

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest travel news, including our **Corporate Update** plus a full page from **Titan Travel**.

HAL Down Under '26

HOLLAND America Line's (HAL) 2026-2027 Australia, New Zealand & Asia cruises are now open for booking, featuring four 'Legendary Voyages' of 13 to 35 days - three of which will sail Down Under.

HAL also recently announced a US\$70 million multi-year expansion to enhance its Denali Lodge and Alaska cruisetours.

Tokyo ticket platform

THE Tokyo Convention & Visitors Bureau has launched a dedicated ticketing page (GOTOKYO.org) with the aim of providing a more seamless way to purchase tickets to events and attractions in Japan's capital.

Key features of the new site include being able to view and book 110 events and attractions such as concerts, tours, cultural experiences on the one page.

Tickets purchased are available both in advance and for same-day purchases, making it a good solution for advanced bookings and those wanting to buy experiences in destination.

The new platform has been rolled out to cater to record-breaking demand, which saw arrivals reach 33.3 million by Nov last year.

ANZCRO revamps tech

TRAVEL advisors can now enjoy a range of new functionality improvements on ANZCRO's website after the customised travel specialist launched a major refresh this week.

Enhancements include greater access to marketing content tools, which encompass being able to share holiday packages at the click of a button, download flyers, and save social media tiles.

The revamped site also boasts a more intuitive interface design, a streamlined portal with an itinerary planner and real-time documentation, more video content and destination highlights, as well as the ability to filter products more quickly.

ANZCRO said the latest revamp is only the first in a series of technology developments planned for 2025, with the company working behind the scenes to deliver more accessible documentation and on-tour



support to agents.

This includes "big leaps" in improving functionality for sellers using its self-service booking platform, ANZCRO Connect.

"Our mission is simple, to make selling New Zealand and Australia easy for travel agents," ANZCRO CEO Nick Guthrey said.

"This means delivering real-time travel solutions, no matter the complexity of the itinerary." *AB*

Titan's new big deal

AGENTS can score a \$100 gift voucher for every client booked on an escorted holiday with Titan Travel, with discounts of up to 25% available for clients.

See the **back page** for details.

HA premium lounge

HAWAIIAN Airlines has offered preview details of its upcoming premium lounge at Honolulu's Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, set to open in 2027.

Part of HA's three-year strategic plan after merging with Alaska Airlines (*TD* 04 Dec 2024), the new lounge will be five-times bigger than the existing one, offering guests a "modern oasis", featuring natural elements and "intentional areas of surprise".

Our biggest incentive

TAUCK has launched its largest-ever travel advisor incentive in Australia, offering agents the chance to earn up to \$2,000 in bonuses through a tiered reward system for the first time.

To celebrate its 100-year milestone in 2025, the tour operator is offering the rewards for all bookings made between 10 Jan and 20 Apr on any 2025 or 2026 journey.

The first booking will earn \$100, increasing in \$100 increments for each subsequent booking during the period and capping at \$500.

Advisors will also receive an extra \$100 for every new-to-Tauck booking made, and bonuses will be paid by 31 May on bookings deposited by 20 Apr.

The news follows Tauck releasing its 2026 season this week, with prices for next year locked in at 2025 prices.

The 2026 collection includes a wide range of small ship river cruises in Europe, land journeys, and premium safaris.

AIR NEW ZEALAND

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Stress stopping bookings

CLOSE to 40% of Aussies say they feel stressed and overwhelmed when planning a holiday, while a third stated “overthinking” a trip is stopping them from booking altogether.

The insights were published by Skyscanner yesterday, which also provided some bright spots for travel advisors, revealing that once armed with the right information, Aussies have no issues with locking in travel plans.

“Our research shows 75% of Aussies are decisive [once they have the details] when it comes to travel planning,” Skyscanner spokesperson Jarrod Kris said.

The study also found that three in five Aussies plan to book travel this year as a way to improve their mental outlook for the year.

Jan is the month most people make the biggest life decision for the year, the report claimed, with ways to reduce anxiety one of the major goals for Aussies in 2025.



