



Hong Kong debut

HYATT Hotel Corporation has announced plans to open the Andaz Hong Kong Central in 2027.

After inking a management agreement with Wing Tai Properties this week, the Andaz brand will make its debut in the popular Aussie outbound market, offering 125 rooms and suites, including premium options that will double as small event spaces.

Amenities will include an all-day restaurant, state-of-the-art training hub, and wellness centre.

FCTG sells off Cross

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) has freed up funds to further invest in its Horizon Three stable of businesses, making the call to sell its hotel management division Cross for an undisclosed sum (**TD** breaking news).

The FCTG arm includes Cross Hotels and Resorts and PT Bespoke Hospitality, representing more than 1,500 keys at 17 hotels across Thailand and Indonesia.

Commenting on the sale to South Korea's Sono International Co Ltd, Managing Director



Graham Turner said the divestment was not about poor performance, stating Cross is a "good business with solid foundations for future growth".

Rather the sale will allow FCTG to place a greater focus on other growth opportunities within its Horizon Three business network, Turner explained.

"For example, we recently announced plans to relaunch Topdeck as a small group tour operator (**TD** 26 Sep), catering for up to 18 travellers per trip and taking in new experiences and destinations," he added.

Other businesses in FCTG's Horizon Three division include Back-Roads, destination management company Discova, and Asia and Europe cycle touring business Grasshopper. **AB**

Moving voyages

SILVERSEA is inviting travellers to 'Make Memories that Move Them' by embarking on a voyage in its newly released 2027-28 collection, now on sale.

See **page nine** for more details.

Win premium Tokyo

ADVISORS can win a luxurious stay in Tokyo when they complete the updated Tokyo Tourism Expert Program by 12 Dec - find out more on **page 10**.



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Vietnam heats up

VIETNAM is becoming a favourite destination among Aussies, thanks to factors like increased flight accessibility - see an update from VN on **page 11**.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of news, our **Sustainability** page, a product profile from **Vietnam Airlines**, plus full pages from:

- Silversea
- Tokyo Tourism



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National plan needed to protect cruise

FEWER cruise ship visits in Australia has led to a significant \$1.11 billion year-on-year decline in economic output for 2024-25, a new financial assessment released today has laid bare.

The change in economic value represented a 13.2% drop on the previous year, according to the report commissioned by Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) and the Australian Cruise Association (ACA).

To reverse the concerning trend, CLIA and the ACA are now calling for a national action plan across all levels of government to reassert Australia's reputation as a destination of choice for cruise and make the local market more competitive with rival nations.

While both industry bodies stressed that the fundamentals of the cruise sector in Australia remain strong, a difficult regulatory environment and high operating costs remain ongoing



adverse factors that are dimming its maximum output.

"Cruise passengers spent more than \$1.82 billion around Australia last year, but this was down 5.9% because there were fewer ship visits," ACA CEO Jill Abel (**pictured**) noted.

"Australia needs to create a coordinated national approach to cruise tourism, bringing together all elements of government and industry, so that we can return to growth and maximise the benefits to local communities."

CLIA Managing Director in Australasia Joel Katz added the latest assessment confirmed the

industry is facing headwinds and that "action is needed" to create a better cruising environment.

Victoria recorded the largest reduction in economic impact, down by a third to \$424.8 million.

Testament to the sector's strong contribution, in 2024-25 cruise delivered \$7.32 billion in benefits to the national economy and supported around 22,700 Australian jobs.

During the latest period, cruise ships visited 56 ports and destinations around Australia (+14.2%), however the number of ship visits decreased by 2.7% to roughly 1,700 port days.

The average passenger spend per day on shore held steady at \$440 per person (-1.1%), with the largest beneficiary being the hotel and accommodation sector.

This segment received \$564.5 million (31%) of the spend, ahead of F&B (21.1%), shore excursions (13.4%) and retail (11.6%). **AB**

Travel Daily
ON LOCATION

MARINA BAY

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you from Singapore, where we will depart on a five-day cruise with Princess Cruises.

