TRAVELDAILY
traveldaily.com.au
Wednesday 11th Nov 2026

Today's issue of *TD*

Travel Daily today features 10 pages of news, including our **Luxury page**, plus full pages from:

- **Celebrity Cruises**
- **Cruise Lines International Association**
- **Scenic**

Whitfield cruises

CRUISEABOUT has welcomed on board a new head of marketing, Alex Whitfield, who brings seven years of brand and network marketing experience from his previous role at Professionals Real Estate.

Whitfield will report to GM Brad Kennedy and lead the agency's marketing team, working closely with the store and sales team, cruise line partners and the wider FCTG leisure group.

Cruiseabout currently operates 11 stores, including Doncaster in Vic, which opens next week. *JHM*

Luxurious scenery

SCENIC is offering 50% off suite upgrades and free heli flight-seeing during 2027.

See more on the **back page**.

FCTG preps for strong H2

DESPITE a challenging first half of FY27, Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG) MD Graham Turner assured shareholders at its AGM that the company has strong foundations and is set up for a strong H2 (***TD*** breaking news).

FCTG is targeting an underlying profit before tax of between $290-325 million for FY27, which if it can be achieved, will represent a solid 4-17% growth on the previous year against the backdrop of a challenging cost and geopolitical climate.

The first-half performance is tracking below last year but is expected to be propelled by a stronger H2 period, Turner said.

Key to the $290-325 million target will be the company's ability to maintain a strong leisure performance during Q4, receive good returns on corporate investment, as well as rise to the challenge and offset weaker touring earnings and higher net interest expenses.

Turner also pointed to the need for the business to continue to work hard on closing the gap between strong TTV growth and profit results.

The FCTG chief is "confident" of achieving this through a combination of network optimisation, maintaining cost discipline, delivering productivity gains and scaling AI to lift service and build an advantage that is "hard to copy".

The address also highlighted the initial success of its World360 loyalty program.

Around 60% of Flight Centre brand customers this year have represented repeat business, and FCTG expects that figure to grow as World360 Rewards takes off.

"The percentages are higher in corporate & luxury," Turner said.

While the loyalty program required a big investment to get off the ground, Turner noted that a strong leisure performance in FY27 has so far "more than offset" that initial launch cost.

World360 already boasts 750,000 Australian members, and this month FCTG expands the program to businesses through Corporate Traveller and Flight Centre Business Travel.

"[This] will let small and medium firms earn points on spend they already make, redeemable for travel at Flight Centre, Travel Associates and Cruiseabout," Turner said.

Meanwhile, other strong performers in the business included the ongoing rise of cruise sales and luxury travel. *AB*

Up the cruise game

WITH a CLIA membership, agents have access to a variety of tools and resources that can help them sell cruises with confidence.

See more on **page 12**.

Encounter Brissy

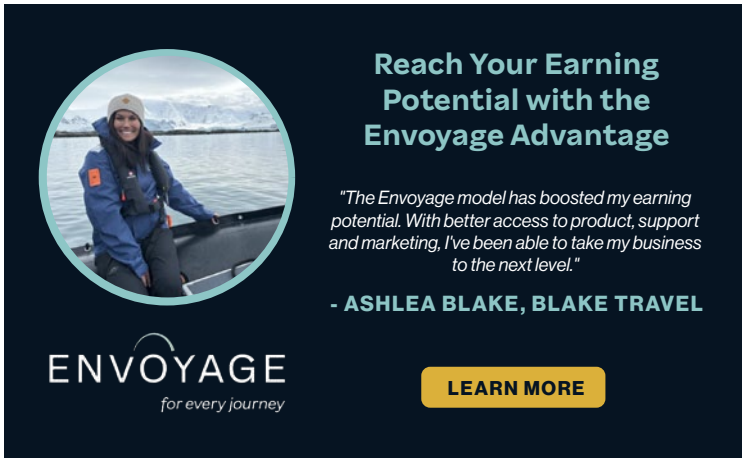
SALES are now open for four new voyages on *Carnival Encounter*'s 2028/29 program from Brisbane, including a Melbourne Cup cruise.

Also on offer are two trips from Brissy to Tassie in summer. *JHM*

Save like a celebrity

SAVE up to $1,200 per room and get 75% off a second guest with Celebrity Cruises.

See more on **page 11**.

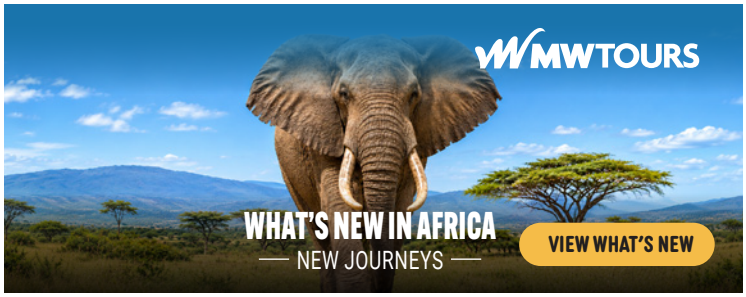






TRAVELDAILY

Wednesday 11th Nov 2026



Railbookers saddles up for more growth

OFF the back of a record-breaking year, Railbookers has announced this morning a raft of new projects going into 2027, including relaunching into China, entering South Korea, the development of accessible rail itineraries and a new partnership inked with AmaWaterways.

