

Singapore Europe Pacific Joint Venture
Stronger together

BROUGHT TOGETHER TO TAKE YOU FURTHER

Offer your clients greater choice for travel across Germany, Austria, Belgium, and Switzerland, thanks to our expanded codeshare network, optimised flight connections, and added frequency through our strategic joint venture.



ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

TAKE THE QUIZ AND GO IN THE DRAW FOR TWO
ECONOMY CLASS RETURN TICKETS TO ZURICH WITH
SINGAPORE AIRLINES AND LUFTHANSA GROUP

Terms and Conditions apply.
ACT: TP 25/01369
SA: T25/1023

STAR ALLIANCE MEMBERS 

Austrian 



Lufthansa

SWISS

**SINGAPORE
AIRLINES** 

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features 10 pages of news, plus a cover wrap from **Singapore Airlines**, our **Business Events News** feature, and full pages from:

- APT
- Tourism NT

NCL reveals 2027

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has unveiled more than 500 new voyages for its 2027 northern spring/summer season, departing from nearly 30 ports.

Continuing to sail from Australia will be *Norwegian Spirit*, which will offer a range of open-jaw Pacific itineraries - more in today's issue of **CW**.

Win a trip to the NT

THE Northern Territory has its fair share of 'set jetting' TV and movie locations worth visiting, including from the new Aussie movie *Kangaroo* - see **page 12**.

DRW referred to ACCC

A **RECENT** hike in landing fees at Darwin Airport has been referred to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) by Labor Party Minister Luke Gosling, who described the move as "an unreasonable cash grab".

The increase by Darwin's Airport Development Group (ADG) has seen carriers landing at the airport charged an extra 110%, moving the previous fee of \$36.39 to \$77.71.

Gosling, a Darwin-based MP, told the *ABC* the changes make Darwin Airport the country's most expensive hub.

"It is an unacceptable increase in my view," Gosling argued.

"I will be doing what I can with the ACCC around this power imbalance between the monopoly ADG, who runs the airport and sets the fees, and smaller operators," he added.

Charter carriers Hardy Aviation and Fly Tiwi have already raised



their passenger airfares in response, with fears that major players like Qantas and Virgin Australia will do the same.

"Unfortunately, that reality is that the airlines will seek to pass on some of those costs, which makes it even harder for [the Darwin tourism economy]," Gosling said. **AB**

TM flies new deal

TRAVELMANAGERS has inked a preferred partner agreement with Albatross Tours.

According to an update on LinkedIn, the remote travel agency network recently held a product update session with the operator in Adelaide.

Win Europe tickets

SINGAPORE Airlines and Lufthansa Group are giving away two return airfares to Zurich to highlight the partners' shared network across the continent - more details on the **cover page**.

Support for APT

APT Travel Group is staking its claim for three accolades in the 2025 NTIA Gala and would love as much support as possible - find out more on **page 11**.

G Adv appoints

GREGG Downward has formally been appointed to the role of Director of Growth for G Adventures in Australia.

The recruitment marks a return to the travel sector for Downward, who previously enjoyed a long stint with Flight Centre Travel Group prior to the pandemic, before briefly pivoting to the gaming sector.



JOURNEY BEYOND

Tasmanian Wilderness Explorer

☀ 12 Days 📅 Oct 2025 - Apr 2026

✓ All-inclusive small group 4WD tour including scenic helicopter flight

Hobart | Port Arthur | Strahan
Cradle Mountain | Launceston
Freycinet National Park

SAVE ON 2025 & 2026 TOURS NOW

BOOK NOW

*T&Cs apply



Club Med's new boss

CLUB Med has named Stephane Maquaire as its new President and CEO, replacing Henri Giscard d'Estaing, who abruptly exited last week (**TD** 17 Jul).

Maquaire was most recently the Executive Director for Carrefour, a French supermarket retailer.

It takes a village to cruise



A **VARIETY** of quaint and remote Norwegian coastal villages are preparing to welcome Hurtigruten guests to explore their way of life as part of the line's new collection of 'Open Village' shore tours.

Acting in response to the growing issue of overtourism, the Norwegian-based cruise operator has collaborated with authorities and locals of Traena, Bessaker, and Saebo to create exclusive, community-led experiences for guests.

The town visits are available for up to 500 people during the warmer May-Sep months on its Signature Line voyages.

Once ashore, passengers can indulge in a range of local traditions and homemade cuisine, enjoy guided activities, and meet local residents.

A festive village parade will welcome guests in Bessaker (**pictured**) along with live music and local delicacies, including a traditional meat soup.

In Saebo, visitors can attend a

church concert and engage with local guides about the region's natural and cultural history.

Highlights of Traena will include a visit to the Petter Dass chapel and an opportunity to learn more about one of Norway's oldest fishing communities.

To give back to locals, the cruise line will donate 250 Norwegian krone (A\$38) on behalf of each of its passengers.

