

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news, including our **Corporate Update**, plus a full page from **Viva Holidays**.

EK charges premium

EMIRATES has again raised the premium economy bar, revealing the world's first electric seat complete with a bespoke privacy screen, set to roll out on its new Airbus A350 aircraft.

Flyers can also adjust their seat using the integrated passenger control unit with settings like lounge and meal mode.

Other new features include wireless charging, 4K screens, enhanced A350 camera views, premium dining and wines, and reusable amenity kits with premium Aveda skincare. **ZH**



Olympics in cruise control

QUEENSLAND'S Minister for Tourism Andrew Powell has thrown his weight behind the proposal for cruise ships to shore up Brisbane's accommodation gap during the 2032 Olympic Games (**TD** 24 Aug 2026).

Tourism leaders last week proposed using cruise ships as 'floating hotels', as South East Queensland faces a projected 10,000-room accommodation shortfall for the Olympics.

"I think that cruise ships might play a particular role during the Olympics," Powell told this week's Australian Cruise Association (ACA) Conference taking place in the Queensland capital.

"We have seen that cruise

ships have played the role of floating hotels during major events, including previous Olympic Games...it is another accommodation option, and it is a conversation worth having as we plan for the opportunities for 2032," Powell added.

Port of Brisbane executive general manager and ACA chair Brendan Connell said work on how cruising can work alongside the Olympics needs to be accelerated, with just six years to go until the Games. **MS**

ACCC ticks QF-AA

QANTAS and American Airlines have received draft ACCC approval to extend their trans-Pacific joint business for five more years, with the watchdog citing increased connectivity, new routes and frequencies, improved loyalty benefits and lounge access among the reasons for approval.

Ultimate WA trip

VIVA Holidays is showcasing its new Ultimate Journey, combining the best of WA's food, wine and landscapes - more on **page 8**.

Rex updates fees

REGIONAL Express (Rex) airlines will more than double its flight change and cancellation fees for single-sector bookings made on or after 15 Sep, increasing the charge from \$44 to \$99 per person.

Instead of charging per sector, the carrier will introduce a flat rate of \$99 per ticket, regardless of the number of flight sectors included, which means that travellers with bookings of three sectors will save \$33, while those with four will save \$77.

Bookings made before 15 Sep will remain subject to the change and cancellation fees that applied at the time of ticket purchase, in accordance with the Conditions of Carriage provided with the booking confirmation.

Additionally, from 01 Oct, Rex will remove all credit card surcharges on transactions and its website booking fee.

For more information, see the airline's fare rules **HERE**. **JM**

Fly from Melbourne to

LONDON

ONE-STOP

through to 28 March 2027

ROYAL BRUNEI AIRLINES

Brunei

Melbourne

Book Now!

APEX+

WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS

World's Leading Cabin Crew

Friday 4th Sep 2026

More help for remote hubs

THE Australian Airports Association (AAA) has welcomed \$25 million in remote airport funding from the Federal Government, but said a permanent funding mechanism now needs to be put in place.

Marking the 12th and final round of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program, grants of between \$5,000 and \$4 million are available for projects that improve the safety and accessibility of remote airports and airstrips.

"This funding is incredibly important, but we need to move beyond individual grant rounds towards a permanent and sustainable funding mechanism for regional and remote airports," AAA acting CEO Natalie Heazlewood said.

"The latest figures show regional aviation is not in inevitable decline.

"Passenger demand remains strong, even as services are



increasingly being consolidated through fewer frequencies and larger aircraft," she added.

More than 5.4 million passenger trips were recorded on remote routes in 2025/26 - 12% higher than pre-COVID levels - according to new data from BITRE.

Across regional and remote routes, more than 24 million passenger trips were recorded, while the number of actual flights dropped 1.4% over the year.

Heazlewood also pointed out that 73% surveyed regional airports operated at a loss in 2024/25, with a median operating loss of \$519,000. *JM*



TRAFALGAR

Your New Era with Trafalgar

More Journeys. More Choice. *One Trafalgar.*

[Learn More](#)

AROUND FORMOSA TAIWAN

MWTOURS

\$3,199 PP
PRICE PER PERSON TWIN SHARE | LAND ONLY

10 DAYS | GROUP
FAMILY FRIENDLY | MIN. GROUP SIZE 2

[VIEW DEAL](#)

My Cruises ignites

IGNITE Travel Group has celebrated the start of its inaugural Explorations by Norwegian voyage, created exclusively by My Cruises.

The epic journey, which set sail from Rome aboard *Regatta* on Wed, will travel to 220 ports in 62 countries over more than 370 days, making it the world's longest cruise.

Timed to coincide with Japan's cherry blossom season and designed to incorporate the Northern Lights at their peak, the sailing will also visit destinations across China, Thailand, Singapore, Bali and Europe.

More than 10,000 Aussie guests are expected to experience the debut season, with the option to choose between a full navigation of the globe or shorter segments.

"Explorations by Norwegian has been years in the making, and we couldn't be more excited for our guests to finally embark on this extraordinary journey," Michael Middleton (**pictured** right onboard *Regatta*), Ignite's global head of cruise, said. *JM*



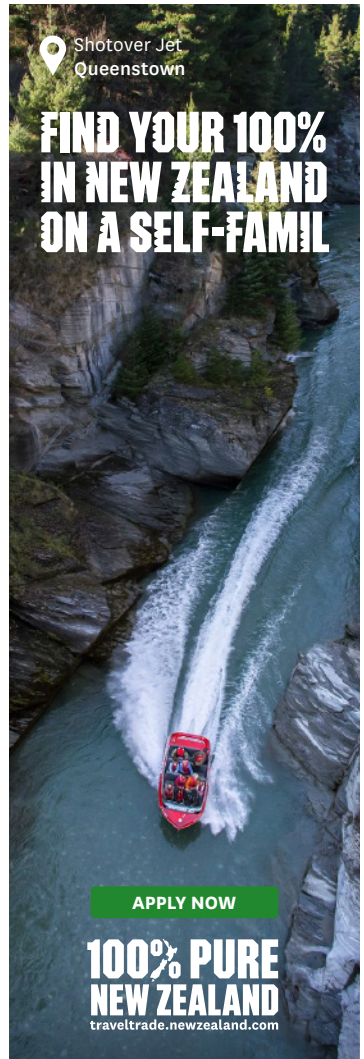
Tempt your clients

PAUL Gauguin Cruises and Ponant Explorations have launched their 'Tempting Tahiti' offer, giving guests US\$1,000 in onboard credit for *m/s Paul Gauguin* and €1,000 in credit aboard *Le Jacques Cartier*.

This offer is available until 31 Oct for 2026-27 Voyages. *JB*

Shotover Jet
Queenstown

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



[APPLY NOW](#)

100% PURE NEW ZEALAND
traveltrade.newzealand.com

Friday 4th Sep 2026

Trump told to aim higher

A DOZEN US travel industry leaders have met with Donald Trump at the White House, urging the US President to set an ambitious goal of 100 million visitors a year by 2030 in a bid to reverse an ongoing decline in inbound tourism.

The group, which included CEOs and executives from American Airlines, Marriott, Hilton, IHG and more, said the US should build on the exposure it gained through major events like the FIFA World Cup held this year.

"The next goal should...strive to make the United States the most visited country in the world," a statement issued by US Travel Association president and CEO Geoff Freeman read.

The magic 100 million figure would see US\$81 billion (A\$113 billion) flood into the American economy while adding 400,000 jobs, according to Freeman.

"Our industry is ready to work



with the president and his administration to build on today's momentum."

The push comes as inbound travel remains under pressure, with international arrivals down 4.7% in the month of Jul.

No stranger to policy criticism, Freeman recently lambasted govt shutdowns that impacted air traffic while speaking at the IPW conference earlier this year. ZH

HX 10% discounts

HX EXPEDITIONS is giving pax 5% off cabins and 10% discounts on suites across selected expeditions when booked between now and 09 Nov.

Applicable departures run from 01 Oct to 31 Mar 2028. JB

TokyoTokyo Old meets New

LEARN AND WIN
a trip to Tokyo!

[Click here to register](#)



Baiting more visitors

NORTHERN Territory's Million Dollar Fish competition returns from 01 Oct 2026 to 31 Mar 2027, with \$2m in prizes to be won.

Top End fishing enthusiasts can catch a barramundi worth \$1 million or one of 100 barramundi worth \$10,000 each.

The comp coincides with the NT's Best Kept Season initiative running between Sep and Apr to attract off-peak visitation. JB

Qantas kicks into gear

JETSTAR and Qantas are ramping up flights ahead of this year's footy finals, with more than 30 additional services and almost 8,000 seats already added between Perth and Melbourne for the AFL grand final alone.

Qantas has also added more than 1,000 trans-Tasman seats for New Zealand fans heading to Sydney for the NRL decider, with further aircraft and crew on standby if required. ZH

ACA headed to Tas

HOBART will host the 2027 Australian Cruise Association's (ACA) annual conference, the first time in 15 years that the event will take place in Tasmania.

The announcement comes as Tasmania implements its four-year Cruise Action Plan, a strategy aimed at growing the value of cruise tourism across the state.

"Hosting the Australian Cruise Conference in Hobart will be an important opportunity to showcase Tasmania to cruise industry decision makers from around Australia and key international markets," Tourism Tasmania chief executive officer Sarah Kingston Clark said.

Last year, Tasmania's cruise season saw the arrival of over 100 ships, 175,000 passengers and 77,000 crew with an estimated \$130m contribution to the local economy in visitation alone.

The conference will be held at LUMINA at The Tasman in lockstep with govt agencies. ZH

NORWAY YOUR WAY

TAKE A MATE FOR

UP TO **50%** off
on selected voyages*

*T&Cs apply. Book by 31/10/26. Second guest receives up to 50% off selected Original voyage BKB departures. Complimentary Golden Train and The North Cape excursions on selected Signature voyages. Receive a \$500pp onboard credit on selected Cruise+Tour packages. See website for full terms and conditions.



Today, we offer more ways than ever to experience Norway. Follow the Original 'Coastal Express' and travel the coast as generations of Norwegians have done. Choose our premium, all-inclusive Signature voyages for a more elevated experience, or venture further with our best-selling Cruise+Tour packages.

And right now, there are exclusive offers across every way to explore, giving you even more reason to choose your way to Norway.

ORIGINAL VOYAGES

Take a mate for up to 50% off*

SIGNATURE VOYAGES

Enjoy 2 FREE excursions*

CRUISE & TOUR PACKAGES

\$500pp bonus onboard credit*

Book with a \$250pp deposit. Call our local Coastal Specialists from **Monday to Sunday** on **1300 145 329** or visit your [Agent Portal](#) to book today!



HURTIGRUTEN

Live the legend of Norway



Window Seat

EXPERTS have warned about the volume of urine being released by mountain climbers on Everest, claiming the amount of warm discharge is melting the icon's glaciers.

Published in the journal *Regional Environmental Change*, findings revealed that hikers' leakage, along with other energy sources on Everest's base camp, was enough to melt 2,500 tonnes of ice and snow annually.

The study also uncovered that climbers produce around 6,000 litres of urine per day due to the high amounts of water required for the trek.

Qantas luggage hike

QANTAS will overhaul baggage allowances on its Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Island routes from 01 Oct, cutting the allowance from 30kg to a 23kg bag and limiting additional luggage to one extra piece of up to 46kg.

The cost of the extra baggage will drastically rise from \$3.33/kg to \$10.26/kg as well.

Indian Ocean Territories administrator Farzian Zainal told *ABC News* the community is "frustrated and outraged".

A Qantas spokesperson acknowledged concerns, but said the adjustment was to "help manage aircraft weight...and increase the number of seats". *ZH*

VA tops loyalty charts

VIRGIN Australia (VA) has taken out the Travel and Tourism category at the Roy Morgan Trusted Brand Awards for 2026 for the fourth year running.

One of 22 winning brands, VA secured the consumer trust recognition alongside major brands such as the NRMA, Bunnings Warehouse and The Salvation Army.

VA usurped rival carrier Qantas for the win in 2023, kickstarting



its run of wins.

"Being named Australia's Most Trusted Travel & Tourism Brand for a fourth consecutive year is something the whole Virgin Australia team is incredibly proud of," CCO Andrew Cleary said.

"Trust is something that is earned every day, through the small moments that make a difference to our guests, the consistency of the experience we provide and the way our people show up for them."

"We are incredibly grateful to the millions of Aussies who choose to fly with Virgin Australia, and to our 8,000 team members who work hard to deliver a safe, reliable and welcoming experience...this recognition is a credit to them." *ZH*

CX gives PER Aria

CATHAY Pacific has introduced its business class Aria Suites on selected Perth to Hong Kong services, available between 26 Oct 2026 and 27 Mar 2027.

The suites are available on CX's retrofitted Boeing 777-300ERs and feature lie-flat beds, privacy doors, personal storage and wireless charging, along with bespoke artwork in each suite. *JB*

Million bags bungled

US AIRLINES mishandled more than 1.05 million checked bags in the first half of 2026, new US Department of Transportation data has highlighted.

More than 213 million bags were enplaned between Jan and Jun, with 0.49 bags mishandled per 100, down from 0.52 in the same period last year.

While the top 10 airlines accounted for around 82% of all bags enplaned, Southwest handled the most checked bags, with 46.4 million, followed by Delta with 40.6 million, American with 34.5 million and United Airlines with 29.3 million.

AA recorded the highest mishandling rate among the major carriers at 0.73 per 100 bags, followed by United Airlines at 0.66.

Southwest had the lowest rate among the major airlines at 0.32, while Allegiant recorded the lowest overall at just 0.12. *ZH*

Princess Cays cut

PRINCESS Cruises has confirmed to US media that it will cut Princess Cay visits on all itineraries from Nov.

Sailings will instead call at the newly refurbished RelaxAway, Half Moon Cay. *ZH*

Seabourn WC '27

SEABOURN has announced its 2029 138-day World Cruise aboard *Seabourn Quest*.

Starting in Miami on 07 Jan 2029 and finishing in Lisbon on 26 May 2029, the voyage calls at 58 destinations across 31 countries and territories, highlighted by UNESCO heritage sites ranging from Bora Bora, Rapa Nui, