



INDIAN PACIFIC



THE GHAN



GREAT SOUTHERN

2027 *Now on Sale*

AUSTRALIA *by Train*

Your clients can now explore Australia by Train in 2027
on The Ghan, Indian Pacific and Great Southern.

New this season is the extended northbound itinerary for guests travelling
from Adelaide to Darwin on the legendary Ghan, allowing four full days of
discovery in the Flinders Ranges, Marla, Alice Springs, and Katherine

Book 2027 now and save with Advance Purchase fares.

[LEARN MORE](#)

JOURNEY BEYOND

Celestyal refreshes

CELESTYAL will soon relaunch its travel agent learning system in a bid to deliver more value and education to the Australian trade.

The former Celestyal Campus platform will be rebranded to Celestyal Stars - more info in **CW**.

\$100 Emerald bonus

EMERALD Cruises and Tours is offering agents bonus \$100 Scenic Group rewards for Black Friday - see all of the details on **page 11**.

travelmarvel
Premium Travel

**BLACK FRIDAY
WORLDWIDE SALE**

TAKE A FURTHER
\$600 OFF PER COUPLE*

LEARN MORE

*Conditions apply

FCTG expands into loyalty

AS FORESHADOWED by earlier *Travel Daily* reporting (**TD** 31 Jul), Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG) has pushed the play button on its World360 Rewards loyalty program, a free-to-join initiative that lets members earn points across aviation, cruise, land touring, hotels, and more.

Members can redeem those points as either full or partial payment for holidays, as well as to access deals through a new custom-built rewards store.

There is also an optional member-plus tier that Aussies can opt in to at a cost of \$249 a year, which unlocks perks like airport lounge access, delay protection and 15,000 bonus points.

Flight Centre, Travel Associates and Cruiseabout are the initial participating brands, with the program boasting more than 300 partners, including outside of travel such as ANZ and Bupa.

Jodie Burnard exits

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group executive Jodie Burnard has departed from her role as Global Product Leader at Envoyage.

"I am not saying goodbye, just having a holiday and getting ready to say hello to any new opportunities that come my way," she said in a post on LinkedIn.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features nine pages of industry news, plus a cover wrap from **Journey Beyond**, our **Luxury** page, and full pages from:

- Infinity Holidays
- Scenic
- Batik Air



"With World360 Rewards, you earn points on every flight, every fare class, every airline, as well as all the other important parts of your holiday booking including hotels, cruises, tours and experiences," Flight Centre Global Leisure Chief Executive Officer James Kavanagh (**pictured**) said.

"It's a no-regrets move where you can double and even triple-dip on the value of your whole holiday booking; earn World360 Rewards points, on top of earning any airline miles and credit card points," he added.

Kavanagh also stressed FCTG's new loyalty program was not designed to compete with the major airlines.

"There are a number of well-established airline loyalty programs out there and we know Aussies have a deep love for these," he explained.

"The gap we identified is in making sure travellers are rewarded for the whole travel journey with more choice and opportunity to not just earn but redeem points across the whole holiday experience."

To celebrate the launch, members can earn triple points with select partners including Air New Zealand, Norwegian Cruise Line, Trafalgar, and more.

World360 Rewards is available to download from the iOS App Store and Google Play Store. **AB**

Australia by rail

JOURNEY Beyond's 2027 rail itineraries are on sale now, giving travellers the chance to explore the country on The Ghan, Indian Pacific and Great Southern.

Book now to save with Advance Purchase fares - see **front page**.

Black Fri train sale

INFINITY'S 2026 rail holidays on Rocky Mountaineer and the Canyon Spirit are on sale now for Black Friday - see **page ten**.

collette
BY Travellers. FOR Travellers.

\$200*

**Gift Card
For Every
Black Friday
Booking**

BLACK FRIDAY SALE

UP TO **25%***
TOURS WORLDWIDE

LEARN MORE

*Conditions Apply

20%* off nib Travel Insurance

Find out more

*T&Cs apply. Consider the PDS & TMD available from us. Issuer: Pacific International Insurance.

nib

VA "watchful" on NDC

VIRGIN Australia's Head of Marketing Libby Minogue has revealed the carrier is watching Qantas' strong NDC push in Australia very closely, but ruled out any significant adoption of the tech any time soon.

