

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features nine pages of the latest travel industry news, including a photo page from **50 Degrees North** and our **Sustainability** feature, plus a full page from **Viva Holidays**.

France imposes curfews

PARTIAL curfews have been issued for parts of Paris and a number of French cities amid ongoing violence and unrest across the country.

Protests against the rising cost of living and public services kicked off over the weekend (**TD** 19 Oct), as authorities battle to keep instances of looting and arson under control in an evolving situation.

The Paris police prefecture said the partial curfew would be in effect from 11pm on Mon until 6am on Tue local time across several neighbourhoods.

A curfew in central Lyon is also in place from 9pm to 6am, while in Marseille, authorities have announced a ban on gatherings and demonstrations rather than enacting a curfew.

French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu has not ruled out imposing a state of emergency in the country after the interior minister conceded police "had lost control" during the unrest. Smartraveller said French

authorities may impose further public safety measures.

Travel Daily understands DFAT stands ready to provide consular assistance to any Australians impacted by events in France.

Travellers can also access key Smartraveller info **HERE**. **AB**

CTM clears hurdle

CORPORATE Travel Management (CTM) has cleared another key hurdle following its major accounting crisis, receiving its \$65 million security guarantee back from IATA and shifting to previous settlement cycles (**TD** breaking news).

The return of the previous arrangement is expected to improve CTM's working capital by around \$30 million.

Adjusted settlement cycles and a security guarantee were introduced while the company's FY25 financial statements were being finalised.

"IATA's decision is an important milestone for CTM, following the successful completion of its latest financial assessment of the company," MD and CEO Ana Pedersen said.

"Importantly, throughout this period, we have continued to provide uninterrupted service to our clients, with no disruption to ticketing or travel arrangements."

The positive development follows CTM extending its travel management contracts with three UK Government customers last month (**TD** 16 Sep 2026). **AB**

Naughton at LE

FORMER Air Canada general manager for ANZ Vic Naughton has been appointed senior manager - retail distribution for the Luxury Escapes brand.

"I look forward to reconnecting with travel partners and sharing more about the potential of LE Agent Hub," Naughton said. **AB**

WINDSTAR CRUISES

MORE REASONS TO SAY *Yes*

LAST CALL, BOOK BY 17 NOVEMBER '26

CRUISE MONTH BONUS \$100

Book & deposit 0.75 night cruise by 30 October

THE ISLANDS of TAHITI

CRUISE INTO TAHITI

COMPLIMENTARY ALL-INCLUSIVE PACKAGE*

REDUCED DEPOSIT*

VIEW OFFER

*T&C's apply, view offer to learn more

Contact 1300 749 875 or email reservations@windstar.com.au

Expedition in focus

CRUISE Lines International Association's (CLIA) Cruise Month is putting a spotlight on expedition cruising this week.

Showcasing the growing appeal of voyages to some of the world's most remote and untouched destinations, CLIA executive director Joel Katz said the sector is opening up exciting new possibilities for travellers. **MS**

Wendy Wu Tours.

New EUROPE TOURS

ONLY \$49 PP DEPOSIT*

*T&Cs apply

INTRODUCING CLASSIC FLEX

A new way to explore Europe

DISCOVER TOURS

TOGETHER FOR IMPACT

2026 Virtual Summit

REGISTER NOW

Travel with Purpose. Growth with Impact.

- Industry leader perspectives
- Connect with Canada differently
- Influence demand, inspire action
- Turn insights into sales

CANADA

05 NOV 2026

10.00-11.30AM LIVE

LTC boosts WA presence

THE Luxury Travel Collection (LTC) has welcomed three new members in Western Australia, including Prestige by GTN, a newly formed luxury travel collective of 26 advisors from Global Travel Network.

Select Travel Service and Global Travel Solutions have also joined LTC's House of Luxury, taking the collective to seven members in WA alongside Bicton Travel, Claremont Travel & Cruise,



Travel Associates and The Well Connected Traveller.

