



## Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of the latest news including our Sustainability page and a photo page from Visit USA, plus full pages from:

- Tourism Australia
- Collette

Wendy Wu Tours

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS YOU'LL NEVER FORGET

JAPAN	VIETNAM
INDIA	EGYPT
SRI LANKA	CHINA

EXPLORE MORE

## QF calls on American exec

**FORMER** American Airlines CEO Doug Parker has joined the Qantas Board effective today (TD breaking news), replacing the long-serving Director Michael L'Estrange, who will formally step away from the carrier in Nov.

The airline's Chairman Richard Goyder said Parker, who was the CEO of American Airlines from 2013 to 2021, will help Qantas maintain the expertise needed as it enters the important "next phase in its history".

"There are few people with as much experience running airlines as Doug, he's spent more than two decades as an airline CEO in North America, including eight years heading up the world's largest airline," Goyder said.

"The knowledge and perspective he'll bring to the board will be a huge asset as we grow in the years ahead and while [Parker] was CEO of American Airlines, its relationship with Qantas expanded

significantly as the two carriers formed a joint business to serve passengers better," he added.

The major board recruit coincided with Qantas providing an updated forecast for the full year 2023 this morning, which included an estimated underlying profit before tax of between \$2.425 and \$2.475 billion.

The carrier also revealed that forward booking trends indicate strong travel demand continuing into FY24, with revenue intakes at 118% of pre-COVID levels for its domestic operations, and 123% for its international division.

While improved capacity, lower jet fuel price predictions and lower costs at scale have been flagged over coming months, CEO Alan Joyce cautioned that international seat numbers still face some turbulence ahead.

"The industry remains capacity constrained and the travel category remains strong, so there's still a mismatch between supply and demand that's likely to persist for some time - especially for international flying," Joyce noted.

## Heritage discounts

**HERITAGE** Line is offering registered agents in Australia and New Zealand an opportunity to enjoy select Southeast Asian sailings at a discounted price for themselves and a friend.

The offer, applicable on cruises departing between Jun and Sep, is priced at US\$180 per person, per night (A\$271), available until 30 Sep - email [HERE](#).

## An Aussie showcase

**TOURISM** Australia is hosting a series of evening events next month in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, to showcase the Signature Experiences of Australia collectives - see [page nine](#) for all the important details.

## Collette delivers

**COLLETTE** is highlighting the many benefits it brings to travel agents, including extended call centre hours, upfront guaranteed advanced commission, a hold time average of less than five mins, and more - see [back page](#).

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

RailOnline

Book to WIN an e-scooter & more!!

Simply make a booking from the 22nd May - 30th June 2023 to be in the running.

Highest Sales WINS!!

T&C's apply see @rail.online

More Time Off Ship  
More Activities  
Antarctica 2024 | 2025

LEARN MORE

SAVE UP TO 25%\* OFF

\*T&C's Apply

## Explora Pioneers

MSC Group's luxury cruise brand, Explora Journeys, has launched 'Pioneers status' for travel agents, recognising and rewarding advisors who have booked at least one journey for their clients during the brand's inaugural year of operation.

Benefits for Pioneers include invitations for agents and a guest to join a free Educational Insider First Look journey between 17 Jul 2023 and 31 May 2024, as well as access to special travel agent fares for personal use.

Explora will also give agents who make the cut referral benefits for engaging with other travel agents and referring them to Explora Journeys, as well as bonus commission on all new bookings made by the referred travel agent in 2023.

Explora promotes itself as being very trade-friendly, offering generous commissions of up to 18%, no NCFs, and rolling commission payments.

## AFTA mulls NTIA flights

THE Australian Federation of Travel Agents (AFTA) has revealed it is examining the prospect of co-ordinated flights to this year's National Travel Industry Awards (NTIAs) in Melbourne, subject to demand from each capital city.

AFTA said it would gauge the level of interest in the dedicated flights idea, as well as the possibility of hosting a special Fri night activation before the awards event, through a survey of travel professionals **HERE**.

"We are determined that this year's NTIAs will be unforgettable and, following member feedback, we're looking at some new additions to the celebrations including a pre-NTIA event and dedicated NTIA flights," AFTA CEO Dean Long confirmed.

