



Honours for SA elite

APT Travel Group is continuing to reward its elite sellers, hosting its latest VIP Awards Dinner in South Australia.

More details on **page 10**.

Ellis to lead TAAP

EXPEDIA TAAP has appointed Chris Ellis to the position of Director, TAAP ANZ, replacing the outgoing Stu Udy (TD 03 Mar).

Ellis assumes the role from this month, and has been with Expedia for five years, holding the position of Strategic Account Director for Expedia's Private Label Solutions.

Prior to joining the business, Ellis spent some time as a travel agent, and also worked with travel tech solution providers Tramada and Serko.

"The travel industry is evolving rapidly, and I look forward to collaborating with our partners to drive success in this dynamic landscape," Ellis said.

Worth recalled to the US

IT DID not take long for recent structural changes at the top of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) (TD 07 Jan) to impact the Australian market, with Oceania's VP of Int'l Sales Jason Worth (pictured) to return to Miami.

After 14 years working for the brand in Australia, new Chief Luxury Officer for RSSC and Oceania Cruises Jason Montague has recalled Worth to the US, where he will take up the new role of VP Brand Finance and Strategy for both Oceania Cruises and RSSC.

The restructure will also see current RSSC Senior Vice President and Chief Sales Officer Steve Odell bring Oceania Cruises under his remit as Senior Vice President Int'l and Consumer Sales for both brands.

Further changes in the Miami office will see Nathan Hickman transition from SVP Marketing at Oceania Cruises into a broader



role as Chief Commercial Officer for the brand, while at RSSC, Wes D'Silva will expand his current role as SVP Revenue Management into the position of Chief Commercial Officer.

Montague recently replaced Andrea DeMarco, and subsequently Frank Del Rio Jr also resigned (TD 19 Feb), who was due to report into Montague. AB

Silversea give credit

ENJOY up to \$8,000 in savings plus up to \$250 in onboard credit with Silversea's limited-time bonus shipboard credit offer for bookings made by 14 Mar - see **page 11**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features nine pages of travel industry news, including our **Sustainability** page plus a product profile from **Passport Card** and full pages from

- APT Travel
- Silversea
- Adventure World

Cunard promotes

CUNARD has promoted Amy Williams to the role of Sales and Marketing Director for Australia and New Zealand.

Williams will commence in the position on 01 May, shifting from the National Sales Manager role which she had held since 2019.

Before that, Williams was in senior positions with the Cunard brand in the United Kingdom.

The development follows the announcement in Jan of Cunard's Commercial Director Katrina McAlpine departing at the end of Apr after 13 years (TD 07 Jan).



AUTUMN SALE

up to **40% OFF**

plus
Unlimited Wine, Beer & Spirits
+ Shipboard Credit up to US\$2,000

on select sailings & categories
book now - offer expires 1 Apr, 2025



Collector's New Zealand SYDNEY TO AUCKLAND 15 Days | 15 March, 2026 | Riviera

AUTUMN SALE FARES PER GUEST FROM:	WAS	with SPECIAL FARES
Concierge Veranda	AUS\$16,920	AUS\$15,228
Veranda Stateroom	AUS\$15,500	AUS\$13,950

UNLIMITED WINE, BEER & SPIRITS + US\$500 SHIPBOARD CREDIT

*All offers and fares are subject to Terms & Conditions.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL **1300 355 200**,
VISIT **OCEANIACRUISES.COM** OR CONTACT YOUR **TRAVEL ADVISOR**

DOWNLOAD TOOLKIT

*Fares and itineraries are accurate as of 26 February 2025 and are subject to change or withdrawal. Autumn Sale offer expires 1 April 2025, applies to select categories on select voyages, subject to availability and is capacity controlled. The quoted fares are valid for sale until 1 April, unless sold out prior and include any/all savings/upgrades. Airfares are additional. Cruise fares are per person, twin share (except fares for Solo category, which are for single travellers), in AUD and include all taxes, port fees and onboard gratuities. For full terms & conditions that apply, please visit OceaniaCruises.com/terms. All rights reserved. Oceania Cruises is not responsible for typographical errors or omissions. Ships' Registry: Marshall Islands. NCL Australia Pty Ltd ABN 8060 7578 781

Win your Qantas Supernova Seat

See Oasis Live 25' in Sydney and experience the ultimate UK adventure

Find out more

QANTAS
Spirit of Australia



*Competition closes 31 March 2025. T&Cs apply.

A-ROSA 2026 out

BOUTIQUE river cruise line A-ROSA has unveiled its lineup for the 2026 season, with bookings now open for agents.

The 15 ships in the cruise line's fleet will sail on more than 60 different itineraries in the Rhine; Main; Moselle; Danube; Seine; Rhone; Saone; and Douro.

A new offering for 2026 is the seven-night 'Rhine Wine & Gusto' cruise on *A-Rosa Silva*.

Travellers can also take advantage of the new flexible premium fare, allowing pax to combine included services with additional options such as arrival and departure, hotel accommodation, transfers, excursions & beverage packages.

