



## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features seven pages of the latest travel industry news, including our regular **Luxury page**, plus full pages from:

- LA Tourism
- Infinity Holidays

## Celebrity's '26/27

**CELEBRITY** Cruises has unveiled its 2026-27 deployment, which includes the debut of *Celebrity Xcel* among a number of other exciting season milestones.

The cruise line is offering more than 600 sailings to book across almost 300 destinations in 74 countries, including Australia, which will see *Celebrity Edge* and *Celebrity Solstice* return.

For the full details about the deployment, see **Cruise Weekly**.



## Fly Free SALE

We've taken care of **everything**

For a limited time, your clients can enjoy free return economy class flights on all river journeys, and free airfare for companions on all ocean and expedition voyages.

**VIEW OFFERS**

## Aldi shops travel debut

**AS FORESHADOWED** by *Travel Daily* in Jun last year (*TD* 05 Jun 2023), supermarket chain Aldi Australia is expanding into the travel sector with the launch of the Aldi Holidays online portal.

Partnering with Flight Centre Travel Group's Ignite Travel Group on its first foray into travel, Aldi's first collection of packages for shoppers start from \$449pp, and include escapes to domestic destinations such as Surfers Paradise and The Whitsundays.

Packages also include tour deals and cruise journeys.

"The collaboration aligns with our goal to support and grow our supplier channels to deliver an unparalleled distribution network for our partners where everyone wins," Ignite Travel Group CEO, Ryan Thomas, said.

"Aldi Holiday customers can expect incredible savings with these exclusively curated holiday packages including flights, local experiences and more, covering some of the most popular destinations around the world, that can conveniently be booked online or via the dedicated Aldi Holidays Sales Centre," he added.

Cruises featured in the German supermarket's joint packages with

## WSI makes history

**AN AIRCRAFT** will land at the Western Sydney International Airport (WSI) for the first time this afternoon, marking yet another major milestone for Sydney's second major air hub.

A test pilot will touch down in a Piper PA-30 Twin Comanche jet as part of critical testing of 3,000 aeronautical ground lights on the airport's runway and approach.

The flight tests are required by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority to ensure runway lighting is fit for first pax planes taking off in 2026.

**TD** was lucky enough to tread the tarmac when WSI announced Singapore Airlines as its first international carrier (*TD* 27 Aug).

## ALDI Holidays

Ignite include a nine-night Royal Caribbean sailing through the Pacific Islands from \$1,499ppts, as well as a 14-night Celebrity Cruises voyage through Japan from \$4,990ppts.

Overseas packages include a seven-nights Novotel Phuket stay from \$599ppts, and a six-night Grand Mirage trip to Bali from \$1,199ppts.

To view the new portal and full range of packages, see **HERE**. *AB*

## Klook debut event

**TRAVEL** experiences booking platform Klook is looking to raise its public profile in Australia, announcing its debut consumer travel event, Klook Travel Fest, which is set to take place 30 Nov at Sydney's Carriageworks.

Hosted by singer and TV personality, Faustina 'Fuzzy' Agolley (**pictured**), the event will give travellers a chance to access exclusive travel discounts, win prizes, and discover expert tips on travel hotspots including Japan, the US, and Hong Kong.

"Millennials and Gen Zs have often been left behind when it comes to travel fairs and events," Klook's Director of Oceania Marketing, Diana Vidovic, said.

"Klook Travel Fest is designed to be a completely fresh take on the traditional travel expo as well as a fun day out for anyone who comes," she added.

The event will be themed around classic 90s console games where guests will take part in virtual travel games across several 'worlds' hosted by destinations and travel brands.



Picture credit: Enhance

## What's new in LA?

**LA TOURISM** is reminding the Australian travel industry about the myriad of updates taking place across the City of Angels.

These include the new Intuit Dome, the home of the LA Clippers basketball team which features the most legroom of any NBA venue in the country, as well as a giant double-sided halo display - see **page eight** for more.

## Sell the best Seattle

**INFINITY** Holidays believes there's something for every traveller in the US city of Seattle, launching four new itineraries.

Highlights of the new packages include a combined accommodation and NHL ice hockey match tour - see **page nine** for more details.



## Fly Free SALE

We've taken care of **everything**

The offers are valid on new bookings for 2025, 2026 and 2027 river, ocean and expedition voyages from now until 15 November 2024.

