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Explore our pre-release 2025 all-inclusive small group 4WD adventures now.

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JOURNEY BEYOND

### Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features 10 pages of news including a front cover wrap from **Journey Beyond**, photo pages from **APT** and **NTIA**, our **Sustainability** page, plus full pages from:

- Silversea
- Viva Holidays
- Bon Voyage

### Viva celebrates

**VIVA** Holidays is today thanking the industry for its support after being named Most Outstanding Wholesaler - Product & Service in last weekend's National Travel Industry Awards - see **page 12**.

### Get your tickets!

**THERE'S** just a few days to secure your spot at *Travel Daily's* Bon Voyage 2023 end-of-year celebration - **back page** for more.

## Jetstar to add PER base

**JETSTAR** this morning announced it will add three new international routes out of Perth, with a new 60-strong pilot base seeing at least four aircraft operating out of the WA capital.

Non-stop Jetstar services from Perth are set to fly to Singapore, Phuket and Bangkok, with the carrier saying it's supporting strong demand from West Australians for low-fares international leisure travel.

More than 400,000 customers flew on Jetstar flights from Perth to Bali over the last 12 months, with the expansion of operations facilitated by a pipeline of new Airbus A321neoLR aircraft joining the low-cost carrier's fleet.

Jetstar Group CEO, Stephanie Tully, said it was one of the airline's most significant network

expansions in recent years.

"Having pilots and aircraft based in the west gives us the ability to add hundreds of thousands more low-cost seats to exciting new destinations across our international and domestic network," she said.

The new Singapore route will offer easy connection to 13 other Asian destinations via Jetstar Asia's network, Tully added. *BP*

### VA returns to Uluru

**VOYAGES** Ayers Rock Resort has hailed a decision by Virgin Australia to resume flights to Uluru, with new non-stop routes from Brisbane and Melbourne starting in Jun 2024.

It's the first time VA will have operated services from both cities, with the carrier's pre-pandemic Red Centre flights operating from Sydney.

The return is being supported by the NT Government and Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia, and will add more than 62,000 annual seats to bring tourists directly into the country's spiritual heartland, according to Voyages CEO Matt Cameron-Smith.

"Whether it's still on the bucket list or a much-loved destination, visiting Uluru is a must-do for international and Australian travellers alike," he said.

"These new routes deliver more choice for travel to the NT, but also an abundance of convenient international connections through Virgin Australia's global network of partners," Cameron-Smith added.

A launch sale includes VA fares from \$129 one way plus Voyages accom from \$150 per night.

### Get in the Spirit!

**JOURNEY** Beyond's Outback Spirit has opened pre-release itineraries for 2025, comprising a collection of the operator's most popular itineraries.

The all-inclusive fares feature accommodation, gourmet meals, touring, beverages, entrance fees and even scenic flights, with travel advisors also able to access full marketing collateral for the popular 4WD small-group trips - more details on the **cover page**.

## STUBA



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## Stay in Japanese solitary confinement

**THE** former Nara Prison in Japan, which closed in 2017, is being turned into a luxury hotel by Hoshino Resorts and will swing open its cell doors in 2026.

Cells at the site are being transformed into 48 guest rooms while shared spaces will be turned into a restaurant, lounge area and historical museum.

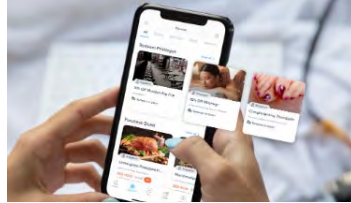


## SIA expands Kris+ to Oz

**SINGAPORE** Airlines (SIA) has rolled out its Kris+ lifestyle rewards app to Sydney and Melbourne for the first time.

The app, which has launched initially in beta phase, allows users to earn and redeem miles at airline partners including cafes, restaurants and bars, with around 100 merchants expected to come on board within the first month.

In Australia, Kris+ offers an earn rate of up to three miles for every dollar spent at participating merchants via Apple Pay or Google Pay on the app, and also offers customers the option to redeem earned miles at a rate of



150 for every A\$1 off the bill.

