

C360 returns to Syd

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has revealed it will bring its Cruise360 conference back to Sydney at the International Convention Centre next year on 17-18 Sep 2026.

Meanwhile, spots for this year's event in Brisbane are almost sold out, with remaining seats likely to last only a few days.

More details on '25 tix [HERE](#).

Brush up on the NT

AGENTS can win a trip to the Northern Territory when they join Tourism NT's upcoming webinar on Tue 20 May and Wed 21 May - more info on the [back page](#).

Back-Roads on front foot

BACK-ROADS Touring is offering travel agents the chance to score one of 13 spots on a 2026 trip to Northern Spain, the first famit it will run since 2019.

A dozen top-selling advisors and one wildcard entry will earn their way on to the 'Highlights of Northern Spain' tour in Apr next year, which includes flights.

The 10-day itinerary from Bilbao to Barcelona will showcase Back-Roads' small-group tour style of travel, taking in all the architectural, culinary, cultural and historic sights of the region.

To be eligible, agents need to book and deposit any Back-Roads



Expertly crafted small-group tours

Touring product between 01 May and 30 Jun to earn a spot, with winners to be revealed by 15 Jul.

The incentive is open to all eligible agency consortia and home-based agents, with the entry criteria based on the highest YOY revenue growth per store or individual advisor.

From 12 May, Back-Roads will also launch the new Wayfinders program to further reward top-performing advisors.

Agents can access exclusive perks and members-only bonuses, including priority phone and email support, early access to campaigns, famils and events, enhanced status, and updates.

The benefits join the current price-freeze promotion offering 2026 tours at 2025 prices.

But the huge news does not stop there, with the Global Touring brand also announcing a brand refresh to coincide with release of new United Kingdom and Europe tours for 2026.

Informed by research over the last year, the rebrand includes the introduction of the new strap line 'Expertly crafted small group tours', but retains its iconic maroon tones and heritage feel.

The rebrand is designed to appeal more to Gen X travellers who have now entered the brand's 55-plus demographic. **AB**

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features 10 pages of the latest travel industry news, including a photo page from **Emerald Cruises**, our **Corporate Update**, plus a full page from **Tourism NT Training**.



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EK brushes aside volatility

EMIRATES has continued its strong run of financial returns in the year ending 31 Mar, posting the best results in its history.

The Dubai-based carrier delivered a record profit before tax of AED22.7 billion (A\$9.66 billion), up 18% from last year.

Emirates also piled on revenue with another company milestone of AED145.4 billion (A\$61.87 billion), up 6% on last year's result, while its highest-ever EBITDA also improved by 6% to AED42.2 billion (A\$17.96b).

Chief Executive of Emirates Group, Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, said the secret to the carrier's recent success has been never cutting corners and ensuring its future is never put at risk for short-term gains.

"By building our business models around these principles and Dubai's unique strengths, the Emirates Group has thrived and stayed resilient through



geopolitical and socioeconomic challenges," he said.

But Emirates is clearly not resting on its laurels either, investing close to A\$6 billion in the 2024-25 period in new aircraft, facilities, equipment, and tech to support its growth plans.

The group's workforce also grew by 9% to a record number of 121,223 staff, as Emirates and its air services subsidiary dnata continue to aggressively recruit to support its expansion plans and boost capabilities.

Emirates also appears unperturbed by the impact current geopolitical conflicts are having on travel, stating that while some markets are "jittery" about restrictions, "volatility is not new in our industry - we will adapt around any challenges". *AB*

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NCL insurance deal

GUESTS booking with Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) can now select cruise-specific travel insurance products on the line's website, thanks to a new tie-up with Allianz Partners Australia.

Coverage includes onboard medical and evacuation services, the need for cabin isolation when sick, and reimbursement if formal wear is stolen or damaged.

Traditionally offered as add-on packages, the Allianz insurance can now be integrated into the standard travel insurance policy purchased on NCL's website.

"Our data shows that cruise travellers have a high propensity to purchase travel insurance," said Damien Arthur, Executive Head of Travel at Allianz Australia.

"We've now made it even easier for them to get cover that is better suited for their needs."

Allianz added the fast growth of cruising in Australia has made it even more key to adapt its insurance services for passengers.

Travel Daily
ON LOCATION

NADI BAY

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you from Nadi Bay, where the Fiji Tourism Exchange will kick off this weekend.

