

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of the latest news, plus a full page from *APT*.

Disney names its seventh ship

DISNEY Cruise Line has announced that the former *Global Dream* will operate as *Disney Adventure* when she debuts in Singapore in 2025.

The half-built vessel, still under construction in Germany, was acquired from the receivers of the collapsed Genting Hong Kong last year, with Disney subsequently announcing a MoU which will see her homeport out of Singapore for at least five years from 2025.

Lots more cruise news in today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

Industry steps up for Morocco

THE Australian travel industry has swung into action to support clients in Morocco as well as the country's citizens, after an earthquake hit the region south-west of Marrakesh yesterday.

Entire villages have reportedly been brought to the ground, while tremors were felt as far away as Casablanca and Rabat.

BBC reports the 08 Sep earthquake has so far claimed the lives of over 2,100 people, with 2,400 more injured.

Bunnik Tours chief Dennis Bunnik confirmed that all of the

company's groups, clients, tour leaders and staff are safe, with the operations team currently working to assess the situation and the impact on any upcoming departures.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has issued a new Smartraveller update, urging Australians in Morocco to exercise a high degree of caution with the significant risk of aftershocks and terror attacks.

Intrepid Travel this morning launched an emergency appeal via the Intrepid Foundation, and will match donations to up to the value of \$100,000, as well as covering all admin costs.

Money raised will go to local NGOs Education for All and the High Atlas Foundation, with estimates more than 300,000 people will be impacted.

Intrepid Foundation GM Biheng Zhang said "while many of us cannot even begin to understand this level of loss, we can, by supporting this appeal, directly supply those impacted with emergency relief and support."

Donation link **HERE**. *DF, BP*

QR, Xiamen pact

THE launch of Xiamen Airlines' new flights from Beijing and Xiamen to Doha (*TD* 08 Sep) is part of a newly announced codeshare partnership with Qatar Airways, which will see the QR code placed on the Beijing route.

Chairman of Xiamen Airlines, Zhao Dong, said "the partnership of two Five-Star airlines will bring wonderful flying experiences to the customers worldwide", while Qatar Airways Group CEO Akbar Al Baker added that the Xiamen Qatar flights "are perfectly connected to our unparalleled global network offering customers of both airlines greater choice and seamless travel experiences".

Xiamen Airlines is a member of the SkyTeam Alliance while Qatar Airways is part of Oneworld.

Crystal 2025 out

CRYSTAL Cruises today released its 2025 itineraries aboard *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony*, promising "unparalleled opportunities for exploration and cultural immersion, both on and off the ship" thanks to the brand's acquisition by A&K Travel Group.

There are 73 sailings, visiting 112 countries and 281 ports incl over 140 new destinations.

The new itineraries will open for bookings effective 27 Sep, with more details on 03 9536 1800.

C360 special issue

THIS afternoon our sister publication *Cruise Weekly* will release a bumper special edition covering all the excitement of last week's Cruise360 conference.

Watch your inbox for the update which is part of *Cruise Weekly* and *Travel Daily's* ongoing support for CLIA and the wider Australasian cruise sector.

andBeyond Bhutan

ANDBEYOND has opened its first fully owned and operated lodge in Asia, with the debut of andBeyond Punakha River Lodge on the banks of the Mo Chu River in Bhutan, offering experiences such as paddy field lunches, an extensive organic vegetable garden and a nearby community farming project - **CLICK HERE**.

Virgin Bali sale

VIRGIN Australia this morning launched a "mammoth five-day international sale" offering fares to Bali from \$399 return.

Fares are on sale for departures between 11 Oct and 20 Jun 2024, to destinations such as Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu and Queenstown.

TAAP spring sale

EXPEDIA TAAP is offering savings of 20% or more on thousands of hotels worldwide, as part of a spring sale aiming to help travel advisors benefit from shoulder season demand.

The offer is valid for bookings until 24 Sep and travel through until 31 Mar 2024, with the savings available on thousands of hotels worldwide - more at expedia.com/taap.



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The 2024 Getaway Sale
SAVE 15% on small group adventures to Europe.