Debut Kris+ users can also take advantage of a bonus of up to 2,000 miles by logging in with their KrisFlyer account and making transactions of at least A\$15 at Kris+ partners in Sydney and Melbourne until 31 Dec.

Any user who makes a payment at one participating partner will also enjoy a bonus of 1,000 miles, while users who make payments at two or more participating partners will enjoy the full bonus value of 2,000 miles.

"We are always looking to expand opportunities for our frequent flyer members to earn and redeem their miles and we are excited to bring more partners on board in the months ahead," SIA's Regional Vice President South West Pacific, Louis Arul said.

For more details on the Kris+ app, see [HERE](#). *AB*

## Prices will go down

**BONZA** chief Tim Jordan has declared that the period of really high air fares in Australia is "slowly coming to an end".

"We knew from the start that it was always a supply and demand issue," he observed this week.

## Airlines cash in

**AIRLINES** are raking it in when it comes to added fees charged for services such as baggage, priority seating, and commissions on hotel bookings and insurance, new data from CarTrawler and IdeaWorksCompany has claimed.

Ancillary revenue streams will rise to US\$118 billion this year.

**STUBA**

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**LET'S TALK**

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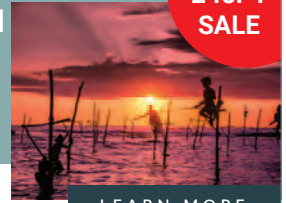
**TRAVELLERS CHOICE**

## Highlights of Sri Lanka

10 days Colombo to Galle from only \$2,899\* per couple

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## Morton departs

**COVER-MORE** Group's head of travel insurance, Cara Morton, will exit her role from Feb next year to take a up a new position with Zurich Global Ventures.

Morton has been at the helm of Cover-More since 2020.



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## Thumbs up for MH's first 737-8



**MALAYSIA** Airlines yesterday commemorated the arrival of its first Boeing 737-8 aircraft, advancing the fleet modernisation & expansion the carrier is currently undergoing.

The aircraft is the first in an order book of 25 737-8s on its way to Malaysia through to 2026, via its operating lease with Air Lease Corporation.

A launch ceremony was held at Malaysia Airlines Berhad Engineering Service in Sepang, which was graced by the presence of Minister of Transport, Loke Siew Fook, among others.

Following the ceremony, the aircraft embarked on its first commercial flight to BKL.

The newly-arrived jet will service destinations across Malaysia before expanding to other networks across Asia as more of the aircraft type enter into service.

The 737-8 comprises 12 seats in Business class and 162 seats in Economy, and features wireless in-flight entertainment.

Malaysia is also planning to introduce high-quality internet connectivity, which will mark the first time it has incorporated this feature into its narrow-body fleet.

"With the induction of our new Boeing 737-8, it will allow us to enhance customer experience, improve operational and fuel efficiency, and meet our future network growth requirements to support our vision for the national carrier," Chair Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin told guests at the ceremony. *MS*

**Pictured** are Malaysian Aviation Commission Chief Operating Officer Raja Azmi bin Raja Nazuddin, Zulkiflee, Fook, and Managing Director Izham Ismail giving a hearty approval to the new delivery.

## UAE terror threat

**DFAT** is advising Australian travellers that trips to the UAE now carry a higher threat of a terrorist attack.

The department is suggesting visitors exercise a "high degree of caution" while in the country.



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## Accor-NAB rewards

**MEMBERS** of Accor's loyalty club can now link their NAB Rewards credit cards to earn points on eligible purchases, thanks to a new partnership between the two brands.

Benefits for NAB card holders include a special launch offer awarding up to 30,000 Accor ALL reward points (converted from 180,000 NAB rewards points) on a new NAB Rewards Signature credit card - equivalent to A\$1,000 towards a hotel stay.

Further bonuses of the tie-up offer 10% off the flexible rate at participating hotels in the Pacific, the option to manually redeem 3,000 NAB rewards points for 500 ALL Reward points for existing NAB members, as well as the ability to fast-track to ALL Silver status with a one-night stay.

