

### Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features five pages of the latest travel industry news plus a full page from ATIA.

### Tick for SIA/GA deal

**GARUDA** Indonesia and Singapore Airlines have been granted regulatory approval to proceed with an expanded commercial joint venture deal flagged in May (**TD 27 May**).

The green light means the carriers can start operating joint revenue sharing flights, coordinating flight schedules to offer travellers more options, and explore joint marketing initiatives.

In the lead-up to the latest approval, both airlines revealed they have been working on new loyalty tie-ups that will give members of each program the option to earn and redeem miles on codeshare routes.

Garuda and Singapore Airlines already codeshare on flights to Bali, Jakarta and Johannesburg.

## Pay on Delay "simplistic"

### EXCLUSIVE

**THE** Board of Airline Representatives of Australia (BARA) has labelled the Federal Govt's agenda of chasing a mandatory compensation scheme to penalise airlines for any delay as "incredibly simplistic".

Speaking to *Travel Daily*, BARA Executive Director Stephen Pearse said it is always an easy message for the government to say that delays are "all the airlines' fault" and there should be mandatory compensation available.

"All the BARA members make huge efforts to look after their customers," Pearse argued.

"And when there are disruptions, which are inevitable, they do what they can to recompense and look after those passengers and get them on their way again as soon as possible," Pearse added.

In its submission to the Airline Passenger Protections (Pay on Delay) Bill 2024, currently before the Senate, BARA said the

government's legislation failed to acknowledge the "far from normal" events of the pandemic.

Pearse said airlines are not shying away from the struggle the sector experienced in meeting the pent-up demand once borders reopened, stating that another 6-12 months would prove that a more stable environment is now in place.

"The introduction of this bill in Australia at this time may therefore be based on a perception of customer service that is now historic and was the direct result of a unique set of circumstances," Pearse said. *ML*

### Thanking you Tom

ATIA has penned an open letter to thank outgoing Chair Tom Manwaring for all of his dedication and vision at the helm of the industry body over the last 10 years - see the **back page** for his full list of achievements.

### MEL rail now on track

**TRAVELLERS** will finally be able to catch a train from Melbourne Airport from 2030 after the aviation hub and the Victorian Government reached a milestone compromise this morning.

The rail project, which has faced years of delays, is finally back on track after Melbourne Airport management backed down on a demand for a more expensive below-ground station.

Melbourne Airport CEO, Lorie Argus, said the airport recognised the need to expedite the project as it seeks to expand capacity.

"Victorians have waited long enough for an airport rail line and we will work with govt to deliver their preferred above-ground station at the airport so the rail line can become reality," she said.

In Nov last year, Federal Transport Minister, Catherine King, appointed an independent mediator to resolve the impasse over the \$10 billion rail project, which will run to the CBD from Melbourne's north west.

**Beautiful SAMOA AUSTRALIA ROADSHOW 2024**

MELBOURNE | ADELAIDE | SYDNEY | BRISBANE  
19<sup>th</sup> August | 20<sup>th</sup> August | 21<sup>st</sup> August | 22<sup>nd</sup> August

**CLICK HERE FOR VENUES, TIMES AND TO REGISTER**

**ASIANA AIRLINES A380 SYDNEY ↔ SEOUL**

From 2 Dec 2024 ~ 1 March 2025

**LEARN MORE**

ASIANA AIRLINES A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

**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](http://agent.sealinktravelgroup.com.au)



SHARPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON TAIWAN & EVA AIR

Travel Daily Training Academy



Click here to discover

## Australia a luxury winner

**AUSTRALIA** is the top destination for APAC luxury travellers planning trips over the next 12 months, according to a newly released report from the Luxury Group by Marriott International, revealing future expectations and consumer behavioural trends in the sector. “Whether it’s discovering new culinary experiences, travelling with their family or friends, or looking to forge connections with the local community, our research has identified new traveller archetypes, and provides Marriott International with new understandings in catering to this discerning traveller segment,” said Oriol Montal, MD, Luxury, Asia Pacific (excl.China) at Marriott International. Across APAC, 68% of respondents revealed that they plan to spend more on luxury travel over the next 12 months, the majority of whom are from India (89%).