Speaking at the FACTS conference in Sydney this week, Minogue said that while VA is monitoring how Aussie agents are feeling about Qantas' NDC relaunch, it was not going to rush into any major changes.

"We are watching and really trying to understanding what this means and how people are feeling about it," she said.

"We will consider it and look at something in the future, but it's not something that we are looking at right now".

Interestingly, Minogue also left the door open for VA to examine distributions technology that might be available down the track beyond NDC, but clarified that the carrier was not likely to



be a "first mover" of any seismic changes in delivery.

"For now, we will just look at [emerging technologies] and I'm sure we will have news on that in the future," she noted.

On the specific topic of AI, the VA marketing chief said there will be some announcements made in the coming days.

"We have been using AI across our business for probably two years now in a number of areas.

"If you look at our revenue management, marketing and operations, AI has been activated through a whole range of parts of our business and has been very effective so far.

"In terms of thinking about our digital virtual assistant, we'll have agentic AI services coming very soon in that space." AB

VIETNAM EXPRESS

\$2,899 PP
PRICE PER PERSON TWIN SHARE | LAND ONLY

10 DAYS | SMALL GROUP
FAMILY FRIENDLY | MIN. GROUP SIZE 2

4 ★ ACCOMMODATION WITH DAILY BREAKFAST | INTERNAL FLIGHTS

VIEW DEAL

Sabre partnership

SABRE has announced a partnership with tech company Juspay to modernise travel payments across the world.

Through the collaboration, travel merchants will be offered capabilities such as access to local payment methods, optimised cross-border payments, seamless checkout experiences and more

Meanwhile, Juspay's tokenisation solution will integrate with Sabre Direct Pay to improve security and efficiency of travel payments for airlines, hotels and booking engines when handling sensitive card data.

"Our agreement with Juspay is an important step in delivering sector-specific orchestration solutions that address the complexities travel companies face every day - from local payment methods and regulatory compliance to multi-currency settlements and instant, secure transactions," said Patricio Boccardo, Managing Director at Sabre Payments.

WTAAA goes Long

AUSTRALIAN Travel Industry Association CEO Dean Long has been re-elected as Vice Chair of the World Travel Agents Associations Alliance (WTAAA).

Long was elected to the senior global role at this time last year (**TD** 21 Nov 2024), telling **TD** at the time that ATIA would share expertise around the world on local initiatives such as industry-protected protection and payment risks with peer organisations.

The WTAAA has also appointed Eva Blasco as its new Chair, who takes over from Wendy Paradis.

Blasco's major priorities will be greater achieving recognition of travel advisors in the distribution chain, expanding WTAAA's global membership, and strengthening the alliance's stakeholder bonds.

10 years of Batik

BATIK Air Malaysia is celebrating 10 years of operations in Perth and thanks the trade for its support - see **page 12**.

Great hospitality
takes off!



Aegean Airlines proudly represented
by Aviation Online

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

AEGEAN

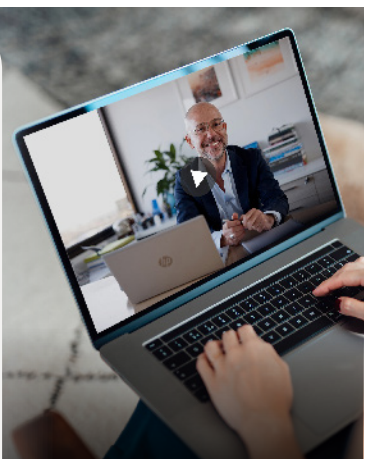
Switch **ON**
to Qantas NDC

Hear how our partners made the switch to Qantas NDC and discovered a smarter way to book and support their customers.

Watch now

QANTAS

NEW DISTRIBUTION
CAPABILITY



**ENTIRE
TRAVEL GROUP**

**ROCKY MOUNTAINEER
BLACK FRIDAY OFFER**

BOOK BY 05 DEC 2025

SAVE UP TO

\$2,400 PER COUPLE

INCLUDES



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

Luxury and comfort come standard on every departure

- Choose between GoldLeaf and SilverLeaf service for your perfect journey
- Exceptional service and refined dining make travel effortless
- Flexible itineraries allow for seamless pre- and post-stay additions

when experience matters

Stars and stripes

RAILBOOKERS is celebrating 250 years of America with its new Stars and Stripes Collection, offering guests 23 rail experiences across the country through its Amtrak Vacations brand.