TODAY we are escaping the rainy Sydney weather and jumping on the red eye to Fiji ahead of the upcoming Fiji Tourism Exchange.

The conference will kick off with a welcome event at the Sheraton Plaza on Sun evening, then run on Mon and Tue, featuring an exhibitors hall and agenda offering news updates from hotels and experiences.

Before that, we're going to enjoy some of the best of Fiji, checking into Tanoa International Hotel and then head to private island Cloud 9.

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A roadmap to marketing

EXCLUSIVE

MARKETING leads, CMOs, and business owners across the tourism and travel sectors are being called upon to help guide industry operators through the turbulence of 2026.

The *FY26 Marketing Roadmap: The Rocky Road Ahead* survey ([CLICK HERE](#) to view) has been crafted by marketing and creative agency Scooter to gain a clearer picture of how the industry is approaching its marketing strategies in FY26.

The aim of the feedback will



be to better understand the challenges faced within travel and tourism, the strategies marketing departments are prioritising, and where opportunities may exist.

From boutique hotels and local attractions to cruise operators and major venues, the insights will offer a crucial benchmarking tool and planning guide for those leading the charge in one of Australia's most economically vital sectors.

"Marketers are being asked to do more with less, and fast," said Misha Horsnell, Marketing Director at Scooter.

"This survey is about helping tourism businesses face FY26 with clarity, confidence and connection, so no one feels they're planning in isolation."

A full report using the survey's insights will be available from Jun, providing real-world insights that are applicable to FY26 strategies, covering everything from channel planning and resourcing to shifting consumer behaviour and ROI expectations.

Complete the short seven-minute travel and tourism survey [HERE](#) and help create a more informed future for everyone.

Pictured: Horsnell with Scooter CEO Anna Hodgson. AB

Lights out for Vegas

NEW figures from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority have shown the US city has suffered an 8% year-on-year slump in visitation for Mar.

Around 3.39 million tourists visited the city during the month, an 8% decrease on the 3.68 million tourists in Mar 2024.

Industry observers have suggested the drop-off is more than standard month-to-month fluctuation, with a slide in hotel occupancy, decline in restaurant and gambling revenue, and air passengers dropping by close to 4%, all reflecting a broader softening of the Vegas market.

Reps for Nevada and Vegas recently visited Australia to talk up its tourism appeal, which includes fishing, hiking and road tripping in Nevada, and visiting major sporting events in Vegas.

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More magic in Abu Dhabi



THE Walt Disney Company has confirmed it will open a Disneyland theme park resort in Abu Dhabi - marking the first time the iconic family brand has done so in the Middle East.

Slated to launch in the early 2030s, Disneyland Abu Dhabi will be located on Yas Island, a major UAE tourism precinct.

The upcoming resort, which will be fully developed and built by local developer Miral, also represents the first new Disneyland theme park to open since 2016, when it launched Disneyland Shanghai.

"This is a thrilling moment for our company as we announce plans to build an exciting Disney theme park resort in Abu Dhabi, whose culture is rich with an appreciation of the arts and creativity," said Robert Iger, CEO of The Walt Disney Company.

"As our seventh theme

park destination, it will rise from this land in spectacular fashion, blending contemporary architecture with cutting-edge technology to offer guests deeply immersive entertainment experiences in unique and modern ways," he added.

The latest announcement arrives after Disney declared in 2023 it would double its investment in theme parks and cruise capacity over the next 10 years (**TD** 20 Sep 2023).

Disney flagged a war chest of US\$60 billion to expand its theme park footprint and cruise appeal, and with news of the UAE location, it could be a boon for Aussie travel operators, given the high volume of air traffic en route to markets in Europe.

The news may also provide Abu Dhabi-based carrier Etihad with a competitive advantage over rival stopover programs. AB



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Relaxed luxury fuelling APT

EXCLUSIVE

A GROWING demand for relaxed luxury touring in Australia is one of the primary drivers of why APT has nearly sold out all its European river cruises aboard its three newest purpose-built river ships - *Ostara*, *Solara* and *Estrela*.

Speaking with **Travel Daily** this week about the trio of new product on major waterways like the Douro and the Danube, APT CEO David Cox said there is no indication the appetite for premium sailings among Aussies is slowing down.

"History tells us that [luxury] is growing exponentially, and none of us can see that stopping in terms of demand," he said.

"We believe there is a growing demand for relaxed luxury that takes people from Amsterdam to Budapest over 15 days, and visits five countries - it's just such a great way to do it.

"We know our customer scores



are averaging 9.8, so that means we know people love [these ships] and we know they will want to come back."

When asked whether the current economic and geopolitical instability is of concern to APT, Cox said today's traveller is more resilient than ever.

"Whether it's fires, floods, electrical breakdowns in Europe or Trump, Aussies just deal with all of these things," he said.

"We know the number one desire of every Australian over 55 in particular is to travel, spend the money, because they have worked hard and want to enjoy.

Learn more about *Solara* and *Ostara*, which sail the Rhine and Danube **HERE**, and the Portuguese-based *Estrela* **HERE**.

Sabre change agent

SABRE has appointed a new Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer that it believes will change the shape of its future growth and customer strategy globally.

Jennifer Catto brings 25 years of experience helping companies navigate and accelerate through moments of transformation.

Described as a strategist at heart and a disrupter by nature, Catto has previously repositioned brands at the intersection of technology and customer needs, leading integrated marketing and growth strategies at Travelport, Telaria, and Conde Nast.

"With Jennifer's leadership, we will enhance Sabre's brand, deepen engagement with our customers and partners, and amplify our differentiated value in the marketplace," said Kurt Ekert, President and CEO of Sabre.

"With her leadership, we will deepen engagement with our customers and partners."

Scot boost SYD

SINGAPORE Airlines' low-cost subsidiary Scoot is boosting flight frequencies and passenger capacity to Sydney and Perth to cater for strong air travel demand in the coming months.

From 05 Oct, the carrier will increase services to Sydney to 14 times weekly (up from 10) and from 04 Aug 2025, it will also raise Perth flights to 14 times weekly (up from 12).

This winter, Scoot is also boosting services to Iloilo City from two to four times weekly; Cebu flights from seven to 10 times weekly; and Davao from nine times weekly to 12.

EK adds China route

EMIRATES has flagged the introduction of Dubai-Hangzhou services from 30 Jul.

The upcoming service will be operated by B777-300ER aircraft on a daily basis, subject to government approvals.

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Window Seat

A CASE of the wrong beverage being served on a plane has escalated to several stern letters being written by an irate mother.

A three-year-old in business class was served wine instead of water on a Cathay Pacific flight from Hong Kong to London, leading to a profuse apology, an offer to refund the flight, and vouchers to upgrade to first class.

However, the mother found the carrier's reaction unsatisfactory, claiming that despite her son only taking a sip, he now needs medical assessments with paediatric specialists to support a claim of delayed neurological and physiological effects.

The mum has since filed a complaint with Hong Kong's Civil Aviation Department.

Travel dominates CMO list

TOURISM Australia Chief Marketing Officer Susan Coghill was the highest-ranked travel and tourism exec listed on Mi3's inaugural list of most innovative and strategic marketing leaders.

Coming in at third spot, Coghill was recognised for her work in building the 'Come and Say G'Day' platform, and for crafting an evolving story that has been cogent in courting more tourists.

In her submission, Coghill said her entry "isn't about a shiny new campaign but about proving the power of consistency and long-term results for Australia's vital tourism industry".

Although he has since departed the CMO role at Intrepid, the current President of the Americas, Leigh Barnes (**pictured**), was ranked 14th on the list.

Barnes was recognised for embedding purpose into the operator's brand strategy, and setting new standards in ethical



and sustainable marketing.

Reflecting on his honour, Barnes said marketing isn't simply about making "fluffy" campaigns.

"If done strategically, [campaigns] can play a transformative role and drive business growth and impact.

"We've seen this at Intrepid and continue to double down our approach to values-led brand marketing," he added.

During Barnes' tenure as CMO, Intrepid generated more than 9,000 pieces of global coverage in 2024 alone across trade and consumers publications.

The company also increased brand awareness by 21% through a shift to brand-led marketing and two global brand campaigns, namely the 'Good Trips Only' and 'Only Intrepid' marketing pushes, garnering a reach of more than 100 million people.

Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia Chief Marketing Officer Ana Sofia Ayala also made the full list of 51 finalists, as did Reflections Holidays CMO Peter Chapman; Tourism Tasmania CMO Lindene Cleary; Destination NSW GM Consumer Marketing Kathryn Illy; and G'Day Group CMO Lahnee White. **AB**

JQ unveil big savings

JETSTAR has dropped another tranche of its 21st B'day Sale, discounting 225,000 fares across over 100 dom and int'l routes.

Domestic fares start at \$38 for Sydney to Ballina Byron one way.

Sale ends 13 May and must be made at jetstar.com by PayID, or by JQ voucher or Qantas points.

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More govt support needed

AS THE challenges faced by travel agents evolve, industry professionals are calling on the government to offer more support to rebuild the sector.

"The demand for travel agents and advisors has never been higher and the biggest challenge we face is not declining relevance, but an urgent workforce shortfall that we continue to work hard to have addressed so Australian travel businesses can meet this growing demand," said Australian Travel Industry Association CEO, Dean Long.

Long's comments were in response to a recent report from KPMG, which revealed that between 2014 and 2024, there was a 34.8% reduction in travel advisor roles, the biggest decline of any major occupation.

A closer look at the figures show that even pre-COVID, the number of travel agents was volatile.

However anecdotally, agents have observed increased demand for their services in recent years.

Client numbers at the Chris Watson Travel Group are on the rise, as clients want peace of mind during the booking process.

"In a world of online options and endless choices, booking with a travel agent offers something the internet simply can't - personalised service, expert advice, and genuine care," said MD Chris Watson.

Travellers Choice MD Christian Hunter added that he would like to see more government support



to help agency owners bring on new talent, while also juggling their existing workload.

This is especially the case given owners are looking outside of the industry to hire fresh talent.

"What we need is some sort of grant program that offsets the costs to a business during that training period," he told **TD**.

"A financial incentive would relieve pressure on agency owners and allow the travel sector to more effectively compete against other industries to attract the untrained worker."

Connected Travel Training Academy founder Marissa Papas agrees that more government assistance is needed, specifically funding for better training.

"Right now, most of the funding goes to outdated, rigid training models that don't reflect how the modern travel industry operates," she argued.

"We need funding directed toward programs that are actually preparing individuals, not just ticking boxes.

"That means backing flexible, industry-led pathways that focus on hands-on systems training, customer experience...and supplier knowledge." *JHM*

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Travel Daily

Shaking out Philo visits



MORE targeted marketing campaigns across digital platforms and tactical partnerships with major OTAs are just some of the actions planned by a new strategic agreement forged by the Philippine Department of Tourism.

Yesterday, the Southeast Asian country's tourism body inked a collaborative deal with Sydney Airport, Philippine Airlines, and Cebu Pacific to cajole the already rising number of Aussies travelling to the Philippines.

"This partnership marks a significant step forward in showcasing the Philippines as a top-tier travel destination for Australians," Philippine Tourism in Australia & New Zealand Director Purificacion Molintas said.

"With strong support from Sydney Airport and our strategic airline partners, we're excited to showcase the culture and beauty of the Philippines, helping bring

the destination closer than ever to Australian travellers."

The agreement is intended to leverage strong momentum in outbound travel to the Philippines in recent months, with Australia climbing to third spot in monthly tourist arrivals, up from fifth place.

Sydney Airport holds a 45% share of what is Australia's 14th largest origin and destination market, with the hub's General Manager, Strategic Aviation Development Shane Hodges stating the latest deal will also be a big win for its airline partners flying to Manila and beyond.

Major drawcards for Aussie travellers heading to the Philippines include the white beaches of Boracay, island hopping in Palawan, and the historical appeal of Cebu.

Pictured: Molintas cements the partnership with Hodges in Sydney yesterday. *AB*



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GJNZ exceeding targets

GREAT Journeys New Zealand (GJNZ) says sales of a number of its premium tours and packages are exceeding expectations, with the company citing a focus on quality and customer satisfaction as key to its recent success.

In the current financial year to date, GJNZ says it has carried 190,000 passengers, representing around 82% of pre-COVID levels.

Top sellers for the year include GJNZ's premium tours and its new Scenic Plus premium dining experiences (**TD** 23 Aug 2023), particularly its 17-day Signature 'Up Close' tour.

Great Journeys New Zealand Executive GM Passenger, Tracey Goodall, said while numbers are



still below pre-pandemic, revenue is up due to a strategy to deliver premium rail experiences.

"Our new strategy saw the launch of several new tourism products post-COVID, including multi-day fully guided rail tours, self-guided rail packages, rail event packages and Scenic Plus," Goodall commented.

Part of that strategy features a range of regional short breaks to showcase rail experiences in lesser-known destinations.

"Our regionally focused short-break packages are already generating revenue in excess of expectations and this business area continues to grow at pace," Goodall added.

GJNZ said it was excited to see its strategy continue to pay off, helped by a growing desire by travellers to book experiences with a lower carbon footprint. *ML*

AKL infrastructure chief departs

AUCKLAND Airport's Chief Infrastructure Officer Susana Suarez has stepped away from her position, citing family circumstances as the reason.

Suarez was key in the signing of contracts for the new terminal build at NZ's largest hub, as well as the development of connecting transport infrastructure.

Her exit arrives only weeks after Auckland Airport revealed its second planned runway had been pushed back by at least 10 years, in line with a new draft blueprint for the future.

Recruitment has kicked off this week to find a replacement.

Sensory sets the challenge



SENSORY Tourism Australia has issued a call to Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) and local governments to put their tourism accessibility credentials to the test by inviting blind and low-vision travellers to try them out.

The organisation, which develops engaging itineraries for blind and low-vision individuals, has joined forces with accessible tour operator Cocky Guides to escort groups of travellers on famils to select parts of Australia.

"There has been plenty of infrastructure investment and training with attractions, properties and tour operators around accessible tourism, particularly the last couple of years," said Sensory Tourism Australia Director, Kellie Hayes.

"We want to keep this momentum going and ensure

travellers with accessible needs are active in the community and experiencing improvements, whether this is infrastructure or staff training."

The organisation worked last year with Destination Port Stephens, which was eager to improve confidence for local businesses and demonstrate the potential of accessible tourism.

Hayes is **pictured** above with one of her favourite marsupials.

CI orders Boeing

CHINA Airlines has placed an order for 10 of Boeing's 777-9 planes - making it the first carrier in Taiwan to purchase the fuel-efficient widebody jets.

The airline will deploy the new aircraft on long-haul routes to North America and Europe.

QR expands Africa

QATAR Airways has expanded its codeshare with South African carrier Airlink to now cover connections to Mozambique.

The service joins existing codeshare arrangement between Johannesburg and Nampula; Pemba; Tete and Vilankulos.



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From Deck to Destination: Agents explore the *Emerald Destiny* difference

EMERALD Cruises recently welcomed 80 travel agents aboard the elegant *Emerald Destiny* for an exclusive pre-season famil along its signature seven-day 'Jewels of the Rhine' itinerary.

Setting sail from Amsterdam, agents were introduced to Emerald Cruises' award-winning river cruising, exceptional dining and immersive cultural experiences and series of welcome events on board.

Highlights included visiting the vivid floral displays of Keukenhof Gardens, an architectural tour of Dusseldorf, exploring historical Koblenz, and a private tour of Bonn, Beethoven's birthplace.

Agents participated in the EmeraldActive program including

wellness & yoga classes, and exploring local villages on e-bikes.

The famil concluded in Amsterdam, with agents departing inspired, informed, and ready to bring the Emerald Cruises experience to their clients ahead of the 2025 season.



SETTING sail on the Rhine. Our amazing travel agents experiencing the seven-day 'Jewels of the Rhine' aboard *Emerald Destiny*.



LOOKOUT in Koblenz.



ZOOMING through time - e-bike adventures in Koblenz with a modern twist on exploration.



THE best moments are shared with a beer in hand - Billie Doyle, Scenic Reservations; Jessica Thompson, Port Macquarie Travel; and Emily Thornton, Weston Cruise & Travel.



CRUISING with a view onboard *Emerald Destiny*.



PLATING perfection: chefs serve up unforgettable flavours on every dish.



BEHIND every great trip are greater hosts: Robert Kalembe, Director of Sales & Agent Programs; Donna Reed, Online Sales Manager; and Julie Jones, Business Development Manager NSW.



NAMASTE on the Rhine from the Wellness Centre - yoga sessions onboard bring calm to every curve of the river.

CORPORATE UPDATE

Biz leaders unprepared

A RECENT poll by the Sandpiper Group of over 3,000 business leaders found that 56% believe the US economy will be the most heavily impacted destination by recent tariff policies.

With the global anxiety over Trump's economic shift and trade war with China ratcheting up uncertainty, only a third of businesses indicated they have a clear sense of the tools required to navigate the crisis.

These include having a clear geopolitical risk assessment



framework in place; realistic scenario plans to deal with crises as they come up; resources in place to monitor any new political developments that can forecast likely policy changes; and a strategy to align corporate messages with national government priorities.

"It is worrying that so many global business leaders are reeling from the recent geopolitical upheavals, and that they fear significant increased risks to their businesses in the short-, medium- and long-term," said Simon Buckby, Managing Director of Sandpiper Government & Public Affairs.

"It is even more shocking that so many admit they do not feel highly confident they have the tools in place to manage their way through.

"This is a huge challenge for leaders, and especially corporate affairs teams, to step up and protect their firms," he added.

On a concerning note for the future, more than half of respondents also expect the risk to their businesses to rise over the next 24 months as a result of economic instability. AB

Advisors celebrated

INDEPENDENT TMC advisor group CT Partners has celebrated Global Travel Advisor Day and the role its members play in helping corporate travellers keep business running when travel goes awry.

The company paid tribute to members, who acted fast during recent major disruptions.

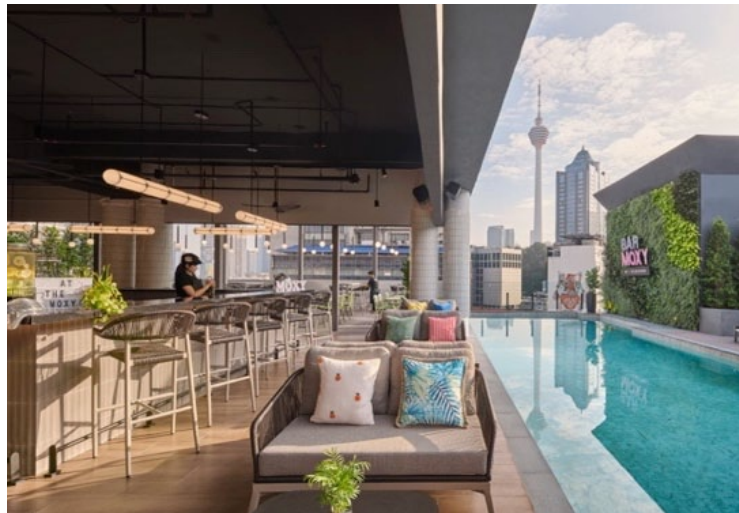
In cases such as the recent fire near London Heathrow, CT Partners members deployed notification technology to keep clients informed and even booked some on new services before they even knew of the problem.

"From rerouting flights mid-air and managing complex credit systems to maintaining real-time visibility of employee movements to ensure duty of care, CT Partners members deliver outcomes and support to corporate Australia, not just itineraries," CEO Matt Masson said.

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YTL expands in Malaysia



YTL Hotels has expanded its portfolio in Malaysia with the opening of two new properties: Moxy Kuala Lumpur Chinatown and AC Hotel Ipoh.

Located within the restored 1970s historic Oriental Bank building on Jalan Hang Lekiu, the new Moxy property offers 320 guestrooms across 21 storeys, marking the youthful hotel brand's debut in Kuala Lumpur.

The guestrooms feature modular furniture that transforms from workspace to lounge, industrial-chic lighting, and locally sourced artwork, with access to lively social spaces including a rooftop bar and pool.

Meanwhile, now open in the capital city of Perak is AC Hotel Ipoh, featuring 291 minimalist-style guestrooms with ergonomic workstations and a soothing neutral palette.

The new hotel offers diverse

dining options, including AC Kitchen, which serves continental favourites for breakfast; Luk Yu, which presents authentic Cantonese cuisine; and AC Lounge, which offers European-inspired tapas and beverages.

AC Hotel Ipoh also boasts extensive event facilities, including the city's largest pillarless ballroom, which offers a capacity of 1,600 in theatre seating; plus breakout rooms, a co-working space, and recording studios that serve as unique venues for celebrations and corporate events.

Guests can also enjoy the hotel's gym, pool, indoor pickleball courts, and more.

YTL Hotels currently has 11 Marriott International hotels in its portfolio of 33 hospitality assets, making it one of Marriott's largest owning companies with one of the longest relationships in Asia.



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Infinity Holidays is inviting travellers to explore the US Southwest with a seven-day rail itinerary from Las Vegas to Denver, including two days onboard the Canyon Spirit (formerly Rocky Mountaineer). Also available is a nine-day 'Journey Through the Clouds' package between Vancouver and Calgary, including a GoldLeaf Rocky Mountaineer journey. Both include hotel nights, many meals and sightseeing - call 1800 003 903.

Only a few days remain to save up to \$800 on a range of bucket-list rail journeys in **Railbookers'** Rail Week promotion, which is celebrating the world's great train experiences. Travellers can also save an additional \$600 on selected seven-night luxury packages. **CLICK HERE** for more.

Pan Pacific Hotel Group has launched a 'Fam-tastic' getaway offer of up to 25% off stays in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. The deal also includes daily breakfast and a range of perks for kids. More details **HERE**.

Save over \$800pp with **HX Expeditions** on an all-inclusive Arctic journey in search of the Northern Lights. The company has 26 departures scheduled between Jan 2026 and Mar 2027, with fares starting from \$7,274pp twin share. **CLICK HERE** for more information.

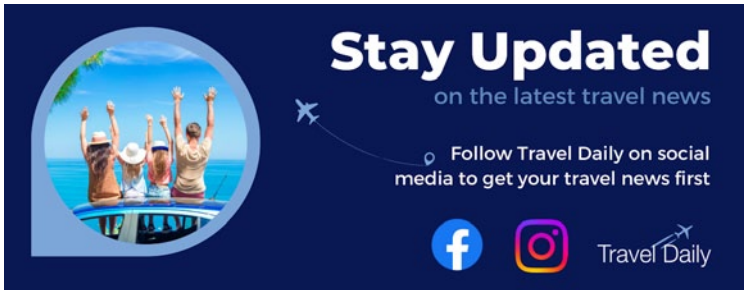
Book select departures of **Intrepid Travel's** 'Adventures in Northeast Greenland: Glaciers, Fjords and the Northern Lights' expedition to enjoy discounted pricing. Available until 31 May unless sold out, the itinerary includes return flights and explores remote parts of northern Greenland and Iceland. **CLICK HERE** to find out more.

If you fancy a last-minute getaway, book now to save hundreds on a range of tours with **Globus** and **Cosmos** departing this year. Save up to \$400 per couple on 2025 departures, while up to 15% can be taken off some of the most popular tours heading out in 2026. More info **HERE**.

Savings of up to 20% are on offer with Aurora Expeditions on selected departures around the islands of Indonesia in 2026 and 2027, for new bookings made with **Cruise Traveller** by 31 May. As a further sweetener, the line is offering US\$200 onboard credit and deals on solo fares. The package also includes flights and one-night pre-cruise - **CLICK HERE**.

After being declared World Gastronomy Region for 2025, the Catalonia region of Spain is ready to share its produce with the world. Travellers can save 10% on a walking trip with **On Foot Holidays** on its self-guided eight-night adventure through the Priorat region. Trips include accommodation, dinners, picnic lunches, luggage transfers, maps and directions. **CLICK HERE** for more information.




A 'Family Stay and Play' package offering up to 35% off rooms has been released at the four-star **Dorsett Wanchai Hong Kong** and **Dorsett Mongkok Hong Kong**. Guests can also enjoy free breakfast, with a range of special amenities also thrown in for little ones, including the hotel's signature teddy bear, Jasper. Click the hotel name for more info.



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Mother and son in luxury



TRAVELMANAGERS' Carl Retschlag has a very special skill, selling luxury cruise holidays - something he has done successfully for two decades.

So, it is probably not surprising that he snared himself a place aboard *Silversea Nova* as part of a sales incentive the cruise line ran during 2024.

Retschlag recently boarded the luxurious new Nova series ship in Auckland - the start of what would be an amazing time sailing to Melbourne for 16 nights.

Being a coffee lover, the personal travel manager for TM highlighted his morning coffee ritual as one of the many memorable experiences he will take with him.

"My butler ensured I had a flask of boiling water delivered to my suite before bed, ready for me to prepare my own coffee in the morning," Retschlag recalled.


"It was this attention to detail that truly elevated the onboard experience," he added.

Retschlag enthused that *Silversea Nova* is an incredible trip to take for two people, where he and his mother enjoyed sumptuous dining experiences, friendly service, comfortable and relaxing common spaces and personalised butler service, to name just a few.

"My mother was celebrating her 80th birthday the day before the cruise began, so having her as my travelling companion was the perfect gift," he gushed.

"It was certainly the holiday experience of a lifetime for both of us, and I am grateful to both TravelManagers and Silversea for orchestrating what has truly been the most unforgettable experience of my travel career."

Pictured: Retschlag and his very grateful mother. AB



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