

## HX free upgrade

**FREE** suite upgrades and exclusive prices are available on HX's cruises in Antarctica and other destinations.

Passengers can score up to 15% off if they book by the end of next month - head to **page 10** of today's **TD** for more information.

## AI-backed future for FCTG

**FLIGHT** Centre Travel Group (FCTG) is ramping up investments in AI as part of a strategy to boost productivity, disrupt traditional offerings and enhance customer experiences (**TD** breaking news).

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange today, the company revealed several new AI-backed projects are underway via its AI Centre of Excellence.

An agreement with AI company Anthropic will see FCTG roll out the Claude For Work solution to boost productivity and provide organisation-wide cost savings.

Claude will be positioned as an AI 'co-consultant' and is now being trialled in the leisure division but may be more widely integrated via its API adaptability.

Further development will also go into AI-powered chatbots across the leisure and corporate divisions, including Sam, unveiled recently by TMC brand FCM Travel (**TD** 27 Jun).

FCTG's AI-backed objectives were revealed in a preliminary and unaudited look at its 2024/25 trading results, in which it said it expects to record an underlying profit before tax of between \$285-\$295 million - short of its



projected \$300-\$335 million goal.

Earlier this year, FCTG revised its target down from an initial expectation of \$365-\$405 million, a move attributed to US economic uncertainty and erratic border admission policies (**TD** 28 Apr).

The result will come despite the company setting a new record Total Transaction Value for the year of an expected \$24.5 billion.

FCTG said the result reflects "short-term cyclical challenges encountered late in year" including underperformance and non-recurring costs in Asia, growing Middle East tensions and the ongoing downturn in bookings to the United States.

This volatility is influencing Australian travellers to holiday in closer-to-home destinations such as Asia, New Zealand or the South Pacific or delay travelling entirely.

FCTG Managing Director Graham Turner said FY25 had proven to be a volatile year.

"To boost future profits, we have implemented comprehensive strategies to enhance performance and capitalise on the substantial opportunities ahead," he said.

The company also teased a new loyalty program to come, which it said will deliver "a significant new revenue stream and a superior customer experience". *ML*

## Aurora's big savings

**ENJOY** big adventures and even bigger savings with Aurora Expeditions for a limited time.

Passengers can save up to 40% on select expeditions in Aurora's upcoming Antarctica season.

More details on the offer are available on **page 11**.



## 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

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Registrations close 20 August

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## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features nine pages of news, including our **Business Events News** feature, plus full pages from:

- HX
- Aurora Expeditions

**Wendy Wu Tours**

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## Harris heads out

**CAMERON** Harris has departed FCTG after 19 years with the company, including the last three spent as Global Leader Flight Centre Business Travel and Specialist Brands.

Harris said a restructure resulted in his redundancy.

## Luxury Escapes' big perks

**LUXURY** Escapes' Societe has plans to become "Australia's favourite lifestyle rewards program", with benefits including guaranteed room upgrades at the time of booking, private chauffeur airport transfers from home to the airport and lounge access at international terminals at SYD, MEL and BNE.

Other perks include priority Australian-based customer support via a 24/7 number and plenty of bonuses and discounts as well as hidden offers only available to members.

"We want to make sure we are rewarding our most loyal customers & avoid the frustration of them having a big bank of points but not being able to redeem them when and how they want," said CEO Adam Schwab

of the program, which officially launched this week.

Membership is free and travellers are able to earn Societe Points and Status Credits across Luxury Escape's network of holidays, tours, hotel bookings, flights and experiences.

Customers are able to redeem their points on everything on the platform and can use points instead of cash, or a combination of both. *JHM*

## France hikes fees

**VISITORS** to France from outside of the EU are set to face higher entry fees to the country's cultural landmarks and museums from 01 Jan 2026.

The new prices will be rolled out across the Louvre, Versailles and Chambord castles, and more.

