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## QR doubles up on Sydney

**QATAR** Airways has become the latest carrier to commit to Sydney's second airport, announcing it will commence flights between Doha and Western Sydney Int'l from 15 Dec 2027 (*TD* breaking news).

In confirming its seventh Aussie gateway, Qatar Airways said the upcoming route would initially be served by three weekly flights using Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, featuring 42 business and 312 economy class seats.

The carrier plans to step that frequency up to daily in 2028.

Qatar Airways Group CEO Hamad Al Khater said the decision reflected its view that Australia remains one of its most important markets.

"With the airport operating around the clock, we will bring more international visitors to NSW and offer Australian



travellers the premium Qatar experience from a second Sydney gateway," Al Khater said.

The airline added the route would complement its broader growth plan with Virgin Australia, supporting additional network development opportunities.

Aussies will have access to complimentary Starlink wi-fi on the flights, as well as its flagship business class Qsuite product which features the industry's first double bed for the class.

QR's passenger flights will go on sale on 19 Dec. *AB*

## Nepal fam back on

**FOLLOWING** devastating floods, Nepal-based Community Homestay Network is again inviting advisors specialising in culture-oriented travel to apply for a fam to the Upper Mustang region in Dec - more info [HERE](#).

## Bali with Club Med

**CLUB** Med is promoting its Bali location, a four-star, all-inclusive beachfront resort located in the popular Nusa Dua - **page nine**.

## Be early with Scenic

**SUPER** earlybird offers for Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours' European river itineraries will end on 31 Oct - see more on **page 10**.

## Get facts on FACTS

**FACTS** is Australia's largest business travel & events expo, taking place in Sydney next month - find out more on **p11**.

## Today's issue of TD

*TD* has eight pages, plus a front page from **Quark**, a photo page from **Norwegian Cruise Line**, our **Luxury page**, plus full pages from:

- **Club Med**
- **Scenic**
- **FACTS Business Travel & Events Expo**

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*Explorations*

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Black Friday  
Update

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## Linkd joins TLN

**LINKD** Tourism has signed on with the Travel Lifestyle Network (TLN), a collective of global PR and marketing agencies.

With a network of 25 member agencies, TLN will help Linkd to collaborate on campaigns and leverage opportunities for their clients across markets.

"Being invited to join this outstanding group is a testament to the talent, creativity and dedication of the Linkd Tourism team," said Linkd's Emma Prineas.

## Tug of war over Bali seats

**VIRGIN** Australia is seeking extra capacity to support a return to Perth-Bali flights for the first time in close to a decade.

In a submission to the International Air Services Commission (IASC), VA said it wanted to significantly expand capacity to the major Aussie holiday spot from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, as well as restore PER-DPS to its network.

The application for extra seats - made possible by additional traffic rights under an expanded Australia-Indonesia air services arrangement - seeks to operate 17 weekly flights from Perth to Bali from 21 Jun next year.

If approved, it would add 3,100 extra seats a week to the route.

Additionally, Virgin Australia wants to add four flights to MEL-DPS for a combined 14 weekly services, an extra four to SYD-DPS for 11 weekly flights, and three more to BNE-DPS for 10 flights.

These would go live from 13 Dec 2026, 23 Mar 2027 and 16 Sep 2027, respectively, if given the



green light.

If all expanded routes were to operate year-round, it would equate to a sizable 265,000 additional seats annually.

However, VA's request is likely to face challenges, with Qantas already requesting the lion's share of the extra 5,000 weekly seats made available.

In its own prior request, Qantas sought 4,539 of the 5,000 seats on offer, with VA going a step further this week by asking for the entire allotment.

As there is insufficient capacity available to accommodate both requests, the IASC said it would write to Qantas and Virgin Australia, inviting each to address the additional criteria set out in section 9 of the *International Air Services Commission Policy Statement 2018*. AB

## Air NZ builds Tasman

**AIR** New Zealand enjoyed an increase in passenger traffic to Australia and the Pacific islands, according to its latest quarterly update published this morning.

Driven primarily by increased widebody operations, the carrier saw a 3.7% lift in passengers carried for the three months ending 30 Sep, as well as 11.6% more capacity on routes led by Auckland to Perth and Queenstown to Brisbane.

Long-haul pax fell by 2.3%. AB



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## Former Rex head grounded

**FORMER** Rex chief Lim Kim Hai has learned his fate after pleading guilty to misleading the market (**TD** 20 May 2026), with the NSW Supreme Court disqualifying the businessman from managing any corporation for four years.

