



**Singapore Airlines is proud to be the Major Sponsor
of the National Travel Industry Awards.**

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our Australian
Trade partners for their unwavering support.

What a spectacular night as we came together to
celebrate the remarkable achievements of the wider
Travel Industry in Australia.

Congratulations to all the Award Winners!





Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of news, a cover wrap from **Singapore Airlines**, a photo page from **Savenio**, plus a full page from **ATIA**.

Travel Daily
ON LOCATION



GOLD COAST

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of the **Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC)**, which is hosting **Meeting Place 2024**.

WHILE outbound travel continues to grow in leaps and bounds, the same cannot be said for inbound, with a range of factors standing in the way of Australian tourism returning to its full potential.

While significant challenges remain, the news is not all bad, with some of the industry's best young minds taking the stage at the Young ATEC Forum and Elite Emerging Leaders Presentation today to share their views for the way forward.

These and many more issues impacting the tourism export sector will be discussed this week at ATEC's 2024 Meeting Place conference - stay tuned to *Travel Daily* for all the stories.

Special issue today

AS THE travel industry resumes the working week with bleary eyes after a stellar NTIAs and Beyond Borders on Fri and Sat respectively, we have been working away in the background to bring you all of the colour from ATIA's huge double feature.

Following the publication of our usual edition of *Travel Daily* today, keep your eyes on the inbox for all of action from the NTIAs winners' circle and nominees, the finalists' VIP event, special announcements, and the many highlights from Beyond Borders.

Skroo: unity no longer up in the air

EXCLUSIVE

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group MD Graham 'Skroo' Turner has called on airlines to work more closely with the travel industry, which he said is more cohesive and united under the ATIA label.

Speaking to *Travel Daily* on the sidelines of ATIA's Beyond Borders Summit in Sydney last Fri, Turner said that after nearly 50 years in the industry, he had noted for the first time that, "nearly everybody" is aligned to working together for the sake of unity.

"Now is the time for us to work together for the industry, and that's going to be a big thing in



the next few years.

"The reality is, that if we don't work together, some sectors will succeed and some will tend to fail," Turner said.

"If we work together, chances are we'll bring each other along.

"I think that's something that not all the airlines see at the moment, but I think generally the intermediaries, the tour operators, the cruise lines, see that working together in the same direction in a place like Australia - and I suspect places like New Zealand would be similar - that's going to be most effective."

Turner suggested one possible strategy could be by giving airlines a greater voice in the sector, potentially via a seat or representation among the ATIA board, but that was "probably a few years away there".

"If you look domestically, I think they're [airlines] on a path that doesn't coincide with the intermediary in particular, or the tour operators - they're probably more focused on getting business coming directly to themselves."

ATIA Chairman Christian Hunter added that with the board now featuring a diverse mix of businesses over many segments, better engagement with airlines will make the industry stronger.

"The travel industry needs to engage more closely with aviation to make it as easy as possible for people to travel and for agents to sell travel," Hunter said. *ML*

More from Beyond Border in today's special edition of *TD*.

SIA says thank you

THE major sponsor of the National Travel Industry Awards, Singapore Airlines, has thanked the industry for its support, as well as tipping its hat to the night's winners - see the **cover page**.

ATIA unifies brand

THE Australian Travel Industry Association has retired ATAS and rebranded to ATIA Accredited, uniting under one name to strengthen recognition for trusted travel businesses - more on **p7**.

Joyce takes a gulp

THE book that many aviation pundits expect will take a hammer to Alan Joyce's time leading Qantas as CEO has been released today.

Joe Aston's *The Chairman's Lounge: The Inside Story of how Qantas Sold Us Out* has already released some extracts through the *SMH* and the *AFR*, which also paint an unflattering picture of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's approach to travel, chiefly allegations that he accepted free upgrades.

Stay tuned to *travelBulletin* for a full wrap on Wed from our Publisher Damian Francis.

VA love for QR is evergreen

VIRGIN Australia and Qatar Airways intend to collaborate on projects that promote an increased uptake of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and low carbon aviation fuel.

The two carriers, which are currently awaiting regulatory and government approval for a 25% equity deal, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to pursue new SAF initiatives.

Both airlines also said they recognised the importance of developing the human capital of Australia's aviation ecosystem through learning, education and development opportunities.

These opportunities will be explored in the areas of waste and energy management, sustainable procurement, and aviation workforce development.

