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A hand-picked global collection, AtlasHotels is Infinity Holidays' curated hotel range.

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Agents selling the Atlas range will receive an extra 1% commission until the end of the year.

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Learn about a new Tokyo

EXCLUSIVE

TOKYO Tourism has relaunched its online training platform in Australia, calling the overhauled program Rediscover Tokyo.

Formerly known as Tokyo Tourism Expert, the revamped training hub provides agents with important basics, as well as enhanced updates on the popular Japanese city, including area guides, new emerging attractions and the best hotels to stay at.

Agents can also check out the insider tips and model itineraries now available on the site.

To celebrate the relaunch, the DMO is offering a chance to win some great prizes, including a



trip for two flying with All Nippon Airways and staying at Mimaru Suites - sign up **HERE**. JM

Spencer turns 25

SPENCER Travel last weekend celebrated a quarter of a century in business, with the milestone commemorated at Sydney's InterContinental Hotel - see **p6**.

Infinity hotel bonus

INFINITY Holidays is offering a 1% bonus commission on its Atlas Hotels curated in-house trade-selected accommodation range - details on the **cover page**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of the latest news including our **Sustainability** page, plus a front cover wrap from **Infinity Holidays** and a full page from **Silversea**.

MTA heads to Fiji

MTA Mobile Travel Agents has announced that its 2024 National Conference will take place in May/June next year at the Sheraton Fiji Golf & Beach Resort/Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa on Denarau Island.

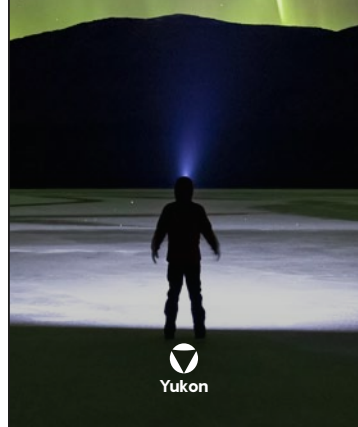
It's the first time MTA will have had an overseas conference, with the event to be themed "Celebrate the Journey".

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Holland tax hike

AMSTERDAM will slug tourists with an increased visitor tax from next year, new budget documents in the Netherlands show.

The nightly fee added to hotel room prices will rise to 12.5% of the total rate, while the daily fee for cruise ship visitors will increase from €8 to €11.

QF points for hotel stays

TRIPADEAL customers can now earn and use Qantas points on thousands of hotels under a new partnership forged with Expedia.

Following the inking of the new strategic deal with one of the world's largest OTAs, TripADeal has launched Hotel Stays, allowing users of its site to access a larger volume of hotel rooms & competitive pricing from properties around the world.

One of the marquee benefits is the option to use and earn Qantas Frequent Flyer points on the entire range of product offered by Hotel Stays, as well as access to a range of exclusive member-only pricing deals.

"The collaboration represents a significant step towards making travel more accessible, convenient, and enjoyable for everyone," TripADeal co-founder Norm Black said.

"Expedia has significant experience in the travel industry and we're excited to be able to partner with them to take our hotel offering to the next level."

Byron Bay-based TripADeal is keen to point out the new Hotel Stays option is distinct from its existing Hotel Packages offering, stressing the new venture represents "a quicker, hassle-free option that customers can use for a stand-alone holiday, or use for a short-stay add-on on their already booked tour and cruises with just the click of a button". *AB*

Belgium higher risk

FOLLOWING a terrorist shooting of two Swedish nationals in Belgium, DFAT is advising travellers the threat level in the country's capital has been moved to the highest warning.

The concern level for the remainder of the country has also been raised to level three of four.

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VIEW BROCHURE

NSW summer allure



JOIN Bonnie-Sue O'Garey from Destination NSW at 11am (AEDT) on 24 Oct to discover Sydney's best summer travel experiences.

Those who complete the NSW Aussie Specialist training course, attend the webinar and tell Tourism Australia in 100 words or less how they would sell three new Sydney hotels, will have a chance to win a self-care pack.

