



**Travel Daily**  
ON LOCATION

**PALAU**

Today's issue of TD is coming to you courtesy of Palau Visitors Authority, which is this week hosting a media group on a famil showcasing the island destination.

**GUESTS** on the Palau Visitors Authority famil will continue to experience life as a local, with a half-day traditional sailing tour today with Paddling Palau.

Attendees will sail the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Rock Islands for which Palau is most famous, aboard a traditionally-made sailboat.

No sailing trip in this destination is of course complete without getting in the water, with guests on the trip to again snorkel the crystalline Palauan waters.

## Little Emperors in Australia

**EXCLUSIVE**

**UK-BASED** luxury private hotel club Little Emperors is undertaking a major expansion push in Australia for the first time, revealing plans to recruit a solid network of travel advisors before opening a local headquarters.

Speaking with *Travel Daily* this week, Little Emperors Regional Manager APAC, Brooke Moralejo, said the aim is to initially engage Australian home-based agents to grow its independent travel consultant program.

The premium company refers to its independent travel advisors as MyLERs, and is looking to grow its host agency program around the key pillars of technology, education and relationships.

"Little Emperors has developed tech that enables MyLERs to access it more...efficiently than any other host agency program," Moralejo explained.

"Almost all of the historic difficulties and administrative burdens of being an independent consultant have been removed by the innovative, AI-backed technology the Little Emperors team have input to the app."

Australian growth plans have been spurred on by strong demand from independent advisors around the world for access to its program, however the company is not simply looking to bolster membership numbers, instead stating a strategic focus on finding quality agents with the right personality fit to represent

the brand.

"Due to the volume of luxury hotel bookings the existing MyLERs are producing, Little Emperors continues to secure best-in-class global commission agreements, as well as value-adds for the end clients," Moralejo said.

"My role on this side of the world is to nurture the network Australian of MyLERs, equipping individuals with the knowledge, technology, relationships and access to the best travel perks possible for their clients."

Moralejo was quietly recruited in Oct last year to head up the local regional expansion, joining from Capella Hotel Group, where she had been Director of Sales & Marketing, Capella Ubud, Bali for close to five years.

Benefits of joining the MyLER program include access to exclusive rates with over 5,000 luxury hotels, access to a fully integrated booking platform, comprehensive support, and generous commissions.

In addition to the global Virtuoso Network, hotel partners include Four Seasons; Jumeirah Hotel partners include Four Seasons, Jumeirah, and Re-lais & Chateaux.

Advisors interested in applying can reach out to Moralejo at [brooke@littleemperors.com](mailto:brooke@littleemperors.com). AB

### Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features eight pages of news, including our **Sustainability page**, plus a full page from **Silversea**.

## Save with Silversea

**SILVERSEA** is offering travellers up to \$8,000 in savings, as well as a suite upgrade, on more than 100 global voyages from now through to 2027.

The exclusive promotion is on offer for two weeks.

Discover more details about the promo on the **back page**.

**titan**  
travel

Save up to  
**25%**  
on 2025 & 2026 tours

**EARN A \$100 GIFT CARD**

PER PASSENGER BOOKED BY 31 MAR

**View Tours**

## ITA departs SkyTeam

**ITA Airways** has confirmed it will exit SkyTeam in Apr and formally join Star Alliance in early 2026, a move that follows Lufthansa completing its acquisition of a 41% stake in the Italian carrier last month (**TD** 20 Jan).

"ITA Airways will continue to collaborate with selected SkyTeam member airlines through existing bilateral agreements," the airline said.

Star Alliance includes Air NZ, Singapore Airlines, ANA, Air India, Air Canada and Turkish Airlines.

**NCL NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE**

For a limited time only!  
**Earn double points on all sailings.**

Valid on deposited bookings made between 3 - 13 February 2025\*

**LEARN MORE**

**PARTNERSFIRST**  
REWARDS

\*Conditions apply.

