

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of news, including our **Luxury page**, a product profile from **City of Gold Coast**, plus a full pages from:

- **Imagine Cruising**
- **Viva Holidays**

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Bain ticks listing for 24 Jun

VIRGIN Australia's parent company Bain Capital has reportedly given the green light for its relisting on the ASX from 24 Jun, which will likely see the carrier float with a market capitalisation of around \$2.3 billion and an enterprise value of \$3.6 billion.

The latest development was reported by *The Australian Financial Review* this morning, with the masthead revealing more details about a soon-to-launch \$685 million raising that will see Bain Capital's stake reduced to 40%.

An offer price has been set at \$2.90 per share or circa seven

times the earnings forecast for the financial year.

Sources have also indicated fund managers have been told VA is on track to make \$1 billion in underlying earnings for the year ending 30 Jun.

Media reports have suggested bids from interested investors are due by tomorrow afternoon in preparation for an initial public offering in late Jun. AB

Intrepid NZ chief

INTREPID Travel has appointed Simon Mckearney as its new Country General Manager for New Zealand, in line with its plan to place more boots on the ground and manage inbound and outbound Kiwi travel plans.

"We're backing NZ in a big way because we see [it] as a market with significant potential and unique opportunities," Australia and New Zealand Managing Director Brett Mitchell said.

Imagine on Mekong

IMAGINE Cruising is highlighting its luxury, all-inclusive 21-night Mekong river cruise featuring the best of Vietnam and Cambodia tours - see **page nine** for further details.

Position Vacant

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Experience Viva

VIVA Holidays is showcasing its huge range of worldwide brochures, including three new additions - 'Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos', 'Viva Gold' and 'Luxury Rail Journeys'.

See the full brochure collection on **page 10**.

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LE supercharges agent hub

ADVISORS are now able to book a range of experiences on Luxury Escapes' travel agent booking platform, on top of current accommodation and holiday options.

The new experiences feature allows advisors to craft holiday



packages, incorporating private airport transfers, lounge access, attractions, and theme parks

The hub also offers agents a chance to boost returns, with a new deal and tour to be highlighted each week, offering a bonus commission of up to 15%.

The Luxury Escapes Agent Hub platform went live in Australia in Mar 2024, with the successful rollout prompting the company to expand the platform to the UK this year (**TD** 25 Feb).

"With new Business Development Manager Claire Bradley, we are excited and dedicated to continuously develop Agent Hub, allowing travel agents to unlock perks for their clients," said a spokesperson for Luxury Escapes. *JM*

Get the Fokker outta here, says VA

VIRGIN Australia will increase its use of B737 aircraft on Mount Isa and Townsville routes to Brisbane, phasing out Alliance Airlines' Fokker 100 planes.

From late Jul, the carrier will deploy B737s aircraft to the Brisbane-Mount Isa route, and from Nov, Brisbane-Townsville services will also benefit from the larger planes, adding 6,000 seats on the route a month.

B737 planes offer a dual-cabin experience with business and economy seating.

2026 tours frozen at their 2025 prices

PRICE FREEZE

Offers ends 30 June. T&Cs apply.

Milford cruise win

A **PROPOSAL** to prohibit cruise ships from entering the inner harbour of Milford Sound in New Zealand has been defeated.

Following an eight-year review about how to reduce the environmental impact on the region, the recommendation to ban cruise ships is now permanently off the table after the NZ Government confirmed cruise ship tourism will continue.

The New Zealand Cruise Association (NZCA) said uncertainty around cruise access had led some cruise lines to reconsider future deployments.

"Today's announcement provides much-needed certainty and support for regional tourism planning investment," NZCA said.

Sustainability issues will continue to be managed by an existing framework to hold cruise brands to account.

The NZ cruise sector has been under strain, primarily due to increasing costs of visitation.

Last-chance funding

GRANT applications are closing soon for the City of Gold Coast's Nature Based Tourism Program.

Find out if you should apply by heading to the **back page**.

More planes for AI?

AIR India is reportedly in talks with Airbus and Boeing for a new major aircraft order, including 200 extra single-aisle planes.

According to Reuters, the carrier is leaning towards striking a deal with Boeing for its 777X jets.

