

Silversea's rich offer

SILVERSEA is currently highlighting its richest-ever offer, which gives cruisers the chance to enjoy an impressive \$6,000 worth of savings per suite until the end of Feb, as well as a 15% refundable reduced deposit.

For all of the details on the generous deal, see [page six](#).

QR pumps up privileges

QATAR Airways has launched a new platform for Privilege Club members, giving them access to exclusive events and experiences.

The Privilege Club Collection allows the carrier's members to spend their Avios on a selection of curated packages, including VIP concert and sports experiences, such as pitch-side tickets to Paris Saint-Germain soccer matches.

"Our vision for Privilege Club is to build a loyalty proposition which offers value and inspires our members," a spokesperson for the airline said.

The new offering is "the latest evolution of our member-centric approach", the carrier added,

saying it "not only boosts Avios spending opportunities, but also offers exceptional once-in-a-lifetime experiences".

The Privilege Club also gives members the option to buy Avios, as well as earn the reward currency when using their co-branded payment cards or when linking payment cards to their Privilege Club account to spend when shopping in-store and online with Qatar's partners.

More information about the new platform, which boasts a wide range of partners across the banking and financial sectors, hotels, car rentals, retail and lifestyle segments, is now available to access on Qatar Airways' website [HERE](#). *JM*

Carriers pass checks

A **DIRECTIVE** from Boeing to airlines to check all B737 MAX aircraft for a possible safety flaw has seen Virgin Australia and Bonza carry out cautionary checks, with both Aussie carriers confirming there will be no interruptions to the scheduling.

The confirmation arrives as Turkish Airlines decided to ground five of its B737 MAX-9 aircraft following Alaska Airlines' mid-air door blowout (**TD** 08 Jan).

No B737 MAX aircraft currently service Australia, however Virgin Australia does have a firm order for five B737 MAX-10s, with an expected delivery from late 2025, and it is unclear if the fallout over the MAX-9 model will impact the Aussie airline's future plans.

Aussie data breach

AUSSIE tour operator Inspiring Vacations has reportedly had the details of some clients exposed online through a data breach.

The Melbourne-based company has acknowledged the incident and is now investigating.

An initial claim of the compromised data at the company was made by Ukrainian blogger Jeremiah Fowler.

Today's issue of TD

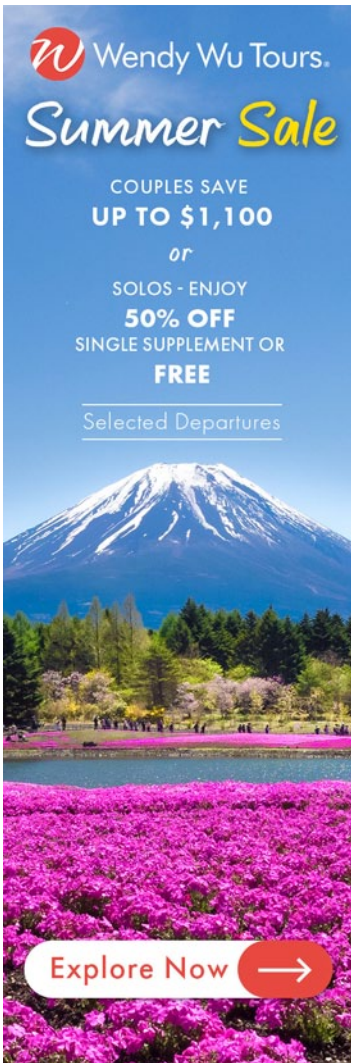
Travel Daily today features five pages of news including our **Sustainability** page, plus full pages from:

- Silversea
- A Force for Good Hub

Tix are running out

WITH over 500 tickets already sold, now is the time to secure a spot for the upcoming A Force for Good event before it's too late.

The game-changing event will feature an impressive line-up of 20 inspirational speakers, as well as 10 keynotes - see the full details of the event on [p7](#).



Wendy Wu Tours.
Summer Sale

COUPLES SAVE
UP TO \$1,100

or

SOLOS - ENJOY
50% OFF
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT OR
FREE

Selected Departures

[Explore Now](#) →



SAVE UP TO \$3,770*
ON SELECT WORLDWIDE TRIPS

BIG SOCIAL TRAVEL SALE

LET'S TRAVEL

contiki
TRAVEL. TOGETHER.

