TRAVELDAILY

Wednesday 26th Aug 2026

Today's issue of *TD*

Travel Daily today features seven pages of the latest travel industry news, including our **Luxury page** feature, plus full pages from:

- **Total Holiday Options**
- **Entire Travel Group**

Fiji comes to its senses

AUSTRALIAN Travel Industry Association (ATIA) CEO Dean Long has hailed the Fijian Govt's decision to backflip on applying its tourism tax retrospectively (***TD*** breaking news yesterday) as a "commonsense outcome".

While the ATIA chief noted there were still finer details to work through with the Fijian Government around how the tax will apply to net rates, existing contracts and wholesale bookings, the primary concern had now been resolved.

Bookings made before 01 Sep will no longer attract the new tax, regardless of when the travel takes place, a major relief to thousands of Australian travel advisors facing the prospect of renegotiating costs with clients.

"Retrospective billing was never something the industry could accept, and yesterday's decision protects the thousands of Australian travellers who have already booked and paid for a Fiji holiday," Long said.

"We thank the Fijian Govt for listening to the concerns we raised on behalf of Australian travel agents and tour operators, and for working through this issue with industry rather than against it," he added.

Australia is Fiji's largest market.

Totally awesome trips

TOTAL Holiday Options has a range of small group journeys across Asia now available.

See more info on **page eight**.

The whole Canada

CANADA Travel by the Entire Travel Group is the one-stop shop for selling Canada.

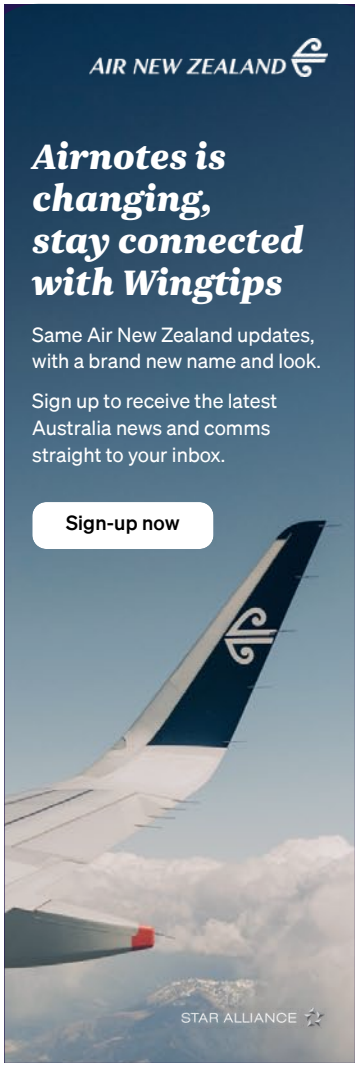
See details on the **back page**.

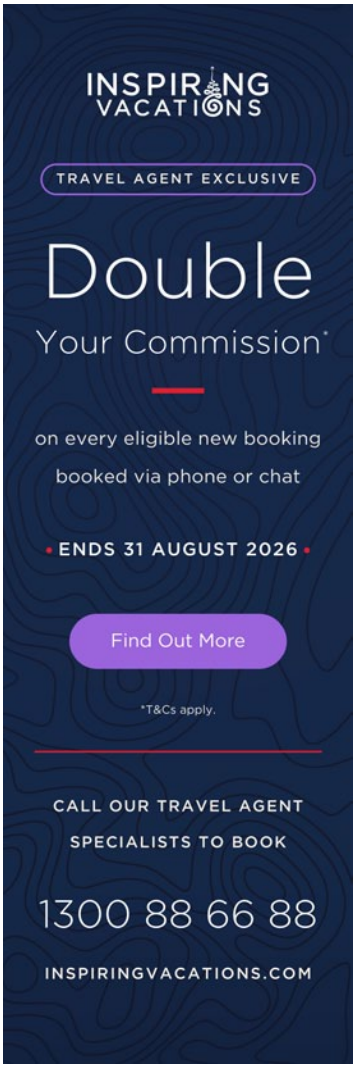
Qantas doubles up

QANTAS Frequent Flyers who book a flight between now and 11.59pm on 02 Sep can choose to earn either double status credits or double Qantas points.

