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# Travel Daily First with the news

Wednesday 19th Jun 2024



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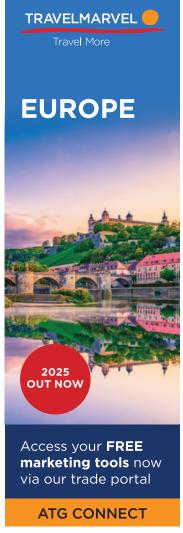
Find out more ()



#### Winter in Tasmania

TOURISM Tasmania will host an informative webinar at 11am tomorrow featuring presentations from local operators with tips on the best advice for visitors.

There are also a number of prizes up for grabs to attendees. **CLICK HERE** to register.



## **ATIA's next-gen Directors**

**THE** Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) has today introduced a new-look Board of Directors featuring a new Chairman, Vice Chair and three new members (TD breaking news).

Following today's ATIA Annual General Meeting in Sydney, Travellers Choice CEO Christian Hunter (pictured) was elected unopposed as ATIA's new Chair, taking the reins from departing Chair, Tom Manwaring (TD yest).

The association also reelected FCTG's Graham 'Skroo' Turner and Corporate Travel Management's

#### Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today features seven pages of the latest travel industry news, a cover wrap from Norwegian Cruise Line, a photo page from Abercrombie & Kent, our regular Luxury page, plus full pages from:

- Ponant
- **Crystal Cruises**

enquiries@cvfrpayments.com



Laura Ruffles to new two-year terms as Joint ATIA Vice Chairs.

Nominations were sought for six available positions, with Globus Family of Brands' Gai Tyrrell; Helloworld's Rohan Moss; and Intrepid Travel's Brett Mitchell all newly elected to the Board today.

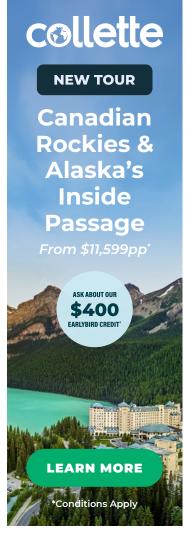
Reelected directors included TTC's David Hosking: FCTG's David Smith and CT Partners' Peter Muller, who will each take on a new two-year stint.

Cinzia Burnes, Danielle Russom and Shelley Beasley will continue on the Board, with their positions up for renewal next year. ML

#### Up to 35% off NCL

TRAVELLERS can enjoy thousands of dollars in bonus value, plus discounts on Norwegian Cruise Line's global range of cruising adventures, with offers expiring next week.

See the cover page of today's Travel Daily for more details.











#### Ponant flight credit

**ONLY** a few weeks remain to take advantage of a \$1,500 flight credit on a variety of Ponant's 2025 luxury expeditions in the exciting Arctic Circle.

For more details, see page eight.

#### The Crystal Reward

**UPGRADE** your shore excursions, enjoy a spa treatment or an onboard shopping spree using your Crystal Reward - find out more on **page nine**.



## Trade warming to China

**BUSINESSES** across the Australian travel landscape have expressed excitement at the opportunity to promote tourism to China following the country's addition of Australia and New Zealand to its visa-waiver policy.

The move was one of many diplomatic olive branches extended by China during this week's visit to Australia by Chinese Premier Li Quang.

Australians can now enjoy short-term visits to China of up to 15 days for tourism, with enthusiastic praise for the move beginning with Wendy Wu Tours' matriarch, Wendy Wu (pictured).

"Today's announcement is very welcome news," Wu said.

"This visa-free policy will make short trips more accessible and straightforward, and we're positive it will encourage a robust return to destination China for Aussie holidaymakers.

"It's a fantastic, positive update for all Australians dreaming of exploring China's rich culture, history, and breathtaking landscapes as a holiday experience," Wu added.



Travellers wishing to stay longer than 15 days must still obtain a traditional tourist entry visa for China, with Wendy Wu Tours able to assist Australian travellers to navigate the complex issue.

G Adventures Vice President Product, Yves Marcaeu, told *Travel Daily* that demand for China has been steadily growing since border restrictions relaxed and confidence grew.

