

## Save with Silversea

**ADVISORS** can secure savings of up to 40% per suite for their clients on Silversea voyages, for bookings made by 10 Nov. Additionally, travellers can enjoy reduced deposits starting at 15%. For more information about the offer, see **page nine**.

## SYD eyes big int'l growth

**RELEASING** its draft Master Plan 2045 today, Sydney Airport has anticipated significant international passenger increases, with 36.4 million expected in 2045, up from 16.3 million last year, thanks to passenger demand growing more rapidly than the general economy.

The volume rise is a boon to jobs and tourism if it comes true.

SYD believes the growth will largely be down to competitive airfares, low-cost carriers (LCCs) and changes to air rights increasing the number of leisure passengers flying in.

The international passenger forecast equals a 123% increase compared with today's figures, while domestic is anticipated to see a more modest 44% growth.

This means that by 2045, international and domestic traffic to SYD is expected to be essentially the same, with domestic pax at 36.2 million.

To accommodate the increase, SYD is embarking on major terminal upgrades - see **page 4**.

Cross-town competitor, Western Sydney International, has previously forecasted strong international growth as well.

In a government document, it



suggested that "demand could grow, particularly in international regular public transport, as residual capacity at Sydney Airport is used".

According to that report, it expected after five years it could serve around two million international passengers, growing to 19.5 million around 2050. *DF*

## Don't miss the Swiss

**ENTIRE** Travel Group has partnered with Switzerland Tourism to launch a new campaign highlighting the country's rail network and natural and cultural attractions.

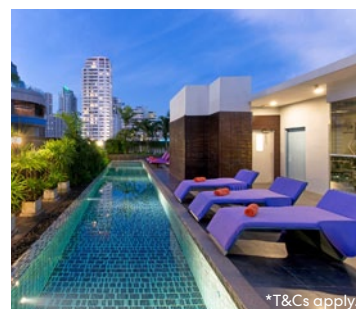
The 'Switzerland by Rail - Beauty in Every Curve' campaign promotes a wide range of itineraries, including multi-day rail journeys and city stays, ranging from two-night escapes to 15-day adventures.

The packages can be quoted and booked through Entire's website until 17 Oct, with savings of up to \$2,400 per couple - **CLICK HERE** for more information.

## Luxury Rail Week

**RAILBOOKERS** has announced its inaugural Luxury Rail Week, which runs from 15-21 Sep and showcases the world's most iconic trains.

Agents can join a live webinar on 24 Sep to learn more - see the **back page** for details.



## TAAP into Ascott Win 3-nights in Thailand

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TAAP until 30th Sep 2025

**Expedia TAAP**

## Today's issue of TD

*Travel Daily* today features eight pages of news, including our **Sustainability** page, plus a product profile from **Railbookers** and a full page from **Silversea**.



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## ET in talks with Melbourne

### EXCLUSIVE

**ETHIOPIAN** Airlines (ET) is in discussions with Melbourne Airport to bring its aircraft to Australia for the first time, **Travel Daily** can reveal.

A spokesperson for the hub said ET was one of several international carriers currently in talks to bring their services to its 24-hour gateway.

The development follows the African carrier in Jul signalling its intentions to expand its services to Australia (**TD** 08 Jul), at the time noting it was in the market to either buy or lease long-range jets, such as the Airbus A350 or Boeing 787, to make it a reality.

A spokesperson for ET told **Travel Daily** that it was unable to make any concrete announcements at this time, stating that "like most airlines we have a shortage of aeroplanes".

Despite supply chain issues, ET is looking to significantly expand



its fleet as soon as it can, with 65 aircraft on order, including 30 long-range aircraft: 11 Airbus 350-900s, 11 Boeing 787-900s, and eight 777-9s.

Part of why ET has become bullish on expansion could be linked to its home country's plan to build a new 'mega airport' south of the capital Addis Ababa, with construction expected to commence later this year.

The US\$10 billion Bishoftu International Airport has been billed by the Ethiopian Government as one of the largest and most advanced in the world, and one that will establish the country as a premier hub for African and global air travel.

