

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features 10 pages of news including our **Sustainability** page, plus a photo page from **Linkd Tourism** and a full page from **Silversea**.

Club Royal Rewards

ROYAL Caribbean is giving advisors the chance to score big in its 'Win the Weekend' promo.

Through its trade loyalty program, Club Royal Rewards, agents will receive a bonus \$50 in rewards when they book and deposit any four-night or shorter sailing aboard *Quantum of the Seas* or *Ovation of the Seas*, departing from Syd or Bris between Jan and Apr 2025.

Every eligible booking made and claimed will have the chance to win one of 10 twin share balcony staterooms on a short cruise.

Two cruise prizes will be drawn each week over five weeks from 04 Oct to 01 Nov.

Aeronology connects UA

EXCLUSIVE

AIRLINE ticketing consolidator Aeronology has been certified by United Airlines as its latest NDC-connected partner, unlocking access to the carrier's suite of fares and ancillary products.

The move means agents can now use Aeronology to view and instantly ticket both NDC and GDS fares for the US carrier's network.

Agents can search, shop, book and rebook, ticket, reissue, revalidate, void and refund fares from all Aeronology partner airlines on one screen.

United Airlines is also the latest Star Alliance partner to link with Aeronology, joining Singapore Airlines, Lufthansa, Swiss, Austrian and Brussels Air.

Aeronology Founder, Russell Carstensen, said he was proud to welcome United to the family.

"In recent months, Aeronology has introduced the AeroFares

Travel Advisor booking engine to one of United Airlines' largest global high-end travel partners, Virtuoso," Carstensen said.

"Allowing Virtuoso members to use the UA NDC platform will be an incredible experience." *ML*

Vanuatu seeks help

THE Vanuatu Tourism Office is seeking to appoint a creative agency in Australia to support its local marketing activities across digital and social platforms.

A successful creative agency will represent Vanuatu on a 12-month contract between Nov 2024 and Nov 2025, and will be tasked with creating two campaigns, including digital ads, social creative, outdoor and printed materials within a \$250,000 + GST retainer (plus \$150,000 expenses, inclusive of GST).

Submissions are due by 20 Sep and can be sent **HERE**.

Silversea savings

SILVERSEA has a limited-time offer on more than 520 voyages.

Travellers can save \$5,000 per suite with door-to-door and port-to-port all-inclusive fares.

The offer will be available until 31 Oct - see **page 11** for details.

Japan flags JESTA

JAPAN has flagged the creation of a new travel electronic authorisation system which will require visitors to declare personal details prior to entry.

In line with an ambition to tighten up its security protocols and clamp down on travellers overstaying their visa conditions, Japan's upcoming JESTA system will require Aussies to apply for pre-clearance, which is likely to include a small processing fee.

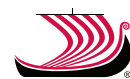
JESTA is modelled on the ESTA system, which was created by the US for counter-terrorism needs.

Japan is looking to implement the system in 2030.

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Travel Daily

Tuesday 3rd Sep 2024

QF launch to MEL-HNL in May

QANTAS will boost capacity to the United States with the launch of direct flights from Melbourne to Honolulu from May 2025.

Operating three times a week, Qantas' upcoming Melbourne to Honolulu service will deploy A330 aircraft on the route.

The announcement will see an extra 40,000 seats per year added to the popular Hawaiian market, bolstering existing Sydney to Honolulu services operated



by Qantas and Jetstar, which together fly eight times weekly.

"We are thrilled to continue to enhance our network in America with the launch of a new route from Melbourne to Honolulu, bringing a new, tropical destination to our Melbourne customers," Qantas CEO International, Cam Wallace, said.

Qantas' budget carrier Jetstar already operates Melbourne-Honolulu services twice a week, however that will cease on 30 Apr next year to make way for its full-service sister to take over.

To celebrate the news, Qantas has discounted 50,000 seats across its American network.

The seven-day 'North and South America Red Tail Sale' offers cheaper tickets on 30 routes starting from \$1,049 return for Melbourne to Honolulu in economy, as well as Sydney and Brisbane to Los Angeles (\$1,199), Sydney to Vancouver (\$1,599), Melbourne to Honolulu (\$1,049).

