

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest travel industry news, plus a full page from **A Force for Good Events**.

QF has new Accent

QANTAS has signed a new deal with Accent Group to provide its Frequent Flyers with a range of new ways to redeem points.

Members can earn two points per dollar spent by scanning their digital Frequent Flyer card at stores including The Athlete's Foot, Platypus, and Skechers.

By Jun, QFFs will also be able to redeem points when shopping in-store and online.

Big names join FCTG LTC

THE initial roster of agencies in Flight Centre Travel Group's Luxury Travel Collection (LTC) Member Portfolio (**TD** breaking news) has established a new force in the luxury travel advisor space for the brand led by former Virtuoso executive, Nikki Glading.

Foundation members include WA's Bicton Travel and Claremont Travel & Cruise, led by Carole and Phil Smethurst; Stuart Ingram's Melbourne-based Destination HQ; Travel Experts in Brisbane headed up by Stephen Green; and Hilary and Holly Weir's Dream Maker Travel, also in Qld.

The network will be further

bolstered in Feb next year by the addition of Robyn and Murray Sinfield's Home Travel Company.

The in-house Travel Associates brand is also part of the LTC, along with Scott Dunn in the UK and USA, as part of an overall portfolio which also includes the Luxperience trade show.

A newly launched B2B website at luxurytravelcollection.co showcases the invitation-only collective, with members displaying entrepreneurship, a commitment to exceptional client service, a reputation for luxury and alignment to luxury values, high performance, and a high level of luxury preferred product sales.

Flight Centre Global MD of Luxury and Independent Brands, Danielle Galloway, said the Luxury Travel Collection "is now the leading global house of luxury travel brands".

"Our hand-selected members have established their stellar professional reputations by elevating travel to the very highest standard imaginable, with discerning clients at the centre of their business strategy," she said.

Glading said it was incredibly rewarding to work with the newly announced travel agency members to deliver the "best luxury travel services in Australia".

"We see such a bright future for the Member Portfolio, which we'll continue to grow with more of Australia and NZ's best luxury travel brands attracted to our bespoke ecosystem," she said. *BP*

TripaDeal appoints

JACK Brown has been named Head of Flights at TripaDeal, joining the Qantas offshoot from his former role as Manager of Global Sales at Wyndham Hotels.

Brown has an impeccable aviation pedigree, with his father Barry the long-time Divisional VP Australasia for Emirates.

BLACK FRIDAY TRAVEL SALE

SAVE UP TO 15% ON WORLDWIDE TOURS*



INSIGHT VACATIONS

TRAFALGAR
costsaver.

*T&Cs apply.



Stuba VIP Perks. Where every customer feels special!

At Stuba, we believe in making every hotel experience extraordinary. That's why we've crafted exclusive VIP Perks that turn your customers' journeys into unforgettable adventures fit for a VIP. All VIP perks are prominently highlighted within the room type and rate plans.

Access VIP Perks with Stuba.

Stuba. Curated hotels for travel agents.



Switzerland.



SWITZERLAND EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

14 Days *T&Cs apply
SAVE UP TO \$1,500* PER COUPLE

EXPLORE

SPEAK TO OUR TEAM OF EXPERTS TODAY.

The Chat
with Jenny

Travel Daily
A conversation with Wendy Wu

Regent
SEVEN SEAS CRUISES
AN UNRIVALLED EXPERIENCE

CLICK HERE to listen



DRW resort refurb

AUSTRALIA'S first "airport resort" will formally debut tomorrow, with the reimaged Novotel & Mercure Darwin Airport Resort opening after a \$30 million integration of the adjoining properties.

The hotels are owned by the Airport Development Group (ADG) which also owns Darwin Airport, with the huge investment seeing the creation of new pool villas, suites and bungalows as well as the progressive refurbishment of existing rooms.

Reception has been combined into a single welcoming area, while there's a new Olympic-plus sized swimming pool with cabanas, a kids aquatic playground and poolside dining.

There are 423 rooms in total in a wide variety of accom styles - see darwinairport-hotels.com.au.

Alaska to buy Hawaiian

ALASKA Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines have announced they will combine in a US\$1.9 billion deal, a landmark agreement which is also expected to see HA become part of the oneworld alliance.

Honolulu will become a key hub for the combined airline, with Alaska pledging its "steadfast commitment" to Hawaii including maintaining robust inter-island services and a "more competitive platform to support growth, job opportunities for employees, community investment and environmental stewardship".

