Travel Daily First with the news

Tuesday 19th Nov 2024



Silversea sale away

SILVERSEA'S Black Fri offer allows cruisers to "sale away" with up to \$10,000 in savings.

The offer, billed as Silversea's most generous ever, is available on more than 500 of the cruise line's all-inclusive fares - head to page 10 for more information.

The King of earning

SELL big and earn big with AAT Kings, with a \$100 gift card for every booking made this month.

AAT Kings' 'A-Listers' can also earn a \$200 gift card for every Inspiring Journeys booking deposited this month - see p11.

Etihad stops for the trade

ETIHAD has revealed it will soon extend its stopover program in Abu Dhabi to travel advisors for the first time.

Speaking with Travel Daily yesterday, the carrier's Global Vice President of Sales and Distribution, Javier Aliia, said the decision to include the trade is unique to Australia and is driven by a need to give Aussies a smoother end-to-end experience.

"We recognise that these are challenging times and this is not something we intended to do initially, but is a result of a change in strategy from Virgin Australia

(TD breaking news yesterday).

"That's why the business very quickly came together and were keen to say, 'let's consider an exception for Australia', and the market is a natural market for stopovers," Alija said.

Etihad relaunched its stopover program in May (TD 09 May), offering travellers the option of booking a free hotel stay as part of the flight booking.

However, many TD readers at the time expressed discontent with the decision to make the program only available through direct bookings on EY's website.

Alija added the reversal in thinking was also fuelled by a strategy to build greater loyalty in the Australian market.

"Breaking your journey up in Abu Dhabi is a fantastic way to discover Abu Dhabi...that's what we're banking on and we're happy to invest in [Australia]."

More formal information will be delivered to the trade later this week, with a rough launch date of 25 Nov in play, AB

More details on Etihad on p4.

Amadeus Value Hotels:

Net rates. Boosted earnings.

Discover our hotel net rates that guarantee savings for you and your customers. Plus, enjoy boosted earnings with every booking.

Be a true **SME** game-changer and start maximizing your agency profits today.

Find out more \rightarrow

amadeus

It's how travel works more profitably.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features nine pages of news, including a photo page from Inside Travel Group, a product profile from Inspiring Vacations, our Sustainability page, plus full pages from:

- Silversea
- AAT Kings

Time to get inspired

EXPLORE Sri Lanka with Inspiring Vacations, with the country's timeless appeal lying in its blend of natural beauty, ancient heritage, and culture.

Head to page 12 for more details on Inspiring Vacations' Sri Lanka packages.





Wendy Wu Tours

BLACK FRIDAY





LITTLE BLACK BOOK OF SAVINGS!

DOWNLOAD TRADE VERSION HERE





TIME Board appoint

THE Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) has appointed Ingrid Berthelsen, Managing Director and Co-Founder of **Evolution Travel Collective. to its** Board of Directors.

Berthelsen, who has been a TIME Mentor since 2023, as well as acting as the not-forprofit company's Victorian State representative for the past four years, will join the Board on 01 Jan 2025.

Masson adds an Advantage

CT PARTNERS has announced Matt Masson as CEO of the new Advisory Board for its global business travel division, Advantage Global Business Travel (GBT).

Established by The Advantage Travel Partnership, the new body is charged with leading the strategic direction of GBT, which boasts a footprint spanning 83 countries and more than 96 network partners.



The GBT Advisory Board brings together 14 members, all key figures from the global business travel sector, including Suzanne Horner, CEO of Gray Dawes Group, and Clive Wratten, CEO of the British Travel Association.

"We're proud to announce this incredible selection of key figures from across the business travel industry to form our Global Business Travel Advisory Board," said Andrea Caulfield-Smith, MD of Advantage GBT and Chair of the Advisory Board.

"Between them, they will bring proven expertise and valuable strategic insights into all aspects of global business travel, helping us remain laser-focused on supporting our key objectives of sustained growth and ambitious plans for new product development."

Masson, who is pictured with Wratten said he is "honoured to join the GBT Advisory Board at such a pivotal time for the business travel sector". JM

Half-price Quark

QUARK is offering up to 50% off its Antarctic 2024/25 and Arctic 2025 voyages for its Black Fri sale.

