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Travel Daily

First with the news

Monday 11th Mar 2024



Up to 45% off RSSC

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has slashed up to 45% off select 2024 European voyages via its 'Upgrade and Explore' Sale.

Travellers can enjoy an upgrade of two suite categories plus receive US\$500 in onboard credit in the limited time offer

For more details, see the front page of today's Travel Daily.

Double commission

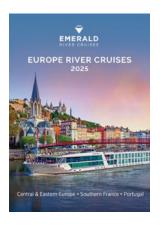
AGENTS can enjoy twice the normal commission rate on select Inspiring Vacations holidays when booked by 31 Mar.

The Australian-based tour operator is also sweetening the deal for agents by offering a seven-day cooling off period for travellers keen to secure their place - see page eight for details.



Europe River Cruising 2025

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> **CLICK FOR NEW BROCHURE >**

Rex takes off with Etihad

COUNTRY Australia is now better connected to Europe, Africa and the Middle East via a new interline agreement unveiled today by Rex Airlines and Etihad Airways (TD breaking news).

Under the new deal, travellers across the Rex network can fly to Sydney and Melbourne to connect with Etihad services, via Abu Dhabi, to 72 destinations across the EY's global network.

Where permitted, the deal also sees boarding passes printed at initial check-in for the entire journey, along with baggage checked through to the final port.

"Partnering with a world-class airline like Etihad brings a new era of choice and connection for Rex passengers," said Rex General Manager of Network Strategy, Warrick Lodge.

Titan deals all round

TRAVELLERS can enjoy 10% off the price of all Titan Travel's departures in 2024, with agents also benefiting with an extra 5% commission if booked by 31 Mar. For more info, see page six.



MEANWHILE, Rex Airlines has confirmed its Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer Neville Howell has made a change to his board duties.

Howell is no longer the Executive Director of the business, however he will remain in the COO position.

IN FURTHER news, spurred on by pleasing financial results released last week (TD 08 Mar), Etihad is reportedly mulling an Initial Public Offering.

If it goes ahead, Etihad would become the first Gulf airline to undertake such a move. ML

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest travel industry news, a front full page from Regent Seven Seas Cruises, plus full pages from:

- CLIA

• Titan Travel

Inspiring Vacations

TUBA



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Champions of cruise

CLIA Australasia is celebrating the best in the region's cruise industry who took home gongs at last weekend's annual CLIA Australasia Awards - find out all the winners on page seven.

Quinn blasts off

ORBIT World Travel has recruited Suzanne Quinn as its new Head of Sales, who brings with her a wealth of executive experience in the Aussie market.

"With my passion for innovation and commitment to delivering exceptional service, I feel in perfect alignment with Orbit's mission of better business, together," Quinn enthused.

She was previously the Director, Global Market Management, Asia Pacific at CWT for 15 years.



Europe River Cruising 2025

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NEW BROCHURE >



CATO showcases rising stars



MORE than 200 of the travel industry's leaders and visionaries packed Brisbane's Calile Hotel last week for CATO's second annual International Women's Day Lunch.

Heading north to Queensland for its second edition following

Wendy Wu Tours. **NEW RAIL COLLECTION SAVE** \$500PP 2024 & 2025 DATES **Explore Now**

a debut in Sydney last year, the event provided a spotlight to the many, varied and ongoing achievements of women in Australia's dynamic travel sector.

Highlights of the day included a vibrant panel discussion on travel's rising female stars, hosted by CATO Vice-Chair, Lisa Pagotto.

The stage was also shared by TTC Tour Brands Managing Director, Toni Ambler, and Collette President, Jaclyn Leibl-Cote, who espoused CATO's commitment to gender equality and inclusion for everybody across the industry.

"As CATO continues to champion diversity and recognise the invaluable contributions of women in travel, the IWD luncheon stands as a testament to CATO's commitment to creating a vibrant and supportive community for all industry professionals," said CATO Managing Director, Brett Jardine.

Fly91 approved

A NEW regional airline in India has been granted approval by the country's regulator to operate flights between a range of regional hubs from Goa.

Fly91 will now start planning services to cities such as Sindhudurg, Jalgaon, Nanded, Agatt, Lakshadweep, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune, with the first commercial service likely to take off in the next 30 days.

The carrier has been planning its launch for close to four years.



Domestic boomed in Dec

DOMESTIC tourism results for the final month of 2023 were stronger across spend, overnight trips and length when compared to Dec 2022, the latest data from Tourism Research Australia (TRA) has revealed.