**VIEW OFFERS**

## NCL's brand shift

**CRUISERS** will be able to experience 'More at Sea' with Norwegian Cruise Line's (NCL) new brand positioning, which will replace the previous 'Free at Sea' marketing platform.

The new fully commissionable More at Sea packages elevate the guest experience through three key pillars: an expanded selection of upgraded premium beverage offerings, more specialty dining meals, as well as fleetwide access to Starlink wi-fi services.

Guests will receive access to a more extensive variety of premium beverage brands and more than 100 specialty cocktails under the change, in addition to wi-fi logins for 150 minutes, and more specialty dining options.

See today's issue of **Cruise Weekly** for more information.

## CCL's biggest ever season

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line (CCL) has revealed its 2026/27 local deployment, offering four ships from Sydney and Brisbane.

The season features more than 200 sailings, a 99% increase compared to 2024/25, as CCL adds two ships from retiring sister brand P&O Cruises (**TD** 04 Jun).

The addition of the newly named *Carnival Adventure* and *Carnival Encounter* will see the cruise line offer an expanded program of year-round sailings, with *Encounter* to cruise from Brisbane year-round, joined seasonally by *Carnival Luminosa*. *Adventure* and *Carnival Splendor* will sail from Sydney.

The itineraries feature popular destinations such as Moreton Island, the South Pacific, and the Great Barrier Reef, as well as New Zealand, Fiji, PNG, and more.

CCL has also expanded its selection of two-to-four-night cruises, in response to a growing local demand.

The cruise line will offer 78 short sailings from Sydney, and 43 from Brisbane, more than double the options available in

## Westaway returns

**THE** Australian Airports Association (AAA) has appointed Simon Westaway to be its new Chief Executive Officer, replacing James Goodwin in the role.

Westaway has enjoyed a long association with the aviation and travel industries, having previously held executive positions at Jetstar, Tourism Australia, regional airline Impulse, as well as leading the Australian Tourism Industry Council.

"As we navigate through major reforms in the aviation sector, including the initiatives of the Aviation White Paper, we're thankful to have Simon joining," AAA Chair Kym Meys said.

Westaway will formally commence as CEO of the AAA on 04 Nov, and takes over from interim leader Greg Fordham.

## Essential Madagascar

19 DAYS | DEPARTS 11 MAY 2025  
\$15,500PP FULLY INCL.



traveldirectors.com.au

travel  
directors

SMALL GROUP  
ESCORTED  
TOUR EXPERTS

1300 856 661

MORE INFO



## Window Seat

**TASMANIA'S** major tourism attraction, the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), has been successful in its bid to appeal a decision prohibiting the business from barring men from using its Ladies Lounge.

The eyebrow-raising exhibit was closed in Apr after Tasmania's courts ordered the museum to admit men to the female-only space, upholding a man's complaint that the museum had discriminated against him.

However, the ruling was overturned, with courts finding the intention was to educate and not discriminate.



the 2024/25 season.

Unfortunately, the departure of *Pacific Explorer* from the Carnival Corporation fleet will mean Melbourne, Perth, and Adelaide will lose their home port season, with no CCL ship to sail from any of the three cities. *MS*

## CZ links SYD & PKX

**CHINA** Southern has announced it will operate direct services between Sydney and Beijing Daxing Airport in China, four times a week from 13 Dec.

The decision marks the first time Sydney has been connected directly with Daxing, which is located on the border of Beijing and Langfang, Hebei.

Daxing Airport boasts the world's largest single-building airport terminal.

## Act fast, says ATIA

**AUSTRALIAN** Travel Industry Association (ATIA) acting CEO Ingrid Fraser has called on the Federal Government to carry out regulatory approvals for Qatar Airways' proposed 25% stake in Virgin Australia expediently so that travellers can reap the benefits sooner rather than later.

Confirmation of QR's intentions to buy minority equity in VA was revealed yesterday (**TD** 01 Oct), with many viewing the move as an alternate way for the Middle Eastern carrier to expand in the local market after being sensationally blocked by the Federal Government in 2023.

"If approved, Virgin Australia will have the ability to launch new services from Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney to Doha, potentially creating more than 100 new connecting itineraries to Europe, the Middle East and Africa," Fraser said.