Enjoy Peru for two

ADVENTURE World is giving away an eight-day experience as part of its sponsorship of Machu Picchu and the Golden Empires of Peru - details on [page 12](#).

Virtuoso sails through

CRUISE bookings have been a significant contributor to Virtuoso's recent success, revealed Senior Vice President of Global Operations, Michael Londregan, at the luxury network's recent ANZ Forum in Perth.

Admitting it was no secret the segment took a huge hit during the pandemic when virtually all cruises were suspended by restrictions, Londregan said it is now 239% above where it was in 2019 in terms of sales.

"For Virtuoso's overall business around the world, we've had great growth in our cruise business up 27%, hotels up 30%, on-sites up 22% and tours up 20% - this is the global number.

"Our business for 2024 was up by 17.4%, and if you break that down by category, the huge winner for us is cruise."

The figures look like they will continue as well, with the *Virtuoso Lux Report* for 2025



placing adventure cruise trips as the biggest travel trend in the industry, while ocean cruising also polled well in sixth place.

Meanwhile, destinations that were largely serviced by cruise tourists placed well in the emerging destinations of 2025 list, with Antarctica taking out the number one spot. *DF*

Tahiti hails new chief

TAHITI Tourisme has welcomed Vaihere Lissant as its new Chief Executive Officer, following Jean-Marc Mocellin's departure.

Lissant joined Tahiti Tourisme in 2014, most recently serving as its Chief Marketing Officer.

FCM mines big deal

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) FCM Travel division has landed a major mining contract, with the brand to manage travel arrangements for all 13 brands for WA-based Perenti.

"This win cements our capability in supporting clients with very specific and complex travel needs, and delivering a bespoke and customised solution that puts the customer and their travellers first," FCM COO Melissa Elf said.

The latest partnership also included an extensive change management program undertaken by FCM Consulting.

The FCTG division provided management for supplier consolidation, policy review, communications, and training.

PassportCard helps

INSTANT payments on a range of common claims can make those annoying travel hassles less of a burden - details on [page 13](#).



Ultra-Luxury Cruising

Scenic Presents Jason Flesher, Director of Discovery Operations to gain insights of voyages to East Antarctica & The Ross Sea

Click watch now to view our recorded webinar

WATCH NOW



PRICES FROM \$3,299
PER PERSON TWIN SHARE
LAND ONLY
*Surcharges may apply

W M W TOURS

DURATION: **11 DAYS**

Philippines Express

VIEW DEAL

New role for Jayne?

VIRGIN Australia CEO Jayne Hrdlicka is reportedly in discussions to take on a consultant role at Qatar Airways after she exits the Aussie carrier. When questioned about the rumour, Hrdlicka did not deny the report, adding she enjoyed a "great relationship" with QR.

Three more Super Ships

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises will add three new 'Super Ships' in 2027, marking the cruise line's transition to an all-Super Ship fleet.

The trio of vessels will be new-builds for Uniworld, sailing throughout Europe on the Rhine, Main, Danube and Douro rivers.

Joining other Super Ships in the pipeline, including the S.S. *Emilie* debuting in 2026, and S.S. *Elisabeth* this year, the vessels will expand Uniworld's fleet size by over 10% compared to 2020.

Central to the Super Ship value proposition is an upgrade in



luxury appeal, including custom fabrics, hand-carved wood and marble floors throughout.

Guests will also be able to enjoy original artwork at all corners of the ships, specially commissioned by famed artists.

There is also more space on board compared to previous Uniworld vessels, as well as additional suites and dining venues, and a range of ultra-luxurious amenities.

"Our focus has never been on simply adding more ships, but on continually raising the bar on the luxury river cruise experience," CEO Ellen Bettridge said. *AB*

Stars on the train

GREAT Journeys New Zealand (GJNZ) has launched the Matariki Rail Experience, a train journey from Christchurch to Kaikoura that combines stargazing and local culture for the Maori NY.

The round-trip departs 21 Jun, with the NZ\$449pp ticket price including multiple meals.



BENCH AFRICA

AFRICAN EXPERTS
1966

NEW BROCHURE OUT NOW

CLICK TO REQUEST YOUR COPY TODAY!

TA adds dashboard

TOURISM Australia's corporate website has been updated to include new dashboard extracted from a range of sources.