"Western Australia is home to a sophisticated travel market and some of the country's most experienced luxury advisors, so we're proud to welcome three carefully chosen new members into the collection," LTC general manager Nikki Glading said.

"It confirms what we are building in the West: the strongest concentration of luxury expertise in the state, in a House of Luxury that brings together exceptional people and exceptional product." JM

Pictured: The Global Travel Solutions team.

VA ties ShopBack

VIRGIN Australia has partnered with an Aussie cashback rewards platform ShopBack, becoming the first airline loyalty program to partner with the brand.

Under the deal, Velocity members can now convert \$1 of Cashback into 50 points across thousands of stores, without incurring any service or administration fees. AB



Maximise Collette

COLLETTE is inviting travel advisors to be the first to hear details about its upcoming incentive designed to help sellers earn thousands of dollars in gift cards on top of their commission.

The operator will reveal more information at one of four webinar updates taking place between 22 and 27 Oct, alongside the biggest deals on offer as part of its Black Friday Sale 2026.

Guests joining the sessions will also be given tips on how to maximise earnings through Black Friday bookings.

Register for the 15-minute 22 Oct session **HERE**, 23 Oct **HERE**, 26 Oct **HERE** & 27 Oct **HERE**. AB

Time for a roadtrip

VIVA Holidays is highlighting its self-drive South Australia itineraries, including a six-day exploration of Adelaide and the Barossa - for further details, see the **back page**.

TD TRAVELDAILY

ON LOCATION



VIRGINIA

Today's issue of **TD** is coming to you courtesy of **Virginia Travel Corporation**, where we are ready to report on the **Virginia Global Travel Forum**.

WE ARE on the ground in the United States preparing for the Virginia Global Travel Forum that officially kicks off today.

So far, Australian delegates have explored Alexandria, touring the historic King Street Mile, browsing waterfront studios at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, and visiting 18th-century landmarks tied to America's founding fathers.

Later, delegates from around the world will meet at Starr Hill Biergarten for a welcome dinner and drinks hosted by Virginia Beach.

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

Join the Explore Programme and use over 500 discounts to build your 100% Pure New Zealand self-famil.



APPLY NOW

100% PURE NEW ZEALAND
traveltrade.newzealand.com



GUARANTEED TOURS



950+ TOURS



CUSTOMISABLE TOURS



2027/2028 Brochure Available Now!

**AFFORDABLE COACH
TOURING WORLDWIDE**



MTA in great shape after HLO purchase

EXCLUSIVE

HELLOWORLD'S full acquisition of MTA Travel has strengthened supplier relationships and business support as the group enjoys growing demand in new regions and supports advisors through ongoing challenges like the RBA credit card surcharge.

A year after Helloworld acquired full ownership (**TD** 21 Oct 2025), group general manager Lesley Owen (**pictured**) said the transition had also expanded resources without compromising the independence of advisors.

"The key benefit has been greater access to scale, support and resources while preserving the independent business model that sits at the heart of MTA," Owen told **Travel Daily**.

She added that benefits have included enhanced access to preferred supplier partnerships, marketing, technology support, training and a range of



commercial opportunities.

"Importantly, the MTA culture and advisor-first approach remain unchanged, and advisors are seeing tangible benefits through stronger supplier relationships and increased business support."

However, surcharge changes have required members to reassess business operations.

"The recent credit card surcharge changes require advisors to review...fee structures to ensure they remain both compliant and commercially sustainable," she said.

Owen added that MTA was providing guidance, resources and ongoing support around the

issue, like RBA focus sessions at the group's annual conference in Oct (**TD** 02 Oct 2026).

Meanwhile, Europe and Japan remain strong performers for the group, alongside premium and luxury travel, expedition cruising and small group touring.

"We are also seeing increased demand for expedition cruising, small group touring and bespoke, advisor-curated itineraries."

