

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news, including our **Sustainability** feature, plus a special feature from **Tourism Solomons** and full pages from:

- Silversea
- Crystal Cruises

It's Ama-TIME

TRAVEL Industry Mentor Experience (TIME) has welcomed AmaWaterways as a silver partner, formalising the river cruise operator's longstanding support for mentoring and development in the industry.

"TIME makes a real difference to people across our industry... We've seen our team build leadership skills and return as mentors," AmaWaterways MD ANZ Steve Richards said.

TIME chair Penny Spencer said she was grateful to Richards and AmaWaterways for supporting the next generation of leaders. *ZH*

A Silversea winter

SILVERSEA has unveiled its winter 2028/29 collection of voyages - head to **page eight** for all the details.

ADG nabs Cameron-Smith

AIRPORT Development Group (ADG), which operates the Darwin International, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek airports, has announced Matt Cameron-Smith as its new CEO (*TD* breaking news).

The current Journey Beyond chief operating officer will relocate from Sydney to the Northern Territory to take up the role from 01 Feb 2027.

Cameron-Smith (*pictured*) will take over from Tony



Edmondstone, who has led ADG for almost seven years.

Journey Beyond has confirmed Cameron-Smith will depart the company in Dec.

The experienced travel and tourism leader joined the operator in May 2026 after it underwent a restructure following its purchase of Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia last year (*TD* 07 May 2026).

Prior to taking up the role at Journey Beyond, Cameron-Smith led Voyages Tourism Australia for more than six years, and previously held the role of chief executive officer at both AAT Kings and Inspiring Journeys. *JM*

Med on NCL Aura

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line (NCL) has opened bookings for two inaugural Mediterranean sailings aboard *Norwegian Aura*, following the anticipated early delivery of its largest ship to date.

She will debut with a 10-day voyage from Trieste to Athens and departs on 02 May 2027, followed by a nine-day return sailing from Athens to Trieste on 12 May.

Aura will be able to hold upwards of 3,800 passengers and will also feature NCL's first speciality Indian restaurant. *ZH*

Govt scheme is live

NSW Procurement has launched the NSW Government Prequalification Scheme: Domestic and International Air Travel: SCM2042, which aims to deliver competitive airfare discounts and ancillary offerings to NSW Government travellers.

All relevant air travel suppliers are encouraged to apply through Buy NSW - see **HERE** for details.

HAL Pan Am sailing

HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has announced its 28-day 'Pan Am 100th Anniversary Legendary Voyage', departing from Miami on 30 Oct 2027 aboard *Zuiderdam* with exclusive events - see **HERE**.

Save with Crystal

CRYSTAL has extended its 'Sail & Save' offer to 09 Nov, giving travellers more time to save up to \$8,000 - see **page nine**.

Solomons serenity

TRAVELLERS are invited to escape the crowds and enjoy the unspoilt beauty of the Solomon Islands - details on **page 10**.



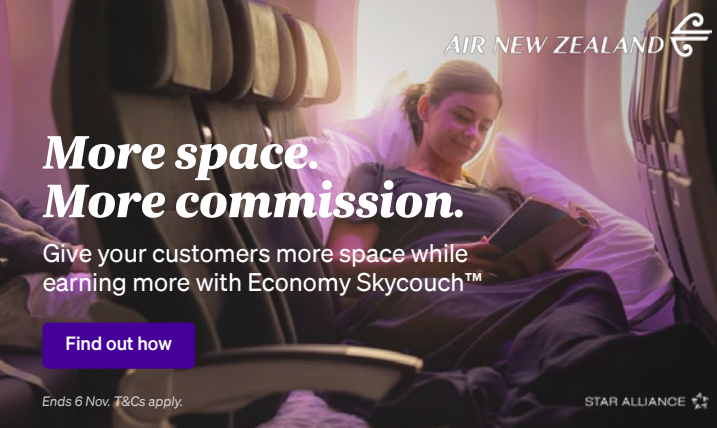
Reach Your Earning Potential with the Envoyage Advantage

"The Envoyage model has boosted my earning potential. With better access to product, support and marketing, I've been able to take my business to the next level."

