



Today's issue of TD

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

- Tourism NT
- InterContinental Fiji

Tender to shake up slots

THE Federal Government has unveiled the latest phase of its bid to reform the slot allocation system at Sydney Airport, launching a tender for a new slot manager this morning.

Following on from initiating regular audits of slots at Australia's busiest airport in Feb (TD 21 Feb), Federal Transport Minister, Catherine King, is looking to appoint a new slot manager who can deliver on recommendations from the Harris Review and the ACCC.

Slots at Sydney Airport are currently managed by a company majority owned by Qantas and Virgin Australia.

Central to the tender will be the

need for applicants to show how they will manage and mitigate conflicts of interest in a more transparent way.

Once appointed, the successful applicant will also need to comply with a new statement of expectations, including enhanced governance and transparency markers required to make domestic aviation fairer.

While the tender arrives only a week after the collapse of Rex, King insists the timing of the latest development is unrelated to the carrier's demise.

The Minister also laid the blame for historical inequality of access at Sydney Airport at the feet of the former government.

"Coming in to office, it was clear that the previous government had shown little interest in issuing a serious response to the findings," King argued.

"We are serious about making long-term reforms to aviation in Australia that are much needed after a decade of neglect."

More equitable slot allocations at SYD was one of the key recommendations from a Senate Committee last year, and was brought into sharper focus when Bonza collapsed in Apr.

Bonza Chief Executive Tim Jordan was vocal about the crippling impact being locked out of Sydney had on the carrier. AB

Cebu ups Melbourne

CEBU Pacific has announced it will boost services between Melbourne and Manila from Dec, in a bid to cater to rising demand.

The carrier will raise the frequency of the service from three times weekly to four, taking capacity to the Philippines market beyond pre-pandemic volumes for the first time.

"Since the pandemic, we've seen Southeast Asia emerge as one of our best performing markets, with three of the four fastest growth countries coming from that region," said Melbourne Airport Chief of Aviation, Jim Parashos.

The Philippines has seen a 43% uptick in pax since COVID-19, while key markets such as Vietnam and Thailand have witnessed a 60% and 25% growth, respectively.

Parashos said he is hopeful Cebu will move to five flights per week in the "not-too-distant future".

NCL goes Direct

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has debuted NCL Connect in Australia and New Zealand, which it said will provide an unrivalled marketing solution to the travel partner community.

The new marketing solution allows agents to customise pre-designed NCL content and distribute to clients via email, social media channels or custom links in a matter of seconds.

Access the new tool [HERE](#).

Travel Daily
ON LOCATION

Alice Springs

Today's issue of TD is coming to you from Alice Springs courtesy of Journey Beyond in honour of The Ghan's 95th birthday celebrations.

TRAVEL Daily visited the Red Centre over the weekend to celebrate with Journey Beyond, joining the south-bound Ghan and its passengers when it stopped in Alice Springs on its 95th birthday.

The day itself was filled with land tours and finished with delicious dinner at the historic Telegraph Station.

Attendees even got a rare glimpse of rain in the desert as the heavens very lightly opened during the evening.

Win a trip to the NT

THE time is perfect for travel advisors to become a Northern Territory expert, and in the process, have a chance of winning a trip to the Top End.

Join a live webinar hosted by Tourism NT to learn more about the destination and the guided group adventure tours on offer.

The webinars will be hosted tomorrow and Wed, at 11am AEST and 1pm AEST respectively. See [page 6](#) for more info.

INSPIRING VACATIONS

WIN A FAMIL

EXPERIENCE JAPAN WITH THE EXPERTS

ENDS 31 AUG

FIND OUT HOW

TAKE ANYWHERE EFTPOS TERMINALS
No WiFi required, Wireless SIM provided

SAME DAY SETTLEMENT
Same day for Visa, MasterCard AND American Express

3D SECURE PAYLINK
3D Secure Payment links provided for online customer payments
www.cvfrpayments.com | enquiries@cvfrpayments.com



APPLY NOW



Segments on Viking

VIKING has released four segments on its 2024-25 World Cruise, which is set to depart from Fort Lauderdale on 19 Dec.

Segments range from a 24-day stretch from Sydney to Singapore up to a 35-day adventure from Singapore to Cape Town.

We are falling behind

THE Australian Chamber of Tourism has called on the Federal Government to use revenue generated by recent increases in taxes on travellers to ensure passengers' journeys at airports are significantly improved.

