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Silversea into hotels

SILVERSEA will develop a 150-room hotel in the Chilean city of Puerto Williams to support its fly-cruise Antarctica program and annual polar voyage home port.

A ground breaking ceremony took place this week to mark the beginning of construction for what will be the southernmost hotel on Earth once it is opened to guests from late 2025.

The hotel will serve as a pre- and post-expedition base for travellers embarking and returning from Silversea's Antarctic voyages, with three ships to offer itineraries ranging from six to 20 days.

Overlooking the Beagle Channel, rooms will offer views over the water and Patagonia mountains, with guest amenities including a restaurant, bar and lounge, fitness centre and gift shop.

Tourism rebound "patchy"

A **NEW** report from the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs has called on the Federal Government to address policies that will result in more accessible and affordable regional air access.

The recommendation from the *Are we there yet?: From recovery to resilience report* follows a turbulent period for domestic aviation, which has seen the collapse of Bonza and Rex, significantly reducing capacity and competition.

The Committee also threw its



support behind more open skies agreements to increase capacity on international routes.

A call for greater air capacity was among several suggestions for government to review in a bid to ensure Australia's tourism sector is not susceptible to future "shocks" akin to the pandemic.

These included a need to create a national First Nations tourism body to represent the interests of Indigenous businesses, as well as the establishment of a First Nations advisory panel to advise Tourism Australia on marketing strategies and campaigns.

The committee also wants to see an enhanced regional dispersal strategy rolled out to include a greater number of regions, and a new set of expectations for Tourism Australia to give more clarity to its role in the context of tourism recovery.

"While we're starting to see encouraging signs that the sector is recovering, it is clear the recovery has been patchy and that issues remain," said Chair of the Trade Subcommittee, Senator Deborah O'Neill.

"This report makes a number of recommendations to strengthen the visitor economy and make it more resilient to...shocks." AB

Hyatt now Standard

HYATT Hotels Corporation has closed the acquisition of Standard International (**TD** 22 Aug) and its lifestyle brands, The Standard and Bunkhouse Hotels.

Ahead of Hyatt debuting its new dedicated Lifestyle division, the Standard acquisition sees 22 hotels and around 2,000 rooms added to the Hyatt portfolio along with 30 pipeline projects.

Uber goes on safari

RIDESHARE giant Uber has partnered with Aquila Private Game Reserve in South Africa to launch a unique game drive product for visitors to Cape Town.

In the latest of its 'GoAnywhere' range, the new half-day UberSafari will be available until 31 Jan 2025 and will take riders into Aquila Reserve to see the 'Big Five'.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest news including our **Business Events News** feature plus a full page from **Disney Cruise Line**.

From Paris to Berlin

TRAVEL agents can book seats from 16 Oct on a direct train link between Paris and Berlin through Rail Europe, with the new service to hit the tracks from Dec.

The new high-speed link, to be operated by both Deutsche Bahn and SNCF, takes travellers between the French and German capital cities in eight hours.

Stops along the way include Strasbourg, Karlsruhe and Frankfurt, with seats on the new route starting from €59 for second class and €69 for first.

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My Cruises' year-long cruise

A YEAR-LONG around-the-world cruise will set sail in 2026, with My Cruises collaborating with Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) to launch 'Explorations by Norwegian'.

The 371-day, 220-port package, which will set sail in Sep 2026, will visit all seven continents, and is available to book now.

My Cruises has chartered Oceania Cruises' *Regatta* for the itinerary, as part of the

collaboration with NCLH.

The voyage, which travels from Rome to London, can also be split into 24 segments, with passengers able to book as few as seven days on board.

Included in the package are return business class flights to and from Australia, a two-night hotel stay in Rome, an all-inclusive onboard dining and beverage package, wi-fi, still & sparkling water, and much more.

Shore excursion credit is also included, which My Cruises has broken down into three categories: "onshore explorations", "local discovery", and "active exploration".

My Cruises General Manager Michael Middleton described the itinerary as a "game-changer".

"We don't think it's ever been done before, we think its a world-first," Middleton told *TD*, saying the package has been six months in the making - more in *CW*. *MS*

FJ expands ADL

STRONG demand will see Fiji Airways add an extra weekly flight between Nadi and Adelaide from Apr next year.