"As some of Europe's best-known destinations struggle with the pressures of overtourism, our approach is deliberately different: slower, more meaningful travel rooted in genuine connection," said Head of Product Development, Odd Tore Skildheim.

Ships due to visit this season include *MS Finnmarken*, which will see all three towns on departures from Hamburg, while *MS Trollfjord* will call only in Traena and Saebo ex Bergen.

Next year, both ships will be joined by *MS Midnatsol*. *ML*

Avis First test drive

AVIS Budget Group has unveiled Avis First, a premium concierge tier that offers added car rental options such as home delivery of the vehicle and complimentary petrol refills at drop off.

The service is being piloted at several major US airports.

SCENIC°ECLIPSE

Ultra-Luxury Cruising

EXPEDITION VOYAGES
2025-2026

East Antarctica



*Two helicopters,
only on Scenic Eclipse.*

Mawson's Antarctica
Along the East Coast

[VIEW ITINERARY](#)

SCENIC°ECLIPSE

Ultra-Luxury Cruising

EXPEDITION VOYAGES
2025-2026

East Antarctica's Ross Sea
Majestic Ice & Wildlife

CHC > CHC - 24 Days



**SCENIC
GROUP**

★ **REWARDS** ★

BOOK ★ EARN ★ REDEEM

\$500 BONUS POINTS
ON THIS ITINERARY

[VIEW ITINERARY](#)



CANADA'S WILDERNESS LODGES & UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

BOOK BY 8 AUG 2025

SAVE UP TO
\$1,000 PER COUPLE

What Makes Canada's Wilderness So Unforgettable?

- Dramatic landscapes from fjords to forests and tundra
- Vast, untouched nature with diverse wildlife
- Endless outdoor adventures in pristine, ever-changing environments

when experience matters

Fragmentation a burden

NINE in 10 travel agencies are managing four or more API integrations, with over half of those citing the fragmented environment as a tech burden, a global survey by Sabre has found.

Three-quarters of agencies also indicated the number of content connections grew in their operations over the past three years, while 80% stated a unified single platform would significantly cut down on costs.

Currently, half of agencies around the world need to engage with at least seven booking systems, while one in 10 said they typically have to utilise more than 10 on a daily basis.

Larger agencies are more likely to report a rise in booking systems, with 74-79% seeing growth, compared to just 57% of smaller agencies.

APAC also experienced the largest system growth, with 77% reporting additional sources,



versus only 53% in the Americas.

However the study also uncovered some important technology opportunities in the world of AI, with 91% of agencies believing it has the ability to enhance both productivity and the customer experience.

Most travel agents are at odds to implement AI without any filters though, with 41% expressing concerns about its long-term implications for the workforce, adding that "smart, responsible implementation" was needed moving forward.

Sabre's study was conducted between Apr and May, incorporating responses from 500 agencies across 14 countries. AB

Help Travel Advisors discover your product

Travel Daily Training Academy

[CLICK HERE FOR AN INFO PACK](#)

Travel Daily

Ponant adds spirit

PONANT has added a second catamaran to its Spirit of Ponant division to build on growing demand for its mini fleet.

Known as *La Desirade*, the 11-metre wide ship caters to nine travellers across four staterooms, plus a captain, first mate, private chef and hostess.

The vessel features large indoor and outdoor lounges, an open-plan kitchen, a trampoline and a selection of water sports.

The latest addition follows the launch of Ponant's self-titled maiden yacht *Spirit of Ponant*, which alternates between the Mediterranean and Africa yearly.



Aurora signs PEPR

MEDIA and communications agency PEPR will represent small-ship brand Aurora Expeditions in Australia and New Zealand, the company announced yesterday.

As its public relations agency of record, PEPR will work to further build Aurora's brand narrative, which will culminate in 2025 with the arrival of its third ship, *Douglas Mawson*, in Nov.

"Aurora is a true icon in the world of expedition cruising, and we're proud to support their next wave of growth," said PEPR Director, Philip Engelberts.

VA battery rethink

VIRGIN Australia is reviewing its onboard battery policy following a fire on a flight from Sydney to Hobart this week (**TD** 22 Jul).

The carrier currently allows lithium power packs as carry-on items, however this may change pending a CASA investigation.

CANADA



Focus Canada Agent Event

Join Destination Canada and our partners for a fun educational evening.

Wednesday, 03 September 2025
Intercontinental Hotel Sydney
5.00pm - 9.30pm

[Register Now!](#)

Registrations close 20 August
Focus Canada Australia

[Win a trip to Canada!](#)

AATKings

Escape the ordinary.

up to
\$2,200 AIR CREDIT
per couple on selected tours*

[Discover more](#)

*T&C's apply

INSIGHT VACATIONS

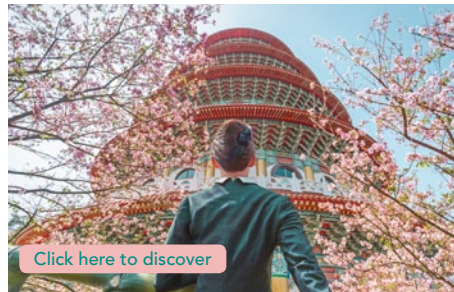
WELCOME TO

PREMIUM TOURING

EARLY BIRD: SAVE 10% ON 2026*

[BOOK NOW](#)

*T&C's apply.



