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Find out more about the brand's holiday packages on **page 10**.



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Webjet's SME opportunity

WEBJET Group CEO Katrina Barry says the company will focus on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as part of a plan to grow its share in the business travel market rather than go after major accounts serviced by established giants in corporate travel.

Speaking to *Travel Daily*, Barry (pictured) said she is not interested in competing with the major players with defined budgets, but that Webjet has identified a segment in the middle "who need more than we can offer but don't need what the big boys can offer".

In a presentation to investors (*TD* yesterday), Webjet said it is eager to move from its current unstructured capacity serving business travellers to a more distinct digital offering.

Barry referenced a former client spending around \$125,000 a year with Webjet but left as a more formal business travel structure was required, which Webjet did



not provide at the time.

"There's a segment in the SME sector that want an online, digital-led offering, they want a few more pieces of tech than we deliver today but love our proposition, so that is the most natural extension for us." *ML*

Today's issue of *TD*

Travel Daily today features nine pages of news including a photo page from Qatar Airways and our Business Events News plus full pages from:

- Infinity Holidays
- Crystal Cruises
- Los Angeles Tourism

Crystal gives more

AGENTS now have more time to earn a bonus commission on eligible sailings with Crystal.

For example, book the Aug 2025 departure for Athens to Venice to receive a bonus commission of \$5,960 on top of standard agency commission - details on **page 11**.

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LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS

**2026 EUROPE
ULTRA-LUXURY
RIVER CRUISING**

VIEW BROCHURE

Virtuoso courts ultra-rich

LUXURY travel network Virtuoso is continuing to push forward with its plan to target ultra-high net worth travellers and bring high-end luxury consumer product brands into the fold.

The initial move was announced in Jan (*TD* 24 Jan), coinciding with the hiring of Shelby Donley as General Manager to head up the new business division.

During a visit to Sydney, US-based SVP Marketing, Helen McCabe-Young, and SVP, Sales & Partnerships, Cory Hagopian, provided an update to *TD* on how progress is going, particularly in terms of discussions with luxury consumer goods brands.

Hagopian said that while talks are ongoing, “our expectation is that this will be as fully baked as it can be for 2026, but it is going to take time and it will take a lot of building that has to happen”, including a lot of data that needs to be understood properly.

“Since Shelby Donley was appointed in January, she has been having interviews with many luxury brands - we have worked with partners that actually have relationships with

luxury brands to have those types of conversations, and she has had about 100 interviews so far,” Hagopian explained.

When *TD* named a range of high-end brands that could possibly be suitable, including car manufacturers, watch producers and fashion brands, Hagopian admitted that Virtuoso is “still at the early stages of narrowing down who it will be, but everyone who you have mentioned has had conversations with us”.

He also admitted that discussions with these brands predated the official creation of the ultra-high net worth division and had been kept warm up until now.

Asked what Virtuoso is specifically looking for when it came to these new partners, McCabe-Young replied that it is about finding brands that are set up to focus on that level of traveller who has a different service expectation. *DF*

Plenty to see in LA

DISCOVER all there is to love about Los Angeles, including the city’s new luxury hotel, on **p12**.



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Card security concerns

TRAVELLERS are increasingly more worried about payment fraud and the possibility of their payment details falling into the hands of nefarious sources, a new market survey has uncovered.

The study of 4,500 travellers conducted across five markets by Outpayce from Amadeus found 35% do not trust travel companies to keep card details safe, highlighting the importance travellers put on secure payments.

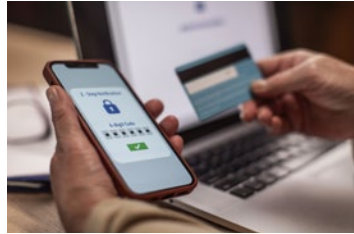
Further, 72% said they would only use a travel company with a strong history of e-commerce safety and payment security.

Questioned whether a discount would persuade travellers to book travel with a company holding a poor security record, 67% said no, while respondents said on average that a 38% discount would be the minimum needed to tempt them to try their luck.

A recent study by Juniper Research found nearly half of all payment fraud attempts were aimed at airlines, with the wider travel landscape also a high target for organised fraud syndicates due to the significant transaction values in play.

Curiously, the survey highlighted two-factor authentication as a possible way to boost security, however nearly half of respondents said they have abandoned a travel purchase when first asked to authenticate.

Outpayce from Amadeus SVP Jean-Christophe Lacour said there is a clear issue with the



perception of security, making it harder for travel companies to offer smoother payment options.

