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Travel Daily First with the news



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Wednesday 12th Mar 2025

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features a cover wrap from Tourism New Zealand, seven pages of news, including our Luxury page, plus a product profile from Exoticca and a full page from Abercrombie and Kent.

TNZ revamps prog

TOURISM New Zealand has refreshed its 100% Pure New Zealand Specialist Programme for Aussie travel advisors.

A focus of the latest education piece is to highlight how NZ is a great year-round destination. with the relaunch delivering bitesized modules to make it easy to complete for time-poor agents.

The latest push also aligns with TNZ's four-year strategy to grow bookings between Mar and Nov.

Bronze, Silver, and Gold tiers have been exchanged for a streamlined Graduate Specialist and Advanced Specialist model. See the **cover page** for details.

Explore unveils portal

XCLUSIVE

EXPLORE Worldwide has confirmed it will launch an agent portal for the first time, revealing the rollout will take place in the middle of this year.

Speaking with Travel Daily, **Regional Director Australia &** New Zealand Ben Ittensohn said the brand is "really excited" to introduce the new platform.

"The portal is already in the testing phase and we are confident this will be a marketleading agent portal that advisors can have in their back pocket to access more selling tools,

An inspiring webinar

AGENTS can win one of three \$50 Visa gift cards by logging into Inspiring Vacations' Mar webinar, on from 2pm tomorrow 13 Mar.

The session will focus on the company's popular 22-day Central Asia tour - CLICK HERE to register.

marketing and social media assets, as well as a range of training webinars," Ittensohn said.

"We haven't had a travel agent portal before, so to be able to offer that and do it well is something we're pretty excited about, particularly when so much volume in Australia now comes via trade," he added.

The upcoming portal will be accompanied by a new bookable API, so the brand can also cater to its OTA partners.

Explore Worldwide has seen its inbound bookings grow via the trade in recent years, and pledges to reward and invest more into the agent space moving forward.

"Growth in Australian trade sales has outpaced direct sales which is great, and last month more than 50% of our sales came by trade - it really has been a big part of our success story and that has been down to the support of agents," Ittensohn said. AB

HA confirms date to join oneworld

HAWAIIAN Airlines has confirmed it has started the process of joining the oneworld alliance in 2026.

"As part of integration efforts, we are currently reviewing our frequent flyer partnerships to determine the right mix for the combined entity moving forward," a spokesperson for the carrier told Travel Daily.

"We are naturally also working to build relationships with other oneworld member airlines ahead of that date and we will keep our members updated on changes and enhancements to our partnerships," the carrier added.

The development follows HA merging with Alaska Airlines (TD 04 Dec 2023) - which is already a oneworld member - as well as confirmation this week the American carrier will exit its loyalty deal with Virgin Australia from 30 Jun (TD 10 Mar).

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HLO promotes Warren

HELLOWORLD Travel has promoted Group General Manager Marketing, Melissa Warren (**pictured**), to the executive management team.

Warren has been with the company for close to seven years and currently oversees marketing activity across wholesale and retail operations for Helloworld.

"This is a very well-deserved recognition of the great job Melissa, and her team, have been doing," Helloworld Travel Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director Cinzia Burnes said.

"Having been with the company since 2018, Melissa has forged an excellent reputation, not only across the Helloworld business, but across the travel industry as a whole," she added.

Reflecting on her new role within the group, Warren said she feels lucky to have such an incredible team working with her at Helloworld.



"I'm grateful for the opportunity to now work within the executive management team alongside inspiring leaders," she said

Before joining Helloworld, Warren held senior product and marketing roles at Europcar, Infinity Holidays, and Kirra Tours. Feathers in her cap beyond

Helloworld also include being a member of the Destination Canada Strategic Advisory Group. Win your Qantas Supernova Seat See Oasis Live 25' in Sydney and experience the ultimate UK adventure



QF double delight

Find out more

QANTAS is giving frequent flyers the chance to fast-track their status or boost their points balance with its latest loyalty offer, which launches today.