FIND OUT MORE

The Chat with Jenny
Travel Daily



A Conversation with **Martine Nunes**
of Oceania Cruises

[CLICK HERE to listen](#)

South Africa faces marketing furore

EMMY-AWARD winning comedian Trevor Noah has found himself in the middle of a heated debate around the marketing plans for South African Tourism.

The BBC reported that a proposal to bring Noah in to promote the country at a cost of 33 million rand (approx A\$2.7m) has created a massive stir.

South Africa's Tourism Minister Patricia de Lille told parliament it wanted to pay Noah to feature in a five-minute video advertising the beleaguered country.

A host of MPs have opposed the suggestion while de Lille has stated the campaign will not use public funds.

Noah holds dual citizenship with Switzerland and South Africa.

PER eyes fresh Qantas op

VANESSA Hudson's appointment to the top job at Qantas has given WA tourism minister Rita Saffioti hope that it can sort out a long-running dispute around international flights from Perth Airport.

"The change in leadership at Qantas provides a fresh opportunity to bring a renewed focus to the issue," she told the *Australian Financial Review*.

"Consolidating services at the one location means better aviation capacity for Perth and WA - that's good for the community, businesses and our economy."

Plans have been afoot since 2019 for a \$2.5 billion upgrade to the international terminal that would allow space for Qantas to relocate operations to Perth's Airport Central, but Qantas would prefer to upgrade T3 and T4.

Perth currently has two international terminals - Airport Central, which sits on the other side of the runway from the domestic terminal and is used by all carriers aside from Qantas, and

a Qantas-specific international terminal that is located next to the Qantas domestic operations.

Perth Airport with the State Government has been campaigning for Qantas to operate out of Airport Central, with WA Tourism Minister Roger Cook previously criticising Australia's national carrier for "holding Western Australia back".

The latest incident in the long-running stoush saw the carrier cancel plans for Perth to Jakarta and Johannesburg flights, citing issues with Australian Border Force and other government departments on the Customs and Biosecurity requirements for the flights (**TD** 20 Oct 2022).

However QF recently began its Perth to Rome seasonal flights (**TD** 19 Jun), with Europe and UK services having lower biosecurity requirements. *DF*

A new Set arrives

CURATED luxury hotel group, The Set Collection, has announced a number of new members across Europe and the Middle East including Ultima Collection, a series of properties located in Gstaad, Crans-Montana, Geneva, Megève, Courchevel and Corfu.

Also joining is The David Citadel in Jerusalem and Le Grand Jardin, a 13th century estate located in Cannes in the south of France.

The collection aims to represent "like-minded independent hotels, run by hoteliers, for hoteliers".

It has been designed for owners, investors and management teams "seeking an alternative to traditional representation," with the group part of the Global Hotel Alliance and its GHA Discovery loyalty program.



WILD Awaits
AATKings

SAVE
up to
15%
on over 400
tour departures*

*T&C's apply. Valid for land only tours.

[Find out more](#)

Uluru Dot Painting

EY boosts Lisbon

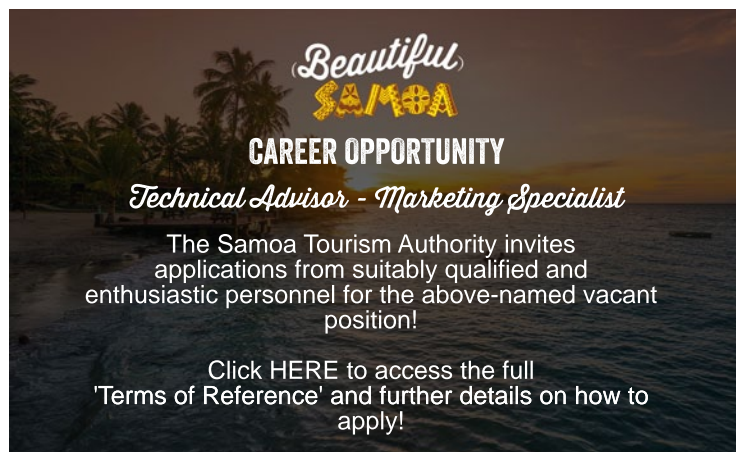
ETIHAD Airways will add a fourth weekly non-stop flight between Abu Dhabi and Lisbon effective from Dec this year.