**BOOK YOUR  
CUSTOMERS ON  
EMIRATES AND FLY  
TO WIMBLEDON 2025**

Find out more >

FLY BETTER



OFFICIAL PARTNER



**itravel**  
Franchilli

**Transition From  
Mobile Advisor  
To Franchise  
Store With Ease**

- ✓ Minimal overheads
- ✓ Business operations sorted
- ✓ Grow profits and scale

**FIND OUT MORE**



FROM ONLY  
**\$5,499**  
PER PERSON TWIN SHARE  
LAND ONLY  
"Surcharges may apply"

**Tanzania Express**

**W MWTOURS**

DURATION: 8 DAYS

**VIEW DEAL**

## Younger gens controlling travel stake

AUSTRALIA'S younger generations now hold a much stronger sway over travel planning decisions than they did in previous years, a new study from Hilton has suggested.

The 2025 Trends Report claims that the combined influence of Generation Alpha and Generation Z are now "actively shaping" family travel plans in 71% of households, positioning the younger cohort as key decision-makers in travel bookings.

For brands wanting to tap into this buying power, Hilton's report suggested there needs to be a shift to focus on trips that include sporting events, music concerts, and outdoor activities, which both generations have listed at the top of the list for 2025 trips.

Digital connectivity was also listed as "central" to the overall travel experience for younger Australian travellers, who spend up to four hours daily on devices



during trips.

Commenting on the findings, Hilton Senior Vice President and Commercial Director, Asia Pacific, Ben George, said the growing influence of Generation Alpha and Gen Z on family travel signalled a "transformative shift" for the travel industry.

"As these trends accelerate, we recognise the importance of adapting to evolving preferences," George said.

"Hilton is set to exceed 1,000 hotels in APAC by 2025, and we're focused on creating new experiences to capture the imagination of this emerging generation and their families."

Further interesting findings from the report suggested 62% of Australian parents are actively choosing leisure holiday destinations based on their children's interests.

While the increasing impact on bookings from the younger generations is clear, Hilton's study also showed there were decisions being made that remained squarely in the domain of parents.

These include accommodation, transportation, trip duration, and the travel budgeting.

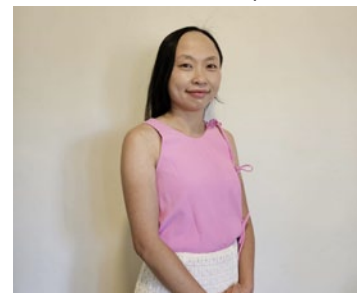
For the uninitiated, members of Generation Alpha are those born after 2010, while Generation Z generally refers to people born between 1997 and 2010. AB

## Linkd beefs Syd team

LINKD Tourism has announced a double appointment for its Sydney office, with Cathy Xu (pictured) joining as Marketing & Campaigns Manager and Jacey Fleming returning to the team as Operations and Projects Manager.

Xu brings over a decade of experience in strategic brand marketing, digital content, and campaign management, starting her career developing digital strategies before working for brands like Burberry and Meta.

Fleming was previously the general manager of Linkd Tourism's Sydney office for close to a decade before the pandemic.



## Learn More! Earn More!

### Small Ship, Big Adventures

We are excited to invite you and your clients to Aurora's Agent Bring Client new season of events, celebrating the launch of Aurora's 2026 Arctic & Beyond season, with 42 departures across three purpose-built small ships.

This season, we're travelling to more destinations than ever before, and our upcoming event series will cover itinerary highlights, new experiences and a whole new style of exploration, with special guests joining us in each city.

**REGISTER TODAY**

**130**

Maximum passengers on Expedition voyages

**10**

No Single Supplement staterooms per sailing\*

\*Conditions apply.

**42**

Expedition & Small Ship Cruise departures

**23**

Polar & Discover Expeditions

**19**

Small Ship Cruises to the Mediterranean & Atlantic Coast

**6**

New Expedition Itineraries

## BNE work complete

**ESSENTIAL** maintenance works on the legacy runway at Brisbane Airport have been completed, with the strip now back in service after the three-month project.

The work to replace 18 cracked slabs originally installed in the 1980s required the runway to be shortened from 3.5km to 2.7km, forcing wide-body aircraft and int'l flights to the parallel runway.

Brisbane Airport Chief Executive Officer, Gert-Jan de Graaff, sent a message of thanks this week to the city's residents for the disruption caused.