“Widely publicised data breaches have reduced consumer confidence and the industry needs to take proactive measures to rebuild trust.

Lacour said new approaches like ‘tokenisation’ and fraud screening solutions trained specifically on travel purchase data can transform the payment experience and make it more secure.

Some survey respondents said they developed negative sentiments towards a travel company for security being too tight and declining payments even with sufficient funds available. *ML*

Kalgoorlie plan a go

THE Kalgoorlie-Boulder Tourism Plan 2025-2030 has been voted through with a unanimous nine votes and no dissents.

This plan outlined collaboration between tourism stakeholders, the community and government to reimagine investment in the visitor economy whilst aiding the local tourism industry.

In 2023, tourism generated \$345 million for the region.

Rocky gets Spirit

AMERICAN Southwest luxury train Rocky Mountaineer has changed its famous name to Canyon Spirit.

Previously operating under the renowned Canadian brand name, Armstrong Collective, owner of the train, also announced an expansion of the Rockies to the Red Rocks US route which will now run from Denver, Colorado through to Salt Lake City, Utah, from 21 Apr 2026.

The new three-day train journey will include overnight stops in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, and Moab, Utah.

It will operate weekly with one westbound departure from Denver and one eastbound departure from Salt Lake City.

Tristan Armstrong, CEO of Armstrong Collective, noted that despite the brand change, the service will stay the same. *DF*

More QF digi decs

AUSTRALIAN Border Force and Qantas have expanded the Australian Travel Declaration (ATD) pilot program in BNE to all single and multi-passenger international QF flights.

Almost 12,000 pax have used the ATD, which works via the QF app, since the trial began.

MEANWHILE, QF has announced a major sale to the Americas, with flights to LAX, JFK, DFW, SFO, YVR, SCL and HNL from various Australian ports starting from under \$1,000 return for travel between 14 Apr and 29 Jan.

Travel Daily
ON LOCATION



Lisbon

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line, which is hosting us aboard *Norwegian Aqua* for its inaugural cruise.

AFTER transferring to Lisbon Cruise Terminal from the Lisbon Marriott, the time has come to explore the impressive *Aqua*.

Our first stop is The Haven by Norwegian - an exclusive 'ship-within-a-ship' retreat concept offering luxury, privacy, and personalised service.

After that, we will be off to the Aqua Theatre and Club for a special welcome event with cocktails and snacks, followed by a hosted dinner.

The banquet will be a sample of one of the 17 dining options on board the ship.

Croatia incentive

BEYOND Travel has launched its 2026 Croatia cruise season, and to celebrate, it is offering early bird specials and a chance for agents to win a cabin aboard the MS Diamond for an eight-day Croatia cruise with a guest.

Agents can enter by booking clients on any Best of Dalmatia 2026 cruise cabin by Jun 30 - each cabin booked earns them one entry into the draw.

For more information, contact 1300 363 554.



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Travel Daily

Mosman's decade of excellence



MOSMAN Travel has celebrated its 10-year anniversary of ownership by Sharyn Kitchener, MD, and Penny Spencer, Director. The North Shore agency has also been with the Virtuoso global luxury travel network for the same amount of years. Business partners and loyal clients were invited to celebrate the milestone with the Mosman Travel team last week at the

Public Dining Room in Balmoral. Guests heard speeches from Spencer and Kitchener, as well as the company's Director Mike Goodall, reflecting on a decade of a growth and looking ahead to new adventures. "This journey has been incredible, and we are deeply grateful to our clients and partners for their support over the past 10 years," said Kitchener. *JM*

G'day grows in Tas

CRADLE Mountain Wilderness Village is now a G'day Group property after it acquired the 45 chalet-style room business that sits directly next to its recently-renovated Discovery Parks property in Tasmania.

G'day Group announced Wilderness Village will gradually be integrated with the neighbouring business under the name of Discovery Resorts - Cradle Mountain - the combined offering able to provide enhanced guest experiences including dining options and more.

Founder and CEO Grant Wilkens said, "We now offer options to cater to every budget and type of traveller...enabling us to showcase this incredible destination to a diverse cohort of visitors".

The new combined property joins G'day Group's growing premium portfolio which includes El Questro in WA, McCracken Resort in SA, and Undara in Queensland.



Window Seat

EARLIER this week, *Travel Daily* wrote about a man attempting to smuggle a turtle in his pants on a plane.

And now, we have just found out that a live three-foot alligator was left behind in a room at Pine Rivers motel in Michigan.

The alligator's name was Wally and he belonged to a man who owns exotic creatures and takes them to schools for meet-the-animal experiences with the kids.

