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## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features six pages of news, plus a full page from Tourism NT.

Travel Daily  
ON LOCATION



FORT LAUDERDALE

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of *Celebrity Cruises*, which this week is hosting us on board its new *Celebrity Xcel*.

*TRAVEL Daily* is in Florida this week for one of the inaugural sailings on board *Celebrity Cruises'* new *Celebrity Xcel*.

The ship began sailing from Fort Lauderdale last week, and this publication is among the first to travel on it.

*TD* will bring you all the highlights from the vessel across the next two days, as *Xcel* departs on a preview cruise with an assortment of *Celebrity's* Australian staff.

## Teitou joins Starts at 60

EXCLUSIVE

**FORMER** MSC Cruises local chief Lisa Teiotu (pictured) has been appointed Head of Partnerships and Product - Travel at Starts at 60 Group.

The experienced travel executive takes on the newly created role following a recent departure announcement on LinkedIn by the company's Chief Executive Officer Wendy Harch.

Teiotu will form part of a new management structure to replace Harch, with a yet-to-be-revealed operations manager to join and report into recently appointed Group Executive CEO Julien Coste.

Speaking with *Travel Daily* about her new role, Teiotu said she was "delighted" to join the leadership team at Starts at 60.

"I look forward to contributing to the organisation's continued growth and collaborating closely with our talented team and valued partners to deliver



outstanding travel experiences for our unique and highly engaged community," she said.

"It is a privilege to join such a dynamic and forward-thinking business at this pivotal time."

Group CEO Coste joined the business in Aug, moving across from Airbnb, where he was APAC Lead, Supply Acquisition - Experiences for four months.

Prior to that short tenure, he was Head of Commercial at travel planning site Rome2Rio for close to three years.

The management shake-up follows Starts at 60 Group's travel arm recently expanding beyond Qld by acquiring Sydney agency Travel Central (*TD* 25 Feb). *AB*

## Become an NT expert

**TRAVEL** advisors have the chance to win a trip to the Top End while becoming an NT expert as part of Tourism NT's new webinar series.

There are two sessions available next week to register for - see the **back page** for the full details.

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## MEL almost unpacked

**MELBOURNE** Airport's new \$500 million international baggage system is nearing completion, with the hub confirming final testing is now underway to double the luggage capacity and provide airlines with real-time tracking of bags.

The new technology is on track to open to pax in Mar 2026, and will process 4,000 bags an hour.

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## Air India dents SIA profit

**MAJOR** losses from Air India have created a significant drag on SIA Group's first-half net profit results, with Singapore Airlines' parent company losing close to 70% on the same period last year.

The \$239 million net profit result for H1 2025/26 was a far cry from the \$742 million posted in SIA's previous corresponding report, with its 25% stake in the loss-making Air India the primary factor for the fall - an asset that was not included in the accounting for SIA last year.

While Air India has endured well documented financial pressures - exacerbated by the crash of flight AI171 in Jun and the subsequent grounding of large parts of its fleet - SIA remains confident its investment will bear fruit.

"Singapore Airlines' 25.1% stake in the Air India Group is part of its long-term multi-hub strategy, providing a stake in one of the world's largest and fastest-



growing markets," SIA's latest financial report stated.

"This strategic investment complements the SIA Group's Singapore hub, enabling direct participation in India's domestic and international markets and unlocking new traffic flows."

Commentary added that despite Air India's ongoing challenges, SIA Group remains committed to the carrier's multi-year transformation program.

In other results, SIA saw minor gains in both revenue and operating profit to \$9.67 billion and \$803 million respectively.

Meanwhile expenses drifted upwards by 2%, primarily driven by a combination of capacity growth costs and inflation. **AB**

## Ride with Brendan

**FRESH** from launching into the Australian market (**TD** 10 Nov), luxury Celtic travel specialist Brendan Vacations is offering six spots on a fam to the Emerald Isle as part of a new incentive.

Top-selling agents will secure a place on a seven-day journey in Ireland, including visits to Dublin, Cork, and Killarney.