The itineraries explore the historic capitals of the east coast, the Rockies and along the Pacific shoreline, with journeys such as 'Route 66 by rail' and the 'Founding fathers trail by rail', which crosses Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Williamsburg and Charleston.

"Our company's roots are deeply tied to showcasing the United States, and that makes it especially meaningful to share our new Stars and Stripes Collection with the world," said Frank Marini, President & CEO of Railbookers Group.

"This collection shines a light on the best of the United States while continuing our mission to deliver unforgettable travel experiences for our guests and travel agents," he added.

New tours just for you

UK SPECIALIST solo brand Just You is launching in Australia in partnership with Flight Centre, offering agents access to its 100 itineraries across Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America and beyond.

Ranging from four to 21 days with average group sizes of 27, all itineraries feature guaranteed departures and include daily breakfast and select meals, experiences and accommodation, with rooms for each guest.

The organisation has also recently launched its 'Max 20' concept caps on a number of escorted tours, offering a more personalised experience.

"We are fully committed to working with the Australian travel trade and will be investing heavily in this market to support the launch of our specialist solo travel product," said Tom Morgan, Trade Sales Director.

"Agents play a crucial role in helping solo travellers find



the right product and we look forward to working closely with our local partners to provide all the support they need to succeed," he added.

According to a Scoot report released earlier this year, it is expecting that solo travel will increase 14.3% annually between 2025 and 2030.

To read more about solo travel, click **HERE**. JHM

For Seasons new Med

FOUR Seasons Yachts has unveiled 33 new voyages as part of its recently revealed second Mediterranean season, scheduled to set sail in 2027.

More than 40 new ports of call are included in the latest collection, which for the first time features Egyptian visits.

The three new Egyptian options offer strategic overnights to free up time for guests to explore attractions like the Valley of the Kings and the Pyramids of Giza.

There are no repeat itineraries from the previous season included, part of Four Seasons plan to stand out from competitors in the premium cruising space.

WEB CFO resigns

AFTER eight years with Web Travel Group, CFO Tony Ristevski has tendered his resignation, effective May 2026, to pursue an unnamed external opportunity.

The company thanked him for his "considerable contributions" and will start recruiting for a new CFO.

TokyoTokyo Old meets New

LEARN AND WIN
a trip to Tokyo!

[Click here to register](#)



BLACK FRIDAY SALE

UP TO **40% OFF**
PLUS
UP TO **USD \$2,000**
AIR SAVINGS



ATLAS
OCEAN VOYAGES®



LEARN MORE

Represented by
Cruise Traveller
Ph: 1800 507 777

Career Opportunities

Join the world's most awarded airline and take your career to greater heights.

Sydney

- Account Executive - Agency
- Distribution Officer

Melbourne

- Account Executive - Agency

Applications close **Wednesday 3 December 2025**.

For more information and to apply, visit singaporeair.com/aucareers



DISCOVER THE BEAUTY & CULTURE

of **EUROPE**

Book Now

For more information, contact 1300 857 037 or email reservations@traveltheworld.com.au



AirAsia franchise in Oz?

CO-FOUNDER and CEO of AirAsia, Tony Fernandes (pictured), has revealed that while there is no 'AirAsia Australia' on the horizon, it could become a reality through AirAsia's new franchise model.

While speaking yesterday on a panel at the FACTS conference in Sydney, Fernandes was asked whether AirAsia would consider launching an Aussie offshoot.

The CEO's response was to the point: "For us, no."

"We have ventured outside our own playground - which is ASEAN - in India and Japan, and I think I have decided that we stick to we stick to ASEAN."

However, Fernandes said the idea of an AirAsia Australia may still grow wings, thanks to AirAsia Group's new franchising concept, called AirAsia Blue, which comes out of the group's new company AirAsia Next.

Fernandes compared the concept to that of hotel franchise



models, and said AirAsia will be franchised to investors, who will be able to use its brand, network, loyalty program and acquire "much cheaper" planes.

"So if someone in Australia wants to license the AirAsia name to create AirAsia Australia, we're very open," Fernandes enthused.

