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The Naka Island is a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa by Marriott.

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THE NAKA ISLAND









# Travel Daily First with the news

www.traveldaily.com.au Friday 21st Feb 2025

#### Room-Res Island

AGENTS can win a place on a luxury famil to 'Room-Res Island' at the Naka Island Luxury Collection Resort in Phuket, as part of a new agent incentive.

Bonus reward points on every booking made will also be awarded - see front page for info.



# Charting a course for growth

**FOUNDING** Luxury Travel Collection member Destination HQ is eager to plan more expedition cruise charters on the back of a highly successful voyage setting sail early next month.

After more than two years in planning led by Destination HQ Senior Consultants Kate Traynor and Sophie Anderson (pictured), the 16-night itinerary on board Coral Geographer sails early next month to explore Raja Ampat and Indonesia's Spice Islands.

On board will be around 100 clients for an adventure packed with daily excursions, including hikes to remote Manokwari villages and waterfalls, local dining and an opportunity to swim with whale sharks.

Destination HQ has even sourced 1980s AFL legend Robert DiPierdomenico as a celebrity emcee for the voyage.

Traynor told **TD** the project has had its fair share of challenges.

"We definitely had a rude shock when we only sold 20 cabins, so we entered the world of Google ads and online marketing, which opened up a whole new world.

"That sold pretty much the rest

#### Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today features eight pages of news, plus a cover wrap from Room-Res, a photo page from Visit USA, and our Corporate Update.



of it and gave us a bunch of new clients, who we were very excited to meet on board - it really expanded our contact database," Traynor enthused.

"When you're trying to sell a destination nobody knows about, that was also a huge challenge."

Despite the hurdles, Traynor said Destination HQ is eager to explore more charter travel opportunities, with the agency already having been approached by several other cruise lines.

"We're a small boutique agency that can make the impossible possible," Traynor added.

"We want to work with different avenues on expedition cruising as it's definitely something people don't really know about and it's such a special way to cruise." ML

#### Eden cruise group

THE Port Authority of NSW and NSW Maritime have established a new Port of Eden Stakeholder Group, encouraging community members to help shape the coastal town's cruising future.

Read the full story in today's Cruise Weekly.

#### Owens promoted

**CRAIG** Owens has been promoted to National Sales Manager - Australia & New Zealand at Railbookers Group.

The experienced sales exec was previously Business Development Manager - ANZ, and has been with the business since 2023.





# EXPL RER SALE

Fly free or companion flies free up to the value of \$2,400 per person\*





# Etihad hits record profit

**ETIHAD** Airways has marked a 32% year-on-year jump in passenger numbers by reporting its highest ever full-year profit of AED1.7 billion (A\$723.5 million).

The result marked the third consecutive year of profitability for the Abu Dhabi-based airline, which carried 18.5 million passengers across the year, up

#### Virtuoso hits Perth

**NEARLY** 200 luxury travel specialists and suppliers will gather in Perth next week for the 2025 Virtuoso Forum Australia and New Zealand.

Running from 24-26 Feb, the event will feature networking and peer learning opportunities, along with keynote presentations from Virtuoso senior leadership including Chairman and CEO, Matthew Upchurch.

Delegates will also hear opening addresses from Senior Vice President Global Operations, Michael Londregan, and Vice President, Cheryl Cheney-Bunker.

Seven professional development courses will be run, focusing on topics including business communication, AI in business and emphasising resilience.

The three-day event will begin with a cocktail reception at The Ritz-Carlton Perth and a gala dinner, which will see the winners of the 2025 Virtuoso Australia & New Zealand Member and Partner Award celebrated.

The event is being held in partnership with Tourism Western Australia and will also include a three-day pre-famil and 'Design Your Day' activities in Cottesloe and the Swan Valley.

from 14 million one year earlier.

EY also recorded load factors of 87% despite a 28% increase in available seat kilometre (ASK), with costs per ASK declining 4%.

