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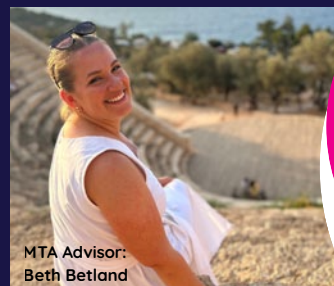


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Brand USA return

BRAND USA has appointed former chair Caroline Beteta as its interim president & CEO, assuming the role on 09 Nov.

Beteta replaces Fred Dixon, who revealed his exit in to lead NYC Tourism + Conventions.

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Rawley takes new road

EVOLUTION Travel Collective co-founder Pete Rawley has acquired Byroads Travel, a small-group touring business offering escorted trips in 16 destinations.

Byroads has been operating for close to 20 years, founded by former Peregrine director Richard Mole and later run by operations specialist Steve Mortimer.

Under his ownership, Rawley (pictured) said he was keen to build on Byroads' existing offering while also exploring new destinations and itineraries.

"I'm really interested in developing some unique destinations and itineraries to put in front of our clients," he said.

"Just like when I started in the adventure tour space, that curiosity has not left me, and I believe that this is an area we can develop in time.

"For now, though, we have



around 16 destinations we are exploring, and I am really looking forward to running those over the next couple of years."

One key point of difference for Byroads is its policy of only having a single departure, which is carefully selected to coincide with the best time to visit.

Rawley confirmed that specialised approach would remain central to the business.

"I understand that we may not be for everyone due to our limited departures, but that's okay," he said.

"We pick what we see as the absolute perfect time of year to run our once-off departure and we don't plan to expand on that."

Another element of the business that Rawley is keen to retain is the combination of an Australian tour escort with the best local leaders and guides available in each destination.

"After 30 years in small group travel, I understand the importance of the local leaders who run the tours - it's a must as they understand their homeland and bring that cultural expertise to the travelling experience." AB

Hounsell to stand

THE Helloworld board has endorsed the re-election of non-executive director Garry Hounsell at its upcoming annual general meeting taking place on 23 Oct.

Hounsell is also a director of Treasury Wines Estates. AB

Emirates' big prize

TRAVEL advisors who issue at least one Emirates adult return ticket by the end of the month will go into the draw to win the ultimate sports encounter next year - see **cover page** for more.

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features ten pages of news, a cover wrap from Emirates, a photo page from **Virtuoso** and our **Sustainability** feature.

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Trans-Tasman made easier

A **PAPERLESS** trans-Tasman travel trial has been proposed by New Zealand's governing National Party to introduce passport-free airport gates by 2028.

That year's T20 World Cup of cricket, taking place between Oct and Nov 2028, is targeted for the trial, which would allow eligible Australians and New Zealanders to enter through technology such as smartphones and biometrics.

Passengers would still need a valid, pre-registered passport in order to travel, but it would not have to be shown physically during the immigration process.

Traveller details and digital declarations would need to be sent before flying so New Zealand's border agencies can clear information prior to landing.



The trial would be dependent on formal approval from the Australian Government, as it would require changes to both nations' laws.

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has backed the initiative in principle alongside NZ's leader Christopher Luxon (**pictured**), but has not yet given it formal legislative approval.

New Zealand's general election next month also stands in front of the trial becoming a reality, with the opposition party raising scepticism about the plan.

Corporate Traveller managing director Tom Walley said any move to make trans-Tasman faster is worth backing, given the travel corridor is one of Australia's most important.

"If both governments can deliver this well, it will make a busy corridor easier for the businesses and people who rely on it regularly, and we'd like to see it progress," he said.

Passports were not always required for travel between Australia and New Zealand, with the first 'Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement' in place between 1973 and 1981. *MS*

Qantas adds to Indo

QANTAS Group is set to add three new routes to Indonesia and increase MEL-CGK frequency after Australia and Indonesia expanded their bilateral air services agreements for the first time in 15 years.

Qantas and Jetstar have jointly applied for 4,539 additional Aus-Indo seats per week each way for five years.

The proposal includes daily QF PER-CGK flights from 14 Dec, plus daily JQ flights from WSI-Bali services from 15 Mar 2027.

