

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features six pages of the latest travel industry news.

People's Choice is in

FINALISTS in the National Travel Industry Awards' (NTIAs) People's Choice Award have been revealed, after a partnership between The Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) and News Travel Network attracted strong nomination interest.

The candidates vying for the coveted honour are: Elyse Palmer, TravelManagers; Expedition Cruise Specialists; Flight Centre; Intrepid Travel; and Sisterhood Womens Travel.

"We have been thrilled with the response to this year's campaign, which has not only showcased the passion of travellers, but also reinforced the value of booking with an ATIA-accredited agent, tour operator, or cruise line," ATIA CEO Dean Long said.

Around 104,000 unique views and more than 220,000 page visits to a dedicated competition page were garnered by the collaboration with ATIA.

The competition gained national exposure through News Corp Australia's various print and digital channels.

Aussies tapped out?

FIJI Airways' outgoing CEO Andre Viljoen is bullish on further US growth, but has conceded there may not be much room to grow in Australia, *Travel Weekly By Northstar* has reported.

Australia and New Zealand currently account for around 70% of Fiji Airways' traffic, with 20% attributed to US travel.

G unveils premium tours

G ADVENTURES and National Geographic Expeditions have revealed a new venture catering for high-end travellers.

Bookings for the new National Geographic Signature with G Adventures collection will open in Jan next year for a debut departure date in Jan 2027.

Close to 30 trips will be on offer across South Africa, Vietnam, Japan, central Asia, Peru and Jordan, boasting a range of premium features that focus on cultural & destination immersion.

All of the curated tours will include destination experts, as well as 'Signature Moments' such as exclusive behind-the-scenes access to museums, historic sites and dining settings.

In line with G Adventures' mantra of giving back to the communities it visits, the upcoming luxury range will seek to go beyond the traditional focus on comfort and exclusivity, and also inject meaningful benefits for local communities.

"National Geographic Signature with G Adventures is about so much more than just high-end accommodations - these trips offer transformational adventures and present travellers with the opportunity to see and experience a destination in a way most travellers can't," founder Bruce Poon Tip explained.

"[The trips] will create lasting benefit for both the traveller and the communities they visit.

"The launch...also poses a huge opportunity for our community of travel agents, as we bring this incredible offering to our global markets, as it allows agents to offer their most discerning clients



an experience that satisfies both their intellectual curiosity and desire to contribute positively to the world," Poon Tip added.

Find out more details [HERE](#). AB

TM names partners

TRAVELMANAGERS has appointed two members to its business partnership team.

Olivia Glover and Lucy Hunter will look after PTMs in Victoria and South Australia respectively, running one-on-one sessions, local cluster meetings, as well as regional meetings and a host of training programs.

Glover was most recently a BDM for Cathay Pacific, and before that had worked with Sabre and numerous retail travel brands.

Meanwhile Hunter also brings plenty of travel experience to the table, including a stint as a BDM for Express Travel Group.



The new face of BC

DESTINATION British Columbia has unveiled six new destination brands under a broader refreshed Super Natural British Columbia (SNBC) parent banner.

Advisors can join a webinar on Wed 01 Oct at 8.30am and 12pm AEST to learn more about the new brands, as well as key updates about the US destination.

Travel topics to be covered include the Rockies, vineyards, coastlines, adventure travel and much more - register [HERE](#).

FLASH SALE

INSPIRING VACATIONS

SPRING INTO SAVINGS

30% OFF YOUR FAVOURITE TOURS

ENDS THU 2 OCT

BOOK TODAY

T&Cs apply. Select tours only.

NEW TOUR

CHRISTMAS ON THE MEKONG

20 DAYS FULLY INCLUSIVE CLASSIC TOUR

Siem Reap | Mekong Cruise | Saigon | Hoi An | Hanoi | Halong Bay | Hanoi

DISCOVER MORE



Wendy Wu Tours

Travel intent not in bloom

WHILE the majority of Australians are planning to travel during the upcoming spring school holidays, the number has dropped since last year, according to fresh data from the Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF).

