



MTAs Amanda Washington & Kim Newton

A&K waives solo fee

THERE will be no single supplement on Abercrombie & Kent's 2023 Limited Edition Small Group Journeys, with the tour operator waving the charge on four different itineraries in India, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and Caucasia - more luxury on p5.

NZ leads the way in Apr

NEW Zealand has claimed the top spot as the most popular overseas destination for Aussies taking short-term trips in Apr, accounting for 15% of all resident returns for the month.

More than 109,000 trips were recorded across the Tasman, and while the number is still short of pre-pandemic volumes (129,000), it was a sizeable jump on where the market was in Apr last year, where only 34,000 Aussies made the trip to New Zealand.

Indonesia continued to be a strong performer by claiming second spot with 107,120 trips, while the big mover was Japan, which has only been available to Aussies for a matter of months because of border closures.

There were 58,410 short-term trips taken to Japan in Apr, dwarfing the meagre 2,130 trips taken in the same month last

year, moving the historically popular market up to third spot.

The next most visited markets were the USA (46,440), Thailand (45,860), India (36,930), the UK (32,780) and Vietnam (29,410).

Overall, 750,170 short-term trips were recorded during the month, an increase of 467,540 compared to 2022, but still seeing Apr falling 18.1% short of 2019 pre-pandemic levels.

NSW led the way on overseas travel, with 254,590 making a trip, followed by Vic (208,750).

DCL returns to Oz

DISNEY Cruise Line (DCL) has announced its second season of "magical" sailings in Australia, which will begin in Oct 2024 - see the [back page](#) for details.

MH to offer free wi-fi

MALAYSIA Airlines is reportedly gearing up to offer its loyalty customers and Business class passengers free wi-fi from 01 Jul.

The added service will be rolled out in phases across its fleet using satellite technology, with internet access to be limited to 100MB worth of data a flight.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of news including our **Luxury feature** page, plus full pages from:

- Norwegian Cruise Line
- Disney Cruise Line

ANA resumes PER

TICKETS for All Nippon Airways' direct route between Tokyo and Perth are now on sale, with three flights a week from 29 Oct.

The relaunch, first flagged at the beginning of the year (*TD* 18 Jan), marks the route's return after a three-and-a-half year pause.

VIKING

The **HEART** of EXPLORING

Receive up to \$2,000 flight credit per couple on new 2024 & 2025 Ocean bookings when made by 28 August.

[VIEW OFFERS](#)

VIKING

The **HEART** of EXPLORING

Plus, discover our incredible offers across our river and expedition voyages for 2024 and 2025.

[VIEW OFFERS](#)

VA's first 737-8 soon

VIRGIN Australia has confirmed the arrival of its first Boeing 737-8 aircraft later this month as part of its fleet renewal program.

Named 'Monkey Mia', the aircraft will take off from Seattle to land in Brisbane by the end of Jun, following the completion of regulatory approvals.

The 737-8 will operate the newly launched Cairns to Tokyo (Haneda) route, taking over from Virgin's existing 737-700, which will operate the inaugural flight on 28 Jun (*TD* 14 Dec 2022).

CANADA AND ALASKA

2024 OUT NOW

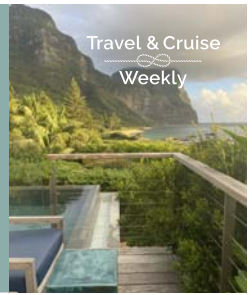
SAVE UP TO \$3,000 PER COUPLE*

[LEARN MORE](#)

APT

LUXURY TRAVEL

*T&C's apply.



Sabre makes AC pact

SABRE and Air Canada have formed a new distribution and retailing partnership, with the multi-year agreement to include the carrier's full range of NDC-sourced content.

The partnership aims to ensure worldwide distribution for Air Canada via the Sabre travel marketplace.

Jetstar special deals

JETSTAR has announced a new range of discounted All-inclusive Holiday Packages to destinations like Bali, Phuket, and Fiji.