Discount fares apply to a range of travel periods between Oct 2024 and Jun 2025, and all include checked baggage, complimentary food and beverages, and seat selection.

Qantas Frequent Flyers will also earn Qantas Points and Status Credits on eligible flights - sale ends 11.59pm AEST 09 Sep. **AB**

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Photo: Kim Newton MTA Travel Advisor



Handwritten Bali

ACCOR Group's Handwritten Collection brand has just opened the Nusa Dua Beach Hotel & Spa in Bali.

Inspired by a grand Balinese palace, the new resort features 381 guest rooms and suites, offering breathtaking views of the ocean or tropical gardens from their terrace or balcony.

It also features three outdoor swimming pools and direct access to the beach, spa amenities, bars and restaurants and a kids' club.

The new property is located a 15-minute drive away from Ngurah Rai International Airport via the Bali Mandara toll road.

Cambodia e-arrival

CAMBODIA has introduced an e-arrival card, replacing its physical immigration, health and customs declaration forms.

This can be completed upon arrival or seven days in advance.

Single-entry 30-day visas will still be issued upon arrival at the airport for a US\$30 fee and a passport photo is required.

Passengers who embark on a Mekong cruise from Vietnam to Cambodia require the ordinary Cambodia Tourist Visa, which is US\$35 and can be applied for in advance or upon arrival.

Two passport-sized photos are required to apply.

Rail Europe



Rail Journey Inspiration by Brydie Hargadon, Globe Trotter Life

Heart of Europe

Brydie's dream journey is to travel through the heart of Europe with her husband, Paul. Her itinerary starts in fairytale-like Prague before heading to elegant Vienna, the musical city of Salzburg, vibrant Innsbruck and then down to the home of Romeo and Juliet, Verona. Florence, the birthplace of Renaissance, is next, then the Eternal City of Rome marks the end of the itinerary.

Enjoying a fine balance of the great outdoors, beautiful architecture, sumptuous cuisine and unbeatable landscape, read Brydie's full entry on [Rail Europe's FB page](#)

With access to unlimited rail travel across 33 countries across the continent, the Eurail Global Pass is unbeatable for its unparalleled flexibility, sheer convenience and cost savings.

To determine if a pass or point-to-point tickets work out better, watch this [short video](#) to learn the key determining factors. Refer to [Planning Resources](#) for booking horizons.

Where seat reservations are required (mostly on modern high-speed and international services), refer to [this page](#) for more information and instructions.

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Brand USA enjoy a Glashoff half full

EXCLUSIVE

TOURISM marketing agency Gate 7 has revealed the appointment of Jade Glashoff as its new Director of Brand USA for Australia and New Zealand.

In her new position, Glashoff (pictured) will lead the strategic promotion of the United States as a premier travel destination for travellers in Australia and New Zealand, overseeing all trade marketing, events and brand partnerships across both markets.

Reflecting on her appointment, Glashoff said she felt “incredibly energised” to be stepping in as Director of Brand USA at an exciting time of rebound for the local travel industry.

“United States offers a diverse range of experiences that resonate deeply with our travellers, and I’m excited to work with this talented team to showcase this dynamic destination through bold and



impactful marketing initiatives,” she enthused.

“With USA House returning to SXSW Sydney again this year, momentum is building already.”

Brand USA said that new local chief will infuse the team with enhanced creative and strategic direction, further strengthening the capabilities of the existing team of travel trade experts in Australia and New Zealand.

Glashoff’s career has already seen her lead successful trade campaigns for a range of blue

chip travel brands, including Melia Hotels International, Six Senses, Viceroy Hotel Group, Cathay Pacific, Carnival Corporation, & Atlantis The Royal.

Most recently, she spent more than four years with advertising agency Helpful Monsters, where she was a business director, and before that was an account director with FleishmanHillard.

Glashoff takes the helm from former Director of Brand USA for the region, Clinton White, who has made the return to consulting (**TD 18 Apr**), however he still handles ongoing projects for both Brand USA and Gate 7. **AB**

SAS reaches for Sky

SCANDINAVIAN Airlines (SAS) has officially joined SkyTeam this week, enhancing its global connectivity (**TD 10 Apr**).

