

Club Med 



AIR CANADA

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Discover more

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features a cover wrap from **Air Canada**, nine pages of news, including a photo page from **Luxury Travel Collection** and our **Sustainability** page, plus a product profile from **Tourism Solomons** and a full page from **Scenic River Cruises**.

Storm hits flights

VIRGIN Australia has already made 12 cancellations to today's schedule as adverse weather conditions strike the NSW coast.

The carrier also confirmed that further delays and cancellations are expected, and that it is proactively communicating updates with customers.

Meanwhile, Qantas has already cut some Sydney services and anticipates more cancellations to come as the storm cell moves down the coast.

The airline said it continues to monitor the situation very closely.

Phil Hoffmann retires

PHIL Hoffmann has made the call to retire from his namesake business after 35 years of service (**TD** breaking news).

While the well-known South Australian travel executive will no longer be involved in day-to-day operations of Phil Hoffmann Travel (PHT), he will retain an ambassadorial role leading tours and continuing to advocate for the brand and the travel industry more broadly.

He will also remain on the board of PHT as an Executive Director.

"I have been fortunate to travel all over the world, connecting with different people and cultures, and experiencing all its beauty, wonder, power and



fragility along the way, and now is the time for a new chapter," Hoffmann reflected.

CEO and MD Peter Williams said PHT will continue to operate as normal under his leadership.

"Our senior team and I have effectively been steering the company direction for some time and will continue to do so with the same determination and commitment to growth and success," Williams said.

PHT also revealed that Michelle Ashcroft, who has been with the business for 28 years, will move into the role of COO. **AB**

Head to Quebec

AIR Canada and Club Med are giving one lucky agent a chance to win an amazing holiday to Quebec in Canada.

See the **cover page** for details.

FCTG renews Serko

SERKO has signed a new contract with Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG) to renew their technology partnership.

Under the terms of the latest deal, FCTG will continue to market and distribute its online booking solutions powered by Serko, and contribute to an ongoing development fund, with the purpose of developing and releasing unique product features for FCTG customers.

Antarctica webinar

SCENIC is inviting travel advisors to log in to a special information session focusing on East Antarctica.

Find out more on **page 10**.

Solomon eco-future

THE Solomon Islands is one destination not affected by mass tourism - find out more in a new product profile on **page 11**.

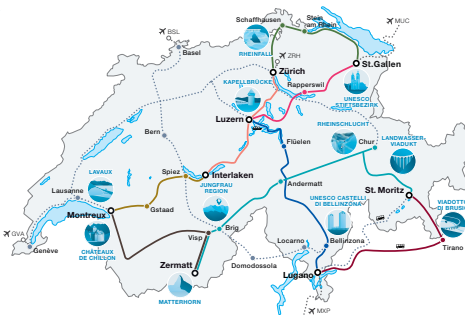


travel swi+zerland

Ultimate Swiss Rail Itinerary Competition

We're challenging you to create and submit the most captivating and well-planned rail itinerary through the stunning landscapes of Switzerland utilising the **Swiss Travel Pass**!

Participants must showcase their **creativity** and **knowledge** of **Swiss Transport** and STP inclusions and benefits and craft an **unforgettable travel experience**.



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Test your travel planning skills & passion for Switzerland!

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Submit your itinerary no later than **01 August 2025**.

Email your entry to:
vshinde@raileurope.com

NSW seeks tender info

EXCLUSIVE

THE NSW Government has issued a formal request for information from travel suppliers to service its various agencies.

Taking in whole of government travel management services; emergency response management for travel bookings; meetings & events; and whole of government accommodation needs, the details provided will help NSW make an informed choice of travel requirements.

Specifically, travel suppliers are being asked to inform government about the current market landscape, as well as innovations and opportunities to enhance the travel and accommodation category.

Travel Daily understands the NSW Government is seeking to engage with as many travel management companies in the



market as possible, whether they be large, mid-size or small, to gain the broadest picture possible.

View the full information for the request [HERE](#). **AB**

Link passes \$1b TTV

LINK Travel Group is expecting substantial sales growth through to 2026, having already surpassed the \$1 billion mark in total transaction value.

The joint venture said the strong sales trajectory vindicates its original objective of creating a collective of high-performing like-minded people utilising the country's largest suite of supply.

Link also expects to add additional members to their tight-knit ranks in the years ahead.

The results coincide with Link's third birthday today, with the invitation-only collective now boasting 36 outlets from 32 brands across five states.



BGH Webjet demand

THE intrigue around the future of the Webjet consumer business took another turn this week, with suitor BGH Capital increasing its equity by 5% to 15%, and penning a letter to the board calling for \$100 million to be returned to shareholders.

