



Supported. The way you should be

At TravelManagers, we support you and your business.

Find out more >

TravelManagers
As individual as you are
join.travelmanagers.com.au

Indulge and save

FOR two weeks only, travellers can enjoy \$8,000 worth of savings when they book a voyage with Silversea.

Head to **page seven** to take advantage of the special offer, which is available on more than 520 sailings.

Ruffles departs ATIA board

CORPORATE Travel Management's (CTM) chief Jamie Pherous has replaced his former colleague Laura Ruffles on the board of the Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) (**TD** breaking news), while American Express Global Business Travel's Danielle Russom has been appointed Vice Chair.

The changes were made because of the resignation of Ruffles from the ATIA board, which follows her leaving her post at CTM last month (**TD** 25 Sep).

Pherous formerly served as an ATIA director from 2011 to 2019, at which point he transitioned to Ruffles' alternate.

The former CTM executive herself joined the board first as an alternate in 2015.

ATIA said Ruffles has provided "invaluable contributions" to the association during her time on

the board, which saw her serve as Vice Chair.

She was re-elected to the position earlier this year (**TD** 19 Jun), alongside co-Vice Chair Graham Turner, who will now be joined instead by Russom.

"We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to Laura Ruffles for her considerable service and contributions during her time on the ATIA Board," ATIA Chair Christian Hunter said.

"Laura's leadership and dedication, particularly during the challenges faced by the travel industry in recent years, have been exemplary." *MS*

Air NZ fleet refurb

AIR New Zealand has commenced a makeover of its Boeing 787-9 fleet, which will be retrofitted with all-new cabin interiors, including the new Business Premier Luxe product.

The first of 14 aircraft touched down in Singapore over the weekend, where all the interiors will be removed and replaced one at a time on a rolling schedule over the next two years in order to minimise disruption to pax.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of travel news, including our **Sustainability** page, plus a product profile from **Tourism Ireland** and a full page from **Silversea**.

An Irish Halloween

TOURISM Ireland is inviting travellers who love all things spooky to discover the true birthplace of Halloween and visit Ireland, where they can immerse themselves in a wide range of ghoulish celebrations.

See the **back page** for details.

INSPIRING VACATIONS

EARN A \$50 GIFT CARD

FOR EVERY \$5K IN BOOKINGS

BOOK BY 31 OCT

FIND OUT HOW

NEW AGENTS EARN A \$200 GIFT CARD

Web Travel plunge

LOWER than anticipated margins for the typically strong performing Web Travel Group (Webbeds) reported yesterday (**TD** 14 Oct) saw its share price plunge dramatically from just above \$7 to \$4.51.

While the price has enjoyed a mild rebound so far today to \$4.62, a preliminary update posted yesterday laid bare strong headwinds, including margins affected by financial incentive agreements with suppliers, which are currently under review.

tbo.com
TRAVEL SIMPLIFIED

Say goodbye to travel booking hassles with TBO!

HOTELS AIR TRANSFERS CAR RENTALS RAIL

Register now >>

Wendy Wu Tours

YOUR PARTNER CAN FLY FREE

OR SOLOS SAVE 50% OFF AIRFARES

SELECTED 2025 & 2026 GROUP DATES

ADD A 2-NIGHT HONG KONG STOPOVER FROM ONLY \$99pp TWIN SHARE*

SAVE \$420pp

Supported By **HONG KONG TOURISM BOARD**

*T&Cs apply



Uniworld incentive

UNIWORLD has launched the new 'Rivers of Rewards' trade incentive, offering agents the chance to win a \$1,000 gift card whenever they make a booking for the cruise line's 50-night 'Rivers of the World' cruise from Brussels to Amman, taking place between 16 Apr & 05 Jun 2026.

For 2025 bookings, travel advisors will earn \$300 gift cards for bookings made in a suite category, and \$200 on all other categories sold.

The Rivers of Rewards incentive is uncapped and applicable to new bookings.

