



Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news, including a photo page from **Total Holiday Options** and our **Corporate Update** plus a full page from **Treasures of the South Pacific**.

Rex buyout claims

THE Federal Government is reportedly preparing to purchase debts in Rex held by PAG Asia Capital, a move designed to afford it more control over the future direction of the carrier.

Plans for a transfer of debts to government hands was confirmed by anonymous sources who spoke with the *AFR* yesterday.

Both PAG & Rex administrators EY have so far declined to comment on the claims.

The development follows an ASIC decision to pursue Rex in the NSW Supreme Court for alleged deceptive conduct, an accusation that includes two PAG directors.

JB taps new leadership

WELL-KNOWN tourism industry leaders Michael Issenberg, Giselle Collins and Andrew McEvoy have been appointed Non-Executive Directors at Journey Beyond.

Issenberg adds the Australian tour operator to a board portfolio that also includes TFE Hotels and Star Entertainment Group, and until last month was also the Chair of Tourism Australia.

The US-born Issenberg also held the role of Chairman and CEO of Accor Asia Pacific for 26 years.

Bringing history as the former Managing Director of Tourism Australia to JB is also McEvoy, who currently acts as the Chairman of Luxury Escapes and Camplify, and was this week appointed to the Board of Destination NSW (*TD* 11 Dec).

McEvoy is also a former Director at Voyages Ayers Rock Resort, a property Journey Beyond is understood to be one of two parties interested in acquiring (*TD*



13 Nov), speculation which has not been confirmed.

Meanwhile, Collins is a highly respected business leader with extensive experience in tourism.

She is currently the Chair of Hotel Property Investments and is a former executive of KPMG in Australia and NRMA, playing a lead role in the latter's investment in Travelodge Hotel Group which ended in 2021 (*TD* 28 Jul 2021).

McEvoy, Collins and Issenberg (**pictured** above from left) will now join Crestview Partners President Brian Cassidy and Partner Bradford Williams on the Journey Beyond Board, alongside Journey Beyond CEO and MD, Chris Tallent. *ML*

Soiree tickets on sale

AGENTS can now register for Entire Travel Group's expanded Travel Showcase & Soirees taking place in Feb, with those able to snare a ticket to enjoy one-on-one interactions with more than 50 international exhibitors.

Attendees will also have the chance to share in \$50,000 worth of prizes at the events, with the format in 2025 to be "shorter and punchier" based on feedback.

Melbourne will kick off the three-city tour on 11 Feb at the Sofitel, followed by the Harbour City on 12 Feb at The Fullerton Hotel Sydney, and finishing in Brisbane on 13 Feb at Rydges South Bank Brisbane.

While the format will be an hour shorter than previous years, Entire is presenting advisors with an expanded range of exhibitors, with the number up to 50 from 37 last year, with 30% of those coming from overseas.

Register and find out more details for the soirees **HERE**.

Cheers to the festive season,
let the Great Southern roll,

And what's a toast without
Bollinger? It's sparkle for
the soul!

We're bubbling with gratitude
that you're always near,

Wishing you a Merry
Christmas, and a Happy
New Year!

With kindness and gratitude,

JOURNEY BEYOND





Joel Victoria exits

HX HAS confirmed a review of its Marketing Director role in APAC is taking place following the departure of Joel Victoria.

The high-profile marketing exec rejoined Hurtigruten in 2022, after a two-year stint from 2019 to 2021.

More details in *Cruise Weekly*.

A festive end-of-year Link-up



LINK Travel Group recently held a series of festive networking events around the country, hosting members in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

Collectively, more than 40 travel industry professionals spent quality time together celebrating a successful year, while discussing plans for the future.

Link's General Manager Scott Darlow commented, "there is a real special feeling amongst this collective in all states right now".

"On the back of our amazing owners retreat last month, our members are still so keen to get together and share ideas and successes with each other.