"I am happy to say that this is our best year ever for both of our brands [Railbookers and Amtrak] in the history of the company - we are 25% up [in overall business] this year," president and CEO Frank Marini revealed at the company's global summit in Vancouver (**pictured**).

"We are running up 35% going into next year, which is incredible to me...and our travel agent business is already up 44% going into next year versus the same time last year."

According to SVP Andrew Channell, the company will offer itineraries to eight destinations



in China, including Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and more.

The past year has seen over 33% ridership growth in overseas travellers on high-speed rail journeys across China, and together with the relaxation of policies for tourists, Channell said he predicts that it will be a successful market for Railbookers.

"China actually has two-thirds of the high-speed rail network on earth," he said.

"It is an absolutely massive high-speed network and it is growing - that is the crazy part, it is not done yet.

"There are thousands more miles being laid as we speak in the year ahead," he added.

Meanwhile, Railbookers also revealed a partnership with Accessible Travel Solutions to provide people with disabilities new rail products, including the launch of five itineraries to Italy, Paris and the Netherlands.

In further developments, Railbookers said it would be opening a global head office in Nashville and soon launch a website and a new concierge team, which Marini described as its own in-house DMC offering "that human service".

The upcoming Railbookers website promises to make the product easier for advisors to understand and sell, and will feature AI search and personalisation, as well as clearer pricing and self-service tools within the travel advisor portal.

Railbookers also announced a new partnership with AmaWaterways - see today's ***Cruise Weekly*** for details. *JHM*

TRAVELDAILY
ON LOCATION

VANCOUVER

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you from Vancouver, where the Railbookers Group Global Summit is being held.

SURPRISE - sunrise yoga is on the agenda to kick off the final day of RBG's annual event.

Some of the other highlights today will include a keynote address from World Travel & Tourism Council CEO and president Gloria Guevara and a fireside chat with travel journalist Everett Potter and founder of train travel guide The Man in Seat 61, Mark Smith.

Attendees will then hear business development updates and agent panels before exploring the trade show and wrapping up the conference with dinner and entertainment.



TRAVEL DAILY

Wednesday 11th Nov 2026



Shaking up TMC skills



GLOBAL travel management company Gray Dawes Travel has announced a strategic partnership with Berg-Hansen, a Norwegian business travel and events company.

Under the agreement, Berg-Hansen will connect its expertise across Norway, Sweden and Denmark with Gray Dawes Travel's operations across the UK, North America, Australia, New Zealand and the Netherlands.

The companies will combine their local expertise and technology to help clients navigate the complexities of business travel across countries, while providing a more consistent and connected experience.

Gray Dawes chief operating officer Dave Bishop hailed Berg-Hansen's deep local knowledge and service-led approach.

"By combining their Nordic expertise with our own international operations and existing partner relationships, we can offer clients greater geographical reach while maintaining the quality of service they expect from Gray Dawes," he said.

Meanwhile, Berg-Hansen's EVP Petter Brodahl noted the strong opportunities on offer for both companies in the future.

"We see real value in working with an independent company that shares our outlook and ambitions," he said.

"Together, we can offer a stronger solution for organisations that need both international reach and strong local support," he added.

The collaboration also suggested a wider opportunity for independent TMCs to work together as the industry consolidates, with Gray Dawes currently working with a network of international partners to extend its footprint, according to a statement from the brand. *JHM*

Pictured: Hansen and Brodahl make the companies' new partnership official.

Flight Centre sees double

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's luxury division is aiming to grow at twice the rate of the broader luxury market.

The division has grown into a $1.3 billion business, luxury MD Danielle Galloway (**pictured** right) told delegates at yesterday's Luxury Travel Collection (LTC) Remarkable Soiree.

Galloway added that the challenge will now be finding the next growth engine beyond its established core business.

"We have an ambition to double the market growth...this is around the 6% mark currently so the directive from the company and our mission is to...keep growing," Galloway told ***TD*** on the sidelines of the conference.

"We have got this amazing core business, but what are the future growth strategies that we are working on and what are those high-margin choices that I've made to grow this luxury space?"



Galloway said one of the keys to the goal would be changing the kind of customers the division is attracting, drawing in more valuable clients, in addition to growing booking volumes.

LTC managing director Nikki Glading (**pictured** left) said her division will contribute to this goal through its continued careful curation of its ranks.

"We deliver growth by saying 'yes' to the right members," Glading explained to ***TD***.

She added the division's growth would also come from introducing existing members to those who can grow business together and expanding in new markets, particularly in NZ. *MS*

Experienced Travel Consultant position.
Full-time, Helloworld Travel Bonnyrigg.

helloworld TRAVEL
THE TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS

Exciting New Chapter! Senior Travel Consultant Wanted.
Helloworld Travel Bonnyrigg is under new management and seeking an experienced travel consultant to join our team.

- Excellent Salary – Match or Better!
- No KPIs. No Sales Targets!
- Supportive Team. Great Opportunity.

