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EK boosts Aussie capacity

EMIRATES will move to a triple-daily A380 service on the Sydney-Dubai route from late next month, and has also confirmed expectations it will relaunch Adelaide non-stops in mid-2024.

EK VP Australasia, Barry Brown, told *The Australian* the airline is responding to huge demand, saying "we're seeing bookings pouring in for Oct and Nov, and also for next year".

The upgauging of the third EK SYD daily service from a 777 to an A380 will maintain the Premium Economy offering on all Sydney flights, as well as the popular in-flight bar in Business class as well as First class shower suites.

Brown said Adelaide would likely have a daily EK A350 service from the middle of next year,

fulfilling a promise to Tourism Minister Don Farrell that Emirates will restart flights to the SA capital as soon as a suitable aircraft was available.

Brown noted the planned all-A380 Sydney operation is complemented by daily A380s into PER and BNE, as well as double-daily EK superjumbo services into Melbourne.

He said the complex landscape meant it is unlikely the extra capacity would immediately impact fares, with higher prices across the aviation supply chain.

"In spite of these challenges, we're committed to strengthening our schedules as much as we can, and offering the essential connectivity that Australian travellers have come to know and expect of us," Brown said. *BP*

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features nine pages of news including a special update from **Destination Canada** and our **Sustainability** page, plus a front cover wrap from **CVFR Consolidation Services**, and a full page from **EVA Air**.

CVFR confidence

CVFR Consolidation is today showcasing its features and benefits including the latest systems, national presence, 24/7 Australian ticket centre and independent ownership - see the **cover page** for details.

EXPLORE!



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SAVE 15%
 on small group adventures to Europe.

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Technical Advisor - Marketing Specialist

The Samoa Tourism Authority invites applications from suitably qualified and enthusiastic personnel for the above-named vacant position!

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50K* worth of travel up for grabs!

Find out more

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

EARLYBIRD 2024 SALE

SAVE UP TO 800 PP ON SELECTED 2024 DEPARTURES

LAST CHANCE AT THIS PRICE

Wendy Wu Tours.

EXPLORE MORE



NTIA voting closing

THERE are just a few days left to get your votes in for the 2023 National Travel Industry Awards (NTIAs), with the polls closing at one minute to midnight AEST this Fri 15 Sep 2023.

More than 6,300 votes have already been cast for this year's NTIAs, with a total of 11 "most popular" and "most outstanding" categories up for grabs set to honour tour operators, wholesalers, tourism offices, airlines, car rental firms and cruise companies.

Details of the full voting process are now live at [atia.travel](https://www.atia.travel).

MAI is MIA in BSP

MYANMAR Airways International (MAI) has advised of the temporary suspension of BSP credit card sales globally.

The carrier has advised trade partners that "we have closed the GDS effective 08 Sep 2023 until further notice".

Intrepid Morocco action

EXCLUSIVE

INTREPID Travel has confirmed that all of its customers, tour leaders and Marrakech office team are accounted for in the wake of the Morocco earthquake (TD yesterday), although several team members have lost relatives.

CEO James Thornton told *Travel Daily* the country is Intrepid's largest destination, with the company having a whopping 60 groups on the ground at the time of the quake, carrying more than 600 customers.

He noted that just 17 of those had elected to leave Morocco, with all other customers remaining on trips as scheduled.

"Large parts of the country are operating as normal - Casablanca, Rabat, Fes, Meknes, the Sahara Desert," Thornton said.

"Source market travel advisories have not changed, and Marrakech airport is open," he added, noting

that trips taking in the High Atlas Mountains and Marrakech old town will be the main ones that are affected.

"We are rerouting all itineraries away from these areas, not visiting the Atlas area, and spending less time in Marrakech, enabling customers to still travel and support local communities."

Thornton said the rapid rollout of Intrepid's Morocco appeal has so far raised almost \$180,000, plus the additional \$100,000 matching donation from Intrepid.

"Local communities, particularly in the Atlas Mountains, are in dire need of help...we're hearing this directly from our team in Morocco," he said, leading to the launch of the appeal on Sun.

All funds raised will go directly to local partners Education for All and the High Atlas Foundation.

