

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily features nine pages of news, including a photo page from **Helloworld**, our **Sustainability** page, plus a Product Profile from **Tourism Solomons**, and full pages from:

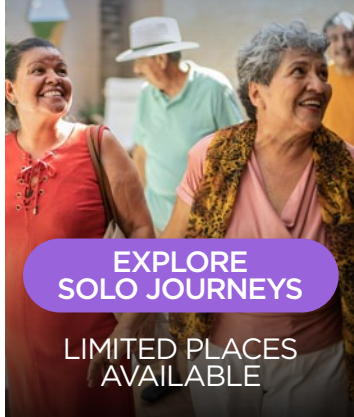
- **Infinity Holidays**
- **ATI Business**

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QF goes daily on NYC

QANTAS will move its Sydney to New York via Auckland flight to daily from Jun 2026, marking the first time it has served New York daily since prior to the pandemic.

The upgraded route will continue to fly on a Boeing 787-9 and will remain daily until Oct 2026.

"We're thrilled to be increasing our Sydney - New York flights via Auckland to daily from Jun to Oct next year," Qantas CEO International Cam Wallace said.

"These flights have been very popular with our customers and we are looking forward to continuing the service alongside our future nonstop options between Sydney and New York with Project Sunrise."

The service increase will coincide with the FIFA World Cup 2026, which will run across 16 cities in three countries - Mexico, Canada and the United States.

SYD-AKL-JFK currently runs as QF3 and QF4, five times per week on the Boeing 787.

Prior to COVID, Qantas was operating the flight via Los



Angeles as QF11 and QF12, where pax would decamp an Airbus A380 at LAX for a Boeing 787, which would continue on to JFK.

Qantas is still set to launch non-stop flights to NYC as part of Project Sunrise in 2027. *DF*

New Lufthansa boss

NIGEL Bale has been appointed by The Walshe Group as its new General Manager Australia and New Zealand for Lufthansa Group.

Assuming the role from late Oct, Bale takes over the role to be vacated by long-time Lufthansa market head, Anil Rodricks.

Since 2021, Bale (**pictured**) has led Lufthansa's market operations in New Zealand and brings more than 20 years in aviation to his newly consolidated role.

Bale will also oversee Lufthansa partner carriers Swiss, Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines and Eurowings in the role.



Infinity's Thai stories

TRAVELLERS are invited to rediscover the magic of Thailand with a range of new packages from Infinity - see **page 10**.

Let ATI handle it

OFFERING 24/7 rebooking support and ticketing queue management, ATI can be your go-to for disruptions - see **page 11**.

Solomons in a flap

MORE than 300 bird species can be found in the Solomon Islands, making it a haven for fans of birdwatching.

Whether their home is close to the city or high up near mountains and volcanoes, the chase will be worth the photo - see **page 12**.



Focus Canada Agent Event

Join Destination Canada and our partners for a fun educational evening.

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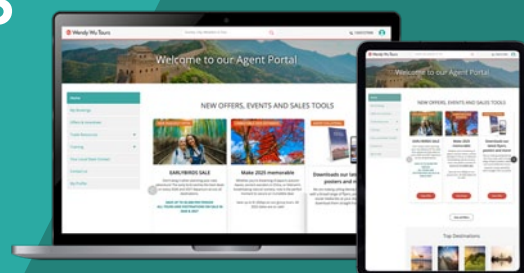
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FIND OUT MORE

Wendy Wu Tours



Collette names sales chief

COLLETTE has appointed Samantha Tamba (**pictured**) to the newly created role of Director of Field Sales - Australia and New Zealand, effectively replacing the previous head of sales position held by the redeployed David Farrar (**TD** 19 May).

Tamba was previously Collette's Business Development Manager Queensland & Northern New



South Wales, with her promotion to become active from 01 Sep.

"Samantha walks into this new role understanding the momentum Collette has in Australia and sees the opportunity ahead of us", Managing Director Australia Karen Deveson said.

"Her strong relationships, as well as her understanding of how to implement our global sales strategies at a local level across both retail and group channels, will be a huge asset."

Prior to joining Collette, Tamba held roles with Albatross, Insight Vacations and Flight Centre.

Collette is now hiring for a BDM for Northern NSW and Qld.