The order would be in addition to Air India's record-breaking deal in 2023, when it agreed to purchase 470 planes from both suppliers (**TD** 17 Jan 2023), plus another 100 Airbus jets last year.

The fleet expansion comes as the former flag carrier, now owned by the Tata Group, undertakes a modernisation plan to regain market share it lost to competitors while it was government-owned and underfunded.

Rewards for Eurostar!

Book Eurostar tickets on the RailPortal between 01-30 June & be automatically entered.

Agency with the highest sales of Eurostar for the month of June wins \$250 prezzy e-gift card.

10 x randomly drawn agencies will receive a \$100 prezzy e-gift card.

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Bunnik EU, UK '26

BUNNIK Tours has announced its Europe, UK and Ireland program for 2026, offering 30 itineraries across the region.

The operator will offer more than 270 departures next year, catering to a boom in demand, which saw a 15% year-on-year increase in 2025 bookings.

New for 2026 is the 21-day 'Discover Spain & Portugal' tour, which features authentic experiences like paella making in Valencia and baking Portugal's famous custard tarts in Lisbon.

Bunnik has also boosted departures across several of its most popular itineraries, including 'Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan', with joint-CEO Sacha Bunnik and his daughter Amie to escort a special departure on 02 May 2026.

Travellers seeking a more indulgent escape can also choose from three In-Style departures, which head to Morocco and Türkiye and offer experiences like a desert camp in the Sahara.

TA bids toodle-pip to MD

TOURISM Australia's Managing Director Phillipa Harrison will exit her five-year term early in Aug to pursue a yet-to-be-revealed opportunity overseas (**TD** breaking news yesterday).

Harrison (**pictured**) has led the country's peak tourism marketing body since 2019, in that time steering the country through major crises such as the pandemic, geopolitical tensions with China, and inflation spikes.

Response campaigns including the high-profile 'Holiday Here This Year' activation were made on Harrison's watch, as were many diplomatic missions to key source markets to cajole the recovery of tourism numbers from markets like China and India.

Commenting on her time leading Tourism Australia, Harrison thanked the 300,000 operators in Australia and 200 staff across the world who she said have worked to grow tourism

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and create great experiences.

"It's been the greatest privilege of my career to lead Tourism Australia on behalf of an industry I love and have dedicated my life to," she said.

"I'm proud to have represented this resilient industry through challenging times, and I'm deeply grateful to the team at Tourism Australia for their passion, professionalism and unwavering love for this incredible country."

Harrison was reappointed for another five-year term in 2024, and initially joined in 2017 as Executive GM International to lead the global distribution and partnerships strategy.

A recruitment drive to find a replacement is now underway. **AB**

TTC Tour webinars

TTC Tour Brands Groups Division will host 20-minute weekly webinars this month to highlight its group travel services.

The series kicked off today and will run every Wed at 1pm AEST, with the last session taking place on 25 Jun.

CLICK HERE to register for next week's session, which focuses on Trafalgar's newly launched river cruises and includes a Q&A.

Intrepid 'Active-ism'

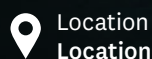
INTREPID Travel has launched two limited-edition 'Active-ism' trips in US national parks, which combine adventure with activist-led discussions.

The five-day 'Active-ism: Zion & The Grand Canyon' tour will offer two departures, one on 01 Nov 2025 and the other on 14 Apr 2026, while the six-day 'Active-ism: Yellowstone & The Grand Tetons' trip will take place on 07 Jun & 14 Jun 2026 - more **HERE**.

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Trafalgar the package deal

RIVER cruising may be a saturated market, but Trafalgar Managing Director Toni Ambler (pictured) believes its new foray into European sailings (**TD** 06 May) will add “magic” to the current landscape.

“The first year is about getting operational and delivering an exceptional experience,” Ambler explained to **Travel Daily**.

“As we become experts in this field, the packaging is going to be what sets us apart...that’s where the real magic will be unlocked.”

In 2026, Trafalgar will begin sailing with two former Uniworld ships, the *Trafalgar Reverie* and the *Trafalgar Verity* on the Rhine and Danube.

The following year, another Uniworld ship will join the fleet



and two new-build super ships.

After that, Trafalgar will embark on “a strong road plan” to expand the fleet into 2029.