New packages on offer lead in from five nights, priced from \$1,217 per person.

MEANWHILE, JQ has discounted 200k domestic fares in its 'Mates Rates' sale - see [HERE](#).



If you want great package rates

TURN TAAP ON

ENJOY TODAY

www.expedia.com.au/taap

telephone
1800 726 618

email
expedia-au@discovertheworld.com.au

Big bucks for BIG4 Parks

EXCLUSIVE

MORE Aussies are swapping suites for swags, increasingly turning to the camping and caravanning sector to get more bang out of their travel budget amid the ever-rising cost of living.

BIG4 Holiday Parks is seeing this trend emerge firsthand, recording a 20% increase in bookings year-on-year despite "a more challenging economic climate", CEO Sean Jenner told *Travel Daily*.

Jenner believes the strong demand for BIG4 parks is due to the breadth of product available, from premium cabins at the top-end of the market through to sites where you can stay for as little as \$40 a night, providing a "cost effective alternative for people looking to travel on a budget".

The leading holiday park brand, which boasts a network of around 140 branded parks and 90 "partner parks" across Australia, is expecting demand to stay strong, with interest across all customer types on the rise, including young customers who are trying camping and caravanning for the first time.

BIG4 has plenty of growth plans in the pipeline over the next six to 12 months, Jenner revealed, including the introduction of Partner Parks - parks that aren't BIG4 branded but are available to

EK premium India

EMIRATES will offer Premium Economy on routes to India from Oct, bringing its number of services providing the upmarket product to 12 by Dec this year.

The new cabin is set to be introduced on Emirates' service to Mumbai and Bengaluru from 29 Oct, which includes better seats, more legroom, and an elevated dining experience.

As the roll out of its retrofitted A380s picks up pace, Emirates' new four-class configuration will be deployed on more flights to more global destinations.

book on BIG4.com, offering more choice for customers.

Website and online booking system upgrades, as well as increased marketing activity, are also in the works for BIG4.

Jenner flagged travel agencies as another potential growth opportunity, saying that they are "an important channel...that we probably haven't utilised as much as an industry as we could", adding that group bookings in particular signal a "real opportunity for [BIG4] to engage more with the travel industry".

Intrepid ad banned

INTREPID has been ordered by the UK's Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) to not use a billboard ad after a complaint was received about the use of the phrase "planet-friendly".

The phrase was found to be misleading about the impact of Intrepid's holidays on the environment, as it implied "that taking part in an Intrepid tour caused no environmental damage throughout its full life cycle", including the flights required to get to Egypt.

Intrepid Managing Director EMEA Zina Bencheikh said the ruling was a "good learning opportunity" for the company, and one that would encourage all travel companies to be more mindful of how they talk about their impact on the environment.

CATO opens tickets

THE Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) has announced ticket sales are now open for its Travel Trivia Masters and annual Christmas Lunch events.

This year's trivia event will feature a 'travel inspire' theme, and is set to take place at Doltone House - Darling Island on 03 Aug.

Meanwhile, the CATO Christmas Lunch is slated for 07 Dec at Doltone House - Jones Bay Wharf. Trivia tix [HERE](#) & Xmas tix [HERE](#).



Window Seat

SENSORS and AI technology could soon spell the end of the boozy plane ride, with a new product from Collins Aerospace to be trialled by flight attendants in combating the rising phenomenon of drunken passengers.

The tech reportedly allows flighties to monitor how much alcohol a person has consumed by capturing interactions with various objects within an aircraft suite.

While cutting down on passengers being overserved is one key benefit, a spokesperson for the company also noted it could be used to increase the level of personalised service on planes, for example by monitoring movements to see who may require additional comfort or dining services.



Janet joins Celestyal

JANET Parton has joined Celestyal Cruises in the new role of VP, Business Development for UK, Europe & Australia.