WE ARE at Marina Bay Cruise Centre today and checking in for the Medallion Class experience, as we prepare to embark on a wonderful five-day Malaysian getaway on board *Discovery Princess*.

Today, we will enjoy a ship tour with Meg Koffel and Alex Lund from the Princess team, then toast to our adventure during the Sail Away celebration on the top deck.

Meanwhile, dinner will take place at Catch by Rudi, followed by a fabulous show at the Princess Theatre, *Spotlight Bar*, a new production to Australia.

TGV Lyria
Mediterranean line 2026.



Rail Europe **TGV Lyria**

Hassle-free summer travel between Switzerland and Marseille

The summer seasonal TGV Lyria will return in 2026 with connections between Lausanne via Geneva to Marseille. In addition to the usual summer service between 28 June and 24 August, a daily TGV Lyria will run Thursday to Monday from April to October 2026.

Board the TGV Lyria at Marseille station, located in the city centre, and arrive at Geneva or Lausanne stations – slap bang in the middle of these Swiss cities. Marseille is just 3 hrs 43 mins from Geneva and 4 hrs 25 mins from Lausanne.

One train journey, seven cities; between Marseille Saint Charles and Lausanne, TGV Lyria calls at Aix-en-Provence, Avignon, Lyon, Bellegarde and Geneva Cornavin.

Save the date!
Ticket sales open on 12 November 2025

Book with Rail Europe



SE Asia deep dive

TRAVEL Daily has this week launched the latest issue of its special report series.

The new report explores the hidden gems of Southeast Asia, from the pristine beaches of Labuan Bajo in Indonesia to the charming villages of UNESCO World Heritage site Luang Prabang in Laos.

Cruising is also in the spotlight, as the industry embraces new ports across the region, offering passengers a range of new experiences from the Mekong to Port Kelang.

Jam-packed with features and news from the region, the report also includes interviews with execs like Travel Associates General Manager, Rachel Kingswell; Inside Travel's ANZ Trade Partnerships Manager, Shane Voss; Kim Minea, CEO of Cambodia Tourism Board; and Sherly Handjojo from the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

CLICK HERE to check it out.

FJ taps former VA boss

FORMER Virgin Australia boss Paul Scurrah has been appointed as the successor to Fiji Airways CEO Andre Viljoen (**TD** breaking news yesterday).

Commencing in the role on 01 Nov, Scurrah was most recently the CEO of Australia's largest private rail freight company Pacific National, and before that led VA for close to two years before Jayne Hrdlicka took over during the carrier's purchase by Bain Capital in the early stages of the pandemic (**TD** 15 Oct 2020).

Speaking with **TD** about his appointment, Scurrah said it was a "great privilege and honour" to take the wheel of Fiji Airways.

"There's been a lot of momentum built up by the board and by Andre [Viljoen], and my early focus will be to keep that momentum going," Scurrah said.

The incoming chief also pointed to the importance of Fiji Airways' recent decision to become a full



member of oneworld (**TD** 01 Apr).

"A key focus will be how we make sure that works really well for us, how can we work with our partners to ensure that we are growing in the right way and focusing on the right networks and routes," he said.

In terms of the roadmap for the onboard experience, Scurrah said Fiji Airways had been "punching above its weight".

"I will be making sure that I get my head around what is working and what's not working, and seeing what changes can or may need to be made over the next few months," Scurrah added. **AB**

Explora I to sail Oz

MSC Group's ultra-luxury Explora Journeys has confirmed its *Explora I* vessel will include calls to select Australian ports as part of future itineraries.

While the statement said more details would be revealed in due course, local updates to port data in Darwin and Melbourne show slots have been taken for *Explora I* to dock in 2029.

It is speculated the slots are part of an upcoming word cruise, but no details are yet confirmed.