Ahead of its entry into river cruising, Trafalgar conducted research, revealing 74% of its touring guests were booking river cruises after their holidays.

River cruise is an opportunity to engage those repeat passengers, Ambler said.

In entering the market, Trafalgar has utilised the expertise of sister brand Uniworld to help build out its program.

“I think it would be really hard to go into river without [that knowledge] because it’s so saturated now,” said Ambler.

“You really have to have a solid understanding of the market and how to operate in it.” *JHM*

QF still not trusted

QANTAS has maintained its spot as the fifth most distrusted brand in the nation, according to new results from Roy Morgan.

Woolworths was the most distrusted, while Bunnings holds the most trust with consumers.

Get Ready to Book & Win

Earn a \$100 Prezzye voucher per booking (13 May–30 June), plus weekly VIP Ricky Martin tickets for top sellers.

ADL inks another win

DIRECT flights between Adelaide and Christchurch will be added to Air New Zealand’s route network from 28 Oct, linking southern Australia with NZ’s South Island for the first time.

The seasonal service will operate twice-weekly until 28 Mar 2026, unlocking more than 16,000 seats across the six-month window between the two cities.

Subject to regulatory approval, the new route will be operated by a single-aisle Airbus A320 or A321neo.

It is also Adelaide’s second route to New Zealand with the carrier, adding to its established service to Auckland, which flies between four and six times weekly.

MEANWHILE, Air New Zealand will significantly boost capacity between Auckland, Christchurch, Queenstown and Dunedin over winter, with 36,000 new seats to be added to the schedule.

The capacity boost will be in effect between 28 Jun and 25 Oct, with selected services between the cities upgraded to an Airbus A321 aircraft.

The increase comes one week after Air NZ introduced a new inter-island jet route linking Hamilton and Christchurch. *ML*



US agents feel pinch

TRAVEL advisors based in the US have reported a significant decline in bookings for the last month, with close to 60% relaying either a significant or moderate shrinking of revenue.

Policies enacted under President Trump ranked highest in the list of concerns impacting agencies, followed by the shutdown of government agencies affecting tourism, and travel bans.

The survey of 358 travel advisors and travel agency owners/managers was conducted by *Travel Weekly by Northstar*, and arrives on the back of recent Trivago data that showed more Americans are booking closer-to-home trips amid a volatile economic climate (**TD** 30 May).

There was an 8.1% year-on-year decline in US arrivals in Mar.

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WSI flight paths authorised



A RECIPROCAL Runway Operations default mode minimising aircraft noise will become the standard night model for Western Sydney Airport (WSI) when operations begin in 2026.

The mode has formed part of a Ministerial Directive from Federal Minister for Infrastructure and

Transport, Catherine King, as part of preliminary airspace and flight path approvals for WSI, which were granted today.

Contained within the default night mode is a Noise Abatement Procedure, which when employed will direct aircraft away from the Blue Mountains, Wallacia and the most heavily populated parts of Western Sydney at night.

Further, the authorisation incorporates recommendations from Minister for Environment, Murray Watt, that an environmental program be established to monitor the impact of aircraft noise within and adjacent to the Blue Mountains.

"It is in addition to the community noise monitoring program that will be undertaken by Airservices [Australia], who will soon begin consultation with local communities on the location of noise monitors," King added.

A community engagement forum will also be established to consult on flight path issues in the early years of WSI operation.

This will be in addition to more than 50 in-person and online community consultation sessions that have been held across Greater Sydney, Minister King said, ensuring details on potential impacts were transparent and communities were well placed to understand and engage.

Applications will also open later this year for a noise insulation program for residents affected by overflight noise, with a treatment contract to be awarded soon. **ML**

Pictured: Western Sydney Airport in final construction.

It's blue skies for UA

UNITED Airlines and JetBlue have teamed up to launch Blue Sky, a combined loyalty program that will see the carriers offer flights on each other's website and app.

The tie-up will allow MileagePlus customers to earn and use miles on JetBlue, including flights in and out of NYC and Boston, while TrueBlue members can earn and use points on United flights, including to international destinations.

The benefits of each airline's loyalty program - priority boarding, complimentary access to preferred and extra legroom seats and same-day standby/switch - will be available when customers travel on the other airline's aircraft.

