Travel Daily

First with the news

Monday 10th November 2025



Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news, including a special feature from **HX**, plus full pages from:

- Regent Seven Seas Cruises
- Tourism NT
- Tokyo Tourism

On top in the NT

BECOME a Northern Territory expert and win a trip to the Top End - more details are available on page nine.

Where families stay

APARTMENT Hotel Mimaru is where families stay together when they travel to Tokyo.

Discover more information on page 10.

New HX brox here

HX EXPEDITION'S 2027/28 all-inclusive expeditions brochure has just launched.

Check out page six to find out more about the guide.

Nominate for CLIAs

THERE are only a couple weeks left to get in nominations for the Cruise Line Industry Association (CLIA) Annual Cruise Industry Awards for Australasia.

The awards are open to all current CLIA travel agent members in Australia and New Zealand, with nominations closing Fri 21 Nov.

For more information and to cast your vote, CLICK HERE.

Brendan launches in Australia

EXCLUSIVE

THE Travel Corporation's (TTC) Brendan Vacations brand is set to roll out the green carpet for Australians, with the Celtic travel specialist launching its small group and tailored experiences in the local market, Travel Daily can exclusively reveal.

The Dublin-based luxury tour operator offers itineraries in Ireland and Scotland, with the Australian roll-out to be led by Brendan's small group tours, which travel with a maximum of 24 guests.

Fully independent private driver itineraries, as well as self-drive and rail programs, will also be pushed in the Australian market.

Brendan falls under TTC's Specialist and Adventure division, aligning it closely with Adventure World, which will act as a general sales agent for the brand in Aus.

The tour operator's itineraries will focus on intimate experiences



and local connections, with guests staying in hand-selected accommodations, including historic castles, bed & breakfasts, and four- and five-star hotels.

All tours will be guided by a travel director, and feature at least one Make Travel Matter Experience, connecting guests with locals passionate about sharing their homeland's stories and sustainable initiatives. MS

Pictured are Adventure World MD Neil Rodgers with Brendan MD Catherine Reilly.

RSSC Black Fri offer

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises' (RSSC) Black Fri bonus offers up to 45% off select suite categories, plus US\$500 shipboard credit.

Download a toolkit for the offer on page eight, where you can also view sample itineraries included as part of the sale.





AGENT-EXCLUSIVE BLACK FRIDAY SALE PREVIEW WEBINAR

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Gig tripping out on top

'GIG tripping', sustainability, authentic experiences, and AI are among the trends that will fuel growth in the travel sector over the next decade.

According to the 2025 World Travel Market Global Travel Report, released this week during WTM London, the travel industry is set to grow at a faster pace than the global economy over the next decade.

One of the major priorities of travellers over the next 10 years will be 'gig tripping', as destinations actively encourage major touring artists to host events in their cities.

This follows the successes of a series of high-profile concerts, including Taylor Swift's 'The Eras Tour', which was attended by more than 10 million people.

Oasis' Live '25 Tour, which wrapped up its Australian leg on the weekend, is also set to attract nearly 2 million fans across 13



According to the report, the quest for culturally rich offerings, including meeting locals and sampling regional food and drink, is causing the industry to focus on reshaping its operations, centring on handcrafted experiences.

Continued economic growth in emerging markets, especially in the Asia Pacific, is also boosting visitation, the report found.

"Over the next decade, the industry is on track to post annual growth of 3.5%, surpassing global economic growth of 2.5% per year over the same period," the report read. MS



Escape with Globus

GLOBUS family of brands' Escapes collection has expanded, with seven new tours departing for well-loved icons and emerging destinations from Q4 2026.

These include a trip to South Portugal, a tour through the Baltic Christmas Markets and more.

GFOB is also waiving the single supplement fee on a select number of new Escapes.

Escapes by Globus takes place between Nov and Mar each season, giving travellers the opportunity to explore Europe from just \$209 a day.

AAT Kings incentive

AAT Kings has a new A-LISTER rewards incentive with e-gift cards up for grabs this month.

Registered agents will instantly earn e-gift card rewards for every deposited booking made across **AAT Kings and Inspiring Journeys** guided holidays in Nov, with more value for higher-tier members.

JQ boosts Avalon

JETSTAR has announced its biggest-ever expansion out of Melbourne Avalon Airport, with the launch of new flights to Bali, restarting flights to Adelaide, and more services to Brisbane.

