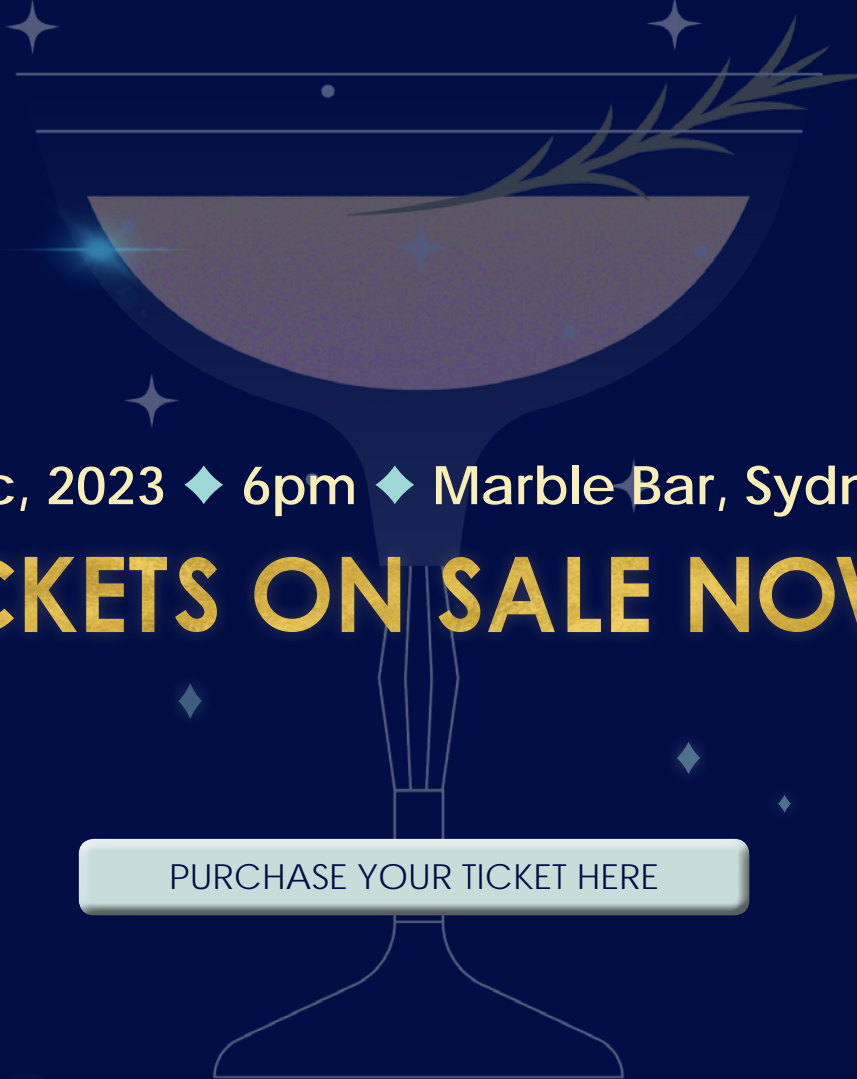


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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of the latest news including a photo page from **Austrian National Tourist Office** and our **Luxury** feature page, a special **Arizona** update from **Destination Webinars** and full pages from:

- Entire Travel Group
- Viva Holidays

50 years of Viva

HELLOWORLD Travel is celebrating 50 years of serving the industry through its Viva Holidays wholesale brand.

The company is showcasing its dedicated on-road sales support team, family opportunities, campaign activity with agent call-to-action, and more on **page 10**.

Arizona in focus

DESTINATION Webinars is showcasing the fascinating delights of Arizona, USA in a special product profile on the **last page** of today's *Travel Daily*.

Business events key: Farrell

FEDERAL Tourism Minister, Don Farrell, has hailed the "real outcomes" from Tourism Australia's Dreamtime business events showcase, which kicked off this morning in Adelaide for the first time since the pandemic.

"We know Australia has world-class business events offerings, and Dreamtime is a chance to show international business events buyers why there is nothing like Australia for their next business event," he said.