"We just went in to clean the room and, when my nephew looked under the bed, Wally was there," the motel's manager, Gary, told the *Detroit Free Press*.

"He was a real friendly gator, so I didn't feel real scared."

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<p>OVERNIGHT IN ISTANBUL</p> <p>9-Day Greek Isles Round-trip Athens (Piraeus): Santorini, Rhodes & Istanbul</p> <p>Norwegian Viva® 24 Aug & 2, 11 Sep 2025</p>	<p>OVERNIGHT IN LIVORNO</p> <p>10-Day Mediterranean Round-trip Barcelona: Italy, France & Spain</p> <p>Norwegian Breakaway® Jun - Jul & Sep - Oct 2025</p>	<p>CONVENIENT ROUND-TRIP</p> <p>10-Day Greenland & Iceland Round-trip Reykjavik: Akureyri, Isafjordur & Nuuk</p> <p>Norwegian Star® 20 Jun & 21 Aug 2025</p>
<p>SIMILAR ITINERARIES AVAILABLE</p> <p>11-Day Greek Isles From Athens (Piraeus) to Venice (Trieste): Santorini, Mykonos & Croatia</p> <p>Norwegian Pearl® May, Jul - Oct 2025</p>	<p>OVERNIGHT IN REYKJAVIK</p> <p>11-Day Northern Europe From London (Southampton) to Reykjavik: Iceland, Norway & Belgium</p> <p>Norwegian Prima® May - Aug 2025</p>	<p>REVERSE ITINERARY AVAILABLE 23 JUL</p> <p>11-Day Europe From Copenhagen to Lisbon: France, Spain & England</p> <p>Norwegian Sky® 3 Aug 2025</p>

experience **MORE** at sea™



Tune into Australia

THE appeal of more than 1,500 Australian tourism operators will be beamed into the living rooms of 96 million households across Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

Using footage captured by

Tourism Australia for its National Experience Content Initiative (NECI) in 2021, production company The Precinct has

created a new TV series called *Experience Australia*, which will air via 20 half-hour episodes in 58 markets across several regions.

Federal Minister for Tourism Don Farrell said the new series will encourage travellers from “near and far” to plan and book more Australian holidays.

“The first season will highlight everything from Indigenous cultural tours to wildlife sanctuaries, mountain experiences, sailing and everything in between,” he said.

“I’m also pleased that the second season will focus on Australia’s growing agritourism sector and feature more than 100 tourism operators, including our outstanding food and wine segment which is such a great draw card,” Farrell pointed out.

Tourism Australia Managing

CLIA 2025 sets sail

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has launched its expanded CLIA LIVE program for 2025, with the first of eight travel agent training events across Australia and New Zealand kicking off yesterday in Melbourne.

CLIA members gathered for a sold-out two-day seminar, where global cruise line representatives shared their latest initiatives and product developments.

Other events will be held through to May in Perth, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, and more - get all the details [HERE](#).

Director Phillipa Harrison added it was pleasing to see yet another use for the content produced as part of the key NECI program.

“NECI was the largest content initiative ever undertaken

by Tourism Australia,” Harrison said.

“With each operator receiving hundreds of images and

footage of their product, we ended up with an enormous catalogue of material and Experience Australia has given us a chance to take that to a global audience and show why there truly is nothing like Australia,” she added.

Narrated by well-known Australian actress Rachel Griffiths, *Experience Australia* will first air on the Outdoor Channel in close to 60 nations. *AB*

Indigenous training

AUSTRALIAN Walking Holidays (AWH) is holding an Employment Training and Open Day on 25 Mar to create job opportunities for First Nations people within the Larapinta region.

Attendees will receive insights into available roles such as walking guides, camp hosts, cultural guides, labourers, campside coordinators and maintenance workers.

“We have multiple positions available and are committed to supporting local Indigenous talent,” said AWH General Manager Michael Buggy.

“By offering full training and mentorship, we aim to foster meaningful employment opportunities in the tourism industry,” he added.

The event will take place on AWH’s one-year-anniversary of its first Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan - to RSVP for the Open Day, click [HERE](#).



Travel Daily FEATURE

NCL’s Europe: More Time, More Ports, More Adventure - but don’t let your clients miss out this year

With Angela Middleton, Director Field Sales AU/NZ, Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL)



With NCL, your clients can experience the wonders of Europe more conveniently with an

extended season until November, a choice of nine ships, 12 departure ports and more than 150 unique itineraries - and it’s not too late to book.