"We know Aussies and Kiwis tend to love our longer river cruise itineraries and on our 2023 version of 'Rivers of the World', Aussies and Kiwis accounted for 40% of all the passengers, so we know this is incentive is going to be exciting for our travel agent partners," said Alice Ager, Managing Director of Uniworld Australia and NZ.

Insight big on small

THE Travel Corporation's Insight Vacations is offering more than 100 small group itineraries next year, a significant increase from its sell-out season in 2024.

"We saw exceptional sales of our small groups in 2024, and the 2025 trend remains strong," Insight Vacations Managing Director Toni Ambler said.

"This increase in offering not only gives customers more choice we know they're looking for, but importantly, it gives our valued agent partners even more flexibility and breadth of offering to maximise their sales.

"We are excited and delighted to be able to offer travellers a choice of group size regardless of where they choose to go - across all continents we travel to and all itineraries we offer."

Insight's Women-Only Small Group Tour series has also been extended after popular demand, with all departures now in the small-group format.

VA lifts revenue to \$5.1b

FRESH from receiving a 25% equity injection from Qatar Airways on a provisional basis (**TD** 01 Oct), Virgin Australia has revealed its revenue for the financial year 2024 has increased by 5.6% to \$5.1 billion.

Detailed in a new earnings report released yesterday, a key driver of the revenue gain has been VA's Velocity Frequent Flyer loyalty program, which recorded a rise of 23.8% to \$409 million for the latest period.

Velocity was able to deliver a 13% increase in active members, growing its base to 12 million.

VA CEO Jayne Hrdlicka said FY24 also represented the carrier's second consecutive year of after tax profit following a return to the black last year for the first time in over a decade.

However, the airline declined to state any specific profit figures in the latest financial release.

Further highlights included

underlying EBIT increasing by 18.2% to \$519 million, as well as an airline margin of 7.6%.

So buoyant was the carrier about its latest earnings, it bestowed a thank you gift of 54,000 Velocity points on its existing \$1,000 staff travel credit.

"Continued improvement in profitability means we are well-positioned to deliver great value and choice to Australian travellers," Hrdlicka said, adding it is essential to VA's ability to re-invest and compete with our major competitor.

The picture looks bright for owner Bain Capital as well, with new filings with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission showing it has made more than \$1 billion on VA since rescuing the brand in 2020.

A report in the *AFR* stated part of the profit boon for VA was generated by banking \$280.7m in expired flight credits. **AB**



15
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY
AUSTRALIA

Explore Europe in 2025

qatarairways.com/earlybird



GOING PLACES TOGETHER

Leaders live it up at Sal Salis



JOURNEY Beyond treated a group of travel industry leaders from around the world to a family at Sal Salis on WA's Ningaloo Coast, ahead of the World Tourism and Travel Council Summit in Perth last week.

The group consisted of 11 prominent industry figures, including Matthew Upchurch, the founder and CEO of Virtuoso, and James Thornton, Chief Executive Officer of Intrepid Travel.

Hosted in partnership with Tourism Western Australia and Southern Crossings, the itinerary kicked off with an exploration of the Margaret River region, where the group embarked on the Cape to Cape Walk, stayed at the luxurious Smiths Beach Resort, and enjoyed an exclusive dining experience with Kate Lamont.

The cohort then arrived at

Sal Salis (pictured), where they enjoyed the five-star comforts of a luxury hotel, while also immersing themselves in the beautiful surroundings, from snorkelling along the Ningaloo Coast, to exploring Cape Range National Park. *JM*

Harmon's head

TEG has announced Shane Harmon as its new Managing Director - Experiences, effective from Jan 2025.

A well-known executive in the sports and entertainment industries, Harmon joins TEG with more than 25 years of experience, including his most recent tenure as CEO at Sky Stadium in Wellington.

His CV also includes stints at Sydney Swans, Rugby Australia, and the local organising committees for Rugby World Cup 2023 and 2011.

Harmon is tasked with leading the strategic direction and development for the Experience arm of the TEG business, taking over from Rachael Carroll, who will remain as Managing Director - TEG Sport.