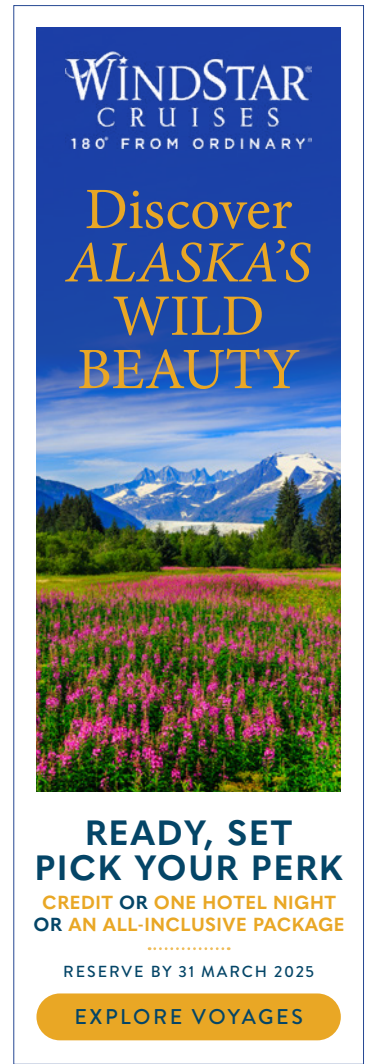
These include Tourism Research Australia and the ABS, providing figures on spend, travel behaviour and inbound aviation - see [HERE](#).



New Members Welcome

TRAVELLERS CHOICE

Check us out >>>



WINDSTAR CRUISES
180° FROM ORDINARY™

Discover ALASKA'S WILD BEAUTY

READY, SET PICK YOUR PERK

CREDIT OR ONE HOTEL NIGHT OR AN ALL-INCLUSIVE PACKAGE

RESERVE BY 31 MARCH 2025

EXPLORE VOYAGES



ENTIRE TRAVEL GROUP

2025 LAST CHANCE OFFER

BOOK BY 31 MAR 2025

ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

SAVE UP TO \$800 PER COUPLE

T&Cs apply. Valid on select travel dates.

INCLUDES 🍷 🍴 🍺 🍻



Under pressure Gen Z retains travel

DESPITE a weakening Australian dollar against most of the majors placing pressure on travel budgets, a new study has suggested the majority of young Aussies are pushing ahead with plans to book overseas trips.

A Zoom Travel Insurance survey showed that 72% of Gen Z travellers are prioritising travel plans, even though they concede budgets will not stretch as far as previous years.

In early Jan, the Aussie dollar dropped to a five-year low, trading at just 61 US cents and dipping in value against the pound and the euro.

The report said that extra costs are forcing younger travellers to “rethink” their plans, especially in light of rising outlays for flights, accommodation, and daily expenses in popular destinations such as Europe, the United States and parts of Asia.

However, the budget barrier is



not stopping Gen Z tourists from placing travel at the front of the queue for discretionary spend in 2025 - with many of the 500 surveyed describing travel as an “essential part of life”.

Commenting on the results, Zoom Travel Insurance Marketing Manager Natasha Sullivan said with students and backpackers tightening their budgets, many are opting for destinations like New Zealand and parts of Southeast Asia to make the dollar stretch further.

Another surprising finding of the report was an uptick in travel insurance policies taken out by

Gen Z in recent months.

The finding bucks many recent studies suggesting younger Aussies are willing to gamble and travel without any coverage.

“We’ve noticed an increase in Gen Z customers, along with a rise in claims from young travellers,” Sullivan said, adding the trend was evidence younger travellers are finally recognising the value of being protected when things go wrong.

“With the rising cost of travel, even minor mishaps can significantly impact their budgets,” she said.

The finding coincides with another report from Klook, which showed Australian Gen Z (84%) and Millennial (88%) travellers actively use travel as a way to improve their mental state.

Two-thirds of younger travellers also stated they are willing to allocate half their travel budgets to new experiences. *AB*

Travel Daily
ON LOCATION

DUBAI

Today's issue of CW is coming to you courtesy of Celestyal Cruises, which is hosting us aboard Celestyal Journey.

TODAY is our second day in Dubai, which will see guests debark *Celestyal Journey* for a range of shore excursions.

Some passengers will head off to visit a number of new attractions, including the Dubai Miracle Garden, the world's largest flower garden, and the Burj Al Arab, one of the tallest hotels in the world.

Others will head to the Arabian desert, where they will go dune-bashing in a 4x4, while those interested in history can head to the Deira old town to visit the Dubai Gold Souk and the Dubai Spice Souk.

Underwater? Or out of this world?

Snorkelling in the Galápagos is to see the cradle of evolution from a different perspective. Dive into exploration on a science-centred expedition cruise with HX and learn more about the nature of life.



Up to
25% OFF*

All-Inclusive Expeditions to Galápagos

+ HX Price Promise

Change the way you see the world.

*T&Cs apply

Book by 31 March 25
Call **1300 159 127** or visit
agentportal.travelhx.com





ANTARCTICA | ALASKA | GALÁPAGOS | GREENLAND | ICELAND | SVALBARD | NORTHWEST PASSAGE

Applies to bookings made from 19 December, 2024 to 31 March, 2025 (inclusive) for selected HX departures from 1 March 2025 and 31 March 2027 (inclusive). Bookings outside of these periods do not qualify. Bookings are subject to availability. HX operates on a dynamic pricing system. Represents a saving on the “From” price quoted in AUD, based per person and on full occupancy of cabin. Other restrictions may apply. Visit travelhx.com for full T&Cs. Price Promise valid for sailings between 1st of April 2025 through to 31st March 2027, before other restrictions apply.



