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## Lindblad on the river

**LINDBLAD** Expeditions has signed a multi-year charter deal with Transcend Cruises to launch European river expeditions.

The strategic partnership will commence next year, running through to at least 2028, which will see a large number of National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions departures operated on board Transcend's ships.

Head to today's issue of **Cruise Weekly** for more on this big story.

## QF NDC grows 10-fold

**GLOBAL** travel aggregator TPCConnects Technologies has revealed a tenfold increase in Qantas NDC bookings via its Iris platform over the last six months.

The majority Flight Centre Travel Group-owned tech firm suggested the numbers represent a "clear signal" that there is a growing demand for modern airline retailing among advisors.

TPCConnects also noted that Australia and New Zealand now account for 30% of the company's total global booking volume, with Qantas representing a significant portion of that percentage.

Travel agencies using Iris have access to Qantas' NDC content alongside traditional EDIFACT, LCC, and other NDC content, all within a single interface.

"By making our NDC content,

### Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features a cover wrap from **City of Gold Coast**, 10 pages of news, including a photo page from **Adventure World** and our **Luxury** page, plus a full page from **Tourism New Zealand**.



features, and benefits available on Iris, we're empowering travel sellers with the tools they need to offer our customers a wider range of products and a more personalised experience," Qantas Head of Distribution and Payments Nadine Morgan said.

The carrier flagged the rollout of a new NDC model with the trade late last year (**TD** 27 Nov 2024), pledging more opportunities for agents to earn greater dynamic commission promotions.

The new NDC model will go live on 01 Jul and will also encourage greater NDC adoption. **AB**

### It's in GC's nature

**GOLD** Coast's nature-based tourism grants are now open.

Head to the **cover page** of today's *Travel Daily* for more information on how to apply.

## Glamore out at CCL

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line (CCL) Vice President Sales & Marketing Kara Glamore is set to depart the company, as revealed by *Travel Daily* exclusively yesterday (**TD** breaking news yesterday).

A global review of Carnival's sales & marketing team has seen Glamore's role made redundant, with the former local head of the cruise line to depart on 01 Jun.

Glamore first joined Carnival in 2019 - more in today's **CW**.

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## Amex GBT hit by volatility

**DESPITE** 2025 Q1 year-on-year revenue growth of 2% to US\$621 million, and YOY adjusted EBITDA growth of 15% to US\$141 million, Amex GBT has downgraded its previous forecasts.

The move comes after the corporate travel business yesterday evening announced financial results for the first quarter ending 31 Mar.

While the start of the year proved strong, economic uncertainty reared its head again as a reason for the downgrade.

Amex GBT's updated guidance for FY2025 brings the midpoint of adjusted EBITDA down by 6%, and the upper end largely in line with the previous midpoint.

The updated guidance still suggested Amex GBT would create YOY growth in 2025 for revenue and adjusted EBITDA.

Paul Abbott, Amex GBT's CEO, said, "In the first quarter, we delivered on our commitments,



with strong profit growth, margin expansion and cash generation.

"Our strong and flexible operating model positions us well to navigate through a more uncertain environment."

Amex GBT CFO, Karen Williams, added, "It is clear we have a well-established playbook in transformation, and this will serve us well in times of uncertainty.

"Our updated guidance reflects the factors within our control to protect earnings and cash flow as we adapt to a more uncertain environment," she added.

Last week CTM announced expectations of softer revenue (TD 02 May) while FCTG did the same recently (TD 28 Apr). DF

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## Qantas not impacted

**QANTAS** has confirmed it is unaffected by airspace issues around an unfolding escalation of military conflict between India and Pakistan in the disputed Kashmir region.

The confirmation follows Qatar Airways temporarily suspending flights to Pakistan due to Indian missile strikes in the area.

Germany's flag carrier Lufthansa also confirmed it will "avoid Pakistani airspace until further notice", while Air France, British Airways, Swiss International Air Lines, and Emirates have all said they are now taking alternate routes.

The military action undertaken by India this morning arrives only weeks after more than 20 tourists were killed during an attack in the Jammu and Kashmir (TD 23 Apr), marking the worst assault on civilians in the region in more than a decade.