The Qantas subsidiary will add more than 330,000 lowfares seats annually in and out of Melbourne's second airport gateway, with the new Bali service to be Jetstar's first-ever international route from the hub.

Starting 23 Mar 2026, Jetstar will operate five return flights a week between Melbourne Avalon and Bali (Denpasar), aboard its Airbus A321LR aircraft.

The carrier will also introduce up to seven return flights between Melbourne Avalon and Adelaide from 26 Mar, reconnecting two key cities and offering up to 109,000 seats a year on the route, as well as up to five extra weekly flights to Brisbane, boosting capacity by around 107,000 seats a year.

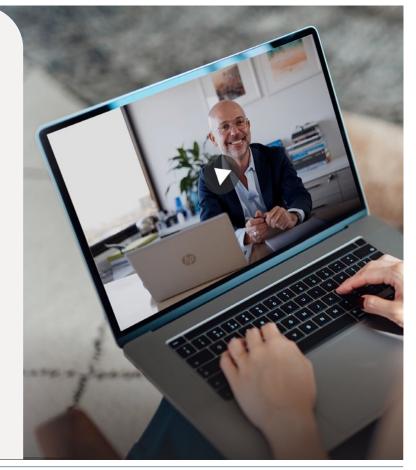
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UK carrier collapses

UK REGIONAL airline Eastern Airways has entered administration after making the majority of its 330 staff

redundant last week.

According to the administrators, Eastern Airways was left with an unsustainable cost base after a contract to operate services for Dutch airline KLM was ended, and is now seeking any interest from potential alternative operators.

The carrier operated across the UK, Ireland and Europe.

QCT CEO departs

QUEENSLAND Country Tourism's (CQT) CEO Peter Homan is retiring after six years of leading the organisation.

QCT Chair Geoff McDonald expressed his thanks to Homan for "setting up the organisation for a very bright future".

"Peter lives and breathes the visitor economy and understands the positive impact the industry has on communities," he said.

During Homan's tenure, QCT delivered major initiatives in destination branding and regional experience development, and strengthened partnerships with Tourism and Events Queensland, government and industry stakeholders.

"It has been a privilege to lead QCT and to champion the regions, communities and operators that make our destination and state so extraordinary," Homan said.

A formal recruitment process has now begun for the next CEO.

Star shines bright



PRINCESS Cruises' new ship Star Princess has been christened by her celebrity godparents, Camila Alves and Matthew McConaughey (TD 01 Oct), at a ceremony in Fort Lauderdale late last week.

To wish *Star* good luck, as part of maritime tradition, the couple broke a bottle of tequila from Pantalones Organics, the brand they co-founded.

The event included an evening of tributes from the cruise line's President Gus Antorcha and Captain Gennaro Arma, followed by a performance by singersongwriter Sheryl Crow.

The night was capped off with a drone show, paying tribute to Star's upcoming season in Alaska.

"Star Princess is a stunning reflection of our legacy and our future - bringing together incredible design, exceptional experiences, and the spirit of discovery our guests love," Antorcha said.

The ship has now begun her

inaugural Caribbean season, which will continue through to the summer.

She will then sail to Seattle for a season of Alaska Inside Passage itineraries, making her the newest ship in the region. MS

TAG tips new team

GLOBAL travel and evening management company, The Appointment Group (TAG), has announced a number of key leadership changes this week. including the appointment of Fred Stratford as Chair.

Stratford was previously group Chief Executive Officer at travel provider Reed & Mackay.

Meanwhile, CEO Jens Penny will be stepping down from his role after seven years and a search is now on for his replacement.

Lastly, John McLaughlin joined as CFO earlier this year and will serve as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Team.

French luxe at UTC

THE Unique Tourism Collection (UTC) has been appointed as the Australia and NZ sales and marketing rep for luxury French hotel portfolio. Maisons Pariente.

The collection includes fivestar properties such as Le Grand Mazarin in Paris.

itravel

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-Sue & Emily



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Window Seat

BUSINESS owners in Mallorca, Spain are taking a stand against travel influencers who come to their shops to take photos for Instagram but do not buy anything.

Fed up with the trend, some shopkeepers have put up 'no photography' signs.

As one shop owner in the Old Town put it, "People come in without saying hello, stand in front of the mirror and take selfies of their backsides, and then they leave without saying a word".

The owner of the island's oldest shop - a haberdashery called Ca Donya Angela - has taken it one step further and is now demanding that Insta-obsessed tourists pay one euro to take photos in his store.