GDS screens indicate the extra service will utilise a B787-9, with frequencies maintained into the northern summer.

D-Day river cruise

MAT McLachlan Battlefield Tours has announced a special group tour and river cruise aboard the five star *Amadeus Diamond* to commemorate next year's 80th anniversary of the Battle of Normandy and D-Day.

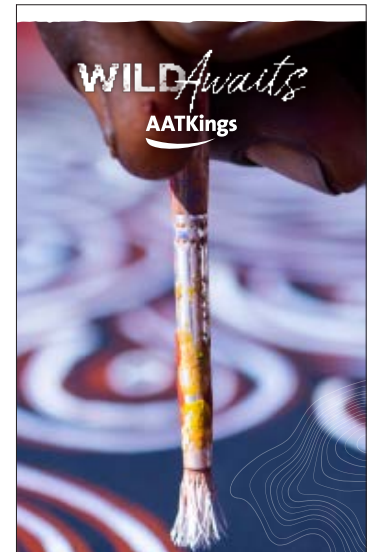
The all-inclusive trip will take aficionados from Paris to Normandy and return with on-board WWII seminars, the company of an expert historian and two days of comprehensive touring - battlefields.com.au.



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SAVE
up to
15%
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*T&C's apply. Valid for land only tours.

[Find out more](#)

Uluru Dot Painting

Travel & Cruise Weekly have ready-made social media toolkits to inspire your clients.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Colorado comes to Australia



THE Colorado Tourism Office (CTO) embarked on a strategic visit Down Under last week with the aim of inspiring Aussie travellers to plan a trip to the US mountain state.

Led by CTO Director Timothy Wolfe, the delegation hosted a series of travel trade, consumer and media events in Byron Bay, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney, before heading to Auckland this week.

Attendees were also treated to an exclusive Mountainfilm VIP Event and screening that included three films featuring landscapes and adventures in Colorado.

Wolfe highlighted that the Australia and New Zealand markets “have always been a key international target” for the destination, which projects a return to AU/NZ pre-pandemic 2019 visitation levels by 2025.

“These visitors have enjoyed Colorado’s 28 ski resorts for decades and the natural affinity for the great outdoors is something that Colorado can satisfy in abundance, while

offering a distinct Old West culture,” he enthused.

Pictured: Tom Watkinson, Visit Telluride; Kylee Kay and Millie Browne, Linkd Tourism; Laura Bonfiglio, Vail Resorts; Polly Simmons, Linkd Tourism; Flip Byrnes, Aspen Snowmass; Andrea Blankenship, Colorado Tourism Office; Bob Stinchcomb, Alterra Mountain Company; Wolfe; Rachel Welsh, Visit Durango; Lisa Bruening, Visit Denver; and Liz Birdsall, Colorado Tourism Office.

Pitcairn picks up

THE Pitcairn Islands has announced its biggest-ever increase in passenger services, following a surge of demand.

From Apr 2024, Pitcairn’s supply ship, *MV Silver Supporter*, will operate 29 return passenger services between Mangareva, French Polynesia and Pitcairn Island through to Apr 2025 - representing a more than 25% over the previous year.

For more details, see today’s issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

Int’l tourism gathers pace

AUSTRALIA’S international tourism spend has recovered to 99% of pre-COVID levels at \$1.6 billion for Jun 2023, the latest data from Tourism Research Australia (TRA) has revealed.

There were 492,000 trips to the country in Jun, representing 83% of the pre-pandemic Jun 2019 figure, while the number of nights spent in Australia (17.8 million) were also still below pre-COVID levels at 94%.

New Zealand retained its spot as Australia’s number one source market, with Kiwis making a total 98,000 trips Down Under in Jun, signalling a 97% recovery, and spending \$178 million, up 41% on the pre-pandemic level.