Skyscanner’s data shows that as many as one in three people are gearing up to make the major life decision this month.

However, the travel industry will need to do more to remove impediments in the decision-making process, with several stress points listed as disincentives to make a booking.

Two-thirds of Aussies said the high cost of trips was a primary reason not to travel, while Visa requirements were also listed as key stress-inducing aspect.

Financial barriers to travel were made even stronger when the Federal Government opted to hike the price of passport renewals from 01 Jan. *AB*

Qatar Formula 1 2025

QATAR Airways Holidays has launched fan packages for the Formula One 2025 season, with four categories available.

Main Grandstand, North Grandstand, T16 Grandstand, and General Admission Lusail Hill packages are now all available at qatarairways.com/f1.

The latest adventures allow fans to fly return to Doha with Qatar Airways and stay in a 4- or 5-star hotel, with breakfast included, for a minimum of three days.

Packages include three-day race tickets, while Privilege Club members can collect Avios and Qpoints on the flights, plus on the total package value.



Explore goes green

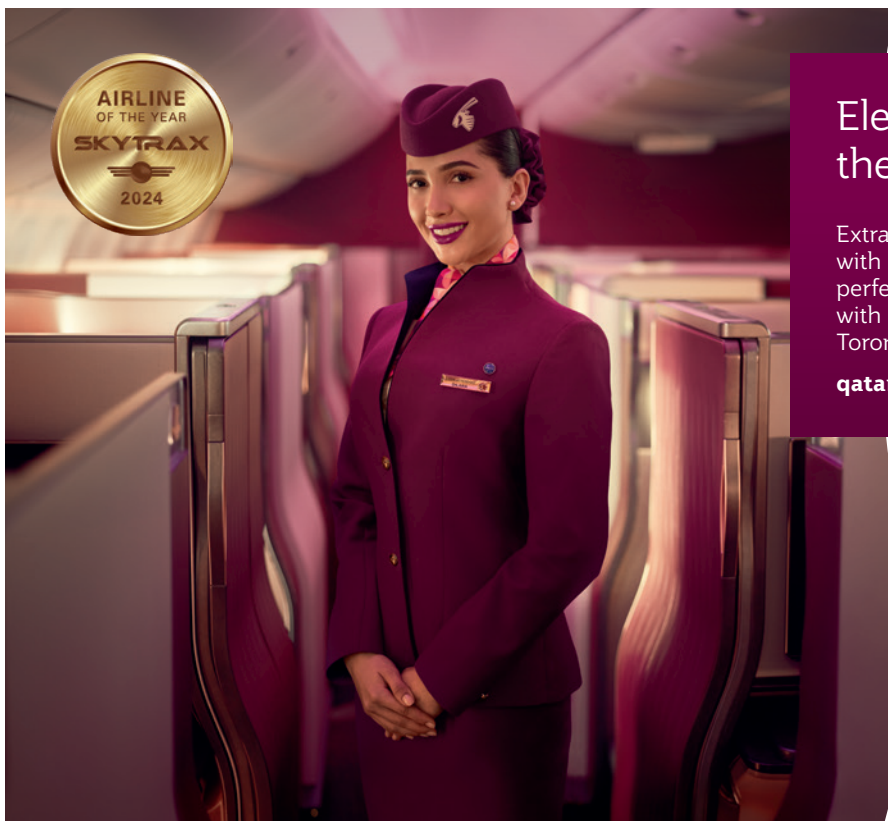
EXPLORE Worldwide has announced a partnership with nonprofit organisation Greening Australia, which will form part of the brand’s Climate Action Plan.

The new collaboration will see all Aussie bookings for trips departing with Explore include a donation to Greening Australia.

This means every Aussie customer booking with Explore Worldwide will help contribute vital funds to support Greening Australia’s work, Explore said.

“We are passionate about exploring the world, yet our wanderlust never prevents us from appreciating the beauty on our doorstep,” Explore Regional Director Ben Ittensohn added.

