

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest travel industry news, including a special product page from **Norwegian Cruise Line**, plus full pages from:

- Air Mauritius
- ATIA Beyond Borders

SAA boosts flights

SOUTH African Airways (SAA) will increase frequencies on its nonstop flights between Perth and Johannesburg from Dec.

Less than five months after reintroducing the route (**TD 29** Apr), SAA will boost flights to four times a week from 08 Dec following strong demand, and from 07 Jan, that will rise again to five times weekly.

Travellers departing from the east coast can connect to Perth departures via services offered through SAA's codeshare partnerships with Virgin Australia and Qantas.

NSW visitors need more

AN IMPENDING review of the NSW visitor economy states tourists are after more than a selfie at the Opera House, outlining a need for a stronger focus on experience-led tourism.

International visitors are seeking experiences that feature natural environments (31%), food and beverage (27%), and culturally significant sites (19%).

Interstate tourists have a slightly different focus, with 30% wanting road trips, 31% looking for history and heritage, and 40% searching for coastal experiences.

The review heard from over 600 visitor economy stakeholders, listing several recommendations

NCL Euro in focus

LEARN more about Norwegian Cruise Line's (NCL) newly released 2026 Europe season, which is now open for sale.

See **page eight** for details.

for the NSW Government to examine, including a desire for Destination NSW to promote more regional drive itineraries.

Significant opportunities to create more experience trails for foodies and cyclists were also identified, as well as more marketing activity promoting NSW's 'early morning' culture, and multicultural precincts around Western Sydney.

Further advice is due in the coming weeks, ahead of the new Visitor Economy Strategy 2035. **AB**

Qantas AFL flights

TO ASSIST travellers based in Brisbane to get to the AFL grand final next weekend in Melbourne, Qantas has added five flights between the two cities.

The decision follows 10 flights added by Qantas and Jetstar to help Sydney Swans fans get to Melbourne for the grand final.

Discover Mauritius

THE time is now to understand the life, pulse and energy of the Indian Ocean tropical destination of Mauritius.

See **page six** for information.

TAF's big incentive

TRAVEL Agent Finder (TAF) will reward the 2,000th travel agent to be reviewed on its site with a prize that is yet to be revealed.

TAF founder Anna Shannon is reminding all agents listed on the platform to encourage their clients to submit a review to have a chance of snaffling the reward.

"If you are an agent wanting to grow and attract new clients, it's the easiest strategy to market your expertise, and it doesn't cost you a cent," Shannon enthused.

Agents can log into their TAF account to find and share their unique review link, making it easy for agent members to build a consistent flow of reviews on their profile page - visit **HERE**.

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See website for T&Cs

Gavin Tollman to depart

THE time left for Gavin Tollman at The Travel Corporation (TTC) is officially limited, with Melissa DaSilva's appointment as interim CEO of TTC Tour Brands (**TD** breaking news Fri) to precipitate his exit by the end of the year.

The TTC business made headlines when it was sold to private equity company Apollo in Jul for an undisclosed sum after more than a century of ownership by the Tollman family (**TD** 17 Jul).

DaSilva's appointment marks a major milestone in the transition phase, with Gavin Tollman - who has managed the Tour Brands division since its inception - to remain on board until 2025 to assist with the handover.

In her interim position, DaSilva will oversee TTC Tour Brands' global portfolio of six brands, including the three Aussie travellers are very familiar with: escorted tour brand Trafalgar, premium guided holiday offering



Insight Vacations, as well as youth travel specialist, Contiki.

DaSilva most recently served as President of TTC Tour Brands for North America, and brings a deep understanding of TTC & 30 years of travel industry experience.

"The opportunities ahead for the brands and the talented teams behind them are immense," DaSilva said.

"Together, we will ensure a seamless transition and set a strong foundation for continued success," she added. **AB**

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MORE INFO

LTC team growth continues



NADIYA Massingham has joined The Luxury Travel Collection (LTC) team as its newest Luxury Product Designer.

The Qld-based professional (**pictured**) brings 14 years of industry experience, including stints at Tripadeal and LTC's parent Flight Centre Travel Group.

"Her innovative vision will play a key role in elevating our offerings, curating unforgettable journeys for our LTC members and their clients," the brand stated in a celebratory LinkedIn post.