"It'd be great; it's beyond me and beyond our company...

but I can already say we have a provisional agreement with two countries to create AirAsia Blue.

"We would love to work with someone who would like to use our brand to get a head start in the Australian market." JM

US parks hike price

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's Secretary of the Interior, Doug Burgum, has announced new 'America First' pricing on public lands, which mean higher charges for travellers to visit the country's national parks.

While US residents can obtain an annual pass granting access to dozens of the parks for US\$80, international tourists will soon need to fork out up to US\$250.

Rex won't challenge

THE new owners of Rex have stressed it has no desire to directly compete with Qantas or Virgin Australia, insisting the clear plan is for the regional carrier to "stay in its lane".

Air T CEO Nick Swenson said the primary focus will be to stabilise the business and get Rex's grounded planes back flying.



SYDNEY

Today's issue of TD is coming to you from ICC Sydney, where FACTS is taking place.

THE final day of the Festival of Aviation Corporate Travel Summits (FACTS) will open with a discussion on the future of aviation, with delegates to hear from experts including QF Group Exec Manager of Sustainable Aviation Fuel, Matt Hudson.

Other hot talking points for the day include developments in the AI space, predictions for 2026, generational differences around business travel, and a 'big ideas' debate, which will see industry leaders go head-to-head on polarising topics.

Closing out the event will be Webjet CEO and MD Katrina Barry on how travel can keep pace with a changing world.



Our Black Friday exclusive has landed

Now's the time to benefit from extraordinary savings, with fares to Europe and the United Kingdom starting from \$1,719* return.

Book by 30 November 2025, for travel from now until 15 November 2026.

qatarairways.com/tradeportal

*Terms and conditions apply.





VV says "screw it"

VIRGIN Voyages has announced yet another off-script move, founding a new entertainment company called Screw It, Let's Do It Productions.

Named in honour of one of founder Richard Branson's favourite phrases, the new venture will bring some of Virgin Voyages' onboard productions to select Virgin Hotels properties for the first time.

The cruise line confirmed its stage show *Booked* will be developed for a land debut in 2026, while Virgin Voyages' onboard party, *Scarlet Night*, is also set to rollout at Virgin Hotels in Las Vegas and Shoreditch.



JB sails away with purchase

JOURNEY Beyond has announced its acquisition of Sailaway Port Douglas, an operator of reef adventures in Tropical North Queensland (**TD** breaking news).

Sailaway offers guests boutique sailing and snorkelling experiences on board its fleet of four catamarans to Mackay Coral Cay and the Low Islands.

Once the acquisition is complete, Sailaway will operate within the marine division under Simon McGrath, Executive Manager of Marine Experiences, joining Cruise Whitsundays, which delivers Great Barrier Reef experiences from Port Airlie to Hamilton Island.

"We are excited to welcome Sailaway Port Douglas to the Journey Beyond growing portfolio of iconic brands and experiences," said CEO Chris Tallent.

"This acquisition continues our dedication and commitment



to showcasing Australia's most extraordinary natural wonders."

Journey Beyond is currently on an acquisition spree this year, purchasing Exmouth Dive & Whalesharks Ningaloo in WA (**TD** 25 Jul) and Grand Pacific Tours in New Zealand, it's first purchase outside of Australia (**TD** 25 Aug).

It is currently in discussions to buy Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia, which operates Ayers Rock Resort at Yulara in Central Australia and the Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre in Far North Queensland. (**TD** 12 Sep).

Journey Beyond also inked a management deal earlier in the year to operate Monarto Safari Resort in SA (**TD** 22 Jan). **JHM**

Emerald's big week

EMERALD Cruises and Tours has celebrated two major construction milestones in the growth of its superyacht fleet, with *Emerald Kaia* and *Emerald Raiya* this month holding their float out and keel-laying ceremonies respectively.

Kaia was launched into the waters of Ha Long Bay in Vietnam in front of a host of senior Scenic Group representatives, with the vessel now a big step closer to her maiden season in the Mediterranean in 2026.

After her inaugural sailings to places like Greece, Cyprus and Turkiye, *Kaia* will reposition to explore the waters of nations like Italy, Albania and Croatia.