Another proposal would add daily BNE-DPS flights from Aug next year. *ZH*

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ROYAL BRUNEI AIRLINES

New drop-off in MEL

MELBOURNE Airport will bid farewell to its departures ramp from 9pm tonight with new drop-offs and pick-ups for Qantas, Virgin Australia and international flights directed to new, larger zones in the T123 Transport Hub becoming operational from 4am tomorrow morning.

The change paves the way for work to start on an expansion of the international terminal, reducing congestion and offering undercover waiting areas.

"This is an exciting change for us, but it's a big change, and it will take all of us some time to adjust to it," Melbourne Airport CEO Lorie Argus said. *ZH*

Same-sex warning

SMARTTRAVELLER has warned Australian travellers that same-sex relationships are not widely accepted in Turkish society - especially outside of the large cities - and therefore they should avoid public displays of affection.

While same-sex consensual sexual activity between adults in private is not a crime under Turkish law, the updated advisory stated Türkiye does not legally recognise same-sex marriages or domestic partnerships.

The update followed an outcry over a decision by Turkish authorities in Aydın to block a cruise carrying 2,000 LGBTQI passengers in Jul, claiming the behaviour on board the vessel did not align with the area's strict moral values (*TD* 07 Jul 2026). *AB*

VA Europe promo

VIRGIN Australia (VA) has launched an earlybird Europe sale with fares starting from \$1,641 for Perth to Barcelona.

Velocity Frequent Flyer members can also earn up to 24,000 bonus Velocity points on eligible return bookings. *ZH*

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Guidance on disabilities "ignored"

PHYSICAL Disability Australia (PDA) has called on the Federal Government to end an era of humiliation for air passengers with a disability, stating that the aviation system has largely ignored guidance for 24 years.

The advocacy body claimed that people with a physical disability are still routinely separated from their mobility aids for hours, lifted by untrained staff, and denied the right to travel because of unclear rules, or even left stranded when wheelchairs arrive in pieces at the arrival airport.

"Every week we hear from members who have been dropped during transfers, had their wheelchairs destroyed, or been told at the gate that they can't fly because 'the quota is full,'" PDA chief executive officer Suzanne Gearing said.

"No other group of Australians are asked to gamble their independence and dignity every



time they travel, that ends only when the rules are mandatory, specific and enforced."

To drive change and improve flying conditions, PDA has lodged a submission to the Department of Transport and the Arts' Aviation Disability Standards Consultation Paper, which it declared would "deliver a clear message" to government and industry that the era of "best endeavours" is over.

Gearing claimed that airlines and airports have had every opportunity to get the performance level right voluntarily for decades, adding that feedback from more than 3,700 travellers with disabilities has made it clear the current guidance is not working.

"We are asking government to make sure that promise is kept in law, not in a brochure," she said.

Key submissions include mandatory requirements for disability aids to be carried in-cabin where possible, tracked in real-time and returned at the aircraft door, not the carousel.

PDA is also calling for binding standards that allow passengers to remain in their own mobility device through check-in, security and to the aircraft door, as well as an end to what it called "secret caps" that limit the number of disabled passengers on each flight.

Mandatory disability training for staff co-designed with people with disability was another reform request, alongside a need for equal access to fares and standardised pricing.

PDA also wants to close what it labelled "the small-aircraft loophole", claiming smaller jets have meant fewer rights. AB

CLIA heralds ocean

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) has launched Ocean Week, kicking off its 2026 Cruise Month ahead of the summer cruising season.

Running from 04-10 Oct, the program highlights the growing range of ocean cruising experiences across social media, travel pages and CLIA-certified travel agents.

CLIA executive director Australasia Joel Katz said global demand was at record levels, fuelled by 89 new cruise ships on order around the world offering new experiences and innovations.

"Together, these ships represent an investment of almost US\$100 billion (A\$143 billion), reflecting the enormous enthusiasm for cruising among travellers around the world," Katz said.

Cruise Month will continue with River Cruising from 11-17 Oct, Expedition Cruising from 18-24 Oct and Luxury Cruising from 25-31 Oct. ZH



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Qantas slashes NT

QANTAS has launched a flash three-day Northern Territory sale in partnership with Tourism and Events Northern Territory.

The deal spans 26 routes linking Darwin, Alice Springs and Uluru with 10 destinations across Aus.