As part of the agreement, JetBlue will offer United access to slots at JFK International Airport for up to seven daily round-trip flights as early as 2027.

Reports of a potential alliance between the two US carriers first emerged last month (**TD** 01 May), with the announcement coming two years after JetBlue was blocked from forming an alliance with American Airlines.

Two New Tours to the Balkans

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Risking finance for travel

ONE in five Australians (20%) have taken financial risks, including dipping into savings or borrowing money, to afford a holiday, new research from TravellInsurance.com.au shows.

Among them, one in 10 have taken from their emergency fund to book an overseas trip, while 4% have borrowed money from their parents.

According to the survey, the younger the traveller, the more likely they are to make risky finance moves for the sake of going on a holiday.

Nearly one in three (32%) Gen Z respondents admitted to actions like dipping into their emergency fund, delaying bill payments or borrowing money.

Millennials were not far behind at 31%, while Gen X were far less likely at 18%, and only 8% of Baby Boomers reported doing the same.

"With the cost of flights, accommodation and insurance going up, it's getting harder for people to put money aside for



holidays," TravellInsurance.com.au CEO, Shaun McGowan, said.

"If you have to borrow money or dip into your emergency savings to book an overseas trip, ask yourself if you can really afford it in the first place."

On a positive note, the survey found that most Australians (57%) only travel when they can comfortably afford it, and 23% say they never eat into their savings for holidays. **JM**

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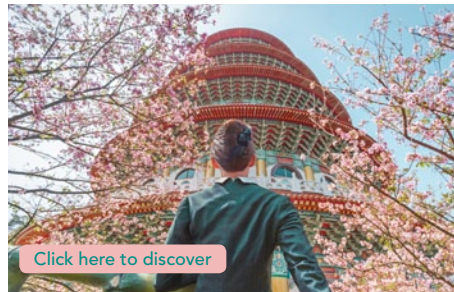
Globetrotter rebrand

QUEENSLAND travel agency Globetrotters Travel and Cruise will rebrand as Global Travel Co from the beginning of Jul.

After 75 years in business and 25 under its current moniker, the well-known local Toowoomba agency will usher in a new era to reflect a more modern service offering and access for clients to suppliers across the country.

What began as Darling Downs Travel Agency in 1949 evolved into Darling Downs Travel and then to Globetrotter Travel and Cruise in 2000, complete with a luggage store and coffee shop.

"From handwritten airline tickets to the rise of online bookings and now AI planning tools - we've seen it all and evolved with every change," reflected Global Travel Co Director, Ben Apsey.



Qld seeks more air links

THE Queensland Government has expanded its international and regional aviation strategy, as it looks to ramp up air connections in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics Games.

Joining a broader 20-year tourism plan formally unveiled by the state this week (**TD** 03 Jun), the new Connecting Queensland air plan will look to attract more international carriers to link directly with Qld, as well as increase the volume of regional air routes across the state.

Qld is more reliant on tourism than any other state, with the bolstering of resources to bring more air connections to serve as a valuable economic driver of its tourism economy.

"More than 90% of tourism businesses in Queensland are small businesses, and every new flight connection brings more visitors, more investment and more support for our tourism operators," Queensland Premier David Crisafulli said.

The state will look to add to several aviation wins already secured this year, including the restarting of Malaysia Airlines flights from Brisbane to Kuala Lumpur from 29 Nov (**TD** 22 Apr), the Gold Coast to Hamilton and Dunedin from 18 Jun (**TD** 16 Sep 2024), as well as the much-hyped Virgin Australia-Qatar Airways services, which will launch later this month.

In the sights of Queensland will be more air services between the



state and major tourism growth markets such as India and China.

In making the announcement, Qld Minister for Tourism Andrew Powell took a swipe at the former Palaszczuk Govt's lack of tourism funding and excess bureaucracy.

"While Labor wanted to cut millions in tourism funding and tied the industry up in red tape, we're unleashing our tourism operators so they can create new experiences for visitors," he said.

The latest strategy will build on the current 1.1 million inbound aviation seats in action annually, which currently generate \$2.4 billion in visitor expenditure and supports 12,000 jobs. **AB**

Pictured: Crisafulli and Powell.

