Travel Daily First with the news

ANTARCTICA 2026

ULTRA-LUXURY EXPEDITIONS FEATURING SOUTH AMERICA

FLY BUSINESS CLASS

FOR FREE

in selected suites*

DISCOVER MORE

*Conditions apply

Image credit: Seabourn

Monday 9th Sep 2024

24x7 Online Ticket Issuance & Reissuance CONSOLIDATION SERVICES **Local Ticket Centre Support Robotic Ticketing NDC Ticketing Solution Payment Solutions via CVFR Payments** 1300 244 777 ENQUIRE NOW

SA tourism key to economy

EXCLUSIVE

SOUTH Australia's Minister for Tourism Zoe Bettison's number one aspiration is for the tourism industry to be taken seriously as a key economic driver for the state.

Bettinson, speaking exclusively to TD on Fri, said South Australia has been considering "our proposition to the world", as competitor markets latch onto strong brand marketing campaigns to draw in visitors.

"We've been doing a bit of work around play...when you think about New Zealand, '100% Pure New Zealand', and Tasmania 'Come Down For Air', I think they've really captured their positions," Bettison said.

SA's desire to solidify its position saw Bettison headhunt Tourism Tasmania's former CMO Emma Terry, and appoint her as the state's destination marketing supremo almost two years ago (TD 28 Oct 2022).

Key to the state's raft of tourism investment, Bettison said, will be the need to link the state's visitor economy behind this united goal.

"You bring people with you..at the end of the day, we have big

companies involved in tourism, but a lot of our operators are family businesses, and so we need to be all pulling in one direction," she added.

"They also need to know that the government is backing them up, and that's been my role, whether it's just being enthusiastic, but also the \$40 million we added when we came into government for tourism, to show those operators we want certainty in our industry."

While SA has faced five years of uncertainty, it's important those operators know that the govt supports them, said Bettison.

SA is also working on its hard product, such as restoring and improving its aviation network following the pandemic.

Bettison said this is her "first focus", with the Govt of SA currently in "deep negotiations" with China Southern Airlines. MS

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news, a product feature from Unforgettable **Sri Lanka,** and a full page from **Explore Worldwide.**











CVFR PAYMENTS

TAKE ANYWHERE EFTPOS TERMINALS
No WiFi required. Wireless SIM provided

SAME DAY SETTLEMENT

Same day for Visa, MasterCard AND American Express

3D SECURE PAYLINK

3D Secure Payment links provided for online customer payments www.cvfrpayments.com | enquiries@cvfrpayments.com



FOR YOUR BUSINESS



Explore earlybirds

SAVINGS of 15% twin share on more than 2,000 itineraries across Europe and Turkiye are on the table now for travellers planning their adventures for 2025.

Explore Worldwide's earlybird sale runs to 26 Sep and is valid on all 2025 departures - see page 6.



Lay-by slices into market

EXCLUSIVE

EXPRESS Travel Group (ETG) agents can now offer their clients tailored payment plans for their flights, with the group signing travel lay-by specialist Slice Pay as its newest preferred partner.

Led in this market by former ETG Regional Sales Manager Vic/ NSW/Tas, Michael Krywyn, Slice Pay allows agents to finalise and ticket PNRs up to a maximum of \$20,000 per person.

After paying a nominated deposit of between 10-40%, clients then pay off the remainder between two and 26 weeks, provided the account is finalised 7-10 days prior to departure.

In the interim, Slice Pay tickets flights in advance before recouping the money via weekly or fortnightly instalments, with no interest or late fees.

Repayments and plans may change however if the customer changes their travel plans and needs to reissue their flights, with airline and agent fees along with fare differences are recalculated.

Travellers also do not need to clear any credit checks in order to use Slice Pay's services.

Krywyn said Slice Pay may incentivise travellers to treat themselves and upgrade to a more premium cabin knowing they can pay off their booking.

"Once we bed down the new relationship with ETG, we're aiming to expand our offer to other brands and throughout the industry," Krywyn told **TD**.

Slice Pay charges a lay-by fee commensurate to the booking value, with agents able to modify their own commission levels to ensure customers remain happy with their repayment amounts.

MEANWHILE, Slice Pay told *TD* that while services are currently available for flights only, it is in talks to expand its product offering to other travel styles such as accommodation, cruise, rail and group touring. *ML*





CAIRNS

Today's issue of TD is coming to you courtesy of Tourism Australia which is hosting its annual Australia Next event.

TODAY we are on location to cover Tourism Australia's signature incentive showcase, Australia Next.

The annual gathering provides the local business events industry the opportunity to connect with incentive agents from around the world.