For the next seven days, members who book any Qantasoperated flight across the carrier's entire regional, domestic, or international network can choose to earn either double status credits or Qantas points.

Double status credits allow frequent flyers to move up the status tiers faster - for example, a member can move from bronze to gold by booking two return flights from Melbourne to Los Angeles in premium economy.

Meanwhile, the points offer can be used to boost points balance and book reward seats, request flight upgrades, and more.

Members can register for the offer via the Qantas App and make unlimited bookings from 12-18 Mar for travel between 19 Mar 2025 and 24 Feb 2026.

SYD upgrades set

SYDNEY Airport will begin construction on its \$200 million Terminal 2 upgrade in May.

The project, revealed exclusively by **TD** last year (**TD** 20 Nov 2024), will aim to cut time taken between check-in, security and boarding to 15 mins.

Rex and Fly Pelican passengers will depart from T3 from 08 Apr while work is underway.

Discover Egypt today

CLIENTS can explore the wonders of Egypt with Abercrombie & Kent, which is highlighting three new itineraries in the destination - see **page nine** to find out more details.

Best of both worlds

EXOTICCA is inviting travellers to experience the duality of Europe and Africa on its 16-day trip encompassing Portugal and Morocco - learn more about the itinerary on the **back page**.



*Offers, fares and itineraries are subject to change or withdrawal without prior notice. Airfares are additional. Transfers are restricted to guests utilising pre-cruise hotel stay. Restrictions may apply. Visit www.OceaniaCruises.com for current pricing. Restrictions apply to Free Onboard Medical Consultations; visit www.OceaniaCruises.com for details. Additional Terms and Conditions apply. Oceania Cruises reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, offers and surcharges at any time. Complete Terms and Conditions may be found at www.OceaniaCruises.com/legal. Ships' Registry: Marshall Islands. NCL Australia Pty Ltd ABN 8060 7578 781.







Draft charter is "weak"

ADRENALINE junkies are taking adventure travel to the next level by speeding through the Sahara Desert atop the world's longest iron ore train.

A series of videos have gone viral on TikTok depicting "extreme travel influencers" making the 20-hour journey across 700km of desert - an illegal act in a country deemed unsafe for travellers, no less.

This hasn't deterred extreme tourists from visiting the African nation of Mauritania every year to hitch a ride on the Iron Ore Train though, with viewers comparing the videos to a real-life version of Frank Herbert's sci-fi epic, *Dune*.

Due to the threat of terrorism and violent crime, DFAT continues to advise Aussies to steer clear of Mauritania. **CHOICE** has slammed the draft *Aviation Customer Rights Charter* put forward by the Federal Government (*TD* 06 Jan), labelling it weaker than existing consumer protections provided under Australian Consumer Law.

While still describing the draft as "an important step in the right direction", Choice argued it needs more work to provide travellers with comprehensive rights when flights don't run to schedule.

"Consumers are entitled to a refund or replacement where flights are delayed or cancelled due to weather events under consumer guarantee rights, but may not be under the draft charter," Choice representative Bea Sherwood claimed.

Choice has made four key recommendations to revise the draft charter, including the right to a replacement flight or a refund when a flight is cancelled or significantly delayed through



no fault of the consumer.

The consumer rights body would also like to see minimum compensation amounts for different scenarios; a standardised format for airline T&Cs and conditions of carriage; as well as specific claim times and compensation for damaged, delayed or lost baggage.

Despite the calls for tougher standards by Choice, the draft charter raised eyebrows when it suggested airlines should offer full refunds if flights are delayed by just three hours.