The year saw Etihad launch service to 20 new destinations including Boston, Jaipur, Bali, and Nairobi, along with increases to summer seasonal destinations, including Nice and Santorini.

This operational increase was supported by the arrival of 12 new aircraft, along with the return to service of its fifth Airbus A380 and six new A320neos.

Total service across its network grew to over 1,700 weekly flights.

Etihad has been vocal about its strong financial position enabling Australian expansion, previously announcing a ramp up of frequencies in Sydney from Jul, as well as Melbourne. *ML* 

#### **QF** pauses MEL-DEL

**QANTAS** will suspend flights between Melbourne and Delhi between Jun and Oct 2025, according to an update sent to travel agents yesterday.

The reason for the pause was listed as operational needs.

Economy customers will be reaccommodated onto Qantas flights to and from Singapore, and a codeshare flight operated by IndiGo from Singapore to Delhi.

Business passengers will be redeployed onto a Qantas flight to/from HK, and from there on to a Cathay Pacific c'share to Delhi.

A commercial policy is now available on the Qantas Agency Connect site, with customers having the option to rebook, retain a credit, or a full refund.



Training Academy



### Wentworth marks 40 years



**TRAVEL** industry luminaries across the spectrum joined this week to celebrate the 40th anniversary of a Sydney eastern suburbs icon, Wentworth Travel, as it marked 40 years in business.

From the days of phone bookings, handwritten air tickets in triplicate, stacks of brochures and telex confirmations in 1985, it has come a modern independent agency which has retained values and hallmarks of personalised service, expert advice and trust.

Founded by Bev Cohen and Margaret Ann Mayo, the business was eventually purchased by Cohen, who rebranded it as Wentworth Travel and has passed it down the generations to her daughter Anna McMurtrie, now a Director of the business.

"Mum had an incredible instinct for the travel business and built Wentworth Travel on the values of service, loyalty, and relationships," McMurtrie said.

"Even at a young age, I saw how much trust our clients placed in us [and] that philosophy of putting clients first has been at the heart of Wentworth Travel ever since," she added.

"I still proudly remember being

asked to help out during school holidays - my job was to hold on to the telephone and wait for the airlines to answer.

"I also sorted all the brochures and helped with the banking."

Anna McMurtrie is **pictured** above centre with Amanda Frack, Langham Hospitality Group and Dean Long, ATIA. *ML* 

#### Celebrity shake-up

CELEBRITY Cruises has shuffled its senior management ranks, promoting Giles Hawke to the newly-created role of Vice President for International.

The shift means Hawke will now take charge for all regions outside North America for the line, reporting directly to the line's President, Laura Hodges Bethge.

In Hawke's place, Claire Stirrup will become the new UK and EMEA Managing Director for the premium Royal Caribbean brand.

The Royal Caribbean brand said Hawke's new position was created to further integrate teams working across Celebrity Cruises' international markets and to ensure a cohesive global marketing strategy.



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#### Azamara sees double

**AZAMARA** made history this week when two of its sister ships, Azamara Pursuit and Azamara Onward, docked in Sydney simultaneously, for the first time in the cruise line's history.

The rare dual visit was a visual treat for guests and locals alike, with both vessels boasting nearly full bookings across Australia and New Zealand this season.

"We are absolutely delighted to welcome both Azamara Pursuit and Azamara Onward to Sydney," said Victoria Chigwidden Director of Sales AU/NZ.

"This historic event marks a significant milestone for Azamara as we continue to expand our presence in the Australia and New Zealand market."



# Vegas gets a kick along

#### XCLUSIVE

THE NRL hosting matches in Las Vegas next week will provide a major injection of spend across the US city, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority Director of Public Relations Heidi Hayes (pictured) believes.

Speaking with Travel Daily while in Sydney to promote Vegas and the state of Nevada. Haves called out rugby league as a new feather in the cap for the City of Lights in the Australian outbound market.

