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Today's issue of TD

TD has six pages, a cover wrap from **Journey Beyond**, a product profile from **Vietnam Airlines**, our **BEN** page, and full pages from:

- Viva Holidays
- Ultimate Los Angeles Famil
- Scenic

AC to cancel flights

AIR Canada flights will be gradually suspended over the next 72 hours in response to strike action issued by a union representing its flight attendants.

The carrier said it has been forced into a decision to lock out its flight attendants and regrets any impact on travellers, who are eligible to obtain a full refund.

Air Canada Express flights are not affected by the lockout.

Tauck'n about my generation

THE premium operator that has made strong moves on the trade in recent months has announced a new brand is coming to its portfolio (**TD** breaking news).

Tauck unveiled its first new brand launch in more than a decade at Virtuoso Travel Week in Las Vegas, with Roam By Tauck to focus on catering to the 40s and 50s demographic.

The new brand will debut next year with an initial tranche of five itineraries, which will then be expanded to at least 12 the following year.

Trips in Roam By Tauck will range from five to 11 nights to fit a variety of lifestyles and holiday

windows, and run across land, river, and small ship segments.

The new collection will be available to book across six continents by 2027, with MD Australia David Clark confident the upcoming brand will resonate with Aussies in particular.

"We know that our travellers prefer smaller groups, and our new brand meets that gap in the market," Clark said.

"A high-end travel product of this nature offers the flexibility to personalise, with signature experiences and, importantly, has active options," he added.

Bookings will open before the end of the year, with first departures set for Aug 2026. **AB**

Canadian adventure

ADVISORS can score a Canadian adventure for two with Scenic and Emerald Cruises.

See **page nine** for details.

Connect to Vietnam

VIETNAM Airlines offers plenty of connection to cities including Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and more - see **page 10** for information.

We bought a zoo!

THE owner of Scenic World and Sydney's BridgeClimb has agreed to acquire Sydney Zoo from founders John and Jake Burgess.

Hammons Holdings has had its bid approved by Sydney Zoo's board, with CEO David Hammon to oversee the integration until a CEO of the attraction is named.

JB earlybird sale

JOURNEY Beyond has launched its Outback Spirit earlybird sale for its small group tours exploring the Kimberley and departing from Broome and Darwin.

See the **front page** for the full benefits on offer.

Fancy a SA famil?

VIVA Holidays and the South Australian Tourism Commission are offering agents a famil exploring the Adelaide Hills, Monarto Safari and the Fleurieu Peninsula - see **page seven**.

LA trip up for grabs

AGENTS have the chance to win the ultimate LA famil, from watching Dua Lipa live in concert to staying at the glamorous W Hollywood - see **page eight**.

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TRADE KIT



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S Korea quarantine

SOUTH Korea has designated Australia as a 'Quarantine Inspection Required Area' due to rising cases of dengue fever.

Aussies travelling to South Korea showing symptoms of the illness will now have to register on the Korean Q-code system, or complete a health questionnaire form on arrival.

DFAT has warned that travellers should be prepared to change their travel plans in such cases.

NZ inhospitable to cruise

GLOBAL cruise executives view New Zealand as difficult to work with, unwelcoming, and unpredictable, an opening address delivered by New Zealand Cruise Association (NZCA) CEO Jacqui Lloyd has warned.

Speaking to delegates at the NZCA's annual conference this morning, Lloyd (**pictured**) stressed that declining ship deployment was not about falling demand, and more to do with high costs, convoluted compliance rules, and a generally inhospitable attitude toward cruise investment.

"We are at a tipping point, the time for action is now - this is not a drill," Lloyd exhorted.

"If we do not act decisively now and see cruise numbers begin to return in the 2027/28 and 2028/29 seasons, the risk is not just a few quiet years.

"If this downturn persists, we will see the erosion of product quality, skills, investment, and infrastructure, which could take a decade or more to rebuild."

To combat a further decline of the NZ cruise sector, Lloyd pointed to four clear barriers that must be abolished.

Urgently arresting the perception of being unwelcoming to cruise ships is one key area of improvement, alongside a need to make biofuel regulations clearer to lower the risk calculus for visiting cruise brands.