One-way economy fares start from \$199, with prices from \$229 available on selected routes, including Adelaide to Darwin and Sydney to Uluru for travel through June 2027. **ZH**

US visitors down 7%

OVERSEAS visitation to the United States decreased 7% in Jul compared to the same month in 2025, according to new figures from the country's National Travel and Tourism Office.

The same report relayed the top five overseas tourism arrivals for the month were the United Kingdom (347,882), Brazil (149,437), India (136,645), Japan (134,835), & France (122,144). **AB**

Now it's personal, says Hilton

HILTON'S 2027 Trends Report has identified a shift among Australian travellers towards more flexible, personalised and purposeful travel.

Based on a global survey of more than 14,000 travellers, including over 1,000 Australians, the report highlighted five trends expected to shape travel in 2027.

The "Rise of 'Ish'" will reflect a move away from the pressure to create the perfect trip, with 64% of Australians now planning experiences around their own personal preferences instead.

"The Great Rebalance marks a shift from passive tourism to experiences with personal purpose, with travellers increasingly looking to engage more deeply with the places they visit," Hilton senior VP & commercial director APAC, Ben George said.

Trust is also key, with 74% placing faith in hotel staff as



a travel-planning resource, highlighting the ongoing value of human expertise as AI becomes more prevalent.

Travel is increasingly being viewed as a source of personal growth as well, with 75% stating that having a trip booked gives them a purpose to work towards, while 37% indicated that travel has helped them discover new interests or passions.

Wellness is another priority, with 75% valuing fresh air and the outdoors, while 52% want to spend more time immersed in nature on holiday and 58% favour trips that pack plenty of experiences into a short timeframe. **ZH**

Ormina opens Sicily

ORMINA Tours has opened bookings for its 2027 Sicily Bella Small Group Journey, continuing its recognition as the best-value Sicily tour for five years running.

Priced from \$10,990pp, the 10-day itinerary combines Sicily's key sights with experiences including a 4WD adventure on Mount Etna and private guided visits to five UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Other itinerary highlights include the Anti-Mafia museum in Corleone, ancient history and stunning vistas on a walking tour in Taormina and visiting the third-century Greek theatre, 'Teatro Antico', and more.

The journey also features boutique four and five-star accommodation and deluxe VIP transport, with groups capped at 12 guests.

Ormina Tours said the small-group format provides a more personal experience, supported by local expertise and carefully planned itineraries. **ZH**

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Serenity adds Owners Suites

CRYSTAL has confirmed it will add five new premium suites to *Crystal Serenity* following the ship's 2028 dry dock, including a new 160m² Crystal Owner's Suite and four Junior Penthouse Premium Suites.

Available from 05 May 2028, the new suites will be located midship on Deck 11 and build on the success of the Owner's Suite aboard *Crystal Grace*.

The two-bedroom Owner's Suite will feature a 38m² verandah, separate guest bedroom and bathroom, marble master bathroom with Jacuzzi, fireplace, library and dining area with stunning panoramic views.

The suite will also include Technogym equipment with personalised Technogym Coach programming and integrated entertainment, positioned to offer ocean views.

The four Junior Penthouse Premium Suites will each offer



80m² of interior space and a 19m² veranda, complementing *Crystal Serenity's* six existing Junior Penthouse Deluxe Suites.

"We are continuing to thoughtfully evolve *Crystal Serenity* while preserving the character and sense of ease that have made her so beloved by our guests," *Crystal* senior VP Hotel Operations Bernie Leypold said.

"These new suites allow us to introduce fresh design elements and greater choice while creating an accommodation collection that feels cohesive, contemporary and distinctly *Crystal*." ZH

TokyoTokyo Old meets New

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Cruise extension ticked

THE Federal Government has provided the cruise sector with a final two-year extension to the *Coastal Trading Act*, the key law that provides the statutory framework for overseas cruise lines to sail Down Under.

The long-standing Act will be extended from 31 Dec 2026 until 31 Dec 2028, allowing large cruise vessels to continue to operate in Australia without needing a standard temporary coastal trading licence.

Following this, broader reforms to the laws will be pushed through, Minister for Transport Catherine King confirmed.