"This new visa relaxation will make China even more attractive to Australian travellers and we're already expanding our program of trips to meet the current demand for travel.

"From Jul we'll be launching a selection of new trips in China that will be able to be combined to remain within the 15-day visa requirement," Marcaeu added. ML

#### **DNSW** funds boost

**DESTINATION** NSW will receive \$324.5 million in the 2024 State Budget, handed down yesterday by Treasurer Daniel Mookhey.

The state tourism body is set to launch new campaigns focusing on NSW as a key state for events as well as the arts sector and the night-time economy.

Accommodation Australia has welcomed the funding, saying events boost hotel occupancy and flow on to food and beverage.











A SIGN of a good day spent sightseeing can be how tired you are at the end of it, and a new study has identified which global landmarks will take the most out of you, physically.

The study considered the number of stairs to climb, total elevation change and average daytime temperature, giving each a score out of 100.

Taking top spot for physical exhaustion is Norway's Florli Stairs with 76 out of 100, due to the 4,444 steps to reach the summit - must be a good view.

America's Manitou Incline came second with 63, followed by Romania's Poenari Castle, home to Dracula.

Australia featured in the list with Sydney's famous BridgeClimb ranking 12th.

#### Agent points sweep

**TRAVEL** agents have collectively earned more than 65 million Qantas Frequent Flyer points since 2019 by receiving payments using TravelPay, the company said.

Points can be earned on every payment received by agents who are also participating in the Qantas Business rewards program, regardless of how their client transfers funds to them, whether by credit card or funds transfer.

As an incentive to entice new agencies to join, TravelPay is offering 20,000 Qantas Frequent Flyer points to new agents who start using TravelPay by 31 Jul.

Existing members can also reap bonus rewards, with double points accrued on payments processed by American Express until the end of Jun.

"There are no hoops to jump through and agents can earn Qantas Points on every payment received," said Zenith Payments (parent of TravelPay) Chief Executive, Peter Egglestone.



## Minister to join Travel24

**FEDERAL** Minister for Trade and Tourism, Don Farrell, has been announced as a speaker for new travel industry event Travel24, sharing his insights into the growth opportunities of the tourism sector within the next two years.

Minister Farrell will also reveal how travel leaders can futureproof their businesses to build a successful local tourism industry and stay ahead of the game.

Travel24 is a new industry conference event hosted by *Travel Daily*, which will explore the next 24 months in travel.

The one-day event will feature a speaker line-up of experts and thought leaders who will tackle a range of fascinating topics.

Speakers include Accenture Head of Cultural Forecasting, Michelle Newton; ATIA Chief Executive Officer, Dean Long; world-leading DEI expert Azure Antoinette; AI expert Tom Pitney;



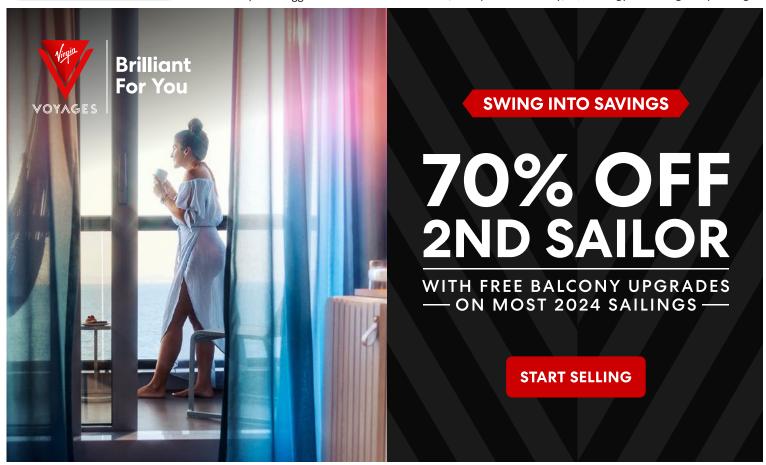
CVFR CEO Ram Chhabra; Emily Kadinski from itravel Carlingford; Yohan Siva from Helloworld; and TravelManagers' Louise McCarthy.