Donations can be made online at theintrepidfoundation.org. BP

GA doubles Seoul

GARUDA Indonesia is expanding flights between Bali and South Korea, with Airbus A330 frequencies on the Denpasar-Seoul Incheon route increasing from two to four per week effective from 02 Dec.

Ignite adds new Hurtigruten range

IGNITE Travel Group's My Cruises has launched a new Expedition Collection in an exclusive partnership with Hurtigruten Cruises.

The offering promises to be an "all-new collection of our finest, unexpected cruise holiday packages" with GM Michael Middleton saying "My Cruises' dedication to cruising fused with Hurtigruten's expertise in expedition travel will create a new standard in exploration and adventure".

More in today's *Cruise Weekly*.

Calling all travel professionals!

NCL's Walk for Wellness is back and bigger than ever and we want all of you to join us.

Prioritise your wellbeing by getting active and tracking steps alongside industry friends as we explore the world.

Be part of history, as this year, we'll be striving to set a **WORLD RECORD!**

Let's show the world the resilience, strength and unity of the Australia & New Zealand travel industry.

Lace up your sneakers, start stretching and don't forget, every step counts!

#NCLW4W #NCLCARES

REGISTER NOW

1 - 31 OCTOBER 2023

NCL'S 4TH ANNUAL WALK FOR WELLNESS

NCL NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

The Chat with Jenny
Travel Daily
A Conversation with Martine Nunes of Oceania Cruises
CLICK HERE to listen



TIME scholarship

TOUR Atlas has donated a TIME Scholarship for a person who has started a new business in the travel industry in the last five years and would benefit from the assistance and expertise of a mentor to help them grow.

The aim is to provide an opportunity for a travel industry innovator to pursue the growth and development of their business while being guided by the direction, wisdom and experience of a seasoned industry professional as a mentor.

Applications are now open and will close on 01 Oct.

To apply, click [HERE](#).

New MW brochures

MW TOURS has released its 2023/24 digital eBrochures offering a collection of specialist small group tours to Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, China, Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, East and Southern Africa, and more.

The new eBrochures include updates to the Africa & India subcontinent, Japan & Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia and China eBrochures.

"This commitment is our way of instilling confidence in our esteemed travel agent partners and clients alike," Navy Wang, Owner & Managing Director said.

Download the eBrochures [HERE](#).

One million trips in Jul

JUST under a million Australian short-term overseas trips took place in Jul, with Indonesia the standout destination for departures during the month.

The latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show a total of 995,580 trips for the month - a 50% or so increase compared with Jul 2022.

However the overall number of trips was still 11.3% lower than the pre-COVID level in Jul 2019.

There were 137,750 trips to Indonesia, while New Zealand was in second spot for Aussie travel during the month with 103,740 trips followed by the UK with 82,510.

Other destinations in the top 10 included the USA (61,660), Italy (59,160), Thailand (46,780), Fiji

(40,650), China (36,400), Japan (35,840) and Singapore in tenth place with (29,550).

Overseas visitor arrivals for Jul numbered 625,120 short-term trips, more than double the prior corresponding period but still 21% lower than pre-pandemic.

New Zealand was the largest source country, accounting for 19% of all visitor arrivals, followed by China, the USA, the UK, Japan, India, Singapore, South Korea, Indonesia and Hong Kong.

Total arrivals during the month by both Australians and overseas visitors numbered 1,743,390, the highest figure since Jan 2019.

AirAsia X on sale

AIRASIA X has released a number of sale fares on routes in and out of Australia.

Sale fares start from as low as \$130 (SYD-AKL) and also include routes from the Gold Coast, Perth and Melbourne to Kuala Lumpur.

Thai AirAsia X fares from Sydney to Bangkok and Perth to Bali and Jakarta are also on sale from \$149.

Win \$15k with Oaks

OAKS Hotels is giving away \$15,000 worth of Oaks Discovery dollars which can be swapped for accommodation and other perks.

The Discovery dollars will be valid for 12 months and entrants need to be Oaks Discovery members to enter.

Details can be found [HERE](#).



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GET CLOSER TO WHAT YOU LOVE

Fresh private flies

FOUR Seasons has announced its latest private jet itineraries for 2025 with the return of the Ancient Explorer, International Intrigue, and Timeless Encounters journeys featuring new stops.