The offer applies to unlimited bookings for travel between 03 Sep 2026 and 14 Aug 2027.

Register via the Qantas App. *AB*





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Cropper promoted

INTREPID Travel has promoted Kate Cropper to group general counsel & corporate governance, with the operator stating the expanded role will play a key part in scaling the business globally.

Intrepid has a goal of hitting $1.3b in annual revenue and 600,000 customers by 2030. *AB*

ME dampens FCTG growth

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group (FCTG) has posted mild gains in TTV and revenue for the 12 months to 30 Jun after the Middle East slowed down its momentum in Q4 (***TD*** breaking news).

The business recorded a 5% increase in TTV to $25.7 billion, a 4% rise in revenue to $2.9 billion, as well as a 38% lift in net profit after tax to $149 million.

FCTG noted that geopolitical disruption cost the business around $60 million in leisure profits, adding to previous admissions about the impact of the war in May (***TD*** 05 May 2026) and Jun (***TD*** 17 Jun 2026).

Drilling down further on FCTG's leisure performance, TTV for its cruise brands is growing rapidly, and is set to surpass $2 billion during FY27, while online sales exceeded $1.8 billion, up 17%.

Overall, the leisure division saw TTV grow by 7.4% to $12.59 billion, revenue climb by 2.6% to $1.43 billion, and underlying EBITDA fall by 6.7% to $250m.

FCTG's corporate division was the star of the latest results, however, with its Corporate Traveller brand exceeding $5b in TTV despite the global challenges.

Overall, the division piled on an extra 3% in TTV to secure a record $12.67 billion, with underlying EBITDA also surging by 24.5% to $275 million.

Around $1.6 billion worth of new corporate account wins were secured during FY26, with 45% inked during Q4 alone.

Meanwhile, FCTG's new loyalty program is gaining solid traction, boasting 600,000 Aussie members, two-thirds of whom are represented by new or re-engaged customers.

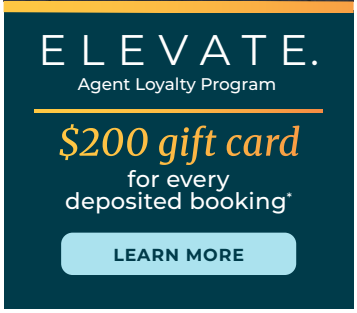
Looking at FY27, FCTG is confident of returning to healthy TTV and profit growth following a strong Jul performance.

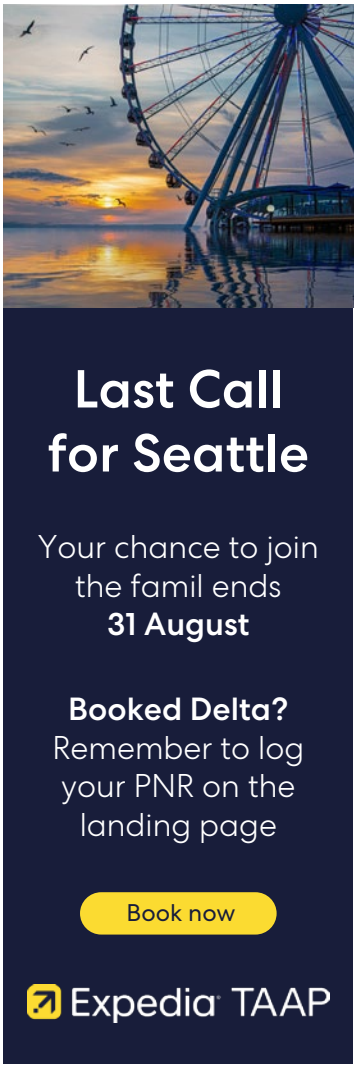
This growth will be driven by Flight Centre, Link, LTC, Ignite, Scott Dunn and Cruiseabout. *AB*

Eklund jumps to BCD

FCM Travel Solutions global MD Marcus Eklund will take over as BCD Travel's global chief commercial officer on 14 Sep, replacing Mike Janssen, who will retire at the end of the year.

Eklund said that BCD's open platform and AI capabilities will shape the future of biz travel. *AB*





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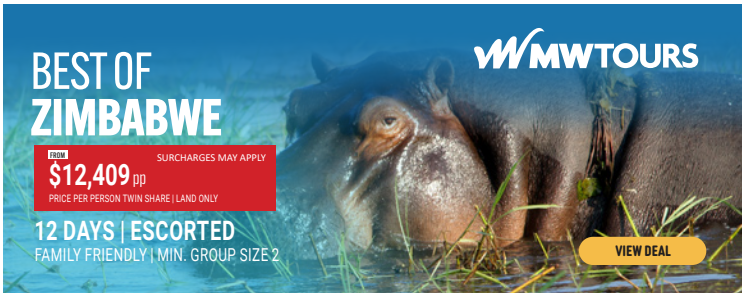

HLO assessing WJL stake

HELLOWORLD has revealed that its stake in Webjet Group Limited stands at 20.29%, adding in its latest financial results that options are being assessed and the online travel business' performance is being monitored.

The company holds 78,250,205 shares in Webjet valued at $32.1 million, and over the last financial period, recognised a $34.3 million loss from the revaluation of its shareholding, following a $5 million gain in the previous year.

Helloworld has more cash in the bank than in FY25, with reporting showing that the group holds $84.8 million in cash compared with $79.4 million at 30 Jun 2025.

Meanwhile, Helloworld increased its TTV by 4.1% to $3.96 billion for the 12 months to 30 Jun, while net profit after tax increased by 16% to $29.79 million (***TD*** breaking news).

Revenue also rose by 8.1% to $208.46 million, and the company's EBITDA result of $60.2 million marked an 8.4% increase on the previous period.

Helloworld's wholesale accommodation platform ReadyRooms was one of the strongest growth performers, increasing TTV by 50% across ANZ - while wholesale cruise sales also rose by 12.3% for the period.

MD and CEO Andrew Burnes said FY26 was "impacted by global complexities", adding that without the headwinds, the company's financial performance would have been much stronger.

"We have delivered growth across key business metrics, including TTV, revenue and revenue margin; and despite the broader retail downturn being experienced across Australia and New Zealand, the financial year ahead looks favourable, with Jul 2026 TTV being the same as Jul 2025 and EBITDA for the month up 8.8%," Burnes said. *AB*

Newbie travel prog

CORNERSTONE Learning & Development is preparing to launch its New to Travel Industry Foundations Program, a nine-week course that aims to educate people about what they need to know to be useful in a travel business from day one.

Starting in Sep, the company's head of strategy and partnerships Monica Godfrey said the company had spent a lot of time developing and sense-checking the content with people across the industry prior to its launch.

"The course is practical, current and deliberately different from a formal qualification," she said.

"It covers the industry knowledge, language, technology, workflows, products, client skills and professional expectations that employers tell us they want new starters to understand."

Other topics covered include navigating itinerary disruptions, an introduction to cruising, building quotes, and more. *AB*

Time for NT Muster

TOURISM Events Northern Territory is inviting travel professionals across Australia to attend its upcoming NT Muster 2026 taking place in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney.

Advisors will have the opportunity to connect with 20 Top End tourism operators through sit-down appointments.

As an added incentive to join the fun, the NT will serve up canapes, drinks, as well as the chance to win prize packages valued at over $33,000.

Dates for the events are: 08 Sep at Crowne Plaza Melbourne, 09 Sep at Emporium Hotel Brisbane, and 10 Sep at InterContinental Sydney by IHG.

Doors open from 4.30pm before formal proceedings commence at 5pm and conclude at 8.45pm.

Some of the operators in attendance will include AAT Kings, Voyages Tourism Australia and Discovery Tours Australia.

Register to attend **HERE**. *AB*

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CTM secures more cash

CTM has entered into new $175 million debt facilities with the credit division of Pacific Equity Partners, which will replace the company's existing $75 million corporate facility.

This new arrangement will provide CTM with the liquidity it needs to meet its client remediation obligations and ongoing business requirements.

The news comes as CTM last week announced a "major milestone" in its bid to settle key accounts in the United Kingdom that were impacted by overcharging issues (***TD*** 21 Aug).