Lloyd warned that uncertainty around new regulations and costs being introduced inside the 18- to 24-month booking window is another major cause for concern, which she said is creating unmanageable planning and budgeting risks.



Concrete areas of advocacy from NZCA to rehabilitate NZ's cruise prospects have included championing in-water cleaning trials at Ports of Auckland to improve biofuel compliance.

"This is a potential game-changer which could reduce the risk of denial of entry and improve certainty for cruise lines planning New Zealand itineraries," Lloyd said.

On the back of campaigning, the NZ Government has committed to developing a more transparent, cross-agency schedule for costs and regulatory changes, while many NZ ports have also started to publish port charges for the next three to five years.

To solidify these early gains, NZCA plans to strengthen its collaborations with government, Tourism New Zealand, regional tourism organisations, ports, airlines, and its members to ensure a unified approach to cruise recovery.

Cruise Lines International Association Australasia MD Joel Katz also delivered an opening address, shedding light on the body's latest efforts to boost cruise tourism across the Tasman.

These include new PR activities in NZ via a video that aims to put a human face on the employment contribution of cruise, called 'More than a Ship'. AB

New Euro entry a go

A **DATE** for the European Entry/Exit System (EES) has been finalised, meaning all Australians travelling in and out of the Schengen Area will need to register at borders and have their fingerprints and photo taken commencing 12 Oct.

DFAT has warned those affected to expect longer queues at border control, which also includes UK passport holders after a withdrawal from the EU.

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NEW

Dubai calls on Aussies

THE Dubai Department of Economy & Tourism, in collaboration with Julie King & Associates, has launched the Dubai Advocacy Programme in an effort to reward and empower high-performing travel agents from Australia and New Zealand.

The program will seek to incentivise, recognise and reward those advisors who are actively championing Dubai, providing them with benefits like preferential rates for personal accommodation and Dubai experiences, eligibility for performance-based incentives, as well as priority invitations to bespoke famil trips.

It will be delivered in partnership with Emirates, with Dubai advocates required



to proactively train agents within their networks, achieve minimum criteria of Emirates and Dubai sales performance, and encourage sellers to join Dubai Expert and the advocacy program.

Advocates are also required to speak at Dubai training sessions and events as needed, share program assets to build knowledge, and report quarterly on their output.

Shahab Shayan, Regional Director, APAC, Dubai Department of Economy & Tourism, said the program was about "partnership growth and a shared ambition" to boost Dubai tourism.

"In this program, we are formalising that partnership, providing our most...committed sellers with the recognition, resources and exclusive access they deserve, while ensuring their clients receive the latest expertise on our ever-evolving destination."

Dubai Advocacy Programme is comprised of a three-tier structure: Advocate, Certified Ambassador, and Destination Champion - each representing different levels of experience, sales performance, expertise and advocacy commitment. *DF*

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JAPAN FROM 999*

Kris charts a path

KRISFLYER, the loyalty program of Singapore Airlines, has announced a new award chart for flight redemptions for its low-cost subsidiary airline Scoot.

According to the business, the award chart offers greater perks and benefits, with one-way flight redemptions starting from 1,500 KrisFlyer miles for economy class base fares.

Scoot joined the KrisFlyer Rewards program in 2015, and this latest change will enable flight redemptions at fixed rates according to the award chart, providing more certainty.

Award flight redemptions are now available via Scoot's official website and mobile app.

Qatar serves an ace

LOVERS of tennis can get in on the action in the Middle East with newly launched travel packages for the Qatar TotalEnergies Women's Open 2026 and the Qatar ExxonMobil Men's Open 2026 through Qatar Airways.

Packages include premium access to two of the most prestigious tennis events on the WTA 1000 and ATP 500 tours, played between 08-14 Feb 2026 (women's tournament), and 16-21 Feb 2026 (men's tournament).

Included in the packages are return flights with Qatar Airways, stays in four- or five-star hotels or resorts, as well as access to all of the big matches played on the Centre Court.

Joyce doubles down

FORMER Qantas CEO Alan Joyce will reportedly double down on his insistence that his tenure at the carrier was successful, and that he made the right calls, according to a leaked speech to be delivered this afternoon at the Australian Aviation Summit.

