

GEMS AND ICONS

NEW VOYAGES COLLECTION | MARCH - NOVEMBER 2025

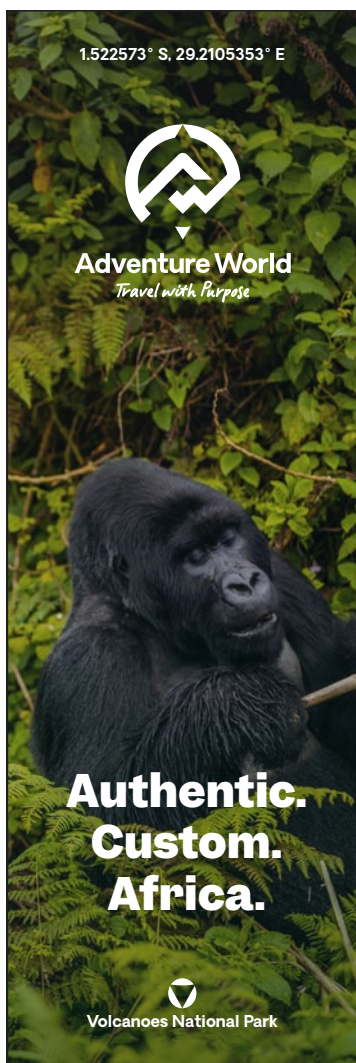
Silversea welcomes our 2025 New Voyages Collection between March and November 2025. A medley of places, peoples and stories, featuring 206 voyages across 60 countries and 6 continents, including 409 destinations and 24 ports never visited before by Silversea.

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Gems of Silversea

SILVERSEA is showcasing 'Gems and Icons' in its new 2025 voyages collection, which features 206 journeys across 60 countries, plus 24 ports never before visited by the luxury brand.

See the **cover page** to learn more about the cruise line's new collection, which encompasses incredible destinations across the Arctic, the Galapagos, Alaska, Kimberley coast, the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, and more.



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CEO touches down in SYD

OUTGOING Transurban chief Scott Charlton has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer for Sydney Airport (SYD), effective 01 Dec.

The announcement follows current boss Geoff Culbert's resignation, which was revealed earlier this year after nearly six

years at the helm of the country's largest airport (**TD 23 May**).

Charlton, who announced his departure from Transurban in Feb after an 11-year tenure, shared that he is "excited and privileged" to have the opportunity to lead the aviation hub.

Chair of SYD, David Gonski, also expressed his delight about the appointment, saying that Charlton "brings strong commercial, operational and project delivery experience, along with a deep understanding of government and the Australian regulatory environment".

"Scott also shares the board's vision for the ongoing development of Sydney Airport as a world-class airport and one Sydneysiders can be proud of," he enthused, adding that the next few years will bring "an exciting period of transformation".

Culbert will continue as CEO until Charlton steps into the role in Dec. *JM*

CLIA nabs govt guru

THE government credentials for Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) have received a big boost this week, with the industry body appointing Hugh Cavill to the role of Director of Government Affairs in Australasia.

The experienced government policy advisor joins CLIA at an important juncture in the Aussie cruise market, with stronger growth following the pandemic requiring cooperation with government to ensure the sector can continue to expand in a sustainable fashion.

Cavill previously worked in senior policy and strategy roles for several NSW ministers, including former NSW Deputy Premier Paul Toole, as well as former NSW tourism ministers Adam Marshall & George Souris.

Crucially, he also assisted in the development of the NSW Cruise Development Plan.

CLIA has been vocal about wanting to work more closely with government on mutually beneficial projects, having recently been left disappointed by a NSW decision to knock a third Sydney cruise terminal at Yarra Bay on the head without proposing any other viable alternatives (**TD 29 May**).

VV coming to Oz

VIRGIN Voyages is bringing its superyacht-inspired sailings to Australia for the first time in Dec, offering a "revolutionary way to explore the world".

To discover more about VV's exclusively adult journeys, see **p9**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of the latest news including our **Luxury** feature page, plus a front cover wrap from **Silversea**, a full page from **Ponant** and a special update from **Virgin Voyages**.

More Ponant shows

PONANT is inviting travel advisors and their clients to join the second wave of its 35th anniversary Roadshow Series this Oct and Nov, where the cruise line will reveal its big plans for 2024 and 2025.

The first event takes place in Sydney on 09 Oct before making its way around Australia and wrapping up on the Gold Coast on 23 Nov - for all the details, head to **page eight**.