Pakistan has promised a "robust response" to today's attacks.

## Riyadh firm on Aus

**STARTUP** state-owned airline Riyadh Air has reconfirmed its willingness to fly to Australia.

In a recent interview with *Executive Traveller*, CEO Tony Douglas said initially the airline will put on a "thick route" to Singapore before moving Australia-bound passengers on to SIA flights, but that it will begin nonstop flights to Australia and New Zealand when there is a sufficient flow of passengers.

The additional confirmation comes just nine days after Douglas told Reuters that the airline, which currently has no aircraft, is ready to pounce on Boeing orders from China that fell through due to the new tariffs.

## Come and mine NZ

**COME** and play for real in New Zealand as part of a promotion between the country's DMO and *A Minecraft Movie* - head to [page 11](#) for more information.

## Unlock European Trains with James Hooper



Trains in Germany.

Most ICE/IC domestic trains and some international trains (Brussels/Netherlands) can now be booked up to 12 months in advance, (**currently loaded to 13 December 2025**).

All other International trains can be reserved 6 months in advance except for Poland which is up to 60 days. Click here for our [Booking Horizon Guide](#) or our [product information page by carrier](#).

If you have clients travelling on a Eurail Pass you can also reserve seats directly on the [agent website](#) by clicking the "Seat reservation only" box in the booking screen. This also applies for sectors where a ticket only may have been issued or where a service was disrupted.

If your clients journey was disrupted, your clients will receive a notification from the carrier. Usually the existing tickets will become open dated and can be used on any IC/EC/ICE and local trains (RE, IRE, S-Bahn) on the day of travel.

You can always reach our support team through the website [agent.raileurope.com/contact-us](#) for any general aftersales question.



[agent.raileurope.com](#)







## Sabre KLM France

**SABRE** has expanded its NDC reach, with its multi-source content platform now featuring Air France and KLM.

Agencies will now have access to exclusive fares, continuous pricing, and richer travel options from the two airlines.

## VA winter menu

**VIRGIN** Australia is serving up global flavours in its new winter menu, across its business and economy cabins.

Five new additions will make their debut in Virgin's economy buy-onboard menu, available from today, including tortellini, pies, and sausage rolls.

They will be joined by a brand-new business class menu, set to launch on 28 May.

## FCTG details recovery

A **GENERAL** recruitment freeze at Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG) is formally in place as part of a recovery plan revealed today.

Communicated via a Macquarie Conference presentation, the suspension of extra staffing forms part of a wider company strategy to insulate the business from global economic volatility.

A previous downgraded guidance released late last month cited a tariffs and market instability as drivers for the revised underlying profit before tax forecast of between \$300-335 million (**TD** 28 Apr).

In the prior update, FCTG stated there would be cuts to some full-time staff in non-customer facing roles, as well as recruitment freezes across some divisions.

In the latest presentation, FCTG said it was still on track to deliver TTV growth, albeit driven by lower margin businesses including Travel Money.

Travel Money is currently one of the star performers, expecting to deliver a record profit for FY25 off circa \$1.2 billion in TTV.

The brand will open its 100th



location next week.

AI will also be key to FCTG's recovery efforts, with the business flagging the tech will deliver new customer products, improved customer service, and industry disruption benefits. **AB**

## DFAT travel warning

**DFAT** has stated that due to the emerging security situation between India and Pakistan, it recommends Australian travellers monitor local media for updates, stay alert, take official warnings seriously and follow the advice of local authorities.

There may be flight disruptions at some airports in India - particularly in the Northwest - and airline schedules may be affected by the conflict.

Smarttraveller continues to advise do not travel to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

More on this story on **page two**.

## US flight ID change

**FROM** today, Aussies travellers boarding domestic flights in the United States will need a passport or United States-issued photo identification which meet the Department of Homeland Security's REAL ID requirements.

New DFAT advice issued today said Aussies should expect enhanced screening procedures on domestic connections, with travellers facing the prospect of being denied boarding if they fail to meet ID requirements, or show signs of illness.

