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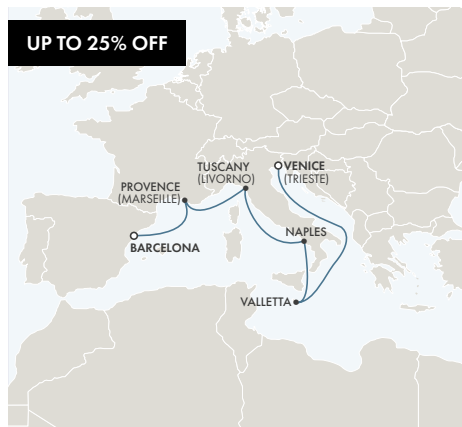
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MORE INFO

### Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features a cover wrap from **Regent Seven Seas Cruises**, eight pages of news, including a photo page from **A Force For Good**, our **Sustainability** page plus a full page from **Silversea**.

### Walshe lands IndiGo

**INDIAN** carrier IndiGo has announced the appointment The Walshe Group as its general sales agent in the local market.

The airline representation company will be responsible for IndiGo's sales and channel development, as well as its marketing activities, in Australia and New Zealand.

This marks the second time The Walshe Group has held the account (**TD** 11 Dec 2019).



### Nova heading to Oz

**AUSSIES** can experience Silversea's *Silver Nova* closer to home, with new sailings exploring Kangaroo Island and K'Gari, along with Adelaide and Melbourne.

See the **back page** to find out more about the cruise line's short getaways around Australia, with departure dates from Sep 2025 until Feb 2026.

## Egglestone out of Zenith

EXCLUSIVE



**ZENITH** Payments Chief Executive Officer Peter Egglestone (pictured) has announced his resignation, as revealed by *Travel Daily* on Mon (**TD** breaking news yesterday).

Kevin Butler, a key player in the launch of Zenith's TravelPay division, will step in as interim CEO until a new leader is found.

Butler's extensive experience and deep understanding of the business will ensure continuity, Zenith said, with all of the company's brands, including TravelPay, continuing to operate as usual.

Egglestone will remain involved in the business until next month to support the transition.

"Zenith Payments has a strong foundation, an exceptional team, and exciting opportunities ahead," Egglestone enthused.

"I want to sincerely thank our partners and clients for their ongoing support - it has been a privilege to work in the payments space in travel and other industries and it's time to hand

the reins over with the business in an incredibly solid position."

Egglestone previously served as an executive with Journey Beyond and Qantas Holidays.

He joined Zenith in Jun 2023, in a move which saw the company's prior Chief Executive Andrea Clark move upstairs as its Executive Chair, focusing on strategic initiatives and partnerships (**TD** 29 Jun 2023). *MS*

### P&O Cruises sign-off

**A WATERSHED** moment took place at Sydney's Overseas Passenger Terminal last night, as the final P&O Cruises-operated ship sailed out of the harbour.

*Pacific Adventure* departed on the brand's final sailing - a four-night journey to Eden - set to fireworks and crowds of admirers watching from the shore.

The cruise was originally meant to visit Moreton Island, however a late change was made due to the uncertainty thrown up by ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred last week.

Upon its return, the ship will undergo a rebrand to *Carnival Adventure* as she transitions to the Carnival Cruise Line fleet and continues year-round operations from Sydney.

P&O Cruises Australia recently bid a permanent farewell to another ship, *Pacific Explorer*, which left Australia for the final time (**TD** 10 Feb 2025) prior to its move to Resorts World Cruises.

### RSSC Europe 2025

**REGENT** Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) is highlighting its Europe 2025 collection, with up to 40% savings available on select sailings, such as the 'Heritage Sites & Greek Isles' itinerary.

See the **cover page** for details.

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## Unique reps Ratusa

THE Unique Tourism Collection has been appointed by Ratusa Private Island Resort in Vanuatu to represent it in Australia and New Zealand.

The Sydney-based tourism communications specialist will be responsible for sales, marketing and media activity, working closely with industry partners and media, while developing strategic opportunities to drive business from the local market.

The property features 13 restored 200-year-old Javanese wooden villas and two deluxe beachfront marquees, offering guests an eco-luxe experience.

Guests will have access to the over-water day spa, yacht club, games room, library and cinema, as well as private beaches.

