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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily features six news pages, plus a cover wrap from **A Force for Good**, a photo page from **Viking**, our **Corporate Update**, and full pages from:

- Hong Kong Airlines
- EVA Air/Taiwan Tourism

Crystal shows Grace

CRYSTAL has announced the name of its new ocean ship as *Crystal Grace* (TD 14 Oct).

The 650-pax vessel will embark on her maiden voyage on 11 Jul 2028, following a series of preview sailings.

Chief Executive Officer of parent company Abercrombie & Kent Travel Group, Cristina Levis, said the name *Crystal Grace* reflected the "effortless elegance, generous spirit, and sense of tranquillity that defines the Crystal Cruises experience".

Bespoke SL DMC

CUURATE, the luxury DMC arm of Aitken Spence PLC Sri Lanka, has appointed Anthony Knox & Associates to represent its business in the Australian market.

The collaboration marks an important step in expanding Cuurate's local presence, which designs immersive and intimate travel experiences across Sri Lanka and the Maldives, led by expert multilingual guides and complemented by a dedicated fleet of vehicles and exclusive flying options.

Prevent more debts please

SEVERAL large regional councils are seeking more financial compensation from the Federal Government after being left out of pocket by the high-profile collapses of Rex and Bonza.

While the Federal Government recently announced a program capped at \$5 million for unsecured creditors like regional and remote airports impacted by Rex, the Albury, Wagga Wagga and Mildura councils want outstanding debts paid that were left behind by the sudden grounding of Bonza and other carriers such as Jetgo.

Albury City Council Mayor Kevin Mack told *ABC News* it was owed \$996,000 from Rex, Virgin Australia, Bonza and Jetgo, adding multiple regional airports and councils are facing financial strain from multiple airline collapses.

"It is really disappointing that we continually have foregone income because of failures of the carriers," Mack said.

"If the Federal Government can't demonstrate an airline that will stand the test of time, they need to look at underwriting an airline," he added.

Another idea put forward by regional stakeholders is to mandate bonds on carriers that

EVA Air training hub

CHECK out EVA Air's travel academy to learn more about the wonders of Taiwan and get updates on products and services.

See **page eight** for information.



wish to land at regional airports.

The guaranteed insurance would insulate regional airports from any failure by an airline to pay a host of operating charges, such as fees for landing, parking, terminal rent, passenger facilities, ground handling, and jet bridges.

However, a possible downside of implementing such a compulsory scheme could be the disincentive for smaller carriers to land at certain regional hubs, as they may not have the capital required, a scenario that would likely drive up the cost of air tickets if only dominant airlines like Qantas can fly there.

In some encouraging news, Rex's new owner Air T has agreed to preserve essential regional aviation connectivity. *AB*

A Force for Good

A FORCE for Good is returning next year, showcasing the next generation of women changemakers in travel and tourism - see the **cover page**.

More ways to HK

HONG Kong Airlines is offering direct flights from Melbourne to Hong Kong starting 13 Dec - see **page seven** for all of the details.

NCL unveils APAC

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line has released the first 50 voyages of its 2027/28 season across 13 countries in the Asia Pacific, from Japan, Thailand and Vietnam to the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii.

Sailing on board *Norwegian Jade*, *Norwegian Spirit* and *Pride of America*, the itineraries range from week-long to 21-day journeys, visiting 13 countries and nearly 70 port of call, including more than 50 overnights.

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ON LOCATION



MIAMI

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of Oceania Cruises, which is hosting us aboard the christening cruise of its new ship *Oceania Allura*.

OCEANIA Cruises' new ship *Oceania Allura* will embark on her naming voyage today, but not before she is christened by her six 'godchefs'.

Allura's godparents have been hand-picked from the alumnus of *Food & Wine's* Best New Chefs award-winners.

The ship will then sail for a three-night voyage to the Bahamas following the naming ceremony, kicking off her inaugural Caribbean season.

HLO shores up Brighton

HELLOWORLD Travel has undertaken a strategic minority investment in Victorian travel agency and Magellan network member Brighton Travelworld.

According to the Managing Director of the long-standing business, Julie Avery, the 40% acquisition by Helloworld is a demonstration of the strong partnership and commitment shared by both parties.

"This investment...validates the trust our customers place in us and the reputation we've earned in the industry," she said.

