Travel Daily First with the news

Tuesday 8th July 2025

I halved my work hours with the support of TravelManagers.

– Carla Vassallo, Personal Travel Manager, NSW









Sailing into savings

TRAVELLERS can save up to 40% on more than 700 Silversea voyages when they reserve their suite by 17 Jul.

At the same time, clients can also take advantage of the cruise line's 15% deposit offer - see the back page for more information.



NTIA entries set to close

SUBMISSIONS from nominees in the 2025 National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) will close this Sun 13 Jul at 11.59pm AEST, the Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) has confirmed.

Nominees who have accepted their endorsement have until this time to upload submission materials for judged categories and professional achievements and a profile for voted categories.

Voting for the 2025 NTIAs will run from 21 Jul to 08 Aug, with finalists for all categories to be unveiled in the middle of Aug.

"This year's NTIA is shaping up as the best ever and the excitement just keeps growing," said ATIA CEO, Dean Long.

"For those who have been nominated, don't miss out on your chance to win," he added.

"I'd encourage anyone who's been nominated to confirm their entry through the portal."

The 2025 NTIAs will take place at The Star Brisbane, marking the first time the awards have headed to the Sunshine State.

The gala dinner will feature a line-up of award categories revised from previous years, with the NTIA Custodian team opting to retire four categories while introducing others to reflect

Today's issue of TD

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



industry diversity, strength and innovation (TD 30 Apr).

In total, 36 accolades will be handed out, which ATIA said provides more opportunities than ever before to shine a spotlight on exceptional individuals, teams and businesses.

Long added, "It is fantastic to see our members and peers rally behind this prestigious event and I can't wait to see the fantastic achievements of members of our industry honoured in Brisbane at this year's awards". ML

QF hacker talks?

QANTAS has been approached by a potential cyber criminal after the personal records of 6 million customers were exposed last week (TD 02 Jul).

A Qantas spokesperson said, "A potential cyber criminal has made contact and we are currently working to validate this.

"As this is a criminal matter, we have engaged the Australian Federal Police and won't be commenting any further on the detail of the contact."

A spokesperson for the AFP confirmed it was investigating. DF

Air NZ flights on sale

FLIGHTS to New Zealand are on sale now with Air New Zealand.

Fares are up for grabs until 11:59pm AEST on Mon, as part of the airline's 'Discover New 7ealand' sale.

Eligible travel periods are displayed in the GDS HERE.





Start early, stay longer.

JOURNEY FURTHER

Add an extension to any new 2026-2028 booking before 1 September 2025 and save your client up to \$4,800 per couple on river voyages, or up to \$3,000 per couple on ocean and expedition voyages.







More Bali air delays

FLIGHTS in and out of Bali have again been delayed today after Mt Lewotobi Laki-Laki erupted yesterday around 1pm AEST.

While a number of cancellations occurred Monday, at the time of going to press, flights to Bali from Australia were still scheduled.

VA45 from Brisbane and VA91 from Melbourne will now both leave at 1pm, while VA95, VA83 and VA65 are still on time.

JQ39, JQ57, JQ110 and JQ125 from Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide respectively took off on time, while most Qantas and Jetstar flights are as scheduled.

JQ31 and JQ43 are delayed.

Ethiopian plans on AU route

ETHIOPIAN Airlines intends to fly to Australia in the future, but when it does, where in Australia it will fly, and what planes it will use, have yet to be determined by the carrier.

The news was confirmed in a surprisingly forward LinkedIn post by Telila Deressa Gutema (pictured), Regional Manager Asia Pacific Region, Ethiopian Airlines.

In the post, Gutema also called for anyone with availability of long-range jets, specifically the Airbus A350 or Boeing 787, to get

"I have been driving forward our



strategic goal of expanding our services to Australia," he wrote on the social media platform.

"The groundwork has been laid, and the stage is set for this significant milestone - the missing piece of the puzzle? The aircraft."