Entry requirements to the US remain "strict", the advisory noted, with American authorities retaining broad powers to decide if visitors are eligible to enter the country and may determine that they are inadmissible for any reason under US law.

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## Silversea solves complexity with resort

**EXCLUSIVE**

**SILVERSEA'S** upcoming Cormorant at 55 South resort in Puerto Williams, Chile, will provide the luxury cruise line with a unique selling point and a much more simplified guest journey.

Speaking with **Travel Daily**, Senior VP of Expeditions, Destination and Itinerary Management Conrad Combrink said the hotel will enable Silversea to place its premium stamp on its Antarctic trips from end-to-end, in the process solving the intricate logistical issues involved in transporting guests to the remote tip of Chile to sail the southern Polar waters.

"It's a very complicated journey to do," Combrink explained.

"Australians have to fly from Australia to Santiago, stay a night there before flying down to Punta Arenas and stay in local hotels and have a fairly lackluster low-cost carrier experience as well



- we lost control of the journey," the Silversea executive conceded.

Combrink added this complex supply chain was an area the line wanted to remedy so that guests could enjoy Silversea's premium standard from start to finish.

The new Cormorant at 55 South resort will be used exclusively for Silversea guests, and offer a chance to relax before cruise departures, as well as partake in a host of outdoor activities, such as hiking, kayaking, and natural history activities.

Cuisine at the hotel will be a combination of premium Chilean and international cuisine.

While the resort will raise the bar of luxury in southern Chile, another major selling point will

be the private flights to get there.

Silversea is the only brand to have access to the local airport in Puerto Williams, which will be used by the company to receive private chartered Embraer aircraft between the hotel and Santiago.

"That experience in itself will be completely different to anything others are doing or can do, it's almost impossible to replicate this because we have trained Silversea crew on the aircraft and the food will be Chilean cuisine using proper cutlery and crockery," Combrink said.

While the resort will serve as a means to control quality end-to-end, Silversea does not intend the stay to feel like an extension of its unique cruising experience.

The hotel is not meant to compete or mimic the onboard experience, and will in a few years' time be open to leisure guests, but never to rival cruise lines, Combrink confirmed. **AB**



## Window Seat

**GOOD** moods can get flushed down the toilet pretty quickly whilst in transit, and let's be honest, there's always a multitude of blockages ready to disrupt a travellers' voyage.

Much like one that spilled over on an Air India flight this month when AI188 from Toronto to Delhi had to divert to Frankfurt after five lavatories got bogged.

The smelly incident meant around half of the Boeing 777's loos were blocked, leaving the Captain with no other option than to flush the flight completely and head to Frankfurt for maintenance.

Thankfully after just two hours, the blockage was cleared and the flight continued, with this story of terrible puns now over too.

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## TruTravels Down Under

**TRUTRAVELS** has opened its first-ever reservations department in Australia, marking a pivotal step in the UK-based tour operator's bid to strengthen its local presence.

The newly established division, which includes a dedicated local reservations phone line, is headed up by Drew Appleton (pictured) as Sales Executive.

Based in Australia, Appleton brings more than a decade of industry experience, most recently with Flight Centre Indooroopilly, and has worked across multiple Flight Centre brands, including Escape Travel.

Appleton, who has visited more than 50 countries and lived overseas in Vietnam, Thailand and South Korea, has also worked in roles across disaster recovery, education, and television presenting.

"This expansion reflects TruTravels' commitment to providing improved service and greater accessibility to its growing network of agency partners in the region," the company said.

"The move underscores TruTravels' continued focus on building meaningful, long-term



relationships with its travel trade partners while delivering exceptional service and support."

Additionally, TruTravels is giving advisors the chance to win a free trip when they book five clients within any six-month period - to claim, agents can contact the team via email.

The new department's operating hours are Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm AEST.

Agents can contact the reservations team on 1300 893 808 or by emailing [agents@trutravels.com](mailto:agents@trutravels.com); there is also a live chat function available on [trutravels.com](http://trutravels.com). JM

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FEATURE

## Redefining Insurance For Travel Businesses with Gow-Gates Insurance Brokers' Raphael Tamayo

**Travel agents** and tour operators work in a complex risk landscape and can often inadvertently find themselves underinsured—or even uninsured. This can have consequences for travel businesses.

