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Sheller speaks to CW

CRUISE is significantly growing in importance to Virtuoso, the network's new VP of Global Cruise Lori Sheller believes.

Virtuoso's new cruise boss, who started at the company around two months ago (**TD** 12 May), noted the strong growth of the sector within the network's larger product portfolio.

More details of Sheller's exclusive chat with **Cruise Weekly** in today's issue **HERE**.

Aussies eager for thrills

MORE Aussies are seeking out adventure tourism experiences, according to new findings from Big Red Group's *Seasonal Experiences Index: Autumn 2025* report, which analysed booking data from 200,000 experiences taken between 01 Mar-31 May.

Demand for adrenaline-inducing activities surged during the three-month period, with 18.5% of Big Red's bookings falling under the adventure category.

Helicopter flight experiences grew significantly (up 92.9%), fuelled by strong demand from international visitors, particularly from China, India and the UK.

Those markets also drove sales for canyoning and sightseeing/cultural tours, with both categories seeing a 71.9% uplift.

Additionally, bookings for adrenaline-inducing ziplining, bungee jumping, and giant swings were up by 71.4%.

Hot air ballooning and theme parks were also among the experience marketplace's best-selling categories in autumn.

"Consumers are showing us that they are seeking experiences that are unforgettable, leading to the prioritisation of high-value activities that enrich or excite," said David Anderson, CEO and co-founder at Big Red Group.

"As decision-making becomes more centred around emotionally resonant experiences, the tourism and experiences industry is certainly well poised to benefit



from this mindset shift."

Local adventure tourism market is set to grow from \$53.33b in 2025 to \$174.03b by 2032. **JM**

Fred's new skipper

FRED. Olsen Travel has appointed Julie Berry as its new Global Managing Director, filling the gap left by Steve Williams, who retired earlier this year.

Prior to joining the company, Berry (**pictured**) spent six years in consulting roles for various companies, including Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines.

The UK-based executive's CV also includes a 20-year stint at Thomas Cook, holding senior roles across tour operating, commercial, cruise, customer experience and transformation.

The European cruise line has renewed its focus on the Australian market in recent years, including Australia as part of its world cruise last year.

Cruise Traveller serves as the line's exclusive Australian distributor.



Auckland cancels

BAD weather has caused delays and cancellations in and out of Auckland Airport this morning.

Flight radar maps show New Zealand's biggest hub has been forced to scrap 20 flights and delay more than half.

A spokesperson for AKL said the impacted services were mainly entering from regional destinations, however a China Eastern flight from Hangzhou was diverted to Christchurch.

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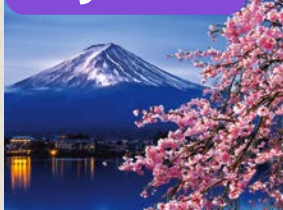
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Aussies claim 42% more

AUSSIERS are 42% more likely than their Kiwi counterparts to make an insurance claim while cruising, a new study published by Southern Cross Travel Insurance has found.

When it came to the states and territories, the report indicated that between May 2024 and Apr 2025, Tasmanians were the most active in making claims during cruise trips, topping the list with a 16% rate.

48% do not trust

NEARLY half of Australians do not trust anyone to plan their overseas holiday, preferring to organise it themselves, according to new research from travelinsurance.com.au.

The stats revealed that 17% trust their partner the least, followed by their parents (6%), in-laws (5%) & best mates (5%).

However, the survey found 10% are happy to see a travel agent.

"The fact that more people trust a professional over someone they know shows just how stressful travel planning can be, and sometimes, it's worth paying for peace of mind and having someone else to turn to if things go wrong," said TravelInsurance.com.au CEO, Shaun McGowan.

"Holidays are so personal and typically cost thousands of dollars, so it makes sense Australians want to control the controllables by booking every part of the trip themselves."



