TRAVELDAILY

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Friday 6th Nov 2026

Today's issue of *TD*

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news, including our **Corporate Update,** plus full pages from:

- **Celebrity Cruises**
- **Entire Travel - Star Clippers**

Intrepid in France

INTREPID Travel has formally launched in France, signalling the next phase of the operator's global growth strategy.

As part of the launch, the B Corp company has unveiled Essentiel - a collection of trips created for the French market and led by local tour leaders.

The expansion follows Intrepid's acquisition of French adventure travel company Altai Group earlier this year (***TD*** 22 Apr 2026).

Celeb's Black Fri

CELEBRITY Cruises has unveiled its Black Fri offer, which includes up to 75% off a second guest.

See **page eight** for more.

QF flies straight to Cape

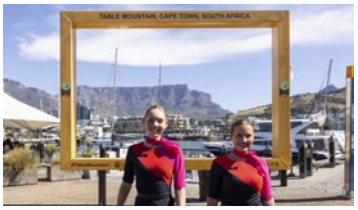
AUSTRALIANS will soon be able to fly directly to Cape Town for the first time, with Qantas today announcing new seasonal services between Sydney and South Africa's legislative capital.

Available to book now, the non-stop flights will kick off on 19 Oct 2027, running three times weekly through the summer months until 24 Mar 2028.

The service is set to add almost 30,000 seats between Australia and South Africa, and is made possible by Qantas' new 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft, which is expected to arrive in late 2027 as part of the largest fleet renewal in the airline's history.

"Cape Town is a true bucket-list city and Australia's appetite to visit has never been stronger," Qantas International CEO Cam Wallace said.

"Each year, tens of thousands of customers use our existing Johannesburg services to



connect to Cape Town through our partner airline Airlink, so we know there's strong demand for a non-stop service."

In Jun, Australia overtook Germany to become South Africa's third-largest overseas source market, with arrivals up 19% year-on-year.

Economy return fares on the new route start from $2,470. *JM*

Star-worthy offers

TRAVELLERS can save up to 30% on Star Clippers' select 2027 Med sailings, while agents can win a cruise for two.

Find the details from Entire Travel Group on **page nine**.

Points go further

QANTAS will be operating Points Planes throughout 2027, offering the initiative on both domestic flights and international routes to cities such as Los Angeles, Tokyo and Vancouver.

On Points Planes, every available seat can be booked with Qantas Frequent Flyer points with taxes, fees and carrier charges included in the final cost.

Ten return services (20 total flights) are currently available to book, ranging from Brisbane to Tokyo in Jan (economy from 29,000 pts), Sydney to Paris via Singapore in Feb (economy from 63,500 pts) and Sydney to Hobart during the school holidays (economy from 13,800 points).

According to Qantas, Frequent Flyer members redeemed their points on 10 million rewards during FY26.

The Points Planes initiative was first launched in 2019 (***TD*** 13 May 2019), and is available on both Qantas and Jetstar flights. *JB*



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AA lifts pax experience

EXCLUSIVE

AMERICAN Airlines is pushing forward with an investment plan that is looking to raise the bar on premium cabins, onboard connectivity, entertainment and overall airport experience.

Speaking with ***Travel Daily*** this week about the American carrier's future plans, country manager ANZ Elliott Finley said AA recognised the increasing expectations around comfort, connectivity and convenience for both leisure and corporate pax.

Finley confirmed that AA is in the process of retrofitting its B777-300ER aircraft on the Sydney-Dallas route to improve onboard value, including enhancing connectivity with high-speed Starlink wi-fi.

The rollout date for the retrofit is yet to be confirmed but should be in action by the end of Dec.

"Aviation has always been an incredibly competitive environment and the key areas that we are focused on to ensure we are ahead of the game relate specifically to that customer experience," Finley explained.

"There are a number of things that we have introduced that are going to support that overall experience and they include our priority check-in, priority security, preferred seating and boarding ahead of the queues," he added.

Finley also said AA had invested strong effort into enhancing its business class offering, which he described as a "lot



more competitive" now than in previous years.

He added that corporate travellers are expecting more value for the price of their tickets.

"Not only [are business class customers] expecting more in relation to the fares that we are offering and the agreements and negotiations that we have in place, but also the quality and the benefits for these corporations and their corporate travellers to experience," Finley said.

"A good example of what we are doing is our corporate experience program, where travellers flying with AA under an active corporate agreement receive various benefits, such as complimentary preferred seating, priority check-in and priority security screening where available," he added. *AB*

QF flags fare hikes

QANTAS confirmed it will continue to adjust fares and capacity in line with ongoing higher jet fuel prices, according to a market update this morning.

