lot of materials and changed our design principles to ensure that we have taken into

account materials that will be more insulating naturally for the resort to save on some of those electricity costs, to reduce the overall footprint of the property."

Club Med Tignes is also fitted with insulation, heat pumps, semi-automated building control, and an innovative heat recovery system for its showers, all of which seek to lower energy use.

There will also be no single-use plastics in any of the resort's bars, restaurants and rooms.

Emirates US\$200 million green fund

EMIRATES has committed US\$200 million to fund research and development (R&D) projects focused on reducing the impact of fossil fuels in commercial aviation.

Emirates' Environmental Sustainability Executive Steering Group will oversee disbursements from the fund, which represents the biggest single commitment by any airline on sustainability, over a three-year period.

The company's President, Tim

Clark, revealed the airline is looking to partner with leading organisations to work on solutions in advanced fuel and energy technologies.

"It's clear that with the current pathways available to airlines in terms of emissions reduction, our industry won't be able to hit net zero targets in the prescribed timeline," he said.

Clark went on to highlight that the fund is dedicated to R&D, and won't be used for operating costs like the purchase of SAF.

More for Blue Flag

TOURISTS are willing to pay more for a sustainable coastal destination with Blue Flag status, according to a new study from the University of Portsmouth.

The 312-participant study revealed that the eco-label, which marks a beach, marina or tourism boat as safe and sustainable, can "significantly enhance a destination's brand identification" and help attract environmentally-conscious tourists.

Connect with your clients and ramp up your social media content

Looking for ready-made social media content? *Travel & Cruise Weekly* have ready made agent toolkits featuring email signatures, images, and social media tiles to inspire your clients.

Travel & Cruise Weekly

[CLICK HERE](#)



LEARN MORE ABOUT TOKYO WITH TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY

Click here to discover

Travel Daily

MONEY

WELCOME to Money, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

AU\$1 = US\$0.670

AFTER an unexpected decision to hike interest rates to 3.85% earlier in the month, financial pundits are watchful as to how this will impact exchange rates.

Meanwhile, the AUD climbed to a three-month high yesterday, most likely due to the UK and parts of Europe being closed for public holidays, and follows a weak showing last Fri, with the Aussie dropping 0.8% against the USD.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.670
UK	£0.535
NZ	\$1.073
Euro	€0.616
Japan	¥91.15
Thailand	฿22.64
China	¥4.661
South Africa	12.74
Canada	\$0.902
Crude oil	US\$74.17

Hyatt adds four more in Bulgaria

FOUR new Bulgarian resorts have been added by Hyatt Hotels as the company further expands its portfolio of the Inclusive Collection, by World of Hyatt in Eastern Europe.

The opening of Secrets Sunny Beach Resort & Spa, Dream Sunny Beach Resort & Spa, AluaSun Helios Beach, and Alua Helios Bay located on the Black Sea coast are now available to book through Hyatt channels, and World of Hyatt members can also earn and redeem points by booking stays at the new Bulgarian properties.

HLO Rowville marks 30 years



THE APT team was recently on hand to celebrate 30 years with their Platinum Partner Helloworld Rowville in Victoria, presenting the store owners with a commemorative newspaper

front page to celebrate the achievement.

"An amazing milestone, congratulations to John and Kath Williams and the team," a spokesperson for APT enthused.

Pictured pulling out all the stops to celebrate the occasion was Scott Ellis, Tammy Van Exan and Tenneil Lawson from APT, flanking Kath and John Williams (holding the special edition newspaper).

Qantas near miss

THE Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) is currently investigating a "near-miss" incident that occurred between two Qantas jets on 29 Apr at Sydney Airport.

The aircraft involved in the "close proximity event" were servicing flights from Brisbane and Queenstown in New Zealand.

As part of the ATSB investigation, air safety officials will interview involved parties, examine radar, radio and flight data recordings, obtain relevant information from the operator and air traffic service provider, as well as collect other evidence as required to reach a conclusion.

Venture's second stint in the Arctic

SEABOURN'S Seabourn Venture is preparing for her second season in the Arctic, offering a series of 14- and 15-day voyages to the far-flung destinations of Greenland and Iceland.

After making its maiden arrival in Greenwich, London, the vessel will plot a course for Greenland and Iceland between Jun and Aug, thereafter sailing the line's first voyage through the Northwest Passage.

Airbnb tax purge

THE Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has indicated its intentions to crack down on landlords who do not declare all of their income or claim too many expenses for short-term rentals on platforms such as Airbnb and Stayz.

The ATO said it had often seen rental income being left out of tax returns, or mistakes made with property-related deductions, including people over-claiming expenses, with owners of rental properties also warned capital gains tax applies on the disposal of investment rental properties.

travelBulletin

OPINION

Why the travel industry should "cancel" influencers

Click here to read



SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES OF AUSTRALIA

Showcase

Arkaba Homestead, Flinders Ranges, South Australia



**AUSSIE
SPECIALIST
PROGRAM**

You're invited!

Join the Aussie Specialist team and Executive Officers from the Signature Experiences of Australia collectives for an immersive evening event.

You'll learn about each collective's outstanding holiday experiences and impressive premium travel offerings from across the country.

These experiences represent the very essence of Australia and include Aboriginal guided experiences, hosted multiday walks, sustainable fishing adventures, bespoke wildlife journeys, unparalleled winery experiences, prestigious golf courses, leading cultural attractions, and immersive luxury lodges.

Plus, you could WIN a two-night stay at a Luxury Lodge of Australia property of your choice or a range of other incredible prizes!

SYDNEY

Tuesday 20 June, 6pm - 8.30pm
QT Sydney, 49 Market Street, Sydney

MELBOURNE

Wednesday 21 June, 6pm - 9pm
Kino Cinema, 45 Collins Street, Melbourne

BRISBANE

Thursday 22 June, 6pm - 9pm
Elizabeth Theatre, 175 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane

Places are limited, please **RSVP before 9 June.**

[Register now](#)



ULTIMATE
WINERY
EXPERIENCES
AUSTRALIA