



Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest travel industry news.

New ATEC talents

THIRTY new emerging leaders of Australia's export tourism sector have begun their professional journey through the Australian Tourism Export Council's (ATEC) ELITE program.

The Emerging Leaders of Inbound Tourism Excellence course comprises six intensive development modules coupled with individual and group coaching from industry leaders.

The latest crop marks the largest group since the program began in 2015, with students coming from all Australian states and territories.

"ELITE continues to be a cornerstone of ATEC's commitment to strengthening and supporting the growth of future leaders in the tourism industry," said ATEC MD Peter Shelley.

Liz fits like a Glover at AW

EXCLUSIVE

ADVENTURE World has snared the services of experienced travel and cruise executive Liz Glover, with the former News Corp GM of Travel Industry Partnerships now in its Head of Marketing role.

The Travel Corporation's marquee sustainability-focused brand told *Travel Daily* that Glover's experience in delivering responsible travel messaging was key to her recruitment.

"[Glover's] proven track record in leading successful marketing campaigns, coupled with her two decades of experience within the travel industry, will be invaluable as we expand our reach and solidify our position as a leader in sustainable travel," Adventure World MD, Neil Rodgers, said.

The operator added that Glover's "passion for fostering meaningful travel experiences that minimise environmental impact" will line up well with



Adventure World's core mission.

Reflecting on her new position, Glover enthused that she is joining the company at a "pivotal moment" in its history.

"The opportunity to champion sustainable travel experiences that empower travellers to explore the world responsibly aligns perfectly with my values."

Before joining News Corp in Jan 2023, Glover was Silversea's Director of Marketing Asia Pacific for close to three years, and before that had spent more than a decade with Scenic in a variety of senior marketing roles. *AB*

Travel Daily
ON LOCATION



ORLANDO

Today's issue of *Travel Daily* is coming to you courtesy of Royal Caribbean.

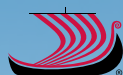
IT'S been a jam-packed 72 hours for *Travel Daily*.

Starting with a one-hour pre-flight luxury facial at La Prairie in Sydney, we then boarded a flight bound for Orlando.

We promptly attempted to recover from jet lag by visiting Universal Studios and Disney World in quick succession.

Today, we are about to board a shakedown cruise on Royal Caribbean's magnificent *Utopia of the Seas*.

Last week, *All About That Bass* singer Meghan Trainor was announced as godmother, and we're happy to confirm she will be joining us on the cruise.



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Japan trips spike in May

THE love for Japan from Aussies was especially evident in May, with the latest report from ABS showing the destination enjoyed a significant year-on-year bump.

Close to 60,000 Australian residents took a short-term trip to Japan, nearly double the volume in May 2023, which saw just 34,450 make the journey.

The number of Aussies flocking to the popular Asian market was also well ahead of pre-pandemic levels, which in 2019 saw around 42,000 people make the trip.

ABS data arrives against the backdrop of several reports showing increased appetite for Japan this year, including a JNTO study that found there had been a 46% rise in Q1 alone.

There looks likely to be more attractions in Japan to enjoy in the coming years as well, with Disney only last week confirming plans

Mega casino talks

PLANS to create a joint venture under which both The Star and Crown Sydney would combine their respective Sydney casino operations have been revealed.

According to *The Australian*, talks took place between the two casino operators to merge various assets into a combined entity and operate both sites and split earnings under a single licence.

Meetings were called off when NSW gaming regulators launched a new inquiry into The Star.

to bring year-round cruises to the country from early 2029, as part of a new deal with Oriental Land Co (**TD** 10 Jul), which owns and operates Tokyo Disney Resort.

The same ABS report also found that China continues to make headway in its recovery, with 41,100 Aussie travellers heading over in May.

The figure was well ahead of the 25,000 posted in May 2023, but still significantly short of pre-pandemic levels, when the market was still thriving and attracting close to 60,000 visitors a month.

The leading market for May however was Indonesia, which saw more than 127,000 Aussie travellers head to the country, fuelled mainly by Bali appeal. **AB**

Air India track bags

TRAVELLERS can now track the status of their luggage through the Air India website and mobile app as the airline seeks to improve its customer-facing technology.

The real-time functionality allows travellers to follow their luggage through multiple stages of their journey, from check-in and receipt to transit status and arrival carousel, with notifications provided along the way.

Updates from other airlines will also be provided if the passenger has connecting flight segments booked via Air India's codeshare and interline partners.

G'Day buys Wilpena

WILPENA Pound Resort in South Australia's Flinders Ranges is set to be acquired by regional tourism collective, G'Day Group, after a string of financial losses for the government-owned camp.