Gutema urged "all aircraft lessors, leasing companies, and owners with A350s or B787 Dreamliners available for lease or sale" to reach out, as Ethiopian Airlines is ready to make deals, with Gutema suggesting he will facilitate the connection with the carrier's HQ.

According to the airline's website, it currently has 162 aircraft including 23 Airbus A350s (1000 and 900XWB versions) as well as 19 Boeing 787s (8 and 9 versions) and 11 Boeing 777 (200LR and 300 ER versions).

It also has 31 long-range aircraft on order including eight of the new Boeing 777-9x.

Ethiopian Airlines has never had a regular passenger service to Australia or New Zealand. DF

Norwegian cancels

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has scrapped more than 40 cruises in 2026-27 due to a "fleet redeployment initiative".

According to a statement shared with agents, the cancellation affects all Breakaway and Prima cruises between Nov '26-Mar '27.





ENJOY TODAY

www.expediataap.com.au

telephone 1800 726 618

email expedia-au@ discovertheworld.com









Window Seat

AT THE inaugural CATO conference last month, emcee, *Travel Daily's* Damian Francis, made some light-hearted jokes about the sporting ability of CATO MD Brett Jardine.

Well, the joke's on him, as over the weekend, Jardine was instrumental in Monash Country Club securing victory in the NSW Golf Association Master Pennant Final.

The Master Pennant is one of NSW Golf's premier team events for over 50s, with 64 golf clubs fielding eight-man teams in head-to-head battles. Well done Brett and team.



Banyan roadshow

BANYAN Group is hosting a trade event in Sydney on 21 Jul, giving agents the opportunity to learn about its hotel experiences and property updates.

Attendees can meet partners from Mandai Rainforest Resort in Singapore; Banyan Tree Phuket; Angsana Laguna Phuket; Cassia Phuket; Angsana Teluk Bahang Penang; Banyan Tree Bintan; and Angsana Bintan.

Spots are limited, register **HERE**.

APT Europe 2027

HIGH demand has spurred APT to launch its 2027 pre-release Europe collection earlier than ever, featuring brand-new fleet *APT Solara* and *APT Ostara*.

The season will see the return of the flagship 15-day 'Magnificant Europe Cruise', as well as its popular Croatia yacht cruising program, with earlybird offers available until 03 Oct.

See the full range **HERE**.

Travel Daily Training Academy

Engage & Educate Travel Advisors on your Destination

CLICK HERE FOR AN INFO PACK



Altura already up in the air

EXCLUSIVE

BRETT Harvey's new enterprise Altura Travel Group has signed Crooked Compass and Adventure by Air as its two maiden partners, helping the burgeoning brand establish itself in the market.

Speaking to *Travel Daily*, Harvey said Altura will assist Lisa Pagotto's two touring brands with developing sales and marketing for private groups and charters.

Interestingly, Harvey and Pagotto both graduated from the Travel Industry Mentor Experience Program in 2013.

Other potential clients for Altura include a DMC not currently active in Australia, along with a foreign exchange business looking to grow its profile within the local travel sector.

Travel Daily understands contracts are currently being drawn up for both potential clients, with announcements coming soon.

Harvey said there are many small and niche tour operators along with specialist DMCs who are eager to expand their presence in Australia, which will be a key area for Altura's focus.

"Imagine you're a small tour operator that may have started in Spain and you're doing really well there, but your customers are now repeats and they've done Spain," Harvey said.

"If they're looking at a new country, it can be a bit tough sometimes to know who to trust as a DMC and when to do due diligence on insurance, for example - this came up a lot when I used to talk to the smaller tour operators."

Harvey said the education side of his business will involve suggesting smaller tour operators and wholesalers develop training materials for the CATO Training Academy to promote their wares to the trade. *ML*



Book Trenitalia tickets during July in the RailPortal & be rewarded!

