

Earn \$800 per couple

FRESH from expanding into river sailing (**TD 06 May**), The Travel Corporation's Trafalgar brand has launched its first cruise incentive for advisors.

From now to 30 Sep 2025, agents will earn an \$800 gift card per couple booked, and clients will receive \$2,300 off per couple on select 2026 departures.

To access the debut incentive, travel advisors must quote 'TR26IOS' to apply client savings at the time of booking.

USA to lose six million

TOTAL inbound visits to the US are expected to fall away by more than 8% in 2025 compared to the previous year, new figures published by the US Department of Commerce have showed.

Contained within a Brand USA summer board meeting presentation, the close-to six million drop in tourists this year is predicted to be followed by a mild recovery in 2026 to 68.8 million, followed by an increase to beyond 2024 volumes in 2027.

The Brand USA presentation also indicated that while travel intent to the US has been dipping since Jan, May and Jun saw a small uptick in sentiment.

Only a small number of markets like Japan indicated a stronger appetite to travel to the US in 2025 compared to last year, with

most tourist sources showing a drop or flat YoY comparisons.

Australian intent remains unchanged from 2024 levels, with around 15% of Aussies indicating a "likelihood" to travel to the US in the next 12 months.

In response to the plateauing numbers, Brand USA said that a new marketing campaign placing a greater focus on high-value travellers was essential to buttress the short-fall, with countries with strong economies like Australia to be targeted.

In order to break through media filters, the marketing body said the most effective campaigns will use well-known Americans that tap into Americana, nostalgia, and "epic" US experiences.

However, Brand USA will have the added challenge of launching such a campaign with a vastly reduced budget (**TD 07 Jul**). **AB**

Vote for APT today

SHOW your support for APT, which is up for three NTIA nominations this year, including 'Most Outstanding Tour Operator - Global' - for more information, see **page 10**.

Earn an Ama cruise

TRAVEL agents can earn their place on AmaWaterways' biggest-ever famil between 01 Jul 2025 and 28 Feb 2026.

See **page 11** for details.



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Today's issue of TD


Travel Daily today features nine pages of news, including our **Luxury** page, plus full pages from:

- APT Travel
- AmaWaterways
- Abercrombie & Kent

A&K is up for eight

ABERCROMBIE & Kent (A&K) is up for eight ATIA awards, including 'Most Outstanding Sales Executive (Land/Cruise)'.

Find out more on **page 12**.



Switch to Qantas NDC

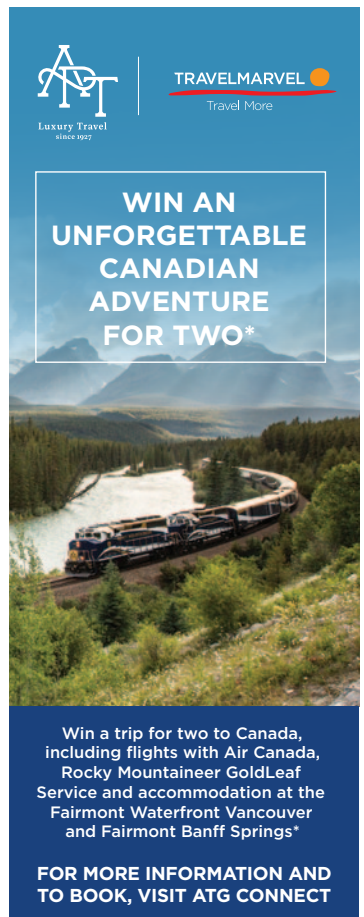
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Goldman Group
Joint Managing Director



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Wednesday 23rd July 2025

Carrier locks in MEL

HONG Kong Airlines has pushed ahead with previously flagged plans to launch services between the popular Asian destination and Melbourne Airport (**TD** 11 Jun).

Plans lodged with air distribution suppliers show the carrier - which seeks to challenge established players like Cathay Pacific and Qantas in Australia - will commence services to Melbourne on 12 Dec.

Hong Kong Airlines will fly the route three times a week using A330-300 aircraft.

The news follows recent figures showing Hong Kong is enjoying a strong rebound in Oz (**TD** 16 Jul).