## ATIA state of the sector

THE Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) says it is receiving positive feedback from accredited members on its new Tailored Benchmarking Reports, which offer insights on a business' performance against its peers.

Launched at Beyond Borders last year, the new reports allow members to compare gross and net profit margins, total debt and overall financial health with other businesses both in their local area and those selling similar products, based on Total Transaction Value.

Industry segments identified in the reports include travel agents, corporate agents, online agent and wholesaler/tour operator.

Members can also view the gross profit margins of these entire sectors and how many staff are employed in frontline selling roles, experience levels and those with Certificate III skills or higher.

Reports look at the most recent financial year as well as FY19, omitting the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021.

Using these financial metrics, members can identify trends, risks and opportunities to boost



overall profitability.

Information in the report is drawn from financial data submitted to ATIA each year as part of accreditation obligations.

Take Off Go Founder Ivona Siniarska said the reports have been "incredibly beneficial" as they highlight areas that are successful and others that are in need of improvement.

"It was reassuring to see that we were on the right path, and the report has since become a key resource in our planning and forecasting process."

"I've even had it bound into a book that I regularly reflect upon as we map out our business goals," Siniarska said.

ATIA Compliance Manager Nina Hedges said the reports reflect the association's commitment to equipping members with data to drive growth and stability. *ML*

## TAAP into savings

ADVISORS can secure exclusive savings for clients with Expedia Travel Agent Affiliate Program's (TAAP) 2025 autumn sale.

For bookings made by 31 Mar 2025 and travel until 08 Sep 2025, discounts of at least 25% are available on thousands of hotels in top global destinations.

"This sale offers travel agents a valuable opportunity to increase bookings, maximise sales and enhance client satisfaction by providing unbeatable savings on hotel stays worldwide," Expedia TAAP stated.

The program works with over 160,000 agents globally, offering an inventory of more than three million properties, 170,000 tours, activities and attractions, 110 hire cars and 500 airlines.



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## New premium Indonesia carrier planned

A NEW premium carrier in Indonesia focusing exclusively on international routes has entered the planning stage, according to local media reports.

Backed by Singaporean investment firm Calypte Holding, preparations are underway to acquire at least 20 aircraft for the mooted Indonesia Airlines.

To be based at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta, the carrier's new subsidiary parent PT Indonesia Airlines Group is reportedly pursuing a 50:50 split of narrow and widebody planes, including a mix of A321neos, A321LRs, A350-900s and Boeing 787-9s.

Initial plans suggest Indonesia Airlines will seek to serve around 50 destinations across 30 countries within its first five years of operation, with a high likelihood of Australian routes launching if it moves ahead.



If the carrier fulfils its aspirations, it could add extra competition to one of Australia's most popular outbound markets, with Indonesia - fuelled primarily by Bali - dominating the top spot for many months until New Zealand finally knocked it off its perch in Dec 2024 (**TD** 17 Feb).

Calypte Holding already has multiple investments in renewable energy and agriculture, however it is too

early to tell if this will mean the flagged carrier will offer passengers more eco-friendly options through SAF.

Australia is currently served by Qantas, Jetstar, and a range of Indonesian carriers for flights to our northern neighbour, including Garuda, Indonesia AirAsia, Batik Air, and new player TransNusa, which will link Perth and Bali from 20 Mar (**TD** 17 Jan).

There is currently no specific launch date for Indonesia Airlines, and as of yet, its parent has not obtained an Air Operator Certificate from PT Indonesia Airlines Group.

The development follows a continued rise in demand for air travel in Indonesia, with OAG data showing that the number of departure seats will reach 14.8 million by Jun.

This represents a 10.7% year-on-year increase in capacity. AB

## QR summer boost

QATAR Airways has launched additional flights to key destinations in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and more in order to meet increased travel demand.

The carrier has upped London Heathrow flights from 49 weekly flights to 56; Tokyo Narita from 11 weekly to 14; Amsterdam from seven times a week to 11; Madrid from 14 per week to 17; and many more.

"The new additions further reflect our commitment to fostering worldwide connectivity and elevating passengers' travel experience with our award-winning hub, Hamad International Airport," said Qatar Airways Chief Commercial Officer, Thierry Antinori.