ADELAIDE

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of MTA, which is hosting its 2025 annual national conference.

THE South Australian capital has been busy this year, and will continue to be over the next few weeks, hosting various travel industry events.

This week it is MTA's turn, as the agency network celebrates 25 years.

Advisors, suppliers, and trade media will gather tonight at Plant 4 for the welcome dinner, before the action kicks off in earnest tomorrow.

Speaking at the conference this year will be Olympian-turned-CEO Grant Hackett, founder of Glow London Emma Harris, and many more.

Women win right to sue

THE Federal Court has today permitted legal action to be launched against Qatar Airways by five Australian women who allegedly suffered a traumatic invasion of privacy at Doha Airport in 2020.

According to *The Guardian*, the authorisation comes after the group appealed a decision last year that said the airline could not be sued for the incident at Hamad International Airport prior to a Sydney flight.

The women were escorted from



the plane by armed guards and underwent invasive and non-consensual body examinations as part of an investigation by local authorities to locate the mother of an abandoned newborn baby.

The group is now expected to sue Qatar Airways and Doha Airport management company Matar for a range of alleged offences, including false imprisonment and battery.

However, the court dismissed the case against the Qatari Civil Aviation Authority, stating the actions of the government-run body "were in pursuit of public functions of the State of Qatar".

The matter is now expected to move to a full trial. *ML*

A Dunn Krisflyer deal

LUXURY brand Scott Dunn Asia has launched a new partnership with Singapore Airlines Group's loyalty program KrisFlyer.

The tie-up means KrisFlyer members in Australia booking through the Scott Dunn Singapore office can now earn points on qualifying trips.

Webjet Latitude deal

LATITUDE Financial and Webjet have partnered to offer the finance company's cardholders interest-free payment plans.

Those who hold a Latitude GO Mastercard and Latitude Gem Visa will now be able to enjoy a range of travel and accommodation options via six- and 12-month interest-free payment plans.

The options are now live on Webjet.com.au.

"This is a significant milestone which diversifies Latitude's offering into new strategic segments and presents an exciting opportunity to reach new audiences and continue delivering outstanding services," Latitude Executive GM Pay Adriana Martinez said.



Escape the Ordinary

SAVE 20% ON STAYS IN 2026
AT SELECTED DISCOVERY PARKS & RESORTS

Call (08) 6382 2166 or email bookings@bkbholidays.com



Terms and conditions apply. Book by 30 Oct 25 for selected travel dates. Blackout dates apply.

Image credit: Tourism Australia



Lifestyle booms in APAC

CHANGING travel preferences coupled with investor enthusiasm and an appetite for curated guest experiences are driving a boom in lifestyle hotels in the Asia Pacific.

According to a new *Lifestyle Hotels in Asia Pacific 2025* report from commercial real estate giant JLL, room supply in the lifestyle category is predicted to explode by 34% over the next two years,

with 10 new international brands expected to debut in that time.

The past decade has seen nearly 65,000 new rooms in the lifestyle segment introduced, with guests drawn by evolving consumer tastes, highly competitive pricing, and strong investor demand.

Findings from the JLL research showed that lifestyle hotels are registering a 30% premium in RevPAR when compared to traditional hotels.

The report said the focus of lifestyle hotels are becoming more concentrated on upscale and luxury, while midscale is also showing promising growth.

Australia and NZ are showing the greatest growth rate as well, driven by strong domestic tourism and demand for unique experiences, with lifestyle hotels delivering higher returns on F&B when positioned as destinations in their own right. *ML*

Pearl gets online

PEARL Expeditions has launched its maiden website after a period of delay, with users now able to explore the experience virtually via an immersive portal.

The highly visual platform features details about destinations to be visited by *Paspaley Pearl*, the expedition experience and the onboard lifestyle.

Each expedition is detailed along with stateroom prices and a referral to travel agents or contacts for direct bookings.

NZ made even easier

DISCOVER ANZCRO's newly released NZ Book, which makes it easier than ever for travel advisors to help plan a holiday in the destination.

The brochure features more than 50 new products, including boutique stays, adventure tours, and New Zealand's 'PurePods' luxury cabins.

There are also enhanced rail journeys, multi-day walks, and seven- to 13-day packages.

Advisors can view the 2025-2026 NZ Book online [HERE](#).

Tourist tax delayed

THAILAND has delayed the implementation of its long-touted tourist fee until at least next year.

The levy has faced numerous delays in the past (*TD* 18 Jun 2024), with the most recent announcement intending for it to be introduced by this year.