Hai was also handed a fine of \$800,000 for his involvement in Rex's continuous disclosure breaches and was ordered to pay a portion of ASIC's legal costs.

In Jul, the NSW Supreme Court found that under Hai's leadership, Rex had breached its reporting obligations when it neglected to share market-sensitive details in a timely manner that forecast a \$35 million profit drop (**TD** 01 Jul).

It asserted that Rex therefore misled the market when it claimed in a Feb 2023 ASX update it would have "positive operating profits" for the financial year without having a reasonable basis on which to make the claim.

Responding to the judgement



handed down yesterday, ASIC chair Sarah Court said the outcome reinforced the obligation for the market to receive an accurate picture of a company's financial performance.

"Continuous disclosure is a core obligation for listed entities and underpins Australia's corporate governance framework," she said.

"It is critical that investors have access to accurate and timely information that would impact their investment decisions."

ASIC also pursued an unsuccessful case against former directors John Sharp, Siddharth Khotkar and Lincoln Pan for alleged governance failures. **AB**

## Qantas Pacific sale

**QANTAS** Airways has launched a Pacific islands sale, with getaways from \$579 to Port Vila.

More than 18,000 discounted seats to eight island destinations are on sale, including Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Samoa and Norfolk Island - **CLICK HERE** for information on the deals.

## Final Prima unveiled

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line (NCL) has revealed the details of its final ship in the Prima class, with *Norwegian Bella* to set sail from Barcelona in May 2028.

The new 3,921-guest vessel will service seven-day roundtrip Mediterranean itineraries visiting ports in Italy, Spain and France.

*Bella* will feature a range of enhanced onboard features beyond its sister ships, including the multi-level Ocean Heights complex, a 15% larger pool deck, and more seating at the Ocean Boulevard on deck eight. **AB**

TD TRAVEL DAILY  
ON LOCATION



## VIRGINIA

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

**VIRGINIA** Global Travel Forum Trade and media attendees explored Fairfax County overnight, visiting Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington and one of the county's most iconic historic attractions, followed by Great Falls Park and Tysons Corner. The itinerary also included lunch at Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant, a visit to the newly opened Hyatt Regency Tysons Corner and an evening networking event inspired by classic summer resorts on the rooftop Archer Hotel Tysons. **ZH**

PONANT  
EXPLORATIONS

Paul Gauguin  
CRUISES

# Tempting Tahiti

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## Window Seat

**TRAVELLERS** in Texas now have a chance to view the world's largest cowboy hat, which was certified this week by Guinness World Records.

We are not sure if any person on the planet truly needs that much shade - cowboy or not - but those visiting the state can see how it fits their comparatively small craniums at the Circuit of the Americas racetrack in Austin.

The sculpture was unveiled in celebration of the Formula 1 United States Grand Prix.



# Egypt to double down on tourism

**EGYPTIAN** Tourism Authority CEO Ahmed Youssef has confirmed plans to increase the country's tourism business by 100%, showcasing the wide variety of experiences on offer across the destination.

Speaking during the naming ceremony of two new Viking Nile river vessels by video link from Amsterdam last week, Youssef said "beyond the pyramids, there is unmatched diversity".

"We have always been famous for our cultural antiquities and the tangible dimension of the civilisation," he said.

"Years back we developed the beach and sun tourism, and in addition to that, today we have MICE, we have spiritual tourism, we have ecotourism, adventure sports, you name it.

"So Egypt is now the land of unmatched diversity, one country with many sub destinations and experiences exciting to travellers



all over the world."

River cruising is an essential element of the strategy, with Youssef particularly highlighting Viking's longstanding presence in the destination and its ongoing Egypt investments.

Viking has already built eight Nile ships and Youssef noted that the burgeoning capacity perfectly aligned with Egypt's strategy.

"We need to offer much more accommodation to customers... and also let me say, it's not just

about visitor numbers, but the premium visitor is definitely an added value," he said, noting the employment opportunities for the local community.

"The satisfied customer and fantastic experience that [Viking] is delivering means more business, repeated business, and healthy business for everybody.

"I see [Viking] is investing for the years to come, and we are happy with that," Youssef said. *BP*

## Bali over the Moon

**SONO** Hotels & Resorts Asia has inked a management agreement for SONO Moon Bali Seminyak, a 225-room urban lifestyle hotel scheduled to open in the first quarter of 2027.

Marking the debut of the SONO Moon brand in Bali, the hotel will feature two swimming pools, a gym, spa, kids' club, meeting facilities and all-day dining. *JM*



Pacific Islands

# RED TAIL SALE

Help your customers save on flights to Palau, Norfolk Island, Solomon Islands and more. Hurry, ends 26 October.\*

[Find out more](#)

\*Sale ends 11.59pm (AEDT) 26 October 2026 unless sold out prior. Select routes, travel dates and conditions apply.