Flights are scheduled to commence at the hub in 2030. **AB**

2026

**Endless Summer**  
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## Spencer's new digs

**SPENCER** Travel Holdings has thrown open the doors this week to its new office located in Mascot, Sydney.

"The day has finally come for us to start fresh in our new home, and after a busy weekend for some of our management team, (who were doing a re-enactment of *The Block* to get everything looking as perfect as you would expect from us), we are good to go," enthused the company.

To celebrate, MD Penny Spencer gave the team IV drips from their new next door neighbours, IV League Drips (**pictured**).

The new address is: Suite 603, Level 6, 1-5 Chalmers Crescent, Mascot, NSW, 2020.



## Adding river to rail

**RIVER** cruise line Uniworld and Golden Eagle Luxury Trains have added more details about combined itineraries for 2026, focusing on European destinations.

From Apr 2026, guests will be able to enjoy Uniworld's Paris and Normandy cruise, followed by the famed Golden Eagle Danube Express through central Europe to historic Istanbul.

"This partnership leverages complementary strengths, river access and rail travel through scenic routes, offering unique, hassle-free experiences like multi-country European adventures," said James Masterson, Product Development Director for Golden Eagle Luxury Trains.

"By aligning curated excursions, gourmet dining, and high-touch service, these journeys offer exclusive, culturally rich [tours] in style comfort and safety."

Packages are available to book now, from \$37,498 for the 14-day

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## ATAC's new board

**THE** Australian Travel Agents Cooperative (ATAC) has formalised its new board for another year.

Newly elected members of the executive include: Chair Jack Taylor, Performance Travel; Vice Chair Meg Hill, Cruise Express; CEO Michelle Emerton; Treasurer Ken Morgan, Two's A Crowd; Secretary Nicole King, Holiday & Cruise Centre; Holly Velardo, HollyDay Travel; Kirsty Eccles, Meridian Travel; & Scott Slattery, My World Travel Concierge.

Sandra Ferraro from Time 4 Travel in Qld did not seek re-election, and completes a six-year stint on the ATAC board.



## Carnival's new loyalty tack

**CARNIVAL** Cruise Line has made some key changes to its new loyalty program launching on 01 Jun 2026 after listening to feedback from customers.

Among the changes made, CCL has confirmed that guests who achieve Diamond status in the current VIFP Club by 31 May 2026 will receive the status through to 31 May 2032, as well as gain lifetime Diamond status in the Carnival rewards program.

Meanwhile, guests who achieve Platinum status by 31 May 2026 will receive a biennial boost of 10,000 Carnival Rewards status qualifying stars from 01 Jun 2026.

This will also occur in every two-year earning cycle thereafter.

For Aussies, CCL flagged that it is "actively exploring options" to offer more enhanced earning and rewards opportunities, likely in the style of its Carnival Rewards Mastercard eligible for US residents.



The tweaks follow strong criticism after CCL revealed the changes in Jun (**TD** 20 Jun), which replaced its 13-year-old loyalty program in exchange for a spend-based system that some customers argued would mean needing to pay more on board to maintain their elite status.

"We have spent the summer talking with our guests, listening to their comments and taking in their feedback, and as a result, I am happy to share that we are making changes to improve the offering to our most loyal customers as we get ready for the program's launch in 2026," said Christine Duffy, CCL President. **AB**

## A4ANZ nabs VA exec

**AIRLINES** for Australia and New Zealand (A4ANZ) has announced Stephen Beckett as its new CEO, effective 20 Oct.

Beckett (**pictured**) is set to replace Emma Wilson, who will step aside after 12 months in the leadership role.

"Stephen brings exceptional experience across aviation, tourism and transport policy, with intimate knowledge of the strategic and operational challenges facing our industry," said A4ANZ Chair Graeme Samuel.

Based in Brisbane, Beckett joins the airline lobby group from Virgin Australia, where he managed the carrier's government and industry affairs.



