



More aircraft. More reliability.  
More destinations. More crew.  
More support. More choice.

# Welcome to the new era of Jetstar.

Become a ***MaSTAR*** in 2025!

Flights on the JQ network up for grabs!

T&C's apply

[Register here!](#)

**Jetstar** 



**The Himalayan Express**  
CHINA | TIBET | NEPAL | BHUTAN | 26 DAYS  
DEPARTS 12 OCT 2025 & 12 APR 2026

traveldirectors.com.au

**travel directors**  
SMALL GROUP ESCORTED TOUR EXPERTS

1300 856 661

**MORE INFO**

## Become a JQ master

**ADVISORS** are invited to become a registered travel agent with Jetstar, as the airline enters a new era.

There are flights on the JQ network up for grabs, plus other benefits for agents who sign up - see the **cover page** for more.



**EARN A \$100 GIFT CARD**  
PER PASSENGER BOOKED BY 31 MAR



Save up to **25%**  
on 2025 & 2026 tours

[View Tours](#)

## Delta makes major MEL move

**DELTA** Air Lines will fly to Melbourne for the first time, with non-stop services between Los Angeles and the Victorian capital to take off in Dec.

With plans to increase flights in the future, the US carrier will initially operate the service three times weekly using an Airbus A350, which is fitted with a new four-class cabin, including 40 premium Delta One suites.

The new flights are set to add an extra 86,000 seats between Melbourne and the United States, increasing competition in the market and helping to drive down the cost of international flights.

"Delta is one of the largest airlines in the world and is consistently rated one of North America's best carriers, so we're thrilled to have them adding Melbourne to their network," Melbourne Airport CEO Lorie Argus said.

"The new services will help bring hundreds of extra visitors



to our state each week, which will help support Victoria's world-class tourism, dining and hospitality venues."

With LA being a major hub for Delta, travellers will be able to connect to more than 40 airports across the US and Latin America from LAX.

The US is Victoria's fourth largest international market for tourists, with the new Delta flights expected to bring thousands more tourists from the both America and Canada. *JM*

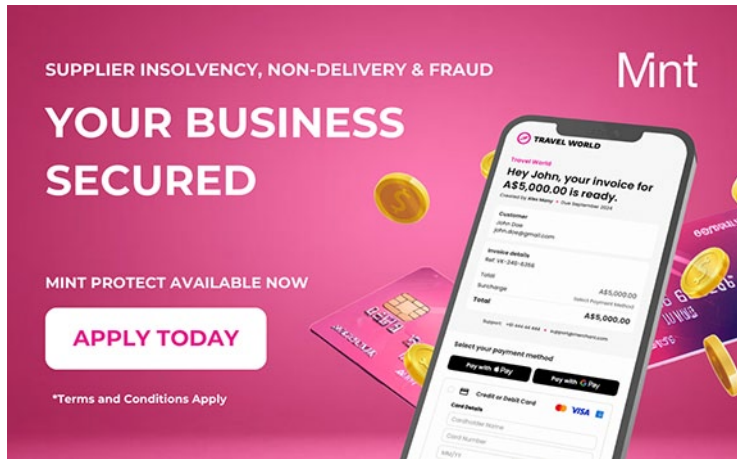
### Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features six pages of the latest news, plus a cover wrap from **Jetstar**, and a full page from **Collette**.

## Collette famil 2025

**COLLETTE** is offering agents the chance to secure a spot on its upcoming famil to Europe, which traverses France, Switzerland, Austria and Italy across 12 days.

Head to the **back page** to discover more about the trip and how to be a part of it.