## Dynamic duo to host lunch

### DESTINATION

Webinars' Charlie Trevena and Talent For Travel founder Richard Taylor have been announced as the co-hosts of the CATO Christmas lunch.

The annual celebration will take place on 03 Dec at Le Montage in Sydney and everyone in the industry is invited.

"Charlie has a wonderful ability to make everyone feel part of the event, and Richard brings a great rapport to the stage," enthused Mira Yates, director of CATO and education.

"We are excited to see these two travel legends team up for a lunch that's all about bringing our industry together and having some fun," she added.

It marks a return to the stage for both, with Taylor recently hosting the Beyond Borders Travel Summit and Trevena emceeing



CATO's International Women's Day in Mar.

Limited tables of 10 are now available - click [HERE](#). JHM

## HLO Wagga Wagga

**HELLOWORLD** Travel has marked another network milestone, with Temora Travel Tania Botha opening a second location in Wagga Wagga, NSW.

Temora Travel has been part of the Helloworld network for 15 years, and this year was recognised as the company's National Associate Agency of the Year (Single Store).

The move sees Botha operate across both the associate and branded retail networks.

Botha said that offering personalised service was key to her growth and that she has been working towards the expansion for some time. AB



## Expedia speeds up

**EXPEDIA** Group has launched Autonomous Onboarding, a tech solution that helps properties go live on its global marketplace in less than 24 hours.

The software allows properties to bypass lengthy onboarding processes and connect directly to Expedia Group through the software they already use by automatically retrieving and validating key information. JM

[Click here to register](#)



## MEL gets bigger and better



**MELBOURNE** Airport's \$4.5 billion international terminal expansion is now a step closer, following the successful opening of new pick-up and drop-off zones for Terminals 1, 2 and 3 earlier this month (**TD** 06 Oct).

New artist impressions have revealed the redesigned terminal, which will expand into the current forecourt area, resulting in larger check-in, arrival and departure satellite areas.

The terminal expansion works will be delivered in phases to ensure the continued operation of the gateway, occurring in tandem with the construction of MEL's third runway.

The expansion was enabled by the closure of the departures ramp and the opening of new pick-up and drop-off zones in the T123 Transport Hub.

In the first two weeks of operation, average travel times between Mickleham Road and the airport drop-off zone have been cut by 10 minutes during peak times, and feedback from

both drivers and travellers has been positive.

MEL said it will add extra signage where needed to help people navigate the new arrangement.

"Demand for travel to and from Melbourne continues to grow and we are building the terminal, airfield and transport facilities we need to support that," Melbourne Airport CEO Lorie Argus said.

"Having just recorded our busiest Sep on record, the need for this investment is obvious." JM

## Novotel in Brisbane

**ACCOR** will open the 239-room Novotel Brisbane City Centre on 01 Nov, becoming the group's 22nd hotel in the city.

Owned by Frasers Hospitality and operating under Accor management, the hotel will feature three meeting rooms, a restaurant, 24-hour gym and yoga room, indoor heated swimming pool, steam room and sauna.

The hotel will add crucial room capacity in Brisbane in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics. AB

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Wednesday 21st Oct 2026

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line (NCL) recently rolled out the VIP treatment for its valued Australian and New Zealand trade partners at its annual AU/NZ VIP Partner Retreat in Victoria's picturesque Yarra Valley.

Bringing together senior executives from leading online travel agency and consortia groups, the retreat celebrated their ongoing partnership and support through several days of premium experiences, connection and celebration in a memorable setting within one of Victoria's most celebrated wine regions.

Guests began with Chandon's exclusive Behind the Bubbles experience and an indulgent degustation lunch showcasing the region's food and wine. At Balgownie Estate, the itinerary continued with lawn games, archery, vineyard-side yoga and local wine, alongside personalised gifts including JULY tote bags, NCL caps and Chandon champagne bottle stoppers.

Many attendees then joined NCL at ATIA's Beyond Borders event and the National Travel Industry Awards, where the cruise line won Most Outstanding Marketing Campaign – Supplier.

The retreat reflects NCL's commitment to strengthening relationships and recognising the trade partners who continue to champion the brand across Australia and New Zealand.



**CELEBRATING** in style at the Yarra Valley.



**SARAH** Hunter, Helloworld NZ; Brad Kennedy, Cruiseabout; Iain Summers, Magellan Travel; Angela Middleton, NCL; and Steve Brady, Helloworld.