Ancient Explorers travels from Miami to Madrid via multiple stops including Easter Island, Bora Bora and Bangkok while International Intrigue travels from Seattle to Cap-Ferrat through Hoi An, Marrakech and more.

Timeless Encounters joins Kona to London via Sydney, the Taj Mahal and Prague plus more.

For more information on the itineraries, click [HERE](#).

TODAY IS CHOOSE DAY

Choose a new future
for your business

TRAVELLERS
CHOICE



Window Seat

SINGAPORE Airlines is battling a unique complaint after a New Zealand couple demanded a refund for having to sit next to an emotional support dog on a flight from Paris to Singapore.

The couple suggests it was the dog itself that needed some kind of support, continually farting and drooling.

“My husband was in shorts, and was getting the dog’s saliva goo on his leg,” Gill Press, one of the complainants, said.

The couple had to move from Premium Economy to Economy class to escape.

The Presses were eventually offered \$200 travel voucher for each of them but have demanded a refund instead.

AA, Ecotourism link up

THE newly constituted Accommodation Australia (AA) peak body has announced an agreement with Ecotourism Australia to “forge a clear pathway towards sustainable tourism for the entire accommodation sector”.

The organisations will encourage AA member hotels, motels and caravan parks to begin their sustainability with the Strive 4 Sustainable Scorecard pre-certification benchmarking tool, and they can then work towards one of Ecotourism Australia’s best practice standards - ECO Certification or the Sustainable Tourism Certification.

“There’s no doubt sustainability is one of the most critical issues for our guests, our members and the wider community,” said Accommodation Australia President, Leanne Harwood.

“Guests want to see their favourite hotels do the right thing

and implement eco-friendly and sustainable practices, and our members are invested in doing what is right for the community in the long term,” she said.

Ecotourism Australia CEO Elissa Keenan noted that consumer demand for sustainable accommodation had risen significantly in recent years.

“Sustainability is no longer recognised as a unique selling point, but a minimum standard... it is more important now than ever to ensure our industry meets guests’ sustainability expectations in an authentic way,” she said. *BP*

QF Indonesia tick

THE International Air Services Commission has issued a renewal determination for Qantas on the Indonesia route, allocating unlimited passenger capacity from points in Australia except SYD, MEL, BNE and PER.

Biden Boeing boost

VIETNAM Airlines has signed a memorandum of understanding with US aircraft manufacturer Boeing to purchase 50 new narrow-body 737 MAX aircraft, with US President Joe Biden attending the signing ceremony while in the country.

The order will add to the airline’s current fleet of 97 aircraft which, in terms of narrow-body aircraft, is currently Airbus-heavy with almost 70 A321s.

According to *Simply Flying*, the deal is worth US \$7.8 billion.

Dang Ngoc Hoa, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Vietnam Airlines, said the order is in-line “with Vietnam Airlines’ 2025-2030 fleet strategy and vision for 2035”.

“The new narrow-body fleet will allow us to expand our high-quality services on Vietnam Airlines’ domestic and Asian routes, as well as further modernising our fuel-efficient fleet,” he added.



BANGKOK



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THAT ARE TOO GOOD TO MISS

25% bonus KrisFlyer miles on all bookings made during the promotional period

15% off Pelago tours and activities - enter your 6-character Singapore Airlines booking reference to access

Please refer to **AGENT360** for a list of all destinations on sale



Singapore Airlines’ Early Bird fares are available for sale from now to 22 September 2023. Fares are subject to availability and flight restrictions at time of booking. For full Terms & Conditions, please refer to AGENT360 or singaporeair.com



Zoanetti's new firm

COUNCIL of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) Board Member, Aaron Zoanetti, has announced the establishment of his own legal firm called Frontera Law.

Zoanetti was formerly a partner at Melbourne's Pointon Partners, a role in which he compiled CATO's Industry Standard Booking Terms and Conditions, which can be licensed by CATO members.

He is also the co-founder of sports travel operator Green & Gold Army, saying "my passion for the travel, tourism and events sectors combined with my legal expertise has driven me to establish a firm that truly understands the unique needs of these industries".

Zoanetti's Frontera Law is currently assisting many tour operators and wholesalers to review booking conditions to determine whether they include any unfair contract terms, in light of new laws effective 09 Nov.

