



Sabre exits hotels

SABRE Corporation has offloaded its Hospitality Solutions arm to US asset management firm TPG for US\$1.1 billion.

The move will see Hospitality Solutions become a standalone business, with TPG revealing plans to funnel greater investment into the brand to take it beyond its 40% market share servicing the software needs of hotels globally.

Sabre will use the proceeds of the divestment to pay down debt and place more investment focus on its core airline IT and travel marketplace platforms.

Hospitality Solutions is an SaaS-based platform is an integrated system of record for reservation and guest information, enabling hoteliers to operate with greater accuracy and efficiency.

Runway delayed by decade

A SECOND runway planned for Auckland Airport (AKL) has been pushed back by at least 10 years, in line with a new draft blueprint for the future released today.

While New Zealand's largest airport made it clear the latest draft does not constitute a formal construction or capital plan, the building of a second runway will now likely be pushed back until at least 2038 (**TD** 21 Aug 2023).

AKL said that it will require a second runway at some stage, but for the moment, it will pursue all the ways that operational efficiency can be achieved, and only when capacity is truly exhausted, will the hub start consulting on a second runway.

"Building another runway is part of our planning roadmap, and our current investments, including an expansion of the international terminal...are built with this in mind," said AKL's Chief Strategic Planning Officer Liz Tuck.

"This blueprint makes sure we are building the right thing at the right time, in the right place."

Hrdlicka's new Endeavour revealed

HOSPITALITY retail giant Endeavour, which owns the BWS and Dan Murphy's liquor store chains, has recruited former Virgin Australia CEO Jayne Hrdlicka to run the company.

Hrdlicka will take over from interim CEO Ari Mervis next year and brings prior experience with the company, having previously served on the Woolworths Group Board as a Director.

According to *Nine News*, Hrdlicka said she has a long history with Endeavour's retail and licensed venue businesses.

"I look forward to working with the 30,000+ team members and together, continuing to deliver for millions of valued customers as we look to grow the company and unlock value for all of our shareholders," Hrdlicka said.



"Building another runway is a big commitment, and one that we will only consider if it is in the best interests of NZ," Tuck added.

AKL previously flagged the original 2028 completion date of a second runway - originally touted in 2014 - was in trouble a couple of years ago, suggesting lower-than-expected demand had made it a lower priority.

The latest blueprint also confirmed the construction of integrated domestic and international operations under one roof, which is on track to be completed in 2029. **AB**

Think about regions

BIG Red Group CEO David Anderson has implored both parties on the eve of the federal election to ensure regional tourism is not left behind.

"A key issue is a lack of affordable transport options, coupled with rising airfares, is making it harder for tourists to reach regional destinations," Anderson said, adding growth is also being stifled by infrastructure gaps and limited accessibility.

Among Anderson's suggestions are subsidies for regional routes or partnerships with airlines to lower airfares regional hubs.

Expedition connect

TRAVELLERS can begin their next Silversea Antarctic expedition in style with a stay at the line's new resort, The Cormorant at 55 South - more on **page seven**.

Reel ambitions

ANGLERS are spoilt for choice in the Solomon Islands, renowned as a fisherman's paradise.

Some of the best spots to cast a line can be found right in Honiara too - find out more on **page eight**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of news, including our **Sustainability** page, a full page from **Silversea** and a new product profile from **Tourism Solomons**.

Qantas wi-fi update

QANTAS has reportedly switched on wi-fi on select int'l routes such as Hong Kong and Singapore as part of its plan to enhance internet connectivity.

According to *The Australian*, Qantas will roll out wi-fi to services across the Tasman from around Jun, before installing the service on flights to Europe and other regions.

The airline had initially planned to offer wi-fi on overseas flight sooner, but struck tech issues.

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PHT set to go nationwide

EPONYMOUS retail travel brand Phil Hoffmann Travel (PHT) is preparing to switch on a comprehensive online cruise booking platform as the first step in a nationwide brand expansion.

Much like the exhaustively detailed search and booking engine from Cruiseco, co-founded by Hoffmann in 2000, the new PHT cruise booking portal will aggregate options across all major lines sailing worldwide.

The team's Adelaide-based consultants will provide booking and enquiry support for the new

platform once it goes live, which is expected later this week.

Phil Hoffmann Travel currently has nine stores dotted around Adelaide and the Barossa Valley.