Owen also noted that clients are booking earlier and seeking greater value, flexibility and personalisation, which she said greatly suited MTA's home-based agent model.

"Backed by the support of our head office team and the wider Helloworld business, we are exceptionally well positioned to support our advisors' success, while continuing to deliver the personalised service that today's travellers increasingly value," Owen concluded. **ZH**

Int'l Rail opens 2027

INTERNATIONAL Rail has opened bookings for its 2027 Swiss scenic rail services, which agents can now book up to 12 months in advance.

The collection includes Switzerland's Glacier Express excellence class, a scenic luxury experience offering all-day alpine dining with concierge service, guaranteed window seats and an exclusive bar.

International Rail managing director Jonathan Hume said the demand for the luxury Swiss rail service has been very strong.

"With just 20 guaranteed window seats per carriage, availability is extremely limited - particularly during peak travel periods," he said.

Bookings are also open for the Bernina Express, which travels through alpine scenery along the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Rhaetian Railway from Switzerland to northern Italy.

Learn more details **HERE**. **AB**

Rail Europe

eurostar

Into the Heart of Europe for Less!

Eurostar Early Bird - 25% OFF Eurostar Plus

Book your clients in Eurostar Plus comfort for 25% less, giving them that little bit of extra luxury at a price they'll love.

Eurostar Plus travellers enjoy roomier seats, a quieter cabin and a meal served at their seat on cross-Channel routes.

Sales open now to 02 Nov 2026

Travel between 02 Nov 2026 - 31 Aug 2027

Eligible routes:

London ↔ Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam and Rotterdam
Paris ↔ Brussels, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Cologne

Book with Rail Europe

agent.raileurope.com

Tuesday 20th Oct 2026

Havila Down Under

NORWEGIAN coastal cruise operator Havila Cruises last night co-hosted a major Beyond Travel event at Sydney's Mjolner restaurant, as part of Havila's first sales mission to Australia.

Global head of sales, Matthew Valentine, told **TD** that Australia is one of the line's "top priority markets" as he showcased Havila's four identical ships which ply the 12-night route between Bergen and Kirkenes.

Beyond Travel is one of Havila's key partners in the Australian market, with the cruise product available either standalone or packaged up with other Beyond add-ons in the Baltics.

With the ability to operate silently in UNESCO World Heritage waters and a modern Scandinavian vibe, Havila's 15m² standard cabins are "much larger than has been traditionally available" on the route, Valentine said - more details in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**. *BP*

Buzz builds for MEL-HEL

THE first ever Finnair (AY) services to Australia will begin next week, as the long-time offline carrier becomes online daily in Melbourne (**TD** 18 Dec 2025).

Last night, regional manager for Australia and NZ and 2026 NTIA winner Sue Watts (**pictured**), described the excitement around the launch, which she said was partly triggered by the Qantas Finnair charters over the last couple of years, which saw the Aussie carrier use AY metal for some Sydney-Bangkok services.

"That is probably what moved us forward with the thought of possibly coming down...and which particular destination we would fly from - all the work was done in the background and it all starts next Mon," Watts said.

The service will fly daily from Melbourne direct through to Bangkok and then onto Helsinki.

She highlighted that as well as point-to-point pricing, Finnair



has a lot of fares which can be used to go around the world, and urged agents to source the latest Finnair clue card to ascertain booking classes and options.

Watts noted the consistency of the Finnair long-haul product, which operates across the board on its A330 and A350 fleet so clients know what they are getting regardless of aircraft type.

Business class, premium economy and economy cabins have all been renewed, and return tickets from MEL to HEL currently lead in at \$1,731. *BP*

TokyoTokyo Old meets New

LEARN AND WIN
a trip to Tokyo!

[Click here to register](#)



MSC World Cruise

BOOKINGS are now open for MSC's 2029 World Cruise, with the 119-night journey to include a rare circumnavigation of Australia, with eight calls around the country.

The Sydney to Genoa voyage, operated by the newly refurbished *MSC Magnifica*, will visit three new Aussie ports: Kangaroo Island, Broome and Darwin, while Fremantle will feature as a new overnight call.

Click **HERE** for more details. *JM*

PAL premium sale

PHILIPPINE Airlines has launched its Premium Cabin Seat Sale, offering business class fares from \$3,035 roundtrip from all Australian ports.

Premium economy seats are on sale for \$1,659 return under the same sale, available from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane

The sale runs 19-25 Oct for travel from 01 Apr 2027. *AB*

Discover the new and improved *Tahiti Specialist Program*

A smarter way to learn, connect & grow with industry offers and opportunities to help you experience *The Islands of Tahiti* for yourself.

TAHITI
SPECIALIST
PROGRAM

THE ISLANDS of
TAHITI

[Join now](#)



JNTO appoints Syd head

JAPAN National Tourism Organization (JNTO) Sydney Office has recruited former LA branch chief Keita Kadowaki (**pictured**) as its new executive director.

While visitation to Japan remains at record levels, part of Kadowaki's remit will be to continue JNTO's strategy of increasing numbers in regional Japan by promoting adventure travel, sustainability appeal, and luxury opportunities.

This includes placing events front and centre for Aussies like the International Horticultural Expo taking place next year in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture between Mar and Sep.

Kadowaki brings more than 30 years of industry experience in Japan and overseas markets to the table, with JNTO stating he is passionate about connecting international travellers with the unique culture of the destination. "I'm excited to be in Australia



and I look forward to working with industry partners and progressing the alliances that have been developed over many years," the new chief said.

Kadowaki replaces Naoki Kitazara, who will return to the JNTO head office in Tokyo.

Last year was the first time that more than one million Australians visited Japan in a calendar year, and JNTO is expecting to hit that mark again in 2026.

Japan has welcomed 680,000 Aussies between Jan and Aug. **AB**

Fly from Melbourne to

LONDON ONE-STOP

through to 28 March 2027

Book Now!

ROYAL BRUNEI AIRLINES

Brunei Melbourne

Padman promoted

DAVID Padman has been promoted to Connections Travel Group chief operating officer & head of supplier relations, he revealed on LinkedIn.

Padman will be entrusted with leading CT Connections' national operations function, bringing almost 40 years of experience in travel to the role.

He was previously regional general manager & head of supplier relations. **MS**

Mitchell takes a hike

GREAT Walks of Australia has welcomed Intrepid Travel managing director Brett Mitchell to its board.

Mitchell has worked in adventure tourism since joining Intrepid 15 years ago, with chair Gary Smith saying his appointment reflects the organisation's commitment to strong governance and future-focused leadership. **MS**

Intrepid adds 80 trips

INTREPID has introduced 80 new trips for 2027 across more than 50 new destinations, with the offering designed to tap into a growing desire for lesser-known destinations and closer-to-home travel experiences.

The release, which includes a new Brisbane to Sydney itinerary and New Zealand's Alps to Ocean cycling adventure, comes as the brand's Australian bookings are up 46%, while its New Zealand demand has risen 40%.

Additionally, Thailand's Mae Hong Son region has been added as part of the new 14-day 'Hidden Gems of Thailand' trip, taking travellers beyond Chiang Mai's tourism hub to visit rural mountain villages in the country's lesser-known north.

There are also new walking, trekking, cycling and wildlife itineraries spanning Spain, Georgia, Rwanda and Kenya, and 15 fresh family trips.

See the full collection **HERE**. **JM**



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 20th Oct 2026

UK gives Aussies a call



A GROUP of Aussie travel agents recently had the opportunity to explore the United Kingdom and France by train on a famil hosted by Rail Europe in partnership with Atout France Australia.

Led by Rail Europe's regional manager for Australia and New Zealand Grant Robertson, seven agents journeyed through Bristol, Bath, Lille, Arras and Amiens over eight days, before wrapping up at Disneyland Paris.