- **ASHLEA BLAKE, BLAKE TRAVEL**

ENVOYAGE
for every journey

LEARN MORE



AIR NEW ZEALAND

More space. More commission.

Give your customers more space while earning more with Economy Skycouch™

Find out how

Ends 6 Nov. T&Cs apply.

STAR ALLIANCE



Wendy Wu Tours

UPGRADE TO BUSINESS CLASS

FROM **\$499^{PP} ONE WAY**

Select Japan tours flying Singapore Airlines

EXPLORE OFFER

Image is indicative only. Cabin features are subject to aircraft and departure city.



Amsterdam

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you from Amsterdam, where Viking Cruises will name seven river ships this week.

THE Australian contingent has arrived in Amsterdam eagerly anticipating the festivities taking place later this week.

The Aussies - including our own ceremonial godparents - will stay aboard the new *Viking Rota* which is one of the vessels being added to the fleet alongside *Viking Haki*, with an additional five ships to be christened via video link as part of the naming ceremony.

Viking Rota is named after a rebellious Valkyrie, one of the fierce warrior women depicted in Norse mythology.

The longship carries 190 guests as well as a crew of 53, and sports signature Viking river ship features such as the Aquavit Terrace & Lounge, a restaurant with panoramic views, an elevator and free wi-fi.

QF-Air NZ cut ties

QANTAS and Air New Zealand will formally end their codeshare partnership on 07 Apr 2027.

Bookings after this date will be updated to an Air New Zealand flight number, and QF loyalty members will still earn the points and status credits they would have earned on the booking. AB

McNally leads FCTG deal

EUROP Assistance has rolled out its global rebrand and new name, Redion, across three Flight Centre Travel Group (FCTG) travel insurance brands from today, alongside the appointment of former Cover-More executive Simon McNally (pictured) to lead the partnership.

Flight Centre Travel Insurance, Cruiseabout Travel Insurance and Travel Associates Travel Insurance customers will see the Redion name across policies, documentation and services.

McNally, who previously spent five years as Cover-More's director - FC partnership, is now Redion's head of partnership success - Flight Centre, overseeing the relationship across Australia and New Zealand.

Redion ANZ chief executive officer Justin Sebire commented he was thrilled to have McNally join the team at "an exciting time of growth".

Speaking to *Travel Daily* in



Sep, Sebire said Redion holds high aspirations in the Australian market, noting parametric insurance and artificial intelligence as potential growth areas, revealing plans for "some exciting innovations" over the next six months (*TD* 17 Sep 2026).

The rebrand follows Redion securing its APRA licence and an A+ Financial Strength Rating from AM Best. ZH

Scenic adds more

SCENIC is expanding through 2028 with *Emerald Lumi* to launch on the Seine in 2027, alongside the line's Hooghly River journeys.

Two *Scenic Spirit* ships will join the Mekong fleet in 2028, as *Emerald Raiya*, *Xara* and *Scenic Ikon* expand yacht offerings. ZH



EARN UP TO \$600*

THIS OCTOBER

More bookings, bigger rewards

Get started

*T&C's apply

Cardrona Alpine Resort
Wanaka

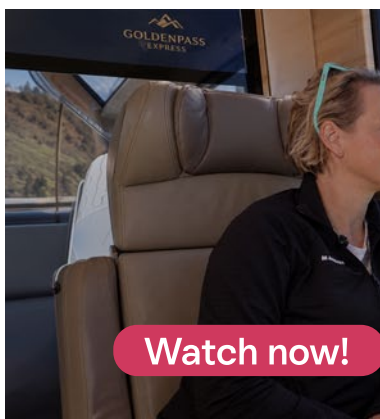
FIND YOUR 100% IN NEW ZEALAND ON A SELF-FAMIL



APPLY NOW

100% PURE
NEW ZEALAND

traveltrade.newzealand.com



Swiss Public Transport made simple.

Charlie Trevena
shows how in
Seamless Switzerland.

