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TRAVELDAILY
traveldaily.com.au
Friday 20th Nov 2026

Today's issue of *TD*

Travel Daily today features five pages of news, plus a cover wrap from **Oceania Cruises** and our **Corporate Update,** and full pages from:

- **Norwegian Cruise Line**
- **Entire Travel Group**

NCL's huge savings

WITH Norwegian Cruise Line's Black Friday sale, travellers can get 50% off their next cruise.

See more on page **six**.

Entire has a plan

ENTIRE Travel Group's Tahiti Travel has a range of packages tailor-made for agents.

See more on the **back page**.

Carnival expands

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has today announced a new ship class as well as plans for two smaller ships to debut in 2033 and 2035.

The new ships will be built by long-time partner Fincantieri and will be powered by LNG as the line looks to chart a path towards smaller ports and expanded itinerary choices.

Plans were announced by president Christine Duffy who also shared the success of the line's private island, Celebration Key, and announced plans for two new expansions.

The expansions are set to up the capacity of the island to 19,000 people in total, more details in ***Cruise Weekly***.

VA mulls A321 purchase

EXCLUSIVE

VIRGIN Australia has issued a request for proposals to Boeing and Airbus for aircraft in the 200-seat category to support future growth, a spokesperson for the carrier has revealed to ***TD***.

Clarifying statements made by chief executive officer Dave Emerson this morning about increasing route capacity in an address to shareholders, the carrier confirmed it was now considering additional orders of either Boeing 737-10s or Airbus A321s to further expand its fleet.

VA already has 10 B737-10s on order, and recently confirmed it expects to receive the first aircraft in Jun 2028 (***TD*** 15 Jun 2026).

While the B737-10 still needs to be sanctioned by CASA to commence operations in Australia, encouragingly it was given the green light by the FAA in Oct (***TD*** 22 Oct 2026).

VA has not yet released the configuration details for its B737-10s, however they will form part of the replacement plan for its older B737-800s - which carry between 176 and 182 passengers.

However, VA appears to be on the fence about which aircraft to go with beyond that order, stating that modern 200-seat planes via Boeing or Airbus are on the table to support future growth through to the next decade.

Modernising its fleet has been a key part of VA's growth plan in recent years, and during FY26, the carrier welcomed 13 Boeing 737-8 Max and four Embraer E190-E2 aircraft.

VA also completed a major refurbishment of its Boeing 737 fleet, with 102 aircraft now featuring refreshed interiors and wi-fi on 88% of planes.

In terms of its regional operations, the Aussie airline retired its A320 and Fokker F100 aircraft and replaced them with E190-E2s, which are more fuel-efficient and will reduce emissions by around 30%. *AB*

CT Partners board

CT Partners has reappointed Joe Araullo as chair for 2027, following a record FY26 in which TTV reached $2.55 billion.

Shane Barr returns to the board, Anna McMurtrie retained the elected seat while Fiona Prosser departs after seven years.

Member overrides rose to 11% and air volume is up 10%, *ZH*

Last call on PMC

AUSTRALIA'S major travel and tourism bodies, including the Australian Tourism Industry Council, have urged senators to reject Labor's proposed $10 increase to the Passenger Movement Charge, taking it to $80 (***TD*** 13 May 2026).

A letter sent to two thirds of the Senate, seen by *The Australian*, warned the hike could make, "Australia less attractive and competitive, with flow-on consequences for the businesses, communities and workers who depend on these industries."

The May budget measure is expected to raise an additional $755 million over released forward estimates. *ZH*

Go big on Oceania

OCEANIA Cruises' Black Friday sale is on now, with up to 50% off voyages across Asia and the South Pacific.

See more on the **front page**.





TRAVELDAILY

Friday 20th Nov 2026



No relief on fares

AIRLINE pricing pressures, the growing unbundling of fares, and rising traveller expectations are set to shape corporate travel programs in 2027, creating fresh challenges for travel managers balancing budgets with passenger experience, the American Express Global Business Travel Air Monitor report has suggested.

