



Rex in trading halt

TRADING in Rex shares has been paused this morning as the market awaits an announcement. Amid reports of a board coup by former Exec Chairman, Lim Kim Hai (**TD** 12 Jul), Rex last week added protections to the contract of CEO Neville Howell.



ANZ stars with Virtuoso

SIX specialist luxury agents have been elected to new terms on the Virtuoso Australia and New Zealand Member Advisory Board and a range of the organisation's global committees.

Newly elected members include Savenio's David Brandon, who joins Virtuoso's Events Committee, and Roland Howlett from Frontier Travel, who will provide expertise to the Technology Committee.

Brandon and Howlett join Robyn Sinfield from Home Travel Company, announced earlier this month (**TD** 01 Jul) as a new member of the Cruise Committee.

A further three agents have been elected to second terms, including Melinda Gregor from Gregor & Lewis Bespoke Travel, on the Destination and Experiences Committee.

Mike Dwyer from Main Beach Travel on the Gold Coast will also take on a second term on Virtuoso's Marketing Committee.

Finally, Sharyn Kitchener from Mosman Travel has been reelected to a second term as the ANZ Representative on Virtuoso's Global Member Advisory Board.

Kitchener will also serve as the Chair of the Australian and New Zealand Member Advisor Board.

Virtuoso local GM Greg Treasure said the esteemed agents "are a driving force behind our success in this market". *ML*

Ormina Euro guide

TOURS with between two and 10 travellers are guaranteed to depart in Ormina Tours' new 2025 Small Group Journeys schedule for Europe, released today.

Popular destinations in the guide include the Amalfi Coast, Swiss mountains and Portugal.

APT reasons to vote

APT is doing the hard work for its beloved agents and giving them five reasons to vote for them in the 2024 NTIA Awards - find out more on **page seven**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of the latest travel news including full pages from:

- APT
- Ponant

NTIA Nominee

Vote Now!

We are delighted to be nominated for NTIA's **Most Outstanding Tour Operator – Global** award.

Thank you to our amazing agents for your ongoing support. We would now appreciate your vote.

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BREAKING NEWS

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GLOBAL FOR MOST OUTSTANDING TOUR OPERATOR (CATEGORY 22)

GLOBUS

NATIONAL TRAVEL INDUSTRY AWARDS 2024 NOMINEE

VB executives eyeing Oz

VISITBRITAIN Chairman Nick de Bois will lead a group of 35 British tourism suppliers on the organisation's first travel trade mission to Australia for the organisation in eight years.

The delegation, which will include destination management organisations, will take place from 09-13 Sep and involve a variety of one-on-one appointments, product workshops and travel advisor training sessions in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Agents will have the chance to connect with leading suppliers



and learn more about products and experiences across the UK.

"I am delighted to be leading VisitBritain's first travel trade mission to Australia in nearly a decade," de Bois commented.

"As the UK's fourth most valuable visitor market and following record-breaking results in 2023, this mission provides a timely opportunity for British travel suppliers and destinations to get their tourism products and services in front of top Australian buyers and explore new business opportunities," he added.

The latest data from VisitBritain shows Australians will spend £1.7 billion in the UK this year. *ML*

Get behind Ponant

MEMBERS of the travel industry can show their support for Ponant by voting for the cruise line in the upcoming National Travel Industry Awards (NTIAs).

Ponant is up for title of 'Most Popular Ocean Cruise Operator' - see the **back page** for details.

Over 40s welcome

G ADVENTURES is now inviting over 40s to its 'Classic' trips, previously reserved for travellers up to 39, from expansive safaris in Africa to multi-country trips in Central America.

"When we looked at the data, we could clearly see the time is right to open up a set of fast-paced, longer, more basic itineraries to an older crowd looking to see and do as much as they can," said G Adventures MD Asia Pacific, Sean Martin.

The brand is also adding new trips to South Korea and bringing Tibet back to its portfolio.

eRoam adds Hearne

EROAM has hired former Flight Centre exec Dylan Hearne as its new Head of Sales APAC.

Hearne was previously Head of Sales for Back-Roads Touring and has also worked at Global Touring, Norwegian Cruise Lines, Hotelbeds and Carnival Corp.



