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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of the latest travel industry news, plus a cover wrap from **Silversea**, our **Luxury feature page**, plus full pages from:

- **CLIA Memberships**
- **Consolidated Travel**

Nova lights the way

RENOWNED for her reputation for being the 'ship of light', Silversea's ultra luxury vessel *Silver Nova* is now sailing Australian waters.

On board, the gourmet food and one-to-one butler service will delight, while off the ship, curated itineraries will showcase Australian culture like never before - see the **cover page** for more selling points.

Qantas pushes NDC model

TRAVEL agents will have access to more fares and opportunities to earn more through dynamic commission offers when Qantas launches its new distribution model next year, the Aussie carrier has announced.

Unveiled this morning (**TD** breaking news), the new model will roll out to the market on 01 Jul 2025, and reflects what Qantas described as a global drive towards IATA's New Distribution Capability (NDC) adoption.

From this date, Qantas said agents will be able to access the carrier's content in a number of different ways, including EDIFACT, standard NDC, and premium NDC, the latter of which being by invitation only.

Some of these options will be surcharge-free, while others will incur ticket surcharges.

Speaking at a briefing early this morning, Qantas CEO - International and Freight, Cam Wallace, said the carrier had been working with GDS partners and certified travel technology partners to set up a model for flexibility, success, and enough

time for travel agencies to transfer their business models across to the new tech solution.

"Ultimately what we want to see are benefits for agents, for NDC, and for our customers," Wallace said.

The Qantas exec added that in the future, the carrier will be able to use the NDC platform to provide dynamic commissions.

MEANWHILE Qantas has appointed Oronzo Miccoli as Head of Corporate and Government Sales in Australia (**TD** breaking news).

He will start in Jan 2025. **AB**

ETA rego now open

REGISTRATION for Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) needed for travel or transit through the UK has opened to Australia today.

The ETA will be mandatory from 08 Jan 2025 and cost £10 (A\$19.40) to obtain.

Under the new ETA, travellers will be able to make multiple entries into the UK for up to six months over a two-year period. Apply for the ETA **HERE**.

CLIA membership

THOSE looking to expand their cruise knowledge and skills can do so by getting involved with CLIA training for 2025.

Membership is now open and benefits include hundreds of online courses, live and virtual events and other valuable tools and downloadable resources.

See **page nine** for details.

Double bonuses

TRAVEL advisors have the chance to earn double bonuses with a new initiative from Consolidated Travel and Singapore Airlines.

The award-winning airline is also currently offering Black Friday sale fares, with the incentive available for both EDIFACT and NDC - find out more on **page 10**.

Wendy Wu Tours



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Albatross joins CLIA

SMALL ship cruise line Albatros Expeditions has become a member of Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) in a bid to bolster its presence in Australia and New Zealand.

Joining as a Regional Cruise Line, Albatros Expeditions Sales Director ANZ, Craig Upshall, said the company looked forward to an even stronger collaboration with the Australasian trade as a result of the CLIA partnership.

More details in **Cruise Weekly**.

EBITDA down, TTV up

IN THE first financial release since formally demerging from Webjet's consumer arm, Web Travel Group (formerly WebBeds) posted an EBITDA of \$65.3 million for H1 2025, a decrease on the \$80.3 million recorded in the corresponding half last year (**TD** breaking news).

On the plus side however, Total Transaction Value (TTV) grew by 25% to \$2.6 billion, and is on track to deliver \$5 billion for the

FY25 period.

While TTV increased, the margin of the key metric was adversely impacted by geographic, customer and supply factors.

Revenue held steady against the previous corresponding period, dipping slightly from \$175.1 million to \$170.4 million, while rising expenses impacted the bottom line, with Web Travel Group stating a need to increase spend on staffing and technology sustain growth ambitions.

Web Travel Group MD John Guscic said that following a record FY24, WebBeds' first two months of trading in H1 25 continued to reflect the previous six-month trading conditions.

"In the period of Jun and Jul, TTV margins declined in Europe, the decline coincided with the collapse of FTI Group, the Paris Olympics and European football championships," Guscic said.

"We underestimated this decline and the extent of changing market conditions and customer mix, and underlying margins did not recover in Aug as we anticipated.

"We also underestimated the incentive payments during Aug which were \$7.5 million higher than planned," he added.

The company expects FY25 EBITDA to be in the range of \$117-122 million.