Parts of the speech were published by the *Australian Financial Review* this morning, with Joyce expected to say, "QF was the only major Australian airline not to go bankrupt during or after the pandemic".

"Resilience can only be the result of foresight, and the courage to make unpopular decisions in the short-term to preserve long-term viability."

Joyce will deliver the speech to delegates this afternoon.

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RAC WA charts growth strategy plan

EXCLUSIVE

RAC Travel WA has plenty of growth on the horizon, detailing new plans to explore selling via mobile agents for the first time, acquiring new properties for bricks-and-mortar expansion, and more digital initiatives.

“Our strategy is focused on continuing to build on our proud history by providing even more experiences for our 1.3 million members and the wider WA community at home and abroad,” Executive Manager of Travel and Tourism Michael Leary (pictured centre with his team) told *TD*.

With four stores in its network currently, the organisation is looking to develop a home-based agent network to help reach customers in regional areas who live further away from its stores in Western Australia.

“We think we can offer them the opportunity where they can do all the selling, and we will do



all the hack work for them in the head office - [including] all the payments and the accounting,” Leary explained.

The mobile arm will be bolstered by new physical stores, which will be re-positioned in more aspirational shopping centres to attract a better footprint and provide more convenience for its members.

“Shopping centres are no longer just shopping centres - they’re entertainment precincts,” he said.

“They are drawing people in through ice-skating rinks, kids’ clubs, cinemas and dining.

“We are looking to reconfigure our footprint into those kinds of locations, because we think they’ve got longevity,” he added.

In addition, a new online presence will help attract a younger, more digital-savvy demographic, who will be able to book their own holidays online or make appointments with a team member in a store.

Meanwhile, RAC WA is also on a search to acquire new properties in iconic sites, adding to its current portfolio of nine resorts and caravan parks in the state, including recent investments in RAC Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort, the expansion of the RAC Esperance Holiday Park, and the current redevelopment of the RAC Ningaloo Reef Resort.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full interview with Leary. *JHM*

ON LOCATION

ORLANDO

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Royal Caribbean, which is hosting us on the inaugural voyage of its new ship *Star of the Seas*.

THERE will be a new largest cruise ship at sea later today, when Royal Caribbean's *Star of the Seas* officially departs on her maiden voyage.

Travel Daily is one of the lucky few media to be invited on board the historic sailing: a three-night cruise to Royal Caribbean's private Bahamian island, Perfect Day at CocoCay.

The next three days will see *TD* mix with Royal Caribbean leaders such as Michael Bayley, Richard Fain, Gavin Smith, and many members of the local team - so stay tuned.

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Leader program coming to NZ

A **RESPECTED** global leadership program for convention and event professionals is coming to New Zealand for the first time next year.

The AIPC ANZ Academy, developed by the Int'l Association of Convention Centres and the Australian Business Events Association, is a five-day intensive program that combines expert-led lectures with hands-on learning experiences.

From 16-20 Feb 2026, the event will take place at the New Zealand International Convention Centre (NZICC), during the new venue's opening month.

"We are honoured to host the AIPC ANZ Academy for the first time in Aotearoa New Zealand," said NZICC General Manager, Prue Daly.

"The Academy's focus on nurturing regional talent aligns perfectly with our vision to be a catalyst for world-class experiences and leadership excellence.

"We look forward to showcasing the very best of New Zealand's manaakitanga [hospitality] with delegates from across the region."

Full program details and registration for the AIPC and ABEA ANZ Academy 2026 will be available soon [HERE](#).

PROGRESS MADE DESPITE HURDLES

THE business events industry is making real progress despite significant challenges, according to the Australian Business Events Association (ABEA).

In its newly released *Year in Review* report for 2024-25, the industry body's CEO, Melissa Brown, said: "The pressures on our sector have only intensified - costs are rising, time is tighter, and the expectations to deliver exceptional outcomes have never been higher."

At the same time, she acknowledged that "through a strategic focus on advocacy and research and data, we are making real progress".

ABEA increased its membership from 177 in Jul 2024, to 244 in Jun 2025, as well as forming 10 strategic partnerships with key industry bodies, associations and



stakeholders during that time.