Interestingly, one in four of all holidays are celebrations and 88% of trips are led by gastronomy. The report also identified three new categories of affluent travellers, including: ‘The venture traveller’: tourists who prioritise holiday destinations that will lead to business opportunities. The ‘experience connoisseur’: largely Millennials who seek one-of-a-kind experiences. The ‘timeless adventurer’: energetic over-65s who are keen to immerse themselves within a destination. *JHM*

## Brissy Star is born

**THE** Star Brisbane will kick off its multi-staged opening on 29 Aug, rolling out new attractions, restaurants, bars, and entertainment hot spots throughout the rest of the year. LiveWire, a live entertainment venue, will be among the first venues to open in the \$3.6 billion Queen’s Wharf Brisbane precinct, along with grassy public areas by the river, while the Event Centre will be ready in early Sep.

## Hurti’s APAC hires

**HURTIGRUTEN** Group has announced new key appointments to boost its presence in the Asia-Pacific region. Joining new PR recruit Christina Koullas (*TD* 01 Jul) in the Melbourne head office are new Marketing Executives Jemma Gormack and Emily Coltman. The Customer Service Centre has also expanded, with Briohny Black and Laura Lund as CSC Consultants, and in Brisbane, Kristy Fruin joins as Regional Sales Manager (Qld, WA, SA).

## Wu’s biggest sale

**WENDY** Wu Tours has kicked off its ‘Biggest Ever Sale’, offering last-minute savings on selected 2024 tour departures as well as deals on 2025 itineraries. China, Japan, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, India, Latin America, Europe, Middle East, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Taiwan are all included in the sale, which lasts until 15 Aug. Travellers can save up to \$1,000pp on selected 2024 departures, including ‘China by Rail’, as well as savings of up to \$2,000pp on certain 2025 departures, such as the ‘Colours of Costa Rica’. For more details, [CLICK HERE](#).

## ART '24 announced

**THE** draft program has been unveiled for the upcoming Australian Regional Tourism (ART) Convention, which will take place in Mackay, Queensland. Tailored for all sectors of the tourism industry, the theme of the event this year is ‘Regional Tourism: Inspiring Success’. The three-day program kicks off on 09 Oct with a Tourism Australia Agritourism Forum and Welcome Reception before two full days of the convention and wrapping up with a dinner on 10 Oct. The impressive speaker line-up includes Tourism Tropical North Queensland CEO Mark Olsen; Greater Whitsundays CEO of Regional Development Australia, Rob Cocco; and many more. See the full program [HERE](#).



**THE KIMBERLEY**

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

**TONIGHT** we head to Darwin for the end of our Kimberley cruise, after a final day of activity including a Zodiac cruise to King George Falls. It's a spectacular highlight to wrap up our experience of this remote Australian wilderness, including an optional freshwater shower under the cascading waterfalls. That follows an action-packed weekend including visits to the site of an historic WWII DC3 plane crash, viewings of unique rock art and lots of birdlife at remote Ashmore Reef. The all-inclusive luxury *Scenic Eclipse II* has proven to be a fabulous way for Aussies to experience this remote part of the world, and one we would highly recommend.

## Crowne Fiji new reps

**CROWNE** Plaza Fiji Nadi Bay Resort & Spa has appointed CampaignLab to look after its PR and communications. The IHG Hotels & Resorts property is in the final stages of a multi-million dollar renovation, which will introduce three new restaurants throughout the year, plus a nightclub and whiskey bar.



Wendy Wu Tours

**OUR BIGGEST EVER SALE**

**SAVE UP TO \$4,000 PER COUPLE** 2024 & 2025 GROUP TOURS



## New accessible tour

**SENSORY** Tourism Australia has collaborated with local tour businesses across Port Stephens to design an itinerary specifically for blind and low-vision travellers.

The inaugural trip will focus on the region's wildlife experiences, with the first group of blind and low-vision travellers to arrive from Sydney this weekend.

Over four days, the group will sleep among the eucalyptus trees at the Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary, as well as enjoy a guided walk of the property.

Other attractions featured on the itinerary include Irukandji Shark & Ray Encounters, and a ranger-guided walk at Oakvale Wildlife Park with animal interpretation and personal experiences - more info [HERE](#).

## Aussies can't get enough USA



**INDEPENDENCE** Day proved an ideal occasion for the team from Visit USA to host its mid-year market review in the company of industry leaders and partners.

The event, held at W Sydney, presented the latest travel data for the Australia market directly from National Travel and Tourism Office (NTTO) Deputy Director of Research, David Huether.

It was particularly special as it also marked the first time the NTTO had presented to any USA tourism promotional body located outside the country itself.