Carnival Bluey deal

CARNIVAL has formed an agreement with Shorex Australia and Bluey World in Brisbane to offer visits to the attraction for the cruise line's guests.

The agreement means Carnival passengers disembarking can book tours of the new Brisbane landmark until Mar next year.

Tours are fully guided and allow guests to have their luggage ferried with them on the bus to ensure a smooth journey to Brisbane Airport.



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Steering a middle course

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) Ignite Travel Group brand has promoted Michael Middleton (**pictured**) to the newly created position of Global Head of Cruise.

Having previously served as Ignite's General Manager of Cruise, where he steered its flagship My Cruises brand since 2018, Middleton's new remit has expanded to lead global cruise strategy and operations across the group.

This includes controlling the future growth path of Cruise Club UK in Manchester, which was bought by FCTG late last year in a bid to accelerate its global cruise ambitions (**TD** 30 Oct 2024).

FCTG said last year that it would be using Ignite's business model as the blueprint for future UK expansion, pointing to clear parallels between Australians and the British on cruise appetite.

Ignite Travel Group CEO Ryan Thomas said Middleton had been



instrumental in taking the cruise business to new heights.

"His strategic thinking, customer-first mindset and willingness to push the boundaries have helped solidify our position as a market leader," Thomas said.

"This role reflects the global ambition of our cruise business and Michael is the right person to lead that charge," he added.

Among his many professional achievements was being named CLIA's Cruise Champion of the Year for 2024 (**TD** 10 Mar). **AB**

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ACA speakers rock

ESKIMO Joe guitarist Stu MacLeod will headline the Australian Cruise Association's (ACA) breakfast at its upcoming conference, taking place in Fremantle from 03-05 Sep.

MacLeod will front the session in his role as CEO of the Fremantle Foundation and share his story of music, community and social impact from his home town.

The three-day event, themed as 'Anchoring Success Across Every Region', will also see CLIA Australasia MD Joel Katz speak.

Further presenters include new Princess Cruises VP Matthew Rutherford; Silversea APAC MD Adam Radwanski; Ponant APAC Chief Deb Corbett; Tourism Australia Executive GM Sally Cope; and reps from Carnival Australia, Royal Caribbean & NCL.

Entire enters the wild

ENTIRE Travel Group has released a new campaign showcasing remote luxury in the Canadian wilderness.

The push highlights packages ranging from four to 11 days in regions such as British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest to the coastlines of Newfoundland.

The itineraries pair authentic wilderness experiences such as heli-hiking in alpine backcountry and encountering polar bears on the tundra of Manitoba, with distinctive accommodation.

Travellers can save up to \$1,000 per couple when they book before 08 Aug 2025 - see **HERE**.

Wheels up in the morning

EARLY morning departures have been identified as the preferred flight time by a majority of Aussie travellers, according to new data from Travelinsurance.com.au.

The nationally represented survey pool of 1,000 Australians found 36% prefer to take off as early in the morning as possible, while 21% said they seek to fly when the airfares are cheapest.

Other preferences saw 18% say midday was their suited flight departure time, with 10% opting for afternoons, 11% preferring evenings, while only 4% said the red-eye was their ideal time.

TravelInsurance.com.au CEO Shaun McGowan said the swing towards early flight times was largely spurred by cost and the convenience of arriving with time still left in the day.

"Early morning flights are the most popular because they are often cheaper when you book online and help travellers feel like they are maximising their time, especially when getting to their destination on the same day," McGowan said.

"For example, many Asian destinations are just six to nine hours away, and flying early means you can arrive in time for an afternoon check-in and still have time to explore or unwind before dinner.

"If flying to Europe or the US, which require overnight travel, you might choose different."

McGowan added some travellers were happy to sacrifice



sleep to save money, while others craved efficiency in their day and to minimise the impact of jet lag.

Gen X travellers were most likely to opt for the early start, while Millennials sought midday, with Gen Z keen for evenings. *ML*

South African access

THE South African diaspora living in Australia and New Zealand now have easier access to passport applications and consular services.

A new agreement between the Home Affairs Department and VFS Global has seen DHA service centres open this month in Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland.

The Sydney office is located at level 6, 88 Pitt Street, while the Melbourne address is level 5, 332 St Kilda Road.

