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Crystal's suite offer

CRYSTAL has sweetened its Suite Dreams offer with a complimentary pre- and post-cruise hotel night in addition to a suite upgrade - not to mention free garment care and dry cleaning services. See **page six** for details.

QR makes capital move

AFTER several false starts, Qatar Airways will again operate daily flights from Canberra as the sixth gateway in its Australian network.

Flights to Canberra will begin in Dec 2025 at the latest, flying as an extension of one of three daily services to Melbourne, with seats going on sale next month.

The latest effort marks another attempt by the Doha-based carrier to connect to Australia's capital, after flights were last axed during the pandemic.

Qatar Airways' Boeing 777 will feature the carrier's QSuite business class alongside amenities including high-speed Starlink onboard wi-fi.

The announcement follows the launch last week (**TD** 12 Dec) of sales by partner carrier Virgin Australia on its new routes from SYD, MEL, BNE and PER to Doha on wet-leased QR aircraft.

Qatar Airways CEO Badr Mohammed Al-Meer said he was



delighted the carrier is able to serve Canberra once again.

"The nation's capital, the political heart of Australia, rightly expects to be served by a range of international airlines, and I am proud that we are able to play our part in that," Al-Meer said.

ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr said QR's return will benefit the whole Canberra region. **ML**

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of the latest travel news including a photo page from **Helloworld** plus full pages from:

- **Abercrombie and Kent**
- **China Airlines**

China Air's big bash

IN CELEBRATION of its 65th anniversary, China Airlines has launched discounted seats for Aussie travellers.

For a limited time, airfares from Sydney to Taipei are available from \$1,196 - discover more deals on the **back page**.

Wendy Wu Tours

READY. SET. TRAVEL SALE!

SAVE UP TO \$4,000 PER COUPLE

DISCOVER MORE

Qantas Christmas Giveaway

Share your story to win return flights anywhere in Australia

Do you have a heartwarming story of connection made possible by travel in 2024? We want to hear from you!

Share either your story, or one of your customers', and you could win return flights to any Qantas destination within Australia to connect with a loved one.*

*Competition closes 11:59pm (AEDT) on 17 December 2024. T&Cs apply

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Welcome aboard! 2024.12.12~12.18

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SYDNEY - OSAKA	A\$ 1,200*
SYDNEY - LONDON	A\$ 1,659*

Book by 18 Dec 2024 | Travel before 25 Oct 2025

*Terms and Conditions Apply



Urgent warning for Fiji

FIJI'S tourism sector has been rocked on the eve of the busy Christmas travel period, following news that four Australians have been poisoned by cocktails consumed at a five-star resort.

Seven tourists in total have been impacted by the incident at the Warwick Fiji Resort, with reports that four Australian women are currently in a critical condition.

In response, Smartraveller has released an updated advisory for travellers to be alert to the potential risks around drink spiking, and to seek urgent medical treatment if experiencing related symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and neurological symptoms.

Despite the urgent warning, DFAT is continuing to advise Australians to exercise normal safety precautions.

The development follows a mass poisoning of tourists in Laos only last month, an incident that killed two young Australians.

Qantas pauses PNG

FROM Feb 2025, Qantas will suspend flights between Sydney and Port Moresby as it seeks to redirect more capacity to routes with stronger demand.

Customers booked to travel on Sydney-Port Moresby flights from 03 Feb will be contacted and rebooked on Brisbane-Port Moresby services instead, or offered a full refund.

Speaking to **TD** about the incident, a spokesperson for Warwick Fiji Resort said it is taking the matter "very seriously" and is currently conducting a thorough investigation.

"We do not have conclusive details, but we are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our guests," the resort said, adding it is awaiting test results from local authorities. **AB**

AA, Sabre still on

AMERICAN Airlines has extended its long-standing partnership with Sabre, signing a multi-year contract renewal.

The deal will see AA leverage the SabreSonic Passenger Service System (PSS) to help enhance the traveller experience.

In addition to renewing the SabreSonic agreement, AA has extended its subscription with Sabre PRISM, a corporate travel contract management solution.

MEANWHILE, AA and Sabre have ended a 13-year long lawsuit, in which the tech company was sued in 2011 by US Airways, which later merged with AA, for allegedly charging excessive fees and harming competition in the market.

