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## Trilogy lands two big ones

**TRILOGY** Hotels has announced two major new signings, with the independent hotel company to take on management of Holiday Inn Sydney Airport and Courtyard by Marriott, Sydney-North Ryde.

Both properties will undergo refurbishment and be rebranded as premium Crowne Plazas, in what marks Trilogy's first franchise agreements with IHG Hotels & Resorts.

Trilogy Hotels CEO, Scott Boyes, who banded together with two other high-profile hotel executives to launch the company last year (*TD* 14 Dec 2023), described the deals as a "defining moment for the hotel industry".

"Both hotels will leverage Crowne Plaza's strong and globally established branding and IHG's phenomenal customer base, loyalty program, and distribution

network to help drive bookings."

Trilogy has already begun operations for Holiday Inn Sydney Airport and will oversee its transition to Crowne Plaza Sydney Airport, slated for Sep 2024.

As part of the rebrand, the property's 252 guest rooms will receive a refresh, along with the lobby, conference rooms, and food and beverage outlets.

Trilogy will then commence operations for Courtyard by Marriott, Sydney-North Ryde on 01 Jan 2025, with the 196-key hotel flagged to undergo a light refurb before reopening. *JM*

## TAG seeking talent

**TAG** is seeking motivated individuals to join its team, and is offering a number of benefits such as hybrid working - see **p9**.

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features seven pages of news, including a photo page from **Travellers Choice**, our **Sustainability** page, plus a full page from:

- Silversea
- TAG

## Silversea adds perks

**SILVERSEA** is offering exclusive shipboard credit to customers, helping to make it easier for agents to make more future bookings - head to **page eight** to learn more about the deal.

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## 2024 & 2025 GROUP TOURS

DISCOVER MORE

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## 1000MTG goes independent

1000 Mile Travel Group (1000MTG) is providing independent travel agencies with the option of joining its network, whilst still maintaining their own unique brand identity.

The decision to launch a new self-branded model for travel businesses arrives after "years of research", 1000MTG said, offering agencies the chance to leverage its global support services, resources, and partnerships.

There are a few caveats for applicants seeking to join the new model, including a requirement to have a minimum of two members in the agency at any time, as well as the need to operate a non-corporate niche, where the corporate technology offering remains under the fully

branded 1000MTG model.

"We have decided now is the time to take this to market for our internal business owners and interested parties who qualify," 1000MTG Chief Executive Officer, Nicola Veltman, said.

Further advantages for agencies who join include accelerating growth prospects by leveraging 1000MTG's global buying power.

The company said it already had two agencies signed up, and has a desire to adopt "many more". *AB*

## Wendy's cruise push

**EXCLUSIVE**

WENDY Wu Tours (WWT) has launched its first fully inclusive Cruise & Tour holidays collection, with a selection of nine itineraries now available to book.

The collection combines cruises with WWT's land tours, in a strategic move to leverage the company's expertise in land travel, and address the increasing desire for multifaceted holidays.

WWT has partnered with Celebrity Cruises, Royal, and Azamara to deliver the inaugural collection - for the full details, see today's issue of *Cruise Weekly*.

## Contiki bolsters SK

THREE nights in South Korea's playground of Jeju Island is now available as an optional add-on to Contiki's recently launched itinerary in South Korea.

The extension comes on the back of extremely high demand for its new South Korean itineraries, which saw the youth touring specialist boost departures in its maiden year from nine to 11, while also doubling 2025 departures from 11 to 22 (*TD 04 Mar*).

Elsewhere in Asia, Contiki has introduced a new five-day tour immersing travellers in the Ha Giang Loop in northern Vietnam.

Beginning in Hanoi, the itinerary includes a night of camping by the Nho Que River.

## Stay at Brissy's new Star



**BOOKINGS** are now open for The Star Brisbane's signature five-star hotel, The Star Grand, for stays from 29 Aug.

Located in the heart of the \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane precinct, the hotel comprises 340 luxurious rooms, 276 standard rooms, 60 suites, and four penthouse suites.

The standard rooms offer city or river views, with dual rain showerheads and integrated in-room technology, allowing guests to customise lighting and temperature, while suites feature a spacious open-plan living area, king bed and a bathroom.

For the ultimate lavish experience, the Skyline Penthouse Suites boast a spacious open-plan lounge and dining area, two private guest retreats, each with an en suite and an oversized

bathub, and a kitchenette with a well-stocked butler's pantry.