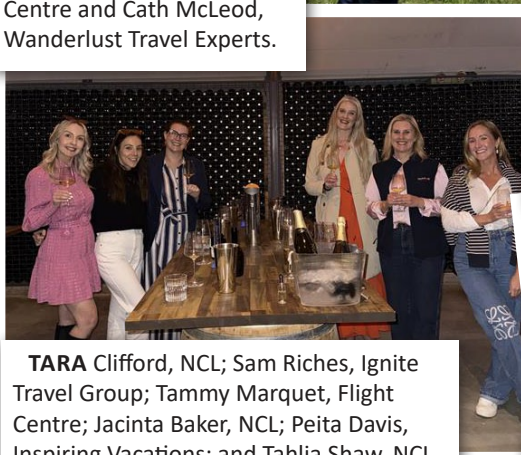
**BEHIND** the bubbles at Chandon.



**NORIYE** Oto, Our Vacation Centre and Cath McLeod, Wanderlust Travel Experts.



**NICOLA** Strudwick from Travellers Choice takes aim.



**TARA** Clifford, NCL; Sam Riches, Ignite Travel Group; Tammy Marquet, Flight Centre; Jacinta Baker, NCL; Peita Davis, Inspiring Vacations; and Tahlia Shaw, NCL.



**MICHAEL** Middleton from Ignite Travel Group with NCL's Angela Middleton.



**CHEERS** from NCL's Jacinta Baker and Caroline Hitchen from CruiseHQ.



**ATTENDEES** enjoyed morning archery.

## Cormorant gears up

**SILVERSEA** will welcome the highly anticipated The Cormorant at 55 South to its network on 05 Nov, billed as the world's southernmost hotel (**TD** 02 Mar).

Every Antarctica fly-cruise sailing will include a stay in the hotel, which will be supported by branded charter flights from Santiago.

Services will be equipped with comfortable seating, a three-course meal, and Silversea's signature service.

The cruise line's expedition experts, the same specialists who guide Silversea's Antarctic voyages, will also be on permanent rotation at the hotel, for activities including kayaking on the Beagle Channel, guided hikes on Navarino Island, and horseback excursions led by a local Patagonian baqueano wilderness guide.

Three Silversea ships will operate voyages to Antarctica this season.

The hotel was originally scheduled to open in Jan 2026 before being pushed back to Oct 2026 (**TD** 10 Dec), with Silversea citing the need to "ensure every detail meets [its] standards". *MS*



## AIR TAHITI GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS

**AIR** Tahiti has taken delivery of its first ATR 72-600 configured entirely in business class, enabling it to offer a more exclusive and personalised inter-island travel experience.

The first commercial flights operated under Air Tahiti Signature are set to take off on 08 Dec, serving Bora Bora and Raiatea-Taha'a (**TD** 12 Dec 2025).

Named Anapanapa, the new aircraft will be soft-launched to the international trade between 10 Nov and 07 Dec.

During this period, travel agencies and tour operators will be invited to experience the new offering firsthand and gain a better understanding of its benefits ahead of introducing it to their customers.

Completely redesigned in a 1-1 layout, the ATR 72-600 cabin features individual seats for every passenger, each with direct aisle access and three windows.

With a seat pitch of 100cm, the



configuration prioritises personal space, comfort and privacy throughout the flight.

The move will look to cater for the growing number of high-net-worth travellers entering Tahiti, with the premium air experience to extend beyond the flight itself to a new business lounge in Bora Bora opening soon and a premium guest area in Tahiti.

Passengers will have a private transfer to the lounge from the check-in counter through security,

and then a private transfer by a coach to the aircraft directly.

Once there, passengers can enjoy welcome drinks with champagne and Tahitian punch, as well as Tahitian food inside.

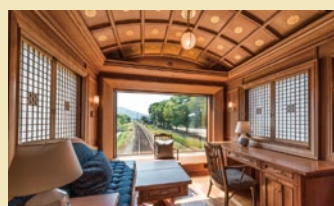
Flights will operate in the early morning to connect with aircraft arriving from France, one in the late morning to cater for travellers entering via New Zealand, and one in the evening to link with the int'l carriers going back to the US or France. *JM/AB*

## A&K ups the ante on luxury Japan rail journeys on board Seven Stars

**ABERCROMBIE & Kent** (A&K) is offering two exclusive departures on board Seven Stars in Kyushu, Japan's first luxury sleeper train.

While travellers usually need to take part in a lottery to win a spot on board, A&K's exclusive charter provides instant access to the entire train.