Correspondence seen by the *AFR* showed BGH is asking for shareholders to be given a vote on a possible \$100m buyback, with some viewing the pressure as a tactic to reveal Helloworld's broader intentions, which currently owns 19% of Webjet.

While no formal bid has been tabled, there is speculation Helloworld would like to merge or acquire Webjet.

Hotel open in Brissy

INTERCONTINENTAL Hotels & Resorts has entered a new era in Queensland, with the official opening of its first Brisbane property today, InterContinental Brisbane at 190 Elizabeth Street.

The 319-room hotel features an all-day restaurant; an outdoor lap pool; gym; and 19 versatile meeting rooms.



Oman finally joins

OMAN Air has joined oneworld alliance as the organisation's 15th member (**TD** 25 Oct 2024).

Oneworld customers can now access the airline's network of destinations, as well as more benefits for Emerald, Sapphire and Ruby customers, such as earning miles and status points.

VIEW DEAL

PRICES FROM

\$4,139

PER PERSON TWIN SHARE

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*Surcharges may apply

DURATION: 11 DAYS

LUXURY

Taiwan

PANORAMA

HIT A

6

WITH

MALAYSIA AIRLINES

Earn 6% Fare Commission

on Malaysia Airlines

when you ticket with

CVFR Consolidation Services

New NDC chapter

QANTAS' new NDC model has gone live today, marking the carrier's "largest investment in modernising how travel agents book with us", said Executive Manager Global Sales & Distribution Kathryn Robertson.

"We've aligned ourselves with global best practices while maintaining our commitment to choice and flexibility for agents, and to ensure a smooth transition, we've also invested in an enhanced 24/7 support model and dedicated resources.

ENTIRE

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- Covers mountains, glaciers, and coastal fjords
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Discover our River Cruise Special Report

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MONARTO

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you from Monarto, South Australia, as we explore the new Monarto Safari Resort.

THE fresh Journey Beyond property around an hour outside of Adelaide nestled in pristine landscapes will play host to a group of industry executives today and tomorrow.

After flying from SYD to ADL, we'll take a quick coach ride to the resort to experience all that it and the closely related Monarto Safari Park offers.

The group has been told to bring warm clothes for the adventure, which suggests a range of outdoor activities before departing for Sydney again tomorrow, so stay tuned to *Travel Daily* to find out more.

ATIA gives back more

EXCLUSIVE

A YEAR-END surplus of \$279,238 will help the Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) plan for long-term resilience while delivering benefits in the short-term, notes from its latest Annual General Meeting have revealed.

ATIA also confirmed a strong 99.6% rate of membership fees have been collected over the past year, which have been reinvested directly into accreditation, advocacy and member services.

Membership figures show ATIA has enjoyed a 97.7% renewal rate, in addition to adding 30 new members over the last year.

The AGM also heard a summary of ATIA's advocacy efforts, which have included representing members in two parliamentary inquiries, submitting 15 formal policy papers, and conducting more than 250 meetings with government officials and key departments.



Australian Travel Industry Association

"Our members should feel confident that their fees are being used exactly where they should be through supporting their businesses through high-impact advocacy, trusted accreditation and services that make a difference," ATIA Chair Christian Hunter said.

"We've built strong financial foundations for ATIA and we're using those to both deliver for today and prepare for tomorrow.

"That balance is critical in an industry that's fast-moving and constantly evolving," he added.

The AGM also confirmed the appointment of six directors, which were revealed by *Travel Daily* last week (*TD* 26 Jun). AB

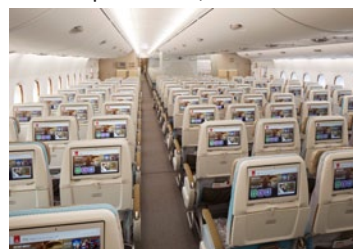
EK stands tall design

EMIRATES is reportedly working on a new economy class concept that will incorporate a much taller seat design.

Led by Emirates President Tim Clark, the project is currently in the prototype phase, with manufacturers helping to refine the concept and make it feasible for commercial flying.

The economy overhaul was first revealed by *Executive Traveller*, with Clark confirming four or five inches may be added to the height of its current seats.

"The trick is to take modern technology, our learnings in geometry and load...and come up with a seat that will hopefully meet expectations," Clark said.



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Smartvisit US chief

SMARTVISIT Group, which offers a platform for DMCs, tourism operators, and attractions to offer revenue-generating visitor experiences, has named Rachel Nettle as its new President.