In a new strategy document released by the advocacy body, it is claimed Australia's passenger facilitation processes are failing to keep pace with innovation overseas, denting the country's appeal as a tourism market and outbound travel segment.

Among the recommendations include a greater investment in the roll out of 'passenger on the move' technology, as an alternative to SmartGate.

Aspects of 'on the move' tech include: advanced facial recognition screening, self-serve kiosks, automated baggage

handling, real-time flight updates, and intuitive airport maps.

Other suggestions put forward include scrapping the physical Incoming Passenger Card and instead using info provided by travel agents, as well as making multiple-entry visas available for all key markets to encourage return visitation.

"As Australia looks to open another international airport in 2026, and in the lead-up to the Brisbane 2032 Summer Olympics, it is important that we adequately invest in the passenger journey to avoid future difficulties," the report stated.

It is proposed recent increases to the Passenger Movement Charge and passport renewals help fund the investments. *AB*

100ml rule is back

TRAVELLERS passing through EU airports will no longer be able to take more than 100ml of liquid in their carry-on baggage from 01 Sep, under new rules brought in by the Airports Council International (ACI) Europe.

The decision relates to a restriction on new bag scanners.



from TAIWAN since 1959

Early Bird Offer

Up to 20% OFF




Book by **31 August**

Taipei Round trip from \$1,150	London Round trip from \$1,584
Busan Round trip from \$1,109	Sapporo Round trip from \$1,199

[Click for more destinations](#)

*Terms and Conditions apply

IAG pulls out

BRITISH Airlines parent International Airlines Group (IAG) has pulled the pin on plans to buy Spanish carrier Air Europa from Globalia, calling out regulation issues as the reason.

The decision by IAG follows rumours the European Commission was about to scuttle the acquisition deal due to competition concerns, however, the group reiterated plans to grow its presence in Madrid.

IAG had previously pulled a bid for Air Europa in late 2021 amid similar competition concerns.

TM CC protection

TRAVELMANAGERS says more than \$30,000 in claims have been paid to advisors to cover losses from credit card chargebacks, thanks to the company's Credit Card ChargeBack Insurance (CCCBI) policy (*TD* 11 Aug 2022).

The policy has been particularly active of late, with 13 of the company's PTMs having clients impacted by the recent collapse of Air Vanuatu.

Grant Campbell, TravelManagers COO, said while the full implications of Rex's demise are unknown, it is "comforting" to know the company's agents are protected from losses.

contiki ROCK

AROUND THE WORLD


IS BACK IN '25!




EVERY BOOKING COUNTS!

GET MORE INFO

NOBODY PUTS Avalon IN A CORNER



VOTE AVALON WATERWAYS
MOST POPULAR RIVER CRUISE
OPERATOR (CAT 30)



NATIONAL TRAVEL
INDUSTRY AWARDS
2024
NOMINEE

VIVA HOLIDAYS

IS THRILLED TO BE NOMINATED FOR
**MOST OUTSTANDING WHOLESALER
PRODUCT / SERVICE** (CATEGORY 23)
WE VALUE AND APPRECIATE YOUR VOTES!



[VOTE HERE](#)

On track for a century



JOURNEY Beyond celebrated The Ghan's 95th birthday in Alice Springs on Sun with select media partners while the train stopped in the Red Centre.

The festivities included a visit to Standley Chasm and Simpsons Gap, a tour of The Ghan as it stopped in the historic township, and dinner at Telegraph Station.

One of Australia's most famous trains, The Ghan began operations on 04 Aug 1929, and was said to have been named in honour of the Afghan camel drivers who helped Europeans make their way to, and around, the vast arid centre of Australia.

Originally, The Ghan travelled between Adelaide and Alice Spring, but since 2001 with the line being extended through

to Darwin, it has traversed the country from north to south, covering 2,979km and stopping at key locations including Marla and Katherine.

The Ghan offers trips between Adelaide and Darwin, as well as options to Alice Springs and features a number of off-train expeditions as add-ons, including tours and scenic flights.

Journey Beyond owns a range of Australia's famous trains including the Indian Pacific, Great Southern, and Overland, as well as other tourism businesses - for more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

Pictured: Journey Beyond's Kelly Modra, Ella Chronowski, and Justine Lally in front of The Ghan as it stops in Alice Springs on its 95th birthday. *DF*

Rain pain for Experience

ADVERSE weather conditions impacted Q4 results for tourist attraction operator Experience Co across its skydiving and Treetops Adventure arms, according to a trading update issued late on Fri.

