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COOK ISLANDS

CAPA is coming up

THE countdown is on for CAPA's Airline Leader Summit Australia Pacific 2024, which is coming to Brisbane in Sep.

The event will feature many high-profile industry speakers - see [page seven](#) to register.

Lebanon conflict

AS CONFLICT in Lebanon continues to ramp up, Australian visitors are being instructed by DFAT to leave immediately while commercial flights are available.

Some airlines have postponed or cancelled flights already, with further flight cancellations and disruptions likely to occur with little or no notice.

Lisbon tax doubles

AUTHORITIES in the Portuguese capital of Lisbon have signed off for the city's tourism tax to be doubled effective from 01 Sep.

While it's unclear what the revenue raised from the impost will be used for, the fee will climb from to €4 (A\$6.67) per person per night, building on a similar increase charged to cruise ship visitors.

The Lisbon Municipal Assembly says the tax is aimed at curbing the impact of tourism growth in the city on its infrastructure.

"The externalities of tourism must be combated and the quality of life of Lisbon residents restored," said Lisbon Mayor Carlos Moedas.

Government to buy Rex?

THERE are mounting calls for the Federal Government to step in to purchase Rex after the carrier entered voluntary administration this morning (**TD** breaking news).

Leader of the Greens, Adam Bandt, took to social media last night to urge the government to buy the carrier and avoid another regional aviation disaster like the Bonza collapse in Apr.

"Transport is an essential service, so why not protect people who rely on regional services by bringing this critical airline into public hands?" he said.

TWU National Secretary Michael Kaine has also called on the govt to buy an equity stake to "protect as many jobs as possible".

"Just four weeks after Bonza went into liquidation, hundreds more aviation workers are facing stand downs, job losses and uncertainty," Kaine said.

"An equity stake would serve workers, regional Australia and taxpayers," he added.

So far, the government has been tight-lipped about what specific measures it might deploy to

support the airline, however the rhetoric suggests there will be a move to assist Rex in some form to prop up key regional hubs.

Federal Transport Minister, Catherine King, told the ABC the govt has already put some "contingencies in place", but at this stage it is still assessing the best way to support regional aviation and connectivity.

The move by Rex to appoint Ernst & Young Australia as administrators has seen all B737 routes between major hubs grounded, however the carrier said regional Saab 340 flights will remain unaffected and ticket holders will have tickets honoured on regional routes.

Meanwhile, Virgin Australia has moved quickly to secure leases for at least three of Rex's B737s, which it said will be used to support capacity and respond to market growth if it accelerates faster than anticipated.

In its statement, Rex also confirmed it is exploring selling regional tickets through a codeshare or interline agreement with VA, as well as making Velocity frequent flyer benefits available to Rex customers through "this difficult time".

Customers impacted by Rex's sudden grounding of B737 flights can also transfer their tickets to VA free of charge for 13 overlapping routes the two airlines share.

Contact VA on 13 67 89 for more details on transfers. **AB**

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of the latest travel industry news including our **Luxury** page, plus a full page from **CAPA** and a product profile from **InsideAsia**.

Wendy Wu Tours



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Double commission

INSIDEASIA is offering double commission for agents who make their first booking to each of the brand's new destinations between 19 Jul and 31 Aug.

For more details and to learn about InsideAsia's unique approach to travel, see [page 8](#).

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Cherry Blossom & Garden Japan

Venezuela flight axe

VENEZUELA'S Government has announced the temporary suspension of commercial flights to and from Panama and the Dominican Republic from tomorrow, after violent protests erupted in the capital following the Venezuelan election.

Sun rises on new attraction



MEDIA from around Australia were this week invited to witness the official welcome of Voyages' new Sunrise Journey experience (TD 02 May), a majestic light show inspired by the artistic talents of three Anangu artists.

The early morning show is breathtaking, with music and light converging to create a full sensory experience for guests.

Renowned Anangu artists Selina Kulitja, Denise Brady, and Valerie Brumby were instrumental in its creation, combining with Anangu composer Jeremy Whiskey and Mandylights to take Voyages' growing portfolio of Indigenous experiences to a new level.

"We see it as our responsibility that guests come in and leave learning something, they go away knowing more and feeling enriched," Voyages CEO, Matt Cameron-Smith, said.