G'Day Group - which owns 85 Discovery Parks holiday resorts, the G'Day Parks resorts network, along with the luxury El Questro lodge - plans to invest \$5 million in upgrades to the property.

According to *The Australian*, a 42-year lease arrangement under negotiation will include significant infrastructure upgrades, new accommodation offerings, a water park and a range of family-friendly offerings.

The G'Day Group will partner with the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association on the deal, with ALTA holding native title rights on the property for the for the Adnyamathanha people.

G'Day Group CEO Grant Wilckens said the company has been in discussions with the site's Traditional Owners, who want the revitalised property to emphasise cultural heritage and employment opportunities for locals.



Utopia ready to sail

ROYAL Caribbean's *Utopia of the Seas* has arrived in Port Canaveral, Florida, ahead of her official debut on Fri.

The new ship will offer three-night weekend and four-day weekday getaways to Perfect Day at CocoCay, the cruise line's private island, as well as Nassau in the Bahamas.

Pop singer Meghan Trainor has been revealed as *Utopia's* godmother, with naming celebrations to take place later this week.

CEH rides new gains

THE owner of Qld attractions Dreamworld and WhiteWater World has delivered a number of positive financial results for the 12 months to 30 Jun.

In an update posted to the ASX on Fri, Coast Entertainment Holdings (CEH) said despite inflationary headwinds, the group had managed to improve aggregate ticket sale value by 42.1% above pre-pandemic levels.

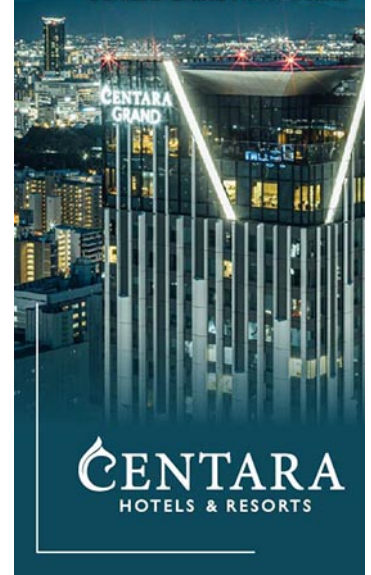
The spike was attributed to the launching of new attractions such as the Dreamworld Flyer and Wiggles Big Red Boat Coaster.

CEH also said that more annual passes had been sold in the period since 2016, resulting in a higher number of repeat guests.

Total visitation grew by 14.3% over the prior year, while revenue increased by 3.8% to \$87 million.

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Kumano pauses B2B

DUE to the large volume of post-COVID enquiries, Japan's Kumano Travel has temporarily suspended taking B2B bookings from travel agents.

The main reservation system for the Japanese city, Kumano Travel, is currently updating its processes to deal with the increased numbers of B2C bookings, and once they are back under control, will reestablish B2B bookings.

One of the major pull factors to Kumano for Australian travellers has been the ancient pilgrimage routes that crisscross the Kii Peninsula, the Kumano Kodo.

A spokesperson for the Sydney office of the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) told *Travel Daily* that The Kumano Kodo had seen a large increase in Australian visitors over the past two years, and that agents could recommend clients also look at hikes in areas such as the Shikoku Herno, Michinoku Coastal Trail, Hokkaido, or Kyushu.

SAS-AF ink c'share

AIR France-KLM and Scandinavian carrier SAS have signed new codeshare and interline agreements.

Kicking off from Sep, the deals cover the European network of Air France-KLM and SAS.

Customers of Air France-KLM will gain access to 33 destinations in Northern Europe beyond SAS's hubs in Copenhagen, Oslo, and Stockholm, while those flying with the Danish state-owned carrier will gain access to 33 European destinations beyond Air France and KLM's hubs in Paris and Amsterdam.

Air France-KLM and SAS customers will also be able to earn and spend miles/points through the Flying Blue and EuroBonus loyalty programs.

"These agreements mark an important step towards a close commercial cooperation between Air France, KLM and SAS," said Air France-KLM CCO Angus Clarke.

Minor plays a new tune



MINOR Hotels has continued its aggressive expansion strategy in the local market this week, announcing the purchase of The Jazz Corner Hotel in Melbourne.

The new owners have confirmed the property will not be rebranded, and instead will further invest in its unique music-themed identity.

Located opposite the Flagstaff Gardens, The Jazz Corner Hotel offers guests suites that pay homage to music royalty such as Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra.

The property also boasts in-room laundries, mini-bars, designer bathrooms, coffee machines, as well as the latest TV and casting technology.

Events pedals ahead

OUTDOORS NSW & ACT has officially released its Mountain Bike Symposium program, a premier event dedicated to the activity's community.

