

EXCLUSIVE
TO CLIA
MEMBERS

CLIA Cruise MONTH

MORE REASONS TO #LOVECRUISE
THIS OCTOBER

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OCEAN

Week 1

1 - 7 October



RIVER

Week 2

8 - 14 October



EXPEDITION

Week 3

15 - 21 October



LUXURY

Week 4

22 - 28 October



MTA Sarah Fenton

THINKING ABOUT YOUR OWN TRAVEL BUSINESS?

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Do you #lovecruise?

THE Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Cruise Month has kicked off, with this week's theme shining a spotlight on ocean cruising - see the **cover page** to find out more.

VietJet adds two

VIETJET continues its aggressive expansion in the Aussie market, this morning adding two more local routes to its network.

From 21 Nov, the Vietnamese budget carrier will offer Ho Chi Minh City to both Perth and Adelaide, flying five times a week return for each route.

To celebrate the upcoming launches, VietJet is offering one-way all-inclusive prices from just \$165, running through to 10 Oct - for more details, see **HERE**.

ATIA pushes PM on review

EXCLUSIVE

AUSTRALIAN Travel Industry Association (ATIA) CEO Dean Long has written to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese requesting that the government's upcoming

UL inks VA interline

VIRGIN Australia has entered into a new interline agreement with SriLankan Airlines, allowing its customers to book a multi-carrier itinerary to Sri Lanka on a single ticket.

Under the deal, VA passengers will also enjoy a single check-in experience, including for baggage at the departure airport.

"Australia has one of the largest Sri Lankan diasporic communities, which makes our Australian routes incredibly popular all year around and particularly with people travelling to visit friends & relatives," SriLankan Airlines Head of Worldwide Sales & Distribution Dimuthu Tennakoon said.

"This partnership will help us make further inroads in the Australian market through improved connectivity and a range of other benefits for our valued customers," he added.

For inbound tourism, the new agreement will also allow Sri Lankan nationals to fly beyond Melbourne or Sydney to destinations such as Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Cairns, Darwin, Hobart, Hamilton Island, Launceston, and Perth. **AB**

review into COVID include the entire health response across state and territory governments.

Long recently voiced his criticism of the decision to omit the states from scrutiny in the government's formal review into Australia's response to the pandemic (**TD** 22 Sep), which included protracted periods of border closures and lockdowns.

"ATIA has been advocating for a review of the COVID response that encompasses all government action by Federal and State governments - it was therefore very disappointing to see the Federal Government not include state-based restrictions in its COVID review," Long said.

The ATIA chief also argued that understanding the broader impacts of these policies is vital for ensuring a more effective response for future emergencies.

"I can think of no other industry that could speak directly to the impacts on people, businesses & the overall economy," Long said.

"We know we are not alone in this request, and we hope the government changes the terms of reference," he added. **AB**

More opinions from Long on **p4**.

Silversea means biz

TRAVELLERS can enjoy reduced or included Business class flights on Silversea's 2024 Kimberley expeditions - see **p7** for more info on the limited-time offer.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of news including our **Sustainability** page plus a front cover from **CLIA** and a full page from **Silversea**.

Air Vanuatu is back

AIR Vanuatu's Boeing 737 aircraft has returned to service after being grounded unexpectedly for over a week and causing delays for thousands of Aussie travellers (**TD** 25 Sep).

Extra flights have been added as part of a new interim schedule, (viewable **HERE**), while the carrier also stated it is offering full refunds for affected customers.

A loan auxiliary power unit has been installed before a replacement can be sourced from the UK to be fitted in Brisbane.



NEW! India & Europe Grand Passage

Due to popular demand for extended journeys, Viking have just launched a new itinerary sailing between Mumbai and Barcelona and vice versa. The 35-day *India and Europe Grand Passage* voyage has limited departures with only two scheduled in December 2024 and January 2025. Priced from \$23,995pp in a Veranda Stateroom, your clients will also receive savings of up to \$1,600 per couple and flight credit of \$2,500 per couple when booked before 30 Nov 2023 (Quote OC12 when booking online).

View itinerary here.



Earn at least \$4,859 in commission.