VS adopting AI

VIRGIN Atlantic Airways has unveiled a new artificial intelligence-led digital strategy in combination with enterprise customer data platform Amperity.

The initiative promises to "unify, manage and activate all of the travel company's digital and transactional customer data" with the creation of unified client profiles and harnessing data to help acquire new passengers, deepen loyalty relationships and "support the best possible customer experiences across the end-to-end journey".

Kilueau erupts

MOUNT Kilueau on Hawaii's Big Island has begun erupting again after a two-month hiatus.

Locals are being warned of "volcanic smog" downwind, while the volcano's alert level has been raised to warning status.

No communities are threatened by the eruption at this stage.

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) Independent has announced the appointment of Zoran Panzich as National Account Manager, describing the move as "a significant addition to the team".

Panzich has been in the travel industry for more than two decades, including about 15 years with Helloworld Travel and its former offshoots Best Flights and Asia Escape Holidays.

He was manager for HLO state and national networks, with FCTG saying he was a "driving force for growth and advancement at Helloworld Travel...overseeing an impressive network of over 500 franchisees and members".

His new role will see him cultivate industry relationships

and support key accounts and agencies as they join the FCTG Independent group.

"Zoran's exceptional track record and diverse skill set align seamlessly with our growth aspirations," said FCTG Independent GM Nick Queale.

"We are confident that his strategic insights and dedication will further elevate FCTG Independent's position within the industry," Queale enthused. *BP*

Pictured from left at a recent strategy session are the expanded Australian FCTG leadership team of Sue Graham, Astrid Richardson, Lisa Zahra, Fiona Batten, Natalie Dalzell, Blake Newell, Zoran Panzich, Danielle Galloway, Nick Queale and Wendie Lee.

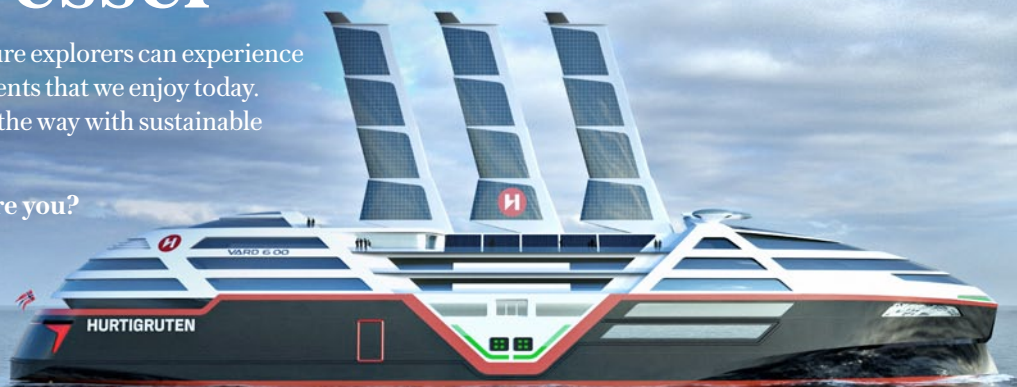


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Hotelbeds plants 10,000 trees



TRAVELTECH business Hotelbeds has achieved its goal of planting 10,000 trees worldwide three months early.

The initiative was created to reinforce the company's commitment to sustainability and its mission to make travel a force for good.

It's not the first eco initiative involving trees for the brand, with the business planting a tree for every employee in countries where the company has a significant presence.

Hotelbeds has been building its forest through staff donations and in honour of its clients and partners who attended its events, including MarketHubs.

Employees have not only funded trees, but also donated their time to plant almost 1,800 of them, boosting Hotelbeds' planting projects in Mallorca, Italy and Thailand.

Since its inception, Hotelbeds has partnered with Tree

Nation, a renowned non-profit organisation, that provides real-time monitoring and tracking of each tree's progress.

Nicolas Huss, Hotelbeds' CEO, said it was a step "towards a stronger and healthier planet". *DF*

For more sustainability news, head to **page eight**.

New Moran menu

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) has unveiled a range of new First and Business class menu items designed by Matt Moran to celebrate 20 years of collaboration between the pair.