"[The partnership] allows Virgin Australia to harness the scale and expertise of the world's best airline to help tackle a range of



sustainability challenges, from the adoption of SAF-related solutions to customer solutions, to workforce development," VA Chief Corporate Affairs & Sustainability Officer, Christian Bennett, said.

"We look forward to working closely with the Qatar Airways team to enhance and broaden the impact of our efforts to advance environmentally sustainable and inclusive operations," he added.

Outside of its latest divestment strategy with Qatar, Virgin Australia formed a strategic partnership with the Middle Eastern airline in 2022 (*TD* 11 May 2022), which expanded the network, lounge and loyalty offerings of both carriers. *AB*

20% can't afford travel

CLOSE to one in five Aussies spent money on holiday travel they could not afford in the past 12 months, according to a Finder survey of 1,049 respondents.

The figure equates to roughly 3.6 million travellers booking trips that extend beyond their financial means, showing once again that travel remains a high priority for Aussies despite the cost-of-living crisis gripping the nation.

Figures also highlighted a generational difference in debt patterns, with younger Aussies more likely to go into debt to fund a holiday.

Just over a third of Gen Z said they had made a booking they could not afford in the last 12 months, compared to just 1% of Baby Boomers.



The research found that 5% people are borrowing the money needed to make a booking from family or friends, while a further 6% of aspiring holidaymakers had to cancel their plans due to affordability problems.

Spokesperson for Finder, Angus Kidman, said it was clear that Aussies are showing a heightened commitment to travel, even as their budgets tighten.

However, he also warned that while it might feel good for consumers in the short-term, ignoring the financial reality can lead to serious consequences.

"The post-holiday glow will quickly fade when faced with substantial debt that can take years to clear," Kidman cautioned.

Finder also recommended some cost-cutting measures that will not be well received by the accommodation sector, such as staying with family & friends. *AB*

WIN THE ULTIMATE WIMBLEDON 2025 EXPERIENCE WITH EMIRATES

[Find out more >](#)



OFFICIAL PARTNER



GFOB's new triple threat



ESCORTED tour company, Globus family of brands (GFOB) has made three key sales appointments to cater for a rising demand in the Aussie market.

Josh Galea, who was a finalist at the NTIAs this year in the cruise sales category, has been made Business Development Manager - South & East Victoria after rejoining the operator nine months ago.

The experienced sales executive previously managed the NSW South/ACT territory, but has since relocated to Victoria and takes on a new remit.

Galea had worked for close to four years with GFOB until the pandemic struck, but returned to the business at the end of 2023.

In further staffing news, GFOB

has promoted Melinda Wouda to National Account Manager.

She was previously a BDM looking after western & northern Victoria, as well as Tasmania.

Rounding out the trio of new appointments is Kate Jury, who has been recruited for the Business Development Manager Victoria North/West and Tas role.

She joins GFOB after a two-year stint at Global Touring. *AB*

SUMMER IN THE ARCTIC

Quark Expeditions®

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Media Buying & Planning Australia

The Samoa Tourism Authority is requesting proposals from reputable media planning, buying and placement agencies for the period:
January 2025 - December 2026

STA Seeks to partner with a qualified media buying agency that will provide best in class strategic media planning, purchasing, creative, analysis services and reporting to further compliment the marketing and promotional goals for this fiscal year. Click on this ad for more information.

Beautiful SAMOA

INSPIRING VACATIONS

EARN A \$50 GIFT CARD

FOR EVERY \$5K IN BOOKINGS

BOOK BY 31 OCT

FIND OUT HOW

NEW AGENTS EARN A \$200 GIFT CARD



APPLY NOW



Window Seat

A **TRAVEL** agency in the United Kingdom has brought in some serious muscle to help out with training staff.

Weightlifting coach and former Corporate Traveller Australia BDM, Robyn Morgan, was recently appointed by the British home-based group Not Just Travel to deliver a high-octane approach to onboarding new talent.

As the onboarding trainer, she will combine her coaching skills, entrepreneurial expertise and travel experience to support new blood in the organisation, and we are led to believe that despite her gym history, advisors will not have to bench 100kg weights to make it through the probation period.

"Weightlifting is very technical and I like processes and procedures, and over the years I've mastered the art of tailoring my teaching to how recipients best receive information," Morgan said.

"I'm a nurturer by nature and my training has taught me so much about the human spirit.

"I don't just talk to a screen from nine-to-five, it's about blended learning and capturing people's attention, and it is my job to ensure consultants have all the resources at their fingertips."

Morgan's LinkedIn page states that she is an experienced Olympic weightlifting coach and certified referee.