Travel24 will take place on 08 August at Sofitel Darling Harbour in Sydney.

Early bird rates close this Fri 21 Jun - CLICK HERE for tickets.

#### Galapagos partners

AQUA Expeditions has joined forces with the Charles Darwin Foundation to help raise funds for conservation projects in the Galapagos Islands including shark ecology and mangrove planting.







A fresh look at the next 24 months in travel. Get your tickets now! Earlybird offer ends soon.



#### Hanging ten in Fiji

FIJI'S Cloudbreak, located near the Fijian island of Tavarua, has been chosen by the World Surf League to host the professional tour's 2025 Championship Finals.

Tourism Fiji CEO Brent Hill said he was looking forward to showcasing Fiji as a world-class destination for surf enthusiasts.



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### **Growth plans for Preferred**



**PREFERRED** Hotels and Resorts yesterday hosted a media lunch at the Fullerton Hotel in Sydney which was attended by visiting CEO, Lindsay Ueberroth, who jetted in from her California base.

While enjoying a bespoke menu and bubbles, Ueberroth shared her insights into the industry and updates from the group.

Last year, Preferred welcomed 50 new member hotels, 15 of which were newbuilds, while 20 have joined this year and more are in the pipeline.

According to Ueberroth, there are growth plans in the works for the Australian market, in both feeder markets as well as secondary and tertiary cities.

"We think we're very wellpositioned in this market to attract new members, because we're also seeing a trend of hotels deflagging," she noted.

"Owners [are] deciding that they don't need to be a part of a big

chain and that there's confidence in going independent."

This year is also the 20th anniversary of the Ueberroth family owning Preferred Hotels and Resorts.

"Preferred has been around for 55-plus years, but my family has had the privilege of being the stewards of the brand for the last 20 years and it's really exciting to mark two decades of us celebrating the spirit of independent travel and independent hotels."

Ueberroth also discussed high demand for ultra personalised experiences across everything.

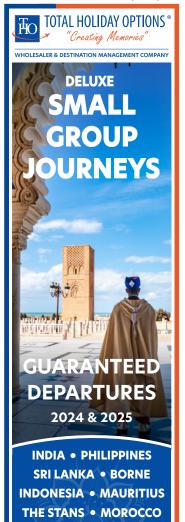
"We don't have a manual that says this is how we have to do everything," she said.

"We have brand standards, but we let our independent hotels dictate those unique, curated experiences that really come to life when they stay with us and cater to that style of travel." JHM

#### DCL returns to Aus

**DISNEY** Cruise Line will return to Sydney, Melbourne and New Zealand in the 2025/26 cruise season, the line confirmed today.

New itineraries for the season will see Disney Wonder visit five NZ ports for the first time as part of a 10-night trans-Tasman sailing between Auckland and Sydney.





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Weds 19th June 2024

### A&K's prize winners enjoy treat Sri Lanka trip

FROM 16 to 28 May, five lucky prize winning agents from Abercrombie & Kent's (A&K) 2023 roadshow were hosted by the company's Sri Lanka DMC on an educational trip.

The group flew with Sri Lankan Airlines and spent 12 days exploring this beautiful destination, where they began with two days in Colombo and took an Insider Access city walking tour.

> The next stop was the cultural triangle, featuring a visit to the Sigiriya rock complex, an elephant jeep safari in Minneriya National Park, the Dambulla Cave Temple, and a bicycle tour of Polonnaruwa Ancient City.

Agents then travelled south to Kandy, visiting the Temple of the Tooth Relic and enjoying a Sri Lankan cultural dance performance.

The final stop was Galle, where they did a fascinating walking tour and stayed at Amangalla & Haritha Villas for two nights.

Everyone in the group was a first-time visitor to Sri Lanka and delighted in the immersive culture, food, and scenery.

A&K's outstanding hosts and guides impressed the group from start to finish, and their experience across many hotels and attractions affirmed Sri Lanka as an amazing destination.



## WELCOME TO SRI LANKA

Alex Pickering, Phil Hoffmann Glenelg; Rosemary Febo, TravelManagers; Hannah Taylor, A&K; Thilini Mahanama, A&K Sri Lanka; and Colombo walking tours expert guide.