The deals are available to book until 02 Dec. **HERE**, with travel agents able to download a social media kit and images for the promotion **HERE**.



Take advantage of Eurostar's new travel classes and more flexible ticketing options!

Book between 1 Nov and 15 Dec and collect \$10 for every booking on Eurostar.

Terms and conditions apply. The incentive applies to per booking, not per journey or pax, and includes booking RailGroupEasy. Agency must make 1 initial booking for Eurostar or SNCF, then every additional booking after earns \$10. Booking horizon for SNCF is 3 months and Eurostar is 6 months. Cash reward will come



agent.raileurope.com





ROCKY MOUNTAINEER BLACK FRIDAY OFFER

SPEAK TO OUR TEAM OF RAIL SPECIALISTS TODAY













BRISBANE

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you from the Australian Airports Association National Conference in Brisbane.

THE who's who of the Australian airline industry has descended on Brisbane for the three-day national conference, themed 'Airports of Tomorrow: Innovation and Excellence', and filled with networking and conference sessions as well as an awards gala dinner.

After the breaking news yesterday regarding Etihad and Virgin Australia, all eyes will be on outgoing Virgin Australia Chief Executive Officer Jayne Hrdlicka, when she takes to the stage for a fireside chat today.

Travel Daily will bring you the news as it happens.

Last-minute stays are up

TRAVELLERS are favouring lastminute stays over longer booking windows, according to a new travel trends report from Oaks Hotels, Resorts & Suites.

In the past 12 months, the hospitality group has seen an increase in the number of Aussies booking travel around a month in advance, with the average booking window for leisure stays currently sitting at 45 days (around six weeks).

According to the report, weekend getaways and short breaks are proving particularly popular, with 2.6 days the average stay length.

Oaks has also recorded a rise in family and group travel, including multi-generational stays, with the brand's four-bedroom apartments typically selling out first, followed by three-bedroom suites.

"Looking at the travel landscape for 2025, we're seeing travellers placing increasing value on



apartment-style accommodation that delivers excellent value for money and a 'home away from home'," said Craig Hooley, CEO of Minor Hotels Australasia.

Travelling mid-week and during shoulder season will continue to be a travel trend in 2025, according to the report, along with event travel, as more Australians plan trips around key festivals, sports events, and cultural gatherings.

When it comes to destinations, the most popular ones in 2024 were Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Darwin, Glenelg, Perth, Broome, the Sunshine Coast, Port Stephens, & the Hunter Valley. *JM*





SHIZUOKA

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Inspiring Vacations, which is hosting us in Japan alongside valued trade partners.

AS WE make our way to Shizuoka today, a stop at the Ninja Museum of Igaryu will see the group get in touch with their stealthier side.

After a morning exploring the hidden doors, treacherous traps, and faux hallways of the ninja trick house and museum, we will experience an invigorating ninja show.

This afternoon we will continue on to Nagoya, where we will tour the historic 17th century Nagoya Castle before heading back to Shizuoka for a leisurely evening.









Window Seat

A SOCIAL influencer in the UK has garnered some typically British responses to a call-out on X asking followers to create the itinerary for a day trip she called the 'Real England' tour.

Kicking off the discussion with a photo of Tudor homes in Wiltshire, it wasn't long before classic British stereotypes hijacked the thread, with ideas put forward including standing in a queue.

Other suggestions for the tour involved three meals at Greggs, going shopping at The Range and Home Bargains and imitating Renaissance art by lying in the middle of a street.

A visit to a mega roundabout in Milton Keynes, which features four roundabouts in one intersection, was also put forward as a suggestion.

EY here for the long-haul

THE worst kept secret in the industry is now official, with Etihad confirming it will conclude its unilateral codeshare and bilateral frequent flyer partnership with Virgin Australia from 01 Jun next year.

Etihad's decision lends weight to speculation that VA may receive formal approval from the Foreign Investment Review Board this month for Qatar Airways to buy a 25% stake in the business.