Geoff Jones, TEG Group Chief Executive, said the company is delighted to welcome Harmon to the "TEG family".

"Shane's wealth of knowledge from the entertainment and sports industries is unparalleled, and his experience will no doubt play a major role in taking TEG's growth strategy to the next level," Jones added.

Agent B-Roll Bash

TRAVEL agents eager to learn new social media marketing skills are invited to attend a special content creation event scheduled for 06 Nov on the Gold Coast.

Hosted by the Stephanie Myers Academy, the event will take place at the Mysa Motel in Palm Beach and will feature hands-on tutorials from branding and social media gurus.

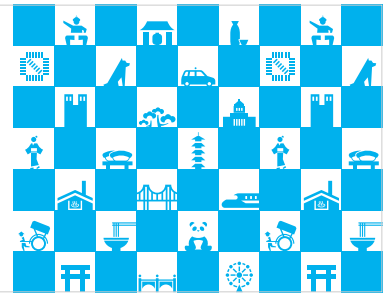
Attendees will be able to put their skills to immediate use and walk away with custom visuals that reflect their growing brand.

CLICK HERE for more details on the social media marketing workshop and to RSVP to attend.

TokyoTokyo Old meets New

LEARN AND WIN
a trip to Tokyo!

[Click here to register](#)



SkyTeam on track in Europe

SKYTEAM has signed its second rail partnership in as many months, inking a deal with Italian high-speed network Trenitalia to unlock intermodal travel for travellers across Italy.

Much like the alliance's recent deal with Eurostar (TD 30 Sep), the new pact with Trenitalia will allow combined air and rail tickets in a single reservation, connecting to the Italian network's Frecciarossa services at Rome Fiumicino Airport.

Fourteen SkyTeam member airlines currently fly to 10 Italian cities including Rome, Milan, Turin, Venice, Genova, Bologna, Florence, Naples, Verona and Bari from various global hubs, while Trenitalia offers direct connections to 23 airports across Italy.

Frequent flyers will also be able to earn and redeem points and miles on eligible trains, with elite members enjoying SkyPriority services at participating stations.



SkyTeam CEO Patrick Roux said he was delighted the alliance has been able to sign its second non-airline partner and strengthen its intermodal travel strategy.

"Italy is an important global market for business and leisure travellers and with Trenitalia, customers will have more choice and flexibility to go where they want to go, how they want to, while enjoying the many benefits for which SkyTeam is known." *ML*

Mandarin to double

MANDARIN Oriental Hotel Group has announced it is aiming to double its portfolio over the next 10 years, as part of an ambitious new growth strategy.

The luxury hospitality group will focus on growing its resorts and capital city portfolio, as well as expanding in key regions including the Middle East, Japan and North America, while continuing to branch out in capital cities across Europe.

Meanwhile, a new app is also in the works to improve the guest experience, along with a new wellness concept to offer an enhanced holistic service combining physical, spiritual and medical elements of health and wellbeing for guests.



AZAMARA CRUISES

HIDDEN GEMS SALE

US \$500 ONBOARD CREDIT

+ BOOK A VERANDA OR SUITE TO GET UNLIMITED WI-FI OR A PREMIUM BEVERAGE PACKAGE*

BOOK NOW

Three Mels are better than one



GLOBUS and Air New Zealand teamed up last week for an 'Amazing Race' at Melbourne's Queen Victoria Market.

Mel Wouda, Globus National Account Manager, joined two of her namesakes, Air New Zealand business development managers Mel Van Twest and Mel Train (pictured), to host the day for a number of lucky home-based travel advisors.

The race began across the road

at the lively Veriu Queen Victoria Market, before participants from TravelManagers, Envoyage, and MTA raced through the seven-hectare market.

Participants tackled various challenges, in which their product knowledge about Globus and Air NZ was tested.

Travel advisors also had to locate various checkpoints throughout the market, and post team photos online.

The decider boiled down to "find the most unusual looking fruit or vegetable", with albino strawberries beating out prickly pears, and rose apple jumbus.