"We also have a world-class entertainment venue in the prestigious Palladium at Crown Melbourne (**pictured**), a fixture on Australia's high-profile events

Hallyu Cultural  
South Korea

12 days including **Busan One Asia Festival** from only \$4,195\*

**mwTours**



Departs 17/10/23



LEARN MORE

## Culbert departs SYD

**SYDNEY** Airport has announced that CEO Geoff Culbert will step down from his role by the end of the year, with a search already underway to find a new leader.

His tenure at Australia's busiest airport was a challenging one, having navigated the hub through the global pandemic and managing its purchase by Global Infrastructure Partners.

"As a leader, Geoff also built an outstanding team and culture that will endure long after he departs," Sydney Airport Chair David Gonski said.

"We are pleased that Geoff will be staying on until the end of the year to give us the opportunity to conduct a global search and facilitate a smooth transition to a new Chief Executive," he added.



calendar.

"Our NTIA Custodians and the AFTA team are already on the case and pulling out all the stops to make this year's NTIA the best celebration yet of our diverse membership and all those who support Australia's travel sector," he added.

The NTIAs will take place on 18 Nov and mark the return of travel's night of nights to Melbourne for the first time since 2006, which since then has been hosted in Sydney.

For more on the mooted group flights, see AFTA's column on **p5**.

Expedia TAAP

## Rail Europe



Unlock European Trains with Grant Robertson

### Tips that Simplify European Train Travel

- ◆ **UK Trains:** LNER enables [seat reservations](#) to be booked for customers holding Eurail Global Mobile Passes. After creating an online profile with LNER, click *Reserve a Seat* under *Plan your Journey* and fill in the online form to instantly confirm a seat reservation. Note: customers must have created a Trip in their Eurail Rail Planner app in conjunction with the seat reservation.
- ◆ **Thalys:** Part of the Eurostar group, this French-Belgian high speed train can get you from Paris Nord to Brussels-Midi/Zuid non-stop in just 1h 22min. There are three classes of service available: Standard, Comfort and Premium. Complimentary WiFi is available throughout the train.
- ◆ **Expert Tip:** With rail making European journeys so easy, it is important to remind customers to have their passports and documentation in order and easily accessible for immigration authorities in each country being visited.

agent.raileurope.com | [jhooper@raileurope.com](mailto:jhooper@raileurope.com) (VIC, TAS, SA)  
[grobertson@raileurope.com](mailto:grobertson@raileurope.com) (NSW, ACT, QLD, WA & NT)

### Unlock Easy Rail Access

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

## Visit USA VIPs

**VISIT USA** hosted its VIP Industry Welcome Event at IPW 2023 on Sat, drawing 170 attendees to *Howl at the Moon* in San Antonio, Texas.

The Australian and New Zealand IPW delegation along with Visit USA Australia members enjoyed plenty of entertainment, including duelling pianos, a song written especially for the event, and a band playing US classics.

More details on **p6**.

## Epic Pass price rise

**VAIL Resorts** has announced that prices for the Epic Australia Pass will rise from 31 May, with rates for the ski pass shifting from \$1,099 for adults, \$629 for students and \$849 for seniors.

Perisher, Falls Creek and Hotham are all set to open on 10 Jun in what should be a bumper snow season - for more information on the Epic Pass benefits, **CLICK HERE**.

If you  
want more  
inventory

TURN  
TAAP  
ON

ENJOY TODAY

[www.expedia.com.au/taap](http://www.expedia.com.au/taap)

telephone  
1800 726 618

email  
[expedia-au@discovertheworld.com.au](mailto:expedia-au@discovertheworld.com.au)



## BECA opts to de-register

**THE** Business Events Council of Australia (BECA) will be dissolved after its members voted unanimously to voluntarily de-register the peak industry body.

At a special general meeting held last week to determine the body's future, a majority of BECA members indicated a preference to support the newly established Australian Business Events Association (**TD** 04 May).

The new body was created in response to a review of BECA's structure following the pandemic, which saw independent expert consultants advise on the best operating model for the future.

Until it ceases operations at the start of the new financial year, BECA will continue to represent the business events industry to federal government as well as help drive the \$2 million Business Events Economic Contribution project with Tourism Research Australia.