New Vietjet promo

DISCOUNTED fares starting from \$199 one-way are now on sale from Vietjet, with 20kg of free checked baggage included.

The sale runs until 2am (AEST) on 26 Jul and is valid for travel from 04 Sep to 20 May next year.

The deal applies to services from SYD, MEL, BNE and PER direct to Ho Chi Minh City and also on SYD and MEL to Hanoi.

Oz passport slips

THE Australian passport has slipped from sixth to seventh in the latest power ranking list published by Henley.

With a score of 185 points, the Aussie travel document was behind the NZ passport (187), Switzerland (187) & the UK (186). Singapore topped the latest list.

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Uniworld bite-sized

UNIWORLD Boutique River Cruises will run a series of short-form 20-min webinars covering a range of topics, such as rail add-ons, group charters, and insights about India and Egypt.

Sessions will run from 30 Jul to 11 Sep - register [HERE](#) to attend.

Royal enters Japan

ROYAL Minor Hotels has signed its first hotel management agreement in Japan and will partner with List Development Co to open Anantara Karuizawa Retreat in 2030.

The four-hectare forested property will face Mount Asama and feature 51 rooms, including 23 suites and two- and three-bedroom villas.

Facilities will include dining, a spa with an onsen, fitness centre, pool, library and more.

Royal Minor Hotels Co is a joint-venture between Royal Holdings Co and Minor Hotels.

NCLH's big mac of digital

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) will integrate its global IT and digital experience teams under the leadership of high-profile technology executive Daniel Henry (**pictured**).

NCLH's new Executive Vice President & Chief Digital & Technology Officer is a heavy hitter in the world of digital transformation, with the cruise company to lean on Henry's skills to elevate guest experiences by creating more seamless and innovative solutions.

He was most recently the Executive Vice President, Global CIO for mega franchise chain McDonald's for five years, and before that spent a similar amount of time as Vice President - Customer Technology for American Airlines.

The appointment follows Norwegian Cruise Line confirming an enhanced reservation system is on the way (**TD** 24 Mar), as well



as draft details about NCL Air, a new tool for travel advisors it said would simplify and incentivise fly-cruise bookings. **AB**

Where to next?

WENDY Wu Tours has released details of its 'Where to Next?' showcase, which will run from 30 Jul to 28 Aug across ten locations in Queensland, Tasmania, New South Wales and Victoria.

Highlights will include destination insights on Asian markets, travel style updates, and photography classes - info [HERE](#).



Window Seat

RESEARCH taken from 1,000 Australian travellers reveal many of us are going to extreme lengths to avoid excess baggage fees.

The study by travel logistics company Send My Bag showed that one in three Aussies have worn multiple layers of clothing on planes to dodge added charges, while 20% also admitted to sending clothes to their destination in advance to avoid fees.

Findings follow a rise in TikTok tips on how to travel with no bags at all, with influencers like Seb Szabo suggesting people should wear baggy cargo pants and stuff the pockets to the brim.

Szabo also advocates for taking only the bare essentials - wallet, phone and charger.



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Rest in peace, Barry



THE travel industry is in mourning this week after the passing of former Thomas Cook travel stalwart, Barry Cassell.

Among his many credits as part of a long and well-regarded career in the travel industry, Cassell worked at Thomas Cook during the late 1980s and 1990s, with the lion's share spent at Thomas Cook Chadstone.

His funeral will be held tomorrow at the Renowden

Chapel, Springvale Botanical Cemetery in Springvale - view **HERE** for more details.

Cassell is survived by his wife Nancy and three sons. **AB**

Urban Rest growth

TORY Hotel in Wellington, New Zealand will be transformed into a premium Urban Rest later this year, as the accommodation provider secured a management agreement for the property.

"Taking on Tory Hotel is much more than a new opening; it's a long-term partnership with a focus on maximising the property's potential," said Urban Rest CEO, David Whelan.

Tory Hotel co-owner Tony Osborne added that Urban Rest's "tech-led, design-first model will unlock the asset's potential, elevating the property".

Drifting more into Cairns

ELEVATED hostel brand Little Drifter has opened its doors in Cairns following a four-month renovation of The Village Cairns.