Last month, ATIA told **TD** that agents need to be excluded from any refund obligations imposed by the charter (**TD** 26 Feb). AB

WWT data breach

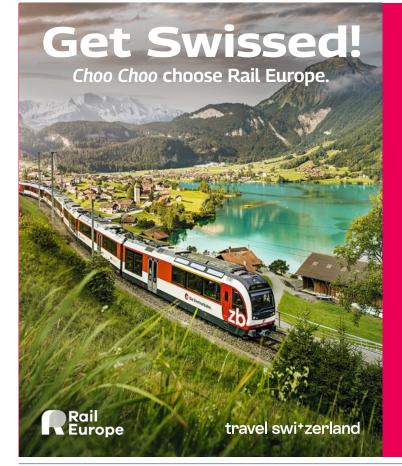
WENDY Wu Tours (WWT) Australia has confirmed it is aware of a cyber breach that took place last week, an incident the notorious Hacker group KillSec has claimed responsibility for.

The operator told **TD** the attack that reportedly involved passport numbers affected a "limited part" of its systems, and it is now urgently investigating the impact.

"We were able to detect the incident quickly and took steps to secure our system, which meant there was no interruption to our business operations," a spokesperson for WWT said.

"We have engaged leading specialists to investigate what has occurred...but we will inform any individuals who may need to be notified once we have any relevant and accurate information to share, in line with our

obligations," the company added. The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner has also been notified by WWT.



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Intrepid & WTTC get together

INTREPID has been named as one of the founding partners of the World Travel & Tourism Council's (WTTC) new initiative, 'Together in Travel', which launched at the tourism body's global summit in Perth last year.

The program aims to transform how small to medium enterprises (SMEs) operate within the global travel industry, fostering inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability across the sector.

Through a free-to-subscribe platform, SMEs will be able to access global markets and investment opportunities; specialised training programs; digital transformation tools; and sustainable business practice frameworks, with paid subscriber options to come online this year.

"Small businesses are the backbone of travel & tourism and 'Together in Travel' represents an unprecedented collaboration that will equip SMEs with essential tools for success in our evolving global landscape," said Julia Simpson, WTTC President & CEO.

The tourism body also announced the appointment of Andrea Grisdale, founder and Chief Executive of Italian travel agency IC Bellagio, as the Vice Chair for 'Together in Travel'.

"Under Andrea Grisdale's leadership, whose commitment to sustainable tourism is exemplary, this initiative will catalyse transformative growth across our sector."

Joining Intrepid to make up the



rest of the 13 founding partners are Virtuoso; Abercrombie & Kent Group; MSC Cruises; Trip.com Group; Hilton; Red Carnation Hotels; VFS Global; OMRAN; Diriyah Gate; FINN Partners; and Microsoft.

"The 'Together in Travel' initiative, which I am proud to have spearheaded in my WTTC role, represents a transformative effort to support critical SMEs," said Virtuoso CEO, Chairman and Vice Chair, Matthew Upchurch. JM



APT unveils Euro '26

LUXURY operator APT has released its 2026 Europe season. Itineraries include the 15-

day 'Magnificent Europe' tour, including exclusive experiences, such as a cocktail party at Namedy Castle, as well a lunch and show in Salzburg, featuring songs from *The Sound of Music*.

A new two-night city stay in Budapest has also launched, featuring culinary experiences and iconic landmarks, such as the Hungarian State Opera House.

The 'Voyage Through the Balkans' river cruise takes guests on board *APT Ostara* through the Iron Gates, exploring the ancient rock formations of Belogradchik and a tour of Golubac Castle.

We're hiring

EXPERIENCED TRAVEL CONSULTANT

Ross Garden Tours – the niche market tour operator business of TV celebrity Graham Ross is looking for an Experienced Travel Consultant to work full-time in our office in Beecroft, North-West Sydney.

The candidate should have at least 4 years experience in the industry and be comfortable working in a small team. Sabre skills preferred. Some flexibility with hours. Salary negotiable.

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Getting "our mojo" back

QANTAS Chairman John Mullen has taken a big swipe at the airline's former boss Alan Jovce. claiming the business faces an uphill battle to restore customer standards after a decade of under-investment.

Speaking at the Australian Institute of Company Directors' Governance Summit in Sydney yesterday, Mullen conceded Qantas is only "starting to get its mojo back", and that is ageing fleet has held back progress.