Since its launch 30 years ago, BECA has acted as a major voice of advocacy on behalf of the event industry, and according to Chair Leo Jago, has "punched well above its weight" despite limited resources.

"The global pandemic challenged Australia's business events industry and highlighted the need for a well-resourced peak body to foster the growth of business events via a focus on research, advocacy, and professional development," Jago stated.

"BECA and its many achievements provides a solid platform upon which a new and better resourced peak body will support business events in the decades to come," he added.

The industry body boasts a lengthy list of achievements, including lobbying the Federal Government for JobKeeper for the industry sector and for the Business Events Grants Program.

## Travelex expands

**TRAVELEX** has launched two new stores in Australia amid a series of store openings and new partnerships across Europe, Asia Pacific, the Middle East and Brazil.

The foreign exchange brand has announced the opening of a new store in Brisbane, located at the historic Anzac Square Arcade in the heart of Brisbane's CBD, and in Mandurah, Western Australia.

Two new Travelex stores have also arrived in New Zealand, one located in the Auckland suburb of Albany, and another in the town of Nelson, while the brand has also signed a new partnership with the Bank of New Zealand, resulting in the bank referring travel money services to Travelex.

Additionally, Travelex has opened a new retail store at Penang International Airport in Malaysia, two new stores at Chongqing Airport in China, a new store at Sendai Airport in Japan, as well as extending its contract to operate its eight stores in Hong Kong.



## Window Seat

**MOVIE** buffs can now easily travel to their favourite film locations, thanks to a new app called SetJettlers.

With the tagline "Film tourism, in an app", the free interactive map helps travellers find the exact real-life locations around the world where movies and TV shows were filmed.

When a user opens the app, it can either pick up their location and show them nearby scene locations, or they can search for a specific location.

Travellers can use the app's "ShotSync camera", which overlays the image of the film or TV scene over the user's camera, allowing them to easily recreate their favourite scene for that ultimate Hollywood selfie!

## LOOKING FOR YOUR NEXT BIG SALES OPPORTUNITY?

**Avis Budget Group** is one of the world's largest car rental providers listed on the NASDAQ and dedicated to expanding on-demand mobility solutions and personalizing the customer experience.

Given our growth, we are looking for a number of motivated and enthusiastic customer centric rockstar sales people to join our team responsible for Airline Partnerships, Corporate accounts and leisure accounts.

Enjoy great team culture, career development, employee discounts, company car and generous incentive scheme.

Want the opportunity to grow with our business? We want to hear from you. Click on the link below to put your application forward.

[Join Avis Budget Group.](#)

avis budget group

## Howard joins itravel

ITRAVEL has announced a new addition to its head office team, with the appointment of Jo Howard as National Business Development Manager (BDM).

Howard (pictured) brings experience in B2B account management, having held roles at Omniche Holidays, Infinity Holidays, and most recently, at The Travel Junction.

itravel CEO Steve Labroski said Howard is “a natural fit” for the company, adding that “many of our members already know her and speak highly of her work ethic and support”.



## Seek and you shall travel



**TOURISM** New Zealand (TNZ) recently invited 32 travel sellers from key visitor markets on a family trip to explore New Zealand, off the back of its global “If You Seek” campaign launched last year.

The agents from North America, UK, Germany, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Korea and India were selected after completing a variety of tasks, including virtual training webinars.

The group had the opportunity

to experience tourism products in Auckland, Northland, Rotorua, Waikato, Marlborough, Nelson, Wellington, Queenstown, Central Otago and Wānaka.

TNZ Chief Executive Rene de Monchy said the family participants “will become valuable advocates for brand New Zealand and drive preference for New Zealand in market”.

The group is pictured at Piritahi Marae in Waiheke Island.

## Ponant roadshow

**PONANT** is inviting the Aussie travel trade to help celebrate its 35th anniversary by joining its Jun 2023 Roadshow Series, which will visit Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide.

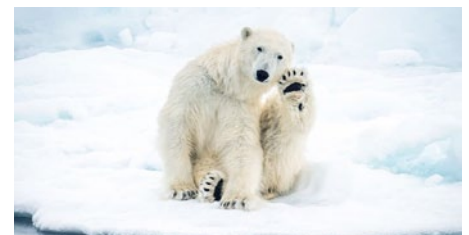
Attendees will hear from guest speaker Ryo Ijichi, a naturalist guide who joined Ponant in 2013, while enjoying delicious canapes and beverages and networking with “fellow explorers”.