However, Minister for Tourism Sorawong Thienthong deemed the timing "inappropriate" due to "uncertainties" around demand.

100 YEARS.
ONE AMAZING JOURNEY.

We'd love your vote for Delta as
Most Popular Airline - Online
in the NTIA Awards!

KEEP CLIMBING
DELTA

[Vote now >](#)

NTIA
NOMINEE

NZ cruise in the spotlight



THE future of New Zealand's cruise industry was in the spotlight this week, with cruise leaders meeting senior government ministers in Wellington for roundtable discussions led by New Zealand Tourism and Hospitality Minister Louise Upston.

Representatives came from Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), the New Zealand Cruise Association (NZCA), Carnival Corporation, Royal Caribbean Group, Ponant, and Heritage Expeditions, as the collective discussed the importance of longer-term collaboration to boost international cruise tourism.

"This is a valuable opportunity to consider the many areas of government that support cruise operations and lay the foundations for greater collaboration between government, industry and local communities," noted CLIA Managing Director in Australasia

Joel Katz.

NZCA CEO Jacqui Lloyd emphasised the importance of a whole-of-government strategy to consider all areas of regulation, while Upston pointed to the significance of cruise in the NZ tourism industry, while protecting the country's natural assets. *JHM*

Preferred expands

INDEPENDENT hotel collective Preferred Hotels and Resorts has welcomed 18 new members in the second quarter of 2025.

New additions to the collection include major city properties such as Amara Singapore and classic homesteads like Green Pastures in Austin, Texas.

New Preferred members from Shanghai, Costa Rica, Algarve, Santorini, Tenerife, Milan and Lisbon are also among additions.

The company is celebrating by offering 2,500 bonus points to members of its 'I Prefer' loyalty program who book the new hotels.

CHINA AIRLINES

EXPERIENCE PREMIUM COMFORT ABOVE THE CLOUDS

— Fly to London —

2 Checked Bags (All cabins)



Club Med masters

HOME-BASED agents are being invited by all-inclusive resort operator Club Med to register for its 2025 Masterclasses and learn how to create marketing assets that can grow their businesses.

The one-day events will aim to build on similar sessions held last year at Club Med Bali, which saw 60 home-based agents attend a conference dedicated to the sector (**TD** 11 Nov 2024).

Two keynote sessions and one workshop will focus on content including 'Elevating Your Brand' and the 'Art of Photography', along with a session on AI in travel.

Sessions will be led by Canva expert Rebecca Flint, and will take place at the NSW State Library in Sydney on 19 Aug and Sofitel Melbourne on Collins on 26 Aug.

CLICK HERE to register.

Accor's easy gamble

ACCOR will make its Las Vegas debut later this year when the 2,884-room TI-Treasure Island Las Vegas Hotel & Casino joins its portfolio under a new franchise deal involving its Handwritten Collection brand.

The massive property will also become Accor's biggest hotel globally, with Treasure Island guests to benefit from access to Accor's global distribution network and loyalty program.



SYD supports next gen



Sydney Airport has awarded a SYD100 scholarship to university student Amber West, a Wiradjuri woman in her first year of aviation management at the University of New South Wales.

The scholarship program aims to support young people from diverse under-represented backgrounds to pursue a career in the aviation industry.

"I didn't grow up thinking a career in aviation was possible for someone like me, but I've always had a passion for joining the Air Force and knew I wanted to be part of that world," said West, who was inspired by her brother's service in the army to enter the industry.

"Coming from a regional town and as a First Nations woman, the SYD100 Scholarship means more than I can put into words.

"Being able to study at university without the financial burden gives me the chance to focus on my studies and pursue a future I never thought possible.

"I hope my story encourages other young people, especially Indigenous women and those from the regions, to believe it's never too late to chase your dreams," said West (**pictured**).

Through the initiative, recipients can gain hands-on experience from internship opportunities.

For example, 2023 recipient Timothy Walker is currently completing a 10-week stint with the safety and wellbeing team, while Jessie Huynh is working part-time in the operations team while completing university. **JHM**

Switzerland Week

RAILBOOKERS has launched a dedicated 'Switzerland Week', featuring exclusive offers across its range of Swiss itineraries, beginning from 28 Jul.

In partnership with Switzerland Tourism and Swiss Travel System, deals will span the company's range of 200 itineraries, with an extra \$100 off existing flash sales.

The sound of chops

REGIONAL Kiwi airline Sounds Air has confirmed it will axe major routes like Blenheim to Christchurch and Christchurch to Wanaka from 28 Sep, as it battles significant financial issues.

The carrier will also sell its fleet of Pilatus PC-12 aircraft and make a raft of staff cuts as it restructures its model after failing to court government support.

S Hotels goes Global

S HOTELS and Resorts (SHR) has joined the Global Hotel Alliance (GHA), the world's largest collection of independent hotel brands.

