



JOURNEY BEYOND

Become a BEYONDER

Journey Beyond's ultimate mega famil is back, with multiple ways to win a place on a bespoke, all-inclusive 10-day itinerary valued over \$20,000 per person*.

Highlights include The Ghan Expedition, Outback Spirit Red Centre touring and Monarto Safari Resort, plus more exclusive experiences and champagne moments to be revealed!

MEGA FAMIL HIGHLIGHTS



The Ghan Expedition



Outback Spirit Red Centre Touring



Monarto Safari Resort

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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features five pages of news, a cover wrap from **Journey Beyond**, a product profile from **IndiGo**, plus full pages from:

- **Inspiring Vacations**
- **Tokyo Tourism**

Avoid Indo protests

TRAVELLERS visiting Indonesia should avoid large protests taking place across the country's major cities, including Denpasar, Bali, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT) has advised.

The demonstrations, which are over rising living costs and inequality, are causing disruption and impacting traffic, and have the potential to become violent.

Several lawmakers have already had their homes looted, prompting President Prabowo Subianto to cancel a trip to China to stay and address the crisis.

Freo is confirmed

PRINCESS Cruises will again set sail from Fremantle in 2027, a report in *The West Australian* over the weekend has confirmed.

The cruise line's new VP Asia Pacific Matthew Rutherford told the masthead that Princess is committed to Western Australia.

"We look forward to continuing to play a significant role in the growth of the cruise market in WA and supporting the beautiful regional towns, so watch this space," he said - more in **CW**.

APAC drives Hurti growth

HURTIGRUTEN has revealed that revenue generated by customers in Australia and New Zealand has outpaced its global growth average, with the cruise line reporting a 78% increase in local bookings for the latest financial period.

The pleasing growth in Aussie and Kiwi bookings were part of the brand's first financial report delivered since a restructure saw Hurtigruten split from its expedition division, HX.

Local revenue growth was driven mainly by increased demand for its core Original voyages, as well as a substantial surge in bookings for its premium



Signature voyages.

Hurtigruten said that both styles of cruising were the driving factors in the growth of its multi-country Nordic Tour packages.

The success has driven a 60% year-on-year increase in capacity for both escorted and independent tours, and has enabled the launch of new departures and expeditions in Norway and the High Arctic Svalbard region.

"Asia-Pacific is a key growth region for Hurtigruten," Managing Director APAC Damian Perry said.

"We're seeing strong momentum...for packaged tours that combine [Original and Signature] voyages with land-based exploration," he added. **AB**

CTM extends pause

SECURITIES for Corporate Travel Management (CTM) will continue to be suspended from quotation on the ASX until the company submits its preliminary financial report.

CTM suspended its share price last month after it spotted potential errors in its accounts, which will likely require a correction and republishing of its previous financial statements.

IndiGo goes global

ON THE back of a massive plane order, IndiGo has tasked The Walshe Group with growing its profile in Australia and New Zealand - details on **page eight**.

Kelsian asset interest

JOURNEY Beyond and NRMA's tourism division are the frontrunners to acquire a large portion of Kelsian's tourism portfolio, according to sources cited by *The Australian*.

When contacted for comment, a Journey Beyond spokesperson said it was "unable to provide any comment at this time".

"As Australia's leading and largest experiential tourism group, Journey Beyond continues to focus on delivering the most immersive...experiences across its growing portfolio of iconic brands," the company told **TD**.

NRMA also declined to provide any clarity on the rumours.

Flagged by Kelsian in Apr (**TD** 02 Apr), assets on the block include its K'gari (Fraser Island) resorts, SeaLink Sydney Harbour ferry service, *Murray Princess* paddle-wheeler, Adelaide Sightseeing, and SeaLink Western Australia.

Kelsian Group wants to focus on its bus and motorcoach assets.

Become a Beyonder

JOURNEY Beyond is enticing travel agents to win a place on its ultimate mega-famil for 2025.

The 10-day adventure is valued at over \$20,000pp and includes many highlights - see today's **cover page** for more information.

An inspiring flash

INSPIRING Vacations has cut 25% from a select range of its most popular itineraries, but agents will need to be quick as the offer ends Wed - see **page six**.

