

Canadian Rockies & Alaska's Inside Passage



FROM \$14,999* FLIGHTS INCLUDED

*Conditions Apply

LEARN MORE

CommBank integrates travel

THE Commonwealth Bank has announced a new travel booking service has been added to its app, allowing customers to search, book and pay for flights and hotels for the first time.

Powered by OTA Hopper, the new feature has been introduced following CommBank research that found travel is the most popular type of savings goal its customers set.

"Travel is typically a major purchase and our aim is to make these experiences more seamless and secure for customers, as well as help them save money where we can through a number of exclusive deals," CommBank said.

Among the advantages offered includes a sophisticated airline price prediction feature, which notifies users of the best time to book the cheapest flights.

Further benefits include a price watch tool enabling real-time notifications about price drops, and a best price guarantee that



allows users who find a cheaper flight price within 24 hours of booking to receive a travel credit for the difference in price.

Customers who hold a credit card that earns CommBank Awards points can pay for travel purchases using points, while members of the bank's CommBank Yello program will also be offered exclusive benefits.

As part of a special Travel Booking launch offer, Yello members will receive 10% back in travel credits on hotel bookings.

The latest CommBank *iQ Cost of Living Insights Report* showed an uptick in expenditure on travel experiences, with spending rising by 4% in the past year, boosted by a 16% annual lift in spending on online travel bookings.

The new feature can be accessed via the app by searching 'Travel Booking' in the search bar, or by visiting commbank.com.au/travelbooking, and is available to all users 18 years or older. *AB*

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news including our **Corporate Update**, & a full page from **Abercrombie & Kent**.

Africa with A&K

ABERCROMBIE & Kent (A&K) is highlighting its life-changing safaris in Africa, which it has been operating for 60 years.

Find out more about how the brand can curate your client's dream African journey by visiting the **back page**.

THE GHAN

AUSTRALIA
by Train

SAVE UP TO \$1,600
PER COUPLE*

BOOK 2025 NOW

JOURNEY BEYOND

*T&CS APPLY

THE KIMBERLEY

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

OUR Kimberley adventure is more than half way done, but there's still plenty of highlights to come including today's visit to Swift Bay, where two Zodiac excursions take passengers to view some iconic rock art.

Scenic Eclipse II's pair of helicopters will also be busy, taking to the sky with guests aloft for a bird's-eye view or heading to the nearby Mitchell Falls for a freshwater swim.

The ever-changing onboard menus also continue to tantalise taste buds across the ship's huge array of eateries.

Check out all the action on social media [@cruiseweekly](https://twitter.com/cruiseweekly).

Beautiful SAMOA AUSTRALIA ROADSHOW 2024

MELBOURNE | ADELAIDE | SYDNEY | BRISBANE
19th August | 20th August | 21st August | 22nd August

CLICK HERE FOR VENUES, TIMES AND TO REGISTER

WHITSUNDAYS BIG ISLAND DAY TOUR

Brand New Vessel

Best vessel in the Whitsundays

More comfort
360° rooftop views
Full bar service onboard
Free bus transfers

SEALINK

VISIT THE PORTAL
agent.sealinktravelgroup.com.au

MwTours
DURATION: 11 DAYS

PRICES FROM
\$2,699
PER PERSON TWIN SHARE
LAND ONLY
"Surcharges may apply"

The **Philippines Express**

VIEW DEAL

Virtuoso promotes

VIRTUOSO has promoted from within, with Michele Duncan named as its new Account Director and Member Relations. Duncan (pictured) has been with Virtuoso for six years in various capacities and moves to her new role from prior duties as the network's regional professional development and training leader. Her new remit will include leading the strategic development of the Virtuoso membership across Australia and New Zealand. "Her extensive experience and deep understanding of the Virtuoso network make her uniquely qualified for this leadership position," said Virtuoso General Manager Australia and NZ, Greg Treasure.



Queenstown study

RESEARCHERS from Griffith University in Queensland have been appointed to lead a project to create an optimal visitation model for the Queenstown Lakes region in New Zealand. The world-first project will enable the Destination Southern Lakes Board to make informed decisions on optimal times for infrastructure development that minimises impact on residents, while maximising effectiveness for the strong visitor population. The Board is also seeking to understand how tourism improves the needs of the community, with the project's outcomes expected to create a prototype which will be shared with other destinations in New Zealand to support regenerative tourism ambition.