The nationally representative survey of 1,546 Australians conducted earlier this month found that 67% of people are planning to travel this spring - down from 71% in spring 2024.

Cost was cited as the biggest barrier for travellers these school holidays, with 44% of Aussies - particularly younger generations - stating it as their main obstacle.

Other barriers to leisure trips this spring include getting time off work or study (14%) and family commitments (13%).

Concerningly, half of all respondents expect that cost will be their biggest roadblock to travel in five years' time.

Forty-one percent of those



planning a spring holiday intend to spend less than \$2,000 on their entire trip, while 36% have budgeted to spend between \$2,001 - \$5,000 (down 3% from previous survey).

Most (55%) respondents are opting for a domestic trip, with one in five planning to head interstate, while 35% will remain within their own state borders.

"Aussies have pinpointed cost as the single biggest barrier for planning a holiday," said TTF Chief Executive, Margy Osmond.

"However, despite the pinch, most Australians are still booking trips this spring.

"If they have spare change, it will be put towards travel." JM

VIEW DEAL

W MWTOURS
South Korea
EXPRESS

PRICES FROM
\$3,499
PER PERSON TWIN SHARE
LAND ONLY
*Surcharges may apply

DURATION: 8 DAYS

Ritz goes on safari

THE Ritz-Carlton has opened its maiden safari camp in Kenya's Masai Mara National Reserve.

Featuring 20 elevated tents near the border of Kenya and Tanzania along the Sand River, the Ritz-Carlton, Masai Mara Safari Camp is an all-inclusive experience, with each tent featuring a private plunge pool, outdoor showers and a stargazing deck.

The property features three dining venues, hybrid indoor and outdoor lounges and hand-carved wooden furnishings crafted by local artisans, and is entirely solar powered with a closed-loop water treatment system.

Guests can also enjoy twice-daily game reserve drives and access to hot air balloon rides.



Jayride Thai deal

JAYRIDE has entered an SAAS agreement with Thai peer-to-peer car-sharing platform Drivemate, with the partnership set to build a complete mobility ecosystem in the Southeast Asian market.

Following a trial (**TD** 15 Sep), the agreement will see Jayride design, build, and deploy a platform to power its new partner's next-generation mobility offering.

The solution will include mobile apps for renters and hosts, a management console, and integrated payments and insurance APIs.

An initial phase will see more than 2,000 vehicles in Bangkok kick off the program, followed by a national roll-out to Phuket, Pattaya, and Chiang Mai over the next 12 months.

Jayride Chief Executive Officer Randy Prado said the move validates the company's shift from an aggregator marketplace to a full SAAS mobility provider.



EARN
Double
COMMISSION

15 September – 10 October 2025

Royal Brunei Airlines will increase BSP commission to 6%



Contact 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.



Europe braces for chaos

THE first few weeks of Oct are shaping up to be heavily disruptive for air traffic across several major travel markets, including France, Italy, Greece, and the Netherlands.

Various unions are calling for better pay and working conditions, with Wed to see a nationwide strike in Greece affecting the number of flights at major hubs - including Athens International (**pictured**).

Air traffic controllers joining the industrial action has led to Aegean Airlines and Olympic Air



proactively offer flexible options for its passengers, including fee-free ticket changes and credit vouchers for future travel.

KLM ground staff at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam will also strike for eight hours on 01 Oct, expecting to cause delays and cancellations mainly for KLM, but also for carriers like Delta Air Lines which operate via Schiphol.

Disruptions will also be felt on 02-03 Oct in Italy, as airports in Milan, Bologna, and Pisa see airline crews and airport workers strike over contracts.

Budget carriers Volotea and Wizz Air Malta are set to be the most affected by the strikes.

France will also see another phase of flight cancellations between 07-10 Oct.

Paris Charles de Gaulle, Nice, and Lyon will be impacted. **AB**

Princess' Star rises

PRINCESS Cruises has officially taken delivery of its highly anticipated second Sphere-class ship, *Star Princess* (**TD** 17 Jul).