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CRUISES

YOUR INVITATION  
TO A LUXURY  
YACHT CRUISING  
WEBINAR

Friday 8  
August at  
10:30am (AEST)

## Uniworld gets Rallio

**UNIWORLD** has introduced a slate of new marketing tools for Australian and New Zealand agents, including complimentary access to social media marketing platform, Rallio.

The platform provides a range of Uniworld social media content that can be customised, scheduled and tracked using intuitive analytics.

Agents can connect their social media accounts and publish posts featuring Uniworld products, updates and brand highlights, with automatic posting available. Set up your account **HERE**.

## Experience Co soars

**EXPERIENCE** Co has released its unaudited FY25 results, which show its strongest sales revenue since FY19.

Both its Skydiving and Adventure Experiences segments saw improved average revenue per customer, which the business attributes to a growing appetite for adventure travel and the ongoing recovery of int'l tourism.

The company reported revenue growth for both Australia and New Zealand in Q4 2025, driven by strong demand in Apr, but partially dampened by weather impacting trading in May and Jun.

Experience Co's Skydive Australia reported a total volume growth of 12% for the quarter for operating sites compared to the prior corresponding period, while the brand was up 4% in NZ.

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## Rex purchase not for VA

**PURCHASING** Rex is not currently under serious consideration by Virgin Australia, according to Race Strauss, VA's Chief Financial Officer (**pictured**). Speaking on a panel at the CAPA Airline Leader Summit APAC in Cairns today, Strauss was asked by a member of the audience whether VA is considering purchasing the beleaguered REX.

"We look at REX like every other investment - through a very disciplined capital management framework," he said.

"Would it return its cost of capital over the cycle? That is the most important thing."



Strauss suggested that while REX's regional business is a very strong business, the problem in his view is that it "didn't invest in the fleet, that means that [it has] a significant capital cliff that whoever takes that business needs to address".

He admitted that in the short term, that is not something VA is willing to take on.

"Looking at the numbers of that, it will give an airline like us that applies that very disciplined framework an economic issue."

Strauss said that removing that hurdle would make Rex appealing, but the way it is positioned at the moment put VA out of the running. **DF**

## Canuckiwi Hollywood

**CANUCKIWI** has been appointed as the public relations and media representation agency for Visit West Hollywood in Australia and New Zealand.

The agency will focus on raising the profile of West Hollywood among Aussie travellers, implementing a targeted PR strategy, including a famil program and partnership opportunities.

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**Kyushu**

JAPAN

## Warning cancelled

**FLIGHTS** at Hawaii's airports have resumed after a tsunami warning prompted temporary suspension of services (**TD 20 Jul**).

Most major carriers are allowing impacted customers to rebook existing flights without penalty, including American Airlines, which has implemented a waiver for flights to and from Honolulu, Kahului (Maui), Kona and Lihue (Kauai), as well as Tokyo, through to tomorrow.

Delays are expected to continue, with travellers advised to reach out to their airline, and visitors near the coastline urged to remain cautious.

## Japan gets Jurassic

**JAPAN** has just opened what may be the closest thing to Jurassic Park - a new theme park combining adventure sport and encounters with hyper-realistic, life-size dinosaurs.

Spread across 600,000m<sup>2</sup> of Yanbaru forest, Junglia Okinawa features a 'Dinosaur Safari' ride, where guests can encounter up to 20 models of the prehistoric animals in the jungle, including a 19-metre-tall brachiosaurus.

There are also a number of other high-adrenaline attractions, including a zipline, giant swing, tree-top trekking, and hot air balloon, plus a kids' dinosaur zone, day spa, and dining options.

A one-day pass costs 8,800 yen (A\$91.00) for int'l tourists.



## Travel tech summit

**LUXURY** global network Virtuoso's Travel Tech Summit is back on 09 Aug in Las Vegas.

Taking place during Virtuoso Travel Week, the event focuses on how smart tech can be used to enhance human connection.

Speakers include Gilad Berenstein, Virtuoso Board Member; Paul Kearney, Virtuoso's SVP, Technology; Jared Shalhoub, Head of Digital Experience at AmaWaterways; and more.

