

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features six pages of industry news, including a photo page from the **WTTC Summit Perth**, and our **Corporate Update**.

## APT cruising in Qld

APT has announced the return of Queensland expedition cruising for 2025, in partnership with Coral Expeditions.

Travellers can enjoy brand-new itineraries exploring the Great Barrier Reef, including the eight-day 'Great Barrier Reef Discovery' cruise onboard *Coral Discoverer*, which departs 20 Nov 2025.

Highlights include snorkelling and swimming; learning about indigenous culture at Cooktown; visiting the Fitzroy Island turtle rehabilitation centre; and more.

## Industry ready for reform

**FEDERAL** Minister for Transport Catherine King has slammed her Shadow counterpart for efforts to delay passage of its legislation to reform slot management at Sydney Airport to next year.

Shadow Minister Bridget McKenzie said in the last month that reforms are something the government "could do right now" but this week moved to push the date for the legislation's Senate committee report to late Jan.

Minister King said the Coalition failed to deliver any reforms to aviation during a decade in office and criticised their efforts to block Labor's changes now.

"The Albanese Government is acting to boost competition and protect consumers, and the Coalition should do the right thing for passengers and back the reforms," King said.

The Sydney Airport Demand Management Bill was introduced into Federal Parliament this week, with the government aiming to get it passed during the four remaining sitting weeks this year.

Key measures in the bill include penalising airlines for 'hoarding' or applying for slots they do not reasonably intend to maintain and introducing an independent

## Rewards at Changi

**NEW** benefits including free parking and birthday vouchers are now available to members of Changi Rewards, a loyalty scheme designed for travellers transiting or stopping over in Singapore.

Membership of the program is free, with double points awarded for travellers on their first transaction, capped at S\$1,000.

Regular or prolific shoppers who have obtained Gold or Platinum membership of the program will also receive a voucher up to S\$40 to spend at participating outlets.

A new 'Monarch' loyalty tier has also been introduced for the most premium members, with rewards including a 4% rebate on spend.



body to report to government on slot compliance by airlines.

Virgin Australia told *Travel Daily* that while it has not yet reviewed the legislation in detail, it has always been committed to fair slot allocation and compliance.

Further praise for the legislation this week came from ATIA, which urged the government to urgently pass the bill and implement the important reforms.

"The introduction of reforms to the slot management system at Sydney Airport is a positive step forward, and they are very welcome," said ATIA Chief Executive, Dean Long.

"They complement other reforms that have been announced, which range from better monitoring of airline performance and pricing through to enhanced outcomes for travellers with disabilities."

The association said the benefits for travellers will be numerous, with the aviation network able to better recover after an unplanned disruption such as weather, which in turn will ensure flights depart and arrive on time, leading to fewer cancellations and better reliability across the sector. *ML*

## EK opens in London

**EMIRATES** has launched a new travel store in London, marking the carrier's first dedicated retail space to open in Europe.

Located in South Kensington, the store combines smart technology, expert travel advice, and immersive experiences, including a first class private suite, seven customer service counters, a 'selfie mirror' and more.

## Ontario webinar

**ONTARIO** will be the feature destination in the Canada Specialist Program webinar series, with agents now invited to register for the 30-min session.

Air Canada's Janis McDonald will host the webinar alongside Sonya Stevenson from Destination Ontario, who will discuss why autumn is the best time to visit Toronto, Ottawa and Niagara Falls.

Two sessions will take place at 8:30am or midday on 16 Oct.

**CLICK HERE** to register.

## Zanzibar insurance

**TANZANIAN** authorities have passed a new mandatory travel insurance requirement, advising all visitors must obtain cover from Zanzibar Insurance Corporation for stays up to 92 days - **CLICK HERE** for more information.

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## NT's reel in' record

**SEASON 10** of the NT's Million Dollar Fish competition has already broken records after one week (**TD 03 Oct**), with nine \$10,000 barra already caught.

The impressive haul equates to the entire season 9 catch of \$10,000 fish, and will see \$9,000 go to the competition's official charity partner, Cancer Council NT.

"Territory fishing is unparalleled and this bumper week of catches proves there's no better place to catch yourself a bucket-list barra than in the pristine waters of the NT - just make sure you are registered for the competition," said the Northern Territory Major Events Company's Acting CEO Trevor Cox.

There are still 91 barramundi worth \$10K waiting to be caught, along with 10 million-dollar fish.