Win a Tokyo holiday

AGENTS can win a trip for two to the Japanese capital Tokyo by completing the newly updated Tokyo Tourism Expert program, with the prize including return airfares - head to **page seven**.

EST. 1994
CAPTAIN'S CHOICE

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All agents will earn 10% commission on *The Pioneering Spirit of the Kangaroo Route*.

14 days, Sydney to London, departs 3 Feb 2026, AU\$49,950 pp twin share.

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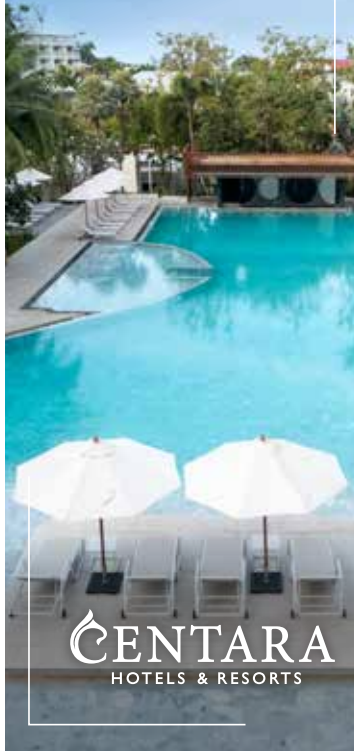
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Holly unveils pod

THE owner of HollyDay Travel has launched a new podcast called *Travel Business Unlocked*, which drops its first ep tomorrow.

Holly Velardo's new venture aims to support travel professionals and SMEs by sharing practical business tips.

THE PLACE TO BE IN PHUKET



CENTARA
HOTELS & RESORTS

Altura lands DMC clients

THREE established destination management companies (DMCs) have signed on as the newest clients for Brett Harvey's Altura Travel Group - the new venture from the former CATO Partnerships Head (**pictured**).

New to the fold include Vietnam-based Travel Neutral Collective and SGA Travel, a tour operator based in Turkiye.

The latest signings build on the arrival of Earthen Experiences, which engaged Altura Travel Group with representation duties earlier this month (**TD** 11 Aug).

Altura's partnership with

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Travel Neutral also includes four Vietnam hotels, Bach Suites Saigon, Amina Hoi An, Lantana Riverside Hoi An and Lantana Boutique Hoi An.

Harvey said he was proud to introduce his new partners, which mark the beginning of Altura's vision to bring more purpose-fit travel experiences to Australia.

"Our goal is to build a trusted network of DMCs that align with the expectations of Australian and New Zealand travellers," Harvey said. *ML*

Bonza backer bust

777 Partners, the Miami-based investment firm that was previously a backer of now-defunct Bonza, has been placed into limited receivership by a Delaware judge.

The ruling was made after the magistrate, Chancery Christian Douglas Wright, found the business in contempt for failing to adhere to previous court orders, which required 777 Partners to reimburse legal expenses incurred by its former CFO, Damien Alfalla.

The court rejected the investment firm's claims of being in financial distress.

CLIA sues Hawaii

CRUISE Line Industry Association (CLIA) has come out swinging against Hawaii's new 'Green Fee' (Hawaii's Act 96 2025) by filing a lawsuit.

The fee targets cruise ship operators and their visitors with an 11% surcharge on the gross fares paid by passengers, prorated by the portion of the cruise vessel's voyage spent docked, and is set to take effect in 2026.

According to submitted documents, CLIA maintained that Act 96 violates federal law multiple times while stressing the economic benefit that the cruise industry provides to Hawaii - namely nearly 3,000 jobs in 2023, a total economic impact in the state of US\$639 million, and approximately a US\$116 million contribution to state tax revenue.

CLIA also argued that Act 96 would "impose economic harm" on local businesses that depend on the cruise industry.

GA ups Melbourne

GARUDA Indonesia has increased its Denpasar to Melbourne flights for summer, moving from seven per week to 11, effective from 14 Dec.