## DRAKE PASSAGE

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Viking which is hosting key trade partners aboard *Viking Polaris*.

**AFTER** an incredible fortnight in Antarctica, we are today making our way back across the Drake Passage.

We have once again been treated to light swells of three metres and beautiful weather with the sun shining across the expanse of ocean.

The trade contingent has had an entertaining day exploring all that *Viking Polaris* has to offer, with exclusive bridge and galley tours.

This evening we will gather in the Aula for the cruise farewell, watching a compilation of our adventures on board.

## Flight Centre's new tag

**FLIGHT** Centre has unveiled its new global tagline, 'Your Centre for Travel', as part of its ongoing brand modernisation strategy.

"When people think travel, we want them thinking Flight Centre.

"When you want to fly, stay, cruise or tour, Flight Centre is your centre for travel," said Flight Centre Global Managing Director Andrew Stark.

"Part of our success over the past 43 years has been our ability to continually evolve with our customers' needs so our new tagline today positions Flight Centre exactly where we need to be; in a league of our own as a full-service travel retailer."

The launch of Flight Centre's global tagline has been welcomed by founder and Global CEO, Graham 'Skroo' Turner.

"I've been in my fair share of brand presentations over the years but I do feel this one will really resonate with customers," Turner enthused.

## Operation Europe lands in Oz

**NICHE** tour operator Operation Europe will formally debut in Australia and NZ after owner Vosaio Travel Group shifted to the branding this week.

Vosaio acquired the London-headquartered company late last year, and around the same time, appointed Carly Allen (pictured) as Country Manager for Australia to spearhead its local debut (*TD* 10 Sep 2024).

The local rebranding to Operation Europe is a strategic decision Vosaio said will leverage the combined expertise of both brands to elevate service delivery for trade partners, while still maintaining the core values and personalised approach the operator is known for.

Joining Allen in the region as a result of the rebrand is Country Manager New Zealand Sofia Rodriguez Rytkonen, who is also based in New Zealand.

Operation Europe's point-of-

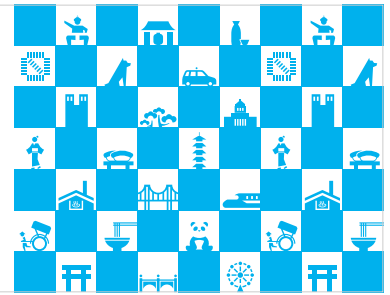


difference in the market is what it calls a "detail-oriented approach to touring", offering travellers personalised itineraries and service delivery.

The tailored group tours are delivered across a variety of segments, including special interest small groups, pre/post-cruise tours, bespoke group shore excursions, and sports tours.

"We are committed to delivering an outstanding, seamless experience to our clients throughout 2025 and beyond, and we look forward to the opportunities this exciting next step will bring," Vosaio global CEO Martin Knuepfer said. *AB*





## Qantas' ticket to paradise performing well

QANTAS Airways' 'Palau Paradise Express' is off to a strong start, according to Executive Manager Global Sales & Distribution Kathryn Robertson.

Speaking to *Travel Daily* on the sidelines of the route's official launch in Brisbane last week (*TD* yesterday), Robertson said bookings for the first two months of the service have been strong.

"We've had an awesome Dec and Jan...people travelling has been really high."

Robertson said Qantas was confident of the strong result when flights went on sale in Nov (*TD* 08 Nov 2024).

"We know there is demand from Australia to visit Palau...when we first announced the route in Oct, we saw an immediate surge in our website traffic for people searching for the destination," she explained.

"This shows huge interest for travellers of new or undiscovered



destinations, and since then, the interest has continued to build."

Qantas' attention will now turn to marketing the route, with trade partners set to be heavily involved in distribution.

"We're working with our key trade partners, so they're great at supporting it, because they also want new, exciting destinations to add to their offering as well.

"Over the next two or three months, we've got quite an extensive marketing plan that's

rolling out to help promote it."