Unique Alma Resort

THE Unique Tourism Collection has been selected to rep Alma Resort Vietnam in the Australia and New Zealand market.

The Sydney-based travel marketing specialist will work closely with industry partners while developing strategic opportunities to drive business to the resort from the local market.

Situated on Vietnam's emerging Cam Ranh peninsula, the resort offers 580 oversized suites and pavilions, 14 food and beverage venues, a spa and gym, 12 swimming pools, a water park, cinema, science museum, youth centre, mini super market, 18-hole mini golf, and more.

The property also prioritises sustainability with its own herb and nursery garden, a chicken farm, and a solar power project.



CANADA & ALASKA 2026

**Early Access
OUT NOW!**



Super Earlybear Savings

**CLICK FOR
NEW BROCHURE >**

Caravan parks on a roll

AUSTRADE has completed the rollout of a \$31.2 million funding program that has helped 110 Australian caravan parks to carry out major renovation projects.

The three-year Caravan Parks Grant Program, administered by Austrade, saw grants of between \$10,000 and \$100,000 awarded to match individual budgets.

Projects completed using the grants include new cabins and kitchens, accessible bathrooms and green enhancements to improve park sustainability.

In some cases, one park used its grant to transform a crocodile shaped pool into a larger water park; another installed a stargazing lab; while a third developed a classic Aussie drive-in theatre to screen classic movies for guests.

The investments are now paying off, with 86% of recipients reporting an increase in bookings.

Federal Minister for Tourism



Don Farrell said the investments have reinvented regional tourism, with 90% of domestic caravan trips taking place in regional areas.

"Caravan parks are easily one of the most popular holiday accommodation choices, particularly for families, budget-conscious travellers and travellers who want to get off the beaten track and explore everything our country has to offer," Farrell said.

Caravan Industry Association of Australia, Stuart Lamont, said caravanning contributed \$27 billion annually to tourism and local manufacturing industries. *ML*

Silkier hotel stays

FOUR Seasons Hotel and Resorts Bali at Sayan has embarked on a new collaboration with Australian silk lifestyle brand, Shhh silk.

The Melbourne-based label will create a bespoke silk sleepwear collection for the resort.

"At Shhh Silk, we feel truly privileged to partner with some of the world's most extraordinary hotels, curating sleepwear that enhances their guest journey," said Shhh Silk founder Olivia Carr in a LinkedIn post.

"This is just the beginning, and we look forward to collaborating with more world-class properties across the globe, creating timeless moments of relaxation and indulgence."

Shhh Silk is also currently working with international properties including the Dorchester Collection and the Beverly Hills Hotel on other exclusive ranges, featuring silk pillowcases, sleep masks and all types of sleepwear.

Window Seat

ONE AMERICAN Airlines customer has discovered that no good deed goes unpunished, after they informed the carrier that it accidentally refunded them \$100,000 for their airfare instead of \$1,000.

Astonishingly, at first AA insisted the refund had been processed correctly, so the bewildered customer persevered in trying to get the airline their money back.

The result of their honesty? American Express has charged the customer US\$28 million in attempt to "fix" the error, with the saga ongoing...



CANADA & ALASKA 2026

**11 Day Tour from
\$9,595pp***

**Including
Rocky Mountaineer**



**CLICK FOR
NEW BROCHURE >**

HLO is ready for wave season



HELLOWORLD Travel's Cruise division has teamed up with the Helloworld Travel Academy to host a series of cruise masterclasses around Australia.

The events kicked off in Melbourne, before making their way to Brisbane, Adelaide, and Sydney, equipping agents with the knowledge and skills to make the most of wave season.

"We put a lot of effort into ensuring our agents are equipped to perform in the current travel environment," said Steve Brady, Group General Manager Cruise.

"In wave season, that means we ensure they have the knowledge and skills to make the most of this critical time of year."

Meanwhile, Helloworld Travel is also celebrating wave season by partnering with 15 cruise lines to run a marketing campaign across Australia for eight weeks.

The campaign is promoting deals in ocean, river, and

Royal's short breaks

ROYAL Caribbean has unveiled its lineup of short getaways for 2026-27, offering cruisers a choice of two- to five-night sailings in the Caribbean and the Bahamas.

The sailings will visit the cruise line's private island, Perfect Day at CocoCay in The Bahamas; Royal Beach Club Paradise Island in Nassau, The Bahamas; and Royal Beach Club Cozumel, due to open in 2026; as well as Royal's exclusive destination Labadee, in Haiti.

Bookings fare now open [HERE](#).

expedition cruise across print, radio, outdoor and digital, generating leads and driving business to agents. *JM*

Pictured: The Brisbane masterclass graduates.

Hotel rocks Ontario

THE highly anticipated Hard Rock Hotel London, Ontario is inching closer to completion, with reservations now open.