The two-hour Sunrise Journeys

also include a native-inspired breakfast and warming cup of chai tea, sunrise view of Uluru, and return hotel transfers.

Wheelchair access is also available upon request, but the experience is not suitable for children under four. *AB*

Allison joins P&O

PRINCESS Cruises executive Stuart Allison, who is well-known in the Australian market, been appointed by Carnival Corporation to the new role of Chief Commercial Officer for P&O Cruises in the United Kingdom.

The move is one of several structural changes at the company, which will also see Holland America Line and Seabourn Cruise Line merge their sales teams under a new leader for the two brands in Australia. More details in today's *CW*.

Four more for PER

PERTH Airport has extended its long-standing partnership with Travelex until at least 2031.

The foreign exchange service will develop four new sites and refurbish its existing stores across Terminal 1 and 3, as well as carry out a complete ATM fleet upgrade.




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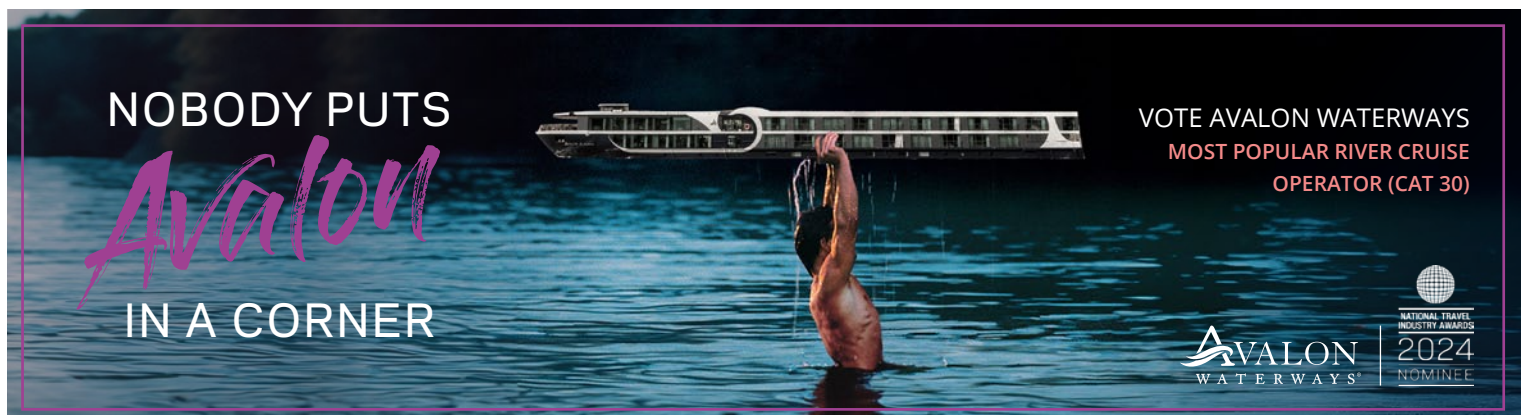
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WSI is nearly ready

THE Western Sydney Airport (WSI) is now more than 80% complete after reaching a major construction milestone this week, with domestic, international and air cargo services on track to commence from late 2026.

The roof of the upcoming international airport is now complete, paving the way for internal works to begin, including the feature ceiling, departure areas, lounges and retail space.

More than 100 workers, including many Western Sydney locals, helped build the roof over the past 18 months using materials sourced from domestic manufacturers.

"The countdown is well and truly on - it won't be long until the people of Western Sydney will be flying out of their brand new 24-hour international airport," said Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Minister, Catherine King.

Vote now for NTIAs

VOTING for the National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) closes in 14 days, on 09 Aug at 11:59pm.

There are 11 categories open for voting this year, including Most Outstanding Tour Operator - Specialised, Most Outstanding Tour Operator - Global, and Most Outstanding Wholesaler - Product/Service.

CLICK HERE to view the full list of voted categories and to vote for nominees.

TBO.com appoints

GERARDO Del Rio has been appointed as President of International Business for TBO.com, where he will oversee a global remit for the business.

Del Rio has more than 20 years of experience across global management, finance, and business development, having worked with Melia Hotels, Hotelbeds, and DidaTravel.

