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Recovery still in slow lane

ARRIVALS of international leisure travellers to Australia are now at 74% of 2019 figures, still lagging well behind outbound resident travel which has already surpassed pre-pandemic levels.

A deep dive into the latest *Overseas Arrivals and Departures* data from Apr 2024 also reveals some new source markets leading the charge over others which have traditionally performed strongly, such as China.

These emerging markets include India, Indonesia and South Korea,



the latter buoyed by strong air links from various Australian cities to Seoul including Qantas, Jetstar, T-Way Air, Korean Airlines along with its soon-to-be merged partner, Asiana Airlines.

Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) MD Peter Shelley, said while arrival numbers are not jumping back as fast as outbound, improvements are being noticed.

"While this is slower than we'd like overall, there is still a growth trend which, if it continues, should see us back to 2019 levels towards the end of this year or early 2025," Shelley commented.

While China continues to underperform for now, Shelley said new funding and upcoming market training is laying building blocks for better times to come.

"We're working with the government on readiness to service what we expect to be an increasing number of Chinese coming through."

"The type of Chinese traveller we expect to come through will be high-yielding and more independent, travelling into regions a lot more and having more of a taste for regional product," Shelley said. *ML*

NOU airport opens

NEW Caledonia's High Commissioner has reopened Noumea's La Tontouta Airport as social unrest eases, with road blockades now cleared, allowing commercial flights to resume.

The overnight curfew will stay in place but starts two hours later.

Win from Grapevine

TRAVEL Agent Finder and Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau is offering a \$100 gift card in a new trade incentive.

The promo has been launched to celebrate the upcoming debut of American Airlines' new direct flights from Brisbane to Dallas Fort Worth (**TD** 02 Feb).

To be in the running, read through Travel Agent Finder's educational resources on the vibrant Texas city to find the answers to three questions and **CLICK HERE** to fill out the form.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest travel industry news, a cover wrap from **CVFR Payments**, plus full pages from:

- Albatross Tours
- Taiwan Tourism Eva Air



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Seabourn in groups

LUXURY cruise line Seabourn has launched an improved groups structure for travel agents.

The new 'Seabourn Enhanced Groups Program' introduces a Tour Conductor Credit to allow agents to access a discounted fare to accompany their groups plus shipboard credit, reduced deposits, bonus commission and extra capacity for groups.

The credit can also be used for a discounted fare for one guest once minimum numbers are met.

BNE ready for retail RFP

TOP-TIER food and beverage operators are now being sought by Brisbane Airport to fill out 32 places within its completely redesigned international terminal.

A total of 5,000 square metres across three levels is available in the \$5 billion 'Future BNE' airport transformation, led by a new contemporary bar concept at level three departures which will overlook the runway.

The main food and beverage

precinct will be twice the size of a basketball court and will feature quick-service dining, several bars and coffee shops, rotating seasonal cuisines and "multiple surprise and delight culinary experiences".

Two more quick-service eateries will be positioned on level four and level two, the latter operating alongside a coffee shop designed as a 'welcome home' for arrivals.

Outside dining, level three will feature a 'high street' with seven specialty retail boutiques offering a mix of aspirational luxury and travel essentials.

BNE is forecasting international passenger volumes to double to more than 10 million annually over the next decade. *ML*

Early rise for Anzac

EARLYBIRD prices for 2025 ANZAC pilgrimages to Gallipoli, the Western Front and Ypres with Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours' expires at the end of this month.

Travellers can save up to \$400 on tours which include access to dawn services in key locations.

Rail Europe

Unlock European Trains with Grant Robertson

Eurail Pass Deactivation

How to deactivate: Should a client decide they no longer need their Eurail Pass, you can very easily and quickly deactivate the pass for them and get a refund. Watch this [short video](#) to find out how.

Pass validity: Ensure your clients understand that the validity of a Eurail Pass is 12 months from the day of booking. Once validated they have to use up all of the travel days within the duration of the Pass.

Expert tip: When helping clients book their big European tour, refer to Rail Europe's latest resource, this [e-brochure](#) that's full of new and inspiring journeys around the continent.

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Stark to sleep rough

FLIGHT Centre Global Managing Director, Andrew Stark, will be among 300 senior executives and business leaders helping to raise funds in the 2024 CEO Sleepout.

The fundraiser aims to raise money for Vinnies Queensland to deliver its target of providing 500 homes over five years to those at risk of homelessness, with 147 homes already delivered.

Joining Stark in the sleepout this year will be Queensland Airports Limited Chief Executive, Amelia Evans and Village Roadshow Theme Parks Chief Operating Officer, Bikash Randhawa.

Vinnies is aiming to raise \$1.5 million with the initiative - to donate to the cause, [CLICK HERE](#).