"We know it has meant temporary changes to where aircraft fly and we appreciate the understanding shown by the community," de Graaff said.

Both runways remained open during the update.

## Making travel matter in Peru



**SEVEN** travel advisors from Australia and New Zealand were recently whisked off by Adventure World to Peru on a trip specially designed to showcase the brand's Make Travel Matter ethos.

Joining the company's 'Authentic Peru' itinerary, the group saw the positive power tourism has on local communities while exploring some of the country's attractions.

Highlights included an adventure into the Amazon rainforest, a visit to the Sacred Valley of the Inca, a chance to wander the markets in the vibrant capital of Lima and the culmination at Machu Picchu.

The group took part in a number of 'Make Travel Matter' experiences including seeing the work of the AMA Foundation in Chinchero, which spotlights the traditional dyeing of alpaca and llama wool, and ancient weaving techniques by local women.

The AMA Foundation also helps local communities with job training at its restaurant in

Urubamba and building the skills of young disadvantaged mothers in Cusco through cooking.

Thea Bainbridge of Jamison Plaza Travel Associates said Adventure World's genuine approach to sharing Peru with its guests was incredible.

"The connection to the people, places, and food made this a truly special, once-in-a-lifetime experience," Bainbridge said.

"And my dream of meeting llamas at Machu Picchu came true," she added. *ML*

Bainbridge is **pictured** left with the group, which also comprised Adam Ahmad, Itineraries Travel Consultants; Brenda White, House of Travel Morrinsville; Jennifer Talbot, The Travel Brokers Mt Maunganui; Anita Fanfulla, Helloworld Tunstall Square; Kirsty McCartney, NZ Travel Brokers; Mary Paronis, Helloworld Elizabeth; Andrew Eddy, Adventure World; and Gustav Valiente, Adventure World.

## Vietjet boosts PER

**VIETNAMESE** low-cost carrier Vietjet has increased flights to Perth following its suspension of flights to Adelaide (*TD* 24 Sep).

Beginning 27 Oct, Vietjet will add one extra flight weekly between Ho Chi Minh City and Perth, taking the operation to four-times weekly.

Flights will take off from the Western Australia capital on Mon, Wed, Thu and Sat at 8.50am, landing in SGN at 2.25pm.

## Historic Fullerton

**HISTORIC** Hotels Worldwide has admitted The Fullerton Hotel Sydney into its prestigious collection of iconic properties housed within heritage facades.

The hotel is located in Sydney's General Post Office building.

**SKÅL**  
INTERNATIONAL  
Connecting Tourism Globally  
**AUSTRALIA**

With over  
**12,000** members  
in over **300** Clubs across  
**83** countries,

Skål International is the only international association of Travel and Tourism Professionals which incorporates all sectors of the travel and tourism industry.

**CLICK HERE**

to check out the Skål Australia newsletter for all the latest news and details of upcoming events at Club, National and International level, where you can expand your network by engaging in business exchange opportunities and exceptional social experiences.

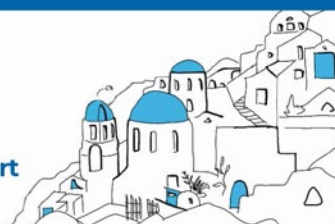
Skålleagues around Australia and the world are ready to welcome you, help you connect, and showcase their best experiences!

<https://australia.skall.org>

## SUN ISLAND TOURS ARE HIRING

Three Full Time Positions are Available!  
Hybrid Work, Based in Sydney.

- 🟡 **Product Coordinator**
- 🟡 **BDM for NSW/ACT**
- 🟡 **Reservations Travel Expert**



Email us at [jobs@sunislandtours.com.au](mailto:jobs@sunislandtours.com.au)

ROYAL BRUNEI  
AIRLINES

Celebrating

**RB 50**  
ANNIVERSARY  
1974-2024



**WIN BIG**  
with Royal Brunei!

We're thrilled to mark  
**50** golden years  
and the launch of our new  
**CHENNAI** services!

To commemorate this milestone, we're offering incredible savings with our Earlybird fares and fantastic prizes.

**Find out more**

[www.flyRB.com](http://www.flyRB.com)





## McLachlan leads battle tour



**HISTORIAN** Mat McLachlan has just wrapped up his 2024 Signature Tour of the Western Front, and has confirmed he will be leading a Western Front Signature Tour next year.