SAS fliers will now gain access to SkyTeam loyalty programs.

Heritage packages

BOUTIQUE Southeast Asian expedition cruise brand, Heritage Line, has launched combined cruise and land packages around two of its flagship itineraries.

The ‘Escape to Another World’ package takes travellers from northern Thailand to Luang Prabang in Laos, with overnight stays at the Four Season Tented Camp and Rosewood Luang Prabang either side of a five-night cruise on board *MV Anouvong*.

A second itinerary in northern Vietnam includes two nights at Capella Hanoi with a two-night Halong Bay cruise on *MV Violet*.

MEANWHILE, Heritage Line has begun a transformation project to two of its ships as part of a major upgrade to the guest experience.

On the Upper Mekong River, work is being carried out to rebuild *Anouvong’s* upper deck and terrace, as well as improve the standard of guest facilities.

In Vietnam’s Ha Long Bay, work is also underway on *Violet*.

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Sri Lanka tour brand making memories

EXCLUSIVE

A NEW tour operator specialising in Sri Lanka has opened its doors this week, eager to position the diverse Indian Ocean nation as an emerging tourism hotspot.

Unforgettable Sri Lanka is a new Melbourne-based brand offering a variety of FIT and small group tours of between 2-18 people utilising local guides throughout.

The company offers regularly scheduled departures ranging from seven to 18 days, along with micro-wellness experiences at a selection of Ayurveda retreats.

Itineraries can also be extended with a side trip to the Maldives.

Tours cover the length and breadth of Sri Lanka, most starting or finishing in Colombo for ease of access to the airport, with accommodation in 4-5 star hotels and transport throughout in air-conditioned minibuses, luxury coaches and trains.

Itineraries cover different



elements of Sri Lankan culture including safari and wildlife, UNESCO sites, heritage, beaches and water sports, while others are themed to suit particular interests such as cruising, culinary or Sri Lanka's rich history with tea.

Unforgettable Sri Lanka Co-Founder and Head of Product and Operations, Jayne Mathews, told **TD** the country is an emerging hotspot waiting to be discovered.

"Australians are currently ranked number seven for visitation into Sri Lanka," Mathews said.

"It has been a real hotspot for almost two years, and it's also been named the number

one destination for solo women travellers, so we felt it was an excellent time to put a spotlight on the destination and get people to think more widely about Southeast Asia."

Travellers can visit both popular and well-known attractions such as Yala National Park through to the hidden gems such as Sigiriya, Negombo's fishing markets and Kandy's Temple of the Tooth.

In addition to FIT tours or booking guests on scheduled group departures, agents can also work with Unforgettable Sri Lanka to design a custom itinerary for specialised groups with niche interests, such as cricket tours.

"We haven't set a sport tour up yet, but that will be coming," Mathews teased.

The company has also set up an online portal for travel agents - **CLICK HERE** - along with a phone line - 1300 252 652 - for queries, support or to make bookings. *ML*

A Force for Good tickets

TICKETS are selling out quickly to 'A Force For Good', with earlybird pricing for 2025 now available for a limited time.

The highly popular motivation seminar returns to Sydney on 07 Mar 2025 and Auckland on 14 Mar, with both events set to feature a line-up of major international names from the world of travel and tourism.

Among the speaker line-up taking to the stage in Sydney will be Wendy Wu, matriarch of eponymous all-inclusive touring brand, Wendy Wu Tours.

Intrepid Travel co-founder, Geoff Manchester will also address delegates, along with Flight Centre Travel Group Global Leisure CEO, James Kavanagh.

Both events will also feature a networking after-party.

Travel Daily is once again proud to be the official media partner for 'A Force For Good' in 2025.

CLICK HERE to buy tickets for Sydney, and **HERE** for Auckland.

En gladlaks.

'A happy salmon.'

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CX back on its feet

CATHAY Pacific has agreed to buy back all of the warrants it had issued to the Hong Kong Government, in light of the carrier's strong financial results for the first half of 2024.

The warrants were issued to the HKSAR Government as part of Cathay's HK\$39 billion (A\$7.4 billion) recapitalisation in 2020, which ensured the carrier could continue operating during the global pandemic.