Register to attend **HERE**.

Uber warns of major price hike

PROPOSED reforms to Australia's workplace rules may result in an 85% increase in fares for Uber passengers, the rideshare platform has warned.

The Senate is currently considering a proposal put forward by The Fair Work Commission to set minimum standards and conditions for on-demand platform workers.

If approved, the changes could force companies like Uber to start paying its staff casual loading, penalty rates, expense reimbursement and superannuation entitlements.

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2024 SUPER EARLYBIRDS MUST END 31 OCTOBER 2023



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Join our Inner Circle

THE Travel Corporation's (TTC) Tour Brands has formally launched its new Inner Circle rewards program to the market.

After foreshadowing its introduction at a series of trade events last month (**TD** 26 Sep), TTC has launched the Book Bank Bon Voyage incentive, allowing advisors to sell their way to a place on a TTC tour of their own.

Agents can now lay down a deposit on a tour that they want to take via the TTC Travel Agent Portal **HERE**, and then for every client booking agents make from the deposit date with brands like Luxury Gold, Insight Vacations and Contiki, they will earn credit towards the final payment.

The advisor then pays the final balance, minus the rewards credit they have earned, and bon voyage, they are off on a trip.

"We are giving agents more access...to experience our brands on their own schedules," TTC's MD Toni Ambler said.

Excess baggage warning

THE size of seats on aircraft is under the microscope after a new comprehensive report was released showing the average size of the Australian body is significantly increasing.

Australia's first anthropometry dataset study has revealed the country is stacking on close to 3kg every 10 years on average, creating some rather large implications for how airlines should configure planes over the next decade to accommodate.

The report slammed airlines for continuing to employ a seating model based on weight data from the 1950s to 1970s, suggesting "changes in body shape dimensions over the past 30 years have rendered airline seating dimensions to be problematic", and unable to effectively accommodate a staggering 68% of males and 22% of females.

The report, compiled jointly by the University of South



Australia, Transport for NSW, and Department of Transport and Planning Victoria, said the weight gain trend has "serious implications" for aircraft design and fuel efficiency, with the associated fuel bill for heavier planes likely to ramp up operational costs, as well as environmental concerns.

In response to the report, VA told **TD** that guests can buy an extra seat if size is an issue, as well as request seat belt extenders from crew on board.

In contrast to the report's findings, investment bank Jefferies in the US recently claimed weight loss drug Ozempic could lead to collective weight reductions and result in benefits for airlines (**TD** 11 Oct). **AB**



Window Seat

JAPAN Airlines was recently forced to charter an extra flight after its passengers were found to be too hefty.

The carrier scheduled a Boeing 737-800 to take several sumo wrestlers home from events in Tokyo and Osaka, however due to the combined weight of its large passengers, an extra flight was required at very short notice.

"It is extremely unusual for us to operate special flights due to the weight restrictions on this type of aircraft," a JAL spokesperson told local media.



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Career not a long way away



THE quest to advocate on behalf of the travel and tourism sector never seems to stop for ATIA CEO Dean Long, who recently appeared in a Tourism, Hospitality and Events - Western Sydney University video as a proud alumni encouraging the take-up of its courses.

Long (**pictured**) extols the virtues of the institution and its tourism courses on offer in the recruitment post, appearing alongside a wealth of other proud graduates including GM Customer Experience, Western Sydney International Airport Kylie Morris & destination expert Keith Baker. Watch the full video **HERE**. *AB*

CATO salutes women

THE Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) has announced the return of its International Women's Day Lunch (IWD) in 2024, which will take place in Brisbane on 07 Mar.

The Travel Corporation has been named as the headline sponsor for the event, which will recognise and celebrate the exceptional contributions of CATO's female members, while Entire Travel Group is a supporting sponsor.

Tickets are priced at \$135, including a three-course lunch and beverages - **CLICK HERE** for more information.

Airbnb doing its bit

ACCORDING to new research from Oxford Economics, Airbnb has contributed \$13.6 billion to Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as well as providing 95,000 jobs in 2022.