Don't lose on booze: ICA

FEWER than half of Australian travellers are aware that drinking excessive alcohol while on holiday may void their insurance policies when making a claim. The finding was revealed in a new joint study conducted by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA), which also showed that Aussies are willing to run the risk of defaulting on policies even when they are aware of the fine print. A quarter of Australian travellers told the survey that they "knowingly" drink more alcohol aboard than their insurance policy limit allows for claims. The ICA has warned that people need to check the blood alcohol content stipulated in insurance contracts prior to travelling in order to ensure they don't get caught out.



While the purchase of travel insurance is on the rise for international trips, the same study found that 93% of Australians were either unaware or unsure of at least one common travel insurance exclusion. Over half (55%) of respondents admitted they felt "frustrated" by the difficulty they experienced in understanding their policies, while 40% said they were unaware that luggage that goes missing after being left unattended may not be covered by their insurance plans. While the uptake of travel insurance remains high, a previous study in Mar from the ICA found younger Aussies were less likely to buy coverage. **AB**

Duke is on the way

HAWAII'S famous restaurant chain Duke's will open its ninth location across the islands late next year with the opening of Duke's Kona on Hawai'i island. The new Duke's Kona will sit in an oceanfront location within Outrigger Kona Resort and Spa, which has just completed a major US\$60 million transformation. "Duke's Kona is the ideal restaurant partner for the exceptional space at Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa," said Outrigger Hospitality Group President and CEO, Jeff Wagoner. The new location joins a Duke's network consisting of Oahu, Kaua'i and Maui along with sites in La Jolla, Huntington Beach and Malibu in California. "Welcoming this iconic restaurant into our resort represents a significant and cherished milestone for everyone involved," Wagoner added.

While the uptake of travel insurance remains high, a previous study in Mar from the ICA found younger Aussies were less likely to buy coverage. **AB**

QR surprises swans

FIFTEEN lucky Sydney Swans fans at last weekend's AFL match against Fremantle walked away with a \$1,500 flight voucher courtesy of Qatar Airways. The Doha carrier is celebrating 15 years of flying to Australia and its partnership with the Sydney Swans, & conducted the giveaway at the quarter-time break. The fans in Row M, Bay 3 of the O'Reilly stand can now use their prize for a return journey to Europe or the United Kingdom. Qatar Airways also sponsors an AFL fan activation at home games.

TC hits the road

TRAVELLERS Choice will update member shareholders on the company's new support services during its capital roadshow, which kicks off tomorrow in Sydney. Managing Director Christian Hunter will also review the company's performance over the past financial year, and share its forecasts for the next 12 months. Joining him will be Chair Trent Bartlett, who will discuss how Travellers Choice plans to adapt to emerging trends set to reshape the broader travel industry. The gatherings will continue over the next few weeks, taking place in Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

Eurail shoulder deal

TRAVELLERS can now enjoy a 20% discount on all Eurail Global Passes and selected Eurail One Country Passes if bought before 18 Jul and used for travel during the shoulder season, from 01 Sep. The special offer is aimed at encouraging European leisure travellers to plan a trip outside the peak summer months and to combat overtourism. "Off-peak travel not only allows for more relaxed and leisurely rail journeys but also often means lower accommodation prices and shorter lines at popular attractions and sites," Eurail said. Passes can be purchased from Eurail's approved distributors Rail Europe, Rail Online, International Rail and Klook.

ASIANA AIRLINES A380
SYDNEY ↔ SEOUL

From 2 Dec 2024 ~ 1 March 2025

LEARN MORE

ASIANA AIRLINES
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Travel Daily
SHARPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON TAIWAN & EVA AIR
 Travel Daily Training Academy

Taiwan 30
 FREEDOM OF ASIA
 EVA AIR
 Click here to discover



Megayacht brand docks

THE Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection is preparing to shore up its presence in Australia, with newly-appointed VP, GM APAC, Seb Seward, confirming a Sydney office is in the pipeline.

Speaking with *Travel Daily* this morning, the former British Airways executive said that while nothing is “set in stone” just yet, the draft plan will be to employ two reservations agents to support trade partners and direct customers, as well as one or two sales roles initially, between Australia and Asia.

The timing of Seward’s appointment coincides with The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection unveiling 10 new itineraries in Asia (**TD 28 Jun**), which will operate between Dec 2025 and May 2026 aboard its third luxury vessel *Luminara*.

