

CZ ups ADL and PER

CHINA Southern Airlines has confirmed it will fly to Adelaide and Perth year-round, moving from seasonal services.

Adelaide gets three flights per week, which between 06 Apr and 05 May will move to four weekly services, with all flights on the carrier's Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

CZ also confirmed it had committed to year-round services for Perth, shifting from a seasonal strategy, and will also increase from three to four times in the peak period between 14 Dec and 01 Mar, delivering more than 42,000 seats annually inbound for Western Australia.

Airports lose challenge

THE High Court of New Zealand has rejected an appeal by some of the country's largest airports, after they unsuccessfully argued the Commerce Commission's criticism of their fee structure for carriers was unfair.

Filed by the international hubs of Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, the appeal sought to overturn a previous determination by the Commerce Commission that sided with carriers like Qantas and Air New Zealand over what is called "excessive" planned increases in landing and passenger charges.



Hubs like Auckland Airport had previously argued the increases over time were justified to push ahead with major infrastructure improvements needed to enhance the pax experience.

However, Air NZ and Qantas joined forces to rally against the proposed fee increases, which they contended would lead to higher airfare costs and a curtailing of route capacity across the Tasman (**TD** 08 Jun 2023).

The carriers also stated they were yet to see any real value in the current airport investments being made at Auckland Airport.

In a statement today, Auckland Airport said it was now "considering the findings of this latest judgement", adding it would continue to work to ensure some conceded methodology errors used by the Commission in its first report are rectified for future price setting purposes. **AB**

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest travel industry news.

Air T formalises Rex

REX has taken another key step towards normal operations, formally exiting its voluntary administration phase and its shares transferred to owner Air T.

Administrators EY recently penned a letter to creditors confirming that the formal transfer is now complete.

Qantas charges app

QANTAS has implemented a last-minute app update in time for Christmas.

The update will show extra details about a passenger's seat charging capabilities and comes in addition to the charging port data the national carrier added earlier this year.

With USB-A and USB-C both heavily used across different modes of transport, as well as in hotels and public areas, the update will give flyers the heads up on what to expect from their charging port experience.



Tourism Malaysia Sydney has the following job vacancies:

Marketing Officer

- Plan, prepare & implement marketing, promotion & advertising activities
- Execute Market Development activities to position Malaysia as preferred holiday destination
- To plan & execute development activities
- Master / Bachelor Degree Holder in Marketing, Communications or equivalent with minimum of 5 years of experience in Marketing

CLICK HERE TO APPLY - Applications close 10 January 2026

Assistant Marketing Officer

- Support, implement and execute marketing and promotion activities
- Plan and execute publicity and advertising activities
- Execute market development activities
- To manage & oversee social media content
- Diploma in marketing communication or equivalent with a minimum of 5 years experience in Marketing

CLICK HERE TO APPLY - Applications close 10 January 2026

Driver

- Assist with all transport related duties
- Assist and maintain office errands
- Must have a valid driving license

CLICK HERE TO APPLY - Applications close 10 January 2026

*Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

*No recruitment agency submissions accepted.

*Only applicants with Australian citizenship or Australian permanent residency need apply.



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AMAWATERWAYS

GFOB directors on the way

FOR the first time ever, Globus family of brands (GFOB) will fly in senior cruise and tour directors for its upcoming river cruise and tour road show in Australia.

There will be 11 events held across the country in Feb, with GFOB to offer travel advisors and those around the industry a chance to look behind the curtain of its tours and cruises, flying in its top execs from Globus, Cosmos, and Avalon Waterways.

Tour directors will host a series of showcase events in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia, with two events in Sydney, two in Brisbane, two in Melbourne, and one in Adelaide, as well as dates in Newcastle, the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast, and the Mornington Peninsula.

The events are designed for both those new and experienced advisors selling GFOB, with attendees able to meet the experts from each brand, learn



insider knowledge, and unlock greater sales potential for 2026.