The handover ceremony took place at the Fincantieri Shipyard in Italy last Fri, with the 4,300-guest ship to now begin final preparations ahead of her debut in the Mediterranean.

Star Princess will depart on her inaugural sailing on 04 Oct - an 11-day Western Mediterranean roundtrip cruise from Barcelona - before crossing the Atlantic to begin a season of Caribbean voyages from Ft. Lauderdale on 07 Nov.

Following her Caribbean season, she will sail through the Panama Canal heading west to begin her inaugural Alaska season.

Voyages aboard the new ship are now available to book **HERE**.

Pandaw sales head

PANDAW Cruises has appointed Yves Van Kerrebroeck as its new Commercial Director.

Van Kerrebroeck will draw on 15 years' industry experience to lead the Southeast Asia cruise line's global commercial strategy, including developing new itineraries and strengthening partnerships with agents.

The appointment comes as Pandaw celebrates 30 years.

Taiwan's new tourism office



THE new Taiwan Tourism Information Centre (TTIC) has opened in Sydney, as travel to the destination from Australia surges.

The new information point is located at 22 Market Street, Sydney, and is designed to inspire travellers with useful travel advice, cultural showcases, and insider tips to help plan a trip to the destination.

The new information centre opening comes as recent visitor data shows Australian travel to Taiwan was up by more than a quarter last year, with a further 16% rise predicted for 2025.

"Australian travellers are adventurous and discerning, seeking meaningful cultural encounters and authentic nature experiences, and Taiwan has it all," Taiwan Tourism Administration (TTA) Deputy Director General Shih-fang Huang remarked.

"With the opening of our new TTIC Sydney office, we're making it even easier for Australians to discover Taiwan's beauty, flavours and culture, while strengthening our partnerships here and underscoring our commitment to the country," he added.

TTA will also launch out-of-home campaigns in Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane, and participate in the upcoming TADA Sydney event, to support the opening of the office. **MS**

Pictured are EVA Airways General Manager Nick Chen, Taiwan Tourism Administration Singapore Office Director Paul Shih, Shih-fang Huang, Taipei Economic & Cultural Office local representative Douglas Hsu, Taipei Economic & Cultural Office Director General David Wu, Taiwan Trade Centre Director Sherry Tsai, and China Airlines Vice President Eddie Yeh.

TRAFALGAR

Tour *Differently* in 2026.

Unlock 10% on select worldwide tours.*

Learn More

*T&Cs apply.



360 Private Travel bound for Australia

EXCLUSIVE

THE arrival and launch in Australia of home-based luxury advisor brand 360 Private Travel is being described as “a big opportunity” by the company’s CEO, James Turner (**pictured**).

Already active in nine countries, Turner told *Travel Daily* that he is eager to lure some of Australia’s best luxury advisors, and even grow the talent pool to professionals from other sectors.

Agents will be able to join 360 Private Travel based on a commission-only remuneration model, which Turner said would start at 65% and go up based on experience and sales volume.

Turner added the business helps new recruits get off the ground through a “matchmaking service”, which pairs clients with who it believes will be the right advisor to help with their circumstances.

“It is going to be existing advisors that will come to us, but



we will also look for other people too, and if it is the right sort of person with the right contacts, we can help train them,” he said.

Turner added that new recruits would have access to market-leading technology, which the company is already investing significant sums of money into, including the automation of some tasks with AI.

To help launch in Australia, 360 Private Travel has engaged the services of Our Travel Curator and luxury specialist Leah Greengarten as its General Manager, who has been tasked with growing the network and in

time, establishing a flights team to ticket and service airfares.

Turner cited Hong Kong as an example of the strong growth potential he sees in Australia, with the business recruiting more than 30 people in the past five years - however, he said there was no set figure in Australia yet.

“It could take five years to get to 30-40 people, but we don’t really have a number that we have ourselves,” Turner said.

“We want to build a community in Australia, and I think in a community, you need [around] a dozen people to really start to feel that you’re networking - one thing about 360 is anybody joining will have colleagues everywhere in the world.”