The UK portion of the famil took in Bristol, with visits to its aerospace attractions, Wake The Tiger art experience and a boat trip, plus a day in Bath to explore the Roman Baths and Mary Shelley's House of Frankenstein.

From London, the group travelled by Eurostar to Lille, where the itinerary focused on northern France's food, culture and World War I history.

Visits included the Australian

Memorial at Fromelles, Bullecourt, the Wellington Tunnels in Arras and several remembrance sites in the Somme, including Thiepval and Pozieres.

Travel advisers also had the chance to discover Amiens' Hortillonnages floating gardens before the trip ended at Disneyland Paris, with highlights including the World of Frozen, Ratatouille and Avengers Campus.

The group travelled on Great Western Railway, Eurostar and SNCF services throughout the trip, experiencing the connections they can recommend to their own clients.

Taking part were Alexandra Reyes, Helloworld Travel Marion; Roman Chipizubov, Frontier Travel; Lani Symons Vaughan, MTA Travel; Kellie Waterfield, Chirn Park Travel; Michelle Walsh, Cruise & Rail Travel; Jason Cole, Extra Mile Travel; and Shane Earnshaw, Destinations by Shane. *JM*

ATIA UPDATE

from LJ Loch, ATIA director of communications and media



ON SAT, if you were reading a News Corp paper, you would have read a story about WSI quoting Dean Long, alongside

two travel experts.

Guess what? Those experts happened to be ATIA-accredited.

Coincidence? Hardly. Lynton Jones and Justine Waddington from Encounter Travel are on the ATIA media roster.

That one story ran across 11 News Corp mastheads in a single day, reaching a potential audience of around one million.

The equivalent advertising value was about \$28,681, and it came free as part of their membership.

They are in good company.

When the Middle East conflict threw flights to Europe into chaos this year, Kylee Ellerton from Frank Ford Travel, Nigel Walliss from Travelrite International, Emma Whiting and Anna McMurtrie from Wentworth Travel were all in the media explaining it to Australians.

So how does it work? Our

comms team pitches stories with members front and centre.

When journalists come to us looking for talent, the roster is the first place we look.

That could mean TV news, radio, print or online.

For your business, that is credibility you cannot buy.

If you run an agency, it builds trust in your community.

If you are a tour operator, it strengthens your brand.

If you run a TMC, it is independent endorsement for your next corporate pitch.

And every time an accredited member is quoted, travellers hear why they should always choose an accredited business, straight from the experts.

We only ever bring you positive opportunities, and you pick the ones that suit you.

The comms team can also help with suggested language, key messages and tips.

The roster is free and open to every accredited business.

Honestly, it is a no-brainer.

To put your hand up, email me at lj.loch@atia.travel and help us reinforce the critical importance of only choosing ATIA-accredited travel businesses.

Wiggles sail away

ROYAL Caribbean and The Wiggles have teamed up to release *Sail Away*, a new song inspired by the line's South Pacific cruise holidays.

The tune celebrates the upcoming 2026/27 summer season of Wiggly-themed voyages, which kick off on 30 Nov with a four-night Brisbane to Airlie Beach journey aboard *Quantum of the Seas*. *JM*

Oakwood in Epping

BOOKINGS have opened for the new 122-room Oakwood Epping Melbourne, which is set to open on 02 Nov.

Marking Oakwood's second Aussie location, the property offers modern studio, one- and two-bedroom accommodation, as well as easy access to the Melbourne Market.

There is a special offer available to the first 50 bookings, **HERE**. *JM*

2027 EUROPE & UK TOURS

SAVE \$500 PER COUPLE*

cosmos.

VIEW OFFER

*T&C's apply

Tue 20th October 2026

Nordic stories take centre stage as 50 Degrees North hits the road

UNDER the banner 'Stories from the top of the world', 50 Degrees North brought its Nordic Roadshow to Brisbane, Adelaide and Melbourne this Oct, an expanded three-city run that drew around 300 travel advisors across five sessions.