Advisors can also look forward to a two-course meal and networking opportunities with fellow agents and the GFOB team.

Consumer events will also run on the same day, to which agents can invite their clients.

These events will feature exclusive offers, prizes, and afternoon tea.

Seats are limited, meaning early bookings are highly recommended - [CLICK HERE](#) to register to attend. *MS*

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VIEW DEAL

Viking goes Downton

VIKING and Highclere Castle have announced the construction of a new contemporary events space called The Viking Pavilion at Highclere Castle.

The purpose-built space, located outside of the castle known as the filming location for *Downton Abbey*, will replace the temporary marquee on the southwest lawn, providing an elegant setting for future events and guest experiences.

The Viking Pavilion has been designed to complement Highclere's historic architecture, while incorporating sustainable features such as solar panels and a heat exchanger system.

Surrounding grounds will feature curving pathways, carefully planted trees, soft planting beds, and an intimate seating areas.

In addition to the events space, Viking guests will also continue to enjoy expanded opportunities to explore the castle.

ATIA adds five more

THE Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) has welcomed several new businesses into its accreditation program.

These include Contours Travel, All World Travel Service, Rahal Travel, and Big Heart Adventures.

The latest batch of new members also includes the recently launched OddTrips, which detailed its future strategy to *TD* last week (*TD* 19 Dec).

Serko appointments

SERKO has announced leadership changes in a post on LinkedIn from the company's Chief Revenue Officer Liz Fraser.

Murray Warner, Global SVP, Managed Markets, based in Sydney, will depart the company, with Dinesh Kumar stepping into the role of VP Revenue, A/NZ.

Also, Brett Dowling has become VP Revenue, NORAM, to lead sales, customer success, and partnerships in North America.



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WA hotel to take off

CONSTRUCTION on the upcoming 240-room Pullman Perth Airport Hotel will start next year, more than a year after preliminary details were first revealed (**TD** 30 Oct 2024).

The property will feature a curved design shape to maximise views of the airfield from its upper-level rooms, and will also feature a rooftop pool and bar.

“Pullman is defined by spaces that are purposeful, contemporary and designed to provoke exchange, and Pullman Perth Airport will be a compelling expression of that philosophy,” Accor Pacific Chief Operating Officer Adrian Williams said.



Japan eyes mega complex

INTERNATIONAL Hotel Group (IHG) has revealed plans to build a new hotel complex near Universal Studios Japan in Osaka, set to open in 2029.

To be located on the Yodo River, the complex will be comprised of three of IHG’s flagship brands; Intercontinental, Kimpton and Holiday Inn Resort.

The project will add 817 rooms to one of Australia’s top outbound markets, and the properties will be official accommodation partners of Universal Studios.

“As the only international hotel company operating in this area of Osaka, we can’t wait to introduce our InterContinental, Kimpton and Holiday Inn Hotels & Resorts brands to guests, who will enjoy easy access to Universal Studios Japan while being within easy reach of its many neighbouring attractions,” said Abhijay Sandilya, Managing Director,



Japan & Micronesia, IHG Hotels & Resorts and CEO of IHG ANA Hotels Group Japan.

“IHG’s growth continues apace in Japan where we have 57 hotels across 10 brands and 20 pipeline properties, and this trio of exceptional new-build hotels will expand our current portfolio of 10 properties in Osaka and 12 in the wider Kansai region.”

“By building new infrastructure, adding attractions, introducing an integrated resort, and opening international branded hotels, we’re creating a must-visit destination for visitors, and a fresh experience for Japan.” *JB*

WTTC ticks Madrid

AFTER a global search, the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) has chosen Madrid to be its new global headquarters after making the call to exit the UK.

The decision was based on operating costs, tax incentives, access to fast-tracked visas, govt support, and proximity to international organisations.

Madrid was chosen as WTTC’s new head office ahead of the United Arab Emirates, France, Italy, Spain and Switzerland.

