



Intrepid to add 20

INTREPID has confirmed plans to add 20 boutique properties globally to its portfolio over the next three years.

Following its successful acquisition and embedding of the Daintree Ec Lodge in Qld (**TD** 28 Aug 2023), Intrepid Managing Director ANZ, Brett Mitchell, said the business is continually exploring accommodation opportunities that align with its style of travel and responsible business approach.

Farrar steps away from role

COLLETTE is on the hunt for a new Head of Sales after confirming well-known travel executive David Farrar will transition to a new position.

After heading up the brand's local sales strategy, Farrar will migrate to the newly-created role of Sales Engagement Manager, borne from his desire to dial back the work schedule and focus more on his family and health.

"[These are] priorities we wholeheartedly support," Collette MD Karen Deveson said.

"David's impact on our team and the footprint he has created for Collette in Australia cannot be overstated, and we are set up with a fantastic trajectory."

Farrar will still represent Collette at industry conferences and trade shows, Collette said, while also

becoming the figurehead of the Collette Travel Agent Network's range of upcoming webinars and industry updates. **AB**

HLO buys extra 5%

REPORTS over the weekend have suggested Helloworld has acquired a further 5% equity in Webjet Group Limited, adding to the 5% stake it purchased over the last five weeks (**TD** 13 May).

Sources told the **AFR** the share grab followed preliminary discussions held between HLO CEO Andrew Burnes and Webjet Chair Don Clarke, which explored the idea of a possible merger.

Webjet is understood to have so far expressed little interest in the idea, while HLO has not made any formal moves for such a deal.

The latest developments follow Webjet's rejection of BGH Capital's bid for a controlling stake on Fri, with the company labelling the offer as undervaluing the business, as well as expressing uncertainty over the proposed structure & conditions.

Win a Top End trip

BECOME an NT expert and win a trip to the Top End.

Two education webinars are being hosted on the NT this week - more details on how to learn and win on **page eight**.

Viva la holidays

EXPERIENCE the world with Viva Holidays, with the wholesale brand now representing more than 50 years of experience in travel - see **page nine** for more.



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- Tourism NT Training
- Viva Holidays



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SME digital rebates

THE Queensland Tourism Industry Council has partnered with the Qld Govt to provide SMEs in the tourism sector with a rebate of up to \$2,500 to enhance their digital capabilities.

The move is designed to improve areas such as booking systems, CRMs, & payment tools.

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Changing face of touring

NEW Globus family of brands (GFOB) Managing Director Chris Hall has returned to the touring sector to find a far different industry than the one he departed three years ago.

Hall, a member of the APT family for more than 20 years, is now in his second month leading GFOB, and believes the Australian touring sector has changed markedly since the pandemic.

"I think [travellers] are viewing touring differently," Hall said.

"The rise of the small group specialists are really coming into their own...it seems small group is the 'sexy' part of touring right now," he added.

However, Hall sees more nuance in the sector than what is currently being presented as 'small' and 'large' group touring.

The former Ponant Chief Executive Officer likened the subtleties in the category to the difference between small and large ship cruising.

"You can have a larger group of 40 or 50, but as you're touring, you are actually breaking down into smaller groups to do different kinds of experiences... is it really a large group or is it a small group?"

"There's a bit of greyness in there and I think where we need to provide clarity is that we are offering a variety of styles.

"Is it really about the size of the group, or is it about the overall experiences you're delivering, and travelling with people of



a same or similar mindset and stage of life?" Hall questioned.

Sharpening GFOB's product pitch in this manner will be one of Hall's initial goals in his new role, as the company looks to stand out in the market.

It is what Hall describes as "package with purpose", as he aims to find those particular packages that Australian customers are interested in.

"There are 600-plus products, which sounds great, but I really think we need to be much more targeted on the product that we're really getting behind, and really choosing some core destinations across the three brands that we're going to get behind," he added.

GFOB will also look to integrate air into its packaging to bolster its product proposition.

"[Air is] something we haven't had for a number of years, but in my experience, if you don't have air connected to an international holiday, then you are not in the race," Hall explained. *MS*

A Batik out of SYD

BATIK Air will launch Sydney-Kuala Lumpur flights from 07 Dec, operating three times a week.

The carrier has also confirmed Brisbane-Bali services will increase to daily between 18 Jun and 14 Jul 2025, while the Mel-KL route will shift from seasonal to year-round from 13 Jul.



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Dexus turbulence

REAL estate and infrastructure asset management group Dexus may be forced to sell its stake in Australia Pacific Airports Corporation (APAC), owner of Melbourne and Launceston airports, according to a report in the *Australian Financial Review*.

The article alleges that co-investors claimed "...it inappropriately used confidential information to attract new investors", after Dexus attempted to sell down its investment in APAC, which sits at 27%.

