

## New Viking voyages

**VIKING** is showcasing 12 new ocean voyage itineraries for 2026-27, which encompass the Mediterranean, Scandinavia, the British Isles and Ireland.

Discover more information about the voyages by checking out the **last page**.

## Industry mourns McGeary

**THE** man who made the APT Travel Group brand a household name is being remembered today as a giant of the Australian travel industry, after the news of his death broke yesterday (**TD** breaking news yesterday).

Geoff McGeary OAM (**pictured**) passed away surrounded by family just shy of his 84th birthday, and was the man who took his father Bill McGeary's fledgling coach touring business in his teens and turned it into a global travel empire.

In a statement, APT said that McGeary will be remembered for his kind, optimistic, collaborative, and humble personality.

"His legacy and spirit lives on at APT through the leadership of his children, Robert McGeary and Lou Tandy, and the APT board as they carry forward his values, passion, and commitment to delivering...travel journeys."

McGeary formally passed the torch on to his two children at the end of 2023 (**TD** 22 Dec 2023), with the duo taking the ethos of their father's business and evolving it in the land and cruise segments, including a flurry of new ships in Europe.

Accolades in McGeary's six-decade career included being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2014 for services to tourism and philanthropy, as well as becoming an Australian Tourism Legend at the 2015 Qantas Tourism Awards.

Forums have been flooded



with condolences from the travel executives across the spectrum, with CATO MD Brett Jardine leading the tributes, labelling him "a true pioneer" and a "towering figure" in Australian travel.

"As the visionary behind APT, Geoff shaped not only a company but an entire sector, building one of the country's most respected touring businesses from humble beginnings," Jardine said.

"Geoff was a generous leader and mentor whose legacy is woven into the fabric of the travel industry," he added.

APT was also one of the founding members of CATO.

The McGeary family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to APT's foundation, OneTomorrow, in support of Parkinson's disease research - see more info **HERE**.

Memorial details will also be shared in due course.

Read more about Geoff McGeary's legacy **HERE**. **AB**

## Carnival Rewards

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line will launch a new loyalty program in Jun 2026, adding fresh features, new ways to earn status, and updated reward categories.

An "industry first", Carnival Rewards will introduce a points-based, dual-earning system.



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## HLO warms to Summers

**MAGELLAN** Travel Group General Manager Iain Summers has been promoted, with his role expanded to include management of Helloworld Business Travel.

Summers has overseen the independent Magellan network since joining Helloworld Travel in Aug 2023, with his new duties taking effect immediately.

Supporting Summers will be two dedicated team members who will serve as primary conduits between the two networks.

Summers takes the role formerly held by Kellie Stanbury, who exited in Mar to join CTM in the role National Operations Manager.

"He brings to the Helloworld Business Travel Network outstanding experience having ably led Magellan Travel for the past two years," Helloworld Group GM Retail, Nick Sutherland, said.

"Importantly, Iain has extensive knowledge and expertise in delivering value to the corporate

market, having previously worked in travel management and travel technology; he will be a great asset in supporting and delivering value to both networks."

Helloworld added the support Summers provided to Magellan agents made him the ideal fit for the business travel network. *ML*

## The Luxurist in Oz

**AUSTRALIA** is one of several new markets for The Luxurist, a startup B2B hotel link providing travel agents with access to a network of ultra-luxury hotels.

Launched early this year, The Luxurist is already live in six countries and is now expanding to five more, plus GCC nations.

The Luxurist is integrated with Bedsonline and offers a network of 5,000 luxury hotels, plus 24/7 concierge team, real-time room booking and management, and exclusive amenities for clients.

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## TIME graduates ready to roll



**GRADUATES** from TIME Programs 58 and 59 celebrated their success and TIME experience at a special networking event last night.

The event also served as a platform to welcome new mentees to TIME as they begin their journey.

Hosted by at Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney in conjunction with The Travel Corporation, reps from all corners of the industry

gathered to mark the achievement and hear inspirational speeches from successful business leaders.

**Pictured** above are TIME's latest group of mentors and mentees: Susan Enners; Samantha Morgan, Samantha Riches; Shelley Poten Gretel Puisens; Julie Primmer, Fiona Watson; Tamara Kobiolke Michelle House; Alice Ager; Brigid Avery; Monica Godfrey; Emma Fehon; Lisa Pagotto; Karen McNally and Kyran Rose. *ML*

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## Winners are grinners

**TOURISM** Solomons has revealed the winner of its hamper competition as Laurel Brown of Flight Centre Taree, NSW.

Brown managed to make the Tourism Solomons team in Honiara laugh with her caption for the below **picture** of two Solomon Island boys having fun on a rope swing.