Victorians came in second with an 11.2% rate; followed by Queensland (10.1%); Western Australia (9.8%); South Australia (9.4%); NSW (8.1%); the NT (6.3%), and the ACT (5.5%).

The most common insurance claims related to mishaps on board the ship, as well as illnesses on land and on deck, with the average claim cost of \$1,329.

Chief Customer Officer at Southern Cross Travel Insurance, Jess Strange, said the high costs of medical treatment on cruise ships is a valuable reminder to purchase cruise cover before casting off on voyages.

"We have seen claims for prescription paracetamol on United States-flagged cruise ships sometimes in the region of \$US200, so it definitely pays to have travel insurance," she said.

"We know Aussies are a nation of cruise enthusiasts and while it is a fabulous way to travel, there are some drawbacks that could result in costly medical bills if you choose not to take out travel insurance for your voyage.

"Often cruise ships are in remote places far out at sea, therefore if repatriations need to occur, the remoteness and complexity of the repatriation process can make it costly." AB

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Mat's next battles

MAT McLachlan Battlefield Tours has announced two Signature Tours for next year in Vietnam and the Western Front.

The company's namesake, Mat McLachlan, will lead both tours, which will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the arrival of troops in Vietnam, and the 110th anniversary of battles on the Western Front.

The eight-day Vietnam tour will be joined by Dave Sabben who was awarded the Medal of Gallantry for his service.

The nine-day Western Front itinerary will take a close-up look at the Attack at Fromelles and the Battle of the Somme.

BNE is ready to roar

BRISBANE Airport is preparing for a record-breaking winter travel season, with a forecast 2.78 million passengers expected to pass through its domestic and international terminals during the upcoming school holidays.

The winter travel surge is being boosted by the arrival of thousands of British & Irish Lions fans, as the iconic rugby tour brings a wave of visitors to Queensland for a number of games in Brisbane.

The airport is forecasting 1.4% more passengers through its domestic terminal, and a whopping 18.4% more international traffic, compared to the same period last year.

The busiest day of the season is expected to be Fri 18 Jul.

The big 250 for USA

BRAND USA has partnered with America250 to promote the United States' 250th anniversary in 2026 around the world.

International audiences will be inspired to explore the United States' rich history, heritage, and culture throughout the anniversary year.

Golden news for NT

THE NT has reconnected with the Gold Coast, with direct Jetstar Airways flights.

The airline's first flight from Darwin to then Gold Coast arrived this morning, with the service to operate four times per week.

The new service will be seasonal, and is expected to deliver more than 25,000 seats annually, boosting visitation and strengthening ties between the two regions.

"The direct service also eliminates the need for connecting flights or long, often inconvenient drives up the motorway, making travel easier and more accessible," Queensland Airports Limited Chief Commercial Officer Adam Rowe said.



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VA share price lands

RECENTLY listed Virgin Australia has begun to descend slightly on the ASX after a rapid take off earlier this week saw the initial \$2.90 stock go as high as \$3.40.

The carrier hit the market strong on 24 Jun and continued its upward trajectory the next day before levelling out, and by Thu afternoon, it had dipped and returned to a level closer to its initial value.

At close yesterday it gave VA a market capitalisation of \$2.61 billion - the last 48 hours throwing some curve balls at the carrier in the form of the Middle East airspace shutdown, which affected its partner and 23% stakeholder, Qatar Airways.

Meanwhile, Qantas continues to soar on the ASX, valued at \$10.44 at close yesterday with a market cap of \$15.8b and a high of \$11.04. DF

Viking's new Vesta

VIKING has taken delivery of its newest ocean ship, *Viking Vesta*.

The delivery ceremony took place over night, when the ship was presented at Fincantieri's shipyard in Italy.

Vesta is classified as a small ship, hosting 998 guests, like most of Viking's ocean newbuilds.

The vessel will spend its inaugural season sailing itineraries in the Mediterranean and northern Europe.

Attention now turns to the line's next ship *Viking Libra*, the world's first hydrogen-powered ship.

