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ATIA unveils ATAS social media showcase

EXCLUSIVE

THE Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) is on the lookout for member agencies and tour operators around Australia who are most proud of their ATAS accreditation and are eager to show it off on social media.

ATIA today launched its maiden ATAS social media showcase and is inviting the trade to get behind the brand promotion.

To support the campaign, the association is giving away two return tickets to Singapore, flying with Singapore Airlines, for the most creative social media posts.

The key driver of the campaign is for ATIA to see what agencies think of the brand and what it means to their business.

To get involved, snap a creative photo of your ATAS accreditation displayed in your office that tells audiences what it is about the marque you are most proud of in the booming \$69 billion Australian travel industry.

Posts need to include the hashtag #ATAS24 to be considered for the major prize.

ATIA Chief Executive Officer, Dean Long, said travellers today are savvy and look for the ATAS seal when choosing which travel professional they deal with.

"ATAS is a testament to your dedication and compliance with the highest industry benchmarks in Australia.

"They know it stands for quality,



reliability, and professional integrity," Long added.

"Showcasing your ATAS accreditation isn't just about pride - it's about standing out in a competitive market.

"It demonstrates your commitment to rigorous standards, from financial reviews to consumer protection.

"So, get creative, be authentic, and let's turn the spotlight on the best in travel with #ATAS24.

"As an ATAS accredited business, you're not just a part of the industry - you're a leader in it."

Wendy Wu Tours has kicked off the incentive with its submission, with Head of Marketing, Amanda Bruno, pictured above with Head of Sales Belinda Ward and the barely visible hands of Air Product Manager, Nick Agnew. ML

Win a trip to Utah

HAWAIIAN Airlines is teaming up with Rocky Mountaineer to offer Aussie agents a chance to win a \$13,000 holiday to Utah.

Agents who ticket a HA itinerary to mainland USA before 30 Jun, or book seats on the Rockies to the Red Rocks itinerary in 2024 or 2025, will have a chance to win.

Two entries will be awarded if the flight is to Salt Lake City.

For more details on how to be in the running, [CLICK HERE](#).

Learn about Taiwan

AGENTS can learn more about EVA Air and boost their knowledge about the 'Heart of Asia' and how to easily fly there through the improved EVA Taiwan Travel Academy.

To find out more, see the [back page](#) of today's *Travel Daily*.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of the latest travel news, plus full pages from:

- Collette
- EVA Air

Bucket list savings

COLLETTE is taking up to 20% off its worldwide collection of tours and cruises in its new 'Bucket List Savings' promotion, with only Antarctica excluded.

Check out [page seven](#) for how to access new marketing support.



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VA pauses ADL-DPS

VIRGIN Australia will indefinitely suspend its Adelaide to Bali service due to ongoing delays receiving new Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft from the manufacturer.

According to *Australian Aviation*, the service was already scheduled to take a break between 28 Apr and 09 Jun, however this pause will now continue indefinitely.

America's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has ordered Boeing to produce no more than 38 of its 737 MAX model each month due to higher production scrutiny from authorities.

Skal Melb event

THE Skal Club of Melbourne is hosting an industry networking lunch on Thu 09 May, which will see President Tara Strickland hand the reins to Skal stalwart, Rich Kellaway - tickets for the event are available **HERE** for \$55 for members and \$70 for guests.

WA spends big on tourism

WESTERN Australia will spend more than \$300 million on a variety of initiatives to support the state's tourism industry as part of the 2024/25 State Budget.

Led by WA Premier, Roger Cook, and Tourism Minister, Rita Saffioti, the spending spree begins with \$150 million to upgrade essential infrastructure on Rottnest Island, home of the iconic and photogenic quokka (**pictured**).

Funds will be spent developing new accommodation for workers on the island, which in turn aims to attract new staff & allow better operations outside of ferry times.

The funding will also go towards relocating barge and freight operations to create a more welcoming experience for visitors and comes on top of an existing commitment of \$168.7 million for critical improvements to utilities.

"Rottnest Island is a globally recognised tourism destination



for WA," Minister Saffioti said.

"To continue meeting the increasing popularity of the island, it's essential we invest in infrastructure to support island operations and safety.

MEANWHILE, Western Australia will allocate \$165 million on upgrades to boating and camping facilities to encourage people to enjoy the state's great outdoors.

Funds will include \$8.1 million for sustainable tourism initiatives in the Abrolhos Islands, including multi-purpose boating facilities.

Elsewhere, WA has created the new Jilgu National Park to protect more than 100,000ha of land. *ML*

Travel Daily
ON LOCATION

 **ECUADOR**

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of HX, which is this week hosting us on a cruise around the Galapagos Islands on board *Santa Cruz II*.