## Enjoy more for longer!



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1 October 2025 to  
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Last first day of validity:  
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**Travel Daily**  
ON LOCATION

**BALI**

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy of **TravelManagers**, which is hosting its annual conference at **The Westin Resort, Nusa Dua, Bali**.

**THE** annual TravelManagers conference begins in earnest today, with hundreds converging on Nusa Dua in Bali for three days of learning, networking, and celebrating.

Today will also see the trade show open, with this year's supplier delegation outpacing even 2024's high water mark.

The highlight of the day will be tonight's welcome function, which will see attendees don their version of "a touch of Bali" for a celebration at the resort's Seaside Garden.

## An Olympic-level change

A **PROPOSED** expansion project joining Sydney Airport's T2 and T3 Terminals will be the most significant development at the hub since the 2000 Olympics Games, Chief Executive Officer Scott Charlton has claimed.

Detailed in the airport's Master Plan for 2045 (see **page one** for more details), the terminal upgrade will create an entirely new precinct, bringing together regional, domestic and international passengers and services under one roof.

The project will deliver up to 12 new international gates, alongside two additional gates at T1, a move that SYD's chief said is designed to provide greater capacity, smoother connections for passengers, and added efficiency for airlines.

Capacity for domestic and regional airlines will also be expanded under the plan.

While international arrivals



will continue to be separated from domestic passengers in line with security and border control requirements, the terminal development plan has pledged shorter processing times through added smart technology.

Arrival and baggage claim halls may also be expanded with additional units to meet expected increases in demand.

New airside transfer services have been flagged as well, with a dedicated shuttle corridor to be created for seamless connections.

**Pictured:** Renders of the mooted terminal project. *AB*



## Window Seat

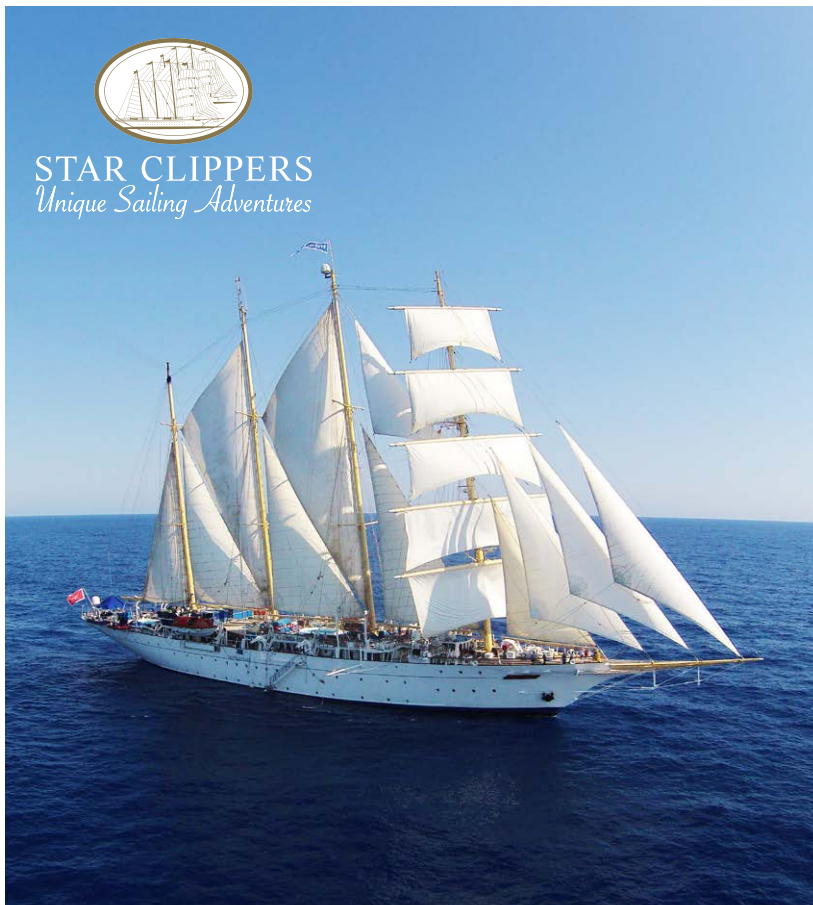
**WHO** ever dared suggest that consolidation services can't be a major party brand?