A highlight of the trip will be a stay at the five-star Dromoland Castle, showcasing the luxury and depth that Brendan Vacations is aiming to bring to Aussies.

To be in the running to win a place on the fam departing in Oct next year, advisors must book and deposit any new 2026 Brendan Vacations trip with a minimum land-only value of \$5,000.

Agents can also learn more about Brendan Vacations by attending a webinar hosted by GSA Adventure World's Head of Sales Elsa McLean, taking place on Wed at 11-11.45am (AEDT).

Register to attend **HERE**.

## Q'town competition

**AIR** New Zealand is preparing to go head-to-head with Jetstar to compete on Queenslanders' appetites for ski holidays to Queenstown in NZ.

The Kiwi carrier will begin flying a seasonal service from 22 Jun through to 23 Oct 2026, operating three times a week using A320neo aircraft.

More than 17,000 seats will be added to the route, which will also provide an injection to Queensland's tourism economy.

Earlier this year, Qantas Group revealed Jetstar would take off on the BNE-ZQN route in Jun 2026, also operating thrice-weekly on a seasonal basis (**TD** 11 Sep).

The move was part of a wider ramp-up of capacity across the Tasman for the Flying Kangaroo, including shifting the Brisbane-Auckland route to twice daily.

Air NZ flights from Brisbane to Queenstown are now available to book, but are still subject to regulatory approval.

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## New Celestyal star EXCLUSIVE

**CELESTYAL** Cruises has appointed Brenton Reidy as the line's new Country Manager, starting in the role today, as exclusively revealed by our sister title *Cruise Weekly*.

Reidy joins Celestyal after almost three years as a BDM for MSC Cruises, reporting to Director of Business Development Asia Pacific, Jarrod Zurvas.

Reidy will also work with Ascend Travel Group, which manages trade services for the cruise line in the local market

Celestyal has not employed a leader at national level in Australia since last year's departure of former Regional Manager Stewart Williams, who oversaw the line's local business.

Read more in *Cruise Weekly*.

## Allura christened in Miami



**OCEANIA** Cruises has christened its new ship *Oceania Allura* in Miami, the second vessel in her namesake Allura-class.

The vessel's godparents, a selection of *Food + Wine* 'Best New Chefs' alumni, were honoured with the tradition of breaking a champagne bottle across her bow, as the highlight of *Allura's* christening ceremony late last week.

Revelry commenced with a ship-wide cocktail reception and dinner before moving to the pier for the ceremony.

Oceania invited chefs Tavel Bristol-Joseph, Katie Button, Calvin Eng, Aisha Ibrahim, George Mendes and Lawrence Smith to bestow good fortune upon *Allura*, and all who sail aboard her.

The ship then commenced sailing on a three-day celebratory round-trip Miami voyage, which concluded earlier today.

"We couldn't be more thrilled to officially welcome *Oceania Allura* to our fleet," Chief Luxury Officer Jason Montague said.

"It is only fitting that she be christened in our hometown of Miami - a city that embodies vibrancy and sophistication.

"We are deeply honoured to celebrate this momentous occasion alongside her distinguished godparents." *MS*

**Pictured** are Business Development Manager Martine Nunes and Director of Sales James Sitters.

## The Key to 2027/28

**PRINCESS** Cruises has unveiled its Caribbean and Panama Canal programs for the 2027/28 season, including the new addition of Celebration Key, which will see *Star Princess* the first to visit the destination on 01 Nov 2026.

Purpose-built on Grand Bahama Island, the exclusive destination features water lagoons, cabanas and water activities for everyone.

*Regal Princess, Caribbean Princess, Enchanted Princess, Sky Princess* and *Sun Princess* are all scheduled to visit during the 2026-27 and 2027-28 seasons.

"Celebration Key is an extraordinary destination oasis and adding it to our itineraries gives guests even more ways to savour the Caribbean," enthused Jim Berra, Princess Cruises Chief Commercial Officer.



## CTM risks penalties

**FINANCIAL** penalties are potentially on the table for directors of Corporate Travel Management (CTM) if the business is unable to hold its AGM by the end of the month.

