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Extended savings

CRYSTAL Cruises is giving agents and travellers more time to enjoy savings of up to \$6,000 per suite as part of its Sensational Savings promotion.

Eligible clients can also enjoy US\$500 of onboard credit during their voyage - see **page seven**.

ATIA bolsters the ATMC

THE Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) has signed a two-year MoU with the Association of Travel Management Companies (ATMC) to combine efforts and resources in the corporate travel space.

The strategic partnership - which will commence from 01 Jul - is designed to ensure ATMC retains full control over its agenda and ambition, while allowing members to access ATIA's national platform and expertise.

ATMC members will be able to access ATIA resources as a formal committee, voting to make the arrangement permanent during the initial 24-month term.

"To enhance our members' interests, ATIA must create strategic partnerships to drive stronger advocacy and member outcomes to effectively represent and support the interests of our members and the broader industry," said ATIA Chief Executive, Dean Long.

ATMC Chair Penny Spencer said the deal will empower the organisation to remain member-led and retain its identity while enjoying the backing of ATIA. *ML*

Dream of the west

JOURNEY Beyond is offering agents and a companion a chance to win a Rottneet Experience in Western Australia as part of a newly launched agent incentive.

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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news, plus a cover wrap from **Journey Beyond**, and full pages from:

- City of Gold Coast
- Crystal Cruises

Insolvent dreams?

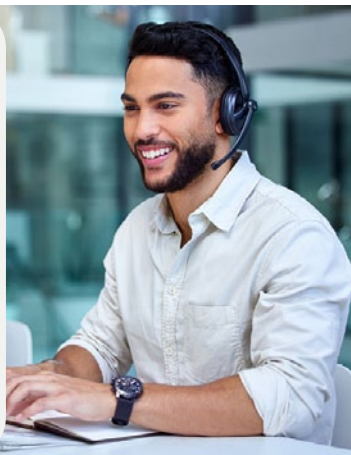
THE collapsed Traveldream business (**TD** 15 May) was "likely" trading while insolvent from 30 Jun 2024, according to an administrator's report.

Registered as Australian Travel Deals Pty Ltd, Traveldream sold flight, cruise and international tour packages before going under, leaving customers thousands of dollars out of pocket.

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JB safari resort exceeds expectations

JOURNEY Beyond-managed Monarto Safari Resort in South Australia welcomed its first guests last week with 98% occupancy off the back of strong early demand, Group CEO Chris Tallent has revealed to **Travel Daily**.

The opening week's occupancy levels had been forecasted to be above 80% for most nights, and it is expected that the upcoming long weekend will also perform strongly, as a surge in interstate guests visit the resort.

A small amount of international bookings are from New Zealand, North America and Singapore.

"We've seen a further spike of demand now that people know that it is open," said Tallent.

"It's [guests from] predominantly South Australia and Adelaide at this point, but we see that growing as word-of-mouth grows and people understand the product a bit better," he added.



"[Bookings] are running ahead of expectations."

Monarto Safari Resort is Australia's largest safari park, featuring a new 550-hectare Wild Africa precinct, a 78-room resort and premium day spa Marula, which opened last week.

Designed as a wellness retreat, Marula features treatment rooms offering views of the surrounding Wild Africa plains, vitality and cold plunge pools and a sauna.

Journey Beyond added Monarto Safari Resort to its portfolio in Jan (**TD** 23 Jan) this year, when it signed a management agreement with owner Gerry Ryan and Zoos South Australia.

It is the first "meaningful"

management deal for Journey Beyond, and according to Tallent, there may be more to come in the future.

"We have a strong growth agenda, both organically and inorganically, through acquiring further businesses that align with our strategy and the types of experiences that we deliver," the Journey Beyond chief revealed.

"Experiential lodging is a great opportunity where individual properties, much like how hotel companies operate, can plug themselves into our ecosystem and benefit from our significant databases, our travel club members, marketing systems and tech and operating processes.

"We'll be looking to expand the number of facilities and experiences we have under management [agreements] as well as owned."

To read more about the safari resort, see **HERE**. *JHM*

Grants for growth

APPLICATIONS are now being invited by City of Gold Coast for a nature-based tourism grant to help businesses expand their green credentials - see **page six**.

Intrepid room boom

INTREPID Travel has expanded its hotel portfolio, acquiring two properties in line with previously stated aims to grow its experiential accommodation offerings (**TD** 19 May).

New acquisitions include the 20-room Edge of the Bay resort in Coles Bay, Tasmania, where the company intends to base its Intrepid Foundation partner Greening Australia to introduce new nature-based experiences.

Intrepid has also taken control of Riad in Marrakech, Morocco, a 17-room guest house which will offer local culinary experiences.

Chefs will be recruited via the Amal Association, empowering local women through training.



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Sabre's new IT chief

SABRE has appointed Maneesh Jaikrishna as Vice President and General Manager, Airline IT Solutions, for the Asia Pacific.