Each session paired supplier presentations and stories with open networking, bringing seven suppliers from Norway, Finland and Iceland face-to-face with advisors.

The idea was simple: one region, told by the people who know it best, from the Norwegian coast and fjords to Finnish Lapland and Iceland's volcanic south.

Every session also put a prize on the table: a \$5,000 50 Degrees North travel voucher for one advisor, with further

prizes drawn from each of the visiting Nordic suppliers.

Following a successful debut in 2025, the roadshow looks set to return in 2027.

Meet the seven partners and the journeys they combine to create at fiftydegreesnorth.com/au/nordic-roadshow/2026-partners.



A FULL house for the supplier presentations.



ADVISORS catch up over drinks between sessions.



THE visiting Nordic suppliers with the 50 Degrees North team.

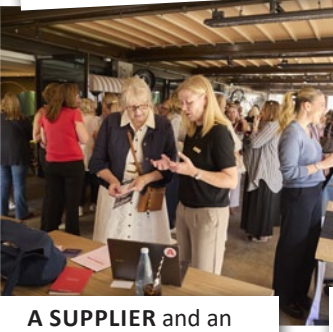


ADVISORS in front of the summer fjord backdrop.



SALLA Ekman, head of partnerships APAC, with an advisor.

SUPPLIERS share maps and itineraries with advisors across the networking tables.



A SUPPLIER and an advisor in conversation.



AN ADVISOR with the Aurora Village team after winning one of the supplier's prizes.



AROUND 300 people attended the roadshow.



SOUTHCOAST Adventure presents Iceland's south coast alongside the 50 Degrees North team.



ONEWORLD FIGHTS WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

ONEWORLD'S 15 members have recently committed to putting an end to illegal global wildlife trafficking by signing onto the Buckingham Palace Declaration (BPD), developed by The Royal Foundation's United for Wildlife organisation.

As the horrendous crime relies on global transport networks and supply chains to move illegal goods, the BPD brings the transport and logistics sectors together to close the routes exploited by traffickers.

Royal Jordanian president and CEO Samer Majali signed the declaration at IATA's Wings of Change industry event in Brussels last week.

Oneworld's members will now look to strengthen policies, improve crime detection and reporting, and support enforcement efforts across the



alliance's network of destinations.

They will also include enhanced frontline training to identify and respond to suspicious activity and collaboration with law enforcement to help put a stop to wildlife trafficking across oneworld's networks.

The environmental crime economy is one of the fastest-growing crimes around the world.

"The complete commitment of all oneworld members greatly

increases our ability to identify and disrupt trafficking and help combat the illegal trade in wildlife," said Ole Orver, CEO of oneworld.

"This milestone reinforces the critical role aviation plays in protecting endangered species and safeguarding global ecosystems," he added. *JHM*

Pictured: Royal Jordanian Airlines' Samer Majali and Matt Ridley from oneworld.

Insects check in

JW MARRIOTT Auckland has opened the doors of its environmentally-friendly Wildlife Hotel, welcoming the tiniest of guests.

Developed with urban greening specialist GreenAir, the new property aims to provide nesting spaces and shelter for bees, beetles and other beneficial insects in an effort to support urban biodiversity.

Made from reclaimed and repurposed materials, the Wildlife Hotel can be viewed from selected level five terrace rooms.

The new space is in addition to JW Marriott Auckland's rooftop garden, where beehives, herbs and seasonal ingredients all contribute to a garden-to-table experience for guests.

JW Marriott's culinary team regularly harvest rosemary, coriander, parsley and mint from the garden, using honey from the rooftop bees for food and beverage experiences.

"Through our collaboration with GreenAir, we have created something purposeful and engaging that supports urban wildlife while adding another dimension to the experience we offer our guests," JW Marriott Auckland's general manager Girish Talreja explained. *JHM*

GSTS '28 EOIs

EXPRESSIONS of interest for destinations to host the 2028 Global Sustainable Tourism Summit (GSTS) as a major partner are now open.