The report goes on to detail the Association's achievements over the past 12 months across several focus areas, including research, advocacy, industry development, professional development, and community.

Looking at the year ahead, ABEA revealed it will have a greater presence in Canberra, including

a proposed event in Oct with parliamentary representatives.

ABEA will also work with Service and Creative Skills Australia to gain national coordination across TAFE and schools to support business events.

Additionally, the Association will continue to advocate to the Federal Govt for an expanded, independent fund that runs in perpetuity, supporting the needs of a large portion of its members, as well as the wider industry.

It will also push for strategic infrastructure investment to meet future needs and allow for industry expansion.

"There is much ahead to be excited about, and together, we will continue to champion best practice, both locally and globally," Brown concluded.

See the full report [HERE](#). *JM*

MICE is key to luring Indian travellers

BUSINESS events have played a key role in boosting Indian visitation to Australia, with India remaining the fastest-growing inbound market, according to Tourism Australia.

The ease of visa processing has prompted the post-COVID uptick, revealed Chennai-based Sriharan Balan, MD for Madura Travel Service, during Australia Marketplace India (AMI) earlier this month in Jaipur.

"Visitors get up to a three-year multiple entry visa if they



are travelling for the purpose of leisure or for a holiday and one gets up to a five-year multiple entry visa if travelling for MICE or business events," he said.

"So, we are seeing a very high increase in terms of repeat visitation into Australia not just for leisure but also for business events," Balan added.

A batty decision?

AUSTRALIA'S reputation among the global scientific community could be at risk, after the Federal Govt denied entry to eight international delegates who were set to attend a bat research conference in Cairns.

No reason was offered for the group's refusal, prompting 150 delegates to express their disappointment in the decision via a letter addressed to Immigration Minister Tony Burke.

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The Walshe Group has moved to consolidate leadership of the Lufthansa Group's presence in Australia and New Zealand, naming **Nigel Bale** as the account's General Manager across both markets. Bale is currently overseeing the airline's presence in New Zealand and steps in to replace Anil Rodricks, who has opted to leave the aviation industry.

Beginning a term of three years, Federal Transport Minister Catherine King has appointed **Anne Brown** as Chairperson at **Airservices Australia**. Brown has served on the organisation's Board for the past five years and brings a background in financial markets and risk management.

Princess Cruises has made several new appointments, strengthening its sales team to invest in trade partnerships. The first of several promotions sees **David Craven** take on Field Sales and Key Account Manager, while **Heather Pryde** has been elevated to National Sales Manager. **Elly Eves** has also been promoted to Key Account and Operations Manager, with a gap now filled by **Tyrone Jost** as Queensland State Manager, who comes ashore after six years working onboard the line's ships.

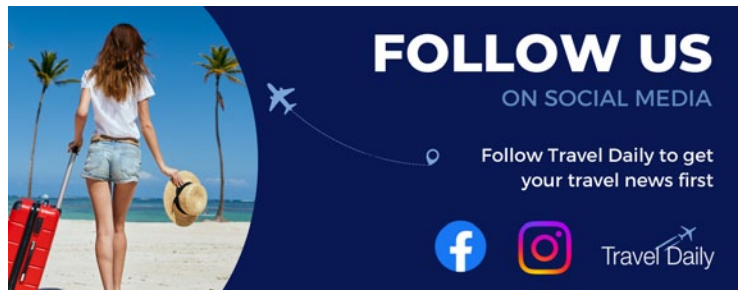
Communications guru **Karena Noble** has been promoted by **IHG Hotels and Resorts Australasia Pacific** to Senior Manager, Corporate Affairs. Noble is well known across the hotel and tourism landscape, having held senior roles with EVT Entertainment and Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia, along with many years consulting with various tourism clients.

The opening leadership team at the soon-to-open dual-branded **Hotel Indigo Melbourne Little Collins** and **Holiday Inn Melbourne Bourke Street Mall** has been revealed, with **Scott Hamilton** helming the team as General Manager. He will be supported by **Christine Bridge** as Director of Sales & Marketing; **Hobin Lee** as Hotel Manager; **Christine Jones** as Marketing Manager; and **Darryl Hand** as Executive Chef.