About 80 international buyers have travelled to Australia from key markets including China, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, South Korea, Japan, North America, New Zealand and the UK for Dreamtime, with 90 local suppliers also participating.

Tourism Australia's Business Events Bid Fund program has been credited for helping rebuild the country's pipeline, having already helped win 118 events with a direct economic benefit of

around \$873 million.

SA Minister for Tourism, Zoe Bettison, welcomed delegates to the Adelaide Convention Centre, saying she was delighted to be able to showcase the state.

"International buyers looking for a unique and sustainable boutique destination will find everything they need right here.

"Hosting business events and welcoming corporate incentive guests are a key focus for the South Australian Government," Bettison said.

In her opening speech this morning, Tourism Australia MD Phillipa Harrison noted that while this was the first Dreamtime in four years, in the interim "we haven't been quiet".

"We've been really busy since 2020...we have renovated or opened 200 hotels, representing 20,000 new room nights in this country," Harrison said, adding she was looking forward to also highlighting a host of new Australian experiences to delegates at the event. *AP*

More from Dreamtime on **page three** and **page four**.

Celebrity Xcel cut

CELEBRITY Cruises has announced that the fifth ship in its groundbreaking Edge series will be named *Celebrity Xcel*, continuing the legacy of *Edge*, *Apex*, *Ascent* and *Beyond*.

The first steel was cut on *Xcel* overnight - more details in *Cruise Weekly* today.

Bon Voyage tickets!

TRAVEL Daily is inviting the industry to help farewell a successful 2023 at a special pre-Christmas event in Sydney.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for Bon Voyage which will take place on Wed 06 Dec, with tickets on sale now and more info on the **cover page**.

Wendy Wu Tours.

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Batik Air MEL-KUL

BATIK Air has announced new non-stop flights from Melbourne to Kuala Lumpur, with the route to operate on a seasonal basis from 20 Dec through until 06 Feb.

The services are in addition to Batik's existing daily MEL-DPS-KUL services, with fares leading in at \$859 one way in Economy class.



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Ad spend drops in Sep

EXCLUSIVE

ADVERTISING spend across the Travel category in Australia declined 7% year-on-year for the month of Sep, to sit at \$33.4 million, according to new figures from Standard Media Index (SMI), whose data represents actual Australian industry ad spend.

Within the Travel category, SMI reports ad spend for 10 subcategories including Airlines and Domestic Tourism Agencies.

The 7% decline was in-part due to falls in the Domestic Tourism Agencies and International Tourism Agencies subcategories, the latter recording a particularly steep decline.

Jane Ractliffe, APAC MD and co-founder of SMI said the latter's drop was "presumably due to the extra uncertainty in the current global outlook".

Despite the declines, one subcategory that recorded positive growth was Airline.

The gain comes in the wake of increased activity in the Australian market.

All Chinese airlines flying into Sydney prior to the pandemic have now returned (TD 31 Oct) while China Eastern recently became the first Chinese airline to return to Brisbane since COVID-19 (TD 01 Nov).

SMI figures are available for media and publishers, including digital groups such as Google, Meta and others. DF

New Azamara CEO

AZAMARA Cruises today announced the appointment of Dondra Ritzenthaler as its new CEO, replacing Carol Cabezas who is no longer with the company.

Ritzenthaler won't take up her new role until May, with Executive Chair Dan Hanrahan to lead Azamara in the meantime.

More details in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

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Delhi air quality

AUTHORITIES in Delhi, India, have suspended sports events due to excessively high air pollution levels, with the move impacting the Cricket World Cup.

Schools are closed and office workers are working from home, while heavily polluting trucks are banned from the city.

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SIA ups Aussie capacity

SYDNEY will become the biggest port in the Singapore Airlines global network from late Oct next year, when the carrier adds a fifth daily flight to the NSW capital (**TD** breaking news).

For a six-month period from 27 Oct 2024, the carrier will operate an additional daily flight to Sydney in order to meet strong demand during the busy end-of-year travel peak, boosting the route to over 12,000 weekly seats.