Web Travel Group also intends to conduct an on-market share buyback up to a maximum value of \$150 million. AB

New N Lights tour

50 DEGREES North has unveiled its new 'Iconic Northern Lights' small group tour, with five departure dates on offer in Sep 2025 and Jan-Mar 2026.

The eight-day trip focus on Arctic wonder and cultural insights, leading in from \$7,113ppts - more details **HERE**.



Take advantage of Eurostar's new travel classes and more flexible ticketing options!

Book between **1 Nov and 15 Dec** and **collect \$10** for every booking on Eurostar.

Terms and conditions apply. The incentive applies to per booking, not per journey or pax, and includes booking RailGroupEasy. Agency must make 1 initial booking for Eurostar or SNCF, then every additional booking after earns \$10. Booking horizon for SNCF is 3 months and Eurostar is 6 months. Cash reward will come in the form of Prezzy vouchers.

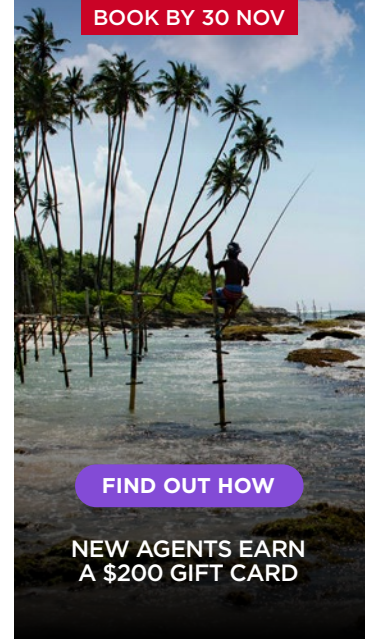


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Dom airfares to climb 14%

AIRFARES on domestic and trans-Tasman flights departing from Australia are tipped to rise by 8.2% over the next year, new market predictions show.

American Express' *Air Monitor Report 2025* also showed domestic economy fares will shoot up by 13.7% in 2025 on the back of two high-profile failures by Bonza and Rex earlier this year.

According to BITRE airfare data, economy fares have gradually crept higher over the past year, with the most discounted seats fluctuating by as much as 34% over the past 12 months, while flexible and business class seats have been more stable.

Australia is the only region globally predicted to see double-digit fare increases, spurred by consistently high demand on the east coast triangular routes.

AMEX's report forecasts little relief in the short-to-medium term, with only the 2026 opening

of Western Sydney Airport and the 2031 opening of Melbourne's third runway (**TD** 13 Sep) flagged as potential benefits to price.

The outlook for international flights doesn't get much better, with the report painting Asia as a clear common link to airfare rises in several key global regions.

Seat prices between Australia and Asia will rise by 12%, 6.6% between Europe and Asia, and 6.7% for connections to the Middle East and Europe, which remains buoyed by demand and plane orders stymieing capacity.

AMEX pinpointed capacity management as a potential reason for this, with some airlines deploying single-aisle aircraft to maintain frequencies and deliver more pleasing load factors.

Increasing airline costs was a reason for rising airfares, with fuel and oil prices making up 30% of operational expenses, inflated by geopolitical tensions. *ML*

Q2 surges ahead

AFTER posting revenue that exceeded expectations for Q1 2025 (**TD** 30 Oct), Experience Co has confirmed that momentum has continued into Q2.

During its AGM held yesterday, the adventure travel business revealed operational efficiencies and the ongoing return of international leisure tourism have been key drivers in the turnaround of bookings.

An improving domestic market performance has also assisted Experience Co's encouraging latest quarter results, and despite ongoing inflationary pressures, the adventure company said it was "confident" of long-term earnings potential.

In Apr 2024, Experience Co commenced a strategic review to explore further opportunities to maximise shareholder value, but despite interest received from various parties, the company said that no proposals so far were found to be compelling.

Dreaming of Peru

ADVENTURE World is offering agents the chance to win an eight-day trip for two to Peru, including luxury accommodation, valued at over \$70,000.

To enter, advisors need to make an Adventure World booking for South or Central America between 23 Nov and 16 May 2025, with a minimum booking value of \$2,500.

The more bookings made, the better the chance of winning.

Contact Adventure World on 1300 363 055 for more information about the incentive, and quote code 'MPAMAW25' to access a range of exclusive offers.



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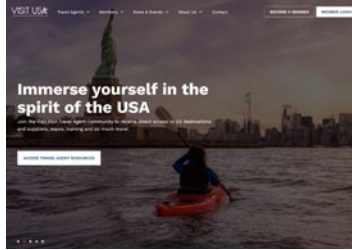
Visit USA's new platform

VISIT USA has today launched a new website for Australian travel agents, boasting a revamped look and content such as new resources and tool on a range of US travel destinations.

