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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest travel industry news, a cover wrap from **Journey Beyond**, plus a full page from **Luxury Escapes**.

Travel Daily
ON LOCATION



Alice Springs

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of AAT Kings, which is hosting its Kings Canyon, Uluru and Kata Tjuta tour this week.

WE'VE arrived in Alice Springs and will settle in at Crown Plaza Alice Springs Lasseters for the night before embarking on a jam-packed schedule.

The group has been invited to an informal welcome dinner at the Tali Restaurant in the hotel tonight, helping us to rejuvenate ahead of all the action over the next six days.

Luxury earnings

LUXURY Escapes is offering agents a \$100 credit when they make their first booking using Agent Hub, where they can access exclusive travel deals and add-ons for their clients.

The incentive is available for bookings made from 01 Jun.

See the **back page** for more information about the benefits of joining Agent Hub.

Carriers will skip Australia

SYDNEY Airport believes airlines may choose to abandon flying to Australia altogether if the flow of international traffic is restricted in the early morning by planned changes to curfew rules.

The claim was contained in a submission from Australia's largest hub to a draft assessment of Western Sydney Airport flight paths on the environment.

In a preview of the potential friction that may exist between the two Sydney airports once WSI opens in 2026, SYD argued that limiting the shoulder period between 5-6am would prevent key services from landing in Sydney, such as those from London in the northern summer.

"Preventing those flights from doing so would cause significant disruptions for those airlines and the travelling public," SYD stated, adding that if the flights were

unable to land at Sydney Airport, they will not automatically go to WSI, as airlines may instead choose not to fly to Australia.

"If [airlines] do move to WSI, this simply moves the noise impact during the current curfew shoulder periods to the communities around WSI."

Under Section 12(4)(b)(ii) of the *Curfew Act*, when the 24-hour WSI opens, all flexibility for use of the shoulder periods at SYD for international services will cease.

However, SYD "strongly recommends" that this part of the Act be removed and that a review be undertaken to modernise the rules around permissible shoulder flights. AB

Massive Perth delays

THOUSANDS of passengers were affected by mass cancellations of flights at Perth Airport on Sat, with a major refuelling issue seeing all four of its terminals closed for the first time in the hub's history.

Close to 70 international and domestic flights were cancelled as a result of the fuel problem caused by low pressure in the system, leaving hundreds of travellers waiting for new flights for up to 12 hours.

Ironically, the unprecedented delays occurred less than 24 hours after Perth Airport and Qantas announced a \$5 billion deal to upgrade the airport with a new terminal, runway, on-site hotel, and more (**TD** 31 May).

Get on top of tax

THE Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA), in partnership with the Australian Tax Office (ATO), is reminding members there are two exclusive masterclasses scheduled ahead of the end of financial year.

The 'Claiming Small Business Tax Deductions' webinar will run tomorrow (Tue 04 Jun) from 10-11am - register **HERE**.

Meanwhile, the 'Cash Flow for Small Business Success' masterclass will take place on Tue 09 Jul from 10-11am AEDT - register **HERE**.

Getaway to WA

AGENTS will be in the running to win an Indian Pacific and Rottneest Express prize valued at over \$8,000 when they sell one of Journey Beyond's Western Australia rail holidays.

For more information on how to win, see the **cover page**.

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MW Tours

CATO opens up

THE Council of Australian Tour Operators' (CATO) 25th birthday dinner in Sydney on 20 Jun is now open to book for non-members for the first time.

CATO is also offering tables of 10 at a special rate of \$1,950 for the Sydney Hilton affair, with bookings to be made **HERE**.

THE PLACE TO BE IN OSAKA

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More luxury famils coming

ATTENDEES at the 2024 edition of Flight Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) Luxperience event will access more pre- and post-exhibition famils than ever before, with the event on track to double in size for 2024.

The three-day luxury travel trade showcase is scheduled to run from 19-22 Nov, having been reinvigorated under the ownership of FCTG, which acquired the marquee luxury event last year (**TD** 14 Nov 2023).

Pre- and post-event famils on offer will see buyers whisked off on luxury trips to Fiji, Indonesia, New Zealand, the Hunter Valley, Tasmania and Sydney.

Event Director, Lynn Ormiston, said she was delighted to bring more famil itineraries to buyers attending this year's show.

"Our partners are eager to create deeper connections with our highly qualified buyer audience, and there's no better way to create lasting memories than by having our buyers experience these exceptional luxury products for themselves,"

Ama adds two more

AMAWATERWAYS will bolster its fleet with two new river ships in 2026 sailing the Rhine, Danube and Mekong rivers.

