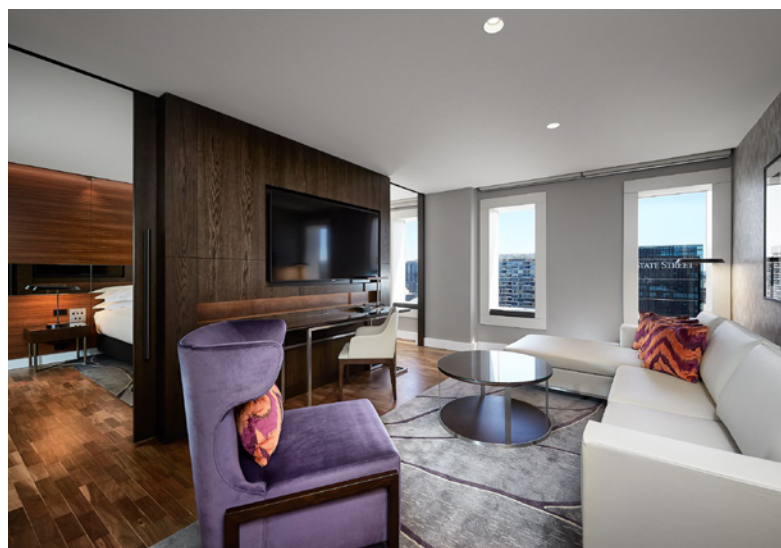


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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news, a cover wrap from **Hilton Sydney**, a photo page from **Viking River Cruises**, our **Corporate Update**, as well as a product profile from **Rocky Mountaineer** and a full page from **Albatross Tours**.

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Merricks shifts with ATIA

THE Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) has seen its second major move on its Board of Directors in as many days, with MTA Travel Founder Roy Merricks to step aside after two years.

Unlike Spiros Alysandratos' decision to step down (**TD** yesterday), Merricks will instead shift to a new role on the ATAS Advisory Committee.

In his new role, Merricks will apply his extensive travel industry knowledge and experience to drive the ongoing evolution of the ATIA Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS) and foster continuous growth in industry standards.

"My decision to join the ATAS Advisory Committee means I will continue to advocate for the mobile home-based network segment of the travel industry, which is the fastest growing segment in travel, and contribute to the ongoing evolution of the ATAS accreditation scheme to

benefit our entire industry."

Merricks will step down from the ATIA Board later this month.

The ATAS Advisory Committee, first revealed in Nov (**TD** 17 Nov 2023), features 10 travel industry leaders and is co-chaired by Sno'n'Ski Holidays Executive Director, David Walker and Link Travel Group GM, Scott Darlow.

Albatross eyes 2025

TRAVELLERS planning a Europe adventure for 2025 can still enjoy a \$350pp saving on Albatross Tours summer departures if booked by the end of next month. For more info, see **page eight**.

Going up at Hilton

ENJOY the 'suite life' at Hilton Sydney with its Suite Escape package unlocking a range of perks to make your client's stay more comfortable - see today's **front page** for more information.

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CW Special Report

THE teams at *Travel Daily* and *Cruise Weekly* have launched a special report series, taking a deep dive into the hottest topics in travel in each issue.

The first edition of the magazine-style reports explores the world of river cruising, from the latest industry news and trends to the opportunities within the market.

Within the digital publication, readers will find a practical ship guide among a raft of in-depth features on the reinvention of river cruising and immersive onshore experiences.

TD would like to send a special thank you to premier sponsor, Avalon Waterways, for its support with the new e-magazine.

CLICK HERE to download the bumper first edition.

Tourism on recovery path

AUSTRALIA'S tourism industry is on the path to growth, with new data today showing tourism spend hit \$208 billion last year.

The latest *State of the Industry* report shows the tourism industry has continued its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, with international visitor spend forecast to reach pre-pandemic numbers by next year.

Total tourism spend in Australia increased by 19% last year compared with the previous year.

The report shows strong growth in international visitation and spend last year, with overseas spend reaching \$28 billion, up 120% on the previous year, while foreign visitor arrivals reached 7.2 million, up 95% on 2023.