Parton has over 20 years' experience in the travel industry across cruise, tour operations and retail, and currently chairs the CLIA UK Specialist Cruise Committee and is also part of Britain's Association of Touring & Adventure Suppliers.

She was most recently with the Globus Family of Brands, where she headed up sales and marketing for Cosmos and Avalon Waterways in the UK.

In her new role, Parton will implement Celestyal's int'l strategic development plans.



High vibes in Hong Kong



A LUCKY group of travel agents from Victoria recently enjoyed a famil to Hong Kong, jointly hosted by Cathay Pacific, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), and Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts.

The advisors stayed in luxury accommodation at the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort, including The Explorer Lodge, The Sheraton Tung Chung, The Shangri La Kowloon & The Kerry Hotel.

There was no shortage of delicious food on offer, with agents treated to sumptuous meals at the Island Shangri La's Lobster Bar, Tin Lung Heen at the

Hong Kong Ritz Carlton, and Jade Restaurant at Fullerton Ocean Park, plus a Hong Kong Foodie Tour hosted by HKTB.

The group also experienced the newly renovated Peak Tram and the new Cathay Pacific Deck Lounge before boarding their flight back to Melbourne.

Pictured: Ruby Burke, Aurora Travel; Olivia Glover, CX; Andrew Fallon, FCTG First & Business; Aaron Watts, Mariner Travel; Caitlin Clarke, Where2Travel Malvern; JP Boutefeu, TravelManagers; and David Behrens, FCTG Travel Club.

QF bites Big Apple again

TODAY marked Qantas' return to New York for the first time in three years, with flights from Sydney initially operating three times a week (TD 25 Aug 2022).

Using its Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft, the Flying Kangaroo will increase the New York service to four times weekly beginning Oct, offering more than 1,800 seats on the route each week.

The service will operate via Auckland instead of Los Angeles for the first time, making it easier for travellers from all over Australia to access the Big Apple, with 11 daily flights across the Tasman from Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

"While the world has changed dramatically since the start of COVID, one thing that hasn't changed is the lure of New York City," Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce said, revealing that demand for the route has been "very strong" since going on sale.

He added "flights are great news for Australian tourism, helping to bring more visitors from the United States to explore the best of NSW and beyond with connections from Sydney across our extensive domestic network".

The Aussie carrier anticipates a return to around 100% of its

international network pre-COVID capacity by Mar 2024, up from around 85% of pre-COVID levels today - a notable jump from just 45% 12 months ago.

In celebration of the launch, Qantas has introduced several customer initiatives on board the new flight, including New York-inspired menu items throughout the aircraft (TD 31 May).

The New York service was made possible by a recent delivery of new 787 aircraft, which are designed specifically for long-haul travel and offer "more room and fewer seats than most of our competitors", Joyce enthused.

CLIA hunts specialist

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia is on the hunt to hire a Director of Government Affairs, a specialist who will be charged with developing forward-looking political and regulatory engagement strategies.

Among the key duties will include leading outreach programs to educate elected officials on the industry's best practices, and arrives after the NSW Government dumped the idea of a third cruise terminal in Sydney at Yarra Bay without presenting a viable alternative (TD 29 May).

At the time, local CLIA chief Joel Katz expressed his disappointment that a decision was made without a viable alternative solution in place.

Travel spend dips

TRAVEL spending intentions in Australia have dipped by 4.5% in May when compared to the previous month, adding to a yearly drop of 6.2%.

The figures were included in Commbank's latest *Household Spending Intentions* report, which also showed travel agents, airlines & cruise ships are seeing the fastest spending growth.

Oz tops hacked list

AUSTRALIA is the number one target country for hackers when it comes to the travel sector, according to a new report from Akamai Technologies.

Down Under accounted for a whopping 63.7% of hotel and travel-related web attacks across the Asia Pacific and Japan (APJ) between Jan 2022 and Mar 2023, racking up a total attack count of more than 296 million.

The hack tally for Australia's travel sector was way ahead of the second most targeted country India, which made up 22.4% of attacks with around 104 million instances of hacking attempts, the report revealed.