The carrier said that trading conditions were in line with previous outlooks, supported by few travellers flowing through the ME and strong leisure demand.

Qantas' H1 fuel bill is now expected to be $3.75 billion. *AB*

Slow down Canada

DESTINATION Canada has released a new guide for agents designed to encourage more travellers to slow down, stay longer and travel farther.

Accessible **HERE**, the guide has been developed in partnership with industry experts to assist advisors to be more confident in providing a wider range of recommendations to clients.

Key advice includes adding a few days to maximise value, matching clients to the right season, going beyond popular destinations and objection handling tips. *AB*

EK profit plunge

EMIRATES Group suffered a 66% fall in half-year net profits to AED3.6 billion (A$1.41 billion) for Apr-Sep period.

Revenue also declined by 12% to AED66.2 billion (A$25.9 billion), while earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation dropped by 41% to AED12.5 billion (A$4.9 billion).

The UAE-based group attributed the decline to a combination of regional disruption resulting in fewer pax carried, higher fuel prices & a continued investment in aircraft upgrades. *AB*

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Lack of action "embarrassing"

TRAVEL businesses need to take the lead when it comes to forward-thinking workplace policies, such as menstruation and menopause leave, according to Chirn Park Travel managing director Ben Farrell.

"There should be more of these progressive, supportive policies in place for workers in this country - we do not have to wait for the government to legislate [changes]," he told ***Travel Daily***.

"When you are running a business or in a position of power, you do not have to play catch up.

"Personally, I think it is a bit embarrassing that we are so far behind and it is time to get with the times," he argued.

According to the policy, women experiencing discomfort due to menstruation and menopause have the option of working from home or in the office in more comfortable circumstances - such as in a quiet rest area or with the air-conditioning turned up - or take one of 12 days of paid leave that employees are entitled to per calendar year.

The policy was put in place in an effort to remove the stigma around menstruation and menopause and empower team members to speak more openly about their experiences if they wish, Farrell explained.

As a result, the Chirn Park Travel chief has noticed increased staff retention, fewer sick leave days taken and greater productivity, as staff members are given a wider



range of options.

"Over the last two years, there have only been three days where people have taken the paid leave day," he said.

"But there have been numerous instances where people have changed whether they worked [from the office] or chosen to work remotely because of different circumstances."

In order for businesses to best support people, Farrell continued, it is "all good and well to have a pizza party", but they need to be paid a fair and proper wage and be provided with additional supportive policies.

As for the naysayers, Farrell said: "To me, in another 10 years hopefully, this [policy] will be standard in the workplace, like looking back on things such as family and domestic violence leave, which are now legislated."

In the meantime, Farrell emphasised that it is not just a 'set and forget' policy and that "we will keep learning and keep the conversation open". *JHM*

KLM flips fleet plan

AS PART of a major cost-cutting program, KLM has revealed plans to significantly reorganise its fleet to restore greater profitability across routes from its base at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

The Dutch carrier revealed it would replace planned A320 deliveries with smaller Embraer E195-E2 aircraft to better match capacity with challenged demand.

KLM will also phase out its B737s and Embraer E190s over the coming years, gradually replacing Boeing jets with Airbus A321neos to take over on higher-demand European routes, while E195-E2s will replace the Embraer E190 and assume flying for routes previously planned for the A320neos.

Meanwhile, on the ground, more digital self-services for check-in, boarding and rebooking was flagged, with airport staff to focus on direct customer needs.

The changes are seeking to achieve an annual earnings improvement of €1 billion. *AB*

TRAVELDAILY ON LOCATION

CELEBRITY SOLSTICE

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you from Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Solstice*.

