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SINGAPORE

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you in transit on the way to Singapore for the annual ILTM conference on luxury travel in APAC.

THIS week the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore will play host to the highly anticipated ILTM conference, and *Travel Daily* will be there to cover all the details.

The conference begins with the Opening Forum tonight at The Ritz-Carlton Millenia before moving on to welcome cocktails to warm the delegates up for the first group of key sessions and networking meetings on Tue.

Press conferences tomorrow include Pan Pacific Hotels, Hyatt Hotels, Tourism Australia and Switzerland Tourism.

Travelex dials digital refresh

EXCLUSIVE

THERE are big changes coming to the Travelex Travel Money app, with the company revealing a staggered update from the end of the month to enhance usability.

Speaking with *TD* on Fri, Travelex MD, ANZ, Darren Brown, confirmed that among the changes will be the addition of Apple Pay functionality, allowing travellers to top up their balance using the digital wallet on smart devices, negating the need to carry any plastic cards.

The move follows a recent integration of Google Pay.

The app will also see a new version roll out over the next two months to improve the overall customer experience and make the interface easier to navigate, and an increased cash limit that can be ordered via the phone.

Travelex Head of Marketing, Rob Dempsey, added the moves were in line with a market that was

becoming more "app-hungry".

Travelex has also flagged an Aussie expansion strategy that will focus more on regional areas over metro spaces.

Dempsey said that more Aussies are spending on travel in regional areas than ever before, and the space is less competitive than metro markets, with Travelex looking to leverage that shift via preferred partners. *AB*


CAPA lands in BNE

AIRLINE industry execs from around the world will land in Brisbane for the 2024 CAPA Airline Leader Summit, taking place 12-13 Sep - see **page 7**.

Today's issue of *TD*

Travel Daily today features five pages of travel industry news, plus full pages from:

- Collette
- CAPA



THE KIMBERLEY

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Scenic, aboard *Scenic Eclipse II*.

SCENIC Eclipse II is half-way through her inaugural Australian season, this week voyaging between Broome and Darwin as the guests on board tick off a fabulous bucket-list experience of Australia.

The luxury ship boasts a 1:1 crew to passenger ratio, with a huge array of onboard culinary experiences and activities complemented by adventures such as helicopter rides, Zodiac cruises, shore landings, wildlife and cultural experiences.


Today we are in Talbot Bay, where guests will see the iconic Horizontal Falls as part of an exhilarating off-ship activity.



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MEL meets its sister

CHINA Eastern Airlines has operated its inaugural flight from Nanjing to Melbourne, linking the Victorian capital directly with its sister state, Jiangsu Province.

Prior to the launch of the direct route, more than 60,000 travellers made their way from Nanjing to Melbourne each year.

The Airbus A330 service departs from MEL at midday three times weekly, taking MU's operations in Melbourne to 13 flights a week including its daily Shanghai route.

Wunambal praised

CLIA Australasia has sent its congratulations to Western Australia's Wunambal Gaambera People as they were named godparents of Seabourn's new expedition ship, *Seabourn Pursuit*.

The Wunambal Gaambera are among several traditional owners in Australia working with cruise lines to share their culture as a benefit to their communities.

Agents in the saddle in Utah



THE second group of the 'Sell Your Way to the USA' 2024 incentive program winners recently spent a week exploring northern Utah.

The three winners - Elyse Palmer from TravelManagers, Evan Savickas from Flight Centre Carindale, and Abbey Shannon from Flight Centre Business Travel - were hosted by the Utah Office of Tourism in partnership with American Airlines.

The trio kicked off their adventure in Park City, where they enjoyed hikes, a zip line, and scenic chairlift rides.

Other highlights included kayaking at Bear Lake, a night glamping at Conestoga Ranch, a raft tour on Flaming Gorge, a soak in the Utah Crater, and more. **JM Pictured** on a Flaming Gorge Horseback Ride with Red Canyon Lodge: Shannon; Guide; Palmer; and Savickas.

Ponant roadshows

A NEW series of roadshows has been scheduled by Ponant to provide agents an opportunity to meet the team and learn more about the brand's 2025 and 2026 calendar of expeditions.

Running from 23 Jul to 06 Aug, Ponant's team will visit Brisbane, Noosa, Gold Coast, Sydney, Adelaide, Perth and Melbourne, with each event showcasing the Ponant fleet, dining offerings and upcoming itineraries.

Agents can personalise an invite **HERE** to share with clients, who are welcome to attend as guests. **CLICK HERE** for registration info.

Collette's rocky ride

WESTERN Canada awaits with Collette's new 15-day tour showcasing the Rocky Mountains and Alaska's Inside Passage.

Travellers can enjoy the Rocky Mountaineer and a seven-night cruise with departures scheduled from May-Sep - see **page six**.

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Thai GDS revamp

THAI Airways will revamp its digital fare distribution channels with Amadeus' Digital Experience Suite, among many new systems from the travel tech giant.

Travellers can now enjoy a more personalised booking process via a new TG website and mobile app, which will also handle post-disruption rebooking.

