

Today's issue of TD

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

- G'day Discovery Resorts
- InterContinental Fiji

Discover more

EXPLORE more, with 30% off stays at Discovery Parks.

Travel dates across 2024 and 2025 are available, with G'day Group encouraging travel advisors to book now through a preferred wholesaler - see **page six**.

IHG Eco-Incredible

INTERCONTINENTAL Fiji Golf Resort & Spa is presenting its Eco-Incredible Meetings package, which is designed to reduce single-use waste and minimise food waste.

Head to **page seven** for more information on the deal, which includes a discount on the property's Daily Delegate Package.

New luxury hotel for WA

FORMER Tourism WA chief Carolyn Turnbull is spearheading a new 358-room luxury hotel in Perth, which will open its doors to the public within 12 months.

In her new role as CEO of property developer Victor Goh's hotels and hospitality division (**TD 22 May**), Turnbull is overseeing an as-yet unnamed luxury hotel in the Elizabeth Quay precinct.

Speaking with *The West Australian* over the weekend, Turnbull said her job now is to bring the hotel to life over the next six months.

"The project is really leaning into WA's pursuit to diversify its economy," Turnbull said.

The former tourism head added that travellers are craving more luxury product in Perth after the state "changed the narrative" around how tourists view the city - especially through the Walking on a Dream campaign.

The idea for a major premium



hotel in Elizabeth Quay was flagged seven years ago when the Malaysia-based Victor Goh jointly purchased a prime site in the wider development with Perth developer Adrian Fini.

When it opens, the new hotel will join Ritz-Carlton Perth at Elizabeth Quay, which opened its doors in 2019 (**TD 15 Nov 2019**).

Victor Goh is also planning to build a 50-storey commercial skyscraper in Elizabeth Quay, with construction set to commence early next year.

Branding for the upcoming hotel is yet to be revealed. **AB**

Hilton chopper crash

TWO guests at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Cairns have been taken to hospital with smoke inhalation after a helicopter crashed on the roof early this morning (**TD breaking news**).

Guests and staff were evacuated as a precaution by emergency services attending the scene, with police also implementing an exclusion zone.

The pilot involved in the incident was killed in the crash, but the cause remains unknown.

Hilton has been contacted for comment regarding the short-term operations of the hotel, and whether current and future bookings will be impacted.



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Rex owes half a billion

REX Airlines has accrued debts of around \$500 million from close to 5,000 parties, Ernst & Young (EY) revealed at the first creditors' meeting for the beleaguered carrier on Fri.

Stakeholders left out of pocket include agents, airports, governments, the tax office, as well as around 185,000 pax.

EY stated it is continuing an investigation into how the airline managed to find itself weighed down with such a high debt, as well as confirm if the company was trading while insolvent.

Administrators told the meeting that contributing factors to the debt included accessing important aircraft parts and an ongoing pilot shortage.

The creditors update follows revelations Rex was approached about a possible takeover last Sep for \$160 million, only for the offer to be "rudely rejected" by the company's largest shareholder,



Lim Kim Hai.

Michael Jones told *The Australian* a consortium he led concluded the venture could work after settling on a \$160 million price tag, but that Lim laughed off the offer.

"He was basically rude, dismissive and not interested, and said, 'you're not serious, I would only accept \$300m as a minimum and I've got three other parties who are prepared to pay that,'" Jones claimed.

A second creditors meeting will be held later this month. *AB*

Disney fleet growth

DISNEY Cruise Line is continuing its recent trajectory of expansion, confirming it has ordered four more ships which will more than double its existing global fleet.

Unveiled at the Horizons Disney fan event over the weekend, the order will take the Disney Cruise Line fleet to 13 ships, which will be delivered from 2027 to 2031.

Germany's Meyer Werft shipyard has been engaged to construct the new vessels, of which designs, itineraries and names have not been revealed.

Disney Experiences Chairman, Josh D'Amato, said Disney Cruise Line consistently delivers something for everybody.

"Expanding our fleet gives more people, in more parts of the world, the opportunity to experience a vacation at sea like only Disney can provide," he said.

The line has three new ships to be launched in the next 18 months - *Disney Treasure*, *Disney Adventure* and *Disney Destiny*.

Qantas joins fund

QANTAS Airways is investing in a new nature-based carbon credit fund which will develop high-integrity projects in Australia.

The Silva Carbon Origination Fund, which has also attracted investment from Rio Tinto and BHP, aims to raise \$250 million to originate and manage high-integrity Australian Carbon Credit Units, generated through land reforestation projects and integrated agriculture.

The foundational investors have committed \$80 million, with the Flying Kangaroo financing the investment through its \$400 million Climate Fund.

High-integrity carbon offsets will join SAF in playing an ongoing and critical role in difficult-to-abate industries such as aviation.

Qantas' investment in the Silva Carbon Origination Fund will help to meet its compliance obligations and progress its climate targets through the carbon credits.