Growth in travel to the USA from Australia is projected to rise 23.7% compared to the 954,000 that made the trip in 2023.

The data shows Australia is the 10th most valuable source market for the USA by volume but holds fourth place among the fastest growing international markets.

### Goodwin departs

**AUSTRALIAN** Airports (AAA) Association CEO James Goodwin has parted ways with the group after a four-year tenure.

He has been replaced on an interim basis by Greg Fordham.

No reason for the exit has been provided, but reflecting on his departure, Goodwin listed AAA's achievements in his time as navigating COVID, membership growth, & championing women.

More than 90% of travellers head to the USA on a leisure holiday, with 80% being repeat travellers and spending an average of 17 nights state-side.

Los Angeles is the leading point of entry to the US, accounting for 37% of Australians entering, followed by Honolulu with 16% and San Francisco with 12%.

New York and Dallas both catered for 6% each, with Houston on the list with 2%. *ML*

**Pictured** above is the Visit USA Australia Executive Committee of David Clark, Vice President; Belinda Harvy, Secretary; Caroline Davidson, President; Aida Osta, Secretariat and Director of Events; Millie Browne, Treasurer; and Shannon Davis, PR and Communications.

### Travelmarvel adds 13

**TRAVELMARVEL** has unveiled 13 new itineraries as part of its 2025 Europe Coastal Cruising program, which will see *MS Caledonian Sky* sail with the APT-owned brand for the first time in the Mediterranean.

Among the new cruises are the eight-day 'Greek Island Explorer', which sails from Athens return; the 15-day 'Mediterranean Treasures' from Venice to Istanbul; and the 11-day 'Highlights of Canary Islands and Madeira' from Tenerife to Porto - more [HERE](#).



## Window Seat

**PROTESTORS** in Spain who want to bring an end to mass tourism in Barcelona have turned to water pistols to make their point.

Chanting "Barcelona is not for sale", the crowd of around 3,000 locals gathered to demand a new economic model to lower the annual number of visitors a year.

While the economic message is valid, many have criticised the act by some to spray holidaymakers dining at restaurants with water.

Local media suggests the source of the protestors' frustration has been around housing affordability.



## Skimping on luxury

**AUSTRALIANS** are cutting back on luxuries while travelling due to affordability concerns, a new report from Finder shows.

The survey of 1,012 respondents revealed more than one in two people (54%) say the rising cost of living is having a negative impact on their lifestyle, leading one in four (25%) to stop staying at five-star hotels.

Additionally, 16% said they've downgraded travel and can no longer afford to fly first or business class, while 33% indicated they've stopped eating at high-end restaurants.

Younger age groups - Gen Z (69%) and Gen Y (66%) - were more likely to say they've made sacrifices to cope with financial pressures, compared to Gen X (48%) and Baby Boomers (36%).

titan  
travel

\$1,250  
saving per person

Book by 31 July 2024. T&Cs apply

[View itineraries](#)



Lakeside Austria -  
Magical Zell am See

8 days from  
~~\$3,193~~ \$1,943

Price based on  
6 May 2025  
Other dates available



## Agents' alpine adventure



**SWITZERLAND** Tourism and Rail Europe recently hosted agents on a famil to explore the Playground of Europe, including stays in Zurich, Lucerne, Lugano and Zermatt, the home of the iconic Matterhorn.

The group particularly loved the scenic train rides, including the Gotthard Panorama Express from Lucerne to Lugano, and the Centovalli Train to Domodossola, which has just marked 101 years of operation.

The trip was escorted by Sandra Babey from Switzerland Tourism and Grant Robertson from Rail Europe. *JM*

**Pictured** n Zurich are: Terry Tarraran, Worldstar Travel; Guide from Zurich Tourism; Nicole Serisier, Bayview Travel; Sarah Churchett, Flight Centre West Lakes; Fionna Oakley, Flight Centre Eastland; Andrew Denishensky, Entourage Travel;

Grant Robertson, Rail Europe; Sandra Babey, Switzerland Tourism; Karryn Bartlett, TravelManagers; Jessica Brunelli, Globetrotter Travel.

### Tassie visitors rise

**INTERNATIONAL** visitation to Tasmania has recovered to 79% of pre-COVID numbers, the latest Tasmanian Visitor Survey shows.

Most overseas visitors came from the United States, the United Kingdom and China.

Visitor expenditure is higher than pre-COVID, but due to the rising cost of living, spend is trending downwards.

