

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of the latest breaking travel industry news, plus full pages from:

- Regent Seven Seas
- CLIA
- Crystal Cruises

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Meet The Club by LTC

EXCLUSIVE

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) Luxury Travel Collection (LTC) has launched The Club by LTC, a new, exclusive private group for independent, entrepreneurial luxury advisors, *Travel Daily* can reveal.

Live now on the LTC website, The Club is aiming to bring together Australia's foremost solo luxury advisors.

The new independent contractor model will see members retain their independence, but also gain access to the same exclusive benefits enjoyed by other



agencies which are part of LTC.

This will include its events, such as the Pinnacle Awards (*TD* 06 Aug), and its Galeries de Luxe product range.

Members will not be actively recruited en masse, *TD* understands, but will instead be invited to join, similar to others who are part of LTC.

Discussions are currently underway with a number of potential members, who would be the first to join The Club.

They will need to meet all the same criteria as other members, including a significant amount of luxury product turnover, made up of a high percentage of FCTG's luxury preferred product.

"The Club is where independent high flyers shape the future of luxury travel," a description on the LTC website reads.

More details are expected to be announced in time.

LTC most recently welcomed two new agencies to its ranks: Brisbane's Global Jetsetting, and a new affiliate member, The Travel Project, based in Mornington (*TD* 18 Aug). *MS*

See you in Brissy

THE countdown is on for the National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA), which takes place at The Star in Brisbane on Sat 18 Oct after Beyond Borders on 17 Oct.

Excitement across the industry is building for the gala event, which will celebrate excellence, innovation, and achievement across every corner of the sector.

Attendees will hear directly from the Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) Board and leadership team, as well as a line-up of high-quality speakers.

"The NTIA is more than a celebration, it is a symbol of the industry's strength and collaboration, representing the resilience, creativity and professionalism of our members," said ATIA CEO Dean Long.

Save big on RSSC

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) is currently offering a free two-category suite upgrade, as well as up to 35% off select sailings in 2026, including the 18-night 'Scandinavian Serenade'.

The promotion ends 31 Oct, with a toolkit available for agents - see **page six** for details.

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Qantas data leaked

THE personal data of 5.7 million Qantas customers has reportedly been leaked on the dark web by mysterious hacker group Scattered Lapsus\$ Hunters, after a ransom deadline lapsed.

No credit card details were compromised during the attack, however names, phone numbers, addresses, emails, birthdates, gender, frequent flyer numbers, points balances and status tiers have all been stolen from a portion of customers.

Qantas has a Supreme Court injunction preventing the release of the data, but the carrier was unable to stop the criminal group from posting the stolen information on the dark web.

Almost 40 companies were caught up in the incident, which saw Salesforce's data breached.

Webjet goes somewhere

WEBJET has pushed the play button on a suite of changes that include expanding verticals so it can capture more of the travel wallet (**TD** breaking news).

The broader strategy to maximise the value of user transactions outside of air was flagged during its most recent financial briefing (**TD** 19 Mar), and today the company has made good on that pledge, introducing tours to the mix.

Alongside the touring options, users of the OTA can also access an expanded range of hotel products, take advantage of new static packages, and be guided by enhanced AI capability to secure improved value on the purchase of international flights.

Webjet also confirmed its launch of a new end-to-end corporate booking platform called



Webjet Business Travel, the direct result of its recent acquisition of Locomote (**TD** 22 Aug).

Alongside the expanded range of product, Webjet also revealed its new 'Go Somewhere' brand platform, which will aim to shift the perception from being a flight-centric OTA to a trusted, go-to local travel companion.

Developed in collaboration with The Hallway, the new brand and marketing strategy includes a relaunched website powered by AI to make product selection more seamless, as well as a cross-channel creative campaign that will feature stop-motion films directed by award-winning filmmaker Spencer Susser.

Webjet's iconic plane logo has also been reimaged, reflecting a more modern look that still honours its heritage. **AB**

Jump into the river

CRUISE Month is all about river cruising this week, focusing on the latest products and offers available in the market. Get involved now - see **page seven**.

Vietnam at half-price

VIETJET has launched its super sale promotion, offering 50% off both economy and business class flights, as well as half-price stays at the five-star Furama Resort in Da Nang.

The promotion also includes discounts on pre-booked in-flight meals and free baggage.

Deals apply to all Australian routes, as well as other Vietjet domestic and international flights, for travel between 01 Nov 2025 and 27 May 2026.

Offer ends COB on 19 Oct.

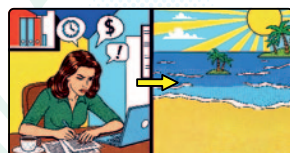
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Crystal b'day deals

TO MARK 35 years of Crystal, the cruise line is offering 35% savings on select 2026 sailings for Sapphire Veranda or Sapphire Ocean View Suites - see **p8**.