King told **Travel Daily** the Act would remain in effect while the government considers the final report of an independent review into its suitability.

This will provide recommendations on how to support the long-term sustainability of Australia's maritime and cruise sectors. MS

It's all Greek to CATO

THE Greek National Tourism Organisation has joined the CATO Christmas Lunch in Dec this year as a welcome sponsor, providing the destination body with a chance to sell Greece beyond the peak summer period.

"Greece has long held a special place in the hearts of Australian travellers but there is so much more for them to discover beyond the destinations and seasons they may already know," the body's Australian director Georgia Dimopoulou said.

"From mainland adventures to culinary journeys to sustainable island experiences, cultures, cities and cruising, there are opportunities to create compelling Greece itineraries throughout the year," she added.

The sponsorship of the event will see attendees at Le Montage in Sydney enjoy Greek music and hospitality, as well as the chance to learn more about Tilos, Chalki, and Astypalea. AB



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SIA tastes better

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) has upgraded its in-flight dining experience with over 100 new dishes, expanded beverage offerings and enhanced service touches in premium cabins.

Upgrades will be rolled out throughout the year. **ZH**

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BA revamps Heathrow



BRITISH Airways (BA) has revealed the next stage of its Heathrow Airport lounge transformation that will see a new lounge at 5 C Gates, a redevelopment of the Terminal 5 arrivals lounge and, in collaboration with American Airlines, a new First check-in experience at Terminal 3.

Heathrow's updates are part of BA's wider transformation of the customer experience, as well as plans to redesign every lounge in the airport in coming years.

Recent lounge re-openings and refurbishments have been carried out across British Airways' global network, including those in Miami, Glasgow, Seattle and Washington.

Heathrow's newest lounge will blend British design and craftsmanship with a light, open layout, featuring UK-sourced materials, dining and relaxation areas and showers.

A 17-metre bar will be a centrepiece, while a dedicated Concorde lounge will offer First customers private concierge service, elevated dining and greater privacy.

"This investment is a major milestone in the evolution of our lounges and reflects our ambition to create a more connected and consistent customer journey," British Airways chairman and CEO Sean Doyle said.

"These spaces will take our lounge design concept to the next step, building on Miami and creating a distinctive British Airways look and feel across key customer touchpoints, from First Wing and our lounges to the onboard experience."

Beyond Heathrow, British Airways is upgrading lounges in Boston, Newark, Geneva and San Francisco, alongside wider investment in aircraft, technology and operations. **ZH**

Trafalgar's arrival

TRAFALGAR has been announced as the arrival sponsor for the 2026 National Travel Industry Awards (NTIAs), welcoming guests ahead of the gala dinner at Crown Melbourne on 10 Oct, which has garnered over 2,000 nominations.

Sponsorship comes as Trafalgar celebrates 80 years in 2027, following product expansion in small group tours and European river cruising.

"Being the NTIAs arrival sponsor as we step into our eightieth year feels like exactly the right way to begin the celebrations," Trafalgar Oceania senior VP of sales, Andrew Young said. **ZH**

Swedish introverts

VISIT Sweden has launched what it calls the world's first travel agency for introverts, highlighting holidays designed around peace, personal space and independent travel.

The tongue-in-cheek 'Introvert Travel Agency' campaign follows a YouGov survey across nine markets which found 41% of respondents considered themselves introverted.

UTracks GM Kate Baker said the concept aligned closely with its self-guided walking holidays, where travellers have accommodation, routes and logistics organised but control their own days.

"Sometimes the luxury of a holiday is simply having time and space to yourself," Baker said. **ZH**

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TM's top performer

TRAVELMANAGERS personal travel manager Lorraine Mair has been named the top-selling travel advisor of the new Trafalgar River Cruises product.

Contributing to the Queensland-based PTM's success was her development of a package which included rail and river journeys throughout Switzerland and the Rhine River.

Mair's initiative paid off quickly, with the PTM seeing enquiries spike, having since booked a group of solo travellers and a group of couples.

"I researched and designed this package specifically with lifestyle village homeowners in mind as they are enthusiastic river cruise travellers," she said.

Mair is **pictured** with strategic account manager Ki Williams. *MS*



EK A350 in Orlando

EMIRATES is set to deploy an Airbus A350 on daily scheduled services to Orlando International from 01 Nov.