“With much of Australia’s unique nature under threat and the fact that Australia has lost more mammal species to extinction than any other continent, it felt right, particularly given our significant growth in the Australian market.”



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GOING PLACES TOGETHER



New ships showcase

THE Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) is inviting Aussie travel agents to discover nine of the most anticipated new cruise ships of 2025 in an upcoming virtual showcase.

From 03-07 Feb, the 2025 Ocean Debut Virtual Showcase will introduce the spectacular new fleet of ships due for launch in Australia this year, with daily live online sessions presented by nine CLIA cruise lines.

Agents will learn about the essential features of the ships, including dining options, entertainment, accommodation styles, public spaces, and more - register to attend [HERE](#).

LA attractions close

THE wildfires that continue to burn out of control in Los Angeles have impacted the trading of several major tourism attractions.

Popular sites for travellers that have temporarily ceased trading include: trips to the Hollywood Sign; The Los Angeles Zoo; The Rose Bowl; the Academy Museum; the Griffith Observatory; the Hammer Museum at UCLA; and The stretch of Sunset Boulevard between San Vicente and Crescent Heights, to name just a few.

As of late yesterday, Qantas told **TD** that no flights to LA were impacted by the fires, however the carrier has said that customers have the option to rebook onto another QF flight or retain the value of their ticket.

QF sets sail on TripADeal

CLOSE to seven months on from being fully acquired by Qantas (**TD** 13 Jun 2024), Byron Bay-based travel business TripADeal has revealed a major expansion into the cruising sector.

In response to a growing number of Aussies setting sail over the last couple of years, TripADeal has brokered partnerships with a range of cruise operators to rapidly expand its itineraries from 500 to over 30,000 individual sailings.

TripADeal has also confirmed that Disney Cruise Line will join its list of operators soon, bolstering its family-friendly product range.

The development allows Qantas Frequent Flyers to gain access to a greater range of cruise destinations through point redemptions, including the Galapagos Islands, Greenland, the Amazon River, the Seychelles, Patagonia, and the Kimberley.

Billions of points have already been earned and redeemed through the TripADeal platform in 2024, and total bookings are growing at around 70% since the Qantas acquisition.

There was also a 600% rise in frequent flyers redeeming points on TripADeal packages in 2024.

"Four in five of our customers are Qantas Frequent Flyers, and we are seeing great engagement in members earning but also using their points to offset or unlock a great travel experience," TripADeal Chief Executive Officer Matt Wolfenden said.



"The all-inclusive nature of cruises also appeals to holidaymakers looking for value, who can calculate what everything will cost them ahead of their trip," he added.

TripADeal has also observed a rise in adventure/experience-based cruising to places like Antarctica, as well as a surge in popularity from younger Aussies looking to book cruise trips.

Its booking data shows that a third of TripADeal's cruise customers are now under 35, and the average age has become 10 years younger since 2020.

Qantas spent \$211 million buying the remaining 49% stake in TripADeal last year, cementing its presence in the package holiday market and boosting the range of rewards for its Frequent Flyer members. **AB**

MY inks Travelport

TRAVELPORT has signed a new long-term multi-source content agreement - including NDC content - with SkyTeam Alliance member China Eastern Airlines.

The Chinese carrier, which services five Australian ports, views the deal as a step towards scaling its NDC agency content.



Window Seat

VISITSCOTLAND is spreading the good "moos" to ensure everyone has "herd" about how much fun it is to visit Great Britain's north during the winter.

Julie the Highland Cow - **pictured** at her home at Newton Farm Holidays & Tours - is an advocate for just how fun it can be to visit Scotland during the winter - although one must be rugged up.

Scotland has transformed into an inviting playground filled with winter adventures, from reindeer encounters and outdoor escapes to live music events and snowy retreats.

VisitScotland's #Coosday posts have long been popular during the destination's winter months, but this year, the DMO is taking it to another level, with bespoke "coo-ture" Scottish knitwear.



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CORPORATE UPDATE

It's time for Penny as Chair

ONE of the busiest women in travel has added a new cap to her impressive list of resume credits, becoming the new Chairperson of the Association of Travel Management Companies (ATMC).