Our 2025 season features two of our Prima Class ships with Norwegian Prima® offering a range of Northern Europe itineraries including trending destinations such as Iceland and Norway and Norwegian Viva® cruising the Greek Isles for the first time.

One of the things I love most about the Prima Class is the variety of dining options and how spacious the ship feels - particularly outdoors - so Norwegian Viva® is the perfect platform for those iconic Greek sunsets.

Norwegian Breakaway® has just undergone an exciting refresh before commencing her 2025 European season this month with the debut of the all-new Silver Screen Bistro - an immersive movie and dining venue - and Red, White, & British, a brand-new high-energy tribute show celebrating legendary British artists.

NCL is committed to delivering More at Sea with:

- More seven-14-night sailings
- More time in port, with an average of 10 hours
- More late departures and

overnight stays in cities like Reykjavik, Copenhagen and Istanbul and shore excursions to suit every interest

• NCL’s expanded range of multi-day pre- or post-cruise tours in 11 ports - such as Venice, Athens, and Tromsø - offer an even richer experience and are perfect for pairing with one of our seven-day itineraries

• More Value - Only NCL gives the ultimate value with More At Sea™, our one-of-a-kind package which includes unlimited premium beverages, more specialty dining, more Starlink wi-fi minutes, and excursion credits to explore more onshore

• More variety of cuisine and more bars and lounges across our fleet than any other cruise line

• More accommodation options for every type of traveller

• More onboard chills including the best thermal suites at sea

Here are my top picks for this year: **Norwegian Viva®**: 9-day Greek Isles round-trip from Athens (Piraeus) with overnight in Istanbul until September 2025

Norwegian Prima®: 11-day Northern Europe voyage from London (Southampton) with overnight in Reykjavik until August 2025

With an extended season and so many options to explore now is the perfect time to take advantage of up to **50% off European sailings*** - but you will have to be quick. *T&Cs apply.

Visit our **Wave Hub** to access our suite of marketing resources.



**NORWEGIAN
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Intrepid heads north

INTREPID Travel has continued its aggressive global expansion program by opening a new office in Copenhagen, a physical presence that will oversee the rollout of 23 new small group tours across northern Europe.

Spearheading the growing presence in the region is Kristijan Svajnžger, who has been appointed Regional General Manager for Eastern Europe, the Nordic region, and the Caucasus.

Among the short-term priorities for the office - the first to open in Scandinavia - is the introduction of eight new itineraries in 2026, as well as the ambition to double the customer base in the region to 8,000 over the next five years.

The new office forms part of a wider strategy for Intrepid to rapidly scale up its operational presence in Europe, with six new yet-to-be-revealed locations planned on the continent over the next five years.

“Northern Europe is seeing incredible growth, fuelled by the rise of ‘coolcations,’ growing interest in Nordic culture, breathtaking natural landscapes, and a strong commitment to sustainability,” Svajnžger said.

“At Intrepid, it’s not just about growing our community, it’s about creating more meaningful opportunities for cultural connection and exchange.”

Intrepid’s bid to expand its footprint in Europe follows recent high-profile moves to take on the North American market as well,



with Leigh Barnes relocating to the US last year to manage the growth plan as President of the Americas (**TD** 18 Jun 2024). **AB**

Pictured: Intrepid EMEA MD, Zina Bencheikh; Intrepid CEO James Thornton; North Europe GM Inga Ros Antoníusdóttir; and new recruit, Regional General Manager East Europe, Nordic and Caucasus Kristijan Svajnžger.

CX Zips up in Oz

CATHAY Pacific has partnered with Zip to offer interest-free, flexible payment options to Australian travellers.

Customers of the US-based airline can now spread the cost of their flights over weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments, with zero payment necessary on the day of purchase, and six months free of interest.

Zip provides a credit limit of up to \$1,000 with Zip Pay and up to \$10,000 with Zip Money.

To celebrate the partnership, CX will offer discounted return flights from Australia to anywhere in the world on its network during the upcoming Click Frenzy Travel Event, sponsored by Zip, which takes place from 26-30 Mar.

Explore NZ block by block



TOURISM New Zealand (TNZ) is capitalising on the Minecraft craze, with fans of the best-selling video game invited to ‘play’ New Zealand in game mode.

In partnership with Warner Bros. Pictures and Mojang Studios, TNZ has unveiled a world-first game integration, allowing Minecraft players around the globe to download and play the Aotearoa New Zealand destination content for free.

The feature will launch alongside *A Minecraft Movie*, a Warner Bros. Pictures production starring Jason Momoa and Jack Black, which was filmed in New Zealand and will premiere around the world in Apr 2025.

