

helloworld
TRAVEL LIMITED

ensemble
further together



HELLOWORLD ANNOUNCES EXCLUSIVE NEW ALLIANCE WITH ENSEMBLE FOR ALL ITS NETWORKS

Helloworld Travel has entered into a new partnership with Canadian based Ensemble in the Australian and New Zealand markets with an exclusive new collaboration.

Helloworld Travel Limited is Australasia's largest network of independent travel agents and travel brokers.

All agents in Helloworld's Branded and Associate network, Magellan, Helloworld Business Travel, Alatus, My Travel Group, MTA, Express Travel Group and First Travel Group will have access to the program effective 1st August.

Andrew Burnes AO, CEO and Managing Director of Helloworld Travel Limited, expressed his enthusiasm, saying, "We reached out to Ensemble after closely watching the consortium's transformation over the past two years. We were particularly impressed with the new global luxury accommodation program Ensemble has launched to support travel advisors including their proprietary booking platform, ADX. This is both user-friendly and delivers enhanced profitability for travel agents while delivering great deals for their customers, making it a valuable tool for our networks to embrace."

The Helloworld networks will have access to the new Ensemble hotel program offering exclusive benefits and competitive rates at a wide range of luxury properties worldwide along with a new DMC Program providing access to the best destination management companies around the world to enable agents to continue to deliver unique and immersive travel experiences for their clients.

"We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with likeminded organizations around the world that share our vision of empowering travel professionals," said Michael Johnson, President of Ensemble "Helloworld Travel Limited's mission and dedication to tailoring personalized and highly curated vacations for clients aligns perfectly with our commitment to supporting advisors through best-in-class programs and resources."

Foundational to Ensemble's advantages in the travel agency consortium space is "ADX", Agent Digital Experience, a proprietary booking platform designed to maximize efficiencies and profitability for members and is delivering a comprehensive selection of luxury product at above industry margins.



Supported. The way you should be

At TravelManagers, we support you and your business.

Find out more

TravelManagers
As individual as you are
join.travelmanagers.com.au

Earn \$100 in credit

AGENTS can put an extra \$100 credit towards their next trip when making their first booking on Luxury Escapes' newly launched Agent Hub.

See more details on the **back page** on how to earn more perks using the hub today.

Tollmans sell TTC to Apollo

AFTER more than a century of private ownership, the Tollman family has made the decision to sell 18 of The Travel Corporation's (TTC) marquee brands to US-based asset manager Apollo Funds for an undisclosed sum (TD breaking news).

Included in the deal, which still needs to clear regulatory hurdles, are the Trafalgar, Uniworld, Contiki, and Insight Vacations brands, while several others are not included in the sale - notably TTC's ultra luxury Red Carnation Hotel Collection division.

Discussing the motivation to sell the bulk of the TTC business to an outside asset manager after 104 years as a family-run affair, TTC Chairman Brett Tollman said the "time had come" to implement a strategic succession plan to take the business forward.

"We will support a seamless transition and are confident the team at Apollo will continue...

to meet growing global demand for touring, river cruising and specialist and adventure travel," Tollman noted.

Apollo said that TTC's brands would be a great fit for its burgeoning asset portfolio given its previous experience growing other travel businesses.

"TTC has a leading collection of brands that we believe we can take to the next level as an Apollo Funds portfolio company, leveraging our extensive experience in the travel, tech and hospitality sectors," Apollo said.

The transaction is subject to a formal review, and is expected to close during Q4 2024. AB

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of news plus a cover wrap from Helloworld, our Luxury page, and a full page from Luxury Escapes.

CO collette

Canadian Rockies & Alaska's Inside Passage

FROM \$14,999*
FLIGHTS INCLUDED

LEARN MORE

*Conditions Apply

ASIANA AIRLINES A380 SYDNEY ↔ SEOUL

From 2 Dec 2024 ~ 1 March 2025

LEARN MORE

ASIANA AIRLINES
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

New Ensemble deal

ALL of Helloworld's travel agents will have access to Canadian company Ensemble's luxury hotel program in a new collaboration starting from Aug.

Learn more about how agents will access the program on the **cover page** and **page two**.

BKB HOLIDAYS

CREATE THE EXCEPTIONAL

UN-PHO-GETTABLE ADVENTURE AWAITS!