JB Bathurst on sale

VINTAGE Rail Journeys, which was acquired by Journey Beyond last year, has opened bookings for its Bathurst Race'N Rail packages (**TD** 07 Feb).

Departing Sydney on 10 Oct, the all-inclusive, four-day journey immerses guests in the excitement of the Supercars Repco Bathurst 1000 race.

Prices start from \$5,400pp and includes three nights' train accommodation and much more.

Less comp is good?

WHILE travellers may suffer from higher airfares as a result of reduced competition, Bain & Co Asia-Pacific Airlines Management Consultant Allan Schulte believes it is positive news for aviation.

Speaking with *The Australian*, Schulte said that fewer players had increased profitability for VA and Qantas, and has created a range of benefits for consumers.

"I would argue that [less competition] has been good for on-time performance and operational resilience," he said.

"That's because now you have airlines with enough spare aircraft and spare pilots and crew, so that if something breaks in the system, there's enough extra resources to cover the slack," he added.

Aussie Renaissance

RENAISSANCE Tours has released its collection of short domestic trips for the remainder of 2025.

The program features cultural tours within Australia celebrating the arts, music, botanical and culinary gems, with itineraries like the five-day 'Treasures of the National Capital' led by *Sydney Morning Herald* journalist Helen Pitt, departing 31 Aug.

Highlights include a weekend of chamber music in the Margaret River; a deep dive into the history and gardens of Tasmania; a gourmet adventure through McLaren Vale and Kangaroo Island; and an opera, theatre and ballet tour to Melbourne.



Window Seat

FANCY a new frying pan?

How about a giant teddy bear, or *The Lord of the Rings* book collection?

These are just some of the random items you can expect to find at Sydney Airport's annual lost property auction.

There are more than 2,000 unclaimed items under the hammer this week, with bidding starting from just \$10.

Proceeds will go to the Inner West Aquatics Team, which will support families struggling with cost-of-living pressures by providing swimming lessons to children who might otherwise miss out.

Sydney Airport is aiming to raise \$200,000 from the auction, which will fund around 8,000 free swimming lessons - get your bid in **HERE**.

Club Med Bali deal

TRAVEL agents can secure up to 30% off an all-inclusive stay at Club Med Bali for all new 2025 holidays booked before 20 Jun.

The deal means five nights for a family of four is priced from \$3,640 - a total saving of \$1,560.

Club Med Bali is located in the Nusa Dua region and features three swimming pools, gourmet dining options and all-day snacks, an open bar, age-appropriate kids clubs, nightly entertainment and a variety of land and water sports.

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Golden Vietnam

GOLDEN Eagle Luxury Trains has expanded its offerings for 2026 with a new Vietnam package, featuring the Vietnam Express train.

The 14-day 'Treasures of the East' journey begins in Ho Chi Minh City and travels to cities like Hoi An and Hanoi, before ending in Shanghai.

Guests will travel aboard the Vietnam Express for the first leg of the trip, staying in Indochine-inspired cabins with ensuites, and enjoying access to a bistro car for around-the-clock drinks and dining, and Golden Eagle's signature service.

Once across the border, guests will transfer to the ultra-luxe Golden Eagle Silk Road Express to continue the journey through China's cultural heartland.

Travellers can choose from a variety of off-train excursions, including a Wuyi Mountain tea culture experience, a porcelain-making session, and a speedboat tour to the Cu Chi Tunnels in Ho Chi Minh City.

Other excursions include a jeep safari through the limestone landscapes of Ninh Binh, a private Ha Long Bay cruise, and afternoon tea in the Shanghai Tower.

The new itinerary is set to depart in Apr 2026 - learn more [HERE](#).

RAES DIVES INTO WHITSUNDAYS LUXE

LUXURY superyacht *M.Y. Sea Raes* has unveiled new charter packages to celebrate its upcoming season in the Whitsundays, where it will sail from Jul to Oct.

Now open for bookings, the packages are available for one-, three- and five-night charters, with additional options for day charters and longer voyages.

Itineraries will highlight Whitehaven Beach, Hill Inlet Lookout, and the Great Barrier Reef, offering a blend of relaxation, adventure, and world-class dining.