The summit will likely take place in early Jun and attract 250 delegates.

For more details, contact communication and engagement manager Kate Scott at commsmanager@ecotourism.org.au *JHM*

Swan Hellenic hosts space experts

SWAN Hellenic has recently revealed six world-renowned scientists and experts who will join its 2027 Explore Space at Sea series.

The guests come from the SETI Institute, an American non-profit organisation that is dedicated to understanding and searching for life and intelligence beyond earth.

Swan Hellenic passengers will have the opportunity to

travel with these experts, who will share their knowledge in astronomy, astrophysics, astrobiology and planetary science during their journeys.

These include SETI Institute president and CEO Bill Diamond, planetary scientist Ross Beyer, chair of astronomy and astrophysics Uma Gorti, principal investigator Derek Kozel from the GNU Radio Project, and more. *JHM*

CHINA AIRLINES

SPRING SALE

From Australia to Taipei, Japan, Korea and London.

UP TO 15% OFF

BOOK BY 03 NOV 2026

DEPART FROM 21 OCT 2026

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.698

THE AUD is eyeing off a return to US\$0.70, powered by surprisingly strong data on China's GDP and retail sales.

Registering two days of consecutive gains, the AUD has reached a tick below the \$0.70 mark, after fiscal data from China revealed the country's economy grew 4.5% year-over-year in Q3, up 4.3% from the previous quarter.

Retail sales doubled initial forecasts of 0.5%, rising by 1%.

Meanwhile, a record two-day rout of Indonesian markets could mean a cheaper trip to Bali for Australians.

Reuters has reported a sharp drop in the IDR following investor concerns about Indonesia's stock market.

The currency's slide could give travellers more spending power in Indonesia, particularly as the AUD has gained ground against the currency in recent days.

The roughly 0.8% improvement means more spending money for Aussies.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.698
UK	£0.525
NZ	\$1.233
Euro	€0.623
Japan	¥110.7
Thailand	฿23.45
China	¥4.669
Jet fuel	US\$192.44
Canada	\$0.985
Bitcoin	A\$0.0000085

A bountiful trade event



BRAND USA gave Aussie agents a taste of America during an intimate trade event last week, hosted at Melbourne's Louisiana-inspired venue, Le Bon Ton.

Dubbed 'America the Bountiful', the evening brought advisors together with seven US destination partners and Qantas, showcasing the country's diverse food and drink experiences and the role of culinary travel in inspiring Australian visitors.

Destination partners included Visit Anaheim, Travel Portland, Travel Oregon, the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board, Travel South, Greater Palm Springs and New Orleans & Company.

Attendees also heard an update from Qantas on air connectivity to the United States.

The event was attended by Brand USA ambassadors Cara Buhagiar from Helloworld

Lower Templestowe, Abby Pezze from Wolf and Turner Travel Associates, Jessica O'Grady from Cruiseabout and Brittany Mason from Mr Chocolates Travel, who shared their experiences and personal culinary highlights from their travels in the USA.

"Culinary experiences offer a meaningful way to connect travellers with the culture, people and stories of a destination," Brand USA Australia and New Zealand trade director Tristan Freedman said.

"Bringing our destination partners and travel advisors together creates opportunities to share knowledge, spark ideas and inspire more engaging US itineraries," he added.

The event also marked the launch of Brand USA's new America the Bountiful agent resource, available [HERE](#). *JM*



Window Seat

A MAN accused of stealing a flamingo from a Las Vegas hotel has claimed he had drunk between 30 and 40 beers before his alleged actions in Mar.

The Canadian tourist is said to have stolen the flamingo, named Peachy, from the famous tropical-themed Flamingo Las Vegas hotel, located on the Strip.