Tasked with overseeing marketing and communications, **Azamara Cruises** has welcomed **Lisa Kauffman** as its new Chief Marketing Officer. Kauffman has previously worked with Celebrity Cruises and the Walt Disney Company, and joins from a Chief Marketing role at Starboard.

Independent property brand **Preferred Hotels and Resorts** has made some key personnel changes in Asia Pacific, with **Eddie Wong** becoming Area Managing Director, Greater China & Australia, based in Hong Kong. Elsewhere within the organisation, **Laurence Onfroy** has expanded his role to become Vice President, Business Development, Asia Pacific, while **Midori Kataoka** has been promoted to Area Managing Director.

Passionate environmental advocate **Armand Thieblemont** has been promoted by **Six Senses** as the new Regional Director of Sustainability at Six Senses Uluwatu, Bali. Based at the resort, Thieblemont will drive the sustainability strategy for both the property and sister resorts across the Asia Pacific region.



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Viking hosts agents

LUXURY cruise line Viking recently hosted select agents from TravelManagers in Sydney and Melbourne to exclusive dress rehearsals of the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and acrobatic ensemble Circa in the lead-up to their performance, *The Art of the Fugue*.

After watching in awe as the acrobats contorted their bodies on stage accompanied by the musicians, agents were treated to dinner at one of the hottest restaurants in Sydney, Totti's.

The event was an example of a Viking Privileged Access shore experience, giving travel advisors the opportunity to experience the shore excursions first-hand and have the ability to share them with clients in the future.

Other examples include visiting rare art collections with before-and after-hours access to world-class museums, and having access to private palaces not typically open to the general public.

Pictured enjoying the event at City Recital Hall in Sydney are: Michelle Michael-Pecora, Julie Painter, Elyse Palmer, Michelle Lehn, Jennifer Jones, Kim Mason, and Antonella Damiano.



**Window
Seat**

NOT that the writer of Window Seat would know, but apparently it is not ideal for a criminal to return to the scene of the crime.

But that is what one thief in California has done - a lawbreaker who happens to be a dab hand at flying and maintaining vintage Cessnas.

Jason Hong, a 75-year-old who owns a 1958 Cessna Skyhawk, has now had his single-engine plane stolen twice - each time found safe and unharmed.

On 27 Jul, he reported it missing from Corona Municipal Airport, with reports that it had been flying around Southern California.

It was located 40km away at Brackett Field Airport, so Hong made a trip to the airport, took out the plane's battery, and planned to come back and clean it.

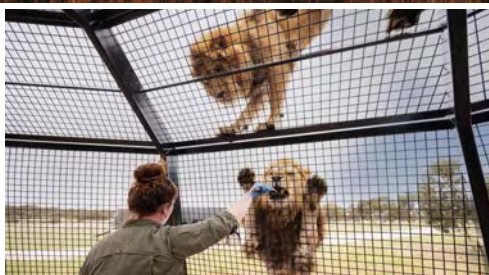
But that didn't stop the rogue aviator, who returned, replaced the battery, and went for another joy ride, this time landing it at San Gabriel Valley Airport, 29km away.

With no CCTV footage available, the only clue currently is that a woman was seen by witnesses sitting in the passenger seat of the plane previously at a time when Hong was not there.

This writer's car requires a new battery - if anyone would like to take it, replace the battery, and return it, please contact **Travel Daily**.

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Famil dates: 2 - 4 November 2025

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

*Conditions apply. This incentive is open to all Australian agents booking with Viva Holidays. The winner will be selected based on the highest number of points accrued from room nights booked through Viva Holidays within South Australia between 7 Aug – 5 Sep 2025. In the event of a draw, the winner will be decided based on highest revenue. Itinerary is subject to availability and change. Famil dates are 2–4 Nov 2025. Winner must be available to travel on these dates and must have completed the SA Experts program available via the South Australian Tourism Commission's trade website: trade.southaustralia.com/sa-experts. Winner must reside outside South Australia. Tour is not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. Return flights from the closest capital city are included. Transfers to/from your closest capital city are not included. Other conditions apply and will be provided to the winning agency. Fringe Benefit Tax (if any) is the liability of the legal employer of the employee. We recommend seeking independent taxation advice to assess the impact of these prizes on your circumstances.