Sydney to Barcelona on one epic journey

Viking's 85-day *Australia, Asia & the Mediterranean* voyage has only one departure and it's filling fast. Following the sell-out success of their *Malta, Morocco & the Mediterranean* voyage released earlier this year, staterooms are expected to be snapped up quickly. Don't let your clients miss out on this incredible itinerary. Priced from \$64,795pp in a Deluxe Veranda, your clients will also receive up to \$2,500 flight credit per couple when booked before 30 Nov 2023 (Quote OC12 when booking online).

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mwTours

Gate change for USA

GATE 7 has revealed it will not re-tender for its current PR representation contract with Brand USA for fiscal year 23/24. "We still remain fully committed to our other trade...partnerships and ongoing projects with Brand USA," Gate 7 said.



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Rex Flyer finally takes off

MORE than a year after promising the launch of a loyalty scheme (TD 02 Aug 2022), Rex Airlines has finally unveiled details of its Rex Flyer program.

Open for registration now, the loyalty scheme will allow the redemption of points for flights from mid Nov, offering the accrual of seven points for every dollar spent and up to five points for money splashed on selected Rex extras such as additional baggage and seat selection.

Three tier status levels are available under Rex Flyer - Sapphire, Emerald and Diamond - requiring 1,500, 3,000 and 6,000 status points respectively to qualify for membership.

Qualifying members will be able to enjoy tier status benefits from early 2024 - find out more about the three tiers' advantages [HERE](#).

To celebrate the introduction of the loyalty scheme, Rex is running a special promotion offering customers 5,000 Rex points as a bonus if they sign up before 02 Jan 2024, while all members will also see their reward points doubled for bookings made by the same date, regardless of the date of travel.

Three reward options form the basis of the loyalty program - Anytime, Getaway and Ultimate - with the most flexible Anytime option allowing passengers to change or cancel flights up until midnight the day before departure without incurring any change fees.



Find out more info about the three reward options [HERE](#).

Rex is also reportedly offering a status match offer to snag existing Qantas and VA loyalty members, with Qantas Silver and Velocity Silver qualifying for Rex Flyer Emerald status, while Qantas Gold and Velocity Gold will earn Rex Flyer Diamond status.

Rex said that one unique component of the new Rex Flyer program is that all unsold seats will be made available at the cheapest reward redemption rate (Ultimate) progressively from 48 hours before a departure.

"The program means we can at last reward our passengers for the loyalty they have shown us over many years as we have fought hard - often against almost impossible odds - to provide them with safe, affordable and reliable air services," Rex Deputy Chairman John Sharp said.

Taxes and airline charges will still be applied to tickets redeemed for points.

The staggered rollout of Rex Flyer will be accompanied by new airport lounges planned for Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, with Rex confirming construction on the spaces will be "commencing imminently". **AB**
More on Rex on [page three](#).

Beyond out of ATAS

TOUR operator Beyond Travel has withdrawn from the Australian Travel Industry Association's (ATIA) Australian Travel Accreditation Scheme (ATAS), with ATIA citing a failure to renew as required under s2.5(n) of the Charter.

Royal Caribbean INTERNATIONAL

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TODAY IS CHOOSE DAY

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TRAVELLERS
CHOICE



No socials, no holiday

MORE than half (55%) of Australians believe that if they do not post their travel adventures on social media, they may as well have not happened, according to a new survey conducted by American Express.

The *Trendex* data also showed that social media obsessed Aussies take their travel inspiration from TV shows and movies more than any other country surveyed.

In a climate of rising costs, American Express' report also suggested 89% of Aussie travellers hold a credit card that can be cashed in for travel rewards, while 35% indicated they like to book trips on specific days or "times that seem less popular" to save money.

Close to 40% also stated they opt to book hotels with a complimentary breakfast to save on overall travel costs.

"The latest Amex Trendex shows

that Australians, even when faced with financial pressures, are finding innovative ways to enjoy the things that bring them joy," VP Travel and Lifestyle Services, American Express Australia Daniel Thomas said. AB

Rex doubles Hobart

REX Airlines will add a second daily Melbourne-Hobart flight over the busy Christmas-New Year holiday period.

The extra flights will operate between 18 Dec and 21 Jan, with prices leading in from \$79.

