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Australian tourism strategy is strong

THE Australian tourism industry is in a “really good spot” ahead of the upcoming conclusion of the Tourism 2020 strategy, Tourism Australia (TA) Managing Director, John O’Sullivan, told **Travel Daily** yesterday at the Australian Tourism Exchange in Perth.

The whole-of-government and industry long-term Tourism 2020 strategy, was launched in 2011 and pinned the goal of achieving between \$115-140b in overnight expenditure by 2020.

O’Sullivan told **TD** that TA had reached the lower end of the overnight expenditure goal and was expecting to land at about \$131 billion by the end of 2020.

In accommodation, Australia has exceeded the strategy’s target of between 6,000-20,000 new rooms, with around 30,000 new rooms on offer and many more in the pipeline, while in aviation, capacity is also ahead, O’Sullivan said.

“[The strategy has] been a really successful exercise in quantifying the value of our industry, giving us a very distinct target and very clear priorities on which to focus on as tourism marketers,” he said.

Looking ahead, O’Sullivan said TA believes there is an opportunity to reach between \$180-250 billion in domestic and international overnight expenditure by 2030.

He reiterated Tourism Australia’s commitment to the Chinese market, emphasising it has continued its strong performance and lived up to the high expectations of the Australian tourism industry.

“Our modelling out to 2030 still sees China as being our most important and valuable market by a long stretch,” he explained.

He also identified the opportunities presented by emerging markets like India - which has seen repeated compound growth of 17% - and acknowledged the importance of the US, which continues to be the second most valuable market.

South East Asia was also noted as a priority, while Japan is returning to growth and he identified South America as an emerging market.

For further information on the ATE event, see **page three**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has seven pages of news and photos, plus full pages from:

- TMS Talent
- Tauck

Tauck 2020 trips

TAUCK has released new itineraries for 2020 featuring the 10-day Mayan Culture and Natural Wonders trip.

See more on **page nine**.

Travel Daily en route to Bordeaux, France

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you courtesy of Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection, which will this week host a preview cruise of its stunning new **S.S. Bon Voyage**.

UNIWORLD has undertaken an extensive bow-to-stern renovation of its **River Royale** which this week emerges as the **S.S. Bon Voyage**, representing the bounty of the South of France as she takes her maiden voyage out of Bordeaux.

Wine tasting, scenery and cuisine are firmly on the agenda, with the upgrade featuring marble bathrooms throughout, a new Paris-inspired bistro, a pool and four gorgeous suites.

All the details in **Travel Daily** and **Cruise Weekly** this week.



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Bentours winners

BENTOURS together with Hurtigruten have announced Zara Henderson, The Travel Centre NSW and Naomi Zerner, Back Track Adventures QLD as the winners of the 'Be a Hurtigruten Hero' campaign.

The agents won a cabin on the 17-day cruise Andean Coast – From Rainforest to Mighty Peaks, where they will explore Chile, Peru, Ecuador & Costa Rica in Oct onboard *MS Roald Amundsen*.

Outdoor travel merger

TH2 has agreed to merge its Roadtrippers Australasia and CamperMate businesses with Australian outdoor tourism marketplaces, GoSeeAustralia and Outdoria - creating Australasia's largest online marketplace for camping and caravanning.

The newly formed Outdoria Group will offer customers booking and planning services for camping holidays and experiences, as well as equipment sales ranging from campervans to RVs, and mountain bikes.

The deal signed today involves a cash and asset investment into the merged entity whereby TH2 becomes the largest shareholder with a 35% stake.

Chairman of Jayco and founder of Outdoria, Gerry Ryan, said the merger combines every aspect of outdoor travel into an integrated experience for the customer.

"This means customers benefit from having one place to go when needing to plan, book, equip and then embark upon their outdoor adventures," Ryan said.

"Businesses benefit from listing on an Australian-based, majority Australian-owned, marketplace

that offers all the benefits of an international OTA, without exorbitant booking fees being channelled off-shore, together with a deep understanding of the industry," he added.