New deals with key British clients will see 86% of the refunds owed for FY25 repaid in stages by 30 Sep 2027.

CTM estimates its annualised interests costs across all facilities will be $20 million across the next two fiscal years.

The new facilities will remain subject to a number

of conditions, which include the release of its audited FY25 statements, which are due in the coming days. *MS*

Feeling the Frenzy

CLICK Frenzy's Travel Frenzy sale has started today, with a range of deals across flights, cruises, attractions and more.

Highlights of the sale include up to 10% off flights on Qatar Airways, 10% off hotel bookings with Trip.com, 15% off tickets for Sea Life locations across Australia and New Zealand, as well as $100 extra cabin credit with Royal Caribbean (via Cruiseaway).

The sale ends Sun 30 Aug. *JB*

The net in networking

KELLAWAY People took part in a pickleball networking session on Fri, bringing together a mix of travel professionals for some friendly competition and light-hearted conversation.

"At Kellaway People, we're all about finding your people," said founder Rich Kellaway.

"It turns out a pickleball court is a pretty good place to start."

The next pickleball session hosted by Kellaway People will take place 04 Sep. *JB*

Pictured: Kellaway; David Hughes, Entourage Travel Group; Gary Seignior, FBI Travel; Dawn McKiernan, FBI Travel; Marcus Leonard, Transforma Group; Julie Moloney, Kellaway People; and Kimberley Summers, Entourage Travel Group.

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- Rocky Mountaineer Gold Leaf - 2 day journey

Share & watch our Getaway episodes Saturday 29 Aug & 05 Sep to complete the quiz and simply make a booking by Friday 11 December, you'll automatically go into the draw to WIN ONE OF TEN PLACES on our hosted Canada famil, departing Sydney 15 September 2027.

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Alliance profit plummets

ALLIANCE Airlines' FY26 profit has more than halved, with the company bringing in just $26.8 million in NPAT this year - 53.2% less than the prior year.

The company said its subdued FY26 results reflected the impact of operational challenges and the reset of its portfolio, as it posted an underlying EBITDA of $177.5 million (down 14.4%) and underlying revenue of $712.6 million (down 7.4%).

Alliance's net debt also increased to $459.8 million, up from $378 million last year.

However despite the poor FY26, Alliance's trajectory is beginning to improve, with its UPBT rising 61% from $14.6 million in H1 to $23.6 million in H2.

Alliance's EBITDA margin also improved from 24% to 26%.

As part of its results, the company announced a $40m fully underwritten capital raising, as it moves to repair its balance sheet.

Alliance also reset its wet lease deal with Qantas Airways earlier this month as part of its turnaround initiative, which will see the airline pay higher rates for its services (***TD*** 07 Aug). *MS*

Sparking a solution

TRAVEL Spark has launched a public Solution Lab, aimed at debunking many long-held assumptions surrounding the use of travel technology.

The lab will come in the form of a set of working demonstrations, covering supplier activation, hotel mapping, composable booking workflow, pricing and supply orchestration in a single connected environment.

To find out more, click **HERE**. *JB*

Intrepid gets in first

INTREPID Travel now has indigenous-led experiences on 75% of its Canadian portfolio, with recent additions on tours in British Columbia and Quebec.

Partnering with indigenous-owned Talaysay Tours, the 'We Are the Land' experience is now available in Whistler on Intrepid's 'Grand Canadian Rockies' itinerary, combining place-based learning, cultural ecology, stewardship and storytelling.

In addition, the 'Eastern Canada by Rail' itinerary will now include a Huron-Wendat experience in Wendake near Quebec City.

The experience includes a guided visit to the Huron-Wendat longhouse and museum at the Huron Traditional Site.

These new offerings are part of Intrepid's CA$500,000 commitment to growing indigenous tourism in Canada over the next five years, with plans for indigenous experiences on all tours by 2031. *JB*

Panache's Aussie headstart

PANACHE Cruises' Australian office has recorded $2 million in sales within its first three months of opening, as it sets its sight for $10 million in its first year.

Head of sales and operations for the Sydney-based office Juliana Nasmith **(pictured left)** says the company is "incredibly pleased" with the milestone, considering the UK-based cruise line is building itself from the ground up in Australia.

"What has been most encouraging is how strongly Australian travellers have responded to our highly personalised approach," she said.

"Luxury cruise is a considered purchase, and clients really value having an expert who takes the time to understand what they want, guide them through the options, and look after the finer details - It gives us a lot of confidence in the opportunity ahead," Nasmith added.

Panache founder and CEO James Cole **(pictured right)** said the reason for opening the Australian office was to capitalise on the "very different" Aussie market compared to the UK.

The US office opened in 2024. *JB*

LATAM's lucky loan

LATAM Airlines Group has secured a US$505 million (AU$700 million) loan to assist with the incorporation of 11 new aircraft into its fleet (***TD*** 09 Jul 2026), with deliveries slated for the second half of 2026.

Of the total transaction, US$400 million (AU$550 million) will go towards sustainability measures.

As part of the loan deal, LATAM will receive interest-rate incentives linked to emission reduction, potentially accessing better financial terms through reducing the amount of CO2 emissions per unit transported. *JB*

Season of wellness

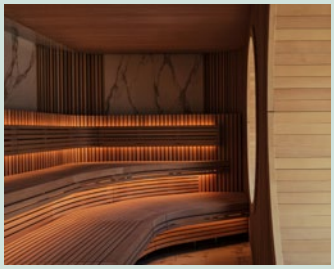
GUESTS on board F*our Seasons Yachts I* will now be able to enjoy a new wellness experience called 'The Lanserhof Reset' during the ship's first-ever transatlantic crossing.

The eight-day retreat will take place from 08-16 Nov, offering diagnostics, expert consultations, and personalised wellness programming at sea.

Developed in partnership with medical wellness resort company Lanserhof, guests will begin with an initial consultation at the yacht's medical centre, where they will receive a wellness program tailored to their needs and goals.

This includes one-on-one consultations, holistic treatments like craniosacral alignment, fitness and breathwork sessions, sound bath experiences, and nutritional guidance, including chlorophyll shots.

General wellness experiences will also be integrated throughout the ship's voyage.



PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ IN SHANGHAI

MARRIOTT International has signed an agreement with Shanghai SIIC North Bund to open its first Ritz-Carlton Urban Reserve concept in Shanghai, slated for launch in 2030.

According to the brand, the ultra-luxury concept is being envisioned as a sanctuary within the city, offering guests the feeling of escape through "exceptional discretion, transformative experiences, and a slower, more intentional rhythm".

Overlooking the Huangpu River, the 110-key property will be located along Shanghai's North Bund, forming part of the destination's waterfront mixed-use developments.

It will also offer a specialty restaurant, Chinese dining experiences, fitness centre, and a spa and wellness retreat

"There is an intimacy to Reserve - an extraordinary level of personalisation, a deep connection to local culture, and a sense of discovery and wellbeing that allows guests to experience a place in an entirely different way," explained Tina Edmundson, president of luxury, Marriott International.

"Bringing that philosophy to Shanghai for our first urban Reserve is an incredibly exciting evolution for the brand," Edmunson added.

It will make Shanghai the only city worldwide with all eight of Marriott's luxury brands. *JHM*

From Sea to Sky: A new Fairmont experience

FAIRMONT Express and Fairmont Chateau Whistler in British Columbia Canada have launched the Sea to Sky Summit - Best in Canada experience, taking guests into the mountains and the air.

Combining the two ultra-luxury properties in a five-day itinerary, guests will begin their journey in Victoria where they will board a Harbour Air flight, admiring the region's coastline, islands, forests and mountain ranges en route to Green Lake in Whistler.

Guests will then escape to the alpine mountain retreat Fairmont Chateau Whistler (**pictured**), located at the base of Blackcomb Mountain, offering world-class adventure, wellness, dining and year-round recreation.

Travel ties the knot

LUXURY event Wedded World will introduce travel brands to its showcase this year, taking place on 07-08 Nov at 1 Hotel Melbourne.