AW day of the dead

ADVENTURE World has launched the 'Oaxaca's Day of the Dead' tour, a six-day small-group adventure showcasing the best of Mexico's famous festival.

Departing on 29 Oct 2026, highlights include a visit to San Martin Tilcajete to see how alebrijes (wooden spirit animals) are made, and a stop to learn more about Day of the Dead altar.

Regent

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Big opportunity for small groups

EXCLUSIVE

TRAVELLERS and the travel industry more broadly are seeking smaller groups, and Collette is delivering, as it focuses on crafting product that is more nimble than in years past.

Executive Vice President Global Sales Christian Leibl-Cote, speaking exclusively to **Travel Daily** on a recent trip to Australia, said many of the experiences guests are seeking today, such as smaller, less-touristy destinations, are not possible with larger, more cumbersome groups.

"You get much more flexibility with smaller groups...one of the things that you see going to the secondary cities, you can't be with a big group," he said.

"You're going to places where tourists don't typically go to - that's what small groups give you the opportunity to do."

Smaller groups also support the desires of Collette guests to travel



to larger destinations during shoulder season, when there are less tourists around.

"I don't want to go in Jul to Rome, I want to be able to go in Nov...you might be only to be able to support smaller groups at that time," Leibl-Cote explained.

This trip style allows Collette to incorporate more modern travel concepts into its itineraries, such as staying in boutique hotels, dining in smaller restaurants, and using public transit. **MS**

Pictured is Leibl-Cote with MD Karen Deveson.

SIA cooks up events

SINGAPORE Airlines has launched five exclusive KrisFlyer Experiences across the country in partnership with Mastercard, and hosted by Australian chef, restaurateur and TV presenter, Luke Nguyen.

Available to members of the carrier's loyalty program, the series of culinary events kick off in Brisbane on 03 Dec, followed by Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney in 2026.

For the opening event of the series, Chef Luke Nguyen will host an intimate culinary storytelling experience exclusively for 45 KrisFlyer members at his newest restaurant in Queensland, Fat Noodle at The Star, which is inspired by Asia's vibrant street food scene.

Each experience can be redeemed with KrisFlyer miles - book tickets for the Brisbane event **HERE**, or register interest in the events taking place around the rest of the country **HERE**.

Sell Fiji, infinitely

INFINITY Holidays has renewed its partnership with Tourism Fiji to bring exclusive offers, refreshed marketing tools, and inspiring new content to help agents sell Fiji.

The announcement follows the success of the duo's collaborations earlier this year (**TD** 21 Feb), which generated growth across both the Australian and New Zealand markets.

"This campaign is all about helping our partners feel the connection, excitement, and opportunity that come with selling Fiji," said Jo Rendall, Business Leader at Infinity Holidays.

Trade partners can access the new resources via a dedicated Fiji landing page **HERE**.



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Stirling scraps snow?

MOUNT Stirling Resort, an alpine resort in Victoria, could be forced to overhaul its winter operations due to ongoing financial troubles.

Alpine Resorts Victoria (ARV), which manages Mt Stirling along with the state's five other snow resorts, said there may be a change to the services offered at the property, which is located 35km south of Mansfield.

The 3,000-hectare resort, which features 68km of cross-country trails, currently offers skiing, snowboarding and tobogganing between Jun and Aug.

ARV GM for Mt Stirling Alan Arthur said the body has no plans to shut down Mt Stirling Alpine Resort but was "consulting with staff and volunteers in relation to proposed operational changes", and may conduct a wider consultation if appropriate.

"Mt Stirling has been operating with a financial deficit for many years and the aim of any potential changes is to maintain Mt Stirling as a nature-based destination, while reducing running costs and ensuring greater financial sustainability," he said.

ARV confirmed the resort's summer offerings, which include four-wheel-drive tracks, bush walking and mountain bike trails, will remain unchanged.