The first vessel, *AmaSofia*, will join on 24 May 2026 and operate 31 departures in Europe, while *AmaKaia* will start sailing from 03 Aug, offering 22 Mekong voyages.

More details in **Cruise Weekly**.

Ormiston said.

This year, Luxperience will bring more than 150 exhibitors to the show floor - doubling the number last year - offering attendees exposure to a wider range of new and existing luxury brands.

Central to the event's growth in 2024 has been a spike in the number of European brands eager to engage with Oceania travellers, who are renowned for staying longer in Europe. **ML**

Bunnik adds to lux

BUNNIK Tours has added two more itineraries to its In-Style luxury range of tours, with adventures in Morocco and Turkiye now available to book.

Capped at 16 guests, the new adventures offer four- and five-star accommodation and unique premium experiences.

In Morocco, travellers will enjoy high tea at the Royal Mansour Marrakesh, while in Turkiyee, guests can taste local cooking in the village of Sirince.

Rail Europe



Unlock European Trains with Grant Robertson

Eurail Global Flexi Pass

What is a Flexi Pass?

A Flexi Pass grants you unlimited travel on a set number of days within the overall validity period of that rail pass. The advantage of this is you have the flexibility of choosing your preferred travel days.

How to book:

Watch this short step-by-step **video** on how to book a Eurail Global Flexi Pass.

Expert tip:

It is important to remind your clients that a travel day on a rail pass is a 24-hour period from midnight to midnight, so journeys within 24-hours of each other that take place on different days will count as two travel days.

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MTA in "happy place" again

THE 2024 MTA National Conference has wrapped up after being held for the first time in four years.

Another milestone was the location, with the Sheraton Resort Denarau, Fiji, playing host and marking the first time the travel agent network had held the key gathering overseas.

CEO Don Beattie heralded the move to **Travel Daily** as coming to our "happy place to bring people back together again."

"These guys revel in getting together - we do two days of professional development before the conference starts, one for professional development and a second so they can catch up with each other - Fiji was just a no brainer when it came to going outside of Australia," he said.

Around 180 advisors attended the conference, with Beattie revealing MTA has built on the number of advisors within its fold



- even during the pandemic.

"We grew our numbers from 432 to 460 during COVID even though the people joining us didn't have anything to sell."

Beattie added growth is not all about numbers but said that currently there is no ceiling, and if MTA were to become the biggest, it would be "the biggest with the best advisors".

"We want to make sure the people we think are coming on board are going to fit...and want to build their own business."

The conference included a range of sessions and activities for delegates such as a lunch at Malamala Beach Club, a Sunset Soiree at the Sheraton, a Supplier Showcase, and concluded with the MTA Awards. *DF*

Adelaide rep at risk

A PROPOSED 20% rate hike on short-term rental properties in Adelaide could be a "major blow" for the state's growing reputation as an events capital, Airbnb has argued.

While preparing the draft 2024/25 budget, Adelaide City Council agreed to plans to impose a commercial rate on residential homes used primarily for short-stay accommodation such as Airbnb and Stayz.

"South Australia bills itself as the major events capital of the nation, yet these proposed changes fly in the face of that," said Michael Crosby, Head of Public Policy at Airbnb Australia and New Zealand.

He emphasised that short-term rental accommodation is vital to providing surge capacity and offering flexible options for visitors who are attending Adelaide's major events, including LIV Golf, Tour Down Under, Fringe, and WOMAD.

A true Bluey push

TOURISM and Events Queensland (TEQ) has enlisted beloved children's character Bluey to front its biggest campaign in more than a decade.

Using the tagline 'Bluey's world, for real life', the marketing pitch aims to encourage visitors from around the world to experience the "Queensland lifestyle".

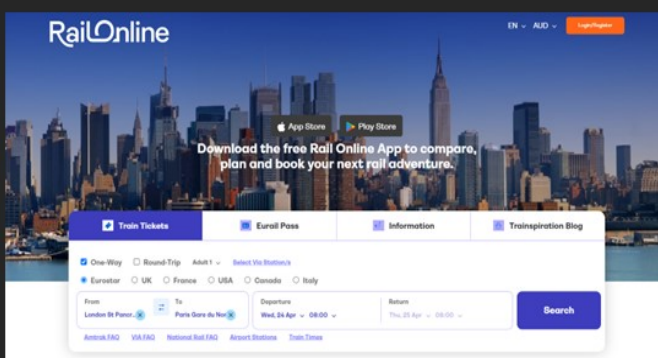
Tourism industry representatives and community groups gathered at locations around the state yesterday to kick off the campaign with a giant game of Keepy Uppy - one of Bluey's favourites.