“This innovative approach to destination marketing offers millions of Minecraft fans the unique opportunity to virtually explore and create in a range of iconic New Zealand locations,” said TNZ Chief Executive Officer, Rene de Monchy.

The collaboration showcases New Zealand’s strong film production, game development, and Indigenous creative industries - areas that offer unique appeal for the business events sector.

“The project creatively combines technology, gaming, culture, New Zealand’s otherworldly places, Maori culture, and people to present New Zealand to the vast Minecraft universe in an innovative way,” Monchy added.

TNZ worked with Piki Studios, an official Minecraft Partner and award-winning Maori game design studio, to build the game integration, collaborating with the wider tourism industry and local Maori from the regions depicted to create an authentic and fun experience.

Minecraft fans are also encouraged to “play for real”, with suggestions on TNZ’s website, **HERE**, on how travellers can build a Minecraft-inspired holiday in New Zealand. **JM**

CHECK OUT

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Qatar Airways delivers VIP thrills at F1

AS THE proud Global Partner and Official Airline of F1, Qatar Airways hosted its trade and industry partners to a once-in-a-lifetime weekend at the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix.

Guests were treated to a VIP Paddock Club experience, offering them the chance to see and meet F1 teams and drivers, as well as an exclusive behind-the-scenes experience and tour of the Alpine team's garage, getting up close to all the high-octane action.

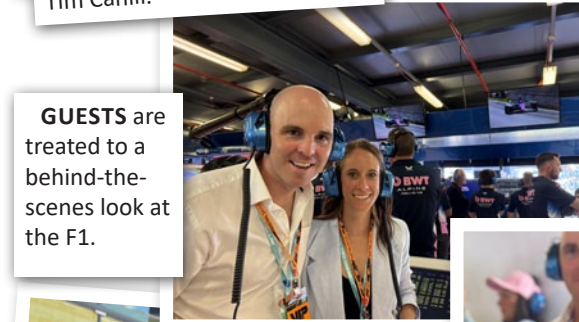
Qatar Airways also hosted a very special guest over the weekend, with Tim Cahill, former Everton and Socceroo star, making the thrilling experience even more memorable.



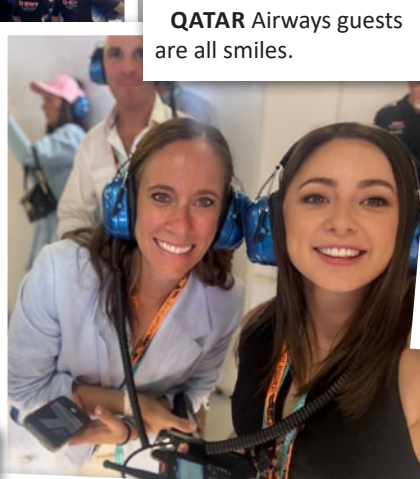
AUSTRALIAN soccer legend, Tim Cahill.



JUSTIN Kestel, Regional Manager AU/NZ with Qatar Airways cabin crew members.



GUESTS are treated to a behind-the-scenes look at the F1.



QATAR Airways guests are all smiles.



ATTENDEES soaking up the high-octane environment.



QATAR Airways guests with F1 driver Jack Doohan.



RAM Chhabra, CVFR Group CEO with Tim Cahill.



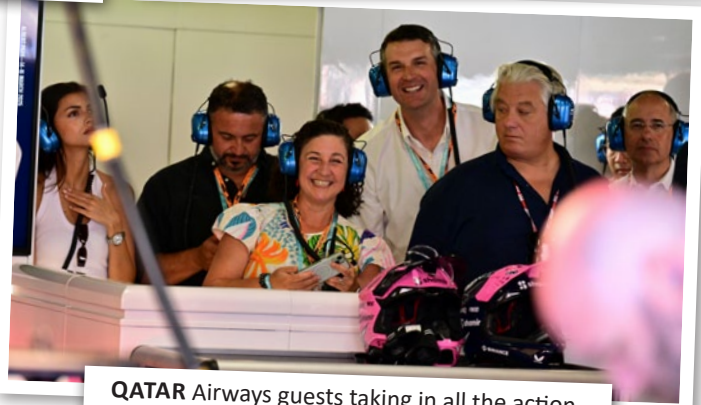
PAUL Starrs, SVP International Sales at Qatar Airways, also hosted an exclusive F1 evening to celebrate the 2025 season launch of the Grand Prix.