The largest international markets were New Zealand, the United States, the United Kingdom, and China.

After a bumper few years for Australia's domestic tourism



industry, locals continued to take the opportunity to holiday at home, with domestic overnight trip spend up 8% to \$109 billion, and domestic day trip spend up 13% to \$33 billion.

Things are set to get even better, according to the report, which forecasts tourism spend in Australia to increase by 31% over the next five years, to reach 61% above its pre-pandemic level.

International visitation and domestic visitor nights are also expected to rise to above their pre-pandemic levels. *MS*

QF pointy end sale

THOUSANDS of business class and premium economy seats with Qantas have been discounted as part of the airline's first premium sale since the pandemic.

More than 20 routes are on sale to cities including London, New York, Tokyo, Los Angeles, Auckland and many more.

Discounted seats are available to book now either as Classic Plus Reward seats or with cash.

Deals include Sydney to Auckland from \$1,199; Melbourne to Seoul from \$3,999 or Sydney to LA from \$7,299pp, with premium economy Sydney to London from \$3,799 or New York from \$4,399.

The sale concludes at 11:59pm on 20 Jun for travel dates between Jul 2024 and May 2025 including the peak Dec and Jan Christmas and New Year period.

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Window Seat

TRAVEL industry execs were out in force in Adelaide yesterday to support the 2024 Unite4Kids luncheon, and none other than FCTG's Graham 'Skroo' Turner was one of the guests of honour.

In an onstage interview, emcee Mark Soderstrom from Channel 7 asked both Skroo and Tauck's local boss David Clark about their least favourite destinations.

Clark played it serious, noting a small town near Kansas City that started with a 'J'.

Without hesitation, Skroo quipped "Look, I was thinking about Melbourne..." to huge applause from the crowd.

Skroo may have been a bit jetlagged, but his jokes were A-grade as usual.

Travel24 earlybirds

DISCOUNTED tickets for *Travel Daily's* brand new industry event Travel24 are closing next week on Fri 21 Jun.

Taking place on 08 Aug, this unmissable Sydney event will be a deep dive into the opportunities and challenges for the travel industry in the next two years, featuring a stellar line-up of keynote speakers and panellists.

These include TedX speaker and DE&I advocate Azure Antoinette; Accenture Australia Head of Cultural Forecasting, Michelle Newton; CVFR Group CEO, Ram Chhabra, Artificial Intelligence expert Tom Pitney and more.

Meanwhile, ATIA CEO Dean Long will facilitate a special travel agents panel discussion, featuring Emily Kadinski from itravel Carlingford; Helloworld's Yohan Siva and TravelManagers' Louise McCarthy.

Earlybird tickets start from \$218.90 each - [CLICK HERE](#).

The Chat

with Jenny



Travel Daily

A conversation with Michelle Ashcroft

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Travel unites for kids in ADL



LEADERS from across the travel industry gathered in Adelaide yesterday for the 2024 Unite4Kids luncheon, supporting Clown Doctors, Childhood Cancer and Starlight Children's Foundation.

Dubbed "the biggest travel industry event that's not a travel industry event", the luncheon gained support from travel brands including platinum sponsors Tauck, Holidays of Australia, Hilton and Flight Centre

Travel Group, with others taking out gold and silver sponsorship.

More than 600 people attended the luncheon with \$321,515 raised by the end of the day.

Entertainment was provided by TV stars Virginia Gay and Ben Mingay, Elvis impersonator Mark Anthony, soprano Desiree Frahn, and special guest Graham 'Skroo' Turner who flew in from London.

Pictured: Ben Mead, Holidays of Australia and Dave Clark, Tauck.



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Aloha to Kimpton

HAWAII will be added to IHG's Kimpton Hotels and Restaurants brand following a full renovation at Kauai's Coco Palms Resort.

The resort, tipped to reopen under its new brand in 2026, features three swimming pools and a 15-acre coconut grove.

Qantas behind our Olympians



AUSTRALIA'S athletes competing at the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games will feel the national pride all the way to the French capital, with Qantas onboard once again as the official carrier of our teams.

The Flying Kangaroo has unveiled a special livery which has been applied to one of its Boeing 787 Dreamliners showing its support for our sporting heroes as they chase success in Paris in their respective events.