The campaign comes ahead of the opening of the new Bluey's World experience at Brisbane's Northshore on 07 Nov, and will see exclusive deals offered by the likes of Qantas Group and Accor.



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QF group boarding

FOLLOWING a successful trial of a new group boarding system implemented last year (**TD** 24 Jul 2023), Qantas will this week start to roll out the program permanently to Brisbane, Perth, Melbourne and Sydney airports.

The aim of the new domestic boarding policy is to speed up the time passengers spend at the gate and find their seat on board.

Already in common use overseas, Qantas customers will be allocated to one of six boarding groups displayed on their boarding passes, which are determined on the basis of cabin, loyalty status, and seat position.

After a lengthy period of heavy scrutiny about its number of flight delays, Qantas is now exploring several ways to speed up its performance, including enhancements to its app.

The new boarding system will start at Brisbane from today, Perth (10 Jun), Melbourne (17 Jun) and Sydney (25 Jun).

Ticketek breached

AUSTRALIAN event-goers have been made aware of the second cyber breach to impact their personal data in a week - this time by Ticketek Australia.

The Aussie company informed customers on Fri that users may have had names, dates of birth and email address details compromised via a "reputable" third-party supplier.

Unlike a recent Ticketmaster hack (**TD** 30 May), which also impacted credit card numbers, Ticketek has been quick to communicate the breach with customers and walk them through precautionary steps to take in order to protect info.

China is open for business



MW TOURS recently whisked a group of Australian travel agents to China, where they experienced some of the Red Dragon's most amazing destinations.

Hosted in collaboration with Xiamen Airlines, the faml began in the bustling city of Xiamen, including a visit to the historic Amoy Yatsen Road and the serene Wanshi Botanical Garden.

The group (**pictured**) also took in Liyang's South Mountain Bamboo Sea, the breathtaking vistas of Langshan Mountain and Haohe River, and the rich tapestry of China's history through visits to Qingguo Alley, Tianning Temple, and the China Dinosaur Park.

Other unforgettable moments included witnessing the sunrise at Yuantuojiao Point in Qidong, exploring Nanjing's historic landmarks such as Sun Yatsen's Mausoleum and the ancient Ming Dynasty City Wa, and sampling Qitang City's culinary delights.

"The MW Tours China faml was a wonderful opportunity to not only showcase this region of

China's rich and cultural tapestry, but to reinstall first-hand that tourism is very much open to the international market," the tour operator said.

"It also has equipped the respective agents with confidence of the invaluable insights to better serve prospective clients that are looking to travel in and around the many unique and iconic sights and attractions that China has to offer." *JM*

Fashion on the Nile

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises announced a partnership with Australian fashion brand Camilla, which aims to "fuse luxury travel with fashion".

The brand's founder, Camilla Franks, will launch her new 'House of the Sun' Egypt collection next month, which was inspired by her cruise of the Nile in Egypt with Uniworld.

Uniworld and Camilla will host an exclusive VIP event in Sydney on 24 Jul to launch the partnership.



Window Seat

A "PRIVATE floating beach" has opened in France's Cote d'Azur, but don't get excited - it isn't available for visitors to enjoy...at least not yet.

Anchored off the French Riviera, the luxury two-storey platform is only allowed to host private events during its debut season, following a storm of controversy.

Described by its detractors as "an ecological aberration", the unusual €16 million project has been staunchly opposed by local politicians and environmental groups.

After being denied permits to operate last year, the owners took the case to court and were granted an authorisation to launch the project.

According to the owners, Canua Island is perfectly safe and eco-friendly, with the engines running on biofuel, a desalination system producing freshwater, and all waste being recycled on land.

When, or if, it eventually opens to the public, the 1,750m² motorised platform is sure to be a tourist drawcard, with a restaurant, bar lounge, and freshwater swimming pool, as well as capacity to accommodate up to 350 people.