THERE was never a dull moment in the Alpine Garage.



QATAR Airways guests enjoying a prime view of the track.



QATAR Airways guests taking in all the action.



Hyatt MICE focus

HYATT Hotels Corporation has launched a Wellbeing Collective Advisory Board, which has been tasked with accelerating the hospitality group's meetings, events and wellbeing offerings across its global portfolio.

The Board, which comprises a team of industry experts, will work to strengthen Hyatt's event philosophy, Together by Hyatt, providing access to expert teams, tools, technology and holistic wellbeing offerings, from care stations to meditation content, to help planners curate more connected meetings and events.

It will also aim to integrate wellbeing experiences into meetings and events at select hotels around the globe, while looking to expand this range across its portfolio this year.

For example, expanding on Miraval Resorts & Spas' wellness retreat offerings, select hotels will soon offer wellbeing retreats for groups.

"Whether travelling for business or leisure, now more than ever, our guests are seeking meaningful experiences that foster connection, build community and enhance their mental, emotional and physical wellbeing," said TJ Abrams, Vice President Global Wellbeing, Hyatt.

ICCA, AIME FORM POWERHOUSE

THE International Congress and Conference Association (ICCA) has teamed up with the Asia Pacific Incentives and Meetings Event (AIME) to bolster the business events industry across the Asia Pacific.

The partnership will focus on attracting more business opportunities to ICCA members in Australia, New Zealand, Asia, and other global regions.

AIME, which is owned by the Melbourne Convention Bureau and managed by Talk2 Media & Events, will help drive business events growth in APAC with ongoing personal and professional development opportunities over the coming years.

"ICCA's partnership with AIME signifies our commitment to supporting the growth of the Asia Pacific meetings industry,



which has experienced incredible growth over the past few years and continues to figure prominently on the world stage," said ICCA CEO Senthil Gopinath.

"We're looking forward to working with APAC members to support the development of meetings and events professionals in the region, including ICCASkills, business exchange workshops,

advocacy and more."

ICCA will play a key role at AIME 2026 in Melbourne, where it will host the ICCA Business Exchange, while AIME will have a presence at the ICCA Congress in Portugal later this year. *JM*

Pictured: Gopinath; Melbourne Convention Bureau CEO Julia Swanson; and Talk2 Media & Events Director Matt Pearce.

Aus showcases biz credentials in the US

THE Business Events Australia North America Roadshow took place earlier this month, highlighting Australia as a leading MICE destination.

Local industry members had the opportunity to network with North American planners across corporate, incentive and association business spaces, and provided an update on their product offerings.

The Australian cohort was made up of 17 sellers representing airlines,



destinations, accommodation and destination management companies, including Qantas, Hilton Sydney, and many more.

The series kicked off in Toronto, Canada, before making its way to Minneapolis, St Louis and Dallas.

BEA Board grows

BUSINESS Events Adelaide (BEA) has announced that CEO of Australian Hotels Association SA branch, Anna Moeller, has joined its Board as a Specialist Director.

Moeller brings plenty of industry knowledge and political connectivity, with a strong background in the visitor economy and member-based organisations.

She began her tenure in Feb, completing BEA's eight-person volunteer board.



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APPOINTMENTS

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IHG Hotels & Resorts has announced the appointment of **Scott Schaefer** as the new General Manager of Crowne Plaza Hobart. Schaefer boasts more than 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry, most recently in new hotel openings, including Holiday Inn Dandenong in 2023. Prior to that, he was the pre-opening GM of the world's first Vignette Collection hotel, Hotel X Brisbane, Fortitude Valley. In 2018, he joined IHG's Sydney head office as Director of Operations Support and Franchise for Australasia and Japan, and helped with the development and roll-out of several brand and guest service initiatives.

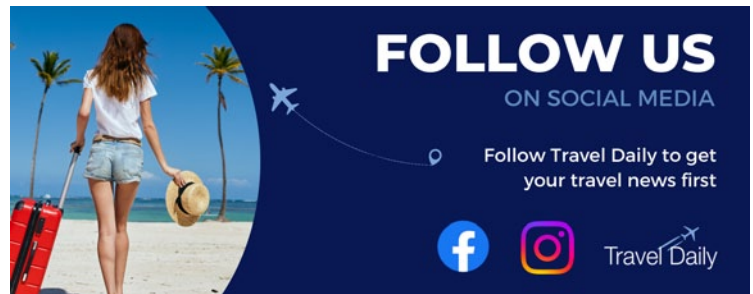
Hoon Kim has been promoted by **The Royal Portfolio** to the position of Sales Manager for the Asia Pacific region. Kim has been with the company since 2017, holding senior positions at both The Silo Hotel and La Residence. Most recently, he served as Deputy GM at La Residence. In his new role, Kim will help grow the hospitality group's footprint in the Asia Pacific region by connecting with travel partners and guests.