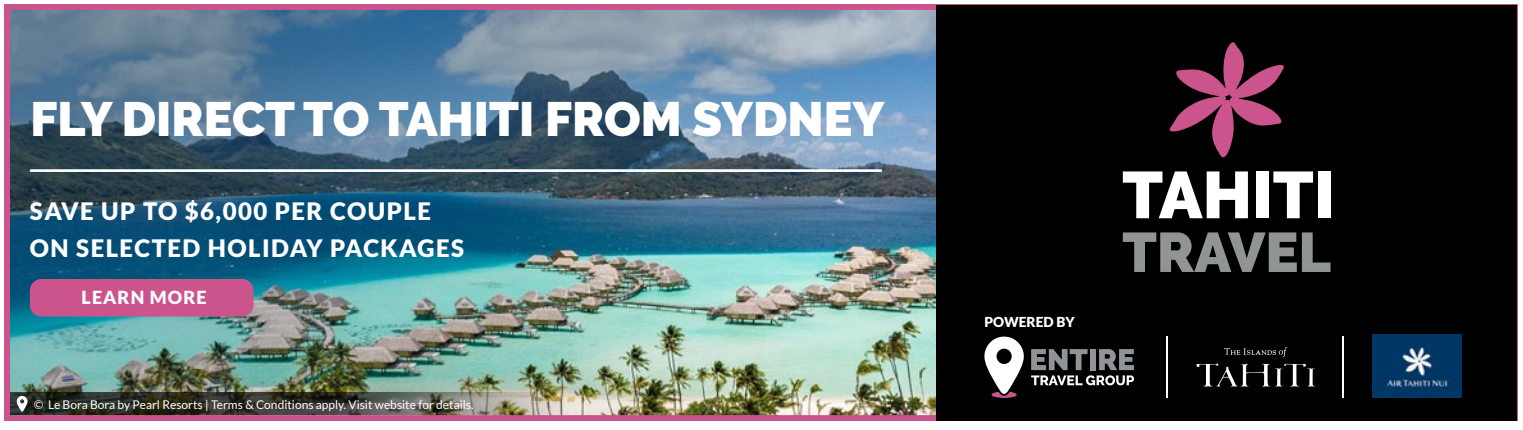
WE ARE on board Celebrity Cruises' *Celebrity Solstice* for a final day before she arrives in Melbourne tomorrow, where we will disembark.

Media guests on board will enjoy a number of activities on this sea day, such as a bridge tour and a sushi-rolling class.

Solstice will soon operate a 12-night South Pacific Islands sailing to Lifou, Mystery Island, Luganville, Port Vila, and Noumea, as well as a 13-night voyage to Singapore, visiting keys Aussie ports.







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LATAM surges ahead in Q3

LATAM Airlines Group reported a net profit of US$441 million (A$633 million) for the third quarter of 2026, marking a YoY increase of 16.3%.

The period also saw the company post operating revenues of US$4.6 billion (+18.4% YoY), as well as adjusted operating income of US$573 million, representing an adjusted operating margin of 12.5% and an 18.1% YoY increase.

The airline managed to increase its consolidated capacity by 7.7% compared to Q3 2025, while also maintaining a healthy load factor of 83.7%.

"The third-quarter results once again demonstrate the strength of LATAM's business model and its ability to maintain solid performance, even amid persistent volatility in fuel prices," said LATAM Airlines Group CEO Ricardo Bottas.

"The network, differentiated value proposition and financial position continue to be fundamental drivers in earning customer preference and delivering results.



"These strengths are further reinforced by the recent credit rating upgrades from S&P Global and Fitch, which provide additional recognition of the group's progress and the strength of its business and financial profile," Bottas added.

For the full-year 2026, the group expects its revenue to reach US$17.8 billion, assuming a jet fuel price of US$180/bbl during the fourth quarter.

LATAM Airlines operates non-stop flights to Santiago, Chile from Sydney and Melbourne. *JB*

Spain suspensions

SMARTRAVELLER has advised that regional train services between Madrid, Ciudad Real and Andalusia, as well as services from Barcelona and Valencia to Andalusia, remain suspended, due to ongoing protests across the country. *JB*

Club opens Croix

RESERVATIONS are now open for Club Med St Croix in the US Virgin Islands, which will welcome guests from 12 Nov 2027.

Early booking rates begin at US$365 per person, available through Club Med's online channels and travel agents.

Originally built in 1986 as the Carambola Beach Resort, the property will feature 150 suites and several Caribbean-inspired culinary concepts, including Club Med's first Teppanyaki venue and an infinity pool overlooking the Caribbean Sea.

Guests can also explore Christiansted and Frederiksted. *JB*

Oakwood hits the front



THE Ascott Limited has celebrated the sod-turning ceremony for the 97-key Oakwood Flemington Melbourne, on track to open in Feb 2028.

Built and developed by Pace, the property will sport contemporary architecture and interiors inspired by the neighbouring racecourse, with other visuals connecting the property to the venue.

Attending the ceremony was David Mansfield, managing director of The Ascott Limited Australasia; Mark Robertson, area general manager; James Shields, general manager - growth and capital strategy; and representatives from Pace.