The Brisbane-Koror (Palau's capital) route is the fifth int'l service launched by Qantas in the last 18 months. *MS*

**Pictured:** Qantas flight attendants with Brisbane Airport Executive General Manager Aviation Ryan Both, Robertson, President of Palau Surangel Whipps Jr, and Australian DFAT First Assistant Secretary Strategic Infrastructure & Economic Division Charlotte Blundell.

## Fox expands A&K role

ABERCOMBIE & Kent Travel Group (AKTG) MD Australasia Deb Fox (**pictured**) will expand her role in Apr to include the UK (*TD* breaking news).

The appointment will see Fox relocate from Melbourne to the UK to assist the brand in continuing to drive expansion.

"Debra's deep understanding of both the UK and APAC markets, coupled with her exceptional leadership skills, makes her the ideal candidate to drive our growth and expansion strategies in these key regions," AKTG CEO Cristina Levis said.

Locally, AKTG restructured operations last month to unify its approach (*TD* 08 Jan).



# EXCLUSIVE WAVE SEASON BONUSES. LIMITED TIME OFFER.

THE TRIPLE  
BONUS EVENT

Quark  
Expeditions®





**PRICES FROM \$9,969**  
PER PERSON TWIN SHARE  
LAND ONLY  
\*Surcharges may apply\*

**WMTOURS**

DURATION: 13 DAYS

**East Africa Explorer**

**VIEW DEAL**

## Bunnik brand is reborn

**BUNNIK** Tours has unveiled a brand refresh ahead of its 30th anniversary, marking a new era of growth for the family-run small group tour operator.

The new positioning, 'It's who you go with', is designed to reinforce the importance of who Australians choose to travel while on a tour.

The revamped branding includes a new logo with the tagline 'Family-run since forever', giving a contemporary look and feel while also highlighting the touring specialist's heritage.

"Our refreshed brand emerged from an extensive consultation process with the talented team at Town Square," said Bunnik Tours' joint-CEO Dennis Bunnik.

"The result is an exciting and important step as we kick off our 30th anniversary year."

The marketing collateral includes new destination photography, with all imagery taken by team



members, tour directors and customers themselves.

The new identity also introduces the 'Bunnik hug', a distinctive visual element derived from the brand's logo, that aims to underscore the company's personal, empathetic approach.

"The logo, positioning and visual identity are representative of our purpose, which is to foster deeper connections between travellers and the people, places and cultures they visit," Bunnik added.

The revamped brand platform was shaped by feedback from past Bunnik Tours customers. *JM*

## Pagett promoted

**UNIWORLD** Boutique River Cruises has promoted Jen Pagett (pictured) to Senior Manager of Key Accounts, where she will now lead partnerships and sales for the brand nationally.

Pagett started with the company in the reservations department in 2017, and was most recently a Key Account Manager.

Tiffany Mestrinho replaces Pagett in her former position and will be based in Melbourne.

In further news, Business Development Manager for the Qld/WA territory, Shelley Martin, will depart at the end of the month, with Uniworld currently recruiting for her replacement.



## QF, VA discount tix

**QANTAS** has launched its largest international sale in the last 12 months, with 400,000 discounted seats up for grabs to almost 30 overseas destinations across Asia, the Americas, the United Kingdom and Pacific.

The sale includes Qantas' newest destinations like Palau, as well as the upcoming Melbourne to Honolulu service.

Available to purchase until 10 Feb at midnight AEDT, fares start at \$499 return in economy and apply to select travel dates through to Jan 2026.

**MEANWHILE**, Virgin Australia has also announced its own international sale, with return fares to short-haul destinations such as Fiji, Vanuatu, Bali, Samoa and Queenstown available from \$439 for economy lite.

The discounted fares from Virgin Australia are available to book until midnight 07 Feb on select flights for travel between 17 Feb-12 Dec 2025.