The platform provides agents with streamlined access to a comprehensive directory of attractions and travel services represented by Visit USA members, as well as webinars, videos, brochures, and a wider assortment of training materials.

Among the big selling points of the new site, according to Visit USA, is its new 'News and Updates' section, which can keep the Aussie trade in the loop with real-time developments to help assist clients.

"Visit USA's new website is purpose-built to support Australian travel agents, making it easier to find, understand, and recommend diverse US destinations and experiences,"



Visit USA President for Australia, Caroline Davidson, said.

"We believe this platform will be a valuable resource, empowering agents to help travellers make informed, inspired choices."

Visit USA said it would like Aussie travel agents to explore the new site as soon as they can to improve their knowledge of the market and ability to sell a wider range of US experiences.

Around 860,000 Aussie travellers have made their way to the US this year, a result that is on track to grow by 8% YOY.

The redesigned website can be accessed at visitusa.org.au. AB

NSW in N America

DESTINATION NSW has announced it will host a trade mission to North America in Mar 2025 to raise the profile of the state with key travel buyers.

Seller applications to join the North America Roadshow 2025 taking place in Mar have opened, and include a subsidised pathway to enable first-time participation in the targeted trade event.

The mission will include full-day workshops and networking events in Los Angeles and New York City with wholesalers, product managers and a range of retail travel advisors.

Find out more about the trade mission **HERE**, with applications to close on 12 Dec.



El Alamein added

FLYDUBAI has confirmed it will launch a new seasonal service to El Alamein in Egypt between 21 Jun and 07 Sep 2025.

With the addition of the summer service, flydubai will grow its Egypt network to three hubs, including Alexandria and Cairo, served by 21 weekly flights.

The Langham tower

A SKYLINE swimming pool will headline a new luxury hotel to be managed by Langham Hospitality Group in Kuala Lumpur.

The hotel will feature in a new multi-tower Oxley Towers KLCC development in the Malaysian capital's central business district, extending 338m into the sky.

Featuring 198 rooms and suites, The Langham Kuala Lumpur will also boast a Cantonese restaurant, a destination bar called T'ang Court, as well as a fitness centre, banquet hall and meeting rooms.

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Carnival reveals big executive changes

CARNIVAL Corporation will soon have new global presidents across three of its brands.

Part of the executive transition will see John Padgett depart as President of Princess Cruises from 02 Dec, seeing Gus Antorcha (pictured) named the successor.

Antorcha, who is currently the President of Carnival's Holland America Line (HAL) brand, will report to CEO of Carnival Corporation Josh Weinstein, while his departure from HAL will precipitate Beth Bodensteiner becoming President.

Meanwhile, completing the trio of major leadership changes is Mark Tamis who returns to Seabourn as President, taking over from Natalya Leahy.

As the new President of Princess, Antorcha will oversee all performance and operational aspects of the cruise line's global fleet of 16 ships.

Since 2020, Antorcha has



achieved a number of key milestones while serving as President of HAL, including amassing the largest single booking day in the cruise line's history, and delivering the strongest financial results in 16 years following the pandemic.

Prior to joining HAL, Antorcha held various leadership positions with Carnival Cruise Line, including the high-profile position of Chief Operating Officer.

New HAL President Bodensteiner previously served for six years as Senior VP and Chief Commercial Officer of HAL,

where she directed revenue management, deployment and customer service.

Bodensteiner made her mark taking on increased commercial responsibilities, including in the areas of managing global sales, product marketing, as well as pricing and planning for Alaska Land + Sea Journeys.

Meanwhile Seabourn's new President Mark Tamis joins the company after leading Aimbridge Hospitality, which included managing the business operations for its network of 1,500 hotels.

Reflecting on the three appointments, Carnival head Josh Weinstein said the trio were proven leaders who reflect the talent and capabilities of the broader organisation.

While Padgett will vacate the President role at Princess early next month, he will formally part ways with the business in mid-Feb next year. *AB*

New ski gondolas

JAPANESE ski resorts Niseko Hirafu and Hakuba Iwatake have introduced new gondolas ahead of the 2024/25 peak ski season to boost mountain access for guests.

Ahead of a predicted bumper ski season, the new gondolas cater to 10 passengers at a time and will be able to transport up to 2,800 people every hour.