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## Crikey, what a finish to WTTC



**THE** World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) finished its first global summit in Australia yesterday in true Aussie fashion, with wildlife warrior Robert Irwin regaling the crowd with stories from the bush.

While there were plenty of anecdotes about wrestling crocs and fleeing deadly snakes, Irwin also touched on some deeper points about family and nature.

"Throughout my life I've looked at my parents and I've thought, 'wow, one person can really make a difference,'" Irwin explained.

"But you can only really make a difference if you can unify everyone around you - that's the important thing and that's the legacy from my dad (Steve Irwin) that I want to continue and leave behind," Irwin added.

The Irwin family, through its popular Sunshine Coast attraction, Australia Zoo, has dedicated millions of dollars to preserving Australia's natural environment and wildlife. **AB**

## Pilot meant to crash

**NAUTILUS** Aviation ground crew member, Blake Wilson, has been identified as the person responsible for stealing and intentionally crashing one of its helicopters into a Cairns hotel earlier this year (**TD 13 Aug**).

According to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, the 23-year-old New Zealander turned off the helicopter's strobe lights and flew over his apartment twice before crashing into the top of DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Cairns within five minutes of taking off from Cairns Airport around 2am on 12 Aug.

The crash resulted in Wilson's own death, and the evacuation of nearly 400 hotel guests, none of whom were seriously injured.

Although Wilson, who was a former tour guide in Queenstown, held valid New Zealand and Australian commercial helicopter pilot licences, he was not employed or approved to fly Nautilus' helicopters.

The motivations behind his actions are unknown.

## AC reaches a deal

**AIR** Canada has welcomed a new four-year agreement with the Air Line Pilots Association, which covers 5,200 pilots for both its main brand and low-cost subsidiary, Air Canada Rouge.

A statement from the airline says its pilots will remain "the best compensated in Canada and provide the work-life balance improvements they were seeking".

Last month, Air Canada said it was preparing an orderly shut down due to ongoing disputes with the union (**TD 13 Sep**).

## ATDW listing cutoff

**TOURISM & Events Queensland** has set 31 Dec as the final cut-off date for tourism businesses to take part in its 2025 Best of Queensland Experience Program.

To get involved, businesses must update their Australian Tourism Data Warehouse listings and hit a Global Review Index score of 80 to receive the official stamp and help travellers find the product.

## Viking claims Sobek

**VIKING** has added further to its fleet in Egypt, taking delivery of the 82-passenger *Viking Sobek*, which will help to meet demand for its popular 12-day 'Pharaohs and Pyramids' itinerary.

Following Sobek, the line will add four more ships to its Nile River range in the next two years.

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## Window Seat

**FRANCE** is in uproar with news that the next season of Netflix show *Emily in Paris* will instead take place in Rome.

The outrage has gone all the way to the top, with French President Emmanuel Macron telling US celebrity rag *Variety* he will fight hard to keep the show on French territory.

"*Emily in Paris* in Rome doesn't make sense," the French President said.

The show highlighting clashes between American and French culture has been a smash hit for both Netflix and France, driving a boost in visitor numbers and even higher inquiries with local real estate agents.

Macron has a vested interest in the show, with his wife making a cameo in season 4.

## SLH Club revamp

**SMALL** Luxury Hotels of the World has debuted a refreshed SLH Club, as well as a new app, and even a magazine.

Guest feedback has led Small Luxury Hotels to introduce a simplified three-tier structure, catering to guests enjoying stays of up to three nights; four-12 nights; and 13+ nights.

Existing loyalty members will be automatically transferred to the reimagined program, which was previously known as Invited.

**MEANWHILE**, Small Luxury Hotels' new app, launching 24 Oct, offers guests a seamless and faster reservation process, as well as innovative features such as integrated route guidance.

SLH Club members can also enjoy access to their loyalty information and a downloadable membership card, and view all their previous bookings.

The new app will also house *Swoon by SLH*, Small Luxury Hotels' new magazine.

## Globus insurance

**GLOBUS** family of brands has partnered with Allianz Global Assistance, allowing guests to purchase a range of cover for their Globus, Cosmos or Avalon Waterways itinerary.

Guests are eligible for 24/7 overseas emergency assistance, overseas medical & hospital expenses, cancellation, additional expenses, as well as luggage, personal effects, and valuables.

Globus is offering a launch incentive of 10% off all insurance plans through to 30 Nov.

## Hotels rally on GDS

**D-EDGE** has observed a 54% surge in GDS bookings in the past year, making it the fastest-growing distribution channel for the sector.