Certainly not us, and now we have some excellent proof.

CVFR Travel Group has provided a flavour of what to expect at its NTIA after party in Brisbane this year, from high-energy tunes to a more chilled leisure deck area.

We just hope this DJ **pictured** below is on the turntable - don't tease us please.

Watch a sample video **HERE**.



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Tuesday 16th September 2025

## NZ launches aviation plan

**NEW** Zealand will embark on a multi-pronged plan to position its aviation sector for long-term sustainable success via a newly launched Aviation Action Plan.

Unveiled this morning by Associate Transport Minister James Meager, the strategy is comprised of many facets, including a pledge to strengthen consumer rights and improve accessibility for travellers.

In line with New Zealand's effort to hit net zero carbon emissions by 2050, the government will also contribute to a Bioenergy Australia process on regional sustainable aviation fuel supply chains, including providing advice to the Jet Zero Council.

This work will include further studies into the viability of electric aircraft on regional routes to reduce operating costs.

Minister Meager said the plan is a first for New Zealand.

"It's a practical roadmap that

tackles challenges facing aviation, including the need to embrace growth and innovation, and build a skilled and sustainable workforce," the minister said.

Other key elements of the plan include securing the future of regional routes by investing in small airlines and assisting them to develop interline agreements.

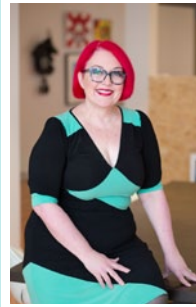
The government will also work to tackle workforce issues by streamlining pilot and engineer training pipelines and promoting careers in aviation.

Minister Meager said capacity issues in the southern corner of the North Island will be addressed by making the making the Royal New Zealand Air Force base in Ohakea, near Palmerston North, available as a spare runway for wide-body aircraft.

The plan was created by govt in partnership with industry via an Interim Aviation Council - more sustainability news on **p7. ML**

## ATIA UPDATE

from LJ Loch, Director of Communications and Media



**HAVE** you ever wondered how to get coverage in mainstream media? The kind of story that puts your business in front of

thousands or even millions of Australians without spending a cent on advertising?

That is exactly what ATIA's Media Roster is designed to do for our members.

Advertising has its place.

It builds profile and keeps your brand visible - but earned media goes one step further.

When your business is featured in trusted outlets, it carries a credibility and authority that advertising alone can't match.

At ATIA, we are delivering both, thanks to our media partnerships and our strong industry voice.

Take the NTIA People's Choice Award campaign with the News Travel Network.

It's been running across major

metro mastheads and digital platforms, reaching more than 6.8 million Australians a month.

That is generating huge exposure for ATIA accreditation and for our members.

The Media Roster builds on that kind of momentum and brings it down to a member level.

By joining the roster, you put yourself in line for inclusion in ATIA's regular media releases on destinations, travel insights and industry stories.

You will also be considered when journalists come to us looking for expert commentary or local colour for their stories.

It's a fantastic way to get your brand out there, highlight your expertise, and remind travellers why choosing an ATIA-accredited provider makes sense.

And the best part? It's completely free - all you need to do is tell us you're keen.

If you've ever thought "I'd love to see my business in the paper or online", now is your chance.

Join the Media Roster, grab the spotlight, and let ATIA help you share your story with the nation.



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Contact [melrba@rba.com.bn](mailto:melrba@rba.com.bn) for more information. 6% Commission can be claimed on any BI672 ticket issued to any destination for any departure date on Royal Brunei published gross fares issued between 15 September and 10 October 2025 inclusive. Must be claimed via BSP at point of sale. Terms and conditions apply.

## Agents indulge in Bali



A **SELECT** group of lucky agents from TravelManagers have wrapped up a three-day fam in Bali ahead of the remote agency network's annual conference now taking place on the island.