"Our strong financial results for the first half of 2024 give us the confidence to buy back the warrants," CEO Ronald Lam said.

"As we close this chapter in our history, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Hong Kong SAR Government and to all our shareholders for their invaluable support."

The terms of the buyback were agreed upon following negotiations, and according to Cathay, are considered to be fair and reasonable for the company and its shareholders as a whole.

Fayan joins the tribe

BENCH Africa has expanded its team to meet demand, hiring Alex Fayan as its new Business Development Manager for NSW.

The company's new rep will be tasked with expanding Bench's face-to-face training for new agents and developing opportunities for cooperative sales and marketing activity.

Fayan brings nearly 15 years in the travel sector to her new role.

Aussie agents belong with G



TRAVEL agents from Australia and New Zealand had their *Wildest Dreams* come true when they were whisked away by G Adventures on a trip to London, where they witnessed global pop sensation Taylor Swift on her sold-out, 'The Eras Tour'.

The lucky winners, including agents from Flight Centre, ITA Network and Eclipse Travel, were among 75 top sellers from around the world who earned a spot on G Adventures' 'You Belong With G' experience, which takes place in three different cities this year.

The adventure operator's Global Purpose Specialist, Kate Hudson, who hosted the agents in London, said it was an incredible

experience to reward the company's top-selling and most deserving travel agents from Australia and New Zealand.

"After three days exploring London we joined 92 thousand other Swifties for a night to remember," she enthused.

"We're all about community here at G Adventures, and this sense of belonging was brought to life for each one of us through this shared experience."

Sean Martin, Managing Director for Australia and New Zealand at G Adventures, added, "we are incredibly proud of the winning agents and their dedication to sharing our vision of changing lives through travel". JM

WSI goes shopping

TENDER documents for a duty-free retail partner have now been issued by Western Sydney International Airport as the new gateway builds what it says will be a "world-class shopping precinct".

The airport will have around 7,000m² of retail space, including more than 40 stores and 2,200m² of duty-free space within the international side of the terminal.

Over the next 12 months, tenders will also be issued for foreign exchange, travel essentials, food, beverage and vending and general retail.

Western Sydney International General Manager of Retail, Glyn Williams, said the new tender is an opportunity for a duty-free retailer to create a spectacular shopping destination that will put Western Sydney on the map, with a particular focus on premium retailing experiences.

Tropicana end date

DEMOLITION of Las Vegas' fabled Tropicana Hotel and Casino will take place on 09 Oct.

Hotel owner Bally's is planning a final celebration and fireworks show to mark the send-off for a casino which has been a mainstay of the 'Strip' since 1957 and was once owned by entertainer and Rat Pack member Sammy Davis Jr.

The demolition of the Tropicana is taking place to clear room for a new baseball stadium which will host the relocating Oakland Athletics, with construction due to start in Apr next year.

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Banff Gondola, Canada © PURSUIT

Fiji © Vomo Island Fiji

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A try-mendous meeting



SHOW 7 events founder Patrick Benhamou and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese recently discussed the importance of sports tourism in generating inbound destination interest.

Benhamou and Albanese tossed the ball together at the recent Cauliflower Club annual charity dinner, which raises funds for injured rugby players.

The PM and the former Atout France “halfback” also discussed the importance of sports in generating strong domestic visitor revenue, following the successful Rugby World Cup in France last year, and the recent Olympics in Paris - with the event set to land in Brisbane in 2032. **MS**

Using your HeadBox

HEADBOX 3D Studio, an AI-powered travel sales tool, has launched in Australia, claiming to “revolutionise” how travellers plan and book trips.

The software allows hotels and cruise lines to organise virtual visits for tourists through 3D tours embedded with AI-generated narrator videos.

Suppliers will be able to use HeadBox to create bespoke, engaging, shareable, sustainable and immersive guided walk-throughs for guests.

They will also have the opportunity to tailor tours to each guest’s needs - **CLICK HERE**.