Meanwhile, *Raiya*'s recent keel-laying ceremony brings her closer to a Jun 2027 debut, where she will service itineraries in the Mediterranean and Seychelles.

The ships form part of Scenic Group's wider ambition to shake up the luxury superyacht space.

 Quark Expeditions®

BLACK FRIDAY

UP TO 40% OFF

Limited Inventory. Sailing soon.



[Learn More →](#)



Avani opens up in Brissy

MINOR Hotels has welcomed Avani Living Queen's Wharf Residences in Brisbane to its portfolio, expanding the Avani footprint in Australia.

The premium short and long stay offering in the vibrant Queen's Wharf precinct provides for both corporate travellers and leisure guests looking for more space, comfort and flexibility.

With 225 one-, two- and three-bedroom suites featuring fully



equipped kitchens and laundries, the property offers an ideal home base for guests, whether staying for a day, a week or longer.

Premium amenities include a lap pool, sauna and steam room, with stylish, contemporary interiors and communal spaces throughout the property.

Meanwhile, its location in the Queens Wharf precinct places guests in Brisbane's riverfront, dining and entertainment hub.

"As demand for Brisbane continues to increase, this addition strengthens our presence in the city," said Craig Hooley, COO of Minor Hotels Australasia. KB

Infinity rail promo

INFINITY Holidays has launched a new rail campaign in partnership with Rocky Mountaineer and Canyon Spirit, with trips through the American Southwest and the Canadian Rockies, designed to inspire guests to journey deeper through some of North America's most remarkable landscapes.

Click **HERE** for Black Friday deals.

Aussies spend more

AUSTRALIANS are spending on average \$7,310 on a two-week international holiday, a 19% increase on last year, according to new research from TripAdvisor and ING.

Flights and transfers make up 27% of consumers' budgets, followed by accommodation (26%), food and dining (20%) and activities (17%).

However, 54% said they spent more on transfers during their last trip, as well as stays (49%) and activities (44%).

"While the cost of travel is soaring, the desire for rich experiences is increasing regardless, showing a real desire among Aussie travellers for memorable returns on investments," said ING's Head of Consumer and Market Insights, Matt Bowen.

The latest news comes off the back of ING and TripAdvisor partnering to offer 20% off overseas travel experiences.

CATO on the road

THE Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) Managing Director Brett Jardine recently discussed with Shadow Minister for Tourism, Kevin Hogan a new national initiative to support tour operators and wholesalers.

"Tourism is traditionally a bipartisan portfolio, with both sides of politics recognising the critical role the industry plays in the Australian economy," explained Jardine.

"While policy approaches may differ, the commitment to a strong and sustainable tourism sector remains consistent across the political spectrum."

CATO will provide a formal contribution to the new project.



airlines gp-275

Smart Ticketing for Agents

APG Airlines is purpose-built for travel agents, offering a reliable solution when direct ticketing on the operating airline's stock isn't possible.

Use GP275 as the validating carrier if:

- The airline isn't a member of your BSP
- You don't have ticketing authority for the airline
- The airline doesn't accept credit cards
- Your selected airlines lack an interline agreement



The Network for Airline Services

Contact us: 1800 905 614
Email: helpdesk@apg-ga.com.au
Click here !



QTIC appoints two

THE Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) has announced the appointment of two new members to its board of directors following a recent member-election process.

CEO of Sunshine Coast Airport Chris Mills has joined, who already serves on key tourism and events boards.

Peter Woodward, Chair of CaPTA Group and Managing Director of VDI, a leader in tourism and transport, has also joined.

"With their extensive expertise in Queensland tourism and strong understanding of the challenges and needs of operators, both will make a valuable contribution to the board," QTIC said.

Bendigo heats it up

BENDIGO in regional NSW has launched its new 'Our kind of summer' program of events, festivals, outdoor and premium culinary experiences.

As Australia's first UNESCO City of Gastronomy, the campaign highlights the region's cellar doors, dining venues and pubs, as well as its nature activities such as the London River: Bridgewater river track, new campground Larni Yirrip, the Serpentine Creek Canoe Trail and more.

To celebrate the holiday season, Bendigo will also host the Enlighten Festival on 06 Dec at the Great Stupa and the Elf Academy, where children can learn the skills needed to be on Santa's team.