Another selling point of the new entity will be its ability to offer travellers services at every step of their outdoor holiday in real-time, such offering information on campsite bookings, weather updates, road closures, and guides to local attractions.

Record Rotto boost

ROTTNEST Island will receive a \$16.2 million cash injection for infrastructure projects to support tourism, the Western Australian Government announced today.

The funding will support the redevelopment of the Fuel Jetty and the construction of a barge landing at Army Jetty, which will provide an alternative for logistics and freight traffic, easing pressure on Main Jetty at Thomson Bay.

The announcement adds to the \$17.2 million funding the Rottne Island Authority secured from the Federal Government.

Trafalgar sustains

LEADING up to Earth Day on 22 Apr, Trafalgar will be encouraging the travel community to work towards a sustainable future.

To raise awareness in trade, Trafalgar is organising an action & awareness campaign alongside Craig Kielburger, co-founder of ME to WE, through content and tips of how to travel sustainably.

Trafalgar will also be releasing an *Advisor's Guide to Making a Difference* on Earth Day.

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Travel Daily on location in Perth, WA

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Tourism Australia which is this week hosting the Australian Tourism Exchange in Perth.

THE show floor at the 2019 Australian Tourism Exchange officially opened this morning, marking the beginning of Australia's largest annual travel and tourism business-to-business event.

But many exhibitors have already been hard at work, yesterday showcasing their offerings at the International Media Marketplace.

Today the Australian Tourism Exchange will provide a full day of meetings and networking sessions, followed by tonight's Welcome Event at Crown Towers - more on **page one**.

FC shuffles Campus Travel

THE new academic division of Flight Centre's FCM Travel corporate business (*TD* breaking news) marks an "historic new chapter of growth" for the business, according to FCM Australia GM, Melissa Elf.

The restructure, which will witness the demise of the company's long-standing Campus Travel brand, will see FCM specialise in travel management for large-market clients in the corporate, government and now academic sectors, she said.

"Campus Travel has significant market share within the academic sector including universities, university affiliates, research organisations, TAFEs, colleges and schools," she added.

"University travel programs are large, complex and require strategic program management, which is similar to a large enterprise or a state or federal government body."

Elf noted there were many travel management synergies across large market clients, in terms of the level of account management knowledge required to drive long-term efficiencies and change.

She also highlighted the spread of operational expertise from the travel booking teams, understanding of the travel environment and policy of a large organisation, as well as the technology needed to support the thousands of travellers some of these clients have.

"From an operational and servicing perspective, it makes sense that FCM, which is our flagship large market corporate travel brand, extend its service offering to the academic sector."

Elf said current Campus Travel customers would still work with the same travel teams they know and trust, but the rebrand to FCM meant they would be able to "leverage the benefits of FCM's market-leading technology and tap into the products available through our global network that spans more than 95 countries".



Window Seat

WELL this is taking career-day to new heights - a flight instructor in the US state of Tennessee has made headlines by landing his plane on the highway and taxiing it to the local high school where he was due to participate in its annual careers day.

The man was planning to fly his plane to the Lawrence County High School as a display on careers day, but clearly failed to do some essential reconnaissance before taking off.

His plans to arrive in style were somewhat foiled when he realised that there was no place to land near the school.

He made a quick decision to land on the nearby five-lane Highway 43 and then drive the plane to the school.

We have to question whether his antics will motivate any aspiring pilots to take up a career in aviation, seeing as the Tennessee Highway Patrol and FAA are now investigating the incident.



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Saying hello to Quest



HELLOWORLD agents recently got familiar with life aboard the *Azamara Quest* on a cruise from Sydney to Cairns.

More than 20 agents took part in the famil, starting with a meal at Prime C, Azamara Club Cruises' speciality steak house.

With plenty to learn the agents took part in a training session during their first day at sea, before dancing the night away on the pool deck at the White Night party.