Australia was also a popular destination among travellers from the United States, with America

ranking as its second-biggest source market, achieving a spend of \$159 million for Jun - 15% greater than Jun 2019.

India was the only visitor market to exceed pre-COVID levels for both spend, up 66%, and number of trips, up 8%, while China was slower to recover, with trip numbers at 47% and spend at 55% of pre-COVID.

Business travel recovery outpaced leisure travel, with trip numbers at 74% of pre-COVID levels and spend 7% higher, while holiday trip numbers lagged behind at 70%, and spend at 92% compared to Jun 2019.

Trips into Australia to visit friends and family were on par with 2019 levels, while spend was a healthy \$317 million, overtaking the Jun 2019 figure by 18%. *JM*

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Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Only applicants with the legal right to work and live in Australia will be considered. No recruitment agency submissions accepted.



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Thank you for being the maple syrup to our pancakes!

Now, we’re reaching for the skies and aiming for the top spot. Cast your vote and show your Canadian spirit – let’s win this together, eh?

[VOTE NOW - CAT 27: MOST POPULAR AIRLINE – ONLINE](#)

Also, congratulations to Zoe Gentle & Janis McDonald, for being nominated for the ‘Most Outstanding Sales Executive – Air’ category!





ArrivalGuides buy

ARRIVALGUIDES, which claims to be the “world’s largest distributor of destination content” has been acquired by Spain-based travel content technology firm Smartvel.

ArrivalGuides was previously owned by private equity firm Lion Ventures, with Smartvel saying it plans to integrate the content into its suite of artificial intelligence-enriched platforms to “gather, translate and geolocate everything in any destination around the world”.

Tasmania in HK

EXPRESSIONS of interest to attend the Tourism Tasmania half-day partner event in Hong Kong have been extended.

The event is set to take place on 01 Dec and today is now the final day to register your interest in attending the event.

To get in touch, contact trade@tourism.tas.gov.au.

Hamilton Island for sale?

ONE of Australia’s most coveted tourist destinations, Hamilton Island, could be up for sale with the *AFR* reporting that owners, the Oatley family, have brought in UBS to review options.

The island was purchased by Robert Oatley in 2003 for around \$198 million before the family poured a reported \$450 million into updating qualia resort as well as Hamilton Island Yacht Club and Villas plus the golf club.

Oatley had previously made \$1.5 billion from the sale of Rosemount Estate to Southcorp.

A spokesman told the *AFR*, “as it looks to the future, the family has put in place a new leadership and approach and is conducting a review with the assistance of advisors to explore opportunities for growth and future prosperity”.

“At this stage, this review is ongoing, and no decisions have been made.”

Hamilton Island is also famous

for hosting Race Week, Australia’s largest offshore racing regatta that next year will take place on 17 to 24 Aug.

Hamilton Island Airport currently receives flights from Qantas, Virgin and Jetstar with direct connections to Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

When it was last up for sale in 2003, a significant bidding war took place between Oatley and General Property Trust. *DF*

Vietjet marathon

VIETJET has been named as the Official Airline Partner of the 2023 Sydney Marathon, which is expected to attract 40,000 participants from more than 75 countries from 14-17 Sep.

To mark the milestone, the low-cost airline is offering exclusive promotional fares starting from \$200 one-way for all services between Australia and Vietnam.

Seabourn Europe 2025 unveiled

ULTRA-LUXURY voyages group Seabourn has announced its 2025 Europe season taking in the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, and Canary Islands.

Seabourn Ovation, Encore, and Sojourn will take guests on more than 60 unique sailings to hidden harbours, marquee ports, and natural wonders between Mar and Nov 2025 - click [HERE](#).

Snow days continue

PERISHER has announced significant fresh snow fall with over 20 centimetres falling in recent days with the snow machines also in action.

With hot conditions forecast for NSW this week, fresh snowfall looks to be limited and the thermometer will reach as high as 17 degrees in Perisher on Thu.

Live cameras of the conditions can be found [HERE](#).