The survey also revealed that 1.28 million visitors visited the state in the 12 months to Mar 2024, spending \$3.5 billion, while domestic and overseas visitors stayed longer in the state on average across the year.

## Int'l Rail rolls out platform

**INTERNATIONAL** Rail has rolled out its new booking platform for travel advisors after a soft launch earlier this year.

The new trade booking platform, announced in late 2023 (*TD* 06 Dec), is now operational for all advisors to access, with new features including viewing and tracking bookings and accessing tickets online.

Advisors can also download a customer-friendly PDF attachment with the train/ferry itinerary and without pricing or commission visible.

Also live is the website's new online chat service, which advisors can use to communicate with a local team member.

The platform has helped International Rail scale quickly in line with demand, tripling its revenue growth over the last 18 months and growing from six to 26 local support team members.

"The introduction of this new service further strengthens International Rail's position in the market as a reputable local Australian one-stop-shop for agents which enables them to create a complete rail holiday experience for their clients," owner & Managing Director Jonathan Hume said.

"By incorporating an offline/complex rail itineraries component, the booking experience becomes significantly smoother from the time a quote or booking is requested until receipt of the tickets." *MS*

### Preferred Legends

**PREFERRED** Hotels & Resorts' ultra-luxury Legend Collection has now grown to include more than 100 member properties.

The latest properties to debut in the Legend portfolio include The Hotel Maria in Finland; Grand Velas Boutique Los Cabos; The Global Ambassador in Phoenix Arizona; and The Newman, which will open in London next year.

"The expansion of our Legend Collection portfolio is not only an exciting growth landmark for our brand, it also aligns with an increase in demand we are seeing from luxury travellers who are prioritising hotels that feature exquisite accommodations, stellar and intuitive personal service, renowned dining, and exceptional spas," said Lindsey Ueberroth, Preferred Hotels & Resorts CEO.

### COMO punches in

**LUXURY** hotel COMO Uma Canggu is welcoming world champion boxers Darren Barker and Ryan Pickard in Oct, who will offer guests an exclusive six-day fitness retreat, focusing on cardio, yoga and meditation.

Guests will also enjoy COMO Shambhala Cuisine, a nutritious menu to support their regime, in addition to the wellness centre, where they can enjoy relaxing massages and soothing treatments post-workout.

## Discover the all new *River Cruise Special Report*





## BROCHURES

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

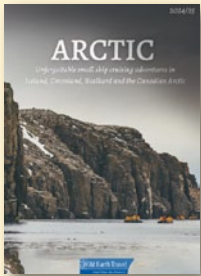
THIS week's Brochures of the Week is brought to you by DriveAway.



### DriveAway - Europe Car Leasing

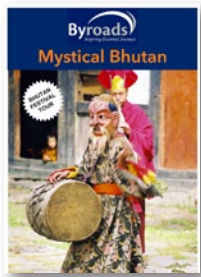
Experience the ultimate freedom of a European road trip with DriveAway's comprehensive Euro-Leasing brochure. Imagine cruising through Germany's historic Romantic Road, wandering the charming villages of Italy's Tuscany, camping under the stars in France's Loire Valley, discovering the rugged coastline of Portugal's Algarve, or immersing in the festive spirit of Spain's Valencia.

DriveAway will turn your dream road trip into a reality. Opt for Europe car leasing with DriveAway and explore Europe from behind the wheel of a brand-new, all-inclusive Car-2-Europe Peugeot, Renault Eurodrive, Car-2-Europe Citroen, or Car-2-Europe DS vehicle. Learn more about the adventures today by [CLICKING HERE](#).



### Wild Earth Travel - Arctic 2024/2025

Wild Earth Travel has unveiled its latest e-brochure showcasing captivating destinations across Iceland, Greenland, Svalbard, the North Pole, and the Canadian Arctic. Advisors can also get the details about Wild Earth's collection of small ship itineraries. The travel guide boasts a user-friendly format, where travel advisors can receive more in-depth information on Wild Earth's diverse range of Arctic expeditions than ever before. Also featured within the digital booklet are embedded links that provide readers with more in-depth information.



### Byroads Travel - Mystic Bhutan

Uncover the secluded Kingdom of Bhutan with Byroads Travel's specially curated itinerary. Agents can learn in detail about the highlights of the itinerary in the eight-page booklet, with the 13-day holiday beginning at Bangkok Airport and traversing through Paro, Thimphu, Punakha, Wangdue, and more. The flights from Bangkok to Paro with Druk Air are included in the tour cost, as well as the transfers in Bhutan. Travellers can also enjoy accommodation at the Hotel River Valley, Kuichu Resort, and the ABC Eco Lodge.