Aussies spent \$9.6 billion on domestic travel, an increase of 21% compared to the previous year, and made 9.5 million overnight trips (+5%) and spent 34.4 million nights away (+7%).

According to the monthly snapshot, travellers spent more across all major tourism expenditure items, with accommodation seeing the biggest jump (28%), followed by organised tour groups, entertainment (22%) and domestic airfares (21%).

Interstate trips were more popular in Dec 2023 than they were in the month prior, rising from 2.8 million and \$4.4 billion in spend in Nov 2023 to 3 million trips and \$5.1 billion.

Compared to the year before, Aussies took 14% more out-ofstate overnight trips and spent 25% more on their holidays, while results for intrastate trips were also stronger compared to Dec 2022, with overnight trips up 2% and spend up 16%.

Australians are spending more money on domestic travel than they did prior to COVID, with all states seeing an increase. JM

Tourist geisha ban

A SURGE in complaints about tourists harassing geishas in Kyoto has seen some areas of the Gion district made off limits to visitors.

Tourists to the Japanese city will be banned from entering some smaller alleys from Apr, but the main Hanamikoji street will remain open, and follows poor behaviour such as unsolicited photography in private areas.

Rail Europe



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Did you know: Multiple payment options are available for added convenience. Also, to ensure successful bookings, check the live system connectivity status with railways inventories here.

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EK inks fresh deals

EMIRATES and ITA Airways have announced the expansion of their existing interline deal into a full code partnership, after signing a Memorandum of Understanding in Germany last week.

Once government and regulatory approvals are obtained, the codeshare will create onestop connections to popular cities across Italy and wider Europe with ITA Airways, as well as open up faster connections to the Emirates network from Dubai.

MEANWHILE, the UAE flag carrier has also signed MoUs to strengthen its commercial cooperation with Icelandair and travel technology and ticketing specialist GO7.

The two airlines will establish potential codeshare cooperations as well as expand intermodel programs, while EK will also work with GO7 to offer combined interline and rail tickets to worldwide destinations through its direct and indirect channels.

Kiwi enters Hall of Fame

NEW Zealand has upstaged Australia at the 21st Cruise Industry Awards for Australasia in Sydney on Sat night, with Kiwi cruise veteran, Craig Harris, inducted into cruising's prestigious Hall of Fame.

CLIA Australasia Chairman, Ben Angell, heaped praise on the NZ stalwart for being instrumental in elevating the country to be a premier cruise destination.

"Craig has not only shaped but significantly advanced the cruise sector in our region," Angell said, adding that Harris had been "synonymous with innovation, dedication and leadership".

Among the key roles he played

Oi, discover Oita

AGENTS can be in the running to win a \$100 gift card when they join the upcoming 'Discover Oita, Japan' webinar tomorrow - more details and registration HERE.

in NZ's cruise sector was founding Cruise New Zealand in 1994, where he worked for years to improve collaboration between ports and cruise operators.

For the full coverage of the cruise's night of nights, see the special CLIA edition of **CW**. AB

Amadeus connects

AMADEUS has introduced Leisure Connect, a new tech solution that delivers personalised offerings to leisure travellers and enhanced control to sellers.

Leisure Connect brings together three complementary products - Private Agreements, Amadeus Value Hotels, and the Amadeus Travel Platform, to streamline hotel content distribution.

Travel agents will enjoy enhanced data sharing and revenue management, while hotels can benefit from more valuable customer experiences.

Asleep in the cockpit

TWO Batik Air pilots were asleep at the controls of a flight for an alarming 28 minutes on 25 Jan, leading to the aircraft diverting from its flight path.

The pair have since been suspended from duty while the incident is investigated by Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee.

Ratik's flight had 159 pay on

Batik's flight had 159 pax on board and landed safely in Jakarta after departing Sulawesi.

QF pressure mounts

QANTAS is under pressure from a handful of major stakeholders to detail how it will keep returns healthy in the midst of a \$3 billion cash splash on new planes.

Leading the charge is the carrier's biggest stakeholder Pendal, which according to an AFR report has also raised concerns with CEO Vanessa Hudson about Qantas deferring a recent share buy-back scheme.



Tourism Tasmania invites Tassie Specialists to join them this March and April on a journey around the Apple Isle for The Off Season Webinar Series; sharing a taste of what Tasmania has to offer over the cooler months.