Vietnam

2024/25 BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE

CONTACT US
PRIORITY AGENT LINE:
(08) 6382 2166
BKBHOLIDAYS.COM

Wendy Wu Tours

OUR BIGGEST EVER SALE

SAVE UP TO \$4,000 PER COUPLE

2024 & 2025 GROUP TOURS

FROM ONLY **\$3,899**
PER PERSON TWIN SHARE
LAND ONLY
*Surcharges may apply

Amazing Sri Lanka

DURATION: 14 DAYS

VIEW DEAL

MW Tours

HLO inks Ensemble deal

EXCLUSIVE

CANADIAN-BASED Ensemble Travel Group has linked with Helloworld to supply local agents across the network with access to its luxury hotel program.

The new strategic partnership has been forged to help Helloworld members maximise their profits - especially across luxury hotel bookings.

From 01 Aug, all agents in Helloworld's Branded, Associate, Magellan, Helloworld Business Travel, Alatus, My Travel, MTA, Express Travel and First Travel Group divisions in Australia and NZ will benefit from Ensemble's ADX booking platform.

Ensemble's hotel program offers sellers exclusive benefits and competitive rates at a range of luxury properties globally.

The agreement will also provide a pipeline for sellers to reputable destination management

companies around the world. "We reached out to Ensemble after closely watching the consortium's transformation over the past two years," Helloworld CEO and Managing Director, Andrew Burnes, said.

"We were particularly impressed with the new global luxury accommodation program Ensemble has launched to support travel advisors including their proprietary booking platform, ADX.

"This is both user-friendly and delivers enhanced profitability for travel agents while delivering great deals for their customers, making it a valuable tool for our networks," he added.

The deal also heralds a return of sorts to the market for Ensemble, which was forced to abandon a physical presence in ANZ during the pandemic (**TD** 06 Apr 2020).

Learn more about Ensemble Travel Group's return on **p5**. **AB**

Virgin points to biz

VIRGIN Australia's Business Flyer program is now offering the option to 'Pay with Points', which the carrier said will provide increased value for Australian SMEs who fly for business.

The update means members can book flights for their business using a minimum of 3,000 Velocity Points, ensuring more savings and value for businesses during tough economic times.

The new feature can also be used for seat upgrades to Economy X or to cover the costs of additional baggage, and is only available to members when booking through the VA Business Flyer booking portal.

The program is free to join and has no ongoing membership fees, with benefits including discounts of up to 6% on eligible domestic airfares with Virgin Australia, and the ability to earn points for both the business and individual travellers for each eligible flight flown, plus much more.

Travel Daily
ON LOCATION

THE BAHAMAS

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

IT'S a big one today, as we spend the day at Royal Caribbean's private island, Perfect Day at Coco Cay. We'll explore its multitude of activities, from thrilling water slides and a zip line to private cabanas at Chill Island and swim-up bar at Oasis Lagoon. Then there are the fabulous places to dine, such as indulging in Bahamian lobster rolls at Coco Beach Club or Caribbean-style bites at Chill Grill. Tonight, to wrap-up our three-night adventure, we partied with *Utopia's* godmother and singer Meghan Trainor, followed by spectacular fireworks.

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST WEEKEND

UTOPIA OF THE SEAS

NOW SAILING FROM PORT CANAVERAL

Royal Caribbean INTERNATIONAL

LEARN MORE



New Melb Rydges

RYDGES Ringwood will join EVT Hotels & Resorts from next month, after it rebrands from its current Sebel marque.

The 103-room property in Melbourne was constructed in 2021 and features kitchenettes, two connecting meeting and event spaces, and a restaurant.

Policy must drive tourism

MORE forward-thinking policies are needed to step up efforts for a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive tourism sector, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The intergovernmental organisation, in its latest *Tourism Trends and Policies* report, noted new challenges the sector is set to face, including rising geopolitical tensions, cost-of-living pressures, and climate-related events.

Although the sector has bounced back strongly from recent crises, recovery is uneven,

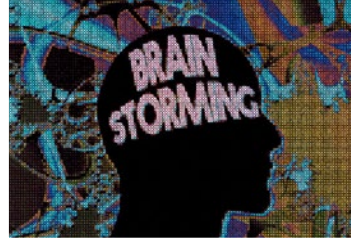
Learn about Liberty

LIBERTY Tours is inviting agents to an evening event titled 'Dynamic Travel Innovation', scheduled to take place in Sydney on Wed 14 Aug.

Featuring a major airline, cruise company and destination partners from around the world as guest speakers, the event will offer insight on how Liberty works with agents, and its diverse range of tours and packages.

The gathering comes on the back of accelerated growth for the tour operator, which made the decision to engage with BDMs last year and now has hundreds of travel agents using its services.

Attendees can expect insightful discussions, freebies, prizes, dinner and networking opportunities - register [HERE](#).



and businesses are still struggling to attract and retain workers, the report noted.