“Not only will this extra flight from SIA offer Australians heading overseas more choice, but it will also help boost the number of visitors, especially from Asia and Europe,” Sydney Airport CEO Geoff Culbert said.

Additionally, SIA subsidiary Scoot is also set to raise capacity, with the no-frills carrier to offer 12 weekly return flights between Sydney and Singapore from Dec.

SIA Regional VP South West Pacific, Louis Arul, said he was



pleased to announce the airline’s return to pre-COVID capacity.

“Demand for travel to and from Sydney has bounced back strongly from the pandemic and the additional daily service will provide further room for growth as travellers enjoy more connecting options through Singapore Changi Airport to major cities in Asia and Europe.”

Singapore Airlines will also offer an additional three flights per week into Adelaide for the Northern Winter 2024 season, bringing its total number of services into the South Australian capital up to 10 weekly. *JM*

Amadeus strong Q3

AMADEUS has posted positive financial results for the first nine months of 2023, with the travel tech company’s profit spiking by 67.6% and revenue rising 23.2%.

The uplift was spurred by strong growth in its Air Distribution segment, which saw a revenue increase of 25.9% compared to the same period in 2022, resulting from a 15.7% increase in bookings.

Asia-Pacific was Amadeus’ fastest-growing region, with bookings up 75.3%.

Big Cunard names

CUNARD has reeled in some big-name authors for its first Australian Literature Festival at Sea voyage, revealing the first two in its line-up, including best-selling Aussie author Fiona McIntosh.

Joining her onboard the five-day sailing from Sydney to Tasmania is Alexander McCall Smith, British author of the global hit, *The No.1 Ladies’ Detective Agency Series*.

Travel Daily
ON LOCATION



ADELAIDE

Today’s issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Tourism Australia, which is hosting Dreamtime 2023 this week.

TOURISM Australia’s signature incentive showcase opened this morning with a moving ceremony at Adelaide Convention Centre.

Close to 80 business events buyers from around the globe then had the opportunity to meet with local sellers to discuss the incentives Australia has on offer.

This afternoon, delegates will begin exploring the host city, taking in the beautiful flora at Adelaide Botanic Gardens, before getting a taste of South Australia’s renowned food and wine scene.

Fill your heart with
Ireland 

What fills my heart?

The interesting cities

- Eric



Window Seat

THEY say if you want to avoid emotional attachment to something, don't give it a name, but exactly that has been bestowed on the new flyover into Sydney Airport.

Named after Australia's first female commercial airline pilot, the Deborah Lawrie Flyover recognises a woman who had to fight for her wings, when she won the first High Court sex discrimination case in the country's history way back in 1979.

This case is considered to have been the catalyst for change to give Aussie women equal rights and opportunities in the workplace.

Lawrie later made history when she co-piloted an Ansett Australia flight from Alice Springs to Darwin.

Sabre adds rail

SABRE and Trainline Partner Solutions will deliver access to enhanced rail content via the GDS platform, having yesterday announced their collaboration.

The multinational cooperation will enable travel agencies to compare and sell combined trips through Sabre Rail.

Italian train operators Trenitalia and Italo, as well as SBB Switzerland and Germany's Deutsche Bahn, will be the first rail content made available to Sabre-connected travel agents.

Focused on international distribution, the content will be available exclusively outside the providers' home markets.

Sabre said the partnership underlines the importance of the high-growth rail segment for the tech firm, as travellers look for more sustainable travel options.

Trainline Head of Commercial Charlie Baikie said the company was very excited to collaborate with Sabre to expand distribution.

Talking Mack on biz events



TOURISM Australia's Executive GM of Commercial and Business Events Australia, Robin Mack, helped open the Dreamtime conference in Adelaide, thanking key sponsors including Cathay Pacific and Singapore Airlines and also welcoming SA-based TA board members Ian Horne and Jeff Ellison to the event.

Mack is **pictured** during the first session with TA MD Phillipa Harrison, to whom he paid tribute for her strong advocacy of the business events sector.