Greyhound deaths

GREYHOUND Australia says it is "heartbroken" about the deaths of three guests in a collision with a car and caravan yesterday.

An investigation into the cause of the crash, which occurred south of Townsville, is underway.

"We are working closely with authorities to assist them with their investigation in understanding the course of events that have led to this accident," Greyhound Australia CEO Dan Smith said in a statement posted on its website.

Personalise to cut through

CLOSE to half of Australian travellers believe the wide range of product choice in the market is making it too difficult to know where to start planning a trip.

The insight was contained in a new report compiled by The Growth Distillery, Ogilvy and Kantar, which also found that 43% of Aussies see the abundance of brand information as hampering the decision-making process.

Travellers also stated in the *Influence Codes* study they were frustrated by the "generic" way in which many travel brands are currently presented, with the report contending there is an opportunity for brands to offer more personalised and tailored travel options to secure bookings.

Two-thirds of Aussies said they needed travel experiences to resonate on a more personal level than is presently available, while experiences and reliability were also listed as the most effective



ways to influence sales decisions.

"Today's traveller is no longer looking for an opportunity to escape from the day-to-day, instead, they want to fully engage with passions," the report said.

"This means that cookie-cutter experiences will no longer cut it, as today's travellers are looking for something far more unique."

Given the risk, complexity and rising costs associated with travel, travellers are still looking to "spend big" on travel, however the appetite for personalisation and being guided by an expert have also increased.

While many travel brands have failed to adapt to the latest trends, travel agents and cruise lines have leveraged the modern shifts to grow sales. *AB*

Sinfield gets elected

LUXURY Travel Collection member and CLIA Cruise Master, Robyn Sinfield, has been elected to Virtuoso's Cruise Committee.

The Home Travel Company icon, who recently celebrated 40 years for her business (*TD 01 May*), will represent Australia and New Zealand's member agencies in the Virtuoso Cruise Committee.

"I can't wait to bring my passion and experience to the table and collaborate with the exceptional group of travel professionals on the Australian Regional Advisory Board and the Global Cruise Board," Sinfield said on LinkedIn.

Koullas on message

CHRISTINA Koullas has joined Hurtigruten as its new PR and Communications Manager in the Asia Pacific region.

Koullas will oversee brand messaging for Hurtigruten and HX, reporting to Asia Pacific Marketing Director, Joel Victoria.



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with Jenny



Travel Daily
A conversation with Penny Spencer

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Look who's on *Eclipse II*



IF YOU'RE in the Australian travel industry, you never know who you're going to bump into when on a trip - and that proved to be the case this week in WA's Kimberley region, where these industry professionals have found themselves on the same *Scenic Eclipse II* departure.

The cruise between Broome and Darwin includes a large contingent of Adelaide guests hosted personally by Phil and Alison Hoffmann from Phil

Hoffmann Travel.

Also on board are long-time Scenic BDM Cathy Page, while Travellers Choice was well-represented by Jenny and Jim Cooper from Queanbeyan Travel & Cruise, celebrating a special anniversary, and Kathy Granger from Burnie Travelcentre in Tas.

They're all **pictured** above with former itravel Luxe leader Cherie Bowman, who is working on board in her dream job as Future Cruise Sales Manager. *BP*

Aussies rack up 'debt-lag'

ONE in five Australians will get themselves into debt to book their next holiday, the latest research from Compare the Market has revealed.

The travel insurance comparison site found that 19.1% of Aussie travellers will use a credit card, personal loan or buy-now-pay-later schemes to fund their upcoming getaways.

Gen X were the most likely to go into the red, with 21.3% admitting they'd rack up debt for a holiday, followed closely by 21.1% of Baby Boomers.

The youngest age group, Gen Z, are more money-minded when it comes to holiday planning, with 70.7% saying they intend to save all the money in advance and pay in full at the time of booking.

Of the 1,010 Aussies who were surveyed in Mar, 14% are opting to save their pennies instead of booking a trip.

David Koch, Compare the

Market's Economic Director, believes an international holiday every year is "no longer a reality for many Australians".

He pointed out that financing a \$5,000 holiday on a credit card with a 20% interest rate will take 49 years to pay back, if you only make the minimum repayments.

In the end, that one holiday will cost them more than \$20,000 in interest alone. *JM*

Visa-free Saint Martin

AUSTRALIA is among 86 countries now able to enjoy visa-free entry to Saint Martin, with visitors travelling for tourism purposes able to gain permission for short-term trips.

Popular among holidaymakers and corporate travellers, the Caribbean island attracts more than one million visitors each year, with the visa-free policy set to further broaden its appeal.