Watch now!

travel swi+zerland



Seamless oneworld

ONEWORLD (OW) has rolled out digital check-in technology across its airlines, allowing passengers travelling on multi-carrier itineraries to check in with their preferred carrier's app.

The technology allows passengers to scan their passport, receive boarding passes for flights operated by different oneworld members and save them to their digital wallet, regardless of which carrier operates the first flight.

The system uses oneworld's proprietary technology to connect member airlines' systems through a shared digital platform.

"Customers expect a consistent, easy-to-use experience with their preferred airline's check-in tools and they should expect the same when flying on their alliance partners," oneworld Alliance CEO Ole Orver said.

OW said future enhancements would include codeshare check-in itineraries and dynamic boarding passes with real-time updates. ZH

Outbound remains solid

AUSTRALIAN outbound travel remained above pre-pandemic levels in Aug, with short-term resident returns rising 1.5% year-on-year to 986,250 trips, despite easing from Jul's peak.

ABS data recorded 1.82 million total arrivals and 1.83 million departures in Aug.

Short-term resident returns were 5.9% above Aug 2019 levels, while total departures remained virtually unchanged year-on-year.

Indonesia remained the leading destination for Australian travellers, accounting for 178,830 returns, followed by New Zealand (120,830) and the UK (57,950), all of which were down on Jul.

Resident returns rose most strongly in the NT, up 16.4%, while Tas grew 8.6%.

Across other states, WA increased 4.7% and Queensland 4.1%, while the ACT fell 8.2%.

Nationally, short-term visitor arrivals edged up 0.3% to

755,530, remaining 4.3% below Aug 2019 levels.

Short-term visitor departures fell 2.7% year-on-year to 762,230, while inbound arrivals recovered from Jul's 4.3% annual decline and resident returns continue to exceed pre-pandemic levels. ZH

Hong Kong is scary

HONG Kong Tourism Board has launched its first citywide Halloween cosplay street parties, with Hong Kong Halloween Month running from 17-31 Oct

Five tourism districts will host themed entertainment, including cosplay, waterfront celebrations and nightlife events.

Disneyland and Ocean Park will also run Halloween programmes, while themed buses and heritage trams will offer complimentary rides to costumed visitors on select dates. ZH



Window Seat

THERE are plenty of announcements you would never want to hear on a plane, and "bedbug infestation" is surely one of them.

Passengers on a 17-hour Qantas flight from Perth to Rome last Fri must have been rather puzzled when they ended up with itchy bites, prompting staff to reportedly hand out antihistamines.

The Boeing 787 Dreamliner was grounded for "a deep clean" to get rid of the parasites, which also meant a flight on Sat from Italy to Australia was cancelled.

All impacted customers were provided with accommodation and were rebooked on alternative flights within 48 hours of their original departure, Qantas said.



Your 2027 European journey starts here

Enjoy special fares to Rome, Barcelona, Athens, and more, starting from AUD 1,779* return, when you book by 30 October 2026.

qatarairways.com/tradeportal

*Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid until 30 October 2026. Economy Class fare shown is applicable for travel departing from Sydney to Rome during the following low-season travel periods: 17 January to 31 March 2027, 11 April to 15 June 2027, and 11 July to 30 October 2027. Fares shown are per person (pp) return and include taxes, fees, and airport surcharges and are subject to availability. Seasonal surcharges, weekend surcharges, and blackout travel dates apply. Other sale fares are also available on other travel dates. For all other terms and conditions, please review at the time of booking.



Tuesday 13th Oct 2026

TOUROPA
COACH TOURING YOUR WAY

**AFFORDABLE COACH
TOURING WORLDWIDE**

✓ **GUARANTEED
TOURS**

🗓️ **950+ TOURS**

🔄 **CUSTOMISABLE
TOURS**



Bali resort taps AU

ELYSEE Collective has been appointed as the Aussie representation for KARV, a new Luxury Collection Resort & Spa slated to open in Mar '27.

Set atop the cliffs of Jimbaran Bay, it will be the collection's second property in Bali. **ZH**

Small group tours of the UK & Europe

For people who'd rather stay in the old town than outside it.