The gondolas run at six metres per second - 1.5 times the speed of the old lifts - and feature wi-fi, heated leather seats, and indoor ski and snowboard racks.

Pandaw upgrades

PANDAW has announced its Mekong ships have been refitted with modern gyms, extensive libraries and spa facilities.

Cabins on board have also had a makeover, with the brand adding Khmer fabrics to upgrade bedding and furnishings, as well as the installation of mini bars and Nespresso machines.



DISCOVER DREAMS OF TAHITI & BEYOND

NEW 2026 ITINERARIES JUST RELEASED

Windstar Cruises is delighted to present their latest 2026 South Pacific itineraries, designed to immerse travellers in Polynesian beauty, culture, and adventure. This collection covers both iconic destinations and hidden gems, blending Tahiti and Bora Bora with new stops in the Cook Islands, Tonga, and Fiji.

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Spot seabirds and snorkel with harmless blacktip reef sharks in Fakarava's renowned blue lagoon, a UNESCO biosphere reserve. Discover Polynesian culture in Omoa, Fatu-Hiva, one of the world's most remote Marquesas Islands villages.

Scan the QR code for more information and the latest offers or contact 1300 749 875 or email reservations@windstar.com.au



Window Seat

THE US Transportation Security Administration has just released a list of the most unusual items that travellers are unable to pack into their carry-on luggage.

The good news is that if you're planning to pack antlers, artificial skeleton bones, a Harry Potter wand, handcuffs, live lobster, cowboy spurs or even live coral (as long as it's in water and a clear transparent container after inspection), you're good to go.

You might think that a magic 8-ball, bowling pins or cream cheese might be okay, but you would be wrong.

Apparently the liquids inside a magic 8-ball make it a no-no (don't worry, just check it in) and unfortunately, the pins "can be used as a bludgeon", so there's no way passengers are allowed to take it on board with them.

Meanwhile, 3.4 ounces or less for carry-on cheese is fine apparently, while on the other hand, bear spray and English party poppers are not allowed.



Oddbird escapes its cage



25HOURS Hotel Jakarta The Oddbird has opened its doors this week, marking the debut of the brand in Indonesia.

Located in District 8 atop the Ashta Mall, the 38-storey property features 210 rooms and 135 residences, as well as a spa & wellness offering on the ninth floor, and 10 lounges spanning the ninth and 53rd floors.

Further highlights include the hotel's signature restaurant COPA on the eighth floor, led by Executive Chef Matias Mardones from Chile.

The dining venue pledges to take guests on a journey through Latin America with wood-infused charcoal grill dishes paired with spicy margaritas.

Meanwhile, the Cabana venue by the infinity pool offers a more laid-back vibe with plant-based snacks and cocktails.

"The opening of 25hours Hotel Jakarta The Oddbird represents not only a wonderful new hotel, but a long-term commitment to enriching the travel landscape for all generations," Accor's Premium, Midscale and Economy Division in Asia COO Garth Simmons said.

"Asia continues to be a rapidly evolving market, and we are excited to play a role in the region's growing tourism sector."

Founded in 2001, the 25hours brand has 16 properties in cities such as Berlin, Paris, Zurich, and Vienna, and an upcoming location in Sydney in 2025. *AB*

Sofitel open at Giza

ACCOR will open a new Sofitel Legend property near the famed Pyramids of Giza in Egypt.

Due to open in 2027, the 303-room property will be located a short walk from the pyramids and the Grand Egyptian Museum, offering views over the attraction.

Sofitel Legend Pyramids Giza will also feature an all-day restaurant, three specialty dining options, a spa and fitness centre and an infinity swimming pool.

The new property will be the eighth in the exclusive Sofitel Legend branch collection, joining locations in Aswan, Panama City, Cartagena, Hanoi, Xi'an, Prague and Amsterdam.

Big Tahiti savings

ENTIRE Travel Group has sliced up to \$8,400 off the cost of Tahiti packages as part of its short-duration promo closing 13 Dec.

An array of Tahiti's most popular four- and five-star properties are taking part, with prices starting from \$4,152ppts for a seven-night package that combines five nights in a Garden Pool Bungalow at the Hilton Moorea Lagoon Resort & Spa with two nights (pre- and post-) at the Hilton Hotel Tahiti.

The biggest saving is offered by a seven-night package combining two nights at the Hilton Hotel Tahiti and five nights in an Overwater Bungalow Suite at the five-star Four Seasons Resort Bora Bora, with the \$8,400 per couple discount taking the price down to \$10,987ppts.