While fuel price shocks may be easing, higher airfares are expected to remain, while the growing cost of ancillary services and demand for premium experiences will add further complexity to managing corporate travel spend.

Airfares on Australian domestic routes are forecast to rise by 3.8% to 4.8% in economy class in 2027, while business fares could fall by up to 2%.

Internationally, Australia-Europe business and premium economy fares are expected to increase by up to 2.6% and 2.8% respectively, while economy fares may decline nearly 4% with those fares to Asia around 3% cheaper.

Forecasts for Middle East routes are more mixed, with business fares ranging from a 7.2% drop to a 1.8% increase and economy fares around the 1% mark.

The report suggested advisors analyse ancillary spend to identify what extras are valuable and which airlines are popular.

It also said advisors should work with airline partners to negotiate bundled corporate fares that include the most commonly used add-ons. *ZH*

A premium star in Auckland



AIRLINE Rep Services, the GSA division of CVFR Travel Group, hosted a trade event in Auckland this week to celebrate the opening of sales for Starlux Airlines in New Zealand (***TD*** 18 Nov 2026) before the carrier launches Taipei-Sydney-Auckland service on 27 Mar 2027.

The gathering brought together key New Zealand partners, agents and industry reps to officially welcome Starlux Airlines' premium travel offering.

Initially operating four times a week before shifting to daily services from 01 May 2027, the Asian carrier will provide Kiwis with convenient access to Taipei via Sydney through its expanding international network.

"This [launch] is not just about adding quantity, but quality," CVFR Travel Group CEO Ram Chhabra explained.

"Starlux brings a premium airline offering, an exceptional onboard experience and a new level of choice for NZ travellers.

"Its entry strengthens connectivity across the Tasman as well as onwards through Taipei while providing the travel trade with another quality international airline to offer their customers."

Starlux Airlines selected Airline Rep Services as its GSA for NZ in Sep (***TD*** 21 Sep 2026) and Simon Amos was appointed sales account manager (***TD*** 30 Oct). *AB*

Pictured: Ritu Khattar, Airline Rep Services; Amos; Chhabra; Gabrielle Massa, Airline Rep Services; Nidhi Nijhawan, CVFR Travel Group and Sakura Wijethunga, Airline Rep Services.

Winter Explora

EXPLORA Journeys has opened its Winter 2028–29 collection, with six ships set to visit 230 destinations and 74 countries.

The Sep to May program includes 70 maiden ports, an inaugural West African itinerary, 63 late departures, and 26 overnight stays. *ZH*

Viking Halogi lands

VIKING Cruises has officially taken delivery of *Viking Halogi*, its newest state-of-the-art Viking Longship capable of holding 190 guests across 95 staterooms.

She is set to sail Viking's popular Rhine itineraries as well as the new 'Obermmergau, Innsbruck & the Rhine' sailing which will be offered from 2030.

"We are pleased to welcome the Viking Halogi to our award-winning fleet and to offer even more curious travellers the opportunity to experience Europe in Viking comfort," Viking president and CEO Leah Talactac said upon taking delivery.

Viking Halogi features the line's trademark Scandinavian design and Viking's new innovations including the patented square bow that enables three full decks, the indoor/outdoor Aquavit Terrace, and the proprietary asymmetric corridor layout that allows space for true two-room suites. *ZH*

Boom Oct for Mel

MELBOURNE Airport recorded its busiest October for international travel, with 1.06 million passengers passing through the terminal, up 2.3% year-on-year.

Growth was supported by new services from Finnair and TransNusa, while domestic passenger numbers fell 2.3% amid airline capacity cuts linked to higher fuel prices.

Overall passenger traffic declined 0.8% to 3.26 million. *ZH*



TRAVELDAILY

Friday 20th Nov 2026



Window Seat

ANYONE who has been to the UK would have seen, or maybe even indulged in, the beloved bakery chain known as Greggs.

Travellers can now enjoy it further, with Hotel Gotham in Newcastle launching the Greggs Suite, sporting the blue and gold seen on the brand's store fronts, with personal butler service hand-delivering iconic menu items such as the sausage roll.