AIR NEW ZEALAND

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

What will their stories be in 2024?

Plan your customer's next adventure with flights to New Zealand and North America on sale now!

For more information, visit airnzagent.com.au
Refer to your GDS for sale dates, travel periods and T&Cs

AIR NEW ZEALAND

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Travel Daily
SHARPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON MONACO WITH TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY
[Click here to discover](#)



SAA to restart PER in Apr

SOUTH African Airways (SAA) has confirmed the return of its Perth-Johannesburg service, with bookings now open ahead of its revealed launch date on 24 Apr.

The flights, which were first hinted at late last year (**TD** 07 Dec 2023), will operate three times a week, with the carrier to initially deploy an Airbus A340-300 on the route, providing a total seat capacity of 253 passengers.

SAA Chief Executive Officer, John Lamola, said the service aligns with the carrier's strategic plans to provide South Africa with a greater amount of long-haul intercontinental air connectivity.

"Besides the global interconnectivity potential of this route, Perth has long been a favoured destination for South African and Australian travellers, with approximately 80% of our target market being visiting family and friends," he said.

"The recommencement of



the route provides an easier and direct passage for both leisure and business travellers, promoting trade and cultural exchange between South Africa and Australia."

Lamola went on to highlight that Perth is an important piece of the puzzle when it comes to SAA's ambition of becoming a leader in the global aviation sector, and "gives us confidence that our vision of expanding our footprint to over 20 destinations this year will be realised".

The Perth service marks the second interoceanic route the airline has restarted within the last six months, following the launch of Sao Paulo, Brazil route in Oct 2023. *JM*

Jetstar scraps update

JETSTAR has confirmed it is not planning to proceed with an update to its A320 fleet, which would have made the jets quieter on take off and landing.

"We have completed a detailed assessment of fitting vortex generators to our existing A320 fleet which weighs up the cost of installation, the impact to our flight schedule of taking aircraft out of service to complete the work, and the extent of the benefits - which are very limited," Jetstar told **Travel Daily**.

If the move had gone ahead it would have pleased a cohort of Brisbane residents who have been complaining about noise pollution in the surrounding suburbs of Brisbane Airport.

Instead, Jetstar said it will focus on updating its fleet with more fuel-efficient and quieter A321neo LR (NEO) aircraft.

The carrier said that a quarter of all JQ flights to/from BNE will be operated by a NEO this year.

Air NZ is on sale

AIR New Zealand is ringing in 2024 with its New Year Sale, with flights from Sydney to Auckland as little as \$257 one-way.

Meanwhile, flights to the United States via Auckland lead in at \$1,299 from Sydney to Los Angeles, \$1,399 from Sydney to San Francisco, and \$1,444 from Melbourne to Los Angeles.

The sale starts today, and ends on 12 Jan for NZ destinations, and 17 Jan for American destinations.

New CLIA showcase

NINE new cruise ships for 2024 will be showcased in a new online education series for travel agents hosted next month by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia.

The 2024 Ocean Debut Virtual Showcase, which will run from 05-08 Feb, will offer new opportunities for cruise specialists and new choices for cruise guests - more details **HERE**.

Award-winning Service

Return Flights Included

No Hidden Extras

Special Local Experiences

Tips Included

Explore Asia

WITH THE SMALL GROUP TOURING SPECIALIST

MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE

20

5-STANS • CAMBODIA • INDIA • JAPAN • SOUTH KOREA • SRI LANKA • VIETNAM



Travel Daily
Learn more about
Italy with Travel Daily
Training Academy

[Click here to discover](#)

AI-UK merger by '25

THE long-mooted Air India-Vistara merger (**TD** 08 Mar) is likely to be completed by mid-2025, according to the latter airline's CEO Vinod Kannan.

Vistara is hoping to receive the necessary regulatory clearances required for the merger with Air India in the first half of this year, *The Hindu* has reported, after the two airlines' parent company, Tata Group, confirmed the move in early 2023.

The regulatory clearances include a tick from the Competition Commission of India, the National Law Company Tribunal, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Department of Industry & Internal Trade.

SL's strong rebound

SRI Lanka's tourism sector is rebounding well, with the country well on target to achieve the ambitious mark it set for this year of 2.3 million arrivals.