On their second day at sea the group got to go behind the scenes, visiting the bridge and touring the galley.

Throughout the cruise the agents got to enjoy port time at Airlie Beach and Townsville before an overnight in Cairns.

The trip ended with a seven-course meal and wine pairing at the Chef's Table.

Pictured: Helloworld agents with host Layla Salman (front row right) at the White Night party.

CRUISE CROATIA

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Nikki Beach growth

NIKKI Beach Hotels and Resorts will almost double its portfolio with the addition of three new hotels in Santorini, Montenegro and Sri Lanka.

The Santorini property will be the first of the new locations to open its doors.

Nikki Beach Hotels and Resorts EMEA CEO Jihad El Khoury said the new developments have been "driven by the investors trust in our brand and the market demand for fresh and relevant lifestyle resort applications."

Best Western NZ

BEST Western Hotels and Resorts has announced the opening of its new 21-room Best Western Alpine Hotel in Christchurch, New Zealand, today.

Guests will have access to free wi-fi throughout the hotel, on-demand Netflix and complementary parking.

The new hotel is located a short distance from the city's Riccarton Park Racecourse and the University of Canterbury.

Best Western Regional Manager New Zealand and Pacific, Andrew Belsham, said the company was dedicated to making the hotel a success and supporting the community of Christchurch in the wake of last month's terrorist attack.

China sports events

SPORTS Events 365 believes it is just starting to tap the potential of China's demand for tickets to the world's premium sports events.

The global ticket giant expects China to be its biggest market in 2019, with sales forecasts set to top the US\$2 million mark.

Sport Events 365 has started working with Chinese bodies to provide direct ticket purchases.

Gilbert Envisions

AWARD-WINNING author of *EAT PRAY LOVE*, Elizabeth Gilbert, christened Avalon Waterways' newest ship, *Avalon Envision*, in Budapest, Hungary on Mon.

Gilbert recited a blessing over the ship before cutting a rope which released a bottle of Torley sparkling wine to smash against the bow of the ship.

Envision is Avalon's 13th suite ship and with her introduction means the company's entire Europe and Southeast Asia fleet is comprised of suite ships.

SUPER S RUGBY

SUPER RUGBY R8 WINNER

Congratulations

NEALE DAVIS
from *Image Brackets*

Neale is the top point scorer for Round 8 of *Travel Daily's Super Rugby* footy tipping competition. He's won \$100 travel credit courtesy of Expedia.

Expedia TAAP

Travel Daily Super Rugby tipping competition is sponsored by Emirates, with the top tipper for the season winning flights from Sydney to Christchurch.



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Cycling through Thailand



PERTH-BASED adventure cyclist Jack Thompson is set to take on a 14-day jaunt through Thailand with the support of Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and Thai Airways (TG) Perth.

Thompson will pedal his way through 1,380km of relaxing countryside and bustling urban areas, a journey which will take him through Bangkok, around the Gulf of Thailand, Surat Thani, and then across the peninsula to Krabi and Phuket.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand said the event will be

a "Thai-rific" opportunity for a cultural immersion experience.

Pictured top is Jack Thompson gearing up for his trip by posing with the Thai Airways Perth mascot and **inset** team members from both TAT and Thai Airways Perth saying bon voyage.



Webinar incentive

TOURISM Solomons has announced it will provide an opportunity to score a \$50 pre-paid Visa card for agents who participate in a Solomon Islands webinar taking place 17 Apr.

The session will run for approximately 30 minutes and includes a Q&A component.

Interested agents need to register their intentions to attend ASAP via the link **HERE**.

Avoid yellow vests

DFAT is advising Australian travellers to France to avoid demonstrations organised by the Yellow Vest movement due to the threat of violence.

The protests may continue across France for "some time", with demonstrations most frequently occurring on a Sat.

Tourism Tas record

A RECORD number of Tasmanian tourism operators have joined Tourism Tasmania to attend the Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE) taking place in Perth this week.