The combined carriers will fly almost 55 million passengers annually, with their complementary domestic, international and cargo networks "positioned to enhance competition and expand choice

for consumers on the West Coast and throughout the Hawaiian Islands," according to Alaska Airlines chief Ben Minicucci.

The all-cash transaction of US\$18 per share represents a "compelling premium for Hawaiian Airlines shareholders" with at least US\$235 million of synergies from the deal.

Both airline brands will be retained on a single operating platform, with a combined network of 138 destinations including 29 international ports in the Americas, Asia, Australia and the South Pacific.

An industry-leading loyalty program will cover both carriers, including the ability to earn and redeem miles on oneworld's 29 global partners with expanded global lounge access.

The deal has been approved by the boards of both carriers, and is subject to a range of conditions meaning it's expected to close in 12-18 months.

MEANWHILE Hawaiian Airlines has also announced a new non-stop route between Honolulu and Salt Lake City from 15 May. *BP*

TG partners with TK

THAI Airways International has this month expanded its codeshare partnership with Turkish Airlines, the move coinciding with the resumption of TG non-stops to Istanbul.

The move means the TG code is now being offered on Turkish Airlines flights to Ankara, Antalya & Izmir as well as Atlanta, Boston, Miami, New York and Washington in the USA and Geneva, Brussels, Lisbon and Porto in Europe.

Capt Sandy on deck

CELEBRITY Cruises has celebrated the naming of *Celebrity Ascent*, its fourth Edge-class vessel, in a ceremony in Port Everglades presided over by the ship's joint godmothers, Captain Sandy Yawn from reality show *Below Deck* and her sister, autism advocate Michelle Dunham.

Celebrity Edge, the first in the class, has also now arrived in Australia and is en route to Sydney - for the full details, see today's edition of *Cruise Weekly*.






Stuba VIP Perks.

Our commitment to exceptional service

We know that exceptional service can be hard to find, but Stuba's VIP Perks make it the norm. Our VIP Perks can include welcome gifts, resort credits, room upgrades and much more. All VIP Perks are prominently highlighted within our room type and rate plans.

Access VIP Perks with Stuba.

Stuba. Curated hotels for travel agents.

LINDA HOGAN
ittravel Mobile, NSW

"What drew me to ittravel was how comfortable and simple our first meeting was. What keeps me here is the family dynamic, the comfort in allowing my business to operate as my own and the unwavering support."

LET'S TALK

MOBILE | FRANCHISE | LINK | LUXE



Wendy Wu Tours.

YOUR PARTNER WILL **FLY FREE** OR 50% OFF SOLO AIRFARE

SELECTED 2024 & 2025 DEPARTURES

SEE OFFER

OFFER ENDS SOON

Travel Daily
SHARPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON TAIWAN & EVA AIR
Travel Daily Training Academy



Taiwan 30
THE ISLAND OF SOUL
EVA AIR
Click here to discover

Qld hubs brace for Chrissy

AIRPORTS around Australia are bracing for a bustling Christmas and New Year travel season, with Gold Coast Airport in particular expecting one of its busiest summer holidays on record.

Around 1.2 million passengers are forecast to pass through the Queensland hub during Dec and Jan, with Sydney, Melbourne and New Zealand flagged the most popular destinations.

"We're prepared to handle these busy periods, we've rostered on additional team members and have 57 volunteer ambassadors and five therapy dogs who are here to help customers," Queensland Airports Limited Chief Executive Officer Marion Charlton said.

"The terminal will be busy so we're encouraging passengers to book their parking online, check-in online and allow plenty of time to get to and through the airport," she added.



Meanwhile, Brisbane Airport is preparing to serve 3.7 million travellers these holidays - up 20% on the same period last year, and not far off the four million it recorded in pre-COVID 2019.

Sydney and Melbourne airports are expected to release their summer holiday traffic forecasts later this week. *JM*

Top End road trips

TUNE in to the latest Aussie Specialist webinar at 10am AEDT tomorrow with Daniel Wright from Tourism Australia and Mirriam Schreiner from Tourism Northern Territory to explore the Top End's best road trip routes.

To register, [CLICK HERE](#).

Travel rides the cost-of-living crisis

TRAVEL will be the number one discretionary spend for more than half (56%) of Australians next year, new figures from Luxury Escapes has showed.

The *Travel Trends. The Report* survey of 4,000 Australians found that 72% of people plan to spend the same or more on travel in 2024 versus this year, with room upgrades (65%) and flight upgrades (61%) where most of the extra budget is likely to go.