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## Two resorts in one for Club Med Africa

### EXCLUSIVE

**CLUB** Med's upcoming debut in South Africa (**TD** 04 Jul) will see it operate two separate properties as a defined package experience, with time spent at a beach resort coupled with a safari component.

Speaking to **TD**, Club Med Pacific General Manager Michelle Davies revealed a 75-tent glamping-style safari experience will be available for travellers aged four and up, accessed via a 45-minute flight from its soon-to-open beach resort two hours north of Durban.

The Club Med Beach and Safari experience will be anchored by a 345-room resort and require a minimum five-night stay to unlock access to the Mpilo Safari Lodge, located within a private 18,000-hectare KwaZulu-Natal game reserve.

The safari lodge will feature a swimming pool in an adults-only area, a restaurant and



a supervised children's zone offering family-friendly activities.

Daily safari game drives will offer access to Africa's Big Five of lions, leopards, rhinos, elephants, and Cape buffalos.

Both the beach resort and the safari lodge will retain Club Med's all-inclusive hallmark, with all meals, games drives and resort activities built into the price.

"[Travellers] can combine a safari experience where you can see the Big Five in a private safari reserve as part of your

beach experience, which is really special," Davies said.

"So that all-inclusive booking experience that you have is even more intensified with this unique concept of combining these two holiday aspects."

Stays at the safari lodge will be sold as "departures", with the maiden safari taking off from the beach resort on 04 Jul next year.

Bookings for the beach resort and safari lodge open in Oct, with pricing available in the Club Med agent portal on 30 Sep. *ML*

### Travel Daily ON LOCATION



#### CAIRNS

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you from Cairns, where the CAPA Airline Leader Summit APAC is taking place.

**IN THE** recent reader survey, it was clear that **Travel Daily** readers wanted more aviation coverage, so today and tomorrow we are in Cairns to cover the significant sessions from CAPA.

The speaker line-up will include Virgin Australia Chief Executive Officer Dave Emerson; Markus Svensson, Chief Executive Officer of Qantas Domestic; and Jeremy O'Brien, Chief Commercial Officer at Air New Zealand.

Tonight, there will also be networking drinks sponsored by CVFR and a gala dinner.

## 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**

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**Wednesday 6 August**

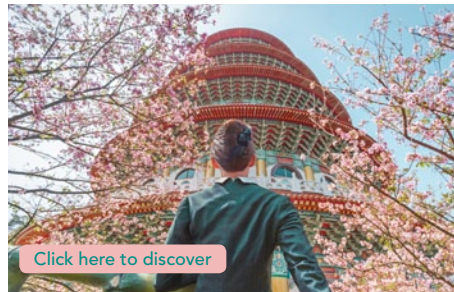
1.00pm (AEST) | 12.30pm (ACST) | 3.00pm (NZST)

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\* For registration and eligibility, visit [trade.northernterritory.com](https://trade.northernterritory.com)



**Register now**



## First Nations toolkit

**THE** Victoria Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) has released a new toolkit to help tourism businesses engage with First Nations people and communities in a culturally appropriate way.

Developed by the Australian Tourism Council (ATC) in partnership with the ATIC First Nations Reference Group, the Connecting to Culture Toolkit was designed as a practical, easy-to-use online resource.

The guide can help businesses develop a clear understanding of how they currently connect with First Nations people and culture, and provides actionable steps to deepen engagement, as well as trusted resources to guide culturally appropriate practice.

VTIC Acting CEO Chris Porter said the toolkit "simplifies what can often feel like a complex space and offers a respectful entry point for tourism operators looking to make a genuine impact".

Access the toolkit **HERE**.

## Please slow the f\*\*\* down

**GLOW** London CEO and former Sales & Marketing Director of Eurostar Emma Harris has urged travel professionals to "slow the f\*\*\*" down and take better care of themselves.

Speaking at the MTA national conference in Adelaide, Harris shared her personal trials and tribulations in fast-paced travel roles, which also included senior positions at Virgin Holidays.

