

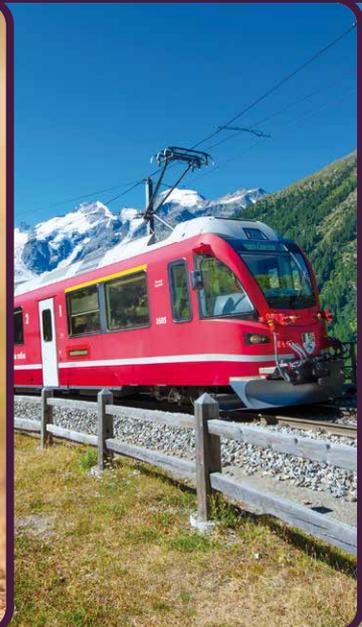
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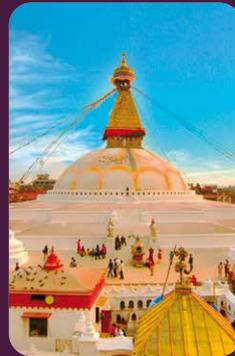


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\*Applies to all tours over \$1,700pp. Only Valid on bookings made via our call centre. Subject to availability, in Australian dollars, and correct at time of print. Prices are per person, based on two people sharing. Deposit and final balance terms per standard conditions. Agents receive commission based on the discounted price. Applies to new bookings only. Includes Private Jet bookings. ARBN 668 148 392. 016627 (04.24)

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## Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest travel industry news, including a cover wrap from Titan Travel.

## Collette running hot

LIMITED availability remains on some of Collette's 'Explorations' new European tours, which the company said are generating "excellent feedback".

The tour operator's 'Spotlight on Northern Italy' and 'Greece Island Hopper' itineraries are reported to be heavily in demand, with both adventures allowing guests to "live like locals".

Savings are still available on selected departures for last-minute travellers eager to explore Europe in the upcoming summer.

## Victorian Govt gives advanced RFT notice

### EXCLUSIVE

VICTORIA'S Department of Government Services (DGS) has given advance notice of a Request for Tender (RFT) for the provision of travel management services to manage approximately 150 state government departments, agencies, and entities.

The DGS will release the RFT in May 2024, with the outcome of the tender to see a refreshed travel management services State Purchase Contract (SPC) awarded to one or more suppliers.

Scope of the RFT includes the three module specifications:

- Travel Management Company
- Online Booking Tool
- Accommodation Services

Tenderers will have the opportunity to bid for one or more of the modules, however all applicants should note that in the provision of travel management services, service providers must be able to support a "monthly payment of travel in



arrears" financial process which is required by the state.

Applicants should also be aware that this procurement is subject to the Supplier Code of Conduct, Local Jobs First Policy, the Fair Jobs Code and Social Procurement Framework.

Tenderers are required to obtain a Fair Jobs Code Pre-Assessment Certificate prior to submitting an RFT response.

The RFT will be released publicly on the Buying for Victoria website, and offers must be submitted at the following address: [www.tenders.vic.gov.au](http://www.tenders.vic.gov.au).

Lodgement of offers by any other electronic method will not

be accepted.

Organisations wishing to participate in this opportunity must also register on the Buying for Victoria Supplier Portal.

A pre-recorded tender briefing will be included with the tender documents, and any questions relating to the briefing, or the tender itself, should be directed to [travel.rft@dgs.vic.gov.au](mailto:travel.rft@dgs.vic.gov.au). AB

Read the full details of the advance notice for the RFT **HERE**.

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LAST CHANCE FOR 2024

## The Titan of tour savings

### EXCLUSIVE

TITAN Travel is currently offering significant savings on all 2024 and 2025 tours priced above \$1,700 per person.

Up to \$1,250 per person discounts are available when bookings are made by 31 Jul, with all adventures offering the added bonus 100% guaranteed departures across 130 itineraries and six continents.