Reflecting on the initial enthusiasm for the Asia itineraries in Australia, Seward



said the market reaction had been “extremely positive”.

“Who doesn’t want to see the cherry blossom in Japan from our third megayacht *Luminara*, or anchor in Koh Samui or El Nido?” Seward quipped.

While the premium brand typically enjoys a higher direct penetration than most of the industry, due in no small part to the power of the Marriott Bonvoy program, Seward said agents would remain “key” to its local success in APAC, confirming more education pieces and famil opportunities will be on the way for local travel advisors. *AB*

QF starts payment

QANTAS has this week started contacting customers about compensation for those who made a booking two or more days after Qantas decided to cancel advertised flights in May.

The remediation program is part of an agreement forged with the ACCC in May (**TD 06 May**), which saw the carrier concede it misled customers by taking bookings for flights it did not intend to operate.

The \$20 million program will compensate up to 86,000 customers who were booked on Qantas flights between 01 May 2022 and 10 May 2024.

Impacted travellers will receive \$225 for domestic/trans-Tasman flights and \$450 for international flights, funds that will be additional to any refunds or alternative flights already offered.

Customers are being advised to monitor for Qantas emails, which will be followed by an email and text message from Deloitte about how to claim compensation.

Window Seat



PROVING you’re never too old to travel, Emirates recently welcomed 101-year-old Algerian Rachidi Smati for her return journey to visit friends in Dubai.

Already a seasoned traveller with 80 years of experience behind her, Emirates ensured Smati (**pictured**) had the most comfortable experience possible with a complimentary upgrade to first class.

Smati’s flight experience was capped off with an express passage through DXB and a visit to the first class lounge to relax before her flight.



Arctic Adventures

Embark on journeys through Alaska, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Svalbard, Northwest Passage and more!



Since 1896 we’ve been taking curious travellers to the most awe-inspiring places on the planet.

Alaska

Explore Alaska with HX Hurtigruten Expeditions, for less.
 ALASKA & BRITISH COLUMBIA
Wilderness, Glaciers & Culture (Northbound)

Save \$2,400
 Now from \$7,912pp*

Save \$3,840
 Suites from \$12,232pp*

No NCFS. Earn in full.

Secure your clients’ savings today!

agentportal.hurtigruten.com
 or call 1300 159 127

HX HURTIGRUTEN EXPEDITIONS

Change the way you see the world.

*T&Cs apply. HX operates a dynamic pricing system. Saving per cabin saving is based on Wilderness, Glaciers & Culture (Northbound). 30/10/25 departure, as of 24/05/24. From price is person twin share and is subject to change. Discounts apply to bookings made from 01 July to 31 August 2024 for selected HX departures from 01 April 2025 to 31 October 2026. Visit website for more details.

CORPORATE UPDATE

More than a numbers game

CORPORATE travel is set to become a key focus for chief financial officers (CFO), a new report from SAP Concur shows.

As businesses adapt to rapid technological advancements and an increased focus on corporate responsibility, the expense management software company predicts that the scope of the CFO role will expand beyond managing finances.

According to the *CFO Insights* report, those acting in the role will likely be tasked with leveraging intelligent travel and

expense (T&E) systems to assess travel's impact on the company, as well as encouraging greener travel choices.

"Finance leaders can introduce intelligent T&E tools that streamline processes through automation, reducing the time and effort employees need to manage their travels," said Fabian Calle, SAP Concur Australia and New Zealand's Managing Director for Small and Medium Business.

"These tools also offer crucial travel information, including medical assistance and safety tips for various destinations.

"This approach can alleviate travel-related frustrations and contribute to a work environment that values efficiency, safety, and inclusivity," he added. *JM*

Feilberg goes the extra Mile in travel

SYDNEY-BASED luxury travel advisor Michelle Feilberg (pictured) has joined the 1000 Mile Travel Group team.

The independent agent has previously been part of Virtuoso's MTA Travel, Helloworld's I Love Cruising, and itravel Penrith, and is a top 20 CLIA cruise specialist.




Bleisure is booming

BLEISURE travel is continuing to gain traction among business travellers, with one in two planning to add leisure time to their work trip this year.

According to a new report from talent sourcing company Howdy, which surveyed more than 1,000 full-time employees in the US, the majority (68%) of those partaking in the bleisure trend are Gen Z, followed by Baby Boomers (63%).