Aussies had a kiwi winter

AUSTRALIAN travellers embraced Christchurch over the winter season this year, with the Kiwi city recording a strong rise in visitation and spending.

In the three months to Aug 2025, international arrivals in Christchurch reached 90% of pre-COVID levels, marking a 17% increase year-on-year.

Between Jun and Aug, Christchurch welcomed an additional 7,539 Aussies - up 19% compared to the previous winter.

In Jun alone, Aussie visitors spent an average of NZ\$290 (A\$251) per day, with their average length of stay increasing from 9.3 to 9.5 nights, with around 2.2 of these nights spent in Christchurch.

Based on these figures, the estimated economic impact for the Central South region is NZ\$20.77 million (A\$18 million), with Christchurch's share estimated to be at least NZ\$4.8 million (A\$4.16 million).



The boost in Aussie visitation follows the 'Winter Different' marketing campaign Down Under, which showcased more than 150 deals on accommodation, hospitality, and activities from across the central South Island.

"We know winter is generally tough for our tourism operators, so it has been fantastic to see this stand-out performance across the season," ChristchurchNZ Head of Destination Kath Low said.

"The colder months are really special in Christchurch and its surrounding regions, so it's fantastic our Australian neighbours are coming to experience a little of that winter magic too." *JM*

TFE beefs up team

HOTEL giant TFE has made a number of strategic appointments and promotions.

Jay Hore is now Area General Manager ACT, while Sid Singh has stepped up to Cluster General Manager and is responsible for Vibe Sydney, Rendezvous Hotel Sydney the Rocks, and the cluster reservations team across NSW, ACT, Qld, NT and WA.

At A by Adina Sydney, Chris Green is now Hotel General Manager and supported by Isaac Ilitch, who has transitioned from Rendezvous Sydney The Rocks.

Andrew O'Donovan is in his first GM role and is now overseeing Travelodge Hotel Hurstville.

Travelodge Sydney Airport has welcomed Ansarina Flower as Hotel General Manager, while Claire Slattery has taken up the GM position at Adina Apartment Hotel Wollongong, and Fernando Rousseau has become Executive Assistant Hotel Manager at The EVE Hotel Sydney.





Bar Allora opens

ACCOR'S new in-house hospitality group Table For (TD 02 Oct) has announced the opening of all-day Italian bar and restaurant, Bar Allora, in Sydney's Mantra 2 hotel.

Inspired by the futurist glamour of 1980s Milan, the venue serves Italian baked goods, espresso and breakfast plates, as well as offering a lunch menu, evening bites, desserts and cocktails.

Bar Allora leads a wave of new Table For openings this summer, including El Vista at Pullman Quay Grand Sydney Harbour.



RateGain acquistion

TECH provider RateGain has acquired Sojern, an Al-powered marketing platform for the hospitality industry.

RateGain is a provider of AI-powered SaaS solutions for hospitality and travel and this development combines its existing expertise in martech with Sojern's demand generation and traveller engagement capabilities.

Both companies will help brands to connect marketing, distribution, and revenue decisions through an Al-driven platform enhancing multichannel demand generation for accurate targeting, pricing and more.

Pure Amazon sails

ABERCROMBIE & Kent's first South American riverboat. Pure Amazon, has set off on her debut sailing through Peru's Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve.

The new 22-passenger riverboat will offer three, four and sevennight itineraries across the reserve's 21,000km2 of protected Amazon wilderness.

Guests will be able to spot sloths and macaws, go fishing for piranha, kayak through the narrow river tributaries, and witness medicinal plant cleansing rituals.

Explorers expands

PONANT Explorations Group will expand its partnership with The Explorers Club to include Paul Gauguin Cruises and Aqua Expeditions from late next year, offering guests a raft of educational opportunities.

The expert-led voyages will feature on the group's three lines, featuring scientists, filmmakers, authors, photographers, and more from the club.

The Explorers Club voyages on Paul Gauguin and Aqua Expeditions will begin in the winter 2026-27 season, with two departure dates for ms Paul Gauguin and four for Aqua's ships.

Ponant Explorations will offer more than 15 voyages with the Explorers Club in 2026 and 2027, featuring speakers like New Zealand mountaineer Peter Hillary (son of Sir Edmund Hillary), and American filmmaker John Heminway.

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Travel Daily

Agents roll with it



FIFTEEN lucky winners of the Qantas Supernova Seat competition attended the soldout Oasis concert in Sydney on Sat evening to enjoy a night of hospitality, socialising and, of course, entertainment.