The Aussie carrier previously requested an expedited decision be made so that it can be ready to launch flights to Doha by Jun 2025 (*TD* 22 Oct).

When the termination takes effect, passengers will no longer be able to book VA-operated flights through Etihad's booking channels, however, for customers with existing bookings that include a VA-operated segment, there will be no changes to itineraries.

Speaking to **TD** yesterday,

Global Vice President of Sales and Distribution, Javier Alija, said the carrier had seen VA's decision to part ways for Qatar coming "for quite some time", adding it was "unfortunate" but that it understood VA's need to realign its business for shareholders.

While Alija concedes Etihad would have happily continued its relationship with VA had the carrier stuck with them, he emphasised the carrier is more than confident of continuing its value proposition to Aussies.

Part of Etihad's ongoing investment is growing the business in Australia by being competitive across loyalty, schedule, and price.

Growing towards double departure times out of Sydney and Melbourne is key, Alija said, with more flight options already in place in Abu Dhabi to fly to onward destinations at multiple times - more in *travelBulletin*. AB

CX Amadeus pact

CATHAY Pacific and Amadeus have expanded their technology partnership to provide cuttingedge enhancements to the airline's retail capabilities, and offer its customers increased flexibility and choice.

The expanded partnership will enable Cathay to make its NDC-sourced content available to travel sellers worldwide, utilising Amadeus' Revenue Accounting and Passenger Recovery tech.

This approach, powered by Amadeus Altea NDC, will allow for a more differentiated and personalised traveller experience.

Cathay will continue to use the Altea Passenger Service System, Amadeus' airline IT system, to manage reservations.

"We are privileged to have a long-standing partnership with Cathay - it is testament to the success of this approach," said Amadeus Managing Director Javier Laforgue.





Cash still king for FCTG

EXCLUSIVE

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) is aiming to restore its foreign exchange brand Travel Money Oz to its pre-pandemic strength with over 100 shops in Australia and NZ in the next year.

Building on comments made by FCTG CEO Graham 'Skroo' Turner at the company's AGM last week (TD 14 Nov), Travel Money Group GM Scott McCullough told Travel Daily demand for cash is still alive and well.

"While advancements are being made, globally the technology infrastructure is nowhere near where it needs to be for full digitisation to be realised," McCullough said.

"There are still huge variances between destinations and many vendors still only accept cash."

Eighteen new stores have been flagged for the brand, the majority comprised of former locations shuttered during the pandemic, which previously held strong track records for FCTG.

Lego lands in Melb

THE Victorian Government has secured the world premiere of the Lego Star Wars: The Exhibition, set to open at the Melbourne Museum on 04 May 2025.

The immersive experience, which will be the largest touring Lego exhibition in the world comprising more than eight million bricks, is expected to draw thousands of visitors.



"While we are seeing great growth in online transactions, most of our business still sits at a store level, showing the value and preference of customers for face-to-face interactions with our team," McCullough said.

Addressing shareholders at the AGM, Turner said the new Travel Money Oz outlets will be in addition to the existing 17 flagship Flight Centre leisure shops around Australia. ML

CLIA hits new high

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has recorded its highest-ever membership number in Australasia, increasing its travel agent community by almost 20% during 2024.

CLIA Managing Director in Australasia Joel Katz said memberships rose to a record 6,274 this year, up almost 20% over the previous year and more than triple the level of 2022.

"We want to support [agents] further in 2025 through practical education, engaging events and other supporting benefits," Katz shared - CLIA 2025 memberships are now open, HERE.

Fisher reels in Aussie flyers



AIR New Zealand has recruited Aussie A-lister Isla Fisher for its new campaign Down Under, which highlights the benefits of the Kiwi carrier for Australians travelling across the Tasman.

Showcasing the airline's hospitality, the 'Somewhere over the Tasman' campaign follows the journey of a young Kiwi girl travelling solo across the ditch, who happens to sit next to the Hollywood star.

The pair (pictured) quickly become friends, sharing in-flight snacks, watching movies, and enjoying the Kiwi flag carrier's exceptional service.