Her extreme dedication to the roles took a significant toll on her health when, three years ago, she suffered a cardiac arrest during a work assignment in New York.

"Slow the f\*\*\* down is not about doing less, it is about doing the s\*\*\* that you need to do because your unconscious minds are on a hamster wheel - it is about decluttering.

"That's stopping doing things that you don't need to be doing in order to do the things you want and need to do and turn up



as the best version of yourself."

With a constantly changing travel industry, Harris suggested that professionals waste a lot of energy worrying about "rules and the economic situation - things that are beyond our control", rather than focusing on what they can control, which would allow them to manage stress and create a healthier environment for themselves.

"If any of you walk out the door today with one thing you are going to do, it really should be to work on your sphere of control," Harris implored. *DF*



## Window Seat

**A MAN** who managed to trick his way onto 120 free flights by posing as cabin crew has finally been caught.

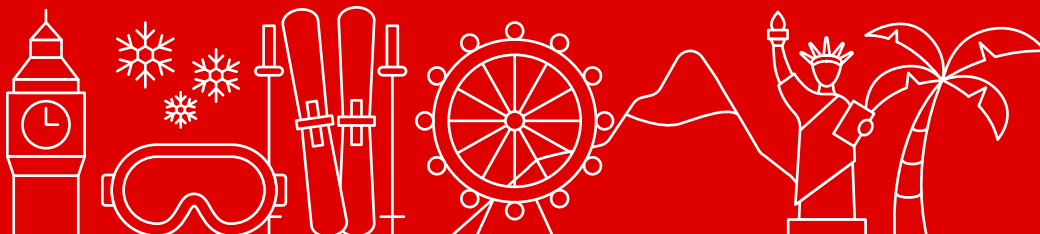
The 35-year old Florida man, who is a former airline employee, was able to access flights on a carrier's website that were reserved for cabin crew and pilots between 2018-2024.

Under the guise of a flight attendant, Alexander Tiron managed to book and board the flights without being discovered, by entering in cabin crew badge number details into the airline's flight application website.

The fraudster's escapade came to end last month when the TSA arrested and convicted him; he will face sentencing on 25 Aug.

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\*Sale ends 11.59pm (AEST) 4 August 2025 unless sold out prior. Select routes, travel dates and terms and conditions apply.



## Agents go Beyond in India



**GROUPS** by Beyond hosted 12 advisors on a famil trip to India earlier this month, sponsored by the Oberoi hotel chain.

Kicking off in Delhi, the journey showcased the cultural tapestry and scenic landscapes of India, including historical marvels such as the Qutub Minar and Humayun's Tomb.

The group also explored the bazaars of Old Delhi, which travel agent Holly Velardo from Holly Day Travel (**pictured**) described as a highlight.

She said, "The colours, sounds, and flavours are something every traveller should embrace".

The famil also featured a visit to the Taj Mahal at sunrise; a trip to Jaipur's Amber Fort and the city palace; and experiencing culinary delights at the Oberoi properties.

"This famil not only showcased the incredible offerings of India but also strengthened relationships between travel agents and hoteliers," said Tony Gattari, GM and Director of Groups and Beyond. *JM*

## Mudgee goes public

**MUDGE** Region Tourism has launched a new campaign to introduce a new public holiday in NSW aimed at incentivising travellers to take a long weekend country holiday.

The campaign, known as 'Mudgee Monday', will be tabled to NSW Premier Chris Minns.

A nationwide study found 72% would support more public holidays, with 57% saying it would help reduce burnout and 55% adding they would prefer a regional destination over a major city for their next domestic trip.

"Towns like Mudgee, Gulgong, Kandos and Rylstone remind people of how travel should be - slow, unhurried and deeply personal," said Mudgee Region Tourism CMO Beau Kassas.

"We want to encourage visitors to stop rushing, and consider the true benefits of creating their own long-weekend anytime by simply taking a Mudgee Monday."