The Ponant team will also be present to answer any questions - to register, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Re-discover Dubai

**AUSSIE** travel agents can ‘Re-discover Dubai’ through Dubai Tourism’s relaunched education program, which provides updates on the destination’s latest products and experiences.

Hosted by Julie King and Associates, face-to-face training can be requested [HERE](#), or join the online webinars [HERE](#).



## JUNE 2023 ROADSHOW SERIES - COMING TO YOUR NEAREST CAPITAL CITY!

<p><b>SYDNEY</b> Mon 5 June 11am or 6pm session Four Seasons Sydney</p>	<p><b>MELBOURNE</b> Wed 7 June 11am or 6pm session Metropolis Events</p>	<p><b>ADELAIDE</b> Thurs 8 June 6pm session Eos by SkyCity</p>	<p><b>BRISBANE</b> Tue 13 June 2pm or 6pm session Water’s Edge Portside</p>	<p><b>PERTH</b> Thurs 15 June 11am or 6pm session The Ritz-Carlton</p>
---	--	--	---	--

Please arrive at the session start time.

To secure your space, please register through the link, call 1300 737 178 (Australia) or email [reservations.aus@ponant.com](mailto:reservations.aus@ponant.com). Registration essential.



## TRA: Tourism recovery lag

**AUSTRALIA'S** tourism industry still has a long way to go before returning to pre-COVID glory, new data from Tourism Research Australia (TRA) has revealed.

Direct tourism Gross State Product (GSP) for all states and territories was \$36.5 billion in 2021-22, representing a 31% increase on 2020-21, but falling short of pre-pandemic 2018-19 levels by 39%.

Tourism's subdued economic results come despite Australia's overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2021-22 outpacing pre-pandemic levels by 19%, according to TRA's *State Tourism Satellite Account 2021-22*.

The sector claimed a 1.6% direct share of the national economy in 2021-22 - a slight improvement from 1.3% in 2020-21, but only half of the pre-COVID figure (3.1% in 2018-19).

There were improvements in direct tourism GSP across all

states and territories over the last year, however all still remained below pre-pandemic levels.

Victoria showed the most significant recovery, with a direct tourism GSP increase of 62%, or \$2.9 billion in 2021-22, compared to 2020-21 levels.

Queensland and the NT followed with an increase of 46% and 45% respectively, then WA (+34%), the ACT (+28%), and Tasmania (+25%); falling behind their counterparts, NSW only saw an 8% improvement over the year, while SA was up by just 7%.

Total tourism demand in the form of visitor spend in Australia in 2021-22 was \$94.4 billion - up 17% on the previous year but down 29% on 2018-19.

The TRA report also showed that there were 501,500 direct tourism filled jobs in 2021-22, up 22% on the previous year, but well below the 700,900 tourism jobs in pre-COVID 2018-19.

## AFTA UPDATE

Richard Taylor, Director of Membership Experience



**WE'RE** now six months away from the NTIAs (National Travel Industry Awards, if you're new), which will be held in Melbourne for the first

time in 20 years.

You may have already have seen today in these very pages that we're seeking expressions of interest on a dedicated industry flight to the event, so please register if that sounds like fun because if this can 'get up' it would be nothing short of epic.

I'm already planning my PA announcements, and if I get my way we'll run a charity lottery for prestigious Business class seats that would allow lucky winners the opportunity to lord it over their industry colleagues.

Unless of course you're already in Victoria, if that's the case you're unlikely to need a flight to Melbourne, although someone I've mentioned the possibility to said, "I might fly up so I can fly back down".

The NTIAs are a special weekend in any year, but 2022 was particularly so, given the event's forced absence from the calendar.

I was there as a finalist alongside three brilliant others who each played a role in helping the industry navigate the pandemic, but perhaps the most pleasing aspect was witnessing the sheer scale of the event, showing an industry well on its way to recovery.

Last year's NTIAs will be difficult to top, but we're looking to make a real weekend of 2023's version.

Aside from the potential flights (make it happen!), we're looking into holding a relaxed event on the Fri that allows for additional fun and more networking.