All of the winners received a night's accommodation at one of Accor's Handwritten Collection properties, while the five top UK selling agents scored a UK famil as well, featuring premium economy flights, five-star accommodation and exciting experiences in London and Manchester - the birthplace of Oasis.

The event was hosted by the airline's Kathryn Robertson (pictured right), Executive Manager Global Sales and Distribution, and Peter Ross (left), Senior Manager Corporate Agencies, and they were joined by Peta Evans (centre), VisitBritain's Trade Engagement Lead.

With the main act supported by Brisbane indie band Ball Park Music, guests described the evening as "epic", "biblical" and "best night of my life". KB

MH adds to BST

MALAYSIA Airlines has expanded its Bonus Side Trip (BST) program to now include Kuching, giving guests the opportunity to explore the city with zero base fare, paying only applicable taxes.

This is the eighth domestic destination in the program, in addition to Kuala Terengganu, Langkawi, Penang, Johor Bahru, Kota Kinabalu, Alor Setar, and Kuantan.

For a limited time, three new regional destinations have been added to the program, operated by sister airline Firefly: Krabi, Seap and Cebu.





Content produced in collaboration with HX

HX EXPEDITIONS is reshaping the future of mindful travel, sailing from Antarctica, across the Arctic and beyond with a focus on quality and depth in every destination.

"For our 27/28 season, we're not just adding new pins to our map - we're going deeper: the ultimate in slow and mindful travel," said Gebhard Rainer, CEO of HX Expeditions

Here's what's new:

Antarctica: This is HX's most farreaching program yet, with more chances to experience the popular 12-day 'Highlights of Antarctica' expeditions.

Enjoy thrilling optional activities such as kayaking and camping, plus the celebrated 'Antarctica and Patagonia' voyage from the icy south to South America's edge.



Venture even further with the 16-day Antarctica and Falkland Islands Expedition, a journey that blends pristine polar wilderness with rich wildlife encounters.

Greenland: Discover Greenland on your own terms, with shorter voyages, more departure points, and a wider choice of journeys than ever before, such as the 10day Serene Greenland adventure.

Alaska: HX goes further into the Alaskan wild, with 10-, 13-, and 18-day itineraries, filled with immersive exploration and authentic connections with the people and landscapes to highlight this extraordinary region.

Svalbard: Follow in the wake of polar explorers with a journey to Svalbard aboard *MS Fram* or *MS Spitsbergen*.

Choose from different expeditions that unlock remote corners of the High Arctic few ever see.

Northwest Passage: Sail the full

length of this legendary route with expanded community-led experiences created in close collaboration with Inuit hosts.

Norway: Ring in the New Year beneath the Northern Lights on a new eight-day winter voyage through Norway's Arctic, designed for unhurried exploration.

Iceland, Scottish Isles and more: Return to favourite destinations with refined routes and enriching new experiences.

Order the brochure HERE.

Refreshed loyalty program

HX EXPEDITIONS is evolving its loyalty program HX Explorers, featuring four status tiers - Bronze, Silver, Gold, and the all-new Platinum.

Designed to better recognise returning guests, the program replaces the current two-level system with a progress-based structure that rewards commitment through automatically calculated points (not redeemable as currency) from Oct.

Members will earn points for nights on board, taking part in experiences such as the Polar Plunge or Green Night stays,



and engaging with HX events and webinars.

Platinum status, achieved after 50+ nights, celebrates HX Expedition's dedicated travellers with enhanced rewards including complimentary laundry, printed logbooks from CEWE, and exclusive behind-the-scenes tours - click HERE.



Save up to 35% on Black Fri

TRAVELLERS can save up to 35% on 2025/26 and selected 2026/27 departures, starting from \$5,531 per person, plus an additional 5% off for Silver, Gold and Platinum members of free loyalty program, HX Explorers.

Discover Antarctica's vast ice, the wildlife of the Galapagos, Greenland's fjords, Svalbard's high Arctic landscapes, Alaska's wilderness, and the legendary Northwest Passage.

The all-inclusive fare covers guides, landings, small ship cruising, dining, gratuities, and much more.

Book by 03 Dec - click HERE.





EXPEDITIONS

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Conditions apply



BROCHURES

THIS week's Brochures of the Week is brought to you by **HX** Expeditions.