**CLICK HERE** to add your support.

## Travel Daily Training Academy

Help Travel Advisors discover your destination

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## FNQ faces tourism challenges

**TOURISM** leaders are visiting Far North Queensland this week to listen and act on key tourism challenges facing the region.

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) board is visiting Cairns and Port Douglas to hear directly from local operators about the region's issues and opportunities, and to ensure action is being taken.

Chief Executive Officer Natassia Wheeler said while FNQ has experienced a strong school holiday period, forward domestic bookings are uncertain.

"International demand is very strong - that's the good news - but domestic softness and cost pressures continue to challenge operators across the region," Wheeler said.

Funding models for tourism infrastructure are also under the spotlight, particularly in low-population areas experiencing high visitor numbers.

"In Douglas Shire, for example, there are 12 visitors to every resident each year - that puts enormous pressure on local infrastructure and services.

"In areas like this, we need sustainable funding solutions that reflect the true scale of visitor impact - not just population."

Insurance also remains a critical concern, with premiums and excesses threatening business' long-term viability. *MS*

## UA, jetBlue ticked

**UNITED** Airlines and low-cost carrier jetBlue have received approval from the United States' Department of Transportation for their Blue Sky partnership.

Specifics on the pact are yet to be revealed, but it will include an interline agreement, as well as loyalty redemption opportunities for UA's MileagePlus customers and jetBlue's TrueBlue members.

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## Growth of the 'frolliday'



**INCREASING** numbers of Gen Z travellers combining a business trip with a holiday has evolved from bleisure into a 'frolliday', according to Corporate Traveller.

The new term aims to define corporate colleagues who are also friends, or 'frolleagues', who extend and convert their business trip into a leisure holiday together.

The data is backed up by Hilton, which recently released its *2025 Trends Report* showing one in five 'frolleagues' travel together, with Gen Z most likely to do so.

One example are Brisbane-based professionals Natalie Farmer, Eliza Woods and Georgia Trainor (pictured), who formed a strong friendship at university and now plan to travel to Europe together next summer.

"We were spending five days a week together and became close very quickly, and before we knew it, we were planning weekend trips to the Gold Coast, and now, a trip to Europe," Farmer said.

"We all work in the city and have booked the trip through

Flight Centre, so it's been easy to pop into the store on our lunch break and plan parts of the holiday," she added.

Flight Centre Travel Group Managing Director Andrew Stark said its booking data showed a proclivity for nearly three in four Gen Z travellers to combine work with a subsequent leisure trip.

"Our research told us that Gen Z - more than any other generation - are likely to use travel as an opportunity to build deeper relationships, and with this generation also leading the bleisure trend, it's no surprise to see colleagues holidaying together," Stark said.

Corporate Traveller Global MD Tom Walley said bleisure has shifted from families and singles to colleagues teaming up.

"It is particularly common among younger corporates, who perhaps don't yet have a family of their own but are still eager to share these exciting new experiences and memories with others," Walley said. *ML*

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## Private sector help

**AMERICA'S** Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is asking the private sector to suggest and implement ways to overhaul the travel experience.

Businesses are being invited to offer ways to improve the security experience, incorporate AI-driven threat detection, and optimise workforce capabilities through automation or robotics.

The effort is part of a broader objective to revolutionise the overall role of airport security in the everyday passenger process.

The department recently moved to end a requirement for travellers to remove their shoes prior to passing security on the back of new tech advancements at place in US airports (*TD* 10 Jul).

Further reviews are likely to examine whether travellers can keep laptops in their bags, carry liquids on planes, and bring personal water bottles on board.

Proposals from businesses are due for submission by the end of this week.

## New line in the sand

**THE** NSW Tourism Association and Canberra Region Tourism Industry Council have released an updated boundary agreement for tourism operators in the Canberra and Southern NSW regions.

The change replaces the previous 72km radius from the Canberra GPO with clearly defined local government area boundaries, and aims to offer greater clarity and consistency to operators.

Moving forward, tourism businesses within the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and Yass Valley Council will be aligned with the Canberra Region Tourism Awards program, as well as associated membership and accreditation pathways.