"[The fleet] should have been replaced earlier", Mullen said, conceding supply issues had also exacerbated the replacement

Expedia flight data

EXPEDIA is powering airline growth amid the global travel boom, with those participating in its Flights Sponsored Listings witnessing an up to 8% increase in ticket sales.

Airlines are also enjoying a 10% uplift in booking value, with standouts including Avianca, which saw a 64% surge on key route from the United States to Latin America.



strategy recent years.

"Unless you've got a lot of spare capacity, that cascades down through a whole lot of flights," Mullen said, adding the delay had given the impression of "crap" Qantas services.

"We need to have another year or 18 months of the new aircraft coming on to start to deserve the respect that hopefully we will generate," he said.

While voicing criticism of the past, Mullen said the future direction of the carrier under Vanessa Hudson represented a brighter future.

"We are rebuilding the board and have a great management team...[Hudson] is not a chip off the old block," he said. AB

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FCTG chasing big changes

WOMENWISE 2025 Global Committee









e Graham (She/Her)

Michelle Deg





FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) has announced the launch of its new Global Womenwise Committee (pictured), which will help "foster positive change", such as ensuring pay equity, and creating pathways for women into leadership roles.

The committee will create a more inclusive and empowering environment for females throughout the company, FCTG said, championing key strategic themes including launching impactful mentorship programs to connect women with inspiring leaders, and fostering a culture which supports work-life harmony, recognising the needs of its teams.

The new global committee will include regional sub-committees

- such as one based in Australia - and will aim to energinse the company's Womenwise program, which was established more than a decade ago.

Andrew Stark, Flight Centre MD and member of the global committee, said the regional chapters will hold a particular key to the success of the program.

"They offer a grassroots approach to connection for women to feel more confident in seizing growth and leadership opportunities," he told TD.

"Regional chapters will also allow the global committee to better understand the localised challenges and barriers happening across our core geographies and within disciplines such as finance, technology and marketing.

"This is also the first time we've been able to establish a Womenwise lens across our globalised business; with committee members representing our core geographies."

FCTG noted more than 70% of its global workforce is currently made up of women. MS

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NZ uncorks its wine

AIR New Zealand customers can now raise a glass to the airline's new wine label Thirteen Forty Five, which has launched.

Leading the label's maiden range are two signature varieties - a savignon blanc and pinor noir - both crafted by New Zealand winemaker Villa Maria (**TD** 07 Nov 2024).

The two blends are now available in Air New Zealand lounges across the country and in premium economy cabins on international flights, with bottles also available in the Airpoints Store.

Corinthian to set sail

ORIENT Express has confirmed it will begin passenger service on its new superyacht *Corinthian* from 26 Jun next year.

Ahead of this, the Accor luxury brand has launched a website for its new sailing experience, with bookings able to be made from later this month - **CLICK HERE**.

Corinthian will be the world's largest sailing yacht on its launch and will operate on the French and Italian Rivieras, along with other parts of the Mediterranean and Adriatic seas.

The yacht has been constructed by French shipyard Chantiers de l'Atlantique and measures 220m in length, with three tilting masts to optimise wind performance, and a backup LNG propulsion system to minimise emissions.

AUSSIES STAR IN VIRTUOSO ICONS LIST

LUXURY agent network Virtuoso has released its 2025 list of Cruise lcons, which features 35 topselling advisors from Australia.

The company distinction is regarded as the highest honour available within the Virtuoso global network and celebrates the top 1% of consultants worldwide for sales of luxury cruising among its partner cruise lines.

For 2025, 185 advisors across 13 countries were named as Virtuoso Cruise Icons, a 27% increase on the prior year and 363% up from the program's initiation in 2019.

Sitting among the list are some of Australia's highest profile and most successful agents from retail brands including Travel Associates, Spencer Travel, Bicton Travel, itravel and many more.