Upon entering the Star Grand, guests will be greeted by a 21-metre glass oculus and a huge floating botanical sculpture, and can dine at the onsite Japanese restaurant, Sokyo.

"As the team prepare to unveil a destination almost a decade in the making, we are thrilled to invite guests of The Star Grand hotel to be among the first to experience the grand possibilities that await," The Star Brisbane CEO, Daniel Finch, said.

"The Star Grand's floor-to-ceiling windows will serve as a spectacular vantage point to capture the electrifying displays of Brisbane Festival, before we kick into footy finals, Melbourne Cup and all the festivities of Christmas and New Year's Eve." *JM*



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## Rail Europe

Rail Journey Inspiration by Justine Pielli

**Justine Pielli from Travel Associates won her dream journey to experience Switzerland's iconic panoramic trains.**

Switzerland Panoramic trains I'd love to ride,

Gazing out the windows, amazed and wide-eyed!

Starting with the Gotthard Panorama Express,

Heading to Lugano with a view to impress!

With the panoramic train to Lake Lugano boat,

My Facebook and Instagram will be the place to gloat...

Read the rest of Justine's poem on [Rail Europe's FB page](#).

Book with Rail Europe - [www.agent.raileurope.com](http://www.agent.raileurope.com)

**The best way to explore Switzerland? With a Swiss Travel Pass, of course!**

With unlimited access on Switzerland's public transportation system including trains, buses and boats, free entries to museums, free travel for children and discounts on cableways, see [here](#) for the full list of the benefits of the Swiss Travel Pass and how it compares to the Eurail Pass.



**Click HERE for more inspiring 4, 7 and 15-day themed itineraries around Europe.**



## Heavy hitters join us



**CRUISE** industry leader Jill Abel from ACA, Wendy Wu Tours local boss Simon Bell, and AAT Kings CEO Ben Hall, are the latest esteemed industry experts to join the Travel24 program.

The one-day event will take place in less than a month at the Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour, with tickets selling fast.

Abel will participate in a panel discussion on the future of ocean cruising, alongside MSC Cruises Managing Director Lisa Teiotu; Silversea Managing Director Adam Radwanski; and Royal Caribbean International's Director of Sales, Dave Humphreys.

Meanwhile, Bell, who is the Managing Director at Wendy Wu Tours, and AAT King's Hall,

will wrap up Travel24 with their insights into the major issues set to face the sector soon.

More speakers will also be announced to the market soon.

Hosted by **Travel Daily**, Travel24 will focus on the future of travel, and will be packed with discussions and keynotes from experts, from Minister for Trade and Tourism, Don Farrell and ATIA CEO Dean Long, to TedX speaker Azure Antoinette, Accenture Head of Cultural Forecasting Michelle Newton, AI expert Tom Pitney, and plenty more. *JHM*

**CLICK HERE** for more details.

### AI for travel session

**TICKETS** are now on sale for Travel Marketing Machine's ChatGPT for Travel and Tourism Workshop, which takes place online from 9am on Thu 18 Jul.

For the full details of what will be covered, **CLICK HERE**.



## Window Seat

**HOBART'S** luxury MACq01 Hotel is eager to do what it can to help sleep-deprived Aussies - whether it's work, bills or the rising cost of living - even if it costs them revenue.

The property has launched the 'Pay by Sleep Slumber Suite', and is allowing guests booking a two-night stay until 30 Sep to get their second night for free if they bank a full nine hours of shuteye.

The promotion is in line with the rise of sleep tourism and the opportunities available to businesses who cater to guests craving some extra zzz's.

It also follows new research showing that 10% of Australians have fallen asleep behind the wheel, and 7% have even opted to take a quick nap in a nightclub.

### ORLANDO

Today's issue of *Travel Daily* is coming to you courtesy of **Royal Caribbean**.

**THIS** morning, we're catching up with the captain of *Utopia of the Seas*, who will chat with us about Royal Caribbean's sustainability programs and community work.

Then we'll meet with some of the ship's food and beverage experts, who will share the craftsmanship that has gone into creating *Utopia's* dining experiences, followed by tastings at Giovanni's Italian Kitchen and Wine Bar.

