

Today's issue of TD

TD features six news pages, including a **Corporate Update**, a product profile from **Inspiring Vacations** and a full page from **Martin Randall Travel**.

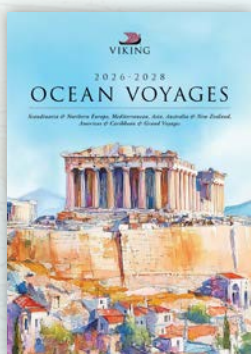
A focus on culture

AGENTS are invited to learn more about Martin Randall Travel's expert-led, culturally-focused small group tours by joining a free upcoming webinar - find out more on **page seven**.



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State of emergency in Peru

DFAT has warned that transport to tourist attractions like Machu Picchu may be impacted during a 30-day state of emergency declared for Lima and Callao by the Peruvian Govt late yesterday.

A Smartraveller update advised a high degree of caution in Peru for Aussie travellers, warning the govt move to crack down on rising protests will see an increased security presence and armed forces on the streets.

Major drawcards like Machu Picchu remain operational for now, having only been reopened in Sep after a brief closure,



caused by protestors blocking key transport routes to the site with rocks and logs (TD 22 Sep).

The action left close to 1,000 tourists stranded for 24 hours at the attraction, while another 1,400 had to be evacuated.

Peru's President Jose Jeri said the state of emergency measure was needed to combat a sharp rise in crime, stating it was time to "move from the defensive to the offensive" in the fight.

Protests have been fuelled by residents calling for more anti-corruption measures, action against high crime, and a push back from younger people against pension reforms. AB

S. America shines

INSPIRING Vacations is showcasing its South American adventures - discover more details on the **back page**.



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Very Xcite-ing times

CELEBRITY Cruises has celebrated two milestones this week, taking delivery of its fifth Edge-class ship, *Xcel*, while at the same time, the first piece of steel was cut for the line's sixth Edge-class ship, *Xcite*.

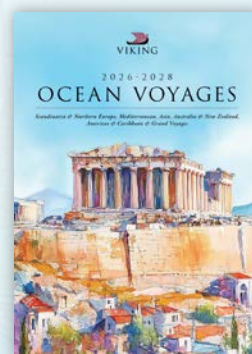
Both the delivery ceremony for *Xcel* and the steel-cutting of *Xcite* took place at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique shipyard in Saint-Nazaire, France.

For more details, see today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.



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Skroo hits screens

GRAHAM 'Skroo' Turner will hit the big screen in a new documentary sharing the story of Topdeck, when Skroo and his mates in 1973 bought a double-decker bus and embarked on the adventure of a lifetime - click [HERE](#) to watch the trailer.

Spending time in Utah



EXCLUSIVE

AUSTRALIAN visitation to the US state of Utah has remained "pretty strong" so far this year, Utah Office of Tourism Managing Director Natalie Randall told **Travel Daily** in Sydney yesterday.

So far in 2025, around 23,300 Aussies have made their way to the Beehive State, injecting US\$50 million into the economy.

While Aussies are already "high spenders", Randall said its forecasts suggest they will spend even more by 2030.

"Aussies spend around US\$2,300 each - which makes them a critically important spender for Utah," she said.

Randall was recently in Australia over the last week, meeting with key stakeholders like Federal Tourism Minister Don Farrell, **pictured** with Canuckiwi founder Corey Marshall - stay tuned for more updates next week. *AB*

CTM weathers storm

DESPITE battling well documented auditing issues (**TD** 18 Sep), Corporate Travel Management (CTM) managed to increase EBITDA in all regions for Q1 2026, when compared to the same period last year.

In an ASX update released this morning, the company announced that underlying EBITDA increased by 30% to \$40.9 million - driven largely by Europe which saw the great growth.

Global revenues also increased by 6% to \$180.2 million, and the liquidity of CTM at the end of the latest quarter also improved from \$92 million to \$168 million.

In a further win for the corporate specialist, previous years have seen its EBITDA result skew towards the second half of the year, with Q1 usually delivering the most sluggish results for the year.

Loeb promoted

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has promoted Anton Loeb to Assistant Vice President, Sales and Marketing.

