



## Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today features five pages of the latest news, including our **Corporate Update**, plus full pages from:

- **Celebrity Cruises**
- **Inspiring Vacations**

## Celeb's Black Friday

**CELEBRITY** Cruises is offering up to 75% off your clients' second guest, plus savings of up to \$900 per room, as part of its Black Friday sale - see **page six**.

## Inspiring deals

**INSPIRING** Vacations has launched a raft of red-hot deals for Black Friday.

Travellers can book the 21-day 'Egypt & Jordan Uncovered' premium small group tour from \$8,695 per person, twin share - see more deals on **page seven**.

## EK profits grow

**EMIRATES** has held onto its position as the world's most profitable airline, with its half-year financial results for 2025/26 recording a AED\$12.2 billion (A\$5.1 billion) profit before tax.

The figure represents a 17% increase from the same period last year, making this the fourth consecutive year of record profitability for the half-year reporting period.

After accounting for income tax charges, the group's profit after tax is AED10.6 billion (A\$4.5 billion), up 13% from last year.

Additionally, Emirates maintained a strong EBITDA of AED21.1 billion (A\$8.9 billion), 3% higher than the same period last year.

## QF's new cabin option

**QANTAS** has unveiled its new economy plus cabin, offering 40% more legroom, priority boarding, and priority access to overhead baggage space.

This new product (**pictured**) will be available from Feb 2026 on the Airbus A321XLR, A220 and Boeing 737 aircraft, which operate on the carrier's domestic network as well as to New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

High-tiered members will receive complimentary access to Qantas economy plus.

"This is an evolution of our economy offering and delivers more choice for our customers while recognising our most loyal frequent flyers with expanded benefits, in the areas we know they value the most," said Qantas Group CEO Vanessa Hudson.



At the same time, the Qantas Group announced the appointment of Alison Watkins as an independent Non-Executive Director from Mar 2026, as part of its ongoing board renewal.

Watkins is a member of the Reserve Bank Monetary Policy Board, a director of CSL, Wesfarmers and Chancellor of the University of Tasmania. *JM*

See **page three** for more updates from Qantas.

## 10% of US flights cut

**FROM** today, thousands of flights will be cut across the US due to the government shutdown (**TD** 10 Oct), which is now in its 37th day and has so far cost the nation's travel industry around US\$4 billion (A\$6.2 billion).

The FAA has ordered air traffic to be reduced by 10% at 40 of the nation's busiest airports - including the popular gateways of Hawaii and Dallas for Aussies flying to the US - to ensure travel safety and help relieve pressure amid traffic controller shortages.

United Airlines has confirmed its long-haul international and hub-to-hub services will not be impacted by the schedule reduction, and is offering refunds to customers travelling during this period if they do not wish to fly, even if their flight is not impacted.

Qantas services to the US have not been impacted so far.

## APT's best month

**APT** Travel Group has recorded its biggest-ever sales month in Oct, with three of the company's four highest sales days on record taking place last week.

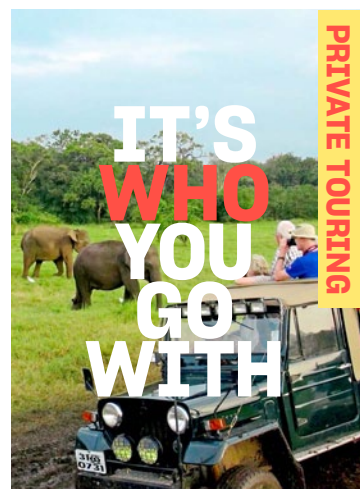
The impressive growth was driven largely by APT and Travelmarvel's Classic European journeys, boosted by new ships, and strong early-season bookings for 2026.

"It is very pleasing to see the areas where the business has made significant investments - new ships in Europe, Vietnam and now Egypt plus significant investment in upgrading our Kimberley lodges and our new partnerships with Seabourn and Heritage Expeditions - is fuelling our growth," APT Travel Group CEO David Cox said.

