



## A new future for you

Make 2025 your year by partnering with TravelManagers

Find out how



TravelManagers  
As individual as you are  
join.travelmanagers.com.au

## Christchurch trips

GET on the road with Infinity Holidays in Christchurch NZ with a host of new packages on offer from \$1,119ppts - see **page seven** for more details.

## Seabourn sells ship

A **VESSEL** scheduled to sail Australian waters in 2026 has been sold by Seabourn to Japan's Mitsui Ocean Cruises.

The luxury expedition line's 548-passenger *Sojourn* will be chartered back under the terms of the deal, so that all published voyages can be completed through to 15 May 2026.

Part of the final world cruise operated by the vessel includes stops at many Australian ports in 2026, with all still to go ahead.

The sale is part of a plan by Seabourn to modernise its fleet, and marks the second ship sold to Mitsui Ocean Cruises after it divested *Seabourn Odyssey* in Sep last year.

## Hall named GFOB chief

**GLOBUS** family of brands (GFOB) has appointed a new APAC chief, with Chris Hall (**pictured**) to take on the key role (**TD** breaking news).

Hall brings more than 30 years of experience in the travel industry, and was most recently the CEO of APAC for French luxury expedition cruise line Ponant.

Prior to that, Hall was Group Managing Director for Australian Pacific Holdings - the parent company for APT Travel Group and TravelMarvel - for eight years.

Speaking about his new role which commences on 31 Mar, Hall said he was "delighted" to join the GFOB team in Sydney.

"With an established portfolio of brands and product, I'm looking forward to reconnecting with trade partners and working side by side with them to grow the business and achieve mutual success," Hall said.

Hall will look to grow and



expand the reach of GFOB's key brands, which include Avalon Waterways, Globus and Cosmos.

GFOB CEO Scott Nisbet added that the new recruit will bring the leadership and deep industry expertise to drive innovation and elevate the company's position in touring and river cruising. **AB**

## Agents shine bright

**AGENTS** sparkled brightly at APT Travel Group's recent VIP awards dinner for NSW and ACT.

See **page eight** for all of the glitz and glamour.

## Today's issue of TD

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

- Infinity Holidays
- APT Travel Group

## IASC gives VA its tick

**THE** International Air Services Commission has ruled in favour of Virgin Australia's long-haul agreement with Qatar Airways, yesterday afternoon approving the deal for five years.

VA can now operate Doha flights scheduled for 28 frequencies a week in each direction, so long as all capacity is utilised by 31 Dec.

The IASC also noted that changes in ownership and control of Virgin Australia International Airlines Pty Ltd are permitted unless another Australian carrier, person, or group of persons have substantial ownership or effective control of VA without the prior consent of the commission.

**NCL** NORWEGIAN  
CRUISE LINE®

ARRIVING SOON

# NCL AIR

Cruise | Flights | Transfers

Register for NCL's Upcoming Webinar

Tuesday, 18 March

10:30 AM (AEDT)

REGISTER NOW

experience  
**MORE**  
at sea™



**PRICES FROM \$4,139**  
PER PERSON TWIN SHARE  
LAND ONLY  
\*Surcharges may apply

**Luxury Taiwan Panorama**

**W M W TOURS**

DURATION: **11 DAYS**

**VIEW DEAL**

## Drew gets on board

MSC Cruises has revealed US actor and talk show host Drew Barrymore will be the godmother of *MSC World America*.

The starlet will cut the ribbon of the ship alongside fellow actor Orlando Bloom at a naming ceremony on 09 Apr in Miami.

## Foran departs Air NZ

**AIR** New Zealand Chief Executive Officer Greg Foran (pictured) will depart the airline on 20 Oct (*TD* breaking news).

The high-profile aviation executive indicated to the board "the time was right" to move on from the Kiwi carrier, adding he felt the trajectory of growth is on a good footing and he is ready to "seek a new challenge".

"Despite so many issues outside of our control, we have continued to deliver improvements to



our service every day and I'll leave later this year knowing Air New Zealand's foundations are immensely strong, and its future very bright," Foran said.

Chair Dame Therese Walsh stated Foran's biggest achievement was guiding the business through the supply chain and financial issues associated with the pandemic.