Guests will enjoy breakfast, lunch, and dinner menus curated by Raes' Executive Chef Jason Saxby, with the option to dine on-board or beachside.

The packages also include



return transfers; personalised concierge service; guided hikes through Hamilton Island, South Molle Island, and Whitsunday Peak; and access to watersport activities including jet skiing, snorkelling, and stand-up paddleboarding.

Those looking to indulge even further can select from optional add-ons, including wine and whisky tastings, deep-sea fishing and diving experiences,

private live music performances, helicopter tours, and massages.

"*Sea Raes* is an expression of Raes' signature hospitality, now available for charter in one of the world's most spectacular settings," said Marty McCaig, General Manager at Raes.

"We have curated an experience that seamlessly blends relaxation and exploration, offering everything from champagne dinners to onboard massages and wellness experiences.

"Our goal is to create a journey that is as breathtaking as the destination itself."

Sea Raes is also available for bespoke day charters for up to 30 guests, making it ideal for celebratory events, long lunches, and sunset cocktail gatherings.

Find out more [HERE](#). JM

Ibiza hotel dials up luxury after transformation

A **LUXURY** hotel has reopened in Ibiza this week following an extensive renovation, which has elevated the property to five-star status.

Destino Five Ibiza, which is situated along the island's coastline, has undergone a full transformation, including a complete redesign of its 159 rooms and suites.

The Cherry Vista and Cherry Suites feature large pools and private terraces, boasting a timeless blend of luxury and island charm.



The property also offers guests a fire pit, an outdoor gym, and an open-air stage offering live music.

Guests can dine at Cielo, which serves Mediterranean favourites and features live cooking stations, or enjoy a Greek dining experience on a terrace by the sea at Elia.

Live it up, Lotus style

THE Slate Phuket has launched a new package inspired by the hit HBO series *The White Lotus*.

Travellers booking the 'Indigo Lotus Package' can enjoy views of Nai Yang Beach, luxurious amenities and exclusive experiences featured in the series.

It also includes four nights in a private pool villa, a spa treatment, two tickets to Bangla Muay Thai professional fights, and much more - see details [HERE](#).

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ACCOMMODATION

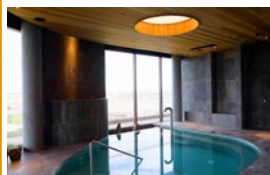
Send your accommodation updates to:
accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au



Hyatt Hotels Corporation has announced the opening of **Secrets St. Lucia Resort & Spa**, an adults-only, all-inclusive resort located on St. Lucia's northwestern coast. Just minutes away from the Rodney Bay Marina, the property offers 355 island-inspired accommodations featuring a furnished private balcony. Guests will enjoy access to 24-hour room service and a daily refreshed mini-bar, five restaurants, seven bars and lounges, and an array of amenities.



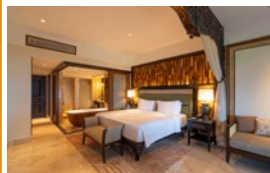
Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok has introduced a permanent new dinner experience at its restaurant Lord Jim's, offering a more relaxed take on luxury dining. Led by acclaimed two Michelin-starred chef Alex Dilling, the fresh offering combines open-fire grilling, French-inspired comfort food, and a convivial, sharing-style approach. Guests will enjoy menu items like whole roasted chicken with maitake mushrooms and foie gras.



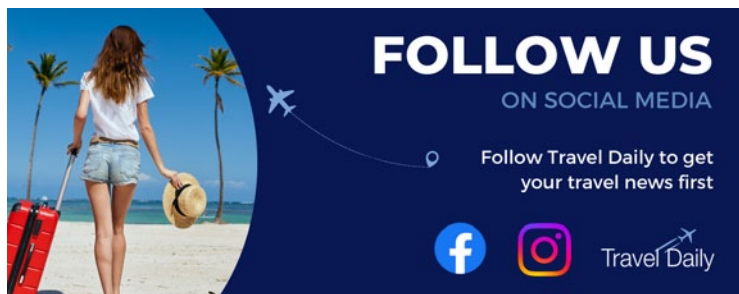
The recently opened **Monarto Safari Resort** has introduced its day spa, Marula - a serene new retreat set within the vast landscapes of Monarto Safari Park in South Australia. The facility features treatment rooms with views of the surrounding Wild Africa plains, as well as private sauna, relaxation spaces, and a menu offering massages, facials, and body rituals featuring Jurlique skincare. Overnight guests and day visitors can also enjoy bespoke wellness packages.