Dexus has responded by stating it will contest the allegations and has retained the services of law firm Arnold Bloch Leibler to assist in the matter.

Dexus gained the APAC shares in 2023 after it purchased Collimate Capital from AMP.

SIA flags uncertain future

UNCERTAINTY surrounding changing tariff policies, economic & geopolitical concerns, and supply chain constraints have led Singapore Airlines Group (SIA) to forecast challenging operating conditions for the near future.

Despite the concerning outlook, the company's financial statement for 2024/25 showed strong operating profits and "record passenger carriage", albeit offset by stronger competition from rival carriers.

SIA's total operating profit for the full year was S\$1.7 billion (A\$2 billion), and a record net profit of S\$2.8 billion was recorded on the back of a S\$1.1 billion non-cash gain from the Air India merger with Vistara (**TD** 13 Nov 2024).

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closely monitoring developments and prepared to respond swiftly to market conditions.

"[SIA] will rely on its strong foundations, including dual brand portfolio airline, well-diversified global network, a robust balance sheet, talented and dedicated workforce, as well as industry-leading digital capabilities to navigate these challenges," the carrier added in its report.

The airline group, which also includes low-cost offshoot Scoot, carried 39.4 million passengers for the full year, with both carriers serving 128 destinations across 36 countries.

Group revenue was up across the board to S\$19.5 billion, however a 9.5% rise in expenditure, including higher fuel costs due to increased uplift, was partially offset by lower fuel prices and a strong exchange rate.

"While global uncertainties remain, the Group is in a strong position to focus on profitability, while pursuing growth opportunities and ensuring long-term value creation for shareholders," the report said. **ML**

EK in Starlink talks

EMIRATES is reportedly in discussions with Elon Musk's Starlink company to provide wi-fi on its fleet of widebody aircraft.

Sources say negotiations are still ongoing and any move would face certification hurdles for the A380.

Global go-around

A380-ONLY startup carrier Global Airlines has finally taken to the skies after delays, although it is without an air operating certificate, an operating licence, and in-flight entertainment.

With less than 100 passengers on board, the flight from Glasgow to New York took off on Thu 15 May, operated by charter from Portuguese airline Hi-Fly, and was greeted with mixed reactions from travel media on board.

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Jobs push to open the eyes of Gen Z

THE Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) has pressed 'play' on its strategy to attract more young Australians to take on a career in travel.

Flagged at the Beyond Borders summit last year as part of ATIA's Project A30 (**TD** 25 Oct 2024), the Travel Gap initiative has been launched in partnership with employment platform My First Job, and will target Gen Z school-leavers to link up with travel employers during their gap year.

ATIA said the Travel Gap program offers Gen Zs the chance to work and earn money in the travel sector while exploring Australia at the same time.

The broader aims of the program are to counter outdated perceptions about working in the travel sector, attract fresh talent, and create clearer pathways for Gen Zs to follow.

Powered by My First Job, the new collaboration will



leverage the youth employment company's tools and advisory network to connect younger Aussies with travel jobs in a way the initiative is hoping will be more accessible for budding workers than ever before.

"Too many young Australians are missing the chance to see travel as more than a holiday," ATIA CEO Dean Long said.

"It's a dynamic, rewarding and people-driven industry with many career paths available, and the

Travel Gap will open their eyes to these possibilities while giving them the structure and support they need to make it happen."

Long added the next step will be to reach out to ATIA members who are interested in becoming host employers in the program.

Attracting and retaining talent in the travel sector has been a key focus for ATIA in recent years, with Long and his team organising many meetings on both sides of the political aisle to boost the profile of travel careers.

Outside of bolstering the number of recruits locally, ATIA has also been actively trying to have travel consultants, travel agency managers, and tour guides included in the Core Skills Occupation List.

The list recognises the jobs that are in demand in the Australian workforce, a key factor in determining eligibility for skilled migration visas. **AB**

Sabre added to mix

MAGNATECH Travel

Management Solutions has simplified airline credit tracking further for TMCs, adding Sabre to its list of GDS suppliers that can have the booking of NDC ticket PNRs fully automated.

"The ability to identify and collect NDC tickets booked in the GDS, combined with automated ticket status tracking across Amadeus, Travelport+, and Sabre, empowers TMCs to deliver greater efficiency and accuracy in credit management, making sure no money is left on the table," said Paul Gioia, Chief Executive Officer of Magnatech.

"As airlines globally continue to ramp up NDC bookings and the GDS expands NDC ticketing, our solutions ensure TMCs can meet these demands seamlessly."

The update focuses on the OnTrackplus platform, with Magnatech stating it will be valuable for travel agencies interacting with multiple GDS'.



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Window Seat

AMERICAN YouTuber MrBeast has sparked controversy by filming his latest videos at some of Mexico's most sacred archaeological sites.