Silver ALL members can also enjoy an early check-in or late check-out, and a welcome drink.

To view all of the eligibility criteria, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Douglas takes HLO role

**THE** appointment of Peter Douglas as Helloworld Travel Limited's new National Sales Manager - Wholesale (**TD** breaking news yesterday) sets the stage for the division's ongoing success, as incumbent Steve Brady transitions to lead HLO's cruise division (**TD** 19 Oct).

The highly experienced Douglas was most recently Head of Sales at Globus family of brands, a role he held for nine years prior to his surprise departure about six months ago (**TD** 26 May).

His new role at Helloworld was announced internally yesterday, with a memo to staff confirming he will commence with the company effective tomorrow.

Douglas will be based in HLO's Sydney office, with his career also including former roles at Creative Holidays and Excite Holidays.

The role became vacant after Brady's appointment to lead Helloworld's cruise division which



now includes both Cruiseco and Creative Cruising, as a result of Karen Deveson's move to head up Collette in Oz (**TD** 23 Oct). *BP*

## VA strike called off

**THREATENED** strike action from Virgin Australia ground crew will no longer go ahead after the Transport Workers Union struck a new pay deal this morning.

The in-principle deal over wages will stave off mooted industrial action scheduled for the busy Christmas holiday period.

**Travel Daily**  
ON LOCATION

**KUALA LUMPUR**

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Malaysia Airlines, which is hosting a Kuala Lumpur famil this week.

**TODAY** guests on Malaysia Airlines Kuala Lumpur famil will experience the best the city has to offer, after yesterday's brief taste of the capital.

The group will visit Petronas Towers in the morning - formerly the tallest buildings in the world - before enjoying lunch at Malaya Garden.

Tonight, delegates will join the 'Secrets of KL - Nightlife, Street Art, & Cocktails' tour, hosted by Simply Enak, where they will experience some of the cultural delights and intangibilities which make KL one of the most diverse cities in Asia.

## SEEKING KNOWLEDGE?

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## Bali reverses mountain ruling

ALL 22 volcanic mountains in Bali are now officially back open to climbers and trekkers after a period of prohibition implemented in Jul.

The ruling sent reverberations through the touring industry on the island which operates popular adventures on peaks such as Mount Batur, with the Indonesian destination listing misbehaving tourists as the primary reason for the ban at the time.

MEANWHILE Balinese tourism authorities stated they feel confident of a busy Christmas period, with immigration officials installing 90 auto gates to speed the processing of electronic visas-on-arrival at Bali's Ngurah Rai Airport in preparation.



## Longer business trips: FCTG

MORE hybrid working and a quest for a greater work-life balance in Australia is leading to business travellers taking longer trips and adding a rising number of leisure components on to work expeditions, new research from Flight Centre's Corporate Traveller has found.

Using figures from its same-day and one-to-six-day flight bookings between 01 May and 31 Oct to compare with year-on-year trends, the division found longer trips had increased by an average of 4.6%, with the biggest rises coming in the five- and six-day business trip segment.

However, the trend for staying longer saw shorter bookings dwindle, with same-day, two-day and three-day trips in 2023 down by 2.3%, 1% & 8.4%, respectively.

Global Managing Director for Corporate Traveller, Tom Walley, said the latest data showed that changing attitudes and working

arrangements were both key to driving the growth in longer trips.

"The shift to longer business trips is influenced, in part, by changing work patterns, with many executives in hybrid and flexible working arrangements basing themselves anywhere on their remote working days and remain productive," he said

"This flexibility is encouraging business travellers to take extended stays, which then gives them freedom outside of working hours to add on leisure activities in new destinations".

Walley added that a greater quest for work-life balance has led to an increase in bleisure travel, with longer trip suggesting travellers are adding a "long weekend or week away approach" to their business trips.