Based in Florida, Nettle will spearhead the Aussie company's expansion into the US and beyond, guiding operations, partnerships and new business.

Nettle joins from Emirates' dnata travel division in Dubai, where she worked for more than 12 years.

Smartvisit founder and Chief Executive Ryan Rieveley said Nettle's "extensive experience and leadership in digital & distribution platforms make her uniquely positioned to advance our global presence and deepen engagement with tourism partners".

Happy Canada Day

JUST in time for Canada Day, G Adventures has released nine itineraries across six provinces of the country.

"These new trips mark an exciting step forward as we approach our 35th anniversary and pay homage to where we have come from," said Bruce Poon Tip, founder of the Canadian-born travel operator.

The tours cover a diverse range of destinations and experiences, from the Canadian Rockies and the Northern Lights to Newfoundland and an Arctic Expedition, which sails from Iceland to Greenland and the Labrador coast of Canada.

Agents escape winter



A **SMALL** group of Melbourne travel agents were able to escape the cold and bask in the tropical sun in the northern islands of Fiji, thanks to The Unique Tourism Collection (UTC).

During the three-night fam, the agents experienced the warm hospitality of Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort (JMC), which is represented by UTC in Australia and New Zealand.

The advisors sampled some of local excursions on offer at the destination, including a visit to the Kokomana Chocolate Factory and the traditional Nukubalavu village.

The group also picnicked on JMC's private Naviavia Island, snorkelled with the resort's onsite marine biologists, relaxed with a massage in the hotel day spa, and enjoyed poolside dining every day, all while being looked after by the team at JMC.

UTC described the trip as "a truly authentic Fijian experience". **JM**

Pictured enjoying a private

dinner under the stars are: Tim Ryan, Bayview Travel; Dan Silvasich and Sian Pritchard, Black Rock Travel; Karen Hitchings, UTC; Jo Langhorne, Langhorne & James Travel Associates; Heidi Italia, TravelManagers; Raijieli Koyamaibole, Sales Manager, JMC; and Josana Grach, Aurora Travel.

Vicario in fast lane

HELLOWORLD'S Express Travel Group has promoted Arthur Vicario to the role of State Sales Manager for NSW/ACT.

Vicario, who is based in Sydney, joined Express Travel Group in Nov 2022 as a BDM.

The sales expert has more than two decades of travel industry experience, including across the airline, retail agent, consolidation, GDS and car rental segments.

His resume includes stints at Aviation Online, Thrifty Car Rental, TravelManagers, Sabre Pacific, and United Airlines.



Window Seat

AUSTRALIA'S obsession with oversized fruit shows no signs of slowing down, with a town in Victoria's Goulburn Valley now making the case for a pear to join the ranks of national icons like the Big Banana and the Big Pineapple.

A group of business leaders in Shepparton have proposed a three-storey-high giant pear be built to celebrate the region's horticultural history.

The fruit was an obvious choice, given 90% of Australia's pears grown in the Goulburn Valley.

The group is currently seeking government and stakeholder support, with early estimates indicating the project could cost \$1.3 million.

The project is set to bear plenty of fruit though, with a report commissioned by the group suggesting the landmark could attract thousands of visitors and potentially inject more than \$2 million into the local economy annually.

Pictured: An artist's impression of the giant pear.



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- Unique islands shaped by volcanoes and coral reefs
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Tuesday 1st July 2025

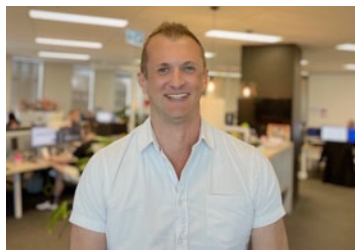
Shane Voss heads Inside

INSIDE Travel Group has named Shane Voss as its National Trade Partnerships Manager for Australia and New Zealand.

Voss joins the tour operator from travel insurer Cover-More and brings more than 15 years in various sectors including retail, wholesale, product, marketing and B2B distribution.

In his new role, Voss (pictured) will oversee trade distribution for the InsideJapan Tours and InsideAsia Tours brands, drawing on strong trade experience and commercial negotiation skills.

"The travel trade is integral to our global strategy, and Shane's wealth of experience will further strengthen our engagement with the Australian market," said



Inside Travel Group Global Trade Manager, Gabo Quiros.

"His insight, creativity and passion for the industry will inject fresh ideas and move us forward as we strive towards ambitious targets," Quiros added.

Speaking on his new role, Voss said he is excited to be joining a leading B Corp delivering cultural adventures across Asia.