Revenue for the two categories saw skydiving improve 8% to \$14.1 million, while Adventure Experiences, under which Treetops Adventure sits, took a 1% step backwards from \$15.8m one year ago to \$15.7m in 2024.

Weather in Wollongong and Newcastle in particular affected the company's results, with both regions seeing higher than average rainfall and strong winds.

Skydiving markets were hit by cost-of-living pressures, especially among domestic customers, with a range of tactical pricing initiatives implemented and generating positive results.

"Management will continue to monitor pricing in Australia during FY25," the update said.

New Zealand performed much more strongly for Experience Co's skydiving segment, with volumes up 47% across the Tasman, compared to just 6% in Australia.

In total, the company delivered tandem skydive experiences to 26,000 passengers across the quarter, equating to 64% of pre-pandemic volumes.

Overall group-wide revenues painted a rosier picture, with the quarter recording a 17% year-on-year increase from \$108.6m to \$127 million, led by strong trading for the company's Reef

Unlimited experience collection in Far North Queensland.

More than 255,000 passengers enjoyed the Reef Unlimited portfolio, a 7% increase on the prior year despite impacts from Tropical Cyclone Jasper.

The company added its multi-day Wild Bush Luxury experiences were in a post-pandemic correction from a peak trading period in FY22, with management focused on addressing this performance downturn. *ML*

Viking new portal

VIKING has launched a new and improved travel advisor portal, with enhancements to provide partners with everything needed to book and market.

The portal ([CLICK HERE](#)) is designed to provide advisors with the tools and resources needed to sell Viking, with a suite of features such as engaging marketing content and assets.

Advisors can now search multiple voyage types with intuitive filters to find itineraries by city, port, month or date range; they can also select river and ocean staterooms with a new interactive feature.

The cruise line also revealed the new portal allows travel advisors to find and book qualifying sailings with a new offer code search feature, as well as sorting bookings by upcoming payment deadlines through its new booking dashboard.

VOTE FOR THE O.G.

GLOBUS FOR MOST
OUTSTANDING
TOUR OPERATOR
(CATEGORY 22)





SQ refreshes lounge

SINGAPORE Airlines has unveiled the results of a six-month-long refurbishment of its SilverKris Lounge at London Heathrow Airport Terminal 2.

Now offering customers 16% more seating space, the refreshed lounge has room for up to 242 customers, with private productivity pods, stylish wingback chairs, and spacious long table seats.

There is an exclusive First Class Lounge, where customers can choose from a la carte and made-to-order dishes from the newly designed menu, alongside a buffet service, as well as a separate Business Class Lounge, which now features a revamped cocktail bar as its centrepiece.

Travellers are also able to refresh using the showers in the overhauled washrooms.

Additionally, the lounge offers a multitude of charging points for electronic devices, 75-inch wide-screen TV screens streaming live TV, and complimentary wi-fi.

Webjet resignation

WEBJET'S Company Secretary, Meaghan Simpson, has resigned effective immediately, after just over a year in the role.

The announcement, which was posted to the ASX on Fri, confirmed that Tony Ristevski, Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary, and Ella Zhao, General Counsel and Company Secretary, will continue to carry out secretary duties.

New vision for tour guides



TOUR Guides Australia (TGA) has laid out a new roadmap for supporting tour guides and the visitor economy after reviewing its three-year strategic vision.

Hosted by Cairns Adventure Group, the TGA Management Committee gathered on 01 and 02 Aug for a strategic planning workshop, where they identified key priorities for providing professional development and benefits to TGA members.

The association's President, Greg Esnouf, said, "Tour Guides Australia reaffirmed its focus on assisting new guides entering the sector by delivering the Tour Guiding Fundamentals micro-credential course and the Tour Guides Australia Professional Guide Accreditation program".

Members of the TGA Executive also met with the Queensland Minister for Tourism and Sport, Michael Healy MP (pictured

centre), to provide an update on the planned roll-out of eight Tour Guiding Fundamentals courses across the Sunshine State.

The educational initiatives are set to take place over the next two months at various locations, from Mossman to Brisbane, through the Queensland Tourism Business Capability Subsidy Program.