## YOUR CLIENTS' FRONT ROW SEAT TO THE POLES

Up to \$6,599 savings per person on Polar Luxury Expeditions<sup>^</sup>

<p>SAVE UP TO \$3,199/PP*</p>	<p><b>EXPEDITION TO NEW ZEALAND'S SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS</b></p> <p>Dunedin to Dunedin - 29 December 2025</p> <p>New Year's Cruise</p> <p>from \$19,899 \$17,999 per person in a Deluxe Stateroom with balcony</p>
<p>SAVE UP TO \$4,409/PP*</p>	<p><b>THE GREAT AUSTRAL LOOP</b></p> <p>Ushuaia to Ushuaia - 11 Nov &amp; 21 Dec 2025</p> <p>18 nights on board L'Austral or Le Boréal</p> <p>Includes 1 night in Buenos Aires, return flight Buenos Aires/Ushuaia and tour in Ushuaia<sup>†</sup></p> <p>from \$28,699 \$26,299 per person in a Deluxe Stateroom with balcony</p>
<p>SAVE UP TO \$6,599/PP*</p>	<p><b>EXPEDITION TO THE THULE REGION</b></p> <p>Kangerlussuaq to Kangerlussuaq - 2 August 2025</p> <p>16 nights on board Le Boréal</p> <p>Includes return flight Paris/Kangerlussuaq &amp; transfers<sup>†</sup></p> <p>from \$34,299 \$31,299 per person in a Deluxe Stateroom with balcony</p>



1300 737 178 | au.ponant.com | reservations.aus@ponant.com

\*All advertised price is in Australian dollars (AUD), per person and subject to change at any time without notice. Special offer is a 10% discount per person valid on a selection of polar expeditions, on new bookings made between 3 January and 14 February 2025 included. Offer is not retroactive, is subject to availability and may be removed at any time. Offer is combinable with PONANT Yacht Club discounts, join The Club offer, the PONANT Bonus Offer and standard permanent back-to-back offer (C0808010). Offer not combinable with Flight Credit offers, Free Single Supplement, Shipboard credit or any other offer. To take advantage of this offer, please quote code HOLIDAYS when speaking to a Ponant consultant on your preferred travel agent. Expedition to New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands: advertised discounted fare is based on a 10% discount calculated on a Deluxe Stateroom cabin double occupancy on SO291225 departure; advertised maximum saving based on Prestige Suite Deck 5 category on SO291225 departure. The Great Austral Loop: advertised discounted fare is based on a 10% discount calculated on a Deluxe Stateroom cabin double occupancy on LY111125 departure; advertised maximum saving based on Prestige Suite Deck 5 category on BO202025 departure. Expedition to the Thule Region: advertised discounted fare is based on a 10% discount calculated on a Deluxe Stateroom cabin double occupancy on BO202025 departure; advertised maximum saving based on Prestige Suite Deck 5 category on BO202025 departure. Advertised saving is calculated on 10% savings on Prestige Suite Deck 5 category onboard Le Boréal, based on double occupancy on Expedition to the Thule Region departure on 2 July 2025. Included flights, accommodation and transfers are operated by PONANT's preferred airline and local suppliers and subject to special terms and conditions, included flights are operated in economy class, business class available under certain conditions. All pricing and discounts correct as of 30 December 2024, and may change at any time. Other terms and conditions may apply. Visit au.ponant.com for more information. Photograph: © Studio PONANT - Julien Fabre.



[REGISTER HERE](#)

**ALBATROSS**  
Tours

## Mint Protect goes live

**MINT** Payments has gone live with its new Mint Protect service for travel advisors, providing sellers with important protection against chargebacks.

First flagged by **TD** at the end of last year (**TD** 17 Dec 2024), Mint Protect pledges to safeguard risks associated with chargebacks, including supplier insolvency.

## Airnorth adds link

**AIRNORTH** will launch a new nonstop service connecting Far North Queensland's city of Cairns with Alice Springs in the Northern Territory from 14 Apr.