GDS bookings also consistently outperform other channels in key areas such as average daily rate, length of stay, and cancellation rates, D-EDGE found.

## MSC World Records

**MSC** Cruises will expand its Guinness World Records entertainment concept across its fleet, with the program now available on 12 ships and on track to go fleet-wide in the next year.

Guests will have opportunities on each sailing to break a range of zany and certified world records, with dozens of marks having already been broken since the program debuted last Mar.

## Eight new UA cities

**UNITED** Airlines (UA) has added eight new international destinations, in the largest expansion of its kind in the carrier's history.

United's northern summer schedule for next year is headlined by two additions in Portugal - Madeira and Faro - while the airline will also fly to Ulaanbaatar, Kaohsiung, Nuuk, Palermo, Bilbao, and Dakar.

## Discover our Adventure Special Report



Travel Daily CRUISE WEEKLY

## Entourage in Sharpe focus



**ENTOURAGE** Travel Group hosted Signature Travel Network President and Chief Executive, Alex Sharpe, at its Canterbury office earlier this week.

Sharpe, who has flown over from Florida, provided direct insights with Entourage's members into Signature's ongoing growth in the region.

He led a group of agency leaders and advisors through Signature's plans, highlighting the network's offerings and vision for the future, while also hearing members' perspectives on the local market.

In attendance was Signature's MD for Australia and New Zealand, Lisa Harrison, who will oversee the region's development, ensuring that Signature's offerings align with the unique needs of the market.

"We have always believed that strong relationships and shared values are at the heart of every successful partnership," said David Hughes, Managing Director at Entourage Travel Group.

"With Signature Travel Network, we share a commitment to delivering market-leading offers and exceptional support to our affiliates and brokers.

"We're proud to deepen our partnership and continue

growing together, creating new opportunities throughout Australia and New Zealand, particularly in the luxury and cruise markets." JM

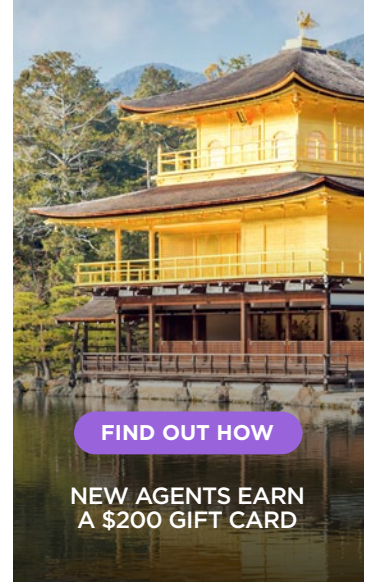
**Pictured:** Kylie Thomasz, Entourage Travel Group; Harrison; David Hughes, Entourage Travel Group; Tracey Nelson, Entourage Travel Group; and Sharpe.

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## CORPORATE UPDATE

### Corporate value surging

**THE** global business travel industry is poised to surpass pre-pandemic levels this year and hit a record US\$1.5 trillion, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC).

Unveiled at the global tourism body's summit in Perth yesterday, the *2024 Economic Impact Trends Report* found that business travel spending in the US, which accounted for 30% of the global total in 2019, is expected to reach US\$472 billion this year - 13.4% above the 2019 record.

Additionally, business travel spend in Germany, the third largest, is expected to rise to US\$87.5 billion, just under 1% above the 2019 peak.

In the UK and France, corporate travellers are predicted to inject a record-breaking US\$84.1 billion and US\$42.1 billion into their respective economies.

### G goes Solo(ish)

**G ADVENTURES** has introduced its first dedicated travel style for solo travellers, Solo-ish Adventures, which aims to address the 'loneliness epidemic'.

Designed for customers who are seeking personal growth, connection and safety while they travel, the new collection features 13 trips in some of the brand's most popular destinations, including Costa Rica, India, Peru, South Africa and Vietnam.

The first three days of each itinerary are 'loaded' with experiences designed to help tour groups bond and get to know each other, while guests will also enjoy a 'Me Day', giving them time to explore on their own.

Solo-ish guests can also expect hands-on culinary experiences and dinners parties, free arrival transfers, female-only tour guides, and up to 50% off their own room for travellers wanting their own space.

Departures will begin in Mar 2025 - learn more [HERE](#).

"After a challenging few years, business travel is not only back on track, but it is recovering much faster than expected, highlighting the importance of international travel for businesses around the world," WTTC President & CEO Julia Simpson said.