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

AIR NEW ZEALAND

Thanks for your support

Air New Zealand is excited to be a 2024 NTIA nominee for **Most Popular Airline - Online**.

As our valued trade partners, if you are chuffed with us too, we would really appreciate your vote.





DriveAway hosts an arty party



TRAVEL industry friends unleashed their creativity at a fun Paint and Sip event hosted by DriveAway last week, in collaboration with cruise lines Ponant and Tauck.

DriveAway's NSW/ACT Business Development Manager, Suzie Goumas, led the artistic event,

while attendees connected and enjoyed delightful grazing plates and found out more about DriveAway's latest offerings.

Indeed, the evening was focused on the organisation's blend of creativity and professional engagement. *JHM*

The group is **pictured** above.

Eurostar claws back

EUROSTAR says its services into Paris are expected to be back to normal by today following a coordinated act of vandalism that disrupted services last week.

Operators say short-notice delays may still occur, but that it has staff placed around stations and onboard to ensure travellers are fully informed and assisted.

Jasper wildfires

EVACUATION orders remain in place in the Canadian Rocky Mountains town of Jasper, with firefighters estimating up to half of the town may be impacted by huge wildfires.

The town was encircled by a number of fire fronts, with more than 25,000 people moved out of the area.

While rain and cooler conditions have eased the threat, winds are expected to pick up this week, with hot and dry weather forecast to return this week.

Contiki incentive

CONTIKI'S Rock Around the World agent incentive is back, treating top advisors to a live experience of the best music festivals around the world.

This year, 14 of the best travel agents will enjoy the Wanderland Music & Arts Festival in the Philippines, with two wildcard spots also available.

Winners will receive flights and seven days in the Philippines.

To take part, agents need to sell any Contiki product between 29 Jul 2024 and 17 Jan 2025.

Royal's packed Icon

ROYAL Caribbean International has reported its mega-ship *Icon of the Seas* is operating at a load factor of "around 132% capacity".

Speaking during the company's Q2 financial results, RCI chief Michael Bayley said the ship was averaging around 7,405 guests from its 7,600 pax capacity.

contiki
ROCK
AROUND THE WORLD

Contiki's #1 agent FAM is back, and its **HOTTER** than ever!

We're heading to the **Philippines**, one of Contiki's newest destinations to attend the **Wanderland Music & Arts Festival!**

[GET MORE INFO](#)



Window Seat

EXPERIENCE Abu Dhabi has teamed up with Manchester City for the “penalty itinerary” challenge in New York City.

The EPL champions, in the United States for a pre-season tour, offered fans the chance to win a trip to Abu Dhabi, in partnership with Etihad.

The activation invited fans to test their penalty-taking skills, with each successful kick unlocking a new adventure in the Arabian city.

Every goal scored built a unique itinerary featuring highlights such as the high-speed thrills of Ferrari World Yas Island to immersive cultural tours at Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, as well as an entry for the grand prize: a trip to the UAE capital city.

Southwest changes

SOUTHWEST Airlines will assign seats, offer premium seating options and redesign its boarding process for the first time in its almost 60 years of flying.

WN has introduced the change to meet evolving customer preferences and increase revenue opportunities, which will also see it introduce red-eye flights to further optimise its network and increase its aircraft utilisation.

Raffles Tokyo in '28

RAFFLES Hotels & Resorts is set to bring its legendary service to Japan’s capital in 2028.

Raffles Tokyo will feature panoramic views, when it debuts as part of the redesign of the city’s World Trade Center.

The hotel will occupy the top 46 floors of the building, and will be ideally located for business and leisure travellers, offering close proximity to some of city’s most notable landmarks.



LEARN MORE ABOUT TAIWAN & EVA AIR WITH TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY

[Click here to discover](#)

P&O backs the green and gold



OLYMPIC fever has once again struck Australia as the nation comes together to cheer on hundreds of our athletes to gold medals in Paris.

P&O Cruises is sharing the spirit with travellers throughout the event and is carrying the official broadcast across its fleet.

Onboard, travellers can enjoy the epic events both live and on

replay in bars and lounges, by the pool and even in staterooms.