Loeb was most recently Senior Director Sales and Marketing and prior to that, he was Director of Sales when he joined in 2013.

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Changing face of Celestyal



CELESTYAL'S National Business Development Manager Mary Williams (**pictured**) is set to depart the cruise line.

Described as "the face of Celestyal" by Jarrod Zurvas, the cruise line's Director of Business Development Asia Pacific, Williams worked at the business for more than six years.

Prior to joining Celestyal, Williams was a senior travel consultant at Flight Centre Travel Group for four years.

"We are thankful for her service and contribution to the

company," Zurvas said.

"We wish her the very best as she embarks on this next chapter of her career," he added.

Ascend Travel Group's Lynda Wallace and Julie Primmer will continue to manage trade services for Celestyal in the Australian market. *JHM*

FCM grows Oz team

FCM Meetings and Events has announced the expansion of its Australian team.

Supporting the existing sales and account management teams will be a new customer solutions team, which will be overseen globally by newly appointed Nicole Pusic, who will report to Flavia Kaucic.

Simone Seiler will lead the account management teams globally, alongside Katie Fraser in Australia.

The sales team will be led by Kellie Howard, who joined the business in May.

Qantas new menu

QANTAS has unveiled new menus highlighting Australian produce, featuring 70 new items and rolling out in business and economy cabins this month.

The menus rotate every six weeks, so travellers can enjoy new dishes each week, including hearty beef and mushroom pies and artisan desserts.

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NIB travel suitor named

ALLIANZ has emerged as the company most likely to purchase NIB Holdings' travel insurance division, according to sources familiar with the matter.

A report by the *AFR* suggested NIB's suite of travel insurance assets remain on the chopping block and could fetch more than \$100 million, which includes brands like nib Travel and World Nomads Group.

Allianz becoming a frontrunner



to acquire the travel division represents a change in course of previous speculation, which in May suggested Zurich Insurance Group was the likely suitor.

NIB entered the travel insurance space a decade ago, and while the ASX-listed company's division enjoyed a higher operating income and annual underwriting result, underlying operating profit declined by 17% compared to the previous 12-month period.

While there has been no confirmation from NIB or Allianz, NIB CEO Ed Close said in a recent financial presentation that the company must focus on segments that support sustainable growth.

The comments were made amid its operating profits falling by 27% to \$105.8 million for FY25. *AB*

Avalon free flights

AVALON Waterways has launched flight-inclusive packages on two of its popular itineraries, 'Magnificent Europe' and 'Magnificent Rivers of Europe'.

To celebrate, the brand is offering a discount of up to \$2,600pp on select 2026 departures booked by 30 Nov.

The announcement follows the launch of sister brand Globus' flight-inclusive packages.



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Burnes reinstalled

HELLOWORLD Director Cinzia Burnes has been reelected to the position for another term during a shareholder vote yesterday. The results showed close to 90% voted in favour of the proposition, versus 10% against.

Royal's new Oasis

CONSTRUCTION has begun on Royal Caribbean's seventh Oasis-class ship, with the milestone marked by a steel-cutting ceremony at the Chantiers de l'Atlantique in Saint-Nazaire. The yet-to-be-named vessel is scheduled to set sail in 2028 and will be the seventh in the class.

PNG updates fleet

PNG Air has taken delivery of the first of six new ATR 72-600 aircraft, which will replace the carrier's older fleet. The new planes, which are more fuel efficient, form part of the flag carrier's fleet renewal program.

Ackerman departs AAT

AAT Kings General Manager of Sales and Revenue Troy Ackerman will depart the tour operator next month (**TD** breaking news).

Taking to LinkedIn to confirm the news, Ackerman (**pictured**) said working alongside a passionate and talented team dedicated to showcasing Australia and New Zealand had been a genuine highlight of his career.

"I have particularly valued the opportunity to work across our international markets, specifically the UK, North America and Europe, while gaining meaningful insight and experience in the Australian and NZ inbound sectors," he added.

Ackerman has enjoyed an extensive career in Australia working in senior roles across a variety of well-known land touring companies.

