



## Win a Tokyo trip!

**TOKYO** Tourism Expert is offering agents the chance to win a holiday for two to Tokyo, flying with ANA and staying at a Mimiru Apartment Hotel, when they complete the new (Re) Discover Tokyo program.

For more information on how to win, see the [back page](#).

## Lebanon update

**THE** Federal Government will offer voluntary departures to dependants of Australian officials posted in Lebanon due to the rising security situation in the country amid air strikes.

DFAT is also advising Aussie travellers that the ongoing crisis in the Middle East is limiting commercial departures, and to take the first available options.

## Qantas losing its Loyalty

**THE** woman who lost a tight race to become the next Qantas CEO to Vanessa Hudson has announced her resignation from the airline (**TD** breaking news).

CEO of Qantas Loyalty, Olivia Wirth, is the latest top executive to announce her departure from the carrier, having spent the last 14 years at the business and overseeing a period of expansion in the loyalty division.

Achievements during her tenure include expanding the frequent flyer arm across several industries, including hotels, holidays, insurance and finance, as well as growing members and delivering strong financial outcomes - even during COVID.

"As CEO of Loyalty, [Wirth] drove a huge expansion of what the program offers and that shows in the growth in members and their engagement levels," Qantas CEO Vanessa Hudson said. "During COVID, Loyalty was one of the few parts of our business that was able to carry on, which took a lot of hard work and imagination," she added.

Wirth will work with her team



over the next few months to ensure the future pipeline strategy in place is fulfilled.

Meanwhile Catherine Walsh has been appointed Chief People Officer, bringing experience from Australia Post and Spotless. **AB**

## France raises warning

**FRANCE** has opted to raise its national terrorist threat rating to the highest level for travellers, a move that will see increased security stationed at places of worship, shopping centres and tourist landmarks.

The decision follows a terror attack committed against a teacher over the weekend in the north of the country, where one person was killed and three seriously injured.

The Louvre Museum in Paris and Versailles Palace were also forced to be evacuated on Sat after the sites received bomb threats.

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features five pages of the latest news, plus a full page from **Tokyo Tourism Expert**.

## CLIA charts progress

**THE** Cruise Line International Association (CLIA) has published a new report detailing the industry's progress towards becoming a more sustainable form of travel.

*The Charting the Future of Sustainable Cruise Travel* paper details how the association's cruise line members are implementing new technologies, innovations and sustainable alternative fuels, as well as eco-focused collaborations with destinations and ports.

More details in today's **CW**.

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## Higher tix prices if capped

A GREATER number of cancelled air services, flight delays, inconvenient departure times, and increased ticket prices will be just some of the unfortunate by-products if caps and curfews are placed on Brisbane Airport.

The claims were made in new economic modelling published by QEAS on behalf of the Brisbane Airport Corporation, and arrive only a week before proposed legislation (**TD 05 Sep**) to limit flights out of Qld's biggest hub, enters the Federal Parliament.

Figures in the report also suggest regional economic activity would be slashed by a whopping \$1.5 billion, 16,414 jobs would be lost in key regional communities, and the drop in flights would deteriorate sharply to 11,200, as well as 915,600 fewer passengers by the 2032 Brisbane Olympics year.

The impact on flight schedules would also be felt well before

2032, the report claimed, forecasting 3,100 fewer regional Queensland flights and 239,000 reduced passenger movements in only three years' time.

Cairns would be hardest hit by any changes, with close to 4,000 jobs likely to be slashed, followed by Townsville (2,863), Mackay (2,468) & Rockhampton (1,570).

"Capping flights at Brisbane Airport caps Queensland's prosperity," Brisbane Airport's Head of Public Affairs Stephen Beckett argued.

"Around 75% of international tourists to Queensland arrive via Brisbane Airport, and the loss of thousands of flights to regional Queensland would restrict the flow of visitors," he added.

By 2032, the increase in regional return flight prices (on top of normal increases) would be \$102.88, before rising by an extra \$465.72 in 2042 in today's dollars, the report added. *AB*

## AI can now dream

ANOTHER competitor to travel agents (or companion, depending on how you view it) has launched to the market, with Skyscanner revealing the details of its new AI tool called Dream and Discover.

Powered by ChatGPT, the new AI bot will generate results for specific holiday requests such as "cheap European cities" or "food city breaks", including three destination suggestions with links to the best flight options for each.

Imagery is combined with destination descriptions, and upon deciding on a destination, travellers are directed to Skyscanner's flight search funnel to choose a flight option.

The service is currently running in beta phase in Australia.



## QF asked for more

QANTAS is being asked to demonstrate how a proposal to codeshare with Garuda Indonesia on 12 routes from 29 Oct will have a positive impact on travellers and competition.

In response to a codeshare request with the Indonesian carrier, the International Air Services Commission has asked for Qantas to provide an additional submission addressing concerns put forward by Virgin Australia that the partnership would not be in the best interests of Aussie travellers.