Choose **Trenitalia** as a convenient and efficient way to transport your clients in comfort and speed across Italy. Trenitalia provides a wide network of high-speed, regional, and night trains, connecting major cities and smaller towns, making it a practical choice for both short and long journeys.

Book any Trenitalia sector in the month and go in the draw to win a \$50 prezzee voucher. 100 up for grabs! The more you book the more times you go in the draw.

BOOK NOW



Aussies trust agents over tech

AUSTRALIANS are still booking strongly with travel advisors, despite the boom of TikTok and artificial intelligence, new data from PassportCard reveals.

The findings signal an important moment for the sector, showing human expertise and personal advice are far from obsolete, as more than one in three (39%) still book through advisors.

This is more than double those who are using TikTok to book (15%), or AI tools like ChatGPT and Gemini (14%).

However online bookings are still outpacing advisors, PassportCard found, with Google (67%), OTAs (59%) and hotel and airline websites (56%) proving more popular than agents.

"While tools like TikTok and AI are shaking up the industry, our data shows Aussies still value the reassurance and expertise that comes from speaking to a real person," PassportCard Chief Executive Peter Klemt said.

"It's clear that even in a world of TikTok travel hacks and AI-generated itineraries, personalised support and advice from a travel agent is still a big part of how Australians plan and book their holidays."

The research also revealed many Australians are heading overseas with high-value items in their luggage, despite not always being clear on what their travel insurance actually covers.

One in three (38%) say they are travelling with \$2,000-\$5,000 worth of belongings, yet more than half (57%) admit they only have a general idea of what is included in their policy.

"Whether you book through a travel agent, a website or an app, insurance should never be an afterthought, and we want Aussies to feel informed when it comes to what their policy includes", Klemt said. MS

Travel Daily **SHARPEN YOUR** KNOWLEDGE ON TOKYO WITH TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY



La Vie's new exec

LA Vie Hotels and Resorts has welcomed on board new Director of Operations - Pacific, Amanda Cottome, who will now lead hotel operations across the region.

Cottome (pictured) will focus on strengthening operational delivery, driving performance and enhancing guest experiences, alongside the hotel owners and senior leadership team.

With 23 years' senior leadership experience in hospitality operations and service excellence under her belt, Cottome was most recently Group Director of Brand Experience and Sustainabilty at Ovolo Hotels.



Intrepid commits

INTREPID Travel has committed \$100,000 to support Indigenous Rangers this NAIDOC Week.

The month-long fundraiser campaign is being run through The Intrepid Foundation's NGO partner, Country Needs People, and is already halfway to its goal, thanks to a \$50,000 kick-start from Intrepid and Flight Centre.

Rangers play a vital role in protecting biodiversity, managing fire, and preserving cultural knowledge on country, with 100% of donations going directly to these programs.

"Tourism doesn't exist without country and this is one way we can give back," Intrepid Managing Director Brett Mitchell said.

"We're proud to partner with Flight Centre again and continue backing Country Needs People and the rangers whose work protects biodiversity, supports cultural knowledge, and strengthens communities," Mitchell added.



Missed the live session? Watch the full East Antarctica expert webinar now

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

WATCH NOW



PTMs treated to Thai escape



A HANDFUL of personal travel managers from TravelManagers Australia recently had the opportunity to explore the Banyan Tree Group properties across Thailand.

Flying with Thai Airways, the group enjoyed worldclass hospitality at the brand's luxurious beachfront resorts, as

Broome seat boost

THE WA Government has subsidised more than 4,000 seats on Virgin Australia Perth-Broome flights, and on Nexus Airlines' Broome services from Geraldton, Karratha and Port Hedland.

The move by the state government is designed to drive more visitors to the Kimberley, particularly as Jetstar Asia prepares to wind down on 31 Jul (*TD* 11 Jun), bringing an end to its A320 service that linked Broome to Singapore.

well as its serene city escapes.

