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Emirates

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EVA updates training

EVA Air has updated its training academy modules, covering a range of topics, from adventures and festivals in Taiwan to culinary experiences and a free half-day tour of the city.

The carrier also provides a product and service update, with prizes up for grabs for those who complete all four modules.

Find out more on the **back page**.

Catch up with ATIA

THE Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) will host an exclusive rerun of the Beyond Borders consumer trends session for members who could not attend the summit.

Delivered by Adele Labine-Romain, Head of Travel and Tourism at Roy Morgan Research, the presentation offers key data to help shape business planning for 2026.

The webinar takes place 13 Nov at 11am AEDT - register **HERE**.

Talma buys Sydney TMC

GLOBAL travel management company Talma Travel Solutions has announced its expansion into Australia with the acquisition of Sydney-based Bay Travel Group for US\$10 million.

Established in 1988, Bay Travel Group is an independently owned corporate travel management company that provides tailored business travel solutions, including flights, accommodation, car hire, reporting and risk management.

The acquisition is the latest in a series of deals for Israel-based Talma as it looks to fast-track its international growth strategy, with plans to focus on the Asia-Pacific region in 2026 through additional acquisitions and strategic partnerships.

"The acquisition of Bay Travel is another step in our strategy to expand globally, this time in Australia," said Iya Magen, CEO of Talma Travel Solutions.

"It allows us to strengthen our



presence in new geographic regions and deliver exceptional service to additional international clients," he added.

The global TMC said it will retain Bay Travel Group's leadership, which it described as "a key component of the partnership".

Bay Travel Group Managing Director Alan Wolf, commented: "This alignment with Talma will bring us amazing growth - more business opportunities, greater access to cutting-edge technology, and the power of an international network." *JM*

Fijian getaways

INFINITY Holidays has partnered with Tourism Fiji to launch several holiday packages to the sunny destination, including a five-night bundle at Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort.

Head to **page eight** to find out what else is on offer.

Today's issue of TD

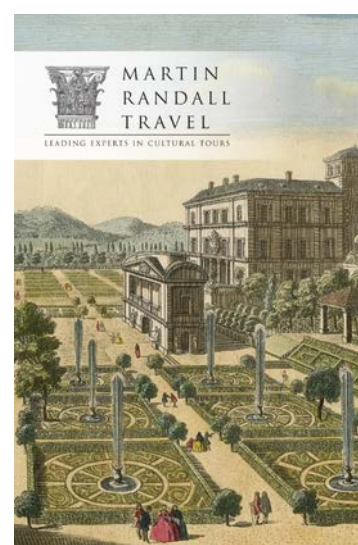
Travel Daily today features six pages of news, plus a front cover wrap from **Emirates**, and full pages from:

- **Infinity Holidays**
- **EVA Air**

Experience Dubai

FROM world-class shopping to desert adventures, Emirates is highlighting the stopover experiences available in Dubai.

The carrier is giving agents a \$30 gift card for every Dubai experience they book before 30 Nov - see the **cover page**.



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Discovery Princess is en route to Oz

DISCOVERY Princess has completed a five-day getaway around Malaysia - her final trip before she arrives in Sydney for her maiden season in Australia.

Last week was also the first time the ship sailed into Singapore, following calls into Kuala Lumpur, Langkawi, and Penang.

Discovery will now go into dry dock, then head for Sydney, where she will home port from 06 Dec until 07 Apr, marking 50 years since the first Princess ship - *Pacific Princess*, also known as the Love Boat - sailed into Sydney.

Princess VP of APAC, Matt Rutherford, said she "brings a truly world-class style of cruising to our waters".

"She's ideally suited for the Australian market - spacious, stylish and full of variety," he told **Travel Daily**.

"From her stunning Sky Suites with the largest balconies at sea, to world-class dining



venues and relaxed poolside spaces, *Discovery Princess* offers an experience that feels both premium and welcoming."

Discovery will take Australian guests on 12 cruises, including two voyages to Fiji, five to New Zealand, as well as 'seacations' and coastal itineraries.

During last week's sailing, Captain Tony Ruggero shared his experiences of cruising around Australia with guests.

"The Kimberley is challenging, there are areas with strong currents, but I think the weather and the coastline, sunrises and sunsets - there's something

fascinating [about them]," he said, noting the "breathtaking" views of sailing into Sydney.

