



6k Silversea reasons

SILVERSEA is spruiking its “richest offer ever” with savings of up to \$6,000 per suite available on a wide range of global sailings.

Agents can sweeten the deal for clients with a reduced 15% deposit on its ‘Door to Door’ all-inclusive itineraries on bookings made before the end of Feb.

More details on [page seven](#).

Xmas with Albatross

AGENTS’ clients can now secure their spot on fully escorted 2024/25 European Christmas and Northern Lights itineraries with Albatross Tours.

Tours include longer stays of up to seven nights in one place, along with plenty of free time.

See [page eight](#) for more information on the tours.

To Infinity and Brand USA

INFINITY Holidays and Brand USA have renewed their partnership for another term this year, with the latest tie-up to offer eight new city break itineraries and new ‘RoadTrips USA’ packages.

The newest collaboration, which has been renewed until at least Oct this year, sees Infinity launch new City Break itineraries for Brand USA in Boston, Chicago, Miami, Nashville, New Orleans, Philadelphia, San Diego, and Washington.

Meanwhile new RoadTrips USA itineraries will cover all 50 US states and DC.

Infinity General Manager James Whiting said the wholesaler is also planning a number of travel advisor engagement events across Australia “to give agents a chance to experience a taste of what Brand USA has in person”.

“We’re thrilled to be extending our partnership with Brand USA into next year,” he enthused.

“America is always a top-selling destination for Infinity Holidays, and this partnership with Brand USA really allows us to showcase the best of the product we have available through HELiO (Infinity

Holidays’ proprietary booking platform), in our customisable, industry-leading bookable itineraries.”

All of Infinity’s US itineraries can be viewed [HERE](#). *MS*

SK pops new visas

SOUTH Korea will launch a new visa in the second half of this year for K-Culture fans, allowing visitors who register at local performing art academies to stay for up to two years.

The country is also allowing foreign-born remote workers to stay for up to one year, previously the limit was only 90 days.

Register for a soiree

ENTIRE Travel Group is reminding agents who want to attend its special soiree showcase next month to register as soon as they can to snag a spot.

Sessions will take place in Brisbane on 13 Feb ([CLICK HERE](#)), Melbourne on 14 Feb ([CLICK HERE](#)) and wrap up in Sydney on 15 Feb ([CLICK HERE](#)).

Travel agents have a chance of sharing in more than \$50,000 in prizes by attending.

Today’s issue of TD

Travel Daily features six pages including our **Luxury** feature, plus full pages from:

- Silversea
- Albatross Tours

Second Japan crash

SAPPORO air traffic controllers are not starting 2024 well, with a second incident in Japan seeing a Korean Air plane make contact with a Cathay Pacific jet.

According to a statement from Korean Air, the skirmish occurred when a ground handling vehicle briefly lost control in heavy snow.

There were no injuries and KE is sending a replacement aircraft to take affected passengers to Seoul.

The incident comes two weeks after a JAL collision with a cargo plane at Tokyo Haneda Airport, killing five people.

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Qantas falls to 41st

AFTER topping the list only four years ago, Qantas has seen its ranking plummet to 41st spot on Brand Finance Australia’s listing of the country’s strongest and most valuable brands.

Following a tumultuous few years of testing customer and trade loyalty through a combination of credit and performance scandals, the carrier earned a score of 71.35, a significant fall from the 86.62 it received in 2019.

Qantas’ score is a “red flag” for investors, Brand Finance Australia MD Mark Crowe told the *AFR*.

“This year the decreases have become more profound and they come at a time when...many airlines are increasing in brand strength and brand value.”

Woolworths topped the list.

Plans to take PCEC global



THE Western Australian Government has unveiled new plans for a waterfront precinct, which includes a transformation of the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (PCEC).



The centre’s long-term leaseholders, Wyllie and Brookfield, submitted a concept design for the venue (renders pictured), which is set to be a key part of the proposed new tourism and hospitality precinct on the Swan River.