Turner said 360 Private Travel is licensed by the UK Civil Aviation Authority under its ATOL accreditation and it is also looking at becoming ATIA accredited.

CLICK HERE for more info. *ML*

EY's Palma flights

ETIHAD Airways has launched summer flights to Palma, with three weekly services from Abu Dhabi to start from Jun.

The hub in the Balearic Islands also opens a new gateway to Ibiza for the carrier, marking the only direct air connection between the two regions.

Seasonal flights will operate between 12 Jun and 15 Sep.

Pearls of TV wisdom

PEARL Expeditions is set to be joined by Aussie TV journalist Ray Martin and former ABC foreign correspondent Max Uechtritz.

The pair will join *Paspaley Pearl* for a 10-night voyage to Papua New Guinea, departing Madang on 18 Nov.

Passengers will hear behind-the-scenes insights and unheard stories about PNG from the duo, who both covered the country extensively across their careers - **CLICK HERE** for more information.



Fly with the best

With over 50 dining spots to choose from, enjoy a complimentary USD 20* dining voucher towards food and drinks during your transit in Doha, at Hamad International Airport.

Available exclusively to Privilege Club or Velocity Frequent Flyer members flying with Qatar Airways or Virgin Australia to and from Australia.

qatarairways.com/dineonus

*Terms and conditions apply





[Click here to discover](#)

Massive TK order

TURKISH Airlines has ordered up to 75 Boeing 787 Dreamliners, with an intent to purchase up to 150 more 737 MAX aircraft, effectively doubling its fleet.

The order includes 35 of the 787-9 model, the 787-10 and options for 25 787 Dreamliners.

The addition of the new aircraft will enable TK to boost its passenger and cargo capacity, while also improving fuel efficiency on routes between Istanbul and the US, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Today, the airline operates more than 200 Boeing jets, including the 787-9, 777, 737 MAX, Next-Generation 737 and 777 freighter planes.

Mobility air issues

DISABILITY advocates are calling for clearer accessibility standards off the back of Qantas' refusal to fly a 60-year-old woman with a mobility scooter.

The passenger was attempting to fly from NZ to Sydney earlier this year and refused service because the scooter was a personal electronic device.

Had the scooter been classified as a mobility aid, it would have been permitted if the lithium battery in it could be removed, which the woman said was possible at the time.

MEANWHILE, Virgin allegedly refused to fly a man last week because of his motorised wheelchair, which they claimed was over its height limit.

CATO supports good cause



THIS year's Council of Australian Tours Operators (CATO) Christmas lunch on Thu 04 Dec in Sydney will support the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, with funds going directly to the organisation's research.

"CATO's annual Christmas Lunch is about more than coming together as an industry - it's also about making a difference," said CATO Chair, Dennis Bunnik.

"By supporting PCFA, we are helping to shine a light on an issue that touches so many Australian families and backing the life-changing work that PCFA undertakes," he added.

Tour operators are also invited to contribute through sponsorship opportunities.

CATO's support of PCF is of particularly personal significance to Managing Director Brett Jardine, who is battling prostate cancer (**TD** 02 Sep).

Jardine recently walked 72

kilometres this month as part of The Long Run, with every kilometre representing each man that is diagnosed with the condition in Australia each day.

To donate to Jardine's cause, click **HERE**.

To enquire about sponsorship, contact cato@cato.travel. **JHM**

YHA digital wallet

YHA Australia has rolled out digital wallet key technology across its network, giving guests the opportunity to enjoy card-free entry into their room, lifts, spaces and other facilities with a tap of their phone.

Guests can still use their digital wallet key even if their device's battery runs flat, as the technology sources power from the phone's automatic power reserve capability.

If guests prefer, traditional key cards will remain an option.



Window Seat

ACCORDING to our very non-scientific research, there are two types of people in a relationship when they go on holiday: the fastidious planner, and the other whose just there for the ride - and is perpetually running late.

In fact, it is the "human snail" that annoys those who travel with companions the most, according to a report from Vodafone, which found their constant tardiness being Aussies' "biggest travel 'ick'".