For more info, see [HERE](#).

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FIRST LOOK AT LUX YARRA VALLEY HOTEL

SMALL Luxury Hotels of the World has offered a first look inside Levantine Hill Hotel, one of the upcoming additions to its portfolio, opening in Jun.

The hotel is the Yarra Valley's first all-suite luxury property, and is nestled among its namesake Levantine Hill Estate winery.

The hotel will offer 33 suites over two levels, each with its own living area, study, and private balcony, with views over the property's vineyard.

Eight of the suites will feature expansive circular baths, while the Optume Suite (render **pictured**) will boast its own dressing room, open fireplace, cellar, and bar.

Guests will also enjoy access to multiple on-site helipads, a fully equipped indoor gym, an outdoor exercise area, and a 1.5km walking sculpture track, which



winds through the property's sculpture-filled gardens.

Complimentary continental breakfast and a fully-stocked mini-bar are included in every stay, while guests will also have access to Levantine Hill Estate's cellar door, fine-dining restaurant, and events centre.

Levantine Hill Hotel is designed

by local Australian architecture firm FK, and draws inspiration from wine barrels.

The property also holds a strong commitment to sustainability, and was built using a range of natural materials throughout, as well as plants for privacy, and the implementation of water harvesting and purification. *MS*

New Melia Villas

MELIA Vinpearl Phu Quoc has launched The Level Villas, a new stay category treating guests to a range of exclusive privileges and services.

The Level Villas can even enjoy their own private beach, as well as in-room services such as curated pillow menu.

Melia Vinpearl Phu Quoc is the latest of a number of the brand's properties to launch The Level Villas.

Elysee Collection to represent Six Senses Fiji

ELYSEE Collective has welcomed Six Senses Fiji (**pictured**), located on Malolo Island, to its client portfolio.

Six Senses Fiji is renowned for its ocean-centric experiences including snorkelling, scuba diving, surfing and water sports, from its prime waterfront location in the South Pacific.

The resort also features a restaurant, free bikes, a fitness centre, a bar, a private beach area, a shared lounge, and a



garden, yoga pavilions.

Guests can also enjoy boat tours and cooking classes.

Elysee will officially commence representing Six Senses Fiji in the new year.

GNJZ lux packages

GREAT Journeys New Zealand (GNJZ) has launched two new luxury packages, incorporating scenic train journeys from Christchurch.

Alpine Luxe is a premium experience travelling on the TranzAlpine through the expansive landscape of the South Island's mountains, known as the Great Divide.

The four-day experience culminates in a stay at Flockhill Lodge, one of New Zealand's most luxurious wilderness lodges.

Meanwhile, the three-day Luxury Marlborough Getaway allows guests to experience the views of the Pacific along New Zealand's coast, before unwinding at the region's finest vineyard accommodation, The Marlborough Boutique Hotel & Vineyard.

Both tours include welcome drinks, gourmet meals, a full breakfast each morning, five-star accommodation and convenient transfers throughout the journey.

GNJZ General Manager Tracey Goodall said the new packages were created to meet demand from international visitors.

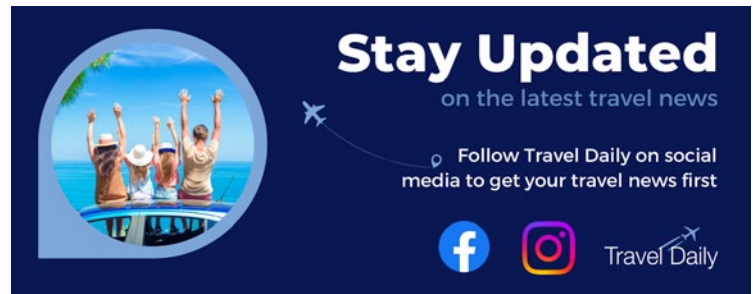
"We also wanted to encourage low-carbon travel to the regions, allowing more time off the beaten track," she said.

Taking on tech: It's time to hit the dance floor

OPINION from eRoam
General Manager, Paul Hole.



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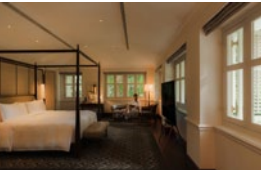
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Melia Vinpearl Phu Quoc in Vietnam has unveiled an elevated level of luxury with its new **The Level Villas**, which offer guests a range of exclusive privileges, services and facilities, including a dedicated beach. Each of the 95 villas, offer their own private swimming pool and a mixture of beachfront, lake or ocean views, plus access to The Level Clubhouse for a daily breakfast and a comfortable retreat with gourmet treats throughout the day.