CANADA SPECIALIST PROGRAM

WIN A FAMIL TO ONTARIO OR ALBERTA

Register now

CANADA

High-speed rail on track with new body

AUSTRALIA'S new High Speed Rail Authority has officially launched to oversee the development of a high-speed rail network along the country's east coast (TD 09 Sep 2022).

The network aims to enable passengers to travel between major cities and regional centres at speeds of more than 250km/h.

"High-speed rail will revolutionise interstate travel on the east coast, providing a fast alternative for people to move between cities and regional centres," Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, and Regional Development Catherine King said.

Chaired by Jill Rossouw, the new body is currently recruiting a CEO, and will initially focus on planning and corridor works for the Sydney to Newcastle section of the network, backed by a \$500 million Fed Govt commitment.

Japan is the safest

JAPAN has been named the safest country for solo travellers this year, in a new study by luggage storage business Bounce.

The country's "safety index score" of 76.9 just topped Switzerland's rating of 76.4.

Other countries faring well on the safe index included Slovenia, Croatia, Iceland, South Korea, Denmark, Finland, Austria, and the Netherlands, which rounded out the top 10.

Cyclone to impact India and Pakistan

HEAVY rainfall, strong winds and storm surges are likely in Pakistan's Sindh province and India's state of Gujarat as a result of Tropical Cyclone Biparjoy making landfall today.

DFAT has advised Aussie travellers in the affected areas of either country to follow the advice of local authorities and monitor weather updates.

Live Like Her for a cause



BRISBANE Airport (BNE) is challenging Brisbane residents and businesses to park up for the night in its Skygate multi-deck carpark and sleep in their car for a worthy cause.

On 07 Sep, the aviation hub will host the 2023 Live Like Her Challenge, which will raise funds and awareness for women over 55 who are experiencing homelessness.

Run by Brisbane-based charity The Forgotten Women, the fundraising event is now in its second year.

BNE has already donated \$5,000 to the challenge, with three of its executive leaders also committing to participate on the night.

"We all have two choices when it comes to homelessness - either pretend the issue doesn't exist or we try and make a difference," BNE Chief Executive Officer Gert-Jan de Graaff said (pictured back left with the women who are driving the challenge).

"Brisbane Airport is honoured to host the 2023 Live Like Her Challenge because it means the event now has space for hundreds more participants than last year, and that means greater help for the women of Brisbane."

The BNE chief is also challenging the airport's 425 businesses to get involved in the fundraiser.

Register for the Live Like Her Challenge [HERE](#).

F&T gurus, finance whizzes, IT geeks.

We're here for you.

Meet our National Partnership Office team



Aussie agency to aid in Qatar relaunch

MELBOURNE advertising agency Town Square has scored the brand and marketing services account for Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas in Qatar.

Town Square will undertake a review of the two-year-old Hilton Salwa's positioning and communication strategy, which will relaunch back to the world following the FIFA World Cup.

"We are delighted to have been appointed by Hilton for the Salwa Beach Resort and Villas and look forward to sharing all that this premium, luxury destination has to offer across key markets around the world," World Square founder and Director Danielle Moeller said.

The agency also has done work for Qatar Airways and Journey Beyond.

Plaza Athenee tastier

HOTEL Plaza Athenee has announced the reopening of its premium courtyard restaurant, La Cour Jardin.

Overseeing the restaurant is renowned chef Jean Imbert, who has prepared a special lunch and dinner menu inspired by the colours and produce of summer.

Meanwhile, Plaza Athenee's courtyard will again transform into a special open-air cinema from 26-30 Jun.

DISNEY MAGIC BACK FOR 2024-2025

DISNEY Cruise Line has officially announced its second season of "magical" sailings in Australia, which will begin in Oct 2024.

The season will cruise in Australia through to Feb 2025, setting sail from Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane on board *Disney Wonder*.