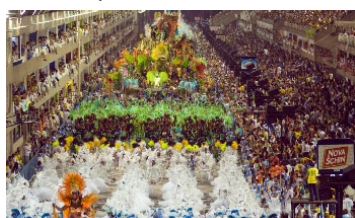
"My passion for travel has long defined my career and this new adventure with Inside Travel Group is one that fills me with excitement," Voss said, adding he resonates with Inside's passion for empowering travel that gives back to local communities. *ML*

A&K is big on small

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has unveiled new small group journeys for 2026, taking travellers to far-flung destinations from Brazil, Spain and Bolivia to China, Saudi Arabia and Japan.

According to Suzanne Teng, Director of Global Group Product, "the new itineraries are designed to ignite curiosity and foster deeper connections".

Abercrombie & Kent's exciting new itineraries include the Mountains and Myths in China and Tibet; the 'Ultimate Rio Carnival Experience'; 'Desert Adventures in Saudi Arabia and Jordan'; 'Ultimate Bolivia'; 'Spain: Madrid, Valencia and Mallorca' and many more.



Aviation is "uneven"

TOTAL air passenger growth across international and domestic flights hit 5% in May compared to the prior year, according to International Air Transport Association (IATA) data.

Total capacity was also up 5% year-on-year, while May's load factor at 83.4%, was down one percentage point from the PCP.

Asia-Pacific took the lead in this impressive number, growing 9.4% in revenue passenger kilometres.

International air demand globally rose by 6.7% on the prior year, while capacity was up 6.4%.

Load factor for the month was 83.2%, 0.2 percentage points higher than last year, and a record load factor on int'l flights for May.

Domestic demand also tracked well in May, increasing 2.1% compared to last year.

Capacity was up 2.8% year-on-year, however load factor saw a dip, down to 83.7% (-0.5%).

Director-General Willie Walsh described air travel demand growth for May as "uneven".

"Severe disruptions in the Middle East in late Jun remind us that geopolitical instability remains a challenge in some regions," he added.

ATIA UPDATE

from Christian Hunter, Chairman



ATIA held its Annual General Meeting last week, which was the Association's 48th since inception.

Major business items for the meeting were

acceptance of the 2025 annual report and election of directors for the coming year.

As outlined in the annual report, it has been a strong year for ATIA.

Membership support has been excellent, with a 97.7% renewal rate and 30 new members welcomed through the year.

Thank you to all members for your ongoing support and commitment to the Association.

New initiatives announced in line with our A30 strategy have been supporting members, and Dean and the team's strong advocacy work continued across all aspects of government.

This saw ATIA appear at two parliamentary inquiries, develop 15 separate submissions and conduct 250 meetings across elected officials and public service in the last 12 months.

Financially, the Association performed well - 99.6% of membership fees were invested into accreditation, advocacy and member services, with the year-end surplus of \$279,238 driven through the banking of

investment income.

This is an excellent performance, and members can take real assurance that we are planning for tomorrow whilst delivering genuine value today.

The constitution outlines that six Director positions must be declared vacant at each AGM.

I congratulate Graham (Skroo) Turner, Flight Centre; Cinzia Burnes, Helloworld Travel; Katrina Barry, Webjet; Jo Sully, CTM; and Greg O'Neil, BCD Travel; on their appointments, with the sixth position being my reappointment.

A board meeting followed the AGM to determine office bearers, where I was reconfirmed as the Board's Chair, with Graham (Skroo) Turner and Toni Ambler (TTC Tour Brands) appointed as Vice Chairs.

There has been some change within the board in recent times and I would like to publicly recognise the efforts of Laura Ruffles; Shelley Beasley; Gai Tyrrell; Danielle Russom; and Dave Hosking, who all left the board this year, but contributed significantly to the association during their tenure.

All directors volunteer their time, and the industry is blessed to have such a fantastic group of talented and passionate leaders who are committed to supporting a stronger travel industry. I look forward to working with the new board and delivering continued member value in the year ahead.

Cannes cruise limits

CANNES has moved to prohibit larger cruise ships, following similar efforts in Nice.

New restrictions will be coming to Cannes at the end of the year, limiting the size of cruise ships to a maximum capacity of 1,000 passengers from next year.

Cannes is also imposing a cap of 6,000 cruise passengers a day arriving in the French city, and is shifting the anchorage for larger ships farther out to sea.

Mayor David Lisnard said the new moves are not about banning cruise ships, rather regulating, organising, and setting guidelines for their navigation.

Read more in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

Fairmont in Japan

FAIRMONT Hotels & Resorts has debuted in Japan, with the grand opening of Fairmont Tokyo.

The hotel, which offers views of Tokyo Tower and the city's Bay, opened today, with a ribbon-cutting held at the property.