Fellow historian Pete Smith will join in hosting the nine-day itinerary, which will depart 30 Aug 2025 from Paris to explore the places on the Western Front that "defined the Anzac spirit of mateship and sacrifice".

Guests will visit all the key Australian battlefields of the Ypres Salient, Flanders and the Somme, including a host of behind-the-scenes experiences and special inclusions.

Priced at \$7,999 per person twin share, the tour includes accommodation in the heart of the battlefields, with stays at the luxurious Ariane Hotel in Ypres and Hotel Marotte in Amiens, and travel aboard a comfortable, air-conditioned coach.

## Caution in Colombia

**DFAT** is advising travellers to exercise a high degree of caution in Colombia due to an uptick in assaults and robberies on foreign citizens, including Australians.

Travellers should also expect an increased police presence, road closures, and demonstrations in Cali during the COP16 Biodiversity Summit from 21 Oct to 01 Nov.

"From 1916 to 1918 over 295,000 Australians served on the Western Front, and over 46,000 never came home," McLachlan (pictured) shared.

"Over nine days, together we will uncover the stories of the Anzacs who served."

To see all Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours' itineraries and departures, [CLICK HERE](#). *JM*

## Tas to arrest trend

**THE** latest Tasmanian Tourism snapshot for the Jun quarter showed an 8.8% visitation increase when compared to the same period last year, with 289,000 interstate and international visitors spending more than \$720 million.

Although visitation was up on the previous corresponding period, Tasmania has flagged more work is needed to improve the average length of stay and spend, which were both down.

In response, Tourism Tasmania has formed a taskforce alongside Events Tasmania and the Tourism Industry Council Tasmania to launch a new campaign and arrest the sliding trend.

As part of this, Tasmania will be running an intrastate campaign from late Oct 2024 to Mar 2025, that will be designed to inspire more multi-night holidays and increased spend on attractions.

## ATIA UPDATE

from Ingrid Fraser, acting CEO of Australia Travel Industry Association



It's a busy time as we continue delivering for our ATIA members.

The countdown to our events bonanza of Beyond Borders and NTIA is well and truly on, and we can feel the excitement in the air.

We're putting the finishing touches on the Beyond Borders program and are thrilled to feature insights from many of the travel industry's senior leaders. As I write, only a handful of tickets remain, so be sure to grab yours soon - full details are [HERE](#).

After a meticulous taste test, we have finalised the NTIA menu, begun crafting the seating plan, and secured the all-important after-party venue.

The trophies for this year's winners are just days away from being sent off to be inscribed, adding to the anticipation.

This week, I had the privilege of representing members at a significant roundtable with the Federal Minister for Trade and Tourism, Don Farrell.

As part of a select group of 20 stakeholders, we were one of the key voices in the room in Canberra representing outbound travel by Australians.

With significant interest around the room on inbound travel, it was crucial to highlight the benefits outbound travel brings.

This includes ensuring the sustainability of air services to Australia - without flights departing there will be none arriving - not to mention the \$853m generated by passport fees, \$831m on the passenger movement charge for travellers leaving Australia, and the \$4.2b spent within Australia by travellers before/after int'l trips.

We had a constructive dialogue on key issues including the need for support in attracting talent to the travel workforce, strategic investments in the traveller experience and decreasing barriers to travel, and fostering aviation competition to enhance choice and service quality.

## Canada's new tourism plan

**DESTINATION** Canada has launched a new tourism strategy built around four niche themes designed for attracting investment and developing new products for travellers.

Cycling, farm-to-plate culinary, culture and art, and residential quality of life will form the strategy's central pillars, with each designed to cross provincial boundaries and aim to bring together local businesses.

Each sub-strategy will be tasked with developing job opportunities, involving Indigenous communities and employing regenerative, sustainable approaches.

Ontario and Quebec will develop cycling tourism, aiming to connect existing bike routes within Ottawa, Cornwall and Montreal, and develop new routes.

The farm-to-plate concept will focus on Saskatchewan and be developed with support from the Culinary Tourism Alliance, centred



around Winnipeg, Brandon, Saskatoon and Regina.

The Northern Sky Corridor will highlight Edmonton as the gateway to the country's north, focusing on natural beauty as a key driver of visitation and new products in this region.