During the interactive webinars, participants will meet Tasmanian tourism operators, build their Tassie knowledge and have questions answered by local experts.

Webinar participants will be in the running for one of many \$2,000 Tasmanian self famil vouchers as well as an assorted Tasmanian tasting experiences. For more information and to view the full Terms and Conditions, visit the <u>Tassie Trade website</u>.

Not a Tassie Specialist yet? Complete the <u>learning modules</u> today.









Wyndham addition

TRAVEL + Leisure Co has boosted its Japanese property stocks by acquiring ryokan-style property Yushi Chikumakan in Chikuma City, Nagano.

The 36-room resort, which is surrounded by rice fields and natural onsen spas, will be rebranded as Club Wyndham Chikumakan Nagano.

Hawaii's Renaissance

HAWAII has welcomed its first Renaissance Hotel, which has opened in the heart of Honolulu to offer "island-inspired luxury" for travellers looking to experience the best of Oahu.

Spanning 39 floors, Renaissance Honolulu Hotel & Spa offers 187 rooms and suites, as well as 112 residences with ocean and mountain range views.

The hotel features several dining venues, a fitness centre, and an outdoor deck with swimming pools, hot tubs, and more.

MAG meets targets

MALAYSIA Airlines' parent company, Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) has achieved 50% female representation in its senior management positions, taking the total female workforce at the carrier to 34%.

LX summer homes

LUFTHANSA has bolstered its network of European destinations with a variety of new connections served from Munich and Frankfurt this northern summer.

Beginning 28 Apr, direct flights from Munich to Trondheim in Norway and Nantes in France will join the schedule, served twice and thrice respectively per week.

The German flag carrier will also add the Finnish city of Oulu twice weekly from Munich, beginning during the northern summer.

Additionally, Lufthansa will launch five direct flights per week between Frankfurt and Chişinau in Moldova from 29 Apr.

Don't baguette about France



ATOUT France recently treated media partners to lunch at Sydney-based French restaurant La Guillotine, with attendees having the chance to meet a number of the team's new Australian market reps.

The lunch was hosted by Director Japan & ASEAN, Frederic Mazenq, who recently added the Australian market to his remit, replacing the role of long-time former head Patrick Benhamou.

Head of Marketing Sophie Almin will be assisting Mazenq in his local duties, adding the role of Deputy Director to her brief after 15 years Down Under.

Also joining the team is Digital Marketing & Media Specialist, Clara Demare, who will assist in fostering Atout France's relationships with the media.

The team updated attendees on its big year ahead, which will be headlined by the France workshop, scheduled to take place in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane during Sep.

Guests will have the opportunity to meet and engage with representatives from a range of French destinations and suppliers in an exhibition format, which will visit Sydney on 10 Sep, Melbourne on 11 Sep, and Brisbane on 12 Sep.

Atout France has also joined forces with Netflix to highlight the

country's tourism appeal.

The partnership kicked off with an advertising campaign, 'On n'a pas fini d'imaginer la France' ('There's always more to imagine about France'), as well as a new collection of tourist guides to discover France. *MS*

Pictured are Mazenq, Demare, Trade Marketing Manager Clelie Collas, and Almin.

Rotty development

NEW visitor shade shelters, bathroom facilities and a bus hub have been installed at Rottnest Island's West End entry point to improve the arrival experience for visitors.

Day trip and overnight visitors to the WA island can also enjoy new interpretive Aboriginal story artwork at Rottnest's West End.

The latest improvements complement recently completed projects including upgrades to Settlement Mall, a redevelopment of Wadjemup Museum and a new sea wall at South Thomson Bay.

The \$5 million upgrade is part of a \$33.5 million joint funding package between the WA State and Federal Government's National Tourism Icons Program, designed to meet growing demand while preserving cultural significance and heritage.



IF EVER there was the ultimate endorsement that a town or city was truly on the map, it's when a tribute Monopoly game is made about it.

So for the die-hard board game capitalists, secure your next Christmas Day family argument with the special Gympie edition of Monopoly.

Residents submitted hundreds of suggestions on what squares and cards could be featured in the game, with a strong emphasis on Gympie's gold mining history prominent in the game.

Players can use gold-themed tokens to move around the board, and the town's famous Gympie Station even features as one of the railway squares.



Boeing wants Spirit

DISCUSSIONS are ongoing between Boeing and fuselage manufacturer Spirit AeroSystems about reacquiring and reintegrating the company back into the internal Boeing structure.