View role description HERE
or send your resume to: bonnyrigg@helloworld.com.au



TRAVELDAILY

Wednesday 11th Nov 2026



Sznicer to lead Inside Travel expansion plan

INSIDE Travel has announced Amy Sznicer (**pictured**) as its new managing director for Australia as the specialist tour operator enters its next phase of growth (***TD*** breaking news).

Sznicer brings more than 25 years of executive leadership experience, including stints at well-known retail and consumer brands such as Michael Hill, and also founded Dry & Tea, an award-winning salon concept with locations in Australia and NZ.

Inside Travel, the parent company of InsideJapan and InsideAsia, has tasked Sznicer with developing a clear growth strategy for the local market, strengthening existing trade partnerships and creating opportunities to reach more travellers through the trade.

Specifically, she will focus on growing InsideAsia's Indian subcontinent program, alongside its broader Asian portfolio.



Upon announcing the appointment, Inside Travel founder and CEO Alastair Donnelly said Sznicer "brings a wealth of experience in growing and evolving consumer brands and a true entrepreneurial spirit".

"InsideJapan has built a strong reputation in Australia over many years, and we now have an exciting opportunity to build greater awareness of the breadth of expertise across InsideAsia.

"Amy's experience and fresh approach will be invaluable as we look at how we take both brands forward," he added.

Reflecting on her new role, Sznicer enthused: "I see enormous potential in both InsideJapan and InsideAsia."

"The business has a strong foundation, a clear point of difference and exciting opportunities to grow.

"We have a clear aim to double the size of the Australian business over the next three years, and I'm excited to work with the team to realise that potential while protecting what makes these brands special," she added. *JM*

Intrepid Maori focus

INTREPID has expanded its Maori-focused experiences in New Zealand, partnering with locally-owned Hinemaia Tours.

As part of the expansion, guests will visit the traditional meeting places of Morero Marae where they will hear stories from the locals and enjoy meals prepared by the local community. *JB*

TRAVELDAILY ON LOCATION

QUEENSTOWN

Travel Daily **is in Queenstown this week for the Luxury Travel Collection's Remarkable Soiree on New Zealand's South Island.**

AFTER a day of split streams, the Luxury Travel Collection's independent agents and Travel Associates members will come together today for Soiree's main day of plenary sessions at Cargo Collective.

Highlights from the leadership day will include speakers such as former All Blacks captain Richie McCaw and head of NZ-based clothing brand Rodd & Gunn, Mike Beagley.

At night, delegates will enjoy dinner thanks to Scenic Group at SODA.



TRAVELDAILY

Wednesday 11th Nov 2026

Tokyo Tokyo Old meets New

LEARN AND WIN
a trip to Tokyo!

Click here to register

Bomb threats continue

EUROPEAN aviation authorities are widening their investigations into a series of bomb threats targeting passenger aircraft, with more flights affected since the initial incidents last week.

The latest developments have seen another wave of threats, taking the number of reported incidents to at least 34, with authorities yet to formally establish if they are connected or identify the parties responsible.

The news follows reports early last week of at least 10 affected flights across the UK, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria and Poland - which led to the closure of Warsaw Airport and the diversion of several services (***TD*** 04 Nov 2026).

The incidents have prompted aircraft inspections, diversions and emergency responses across several European countries, although no explosives have been discovered on the affected flights.



Director of flight safety at the British Airline Pilots' Association Joji Waites told *The Guardian* that bomb threats received by an airline are graded: red (credible), amber (partly credible) and green (not credible).

"If a plane is on the tarmac that will mean evacuation, and if it is in the air the priority will be to land the plane as soon and as safely as possible," he said.

Wizz Air also released a statement saying it had been impacted by more bomb threats in recent days.

"Wizz Air is not the only airline targeted, with other carriers also experiencing threats."

Meanwhile, Finnair said while it is unfortunate that air traffic is exposed to such threats, they are "almost always unfounded". *ZH*

Villa Vie at standstill

VILLA *Vie Odyssey* was seized this week at an anchorage outside Singapore, in the latest development for the troubled residential cruise vessel (***TD*** 03 Nov 2026) after its operator struck major financial trouble.

The 977-passenger ship is now in the possession of law firm Helmsman LLC, according to Singapore Courts.

The update comes after *Villa Vie Odyssey* suspended operations late last month while sailing in Cambodia with around 200 residents on board, who were given only 36 hours' notice to vacate the ship after its operator Villa Vie Residences ran out of money amid high fuel costs. *JM*



Window Seat

KYLEE Kay from Linkd Tourism was in fine form last night at the company's 40th birthday celebration at Sydney's Smoke venue in Barangaroo (see **p6**).

"They say turning 40 that you finally know who you are...your knees disagree, your back disagrees, and an all-nighter all of a sudden means you didn't get up to pee."

As she marked the milestone, she described the ups and downs of the business over the last 40 years.

"If there's one thing Linkd can do, it is survive disasters," she said - in particular COVID when she took on a "side hustle" as the head of a game development business.

But most importantly, "it even survived my menopause," she concluded.