Alongside the new livery, Qantas will this weekend resume

its seasonal non-stop service between Perth and Rome for its third successive year, with direct flights to the Olympic Games' host city of Paris taking off in Jul.

Qantas CEO Vanessa Hudson said the airline has more than 70 years of shared history and support with the Australian Olympic Team.

"Qantas has a long and proud history of supporting the Australian Olympic and Paralympic Teams, from first flying Olympic athletes to the London Games in 1948 to our engineers designing custom cushions and support devices for our Australian Paralympians to travel comfortably on long-haul sectors," Hudson said.

The aircraft is **pictured** above with Qantas 787 Captain Tom Bissland, Paralympian Emily Petricola, Paralympian Jaryd Clifford, Australian Paralympics Team Chef de Mission Kate McLoughlin and Qantas Customer Service Agent, Sofia De Freitas

Emerald on the telly

CHANNEL Nine's long-running travel series *Getaway* will this week feature the first of two episodes focused on yacht cruising in the Caribbean.

The episode starring Emerald Cruises' luxury yacht, *Emerald Sakara*, airs at 5:25pm on 15 Jun.

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Noumea still no-go

DFAT is warning of a potential escalation in tensions in New Caledonia in the lead-up to the French elections later this month.

The road to NOU Airport is still considered unsafe due to damaged roads and blockades, with best access coming via an 'airbridge' domestic flight from Magenta Airport to La Tontouta.

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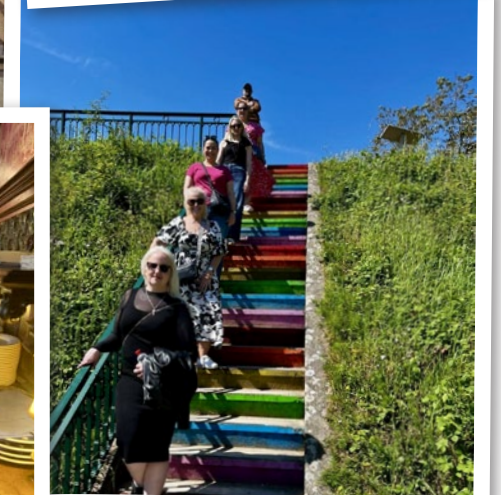
VIKING recently wined, dined, and wowed 10 travel agent partners from Australia on an eight-day 'Paris & the Heart of Normandy' river voyage.

Guests had the opportunity to experience firsthand the Viking way of exploration and sail on one of Viking's custom-built Seine class ships, which takes guests right into the heart of Paris.

Agents explored iconic landmarks like the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower.

Highlights included Monet's gardens in Giverny, a walking tour of Rouen's medieval Old Town, and the charming harbour of Honfleur.

The journey concluded with a hike to Chateau Gaillard and a scenic Paris by Night cruise along the Seine, leaving agents with unforgettable memories of their Viking adventure.



CORPORATE UPDATE

TravelPay ready to cash in



TRAVELPAY is set to expand its presence in the consumer travel money market with the launch of its own dedicated prepaid travel cash card.

Available from next Mon, the new TravelPay Money card will be powered by fintech brand Pelikin and will be very trade friendly, with issuing agents able to earn commission on all international purchases for the life of the card.

The new card features a secure mobile app allowing travellers to load funds fee-free and transfer between 22 different currency wallets including USD, GBP, EUR, and many other global currencies.

If a purchase is made where insufficient funds are available in one wallet, the card will automatically source remaining funds from other wallets to ensure purchases go through.

Travellers can also connect family and friends as peers and

instantly send money to each other through the app.

TravelPay will operate and market the new card to the trade, assuming Pelikin's existing database of preferred agents.

Zenith Payments CEO Peter Egglestone told *Travel Daily* the company has modest but achievable sales targets for the new TravelPay Money product.

"We're looking at 1,000 in the first year, so it's definitely going to be a ramp up process," Egglestone commented.

"And you don't need to be a TravelPay customer to sign up with TravelPay Money."

Agents can expect an incentive to be launched in the near future, with a \$1,000 gift card up for grabs as a major prize.