Back-Roads
TOURING CO.

Look at Kenya carefully: AW

EXCLUSIVE

ADVENTURE World (AW) has urged advisers to make the new Kenyan health insurance policies requirement part of pre-departure planning after they came into effect earlier this month (**TD** 12 Oct 2026).

AW product manager for Africa Sam Van Eldik (**pictured**) said the main impact for Australians was an additional cost and a step to complete before departure.

"Advisers should make clients aware of the requirement early and ensure they arrange the prescribed inbound health insurance through the official Kenyan government channels... they should not assume an



existing Australian travel insurance policy satisfies the new requirement," she said.

Van Eldik said advisers should include the requirement in pre-departure checklists alongside passports, travel authorisations and other entry documents, and recheck official guidance close to departure, particularly for clients whose ETA was issued before the change came into effect.

She also said comprehensive cover was essential for cancellation, disruption, baggage, medical evacuation and remote safari activities.

"Meeting an entry requirement does not automatically mean a traveller has adequate protection for their whole holiday," she said, adding that travellers combining mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar should not need two mandatory policies, as cover is determined by the first point of entry. **ZH**

Keith serves it again

KEITH Prowse Travel has renewed its appointment as the official tour operator for the Roland-Garros Grand Slam.

Guests will receive premium hospitality inside Stade Roland-Garros and support from the operator's on-ground team throughout the tournament.

"Roland-Garros has cemented its place as one of the most in-demand events on the global sporting calendar, and we're seeing that in early bookings," Keith Prowse Travel MD Daniel Morahan said.

Away from the action highlights include an evening cruise on the Seine and dining at two-Michelin-starred Le Jules Verne. **ZH**

Harford promoted

COLLETTE has promoted Nicola Harford to the position of partnerships marketing manager.

"I'm very excited to continue working with our valued trade partners and media in this new role," she enthused in a post shared on LinkedIn. **JM**

Qantas NZ sale

QANTAS has launched a week-long sale on NZ fares in partnership with Tourism New Zealand with fares starting at \$289 between GC and AKL and \$359 from SYD to CHC.

Fares are for select dates between Nov '26 and Sep '27. **ZH**

AIR MAURITIUS

Connecting
you to more:

**Mauritius
Africa
Europe**



airmauritius.com

AVALON
WATERWAYS

**PORTS
TO PARADISE**

WATCH, LEARN AND WIN A \$550 L'OCCITANE GIFT PACK.

*T&Cs apply.



ENTER NOW

The Lana survived at 50%

THE Lana hotel in Dubai maintained occupancy of 50% at the height of regional conflicts involving Iran at the beginning of the year, despite reports that some in the market had fallen below 20%, according to Dorchester Collection chief operating officer Francois Delahaye (pictured).

The Business Bay property had remained open while several competitors closed operations, allowing it to retain staff and continue trading, Delahaye told *Travel Daily*.

"Despite what happened at the beginning of the year, we are still doing okay in that market because we kept everything open, which was not the case for our competitors," he said.

Reports in Mar 2026 suggested occupancy at some Dubai hotels had fallen below 20% amid the disruption, with some even reaching single figures in the immediate aftermath, but Delahaye said The Lana had not endured a decline at that scale.

He added The Lana's position near Dubai's financial district had supported corporate demand, while leisure-oriented beach resorts had been more exposed to the downturn.

The group retained its full workforce at The Lana, according to Delahaye, with some employees temporarily seconded to Dorchester Collection hotels in Paris, London and Italy.

"We have a 'we' culture where



we focus on the staff and we kept every single member," he said.

"Some of those employees went to some of our hotels in Europe - for example, we took some employees to the Plaza Athenée."

Delahaye said 'staycation' demand had been particularly important at the time, which supported food and beverage and spa revenue even as inbound leisure travel weakened.

Dorchester Collection is now preparing to launch a second Dubai offering, The Alba, in 2029.

"We are creating an extension on the top of the Palm next to the Royal Atlantis, a smaller hotel with residences, based on health and longevity, facing the sea," Delahaye continued.