PHT injects more safety



PHIL Hoffmann Travel (PHT) has partnered with SA business National Pharmacies to launch an initiative to protect travellers.

The collaboration involves combining a new in-pharmacy travel vaccination service with PHT's planning expertise, giving their membership and customer bases exclusive benefits and discounts on travel and travel health products and services.

Bookings for the service can be made online and in person, and was launched at the PHT Expo over the weekend.

"Phil Hoffmann Travel is excited to partner with National Pharmacies as a fellow long-standing, iconic South Australian brand, offering expertise and genuine care," said Managing Director and CEO Peter Williams. "We see this partnership as an opportunity to further support our customers' experience, ensuring health and wellbeing are part of our service offering."

National Pharmacies Chief Pharmacist Bec Rogers is pleased that more travellers have access to its new service, which is located in 20 pharmacies.

"Our trained pharmacists go through travellers' destinations, planned activities, medical history, any specific health risks and then recommend the right vaccinations, medications and practical advice for good health care while on holiday," she said.

Pictured: PHT COO Michelle Ashcroft (left) & Rogers (right) with expo attendees. *JHM*

Six Senses agent deal

SIX SENSES FIJI is offering travel agents an additional 5% commission when making two bookings or more across its villas and residences.

The trade promo is available for booking dates between 01-15 Dec 2025, 04-31 Jan 2026, and 01-27 Mar 2026.



Window Seat

A GREAT Falls city commission candidate in Montana has been forced to admit his idea of creating a tourist attraction out of the homeless was a "harebrained" thought.

Pete Anderson stunned a crowd when he said it was time to make the "homeless issue into a homeless profit", suggesting the unhoused could be ushered into one spot and have signs erected sponsored by local businesses.

"What would bring in tourism is you could have a constant live market at all times," Anderson claimed.

While the candidate said he was just "spitballing ideas", he stood behind the notion of finding a model that provides housing and generates self-sustaining revenue rather than relying on grant funding.

Anderson said the idea was inspired by the 'poor farms' of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, where people with little means could work in exchange for food and shelter.



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Cruise cover pays off

WITH the peak cruise season just around the corner, NIB Travel is calling on passengers to remember to book their insurance ahead of time.

Last year, 1.32 million Australians enjoyed cruise holidays, a 6% increase on the previous year, according to a report from Cruise lines International Australia.

"Cruising is enjoying a cultural moment in Australia, and today's travellers are more informed and discerning than ever," said Dylan Wilkinson, Head of APAC and nib Travel Marketing.

"But being savvy doesn't stop at booking the perfect itinerary; it means making sure you have considered your needs and choosing the cover most suited to you," he added.

Since 2024, the highest amount that NIB travel brands have paid



out for a cruise claim is \$184,000.

Passengers may consider cover for the common disruptions that NIB has noted, such as cancellation cover for non-refundable, pre-paid transport or tour costs if they are cancelled or disrupted by severe weather, strikes, or a natural disaster.

The right kind of policy can also help cover emergency overseas medical expenses for events when guests become unexpectedly ill or injured.

Other common disruptions include lost, stolen or damaged luggage between ports or unexpected delays for flights, resulting in missing a cruise. *JHM*

HLO backs Ollie

HELLOWORLD Travel has pledged \$30,000 to Ollie's Echo, becoming the charity's first Platinum Corporate Partner.

Founded last year by Brisbane mum Mia Bannister in honour of her son Oliver 'Ollie' Hughes, Ollie's Echo is dedicated to raising awareness and preventing eating disorders in boys.

"Supporting Ollie's Echo is deeply aligned with our values of compassion and community impact," said Helloworld CEO and MD, Andrew Burnes.

MH booze ban?

A RURAL consumer group is calling for Malaysia Airlines to prohibit the sale of alcohol on its flights, citing religious and cultural reasons.

MH already restricts alcoholic drinks to flights over three hours, but expanding the policy to a blanket rule would harm the carrier's competitiveness, Malaysian tourism stockholders have argued this week.