Gow-Gates has recently strengthened its travel team with the addition of experienced travel insurance advisers, Ella Nicholson and Allison McDonnell. Their appointments reflects a commitment to helping the industry better understand the complexities of insurance — ensuring businesses have the right cover in place. A fresh team, a big outlook, partnered with a Lloyd's of London-backed underwriter, Gow-Gates have developed a new Combined Travel Insurance policy that's both practical and responsive to industry needs.

**The updated offering**

Gow-Gates' Combined Travel Insurance offers both professional indemnity (covering claims by third parties for negligence, errors in advice, or poor organisation of tours) and public and products liability (bodily injury, mental injury, or damage to property) cover. With competitive coverages, the policy includes types of cover that many businesses have needed but struggled to obtain. It features a strong bodily injury limit—often excluded or reduced in other policies, making it a much-needed

solution for travel organisations.

**The new team**

Gow-Gates has introduced a revitalised team to support the travel industry. The team—now bolstered by Ella and Allison—is passionate about helping travel professionals make sense of insurance and secure the protection they need. Their experience, combined with Gow-Gates' broader advisory capabilities, ensures your business is supported across a wide range of risks.

In addition to travel-specific insurance, the Team can advise on property, business interruption, crime, cyber, and more. Whether you're reviewing existing cover or navigating a new risk, Gow-Gates' advisers are just a phone call away.

The offerings also include additional discounts for certain accredited travel agents and affiliated or associated members—further demonstrating commitment to the industry.

**Travelling with confidence**

The Combined Travel Insurance product is designed for flexibility, offering limits from \$500,000 to \$15 million. With a low \$500 professional indemnity excess, it supports your cash flow when a claim occurs—without compromising cover.

Developed in consultation with insurers and industry partners, this product—backed by a dedicated team, redefines how travel businesses protect themselves.



## Uniworld charter deal

**TRAFALGAR** has confirmed to **Travel Daily** the ships it will use for the brand's debut in cruising (**TD 06 May**) will be sourced from sister division Uniworld.

The two vessels will remain owned by Uniworld under a charter agreement for upcoming river sailings in Europe.

## Agents give crash-proof trust



**THE** Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) is highlighting the critical role of travel professionals today on Global Travel Advisor Day.

"We are in the golden age of travel professionals, as more Australians, many of whom were burnt by COVID-travel experiences, turn to expert advisors for complex travel needs and crisis support," ATIA CEO Dean Long said.

"Global Travel Advisor Day is a powerful reminder of the critical role our members play in supporting Australians before, during and after they travel.

"As the travel environment grows more complex, our focus remains on strengthening the visibility, capability and influence of Australia's travel professionals," Long concluded.

An ATIA-accredited business shared a story demonstrating the value of expert travel advice.

Adrienne Witteman, MD of

Trendsetter Travel & Cruise Centre, described that, despite a car taking out the front of her agency last week (**pictured**) - thankfully while no one was inside - clients were undeterred.

"I was still waiting on the builder to make things safe, yet two clients literally walked over broken glass to see me," Witteman said.

"They looked in and asked 'are you open?'"

"In that moment, it couldn't have been clearer: Australians still want real, personal travel advice.

"On the ground, the demand for experienced travel advisors is unshakable," she said. *JM*

## OOL-CHC paused

**AIR** New Zealand will suspend direct services between Gold Coast and Christchurch from Nov 2025 to Mar 2026 due to demand, market conditions and wider fleet constraints, with GDS' to update automatically.

## Dream Collective

**TOURISM** businesses in WA are being invited to apply for Tourism Western Australia's 'The Dream Collective' recognition program.

Returning for a second year in 2025, the initiative sees enhanced marketing support and brand exposure awarded to successful applicants - apply by 05 Jun **HERE**.

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## An adventure to remember



**TRAVEL** advisor Sharon Puckeridge from St George Travel is the lucky winner of Adventure World's and Travellers Choice's 'Raise, Sell and Win' promotion.