Highlights include becoming General Manager, NZ for Globus family of brands, as well as



Director of Strategic Partnerships at Collette.

AAT Kings was contacted by **TD** for comment regarding Ackerman's replacement. **AB**

Eurostar doubles up

EUROSTAR will launch a double-decker train through the Channel Tunnel for the first time in 2031, with the operator ordering 50 trains from Alstom in a bid to increase its fleet by about a third.



Window Seat

SWIFTIES staying at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins had the chance to enjoy the superstar's biggest hits during a recent luxurious client appreciation night.

The 'Symphony of the Senses' soiree featured a string quartet playing Taylor Swift's biggest hits, surrounded by hundreds of flickering (battery-powered) candles, although that didn't stop the fire alarms briefly chiming in for an encore.

Taylor might sing "If I'm on fire, you'll be made of ashes too", but thankfully it was a false alarm and guests had a wonderful evening, complete with a towering cheese display and free-flowing Pommery Champagne and an exciting dessert reveal.

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CORPORATE UPDATE

We have our FACTS straight

EXCLUSIVE

THE Festival of Aviation and Corporate Travel Summits (FACTS) has marked two major milestones this week, announcing its 100th confirmed speaker and 1,000th registered delegate, **Travel Daily** can exclusively reveal.

This year's iteration will take place at ICC Sydney on 25-26 Nov, bringing together leaders from corporate travel procurement, business events, aviation, travel payments and technology.

Among the speaker line-up are Qantas International and Freight CEO Cam Wallace, Global Business Travel Association CEO Suzanne Neufang, Western Sydney Airport CEO Simon Hickey, and Corporate Travel Management CEO Australia and New Zealand, Jo Sully.

They will discuss a range of topics, from the future of aviation, to corporate travel sustainability and the rise of travel technology.

"Hitting 100 speakers and 1,000 delegates this week shows there's a big appetite for fresh thinking and practical dialogue across our business travel and events community," said FACTS co-founder Derek Sadubin (pictured).

"It's proof that travel, events, and aviation are not just bouncing back - they're reinventing themselves."

FACTS 2025 will also feature a dedicated business travel and events expo, showcasing over 100 providers of travel technology,



hotels, airlines, meetings, and sustainability solutions shaping the future of corporate travel.

"We can't wait to welcome our industry to what's become Australia's largest business travel and events expo and summits," Sadubin added.

Find out more or register for FACTS 2025 **HERE**. JM

AA's biz upgrades

AMERICAN Airlines has revealed plans to introduce its premium flagship suite on its fleet of 47 Boeing 777-200ER, increasing the planes' premium seat count by 25%.

The aircraft will be retrofitted with premium business product, which debuted in Jun on the carrier's new B787-9 Dreamliners.

Plans were already underway to retrofit the flagship suite on American Airlines' 20 777-300ER aircraft, while its Airbus A321XLR narrowbodies will also feature the product, which includes a sliding privacy door, a chaise lounge seating option, a wireless charging pad and extra personal storage space.

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AKTG drums up interest



ABERCROMBIE & Kent Travel Group (AKTG) last night wrapped up its latest roadshow series, including two weeks travelling around Australia, sharing news and product highlights for its Abercrombie & Kent (A&K) and Crystal brands.

The roadshow, themed 'World of Experiences', concluded in Sydney last night, after visits to Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane, the Gold Coast, and Canberra - a new city for this year.

Around 750 attendees across the seven events heard from a range of presenters, both locally based and from AKTG's DMCS around the world.

They heard about the company's product in Africa and Asia, as well as its Sanctuary Retreats and Crystal.

News shared at the roadshow included the impending opening of AKTG's first office in South Korea, which the company noted

will be coming "very soon".

AKTG is also planning to open another office in Japan, such is the demand for the destination, with the company's second Tokyo bureau slated for next year.

Meanwhile, AKTG is set to introduce a new reservations system for A&K, which was initially built for Crystal, and is now being rolled out for its land brand, in line with its "one company" strategy.