They also discussed ideas with the Minister on how Tour Guides Australia can continue to encourage to boost tour guide capability in Queensland.

Additionally, the TGA team met with Tourism and Events Queensland, Tourism Tropical North Queensland, Savannah Guides, Cairns Adventure Group, and Shorex Australia to explore potential partnerships and strategies to support further tour guiding in Queensland.

More information on the TGA can be found [HERE](#). JM

Data supports Sims

DATA commissioned by the Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) supports former ACCC Commissioner Rod Sims' comments that slot reform is crucial in order to ensure the survival of smaller carriers like Rex (**TD** 02 Aug).

Sims pointed out that the slot management system at Sydney Airport is set up to favour Qantas and Virgin, with Rex and failed budget carrier Bonza both unable to secure peak slots at the hub.

Pointing to a report into slot hoarding and profit-driven flight cancellations released by ATIA earlier this year (**TD** 24 Jan), Chief Executive Dean Long said, "Rod Sims is right...and he's not alone.

"Other experts including former Productivity Commission Chairman Peter Harris [have] also highlighted that all the evidence from around the world is that when you have routes with this amount of traffic on them, you can sustain three players in the aviation market," Long added.

This is a new Kingston

THE City of Kingston, located 15km south of Melbourne's CBD, is inviting visitors to "discover the unexpected" through its new campaign, 'This is Kingston'.

The marketing push highlights the city's diverse attractions, from its beaches to its cultural scenes, positioning it as the ideal nearby getaway for Melbourne residents.

Watch the new campaign launch video [HERE](#).

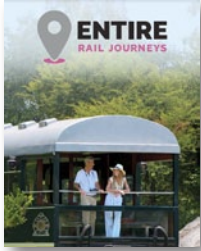


Click here to get
your tickets for
Travel24 now!



BROCHURES

Send your special deals to:
brochures@traveldaily.com.au



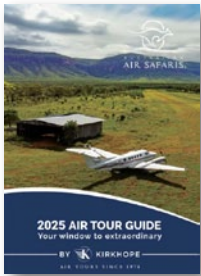
Entire Travel Group - Entire Rail Journeys

The debut Entire Rail Journeys brochure is an agent's comprehensive guide to the world's most luxurious train experiences. Across 80 pages are details and stunning images showcasing more than 65 itineraries ranging from one to 16 nights, with profiles including maps, highlights, prices and inclusions including dining and cabin options. Tour codes located next to each itinerary can be used by agents to access departure dates and extra info.



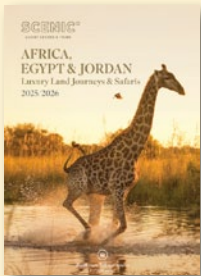
Wendy Wu Tours - China 2025/26

China is once again open for business and agents can learn all about the heartland for Wendy Wu Tours via this new guide. It is packed with information on more than 30 tours, of which four are brand new. Travellers can learn more about all-inclusive tours of China, along with Hong Kong, Mongolia, Taiwan, South Korea and Tibet. Filled with glossy imagery, the guide features exclusive offers on combination itineraries featuring cruise, private departures and specialised solo traveller tours.



Australian Air Safaris - 2025 Air Tour Guide

Two brand-new tours will take to the sky in 2025 with Australian Air Safaris, allowing travellers to land in some of Australia's most remote locales. The new 'Coast to Cradle' tour is a seven-day adventure to Strahan, Cradle Mountain, Hobart and Bruny Island. Also new is the 'Heritage and Harvest Meander' taking guests to Mudgee, Orange and Parkes in western NSW. By popular demand, the company has also extended its 'Vistas of South Australia' by an extra day to take in Coober Pedy.



Scenic - 2025/26 Africa, Egypt and Jordan

Travellers can design their ultimate safari and experience of Africa and the Middle East with Scenic's new guide. New Scenic FreeChoice excursions include a thrilling night-time outing in Kenya to see leopards and lions on their evening hunt. In Cape Town, a walk along the cobbled streets of Bo Kaap is available, while in Egypt, travellers can visit the Valley of the Kings to learn more about the life of famous British archeologist

Howard Carter, who discovered Tutankhamun's tomb back in 1922.

Barcelona rebrands

BARCELONA'S destination marketing organisation has dropped its 'Visit' slogan amid ongoing over-tourism protests.