Star in trading halt

SHARES in Star Entertainment Group went into a trading halt this morning amid speculation a deal has been reached to offload its new Queen's Wharf complex - and host of this year's NTIA Gala - to its Hong Kong investors.

According to the *Australian Financial Review*, a deal is being sought to provide some much-needed financial relief to the struggling Star, with as much as \$700 million in liability at stake.

NONSTOP: AUSTRALIA TO LOS ANGELES.

SYD-LAX: Daily, year-round
BNE-LAX: Returns 2 Nov 2025
MEL-LAX: Launches 5 Dec 2025



DELTA

BestPrice opens up

AVIAREPS has been named the Australian rep for Vietnamese DMC BestPrice Travel, helping the company expand locally.

The company offers a range of tours, cruises, hotels and services across Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar.

Overseeing the brand's business in Australia will be Aviareps Key Account Manager, Nadia Giusti.

ATIA's BB sells out

TICKETS to ATIA's Beyond Borders Travel Summit have sold out, and a waitlist has been set up for those wishing to attend.

The event will take place on 17 Oct at The Star in Brisbane.

"Beyond Borders brings together many of the sharpest minds in Travel and Business to discuss practical solutions and innovative thinking as the industry grapples with critical issues," said ATIA CEO Dean Long. Click [HERE](#) to access the waitlist.

Smoother Solomons

SOLOMON Airlines has announced a raft of schedule changes as it looks to make connections with Air Vanuatu domestic services easier.

Under the revised schedule, the carrier will re-implement a Brisbane-Espiritu Santo and return service on Thurs.

Additional timing changes have also been made to the Brisbane-Honiara and Brisbane-Auckland service schedules.

LATAM gets comfy

LATAM Airlines is preparing to unveil its new Premium Comfort Cabin in 2027, featuring wider seats, greater recline, increased pitch & lower passenger density.

The cabin will first be available on the Boeing 787 fleet.

Premium Comfort class is positioned between Premium Business and Economy and ideal for those seeking privacy and comfort on long-haul flights.



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London	→	Plymouth (3 hr 10 min)
London	→	Penzance (5 hr 5 min)

Book with Rail Europe

Packages now in top gear

THE Australian Grand Prix Corporation has launched new travel package programs for both the 2026 Australian Grand Prix and the 2026 Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix.

Packages have been created in partnership with Quint Australia, which is the Asia Pacific arm of QuintEvents, a provider of ticket and hospitality packages owned by the parent company of Formula 1, Liberty Media.

Australian Grand Prix Corporation Chief Commercial Officer Emma Pinwill said, "Partnering with Quint Australia will make it easier for Formula 1 and MotoGP fans to enjoy all that our events have to offer.

"Offering travel, [stays] and hospitality packages will not only improve the fan experience, but support our local regions of Melbourne, Phillip Island and greater Victoria by boosting tourism spending and



encouraging longer visitor stays."

Next year's Australian Grand Prix will take place from 05-08 Mar, while the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix will be held from 23-25 Oct.

This year's F1 race in Melbourne attracted just over 465,000 people and was won by McLaren driver Lando Norris.

Travel packages will be sold through dedicated websites and will also be available through a network of official travel agents endorsed by the Australian Grand Prix Corporation. *DF*

VIEW DEAL

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Intrepid legs ahead

INTREPID Travel has launched a new range of premium walking and hiking holidays allowing active travellers to access some of the world's best trails.

Part of the Intrepid Premium range, the 10 new walking trips include higher-end hotels, services and included experiences.

Itineraries range from three to nine days, and offer experiences such as hiking in Vietnam's Sapa region before ending at an eco-retreat; exploring the Atlas Mountains in Morocco or trekking the Inca Trail in Peru.

Walking holidays are also available in Italy, Spain, Nepal, Jordan and the United States.

"Our new Premium Walking and Trekking range is a natural and exciting evolution - bringing together the best of both worlds for travellers who embody Intrepid's adventurous spirit but don't want to compromise on comfort," Intrepid Experiences GM Erica Kritikides said.

Cruises with culture

ABERCROMBIE & Kent's expedition cruise division has partnered with sister brand and luxury line Crystal Cruises to offer cultural voyages in a pilot program launching in Aug 2026.

A&K's cultural cruises will be hosted aboard *Crystal Serenity* and *Crystal Symphony*.