QANTAS oneworld

International
RED TAIL SALE

Help your customers save on flights around the world. Hurry, ends 16 November.*

Find out more

*Sale ends 11.59pm (AEDT) 16 November 2026, unless sold out prior. Select routes, travel dates and conditions apply.

TRAVELDAILY

Wednesday 11th Nov 2026



ABEA head steps down

THE Australian Business Events Association's inaugural CEO, Melissa Brown (**pictured**), has announced that she will leave her role at the end of the year.

Since taking on the top job in Sep 2023, Brown has been pivotal in bringing together the association's team, forming member relationships and growing its platform for advocacy.

Before she officially exits the organisation, ABEA will have delivered three annual conferences during her tenure, in addition to several industry programs and networking events.

ABEA's chair Peter King thanked Brown for her contribution to the development of the association.

"Melissa's commitment, experience and work ethic have been central to establishing ABEA and building its reputation and standing," King said.

"The passion she has developed for the business events industry and her efforts to establish a strong advocacy voice have ensured ABEA has a seat at the table and is receiving recognition as the single voice for our large and diverse industry.

"Melissa has spent a significant amount of time on the road meeting members, building relationships and representing our industry.

"We respect her decision to spend more time at home in Perth, and to take up an exciting opportunity there in the new year," he added.



Brown said that it was an honour to serve the industry and "will be excited to watch its ongoing success."

The ABEA Board will immediately begin its search for a new chief executive officer.

TD spoke exclusively with Brown earlier this year, when she urged the government to secure more events (***TD*** 24 Sep 2026). *JB*

Infinity says Mahalo

INFINITY Holidays has partnered with Hawaii Tourism Oceania to launch a new marketing campaign targeted towards Aussie and Kiwi agents.

Running from 09-20 Nov, the campaign is highlighting Oahu, Maui, The Big Island and Kauai. *JB*

Save (on) the world

WORLD Expeditions has unveiled its Black Friday offers, with savings of up to 30% on select 2027 departures.

Highlights include an Everest Base Camp Trek in Nepal, the Kilimanjaro Lemosho Route and exploring Laos and Cambodia.

The sale opens today and ends 01 Dec. *JB*

Linkd Tourism is A-O-Kay



THE inimitable Kylee Kay (**pictured**) last night hosted a packed gathering in Sydney to celebrate a significant milestone for her business, Linkd Tourism.

Originally established in 1986 by David Mulley and Mary Potaka as Asia Pacific Travel Marketing Services (APTMS), Kay became MD of the business 16 years ago (***TD*** 08 Apr 2010), at the same time taking on a substantial shareholding in the company.

Last night's 40th birthday was a celebration of the operation which also traded as Momento Travel Services before taking on the Linkd Tourism name about eight years ago (***TD*** 01 Feb 2019).

"Over the years we've weathered the storms," she said, paying tribute to her loyal clients and strong team.

"All of you have contributed to the story that makes Linkd what it is today, thank you for bringing all of your talent and your commitment and your amazingness," Kay added.

"What the last 40 years have taught us is that success doesn't just come by standing still... it comes by adapting, learning, taking risks, and having great people around you - and we have that in droves," she said.

Kay was one of the guests on TD's *The Chat with Jenny* podcast two years ago - listen **HERE**.

Clients of the business include Alamo Car Rental, Aqua-Aston Hospitality, Arizona, Colorado, the Hong Kong Tourism Board, New York, the Japan National Tourism Organization, Travel Portland, Okinawa, Kyushu, Kobe, Swan Hellenic, Visit Anaheim, Visit Seattle and more. *BP*



TRAVELDAILY

Wednesday 11th Nov 2026

Cunard's vision on show



CUNARD has unveiled new interiors for *Queen Mary 2* ahead of her return to service in May 2027 (***TD*** 10 Sep 2026).

Led by London-based firm AD Associates, the redesign is centred around Cunard Deco, a style which draws inspiration from the golden age of Hollywood and the grandeur of Cunard's regal lineage.

All accommodation types will get a refresh, ranging from Britannia staterooms to the Grand Duplex Queens Grill Suites, as well as the vessel's public spaces such as the Princess Grill and Queens Grill restaurants and the Grill Suites Lounge.

Several features will take inspiration from the original 1936 *Queen Mary* such as custom carpets, wall coverings, screens and artwork.

Each Grill Suite will have its own unique layout and bespoke design aspect, telling a story about the cruise line's history.

The unveiling of the interiors coincides with *Queen Mary 2*'s 450th Transatlantic Crossing.

Queen Mary 2 will enter dry dock at France's Damen Shiprepair Brest on 31 May 2027, leaving 09 May. *JB*

Crooked Mongolia

CROOKED Compass has unveiled its 12-night 'Luxe Mongolia' itinerary, offering a range of 2027 and 2028 departures starting from $25,026.

Luxury elements include accommodation at properties such as Shangri-La Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Gobi Caravanseri Lodge, Three Camel Lodge in the Gobi Desert and Karakorum's Secret of the Silk Road.

Another highlight of the tour is the UNESCO-listed Naadam Festival, featuring traditional Mongolian wrestling, archery and horse racing, in addition to folk music and storytelling with festival participants.