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NSW slashes tourism budget

THE NSW Government's decision to cut funding for Destination NSW's marketing budget is a "concerning" development, The Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF) has stated.

Released yesterday, the State Budget for 2023-24 reflects a reduction of nearly \$14 million to \$339.1 million in the marketing body's cash pool, which TTF believes could have a detrimental effect on the recovery of NSW's international visitor economy.

"Reduced funding for marketing at Destination NSW will make it harder to market Sydney and regional NSW as a travel destination, potentially meaning fewer visitors from across Australia and overseas," TTF Chief Mary Osmond lamented.

"We're facing one of the most competitive global tourism markets we have ever seen and with other states maintaining funding for tourism marketing

agencies, NSW risks falling behind.

"Given international visitors are still below pre-pandemic levels in NSW, we need all the support possible to attract visitors, to help support tourism operators and thousands of Australians they employ," she argued.

On a positive note, Osmond praised the NSW Government's commitment to upgrading visitor infrastructure in the state's national parks, with an allocation of \$74 million over four years.

"This will help ensure national parks are properly maintained with new walking paths, camping grounds and other local amenities to help attract more visitors," she enthused.

The new budget also dedicated \$72.3 billion to enhancing public transport options, including improved access to the Western Sydney International Airport, which Osmond said will help to make Sydney more accessible. *JM*

Titan wants to meet

TITAN Travel is reminding agents that it has arrived in Australia and is now preparing to hit the road and meet the trade at a series of B2B events.

The catered sessions offer advisors the chance to learn more about the UK operator's value proposition, including its wide range of experiences on offer and unrivalled flexibility.

The roadshows kick-off 26 Sep with prizes at every event up for grabs including a major prize of a trip to Canada - more info [HERE](#).

EK inks interline deal

EMIRATES and SriLankan Airlines have signed a new reciprocal interline agreement, with the new tie-up enabling access to new points on each other's respective networks via Colombo and Dubai.

The collaboration encompasses 30 routes and the combined tickets are now on sale.

Victoria ticks tax

THE Victorian Government will forge ahead with a tax on short-stay rental platforms, announcing a hefty 7.5% levy will be active from 2025 to tackle a lack of affordable rental properties.

Stayz has slammed the move, suggesting the short-term accommodation sector is being made the scapegoat for the state's housing crisis.

"Imposing a consumer-facing levy on short-term stays that could be as high as 7.5% does not represent the best or most equitable way to address concerns around the impact of short-term accommodation,"

Stayz Senior Director, Government & Corporate Affairs Eacham Curry told *Travel Daily*.

"[We] should...not be painted as the cause of, or solution to, the housing crisis Victoria is facing."

Curry added that research also showed that "an ill-conceived levy" puts at risk more than \$1.5 billion in economic value.



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NCL'S 4TH ANNUAL WALK FOR WELLNESS

NCL NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

The banner features a central globe and various travel-related icons such as a kiwi, a koala, a kangaroo, a windmill, a lighthouse, a cruise ship, and a person walking. The background is a light blue with a subtle pattern of wavy lines.



Bonza takes Top End

BONZA has added Darwin and Alice Springs as its newest destinations, announcing 12 new flights a week to and from the Top End via three new routes.

The new services include Sunshine Coast to Darwin, Gold Coast to Darwin and Melbourne to Alice Springs, with the move adding more than 116,000 seats per year to the NT and Red Centre combined.

Flights are on sale from today, with the Sunny Coast-Darwin route prices leading in from \$149pp (one way) for a debut take-off on 29 Nov, while the Gold Coast-Darwin will commence 01 Dec, also priced from \$149pp.

Meanwhile Melbourne to Alice Springs services will set travellers back \$139pp (one way), with flights starting on 12 Dec.

Open skies off the pace

AUSTRALIA is “well off the pace when it comes to unrestricted open skies agreements”, according to the Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA).

Following day one of proceedings in the Senate Committee Inquiry into Bilateral Air Service Agreements, ATIA highlighted that “the US has 100 open-skies agreements and Canada has 23”, which has allowed North America to recover more quickly after the pandemic.

Australia has just nine.

ATIA called for a clear framework for the process of air services agreement application and negotiation, and published nine recommendations it believes would help ensure that Australia makes fair decisions and keeps up with the global pace.

Included in the recommendations was the assertion that “national interest should not be a reason in its own right” and that factors pertaining to a consideration of the national interest need to be defined, with the decision and rationale being made public.