TTF SAF partnership

A FEASIBILITY study into establishing a sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) manufacturing plant at an Ampol refinery is being hailed as "real progress" towards a net-zero future, said Tourism and Transport Forum (TTF) Chief Executive, Margy Osmond.

The study comes as part of a collaboration between fuel giant Ampol, Graincorp and IFM Investors and will explore the supply of homegrown feedstock and additional capacity for supply of canola oil to the future plant.

"As a long-haul destination, Australia cannot afford to be left behind other developed countries which are prioritising support for SAF, like the United States, Europe, United Kingdom, Singapore, Japan and Canada," Osmond commented.

"The establishment of commercial manufacturing plants for renewable fuels such as SAF will help safeguard the future of Australia's tourism, transport and aviation sectors, as consumer demand for more sustainable travel increases."

Multi-gen travel up

ALMOST half of Aussies (43%) are planning to take a multi-generational holiday in the next 12 months, according to a study from ClubMed.

The new research also found that 28% of respondents also prefer this style of travel, rather than just going on a trip with just their immediate family.

The cost benefits are a big reason behind these holidays, according to 35% of Aussies.

On the other hand, 38% of respondents juggling different interests is the biggest frustration, with 27% claiming they prefer an all-inclusive offering to manage the problem.

According to ClubMed, multi-gen bookings represented 76% of group bookings for the first half of 2025, up by 48% from the second half of this year.

Oz can't get enough of Japan

AUSTRALIANS are staying longer and spending more in Japan, according to new data compiled by Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO).

Australians stayed longer in Japan in 2023 compared to previous years, with stays of over 14 days rising by 7.6% versus 2019, while short stays of under one week dropped by 4.4%.

It makes sense then that Aussies are also splashing more cash on their Japan holidays, with the average spend per traveller increasing by more than a third (37.4%) in 2023 compared to 2019 figures.

"Often referred to as the rise of 'slow travel', these figures are indicative of changing travel habits among Australians visiting Japan, who are taking more time to see more of the country and its lesser-known destinations," said JNTO Sydney office Executive Director, Naoki Kitazawa.

He believes that 'bleisure' travellers are driving this trend, with 2023 seeing a slight uptick in business travellers staying in the country for more than one week - increasing from just over a third (35.2%) in 2019 to nearly half (45.0%) in 2023.

"More business travellers are seeing the perks and benefits of extending their stay when travelling for work, combining their business objectives with leisure activities," Kitazawa said.

"Thanks to the strong Aussie dollar and Japan's extensive rail network, the cost-effectiveness of travelling in Japan and ease and speed by which you can get around makes Japan a highly appealing destination to add on a few extra days to see the sights."

He added that some travellers are taking the opportunity to combine business trips with a family holiday, allowing them to save money on flights. *JM*

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



Window Seat

JAPAN is vowing to crack down on reckless riders of motorised suitcase transport after a spate of incidents across the country's airports.

With the popular Asian market experiencing a major tourism boom following a dive in the value of the yen, Japan has been forced to pass new laws that require travellers to have a driver's licence to ride electric luggage at airports.

The mode of transport has been popularised by high-profile thinker Paris Hilton, and has since seen an explosion in use across Asia.

In June, a Chinese woman studying in Japan was prosecuted for driving her luggage without a licence, after she rode a three-wheeled suitcase on a sidewalk in Osaka.

Japanese authorities argue the emerging electric luggage trend is dangerous, as they are capable of travelling up to 13km per hour.



Fiji Airways grows by 47%



FIJI Airways celebrated one year of its Canberra to Nadi route last night in a lavish celebration at the Marion in Canberra.

Opening proceedings at the milestone event, Fiji Airways Chief Marketing & Sales Officer, Akuila Batiweti highlighted the

airline's successful year, with its network seat capacity growing by an impressive 47% over the last financial year.

Since launching the CBR-NAN route in Jul last year (*TD* 21 Jul 2023), the airline has flown 22,000 passengers between the destinations, and increased frequency from twice to three times per week.

One of only two airlines flying internationally from Canberra, the flight to Fiji Airways' Nadi hub allows further connections to the 108 destinations over 15 countries serviced by the airline.