Further attractions of the 12-day journey include seeing the wild horses in Hustai National Park, entering the Erdene Zuu Monastery, a private calligraphy workshop at Erdenesyn Khuree and taking the Trans-Mongolian railway to Tunkhel Village. *JB*

Art of the hard deal

ACCOR has signed a strategic partnership with Hard Rock International, which will see the Ennismore brand lead the global development of Hard Rock's portfolio of hotels.

Properties within the Hard Rock portfolio will also have the option to join the ALL Accor distribution and loyalty program, giving them access to over 125 million members worldwide.

Accor will connect participating Hard Rock hotels to its global sales and distribution network under the deal, while Hard Rock will continue to operate its own direct marketing channels. *JB*

FAMIL IN FOCUS: AGENTS EXPERIENCE O'AHU

HAWAIIAN Airlines Australian team shared a little Aloha Spirit with eight travel agents recently during a famil co-hosted with industry partners Aqua-Aston Hospitality and Hawai'i Tourism Oceania.



"We were thrilled to welcome our guests on board to experience Hawaiian's hospitality from Sydney to Honolulu, en route to a whirlwind visit to Oahu," said Jennifer Edmunds, sales development manager Australia for Hawaiian Airlines.

"Hawaiian's inflight experience, food and beverages, amenities, entertainment and the warm hospitality of our crew always shares a little aloha long before we reach Hawai'i's shores," she said.

"We also experienced Starlink on board, which has proved hugely popular since Hawaiian was the first major carrier to introduce free, hi-speed wi-fi now over two years ago," Edmunds added.



The participants from TravelManagers, itravel, Envoyage, MTA and Connected Travel were treated to an action-packed itinerary which included some of Oahu's unforgettable attractions.

They ziplined over spectacular Kualoa Ranch, a working ranch which has been the location for over 200 major feature films and television shows.

They also attended a spectacular Waikiki Luau; hiked Diamond Head and snorkelled Turtle Canyon some two miles offshore from Waikiki.



Not only was this an opportunity to experience some of the activities on offer, but the group also enjoyed amazing local dining at Appetito Craft Pizza & Wine Bar, Olili and TR Fire Grill all on Kuhio Ave near Waikiki Market.

Hawaiian Airlines offers five departures weekly from Sydney direct to Honolulu where over 140 flights daily connect to Hawai'i's neighbouring islands.

TOP: Agents ziplining at Kualoa Ranch
MIDDLE: Agents enjoying a Luau at Waikiki Marriott
BOTTOM: Agents enjoying a spectacular sunset at Espacio Luxury Suites Pool Deck

Famil ***IN FOCUS*** *is our feature showcasing some of the photos from recent industry famils or events. If you want your famil or event to be featured, email: advertising@traveldaily.com.au*

TRAVELDAILY

Wednesday 11th Nov 2026

LTC Soiree in full swing at Queenstown

THE Luxury Travel Collection (LTC) kicked off its fourth annual Soiree even earlier this week on the lakefront in Queenstown.

LTC general manager Nikki Glading welcomed well over 100 delegates to Queenstown Wharf Bar on Mon for what is the biggest Soiree hosted to date. Delegates are in town for three days of the network's exclusive, boutique annual leadership gathering, with today serving as leadership day, the main plenary session for the conference.

This year's leadership day program will feature keynote speakers such as former All Blacks captain Richie McCaw and Rodd & Gunn chief executive Mike Beagley.

Delegates will also hear from Flight Centre Travel Group luxury and leisure leadership including Danielle Galloway and James Kavanagh, as well as Steve Odell from Regent Seven Seas Cruises and Karla Pound from National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions.

The 2026 Soiree is the second time the event has been hosted outside of Australia.



NIKKI Glading, Danielle Galloway, James Kavanagh, Flight Centre Travel Group.



EMMA Davie and Kristy Lowther, Scenic.



STEPHANIE Bleakley and Eileen Delessert-Madden, Luxury Travel Collection.



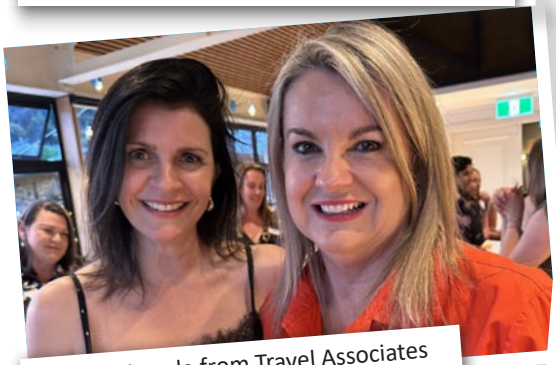
JAMES Kavanagh, Flight Centre Travel Group, and Lisa Pile, Regent Seven Seas Cruises.



SCOTT Graham and Steve Odell, Regent Seven Seas Cruises with Elsa McLean from Adventure World.



AMBER Wilson, HX; Clint Hearne, World360 Rewards; and Rin Jensen, Travel Associates.



TANIA Agnola from Travel Associates with Julie Rogers, Ponant Explorations.