The report identifies several factors contributing to the resurgence of business travel, including the growing 'bleisure' trend, and businesses being able to reallocate more funds to corporate travel budgets as economies around the world recover from the pandemic. *JM*

### Cairns gets a leg-up

**A PARTNERSHIP** between Tourism Tropical North Queensland (TTNQ) and Webjet has resulted in more than 4,400 Australians booking flights to Cairns in just 36 hours.

The campaign saw discounted Cairns airfares launch on Mon, with up to \$125 off for interstate travellers and up to \$100 off for intrastate travellers heading to Cairns between Nov and May.

TTNQ Chief Executive Mark Olsen said the partnership is helping to boost visitation during the spring and summer shoulder seasons, with 68% of passengers travelling from interstate.

"TTNQ will invest \$1.1 million into the campaign with further partnership support bringing the campaign investment to more than \$5.5 million," he said.

"This will push the campaign activity through to Mar to bring more than 19,000 additional visitors to the region during the low season, delivering \$27 million in overnight visitor expenditure."

Webjet OTA CEO David Galt noted the Cairns sale had been one of the company's strongest destination campaigns since before the pandemic, driving a 2,138% increase in interstate passenger volumes compared to the previous day.



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Travel Daily  
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### RCI's Perfect Day in Mexico



**ROYAL** Caribbean will open its second 'Perfect Day' private island in 2027 with the addition of a new destination in the Mexican coastal town of Mahahual.

The line said Perfect Day Mexico will build on the success of Perfect Day by CocoCay, which opened in 2019, and the Royal

Beach Club Cozumel, which is due to open in 2026.

Perfect Day Mexico will feature a waterpark, multiple swimming pools and beaches along with restaurants, bars and music.

The island will feature on cruises to the western Caribbean - for more, see today's *Cruise Weekly*.

### Indigenous boost needed

**THE** World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) has launched a landmark report that projects indigenous tourism will contribute as much as US\$67 billion (A\$99.3 billion) into the global economy by 2034.

Global indigenous tourism is predicted to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 4.1% over the next decade, fuelled by an increasing demand for authentic cultural experiences in countries such as Australia and Canada.

In Australia, the report showed that more than 1.4 million international visitors engaged in Aboriginal tourism experiences in 2019, marking a 6% year-on-year growth since 2010.

WTTC President and CEO Julia Simpson said: "Indigenous tourism is not only about showcasing rich cultural traditions, it's about empowering communities, creating sustainable jobs, and ensuring

that indigenous people are in control of their own stories and economic futures.

"This report demonstrates the immense potential of indigenous tourism to drive economic growth, particularly in remote regions, while preserving invaluable cultural heritage."

However, many operators surveyed said they still face challenges in securing funding to grow the segment.

"These funds are critical to ensuring indigenous communities benefit fully from the booming tourism industry and can continue to grow sustainably," Simpson added. *AB*

### Anaheim quacking

**VISIT** Anaheim has inked a deal with the Anaheim Ducks NHL team which will see the tourism body's logo appear as a patch partner on away game jerseys.

## WTTC talks travel Down Under

**THE** first World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) to take place in Australia has wrapped up in Perth this week, with 800 delegates enjoying a packed schedule of press conferences, report discussions, panel sessions, and fireside chats with key private and public figures.

There was plenty of positive news at the WTTC, including discussion of the global tourism sector that continues to rebound beyond the dark doldrums of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For Australia's travel and tourism sector to thrive, the message was clear - improve air connectivity, make travel more frictionless in all aspects of the journey, embrace key sustainability objectives, and ensure collaboration is

undertaken at every level of the travel ecosystem.

Highlights of the summit included former US presidential candidate John Kerry sharing his thoughts on climate change, as well as conservationist Bob Irwin discussing the importance of preserving wildlife for tourism.



**WTTC** Chair Greg O'Hara reflects on the virtues of travel.



**ROBERT** Irwin shares wildlife stories on stage.

**WA** Premier Roger Cook welcomes guests on day one.



**INDIGENOUS** welcome celebrations.



**JOHN** Kerry outlines the role of travel in climate management.



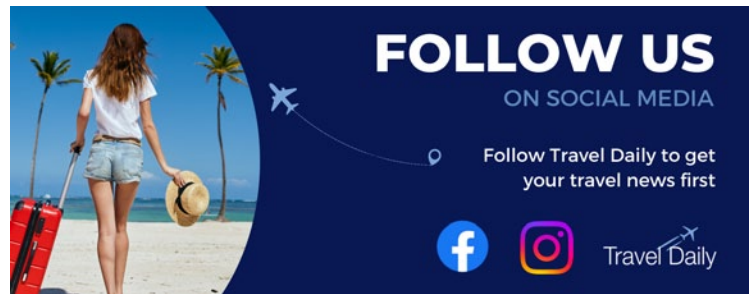
**GUESTS** were treated to a private viewing of the spectacular 'Boorna Waanginy The Trees Speak' light show.