The overhaul took the property's capacity from 162 to 259 beds across 54 rooms, with dorms fitted with custom bunks featuring personal lights, charging outlets, lockable storage, privacy curtains and new bathrooms.

Inviting social and communal zones were also opened, including a lounge and terrace along with a shared kitchen.

Little Drifter Cairns marks the brand's eighth location across Australia and New Zealand, joining Christchurch and Canberra, along with two in Melbourne and three in Sydney.

A third location in Melbourne will open soon, along with other Drifter hostels in Byron Bay, Wellington and Auckland.

"Cairns has long been a rite of passage for international travellers coming to Australia,



and Little Drifter Cairns celebrates that spirit with a new perspective," said Drifter CEO Mark Moran. **ML**

Milestone for BIG4

HOLIDAY park operator BIG4 has marked the addition of its 300th property to the network.

The figure includes both wholly owned and branded BIG4 parks and partner parks, which can still be booked via the main website.

BIG4 CEO Sean Jenner said reaching 300 parks is a proud moment for the organisation.

Hurtigruten winners

HURTIGRUTEN has announced the winners of its recent trade competition, where it gave away tickets to the Scandinavian Film Festival (**TD** 18 Jul).

Each agent scored a double pass to see one of the films, they are: Hariklia Nadiotis, Andys World Travel; Rosalie Stott, Inflight Travel South Australia; Cassy Nguyen, Stage and Screen Travel Services; Leanne Peltonen, Ross Tours; and Chris Otto, ATS Pacific.

All winners have been contacted and sent tickets by Hurtigruten.

CX pax jump in Jun

PASSENGER numbers across both Cathay Pacific and subsidiary Hong Kong Express climbed 23.3% in Jun 2025 compared to last year.

Five new destinations added in the month helped raise Cathay's Available Seat Kilometres by 26.2%, with 2.3 million pax flying with CX in Jun across 9,387 flight sectors, and an average load factor of 85.6%.

QF flight turns back

A **QANTAS** flight on its way to Melbourne was forced to turn around shortly after takeoff yesterday morning, due to an unidentified technical issue.

Flight QF2079 was able to safely land in Mildura Airport, with QF engineers to inspect the aircraft before it returns to service.



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Cruise Month floats out

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia has kicked off the countdown to the return of Cruise Month, which will take place in Oct.

Uniting once again under the banner and hashtag #LoveCruise, the month-long campaign will be split across four themed weeks of Ocean Cruising (05-11 Oct), River Cruising (12-18 Oct), Expedition Cruising (19-25 Oct) and Luxury Cruising (26 Oct-01 Nov).

A flurry of promotional material will be released to generate excitement and help both cruise novices and experts to promote the holiday style to their clients.

In preparation, CLIA has today released its annual Cruise Month toolkit to help agents plan their own promotional activity.

CLICK HERE to download the kit, which is packed with social media assets, logos, videos, posters, customisable banners and flyers and other materials.

Further resources still to come include a range of instructional videos designed to help agents plan their own promotion activity and other ways to get involved in



the Cruise Month frenzy.

Individual CLIA member cruise lines will also provide webinars and training videos featuring their own news, product updates, sales tips and other advice.

CLIA Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz said the campaign is also about counting down to the annual peak cruise season, with CLIA to help direct enquiries back to travel advisor members.

"We're encouraging all our members to get involved, so now is the time for travel agents to begin planning their own Cruise Month promotions, events and social media campaigns, so they can take advantage of the focus on cruising," Katz said. *ML*

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Malaysia says Hello-world



THE Malaysian Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture paid a visit to Helloworld Travel headquarters in Melbourne recently, alongside fellow ministry officials and other guests from Tourism Malaysia.

Attendees from the national tourism organisation included Director-General Datuk Manoharan Periasamy, Director of AERO Division Mohd Akbal Setia and Baizuri Baharum, Director of Tourism Malaysia in Sydney.

Trade events were also held in Melbourne and Sydney, coinciding with the recent launch of Visit Malaysia 2026, an initiative aiming to position the Southeast Asian country as a premier travel destination.

"We are thrilled with the success of our recent cooperative campaign with Tourism Malaysia, which showcased the destination's rich culture and diverse experiences to

Australian travellers," said Melissa Warren, Group General Manager Marketing at Helloworld Travel.