"Brighton Travelworld has been with the Magellan network in its current and previous guises for many years...and we are excited about the opportunities this partnership brings and look forward to continuing to deliver exceptional travel experiences for many years to come."

Helloworld CEO and MD Andrew Burnes added the tactical equity investment will "solidify" the agency's ongoing success.



"Julie, Kieran Cromie and the team have been among our most successful network members with many years of history with the company, with Magellan for 8 years and with Travelscene Amex before that," said Helloworld Travel's CEO and MD.

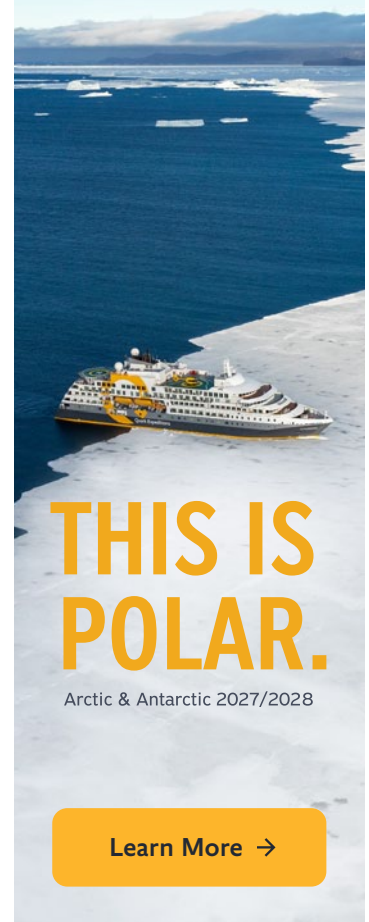
Located in the southeast bayside area of Brighton, the travel agency has been in operation from the same location for over 50 years. AB

Pictured: Cromie, Avery & Burnes.

Unwrap more of Tas

TOURISM Tasmania is inviting travel agents from Australia and New Zealand to join for a Christmas trade webinar called 'Unwrap Tasmania'.

Taking place on 27 Nov, the session will offer the chance to meet key tourism operators in the state - register to attend [HERE](#).



[Learn More →](#)

Stadium jumps hurdle

A VOTE to approve the controversial Macquarie Point AFL Stadium in Hobart has successfully passed through the state's lower house.

Despite high-profile issues over the cost and scale of the project, MPs voted in favour of the construction 25 to nine, but will now need to pass the upper house early next month.

The vote was also at odds with the findings of the Tasmanian Planning Commission, which recommended against proceeding with the stadium on the basis of being too large for the area.

LE's new agent reps

LUXURY Escapes has welcomed on board two new agent reps.

Former Envoyage exec Pill Atlee joins the operator from Melbourne, while Elaine Patton, who was previously trade manager at Brand USA, will be connecting with agents from her home in Auckland.

The pair joins BDM Claire Bradley and Chris Brandon, who leads the agent team.

SYD seeks experts

SYDNEY Airport has launched a global tender process to create a panel of architectural and engineering firms to help deliver its \$6 billion capital works program over the next five years.

The move marks a major shift away from a project-to-project model to having an advisory permanently in place across the hub's entire infrastructure needs.

Among the tenders sought is an architectural design and engineering firm needed to support the development of its landmark terminal upgrade project, which will link the T2 and T3 domestic terminals to create a seamless passenger experience.



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itravel welcomes new mobile members

ITRAVEL is welcoming four new mobile travel agents to its network: Vicki Hope, Vicki Wood and Sharla Betts from NSW, and Jason Neagoe from Victoria.

"We are thrilled to welcome [the new mobile agents] to itravel - they bring great experience, passion and professionalism and we are excited to see them thrive within our network," said Jo Howard, Business Development Manager at itravel.

Betts is a luxury advisor with nearly a decade of experience in the industry, and has previously worked at Roast and Roam.

She was inspired to join itravel because of its entrepreneurial spirit and after hearing "fantastic feedback" from other advisors about the business.

"What I love most about itravel is the freedom to bring your own energy and build your own business, while still having the full support of head office behind



you," Betts said.

Howard noted that it is "refreshing" to be part of a business that works together in a positive environment.

"I was drawn to itravel for its family-like culture, flexible approach, and genuine spirit of collaboration," she said.

Meanwhile, the network appealed to Neagoe because of its culture.