GROUPS CONSULTANT & SUPPORT POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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If you have previous groups, wholesale or retail travel experience, an abundance of drive, passion and customer service then this is your perfect move! Chris Watson Travel Group are now hiring.

We specialise in Cheer, Dance, Music & Event hosted tours.

- 2-3 years retail or wholesale experience
- Spot on time management & communication skills
- Deliver the best of customer service with attention to detail
- Thrive in a team environment
- Sabre and Tramada preferred but not essential
- Incentives and attractive wage available to the right applicant
- Home based position available- current group manager based in Sydney

CANBERRA-BASED

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Canberra in recent years has become a fashionable place to live with hip bars, beautiful restaurants, great arts scene and more. With plenty of opportunity for adventure and excitement. **Weston Cruise & Travel** are looking for an experienced travel agent to complement the energetic team. If you have previous retail travel experience, an abundance of drive, passion and customer service then this is your perfect move!

- 2-3 years retail or wholesale experience
- Spot on time management & communication skills
- Deliver the best of customer service with attention to detail
- Thrive in a team environment
- Sabre and Tramada preferred but not essential
- Incentives and attractive wage available to the right applicant



Window Seat

THERE are few people in Australian business at the moment who would have as many eyes on them as Vanessa Hudson, the newly minted CEO of Qantas.

She began her stint as the carrier attempts to recover from the hot mess that former CEO Alan Joyce left it in.

That's a horrendously difficult position to be left in. Where do you start?

Well, Hudson (or her people) decided that the best would be to become one with the people and travel in the back of the bus.

After a series of meetings with staff and institutional shareholders in Melbourne, Hudson boarded a QF flight back to Sydney in Economy - a move that was likely thought to be akin to politicians smiling with babies.

Sadly, it didn't quite work, with Hudson copping flak from various quarters including Rupert Younger, founder of Oxford University's Centre for Corporate Reputation.

Younger told the *SMH*, "it's not about flying economy... does the chief executive understand that there is a big job to be done to rebuild trust and reputation at Qantas?"

That one burns a little.

West Maui to reopen

WEST Maui, Hawai'i, communities of Kā'anapali, Nāpili, Honokōwai, and Kapalua will be full reopened on 08 Oct after an announcement from Governor Josh Green.

The reopening will come two months after the wildfires that destroyed Lahaina (**TD** 10 Aug).

The Governor encouraged visitors to make travel plans to Maui to support the island's businesses, restaurants, retail outlets, attractions, and accommodation.

All previous restrictions for travel to West Maui communities north of Lahaina will be lifted.

Governor Green said, "all travel restrictions will end and West Maui will be open to visitors again, so people from Hawai'i and around the world can resume travel to this special

place and help it begin to recover economically."

"This difficult decision is meant to bring hope for recovery to the families and businesses on Maui that have been so deeply affected in every way by the disaster."

Lahaina itself will remain fully closed to the public until further notice out of respect to the town's residents.

County, state, and federal emergency responders continue efforts to identify victims and the missing, and conduct clean-up efforts of debris and hazardous materials resulting from the wildfires. *DF*

QF cuts Alice flights

ALAN Joyce has been criticised again, this time for cutting flights to Alice Springs in one of his last decisions as CEO of Australia's national carrier.

Northern Territory Tourism Minister Nicole Manison told the *ABC*, "for the northern winter season we are going to see one reduction of an Alice Springs-to-Sydney flight a week".

"That's going to go from daily to six times a week," she said, adding that it was the right time for Joyce to leave and that the handover was taking a long time.

QR gets behind F1

QATAR Airways has announced it has become the official airline partner of the BWT Alpine F1 Team which currently fields an all-French pairing of race winners Pierre Gasly and Esteban Ocon.

The agreement with the Renault-owned team is part of a multi-year deal and is in addition to Qatar Airways being the official airlines and global partner of Formula 1.

The Middle East airline has also painted one of its Boeing 777 aircraft in a special livery.



Heritage milestone

HERITAGE Line has celebrated its first Upper Mekong voyage on its new ship, *Anouvong*.