"Sometimes it can be challenging when you're doing the Tasman Sea...you have to be fortunate not to encounter rough weather," he added.

However, Ruggero joked that during that particular bumpy moment on the cruise, he found a group of Australian guests at the bar "just drinking and having fun".

"It was the funniest thing ever," he laughed.

Built in 2022, *Discovery* has a capacity of 3,600 and features 1,830 staterooms, including two Sky Suites, which offer the line's largest balconies at sea.

"We'll be welcoming our partners, travel agents and loyal guests onboard throughout the season, and we can't wait for them to experience everything this remarkable ship has to offer," said Rutherford. *JHM*

Travel Daily
ON LOCATION

HONG KONG

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you from Hong Kong, courtesy of the **Luxury Travel Collection (LTC)**.

DAY one of the of the LTC Global Business Owners Harbour Soiree has seen guests transfer from Regent Hong Kong after a few interviews to The Langham Hong Kong, where they will take in the Partner Showcase for Travel Associates business leaders.

Later on, we will join the LTC executive team and independent owner managers for a scenic dim sum cruise on board *Aqua Luna*, before heading to Aqua Restaurant for a dinner hosted by some of LTC's platinum partners.

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Vale Lyn Keep

TRAVEL Beyond Group is mourning the loss of friend and colleague Lyn Keep, who was described by CEO Tim Lane as “a cherished member of our family”.

Lane spoke of Keep’s “long and devoted” career in the travel industry, from her early days at Ansett Airlines to later building travel and freight business Show Group, then joining TBG.

“Her unwavering dedication to her partners, clients, and co-workers created a culture of inclusion, friendship, and a commitment to delivering excellence here and around the world,” Lane said.



MH loyalty refresh

MALAYSIA Airlines is rolling out a refresh of its loyalty program from next year.

Platinum members will now earn 2.5 Enrich Points per RM1 spent on Malaysia Airlines and Firefly flights, while Gold and Silver members will earn 2.2 and 1.8 points respectively.

Members can also earn significantly more Elite points when flying with Malaysia, Firefly and oneworld member airlines.

Travel trends explored

MICRO-RETIREMENT

moments and astrotourism are set to become two of the biggest travel trends for 2026, according to Explore Worldwide.

According to the travel operator, more tourists are opting to seize the moment and take their bucket list trip right now, rather than wait for retirement.

In fact, the brand offers a tool called ‘Find your perfect radical



sabbatical’, which helps guests match their life stage to their ideal holiday.

“People’s relationship with work is changing, micro retirement isn’t really about age or a specific stage of life,” said Ben Ittensohn, Regional Director for AUNZ.

“It’s a response to burnout, long hours, and a culture that waits too long for life to begin.

“With careers potentially stretching into our 70s, priorities and perspectives change.

“People are beginning to ask themselves: ‘Why wait? Life’s too short to not see the world’.”

Meanwhile, Explore’s solar eclipse trips went on sale in May and were sold out by mid-July, a reflection of the growing demand for astrotourism, especially as a total solar eclipse will take place in Europe for the first time in nearly 30 years in 2026.

“Travellers know how rare opportunities like this can be, especially when the timing overlaps with school holidays, when flights and accommodation are already in high demand,” Ittensohn said. *JHM*

Hammons’ zoo buy

HAMMONS Holdings has acquired Sydney Zoo, located in the city’s western suburbs.

Today is the first day Hammons has assumed full operations of the zoo, which is home to more than 4,000 animals, who reside on a 16.5 hectare site an hour west of downtown Sydney.

The facility will be integrated into Hammons’ expanding portfolio, joining BridgeClimb Sydney and Scenic World in the Blue Mountains.

Hammons has also unveiled plans for a \$10 million transformation of the Sydney Harbour Bridge’s Pylon Lookout and South Pylon Museum.

The upgrades will transform the site into an “immersive and contemporary experience”.

This will be the most significant upgrade to the facilities in more than two decades, as Hammons aims to solidify its status as a powerhouse in Greater Sydney’s visitor economy.

Air NZ CHC-RAR

AIR New Zealand has announced a new Christchurch to Rarotonga route, which will operate from May through to Oct.

The new service will fly three times a week, departing CHC on Tue, Thu, and Sat, and RAR on Mon, Wed, and Fri.

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to now a
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Window Seat

THOSE seeking a scarily good time on their next holiday should consider visiting Salem, Massachusetts, which has been named the world's most haunted destination in a new study from SpinBlitz.