It also asserted that the ACCC must review and publicly release its assessment of the consumer benefit of each bilateral application, and that “the travel

and tourism industry, airports and airlines and other export sensitive industries as relevant, must be provided equal opportunity to review each bilateral request and make recommendations”.

ATIA reiterated that Australia must seek to increase the amount of open skies arrangements, particularly with Indo-Pacific countries, to increase competition and lower prices.

In addition, ATIA recommended reform to consumer refund rights where a flight is cancelled and passengers are not accommodated on the same day, and called for a review of the domestic aviation market and contracts between airlines and agents to identify unfair trading practices which may currently be legal but “distort competition”.

ATIA pointed to the recent ACCC authorisation of Qantas-Emirates coordination as an example.

To amplify the downward push on prices, ATIA also asserted that there was an urgent need to review airport slots to ensure the growth of Australia’s travel and tourism sector is not being limited by outdated regulations and that domestic slot use threshold should increase.

The Senate Committee final report is due on 09 Oct. *DF*

Disney stumps \$60b

DISNEY has confirmed plans to double its investment in theme parks and cruise capacity over the next 10 years.

During an investor summit held this week, CEO Bob Iger noted that capital expenditure will be increased to US\$60 billion over the next decade to expand its theme park footprint and beef up its cruise appeal globally.

Among the flagged opportunities included bringing its *Frozen* franchise to life at the Disneyland Resort, as well as theme park activations for *Coco* and the land of Wakanda.

Disney Parks has more than 404 hectares for possible future development, the company noted - pivotal space required to expand theme park attractions across its existing sites.

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EUROPE RIVER CRUISING

2024 Earlybirds End 30th Sept

Solo Travellers No Single Supplement*

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Entire dazzles in the Maldives

ENTIRE Travel Group's Destination Manager Islands Lisa Tappin and Travel & Product Advisor Dennise Biglietto recently had the opportunity to experience the magic of the Maldives first-hand.

After meeting with key hotels and suppliers at Travel Trade Maldives (TTM), the pair left their base at JEN Maldives Male by Shangri-La and embarked on an eight-day famil trip around the paradise-like destination.

Tappin and Biglietto used various modes of transport, including seaplanes and speedboats, to visit some of the archipelago's most stunning atolls, staying at properties such as Centara Ras Fushi, Sun Siyam Olhuveli, Sun Siyam Iru Veli, and Ayada Maldives.

"It's certainly somewhere everyone should visit at least once because it's simply a surreal destination," Tappin gushed,



adding that her favourite moment from the trip was swimming with sharks and turtles at the Sun Siyam Olhuveli.

According to the Destination Manager, the Maldives are attracting record numbers of Australian bookings, and are becoming a popular stopover destination to and from Europe.

Biglietto and Tappin are **pictured** soaking up the Maldivian sun. *JM*

TOURISM & EVENTS, A LOVE STORY FOR THE AGES?

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travelBulletin



Jenny meets Robyn

THE latest episode of *The Chat with Jenny* has dropped, with the owner of Home Travel Company Robyn Sinfield joining the show for a coffee and a conversation. Listen to the episode **HERE**.

Dusit debuts brands

DUSIT International has announced the launch of two new brands, Dusit Collection and Devarana - Dusit Retreats, to further its global expansion.

Dusit Collection is an upscale, luxury offering set to land in locations across Asia, the Middle East, Europe and beyond, with the first signings to be revealed soon.

The second new brand is a reimagining of Dusit's former luxury brand, Devarana, designed to appeal to the ultra-luxury segment, with a focus on sustainability and wellness.

The first Devarana - Dusit Retreat property will open in China this Oct.

Philippines all-in-one

PHILIPPINE Airlines (PAL) has teamed up with Expedia Group to launch PAL Holidays, a travel website that allows passengers to plan and book their entire journeys in the one place.

Powered by Expedia Group's White Label Template technology, the site is now live in Australia.

PAL Holidays allows travellers to book their PAL flights, hotel accommodation, transportation, and travel activities in one hub, and also offers various promotions and exclusive offers.

900,000 properties from around the world are accessible, from budget-friendly options to luxury resorts - visit the platform **HERE**.

Globus Euro savings

GLOBUS and Cosmos have launched a range of savings on their European tours next year.

Repeat Globus family of brands guests can save even more with the Welcome Back Credit offer.