The group then gathered together for lunch to share stories from the day and enjoy some light-hearted banter.

The day was an engaging and informative experience, offering advisors a chance to learn about the new products on offer from the Globus family of brands operator, as well as Air New Zealand's network. *MS*

New Scenic office

SCENIC Group has announced a new Asia Pacific office and dedicated team in Singapore, marking a significant expansion within the APAC region.

Constance Seck has been appointed Regional Director Sales & Marketing APAC, bringing more than 20 years of extensive experience in the Asia market to her role.

Head to today's *Cruise Weekly* for more information.

ATIA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



WE HAD a win late yesterday.

Following a comprehensive advocacy campaign, we have maintained 'Travel Consultant' and 'Tour

Guide' on the 2024 Occupation Shortage List - a critical outcome as we advocate for greater support to close the gap on our worker shortage across agencies and tour operators.

Importantly, we are also seeing the number of occupations in shortage is dropping.

The report found that 33% of occupations (303 out of 916) are currently in national shortage, a small decrease from the 36% reported in 2023.

While it is disappointing we still have a shortage, being on this list means our calls for government action to address this shortage will carry additional significance.

Without this listing, we would have all but lost some of the hard-earned gains we have secured in recent years.

I have spoken at length in this column and in presentations that

good and successful advocacy takes time.

We have been discussing this issue consistently for the past 24 months and in Feb, many of you completed the most thorough survey on these issues ATIA has conducted in the last decade.

Without those insights, we would not have had the data required to develop our Mar submission, which provided real data on the challenges we face.

On a different note, tomorrow I will be heading to SXSWSydney with TAG Group.

There, we will discuss the future of travel, ESG, and AI trends with the country's creative leaders.

SXSWSydney is now in its second year and I am struck by how many travel brands are choosing to showcase the role & power of travel in shaping society.

I was joined today on stage by Shane Barr (TAG), Dean Jones (IHG) & Kerrie McCallum (News).

As we prepared for our session, it was great to connect and unpack the challenges we face as an industry.

We must work together to ensure our industry continues to elevate our standing across the community.

WTTC heads to Rome

AFTER its first conference in Australia last week, the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) will host its 2025 event in Rome.

Taking place late next year, the 25th WTTC Global Summit will be hosted in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Tourism, and represents a return to Europe after six years.

The last summit in Europe was held in Seville, Spain.

Club Med promotion

CLUB Med has launched its Endless Summer Sale for bookings in 2025, with an increase in commission as part of a national incentive for advisors.

The sale offers travel agents the chance to secure 15% commission for sales on its *Club Med 2* vessel, as well as the chance to win a five-night stay for two at Club Med - **CLICK HERE** for more information.

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL: Join Our Mentoring Program and Ignite Your Success!

TIME is a Career Advancement Path for all Employees in Travel, Tourism, Hospitality, Cruise and Aviation Industry including Regional, and Rural Areas across Australia

WHAT TIME CAN
DO FOR YOU...

- Further develop your management and leadership potential
- Develop confidence and networking opportunities
- Strategic career planning
- Increase your knowledge of organisational culture & processes

For more information visit - www.travelindustrymentor.com.au

Bookings open at eco lodges

PENINSULA Hot Springs Group has opened bookings for its new eco lodges, with guests set to be welcomed from 09 Nov.

The Mornington Peninsula wellness centre is in the final stages of fitting out its three lodges, each comprising 10 rooms designed with rest and recovery in mind.

Overlooking a private lake, each room features nature-inspired architecture aimed at promoting restful sleep and personal restoration.

Guests can access self-guided sleep and wellness content including sound and movement exercises along with sleep masks, blackout blinds, mineral salts and underfloor heating powered by geothermal water.

Curated seasonal dishes are also served in the Spa Dreaming Dining Room or delivered to suites.

Outside of the rooms, guests can access the hot springs for bathing, nutrition and movement activities.

