

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news plus a full page from Paul Gauguin.

PG anniversary deal

PAUL Gauguin Cruises is celebrating 25 years of sailing in the French Polynesia with a special anniversary offer.

Guests can enjoy a bonus \$1,500 flight credit per person on select departures, for bookings made by 12 May - see **back page**.

TTJ boosts trade services

THE Travel Junction (TTJ) has announced the launch of several new service enhancements to support the travel trade, including a new Australian-based reservations sales team.

From 01 May, agents can contact the company's team of wholesale travel experts six days a week via both phone and email, to receive personalised expert advice, including qualified product recommendations and assistance with complex itinerary builds.

Agents will still also be able to create and manage their own self-service itineraries on TTJ's HELiO booking platform, which offers 24/7 live chat support.

TTJ General Manager James Whiting said the introduction of the new phone and email services meant more booking flexibility for travel advisors.

"Our partners told us what they wanted, and we have responded to their feedback," he stated.

"We want to make it easier for our clients to create and deliver amazing global travel experiences for their guests."

TTJ believes its wholesale omnichannel environment is a first for

the industry, Whiting added, with all bookings made by the team to reside in HELiO.

"This means a travel advisor can access, add travel components and amend an itinerary created by our team as well as settle payment directly in their own HELiO environment.

"Similarly, our reservations sales team can easily access and enhance an advisor's existing booking they've made in HELiO," he explained.

More details including operating hours, a toll-free phone line and dedicated emails will be provided the week beginning 24 Apr.

To access the new services, travel advisors must register **HERE** if they haven't already done so.

NCL back in Asia

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) is preparing to return to Asia after more than three years, with the newly renovated *Norwegian Jewel* set to arrive in Tokyo on 19 Oct for a six-month Asia season, offering 16 itineraries across 11 countries - more details in today's *Cruise Weekly*.

"I love paying booking fees on train tickets"

- no one

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Kerr joins Silversea

SILVERSEA has today announced the appointment of Cassandra Kerr as Director of Strategic Business Development for the Asia-Pacific region.

Kerr is well known to the industry through former roles at Qatar Airways, IHG, Virgin Atlantic and most recently Sydney Airport.

She said she was thrilled to be joining Silversea as it grows rapidly, targeting strategic trade opportunities as well as broader industry partnerships.

GREECE SPECIAL

SAVE UP TO **57%**

Instant TRAVEL

LOYALTY POINTS with every booking
24/7 SUPPORT including Live Chat



Window Seat

THE social media world is abuzz with what has been identified as the world's longest tourist walk.

Stretching a whopping 22,387 kilometres and taking a very fit traveller around 187 days to finish if they never stopped to take a breath, the trek starts off in Cape Town, South Africa and ends in Magadan, Russia.

If one were to attempt the feat, it would take in roughly 17 countries, six time zones and all seasons of the year.



Taylor returns for IWD24

EXCLUSIVE

HELENE Taylor has announced the return of her 'A Force for Good' events in 2024, as she re-enters the travel sector.

Booked in for International Women's Day (IWD) on Fri 08 Mar 2024 in Sydney, the Force for Good gathering has already garnered sponsorship from The Travel Corporation (TTC), Intrepid Group and Lindblad Expeditions, with Taylor promising "15 amazing speakers from around the globe".

TTC Australia CEO David Hosking said "The Travel Corporation family of brands fully endorses the importance and impact of the Force for Good event, and is delighted to continue its long-standing partnership, with specialist brand Adventure World taking the lead at the 2024 series".

Headline speaker will be Dr Jill Robinson from Animals Asia, with the event aiming to "shine the light on the environment,

South Korea Express

8 day introductory circuit from only \$2,849*

mwtours



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Sabre expands Thai

THAILAND'S flag carrier Thai Airways has expanded its Global Distribution System agreement with Sabre, as it focuses on more recovery opportunities.

The long-term renewal will see Thai use Sabre's "robust" data.

QF Jakarta takes off

NEW direct Qantas flights linking Melbourne and Jakarta took to the skies for the first time yesterday, operating three days a week using A330 aircraft.

The new service, revealed in detail back in Feb (**TD** 02 Feb), is expected to be popular with Aussie travellers connecting to and from major Indonesian cities such as Surabaya and Medan.

Qantas' latest service marks the fourth int'l route to be added to the airline's Melbourne hub since borders reopened, bringing Qantas Group's total to 106 return flights a week from Australia to Indonesia.



The Brand USA MegaFam is BACK!

Agents: Experience one of five exciting itineraries showcasing East to West of the U.S. mainland plus Hawai'i.

Register here





Pelikin flies with itravel

DIGITAL travel money card provider Pelikin has announced its first co-branded affiliate product rollout with independent travel agency network itravel.

The deal will see the co-branded Pelikin travel money card available to customers from all itravel consultants across Australia, with the tech company hailing the partnership as an important first for its business.