"We can't wait to see the creativity and fresh ideas Nadiya will bring to our team!" **JM**



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Arabian cruise tours

CELESTYAL has revealed its latest Arabian Gulf shore excursion program, which will see *Celestyal Journey* homeport in Qatar's capital of Doha from Nov. Guests can choose from 80 tours from across the Gulf, including half- & full-day options.

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ACA confirms new board



THE Australian Cruise Association (ACA) has confirmed its new board of management for 2025, following its annual executive meeting last week.

Port Authority of NSW's Phillip Holliday will stay on as Chair for an additional 12 months, supported on the Executive Committee by Brendan Connell (Port of Brisbane) as Deputy Chair and James Coughlan (Shorex Australia) as Treasurer.

Kristy Little (Tasports) and Shayne Murray (Cruise Broome) were also re-elected unopposed, and will continue to work alongside Karlie Cavanagh (Inchcape Shipping Services) and Andrew McKinnon (South Australian Tourism Commission) on the Board.

ACA Chief Executive Jill Abel stated, "the board of management is an ideal representation of our diverse membership".

"Their guidance and counsel will position the association strongly as we support our membership in developing the right settings for the next phase of growth in the cruise sector."

Abel also welcomed Gemma Axford to the role of Membership and Events Consultant. *JM*

Pictured: Coughlan; Little; Holliday; Abel; Connell; Cavanagh; and Murray (not pictured - Andrew McKinnon).

Look Beyond Borders

THE Australian Travel Industry Association's inaugural Beyond Borders event on 25 Oct will be a must-see showcase of intelligence, as the best and brightest in the sector give their thoughts about where the industry is heading.

See **page seven** to find out how to register and who is speaking.

EK 777s back to US

EMIRATES will steadily introduce its newly refurbished Boeing 777 aircraft with premium economy seats on six US routes, beginning from 01 Nov and running through to 19 Feb.

The upgraded planes also now feature the carrier's new business class product in a 1-2-1 layout, removing the highly unpopular former 2-2-2 arrangement and ensuring aisle access to all flyers.

Services between Dubai and Chicago, Boston, Dallas Fort Worth and Seattle as well as one-stop-link routes to Miami/Bogota and Newark/Athens now feature all four cabin classes.

By the end of 2024, premium economy will be flying to 27 cities on Emirates' network across its Boeing 777, Airbus A350 and Airbus A380 superjumbo fleets.

Emirates will increase availability of its four-class product by Feb next year, introducing premium economy on 10 of its 12 US ports.

MEL delays ahead

MELBOURNE Airport is expecting more than 1.7 million travellers to move through its terminals over the next two weeks as school holidays and the AFL Grand Final period overlap.

More than 114,000 are expected on the day before the gf alone.

The airport is urging travellers to allow an extra 30 minutes travel time due to delays stemming from upgrades being carried out to its terminal road network, which will exacerbate crowds.

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Dynamic Siteminder

HOTELS can more easily switch their room rates to a dynamic structure based on changing demand via a new algorithm developed by Siteminder.

The new 'Dynamic Revenue Plus' tool allows hotels to access live market intelligence and adjust their rates, pricing and distribution strategy on the fly.

The dynamic, mobile optimised tool is powered by Siteminder market data, which is formulated from 120 million hotel reservations worldwide each year.

Hoteliers can make changes including bulk room rate updates, minimum base rates and duration of stay, sale restrictions, inventory adjustments & new promotions.

Siteminder says a key event where the dynamic tool will work is the upcoming Coldplay tour of Australia, where hotel bookings are expected to jump 168% and 125% in Melbourne and Sydney.

BA snubs UK hub

BRITISH Airways has cancelled all scheduled flights to and from Southampton Airport for the northern summer of 2025.

The airport is located on the country's south coast and is a popular hub in the summer for flights to holiday spots such as Bergerac in France, the Irish capital of Dublin, and Malaga in Spain via BA low-cost carrier offshoot BA City Flyer.

BA will seek to help impacted customers by rebooking them on alternative flights.

The idyllic stopover you must try



AVIAREPS, the local representative for Air Mauritius, recently hosted a small group of VIPs in Sydney to say thanks for their support in reigniting sales traction in the local market.