"We now know that people will travel for an event like the NRL. and then stay for other things while in town," Hayes said.

"You're not going to go to Las Vegas for just one event when there's so much to offer."

Hayes added that sports in general has become an increasingly important drawcard for Vegas, with the Super Bowl held last year and the Las Vegas



Grand Prix lifting its reputation significantly as a sporting mecca.

"We know that sports is now a major driver to travel to a destination, and we know also that people come for an event, whether it's the Super Bowl or a Taylor Swift concert, and spend more time in the city."

Allegiant Stadium will host the second year of the NRL season opening matches on 01 Mar, with more than 20,000 Aussies making their way to Vegas, around half of the total tickets sold. AB





#### AT SEA

Today's issue of TD is coming to you courtesy of Royal Caribbean, which is this week embarking on its first cruise to Eden, NSW on board Ovation of the Seas.

WE HAVE boarded Royal Caribbean's Ovation of the Seas, on what will be the cruise line's first voyage to Eden.

The people of the South Coast are at fever pitch over Ovation's arrival, with a pop-up festival, the Taste of Eden, to be held on the day of the ship's arrival, showcasing the best local produce and entertainment.

Back on board, today we will try out Ovation's North Star, and the RipCord by iFLY indoor skydiving experience.



#### It's time for your clients to dream big - the world is on sale.

Whether they want to see the Big Five on an African Safari or wander through a bamboo forest in Japan, their dream tour is on sale now until 28 February.

Secure your spot on our Peaks of Europe famil! Every Collette booking you make until 30 April 2025 brings you closer to securing your spot on this October 2025 Famil.

Download our toolkit for sale terms and conditions and assets to help you promote the sale to your clients.

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#### **Intrepid Summit in SL**

INTREPID Travel is hosting its annual Global Summit in Sri Lanka this week, bringing together more than 200 team members from more than 50 countries to discuss leadership, strategy, and the company's vision for growth.

This marks the second time the event has been held outside of Intrepid's Melbourne headquarters, underlining Sri Lanka's key role in the company's global operations.

The four-day Summit, described by Chief Executive Officer James Thornton as Intrepid's "biggest week of the year", will include leadership workshops, strategy sessions, and community engagement activities, reinforcing Intrepid's commitment to fostering an inclusive company culture and sustainable tourism.

The Summit will also be a chance for employees to experience the local culture, with familiarisation trips for the Intrepid team.

#### DNSW recharged

**DESTINATION** NSW has launched a new marketing campaign that will promote electric vehicle-friendly road tripping across the state.

The latest 'Recharge Here' push highlights nine EV-friendly road trips that can be taken in Greater Sydney and regional NSW.

stations marked along the route to reduce traveller anxiety. Feel the full recharge **HERE**.

Each itinerary has charging

# Al can't replace me

THERE is plenty of discussion in the industry about whether AI poses an existential threat to travel advisors, but for Brisbanebased TravelManagers agent Kerstin Rheinlander (pictured), the tech is no danger.

"People keep asking me, 'is this the end of your job as a travel professional?'".

"The short answer is absolutely not," Rheinlander said.

"I don't see AI as a threat, in fact, I welcome it - AI is a fantastic tool that can pull up hotel options, suggest flights, and even recommend a few restaurants."

But while Rheinlander concedes apps like ChatGPT offer some good utility for travellers, she feels it has clear limitations.

"Al can't charm its way into a free upgrade or tell you which local trattoria serves the best handmade pasta," she explained.

"I don't just book trips, I curate experiences and I anticipate your needs before you even realise them because I know what your personal preferences are.

"I ensure everything runs

#### Rex resets sale bid

INVESTMENT bank Houlihan Lokey has been hired by Regional Express (Rex) to manage and drive a renewed sale effort of the collapsed regional airline.