TAKING their time at delicate monuments throughout the Polonnorua ancient city.



**ENJOYING** evening drinks at the

at the Polonnorua ancient city.



**SRI** Lankan lunch feasting.





MONK at sunrise at Galle lighthouse.

luxury@traveldaily.com.au Wednesday 19th Jun 2024

#### Uniworld in demand

IN RESPONSE to strong demand. Uniworld has added extra departure dates on its most popular itineraries on the Danube, Seine and Mekong Rivers.

The itineraries with new sailing dates include the eight-day 'Paris & Normandy' voyage on S.S. Joie de Vivre, with guests now able to join on 10 Nov 2024.

The journey will encompass best of Paris and Normandy's countryside, with guests to tour the Palace of Versailles; explore Chateau de La Roche-Guyon, the medieval capital of Rouen; and visit Monet's home in Giverny as well as the Normandy beaches.

The 'Enchanting Danube' cruise aboard S.S. Maria Theresa will also sail on the new date of 10 Nov 2024, taking travellers on an eightday journey from Budapest to Passau.

Highlights include a private viewing of the Kunstkammer Vienna art collection; a private Mozart and Strauss concert in Vienna; and a tasting at the oldest winery in Austria.

Meanwhile, the 15-day 'Timeless Wonders of Vietnam, Cambodia & The Mekong' itinerary aboard Mekong Jewel has added two new departure dates - 27 Mar and 31 Mar 2025.

## TRAVEL ASSOCIATES HIT NYC STAGE

TRAVEL Associates was out in force at New York City Tourism & Convention's first Luxury Business Expo this month, where it was the sole representative of the Australian luxury travel market.

The boutique luxury brand's General Manager Australia & New Zealand Rachel Kingswell and Ashmore, Harris & James Travel Associates Business Leader Christine Bottrell were at the event alongside nine other luxury travel markets, including the UK, India, China, and Japan.

Showcasing New York City's newest luxury products available for high-end travellers, the expo included a hard-hat tour of the Waldorf Astoria, which reopens after seven years this Dec, an evening VIP tour of the Musuem of Modern Art, and many of the city's iconic attractions.

"The experiences we've had representing Australia at the Luxury Business Expo have



reaffirmed New York City as a oneof-a-kind destination for luxury travellers that is forever evolving and presenting new and exciting reasons to revisit," Kingswell said.

"The exclusive insights we've gained will allow our partnership with New York City Tourism + Conventions to continue to thrive as it enables us to expand our New York City offering to our luxury clients."

Also on the agenda were a series

of meetings with tourism and hospitality suppliers and exclusive luxury product previews.

The New York City Tourism & Convention's most recent survey data revealed that 42% of Australian travellers booked their flights with a tour operator or travel agent, well above the global market average of 25%. JM

Pictured: Reginald Charlot, NYC **SVP Tourism Market Development** with Bottrell and Kingswell.

#### Four Seasons to deliver more luxury in Dubai

**FOUR** Seasons is preparing to expand its Dubai portfolio with the development of a residential offering in the city.

The 52 new luxury private residences will be located a stone's throw from the existing Four Seasons Hotel in the vibrant Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC).

Close to the Buri Khalifa and Jumeirah Beach, each home

in the Four Seasons Private Residences Dubai at DIFC will feature terraces with views overlooking downtown Dubai, manicured gardens, or the retail courtyard below.

Homes will also include a dedicated office space, a family room, laundry room, and separate service entrances, with guests to have access to a gym, pool, spa, and much more.

#### High tea at Hilton

**HILTON** Sydney has introduced a new high tea experience in its iconic glass brasserie, which overlooks the Queen Victoria Building.

The new Afternoon Tea menu features a selection of sweet and savoury items served with premium teas and coffees, with a roaming Champagne service also available for an extra cost.



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### **ACCOMMODATION**

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New Park Manor in the UK village of Brockenhurst has reopened its doors following a thorough touch-up. Work has seen refreshments applied to all 25 rooms and public areas, including The Vinery and Stag restaurant. Rooms are now filled with

mixtures of textured fabrics and patterned wallpaper, while guests are also now introduced to new Spa Day and Spa Membership programming for special incentives through to Sep from the revamp.