The Floridian city will become Emirates' first American gateway to receive the newer aircraft on scheduled passenger services, replacing the currently operating Boeing 777. *MS*

Remembering Bruce



THE Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF) has paid tribute to chairman Bruce Baird, who passed away on Fri, leaving a longstanding legacy in the travel industry.

Baird first served as TTF chairman from 2008 to 2014, before returning to the role in 2020, leading the organisation through the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent recovery period.

TTF said Baird leaves a legacy of "calm, kindness and practical solutions", championing the tourism and transport sectors throughout his tenure, in a statement posted to LinkedIn.

"Whether in the cut and thrust of the political arena or in the corporate world or as our chairman, he was admired and respected," the post continued.

Beyond his work with TTF, Baird had a long career in Australian politics, first entering the NSW Parliament in 1984 as the

Member for Northcott.

He served as a minister in the NSW Greiner Government across tourism, roads, environment and transport portfolios, and played a key role in Sydney's successful bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games as the minister responsible for the bid in 1990.

TTF said his impact extended beyond his political and professional achievements, describing him as a champion of people who was generous with his time and committed to helping others.

"In everything, Bruce was a gentleman, a warm and gracious man with a commitment to great causes," the statement read.

"Bruce's legacy will live on through the many careers he helped build, the people he encouraged and supported [and the] opportunities he created for others to succeed." *ZH*

Ahoy there Helliar

AFTER 30 years in showbiz, Peter Helliar (**pictured**) believes he has earned the right to design his own career, with travel, golf and the occasional cocktail high on his new agenda.

The comedian is putting that approach into practice as host of *Chefs Ahoy*, a new cooking series filmed aboard *Sun Princess* and *Diamond Princess*.

The series sees some of Australia's favourite chefs go head-to-head in culinary battles, with up to 4,000 passengers on board voting to decide who takes home the Chef's Ahoy Medal.

Helliar admitted that cooking was not his strongest skill, telling *Channel 9* "there's a reason you don't see me cooking on the show", although he maintains his toasties are up to scratch.

Away from the cameras, Helliar said his role at home is more likely to involve being the sous chef, DJ and wine pourer.

Chefs Ahoy is now streaming, giving viewers a look at the culinary competition and life aboard *Princess Cruises*. *ZH*



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Virtuoso unveils '27 luxe trends

LAST week, Virtuoso welcomed leading travel advisors from across Australia and New Zealand to Capella Sydney for an exclusive Advisor Appreciation Event, celebrating the expertise that shapes luxury travel and unveiling insights from the *2027 Virtuoso Luxe Report: Australia & New Zealand*.

Drawing on feedback from more than 3,100 advisors worldwide, including over 400 from Australia and New Zealand, the report highlights the destinations, traveller behaviours and emerging trends expected to influence luxury travel in 2027.

Attendees also heard from a panel of industry experts, including Virtuoso's vice president of global public relations, Misty Belles; Sonia Jones, owner of Sonia Jones Travel; and Imogen Eveson, editor of *Australian Traveller* and *International Traveller*.

The event reinforced Virtuoso's commitment to supporting advisors through industry-leading research, education and collaboration opportunities that help drive business growth and enhance client experiences.



SHARYN Kitchener, Mosman Travel; Zoe Dean, Virtuoso; and Kathie Zagis, Mosman Travel.



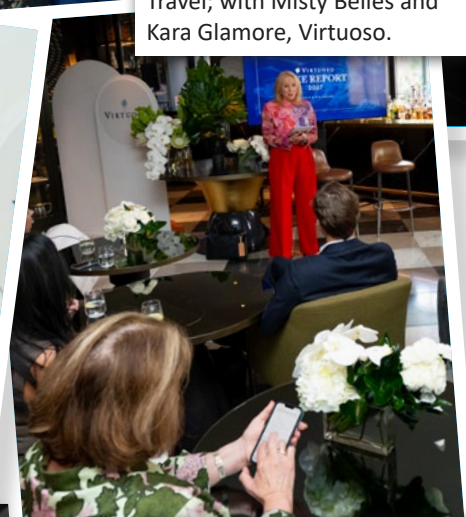
PANELLISTS Imogen Eveson, Australian Traveller Media; Sonia Jones, Sonia Jones Travel; with Misty Belles and Kara Glamore, Virtuoso.