"With the peak summer season approaching, we are pleased to fulfil the ever-increasing demand for air travel with accessible and convenient flight schedules."

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## Window Seat

**SWISS** International Air Lines (SWISS) has gone above and beyond with its new livery design, which allows guests to partake in an interactive treasure hunt.

All the illustrations featured on the 'SWISS Wanderlust' livery, which will be applied to the carrier's first Airbus A350-900, can be explored using augmented reality.

Users are able to discover hidden details and solve puzzles, with the chance to win the top prize of a round-trip business class flight for two aboard the new plane.



## Tourism operators need more support

**TOURISM** operators in SE Qld and northern NSW will need sustained, long-term government support to fully recover from the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Alfred, Big Red Group CEO David Anderson (**pictured**) believes.

The call comes as the experiential bookings company revealed a massive 95% drop in Gold Coast experiences between 03-09 Mar as a result of adverse weather conditions.

Anderson said the recent announcement of the Disaster Recovery Allowance by the Federal Govt is "a welcome step", but that it is clear the tourism sector needs more support.

"With ongoing severe weather warnings, the fallout will be felt for months to come, affecting not just operators but the entire local economy who rely on consistent visitor numbers," Anderson said.

"Without targeted recovery



initiatives, many will struggle to get back on their feet."

Specifically, Anderson suggested the support should come through the form of marketing initiatives to re-attract visitors, infrastructure investment, and additional financial assistance for operators, adding they are a "crucial" for destinations to return to normalcy as soon as it is safe to do so.

"The impact of ex-Cyclone Alfred has been a stark reminder of the challenges that extreme weather can present for the

tourism and experiences industry," Anderson added.

While the ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred did not cause as much damage upon making landfall as the worst-case scenario forecasts had suggested, flooding and high winds have still wreaked havoc across the region.

Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast have all reopened to commercial flights, with Qantas Group and Virgin Australia flights recommencing on Sun as initially flagged by the airlines.

While it is positive news for the region and travellers, most hubs and carriers have warned that reduced services and some cancellations are likely in the wake of staff shortages and ongoing poor weather.

The latest cyclone impacts are a doubly whammy for Qld, which suffered from intense flooding last year as well. *AB*

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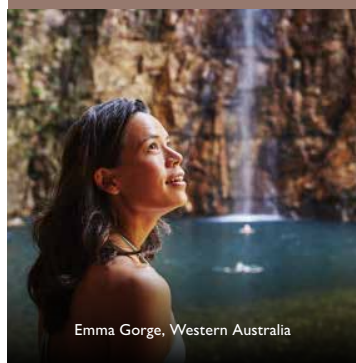
## Nib extends policies

THOSE who purchased an nib Travel insurance policy before 11am on 02 Mar, and who are impacted by disrupted public transport due to Cyclone Alfred, will automatically receive a five-day extension on their policy, the company has announced.



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Emma Gorge, Western Australia

## Aussies tightening belts

AUSTRALIANS are re-imagining travel, as cost-of-living pressures tighten budgets.

Staycations, bleisure, and close-to-home travel have seen a surge in domestic tourism, according to consumer insights agency Canvas8, as Australians remain determined to travel.

Demand for budget-friendly travel is rising, with Australians overwhelmingly favouring homegrown holidays, as Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria top lists for popular travel destinations.

More than four-fifths of Aussies (83%) are also seeking ways to reduce travel expenses to maintain vacation habits, with shorter holidays becoming more common among Australians.

More than half (53%) are opting for getaways that last between two to seven days.

Meanwhile, more than three-quarters of hybrid workers

(77%) said they would consider combining leisure travel with work, if their company supported the move.

“As Australians continue to embrace budget-conscious travel without sacrificing quality experiences, businesses are presented with numerous opportunities to innovate and meet these evolving needs,” Canvas8 founder & Managing Director Nick Morris said.

“Helping Aussies make financially responsible travel decisions, offering attractive membership deals, and tapping into the workcation and passion-driven tourism trends can yield valuable results.

“With Australians prioritising local getaways and personal experiences, companies that cater to these needs will be well-positioned for success.”

Canvas8 suggests 91% of Aussies are planning a trip. MS

## Europe, Asia swap

AUSTRALIANS are predicted to ditch Europe for Southeast Asia this year, as travel habits shift.