"It's been an absolute pleasure flying around the country the past week to host them all and celebrate what has been an amazing year," Darlow said.

He also revealed that Link Travel Group is already planning more

get-together opportunities for members in 2025. *JM*

Pictured: Darlow and Penny Spencer, Link Director (both 3rd in), host the Adelaide members.

Qantas strike action

HUNDREDS of Qantas engineers have walked off the job today after pay negotiations between unions and the airline stalled, potentially impacting flights at Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.

In response, Qantas said it does not expect delays as it has a number of contingencies in place.

Christmas Treasures

TREASURES of the South Pacific is wishing everyone in the Australian travel sector a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday break - see **page eight** to view its very festive message.

Holiday departs

PHILIP Holliday will leave the Port Authority of NSW at the end of next week, wrapping up a 10-year tenure at the organisation.

"As CEO I have always done what I believe to be the right thing, for the right reasons, and the recognition I have received is truly humbling," Holliday said.

Our resolution for 2025

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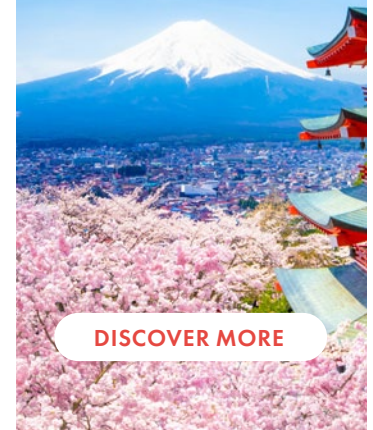
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ENTIRE TRAVEL GROUP

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Japan rises to number three market

THE resurgence of travel to Japan saw the country move into third position on Australia's outbound travel list in Oct, moving up from fifth in Sep. ABS figures for the month show 86,080 Aussies travelled to Japan, well ahead of the 60,000 who made the trip in Oct 2023.

Despite the gains, the top spot was retained by Indonesia, with Bali visitation fuelling a long-term dominance and seeing close to 170,000 Aussies arrive in Oct.

Indonesia was the leader in Oct last year as well, however travel volumes year-on-year have ballooned by 21% from 140,000.

New Zealand was the second most popular outbound market with 112,390, ahead of the United States (77,320), and the United Kingdom (75,2010).

A total of 1,184,900 short-term trips were recorded in Oct, an increase of 123,560 compared



with the corresponding month of the previous year.

MEANWHILE visitor arrivals continued to trend upwards in Oct as well, according to the latest ABS figures.

Oct was the second-highest performing month of the calendar year for arrivals, with just short of 1.94 million visitors coming through the turnstiles, inclusive of returning residents.

The result was an 11.3% increase compared to Oct 2023.

Short-term visitor numbers hit 677,410, up 11.4% from the same period last year, however, these figures remain 12.5% lower than pre-pandemic levels.

New Zealand continued to lead as the top source of visitors, accounting for 21% of arrivals, while NSW maintained its spot as the most popular state.

Departures also increased, with 1.66 million Australians travelling abroad, representing a 12.1% rise from the previous year.

Despite improvements, overall international travel activity has still not yet returned to pre-COVID levels, with analysts attributing the slower recovery to lingering effects of the pandemic and changes in behaviour. *AB/ML*

FCTG Academy's big year

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) Travel Academy provided more than 800 students with job pathways in the tourism industry in 2024, and is preparing for its biggest intake ever in 2025.

This year, the academy's aviation program generated the most enquiries, with more than 200 students graduating and securing jobs as cabin crew, airport support, aviation logistics and customer service professionals.

The training initiative has recently also started running personal development days both at its head office and online for teachers of tourism and business.

Travel Academy GM Cameron



Boyd said the record number of enrolments suggests a growing interest in travel as a career.

"We're uniquely positioned to not only educate our students, but because we are part of the industry, we can also provide them with very real jobs at the end of the program, both directly with FCTG and through our valued hotel, aviation and tourism partners." *JM*

Totes great roadshow

TOTAL Holiday Options will bring together land operators, destination management companies, tourism offices, and airlines from all around the globe during its upcoming roadshow touring four Aussie cities in 2025.