Available from Oct are a range of new soups, entrees, mains and desserts including key ingredients like pasture-fed beef fillet, mud crab, blue eye cod, and lobster, plus plenty of fresh produce.

Moran, who is on SIA's International Culinary Panel, said he was "so privileged" to partner with the carrier.

ATIA UPDATE

from Nina Hedges, Compliance Manager



I AM feeling very proud as I write my first column under our new name of the Australian Travel

Industry Association (ATIA).

We finally have a name that represents a true reflection of all the diverse and incredible businesses and individuals that play a central role in the association's decisions every day.

Today I want to highlight the three caucuses that ATIA is actively seeking expressions of interest for.

ATIA is committed to ensuring our members have a voice into our association and, most importantly, that these voices are heard and listened to.

The establishment of these three caucuses exemplifies this commitment.

Despite its official title, a caucus is essentially a closed meeting of members who share common interests and concerns and we welcome all of our members to express interest.

By implementing these caucuses into ATIA, we are ensuring that there is a dedicated platform for all member groups,

regardless of their size, to have their voices heard.

The three caucuses ATIA are forming are:

1. Independent Travel Agencies
2. Tour Operators & Wholesalers
3. Independent Contractors (home-based, MTA, PTM)

During the caucus meetings, members will come together to discuss and deliberate on specific issues or matters pertinent to their sector and, by extension, to the association.

The caucuses serve as forums for our members to exchange ideas, propose initiatives and potentially shape the direction of the association.

We wholeheartedly encourage members to register expressions of interest via the link below.

If you are not yet a member of the Australian Travel Industry Association but would like to contribute your perspective, please consider joining as an individual or business.

Your voice matters, and we invite you to become part of our community and bring your perspective to the conversation.

To register your interest in joining the caucus - <https://afta.com.au/Member-Services/Join-a-Caucus>

To join the Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) - <https://afta.com.au/Join-ATIA>

Calling all Travel Professionals

Learn more about selling Jetstar at our Novice and Masterclass sessions – complete a session and enter the draw to win a spot on our family to the Cook Islands. T&Cs apply.

[Click here to Register](#)



Content produced in collaboration with Destination Canada

Autumn road trippin' in Canada



CANADA'S alpine roads and lighthouse trails are dotted with colourful communities and meandering wildlife, the perfect recipe for road trip adventures.

Blazing foliage and mild temperatures make autumn the ultimate season for cruising Canada's iconic mountain highways, with breathtaking vistas leaving no time for Eye-Spy!

Explore the Canadian eastern Maritime provinces of [Nova Scotia](#), [New Brunswick](#) and [Prince Edward Island](#) by road, starting off in beautiful [Halifax](#).

Follow the coastline to the hauntingly beautiful Peggy's Cove, the most photographed lighthouse in Nova Scotia, and visit the colourful seaside towns of Mahone Bay and Lunenburg.

Make your way to [New Brunswick](#) where you can witness the highest tides in the world at the [Bay of Fundy](#) and walk the

ocean floor during low tide at Hopewell Rocks.

Next, cross the Confederation Bridge to Prince Edward Island into the iconic [Anne of Green Gables](#) territory.

Visit the house that inspired the setting for LM Montgomery's famous novels, hike the [Prince Edward Island National Park](#), and take a swim at one of the pristine beaches.

RV adventures in the Yukon

YUKON Territory is a driver's dream, with almost 5,000 kilometres of roads, abundant with friendly locals and awe-inspiring wilderness dazzling with crimson and gold displays of autumn leaves.

The Yukon's Alaska Highway nudges alongside the UNESCO site of Kluane National Park, featuring Canada's five tallest

mountains and the largest icefields outside the North and South poles.

Cruise alongside the historic Yukon River, rich with Klondike Gold Rush history, and visit the cultural centres along the way to learn about Yukon First Nations and see traditional carvings and artefacts.

See more [HERE](#).

Day trips from Montreal

JUST beyond the city of [Montreal](#), Quebec, lies a treasure trove of picturesque towns, wineries, mountain ranges, and national parks.

All you need is a car and a healthy supply of road snacks.

Two hours from Montreal, the [Eastern Townships](#) are filled with quintessential Quebecois charm, with lush rolling hills, thriving wineries, chocolatiers and shimmering lakes.