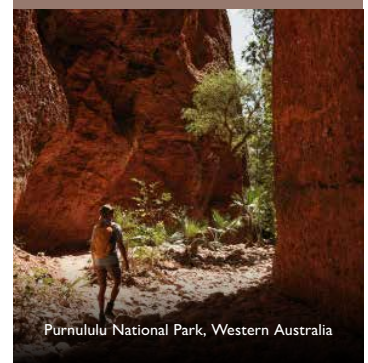
Nearly one in three international trips will be to Southeast Asia, Travelinsurance.com.au predicts, with Thailand and Vietnam to prove popular.



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## A Force for Good returns to Sydney

IT WAS a big day of inspiration, laughter and a few tears when A Force for Good returned to Sydney last week to celebrate International Women's Day.

"We have a unique opportunity - our industry touches every part of the globe," said A Force for Good founder Helene Taylor. "The choices we make here ripple outward, affecting the future of the planet."

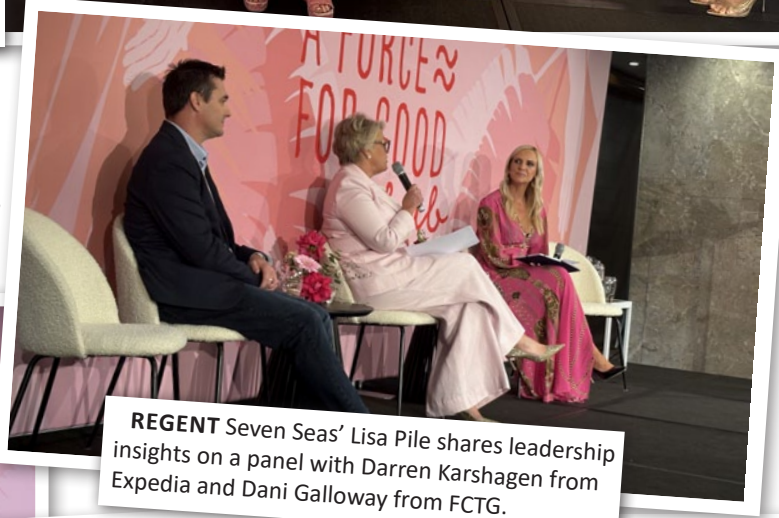
Travel leader Wendy Wu had the crowd laughing when she shared her humorous account of how the business rose during COVID.

Michelle Kerr, former Qantas Holidays Marketing Manager, who is now GM of not-for-profit organisation, Eden Australia, discussed how the industry can help stop the trafficking of girls



**FOUNDER** Helene Taylor and the inspirational speaker lineup.

and women in Myanmar. Meanwhile, Deb Corbett, Ponant CEO - Asia Pacific, received a standing ovation for sharing her leadership journey, as her daughter Mads watched on from the crowd.



**REGENT** Seven Seas' Lisa Pile shares leadership insights on a panel with Darren Karshagen from Expedia and Dani Galloway from FCTG.



**MICHELLE** Kerr from not-for-profit organisation, Eden.



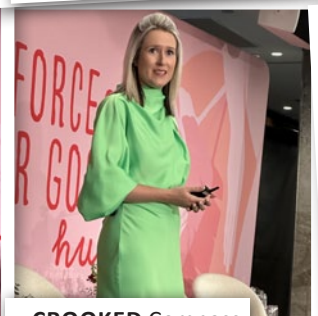
**WENDY** Wu started the day with plenty of laughs.



**DEB** Corbett, Ponant CEO.



**UNIWORLD** MD Alice Ager with Travel Associates' Rachel Kingswell.



**CROOKED** Compass founder Lisa Pagotto.



**HELENE** Taylor with Michelle Ashcroft from Phil Hoffman.



**MURRAY** Sinfield; Lynne Clarke; Robyn Sinfield; Justine Sealey; and Nikki Glading.



**THE** team behind A Force for Good.



### Accredited zoos

**ZOOS** Victoria has achieved Quality Tourism Sustainable Accreditation across all four of its sites after Kyabram Fauna Park earned its certification last week.

The bestowment brings Kyabram in line with its three Zoos Victoria counterparts - Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary and Werribee Open Range Zoo.