Most respondents (64%) believe bleisure offers better work-life balance, with 19% say a bleisure trip, in which work covers airfares and accommodation, is the only way to afford a vacation.



Stay Updated

on the latest travel news

Follow Travel Daily on social media to get your travel news first

Hughes honours 120 years



HUGHES, the longest-serving chauffeur company in Australia, marked its 120th anniversary this week with celebrations in Sydney and Melbourne.

More than 100 guests consisting of clients, travel industry professionals, tenured chauffeurs, and staff gathered at Hyde

Hacienda Bar to enjoy an evening filled with cocktails and canapes.

During the celebration, CEO Kent Joseph expressed his gratitude to clients and staff for their unwavering dedication.

"I am incredibly proud to be leading such a passionate and visionary team," he said.

Radio Operator Ian Holmes (pictured) received a special nod for his 30 years of service, while chauffeurs with over 10 years of service were also acknowledged.

The Melbourne event attracted an equally impressive turnout. *JM*

EK renews LVMH

EMIRATES will continue to exclusively serve eight prestigious champagnes after renewing its commercial agreement with the LVMH collection of luxury brands.

Under the deal, travellers flying first class will have access to Dom Perignon's Vintage 2013, Vintage Rose 2008 and Plenitude 2 2004.

Business class travellers will be able to enjoy Moet & Chandon's Brut Imperial, Imperial Rose and Grand Vintage Blanc 2013, plus Veuve Clicquot's Yellow Label and Vintage Blanc.

Emirates has invested more than US\$1 billion into its wine program since its inception, buying wines early and allowing them to mature before serving to passengers on board.

Hahnair gains 10

GERMAN charter airline Hahnair has welcomed 10 new partner airlines into its network, while an additional five are in the process of joining.

The new partners can now be issued in the GDS under the latest agreements, and include: AA; Alsie Express; Budapest Aircraft Services; Corendon Dutch Airlines; Costa Rica Green Airways; Flytrip; Greater Bay Airlines; SKY Airline Peru; Thai Vietjet Air; and Qazaq Air.



Click here to get your tickets for **Travel24** now!



SPECIALS

Send your special deals to:
specials@traveldaily.com.au

Valid until 30 Jul, **Windstar Cruises** is offering sailors savings of up to \$4,097 per person on its 17-night 'Tahiti Treasures & Marquesas Marvels Fly-Stay-Cruise Package'. Priced from \$10,999ppts, the package includes return economy class airfare from Sydney to Papeete, one night of pre-cruise stay at the Tahiti Pearl, 14 nights aboard *Star Breeze* on a roundtrip from Papeete, and more. Call 1300 749 875 to book.

Singapore Airlines subsidiary **Scot** has announced a flash promotion for Aussies to plan their next adventure. Available until this Sun 07 Jul, the low-cost carrier is offering a range of great deals on economy and ScotPlus tickets to popular destinations including Greece, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and more. Airfares begin from \$159 - **CLICK HERE** to view every offer.

Travellers can save up to \$842 per couple on selected adventures across France, the US, and more when they make their bookings by the end of Jul with **Globus**. Priced from \$10,009 per person, travellers can enjoy the 'Eastern US and Canada Discovery with New York' tour over the span of 16 days. Just shy of two weeks, the French Rendez-Vouz journey can be experienced from \$5,183pp. More offers are available - call 1300 230 234 to learn more or make a booking.

Available now until 26 Sep, **Cunard** has introduced its latest 'Grandest Destinations on Earth' offer, allowing sailors to save on voyages to some of the world's most sought-after markets. Some of the sailings include the 15-night South Pacific voyage from Sydney aboard *Queen Elizabeth* on 22 Jan 2025; the nine-night Japan Circumnavigation from Yokohama on 29 Mar; the 10-night Alaska sailing from Seattle on 23 Jun 2025, and more. Call 13 24 41 to secure your next holiday.

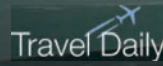
Jetstar is celebrating one year of flying from Australia to Rarotonga with discounted airfares from just \$229 one-way. Ending on 06 Jul, travellers can take advantage of the listed price from Sydney to Rarotonga, and \$312 and \$318 from Brisbane and Melbourne respectively. The carrier also offers flights to Rarotonga from various points in Australia - **CLICK HERE** to see more.