Specifically, the Flying Kangaroo is being asked to demonstrate how a Garuda c'share will result in an increased range of choices and benefits for passengers, will spur growth in Australian tourism and trade, and will maintain an environment where Australian carriers are capable of competing with airlines of foreign countries.

Qantas declined to comment when contacted by *Travel Daily*.

- Hailing a cab in NYC
- Soaring over the Greenland Ice sheet

### Rethink your bucket list.



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*The Chat* with Jenny Travel Daily

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## Chinese groups are back

**THE** first group of Chinese tourists under the recently revived Approved Destination Status scheme arrived in Sydney last weekend, with the visitors also set to explore Melbourne and the Gold Coast.

Coordinated by inbound operator Equity Travel, the group's arrival was hailed by Federal Tourism Minister, Don Farrell, who said the govt had "worked with industry to ensure we are well-positioned to welcome back Chinese group tours".

"The resumption of Chinese group tour travel will provide another welcome boost for Australia's hard-working tourism operators," he said.

Australia considers China as a key inbound market, with the arrival following China's lifting of its ban on group tours to Australia in Aug, followed by the recommencement of visa processes for Chinese tour groups

last month.

Pre-pandemic China was the country's most valuable arrivals market for the Australian economy, with 1.4 million holidaymakers spending \$2.1 billion in 2019.

Despite borders only opening in Mar, the most recent ABS figures show China is already Australia's second-largest inbound traveller market (**TD** 13 Oct) - albeit still at 50% of pre-COVID volumes. *BP*

### TIME adds Wachser

**KELLY** Wachser has joined the Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) Board.

Wachser is a specialist in behavioural change, and is well known as a dynamic presenter, corporate trainer and speaker.

She's been a TIME Mentor since 2015, with Chair Penny Spencer saying her support had helped TIME grow to where it is today.

## Webjet resignation

**SHELLEY** Roberts has resigned from her role as a non-executive director at Webjet Limited.

She will step down effective from the release of the Webjet half-year results on 22 Nov.

Roberts has been on the Webjet board since Apr 2016, and in 2021 moved to the UK where she now resides, the company said.

Webjet Chair Roger Sharp said she had made an outstanding contribution and wished Roberts all the best for the future.

Katrina Barry, who joined the Webjet board last year (**TD** 17 Oct 2022), will now join the company's Audit Committee.

## No change for Cebu

**CEBU** Pacific has revised plans to boost its frequencies to Australia, with Manila-Melbourne to remain at three weekly flights and Manila-Sydney staying at five services, rather than daily as previously indicated.



## Window Seat

**A PASSENGER** travelling on a Ryanair flight received some customary push-back from the Irish carrier over the weekend.

A customer took to social media to criticise the narrow width of its stairs, posting the image below along with the caption "Ryanair, I will bring my own stairs next time".

However, rather than apologising, the carrier fired back on X, "bring your own plane next time too".



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## Beyond eastern Euro

**BEYOND** Travel has relaunched its range of eastern European itineraries, expanding the options previously on offer across countries such as the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

Most of the escorted tours cap the number of guests at 35 and offer a blend of historical architectural sites and culture.

More solo explorations and a mix of luxury and boutique accommodations are also among the enhancements made to the collection - more details [HERE](#).

## Qatar adds Starlink

**QATAR** Airways customers will soon be able to enjoy complimentary, ultra-fast wi-fi, as the airline prepares to roll out Starlink's advanced satellite internet service across its fleet.

The high-speed, low-latency internet connectivity will be available to pax on board with a simple-one-click access point.

## Aussies lead NZ spending

**AUSTRALIAN** holiday visitors to New Zealand are spending 20% more this year than they did before the pandemic, new figures from Tourism NZ show.

Aussie travellers are staying on average around 11 days in New Zealand and spending approximately \$333 per day, cementing the status of Aussie tourists as "high quality" guests, according to the country's peak tourism body.

"Tourism New Zealand is focused on targeting high-quality visitors who stay longer and spend more, ensuring tourism gives back more than it takes - it's about the quality of the visitors, not the volume of visitors," Tourism NZ Chief Executive Rene de Monchy insisted.

"Tourism is a critical contributor to NZ's economy and it is important we continue to position ourselves as an attractive destination for high-quality



Australian visitors," he added.

While holiday arrivals across the Tasman from Australia are still only 81% recovered from 2019, our travellers are injecting more value into the NZ economy than they did a few years ago.

The latest figures from TNZ show Australian visitors contributed NZ\$1.59 billion to New Zealand's economy in the 12 months to Jun 2023, compared to NZ\$1.32 billion in 2019.

New Zealand started chasing a new tourism strategy a few years ago in the interests of sustainability and improving the bang for buck of visitors, focusing on 'high quality' travellers who contribute positively to NZ's culture, environment, society, and economy. *AB*

## True North up north

**EXCLUSIVE**

**PREMIUM** adventure cruise operator *True North* has revealed that it would like to conduct at least two cruises in the Top End by next year.