Off the back of her win, the Travellers Choice advisor will enjoy a 13-day 'Authentic Vietnam' journey for two, including an exclusive visit to the Animals Asia Bear Sanctuary in Tam Dao.

The incentive aimed to raise awareness for non-profit Animals Asia, which is on a mission to

eliminate the bear bile industry.

For their chance to win, Travellers Choice agents were encouraged to sell Adventure World product and fundraise over a period of five months.

"The Adventure World incentive resonated deeply with me," Puckeridge said.

"I was so inspired by Animals Asia's Dr Jill Robinson and her moving presentation at last year's Travellers Choice conference."

Travellers Choice is the sponsor of a moon bear called Bong Bong.

**Pictured:** Sharon Puckeridge and Andrea Morgan from Adventure World. *JHM*

## Sing at Eurovision

**BOOKING.COM** has teamed up with five iconic Eurovision performers to offer fans a chance to experience the famous song contest from a contestant's view in the 2025 host city of Basel.

The 'Ultimate Eurovision Experience' is priced at €20.25 (A\$35.40) and available on a first-come-first-served basis, with bookings opening on 09 May at 10am CEST (6pm Fri 09 May AEST).

The experience includes access to the Booking.com backstage Blue Room to watch the contest with former performers Conchita Wurst, Charlotte Perrelli, Jamala, Alexander Rybak, and Jedward.

It also includes access to a Booking.com Legend dinner and accommodation at the Nomad Design & Lifestyle Hotel.

## SAA hacking incident

**SOUTH** African Airways revealed this week it was the victim of a cyber attack on 03 May, disrupting access to its website, mobile app and internal operational systems.

The airline said that it immediately implemented its disaster management and business continuity protocols, managing to minimise disruption to flight operations and containing the incident.

An investigation by independent digital forensic investigators was conducted to determine the root cause of the attack.

The full extent of the incident is currently being analysed.

## PONANT EXPLORATIONS FAMIL: ANCIENT WONDERS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

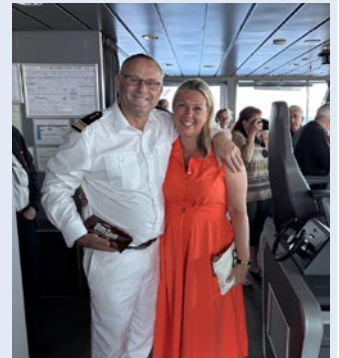


**On Saturday 03 May**, *Le Dumont-D'Urville* arrived at her final port of call, Syracuse, Sicily, before heading to the disembarkation port of Valletta, Malta.

Described by Cicero as "the most beautiful city in the world," its rocky coastline, sandy beaches, and the ever-present silhouette of Mount Etna unfold varied landscapes. The famil group, hosted by Kristina Sambaher, State Manager for NSW & ACT, enjoyed a choice of expertly guided shore excursions to discover the city's rich history, reflected in its blend of Arabic, Roman, Norman, Byzantine, and Spanish influences, each shaping its culture and architecture. The group then took advantage of PONANT EXPLORATIONS' signature port-side access for one last day to explore the city at their leisure, sampling local food, browsing markets, and soaking up the atmosphere.

The journey concluded with a farewell cocktail party and gala dinner, an elegant end to the luxury small-ship experience of PONANT EXPLORATIONS. A special moment came when Captain Pascal Goger announced his retirement, marking this voyage as his final sailing. It was a privilege for all aboard to share in this milestone.

Thank you for following along the Famil in Focus series. Are your clients ready to discover the Mediterranean, the PONANT way?



**TOP:** *Le Dumont-D'Urville* in port, Syracuse, Sicily.

**MIDDLE:** Kristina and Captain Pascal Goger.

**BOTTOM:** Discovering the local hidden treasures of Sicily.



**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](mailto:advertising@traveldaily.com.au)



# Adventure World explores Sri Lanka

**IN MAR**, Adventure World hosted an unforgettable journey through Sri Lanka for a group of travel advisors from CT Partners - and what a trip it was.

From the ancient ruins of Anuradhapura and the iconic Sigiriya Fortress to the vibrant murals of Dambulla Rock Temple, the group immersed themselves in the country's rich history and culture.

On a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®** experience in Habarana, they connected with the local community over homegrown produce and traditional dishes prepared by the women of the village.

A sunrise hot air balloon ride over the Cultural Triangle delivered serious 'pinch-me' moments, while a special safari through Yala National Park brought countless wildlife encounters - including elephants, leopards, and spotted deer.

Evenings were just as memorable, with a unique stay at a restored tea factory-turned-boutique hotel, nestled in the highlands and surrounded by misty hills and tea bushes.

**VISITING** the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy.



**UP, UP** and away in Dambulla: Andrea Morgan, Adventure World; Tracey Williams, Bayview Travel; and David McCarthy, TravelManagers Australia.



**HELLO** from Hiriwaduna: Belinda Slater, Gallivanter Travel and Tracey Williams, Bayview Travel.



**YANIV** David, FBI Travel; Tracey Williams, Bayview Travel; Jillian Quinn, Mariner Travel; David McCarthy, TravelManagers Australia; Belinda Slater, Gallivanter Travel; Nathaniel Musters, Traveltrust; and Andrea Morgan, Adventure World.



**ENJOYING** the views in Galle.



**NATHANIEL** Musters from Traveltrust enjoys a cooking class at The Wadiya in Minneriya.



**ALL** aboard: Nathaniel Musters, Traveltrust; Tracey Williams, Bayview Travel; and Belinda Slater, Gallivanter Travel.





## Taste of The Ghan

**JOURNEY** Beyond will offer a sample of what life is like on board The Ghan via a special pop-up exhibit at the Tasting Australia food festival.

Running until 11 May in Adelaide's Town Square and in regional South Australia, The Ghan Experience will sit inside a replica train carriage decorated in the style of the Australian outback.

Inside, multi-sensory displays will replicate the sights and sounds enjoyed on board the rail experience.

These will include off-train experiences, such as sunrise in Marla, opal mining town Coober Pedy, the Kanku Breakaways and much more.

As the festival's presenting partner (**TD** 29 Nov 2024), patrons can also stop by the Journey Beyond Lounge to enjoy a beverage and secure a special rate on The Ghan.

Bookings made at the activation for The Ghan or Great Southern will receive a free upgrade to Gold Premium for 2026 departures.

"We invite you to explore The Ghan Experience at Town Square, showcasing the extraordinary experiences and sensory delights Journey Beyond offers our guests throughout the year," said Journey Beyond Executive General Manager Marketing, Justine Lally.

## WALDORF ASTORIA TO CRUISE NILE

**HILTON** will bring the high-end service standards of its Waldorf-Astoria hotel brand to a new river cruise itinerary, which will operate on the Nile in Egypt.

In partnership with Middle East for Nile Cruisers, the 'Waldorf Astoria Nile River Experience' will consist of a four- and six-night option in both directions between Luxor and Aswan.

Making use of private docks in each port, guests will be able to explore temples in Luxor, the Valley of the Kings, and other cultural attractions in Esna, Edfu and Kom Ombo.

Guests will enjoy Waldorf-Astoria branded services throughout the voyage, including personal concierges and butlers.

The five-deck ship will offer 29 suites (**pictured**) with facilities including a fitness centre, spa and



onboard dining experiences led by Waldorf-Astoria's signature F&B brand, Peacock Alley.

A brasserie serving Egyptian, Mediterranean, and international cuisine will also be offered.

"This new destination experience offers guests a spectacular view of Egypt, and we look forward to welcoming guests aboard this one-of-a-kind experience when it launches next

year," said Hilton Luxury Brands SVP, Dino Michael.

"This year and beyond, the brand is set to define its global position with the anticipated opening of the legendary Waldorf Astoria New York, and debuting in destinations including the most recent openings in Osaka and Costa Rica, and into the future with Sydney, London, Jaipur and many more," Michael added. *ML*

## SLH begins 2025 with 25 new hotel openings

**SMALL** Luxury Hotels of the World has continued its recent run of rapid expansion, signing 25 new member properties in the first quarter of 2025.

The boutique portfolio of independent properties now has over 700 members across more than 90 countries.

Among the new additions was the 74-room Romeo Roma, located close to the Piazza del Popolo in Rome, while the 73-room Villa Haven Resort Maldives will join later this year,

with its opening set for Dec.

Munich became the latest city to welcome an SLH property with the addition of Munchner Kindl – House of Hutter, which sits inside an 18th century townhouse in the city centre.

Other new cities to join the SLH network include Riga, Cape Cod Bay in Massachusetts and the Spanish city of Girona.

New additions also saw the SLH Considerate Collection portfolio grow with The Retreat in Koh Cheng.

## A&K earlybird deal

**EARLYBIRD** deals are now in market from Abercrombie & Kent for its forthcoming Amazon riverboat experience in Peru, Pure Amazon.

The luxury tour brand is offering up to 20% off the new ship's three-, four- and seven-night sailings, valid for all new bookings departing in 2025 and 2026.

A special group offer of up to two free passengers is also available for parties booking 14 passengers or more.

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THEIR BOOTH**



## ACCOMMODATION

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Dusit Hotels and Resorts has announced its upcoming debut in Hanoi. Set to open on 09 May on the shores of West Lake, **Dusit Le Palais Tu Hoa Hanoi** offers a blend of modern luxury and Vietnamese charm, featuring 207 rooms and suites with panoramic views of the lake or city skyline. Guests can dine at several venues, including an Italian restaurant and rooftop bar, as well as enjoy access to a fully equipped gym and wellness spaces.



Travellers can now experience five-star luxury alongside their canine companions, with **Park Hyatt Melbourne** having launched dog-friendly rooms this month. Each dog-friendly stay includes a plush dog bed, food and water bowls, a soft toy and welcome treat, in-room pet dining menu, and access to designated pet relief mats. There are a limited number of Dog-Friendly Standard Rooms available to book now via the hotel's official website.



La Vie Hotels & Resorts is preparing to bring its luxury brand NOOE to Thailand's Bangsaray coastal region. The US\$30 million **NOOE Bangsaray Hotels and Restaurants** project will comprise 100 rooms, each with a living area and private jacuzzi on the balcony. Expected to be completed by 2027, the property will feature a large swimming pool, all-day dining restaurant, and a beach club offering private access to the beach and lounge services.



Minor Hotels has officially launched **Queen's Wharf Residences**, a new apartment-style hotel located within the tallest tower in Brisbane's landmark Queen's Wharf precinct. The property offers premium one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments with full kitchen and laundry facilities, as well as a wine lounge, gym, yoga space, lap pool, and more.



Fiji's **Beachcomber Island Resort** has undertaken a \$10 million refurbishment of its existing 38 rooms, which now offer four-star quality. The upgrade is the first step in major works for the property, which includes a new infinity pool with swim-up bar and a restaurant area, as well as upgrades across the bar, reception, gift shop, and turtle rehabilitation area.

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## Melbourne's time to graduate



**TRAVEL** training initiative  
TIME recently held a graduation in Melbourne with Dee Galt (pictured above) of Platinum Travel Group and Alice Chamoun of 50 Degrees North celebrated for completing the program.

Galt was mentored by Anna Fisher while Chamoun was mentored by Anne Rogers.

Held at the Collins Street offices of Abercrombie & Kent, Susan Haberle (pictured right), Head of Sales Partnerships for the business, was guest speaker.

She shared her industry journey with the 40-plus attendees on the night and highlighted the importance of staying values-led and people-focused in leadership.

The evening was also used to launch TIME Melbourne's new Workshop Series - Cassi Tormey, founder of Cornerstone People & Development, led a session on leadership and expanding



people's window of tolerance.

Nicole O'Sullivan, a TIME Victoria state representative, emceed the event, labelling it a true celebration of growth and mentorship in the travel sector.

"I'm so proud to lead this community in Victoria," she said.

"Nights like these remind us just how powerful connection and guidance can be in shaping the future of our industry." DF



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