MEANWHILE Rex Executive Chair Lim Kim Hai did not pull any punches in the carrier's Annual Report, stating that its poor financial results were the direct result of Qantas' "illegal, anticompetitive behaviour" regarding capacity dumping, lamenting it's "disheartening when the wicked prosper".

VV's Voyage Store

FRESH from inking a deal with Virgin Australia to enable Velocity points for cruises (**TD** 25 Sep), Virgin Voyages has launched an additional booking channel to make it easier for agents to book sailings in the lead-up to its debut in Aussie waters in Dec.

The new Voyage Store platform powered by Travel The World offers a range of benefits to the trade, including 16% commission on the voyage fare, Aussie-based Virgin Voyages experts to discuss bookings, net payments directly to Travel The World, and a toll-free phone number (1300 732 300) open 9am to 5pm AEDT.

"We're ramping up activity ahead of the brand's debut in Australia this December, and this investment is meant to streamline the booking process for our partners," VP of International Sales Shane Riley said.

"With travel demand at historic levels, we know how busy our First Mates can get," he added.



Window Seat

TRAVELLERS now have the chance to indulge their *Shrek* fantasies by staying in a real-life swamp in Scotland thanks to a new promotion by Airbnb.

The cosy cottage located in the Scottish highlands, replete with mud, moss and plenty of murky water, can be stayed in for the ogrely sum of just no dollars, that's right, the stay will be free for the lucky people chosen by the platform, "a nod to the priceless refuge Shrek has provided to all fairytale creatures," Airbnb said.



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Flight Centre slows it down

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WATCH LISTEN ENJOY

RELAX

Slow TV from around the world

FLIGHT Centre has launched a new travel video series on YouTube, inviting would-be travellers to “slow down, watch, listen and relax” through the new online presentation.

The *Relax (Slow TV)* series showcases journeys in various forms from “a panoramic helicopter flight or gondola ride over the Swiss Alps to the serene landscape in Bali or Hawaii”.

The first episode of the series brings travellers to Switzerland, with a camera panning peacefully through the country’s picturesque landscape by train.

Managing Director Andrew Stark noted that the slow TV series showcases an abundance of incredible experiences while

also conveying amazing places around the world.

“The slow TV phenomenon is the perfect platform for customers who... seek an introspective, soothing and immersive viewing experience,” Stark said.

He also hinted that an increasing volume of travellers are seeking more authentic experiences when exploring different landscapes to be more engaged in the local culture.

“Our *Relax (Slow TV)* series is the closest we can get to try-before-you-buy in travel,” Stark concluded.

Travellers can tune in through a digital screen at a Flight Centre store or by clicking [HERE](#). *MW*

ATIA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



I ALWAYS find this grand final weekend the last small break before the race to Christmas. And what a busy few months it will be with

the travel conference season kicking off, and then our final marquee event of the year - NTIA in November.

Excitingly, we have paused general ticket sales for the Saturday night Gala Dinner.

This ensures all our finalists are given a few extra days to secure tickets, so make sure you lock in your tickets by the advised date.

If you’re not a finalist and want to attend, we have established a wait list which will be managed on a first come, first served basis. So, make sure you register today as the event will be a sell-out.

ATIA has been advocating for a review of the COVID response that encompasses all government action by Federal and State Governments - it was therefore very disappointing to see the Federal Government not include state-based restrictions in its COVID review.

While there has been much speculation about the political

reasoning, the Australian Human Rights Commission said it best.

The broader human cost of the pandemic - such as families being separated by border closures and lockdowns, Australians being unable to return home from overseas, and schools being closed - was substantial.

Understanding these broader impacts - the full human cost of the pandemic - is vital for ensuring a more effective response for future public emergencies.

As an industry this is beyond politics.

This is about how we as a community manage the next unprecedented emergency.

I can think of no other industry that could speak directly to the impacts on people, businesses and the overall economy.

When I joined this Association, we were just reopening and the fear of being shut down again was palpable.

On behalf of our members and the greater industry, I have written to the Prime Minister requesting that the review include the entire health response.

We know we are not alone in this request, and we hope the Government changes the terms of reference to complete a comprehensive review.