He said the development would be positioned differently from The Lana, which is close to Dubai International Airport and the Dubai International Financial Centre. ZH



Cruise guide OUT NOW
The must-have guide
for selling cruise

READ NOW

ATIA UPDATE

from Dean Long, CEO



LAST week brought together two of the most important events on the industry calendar: Beyond

Borders and the National Travel Industry Awards.

They serve different purposes, but both are important.

Beyond Borders gives us the opportunity to talk honestly about the issues affecting travel businesses and where our industry is heading.

The NTIAs give us the chance to recognise the people and businesses doing outstanding work across Australian travel.

At Beyond Borders this year, leaders from industry and government discussed competition, the way our markets operate and what this means.

The feedback I heard throughout the day was that our industry really valued these conversations, particularly on matters that are not being properly discussed elsewhere.

This year was also the first time the Council of Tour Operators (CATO), Independent Travel Agents Association (ITAA) and the Association of Travel Management

Companies (ATMC) came together under the ATIA umbrella.

Each part of the industry retains its own expertise and priorities, but we are now in a much stronger position to speak with one coordinated voice - the conflict in the Middle East has again shown why that matters.

When disruption occurs, our industry needs a clear and coordinated approach with government, suppliers and the wider community; bringing the sectors together makes that response more effective.

Sat night's NTIAs were an excellent way to finish the weekend and a record year for the awards.

More than 21,000 industry votes were cast, peer nominations reached a new high and the gala was sold out.

Congratulations to each of our 39 winners.

The quality of this year's finalists and winners says a great deal about the professionalism and commitment across our industry.

Thank you to everyone who joined us across both events.

The aim for next year is not simply to make the event bigger.

It is to make it more useful by delivering the discussions, connections and practical information that members need to run stronger businesses.



a more rewarding
way to cruise is here

Flexible, fun, and ready for you: Carnival Rewards™ is here to help you get more of what you love with Carnival®

FIND OUT MORE





ECOTOURISM GETS CLEAR ON IMPACT

ECOTOURISM Australia has released its first public *Sustainability Impact Report*, setting a voluntary baseline for measuring the organisation's environmental, social and governance performance.

The report, covering FY 2025-26, found Scope 3 emissions made up 93.18% of its reported carbon footprint, with flights the biggest source at 54%, followed by employee commuting (13%), accommodation (9%), and rental vehicles and electricity (8%).

Scope 3 refers to indirect emissions generated by activities such as staff travel, commuting, accommodation and events, rather than directly by the organisation.

The organisation recorded no Scope 1 emissions because it does not own or control direct emissions sources.



"[Sustainability is] the foundation of who we are," Ecotourism Australia CEO Elissa Keenan said, adding that leadership meant holding the organisation to a high standard, despite no reporting obligations.

She described the report as the start of "a more regular and open account" of its performance.

Ecotourism Australia said it coached more than 300 businesses to strengthen conservation and community support during the year and assisted 239 impacted by natural

or climate-related disasters.

It also delivered the Global Sustainable Tourism Summit 2026 in-house, with one tree planted for every delegate through the Reforest at Doonan Creek Environment Reserve program.

The body acknowledged travel remains a major challenge, with about 30 flights taken for industry events and government meetings, also noting future reports would improve data quality, clarify reporting boundaries and strengthen year-on-year comparisons. ZH

WLG goes green

WELLINGTON Airport has been rated equal first in the world for sustainability among 18 airports assessed by global ESG ratings provider GRESB.

The airport also achieved a perfect Infrastructure Asset Assessment score of 100 out of 100 - its highest-ever result - placing it first equal among a total 566 participating entities worldwide, six being Australasian airports.

Chief executive Matt Clarke said he was proud of the airport's recognition.

"This is welcome recognition of the work we're doing in the areas we can directly control, such as our target of net-zero emissions for our own direct operations by 2030," Clarke said.

"We're also working with airlines on the biggest challenge of reducing emissions from aircraft, and proudly hosted Air New Zealand's first electric aircraft last summer," he said.