The Economic Impact of Airbnb in APAC has revealed that the short-stay accommodation company has made up nearly 8% of the Australian tourism industry's contribution to GDP, up from 5% in 2019.

In the wake of the pandemic, Airbnb has been instrumental in aiding the Australian travel and tourism sectors, the report claimed, also indicating domestic travellers are crucial factors "to the tourism sector's resilience over the past three years".

The Carnival Jets

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has been selected as the official partner of the New York Jets NFL team.

The multi-year agreement will allow the cruise line to grow its brand presence in the New York market, which is a major homeport for the company.

The collaboration will result in stadium signage, advertising across digital and social realms, and a sweepstakes set to launch later this season, giving football fans the chance to win a Carnival cruise holiday.

ATIA UPDATE

from Richard Taylor, Director of Membership Experience



WE ALL know that working in travel is rarely straightforward, even at the best of times, but on occasion it can be a genuine challenge.

ATIA would like to extend our support to everybody that has been working to keep clients safe after the events of the past week.

Closer to home Dean Long, Ingrid Fraser and I will be attending ATAC's conference in Canberra on Fri and Sat. Going along to these events is always a privilege, because aside from the business elements they are a window into the soul of the industry; a snapshot of where heads are currently at.

We look forward to seeing those of you who'll be there.

Dean and Ingrid will already be in the nation's capital, as ATIA has been invited to provide evidence to the Joint Standing Committee On Foreign Affairs, Defence And Trade on the importance of international travel to the Pacific and the role of ATAS travel agents, tour operators and wholesalers. They'll also meet with Ministers King (Transport), O'Connor (Skills) and Farrell (Trade and Tourism) to discuss what the Government needs to do to support our industry following the Senate Report last

week and discuss ATIA's nine recommendations to reform the aviation industry. They will be doing a daily update on the Travel Exchange, so if you haven't already make sure you sign up and get involved.

Aside from all this Canberra activity we are now well underway with the judging of the NTIA awards. As you read these words, the judges are feverishly reviewing video and written submissions of this year's finalists and, in the case of categories for individuals, interviewing them to determine a winner.

This is not an easy task, because the quality of candidates and the effort put into their submissions really is something to behold.

We're so grateful for the efforts of our judges.

In the past, finalists would turn up to the NTIA awards, enjoy the evening and then go home, without much opportunity to meet and interact with the others in their category. This year we're changing that with smaller events on the evening before the awards where the finalists will be front and centre, offering them the opportunity to make connections with the wider industry.

The first of those is networking drinks at the Intercontinental in Melbourne CBD, from 5-7pm on Fri 17 Nov.

Tickets for that are available for purchase **HERE**.

Hope to see you there!

EK to the rescue

EMIRATES has confirmed it will stand with Australia by operating a special repatriation flight on Thu 19 Oct to help Australian travellers impacted by the unfolding events in Israel and Palestinian Territories.

The extra emergency flight is scheduled to depart Dubai on Thu at 9.40am before arriving in Sydney Airport the next day at 6.05am, with Emirates asking anyone who wants to be on the flight to contact its sales offices.

"We have been in detailed discussions with DFAT, other Australian Government contacts, and Qantas, to co-ordinate logistics and ground operations," Emirates noted.

Glitch not our fault

QANTAS has pushed back on media reports that some of its customers are being charged twice for flights.

The carrier told **TD** that claims customers are being left out of pocket are incorrect, stating instead that a banking glitch had resulted in rare cases of double debiting for its customers.

"There is sometimes a delay when banks and payment providers release pre-authorised funds after a transaction has been completed," Qantas said.

"We have worked closely with our banking and payment partners to resolve these issues, significantly reducing their occurrence," the carrier added.



EU fares to go up?

EUROPEAN airline chiefs have warned that tough sustainability targets could drive up passenger fares.

The head of British Airways parent IAG, Luis Gallego, said there is a 90% risk that the industry would fail to meet a European Union mandate for the availability of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in 2025.