"She has great leadership with us, and pushes us internally to make sure we're striving our best for this sector and doing more each year," Mack said. *AP*



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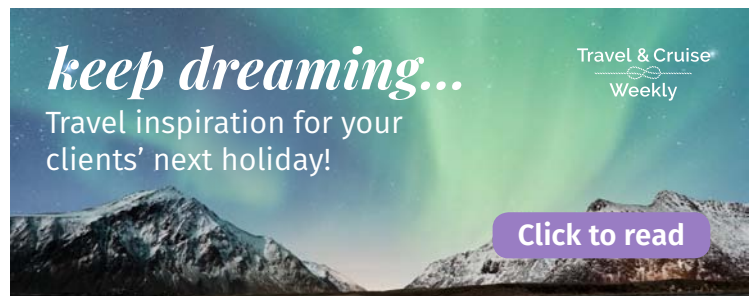


**SEMESTER 2:
AMERICAS**



**SEMESTER 3:
EUROPE**





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A Blue Mountains adventure



WORLD Expeditions Travel Group (WETG) recently whisked its staff away to the Blue Mountains for an adventurous outing, with canyoning, abseiling, trekking, cycling and cultural immersion all on the agenda.

The day kicked off in the Katoomba offices of the Blue Mountains Adventure Company, one of WETG's 16 brands, with a Welcome to Country ceremony led by Gundungurra Elder Uncle David King.

"The World Expeditions Travel Group has exciting plans in the pipeline, including brand

developments, consolidations and strategic acquisitions which will strengthen our operational capacity in new regions," WETG CEO Sue Badyari revealed.

The operator recently launched a trade incentive giving agents the chance to win a luxury cruise experience for two in the Galapagos Islands, worth more than \$20,000 (TD 06 Oct). JM

AirAsia X switches AKL flights to OOL

AIRASIA X has announced the suspension of its flights between Sydney and Auckland, and will operate its NZ services via the Gold Coast instead from 03 Feb.

CEO Benyamin Ismail said the move followed a "thorough network review", with the Gold Coast continuing to be a key leisure favourite destination for guests from both Asia and NZ.

Passengers impacted by the change are being offered refunds and travel credits, AirAsia X said.

SIA+Tata Comms

SINGAPORE Airlines has announced a new multi-year agreement with technology provider Tata Communications.

The deal aims to "transform the airline's communications and collaboration tools to enhance employee productivity and boost user experience".

Tourism job slide

THE employment market continues to show adjustments in Australia, with figures from recruitment website SEEK today showing an 11.6% monthly slide in tourism and hospitality job advertising in Oct.

That was more than twice the average drop across all sectors, which showed a 5% decline.

Applications per job ad rose 4.1% in Sep, with almost every industry recording higher application rates in the month.

Maldives opening

CROWN & Champa Resorts has opened the new Jawakara Islands property in the Maldives.

The 290-villa five star family-friendly resort is located 40 min by speedboat from Madivaru domestic airport or 35 min by seaplane from Male, and comprises two separate islands - Mabin and Dheru - connected by an over-sea walkway.

More details at jawakara.com.

Vietjet now biggest

VIETJET Air is increasing its flights to Australia to 48 per week from later this month, making it the biggest airline operator between the countries.

VJ's increase from 26 to 48 flights per week will include daily return services from Ho Chi Minh City to Sydney and Melbourne, while Ho Chi Minh City to Brisbane, Perth, and Adelaide will all increase to five per week.

The growth will begin from 21 Nov, when Vietjet will fly five times per week to Perth and Adelaide, before going daily to both Sydney and Melbourne effective from 01 Dec.

Vietjet will then increase its Brisbane flights to five per week from 16 Dec.

The move reflects Vietjet's optimistic performance and outlook in the market, the airline said, as well as its "unwavering dedication to delivering on its promise of providing Australians with excellent travel options".

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Klimt & Riesling, channel your inner Austrian artist!

AUSTRIA, particularly the Salzkammergut, has been inspiring artists of all genres for centuries - from Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele to Richard Wagner and Franz Schubert, they all came to the lake district to paint, write and compose music.