Speaking with *Travel Daily* last week, founder Chad Avenell said that while it was not confirmed, the Northern Territory was definitely on the company's map.

"The NT has so much to offer and it's such a vast place to experience...there's a lot of wilderness between each zone up there and you really need to travel some distance between each one," Avenell said.

"We are going there once a year at the moment and we would probably like to do it twice a year; we may look at doing an NT trip and then do an over-the-top trip."

Earlier this month, cruising was identified as a focus in the NT's maritime plan, including boosting cruise ship visits (*CW* 05 Oct).

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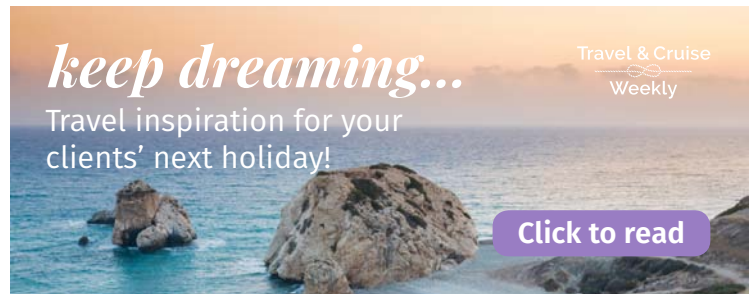
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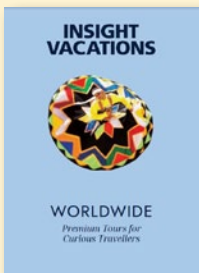
**Travelling Divas - Ireland: A Grand Irish Adventure**  
Curated for women who are passionate about travel and life, Travelling Divas has unveiled its brochure for the 14-day A Grand Irish Adventure departing on 21 Jul 2024. Discover the rugged scenery and undulating soft green fields of Dublin and its surrounds. Travellers will experience the region's best luxury accommodation, including two nights at The Davenport Hotel Dublin, with breakfast served daily throughout the journey.



**Uniworld - 2024, Rivers of the World Cruise**  
The 12-page Rivers of the World Cruise brochure by Uniworld highlights a 55-day voyage across three continents and 10 countries, where travellers are invited to board four ships, including *Aria Amazon*, *Aqua Nera*, *S.S. Beatrice* and *Mekong Jewel*. Traversing from Lima in Peru all the way to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, the tour will carry no more than 68 travellers for a soothing and relaxing getaway. The cruise departs 03 Oct 2024.



**MW Tours - African & Indian Subcontinent 2024**  
Learn all about MW Tours' Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, India & Subcontinent journeys for 2024, detailed in its latest brochure. The operator provides information on its different tour options and destinations, including Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, and more, as well as special offers, in the 90-page travel bible. Adventurers will have all the info they need to select their most ideal Africa and Indian getaway for next year.



**Insight Vacations - Worldwide**  
Insight Vacations has released a new brochure showcasing its premium guided tours for 2024 and 2025, which visit incredible destinations around the globe such as Norway, Italy, Switzerland, and more. The 236 pages are packed to the brim with details about the tour operator's extensive range of itineraries, which each featuring QR codes that travellers can scan in order to find more information online.

## Love your body in the Philippines



**THE** Philippine Department of Tourism Australia/NZ hosted the inaugural Dental, Wellness & Aesthetics Tourism Roadshow, which made its way around the country last month.

The event series kicked off in Perth on 18 Sep, before making its way to Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney to showcase the vast opportunities for health tourism in the Philippines.

Travel advisors and buyers in the health and wellness tourism space learned about dental, wellness and aesthetics tourism products, heard updates from the Philippine Department of Tourism, and enjoyed a delicious two-course lunch in the process.

Guests were also entertained by famous Philippine singer-songwriter David Mercado, and had the chance to win some great prizes, including holidays to the beautiful Asian destination, courtesy of Philippine Airlines.

Australian buyers also had the opportunity to meet face-to-face with Philippine suppliers,

including Twin Lakes Hotel, Royal Dental Clinic, and many more.

**Pictured:** suppliers and attendees at Sydney Roadshow event, held at View by Sydney, Walsh Bay. *JM*

## Zurvas joins Cook

**CRUISE** industry veteran Jarrod Zurvas has been named as the new Director of Sales for Captain Cook Cruises Fiji.

Zurvas boasts more than 15 years of senior sales and marketing experience across cruise, travel and hospitality, including roles at Variety Cruises, Quark, Scenic, and Cunard.

His most recent role was Sales and Distribution Manager Asia Pacific at Coral Expeditions.

Executive Chair Allison Haworth West said Zurvas' appointment was "well-timed", as the cruise line prepares to ring in a "new era of high-end expedition cruising" with the addition of new luxury ship *MS Caledonian Sky* next month (**TD** 13 Sep).

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





# Tokyo Tokyo

Old meets New

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