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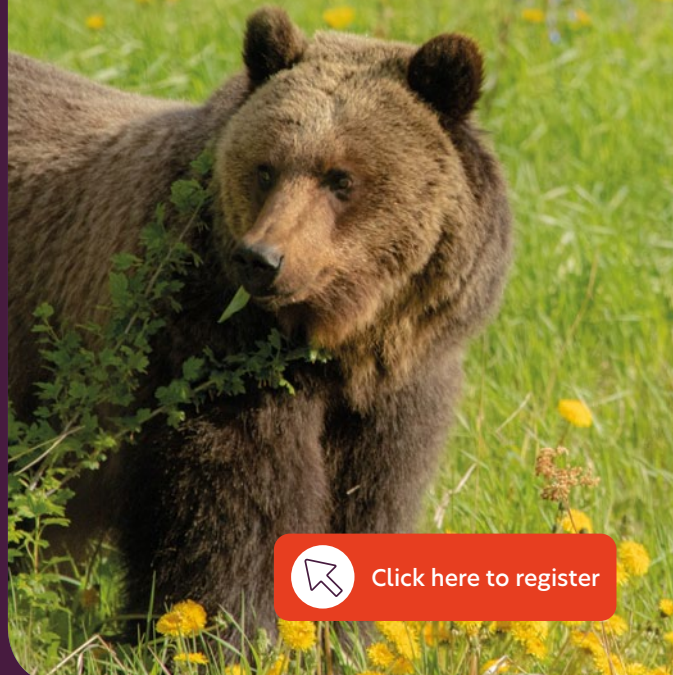
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VA inks Sabre deal

VIRGIN Australia has made the decision to adopt Sabre Air Price IQTM and Sabre Ancillary IQTM retailing solutions to help the business increase traveller satisfaction ratings and improve revenue management.

The airline has also renewed its multi-year distribution agreement with Sabre this week.

IHG loyal to Saudia

TO CELEBRATE Saudi National Day, IHG Hotels & Resorts has partnered with Alfursan, the loyalty program of Saudia Airlines, to offer its members triple reward miles when they stay at a select number of IHG properties worldwide.

From now until 14 Oct, the 3X Miles promotion is available across the accommodation giant's signature brands including InterContinental, Regent, Kimpton, Hotel Indigo, HUALUXE and more - further details [HERE](#).

CX unveils brand shift

AN ARRAY of future spending, dining, shopping, hotels and wellness benefits have been pledged to customers of Cathay Pacific under a new premium lifestyle brand called 'Cathay'.

Designed to simplify the way its customers interact with the Hong Kong-based carrier, the new branding split will see Cathay incorporate a suite of travel categories like shopping and loyalty miles, while Cathay Pacific will remain in reference exclusively to airline operations.

"As the habits and needs of our customers have changed over the years, so too have we," CEO Ronald Lam explained.

"Our evolution into Cathay marks an exciting new chapter in our history and reflects our renewed focus on the customer and our determination to fulfil our vision of becoming one of the world's greatest service brands."

To celebrate the brand shift,

Cathay has launched its first global campaign in three years called 'Feels Good To Move'.

The marketing push, which will run in Australia, sees the company promote its travel lifestyle credentials and how "good it feels to move".

Cathay Pacific also celebrates its 77th birthday this year. *AB*

New Niseko resort

SLATED for a 2026 completion after commencing construction in May this year, luxury hotel brand Hoshinoya is set to land its ninth property in Niseko's Hirafu Village in Kutchan Hokkaido.

Hoshinoya Lodge Niseko will offer 62 rooms across a five-floor property and will feature an onsen (hot spring) on the rooftop terrace plus a "plethora of dining options", while ski-lovers will have access to the Niseko Tokyo Grand HIRAFU Ski Resort.



Window Seat

THE tourism industry has suffered through staffing issues since the pandemic, but the opportunity may soon arise to add one high-profile athlete to our ranks.

NFL player DeAndre Hopkins has just re-enrolled at his alma mater, the University of Clemson in the US, studying Tourism Management.

The Tennessee Titans wide receiver, who earns an eye-watering US\$30 million per season, attended UC on an athletic scholarship from 2010-12, but dropped out when he was picked up by the Houston Texans.

He is now returning to school to study online when he is not scoring touchdowns, in hopes of one day joining our amazing industry.