Finally, the Juan de Fuca Corridor is a partnership with the Pacific Northwest Economic Region and will be the only one of the four corridors to cross into the United States as a new path to engage with Canada's primary tourism source market. *ML*



### Dorchester Dubai

**DORCHESTER** Collection has announced it will open its second Dubai hotel in 2028, with The Alba to offer travellers premium service, privacy and wellness facilities.

Created in partnership with developer Omniyat, the US\$1.9 billion development will be located on the shores of Palm Jumeirah.

Features of the luxury resort will include infinity pools, vitality pools, a fitness suite, beach areas, a branded spa with treatment rooms.



## 5-STAR LAUNCESTON HOTEL UNVEILED

**PLANS** have been revealed for a new five-star hotel in Launceston's CBD, put forward by local property developer Creative Property Holdings (CPH).

The 190-room hotel will be constructed at the Paterson Street car park site in partnership with an international hotel brand, to be announced at a later date.

Supported by local investors and in line with the Tasmanian Govt's 2030 Visitor Economy Plan, the proposed development will include 400m<sup>2</sup> of streetfront food and beverage retail space.

"We believe a hotel of this size and international stature will be a game-changer for the Launceston CBD, supporting tourism demand and increasing visitor spend in the city and surrounding areas," said CPH MD Chris Billing.



"Over the past seven years, Launceston has significantly trailed behind Hobart in terms of new high-quality hotel rooms, adding only one-fifth of the new rooms that Hobart has introduced.

"With major events set to grow, including more AFL and VFL content, it's important Launceston has the accommodation and choice of designer amenity, to

meet the demand."

Once in operation, the hotel is expected to contribute around \$76 million to the local economy every year.

CPH will submit a formal development application in the coming months and engage with the community on the project, with construction expected to begin in H2 of 2025. *JM*

### Hyatt in Jaumur

**HYATT** is preparing to expand its footprint in Saudi Arabia with the signing of two new hotels in Jaumur, one of several planned communities for the country's upcoming NEOM district.

The Park Hyatt Jaumur and the Andaz Jaumur Marina will both open in 2027, adding a total 350 luxury rooms and suites to the destination, and offering a place to stay for travellers who are seeking an active or luxury vacation.

### Four Seasons expands horizons with a brand-new private jet journey

**FOUR** Seasons has introduced a new itinerary, 'Grand Horizons', as part of the 2026 Four Seasons Private Jet Experience collection.

The cross-continental voyage visits nine destinations, including four that are debuting in the Four Seasons lineup - Napa Valley, Ha Long Bay, Mallorca and Montreal.

Itinerary highlights include private vineyard tours and tastings; a luxury private boat ride in Bangkok; a visit to the

opulent Dolmabahce Palace in Istanbul; a 4X4 journey through Portugal's Arrabida National Park, and more.

Priced at US\$229,000 per person (based on double occupancy), bookings are now open for the first 24-day trip from 31 Aug to 23 Sep 2026.

Also debuting in 2026 is a new version of the popular 'World of Adventures' itinerary, which is ideal for busy travellers who want to experience more in a shorter amount of time.



The updated journey encompasses Singapore, Seychelles, Rwanda, Marrakech, Bogota, Galapagos Islands and Miami, and is now accepting reservations for the first 18-day trip from 12-29 Aug 2026.

## Discover our Adventure Special Report

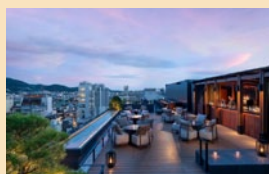


## ACCOMMODATION

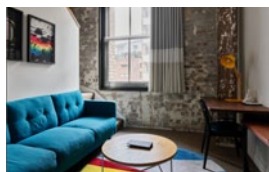
Send your accommodation updates to:  
accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au



**Dusit Thai Bangkok** has reopened following a transformation as part of the upcoming Dusit Central Park project in the heart of the city. The hotel boasts redesigned suites and club rooms with expansive picture frame windows that provide uninterrupted views of Lumpini Park. Soon, guests will be able to enjoy a new spa and four new dining concepts, including collaborations with world-class chefs and a multi-level rooftop bar.