Her winning submission reads: "When life gives you vines...swing like no one's watching!"

The competition, which closed on 17 Jun, offered the following instructions: "There's no right or wrong answer - the caption that brings the biggest smile or the best laugh at head office will score the hamper."



## Troops to bring Aussies home

**FOREIGN** Affairs Minister Penny Wong has confirmed the Australian Defence Force will be deployed to help stranded travellers get home from the Middle East (**TD** breaking news).

The confirmation a short time ago follows an upgraded warning from Smartraveller for Aussies visiting or transiting through the Qatar Airways hub of Doha (**TD** 19 Jun), with the advisory warning that flights could be delayed or cancelled amid a rising conflict between Iran and Israel.

Smartraveller now instructs visitors to 'exercise a high degree of caution' due to the ongoing hostilities in the region.

"Demonstrations and protest activity may also occur, and local security situations could deteriorate with little notice," the latest advisory stated.

"Several terrorist attacks have happened in the wider Gulf region in recent years, and



terrorists may target tourist areas and attractions.

"We are not saying 'don't go' to this location, but you should do research and take precautions."

The Middle East is a major hub for Aussies transiting onwards to Europe, with the UAE, serviced by carriers like Emirates and Etihad, also in close proximity to the war.

In a grim sign for safety concerns, American Airlines has already suspended flights to Doha due to "regional hostilities".

Australian embassy staff in Tehran have also been rushed out of the country amid fears of bigger conflict in the region.

Virgin Australia, Qatar Airways, Emirates and Etihad Airways have all been contacted for comment regarding possible disruptions. **AB**

## Eurail incentive

**EURAIL** has issued a call to its customer base and travel agent partners to help to fight overtourism and make better choices about their own holidays.

In the wake of anti-mass tourism protests in a number of cities (**TD** 16 Jun), the rail pass operator is offering 20% off Eurail Global passes and One Country passes for its shoulder season, from Sep to Nov and Feb to May, if booked by 03 Jul.

The push comes on the back of data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which showed 1.9 million Australians travelled to Europe in 2024, with 37% of these during the summer peak.



# II PAUSE





## Scurrah joins Web Travel

**THE** man who resigned from leading Virgin Australia shortly after the carrier's acquisition by Bain Capital will soon join the board of Web Travel Group (**TD** breaking news).

Paul Scurrah (**pictured**) has agreed to become a Non-Executive Director at the B2B WebBeds business from 01 Jul, adding to his long list of board credits in travel and other corporate verticals.

These include a Chairmanship at Whizz Technologies and Australian Tourism Data



Warehouse; Australia Post; the Gold Coast Suns AFL Team; and a current role as Non-Executive Director at RPMGlobal.

Scurrah joins alongside Melanie Wilson as an independent Non-Executive Director, while long-standing Director Brad Holman will retire on 30 Sep.

"We look forward to welcoming [Scurrah and Wilson] to Web Travel Group; at the same time, we're sad to see Brad Holman leave," Web Travel Group Chair, Roger Sharp said.

"Brad helped us navigate through both the transition from a founder-led company, and the COVID-19 crisis," he added. **AB**

## Cuthbert drives on

**FORMER** Jayride Chairman Rod Cuthbert has resigned as a Director of the airport transfer company, bringing an end to his five-year tenure.

Cuthbert has been succeeded by Brett Partridge, while Mark Ward has also joined the board.

## World Cup tix scam

**AS THE** US tests its soccer hosting credentials with the FIFA Club World Cup, agents are being warned to look out for fake tickets being sold for the FIFA World Cup next year.

The warning comes from well-known sports travel executive Luisa Mendoza, founder and CEO of Global Tourism Sports & Entertainment (GTSE).

"One of the things that is essential to highlight here is that there is going to be a lot of people wanting tickets...make sure you are buying tickets from a trusted source," she said.

Earlier this year Vivid Seats, a popular ticket resale platform, posted 2026 World Cup ticket ads, with prices from US\$1,500 all the way to US\$60,000, despite the fact that, at the time, FIFA had not released any tickets.

It is expected that 6.5 million people will attend the World Cup across the three host countries of Canada, the US and Mexico.



## Window Seat

**IT TURNS** out the scariest ride at Disneyland is the one that ends with a nearly A\$1,500 breakfast bill.

A father who recently visited the Californian theme park with his kids has recounted online about how he "almost spit out his coffee" after finding out how much Disney's 'Princess Breakfast' cost him.