Between now and then there's more than a little organising to do, and I wanted to call out Jenny Le here in our office for whom approximately 97% of that work falls to.

Among other responsibilities, Jenny will be juggling finalists, the venue, judges, graphics, photo walls, media involvement, trophies, entertainment acts, sponsorship, red carpets, transportation, egos and more - it's a Herculean task, and one that is well underway.

We hope you'll be able to find space in your calendar for the weekend of 17/18/19 Nov for what is a celebration of excellence in our industry, and a great opportunity to connect with others.

# The greatest show on Earth

Up to  
**25% OFF\***

 **HURTIGRUTEN**  
Norwegian Coastal Express

## Norway Coastal Voyages

**Classic Voyages | 6,11 & 12 Days**  
Experience 'The World's Most Beautiful Voyage'

**The Original Northern Lights Promise**  
Confidently guarantee your clients Northern Lights sightings during their aurora season cruise with us. Otherwise, the next one's free\*

**No NCFs**  
Earn in full. Easy to sell and profitable. Speak with our Regional Sales team to find out more

**Sell ten, travel free!**  
Running from 1 April to 30 June, consultants who use our agent portal to book ten passengers or more on Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Express or Hurtigruten Expeditions will receive ONE FREE berth!\*

**Secure your clients' savings, speak to our local experts today!**  
[agentportal.hurtigruten.com](https://agentportal.hurtigruten.com)  
1300 322 062

\*Terms and conditions apply. 'Up to 25% off' on select sailings in 2023/24. Visit website for full details.

# Visit USA Australia kicks off IPW 2023

VISIT USA Australia was back to its best last week, hosting its VIP Industry Welcome Event at IPW 2023 on Sat 20 May at Howl at the Moon in San Antonio, Texas.

The event was attended by the Australian and New Zealand IPW delegation, as well as Visit USA Australia members.

The 170-strong crowd were entertained with duelling pianos, a song written just for the event, and a band playing US classics.

Event sponsors, Delta Air Lines, Los Angeles Tourism & LAX and Gate 7 were also on hand to welcome guests and delivered lively updates to the room.

The event was also supported by Travel Texas and TravMedia.



**MARIE** Barbieri and Shelley Richardson.



**CAROLINE** Davidson and Cynthia Schmitt Easey presenting Jon Handlery with his iconic outfit.



**SAY** cheese! Guests enjoying the Visit USA Welcome Event.



**THE AU & NZ** IPW delegation catching up with Visit USA members, it's always great to see everyone again after the Visit USA Expos!

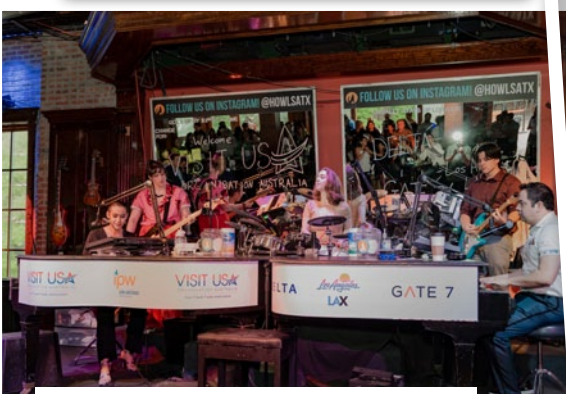


**VISIT USA** President Caroline Davidson with Jon Handlery, the evening's guest of honour.



**TRISTAN** Freedman of Gate 7 with Corey Marshall Chairman of Visit USA New Zealand and David Clark Vice President of Visit USA Australia.

**ALL** smiles from Laura Handlery, Karen McCardle, Anton Eckert and Jon Handlery.



**THE** Duelling Pianos in action at event venue, Howl at the Moon in San Antonio.



Photo booth fun with goodies from Los Angeles Tourism and LAX.



### WTTC call to act

**THE** World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) is urging governments around the world to “get serious” when it comes to incentivising the production of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).

The aviation sector will not be able to reach net zero by 2050 without “meaningful quantities” of SAF, the global tourism body argued.

Govts must work with the sector to set SAF production targets, and coordinate their actions through the International Civil Aviation Organisation, WTTC said.

