

THINKING HAWAI'I? THINK NCL

SEE 4 ISLANDS IN 7 DAYS
DEPARTS EVERY SATURDAY YEAR-ROUND
OVERNIGHT STAYS IN MAUI & KAUA'I



NCL NORWEGIAN *Feel Free*
CRUISE LINE®

©2023 NCL Corporation Ltd. Ships' Registry: Bahamas and USA. 1102176 06/23



NOW'S THE TIME TO BOOK YOUR CLIENT'S NEXT HAWAI'I CRUISE



DAY 1 | HONOLULU, O'AHU



DAYS 2 & 3 | KAHULUI, MAUI



DAY 4 | HILO, HAWAI'I



DAY 5 | KONA, HAWAI'I



DAYS 6 & 7 | NĀWILIWILI, KAUA'I



**MOST OUTSTANDING
SUPPORT - CRUISE**



1300 225 200 OR 0800 969 283
AUSTRALIA BASED RESERVATIONS TEAM

24/7 BOOKING
SUPPORT

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of the latest industry news including a special update from **Cover-More** and a photo page from **Viking**, plus a front cover wrap from **Norwegian Cruise Line**.

Rail Online boosts agent commission

RAIL Online is offering agents extra commission on all Eurail passes sold through its platform, including the popular Eurail Global Flexi pass, which offers travel in 33 countries across Europe and the UK.

Agents will earn 9% commission (up from the usual 7%) between now and 31 Jul.

GM, Kirsty Blows, said the announcement is a "well-deserved thank you" to agents for their support during a bumper six months for the operator, with major sporting events like Wimbledon and increased air capacity between Australia and Europe fuelling European rail booking growth.

Cultural vision

CULTURAL Attractions of Australia has unveiled a new brand video, providing an overview of its list of experiences.

The video showcases some of Australia's leading galleries, museums, performing arts venues, and more - view [HERE](#).

VA to add more 737 seats

VIRGIN Australia has unveiled a \$110 million cabin refresh program for its narrow-body fleet, including a new seat configuration allowing for up to 12 additional Economy class seats in each aircraft.

A new design cabin divider will allow for more floor space in the Economy cabin, while the refurbishment will also see the replacement of one Economy X row with Economy seating on all of VA's 737-800s.

The makeover will take about two years, and will also see in-seat power provided for all Business and Economy seats, as well as the introduction of wi-fi and complimentary in-flight entertainment via passengers' own personal devices.

VA CEO, Jayne Hrdlicka, revealed the plans on Sat at a special event in Brisbane which saw over 3,000 of the airline's staff and their families celebrate the arrival of the carrier's first 737-MAX 8, which she said "marks an exciting milestone in the transformation of Virgin Australia".

QF scores Korea

QANTAS has been granted 1,005 additional seats of commercial passenger capacity per week on the Korea route.

The seats may be used by either Qantas, or its subsidiary Jetstar, and the determination is valid for five years.

Seven more 737-8s will arrive next year, while 25 of the larger 737 MAX 10 variant are planned for delivery from late 2024.

The new aircraft are at least 15% more efficient per flight when compared to the 737-800s currently in use, with Hrdlicka anticipating the fleet renewal program will support over 80% of Virgin's interim 2030 carbon reduction target.

VA Group Chief Customer and Digital Officer, Paul Jones, said that for business travellers what matters most is in-seat power and in-flight wi-fi, "so I'm really excited that will feature on the majority of our fleet".

"With the reconfiguration of our cabin interior we are also able to add more seats to the market without changing the legroom experience, providing Australian travellers with even more choice and great value airfares as well as a consistent in-flight experience."

Skal Bastille raffle

SKAL International Sydney has announced the details of its Jul major raffle prize, a seven-night Seine river cruise.

Valued at \$3,900, the prize is courtesy of Rediscover Travel and A-ROSA Cruises, with tickets able to be purchased at Skal's Wed Bastille Luncheon.

The winner will travel next year in a Juliette Balcony room for two - [CLICK HERE](#) to book the lunch.

White Island update

THREE helicopter tour operators have pleaded guilty to health and safety failings related to the White Island eruption in 2019 that claimed the lives of 22 people and injured 25 others.

Six parties have now pleaded guilty to health and safety failings related to operations around Whakaari, including the tour operator contracted by Royal Caribbean to take passengers to the island - more details in [CW](#).

Four Hawaiian islands in a week

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is highlighting its unique year-round itineraries in Hawaii, which leave Honolulu every Sat aboard *Pride of America* and visit Maui, Kauai and the Big Island.