SUPPLIER INSOLVENCY, NON-DELIVERY & FRAUD

**YOUR BUSINESS SECURED**

MINT PROTECT AVAILABLE NOW

[APPLY TODAY](#)

\*Terms and Conditions Apply



**UPGRADE TO BUSINESS CLASS**

FROM **\$399<sup>PP</sup> ONE WAY**  
**\$1,399<sup>PP</sup> RETURN**

Selected 2025 China group tours flying Cathay Pacific



[DISCOVER MORE](#)



Win your share of **3 Million Velocity Frequent Flyer Points**

[Learn more](#) T&C's apply

**Cover More Worry Less.**

Permits: NSW-TP/04120 / ACT-TP 25/00181 / SA-T25/111



## Great start for QF Palau flights



**PRESIDENT** of Palau, Surangel Whipps Jr, has described Australians as the ideal kind of visitors for the destination, which is seeking to diversify its inbound tourism market.

Whipps was in Brisbane late last week for the official launch of Qantas Airways' flights from Brisbane to his country's capital of Koror (**TD** 17 Oct 2024), affectionately dubbed the 'Palau Paradise Express'.

He said: "Australian travellers are the ideal customers of Palau, because they love the outdoors, they care for the environment, and this is what Palau has."

Whipps spoke to **Travel Daily** on the sidelines of the launch, adding Palau's scheme to attract Australians will help the destination's efforts to steer away from its traditional overreliance on China and Taiwan.

The two Asian destinations collectively made up more than half of Palau's 40,000-plus inbound travellers last year.

Add Japan into the equation, and the trio of countries makes up almost two-thirds of Palau's inbound arrivals.

"It's critical, first of all, to connect Palau and the people of Australia, but more importantly, provide diversity to our tourism," he said.

"Certain countries weaponise the tourism base that we have, and diversifying our economy is so critical.

"We're grateful to the people of Australia, grateful to the govt

for starting this program, and I'm grateful for Qantas for taking the leap and doing it."

QF won a govt tender to operate the flights, which debuted last year (**TD** 08 Nov 2024).

Whipps described the service as having "great potential" - even calling for it to go daily.

"We're learning that the market is growing month-over-month, and so we hope to see that trend continue...why not daily flights?" he pondered. **MS**

**Pictured:** Chris Waite from Palau Visitors Authority representative, GTI Tourism, alongside Whipps.

**Travel Daily**  
ON LOCATION

**HALF MOON BAY**

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you courtesy of Viking, which is hosting key trade partners aboard **Viking Polaris**.

**WHAT** a way wrap up our Antarctic adventure!  
We kicked off our final day in Antarctic waters with a Zodiac cruise in Half Moon Bay amongst eerie fog, to see striking basalt columns peering through the clouds.  
For our final landing on Antarctic soil (or ice), we will this afternoon visit a penguin colony on Half Moon Island.

**AIR MAURITIUS**

**Mauritius**  
AND BEYOND

**SALE EXTENDED**

UP TO  
**25% OFF**

On sale until 17 Feb 2025  
Travel from now until  
30 September 2025

✉ [mk.anz.res@aviareps.com](mailto:mk.anz.res@aviareps.com)  
☎ +61 (08) 7082 0550, Opt #3

**Travel Daily**  
ON LOCATION

**PALAU**

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you courtesy of Palau Visitors Authority, which is this week hosting a famil showcasing the destination.

**TRAVEL Daily** arrived in Palau over the weekend, as guests of a famil hosted by the local Palau Visitors Authority, and supported by Qantas Airways.  
Australia's flag-carrier launched flights to Palau in Dec, a destination made up of over 300 islands, most notably the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Rock Islands.  
Guests will today enjoy their first snorkelling tour of the trip with local business Neco Marine, which will visit Clam City, the home of some of the largest clam shells in the region.  
The group also experienced a cultural tour of the destination yesterday, witnessed the crafting of traditional Palauan skirts, and visited the Chief's Meeting House.

**Become a Northern Territory expert**  
Win a trip to the NT\*

**Register now**

\* For registration and eligibility, visit [trade.northernterritory.com](http://trade.northernterritory.com)

Join our live webinar to learn more about the Northern Territory and discover the incredible drive holiday product available in the Red Centre!