Joining **The Hotel Britomart** team this Apr, **Ashley Oliveri** will lead the hotel's business development focus, with responsibility for all market segments across accommodation as well as the continued growth of the hotel's extensive meeting and events offerings. Oliveri brings more than 10 years' experience in sales, events and hospitality, including a previously held leadership position at another five-star property in Auckland.

Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group has welcomed **ShaoWei Ong** as Chief People & Culture Officer, commencing this week. With over 22 years of human resources leadership experience, ShaoWei has developed her expertise across a diverse range of industries, including hospitality, banking, fintech, music and engineering. Her previous roles include Vice President of HR for Sony Music Group across Asia and the Middle East and Head of the Starwood Academy Asia Pacific in Shanghai, where she helped shape the next generation of hospitality leaders.

Leon Pink has taken on the role of General Manager at the new **Vomo Island Fiji**. He has a strong background in luxury hospitality, having led some of the world's most prestigious resorts, including Lizard Island, Elements of Byron, Sails in the Desert, Outrigger Koh Samui, and management roles at Four Seasons Seychelles, One & Only Maldives, Hayman Island and Outrigger Fiji. Pink replaces outgoing GM, Justin King, who has guided VOMO for the last six years.

Travel tech company **TBO** has appointed **Paul Groundwater** as Head of API Business, Australia & New Zealand. He will draw on his extensive experience in sales, strategic planning, and business development to lead TBO's strategic partnerships, driving API adoption across key wholesale clients, and expanding the company's presence in the region. The appointment reaffirms TBO's commitment to expanding the Australian and New Zealand markets.



Complex Travel on the Fringe



COMPLEX Travel Group treated its Adelaide team to a night of fun at Australia's biggest arts festival, Adelaide Fringe, last week.

The team outing kicked off with food and drinks at The Local Bar in Gluttony, before the group headed off to watch comedic magician Dom Chambers perform magic tricks.

Sharing pictures from the night on LinkedIn, Complex Travel Group Director Mark Trim wrote, "We aim for the perfect balance of connectedness without taking over your life outside work."

"Striking the right mix between working with purpose, reward and meaning with the appropriate boundaries on the home front."

Trim also revealed the agency is currently recruiting for an admin and office coordinator, and is planning to open a new interstate location soon. *JM*

Ghanem takes Fox

BRISBANE family-owned hospitality group, Ghanem Group, has taken over Fox Hotel at Fish Lane in South Brisbane, which will reopen as a multi-level dining, events and entertainment precinct later this year.

The property will feature a public bar with bistro dining, a gaming and cocktail lounge, dedicated function spaces, a rooftop terrace, and more.

Expeditions by Asia

DESTINATION Asia has launched a new service delivering off-the-beaten-path experiences for its cruise partners.

Dubbed Expeditions by Asia, the collection features sustainable and immersive journeys across the continent's most pristine and remote locations.

The service has initially launched with two expedition guides, featuring itineraries for Cat Ba Island and Lan Ha Bay in Vietnam, as well as Raja Ampat in East Indonesia, which are led by a team of 'destination insiders'.

Learn more and check out the new guides **HERE**.

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Wine Highway

The Wine Highway blends scenic beauty, relaxation, and world-class flavours. Perfect for wine lovers and food enthusiasts.

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\$1,269 pp twin share

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The Scenic Highway is a thrilling journey through coastlines, mountains, and breathtaking landscapes.

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 6 nights accommodation
- 7 days car hire

Helio Code IH50212

FROM

\$1,649 pp twin share

[Book Now](#)

Glacier Highway

The Glacier Highway offers stunning peaks, icy wonders, and epic adventures for nature lovers.

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 7 nights accommodation
- 8 days car hire

Helio Code IH50208

FROM

\$1,699 pp twin share

[Book Now](#)

The Ultimate Highway

The Ultimate Highway package is the perfect mix of adventure, relaxation, and delicious food.

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 14 nights accommodation
- 15 days car hire from Christchurch Airport

Helio Code: IH50402

FROM

\$2,799 pp twin share

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Terms and Conditions: Prices are per person based on twin share. Subject to availability. 'From' prices can change without notice and may be removed at any time. Alternative product may be offered if the featured product is unavailable. Further T&Cs apply.