The airport has cut gross emissions by 29% since 2017, while Scope 1 and 2 emissions have fallen 77% when certified renewable energy is included.

It is also electrifying its ground fleet and has installed solar panels and water recycling at its new onsite fire station. ZH

Banyan baskets

BANYAN Tree Samui has partnered with T.A.I Studio to showcase handwoven bags and baskets made from locally grown materials.

The collection supports traditional craftsmanship and artisan livelihoods in southern Thailand, aligning with the resort's sustainability commitment and efforts to connect hospitality with local cultures and heritage. ZH

AW takes out sustainability gong

ADVENTURE World (AW) was named the champion of the sustainability category at the 2026 NTIA awards on Sat.

Speaking exclusively to *Travel Daily* after the win, head of ANZ sales Else McLean said for AW, it is about taking each journey beyond the brochure.

"It is about ensuring we involve the humans, the culture, the flora, the fauna of a destination and making sure

it is a well-rounded effort so that everyone is taken care of," McLean said.

Managing director Neil Rodgers said it was an honour to be included with such a strong list of finalists and that he would be "more than happy to pass the torch to see another champion next year".

"We are all in at as a collective, and [so] is the whole industry," Rodgers said. ZH

DISCOVERY SESSIONS



OCTOBER &
NOVEMBER 2026

27 October - **Melbourne** - Leonda by the Yarra
29 October - **Perth** - Pan Pacific Hotel
2 November - **Sydney** - Four Seasons Hotel
4 November - **Brisbane** - The Calile Hotel

REGISTER NOW

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.696

THE Australian dollar is hovering just below the US\$0.70 threshold today, indicating that the currency may be bouncing back from recent lows.

Meanwhile, the US dollar climbed to an 18-month high yesterday, as geopolitical tensions pushed investors towards what they see as a safer currency.

The Reserve Bank of Australia is keeping rates high, raising its cash rate to 4.60% last month - its fourth increase this year.

Its latest meeting minutes, due later today, and Thu's employment figures, could influence expectations for further rate rises.

"The week ahead will be crucial in determining whether the Australian dollar's recent recovery can gain further traction," Kaitlyn Buhariwalla, FM strategy associate at Westpac Institutional Bank, said.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.696
UK	£0.527
NZ	\$1.245
Euro	€0.624
Japan	¥110.3
Thailand	฿23.39
China	¥4.657
South Africa	11.51
Canada	\$0.993
Crude oil	US\$93.43
Jet fuel	\$190.18/bbl
Bitcoin	฿0.0000084

HLO Ferntree turns 25



HELLOWORLD Travel Ferntree Gully has marked 25 years in business by shifting its store to a new, expanded location.

Owned by husband-and-wife team Debbie and Russell Wilkie, the move into the larger premises represents the next chapter for the duo, who also own Helloworld Travel Fountain Gate.

The new location offers significantly more space for customers and staff and features a fresh, contemporary design.

To celebrate both the anniversary and the official opening of the new premises, the agency hosted a special event that brought together clients, industry partners, family and friends to mark the occasion.

"Transforming a former chemist into a travel agency has exceeded our expectations, and to do it as we celebrate 25 years in business makes it even more special," the Wilkies said.

"Moving into our new location is an investment in the future of our business and gives us the

opportunity to create an even better experience for our clients.

"We are excited to celebrate this milestone and look forward to helping our community see the world for many years to come," they enthused.

The milestone comes after another successful year for the business, with the agency recognised as Helloworld Travel's Victorian Branded Agency of the Year (Multi Store) in 2026. *JM*

Pictured: Nick Sutherland, HLO group general manager of retail networks; Debbie Wilkie; Russell Wilkie; and Julie Pratt, HLO national sales manager.

Eternal Club Med

CLUB Med has opened bookings for the summer 2027 season with its 'Eternal Sun Sale', featuring the return of Club Med Bali with \$1,239 savings for families.

Agents can secure up to 20% off a range of destinations for clients travelling between 15 May and 18 Dec 2027 - find out more **HERE**.