EU adopts baggage rule

DESPITE protests from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the European Union has voted to adopt a controversial proposal to allow air passengers to bring a capped amount of hand luggage on flights for free.

The EU argued the rule change - which only applies to EU-based



airlines - will make the pricing of air travel more transparent.

Matteo Ricci, Vice President of the EU Committee on Transport and Tourism, said clearly defined rules for free hand luggage were "a fundamental right to avoid unjustified extra costs".

Specifically, the adopted proposal allows passengers to bring a personal item into the cabin and a piece of hand luggage weighing up to seven kilograms.

There is also a dimension limit as part of the change, with personal bags needing to adhere to maximum dimensions of 40x30x15cm, while hand luggage items must be under 100cm.

Airlines will be prohibited from charging passengers any extra fees for carrying on the items.

Last week, IATA slammed the move as "meddling in operational and commercial issues" (**TD** 24 Jun), arguing it will ultimately see passengers pay higher fares as airlines will rebundle offerings to offset the lost revenue.

The latest development followed IATA releasing a 10-year global baggage roadmap in response to polling calling for more accountability (**TD** 16 May).

The airline advocacy body's blueprint called for more tracking and a crackdown on fraud. AB

New AI cruise tool

TRAVELTEK has launched AIVA, the world's first agentic AI cruise search, which will be demonstrated at the Travel Tech Show in London this week.

The new tool, built alongside Traverse Automation, aims to transform the cruise booking experience for travel businesses.

The system allows travel advisors to input client requests exactly as they would be spoken, for example: "family friendly Mediterranean cruise in Aug with good kids' facilities".

AIVA - which stands for AI Voyager Assistant - is currently in beta testing, and will be available exclusively through iSell Connect next month.

Traveltek Chief Executive Officer Mal Barritt said AIVA has been designed to solve a "critical industry gap".

"AI is evolving at an extraordinary pace, and Traveltek, together with our AI partner Traverse, is shaping how it is applied in cruise technology," Barritt said.

Don't be a dope

THE use of cannabis in Thailand is now limited to medicinal purposes only, Smartraveller is warning Australians.

Deputy Thai PM Anutin Charnvirakul this week signed an order banning cannabis' recreational use in Thailand.



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Shannon welcomes ATIA directory

EXCLUSIVE

TRAVEL Agent Finder (TAF) founder Anna Shannon has welcomed the launch of ATIA's TravelTick consumer directory (TD 26 Jun), heralding any new resource that will help travel advisors gain greater visibility.

Speaking with *Travel Daily*, Shannon (**pictured**) said that while there are certainly similarities to what TAF offers advisors in Australia, TravelTick differs in two meaningful ways.

"[TravelTick] is a 'business' listing, whereas I am about the 'individual' and what they personally bring to the table," Shannon explained.

"I am also open to all Aussie agents, [TravelTick] is for ATIA-accredited members only.

"ATIA's message will be around accreditation - which is exactly what they should be doing.

"But not all home-based, independent and mobile agents



are in a position to be ATIA-accredited, they are, of course, welcome to join TAF."

Five years ago, Shannon said she approached ATIA with the idea [for an agent directory], and admits she was disappointed they could not ultimately work together on the project.

"It is great to see some movement on this finally," Shannon said.

"The similarities in our marketing message and language reinforce the importance of working with the right specialist to consumers - we are singing the same song."

When asked whether TravelTick may pose a threat to TAF, Shannon said there is room in the market for more resources.

"A rising tide lifts all boats," she said, adding that agents should advertise wherever their audience is looking.

"TAF and TravelTick are both key to an agent's marketing mix and if they are eligible, they should appear on both," she said.

"But when TravelTick's 120,000 consumers a year reaches my 200,000 a month, ask me then," Shannon joked. AB

EVA on Travelpport

AGENTS using the Travelpport+ platform can now access new distribution capability (NDC) content from EVA Air.