ATIA UPDATE

from Richard Taylor, Director of Membership Experience



WE’RE now a matter of weeks away from an epic industry weekend that sees the National Travel Industry Awards on 26

Oct, preceded by our industry summit Beyond Borders on the prior day.

With all due respect to the awards, which will merit plenty of their own coverage, I’d like to inform you about the Beyond Borders event.

In the new event’s one-day format we’ll cover all segments of the industry from a macro to micro level.

The ATIA board will be speaking and answering your questions as they reveal some of the projects that will shape the industry for years to come, and this is quite deliberately followed by a discussion with smaller business owners about their hopes and dreams for the coming years.

I’ve got to thank Lyndall Collins of itravel, Justine Waddington of Encounter Travel and Sonia Jones of Sonia Jones Travel for agreeing to represent independent agencies, smaller

tour operators and mobile advisors on this stage.

The diversity continues throughout the day, covering touring, air, agency, cruise, corporate and more, with a particular focus on destinations.

We’re also making special arrangements to celebrate this year’s NTIA finalists - so there’s a lot to organise.

It’s true the industry isn’t lacking for events these days and we’ve seen them return with gusto this year, but Beyond Borders will be different in that it will feature leaders from across the travel spectrum, beyond day-to-day commercial relationships.

It will provide anyone, from tourism student to a Chief Executive Officer, the opportunity to hear from many of the most respected people our industry can offer, along with unmatched networking across the entire sector.

All this combines to make the weekend a truly special one.

We hope you’ll be able to join us to learn about the future on Fri before tipping our hat to everything that’s gone into the last 12 months across this industry at the NTIAs on Sat.

Tickets and information for Beyond Borders can be found by clicking **HERE**.

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Accor sign renewals

RENEWED management deals are now in place at more than 40 of Accor's hotels in Australia, representing more than 5,500 rooms across the country.

Properties re-signed to new management terms include Novotel Sydney Parramatta and Mercure Sydney Parramatta, the latter being rebranded as Novotel Rosehill following refurbishment.

Sofitel Noosa Pacific Resort has also re-signed, and will soon undertake a major renovation.

A Platinum party in Tassie



PLATINUM Travel Group has been in the business for 15 years, and to celebrate, it brought the team together from across Australia and Fiji for a three-day event in Tasmania last weekend.

The group participated in a mix of celebrations, team-building activities and unique dining experiences in Hobart, where they stayed at the Movenpick Hotel.

Highlights included an Amazing Race through the Salamanca markets and streets of Hobart, a visit to the renowned MONA gallery and exclusive dining at The Rooftop at the Telegraph Hotel and The Old Wharf Restaurant.

"It was a truly remarkable weekend that showcased the incredible skills, strength and dedication of our team," said CEO Andy Buerckner.

"I'm incredibly proud of how we've come together and upheld the high standards that define us."

The event was made possible with the help of Platinum Travel Group's partners, including Qantas, AirPlus International, United Airlines, RoomRes, Kudos,

Amadeus and Hobart Airport.

Looking to the future, Platinum is preparing to enter a new phase of corporate travel and events, with the goal of redefining how businesses travel and connect. *JM*

NT is ready to reel

REGISTRATIONS are now open for the Northern Territory's Million Dollar Fish (MDF) competition, which has been reeling in keen anglers from across Australia and the world for 10 years.

The new season kicks off on 01 Oct, giving hopefuls a month to register and plan their fishing trips before they attempt to catch one of many \$10,000 red-tagged barra released across the five main fishing regions - Tiwi Islands, Darwin, Katherine, Kakadu, and Arnhem Land.

Delivered by Northern Territory Major Events Company, MDF has enjoyed YOY rises in participation.

Last year's season attracted a record 61,601 registrants, with more than 9,600 anglers coming from interstate and overseas.

Brazil's first Tribute

MARRIOTT International has inked an agreement with the Fametro Group to convert an iconic property in the capital city of the Amazonas into a Tribute Portfolio Hotel.

The property, which will retain elements of its original architecture, will offer an array of amenities, such as a large wave pool, gym, spa, sports courts, meeting rooms and kids' space, as well as various dining options.

It is anticipated the first Tribute Portfolio Hotel in Brazil will commence a phased reopening at the end of 2024.