MrBeast's visits to the pre-Columbian city of Chichen Itza and the Mayan sites of Calakmul and Balankanche, were documented in his latest video, which has amassed tens of millions of views.

Some of these sites are not accessible to the public, and are sacred in Pre-Columbian Mexico, with Balankanche currently closed to visitors.

Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology & History (INAH) declared both the visit and the recording were carried out through "formal requests", however even the country's leader is calling into question their legitimacy.

President Claudia Sheinbaum publicly called out the INAH to report "under what conditions this permit was granted", suggesting sanctions may apply if any of the permits were violated.

Scenes in the video include MrBeast descending into a temple via helicopter, and holding an ancient artefact in his hands; however the INAH suggests these did not happen and had instead been simulated by the online star.

Sno'n'ski apres-ciates agents



SNO'N'SKI Holidays threw Brisbane's ultimate ski school and apres-ski party last week, at MOFOS Restaurant & Bistro at Flight Centre in Brisbane.

More than 140 travel advisors swapped their office chairs for skis at an evening packed with product training, food, fun, and good times, sponsored by Whistler and partners.

Advisors dived into hands-on ski education sessions with 45 resort and partner reps from global skiing partners like Whistler, Aspen, Vail, Telluride, Ski Utah, Prince Resorts Japan, 3 Valleys France, Ikon Pass, and more.

Training rooms also featured Japanese sushi platters, Canadian lobster rolls, and poutine.

When the training wrapped up, the lights dimmed and the party kicked off with canapes, sliders, fries, churros, and a 'ski bar' dessert station.

A live DJ spun beats while guests posed at the ski-themed photo booth (**pictured**) and lined up for rounds at the shot-ski bar.

The apres-ski party buzzed with laughs, networking, and prize giveaways, including two epic Whistler ski holidays, and a golden ticket to next year's Sno'n'Ski Japan Mega Famil. *MS*

JQ slashes Japan tix

JETSTAR Airways has announced a major Japan sale, with fares priced from \$249.

The 'Sashimi Rollin' Sale' includes Cairns to Osaka from \$249, Cairns to Tokyo from \$279, Brisbane to Osaka from \$309, and Sydney to Osaka from \$339.

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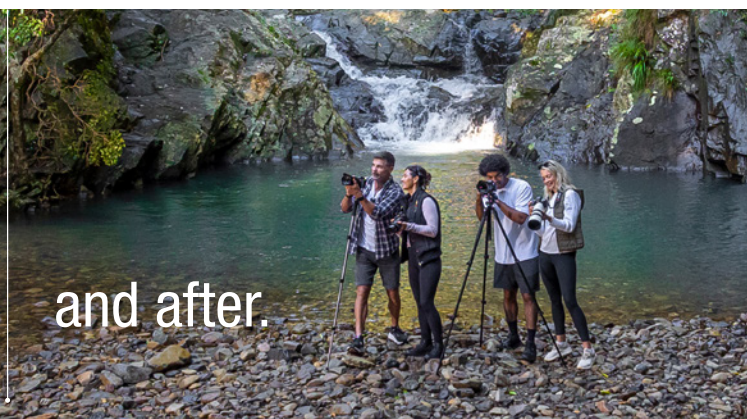


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Carriers ready for the worst

AROUND 100 airlines have signed up for a special insurance plan that would enable them to keep flying, even after the outbreak of a nuclear war.

Developed by global aviation insurance broker Gallagher, the scheme will see a group of 15 insurers assess where carriers should be permitted to fly in the event of a nuclear detonation.

The group, assisted by analysis from security experts, would meet within four hours of a



detonation to evaluate the threat to airlines on a country-by-country basis.

"Airlines find workarounds for whatever challenges they face, safe corridors, minimum heights so that ground-to-air missiles can't reach them," said Gallagher's Nigel Weyman.

"Volcanic ash clouds affect big areas, but the world keeps flying - yet a few words on an insurance policy can ground every jet there is."

The plan would provide each carrier with \$1 billion per plane of war cover for passengers and third parties, compared with \$2 billion or more under existing policies.

Weyman pointed out that the cost of the scheme will amount to less than the price of a cup of coffee per passenger.

He revealed that around 60 of the airlines that have joined so far are based in Europe, however budget carriers are hesitant. *JM*

EY Boeing order

ETIHAD Airways has agreed to purchase 28 Boeing 777X and 787s, in a deal reportedly worth around US\$14.5 billion.

The first of the 28 widebody aircraft is expected to be delivered from 2028.

Thredbo is better

THREDBO resort is reminding travellers that 'Thredbo's Still Better' in its upcoming winter 2025 campaign, which launches ahead of opening day on 07 Jun.