Guests staying at the property are 15 minutes from Haneda Airport, and around five minutes from a number of Tokyo Metro stations, offering good connectivity in & around the city.

The hotel occupies floors 35 to 43 of the newly developed Blue Front Shibaura Tower South, set in its namesake Shibaura district, which is famous for its canals, gardens, artificial islands, and landmarks such as Zozo-ji temple.

Beware of Devil's Breath

WORLD Travel Protection (WTP) is warning Australian business and leisure travellers of an evolving scam involving drink spiking and dating apps.

The travel risk management company said there had been a rising number of cases of tourists being robbed overseas after being secretly administered a motion sickness drug called scopolamine - colloquially referred to as the Devil's Breath - while on dates.

Typically, the scam takes place after a traveller uses dating apps overseas, and after a few dates establishing trust, the victim is spiked with the drug in their hotel rooms through drinks or laced cigarettes, before being robbed.



WTP Intelligence and Security Leader Paul Trotter said the honey-trapping scam usually targeted male travellers, and is not an urban myth as is sometimes suggested online.

"[Drug spiking robberies] are probably under-reported due to feelings of embarrassment or shame," Trotter said.

The criminal practice is most common in South American countries like Colombia, with WTP advising impacted Aussies to report it to local authorities and seek medical attention. *AB*

Domestic flight bump

THE number of passengers aboard Australian domestic flights grew by 3.1% in Apr, compared to the corresponding month in 2024.

New BITRE figures showed 5.45 million travellers were carried during the month, with load factors also increasing from 77.6% to 82.8% year-on-year.

A 4.7% increase in RPT revenue passenger kilometres from 5.9 billion to 6.18 billion also showed domestic flights carried travellers longer distances.

QR links Malta & NZ

QATAR Airways and Visit Malta recently celebrated the return of flights connecting Auckland with Malta, enhancing long-haul travel options for Kiwis.

At an event in Auckland, Malta's High Commissioner, Mario Farrugia Borg, said there is evidence of growing travel appeal between the two nations.



Tauk under Euro skin

TAUCK has introduced four new European land journeys for next year, exploring less-visited regions in several popular markets.

The new 12-day 'Hidden Greece' trip includes a visit to the Museum of Royal Tombs in Vergina, Meteora's mountaintop monasteries, and a wine tasting session in the Peloponnese, priced from \$13,590pp.

Meanwhile, the eight-day new 'Legends of Scotland' itinerary features bagpipe workshops, Highland Games competitions, and castle explorations.

Guests will also sail across Loch Ness in search of the mythical creature, and walk alongside alpacas through obstacle courses.

The Scottish trip is priced from \$8,990 per person triple occupancy, plus airfare.

Tauk's 'A Week In Copenhagen & Oslo' includes a three-night stay at the Radisson Collection Royal Hotel in Copenhagen, while the 'Greek Odyssey: Family Edition' offers historical site visits and Olympic-style games for everyone to enjoy.



Travel Daily
FEATURE

NCL Scores Triple NTIA Nomination, Celebrating Team Excellence



NCL'S recent hat trick of National Travel Industry Awards nominations is a testament to our vibrant team culture and unwavering passion for cruising.

It reflects our commitment to being the easiest cruise line for our partners to do business with - and I couldn't be prouder.

Peer-nominated recognition like this truly validates the impact we've made and the relationships we have built in a close-knit yet competitive sector.

This year's nominations for NCL include Most Popular Ocean Cruise Operator for the fourth year in a row; Most Popular Reservations Team - our first-ever nomination in this category, which is testament to the team's outstanding efforts to deliver service that is above and beyond; and Most Outstanding Sales Executive - Cruise for three of our high-achieving business development managers.

A huge congratulations to Brad Hanna (SA, WA), Samantha Morgan (NSW South, ACT, Vic North), and Craig McLaurin (Qld South) for their nominations.

Receiving nominations across multiple categories highlights the strength and success of our entire team and our deep commitment to trade - from our dedicated Sydney-based Reservations and Groups

team to our expanded Field Sales and Partnership Relations Teams.

It is especially rewarding to be recognised in such a competitive field, with so many worthy contenders. Our talented team has driven a strong first half of 2025 for our brand, with first-quarter bookings surpassing last year's results.

Demand remains strong across our global destinations both near and far - from close-to-home itineraries in the South Pacific, Asia and ANZ and further afield in Europe, Alaska and Hawaii.

We are deeply committed to investing in and growing our dedicated ANZ team.