Pictured: Tribute Hotel in Kochi, India.

Spicejet on notice

INDIA's aviation watchdog has placed low-cost carrier SpiceJet under enhanced surveillance after investigations identified safety deficiencies.

The country's Directorate General of Civil Aviation conducted a special audit of the airline after a raft of flight cancellations, and following the check, said that increased spot checks and night surveillance was needed to ensure pax safety.

While the Indian aviation body did not specify the precise issues found, SpiceJet is no stranger to safety breaches, having been ordered to reduce capacity by 50% in 2023 as a safety review of its fleet was conducted.

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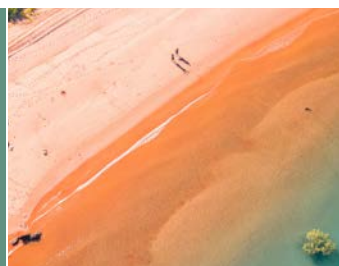
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JNTO Japan Roadshow a success

THE Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) recently held a series of sold-out roadshows across Sydney, Brisbane and Auckland that attracted around 300 attendees and featured 40 leading Japanese suppliers. Event organisers, Linkd Tourism, successfully orchestrated both evenings with entertainment including a karate demonstration, and prizes including flights, accommodation, traditional crafts, and Japanese spirits. The enthusiasm for learning about Japanese culture and experiences was high.

Please join JNTO for an informative webinar in Nov. **CLICK HERE** to register now.



MILLIE Browne, Linkd Tourism; Naoki Tokutsu, JNTO; Nobuyuki Mori, JNTO; Naoki Kitazawa, JNTO; Harriett Bougher, JNTO; Yuta Shimada, JNTO; and Lawson Dibb, Linkd Tourism.



ATTENDEES pack the Pullman King George Square in Brisbane.



THE Deputy Consul-General of Japan in Sydney.



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YUTA Shimada and Harriett Bougher at the JNTO Booth.



THE karate demonstration was held across all cities.



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PRESENTATIONS by JNTO and the Consul General.



AGENTS mingle with suppliers at the Sydney event.



Air taxi support

QUEENSLAND multi-millionaire and Chairman of Wagner Corporation, John Wagner, has signed a new agreement to help develop air taxi infrastructure in the state's south-east.

The businessman, who helped build Australia's first privately funded airport at Wellcamp, inked a deal with British company Skyports in Aug to assess the potential for air taxi ports at sites around Brisbane and the wider Queensland area.

"It's the same model as Uber, where you turn up at a vertiport, you get on an uncrewed electric helicopter and pay 50 bucks and go where you want to go," Wagner told the ABC.

"The whole shifting people around efficiently and carbon-free - that's what we need to do," he said.

Wagner said he is hoping to work with the Queensland and Federal Government to get the advanced technology up and running ahead of the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

"These companies need places to operate to and from...[it] would be our intention to build a vertiport and operate them and lease them to these companies that need to use them.

"It's no different to the airport or our wharf."

INSIDE TRAVEL MAKES BIGGEST IMPACT YET

INSIDE Travel Group's first year as a Certified B Corp has marked its most successful year yet, with the global tour operator now releasing its *2023 Impact Report*.

The company behind cultural adventure brands InsideJapan and InsideAsia achieved the certification in mid-2023 following an intense two-year process (**TD** 26 May 2023).

Inside Travel Group Co-founder Alastair Donnelly said that operating as a Certified B Corp has not only benefited the bottom line, but has also been positive for recruitment and workplace culture.

In 2023, sister brands InsideJapan and InsideAsia recorded their highest-ever revenue of over \$99 million, while the company's Giving Back



commitment resulted in more than \$249,000 being committed to its charity partners.

Additionally, Inside Travel Group offset 100% of its carbon footprint through projects like wind turbines in India and forest conservation in Borneo, through its 'Every Trip Offset' initiative.

"We have implemented several initiatives across the business that demonstrate our commitment

to propelling environmental and social responsibility, and we're encouraging other operators to do the same," Global Head of Sustainability Sophie Walker said.