Presented in partnership with Business Events Cairns, the schedule over the coming days includes a range of networking sessions, presentations, sponsored dining events, a boat ride to Moore Reef, and more.

Stay tuned for updates in *TD* throughout the week.

Dream of Sri Lanka

TAILORED PAYMENT SOLUTIONS

AUSTRALIANS are broadening their horizons, with Sri Lanka's culture, natural beauty and vibrant F&B scene emerging as a new object of their travel affections.

Find out about Unforgettable Sri Lanka via a special product page on **page seven** of today's **TD**.





SAVE \$3,200 PER COUPLE

CHINA EXPLORER - 15 DAYS GO BEYOND TOUR





Travel Daily



SHANGHAI

Today's issue of TD is coming to you courtesy of Viking Cruises, operating its inaugural China Discovery voyage aboard the Viking Yi Dun.

AFTER arriving in Shanghai over the weekend, today we board the Viking Yi Dun for our intriguing Chinese adventure.

Formerly known as Viking Sun, the 930-passenger ship is now operating in China full time, with the new China Discovery itineraries taking a host of intriguing coastal ports over a 10-day cruise to Hong Kong.

The trip starts with an immersive two-night stay in Shanghai, where guests will explore the fascinating history and culture of this ancient yet ultra-modern destination.

With the new itineraries, the Viking Yi Dun is the first ship to operate domestic sailings in China for international travellers, and as well as the cruise destinations Viking is offering a host of land extensions taking in iconic landmarks such as the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Terra Cotta Warriors and more.

Further afield guests can even visit Mongolia as a pre- or postcruise add-on.

Follow our on-location adventures aboard the Viking Yi Dun this week in TD and CW.

Britain banking on billions



AUSTRALIANS are some of the most coveted tourists in the world, VisitBritain believes, and the country makes no secret of its desire for many more of them.

A veritable 'Barmy Army' of tourism, made up of 36 suppliers and destinations from across the Kingdom, is in Australia this week for VisitBritain's first trade mission to this market since 2016.

By his own words, VisitBritain Chairman Nick Du Bois will never tire of expressing his love for the numbers Australia is providing as the fourth-largest inbound source market for the United Kingdom.

"The reality is the UK is the top destination for Australians when they come to Europe.

"More than 1.2 million visitors from Australia in 2023, spending £1.6 billion for the British economy and vitally spreading that money right across the regions and nations of the United Kingdom, as only Australians do."

The forecast for 2024 is even more promising, Du Bois added, with 1.7 million Aussies expected to touch down in the UK this year, and a goal of hitting £2 billion in annual spend from this market in the next few years is within reach.

MEANWHILE, Du Bois minced no words in expressing his fondness and admiration for the work done by travel agents in promoting and selling Great Britain to their clients.

"We know that working with the travel trade in Australia is more important than in any other country," Du Bois professed.

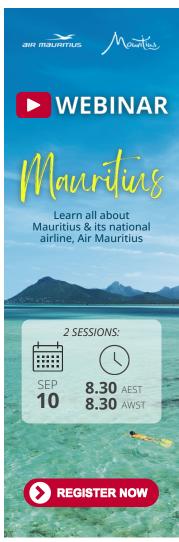
"We know the role of the travel trade and travel agents is crucial when people come to making decisions about where and why they want to go on holiday.

"Our job is to help you help us, and we all win and the British economy wins." ML

Cebu turns 10 in Oz

CELEBRATING 10 years of flying to Australia, Cebu Pacific has launched a new sale offering Aussie travellers fares from \$199 one-way to Manila.

The deals are part of the airline's September Seat Sale -**CLICK HERE** for details.





CONTACT US ABOUT OUR FIJI HOLIDAY OPTIONS FROM CANADA





SHARPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON **TAIWAN** & **EVA AIR**

> Travel Daily Training Academy



Window Seat

THE United Kingdom has an excellent salesman in the highly charismatic VisitBritain Chairman, Nick Du Bois.

In his opening remarks to 36 British suppliers attending the organisation's first trade mission to this market since 2016, Du Bois revved up the room and sent his best wishes for a productive week.

"I hope you are ready to do business," Du Bois said.

"I hope you are ready to really sell Britain...just make sure you get a good price for her when you do," he quipped.

Expeditions on tour

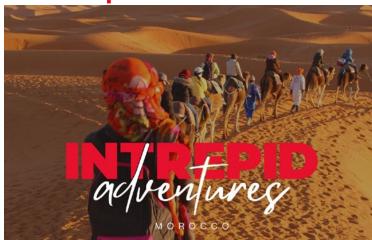
QUARK Expeditions and Heritage Expeditions have teamed up for a joint regional roadshow which will visit six cities from next month.