Presumably, she will be able to whip new recruits into shape for a career in travel.



QF upgrades A330 experience



QANTAS has confirmed that high-speed, complimentary wi-fi will be available on "some" A330 routes in Asia on its enabled aircraft from Dec.

"The service will offer enough bandwidth for every passenger to enjoy a fast and consistent connection, similar to Qantas domestic flights, where the speed and reliability of in-flight wi-fi has driven average take-up rates of 75%, with some routes showing a 100% uptake," the carrier said.

In Apr, Qantas revealed it will be fast-tracking the rollout of complimentary, high-speed wi-fi across its fleet of international aircraft (**TD** 23 Apr).

MEANWHILE, by the end of 2026, passengers flying on all 10 of Qantas' A330-200 jets will be able to experience upgraded economy seating resulting from a multi-million-dollar refurbishment program.

The major revamp of amenities include comfortable new economy seats boasting 4K OLED 13.3-inch entertainment touch screens - 20% larger than the existing interfaces.

Economy passengers will also have access to USB-C fast charging and Bluetooth audio connectivity allowing travellers to use their own headphones.

Other key elements of the A330 cabin upgrade program include new mood lighting and the

update of curtains and carpets.

"We've used our fleet renewal program to completely rethink the in-flight experience and these cabin upgrades mean we can bring next-generation features and designs to our existing aircraft," Qantas International CEO Cam Wallace said.

"Customers can look forward to brand new economy seats... that are the same seats that will feature on our ultra long-haul A350-1000ULR aircraft, so it will be a preview of the Project Sunrise flying experience."

Qantas A330s currently operate international flights to Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo, with work on the first plane to start in mid-2025, and a refurbished aircraft entering service by the end of next year. **AB**

New WA visitor centre

A **NEW** Western Australia visitor centre will open in Jun next year at Perth train station, offering upgraded information and facilities to enhance tourists.

The Western Australia Government said the project represented a milestone in its 10-year tourism strategy, which identified a need for a welcome centre that embodies the state's destination marketing brand, as well as drive bookings for local tourism operators.

Watershed NT plan

NEW plans have been lodged for a major upgrade of the G'day Group's Red Centre caravan park in Alice Springs, including a new water park and additional cabins.

The close-to \$8 million development proposal also wants to make upgrades to parking and add disability access points.

Central to the plan is the water park, which will feature a 'jungle waterhouse' with a 8.6 metre dump bucket.

G'day Group CEO Grant Wilcking said he was "really excited" about the project, adding "it's going to be great for tourism and the visitor economy in the region".

If the proposal passes muster with local residents, it will be a major shot in the arm for Alice Springs, which has battled high crimes rates in recent years.



ACCOMMODATION PROVIDERS WANTED

Due to demand additional opportunities are now available for 2024-25!

FIND OUT MORE



NO COMMISSION! YOU WIN, WE WIN!

Generate bookings on your terms, ensuring steady cash flow without the need for discounted advertising.

TT-Line to lease new ships



AMID a background of cost blowouts and delays, Tasmania Government-owned TT-Line will lease out its two upcoming Spirit of Tasmania ships, the first of which is nearing completion at a shipyard in Finland.

The plan to base the two additional vessels at the Port of Devonport this year has been scuttled by a hold-up in construction, with required port upgrades not expected to be ready until at least Feb 2027.

It is the latest in a series of delays with the project, which was most recently flagged for completion in Jan 2026.

The state government is now exploring opportunities to lease or charter the first vessel during the interim construction period, and it is still planned for both vessels to sail to Tasmania for the finalisation of fit-out.

"By leasing the vessels, Tasmanians will directly benefit from the financial returns and avoid the need for vessel storage costs," the government said.

"Leasing of the second vessel, which is expected to be delivered by the second half of 2025, will also be explored."

Should leasing opportunities not prove financially beneficial, TT-Line will seek a cost-effective medium-term storage option in Tasmania, and if this eventuates, the Tasmanian Government said it will ensure that TasPorts does

not charge TT-Line for storage.

The controversial delays have dealt a heavy blow to the Tasmanian tourism sector, which originally banked on the duo of ships being up and running in the coming months.

In response to the controversial delay, the Tasmanian Government has announced a \$26.5 million tourism assistance package to help mitigate the impacts.

"This situation we are in is extremely regrettable, but Tasmanians want us to deliver a solution," Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff said.

"We have said we will sort the Spirits...and back Tasmania's tourism industry, and that's what we are doing today," he added.