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FLYR capital boost

MODULAR travel technology disruptor FLYR is set to upscale and accelerate development of its AI-based open-standards platform, having secured a further \$295 million in investor capital.

The latest fundraising takes the total amount of capital raised to date to more than \$500 million.

The move will see Managing Partner of the WestCap venture capital and equity firm, Laurence Tosi, join the FLYR Board, bringing senior experience as a former CFO of Airbnb and Blackstone.

Major global venture capital firms including Blackrock and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority are among the latest funds to pour money into the operation.

FLYR is aiming to revolutionise the foundations of travel reservation systems and provide a new bedrock, which will allow travel businesses to manage data, interconnect systems and implement AI decision automation in the digital booking experience.

“As the world around us continues to advance, travel has remained in the past, reliant on an oligopoly of archaic technology vendors with misaligned incentives,” said FLYR Founder and CEO, Alex Mans.

“FLYR makes the future possible today - helping travel providers create the experience customers want, while operating with speed and efficiency.”

Mans said FLYR allows travel businesses to modernise, reduce costs and improve performance.

I heard it through the Grapevine



CANUCKIWI and Grapevine, Texas recently wrapped up their visit to Australian shores with a series of trade events across Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

The unique appeal of Grapevine, Texas was showcased to attendees at the Sydney event, highlighting the historical and epicurean delights that are to be found in this city, forming part of the ‘metroplex’ with Dallas and Fort Worth.

With DFW International Airport residing within this city’s boundaries, and now with even more air service from Australia with Fiji Airways recently launching flights, Grapevine offers an airport to hotel door arrival within an hour in most instances.

The vintage appeal of the Main Street District, with its boutique stores and wine tasting rooms, offers a different look at Texas, with an Urban Wine Trail that is

sure to not disappoint.

With plenty of festivals and events throughout the year, Grapevine surely opens up more opportunities for Australian travellers to experience the Lone Star State.

For more information, please visit grapevinetexasusa.com. *SH Pictured:* Heather Egan, Director of Leisure and International Sales, and local identity Paul (PW) McCallum, provided insights into the region and what the city offers Australians.

A win for UK agents

A BRITISH court has ruled in favour of a travel advisor over a chargeback, after contesting the automatic refund of a payment.

A court found a Southall Travel customer, who raised a chargeback against it, had never paid the agency for the flights, having instead booked direct.

Quake rocks Japan

THE Federal Government has warned Aussie travellers there may be aftershocks in Japan following a 7.1 earthquake on Thu last week.

Experts have also warned of a potential ‘megaquake’ occurring.

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Travel Daily
A conversation with Kylie Kay

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Win prizes from LA

TIME is running out for agents to brush up on their knowledge of the Los Angeles dining scene and be in with a chance to win a \$50 gift card and a prize pack from Los Angeles Tourism.

To enter, **CLICK HERE** and watch a webinar on the LA culinary scene and answer the question 'How many Michelin-starred restaurants does LA boast?'

Email your answer by 15 Aug to oceania@latourism.org to be in with a chance to win.

Room nights soften

EXPEDIA Group has reported its fastest growth rate in room nights booked since Q1 of 2023, with its flagship Expedia brand posting a growth rate of 20% for Q2 2024.

Group-wide gross booking value soared to US\$28.8 billion for the quarter, up 6% year-on-year, with accommodation bookings making up \$20.7 billion of this.

Total revenue came in at US\$3.6 billion, also up 6%, while B2B revenue performed strongly, posting a 22% growth rate.

The company reported 98.9 million room nights booked for the quarter, down from the 101.2 million from the year's first quarter, while air tickets grew from 14.2 million to 14.5 million.

Despite the strong results, Expedia Group CEO Ariane Gorin said the company was adjusting its expectations for the rest of the year due to a softening in travel demand and "a more challenging macro environment" seen in Jul.

Princess speeds up surfing

PRINCESS Cruises will roll out its highest quality onboard wi-fi speed and reliability from 31 Aug exclusively to guests purchasing its optional upgrade packages.

The new MedallionNet Max service will be available to guests purchasing the Princess Plus and Princess Premier packages, which will unlock priority access to the highest performing service tiers.

To minimise confusion, all guests will continue to use the existing 'Guest' network onboard, with the appropriate service speed assigned based on the purchased package and displayed in the Princess app.

Guests opting not to purchase Princess Plus or Premier will still be able to access onboard wi-fi via the existing MedallionNet Classic a la carte pricing of US\$24.99 per day for one device or \$44.99 for multiple devices.

Princess Cruises President, John Padgett, assured that Princess



guests will continue to enjoy the highest performing connectivity, which will be available at industry-leading value.

The line has moved aggressively to ensure guests have access to high-performance wi-fi, installing access points in every stateroom and adopting leading bandwidth sources including LEO (Starlink), MEO, GEO and 5G terrestrial. *ML*

Airpoints update

AIR New Zealand's Airpoints loyalty program has launched several changes, including a revamped dashboard and increased flexibility.