John '@jrockandrollt' posted a photo of the receipt on X, with showed a total bill of US\$937 - equating to US\$187pp for the three adults and two children.

"If I find that goddamn mouse I am going to mug him," he fumed.

Social media users were stunned, with one person joking: "How many princesses did you eat?"

## II PAUSE



This isn't just another incentive. It's an incredible escape to the awesome Banyan Tree Bintan and the Mandai Rainforest Resort by Banyan Tree - a pause for relaxation, rejuvenation and inspiration.

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## LOS ANGELES

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you largely from the sky, on board Delta Air Lines, as we make our way back from IPW in Chicago.

**WE'RE** in LAX currently, having departed Chicago in the morning via the quaint and comfortable Minneapolis-Saint Paul International.

The leg back to Sydney will be aboard DL41 in premium select, Delta's premium economy cabin, which provides extra legroom, an improved dining experience, access to priority check-in, and more.

Cabin service on the way over to Chicago was a highlight.

On a relatively new Airbus A350-900, it should be a smooth flight back across the Pacific.

## Rice tops CATO learners

**THE** Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) has announced its top 20 advisors for this month, recognising the most engaged learners in its Touring Academy.

Claiming the top spot for Jun was Trent Rice from Flight Centre Renmark, who enrolled in just one more module than second-placed Rosemary Spiteri from The Curated Traveller.

This month's leaderboard saw some standout jumps, with Danielle Cameron (Flight Centre Elanora) leaping from #6 to #3; and Zoe Hannaford (Flight Centre Stud Park) rocketing into the top 10, from #12 to #5.

Marija Banic (MTA Putney) is also now one of the Touring Academy's top 10 agents, while Nish Dalal (Flight Centre Murray Street), Rhys Whiteman (Flight Centre Maribyrnong), and Kristin Williams (Flight Centre Stud Park) are also climbing up.

Other entrants into the top 20

include Brett Atkinson (Flight Centre Forest Hill), Heather Cunningham (Envoyage Horsley), Alison Harris (Flight Centre Murray Street), and Emilie Brown (Flight Centre Hampton).

"Our monthly leaderboard celebrates the agents driving excellence in the touring sector," CATO Managing Director Brett Jardine said - **CLICK HERE** to view the full top 20. *MS*

## New DNSW deal

**DESTINATION** NSW has partnered with CommBank iQ to unlock powerful visitor economy insights, and support tourism growth across the state.

The partnership gives Destination NSW and regional tourism bodies access to de-identified consumer spending data, which will help shape marketing campaigns, inform infrastructure and investment decisions, and more.

## Two New Tours to the Balkans

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## FOR SALE: two well-established Australian travel publications.

Signature Media is exploring the sale of two of its popular consumer travel titles in order to re-focus on our core publications. This offers a unique opportunity to acquire and further develop these highly respected publications, and we'd love to find them an excellent home.

### Vacations & Travel

Established over 41 years: Australia's longest-running consumer travel magazine and a trusted source of travel inspiration and information for Australian travellers. Full suite of established digital platforms.

### Ski & Snowboard

Operating for over 19 years: originally launched as Ski & Snowboard with Kids, expanded in 2025 to serve the wider snow travel market. Editorial focus: Global ski destinations, gear reviews and expert advice.

For confidential discussions and further information, please contact Tom Green.  
[tom.green@vitapointpartners.com](mailto:tom.green@vitapointpartners.com)





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## Visit USA makes connections at IPW

VISIT USA Organisation Australia has wrapped up a great IPW 2025 in Chicago, reinforcing the Australian market's resilience and maintaining strong connections with US travel partners amid a shifting global landscape.

Ahead of the conference, Visit USA hosted its annual ANZ Delegation Welcome Reception, alongside Visit USA NZ at City Winery Chicago.

More than 150 guests enjoyed a relaxed afternoon of drinks, local fare and lawn games, where President Caroline Davidson reinforced tourists' continued engagement with the US.

Chair of Visit USA NZ Corey Marshall discussed the broader picture of trans-Tasman visitation.

It was a wonderful way for the industry to connect and share their passion for US travel.