Arriving from senior roles with SITA and Vision-Box, Jaikrishna will seek to boost ancillary revenues and market expansion.

Cruise tourism on the rise

AUSTRALIA and New Zealand are becoming more compelling regions for overseas travellers to explore by sea, with a new report from CLIA Australasia showing a healthy rise in inbound cruisers.

According to CLIA's 2024 *Source Market Report* for Australia, a 14% jump in international visitors was recorded, equating to 247,000 flying into the country to take a cruise holiday.

The international figure was part of an overall bumper year of growth in the local region, with the number of Australians taking a cruise hitting 1.32 million, marking a 5.9% year-on-year rise.

The result was close to toppling the annual record of 1.35 million, which was set in 2018.

In terms of demographics, the average age of Australian cruisers is 48.4 years, slightly younger than the 50.4 years set in 2019.

Despite the growth, CLIA Australasia Managing Director Joel Katz described the region as



"challenging", and said a greater focus is needed to encourage ship deployments in local waters.

"Demand is strong, but we need governments, destinations and industry stakeholders to work together to address the high costs and regulatory difficulties we experience in the region.

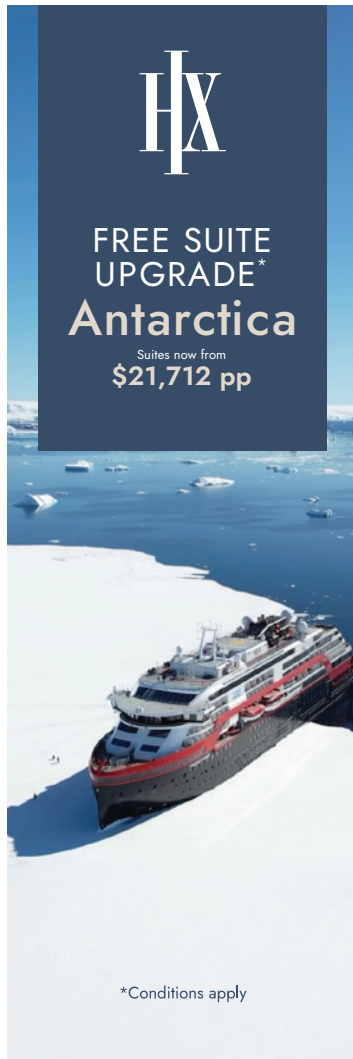
"Cruising supports many thousands of local jobs, but we are going to suffer a decline in cruise ship deployment in this region while other global destinations reap the economic rewards," Katz added.

Adding to the strong inbound visitor rate for cruise, a similar 18.5% growth rate has seen more Aussies flying overseas for a cruise, up from 15.2% in '23. ML

Jones here to stay

STEVE Cox's interim CEO replacement at Destination NSW is now permanent, with Karen Jones formally taking on the job after a recruitment process.

Jones brings a strong sporting events background to the role and 27 years of govt leadership.



HX

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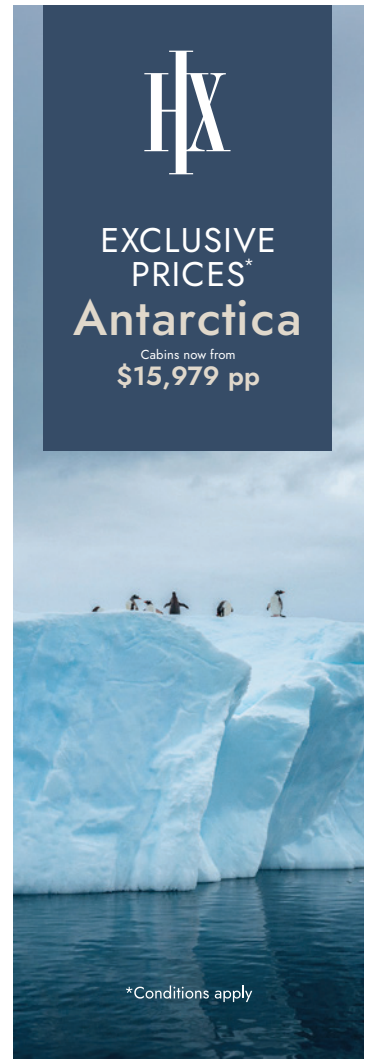
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Window Seat

SNAKES on a plane is really such a cliché these days.

The latest outbreak from the animal kingdom saw two pigeons find their way onto a Delta Air Lines jet as it was in the final stages of boarding.

Passengers were strapped into their seats and ready for take-off on the short journey from Minneapolis to Madison when the pigeons flew wildly into the aircraft cabin.

While some passengers tried to catch the pigeons in their jackets, others (of course they did) grabbed their phones to record the incident.

Ground crew were called onto the aircraft to catch the errant birds, only for another pigeon to emerge as it began to taxi to the runway, forcing the pilot to return to the gate.

The flight landed an hour late.