"It was an unforgettable opportunity to deepen product knowledge while soaking up the best of Thai luxury and lifestyle," TravelManagers shared on its LinkedIn page. JM

Visit USA PR gig

VISIT USA is on the hunt for a PR and marketing manager.

The contractor will be focused on delivering the not-for-profit's annual PR strategic scope of work; managing relationships with Australian travel trade media; preparing content for members and supporting events such as the annual Visit USA Expos; and plenty more.

For more information or to see the full request for proposal, contact: Caroline Davidson - President, Visit USA Organisation (Australia) - pr@visitusa.org.au. Proposals are due 31 Jul.





Discover our River Cruise Special Report

Click here

ATIA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



THIS column
will be a little
different to the
ones I typically
write. I am
in the United
States at the
moment,
with
meetings

in LA as part of Flight Centre's Global Conference, and in Washington DC, where I will meet up with leaders from ASTA.

As the Vice Chair of the WTAAA, I am now looking at how we create real value from a global perspective in each local market.

These meetings are a critical step as we head towards our global planning sessions in Sep.

As I finalised my preparation last week, I reflected on the amount of talk on what it is like to travel to the US these days.

The drop in demand is real.
According to our latest Travel
Trends, visits to the US are down
an average of 7.2% per month for
the quarter.

I must admit, I was more

prepared this time then I had been on any of my previous trips.

For the first time in 10 years, I printed my itinerary with full details of my accommodation, flights and travel insurance certificates.

As I landed in LAX, I was a little more anxious since my last trip, but my experience was identical.

I can confirm the lines were still there and TSA were doing their job of looking every visitor in the eye and asking their questions.

The taxi/Uber system at LAX, is, well, let's just say, interesting and I will no longer complain about the process at Australian airports.

On Saturday I was lucky enough to spend the 4th (as Americans say) at Disneyland. The Independence Day show with projections on Sleeping Beauty's Castle and fireworks was an experience I will never forget.

The US is a huge country with so much to offer travellers, it does have it head winds led by the exchange rate, but as a destination, it continues to be one of my favourites.

From sea to cycling

MSC Cruises has signed on to become the official main partner of Tudor Pro Cycling, through to the end of the 2027 season.

The collaboration will debut at the Tour de France 2025, which kicks off this weekend, and marks the cruise line's first involvement in the world of professional cycling.

MSC Cruises will have strong visibility across the Tudor Pro Cycling Team's kit, with branding featured prominently on rider jerseys as well as on team vehicles, including support cars and team buses.

The brand anticipates that the partnership will introduce it to a new global audience.

KLM/SAS move

AIR FRANCE-KLM has begun proceedings that will see it increase the 19.9% minority stake it has in Scandinavian Airlines System to a 60.2% majority stake.

Under the proposal, Air France-KLM would take Castlelake and Danish company Lind Invest's stake in the airline, while the Danish state would retain a 26.4% holding and a seat on the board.

"This new step would allow Air France-KLM and SAS to fully unlock their synergy potential via a comprehensive integration in all areas of business, including loyalty, and would extend beyond commercial activities," Air France-KLM said in a statement, while SAS said it is an "essential step".





Airline industry a scapegoat

A RECOMMENDED move to tax aviation to help certain countries mitigate the impact of climate change, pandemics and other challenges is deeply flawed, said IATA.

The Global Solidarity Levies Task Force (GSLTF) was set up to explore scalable ways to use levies to fund resources for climate-related initiatives and help nations reach commitments under the Paris Agreement.

A coalition of eight nations
- France, Kenya, Barbados,
Spain, Somalia, Benin,
Sierra Leone and Antigua &
Barbuda - have identified
a plan to impose a tax on
travellers in first class,
business class and those
using private jets.

IATA said the Task Force's estimation that a premium flyer levy could generate €78 billion (A\$141 billion) is three times the entire industry's global estimated profit of €27.5 billion (A\$49.8 billion).