"Our guests will enjoy the intimate, educational approach they expect from A&K whilst experiencing a new level of luxury and comfort that only Crystal can provide," said Fernando Delgado, Chief Product Officer at AKTG.

The inaugural voyage will launch on board *Crystal Serenity* in Aug, sailing the Med from Rome to Venice on the 'A&K x Crystal: Cruising Italy, Greece and the Balkans' itinerary.

In 2027, A&K will offer six cultural voyages across itineraries including Hong Kong to Yokohama, Lisbon to Portsmouth, a variety of Mediterranean routes and a Canadian exploration.

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Families are ripe for river

EXCLUSIVE

FAMILIES are becoming increasingly attracted to the river cruise segment, Ignite Travel Group's newly promoted Global Head of Cruise Michael Middleton (**pictured**) believes.

Speaking with **Travel Daily** about new and emerging trends, Middleton said river is now a "key focus" for Ignite, adding the brand is always looking at what growth markets can be tapped



into and what trends are likely to emerge down the track.

One of those areas of growth are first-time cruisers in the river space, which Ignite is now actively pursuing to grow its cruise bookings in Australia.

The key to solving this market is offering shore experiences tailored towards families, he suggested, similar to those which are available with popular multigenerational ocean lines, such as Royal Caribbean and MSC.

"A lot of the river operators are really starting to appeal to a different demographic." *MS/AB*

Azamara names CMO

AZAMARA Cruises has welcomed Lisa Kauffmann on board as Chief Marketing Officer.

Kauffmann was most recently Chief Marketing and Experience Officer at Starboard Group, and previously held executive marketing roles at major companies including Celebrity Cruises, Macy's Florida, and The Walt Disney Company.

Considine promoted

INTREPID Travel's Anthony Considine has been promoted to head of sales, overseeing the operator's sales strategy across the US and Canada, focusing on building trade relations and supporting revenue growth.

Considine first joined Intrepid last year as sales manager for Tailor-made and has increased sales by 66% year-on-year, including a record-breaking Dec.

"Intrepid is at a turning point in North America, and I'm incredibly energised to help lead this next chapter," Considine said of his new role.

Great new account

THE Great American West has appointed Linkd Tourism to represent the destination in Australia and New Zealand.

Michael Cassis will lead the account, while Dylan Hearne will oversee trade and consumer marketing duties.



Window seat

ACCORDING to a recent survey by TravellInsurance.com.au, 18% of respondents said they start to physically twitch after just a few hours without wi-fi or mobile reception while travelling.

A further 29% admitted they could only last a day without being connected, while just 12% said they could endure an entire week without any sort of digital connectivity.

There are a number of conclusions that can be drawn from this, including the fact that Australians are significantly dependant on their smart devices.

It's sad that so many young Aussies will never know what real anxiety is, like the feeling of losing a Travel Monopoly piece in your plane seat.

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Jetstar makes big gains in international

JETSTAR has emerged as one of the heroes of the BITRE monthly international traffic report for May, recording a 24.4% passenger increase year-on-year to firmly cement itself as the number two international airline operating in Australia, behind Qantas.

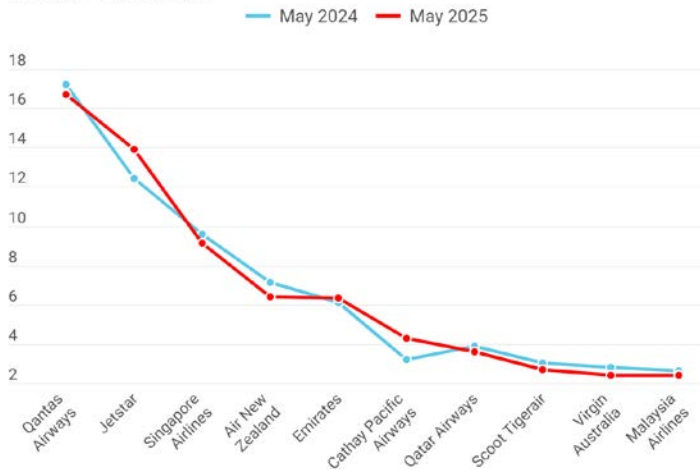
With a 13.9% share of overall passenger traffic, up from 12.4% the prior May, Jetstar carried a total of 465,093 passengers.