With flights currently connecting Perth and Mauritius, Aviareps General Manager ANZ, Emile Groleau, said she was confident of the Indian Ocean destination regaining solid market

share in Australia.

Groleau also noted that Aussie travellers and agents should be looking to Mauritius, renowned for being a cultural melting pot and having pristine natural landscapes, as the perfect stopover destination.

Travellers have the option of spending time in the tropical nation on the way through to Africa, or alternatively they can also take advantage of Air Mauritius flights to European cities such as London and Paris.

Pictured: CVFR's Group Chief Operating Officer Nidhi Nijhawan with Groleau. *AB*

NSW Visitor Forum

THE NSW Government's new focus on 'Experience Tourism' will be on show next month at the third annual NSW Visitor Economy Forum at ICC Sydney.

Emceed by Channel 7's *Sunrise* newsreader Edwina Bartholomew, the event will canvass the latest trends, strategies and visitor experiences designed to drive growth in the coming years.

For more details, see [HERE](#).

Earn \$100 gift card

FOR every Batik Air Group fare booked and ticketed between now and 30 Sep for travel until 30 Nov, travel agents will earn a \$100 Visa gift card.

Email [HERE](#) for further details.



Window Seat

TRAVELLERS can immerse themselves in a bygone era of luxury travel and historic voyages by joining a guided heritage tour of the *Queen Elizabeth 2*.

Once an iconic ocean liner launched in 1969 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the vessel is now a permanently docked 'floating hotel' in Dubai.

During its nearly 40 years in service, the *QE2* carried around 2.5 million passengers, sailing over six million nautical miles and 25 world cruises.

Now, cruise enthusiasts can explore its fascinating history across a selection of tours, including one featuring a three-course culinary experience at the Lido restaurant.

"Our heritage tours allow visitors to step back in time and experience the grandeur of the *QE2* in a way that is both educational and inspiring," said Fergal Purcell, the hotel's General Manager.

"It is our privilege to preserve this maritime legend and share its legacy with the world," he added.



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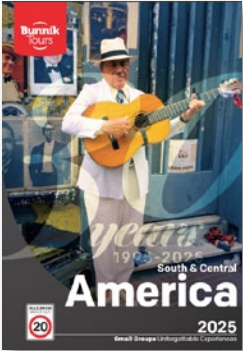
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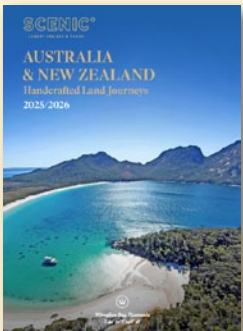
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Bunnik Tours - South & Central America 2025
Bunnik Tours has released its South & Central America brochure for 2025, showcasing comprehensive tours covering the region's bucket-list items, like Machu Picchu and Iguaza Falls. Agents and their clients can read about Bunnik's longest 35-day 'South America Discovery Tour', as well as the South America and Peru in-style tours, which offer an intimate experience with a maximum of 16 guests. The itineraries feature luxurious five-star accommodation and exclusive deluxe experiences, including a ride on the opulent Belmond Hiram Bingham and Andean Explorer trains. The brochure also includes a range of independent and extension packages.



Scenic - Australia & New Zealand 2025/26
Highlighting its Handcrafted Land Journeys Collection, Scenic has gone to press with a brand-new brochure covering its Australia and New Zealand itineraries for 2025/26. Featured tours include the 24-day 'Treasures of the West Coast', which traverses from Darwin to Katherine Gorge. Guests will ride a camel along the famous Cable Beach and see bottlenose dolphins in the turquoise waters of Monkey Mia before arriving in Perth. There's also the 24-day 'Ultimate New Zealand' tour, which encompasses Auckland, the Bay of Islands, Rotorua, Marlborough, and Christchurch, plus the Southern Alps via rail.



AAT Kings - Australia 2025/26
AAT Kings has published its latest brochure, which details 2025/26 season itineraries featuring new experiences and limited-time deals. Stand-out offerings include the Emu Ridge Eucalyptus Tour on Kangaroo Island, where guests will learn about eucalyptus oil production while taking in the beautiful scenery of Kangaroo Island. There's also something for the foodies, with a visit to the Tasmanian Gourmet Sauce Company to taste artisan sauces and learn about their production; premium wine-tasting at the stunning Hamelin Bay Wines vineyards in WA; or bush foraging at Wild Yarnbala in SA.