"As we look ahead, we are excited to continue this collaboration and play a key role in driving visitation and supporting Tourism Malaysia's strategic goals for 2026." *JHM*

Pictured: Cinzia Burnes, Helloworld Chief Operating Officer & Executive Director with Dato Sri Tiong King Sing, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, presenting Helloworld with a silk batik gift of appreciation.

Bungy in full swing

CONSTRUCTION is "well underway" on Queenstown's first three-person swing, according to attraction operator AJ Hackett Bungy New Zealand.

Known as the Kawarau Swing, the attraction will be located at the Kawarau Bridge (**pictured**), and is on track to open in Sep.

Drilling under the viewing deck is complete and the swing's steel support structure was this week lifted into place.

Once operational, up to three riders at a time will be flung across the Kawarau River at heights of up to 43 metres before being winched back to the platform.



LE Bali agent deal

AGENTS can earn an enhanced 15% commission rate from Luxury Escapes on bookings of the five-star InterContinental Bali Resort on Jimbaran Beach.

In addition, one child aged 11 years or under can stay and eat for free, also taking advantage of the resort's kids club.

The promo is available through Luxury Escapes' Agent Hub now.

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Wednesday 23rd July 2025

Changi praised for access

CHANGI Airport in Singapore has been voted as the world's most accessibility friendly, according to more than 50,000 Google and TripAdvisor reviews. A large-scale data project conducted earlier this year looked at reviews of more than 100 international airports, assessing mobility services, navigation, staff support and general comfort. Keywords such as 'wheelchair assistance', 'disabled access', 'long wait' and 'accessible toilets' were considered in the ranking, with airports scoring consistently positive reviews above those with mixed assessments. With a score of 96 out of 100, Singapore's main hub was singled out for clearly marked accessibility features, private rest areas, and attentive assistance. SIN was closely followed by Zurich, cited for its barrier-free



layout and multilingual signage. Rounding out the top three was Amsterdam Schiphol, which was praised for its dedicated assistance desks and quiet lounges. Other airports featuring in the top 10 were Manchester, Seoul, Vancouver and Dubai. Meanwhile, the five worst performing hubs included Rome Fiumicino, Paris Charles de Gaulle, JFK New York, London Heathrow, and Los Angeles. Frequently mentioned keywords assessing the bottom five included confusing layouts, poor signage, inaccessible restrooms, long waits for assistance, and staff unaware of procedures. *ML*

Dubyk joins Eclipse

SMALL-SHIP specialist Eclipse Travel has promoted Hilary Dubyk as its new General Manager to help drive ongoing growth in its bespoke travel experiences. Dubyk (**pictured**) has been part of the Eclipse Travel family since 2018, with a brief sabbatical during the pandemic, and brings strong experience to her new management role. Eclipse Travel co-founder Matt McMillan said Dubyk's new role as GM is a natural progression, building on her success as Sales and Marketing Director, where she led the company's rebrand and website transformation. "Hilary has been an integral part of Eclipse's growth, and we couldn't be happier to see her step into this role," McMillan said.



Arrival of "weird and wonderful" business

LONG-TIME industry executives Trent Ellen and Quentin Nolan have launched online travel brand Arrival, with comedians Jack Steele and Matt Ford from The Inspired Unemployed (**pictured**), bringing "weird and wonderful" experiences to the next generation of travellers.

Nolan is CEO of Arrival and also owner of online snow resource Mountainwatch, while Ellen is GM at Arrival and previously held leadership roles at Luxury Escapes and TripADeal.

"What we've created isn't just another booking platform, it's about curating real experiences for people who want to experience something different," Nolan explained.

Think wild motorcycle tours through Kyrgyzstan, a women's-only surf takeover, or taking part in the Balkan Rally in Austria.

The inspiration for Arrival lay in Ford and Steele's desire to share



their passion for travel and to address the gap in the market between backpacker holidays and luxury tours, Ellen told *TD*.

"There seems to be this need for connection," he said.

"We live in a very disconnected world, and we wanted a platform that was more culturally relevant, not just infused with Instagrammable cliches or hidden through a haze of discounts."

