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**What is *Magic Ahoy!* all about?** This virtual cruise gives you the opportunity to explore Disney Cruise Line at your leisure. You can dip in, have a break, come back later, or complete all the training in one go – it is completely up to you. You'll learn all about our infamous Rotational Dining, onboard entertainment, Disney's Private Island, and more! This training covers all five ships in our fleet, including *Disney Wonder*, the ship sailing from Australia and New Zealand.

There are 3 Levels to complete – once you have reached Level 3, you'll be entered into the draw to win a Stateroom for you and a Guest onboard a Disney Cruise Line sailing from Sydney!

The competition runs between 26 August and 18 November 2024, with spot prizes to be won throughout the incentive, and an **exclusive *Magic Ahoy!* pin\*** once you collect all the Mickey Stamps.

Don't delay and **download *Magic Ahoy!* from the app store today!** *Magic Ahoy!* has launched, and with this mega prize up for grabs, you won't want to miss out!

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# MAGIC AHOY!



## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features five pages of news including our **Corporate Update**, a cover from **Disney Cruise Line**, plus full pages from:

- G'Day Group
- Intercontinental Fiji

## Voyages asset sale

**THE** Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) has begun a sale process for Voyages-operated Ayers Rock Resort at Yulara and Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre.

ILSC enlisted law firm Gilbert + Tobin and Greenhill to assess a possible sale of the Ayers Rock Resort in Feb (**TD** 19 Feb), but the latest sales process has expanded to include the Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre near Port Douglas in Far North Queensland.

Despite the news, Voyages CEO Matt Cameron-Smith told **TD** it is "business as usual" at both sites, adding it is preparing for its busiest time of the year.

## Sabre and TK part ways

**TALKS** have broken down between Sabre and Turkish Airlines regarding a new travel agency distribution agreement, with both parties to end the relationship from 01 Sep.

In an update from Sabre obtained by **TD**, the tech company said that despite its efforts to reach a new agreement for TK's traditional EDIFACT and NDC content distribution, the parties were not able to agree on "mutually viable terms".

"We are disappointed that TK is not equally committed to achieving an agreement, and we regret the challenges that this will

create for travellers and travel agencies," Sabre noted.

Sabre added it was key a new deal with TK maintains the Sabre GDS channel as a content source, as expressed by its customers.

While the relationship will end in Sep, Sabre said it will continue to offer TK the opportunity to negotiate a deal that considers the needs of all parties. **AB**

## Greener conferences

**ENJOY** stylish & sustainable business events at InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa, with 'Eco-Incredible' meeting packages which are designed to minimise waste - see **page seven**.

## Dream of WA deals

**BKB** Holidays and Tourism Western Australia are teaming up for a webinar on 05 Sep at 10am AEST to showcase deals and special offers for 2025 for WA.

The 30-minute session will explore destinations including Broome (Rubibi), the Kimberley, Coral Coast, and Perth (Boorloo).

By attending the session, agents will go into the draw to win a \$2,500 WA travel voucher.

**CLICK HERE** to register.

## Win a Disney cruise

**GO IN** to the draw to win a stateroom for you and a guest onboard a Disney ship sailing from Sydney.

The competition runs between 26 Aug and 18 Nov, so download the Magic Ahoy app for a chance to win - see the **cover page**.

## Inspiring agents

**INSPIRING** Vacations has confirmed it will host its next trade events in Brisbane and Adelaide during Sep.

The exclusive travel advisor sessions will include live entertainment, free drinks and canapes, and lucky door prizes.

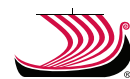
Insights to be shared with sellers will incorporate emerging trends about destinations and customer behaviour.

The Brisbane event will be held on 05 Sep at voco Brisbane City Centre (register **HERE**) and at The Playford Adelaide - MGallery on 12 Sep (register **HERE**).

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## Cruise ship numbers down

THE number of cruise ships in local waters over the 2024-25 summer season will be fewer than the previous period, dropping from 70 vessels to 62.

Decreases in the total number of ships to visit Aussie shores follows a decision by Virgin

Voyages in Feb to pull out of the local market (TD 27 Feb), and while it won't impact 2024-25 figures, a move by Cunard to pull the pin on Australia from 2025-26 onwards will also apply pressure to next year's key cruise figures (TD 03 Nov 2023).