To celebrate the European Capital of Culture, Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024, and the 200th birthday of

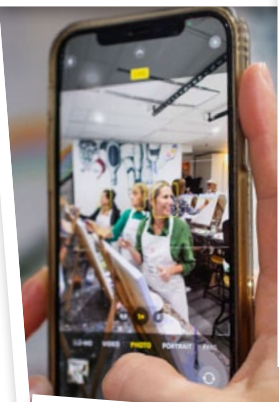
Austrian composer Anton Bruckner, the Austrian National Tourist Office invited travel agents and travel media to join them for an artistic journey to capture the beauty of Austria on their canvases, while sipping Austrian Riesling and learning why the small country in the heart of Europe is a must-visit destination in 2024.



ARTISTS at work at Pinot & Picasso Sydney.



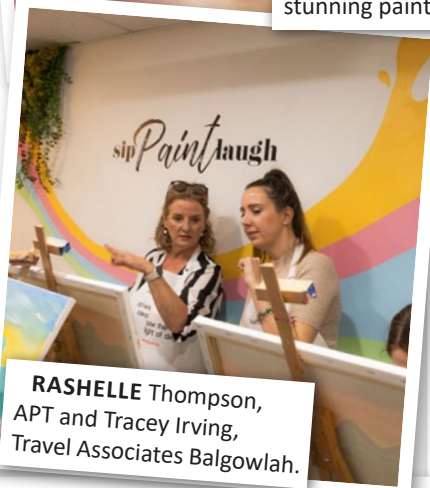
GUESTS having a good time.



ADVISORS in Sydney with their stunning paintings.



TATYANA Vanegas, italk travel & cruise Brighton Vic; **Kathy** Thomaidis, MTA; and **Kathrina** Denk, ANTO.



RASHELLE Thompson, APT and **Tracey** Irving, Travel Associates Balgowlah.



A TRADITIONAL Austrian apple strudel.



KATHRINA Denk, ANTO, giving an update about the highlights for 2024.



RICHARD Davey made sure Austria was not mistaken for Australia – No Kangaroos in Austria.



Silversea enhances wellness offering

SILVERSEA Cruises' indulgent wellness program, Otium, has been enhanced to offer a wider array of experiences and amenities aboard the cruise line's newest ship, *Silver Nova*.

The Otium Spa offers an indoor relaxation pool, as well as in-suite experiences, bespoke bathroom amenities, and dedicated Otium Suites, which is one of seven new suite categories introduced aboard the ship.

Pax in the Otium Suites can enjoy a free treatment in the spa to the value of up to US\$399 per person.

The program also offers a brand-new in-suite shower experience, allowing guests to enjoy the aromas of essential oils from shower steamers.

VIRTUOSO CHAIRMAN'S EVENT 2023

LUXURY travel network Virtuoso's 2023 Chairman's Event last month attracted 124 agency owners and managers from 12 countries to attend the four-day experience in one of Italy's most historical destinations, Taormina on the east coast of Sicily.

The event kicked off with an extravagant evening reception at Belmond Villa Sant'Andrea's Oliviero Restaurant and Beach Bar, followed by a networking opportunity at Four Seasons Taormina at San Domenico Palace the next morning.

The gathering saw Executive VP David Kolner offer a "sneak peek" of trends among high-net-worth travellers, as detailed in Virtuoso's *2024 Luxe Report*, as well as a network sales update.

He also revealed that year-to-date sales in 2023 were up 25% compared to the same period in 2022, while Q4 2023 sales show a



32% increase over Q4 2022.

Kolner also divulged that future sales into 2024 and 2025 are up 36% on last year and 98% over pre-pandemic 2019's future sales leading into 2020, indicating a thriving luxury travel market in the coming years.

Attendees were treated to a variety of luxurious activities of their choice, including an exploration of Mount Etna with cheese and wine tastings, a walking tour with a visit to the

private home of a local artist, and a Sicilian cooking class.

Other highlights included a guided tour of Catania City Centre with lunch at a historical palace, a half-day private yacht experience or a driving tour in privately-owned vintage cars.

Guests were also regaled with live performances of traditional dance, music and Opera during opulent dinners and after-parties.