The research also showed that their are many perks to taking longer trips, including cheaper return flights and hotel rates. *AB*



## Window Seat

A RYANAIR pilot was recently filmed opening the cockpit window of his Boeing 737-800 as it rolled down the runway at Dublin Airport in preparation for takeoff.

The smiling captain waved and saluted onlookers, with the friendly, albeit surprising, gesture captured by aircraft spotters Dujet Aviation TV and posted on X.

The 'wholesome' moment comes just days after a not-so-wholesome moment occurred on another Ryanair flight, when a female passenger was filmed delivering a furious, foul-mouthed rant at crew members - for reasons that still remain unclear.

She then stormed off the plane, swearing at other passengers as she left.

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Green Friday is a movement that raises awareness of the environmental and social impacts of consumerism. As the recent winner of NTIA's 2023 Sustainability Award, your clients can make the conscious choice this year by choosing an unforgettable, sustainable travel experience.



## Sydney seeing double

**ALMOST** 14 million passengers passed through Sydney Airport's international terminal in the 12 months to Oct - nearly double the number the gateway saw in the previous 12 months.

"We continue to see markets roaring back to life," CEO Geoff Culbert (**pictured**) said, adding the hub is seeing extra capacity across key overseas markets come online in the lead up to Christmas, which includes China, South Korea and Vietnam.

The hub has noted a strong recovery in South Korean visitor levels in particular, up by 45% compared to Oct 2019.

Last month, a total of 3.48 million travellers passed through Sydney Airport, signalling an 87.6% recovery from the pandemic, with international pax levels recovering to 90.3% compared to Oct 2019, while domestic pax levels hit 86%.

Meanwhile, the number of



Australians heading overseas through the airport was 95% recovered in Oct, compared to pre-pandemic Oct 2019. *JM*

## AC rejects blame

**AIR** Canada has emphatically denied it was in any way culpable for a daring theft of C\$23.8 million in gold and cash from its facilities at Toronto's Pearson airport earlier this year.

The airline is facing a lawsuit from a security services company after a thief stole the precious cargo on 17 Apr, but denies it was careless in protecting the uninsured gold and cash.

## GC marina plans

**PROPOSALS** have been submitted to the Gold Coast City Council by Aqua Adventures to build a 21-berth marina at Howard's on the Gold Coast.

The plan was initiated to fill a large potential void for the marine tourism industry in the Qld city after development issues at the existing Mariner's Cove.

A likely redevelopment of Mariner's Cove to incorporate a Ritz Carlton hotel is tipped to displace more than 30 key marine tourism operators on the site, with no provision made to accommodate them back into the redeveloped marina at this stage.

"The damage to Gold Coast economy is an impending threat, standing to lose nearly \$71.7 million and 248 full-time equivalent jobs per year and further loss of growth in this industry estimated at up to \$136.7 million and 477 full time equivalent jobs per year," the submission stated.

## Scooting to E190-E2

**SCOOT** is set to become the first Singaporean carrier to introduce the Embraer E190-E2 to its fleet after the aircraft, along with the 195-E2, attained type certification from the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS).

The low-cost Singapore Airlines offshoot has nine E2 jets on order, which it will deploy on regional routes within Singapore to expand its national network.

Scout CEO Leslie Thng said the certification "reinforces our commitment to operating a modern and fuel-efficient fleet".

## ME bookings plunge

**FLIGHT** bookings to Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon have "plummeted" since the outbreak of conflict between Israel and Hamas, according to the Mabrian Security Perception Index.

The impacts of the war has seen Egypt and Jordan lose 18% and 20% of bookings respectively.



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## ATG's VIP partners head across the globe

APT Travel Group (ATG) has celebrated its successful 2023 famil program, with travel agency partners enjoying hosted or self famil trips to Europe, Canada, Alaska, Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Kimberley through ATG's VIP program in 2023.

An integral aspect of the VIP Program was the fact that over 130 travel advisors earned famils by achieving ATG Platinum or Diamond VIP status.

These famils showcase ATG's commitment to enriching agency partners' expertise and reward valued partners for their hard work and commitment to ATG, the company said.