“At today’s prices, SAF is on average three to five times more expensive than traditional fossil fuels,” WTTC President & CEO Julia Simpson explained.

“Governments must address this cost disparity by providing financial support and incentives to make SAF more accessible and affordable.”

### Green for Abu Dhabi

**THE** Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT) - Abu Dhabi has announced several new green initiatives, including Sustainable Tourism Guidelines.

The DCT revealed it is also developing a Carbon Calculator to estimate the hotel industry’s carbon footprint baseline in Abu Dhabi, and is facilitating energy audits for all hotels in the UAE.

## FOKKER UNVEILS HYDROGEN PLAN

**AIRCRAFT** manufacturer Fokker has outlined bold new plans for a next-generation hydrogen plane, capable of flying up to 2,500 kilometres without emitting any carbon emissions.

Flagging 2035 as the likely date for commercial services, the proposed jets will run on a combination of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and kerosene, with its physical design also considered pivotal to how it will lower its carbon footprint.

The first step in getting the greener jets in the air for commercial flights will involve the company reconfiguring its Fokker 100 model to operate using liquid hydrogen fuel and SAFs, with the test phase already under way.

Following the initial stage, Fokker will then use the test case as a model to investigate the



next-generation aircraft design, flagging its intention to cooperate with engine manufacturers for enhanced design modifications in the next phase.

Within three years, Fokker hopes to have the preferred hydrogen aircraft and engine design selection stage completed, with the first ground test of Fokker 100 conversion plane using Rolls-Royce engines to

follow, with flight tests then set down to take place in 2027.

Funding for the ambitious project has come from both the Dutch Government and engine partner Rolls-Royce.

Interior layouts will also be geared toward passenger comfort and the reduction in jet lag, which will include rooftop windows (render pictured) to allow more natural light into the cabin.

### Adelaide Airport scores green gong

**ADELAIDE** Airport has won an international aviation award honouring its efforts to eliminate single-use plastics.

The airport took home gold at the Green Airports Recognition 2023 awards for airports between 8-15m pax a year, which is run by Airports Council International, Asia Pacific.

The awards are designed to encourage sustainability and best practices to reduce aviation’s environmental impact, with this year’s theme

centred on the elimination of single-use plastics.

Adelaide Airport Managing Director, Brenton Cox, said the award was testament to the airport’s efforts to eliminate plastics use and prioritise recycling of organics waste.

“Maximising the recovery of recyclable material is an important part of achieving our sustainability targets of 30% reduction in waste and 60% increase in recycling by 2030,” he explained.

### Boeing gets tick

**THE** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has granted certification for a drag reduction kit created by Aero Design Labs for the Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

The kit, which was successfully installed and tested in partnership with Delta Air Lines, will generate fuel savings and reduce carbon emissions.

DL is set to fly the certified 737-800 kit in revenue service in the weeks ahead.

## 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](#)

Travel Daily  
**SHARPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON MONACO WITH TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY**  
[Click here to discover](#)



## MONEY

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

**AU\$1 = US\$0.665**

**THE** Aussie dollar struggled to break through its recent trading range, gaining only 0.5% against the USD on Fri, after falling 0.6% earlier with a stabilising employment rate.

The AUD also gained 0.2% against the EUR, but was flatter against the Japanese Yen.

Meanwhile, pundits believe healthcare and tech stocks will be the key components in lifting the dipped Australian market.

*Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.665
UK	£0.535
NZ	\$1.058
Euro	€0.615
Japan	¥92.15
Thailand	฿22.92
China	¥4.679
South Africa	12.81
Canada	\$0.898
Crude oil	US\$75.58

## TM seas what fuss is about



**THE** cruise industry has undergone big changes following the pandemic, and TravelManagers Cruise Product Manager Lia Malone recently plotted a course to find out more.

Malone has more than 10 years of experience in the cruise sector, and in her role with TM, believes there is no better way to brush up on her knowledge than through first-hand experiences.

She recently spent time getting reacquainted with the industry on a nine-night famill aboard Oceania's *MS Regatta*, as well as a 14-night sailing aboard *Seabourn Odyssey* to Fiji.

Malone said the experience brought to light the protocols and practices that have been implemented since COVID, and just how smooth things are now on board cruise ships.