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Cunard unveils 2025

CUNARD has announced 180 new voyages for 2025 spanning 91 destinations across 24 countries, on board *Queen Mary 2*, *Queen Anne*, and *Queen Victoria*.

The luxury cruise line will offer sailings between Apr 2025 and Jan 2026 to a wide array of locations, including the Mediterranean, Norwegian Fjords and parts of Western Europe.

Each ship's program features at least one maiden call, with *Queen Anne* making no fewer than 19, including Bilbao, Ibiza, Skjolden and Messin.

The sailings will be available to book in Australia from 11am AEDT on 04 Oct.

Hurry to the Founder

THE Travel Corporation's (TCC) Luxury Gold brand is reminding agents that its Founders Collection tours for 2024 are selling fast, and with strictly limited space the time to start booking is now.

The exclusive adventures allow travellers to mingle with the people who have shaped the history of the destinations they visit.

"Once spots are sold, no new dates will be added," a spokesperson for Luxury Gold emphasised - learn more about what's on offer [HERE](#).

CELEBRITY HAILS EDGEY GIN TIE-UP

CELEBRITY Cruises has announced the second year of its partnership with Four Pillars Gin, which will see new and exciting offerings, including a limited-edition 'Celebrity Cruises x Four Pillars Navy Strength Gin'.

A new signature cocktail will be available aboard *Celebrity Edge* from Dec, when the ship makes her debut in Australia.

Celebrity's second Four Pillars sailing will be a six-night cruise to Tasmania, departing Sydney on 07 Mar.

The cruise will be hosted by Four Pillars Ambassador Lizzie Williams, who will emcee "an introduction to Gin with Australia's Best, Four Pillars", an exclusive tasting experience accompanied by a Q&A session



which discovers the story behind the brand and its method of making its gins.

Back by popular demand will also be the Four Pillars & Tasmanian Oyster Evening, where guests can enjoy a premium gin-paired dining experience.

The partnership was announced last night at an event at the Four Pillars Gin Laboratory in Sydney.

Pictured sampling the new

signature cocktail are: Four Pillars Area Manager Global Travel Retail & Airports Kylie Micallef, International Sales Director David Hogan, Celebrity MD Tim Jones, Marketing Director Emma Mumford, PR Manager Corey Cooper, Four Pillars Head of International Trade Marketing & Engagement Jen Bailey and Celebrity Brand & Campaign Manager Heidi Smith. *MS*

Azamara introduces four new cultural voyages

AZAMARA has added four new voyages offering immersive cultural experiences that delve deeper into destinations than ever before.

The newly added itineraries are each seven days in length and feature special holiday celebrations in Spain, Portugal, Singapore, Vietnam and more.

"We are thrilled to offer these new sailings, giving our guests the opportunity to experience some truly special celebrations around the world," Azamara's Head of Itinerary Planning

Michael Pawlus enthused.

The first departure date is scheduled for 05 Dec, bound for the 'Asian Holiday Voyage' on board *Azamara Journey*, which sails from Singapore.

The journey offers 92 hours in port, featuring two overnight stays in Ho Chi Minh along with the opportunity to experience Lunar New Year festivities, as well as an overnight stay in Singapore to attend Christmas on Great Street.

To find out more or to make a booking, [CLICK HERE](#).

New Tamborine stay

THE Vistas, a new boutique luxury accommodation, has opened up on the Gold Coast in the lush rainforest of Tamborine Mountain.

Nestled within Thunderbird Reserve, The Vistas offers suites with a lodge-style aesthetic that can cater for up to three guests, each featuring a balcony and a Teppanyaki cooking facility.

Guests will enjoy touches of luxury, including a king-sized bed, open-air shower, heated flooring, and onsite activities.

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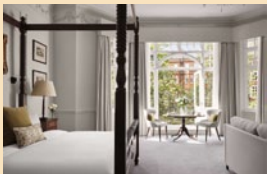
Located in Country Durham in the UK, **Rockliffe Hall** has announced the launch of its refreshed New Hall rooms, where guests are accommodated at the refurbished south-facing guestrooms. The rooms overlook the garden and golf course, while boasting a classic and timeless aesthetic with neutral colours and king-sized beds with contemporary decor, as well as marble-clad en suite bathrooms with walk-in showers and deep-set bathtubs.



Amanpuri has reopened after a thorough renovation, alongside the unveiling of numerous new experiences. The holiday retreat, located on the coastal destination of Phuket in Thailand, now houses a new Beach Restaurant, featuring an open-air kitchen layout, with Nama, the Japanese restaurant, relocated atop the resort's staircase. Guests can enjoy a series of holistic wellbeing programs in the new Spa House and more in the coming months.