This pastry-filled luxury suite will set travellers back £380 (breakfast not included).



LTC bullish on AUS & NZ

FLIGHT Centre Travel Group's (FCTG) Luxury Travel Collection (LTC) is focused on doubling down on Australia and New Zealand rather than pursuing immediate further international expansion, according to general manager Nikki Glading.

The invitation-only membership organisation was founded in Australia in 2023, before expanding to New Zealand 12 months ago (***TD*** 19 Nov 2025).

It completed a major expansion in New Zealand in Jul, welcoming eight independent agencies through Complete Ltd (***TD*** 02 Jul).

Despite growing to 41 members, LTC is not currently planning to enter a third or fourth country, Glading (**pictured** right) told ***Travel Daily*** at last week's Remarkable Soiree in Queenstown (***TD*** 16 Nov).

"There's a lot for us to tap into [in New Zealand] for both inbound and outbound, Australia



is also still growing for us," Glading explained.

"Will we go somewhere else in the future? Potentially, but it's not on the plans right now.

"We've got so much opportunity within the two countries we already are in, and of course, we're the only luxury consort that has on-the-ground representation in New Zealand with [local head of luxury brands] Kelly de Graaf,"

FCTG managing director luxury & independent Danielle Galloway (**pictured** left) added: "We want to keep on focusing on and deepening that investment in these two markets as opposed to broadening too quickly." *MS*

Air NZ CHC-PER

AIR New Zealand is expanding its international network from Christchurch with the launch of two seasonal routes to Perth and Tokyo this month.

The new services will restore direct connections between New Zealand's South Island and the two international destinations; Air NZ has not flown CHC-PER since before the pandemic.

Both routes will be operated using the airline's Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft. *MS*

Campaigns at sea

CAMPAIGN Lab has secured the account of Norwegian Cruise Line, now acting as its PR representative in the Australian and New Zealand market.

It follows the launch of the *Its Different Out Here* campaign.

The Sydney-based firm now represents Fiji Airways, InterContinental Fiji and Hertz. *JB*

COMMERCIAL MANAGER
VIC & TAS (NEW POSITION)

VIKING

As Viking continues to grow, we're expanding our on-road commercial team to provide even greater support to our trade partners.

We are looking for an energetic, commercially driven Commercial Manager to join our sales team, servicing Eastern & Southern Victoria and Tasmania, working alongside our existing Victorian Commercial Manager.

The ideal candidate will be a strong relationship builder with a proven track record in sales and business development.

We are looking for someone who will:

- Drive Viking's cruise sales across the travel agent network through training and business development.
- Build strong relationships with existing and new trade partners.
- Identify opportunities to grow Viking's business across the territory.
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TRAVELDAILY

CORPORATE UPDATE

Premium touches down

WESTERN Sydney International Airport (WSI) has unveiled its premium end-to-end passenger experience, bringing valet parking, dedicated check-in and the new international lounge together in one seamless journey.

At the heart of the experience is the newly opened Rayleigh Lounge (**pictued**), which gives participating airline partners a ready-made premium offering for eligible passengers, including a bar and open kitchen, three private shower suites, and views across the airfield.

"The Rayleigh Lounge will deliver an exceptional experience for passengers while giving WSI's growing international airline network access to a ready-made premium offering for their eligible customers," WSI CEO Simon Hickey said.

Available for all scheduled flights, travellers can enjoy a fast and convenient transition from vehicle



to check-in with valet parking, which will see them greeted at one of five kerbside drop-off bays adjacent to the terminal entrance before their vehicle is parked securely undercover.

Bookings can be made and managed online through the WSI website, with introductory pricing from $78.

Inside the terminal, eligible passengers will receive an exclusive, fully hosted premium check-in and bag-drop experience, along with lounge seating, complimentary wi-fi and personalised support. *JM*

Latam long range

LATAM Airlines has unveiled the design for its incoming A321XLR aircraft , boasting 12 VantageSOLO suites and an enhanced 3-3 economy cabin.