If the project goes ahead, the existing building will be significantly refurbished to increase its capacity and transform it into a “world-class and highly competitive convention space” capable of attracting major business events.

There will also be development opportunities for a new upmarket hotel, residential apartments, and commercial space within the Swan River hub.

“There is huge potential on our

riverfront, and this proposal would deliver an iconic new precinct that opens up major tourism and hospitality opportunities for WA, helping to diversify our economy and create local jobs,” WA Premier Roger Cook said.

The Australian Hotels Association WA has welcomed the news, with CEO Bradley Woods pointing out the current centre’s “age of infrastructure and venue capability restrictions” have made it difficult to secure major meetings for WA.

“Redevelopment of the PCEC into a world class facility will attract significant large-scale international and domestic conferences and exhibitions, the like Perth has missed out on over many years,” Woods said.



A business case for the redevelopment will now be finalised and presented to the WA Govt for evaluation in mid-2024.

More business events news in tomorrow’s *Travel Daily*. *JM*

Crack on with repairs

FLIGHTS to and from Kona International Airport on the island of Hawai’i have resumed following emergency repairs to the runway.

According to the Hawai’i State Department of Transportation, a hasty closure of the runway was required to address some cracks in the surface which presented a major safety concern.

After suspending operations at 4.20pm local time on Mon, the 10x20m section was repaired overnight and scheduled flights resumed yesterday (Tue).

During the work, a second section of cracked runway was identified, with repairs to be rectified today, although flights are not expected to be as heavily impacted this time around, airport officials said.

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Haddad joins NTG

EXPERIENCED travel industry sales professional Mark Haddad has landed a newly created role as National Sales Manager for National Travel Group.

National Travel consists of several brands, including National Seniors Travel and Trade Travel, and specialises in premium fully escorted and FIT tours, cruising and group departures along with specialised wildlife, cycling, food and tours for niche interests.

Haddad's new role sees him tasked with growing overall sales and brand awareness and driving growth across the three labels.



Newcastle terminal delays

THE overhaul of Newcastle Airport's international terminal will take longer than anticipated to be completed, the hub confirmed in a recent statement.

The NSW airport conceded its "own set of challenges" relating to supply chain issues have led to delays in its expansion, with the opening date likely to be bumped back by around three months - but still in 2025 as planned.

"Despite this adjustment in timing, we remain confident in the profoundly positive impact this expansion will have on our region," Newcastle Airport said.

While the centrepiece of the development is the expanded international terminal, the hub also stressed that works are taking a "holistic approach" to upgrades, which include enhanced car parking, supporting infrastructure and airfields.

Newcastle Airport attracted headlines in 2022 when it

declared plans to expand its int'l reach to hubs in Singapore and the Middle East through an upgraded international terminal.

The announcement included \$55 million in Federal Govt funding to aid the airport in catering to wide-body aircraft (**TD** 20 Apr 2022), key financial support that was later helped by a further \$240 million from The Commonwealth Bank last year (**TD** 11 Apr 2023).

MEANWHILE whiteGREY has this week been appointed the creative agency of record for Newcastle Airport.

The agency is tasked with positioning the hub for sustained growth during and after the expansion phase, as well as encouraging more Aussies to use the hub when flying regionally.

"It is the perfect time to show Hunter residents the value NTL provides over city counterparts," the hub's CEO Peter Cock said. **AB**

Mat's Anzac tours

THE final places on Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours' 2024 Anzac Day pilgrimages to Gallipoli and the Western Front are on sale, departing from Paris and Istanbul.

The company says it will release its 2025 Anzac Day tour range in Apr and May this year.

Yates appointed CFO

EXPERIENCE Co has formally appointed Gavin Yates to the role of Chief Financial Officer following a two-month period serving the adventure tourism company in an acting capacity.