The travel wholesaler is seeking agents from all brands to attend, pledging a mix of prizes, food & drinks, as well as meetings with key partners from markets such as the Maldives, the Philippines, Taiwan, India, and Sri Lanka.

Advisors can attend Emporium Hotel South Bank in Brisbane on 03 Feb; Pullman Sydney Hyde Park on 04 Feb; Pan Pacific Melbourne on 05 Feb; and DoubleTree by Hilton Perth Waterfront on 07 Feb.

Email info@totalholidayoptions.com.au for more details and to register, with spots limited.

Juneyao arrives Tue

THE first-ever Juneyao Air flight will land at Sydney Airport on Tue 17 Dec, followed by its Melbourne debut later in the week (**TD** 26 Aug).

The three-times weekly service will connect Shanghai and Sydney, boosting Australia's seat capacity to China to 101% of pre-COVID levels.

The inaugural flight will be greeted with a welcome ceremony and water cannon salute, with Sydney Airport CEO Scott Charlton and Juneyao Air Chairman Mr Junjin Wang to speak, along with other industry leaders.

Collette is barking

COLLETTE has partnered with Barking Owl Communications, with the Sydney-based rep to drive the tour operator's PR program next year, including a news bureau and famil trips.

"We look forward to supporting Collette's ever-expanding range of new destinations with a focus on their guided Small Group Explorations, which has been a growth area for the company since launching in 2008," Barking Owl said.

Welcome aboard! 2024.12.12~12.18

China Airlines

65th Anniversary Sale

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SYDNEY - OSAKA	A\$ 1,200*
SYDNEY - LONDON	A\$ 1,659*

*Terms and Conditions Apply

Explora 2026 cruises

EXPLORA Journeys has announced its northern summer 2026 journey collection aboard *Explora I*, *Explora II*, and the upcoming *Explora III*.

The season will introduce new destinations across northern Europe, as well as Iceland, Greenland, and the United States.

It will also include *Explora III's* maiden voyage, sailing from Barcelona to Lisbon.

QF eyes ADL route

QANTAS is reportedly considering an Adelaide to Singapore route when it finally returns an overseas service to South Australia after 11 years.

According to *9News*, the carrier will introduce the Adelaide to Singapore route "soon", with Adelaide Airport CEO, Brenton Cox, adding a Qantas return was "not an if, but a when".

Qantas has been contacted for confirmation of the route.

Tourism pollution leads

GREENHOUSE gas emissions from the global tourism sector have been growing at double the rate of the global economy, a new study led by the University of Queensland has found.

The report showed that tourism's carbon footprint has increased from 3.7 to 5.2 gigatonnes between 2009 and 2019, representing an annual growth rate of 3.5%

Most net emissions were produced by the aviation industry, ahead of utilities and private vehicles used for travel.

While Australia's tourism sector was well behind the big polluters like the United States, China, and India, locally produced tourism carbon emissions still placed the country in the top 20.

The Aussie study also published several measures the global tourism industry should adopt in order to reduce its rate of growth, singling out air travel changes as



the most important lever to pull.

"Reducing long-haul flights is one of the recommendations we've put forward to help the industry lower its emissions, along with targeted measures such as carbon dioxide taxes, carbon budgets, and alternative fuel obligations," UQ Associate Professor Ya-Yen Sun said.

"Cutting back on marketing long-haul travel and identifying a national growth threshold would also help rein in the rapid expansion of emissions.

"At a local level, tourism operators could look to renewable electricity for accommodation, food and recreational activities and switch to electric vehicles." *AB*

Intrepid 55 new trips

INTREPID Travel has launched 55 new trips for next year, which will see the addition of six countries and more than 200 new experiences to its itineraries.