Pictured above at the TravelPay Money launch is Sam Brown, Founder of Pelikin, with Zenith Payments CEO Peter Egglestone.

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The future of our border

IMAGINE disembarking an international flight in Australia, reclaiming your luggage from the baggage carousel, and heading straight to your domestic flight without changing terminals.

This is a concept being worked on by the Australian Border Force (ABF), Commissioner Michael Outram told the TTF Outlook Tourism Conference this week.

The "bag first" concept would see a traveller biometrically pre-clear immigration with their checked luggage at their embarkation port, with Outram predicting more than 90% of pax would be pre-cleared.

The concept would require participating countries compiling and sharing data to a mutually agreed-upon standard.

"The future has got to be about digital, pre-cleared, and seamless, because then we can digitise the back of the whole process," Outram commented.

Trans-Tasman trials with New

Zealand underpin the ABF's attempts to simplify travel, with the two countries testing a number of concepts together.

"We are trialling contactless outbound travel, where you can go through a SmartGate without even showing your passport."

The ABF is working with Qantas to collect the data required for the incoming passenger card through a mobile app, which is then securely transmitted to immigration officials.

This would see the elimination of the much-maligned incoming passenger card, which passengers have been promised would be retired many times in the past (*TD* 30 Jan).

"We're also thinking about inbound contactless [and] if we can get rid of the inbound passenger card [and] collect that data before you travel," Outram added. *MS*

Bollard to leave NZ

AIR New Zealand has announced the departure of its Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Mat Bollard, as part of a wider review of costs at the airline.

NZ's current Chief Sustainability Officer, Kiri Hannifin, will take on Bollard's responsibilities in a new hybrid role beginning from 24 Jun.

Bollard will remain on to ensure a smooth handover, with his final day scheduled for 31 Jul.

York back by design

BESPOKE itinerary design brand Designer Journeys has appointed travel industry veteran Stephen York as its new Business Development Manager in Qld.

York has been tasked with continuing to build momentum for the FIT brand in Queensland and nurture extensive travel agent relationships statewide.

Bringing over 30 years in travel to his new role, York's CV boasts time with Contiki, Flight Centre, Albatross Tours and Hurtigruten.

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Outrigger appeals to the kids



HAWAII'S Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort has announced the opening of its new Coral Kids Club, as part of a major US\$85 million property transformation (**TD** 04 Apr).

An extension of the resort's new Waiola Wellness Wing, the activity centre provides a safe, supervised space for kids between the ages of five and 12 to learn about ocean conservation, sustainable practices and healthy living.

Little ones can attend daily cultural workshops as well as hands-on activities centred on the Aina Guardian workbook developed by author and former Miss Hawai'i, Candace Gentry.

Coral Kids Club participants can also join Outrigger's Area Director of Cultural Experience, Luana Maitland, in the A'ō Cultural Center for lei making, hula lessons and other traditional Hawaiian crafts.

"It is an absolute joy to have a dedicated space on-property where keiki (kids) can come to learn and explore through doing,"

Maitland commented. "The Coral Kids Club will allow kids to make memories and friends while providing meaningful and intentional programming for visitors and kama'aina alike."

The Coral Kids Club is open daily from 9am-4pm, with the option of half- or full-day reservations with childcare services. *JM*

VN adopts Amadeus

VIETNAM Airlines has integrated Amadeus' enhanced passenger service system (PSS) technology, which offers the carrier comprehensive inventory, reservation, ticketing, departure control and digital solutions.

The tech also allows VN to deliver efficient reservation services for front-line employees to help customers purchase, change and use services.

The carrier is also in the process of transitioning to Outpayce's Xchange Payment Platform, which will allow it to accept payments globally.

SPECIALS

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specials@traveldaily.com.au

Cebu Pacific is inviting Aussie travellers to score one-way airfares to Manila from as low as \$189 from Melbourne and \$199 from Sydney, as the Philippines celebrates its 126th independence anniversary. The offer is valid for booking until 15 Jun and is available for travel between 01 Jul 2024 and 31 Jan 2025. Call 9119 2956 to get in touch.