Next year's Chairman's Event will be hosted in Slovenia. *MW*

Ritz' blooming pop-up

RITZ-CARLTON, Perth is celebrating the last month of spring with a floral pop-up, which sees its rooftop bar, Songbird, adorned with pink everlasting daisies until 20 Nov.

From a huge floral wall and hanging installations to tabletop arrangements, guests will be immersed in the WA native flowers, while also able to enjoy a "playful and zesty" bespoke gin created by Rainfall Distillery, as well as a new cocktail, 'Eternal Bloom'.

Everything's rosé at The Langham, Gold Coast



THE Langham, Gold Coast, has partnered with Champagne house Veuve Clicquot Rosé to offer an exclusive afternoon tea experience until Dec.

The Veuve Clicquot Rosé Afternoon Tea will take place in the new luxury hotel's Palm Court, presenting a menu of sweet and savoury bites.

Priced from \$169, guests can indulge in fresh, locally-sourced delicacies like chilled Mooloolaba prawns with ruby grapefruit and desserts inspired by seasonal spring fruits, paired with a glass of the iconic blended rosé champagne.

From bus to luxe

WTS Travel has launched a unique new accommodation experience in Singapore's Changi Village, transforming retired public buses into eco-conscious luxury suites.

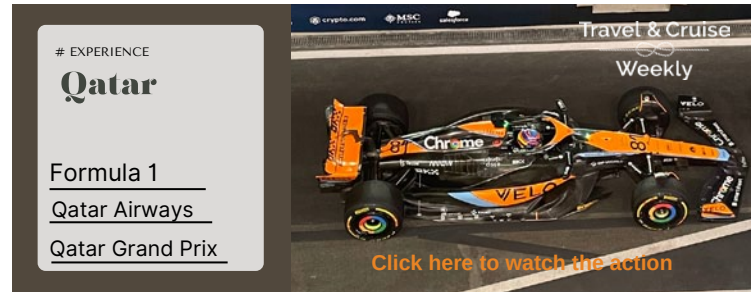
Positioned by the sea, The Bus Collective offers 20 comfortable guest rooms with features like composite lamination, marble tops, rain showers, deluxe beds, and bathtubs - more info [HERE](#).

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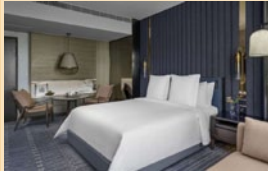


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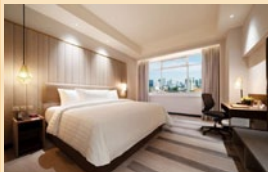
Sitting atop of **Kimpton Margot Sydney** on Pitt Street, Harper Rooftop Bar has officially opened, offering mouth-watering dishes designed for sharing, featuring fresh and local ingredients. The venue, which boasts a shimmering rooftop pool adjacent to the dining area, overlooks Sydney CBD. It can host up to 180 guests, with the ability to cater to everything from meeting breaks and social gatherings to long table dinners.



Four Seasons Hotel Mumbai has completed an extensive transformation to elevate the guest experience. The renovated rooms now feature an Indian aesthetic which incorporates jewel-toned colours and saree textiles. Catering for modern travellers, the refreshed rooms offer smart lighting and ambiance, with guests also able to now enjoy the new multi-purpose table for work and dining and a personal coffee machine.



All 400 guestrooms, including 43 suites, have been renovated at **Hilton West Palm Beach**, as part of its multi-million dollar renovation. The rooms boast new modern touches and new deluxe amenities, including Byredo bath products and upgraded linens. Guests will also notice that the refreshed lobby now sports a tropical theme complete with lush native plants, a new bar, and revitalised food and beverage spaces.



Novotel Singapore on Kitchener has opened in the precinct of Little India, close to an array of transport, shopping and dining options, including the adjacent 24-hour Mustafa Centre. The 543-room contemporary hotel caters to both business and leisure travellers, including families, and features an all-day dining restaurant that serves up Native American and Mexican-style dishes.