## Safari hotel bookings live

**BOOKINGS** for luxury hotel Monarto Safari Resort in South Australia have gone live.

Opening on 28 May, the new 78-room resort development will feature an infinity pool, a thermal pool, ice bath, treatment rooms, wedding facilities, two premium restaurants and eventually, a 20-tent luxury safari lodge.

In addition, it will include conference and function spaces.

Guests will also have the opportunity to book premium fully guided dawn and dusk safaris on board a custom-made safari vehicle, exploring 550 hectares of wide open plains, while enjoying sundowner drinks and canapes as they admire the free-roaming herds of animals.

“The opening of Monarto Safari Resort presents a transformative opportunity for South Australia, driving significant economic benefits for the state,” said South Australian Minister for Tourism



Zoe Bettison.

“This world-class attraction will create jobs, boost local tourism by drawing visitors from both interstate and overseas, and stimulate growth in surrounding businesses.

“Moreover, the resort’s commitment to conservation and education reinforces South Australia’s reputation as a leader in sustainable tourism.”

Last month, Journey Beyond inked a deal to manage the new resort (*TD* 23 Jan).

Further information on the resort and its packages can be found [HERE](#). *JHM*

## NSW “epic failure”

**NEW** South Wales has missed out on hosting the NFL after Melbourne beat it to secure a lucrative deal with the international sport, in what the NSW Tourism Association is declaring an “epic failure” by the NSW Government.

The Melbourne Cricket Ground will exclusively host the high-profile global sporting event for three years from 2026, in a deal worth millions.

“The fact that this deal has been secured by Victoria is a clear indication that the NSW Government has dropped the ball,” the NSW Tourism Association said.

“Attracting events of this scale should be a priority, yet this announcement highlights a failure to compete effectively on the world stage.”

The tourism body pointed out that securing the deal would have brought a raft of economic and tourism benefits to NSW.



## Window Seat

**AUSTRALIA’S** wildlife often gets a bad rap internationally for being unfriendly, and this was not lost on the President of Palau, Surangel Whipps Jr.

The island country’s head was in Brisbane last week to launch flights to Palau from Brisbane (see [page 2](#)), where he contrasted Australia’s rather unwelcoming species with the creatures in Palau.

“We have vegetarian sharks that love you, we have turtles that swim with you, we have crocodiles, just like Australia, but they’re safe and friendly, and jellyfish that don’t sting,” Whipps said.

*TD* has been on the ground in Palau since Sat fact-checking His Excellency’s claims, confirming that Palau’s jellyfish are indeed harmless.

# COME SHARE OUR LOVE OF EUROPE

Webinar • Valentine's Day  
14 February 2025

[REGISTER HERE](#)



All **Summer 2025** tours guaranteed

Smaller Groups & Longer Stays



**WINNER**  
**TWO YEARS IN A ROW**  
2023 & 2024  
Most Outstanding  
Tour Operator Specialised



**ALBATROSS TOURS**





## Schwartz's seaplanes

**HOTEL** and hospitality entrepreneur Dr Jerry Schwartz has acquired a majority stake in Sydney Seaplanes, which operates scenic charter flights from Rose Bay.

The Schwartz Family Company (SFC) will assume full ownership by the middle of the year when Dr Schwartz completes the purchase of shares from former Sydney Seaplane owners, Aaron Shaw and Ken Gaunt.

The purchase also includes the Rose Bay headquarters for Sydney Seaplanes and the adjoining Empire Lounge restaurant, bar and function venue, which is being rebranded as Sydney Seaplanes Lounge.

Schwartz said he plans to add a fifth seaplane to the operator's fleet by the end of the year, as part of a major expansion plan.



## WA boosts accommodation

**THE** Western Australian Government has announced a new funding program to boost the state's portfolio of diverse tourism accommodation.

The Unique Tourist Accommodation Proposals (UTAP) program aims to encourage a pipeline of new accommodation options around WA, with a focus on unique offerings that are defined by a distinctive design, location or experience.

Tourism operators and developers are invited to apply for financial support of up to \$100,000 to undertake studies and planning assessments to assist with the development of unique accommodation.