The majority of Yates' corporate finance experience has been accrued in the mining and energy sectors, most notably holding senior business and financial roles with mining business Centennial.

"Gavin's...strategic background and experience will be valuable as the group pursues its objectives in the years ahead," Experience Co CEO John O'Sullivan said.

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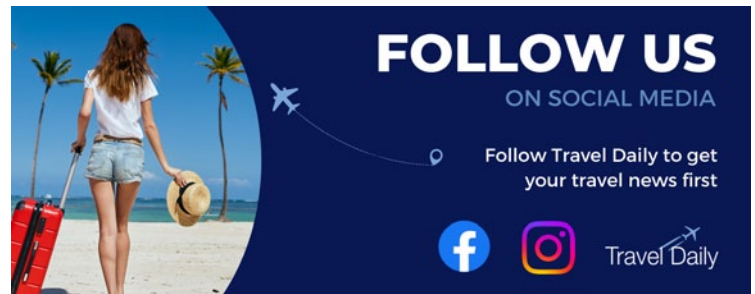
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[Learn more](#)

*Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid until 23 January 2024, unless sold out prior. Economy and Business Class fares are valid for departures from Sydney between 23 January - 19 March, 2 April - 11 June and 13 July - 30 November 2024, and are the lowest adult return price, including taxes, fees, and airport surcharges. Other sale fares are available during other travel periods. Advertised fares are correct as of 15 January 2024, subject to currency fluctuation and availability. For all other terms and conditions, please refer to your GDS at the time of booking.





Air NZ backs local businesses

AIR New Zealand has strengthened its commitment to supporting local businesses with the launch of Ka Rere, a diverse supplier accelerator program.

The new initiative aims to diversify the Kiwi carrier's supply chain and increase its engagement with local Maori- and Pasifika-owned businesses, as well as companies who operate as social enterprises.

Air New Zealand Chief Sustainability Officer Kiri Hannifin said, "supporting smaller and diverse New Zealand suppliers is another way we can contribute to the country's prosperity".

The 12-week program will prepare three diverse businesses for future tenders with the carrier, allowing participants to access a range of skills, knowledge, and experience within Air New Zealand.

The airline is particularly interested in applicants with



goods or services that are designed to make a positive and sustainable impact.

"Like many companies over the past couple of years, Air New Zealand has experienced significant difficulties in its supply chain following the impact of COVID-19," Hannifin explained.

"Inclusive procurement processes will widen our pool of suppliers, as well as supporting greater innovation, diversification, and resilience."

Air New Zealand is currently seeking applications for the inaugural Ka Rere program. *JM*

Judge irks JetBlue

FEDERAL lawmakers in the US state of Massachusetts have ended JetBlue's ambitions to acquire ultra-low cost carrier Spirit Airlines.

Following a 17-day trial brought by six US states, the District of Columbia and the Justice Dept, Federal Judge William Young ruled the merging of Spirit Airlines with JetBlue would significantly harm competition.

The decision vindicates efforts by US President Joe Biden to block the merger on the grounds it would reduce competition for travellers and increase fares across several domestic and regional markets operated by both carriers.

"Today's ruling is a victory for tens of millions of travellers who would have faced higher fares and fewer choices had the proposed merger between JetBlue and Spirit been allowed to move forward," said Attorney General Merrick Garland.



Window Seat

AMONG the many warnings Aussies must heed when visiting Bali, the latest advice is to steer clear of feisty monkeys, after a TikTok video of a tourist having her passport torn up by one of the cheeky primates went viral.

Data shows that it's not an uncommon occurrence, with Aussies claiming almost \$17k in the last five years from one insurance company alone, after having their belongings stolen by monkeys in Bali.



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New A&K Euro brox

ABERCROMBIE & Kent (A&K) has launched an all-new Europe 2024 e-brochure to inspire travellers to explore the continent around the Paris Olympic Games.