“With the support of the Spanish Govt, 2026 will be a year in which we will reshape WTTC so it is focused on its members, stronger research capability and deeper government advocacy in the travel and tourism sector,” Chair Manfredi Lefebvre said.

The global body - charged with looking after the interests of travel and tourism - made the call to leave the UK after citing high operational costs brought on by the impacts of Brexit (**TD** 31 Oct).



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LHR flags upgrades

HEATHROW Airport has announced plans to spend £1.3 billion (approx A\$2.47 billion) during 2026 on significant supply chain upgrades.

These include a revamp of T4 featuring a new multi-storey car park and upgraded check-in area, initiation of construction of a new baggage system for T2, and improved services for passengers with accessibility needs.

A new network of cameras will also be installed across Heathrow's stands that will use AI to analyse data and speed up times between flights.

Heathrow CEO Thomas Woldbye said, "This investment will flow directly into our nationwide supply chain helping to drive economic growth".



Escape to Paradise with Hyatt Bali

TAAP into Andaz Bali, Grand Hyatt Bali & Hyatt Regency Bali to enter

Ends 31st Jan 2026

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 Expedia TAAP

Kiwi agent commits fraud

A FORMER New Zealand travel agent has been convicted of 16 fraud offences impacting three separate travel companies.

The woman - who can't be named for legal reasons - left Corporate Travel Management, Fortis Travel, and Orbit World Travel more than NZ\$60,000 out of pocket when she had client payments transferred into her personal bank account.

The offending began in Jun 2022 and continued until Aug 2023, and also included a fraudulent bank loan of NZ\$30,000 accessed by stealing a person's identity.

To cover her tracks, the agent ordered a postal redirection without the recipient's consent.

"This offending could have gone further, as she unsuccessfully attempted to apply for another loan using the same identity at a finance company," a spokesperson for NZ Police said.

"A significant amount of police resource went into investigating this offending, which showed payment details being altered on travel agency documents."

Blair Huston, the owner and Managing Director of Fortis Travel, told *Stuff.co.nz* the fraud had "ripped the hearts out" of people working at his business.

"I lost millions over COVID, it was crushing and I incurred that debt to keep my staff, then the borders reopen and someone else is actively stealing from you -

Qatar docks for CLIAs

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has confirmed Visit Qatar will again be the headline partner for its annual Cruise Industry Awards for Australasia next year.

Visit Qatar said being the sponsor for the fourth year in a row showed its long-term support of the global cruise industry.

Taking place on 07 Mar 2026, the CLIAs will be hosted at the ICC Sydney in front of 600 guests.



it was heartbreaking," he said.

"It was incredibly difficult for me to cope with the reality of her deception, in the weeks following her theft I was forced to ask my elderly mother to loan me money just to feed my family and so Fortis Travel could pay its staff."

Her offending first began at CTM, where she stole NZ\$20,228 before she was fired in Jan 2023.

The woman was sentenced to 12 months' home detention, six months post detention conditions, and ordered to pay NZ\$15,102.72 from her KiwiSaver, followed by NZ\$200 a week until the remaining NZ\$40,900.28 debt is fully paid. *AB*

AA pulls econ points

AMERICAN Airlines has announced it has pulled the plug on awarding AAdvantage miles and status points on basic economy tickets.

Members previously earned two miles and loyalty points for each dollar they spent on a the basic economy fare, with the new rules already in effect.

"We routinely evaluate our fare products to remain competitive in the marketplace," American Airlines told *CBS News*.

"Basic economy customers will continue to receive one free personal item and one free carry-on bag, free snacks, soft drinks and in-flight entertainment."

In its most recent quarter, American Airlines struggled, suffering a loss of US\$114 million on revenue of US\$13.7 billion, according to its regulatory filings.

The announcement means that American will now have a similar policy to Delta on basic economy.



Window Seat

SOCIAL media platform TikTok has found yet another intriguing way to make the world a worse place, this time by hosting a movement encouraging travellers to be late for their flights.

The viral challenge is called 'airport theory', and dares travellers to dramatically cut down their airport arrival time to see if people can exploit airline procedures and board the plane in a fraction of the normal schedule.

According to Google, searches for 'airport theory' are at an all-time high for the second month in a row.

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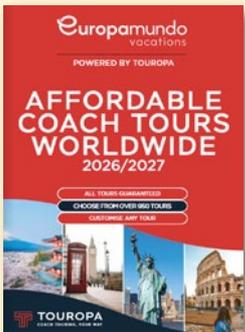


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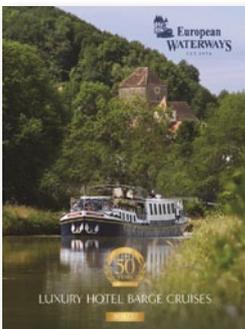


Viva Holidays - Thailand 2026/27
Viva Holidays has released its 52-page brochure for travellers looking to head to Thailand in 2026 or 2027. The publication covers accommodation and touring options for all parts of the country, including city breaks in Bangkok, the beaches of Phuket and Koh Samui, safaris in Chiang Mai and snorkelling on Phi Phi Island. The brochure also includes key advice for all travellers including the best times of the year to go, recommended experiences for each destination, which destinations use the English language, and the appropriate etiquette among locals. Travel agents and their clients can download the brochure [HERE](#).



Touropa - Coach Tours Worldwide 2026/27
Touropa has released the first-ever brochure for Australia and New Zealand that showcases worldwide coach tours provided by its subsidiary, Europamundo Vacations. The guide details the operator's 950-plus tours spanning Europe, Asia, the Americas, and the Middle East, and highlights its popular Go English program. Touropa offers greater booking flexibility across all its tours, with travellers able to book a full tour as a segment of a tour to fit their personal needs.

They also have the option to pause their tour for an extended stay at a particular location. Read the brochure online [HERE](#).



European Waterways - Barge Cruises 2026/27
European Waterways has released its brochure for the 2026/27 cruise season. The 112-page guide showcases what each of its six-night cruises have to offer, on board facilities, food and drink selections, options for both family and adult-only cruises, as well as a profile of the crew members. The brochure also provides a detailed description of the locations that European Waterways visits. Each page includes the different sub-areas of each destination, providing a detailed

description of tours, places to eat and drink, and accommodation, if there is an overnight stay. [CLICK HERE](#) to check it out.

Huge milestone for Brissy



OVER the weekend, the Brisbane International Cruise Terminal (BICT) celebrated 500 cruise ship calls since 2022.

The terminal has welcomed many prominent cruise lines in that time including Royal Caribbean and Carnival, operating regular voyages to tourist hot spots such as Pacific destinations New Caledonia and Vanuatu.

BICT has been pivotal to Queensland's tourism industry, with each call bringing in around one million dollars in revenue.

It is projected that the economic gain from the terminal will total \$1.5 billion in the next 10 years.

The terminal has also seen an increase in jobs in Queensland tourism, as each cruise ship call requires 130 staff to ensure passengers board and exit the vessel in a safe manner.

Expansion of the Brisbane International Cruise Terminal's capacity is planned over the coming decades to support anticipated growth in cruise passenger numbers, which is expected to more than quadruple by 2060.

Air NZ new rules

AIR New Zealand has imposed new rules on power banks carried by passengers on board, taking place with immediate effect.

Each passenger can only carry a maximum of two portable chargers of 100 watt hours or less, and they must also be stowed in the seat pocket or in a bag under the seat.

Power banks are no longer allowed to be stored in overhead lockers, and they are also prohibited from use during taxi, takeoff or landing.

Recharging powerbanks with in-seat power is strictly prohibited.

Crystal adds more

ABERCROMBIE and Kent's Crystal Cruises brand has expanded its 2027 program to include five new voyages.

The new sailings include a circumnavigation of Italy starting in Venice, a Mediterranean voyage calling at Malta, Tunisia and Spain, a European cruise taking in Portugal, Spain, France, Guernsey & England, plus more.