Luxury Escapes data also revealed the average travel budget next year will be between \$8,000 and \$10,000 per holiday, while three-quarters of Aussies said they are aiming to take two or more trips in 2024.

Next year will also be a good year for cruising if the report's findings are anything to go by, with close to three-quarters of respondents (73%) open to making a new cruise booking.

AC adds tracking

AIR Canada has enhanced its mobile app with a new feature allowing customers travelling within Canada to track the progress of their bags in real time.

The new feature also applies to mobility aids, utilising the same tag scanning information that Air Canada staffers use at each stage to handle the items.

Baggage and mobility aid tracking will be expanded to the airline's US flights next year, and eventually to selected international destinations as well.

Ignite \$1m giveaway

FLIGHT Centre's Ignite Travel Group is celebrating the 15-year birthday of its My Holiday brand with a special giveaway.

The holiday package specialist will hand out 15 prizes over the first 15 days of Dec, worth over one million dollars, with every entrant to score a \$200 My Holiday voucher - enter [HERE](#).



WIN A DOUBLE MOVIE PASS
WHEN YOU BECOME A QATAR SPECIALIST

Register at:
QATARSPECIALIST.QA



NOTES:

- Cosmopolitan city
- Culture & history
- Food



Window Seat

JETSTAR has enlisted Aussie rockstar Shannon Noll to front its new Christmas campaign, '12 Days of Jetmas', which will see it give away \$100,000 worth of free flights.

Starting 01 Dec, Noll's pub rock twist on the classic carol will be unveiled in 12 parts, following "Daddy Christmas" as he makes his way across several destinations that feature in the giveaway - see the festive rendition **HERE**.

On the final day of the campaign, two lucky winners will score return flights to all 12 destinations...merry Christmas indeed!



Online scam warning

EXCLUSIVE

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is warning travellers and the trade to be aware of several scams doing the rounds online and on social media in the run-up to the busy Christmas holiday period.

A spokesperson for the consumer watchdog told **TD** that while scams are prevalent year-round, consumers may be "more susceptible" to falling victim during peak holiday periods, such as Christmas and New Year.

High on the list of online cons identified by The National Anti-Scam Centre include travel prize scams, where criminals ask for payment to claim a reward such as a free discounted holiday in a comp people never entered.

The ACCC also warned travellers to be cautious with advertisements on social media and online platforms promoting

overseas accommodation that requires a deposit, or even full payment, to secure the booking.

Another common scam involves fraudsters impersonating high-profile cruise operators via ads on social media and online - often offering free cruise holidays.

Using travel agents is seen as the primary way of inoculating the travelling public from such scams, the ACCC noted. **AB**

Near misses at MEL

TWO separate incidents at Melbourne Airport have been investigated, after the pilots of packed passenger jets failed to adjust for a shortened runway.

A Malaysia Airlines A330 cleared trucks in the construction zone at the end of the runway by just 6.4 metres on 07 Sep, and 13 days later a Bamboo Airways Boeing 787 came within three metres of a construction worker.

Vail Swiss growth

VAIL Resorts has announced the acquisition of Switzerland's Crans-Montana ski resort in a US\$136 million deal.

It will be Vail's second European property, with the deal "creating even more value for our pass holders and guests around the world", according to Vail Resorts CEO Kirsten Lynch.

The acquisition includes an 84% stake in the company which controls and operates the resort's lifts and mountain operations, an 80% share in a ski school and full ownership of 11 restaurants.

Vail Resorts plans to include access to Crans-Montana Mountain Resort on some of its Epic Pass products for the 2024/25 season.

The Epic Pass currently offers access to Vail's other Swiss property, Andermatt-Sedrun-Disentis, as well as a few days at Verbier4Vallees, Les 3 Vallees, Skirama Dolomiti and Ski Arlberg.

Your future is with the best in the business

Make 2024 your year by partnering with TravelManagers

When you partner with us, your future success is strengthened by our award-winning National Partnership Office providing you with extensive business support. Running your own travel business with TravelManagers also means that you and your clients are backed by the most **comprehensive and transparent** financial protection in the Australian Travel Industry.