Located within the iconic 100 Kellogg Lane, the new property is part of Canada's largest indoor entertainment complex, and will offer a music-infused sensory experience for guests, with a 32-foot-high sculptural metallic guitar as the centrepiece.

The hotel will offer 164 guest rooms and specialty suites with floor-to-ceiling windows, including a Rock Star Suite, which features a plush living area and bar, exclusive music-inspired touches, and high-end amenities like a private kitchenette.

Guests and locals can dine at a range of innovative culinary and beverage concepts, including GMT-5 bar, Sessions Restaurant & Bar, and a unique speakeasy, as well as engage in several unique programs, focusing on music, wellness, and pets.



ATIA UPDATE

from Nina Hedges, Compliance Manager



LANDING in stunning Melbourne this morning and visiting members across the city and

suburbs, I couldn't help but reflect on the incredible diversity of businesses we represent as the peak industry body.

No two members are the same, yet ATIA is here for all - offering support, resources and advocacy to ensure every voice in our industry is heard.

From traditional bricks-and-mortar travel agencies to tour operators and wholesalers, cruise specialists, online travel agents, mobile networks, consolidators and corporate travel providers and more, our members span the full spectrum of the travel ecosystem.

Each business has unique challenges and opportunities, and our role is to ensure they have the tools, support and representation they need to thrive.

For smaller to medium-sized businesses, this may mean the practical hands-on support we provide - from industry relations guidance and dispute resolution support to consumer education resources that help build trust and credibility with consumers.

Larger businesses with in-house legal and HR teams may rely on us for data insights and industry-wide support.

We work tirelessly in Canberra to ensure the industry's voice is heard at the highest level of government.

As the only body representing every corner of our sector, we ensure policymakers make informed decisions that reflect the realities of the travel sector.

No matter where you sit in our dynamic industry, there is always a place for you at ATIA.

Whether you need support, data insights, representation, networking or advocacy, we're here to champion your success - because together, as one united industry, we are stronger.

Tauck offers first look

TAUCK has revealed a preview of its two new ships that will be joining its fleet next year - as well as their names (*TD* 24 Oct 2024).

Four detailed images show the ships' full exterior, Sun Deck, wellness area and range of category five suites.

"Today marks a special announcement for us here at Tauck," said David Clark, Managing Director Australia.

"Our two new ships, the *ms Serene* and the *ms Lumiere*, will be wonderful, new additions.

I'm confident that these ships will prove to be particularly popular with our Australian guests, when they set sail next year."

Their names were selected from more than 1,000 suggestions submitted by the cruise line's travel advisors, guests and employees.

"The name *Serene* is perfect for our new ship on the Seine, bringing to mind tranquility and rejuvenation,"



said Chief Executive Officer, Jennifer Tombaugh.

Tauck has also released the first renderings of both the ships, which depicts the Sun Deck featuring a swimming pool, full-service bar, shaded day beds, as well as an al fresco dining area, where guests can enjoy a glass of wine while admiring the scenery.

Guests wishing to maintain their fitness regime while on board can visit The Retreat, which features a fitness centre, massage treatment room and lounge area.

Ms Serene will sail the River Seine and the *ms Lumiere* will operate on the Rhone. *JHM*

Peru in Sydney: A taste of Machupicchu

PROMPERU hosted a trade event at the Australian Museum, where travel industry professionals enjoyed an exclusive evening exploring the Machupicchu exhibition and took part in an immersive virtual reality experience that transported them to the heart of Peru.

Pisco cocktails and traditional Peruvian canapes were served as part of the event, while journalist and podcaster, Belinda Jackson, shared her personal experiences of travelling through Peru, further deepening the allure of the country as a must-visit destination in a lively Q&A.

Soledad Campos de Parry, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner of PROMPERU, also addressed guests with a lovely wrap up of Peru and all it has to offer Australians.



GUESTS were treated to a private viewing of the Machupicchu and the Golden Treasures of Peru exhibition.



JACQUI Walshe, The Walshe Group; Ambassador of Peru, His Excellency Vitaliano Gallardo Valencia; and Soledad Campos de Parry, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner of PROMPERU.



SOLEDAD Campos de Parry, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner of PROMPERU, addressing the guests.



LIZ Glover from Adventure World is ready to 'alpaca' her bags to Peru.



BELINDA Jackson, podcaster and travel writer, with Soledad Campos de Parry, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner of PROMPERU.



GUESTS enjoyed a taste of Peru with traditional Peruvian canapes.





Reef expedition

CORAL Expeditions will bring together marine scientists, conservationists and travellers aboard the 'Coral Futures Expedition' later this year, a voyage that will actively engage in research efforts to support the future resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.

The itinerary will visit some of the most remote sections of the Reef, providing access to exclusive research sites while fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges and solutions facing coral ecosystems.

Guests will participate in expert-led presentations, hands-on fieldwork including coral monitoring and data collection, and snorkelling and scuba diving experiences.

"Our partnership with Coral Expeditions and the Forever Reef Project enables us to offer an immersive and meaningful experience for those who want to take an active role in reef conservation," said Chrissie Goldrick, Chair of the Australian Geographic Society.