“True wellbeing begins with restful sleep, and we are delighted to provide a haven for guests to rejuvenate their minds and bodies and be empowered to face each day with renewed energy,” said Peninsula Hot Springs Co-Founder, Charles Davidson.

TOURISM EMISSIONS ON THE WAY DOWN

CARBON emissions generated by travel and tourism worldwide decreased in 2023 compared to the sector’s 2019 peak, a new World Travel and Tourism (WTTC) report has revealed.

Unveiled last week at the WTTC Global Summit in Perth, the latest *Environmental & Social Research (ESR)* report showed the sector was responsible for 6.7% of all emissions globally, down from 7.8% recorded in 2019 prior to the pandemic.

The report, collated in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism of Saudi Arabia, showed the economic contribution from travel and tourism is now greater than its environmental footprint.

In 2019, GHG emission intensity had fallen 8.4% with overall emissions down 12% from the 2019 peak, with WTTC President and CEO, Julia Simpson, saying



the result proves the sector can continue to grow responsibly.

“This is a defining moment, proving that innovation and sustainability go hand in hand in shaping the future of global tourism,” Simpson said.

The WTTC boss said the sector must accelerate its progress to net-zero in order to meet its Paris climate targets.

“We’re on the right track, but

we need to up our game.”

The report showed energy and power are key drivers of the reduction in emissions, however the reliance on fossil fuels was still too high and presented the best opportunity for transition.

Low-carbon energy sources increased from 5.1% in 2023 to 5.9% last year, reflecting an ongoing effort and desire to reduce reliance on fossil fuel. *ML*

Villa Le Corail backs coral restoration

VIETNAMESE eco-resort Villa Le Corail has launched a project to restore and rehabilitate coral reefs in Nha Trang Bay.

The five-star resort has joined forces with sustainable education tourism company Avatar to restore thousands of square metres of coral along the resort’s shore line.

Project coordinators say the three-year effort involves a combination of direct coral transplanting, gardening,

propagation and other scientific measures aimed at re-establishing Nha Trang as a haven of marine life.

Alongside the planting work itself, Avatar will schedule a series of guest activities including coral presentations, planting sessions and expert workshops to educate guests.

Alongside the coral planting, a 1,500m² artificial reef has been created on the breakwater to protect the maturing area.

Let’s bee kind

BAWAH Reserve, one of Indonesia’s top private island resorts, has revealed it is making strides in environmental stewardship with a new commitment to protecting the Trigona bees.

The small, stingless insects are key players in maintaining the biodiversity of Bawah Reserve’s tropical gardens.

Guests at Bawah can also enjoy the bees’ raw honey as part of its menus.

Discover our Adventure Special Report



Stay Updated
on the latest travel news

Follow Travel Daily on social media to get your travel news first

Facebook Instagram Travel Daily

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.673

THE Australian dollar declined yesterday on the back of Chinese economic woes and a strong US dollar.

The AUD/USD faced renewed selling pressure at the week's start, with rising scepticism about China's fiscal situation also souring the mood.

Another blow for the AUD was a decline in copper prices. *Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.673
UK	£0.515
NZ	\$1.104
Euro	€0.616
Japan	¥100.6
Thailand	฿22.38
China	¥4.704
South Africa	11.78
Canada	\$0.928
Crude oil	US\$75.44

Asia Schengen-style

VIETNAM and Thailand have agreed to collaborate closely on introducing a Schengen-style joint visa granting travellers free short-term movement across six countries in Southeast Asia.

While the idea has been floated before with little success, the two nations have decided to work more closely on the scheme, which would also include Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia & Cambodia.

The two lead nations said they will work to advocate for consistent policies across the board for mutual benefit.

Hanging out at Bluey's place



BRISBANE'S most famous residents, Bluey and the Heeler Family, have opened their doors for a peek at Bluey's World ahead of its 07 Nov opening (pictured).

The large-scale guided activation allows visitors to wander among life-size sets of Bluey's front porch, living room and backyard at their leisure.

Visitors can also embark on a quest to work with loved friends of Bluey and Bingo, including the popular garden gnomes, to thwart the mischievous Unicorn's plan to freeze the two famous canines.