"We're thrilled to bring this campaign to Australians showcasing Air New Zealand's ability to deliver an unrivalled onboard experience," said Kathryn O'Brien, General Manager Australia.

"From the outset, we knew we needed to work with someone who could capture our sense of fun and entertaining spirit, while also resonating with the Australian audience.

"Who better than the iconic AACTA Award-winning actress, Isla Fisher?"

"Partnering with Isla allows us to showcase the warm and downto-earth approach to service we are known and loved for, while

also showing why we are the airline of choice for seamless connections to New Zealand and beyond," O'Brien added.

Fisher spoke of her love of Air New Zealand, saying, "I've been a long-time fan of the airline, and I'm incredibly grateful to be fronting this campaign". JM See the campaign video HERE.

Kings Canyon move

THE Australian Government has announced Watarrka National Park will be placed on the country's National Heritage List, acknowledging the significance of the NT landscape, which is home to Kings Canyon.

The popular destination, four hours west of Alice Springs, features many rare plant species.

The government said the park's inclusion on the list will ensure it is better protected for generations to come.

The park is also deeply significant to the Anangu ngurraritia traditional owners, who have cared for its lands for tens of thousands of years.

"Preserving First Nations cultural heritage is vital to keeping the story of our nation alive," Indigenous Australians Minister Malarndirri McCarthy told the ABC.





Tue 19th November 2024

Agents get inside look at South Korea

TRAVEL agents Brenda (Noller & Turner Travel Associates), Darienne (Home & Afar Travel), Emma (Travel Project), Gemma (Ferguson's Travel), Kylie (Perchalla & Turner Travel Associates), and Louise (TravelManagers), along with Inside Travel Group's Australia BDM Yvette, recently had the opportunity to get beneath the surface of South Korea during an eight-day cultural adventure hosted by InsideAsia.

The group explored an array of sites from hyper-modern Seoul to the jumbling alleyways of seafront Busan, ultra-traditional Jeonju and historic Gyeongju - guided by local experts who shared their deep knowledge of the country's history and traditions.

Highlights of the journey included donning traditional Hanbok attire, traversing the Lotte Tower Sky Bridge, participating in a hands-on Bibimbap cooking class, and creating personalised traditional Identification Tags.

The agents all agreed the local guides greatly enriched their experiences and are now eager to share their newfound insights and recommendations with clients, armed with their new indepth knowledge.

To learn more about InsideAsia, CLICK HERE.



THE group with local guide Leah at Jingwansa temple.



KYLIE, Brenda and Gemma enjoy a paddle at Busan beach.



EMMA and Louise looking surprisingly

THE group enjoying dressing up in traditional Hanbok.

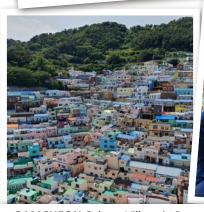


FASCINATING Gyeongju Burial Mounds.









GAMCHEON Culture Village in Busan.



BEAUTIFUL Jeonju from above.

LUNCH on day one.



Reho Travel raises the bar

REHO Travel has introduced a pioneering parental leave policy, aiming to set a new industry-wide standard that supports family life, career growth, and wellbeing.

The new program offers four weeks of paid leave (in addition to government benefits) plus superannuation, with an additional week of paid leave for each year worked at Reho (up to a maximum of 20 weeks).

The company's employees will also benefit from return-to-work flexibility, with the ability to

SCTI taps Aussies

SOUTHERN Cross Travel Insurance (SCTI) has launched a new brand campaign in Australia, which aims to build trust among the country's travellers.

Developed with creative agency Saatchi & Saatchi, the marketing push taps into the Aussie attitude of 'she'll be right', reinforced by the tagline 'fingers crossed, you've got Southern Cross'.

"The launch of our new campaign in Australia aims to boost our visibility in this important market and reinforce to travellers how critical travel insurance is when they're planning their next journey," said Jess Strange, CCO at SCTI.

The campaign launched on 10 Nov across TV and digital, alongside SCTI's social channels and website.





choose between full-time or parttime hours, and have the option to work from home.