Mitchell Fairbairn, 34, was seen on a security camera in the early hours of 03 Mar hopping a fence to get inside the flamingo habitat.

The hotel features a 1.5-hectare open-air wildlife sanctuary, which is open to the public between the hours of 7am and 8pm.

Fairbairn is accused of taking Peachy from his habitat and carrying him to his hotel room, where the bird was injured in the process.

The defendant said he thought taking the bird would prove to be little more than a "silly pranking joke", conceived after he had consumed as many as three dozen beers.



YOUR PLACE IS SET IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA



6 DAY EXPLORE ADELAIDE & BAROSSA SELF-DRIVE

INCLUDES:

- 7 days Avis car hire in a Toyota Corolla or similar, pick-up and drop-off Adelaide airport
- 3 nights at Hotel Indigo Adelaide Markets ★★★★★ including an upgrade to a Premium Room
- Adelaide Central Market guided tour including food tasting and discount vouchers
- Full day Adelaide Highlights guided tour including McLaren Vale wine tastings
- 2 nights at Barossa Shiraz Estate ★★★★★ in a Residence, Vines or Willows Room
 - Breakfast daily, plus gourmet platter and bottle of wine on arrival
- Yalumba Estate winery visit including picnic and private wine tasting experience

5 NIGHTS FROM **\$1,825*** PER PERSON TWIN SHARE



6 DAY LUXURY ADELAIDE & HILLS SELF-DRIVE

INCLUDES:

- 4 days Avis car hire in a Toyota Corolla or similar, pick-up and drop-off Adelaide city centre
- 3 nights at Eos by SkyCity, Adelaide ★★★★★ including an upgrade to Allure King Riverview Room
- Ultimate Penfolds Magill Estate Experience including winery and cellar tour, private wine tasting and return private sedan transfers
- 2 nights at Mount Lofty House Adults Retreat ★★★★★ including an upgrade to a Piccadilly Valley View room
 - Full breakfast daily
 - Late check-out until midday

5 NIGHTS FROM **\$1,859*** PER PERSON TWIN SHARE



8 DAY ADELAIDE, FLEURIEU & KANGAROO ISLAND SELF-DRIVE

INCLUDES:

- 9 days Avis car hire in a Toyota Corolla or similar, pick-up and drop-off Adelaide airport
- 2 nights at Hotel Grand Chancellor Adelaide ★★★★★ in a Executive King Room including full breakfast daily
- Adelaide Food Odyssey guided tour
- Return car and passenger ferry to Kangaroo Island
- 3 nights at Kangaroo Island Seafront ★★★★★ in a Seafront Room
- Full day Kangaroo Island small group guided adventure
- Kangaroo Island Spirits - Blend Your Own Gin experience
- 2 nights at McCracken Resort, Victor Harbor ★★★★★ in a Resort Spa Room
- Blending class and degustation lunch at d'Arenberg winery

7 NIGHTS FROM **\$3,199*** PER PERSON TWIN SHARE

8 DAY CITY, VINES & MOUNTAINS SELF-DRIVE

INCLUDES:

- 9 days Avis car hire in a Toyota Corolla or similar, pick-up and drop-off Adelaide airport
- 3 nights at Hotel Indigo Adelaide Markets ★★★★★ including an upgrade to a Premium room
- National Wine Centre Food and Wine Experience
- 2 nights at Barossa Shiraz Estate ★★★★★ in a One Bedroom Cottage
 - Breakfast daily, plus bottle of wine and platter on arrival
- Full day Barossa Valley guided tour including lunch
- 2 nights at Rawnsley Park Station ★★★★★ in a Oasis One Bedroom Eco Villa
 - Breakfast, plus bottle of wine and cheese plate on arrival
 - Three-course dinner for two at the Woolshed Restaurant
 - Private Chase Range sunset experience for two
- Full day Flinders Ranges National Park tour including lunch

7 NIGHTS FROM **\$3,199*** PER PERSON TWIN SHARE