The company has been reeling from well-documented auditing issues associated with its European revenues and costs (*TD* 18 Sep), first revealed to the market in Aug (*TD* 01 Sep) and leading to a suspension from price quotation on the ASX.

When contacted by *The Courier-Mail* for comment about the timings of its next AGM, CTM played a straight bat, stating it "is aware of its legal obligations" and there will be an update for shareholders in relation to its FY25 accounts and AGM at some stage this month.

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## PER outdoes itself

**PERTH** Airport has recorded a new all-time record for total passenger numbers for the second time in just four months.

The total passenger number for Oct was 1.66 million, overtaking the previous record of 1.61 million, which was set in Jul.

The numbers also included all-time record numbers for interstate passengers (584,126) and total domestic passengers (1.17 million).

Additionally, international (485,895) and regional (588,900) passenger numbers were the best ever recorded for an Oct, and the second-highest for any month.

"What's really exciting about these numbers is that they reflect a real buzz in the Western Australian economy," said Perth Airport CEO Jason Waters.

"The resources sector remains a key driver of regional passenger numbers, but tourism and business travel is now having a bigger influence," he added.

## US eases flight reductions

**DELAYS** and cancellations impacting US domestic airlines as a result of the recent government shutdown are being eased by a formal lowering of flight reduction mandates.

US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy confirmed flight reductions at 40 major American airports have been lowered from 6% to 3% - with the latter to



remain in place until air traffic control staffing stabilises and key safety metrics have improved.

While the 43-day shutdown has ended, the full normalisation of flight capacity in the United States is expected to take at least a few more weeks.

A shortage of air traffic controllers remains the crucial variable in getting capacity back to efficient levels, with the number still roughly 4,000 fewer than what is required for optimum domestic operations.

In a grim forecast for the future, aviation consultant Kit Darby told *The Guardian* that it will take around two or three years to get enough air traffic controllers to approach the number needed. *AB*

## Thailand visa change

**TOURISTS** heading to Thailand can now only extend their visas twice, with the first extension lasting 30 days, and the second extension just seven days, the Thai Government has confirmed.

The move limits the total stay for visitors from 93 countries from 120 days to a maximum of 97 days, with the crackdown aimed at preventing misuse of tourist visas for prolonged stays and illegal activities.



## Window Seat

**AROUND** 2,000 people from far and wide gathered in the Swiss capital of Bern for a very important event last Thu - the World Cheese Awards.

More than 5,000 cheddars from 46 countries battled it out for the title of 2025 World Cheese Champion, with an 18-month-old Swiss Gruyere declared the smelly winner.

Produced by Bergkaserei Vorderfultigen, the victorious cheese came from a mountain dairy in the pre-Alps region of Gantersch, just south of Bern.

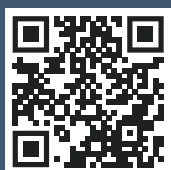
It must have tasted un-brie-lievable, with one judge describing it as something "that would make people get excited about cheese".

Those planning a trip to Spain next year can add the event to their calendar.

## Win the Ultimate Rockies & Alaska Famil

HX Expeditions and Rocky Mountaineer are giving travel advisors the chance to join the ultimate famil — exploring the Canadian Rockies by rail and Alaska's Inside Passage by sea.

Simply book and deposit any HX Expeditions or Rocky Mountaineer journey between 17 November 2025 and 27 February 2026 to go in the draw to win a spot on this exclusive April 2026 famil.



Scan the QR code to register your bookings and increase your chances to win with every deposit made.