There is an impressive range of 30 menus across 50 bar concepts on Royal's newest ship - it's a tough job to sample them all but someone has to.

## The Envoy for Every Journey

Envoyage is a global network of entrepreneurial travel advisors and agencies. Led by an experienced international team and backed by a major travel name, Envoyage enhances businesses with benefits and programs that drive growth.

We know that just as every trip is unique, so is every travel business. Our goal is to be the home and the heart of the travel industry for autonomous entrepreneurs and to build an unparalleled offering you can tap into as much or as little as you need to succeed, grow and thrive.

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## Pac roadshow return

**THE** Treasures of the South Pacific roadshow is returning to Australia to offer a wealth of insider knowledge and first-hand insights about the region.

Supported by the Pacific Tourism Office, the Pacific Trade Invest Australia, and ATIA, the events will visit Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, and Canberra from next month.

Ten of the region's national tourism offices will be featured, including Palau for the first time, along with entertainment and prizes - **CLICK HERE** for details.

## WA's cruise focus

**NETWORKING** opportunities to discuss the advancement of the WA cruise sector are taking place this week at the eighth annual WA Cruise Exchange.

The event, held at Crown Towers Perth, is being attended by 25 delegates from 14 leading ocean, river and expedition lines along with WA port operators and shore excursion operators.

Topics on the agenda include the ten-year WA Cruise Tourism Strategic Plan, which includes a \$35.5 million investment to conduct deck repairs and upgrades at Victoria Quay.

# ATIA UPDATE

from Nina Hedges, Compliance Manager



**AS WE** wrap up another season of ATAS renewals, I wish to thank our members for their unwavering support,

which has been instrumental in our ongoing advocacy efforts for the travel industry.

Put simply, we could not do what we do without your support.

We understand that receiving your ATAS invoice each year may not be the most thrilling moment, but today I wanted to share why receiving such a joyous document should be a source of pride.

For this is no mere business expense; by renewing you have made a powerful contribution on behalf of every travel intermediary in Australia, ensuring our industry not only survives but thrives.

You're ensuring that ATIA is present and active in critical arenas promoting and defending the entire travel intermediary community at all levels of govt.

Through the delivery of well researched, thought-driven strategies to govt, agencies,

regulators and others, we ensure policymakers and stakeholders understand and consider the unique ecosystem that you operate in when they make their decisions.

You're elevating standards within our industry.

By adhering to the ATAS Code & Charter, you are holding the industry in an elevated position, leading by example and showcasing how to run an outstanding business.

You're also part of an elite group of Australian businesses that meet the stringent criteria to hold ATAS accreditation.

This is no small feat, with 25% of businesses that apply for ATAS accreditation being rejected.

This rejection rate underscores the significance and prestige of your achievement and is why you should display the ATAS symbol proudly on all your communications and materials.

We could not have achieved the successes we have without each and every one of you.

So, next time you receive your invoice from ATAS, please remember the crucial role you play. Take pride in receiving such an email - it symbolises your esteemed place in our industry.

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To contact our People and Culture Team Click here



To apply if you have any questions or would like a copy of the Position Description please contact our People and Culture team at [jess.ernst@connectionsgroup.com.au](mailto:jess.ernst@connectionsgroup.com.au)

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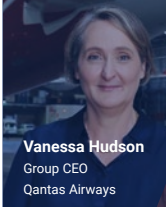
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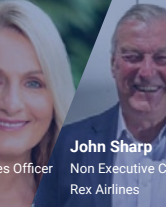
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## Travellers Choice charts its course

**AS BOARD** members and senior management travelled the country this month to deliver their annual strategy presentations, Travellers Choice proved once again that no group is more committed to keeping its members informed and engaged.

In Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth, Travellers Choice members gathered to hear Chair Trent Bartlett address the “currents of change” reshaping the trading landscape.

MD Christian Hunter then provided a detailed breakdown on the group’s strong performance over the past financial year, before outlining the strategies to ensure even greater success.

As well as developing new services to meet member needs, the award-winning network’s plans for the coming year include marketing activity to capitalise on consumer travel spend trends, investment in additional internal resources and not increasing membership fees.

Hunter also provided members with an update on the activities of the Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) following his recent appointment as Chair of the national peak representative body. For more information on Travellers Choice, [CLICK HERE](#).