"Flemington is a name people immediately connect with Melbourne - having the racecourse next door gives this property a real sense of place, and we want that character to come through in the guest experience," said Mansfield.

"Oakwood is about the comforts of home, backed by thoughtful hospitality that blends style with practical amenities for the modern traveller.

"Whether guests are visiting for business, a race meeting or time away, we want them to feel settled from the moment they arrive," he added.

It follows recent Ascott openings in Southport, Canberra and Hobart, with three properties slated to open before the end of the year, including Oakwood Epping in North Melbourne. *JB*

Seabourn sips more

SEABOURN has unveiled a new fleet-wide wine collection, featuring over 40 wines from more than 10 countries.

The new range hails from locations such as Germany's Moselle Valley, coastal NZ and Washington's Yakima Valley. *JB*



It's not just the views that are spectacular in our Black Friday Sale. Enjoy **2-for-1 on selected Hurtigruten cruises*** along Norway's famously picturesque coastline, where your clients could witness the awe-inspiring beauty of the Northern Lights - at a price that's just as amazing. Or, as the locals would say... '*Spektakulært*'!

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CGH goes unique

THE Unique Tourism Collection (UTC) will now represent hospitality group CGH Earth.

UTC will lead sales and marketing for the company, which has a portfolio of leisure properties across South India, Pondicherry and West Bengal. *JB*

Legend exits Med

INSTEAD of returning to Europe to sail Mediterranean voyages for the 2028/29 season, Royal Caribbean's *Legend of the Seas* will sail from Fort Lauderdale for the summer 2028 cruise season.

She will offer six- and eight-night Caribbean itineraries visiting Perfect Day CocoCay in The Bahamas and Costa Maya and Cozumel in Mexico. *AB*

Quark bolsters team

QUARK Expeditions has made a dual appointment, with Jake Morrison taking on the role of senior director, expedition operations and Sarah Friedlander joining the cruise line as senior product manager.

Morrison has been with Quark since 2010, completing over 100 voyages across 10 vessels.

Friedlander joins from Lindblad, where she served as manager of expedition development. *JB*

CNS comes in at 1

CAIRNS Airport (CNS) has been ranked Australia's best airport for overall convenience, according to research from iSelect.

Comparing 11 airports nation-wide, Darwin and Canberra were second and third respectively, while Melbourne came in last, citing the high cost for parking. *JB*

Beverly Hills 150828

EXCLUSIVE



BEVERLY Hills is targeting Australian and New Zealand travellers who are looking for luxury accommodation during the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles.

Speaking with ***Travel Daily***, Julie Wagner (**pictured**), CEO of Beverly Hills Conference and Visitors Bureau, described the LA suburb as "the quintessential luxury experience."

"In a city known for its attention to detail and walkability, Beverly Hills offers exceptional fashion, food, wellness, culture and hospitality within easy reach," Wagner explained.

"You can have breakfast at a neighbourhood cafe, walk to Rodeo Drive, spend the afternoon at a gallery or spa and be at dinner within minutes.

"We appeal to well-travelled visitors with high expectations - some arrive to experience the icon they have known for years, but it is often the things they were not expecting that make them stay longer."

Beyond its luxury offering, Wagner added that the area also has an array of cultural and nature experiences, relatively unknown to foreign markets.

"People are often surprised by how green and walkable Beverly Hills is - Beverly Gardens Park creates a 1.9-mile ribbon of green through the city and one of its most scenic routes for walking or running, passing public art, the cactus garden and the iconic Beverly Hills sign along the way," she said.

"Visitors can see a performance at The Wallis, follow an art and architecture walk or visit the Sunday Farmers' Market.

"It is a very different Beverly Hills from the one many people picture, and that is exactly why it is worth discovering."

Looking ahead to the 2028 Games, Wagner added the tourism board is bolstering its education on the area "to make sure visitors know exactly what is in Beverly Hills and remind visitors that we are our own municipality, with our own resources and one of the best safety records in the US."

She said this would be done through a combo of GPS-targeted marketing, photographic experiences and events. *JB*

Novotel grabs 8

NOVOTEL Sunshine Coast Resort has appointed Eight Communications to manage its PR and strategic relations ahead of its reopening in Feb 2027.

Eight will oversee media relations, brand storytelling, media famil programs and partnerships for the property.

The agency already represents travel brands such as AAT Kings, Pan Pacific Hotels Group and Solotel, among others. *JB*

Window Seat

THE English city of Hull gathered to celebrate the return of hometown hero Karl Bushby, who recently completed a 28-year, 50,000km trek from Chile.