Details on the [cover page](#).

Radisson to open new Fiji resort

THE Radisson Hotel Group is growing its footprint in the Fijian market with the signing of Radisson Blu Mirage Resort Fiji Naisoso Island.

Situated on Naisoso Island and located just five minutes from Nadi International Airport, the resort will offer guests 144 spacious one-, two-, and three-bedroom beachfront apartments spread across eight buildings.

The hotel will also feature a boutique retail offering, three beachfront swimming pools, three restaurants, a spa, gym, event space, and a mini mart.

"Fiji is witnessing a robust recovery, primarily driven by the tourism sector, leading to high investor confidence and a surge in tourism-related investments," a Tourism Fiji spokesperson said.

The new accommodation option is slated to open in the last quarter of 2025.

Tanzania mates rates

GATEWAY Travel has introduced B2B rates for its new seven-day Tanzania Wildlife Tour.

The itinerary sees guests embark on game drives in Tarangire National Park and Serengeti National Park, where the "big five" can be spotted: lions, elephants, buffalos, leopards, and rhinoceri.

They will also visit Ngorongoro Crater, descending more than 600 metres to the floor of the crater.

Travel advisors can email [HERE](#), to get in contact with Gateway's Tanzanian supplier, who will communicate B2B net rates.

ASIANA AIRLINES
SYDNEY - SEOUL

ADDITIONAL
Night Flights

(Tues & Sat) Twice per week.

The new A350 aircraft. From 8 August 2023.

Reservation:
au.flyasiana.com

LEARN MORE

ASIANA AIRLINES
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



Keppel drafts tourism plan

FOLLOWING a series of failed redevelopment plans over the past five years, Great Keppel Island (Wop-Pa) off the coast of Queensland may finally be restored as a major tourist mecca.

The Qld Government has this morning released a new draft master plan for the troubled island, which includes options to construct a series of new eco resorts and precincts, a village centre, as well as launch cultural and nature-based activities.

Following consultation with traditional owners, local businesses and the Livingstone Shire Council, the former Tower Holdings lease, which was torn up by the state govt over unpaid rent in Apr, will be replaced and split into four smaller leases to increase the chances of tourism projects getting off the ground more quickly.

The blueprint also includes a focus on upgrading infrastructure,

such as spots for a new jetty or a barge ramp, walking trails, boardwalks and signage.

"This master plan will be our blueprint to breathe new life into the jewel of the Capricorn Coast and make this one of the biggest tourism drawcards in Australia," Acting Queensland Premier Steven Miles enthused.

"It outlines options for new tourism developments and priority infrastructure needed to restore the island to its former glory and attract domestic and international visitors," he added.

Gina Rinehart's Hancock Prospecting at one stage planned to purchase the Great Keppel Island development project from Tower Holdings for \$50 million in 2021 (*TD* 01 Nov 2021), but suddenly abandoned a vision to build a world-class beach club after a feasibility study.

The draft master plan will be open for feedback until 21 Aug.

Viking Oz cruise deal

VIKING'S Komodo & the Australian Coast voyage from Sydney to Bali or vice versa is now on sale, with the 15-day cruise discounted to \$9,995ppts - call 138 747 for further details.

Alliance repair deal

TO HELP support its growing fleet of Embraer E190s, Alliance Airlines has inked a new partnership with aerospace services company Quickstep.

The two companies announced this morning that a Memorandum of Understanding had been signed so that the carrier can access unique component repair capabilities needed to expand its fleet, including on-site technical support at its new heavy maintenance facility in Rockhampton, Queensland.

Alliance Airlines' expansion plans are expected to result in the company boasting the largest Embraer E190 fleet in the world.

Stayz blasts Hobart

A DECISION by the Hobart City Council to double rates for owners who operate homes as short-stay accommodation has been labelled "detrimental" to Tasmania's visitor economy by Stayz Corporate Affairs Director Eacham Curry.

The ruling by the council was revealed last month, rationalised as a bid by local authorities to address the city's housing shortage, however, Curry this week warned the move would see prices for holidays ultimately passed on to tourists.

"These measures are punitive, the cost of which will most likely be passed on to tourists and further drive up the price of local accommodation options in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis," Curry argued.

"The imposition of yet another financial burden on homeowners simply because they choose to use short-term rent to generate extra income," he added.