Up to 40% of savings are available with **Oceania Cruises** on almost 50 voyages in its annual winter sale. Eligible sailings include the 11-day New York to Montreal trip, departing on 17 Oct; the 14-day Miami to Bridgetown journey on 21 Dec; Hong Kong to Tokyo in an 18-day voyage on 27 Jan 2025; and much more. Learn more about the offer **HERE**.

Save up to 10% off on luxury adventures around the world with **Abercrombie & Kent's** latest offering. Take advantage of the limited-time offer on Tailor-Made Journeys across more than 100 countries across six continents. With a wide range of ready-to-book itineraries available, there is one suitable for every traveller - call 03 9536 1800 to learn more about the promotion.

Help Travel Advisors
discover your destination

Travel Daily Training Academy



[CLICK HERE FOR AN INFO PACK](#)

Qld is a snappy choice, bro



NEW Zealand's top Expedia Travel Agent Affiliate Program agents escaped the cold to bask in the sunshine of Tropical North Queensland during an eight-day famil last month.

Agents were able to explore the Great Barrier Reef and the ancient Wet Tropics rainforest and get their thrills during white water rafting.

They were also taken on site tours of hotels in Palm Cove and Port Douglas, and enjoyed free time to explore art galleries.

Tourism Tropical North Queensland CEO Mark Olsen said the famil received great feedback from the participating agents, many of whom were visiting the region for the first time.

"New Zealand is currently

Tropical North Queensland's fourth largest international market with 32,000 visitors in the year ending Mar 2024, but we expect that number to grow in 2025 with the additional flights," he said. *JM*

The group is **pictured** at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures.

World's best tours

TRIPADVISOR'S global community has singled out the world's best tourist attractions and experiences based on global review volumes in the platform's 'Best of the Best' awards.

Leading the charge was 'The Unvanquished Tour in Porto City' in Portugal, which received an average five stars from 9,412 reviews surveyed.

The highest ranking Australian experience in the global poll was a small-group Blue Mountains day tour from Sydney plus Scenic World, which scored five stars from 3,314 reviews.

Other experiences in Australia's top five included a Yarra Valley wine tour, snorkelling adventure in Port Douglas, the Phillip Island Penguin Sanctuary in Vic and a day tour to K'gari in Queensland.

SAA goes mobile

SOUTH African Airways has launched a new mobile app which has been optimised for use on both phones and smart watches.

The app allows users to search and book flights, check-in and use digital boarding passes, obtain instant flight notifications and make changes to reservations.

Abercrombie & Kent

AFRICA IS CALLING

A&K have been pioneering life-changing safaris in Africa since 1962.

Sixty years on, we are the experts in experiential, Tailor-Made Journeys to Africa – adventures that inspire up-close encounters with nature's greatest theatre. From the lily-covered lagoons of the Okavango Delta to the vast horizons of the Serengeti and the thundering roar of Victoria Falls, come face-to-face with abundant wildlife and immerse yourself in the natural world under the careful watch of the continent's finest guides.

With privileged access, hand-picked accommodations, and a long-standing presence on the ground, A&K sets the benchmark for bespoke travel in Africa. No matter your dream, A&K can curate the perfect African journey just for you.



Victoria Falls & Botswana Explorer

On this exhilarating Southern African adventure, view stunning Victoria Falls and experience a thrilling safari in Botswana's pristine Chobe National Park and Okavango Delta. Accompanied by expert safari guides, you will seek out Africa's iconic wildlife including lion, leopard and elephant, and marvel at the incredibly diverse landscapes.

10 days from \$9,955 pp



Cape Town, Kruger & Victoria Falls Explorer

Experience the best of Southern Africa's dramatic scenery, inspiring wildlife, vibrant cuisine and colourful culture. Begin in cosmopolitan Cape Town, one of the world's most beautiful cities, then head out on safari in a wildlife-filled private reserve located nearby Kruger National Park before witnessing the mighty Victoria Falls.

10 days from \$9,975 pp



East Africa Explorer

Venture to the sun-soaked plains of East Africa on an extraordinary journey through Kenya and Tanzania. Enjoy thrilling game drives with expert safari guides among a diverse range of ecosystems, witnessing abundant wildlife and staying in spacious camps and lodges in the region's finest parks and reserves.

10 days from \$11,950 pp

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



*Terms & Conditions apply. Prices shown are per person based on twin share and are subject to availability.