In an ASX update posted yesterday, administrators EY said it expected a competitive process from interested parties.



seamlessly, stress-free, and with a personal touch, so all you need to do is pack and enjoy."

Rheinlander concluded that while AI is currently busy generating suggestions, she is in the business of crafting dream itineraries, securing exclusive perks, and turning trips into lifelong memories. AB

#### Chef-led excursions

**OCEANIA** Cruises will introduce 12 new chef-led Culinary Discovery Tours, taking its range of the popular guest initiative to 46 unique experiences.

New ports added to the range include Amsterdam, Invergordon, Belfast, Valencia and Valletta in Europe; Kobe, Kochi, Shimizu and Busan in Asia; and Halifax, Quebec and Victoria in Canada.

Experiences include a plantto-plate meal in an Amsterdam greenhouse; a bonito masterclass in Kochi and a visit to seafood markets in South Korea.

Tours are capped at 18 guests.



#### Window Seat

WHILE an erupting volcano should be a turn-off to travellers, apparently this isn't the case in Sicily, where Mount Etna has been spraying lava for the past week.

The display has attracted an influx of sightseers, prompting Sicily's regional Civil Protection agency to issue a warning.

The agency's head, Salvo Cocina, said, "There is also a constant influx of thousands of people, wildly parking and hiking up the edge of narrow roads, blocking the circulation of rescue vehicles".

He said it is vital for rescue workers, including 4x4 ambulances and other offroad vehicles, to be able to access the mountain.

There have already been incidents, Cocina pointed out, including on Mon, when eight people attempted to hike up the mountain without a guide and were lost for several hours before rescuers located them.

#### **Guatemala advisory**

TRAVELLERS are being urged to reconsider their need to travel to border areas between Guatemala and Chiapas State in Mexico due to heightened levels of organised crime and drug-related violence.

Travellers in Guatemala are advised to "exercise a high degree of caution".



Extended due to popular demand!

DON'T MISS OUT



# Oregon gets its wheels

#### EXCLUSIVE

**OREGON** is set to become the first US state to be certified accessible by global organisation, Wheel the World, in Jul.

Travel Oregon CEO Todd Davidson revealed the news in an exclusive interview with *TD*.

Wheel the World assesses and verifies accessible travel experiences, including restaurants, hotels, activities and attractions.

"We want to make sure that Oregon feels welcoming to everyone, and that all visitors, regardless of ability, feel valued," said Davidson.

"A lot of people may talk about diversity, equity and inclusion, but within that, we want to make sure we're talking about accessibility, both for those folks, where their disability may be visible, but in many instances, it could be cognitive, emotional, and therefore invisible to you and I."

To support local operators to get verified by Wheel the World, Travel Oregon is underwriting the cost of the assessments.

By Disability Pride Month and National Disability Independence



Day in Jul, Travel Oregon will be able to officially announce its verification from Wheel the World, explained Davidson.

To meet this vision, Travel Oregon has invested US\$3.6 million dollars into grant programs that support accessible tourism experiences across the state.

This includes the installation of beach wheelchair rollout walkways called Mobi-mats along the coast, as well as the launch of modified wheelchairs designed to travel on the sand, such as the David's Chair, an electric, allterrain track chair.

An additional \$1.2 million was given to other communities in the state to fund their initiatives.

Other accessible experiences in Oregon include the Portland Art Museum, which began offering Enchroma branded glasses to visitors with colour blindness. JHM

# Make a rebrand count

Any business

driven by an

exclusive focus

on 'seamless'

customer

experience

runs the risk

of making the

experience

so quick and

easy that it is

forgotten

#### OPINION

Rich Curtis is a marketing specialist and CEO FutureBrand Australia.

Got an opinion? Let us know in up to 400 words at

 $email\ feedback@traveldaily.com. au$ 

IS YOUR brand experienced? Whenever a rebrand falls flat, it's inevitably (and somewhat colloquially) described as 'putting lipstick on a pig'.