The trip was hosted by luxury five-star beach resort Cap Karoso's Aristo Wibisono, and Anouck de Monts and Craig Farrell from the hotel's Australian representative, La Collection.

During the adventure, guests enjoyed the resort's culinary offerings at its beach club and many restaurants, explored traditional local villages, swam in the Weekuri Lagoon, and snorkelled on board the resort's private boat.

Highlights also included a tour of Cap Karoso's three-hectare biological farm, which provides the resort's restaurant with fresh ingredients, as well as an indulgent reflexology massage at the Malala Spa.

## Radical sabbaticals

**MORE** than half of Australians are willing to take unpaid leave to embark on a 'radical sabbatical' - a rising trend in which travellers take regular one- to three-month breaks from work in order to recharge and see the world.

According to research commissioned by Explore Worldwide, 60% of Australian workers said they feel stressed at work, with one in three conceding they do not get enough time to rest and recover.

Seventy-two percent agreed that sabbaticals should be a standard workplace benefit, and among those considering one, three in four plan to take a trip within the next two years.

Europe is top-of-mind for sabbatical-takers, as well as active treks and nature-based escapes, with the 45- to 54-year-old demographic leading the shift.

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Travel Daily

## Ancillary boom for LCCs

**ANCILLARY** revenue is contributing to over 50% of the revenue of a number of budget airlines, a new report from IdeaWorksCompany has revealed.

In its *2025 Yearbook of Ancillary Revenue*, the company stated that Allegiant (52.9%), Breeze (54%), Volaris (55.3%), Spirit (58.7%) and Frontier (62%) were the most successful airlines in terms of ancillaries contributing to their overall earnings.

Other budget airlines that ranked highly on the same list were Wizz Air, Volotea, EasyJet and Viva Aerobus, although none of them cracked the 50% mark.

"Joining the top 10 list requires maximum effort to generate big cashflow from two crucial categories: baggage and assigned seats," said Jay Sorensen, President of IdeaWorksCompany.

"These airlines focus on limiting larger carry-on bags through policies and fees.

"Best-performing carriers are



also keen to adopt revenue management methods for pricing assigned seats to increase or lower fees based upon consumer demand," he added.

The report analysed 61 airlines to get the results and found that, when compared to 2030, there was a 2.5% increase in ancillary revenue per passenger. *DF*

## Linking Chris Hall

**LINKD** Tourism has brought on board industry veteran Chris Hall as Account Director, overseeing commercial growth initiatives for partners, including destination management, DMCs and more.

Hall will relocate to Burleigh Heads in Australia from Riyadh after opening the ANZ offices for the Saudi Tourism Authority.

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## HX/UTAS expand

**HX HAS** announced it will expand its partnership with the University of Tasmania (UTAS) that saw it combine with the University's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) to develop the world-first Antarctica educational program.

The program began last year and offered travellers the opportunity to pair visiting Antarctica with academic insight and scientific knowledge.

Since its launch, over 2,250 travellers have registered for the HX program, which has led to the expansion in two distinct online learning tiers.

'Part 1: The Introductory Course' will be available to all guests as a flexible online overview of the White Continent, designed to spark curiosity and prepare travellers before, during, or after their individual voyage.

It is free to all travellers booking and travelling to Antarctica with HX.

'Part 2: The Comprehensive Course (with fee)' provides a deeper dive into Antarctic science and sustainability and is available year-round with UTAS accreditation, allowing participants to earn credits towards future study.

The updated introductory course will be launched at the end of Oct. *DF*

## SYD to master climate

**SYDNEY** Airport's Master Plan 2045 has revealed its sustainable goals for the decades ahead, including Net Zero operational emissions (Scope 1 & 2) by 2030.

The draft plan, released today, announced that by Jan 2026, the airport would be 85% of the way there, with 100% of its operations powered by renewable electricity.

In order to achieve the targets, SYD has outlined energy efficient projects including lighting, heating, ventilation and cooling; gas efficiency initiatives and the exploration of options to degasify or use renewable gas supplies; the conversion of light service vehicles to EVs; and a decarbonising bus fleet.