While sector-wide passenger numbers grew, up 10.6% to 3.3 million, a number of other prominent carriers did not follow the same growth trend that Jetstar achieved.

Qantas' May figures rose 7.5%, but that was not enough growth to keep its previous May overall market share of 17.2%, instead dropping down to 16.7%.

Singapore Airlines, the third-largest airline operating in Australia in terms of passengers carried, shared the same fate, up

Top 10 airlines by pax carried into and out of Australia according to BITRE data for May 2025
Vertical axis = Percentage share



4.7% in May on its own numbers, while its overall market share dropped from 9.6% to 9.1%.

The other big winner was Cathay Pacific, which leapfrogged Qatar Airways to become the sixth biggest airline in terms of Australian passenger numbers.

The Hong Kong-based carrier recorded a significant 48.9%

increase YOY for May in its total passenger numbers on routes into and out of Australia.

That was enough to increase its overall market share from 3.2% to 4.3%, although it has a fair way to go to catch the next airline on the charts, Emirates, which recorded a increase in overall market share to move from 6.1% to 6.3%. *DF*

Carrier coy on HBA

TWO major Asian airlines have left the door open to add Hobart as their newest Australian destination after the city opened its upgraded runway and taxiways last week to attract more international carriers (**TD** 07 Aug).

Low-cost carrier AirAsia told **Travel Daily** that its network was always open to expansion if the market conditions are suited.

"AirAsia is currently focused on strengthening its existing network in Australia," the carrier said.

Singapore Airlines currently flies to seven Australian cities and said it regularly reviews its network operations, and will adjust it in response to travel demand.

Meanwhile Batik Air and Garuda were both less forthcoming regarding any possible Hobart plans, with the former declining to comment, and Indonesia's flag carrier telling **Travel Daily** that it did not have an update to relay about any schedule planning for Tasmania at this stage.

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Advisors vent at XChange

FROM greater NDC developments to more support from wholesalers in regional areas, a number of agents expressed their frustrations with suppliers and airlines during a robust panel discussion at ETG's XChange conference.

Jennifer Dam from Five Star World Travel in Sydney shared how much she appreciates responsive suppliers, particularly during times of disruption.

However, she described the serviceability of the NDC as "a pain in the arse", where "no-one wants to take responsibility and everybody passes the buck to each other".

"We use a lot of NDC and our penetration rate is at 90%, but when we can't do something, we get told from our partners to call someone else, and we have to wait four hours to figure something out, call the client again, and then call back again for another four hours," Dam said.

"It is just a complete waste of our time."

Meanwhile, Chris Jenkins from Independent Travel Advisors in Albury (pictured) pleaded with suppliers to remember to visit agents in regional areas, where there are plenty of "cashed-up semi-retirees" planning to spend their money on holidays.

"When I moved out of Melbourne two years ago, it was like my left arm was cut off, because suppliers and their representatives just do not go to



regional areas," she said, adding that agents are "starving" for more support from brands.

"There's a lot of product out there - if we're not across it, and we haven't got contact with suppliers, we lose it because we can't get to these shows," Jenkins explained, adding that she tries to go to Melbourne to see brands but often, as soon as they find out that she is in Albury "forget it, I'm [practically] in Mexico".

Jenkins would also like to see suppliers give agents "a little bit more leeway" when it comes to customers, who often pay for their trips three or four months in advance - only to have to wait two or three weeks before their trip to receive documentation.

"The stress that it puts on us and the client is immense - it's really hard," she said.

Dam's and Jenkins' observations were met with plenty of applause from the audience made up of other agents. *JHM*

ATIA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



TODAY marks another significant day in determining what discretionary income Australians will have

available to spend on travel.

I'm hopeful that at 2.30pm, the RBA Board will vote in favour of an interest rate cut.

Such a move would undoubtedly deliver a much-needed boost to families considering travel purchases, and with the earlybird season just around the corner, we should see improvements across the industry.

On the advocacy front, we have been working intensively on two major issues.

ATIA is a member of the BCA industry group coalition, which has submitted a joint proposal focused on key productivity reforms to help improve the country's economy.

Twenty-seven associations have identified four areas where government action is needed, from tax reform through to reducing regulatory burdens that hinder business investment.