Savings include a big reduction on the price of its eight-day 'Mabula Game Lodge' tour, slashed from its original rate of \$2,719 to \$1,469 per person.

The UK-headquartered operator said the latest promotion in the Australian market follows a positive response from the trade and consumers since its launch last year (TD 30 Aug 2023).

"Titan Travel is thrilled with the overwhelming response from our Australian customers and we're



adventure made effortless

excited to extend our gratitude by offering an exclusive \$1,250 per person discount across our tours, providing more Australians with the opportunity to discover the extraordinary experiences that Titan has to offer," Titan Travel CCO, Andy Squirrel, said.

The deals are on offer via the Titan call centre (02 5133 5162).

Titan offers five styles of travel; 'Stay & Explore', 'Solo Holidays', 'Cruise and Tour', 'Small Group' and 'Rail and Tour' journeys, with the brand experiencing a strong return booking rate in Australia.

Titan is represented in Australia by Ascend Travel Group - see the **front page** for more details.

Wendy Wu Tours.

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## LATAM boosts SYD

LATAM Airlines will reintroduce direct flights from Sydney to Santiago operating four times per week from 28 Oct, eliminating the need to travel through Auckland.

The South American airline previously operated direct Sydney-Santiago services briefly until they were paused early on during the pandemic.

Nonstop Harbour City flights follow a wider rebooting of LATAM's international network, having restarted Melbourne-Santiago direct flights in Sep last year (*TD* 04 Sep 2023).

"Passengers can choose from daily direct services between Australia and Chile, including four direct flights from Sydney and three from Melbourne every week, in addition to our flights via Auckland," LATAM said.

## Qantas reroutes Perth-London flights

QANTAS has been forced to temporarily suspend nonstop flights between Perth and London due to safety issues in the Middle East (*TD* breaking news Sat).

The announcement over the weekend was in anticipation of an Iranian attack on Israel, which took place only hours after the carrier's update, with Qantas flights on the nonstop route needing to access airspace where the latest conflict is taking place.

Flights will still operate between the two cities, but at least for the next few days, they will stop in Singapore on a revised flight path to maintain a full load of pax and minimise disruptions.

"We're temporarily adjusting the flight paths for our flights between Perth and London due to the situation in parts of the Middle East," a spokesperson for Qantas told *Travel Daily*.

"We'll reach out to customers directly if there's any change to



their booking."

At this stage, only the QF9 (Perth-London) and QF10 (London-Perth) services are affected, with the carrier to monitor the situation with a range of options available using alternative flight paths.

Qantas' other flights to and from London (QF1/2) are unaffected as they operate through different flight paths.

If a direct military conflict between Iran and Israel were to continue, it has the potential to derail Qantas' plans to launch its Perth to Paris route in Jul,

designed to take advantage of the increase in Aussie traffic heading to the Paris Olympics.

Qantas would not be drawn on whether the launch date of the Paris route is in jeopardy when questioned by *Travel Daily*.

The news coincided with a wider travel warning update issued by DFAT over the weekend.

Meanwhile, Singapore Airlines has this morning informed *TD* that all SIA and Scoot flights have stopped flying in Iranian air space, with flight times now taking "slightly longer" to complete as a result. *AB*

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## Silversea chief exits

SILVERSEA Cruises President Barbara Muckermann (pictured) has departed Royal Caribbean's luxury cruise line after joining in Nov 2016.

Muckermann said she made the decision to leave so she could "pursue other opportunities", with Royal Caribbean International's Bert Hernandez assuming her role.

"It has been a privilege to serve this amazing brand, in this amazing industry, with the best press professionals I ever met," Muckermann said.

Hernandez was previously Senior VP International for Royal.



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**B2C site:** Accessible via [raileurope.com](http://raileurope.com), no commissions are offered, however you will find some fares and routing in Eastern Europe such as Vienna to Zagreb and domestic Belgian Railways (SNCB) can be booked here. Watch this [short video](#) for the key differences.