MEANWHILE, the airline also announced it would be returning as a major sponsor of the ACT Brumbies for the 2025 Super Rugby Season, after previously sponsoring the 2023 season. *AP*

Pictured: Akuila Batiweti with John Nickle, Regional GM Australia, Fiji Airways.

A charitable Choice

CHOICE Hotels Asia-Pac has partnered with the Alannah & Madeline Foundation to help support the charity's work to keep children free from violence and trauma.

The hotel group will support the organisation by hosting a 'Check-in for Charity' fundraising week, which will see it donate \$2 from every Australian accommodation stay between 12-18 Aug.

The partnership also includes further fundraising, volunteering and educational opportunities.

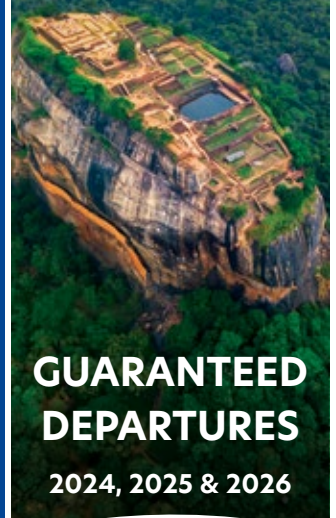
Travelpport + Finnair

TRAVELPORT'S agency customers can now access multi-source content from Finnair, after the global tech company signed a new distribution agreement with the network airline.

The deal covers both NDC and traditional content.

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LUXURY TRAVEL COLLECTION ADDS TWO MORE

EXCLUSIVE

TWO new agencies - one each in Sydney and Melbourne - will become the newest members of the Luxury Travel Collection (LTC), taking the ranks of the burgeoning network to 14.

Sydney's Trendsetter Travel and Cruise - famous as a local pioneer of the unique luxury 'GolfCruise' travel style - will join Melbourne's The Travel Notebook in the invitation-only collective, effective from 01 Aug.

The latest additions come just two weeks after Melbourne agency Take Off Go, headed by Ivona Siniarska, was also admitted to the Luxury Travel Collection.

Trendsetter Travel co-owners, Adrienne Witteman and David Cooper, said they are thrilled to become part of the LTC. "We are exceptional at getting



to know our clients so well that we can recommend memorable tailored holidays that not only inspire, but also delight, with those extra details and value we can add by using our deep industry expertise and connections," Wittemann said.

The Travel Notebook Director, Kylie Luttrell, echoed the



sentiments by saying the decision to join the Luxury Travel Collection community was an easy one.

"Every detail of the business speaks to my love of luxury and the importance of the right luxury connections to make client's dreams come true," Luttrell said. "I always put my client at the

centre of everything and that's one of the core values of LTC."

LTC Global Managing Director, Danielle Galloway, said the collective is elevating luxury travel to a fine art by building its portfolio through carefully selecting "the right new members" to join the LTC.

"Trendsetter Travel and The Travel Notebook are delivering high end client service with a unique and distinctive flair that fits well with our membership group," Galloway said.

MEANWHILE, Luxury Travel Collection GM, Nikki Glading, told *Travel Daily* that "strong conversations" are currently underway with around five potential new member agencies.

However, Glading teased that it is "up in the air" when they will come on board.

The LTC General Manager also revealed the group is in early talks with potential new members in New Zealand, which would see the group expand across the Tasman for the first time.

"But there is a lot for us to get right in AU and NZ," Glading said.

"The beauty of working with such an amazing group of talented professionals in their fields is we want to make sure what we're offering our members exceeds their expectations.

"Once we really feel that we're executing them at its highest level, then we'll be in a position to look more closely at NZ." ML

Abercrombie & Kent reveals 2025 jet journeys

TWO new extensive itineraries by private jet have been released by Abercrombie & Kent for departure in 2025.

The 25-day 'Ancient Kingdoms & Dynasties' journey immerses guests across three continents with exclusive experiences in Europe, Africa and Asia and is set to depart on 04 Oct 2025.

Highlights include a gala dinner in a former Moroccan sultan's summer palace, a visit to the temples of Udaipur in India and a sunrise experience

at Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

The second journey 'South America Revealed' is a 23-day showcase of one continent and includes time in Colombia, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Argentina and Bolivia.

Guests will enjoy highlights including before-hours access to Iguazu Falls, puma watching in a private reserve and a stay in a hotel constructed of salt.