The pair have reached a tentative settlement after the airline's fight to recover more than US\$139 million in legal fees after winning just \$1 in damages at a 2022 trial (**TD** 23 May 2022).

Private jet preview

FOUR around-the-world itineraries will headline the Private Jet Journeys collection by Abercrombie & Kent in 2026, with the luxury tour operator pulling back the curtain for a sneak peek.

One of the adventures will be hosted by company founder Geoffrey Kent, with each to take travellers to far-flung, often lesser visited corners of the globe.

Private jet departures have been scheduled for 04-28 Feb; 01-26 May; 28 Aug-19 Sep and 02-25 Oct, the latter hosted by Kent.

Each journey takes place aboard A&K's Boeing 757, which features 48 first class lie-flat seats and a range of luxurious amenities.

Travellers on each itinerary can enjoy 'design your day' activities in each city, including visiting preserved ruins, private shopping excursions, local cooking schools, watersports, spa treatments and even viewing TV show sets.

Each itinerary includes the services of a dedicated tour guide, photographer, an onboard physician, luggage manager and executive chef in addition to local resident guides.



Pay day for QF crew

QANTAS cabin crew workers in the United Kingdom will receive a double-digit pay rise, secured by UK union Unite after nine months of negotiations.

The 550 workers who fly out of Heathrow Terminal 3 will receive pay increases of between 11-18%, back-dated to Jul, after the employees argued they were unable to keep up with the cost-of-living crisis due to being tied to a four-year pay deal.

Window Seat

FORGET the chimney, Santa has decided abseiling is a more expedient way of delivering presents to kids.

Taking on the role of Father Christmas, high-rise window cleaning entrepreneur Edvaldo Godoy of Updown and his 'elves' abseiled down the face of the Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour to spread festive cheer (and hand out gifts) to excited children from the Royal Far West charity.



Our resolution for 2025

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SALES DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Rocky Mountaineer is seeking an experienced travel professional to join the AUNZ team as a Sales Development Manager.

The successful candidate will be responsible for driving and maximizing revenue potential with the retail partners in their region.

This role is open to applicants in Sydney or Melbourne.



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

For more details and to apply please click [here](#)
Applications close 5th January, 2025.

Travel Puglia eyes Aussies

EXCLUSIVE

AUSTRALIA is set to be a greater market focus for Italian tour specialist Travel Puglia, with one of its founders returning from Italy to spearhead growth.

Monique Fabris, who created the company with Andrea Farina, is now based in Melbourne to run local operations, where she will look to grow trade partnerships, opportunities for preferred supplier deals, and cross promotions with other like-minded Italian businesses.

Puglia is a less-travelled region of Italy located in the heel of country's famous boot, with Travel Puglia specialising in small group tours (capped at 12 people) with an emphasis on authenticity

Oceania rings in '25

OCEANIA Cruises is offering a four-category stateroom upgrade for travellers who book a 2025 or 2026 voyage before 31 Jan, offering guests up to \$8,300 in additional value.

The New Year Sale is applicable to more than 100 global sailings, and also includes the option to choose from a premium drinks package or a shipboard credit of up to US\$1,000 per stateroom.

Find out more [HERE](#).

Globus portal is live

AGENTS can now access a new globally integrated travel advisor portal from Globus family of brands after the system was switched on this morning.

The new portal (**TD** 09 Oct) offers a heavily redesigned booking interface for Globus, Cosmos and Avalon Waterways alongside a new marketing tool for agents to create custom material for clients.

Agents can also create custom itinerary links for clients that automatically direct them back to advisors to complete bookings.

Registration and training videos for the portal are available now.

and culture.

The company's selling points include being based in one hotel/resort for the duration of trips, allowing guests to relax and enjoy the trip and not worry about constant packing and unpacking.

Personal touches are another important point-of-difference, with either Fabris or business partner Farina accompanying guests on most tours.

When founders are not on the trips, all guides are Puglia locals who have a deep knowledge of hand-picked experiences, such as cooking and olive oil experiences.

Travel Puglia is currently offering savings of \$300pp when spots on 2025 tours are reserved by 20 Dec - more details [HERE](#).