The first hotel in Kyoto under Hilton's flagship brand, **Hilton Kyoto**, opened its doors last month in the Kawaramachi Sanjo district of central Kyoto. The property comprises a total of 313 rooms and a range of amenities, including all-day dining, specialty restaurants, a lobby cafe and bar, a rooftop bar, an executive lounge, a spa, a fitness centre, and an indoor pool. There is also a banquet hall and conference room.



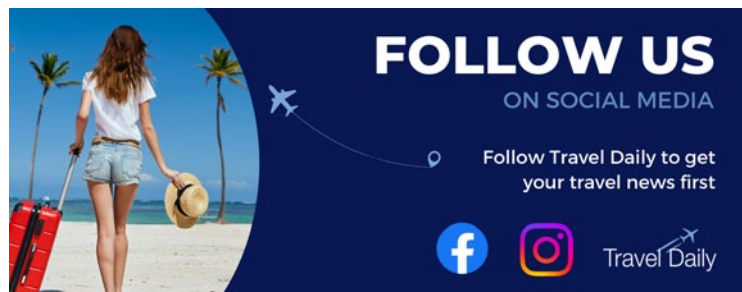
**Hotel Woolstore 1888 Sydney** has officially completed its transition into Accor's Handwritten Collection after four months of renovations. The iconic Darling Harbour property has undergone a series of enhancements aside from its rebrand, including a complete overhaul of its amenities and guest experience. The go-key hotel has also revealed plans for a new food and beverage concept, which will "embody the warmth and charm of Spanish culture".



Situated among the slopes of Sri Lanka's southern province, **Cape Weligam** has announced a brand refresh in celebration of its 10th anniversary. The Relais & Chateaux property will reopen on 02 Dec with a new beach club, the introduction of a Forest School Kids Club, new family interconnected suites and Cape residences, updated bars and restaurants, and a technology upgrade.



Vietnam's Gran Melia Nha Trang has been rebranded to **Villa Le Corail, A Gran Melia Hotel** - the first resort in Southeast Asia under Gran Melia Hotels & Resorts. Signalling a new chapter in Mediterranean luxury, the property is set in lush tropical surroundings with an ocean view, and features a collection of private villas, each with its own infinity pool and bespoke designer interiors.



## Air NZ salutes Captain Morgan



**AIR** New Zealand is bidding farewell to Captain David Morgan, Chief Operational Integrity and Safety Officer, who is stepping down from his leadership position after 40 years of service.

While he will no longer be in his corporate role, Morgan will continue flying for the carrier in what will be his sixth aircraft type, the Airbus A320.

The captain joined Air New Zealand in 1985 to fly the Fokker F27 Friendship, before climbing the ranks over 20 years to become the Chief Pilot in 2003 - a position he continued to hold after joining the executive team two years later.

Air New Zealand Chief Executive Officer Greg Foran said the airline's leadership team, as well as colleagues across the across the business and aviation community, will "deeply miss" the outgoing executive.

"When people think of Air New Zealand, many Kiwis will know or have heard of Captain David Morgan," Foran said.

"He's represented the airline on the ground and in the skies with the highest level of excellence, and I speak on behalf of all Air New Zealanders past and present when I say a heartfelt thank you for his service.

"The special thing about David is that not only is he incredibly good at what he does, but he's also a great person."

Morgan, who will stay on the leadership team until early 2025 while Air NZ looks for his replacement, shared: "for me, the special part of the airline is our people, and I've had the pleasure of working with so many incredible Air New Zealanders throughout my career so far". JM

**Pictured:** Morgan on Air New Zealand's recent Koru Care flight.



# NOW PLAYING

## CLIPPERS' \$2B INTUIT DOME IS A SLAM DUNK!



Visitors to LA can now experience the future of sports and entertainment at the brand-new Intuit Dome.

Home to the LA Clippers, this state-of-the-art venue boasts the most legroom in the NBA, a giant double-sided halo display, and an expansive outdoor plaza. Sports

fans will enjoy premium features like USB charging ports, built-in game controllers, and a decibel meter that rewards the loudest fans with exclusive discounts.

The stadium is easily accessible by public transportation and is located just 10 minutes from LAX. [More HERE.](#)

## OOH LA LA LAX: AIR FRANCE'S NEW LOUNGE

Air France has just opened a new, expansive lounge in the West Concourse of the Tom Bradley International Terminal.

Accessible via an underground passageway, the lounge boasts a stylish design, delicious French food and beverages, and even a spa area offering complimentary mini-facials.