The new portal will become a centrepiece for the brand and has been flagged for promotion at various travel and cruise expos around Australia.

"We do have national ambitions and to fish in a larger pond," long-time PHT Managing Director Peter Williams told Adelaide's *The Advertiser*.

PHT's new cruise platform is supported further by the Platinum Cruise Club (*TD* 05 Sep 2023) - an initiative formed two years ago in partnership with Brett Dann's Hunter Travel Group and Dan Russell's Clean Cruising.

"Cruise has really been the big winner, and right across the cruise segment, it is just growing at an amazing rate," Williams added. *ML*

Bolger jumps ship

LUXURY Escapes has this month appointed former Qantas Head of PR Amanda Bolger as its new Head of PR & Communications.

Bolger bring more than two decades of experience to the role, having also held a senior role in PR with Virgin Australia.

EY new first in Aug

FIRST class will come to Etihad Airways' narrow-body aircraft for the first time when the carrier launches its new Airbus A321LR jet later this year.

Beginning service from 01 Aug, the new single-aisle aircraft will feature two first-class suites with sliding doors and lie-flat beds along with a new wide-body business class cabin.

The A321LR will serve Etihad destinations from Abu Dhabi including Milan, Paris, Dusseldorf, Copenhagen and more.

The aircraft's debut will come as Etihad also launches a range of first-class services, including in-home check-in, personal escorts and a FOC baggage-free airport experience and delivery service.



Travel Daily
ON LOCATION



BRISBANE

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you from the Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE 2025) taking place in Brisbane.

AFTER a big first day ended by a huge party at The Star Brisbane, the Exchange opened for a second day with plenty of networking opportunities available on the show floor.

Today, *Travel Daily* will be speaking with Tourism Australia MD Phillipa Harrison as well as Tourism Events Queensland CEO Craig Davidson.

The day will be finished off at the ATE25 Queensland Showcase hosted by TEQ at the Riverside Green in Brisbane before the event, the biggest in its history, comes to a close.

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Qld will not waste Olympics opportunity

QUEENSLAND is implementing a tourism plan that will take it decades into the future to ensure it does not waste the opportunity the Olympics and Paralympics provides, according to the state's Minister of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Andrew Powell.

Speaking at ATE, Powell (pictured) insisted that if Queensland failed to achieve significant tourism increases, both in the lead up to, during, and after the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the project would be deemed unsuccessful.

"We are making sure that our products and experiences are ready for when the tourists come," Powell explained.

"As a government, we are working on a 20-year tourism plan - we are going to 2045 and are making sure that everything you possibly need to have ready and waiting for you will be ready



and waiting for you.

"We will have those connections, we will get you around our state, we will have the products and experiences and the holidays that you are looking for."

Hosting the Olympics and Paralympics has to be about more than just sports, Powell admitted, suggesting the benefits will have a long tail effect that could be taken advantage of well before the Games begin.

"We want you to come before

the Games, we want you to come during the Games and we want you to come after the Games - if we don't achieve that, then we have wasted the opportunity of hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"The Olympics are not just about hosting sport, they are about growing our infrastructure and about our tourism legacy, and that is what we are really excited about over the next seven years in the lead up to our hosting," he concluded.

Australia's recent past includes a missed opportunity around major sporting events, with the Jul 2023 announcement from Victoria that it had rescinded the rights to host the Commonwealth Games for 2026, citing substantially increased costs.

Qld also faced its own criticism about the initial budget for the 2032 Games blowing out, causing infrastructure revisions. *DF*



Window Seat

LACKING a little romance in your life and looking for a holiday that will inspire love?

Forget the jet-lag that flying to Paris gives you, ignore the call of London town, the answer to your next romantic holiday is closer than you think - if new research from swimwear brand Pour Moi is anything to go by.

Nope, we don't know why we would necessarily put too much stock in travel research from a swimwear brand either, but Brisbane and Melbourne have made the top 10 most romantic cities in the world.

Brisbane event beat out Paris, ranking sixth and ninth respectively, with the study using factors like the number of times attractions were labelled 'romantic' by visitors on Tripadvisor to rank cities.

SCENIC ECLIPSE

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East Antarctica



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Mawson's Antarctica Along the East Coast

TRAVEL PARTNER TOOLKIT

Marriott buys brand

MARRIOTT International has acquired Dutch hotel chain CitizenM for US\$355 million.