## Aegean's Aussie rep

**GREECE'S** largest carrier, Aegean Airlines, has announced the appointment of Aviation Online as its general sales agent in Australia and New Zealand.

The agreement, which also includes Aegean's subsidiary airline Olympic Air, will give local travel advisors direct access to the airline's expanding network, supporting the growing demand for travel to Greece and the broader Mediterranean region.



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## JQ's new Sunny service



**JETSTAR** has announced the launch of direct flights from Sunshine Coast Airport to Singapore via Bali.

Beginning Mar 2026, the new service marks the first direct connection between the Sunshine Coast and Southeast Asia.

The new Jetstar service will operate three times per week using the airline's Airbus A321LR aircraft, offering more than 70,000 seats annually.

"The new route will strengthen the Sunshine Coast's position as a global gateway for Queensland and enhance access for international visitors looking to explore the Sunshine Coast, Noosa and the wider region," said Sunshine Coast Airport Chief Executive Officer Chris Mills.

To celebrate, Jetstar is offering one-way sale fares from Sunshine Coast to Bali (Denpasar), available via [jetstar.com](http://jetstar.com) from \$199 until 1pm AEDT tomorrow. *JM*

## QR sells CX stake

**QATAR** Airways has sold its entire 9.7% stake in Cathay Pacific Airways for HK\$6.97 billion (approx. A\$1.4b), marking its complete exit from Hong Kong's flagship carrier after eight years.

Cathay Pacific will repurchase the shareholding through a buyback at HK\$10.84 (A\$2.10) per share - roughly a 4% discount on its last closing share price.

The Doha-based carrier had bought the stake in Nov 2017, making it the third-largest shareholder in Cathay after Swire Pacific and Air China.

Qatar CEO Badr Mohammed Al-Meer said the exit reflected the company's disciplined portfolio strategy and would allow the company to position itself for long-term growth.

The carriers said they will continue their partnership through the oneworld Alliance.

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## IR's new booking system

**INTERNATIONAL** Rail (IR) has launched its new online booking system for the Rest of the World rail services, now available to travel agents across Australia and New Zealand.

Advisors can request rail bookings directly through the website, streamlining access to Portugal, Norway, Sweden and Poland in Europe, China and South Korea in Asia, and Morocco in Africa.

The new system offers an efficient, time-saving solution for agents - who previously could only access these destinations' rail services via email - as well as lower fares and booking fees and commission on online bookings.

Bookings can be made up to four months in advance, with tickets issued 60 days prior to travel or once ticketing opens.

"At International Rail, we listen closely to our trade partners and continuously work to deliver the tools and services they seek," said



Jonathan Hume (pictured), owner and Chief Executive Officer of International Rail.

"The launch of our Rest of World booking tab is another example of how we're responding to demand and expanding our product offering to make European rail even more accessible and efficient for agents across Australia and New Zealand."

The announcement marks a significant expansion of International Rail's digital platform and follows the release of its Japan and US rail system earlier this year (*TD* 17 Jun). *JM*

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## Window Seat

**SOFITEL** Sydney Wentworth is rolling out the red carpet for guests with its Oh-La-La-La Lift experience, running from now until 05 Dec.

Celebrating the launch of *Pretty Woman: The Musical*, the installation will see the hotel's elevator transformed in a nod to grandeur of a bygone era, complete with a bell boy and chaise lounge.

Guests can also indulge in *Pretty Woman*-inspired cocktails, and luxurious accommodation packages that include tickets to the musical.



## QF's Sunrise takes shape

**IMAGES** of Qantas' first Project Sunrise aircraft have been released this week, as the A350-1000ULR has completed several production milestones at the Airbus manufacturing facility in Toulouse.

The plane is set to become part of the world's longest commercial flight, connecting Australia's east coast non-stop to London and New York for the first time across a 22-hour journey.

This week, it will be transferred to a new hangar, with engines and flight test instruments installed, before it starts an extensive flight program next year.

"Project Sunrise will not only overcome the tyranny of distance, it will fundamentally change the way our customers travel the world," said Qantas Group Chief Executive Officer Vanessa Hudson.