Nestled on the beachfront of Nusa Dua in Bali, **The Laguna** is welcoming guests once again, now boasting elevated rooms. Celebrating its 32nd anniversary, the property has restored all of its 287 guestrooms, suites and villas with designs based heavily upon on Balinese traditions, drawing on the allure of maritime voyages, at the same time embracing the spirit of exploration.



The Chelsea Townhouse, formerly the Draycott Hotel, is set to reopen this month following a major transformation amid its rebranding. The 36-bedroom urban getaway is located in London's vibrant Chelsea neighbourhood, with guests to be welcomed by a minibar, award-winning Harrison Spinks beds and more.



Taj Hotel Hessischer is slated to open its doors once again in 2025, after an extensive renovation to the 71-year-old property. Showcasing a new design featuring modern accents, the 134-room property will also feature some of Indian Hotels Company's famous amenities, including the Bombay Brasserie.

An eye-opening celebration



WIDE Eyed Tours has kicked off its 20th anniversary year with a bang, hosting its first post-COVID Global Conference in Hoi An on Vietnam's central coast.

Its United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia sales teams joined staff from offices in Ha Noi, Hoi An, Saigon, Siem Reap and Bangkok for an extravaganza of exciting celebrations.

The now 60-strong team (**pictured**) also put their heads together for some planning,

carried out hotel inspections, enjoyed local attraction experiences, attended supplier dinners, and had a blast at the grand finale awards night.

Established in 2003 by two Aussies, Travis Fennell and Mike Keenan, the tour operator and DMC offers tailor-made holidays across Southeast Asia, including Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar. **JM**

For more information about Wide Eyed Tours, **CLICK HERE**.

The Chat

with Jenny



A Conversation with Robyn Sinfield

Home Travel Company

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THE CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE!

AUSTRALIA 2023 ROADSHOWS NEW DATES ANNOUNCED!

You and your clients are invited to join us this October and November for the second wave of our 35th anniversary Roadshow Series, as we reveal more discovery plans for 2024 and 2025!

SYDNEY Monday 9 October 11am or 6pm session Four Seasons Sydney	MELBOURNE Wednesday 11 October 11am or 6pm session RACV City Club	ADELAIDE Tuesday 14 November 2pm session Eos by SkyCity	PERTH Thursday 16 November 11am or 6pm session The Ritz-Carlton, Perth
BRISBANE Tuesday 21 November 11am or 6pm session Waters Edge	NOOSA Wednesday 22 November 5.30pm session Peppers, Noosa	GOLD COAST Thursday 23 November 6pm session Sofitel, Broadbeach	

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Virgin's Superyacht-inspired ships

With exclusively adult, superyacht-inspired lady ships featuring signature red hammocks on every balcony and a focus on offering nothing but exceptional service, Virgin Voyages' unique vision has been dropping jaws and winning awards (like Cruise Critic's Best Value-for-Money) since their lady ships first hit the water.

After all, Virgin Voyages set out to create a revolutionary way to explore the world. Every voyage is adults-only and always luxury included, with dining at 20+ eateries, WiFi, group fitness classes, tips, entertainment, and essential drinks all on them.

And with late stays and overnights in captivating destinations on itineraries of 2 to 16 nights, visiting 100+ ports across

the globe, these are transformative travels that give your Sailors a chance to get to know the real people and experiences that make each place so special.

Share with your Sailors that they'll have to leave any preconceptions about cruising (and cruise food!) behind; Virgin has ditched buffets and pre-set dining times to bring fresh flavors and unexpected pairings with made-to-order food. They'll dine on hanger steak and lemon cheesecake at The Wake, mezze bites and glasses of rosé in the open air of The Dock, or get their crew together for a lively Korean BBQ night at Gunbae.

And now that Virgin Voyages is bringing the Virgin flair to cruising in Australia this December, it's time to

see your Sailors get out there, to gaze into the sky of glittering southern constellations at night and marvel at the sunrise on the eastern horizon.

SET SAIL FROM AUS & NZ

Virgin brought 'wonderful to flying', and now they're bringing the Virgin flair to cruising. Virgin Voyages sets sail for the first time from Australia and New Zealand starting this December — with their newest lady ship, Resilient Lady, leading the way.



Brilliant
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