Chief Executive Officer Lori Modde has announced media personality Amanda Rose as the MC for the Symposium.

The program will feature a line-up of speakers representing various facets of the mountain biking and outdoor recreation industry, covering the themes of successful grant writing, trail building, marketing, innovation, industry issues, and more.

Only last month, Minor Hotels added Oaks Melbourne on William Suites as its fourth franchised hotel (*TD* 13 Jun), and in May, the company also revealed a new-build resort in Bali (*TD* 27 May). *AB*

Feeling great at sea

CRYSTAL Cruises has announced new wellness retreats at sea, with the voyages offering guests holistic wellness programs designed in collaboration with health, spa, and fitness experts.

The two special sailings are set to cruise aboard *Crystal Symphony* from 01-14 Dec and 14-23 Dec.

The new retreats bring together a group of industry experts who have curated specialised programming in the categories of healthy aging, functional nutrition, fitness, mental wellbeing, and detoxing.

The two cruises will embark from Barcelona to Tema, and from Tema to Cape Town.

"We're so pleased to offer Crystal guests our new wellness retreats at sea, expertly curated in collaboration with some of the best in the health and wellness industry," Crystal Head Nutritionist Dalila Roglieri said.

"It is important that our offerings align with discerning travellers' evolving tastes."



Window Seat

THE ongoing drama concerning the water quality of the Seine in Paris in the lead-up to the Summer Olympic Games launch on 26 Jul has taken a new turn.

French Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera invited the cameras to watch her take a plunge into the iconic river, all in a final bid to prove it is safe for competitors to swim.

The Minister was accompanied on her dip by Alexis Hanquingant, the Paralympic flag bearer for France (*pictured*).

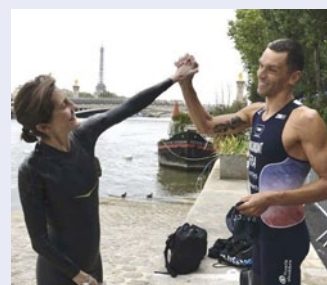
Whether the stunt has moved the needle on allaying fears of infection by swimming in the waterway remains to be seen, however, it does set the stage for a long-mooted test swim from President Emmanuel Macron.

While his party has taken a heavy beating during the recent election, his biggest fight might be with sewage levels, with the French leader vowing to take a dip to show people the Seine is safe.

While Macron has made the claim a few times, no date has ever been set for the swim, and it would appear that is for very calculated reasons.

"I'm not going to give you the date because there's a risk you'll be there," he quipped.

Olympic marathon swimmers could be moved to Vaires-sur-Marne Nautical Stadium just outside of Paris if pollution levels are too high.





Rex raises horizons

REX Airlines has announced the launch of the Raising Horizons program, an initiative aimed at empowering Indigenous youth, particularly girls, to explore careers in aviation.

The program will offer hands-on experience and industry engagement to students from 29 remote and regional communities across North and Far North Queensland, including the Torres Strait Islands.

Funded by the Australian Govt and developed by Gunggandji Aerospace in partnership with Rex and the NRL's North Qld Cowboys House, the initiative will kick off early next year.

"We look forward to the launch of this incredible program, and can't wait for the next generation of Indigenous aviation leaders," the carrier said.

Minns talks tourism

NSW Premier Chris Minns will speak about the future of Western Sydney tourism at an upcoming event hosted by the Western Sydney Tourism Taskforce.

Taking place 02 Aug from 3pm-6.30pm at Park Royal Hotels Parramatta, the 'Navigating the Future of Western Sydney Tourism' event is an opportunity to connect with industry leaders, and gain insights into the opportunities and challenges facing the tourism sector in Western Sydney.

More key speakers will be revealed soon - get tickets [HERE](#).

Agent takes off to Paris



BONAVENTURE Travel's Brian Conway (pictured) was one of the first to experience Qantas' new direct service from Perth to Paris, which launched over the weekend (TD 26 Jun).

Marking the return of the Flying Kangaroo to the City of Light for the first time in 20 years, the 17-hour flight will operate four times weekly ahead of the Paris Olympics, before reducing to three times per week from mid-Aug 2024.

The carrier will deploy its Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft on the route, which will add more than 75,000 additional seats between Europe and the Western Australian capital each year, and cut more than three hours off the current fastest travel time between Paris and Perth.

Western Australian Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism Rita Saffioti said the flights were a "big win" for the state's tourism.

"We're really excited to have this flight between Perth and Paris take off, as one of 20 international destinations we now have direct links with," she said.

"We know that people are more likely to travel to places they're able to easily access, so this is another big win for tourism in Western Australia."