Air NZ recently warned its problems with grounded planes will get worse before they get better, exacerbated by engine issues and limited aircraft supply.

A global search for a new CEO has kicked off already, with Foran to help with the transition. *AB*

## HX's true colours

**HX EXPEDITIONS** has updated the colours of its livery to better differentiate itself from the Hurtigruten brand after a major split strategy (*TD* 26 Apr 2021).

Indigo blue and sand colours on HX ships now herald a key visual departure from Hurtigruten.

**railbookers**

**WE LOVE  
LAST MINUTE  
BOOKINGS!**

Book Now, or Plan  
Up to 2 Years  
in Advance



## T&L portfolio grows

**TRAVEL + Leisure Co** has agreed to purchase 11 new resorts in Australia and New Zealand for its timeshare members to utilise.

The new properties are located in Magnetic Island, Caloundra, Port Macquarie, Forster, Tomakin, Kyneton, Mornington Peninsula, Murray River and Mildura, plus Paihia and Queenstown in NZ.

**New  
Members  
Welcome**

**TRAVELLERS  
CHOICE**

**Check us out >>>**



**OUR MOST  
GENEROUS  
PROMOTION  
EVER**

**Treat  
Yourself.**

**Room-Res.com**  
for WINNING AGENTS

**CLICK FOR MORE DETAILS**



**2025  
LAST CHANCE OFFER**

**BOOK BY 31 MAR 2025**



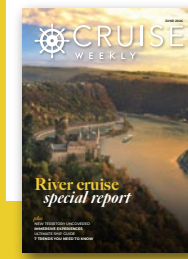
**ROCKY MOUNTAINEER**

**SAVE UP TO  
\$800 PER  
COUPLE**

T&Cs apply. Valid on select travel dates.

**INCLUDES** 🍷 🍴 🍺 🍻





## Discover our River Cruise Special Report

[Click here](#)

## Investment pipeline up \$7bn

**INVESTORS** contributed funds to 346 projects relating to Australia's visitor economy as of 30 Jun 2024, according to a new investment market snapshot from Tourism Research Australia.

At the turn of the financial year, the tourism investment pipeline amounted to \$63.4 billion, a year-on-year increase of \$7.3 billion, and an additional 39 projects compared to 2022-23.

Aviation and recreation services saw increases both in investment value and project quantity, while accommodation saw a mild slide, which was attributed to several high-value projects concluding.

Across this segment, investment value was down \$700 million and amounted to 700 fewer rooms, but project count was up by five.

During the 2023-24 FY, there were 164 standalone accommodation projects in the pipeline valued at \$11.4 billion, of which 50 are new and amount to



5,600 new rooms in total.

The pipeline reflected projects which had been announced but were yet to proceed to formal stages of planning and building.

"International visitation is set to exceed pre-pandemic levels in 2026, and domestic travel is expected to gain momentum in 2026," the report indicated.

Broken down by state, NSW and Vic are neck-and-neck in terms of total investment pipeline, with only \$300 million between them.

Recreation investment was dominating in NSW, while the majority of aviation investment was being spent in Victoria.

Read the full report [HERE](#). *ML*

## TC adds more style

**TRAVELLERS** Choice has added Travel Your Style in Sydney as a member, an agency that typically caters to high-spending clients.

The Balgowlah business is owned and run by Alastair Fernie, an experienced travel executive who has held roles with airlines such as Qantas and Air NZ, as well as wholesalers and OTAs.

Starting out catering to a broad cross-section of clients, in recent times the agency has narrowed its focus on high-spending travellers looking for exceptional travel experiences.

"The term 'luxury' is used a lot in the travel industry, but it can be a bit of a misnomer," Fernie explained, adding his clients "have money, but they are not necessarily interested in spending it all on five-star hotels & limos".

Travel Your Style made the decision to join Travellers Choice because of its flexible membership model, reputation, and agent support services.

## Infinity is choice bro

**INFINITY** Holidays has partnered with Christchurch Airport to promote four self-drive highway routes through New Zealand's South Island.

Forming part of the 'The Road to Adventure Starts Here' campaign, the collaboration aims to highlight the region's diverse landscapes, world-class attractions and road-trip adventure experiences.