CLICK HERE for the full list of Virtuoso's 2025 Cruise Icons on **TD**

W Maldives reopens

MARRIOTT International's lifestyle brand W Hotels has reopened a newly redesigned resort in the Maldives following a full renovation.

Major changes at the 77-villa resort include new two-bedroom overwater villas featuring expansive living spaces aimed at large groups.

Two new two-bedroom beach villas have also been added, both featuring private water slides from the second floor to a private pool.



sister website, travelBulletin.

According to Virtuoso, cruise lines report Cruise Icons continue to gather momentum, with lines reporting a 45% increase in cruise sales in the following 12 months.

Agents recognised with the mark are provided an opportunity to collaborate with their peers each quarter to foster further growth, networking and insights.

To celebrate the latest crop of Cruise Icons, the group has just returned from an exclusive famil in eastern Canada, sailing aboard Ponant's *Le Commandant Charcot* along the St Lawrence River.

The trip (**pictured**) began in Old Quebec and travelled past polar landscapes on to Saint Pierre. *ML*

Branson opens his private chalet for wellness

VIRGIN Group founder Richard Branson has opened his private mountain chalet in Verbier, Switzerland, to host a luxurious wellness retreat.

Running from 10-14 Jul, the retreat will feature yoga classes and fitness sessions coupled with mindfulness workshops and luxurious spa treatments.

The mountain setting also provides an ideal landscape for hiking, cycling and scenic walks. Guests can book a place at the retreat and take part in as many



or as few of the scheduled sessions as they choose.

Rates for The Lodge Wellness Retreat start at \$5,966pp twin share for the full four-day experience and can be made through Virgin Limited Edition.

Paul Gauguin

Are your clients ready for Tahiti? Their flights are on us! Claim a \$1,500 flight credit for your clients when they book by 30 April*

VIEW SELECTION

*Conditions apply.



Dorothy drops the beat at sea



ROYAL Caribbean has announced a *Quantum of the* Seas sailing with DJ Dorothy, as part of the line's new partnership with The Wiggles.

Families and those young at heart will be able to dance along to remixed Wiggles tracks spun by the friendly dinosaur during a Sail Away party, and will enjoy character photo opportunities and a 'Wiggly dance floor' - all included in the cruise fare.

Gateway's new portal

SYDNEY-BASED agency Gateway Travel has announced the launch of its new travel agent portal, providing easy access to luxury package tours, exclusive deals, and white-label solutions.

Offering free registration, the new tool allows agents to maintain their own brand identity while leveraging Gateway Travel's network and expertise.

"With over 50 years of experience in the industry, we understand the challenges travel professionals face," said Tonia Kisliakov at Gateway Travel.

"Our goal is to provide a seamless, no-risk solution for agents looking to expand their offerings while maintaining their independence," she added.

For more information or to register, CLICK HERE or contact info@gatewaytravel.com.au.

The weekend holiday offers a preview of Royal Caribbean's recently announced partnership with The Wiggles, with the brand joining as the cruise line's Exclusive Cruise Holiday Partner. Balcony twin-share fares start

from \$649 per person.

Additionally, Royal Caribbean will operate six exclusive Wigglesthemed cruises from Sydney and Brisbane during the 2025/26 summer season.

The lineup will include live performances in the main theatre, dance parties, character appearances, story time sessions and more, with guests able to meet beloved characters including Captain Feathersword, Dorothy the Dinosaur, Henry the Octopus, Wags the Dog and Shirley Shawn the Unicorn. JM

Discover Dunedin

TOURISM New Zealand is inviting agents to learn more about Dunedin and the Hamilton and Waikato region, ahead of Jetstar's new direct routes from Svdnev and Gold Coast to Hamilton, and Gold Coast to Dunedin, which launch in Jun.

The 50-minute webinar takes place on Tue 25 Mar at 12pm AEDT, with a chance to win a prize package for two, including return Jetstar flights - sign up for the session HERE.

ATIA UPDATE

from Richard Taylor, Director of Membership and Industry Affairs



knit industry we probably all know people who've been worried about the weather in the past week, and so first a shout-out to

Queensland and Northern NSW.