The DMO has rebranded to 'This is Barcelona' from its prior brand, 'Visit Barcelona'.

"The context has changed and the 'Visit' has reached its ceiling and it was time to change it," Turisme de Barcelona General Director Mateu Hernandez told local media.

"Turisme de Barcelona makes an affirmation of the importance of our identity as a city and that is why we have gone from 'Visit' to 'This is Barcelona'."

A new campaign will launch later this month to coincide with the America's Cup, which will take place in the city in Oct.

Moxy China opens

MOXY Hotels is channelling its playful spirit and vibrant communal spaces in Southwestern China with the opening of Moxy Chongqing.

The new industrial-chic opening is ideally situated within 100-metre walking distance to the War Victory Monument, and provides convenient access to public transportation, with three metro stations within walking distance of the property.

Guests are also easily connected to iconic tourist attractions, including Bayi Food Street and Hongya Cave.

The 360-room Moxy Chongqing is around 18.5 kilometres away from Chongqing Jiangbei International, providing easy access for guests.

There is also a 'Moxy Bar' located on the hotel's 29th floor.



Window Seat

A CAT on board a recent short-haul flight in Europe enjoyed a bit of a high - and we're not just talking altitude.

The feline was travelling with her human companion, Valeria Dreyer, who was tasked with bringing her parents' cats over on a flight during their move from Spain to Germany.

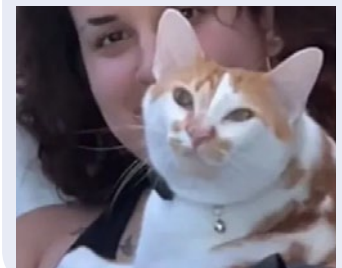
Understanding that pets can get stressed out on planes, Dreyer consulted a vet before the trip, who prescribed medicine to help with anxiety.

"On the way to the airport they were both really restless and meowing," Dreyer told *Newsweek*, adding "when we got to the plane and were seated, the drugs hit".

One of the kitties, Alisa, was captured on video enjoying the calming effects of the drug.

The amusing clip, which has attracted 1.8 million views on TikTok, shows Dreyer holding the ginger-and-white cat in her arms on the plane.

Rather than looking nervous, Alisa almost has a smile on her face as she watches people walk past; she is also seen rubbing against the chair, twitching her head, and then snuggling into Dreyer's face.



> Become a Northern Territory expert

> Win a trip to the NT*



Join our live webinar to learn more about the NT and the guided group adventure tours on offer in the Territory.

Tuesday 6 August

11.00am (AEST) | 10.30am (ACST) | 1.00pm (NZST)

Wednesday 7 August

1.00pm (AEST) | 12.30pm (ACST) | 3.00pm (NZST)

Register now

Different in every sense



* For registration and eligibility, visit trade.northernterritory.com



ECO-INCREDIBLE MEETINGS

We are delighted to present Eco-Incredible, our sustainable meeting package at InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa. Thoughtfully designed to reduce single-use waste and minimize food waste, this package ensures that every event we host contributes to the preservation of our most precious resource: the environment.

Our Eco-Incredible DDP is inclusive of:

- FJ\$10pp off our standard full day and half day Daily Delegate Package
- Selection of herbal arrival teas and freshly brewed coffee, only served in porcelain cups and saucers (no takeaway cups)
- Morning and afternoon tea breaks, with no re-fills. A complimentary fruit bowl will be provided
- Mouth-watering lunch buffet, with as much locally grown and locally sourced produce as possible
- A FJ\$5pp donation to our Community Care Fund, that invests in projects to support our community
- Electronic flipcharts
- Re-usable wooden coasters
- No single use plastic bottles of water will be available. Water will be served in dispensers, jugs and glasses
- No notepads, pens or mints will be provided
- Food and beverage labels on re-usable chalk boards
- All excess decorative items will be donated to a local school

Terms & Conditions Apply:

- Morning & afternoon tea breaks will be catered to the number of attendees. No refills will provided
- More information about the Community Care Fund can be found at: www.fiji.intercontinental.com/community-care

To learn more, contact one of our Group Sales Executives and quote **ECO-INCREDIBLE**.

E: meetings.fiji@ihg.com

P: +679 673 3300 or +679 910 3750



INTERCONTINENTAL.
FIJI GOLF RESORT & SPA