The partnership will feature a multi-channel marketing campaign, including digital promotions, social media content, and exclusive travel packages.

As part of the campaign, travel agents will have the opportunity to be in the running for a famil to explore New Zealand's South Island firsthand - find out more information [HERE](#).



Join us on a 12 day tour through Europe's towering Alps & idyllic towns.  
**Departs 18 October, 2025**

Every Collette booking from 1 January to April 30, 2025 brings you closer to this unforgettable trip!

The top two agents in each territory will secure their spot, with a few wildcard places up for grabs.

**MARCH IS TURBO MONTH!**  
For all March bookings, you'll receive double the entries!

[LEARN MORE](#)

# collette

Experts in Guided Travel Since 1918

## Peaks of Europe

*The Alps to The Dolomites*

**MARCH IS TURBO MONTH**  
Double the entries for all March bookings!





LEARN MORE ABOUT TOKYO WITH TRAVEL DAILY TRAINING ACADEMY

Click here to discover

Travel Daily

**Travel Daily**  
ON LOCATION

**UAE**

Today's issue of *CW* is coming to you courtesy of **Celestyal Cruises**, which is hosting us aboard *Celestyal Journey*.

**CELESTYAL Journey** is back in the United Arab Emirates, today calling in Sir Bani Yas, a destination located off the southwest coast of Abu Dhabi. Sir Bani Yas is UAE's largest island, and is home to its namesake wildlife reserve, one of the largest in Arabia. The island is home to many species, including Arabian oryx, Somali ostrich, gazelle, deer and reticulated giraffes, all of which famil guests will be able to spot today on our special tour of the island.

## HAL eager to keep traditions



**TRADITIONS** mean very little to some but everything to others, and Holland America Line (HAL) is eager to preserve and acknowledge as many as it can.

During a visit to Sydney this week, HAL Vice President Int'l Sales, Rob Coleman, said the line runs in his blood, enjoying his first HAL cruise in 1975.

"At my core, I am a traditionalist, because they remind me of my happiest past," Coleman said.

It's for this reason that HAL preserves traditions onboard such as maintaining a fully stocked library, pre-dinner cocktails and even HAL's famous orange party.

The HAL Australia team is **pictured** above at the dinner - Angus Mackay, Maddie Mandile, Jessie Treccosti, Natasha Edminson, Helen Courias, Rebecca Cranston, Rob Coleman, Rob Graham, Hannah Baynes, Catherine Rynd and Alex Pikardt.

## Explore with Swan

**SWAN** Hellenic will operate 24 round-trip departures from Ushuaia in its 2026/27 Antarctic season, with bookings now open.

In addition to nine- to 13-night expeditions exploring southern regions of Antarctica, the season also encompasses a 20-night repositioning from Cape Town.

Across two ships *SH Diana* and *SH Vega*, Swan Hellenic will take travellers to regions including Saint Helena, Ascension Island, Tristan da Cunha, along with the South Sandwich Islands and South Georgia Island.

New for 2026/27 will be a series of expert-led snowshoeing walks, which will offer travellers a chance to venture farther inland than normal shore landings allow.

The season will also feature special Christmas, New Year and Chinese New Year celebration voyages for booking.

## Window Seat

**COULD** Miami's next tourist drawcard end up being as something as simple as its street signs?

Over the years, officials across Miami-Dade County have renamed several roads across the municipality, but now one commissioner has put forward some rather interesting suggestions.

Travellers may soon find themselves on streets named 'Grind With Me Terrace' or 'Big Money Baller Street', thanks to a new plan to rename several roads after the hit songs of native-born music artists.

Our personal favourites are 'Still the Baddest Street' and 'We the Best Terrace'.

## SIA scraps flights

**SINGAPORE** Airlines has cancelled services into and out of Brisbane today and tomorrow, along with issuing a global waiver policy, as Tropical Cyclone Alfred bears down on Queensland.

Overall, more than 150 flights into Brisbane were scrapped this morning, with both Qantas and Virgin confirming flights will be suspended from mid-afternoon.

Currently a category 2, the cyclone is forecast to cross land between Coolangatta Maroochydore tomorrow, with Brisbane right in the middle.