Travelpport's agency customers can now easily view and compare NDC offers and ancillaries from the Taiwan-based carrier.

AirAsia to Darwin

AIRASIA Malaysia has touched down on its direct service between Kuala Lumpur and Darwin this morning, which is expected to open up new tourism and trade opportunities for the Northern Territory.

The carrier will operate four weekly return flights between the two cities, with promotional one-way fares now on sale, starting from \$219.

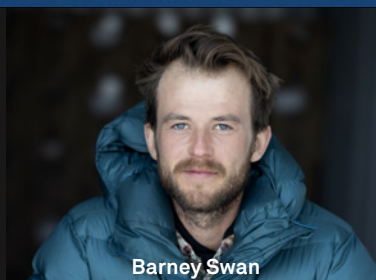
The new service is supported by the Territory Aviation Attraction Scheme and delivered in partnership with the Airport Development Group.

As part of the launch, AirAsia and the NT Govt are hosting a fam to showcase the Top End to key Malaysian and Indonesian influencers and media.



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Join our experts on our Scenic Eclipse East Antarctica webinar – Thursday, 3rd July at 10am AEST (12pm NZST)

Hosted by Scenic Director of Discovery Operations, **Jason Flesher** and Director of sales **Robert Kalembe**.

Special guests - legendary polar explorers **Robert** and **Barney Swan** plus **Ian Godfrey**, from the Mawson's Huts Foundation.

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Alliance parts sale

ALLIANCE Aviation has sold its spare parts inventory to aircraft supply store AVIAN for US\$32.5 million (A\$49.6 million).

The current E190 inventory belonging to Alliance will now be relocated to a newly established facility at Brisbane Airport.

The deal excludes engines, undercarriages, and auxiliary power units, Alliance noted.

AVIAN now possesses one of the largest E190 inventories globally.

Celestyal 27/28

CELESTYAL Cruises has launched its 2027 program, which is on sale now to advisors.

The cruise line is offering a summer Greece and Mediterranean season in 2027, alongside a new winter Arabian Gulf deployment.

Nine itineraries are available to book across 182 departures from Mar 2027, with a number of early 2028 cruises also available to book.

Sailings range between three and 14 nights on the 1,360-guest *Celestyal Discovery* and seven and 14 nights on the 1,260-guest *Celestyal Journey*.

One of the highlights of the season will be the seven-night 'Heavenly Greece, Italy & Croatia' itinerary calling Kefalonia, Corfu, and Katakolo.



TC cheers to partners



TRAVELLERS Choice members recently enjoyed product briefings from suppliers at Stomping Ground Beer Hall in Vic.

Representatives from TC's preferred partners included APT, Cathay Pacific, Princess Cruises & Back-Roads Touring.

During their presentations, the brands shared tips across the benefits of loyalty programs, clever GDS shortcuts and more.

"We particularly wanted to ensure our members were taking full advantage of the various support programs these companies have in place for their retail partners, including training programs and marketing initiatives that help drive customers through the door," Travellers Choice BDM Graham Smith told *Travel Daily*.

Pictured: Graham Smith,

Travellers Choice; Jared Voss, Princess Cruises; Karen Morham, Premier Travel Agent; Kyah Tragardh, Backroads; Melanie Golin, Taking Off Tours; Cath Barton, Canadian Bay Travel; Julie-Ann Silvey, Chelsea Travel; Sue Brownley, Belmore Travel; Jacqui Rogers, Balnarring Travel.

Sofitel loves Charlie

LUXURY Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi is hosting a new exhibition called 'Charlie Chaplin: Echoes of a Legend'.

Chaplin and his wife actress Paulette Goddard honeymooned at the Metropole in 1936.

Guests can view a rare selection of film posters, original sheet music and the 06 Jul 1925 issue of *TIME*, the first time Chaplin ever graced its cover.



Window Seat

VIDEO has emerged on North Korean state TV showing its leader Kim Jong-un hailing the opening of the country's first beach resort.