Flights will operate on an Airbus A330-300 with GA710 departing DPS at 0820 and arriving in MEL at 1700 before returning to DPS at 1900 as GA711

GA718 departs DPS at 2020, arriving in MEL 0500 before returning as GA719 at 0700.

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The great TMC shift is here

OPINION

RIAAN van Schoor is the founder of the UK-based travel data platform for TMCs, Agentivity. Got an opinion to share? Let us know in up to 400 words via email to info@traveldaily.com.au.



FOR decades, the value proposition of the travel management company (TMC) has been clear: we book travel, issue tickets, and find fare savings.

Our pricing models, our language, and our core identity have all been anchored to these transactional functions, but in today's rapidly evolving landscape, clinging to this old identity is a roadmap to irrelevance.

The future, which is arriving fast, belongs to the travel servicing company (TSC).

The fundamental truth is that making a booking is no longer the unique skill it once was.

In an era of rising automation and direct access, the transaction elements of a TMC's job are becoming commoditised.

Yet, while the industry obsesses over distribution technology like EDIFACT versus NDC, your clients' expectations have shifted to a completely different plane.

They don't care about jargon, they care about their journey.

The modern corporate traveller expects a proactive service that begins where the old model ended - at the point-of-ticketing.

For a TSC, issuing the ticket isn't the end of the job; it's the beginning of the service mandate.

The real value lies in managing the entire travel experience, and solving problems before the traveller is even aware of them.

Imagine this service reality: A flight is delayed? An automated alert has already informed the hotel of a late check-in. A missed connection? We anticipated it based on airport data and have already rebooked the next leg of the journey.

The traveller hated their hotel room? It's instantly added to their dynamic profile, ensuring it's never booked again.

They forgot a suit for a big meeting? We arrange a hire one in their size at

the destination.

This is the tangible value clients are willing to pay for, and it is a shift from being a booking agent to a journey manager.

The technology to deliver this personalised, proactive service at scale exists today - what's missing is the mindset shift.

The question every TMC leader must now ask is 'what can we change in our operations, our pricing, to start delivering value like a TSC?'

“
Making a booking is no longer the unique skill it once was
”

SIA switches hubs

SINGAPORE Airlines will relocate its Singapore-Phnom Penh services from Phnom Penh International Airport to the new Techo International Airport, beginning 09 Sep.

The Asian carrier has advised there will be no changes to the flight numbers and scheduled timings of the services.

The new Techo International Airport is located around 23km from the south of Phnom Penh city centre (**TD** 14 Jul).

NZ bus tour plan

GLOBAL investment firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts is reportedly looking to sell its New Zealand-based bus business Ritchies Transport.

According to *DataRoom*, the firm has sent out requests for proposals to investment banks to weigh up options for the business, which it purchased for around \$458 million in 2021.

Ritchies is one of NZ's largest transport and regional tour providers, with a fleet of more than 1,600 vehicles.

QF names secretary

QANTAS has appointed Kate Towey, Qantas Group General Counsel, as Company Secretary, effective today.

In a move announced by the airline on the ASX this morning, Towey has been nominated as an additional person tasked with communication with the ASX.

G's agent-only sale

ADVISORS can enjoy up to 15% off G Adventures' best-selling UK and Europe tours, as part of the operator's latest agent-only sale.

On until 30 Sep for travel until 31 Jul 2026, the promotion features the 15-day 'Best of Greece' tour, now priced from \$4,759.

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2 Checked Bags (All cabins)

LE courting more advisors

LUXURY Escapes is on a mission to connect with agents, as it began its first-ever trade events this week in three states.

GM Tom McMenemie admitted that two years ago, Luxury Escapes was not “trade-friendly”, but has since evolved.

“We need to support you guys - we don’t want your customers, we want to give you product to give to your customers,” he said.

During the Sydney event, Luxury Escapes’ first trade Business Development Manager, Claire Bradley, expressed her love of agents, joking it was “like a new relationship”, where they are currently “holding hands [at] first base”, with hopes to eventually move to second, which would involve “a cuddle or a booking”.

Bradley also shared the highlights of the agent hub website (**TD** 04 Jun 25).