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Disney app change

VISITORS to Disneyland can now modify and upgrade their park tickets via a new feature added to the park's mobile app.

The feature allows users to add Park Hopping or Genie+ to existing tickets, but can't be used to downgrade a ticket or pass.

Solving a problem with Maria



GUESTS aboard *Silver Ray* were treated to a special bagpipe procession, a pool party and words of wisdom from newly revealed godmother, Dr Maria Josefina Olascoaga, at an official naming ceremony in Lisbon.

The Argentina-born Olascoaga is an expert in ocean health and marries with Silversea's ambition to make its latest and upcoming vessels among the most environmentally-friendly in the international market.

Olascoaga is also a Professor of Ocean Sciences at the Rosens el School of Marine, Atmospheric and Earth Science at the University of Miami, as well as a senior leader at Royal Caribbean's OceanScope program, which equips the company's ships with oceanographic instruments to collect the ocean's vital signs.

"We are living in an important time of change and it is more important than ever to be

conscious of the ocean and its preservation, so as godmother of *Ray* and as a passionate oceanographer, I hope this ship will inspire her guests to connect meaningfully with the ocean," Olascoaga said.

Silver Ray and her sister *Silver Nova* are 40% more energy-efficient than previous vessels in the luxury line's fleet thanks to a suite of new technologies. **AB**

Pictured: Olascoaga flanked by CBS News Travel Editor Peter Greenberg; Ray skipper Alessandro Zanello; Royal Caribbean Group CEO Jason Liberty; and Silversea President Bert Hernandez.

Pullman in Hamilton

RETROFIT work is underway on Hamilton's Mistry Centre in New Zealand which will see Accor open a new 131-room Pullman hotel, on track to open in 2026.

EK to fly SAF in Asia

EMIRATES has committed to use sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) on services from Singapore to Dubai, reducing emissions by up to 80% on the route.

It is EK's second partnership with SAF provider Neste, following a similar deal at Amsterdam Schiphol.



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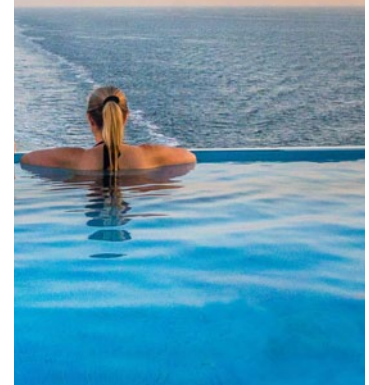
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SKYE puts its foot down on DV



EXCLUSIVE

SKYE Suites Parramatta is encouraging guests to wear a pair of silly socks in support of a new campaign to help stamp out domestic violence.

The hotel has joined with national domestic violence initiative, DV Collective, to help raise awareness of the critical social cause but with a touch of fun, colour and personality. "We are committed to the community we live and work in, and as a team we were all aligned on this initiative," said SKYE Suites Parramatta General Manager, Quercy Jouannes.

"Domestic violence affects the whole family with devastating social implications," he added.

The hotel is aiming to bring together likeminded corporate and philanthropic organisations to generate widespread support for the overall cause.

DV Collective was set up by domestic violence survivor, Kylie Johanson, who envisaged the Silly Socks campaign as a way to rally corporate Australia to create safe spaces for women and children affected by domestic violence.

The hotel has already seen a strong response to its campaign, selling more than 220 pairs so far.

"One positive is that the majority of sales to date have come from men," Jouannes said.

"Wearing the socks raises awareness and starts conversations within the community," he added. *ML*

Pictured above showcasing the range of silly socks on sale at the hotel is Rose Sovite, Jessica Avellaneda and Pailin Tiabsaen from SKYE Suites Parramatta.

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Safe summer travels

WITH many Aussies heading overseas for the European summer and the Paris Olympic Games, Smartraveller has published new advice on how to travel overseas safely.

The advice covers terrorism, crime, extreme weather, cyber security, and how to access help when overseas - see it [HERE](#).

The keys to Utopia

ROYAL Caribbean International has taken delivery of its sixth Oasis-class vessel, with Chantiers de l'Atlantique handing over the keys to *Utopia of the Seas*.

Set to debut on 19 Jul from Port Canaveral, the ship will operate alternating three-night and four-night short breaks to Nassau and Perfect Day by CocoCay.

MEANWHILE, at the same shipyard, construction has begun on sister line Celebrity Cruises' newest ship, *Celebrity Xcel*, which will set sail in Nov next year.

The line's fifth Edge-class ship will be its first offering tri-fuel propulsion including methanol.

Bridging cultures

A NEW Indigenous tourism experience has launched in Brisbane, allowing visitors to gain a First Nations perspective on the Story Bridge Adventure Climb.