The 404-key Riu Plaza The Gresham **Dublin** in Ireland has completed a major refurbishment, with all rooms now equipped with modern and contemporary amenities. Beyond the room upgrades, the historic establishment takes pride in its use

of green electrical energy, drawn from renewable sources. The hotel also offers 11 meeting rooms, a fitness centre and a lounge bar, as well as two in-house restaurants.



Courtyard Los Angeles Pasadena/Old

Town - located in the city's outskirts - has refreshed its guest rooms and communal spaces in a recently completed propertywide renovation. The revitalisation draws inspiration from the city's past, blending

natural brick, wood, and existing elements present in the building. Throughout the property, guests are able to see numerous artworks and murals paying homage to the 'Old Pas'.



After nine months of a comprehensive makeover, Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel & Spa has reopened its doors. Featuring a water and earth theme, the property is now offering refreshed accommodations, lobby, common areas,

conference centre, fitness centre, indoor and outdoor pools, restaurant and bars, and a meeting space spanning over 9,000 square metres.



The College Hotel Amsterdam, Autograph Collection has announced the completion of a multi-million dollar renovation. Guests will now enjoy a myriad of upgrades throughout the property. The building has updated its lobby, library,

questrooms, and function spaces on the south side of the city, boasting artful design blending with historic charm.



## Party time is over in Bali

**THE** idea that Bali is a place that turns a blind eye to all forms of social transgression must end, a leading tourism official in the Indonesian hotspot has urged.

Indonesian Tourism Industry Association Bali Chairman, Agung Partha Adnyana, has called for the "stigma of a free Bali" to be changed and enforced.

High season on the island is now well underway, with Adnyana saying the red flyer advising of the 'do's and don'ts' provided in arrival documentation is now being largely ignored, with calls growing for immigration officials to review the visa-on-arrival policy.

Adnyana did acknowledge his comments were aimed at the tiny percentage of tourists who are disrespectful to Bali's culture.

A recent statement from Indonesia's Minister for Tourism, Sandiaga Uno, called for local businesses to be more responsible with alcohol service, with the vice playing a more evident role in tourist escapades.

#### Leg up from Bonza

**QUEENSLAND** Premier Steven Miles has been petitioned by Sunshine Coast Mayor, Rosanna Natoli, to provide a lifeline of up to \$100 million to the region following the collapse of Bonza.

According to Sunshine Coast News, more than 490,000 extra passengers transited the city's airport in Bonza's 15-month life, boosting the local tourism sector.

Mayor Natoli has asked for a meeting with Premier Miles to discuss ways to soften the economic blow that will be felt by local tourism businesses.

"We must limit the use of alcohol or anything that can trigger unlawful behavior," he said.

Bali's Acting Governor, Sang Made Mahendra Java, added he wants the full force of the law to be applied for violators of local laws, customs and social norms.

**MEANWHILE**. law enforcement in Bali will conduct spot checks on tourists to ensure they have paid the A\$15 Tourism Tax Levy.

Officials will patrol local tourist attractions, asking visitors to provide proof in the form of a QR code for scanning.

Since the tax was introduced on 14 Feb this year, more than AUD\$10.6 million has been raised, however some visitors are reportedly encountering issues when paying their tax via the Love Bali website or app. ML

#### Mar air traffic jumps

**PASSENGER** traffic into Australia hit 3.26 million for Mar 2024, nearly 600,000 more pax than the same month last year.

According to new International Airline Activity reports from BITRE. load factors for the month declined slightly from 80.6% in 2023 to 78.3% due to a big swing upwards in available capacity.

Qantas and Jetstar accounted for a combined 28.5% of total pax carried in Mar, with Singapore Airlines catering to 9.3% and Air New Zealand in third with 8.3%.

Singapore claimed three of the top five places for outbound travel, with 12.3% of travellers heading first to the Lion City.

Sydney remained comfortably dominant as Australia's busiest airport, covering 40% of traffic.

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