For more details on individual itineraries, see [HERE](#).

Fabris also operates Tours of Tuscany with her mum. *AB*

Capella takes on '25

CAPELLA Hotel Group has partnered with architects and designers to open four properties next year, as part of its strategic expansion plans for 2025.

The growth includes Capella properties in Taipei, Macau, and Kyoto, along with a Patina property in Osaka, with each aiming to showcase cultural authenticity through design.

President of Capella Hotel Group, Cristiano Rinaldi, said, "each Capella property is inspired by the soul of its destination".

The first property, the 86-key Capella Taipei, will open in Q1 2025, followed by 93-key Capella at Galaxy Macau and 221-key Patina Osaka in Q2, then 89-key Capella Kyoto in Q4.

The additions will see the hospitality group's portfolio expand from eight properties to 12 by the end of next year, with plans to double its portfolio by 2030 with a branded residential development in Seoul, as well as Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and China.

SECRETS OF IRELAND



TOURISM IRELAND'S 2024 Roadshow concluded recently where they were joined by 11 industry reps from Ireland, including DMCs, hoteliers and experience providers, and visited Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland.

Themed 'Secrets of Ireland', the four city Roadshow acted as an opportunity for travel advisers to explore Ireland's diverse offerings and discover new experiences to help them create unforgettable itineraries to the island of Ireland for their clients.

Ireland really is more than just a destination, it's a feeling. Visit Ireland.com for more.

Top: Travel Agents at Sydney's National Maritime Museum.

Middle: Industry from Ireland and Tourism Ireland joined by Allison Neech (Globus family of brands) and Narelle Riley (Collette Tours).

Bottom: Dean Cleaver (Emirates), Alison Metcalfe (Tourism Ireland), Tim Mawe (Irish Ambassador), Sofia Hansson (Tourism Ireland) and Michelle Mickan (Abercrombie & Kent).



Famil IN FOCUS is our feature showcasing some of the photos from recent industry famils. If you want your famil to be featured, email advertising@traveldaily.com.au

WSI hunting for recruits

AS PART of its efforts integrating with local universities and training institutions, Western Sydney Int'l Airport's Experience Centre hosted a briefing to share updates on its skills and job needs ahead of its 2026 opening.

In attendance were industry representatives from the Australian Travel Careers Council (ATCC), Helloworld Business Travel, The Travel Corporation, Rediscover Travel Group, TIME, Institute of Australian Tour Guides, NSW Tourism Association and Caravan & Camping NSW.

Hosted by WSI Employment Pathway Specialist Oggie Bosnjak, sessions were robust and interactive, with questions coming thick and fast from TAFE NSW and the NSW Department



of Education on how WSI aims to achieve its employment needs.

Sydney's highly anticipated new airport recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Western Sydney University to boost training, education and job opportunities along with internships and graduate roles. *ML*

ATCC CEO Rick Myatt is pictured above at the WSI Experience Centre with Celia Ho, The Travel Corporation; Kellie Stanbury, Helloworld; Jenny Lorkin, Avis Budget Group; and Lori Modde, NSW Tourism Association.

Brand USA refreshed

DESTINATION DC CEO Elliott Ferguson has been elected to the Chairmanship of the Brand USA Board for a one-year term as part of the organisation's regular leadership shuffle for 2025.

Ferguson has been on the board since 2022, and most recently served as Brand USA Treasurer.

For 2025, he will be supported by Upward Projects CEO Lauren Bailey as Vice Chair; Esposito Global Partners Principal Kirsten Esposito as Treasurer; and Orr Immigration Law Firm Founder Allan Orr as Secretary.

Each of the board's 11 directors is eligible to serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms.

Two new directors joining the board include Hilton Americas President Danny Hughes and Princess Cruises President, Gus Antorcha, the latter for one year to fill the remaining term of departing member, Don Moore.

"My priorities align with Brand USA's mission to welcome the world to the US and generate incremental economic development," Ferguson said.

Cheers to the right choice



MEMBER-OWNED agency network Travellers Choice has inducted two new shareholders - one in Brisbane and one in Perth - into its growing network.

In Brisbane, the group has welcomed Lindy Goodwin, owner of Oh Travel Co, an agency based on the edge of the state border with NSW.