From this date, the carrier will operate three weekly flights departing at 12:35pm on Mon, Thu and Sat using its existing 170-seat Boeing 737 MAX-8 aircraft.

"We are excited to grow our Adelaide-Nadi service, making it easier for South Australians to experience the beauty of Fiji and to provide enhanced connectivity throughout our network - including North America and the Pacific Islands," said Fiji Airways CEO, Andre Viljoen.



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Expedition Partners into Link



MELBOURNE agency Expedition Partners, a specialist in luxury cruise and rail, has been unveiled as the newest member of the Link Travel Group joint venture.

Link Travel Group General Manager, Scott Darlow, said it was obvious from the first meeting that Expedition Partners was going to be a perfect fit, with its membership in effect this week.

"The Link Board and I were very impressed by the drive and vision of the team, led by Simon Flower, and their business principles run parallel with Link's core values."

Darlow is **pictured** above with Expedition Partners joint Managing Directors, Simon and Jenny Flower. *ML*

QF seat discounts

DOMESTIC economy fares to more than 60 destinations have been reduced in Qantas' latest Australia Red Tail Sale, with seats starting from \$109 one way.

More than 30 routes are on sale for under \$150 including Sydney-Ballina, Melbourne-Launceston and Cairns-Townsville.

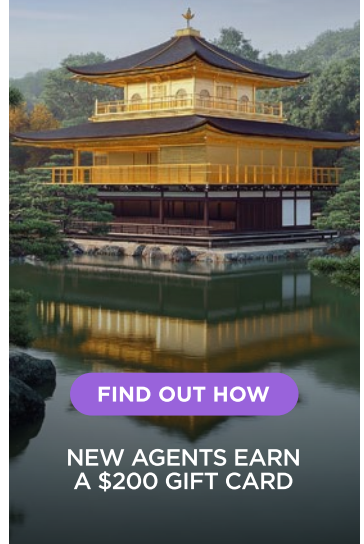
Seats are valid for booking until 09 Oct and for travel between Nov 2024 and Jun 2025.

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Minor grows Melb

MINOR Hotels has opened a new Oaks-branded property in Melbourne located on St Kilda Rd, a short walk from Albert Park.

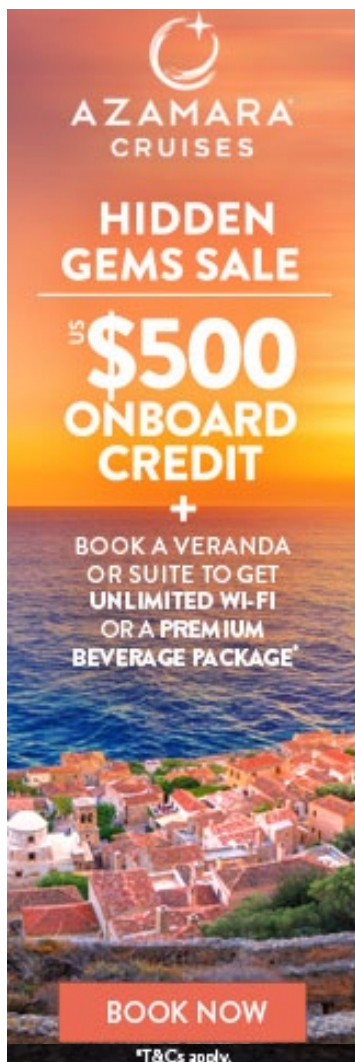
Welcoming guests from this week, the 145-room property offers self-contained studios, one and two-bedroom apartments, each with a kitchenette, private balcony and free wi-fi.

Bucket list webinar

VISIT USA Australia is inviting agents to register for its monthly webinar, with the latest episode themed as 'Bucket List & Luxury' and featuring Tauck, Disney Destinations and Washington DC.

The 40-minute session will take place on 08 Oct at 8:30am and midday AEST, with a live Q&A.

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up.



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Europe comes to Bondi



THE combined powerhouse efforts of The Travel Corporation (TTC) and Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) continued at the former's Bondi Junction headquarters last night as part of their European Rendezvous trade series unveiled in Aug (TD 02 Aug).

More than 40 travel agents gathered to learn more about the latest product available in Europe from both companies, including highlights of the upcoming seasons and how to access the latest trade learning tools online.

Presenting for TTC was the always exuberant Mickey Mann, who is the NSW (south)/ WA/ ACT Sales Manager for the operator and, winner of the Most Outstanding Sales Executive (Land Supply) award at last years NTIAs.

Apart from outlining the best of European product in 2025 and beyond, Mann reiterated the key



differences between TTC's stable of brands (Luxury Gold, Insight Vacations, Trafalgar, Costsaver, and Contiki), to ensure agents are matching the right client to the right experience.

The premise behind pooling efforts to educate the trade is the increasing cross-pollination between touring and cruising, with an increasing number of travellers wanting to do both on trips to Europe.

Pictured: Mann on stage & inset is NCL BDM for NSW and the ACT, Aaron Dodkin, delivering a key update for the cruise line. AB

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Window Seat

VIDEO game giant Nintendo is celebrating its legacy by opening its very own museum in the Japanese city of Kyoto.

Housed in a renovated factory that was once a console repair shop, visitors can explore the gaming giant's lineage, beginning with its early days in 1889 producing trading cards through to the advent of its iconic plumber character, Super Mario.

Tickets are priced from ¥3,300 (A\$33.60), with some interactive exhibits including consoles where users can play Mario and Donkey Kong games.



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Cvent partners up with PASA

CVENT has teamed up with Procurement and Supply Australia (PASA) to provide event technology for two of the organisation's key upcoming events.

Leveraging Cvent's mobile app, on-site registration, and OA360 solutions, PASA will enhance the overall experience for its members and event delegates.

The alliance, which aims to improve attendee engagement and streamlining event management processes through innovative tech solutions, will see PASA members gain access to Cvent's platform suite to help them plan, promote, and execute events.

CAIRNS COMMITTED TO INCLUSION

THE Cairns Convention Centre is being recognised for its commitment to accessibility and inclusion, with the venue up for a prestigious award at the Cairns Business Excellence Awards.

The centre has earned the nomination for the 'People Management' accolade by embracing innovative approaches to create a more inclusive and accessible workplace, from comprehensive wheelchair accessibility throughout, to advanced hearing augmentation systems and braille signage.

The venue has also partnered with disability employment providers through initiatives like the federally funded Tourism Taster program, which connects Cairns' tourism businesses to employees with disabilities.

"Our commitment to inclusivity



drives our people management strategies, ensuring our practices are accessible and supportive," said Cairns Convention Centre GM, Janet Hamilton.

"This dedication not only enhances our workplace but also sets a standard for others, promoting disability inclusion and equal opportunities for all.

"Our aim is to provide a venue where accessibility is inherent, not an afterthought.

"We want all our guests, regardless of ability, to have an

exceptional and equal experience at our Centre," she added.

MEANWHILE, Cairns Convention Centre has announced it will host the 2025 Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) Annual Scientific Meeting from 02-06 May 2025.

Bringing together leading global experts in anaesthesia, perioperative medicine, and pain medicine, the event will reinforce Cairns' reputation as a premier destination for business events in the medical and health sectors.

Geelong event fund

EVENT organisers hosting new national and international business events in Geelong and The Bellarine can apply for funding under the Regional Business Events Program.

The cash pool is available for conferences, trade exhibitions, corporate meetings, and incentive programs set to be hosted between 01 Jan 2025 and 31 Mar 2026.

Delivered by Business Events Victoria in partnership with Melbourne Convention Bureau, the program has two funding streams available - apply **HERE**.

MCEC's AV training program recognised

THE Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) AV Traineeship Program was honoured recently at the inaugural RMIT College of Vocational Education Industry Partnerships Awards, taking home the gong for 'Innovation in Education Partnerships'.

The recognition highlights MCEC's commitment to providing valuable opportunities to the next generation of audiovisual professionals.

"We are deeply committed to providing meaningful

opportunities for students, helping them grow and laying the foundation for a thriving career in the live production and audio visual industry," said David Strangio, MCEC Head of Technology Services.

Five students recently completed the six-month traineeship program, which teaches advanced skills in areas including audio mixing, lighting operation, projection mapping, and video production, helping them secure ongoing employment at MCEC.

NZCE milestone

THE Net Zero Carbon Events (NZCE) initiative has joined the Global Climate Action Portal (GCAP), bringing it closer to its goal of addressing climate change within the global business events sector.

By reporting through the GCAP platform, which tracks and showcases climate-related initiatives, NZCE will be able to "ensure greater transparency and showcase the collective achievements of its stakeholders".