It's superficial. Redundant. And at worse, misleading.

It's also a disservice to branding (and perhaps unfair on pigs too).

Because we know that strong brands are created with purpose but ultimately defined by the experience.

Only time will tell if the experience lives up to the promise of the rebrand, and that experience has the ability to make or break a brand and business.

Especially a travel brand where the experience is everything.

Pivotal to the success of many travel brands these days is their seamless value propositions - delivered

by removing

the meaningless friction from the experience in order to make things as quick and easy as possible.

That said, any business driven by an exclusive focus on 'seamless' customer experience runs the risk of making the experience so quick and easy that the experience itself is forgotten.

That's where your brand can be more than a badge.

If the customer experience is designed to remove meaningless friction from the experience, then the brand experience is there to add meaningful friction to the experience, and to make things distinctive and memorable.

Let me give you a couple of practical examples - the first in a professional capacity through FutureBrand's work with Air Tahiti Nui, the other a personal story from my own travels.

Boarding a flight is a lesson in efficiency in order to turn around those planes as quickly as possible.

That's no less true for a destination airline like Air Tahiti Nui, showcasing efficiency at every step - except for one, in particular.

Air Tahiti Nui takes a moment to present each and every passenger with a tiare flower when they board their flight.

Its petals are closed at first, and then the flower slowly opens

over the course of the journey and offers a beautiful and unforgettable first impression of the Islands of Tahiti.

A distinctive brand experience can be hard to forget, but what about one that's hard to find?

That's the story of a 'speakeasy' bar I once discovered at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

'Discovered' is the operative word, as the bar was purposefully hidden away: there were no

ads, there was no signage, and I had no idea.

In recent times, I've heard the bar is now an open secret but it can still be tricky to find if you don't know where to look, and so it's lost nothing of its charm.

Find the lamp masquerading as a top hat, push on the white wall, and walk on in.

Feeling in-the-know offers its own special reward.

Whether or not you choose to rebrand your business, know that your brand is only as good as the experience: find the meaningful moments that matter, and use your brand to make them memorable.





Friday 21st February 2025

# Visit USA Expo's spectacular finale

THE Visit USA Expos 2025 series came to an exhilarating close last night at Marvel Stadium, Melbourne, marking the final event of a successful tour across the east coast of Australia.

With over 750 travel agents attending the expos in Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne, the events have been a tremendous success, uniting travel professionals with top US tourism suppliers and showcasing the very

best of the country.

The Melbourne expo brought the tour to an electrifying close, with a surprise flash mob that had the crowd buzzing, and a packed schedule of activities, from sampling US regional beers to competing in spirited pinball machine challenges.

"We're thrilled with the incredible turnout and energy at all three expos," said Caroline Davidson, President of Visit USA.

"We couldn't have asked for a better way to wrap up the tour, and Mike Goldman's infectious enthusiasm ensured the Melbourne finale was as exciting as ever."

Travel agents attending the expos were also treated to prize draws, including Rocky Mountaineer rail prizes, an Anaheim holiday and so much more.



GET ready for some Anaheim Antics. The lucky winner with Disney Destinations, Citadel Outlets, Visit Anaheim and Karmel Shuttle.



VIVA! Viva! Viva! Agents are all set with the latest insights.



**CHEERS** Leo! Visit USA President Caroline Davidson

**ICE** cream and hot sauce from Explore Louisiana - dare to try?

IT'S arrive at the

go time agents Visit USA Expo at Marvel Stadium.







FROM Hollywood to the High Sierra and beyond - the California team brought their fun and energy to the show.

VISIT Seattle keeping the energy up with espresso martinis.

### **CORPORATE UPDATE**

# Biz travel to eclipse \$50b

**AUSTRALIAN** business travel spend is forecast to hit A\$47.64b billion this year and go as high as A\$50.38 billion by 2028, according to statistics released by the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA) in its latest Travel Index Outlook Report.