The man who is more typically associated with overseeing long-range ballistic missile launches was instead taking in the view of guests firing out of water slides at high speed (**pictured**).

Located on the North Korea's east coast, the resort features sports and recreation facilities, restaurants and a range of aquatic entertainment.

Local broadcaster KCNA said Kim had "expressed belief that the wave of the happiness in the Wonsan Kalma coastal tourist area would enhance its attractive name as a world-level tourist cultural resort".

While inbound tourism is still heavily restricted, the resort will open to domestic guests initially, and in time, authorities hope to attract around 20,000 visitors a year.



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Agents lap up Ponant



TRAVELMANAGERS' Lindy Hill has returned from a famil on board Ponant's *Le Dumont D'Urville* on its 'Ancient Wonders of the Mediterranean' itinerary.

The travelling group explored Greece, Turkey, mainland Italy, Sicily and Malta.

"I had high expectations before boarding, but these were well exceeded," said Hill.

"Nothing was too much trouble for the exceptional crew, and I would love to return and spend more time exploring these incredible places."

Hill also appreciated the design of the ship, comparing it to a five-star luxury boutique.

"The smaller size of the ship, compared with many cruise ships, made it easy to connect with fellow travellers," she continued.

"But with two restaurants, two lounges, a pool deck and an underwater bar to choose from, there were still plenty of areas where you could seek out solitude when necessary."

Highlights from Hill's cruise included sailing through the Corinth Canal and into Malta at sunrise on the final morning of the trip.

Pictured: Ebony Manwaring, Marketing Co-Ordinator, Ponant; Kristina Sambaher, State Manager NSW & ACT, Ponant; Jenna Lewis from Travel Associates; and Laurie Head and Lindy Hill from TravelManagers. *JHM*

TWAI buys Travello

SOCIAL travel platform Travello has been acquired by TWAI, a United States-based leader in travel technology.

The strategic acquisition strengthens Travello's presence in the global experience market, and expands TWAI's B2C and B2C distribution capabilities.

"We have always had global ambitions and TWAI allows us to scale our tours and activities marketplace to a global audience, while also supporting our ambitions to be the industry leader in social commerce," Travello Chief Executive Officer Ryan Hanly said.

TWAI co-founder and COO Moondeep Aggarwal added entering the tours and activities market had always been a priority for his company, which the acquisition allows it to do.

HX EXPEDITIONS' GREENLAND ANZ AGENT FAMIL



THE HX Australia and New Zealand team recently hosted a spectacular Greenland famil aboard *MS Fridtjof Nansen*, sailing on its 'Discovering Greenland: Reykjavik to Nuuk' expedition, bringing together a group of 20 travel agents, industry professionals, and their companions.

From the moment it set sail, the experience was nothing short of extraordinary - filled with laughter, shared stories, and unforgettable memories.

Exploring dramatic fjords, colourful settlements, and towering glaciers, the group was immersed in Greenland's wild beauty while gaining valuable insights through expert-led lectures and hands-on sessions in our onboard Science Centre.

The group was privileged to be guided by Expedition Leader Niels Rasmussen, a proud Greenland local, who offered a deep cultural connection and unique perspective throughout the journey. Adding to the authenticity

were two talented Greenlandic chefs, Inunnguaq Hegelund and Laasi Biilmann, who brought local flavours to life with every meal.

It was an enriching, awe-inspiring adventure that left everyone with a deeper appreciation for this remote and remarkable part of the world.



TOP: Exploring the mining ghost town in Ivittuat.

MIDDLE: Group dinner at the onboard restaurant Fredheim.

BOTTOM: Zooming past icebergs on the Zodiac in the Greenland Fjord system.



FAMIL IN FOCUS is our feature showcasing some of the photos from recent industry famils. If you want your famil to be featured, email advertising@traveldaily.com.au.

CORPORATE UPDATE

Spend up, but measured

BUSINESSES in Australia and New Zealand again prioritised face-to-face interactions in 2024, analysis from SAP Concur shows.