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Outrigger Resorts & Hotels Hospitality has named **Craig Waterman** as the General Manager of its flagship property, **Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort**. Waterman will take over the beachfront property, which recently completed an US\$85 million transformation. Waterman brings with him more than two decades of hospitality experience and most recently served as Davidson Hospitality Area General Manager, where he was based in New Jersey.

Marriott International has bolstered the executive leadership team at The Westin Brisbane and Four Points by Sheraton Brisbane with four new appointments, led by Cluster General Manager **Kelvin Ramm**. The experienced hotelier most recently served as Brisbane Marriott Hotel's General Manager for five years. He is joined by **Valerie Wade** as Cluster Director of Sales & Marketing, **Julie-Ann Watt** as Cluster Director of Sales, and **Pamli Bose** as Cluster Director of Finance.

Fusion Hotel Group has beefed up its leadership team with four new hotel managers. Taking over as Cluster General Manager at HIIVE by Fusion Binh Duong and HIIVE by Fusion Binh Duong New City is **Bui Duc Khiem**; **Tran Huu Thanh** has been appointed the new General Manager of Fusion Suites Vung Tau; **Van Vu** takes the leadership role at the newly opened Fusion Resort & Villas Da Nang; and **Cang Lam** becomes Cluster Resort Manager at Maia Resort Quy Nhon, and its newly opened next-door neighbour, The Ocean Resort by Fusion Quy Nhon.

Frasers Hospitality has enhanced its leadership with two new key appointments. **Chew Hang Song** will succeed the retiring Mark Chan as Chief Operating Officer, having previously played an instrumental role in steering the company through the pandemic. Frasers has also welcomed **Ian Loe** as Managing Director Technology & Innovation, a newly-created role, which will see him tasked with driving synergies and fostering innovation to enhance the company's operational excellence and market leadership.

New leadership for **Outdoors NSW & ACT** has been appointed, with Phil Hamdorf handing over his chairmanship to **Peter Kent**. The leadership transition was marked at the organisation's recent annual general meeting, which also saw **Linda Hall** from the National Parks & Wildlife Service NSW join the board, succeeding Kyle Finlay, whose term has concluded.

The African Travel & Tourism Association has welcomed a new Chief Executive Officer and Chair, **Kgomotso Ramothea** and **James Haigh**, who will help pave the way for future growth in tourism on the continent. Ramothea will serve as ATTA's first female CEO, bringing more than 20 years of experience in marketing and communications. Meanwhile, Haigh has had 25 years of experience, working across multiple African countries.



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Glamping under the stars



REFLECTIONS Lake Keepit will soon become home to a new international star-gazing tourist destination, thanks to a \$2 million grant from the NSW Government's Regional Tourism Activation Fund.

Recently approved by Gunnedah Council, the \$4 million Big Sky Dreaming glamping precinct will feature eight large star-gazing tents, each with their own bathroom, kitchenette and deck, plus an outdoor bath offering views over the lake.

An existing chalet will be refurbished as a Star Lounge, where guests can relax and enjoy events including dining and experiences under the stars, Aboriginal storytelling and cultural activities.

"Our Big Sky Dreaming precinct opens the curtain to the best of nature - the vast, clear skies around Lake Keepit, long appreciated by local astronomers and campers," said Reflections Holidays CEO, Nick Baker.

"Our glamping tents are luxurious and feature sky lights so guests can watch the stars shimmer from bed, or even enjoy

a 'star bath', soaking in a claw-foot bath on their tent deck on a warm summer night."

The luxury precinct is expected to open to the public around Easter 2025. *JM*

Time to reel in \$1m

THE new season of the Northern Territory's Million Dollar Fish (MDF) has kicked off today, with 10 barramundi sporting million-dollar tags now released across the five main fishing regions (**TD** 03 Sep).

Season 10 of the competition runs until 31 Mar 2025, giving anglers plenty of time to reel in a million, or one of the 99 \$10,000 red-tagged barra.

Million Dollar Fish is delivered by Northern Territory Major Events Company, with acting CEO Trevor Cox hailing this season as the "celebration of a decade of extraordinary fishing in the stunning waterways of the Top End of the Northern Territory".

"Anglers from across Australia travel each year to the region to cast their luck in reeling in a red-tagged barramundi."

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