New parents can also take advantage of one of several support options, including \$500 towards a cleaning service, meal box delivery, family support, or a Baby Bunting voucher.

In addition to parental leave, employees receive 10 days of wellbeing leave, which can be taken in two-hour increments, a birthday day off, and educational and volunteer leave.

"At Reho, our people drive our success, and supporting them at critical moments, like welcoming a new family member, is part of our commitment to positive industry change," said Reho Travel Chief Executive Officer, Karsten Horne.

"With the Reho Appreciation Plan, we are honouring our promise to our employees, our clients, and the community by fostering a culture that values well-being, work-life balance, and professional growth."

Through the Reho Appreciation Plan, the Melbourne-based seeks to address current limitations in the parental leave landscape, such as limited duration, inadequate childcare support, and career progression challenges, while also introducing benefits tailored to new parents.

The announcement coincides with the B Corp-certified TMC's 45th anniversary, and comes a month after it took home the Sustainability Award at the NTIAs for the second year in a row (*TD* 28 Oct). *JM*

The Chatwith

Coversations with women in travel

Catch up on any missed episodes of SEASON TWO

CLICK HERE to listen

ATIA UPDATE

from Nina Hedges, Compliance Manager



IN MARCH
next year,
ATAS
Accredited
will fully
transition
to be ATIA
Accredited.
I understand

that many of you will be wondering how this change will affect you and your business.

While the name is changing, everything you and the industry value about the accreditation will remain the same.

For our current members, there will be no changes on how we work together.

The high standards and requirements you are familiar with will remain unchanged.

You will continue to submit your annual renewal documents for review, with specific criteria and tailored assessment for tour operators, agents and wholesalers.

This process ensures the integrity and creditability of your business under the scheme - meeting financial criteria will remain a cornerstone of our accreditation.

Depending on your business' position, you may receive ongoing accreditation, be required to enter a monitoring agreement to provide quarterly

trading updates for greater visibility, or, if criteria are not met, have your accreditation withheld.

Our commitment to excellence, accountability and professionalism will continue to define the scheme.

Accredited businesses will continue to uphold the highest standards of service and workforce requirements will continue to reflect the expertise and professionalism needed to represent the best in the industry and foster trust.

For those who have yet to join, now is the perfect time to consider accreditation for your business - it is not just a mark of quality; it is a signal to the industry and consumers that you are among the best.

Our rigorous and robust assessment process ensures only businesses meeting the highest standards achieve accreditation, reinforcing trust within the industry and consumers alike.

While the name change reflects the continued evolution of our association, our role as the most recognised and relied upon accreditation in the Australian travel industry remains steadfast.

This is more than a rebrand - it is a reaffirmation of the values and standards that set us apart.

Marriott 100 Japan

MARRIOTT International has announced its 100th property in Japan, as well as the debut of its Four Points Flex by Sheraton brand in Asia Pacific (excl. China), with the opening of Four Points Flex by Sheraton Osaka Umeda.

The hospitality company is expected to open 12 additional Four Points Flex by Sheraton properties across Japan this year, which will also mark Marriott International's entry to key cities such as Morioka and Kanazawa.

New cycle tours

AUSTRALIAN Cycle Tours has added two new six-day itineraries - one in Western Australia and the other in Victoria.

The 'Munda Biddi Trail Southern Cycle' takes travellers from Albany to Walpole on a fully supported electric mountain bike trip through one of the longest off-road cycle tracks in the world.

Also new is the self-guided 'East Gippsland Rail Trail' tour, which traverses rainforest and farmland on a dedicated cycle path.



STB initiatives

SINGAPORE Tourism Board (STB) has unveiled the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) Attraction Criteria, claimed to be the first environmental standard for the global attractions sector.

The environmental initiative is aimed at supporting the repositioning and marketing of Singapore as a green urban destination.

The GSTC criteria will be used as a base certification model and also serve as a point of reference and policy for the business community and government agencies.

Singapore Tourism Board says the criteria can become a sustainability standard for attractions worldwide, with businesses able to apply for accreditation from 2026.

The GSTC standard follows a similar framework that has already been developed for the hotels and tour segment.