For more information and a confidential discussion, please call (02) 8062 6421 or email join.us@travelmanagers.com.au



TravelManagers
Customer Fund



TravelManagers
As individual as you are

join.travelmanagers.com.au

BROCHURES

Send your special deals to:
brochures@traveldaily.com.au



Viva Holidays - Canada, A Winter Wonderland
Viva Holidays has released its Canada - A Winter Wonderland brochure. Aimed at the non-skier, the brochure showcases the wide range of winter activities available in all regions of Canada including snowshoeing, ice skating, ice walking, dog sledding, snowmobile tours, sleigh rides and more. The brochure also features unique experiences including Northern Lights viewing and Christmas tours as well as the exclusive Ultimate Polar Bear Discovery small group tour.



Contiki - Worldwide Adventures 2024
The 120-page Worldwide Adventures brochure by Contiki provides travellers the option to choose from up to 200 trips across six continents. Specially curated for travellers aged between 18 and 35, the booklet highlights some of the most energetic adventures around the globe. Aligning with Contiki's Net Zero by 2050 goal, the itineraries are designed upon on the four pillars of emission measure, reduction, restoration of natural areas, and technology to transition to lessen carbon footprint.



Switzerland Tourism - Winter 2023/2024
Switzerland Tourism has published a new brochure for keen travellers looking for a snowy vacation in the European country ahead of the upcoming winter season. Showcasing the best accommodations and experiences in specific regions of the nation, travellers will be met with a ton of snow activities throughout the booklet. Each highlight is embedded with a QR code for more information, as well as key information on the back page of the guide.



Adventure Destinations - Canada, Alaska & USA
Adventure Destinations has printed out its 64-page travel brochure, calling all explorers to take a trip to North America. The Victorian-based tour operator can tailor an individual itinerary for anyone, depending on their budget and preferences. The attention-to-detail booklet also displays what electricity outlets are available, as well as the time zone differences at specific locations throughout the brochure.

Wendy Wu unveils scholarship



WENDY Wu Tours has announced a new educational scholarship scheme in Cambodia, marking the operator's first major charitable contribution project since the pandemic.

The new grant will empower up to 30 underprivileged students in Siem Reap communities to pursue education by providing ongoing funding and support.

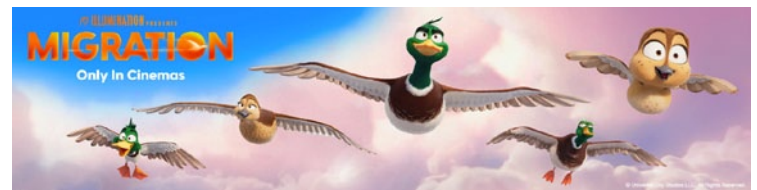
"Children deserve the right to an education, however there are so many who face incredible disadvantages and challenges that, very often, the struggle is just not feasible," company founder and

owner Wendy Wu said.

"Our commitment to the children in Siem Reap is a lifelong commitment and we hope that over time, we'll be able to develop the programme and help more children through education," she added.

The initiative was unveiled during the recent Wendy Wu Tours VIP 25th anniversary sailing tour of the Mekong River aboard cruise ship *Victoria Mekong*.

The three-night cruise was hosted by Wu (pictured far left), and was part of a 17-night tour of Cambodia and Vietnam. *JM*



Win 1 of 50 family passes to see Migration

With thanks to Universal Pictures & Solomon Airlines, *Travel Daily* is giving 50 readers who answer the below question a family pass to see the new Illumination film, *Migration*.

Solomon Airlines in collaboration with the film's release have just launched new livery on their A320 - keep a look out in the skies!

To enter tell us what is the newest Solomon Islands destination that Solomon Airlines flies direct to from Brisbane?

[Click here to enter](#)
Click here for T&C's



We're back, and better than ever!

a force for good events

A FORCE [≈]
FOR GOOD
hub

8TH MARCH 2024 SYDNEY



Neil Rodgers
Managing Director for
Adventure World & Co-host



Dr. Jill Robinson
Headline Speaker - Founder
Animals Asia Foundation,
Travelling from Hong Kong



Dr. Rewena Keegan
Headline Speaker - Surgeon &
Lifestyle Medicine Specialist,
Speaking on Wellness



Damian Perry
Managing Director APAC -
Hurtigruten, travelling from
Melbourne

Meet some of our inspiring speakers

We are bringing together 15 + industry leaders, local & global, driving change, Championing diversity, equality, sustainability, Propelling the rise of women leaders, preserving our planet, Inspiring stories, empowering talks, and endless networking.



a force for good event is proudly
supporting Animal Asia Foundation

**View Event +
Speakers Now**

www.aforceforgoodhub.com

A FORCE FOR GOOD SYDNEY EVENT IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