Fifty trips are now available for booking on Arrival's site, with more to be released in the future.

Some of Arrival's trips are available as small group tours,

ATIA UPDATE

from Jenny Le, National Manager Events & Corporate Partnerships



IT'S all happening now; the NTIA 2025 nominees have been announced. In addition to accepting their peer

nomination, these top-notch individuals and businesses have also dedicated their time and effort to complete their NTIA submission or voting profile, thus earning their status as a nominee for 2025.

For those who entered a video or written submission, the scores are rolling in as our independent assessors work their way through each response with care, attention and precision.

Meanwhile, profiles are now published for industry voting.

To participate in NTIA voting, voters must register an account within our awards

portal if they don't have one set-up already.

In doing so, we will be able to track who is voting for who and ensure any votes for their own company are recused.

It's all part of our commitment to upholding the integrity of the awards.

So, what you waiting for?

Cast your vote today **HERE**.

But if you're still thinking "what about me (and my business)?" - your chance to shine is just around the corner.

Soon, we'll be sharing the details of our People's Choice Competition where Aussie travellers will be asked to nominate in 50 words or less who their favourite travel business is and why.

This consumer-facing competition offers another opportunity for ATIA Accredited business to be recognised and celebrated by the people who matter most - their customers.

Stay tuned for more details.

others are private experiences.

"We're not ticking boxes and seeing 15 countries in nine days through Europe," he said.

Now, it is "a badge of honour" to stumble upon under-the-radar destinations - a departure from what the consumer mindset was like 10 years ago, observed Ellen.

"We were going through the flash sale boom and it was all driven by discounts, but now it seems like people are driven by raw and authentic experiences in really weird and interesting places...instead of getting the same photo like everyone else."

At the moment, Arrival is not currently working with agents, although Ellen is very keen to get them on board in the future.

"We love agents because they've got the same relationships with their clients that we want with our partners, so it is definitely something on the cards," he said. *JHM*

Emirates in first place

THE check-in area for Emirates at Dubai International's Terminal 3 has been transformed into Emirates First.

The premium concept offers first class and Skywards Platinum members a private check-in area which can be completed on smart devices, VIP curbside assistance, chauffeur transfers, and guided access to the carrier's first class lounges.

Once inside the premium lounges, travellers can enjoy a-la-carte meals, spa treatments, premium spirits, and duty free shopping.



CHEERS TO 10 YEARS OF HALCYON HOUSE

ACCLAIMED by *Vogue Living* as the "epitome of beachside elegance", iconic Aussie stay Halcyon House is celebrating its 10-year milestone.

Set against the backdrop of NSW's Cabarita Beach, the boutique hotel features 22 rooms, a hatted restaurant, and a fun, vibrant aesthetic that has earned its status as the most Instagrammed hotel in Australia.

To mark the occasion, the property has announced newly expanded wellness offerings, including a contrast therapy zone featuring a cold plunge pool, steam room, sauna and private treatment rooms.

Halcyon House is also running a program of events throughout 2025, kicking off this month with a special coastal dining menu led by famous chef Danielle Alvarez.



In Aug, guests can enjoy a styling masterclass with well-known interior stylist Steve Cordony, and a four-day wellness retreat with former pole vaulter and qualified exercise physiologist, Amanda Bisk.

Special events and unique guest experiences scheduled to take place between Sep and Dec will be announced soon.

Additionally, every guest staying in 2025 will receive a free mini

birthday cake (pictured).

"When we opened Halcyon House, our vision was to create a place we ourselves wanted to stay - a hotel with soul, personality and warmth," said co-owner Elisha Bickle.

"What's made Halcyon stand out over the last 10 years is that it's not just beautiful, it's deeply personal - every detail is designed to make guests feel truly looked after." *JM*

Chiva-Som is extra well

CHIVA-SOM Hua Hin has partnered with Australian ultra marathon runner Natalie Dau and yoga practitioner Dawn Sim to launch a complimentary four-day wellness program for guests at the resort between 26-29 Aug.

As part of its 30th anniversary celebrations, the Thailand property is offering the free enhancement to any wellness retreat booked during this period.

The program will consist of strength training, yoga, immersive sound healing, breathwork, and empowering wellness discussions.