The Chat

with Jenny

A Conversation with Michelle Mikan

of Abercrombie & Kent

[CLICK HERE to listen](#)

Travel Daily



Eden flags big ships

LARGER cruise ships, higher visitation caps and overnight berthing are all on the table for the Eden Breakwater Wharf if the community approves of the latest expansion plan put forward by the Port Authority of NSW.

The wharf expansion will allow cruise ships longer than 100 metres to dock, as well as lift the 60 cruise ship cap each year, increasing shore tourism options in Eden - more details in *CW*.

Hyatt goes all Airbnb

HYATT is expanding into the short-term accommodation space, flagging the introduction of a new platform in the United States in the coming weeks.

Homes & Hideaways by World of Hyatt will list lodgings such as private homes, remote hideaways and ski chalets for short-term use, to name just a few.

If the American pilot is successful, Hyatt plans to roll it out globally in the coming years.



EK signs up for major SAF deal

EMIRATES has inked an agreement with Shell Aviation to acquire more than 113,562 litres of blended sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to use at its international hub in Dubai.

The airline is expected to take its first delivery of the eco-fuel before the end of the year, marking the first time that SAF is supplied through the Dubai Airport fuelling system.

The partnership will also see Emirates track SAF delivery and its use data through Avelia, a blockchain-powered SAF platform.

The UAE carrier will purchase the SAF through Avelia to help decarbonise its Scope 1 related emissions, while Scope 3 environmental attributes associated to the same physical SAF will be purchased by Shell Corporate Travel to help decarbonise its related business travel.

By using Avelia, the agreement will illustrate how book and claim solutions can allow airlines and corporates to share the environmental benefits of SAF.

The announcement is the latest in a series of milestones for Emirates, which completed its first 100% SAF-powered demo flight earlier this year.

PLAN IS HOTTY ABOUT ROTTY FUTURE

THE WA Government's latest *Rottnest Island Management Plan 2023-2028* promises to put conservation and sustainability at the forefront of any tourism expansion ambitions.

WA revised the existing planning document, which was due to expire in Dec 2024, with a revamped vision for Rottnest this week, which includes a host of tougher sustainability criteria that will need to be incorporated into any construction activity.

While the over-arching objective of diversifying its visitor base and enhancing tourism infrastructure remains, the government is keen to ensure that it does not happen at the expense of the island's unique natural habitat.

Among the key environmental objectives contained in the report



include supporting renewable energy upgrades, undertaking revegetation projects, and the phasing out the island's liquid petroleum gas appliances.

Also on the chopping block will be transport vehicles that don't fit the island's low carbon future, while sustainable water production from desalination plants will also be looked at as a way to ensure water supply is produced in a sustainable fashion.

The green criteria will pave the

way for WA to lift the tourism profile of Rottnest, with new accommodation, a golf course precinct, the completion of The Lodge Wadjemup redevelopment, and improving accessible tourism forming just a few of the initiatives flagged in the latest version of the plan.

Rottnest Island attracted around 570,000 visitors in 2022, with the WA Government keen on lifting that figure considerably over the next 10 years. *AB*

HAL connects

HOLLAND America Line's (HAL) entire fleet is now shore-power capable, after *Voldendam* completed installation in Vancouver, British Columbia last week.

The cruise line began converting ships to have shore power connectivity in 2006, when its four Vista Class ships were built with the systems installed.

HAL uses shore power to reduce emissions and noise in port, and can connect to more than 18 ports globally.

EXO awards

THE EXO Foundation, a non-profit organisation supporting sustainable tourism initiatives, held its inaugural Sustainability Awards last week.

The ceremony recognised 20 projects for their efforts to innovate sustainability in Asia, with prizes totalling US\$40,000 in value.

Nominees, who were recognised across five categories, were assessed by a panel of sustainable tourism professionals.

Air taxi in Melb

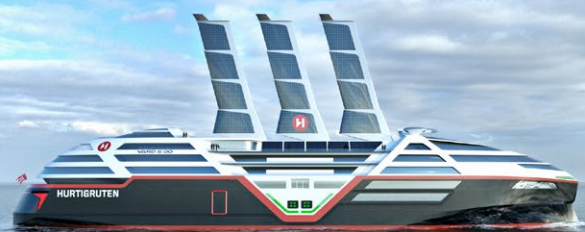
CONTRERAS Earl Architecture (CEA) has put forth a proposal for an electric air taxi terminal in Melbourne's Batman Park.