Heathrow issues

HEATHROW investors will reassess plans for a £33b (A\$63b) third runway by year-end if political backing remains uncertain, chief executive Thomas Woldbye told the *Financial Times*.

Shareholders, including Qatar and Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth funds, must decide whether to proceed with a formal planning application.

The project promises 100,000 jobs but faces environmental opposition while delays have pushed the earliest opening date to 2039, despite government hopes to begin work in 2029. *ZH*

Vietjet ramps up EU

VIETJET has launched new services linking Hanoi with Almaty and Prague, and Almaty with Prague, expanding its Asia and European network.

The routes launched on 10 Oct, with twice-weekly flights operating on Tue and Sat using Airbus A330s.

"The launch of these new routes marks an important milestone in our international network expansion," Vietjet CEO Nguyen Thanh Son said. *ZH*

IE/PX link stronger

SOLOMON Airlines has introduced international through-check-in with Air Niugini, allowing passengers on eligible connecting services to receive boarding passes for both flights and have baggage tagged through to their final destination.

The carriers said the new partnership would strengthen their ongoing alliance and regional connectivity. *ZH*

 SILVERSEA®

VOYAGE COLLECTION

WINTER 2028-2029

Let the world
surprise you.

OSAKA, JAPAN

Silversea's 2028-2029 Winter itineraries connect your clients to those serendipitous moments that define a destination, a culture, a season. They could hunt for truffles in Tuscany, snorkel rainbow reefs in the Grenadines, and drift through the mist-cloaked fjords of Milford Sound. From specialised culinary or golf-focused voyages to new cities and worldwide celebrations, discovery takes on new meaning when your clients' journey holds the promise of the unknown.

Explore new voyages

Contact your Silversea Sales Manager, Reservations on +61 2 9255 0600 or silversea.com/trade



Royal Caribbean Group



ROYAL
CARIBBEAN

Celebrity  Cruises®



SILVERSEA®

CRYSTAL



Offer extended: *Sail & Save*

Save up to AU\$8,000 and receive USD\$500
onboard credit on almost 200 cruises.

Book by 9 November 2026.

TO BOOK YOUR CLIENTS OR FIND OUT MORE
VISIT **CRYSTALCRUISES.COM** OR CALL **1300-503-640**.



*Please see www.crystalcruises.com for full terms and conditions.



The Solomons Islands – Far from the Madding Crowd

HAVING sidestepped the ravages of mass tourism, the Solomon Islands holds onto something rare, a genuine, untouched sense of place as one of the world's last true eco-tourism frontiers, perfect for travellers seeking unspoiled nature, real culture, and experiences far from the madding crowd.

This 992-island archipelago holds firm grip on its rich biodiversity, thriving coral reefs, deep rainforests, all intertwined with communities whose traditional 'kastom' knowledge and unchanged way of life play a huge role in maintaining a pristine environment and guide how the country's tourism is shaped.

Much of the focus is given to those areas where the Solomon Islands really competes on the international tourism stage - world-class diving, surfing, fishing,

bird watching and adventure-based travel, and it is the same with the destination's accommodation where rustic, nature-focused retreats such as Titiru Eco-Lodge in the Western Province and Haodaikirio Homestay in Malaita demonstrate how low-impact tourism in the Solomon Islands blends perfectly into an unspoiled environment.

Titiru and Haodaikirio are both blueprints for community-run, low-impact travel. Guided treks, bird-watching, cultural performances and other activities are operated in conjunction with nearby villages, protecting the environment while ensuring tourism income stays local.

The Solomon islands is a true example of where eco-tourism is working hand in hand with a centuries old cultural heritage, supporting local languages,

rituals and traditional livelihoods at the same time, encouraging visitors to understand and respect the fragile marine and forest ecosystems that make this destination so special.

NEED HELP?

Speak to the expert - Tourism Solomons' Trade Manager Australia/New Zealand, Richard Skewes is the go to point for all travel industry related enquiries:

Phone: 0412 524 699
Email: richard@ptm.net.au
www.visitsolomons.com.sb