Goodwin purchased Oh Travel Co three years ago and said she was attracted to Travellers Choice by the freedom of being able to operate independently.

"When I need support, I want to be able to call on a business development manager who knows me, understands the unique needs of my business, and responds quickly," Goodwin said.

On the other side of the country, Travellers Choice has also opened the door for Isabelle Chu, owner of Bonaventure Travel.

Chu said she developed a bond with Travellers Choice after seeing how caring they were to members during the pandemic.

"I approached Travellers Choice because I decided that if I was going to contribute to a retail group's success, I wanted to be part of an organisation that recognises and values that contribution," Chu said.

Travellers Choice BDM Paul Millan said the latest development is a great end to the year, which also began with new members (*TD* 13 Feb).

"New arrivals have also



embraced all of our flexible membership solutions - Activate, Elevate and Accelerate - which offer different levels of business services and financial benefits in line with each member's specific needs," Millan said. *ML*

Goodwin is pictured above left with Oh Travel Co colleague and twin sister, Sherry Gibson; while inset, Chu is pictured second from left with Travellers Choice General Manager Sales, Nicola Strudwick and colleagues Aaron Rear and Brian Conway.

Records fall at Stuba

TRADE-ONLY accommodation specialist Stuba enjoyed a particularly lucrative Black Friday on 29 Nov, reporting sales up 31% when compared to the prior year.

Destinations that enjoyed the strongest growth included the USA (+46%) and Greece (+30%), while Japan skyrocketed by 348%.

Stuba Head of Sales APAC Rebecca Day said the company is thrilled with the result.

"The sales figures we saw were reflective of what we normally see during the peak selling period, which is phenomenal," Day enthused.



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and Aviation Industry
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The 2024 Helloworld Travel Frontliners Forum wraps up in style in Singapore

THANKS to Singapore Airlines and the Singapore Tourism Board, more than 500 attendees from across the Helloworld branded and associate networks joined valued supplier partners for four days of conferencing, insightful content and events.

These included My Travel Group and Magellan, as well as a stand-alone event for Helloworld Business Travel, across Singapore.



THE HWBT Conference group at Raffles.



NICK Sutherland, HLO; MC and Australian Paralympian Kelly Cartwright; and Andrew Burnes, HLO.



NICK Sutherland, HLO; Ashley Hansen, Marriott Bonvoy; Oliver Chong, Singapore Tourism Board; and Michael Kirkby, Singapore Airlines.



KELLIE Stanbury, HWBT; Peter Williams, PHT Corporate; Mark O'Shaughnessy Travelport; and Belinda Murphy, Cover-More.

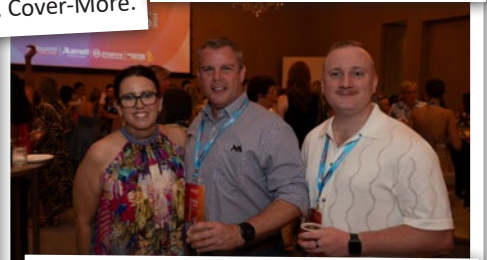


JEN Waters and Sue McGrath from HLO Lane Cove.

TOP, right and bottom: The 2024 Frontliners Gala Dinner.



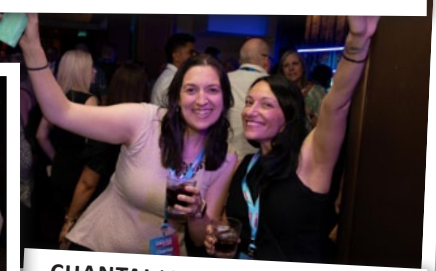
DIANA Mufic, Rohan Moss, and Jacqueline Poulos, Air Tickets.



LOUISE Dann, HTG with Craig Spiga and Cam Marsh from Imagine Holidays.



BROOKE and Bridie Clarke from HLO Berwick with Rosa and Greg Luff from HLO Cobram.



CHANTAL Vavasour and Alyce Muscat from HLO Stanhope Gardens.