"These flights will cut up to four hours off the journey and



transform how people experience ultra long-haul travel, through science backed design to minimise jetlag and maximise wellbeing," she added.

The first of 12 new aircraft is planned for delivery in late 2026, with the first commercial services starting in the first half of 2027.

However, Project Sunrise was originally set to introduce its nonstop routes around the middle of this year, although it was hit with delays due to supply chain issues and the redesign of fuel tanks (**TD** 27 Mar). *JHM*

## Travel skills taskforce

**A GROUP** of travel industry representatives convened last week for a meeting of the Travel Skills Taskforce in Sydney.

The group met at the Corporate Travel Management offices, with many joining virtually, as attendees discussed how to revitalise careers in the sector.

The congregation took 90 minutes and was attended by nearly 20 key members, with the Taskforce encouraging the reformation of the outdated Certificate III in travel.

Represented were Magellan, Helloworld, Spencer, and more.

## ANCRO promotes

**JESS** Walker is stepping up into a new role at ANZCRO, as the wholesaler's new National Account Manager for Helloworld and preferred agency partners, effective immediately.

Walker first joined ANZCRO in Mar this year as a BDM.

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## CORPORATE UPDATE

### CT event ends on a high

**CT PARTNERS** has successfully wrapped up its 2025 annual conference in Singapore (**TD** 31 Oct), which was attended by more than 100 delegates.

The final day of the event featured team building at the Tanjong Beach Club hosted by NCL brands, with Regent Seven Seas' Lisa Pile, Oceania's James Sitters and NCL's Damian Borg entertaining guests with a surprise DJ set.

Additionally, the Ian Edwards Award - the network's highest acknowledgement of supplier partnership - was presented to Cathy Favaloro from Four Seasons.

Voted by members, Favaloro was recognised as a great



advocate for members, consistently going above and beyond to ensure great outcomes for members and their clients.

The conference concluded with a gala celebration at Gardens by the Bay, with delegates treated to an orchestral performance and a tenor showcase with Four Seasons-inspired catering.

CT Partners CEO Matt Masson said the final day captured the essence of this year's 'Resilience and reinvention' theme.

"What makes this week special isn't just sharing our strategy or the results - it's the people.

"When we're in the room together or on the dancefloor, you can feel the energy levels soaring, the trust and the belief in where we're heading as a group," Masson enthused.

"We don't just talk about partnership, we live it."

Closing out the conference, delegates were offered a visual preview of next year's event, which will take place on board The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection's newest superyacht, *Luminara*.

The luxury vessel will sail from Shanghai to Hong Kong from 17-20 Nov 2026. *JM*

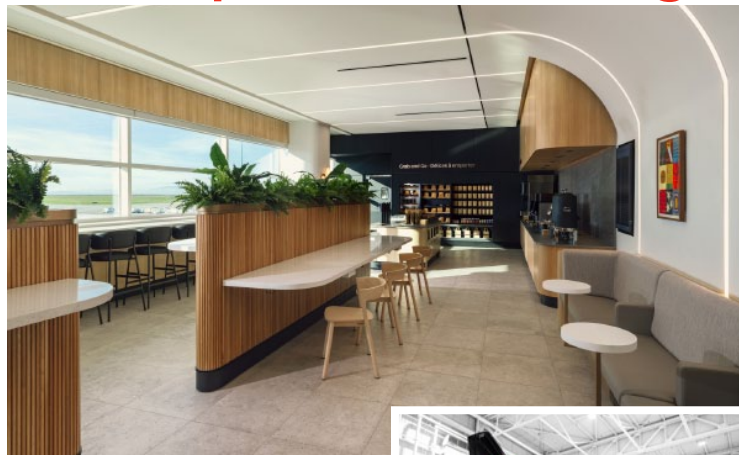
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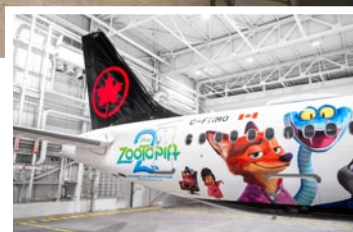
**AIR** Canada has enhanced its lounge offering with the opening of its fourth Air Canada Cafe, bringing the premium grab-and-go concept to Vancouver International Airport.