While the drop in ship numbers presents a challenge to the market, speaking at Cruise360 in Sydney this morning, Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Managing Director in Australasia, Joel Katz, said the wider data set showed the cruise sector is still in great shape.

"The number of ships is slightly down...but many are staying longer and making more port calls," Katz noted.

"The total number of visits will be up 3% to 1,904 port calls, which creates enormous tourism opportunities for local communities."

New ships scheduled to visit this summer season include Silversea's *Silver Nova*, Norwegian Cruise Line's *Norwegian Sun*, Cunard's *Queen Anne*, and Ponant's *Paspaley Pearl*, which will make their maiden visits in Nov, Dec, Feb, & Jan respectively.

### 30% off G'day stays

G'DAY Group's Discovery Resorts is offering 30% off stays for trips between 2024 and 2025.

Explore the Red Centre, visit Rottneest Island or enjoy Kings Canyon in the NT - see p6.



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## HLO drives Singapore interest



HELLOWORLD and the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) will develop new budget packages that combine flights, accommodation and experiences under a new Memorandum of Understanding signed this week.

The agreement will go live from 01 Apr 2025, and see both parties work on new ways to ensure Aussies see The Lion City as far more than a stopover destination.

Part of the deal will also see STB support Helloworld agents with upskilling, including access to up-to-date stats, internal training

and famil trips.

Additionally, trade and consumer surveys will be carried out to better understand the needs of Australian travellers.

STB Oceania and Helloworld have previously run strategic stand-alone campaigns since 2015, including a dedicated Singapore stay-over campaign from Jan to Feb this year, which saw a 28% increase in room bookings on the previous year.

**Pictured:** STB CEO Melissa Ow shakes hands with Helloworld chief Andrew Burnes. AB

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## Window Seat

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD boy accidentally smashed a 3,500-year-old Bronze Age jar while visiting the Hecht Museum in Haifa, Israel with his parents last week.

Speaking to the BBC, the child's father said his son had "pulled the jar slightly" because he was "curious about what was inside".

The father said he was shocked to see his son had broken the artefact, and that he was sorry the jar "will no longer be the same item".

The museum's head Inbal Rivlin told Israeli news outlet, *Ynet*, that "the museum is not a mausoleum but a living place, open to families (and) accessible", and even invited the boy and his mother back for a private tour.

"We are appealing to parents: Don't be afraid.

"Things like this happen; we will fix (the jar) and put it back," she said.

Despite the incident, the museum said in a statement that it would continue to display items out in the open.

"The museum believes there is a special charm in experiencing an archaeological find without any obstructions."

It will, however, add new signs indicating which items can, or cannot, be touched.

## MEL improves accessibility

**DURING** this week's Accessible and Inclusive Tourism Conference in Melbourne, Head of Traveller Experience, Wendi Pearce (pictured), discussed how accessibility will be enhanced at Melbourne Airport.

The process began pre-COVID and involved discussions with 150 stakeholders across various departments and airlines.

"I'm sure you've all got a horror story from Melbourne Airport, but I do want to assure you that we're on it with you," Pearce said.

"When the airport was first built, the person was the problem and you can see it in everything we did...today, we actually say that as a business, Melbourne Airport is the problem - our buildings are badly designed and there's a lack of education right across the precinct."

Launching on 09 Sep as a four-week pilot program and serviced by Travellers Aid, a mobility hub will be located within each of the four terminals, transporting guests on buggies upon arrival through check-in, baggage reclaim and beyond.

From 01 Nov, the hub experience will also be taken online, with travellers able to access videos explaining what will take place at different parts of the experience, from security and border force through to customs.

A virtual reality experience during international arrivals and departures will also be created. Other areas of improvement

at MEL include team training programs that were co-designed by people with disabilities, and accessible digital wayfinding, created with other airports around Australia, for a seamless travel experience.

In addition, all retailers will include accessible features such as low counters and specific lighting and music levels.