## DriveAway to UK

**DRIVEAWAY** has launched its latest campaign, 'Roads to Remember: Discover the UK, Europe & Ireland Your Way'.

The campaign will encourage travellers to embrace the freedom of a road trip in the UK by offering deals throughout Mar and Apr, as well as a new planner to assist in creating the ideal French road trip.

DriveAway has also introduced a new agent incentive, with the chance to win \$500 by taking a quiz to discover the perfect self-drive adventure for their clients.




# UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL:

## Join Our Mentoring Program and Ignite Your Success!

**TIME** is a Career Advancement Path for all Employees in Travel, Tourism, Hospitality, Cruise and Aviation Industry including Regional, and Rural Areas across Australia

**WHAT TIME CAN DO FOR YOU...**

- Further develop your management and leadership potential
- Strategic career planning
- Develop confidence and networking opportunities
- Increase your knowledge of organisational culture & processes

For more information visit - [www.travelindustrymentor.com.au](http://www.travelindustrymentor.com.au)





## NZ events drive

**MILLENNIUM** Hotels and Resorts NZ is focusing on driving conferences and events to Northland and the Bay of Islands during the winter season as part of its new marketing campaign.

To entice event organisers, Copthorne Hotel and Resort Bay of Islands is offering corporate and conference packages for events held between 01 May and 30 Sep.

These packages include premium accommodation, meeting space offers, and itineraries featuring cultural experiences, adventure tourism, and dining.

The hospitality group said its goal is to position the Bay of Islands as “not just as a top-tier holiday destination but also as a premier location for business events”.

## SYD TO BECOME ROBOT CAPITAL

**SYDNEY** is set to bolster its reputation in the \$20 billion global AI robotics industry after winning the right to host the IEEE/Robotics Society of Japan (RSJ) International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) in 2028.

Marking the first time the event will be hosted in the southern hemisphere in its 30-year history, the conference is expected to attract between 7,000-10,000 delegates from around the world, generating an estimated \$31 million of direct expenditure into the local economy.

NSW Minister for Jobs and Tourism, John Graham, described the news as a “big win for Sydney and the NSW visitor economy”.

“This emerging field is reaching a critical inflection point and hosting a world-leading conference will put Australian experts at the



forefront of that conversation.”

Business Events Sydney (BESydney) partnered with esteemed robotics researchers from around Australia to bid to bring IROS Down Under.

“Events such as IROS allow us to build global connectivity for our robust local research ecosystem as well as showcasing Australian capability and collaboration and investment opportunities,” said BESydney CEO Lyn Lewis-Smith.

“Initiatives like the Sydney Quantum Academy and Tech

Central’s innovation hubs underpin Sydney’s vibrant ecosystem, creating opportunities for collaboration across fields such as AI, quantum computing, and robotics.

“These advancements are driving NSW’s competitive edge and attracting international conferences and investment that spotlight its leadership in digital and intelligent technologies.”

IROS Sydney will be held at the International Convention Centre Sydney from 02-06 Oct 2028. *JM*

## Qudos to Eilish

**AMERICAN** pop sensation Billie Eilish has set an impressive new record for the highest single event attendance at Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney.

The singer’s ‘Hit Me Hard and Soft’ tour attracted 21,001 fans on 28 Feb, overtaking the previous mark of 20,839 held by Justin Timberlake since 2007.

The record-breaking tour is part of the current pipeline of events at the arena that kicked off in Feb with UFC 312 breaking the Arena Box Office record, plus a lineup of music icons including Drake.

## Te Pae Christchurch wins an eco gong

**TE PAE** Christchurch Convention Centre has been honoured for its dedication to sustainability, winning the Building Sustainability Through People Award at the 2025 NZ HR Awards.

According to the panel of judges, the venue was given the accolade in recognition of “embedding sustainability into its culture and operation”.

Te Pae Christchurch Director of Human Resources Vanessa



McBean said the award reflects the organisation’s ongoing commitment to making meaningful contributions to sustainability through a wide range of initiatives.

## Holiday Inn offer

**HOLIDAY** Inn Melbourne Airport is promoting its new conference and events day delegate package, for bookings made by 30 Jun.

