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Today's issue of TD
Travel Daily today features six pages of the latest news, plus a front cover wrap from **Infinity Holidays** and a full page from the **Korea Tourism Organisation**.

Jump off the train
NEW Off Train Experiences are on offer with Journey Beyond's Great Southern rail experience, which commences on 01 Dec. The trio of new add-ons include visits to the Fallen Giants Vineyard in the Grampians, a Hunter Valley Helicopter upgrade (**pictured**), and a trip to the National Gallery of Victoria. A new route departing 05 Jan has also been added, journeying from Adelaide to Brisbane on a special four-day itinerary.



Uluru is on the rocks

A **MAJOR** slump in visitation to Uluru has created a \$200 million black hole in Australia's tourism economy, new figures from Parks Australia has indicated.

The data showed that Australia's most famous monolith has only managed 164,678 visitors so far this year, down considerably on the 300,000 recorded in 2017.

A number of factors were cited by the government division as to why Uluru has lost its lustre with many travellers, including the cost and availability of flights, international exchange rates, increased competitions from overseas tourism markets, as well as the slow return of international visitors.

Only Qantas Group flights are currently servicing Yulara Airport near the Indigenous sacred site and tourism icon, a pain-point for travellers that Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia believes is limiting the tourist



potential of the Red Centre. "Domestic and inbound demand is strong...however without aviation consistency, Central Australia will suffer in terms of tourism growth," the operator told the **ABC**. **AB**

Infinite earnings

INFINITY Holidays is offering agents up to \$200 extra commission for every booking made and paid by 31 Oct - see the **cover page** for full details.

South Korea famil

SOUTH Korea Travel Specialist member agents are being given an exclusive opportunity to attend a vegan famil to South Korea - see the **back page**.

Travel Daily
ON LOCATION

DOHA

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you courtesy of **Visit Qatar** and **Qatar Airways**.

PEOPLE from around the world flocked to Doha over the weekend for the Qatar Formula 1 Grand Prix, which saw Aussie Oscar Piastri take his first podium in the sprint race. Qatar has pulled out all stops to showcase the destination to visitors, building on the momentum established last year with the FIFA World Cup. The Lusail F1 circuit has been completely reconstructed in just seven months, with lavish hospitality suites and a grandstand along with extensive infrastructure for the racing teams - more from Qatar on **page five**.

VIKING

The HEART of EXPLORING



PHARAOHS & PYRAMIDS
Cairo to Cairo

12 DAYS | 1 COUNTRY | 11 GUIDED TOURS

With 2024 nearly sold out and 2025 filling fast, Viking has released the 2026 Egypt season early to meet demand. Don't miss the opportunity to secure your clients' stateroom.

From **\$9,995PP** in French Balcony | **SAVE** up to **\$2,000** per couple

Local DMC boost

A NUMBER of Destination Management Companies (DMC) from North America, Mexico and Hawaii will be better represented in Australia after DMC Network inked a new sales deal with Tourism Portfolio.

Headed up by DMC Network VP of Business Development, Aoife Delaney, the agreement is aimed at making it easier for Australian and New Zealand-based planners to source high-quality DMCs in North America and Mexico.



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Flights cut to Israel

AROUND 15% of all passenger flights to Tel Aviv have been cancelled as Israel continues to grapple with an escalating military conflict with Hamas.

The big American carriers, Delta Air Lines, American Airlines, and United, have all temporarily suspended flights, while Lufthansa has slashed all but one flight between Tel Aviv and Frankfurt in light of the conflict.

Despite the dire safety situation in Israel, the govt is suggesting it's still okay to visit the country so long as Aussies 'exercise a high degree of caution'.

The travel update did not pertain to Gaza or areas near the Gaza border however, which are both listed as 'do not travel' as battles continue on the ground.

DFAT is also recommending Aussie travellers 'reconsider their need to travel' to the West Bank and all parts of the Golan Heights east of Route 98.

Meanwhile Bunnik Tours has suspended all touring in Israel until further notice.

"We have a number of Egypt, Jordan and Israel tours running and about to depart and all clients on tour are safe and well," the company said.

"The tours on the ground are being changed to avoid Israel, with additional nights and sightseeing in Jordan and Egypt.

"All impacted clients and their travel agents were contacted over the weekend," Bunnik added.

Several cruise lines have also changed routes over safety concerns following the surprise attack on Israel by Hamas.

Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Oceania Cruises are among the lines - more in **CW**. **AB**



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30
EVA AIR
LETTING TO BRISBANE
Taiwan
LET'S EXPLORE

Rod gets the nod in Sydney



KEY industry players recently gathered to meet BWH Hotels' new Managing Director of Operations for Australasia, Rod Munro, at Aiden Darling Harbour.

Joined by the hotelier's VP of International Operations for APAC Olivier Berrivin and MD of Operations for APAC Rodney Simpson, the executive trio (**pictured**) shared details on the evolution of the BWH brand with the Australian trade, which included the latest property developments across Asia Pacific and the vision for the future of

the brand.

BWH Hotels is ramping up for a new era of development with Rod Munro at the helm, at the forefront of which will be the Aiden brand, which is set to double in scale this year.

Munro relocated from Brisbane to Sydney to start his new role, bringing with him 20 years of hospitality operations experience.

He most recently served as VP of Operations - Australasia for Stamford Hotels & Resorts, where he oversaw seven premium properties with 2,500 rooms. **AB**

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER?

Destination
WEBINARS

Tues 10, Hello Hong Kong Series: sky100 & Marco Polo Hotels

Weds 11, Canada Specialist Series: Kamloops & Cruise Canada RV

Thurs 12, BYO Coffee Cluster: Explore! & Singapore stays with FEH

Tues 17, Japan Update: Fuji-Q

Weds 18, Rediscover Dubai Series: Wellness in Dubai

Thurs 19, BYO Coffee Cluster: TruTravels & Pelikin Travel Money

Tues 24, ATIA Destination Series: Great British Seasons

Weds 25, Canada Specialist Series: ITAC & British Columbia

Tues 31, Visit USA Series: Texas, Dallas, Fort Worth & Fredericksburg

destinationwebinars.com.au/upcoming-webinars

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Qatar F1 2024 deals

DISCOVER Qatar has opened bookings for the Formula 1 Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix 2024 which will take place in Doha from 29 Nov-01 Dec next year - after yesterday wrapping up the 2023 event (see **page five**).

Package prices start at just US\$340 per person twin share, and include a three-day event ticket package, a three-night stay in one of Doha's many hotels, including breakfast and optional add-ons of tours, airport services and transfers.

Discover Qatar is also offering exclusive access to the prestigious F1 Paddock Club, with packages now available for agents and travellers to book until the end of Feb 2024.

Full marketing toolkits for travel advisors are on offer at discoverqatar.qa, and trade partners in Australia can contact Discover Qatar Senior Sales Officer Veranika Kuliashova on vkuliashova@qatarairways.com.qa.

More fake jet parts

DELTA Air Lines has become the fourth major US airline to discover parts in its jets that were installed using forged documents.

Following Virgin Australia needing to ground jets for the same reason last month (**TD 19 Sep**), DL confirmed over the weekend the fake parts have been identified on an unspecified number of its engines.

AOG Technics Ltd is the UK company at the centre of the aviation scandal, which is facing legal action and stands accused of falsifying safety papers and creating hoax LinkedIn accounts.

AOG Technics supplied parts that have been used in at least 126 commercial engines, potentially being deployed in flights carrying millions of pax before being discovered.



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mwTours

Escape with Body+Soul

NEWS Corp Australia's health media brand *Body+Soul* has partnered with holiday package company My Holiday to launch *Escape with Body+Soul*, a new multi-platform wellness travel content pillar.

The new publication, which debuted yesterday, covers the latest travel news, trending topics, inspirational content, bucket-list destinations, and more, available across the brand's print, digital, social, audio and video channels.

News Corp Australia's Editorial Director of Premium Food, Health and Travel, Kerrie McCallum, said the fresh content combines the expertise of its travel and wellness brands, with the aim of strengthening the *Body+Soul* brand offering and growing its wellness travel audience.

She added that it also "creates clear space for clients who are looking to target Australians seeking enlightenment,



adventure, physical challenge, self development, or simply relaxation through the restorative power of travel".

MEANWHILE, News Corp Australia's travel media brand *Escape* is supporting the People's Choice Award at this year's National Travel Industry Awards.

Readers can nominate their favourite travel brand **HERE** for a chance to win a wellness escape worth over \$6,500. *JM*

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Seven-star resort plan rejected

CHINESE developer New Land has had its proposal to build a luxury seven-star wellness resort in Cairns rejected by the city's Regional Council.

The blueprint sought to construct a \$1.4 billion resort on bushland in Yorkeys Knob, attracting a mix of affluent western and Chinese travellers.