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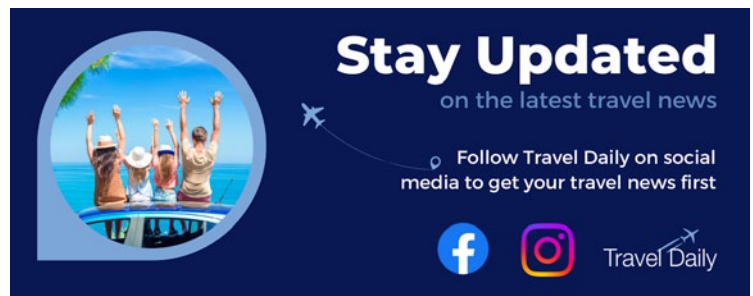
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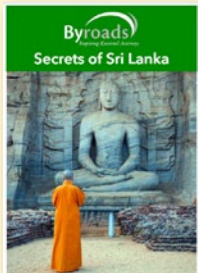
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Zeppelin Travel - Lexus Melbourne Cup 2024

Horse racing aficionados are invited to this year's Melbourne Cup with Zeppelin Travel's specially-curated tour. Departing from Brisbane on 01 Nov, travellers are invited to an extravaganza of fashion, food, and entertainment in Flemington, for the Lexus Melbourne Cup. Throughout the six-day journey, Zeppelin's guests are invited to the Royal Botanic Gardens for an open-air bus tour, along with the opportunity to explore the historic Rippon Lea Estate. The itinerary also includes a visit to the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden and a guided tour of the magnificent Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden. On Sat 02 Nov, travellers will also have the opportunity to attend the optional Penfolds Victoria derby day races (which requires bookings and extra service fees with reserve seating, and is subject to availability). The price of the tour includes economy class airfares, hotel and casino transfers, accommodation at Marriot Hotel Melbourne, undercover reserved Hill Stand seating at the Melbourne Cup, and much more. The brochure also reminds travellers what's not covered throughout their journey, such as travel insurance, transfers to and from Brisbane Airport, and meals not listed in the guide. The Lexus Melbourne Cup 2024 Garden Tour is currently priced from \$5,052 per person, twin share.



Byroads Travel - Secrets of Sri Lanka 2025

Unearth the secrets of Sri Lanka with Byroads Travel's latest publication, which showcases its itinerary across the nation for 2025. The tour operator invites keen explorers to discover the Pearl of the Indian Ocean with its 14-day 'A Treasure Island Revealed' tour. Beginning from Colombo, guests will traverse a whole host of sought-after destinations, including Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Polonnaruwa, Ambalangoda, and more. Travellers will visit the National Museum at Colombo, where they can gain a deeper understanding of the capital's heritage and rich village cultures, before heading to the Golden Temple of Dambulla, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where they will have plenty of time to explore the largest and best-preserved cave temple complex in Sri Lanka. The itinerary also invites guests to observe the well-preserved ruins of the former capital city of Polonnaruwa; delve into the tranquil tea plantations of Nuwara Eliya; and spot elephants, water buffalo and deer on a jeep safari at Uda Walawe National Park. Accommodations throughout the journey are also listed in the brochure. Departing 26 Feb 2025, the price of the tour can be found within the booklet.

Tahiti through local eyes



HIGHLIGHTING the warmth and beauty of Tahitian culture is the task set for a new team of Air Tahiti Nui brand ambassadors introduced by the Pacific airline.

The team is made up of artists, athletes, explorers, scientists, chefs and Polynesian culture experts, each specialising in a specific part of Tahitian culture.

Ambassadors will share insights related to their individual expertise via a series of articles, insider guides and digital content showcasing the best parts of the Tahitian islands to help visitors

see them through a local's eyes.

Air Tahiti Nui General Manager Pacific, Grant Sinclair, said the airline was proud to introduce its team of "outstanding individuals" eager to share their Tahiti home.

"Polynesia is a land of explorers, and our brand ambassadors reflect the spirit of adventure and discovery that is at the heart of Tahitian culture," Sinclair said.

CLICK HERE to learn more. *ML*

Protecting women

WOMEN travelling solo or as part of a family booking with Indian carrier IndiGo can now see where other women on the plane are sitting when selecting seats.

The new feature is part of IndiGo's #GirlPower ethos, which seeks to elevate the comfort and safety for female pax and crew.

"We are committed to providing an unparalleled travel experience for all our pax and this feature is just one of the many steps we are taking," the carrier said.

In the US alone, there were 96 in-flight sexual assault investigations against women and minors opened last year.

Israel travel easier

AUSTRALIAN travellers will soon be able to enter Israel with an electronic travel authorisation (ETA-IL), making the arrival process smoother and quicker.

The new program, which allows travellers to process through electronic check-in machines when entering the country, rolled out on 01 Jun to US and Germany passport holders, and will extend to all travellers from 01 Jul.

DFAT currently advises Aussies to "reconsider" Israel travel plans.

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