"I've always loved being part of a brand that's passionate about people, travel, and creating amazing experiences, and itravel ticks all those boxes," he said.

"What really excites me

is working alongside such a supportive, inspiring team of travel experts who genuinely love what they do."

Neagoe was also nominated for an NTIA this year in the esteemed 'Most Outstanding Travel Consultant' category. *JHM*

Pictured: Betts, Neagoe & Wood.

Oz cities rank well

ONEWORLD has revealed its 10 most searched for destinations for round-the-world travel, including London, Tokyo, Doha, Hong Kong, Sydney, Los Angeles, Dallas/Fort Worth, New York, Melbourne and Singapore.

Meanwhile, Japan is the top origin market for round-the-world tickets, followed by Australia, the UK, the US and Hong Kong.

HA will join the alliance in 2026.



Window Seat

ONE famous London landmark is being accused of having uncontrollable flatulence, according to a flood of cheeky TikTok posts this week.

The 6,000-seat Olympic Velodrome (**pictured**) was built for the 2012 London Olympic Games, however it appears fireworks inside the venue are kicking up a bit of stink with visitors.

Farting noises heard during pyrotechnic displays have been noted by guests, with design experts pointing to the its unique timber ventilation system as the reason.

The ventilation was installed so there would be no need for air conditioning, and thankfully the smell of said air does not appear to be adversely conditioned either.



Four Seasons jets to Icons

FOUR Seasons has launched a private jet itinerary to five exciting new destinations.

The 20-day 'New World Icons' adventure takes guests from the bustling city of Hong Kong to the mangroves and islands of Langkawi, then through to Jaipur, where they will visit private palaces and enjoy a gala dinner, complete with a camel polo demonstration.

In Venice, travellers will stay at the restored Danieli, A Four Seasons Hotel in Venice, and enjoy a helicopter tour over the spectacular Dolomites.

Following that is a journey to

Iceland's Golden Circle, where guests will snowmobile across the Langjokull Glacier, trek past glaciers and relax in the Blue Lagoon, before heading to the warm Caribbean waters in Anguilla, then deep-sea fishing off the Los Cabos coastline.

"New World Icons builds on our legacy of seamless, personalised travel, boundless freedom, and unrivalled discovery, continuing to redefine how guests experience the world with Four Seasons," said Marc Speichert, Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer at the Four Seasons. *JHM*

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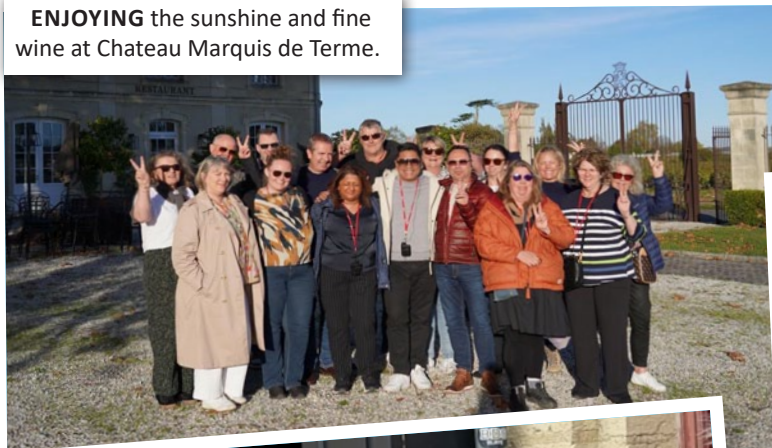
Viking hosts a famil to remember

VIKING was delighted to host seven advisors and their travel companions on an eight-day 'Chateaux, Rivers & Wine' river famil through the heart of France's iconic Bordeaux region.

The voyage revealed the destination's treasures at every turn as advisors savoured France's finest oysters fresh from Arcachon Bay, sampled world-class wines, toured a wine maker's private art collection, enjoyed a private dinner in a grand chateau, and so much more.

The journey ended with an unforgettable surprise: a bespoke menu crafted by the ship's chef for one of the groups - a fitting finale to a voyage defined by exceptional food, wine and camaraderie. It was a famil to remember, a true taste of Viking's commitment to enriching experiences and the art of slow travel.

ENJOYING the sunshine and fine wine at Chateau Marquis de Terme.



VACH from Luxe World with friend Josh and Michael from TravelManagers enjoying a private tour of Chateau Marquis de Terme's cellar.