Sample Quebec's finest cheeses,

sip locally produced cider and visit microbreweries in the enchanting villages.

Alternatively, on the north bank of the St Lawrence River, the Lanaudière region is a haven for wilderness adventures.

A 90-minute scenic drive from Montreal takes you to [Mont-Tremblant National Park](#), resplendent with fiery foliage during autumn and abundant with hiking trails, waterfalls and roaming wildlife.



TRY SOMETHING NEW...TRY CANADA

CANADA



Accor Qld gets eco-certified

FOUR of Accor's hotels in Queensland have been Sustainable Tourism Certified by Ecotourism Australia, including Sofitel Brisbane Central, ibis Styles Brisbane Elizabeth Street, Novotel Brisbane South Bank, and Pullman & Mercure Brisbane King George Square.

The properties were each recognised by Ecotourism for their commitment to sustainability and responsible tourism, having implemented initiatives such as energy and water conservation, waste management and more.

Accor will enrol a further 150 hotels in the Pacific into the certification program.

CRUISE SECTOR IS MAKING BIG WAVES

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has showcased the cruise sector's latest sustainability advancements in the new edition of its specialist publication, *New Wave*, released this week in Australasia.

The third edition shines a spotlight on some of the technological developments being spearheaded by cruise lines around the world as they strive to reach net zero.

"The cruise industry represents less than 1% of world shipping, but it has taken a leading role in deploying new environmental measures aimed at reducing emissions and improving the sustainability of its operations," CLIA MD Joel Katz said.

"Cruise lines are investing

billions of dollars in new ships, new technologies and new propulsion systems that are taking the industry closer to its net zero goals."

Detailed among the glossy pages are the latest alternative fuels, new sources of clean energy and fresh initiatives to protect the marine environment.

The third edition of *New Wave* also features wildlife protection projects, marine scientific studies, and community development efforts, as well as sustainable food supply initiatives.

"An enormous amount of work is underway worldwide to achieve net zero cruising and ensure greater protections for the environments and communities we visit," Katz pointed out.



"New Wave highlights these efforts in a form that is relatable and accessible, and can be shared with industry stakeholders and the wider cruise community."

The magazine can be viewed online [HERE](#). JM

Bhutan cuts SDF

BHUTAN has announced a new, lower Sustainable Development Fee (SDF), with visitors to the country to now pay US\$100 per person, per night - down from \$200, until Sep 2027.

The Royal Government of Bhutan said the reduced SDF will help revitalise the destination's tourism sector, and in turn "benefit Bhutanese people and the many environmental, social, infrastructure projects funded by the tourism levy".

Hilton to install 20,000 EV chargers

HILTON has announced a new plan to install up to 20,000 electric vehicle chargers at 2,000 of its hotels in the US, Canada and Mexico.

The accommodation giant will begin rolling out the Tesla Universal Wall Connectors from early 2024, with at least six chargers to be placed at each of the selected hotels.

The move, which means Hilton will boast the biggest EV charging network of any hospitality company, follows the recent launch of the new



Tesla charger, which is designed to charge any North American vehicle model.

The rollout is set to offer Hilton guests "even more value with the convenience of much-needed overnight charging access in more locations".

Big airship order

AIR Nostrum has doubled its order of Hybrid Air Vehicles (HAV) Airlander 10 low-emission airships to 20.

The Airlander 10 can seat up to 100 passengers and carry a 10-tonne payload, with the Spanish carrier stating it would press them into service from Spain to eastern Mediterranean destinations including Malta.

HAV is aiming for first tests of the airship in 2026 and is planning an all electric version in 2030.



NATIONAL TRAVEL INDUSTRY AWARDS
2023
NOMINEE

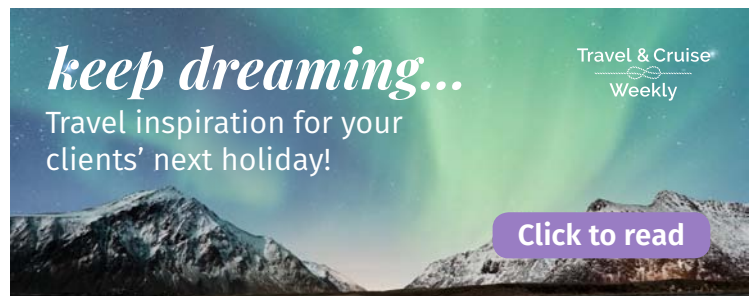


Your vote can make a significant difference in helping us achieve this recognition.