Successful applicants will conduct feasibility studies and assessments, including engaging with Traditional Owners and cultural heritage assessments, site surveys, fauna and flora surveys, coastal assessments and

master planning.

"Tourism in Western Australia continues to grow, as we hit almost \$18 billion in visitor spend in the year to Sep 2024 and keep attracting millions of visitors," WA Tourism Minister Rita Saffioti said.

She added that the new funding "will further support the tourism industry and our efforts to diversify our economy and create local jobs".

Applications for the program will be open for a 12-week period until 02 May 2025. *JM*

## The best of Nagano

**AGENTS** keen to learn more about the highlights of Japan's Nagano region outside the peak winter season can tune in to an upcoming webinar hosted by the Nagano Tourism Organisation.

The 30-minute session will take place at noon AEDT on Wed 19 Feb - **CLICK HERE** to register.

## TRA source profiles

**TOURISM** Research Australia (TRA) has introduced a new series of country profiles detailing critical info about Australia's major inbound tourism markets.

The easy-to-digest guides are downloadable and aimed at operators and peak industry bodies interested in the type of visitors coming to Australia, how much they spend, the purpose of their visits, the activities they participate in, and forecasted changes in visits.

Eight country profiles have been released as part of the initial batch and include China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

"The format makes them an easy way to share the data and get to know these markets - and we plan to release more country profiles throughout the year," said TRA Chief Executive Officer, Grant Ferres.

The country profiles can be found on the TRA website **HERE**.

## PRICING ANALYST FULL TIME – SYDNEY – HYBRID



If you have a passion for pricing, analysis and travel, this role could be the one for you.

We're looking for an enthusiastic **Pricing Analyst** to join our dynamic team.

The successful candidate will have 1-3 years' experience in assisting with pricing strategy, loading pricing into internal systems, conducting analysis and communicating findings.

### We are looking for someone who:

- Is process driven and understands the big picture, not just the detail
- Can wow us with your Excel skills
- Possesses great presentation skills – ability to write and speak clearly to easily communicate complex ideas in a way that is easy to understand
- Brings new ideas to the table and enjoys solving problems
- Is a self-motivated individual who takes initiative

This hands-on role demands meticulous attention to detail and a versatile mindset within a fast-paced, results-driven environment.

This is an opportunity to join a recognised industry leader and be part of a fun and friendly team. As we experience extraordinary growth, **now is the time to become a Viking!**

**Competitive salary**  
**Fantastic industry perks**  
**Valuable health benefits**

**To view full job  
description  
click here**

**Apply via LinkedIn or  
send a cover letter and  
your resume to  
jobsau@viking.com**

**Applications close  
9 February 2025**



Travel Daily  
Learn more about  
Italy with Travel Daily  
Training Academy

[Click here to discover](#)

## Tonga nabs Aus rep

**THE** Tonga Tourism Authority (TTA) has announced the appointment of Precise Travel Marketing (PTM) as its official representative in the Australian and New Zealand markets.

The partnership, which follows the acceptance of the Kingdom of Tonga as a full member of the Treasures of the South Pacific, aims to enhance awareness and promote the island country as a premier travel destination.

PTM will work with TTA to develop initiatives to engage travel agents, wholesalers, and online travel platforms, ensuring that Tonga remains top of mind for Aussie and Kiwi travellers.

Led by industry veteran Richard Skewes, PTM brings over 35 years of experience working with South Pacific destinations.

## Agents give Lindblad a hand



**A GROUP** of lucky agents were recently hosted by National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions on a life-changing adventure in the frozen continent, Antarctica.

Surrounded by white mountains and glaciers, the group kept watch over pods of humpback whales, toured the ice shelves by Zodiac, kayak and even on foot and took part in many other activities.

The group also had on hand the services of a National Geographic photography expert, who shared tips on how best to capture both their own experiences and the inspiring landscapes before them.