Aside from the obvious concerns about your own homes and businesses, you've also had to contend with booking changes and other client-related shenanigans that have added compound interest to the drama.

On behalf of the rest of us, we salute you, and if ATIA can be of any assistance to you, remember we're a phone call away.

We've recently been holding our ATIA Pulse Meetings.

These small-group discussions have been fascinating, as we invited people representing businesses across the travel spectrum to tell us what's currently on their mind.

Topics raised included...deep breath...employing staff both at home and offshore, airline behaviour, back-office software, educating new agents on how to work effectively with tour operators and wholesalers, NDC, accessible travel, and more.

Of those, the subject of using overseas-based staff came up in three of the four discussions, suggesting that looking beyond our shores for talent may be on the rise once again an initial flurry in 2022/23.

We'll be exploring this in more detail, and there was interest in ATIA-led industry webinars to help members navigate this both now and into the future - watch

Lindblad in awe

NATIONAL Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions is offering 20% savings on more than 35 itineraries sailing in 2025, when booked by 15 Apr.

The 'Built for Awe' promotion includes voyages like 'Fire and Ice: An Eight-Day Sail Around Iceland', which offers savings of up to \$2,571ppts.

Find out more details **HERE**.

this space.

This week, *Travel Daily*'s own Home Ex, the online and ondemand event, raised its curtains.

We have our own new starter in the office by the name of Elaine, and I have been tasked with helping her understand the layout of the industry.

Well, let me tell you, Home Ex and the videos produced by industry luminaries are going to be spectacularly helpful - thank you, **TD**!

Among those videos, you'll also find an ATIA video that explains our advocacy, member services and accreditation, which is located in the 'Auditorium' section once you've logged in.

Our congratulations to the CLIA team for their magnificent awards night on Sat under very trying circumstances.

The night included touching mentions and tributes to P&O and the role that the brand has played in drawing countless thousands of Aussies to experience cruising.

The extra-special congrats must go to the 75 finalists and eventual winners of the awards.

While there were lots of happy faces in Sydney, there would also have been a lot of dancing around living rooms due to all the Queensland and Northern NSW winners.

And that, friends, is a demonstration of the triumph of this industry over temporary adversity - again.

Dean will likely occupy this column next week as the impending election hots up.

Even for the most casual political observer, it will be worth tuning in, as he'll take you through our industry's short- and long-term asks of those vying for office.

Italian Lakes guide

ORMINA Tours has released an Italian Lakes travel guide to help advisors better promote and sell the region.

The digital guide features detailed information about popular Lake Como and other lakes in the region, as well suggestions on accommodation, activities and transportation download it HERE.



ACCOMMODATION

Send your accommodation updates to: accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au



Melia Pattaya Hotel has opened in the Gulf of Thailand, featuring 218 guest rooms and 16 suites across 12 storeys. A short drive from Bangkok, the new property boasts a rooftop restaurant with a sky bar, an all-day dining venue, an executive adjacent bar and function lawn. Melia's

lounge, swimming pool with adjacent bar and function lawn, Melia's signature YHI Spa, a kids' club, a gym, a co-working space, and a collection of versatile meeting spaces.



Visitors in Patong can now enjoy a new social space, with the Endless Summer Beach Club, now open at **Courtyard by Marriott Phuket, Patong Beach Resort**. Overlooking the ocean, the new cocktail, culinary and nightlife venue offers live DJs, coasting. During the day, all ages can

sunset events and after-dark parties. During the day, all ages can unwind on a daybed or take a dip in the infinity pool, while indulging in creative cocktails and an all-day seafood menu.



InterContinental Chiang Mai The Mae Ping has unveiled its new Club InterContinental Lounge and The ii Spa, which blend modern luxury with traditional cultural experiences. Available to guests staying in Club InterContinental rooms, the trand relaxing space, with a Thai inspired

new lounge offers an elegant and relaxing space, with a Thai-inspired menu. Meanwhile, the spa offers an authentic wellness experience inspired by the centuries-old healing practices of Hong Mor Muang.