The new collection of Tailor Made Journeys includes 10 new and 35 updated tours packed with features such as river barge cruises and scenic rail adventures.

Highlights of the new range include a gourmet 10-day Paris to Boredeaux adventure priced from \$18,405ppts.

Insider Access experiences in the new range include a private yacht cruise along the Greek island of Crete, an after-hours visit to St Mark's Square in Venice and a tapas tour of Barcelona riding in a motorcycle sidecar.

CLICK HERE for more.

VIRTUOSO HEADS TO THE MOVIES

LUXURY global agent network Virtuoso has signed on to sponsor Sydney's Westpac Open Air Cinema for the 2024 summer.

The deal signals a major step toward boosting Virtuoso's brand awareness in the Australia/NZ market and comes 20 years after the network reached local shores.

Through the deal, Virtuoso will enjoy prime screen time to promote its network to potential new and high-value clients stepping out to enjoy the latest and classic blockbusters.

Since making its debut in Australia and New Zealand in 2004, Virtuoso has grown its network to 60 agency members and more than 1,700 advisors.

Virtuoso General Manager Australia and New Zealand, Fiona Dalton, said the Westpac Open Air Cinema was an ideal way to introduce the Virtuoso brand to a



new and discerning audience.

"Reaching the 20-year milestone in Australia and New Zealand is a testament to the quality of our network, the trust and loyalty of our members and partners and the value travellers place on exceptional service and experiences," Dalton said.

"Forging this unique relationship

with Westpac OpenAir Cinema combines the best of luxury travel and entertainment between two brands that represent elevated experiences," she added.

To celebrate the tie-up, Virtuoso and its local team recently enjoyed a night at the movies with some key members of the local trade (pictured above). *ML*

New Anantara resort

ANANTARA has opened the doors to its newest luxury property and its first in the United Arab Emirates.

Built on a private peninsula, Anantara Mina Al Arab Ras Al Khaimah Resort features 174 rooms within a main building or within ultra-luxe riads.

Premium guest facilities include gardens, an infinity swimming pool, six restaurants and bars, and a natural mangrove sanctuary, all with views of the Arabian Gulf.

The Tailor tinkers with anniversary itinerary

AUSTRALIA'S iconic heritage and landscapes are celebrated in a special new itinerary launched to mark 25 years of service by luxury specialist tour operator, The Tailor.

A single epic departure of the special tour is slated to operate from 01-28 Apr, with many exclusive experiences packed into a busy four weeks.

Travellers will visit Sydney, Kangaroo Island, Adelaide,

Uluru, Darwin, Broome, the Kimberley and the Whitsundays before ending in Cairns.

Luxury stays are included at iconic properties, including the recently reopened Southern Ocean Lodge, Longitude 131, Finness River Lodge and Lizard Island feature, along with a seven-night Kimberley cruise.

Pricing for the bespoke tour is based on party size and individual customisation.

Cap Karoso package

FEEDBACK from the travel trade has led luxury resort Cap Koroso, found on the Indonesian island of Sumba, to introduce a new full-board rate for guests.

The deal includes private transfers from Tambolaka Airport, non-alcoholic drinks for the entirety of the stay, laundry services and gourmet breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout the stay.

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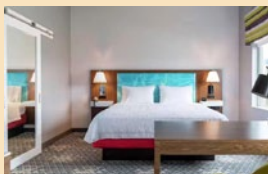
Enjoy rare spirits, electric design and culinary delights at the newly opened Qura Bar at **Regent Hong Kong**. Overlooking the city's famous Victoria Harbour, the five-star hotel's new dining venue is poised to become the next big drawcard in Hong Kong's vibrant nightlife scene. The venue boasts a backlit rose quartzite bar in the centre, along with chandeliers, Murano crystal lighting, and wall art depicting a tropical forest.