"I am utterly inspired and captivated by the destination and the exceptional product I have experienced," said Ceri Beal-Waite from South Perth Travel.

"I've been raving about Lindblad Expeditions to everyone.

"Antarctica with Lindblad is a must-do - the experience was truly outstanding." *ML*

**Pictured** above in Marguerite Bay, showing they have the strength to survive in any climate, are Cameron McDonnell, Lindblad Expeditions, Ceri Beal Wait, South Perth Travel and Ben Alexander from iExpedition.

## Growth for Eurostar

**EUROSTAR** has reported a 5% jump in its total passenger numbers for 2024, with 19.5 million pax boarding for a journey through its 30th year of operation.

The total was 850,000 higher than the overall passenger count in 2023, with traffic spikes during the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Highest performing routes for 2024 included London to Paris, which saw an extra 280,000 pax, while London to Brussels swelled to an extra 250,000 guests.

"Eurostar is targeting growth to 30 million passengers and investing in up to 50 new trains as a direct result, with the aim of delivering a unique and exceptional service long into the future," said Eurostar CEO Gwendoline Cazenave.

**GET up to \$1,800 AIR CREDIT**  
per couple on selected tours\*

\*T&C's apply



Mirima National Park, near Kununurra

## New Uniworld trip

**UNIWORLD** has bolstered its Holiday Collection for 2025, adding a new itinerary along the Seine River in France.

The new 'Magical Parisian Holiday' itinerary is a seven-night round-trip from Paris, sailing onboard the *S.S. Joie de Vivre*.

Highlights of the holiday include a private tour of secret apartments normally closed to the public in Versailles and a walking tour of Rouen, capped off with a private choral performance in the Rouen Cathedral.

Four departures of the new itinerary have been scheduled for 2025 and 2026, beginning in Nov to coincide with Xmas holidays.

## Deadliest in 25 yrs

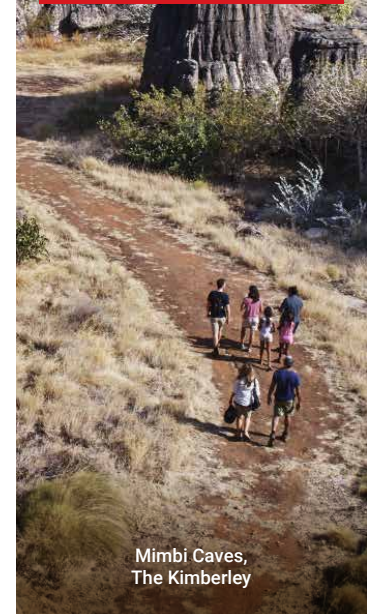
**THE** black box from the Army Black Hawk helicopter that collided with an America Airlines partner flight over Washington DC last week has been recovered, along with the remains of 41 victims (*TD 31 Jan*).

Investigators are now examining the helicopter's flight recorder, alongside two black boxes already recovered from the American Eagle passenger jet.

According to initial reports, the air traffic control tower at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport was "understaffed" at the time of the crash, which killed all 67 people aboard, making it the deadliest US air disaster in nearly 25 years.

**GET up to \$1,800 AIR CREDIT**  
per couple on selected tours\*

\*T&C's apply



Mimbi Caves, The Kimberley

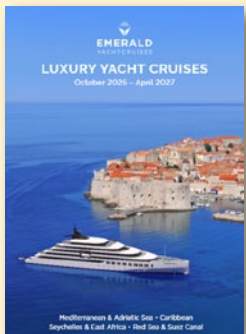
## BROCHURES

Send your special deals to:  
brochures@traveldaily.com.au



### Beyond Travel - The Collection

Boutique travel company Beyond Travel has launched its first brochure since 2020 with The Collection. Listing more than 70 itineraries, this selection of key journeys features holidays across Croatia, Slovenia & Montenegro, Greece & Turkey, Eastern & Central Europe, Sri Lanka & India and Scandinavia & the Baltics. Travellers will discover two new journeys, including 'Into the Arctic' - an escorted 11-day tour that launched in Jan. At an agent's request, each itinerary within the brochure can be customised to create a bespoke holiday for clients. Digital and printed copies for the brochure can be accessed [HERE](#).