At an industry level, we

continue to develop policy to oppose changes to credit card surcharging, which we believe are misguided and illogical.

This year's NTIA People's Choice Award is off to an incredible start.

You may have seen the full-page advertisements in many of Australia's most popular newspapers and online, thanks to ATIA's partnership with the News Travel Network.

Now in its third year, this category is fast becoming the ultimate accolade - size and segment do not matter.

It is the story of industry excellence told by the customer in 50 words or less that will take out the major award of the prestigious evening.

Nominations are still open until 22 Aug so there has never been a better time for your clients to share their story about you, your team and business.

Finally, I am also thrilled to share that Beyond Borders is now a sell-out, with more than 450 travel leaders registered to attend this premier travel thought leadership conference.

We still also have a big announcement to come for a fun event on Sat, so stay tuned for those in Brisbane on 18 Oct.



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Helloworld says 'thank you' to cruise

HELLOWORLD Travel brought together over 70 cruise industry leaders and top-selling cruise network trade partners for a special Cruise Appreciation Event held at O Bar and Dining in Sydney this week.

The event served as a celebration of the positive momentum in cruise, underscoring the importance of the category to the Helloworld business, as well as reaffirming the company's strong relationships with global cruise line partners.



BRETT and Louise Dann, Hunter Travel Group; Cinzia Burnes, Helloworld; Lisa Pile, Regent Seven Seas; and Steve Brady, Helloworld.



BRIGITA Devries, MSC; Shannon Morgan, Azamara; Juliana Nasmith, Helloworld; Moreshnie Pather, Princess Cruises; and Bronwyn Knight, MSC.



DEB Corbett, Ponant and Cinzia Burnes.



STEVE Brady; Emma Davie, Scenic; Cinzia Burnes; and Anthony Laver, Scenic.



TIM Jones from Celebrity Cruises with Cinzia Burnes and Steve Brady.



STEVE Brady, Cinzia Burnes, Angela Middleton and Damian Borg, Norwegian Cruise Line.



MEMBERS of the Helloworld Cruise team are all smiles.



STEVE Brady, Cinzia Burnes, and Seb Seward, The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection.



MORESHNIE Pather, Princess Cruises and Adrian Tassone, Your Travel and Cruise.



STEVE Brady, Cinzia Burnes, and Gavin Smith, Royal Caribbean.



STEVE Brady, Cinzia Burnes, and Chris Hall, Globus.



AIRBUS CALLS FOR LOCAL SAF QUOTA

AIRLINES in Australia should be forced to use a minimum of 1-2% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to help generate greater demand for the biofuel, the local head of Airbus has argued.

The aircraft manufacturer's Australian representative, Stephen Forshaw, said Australia risks missing long-term climate and emissions targets by not accelerating investment to get a local SAF industry underway.

According to the *Australian Financial Review*, Forshaw said a 2% mandate would help investors see Australia as serious about generating a local SAF industry to help protect long-term supplies.

Forshaw's comments follow a similar edict by Airbus' Chief Sustainability Officer, Julie Kitcher, who called for a mandate earlier this year to be phased in slowly and increased.

Despite having a bountiful



volume of biofuel feedstock and source materials, Australia relies heavily on imported fossil jet fuel to service the aviation sector, with seven billion litres imported over the past decade, he said.

"We want to use our feedstock to produce fuels here, power our industry, and capture the needed economic and security benefits," Forshaw said.

While there is some private sector investment from Qantas, VA and other industry players, most of Australia's feedstock and tallow used for refined SAF is

exported, with no local refineries operational, allowing other countries to power ahead on production.

"We can't afford to default to what we have been historically pretty good at in Australia - exporting our raw commodities for others to process," he added. "Doing this, we simply export the opportunity to others."

Last year, Forshaw said during a CAPA panel session that Australia needed to take its "moon shot" at becoming a genuine SAF superpower (**TD** 13 Sep 2024). *ML*

SkyBus go green

AIRPORT transfer operator SkyBus will transition its entire Melbourne fleet to fully electric buses by 2031.

New electric vehicles will begin to roll out to the fleet from next year, with two new services - the 'Sunshine Express' to Brimbank and 'Eastern Express' to Box Hill - the first to run the vehicles.