Gallego pointed out that the rules, which are stricter than other regions, will negatively affect competition across Europe's aviation industry.

"We have a small group or a small airline competing in a global war with mandates of sustainability that are ahead of others...we are not going to be competitive," he said.

GEELONG MAPS OUT SUSTAINABLE PATH

GEELONG'S peak tourism body has published a new *Sustainable Destination Master Plan*, which maps a way forward for the region to build a stronger visitor economy over the next 10 years.

Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine (TGGB) partnered with urban planning firm Urbis and consulted with industry partners to produce the report, identifying the main issues and opportunities facing the region.

TGGB Executive Director Tracey Carter said the plan aims to "deliver a resilient, sustainable and valued visitor economy that celebrates the distinct character and identity of the region".

The roadmap puts sustainability at the forefront, with all proposed actions designed to protect the natural environment and

preserve its cultural heritage.

Leveraging and improving the open and natural environments of Greater Geelong and The Bellarine to allow more tourists to engage with its natural beauty is one of the key strategic directions identified in the report.

Objectives in support of that goal include developing a program with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to grow engagement, as well as providing diverse experiential accommodation options drawing on nature, such as glamping.

The TGGB plan also looks at the region's key sustainability



challenges, including the pressure placed on the environment during peak tourism periods.

"As we strive to build a sustainable and resilient visitor economy by 2032, our success hinges on the region's willingness to collaborate and present a united front to deliver on the strategic priorities outlined in the plan," Carter emphasised. *JM*

Helsinki climbs

HELSINKI has become the fourth most sustainable tourist destination in the world, after the Finnish capital climbed eight places within just two years in the latest Global Destination Sustainability (GDS) Index.

The city has previously stated its aim is to develop into the most sustainable travel destination in the world, with the goal of reaching the top of the GDS index by 2025 - a spot held by Gothenburg, Sweden.

NEOM unveils new ecotourism offering

SAUDI Arabia's emerging sustainable regional development, NEOM, has revealed its latest tourism destination, Leyja.

The destination will house three hotels in a natural valley carved between 400m-high mountains, using innovative, ecological design to seamlessly blend into the landscape.

The three properties, one of which is a wellness retreat, will offer 120 boutique rooms and suites plus a selection of experiences and activities,



including fine dining.

Each of the hotels will house wellness facilities and rooftop infinity-style pools, with guests also able to enjoy guided walks, hiking trails, mountain biking and climbing.

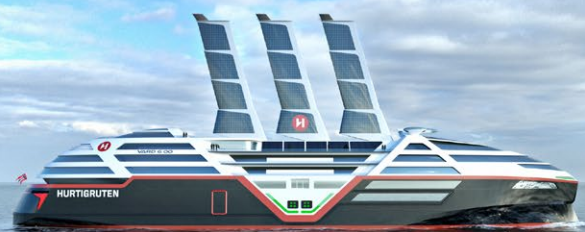
Boeing SAF test

BOEING will team up with NASA and United Airlines to measure how sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) affects contrails and non-carbon emissions, via new in-flight testing to be conducted using a cutting-edge Boeing ecoDemonstrator Explorer.

The 737-10 will fly with 100% SAF and conventional jet fuel in separate tanks and alternate fuels during testing, while NASA's DC-8 Airborne Science Lab will follow behind to measure the emissions.



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SPENCER Travel celebrated its milestone of 25 years in business this month.

To mark the significant event, Spencer Travel staff and its long-term clients celebrated at Aster at InterContinental Sydney.

Treated to a stunning Sydney Harbour view and perfect weather, the party commenced with a moving speech by Penny Spencer, the Managing Director of the travel group, who showed appreciation for the help and support she has received throughout the 25-year journey.

The participants were also invited to savour a symbolic anniversary cake at the venue.



THE Spencer Travel team.



MIKE Salter, Penny Spencer and Andrew Morris, clients of 30 years.



THE anniversary cake!

PENNY and Sharyn Kitchener of Mosman Travel.



PAM Roberts (client), Penny Spencer, Vicki Adkin and Louise Brown.