New destinations for Intrepid next year include Cape York; Intrepid's first land-based trip in Greenland; and new Asian locations such as Ladakh, India and Hokkaido, Japan.

The Maldives and the West African nations of Benin, Togo, Ghana, Senegal, and Gambia have also been introduced as new countries for the tour operator.

"With trips in 120 countries and counting, Intrepid may well have the greatest geographical breadth of any travel operator, and we're always on the look-out for new places to explore," General Manager of Experiences Erica Kritikides commented.

"We remain committed to ensuring our trips continue to support local economies [and] provide employment," she added.

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Maldives beckons Total Holiday Options

TOTAL Holiday Options recently organised an experience trip to the Maldives.

Global CEO Amaan Khan said everyone likes to visit the Maldives but lacks industry knowledge.

“People also think the Maldives is a very pricey destination, which is incorrect,” Khan said.

Prices can start from \$1,500 - \$2,000 per person twin share, and you can stay in five-star resorts for seven nights in an all-inclusive package with return seaplane/speedboat transfers.

As a destination management company and supplier, Total Holiday Options offers over 80 direct contracted resorts in Australia and NZ.

Over the seven-night Maldives experience trip, we stayed at and experienced Kagi Maldives Resort & Spa, Meeru Island Resort, Sun Syam Iruveli and Velassaru Maldives.

Whether you are planning a family holiday or an adults-only resort break, we offer a holiday for all - [CLICK HERE](#).



A SEAPLANE transfer was part of the experience and a great way to admire the Maldives from high above.



THE Total Holiday Options' Maldives team.

JACKY Bell and Jacque McLennan kick back with some colourful cocktails.



THE group enjoyed a hosted dinner at Kagi Maldives.

A SECOND hosted meal option saw the group indulge in a luxurious dinner in a casual environment.



THE group enjoyed a stay at Kagi Maldives Resort & Spa as part of their adventure.



ANITA Thomas, Total Holiday Options; Matthew Edwards, Total Holiday Options; Chad Anderson, Discova; Jacqueline Bell, NZ Travel Brokers; Karla Wilson, Discova Australia; Cindy Rosario, Discova; Jacque McLennan, First Travel Group; and David Nicholson, World Travellers.

DAVE Nicholson from World Travellers New Zealand with Anita Thomas, Total Holiday Options.



ANITA Thomas, Total Holiday Options with Chad Anderson, Discova UK.



THE group was welcomed and well looked after by the Total Holiday Options team in the Maldives.

CORPORATE UPDATE

Qatar reaches for the stars

STARLINK internet services are about to be switched on to bring a new level of in-flight connectivity for pax on Qatar Executive Gulfstream G650ER jets, the airline has announced.

The private jet division of Qatar Airways will tomorrow operate the first flight on a Starlink-equipped Gulfstream G650ER, offering speeds of up to 350 megabits per second.

Qatar Airways said the service will be available on five of its jets by May next year, with the entire fleet of 15 aircraft to be connected in the next 18 months.

Group CEO, Badr Mohammed Al-Meer, said Qatar Executive continues to redefine the future

of private aviation.

“The integration of Starlink technology represents our vision for seamless connectivity that meets the expectations of our global clientele,” Al-Meer said.

“This innovation further enhances our position as a leading provider in the ultra-long-range business jet branded charter market, ensuring that every journey with Qatar Executive is exceptional.”

Qatar Executive said it had its forthcoming aircraft model, the Gulfstream G700, on display at the Middle East and North Africa business aviation event in Dubai, which took place last week. *ML*

Biz goes regional

CORPORATE travellers are increasingly heading to regional parts of Australia to do business, with Mackay, Cairns, Townsville, and the Gold Coast emerging as key corporate hubs.

According to new data from Corporate Traveller, regional travel is the fastest growing segment in the business travel market, with a 13% jump for the Sep quarter.