SkyBus parent company Kinetic will invest \$80 million in the new services along with the electrification of the fleet and depot upgrades.

SkyBus General Manager Audrey Speziale said she is excited all SkyBus services will run on electric vehicles in the coming years, providing quieter and greener transport and a world-class welcome to Melbourne.

"Throughout SkyBus and the broader Kinetic business we're growing our electric bus fleet and removing hundreds of thousands of kilograms of CO2 emissions from our atmosphere," Speziale said.

Tickets for the new Eastern Express service, which will run daily, will open from the end of this month, while the Sunshine service begins operation from 09 Nov.



Mulia Bali hits near-zero waste target

THE Mulia Resort and Villas in Nusa Dua said it has been able to reduce its waste-to-landfill rate by 97.5% per guest night over the past year.

According to certified figures from the *2024 EarthCheck Benchmarking Report*, the resort cut landfill waste per guest night from 0.55 litres in 2023 to 0.116 last year.

Potable water use increased by 17%, dropping from 1,893

litres per guest night to 1,568 litres, despite the resort's six main outdoor swimming pools, a figure helped by an extensive rainwater harvesting system.

Further achievements include a tripling in glass recycling, with none going to landfill, while paper recycling doubled per guest from 310kg to 615kg.

Plastic recycling also increased from 150kg to 395kg with only 3kg going to landfill.

Elusive fish hunt

REFLECTIONS Holidays said it is supporting the search for the elusive native Kangaroo River Perch, a fish last seen 26 years ago, in an effort to save the species.

The park operator has helped fund a five-day search of the Shoalhaven River by the Department of Primary Industries to help researchers bring both it and other species back from extinction.

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MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.651

AUSTRALIA is awaiting the Reserve Bank's decision on interest rates, with the decision to be made today.

Economists thought a decrease was due last month, but after the RBA board split on its decision, there really can't be any certainty the same won't happen again.

Today, predictions are 99% sure a cut will happen, giving mortgage holders a little breathing room and creating a little more incentive to indulge in some retail therapy.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.651
UK	£0.485
NZ	\$1.097
Euro	€0.561
Japan	¥96.67
Thailand	฿21.16
China	¥4.685
South Africa	11.571
Canada	\$0.898
Bitcoin	A\$0.00000549

SYD passengers up

SYDNEY Airport recorded 10.03 million passengers in Apr-Jun this year, which was a 3% jump on the same period last year.

International passenger numbers grew by 4.6% (3.94 million), while domestic and regional numbers also climbed by 2% (6.09 million).

Almost all domestic pax cleared security in 10 minutes or less.

Booking.com in hot seat

MORE than 10,000 European hotels are taking action against Booking.com, which they claim prevented them from offering better prices and availability direct to guests through contract terms over a 20-year period.

The class action follows the European Court of Justice's (ECJ) 2024 ruling that confirmed Booking.com's parity clauses violated EU competition law.

"European hoteliers have long endured unfair conditions and inflated costs," said Alexandros Vassilikos, President of the Association of Hotels, Restaurants and Cafes in Europe (Hotrec), which is leading the legal action backed by 25 hotel associations.

"Now is the time to stand together and seek redress.

"This collective action sends a strong message: abusive practices in the digital marketplace will not go unchallenged."

Hotrec said Booking.com's clauses "lead to inflated commission rates, suppressed direct bookings and distorted online market competition".

But the site described the claims



as "incorrect and misleading", and in a statement indicated it is yet to receive a "formal notification of a class action".

Meanwhile, the booking platform said that the ECJ ruling did not find its "best price" clauses as anti-competitive, but "simply stated that such clauses fall within the scope of EU competition law and that their effects must be assessed on a case-by-case basis". *JHM*

Expedia stock rises

SIGNIFICANT margin expansion of 24% and strength in its TAAP trade program has helped Expedia post stronger-than-expected earnings results for Q2 of 2025.

According to an investor call and presentation, group-wide revenue climbed 6% to US\$3.8 billion, double the growth seen from the first quarter, while room nights spiked 7% to 105 million and adjusted EBITDA for Q2 was up 16% to US\$908 million.

The company said B2B gross bookings soared by 17% year-on-year to US\$8.8 billion, well ahead of consumer booking channels, which climbed a modest 1% to US\$21.6 billion.

