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Scenic invites you

SCENIC is inviting agents to a series of in-person events in Oct to hear about the line's upcoming future cruise innovations from founder Glen Moroney.

Events will take place in several states with registrations open until 07 Oct - click [HERE](#).

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US travel down, not out

TRAVEL to and from the US will continue without major delay for now despite the US Government entering shutdown.

The impasse has come about due to political duels over federal funding around healthcare, with government departments closed and workers suspended.

Flights connecting the US and Australia this morning were operating as usual without significant delay.

For the travel industry, the shutdown means 11,000 FAA employees have been furloughed, while 13,000 air traffic controllers have been ordered to continue work without pay.

That will likely result in some delays as staff could be thin on the ground at major hubs for

Australians entering the US, such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Dallas, but the furloughs will not have a major effect on travellers at this stage.

Rather, they could delay key initiatives to recruit additional air traffic control staff and undertake multibillion-dollar modernisation of the US air traffic control system, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) said.

NATCA president Nick Daniel implored, "Congress must act now to end this shutdown".

"When the Federal Government shuts down, it introduces unnecessary distractions and our entire aviation system is weakened," he added.

According to a statement from Brand USA, "the government shutdown will provide minimal disruptions to your travel plans", while adding that airport security, customs and air traffic control were fully staffed.

Outside of flights, there may be delays or closures at national parks, museums and cultural sites staffed by government employees, with the shutdown expected to cost the US travel sector US\$1 billion per week. *DF*

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news including our **Business Events News** page, a cover wrap from **A Force for Good**, plus a full page from **Infinity Holidays**.

A Force for Good

Tickets are now on sale for the 2026 A Force for Good Event in Sydney - see the **cover page**.

Plan an Irish escape

INFINITY Holidays has launched new travel packages to Ireland. Details are on the **back page**.

A Tru-ly great famil

TRAVEL advisors have the opportunity to score an all-expenses eight-day adventure to Indonesia through TruTravels' biggest ever agent incentive - Access All Areas | Indonesia.

The famil will take advisors through the rice terraces of Ubud to the pink sands of Komodo, staying in luxury villas with private chefs and bartenders.

From now until 28 Feb 2026, agents need to sell min six guests on any TruTravels tour, regardless of price, duration or destination.

The top six selling agents will win their place on the trip.

Click [HERE](#) for details.

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PER unveils Master Plan

PERTH Airport says it will nearly triple its annual contribution to the Western Australia state economy over the next 20 years through the full rollout of its 2026 Master Plan, a draft of which was released this week (**pictured**).

The plan showcases the largest private investment project in the airport's history, with a slew of announced initiatives including a second runway, a new hotel to be operated by Accor and significant investment in terminal expansion along with new roads & carparks.

Once complete, the plan will see the number of direct and indirect jobs supported by the airport swell from 27,300 last year to 75,400 over the next two decades.

Planning documents also show how, over the same time, Perth Airport expects to grow to serve up to 30 million passengers per year by 2046.

"We are now delivering a once-in-a-generation construction



program that will completely change the face of Perth Airport and take Western Australia into the future," said Perth Airport CEO Jason Waters.

"This will unlock the full potential of the resources sector and its extraordinary pipeline of new projects worth more than [an estimated] \$100 billion.

The Master Plan also details how Perth Airport will hit net-zero on emissions by 2032.

Key initiatives in this stream include work to manage aircraft noise, along with an ongoing focus on the need for critical and safe air services. *ML*

Contiki's new pricing

CONTIKI is launching a new pricing model to make its tours more accessible and transparent for younger travellers.

The new global pricing model delivers up to 18% lower costs for young travellers, Contiki said.

All tours can now be secured with a \$200 deposit, and paid off with monthly payment plans, as part of the new strategy.

Those booking Europe for next year may notice nearly 70% of the tour operator's summer departures are being offered at a lower price.

Itineraries for next year including the 'European Whirl', 'European Discovery', and 'European Adventurer' have seen an average 18% price reduction across their dates.

Contiki's expanded portfolio for next year also responds to travellers' growing desire for smaller group experiences, with a quarter of trips now capped at 24 people or fewer.

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Window Seat

DELTA Airlines has announced a new partnership with Spanx, the same brand that brought to the world big undies to suck in the most generous of bellies.

The collab does not offer up Delta-branded undies, rather the limited-edition collection features a range of travel-friendly essentials including jumpers and wide leg pants.

That's fair enough - shapewear and long haul flights definitely do not go hand-in-hand, as plenty of women can attest.



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A Golden buyout

GOLDEN Eagle Luxury Trains has been acquired by Arsenale Group, the parent company of La Dolce Vita Orient Express.

The acquisition will enable Golden Eagle to launch a fleet renewal program, while growing its expansion across Asia.

Accor serves up new group

HOTEL giant Accor has launched an in-house hospitality group called Table For, with plans to unveil its first restaurant Flaminia by high-profile chefs Giovanni Pilu and Marilyn Anecchini.