**Expert Tip:** Some Flexi tickets in Switzerland will not print with any times/train numbers, etc; and in some cases the origin/destination will not appear. Do not worry as these are "Open Tickets" and valid on any service/route for the validity of the ticket.

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## Airfares dropping, finally

**INTERNATIONAL** airfare prices have dropped following the return of global and domestic air capacity to pre-pandemic levels, new data from Flight Centre Corporate's FCM Travel and Corporate Traveller has revealed.

Fares on some key international routes for Australian travellers have fallen by 15-25%, with outbound flights to Qatar seeing the biggest drop, decreasing from \$2,519 in the first quarter of 2023 down to \$1,888 in Q1 2024.

Japan and the US also saw significant airfare decreases, with both routes now 21% cheaper compared to the same period last year, while New Zealand saw a 23% drop, down from \$1,176 to the current average price of \$901.

Other noticeable airfare decreases include flights to the United Kingdom, with a seat now costing \$2,220 instead of \$2,709, which was the average in Q1 2023, and the UAE, which now costs travellers \$1,861 as opposed to \$2,406 last year.

Additionally, Aussies heading to Singapore are now saving around 15% on their airfares, thanks to a drop from \$1,567 to \$1,330.

"As of this month, and for the first time since the pandemic, we have reached aircraft passenger seat capacity that is above or beyond pre-pandemic levels globally," said Flight Centre Corporate Global COO Melissa Elf.

"We're seeing this directly correlate to decreasing airfares, which is great news for our corporate travellers, who rely on travel to keep their businesses ticking, and win new work."

Elf added that she expects to see the downward trend continue, as more capacity and more competition is introduced throughout the year.

"We're seeing promising signs that this will be a long lasting trend, thanks to new international capacity announcements like recent ones from Delta Airlines, Singapore Airlines, China



Southern and Jetstar."

She pointed out that some countries continue to lag in their international and domestic capacity - for example, available seats from Australia to Hong Kong are sitting at just 63%, prompting a 16% rise in airfares. *JM*

## Princess eats better

**PRINCESS** Cruises has rolled out a new main dining structure across its entire fleet following a trial of the program on board its new *Sun Princess*.

Designed for flexibility, the line now offers dedicated dining rooms with 'Traditional' for early and late seating windows; 'Reservable' for guests to select their own seating; and 'Walk-in Anytime' for those looking to dine as and when they choose.

The new structure comes into effect for voyages departing 14 Sep, with guests already holding bookings needing to contact Princess Cruises to reprocess their seating.

Princess Cruises Vice President of Food and Beverages, Sami Kohen, said guests have been delighted with the dining flexibility aboard *Sun Princess*.

"Whether guests prefer an early seating every evening, or change things up every night, or even change their mind, these flexible dining options ensure that their dining preference is effortlessly accommodated," he said.

Travellers can also opt for main dining room meals anywhere on the ship via Princess' location-based OceanNow service.

## Casa making Amalfi dreams



**ITALY'S** Amalfi Coast is being singled out as an ideal playground by discerning Australian travellers looking to splurge and indulge on a European holiday.

Aussies are fanning out across more of the scenic region, with Praiano particularly popular as one of the less crowded and more authentic enclaves along the Italian coastline.

No longer a well-kept secret, more Australians are pinpointing late Oct and early Nov as an ideal time to visit the Amalfi Coast to take advantage of comfortable "late-summer" temperatures.

Casa Angelina Director of Sales & Marketing, Annarita Aprea, told *Travel Daily* the ultra-luxe Amalfi Coast property - represented in Australia by The Unique Tourism Collection - was seeing a strong trend towards splurging by visiting Australian guests.

"The Australia resurgence of travel has brought with it a love of their finer things in life and they are keen on treating themselves with room upgrades, and other top holiday indulgences including fine dining, massages and spa treatments," Aprea said.