ADAM Townson and Rachel Kingswell, Travel Associates.



ADRIAN Clarke, Luxury Travel Collection, with the global travel network team.



TANIA Agnola, Travel Associates; Deb Gibb, Why Travel; and Cassandra O'Bryan, Tailored Journeys.

Aman's new angle

AMAN Group has expanded its luxury hospitality portfolio with the launch of ATMA, a new brand focused on performance-led wellness, with Miami set to be the first to launch.

ATMA will combine accommodation, branded residences and private membership experiences.

Tennis legend Novak Djokovic is on board as a global partner, leading the development of wellness, longevity, nutrition and racquet programming.

"[Atma] brings together wellness, performance, longevity alongside innovative design and experiential events," CEO Vlad Doronin said. *ZH*

New look Nomad

LUXE Nomad has unveiled a refreshed brand identity, dropping "The" from its name as the luxury accommodation management group targets further expansion across APAC.

The company manages more than 100 properties and 1,400 rooms across Bali, Thailand and Japan, and closed FY2026 with nearly $100m in gross bookings.

Founder Stephanie Chai said the unified identity would help the business establish a trusted brand across a fragmented vacation rental market. *ZH*

QR FOLLOWING ORDERS

QATAR Airways has rolled out its pre-order dining menu across its medium-haul flights of two hours or more, giving first- and business-class passengers the ability to select a main meal prior to boarding their flight.

The service allows passengers with confirmed bookings to choose from the onboard a la carte menu between 14 days and 24 hours before travel, through the airline's website or app.

For select destinations, the service also features additional signature dishes from QR's 'Flavours to Fly For' collection.

Previously available on a more limited range of flights, the expansion brings pre-order dining to a larger portion of the carrier's global network, with the airline positioning the move as part of efforts to offer more personalised



premium cabin experiences.

The move comes as Qatar Airways prepares to introduce new premium cabin menus developed with Australian chef Ross Lusted from Feb to Jul 2027 (***TD*** 09 Oct 2026).

Created in collaboration with his Sydney restaurant Woodcut, the menus will feature dishes including tiger prawns, slow-cooked lamb shoulder and roasted fish fillet. *ZH*

Seabourn sees leadership shifts as Tamis departs

SEABOURN president Mark Tamis (**pictured** left) has quietly exited the luxury cruise line with Holland America Line president Beth Bodensteiner (**pictured** right) assuming responsibility for both brands.



Tamis, who took the presidency in 2024, had recently expanded his remit to include guest experience and product development at Holland America Line.

"Mark shared with me that he believes this is the right time to pursue another opportunity." Bodensteiner said in an interview with *Seatrade.*

Michael Stendebach has been promoted to SVP guest experience and product development, while Rob Coleman added the role of Seabourn executive ambassador to his remit. *ZH*

A new Saudi dream

ULTRA-LUXURY train Dream of the Desert has opened bookings for its 2027 northern Saudi Arabia trips.

In its first phase, the train will feature 24 suite cabins, a dedicated restaurant carriage and a majlis carriage inspired by Saudi Arabia's tradition of gathering and hospitality.

"We are building a new way to experience Saudi Arabia, connecting rail, hospitality, culture and destination discovery into one carefully orchestrated experience," Raffaele Breschi, Arsenale International CEO & GM of Dream of the Desert, said.

Departing from Riyadh, the trips will visit Al Jouf, Al Qassim, Hail, the Aja Mountains and AlUla.

Experiences include exploring the ancient city of Dumat Al-Jandal, discovering the red and purple Aja Mountains, enjoying The Oasis Table farm-to-table meals and more.

"As you can imagine, it has been a great challenge due to the political situation that we're currently facing," group CCO Giulia Bandini said during the Railbookers Group Global Summit today.

"The first commercial journey is going to be in October 2027, so we said we really hope that the world is going to be better." *JHM*

PONANT EXPLORATIONS
INTRODUCING LOW 10% DEPOSITS
LIMITED TIME ONLY*
VIEW VOYAGES
*Conditions apply. Select countries only

TRAVELDAILY

Wednesday 11th Nov 2026



ACCOMMODATION

Send your accommodation updates to:
accomupdates@traveldaily.com.au



YHA Adelaide Central has unveiled $3 million in renovations, with upgrades to 59 private rooms, 22 guest bathrooms and an open plan ground floor. Each bedroom now has new flooring, curtains and paint. Private rooms now have new bedheads, desks and robe units. Across the shared rooms, there are 99 new bunks, each with privacy curtains, integrated Bluetooth, charging ports and built-in reading lights.



DoubleTree by Hilton Melbourne has launched JONES Bar + Kitchen, replacing the former Platform 270 restaurant as the property's signature dining venue. The concept combines contemporary Australian dining with an atmosphere similar to a local bistro and wine bar, offering a seasonal menu and a carefully curated drinks list. Signature dishes include chicken cotoletta, prawn linguine, as well as the Flinders Street Beef Pie and classic cheeseburger.