PROVING it's never too early for wine in the morning at the 'Blaye: Where Art Meets Wine' excursion.



BIANCA from Where2Travel Glen Waverley and partner exploring the picturesque vineyards.



MANDI from Travel Associates Cleveland and partner in front of Bordeaux's famous reflecting pool, Miroir d'eau.



MICHAEL from TravelManagers and Linley from House of Travel could not get enough of the Medoc region's red.



BELINDA from Travel Associates Cottlesloe embracing the Bordeaux life.



THE Viking crew surprised all guests with a private five-course dinner at Chateau Kirwan.



DELIGHTED smiles when the chef brought out beef rendang just for the Aussie and New Zealand group.

CORPORATE UPDATE

Corp a strength for FCTG

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) posted strong results for its first quarter of the financial year, it was revealed at its AGM on Wed (**TD** 12 Nov), with FCM Travel securing \$400 million of account wins.

Additionally, first-quarter total transaction value (TTV) for corporate bookings also increased by nearly 7%.

"The ANZ market remains the bedrock of our corporate operations, where we've built decades of trust and expertise," said Melissa Elf (**pictured**), FCM



Travel & Corporate Traveller Global Chief Operating Officer.

"Corporate Traveller has experienced success in the vibrant ANZ small and medium enterprise sector, where its combination of dedicated local consultants and intuitive technology has proven to be precisely what growing businesses need."

FCM is continuing to expand its presence among larger ANZ organisations, Elf said, also pointing out that the corporate travel brand has successfully implemented NDC for many Australian customers. *JM*

BCD fast-tracks NDC

BCD Travel announced it has joined the NDC FastTrack program, an industry initiative aimed at accelerating the adoption of NDC content and modern retailing.

As part of the program, the company will contribute both as a user and technology partner, leveraging its travel commerce platform and distribution expertise to help overcome technical barriers and make NDC content more accessible and serviceable for corporate clients.

"BCD's involvement in NDC FastTrack underscores our commitment to advancing adoption of NDC delivering full functionality and choice for corporate travellers," said Thane Jackson, Senior Vice President of Supplier Management and Delivery at BCD Travel.

PPG in Phnom Penh

PLAZA Premium Group (PPG) celebrated the opening of its Plaza Premium First (PPF) and Plaza Premium Lounge (PPL) at Techo International Airport in Phnom Penh, Cambodia this week.

The 110-seat PPF lounge offers massage services and private VIP rooms, while the PPL features 120 seats and offers local cuisine.

PPG's expansion into Techo Airport comes at a pivotal time for the hub, which saw a 30% YOY increase in international visitors in the first half of 2025.

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Ayers Rock wins big



AYERS Rock Resort has picked up the Brolga Award for Cultural Tourism at the Northern Territory Tourism Awards this week.

"[It's] a great result and would not have been possible without the special partnership Voyages has with the Anangu," said Matt Cameron-Smith, CEO at Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia, which runs the resort.

In a LinkedIn post showcasing the win, the property described its partnership with the Anangu indigenous community as "the foundation of everything we do".

Ayers Rock Resort also received a Highly Commended in Tourism Marketing for its 'Just Wow' campaign, which showcases the beauty of Uluru and its abundances of meaningful indigenous experiences.

One of the new cultural activities at Uluru includes Sunrise Journeys, an immersive storytelling experience featuring laser projections and music with the desert as the backdrop.

Ayers Rock Resort will now go on to represent the Northern Territory at the upcoming 2025 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, which will take place on 06 Mar in Fremantle, WA. *JHM*

Holiday happiness

G ADVENTURES has released a new report revealing global consumer research into the "experiences and moments that spark happiness, purpose and fulfilment" for travellers.

According to *Travel your heart out: Happiness List 2026*, 63% of respondents said they choose trips based on experiences over destinations, 43% said they want to feel a sense of wonder, and 75% indicated that they are happier with trips of two weeks or longer in an effort to relax.

Meanwhile, 88% said travel contributes to their long-term happiness, and 82% reported feeling happier in everyday life with a holiday on the horizon.

HIDDEN GEMS

Go off-the-beaten track in Southeast Asia.

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Intrepid Travel is offering up to 20% savings on more than 900 adventures in 90 countries until 04 Dec. See the Black Friday sale [HERE](#).