The hotel brand currently has 36 properties in its portfolio across Europe, the US and Asia, focusing on travellers who want stylish compact rooms with a modern art and technology focus.

While Marriott will add 8,544 rooms to its global operation, CitizenM will continue to operate all hotels and own all real estate.

EK set for PER/ADL

EMIRATES will introduce its premium economy cabin class on flights to Adelaide and Perth from later this year.

The seating class will come to WA's capital as a newly refreshed Airbus A380 superjumbo aircraft is deployed on the route from 26 Oct, with the seats coming to Adelaide as the carrier debuts its new Airbus A350 long-range jet on ADL flights from 01 Dec.

Spain and Portugal travel unplugged

MASSIVE power outages in Spain and Portugal have caused major disruptions at airports and transport hubs.

Lisbon was the worst-affected airport with close to 30% of departures cancelled, while Spain was forced to scrap 45 departures amidst the power outage.

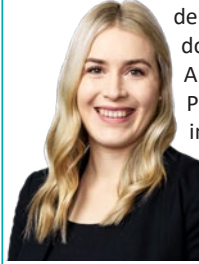
While the precise cause of the blackout is yet to be detailed, Portuguese PM Luis Montenegro has suggested a "rare atmospheric phenomenon" may have caused a severe imbalance in temperatures that led to the widespread shutdowns.

Both countries have now managed to bring a significant portion of the electricity grid back online, however Spain has nonetheless declared a state of emergency as it battles with the fallout associated with outage.

Suggestions of a cyber attack have been played down by the leaders of both countries.

ATIA UPDATE

from Ingrid Fraser, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy



THIS weekend delivers a double dose of results - Australia's next Prime Minister in the federal election and NZ's National Travel Industry Awards,

hosted by our close partners at the Travel Agents' Association New Zealand.

As votes are counted and winners celebrated, ATIA is charging into the next phase of our advocacy campaign and over recent months, it is fair to say we have been relentless.

From the top down, we have held constructive talks with the PM Anthony Albanese, Ministers Farrell and Burke, Nationals leader Littleproud, and Shadow Ministers McKenzie, Hogan, Price, and Howarth, with more post-election meetings locked in.

From the ground up, our members have been exceptional - over 1,300 have engaged

with our Election Hub, and we recently hosted a roundtable with independent MP Kate Chaney, giving travel businesses in a key marginal seat the chance to connect directly with a candidate.

These efforts put ATIA in a great position to influence policies that will support your businesses in the next government, regardless of the outcome on Sat.

What's next you ask? Of course the election outcome will reveal the key decision-makers and influencers, shaping ATIA's approach in how we advocate for the things that matter for our travel industry members.

Our Pulse Series meetings are a great opportunity for you to share your key priorities (advocacy or otherwise), raise any business challenges, or simply connect with fellow industry professionals. Join us next week - register [HERE](#).

As we watch the polls and cheer our Kiwi colleagues at the awards, where many Aussies will join the celebration, let's keep the momentum going.

See you at the Pulse meetings!

MH bolsters Melbourne

MALAYSIA Airlines is set to introduce a third daily service to Victoria from Oct 2025, as part of a new partnership with Melbourne Airport.

The Memorandum of Understanding will see the airline strengthen connectivity between Malaysia and Australia, raising its weekly frequency from 14 to 21.

Additionally, MH will progressively deploy its brand-new A330neo aircraft on the Kuala Lumpur-Melbourne route, aiming to operate all 21 weekly flights using the new fleet by the



end of the year.

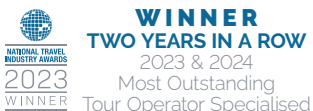
"Malaysia Airlines has been serving Victoria for decades, and this capacity increase underscores the airline's ongoing commitment to our city and state," MEL CEO Lorie Argus said.

"It speaks to the importance of the Victorian market that Malaysia Airlines plans to use its newest aircraft." *JM*



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TRAVELLERS WANT TO HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT

SEVENTY-FIVE per cent of travellers are more inclined to stay in accommodation that prioritises sustainability, according to new research.

Co-produced by Booking.com, Accor, and the University of Surrey, the *Engaging Travelers to Embrace More Sustainable Behaviors* report reflects a growing desire from travellers to have a positive impact on the environment and the communities they visit.