Speaking at the Sydney Airline Leadership Forum yesterday, GBTA Country Manager -Australia, Derek Sabudin, said the sharp recovery will now gradually moderate and stabilise, as was seen last year, but further growth is still expected.

"In 2023, business travel in Australia reached US\$23.8 billion, a whisker off the 2019 figure of \$23.9 billion," Sabudin said.

"We're expecting it to have grown 12% in 2024 to US\$26.75 billion, and a further 14% growth this year to \$30.5 billion."

Australia ranked 11th in the global business travel spend rankings, which saw China, the US and Germany in the top three, but its strong performance contributed to APAC taking the number one spot by region.

"We continue to see that APAC leads with the largest share of global business travel spend though lower than the 50% share we saw a few years ago," Sabudin explained to Travel Daily.

"It's followed by North America and Europe, while growth among regions continues to vary.

"For 2024, we expect APAC to have seen the highest growth rate at 12.3% - which brings the



region within a hair of its 2019 all-time-high spend."

Sabudin pointed to growth in the finance and insurance sector, as well as the arts, entertainment and recreation sector, as leading the forecasted growth. DF

Pictured: Sabudin with Demi Kavaratzis, Etraveli Group.

#### Corp tickets to drop

THE latest hurdle jumped by Virgin Australia in approving its tie-up with Qatar Airways (TD 18 Feb) has been welcomed by Flight Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) FCM Travel division, which declared the extra Doha flights will lower prices for corporate travellers.

"The approval of the deal will support the recovery of our international visitor economy, and strongly contribute to corporate travel recovery," FCTG Corporate Global Chief Operating Officer Melissa Elf said.

"It will not only make travel to the Middle East and Europe more affordable for our corporate travellers, but it will importantly see inbound benefits to Australian trade and tourism."



### Discover our River Cruise Special Report

Click here

### Solomon connects AKL to BNE



**SOLOMON** Airlines this morning operated its first flight connecting Auckland and Brisbane directly with one of its two Airbus A320s.

IE725 took off from New Zealand's largest city at 6.30am local time, landing in Queensland's capital at 7.15am.

The direct service will run weekly, with the return leg, IE724, taking off from Brisbane at 6.50pm and landing in Auckland the next day at 12.55am.

John Wopereis, Commercial Manager at Solomon Airlines said, "The Auckland-Brisbane flights in both directions are timed to provide great connectivity, making travel easier and affordable for business and leisure travellers and Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) workers, as well as those visiting friends and family in Australia, New Zealand and Solomon Islands".

Solomon Airlines offers sameday flights from Brisbane to Solomon Islands' capital Honiara,

and Munda in the Western Province, providing same-day connection between Auckland and Solomon Islands.

Travel Daily was on the inaugural AKL-BNE flight with over 50 other senior industry executives on board.

Wopereis told attendees the focus for the airline will be on full service becoming bigger in the Pacific market. DF

#### Boeing recruits trust

**BOEING** has hired Jeff Shockey as VP Government Operations, Global Public Policy & Corporate Strategy, a decision the company believes will significantly improve trust with the US Government.

Shockey returns to Boeing after serving as its Vice President, Global Sales and Marketing for three years until 2021, and was most recently the Senior Vice President of Government Relations with aerospace defense company RTX.

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### **SPECIALS**

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Oceania Cruises has launched a 50% off flash sale on select 2025 and 2026 sailings, plus a choice of up to \$1,000 shipboard credit and unlimited wine, beer and spirits. The offer, which ends o1 Mar, can be applied to itineraries like the eight-day 'Anchorage to Vancouver' voyage, now priced from 3,155pp down from 6,310. Find out more **HERE**.

Experience the heart of Australia with Journey Beyond's new stay free offers. For a limited time, travellers who book a 2025 itinerary aboard The Ghan will enjoy three free nights accommodation in Darwin or Adelaide. **CLICK HERE** for more information.