In addition, a new cocktail bar at Pullman Quay Grand Sydney Harbour will open this summer, and an all-Italian dining room in the Sydney CBD is in the works.

Table For brings together internal experts across culinary, operations, design and guest experience, as well as collaborators like creative agency Example and high-profile industry leaders Stefano Catino and Vince Lombardo of the Maybe Group.

"We are redefining what it means to dine in a hotel, and treating our restaurants and bars as standalone heroes that locals and travellers actively seek out," said Adrian Williams, Chief Operating Officer, Accor Pacific.

"Through Table For, we're reimagining existing venues, developing entirely new concepts, and delivering experiences that guests and locals will seek out, enjoy and remember."

As part of the new initiative, the team will launch new concepts and stay ahead of the evolving tastes of guests and locals, added Ben Creek, head of Table For.

In fact, hotel dining in Australia and NZ deserves to compete on the world stage, Creek told **Travel Daily**, thanks to its "rich and diverse hospitality industry", with great bars, restaurants and cafes



on the main streets in the cities.

"We see hotel dining as about to have its moment in the sun, Aussies are starting to see that you can pop into a hotel for a quick drink after work, with pricing being comparable to high street venues and can really take advantage of the great locations of properties," Creek explained.

"The COVID pandemic has also helped break down the barriers, as well-known chefs are starting to work more with hotels, since trading conditions are proving challenging and hotels can provide a space for chefs to be creative and provide great hospitality."

Travellers are prioritising food when it comes to planning their holidays and according to a recent report from Booking.com, 82% of Aussies have chosen a destination to visit a specific restaurant or food spot. **JHM**

Read the interview **HERE**.

CLIA noms open

NOMINATIONS are now open for Cruise Lines International Association's (CLIA) 23rd Annual Cruise Industry Awards for Australasia, which take place 07 Mar in Sydney.

Nominate **HERE** before 21 Nov.

Aldi's birthday sale

ALDI Holidays has dropped 40 travel deals starting from \$499pp in celebration of its first birthday this month.

The offers include brand-new adventures to Europe, Fiji and South Africa, as well as domestic getaways - more info **HERE**.

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SA reels a big one

MORE than 1,200 physicists, biomedical engineers and researchers have descended on SA this week for the IUPESM World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering 2025, which returns to Australia for the first time in more than two decades.

Secured by Business Events Adelaide (BEA) with Arinex appointed as the organiser, the triennial congress kicked off on Mon at the Adelaide Convention Centre and will wrap up on Sat.

"Organisers are drawn to Adelaide for its world-class expertise across complex, cutting-edge research fields, and visiting delegates often find Adelaide to be the ideal place to do future business," said BEA CEO Damien Kitto.

REFLECTIONS OPENS FOR EVENTS

REFLECTIONS Holidays has launched unique venues for hire in a number of its destinations around New South Wales.

The holiday park operator is expanding to venue spaces for event hire, for corporate retreats, weddings, festivals, school excursions, and sports events.

Destinations opening for hire will include Norah Head Lighthouse Reserve (**pictured**) for weddings; Wilderluxe Lake Keepit, ideal for corporate retreats; and inland parks like Lake Burrendong and Reflections Copeton Waters - Holiday Park, with nature-based activities like boating, golf, mountain biking, and more.

"What really sets Reflections apart is the location of our parks nestled near some of the state's most beautiful natural spots and waterside attractions, with access to function centres and nature



reserves and, of course, our range of park accommodation," Chief Executive Officer Nick Baker said.

"We believe life's better outside and there's no better way to stage an event in our view than mixing it with the best of nature - scenic surrounds, the chance to incorporate exercise

or just relaxing and exploring and connecting with colleagues or loved ones, depending on the occasion," he said.

Reflections Holidays operates 40 holiday parks and 17 established venue spaces, with profits to be reinvested back into the destinations. *MS*

Earlybird giveaway

THE Australian Business Events Association is giving away a \$1,000 Visa gift card to a lucky event professional who secures a spot at its upcoming conference and awards before 15 Oct.

Those who sign up for earlybird registration will automatically be entered into the draw.

The full conference and awards dinner package for the event, which takes place 03-05 Dec in Melbourne, can be purchased for the earlybird member price of \$1,130 - details **HERE**.

Hang out in style on the Sunshine Coast

THE Sunshine Coast has welcomed a new luxury events venue - The Machjet Hangar, a 2,200m² multi-million dollar hangar with airside views.

Operated by premium flight charter specialist Machjet International, the venue can accommodate 1,080 banquet style, and features a flexible floor plan to suit cocktail functions, seated dinners, or product activations.



The new space, which includes a private VIP lounge, will host its first event on 25 Oct, the SunnyKids Mayoral Ball, one of the region's most anticipated charity events.

Kiwi expo rego

BUYER registrations are now open for the Business Events Expo, which will take place on 25 Nov in Auckland for the third year in a row.

The expo will showcase conference, incentive and event products and services from Australia, NZ, Pacific, Asia and beyond, with a one-day format that combines structured meetings with networking opportunities.