Located in the airport's domestic terminal, the new venue offers a cosy space for eligible customers to relax and recharge in the lounge, or purchase snacks to take onboard their flight.

The 138m<sup>2</sup> cafe provides a selection of quintessential Vancouver cuisine, from Nanaimo bars to Asian-influenced bites, which are sourced from local and seasonal ingredients.

Guests can also enjoy a wide selection of self-serve beverages and the convenience of power outlets at every seat.

**MEANWHILE**, the carrier has also this week revealed a brand-new *Zootopia* 2-themed aircraft livery, celebrating the upcoming sequel expanding on its long-standing partnership with Disney.



The vibrant livery features on an Airbus A220 aircraft (**pictured inset**), which will be seen in the skies and at several destinations across Canada and the US. *JM*

### No ticket needed

**TRAVELLERS** using Wellington Airport can now enjoy the ease of ticketless car parking.

Cameras will automatically record licence plates, with travellers able to pay at a machine by inputting their licence plate before exiting, at the exit barrier itself, or in advance when making an online booking.

Staff will be available to help drivers via the intercom at parking barriers.

"It's going to be easier for the public with no need to hang onto a paper ticket, and a lot better for the environment with millions of tickets no longer printed," said the hub's Commercial General Manager, Richard Dalby.

### SIA premium flights

**SINGAPORE** Airlines has introduced premium economy on one of its four daily return services between Brisbane and Singapore, as of 01 Nov.

Flights SQ265/266 will be operated by the Airbus A350-900 long haul aircraft, replacing the Airbus A350-900 medium haul on this rotation only.

The aircraft change will provide passengers with an additional cabin option and an enhanced onboard experience.



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## SPECIALS

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Travellers can get two free nights at a luxury lodge in Botswana next year thanks to **African Wildlife Safaris**. Stay for six nights and pay for only four at a Natural Selection lodge at either Tawana, Jack's Camp, North Island Okavango, or Tuludi, for travel during 2026, including during peak season - **CLICK HERE** for more.

**Silversea's** Black Friday offer provides travellers with two ways to save. Enjoy up to \$10,000 savings on an expedition voyage and up to \$6,000 savings on a classic voyage, available on almost 1,000 sailings. Suites can also be secured with reduced deposits starting at 15% when booked by 02 Dec - call Silversea on 1300 306 872.

Buy one get one 50% off on **Trafalgar's** worldwide trips as part of its Black Friday sale. Included as part of the sale are the 'Treasures of Thailand', 'Best of China with Yangtze Cruise', and 'Best of Holland' itineraries - **CLICK HERE** to view the deals.

Enticing earlybird deals with **China Airlines** are now on offer to 36 different destinations worldwide for bookings made by 31 Aug. Save up to 15% on departures from SYD, MEL and BNE to cities including Taipei, Tokyo and London. For full fare details, **CLICK HERE**.


**Qantas Airways** has dropped more than one million domestic sales fares, as part of its latest Red Tail sale. Fares are available from \$99 as part of the week-long promotion, with discounted seats on offer to 60 Australian destinations - call 13 13 13.

**Celebrity Cruises** has gone early with its Black Friday offer, providing up to 75% off the second guest, and up to \$900 off per stateroom. The deals run through to Wed, on select sailings which include the soon-to-debut *Celebrity Xcel*. Call Celebrity on 1800 003 002.

**Aldi Holidays** has dropped new Nov deals, with something for every type of adventurer. The 12-Day 'Best of Vietnam' tour, the 'Ultimate Kimberley Expedition', the 'Pacific Jewels' cruise from Hawaii to Sydney, and the Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort are all on sale as part of the offer - visit [aldiholidays.com.au](http://aldiholidays.com.au).