The result of a collaboration between Birrungga Gallery and Howard Smith Wharves, climbers will be guided by First Nations storytellers, who will share stories on the history, art, culture and future of Meanjin (Brisbane).

Guests will also be able to engage in other new cultural experiences, including an Aboriginal food platter featuring crocodile and kangaroo with native herbs and spices, while the Birrungga Gallery will offer artist boomerang painting workshops, artist talks and Importance of Place workshops.

The Indigenous Story Bridge Adventure Climb experience is expected to open in Aug.



Window Seat

WHAT is it with with giant animals climbing the outside of New York's Empire State Building?

King Kong has done it across numerous remakes of his classic tale and now the Manhattan icon has been taken over by an enormous 82-metre tall dragon hugging the building's 86th floor.

But far from some terrifying Netherrealm invasion, the huge reptile is actually Vhagar from HBO's *Game of Thrones* prequel, *House of the Dragon*, part of a week-long promotion of the smash-hit TV show.




Each night, the Empire State Building's lights will showcase the inflatable creature in a series of dynamic light shows through modified lights.

As part of the takeover, visitors to New York's famous skyscraper can enjoy a photo with the show's Iron Throne and an interactive photo booth, with cast members from the show also scheduled to visit from time to time.

Maloney joins Hyatt

HYATT Regency Sydney has announced the appointment of Gavin Maloney as its new Director of Sales & Marketing.



Maloney brings more than 25 years' experience with top luxury hospitality brands, including TFE Hotels and Shangri-la Group, across Australia and New Zealand, as well as key US markets, Latin America and Europe.



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THIS week's Brochures of the Week is brought to you by **DriveAway Holidays.**



DriveAway Holidays - Italy Road Trip Planner
Set off on an unparalleled adventure with DriveAway's new Italy Road Trip Planner, a thoughtfully designed guide to inspire your next holiday. Every detail in each tour is carefully curated to ignite guests' sense of adventure and enhance the travel experience. From the tranquil shores of the Amalfi Coast to the vibrant streets of Rome, each moment offers a chance for independent exploration and enrichment.

Underneath the description of each itinerary, DriveAway also includes various accommodation options catering to budget, value, family, and even motorhome travellers. DriveAway's new guide can help transform your road trip into an extraordinary adventure of discovery - to download your own copy, [CLICK HERE](#).



Rail Europe - Explore Europe by Train
Rail Europe is inviting travel advisors to take advantage of its latest publication, packed full of suggested itineraries for the most sought-after destinations across the continent. The e-brochure is the key to unlocking unique escapes, breathtaking scenery, culinary delights, and more across the UK & Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal, and more. Reflecting its understanding of time-sensitive advisors, the rail ticket provider has

included the fastest routes to traverse each tour, which will differ based on seasonality and availability of services at time of booking.



Blue Mountains Tourism - Blue Mountains
Blue Mountains Tourism's destination magazine is hot off the press, featuring details on everything about the big Blue in the winter season. The 48-page booklet showcases all the major highlights for a visit to the popular NSW destination. Readers can learn more about the 'Eco Adventures', which cover some of the destination's iconic landmarks, including Wentworth Falls, Katoomba, and Leura. The interactive guide also showcases some lesser-known tours and attractions in the area that can surprise and delight.

Lufthansa ready to kick goals



LUFTHANSA and its subsidiaries have reported a surge of around 200,000 extra bookings by fans of national football teams, with Euro 2024 now underway in Germany. Dozens of extra flights are being added to the schedule, especially from England, which is hoping to improve on its last result, having

lost the last tournament to Italy in a nail-biting penalty shootout.

As a partner of the German team, the country's national airline is getting fans in the mood for football once again by rebranding six of its Airbus A320 aircraft and kitting them out with its famous 'Fanhansa' theme.

Travellers will notice football themed headrests, chocolates served onboard and food trays with 'Breakfast for Champions' printed on one side.

For those flying during one of the matches, a live ticker detailing text highlights of the onfield action will be transmitted to guests connecting to the onboard FlyNet portal, with cabin crew also providing score updates.

Information and videos showcasing Germany's host cities can also be enjoyed on the Lufthansa inflight content system.

The quadrennial football tournament is being hosted in Germany until 14 Jul with national teams from across Europe competing to determine the continent's best. *ML*

Hotel tech partners

SITEMINDER and Cloudbeds have partnered to offer new distribution opportunities for more than 60,000 hotels globally.

The pact provides Cloudbeds clients passage to SiteMinder's revenue portal, while SiteMinder customers can access Cloudbeds' property management system.

"Our partnership with SiteMinder is about two of the hotel industry's biggest names coming together with a mutual commitment to drive forward deeper connectivity between hotel platforms and create new standards that benefit hoteliers everywhere," said Cloudbeds CEO Adam Harris.

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