The offer includes accommodation from \$165 per night for bookings of more than nine rooms, and a full day delegate package for \$75 including lunch, barista coffee for all meal breaks, free onsite parking for delegates, and more - see [HERE](#).

# GROW YOUR BUSINESS

## LAUNCHING 10 MARCH

# HOME EX

HOME AGENT  
VIRTUAL  
EXPERIENCE

REGISTER FREE

## APPOINTMENTS

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

**Virgin Australia** has promoted from within to find its new Chief Executive Officer, with **Dave Emerson** moving from Chief Commercial Officer to the top job from 14 Mar. In his 25 years' experience in aviation and tourism, Emerson has crafted a global reputation for delivering business transformation and strong financial acumen.

**Princess Cruises** has welcomed company veteran **Matthew Rutherford** as its new Vice President Asia Pacific. Rutherford will oversee the line's operations in Australia, Japan and regional Asia and brings a strong financial background to his new role, having previously served as the Vice President of Revenue Management & Deployment at P&O Cruises Australia as part of a 10-year tenure with Carnival Australia.

Elsewhere in the Carnival family, **Amy Williams** will take charge of **Cunard's** local presence from 01 May in the role of Sales and Marketing Director Australia and New Zealand. Williams joined the British line in 2016 and relocated to Australia with it three years later and brings a deep knowledge of the brand and a strong passion for excellence.

**South African Airways** has settled on **Professor John Lamola** as its new permanent Group Chief Executive Officer. Lamola has been serving in the role in an acting capacity since 2022 and is eager to push SA forward.

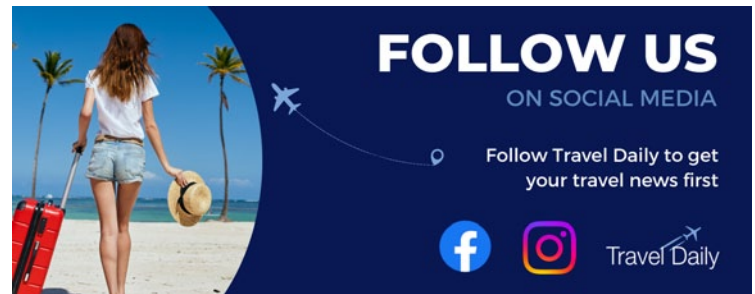
Travel management leader **The Appointment Group (TAG)** has hired **Pat Eastman** as its new Supplier Relations Manager. Eastman brings experience across both travel and hospitality and expertise in strategic sourcing, commercial partnership and revenue growth. She moves into her new role from Group Sales Manager at Star Entertainment Group and prior to that, as Account Manager at Qantas Loyalty.

**Adelaide Airport Limited** has recruited former Qantas Chief Sustainability Officer **Andrew Parker** to its board of directors. In a long aviation career to date, Parker has also held senior roles at Emirates.

Following an extensive selection process, **Tahiti Tourisme** has selected **Vaihere Lissant** as its new Chief Executive Officer, promoting the experienced destination specialist from her former role as Chief Marketing Officer. Lissant is a Tahitian native and began her marketing career in Paris, before returning to work with the DMO in 2014.

Leading global public relations, communications and content for **Aurora Expeditions** is the line's latest recruit, **Jocelyn Black**. In her new role, Black will work closely with global marketing teams to drive awareness and brand engagement. Black moves to the role after many successful years in publicity and communications with Tourism Ireland.

Former Hyatt Hotels executive **Daniel Kuperschmid** has been named by the **San Diego Tourism Authority** as its new President and CEO. Kuperschmid will begin his new role on 24 Mar and brings more than 30 years in asset management with Hyatt, where he oversaw 42 properties.



## Qantas females flying high



**QANTAS** and Jetstar are marking International Women's Day this year with more than 50 all-female operated flights.

The flights, which took off at the beginning of the week, aim to inspire the next generation of girls and women to explore career opportunities within the aviation industry.

The services will be planned, dispatched and operated by over 250 female pilots, cabin crew, engineers, airport and operations centre team members across Qantas, QantasLink and Jetstar, and span over 20 routes in Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

"Today's flights are such an important moment to showcase to young girls and women all the different career paths aviation can offer, including pilots and engineers," said Jetstar's Senior Manager of Flying Operations, Captain Lizzie Archibald.