The service will operate three times per week using Embraer E190 aircraft, adding around 30,000 seats annually between these two destinations.

"As int'l visitation continues to recover, this route is strategically important to the NT tourism sector and will expand itinerary options," the NT Govt said.

## There's no place like Home

### Ex

**RESPECTED** travel industry executives including ATIA CEO Dean Long, TravelManagers Executive General Manager Michael Gazal, MTA CEO Don Beattie and Envoyage Global COO Astrid Richardson are the latest speakers signed on to speak at Home Ex, **Travel Daily's** upcoming virtual event.

Long will share how ATIA will support home-based agents this year, while Gazal and Beattie (**pictured**) will take part in a mini-series called 'Helpful advice for hungry advisors'.

Meanwhile, Richardson will offer advice about how to grow and scale up businesses.

Thanks to platinum sponsors CVFR, Expedia and Royal Caribbean, Home Ex is an on-demand virtual experience that will kick off on 10 Mar.



The curated program will be jam-packed with inspiring and practical content tackling the challenges and opportunities for home-based travel advisors.

Other speakers include Helloworld Chief Operating Officer Cinzia Burnes; industry legend Wendy Wu; itravel CEO Steve Labroski; 1000 Mile Travel Group CEO Nicola Veltman; Home Travel Company's Robyn Sinfield; and Mike and Mandy Dwyer from Main Beach Travel.

Home Ex will also feature a virtual expo to facilitate chats between suppliers and agents.

All content will be available for

## JB fined over crash

A **PERTH** Magistrates Court has convicted Journey Beyond Adventures Pty Ltd and the master of a vessel that was involved in a boat crash at Horizontal Falls in May 2022.

The Journey Beyond subsidiary pleaded guilty and was fined \$15,000 over the incident which injured dozens of tourists, while the vessel's master also pleaded guilty to two charges contrary to the Marine Safety National Law, and was fined \$12,000.

"We acknowledge that at the time of the boat accident there was an oversight, as our sign-off procedures in relation to the skipper of the vessel had not been fully completed," a spokesperson for Journey Beyond told **Travel Daily**.

"As the court held, the absence of a documented sign-off did not cause the accident.

"The skipper of the vessel was highly experienced, competent and skilled."

## Wander? Or wonder?

Polar bears can travel more than 1,000 km each year in search of food. Gain more insights about this icon of the Arctic on an expedition with HX, experts in voyages of discovery to Svalbard since 1896.



Change the way you see the world.

\*T&Cs apply

Up to  
**15% OFF\***  
All-Inclusive Expeditions to  
**Svalbard**  
+ HX Price Promise

Book by 31 March 25  
Call **1300 159 127** or visit  
[agentportal.travelhx.com](http://agentportal.travelhx.com)



ANTARCTICA | ALASKA | GALÁPAGOS | GREENLAND | ICELAND | SVALBARD | NORTHWEST PASSAGE

Applies to bookings made from 19 December, 2024 to 31 March, 2025 (inclusive) for selected HX departures from 1 March 2025 and 31 March 2027 (inclusive). Bookings outside of these periods do not qualify. Bookings are subject to availability. HX operates on a dynamic pricing system. Represents a saving on the "From" price quoted in AUD, based per person and on full occupancy of cabin. Other restrictions may apply. Visit [travelhx.com](http://travelhx.com) for full T&Cs. Price Promise valid for sailings between 1st of April 2025 through to 31st March 2027, before other restrictions apply.



Travel Daily  
**SHARPEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON TAIWAN & EVA AIR**  
Travel Daily Training Academy



[Click here to discover](#)

## Trio team-up for 'Ultimate' fam

**LINKD** Tourism, United Airlines and Brand USA have teamed up to offer a new 'Ultimate' USA fam incentive for three top-performing agents, as well as two other qualifying advisors.

The lucky group will experience a nine-night guided trip across three of the partner destinations - Arizona, Colorado, New York State, Seattle and Anaheim - with two different itineraries on offer departing 01 Jun 2025.