Priantha Fernando, Chair of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, told local media the country has targeted China as a key source market, launching a new program which it hopes will reel in one million visitors from the Asian nation by next year.

The strong start to 2024 is particularly pleasing for Sri Lanka after last year falling short of its target of 1.5 million arrivals.

Australia was one of the top-five source markets for Sri Lanka last year, joining China, Russia, the United Kingdom, and Germany.

Seniors resist AI planning

OLDER Australian travellers remain extremely reticent about using artificial intelligence to plan their holidays, with new figures from Compare the Market showing Baby Boomers trail other generations by a large margin.

While the hype around AI's ability to personalise holiday itineraries has been strong, only 7.4% of senior travellers indicated they would be happy to trust AI to do a good job of it.

The number was well behind other younger generations, with trust of the emerging technology clearly increasing in line with the younger age of travellers.

Compare the Market surveyed 1,002 Australian adults over the age of 18 and found 14.5% of Generation X trusted AI, while Millennials had more faith (21.7%) and Generation Z was at the top with 22% of respondents.

But perhaps there is scope for Baby Boomers to change their minds however, with the study also pointing out the older demographic had the highest proportion of fence-sitters, with close to a third still unsure as to the usefulness of AI.

3K Inks mag deal

JETSTAR Asia will reintroduce its in-flight magazine after signing a new deal with Ink Global.

The collaboration will offer brands the opportunity to connect with travellers through several media touchpoints.



Overall, the report found that 57.6% of the population remain steadfast in refusing to use AI to plan holidays, while 15.3% have embraced it and around 27% of Aussies are still undecided.

The platform with the biggest public profile is OpenAI and Microsoft's ChatGPT generative AI search engine, which has come under fire in recent weeks for allegedly breaching copyright laws in the US when training its impressive algorithm. *AB*

Italy travel delays

FLYERS in Italy are facing disruption, as airport staff launched strike action this week.

Mon (CET) saw a 24-hour nationwide strike by airport security staff and baggage handlers, which affected major hubs such as Milan Malpensa and Linate in Milan, Venice Marco Polo and Treviso Airport in Venice, Leonardo da Vinci - Fiumicino in Rome, and Florence Airport in Florence.

Italian flag carrier ITA Airways cancelled 20 domestic flights in anticipation of the strike.

Labour unions in Italy representing the workers are demanding improved compensation and conditions.



Window Seat

AN AMERICAN Airlines pilot has been praised after going above and beyond last week at Key West International Airport in Florida.

The dedicated pilot was filmed leaving the cockpit to go down to the tarmac and help crew, who may have been short-staffed, load luggage onto the Embraer 175 he was flying.

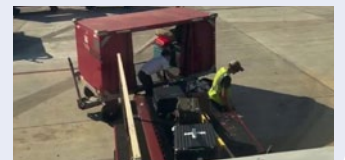
One of the passengers, Robert Idell, filmed the good deed from his seat on the plane, and posted the footage on X, where he wrote, "this pilot needs a raise and recognition."

"He was helping load bags to help everyone with their connections," Idell added.

The flight made it to Miami 30 minutes later than its scheduled arrival - a delay that may have been longer if it weren't for the captain's willingness to pitch in beyond his duties to get the plane loaded and ready.

American Airlines responded to the post, saying, "we love to hear when our #AAteam is going above and beyond to assist our customers.

"We'll make sure to recognise this fine performance."



WE ARE LOOKING FOR DYNAMIC MENTEES

TIME is a Career Advancement Path for all Employees in Travel, Tourism, Hospitality, Cruise and Aviation Industry including Regional, and Rural Areas across Australia

- Further develop your management and leadership potential
- Strategic career planning & access to new networks
- Develop confidence and networking opportunities
- Increase your knowledge of organisational culture, and processes

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT - www.travelindustrymentor.com.au



GE milestone

GE AEROSPACE has marked a new milestone in its Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) testing efforts to support the aviation industry's goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The American aerospace company has now completed trials on its 10th engine model using 100% SAF, and will next go from engine system testing to engine component and sub-component level evaluations.

The trials will determine how a range of SAF types produced from different pathways impact engine operability, efficiency, durability and emissions.

"These tests demonstrate that we are leading and prepared to support our customers to operate on SAF," GE Aerospace VP Engineering, Mohamed Ali, said.