In 2005, Boeing divested Spirit AeroSystems into a standalone company as part of the sale of its Oklahoma plant, which allowed Spirit to take on new customers.

The company, which produces Boeing's maligned 737 structure, then expanded into Europe and became a major supplier to archrival manufacturer Airbus.

Boeing management said there were no guarantees a deal would be reached, however it was committed to improving safety during the current period of heightened public scrutiny.

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Dear women in travel



IN RECOGNITION of International Women's Day, the Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) has sent the 'Letters to My Future Self' penned by attendees at last

year's Women in Travel Summit.

As the reflective messages find their way back to their authors, ATIA said it is pleased to reflect on the significant role women play in the travel sector and the continued progress towards creating an inclusive, equitable, and supportive industry.

"ATIA is proud to be reinforcing the benefits of this every day of the year in our advocacy work," ATIA CEO Dean Long shared. He pointed out that travel is one

TripAdvisor scraps

TRIPADVISOR has scrapped its Plus subscription program, which it launched in Jun 2021 to provide members with discounts and perks for a US\$99 annual fee.

The company said it will instead focus on enhancing its free membership offerings, with the business conceding it was difficult to persuade customers to sign up for a paid service from the traditionally free platform.

of the most female-dominated sectors, with women comprising 72% of the workforce, holding 74% of middle management positions, and representing half of all senior leaders and owners.

"Our Women in Travel Summit provided an important forum to capture insights, which have informed ATIA's approach.

"We look forward to hearing from attendees once they have opened their letters to themselves about how far they have advanced in the past 12 months," Long concluded. JM

New Zanzibar resort

A STATE-OF-THE-ART Anantara resort is scheduled to be opened in Tanzania in 2027, Minor Hotels has announced.

The 181-key Anantara Zanzibar Resort will feature 37 luxury suites, a presidential villa, 13 penthouses, 73 sea-view villas with private pools and 57 apartments, as well as a beachside retreat.

Six restaurants and bars are also planned, along with a water sports club and Anantara Spa.

The property will be owned by Infinity Group.

BROCHURES



Wendy Wu Tours - Latin America 2024/25 Discover how to 'Latin America Your Way' with Wendy Wu Tours' latest publication - a 27-page guide highlighting itineraries spanning Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, and more. Readers can also get the details on the tour operator's newly introduced tours in the region, including the 17-day 'Colombia Discovery' journey, where quests can immerse themselves in the nation's famous coffee, salsa dancing,

Caribbean beaches, and colonial splendour of the gateway to South America. The guide also features the new 16-day 'Colours of Costa Rica' getaway and the 12-day 'Ecuador & the Galapagos' private tour. Wendy Wu's itineraries include international economy class airfares and taxes, transportation in country of travel, visa fees for Australian passport holders, guided tours with local experts, as well as exclusive tips and hints from Wendy Wu's very own travel consultants. For those taking part in the fully-inclusive 'Classic Tours', they can enjoy all meals provided for the entire duration of the journey. With over 25 years' experience, guests can expect the award-winning tour operator's wealth of knowledge to shine through in every detail of the carefullydesigned holidays available this year and next.



Uniworld River Cruises- Boutique River Cruises

Learn about Uniworld River Cruises' latest collection in its newly released brochure, which covers the brand's voyages across all of Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America. While flipping through the pages, sailors can read about the luxury offerings available on Uniworld sailings, as well as the cruising schedule for 2025, detailed introductions to its 'one-of-a-kind' fleet of expedition vessels, and new itineraries added

across key destinations in Europe. These include the 18-day 'Wine Roads of France & Portugal' aboard the cruise line's S.S. Bon Voyage and S.S. Sao Gabriel. Travellers can also discover exclusive insights on Uniworld's exciting destination collection, which includes Maranon in Peru, the Nile in Egypt, the Mekong in Cambodia and Vietnam, and more. The 164-page brochure also details the line's popular seasonal holiday itineraries, including the eight-day 'Belgian Holiday Markets' round-trip from Brussels, and the eight-day 'Classic Christmas Markets' between Nuremberg and Frankfurt. Additionally, readers can learn about a new way to travel with Uniworld, with a section of the brochure spotlighting its new cruise and rail package featuring partners such as the Golden Eagle and the Maharajas' Express.

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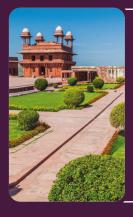
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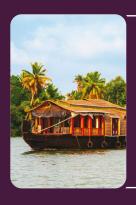
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