HX Expeditions - 2027-28 Expedition Cruises HX Expeditions has launched a new brochure showcasing its 2027-28 season, which offers more ways to experience Antarctica. Travellers can enjoy additional departures of the cruise line's popular 12-day 'Highlights of Antarctica' expedition, the return of its Antarctica and Patagonia voyage, and an expanded kayaking and camping program for those eager to get even closer to the action. HX Expeditions is also offering a wider choice of journeys in Greenland, including shorter voyages and

more departure points. Travellers looking to go further into the Alaskan wild can choose from 10-, 13- and 18-day itineraries that offer immersive exploration and authentic experiences. Check out the brochure HERE.



Viva Holidays - Queensland 2026/27

Viva Holidays' latest Queensland brochure is the brand's first domestic brochure of the season, showcasing a wide range of accommodation, including a selection of iconic country retreats and many sightseeing options, across Brisbane and the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. For those heading further north, this 84-page brochure has holiday suggestions across the Southern Great Barrier Reef, the Whitsundays and Tropical North Old, along with

a new Cape York touring experience. Find the brochure HERE.



Wendy Wu Tours - Latin America 2026-27 The new brochure from Wendy Wu Tours invites travellers to discover the ancient civilisations, vibrant cities, and local customs and communities across Latin America through an exciting range of new journeys and much-loved classics. Fresh adventures highlighted in the brochure include the 25-day 'Grand Impressions of Mexico', allowing travellers to explore the bustling markets of Mexico City, dive into the turquoise cenotes of the Riviera

Maya, and experience Sumidero Canyon and Chichen Itza all in one tour. The brochure can be accessed online HERE.



A rail-y good France famil



RAIL Europe partnered with Atout France Australia to host a select group of Australian and New Zealand travel advisors on a recent famil to France.

Over seven days, the agents experienced France's rail network first-hand, exploring Marseille, Avignon and Paris, and gaining greater confidence and expertise in selling France by rail.

Led by Sandy Battle, Rail Europe's Key Account Manager for Australia and New Zealand, the group departed Paris last Mon, travelling in first-class comfort aboard TGV INOUI services using a Eurail Flexi Pass provided by Rail Europe.

Highlights included walking in Marseille's Calanques National Park and visiting the Notre-Dame, wine tasting at Chateauneuf-du-Pape in Avignon, and in Paris, enjoying an Bateaux Parisiens evening sightseeing cruise and dinner in the Eiffel Tower. JM

Pictured at Marseille St-Charles Station: Andrew Brooks, Little Travel House; Rose Febo, Travel Managers; Sarah Day, MTA; Chris

Scott, TravelManagers; Sandy Battle, Rail Europe; Selese Rowe, TravelManagers; Jannett Leventis, Clout Travel; and Debbie Green, The Private Travel Company.

BA free wi-fi rollout

BRITISH Airways has signed a major deal with Starlink to provide all its customers with free, reliable and fast wi-fi, starting from next year.

Once fully fitted across BA's fleet, customers in every cabin will have free access to the service, with no login required.

"Launching Starlink on both our long-haul and short-haul aircraft is game-changing for us and our customers, elevating their experience on board our flights by offering them seamless connectivity from gate-to-gate," said BA CEO Sean Doyle.

This is the latest investment as part of the carrier's £7 billion (A\$14billion) transformation plan, following the rollout of its brandnew lounge design concept last month (TD 17 Oct). JM

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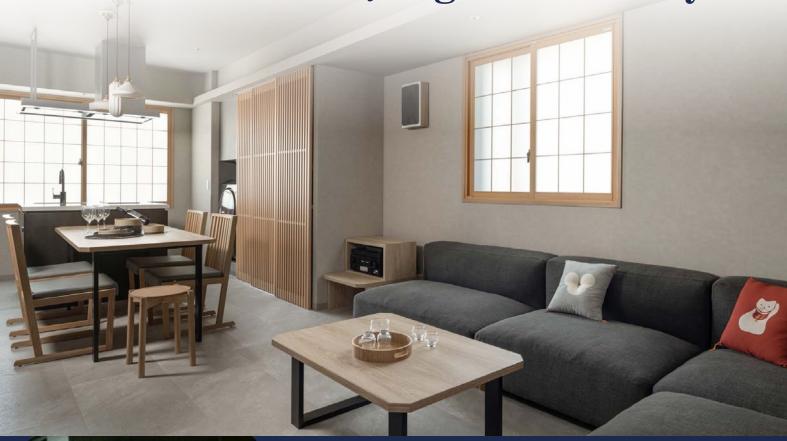
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