"We're proud of doing the hard work to better understand the impact of different emissions on the environment and using science to guide the technology we are developing to invent the future of flight."

GE Aerospace has multiple demonstrations in progress, and is an inaugural investor in the United Airlines Ventures Sustainable Flight Fund, which aims to increase the overall supply of SAF.

GTI SECURES COVETED B CORP APPROVAL

TRAVEL and tourism PR and marketing agency GTI has become B Corp certified, an endorsement the company said demonstrates its commitment to the wellbeing of its people and the planet.

"The tourism industry can be at the front line of combating climate change, supporting communities and regenerating the natural environment - this is integral to GTI's values and something we hope the tourism industry will embrace and work to achieve in 2024," GTI Managing Director Sarah Anderson said.

"Becoming a certified B Corp takes real commitment and work, you need to undertake a B Impact Assessment and make a legal commitment to ensure accountability to all stakeholders, from communities and customers to employees and the environment.



"We are so proud to be able to call ourselves a B Corp and we intend to use our certification to encourage others to commit themselves in the same way to change," she added.

Last year, GTI secured a slew of new clients, including Travel Texas, Santa Monica

Travel & Tourism, and Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp.

Pictured in Sydney are: Caroline Potts, Sales & Marketing Account Manager; Sarah Anderson, MD; Savannah Fielder, PR Senior Account Director; & Kerrin Trenorden, Sales & Marketing Account Director. *AB*

Krabi's green tick

EARTHCHECK has awarded its first Silver Certification to a hotel in Krabi, Thailand, recognising Banyan Tree Krabi for its sustainable and environmental practices.

The resort, which offers eco-friendly and cultural activities to guests and organises beach clean-up campaigns, has made huge strides towards reducing its energy consumption.

Gatwick electric

TRAVELLERS who are visiting London Gatwick Airport can now take advantage of a dedicated electric vehicle (EV) charging station, which is backed by 100% net zero energy.

The Electric Forecourt offers 30 high-power and low-power chargers available via contactless payment, plus wi-fi, a lounge area, a coffee shop and convenience store.

Novotel Cairns

NOVOTEL Cairns Oasis Resort has become the first resort in North Queensland to achieve Ecotourism Australia's Sustainable Tourism Certification.

The resort joins five other Accor properties that have also attained the green credentials, and helps solidify North Queensland's reputation as a sustainable nature destination.

Connect with your clients and ramp up your social media content

Looking for ready-made social media content? *Travel & Cruise Weekly* have ready made agent toolkits featuring email signatures, images, and social media tiles to inspire your clients.

Travel & Cruise
Weekly

[CLICK HERE](#)

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.672

THE Australian dollar has rebounded after rallying from multi-week lows against the US dollar, aided by strong American share performances fuelled by surging consumer demand over the Xmas break.

However, the Aussie has fared less well against other key global markets, dipping over one cent against the British pound and nearly a cent against the Chinese yuan.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.672
UK	£0.527
NZ	\$1.075
Euro	€0.614
Japan	¥96.92
Thailand	฿23.46
China	¥4.795
South Africa	12.50
Canada	\$0.897
Crude oil	US\$78.76

Savute Safari Lodge

SAVUTE Safari Lodge in Botswana is set to reopen on 01 Jun after undergoing a complete rebuild in order to provide an enhanced level of luxury.

The property, part of Desert & Delta Safaris' portfolio, now offers larger rooms featuring a combination of natural thatching and canvas, as well as private outdoor showers, a revamped communal space with a central fireplace, and a new viewing hide added to the main area.

Mandarin squeezes Hungary



THE historic Gellert Hotel in Budapest will reopen in 2027 after undergoing a rebrand, becoming Mandarin Oriental's first property in Hungary.

Following an extensive renovation, Mandarin Oriental Gellert, Budapest will feature 143 guestrooms and suites boasting an Art Nouveau design, as well as a spa that combines the group's renowned Asian-inspired therapies with treatments that pay homage to Hungary's bathing and spa traditions.

Situated on the Buda side of Hungary's capital, close to the Liberty Bridge, the hotel will also offer an indoor-outdoor specialty restaurant, as well as a patisserie and cafe where both locals and visitors can gather.