"We are creating a new way to experience long-haul travel on single-aisle aircraft," Latam Airlines Group VP customer experience Paulo Miranda said.

Latam has 10 A321XLRs, which have 50% more range than other aircraft A320neos, on order. *ZH*

World360 for SMB

FLIGHT Centre has launched World360 Rewards for Business, giving Australia's 2.8 million small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) the opportunity to earn uncapped travel points on everyday expenses.

The program builds on FCTG's broader World360 Rewards offering, launched in Nov 2025, which allows members to earn points across travel and everyday spending (***TD*** 26 Nov 2025). *ZH*

Men's health in focus

OPINION



Scott Darlow is the general manager of Link Travel Group

HAPPY International Men's Day for yesterday everyone, although I suspect that for many of you, reading this is the first time you knew that yesterday was in fact International Men's Day.

I wonder how many travel organisations held morning or afternoon teas to celebrate the day?

I certainly can't recall seeing any invite to a 'Men in Travel lunch', and there was most definitely no 'Men in Travel Awards Dinner' last night.

And there doesn't need to be either, International Men's Day is not about bravado or chest beating, it's actually about men's health, or you could say, a lack of awareness about men's health.

> "This is not about chest beating or bravado...it is about men's health"

Looking at the official Australian numbers, they paint quite a bleak picture: 74% of suicide deaths in Australia are men (one of the worst rates in the developed world), Australia has the highest cancer rate amongst men in the world, and close to 40% of men in Australia die a premature death.

These are just to name a few, the full list of men's health statistics in Australia is actually quite confronting.

It compelled me yesterday to write to all the male owners within the group I represent to not only wish them a Happy International Men's Day, but more importantly to remind them to look after their own health and mental health, go and have the check-up they have been putting off, or reach out and speak to someone if they need.

We are a pretty close group, so the door is open for everyone to have a chat when needed.

Responses to those emails was amazing and extremely positive, prompting this opinion piece.

We all have that male someone in our lives who has battled health issues, whether that was a father, grandfather, son, brother, husband, boyfriend, nephew, uncle or even just a mate.

Closer to the industry, too often in the last five years we've lost some good men way too early, and the ***Travel Daily*** vale section has reminded us of this too many times for our own liking

So, it is up to all of us to look out for each other and check up on the men in our lives.

Perhaps in coming years some travel organisations can start having morning and afternoon teas on International Men's Day to raise funds for men's health, or perhaps we can even one day work towards an Industry International Men's Day Lunch that can support men's charities.

FFellas, it's time to have that check-up, or renew that medical script, or simply just chat to someone, stop putting it off.

And ladies, you know us guys don't have great memories, so give the special men in your lives a nudge to take action!

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Friday 20th Nov 2026



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BLACK FRIDAY EDITION

Daydream Island Resort & Living Reef is offering guests 30% off stays of four nights or more, as well as daily breakfast and ferry transfers. This offer is available to book before 02 Dec, using the promo code BLACKFRIDAY. To find out more, call 1800 888 288.

BIG4 has savings on 300 of its holiday parks nation-wide. Travellers can get head to BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort from $51 per night, BIG4 Saltwater Yamba Holiday Park from $60 per night and BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Philip Island from $31 per night. Call 1300 738 044 for more.

Railbookers' flash sale is on now, with savings on 2027 and 2028 rail holidays. Travellers can save $700 per couple on seven- to nine-night rail holidays, $900 per couple on 10- to 14-night rail holidays and $1,000 per couple on rail holidays 15 nights or more. The sale ends 01 Dec, to make a booking, call 1300 938 534.

East Coast Car Rentals is offering 26% off bookings made between 27-30 Nov. The discount is available on both its base rental package and the Full Coverage Bundle. When selecting the full coverage bundle, there is 10% off extras including roadside assistance, tyre and windscreen protection and express pick up. Call 1800 028 881 to make a booking.