The partnership will see SHR launch SAii Discovery, its new loyalty program within the global GHA Discovery program.

Guests staying at SAii Laguna Phuket, SAii Phi Phi Island Village, SAii Koh Samui Villas and Santiburi Koh Samui will enjoy exclusive member benefits, rewards, and personalised experiences, from instant savings to room upgrades.

"Our partnership with Global Hotel Alliance and our inclusion in GHA Discovery with its over 30 million loyal members, opens up exceptional opportunities for SHR," said Michael Marshall, the CEO of S Hotels & Resorts.

"From increased direct bookings and revenue to data-driven insights into guest preferences, the team is gaining invaluable advantages while benefiting from GHA's powerful marketing and CRM initiatives," he added.

ARCTIC NORWAY FRONTIER

Oslo, Fjords & Svalbard



HURTIGRUTEN
Live the legend of Norway



With over 130 years of experience exploring Norway, Hurtigruten takes you 80° north — via one iconic train and two extraordinary sea voyages, on an 'eventyr' of a lifetime.

NEW TOUR PACKAGE

17-DAYS
FROM

\$12,499 pp*

\$500 off + \$500pp onboard credit

on all tour packages (for bookings by 12 Sept, 2025).

Don't miss out. Call our local Coastal Specialists on 1300 151 548 or visit agentportal.hurtigruten.com

More solo bookings

REFLECTIONS Holidays saw a 21% jump in bookings from solo travellers in the latest financial year compared to the prior year.

With women aged in their 40s and 50s leading the way, Reflections CEO Nick Baker said the appeal for its parks among solo travellers was its “ready-made and safe community of like-minded travellers”.

The company highlighted its most popular locations for solo travellers as Ballina, Urunga, Lake Burrendong, Burrinjuck Waters and Eden.

NSW Minister for Tourism Steve Kamper added he was pleased to see Reflections Holidays using Crown land to provide a safe and welcoming community for solo travellers across the state.

Hyatt eyes 90 hotels

NEW luxury properties from Hyatt Hotels are set to open in Australia between 2025 and 2026, as the hotelier plans to open close to 90 properties globally over the next five years.

This will include the launch of the Thompsons Hotel brand in Shanghai, as well as new entrants for Andaz, The Standard and Park Hyatt in markets such as Australia, Thailand and Malaysia.



WA operators inducted

MORE than 190 Western Australia tourism operators have been inducted into Tourism WA’s industry recognition program, The Dream Collective (**TD 07** May), in partnership with Tourism Council WA.

Now in its second year, the annual program champions WA businesses that are actively contributing to the state’s tourism sector, based on a set of criteria covering customer reviews, website, marketing activity, accreditation, and more.

The 2025 cohort includes Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm in the Dampier Peninsula, Mandalay Holiday Resort in Busselton, Live Ningaloo in Exmouth, to name a few.

Those who make the cut benefit from enhanced exposure, digital marketing, public relations support, and access to industry development initiatives from Tourism WA.

In its inaugural year, the program promoted participating businesses to more than 2.3 million high-yield travellers worldwide, and drove 42,000 visits to their business’ profiles from [westernaustralia.com](https://www.westernaustralia.com).

New dreams at sea

SEADREAM Yacht Club has released its spring 2028 Caribbean season, with 32 new itineraries between Jan and Apr on board mega-yachts *SeaDream I* and *SeaDream II*, featuring watersports and beach parties.



Additionally, more than 60 Dream Collective businesses were showcased in over 250 famils to global travel agents, media, and travel wholesalers.

“The Dream Collective has provided incredible exposure and valuable support for WA operators, helping to build a high performing WA industry and grow local tourism businesses, while showcasing Western Australia’s world-class experiences and strengthening our position as a must-visit destination,” said Tourism WA Managing Director Anneke Brown. *JM*

LTC getting social

THE Luxury Travel Collection (LTC) has launched its own Instagram page, which it said will showcase a curated collection of products and experiences.

“From our evolving Galleries de Luxe portfolio to bespoke ‘Designed by LTC’ packages, our feed will highlight the unique benefits and immersive experiences of each offering, revealing the incredible access LTC membership provides - for both our members and their clients,” the brand announced.

The FCTG division’s page can be found at [@Luxury.Travel.Collection](https://www.Luxury.Travel.Collection).



Window Seat

A FAMOUS tourist attraction in Dublin is the subject of added security so it can be protected from incessant groping by tourists.

The statue of Molly Malone, a quasi-historical Irish figure who was said to be a fishmonger by day and a sex worker by night, has had her breasts rubbed by visitors so vigorously that the statue has become discoloured.

While the tradition of kneading the chest area of the Malone figure is said to be less about sexual deviancy and more about a belief it will bring luck to those who do, it has nonetheless prompted concerns from locals.

The new layer of protection from the Dublin City Council will involve flower beds placed around the plinth holding the statue to prevent anybody getting too close.

Failing that measure, a new #MeToo for inanimate objects may be needed.