Agents are invited to attend and to bring interested clients to learn more about the experience at hand and secure some exclusive deals available at each event.

The joint roadshow will kick off from 01 Oct in Geelong before moving to Mornington (02 Oct), Gold Coast (03 Oct), Newcastle (08 Oct), Canberra (10 Oct) and the Sunshine Coast (14 Nov).

Attendees will also have a chance to win one of four spots on a 2025 expedition - for more info and to register, **CLICK HERE**.

Intrepid on the tellie



INTREPID Travel has launched a six-part travel series on Network Ten called *Intrepid Adventures*, which premiered its first episode last night.

In partnership with creative production house Sloane Media and the Moroccan National Tourist Office, the operator's new TV spot seeks to shed more light on the local communities who power travel on the ground.

The first episode featured Morocco's red city of Marrakech, taking viewers from the souks to the Atlas Mountains.

Yvette Thompson, Intrepid's General Manager ANZ, said the appeal of the show will be its ability to show how the heart and soul of travel experiences are brought to life by the locals who live that life every day.

"Morocco is truly a special place, since the pandemic we've seen a big spike in bookings, and it's now one of our topselling destinations worldwide," Thompson revealed.

"Today's travellers, including myself, are craving those authentic, community-focused experiences, and this series captures that beautifully."

The series will air for six weeks every Sun at 9.30am. AB

Pandaw's new ship

PANDAW Cruises has announced a new ship for the Kerala backwaters in South India, set to launch in Oct 2025.

The 10-cabin Kochi Pandaw marks the line's fourth ship in India, reflecting rising demand for river cruises in the region.

The newbuild will operate weekly an eight-day circular itinerary from Kochi port visiting the main towns and more remote areas of the region, visiting ancient churches, Hindu temples, artisan villages, and beaches.

Canada grounded

TRAVELLING around Canada by air may be about to get harder with Air Canada's pilots voting in favour of a strike over pay conditions, which could happen as early as 18 Sep.

Discussions between the carrier and its pilots are still ongoing, with reports Air Canada's captains are getting remunerated about half of what competitor airlines are offering.

The Financial Post is reporting that pilots have already been offered a 30% pay increase over the next three years, but it is unclear at this stage whether that will be enough to prevent pilots walking off the job later this month.

The prospect of flight groundings could not come at a worse time for Canada, which has already lost two budget carriers in less than 12 months (*TD* 20 Aug).

QR wants you to star

QATAR Airways has launched a new interactive, Al-driven campaign that seeks to put the humble traveller in the starring role of an immersive experience.

Using advanced AI capabilities, travellers can place themselves within the marketing film, with the user's appearance accurately recreated through the adoption of facial features and skin tone.

Qatar Airways said the innovative AI initiative is testament to its ethos of always putting the customer first.

CLICK HERE to learn more.



Embark on a remarkable Italian journey in utmost style as you traverse from the enchanting canals of Venice to the ancient marvels of Rome. Along the way, immerse yourself in the cultural treasures of Bologna, Florence, and Siena.

BOOK BY 30 SEPT 2024









SMALL GROUP





ENGLISH-ONLY EXPERT GUIDES









BROCHURES

THIS week's Brochures of the Week is brought to you by DriveAway.





DriveAway - USA Road Trip Planner

Planning a road trip in the USA has just become easier, thanks to DriveAway's new guide. Filled with expert tips and personalised suggestions, DriveAway's USA Road Trip Planner highlights the myriad of possibilities when it comes to exploring America by car or caravan, from its iconic landmarks and bustling cities, to historic sites and breathtaking national parks. The 27-page online brochure features plenty of exciting self-drive

itineraries, including the ultimate Route 66 road trip; a California coastal cruise; a journey through the south from Texas to Orlando; and an 'Aloha adventure' from Honolulu to Haleiwa. Readers will find accommodation recommendations, as well as suggestions on things to do and see.



Constellation Journeys - The Balkans & Transylvania Constellation Journeys has launched a new private rail journey, 'The Balkans & Transylvania by Private Train'. The new itinerary will travel across 18 days in Sep 2025, and follows the success of Constellation's 'Central Europe by Private Train' journey. Passengers will voyage from Budapest to Istanbul with all daytime travel and overnight hotel stays. Guests enjoy spacious, air-conditioned carriages with panoramic windows and fine dining

in old world dining cars, while a bar and lounge car with resident pianist completes the train.