A unique Sri Lanka trip



THE Unique Tourism Collection recently hosted several travel agents on a famil to Sri Lanka.

Special highlights of the trip included enjoying an early morning climb up UNESCO World Heritage site and ancient fortress Sigiriya Lion Rock and spotting elephants while on a jeep safari through Kaudulla National Park.

During the visit, the advisors stayed at several Teardrop Hotel properties, including Nine Skies, a working tea plantation that overlooks Ella's picturesque mountains, as well as Fort Bazaar, a refurbished 17th century spice merchants' home located within the historic Galle Fort.

The trip ended with a relaxing stay at wellness property Glenross Living. *JHM*

Pictured: Barbara Taylor, Emma Whiting Travel; Sandra Whittington, Travel Centre Coffs Harbour; Lauren Venn, Langhorne & James Travel Associates; Karen Hitchings, UTC; Caitlin Cron, Mariner Travel and Penny Walsh, Skye Travel flanked by four members of the Water Garden Sigiriya team.

Gold Coast on top

THE Gold Coast has come out on top as Australians' favourite travel destination, according to iSelect's survey of 1,002 consumers across the nation.

The report found that 11.4% of respondents named Gold Coast region itself or its beaches as their favourite local getaway.

"We're all so busy with work and life commitments, when it comes to holiday planning – most of us want it to be stress-free," said iSelect's Sophie Ryan, adding that the Gold Coast offers experiences for all travellers with different budgets.

"With a destination like the Gold Coast, you're spoilt for choice when it comes to relaxing, and there's plenty to do if you feel like being active."

Melbourne came second in iSelect's survey, with 11.1% indicating that they appreciate its rich cultural offerings.

Sydney, Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast rounded out the top five list of cities, followed by Hobart, Cairns, Adelaide, Byron Bay and Tasmania. *JHM*



Window Seat

HOLLYWOOD actor Russell Crowe may have fought in wars as a gladiator and suffered through the French Revolution in *Les Mis* - but he has only recently discovered the joy of holidays.


"I've never been a 'vacation person,'" he revealed in an interview with Joe Rogan.

"There's work and home, but home isn't fully restful because I've got a football team, I've got other businesses, I've got a farm to run and cows to look after."

So a couple of years ago, Crowe dipped his toe into leisure travel, holidaying in Puglia with comedian Jimmy Carr, and enjoyed it so much that he booked a trip to Marbella in Spain with his fiancée Britney Theriot in Aug this year.

"It's that thing of [going somewhere] which isn't home and it isn't work, having no agenda, hanging out by the pool and reading a book from beginning to end," Crowe said.





China Airlines

Your Australia-Wide B2B Partner for Japan

Connecting your clients to over 11 cities
via our 3 Gateways (Sydney / Melbourne / Brisbane)

The Black Friday Sale Is On!

Sequoia associated

SEQUOIA Lodge, located in the Adelaide Hills wine region, has become the only Australian mainland property to be accepted into the Relais & Chateaux Association.

The exclusive 71-year-old association recognises hotels and restaurants owned by locals who are committed to sharing their destination's culture and their passion for the local surrounds.

Sequoia Lodge's current owners, South Australian hotelier David Horbelt and his family, together with business partner Malcolm Bean, developed the intimate luxury lodge on the grounds of the Mount Lofty Estate, the highest mountain overlooking the Adelaide Hills.

More details [HERE](#).

Maybach Ocean Club opens up super yachts

SUPERYACHT captain Matthias Bosse with hospitality entrepreneur Michael Hehn have unveiled the Maybach Ocean Club - a new and exclusive cruising concept that will give high-net worth individuals the opportunity to co-own a 155-metre ultra-luxury shadow vessel, *Beyond Horizons* (pictured), designed by Dölker + Voges.

The new club aims to build a community of 300 co-owners who are entitled to four weeks on board the yacht per year.

As part of the membership, they will also have access to the yacht's common areas, restaurants, beach club and more if they happen to be in the location that the yacht is calling in at the time.

Guests will be housed in 30 identical residential-style suites



each measuring 74sqm and featuring a private balcony.

The idea began in 2020 when Bosse, a super yacht Captain of the *Lady Moura* for 15 years, brought the plan to Hehn.