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Thank you for your ongoing support!

FINAL CALL FOR VOTES!
MSC Cruises is delighted and deeply honoured to be nominated in the NTIA 2023 Most Popular Ocean Cruise Category.



Click to read

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.643

THE Aussie dollar is off to another slow start this week, rallying on marginal gains and deficits day-to-day against the global markets.

Although pundits anticipate the Australian dollar will consolidate a substantial base against the powerful greenback, which is supposedly boosted by the surge of Tesla's shares overnight, the currency remains relatively low.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.643
UK	£0.514
NZ	\$1.086
Euro	€0.598
Japan	¥94.24
Thailand	฿22.84
China	¥4.687
South Africa	12.15
Canada	\$0.873
Crude oil	US\$90.65

New Airbnb director

GOOGLE Senior VP of Research, Technology and Society, James Manyika, is joining the Board of accommodation disruptor Airbnb.

Manyika is a graduate of the University of Oxford and the University of Zimbabwe, and holds a PhD in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics.

Prior to working at Google he spent almost 30 years with consulting giant McKinsey.

Tourists shop till they drop



THE World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC) has released a new report into the power of retailing for the global tourism sector, in partnership with Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the UK/Europe-based Bicester Collection.

The launch came during an event in Barcelona last week, which focused on data and insights to help define the future of retail tourism, highlighting the key trends, challenges and opportunities of the sector.

WTTTC CEO Julia Simpson said "in the world of travel and tourism, retail tourism's significance cannot be overstated...accounting for over US\$178 billion of global GDP in 2019, it's time to recognise its true potential".

Simpson said the report revealed that retail tourism is "not only about shopping, it's about major revenue, job creation and influencing travellers' choices".

The study noted that travellers are actively choosing trips based on the choice, quality and authenticity of the shopping.

"It is not just about souvenirs, this is a sophisticated market that also gives place to local entrepreneurs, artisans and sustainable purchasing power." *BP*

Pictured at the event are, from left: WTTTC President and CEO Julia Simpson; Professor Haiyan Song from Hong Kong Polytechnic University's School of Hotel and Tourism Management; Desiree Bollier, Chair of The Bicester Collection; and Elena Foguet, The Bicester Collection Spain.

WS boosts Kelowna

CANADIAN carrier Westjet will resume flights from Kelowna to Las Vegas and Toronto in the upcoming winter 2023/24 season.

Kelowna-Las Vegas was last served in Apr 2017, while Toronto flights ceased in Apr last year.

Quokkas kids free

FAMILIES will be able to take their kids aged 12 and under to Perth's Rottne Island for free this weekend, as part of the destination's annual Little Quokkas Big Birthday event.

Rottne will also feature a comprehensive program of free activities including live entertainment, arts and crafts, photography workshops, eco-education sessions and "meet and greets with rangers to learn about the new quokka joeys".

Registrations are essential via rotnneisland.com.

Artsy Capella Syd

SYDNEY'S new Capella Hotel is inviting guests to purchase contemporary artwork as a memento of their stay, with the unveiling of the new Standstones Sydney Art Collection.

Curated by Singapore-based consultancy The Artling, the collection has launched with 26 pieces from eight Aussie artists.

The Capella Sydney art collection currently comprises more than 1,400 pieces featured throughout the property.

Mekong internship

THE Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office has launched a new "internship finder" facility online on mekongtourism.org.

The initiative aims to help address labour challenges currently being faced by the tourism sector, by targeting young people who are studying tourism and who would benefit from workplace experience.

For confidential tip offs, connect with *Travel Daily* via our secure WhatsApp service on +61 2 8007 6760 or click [HERE](#)

The ***Discover Beauty of Taiwan*** training platform has been created to expand your knowledge on the heart of Asia Taiwan.

The first two modules are available now!

1. Fly with EVA Air and discover the beauty of Taiwan
2. Taiwan's Memorable Festivals and Events

More modules will be released over the coming weeks.

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