However, the council received a whopping 184 objections to the development from members of the public, which included environmental concerns.

Had it been approved, the property would have boasted multiple storeys, two restaurants, a spa, a gym, and a further three spa treatment rooms.



Pelikin adds another

ALWAYS Able Travel based in Laurieton in NSW has become the latest travel agency to join the Pelikin Travel Money affiliate program through its preferred partnership with Flight Centre.

The agency specialises in selling holiday packages.

Win for fake airline

A MAN who once flew the likes of Australian politician Bob Katter around on an allegedly fake charter airline has won an appeal to contest some of his convictions for fraud and dishonesty.

Josh Hoch was jailed and fined \$370,000 for illegally operating Flying Fitters Pty Ltd and Hoch Air Pty Ltd over a five-year period, with customers including several high-profile politicians.

The court heard that Hoch's sentence for fraud and flying an aircraft as a pilot in command without a licence were "unduly severe", with a new trial granted.

Major acclaim for Cheyne



GOLDMAN Group's Group General Manager Chris Cheyne celebrated 20 years with the company this month, with his fellow executive team stating the milestone was "a testament to his enduring commitment and loyalty to our organisation".

"As our Group General Manager, your leadership has been exemplary, providing the vision and guidance that have steered our company through countless

successes and challenges," Goldman Group said.

"Your incredible support to management, our team and customers has been instrumental in our growth and success.

"Your ability to lighten the mood and make everyone smile, even in the most challenging situations, is truly remarkable."

Cheyne is **pictured** second from the right with joint MD Anthony Goldman on the far right. *AB*

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THE

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HIT THE OPEN ROAD IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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WESTERN
AUSTRALIA
WALKING ON A DREAM



Lithium warning flat

AIRLINES and aviation advocacy bodies appear not to be very alarmed about any possible safety concerns posed by lithium batteries on flights.

Following recent warnings from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the US about the fire risk on planes associated with fully-charged devices containing lithium batteries, the ACCC last week echoed the safety sentiments more broadly.

“Whilst incidents are rare they appear to be increasing and are serious when they occur,” the consumer watchdog said.

“The batteries can overheat or explode if they are used, charged or disposed of incorrectly or if they are damaged, and fires caused by the batteries can be dangerous and difficult to extinguish,” the ACCC added.

The International Air Transport Association declined to comment on any flight risk, indicating the FAA was better placed to comment, while VA and Qantas both pointed to their current compliance under rules laid down by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).

CASA told **TD** it “works closely” with airlines and other regulators on emerging risks presented by the expanded use of technology.



Qatar racing to the future



QATAR Tourism is celebrating a huge weekend of racing, after hosting the 2023 Formula 1 Qatar Grand Prix at the new Lusail circuit on the outskirts of Doha.

Celebrities and racing fans from across the world have experienced the destination over three thrilling days of high-speed action which included the winning of the World Championship by Red Bull’s Max Verstappen and Australia’s own Oscar Piastri taking the podium after winning the sprint race on Saturday on behalf of the McLaren team.

Qatar Airways is a major sponsor of the F1, with Discover Qatar and Visit Qatar putting together hospitality programs for many of the visitors.



Lots of Aussies are involved with the program including Discover Qatar’s Steve Reynolds who is **pictured** above with QR Chief Commercial Officer, Thierry Antinori; Aussie soccer legend Tim Cahill who now leads Qatar’s Aspire sporting zone; and Matt Raos, QR Senior VP of Global Sales, who are all **pictured** in the exclusive F1 Paddock Club.

Richard Styles from Visit Qatar is also in Doha this week hosting industry guests, and is **pictured inset** with Angus Tandy from Discover Qatar. *BP*



Window Seat

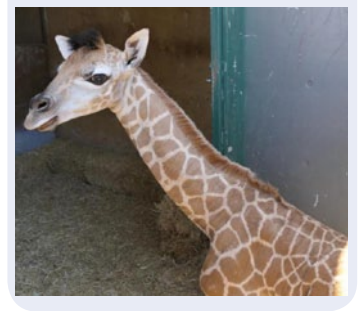
WHILE there is no doubt that novelty jewellery has a well-earned place in the fashion sector, we are wagering very few Aussies would be prepared to wear a necklace made from the excrement of a giraffe.

The reason such an esoteric observation needs to be made is because an Iowa woman was recently prevented by customs from bringing giraffe faeces into the US for that very purpose.