Their passion and professionalism empower us to deliver exceptional service, efficient response times and industry-leading resources - so agents can focus on creating unforgettable cruise holidays for their clients. It must be said that our travel partners are the secret to our success.

The entire NCL team and I are extremely grateful for the unwavering support and expertise of our valued travel partners. Not only do you share our drive to grow and enhance the Australian cruise industry, but you help travellers get more out of their cruise holiday by choosing NCL.

Awards night is just around the corner, and while we're excited, I want to say this: win or not, I'm incredibly proud of our nominees and the entire NCL team.

Good luck - and thank you for making NCL what it is.

NCL
**NORWEGIAN
CRUISE LINE®**



Luxury Travel
Collection

The Luxury Travel Collection celebrates global connection with enchanting Capella events

THE Luxury Travel Collection (LTC) hosted an exclusive evening of celebration and connection in Singapore, in partnership with the acclaimed Capella Singapore. Set amid Capella's iconic blend of colonial heritage and modern design, the event welcomed LTC members and select guests ahead of a week of global luxury travel networking. The evening highlighted LTC's expanding global presence and its commitment to elevating member brands on the international stage.

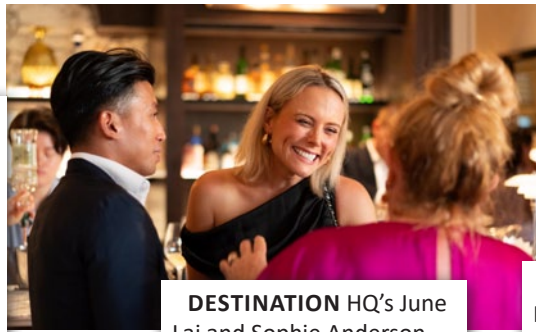
"Capella Singapore exemplifies the calibre of partnership that defines the Luxury Travel Collection," said Nikki Glading, LTC General Manager. "Our members are at the forefront of the luxury industry, and we are proud to support their global reach."

After a day of exploration with Capella's Culturist program, LTC members enjoyed an immersive experience showcasing Capella's signature hospitality, personalised service, and refined atmosphere. Capella Singapore General Manager Paul Jackson added, "We were honoured to host LTC and celebrate our shared commitment to exceptional experiences and meaningful connections".

The evening forms part of LTC's ongoing global engagement strategy, bringing its members closer to the world's most extraordinary luxury providers while elevating its profile within key international markets.



GIRLS
about town
enjoying
Capella's
Culturists
Peranakan
Tour.



DESTINATION HQ's June
Lai and Sophie Anderson.



NIKKI Glading, GM LTC; Tracey Nunns, TA
Norwood; Abby Pezze, Wolf & Turner; Nathan
Brook, TA Brighton; Rachel Kingswell, GM Travel
Associates; and Trudy Markham, TA Mount Eden.



GUESTS treated to a curated taste of
Singapore with handcrafted delights.

NATALIE Watts, Connelly & Turner; Justine Pielli,
TA Belconnen; Pintip Suthayakhom, Schmitzer &
James; Melissa Madigan, TA Paddington; Paul Egan,
Egan & Turner; Rachel Kingswell, TA; Jo Langhorne,
Langhorne & James; and Melissa Camp, TA.



CAPELLA'S Liz Rodgers and
Jessica Goh and lucky winner
Megan Gray, TA@Home.



PAUL Jackson, General Manager Capella
Singapore; Nikki Glading, GM LTC; Phil
Smethurst, Director Bicton Travel; and
Ivy Kwan, Senior Vice President Sales &
Marketing Capella Hotels Group.



SINGAPORE'S colourful culture on display.



PHIL Smethurst, Director Bicton Travel;
Nikki Glading, GM LTC; Rachel Kingswell,
GM Travel Associates; and Paul Jackson,
General Manager Capella Singapore.



SINGAPORE sightseeing with Phil
Smethurst, Bicton Travel; Nikki Glading, LTC;
Rachel Kingswell, TA; Chelsea Muscroft, Solis
Travel; Laura Robertson, Travel Experts; and
Steven Go, Capella Singapore.



BESPOKE cocktails,
masterfully mixed,
delighted guests.





Dolphin ban call

WORLD Animal Protection Australia has called on the Queensland and NSW governments to end dolphin exploitation at theme parks.

The call follows a ruling by Mexico's Congress to approve a ban on entertainment involving dolphins and other marine mammals.

The reform has already passed Mexico's upper house and has now been sent to the President to be signed.

World Animal Protection Australia Head of Campaigns, Suzanne Milthorpe, said Australia needs to follow suit, citing venues such as Sea World Gold Coast and Coffs Coast Wildlife Sanctuary.