The 27-person delegation from the Apple Isle will aim to sell its credentials as a tourist destination, leveraging positive international visitor numbers which saw 2018 increase by 11% to 308,800 people when compared to the previous year.

Delta eyes storm

DELTA Air Lines' (DL) meteorology team has revealed it is tracking a storm system that is expected to bring frozen and mixed precipitation to the northern plains of the United States later this week.

DL customers can check their flight status **HERE**.

Uganda orders two

UGANDA Airlines has firmed up its order for two A330-800 airliners, the latest version of the A330 wide-body aircraft.

The carrier plans to use the A330-800s to continue expanding its medium- and long-haul network, benefitting from enhancements including a better fuel efficiency rate, an increased range compared to the majority of A330s in operation, and improved cabin comfort.



A-LEAGUE

**A-LEAGUE
WINNER R24**

Congratulations

**AMANDA
WASHINGTON**

from MTA Travel

Amanda is the top tipper for R24 of *Travel Daily's* A-League footy tipping competition. She's won a \$250 travel voucher from Keith Prowse Travel.

**KEITH PROWSE
TRAVEL**

Travel Daily A-League tipping competition is sponsored by Etihad Airways and ReadyRooms, with the top tipper for the season winning a trip to Manchester to see Manchester City play.

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Applications close 11 April 2019.

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QFF tops the list

THE Qantas Frequent Flyer program has taken the top spot on a national level for the best airline rewards program, as voted by community members on independent frequent flyer platform Point Hacks.

The ratings from younger frequent flyers, however, preferred Virgin Australia's Velocity program.

The poll of 1,686 frequent flyers were asked to vote for the program that delivers the best flight availability, and the best points-per-flight values.

Singapore Airlines' KrisFlyer came in third place, with a quarter of frequent flyers finding the best value in this program.

Next in was Cathay Pacific (Asia Miles), then Emirates (Skywards).

Hilton Odaiba buy

JAPAN Hotel REIT Investment Corporation has acquired Hilton Tokyo Odaiba.

The hotel features 453 guest rooms and is equipped with multiple Japanese, western and Chinese restaurants, lounges, meeting rooms, wedding halls, a fitness centre, a swimming pool and a spa, as well as large and small banquet rooms.

Rocky Perks 2020

THE Great Train Journeys 2020 Rocky Mountaineer itineraries are now open for bookings.

To celebrate the launch, agents can take advantage of up to four free perks per booking on qualifying 2020 Rocky Mountaineer package of eight days or more, and up to two free perks per booking on packages of five to seven days, in any class of service from the 2020 dates.

The free perks include two additional hotel nights at the start or end of the package in Vancouver, Calgary, Victoria, Banff, Lake Louise or Seattle; one airport transfer in Vancouver, Calgary or Seattle; and one set menu dinner at the preferred hotel outside of rail days.

Bookings should be made by 31 Aug and paid by 10 Jan 2020 for travel in 2020.

QR Amenity Kits

QATAR Airways has revealed its new line of amenity kits for passengers in its First Class and Business class cabins.

The new kits will be made and available and distributed to passengers in First and Business Class on long-haul and ultra-long-haul flights.

"We aim to provide a superior service to all of our passengers – from the comfort of their seat, to the food they are served, to their in-flight entertainment," said Qatar Airways Senior Vice President Marketing and Corporate Communications, Salam Al Shawa.

AFTA UPDATE

from Jayson Westbury



LAST week the Federal Government and the Opposition handed down their individual versions of

what will become the Federal Budget. The fact is of course, that we will be having an election to determine who will be in government to fully understand who gets to implement their budget and election promises, all contained in one way or another, in the budget announcement.