The experience has been developed by *Bluey* creators Joe and Suzy Brumm, along with the team from Ludo Studio to help bring the much-loved characters to life.

"With interactive play zones, photo opportunities with beloved characters, and unforgettable moments around every corner, Bluey's World is the ultimate experience for families, fans, and anyone who loves the joy, magic, and heartwarming adventure of

Bluey," said producer Andrew Kay.

Tourism and Events Queensland CEO Patricia O'Callaghan said Bluey is a global superstar, with fans eager to see her home town.

"There is no doubt visitors to Bluey's World will be wowed by this incredible, interactive experience that is just like walking onto the set of *Bluey*, for real life," O'Callaghan said.

More tickets to the 4,000m² experience go on sale next week, with the season extended to Sep 2025 to meet demand. *ML*

MEL kicks a goal

LAST month's AFL Grand Final helped Melbourne Airport record its busiest day since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Almost 120,000 passengers passed through the terminals the day before the Grand Final, 27 Sep, as teams from Sydney and Brisbane faced off for the premiership cup.

This year has also been the busiest Sep on record for international travel from MEL.

Window Seat

THE annual wife-carrying championships recently attracted competitive couples and tourists to Maine.

More than 30 husbands entered this year, and were tasked with carrying their wives along a 250-metre course, which sees them splash through water, logs, and trudge through mud.

The annual event, held during the skiing off-season at Sunday River Resort, sees most competitors attack the course with their wife carried upside down over their shoulders, like a backpack.

The champion leaves with the weight of their wife in beer, which is estimated by sticking the spouse on one end of a scale, balanced out with a case of brewskis.

The winner of the event also scores five times the wife's weight in cash.

The first modern-day wife-carrying event was held in Finland in 1991, with foreign contestants admitted in 1995 through qualifying events in Sweden, and Estonia, and even Australia.

Sunday River's wife-carrying championships were founded in 1999, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.



 SILVERSEA®

The background of the entire advertisement is a night-time photograph of Rome, Italy. It features the Tiber River in the foreground, the illuminated Ponte Sant'Angelo bridge in the middle ground, and the large dome of St. Peter's Basilica in the background against a twilight sky.

TWO WEEKS ONLY

ENJOY
\$8,000
SAVINGS

EXPIRES 31 OCTOBER 2024

Rome, Italy



Ireland: Home of Halloween

Discover the true birthplace of Halloween—Ireland! This enchanting land is where the ancient Celts celebrated Samhain, a festival marking the end of the harvest season and the start of winter over 2,000 years ago. During this time, people believed the veil between our world and the Otherworld was at its thinnest, allowing spirits—known as Púcaí (Púca)—and fairies to roam the earth. Traditions began that continue to this day: large communal bonfires were lit to ward off demons, embers were carried home in hollow turnips (the original Jack O’ Lantern), masks were worn to disguise against evil spirits (the first Halloween costumes), and soul cakes were offered to children and the poor (the precursor

to today’s trick-or-treating). A barmbrack cake was baked to forecast the future, and this fruit loaf is still enjoyed today. Emigrants carried these customs to North America, where they spread worldwide as Halloween, but its spiritual home will always be Samhain in Ireland.

From the hauntingly beautiful landscapes of the Emerald Isle to spirited tales of ghostly encounters in historic castles, Ireland offers an immersive experience for travelers seeking the origins of Halloween. Each year, the island hosts a wide range of celebrations, blending quirky local fare with sprawling festivals renowned around the globe. Embrace the magic

of Samhain, where every cobblestone street whispers a ghost story, and every turnip carries a hint of ancient lore. After all, who wouldn’t want to celebrate Halloween where it all began.

HALLOWEEN FESTIVALS

The **Púca Festival** celebrates Ireland as the birthplace of Halloween in County Meath, featuring dazzling spectacles, music, and harvest food. In Northern Ireland, **Derry Halloween** is a must-see, showcasing over 35 years of creativity with a variety of exciting events.