“It is really exciting to be working with itravel and create this co-branded product together,” said Sam Brown, Founder & CEO, Pelikin.

“We had been discussing the idea of this product with Evolution Travel Collective for a while now, and itravel were the first ones who came to us wanting to roll it out to their entire network.”

itravel Commercial Manager Josh Gordon added: “we loved Pelikin’s affiliate program from

the moment we heard about it, but we wanted to be able to also offer a consistent experience for our customers from start to finish, with the itravel branding incorporated into that experience.

“Pelikin provides a great way to improve the efficiency of their customers’ experience whilst also making it simple and easy for our agents to make additional revenue with minimal work.”

The news joins a throng of announcements from Pelikin, including a range of agent incentives (**TD** 23 Feb), and a preferred partnership deal with TravelManagers (**TD** 31 Jan).

MEANWHILE Cherie Bowman has been appointed the head of the new LUXE by itravel division.

She was previously Industry Account Manager - ANZ for Lindblad Expeditions since Aug 2022, and has also worked with Scenic and Princess Cruises.

Get off the train!

GUESTS aboard Journey Beyond’s The Ghan can now add new Off Train Experiences.

Now available are the Standley Chasm Cultural Walk in Alice Springs, a tour of the Nitmiluk Cutta Cutta Caves, or Top Didj Cultural Experience in Katherine.

Guests can also upgrade to a spectacular flight and full-day experience from Coober Pedy to the Painted Hills, William Creek, and Lake Eyre.

“We’re always looking for ways to improve our journeys and guest experiences, which is why we’ve invested in our Off Train Experiences, crafting new ways to connect guests with the country,” Journey Beyond said.

Paris joins Creative

CAITLYN Paris has been appointed as Creative Cruising’s new Marketing Executive.

Paris brings more than seven years of experience to the role.

Qatar streamlines

QATAR has unified its visa processes for visitors by making the country’s Hayya Platform the single portal to obtain all tourist and business visas.

The move has seen three new categories of visitation created, including Category Three catering for international visitors with visa or residency from countries such as Australia and New Zealand.

Among the advantages for Aussie travellers visiting Qatar is the cessation of mandated health insurance for stays under 30 days.

“Streamlining Qatar’s tourist visa process comes as a step to further build on the recognition of Doha being the ‘Arab Tourism Capital’ for 2023 and will offer new visitors a chance to experience what makes Qatar a one-of-a-kind destination,” Qatar Tourism’s Chairman Akbar al-Baker said.

The streamlining arrives amid Qatar’s goal of wanting to attract 6 million visitors a year by 2030.

FLY DIRECT FROM MELBOURNE TO EXMOUTH

Dive into another world along Ningaloo Reef / Nyinggulu. Swim with gentle whale sharks, majestic humpback whales and acrobatic manta rays, or snorkel crystal clear waters on the world’s largest fringing coral reef. Your clients will experience a true marine wonderland when they fly direct from Melbourne to Exmouth with Qantas.

[DISCOVER MORE](#)

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WALKING ON A DREAM



Bonza Toowoomba

BONZA'S new direct service between Melbourne and Toowoomba took off yesterday, marking the third service from its home base in Victoria.

The new route will operate four times a week starting from \$79pp one way, while twice-weekly flights between Toowoomba and Townsville will launch this Wed.

Bonza will also introduce flights between Toowoomba and the Whitsundays on Fri.

Wi-Fly with Etihad

ETIHAD Airways has launched new 'Wi-Fly' packages making it easier for customers to stay connected.

All pax can use the free 'Chat' messaging feature throughout their flight by signing in with Etihad Guest membership, with the option to purchase 'Surf' plans for a flat fee starting from \$9.99 with unlimited data.

Additionally, Etihad Guest Gold members will receive a 25% discount on the Surf package.

Canada air boost

THE Canadian Air Transport Security Authority has been allocated CAD\$1.8 billion over the next five years by the Canadian Government to increase its level of passenger service, improve airport screening wait times, and strengthen airport security.

However, the funding comes with a catch for the country's travel sector, with the latest Federal Budget also indicating a proposed 33% increase in the Air Travellers Security Charge to help fund the initiatives, creating a disincentive for outbound travel.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) said it was highly critical of the funding model, stating it falls short of creating "concrete measures to support important travel goals", and also criticised the government for not going far enough on incentivising the development of SAFs locally.

Cruising on the beach



QUEENSLANDERS partied at the Royal Caribbean Beach Club pop-up in Brisbane on Sat, celebrating the end of *Quantum of the Seas'* inaugural season sailing from the city.

The cruise line staged the one-day event, transforming Streets Beach into a cruising experience, with a DJ playing holiday anthems as fans relaxed on branded deck chairs on the beach.