Alma Resort Cam Ranh has introduced new kids' rooms, with the optional boys' and girls' playful room setups available in any of Alma's oversized suites and pavilions. Children will be greeted with a VIP welcome board hung above the entrance of a fun tent, personalised welcome cookies, colourful pillows, towel art, themed kids bedding and a float to take to the pool.



Ayana Bali has announced the completion of a major transformation at two of its properties: **Ayana Villas Bali** and **Ayana Resort Bali** - both of which now boast a new level of luxury. For instance, guests at Ayana Resort Bali will enjoy revitalised accommodations, now featuring marble floors, artisan-crafted wood accents, and spa-inspired bathrooms.



Aussies rendezvous in Canada



FIFTEEN buyers from Australia were among the local contingent attending Destination Canada's annual Rendez-vous Canada (RVC) inbound showcase, which this year took place in Winnipeg.

The event welcomed more than 1,200 delegates from around the world, including 405 qualified buyers to meet with 858 representatives from nearly 500 tourism organisations.

Over three days, attendees also visited the Manitoba city and Canada more widely to enjoy Inuit art at Qaumajuq, the climate-controlled biomes of Assiniboine Park, the Exchange District, Chinatown and the historic French Quarter.

Destination Canada (DC) opened the plenary phase of the event with a poignant discussion on the changing landscape of tourism around the world and how it is impacting Canada.

"Travel behaviours are shifting, driven by economic uncertainty and a powerful wave of transformation driven by AI," DC Chief Marketing Officer, Gloria Loree said.

"And yet, even in the middle of this disruption, Canada is rising."

The organisation introduced its new global brand platform and tagline 'Canada, naturally', which it said embraces the global desire for authentic, local experiences.

"We're living in a world that's increasingly filtered and fake, combined with disruption and associated unpredictability - this campaign underscores the importance of connecting to what's real and reflects what makes Canada distinct," she said.

Destination Canada Australia GSA Managing Director, Julie King, said the event provided an unmatched opportunity for Australian buyers to be fully immersed in Canadian culture and experience emerging trends and new product first-hand.

Each year, Rendez-vous Canada is co-produced with the Tourism Industry Association of Canada.

Pictured: Monica Leech, Destination British Columbia; Julie King, DC; Nathan McLoughlin, DC (AU); and Joanne Motta, Destination British Columbia at The Leaf opening event. *ML*

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Applications closing soon: Gold Coast Nature Based Tourism Program

If you're a **tourism operator** with a passion for sustainability, now's your moment. Grant applications for the City of Gold Coast's new Nature Based Tourism (NBT) Program close at the end of this month.

Developed in response to visitor demand, the Gold Coast NBT Program is designed to support eligible businesses in developing low-impact, immersive nature-based experiences that foster appreciation and conservation of our natural environment and cultural heritage.

Why get involved?

- Tap into growing demand with one in 5 global travellers actively seeking nature-based experiences.
- Unlock new revenue streams by creating or expanding eco-friendly tourism offerings.

- Be a sustainability leader and help protect the Gold Coast's unique natural and cultural assets.
- Access financial support to bring your vision to life, from new projects to upgrades of existing operations.
- Collaborate and grow with like-minded operators to further develop, extend and promote nature-based tourism opportunities on the Gold Coast.

Who should apply?

New or existing businesses with projects that:

- celebrate the Gold Coast's natural environment and cultural heritage
- are sustainable, viable, and ready to start within 12 months of receiving funding
- deliver tangible benefits – economic, social and environmental - for the Gold Coast community.

Proposals for funding and grants under this program will be reviewed against strict guidelines by a panel of tourism industry experts, environmental specialists, and First Nations representatives to ensure alignment with conservation and cultural values.

For details, visit [Nature-Based Tourism Program | City of Gold Coast](#).

APPLICATIONS OPEN

Grants and funding applications for the Gold Coast Nature Based Tourism Program are now open for a limited time.
Apply now