"To have an incentive like this with such a comprehensive fam

that covers three amazing US destinations is rare, and the combination of top sellers and random spots means everyone has a chance of winning," said Linkd Tourism Strategic Director, Michael Cassis.

"We're so grateful to work with innovative and collaborative partners who have made this incredible incentive possible to ultimately showcase the breadth of tourism offerings in the USA."

To be eligible, agents need to register online and make a qualifying booking between 01 Feb-31 Mar 2025.

Linkd will also announce additional ways to secure a spot shortly - find out more and register [HERE](#). *JM*

## G, a great agent sale

**ADVISORS** can offer their clients up to 20% off some of G Adventure's best-selling Asia and Europe tours, as part of a new sale exclusively available through travel agents.

Running from 01-28 Feb, the sale is in recognition of the vital role that agents play in connecting travellers with G Adventures' tours.

The deals include the eight-day 'India: Golden Triangle' itinerary, now priced from \$1,079 instead of \$1,349; the seven-day 'China to Vietnam' tour, now available from \$1,407 down from \$1,759; and the eight-day 'Sailing to Croatia' adventure, discounted from \$2,579 to \$2,063.

"We know how important travel agents are in guiding travellers towards meaningful experiences, and this exclusive promotion is our way of saying thank you," said MD Sean Martin.

## Viking's world sailing

**VIKING** has unveiled its new 2026-2027 world cruise itineraries, including the 'Viking World Voyage III', which will visit 41 countries in 170 days.

Departing Fort Lauderdale on 22 Dec 2026 aboard *Viking Sky*, the epic sailing includes 82 guided tours and overnight stays in 18 cities, concluding in Stockholm on 10 Jun 2027.

Travellers can book a shorter, 153-day portion of the sailing, 'Viking World Voyage IV'; there are also 142-day and 125-day segments available.

From now through to 31 Mar, Viking is offering savings on 2026-27 World Cruises, including free business class fares.

## TC flexibility woos agents



**TRAVELLERS** Choice has continued its network expansion, with three new recruits joining the agency group this week.

Two of the newcomers are based in NSW, including Nambucca World Travel, which is situated on the mid north coastal town of Nambucca Heads.

The agency's owner, Laura White, said, "I was keen to avoid entering into a rigid, long-term contract, and the combination of flexibility and support that Travellers Choice offers independent agents is what initially drew me in".

Also joining the group from NSW is EMBARK travel, marking owner Michelle Barker's return to the Travellers Choice network, having previously been a member for almost 10 years as the owner of Jayes Travel.

Barker recently rebranded Jayes Travel as EMBARK travel

after restructuring the business to focus on premium clients and group tours.

Barker said it was the Travellers Choice network's new choice of membership models that inspired her to reconnect.

Travellers Choice has also grown its reach in WA, with Grand Travel - based in the Perth suburb of Northbridge - coming aboard.

Founder Poh Tan said the desire for marketing support was her main motivation to join the group.

"Previously I needed to engage a third-party provider to meet all of my digital marketing needs," Poh said.

"But the Travellers Choice team can now support all of my activities, including emailing marketing and loading deals on to my new Site Builder website." *JM*

**Pictured:** Tim Bolton, TC BDM; Poh Tan, Grand Travel; and Nicola Strudwick, TC GM Sales.



## Viking floats weather balloon

A WEATHER balloon was released from *Viking Polaris* in Antarctica this week to collect data that contributes to global weather forecasts.

The large biodegradable balloon was equipped with a radiosonde which will collect data on wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity and pressure.

Once released, the balloon travelled for about two hours, 30km up into the stratosphere, collecting data that is sent to the US National Weather Service and then the World Meteorological Organization, to enhance global weather forecast models.

Both Viking's expedition ships, *Viking Polaris* and *Viking Octantis*, have been designated the first civilian ships that are official National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and United States National Weather Service weather balloon stations.

As a result of the status, regular launches are made from both vessels.