In 2024, 71% said they wanted to leave the places they visit better than when they arrive - an increase from 66% in 2023 - while the same amount reported that sustainable practices help them better connect with local destinations and cultures.

The study also laid out key actionable insights for the hospitality sector when it comes



to engaging travellers to embrace more sustainable behaviours.

The research identified a need to dispel the notion that sustainable behaviours are restrictive or frugal, and recommended highlighting services and activities that are both eco-friendly and pleasurable in order to reassure guests that they will not sacrifice

comfort and enjoyment when considering sustainability.

The report found that hotels that openly share their sustainability initiatives and provide guests with simple ways to get involved not only enhance the guest experience, but also significantly reduce scepticism, from 46% to 21%.

Additionally, more than two-thirds (67%) of travellers agree that all travel booking sites should use the same sustainable certifications or labels.

With 55% of surveyed guests showing resistance to assertive messaging, the findings suggest hospitality companies should focus on a positive, informative approach that encourages guests to explore sustainable choices on their own terms, rather than telling them what to do.

"These insights highlight a growing desire for authenticity, responsibility, and cultural immersion in travel experiences," Accor explained.

"As these expectations grow, the hospitality sector has the opportunity to continue to adapt, further engaging travellers - key to creating lasting impact," the hospitality company added. *JM*

Bayan improves

BAYAN Group has published its *2024 Sustainability Report*, detailing the hospitality company's key progress over the year, which included a 5.7% reduction in emissions intensity per occupied room.

The company saw a 5.1% improvement in water efficiency on a per occupied room basis; 5% more waste recycled or repurposed; and a 5.9% decrease in single-use plastics per occupied room.

UA backs fuel-efficient jet design startup

US CARRIER United Airlines has announced an investment in blended wing body aircraft start-up JetZero, which is creating an aircraft design with the potential to improve fuel efficiency by up to 50%.

The investment includes a path to order up to 100 planes and an option for an additional 100, on the basis that JetZero achieves development milestones, including flight of a full-scale demonstrator in 2027.



JetZero's innovative design reduces drag and produces lift across the entire wingspan, which could lead to as much as 50% reduction in fuel burn per passenger mile compared to a similar sized aircraft, potentially helping UA lower its carbon emissions while reducing costs.

Colorado is eco

COLORADO is positioning itself as a low-impact travel destination, now home to the first carbon-positive hotel in the US.

Set within Denver's Civic Center Park, Populus was constructed using low-carbon building materials, uses 100% renewable energy, implements a zero-waste dining program, and plants one tree for every night a guest stays.

DISCOVER

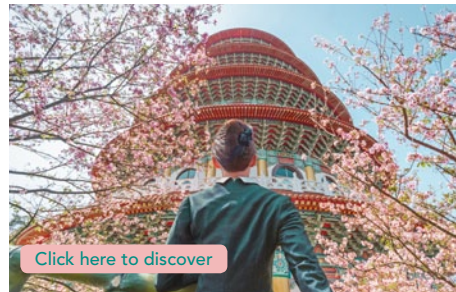
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MONEY

WELCOME to Money, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

AU\$1 = US\$0.643

THE Australian dollar remains in a pressure cooker as the USD strengthens amid signs of easing tensions between the United States and China.

China's move to exempt certain US imports from its 125% tariffs has signalled a potential softening to the trade war between the two nations.

The AUD faces its own issues, with the RBA expected to deliver a rate cut in May.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.643
UK	£0.479
NZ	\$1.078
Euro	€0.564
Japan	¥91.41
Thailand	฿21.42
China	¥4.683
South Africa	11.89
Canada	\$0.889
Crude oil	US\$63.36

Solomon success

THE Solomon Islands has recorded its best first quarter international visitor intake since 2019, showing a jump of 14.5% in arrivals for Jan-Mar 2025 compared to Q1 2024.

According to the new statistics, Australia continued to be the destination's biggest source market, up 5.1% compared to the same period in 2024, while the single biggest increase was seen in the US market, where numbers climbed 16%.

Walker flies south for SXSW



SOUTH By Southwest Sydney (SXSW) has revealed Signal President Meredith Walker will be its first keynote speaker this year.

Walker (**pictured**) has almost 20 years of experience in tech, and now serves as the head of the United States-based encrypted messaging service.