"This is more than a voyage - it's an opportunity to make a real impact on the future of the Great Barrier Reef."

The Coral Futures Expedition will depart 04 Dec 2025 from Cairns, with limited availability.

NEW ECO GUIDELINES EASE BURDEN

DESTINATIONS can benefit from a newly improved Global Destination Sustainability Movement Index (GDS-Index), which has been updated for 2025 to support their sustainability journey with better data, clearer guidance and higher standards.

The program, which assesses and accelerates the progress of a destination's sustainability goals, has undergone an annual review, guided by input from destinations and a dedicated Technical Advisory Committee.

A key enhancement to the GDS-Index is the integration of third-party data, with BeCause providing verified sustainability certification data for hotels, and Murmuration supplying satellite data for five key environmental indicators, helping to ease the burden on destinations.

Additionally, the updated index aligns with certifications that are



Travalyst-compliant or GSTC-accredited, ensuring consistency in sustainability credentials.

This means that, from next year, certifications accepted by the GDS-Index will have to be accredited and adhere to stricter standards to maintain credibility and transparency.

"The 2025 GDS-Index strengthens our commitment to delivering greater value for destination management organisations," said Guy Bigwood, CEO of GDS-Movement.

"By integrating trusted third-party data from BeCause and

Murmuration, we are reducing administration, saving time and improving accuracy.

"These refinements ensure that the GDS-Index is more meaningful, insightful and better-aligned with emerging industry needs, driving real progress towards more regenerative and resilient destination management in an increasingly unsettled world."

Looking ahead, the 2026 GDS-Index will undergo a review to bring it in line with the upcoming EU Green Claims Directive.

Access the updated GDS-Index Methodology [HERE](#). *JM*

CTM doubles down on cultural awareness

CORPORATE Travel Management (CTM) has partnered with specialist Indigenous consultancy firm, John Briggs Consultancy, to support reconciliation efforts.

The two entities will work together on the initiatives laid out in CTM's newly released 'Innovate' Reconciliation Action Plan, with John Briggs Consultancy to provide the travel firm's staff with cultural

awareness training, professional development, forums and workshop facilitation.

"We are lucky to have a diverse workforce in Australia and New Zealand, and equipping our leaders with the right tools to have meaningful conversations, and to celebrate Australia's Indigenous heritage, is an important part of advancing reconciliation," said CTM's Head of People ANZ, Nicole Galliford.

Explore keeps up

EXPLORE Worldwide has teamed up with KeepCup - an Australian company that manufactures reusable coffee cups - as part of B Corp Month, to help promote travelling sustainability.

The duo is offering members of the public a chance to win a tour with Explore Worldwide in either Sri Lanka, the Greek Islands or Turkiye - details [HERE](#).

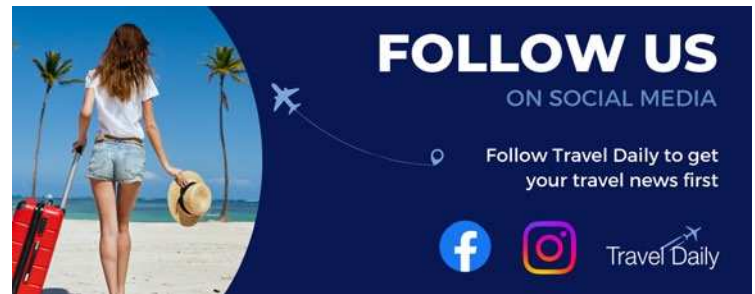
GROW YOUR BUSINESS

LAUNCHING 10 MARCH

HOME EX

HOME AGENT
VIRTUAL
EXPERIENCE

REGISTER FREE



MONEY

WELCOME to Money, *TD's* Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

AU\$1 = US\$0.622

THE Aussie dollar has ended a six-day losing streak, which saw it drop by 3% against the USD.

While the American currency has weakened, US President Donald Trump's decision to double tariffs on China to 20% has stirred extra caution.

The Aussie dollar is heavily reliant on China's economy, and could fall quickly if Beijing retaliates, or if other trading partners see increased barriers.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.622
UK	£0.489
NZ	\$1.109
Euro	€0.593
Japan	¥93.05
Thailand	฿21.14
China	¥4.507
South Africa	11.58
Canada	\$0.901
Crude oil	US\$71.21

Caviar in the lounge

AIRPORT hospitality brand Plaza Premium Group has introduced caviar bars for guests to indulge in the luxury treat at two of its lounges in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Featuring imported caviar from Italy, France, Azerbaijan and China, the 'Numero Uno' caviar bars can be found at DXB Terminal 3 and the Pearl Lounge in Terminal A at AUH Zayed Int'l.

Caviar can be consumed on-site with deluxe accompaniments or purchased to take home.