Now 57, Bushby began his trek in 1998, walking north through the Americas, crossing the frozen Bering Strait from Alaska to Russia, then covering parts of Central Asia and Europe, finishing off with a swim across the English Channel to return home.

During his trek, Bushby did not allow himself any form of transport on his journey and vowed not to return home until the trek was done.

The adventure had several setbacks, ranging from the 2008 financial crisis, COVID-19 and Russia refusing to grant Bushby a visa.

During the last 16 years of the trek, German filmmaker Werner Herzog has been documenting Bushby's odyssey, set to make a feature-length documentary titled *Walk of Life*.

Upon arriving in Hull, Bushby was reunited with his mother Angela, his 36-year-old son Adam and his 12-year-old granddaughter whom he met for the first time.

Bushby proved that anywhere is walking distance.





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CORPORATE UPDATE

Peter Brady joins AmexGBT

AMERICAN Express Global Business Travel (AmexGBT) has welcomed Peter Brady (**pictured**) on board as its new vice president, global client management - SME, Asia Pacific.

Brady is tasked with driving client retention, satisfaction and growth in the region, as well as collaborating closely with the sales and onboarding teams across the business to support new client wins.

Based in South East Queensland, Brady brings



more than three decades of corporate travel experience, having held senior roles across client management, operations, sales, product management and general management.

Prior to joining Amex GBT, Brady led CWT's global client management teams for its SME and energy, mining and marine client portfolios.

The appointment comes at a time of significant growth for the company across Asia Pacific, spurred by strong demand, fresh contract wins and an influx of business opportunities across the region. *JM*

Expensify gets Visa

EXPENSIFY has signed a referral agreement with Visa, providing businesses with an alternate option for receipt capture, spend controls and reconciliation.

Under the agreement, Visa will refer eligible clients and corporate card programs to Expensify as its go-to expense management option.

Customers who bring their Visa card to Expensify can access a range of tools to assist with expense management such as automatic transaction sync, AI-powered expense coding, automatic receipt matching, customisable spend limits and expense policy enforcement, as well as top-level accounting and ERP integrations.

Expensify currently has 15 million members worldwide, assisting with expenses for businesses of all sizes. *JB*

Green for corporate

TRAVEL companies across the globe are making genuine efforts to manage business travel in a more sustainable manner, according to findings from the GBTA Foundation's Sustainability Acceleration Challenge.

Analysing 204 companies across 28 countries, the average sustainability score has risen to 1.5 in 2026, up from 1.4 in 2025 and 1.3 in 2024. *JB*

Say hello to Chadstone



HELLOWORLD Travel has announced the official opening of its new store in Chadstone, Victoria (***TD*** 18 May 2026).

Located within Australia's largest shopping centre, the new agency provides customers with access to expert travel advice and personalised service.

The launch marked a key addition to the Helloworld Travel retail network and reflected the continued demand for in-person travel advice.

"Chadstone is one of Australia's premier shopping destinations and having Helloworld Travel represented in such an iconic location demonstrates the strength of our brand and the ongoing value customers place on expert travel advice," Andrew Burnes, CEO and MD at Helloworld Travel, said at the opening event.

"This impressive new store represents a substantial investment in the future and reflects the confidence we continue to see in face-to-face retail travel." *JM*

Pictured: Helloworld leaders Andrew and Cinzia Burnes cut the ribbon at the formal opening

Spain disaster resig

SPAIN'S Transport Minister, Oscar Puente, has resigned from his position following the deadly train collision in Toledo province last week, which killed 60 people - including two Australians - and injured more than 200.

The announcement came in spite of Puente asserting several times since the disaster that he would not step down, and follows his assurance that the govt would "work tirelessly to achieve and regain the public's trust in high-speed rail". *JM*

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BLACK FRIDAY EDITION

Journey Beyond has a range of deals now available before 04 Dec. Highlights include 30% off The Ghan, the Great Southern and 25% off Vintage Rail Journeys. Travellers can also save on stays at Outback Hotel and Kakadu Crocodile Hotel. See more details **HERE**.

Silversea has savings of up to 45% on over 850 voyages, applicable on new individual bookings made before 07 Dec. The sale covers every suite category on both classic and expedition voyages. To make a booking and find out more details, click **HERE**.

With **Hurtigruten,** travellers can get two-for-one on selected original voyages along the Norwegian Coast. The cruise line also has up to 20% off signature voyages and bonus onboard credit on select cruise+tour packages. These are available until 06 Dec. See more info **HERE**.