So serious have been the issues with port construction, that the Tas Govt has brought forward proposed reforms to its departments so that "Tasmanians don't experience a situation like this again", Rockliff said.

When published, the full report will be available on the govt's State Growth's website.

A new webpage will also be launched soon that posts regular project updates at Devonport, including timeline tracking.

Despite the ongoing issues at its ports, Premier Rockliff insisted that visitor demand will continue to increase as "more people realise that Tasmania is the best place in the world". AB

SPAIN WITH ENTIRE TRAVEL GROUP DAY 5-6



DAY five of the Entire Group Journeys' travel agent fam to **southern Spain** kicked off with a drive from Seville to Córdoba. Upon arrival, the group crossed the ancient Roman bridge, where they were greeted by local guide Ana, who led an engaging two-hour walking tour of the Mezquita-Catedral and Córdoba's charming old town. After a couple of hours of free time for lunch and shopping, the group hopped back on the coach for a scenic drive to Granada, passing through endless olive groves.

In the afternoon the group arrived at their hotel, the centrally-located, five-star Barceló Granada Congress, before being whisked away for an unforgettable evening at El Templo del Flamenco, where they enjoyed a lively, "authentic" flamenco dinner and show. The night ended with a fun coach ride back to the hotel, complete with tour director Carlos leading some karaoke.



Day six offered a choice between a three-hour guided excursion to the Albaicín neighbourhood or a leisurely morning to explore the city at their own pace. Thanks to Entire Group Journeys' slower-paced itineraries, travellers have time to soak in each destination and relax. The group reunited in the afternoon for an enlightening tour of the Alhambra, marvelling at its breathtaking palace architecture and serene gardens, capping off another memorable day.



Famil IN FOCUS is our feature showcasing some of the photos from recent industry famils. If you want your famil to be featured, email advertising@traveldaily.com.au.

Savenio soars beyond the horizon

THE Savenio 2024 Symposium, themed 'Beyond the Horizon', was an immersive journey into the future of luxury travel, held at the Langham Hotel on the Gold Coast.

Industry leaders, top travel advisors, and global partners gathered for a transformative experience filled with cutting-edge insights, inspiring presentations, and groundbreaking strategies designed to redefine the landscape of luxury travel.

From visionary keynotes to hands-on workshops, attendees left with a deeper understanding of the evolving industry.

The event kicked off on 20 Oct with a dynamic gathering of key hotel partners from around the world, while Mon's Travel Mart with Savenio provided more opportunities for collaboration and networking.

Keynote speaker, Mike Rolls, left a profound impact on the audience, delivering a powerful address that had everyone laughing, crying, and reflecting on life's deeper meaning.

"The Symposium wasn't just an event, it offered a clear glimpse into the future of luxury travel," Savenio founder David Brandon said.

"A special thank you to the Savenio network and the key sponsors - Regent Seven Seas, Silversea, Seabourn, and Oceania - for helping make this year's gathering an extraordinary success."

Earn more commission, and grow your travel business at Savenio **HERE**.



THE Savenio Head Office team.



THE Savenio Group team preparing to soar.



THE bubbles getting ready to flow.



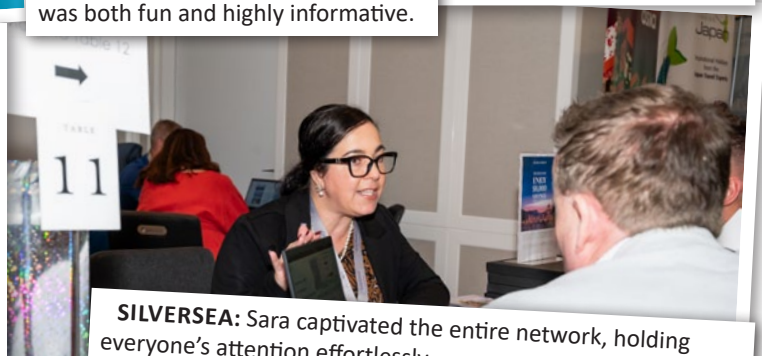
MARTINE - Oceania.



ELSA brought incredible energy to the room with a presentation that was both fun and highly informative.



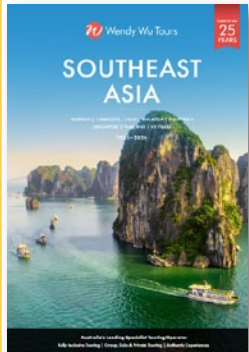
JEN from Seabourn provided the network with exciting updates on the latest developments.