Each itinerary features the services of a dedicated Tour Director and onboard physician.

Wellness in Italy

GATEWAY Travel has launched a new eight-day yoga wellness tour to Italy, taking place on the island of Ischia, north of Naples.

The itinerary will be hosted by yoga master Dr Marc Eugene Noblitt and features daily meditation sessions.

Guests will also enjoy locally grown organic cuisine and activities including a healthy cooking class and day passes to the Cavascura and Castiglione baths.



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Marriott Hotels' new Cancun property is the brand's first an all-inclusive resort, raising its hospitality standards. **Marriott Cancun** features a comprehensive range of amenities and services, including a welcome station, a signature bar, and 450 redesigned guestrooms, including 124 premium ocean view rooms and 38 suites with balconies.



SOHO Hotel Auckland is bringing glamour to the city's Mount Roskill neighbourhood, with the new art deco-inspired property's 126 rooms and suites available for booking now. The hotel has been designed with relaxation in mind, replete with contemporary furnishings, and a number of spa suites, which boast an outdoor hot tub. Additionally, there is a spacious two-bedroom apartment suite, commanding the hotel's top floor.



Hilton is expanding its global footprint with the debut of **Hilton Kathmandu**, its flagship property in Nepal. The 172-room accommodation is now open, and is officially the tallest hotel in Kathmandu, offering unparalleled views of the Himalayas. The hotel is located just four kilometres from Tribhuvan International, and minutes away from tourist attractions such as Kathmandu's buzzing Thamel neighbourhood.



Melia Hotels International has strengthened its presence on the Albanian coast with its new property, **Velipoja Grand Europa Resort, Affiliated by Melia**. The resort's privileged seaside location is one of Albania's most popular coastal destinations, with its long and wide beaches, which guests can access directly from the property.



Ibis Styles Sepang KLIA has opened, offering 229 rooms just moments away from Kuala Lumpur International Airport. According to Ibis, the new opening is aiming to "reimagine airport layovers" with a resort-inspired design and trendy accommodation. The hotel caters to business travellers, transit passengers, and families, and also features the largest salt water-treated pool in the area.

Forty years is no Meek feat



ITRAVEL'S Angela Meek (pictured) is being recognised this week for her decades of service and dedication as she marks 40 years in the travel industry.

Reflecting on her career, from her beginnings at Wandana Travel in 1984 to now managing her own home-based consulting business, Be Inspired By Travel, Meek said, "I believe that relationships are of utmost importance".

"Communication is key, and passion is everything."

"I care deeply about my customers, their lives, and what's important to them."

Jo Howard, itravel's Business Development Manager, said, "we're extremely proud of Angela's accomplishments and her significant contributions to both itravel and the travel industry over the past four decades". JM

Get away with Accor

ACCOR'S hotel loyalty subscription program, Accor Plus, has partnered with Sydney-based creative agency john+john to launch a new campaign across the Asia Pacific region.

The 'Get Away With It' campaign, which includes a 30-second TVC, as well as media across radio, digital and social, highlights the value that Accor Plus members enjoy when staying at the brand's hotels.

CX refreshes safety

CUSTOMERS flying with Cathay Pacific will soon be shown a brand-new inflight safety video, set to begin rolling out on flights from tomorrow.

The film takes customers through important safety procedures set against the vibrant backdrop of Hong Kong.

Developed in collaboration with the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the video features scenes shot at various locations across the city, including Shek O Beach, Yau Ma Tei's historic Tin Hau Temple, the iconic Peak Tram, and more - watch the video [HERE](#).

The countdown is on!

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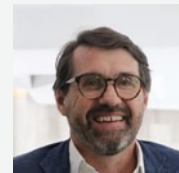
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Register Now and Save with Code 'TD10'

CAPA's home event, the CAPA Airline Leader Summit Australia Pacific 2024 gathers hundreds of industry leaders and decision makers from across the Asia Pacific and beyond to consider the most significant trends and opportunities of aviation events.

The summit will provide a range of networking opportunities at a stunning new venue, The Star, Brisbane. A destination like no other, nestled at the heart of the multi-billion-dollar Queen's Wharf precinct. Expect exciting restaurants, bars, world-class shopping and luxurious hotels.





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