HX HAS taken us to Ecuador this week, where we are preparing to depart on a cruise around the Galapagos Islands. Earlier today we arrived in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, which has been inhabited for many thousands of years. Quito's historic centre is among the largest and best-preserved in the Americas, and it will be showcased to us tomorrow on a pre-cruise tour. The equator also runs through Quito, making it a dual-hemisphere city.

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Tourism skills boost

THE Australian Government has launched a \$1.4 million campaign in regional NSW to encourage young people, First Nations Australians, seniors and people living with a disability to pursue a career in tourism.

Delivered by Destination NSW, the NSW Choose Tourism Program aims to address industry workforce shortages in regional areas across the state with five initiatives, including a schools' program, vocational webinars, targeted career promotion, professional development events, and mentoring by industry leaders.

The program will also support a partnership with TAFE NSW to develop bespoke visitor economy training programs.

The joint initiative expands on the 2022-23 pilot program tailored for the NSW South Coast, and is also aligned with THRIVE 2030, Australia's roadmap for the long-term, sustainable growth of the visitor economy.

Mega new airport for Dubai



FIVE parallel runways and gates for 400 aircraft will feature at the new Al Maktoum Int'l Airport in Dubai after the Emirate's ruler HH Sheikh Mohammed confirmed final designs overnight.

The new facility will be five times the size of DXB, making it the world's largest airport, and will cost more than AED 128 billion (A\$53 billion) to build.

The new airport will cater to 260 million people annually, with all operations at the existing DXB to be gradually moved across.

A city for one-million people will be constructed around the 70-square kilometre site.

"Dubai will be the world's airport, its port, its urban hub, and its new global centre," His Highness said in a statement. *ML*

Win with Rail Europe

THERE is one month left for agents to participate in Rail Europe's new incentive, giving them the chance to win their own dream train voyage through Europe (**TD** 15 Apr).

Ahead of the launch of Rail Europe's e-brochure in May, which showcases sample themed itineraries across Europe, agents are invited to submit their 'Dream Journey', describing in less than 250 words where they would like to go by train in Europe, and why.

The dream journeys can be within a single country or across multiple countries - advisors are encouraged to refer to Rail Europe's digital map, which can be found **HERE**, for inspiration.

Entries can be in the form of a creative narrated video recording or written text, with the winner to be announced in early Jun.

Agents have until 31 May to post their entries on Rail Europe's closed Facebook page (**HERE**) on the featured pinned post.



Adventure to the world's WILD PLACES

We invite you to join our live webinar on 29 April 24, at 3pm AEST to hear more about immersive, responsible adventures on our purpose-built small ships. We will share our new ANTARCTICA 25/26 season, our most comprehensive and adventurous yet including our brand-new small ship, *Douglas Mawson*.

REGISTER TODAY

32

voyages across our 3 small ships

1

brand new small ship, *Douglas Mawson*, with solo cabins

8

new itineraries including the Ross Sea and East Antarctica

4

voyages to Antarctica departing from Australia and NZ

8

departures with a 'Fly the Drake' component

2

all-Inclusive activity voyages



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Travel Daily

Preferred Hotels & Resorts adds 15

FROM the wilderness of the Himalayas to the white sandy beaches of Cancun, independent hotel brand Preferred Hotels & Resorts has just announced 15 new member properties, each featuring a range of distinct guest experiences.

“Each of these exciting new additions - spanning 13 countries and four continents - marks continued growth and development, further amplifying the brand’s presence in key markets across the globe,” said Lindsey Ueberroth, CEO of Preferred Hotels & Resorts.

Among the new properties is the Hotel Ambassador Split in Croatia, overlooking the Adriatic Sea, which includes 98 rooms and two suites, as well as fine dining at Restaurant Mediterraneane, and rejuvenating treatments at Haelicia Spa.



Travellers will also enjoy personalised service by the in-house guest experience team, known as the ‘Diplomats’.

The new Himalayan Wildlife Sanctuary in Chitwan in Nepal is a lush escape, set on the banks of the Narayani River and located in the tranquil region of Amaltari.

Situated on the edge of the Chitwan National Park, home to over 43 animals, the resort features 27 stylish guestrooms and private villas, designed in tribute to the local Tharu people.

Meanwhile, in Cascais, Portugal,

a former 19th century mansion with views of the Atlantic Ocean has been transformed into the Faro Hotel (pictured), which features an outdoor saltwater swimming pool and 33 guest rooms and suites, some with 180-degree ocean views.

“Presenting our loyal customers and community of passionate travellers with new places of distinction and opportunities to discover the latest luxury independent hotel experiences is core to our brand promise,” Ueberroth said. *JHM*

Window Seat

TO CELEBRATE its 20th anniversary, Jetstar has recreated its classic ‘Let’s Fly Jetstar’ ad that first hit TV screens in 2004, although sadly, without Aussie comedian Magda Szubanski.