Released ahead of Halloween, the list of the top 10 most haunted hotspots in the world ranked global destinations based on traveller reviews, folklore and documented ghost sightings, with Salem scoring 4.9 out of 5 on the 'haunted appeal' scale.

Infamous for its 1642 Witch Trials, the city attracts more than one million visitors each Oct, with last year seeing a record 87,500 people pour into its streets on Halloween - up 37% compared to 2023.

Abel: Vanuatu is "back with a bang"

VANUATU is making a cruising comeback, off the back of picking itself up after a devastating earthquake in Dec last year.

According to Australian Cruise Association's Jill Abel (**pictured**), the island nation is "back with a bang", with the islands welcoming more than a dozen cruise calls since Aug across Port Vila, Santo and Mystery Island.

It marks "a strong restart following the eight-month pause that followed the Dec 2024 earthquake", she said.

Meanwhile, infrastructure upgrades underway in Port Vila, including the provisional tendering site and temporary wharf facilities, demonstrate that "this isn't just a bounce-back, but a build-back-stronger process".

Major global cruise lines have returned to the country, like *Carnival Adventure* which sailed back on 08 Aug and other large-class vessels such as *Anthem of*



the Seas and *Voyager of the Seas* scheduled for the 2025-26 season.

There are more than 100 calls planned between Nov and Apr, added Abel.

"With all the pieces now in motion, the 2025-26 season promises to be a defining year in Vanuatu's cruise recovery, built on strong partnerships across government, industry and community," said Abel.

"The message is clear: Vanuatu is open for cruising."

Qantas announced last week it will increase capacity on its Brisbane to Port Vila service to daily from Mar until 24 Oct 2026.

The new services will be operated by a mix of E190 and Boeing 737 aircraft, and will more than double capacity between the two cities.

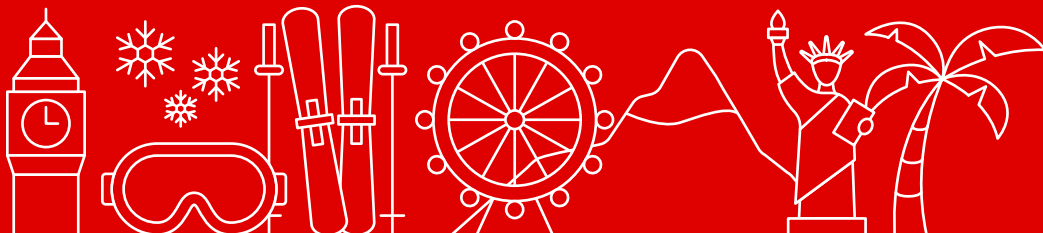
There has been "growing demand" from Australians wishing to visit Vanuatu, particularly from families and couples looking for a tropical holiday close to home, noted Qantas Regional GM NZ and Pacific Islands, Michael Gulliver. Vanuatu Tourism Office CEO Adela Issachar Aru said the increased frequencies are "a tremendous vote of confidence in Vanuatu's recovery".

"With visitor numbers now sitting eight per cent above pre-COVID levels, the demand speaks for itself," he said.

"This enhanced connectivity will open up even more opportunities for Australians to experience our islands' incredible rebuild story firsthand." *JHM*

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*Sale ends 11:59pm (AEDT) 5 November 2025 unless sold out prior. Select routes, travel dates and terms and conditions apply.

Howl at the Moon

VICTORIA'S Moonraker Dolphin Swims is celebrating 35 years with the announcement of new seal and seadragon snorkel tours.

The family owned business operates in Port Phillip Bay at Sorrento Pier, with the new experiences debuting this month.

Guests will encounter the region's remarkable biodiversity, including the playful Cape fur seals, as well as the ethereal common seadragon.

"We're constantly evolving our offerings to showcase the incredible marine life right on Melbourne's doorstep," Managing Director Torie Mackinnon said.

"The addition of sea dragon encounters allows us to share another layer of our underwater world while maintaining our commitment to low-impact, educational wildlife experiences."

Big Vietjet order

VIETJET has confirmed its order for 100 Airbus A321neo aircraft, as well as a US\$3.8 billion (approximately A\$5.8 billion) Rolls-Royce engine deal.

These developments further expand Vietjet's international capacity, creating more opportunities to connect seamlessly between Australia, Vietnam, and Europe via the airline's growing global network.