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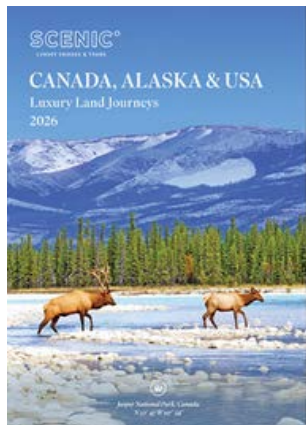
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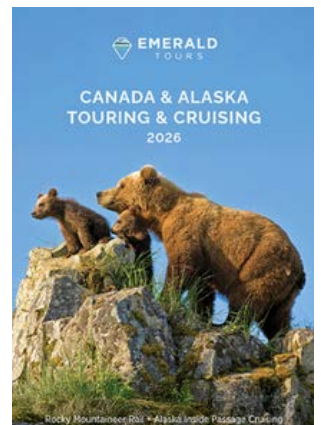
Book Canada & Win

Book and deposit a minimum of four passengers on any Scenic or Emerald Tours 2026 Canada touring itinerary between 14 August 2025 & 12 December 2025 to qualify for entry



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To enter, travel agents will be required to make and deposit a minimum of four (4) pax for either the Scenic Tours or Emerald Tours, 2026 Canada itineraries. Applicable only for deposited bookings made between 14th August 2025 to 12th December 2025. This trade competition is open to both Australian and New Zealand travel agents. To be eligible to win, travel agents must be in the employment of a travel business as a travel consultant, at time of entry and time of travel. The prize consists of: An Air Canada flight from Sydney for two people, twin share accommodation at Fairmont Empress Victoria for three nights, including daily breakfast, Fairmont Vancouver for two nights, including daily breakfast and three night KILGB3 Knight Inlet Lodge package for two people. The prize also include flights for two people in economy class, from Victoria to Campbell River and Campbell River to Vancouver. Prize dates and departures are fixed for the Air Canada international flights, being 18 May 2026 and return on 26 May 2026 . The winners will be drawn and contacted by email, by COB 17 December 2025. If the winner is unable to take the prize during the dates specified by the promoter (Scenic) the prize will then be forfeited and redrawn. The promoter's (Scenic) decision is final and no changes can be made to the prize elements. The Promoter will not enter into any correspondence regarding the competition result. The Promoter reserves the right to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the competition at any time. The prize cannot be transferred to a third party and cannot be redeemed for cash. Scenic ABN 85 002 715 602

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Travel Daily
PRODUCT PROFILE



Vietnam Airlines & Perth-Ho Chi Minh City route

VIETNAM Airlines is the national flag carrier of Vietnam, renowned for its safety and high-quality service. In 2025, it was named one of the world's safest airlines by AirlineRatings.com.

As a proud member of the SkyTeam Alliance, Vietnam Airlines offers seamless codeshare connections with Virgin Australia, Qantas, and Air New Zealand.

The airline operates a network of over 100 routes, including 22 domestic and 36 international destinations across 20 countries.

In Australia, Vietnam Airlines currently operates five regular routes, offering a total of 23 weekly services between Australia and Vietnam. These include Sydney -Hanoi (three times weekly), Sydney-Ho Chi Minh City (daily), Melbourne-Hanoi (three times weekly),

Melbourne-Ho Chi Minh City (daily), and Perth-Ho Chi Minh City (three times weekly).

The latest route, Perth-Ho Chi Minh City, has operated since December 2023.

The airline will continue to operate three flights per week from Perth, departing on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.

Please see details below:

Flight number	Day	Depart (local time)	Arrival (local time)
VN791	Monday Thursday Saturday	SGN 15.50	PER 23.05
VN790	Tuesday Friday Sunday	PER 0:50	SGN 6.10

All flights on this route will be operated by the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, featuring

a total of 274 seats: 28 Business Class, 35 Premium Economy and 211 Economy.

This configuration ensures a comfortable and flexible travel experience across all cabin classes for passengers flying between Perth and Vietnam.

Reminder tips:

Please remind your passengers that travellers who hold an Australian passport are required to apply for a visa when visiting Vietnam. The processing time is approximately five working days.

Applications can be submitted [here](#)