Famils are among the various benefits of the program - reach out to your local BDM for details.

As the industry approached the end of 2023, there are only five weeks remaining to achieve Silver, Gold, Platinum, or Diamond status.

Whether agents are looking to maintain their current status or climb to a higher tier, they can secure those final bookings now to guarantee their status for a successful 2024.



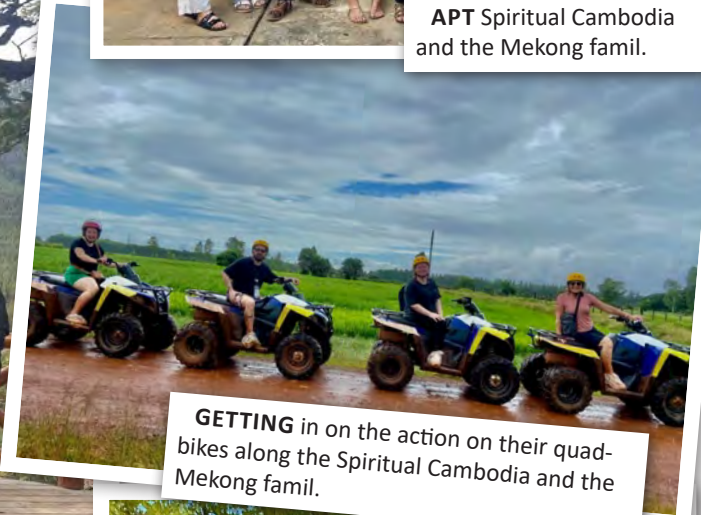
**APT Kimberley Cruise Famil.**



**APT Spiritual Cambodia and the Mekong famil.**



**AGENTS** gather in front of a picturesque backdrop during the Canadian Rockies famil.



**GETTING** in on the action on their quad-bikes along the Spiritual Cambodia and the Mekong famil.



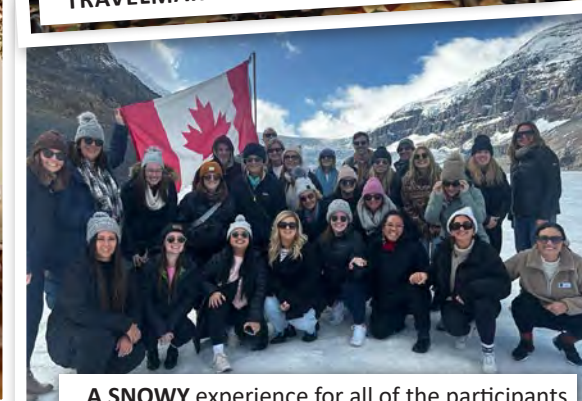
**APT Magnificent Europe River Cruise Famil 2023.**



**TRAVELMARVEL European Gems famil 2023.**



**TRAVELMARVEL European Gems famil 2023.**



**A SNOWY** experience for all of the participants across ATG's Canadian Rockies famil.



**RAISING** their glasses during the Travelmarvel European Gems famil.



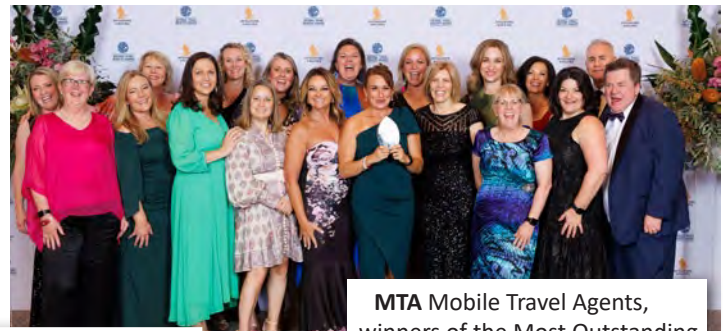
# More NTIA winners take the podium

THE afterglow from last weekend's National Travel industry Awards in Melbourne has most definitely not faded, with the reality of the big wins only now just sinking in for some of the victors.