STB's Chief Sustainability Officer Ong Huey Hong said the new initative is key to positioning Singapore as a leading sustainable urban destination.

"By developing world-class standards and providing the industry with practical tools, we are not only enhancing our own tourism sector, but also contributing to global sustainability efforts in tourism," Huey Hong said.

AMSL EMISSION-FREE TRIAL SUCCESS

ZERO-EMISSION aircraft maker AMSL Aero has successfully completed the maiden free flight of its passenger-capable longrange aircraft, Vertiia.

The electrical long-range vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft is designed to take off like a helicopter, but flies like a fixedwing aeroplane.

The inaugural flight took place in remote central NSW on battery power in accordance with Civil Aviation Safety Authority testing requirements.

Vertiia is capable of flying up to 1,000 kilometres on hydrogen fuel at a cruising speed of 300kph with zero-emissions and can currently carry four passengers along with a pilot.

Hydrogen testing of the aircraft is due to take place next year



ahead of the aircraft's ongoing progression toward certification and regulatory approval, which is planned for 2027.

A number of private and commercial customers are lined up to purchase 26 units of the aircraft mode once certification and production begins.

Among these is Aviation Logistics which operates under the Air Link, AirMed and Chartair brands, flying passenger services, charters, aeromedical and air

freight flights across Australia.

AMSL Aero co-founder and Vertija inventor, Andrew Moore, said watching his creation take to the sky was "breathtaking".

"This landmark is proof that the design we pioneered seven years ago works, and it moves us closer to our goal of improving the lives of remote, rural and regional communities in Australia and around the world with an aircraft that conquers the tyranny of distance with zero emissions." ML

Flexicar EVs ready to rent in Adelaide

CAR-SHARING membership service Flexicar has launched its first trial of electric vehicles, with two vehicles stationed at a holiday rental apartment complex in Adelaide.

Visitors can now rent the vehicles either by the hour or the day, picking them up from Banksia Apartments by Cedar Woods in Adelaide's inner-city suburb of Glenside.

Two chargers have also been installed at the base, with unlimited kilometres included.

"We know the demand for EVs



is on the rise, and that this is particularly true for Australians who are looking to make more sustainable decisions in their day to day life," said Flexicar Vice President, Eoin MacNeill.

MSC funds coral

RESEARCH into

endangered coral species has received a boost, thanks to funding from The MSC Foundation announced at last week's COP29 global conference in Azerbaijan.

The philanthropic arm of the European cruise line aims to assist the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species, which is working to address a study which shows 44% of reef-building coral species are at extinction risk.



It's not just the views that are spectacular with Hurtigruten's Black Friday Sale. Get up to 50% off Hurtigruten cruises along Norway's famously picturesque coastline when you book before December 2, 2024 and you could witness the Northern Lights or the awe-inspiring Midnight Sun at a price that's just as amazing as the locals would say... 'Spektakulaert'.

NOW ON

Don't miss out. Call our local Coastal Specialists on 1300 151 548 or visit hurtigruten.com



Live the legend of Norway





MONEY

WELCOME to Money, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

AU\$1 = US\$0.651

THE Australian dollar has recorded its biggest drop in four months, as a weak Chinese economy and delayed Reserve Bank of Australia rate cut expectations put pressure on the currency.

Dubbed the 'Trump Trade', tariffs and rate cuts in the US which are anticipated to boost inflation and strengthen the US dollar - are also putting the squeeze on the Aussie dollar.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.651
UK	£0.513
NZ	\$1.104
Euro	€0.614
Japan	¥100.5
Thailand	ß22.50
China	¥4.708
South Africa	11.68
Canada	\$0.912
Crude oil	US\$68.51

Sofitel gets festive

SOFITEL Melbourne on Collins is gearing up for the festive season, with the launch of two new celebratory experineces.

Guests can enjoy a champagne dinner in collaboration with La Maison Pommery on 10 Dec at the hotel's onsite restaurant, No35, which pairs Pommery Champagne with a Frenchinspired four-course dinner.

Additionally, for the first time, Sofitel Melbourne will host a NYE countdown - find out more HERE.