ATIA UPDATE

from Jenny Le, National Manager Events & Corporate Partnerships



WHEN I started in this role in 2022, one of the many privileges I was excited about was the honour of planning, organising and

executing the NTIAs.

Whether it has taken place in Sydney, Melbourne, or Brisbane, it has been my responsibility to uphold the credibility of the awards and create a memorable gala dinner experience.

Whilst the dinner experience can be a hit or miss (yes, I've been told the room lighting was too blue - sorry), the highest standards for the judging process have remained uncompromised.

We've made it our mission to overcome scepticism about how a company's sponsorship might influence the results.

While their contribution covers the cost of running the event, it has no bearing whatsoever on the finalist and winner determination process - the two operate independently of each other.

The NTIA judging process has been built on merit, ensuring that every winner is determined based on their outstanding conduct.

And yes, I am best buddies with our NTIA sponsors - that is because they are amazing to work with - but if they decide to enter an award, it's still their responsibility to secure a nomination and go through the judging process like everyone else.

Let me be clear - there is absolutely no easy run for anyone in this process, including for our sponsors.

The integrity of the awards is not worth compromising and, hand on my heart, I can promise you that we have and will continue to invest the time and resources in the independence of the process to ensure this.

Another question that keeps popping up every year is: what did the winner do to win?

A fair question in and of itself, but it presents a challenge to us as the event organisers.

How do we call out their achievements without revealing their trade secrets?

If you have any great ideas, we're all ears and I encourage you to email me at NTIA@atia.travel or, if you'd prefer a degree of anonymity, speak to any of the NTIA Custodians.

Until then, I'm going back to cheering on the NTIA 2025 winners (congratulations by the way) and start planning NTIA 2026 in Melbourne for Sat 10 Oct.



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Blue Lagoon strikes a balance

MALTA has successfully combatted overtourism at its top attraction, Blue Lagoon - a natural wide pool in between the Comino Island and the island of Cominotto.

Popular for its clear turquoise waters, the swimming spot attracted up to 12,000 visitors at any one time during peak summer hours in 2024, putting its delicate ecosystems at risk.

To help protect the site, the Malta Tourism Authority introduced a new online visitor booking system on 01 May to regulate the number of visitors, whereby individuals or groups arriving by private or commercial vessels must pre-book using a free online system.

Using basic details, visitors can book one of three daily time slots; the system then generates a unique QR code for them to present to officials at Blue Lagoon's entry points, where wrist bands are issued to visitors.

Since its implementation, the system has reduced visitor concentration at the spot by 68%, allowing a maximum of 4,000 people at any one time.

"By controlling peak visitor numbers and spreading flows, the booking system is helping us embark on a journey to protect the Blue Lagoon and give visitors a better experience," said Carlo Micallef, Malta Tourism Authority CEO.

Malta's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Ian Borg, said the new system was "just the beginning".

"We shall persevere to strike the right balance, ensuring environmental protection while offering an enjoyable visitor experience."

VA flies towards net zero

VIRGIN Australia made "meaningful steps" towards its sustainability goals in FY25, achieving a 13% reduction in net Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity compared to an FY19 base year, and 5% lower than FY24.

The figures, revealed in the airline's latest annual sustainability report, put Virgin Australia on track to reach its goal of a 22% reduction by 2030 - a key step on its journey to net zero by 2050.

According to the company's new CEO, Dave Emerson, this was achieved mostly through fleet renewal and more efficient aircraft operations.

Virgin Australia acquired eight Embraer E190-E2 aircraft and took delivery of the first aircraft in early FY26, with the planes expected to reduce emissions by 30% compared to its retiring Fokker 100 fleet.

Last financial year also saw the company partner with Qatar Airways on a sustainability-focused Memorandum of Understanding, which sets out shared goals across key areas like sustainable aviation fuel, waste



and energy management, and sustainable procurement and workforce development.