With **Aurora Expeditons** Companion Travels Free offer, guests can bring a second traveller at no additional cost. This offer is available on select Small Ship itineraries on valid bookings made before 22 Dec. For more on this offer, call 1800 637 688.

Atlas Ocean Voyages now has savings of 55% on select expeditions as well as up to US$2,000 in air credit per couple, available from 24-28 Nov. With bookings made through Cruise Traveller, the sale covers 122 all-inclusive voyages. Call 1800 507 777 to book.

CLLIX Apartments and Hotels has 20% off apartment-style accommodation across its properties in Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne and the Gold Coast. Those staying in Brisbane and the Gold Coast can enjoy complimentary parking. Call 07 3518 4108 to make a booking, using the code SUMMERCLIX26.

Until 03 Dec, **Rocky Mountaineer** has big savings on all 2027 packages (excluding two-day Rail Only journeys and First Passage to the West Rockies Refined packages). GoldLeaf Service starts from $775 per person while SilverLeaf starts from $525 per person. Circle Journeys are available for double promo. Call 1800 821 531 for more on this offer.

Time is running out to make the most of **Costsaver's** range of travel deals, ending 07 Dec. 10% savings are available on a range of destinations including Italy, the British Isles, Scandinavia, Bohemia and Southern Africa. Call 1300 302 118 to book.

Now available to the general public, **Holland America Line** is offering guests up to US$500 onboard credit per room, valid on bookings made through 03 Dec. The amount of onboard credit varies between sailings. To make a booking, call 1300 987 332.

With **Insight Vacations**, travellers can buy one itinerary and get a second for 50% off. The is available on itineraries including the eight-day 'Treasures of Cape Cod & The Islands' tour, the nine-day 'Amazing Spain and Portugal' itinerary and the nine-day 'Country Roads of Central Europe' Tour. The offer ends 07 Dec. Call 1800 001 778 for more.

Ponant Explorations has launched its Festive Offer, with an additional 10% savings on over 100 select departures. This offer is available until 04 Jan, with voyages ranging from Antarctica, French Polynesia, the Kimberley, Iceland, the Philippines and the Mediterranean. Departures are available for 2026, 2027 and 2028. Call 1300 737 178 to book.

For a limited time, travellers can save a bundle on their next **Trafalgar** tour. Savings of up to 20% are available on itineraries across Europe, Australia & NZ, Africa, North America and more. These deals are available until 07 Dec. To make the most of this offer, call 1800 002 007.

Before 30 Nov, **Skydive Australia** is offering adrenaline junkies $50 off tandem skydives and gift vouchers. The offer is valid on 13,000ft and 15,000ft tandem skydives. To make the most of this deal, call 1300 821 628 or use the code BLUE50.

The **Hilton** Sale is now on, with savings of up to 25% and bonus points for Hilton Honors Members. Before 12 Jan, Hilton Honors Members can get up to 25% off across APAC properties. Before 31 Dec, Members can receive up to 3,000 Bonus Points on each booking. To find out more, call 1800 943 447.

Club Med has added new destinations to its Black Friday sale, in which travellers can earn up to 20% off on selected resorts when travelling before 29 May 2027. New destinations include South Africa, Seychelles, Mauritius, Italy, France and Spain. The sale ends 01 Dec. To make a booking, please call 1800 258 263.

With **Colette's** new sale, travellers can save up to $5,000 per couple on small group tours across Asia. Savings are available on the 18-day 'Kingdoms of Southeast Asia', the 15-day 'Japan & South Korea' tour and the 14-day 'Mysteries of India' itinerary. Travellers can also save $3,000 per couple on the 12-day 'Treasures of the Mekong' tour. The sale ends 04 Dec. Call 1300 792 195.

When booking with **Seabourn** before 08 Dec, guests can enjoy free two-category Veranda Suite upgrades, up to US$2,000 shipboard credit per suite and reduced deposit of 15%. Highlights include sailings across the Greek islands and Mediterranean, Exploring Alaska and the Inside Passage and discovering Arctic locations such as Greenland, Iceland and Svalbard. To make a booking, call 13 24 02.

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