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You now have more time to earn a bonus of up to 20% extra on top of standard commission on eligible sailings*.

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LUXURY LANDS IN SANTA MONICA



The newly opened Regent Santa Monica Beach Hotel offers 167 ocean-view rooms and suites, a true sanctuary of relaxation on Santa Monica Bay's pristine sands. Upon arrival, your clients can unwind with a beverage

from their room's complimentary, personalised Refreshment Gallery. Further relaxation awaits with a rejuvenating spa, renowned dining venues, and a sparkling infinity pool.

Read more [HERE](#).

DUNK INTO THE DOME

Intuit Dome tours are now available, providing a unique look at this state-of-the-art arena. Your clients can explore the Clippers' home court and get a glimpse into the luxurious premium clubs, top-tier locker rooms, and the iconic player tunnel. **Book tours [HERE](#).** Plus, it's NBA basketball season! Help your clients catch the excitement of a live LA Clippers game. Tickets are bookable now through April. Combine a tour with a game for the ultimate sports fan experience. **Tickets [HERE](#).**

NHM'S \$75M EXPANSION

A new wing and community hub made its debut in late 2024 at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. New features of the \$75 million NHM Commons expansion and renovation project include a community science exhibition, an up-to-400-seat theater, new 3D T.rex film produced by D3D, new café, and landscaped outdoor spaces.

Read more [HERE](#).



THE NEW LAX: CALIFORNIA'S GATEWAY

Have you seen LAX lately? Billions of dollars are being invested in the gateway including the now completed 1.2-million-square-foot, state-of-the-art Delta Sky Way at LAX boasting 27 gates and the 30,000-square-foot Delta Sky Club—one of the largest in the Delta network. Look for the free Automated People Mover (APM) electric train to launch January 2026. It will link airport terminals, the LAX Consolidated Rent-A-Car (ConRAC) facility, parking, and the regional Metro rail system. Pro tip: For passengers catching a premium or black service car via rideshare, they can be picked up curbside at the terminal for a more direct and faster pickup option.

Read more [HERE](#).

BOOKING LA FIRST-TIMERS

Our "LA 101" pre-built package is your shortcut to crafting the perfect iconic LA experience, saving you valuable planning time. This itinerary hits all the highlights: Hollywood Walk of Fame, Griffith Observatory, and more. Best of all, this complete itinerary is readily bookable through Infinity Holidays. "LA 101" is one of four curated itineraries designed to facilitate your planning process.

Read more [HERE](#).

SIP WITH THE STARS



Combine celebrity encounters with stunning city views at the newly opened The Hollywood Rooftop Restaurant & Bar by Madame Tussauds. This isn't your typical Madame Tussauds visit—it's a chance to sip cocktails alongside wax figures of A-listers while enjoying panoramic Hollywood vistas. It's the perfect spot for pre-show drinks, a casual get-together, or a memorable addition to any Hollywood itinerary. **Read more [HERE](#).**

CONNECT WITH DELTA

Delta is further strengthening its presence in Australia with the launch of nonstop service from Melbourne (MEL) to Los Angeles (LAX). Travellers will enjoy the state-of-the-art Airbus A350-900 and Delta's premium facilities at LAX, including the world-class Delta One Lounge.

AND THE AWARD FOR BEST TRAVEL ADVISOR GOES TO ... YOU!

The Oscars just wrapped, and Hollywood's magic is in the air! Capture that excitement by offering your clients the chance to live their own cinematic dreams in LA.

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures' "The Oscars® Experience" allows your clients to hold an iconic Oscar statuette, hear their name announced, and take centre stage to accept their award. They'll capture this unforgettable moment on video, a personal highlight reel to share with everyone. **Read more [HERE](#).** The VIP treatment doesn't end there. Exclusive behind-the-scenes tours of the Dolby Theatre are also available, where visitors can walk the hallowed red carpet, explore backstage secrets, and truly understand the magic that makes the heart of the Academy Awards. **Read more about Dolby Theatre Tours [HERE](#).**



WATCH & WIN

Dive deeper into the "LA 101" itinerary with our **informative webinar** featuring Kat Brown. Watch now and answer this question: What tour can your clients enjoy before their evening flight from LAX? Email your answer to oceania@latourism.org by March 31, 2025, for a chance to win a \$50 gift card and an exclusive LA prize pack.

NEW NONSTOP SERVICE: MELBOURNE TO LOS ANGELES.

Melbourne joins Sydney and Brisbane. Nonstop flights from MEL to LAX begin December 2025.