**BENJAMIN** Apsey, Globetrotters Travel & Cruise with Christian Hunter and JWL Travel’s Jennifer Whybird.



**MIKE** Wood, Peregrine Travel Centre WA; Chris Holmes and Sue Holmes, Carine Travel Bug; & TC’s Christian Hunter.



**TRAVELLERS** Choice members gather in Perth.



**ROBYN** Mitchell, Travellers Choice; Michelle Shea, City Beach Travel & Cruise; and Dianne Garbin and Peta Beckingham from Floreat World of Travel.



**PAUL** Millan, Travellers Choice and Hughla McLaren, Thornleigh Cruise & Travel.



**ATTENDEES** at the Adelaide event.



**ATTENDEES** at the Sydney event.

**KERRY** Fiske and Peter Fiske from Clayfield Travel Professionals and Debra Gibb, Why Travel.



**TRINITY** Hastwell, Hastwell Travel & Cruise; Rosalie Stott, Inflight Travel; and Naome Burdon and Lisa Cheso from Argyle Travel and Cruise.



**MARITA** Behrendorff, Aspire Travel & Cruise; Cathy Hewett, Tewantin Travel; and Jill Fairclough, Endeavour Travel & Cruise.



**TRENT** Bartlett and Christian Hunter, Travellers Choice; Zoe Eagleton, Riverland Travel; Caroline Sage, Panorama Cruise & Travel; Paula Moylan, Travellers Choice; Alwyn Eagleton, Riverland Travel; and Lynn Bradley, Compass Travel & Cruising.



### Thai plastic ban

**THAI** tourist island Nang Yuan Island is enforcing a plastic ban, with visitors now prohibited from bringing any plastic items or styrofoam boxes to the destination.

Nang Yuan Island's residents have made a habit of limiting plastic use for years, with tourists now required to follow suit.

Visitors will also be banned from bringing in water bottles unless they are recyclable, and will instead be provided with a glass bottle during their stay.

### Aruba new green fee

**DUTCH** Caribbean island Aruba is implementing a US\$20 sustainability entry fee for visitors arriving to the country by air.

The levy will be charged through the online Embarkation & Disembarkation Card platform which travellers to Aruba are required to complete, and is not payable on arrival.

It will support a number of projects aimed at enhancing and improving sustainability efforts on the island, including upgrading the existing sewage water treatment plants and infrastructure, and building a new model to handle future demand.

The fee is only payable once annually, covering multiple entries per calendar year, and does not apply to children under eight or cruise passengers.

## ADELAIDE AIRPORT (SOLAR) POWERS UP

**ADELAIDE** Airport (pictured) is set to almost triple its rooftop solar system, with the installation of more than 3,700 solar panels at its domestic and int'l terminal.

All of the airport's electricity already comes from renewable sources generated by a combination of on-site solar and wind farms in Lake Bonney.

The new 2.3MWp photovoltaic solar system, which will be installed in partnership with Iberdrola Australia, will generate approximately 3,282MWh of energy annually, bringing the total solar capacity to 3.5MWp, enough to power 1,000 homes.

"This solar system will significantly increase Adelaide Airport's cost-effective renewable energy generation," the airport's MD Brenton Cox said.



"The project will result in Adelaide Airport exceeding our target to self-generate 15% of our airport precinct electricity needs from on-site renewable energy.

"Our purpose is to proudly connect and shape South Australia; our vision is to be everyone's favourite airport and

sustainability is a core feature of our strategic plan...cost-effective, renewable energy is important for the long-term sustainability of our organisation and our partners," he added.

Construction on the new solar system is expected to be completed early next year. *MS*

### First shore power in the Med switched on

**MALTA'S** Prime Minister Robert Abela has toured MSC Cruises' *MSC World Europa*, as the ship officially inaugurates Valletta's shore power facility.

The port's local power grid supplied electricity for all of *World Europa's* operations while the ship was berthed, which allowed all of her engines to be switched off, eliminating the vessel's direct emissions.

The facility is the first to be operational in the Mediterranean Sea.

Abela was shown around

*World Europa* by Captain Stefano Battinelli, and was given a presentation on MSC's decarbonisation strategy to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 for its marine operations by Chief Energy Transition Officer, Michele Francioni.

"Shore power is one very important element of our continued commitment towards decarbonisation with most of our fleet equipped to eliminate local emissions," Francioni said.