Australia's largest-ever sand sculpture of a cruise ship was also on display, with guests able to pose at an interactive photo wall that transported them to the *Quantum* vessel.

Attendees also entered a competition to win one of four South Pacific cruises and received a 15% off deal to book their next holiday on the ship at the Flight Centre booth.

Trekking the big Ps

INTREPID Travel has launched trekking trips in Peru & Pakistan.

The 12-day Peru Expedition: Trek the Great Inca Road, which departs for the first time in Aug 2023, offers an alternative to the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

Priced from \$4,746, the package includes a local guide and traditional llama caravan, as well as accom and most meals.

The 10-day Trek Pakistan's Karakoram Mountains, starting in Sep, brings hikers to a remote area with porters, guides and chefs, and is priced from \$3,753.

Gavin Smith, Royal Caribbean's Vice President and MD ANZ (pictured with Royal Caribbean Marketing Director Australia & NZ Kathryn Lock), said: "we were so excited for Queenslanders of all ages to immerse themselves in the adventure and relaxation of the most innovative ship that calls Brisbane home, *Quantum of the Seas*."

Since the arrival of *Quantum* in Brisbane in Nov 2022, Royal has generated more than \$53 million for the local Queensland economy, with the ship to return to Brisbane on 28 Oct.

Air NZ ponders food for thought

AIR New Zealand has kicked off a 'Great Kiwi Snack Off' today in a nationwide search for the tastiest and most mouth-watering new onboard snacks.

"We're seeking a diverse range of snacks that cater to different dietary needs and time-of-day appetites...think sweet, savoury, healthy, indulgent, and everything in between," Chief Customer and Sales Officer Leanne Geraghty said, adding that social impact and sustainability would also be taken into account.

Kiwi snack suppliers can submit an expression of interest before 01 May, with the aim of having new snacks onboard before the end of 2023.

More info can be found **HERE**.

Uniworld ups Greece

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises has added two post-cruise extensions in Greece, available to book now for travel from Jun.

Guests can choose from a three-night extension to Athens or a five-night extension to Athens and Santorini, available to guests as add-ons to the line's range of Italian itineraries.

Staying at 5-star hotels with daily breakfasts and domestic flights included, the three-night option covers the Parthenon, a food tour and dinner at a local's home, while the longer extension has a Santorini village tour, wine tasting and a cruise around the island's caldera, plus an Athens city tour and additional meals.

The new offerings join Uniworld's existing portfolio of land and rail extensions.



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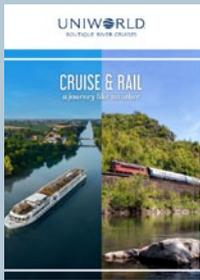
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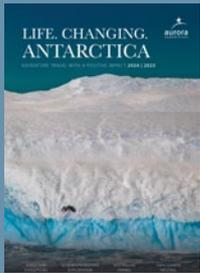
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BROCHURES

WELCOME to Brochures of the Week, *Travel Daily's* Monday feature. If your firm is releasing a new brochure you'd like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description summarising its features and itineraries, including a PDF of the front cover, and contact details to brochures@traveldaily.com.au.



Uniworld - Cruise & Rail 2023 season
Uniworld has unveiled a new way to travel with the combination of cruising and railing in its latest brochure. Uniworld invites clients to embark on the ultimate journey in prestigious ways by land, river and rail. The Golden Eagle Danube Express and the Maharajas' Express delivers Uniworld's 'touch of elegance' through overnight train experiences. A steady travel pace is at the forefront so travellers won't miss any of the highlights. Departures listed go from Jun to Oct across five different itineraries, with the newly added Sacred Ganges & The Maharajas Express journey also detailed.



Aurora Expedition - Life Changing Antarctica
The new 100-page brochure for Aurora Expeditions is out now to inspire explorations of Antarctica with life-changing adventures in the 2024-25 season. Clients can choose from 25 expeditions ranging from nine- to 23-day packages, with three new itineraries added on board *Greg Mortimer* and Aurora's newest ship *Sylvia Earle*. The departures also now come with more time off the vessels and more activities with a relaxed and casual onboard experience. Aurora is currently offering savings of up to 25% through its range of earlybird promotions.

Airline Reps enjoy Batik Air tour



BATIK Air recently hosted Airline Rep Services at Sydney Airport, following the relaunch the carrier's flights from Sydney to Kuala Lumpur via Denpasar for the first time since Mar 2020 (*TD* 13 Dec 2022).

Malindo Air's Station Manager, Aldo Capaldi, gave the group a comprehensive tour of each

aircraft, giving them the chance to test the seats, and meet the team at Batik Air.

The reps, **pictured**, included Arnaud Michelin, General Manager Australia, New Zealand & South West Pacific; Gabrielle Vicari, Vice President; Benjamin Parkinson, Key Account Manager; and Linda Pellaers, Customer Service Professional.