Nestled in the heart of the Anambas Archipelago in Indonesia, **Bawah Reserve** has offered a first look at its expanded Aura Wellbeing Sanctuary, where guests go to receive spa treatments. When it reopens in Q₂, the retreat space will feature a

traditional red salt sauna, steam room, polar room, and ice plunge pool, allowing quests to experience the benefits of contrast therapy.



Pullman Hai Phong Grand Hotel recently opened its doors in Northern Vietnam, offering 364 rooms and suites and a diverse dining scene, with five different venues. The hotel also features eight flexible events spaces, including a large ballroom. Guests Ilbeing can use the Power Fitness space and

looking to enhance their wellbeing can use the Power Fitness space and the outdoor lap pool, and unwind at the Pullman Spa.



Entourage hits a six in Adelaide



ENTOURAGE Travel Group hosted its inaugural 'Because You Matter' conference in Adelaide last week, bringing together brokers, affiliates and preferred suppliers for a weekend of networking and celebration.

Hosted at Adelaide Oval, the conference featured supplier presentations, thoughtprovoking discussions and dining experiences, and was attended by senior representatives from AmaWaterways, Regent Seven Seas, Cover-More, Room-Res, Intrepid, Amadeus, Cathay Pacific, Link Travel Group and Signature Travel Network.

Scoot up to savings

AUSSIE travellers can snag discounted Scoot flights to 61 destinations across Europe and Asia, including the carrier's newest routes - Vienna, Austria and Iloilo City, Philippines.

Now on until 2.59am AEDT on Mon 17 Mar, the sale sees prices start from as low as \$145 one-way between Perth and Singapore, for travel from 01 Apr to 25 Oct (blackout periods apply). Find more information **HERE**. Highlights of the event included the supplier showcase, a wellness panel with Entourage Director Andy Buerckner and Signature Travel Network Managing Director Lisa Harrison, and insights on what it truly means to "give back".

Attendees also enjoyed an exclusive evening at Paloma Bar and a dining experience at 2KW.

"It was very special to witness our Entourage all come together in one place for the first time and to share with them the essence of 'Because You Matter'," said Entourage MD David Hughes. *JM*

NZ cycle itineraries

ADVENTURE South NZ has launched its New Zealand North Island guided cycling tours for the 2025/26 season, featuring four brand-new multi-day trips.

Travellers can expect to witness Huka Falls and the Wairakei Geothermal Valley on the North Island Central Plateau Loop; explore Whanganui River by bike; jet-boat and canoe on the Mt Ruapehu and the Three Rivers; traverse lush rainforest of Egmont National Park and the boutique vineyards of Hawke's Bay.

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Produced each weekday since 1994, *Travel Daily* is Australia's leading travel industry publication. EDITORIAL Editor - Adam Bishop Deputy Editor - Matt Lennon Cruise Editor - Myles Stedman Journalists - Janie Medbury Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper Publisher - Damian Francis Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller ADVERTISING & MARKETING Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan Advertising - Laura Aghajanian advertising@traveldaily.com.au

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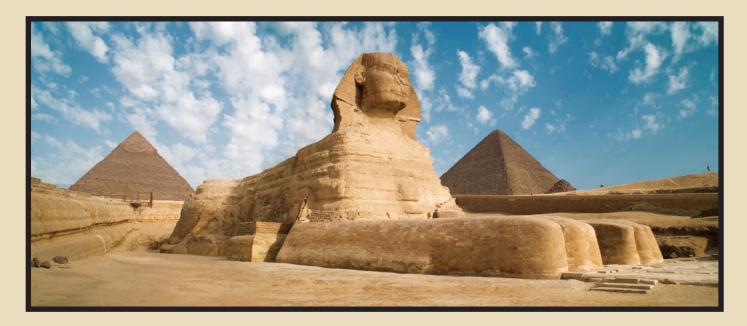
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Egypt manages to embody the best of two continents. Sitting at the north-east corner of Africa, it rubs shoulders with the Middle East, a region with which it shares so much – gastronomy, music, atmosphere, religion. Yet Egypt remains its own entity. And with more than 40 years of consistent operation there, A&K's extensive experience and local expertise will open the door to unparalleled experiences.