The face of **Travelodge Resort Darwin** has received a new look, with the exterior of the five-storey building now coloured with an Indigenous mural painted by Australian artist Adnate. Part of the annual Darwin Street Art Festival, the striking artwork features a red, yellow and black background symbolising the Aboriginal flag, and portraits of two children from the local Larrakia community.

NITA bolsters tourism expertise



VOYAGES Indigenous Tourism earlier this month celebrated with four new graduates from its National Indigenous Training Academy (NITA) at Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre.

The NITA program provides young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders a platform and opportunities to receive world-class training and employment programs in the hospitality and tourism sectors.

The graduation ceremony at High Hills Farm Restaurant included Douglas Shire Council Mayor, Michael Kerr; CEO of Far North Training Consultancy, Toni Day; Back Country Bliss representative, Michelle Nobes; the venue's General Manager

Rachael Hodges; and the NITA team, as well as family and friends of graduates.

"We're immensely proud of this year's NITA graduates and can't wait to see what they achieve next," said Matthew Cameron-Smith, CEO of Voyages.

"Over 60 percent of our Mossman workforce is Indigenous and it's our hope for these training programs to contribute to Indigenous training and employment nationwide," he said.

Philippines app

TO BETTER present Philippines' beauty, culture, and adventure aspects, the Philippines Department of Tourism and the Tourism Promotions Board have worked together to upgrade the Travel Philippines app.

The enhanced platform will now offer travel deals and promotions, can handle digital travel documents, and even offers travellers real-time chat support.

Visitors can also use the app for accommodation options, attractions, activities and information of essential services.

SA back to Brazil

SOUTH African Airways has relaunched transatlantic services to Sao Paulo's Guarulhos International Airport from both Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Both routes are being operated using A330s, and mark SA's first intercontinental services since it was restructured (**TD** 27 Aug 21).



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The Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

How do I win?

All Rocky Mountaineer 2024 Bookings, which include Air Canada (agent can book air themselves) made with Entire Travel Group from 1 October 2023 to 28 February 2024 will go into the draw to win a dream trip to Canada for you and your companion. Every booking goes into the draw, the more bookings you make more chances you have of winning.*

What do I need to do to ensure I am entered into draw?

Please e-mail canada@entiretravel.com.au with your Entire Travel Group booking number and your Air Canada Reference Number.



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Learn & Win: the A-Z of Arizona!

Arizona (AZ) is brimming with cultural significance, culinary delights, unique activities, and hidden gems. Explore the Grand Canyon State on a four-part A to Z virtual journey and be in with a chance to WIN!

PART 1 kicks off with top reasons to visit and how to get there. The journey includes Arizona's wine regions, or AVAs, Bearizona for a wildlife fix, the famous Castle Hot Springs, cowboy culture at a Dude ranch, awe-inspiring views and elevation, and the enchanting destination of Flagstaff.

PART 2 starts with the jaw-dropping landscape of Grand Canyon National Park. Take an aerial adventure in a hot air balloon, stargaze in one of 19 international dark sky communities,

and visit the fascinating town of Jerome. Surprises lie beneath the surface at Kartchner Caverns State Park and above ground at Lake Havasu and the Musical Instrument Museum.

In **PART 3**, experience First Nations culture in the Navajo Nation. Learn about Oak Creek's red rocks and natural waterslides, Arizona's sunny capital city Phoenix, and the Queen Mine Tour. The iconic Route 66 winds its way through Arizona's desert and mountains, stop for a relaxing stay at Scottsdale and finish up in Tucson, a vibrant city known for its gastronomy and rich cultural heritage.

In **PART 4**, explore UNESCO destinations, the Verde Canyon Railroad and the charming town of

Williams. There are thrills to be had with plenty of X-treme adventures. It's all about lettuce in Yuma, but if wine is more your thing, the series wraps up at Zarpara Vineyards.

WATCH & WIN!

The Arizona Mini-Series is available to **WATCH NOW** until 3 December.

Each part runs for less than 15 minutes with a chance to win a \$100 gift card, plus a series' grand prize of an exclusive Arizona-themed hamper!