The Wedded World Melbourne: Fashion, Travel & Wellness edition is set to attract more than 1,000 couples, alongside the industry's most influential tastemakers, connecting them with venues, planners, hotels and more from over 50 countries.

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ACCOMMODATION

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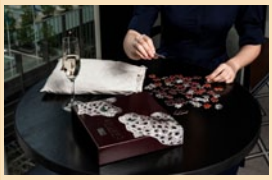
accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au

The Zephyr Sky Bar at **Hyatt Regency Sydney** has partnered with House of Suntory to introduce an exclusive menu of Japanese-inspired cocktails and paired dishes. The bespoke cocktail list features seasonal flavours such as yuzu, kaffir lime, lemongrass and mango, in addition to bites including wagyu tataki, octopus takoyaki and pan-seared gyoza. The experience is complemented by a live violin performance every Fri evening.

Minor Hotels has introduced two new diving retreats: a three-night family freediving retreat at **Avani+ Fares Maldives** and a four-night Into the Blue experience at **NH Collection Maldives Reethi**. Curated in partnership with world-record freediver Hanli Prinsloo, the two retreats will offer different ways to experience the depths of Baa Atoll. A three-night retreat designed to introduce families to diving, while a four-night program is tailored to experienced divers aged 16 and over.

SOL Elements on Lotus Lake in the Gold Coast hinterland has added two newly-built on-site wellness experiences, as a result of guest demand. The Couples Massage and Alchemy Suite is highlighted by sound healing bowls which sit directly on illuminated quartz, bringing sound and vibration into the experience. The Floating Sound and Ceremony Platform invites guests to soak in thermal pools, followed by a Japanese floating tea ceremony.



Hilton Melbourne Little Queen Street has launched its Art of Elegance package, designed for NGV's *Melbourne Winter Masterpieces: CARTIER* exhibition. The package includes an appointed room, hotel breakfast and two exhibition tickets. Within the room, guests can enjoy a bottle of sparkling wine and puzzle set.

Reservations are now open for **Andaz Gold Coast** for bookings from 14 Dec. The 202-key property on Broadbeach places guests minutes from the beach, Pacific Fair Shopping Centre and the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. Meanwhile, Nove Restaurant and Bar is the main dining venue, offering Mediterranean hospitality with an Australian touch.

TIME to graduate in Syd

THE Travel Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) hosted a graduation event at its Sydney offices last Wed, celebrating the nine graduates who completed the six-month mentoring program.

Each graduating mentee took to the stage to reflect on their journey, highlighting the confidence, clarity and professional growth gained by each of them during the program.

Highlighting the presentations was Qantas' trade marketing manager Jessica Kilbride Parris, earning the inaugural Richard Froggatt Memorial Scholarship, presented by Froggatt's widow Gaye Wood.

TIME founder and chair Penny Spencer commended the graduates for their hard work and honesty in their presentations.

"To also share such a personal tribute to Richard and see Jessica begin her TIME journey through the first scholarship established in his memory made this an especially meaningful evening," Spencer said.

"We are deeply grateful to every mentor, partner and supporter who helps our people and our industry move forward."

The evening also included an interactive workshop from TIME mentor Neil Thompson, who educated mentees at the event on customer loyalty and how organisations can turn strong connections into lasting value.

Guest speaker Leanne Geraghty from Sydney Airport also took the time to share her career journey, identifying seven guiding principles that helped her navigate challenges and opportunities, resonating strongly with graduates and guests.

Formalities of the evening concluded with a networking session with mentees, mentors, industry partners as well as delegates from the evening's sponsor Amadeus. *JB*

Pictured: James Harrison, Neil Ager, Marcus Prince, Sue Barton, Narayanan Prasad, Bridget Pawley, Lauren Ryan, Christine Oliver, Rebecca Setchell, Ashleigh Bailey, Belinda Ward, Josephine Hanschmann and Bridget Cowley.

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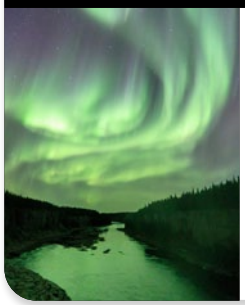

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