Sudan shuts down

AIR traffic at Sudan Khartoum International Airport has been suspended indefinitely after the country's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) seized control of the airport on Sat amid armed clashes with the government's military.

Affected services include those operated by Emirates, Turkish Airlines, Flynas, flydubai, Egyptair, Saudia, as well as the country's flag carrier, Sudan Airways, with flights en route to the capital Khartoum reportedly being denied permission to land, and one plane shot earlier today.

Avalon revs it up

IT'S full speed ahead for Victoria's motorsport industry, with the Avalon Airport Precinct named as the site of the state's proposed Home of Motorsport.

The Victorian Government will invest \$1.6 million into the design and planning of the new multipurpose motorsport precinct.

Victoria hosts up to 1,000 motorsport events each year, including international drawcards like the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix, supporting more than 4,300 jobs across the industry.

More Mexican tourist murders

SEVEN people, including a seven-year-old child, were killed after a group of gunmen stormed a popular tourist resort in Cortazar in Mexico's Guanajuato state on Sat afternoon, with social media videos showing distraught tourists after the attack.

Guanajuato is a popular tourist destination but it is also Mexico's most violent state, with more than 2,400 murders committed between Jan-Sep 2022.

The incident was the latest in a spate of tourist-related violence in Mexico, with four people were found dead outside a beachside resort in Cancun (*TD* 05 Apr).

ADL weapons rise

TRAVELLERS are being warned by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) to leave weapons at home, after a high number of knives, knuckle dusters and other banned items were detected in baggage at Adelaide Airport recently.

AFP Sergeant Paul Evingham said 35 credit card knives had been found on passengers or in carry-on luggage at departure screening points since Nov 2022, along with ammunition, spud guns, and gel blasters.

The maximum penalty for carrying a knife in a public place is a \$2,500 fine or six months' imprisonment, the AFP warned.

Celebrating
25
 YEARS IN
 French Polynesia



Join the celebrations!

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SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY OFFER - BONUS \$1,500 FLIGHT CREDIT PER PERSON*

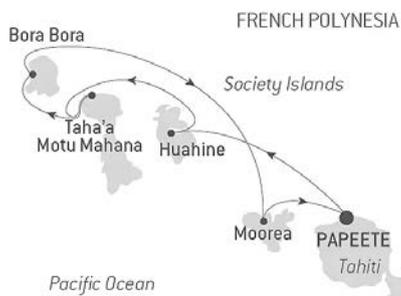


Tahiti & The Society Islands

Roundtrip Papeete, Tahiti

7 nights from \$6,300 per person*

21 October 2023 & 6 April 2024*



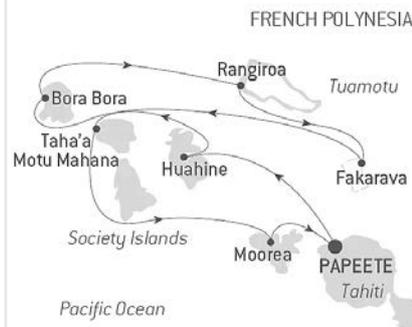
Society Islands & The Tuamotus

Roundtrip Papeete, Tahiti

10 nights from \$8,110 per person*

November 2023,

24 January, 6 March and 24 April 2024*

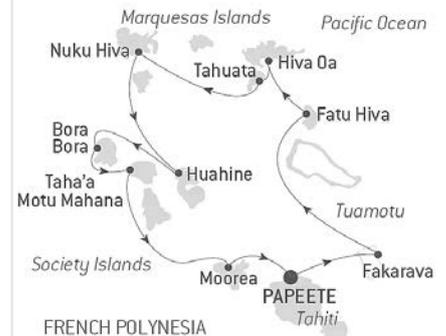


Marquesas, The Tuamotus & Society Islands

Roundtrip Papeete, Tahiti

14 nights from \$10,800 per person*

16 and 30 December 2023, 3 February 2024*



Paul Gauguin
 CRUISES

*Flight Credit is valid for new bookings between 13 April and 12 May 2023 inclusive. Valid on the following departures: PG081123, PG161223, PG301223, PG130124, PG240124, PG030224, PG060324, PG240224, PG290624, PG240424, PG130424, PG060424. Offer is per person, applied as a discount, in Australian Dollars (AUD), is not redeemable for cash, and is not retroactive. Offer not combinable with other offers, unless specified. Advertised price is per person, includes the applicable PONANT Bonus, in Australian Dollars (AUD), based on double occupancy in a Window Stateroom E - Deck 4. Advertised price includes port taxes and charges, is yield managed, correct at time of printing, subject to availability, and may change at any time without notice. Refer to au.ponant.com for full terms and conditions. ABN: 35 166 676 517. Photo credit © Paul Gauguin Cruises.