Accessible in the new reservation system will be A&K marketing tools and itineraries, both of which can be personalised, as well as a hub for a travel advisors' bookings. MS

Pictured in Sydney last night are Sales Director NSW/ACT Alexa Papoulias, Vice President Sales & Partnerships Susan Haberle, and Sales Director NSW/NZ Anoushka Kudav with two Japanese drummers who dazzled attendees on the evening.

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Hurtigruten has launched limited-time offers for year-round sailings along Norway's Majestetisk Coast. Savings of up to 30% can be had on selected voyages and tour package offers. Travellers can also get bonus onboard credit until the end of the month, and low deposits from just \$250 per person on some of the brand's most popular itineraries - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Today is the last chance to save 35% on select sailings next year with **Crystal**, to mark the cruise line's 35th year in operation. Travellers can save on cruises to the Maldives, the Philippines, New York City, Barcelona, Hong Kong, Alaska, Mombasa, and more - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.


Bookings have now opened for **HX's** 2026 Antarctica season voyages, with the cruise line offering some of its best-ever sales to incentivise travellers to visit the White Continent. Cruisers can score up to \$7,635 off all-inclusive expeditions, such as 'Highlights of Antarctica' and 'Iconic Antarctica: The Explorer's Route' - [CLICK HERE](#) for more info.

Sunshine, sand, and savings await **Batik Air Malaysia** guests who book their flight to Bali by the end of the month. The airline is offering flights from Perth leading in from \$182 one-way, and \$262 from Sydney one-way - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

WQ Hotel Wellington is debuting with 20% off bookings made until 31 Jan, with complimentary breakfast included. The hotel's entry-level best available rate with the 20% discount applied will see travellers able to stay for two nights from NZD\$144 per night. The offer is valid for stays through to the end of Jan, with New Year's Eve being the only blackout date - book [HERE](#).

The world is waiting for your clients with **Railbookers**, with the company's global rail sale offering up to \$1,100 off. Top trips on sale include London-Rome from \$1,000 off per couple, and the Scottish Highlands from \$800 off - view all flash sale deals [HERE](#).



An exclusive luxury sea and tour package in the Mediterranean is available with **Cruise Traveller**. The Asian voyage with Germany-based Nicko Cruises will see passengers sail from Sydney to Bali aboard *Vasco Da Gama*, well-known to Australian travellers through her trips Down Under with different cruise lines. Those who book by the end of next month can access the package - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.



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Emirates in the spotlight



THE Emirates Dubai, Britain and Europe Roadshow for 2025 wrapped up this week, welcoming more than 650 travel trade consultants in Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, Christchurch and Auckland.

Hosted by Emirates, Dubai Experience, VisitBritain and European partners, the event put a spotlight on driving tourism into the Emirates from the Australian and New Zealand markets.

Suppliers included tourism Portugal, Austria Tourism and plenty more.

A key update was delivered on the Emirates Dubai Stopover Experience program, which allows travellers to browse, create and book customised travel itineraries.

Agents also had the chance to win prizes, including educational trips to Italy, Malta, and Portugal, Dubai stopovers, and European partner experiences.

The airline is launching a new agent incentive on Mon 27 Oct.

The 10 highest selling registered agents who book clients on Emirates return tickets between

27 Oct and 19 Dec will win two tickets to one of Emirates' global sporting events in Europe or the US, including flights. *JHM*

Pictured: Dubai Experience Sales Manager Lucy Beckett and Emirates' Regional Sales Manager Dean Cleaver.

A luxurious Picnic

A CUSTOM luxury superyacht has been built for Picnic Island in Tasmania, offering transport for guests between the mainland and the exclusive luxury retreat.

"This vessel embodies our philosophy of quiet luxury, sophisticated engineering and thoughtful design that speaks quietly, but leaves a lasting impression," said Mark Israel, new co-owner of Picnic Island.

Due to the convertible design, the vessel can adapt to the weather conditions and also features an enclosed limousine configuration, so guests can enjoy panoramic views through floor-to-ceiling windows.

A sports figuration offers an open-air experience as well.

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the Sacred Valley, rich in Incan history, and stay in an eco-friendly Amazon jungle lodge for two nights, where you'll explore the lush rainforest and its diverse wildlife. Other highlights include a visit to Lake Titicaca, where you'll meet indigenous communities.

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