Other frustrating travellers include phone addicts who can't stop taking selfies instead of enjoying the view (43%), fussy foodies who refuse to try local cuisine (40%), and the budget police, who question every dollar spent on a trip (35%).

Meanwhile, one in five Aussie couples fight over a mobile phone related issue, with the top problem stemming from mobile data access (73%).



Travel with **CHINA AIRLINES**
LONDON From A\$1,486*

Book by 05 October 2025

Travel from 26 October ~ 20 November 2025

T&Cs apply. *Fares are subject to change due to applicable taxes and surcharges. Special promotional seats are limited and available until sold out.

BROCHURES

Send your special deals to:
brochures@traveldaily.com.au

THIS week's Brochures of the Week is brought to you by
DriveAway.



DriveAway - Car Hire

With access to over 160 leading suppliers and 28,000 locations worldwide, DriveAway makes it easy for your clients to pick up the keys and hit the road - from cruising Route 66 in the United States to exploring Europe, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia. There is also a dedicated section within the 20-page guide on luxury car options, as well as advice from the experts. Wherever the journey takes your clients, DriveAway delivers freedom, flexibility, and trusted car hire solutions. The brochure

can be accessed online today - see [HERE](#).



AAT Kings - Guided Holidays 2026/27

From an overnight fiord cruise to learning the secrets of Gunditjmarra aquaculture at Budj Bim, AAT Kings' new 2026/27 brochures are brimming with experiences designed to help travellers escape the ordinary and discover the extraordinary. A key feature of the new season program is the recently launched Small Group Tour collection, limited to up to 24 guests, which provides a more intimate and personalised experience across Australia and New Zealand. Download the brochure [HERE](#).



Viva Holidays - Canada & Alaska 2026/27

Viva Holidays has released a new 76-page brochure on Canada and Alaska, featuring a wide selection of accommodation and touring in both of these bucket-list destinations. From discovering iconic Alaskan wildlife in remote locations to witnessing the Northern Lights from Fairbanks and Anchorage, this brochure also introduces Canadian rail journeys such as the Winter Snow Train through the Rockies. Readers can also discover Viva Holidays' expedition cruising and Arctic adventures. View the brochure online [HERE](#).

Stay Updated
on the latest travel news

Follow Travel Daily on social media to get your travel news first

Travel Daily

A capital move from Le



ATIA'S National Events Manager Jenny Le (pictured centre) paid a visit to Canberra over the weekend, representing the association at the city's latest Epic Travel Expo.

The event is a joint initiative of four well-known Travellers Choice agencies in the city - Jamison Travel, Queanbeyan City Travel & Cruise, Travel Makers Kingston and Weston Cruise & Travel.

Backed by dozens of preferred suppliers, the event saw hundreds of travel enthusiasts and prospective holidaymakers peruse their travel options.

YouTube on Delta

DELTA Air Lines has partnered with YouTube and will bring access to the video platform to travellers in the air, using their own mobile devices.

The deal unlocks ad-free access to a wide variety of YouTube videos, podcasts and music playlists, with SkyMiles members using Delta Sync wi-fi able to enjoy a 14-day trial of YouTube Premium on Delta's US flights.

With each agency accredited under the ATIA program, the association said the collaboration ensures travellers are speaking with agents who meet the highest standards of professionalism.

It's the second event held by the agencies, building on its success in 2024 (*TD* 06 Dec 2024). *ML*

Cruising is on track

TRAVELLERS can experience three of the world's great train journeys as part of a new package launched by Cruise Express.

The 14-day 'Alpine Belle Steam Spectacular' departs on 31 May 2026 and includes return airfares, accommodation and a variety of train journeys across Europe.

On the agenda is a high-speed Eurostar adventure between London and Cologne, and two journeys on classic steam and electric-powered locomotives.

The Alpine Belle will take guests through the Appenzell Alps, with the tour also including a journey on a vintage electric locomotive through the Klostertal Valley.

CLICK HERE for more details.