To celebrate the new service, Qantas launched several customer initiatives including limited-edition Martin Grant-designed pyjamas with matching amenity kits, while a special selection of movies celebrating French cinema will be available across the international inflight system throughout Jul.

Additionally, customers travelling in business class can also enjoy Neil Perry-curated menus, featuring classic French dishes such as Bouillabaisse of snapper and Skull Island prawns and a French 75 cocktail. JM

Protesters block ship

ENVIRONMENTAL protestors in Brittany, France prevented a Regent Seven Seas Cruises ship from entering the port of Finistere last weekend.

Several protestors took to the water to deny access to *Seven Seas Voyager*, while waving a banner with the words 'We are the iceberg'.

"No cruise liners called at Concarneau today," one of the protestors said.

"For us, that's a success because we're fighting against luxury cruise ships...we think they're an ecological absurdity and a symbol of social inequality."

The protest comes amid growing pushback against "unrestrained growth of cruise ship tourism" in France.

Aussie trail in Greece

AUSTRALIA is funding a new historical tourism attraction on the island of Lemnos in Greece, with the ANZAC memorial trail set to open in 2025.

Described as an "open museum", the memory trail will feature various visual art creations in specific locations on Lemnos, which is where troops from Australia and New Zealand assembled and trained during the Gallipoli campaign in World War I.

The new attraction will highlight the relationship between Lemnos and Australia as well as the historical and cultural richness of the island, and is expected to attract Australian and NZ visitors.





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



Albatross Tours - Europe & UK 2025

Award-winning European touring specialist, Albatross Tours, has unveiled its summer 2025 brochure. The new guide details three brand-new tours encompassing Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Austria, Turkiye, and Greece. The 'Leisurely Switzerland - the Glacier Express and Cable Car Adventures' itinerary is among the new offerings, featuring scenic train journeys across St Moritz, Chur, Zermatt and Berne. Guests will also

take in incredible views via a cable car ride bringing them close to the Matterhorn and all the way up a snowy Mt Titlis. Within the brochure, readers will discover an earlybird discount of \$350 per person per tour for bookings made before 31 Jul.



Ponant Paspaley Pearl - 2025 Boutique Expeditions

The inaugural digital brochure for *Paspaley Pearl* by Ponant is out now, ahead of the 30-guest expedition yacht's debut in Jan 2025. Travellers can delve into the e-guide to learn all about the journeys *Paspaley Pearl* will operate through East Indonesia, the Kimberley, and Papua New Guinea, which feature incredible wildlife encounters and snorkelling or diving excursions. As well as highlighting the three regions, the brochure also

incorporates videos showcasing the expedition experience, cuisine, and a personal note from Chair, Sarina Bratton.



BKB Holidays - Vietnam & Cambodia 2024/25

BKB Holidays has announced the release of its first-ever Vietnam and Cambodia 2024/25 brochure. The booklet details a variety of accommodations, tours, and extended packages across Vietnam, including combined options with Cambodia. Readers will also discover cruising opportunities in both the Mekong Delta and Ha Long Bay. Additionally, the brochure features a selection of accommodations and tours in

Cambodia, providing travellers with diverse experiences in these Southeast Asian destinations.

Atout France's Aix-ceptional day



ATOUT France offered the travel industry a taste of Provence on Fri, ahead of Sun's Bastille Day, at an exclusive lunch in Sydney.

The event, held at The Langham, was hosted in collaboration with Uniworld Boutique River Cruises and the Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur region, and highlighted the marvels of Southern France, including then cruise line's Provence to Burgundy itinerary.

The lunch was also attended by renowned French perfume house Fragonard, which immersed guests in the art of Provencal perfume, while Pommery Champagne and La Gordonne Chateau Provence also presented their exquisite products to guests.

Attendees dined on fresh fish served with ratatouille - a classic Provincial dish which originated in Nice.

Pictured are Uniworld Managing Director Alice Ager; Atout France Digital Marketing &

Media Specialist Clara Demare; Trade Marketing Manager Clelie Collas; and Uniworld Business BDM, Fran Gildon. MS

Seibu opens Lotus

SEIBU Prince Hotels & Resorts has partnered with Lotus Dining Group to introduce a new dining experience at its Southern Highlands property, Park Proxi Gibraltar Bowral.

Slated to open 01 Sep, guests can expect a selection of popular Lotus dishes and beverages alongside new menu items showcasing the region's produce.

The onsite Lotus restaurant, which will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, will be complemented by Marilo, a new contemporary fusion offering from Lotus Dining Group.

The hotel will also work with Lotus to create a year-round calendar of events celebrating local food and wine.