“Guests will have a front-row seat to the world’s greatest sporting event, creating unforgettable moments with family and friends amidst the backdrop of the open sea,” said P&O Cruises Australia VP Guest Experience, Hotel Operations, Deborah Cogin. *ML*

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TRAVEL 24
REVEALING THE NEXT
24 MONTHS IN TRAVEL

BA safety channels *Bridgerton*



BRITISH Airways has taken inspiration from famous period literature, television and film to produce its new *Bridgerton*-esque safety video.

Titled 'A British Original Period Drama' and starring more than 40 of the airline's employees, the movie draws on the popularity of regency era dramas in the UK and overseas to engage customers in important safety messages.

The film depicts ladies and lords of the manor, as well as housekeepers and butlers going about their everyday lives in 19th century Britain, before being interrupted by present-day British Airways colleagues demonstrating the safety briefing.

The characters are bewildered by modern day contraptions, and when posed with the question "Is it a winged creature of the air or, perchance, a celestial contrivance navigating the skies?", a BA

Aircraft Maintenance apprentice, responds with "no, ma'am - that's a British Airways A350".

The carrier enlisted British talent to help produce the five-minute film, including *Bridget Jones's Diary* director Sharon Maguire; three-time Oscar-winning British costume designer Jenny Beavan; and renowned dialect coach, Jill McCullough.

"We know that these videos deliver vital safety information, and it is so important that we do everything we can to keep our customers engaged throughout," said BA's Chief Customer Officer, Calum Laming.

"When it came to selecting a genre, we wanted something that would enable us to do this, while resonating with global audiences, so a period drama with a little bit of humour seemed like the perfect fit." *JM*

Watch the safety video [HERE](#).

Scalpels for Sanur

THE opening of Bali International Hospital later this year is good news for medical tourists, as Indonesia attempts to level up its offerings in the space.

The new hospital will be based in the seaside town of Sanur, as Indonesia attempts to compete with Asian medical tourism leaders such as Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore.

Teams are now in the process of testing medical equipment and setting up operations systems.

Park City Olympics

AS THE world eagerly tuned in to the Olympic Games in Paris, tourism officials in Utah received word the state will play host to the 2034 Winter Olympic Games.

Potential venues for events will include Park City, Deer Valley Resort and Soldier Hollow.

Utah last hosted the winter spectacular in 2002, an event best remembered as the scene for Steven Bradbury's dramatic final corner pass to win Australia's first Winter Olympics gold medal.

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TRAVEL 24
REVEALING THE NEXT
24 MONTHS IN TRAVEL

WIN! EXCLUSIVE TRAVEL24 PACKAGE

Thanks to our partners **Oceania Cruises**, we have five tickets to an exclusive breakfast session which also includes a full-day pass to experience *Travel24* in person.

If you're thinking about attending *Travel24* to hear from leading minds about the next 24-months in travel, this is a must-enter competition, with winners to be drawn daily.

Don't miss out! Enter now for your chance to be at *Travel24* including an exclusive breakfast hosted by **Oceania Cruises**.

To enter please let us know via info@traveldaily.com.au who you are most looking forward to hearing from and why, in 30 words or less...

*Travel24 takes place on Thursday 8 August at the Sofitel Darling Harbour. Winners must be able to attend both the breakfast and conference.

NT Muster 2024



Join us for a Priscilla-inspired journey through the Territory!

This evening event is an opportunity to learn about the Northern Territory, meet over 30 NT operators, enjoy NT inspired food, and experience Territory culture with a chance to win fantastic prizes!