"The airline industry is an economic catalyst, not a cash cow," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

Walsh pointed to a multitrillion dollar commitment to sustainability adopted by the aviation sector, which is set to spend A\$4.7 trillion between 2024-2050 on achieving net zero emissions.

JETSTAR RANKS LOW FOR EMISSIONS

JETSTAR has ranked sixth in a list of the world's major airlines based on lowest CO₂ emissions from aviation data analyst Cirium, which features primarily budget carriers flying economy class only.

Calculated using a verified equal playing field algorithm, the ranking tallied Jetstar as emitting 58.4 grams of CO₂ per Available Seat Kilometre (ASK), making it the most efficient carrier in the Oceania region.

Leading the ranking is Budapestbased Wizz Air, followed by Frontier Airlines, Pegasus Airlines, Volaris and IndiGo Airlines.

Jetstar's result saw the carrier improve its emissions by 0.9% compared to last year, one of only three in the top six to do so - a feat made even more impressive by the 12.5% jump in the number of flights operated from 2023.



A Jetstar spokesperson told *Travel Daily* it is continuing to work on emissions and initiatives in its fuel reduction program.

"This achievement is largely the result of our ongoing fleet renewal program and our efficient low-cost model.

"Since 2022, we've welcomed 20 new Airbus A321LR and five Airbus A320neo aircraft to our fleet - including our latest arrival, which touched down yesterday."

Cirium said its 2025 Flight Emissions Review is aimed at helping guide the sector towards its Net Zero by 2050 ambitions.

Other major airlines ranked below Jetstar in the top 20 include Scoot, Vietjet, Flydubai and Cebu Pacific.

Cirium's data also ranked the environmental credentials of the world's largest airlines by ASKs and CO2, placing Ryanair in front with a score of 63 grams of CO2 per ASK.

The Irish carrier was a clear leader in this metric, five points clear of Southwest Airlines despite operating far fewer flights than its US counterpart. *ML*

SeaDream spark

BOUTIQUE cruise ship SeaDream II has connected to shore power for the first time, linking with the grid in the city of Bergen, Norway and cutting emissions to zero.

The SeaDream Yacht Club ship was retrofitted with the shore power technology in 2023, with the line saying it was eager to connect to the grid in any port where the facilities are available to it.

TRAppe unveils sustainable Bali guide

singaporean travel platform TRAppe has launched an e-guide to Bali featuring fully sustainable businesses for ecoconscious travellers to utilise.

The guide features over 100 listings including restaurants, tours and accommodation including family-run guest houses and locally-owned community-based food tours.

TRAppe says its new program is aimed at travellers looking

to support local communities without sacrificing experience.

Each business listed in the guide is verified through direct relationships and assessments to ensure authenticity.

TRAppe founder Gabriella Yan said she is "most excited to see travellers discovering incredible local operators they never would have found elsewhere", as well as helping local businesses to thrive.



































VIKING



MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.65

NOT since 'Tricky Dicky' Richard Nixon was in office as US President has the US Dollar suffered a weaker start to the year than it has in 2025.

New data out today shows the greenback has fallen 10.7% in the six months to 30 Jun. which in turn is pushing the value of the AUD and other currencies up in its place.

While it may make the US more enticing for a holiday, many economists are describing it as a normalisation. although nobody can really be sure with the Trump effect.

Wholesale rates this morning.

\$0.649
£0.477
\$1.082
€0.553
¥94.83
ß21.22
¥4.663
11.611
\$0.888
0.0000060

A Cotswolds Chrissy

ORMINA Tours has announced a new festive itinerary, the 'Cotswolds Christmas Experience', now available to book for the 2025 and 2026 holiday seasons.

Priced from \$6,690pp, the tour includes a scenic tour of the Cotswolds, a visit to Blenheim Palace's Christmas light trail, and a traditional Christmas feast.