AMERICAN QUEEN VOYAGES®

2024 BROCHURE

REIMAGINED

View our 2024 brochure, relaunched in Australian dollars for Australian travel agents. Book with Journey Beyond through our local Travel Centre on **1800 076 290** or email us at aqv@journeybeyond.com

[2024 BROCHURE](#) [VISIT WEBSITE](#)

JOURNEY BEYOND

Stretch out at sea

PRINCESS Cruises guests can experience the wonder of Alaska alongside top-rated fitness activities with the first-ever Club Pilates at Sea Sailing.

The cruise line's *Royal Princess* will operate a week-long Alaska cruise round tripping from Seattle from 02-09 Sep, and while on board, guests can enjoy a full range of 'Xponential pilates' and fitness classes.

Time to sail K'gari

KINGFISHER Bay Resort is inviting guests to cruise K'gari, with the launch of a new package focusing on the many marine-based experiences available around the island.

The package coincides with the beginning of whale season, and offers a two-night stay at Kingfisher Bay Resort, free ferry transfers, daily buffet breakfast, and a choice of a number of different cruises - [CLICK HERE](#).

Quit for a big travel hit

MORE than half of Aussies say they are prepared to quit their job to go travelling, according to a new report from *Urban List*.

Half of those who choose to stay in their job are taking extended work trips, turning them into 'workcations' or 'bleisure' trips.

The 2023 travel report, which looks at the responses of more than 9,000 Aussies and Kiwis, also found that international holidays are taking precedence over domestic trips (70% vs 65%).

England stood out as the top international destination, while Victoria ranked as the most popular domestic holiday spot.

Incredible food and drink (84%), culture and history (78%) and nature and scenery (74%) were identified as the top three priorities when it comes to international travel.

Those planning to travel closer to home reported similar priorities, however, 'bulk beach

time' (51%) overtook 'culture and history' in the top three list.

The survey also showed that Kiwis place more importance on being active in nature during their travels (54%) compared to just 49% of Aussies, while 54% of all respondents said they are conscious of their eco-footprint while travelling.

Air Tahiti resumes Cook Islands

AIR Tahiti has resumed flights to the Cook Islands, connecting the two Pacific destinations three times per week.

The direct service between Papeete and Rarotonga was previously offered by Air Tahiti between 2007 and 2020, when COVID brought it to an end.

Air Tahiti is the second airline in as many months to restart flights to the Cook Islands, following Jetstar Airways (**TD** 30 Jun).



Window Seat

DEDICATED fans of English pop singer Harry Styles can walk in their idol's footsteps on a new 'Harry's Village Walking Tour', which takes place in the Cheshire village of Holmes Chapel.

The itinerary includes Styles' childhood home, the W Mandeville bakery, where the *Watermelon Sugar* singer worked as a teen, and Fortune City Chinese, where he once took ex-girlfriend Taylor Swift on a romantic date.

Railway ticket officer Graham Blake began giving away the Harry Styles tour maps at the local train station earlier this season to help fans plan the best route possible, and said the 'Harry mania' is helping to "put our village on the map".



Say goodbye to 'I've seen it cheaper direct...'

We're launching our biggest curation to date; our brand-new **Trade Deals** curation.

Our trade deals will:

- Clearly show where we offer a bigger pricing gap vs. online public rates.
- Give power back to you – you will know that you are offering the best price and your customer has the reassurance of booking via a travel agent.
- Save you time – you will see which hotels are significantly cheaper than public rates, so you don't have to do the research!
- Gives you the chance to earn more mark-up if there is a huge price difference.

Access Trade Deals with Stuba - it could make a world of difference to you and your customers!

Stuba. Curated hotels for travel agents.





Gatwick prepares

LONDON Gatwick Airport has submitted a plan for a second runway as it anticipates passenger numbers to double to 75 million a year by the end of the next decade.

The £2.2 billion Northern Runway project includes the use of a standby runway for departing flights alongside the existing main runway, with the airport aiming for construction to start in 2025, reaching completion by 2030.

The plan involves repositioning the Northern Runway - which is currently only used as a taxiway, or when the main runway is out of use - to allow dual runway operations, enabling the number of annual flights to increase from 285,000 to 386,000.

ITA/CI Rome c'share

STATE-OWNED Taiwanese flag carrier China Airlines is set to codeshare with ITA Airways on the Taipei-Rome route.

The initial agreement will codeshare flight numbers CI075/076, with the carriers advising the partnership will also be extended to other destinations within Italy, further enhancing the connectivity between the states.

China Airlines currently operates three non-stop flights per week using its state-of-the-art A350 aircraft, with services increased post-pandemic.