GLOBUS
family of brands

NTIA 2025
NATIONAL TRAVEL
INDUSTRY AWARDS
NOMINEE

THE FORCE RUNS STRONG IN THIS FAMILY

GLOBUS FAMILY OF BRANDS FOR
MOST OUTSTANDING TOUR OPERATOR (CAT 22)

VOTE YOU MUST



GLOBUS
COSMOS
AVALON
WATERWAYS

Millions of jobs needed

NEARLY 2.4 million extra aviation professionals will be required through to 2044 to keep up with increasing traveller demand, emerging markets, and fleet changes, according to Boeing's newly released 2025 *Pilot and Technician Outlook*.

The annual 20-year forecast also stated that commercial carriers will need to invest substantially in hiring and training to maintain their growing commercial fleets.

These include 660,000 pilots; 710,000 maintenance technicians; and one million cabin crew members.

Chris Broom, Vice President, Commercial Training Solutions at Boeing Global Services, noted a greater uptake of technology was needed to further support workforce development.

"The industry is investing in technologies, including mixed



reality - an immersive blend of physical and digital environments that enhances hands-on learning and situational awareness," Broom said.

"Boeing is supporting customers with digitally advanced aviation training products and services to meet needs," he added. *JHM*

Etihad's revolution

ETIHAD Airways' loyalty program has partnered with global neobank Revolut to offer members more ways to earn and redeem Etihad Guest Miles.

Travellers will be able to convert everyday RevPoints into Etihad Guest Miles instantly at a one-for-one ratio through the Revolut app, unlocking rewards and upgrades across flights to hundreds of destinations, as well as hotel stays and items from the Etihad Guest Reward Shop.

The announcement comes as the carrier prepares to add 27 new destinations to its network this year, such as Phnom Penh, Sumatra, and Hong Kong.

Jeju crash probed

INVESTIGATORS have hinted that pilot error may be behind the Jeju Air Crash that killed 179 passengers in South Korea in Dec last year (*TD* 07 Jan).

An initial report shows that, while both of the plane's engines sustained bird strikes, its pilots turned off the less-damaged one just before the crash landing, however did not state why.

Bereaved families and pilots at Jeju Air and other carriers have criticised the findings, and are demanding authorities release the cockpit voice recorder.

Travellers Choice hits the mark



ARROWS flew when Travellers Choice BDMs caught up in Perth earlier this month - although fortunately, they were not aimed at each other.

The missiles were instead targeted at a colourful dartboard at Flight Club, a downtown bar where the traditional English pub game has been reinvented with a range of new fun and entertaining multiplayer competitions.

The Flight Club experience was part of a two-day get-together designed to help the BDMs stay up-to-speed with Travellers Choice developments and ensure they continue to work effectively as a national team.

BDMs also refreshed their knowledge of Travellers Choice's constantly-evolving products and services, with the program

including presentations from preferred suppliers such as Sabre and AirTickets.

"Through workshops and discussion forums, our management team personally updated our state-based BDMs on our roadmap for the year ahead, ensuring every member of the team clearly understands our company's objectives," GM Sales Nicola Strudwick said.

"While our members are all fiercely independent travel agents, they know they can always call on our BDMs for support...by investing in ongoing training, we ensure our team can help members achieve business growth by taking full advantage of all the benefits that come from being a Travellers Choice member," she added. *MS*

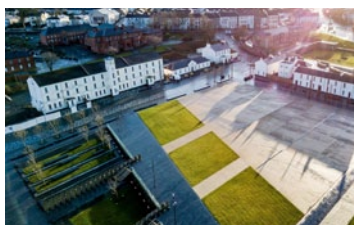
More elegance in UK

TRAVEL advisors can now access four additional luxury UK properties via the Elegant Hotel Collection.

Chateau Denmark in central London, The Ebrington in Derry-Londonderry (*pictured*), and Bingham Riverhouse in Richmond, Surrey now feature in the luxury hotel representation company's portfolio, as well as The Shepherd Mayfair, which is set to launch in London's Mayfair late 2025.

According to the Elegant Hotel Collection, these independent properties are ideal for discerning clients who are seeking authenticity and individuality.

The collection's hotels are now bookable in the GDS under the chain code 'HO'.



Fewer flights, more pax

DOMESTIC passenger numbers for May climbed above figures from both 12 months ago and the pre-pandemic period, the latest Bureau of Infrastructure & Transport Research Economics (BITRE) data showed.

There were 5.2 million passengers carried on Australian domestic commercial flights (including charter operations) in May 2025, compared with 5.13 million in the prior corresponding period (+1.4%).

This is also an increase of 1.6% on the pre-COVID period of May 2019, when passenger numbers totalled 5.12 million.

Of the total 2.2 million, 4.84 million passengers were carried on commercial flights, while capacity was also up slightly, increasing to 7.14 billion available seat kilometres in May 2025, compared to 7.12 billion in May 2024 (+0.3%).