EXPEDITIONS



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

Open to travel consultants in Australia and New Zealand only. Bookings must be deposited by close of business on 27 February 2026. Valid on any HX Expeditions or Rocky Mountaineer itinerary. One entry per booking



## The ultimate soiree in Hong Kong

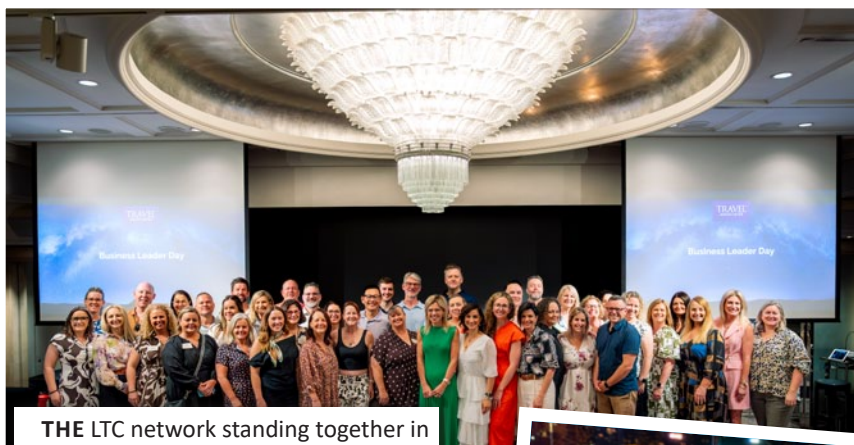
**THE** Luxury Travel Collection's (LTC) Global Business Owners Harbour Soiree in Hong Kong recently brought together premium travel suppliers and some of the most high achieving agency owners across Australia and New Zealand.

Highlights of the lavish gathering based at the Regent Hong Kong included a cruise around the famous Victoria Harbour, fine dining with a view at Aqua Hong Kong, as well as a swanky cocktail event at the exclusive Darkside Bar at Rosewood.

While the luxurious appeal of Hong Kong impressed guests, the event was also about updating and informing members of the LTC network about marquee brands and industry trends.

Platinum partner Scenic Group saw Group GM Sales and Marketing APAC Anthony Laver present the latest updates across the business' key brands, including the recently unveiled *Scenic Ikon*.

Meanwhile, attendees were dialled in to every word of Global MD - Luxury and Independent brands Flight Centre Travel Group, Danielle Galloway, who spoke about the changing psychology of the modern luxury traveller.



**THE** LTC network standing together in Hong Kong as they plan for the future.



**SAILING** the beautiful waters of Hong Kong.



**TRAVEL** Associates GM Rachel Kingswell with Galloway and LTC General Manager Nikki Glading in front of Victoria Harbour.



**DISCOVA** VP Sales ANZ Nicholas Shuttleworth with LTC Head of Marketing Lisa Wright.



**KINGSWELL** and Travel Associates member Christine Bottrell on stage on day two providing insights into the challenges faced by business owners.



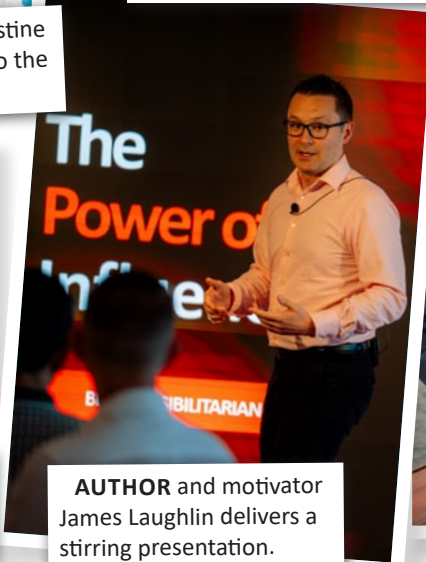
**GALLOWAY** takes in the view with Oceania Cruises' James Sitters.



**TRAVEL** Associates NZ members take in the Hong Kong skyline at night.



**CHECKING** out the local flavours of Hong Kong on a special foodie tour, with the local egg tarts proving a winner with most.



**AUTHOR** and motivator James Laughlin delivers a stirring presentation.



**AMAWATERWAYS** Steve Richards, LTC's Adrian Clarke, Rocky Mountaineer's local chief Tony Soden, and LTC's Lisa Wright sail the high seas with plenty of refreshments.