Corporate Traveller Global Managing Director, Tom Walley, said demand for regional travel remains robust despite the failure of Bonza (**TD** 30 Apr) this year.

“It’s essential for the aviation industry to support this growth to ensure capacity keeps up with demand and airfares remain competitive,” Walley said.

Magnatech upgrade

TRAVEL management company Magnatech has announced a highly anticipated upgrade to its document delivery platform OnQueue Version 3.

The latest update is designed for TMCs and travel advisors to leverage upsell opportunities within secure document delivery.

Following the upgrade, agents can promote affiliate or white-label ancillary services such as insurance, visas, car hire and tours through clickable links as part of the dynamic documents, improving their ability to earn extra commission.

Agents can also personalise the document retrieval link page and change templates on re-sends.



Discover our River Cruise Special Report

Click here

Agents enjoy unique Italy



UNIQUE Tourism Collection, which represents Casa Angelina in ANZ, recently hosted an agent fam at the boutique property in Praiano on Italy’s Amalfi Coast.

The group spent three nights at Casa Angelina, which included a tour of the coast on a luxury boat.

Pictured: Annarita Aprea, Casa Angelina; Samantha Sly, Travel Avenue; Karen Hitchings, UTC; Brooke Anderson, Executive Travel Management; and Sonia Mahony, Inflight Travel Toorak. *AB*

VA biz class to Doha

VIRGIN Australia has confirmed business class fares are now officially on sale via the carrier’s website for its new international codeshare flights to Doha with Qatar Airways.

Perth to Paris business class return flights cost \$7,679pp, while Sydney to London return is priced at \$9,351pp, and Brisbane to Rome is \$9,409pp.

Jetstar boosts AKL

GOVERNMENT dignitaries and Sunshine Coast officials were on hand to welcome the first Jetstar service to land from Auckland as part of its new year-round route.

Passengers disembarking were met by a welcoming party of surf lifesavers and enthusiastic locals.

The low-cost Qantas offshoot will connect Maroochydore with Auckland three times per week, offering more than 58,000 seats between Australia and NZ.

MEANWHILE, Jetstar will debut another new route as the first flight between Brisbane and Bangkok in more than five years takes off this afternoon.

Flying three times weekly on Jetstar’s fleet of Boeing 787 Dreamliners, the service is tipped to carry more than 100,000 travellers each year.

The airline will be the only carrier directly connecting the Queensland and Thai capitals.

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SPECIALS

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Hilton has launched its 'Double Your Stay' promotion, offering members of Hilton Honors the opportunity to earn 2x bonus points on all stays between 01 Jan and 30 Apr 2025. Sign up for the promotion **HERE** and you will automatically become a member.

Travellers can sail into the new year with up to \$1,000 onboard credit thanks to **Azamara Cruises'** latest offer, which applies on select 2025 sailings when booked by 28 Feb. Travellers can also enjoy over \$4,500 in added value with 'Always Azamara' inclusions, featuring complimentary room service, a wide selection of food and beverages (including beer, wine, and spirits), unlimited self-service laundry, and gratuities. For more information, visit www.azamara.com.

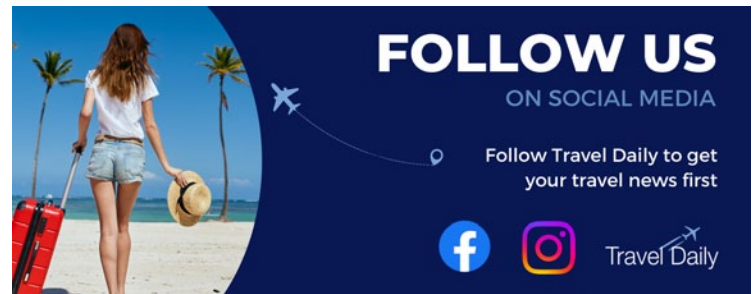
Until the end of Jan 2025, a 10% saving is available on stays in **Warrawong on the Darling's** cabins for travellers seeking a NSW outback retreat. Nestled by a billabong on the Darling River and surrounded by sand dunes, far horizons, and rugged open spaces, the promotion celebrates a new milestone for the property, which was recently sold by Out of the Ordinary Outback to Dusty Outback Trails. Additionally, until the end of Feb, guests can stay four nights on powered sites and pay for just three. Find out more **HERE**.