Penny Spencer (pictured) takes over the role of the corporate travel industry body from Tass Messinis, who stepped down as the Chair in early Dec (TD 02 Dec 2024), after more than two years.

“With her remarkable leadership and dedication to the travel industry, Penny is set to guide ATMC toward even greater achievements,” ATMC observed in making the announcement.

“Her vision and expertise will undoubtedly inspire innovation and excellence across the sector.”
Apart from founding and



running her own Spencer Travel business, Spencer is also the MD of 24x7 Solutions, providing B2B solutions for travel management companies through after-hours client services.

She is also the founder and Chair of the high-profile Travel Industry Mentor Experience, a Director at Link Travel Group, and the Managing Director of the Spencer Group of Companies. *AB*

CWT signs up dss+

OPERATIONS management consulting business dss+ has signed a new global partnership with biz travel specialist CWT.

The travel management company will support the business travel needs of dss+ employees across 25 markets around the world, and provide the company with solutions to make their travel program more efficient and sustainable.

Dss+ will benefit from CWT’s ‘follow-the-sun’ service model.

flydubai biz lounge

FLYDUBAI has unveiled a new business class lounge at Dubai Int’l Airport, located in T2.

The facility opened its doors on Tue, and at 900m², accommodates space for more than 200 passengers.

The lounge is conveniently located after the passport control and security lanes at the major UAE hub, with the boarding gate for business class passengers located in the lounge, from where travellers can board dedicated buses to their onward flights.

The new lounge features modern aesthetics incorporating natural light with a glass facade offering tarmac views.

The Chat with Jenny

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The eNVy of all famils



TRAVEL Nevada recently hosted four international travel professionals for a ‘Neon to Nature’ road trip adventure.

Australia-based Emma McWaters of Helloworld Travel Fountain Gate was one of four international travel professionals who earned their spot on the adventurous famil, which departed from Las Vegas.

Guests then ventured across the Silver State to explore its diverse variety of attractions, including its bright neon lights, million-year-old rock formations, natural wonders, national parks, sagebrush saloons, and star-studded skies.

The famil kicked off in the entertainment capital, Las Vegas, where the group explored downtown and the Fremont Street Experience, dining at Triple George Grill, before settling in for

the night at Circa Resort & Casino on Fremont Street.

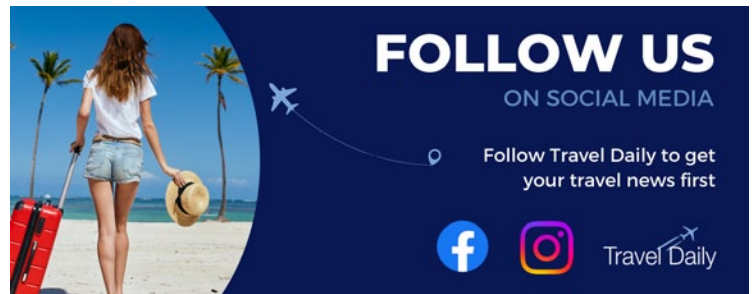
The group then made its way to Boulder City, making a stop at Hoover Dam, where they had the opportunity to go behind the scenes of the facility, which provides power for three states.

The afternoon was spent exploring the Nevada State Railroad Museum and downtown Boulder City, followed by dinner at The Dillinger.

Other highlights on the whirlwind adventure included Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Spring Mountain Ranch, and a visit to the ghost town of Goodsprings.

Pictured are McWaters with Nancy Pearce, Freedom America, UK; Daniela Biehl, TMC Reisen Germany; Sarah Reed, Country Junction Travel Canada; and Elsa Gomez, Travel Nevada. *MS*





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Time is running out to save on **Back-Roads Touring's** 2025 season tours, which includes the brand-new 'A Scandinavian Journey: Denmark to Sweden' and favourites like 'Highlights of Britain' and 'Italian Indulgence'. Book before 19 Feb to secure \$200 off per person on selected departures across all tours. The offer can be combined with the brand's other loyalty discounts - find out more [HERE](#).