The industry-wide load factor



also increased from 78.3% in May 2024 to 80.7% in May 2025.

Rural services especially performed well for May, with 2.08 million domestic passenger movements through regional airports - an increase of 2.5% from May 2024.

The impressive increases were off the back of fewer total flights operated, which fell from 618,500 in May 2024 to 603,400 in May this year.

A contributing factor over the last 12 months was Rex Airlines ceasing to fly its intra-city routes (*TD* 31 Jul), as well as the short-lived low-cost carrier Bonza, which also collapsed around the same time (*TD* 03 Jul 2024). *MS*



\$60m Vic stadium

FRANKSTON City in Victoria is boosting its ability to attract regional and national events, with the \$60 million redevelopment of its local stadium kicking off this week.

With the aim of becoming a modern, high-capacity sporting hub, the redesigned facility will feature a two-storey, 10-court stadium, two multi-purpose courts, upstairs viewing area, cafe, sustainable design, and more.

The stadium is expected to support 451,000 annual visits.

"What we're building here goes far beyond sport," stated Frankston City Mayor Kris Bolam.

"With the capacity to host televised events and attract visitors from across Victoria and beyond, this facility will create new opportunities for local businesses."

CHRISTCHURCH COURTS BIG CROWDS

CHRISTCHURCH is ready to embrace major events, with new research showing the New Zealand city and its surrounds have enough commercial accommodation capacity to host around 39,200 per night.

This is welcome news to the city as it prepares for a bumper year of major events in 2026, boosted by the opening of One New Zealand Stadium at Te Kaha.

The research by Fresh Info was commissioned by ChristchurchNZ to help its understanding of the accommodation market in the city and its surrounds.

"With the opening of One New Zealand Stadium at Te Kaha, Otautahi Christchurch has the perfect opportunity to become the events capital of the country," said ChristchurchNZ General Manager of Destination and Attraction Loren Aberhart.

"This data shows our city has



the capacity to welcome these large events in a balanced way, where we can enjoy both the excitement and economic benefits of events."

Electric Avenue 2025 (pictured) generated 62,902 visitor nights with an average stay of 2.97 nights in May, and Supercars Championship, which is confirmed for 17-19 April 2026, is projected to generate around 38,000 visitor nights across those three days.

Christchurch will also play

host to Aotearoa Hotel Industry Conference and Exhibition (AHICE) on 12-13 Aug, which is expected to attract growth and investment in New Zealand's hotel sector.

The conference will take place at Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre, drawing over 500 of Australasia's leading hotel owners, operators, consultants and suppliers for two days of networking, panel sessions, Q&As and keynote discussions. JM

Elevate your events

SOFITEL Sydney Darling Harbour has launched a trio of new conference offers designed to drive business on traditionally quieter Mondays and Fridays.

Event planners can choose from complimentary upgrades and exclusive perks, including barista coffee service for arrival and morning tea break times; breakfast upon arrival; or a networking drinks package.

The offer is valid for events booked on Mondays and Fridays for the rest of 2025 - more [HERE](#).

Sunshine Coast crunches the numbers

MORE than 1,500 delegates from around the world gathered at the Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort last week for the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO).

Regarded as the most prestigious mathematical competition in the world, the event was held over 10 days and involved 635 students from 114 countries - the largest number of countries to participate at IMO since it

launched in 1959.

This year's event, which was attended by 1,500, marked the first time IMO has been held in Australia since 1988.

"The Olympiad [delivered] an immediate economic boost to the Sunshine Coast, estimated at over \$6 million, while in the longer term it demonstrates the region's ability to stage large-scale business events," said VSC Head of Business Events, Ali Thompson.

Win a Perth trip

EVENT organisers can now win a luxury getaway for two to Perth, including return flights to the WA capital and three nights' accommodation at the newly refurbished Pan Pacific Perth.

To go in the draw, book an event with Parkroyal Darling Harbour, Sydney or Parkroyal Parramatta by 31 Aug.

To qualify, events must be held between now and 31 Jul 2026 - find out more [HERE](#).

The 25th Annual

BTTB TRAVEL CONFERENCE, GALA DINNER & AWARDS.

A TWO DAY DEEP DIVE INTO THE TRAVEL CATEGORY

- Expert Speakers
- Awards
- Gala Dinner
- Networking Opportunities



7-8
AUGUST

Royal Randwick
Racecourse,
Sydney

btTB

FREE BUYER TICKETS
FOR THE FIRST 100
BUYERS TO REGISTER

REGISTER NOW

Limited Exhibitor packages remain - contact deanna@pasa.net.au

APPOINTMENTS

Send your new appointments to:
appointments@traveldaily.com.au

Returning to the **Flight Centre Travel Group** fold after eight years away, **Melissa Armstrong** has been appointed as the company's Global Leisure People Partner. Armstrong steps into the role vacated by Allisa O'Connell following her promotion to FCTG Global Head of People and Culture, and brings diversified HR experience with Estol and Woolworths.