Awarding excellence across both travel industry suppliers and agencies, individual and corporate winners now have a sparkling new trophy to add to the cabinet. Finalists in each category were also given a special statuette to commemorate the close friendly competition among their peers.

Prior to the opening of proceedings to award the 35 categories, Australian Travel Industry Association CEO Dean Long hailed the more than 8,000 industry votes cast for the "most popular" awards, alongside the rigorous submission and interview process required for the "most outstanding" categories in the NTIAs.

The People's Choice Award, won by Trafalgar, garnered almost 12,000 unique nominations from Australian consumers voting for their favourite travel brand, while Singapore Airlines Head of Agency Sales, Greg McJarrow, confirmed the carrier had now signed a multi-year strategic partnership deal with ATIA as the major sponsor of the NTIAs.



**MTA Mobile Travel Agents**, winners of the Most Outstanding Mobile Advisor Network award.



**VIRGIN Australia**, voted Most Popular Airline - Online with Nicky Moorcraft from category sponsor Cover-More.



**ATIA'S Richard Taylor** presenting the Most Popular Car Rental Company award to the Avis team.



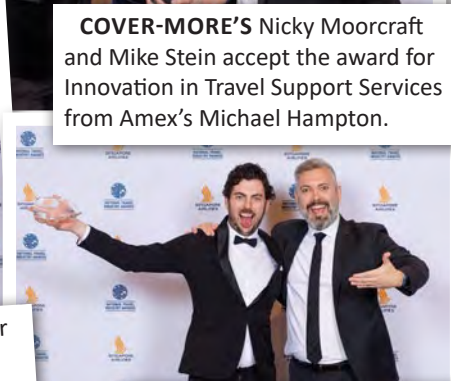
**COVER-MORE'S Nicky Moorcraft** and Mike Stein accept the award for Innovation in Travel Support Services from Amex's Michael Hampton.



**LUFTHANSA Group**, named Most Popular Airline - Offline.



**BRETT** and Louise Dann from Hunter Travel Group celebrate winning most Outstanding Leisure Travel Agency - Multi Location with SIA's Michael Kirkby.



**CHRIS** Waite from IHG presents Rookie of the Year to David O'Shea from RAA Travel.



**STAGE & Screen**, Most Outstanding National TMC with SIA's Hal Balderston.



**WEBJET**, named Most Outstanding best Online Travel Agency.



### Goldfinch flies

**ELECTRA.AERO** (Electra) has successfully tested its EL-2 Goldfinch hybrid-electric aircraft for the first time.

The flight lasted 23 minutes, reaching an altitude of 3,200 feet and covering a distance of around 50km, with the demonstrator model deploying unique blown lift hybrid electric technology.

While the test involved a two-seat plane (**pictured**), Electra has flagged the commercial potential of rolling out a nine-passenger version, which will be capable of flying at speeds of 320km/h for distances of around 800 kilometres.

The company is a heavy hitter in the electric plane space, having already bedded down pre-orders from more than 30 customers for over 1,700 aircraft, totalling more than US\$6 billion in backlog.

Electra will develop a prototype of a full-scale pre-production eSTOL aircraft under a previous funding partnership, with 2028 targeted for a commercial launch date.



## BA LANDS MAJOR SAF FUNDING COMP

**THE** British Government has allocated £9 million in funding to British Airways as part of the United Kingdom’s Advanced Fuels Fund competition.

Money raised through the initiative will be used by the British carrier to produce 102 million litres of SAF a year, with designs on reducing CO2 emissions by 230,000 tonnes - the equivalent of 26,000 BA domestic flights every year.

BA’s wider sustainability ambitions have been couched within a green program it calls Project Speedbird, a partnership it holds with Nova Pangaea Technologies & LanzaJet.

The SAF will be developed



by BA using a combination of Nova’s tech which converts agricultural waste and wood residue feedstocks into second-generation biofuels, as well as LanzaJet’s capability to convert ethanol into SAF.