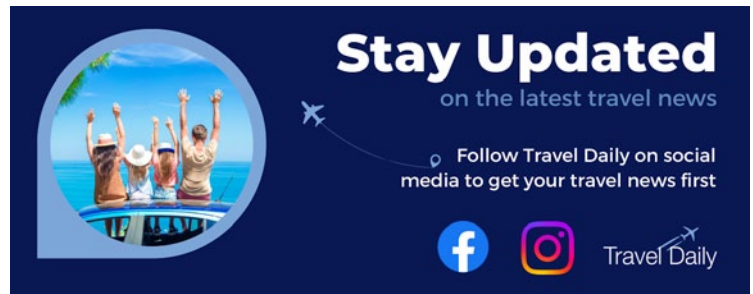
Melbourne 10 September, Aerial, South Wharf

Brisbane 11 September, The Warehouse, Fortitude Valley

Sydney 12 September, Docksider Cockle Bay Room, Cockle Bay Wharf

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Ormina Tours - Europe 2025
Travellers can discover the art of European travel by delving into Ormina Tours' 2025 European brochure. The publication is packed with inspiration, including Europe's most incredible destinations, exclusive offerings, and insider knowledge. With the smallest group size on the market (a maximum of 10 people) and guaranteed departures on journeys with just two guests, each itinerary is curated to deliver authentic travel with unique local experiences. Readers can learn about tours like the 10-day 'Sicily Bella', which includes guided sightseeing tours of Palermo, Monreale, Agrigento's Valley of the Temples, Villa Romana del Casale and Ragusa, as well as visits to five UNESCO World Heritage Listed sites, and much more.



Norwegian Cruise Line - Asia Pacific Guide
Highlighting its close-to-home sailings, Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) has published its new Asia Pacific Cruising Guide for 2024-2026. Available both online and as a printed version, the booklet invites travellers to explore from a range of port-rich itineraries across Australia, New Zealand, Asia, and the South Pacific. The journeys are offered by three of the cruise line's ships - *Norwegian Spirit*, *Norwegian Sun* and *Norwegian Sky* - and across 15 departure ports. Short but sweet, the eight-page

brochure gives readers an overview of what to expect on board each ship, as well as providing information on NCL's Free at Sea offer.



Park Trek - Eco Accredited Walking Tours
Australia-only walking tours operator, Park Trek, has unveiled its new mini-brochure, which covers key highlights of its all-inclusive walking tours across six Australian states and territories. The guide also discusses Park Trek's focus on sustainability and reconciliation, and is designed to provide agents with key selling features to assist them in selling this product to their clients. Park Trek offers tours like the nine-day 'Flinders Ranges Walk with Camels'; a four-day 'Great Ocean Walk'; a four-day 'Snowy Mountains & Mount Kosciuszko Walk'; and a five-day 'Kangaroo Island Walk'.

Council gets behind Sheraton



THE development of an 18-storey Sheraton resort at Hervey Bay has been given the green light by Fraser Coast Council, despite strong objections from residents and the mayor. Sunny Beach Land, the property's developers, agreed to reduce the project height from 21 storeys to 18, in response to community feedback.

"We thank Councillors for listening to the community, recognising the huge benefits that will flow from this project,

and having the faith in us to deliver a world-class outcome for Hervey Bay," Sunny Beach Land Director, Dan Cuda, said.

The \$450 million luxury complex will include hundreds of hotel rooms and residential units over two towers on the Hervey Bay esplanade, located north of Brisbane (TD 24 Jun). JM

Puffing Billy gets legs

PUFFING Billy Railway in Victoria has brought back its iconic leg dangling experience for the first time since 2018, with visitors able to once again enjoy the century-old tradition of sitting on the sills of open-side carriages.

The preserved heritage steam railway attracts more than 400,000 Victorians, interstate and international visitors every year to the Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Valley.

TIME's Great Places

TASMANIA'S wukalina Walk and Western Australia's EV Highway have both featured on TIME's 2024 World's Greatest Places list.

The prestigious list showcases Tasmania's multi-award winning Indigenous/Palawa-owned tourism experience, wukalina Walk, which is led by Aboriginal guides and offers a window into the state's First Nations culture.

Also making the cut is the EV Highway - a road trip spanning 10,000km of spectacular coastline, offering the best way to explore Western Australia's nature and wildlife encounters.



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4 / High-value bookings with our average file of \$20,000 earning you \$2,000 commission per booking.



5 / Trusted Australian-owned company with 97 years experience, offering experiences across all continents.

Category 22
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Category 29
Most Popular Ocean Cruise Operator (APT)

Category 30
Most Popular River Cruise Operator (APT)

Category 30
Most Popular River Cruise Operator (Travelmarvel)



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