"We expect that the average length of stay for Australian guests will remain consistent at around five nights, re-affirming the trend we have observed in the pre-pandemic years."

Casa Angelina is boosting its appeal with Australians by extending its operating season into this new sub-peak of Nov.

Travellers can secure a variety of exclusive perks at Casa Angelina, including room upgrades and exclusive amenities, with the property not only Virtuoso Preferred but also a member of Leading Hotels of the World. *ML*

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## Europe train dream

**RAIL** Europe will make a 'Dream Journey' come true for one agent as part of its latest campaign.

The trade push will see a travel advisor take a train journey through Europe, with the chance of landing the trip from now until the end of May.

Advisors can submit their 'Dream Journey' to Rail Europe's Facebook page, describing in less than 250 words where they would like to go by train in Europe, and why, in the lead-up to the company's e-brochure launch next month.

These dream journeys can be within a single country or across multiple nations.

**CLICK HERE** to access the Facebook page for more details.

## Adelaide goes valet

**ADELAIDE** Airport has joined forces with First Class Valet to launch a new valet parking service for departing travellers.

Available from 4.30am to 11.30pm every day of the year, travellers can exit their car at the terminal's southern doors and hand their keys to an attendant before proceeding to check-in.

Drive-up rates start at \$85 for a one-day drive-up basis, with lower rates available for longer bookings made online in advance.

Cars are stored in a secure outdoor area for the duration.

The service is separate to a similar valet service operated at ADL by Qantas before it was discontinued in early 2020.

## HALO design out of this world



**GLOBAL** space tourism company HALO Space has offered a first look at the interior of its groundbreaking space capsule, 'Aurora', which was created by Frank Stephenson Design.

Inspired by Space Age architecture, the capsule's design integrates cutting-edge resources, design principles, and technology, with an emphasis on luxury, safety, and functionality.

Ensuring a total take-off weight

of 3,500kg, Aurora integrates lightweight materials such as aluminium alloy and composites, and provides a spacious environment for eight passengers and one pilot.

The capsule also features curved lines and reflective surfaces, as well as an innovative seating arrangement and expansive viewing windows totalling 2.82m<sup>2</sup> to offer travellers an "unforgettable visual experience".

Once flight-ready, Aurora will offer a gradual ascent via a helium balloon to minimise G-forces, with flight times averaging four-six hours and a maximum altitude of up to 35km.

"We wanted every minute of the journey to be unforgettable for our passengers," said Carlos Mira, Chief Executive Officer of HALO Space.

"Frank and his team have created a capsule that not only embodies luxury and elegance but also prioritises safety and functionality," he added. *JM*

## Accessibility on-air

**THE Antoinettes** podcast, hosted by journalist Antoinette Lattouf & thought leader Azure Antoinette, is after "horror stories" about travelling with a disability.

The show is requesting those with a relevant story to send a voice message to their Instagram account (**CLICK HERE**) detailing their experiences.

Accepted stories will be featured on the next episode of the weekly podcast.

## Window Seat

**A BIOFUEL** company has struck a new deal with Wizz Air to provide up to 525,000 tonnes of sustainable aviation fuel over 15 years.

While this fact alone may not seem unusual, the fuel will use human poo sourced from the people of Essex.

Biofuel company Firefly plans to build the facility in Harwich in the UK and aims to start supplying eco-friendly fuel around 2028, offering a blend of kerosene and human waste.

Firefly CEO, James Hygate, said biosolids are "kind of disgusting stuff" but "an amazing resource".

"We're turning sewage into jet fuel, I can't really think of many things that are cooler than that," he enthused.

## RSSC appointments

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has added two new members to its sales team in Australia and New Zealand.

Stacey Hill is taking on the role of Business Development Manager for Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, while Jane Perrett joins as Sales Coordinator for Australia and New Zealand.

Perrett will support existing Sales Coordinator, Emily Potter to help RSSC's sales team nurture trade partner relationships.