Concealed in her luggage after a recent trip to Kenya (we are hoping not near any edible snacks), officials rejected the smelly cargo from passing through the country’s border, much to the angst of the unnamed traveller, who stressed in the past she was allowed to bring in moose poop.

Surprisingly, giraffe faeces can be brought back to the United States so long as travellers have all of the proper permits.

Customs officers with specialist training later destroyed the offending poo.



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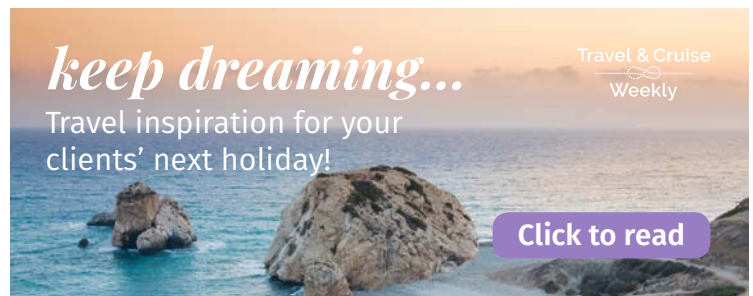
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Melbourne gets its Next Hotel



HILTON has partnered with Vista Hospitality Group to debut its Curio Collection brand in Victoria, with Next Hotel Melbourne to join its global portfolio by the end of 2023.

Next Hotel Melbourne offers 225 rooms along with 'La Madonna', an onsite restaurant and bar, and is located within Melbourne CBD's prestigious 80 Collins precinct, which is considered a fashion and hospitality hotspot.

"Curio Collection by Hilton is a global collection of hotels that are hand-picked to offer guests one-of-a-kind experiences, each with personalities unique to the city they call home," Hilton Senior Vice President Development, APAC ex Greater China, Guy Phillips said.

"This signing is testament to our belief in ensuring we have a variety of brands in our key destinations that suit the divergent needs of today's

travellers and showcases our commitment to growing our portfolio of hotels in Australasia."

The upscale hotel signals the second Curio Collection by Hilton property in Australia, joining West Hotel Sydney, and is also the flagship property for Vista Hospitality Group. *JM*

Discover savings

BACK-ROADS Touring is offering early booking savings of \$250 per person on all tours (excluding May and Sep departures) booked before 15 Nov.

The 'Discover a New Local' promotion is combinable with additional loyalty discounts for return customers or those booking a multi-tour holiday.

Sixty percent of the operator's 2024 departures are already guaranteed to run following 160% year-on-year growth, with some itineraries seeing a 240% increase in bookings compared to 2022.

BROCHURES

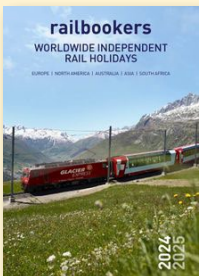
Send your special deals to:
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THIS week's Brochures of the Week is brought to you by **Wendy Wu Tours**.



Wendy Wu Tours - Japan, South Korea & Taiwan

Asia touring specialist Wendy Wu Tours has unveiled a new brochure, featuring itineraries in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan for the 2024-25 travel season. Showcasing popular fully inclusive tours, the 72-page travel guide also reveals two newly added itineraries in the region: the 17-day Essence of South Korea & Japan adventure and 12-day Christmas in Japan journey. The brochure is a comprehensive guide to Wendy Wu Tours' extensive offerings and cultural experiences, with prices and departure dates included for each of the featured tours. Grab a copy of the brochure [HERE](#).



Railbookers - World Independent Rail Holidays

The new rail holidays brochure by Railbookers highlights the brand's rail journeys across five contents, including Europe, North America, Australia, Asia and Africa for 2024/25. The interactive online guide helps travel agents discover the most sought-after rail destinations and itineraries, with travellers invited to experience some of the world's most famous trains, as well as luxury and overnight sleeper rail journeys. Check out the brochure [HERE](#).



ANZCRO - Luxury Collection 2023-2024

ANZCRO is excited to announce that its Luxury Collection 2023-2024 eBrochure is now available for travellers and travel agents to discover "unparalleled luxury" in Australia and New Zealand. The 136-page travel bible includes 38 New Zealand luxury lodges, as well as 26 Australian island escapes along with award-winning lodges and wild bush

luxury tours. ANZCRO also reiterates that most of its collection is fully commissionable to Aussie travel agents.

Got a confidential tip? Contact Travel Daily via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click [HERE](#)



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Applications close Wed 11 Oct 2023

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