**Oceania Cruises'** Black Friday savings have been announced, offering travellers up to 50% off on more than 170 sailings across 2026 and 2027. The cruise line is opening its Black Friday promotion ahead of the traditional holiday period for the first time, with highlighted voyages including the 'Canal & Coral Islands' and 'Alaska Discoverer' itineraries. Call the Oceania contact centre on 1300 355 200.




Savings have been released on a new cruise themed around war and peace with Ponant. Free hotel stays and savings of up to \$4,738 are available with small ship specialist **Cruise Traveller** for those who book by 07 Dec. The unique 22-night land and sea package begins on 25 Aug, and travels from Copenhagen to London - **CLICK HERE** for more.



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## Two for the foodies



**LUXURY** Escapes has launched two new Signature Series tours to Spain and Italy, hosted by culinary icons Gary Mehigan and Matt Preston (**pictured**).

The former *MasterChef* judges will host the two tours back-to-back, with 12 days in Spain followed by 11 days in Italy.

The Spain itinerary features a paella cooking class and churros tasting in Madrid, while the Italy tour includes foodie golf-cart tours through the cobbled streets of Rome and a visit to Dario's famous butcher shop.

"Our Signature Series tours have been the fastest-selling product

we've ever had," Luxury Escapes co-founder and CEO Adam Schwab said.

"Our members absolutely love the behind-the-scenes access to incredible talent like Matt and Gary who personally design the itinerary and experiences."

The Spain Signature Series tour will depart 23 Aug 2026 and is priced from \$17,499 per person, while the Italy tour will depart Rome on 08 Sep 2026 and is priced from \$15,499 per person.

## PEPR reps Fullerton

**THE** Fullerton Hotel Sydney has appointed specialist travel and tourism agency, PEPR Agency, to oversee its strategic brand partnerships strategy in Australia and New Zealand.

PEPR will showcase the luxury hotel's storied past to strengthen its appeal among travellers.

The Fullerton account will be managed by founder and Director Philip Engelberts, and assisted by Account Director Alice Rose and Account Executive Laura Ford.

## Albatross guarantees

**ALBATROSS** Tours has guaranteed 97% of its tours for next year, from Apr through to 31 Oct 2026.

Among the confirmed tours are the operator's signature 'Italian Grande' itinerary, its new journeys to the Balkans, and favourites including 'Leisurely Switzerland - the Glacier Express & Cable Car adventures'.



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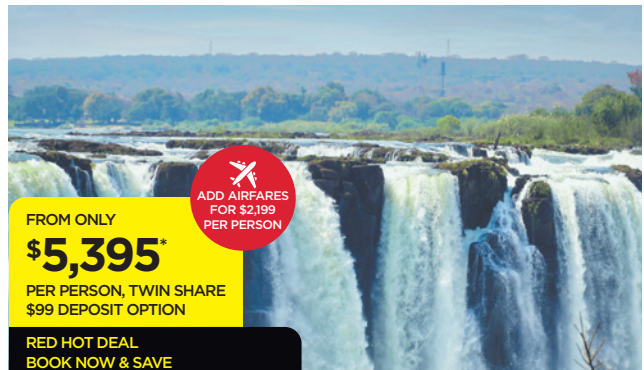
Small group, max 20 guests, fully escorted by expert guides



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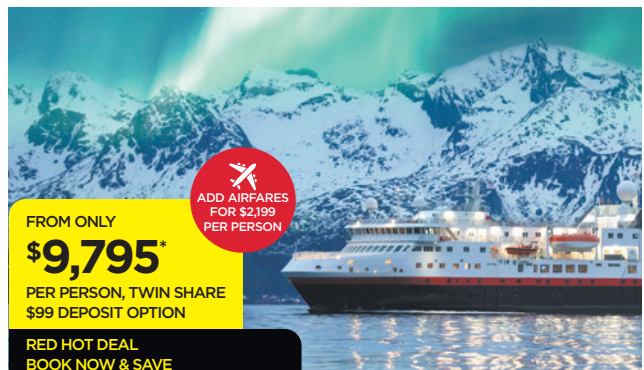
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