### Skal eco awards

**SKAL** International is hailing the impressive success of its Sustainable Tourism Awards, with almost 60 participants representing 20 countries.

The success of the entries underscores the tourism industry's dedication to environmental stewardship, providing a platform for recognition and inspiring professionals to innovate for sustainability and positive change, Skal said.

The full list of winners will be announced on 17 Oct.



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## A far tastier rail journey



**GREAT** Journeys New Zealand has announced a new rail journey for food and wine lovers, with the first departure date set for 16 Mar 2025.

The 18-day tour begins in Auckland with a welcome dinner, and includes a visit to Waiheke Island and three scenic train journeys, each of which are complemented with the Scenic

Plus Dining Experience.

Highlights include a guided tour of Sanctuary Mountain, lunch at Lauren's Lavender Farm, a culinary experience in Wellington, a cultural food walking tour in Christchurch, a Malborough food and wine tour, and much more.

There are also options for shorter tours, starting at six days - for further details on the 'Flavours of Aotearoa' itinerary, [CLICK HERE](#). JM

## Hawaii's green idea

**TOURISM** operators in Hawaii must adapt their offerings to be environmentally, ecologically and culturally regenerative under a new law signed this week by State Governor, Josh Green.

While the new law doesn't detail how this can happen, it creates a framework under which new policies will be implemented based on respect and support for Hawaii's culture and ecosystem.

Broader goals for the legislation include decreasing the impact of tourism on Hawaii's beaches, reefs and marine life along with promotion of local entrepreneurs, job training and education for locals wishing to begin careers in the tourism industry.

## Better Laos access

**VIETJET** has signed a new agreement to boost air transport connectivity between Vietnam and Laos.

The carrier will work with the Department of Civil Aviation in Laos to implement aviation projects, bringing more affordable flights to tourists - including Aussies who have a growing number of connections through Vietjet local departures.

As part of the agreement, Vietjet will also establish its own Maintenance Repair Overhaul facilities in Laos, with Vietjet Aviation Academy to oversee the training of 2,500 new jobs.

## PER smashes record

**PERTH** Airport saw its highest-ever annual passenger numbers in FY24, exceeding the 16 million passenger mark for the first time and beating the previous record figure of 14.9 million in FY14.

"Our rebound from the COVID pandemic has been nothing short of amazing," said Perth Airport CEO, Jason Waters.

"We have added more than ten million passengers since FY21 and in doing so have easily broken a record that has stood for a decade.

"The remarkable thing is we expect this growth to continue as airlines continue to show their confidence in the Western Australian market."

The airport recently signed a huge infrastructure deal with Qantas, which will see it undertake an expansion of the international terminal, as well as build new parallel runway, and its first airport hotel (*TD* 31 May).

## Alliance appoints

**ALLIANCE** Aviation Services Chairman, Steve Padgett, has welcomed two new Non-Executive Directors in James Jackson and Mark Stanton to push forward a variety of business initiatives.

Jackson is an experienced company director and former investment banker who has served on several ASX-listed boards.

He will be joined by Mark Stanton, a Chartered Accountant who recently retired from Board of Queensland Rugby Union after an eight-year stint.

"Working closely with James and Mark will be instrumental in Alliance achieving our goals and furthering the success of Alliance," Padgett commented.

## MONEY

**WELCOME** to Money, *TD's* Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

**AU\$1 = US\$0.676**

**TRAVELLERS** to the United States could soon be getting much more bang for their buck, with experts tipping the Aussie to pass the US0.70 cents mark by the end of the year.

The Aussie has already made solid gains against the greenback this year.

*Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.676
UK	£0.521
NZ	\$1.085
Euro	€0.620
Japan	¥106.8
Thailand	฿24.43
China	¥4.901
South Africa	12.31
Canada	\$0.924
Crude oil	US\$81.91

## Ama's doing deals

**DISCOUNTS** of up to 20% are now available on AmaWaterways' range of 2025 European river cruise itineraries on new bookings made by 30 Sep 2024.

On selected itineraries of seven-10 or 11 nights, travellers can combine three offers and receive \$3,000 off, a complimentary stateroom upgrade and US\$50 of onboard credit.

When bookings are made for a 14-night itinerary, savings will be doubled to \$6,000, plus US\$100 of onboard credit.

Solo travellers can also enjoy single supplements ranging from free to 25% off on select voyages.

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