Cruisers can enjoy complimentary suite upgrades on **Scenic Group's** ocean and river cruises for bookings made by 31 Dec - [CLICK HERE](#).

Collette has announced savings of up to 25% on all tours worldwide. Use code SAVEBIG25 and book before 04 Dec. Learn more [HERE](#).

Aussies can save up to \$3,000 per couple on **Brendan Vacations** tours to celebrate the operator's launch Down Under - [CLICK HERE](#) for details.

Select **Insight Vacations** and **Trafalgar** Egypt tours are included in the brands' Black Friday sale - check it out [HERE](#).

Singapore Airlines is offering an additional 10% off its existing student fares for travel between Dec 2025 and Mar 2026. Learn more [HERE](#).

Travellers can experience the magic of Japan's cherry blossom season, with **APT** offering up to \$6,400 per couple on Mar-Apr tours, [HERE](#).

Rail Europe is inviting international travellers to explore Europe's most iconic destinations with 25% off selected Eurostar Plus fares, [HERE](#).

In its biggest sale of the year, **Pan Pacific Hotels Group** is offering 30% off stays at participating properties around Australia - learn more [HERE](#).

Railbookers has launched a worldwide sale with up to \$1,100 worth of savings available on 2026 trips. Learn more [HERE](#).

Clients can save up to 40% on **Chimu Adventures'** Antarctica cruises, such as the 'Best of Antarctica: Whale Journey' - see more deals [HERE](#).

Blue Light Card - Australia's discount app for frontline workers - is offering members an extra 15% off across big travel brands - see [HERE](#).

The debut property of Palace Hotel Group's Zentis label, **Zentis Osaka**, has launched a new solo stay package until 18 Nov. More details [HERE](#).

Cruise Traveller is offering discounts of up to 40% on sailings with Atlas Ocean Voyages until 05 Dec. Learn more about the Black Fri sale [HERE](#).


Event planners can enjoy earlybird deals at **Parkroyal Darling Harbour, Sydney** and **Parkroyal Parramatta** for 2026 events - call 02 9685 0391.

Skydive Australia has introduced 'Blue Friday', which offers \$50 off tandem skydives across Australia using code BLUE50 [HERE](#) by 01 Dec.

Clients can save up to 40% on **Hapag-Lloyd Cruises'** Silver fares across 30 selected cruises. The promotion ends 01 Dec. More info [HERE](#).

Nesuto Hotels and Apartment Hotels has launched a Black Friday sale with up to 30% off at its properties across Aus and NZ until 03 Dec, [HERE](#).



Viking is allowing companions to fly free up to the value of \$2,500 per couple on its 'North Pacific Voyage' for bookings made by 01 Dec [HERE](#).



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Fashionistas unite



THIRTY travel partners donned their fanciest 'fits for travel collective 'fits for travel collective 'The World to You's Oaks Day 'Ladies Day', celebrating the racing carnival.

The event took place high above Melbourne's skyline at Eureka 89, and was hosted by State Manager for Victoria and Tasmania, Annabelle Brown, together with Ines Iniesta from Journey Beyond and Sally-Anne Matthews from Bunnik Tours.

Guests were treated to a three-course gourmet lunch, champagne and sweeps, and participated in a 'Fashion in the Clouds' competition. *JM*

Pictured: Annabelle Brown, Ines Iniesta, Sally-Anne Matthews and travel partners.

Seabourn's new PR

SEABOURN has selected Eight Communications as its Australian PR agency following a competitive pitch process.

The remit covers media relations, influencer engagement, brand partnerships, creative campaigns and event activations across the Australian market.

"Eight's understanding of the Australian market and their creative approach to travel storytelling will be invaluable as we continue to grow Seabourn's presence across the region," said Alex Pikardt, Seabourn's Senior Director of Sales - Aus and NZ.

QF innovates in SA

QANTAS has signed an agreement with the South Australian Government to a set up a Product Innovation Centre in Adelaide's CBD.

The centre is expected to create more than 420 technology jobs by the end of 2028.

Qantas will also collaborate with the new Adelaide University to offer graduate recruitment pathways at the centre.

"This is an investment in South Australia but this is also about bringing more jobs to Australia," Qantas Group CEO Vanessa Hudson said.

The investment will "enable the Qantas team to take the next step with technology and capability of digital AI experts that we can see here in Adelaide", Hudson added.

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