Upon the release of the weather balloon on the top deck of *Polaris* this week, guests were able to head to Expedition Central on the second floor of the ship to watch the data come in live.

## NEW REGENERATIVE TOURISM FUND

**B CORP-CERTIFIED** Nordic travel company 50 Degrees North has launched the Impact Fund, which directs 10% of its annual profits to environmental and social initiatives to foster regenerative tourism.

"Regenerative tourism goes beyond sustainability," said Jerrine Mullen, Sustainability Manager at 50 Degrees North.

"It's about actively restoring and revitalising the places we visit, with the hope of leaving them better than before.

"By focusing on environmental restoration, cultural preservation, and community wellbeing, we aim to make a lasting, positive impact," Mullen added.

One of the first recipients of the



fund is La Humla Suse, an organisation focused on biodiversity by protecting pollinators - particularly bees - and creating insect hotels and adapting green spaces.

50 Degrees North also allocated money from the Impact Fund to Seaforester, which restores the

lost seaweed forests along the worlds' coastlines, as well as the UNESCO-listed Naeroyfjord World Heritage Park (pictured).

Several local organisations in Norway were given support for their work in engaging communities through sports, music and cultural activities. *JHM*

## Beyond Green hits big green milestone

**BEYOND** Green has reached a milestone of over 50 member properties across 22 countries, following the addition of nine new sustainable accommodations to its portfolio between Oct and Dec 2024.

The new properties include eight renowned and Beyond lodges in South Africa and Tanzania's ENVI Sisini Serengeti.

"We are humbled by the remarkable growth of Beyond Green, which reflects the shared commitment of our member properties to transforming travel into a force for good," explained Lindsey Ueberroth,



Chief Executive Officer of Beyond Green.

"Each property in our portfolio offers travellers the assurance that their choices support meaningful change, all while providing exceptional service and unforgettable experiences."

## A Scenic Rim first

**THE** Scenic Rim region has become the first destination to achieve ECO Destination Certification with Ecotourism Australia in 2025.

"The Scenic Rim is home to iconic pioneers like Binna Burra Lodge, O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, Mount Barney Lodge, and Araucaria Ecotours, alongside a further nine Ecotourism Australia certified businesses offering exceptional sustainable experiences for eco-conscious travellers," said Ecotourism Australia Chief Executive Officer Elissa Keenan.

# HOME EX

# LAUNCHING

# SOON

LIVE 10 MARCH • 6 MONTHS ON-DEMAND ACCESS

# HOME EX

HOME AGENT  
VIRTUAL  
EXPERIENCE

REGISTER FREE



## MONEY

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

### AU\$1 = US\$0.622

**THE** Australian dollar has sunk to pandemic-era lows as markets brace for a global trade war ignited by US President Donald Trump's new tariff regime, which will set in place 25% import taxes for Canada and Mexico.

The AUD is viewed as a risk currency and is highly exposed to China, where officials say Trump's tariffs violate int'l trade regulations, and plan to file a complaint with the World Trade Organization.

*Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.622
UK	£0.500
NZ	\$1.105
Euro	€0.602
Japan	¥96.52
Thailand	฿21.06
China	¥4.507
South Africa	11.653
Canada	\$0.897
Crude oil	US\$75.10

## SaleAway to NZ

**THERE** is still time left to secure discounted flights over the pond, with Air New Zealand's SaleAway promotion on until 11.50pm AEDT tomorrow.

Fly from Sydney to Christchurch from \$265 for a one-way economy ticket, or from Adelaide to Auckland from \$386.

Wellington and Queenstown are also included in the sale.

To see all the available deals, **CLICK HERE.**

## Industry digs in to help 'roos



**TOURISM** Tropical North Queensland is hosting the 2025 Mabi Forest Planting Day, in partnership with Reforest and Terrain NRM.

As part of the event, 40 tourism representatives have planted 3150 trees in the Mabi forest.