Bali's newest property is a haven for the elite

ELITE Havens has welcomed a new private luxury retreat, Villa Unna, to its Bali portfolio.

Aimed multigenerational families and groups of friends, the property pledges guests can "expect more than what a traditional hotel can offer".

Positioned between lifestyle hubs Seminyak and Canggu, the property offers convenient access to Bali's trendiest beach clubs, fine dining, shopping, and wellness destinations.

Key features of the villa



include six spacious ensuite bedrooms, a modern kitchen and open-plan living area, a private rooftop terrace, a pool, and rooftop jacuzzi.

Guests will enjoy daily housekeeping and access to Elite Havens' concierge services.

Edinburgh makes it

PRESTONFIELD House has become the first property in Edinburgh to become a member of the Relais & Chateaux collection.

The 17th century Scottish mansion house is set on a 20-acre estate, and features 18 luxurious bedrooms and five suites decorated with unique antique furniture.

Guests can enjoy tipples from the hotel's wine cellar, and farm-to-table fine dining in the Rhubarb Restaurant.



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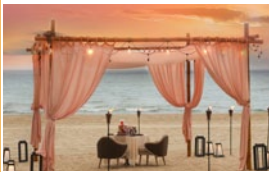
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Niyama Private Islands Maldives has revealed its fully refurbished villas and facilities, introducing heightened levels of luxury, and new experiences that aim to immerse guests in the destination. Villas, restaurants, and leisure facilities have all been transformed across the resort's twin islands of Play and Chill. All rooms now offer expanded interiors, while overwater villas feature floor-to-ceiling glass doors, while some have a private sun deck.



Kamalaya Wellness Sanctuary in Koh Samui has introduced its new Wellness Guardians: holistic health experts who offer long-term, personalised support before, during, and after a guest's stay. Those visiting the property will receive bespoke support, which includes a pre-arrival consultation, VIP nutrition and lifestyle coaching, and quarterly virtual check-ins. Wellness Guardians are available to guests booking five nights or more.



Fusion Resort & Villas Da Nang has launched a new romantic dining experience, designed to create unforgettable moments for couples against the backdrop of the property's coastal setting. The signature beachfront experience is hosted by CHAR Grill House, and takes place on Non Nuoc Beach, with diners canopied by flowing drapes, torchlight, and a golden sunset over the ocean.



The new Kahawai Chapel at **Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach Resort** has officially opened its doors, aiming to become a cornerstone of destination weddings in Hawaii. Kahawai Chapel is set at the western-most edge of Waikiki Beach, offering a view of the Pacific Ocean, and spanning almost 400m² metres. The chapel features a pure white wooden ceiling, and a chandelier in the form of an outrigger.



Minor Hotels' Elewana Collection has revamped one of its safari icons in Kenya, **Elsa's Kopje**. The property, located in Meru in the destination's east, has renovated each guest suite with upgraded furniture, new bathroom floors, and reimagined lighting. The hotel's expansive Private House accommodation has also received a new bath and outdoor shower.

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Building pathways to inclusion



TOURISM businesses in Southeast Queensland can build stronger cultural understanding and ties with traditional owners and First Nations communities as part of a new pilot initiative.

Known as 'Pathways to Inclusivity: Training Program With First Nations Cultural Insights', the venture is jointly led by the Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) with support from the Queensland First Nations Tourism Council (QFNTC).

As part of the pilot, 15 participants completed three online sessions and a full-day cultural immersion on North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah).

Each online session focused on best-practice conduct such as how best to work alongside First Nations peoples and understanding cultural protocols.

While on the island, the full-day activity included a guided

heritage tour, a visit to the island's new arts and cultural centre, as well as a look at local camping sites and attractions.

QTIC Chief Executive Natassia Wheeler said the program was part of a broader effort to foster a more inclusive tourism industry.

"True inclusivity requires a commitment to cultural learning and deep listening," Wheeler said.

"This program provided practical insights into Native Title, intellectual property rights, and cultural protocols - areas where many businesses want to do better, but don't always know where to start."

QTIC and QFNTC are now exploring ways to provide the training to more businesses across the tourism spectrum and more deeply include its values in baseline training. **ML**

Participants are **pictured** during their immersion day. **ML**

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