Tier rewards are becoming simpler, making it easier to track membership status and understand when benefits are up for renewal.

Members can also now share their Airpoints with more people, with 'Shairpoints' accounts now able to have up to 10 members from different households, up from a maximum of four.

The new dashboard will have a "more modern look and feel", *The New Zealand Herald* revealed.

Fiji adventure event

INTERCONTINENTAL Fiji Golf Resort & Spa will host the AdventureNEXT Fiji conference, taking place from 20-22 Nov.

This event, organised in collaboration with Tourism Fiji and the Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATTA), marks a significant milestone in positioning Fiji as a premier destination for adventure travel.

The event helps put emerging destinations on the map.



Window Seat

LUXURY Escapes was the eighth top source market for Bali in the month of Jun, according to a LinkedIn post from the travel brand.

Luxury Escapes' Country Manager - Indonesia, Aaron Corbett, shared an image ranking the top 10 market position for tourist arrivals to the popular destination.

The listing shows Luxury Escapes delivered 20,265 travellers to Bali in Jun, representing 3.6% of the country's total source market, putting the travel provider above France and Malaysia.

"A huge thank you to our dedicated team, partners, and valued customers," Corbett shared on his LinkedIn, predicting that the strong numbers will continue to rise over the coming months.

"Your support drives us to continuously innovate and elevate the luxury travel experience in one of the world's premier tourist destinations," he added.

No.	Country	Passenger
1	Australia	114,706
2	India	61,076
3	China	35,514
4	United States of America	25,616
5	Singapore	25,475
6	United Kingdom	23,907
7	Korea	22,363
8	Luxury Escapes	20,265
9	France	19,439
10	Malaysia	18,621



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THIS week's Brochures of the Week is brought to you by DriveAway.



DriveAway - USA Road Trip Planner
Planning a road trip in the USA has just become easier, thanks to DriveAway's new guide. Filled with expert tips and personalised suggestions, DriveAway's USA Road Trip Planner highlights the myriad of possibilities when it comes to exploring America by car or caravan, from its iconic landmarks and bustling cities, to historic sites and breathtaking national parks. The 27-page online brochure features plenty of exciting self-drive itineraries, including the ultimate Route 66 road trip; a California coastal cruise; a journey through the south from Texas to Orlando; and an adventure from Honolulu to Haleiwa.



Hurtigruten Expeditions - Antarctica 2025-26
Hurtigruten Expeditions has launched its 2025-2026 brochures, including Antarctica, the Arctic, and the Galapagos Islands. Agents and clients can explore all-inclusive itineraries hand-picked by experts. Whether it's spotting polar bears in the pristine landscapes of Svalbard, watching marine iguanas bask on the Galapagos Islands, or getting up close to Antarctica's penguins, there's a voyage for everyone. The brochures are available online or via mail at no extra cost.



Explore Worldwide - The Explorer 5th Edition
Explore Worldwide has published the latest edition of its magazine, *The Explorer*, which is available digitally on the company's website. The magazine is jam-packed with destination spotlights and inspiration for your client's next holiday. The fifth edition of *The Explorer* features compelling travel stories including Sarah Bravo's take on her recent solo trip to Sri Lanka and a feature from Sydney-based writer Winnie Stubbs on her love for cycling holidays.

Spidey coming to HK Disneyland



TRAVELLERS will have yet another reason to visit Hong Kong Disneyland Resort, which will soon be home to an extended Marvel-themed area with a new Spider-Man attraction.

The announcement was made by the Chairman of Disney Experiences, Josh D'Amaro, at D23: The Ultimate Disney Fan Event, California over the weekend.

D'Amaro unveiled concept art of the attraction (**pictured**), which appears to be a new variation of the popular 'Tower of Terror'-type attractions found at Disney Parks around the globe.

The ride will see guests caught in the middle of the action as new Stark Industries intern, Peter Parker (AKA Spider-Man), protects his new tech inventions from the attention of formidable villains.

The project will mark the third major addition to the Marvel-themed area in Tomorrowland, with all-new entertainment, shopping and dining offerings to also be introduced.

The expansion follows the huge popularity of the park's existing

Marvel-themed experiences, including 'Iron Man Experience' and 'Ant-Man and The Wasp: Nano Battle', which are only available only at Hong Kong Disneyland.

The project is currently in active development, however no specific date or opening time frame has been provided yet.

MEANWHILE, an all-new Spider-Man-themed thrill coaster is coming to Shanghai Disneyland, while at Disney California Adventure, the Avengers Campus will double in size with the addition of two brand-new attractions. *JM*

Brazil crash kills 62

A PASSENGER plane carrying 62 people crashed in Brazil over the weekend, resulting in the death of everyone on board the ATR 72-500 turboprop aircraft.

The VoePass Linhas Aereas flight was on its way to Sao Paulo's international airport Guarulhos from Cascavel, Parana, when it entered into a "graveyard spin" - at this stage believed to be due to a build-up of ice on the wings.

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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

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- 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**.

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