"We are proud to partner with Vietjet – a symbol of the vitality and growing stature of Vietnam," Airbus Commercial Aircraft Chief Executive Christian Scherer said.

Bunnik partners with KTO



BUNNIK Tours recently celebrated its new partnership with the Korea Tourism Organization (KTO) during its Soul of Korea agent event in Adelaide on Tues last week.

During the event, the travel operator shared the news of a South Korea famill next year in partnership with Singapore Airlines and gave away a spot to one lucky agent on the night.

Additional places are reserved for top-selling agents, most improved advisors and few to be chosen at random.

To win a spot on the famil, agents need to sell Bunnik and Singapore Airlines products between now and 16 Jan.

"Bunnik Tours has been a wonderful partner in helping us grow awareness of South Korea as a destination full of depth and discovery," said Hyeongjoon Kim, Director of the Korea Tourism Organization Sydney Office

"Their expertise in small group

touring and genuine family-run approach align perfectly with our mission to share the warmth and wonder of Korea.

"We were thrilled to bring a touch of Korea to Adelaide together and inspire more Australians to discover its cultural treasures," said Kim.

Bunnik Tours has witnessed "strong early demand" for its 2026 South Korea tours, with more than a third of seats already filled, according to the brand.

Aussies' interest in Korea has grown in recent months, due to the popularity of Netflix shows like *Kpop Demon Hunters* and K-Pop music, beauty and drama.

Last week, stats from KTO and PassportCard revealed that 65% of Australians surveyed said that because of the explosion in Korean pop culture, they are more likely travel to the country (**TD** 30 Oct). **JHM**

Pictured: Joint CEO Dennis Bunnik at the event.

Kep West develops

KEP West, a new development on Cambodia's southern shoreline, has unveiled two new cultural & coastal landmarks: Kep Exhibition Plaza and Art for Kep.

The former development will be anchored by two new destinations, The Lighthouse and The Beach Club, which will be designed as a hub for culture, dining, and design.

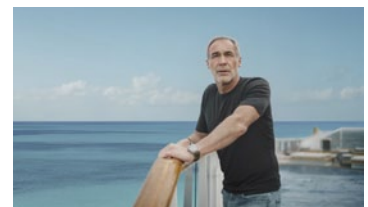
Meanwhile, Art for Kep will unite artists, musicians, and filmmakers, with a key initiative to include the Ocean Museum and Underwater Gallery.

Sounding the Horn

EXPLORA Journeys has introduced 'A Journey of Caribbean & Bahamian Blue', which will offers guests the opportunity to travel alongside the cruise line's ambassador Mike Horn (**pictured**).

Guests will embark on *Explora II* in the Caribbean in late Jan, where they will immerse themselves in the region, while gaining a deeper understanding of ocean conservation.

This 10-night ocean journey includes calls in Puerto Plata, Kralendijk, Oranjestad, Willemstad, and Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve.



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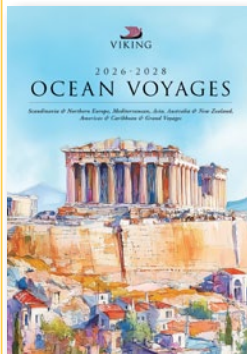
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Viking - Ocean Voyages 2026-28

Viking's latest brochure is out now, with 248 pages showcasing the line's large selection of recently launched itineraries, ranging from eight to 36 days, which visit iconic and lesser-known destinations across Western Europe, the Mediterranean, Scandinavia, Northern Europe, the British Isles and Ireland in 2026 and 2027. The refreshed design includes several new features to make the brochure even easier to use in the travel planning process, including bigger maps, key itinerary highlights including overnight stays, a

selection of the most popular included or optional shore excursions, plus a range of pre- and post- voyage extensions, and more - read it [HERE](#).