MEL is also part of the Hidden Disability Program, which provides support for people who require extra assistance. *JHM*

## JQ nears ADL-PPP

**JETSTAR** will launch its first flight from Adelaide to the Whitsundays this Sun.

The first ever direct service between Adelaide and Whitsunday Coast Airport in Proserpine will operate three days a week, creating 58,000 seats per year between South Australia and the Qld tourist hub.

## THANK YOU!

The Albatross team is so grateful for your support in voting us as a finalist at this year's NTIA awards.

Our passion is to provide excellent service to our partners and travellers. Sincere thanks.

*Shelley & the Albatross team*



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## CORPORATE UPDATE

### Stopping risky business

IN A bid to set new benchmarks for managing corporate travel risks, the UK's Business Travel Association (BTA) has formed a partnership with the Travel Risk & Incident Prevention (TRIP) Group.

Marking the BTA's first partner in the risk management sector, TRIP is a membership organisation that offers training courses, educational events and consultancy on travel risk management.

"The alliance will allow members of both organisations to prepare effectively for the risks associated with business travel and their associated supply chains," BTA commented.

The two entities will collaborate on joint ventures, including hosting events and industry meetings which are focused on risk awareness.

"Ensuring the safety and security of business travellers is paramount," said BTA Chief Executive Officer Clive Wratten.

"This partnership represents a significant step forward in providing our members with the resources needed to navigate risks effectively."

TRIP Group's Chief Executive Officer, Lloyd Figgins, added, "this alliance is an opportunity to help improve travel safety and security and protect business travellers".

"We are excited to work together with the BTA to strengthen the safety of our collective community, and to prepare the industry for current

and future challenges on both a local and global scale."

The duo will soon announce upcoming events and initiatives focused on enhancing risk awareness and travel safety. *JM*

### FCTG corp profits

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) Corporate Traveller brand delivered a record profit in the company's full-year financial results released this week, with Total Transaction Value (TTV) climbing 10% to \$12.1 billion.


The strong growth came despite what FCTG described as a "flat trading climate" in the second half of the year and projections of minimal growth in airfare sales.

Corporate Traveller still grew 35% compared to 2019 despite the market still lagging in its recovery at around 80% of where it was prior to the pandemic.

The brand secured a number of accounts with estimated annual travel spends of \$2 billion in FY24, with particular success seen in the US since a new structure focusing on New York, Chicago and Los Angeles was introduced.

Transaction volumes increased 11% among corporate accounts, with income per transaction growing 3% and costs down 2%.



Like the wider FCTG group, which posted a record \$23.74 billion in TTV even with only 65% of its 2019 head count, the company's corporate brands did so with a 5% smaller staff count.



## Stay Updated

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### Red army marches in Sydney



FLIGHT Centre's red army marched into Sydney this week, where they hosted a successful showcase event, attended by various tourism bodies and more than 100 suppliers across air, land, cruise and tour categories.

Visitors heard first-hand from travel experts during panel discussions where they discussed the day-to-day workings of teams in shops.

Guests also had the chance to hear from FCTG's Global Managing Director Andrew Stark about the organisation's vision for the brand and plans for the business' future.

"We want our partners to know they are very much part of our brand's key strategies," he said.

"We can't achieve our goals without their support and input, so it really is a collaborative approach to success." *JHM*

### Viking grows China

VIKING has expanded its Asia offering with six new itineraries in 2025, ranging from 15-22 days.

The voyages will explore destinations in China, including Shanghai, Beijing, Xi'an and Lhasa in Tibet (Xizang), as well as Osaka, Japan, scheduled between Sep-Nov next year.

The itineraries will highlight rarely-seen destinations and ports in China to which only Viking has access, with each voyage offering destination-focused experiences, insightful lectures and regionally inspired cuisine.

Among the new offerings are the 15-day 'Jewels of Japan & China' from Beijing to Tokyo, and the 20-day 'Classic China Discovery' from Hong Kong to Beijing.

Viking is also offering a variety of pre- and post-land extensions for its 2025 China itineraries.



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## SPECIALS

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**Trafalgar** is inviting travellers to unlock the best of Europe in 2025 with 10% off select trips. The savings can be applied to itineraries in hotspots like France, Italy, Great Britain, and Spain, as well as underrated favourites like Albania, Turkiye, Denmark, and Romania. Save up to \$1,072 on the 20-day 'Britain and Ireland Grandeur' tour, for example - see the full selection [HERE](#).