APT Luxury Travel is showcasing several new deals, including \$2,200 of savings per couple on the nine-day 'Douro Delights' cruise aboard MS Estrela from Madrid to Porto. Discounts are also available on the 13-day 'Vietnam and Cambodia Highlights' sailing aboard Mekong Serenity, which departs Ho Chi Minh City to arrive in Siem Reap. To learn more about the current offers, call APT on 1300 336 932.

Travel agents can earn 15% commission when they book clients on 2025 stays at **Cheval Collection**'s five-star luxury serviced apartments in London and Edinburgh, for bookings made by 31 Mar 2025.

Avalon Waterways has launched free two-night Paris extensions on Avalon Bordeaux Cruises, with savings of up to \$8,498 per couple available on 2025 departures. Guests will spend two complimentary nights in the City of Lights, and be taken on a guided tour of Paris' iconic landmarks before embarking on one of Avalon Waterways' newest cruises, which meanders along the Garonne and Dordogne Rivers. For more details, see HERE.

Travellers can enjoy up to \$800 savings on Railbookers itineraries across Switzerland, Italy, Norway, Sicily, and more. Discounts start from \$200 on any three- to six-night rail holiday, all the way to \$800 savings on holidays that are 15 nights or longer. View the flash sale HERE.

HX Expeditions has announced a new agent incentive, which offers the chance to win a trip to Greenland. Book and deposit an HX Expeditions voyage before 31 Mar - quests can save up to 25%. Visit travelhx.com or call 1300 159 127.

Solo adventurers can take advantage of major discounts on Globus and Cosmos trips across Europe and North America in 2025/26. Globus has completely waived the single supplement fee off select Globus Escapes Europe tours until o1 Mar (see HERE), while Cosmos is offering 50% off a selection of its best-selling tours until 30 Apr (see HERE).

Sea Life is offering up to 20% savings on its Platinum and Gold passes at its attractions across Australia and New Zealand. The discounted annual passes are available to purchase until og Mar 2025. For example, the Platinum pass has been reduced from \$125 per adult to \$106 - see HERE.



# Insight spotlights premium



**INSIGHT** Vacations hosted VIP guests, travel agents and clients at an exclusive event series this week at David Jones on Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

The brand unveiled the latest trends in premium touring for 2025, providing guests with insights and practical tips to ensure a successful year of sales.

On Tue, Insight Vacations welcomed VIP guests to an intimate cocktail event, where Andrew Young, General Manager Sales of TTC Tour Brands. discussed the latest travel trends.

Additionally, Maria Parisi, Marketing Director of Insight Vacations, offered a first look into a new exclusive departure - a 12day Thailand trip inspired by the destinations featured on the new series of The White Lotus.

Then on Wed and today, Insight Vacations welcomed travellers with engaging sessions designed to inspire and inform, covering the brand's UK and Europe premium tours, Asia and Egypt itineraries, and US offerings.

"Insight Vacations is one of the fastest-growing brands in our TTC Tour Brands portfolio, and we're

going all in on its next chapter," said Toni Ambler, Managing Director of TTC Tour Brands.

"With a fresh new look, we're elevating immersive experiences and meeting the rising demand for small-group tours - bringing luxury to life in some of the world's most extraordinary destinations."

Participants who book during the event week will enjoy exclusive offers and secure the best availability on Insight Vacations' top trending tours. JM

Pictured: Some of the attendees at the cocktail event.

#### 90 charged at hubs

MORE than 90 people were charged and 132 counts laid for alleged criminal conduct at airports around Australia during the recent holiday period.

Between 01 Dec 2024, and 31 Jan 2025, the AFP responded to 4,205 incidents, of which 93 led to criminal charges.

Almost 50% of charges were for offences against other people or property, with the remaining related to breaches of security zones, and unattended items.



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