Cruise Traveller is offering earlybird savings of \$4,709 per couple on a new Epicurean adventure in the Adriatic with Atlas Ocean Voyages. The 16-night 'Eternal Cities and Island Dreams' package begins 06 Sep 2026, with two nights in a Rome hotel. Guests then board Atlas' expedition yacht, *World Traveller*, for a 14-night journey from Rome to Venice, taking in island of Capri, the Amalfi coast, the authentic island customs of Lipari, the old town squares of Corfu in Greece, and the fjord town of Kotor in Montenegro. Book by 30 Dec, **HERE**.

As part of its new summer cruise sale, **Celesytal** is offering savings of up to 50% across 2025, 2026 and 2027 sailings. Lead-in prices start from \$509 per person for a three-night 'Iconic Arabia' cruise sailing round-trip from Abu Dhabi. Learn more about the brand's 'Live Your Vacation Dream' campaign, available for new bookings made by 28 Feb, **HERE**. Agents can also take advantage of the line's 'Sell Three, Sail Free' offer.

Solo travellers can save 50% off the single supplement on **A&K's** luxury expedition cruises. The offer can be applied to itineraries such as the 10-day 'European Coastal Cruise: France, Spain & Portugal' trip, which departs 12 May 2025. Get more details **HERE**.

Book a stay at one of **Oaks Hotels, Resorts & Suites'** 11 Brisbane properties before 31 Jan 2025 to enjoy 20% savings. For example, the price of a one-bedroom River View Suite at Oaks Brisbane Aurora Suites is down from \$529 per night to \$370 per night. The deal is valid for travel dates between now and 27 Feb 2025 - **CLICK HERE** for more info.



Aussies served up Arizona



THE Arizona Office of Tourism (AOT) has wrapped up its 2024 Aussie travel trade mission, which aimed to showcase the US state as an enticing destination for Australian travellers.

Held in partnership with Linkd Tourism last week, the initiative included events across Melbourne, Brisbane, Gold Coast, and Sydney.

Led by Joanna Tejada, AOT's Senior Travel Industry Marketing Manager, the delegation presented the 'Vibrant Arizona' campaign, which highlights the state's unique combination of cultural heritage, outdoor adventures, sporting events, and world-class cuisine.

Attendees heard from Meg Roederer from Discover Flagstaff, and learnt about upcoming events like the Arizona Spring Training and the Centennial of Route 66 in 2026.

Highlights of AOT's week-long initiative Down Under included pickleball matches, intimate lunches, golf sessions, hands-on cooking classes, and even a

basketball training demo.

"We've had an incredible time connecting with Australian travel agents, media, and partners to share everything Arizona has to offer," Tejada said.

"From the stunning landscapes of Sedona and Monument Valley to our rich Native American heritage and vibrant food scene, there's truly something for everyone in Arizona." *JM*

Pictured: Jack Curtis, Linkd Tourism; Millie Browne, Linkd Tourism; Tejada; and Meg Roederer, Discover Flagstaff.

KE completes buy

KOREAN Air has completed its acquisition of Asiana Airlines, four years after announcing its decision to purchase a majority stake in the South Korean carrier (**TD** 22 Mar).

Asiana Airlines is now a subsidiary of Korean Air, which acquired a 63.88% stake in the carrier for around \$877 million, with the integration to be completed within two years.

Treasures
of the South Pacific

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM US TO YOU!

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On behalf of all of the Treasures of the South Pacific, along with our incredible partners, we wish you an amazing holiday season, and look forward to seeing you on our friendly shores in 2025.