Her research and scholarly work has helped shape global AI policy and shift the public narrative on AI to better recognise the surveillance business practices and concentration of industrial resources modern AI requires.

Walker has advised the White House, the United States' Federal Communications Commission, the City of New York, the European Parliament, and many others on privacy, security, artificial intelligence, and more.

SXSW Sydney has also confirmed Ivan Zhao, co-founder of Notion, will join the lineup.

His leadership has seen the note-taking application grow into a US\$10 billion leader in AI-powered collaboration.

Other speakers will include

international authority on AI and blockchain Sandy Carter; Vice President of Product at Figma Paigo Costello; Managing Director of venture capital fund Peak XV Partners Rohit Agarwal; and Australia's National Cyber Security Coordinator Lt Gen Michelle McGuinness. *MS*

Unforgettable hires

STRONG demand in Australia for Croatian small-ship cruise brand Unforgettable Croatia has seen the company add a new European travel specialist to its Melbourne office, in line with the release of its 2026 season.

Carmela Pascuzzi joined Aurore Bertomeu in the team late last week, working alongside Business Development Manager Sarah Whitty, who completes the brand's Australian team.

Pascuzzi brings more than 20 years of travel industry experience to her new role, with a CV highlighting former roles with Qantas Holidays, All Abroad Travel, Bentours & Flight Centre.

SIA adds OpenAI

SINGAPORE Airlines and OpenAI have partnered to enhance its customer experience and operational efficiencies.

The tools will be able to interpret text, audio, diagrams, and videos to augment SQ's customer servicing capabilities, as well as streamline its processes to improve operational efficiencies and staff productivity.

The two organisations will partner to boost Singapore's existing AI-powered virtual assistant on its website, building on its current capabilities, such as the flight recommender feature.

This will allow a more seamless experience for pax as they plan, book, and manage their journeys.

The enhanced virtual assistant will also be able to offer smarter, more personalised support.

EY's smooth move

ETIHAD Airways has joined the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) Turbulence Aware program, which will see the airline's fleet operate software to support industry efforts to help plot smoother flight paths.

Turbulence Aware collates data about turbulence from flights operated by participating airlines, which helps pilots and flight dispatchers minimise the effects of turbulence in real time.

Ethihad will deploy the platform across its entire fleet of almost 1,000 aircraft, which will automatically share reports with IATA's program.

More than 25 airlines are currently participating in the program, with more than 2,600 aircraft operating the software.



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Here's to finding the edge of your comfort zone at the edge of the Earth on a once-in-a-lifetime voyage to Antarctica. Starting January 2026, guests embarking on an Antarctica Fly Cruise will begin their Expedition with the signature Silversea hospitality — at The Cormorant at 55 SouthSM. Your clients can skip The Drake Passage and fly directly to The Last Continent. Expedition Leaders take your clients down untrodden paths, deep into the Antarctic Wilderness, where silence and awe are etched in wild beauty. Uncover the wonders of Antarctica that most miss, following your curiosity to the edge of the Earth, and embracing the joy of untouched beauty. To Finding More.

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Reel Paradise Fishing in the Solomon Islands

In the Solomon Islands there is a saying that fishermen need to bait their hooks behind a tree – because if the fish see what's happening, they'll jump on the hook and spoil the fun. Whether you want to take that on board or not is up to you but the reality is, the Solomons Islands is a fisherman's paradise – whether you troll, fly fish, surf cast or simply dangle a hook, our Hapi Isles offer something to suit every type of angler.

Where to go:

Papatura Island Retreat located on tiny Papatura Island in Santa Isabel Province offers amazing river, reef and offshore fishing.

Honiara, the national capital, too is home to several fishing charter

companies which take anglers out to the nearby Ngela Islands, Western Province and Choiseul Province. But without doubt, THE place to stay, and one of the best-equipped game fishing resorts is **Zipolo Habu Resort**. Nestled on Lola Island in the heart of the Western Province, Zipolo Habu Resort (its name means 'good luck fishing' in local dialect) is one of the best equipped fishing resorts to be found anywhere in the South Pacific.

For more information on Zipolo Habu Resort, [click here](#).

For more information on Papatura Island Retreat, [click here](#).

For more information on fishing in the Solomon islands, [click here](#).

NEED HELP?

Speak to the expert - Tourism Solomons' Trade Manager Australia/New Zealand, Richard Skewes is the go to point for all travel industry related enquiries:

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