PENNY Spencer, Louise Brown and Andrew Morris.



PENNY Spencer with the Sales team.



THE members of the corporate team of Spencer Travel.



MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.634

THE Australian dollar has dipped against most of the key markets in the past week, dropping more than four cents against the South African rand and over one cent compared to the sinking US greenback, falling from two-week highs.

The Aussie is understood to be lagging due to the volatile situation in the Middle East, which is considered a critical factor in the variation.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.634
UK	£0.519
NZ	\$1.073
Euro	€0.600
Japan	¥94.79
Thailand	฿23.00
China	¥4.632
South Africa	11.90
Canada	\$0.863
Crude oil	US\$90.89

United connects

UNITED Airlines has revealed plans to roll out Bluetooth connectivity on 800 of its aircraft by 2032, which will allow customers to pair their wireless headphones to the seatback screen monitor.

The US carrier, which currently operates 100 Bluetooth-enabled planes, has also highlighted new AirPods Pro features that make it easier for pax to communicate, including Conversation Awareness and Adaptive Audio.

Double the pulling power



AUSSIE tour operators and wholesalers were recently invited by Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) and Korea Tourism Organization (KTO) Sydney offices to a 'Visit East Asia' event at Kuro Bar & Dining.

Attendees learnt about the ease and appeal of visiting Japan and Korea in one trip, finding out about the distinct tourism experiences in each country.

Guests were served cuisine inspired by both regions, with one lucky guest winning a return ticket to Seoul with Korean Air.

Pictured: Daniel HG Lee, Ryan Archibald, Sunwoo Lee (KTO Deputy Director), Naoki Kitazawa (JNTO Executive Director), Andrew Coombs, and Naoki Tokutsu. JM

Etihad expands fleet

ETIHAD has taken delivery of a new Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner, which arrived at Abu Dhabi Airport last Fri and commenced service on the weekend.

The carrier is also preparing to welcome three Dreamliner 787-9s to its fleet soon; the additions will support its growing network, which includes newly added destinations Osaka, Copenhagen and Dusseldorf.

Insurance to the left

PASSPORTCARD has appointed Sydney-based PR agency Keep Left to oversee its launch into the Australian market later this year.

Part of the Davidshild Group, PassportCard will offer Aussie travellers instant payouts on common travel insurance claims, including stolen cash, delayed luggage, and medical emergencies, via a rechargeable prepaid debit card.

KeepLeft will run the company's first brand campaign Down Under, which will be supported by an influencer program.



Europe loses lustre

AUSTRALIAN travellers are less enthusiastic about visiting Europe, according to new research from the Europe Travel Commission (ETC).

The *Long-haul Travel Barometer 3/2023* shows a 3% decline in Aussies' intention to travel to Europe, which the ETC speculates could be due to a desire to holiday domestically, given it's summer in the Southern Hemisphere.

The report also reveals that high prices are a deterrent for Aussies, with 45% feeling discouraged from a European getaway due to rising travel costs.

Travellers from Down Under are also demonstrating a growing interest in train travel (up 8%) and bus travel (up 2%) to get between European countries, reflecting a slight shift away from air travel.

Boeing donates

BOEING has dedicated US\$2 million funding to support organisations who are working to provide emergency medical and trauma support to those affected by the terrorist attacks in Israel.

The aircraft manufacturer will also match all qualifying employee contributions in support of humanitarian relief through its charitable matching program.

Poland's first Canopy

HILTON has entered into a new agreement with TFG Hotels to develop Canopy by Hilton Warsaw, marking the brand's debut in Poland.

The 170-key property will open in 2025 featuring a roof terrace overlooking the city where guests can enjoy coffee and cocktails.

GEMS AND ICONS

NEW VOYAGES COLLECTION | MARCH - NOVEMBER 2025

Silversea welcomes our 2025 New Voyages Collection between March and November 2025. A medley of places, peoples and stories, featuring 206 voyages across 60 countries and 6 continents, including 409 destinations and 24 ports never visited before by Silversea.

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