Available until the end of Jul, **AAT Kings** is offering travellers discounts of up to 10% on its Uluru Sacred Sites & Sunset and Uluru Sunrise & Kata Tjuta tours, priced at \$185 and \$188 respectively. There are also optional add-ons to these day tours, including the Barbecue Dinner Under the Stars experience. Book your NT getaway [HERE](#).

Enjoy the new 2024 conference offer at **Novotel Sydney Darling Square** with a full-day package priced at \$80 per person. The offer includes coffee and tea, gourmet buffet lunch at Pier St. Grill Restaurant, free wi-fi, and more to keep all of your delegates happy for the entire event. The conference must be booked and held by 31 Aug to avail the offer - call 02 8217 4000 to book.

Savings of up to 78% on child discount ticket fares are available with the 'Reef & Island In A Day' itinerary with **Sunlover Reef Cruises**. Instead of the normal rate of \$165, the discounted fare has dropped to \$35, which includes boat transfers, several tours, snorkelling equipment and visits to an underwater observatory, and water slide on the reef. For more information or to make a booking, [CLICK HERE](#).

Ending on 19 Jun, **Airnorth** has launched its 'Dream It. We'll Get You There' promotion, offering regional travellers discounted flight tickets for only \$186. Fly from Darwin to Kununurra, or vice versa, for the promotional price, with more routes available on the website [HERE](#).

Save up to 20% on **Tasmanian Expeditions'** 'Christmas In July' sale. From 01 to 07 Jul, travellers can take advantage of the limited offer, with the first 30 bookings of select itineraries to receive a bonus \$200 Paddy Pallin voucher and an Ice Breaker Beanie valued at \$39.99. To learn more about the offer, call 1300 666 856.

Don't miss out on the Arctic adventure deals with **Aurora Expeditions**. Receive air credit of up to \$3,750pp, plus a discount of up to 15% off the voyage when you book and deposit select adventures by 30 Jun. Eligible tours include the 24-day Arctic Complete: Svalbard tour, where the group could search for whales and polar bears throughout. Explore all of the other tours and offers by ringing 1800 637 688.

Set to open on 15 Aug, **Centara Life Lamai Resort Samui** is offering its future guests celebratory room rates, which include F&B credit of \$250 (AU\$10.25), daily breakfast for two, early check-in and late check-out, as well as a 15% discount for CentaraThe1 members. Sign up as a member for free [HERE](#), and book before 30 Sep to enjoy the offer [HERE](#).

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You Could WIN a Utah Adventure!

Rocky Mountaineer, Hawaiian Airlines, Visit Salt Lake and the Utah Office of Tourism are offering travel agents the chance to win an epic trip for two to Utah.

This exciting incentive marks the launch of Hawaiian Airlines' new route between Sydney and Salt Lake City (via Honolulu).

Australian agents who make a new 2024 or 2025 booking for Rocky Mountaineer's Rockies to the Red Rocks route, OR a flight with Hawaiian Airlines between Australia and mainland USA, before 30 June 2024, can be entered to win.

One winner and their guest will win a trip including:

- Return economy airfare on **Hawaiian Airlines**, between Sydney and Salt Lake City (via Honolulu)
- A two-day Rocky Mountaineer rail

journey on the **Rockies to the Red Rocks** route

- Two nights' accommodation at **Le Méridien Salt Lake City Downtown hotel**
- A two-day Salt Lake City attraction pass
- A Great Salt Lake & Antelope Island day trip

How to enter the draw:

- Agents who book a qualifying ticket on Hawaiian Airlines should send the booking/PNR details by email to: **au-sales@hawaiianair.com**
 - o Hawaiian Airlines tickets issued between Sydney and Salt Lake City (via Honolulu) will get TWO entries in the draw, and any Hawaiian Airlines bookings between Australia and mainland USA will get one entry in the draw.

- Agents who make a booking for Rocky Mountaineer's Rockies to the Red Rocks route should email the booking number to: **apac@rockymountaineer.com**
 - o Each booking made on Rocky Mountaineer's Rockies to the Red Rocks route can be entered into the draw.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Agents will also need to complete the **Utah Specialist program** to be eligible to win the trip.



For more information and to learn more: **Click here.**