Designed to highlight why Thredbo has been voted Australia's best ski resort eight years running, the campaign will drive brand awareness across multiple channels, including high-impact broadcast, OOH and cinema placements, as well as digital and social platforms.

Centring around the tagline "There's 'The Snow', Then There's Thredbo", the marketing push showcases what the resort chain has to offer for everyone from families and first-timers, to ski and snowboard enthusiasts.

"This campaign is a celebration of everything that makes Thredbo, well...unmistakably Thredbo," said Thredbo Brand and Marketing Manager, Richie Carroll.

Back-Roads spices up tour



FRESH from a range of exciting announcements around brand evolution and family opportunities, Global Touring's Back-Roads was on the road last week to promote its sales edge to travel advisors.

Travelling up and down the coast, one of the pit stops was in Sydney at the Vibe Cooking School in Rosebery, where travel agents and key partners were shown first-hand how to cook up some rustic Italian classics.

The hands-on culinary experience also included an update from global MD Ed Pettitt, who was in Australia on a whistle-stop tour to promote Back-Roads' enhanced commitment to the trade and shift to cater to the needs of Generation X. *AB*

Pictured: Global Touring sales chief Bobby Hale adding some of Back-Roads' secret spices.

Explora Grand Prix

EXPLORA JOURNEYS has announced a new program of on board experiences on *Explora II* during the Formula 1 Grand Prix in Monaco between 14-30 May.

As the only ship docked in Monaco's Port Hercule during race week, *Explora II* will offer guests an unparalleled vantage point of the action, and a series of events designed to complement the excitement of the Grand Prix.

The ship will welcome Formula 1 legends on board throughout the weekend, with guests to hear personal insights and behind-the-scenes stories from names like David Coulthard, Sir Jackie Stewart, and Mika Hakkinen.

Guests will also be able to use a race car simulator and compete against fellow passengers.

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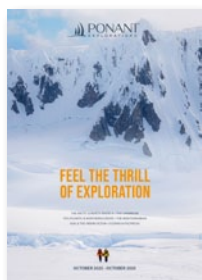
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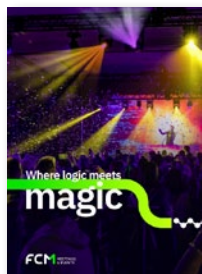
and Oceania and Polynesia. Readers will also find an itinerary calendar; expert commentary on each region; information on Ponant's Grand Voyages; overviews of the cruise line's fleet; and much more. To access the brochure online, **CLICK HERE**.



Collette - Italy 2025-2026

Collette has released a new brochure dedicated to tours in one of its top regions - Italy. From culinary tours in Tuscany to historical explorations in Pompeii, the brochure features 14 itineraries designed by Collette's in-destination experts to cater for travellers with a diverse range of interests and travel styles. Each day offers a chance to deep dive into the Italian way of life with cultural experiences, such as private

vineyard tastings and cooking classes with local chefs. The brochure is now available to download online, **HERE**.



FCM Meetings & Events - Where Logic Meets Magic

FCM Travel's event management arm, FCM Meetings & Events, has published a new brochure showcasing its services, which include event planning, big-stage productions, group travel requirements and meetings coordination. Readers can learn about FCM M&E's innovative

technology solutions, custom-built solutions, creative direction, event strategy and design, on-site expertise, and more. The digital brochure,

which can be accessed **HERE**, includes an FCM venue finder section, client feedback, and more.

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TA releases Indigenous guide



TOURISM Australia and Discover Aboriginal Experiences (DAE) have launched a first-of-its-kind Indigenous place-based guide for travellers.

Developed in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the 42-page digital guide features 11 of Australia's key destinations and highlights cultural experiences in places like Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, and more.

For each locale, the guide shares the traditional name, its Indigenous peoples, and how to fully immerse in Indigenous culture, as well as its creation story, and flora and fauna.

Readers can discover a range of cultural travel experiences such as guided city walking tours, ancient rock art visits, Indigenous-owned galleries and culinary experiences.

"This new guide encourages visitors to Australia to learn about the nation's shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving

reconciliation," said Nicole Mitchell, DAE's Executive Officer.

"This guide invites travellers to see Australia through the stories that have shaped it for tens of thousands of years."

The new resource is available for download under the Resources listings on the DAE website - find it **HERE**. JM


Spots still available

MAT McLachlan Battlefield Tours has advised its 2025 four-day Western Front Explorers are still available to book, with all of its weekly departures guaranteed.

Led by expert historians, the tours visit all the key Australian WWI battlefields of the Western Front, including the Ypres Salient, Flanders and the Somme.

Accommodation is at the heart of the battlefields, with pick up and drop off start and finish points in Paris or Lille.

There are multiple summer and autumn departure dates available, between 22 Jun and 08 Nov 2025 - see **HERE** for details.



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