This luxurious new amenity is sure to impress your discerning travellers flying La Première, Business Class, or with Flying Blue Elite Plus status – and eligible KLM and SkyTeam partners, too. [More HERE.](#)



## SHOP, EAT, REPEAT



Conveniently located in Manhattan Beach and just a short drive south of LAX, Manhattan Village offers a relaxed, open-air shopping and dining experience in the South Bay.

With a diverse range of shops, restaurants, and a dedicated tourism program, it's the perfect destination for your clients seeking a taste of California living.

Recently renovated and expanded with new retail offerings from popular brands like Alo Yoga and H&M to local boutiques. Specialty stores such as Apple, Sephora, and Lululemon are also available, making it a convenient one-stop shop for all your needs.

Enjoy discounts and offers for out-of-town visitors with the VIP Shopping and Dining Booklet, available at the Concierge desk.

[Learn more HERE.](#)

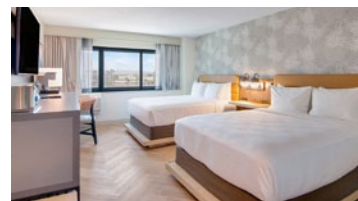
## SONESTA LAX: A \$32M REFRESH

The Sonesta Los Angeles Airport LAX is completing a US\$32 million-dollar renovation, which is set to transform the hotel into a modern oasis inspired by Southern California's iconic landscape and culture. The project is expected to be completed in October 2024.

The renovation will include redesigned guest rooms with contemporary furnishings and upgraded amenities, revitalized public spaces including the lobby, lounge areas, and dining outlets, an enhanced fitness centre with state-of-the-art equipment, and an upgraded pool area for relaxation and rejuvenation.

The Sonesta Los Angeles Airport LAX is poised to become a premier choice for travellers seeking a comfortable, stylish, and convenient stay near LAX.

[More HERE.](#)



## PEDAL AND PLAY IN LA

Introduce your clients to Los Angeles on two wheels with Handlebar Bike Tours.

These guided bike tours offer a unique and engaging way to explore the city's vibrant neighbourhoods, from Downtown LA to the Arts District.

With knowledgeable guides and scenic routes, these tours are perfect for individual travellers, groups, or corporate events. [More HERE.](#)

## WIN YOUR SHARE OF \$500

Refer a colleague to sign up for the LA Tourism Trade e-newsletter, and you could win 1 of 10 x \$50 vouchers. Simply share this link ([bit.ly/LAcolleaguerefferal](https://bit.ly/LAcolleaguerefferal)) with your colleagues and have them add your name to the "Who Referred You" section for your chance to win. The more you refer, the more entries you receive! The program ends November 1st, 2024.

## FROM ORBIT TO EXHIBIT

The California Science Center is gearing up to unveil the new home of the NASA Space Shuttle Endeavour, the only space shuttle set in launch mode on display anywhere in the world.

This state-of-the-art facility will provide an immersive experience for visitors, allowing them to explore the legacy of the Space Shuttle Program and the marvels of space exploration. [More HERE.](#)

# Discover Los Angeles

More flight options,  
more rewarding together



American



QANTAS



Book now



# Sell the best of Seattle — the Emerald City

In partnership with the iconic USA city Seattle, we have launched 4 brand new itineraries exploring some of the incredible destinations and experiences available to book now.

Whether your clients are looking to explore Seattle's iconic sites, head into the great outdoors, embrace the spirit of innovation, or dive deep into the food scene, you can be sure their trip will be unforgettable. Book through Helio today.

[View all packages](#)

## There's something for everyone in Seattle:

### Kraken NHL Experience

3 Nights

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

3 nights at The Edgewater Hotel & tickets to Seattle Kraken NHL game at Climate Pledge Arena.

FROM

**\$1,095** pp twin share\*

[Book now](#)

### Coffee & Cocktails

3 Nights

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

3 nights at The Edgewater Hotel, Seattle Coffee Culture Tour & Seattle Cocktail Tour.

FROM

**\$949** pp twin share\*

[Book now](#)

### Explore Seattle & Surrounds

3 Nights

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

3 nights at The Edgewater Hotel & Bavarian Village of Leavenworth Private Day Trip.

FROM

**\$1,549** pp twin share\*

[Book now](#)