Sailings will range from two nights through to a new seven-night cruise, with highlights including Eden (pictured) and Hobart, Auckland and Noumea.

The new season of "Disney Magic at Sea" cruises will open for booking from 27 Jun, with Senior Vice President & General Manager Sharon Siskie stating the cruise line was "thrilled" by the response to its inaugural sailings.

"We look forward to bringing



the magic of Disney to this beautiful part of the world as we welcome both returning guests and those who are new to our special brand of family cruising," she said.

The season will see cruisers meet friends from Disney, Pixar, Marvel, and Star Wars, and also watch their favourite stories come to life in Broadway-style

shows, such as *Frozen: A Musical Spectacular*.

Exclusive to *Wonder* is Tiana's Place restaurant, which treats guests to New Orleans-inspired cuisine and live music.

A two-night Sydney-Brisbane cruise currently leads in at \$1,447 for two guests.

More information about the local season is available on **p8**.

Six Senses Amaala

SIX Senses, IHG's ultra-luxury brand, is set to debut in Amaala, Saudi Arabia in 2024, as part of the first phase of the Triple Bay development.

Offering sweeping views across the Hijaz Cove to the Red Sea, Six Senses Amaala will include 64 rooms, six suites, 30 villas and 25 branded residences.

Guests will be able to enjoy the Six Senses Spa and a host of activities, plus clubs for kids and teens, prayer rooms, and communal lounges.

True North gets Brave

TRUE North has partnered with Sydney-based creative agency Today the Brave as part of a bid to increase its brand presence in domestic and international markets.

Today the Brave is tasked with promoting True North's luxury tourism experiences to a greater number of discerning travellers.

"It's clear that the team at Today the Brave share our drive and ambition to create experiences that are truly exceptional," True North MD Chad Avenell enthused.

Seabourn 24h menu

LUXURY cruise line Seabourn is preparing to debut the new 24-hour in-suite dining menus on *Seabourn Venture's* 18 Jun voyage this weekend, and will also look to extend the culinary offerings to the line's entire fleet by Oct.

The new menus feature fresh and light vegetarian and vegan dishes, such as rustic garden vegetable minestrone ala genovese, as well as reinvented classic dishes such as crispy skin fresh Alaskan salmon fillet.

Curious ABOUT A CAREER IN LUXURY TRAVEL?

Find out how joining a Virtuosos member agency can enrich your career in luxury travel.

Learn more at becomeavirtuoso.com



ACCOMMODATION

WELCOME to Accommodation Updates, *Travel Daily's* Wed feature. If your property has undergone some recent changes you would like to make the industry aware of, send a brief description with an image to accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au.

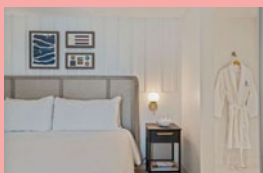


The upcoming Sushi Kanesaka is a traditional 13-seat omakase counter restaurant due to launch at the **45 Park Lane** hotel in the heart of Mayfair on 01 Jul. The two Michelin-starred eatery will offer up to 20 courses with carefully selected ingredients from Japan, the UK and Europe. To accompany the luxury and traditional dining experience, the restaurant will also offer sake pairings, wines, beers and a selection of Japanese whiskies.



The **Laguna, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa** will complete a major transformation in Jul. The 287-key resort began work on its guestrooms last year, also adding the new de Bale Lounge & Bar and Banyubiru Restaurant, as well as a new beachfront

Kukul Beach House. The final phase of the renovation will see the opening of the Arwana Restaurant, serving premium coastal cuisine including fresh seafood and signature dishes.



Located in the coastal town of Chatham, Massachusetts, **Greyfinch Chatham Inn** has unveiled its property-wide renovation. The 30-room oasis has introduced four new room categories for all types of travellers, as well as fenced-in outdoor spaces, making

it more suitable for families with young children. Private pools have also been added as an alternative option to the beach. The hotel is now offering guests bicycles to take in the surrounding coastal scenery.