The Master Plan 2045 also outlines support for the use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and advocating for a domestic renewable fuels industry.

The plan stated that in May 2025, SYD helped import almost 2 million litres of SAF, the largest in



Australian history.

Also included is a five-year Airport Environment Strategy which takes into account pollution management across air, water, noise and contamination, as well as protection of flora, fauna and heritage, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

SYD noted that it worked closely with the Gujaga Foundation and through its Reconciliation Action Plan to respect cultural heritage of the land it was on. *DF*

## Greener Cathay

**HONG** Kong-based carrier Cathay Pacific has been lauded for its sustainability credentials, after it was named winner of the Full Service Carriers category in the 2025 Sustainability Awards by Airline Ratings.

Among many of the sustainable promises the airline has made is the reduction of its reliance on single-use plastics (SUP), with a pledge to cut the use of passenger-facing SUP items from 7.7 pieces per passenger in 2019 to 1.5 pieces by the end of 2025.

Cathay General Manager Sustainability Grace Cheung said, "We are honoured to be recognised for our endeavours as we continue to chart a path forward with sustainability leadership at the forefront."

## Aurora achieves bio fuel win with HVO

**AURORA** Expeditions has successfully completed its first biofuel trial using *Sylvia Earle* (pictured), a purpose-built expedition vessel.

The vessel became the first Infinity-class ship to trial hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO), a sustainable biofuel made out of used cooking oil.

Having bunkered HVO in

Valencia, Spain, *Sylvia Earle* then operated for several days along the Spanish coastline running on 100% HVO.

According to the fuel's Proof of Sustainability certification, this resulted in an estimated 90% reduction in fuel-related greenhouse gas emissions compared with conventional marine fuel. *DF*

## Climate warriors

**SIX** Senses Fiji has launched its Climate Warrior Program, an initiative designed to inspire and empower younger guests to engage with the environment in a fun, educational and transformative way.

The program follows a three-part format and is designed for kids between the ages of 6-13.

Highlighted activities include climate action bingo, planting native trees, discovering 'bug hotels', & quick shower contests.



## THE HEART OF SLOW TRAVEL

*Regent Seven Seas Cruises' Lisa Pile shares her favourite experiences.*

**» CLICK HERE TO READ**

Travel Daily

## MONEY

**IN** Money this week, could the AUD start to hit levels against the USD not seen years?

**AU\$1 = US\$0.667**

**AUSTRALIAN** travellers rejoice, the dollar is on the move north thanks to the expectation that the US Federal Reserve is about to take the knife to interest rates multiple times over the next 12 months, according to several reports.

Wed US time will be the crunch period, with the Fed expected to make its first cut by a quarter of a percent.

"That often means that the Australian dollar will lift, not just against the US dollar, but against more or less all the major currencies," Commonwealth Bank Head of International Economics Joseph Capurso told the *Australian Financial Review*.

The current value against the USD is the highest that has been seen so far this year and hasn't been this high for almost 12 months.

It bodes well for outbound travel, with the ability to exchange now or hold for more increases in the future.

*Wholesale rates this morning.*

US	\$0.667
UK	£0.490
NZ	\$1.118
Euro	€0.567
Japan	¥98.33
Thailand	฿21.22
China	¥4.750
South Africa	11.585
Canada	\$0.919
Bitcoin	0.000005761

## Marvellous Egypt



**TRAVELMARVEL** has offered a first look at its new Egypt river ship, *Travelmarvel Sirius*, which signals the brand's return to the Nile River.

The vessel will set sail from Sep 2026, boasting a design that blends contemporary style with Egyptian influences, featuring 62 elegant cabins, a large pool (pictured) and social spaces.

From her home port in Luxor, *Travelmarvel Sirius* will visit Egypt's most iconic sites,

including Dendera, Karnak, Esna, Edfu, Kom Ombo, and Aswan, during a seven-day Nile cruise, which includes a private charter flight to Abu Simbel.