"This adjustment is a practical step to ensure clarity for operators, reduce administrative burden and ultimately improve access to support, recognition and industry development opportunities," said NSW Tourism Association Chief Executive Officer Natalie Godward.

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## Air NZ events fly

AIR New Zealand has launched its Regional Event Sponsorship Program, which aims to support and scale new and emerging events in the 20 regions it flies to.

The initiative intends to help build the country's event calendar, particularly during shoulder and off-peak seasons, and will kick off with support for The Spectacle running festival in Nelson and the Hamilton Arts Festival.

"We want to back brilliant local events that deserve the spotlight," said Air NZ Chief Sustainability and Corporate Affairs Officer Kiri Hannifin.

"These events not only celebrate the spirit of their regions, but they also give people another reason to visit, explore, and stay a little longer," she added.

## Name the venue

**HOBART** Crowne Plaza has offered a sneak peek of its new event space, inviting members of the public to help name the venue for the chance to win a major prize.

The person who submits the winning name before 25 Aug will score two tickets to the exclusive launch celebration, 15% off their event or meeting (book by Dec 2025) and two complimentary bottles of Tasmanian sparkling wine for their event.

Enter the giveaway [HERE](#).

## LISTER LAUDED FOR EVENTS LEGACY

**LEGENDS** ASM Global (APAC & MENA) Chairman & CEO Harvey Lister has taken the 100th spot in the Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the events and entertainment sector for more than 50 years.

Lister (**pictured**) was inducted at the ASM Global-managed Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre last week during an evening celebration along with five other new Hall of Fame inductees.

The events veteran first made his mark on the sector in 1975, when he launched a concert and event management business, working closely with promoters to tour live bands.

In 1986, Lister founded Queensland Leisure, managing the Brisbane Entertainment Centre and pioneering world-class venue development in



partnership with AEG Facilities.

This evolved into AEG Ogden, which later merged to form Legends-ASM Global in 2019.

As Chairman and CEO, Lister now oversees more than 300 venues worldwide, including Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, London's O2 Arena, and LA Live.

He has helped deliver more than 40,000 global events and generated significant economic benefits, such as a \$50 million boost from a single Pink concert

in Townsville.

Earlier this year, ASM Global delivered the 'Pearl of the Orient' Kai Tak Sports Park in Hong Kong, a 50,000-seat dome stadium, 10,000 seat arena and 5,000 seat Sports Ground.

Further achievements include innovations like the VenueShield COVID-safety program.

"It's a great honour to be recognised as one of this great state's influential business leaders and to have so many family, friends and colleagues who have been with me on this incredible journey over the last 50 years share in the celebrations last night," Lister said.

"Our team of over 2,000 staff across Queensland's favourite venues are a big part of this award and I am proud of the role they play in the success of our many venues here and around the world." *JM*

## Club Med shows off its MICE offerings

**AMID** record demand for its meeting and events offering, Club Med hosted seven key leaders from the MICE industry for a fam at the recently renovated Club Med Phuket.

The trip welcomed a mix of professional conference organisers, incentive houses, event specialists, and agents.

The group had the opportunity to experience the resort as their clients would, from morning wellness



sessions and gourmet dining to immersive cultural excursions.

Additionally, the fam featured a dedicated conference session, property inspection, and an interactive workshop on Club Med's global meetings & events offering.

## BCD green guide

**BCD Meetings & Events** has released its annual Sustainability Guide, which aims to help organisations and meeting planners make more informed and responsible choices.

The 2025 edition highlights eco-friendly practices, such as circular economy principles and carbon reduction strategies, and showcases sustainable destinations, hotels and suppliers.