BROCHURES

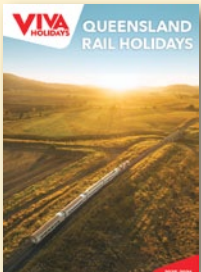
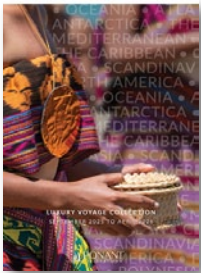
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THIS week's Brochures of the Week is brought to you by
Ponant.



Ponant - Luxury Voyage Collection 2025-26

Set sail with Ponant from Sep 2025 to Apr 2026 to some of the most captivating destinations in the world. From once-in-a-lifetime voyages to Antarctica, to exploring the hidden gems of Northern Europe, the sun-soaked Canary Islands or the allure of Papua New Guinea, the cruise line's new 116-page brochure gives travellers all the details on the brand's upcoming itineraries. For ease of navigation, the guide is divided by regions and includes an itinerary calendar. Readers will also discover 10 reasons to sail with Ponant, from its high-level expertise to its modern fleet, with exclusive savings and immersive experiences tailored for your clients. To peruse the new brochure, [CLICK HERE](#).



Viva Holidays - Queensland Rail Holidays 2025-26

Viva Holidays has released its 2025/26 Queensland Rail Holidays brochure to showcase its rail holidays across Queensland. From journeys along the coastline to the heart of the outback, travelling by train through Queensland provides the opportunity to enjoy the passing scenery in comfort and make new friends along the way. New packages for 2025/26 include the eight-day 'Great Southwestern Adventure' and the six-day 'Outback Whistle Stop Longreach' packages. Past favourites are back too, including the fully escorted 'Ultimate Outback Queensland Adventure' tour.



Aurora Expeditions - Antarctica 2025-2027

Featuring 27 unique voyages ranging from nine to 34 days, Aurora Expeditions has unveiled the brochure for its new season. The itineraries sail aboard the brand's three state-of-the-art, purpose-built expedition vessels, *Greg Mortimer*, *Sylvia Earle* and the brand-new *Douglas Mawson*. Readers will discover new special expeditions exclusively for women, photography enthusiasts, and two trips in partnership with New Scientist Discovery, as well as the best-selling 'Spirit of Antarctica' and 'South Georgia, Falklands & Antarctic Odyssey' itineraries.

Tennessee is Tenne-believin



NINE of Flight Centre's top-selling Aussie agents tuned into the sounds of the south recently during a musical famil journey to the Tennessee cities of Nashville and Memphis.

The trip was jointly hosted by Memphis Tourism, Nashville CVB and the Tennessee Department of Tourism Development, with flights provided by Delta Air Lines.

Festivities began immediately after landing in Los Angeles on Delta's daily service from Sydney, with the group enjoying a tour of the Delta Sky Club and the new Delta One Lounge before hopping on a flight to Nashville.

Highlights of the group's time in Music City included a visit to the Grand Ole Opry, RCA Studio B, the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Johnny Cash Museum and the Neon Neighbourhood, where the group enjoyed some original tunes with local songwriters at The Listening Cafe.

While in Nashville, the group stayed at Tempo by Hilton Nashville Downtown.

Memphis was next on the hit parade, travelling between the two via luxury Vonlane coach on

its regular three-hour connection.

Over four days in the Home of Blues and Soul, the group visited Elvis Presley's Graceland Museum, the National Civil Rights Museum, the Rock'n'Soul Museum, Blues Hall of Fame and the iconic Sun Studio.

Other highlights included time on Beale Street, a sip-and-paint experience of the Mississippi River and watching the daily duck march at the Peabody Hotel. **ML**

Pictured on Beale Street in Memphis, the group comprised Tim Ellis, Flight Centre Beenleigh; Lisa Bond, Travelwise; Chris Ingram, Memphis Tourism; Melissa Armstrong, Flight Centre Menai; Lily Henderson, Flight Centre Warringah Mall; Aaron Constantinou, Flight Centre Business Travel Sydney + NSW West; Tina Gane, Flight Centre The Pines Elanora; Matt Holden, Flight Centre Broadway; Laura Halton, Flight Centre Miranda; Nicole Laurie, Delta Air Lines; Brendan Cascarino, FC Macarthur Square; Talsha Sims, Memphis Tourism; Emma Hampton, Memphis Tourism; and Lisa Catron, Memphis Tourism.

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