Etihad FF comp

ETIHAD has launched the second phase of its frequent flyer competition, The Extraordinary Challenge, now open to Etihad Guest members.

The latest instalment of the initiative includes a new category, the Extraordinary Milestones, where the first 100 members to vist five new destinations earn 25,000 Miles and the first 100 to visit 10 new cities will receive 100,000 Etihad Guest miles.

Now, the grand total prize is over 20 million Etihad Guest Miles for over 200 potential winners - click HERE for more.

Sofitel hires GM

SOFITEL Sydney Darling Harbour has announced new GM Sam Panetta (pictured), taking over from Greg Brady who recently retired.

Panetta has held senior leadership roles at Accor properties including Pullman Magenta Shores Resort, Pullman Quay Grand Sydney Harbour, and Sofitel Sydney Wentworth. where he led its \$70 million transformation and relaunch.

"Sam knows Sydney and the Sofitel brand very well, so we look forward to him adding further to Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour's prestigious reputation for excellence," said Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour owner, Dr Jerry Schwartz.





Kiwi icon up for sale



ONE of New Zealand's most iconic buildings, the Cardrona Hotel near Queenstown, is on the market for the first time in more than a decade.

The 162-year-old heritage-listed hotel in the Southern Lakes' Cardrona Valley is expected to attract significant interest, both nationally and overseas.

A popular apres ski destination, the property features a restaurant, beer garden, 17 ensuite hotel rooms, and features its original facades and relics from the Gold Rush era.

The property's owners, Cade and Alexis Thornton with James and Fleur Jenneson, have described the sale as a "once-ina-lifetime opportunity".

Cardona Hotel gets plenty of love from Australian visitors, who make up 35% of its bookings annually - in fact, Australians have already booked significantly more nights than New Zealanders for the 2025 ski season.

"Our Australian guests usually stay longer than Kiwis, with many families booking for a week or more over the ski season," Cade Thornton shared.

"I think Australians like this place because it looks different to their local pub, but still gives them that same familiar feeling." The property averages 84%

occupancy annually, and is often fully booked at many times throughout the year.

"There's still plenty of scope for expansion; there's enough land to develop further accommodation and function spaces to introduce additional revenue streams," Cade Thornton pointed out.

"There's also an opportunity to install outdoor kitchens or organise live music and events."

Expressions of interest close at 4pm on Fri 15 Aug 2025, and should be submitted HERE. JM

Airbnb app refresh

IPHONE users can now book Airbnb stays using Apple Pay, following an update to the holiday rental marketplace's app.

The changes also include a new, simplified account screen; the ability for users to add properties to their wish list; and a feature allowing travellers share ideas with their friends via messenger app KakaoTalk, enabling easier coordination on their next trip.

Airbnb said the update also solves glitches that were causing the previous version of the app to crash and fail.



www.traveldaily.com.au

Travel Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994, Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

FDITORIAL

Editor - Adam Bishop Deputy Editor - Matt Lennon Cruise Editor - Myles Stedman Journalists - Janie Medbury Editor-at-large - Bruce Piper Editorial Director - Damian Francis Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan advertising@traveldaily.com.au

GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER Matthew Vince

ACCOUNTS

accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1. Level 2. 64 Talavera Rd Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760

info@traveldaily.com.au



Travel Daily is a publication of TDaily Pty Ltd ABN 34 108 508 765. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of Travel Daily no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Damian Francis.

\$SILVERSEA®

Salve UP 40%

EXPIRES JULY 13, 2025



For a limited time, your clients can **save up to 40% on over 700 voyages** across select suite categories. They can take advantage of this exclusive offer to explore extraordinary corners of the globe, combinable with our all-inclusive fares. **Reserve their suite by July 13, 2025** with just a 15% deposit to secure this indulgent offer.

Contact your Silversea Sales Manager or Reservations on +61 2 9255 0600 silversea.com/trade