CVFR unites aviation execs



IATA'S 81st Annual General Meeting & World Air Transport Summit 2025 is currently underway in New Delhi, India, and CVFR Group has gone large in its participation.

Before today's official opening of the summit, where India's PM, Narendra Modi, is expected to deliver a keynote address to delegates, CVFR Group sponsored

the CAPA CEO Roundtable, attended by some of the most influential execs in the aviation industry, including CVFR Group CEO Ram Chhabra.

Included in the meeting of the minds was Emirates Airline President, Sir Tim Clarke (**pictured**); Riyadh Air CEO Tony Douglas; Con Korfiatis, CEO of Oman Air; and Thai Airways CEO Chai Eamsiri, among many others.

"It was a great opportunity for CVFR Group to be the sponsor host for this event and to also to talk about Airline Rep Services and the strong value we bring as a GSA partner in the Australia and New Zealand region," Chhabra told **Travel Daily**.

The roundtable was held at The Oberoi in New Delhi, with discussions lasting two hours.

IATA's summit will run until tomorrow, and include a range of sessions and awards. **DF**

QF points to Hawaii

QANTAS Frequent Flyer members will be able to convert points into reward seats on Hawaiian Airlines services, beginning from Thu this week.

Points can be redeemed on HA's entire global network, which covers four Hawaiian islands, 15 US cities and 10 countries via HNL.

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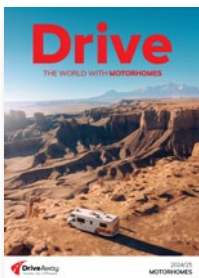
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DriveAway - Motorhome Rentals 2025

From cruising Route 66 to exploring Canada's Rockies, discovering hidden beaches in Australia, or soaking up the charm of Europe's countryside, DriveAway has made it easier for travellers to embark on motorhome adventures. Its new brochure highlights the different types of motorhomes available to hire across Australia and NZ, the USA and Canada, the UK and Ireland, and Europe, as well as suggestions on what to see and do in each region, plus expert advice on motorhome hire. With comprehensive excess and breakdown packages and global support, travellers can explore with confidence. Download the brochure [HERE](#).



Uniworld - Danube River Cruise Collection 2025-26

Uniworld is showcasing its itineraries on one of river cruising's most famous routes, the Danube, in its latest brochure. Travellers can sail past charming villages on the western stretch and explore old world wonders to the east, while experiencing bucket-list cities and hidden gems. Readers will learn about offerings like the refreshed version of the 10-day 'Delightful Danube & Prague' sailing aboard SS *Beatrice*, which includes a two-night stay in Prague, an eight-day music-themed sailing, and a holiday markets voyage which takes in the festivities and seasonal cuisines for four different countries. Read the brochure online [HERE](#).



Emerald Tours - Canada & Alaska 2026

Agents and their clients can discover Emerald Tours' 2026 touring and cruising options in Canada and Alaska via the brand's new brochure. From Rocky Mountaineer rail journeys to sailing the Inside Passage and exploring the pristine landscapes of Alaska's national parks, the 60-page guide is packed with travel inspiration. Clients will find detailed descriptions of Emerald Tours' popular itineraries across the region, including the 15-day 'Eastern Highlights and New England Cruise' and the 29-day 'Spectacular Rockies, Alaska Cruise & Best of the East' voyage. Read more [HERE](#).

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Rail Online adds sleeper trains



RAIL Online has expanded its range of North American rail products with the addition of Amtrak's sleeper services.

The sleeper cars are exclusively available on Amtrak's overnight and long-distance trains, including services such as California-Chicago via the Rocky Mountains; Los Angeles-Seattle; and Chicago-Seattle via Glacier National Park.

Guests can access restrooms, shower rooms and a selection of sleeping options, including roomettes, bedrooms, bedroom suites and family rooms (sleeping two adults and two children).

Chief Executive Officer James Dunne said Rail Online's new Amtrak sleepers are well-timed.

"Sleeper services are currently enjoying a renaissance across Europe and North America," the Rail Online chief explained.

"That's partly because there is something intrinsically romantic about night trains, but it also reflects the fact that rail sleeper services are far more environmentally friendly than flights," he added. *JM*

EY A350 to Sydney

ETIHAD Airways will bring its flagship A350-1000 to Sydney for the first time on 01 Oct, with the Airbus to replace the carrier's 777-300ER aircraft.

By Feb 2026, the carrier aims to operate all 10 weekly Sydney-Abu Dhabi flights exclusively on the A350-1000, which has 25% less fuel burn and CO2 emissions than previous models.

The Airbus features Etihad's latest generation business and economy cabins, including 44 private business suites with doors and 327 economy seats.

The introduction of the A350 will coincide with Etihad increasing its flights from daily to 10 times a week starting 01 Jul (**TD** 17 Sep 2024), offering travellers more flexibility with a mix of afternoon and evening departure times.

Etihad's expanded operations are set to deliver a 20% boost in premium cabin capacity, catering to strong demand from corporate, luxury, and high-end leisure travellers.



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