The report also indicated higher corporate travel and employee expense spending patterns.

Despite the higher spending, businesses are utilising tighter controls to manage expenses with greater precision through automated compliance tools to prevent a return to pre-pandemic cost inefficiencies.

The SAP Concur analysis showed a 14% jump in total transactions across ANZ from 2023 to 2024, with the most growth recorded in client-facing and mobility-related categories, with meals up 19%, mileage climbing 21% and ground transport growing by 13%.

Average spend per transaction remained steady year to year, increasing only marginally from \$122 to \$125.

Accommodation costs also grew only slightly from \$208 to \$212 as an average expense value, while air travel saw the highest rise from a \$388 average to \$405.

SAP Concur Australia and NZ Managing Director Jonathan Beeby said businesses have expanded their in-person activity but in a measured way.

"The data reveals thoughtful investment into client interaction, travel, and mobility, with a much higher level of financial oversight," Beeby said.

"Companies are using this data to inform their decisions, and



it shows in how stable the cost profile has remained."

SAP Concur said compliance is proving to be difficult, with up to 20% of expense reports including spending outside of the company travel policy, largely stemming from unitemised receipts or duplicate claims. *ML*

Meet Sam at FCM

CORPORATE travel management brand FCM Travel is preparing to roll out an AI virtual assistant, with the aim of revolutionising the booking experience for travellers, bookers and managers.

Known as 'Sam', the system will be available on FCM's booking platform, mobile app & browser.

From a customer perspective, Sam will anticipate user needs based on booking patterns and query history, providing real-time conversational responses for every aspect of an itinerary.

FCM Travel Global Chief Experience Officer John Morhous said Sam will be a "game-changer" for its customers.

"This isn't just about answering your questions - it's about creating a travel companion that understands your preferences."

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ATO bleisure warning



BLEISURE travel and associated expenses will come under greater scrutiny from the Australian Tax Office during the 2024/25 tax season, Corporate Traveller and tax agent Moneywise believe.

The two organisations have joined forces to warn businesses to be extra vigilant when claiming on expenses that have been incurred during a leisure extension to a business trip.

Allied Market Research data shows bleisure travel spend has ballooned by more than double in the decade ending 2023 to reach \$731.4 billion.

Flight bookings made by Corporate Traveller for the financial year to date also show Jan 2025 was the most active in terms of blended bleisure activity, with travellers averaging trips of seven nights - up from the yearly average of five nights.

The FCTG brand and Moneywise are advising businesses to hold off on filing tax returns until they are fully prepared to minimise the risk of being audited.

"What most people don't realise is that employees have until 31 Oct to file the 2025 financial year's taxes," Moneywise Global General Manager John Tuohy said.

The two organisations say business travellers should keep a diary for expenses and remember weekend accommodation can be tax deductible if business extends from a Fri to a Mon.

Corporate Traveller Global Managing Director, Tom Walley, said the levelling out of airfares in 2025 fed into a growing appetite for bleisure travel, and is expected to grow further.

Walley added that businesses must make sure they are keeping accurate and detailed records for hospitality budgets, especially with major leisure events such as the Australian Open, Formula 1 Grands Prix around the world and concert tours impacting tax reporting for the next year.

Legitimate client entertainment expenses can also be claimed, but only if the real purpose is business, Walley added. *ML*

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Travellers can save up to \$1,000 per person on all **Wendy Wu Tours** 2025 group tours, including the 29-day 'Grand Tour of India', which visits the Taj Mahal and majestic forts of Rajasthan. Guests can spot tigers in the wild in Ranthambore National Park, and unwind on an overnight houseboat cruise in Kerala. Discover more last-minute offers **HERE**.