Travellers will have the opportunity to connect to destinations including Venice, Torino, Genoa, and more.

High tea aboard the Rattler



QUEENSLAND'S Mary Valley Rattler heritage railway has added two historic Silver Bullet railmotors to its fleet, alongside a new high tea experience.

Built between 1950-1970, the self-propelled railcars have been restored to join Rattler's fleet of trains operating from Historic Gympie Station, adding to the operator's existing steam train and specialist rail services.

The Silver Bullets will offer a relaxed high tea experience, with passengers able to savour a glass of sparkling wine, locally made savoury and sweet treats, and unlimited tea and coffee as they take in the beautiful countryside of the Mary Valley.

Additional cold and alcoholic beverages will also be available to buy from the onboard menu.

Mary Valley Rattler General Manager, Linda Barry, said the new service is an ideal option for visitors to the region "who have

a spare few hours and love and romance of rails".

The high tea service is priced from \$115 per adult, with departures from Gympie every Fri at 10am to arrive at Dagon Station - learn more [HERE](#).

Costa goes premium

COSTA Cruises has announced a new cruise experience which combines extended itineraries with premium gastronomy and "never-before-seen" onboard entertainment.

Set to launch in Sep, Costa Voyages' sailings will range from 10 to 14 days, sailing to exclusive destinations such as the Canary Islands during the northern autumn and spring.

Guests will be able to indulge in dining experiences, including a banquet party, plus watch an exclusive musical show, and participate in a fashion show.

GC hotel boom

THE Gold Coast is in the midst of a domestic tourism boom, with average room rates jumping 33% and average hotel occupancy rates exceeding pre-pandemic levels by 17%, according to a new report from Finexia.

Hotel occupancy across the Gold Coast has also shot up from 43.3% at the start of COVID-19 in 2020 to 70.1% in 2022, while average daily room rates increased from \$195 to \$271.

Pandaw in advance

PANDAW has announced the release of limited advance dates for select 2024/25 sailings due to popular demand.

Dates for the 10-night Laos Mekong expedition as well as the 12-night Upper Ganges voyage are now available to book, with clients able to secure preferred cabin type while space remains.

Visit pandaw.com or contact information@pandaw.com for more details or bookings.

MH Biz class sale

MALAYSIA Airlines has launched a sale offering up to 30% off Business class fares to a range of destinations around the world.

Business class pax will enjoy more space, extra baggage, and delicious Malaysian cuisine served on board.

The sale ends 24 Jul and applies to travel between now and 31 Jan 2024 - for more, [CLICK HERE](#).

SYD → SFO

From 30 October, United® is offering double daily flights from Sydney to San Francisco.

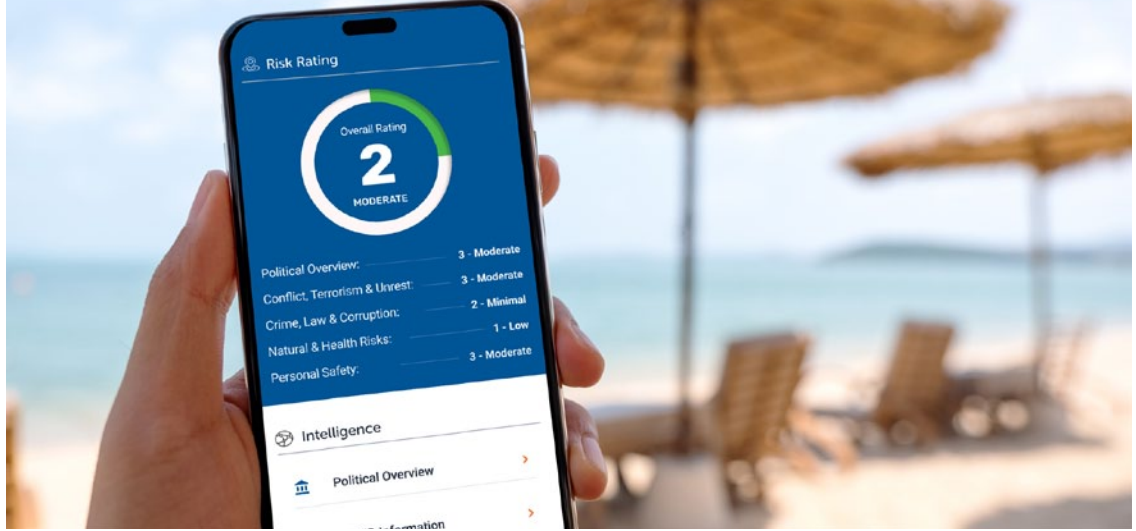
UNITED AIRLINES



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Content produced in collaboration with Cover-More

Cover-More launches new app



COVER-MORE has unveiled a new app to provide support to customers throughout every step of their journey, no matter where in the world they are.