A business called Splendid Sea was formed and pitched to multiple partners, at which point Mercedes-Benz and its ultra-luxury arm, Maybach, better known for V12 powered saloons for the famous, came on board.

Hehn told *Boat International*,

"[Mercedes] happened to be looking into the yacht space" and were particularly interested in the idea of a club based around a super yacht.

After lengthy negotiations, the Maybach Ocean Club was born.

Online reservations allow members to make their booking while a concierge-supported system pre-allocates prime-season time and lets members trade weeks or invite friends and family. *DF*

New digs for Icons tour

FOUR Season's 2027 New World Icon's Private Jet Experience (**TD** 14 Nov) has confirmed it will include stops at some of the newest properties of the famous luxury resort brand.

Travellers on the highly exclusive tour will stay at the newest Four Seasons property in Mexico, Four Seasons Resort and Residences Cabo San Lucas at Cabo Del Sol, as well as the historic Hotel Danieli in Venice.

The latter will be reintroduced as the Danieli, A Four Seasons Hotel, Venice in 2026.

China's outbound travellers help put pay to Harrods' Shanghai store

HIGH net worth Chinese travellers increasingly leaving the country to travel have been labelled by mainstream media as one of the reasons high-end retailer Harrods will withdraw from the lucrative Shanghai market on 31 Jan 2026.

The decision means it will close its Harrods Tea Rooms, private members' club The Residence, and related VIP services housed in the historic Cha House at HKRI Taikoo Hui.

In a statement, the British

store said, "After careful consideration, Harrods has taken the decision not to renew its building lease in Shanghai and instead focus on providing experiences and services where we believe we can deliver the most impact in China."

Harrods has had a physical presence in Shanghai since 2020, when COVID shutdowns meant that the Chinese, like most of the world, were largely locked down where they lived.

According to the China Tourism



Academy, the Chinese outbound tourism market grew to 146 million in 2024, close to the level of 2019, with other Asian destinations proving to be the most popular for them to visit.



PONANT

EXPLORATIONS

SAIL INTO 2026

WITH EXCLUSIVE OFFERS

THE EUROPE COLLECTION



ACCOMMODATION

Send your accommodation updates to:
accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au



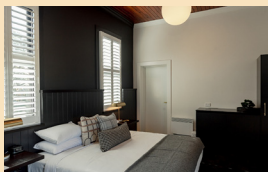
Hotel-hostel brand Drifter has made its debut in Australia with the opening of **Drifter Byron Bay**. Located close to the beach in the heart of Byron Bay on Lateen Lane, the 52-room, 260-bed property offers a unique blend of shared suites, ideal for travellers and groups, as well as private suites with curated amenities. Most of the rooms have balconies, many of which face onto the property's new rooftop pool area. There is also a program of free experiences.



Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa has unveiled the results of a transformation to coincide with its 15th anniversary. The property boasts refreshed guestrooms and villas, enhanced with subtle details such as handwoven materials and natural shells, that aim to "bring a renewed sense of contemporary style to the resort's familiar beachfront spirit". Guests will also notice an updated design in the resort's spa and restaurants.



Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts has officially opened **Naples Beach Club**, a new oceanfront luxury resort on Florida's Gulf Coast. With 220 guest accommodations (including 57 suites), the resort offers five restaurants, a full-service spa and wellness centre, two ballrooms, event spaces, and a signature Market Square for shops and socialising. The 50-hectare coastal destination also features 153 luxury residences and an 18-hole golf course.



The historic **Victoria Hotel Rutherglen** has completed a four-year multimillion-dollar refurbishment. Based in Victoria's High Country, the boutique hotel retains its 150-year-old heritage architecture, now with added contemporary luxury. There are 14 suites throughout, including two brand-new dog-friendly suites, as well as a beer garden that also welcomes four-legged patrons.



TFE Hotels has made its UK debut with the **Hobson Cambridge by Adina** - a 56-key studio-style hotel set within the Grade II listed Hobson House on St Andrew's Street in the heart of the city. The hotel offers modern kitchenettes and open-plan living spaces designed for both short and extended stays, as well as a private meeting room and Oz & Isle restaurant.

Klook Travel Fest wraps



KLOOK Travel Fest returned to Sydney this month, attracting thousands of consumers who were keen to get their hands on exclusive discounts and the chance to win dream holidays.