Departing from the UNESCO World Heritage-listed city of Luang Prabang in Laos, the four-day, three-night, inaugural sailing 'Golden Triangle Traverse' included all daily guided shore excursions, demonstrations and lectures, an onboard expert guide, and full-board dining featuring a range of classic Laotian dishes.

The ship is the seventh addition to the cruise line's designer fleet and boasts eight staterooms and two Signature Suites spread over two public decks.

Heritage Line *Anouvong* offers a series of three, seven and nine-night itineraries exploring the Upper Mekong.

Papatura dives in

PAPATURA Island Retreat in the Solomon Islands has announced the opening of a new dive shop and learn-to-dive school.

The resort, which is an hour's flight from Honiara, has seven waterfront bungalows and offers fishing, surfing, snorkelling, rainforest walks, and more.

General Manager Kym Bryce said the new dive offering means the property is now "catering for all adventure travellers to the Hapi Isles".

"Our diving is next level with stunning coral reefs, WW2 planes, amazing wall dives and marine life," she enthused.

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Titan's new 139-page worldwide brochure is out now, with Australian travel agents now able to log onto the agent portal to order or download, **HERE**. Showcasing over 100 curated itineraries across six continents, travellers can choose from distinct touring options including small group, solo holidays, stay & explore, cruise and tour, and classic touring. Also covered in the brochure is Titan's most luxurious holiday to date, Captivating Cultures: A Grand Tour from Rome to Rajasthan by Private Jet, a 23-day transcontinental journey that evokes the golden age of travel.



Silversea Cruises - Gems and Icons 2025
Silversea Cruises has curated over 206 voyages across 60 countries in its summer 2025 collection, which invites explorers to uncover some of the hidden gems and iconic wonders around the globe. From the frozen Arctic to the remote Galapagos, and a lot more through the immersive travel bible, travellers can also journey to 24 new destinations which Silversea has never crossed in previous sailings. The brochure also boasts intimate luxury ships, all-inclusive voyages and more incentives throughout the latest release of its collection.



One Traveller - 2024 Holiday Brochure
Keen solo travellers can take their pick of over 60 holidays across the UK, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia, as well as river and ocean cruises, with One Traveller in the 2024 holiday season. The almost 200-page brochure, curated for mature solo travellers, includes escorted tours to some of the most iconic landmarks and exotic adventures in the world. Travellers can now enjoy a safari in Kenya, experience South Korea's vibrant urban lifestyle and embark on a new journey in Peru.

W Hotels debuts in Macau



MARRIOTT Bonvoy's luxury boutique brand, W Hotels, has landed in Macau for the first time, with the opening of W Macau - Studio City.

Located on Cotai Strip, the city's premier leisure destination, the property takes inspiration from 1950s Hollywood Glamour and Macau's maritime history, featuring blue and white wave patterns and mirrored ceilings.

The hotel offers 430 guestrooms and 127 suites, all of which have a Bluetooth sound system and a signature in-room W Mix Bar, while the two-bedroom Extreme WOW Suite offers floor-to-ceiling windows, a circular bed, and a generous dining area complete with a kitchenette.

Guests have their pick of four onsite restaurants and bars, including day-to-night coffee and cocktail bar Living Room, which serves coffee, creative cocktails, and Chinese-Portuguese-inspired pastries and baked goods.

There's also an indoor pool, a jacuzzi, a communal steam and sauna room, a fitness centre, a spa with seven treatment rooms, seven customisable meetings and events spaces, and the W Sound Suite, where guests can enjoy a recording studio experience.

General Manager, Adrian Chan, said the hotel "celebrates the glamor of nostalgic cinema as well as Macau's very unique cultural heritage". JM

flydubai to Sphinx

MIDDLE Eastern carrier flydubai has announced the launch of daily flights to Cairo's Sphinx International Airport starting 28 Oct this year.

The increase in flights brings flydubai's capacity between Dubai and Egypt to 17 flights per week including the already operational daily flight connecting Dubai and Alexandria's Borg El Arab International Airport.

Got a confidential tip? Contact Travel Daily via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click **HERE**



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From all the team at APT Travel Group