At the time of writing this column, the Prime Minister was yet to announce the date of the election but this is all a matter of time. What Scott Morrison has confirmed is the date will be called in Apr and the election will be in May and it looks more likely that it will be 18 May. The good thing is that one way or another we will be in full on election mode very soon and it will be a fast race to the finish line. For all accounts, the Government has some work to do in order to win which means we are looking more likely to have a new Prime Minister in Bill Shorten. But as they say, one day is a long time in politics and perhaps six weeks could bring anything in the form of an outcome for the country.

The equally important and intriguing fact with this Federal Election will be the make up of the Senate and how many of the

various independent and small party representatives will win seats in the Senate. Most likely, there will be a group who will hold a balance of power meaning that regardless of who wins the prize of government in the lower house, they will likely be faced with a very disjointed and diverse senate make up. This always makes it hard to govern and as we have already experienced with the existing senate, it can be very difficult in some cases to get legislation past even if budget policy. As with many previous Federal Election years, we often see a softening of travel bookings and decision making once an election has been called. This is in part because consumers just get less confident about the future and as such discretionary spending falls off and travel is always impacted by this. The election process should only run about six weeks and hopefully once the result is known, people will get back on with living their life and we hope booking travel.

So prepare yourself for the federal election, it is bound to have some impact on the travel industry in one way or another and we can only hope that who ever ends up with the keys to the lodge in Canberra that the travel and tourism industry will be supported and consumers can continue to enjoy their life and we hope – travel.

IHG 100th milestone

IHG has opened its 100th Open Lobby at Holiday Inn Belfast City Centre, marking a milestone in the roll-out across Europe.

Open Lobby combines all public spaces, from the reception area, to the restaurant, bar and lounge into one open space.

MEANWHILE the landmark InterContinental Lyon-Hotel Dieu, situated in a UNESCO World Heritage Site, will open in Jun.

The hotel will offer 104 rooms and 35 suites.

Scenic Euro savings

SCENIC is reminding agents that the 2020 Europe River Cruise pre-release offers end on 30 Apr.

The specials include flights on any suite booking on any cruise of 11 days or longer and 50% off for the solo traveller - **CLICK HERE**.

Etihad adds three

ETIHAD Airways is set to introduce the Boeing 787-9 *Dreamliner* on its services from Abu Dhabi to Johannesburg, effective 01 Aug, Lagos, on 02 Aug, and Milan, from 01 Sep, replacing the Airbus A330s currently operating the routes.

The destinations will feature Etihad Airways' next-generation Business and Economy cabins.

Air Canada Biz push

AIR Canada has launched a new campaign to showcase its "leading attributes and the benefits" of its North America Business class service.

"Air Canada's North America Business Class offers customers unmatched services & amenities," said Andrew Shibata, MD of Brand at Air Canada.

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Entries close 12/04/2019

AA delays 737 Max

AMERICAN Airlines is extending the flight cancellations caused by the grounding of the Boeing 737 MAX 8 fleet through to 05 Jun.

The airline has confirmed that as a result around 90 daily flights have been cancelled.

The extension "provides more certainty and [helps] avoid last minute flight disruptions".

"By proactively cancelling these flights, we are able to provide better service to our customers with availability and rebooking."

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US0.707

TRAVELLERS to America are in luck as the US economy has added 196,000 new jobs in Mar, well above the 172,000 the market was expecting.

US employment is a key indicator of growth, so this positive reading helps calm fears of a global slow down.

Trade negotiations between the US & China will continue this week with both sides trying to yield the best possible deal. *Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.707
UK	£0.542
NZ	\$1.047
Euro	€0.631
Japan	¥79.21
Thailand	฿22.5
China	¥4.705
South Africa	R9.939
Canada	\$0.942
Crude oil	US\$63.08

Alitalia extended

THE deadline for Italian railway company Ferrovie dello Stato (FS) to present a binding offer for the bankrupt carrier Alitalia has been extended to 30 Apr.

FS CEO Gianfranco Battisti said that the airline was in talks with other industry players about taking over Alitalia, but "the progress made in the past months means further consideration is needed to reach a definition of a sustainable industrial plan."