Taking place at the Sydney Showground on 08-09 Nov, the event offered guests a series of themed zones and hands-on activities and was supported by event partners including Disney Destinations, Korea Tourism Organization, Hong Kong Tourism Board, Tourism Malaysia, Travel Nevada, as well as the Mandai Wildlife Reserve.

According to Klook, sale conversion rates were "strong", while an exclusive 48-hour booking window and an extended 10% off promotion were offered.

Attendees also heard from travel experts and influencers on the main stage and the Klook Travel Fest Content Lab, where Australian creators offered advice on how to capture and edit the perfect travel moments.

"We were blown away by the incredible energy and enthusiasm at this year's Klook Travel Fest from both visitors and our partners," said Henry Hooper,

Klook's Managing Director of Oceania, UK and The Americas.

"It was amazing to see so many Sydneysiders celebrate their love of travel, discover new destinations and partners.

"The response really reinforced how excited people are to get out and explore the world through Klook, he added." *JHM*

Eurail gives it back

EURAIL has pledged to donate €100,000 (A\$178,000) to The Intrepid Foundation in an effort to support responsible travel.

The rail organisation has supported the tour operator for two years and has donated €370,000 (A\$661,000) to date, helping organisations such as Cooperativa Coraggio, which addresses the social and environmental needs of communities in Rome.

Eurail is also running its 'Journeys that make a difference sale', which promotes shoulder season travel in the hopes of helping to manage overtourism.

The sale offers 25% off all Eurail Global Passes and most Eurail One Country Passes.



BLACK FRIDAY PROMOTION

On 2026 Rail Journeys

Experience Infinity Holidays' 2026 premium rail program with Rocky Mountaineer and the new Canyon Spirit. Our campaign highlights the latest products, packages, deals, and tools to inspire clients and drive premium rail bookings.

Canyon Spirit: Rockies to the Red Rocks Three-Day Rail Only

Canyon Spirit Itinerary (USA):

Salt Lake City, Moab (1 night), Glenwood Springs (1 night), and Denver.

Inclusions:

- 3 days onboard Canyon Spirit in Signature experience
- 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 1 dinner
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Moab
- 1 night hotel accommodation in Glenwood Springs.

Black Friday Promo: Up to \$1,269 per couple in savings on select 2026 dates. **On Sale Until 4 December 2026**

From
\$2,769 pp twin share

Book Now

Rocky Mountaineer: Rockies Highlights Circle Journey, 9 Days

Rocky Mountaineer Itinerary (Canada):

Vancouver (1 night), Kamloops (1 night), Jasper (2 nights), Lake Louise (1 night), Banff (1 night), Kamloops (1 night) and Vancouver (1 night).

Inclusions:

- 4 days onboard Rocky Mountaineer in GoldLeaf Service
- 4 breakfasts and 5 lunches
- 8 nights hotel accommodation: Vancouver, Kamloops, Jasper, Lake Louise and Banff
- Luggage handling and rail station transfers in Vancouver, Kamloops, Jasper and Banff
- Rocky Mountaineer Hosts.

Black Friday Promo: Up to \$2,229 in savings per couple. **On Sale Until 4 December 2026**

From
\$11,699 pp twin share

Book Now

Terms and Conditions: The 2026 Black Friday Offers apply to new bookings only made between 20 Nov-4 Dec 2025 on select 2026 travel dates, excluding high-demand periods. Offers are per person, automatically applied, capacity-controlled, non-transferable, and cannot be deferred or applied retroactively. Not valid for Custom Groups or Group Tour Block bookings, and AUD/NZD pricing is indicative only. Further conditions apply, see infinityholidays.com for details.



CANYON SPIRIT®



EMERALD[◇]
CRUISES & TOURS

BLACK FRIDAY GEMS

BONUS

\$100

**SCENIC
GROUP**

★ **REWARDS** ★

Conditions Apply - Valid on select Emerald 2026 Yacht & River
deposited bookings made between 8 Nov - 5 Dec 2025

Batik air

OUR **10** INCREDIBLE
YEARS
IN PERTH!

**Batik Air Malaysia proudly celebrates
10 years of operations into Perth.
We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our
valued trade partners for your ongoing support.**

batikair@airlinerepservices.com