Melbourne painted red



THE Big Red Group has won a tender to help launch the Melbourne Visitor Hub's latest tourism booking offering - the

Global startup pitch

ENTRIES are now open for travel entrepreneurs to gain market exposure through the fourth annual Global Startup Pitch, run in collaboration by Web In Travel (WiT) and Phocuswright.

Businesses can enter one of two categories, with 'Seedup' open to brands less than three years old which have generated less than US\$5 million, or 'ScaleUp' for older enterprises which have raised less than US\$10 million.

Entries are also split into four regions - Europe, North America, Emerging Markets & Asia Pacific.

Finalists will present at a Grand Final at Phocuswright Europe in Barcelona from 10-12 Jun, with a winner from each region chosen.

Winners will receive spotlight pitch opportunities at WiT Singapore from 06-08 Oct and Phocuswright North America in San Diego from 18-20 Nov.

Entries are open until 15 Apr.

Experience Oz Booking Desk.

In partnership with the City of Melbourne, the experience network will provide visitors with a one-stop shop for their booking needs, from guided tours to transport services, and local attractions, with the aim of making it easier and more enjoyable for travellers to explore all Melbourne has to offer.

"We're thrilled to be a part of the new initiative as well as have the opportunity to further showcase the 637 small business operators we have in Melbourne who are ready and raring to share their passion for the city via the Experience Booking Desk," Big Red Group said on LinkedIn. *JM*

Ciao, The Hoxton

HOTEL brand The Hoxton has opened in Florence, its second property to operate in Italy.

Located in the historic centre of the city near the Uffizi Gallery and Duomo, the 160-room hotel is split across two buildings: a 16th century late-Renaissance palazzo and a 1980s Andrea Branzi-designed building.

Moreton Bay head

VISIT Moreton Bay has promoted its General Manager of Destination Management, Luke Edwards, to CEO.

Bringing more than 20 years in tourism to the role, Edwards has played a key part in building trade partnerships and driving strategic growth for the organisation since first joining in Feb last year.

Edwards replaces Natassia Wheeler, who departed last year to step into the role of CEO of Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC).

DidaTravel rebrands

DIDATRAVEL, a B2B travel distribution company, has launched a new brand identity and announced its decision to simplify its name to 'Dida'.

The changes were made in response to the feedback of its supplier and client partners around the world, and is designed to better reflect the China-based company's position as a global travel tech leader with high-value distribution reach.

"Our new identity is more than just a change of logo or branding - it's a reflection of who we are and what we stand for," said Rikin Wu, Founder and CEO at Dida.

"We look forward to collaborating with leading enterprises in and beyond the travel industry, leveraging our strengths and AI technology to explore even more innovative business models."





APT TRAVEL GROUP

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S TRAVEL ELITE HONoured AT EXCLUSIVE VIP AWARDS DINNER

APT Travel Group VIP Awards Dinners continued in Adelaide last week, celebrating their South Australian partners at the elegant Sofitel Adelaide. APT co-owner Rob McGeary shared insights into APT's vision and presented each store with a copy of his father Geoff McGeary's memoir. The book offers a unique glimpse into the life and legacy of one of Australia's greatest travel pioneers and will be a treasured keepsake for each partner store. The night saw a fantastic representation from agencies across all major retail networks. Phil Hoffmann Travel took top honours, with three stores inducted into the McGeary Club, while Jackie Pool from Phil Hoffmann Travel Glenelg Suite joined the Million Dollar Agent Club. RAA Travel Colonnades and Flight Centre West Lakes were both recognised as Rising Stars for 2025.



Scott and Rob during the business update and awards ceremony



Diamond and Platinum agents from RAA Travel



PHT Modbury, PHT Norwood, and PHT Gawler join the exclusive McGeary Club for 2025



Winners of the Rising Star Award SA Flight Centre West Lakes and RAA Travel Colonnades



Rob McGeary holds his father Geoff McGeary's book, which is presented to all Diamond and Platinum winners



PHT Glenelg Suite's Jackie Pool is awarded as SA's Top Performing Consultant and Million Dollar Club 2025



Krystal Savage from Travel Associates, Norwood Place and Amanda Clifton from APT



The team at Flight Centre enjoying an evening of celebration



The APT team



Bonus Shipboard Credit Exclusive

From the vibrant cosmopolitan cities of Australia to the serene fjords and breathtaking vineyards of New Zealand, we invite your clients to discover authentic beauty in ultra-luxury. Book by 14 March 2025 and your clients can **enjoy up to US\$500 Shipboard Credit** per suite on selected Australia and New Zealand voyages in our 2025/26 season. What's more, you can save up to \$8,000 per suite on select voyages.