As part of the 'Japan by



Luxury Train: Seven Stars in Kyushu 2027', guests will have the opportunity to experience cherry blossom season, with

both 10-day trips departing in Apr and in Sep.

Other highlights include a stop at Mount Aso, one of Japan's most active volcanoes offering 360° views of the crater, as well as stargazing at Nita Pass, and a visit through the Rikugo Manzan Sojiin and Futago-ji temples led by a priest - prices start from \$62,345 per person. *JHM*



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**Amanpuri**, the original Aman resort in Phuket, has unveiled a series of seasonal enhancements following a three-month closure. The updates include the addition of six new pavilions and refreshed standalone pavilions, two new accommodation

categories, enhanced wellness facilities, and an expanded program of Thai cultural and culinary experiences. Guests can also explore the Andaman Sea on which the property is set aboard the new 26-metre *Riva 86 Domino* yacht, which offers private single- and multi-day trips.



**QT Queenstown** has unveiled new food and beverage offerings with its new restaurant Notch and its top-level bar, Rooftop at QT. The two spaces, both located on the hotel's sixth floor, opened their doors yesterday as part of the property's phased refurbishment.

Notch and Rooftop at QT join Bazaar, the marketplace-style breakfast restaurant space synonymous with the brand.



Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts has announced a new cliffside property in Africa, **Four Seasons Resort Tangier, Morocco**, which will overlook the Mediterranean Sea and Strait of Gibraltar. Designed by architect Arjitec, with interiors

by design firm Goddard Littlefair, the resort in Tangier's Cap Malabata district will feature 99 guestrooms and suites, including 27 standalone villas, and will be set alongside more than 260 metres of waterfront.



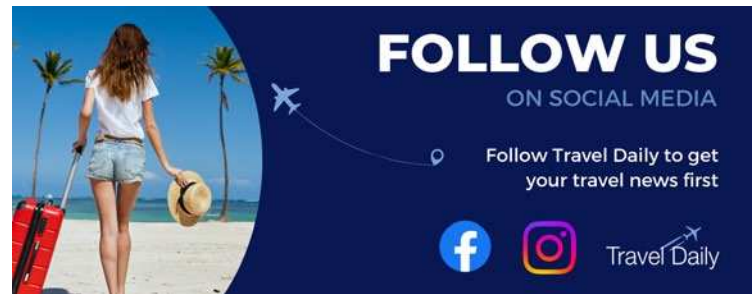
**Avista Hideaway Patong Resort & Spa Phuket - MGallery Collection** has unveiled new pool villas, which will debut later this month. The 12 newly renovated one-bedroom villas, designed as secluded retreats, can also be combined into

interconnecting two- or three-bedroom configurations. Avista Hideaway Patong is located just minutes away from town.



andBeyond has announced its Xaranna Okavango Delta Camp will be rebuilt and relaunched as the **andBeyond Xaranna Okavango Delta Lodge** in Aug. Set within an exclusive 90,500-hectare concession, the reimagined lodge will feature nine

expansive 160m<sup>2</sup> suites, each with a private pool, as well as a new two-bedroom family suite.



## EK caps off week at Expo



**DUBAI-BASED** carrier Emirates brought its latest onboard experience to Australian travellers at the Flight Centre Travel Expo in Sydney over the weekend.

The airline, which recently celebrated 30 years of flying to Australia (**TD 14 Oct**), showcased its retrofitted Boeing 777 business class seat at the event.

Visitors to the stand also explored Emirates' expansive global network of more than 140 destinations which the airline connects to via Dubai.

The airline also offered attendees exclusive fares to select destinations across its global network, departing from Sydney.

Following a dedicated industry day on Fri, the Expo opened to the public across Sat and Sun, bringing airlines, tourism organisations, hotels, cruise lines, tour operators, and thousands of guests together under one roof.

"The Flight Centre Travel Expo is a wonderful opportunity to connect with Australian travellers and our travel industry partners, and to showcase the Emirates experience firsthand," the



airline's regional sales manager Adam D'Ambrosio said.

"Our retrofitted Boeing 777 business class product reflects Emirates' continued focus on product innovation and customer experience, as we continue working to further elevate our onboard and on-ground experiences," he explained.

"In our 30 years of operations in Australia, Emirates has consistently sought to deliver value and choice to Australian travellers, and we look forward to continuing this well into the future," D'Ambrosio added.

The Expo came as Emirates earlier in the week brought together hundreds of travel industry figures in Melbourne for a celebration of 30 years of flying Down Under (**TD 16 Oct**). *MS*



# Club Med

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## *Bali*

Indonesia

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LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS

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