Complementing the launch of its global 'Time For' marketing campaign, **Malaysian Airlines** is offering savings of up to 30% on fares to more than 60 international destinations from Australia. In addition to the discounted fares, passengers can also take advantage of ancillary promotions, including up to 10% off seat selection - more info [HERE](#).

Aurora Expeditions is promoting its Wave Season Savings, wiping up to US\$6,500 per person off its small-ship adventures to Antarctica and the Arctic. Travellers can enjoy up to 20% off select 2025/26 expeditions to Antarctica, along with an air credit of US\$2,000 per person. The savings are available until 31 Mar - [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

Now is an ideal time for Aussies to plan their 2025 overseas holiday, with **China Airlines** launching deals on flights to popular destinations in Europe and Asia, including Taiwan, London and Osaka. Secure round-trip fares from Sydney, Brisbane, or Melbourne starting at just \$1,063, including taxes - more information [HERE](#).

Tauck is inviting travellers to lock in 2025 pricing for select 2026 departures. Available on bookings made before 28 Feb, the offer provides the opportunity to take advantage of current rates on over 60 global departures in 2026. Additionally, clients can enjoy a complimentary hotel night before or after any 2026 Tauck journey or cruise thanks to the Time on Tauck incentive - [CLICK HERE](#) for details.

Live up until 31 Jan, **Celebrity Cruises'** New Year offer includes up to \$900 off bookings plus up to 75% off second guests in the same stateroom. The deal applies to voyages such as an 11-night Great Barrier Reef cruise departing Sydney on 25 Mar, now priced from \$3,099 per person. More information can be found [HERE](#).

Luxury Escapes is showcasing its 'Best Of 2024' promotion, which invites Aussies to take advantage of travel deals from 2024 to plan their next luxury getaway for 2025. The limited-time offers includes a six-night package at Mulia Resort Bali, a five-night stay at the SO Maldives, a two-night getaway to Arthouse New York, and more. Learn more by visiting luxuryescapes.com/au.

Agents can earn up to 10% bonus commission with **Crystal's** Suite Dreams offer, when they book their clients on a voyage before 02 Feb. Travellers will enjoy a suite upgrade, complimentary night in a hotel before or after the cruise, and free garment care - call 1300 503 640.

EK drives accessibility



EMIRATES is gearing up to become the world's first autism certified airline, with more than 30,000 of its ground staff and cabin crew to undergo specialised training on autism awareness and sensory sensitivities.

Developed in collaboration with the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards, the certification establishes new industry-leading benchmarks for accommodating passengers with autism and sensory sensitivities during air travel.

The initiative aims to address the significant travel barriers faced by autistic people and their families, with research showing 78% of families are hesitant to travel, and 94% stating a willingness to travel if autism-trained staff were available.

Emirates will train at least 80% of its customer-facing staff on the spectrum of autism, misconceptions and challenges faced, ways to assist customers based on their individual needs, and potential stimulus and triggers to be aware of.

Additionally, the carrier will introduce new resources like digital 'sensory guides' detailing the airport and onboard

environment, and will offer sensory products, such as fidget toys or aids, to enhance comfort and reduce anxiety.

The new program builds on the airline's existing autism-focused initiatives, including its 'Introduction to Autism and Hidden Disabilities' training completed by 23,000 staff in 2023, and the Certified Autism Center designation for its Dubai check-in facilities. *JM*

Heating up at HBA

IT HAS been a hot summer at Hobart Airport, with a record-breaking 277,000 passengers travelling last month.

The trend is expected to continue this month, with Jan's traveller numbers tracking well.

Hobart Airport Chief Operating Officer Matt Cocker said the Dec record was well up on the previous high mark of 271,154 recorded in 2019.

"That is an increase of around 6,000 passengers and a more-than 2% jump on our previous Dec record, set by the hub five years ago," he explained.

"The record breaking looks set to continue across Jan too," Cocker added.



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