New boutique hotel, **The Clements**, is set to open in Cambridge in New Zealand in Q1 next year. The Clements features 29 guest rooms and deluxe and premium suites. Guests have the option of staying on the new attic floor with leafy Cambridge views or in an original Edwardian room with high ceilings. Meanwhile, The Stables have been transformed into three large private rooms with a luxury cottage aesthetic, a gas fireplace and private courtyard.



Capella Singapore has reintroduced its luxuriously redesigned three-bedroom Capella Manor and Colonial Manor room categories, with each now featuring updated furnishings, artwork and amenities. Designed as a standalone bungalow, each room reflects a premium residence with three ensuite bedrooms, separate living and dining rooms, a private terrace and outdoor swimming pool.



The **Budapest Marriott** has undergone a complete refurbishment, including its DNB restaurant, which features the Liz and Chain Rooftop Bar, where guests can enjoy spectacular views of the city. The 364-room hotel is located on the Danube Promenade and is within walking distance of the city's major sights including the Chain Bridge, St Stephen's Basilica, Parliament and Great Market Hall.



Two newly renovated three-bedroom pool villas have been added to the inventory at **Nikoi Private Island** in Bintan, Indonesia. Positioned right on the beachfront, the villas are aimed at larger groups and multi-generational families and feature a master bedroom upstairs, with a spacious deck on the lower level and guest bathroom, with a private pool nestled between the two.



AMERICAN Cruise Lines (ACL) has celebrated the debut sailing of its 100-pax **American Legend** (pictured) vessel in Florida.

The cruise line's 19th small ship will operate the eight-day 'Florida Gulf Coast & Keys' itinerary, voyaging round trip from St Petersburg in Tampa Bay.

The first cruise also includes a christening party on board, featuring well-wishes from godmother and Key West Mayor, Dee Dee Henriquez.

The latest debut is followed by major expansion news earlier this month, with ACL signing contracts for four additional vessels, all of which are expected to join the fleet in 2027.

The agreement brokered on 01 Nov with Chesapeake Shipbuilding bolsters an already burgeoning order book for the US cruise line, which includes nine ships expected to be received within the next three years.

ACL is most well-known for sailing the Mississippi River system, the Columbia and Snake Rivers traversing the Pacific Northwest, and River sailings on the United States' east coast. **Legend** is part of ACL's Coastal Cat class of vessels. **AB**

Rio comes to Hyatt

HYATT Hotels Corporation has expanded its Las Vegas presence, signing the newly renovated Rio Hotel and Casino to its Destination by Hyatt brand.

The signing marks the first and the largest Destination by Hyatt property in Nevada.

The hotel is also now available to World of Hyatt members to earn and redeem loyalty points as well as enjoy waived resort fees on free nights.

Rio Hotel and Casino has recently completed the first phase of a US\$340 million transformation which has seen the redesign of its 1,500-room Ipanema Tower; the launch of a new Canteen Food Hall and a new pool selection.

Phase two will see similar modernisation work completed on the adjacent Masquerade Tower.

"Rio is an icon reborn, and its legacy and unique character live on," said Hyatt Senior Vice President Global Franchise Operations, Mike Waddell.

"We are excited for our members and guests to discover the experiences that make Rio Las Vegas a standout destination for global travellers."



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● Voucher Claim

● All SQ online destinations \$50 per return ticket

Cabins: Economy class/Premium Economy class only

SINGAPORE AIRLINES
BLACK FRIDAY
SALE FARES

● Ticketing:

22 NOV 24- 6 DEC 24

● Travel:

01 FEB 25 – 25 NOV 25

Destinations

SIN; EUR: PAR; **SEA:** BKK, BWN, CEB, CGK, DAD, DPS, HKT, KUL, KNO, MNL, PEN, PNH, SGN, SAI, SUB, RGN; **NAA:** SHA, BJS, CAN, HKG, TPE, SEL; **WAA:** AMD, BLR, BOM, CPT, CCU, CMB, COK, DAC, DEL, DXB, HYD, JNB, MAA, MLE

PLEASE REFER TO THE CONDITIONS AND FARE RULES IN THE GDS

Contact Consolidated Travel for details

✉ ctgsales@consolidated.travel

🌐 www.consolidatedtravel.com.au