Viva Travel - Fiji 2026/27

From family-friendly resorts in Denarau to secluded island retreats in the Mamanuca and Yasawa Islands, Viva Holidays' new 44-page Fiji brochure (find it [HERE](#)) showcases the best the islands have to offer. Discover boutique luxury in regional Fiji, thrilling adventures like quad biking, jet boating and ziplining, plus brand-new day cruises and extended cruise itineraries. Readers will also find helpful information on transfers and car hire. Whether chasing sun-soaked beaches,

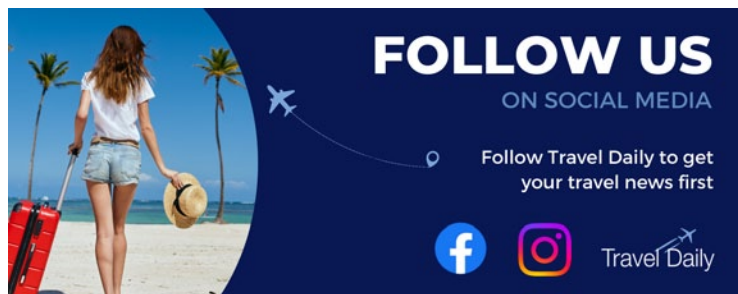
turquoise waters, vibrant coral reefs or immersive cultural experiences, there's something to make every Fiji holiday unforgettable.



Adventure World - Nordics

A new travel inspiration booklet highlighting Adventure World's Nordics portfolio is now live on Issuu [HERE](#). Inside, readers will find some of the operator's favourite itineraries, curated by Nordics Product Manager Lubi Sibikova. The 16-page brochure showcases Adventure World journeys across the Nordics, including Iceland, Svalbard, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland, such as the 10-night 'Authentic Fjords of Norway'.

Guests will sail the Norwegian coast - one of the world's longest coastlines - from Oslo to the city of Tromsø on a six-night cruise with Hurtigruten, paired with four nights' accommodation.



YTL invests in New Zealand



SOUTHEAST Asian property giant YTL Hotels has expanded into New Zealand, making its first investment with the acquisition of Hotel Indigo in Auckland for NZ\$160 million.

The agreement includes a 25-year hotel management contract with IHG Hotels and Resorts.

"This milestone reflects our confidence in the country's visitor economy and our commitment to building lasting partnerships that bring meaningful value to the communities we invest in," said Dato Mark Yeoh, Executive Director at YTL Hotels.

The property is located in the heart of Auckland and features 225 guest rooms and social spaces, operating under IHG's Hotel Indigo brand.

The brand is known for its small, boutique hotels, each individually designed to reflect the local neighbourhood.

Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister of New Zealand, shared his enthusiasm for YTL's investment in the nation.

"I'd like to congratulate YTL on its investment decision, which is

a clear vote of confidence in our visitor economy and our cities.

"We see many opportunities for YTL's expertise, and I look forward to them investing further in New Zealand," he said.

YTL is an integrated infrastructure developer with a significant footprint in Asia. *JHM*

Egypt cycle 'n' cruise

BOAT Bike Tours has launched a cruise-and-cycle tour of Egypt and the Nile River, in what the European operator claims is a world first.

With special permission from the government, the 13-day Egypt & the Nile tour will e-bike primarily on quieter roads instead of popular tourist routes, with licensed Egyptologists offering expert insight along the way.

The tour takes guests through the Red Sea resort of El Gouna and the farmlands and small village along the Nile, through Cairo's iconic monuments, then to the Great Pyramids and Sphinx on the Giza Plateau, with stays in deluxe hotels and on board *HS Nebu*.



Feel Fiji

Explore the Fiji Collection Now

Step into “**Feel Fiji**”, a vibrant campaign by **Infinity Holidays** in partnership with **Tourism Fiji**, inviting travellers to rediscover the magic of the islands through connection, culture, and unforgettable island moments.

Denarau

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

5 nights at Hilton Fiji Beach Resort & Spa, including Robinson Crusoe Island Tour and airport transfers.

Package Code: IH53135

FROM

\$899

pp twin share*

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Coral Coast

FAMILY PACKAGE INCLUDES:

5 nights at Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort with Fijian Experience, Archery session, kids eat free (aged 3 to 11*), & 2 days of nanny service.

Package Code: IH53122

FROM

\$2,879

pp family share*

[Book Now](#)

Coral Coast

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

5 nights at The Warwick Fiji with glass-bottom boat tour, Sigatoka shopping trip, and discounted spa voucher.

Package Code: IH52926

FROM

\$769

pp twin share*

[Book Now](#)

Mamanuca Islands

FAMILY PACKAGE INCLUDES:

Stay 7, pay 4, at Plantation Island Resort with Food & Beverage Credit*, Snorkelling Trip for two adults and free kids' meals (ages 0—11*).

Package Code: IH53060

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pp family share*

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