JESTA to see Japan bloom

JAPAN'S plan to introduce an electronic travel authorisation scheme (TD 03 Sep) is only expected to enhance its appeal to travellers and potentially make it a repeat destination, says Intrepid Travel MD. Brett Mitchell.

Australia is one of 71 countries currently on Japan's visa-exempt list and will likely be added to the nations eligible for the Japan **Electronic System for Travel** Authorization (JESTA) system, when it is introduced by 2030.

Speaking to **TD**, Mitchell said Japan's low-value yen makes the country highly affordable to visit, with the system aimed at making higher tourist numbers more sustainable to manage.

"Japan's popularity as a travel destination is unlikely to be negatively affected by the introduction of a visa-waiver system; in fact, it's expected to become an even more attractive destination by making the country more accessible to a broader range of visitors who may have previously hesitated due to visa hurdles," Mitchell said.

"A visa-waiver system makes travelling to Japan simpler by removing the hassle of visa fees and paperwork.

"For many travellers, especially from countries that usually require visas, this change could make Japan a more appealing and accessible option."

Along with providing added scrutiny of inbound travellers, the JESTA system is also intended to help catch visa overstayers and improve border security.

Information will be screened prior to entry by border officials before travellers are approved to



board their mode of travel.

Travellers will need to provide details on where they wish to stay and for how long, with anybody deemed a risk required to obtain a visa the traditional way from their country's Japanese embassy.

Mitchell said the JESTA system will also help Japan preserve its culture and identity by limiting the number of visitors entering the country at any one time.

"This approach not only enhances the travel experience but also ensures that local communities and resources aren't overwhelmed, benefiting both visitors and Japan's unique environments," he added. ML

Shop Xmas with DL

FOR the first time, Delta Air Lines loyalty members can shop a limited-edition holiday collection exclusively onboard the carrier's US domestic flights.

SkyMiles Members can get their Christmas shopping done in the sky using Delta Sync wi-fi, with the collection available to order until 31 Dec or while supplies last.

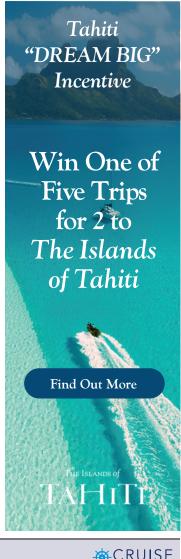
Gifts include a variety of nostalgic ornaments, including a festive Delta plane Christmas tree decoration; cosy holiday sweaters; kids' play set and teddy bear; and a Delta travel push pin globe, where jetsetters can pin all the places they've visited.

Qantas training

QANTAS Group's pilot training is set to soar in its new Sydney flight training centre, officially opened yesterday.

Thousands of new QF and JQ pilots will study at the state-ofthe-art facility each year, which will be operated by the company and its training provider CAE.

Located near Sydney Airport, the centre is now home to five full-flight simulators, three fixed training devices, and 10 classrooms, with more to come.





Travel Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994, Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

FDITORIAL

Editor - Adam Bishop Deputy Editor - Matt Lennon Cruise Editor - Myles Stedman Journalists - Janie Medbury Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper Publisher - Damian Francis

Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan Advertising - Laura Aghajanian & Dante Muranty advertising@traveldaily.com.au

Head of Operations &

Contributing Editor - Anna Piper

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760

info@traveldaily.com.au



Travel Daily is a publication of TDaily Pty Ltd ABN 34 108 508 765. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of Travel Daily no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Damian Francis.



BLACK FRIDAY OFFER

SALE AWAY SAVE UP TO \$10,000



Our most generous offer ever invites your clients to save up to \$10,000 per suite on more than 550 Ocean and Expedition voyages when booking with our all-inclusive fares. From the medieval cities and sapphire waters of the Mediterranean to the legendary white landscape Antarctica, we invite your clients to discover the world's authentic beauty in ultra-luxury splendour. Silversea's small all-suite ships are designed for those who delight in discovery and indulge in luxury. To take advantage of this limited-time offer, book your client's suite by 2 December 2024.