Price pressures are continuing to impact transport, accommodation, and hospitality costs, despite the wider recent drop off in inflation.

Geopolitical tensions also remain high, and the increasing frequency of wildfires, floods, heatwaves, and other extreme weather events are continuing to impact the tourism sector.

"Looking ahead to the longer term, tourism is expected to continue to grow...this creates significant opportunities but also brings renewed challenges, reinforcing the importance of policies to support a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive future," the report said.

The OECD is projecting a full global recovery of the sector by the end of the year, in more bright news, buoyed by positive traveller and business sentiment, and a pick-up in travel in Asia-Pacific, including from China.

Growth is anticipated to return to pre-pandemic trends as demand and supply imbalances continue to unwind. *MS*

Battle of the agents

AGENTS can go head-to-head at Skai Melbourne's Annual Victorian Travel Industry Trivia Night Showdown on 15 Aug.

Taking place at the Yarra Yarra Rowing Club on the river's south bank, the winning team will receive a trophy and prizes.

Tickets cost \$25, buy [HERE](#).

titan
travel

\$1,250
saving per person

Book by 31 July 2024. T&Cs apply

[View itineraries](#)



Switzerland's
Spectacular Rail
Journeys

8 days from
~~\$5,000~~ \$3,810

Price based on
11 June 2025

Other dates available

CLICK
FRENZY
TRAVEL

Sponsored by ZIP

August 7 - 11



Supercharge your
online bookings

Last March, Participating
retailers saw a 70%
traffic boost during
Click Frenzy Travel

[ENQUIRE TODAY](#)

CLICKFRENZY.COM.AU



CHIANG MAI

DA NANG

MALDIVES

Sell flights to Maldives, Chiang Mai, Da Nang
or London and win return flight tickets plus your
share of AUD 7,000 in gift vouchers.

[Find out more](#)

malaysia
airlines

Your Gateway to
Asia & Beyond

T&Cs apply



Uber taps into car rentals

FROM the start of next month, ride-share company Uber will allow Australian users of its app to book rental vehicles.

Following a successful trial in the United States and parts of Europe, Uber confirmed that Aussie travellers looking to secure rental cars from major hubs like airports will soon be able to do so by choosing from a list of reputable suppliers.

Some of the brands signed up to the new function include Thrifty, Hertz, Budget and Dollar.

Powered by third party partner Car Trawler, Uber said the new service will give customers access to almost 30 rental partners in more than 1,700 locations across the country, and will also include high-end electric vehicle options.

When it launches, users can tap the 'Rental Cars' icon, enter the address for pick up or drop off, along with the times and dates for their reservation.



Travellers can then compare prices from the various brands and make a selection, with payment only occurring once the rental car has been picked up.

In further news, Uber has also partnered with Travelex to offer exclusive discounts on rides.

Travelex customers are this month eligible for 50% discounts on their first ride (up to \$50) if they are a new Uber user, or a 25% discount if they are an existing rider.

The latest updates follow Uber launching in several new regional areas, such as the Whitsundays & Wodonga, bringing its footprint to 50 Aussie cities/towns. *AB*

AKL to back down?

AUCKLAND Airport looks likely to be the first to blink in a war with airlines over airport charges.

Following a new draft report from the Commerce Commission, New Zealand's largest air hub said it would now "consider" lowering its planned increased levies on airlines in line with an updated methodology which will take into account more pandemic impacts.

Auckland Airport said its calculations to fund future expansion at the hub used an older formula provided by the Commerce Commission.

Qantas and Air NZ joined forces last year to combat the planned rise (**TD 08 Jun 2023**), which if it went ahead in its original form, would see airlines pay roughly double the amount in domestic and international jet charges by FY27 than they do currently.

Auckland wants to build a new multi-billion dollar terminal, with the gradual rise in airline fees viewed as a key source of capital.



Window Seat

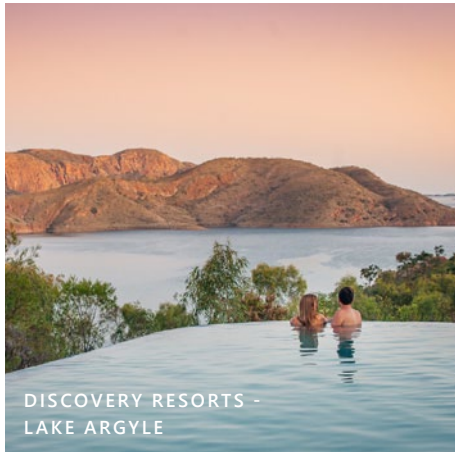
IN CHINA's in eastern Zhejiang province, a new attraction is turning traditional bungee jumping on its head, but at a very slow pace.