Instead, members of Jetstar’s crew have taken to the spotlight, with several Jetstar customers sharing their real-life stories with the airline.

These customers won ‘a casting call’ competition, where they were invited to share their favourite Jetstar stories in the ad.

More than 400 people entered and three were chosen to take part.

TikTok stars Luke and Sassy Scott feature in the campaign, where they share a funny behind-the-scenes clip of Scott acting like a diva on-set.

Meanwhile, Jade Neal was just two years old when she starred in the original Jetstar ad - and now makes a comeback in the new version 20 years later.

“From taking their first flight with Jetstar at age 90, to meeting the love of their life on board; it was such a privilege to read through all our customers’ stories,” said the airline’s Executive Manager of Customer Service, Jenn Armor.

G adds more Jane trips

G ADVENTURES has expanded its Jane Goodall Collection with five new wildlife-focused trips in celebration of the famous environmentalist’s 90th birthday.

The new itineraries will take travellers on adventures to Tanzania, the Amazon, Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica and the US, including an opportunity to observe chimpanzees in the wild in Gombe Stream National Park, where Goodall began her trailblazing research in 1960.

Endorsed by Goodall herself,

the collection now features the 10-day ‘Tanzania: Chimp Trekking & Serengeti Safari’, which includes a hike up Mt Makarot, and a breakfast cooking experience in Mto wa Mbu village.

Travellers can also opt for a nine-day river cruise, the ‘Amazon Riverboat Adventure In-Depth’, which includes daily excursions to witness the rainforest’s exotic wildlife, or an action-packed seven-day adventure in the Galapagos, geared towards younger travellers - details [HERE](#).

SA day trip boost

NEW data from the South Australian Tourism Commission shows that day trips provided a \$2.3 billion boost to SA’s visitor economy over the last 12 months, up 1% year-on-year.

During these short trips, visitors are favouring non-traditional experiences in lesser-known locations to keep costs down, according to booking data from Big Red Group over the last year.

Skydiving experience bookings were up a whopping 239%, with quad biking and wineries also up.



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Hidden fees exposed

AIR travellers in the US must now be shown all fees relating to their fare at the time of booking, under a new rule imposed by the Department of Transportation.

At the moment, airlines and ticket agents are required to disclose full fares.

But now, they will also need to tell consumers upfront the extra fees they will be charged for checked and carry-on baggage and changing or cancelling reservations.

"Airlines should compete with one another to secure passengers' business - not to see who can charge the most in surprise fees," said US Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

"[The US Department of Transportation's] new rule will save passengers over half a billion dollars a year in unnecessary or unexpected fees by holding airlines accountable

for being transparent with their customers," he added.

Extra fees have been an increased source of income for airlines recently - according to the US Department of Transportation, airline revenue from baggage fees rose by more than 30% between 2018 and 2022.

Meanwhile, these fees have become increasingly complex over time and continue to confuse passengers.

The rule also requires ticket agents and airlines to inform consumers that seats are guaranteed, share extra fee prices and policies with relevant companies and to provide both standard and passenger-specific fee information.

They are also required to end discount "bait-and-switch" tactics, which some airlines use to disguise the true cost of discounted flights. *JHM*

SAA touches down

DIRECT flights between South Africa and Australia are finally resuming for the first time since the pandemic, with South African Airways set to land in Perth today (*TD 26 Apr*).

"We've seen an eight percent uplift in demand from our corporate travellers moving between Australia and South Africa in the first quarter of this year, compared to the first quarter of last year," said Melissa Elf, Flight Centre Corporate Global COO.

Air NZ sales away

AIR New Zealand is encouraging Aussies to "sale away" this winter season with its discounted flights, available now.

Flights to Christchurch, Auckland, Wellington and Queenstown are on sale now until 11.59pm AEST, 03 May.

Deals start from \$265 one-way from Sydney to Christchurch, as well as one-way flights from Melbourne to Queenstown from \$284 per person - more details can be found **HERE**.

Ritz-Carlton to open in Neom



THE Ritz-Carlton is opening a luxurious Reserve property in the mountainous region of Neom in Saudi Arabia.

Parent company Marriott International has announced it has signed an agreement with Neom to open its second Ritz-Carlton Reserve in the country, which will be located in the northwest region of Trojena.

Designed for discerning travellers, Ritz-Carlton Reserves are hidden getaways located in just a handful of destinations around the world, featuring highly personalised service and bespoke, immersive experiences.

Showcasing expansive views of Trojena's famed desert and mountain ranges, the idyllic Ritz-Carlton Reserve resort will feature 60 one-to-four bedroom villas and luxurious amenities including a lavish spa and swimming pools, as well as multiple culinary venues. *JHM*

Inside adds Welland

INSIDE Travel Group has appointed Tom Welland in the newly created role of Global Trade Marketing Manager to further trade growth for its brands InsideJapan and InsideAsia.