CAROLYN Eyre, Spencer Travel with Barbara Bates, Spencer Group of Companies.



DEE Jaswal and Jo Howard, LUXE by itravel.



ADVISORS reviewing the Virtuoso 2027 Luxe Report trends and insights.



GUESTS enjoyed a panel discussion with Imogen Eveson, Australian Traveller Media; Sonia Jones, Sonia Jones Travel; Misty Belles and Kara Glamore, Virtuoso.



AGENTS enjoyed the special appreciation lunch at Capella Sydney.



ANNA Davies, Goldman Travel Group and Karen Birch, Travelcall.



AMSTERDAM LOOKS TO CUT TOURISM

TOURISM in Amsterdam must be reined in, despite its impact on the local economy, the city's Mayor Femke Halsema said during a radio program last week.

"However much I regret it for the individual entrepreneurs, if you look at the city from a distance, it is inevitable that we try to manage it as effectively as we can," Halsema said, adding that the financial contribution that tourism makes to the region is "overstated", accounting for 8% of its wealth.

According to a report from *NL Times*, at least 55 hospitality businesses in Amsterdam filed for bankruptcy at the beginning of 2026, while data from Statistics Netherlands showed that 20% of all businesses in the tourism sector said last year that they were struggling to pay their bills.

Halsema also pointed to the impact that the crowds



of travellers have on the city, including the amount of waste that tourism generates.

She also warned that as the city increasingly focuses on tourists, it is losing its character and livability for residents.

In Aug, it was announced that Amsterdam would introduce new additional tourism measures, including a gradual increase of

the tourist tax by the end of the decade, making it one of the highest rates in the world.

Amsterdam's municipal overnight tourist tax, which is currently 12.5%, will climb to 16% of the hotel room price in 2027, before increasing by a percentage point for every following year until the impost reaches the 20% mark in 2031. *JHM*

New standards

SEABOURN has released its upcoming line-up of experts who will be on board its Antarctica cruises for its 2026-27 season.

On *Seabourn Venture* and *Seabourn Pursuit* guests will sail with a wide range of scientists, marine biologists, naturalists, historians and expedition leaders who can bring the White Continent to life.

Each expedition will include an impressive 21-member expedition team, including marine mammal scientist Dr Sean Todd, ornithologist JJ Apestegui, astronomer and Indigenous cultures specialist Vishwa Rana, archaeologist and Viking scholar Dr Elizabeth Pierce and marine biologist and whale researcher Molly Gaughan.

"Time and again, guests tell us that the knowledge, enthusiasm, and personal insights shared by our team members transformed the way they experienced a destination," Robin West, Seabourn's vice president of expeditions said.

Venture and *Pursuit* will offer over 19 departures round-trip from Ushuaia to Antarctica between Nov 2026 and Mar 2027, as well as select departures featuring South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. *JHM*

Force for good

INTERCONTINENTAL

Fiji Golf Resort & Spa, Grand Pacific Hotel Suva and Holiday Inn Suva have raised A\$38,300 to support community causes across Fiji during their Giving for Good activities in Sep.

The initiatives are part of IHG Hotels & Resorts' annual program which encourages hotels to positively impact their communities. *JHM*

Tourism bodies deepen collaboration

THE Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Travel Tourism Research Association (TTRA), supporting the responsible and sustainable development of the tourism industry.

Under the agreement, PATA and TTRA will collaborate across several aspects including mutual support for their respective events and activities,

exchanging knowledge on issues relevant to the research, planning and development of travel tourism, and mutual promotion of their respective activations.