**SOME** words from Visit USA Australia President, Caroline Davidson.



**FABIO** Monteiro, SUMMIT One Vanderbilt and Jere Fournier, Broadway Inbound.



**VISIT USA NZ** Chair, Corey Marshall and Visit USA Australia President, Caroline Davidson.



**LOUISE** Sutton, Flight Centre Travel Group.



**AMANDA** Carroll, Flight Centre Limited with Tommy Woods, Travel Texas.



**AUSTRALIAN** Travel advisor Chris Watson.



**JODY** Collins, Luxury Escapes with Aida Osta, Visit USA.



**DEAN** McCullagh and Alexis Cunningham from Luxury Escapes.



**VISIT USA NZ** Chair, Corey Marshall.



**HEATHER** Rad from Howard Johnson Hotel Anaheim Hotel and Water Playground.



## CORPORATE UPDATE

### Tahiti goes all-biz class

AIR Tahiti showcased its new ATR 72-600 aircraft, which is configured entirely in a business class layout, at the Paris Air Show this week.

Designed for high-end international travellers, the aircraft will initially only service the islands of Bora Bora and Raiatea, beginning in 2026.

Equipped with the new premium cabin collection ATR HighLine, the aircraft features 26 individual business class seats arranged in a 1-1 configuration,



giving passengers direct access to both the aisle and a window.

At 21.6 inches wide, the seats offer optimal comfort, with personal side tables, individual storage, and USB-A and -C ports.

A dedicated crew will deliver tailored service and refreshments on board, while passengers will also enjoy personalised ground services and priority handling.

The aircraft boasts environmental advantages, emitting 45% less carbon dioxide than a jet of similar size.

"We are not simply purchasing a new aircraft - we are launching a completely new travel experience," said Edouard Wong Fat, CEO of Air Tahiti.

"This ATR 72-600 All-Business Class reflects our ambition to offer exclusive service that begins at check-in, with a fully redesigned customer journey and ground services unmatched for domestic travel.

"It bridges modernity, comfort, Polynesian hospitality, and sustainability - values that define the future of Air Tahiti," he added.

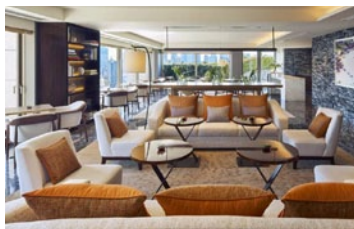
The delivery of the new ATR 72-600 is scheduled for the second half of 2026, with flights expected to begin within just weeks of its arrival. JM

### Palace Tokyo refresh

PALACE Tokyo has unveiled a newly refreshed Club Lounge, which has undergone an interior update and an expansion of its culinary offerings.

Guests will notice a lighter colour scheme to create a warmer, more comfortable feel throughout the 172m<sup>2</sup> space, with new ivory-coloured chairs, timber tabletops and carpeting with a pebble motif.

The enhanced culinary offerings include the introduction of light snacks, and a new nightcap service featuring chocolate, cheeses, chips, crackers and cookies.



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### Silver State shines for agents



TRAVEL Nevada recently hosted a select group of advisors from Australia, Canada, Mexico, Germany and the UK on a six-day famil trip to the Silver State.

The group was made up of agents who successfully completed the Travel Nevada Trailblazers education program, including Aussie advisors from The Curated Traveller and Playford Travel.

The itinerary was designed to showcase the US state's unique attractions and resorts, vibrant city life and natural landscapes, ending in a road trip adventure.

The group began their journey in Reno, Nevada's 'Biggest Little City', where they were welcomed at the luxurious Grand Sierra Resort and enjoyed a welcome dinner at the on-site restaurant, Uno Mas Modern Mexican.

The agents then embarked on a road trip through the heart of

the Silver State, visiting Fallon, Virginia City; Carson Valley; South Lake Tahoe; Incline Village in North Lake Tahoe; Carson City; before returning to Reno.

Highlights included a historic walking tour of Virginia City; a cruise on Emerald Bay; an e-bike ride along the scenic Flume Trail; and a visit to the Tahoe Environmental Research Center, where the group learnt about sustainable tourism and environmental stewardship.

The trip ended on a high note, with the group witnessing the grand finale at the Banana Ball World Tour game at Greater Nevada Field.

"The variety we experienced - from luxury lakeside resorts to cowboy-country charm - perfectly captures what makes Nevada unique," enthused Rosemary Spiteri, owner of The Curated Traveller Australia. JM

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## SPECIALS

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It's End-of-Financial-Year (EOFY) time again and **Royal Caribbean** has released its seasonal savings, offering an instant \$1,000 off a selection of cruise fares on Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific itineraries. In addition, cruisers can get 60% off the second passenger's fare and half-price deposits, valid for bookings until 31 Jul. **CLICK HERE** for details.

**Scenic** has rolled out a range of inclusions and offers for new bookings of its 2026 France river cruises. Travellers can enjoy free economy class airfares up to \$2,900pp or a business class credit of \$4,500pp. A bonus pre-cruise luxury hotel night is also available for a limited time. To avail the offers, bookings must be deposited by 31 Aug - **CLICK HERE**.