The Cover-More App uses geo-location technology to provide potentially lifesaving assistance and critical information, allowing travellers to focus on enjoying their trip with the peace-of-mind of knowing they have the option to receive relevant safety advice and alerts on their smartphone.

The new digital solution has the option to deliver real-time safety alerts directly to your customer's

phone, informing them of natural disasters, crime incidents, extreme weather events, transportation issues, and civil unrest.

Customers will also have 24/7 access to the Cover-More Assist team, as well as expert country and city advice including the

latest COVID information.

Customers can access all the travel safety benefits by adding a scheduled trip to the Cover-More App, after they have downloaded the app onto their phone and created an account.

To inform their customers about

the app, travel agents can use this flyer **HERE**, which also provides a QR code that downloads the app straight to their phones.

The app is available to customers who purchase or are listed on an active Cover-More travel insurance policy.

Sell a policy - win up to 10k

COVER-MORE is giving agents and their customers the chance to win up to \$10,000.

Every Cover-More policy you sell between 10 Jul and 21 Aug counts as a single entry into the draw, with the agent who sold the winning customer policy to also win the same amount.

If the value of the customer's trip is less than A\$10,000, you are eligible for a chance to win up to the total value of the customer's trip, while trips valued at more than A\$10,000 are eligible for a chance to win up to A\$10,000.

A customer can only be entered once - for example, if they purchase three policies, it counts as one entry.

Additionally, the policy must be in place pre-trip, on trip or completed without cancellation;

your customer will no longer be eligible to win if they cancel their policy during the campaign period.

The competition is open to authorised Cover-More representatives - if you are not one already, you can start the application by clicking **HERE** and filling out the form.

Once you have submitted the form, Cover-More will contact you with details on how to become an Authorised Representative.

To advertise the competition in store, you can display this handy flyer **HERE**.

For more information and to enter the competition, **CLICK HERE**, and to read the terms and conditions, **CLICK HERE**.

The winning agent and customer will be notified by Thu 31 Aug - best of luck!



Cover-More's exceptional care

COVER-MORE prides itself on exceptional care, which is something that Cover-More customer and Australian traveller Irena Caldwell experienced first-hand when she survived a life-threatening viral infection during a holiday in Thailand.

Cover-More paid out a total of \$130,000 to cover Irena's medical expenses and get her home.

"They came through, they paid for me, and they saved my life," Irena said, adding that she and her husband would have needed to re-mortgage their house if it weren't for the coverage.

"When I found out Mum's claim was going to be covered, it was a huge, huge relief," Irena's daughter Julia said.

Watch Irena's testimonial **HERE**.

Win up to \$10k* when your customer takes out a policy with Cover-More. *T&Cs apply. Visit covermore-experiences/letuscoverit for further detail.

Cover-More

Viking sails a different flavour

VIKING hosted a special French soiree to honour and celebrate top-performing travel agents in Melbourne last week.

The evening was filled with culinary delights as the 20 hand-picked travel advisors enjoyed a four-course French feast at Le Salon prive, Entrecote, accompanied by a private sommelier-led wine pairing.

In addition to celebrating the exceptional performance of these travel advisors, the event marked the one-year anniversary of Viking's Commercial Manager Victoria and South Australia, Joanne Cullen.

It was also an opportunity to introduce Shaun Kavanagh, Viking's new National Commercial Manager, to the esteemed partners.

As a token of appreciation, each of the 20 travel advisors departed with a bottle of French champagne to commemorate the memorable evening.

Viking extends its sincere gratitude to the top-performing travel agents for their exceptional achievements and looks forward to continued success in their partnership.



TEAM Viking - Trent Campbell, Joanne Cullen, Lee Siefken and Shaun Kavanagh.



VIKING Soiree at Le Salon prive, Entrecote.



ALYCIA Burke, Hawthorn Travel & Cruise; Lee Siefken, Viking; and Gillian Barros, Hawthorn Travel & Cruise.



SAMANTHA Sly from Travel Avenue with Joanne Cullen, Viking and Julie O'Grady at Exclusive Cruising.



JANET Kitzan, Geelong Travel; Kathy Pavlidis, Travel Associates Kew; and Shaun Kavanagh, Viking.