The accreditation is administered by the Victoria Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) and recognises best practice in conservation, customer service, operational excellence and more.

Sustainable initiatives demonstrated by Zoos Victoria includes habitat restoration, waste reduction, carbon neutrality and community education.

Zoos Victoria CEO Dr Jenny Gray said she is thrilled the entire network exhibits a commitment to conservation.

"We are so proud that all four of Zoos Victoria's zoos are now carrying this accreditation, which is a reflection of our enduring commitment to conservation and sustainability in our operations and visitor experiences," Dr Gray said.

Zoos Victoria said visitors can now be confident their experience aligns with high sustainability standards.

## NEW APP TO DRIVE EV CHARGE POINTS

**ELECTRIC** vehicle drivers will soon be able to access real-time availability of public EV chargers via a new mobile app designed to inform governments of usage data and drive future investment.

The new 'Charge@Large' app by the Electric Vehicle Council (EVC) aims to improve access and reliability of public chargers, informing drivers whether it is operational, in use by other drivers or out of service.

Usage data generated through the app will be shared with governments to inform and improve the charging network, identifying high-demand areas and addressing outage causes.

EVC Chief Executive Julie Delvecchio said the app has the potential to become a single source of reliable truth for EV owners and renters as more electric vehicles hit the road.



"The number of public EV chargers and locations across Australia continues to expand - nearly doubling in the last year alone for all charger types to over 8,100 public stations across 3,800 sites - but drivers need to know that the charger they're about to use is unoccupied and working.

"It can be inconvenient to arrive at a charger that is out of

order or already being used by someone who has just plugged in," Delvecchio said.

The EVC said the app will reduce 'range anxiety', especially among inexperienced EV drivers, such as renters on driving holidays.

More than 1,600 charge points across 740 sites are represented on the app, with hundreds more going live in coming weeks. *ML*

### &Beyond rescue

**LUXURY** African eco-safari operator &Beyond has helped to facilitate the relocation and introduction of endangered white rhinos from South Africa to Tanzania.

The effort is the latest in a three-decade long project to translocate southern white rhinos from South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal Province to the Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania, home to &Beyond's Phinda Private Game Reserve.

### Hotels feature in sustainability playbook

**JAPAN** Airlines and Melia Hotels International have been ranked as standout performers in the newly published 2024 Corporate Sustainability Yearbook by S&P Global.

The annual report analyses public company information and Corporate Sustainability Assessments to rank businesses across a range of categories.

Japan Airlines polled first among airlines and was labelled as an 'Industry Mover' to signify

recent initiatives to improve environmental output.

The 2024 S&P poll looked at nearly 7,700 businesses to come up with a final list of 780.

Other airlines in the list included China Airlines, ANA Holdings, EVA Airways Corp, American Airlines and LATAM.

Leading the hotels sector was Melia Hotels International, which earned its place from a commitment to reduce CO2 emissions by 71.4% by 2035.

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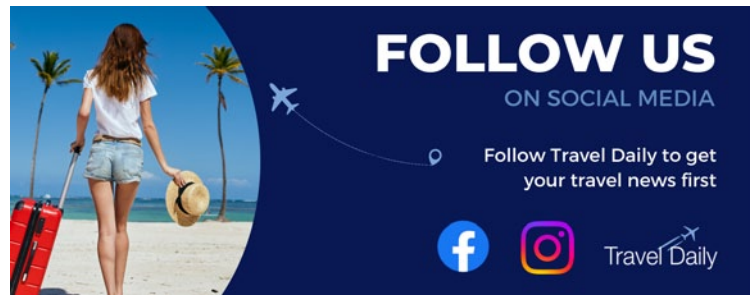
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## Agents discover Taiwan



**A GROUP** of 10 Australian travel advisors recently experienced the diverse attractions of Taiwan as part of a famil trip hosted by Taiwan Tourism Administration and China Airlines.

Highlights of the trip included a visit to the vibrant Rainbow Village in Taichung; an interactive Jiao Zhi pottery experience at Bantaoyao; a scenic journey on the historic Alishan Railway; cherry blossom viewing at Yangmingshan National Park; and an exploration of the country's rich food culture.

"Taiwan exceeded all expectations with its perfect balance of cultural depth, natural beauty, and modern conveniences," said Anika Kuruc from TravelManagers.