**Emerald Yacht Cruises - Oct 2025-Apr 2027**  
Emerald Yacht Cruises has unveiled its latest brochure, which showcases its luxury yacht cruises from 2025 through to 2027. The 116-page guide (see it [HERE](#)) features new itineraries in the Mediterranean, Adriatic, Caribbean, Seychelles Island and the Red Sea. One of the journeys detailed is the 15-day 'Discover the Best of the Croatian Coast' cruise, which round-trips from Venice. Guests will visit Korcula, an open-air museum, and discover the UNESCO World Heritage Site of

Split and its farmers' markets and waterfront promenade. Readers will also gain insight into the line's new yacht, *Emerald Kaia*, debuting 2026.



### Visit California - 2025 Visitor Guide

It has just become easier for travellers to plan their trip to the Golden State, thanks to the new edition of Visit California's visitor guide. Featuring actor and California native John Stamos on its cover, the free booklet includes travel tips, hidden gems and regional insights. Readers will discover an interactive tool to discover their perfect wine-tasting destination; a comprehensive dive into California's diverse culinary scene; insider tips on the state's iconic theme parks; a beginner-friendly guide to skiing in California; and much more. The publication is available to view online [HERE](#).

## WA enhances accessibility



**SEVERAL** tourism attractions in Western Australia have been upgraded to increase accessibility. More than \$5.7 million in upgrades from the government have been completed at the Valley of the Giants and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park.

An all-abilities boat ramp, jetty and paddle facilities are officially open at Nornalup, so all visitors can safely launch their dinghies or paddle craft to explore the Frankland River.

Meanwhile, at the Ancient Empire Trail within the Valley of the Giants, a 540-metre-long loop with levelled timber decking has replaced the stairs.

"The Valley of the Giants is a major drawcard in our region, with the Tree Top Walk, attracting more than 150,000 visitors in the year to June," commented Labor Member for Warren-Blackwood, Jane Kelsbie.

"It's great to see these popular attractions cater to people of all abilities and encourage people to explore the natural environment.

"These upgrades have opened the Southern Forest to visitors using wheelchairs or prams, ensuring even more people can enjoy the magic of this unique place," Kelsbie added. *JHM*

## Whitsundays shows

**FIFTEEN** tourism operators from Queensland's Whitsundays region are heading south later this month for a series of travel agent events and \$20,000 in prizes to give away.

Each event in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne will feature plenty of networking, product updates and the chance to win a holiday to the Whitsundays.

The roadshow will span three nights, beginning in Sydney on 17 Feb at InterContinental Sydney.

Next up will be Melbourne the following evening - 18 Feb - at Pullman Melbourne City Centre.

The final event is set for 19 Feb in Brisbane at Bougainvillea House - [CLICK HERE](#) to secure your place at your nearest event.

# collette

Experts in Guided Travel Since 1918

## Peaks of Europe:

*The Alps to The Dolomites*

Join Collette as we set off on a small group journey through Europe's majestic Alps and picturesque towns.



2025  
COLLETTE  
FAMIL

# Join Us!

**Departs Chamonix**  
**18 October, 2025**

Every Collette booking from 1 January to 30 April 2025 brings you closer to this unforgettable trip!

The top two agents in each territory will secure their spot, with a few wildcard places up for grabs.

Picture yourself on this incredible journey — every booking counts!

### Inclusions:

- ✓ 12 day tour through Europe's towering Alps and idyllic towns across France, Switzerland, Austria & Italy
- ✓ Unforgettable cultural experiences including unique mountaintop experiences, nature walks with a local Alpinist, meeting the pups of Barryland and tasting the fruits of Italy's Prosecco region with a vineyard visit.

[Click here to learn more, or contact your Collette BDM](#)