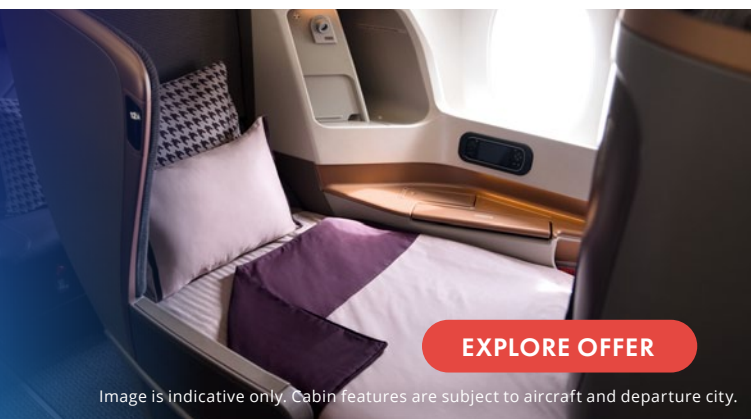
Through their partnership, the two organisations plan to create a platform for interaction for their global communities of tourism researchers, practitioners, and industry professionals. *JB*

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WELCOME to Money, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

AU\$1 = US\$0.700

THE Australian dollar has recovered a little over the past few sessions, despite remaining well below the levels it was trading at last month.

Although it maintained the US\$0.70 plateau, the Aussie has still not managed to regain the high of US\$0.714 it was trading at in mid-Sep.

This is despite the RBA raising its cash rate last week by 25bp to 4.6%, the country's highest rate in 15 years.

The fourth hike of 2026 has not translated into a sustained rally for the AUD, with higher treasury yields in the United States and changing expectations around its Federal Reserve supporting the USD.

Better news has arrived for Australians travelling to Europe though, with the euro at €0.621, which is at its strongest level of the past month.

Likewise, stronger conversion figures out of Japan and New Zealand may continue to make those destinations popular.

Wholesale rates this morning:

US	\$0.700
UK	£0.527
NZ	\$1.244
Euro	€0.621
Japan	¥110.0
Thailand	฿23.48
China	¥4.673
Jet fuel	US\$187.34
Canada	\$0.994
Bitcoin	A\$0.0000081

Hyatt Centric Sapporo opens



HYATT Centric Sapporo has officially opened in the heart of the capital of Hokkaido prefecture in Japan's north.

Located on the top floors of a mixed-use tower, the 216-guestroom hotel is adjacent to the historic Former Hokkaido Government Office, as well as Odori Park, which hosts major events like the Sapporo Snow Festival, YOSAKI Soran Festival, and Sapporo Autumn Fest.

Guests can reach Odori subway station in a few minutes through an underground walkway, while the centrally located Japan Railways station is only a 10-minute walk.

The hotel also features two restaurants: Matsu Grill & Bar, offering wood-fired, Mediterranean-style grilling; and Mr. Fish by Hyatt Centric Sapporo, serving fish and chips.

"We are thrilled to introduce the Hyatt Centric brand to Sapporo, a dynamic destination where every season reveals a new side of Hokkaido," general manager Yuki Takimura said.

"Placing you in the middle of the action, Hyatt Centric Sapporo

is designed to be an ideal starting point for exploration.

"Through an insider's lens, we look forward to helping World of Hyatt members and guests discover local flavours, cultural traditions and seasonal experiences that make every stay unique," he said. *MS*

Easyjet adds 18 more

BRITISH low-cost airline easyJet has announced 18 new routes for the northern summer 2027, with the new services on sale now.

Pax will be able to access new destinations across Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Greece, Cyprus, Montenegro and Bulgaria from 10 British airports.

Spain is one of the highlights of the announcement, with six new routes, including a British-first flight to Girona.

EasyJet is also further strengthening its presence in Scotland, with four new routes from Edinburgh and two new services from Aberdeen.

The airline will be the only carrier offering direct flights on 10 of the new routes. *MS*



Window Seat

THOSE whose idea of a holiday is to spend the entire time at the pub are in luck, with The Sun Inn Hawkshead (pictured) in the UK's Lake District having been converted into a rental property, the *Daily Mail* reports.

The 200-year-old pub features an open fire, 10 bedrooms, a dining room, an outdoor seating area, and of course, a working bar.

A recently installed flash chiller/cooler allows renters the chance to put their own keg behind the bar and pour their own pints.

Recently listed on Airbnb and Booking.com, the pub sleeps up to 20 people across a range of accommodations, which include en suites and twins.

Prices start from £2,869 for a three-night stay (approximately A\$5,400), which, if you use the pub to its capacity, works out as just £143 per person (approximately A\$271).

Guests have been suitably impressed, with one saying "the pub was everything we needed and more".

"The rooms were well set up and perfect for our group," said one guest.