Limited-time offer: Bonus Shipboard Credit

SHIP	DATE	NIGHTS	FROM	TO	SHIPBOARD CREDIT (USD)
<i>Silver Moon</i>	11-Nov-2025	19	Singapore	Melbourne	\$250
<i>Silver Moon</i>	11-Nov-2025	9	Singapore	Fremantle (perth)	\$150
<i>Silver Moon</i>	20-Nov-2025	10	Fremantle (perth)	Melbourne	\$200
<i>Silver Moon</i>	30-Nov-2025	16	Melbourne	Auckland	\$250
<i>Silver Moon</i>	16-Dec-2025	18	Auckland	Melbourne	\$250
<i>Silver Moon</i>	03-Jan-2026	16	Melbourne	Auckland	\$250
<i>Silver Moon</i>	19-Jan-2026	16	Auckland	Melbourne	\$250
<i>Silver Moon</i>	04-Feb-2026	19	Melbourne	Singapore	\$250
<i>Silver Nova</i>	25-Sep-2025	19	Singapore	Melbourne	\$250
<i>Silver Nova</i>	25-Sep-2025	7	Singapore	Darwin	\$150
<i>Silver Nova</i>	25-Sep-2025	16	Singapore	Sydney	\$200
<i>Silver Nova</i>	02-Oct-2025	12	Darwin	Melbourne	\$200
<i>Silver Nova</i>	14-Oct-2025	22	Melbourne	Darwin	\$250
<i>Silver Nova</i>	18-Oct-2025	10	Sydney	Cairns	\$200
<i>Silver Nova</i>	28-Oct-2025	8	Cairns	Darwin	\$150
<i>Silver Nova</i>	05-Nov-2025	25	Darwin	Melbourne	\$250
<i>Silver Nova</i>	05-Nov-2025	9	Darwin	Fremantle (perth)	\$200
<i>Silver Nova</i>	22-Nov-2025	8	Adelaide	Melbourne	\$150
<i>Silver Nova</i>	30-Nov-2025	12	Melbourne	Auckland	\$250
<i>Silver Nova</i>	12-Dec-2025	15	Auckland	Sydney	\$250
<i>Silver Nova</i>	27-Dec-2025	13	Sydney	Auckland	\$250
<i>Silver Nova</i>	09-Jan-2026	16	Auckland	Sydney	\$250
<i>Silver Nova</i>	25-Jan-2026	18	Sydney	Singapore	\$250

CONTACT YOUR SILVERSEA SALES MANAGER OR RESERVATIONS ON +61 2 9255 0600 | SILVERSEA.COM/TRADE

Offer combinable with Promotional Groups, Venetian Society Savings, Referral Savings, Onboard Savings, pre/post land programs and Kids Savings. US\$500 Shipboard Credit per suite offer is valid on new, individual bookings made between 18 February and 14 March 2025 on select Australia and New Zealand voyages. Guests booking with this offer will receive a shipboard credit of up to USD \$250 per person, limited to two guests per suite. If the shipboard credit is not fully used during the cruise no refund will be made. Offer valid on Door-to-Door and Port-to-Port fares on all suite categories. Offers are not combinable with Promotional Groups. Silversea reserves the right to correct any errors and omissions and to cancel any offered product or service in the event of such error or omission. Single supplements apply and vary by voyage. Cancel and re-books do not qualify. The promotion is capacity controlled and can be removed at any time without prior notice. Other restrictions may apply.



Travel with Purpose with Adventure World

Sell & Win.

Travel with Purpose

adventureworld.com



Machu Picchu, Peru

To celebrate our major sponsorship of **Machu Picchu and the Golden Empires of Peru** Exhibition at the Australian Museum, Adventure World is giving away an incredible experience for two worth over **\$7,000**.

This 8-day Peru Adventure World trip features remarkable destinations such as Lima, the Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu and Cusco. Simply make a new Adventure World South or Central American booking between **23 November 2024 to 16 May 2025** to win*.

The more bookings you make, the more chances you have to win.

Prize | 8-Day Peru for two^



Call 1300 363 055 (AU) or 0800 238 368 (NZ) | info@adventureworld.com | visit adventureworld.com
Africa & Middle East | Asia & India | Antarctica & the Arctic | Latin America | The Nordics | USA & Canada



PassportCard: The Claim Changer

Australia's only travel insurance with instant payouts for common claims.

Medical issue overseas, delayed luggage or stolen cash? We put funds onto the PassportCard so travellers can settle claims on the spot, without being left out of pocket.

Why your clients will love PassportCard

- Instant payouts on approved claims* so they are not out of pocket – this can even be done

via WhatsApp!

- Local Australian team with 24/7 global assistance
- No age limit^

And for travel agents

- Quick and easy set up with no integration required
- More of your clients covered with qualified nurses assessing individual clients' pre-existing medical conditions
- Dedicated partner support

Interested in working with us? Get in touch **HERE**.

REGISTER NOW

Join our webinar hosted by CATO on Tuesday, 18 March and discover how PassportCard works.

Don't miss out, **REGISTER NOW!**

*Using the PassportCard. ^Travellers over 85 need a fit-to-travel document. Consider the PDS and card T&Cs. PassportCard Australia Pty Ltd (PassportCard) ABN 76 621 476 220 (AFSL 551 057) acting under Binder from Guild Insurance Limited (Guild) ABN 55 004 538 863 (AFSL 233 791).