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Topdeck marks relaunch

FROM desiring more connection, more culinary experiences and less crammed itineraries, Gen Z travellers have evolved, and last week, youth brand Topdeck celebrated its recent transformation at its HQ, returning to its roots in small group touring (**TD** 26 Sep).

As Global Touring Managing Director Ed Pettit explained (**pictured** with Graham Skroo Turner), 25-year-olds are now a lot more well travelled than in previous generations - and their needs have evolved, especially since the pandemic.

"They are not looking to just take off to a lot of different destinations...they want their tribe, and they want to also experience more of a local culture," Pettit said.

"This transformation for Topdeck is really deep...it's a full transformation of what we do by taking the original DNA of Topdeck and making it relevant to



a customer today."

During last week's event, Turner shared the business' journey, recalling some of the legendary stories from its beginnings, from flooring a 14-foot double decker bus "Michael-Caine-Italian-Job-style", to jumping onto a ferry across to Morocco and even "setting up a church" to pass through Iran.

"There was a lot less regulation - you could basically go anywhere in Europe and most other countries without visas," he said.

"You could do just about anything, and not just get away with it, but you didn't even think about it." **JHM**

Ama rides the river

AMAWATERWAYS is marking Cruise Lines International Association's (CLIA) River Week with an exclusive incentive.

CLIA members will receive a \$100 e-gift card for every new reservation made during the month, while their clients will enjoy \$300 of onboard credit.

Travel Daily
ON LOCATION

Hobart

Today's issue of *Travel Daily* comes to you from Hobart, where Expedia is holding its Unpack '26 event.

THE Apple Isle will play host to Unpack '26 today and tomorrow as Expedia takes a group of industry executives south - those from Sydney getting on board the relatively new Qantas A220.

Day one will feature a ride on the Mona ferry before presentations from Expedia, followed by lunch and a museum tour of one of the wackiest museums, if not in the world, then certainly in Australia - MONA.

Dinner at Peppina and a stay overnight at The Tasman will round off the day.

CX extends free wi-fi

CATHAY Pacific will extend free wi-fi access to Cathay Gold members travelling in all cabins from 15 Nov.

The Hong Kong carrier also revealed it plans to roll out free internet access to all Cathay members travelling in premium economy by the end of this year.

Passengers can connect with one device at a time and can also switch between devices at any time, while access to the Cathay Shop is available in all cabins.

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River Week is here

THIS week's phase of Cruise Lines International Association's annual Cruise Month campaign will focus on river cruising.

The sector will take the spotlight in this week's expanded program of social media activity, digital advertising, educational opportunities and other initiatives celebrating the sector.

New ships, new itineraries, and a wealth of new experiences have made river cruising one of the most innovative areas in travel, CLIA MD Joel Katz said.

"In recent times we've had a succession of new announcements in river cruising, including spectacular new ships, new rivers and destinations to explore, and new cruise lines entering the sector," Katz said.

A&K jets off in '27

ABERCROMBIE & Kent (A&K) has unveiled its 2027 Private Jet Collection, which blends iconic landmarks with insider access.

Highlights of the program will include a sweeping adventure across Africa, which will take travellers through ancient Carthage's sun-bleached ruins in Tunisia, before meeting local artisans at a craft market.

There will also be a once-in-a-lifetime itinerary designed by A&K founder Geoffrey Kent, which will see passengers experience a full spectrum of flavours in the Azores, and dine within a secluded Ottoman-era private estate in Algeria.

Scenic World takes the plunge



DINOSAUR Valley has roared back to life at Scenic World for another season - this time with an added attraction that is sure to provide a 'deeper' level of fun.

In a prehistoric first for Australia, a special Dino Aquarium (pictured) has been opened at the Blue Mountains-based tourist park, where families can take the plunge back in time to view what underwater dinosaur life would have looked like, including a selection of the mighty reptiles that ruled the ancient seas.

Outside of the aquarium, the latest dinosaur season - which started this month - now offers the Dinosaur Valley Passport, allowing junior palaeontologists the chance to check off ancient species as they go.

There are even more dinosaurs featured this year as well, with more than 60 dinosaurs and 33 different species across land and sea, including the t-rex,

kronosaurus, plesiosaurus, velociraptors and spinosaurus.

The Dinosaur Park is accessible every day until 26 Jan 2026, and is included in the price of Scenic World tickets, which also includes rides on all cable rides.

Adults cost \$61 and kids are priced from \$40 (kids under three are admitted free of charge). **AB**

Fitzgerald is game

FORMER president of the Carnival and P&O brands in Australia, Marguerite Fitzgerald, has taken the role of Chief Strategy Officer for Brisbane 2032, the organising committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"I couldn't be more excited to be starting this journey with the amazing team that has already achieved so much," she said.

"It won't be easy but I love a challenge, so here's to setting a benchmark for the Olympics."