Looking ahead, Inside Travel aims to increase its sustainability team from two to three members and publish an overtourism strategy in 2025, as well as work towards recertifying as a B Corp with an improved score. *JM*

Accor marks huge eco achievement

ACCOR has celebrated its 100th hotel in Australia to achieve Sustainable Tourism Certification by Ecotourism Australia, with Novotel Sydney City Centre (**pictured**) being the latest to earn the green tick.

The milestone brings Accor closer to its goal of having 100% of its network across the Pacific region achieve Sustainable Tourism Certification by the end of 2025.

Accor Pacific Chief Operating Officer PM&E, Adrian



Williams, said the achievement "underscores our commitment to sustainability and responsible tourism" and "aligns perfectly with the expectations of today's travellers and our corporate clients, who increasingly seek responsible options".

KE starts on SAF

KOREAN Air has begun operating commercial flights partially powered by sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) produced in Korea.

As of last Fri and until Jul 2025, the airline is utilising a 1% SAF blend for flight KE719 from Seoul Incheon to Tokyo Narita, once a week.

The milestone marks a starting point for Korean Air's domestic SAF program, with plans to gradually expand SAF usage to longer haul routes.



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

AU\$1 = US\$0.679

THE spring season is already spelling sunnier days for the Australian dollar, which is back near the highest level for 2024.

The AUD/USD gained 0.4% as it returned to levels close to the year-to-date highs, with the Aussie also climbing in most other markets, boosted by growth from the Chinese manufacturing sector.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.679
UK	£0.517
NZ	\$1.090
Euro	€0.613
Japan	¥99.71
Thailand	฿23.20
China	¥4.830
South Africa	12.11
Canada	\$0.916
Crude oil	US\$75.43

Meet West Beach Parks

TWO South Australian tourism brands, West Beach Parks and Discovery Parks, have teamed up to boost visitation to the state's largest holiday park.

From 01 Dec, the West Beach Parks Holiday Park will be known as Discovery Parks - West Beach Parks, and will be bookable via the Discovery Parks and G'day Parks booking platforms.

The beachfront holiday park, located 9km from Adelaide CBD, will gain access to the more than 750,000 Australians who book with Discovery Parks and G'day Parks each year.

The deal includes naming rights, and complementary sales and marketing, while the management and operation of the park remains in the hands of West Beach Parks.



Situated close to leisure and sport attractions, the property can accommodate up to 3,000 guests across 338 caravan and tent sites, 132 self-catering cabins, six 'glamping' eco tents, and a luxury beach house.

Visitors can access a range of on-site facilities, including a heated lagoon-style swimming pool, new \$1.8 million Central Park play space, an outdoor movie area with big screen, games room, and more. *JM*

Window Seat

WHILE most travellers seem to have no trouble picking out appropriate attire for their plane journey, one American man managed to offend his fellow passengers on a recent Delta Airlines flight with his choice of shirt.

The traveller thought it was a wise idea to wear a t-shirt featuring an image of Trump wearing American-flag sunglasses and flipping the bird with both hands, along with a raunchy reference to the 'hawk tuah' girl video.

Another passenger recorded the moment in Florida when the man was escorted off the plane before take-off, and he did not go quietly.

"I'm getting kicked off because of my shirt," he declared angrily to the other passengers as he walked down the aisle with his suitcase, as well as calling the stewardess a "stupid a**".

According to the pax who posted the video on Reddit, the stewardess had first approached the man to tell him someone had complained about his shirt, and gave him the chance to change his attire.

While the man did initially his shirt inside out, he flipped his shirt back to the decal side right before takeoff.

The vast majority of comments on the Reddit post were in support of Delta's decision to remove the man from the flight.

THEY CAN'T SELL IT IF THEY DON'T KNOW IT!

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Venice sleeper train

EUROPEAN Sleeper will extend its service beyond its initially flagged route of Brussels to Berlin and now continue on to Venice.

European Sleeper joined the Eurail network last year (*TD* 13 Jun 2023) and from Feb will operate twice-weekly night journeys from the Belgian capital to the lagoon city, stopping in the Netherlands, Germany & Austria.

The 21-hour service will also be timed to connect with the Eurostar from London, with bookings for the new overnight adventure opening this Sun.

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