"World Animal Protection calls on the Queensland and New South Wales state governments to match Mexico's leadership, so venues like Sea World on the Gold Coast and the Coffs Coast Wildlife Sanctuary stop exploiting dolphins for profit," Milthorpe said.

WAP's call comes a few weeks after Intrepid Travel Managing Director Brett Mitchell called out Mexico's luxury Hotel Barcelo in Riviera Maya for inhumane treatment of dolphins.

The property was found to be confining dolphins in small tanks for the amusement of premium guests (**TD** 22 May).

GREEN TOURISM LEADERS CELEBRATED

ELEVEN Australian tourism businesses have been inducted into Ecotourism Australia's Hall of Fame for 2025, in recognition of their environmental efforts.

The accolade is awarded to an operation that has consistently worked to maintain certification from Ecotourism Australia for 20 years or more, with the latest group joining 59 others in the Hall.

A further 13 businesses have been honoured as 'Green Leaders' for a decade of certification and responsible tourism - halfway to potentially being inducted themselves.

The new inductees are:

- Adrenalin Snorkel & Dive, Qld
- Baird Bay Experience, SA
- Big Cat Green Island Reef Cruises, Qld (**pictured**)
- Calypso Reef Cruises, Qld
- Cooinda Lodge Kakadu, NT
- JPT Tours, Vic



- Kangaroo Island Marine Adventures, SA
 - Moonlight Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Park, Vic
 - OzSail Adventures, Qld
 - Passions of Paradise, Qld
 - Sunlover Reef Cruises, Qld
- Ecotourism Australia CEO Elissa Keenan said the recognition highlights the integrity and values the new inductees demonstrate. "Being inducted into the Hall of Fame reflects a remarkable

20-year commitment to world-leading sustainability standards.

"As the organisation who developed the world's first national eco-certification program, we're honoured to recognise those who have been with us on the journey since our early days," Keenan said.

All certified operators feature in Ecotourism Australia's Green Travel Guide, which helps visitors find sustainable experiences. **ML**

Mekong work to boost sustainability

TOURISM officials from Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam have unveiled a strategy to prioritise high-quality sustainable tourism development and push forward new secondary destinations.

The Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Tourism Strategy 2030 will also work to promote regional cooperation and improve marketing of new regional destinations.

The final draft strategy featured input from 230 delegates from 20 countries and 92 organisations, including government agencies.

The Mekong region is close to hitting its pre-pandemic arrivals figure, with 2024 seeing more than 69 million visitors.

"This is a practical roadmap with a shared vision," said Mekong Tourism Executive Director, Suvimol Thanasarakij.

Green Mandarins

MANDARIN Oriental reduced group-wide energy use by 21% and cut carbon emissions by 30% compared to 2012 levels, according to its 2025 Sustainability Report.

Highlighted efforts include deep water from Lake Geneva now powering HVAC systems at the resort, and Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong's 73% cut in food waste, equating to 21,000 meals.

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MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.658

THE Australian dollar is riding high, jumping to an almost eight-month peak overnight.

The local currency has surged through a key resistance level of 65.5 US cents overnight, climbing to 65.8 US cents against the weak greenback.

There was no respite for the US dollar's pullback, which saw its sharpest drawdown since 2022 highs, as the sell-off of the currency continues.

Markets now look toward the Trump administration, with the announcement of more trade deals likely to result in an even higher AUD.

Beijing's policy mix could also prove to be a swing factor, as Australia's largest trading partner has seen recent revivals in its industrial output, retail sales, and broader services.

Markets are also bracing for another modest RBA cut later this year, but analysts are urging expectations for the bank to move cautiously, rather than embark on an aggressive easing cycle.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.658
UK	£0.479
NZ	\$1.079
Euro	€0.558
Japan	¥94.50
Thailand	฿21.33
China	¥4.712
South Africa	11.65
Canada	\$0.895
Crude oil	US\$67.61

Doyle cruises into soiree



ONE of Australia's most recognisable TV personalities, Melissa Doyle, recently brought her star power to the river cruise sector at an event in Sydney.

The River Cruise Collective hosted a soiree to showcase the best in river cruising on the Hyatt Regency's top deck.

The Seven Network presenter, who is also the Avalon Waterways Australian Brand Ambassador, took the stage with Globus family of brands' Head of Marketing Asia Pacific, Chris Fundell, to discuss all things river cruise.

While enjoying gourmet canapes and fine wine, attendees learnt about the latest itineraries, ships and destinations from several cruise lines, including Abercrombie & Kent, AmaWaterways, APT, Avalon Waterways and Tauck.