B2B sales are particularly strong outside the United States, with international markets up 13%, helping to offset what Expedia said is softer US demand.

TK makes UX offer

TURKISH Airlines has tabled a binding offer to acquire Spanish carrier Air Europa, according to a public disclosure notice posted on the carrier's website yesterday.

The Istanbul-based airline said the two carriers' network compatibility and the potential for both to generate new revenue streams was a key driving force behind the offer.

It is the third offer Air Europa has received in recent times, after International Airlines Group (IAG) courted scrutiny from the European Commission for attempting to push a merger with its Spanish rival, Iberia, before pulling out (*TD* 05 Aug 2024).

Air France-KLM also made a purchase bid but later withdrew.

Air Europa flew 12.2 million pax in 2024 across its all-Boeing fleet of 46 aircraft, of which it is awaiting 33 new units.



Thailand hotel boom

ACCOR has confirmed the opening of three new hotels as it expands across Thailand.

Opening late this year will be Mercure Phuket Patong Journeyhub, the first Mercure-branded hotel on the island, featuring 198 rooms.

Next year, Movenpick Resort Kamala Beach Phuket will open, bringing its Swiss aesthetic and culinary legacy to the island, and following that will be the debut of Handwritten Collection in Bangkok in 2027.



THAILAND

Your Stories Never End

Step into "Your Stories Never End", a soulful campaign by Infinity Holidays and the Tourism Authority of Thailand, inviting travellers to rediscover the magic of Thailand through connection, culture, and unforgettable moments.

Bangkok

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

4 nights at the Pathumwan Princess Hotel, Bangkok: Hidden Talad Noi and Chinatown Tour, Bangkok Electric Tuk Tuk Discovery: Thonburi and Wang Lang, & airport transfers.

Helio Code: IH51986

FROM

\$685

pp twin share

[Book Now](#)

Koh Samui

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

5 nights at Chaweng Regent Beach Resort, Samui Elephant Sanctuary Shared Tour, Ang Thong Islands by Speedboat Tour, PLUS airport transfers.

Helio Code: IH52060

FROM

\$1,009

pp twin share

[Book Now](#)

Phuket

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

8 nights at Katathani Phuket Beach Resort with Phi Phi Island Full-Day tour, PLUS airport transfers.

Helio Code: IH51985

FROM

\$989

pp twin share

[Book Now](#)

Koh Samui

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

5 nights at Centara Ao Nang Beach Resort & Spa Krabi, Four Island by Longtail Boat Tour from Ao Nang, PLUS airport transfers.

Helio Code: IH52007

FROM

\$699

pp twin share

[Book Now](#)

For all Thailand Packages, further Terms, Conditions and Select Travel Dates Apply

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A symphony of biodiversity: The Solomon Islands is an ornithologist's paradise

HOME to over 300 distinct bird species of which 102 are endemic, regardless of where you travel in the Solomon Islands - from the mountains of Guadalcanal to volcanic Savo Island and the jungles of Makira-Ulawa - the huge variety of birdlife to be found is a magnet for international birdwatchers.

The list of rare and sought-after species is breathtaking.

These include the iconic Black-Faced Pitta, the Fearful Owl, Solomon Frogmouth, Roviana Rail and the rare Guadalcanal Moustached Kingfisher, but perhaps the most sought-after sighting is the Megapode.

Found mainly on Savo Island in Central Province, these chicken-like birds build their nests and incubate their eggs using heat produced by the island's

volcanic action.

Rennel, the largest raised atoll in the world, is home to 43 species, including six endemics.

Mount Austin, just minutes from the capital Honiara in Guadalcanal Province, is home to the Ultramarine Kingfisher, Duchess Lorikeet and White Billed Crow, as well as the very rare Guadalcanal Moustached Kingfisher, Woodford's Rail, Boobooks, Drongos, Thrush, Honeyeaters and Hooded Whistlers.

To the south-west, Santa Isabel Province's listings include the Black Faced-Pitta, Fearful Owl and the Solomon Frogmouth.

Meanwhile, Rail Warblers, Fly Catchers, Fantails, Myzomelas, Monarchs, Starling, White Eyes and Flowerpeckers abound in regions

like Malaita island in Makira-Ulawa, on Kolombangara Island and in New Georgia and Santa Cruz.

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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