CONTACT YOUR SILVERSEA SALES MANAGER OR RESERVATIONS ON +61 2 9255 0600 | SILVERSEA.COM/TRADE



SELL BIG \$\$\$ EARN BIG!

\$100 gift card for every AAT Kings booking deposited during November

\$200 gift card for every Inspiring Journeys booking deposited during November

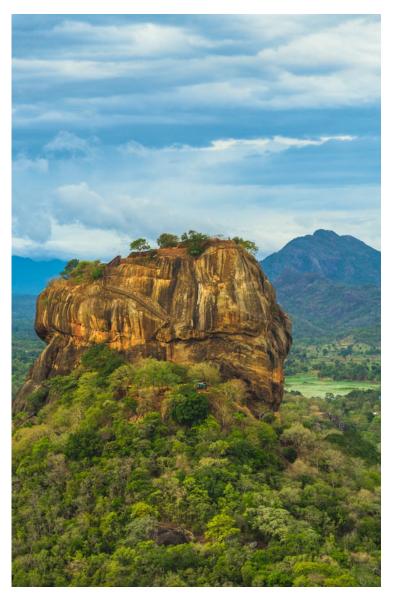
THE MORE YOU BOOK, THE MORE YOU MAKE - THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!

Imagine the possibilities with all this extra cash in your pocket, especially with Christmas just around the corner! Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to earn big while doing what you do best.

DISCOVER MORE

Terms and Conditions:

Valid for all Inspiring Journeys and AAT Kings Guided Holidays bookings made and deposited during November 2024, for travel from 01 November 2024 to 31 December 2026. e-Gift cards will be issued and sent to advisors weekly. Entry is open to all Travel Advisors who are employed by an accredited travel agency for the duration of the incentive. The incentive begins at 12:00am (AEST) on Friday 01st November 2024 and closes 11:59pm (AEST) Saturday 30th November 2024 ("Incentive Period"). Entries received after this time and date will be deemed invalid. Entrants must during the Incentive Period: Sell and deposit 1 x Inspiring Journeys booking to receive 1 x gift card to the value of A\$200. OR Sell and deposit 1 x AAT Kings Guided Holiday tour to receive 1 x gift card to the value of A\$100. For further details contact your Sales Manager.







Sri Lanka with Inspiring Vacations

Sri Lanka's timeless appeal lies in its blend of natural beauty, ancient heritage, and vibrant culture. From mist-shrouded tea plantations to gilded temples and wildlife-rich national parks, this island nation offers an unforgettable travel experience. Australia's Leading Tour Operator, Inspiring Vacations, has guided thousands of Australians on unforgettable journeys through Sri Lanka, offering expertly crafted tours that showcase the depth and variety of this dazzling island nation.

14 Day Ultimate Sri Lanka Premium Small Group Tour, from only \$3,599 per person

This tour offers a truly premium experience, with handpicked 5-star accommodation throughout and carefully curated experiences.

Highlights include Nuwara Eliya, known as "Little England," with a two-night stay at the iconic Grand Hotel, a 5-star property that embodies luxury and history. Other highlights include Sigiriya's ancient rock fortress, sacred Kandy, and Galle's colonial charm.

12 Day Sri Lanka Uncovered, from only \$1,795 per person

This value-packed tour introduces travellers to Sri Lanka's most celebrated landmarks, from Dambulla Cave Temple to the wildlife wonders of Yala National Park. The itinerary also includes visits to cultural gems such as the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy and a scenic train ride through lush tea country. With thoughtfully chosen accommodation, this fully guided tour provides an excellent balance of culture, nature, and history.

1300 88 66 88 www.inspiringvacations.com bookme@inspiringvacations.com

Inspiring Vacations tours are crafted with attention to detail, providing excellent value and enriching experiences. We invite your clients to uncover the magic of Sri Lanka, a destination that continues to enchant travellers from around the world.

EXTENSIONS AVAILABLE

Enhance these journeys with tour extensions from Inspiring Vacations. Explore Sri Lanka's historical north, unwind in the tropical paradise of the Maldives, or venture into Southern India for a deeper cultural experience.

Discover more here