"The destination offers exceptional value for Australian travellers and a refreshing alternative to more familiar Asian destinations."

Attendees came from agencies including TravelManagers, MTA, Wendy Wu, Railway Adventures, Renaissance Tours, Crooked Compass, Flight Centre Groups, American Express, MW Tours, and Planetdwellers Travel and Tours.

"Taiwan offers Australian travellers an incredible mix of experiences that many haven't yet discovered," said Ganessan Suppiah, a representative from Taiwan Tourism Administration.

"This famil was designed to equip our key industry partners with firsthand knowledge of Taiwan's unique appeal." *JHM*

## Intrepid celebrates

**OFF** the back of International Women's Day, Intrepid launched a new campaign last week, 'Wouldn't Be Here Without Her', shining a light all year round on the females who are shaping the future of travel.

According to the adventure travel organisation, "From pioneering trip leaders to business owners and founders, these women are overcoming hurdles, breaking down stereotypes and inspiring others to create lasting positive change".

Travellers can read stories and view content of these impressive women from around the world, which currently feature on the Intrepid website.

These include Renu, one of the first female e-rickshaw drivers in Jaipur; Leitha Mkhabela in South Africa, who is working to eliminate poaching in her country; and Sara Omar, the co-founder of two companies, who also created the itinerary for Intrepid's Saudi Arabia Women's Expedition.

"I don't blame anyone for coming with misconceptions about Saudi because we all know that the media only puts one story out there," said Omar.

"I love the surprise you see on people's faces when they discover our Saudi lifestyle, especially when they meet our women."

Interestingly, 63% of Intrepid travellers are female, as solo travel has increased 14% year-on-year and women's expeditions grew 46% from 2023 to 2024.

Female leadership roles at Intrepid have increased 29% year-on-year and 34% of its 521 tour leaders are women.

## MONEY

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

**AU\$1 = US\$0.627**

**CONSUMER** confidence can only be described as akin to a rollercoaster at the moment, with US President Donald Trump's daily ructions causing headaches for markets globally.

With some saying the US is heading straight for a recession, the AUD declined almost in sympathetic unity, erasing gains made last week.

Following Trump's divisive State of the Union address last week, in which he described the US economy as being in a "transition period", the ripple effects led to a sharp drop in China's Consumer Price Index, putting pressure on the AUD.

Some economists are saying things will get worse before they get better, with Trump's new 20% tariff on China threatening a slowdown in Australia's export sector.

It all spells a challenge for Australia's leaders, and with a federal election looming, nobody knows who that could be in a few months' time.

*Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.627
UK	£0.487
NZ	\$1.102
Euro	€0.578
Japan	¥92.16
Thailand	฿21.28
China	¥4.554
South Africa	11.510
Canada	\$0.905
Crude oil	US\$65.73



# Experience *Silver Nova* closer to home

Discover Australia's stunning coastlines with Silversea's newly curated short getaways. Our new sailings explore the wildlife and natural wonders of Kangaroo Island and K'gari, along with the iconic cities of Adelaide and Melbourne. Indulge in gourmet experiences and enjoy unparalleled comfort and elegance. Book your luxurious adventure with Silversea today!

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<i>Silver Nova</i>	25-Sep-25	16	Singapore	Sydney
<i>Silver Nova</i>	02-Oct-25	12	Darwin	Melbourne
<i>Silver Nova</i>	14-Oct-25	14	Melbourne	Cairns
<i>Silver Nova</i>	18-Oct-25	10	Sydney	Cairns
<i>Silver Nova</i>	18-Oct-25	18	Sydney	Darwin
<i>Silver Nova</i>	28-Oct-25	8	Cairns	Darwin
<i>Silver Nova</i>	05-Nov-25	17	Darwin	Adelaide
<i>Silver Nova</i>	05-Nov-25	9	Darwin	Fremantle
<i>Silver Nova</i>	14-Nov-25	16	Fremantle	Melbourne
<i>Silver Nova</i>	22-Nov-25	8	Adelaide	Melbourne
<i>Silver Nova</i>	25-Jan-26	10	Sydney	Darwin
<i>Silver Nova</i>	04-Feb-26	8	Darwin	Singapore

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