Swooping on merger

CANADIAN airline WestJet has ratified a new four-year contract with pilots at its ultra-low-cost carrier Swoop this week, paving the way to integrate the brand into its main operations.

The amalgamating of the two brands under WestJet is expected to streamline operations and expectations for crew and pax, and will be completed by 28 Oct.

"This integration will enhance our ability to serve a broader spectrum of guests," WestJet said in a statement this week.

Ascent teases more

CELEBRITY Cruises has revealed more details for its upcoming ship *Celebrity Ascent*, which will include a redesigned Le Voyage restaurant by Daniel Boulud.

The cruise line also revealed there will be an all-new plant-based tasting menu at Eden Restaurant, and a new nightly entertainment program on the Resort Deck.

Debuting in Nov, the fourth vessel in Celebrity's Edge series will cruise out of South Florida once launched.



Travel Daily
LEARN MORE ABOUT
SINGAPORE WITH
TRAVEL DAILY
TRAINING ACADEMY

Bamboo HQ opens many eyes



GREG Wilson, Head of Sales at Vietnam specialist Wide Eyed Tours, recently popped in for a tour of Bamboo Airways' new Aussie headquarters in North Melbourne (**pictured**).

During his visit, Wilson had the opportunity to catch up with Brad Crawford, the Vietnamese carrier's National Sales Manager for Australia and New Zealand.

The visit follows Wide Eyed Tours' recent announcement of its new-and-improved 10-day Best of Vietnam Highlights itinerary (**TD** 23 Mar).

The rapidly expanding Bamboo Airways also has an office in Sydney, and offers flights from Sydney and Melbourne to Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi.

SIA adjusts pricing

SINGAPORE Airlines has adjusted fares between Australia and its global network for new bookings made on/after 12 Jun, impacting pricing across selected fares between Adelaide/Brisbane/Cairns/Melbourne/Sydney and Japan.

SITA drives Rome vertiport investment

ELECTRIC vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) flights between Fiumicino and Rome's city centre could be a reality from next year thanks to a new partnership between SITA and Italian vertiport operator UrbanV.

The two organisations will collaborate to test and validate UrbanV's concept of operations blueprint in Rome, paving the way for commercial flights from Fiumicino Airport to popular tourist spots in Rome.

While Rome will be the first city SITA and UrbanV have marked for flights, a global rollout of vertiports has also been flagged.

"This partnership allows us to offer a unique value proposition to be scaled globally and to accelerate the adoption of AAM services," UrbanV Chief Executive Officer Carlo Tursi said.

SITA added the partnership will explore "new standards and a digital-first passenger experience" by leveraging its expertise for a global launch of eVTOL flights.

NCL'S CLASS OF 2023

EXTENSION GRANTED! • 30 JUNE 2023 •

SEMESTER 1: DESTINATION ASIA

SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS TO WIN BIG



LEARN



PROMOTE



WIN

Complete 2 learn & 2 promote assignments to score up to **500 Partners First Rewards points** PLUS go in the draw to **WIN A FREE ASIA CRUISE**

JOIN THE CLASS

Conditions apply



NCL
NORWEGIAN
CRUISE LINE®
Feel Free®

YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT! QUESTIONS? EMAIL AUSCOMPS@NCL.COM



A SPECIAL NEW SEASON IS COMING

When we announced our inaugural sailings in Australia and New Zealand, we were so excited by your heartfelt reaction. And now, due to popular demand, Disney Cruise Line is announcing a whole new season of voyages.

Sailing from **Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane** in Australia and **Auckland** in New Zealand, **Disney Magic at Sea** will bring enchantment and cherished Disney friends to our shores onboard Disney Wonder for a special new season of 2-7 night cruises **from October 2024 to February 2025.**

General on-sale begins Monday 26 June!

For more information, visit DisneyTravelAgents.com.au



Disney CRUISE LINE

Ships' Registry: The Bahamas ©2023 Disney