Virtuoso has promoted **Sophie Treasure** to the role of Director Global Partnerships - AUNZ, Greater China, North & South East Asia. Treasure joined the luxury agent network two years ago as an Account Director after spending five years working with Tourism Australia.

Bespoke travel experience brand **Eclipse Travel** has promoted **Hilary Dubyk** to the role of General Manager. Having been with the company since 2018 - minus a pandemic-induced hiatus - Dubyk has worked her way up after enjoying success as Sales and Marketing Director, where she played a key role in the company's rebrand and web transformation.

Aussie expat and cruising specialist **Jarrold Zurvas** has recently had his role at **Celestial Cruises** expanded to include Australia & New Zealand as the brand's Director of Business Development Asia Pacific. Zurvas remains based in Malaysia in his new position but will be visiting often.

Morocco specialist brand **By Prior Appointment** has welcomed **Feriel Bel Cadhi** to the role of Sales and Travel Coordinator, based in Australia. Fluent in French and Arabic, Bel Cadhi has extensive experience travelling northern Africa and is eager to put her knowledge to the test.

Globus family of brands has elevated **Jeanelie Pascual** to the role of Assistant Accountant. Pascual has been with the company for a little over two years and formerly held the role of finance officer.

Former Heritage Hotel Management GM **Rachael Nicholson** has joined the team at **Accor** as its new Director, Commercial - New Zealand & Fiji. In her new role, Nicholson brings more than 20 years from the airline, hotel and cruise sectors with a strong reputation in leadership, sales and maximising the customer experience.

Veteran marketing professional **Renee Soutar** has been promoted to Chief Marketing Officer at **Village Roadshow Theme Parks**. Soutar will continue to be based on the Gold Coast in her new role, which will see her lead the strategic direction and execution of marketing activities.

Six years after joining the team as a spa receptionist, **Six Senses Fiji** has promoted **Litia Toqabale** to Spa Director on the back of the facility recently winning a major national tourism award.

Emerging residential living at-sea brand **Crescent Seas** has appointed **Thatcher Brown** as its CEO, who brings 25 years of luxury hospitality experience to his new role. The former Virtuoso executive's new duties will include developing the brand's vision as the leader in ocean living.

Langham makes run for it



LANGHAM Hospitality Group recently held its Langham Pink Run to raise proceeds for eight different health, educational and environmental causes around the world.

The global series of charity walks and sprints marked the 160th anniversary of the hotel giant's flagship brand, The Langham Hotels and Resorts.

"The Langham Pink Run was more than a tribute to our past - it was a reflection of who we are today," explained Langham Hospitality Group Chief Executive Officer Bob van den Oord.

"We're incredibly proud to have united people around causes that truly matter, through a program that clearly showcases what The Langham's culture is all about: bold steps, shared purpose, and lasting impact," he added.

From the East Coast Boardwalk in Hong Kong and Clapham Common Park in London to Sudirman Avenue in Jakarta and the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne (**pictured**), the Langham Pink Run events took place in 10 cities, each home to

one of The Langham's properties.

Attendees included team members, hotel guests and local community members, all dressed in customised pink jerseys, and given a commemorative medal and the opportunity to earn 16,000 award points and a diamond tier upgrade under LHG's Brilliant by Langham loyalty and experiences platform. *JHM*

Hapag's winter sails

HAPAG-LLOYD Cruises has revealed its range of expeditions taking place on its fleet of five ships during the upcoming 2025/26 winter.

Luxury ship *Europa* will spend the season sailing the warmer Indian Ocean waters, exploring eastern Africa, while *Europa 2* will be found sailing from New York and into the New England region.

More in-depth itineraries on *Hanseatic Nature*, *Hanseatic Inspiration* and *Hanseatic Spirit* will see the ships exploring Norway and Lapland; Patagonia and the Chilean fjords; and Antarctica respectively.

Show your support for APT today

CATEGORY 22
MOST OUTSTANDING
TOUR OPERATOR - GLOBAL

CATEGORY 30
MOST POPULAR
RIVER CRUISE OPERATOR

CATEGORY 32
MOST POPULAR
RESERVATIONS TEAM



VOTE NOW

Your vote means everything to us.

NTIA 21
215
NATIONAL TRAVEL
INDUSTRY AWARDS
NOMINEE



Become a Northern Territory expert

Win a trip to the NT *



Join our live webinar to discover what the Red Centre has on offer, inspired by the new Kangaroo movie and the growing 'set-jetting' trend.

Tuesday 5 August 11.00am (AEST) | 10.30am (ACST) | 1.00pm (NZST)

Wednesday 6 August 1.00pm (AEST) | 12.30pm (ACST) | 3.00pm (NZST)

Register now

Different in every sense

* For registration and eligibility, visit trade.northernterritory.com



**NORTHERN
TERRITORY**