"We're incredibly proud to not only return to Egypt but also offer the best-value program on the Nile, with more inclusions at a more relaxed, immersive pace," said Travelmarvel CEO David Cox.

"The Nile is one of the most legendary waterways in the world, and with *Travelmarvel Sirius*, it embodies our understanding that premium travel is defined by thoughtful design, attentive service, and carefully crafted experiences that allow guests to connect with the Nile in a way that feels effortless and rewarding."

As a special preview ahead of the official Egypt 2026 program launch in Oct, Travelmarvel has released the 11-day 'Treasures of Egypt and the Nile' itinerary early, now available to book.

Prices start at just \$6,395 per person with earlybird savings of up to \$4,600 per couple - find out more [HERE](#). *JM*

## Thai flight compo

**TRAVELLERS** to Thailand who face flight delays or cancellations are now eligible for increased compensation.

For delays of more than five hours, compensation doubles to 1,200 baht, while cancellation payouts rise to 1,500 baht.

The regulations also mandate improved services during tarmac delays, including toilet access, air con and medical aid if required.

Travellers will also be allowed to disembark if delays exceed three hours without a takeoff time.

## Egyptair connects

**TPCONNECTS** has announced the launch of Egyptair's NDC content on its travel aggregator platform, Iris.

Travel advisors and corporate clients can now access the Egypt flag carrier's complete NDC offering via the platform, alongside traditional EDIFACT, as well as void/refund capabilities.

"This strategic partnership with TPConnects enhances the ability of Egypt's flag carrier to deliver NDC content to a wider network of travel providers," said Amr Adawy, Egyptair VP Commercial.

## Earn 5% on Swiss

**TRAVEL** agents can now earn 5% commission on all Swiss Travel Pass sales when they join Rail Europe's affiliate partner program before 31 Dec.

There are currently free extra travel days on offer for travellers who book a four- or eight-day first-class Swiss Travel Pass, making it the ideal time to sell this popular product to clients.

Agents can download the onboarding guide [HERE](#).

## Get 6E to the Greek

**INDIAN** airline IndiGo and Greek carrier Aegean have signed an MoU for a new codeshare partnership, which will seek to increase connectivity for passengers across their combined networks between India, Greece, Europe and South Asia.

IndiGo will begin operating six weekly direct flights to Athens from Jan 2026, while the Greek airline will launch five weekly services to Delhi, followed by three weekly flights to Mumbai.





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\*Terms & conditions apply





## Luxury Rail Week 15-21 September

**RAILBOOKERS** is proud to launch its inaugural Luxury Rail Week, running September 15-21 2025.

This new annual celebration showcases the world's most iconic trains, offering advisors and their clients the chance to experience the golden age of rail, reimagined.

From white-glove service on the **The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express** to panoramic views aboard **Rocky Mountaineer's** GoldLeaf Service, every journey is designed with flexibility in mind. With departures available up to two years out, advisors can confidently meet the diverse needs of today's luxury travellers.

To mark the exciting celebration, travellers can enjoy an additional \$600 per couple on select departures aboard

legendary trains including the **Belmond Royal Scotsman, Andean Explorer, Rovos Rail** and **The Glacier Express Excellence Class**.

Luxury Rail Week also reflects what today's travellers are actively seeking in their holidays.

These journeys are more than just train rides - they deliver immersive experiences with curated excursions, elegant accommodations, and cultural encounters that bring each destination to life.

At the same time, rail travel aligns perfectly with the growing demand for slow and sustainable travel, allowing guests to journey in comfort while minimising their footprint.

With rail emerging as one of the hottest travel trends for 2026,

Railbookers is here to help advisors capitalise on the momentum.

From expert guidance and instant quotes to 24/7 emergency support and plug-and-play marketing resources in the toolbox, advisors have everything they need to grow their rail business.

Looking ahead, don't miss the LIVE webinar on September 24: 'Selling the world by rail - What's new and next for 2026'. This exclusive session will provide insights into future trends, product updates, and sales strategies designed to set advisors up for success.

[Register Here](#)

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