US carrier Delta Air Lines has also expressed interest in helping rescue Alitalia.

Vale Cho Yang-ho

KOREAN Air Chairman and CEO Cho Yang-ho passed away at the age of 70 over the weekend.

Yang-ho went through surgery last year for a lung issue, and although his condition had been improving, his death is understood to be related to this illness, the airline said.

Yang-ho headed the airline for more than 20 years and oversaw its development.

NT art trails boost

THE NT Government has pledged investment for two new Central Desert projects.

Desart received \$56,224 in funding for upgrades to the Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists studio in Alice Springs, a studio that provides access for Aboriginal artists living with a disability.

The Iltja Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation received \$71,300 for additional outdoor structures.

WIN A TRIP TO AFRICA



This month Acacia Africa and *Travel Daily* are teaming up to give two agents a 14-day Southern African Magic open age Small Group Safari. You can also take a friend for 50% off the tour price.

Visit www.acacia-africa.com for your chance to win a trip to Africa. To win, answer each question correctly and have the most creative final answer. Send your entries to acacia@traveldaily.com.au

Acacia
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7. What is the name of Acacia Africa's longest overland tour and how many days is it?

Hint: [CLICK HERE](#)

Avianca sell-off?

CREDITORS of Brazil's Avianca airline have approved a plan to auction seven lots of the carrier's assets by the end of Jul, as a result of Avianca owing aircraft lessors about US\$150m.

Brazil's two largest airlines, Latam and Gol, each pledged to bid US\$70 million for unspecified lots and lend US\$8 million to keep Avianca flying, additionally, Azul has offered \$105 million to assume key slots, routes, and up to 30 aircraft, a move that would have helped it break into the Sao Paulo-Rio de Janeiro shuttle market.

Should the plan and Avianca Brasil both collapse, the slots would revert, and under past criteria would go to the carriers that currently operate the most flights at the airports, namely Latam and Gol.

Amtrak investment

AMTRAK plans to invest up to US\$90 million in improvements to Baltimore Penn Station, as part of the Master Development Agreement with Penn Station Partners.

The deal will expand and modernise the station to accommodate passenger growth and "significantly improve the customer experience".

"By investing in the modernisation of Baltimore Penn Station, Amtrak seeks to transform central Baltimore into a premier regional transportation hub that will provide new amenities & transit connections," said Amtrak President and CEO Richard Anderson.

This project also complements Amtrak improvements at New York Penn Station & the opening of Moynihan Train Hall in NY.

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NTIA 2019

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Product Coordinator - Sydney \$45K + super

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- Visit to Philae Temples
- Premier Hotels and Nile Cruise aboard Oberoi Zahra and Philae

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Mayan Culture & Natural Wonders

10 Days return from Cancun

Departing 4, 16 & 30 Jan, 2020
Small Ship Cruising onboard *Le Champlain*

'Lost' Mayan cities and breathtaking nature reserves are just some of the highlights on this 10 day journey featuring a 7 night cruise to Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Belize and a 2 night stay beachside at Riviera Maya.

Itinerary Highlights:

- Visit a howler monkey sanctuary
- Snorkelling in Caye Caulker Marine Reserve, Belize
- Naturalist guided jungle walks and river cruises

Cabins are available to book now!

From **\$11,340*pp** twin share |
\$15,848*pp solo travellers



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London, Bordeaux & Iberian Charms

13 Days from Lisbon to London

Departing 15, 23 Sep & 1 Oct 2020
Small Ship Cruising onboard *Le Dumont d'Urville*

Travelling between Lisbon and London, this 13 day small ship cruise charms with Portuguese palaces and port, Spanish pilgrimages and pintxos, French wines and English cultural gems.

Itinerary Highlights:

- Private welcome reception and dinner at Queluz Palace, Lisbon
- Private historic tram car ride from Leixões to Porto
- Private lunch at former 18th-century Franciscan Convent

Cabins are available to book now!

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\$16,772*pp solo travellers



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