Explore the Antarctic peninsula on the 80-guest *Ocean Nova* with **Chimu Adventures**, which has included return flights from Australia into an exclusive deal for a 13-day voyage departing in Mar. The itinerary also includes a night in Buenos Aires either side and a night in Ushuaia prior to embarkation, along with all transfers. **CLICK HERE** to learn more.

Families can take advantage of a chocolate-themed escape for the winter school holidays at **Parkroyal Monash Melbourne**. The package includes accommodation with two queen beds, buffet breakfast and a chocolate fondue set served with strawberries, brownies, marshmallows and other accompaniments. Valid for stays to 30 Sep - **CLICK HERE**.

The deal of the week from **Viking** invites travellers to explore the remote and tantalising Komodo Island on a 17-day sailing from Sydney to Bali in Nov 2025. Priced from \$7,795pp in a Veranda stateroom, the price marks a discount of \$10,800 per couple. **CLICK HERE** for details.

Travellers in Western Australia now have access to a range of exclusive deals thanks to a new **Perth Airport** Flight Frenzy Sale. Powered by short-term deal platform Click Frenzy, deals now live are from airlines including Qatar Airways, Malaysia Airlines and low-cost carrier AirAsia. The offers are available until 11:59pm on 22 Jun - **CLICK HERE** to book.

**Cruise Traveller** has launched a new 22-night package for Australians to experience the majesty of sailing the Mediterranean onboard the classic traditional masted ship *Royal Clipper*. The itinerary includes free hotel stays either side of a 19-night cruise to 18 sun-soaked destinations, departing on 11 Apr 2026. Book by 31 Jul. To learn more - **CLICK HERE**.

Save nearly \$3,000 on a 17-night Antarctica and Falkland Islands voyage with **HX Expeditions**. The 17-night itinerary departs on 29 Oct 2025 and is now priced from \$15,485pp. For more details, **CLICK HERE**.

Wellness brand **Chiva-Som** is inviting busy professionals and those keen to try it out for a one-night 'Essentials Offer'. Priced from \$1,017pp for stays until 30 Sep, the rate includes three healthy meals per night, access to all fitness classes, a personalised health consultation, full use of all facilities and one treatment per night. Phone 02 8296 7074.



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## LTC's first immersion famil



**LUXURY** Travel Collection (LTC) is currently hosting its first immersion famil through Sri Lanka with Uga Escapes.

Advisors and their guests are enjoying Uga's properties and indulging in wellness rituals and culinary adventures.

According to data from Flight Centre Travel Group, interest in the South Asian country grew by 14% in Q1 2025 compared to the same period in 2024.

This is the first in a series of LTC immersion famil to ensure its members gain an understanding of destinations around the world.

"Today's luxury traveller craves meaning, connection, and authenticity," said LTC General Manager Nikki Glading.

"Our immersion program is crafted to meet that demand, offering our members privileged access to transformative experiences that go far beyond traditional education, empowering them to deliver more nuanced, compelling journeys for their discerning clients," she added. *JM*

**Pictured:** Cassandra O'Bryan, Tailored Journeys; Nicole

Grant, Destination HQ; Stacey Lyons, Home Travel Company; Brenda Nash, Uga Escapes; Dani Armstrong, Take off Go; and Nikki Glading, LTC.

## North wants a slice

A COALITION of hoteliers in northern Phuket have joined forces to launch a new destination strategy in an effort to claim some of the market share enjoyed by the region's south.

Helmed by the tagline 'Above and Beyond', the new branding aims to position the northern region of Thailand's most-visited island, stretching from Naithon to Mai Khao, as more laidback and a haven of tranquillity.

The group say travellers seeking a more authentic Thai experience with "space and serenity" should consider north Phuket.

"The campaign is designed not just to attract footfall, but to redefine the entire perception of this corner of the island, which is rich in national parks, native wildlife, and miles of uncrowded shoreline," said The Slate Phuket General Manager, Claude Sauter.





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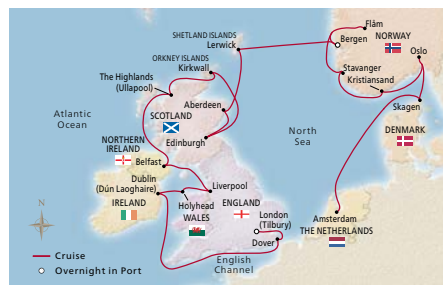
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