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Railway Adventures - NZ North Island Adventure

Embark on a 12-night rail journey with Railway Adventures on the North Island of New Zealand. This new brochure showcases the highlights of the itinerary, including the opportunity to board specially chartered heritage trains to take in the spectacular North Island scenery. Off-train activities include museum visits, speciality dinners and a chance to see Ruapehu, the area's most dramatic active volcano, during a visit to Tongariro

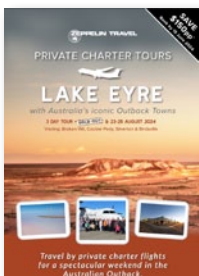
National Park. Travellers will stay at four and five-star hotels along the journey, such as Rydges Wellington; Novotel, New Plymouth; and Scenic Hotel Te Pania, Napier. Priced from \$7,465 per person twin share, the tour includes breakfast every day, six lunches, and seven dinners, complimentary drinks, some excursion and entrance fees, coach transfers with separate luggage handling, and much more.



Travelling Divas - An Adventure of a Lifetime

Travelling Divas is a female-focused tour operator inviting like-minded women to join their 'Great British Adventure'. Departing on 01 Sep, the two-week itinerary offers a chance to explore some of the Kingdom's most sought-after destinations. Activities on the schedule include hiking sessions, traditional culinary delicacies, the Cotswolds, the beauty of the Lake District, and an adventure in Scotland. Travellers will be accompanied from

London by Travelling Divas Founder, Andrea Powis, and will stay at four-star, boutique hotel accommodation throughout the entirety of the journey. Meals and transfers in a comfortable air-conditioned mini coach will also be provided for the whole experience.



Zepplin Travel - Lake Eyre

Discover Lake Eyre and some of Australia's iconic outback towns with Zepplin Travel's specially curated brochure. The four-page guide details the three-day tour scheduled for 23-25 Aug, with places priced from \$5,300pp, twin share, including private charter flights from Brisbane to Broken Hill. Highlights of the tour include a visit to Silverton, a historic town that showcases the outback. Travellers can enjoy the 'must-see' Lake Eyre -

Australia's largest inland lake - from the air, with a scenic flight over the landmark, which features a glistening salt pan spanning hundreds of kilometres. Travellers may even get to see the lake's famous pink hue, which makes for an amazing photo from the air.

Vegas up in smoke

SHAREHOLDERS in leading casino operators in Las Vegas have voted against taking any steps to limit smoking indoors on its gaming floors.

The smoking smackdown came after one shareholder - nonprofit healthcare brand Trinity Health - suggested commissioning a study into the potential cost savings from limiting or prohibiting smoking indoors.

Trinity's argument was based on casinos being able to increase revenues by attracting new non-smokers into its casinos.

However, the motion failed, with the Board of Caesars Entertainment saying studying non-smoking policies would not be an effective use of resources.

New Lufthansa fee

GERMAN national airline Lufthansa has introduced a new Environmental Cost Surcharge on all flights departing from the 27 EU member countries, plus the UK, Norway and Switzerland.

The charge applies to all flights departing from 01 Jan 2025, with monies to go towards ensuring the airline meets the EU 2% blending quota for sustainable aviation fuel and other emissions and carbon offsets schemes.

Windstar fly-save

TRAVELLERS can save more than \$4,000 on a new 17-night fly-cruise package to Tahiti with Windstar Cruises.

The 17-night 'Tahiti Treasures & Marquesas Marvels' package includes return air to Papeete, a 14-night Windstar Cruise onboard *Star Breeze* and pre- and post-accom, priced from \$10,999ppts.

Window Seat

FORGET immersive tourist experiences, Aussies want nothing more than to get some decent sleep when they travel.

That's according to CQ University research fellows Charlotte Gupta and Dr Dean Miller, who say the next big thing in travel will be hotels and resorts prioritising sleep for their weary guests.

The academics said 'sleep tourism' is essentially an offshoot of the \$1.2 trillion global wellness tourism sector and that it is on the cusp of soaring in popularity.

It's based on research which says Australian adults aren't getting their seven to nine hours of sleep per night, which is costing the economy up to \$45 billion each year.

However, the researchers add that the benefits of a sleep holiday will only be effective if people don't lapse back to old habits.

Six Flags to merge

LEADING US theme park operators Six Flags Entertainment and Cedar Fair have received the green light from regulatory authorities to merge into a combined entity (**TD** 15 Mar).

The new parent company, which owns 38 theme parks across the United States and Canada, including popular Los Angeles attraction Knott's Berry Farm, will have an anticipated value of US\$8 billion and says it plans to invest in new rides, attractions and parks across its key markets.

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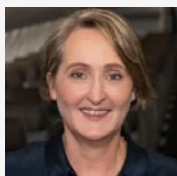
CAPA's home event, the CAPA Airline Leader Summit Australia Pacific 2024 gathers hundreds of industry leaders and decision makers from across the Asia Pacific and beyond to consider the most significant trends and opportunities of aviation events.

The summit will provide a range of networking opportunities at a stunning new venue, The Star, Brisbane. A destination like no other, nestled at the heart of the multi-billion-dollar Queen's Wharf precinct. Expect exciting restaurants, bars, world-class shopping and luxurious hotels.



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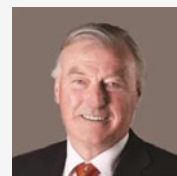
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