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## SA agents get schooled



**LAST** week, Contours Travel partnered with LATAM Airlines, Quark Expeditions & MOH Collection to hold a Latin America & Antarctica Masterclass, which was attended by 45 South Australian agents.

The event was hosted at the InterContinental Hotel in Adelaide by Heather Poppelier and Hanna Shilo from Contours Travel; Michelle Mohaupt, MOH Collection; Shalina Sabar, LATAM Airlines; and Quark Expeditions' Tenille Hunt and Chris Catanzariti.



Attendees learnt all about the Patagonia and Antarctica regions, as well as gained practical tools to boost their confidence in selling these destinations.

The masterclass also included in-depth presentations on The Singular luxury hotels, Australis Cruises and Quark Expeditions.

Angela Kiriakopoulos from Helloworld Travel Norwood was one of the lucky prize winners on the night, winning a 10-day Deluxe Patagonia trip for two.

Travel & Cruise Professionals' Kymeryl Rohrsheim also scored a sweet prize, which will see her and a companion jet off for 10 days on the Luxury Atacama to La Paz overland trip.

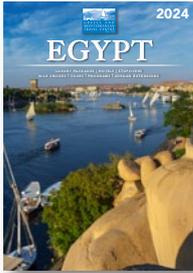
Rounding out the prize winners on the night was Nieccia Miller from Thor Travel, who walked away with tickets for a Quark Expeditions Antarctic Explorer cruise for two.

The masterclass was the first in a series of interstate events which Contours Travel plans to co-host, with Western Australia planned for Mar 2025. *JM*

The event hosts are **pictured** above, while the Helloworld Sefton Park Team is shown inset.

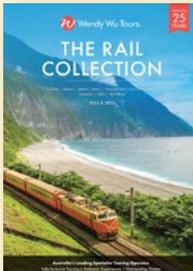
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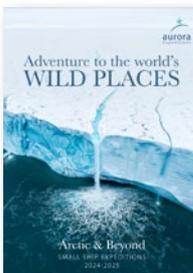
### Greece and Med Travel Centre - Egypt 2024

From head to toe, east to west, Egypt is one of the most fascinating countries in the world. Greece and Med Travel Centre believes Egypt is known for its ancient treasures and rich history, but there is so much more than Aussies might expect. From surreal waters and golden sand beaches to remarkable architecture and natural therapies, Greece and Mediterranean Travel Centre creates amazing bucket-list experiences for travellers, young or mature, experienced or novices. The brochure features itineraries for any budget, from standard to the most luxurious options. Greece and Mediterranean Travel Centre offers Nile cruises, day tours and a wide selection of private experiences, as well as the opportunity to customise any itinerary.



### Wendy Wu Tours - The Rail Collection

Wendy Wu Tours has unveiled its rail journeys in a newly published brochure, with tours available across China, India, Japan, Peru, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Tibet and Vietnam. The tour operator offers three diverse ways to travel: the 'Classic Group Tours', 'Go Beyond Group Tours', and a new 'Private Tour' in Taiwan. The Taiwan trip is priced from \$4,380 per person for an eight-day journey across the top and the middle of the nation. The booklet also revealed an abundance of new tours in all categories, with both 'Go Beyond Group Tours' and 'Classic Group Tours' having all accommodations and meals covered throughout the holiday. Travellers planning can also learn about the 2025 departure dates on select journeys.



### Aurora Expeditions - Arctic & Beyond 2024/25

The latest 116-page travel guide by Aurora Expeditions showcases the tour operator's strong commitment to protecting the 'World's Wild Places', a testament to its dedication in sustainable tourism. Leading travellers to explore the wonders of the region, Aurora caters to those who want to discover lesser-known remote destinations, curating its 'Ultimate Adventures' for a broader range of travel styles. These include selected tours that can be combined into a single departure. There is also an 'Extend Your Adventure' section towards the end of the guide for explorers to add on a diverse range of extension packages to get more out of their holidays.