While deals are shown on both the agent and consumer sites,



they often remain longer on the hub, sometimes weeks and months, said Bradley (**pictured**).

Other features include the ability to create quotes and hold a booking for 48 hours, as well as develop marketing material.

Meanwhile, Head of Touring Josh Landy discussed Luxury Escapes’ touring offerings, which include guaranteed departures for a minimum of two; Signature tours with high-profile personalities; a “bonkers” 25-day private charter tour to Europe (**TD** 28 May); an agent fam to Vietnam (**TD** 01 Aug); and a \$2,000 agent incentive (**TD** 18 Aug). *JHM*

Pictured: Chris Brandon and Bradley plot their love offensive.

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One point Brisbane

VELOCITY Frequent Flyer will bring its popular 1 Point Rewards activation to Brisbane later this week, with the store to open for one day from 8am on 05 Sep at 121 Queen Street in the CBD.

Members can redeem a range of rewards for just 1 Point, such as holidays, appliances and other goods during the special event.

Thomas Cook India

TOURISM and Events Queensland has joined forces with Thomas Cook India and its affiliate Sind Oriental Travel Company to elevate the state’s profile among Indian travellers.

The partnership will spotlight Queensland both as a leisure and a MICE destination, with a special focus on sports tourism.

Queensland will be prominently displayed throughout Thomas Cook India’s digital platforms and retail network, also leveraging Sind’s travel marketing expertise.



Window
Seat

GOING to the restroom on an aircraft is never a particularly pleasant experience, but at least on most flights, the john is working.

That was unfortunately not the case on a Virgin Australia flight from Bali to Brisbane last week, with some passengers reportedly told to “urinate in a bottle” as an alternative.

Virgin told the *ABC* that the flight took off with one rear toilet out of service, before the remaining two lavatories became unserviceable an hour and 40 mins before landing.

“We will be crediting guests for the Denpasar to Brisbane flight and we are proactively reaching out to them to provide this update,” Virgin Australia said in response.



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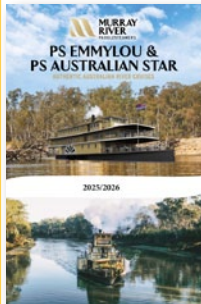
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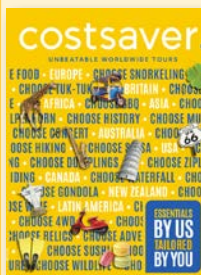
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Murray River Paddlesteamers 2025/26

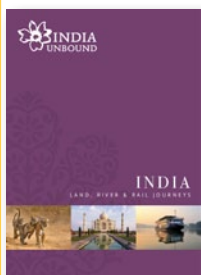
Anticipation is brewing on the Murray River ahead of the forthcoming debut of *PS Australian Star*, which will represent the pinnacle of luxury on the waterway when it debuts in Dec. This 22-page guide not only showcases the ship but also covers the range of itineraries currently available on the line's other ship, *PS Emmylou*. Readers will learn more about deck plans and the line's range of three-, four- and seven-night cruises, the onboard guest experience and inclusions. The brochure also

features details on Murray River Paddlesteamers' off-ship adventures.



Costsaver - Unbeatable Worldwide Tours 2025

Self-described as the ultimate unpackaged tour, Costsaver's product is touted as offering all the ease of a tour with the freedom to do your own thing. The tour operator's current guide features a world of itinerary options, from Great Britain and Ireland to the USA and Canada or South America, plus many more. Travellers can learn more about the Costsaver style and ways to tailor a tour through Choice Experiences. Tours are laid out in detail, complemented by colourful imagery.



India Unbound - Land, River and Rail Journeys

Across 104 pages, India Unbound's range of itineraries in the subcontinent are showcased in detail. India itself is clearly mapped out, with tours categorised by travel and accommodation style, with heritage hotels, B&Bs and luxury hotels all called upon. The most popular itineraries are prominently displayed, including the 'Classic Golden Triangle', which is available as both a six- or 11-day option for those seeking more depth.