Few places on Earth boast such rich history. The Great Pyramid stands as the last of the Seven Wonders. In Luxor, the Valleys of the Kings and Queens echo pharaohs and ancient beliefs, while Aswan's ruins showcase Nubian heritage. Cairo blends architectural and culinary influences, and Alexandria thrives with its own legends, including Cleopatra's lost tomb. Throughout it all, the Nile flows as Egypt's lifeblood.

Experience the adventure of a lifetime with A&K.



The Wonders of Ancient Egypt 8 DAYS | PRICE FROM \$8,495 PP

Sail into the heart of this timeless, ancient nation on a stylish A&K Sanctuary Nile cruise, exploring Cairo, the Great Pyramids and the fabled Valley of the Kings.



Private Egypt & the Nile 10 days | price from \$15,760 pp

Bask in the timeless majesty of ancient Egypt on a private journey uncovering ancient archaeology alongside an Egyptologist, with a luxurious cruise along the Nile aboard Sun Boat IV, an A&K Sanctuary. **We visited Egypt in January** 2025. Cairo felt safe and lively, the Pyramids were serene and the new Grand Egyptian Museum spellbinding.

Exploring the antiquities between Luxor and Aswan was seamless and the local security that protect these areas were welcoming and helpful.

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- We can't wait to return!
- Margaret



Ancient Treasures of Egypt and Jordan

12 DAYS | PRICE FROM \$25,995 PP

Delve into ancient history on this iconic journey across the sands: uncover Petra's rock-hewn glory, marvel at the Great Pyramids and sail the storied waters of the Nile in a luxurious A&K vessel.

TO BOOK YOUR CLIENTS OR FIND OUT MORE, CALL 1300 589 717 OR VISIT WWW.ABERCROMBIEKENT.COM

*Terms & Conditions apply. Prices shown are per person and are subject to availability. See website for further information.







Cultural Treasures, Bazaars & Kasbahs

Two countries brimming with two different cultures but both as rich. The perfect way to experience the duality of Europe and Africa through Portugal and Morocco. No wonder this is a 16 day trip! Gardens and villages

Your travellers will begin their journey in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, and walk alongside its coastline past pastel-colored buildings. Here they will have the chance to admire Belém Tower and the church of the Jerónimos Monastery, before an excursion to Sintra's Quinta da Regaleira gardens and palace.

Rivers and churches

After that, they will transfer north to the city of Porto, set by the banks of the Douro River, which they will admire from the iconic Dom Luís I Bridge. They will stroll through its stunning Old Town and visit



its main attractions such as the Clérigos Tower, Aliados Avenue and the impressive Sao Bento train station.

Mosques and deserts

Your customers will then travel to Morocco, and after a day of leisure at Marrakech, they will travel to Fez, the spiritual, intellectual and religious capital of the country. The city can be best appreciated from the hills surrounding it. Followed by a trip to Erfoud where they can admire the edge of the great Sahara desert.

Valleys and castles

To finish their trip, your travellers will visit the Gorges of Todgha and the Dades Valley, two beautiful landscapes and natural marvels. Before getting back to Marrakech, they will see the majestic Kasbah of Taourirt and the Kasbah of

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Ait Benhaddou. Stands out and sells fast

Culture is the name of the game: churches and mosques, castles and kasbahs, rivers and deserts, Portugal and Morocco, Europe and Africa. The contrasts between these two neighboring yet distinct continents is what will leave your customers feeling satisfied with a truly complete experience.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact our in-house experts to carefully craft extraordinary travel packages at never before seen prices to give you a truly unforgettable experience.