NEXT ISSUE: Southeast Asia special report

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Virgin Australia has welcomed back **Matthew Ongarello** to the team, who has begun a role as Head of Consumer Public Relations and Brand. Ongarello has spent the past year as Head of News at Virgin Group in London, serving prior to that in a number of roles in Corporate Affairs.

Masterchef Australia 2024 winner **Nat Thaipun** has signed a culinary partnership with **Pullman Hotels and Resorts**. In her new role as Food and Beverage Ambassador, Thaipun will take the helm on a number of dining experiences to be rolled out across Pullman's regional network.

Well-known luxury cruising leader **Lisa Pile** has been named as Oceania Cruises new Vice President Sales, and will oversee the sales and growth objectives of the line in Asia. Pile's new role is in addition to her existing duties as Regent Seven Seas Cruises Vice President Sales & General Manager, Asia Pacific. She will be supported in Singapore by **Constance Seck**, by **Holly Kong** in Hong Kong and **Munetoshi Kurihara** in Tokyo.

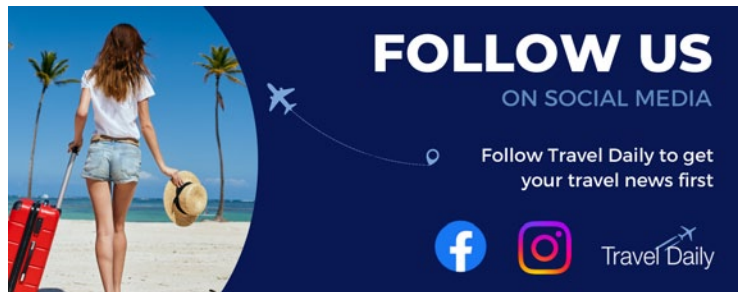
Jonathan Nelson has been appointed Executive General Manager of Client Management by **Corporate Travel Management** in Australia. Nelson is well-known to the trade in Melbourne and Perth, having served nearly 12 years in senior sales roles with Express Travel Group.

Two new faces have joined the **Visit USA Australia** committee, with **Anne Lee** taking up the role of Secretary and **Christina Atherton** as PR and Media Manager. In addition, **Aida Osta** has begun a role as General Manager. The new recruits bolster the VUSA Executive Committee line-up which consists of Caroline Davidson as President, Belinda Harvy as Vice President and Millie Browne as Treasurer.

Confirmed at its Annual General Meeting this week, **Tourism Whitsundays** has unveiled its new Board of Directors for 2025/26. New Directors **Liza Muller** and **Katelyn Aslett** have joined the Board, who will work alongside Nathan Fleming and Phil Browne, with the group to be chaired by Julie Telford. Departing the Board is Nicole Graham, Sue Watson and Carly Povey, whose terms have concluded.

Tourism marketing and PR firm **GTI Hospitality** is celebrating new client wins with a slew of talent joining the organisation. The company has welcomed back **Colleen Giblin** as Group Account Director, with **Sophie Stanton** and **Laneisha Lynch** joining as PR Account Managers. The sales and marketing department has been bolstered with the return of **Anne Lee** as Trade Marketing Director and the addition of **Simran Mediratta**, while **Jessica Cory** and **Tiarna Henry-Wharton** have joined as Account Director and Account Manager respectively.

Ahead of its opening in early 2027, **Wynn Al Marjan Island** has welcomed **Rebecca Hall** as its new Executive Director of Public Relations. Located around an hour north of Dubai, the resort will feature 1,530 rooms, 22 restaurants and bars and 420 metres of private beach.



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MGallery shines in Brighton



MGALLERY Collection has unveiled The Brighton Hotel Sydney, located on the Botany Bay foreshore.

The 307-key boutique property offers rooms with private balconies and suites featuring spa-style bathrooms.

Guests can enjoy Mediterranean-style dining at hatted restaurant Ammos Brighton, or bar bites and craft beers at Coco's on the Beach, with additional dining concepts to be unveiled over summer.

There is also an array of wellness offerings, including an outdoor pool, fitness centre, sauna and steam room.

Event planners will have their pick of 11 versatile spaces offering flexible configurations and the latest AV equipment, while the ballroom can accommodate up to 600 guests.

The Brighton Hotel Sydney - MGallery Collection offers bespoke packages, from weddings to large-scale conferences.

Room rates start from \$349, with an opening offer including a \$50 food and beverage voucher, breakfast for two, car parking and late midday checkout for bookings made by 31 Jan. *JM*

NT's big comp is on

NOW in its 11th season, the Northern Territory's Million Dollar Fish competition is officially open, giving anglers the chance to reel in a \$1 million barra.

Delivered by the NT Govt, the competition attracts visitors from around Australia to the Top End, throughout which 11 red-tagged barramundi are swimming with a million-dollar prize.

"Last year, interstate visitors accounted for a third of people taking part in the competition and we know they stayed, enjoyed the best of the Territory and contributed around \$35 million to the local economy," said Tourism NT CEO Suzana Bishop.

The comp runs until 31 Mar.



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