At the same time, VA inked a SAF supply agreement with Viva Energy, conducting early trials between Mar and Jun.

Waste management was also an important focus for the airline, with notable growth under its Project Zero strategy, including the expansion of its inflight recycling from its WA operations to Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane airports.

Emerson acknowledged the carrier has "more work to do" in some areas, including the carrier's median gender pay gap, which he admitted "remains higher than where we would like it to be".

Read the full report [HERE](#). JM

RCG achieves a net-zero world-first

ROYAL Caribbean Group (RCG) has delivered the world's first zero-energy cruise terminal in Galveston, Texas.

The company recently announced that the Galveston Cruise Terminal (GCT) (pictured) is the first cruise terminal to formally achieve both Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Net Zero Energy and LEED Net Zero Carbon certifications for its ongoing operations.

The two new distinctions arrive on the back of RCG's existing LEED Gold certification for the design and construction of GCT, which began operations



in Nov 2022.

"Earning three prestigious LEED certifications in under three years is both a testament to Royal Caribbean Group's mission to deliver the best vacations responsibly and to the incredible drive of our partners, at SSA Marine, CodeGreen and the Port of Galveston," said Joshua Carroll, RCG SVP, Destination Development.



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With Amber Wilson, Director of Sales AUNZ, HX Expeditions

FOR more than 12,000 years, the Greenland Ice

Sheet has been the frozen heart of the Arctic, preserving a12 millennia of climate history within its layers. Now, new research published in *Nature Journal* shows that this vast ice mass is melting at an accelerating rate, with scientists warning it could be gone within a thousand years if current emission trends continue. Holding the equivalent of seven metres of potential sea level rise, its decline has global consequences, from rising oceans that threaten coastal communities, to shifts in weather and ocean circulation patterns that affect ecosystems worldwide.

As a company that explores these frontiers firsthand, HX Expeditions recognises both the privilege and the responsibility of visiting such fragile environments. Guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals, HX is investing in low-impact technologies, supporting Arctic research, and funding local community and conservation projects through the HX Foundation. HX now support 41 environmental, cultural and social projects in 11 different countries.

From reducing food waste and emissions on board to helping remove more than 450,000 kilograms of ocean-bound plastic through partnerships, every initiative reflects our commitment to protect the very places we explore.



MONEY

WELCOME to Money, *TD's* Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

AU\$1 = US\$0.656

THE Australian dollar started the week on the front foot, recovering from Fri's dip, pushing to a three-week high at .656 - just a few cents shy of last month's year-best mark.

The bounce came as the US dollar lost some steam, due to signs of easing US-China trade tensions, as well as growing bets on a Federal Reserve rate cut later this week.

Further gains in AUD/USD remain on the cards over the next 12 months, according to analysts, with negotiators from both Beijing and Washington suggesting a positive outcome is likely when presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump meet in South Korea on Thu.

China's top trade negotiator Li Chenggang told reporters the two sides had reached a "preliminary consensus", while the US' Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said there was "a very successful framework" in place, with little to no threat of extra 100% tariffs.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.656
UK	£0.491
NZ	\$1.135
Euro	€0.563
Japan	¥99.94
Thailand	฿21.40
China	¥4.663
South Africa	11.30
Canada	\$0.917
Crude oil	US\$61.30

TTNQ celebrates 50 years



TOURISM Tropical North Queensland's (TTNQ) 50th anniversary was in the spotlight at the 2025 Qantas and Jetstar TNQ Tourism Industry Excellence Awards last Thu.

Attendees included the organisation's first Chair George Chapman and first General Manager Bill Cummings.

"Over the past five decades there have been many visionaries and their legacy continues with Tropical North Queensland's tourism industry, developed by family businesses whose owners were proud to live and work in this region," TTNQ's current Chair, John O'Sullivan said.

"They understood that marketing the destination together was the way forward and this mantra of hunting as a pack set them apart from their competitors," he added.