Travellers who sign up to **Scoot's** KrisFlyer frequent flyer program before 04 Sep will receive 800 bonus miles upon activating their account. The offer is limited to the first 3,000 new sign-ups only. Members can earn 1 mile for every SG\$1 spent when they book their next adventure with Scoot, then pay for their next flight with their accumulated miles. Sign up for KrisFlyer [HERE](#).

**The Lane Retreat, Bimbadgen** has just released a Spring Escape package priced from \$330 per night when staying a minimum of two-nights in a premium studio retreat. Located in the NSW Hunter Valley among 15 hectares of secluded vineyard and natural bushlands, the property is also offering a bottle of sparkling rose on arrival, breakfast provisions for two people, a wood-fired pizza at Bimbadgen Pizzeria for two (lunch or dinner), two tickets to Hunter Valley Gardens, and a complimentary wine tasting at Alter Wines for two people. The package is valid for stays from 01 Sep-30 Nov - find out more [HERE](#).

Travellers looking to book their next cruise can take advantage of up to 20% off select 2024 and 2025 itineraries with **Aurora Expeditions**, as well as an air credit. Adventure through the breathtaking landscapes of Antarctica and the Arctic on voyages like the 15-day 'Svalbard in Depth', which departs 04 Jul 2025 from Oslo, Norway. Book by 30 Sep [HERE](#).

**Virgin Australia** is offering up to 10% cashback on all flights via partner Shopback (details [HERE](#)), as well as releasing sale fares with savings of up to 35% off. One-way domestic fares start from \$45 between Sydney and Ballina, while return international fares start from \$415 between Melbourne and Queenstown. The sale ends 11.59pm AEST 01 Sep, unless sold out prior. More information is available [HERE](#).

Holidaymakers can save up to \$1,500 when they book **Abercrombie & Kent's** luxury small group journey, 'Splendours of Morocco', on select departures between Feb and Jun 2025. Over 12 days, guests will explore Morocco's diverse landscapes, vibrant cities, and ancient traditions, from Casablanca to Marrakech. The offer ends 28 Feb 2025 - more [HERE](#).

**IHG Hotels & Resorts** has launched a tropical resort offer available across Australia and East Asia Pacific. IHG One Rewards Members can receive up to 20% off when booking the Stay Longer & Save rate on stays of three nights or more at participating IHG resorts. The offer, ends 11 Sep - call 1800 468 357.

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## TIME for the biggest intake



**THE** Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) has welcomed its 58th Intake of mentees, marking the largest-ever number commencing in any one program.

The mentees were officially welcomed last week at an event hosted by Cover-More in the Zurich Tower North Sydney, which saw a large and diverse group of industry representatives get together for an evening of networking and celebration.

The event also featured an illuminating panel discussion on how to become a lifelong learner.

"The evening was filled with laughter and learning and networking, everything that TIME is about," said the program's founder, Penny Spencer. *JM*

**Pictured:** Panel facilitator Kelley Wachter with panellists Kurt Knackstedt, Alice Ager, Harry Sargant, and Thea Bainbridge.

## Da Nang sees Red

**THE** first Radisson Red hotel has opened in South East Asia Pacific, bringing 167 boldly designed rooms and suites to Da Nang on Vietnam's central coast.

Located just steps from My Khe Beach, travellers can enjoy unlimited free wi-fi, an outdoor pool, steam room, sauna, fitness centre, and more.

There is also a cafe, rooftop bar, and casual all-day restaurant.

## Norwegian backflip

**THE** window of time for non-zero emission cruise ships to sail the fjords of Norway has been extended by six years.

Norwegian authorities had originally planned to ban carbon emitting ships completely from 2026, but this week the government confirmed the policy would not be implemented until at least 2032.

However, smaller cruise ships will not be afforded the same time extension, with all tourist vessels under 10,000 gross tons still required by law to be emissions-free by 2026.

The green plan was original given approval in 2018.



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- 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](http://www.fiji.intercontinental.com/community-care)

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