Tahitian cargo cruise line **Aranui Cruises** is slashing 20% off Austral Islands cruises in 2025 and 2026. Now priced from A\$7,009, travellers can save more than \$1,600 when they make a booking before 11 Aug 2025. The discount is available on 13-day roundtrip voyages from Papeete departing 01 Nov 2025 and 14 Feb, 28 Mar, 12 Sep, and 24 Oct 2026. For more information, **CLICK HERE**.

Singapore Airlines has extended its 'Time to Travel' fares, which offer discounted seats from Australia to selected destinations across its global network. Holidaymakers can now save on flights to Singapore, London, Paris, Bangkok, Hong Kong, and many more, when they book before 08 Jul 2025. The offer applies to select travel dates between 06 Oct 2025 and 15 Mar 2026. Additionally, tickets purchased during the sales period will earn 10% KrisFlyer bonus miles on SQ-operated return flights from Australia. Agents can find the fare sheets **HERE**.

Perfect for those seeking a solo winter staycation, **voco Melbourne Central** has announced two new experiences: Reset NOMO and Escape NOMO, with both starting from \$380. The packages include a one-hour spa treatment; a tailored cultural experience; breakfast in bed; a bottle of Prosecco; a luxury self-care kit; and late checkout until 4pm. Bookings are available **HERE** until 31 Aug, with stays valid through to 31 Dec 2025.

Air Calin is inviting Aussies to 'warm up in New Caledonia' with its latest sale. Travellers can snag direct flights from Brisbane to Noumea from \$539 return, and from Sydney to Noumea from \$569 return. The fares are on sale from today until 13 Jul, for travel dates between 01 Aug 2025 to 31 Mar 2026. Learn more by visiting aircalin.com.au.

Holidaymakers can enjoy savings of 30% on **Discovery Park** stays between now and 25 Sep 2025. The end of financial year sale is on until 09 Jul, and available at the operator's Echuca, Lane Cove and Hahndorf properties. For example, spend two nights in a new deluxe two-bedroom villa at Discovery Parks - Echuca from \$186.20 - see **HERE**.

Courtyard Phuket Patong has launched an 'Endless Summer & More' offer for Australian travellers, with unlimited dining and drinks. The all-inclusive package includes a daily buffet breakfast for two; complimentary resort activities such as yoga classes; and unlimited selected food and beverages daily from 11am-11pm across the resort's eight bars and restaurants. The offer is valid for stays from now through to 31 Oct 2025. To book, **CLICK HERE**.



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Skal Melbourne unites



SKAL Melbourne enjoyed a networking breakfast event at Amora Hotel Riverwalk Melbourne this week.

During the event, the group welcomed newest member Michelle Riel, Business Development Manager at Stuba, and enjoyed a coffee toast with Hospitality Habits Director and owner Benedikt Bouillon from Skal Auckland.

Attendees included Alex Dugdale, VP of Skal Melbourne; Sofie-Claire Dugdale, Business

Development Manager and Partnerships (Accommodation) at Endeavour Group; and Nick Sherrard, Business Development Manager at Room-res.com for Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. **JHM**

Pictured: Rebecca Day, Regional Head of Sales Stuba; Craig Hunt - Out There Travel Marketing and Michelle Riel, Stuba.

Virgin laughs it up

VIRGIN Voyages' Comedy Fest cruises will set sail this Aug on board *Valiant Lady*.

First, the Miami Comedy Fest on board the ship will depart from the port on 10 Aug, headlined by comedian Sonmore.

Then, she will bring the UK Comedy Fest to Europe, sailing from Portsmouth on a six-night itinerary through Spain and France, featuring Jack Whitehall.

Pegasus adds to STN

PEGASUS Airlines has launched two new direct routes from London Stanstead to Gaziantep and Kyaseri in Türkiye.

The London-Gaziantep route departs once a week every Sat from London at 20.40, with return flights operating on Sun at 04.20.

Passengers can fly from London to Kayseri on Wed at 20.40 and return on Thu at 04.30.

Prices to Gaziantep start from £54 (A\$113) and to Kayseri from £84 (A\$176) one-way.