Meanwhile, TTNQ Chief Executive Mark Olsen noted the organisation's long history as the oldest and largest regional tourism body in Australia.

"History is an invaluable teacher and so we pause in the 50th year of Tourism Tropical North Queensland to look back at five decades of passion,

innovation and resilience that have transformed Tropical North Queensland into the \$4.5 billion powerhouse of today," he said.

This year, the Robbie Bastion Award for Inbound Marketing was launched, paying tribute to the late industry leader. *JHM*

Pictured are the award winners: Back - Olsen; Tourism Minister Andrew Powell; Simon Rooke, Passions of Paradise; James Boettcher, FNQ Nature Tours; James Egan, Mount Mulligan Lodge; Tony George; Peter Woodward, Tropic Wings; and TEQ CEO Craig Davidson.

Front - John Morris, Cheryl Kelly, Megan Bell, O'Sullivan.

Ormina Port series

ORMINA Tours has launched its new Port Series, designed to help travellers extend their European river and ocean cruises with curated land experiences.

The Port Series offers 30 pre-designed or tailor-made packages, including new destinations such as Lisbon, the Algarve, Nice, and Tuscia.

Ormina's new product features include premium accommodation - more details [HERE](#).

Voyages graduates

VOYAGES Indigenous Tourism Australia has celebrated a milestone for the National Indigenous Training Academy (NITA), with 28 young Indigenous Australians graduating from the program at Ayers Rock Resort over the weekend.

The graduates all received Certificate III qualifications in Hospitality and hands-on experience at one of Australia's most iconic tourism destinations.

A celebratory event took place featuring a keynote address from Her Excellency the Governor-General of Australia and a special performance by Indigenous singer-songwriter Budjerah, with graduates, their families and community leaders in attendance.

Voyages also welcomed 27 new trainees on board last week, representing its largest new intake yet, including three Anangu students participating in a brand-new Certificate III in Tourism program.

DriveAway early

DRIVEAWAY has launched its Car-2-Europe earlybird leasing deals for next year, offering savings of up to \$535 at more than 30 locations across Europe.

The Car-2-Europe range features a wide variety of vehicles to suit all travel styles, with travellers able to score 16% off across a selection of Peugeot, Citroen, and DS models.

Limited earlybird offers are available, with travellers encouraged to secure bookings soon to ensure access to the best rates and vehicle options.

The offer ends 15 Jan - [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



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TOKYO

Tokyo **Tokyo** Old meets New

Complete the **updated** Tokyo Tourism Expert Program by 12 December 2025 and enter for a chance to experience a luxurious stay in Tokyo!

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Vietnam Becomes a New Favourite Destination for Aussie Travellers

Vietnam has rapidly become a top choice for Australian travellers thanks to its affordability, rich cultural experiences, diverse landscapes, and increased flight accessibility.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), travel from Australia to Vietnam rose by 54% in the first quarter of 2025 compared to the same period in 2019 — making it the fastest-growing Southeast Asian destination for Australians.

Vietnam offers a wider range of affordable options and a greater variety of local experiences — giving travellers more surprises and memorable moments.

Another key factor driving growth is the year-round appeal of activities

across the country, from cultural tours and nature escapes to beach holidays. Vietnam Airlines offers direct flights from Australia to major cities such as Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) and Hanoi (HAN), connecting onwards to an extensive domestic and international network

With direct flights from Perth to Ho Chi Minh City taking only around six hours, Vietnam feels closer than ever.

Reminder tips:

Please remind your passengers that travellers who hold an Australian passport are required to apply for a visa when visiting Vietnam. The processing time is approximately five working days.

Applications can be submitted [here](#)

	Economy	Premium Economy	Business
Perth – Ho Chi Minh City Return	From \$750	From \$ 1780	From \$3969
Perth - Europe Return	From \$1815	From \$ 3280	From \$7286