Those trees will remove 637 tonnes of carbon dioxide over the next 25 years, providing shelter for tree kangaroos.

"TTNQ partnered with Reforest four years ago to connect members to Tropical North Queensland forest restoration projects for business or consumer contributions," said TTNQ CEO Mark Olsen.

"The Reforest activities provide carbon removal which we use to mitigate the impact of our visiting media and trade famill programs.

"Our business events program encourages conferences and incentive groups to use Reforest to assist with delivering a sustainable event."

Olsen said TTNQ purchased 270 trees last year to remove the

carbon emissions of delegates who attended Australia Next 2024 in September.

According to Reforest CEO Daniel Walsh, the partnership shows how organisations and a destination can work together to invest in the natural assets that tourism depends upon.

"This program enables visitors to see a consistent theme of ecosystem restoration throughout the destination, and our platform lets them feel some ownership over that positive impact." *JHM*

## Adventure Arizona

**ADVENTURE** World has launched a new Arizona USA campaign showcasing its itineraries in the state, including a 'Following the Native Americans' tour which explores the region's rich indigenous heritage.

The campaign also highlights the 10-day 'Under the Desert Sky' and 12-day 'Arizona's Outdoor Adventure' itineraries - find out more **HERE.**

## Window Seat

**IT IS** not often visitors to a destination are welcomed by the country's President, but that's exactly what fliers on one of Qantas Airways' recent Brisbane-Palau services (see **page 3**) were the recipients of.

Not long before the flight began its descent into Palau, the country's President Surangel Whipps Jr asked the flight attendants to address the aircraft (**pictured**).

"We will be touching down in Palau, so I want to really thank the Australian Government for sponsoring this important flight which connects Palau and Australia," he enthused.

"It brings our people together, and most importantly, allows the people of Australia to discover what Palau has to offer.

"We have something to offer everyone, we truly hope you enjoy your experience, and most importantly, when you get back to Australia, invite more people to come and visit," Whipps added.





 SILVERSEA®  


TWO WEEKS ONLY

UP TO \$8,000

SAVINGS

+ SUITE UPGRADE

Veranda Suite aboard *Silver Ray*

The world is a vast place, yet few of its destinations are unfamiliar to Silversea. We have been exploring iconic destinations and hidden treasures with unmatched insight. From the moment our guests cross the threshold of any Silversea ship, they enter a world of sublime elegance. The journey will unfold with a quiet perfection that is both unseen and flawless, leaving guests free to immerse themselves in the joyful discovery of each moment. There are thousands of reasons for sailing with Silversea and for a limited time, you client can combine **savings of up to \$8,000 per suite** with an up to a **two-category suite upgrade** on a selection of more than 100 global voyages departing early 2025 through 2027. From ocean journeys to Australia and the Mediterranean to expeditions to Antarctica and beyond, this exclusive offer will elevate your client's experience.

**CONTACT YOUR SILVERSEA SALES MANAGER OR RESERVATIONS ON +61 2 9255 0600 | [SILVERSEA.COM/TRADE](https://www.silversea.com/TRADE)**

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Reasons to Sail + Suite Upgrade offer is valid on new individual bookings made between January 14, 2025, and January 31, 2025, on select voyages. The Suite Upgrade offer is already reflected as a price downgrade and is only available in select categories. Full World Cruise and full Grand Voyages are excluded. Offer available only on Door-to-Door and Port-to-Port fares (fare code: 03). Offer not available on Special Combination voyages, Grand Voyages, and World Cruises. This offer is subject to suite availability. Offer combinable with Event Certificates, National Account Amenities, Referral Savings, Onboard Savings, Combination Savings, promotional pre/post land programs, Kids Savings and Venetian Society Savings. Offer is combinable with groups. Cancel and re-books do not qualify. The promotion is capacity controlled and can be removed at any time without prior notice. Single supplements apply and vary by voyage. Other restrictions may apply see [silversea.com](https://www.silversea.com) for more details.