Rosa Grand Milano - Starhotels Collezione has revealed refreshed interiors, as well as redesigned spaces such as its lobby and the Grand Lounge & Bar. Both the lobby and reception now offer a brighter, more contemporary atmosphere, with warm tones and selected materials. The Grand Bar & Lounge features a new bar counter as the focal point of the interior, complemented by a decorative oval ceiling.



Banyan Tree Krabi has opened the Mek Khram Wellbeing Centre, offering a range of wellbeing experiences as well as classes in pilates and Thai boxing. Pilates classes will be led by an expert trainer, focusing on core strength, flexibility and stability. Thai boxing classes are available for beginners up to fitness enthusiasts, with sessions helping with cardio and sharpening of the senses.



QT Gold Coast has announced the return of its signature restaurant, complete with a new kitchen team and a new dining room aesthetic. The venue is part open kitchen and part global marketplace, with dishes made to order and a rotating seasonal menu. The new dedicated grill offers premium Australian steaks and seafood, in addition to an added range of signature oriental dishes.

Anderson buys stake

CRAIG Anderson, the team leader of Cruiseabout's Mornington branch in Victoria, has taken an equity stake in the store, becoming the third person to take part in the company's ownership scheme.

The program allows team leaders to buy a share in the store they run and get a bigger chunk of the profit it generates.

Anderson (**pictured**) has led the team at Mornington since Mar 2025, and has since established himself as one of the top-performing advisors in Cruiseabout's network.

"I decided to buy into Mornington because I 100% back my team and my leadership," Anderson explained.

"We have shown what we can do in our first 12 months, and I am so passionate about what we can achieve in the coming years that it made sense to put my money where my mouth is."

Anderson reassured staff that his day-to-day operations will not change, with the major difference being that he is now in a position



to provide formal feedback to Cruiseabout HQ through the owners' advisory board.

Cruiseabout general manager Brad Kennedy said that it is a strong example of the Business Ownership Scheme in practice.

"He is not managing a store for someone else anymore, he owns a piece of it," said Kennedy.

"When a leader has skin in the game, the way Craig now does, everything changes: how they hire, how they coach, how they look after a customer who walks in on a quiet Tue." *JB*

Virgin apologises

VIRGIN Australia (VA) has apologised to an eight-year-old girl with a rare bone disease after her $33,000 wheelchair was broken during a flight from Townsville to Brisbane.

Adelaide Tuimalealiifano was making the trip to Brisbane for one of her medical appointments when it was found that one of the wheelchair's brackets had been twisted, causing her father to carry her through Queensland Children's Hospital. *JB*

Strong Q3 for LH

LUFTHANSA Group has experienced its strongest-ever revenue quarter, which increased 9% year-on-year to €12.2 billion (A$19.6 billion).

Despite a significant increase in fuel costs, the company also recorded a 6% increase in its operating profit (adjusted EBIT) compared to the prior year.

The aviation group attributed the robust results to cost discipline and strong demand across its network airlines, particularly for premium tickets on routes to Asia and the US. *JM*

TRAVELDAILY

www.traveldaily.com.au
Travel Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Produced each weekday since 1994, ***Travel Daily*** is Australia's leading travel industry publication.

EDITORIAL
Editor & Acting Editorial Director Adam Bishop
Cruise Editor - Myles Stedman
Senior News Journalists - Damian Francis, Zach Havard and Janie Medbury
Journalist - James Bale
Editor-at-Large - Bruce Piper
Associate Publisher - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
Head of Sales & Marketing - Sean Harrigan
Business Development Manager - Kara Stanley
advertising@traveldaily.com.au

GENERAL MANAGER & PUBLISHER
Matthew Vince

ACCOUNTS
accounts@traveldaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61) 2 8007 6760

info@traveldaily.com.au

CRUISE WEEKLY
Pharmacy Daily

Travel Daily is a publication of TDaily Pty Ltd ABN 34 108 508 765. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of ***Travel Daily*** no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Damian Francis.