The 25th Annual

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## APPOINTMENTS

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

**Atlas Ocean Voyages** has made six new appointments to its sales and guest services team. The fresh faces include **Kelly Popovski** as Senior Director, Field Sales for North America; **Richard Whitaker** as National Accounts Director; **Logan Steele** as Regional Director for South-East USA; **Juan Lopez** as Guest Services Director; and **Pedro Jaimot** as Director of Charter and MICE Operations. In addition, **Isabel Galvan**, Atlas Ocean Voyages' current VP Global Business Development & Sales Strategy, will take up a new role as VP of newly established department, Commercial Operations & Systems Development.

The pre-opening team for Gosford's newest hotel, **voco Gosford**, has been announced, with **Bjoern Noeldner** leading as GM. She brings more than 30 years' hospitality experience, having managed pre-openings, renovations and rebranding projects for luxury properties around the world. Joining her is **Kristina Ayton** as Director of Sales & Marketing; **Natalie McGready** as Executive Assistant Manager; **Nicole Curran** as Human Resources Manager; and **Janendra Rama** as Financial Controller.

**Uber** has named Australian-based **Michael Levine** as Head of APAC Sales for Uber Advertising. He is charged with steering the department's sales and operations across Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and India. Levine was previously in the role of Head of Advertising for ANZ, which saw him play a pivotal role in launching Uber Advertising's first international market.

**Karen Jackson** has taken on the role of Director of Sales & Marketing for **Crowne Plaza Geelong**, which is set to open on the city's waterfront in 2026. Bringing over 25 years of experience in the hotel and tourism industry, she has held senior sales and marketing roles with globally recognised hotel brands including Marriott, Starwood, Accor, and now IHG Hotels & Resorts. Prior to starting her hotel career, Jackson worked for Tourism Victoria.

**Alaska Air Group** has announced the Honolulu leadership team that will oversee Hawaiian Airlines and Alaska Airlines' combined operations in Hawaii, once they obtain a single operating certificate from the FAA. The changes will see **Jim Landers**, HA's SVP of technical operations, assume the role of Head of Hawaii Operations, while **Alisa Onishi** takes on the title of MD of Marketing for Hawaii. **Jonathon Goo** has been named as Safety Director, and **Melodi Pieper** as HR Regional Director.

**Sushant Sharma** has joined the **Dorsett Melbourne** team as Executive Assistant Manager, during an exciting period of growth for the hotel. With over 17 years of experience across Australia's top hotel brands in Victoria and South Australia, his career spans properties like The Larwill Art Series Melbourne, Sequoia Luxury Lodge, Mount Lofty House, and Sofitel Adelaide.

## A Vietnam journey

**COLLETTE** has launched a new tour exploring Vietnam, offering visits to popular destinations like Hanoi, Mai Chau, Ninh Binh and Ha Long Bay.

The 12-day 'Journey Through Northern Vietnam' itinerary begins and ends in Hanoi, and offers an optional five-night post-tour trip to Southern Vietnam.

Travellers will enjoy a range of experiences, including a food tour of Hanoi; a boat ride through the UNESCO-listed Trang An Grottoes; a traditional cooking lesson with a local family; sailing overnight on Ha Long Bay; meeting with a Vietnam war veteran; tai chi at sunrise; and much more.

Diana Ditto, VP of Product Marketing & Growth Strategy, said the tour aims "to bring travellers closer to the heart of Vietnam - through shared meals, personal stories, and experiences that can't be found in guidebooks".

## YHA goes green

**FIFTY** per cent of YHA properties across Australia are now certified by Eco Tourism Australia, including hostels in Sydney Central, Cairns, Thredbo, Newcastle and more.

To achieve certification from the organisation, properties must meet over 200 key criteria across sustainability, environmental, socio-economic, cultural, and responsible business practices.

Some of YHA's latest green initiatives include the continued adoption of on-site renewable energy and 100% GreenPower, as well as improvements to its heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.



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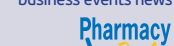
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Life Returns - Springtime Expedition to Antarctica	MS Fram	24.10.2025	23 Days	<del>\$27,756pp</del>	\$21,219pp
Antarctica & Falkland Expedition	MS Roald Amundsen	08.12.2025	16 Days	<del>\$18,364pp</del>	\$15,485pp
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