“Sustainable aviation fuel will play a critical role in meeting our net zero targets and is currently the only realistic low carbon solution for long-haul flights, so it

is vital that we continue to invest and develop SAF technology in order to create enough supply,” BA Director of Sustainability Carrie Harris said.

Project Speedbird aims to produce SAF at full capacity by 2028, supporting the UK’s SAF mandate requiring at least 10% of jet fuel used by airlines to be made from sustainable feedstocks by 2030. AB

### Gulfstream tick

**MOVE** over Charles Lindbergh, there’s now a much hotter trans-Atlantic feat in town.

Gulfstream Aerospace has become the company to complete a trans-Atlantic flight powered solely by sustainable aviation fuel.

The landmark flight took off from Georgia and landed six hours and 56 minutes later, at Farnborough Airport (FAB) in southern England.

Gulfstream said the flight showcased the potential for aviation’s future use of SAF, which features “lower carbon sulfur, and aromatics.”

### Powerful consortium adds Emirates



**EMIRATES** has joined a UAE-based research consortium that advocates for greater production of renewable and advanced aviation fuels.

Called Air-CRAFT, the syndicate, which also includes Boeing as a member, brings together the value chain to accelerate SAF production, including policy makers, aviation regulators, fuel

producers, & airline operators. “We’ve contributed to the development of the UAE’s National SAF Roadmap and power-to-liquids fuel roadmaps, and believe the UAE is uniquely placed to lead in this space with its policies, technology and infrastructure capabilities,” Senior Vice President for International Affairs Sheikh Majid Al Mualla said. AB

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## MONEY

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

**AU\$1 = US\$0.656**

**HOLIDAYMAKERS** are in luck this week with the Aussie dollar set to stretch a little further as the Aussie makes minor gains against most of the majors.

The only market which went the other way was the NZ dollar, with the Kiwi currency faring slightly better than ours, but nonetheless more value can be found in big travel markets such as the United States and the United Kingdom.

*Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.656
UK	£0.524
NZ	\$1.081
Euro	€0.599
Japan	¥97.28
Thailand	฿23.08
China	¥4.699
South Africa	12.03
Canada	\$0.90
Crude oil	US\$77.69

## No photos please

**PASSENGERS** flying with Qantas now need to obtain the explicit permission of flight crew and passengers before taking photos or videos on board its flights, according to media reports.

The new policy is the result of a revised "conditions of carriage" in the terms and conditions attached to every boarding pass.

Failure to comply could see passengers punted, or even banned from flights.

Qantas was contacted for comment to confirm the update.

## More women needed at WSI



**MORE** than 100 women attended an Aviation Careers Forum held in Parramatta over the weekend, created to raise awareness of the variety of airport and aviation careers available at the soon-to-open Western Sydney Airport.

The event also aimed to combat the perceived gender and culture barriers for women wanting to work in the aviation sector, with the Empowering & Enabling the Women of Western Sydney Program seeking to increase the volume of employment applications in western Sydney moving forward.

"The program has the potential to transform the lives of hundreds of local women by empowering and enabling workforce participation, providing career opportunity awareness and guidance, and helping women build the confidence to take tangible steps towards securing a rewarding aviation career", WSI's General Manager - Community Engagement and Social Impact Katy Hannouch said.

"WSI and associated businesses will be major contributors to employment opportunities for Western Sydney residents from now and into the future and our

current workforce is over 4,000, half of whom are people who call Western Sydney home."

The airport is in need of more construction roles and has a strong desire for women to fill these roles until mid-2025.

**Pictured:** The attendees gather at the latest Aviation Careers Forum to learn more. AB

## A 'cool' world-first

**NORSE** Atlantic Airways has completed the world's first Boeing 787 Dreamliner flight to Antarctica, with the airline recently carrying scientists and essential research equipment to The White Continent.

"In the spirit of exploration, we are proud to have a hand in this important and unique mission and it is a true testament to our highly trained and skilled pilots and crew, and our state-of-the-art Boeing aircraft," Norse Atlantic Airways Chief Executive Officer Bjorn Tore Larsen said.



Travel Daily

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