**THE** best of WA produce was on offer for guests.



**FORWARDKEYS** Director of Intelligence and Marketing Oliver Ponti provides a snapshot of the tourism recovery.



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## SPECIALS

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Solo travellers can enjoy savings with **Emerald River Cruises**, which is offering no single supplement on selected Rhine/Danube, France, and Southeast Asia river cruises up until 2026. Travellers can also enjoy dedicated single staterooms on selected Europe and France river cruises. The solo deals are selling quickly - for more information, **CLICK HERE**.

**Airnorth** has released discounted airfares to destinations across the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland, and internationally to Timor-Leste. Travellers can nab flights starting from \$235 for travel between 01 Nov and 31 Mar. Check out the carrier's 'Friendships Worth Flying For' sale **HERE** before it ends on 16 Oct.

Travellers can save \$1,450 per person on their next land and cruise adventure when they book **Cruise Traveller's** new 27-night 'Italian Indulgence and Adriatic Treasures' package, which departs 18 Jun 2025. Guests will enjoy a free night in Rome before joining a 12-night, small-group land tour across Italy. The adventure then takes to sea with an 11-night voyage from Venice to Rome, which will sail the Adriatic and along the Dalmatian coast of Croatia, before taking in the romance of Amalfi and the cliffside village of Positano. Call 1800 507 777 for details.

**Hurtigruten** has announced a new cruise and land tour, 'Savour the Northern Lights', a small-group journey encompassing Norway and Finland. Departing 25 Dec, the itinerary gives travellers the chance to explore Scandinavia and chase the majestic spectacle. Guests will get up to \$500pp onboard credit when they book now - call 1300 156 371.

## North Shore a local success



**NORTH** Shore Travel in Sydney is a textbook example of devotion to a local community.

The small agency in Gordon in the city's northern suburbs is celebrating three decades in business under the tutelage of co-owners Samantha Gordon, who started the business, and Deborah Moffat, who bought her stake a few years later.

But Gordon and Moffat bring much more experience in the sector to their clients, collectively counting 90 years in the sector.

As rare as that kind of longevity can be, North Shore's staff share similar loyalties, many remaining for a decade or more.

As a result, North Shore Travel has become a known, trusted and much-loved part of the local community in and around Gordon.

North Shore Travel was recently recognised for its longevity and service, winning an award for best speciality small business in the Local Business Awards.

Speaking to **Travel Daily**, long-

serving staff member Vivienne Maroun said the loyalty of the staff was one thing but it was the loyalty of its clients that provide the best reason to come to work.

"It's a fairly affluent suburb and they are happy to pay for an agent to do it all because we do it with a service [they won't] get online," Maroun said.

Maroun told **TD** North Shore's clients are quite emblematic of trends being seen across the wider travel industry.

"They're always looking for new and exciting destinations and hands-on experiences.

"I think people are not necessarily looking for five-star but wanting immersive experiences, meeting the locals and being environmentally-friendly as well," Maroun added.

The North Shore Travel team is **pictured** above and comprises Moffat and Young (seated) with Roz Martindale, Senior Travel Advisor; Robert Wilmot, Travel Advisor; and Vivienne Maroun.

## TK JFK emergency

A **TURKISH** Airlines flight from Seattle to Istanbul this week was forced into an emergency landing at New York JFK Airport after the pilot died mid-flight.

Flight TK204 was still in US airspace when the pilot lost consciousness and was unable to be revived, a spokesperson for Turkish Airlines said.

The deceased pilot had 17 years experience with the airline and passed a routine health check conducted earlier this month.

Passengers were rebooked onto new flights to complete their journey to Istanbul and beyond.

## Cultural itineraries

**CULTURAL** Attractions of Australia (CAOA), a collective of 19 members of the country's landmark attractions, has launched nine new itinerary ideas to provide inspiration for agents.

The downloadable sample itineraries, which vary from one to three days in length, include 'Legends of Sport and Wine' in Adelaide; 'First Artists Culture and Laidback Charm' in Brisbane; and 'Stories of a Nation' in Canberra.

The experiences offered through the collective are pre-bookable and fully commissionable - find out more **HERE**.