KIRILLY Plum, Destination HQ; Michelle Black, Viking; and Leonie Spencer, Lifestyle Travel.



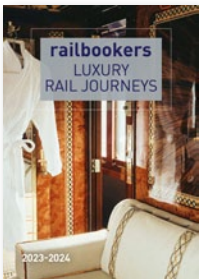
DANNY Engleman and Hayle Serebro from FBI Travel with Viking's Trent Campbell.

BROCHURES

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

THIS week's Brochures of the Week is brought to you by Railbookers.

railbookers



Railbookers - Luxury Rail Journeys

If your customers are looking to indulge in a holiday of a lifetime then look no further than Railbookers' range of new luxury rail experiences. With the option to customise the holidays in any number of ways, adventures travel through spectacular landscapes to iconic destinations, all while enjoying world-class cuisine, impeccable service and optimum comfort on board. Itineraries featuring the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express and iconic Italian destinations, Glacier Express Excellence Class travelling through Scenic Switzerland, the Belmond Royal Scotsman exploring the Scottish Highlands and more.



AQV - 2024 Rivers & Expedition Cruising

No need to scramble for exchange rates as American Queen Voyages, a Journey Beyond brand, has launched a flagship brochure showcasing AQV's 2024 programs with Australian dollar pricing, catering for local agents. Traversing America's heartland, the 2024 brochure displays the fleet information, cabin details, cruise highlights, as well as itineraries such as the iconic Memphis to New Orleans route, and more. Along with the launch of the brochure, AQV is offering up to \$4,000 of savings along with US\$200 of onboard credit on selected departures.



Carnival Cruise Line - South Pacific & ANZ

Carnival is on a mission to make it easier than ever for trade partners to speak the language of fun with its new 2023-2025 brochure. There are more than 45 activities to experience on board the cruise line's two Australian ships *Carnival Splendor* and *Carnival Luminosa*, with the complete travel guide also showcasing the detail on destinations including the Great Barrier Reef, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, and more. The full price guide is included in the brochure to display what's included in various itineraries, as well as tips for your clients in packing for specific journeys.

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Associate Publisher – Anna Piper

Editor – Adam Bishop

Associate Editor – Myles Stedman

Senior Journalist – Janie Medbury

Contributors – Anna Piper, Jenny Piper, Matthew Wai

info@traveldaily.com.au

info@traveldaily.com.au

Travel Daily is a publication of TDaily Pty Ltd ABN 34 108 508 765. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of Travel Daily no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan & Nicki Harford

advertising@traveldaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

Travel Daily operates by paid subscription to people within the travel industry - sign up at www.traveldaily.com.au.

CRUISE WEEKLY

travelBulletin

business events news

Pharmacy Daily

CLICK HERE

Travel & Cruise Weekly have ready-made social media toolkits to inspire your clients.

What a way to see DC!



DESTINATION DC and United Airlines hosted six lucky agents from Australia and New Zealand on a famil trip to America's capital, where they enjoyed a VIP tour of Washington, DC.

As well as visiting the city's world-famous landmarks and museums, the group was treated to amazing dining experiences at venues like District Winery, enjoyed accommodation at AKA White House, and experienced the Giant National Capital BBQ

Battle, a food and music festival.

Pictured on the DC Mural Tour: Ellen Goodwin, FCTG; Sophie Shaw, NZ Travel Brokers; Amy Collins, Orbit World Travel; Leanne Cheesman, UA; Melanie Peacock, World Travellers; Bianca Corallo, Destination DC; Tom Pullan, CTM Travel; Thais Laus, FCTG; plus Erika Jones and Hannah Wright from Destination DC.

Sportslink Travel strikes a deal

SPORTSLINK Travel has signed on to become the official travel partner for Tenpin Bowling Australia (TBA).

The deal will see SportsLink handle travel arrangements for TBA representative teams, athletes, and supporters, both within Australia and abroad.

SportsLink founder & CEO Paul Kelly described the partnership as "an incredible honour", adding "we are excited to support the Australian bowling community and contribute to their success by providing convenient and tailored travel solutions".

Skytrans to Torres

CAIRNS-BASED airline Skytrans has been granted approval to land and take off from the Mabuiag and Erub islands in the Torres Strait, after its Cessna Caravan fleet was grounded in Oct last year following the enforcement of international safety standards.

The service resumption has been welcomed by the people of the remote Torres Strait Islands, who were forced to cross the sea via dinghy due to lack of ferry service and the unaffordability of alternative air travel.