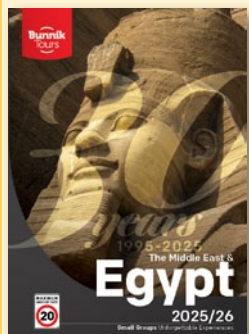
SILVERSEA: Sara captivated the entire network, holding everyone's attention effortlessly.

BROCHURES

Send your special deals to:
brochures@traveldaily.com.au



Wendy Wu Tours - Southeast Asia 2025/26
Inside Wendy Wu Tours' latest brochure showcasing its offerings in Southeast Asia, readers will find several exciting new tours, including 'Cambodia & Mekong Uncovered'. The 17-day itinerary features a river cruise, an exploration of Cambodia's countryside, and visits to the Temples of Angkor, Phnom Penh, historic Battambang, and coastal Kampot. Also new for 2025/26 is the 14-day 'Vietnam & The Reunification Express' tour, which includes a rail journey on the iconic Reunification Express, and takes guests to Halong Bay, Hoi An, the Cu Chi Tunnels, and the waterways of the Mekong Delta. See the brochure [HERE](#).



Bunnik Tours - Egypt & The Middle East 2025
Bunnik Tours has unveiled a new brochure highlighting its 2025 tours for Egypt and the Middle East. Featuring images captured by Bunnik Tours' own staff and past travellers, the guide presents a mix of organised sightseeing, special local experiences, and time for independent explorations. The range includes both short and long itineraries to Egypt and Jordan, as well as an independent travel package to Oman. 'Highlights of Egypt & Jordan' is a comprehensive 19-day tour which takes travellers to the must-see locations, including the Pyramids of Giza, twin temples of Abu Simbel, Petra and Wadi Rum. More [HERE](#).



Viva Holidays - Italy 2025
Viva Holidays has released its 2025 Italy brochure, to showcase the best regions of this incredible destination. From the classic cities of Rome, Florence and Venice to the picture postcard villages on the Cinque Terre and the Amalfi Coast, this 52-page brochure covers accommodation and touring to help travel advisors plan their customer's next Italian adventure, including new touring options which feature key cities as well as stunning coastal destinations such as Sorrento and Sicily. Just one of the many itineraries highlighted within the brochure is the six-day 'Charming Costiera' tour - check it out [HERE](#).



Stay Updated

on the latest travel news

Follow Travel Daily on social media to get your travel news first



Travel Daily

NSW tourism takes a dip



DESTINATION NSW showcased visitor experiences in Greater Sydney and regional NSW to 68 international agents following Tourism Australia's G'day Australia event in Perth.

The accompanying famils were undertaken across six itineraries, including the Blue Mountains, Port Stephens, Hunter Valley, Shoalhaven, and Byron Bay.

G'day Australia gave specialist agents the chance to meet and be trained by Australian tourism operators through first-hand workshops and explorations.

In total, Destination NSW conducted 112 appointments with 300 international Aussie Specialist Program front-line travel agents during G'day Australia, while 19 NSW visitor economy businesses also participated as sellers.

The industry body's CEO, Steve Cox, said famils play a key role in raising consideration of NSW in the mindset of buyers, which in turn drives new sales leads and bookings for NSW visitor economy operators.

"The G'day Australia famil program was an invaluable platform for stakeholders in Sydney and regional NSW to be exposed to new and bigger audiences," Cox said.

Tourism Australia Managing Director Phillipa Harrison added that its Aussie Specialists Program helps to teach tens of thousands of travel agents around the world about Australia every year.

"As a destination, we know there is nothing like being on the ground to experience it first-hand," Harrison said. *AB*

Gateway to Ireland

GATEWAY Travel has introduced the 'Legendary Ireland Tour', described as a "signature experience" that no travel agent or wholesaler can afford to miss.

The tour provides travellers with a journey through the country's culture through guided visits to iconic sites.

Highlights include enjoying the celebration of St Patrick's Day in Dublin - more details [HERE](#).



INTRODUCING **ATIA Accreditation:** One Brand, One Standard

We're uniting under one trusted name. **ATAS** is retiring, and from now on, your business will be **ATIA Accredited**.

This streamlined approach makes accreditation simpler and strengthens recognition for trusted travel businesses across Australia.

With **ATIA Accreditation**, your business benefits from a unified brand that stands for reliability and trust in the industry.

Next time you renew, you'll join the new standard:



Australian Travel Industry Association

Stronger together, under one brand.

Find out more www.atia.travel.