## Santo's salute to Solomons



**TRAVELLERS** on board Solomon Airlines' maiden flight from Brisbane to Vanuatu were greeted by a carnival-like atmosphere when they touched down in Espiritu Santo last week.

The Honiara-based carrier has stepped into the shoes of the failed Air Vanuatu to operate the weekly non-stop service.

Those on board were presented with a commemorative flight certificate before being welcomed in Santo with a flower lei, music from a local string band

and fresh coconuts.

The festivities didn't stop there, with a water cannon salute also afforded to the plane after it arrived on the sunny island.

Solomon Airlines flight IE726 is a weekly service taking just three hours to reach Vanuatu from the Qld capital, taking off at 9am and landing at 12.50pm local time.

"The re-established connectivity, thanks to Solomon Airlines, provides a welcome boost to the local tourism economy, and will help us to continually see Australian visitation numbers rise as we welcome holidaymakers to our shores in 2024 and beyond," said Vanuatu Tourism Office CEO, Adela Issachar Aru. *ML*

## Real-time warnings

**REAL-TIME** radar and weather information across flight paths will now be available to United Airlines' travellers to stay up-to-date on possible flight delays.

The airline will use generative AI to text links about live radar images in an effort to provide as much information as possible to those affected.

Travellers will also be able to use the links to see how inclement weather in one part of the world can affect a flight in another.

## Trevena's takeaways

**DESTINATION** Webinars founder, Charlie Trevena, has launched a new industry podcast aimed at travel agents.

Called *Travel Agent Takeaways*, a trailer for the first episode is now live on Apple and Spotify Podcasts, with the first two episodes dropping this week.

# Open letter of thanks to Tom Manwaring



## Thank You to Tom Manwaring from the ATIA Board and Members.

We want to express our deepest gratitude Tom for your exceptional service and leadership as the ATIA Chair and Director over the last 10 years. Your unwavering dedication and vision has guided the Association and our Industry through some of our most challenging times.

Your tireless efforts, especially during the pandemic, provided crucial support that allowed so many in the Industry to keep the doors open as we helped our customers, clients and others impacted.

Many of us witnessed firsthand your commitment and hard work, often behind the scenes, ensuring that our needs and concerns were addressed and understood by Government and the wider community.

Despite your role being voluntary, you consistently went above and beyond.

Under your leadership, ATIA has undergone significant reforms, including the Constitution review, the rebranding of ATIA, and the strengthening of ATAS. These key reforms have placed the organisation on very solid ground for the future, ensuring its continued success and stability.

The impact of your contribution in supporting and elevating the Australian Travel Industry will be felt for many years to come.

Thank you Tom for your outstanding service and for setting such a high standard of leadership. Your dedication and vision have truly made a difference.

With sincere thanks,

All of us.

“  
The impact  
of your  
contribution  
in supporting  
and elevating  
the Australian  
Travel Industry  
will be felt for  
many years to  
come.  
”

**DIRECTOR, BRETT MITCHELL**  
Managing Director ANZ, Intrepid

**DIRECTOR, DANIELLE RUSSOM**  
Vice President SME APAC,  
Amex Global Business Travel

**DIRECTOR, GAI TYRRELL**  
Managing Director Asia Pacific,  
Globus family of brands

**DIRECTOR, PETER MULLER**  
Regional Managing Director Pacific & Africa, ATP1

**CHAIR, CHRISTIAN HUNTER**  
Chief Executive Officer, Travellers Choice

**DIRECTOR, DAVID HOSKING**  
CEO, The Travel Corporation (Australia)

**VICE CHAIR, GRAHAM TURNER**  
Managing Director, Flight Centre Travel Group

**DIRECTOR, ROHAN MOSS**  
Group General Manager - Consolidation,  
Helloworld Travel

**DIRECTOR, CINZIA BURNES**  
Executive Director, Helloworld Travel

**DIRECTOR, DAVID SMITH**  
General Manager Mergers and Acquisitions,  
Flight Centre Travel Group

**VICE CHAIR, LAURA RUFFLES**  
Executive Director, CEO ANZ, Europe & Asia, CTM

**DIRECTOR, SHELLEY BEASLEY**  
Global COO and CEO - B2C Division,  
Webjet Limited