Emirates to fly to the future



CUTTING-EDGE aviation technology will be on display next month in Dubai as Emirates and the Museum of the Future host the first Aviation Future Week from 15-17 Oct.

The three-day event will provide a platform for insights and topical discussions on future air demand, innovation in the passenger experience, sustainability, and how AI can fit into the picture.

Global authorities on each topic are expected to converge

for the event, taking part in panel discussions, keynote presentations and workshops.

Delegates can also explore an exhibitor platform showcasing the best in developing technology, new products and concepts, with various Emirates departments taking part, along with Boeing and the Emirates Group Youth Council.

To promote the event, an Emirates A380 has been painted with a special livery (**pictured**) for its global operations. *ML*

QF more punctual in Aug

QANTAS has bested Virgin Australia in the latest on-time performance report from BITRE, with the flag carrier taking off and landing 74% of its flights on time in Aug, versus 70.9% for Virgin.

However, the Flying Kangaroo performed poorly against its competitor when it came to cancellations, scrapping 4% of its services last month, while Virgin canned just 1.3%.

Unsurprisingly, Rex did not fare well when it came to cancellations last month, racking up the second-worst rate at 6.9%, outdone only by Skytrans, which shelved 7.4% of flights.

However, 243 of Rex's 338 reported cancellations were

domestic services operated between capital cities where the troubled carrier ceased operating on 31 Jul (**TD** 31 Jul).

Overall, Australia's airlines averaged a 73.4% on-time arrival and departure rate for the month of Aug - still significantly poorer than the 81.4% long-term average performance, but a slight improvement on last year's figure for Aug, which was 72.9%.

The cancellation rate has seen a more notable improvement, with the domestic carriers collectively canning 2.9% of services in Aug - a figure that's slowly but surely creeping closer to the long-term average of 2.2% - compared to 3.8% in Aug 2023. *JM*

ESCAPE TO Mauritius AND BEYOND

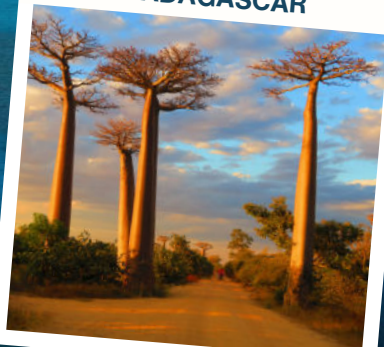
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October 25th, 2024 | ICC Sydney
9am-5.30pm



NCL'S 2026 EUROPE SEASON IS NOW ON SALE

NCL's newly released 2026 Europe season is open for sale! Your clients can choose from more than 180 port-immersive sailings across Northern Europe, the Mediterranean, and Greek Isles on board 8 spectacular ships, including the all-new Norwegian Viva®.

With 11 unique embarkation ports offering voyages across 10 different European countries, including Helsinki (Finland) - a brand-new homeport for NCL – your clients have the opportunity to begin and end their holiday in the destination that best fulfils their European dream holiday.

In addition, many itineraries include limited or no sea days so guests can

fully immerse themselves in each destination. Select seven-to-14-day sailings also offer overnight stays in Reykjavik (Iceland), Copenhagen (Denmark), Istanbul (Turkey) and more, so guests can choose to enjoy late night dinners and nightlife on shore.

NCL will also offer a full Baltic season with seven- to 10-day sailings where guests can embark in Copenhagen (Denmark) or Helsinki, and visit a port nearly every day including towns in Norway, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Sweden and more.

Whether your clients prefer to embark on a longer voyage with back-to-back sailings or combine a seven-

day sailing with a pre- or post-cruise land tour in cities such as Istanbul, Barcelona or Lisbon, there's an itinerary ready to be discovered.

REAP THE REWARDS

Partners First Rewards members can earn **DOUBLE DOLLARS*** on any Europe sailing from 1 September - 31 October 2024. If you haven't already, start your rewards journey with NCL today and experience how fast and simple it is to earn and redeem points! *T&Cs apply.