The e-mobility hub, which would replace the park's existing helipad, would be able to accommodate clean, quiet, electric air taxis, plus electric scooters, bikes, ferries, hire boats and a cafe.

The details of the proposal will be released this week at the World Air Taxi Congress in San Francisco.



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MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.637

AFTER a resilient period over the weekend, the Aussie dollar dropped back by over one cent against a surging greenback, supported by stronger US PMI data, which saw the US dollar also eye 1990 highs against the Japanese yen.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of Australia is expected to keep the interest rates at 4.1%, with the Sep inflation rate estimated to be lower than Aug.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.637
UK	£0.528
NZ	\$1.074
Euro	€0.608
Japan	¥96.21
Thailand	฿23.51
China	¥4.693
South Africa	12.18
Canada	\$0.874
Crude oil	US\$95.38

ADL disruptions

THERE will be some disruption to flights at Adelaide Airport as the hub undergoes important maintenance work on its runways and taxiways from tomorrow.

The resurfacing of the airstrips is expected to be completed by Aug 2024 and will be carried out primarily between 11pm and 6am to minimise any flight delays.

During these times the cross runway will be used on average 10 times a night and up to 15 times on a busy evening.

On track to learning



RAIL Online is currently conducting a series of information events with agents to update the trade on the cross-country rail voyages available with VIA Rail.

Already held in Brisbane and Melbourne, the sessions are being fuelled by a rapid rise in interest from Aussies in the Canadian rail service, as well as a host of new attractions added in recent months.

"Most agents are aware that the train passes through an extraordinary array of landscapes - from the Rockies' snowy peaks to Canada's prairie fields and its beautiful lake country," said Evolution Travel Collective (ETC) and Managing Director Ingrid Berthelsen, who is handling the hosting of the events.

"What they wanted to learn more about was the onboard Sleeper Plus cabin experience.

"Many attendees did not know, for instance, that Sleeper Plus passengers enjoy fully prepared hot meals on board in the train's dining car," she added.

Another growing point of

interest among agents is the network's east coast corridor between Toronto and Quebec.

All VIA Rail services can be booked 11 months prior to departure using the Rail Online platform, with prices in Aussie dollars and fully commissionable.

Rail Online's next VIA Rail seminar will be held in the nation's capital, with the dates for the event to be announced by Rail Online shortly.

Learn more about the full range of Rail Online's services **HERE**. **AB Pictured:** Agents all smiles after a recent Rail Online info session.

Japan tourism tax

HATSUKAICHI has become Japan's first municipality to introduce a levy exclusively targeted at visitors to the popular tourism region.

Thankfully the new tax won't break the bank, with the 100 yen fee equating to around A\$1.05, which has been incorporated into the boarding ticket price for ferries to the island.

Pelikin milestone

DIGITAL travel money card Pelikin has reached a significant milestone, notching up 500 affiliates since its launch.

The landmark moment represents 255% period of year-on-year growth for the business.

Agents looking to sign up for the affiliate program can do so **HERE**.

Booking.com appeals

BOOKING.COM has indicated it will fight a European Commission decision to block its planned acquisition of eTraveli.

The proposed €1.6 billion purchase of the Swedish flight tech company was denied on competition grounds, with the OTA already enjoying around 60% of the market share in Europe.

In its latest bid to make the buy a reality, Booking.com said it believes the Commission is wrong on both the facts of the case and the law applicable to the transaction, which it reiterated was "cleared unconditionally by multiple competition authorities".

Rising measles threat

SEVERAL countries are reporting an increase in measles cases, including popular travel destinations for Aussies such as Bali, Thailand and India.

DFAT is reminding travellers that nine out of 10 unvaccinated people who come into contact with the virus will contract the illness, and in severe cases can result in hospitalisation.

"Vaccination is the best prevention, two doses of the MMR vaccine gives long-lasting protection and if you're unsure... talk to your doctor," DFAT said.



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