Window Seat

PORTOFINO was already one of the most popular destinations in Italy to begin with - then Taylor Swift released her latest song, *Elizabeth Taylor*.

The track off Swift's newest album *The Life of a Showgirl* romanticises the commune outside Genoa, which was one of the American actress' favourite destinations.

City break expert Travel Republic has since revealed Swift's musings about Portofino has resulted in a recent 1,329% surge in searches for the destination.

Swift has also declared 'Portofino orange' as the colour of the 'Showgirl era'.

This is not the first time Swift has drastically altered a destination's tourism fortunes, with Windermere in England's Lake District receiving added attention following the release of her 2020 song *The Lakes*.



NEXT ISSUE:

Southeast Asia special report

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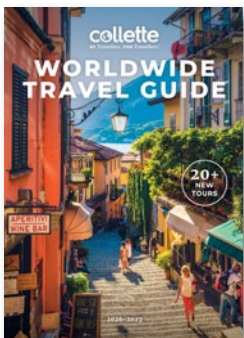


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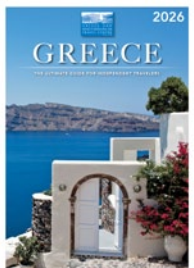
collette



Collette - 2026-27 Worldwide Guide

Collette has launched its 2026-27 Worldwide Guide featuring over 170 tours, including 20 new options. The brochure is packed with Collette's classic and small group explorations itineraries, and each tour is designed to offer unique moments that travellers could never plan on their own. Highlights include a trip to see Alaska's Northern Lights, where guests can meet an Iditarod family and share a home-cooked meal. There is also a Quebec itinerary, where travellers can savour a curated food

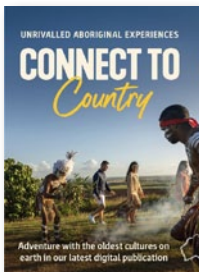
tour on Ile d'Orleans and share a traditional Indigenous breakfast with First Nations hosts at the Kahnawake reserve. Find the Collette e-brochure [HERE](#).



Greece & Mediterranean Travel Centre - 2026 Greece

The latest brochure from Greece & Med Travel showcases Greece's most iconic destinations, hidden gems, and immersive cultural experiences. Readers will discover a range of itineraries, from small group tours and family-friendly escapes to bespoke design-your-own adventures. There are also exclusive inclusions, including hand-picked boutique hotels, local guides, and cultural performances, as well as special interest-based

tours, including wine and olive routes. Access the brochure [HERE](#).



Tourism Australia - Connect to Country Issue 10

Issue 10 of *Connect to Country*, a digital publication from Tourism Australia and Discover Aboriginal Experiences (DAE), is out now offering a wealth of story ideas and inspiration for travellers. From coastal foraging adventures in the Kimberley to intimate yarnning circles on Wave Break Island, readers can discover how First Nations guides connect visitors to Country in authentic ways. The edition showcases a seven-day cultural adventure

across the Great Barrier Reef and Daintree Rainforest and a full-day cultural tour from Brisbane to North Stradbroke Island. Read it [HERE](#).

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A heavenly time in India



ASIA-BASED hotel representation company, Heavens Portfolio, recently partnered with Far & Beyond to host a group of trade partners on a famil tour throughout North West India.

Heavens Portfolio MD Chrissie Lincoln was joined last month by five representatives from a number of leading agencies for a 10-day premium itinerary across New Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Udaipur, and Jodhpur.

These agency reps included Frontier Travel, 1000 Mile, Aora Escapes, Orbit World Travel, and ATPi in New Zealand.

The group experienced some of India's most prestigious properties, including The Imperial in New Delhi, Mihir Garh in Jodhpur - owned by a noble Rajput family - and luxury hotels within the Oberoi Group such as the Oberoi Amarvilas in Agra and the Oberoi Rajvilas in Jaipur.

Blending history and architecture with cultural experiences, the journey featured a visit to the 16th century Humayun's Tomb and the famed UNESCO World Heritage sites, Taj Mahal, and Red Fort in Agra.

This was followed by a cooking demonstration and dinner with a local Indian family, allowing each guest to savour the flavours of regional Rajasthani cuisine.

Other highlights included a cycle rickshaw ride through Old Delhi, a private boat ride across Lake Pichola, and a village safari by Jeep in Mihi Garh, allowing the group of travel sellers to witness the majestic and sometimes elusive Black Buck antelope. *JM*

TIME is accessible

THE Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) has partnered with Sensory Tourism Australia (STA), which creates itineraries for blind and low-vision travellers, to sponsor a mentee from a not-for-profit organisation.

The mentee will be chosen for their passion and commitment to advancing accessible travel.

STA Director James McFarlane, who is a TIME graduate, said he "hopes to encourage other tourism organisations to promote TIME within their teams and keep driving conversations around accessible travel".

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