Adventure Wild - All Inclusive Kimberley Tour Discover the unique diversity of the Kimberley region in an extraordinary guided adventure with Adventure Wild. The company offers small group, all-inclusive, boutique-style journeys in safety and comfort through one of the most spectacular, rugged landscapes in the world. Travellers can discover ancient Aboriginal rock art, World Heritage-listed national parks, impressive natural gorges, and swim in crystal clear pools beneath

stunning waterfalls. Adventure Wild departures travel with a maximum of 16 guests and two guides on every tour.



Stay Updated

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







Kerry headlines WTTC

THE 68th United States Secretary of State John Kerry has been revealed as the headline speaker for the WTTC conference in Western Australia next month.

"Securing John Kerry for this world-renowned conference is a huge coup for Western Australia, and we're really excited to see the incredible insight and experience he will share with the hundreds of business and tourism leaders who attend," WA Tourism Minister, Rita Saffioti, said.

Kerry served as US Secretary of State from 2013-2017 in the Obama administration and was also the inaugural Special Presidential Envoy for Climate under President Joe Biden.

He will join other speakers at the two-day summit at Crown Perth from 08-10 Oct, including TV personality Robert Irwin as well as leaders from Tripadvisor, American Express, and Intrepid.



Railbooker Olympics

RAILBOOKERS has unveiled four new itineraries exploring the history of the Olympic Games across Europe.

Among the new offerings is the 13-day 'A Timeless Olympic Odyssey', which encompasses Paris, Switzerland, St Moritz, Rome, and Greece.

Adventure Canada

ADVENTURE World is inviting Aussies to give back to the destinations they explore as part of its new Canada campaign, which highlights meaningful experiences that can be added to Canadian adventures, such wildlife conservation projects.

The marketing push will appear across various print and digital channels, including a partnership with Australian Geographic, showcasing Canada's beauty in all four seasons.

Jasper returns

THE township of Jasper in Alberta, Canada finally reopened on Fri following the devastating impacts of bushfires wildfires.

Restrictions on visitors have been formally lifted by the Municipality of Jasper, with tour operators and wholesalers encouraged to contact their regular supplier/operator for room bookings.

Bookings for travel between Nov and Apr will be a major focus for the region, with tourism viewed as a key driver of its economic and social recovery.

In more good news, Via Rail is aiming for its schedule to resume from 15 Sep departure dates from Toronto arriving in Jasper on 18 Sep, as well as a 16 Sep services from Vancouver arriving in Jasper on 17 Sep.

These services still need to be cleared for approval.

The current 'State of Emergency' does remain in place as certain areas do have restricted access for a number of reasons, and the iconic Jasper Park Lodge however remains closed until at least 30 Sep.

Travel Daily www.traveldaily.com.au

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



Pharmacy

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.



Europe 2025 Early Bird Sale

Small group adventures

Don't just travel, Explore!

SAVE 15%*

on 2000+ departures in 2025. Sale runs 5-26 September 2024

*Save 15% applies to all new bookings made between 5 Sep 2024 and 26 Sep 2024 and is valid on all available small group trips across Europe and Turkey departing during 2025. Offer excludes Exclusive & Private Groups and Polar cruises. Discount applies to the twin-share land only cost and excludes extras such as single room options and pre- or post-tour accommodation. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with Explore Loyalty Discounts or any other discounts. Offer subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time. For full T&Cs see the website



"Unforgettable Sri Lanka" your dream holiday awaits.

Sri Lanka is back on the list as one of the favourite leisure destinations for Australians, offering unique experiences for every traveller's palate. By providing the best travel experience in a responsible manner, our brand "Unforgettable Sri Lanka" aims to spark a sense of wonder, nurture connections, and create lasting memories.

With a relentless dedication to excellence and a deep-rooted passion for travel, our brand "Unforgettable Sri Lanka" stands as a beacon of innovation in the realm of bespoke travel experiences. It is more than just a profession;

it is a heartfelt commitment to highlighting the unparalleled beauty and rich culture of the country. It is our passion to illuminate Sri Lanka's wonders, to offer leisure travellers an experience unlike any other - not just as experts, but as passionate advocates as well.

With a focus on authenticity and sustainability, "Unforgettable Sri Lanka" offer curated experiences that highlight the best of Sri Lanka. The variety of tour components and themes we offer caters to every traveller's passion and curiosity,

from cultural odysseys and wildlife safaris that bring you close to nature's wonders, to culinary adventures that showcase the diversity of cuisines and explore off the beaten track.

Have a chat with us on 1300 2 LANKA

We're ready to make your next holiday to Sri Lanka a tailor-made experiance.

Phone: 1300 252 652

Web: www.unforgettablesrilanka.com.au Email: info@unforgettablesrilanka.com.au