ENDS TODAY

Celebrity X Cruises®

EARLY ACCESS

BLACK FRIDAY

TAKE

UP TO 75% OFF 2ND GUEST*

+

SAVE

UP TO $1,200 PER ROOM*

BOOKING BONUS

$150 OFF EUROPE SAILINGS*



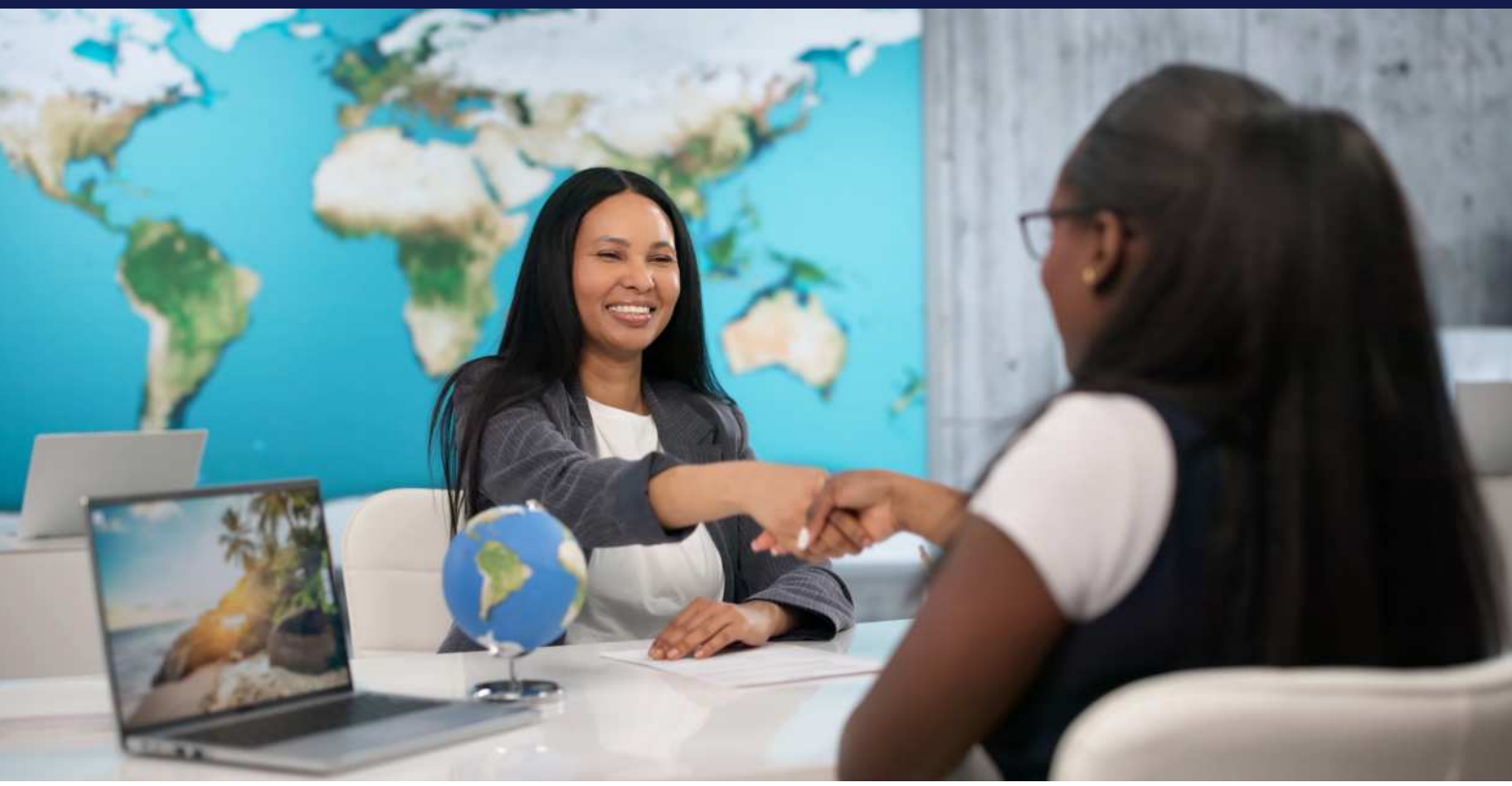
VIEW SAILINGS

BOOK NOW ON CRUISINGPOWER.COM
OR CALL 1800 965 874

Royal Caribbean Group | ROYAL CARIBBEAN | Celebrity X Cruises® | SILVERSEA

Cruise must be booked by 11/11/26, valid on select sailings departing 11/11/26 – 10/05/29 & 9+night Alaska Cruise tours on Celebrity Solstice departing 07/05/27 – 03/09/27 and Celebrity Equinox departing 05/05/28 - 19/09/28. Up to 75% off 2nd guest & up to $1200 Savings on Select dates Offer is for non-refundable fares, new, individual bookings at standard and prevailing rates. 75% is off nonrefundable fares on 2nd guest in the same stateroom as first full fare guest. Up to $150 AUD Savings Europe Booking Bonus offer applies to new, individual bookings made at standard and prevailing orclosed group standard or GroupX rates from 10/11/26 to 11/11/26 on an Offer Cruise, excluding Celebrity River Cruises and Galapagos,and provides cruise fare savings per stateroom on select Europe sailings departing 10/11/26 through 10/05/29. ruise savings per stateroom varies by stateroom category and cruise length. Excludes Galapagos and Celebrity River Cruises. Other T&C's apply, visit celebrity.com/au.

2027 MEMBERSHIP NOW OPEN



WHY WAIT?
START SELLING MORE CRUISES TODAY!

Grow your knowledge and confidence with hundreds of online courses, plus live and virtual training events.

Stand out from the crowd with **CLIA's globally recognised training** and Certification Program.

Sell more cruises with access to **valuable tools, resources and sales support** through the CLIA Members Hub.

Contact us for more information on all CLIA Membership Benefits

info-aus@cruising.org (02) 9964 9600 www.cruising.org.au


SCENIC
DISCOVERY YACHTS™
EXCLUSIVE BLACK FRIDAY OFFERS
Gold
is the new
BLACK
Complimentary heli flight-seeing & 50% off Suite Upgrade
25 February & 8 March on Antarctica in Depth & Chilean Fjords
Gold
is the new
BLACK
$200
SCENIC
GROUP
★ REWARDS ★
BONUS
POINTS
* Term & Conditions Apply