Formerly known as Address Fountain Views, **Address Dubai Mall** has begun welcoming guests after significant rebranding work. The property, located near Burj Khalifa, the tallest tower in the world, has an array of amenities on offer, including six restaurants, spa facilities, a fitness centre, a kids club, as well as an infinity pool with panoramic views of downtown Dubai, the Dubai Fountains and Burj Khalifa.



Teton Mountain Lodge & Spa, located at the base of Jackson Hole Mountain Resort in Wyoming, US, has completed a multi-million dollar transformation. The renovations included a refresh of the alpine resort's main lobby, reception area, concierge and retail spaces. The makeover project also introduced a new Black Diamond Bar and a fully-restored Spur Restaurant & Bar, which now features a rustic aesthetic.



Hampton Inn By Hilton, located in Washington State University's Pullman Campus, has rebranded after its acquisition by The Hotel Group. Formerly the Holiday Inn Express, the hotel underwent a property-wide renovation, with guests now able to enjoy modernised guestrooms and an expanded fitness centre with the addition of Peloton bike machines.



Set to reopen in Spring 2024, the 2,032-room **Hyatt Regency Chicago** - the world's largest Hyatt property - will undergo a US\$102 million renovation to revamp all of its guestrooms, as well as its Regency and Crystal Ballrooms. Upon completion, the rooms will feature a simple and open design with contemporary furniture and plush comforts throughout.

Tassie is "fit for a Queen"

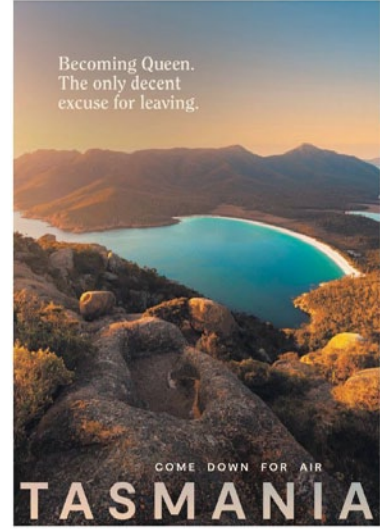
TOURISM Tasmania has taken the opportunity to highlight why the state is "fit for a queen", following the rise of Tassie-born Queen Mary of Denmark to the throne this week.

The well-timed marketing push consisted of print ads featured in *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* yesterday, accompanied by the cheeky tagline: 'Becoming Queen. The only decent excuse for leaving'.

The DMO also highlighted the Aussie state's royal appeal in a Danish publication called *Politiken*, with another clever slogan: 'Down here our views are fit for a queen. Just ask yours'.

The ads, which are part of Tourism Tasmania's 'Come Down For Air' brand platform, were supported by a special congratulations video to the Danish Queen, which showcased imagery of Tasmania's stunning scenery in both the Australian and Danish markets.

"We wanted to show our support for Mary becoming Queen, while also having a bit



of fun using our Tasmanian tone of voice and stunning imagery," Tourism Tasmania CEO Sarah Clark shared.

"We aspire to be different, to cut through the general tourism marketing noise, and this was a great opportunity to reach our important domestic travelling audience and the Danish market with a creative message." JM

BNE-SYD rocks list

FLIGHTS between Brisbane and Sydney are the most blustery in the Oceanic region, according to new data from turbulence forecast specialist Turbli.

Routes from Brisbane featured prominently in the top 10 most turbulent air services, as did flights from Port Vila.

NZ airports Wellington and Christchurch were one and two on the list of most turbulent in the region, with Melbourne found to be the rockiest of the Aussie hubs on take off and landing.

Man charged for Mile High Club offer

THE first-ever flight for a man from Detroit has ended in legal action after he was charged with sexual harassment for allegedly asking flight attendants to join the Mile High Club.

James Finnister, who chose Spirit Airlines to make his debut in the skies, is accused of propositioning several flight attendants for sex while drunk, as well as asking to be let into the aircraft's cockpit while in the air.

If convicted, Finnister faces up to 20 years in prison.

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