Dubbed 'bungee jumping for cowards', the new experience replaces the heart-pounding freefall of a bungee jump with a gentle, controlled descent.

The staff at Anji County revealed that since launching this 'cowardly version' of the tourism drawcard, they've been swamped with eager visitors who are intrigued by a bungee jump that doesn't require a steely nerve.

One visitor noted that it's like bungee jumping but with training wheels.

What's next? Hang-gliding in a swimming pool? Puh-lease.



DISCOVERY RESORTS - LAKE ARGYLE



DISCOVERY RESORTS - ROTTNEST ISLAND



DISCOVERY RESORTS - KINGS CANYON



EL QUESTRO - EMMA GORGE



BKB HOLIDAYS

**EXPLORE MORE,
WITH 30% OFF STAYS!**

Float in the infinity pool at Lake Argyle, meet a quokka at Rottnest Island, explore the vast Rim Walk at Kings Canyon, or relax in springs at El Questro.

Enquire about our package prices for Discovery Resorts & select Parks today!

CONTACT BKB HOLIDAYS
PRIORITY AGENT LINE: (08) 6382 2166
EMAIL: BOOKINGS@BKBHOLIDAYS.COM



^Terms and conditions apply. Book by 30 Sep 24, for selected travel dates. Blackout dates apply.

LTC getting bigger

MELBOURNE boutique agency Take Off Go has become the newest member of Flight Centre's Luxury Travel Collection (LTC), the network has confirmed.

Helmed by Ivona Siniarska, the addition of Take Off Go takes LTC's Victorian based membership to five, alongside Destination HQ, Emma Whiting Travel, World Wide Travel and Complete Travel Services.

Take Off Go is a luxury FIT and touring agency specialising in Africa and Asia, with team members based in Melbourne, Kenya and the Philippines.

Take Off Go will officially join the collective on 01 Aug.

A&K on the Amazon

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has revealed *Pure Amazon* as the name of its forthcoming river cruise ship to sail on the Amazon river from mid-2025.

The riverboat comprises 10 elegant suites and two single cabins, indoor and outdoor lounges, a dining room, a wellness room, and a gym.

Pure Amazon will offer three- and four-night itineraries, or a combination of both for a seven-night cruise, with sales opening next month - register your interest [HERE](#).

ENSEMBLE TO ATONE FOR LOST TIME

THE return of Ensemble Travel Group to the Australian market (see [page two](#)) comes with a renewed fire to make up for time and industry opportunities lost to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking about the company's new alliance with Helloworld ([TD](#) breaking news) and its network of retail and wholesale brands, Ensemble President Michael Johnson ([pictured](#)) said he is keen to unite with like-minded organisations that share its vision of empowering luxury products for travel professionals.

"Helloworld Travel Limited's mission and dedication to tailoring personalised and highly curated vacations for clients aligns perfectly with our commitment to supporting advisors through best-in-class programs and resources," Johnson commented.



Different to its first attempt at cracking the Australian market, Ensemble Travel Group this time comes with the backing of private investment group Navigatr Group, which acquired the travel network two years ago and led to Johnson taking the helm.

Ensemble first launched in Australia in 2014 ([TD](#) 28 Oct 2014) and amassed a network of

member agencies including CT Partners, Phil Hoffmann Travel, TravelManagers and the Travel Advocates group in New Zealand.

It's understood the former head of Ensemble Travel Group's Australasian business, Trish Shepherd, is no longer associated with the organisation this time around, having moved on to other ventures. *ML*

RAKxa joins Elysee

ELYSEE Collective has welcomed Bangkok's luxury wellness retreat RAKxa into its travel portfolio.

The luxury PR agency will represent the property in Australia, and has also just announced RAKxa's new signature 'Rebalance' program - a five-night package consisting of traditional and medical treatments.

Guests can expect a "return to equilibrium and complete holistic health".

New artistic experiences for Explora Journeys

LIMITED-EDITION screenprints and lithographs from artistic luminaries such as Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein will feature among a curated art collection on board Explora Journeys ships.

The new collection, which will be on offer to view until early next year, forms part of a new art-based experience platform to elevate the guest experience.

Among the high-value works include original acrylic and silkscreen canvas works from

Warhol and a range of intricate sculptures from prominent and emerging global artists.

Travellers will be able to view pieces throughout the ship, including in restaurants, the lobby, lounges and corridors.

The new collection is in place on board *Explora I*, already in service, and will be installed on *Explora II*, which sails on her maiden voyage in Sep 2024.

Guests booked in suites will also find special commissioned prints adorning the walls.



UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL: Join Our Mentoring Program and Ignite Your Success!

TIME is a Career Advancement Path for all Employees in Travel, Tourism, Hospitality, Cruise and Aviation Industry including Regional, and Rural Areas across Australia

WHAT TIME CAN DO FOR YOU...

- Further develop your management and leadership potential
- Develop confidence and networking opportunities
- Strategic career planning
- Increase your knowledge of organisational culture & processes

For more information visit - www.travelindustrymentor.com.au

Stay Updated
on the latest travel news

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

Travel Daily

ACCOMMODATION

Send your accommodation updates to:
accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au



Sheraton Hotels & Resorts has announced the reopening of **Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Hotel & Bungalows** after it underwent a comprehensive refurbishment, valued at \$17.5 million. The Pacific island property will reopen in a phased manner, with 56 of its 175 rooms, suites and bungalows now available to book ahead of the hotel's grand opening in Oct. The renovation has encompassed the entire location, from furnishings through to building systems.



The **Sebel Creswick Forest Resort** in regional Victoria's Hepburn Shire has unveiled the results of a \$2 million transformation. The property's 18 two-bedroom villas have been refreshed, reflecting a 'contemporary country' theme through neutral tones and stone textures. Fresh flooring and carpets have been laid, along with new furniture including a day bed, lounge with a sofa bed, and artwork featuring Australian landscapes.



One of Fiji's most luxurious resorts, **Yasawa Island Resort & Spa**, has completed a million-dollar, six-month renovation, which saw its public spaces and villas upgraded. Located just steps from a pristine white beach and crystal clear water, the all-inclusive resort has introduced natural and indigenous resources in the lobby and entrance spas as well as in the villas, with locally produced cinnamon wood and granite used throughout the 18 bures.



Pan Pacific Perth has entered a "new era of refinement" following refurbishments to elevate the hotel to new standards of understated luxury. The transformation has seen the property's 390 guest rooms and suites revitalised, along with the redesign of its ballrooms, meeting rooms, lobby and Pacific Club lounge. Guests can also now expect a sparkling wine cocktail upon arrival on Fri afternoons.



Seibu Prince Hotels & Resorts has welcomed a luxury New York hotel to its portfolio, with the rebranding and year-long transformation of The Kitano Hotel New York. Now called **The Prince Kitano New York**, the property is located close to iconic landmarks such as the Grand Central, and now features refreshed guestrooms, restaurants and lobby, which offer a modern yet timeless look.

Enlightening Versailles



LES Lumieres Versailles is the latest hotel to open in Versailles, France, located just a stone's throw from the renowned Chateau de Versailles.

Once a family home, the 17th-century mansion has been restored to pay homage to the Enlightenment era, while retaining its original grandeur.

There are 31 rooms and suites adorned with ceiling murals depicting royal gardens.

The property also boasts a grand staircase, library and reading room, a lush green courtyard with a glass roof, and a spa, as well as a bar, cafe, and fine dining restaurant.

Rates at Les Lumieres start at US\$428 (A\$636) per room, per night and includes breakfast. *JM*

\$1 cruise deposits

AUSSIE and Kiwi travellers can book a Holland America Line (HAL) cruise with just a \$1 deposit per person.

The special promotion ends today, and applies to select Jul 2024-May 2026 cruise/ cruisetours, excluding Grand Voyages - for more details, call HAL on 1300 987 322.

TOTAL HOLIDAY OPTIONS
"Creating Memories"
WHOLESALE & DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY

MALDIVES

SAVE UPTO | **60%**
Over **70**
Direct Contracted Resorts

TTM AWARDS 2023 - MALDIVES

 **AGENT HUB**

BY  LUXURY ESCAPES

Exclusive Agent Incentive

**Earn \$100 Luxury Escapes Credit
when you make your first
booking using Agent Hub.**

This incentive is available for bookings
made from 1 July 2024*

Why join Agent Hub



Access exclusive travel deals and add-ons for your clients, available only through Agent Hub



Manage bookings efficiently in personalised dashboards



Earn a range of commission levels, available on most product verticals

Terms and Conditions: 1. To qualify registered agents are only eligible if they make their first sale made on Agent Hub after 1 June 2024. 2. Luxury Escapes Credit paid onto your Agent Hub account at the end of each month. 3. Any tax implications are at recipients expense. 4. All bookings must be paid in full to count during incentive period. 5. Credit is not transferrable. 6. Recipients must be still working as front-line retail travel staff at time of payment. 7. No minimum spend required, all bookings must be made through Agent Hub. 8. The incentive end date is at the discretion of Luxury Escapes 9. The \$100 is paid per agent not per agency.