On selected guided tours and European river cruises with **Trafalgar,** travellers can buy one and get 50% off a second tour. This is alongside existing savings of up to 20% across over 300 itineraries worldwide. The promotion will run through to 03 Dec. Call 1800 002 007 for more.

Hapag-Lloyd Cruises will be offering savings of up to 40% on its silver fare between 17 and 30 Nov. The offer is valid across 28 cruises and expeditions, ranging from the South Pacific, Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe. To make a booking, click **HERE**.

Outrigger's global 'You Don't Need a Vacation' Cyber Week campaign will run until 08 Dec, providing savings of up to 45% on participating properties in Hawaii, Fiji, Thailand, the Maldives and Mauritius. Travellers can book **HERE**, using the code 'CYBER26'.

Bunnik Tours has savings of up to $1,500pp on 21 tours. Eligible itineraries range from African safaris, Egypt & Jordan and the Dalmatian Coast. The sale will launch to the general public on 10 Nov, but agents can access it from today. It ends 27 Nov. Call 1800 286 645.

AAT Kings is giving travellers 20% off select tours across Australia and New Zealand, with savings of up to $2,957pp. Itineraries include 'Spirit of New Zealand' departing 04 Feb 2027 and 'Ultimate Tasmania' departing 29 Jan 2027. The sale ends 30 Nov. Click **HERE** to see more.

Aurora Expeditions currently has savings of up to 25% on selected 2028/29 voyages. The program includes 10 voyages that cross the Drake Passage and several voyages with return flights between Buenos Aires and Ushuaia. Click **HERE** to book before 31 Jan 2027.

The Islands of Tahiti currently has a range of holiday packages, now including direct flights to Papeete. Seven-day stays are available at InterContinental Bora Bora Le Moana Resort, Le Bora Bora by Pearl Resorts, Sofitel Kia Ora Moorea Beach Resort and Le Taha'a by Pearl Resorts. See more **HERE**.

For a limited time, **Contiki** has savings of up to $1,163, with over 100 trips priced under $210 per day. The sale is valid on trips worldwide, departing between 01 Jan 2027 and 31 Dec 2027. The sale will run until 11 Nov with one consumer to receive a trip for free. Find out more **HERE**.

MSC Cruises is giving travellers savings of up to 30% on sailings across the Mediterranean, Caribbean, Alaska and Northern Europe, with select MSC Yacht Club fares discounted by up to 20%. This sale runs until 08 Dec. Find out more **HERE**.

Quark Expeditions' sale kicks off 17 Nov, with savings of up to 40% on select 2027 Arctic voyages and up to 30% off select 2026/27 Antarctic voyages. Savings can also be combined with offers included with membership to the Shackleton Club. To find out more, call 02 7258 0333.

From 10 Nov, **Cunard** has savings of up to 40% off across 161 sailings. With fares starting from $999, destinations include the Caribbean, Canada, New England, Northern Europe and the Mediterranean aboard *Queen Mary 2*. See more **HERE**.

Insight Vacations has a series of deals live between now and 11 Nov, featuring up to 15% off tours and a buy-one-get-50% off promo. Tours on offer include the seven-day 'Scenic Iceland and the Northern Lights' and the 14-day 'Best of Eastern Canada and USA' . Call 1800 001 778.

Solomon Airlines' Spring Sale is now on until 05 Dec, with up to 20% off economy and business class flights from Brisbane to Honiara and Espiritu Santo. The travel period applies from today and will expire 22 Sep 2027. See more on this offer **HERE**.

With **Chimu Adventures,** travellers can save up to 50% on Arctic, Antarctic and North Atlantic expeditions and up to 40% on South America. All offers are available until 30 Nov and subject to availability. Click **HERE** to make the most of the deal.

Explora Journeys has limited-time savings of up to 30% on sailings across Asia and the Mediterranean, in addition to a 5% reduced deposit. The sale will last until 05 Dec, with departures available across both 2027 and 2028. Find out more by calling 1800 595 257.

Ethiopian Airlines is offering 10% off economy and business class flights from Singapore, eligible on bookings made before 25 Nov. There are two travel periods on offer, 26 Oct-30 Nov and 01 Feb-15 May 2027. For full terms and conditions, click **HERE**.

Brendan Vacations is offering Aussie travellers savings of up to $2,000 per person on trips to Ireland and Scotland. Travel styles include small group tours, private driver journeys, luxury self-drive, self-drive and rail vacations (savings vary depending on travel style). The offer is available on bookings made before 03 Dec. Click **HERE** to book.

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