"It was also helpful to see that any on board cases of COVID caused little to no disruption..."

gaining real-life perspective on how it all works has allowed me to provide knowledge and reassurance," she enthused.

**Pictured:** Cunard Senior Marketing Specialist, Josephine Hanschmann and TravelManagers' Lia Malone raising a toast to life on board during a 14-night sailing aboard *Seabourn Odyssey*.

## Crooked photos

**CROOKED** Compass has partnered up with the adventurous travel photographer, David Kirkland, to provide two tours to Papua New Guinea and India in 2024.

Kirkland will guide a group of six in Papua New Guinea on an eight-day tour highlighting the tribal lives in the region - see [HERE](#), and will also lead 12 travellers on a 15-day journey visiting India's picturesque sites - see [HERE](#).

## Not so Niceair

**THE** virtual carrier Niceair in northern Iceland has filed for bankruptcy after failing to allocate a replacement aircraft for its 14-year old Airbus A319-100.

The news came after the airline's operator, Hi Fly Malta failed to keep up with payments, and only a year after launching.

## Yacht trips in Qld

**LUXURY** superyacht *M.Y Sea Raes* will embark on her first voyage to Queensland in Jun, where she will be stationed on the Gold Coast between Jun to Jul and Oct to Nov, as well as in the Whitsundays from Aug to Sep.

*M.Y Sea Raes* will be available for day and overnight experiences with up to 30 guests on a day adventure, or 12 guests for seated dinner options.

## Canopy in San Fran

**HILTON** has debuted its Canopy by Hilton San Francisco hotel, marking the first lifestyle property for the brand in the US city.

The 194-room property includes two penthouse suites, a rooftop lounge with panoramic city views, a coffee shop, a fitness centre, as well as five meeting rooms.

## Maldives consular services sorted

**AFTER** revealing the plan to implement a High Commission in the Maldives capital of Male last year, the Federal Government has announced the opening of an office this week.

The new Australian High Commission provides consular services to Aussie travellers on the Indian island nation.

## QR codeshare HM

**QATAR** Airways (QR) has announced the new codeshare agreement with Air Seychelles (HM), the flag carrier of the Republic of Seychelles, to streamline passengers' journey to the Indian Ocean destination.

The new agreement will see QR place its code on HM operated flights between Mahe and Praslin, enabling travellers to connect flights through a single booking.

HM currently holds the title of 'Indian Ocean's Leading Airline', with a fleet of five Twin Otter TurboProps operating between Mahe and Praslin.



# 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](#)





# Reasons Why **Travel Consultants** Love Working with Collette



Collette expands hours to 7pm EST (5pm AWST)

**Darren**  
South NSW & ACT  
dsinclair@collette.com

**Jacquie**  
SA, WA & NT  
jroberts@collette.com

**Kjirsten**  
North QLD  
ktrudle@collette.com

**David**  
Head of Sales  
dfarrar@collette.com

**Linda**  
North NSW  
lseiersen@collette.com

**Samantha**  
South QLD  
stamba@collette.com

- ✓ **Most Guaranteed Departure Dates**  
When Collette says guaranteed, we mean guaranteed.
- ✓ **Upfront Guaranteed Advanced Commission**  
For every per person deposit paid the booking consultant keeps \$100 upfront.
- ✓ **Hold Times Average Less Than 5 Minutes**  
We also offer 24/7 guest support.
- ✓ **Industry Leading Travel Protection Plan**  
Cancel for any reason until the day before departure.
- ✓ **Pandemic Response**  
Refunded over \$280M in money back to our travellers.
- ✓ **Leader in Groups**  
Free personalised marketing support to help spread the word, including their own web page.
- ✓ **165+ Tours to all 7 Continents**  
We feature 5 distinct travel styles.
- ✓ **Small Group Explorations**  
Robust line up of small group tours, averaging 16 travellers.
- ✓ **Dedicated Local Business Development Managers**
- ✓ **Door to Door Sedan Service**  
With purchased Collette air
- ✓ **98% customer satisfaction rate**  
Collette awarded Platinum status – 2022 Feefo awards.

Phone **1300 792 195** with any questions.

**collette.com.au**



Join in the conversation —

Link to Collette Travel Agent Network (AU) page.