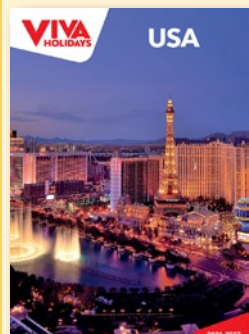
## BROCHURES

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### Wendy Wu Tours - Wildlife Collection

Wendy Wu Tours has launched its first-ever Wildlife Collection brochure, featuring a range of travel experiences designed for nature and animal lovers. Now available in print and online **HERE**, the brochure brings together the organisation's most popular wildlife-themed journeys, alongside new itineraries such as 'Madagascar Untamed'. During the 21-day tour, travellers will encounter lemurs, baobabs, rainforests, deserts, and pristine beaches, while exploring Antananarivo, Ranomafana, Isalo National Park, and the beaches of Ifaty. Other offerings include an Antarctica cruise-and-tour, five-day gorilla trekking adventures in Uganda and Rwanda, and more.



### Viva Travel - USA 2026/27

Whether your client wants to commemorate 100 years of the legendary Route 66 by taking a road trip across the States, step into the studio magic of Hollywood, or chase breathtaking landscapes by rail across the American Southwest, Viva Holidays' 2026/27 USA brochure has something for every traveller. Spanning over 80 pages, it features a rich collection of experiences and a range of accommodation options, including new additions across Anaheim, Los Angeles, San Diego, Portland, Las Vegas, New Orleans, Memphis, Orlando, New York City, and many more destinations. Read the brochure **HERE**.



### A-Rosa - European River Cruises 2026

Designed especially for travel agents and partners, A-Rosa's new brochure provides a comprehensive overview of next season's itineraries, destinations, and on board experiences along Europe's most scenic rivers. With more than 60 itineraries, the 2026 program includes detailed pricing, inclusions, and terms & conditions - all presented in an easy-to-navigate format. Agents can even personalise the back cover with their own logo and contact details, transforming the brochure into a branded marketing tool for their clients. Check out the brochure online **HERE**.

brochure into a branded marketing tool for their clients. Check out the brochure online **HERE**.

## Agents bring star power



**PRINCESS** Cruises recently hosted several travel professionals on board its new *Star Princess* during a seven-night Spain and France famil.

The trip kicked off with a short stay in Barcelona at Inside by Melia Barcelona Apollo, as guests strolled through the Gothic Quarter and dined at the historic Los Caracoles restaurant, before boarding *Star*.

Guests admired *Star's* smooth boarding process and her three-level Atrium, which plays as *Star's* vibrant social hub.

Staterooms offer king beds, walk-in showers and spacious balconies, while the Princess Medallion made sailing on board seamless, giving guests the ability to unlock staterooms, order food and drinks, and shop.

From Malaga and Gibraltar to Cartagena and Marseille, the group enjoyed stops at several cities, while also enjoying the highlights of the ship.

At night, they dined at specialty dining venues such as The Butcher's Block by Dario and Love By Britto, casual favourites like

Alfredo's Pizzeria, and afterwards, they enjoyed a candlelight concert in The Dome.

*Star* was recently named by her godparents, celebrity couple Camila Alves and Matthew McConaughey in a ceremony last week (**TD** 10 Nov). **JHM**

**Pictured:** Sacha Wendt, Phil Hoffmann Travel Glenelg; Anthony Spark, Spark Travel; Sara Colthorpe, italktravel; Elly Eves, Princess Cruises; Karen Murphy, Your Travel & Cruise; David Ninham, Helloworld; Simone Tanevski, Helloworld Shellharbour; Gayle Tobin, Clean Cruising; Rachaelle Tyrrell, Princess Cruises; and Tammy Hopkinson, Helloworld Southport.

## QR's wi-fi milestone

**QATAR** has sped up the rollout of its Starlink wi-fi program across more than half of its widebody fleet, with more than 100 aircraft now connected.

Wi-fi is available on QR's Boeing 777 aircraft, with the carrier's Airbus A350 planes also set to be completed "in record time".



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**Wednesday 26 November** 1.00pm (AEST) | 11.30pm (ACST) | 3.00pm (NZST)

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\* For registration and eligibility, visit [trade.northernterritory.com](https://trade.northernterritory.com)