Welland joins from ski holiday tour operator, Heidi, where he supported the company in achieving its best performing season to-date.

"Tom will play an important role alongside our BDMs and the magnificent team of specialist consultants we have at Inside Travel Group," Head of Trade Gabo Quiros said.

"In 2024, we have seen record sales months for trade with approximately 30% increase on 2023, with trade business representing 40% of overall business and with Tom's help, we look to continue growing partnerships and driving growth together with them."

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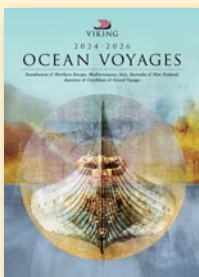
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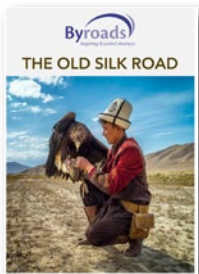
Aurora Expeditions - 2025/26 Antarctica, Aus & NZ

To showcase the travel company's new Antarctica itineraries across the 2025/26 season, proclaimed its most "adventurous" season yet, Aurora Expeditions has released a new brochure for travellers to get a glimpse of all the action. Packed with 'choose your own adventure' options, guests can take on three Ultimate Adventures with land and sea combinations. New expeditions include the 24-day 'Mason's Antarctica' tour, the 25-day 'Ross Sea Odyssey journey' departing round-trip from Dunedin, the 'Epic Antarctica and Crossing the Seventh Continent' journey spanning over a month, and much more. Advisors can also learn all about the 32 voyages across the Tasman Sea aboard three of Aurora's purpose-built vessels - *Greg Mortimer*, *Sylvia Earle* and the brand-new *Douglas Mawson*. Aurora also offers discounts of up to 25% off with its early bird bookings on select tours in the new season.



Viking - Ocean Voyages 2024 - 2026

Viking's 200-page Ocean Voyages brochure showcases the line's recently launched itineraries, with over 100 ocean voyages now available in Viking's portfolio. Learn everything about the line's two new vessels - *Viking Vela* and *Viking Vesta*, which are bound for their maiden voyages in Dec 2024 and Jul 2025 respectively. Both ships will set sail across the Mediterranean and the Northern European regions for their inaugural seasons. New itineraries, including the 15-day 'Mediterranean Discoveries' and the 20-day 'Iberian & Mediterranean Odyssey' combination voyages are also on full display in the informative booklet. Savings of up to \$3,600 per couple on select voyages are available on select tours for bookings made by 31 May.



Byroads Travel - The Old Silk Road

Byroads Travel has released a new brochure highlighting two departures to Uzbekistan and the Silk Road in Aug 2024 and Aug 2025. The tour operator will lead the group to explore major sites before a wander in the stunning Ala-Archa National Park, as well as the majestic Tian Shan Mountains, the Russian Orthodox Church and Dungan Mosque, all within the 19-day adventure. The tour will include domestic flights, private

minibuses, high-speed trains, 18 nights' accommodation, 18 breakfasts, two dinners, and more.

TIME welcomes new mentees



THE Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) has welcomed its latest intake, with mentees for the 56th program gathering in Sydney last week for an evening of networking and celebration.

Hosted by Amadeus IT Pacific in its Sydney offices, the event was attended by a large group of industry representatives, and also celebrated the graduates of the previous program.

Craig Smith, Director of Aviation at Anjuna, was the Guest Speaker for the evening and shared his story of how mentors helped him in his career.

"The evening was filled with laughter, inspiration, learning and lots of networking - everything that is about TIME," enthused program founder, Penny Spencer.

For information on how to become a mentee, visit the TIME website **HERE**. *JM*

Pictured: Back Row (mentees) - Borana Meta, TBD; Craig Ripley, CTM; Janis McDonald, Air Canada; Zoe Gentle, Air Canada; Brianna Drummond, Inspiring Vacations;

Anoushka Kudav, Silversea; Julie Dayeh, Black Sheep Tourism.

Front row - Belinda Montgomery, Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia (Mentor) and Kelley Wachter, Corporate Magic (Mentor).

Bali tax skippers

THE Bali Tourism Police have reportedly been instructed to carry out more spot checks on tourists to ensure they are paying the new tourism tax levy, which came into effect on 14 Feb.

Although the levy has already raised US\$3.9 million, Bali tourism officials say the figure is well shy of what it should be, and estimate that as much as 60% of tourists haven't been paying the IDR 150,000 (A\$14) fee.

The checks are being conducted at popular visitor destinations around the province, such as the Goa Gajah Temple outside Ubud.

Visitors who are caught skimping on the tax will be forced to pay it on the spot.



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