There were also chances to win lucky door prizes, get exclusive access to special offers, and put questions to the experts. *JM*

Pictured: Doyle and Fundell.

New Boeing CFO rises

BOEING has announced a transition plan for its Chief Financial Officer, with incumbent Brian West to become a senior advisor to the President & Chief Executive Officer Kelly Ortberg.

Jesus 'Jay' Malave has been elected as the new CFO in West's place, and will take up the position on 15 Aug.

West served as CFO for the past four years, with Ortberg thanking him for his "outstanding work".

Tourism updates

TOURISM Australia's (TA) industry webinar for this month will take place on Fri at 11am.

Joining will be Executive General Manager Strategy & Culture Rob Dougan, who will provide an update on the latest tourism data, and TA's recent and upcoming activities - register to attend the session **HERE**.

New Airbnb limits

NEW limits on short-term accommodation in the Whitsundays region have been proposed by the local council, zoning properties rented through companies like Airbnb and Stayz away from suburban areas.

While tourism is important to the region, the needs of the community need to be met as well, Mayor Ry Collins said.

"You obviously don't want to see residents who are living and working here displaced because they can't get a rental or accommodation in the area."

According to AirDNA, the Whitsundays was one of the top-performing regions for short-term rentals in Apr.

The proposal was made in response to community feedback.

\$1b Mumbai plan

MUMBAI International Airport has secured US\$1 billion funding to undergo an upgrade, including the redevelopment of Terminal 1.

The modernisation plan will see the terminal's annual passenger handling capacity expand by 42% to 20 million, with infrastructure upgrades including installation of a district cooling system, electrical substations, and a new baggage handling system.

A multi-modal transport hub is also in development, which will provide direct links to metro and bus stations.

The transformation is expected to begin later this year, with construction of the new Terminal 1 slated for completion by 2029, with Terminal 2 and the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport to serve the displaced capacity during the redevelopment.

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Jason Flesher

With over 40 years of experience in outdoor education and guiding worldwide, Jason has visited Antarctica more than 102 times and will return for another season on all three East Antarctica voyages.



Robert Swan

The first person to walk to both the North and South Poles, Robert is a legendary explorer and sustainability advocate. Founder of the 2041 Foundation, he joins the Ross Sea voyage on 29 January 2026 to share stories and inspire preservation of Antarctica's future.



Barney Swan

Polar explorer and founder of Climate Force, Barney skied to the South Pole alongside his father in 2018. He brings a passion for sustainability and climate action. He is on board the Ross Sea voyage on 29 January 2026.



Ian Godfrey

Head Conservator at the Mawson's Huts Foundation, Ian has spent over 20 years preserving Antarctica's historic sites. He brings expert insight to guests on all three East Antarctica voyages, including Mawson's Hut at Cape Denison.

**Join our experts on our Scenic Eclipse East Antarctica webinar
Thursday, 3rd July at 10am AEST (12pm NZST)**

Hosted by Scenic Director of Discovery Operations, **Jason Flesher** and Director of sales **Robert Kalembe**. Special guests - legendary polar explorers **Robert** and **Barney Swan** plus **Ian Godfrey**, from the Mawson's Huts Foundation.

REGISTER NOW



Eco-Tourism: A Sustainable Future for the Solomon Islands

Having escaped the ravages of mass tourism the Solomon Islands remains one of the world's last true eco-tourism frontiers making these 'Hapi isles' a rare and authentic alternative for travellers seeking unspoiled nature, traditional culture, and meaningful experiences. With rich biodiversity, untouched coral reefs, dense rainforests, this archipelago of 992 islands is steeped in kastom (traditional knowledge) which plays a role in helping to maintain this pristine environment while providing invaluable insight in ensuring this destination builds tourism the right way — sustainably, respectfully, and with long-term benefit to local communities. A prime example of this is Titiru Eco-Lodge on Rendova Island in the Western Province which when opened in 2014

created a perfect blueprint for how tourism plant in the Solomon Islands needs to be developed going forward. The resort's activities, managed in tandem with the local villagers, include guided treks, bird-watching, cultural performances and other community-run operations helping to protect the local environment while ensuring tourism-derived income stays in the hands of the local people. Crucially, eco-tourism also helps preserve cultural heritage by encouraging the continuation of languages, rituals, and traditional livelihoods, fostering environmental awareness and promoting low-impact practices that protect the Solomon Islands pristine yet fragile marine and forest ecosystems. For the Solomon Islands, eco-tourism

isn't just an opportunity — it's a vital, future-focused pathway that ensures the country's natural beauty and cultural identity endure for generations to come.

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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