Guests will also be able to make use of a fitness studio, an indoor pool, a rooftop bar with sweeping views of the city and the Danube River, along with a spacious, fully restored ballroom. *MW*

Mischief managed?

A PETITION on Change.org is calling for the relocation of Victoria's 'Harry Potter: A Forbidden Forest Experience'.

The petition suggests the planned host, Briars Wildlife Sanctuary on the Mornington Peninsula, is not a suitable host, as the experience is not conducive to the facility's mission of protecting its fauna.

"Our local animals should feel safe here without human interference...however, with thousands of people expected to walk through this sanctuary for hours every night during this event, we can anticipate a serious environmental impact," the petition reads.

'A Forbidden Forest Experience', which commences from Apr, boasts of "a nighttime woodland trail experience filled with magical creatures and wizarding wonders from the *Harry Potter* and *Fantastic Beasts* films".

New Parafield plan

PARAFIELD Airport has published its latest Master Plan document, which forecasts a growth in employment at the facility, located in the northern suburbs of Adelaide.

Direct and induced employment at the airport is expected to grow more than 150% from 2022 to 2043, with contribution to South Australia's gross state product expected to reach \$700 million.

The plan has otherwise not changed significantly from the previous issue in 2017, with Parafield to ensure existing runways provide sufficient capacity up to and beyond the 20-year planning horizon.

UA has a screw loose

UNITED Airlines has found loose bolts on multiple Boeing 737 MAX-9 aircraft.

The insecure screws were found on at least five panels which were inspected, and were among a number of "installation issues", according to media reports.

The MAX-9 has been grounded in the United States since a panel blew off an Alaska Airlines flight on the weekend (*TD* yesterday).

United said the findings will be remedied by its tech team to return the aircraft to service.

Seabourn connects

SEABOURN has now completed the rollout of next-generation wi-fi connectivity with SpaceX's Starlink across its entire fleet.

Now available on the cruise line's two new purpose-built ultra-luxury expedition ships, *Seabourn Venture* and *Seabourn Pursuit*, as well as its four ocean ships, the upgraded satellite technology offers Seabourn guests faster service and more reliable connectivity.

\$6,000 Reasons to Sail with Silversea

OUR RICHEST OFFER EVER

LIMITED-TIME OFFER

- SAVE \$6,000 PER SUITE
- 15% REDUCED DEPOSIT
- ALL-INCLUSIVE VOYAGES
- INTIMATE LUXURY SHIPS

For some, it's seeing the authentic beauty of the world. For others, it's indulging in unparalleled luxury on board. There are thousands of reasons for sailing with Silversea. From now until the end of February your clients will enjoy **\$6,000 savings on Door-to-Door All-Inclusive fares, or \$3,000 per guest**, with a **15% refundable reduced deposit** best of all. With this in mind, we invite your clients to explore with us on a global collection of voyages from January 2024 through April 2026.

To take advantage of this limited-time offer, **book your client's suite with our Door-to-Door All-Inclusive fares by 29 February 2024.**

OUR ALL-INCLUSIVE DOOR-TO-DOOR FARES INCLUDE:

- Private executive transfers (between home and airport)
- Economy Class Air/Business Class upgrades at reduced rates or Air Credit
- Shore excursions (one per port, per day)
- Butler service in every suite category
- Premium beverages in-suite and throughout the ship
- Multiple restaurants serving diverse cuisine and an in-suite 24-hour dining service
- Unlimited Wi-Fi
- Onboard gratuities



Learn more about this offer



Place your camera in front of the QR Code and follow the link.
For some smartphones a QR Reader would be needed.

**CONTACT YOUR SILVERSEA SALES MANAGER OR RESERVATIONS
ON +61 2 9255 0600 | SILVERSEA.COM/TRADE**

A FORCE [≈]
FOR GOOD
hub

women



leaders

08.
MARCH
2024
11.
2024

When the industry comes together to inspire greatness on International Women's Day, glean wisdom from trailblazing leaders. Together, let's shift the needle for equality, diversity, and inclusion. Be the change you want to see in the world—Be A Force For Good.

DISCOVER MORE

www.aforceforgoodhub.com

Sydney - 8th March 2024 - Dockside Cocklebay, 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Auckland, New Zealand - 11th March 2024 - 8:00 AM- 5:30 PM