Contours Travel - Latin America and Antarctica

The Latin American experts have put together an exhaustively detailed 100-page guide featuring the best of the region along with Mexico, Cuba, Central America and Antarctica. The Contours Commitment cites inspiration, expert knowledge, confidence and value as its core pillars and explain how each fits into every itinerary. Each journey is laid out across at least two pages, with a full day-by-day rundown with inclusions.

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VA parties in the sky



VIRGIN Australia surprised 170 travellers on board its Sydney to Brisbane service yesterday with a five million Velocity Points giveaway, in celebration of the carrier's 25th birthday.

In a game of pass the parcel, passengers unwrapped VA merchandise throughout the flight, with the final prize being one million Velocity Points - enough to redeem up to 11 one-way international business class reward seats.

No one left empty-handed, with everyone on board walking away with 25,000 Velocity Points - the equivalent of four one-way VA economy lite reward seats between Melbourne and Sydney.

The party continued upon landing in Brisbane, with birthday treats and a photo wall.

"For 25 years, Virgin Australia has been creating memorable experiences in the skies and today is a wonderful example of sharing that joy with our guests," said VA Chief Executive Officer Dave Emerson.

"A birthday is best celebrated together and we're thrilled to

mark this occasion with our incredible guests, who continue to be at the heart of everything we do," he added.

Virgin Australia has carried more than 200 million passengers since its first flight in 2000. *JM*

Southwest barrier

SOUTHWEST Airlines has operated its first service using a jet with a secondary barrier to the flight deck, designed to prevent intrusions.

The Boeing 737 MAX 8 flight from Phoenix to Denver on Fri marks the start of the roll out of the safety feature across the US in the coming years.

According to Reuters, Boeing and Airbus have begun delivering airplanes with the barriers under the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulation announced in 2023, which came into effect today.

The FAA agreed to give airlines until late Jul 2026 to put the barriers in newly delivered planes into use, with Southwest opting to comply immediately.

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Explore Vietnam's cultural highlights, beginning with Sapa's stunning mountain scenery. Enjoy a guided tour of Hanoi, an overnight cruise on Halong Bay, and experience the charm of Hoi An. Visit the Imperial City in Hue, then wrap up your journey in vibrant Ho Chi Minh city.



5-star hotels, including a luxury overnight Halong Bay cruise



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All internal flights and dedicated transport



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Small group, max 20 guests, fully escorted by expert guides



All internal flights and dedicated transport



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IndiGo goes global

INDIGO, India's fast-growing airline, announced the appointment of The Walshe Group as its General Sales Agent (GSA) for Australia and New Zealand in April.

Who is IndiGo?

IndiGo is India's largest and most preferred passenger airline and amongst the fastest-growing airlines in the world.

We demonstrate that low cost does not mean low quality. With our fleet of 400+ aircraft, we operate well over 2,300 daily flights, connecting 130+ destinations (of which 40+ are international), welcoming 118 million+ customers on board last year.

Huge expansion plans

We are rapidly expanding our fleet and plan to achieve a fleet size of over 600 aircraft and increase international capacity to 40% by 2030.

New Airbus A350 wide-body aircraft

will enter service by 2027 and Airbus A321XLRs by late FY26 to enhance its long-haul international routes to Europe and beyond.

Introducing Shubham

National Sales Manager, Shubham Gulati, is your point of call for all things IndiGo. Based in Sydney, Shubham has over 17 years of experience in sales and business development within travel and hospitality sectors.

Diversification of distribution: Now live on Amadeus NDC-X

From its inception, IndiGo has chosen innovation for all its distribution platforms. 6E is a non-EDIFACT carrier but offers agents many ways to connect and book flights and ancillaries. Apart from direct API connections for enterprise-scale connectivity, 6E is NDC ready and connected via Travelport and Amadeus NDC platforms, as well as major tech

providers such as TravelFusion and Verteil.

IndiGo also has a fully automated group booking tool giving you complete control over the booking management and payment process.

Find a quick-reference guide [HERE](#).

CODESHARE PARTNERSHIP WITH QANTAS AND JETSTAR

Attractive fares with generous baggage allowance from Australia to India are live and available on all 6E platforms. All major ports in Australia are covered, in most cases via Singapore's world-class Changi airport.