"From the flight deck and cabin, to the operations centre, engineering, ground staff, and corporate teams, this week is an opportunity to celebrate the invaluable contributions of women to the world of aviation every day." JM

## Ultimate flexibility

**TRAVELLERS** are prioritising blended travel opportunities and a strong work-life balance over high salaries and financial perks, a new business market report from Crowne Plaza by IHG reveals.

Marking a major shift from its 2022 study, the report shows people are seeking personal growth experiences, mind-body equity and connection in travel. The YouGov study of over 12,000 people in Australia and eight other countries found 67% of respondents are eager to put time into achieving personal goals when travelling.

According to the survey, blended travel was cited as key to personal and professional growth, with travellers linking their time away with positive outcomes such as self-improvement, skill development and creative exploration, beyond simple R&R.

Individuals are craving exposure to new environments, fresh ideas and ways to increase happiness by making work more enjoyable, such as embracing new settings.

The study found 27% believe blended travel helps them reduce stress and eat more healthily.





Infinity  
Holidays

# The Road to Adventure Starts Here.

Four Iconic Highways, Infinite Wonders—Embark on the Ultimate South Island Road Trip with Infinity Holidays and South.

## Wine Highway

The Wine Highway blends scenic beauty, relaxation, and world-class flavours. Perfect for wine lovers and food enthusiasts.

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- 7 nights accommodation
- 8 days car hire

Helio Code: IH50401

FROM

**\$1,199** pp twin share

Book Now

## Scenic Highway

The Scenic Highway is a thrilling journey through coastlines, mountains, and breathtaking landscapes.

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- 6 nights accommodation
- 7 days car hire

Helio Code IH50212

FROM

**\$1,649** pp twin share

Book Now

## Glacier Highway

The Glacier Highway offers stunning peaks, icy wonders, and epic adventures for nature lovers.

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- 7 nights accommodation
- 8 days car hire

Helio Code IH50208

FROM

**\$1,699** pp twin share

Book Now

## The Ultimate Highway

The Ultimate Highway package is the perfect mix of adventure, relaxation, and delicious food.

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- 14 nights accommodation
- 15 days car hire from Christchurch Airport

Helio Code: IH50402

FROM

**\$2,799** pp twin share

Book Now

Terms and Conditions: Prices are per person based on twin share. Subject to availability. 'From' prices can change without notice and may be removed at any time. Alternative product may be offered if the featured product is unavailable. Further T&Cs apply.

**SOUTH** 

**CHRISTCHURCH  
AIRPORT** 

 **Infinity  
Holidays**





APT TRAVEL GROUP

# SYDNEY SPARKLES AS NSW & ACT AGENTS CELEBRATE SUCCESS

Partnerships are at the heart of APT Travel Group’s success, a message that shone brightly at the VIP Awards Dinner for NSW and ACT Diamond and Platinum agencies. Against the stunning Sydney Harbour backdrop, the evening celebrated shared achievements and the incredible dedication of APT’s partners. Holiday World Travel emerged as a standout, earning four major awards, including Narelle Melhuish’s induction into the Million Dollar Agent Club.

This year, APT also showcased its commitment to sustainable success with awards featuring artwork by students from ODA in Cambodia — a valued partner making a meaningful difference in young lives. The night was a powerful reminder of the passion, talent, and collaboration that define APT’s network of partners.



Diamond and Platinum agents from Going Global, Helloworld Travel Shellharbour and Macarthur Square.



Scott and Rob share key insights during the business update.



Diamond Agency Figtree Travel was awarded Top Performing Travel Agency NSW ACT 2024.



Narelle Melhuish from Holiday World was recognised as the Top Performing Consultant NSW ACT 2024. Diamond agency Holiday World also claimed the Innovation & Engagement Award 2024.



Flight Centre agents celebrating the year’s success together.



Cathy and Kai from Southlands Travel & Cruise, joined by Barbara Baron, recipient of the Hall of Fame Award.



Teresa Petrocco from Envoyage was named Rising Star Consultant, securing the title of No. 1 Mobile Agent nationally.



Travel Associates celebrating together.

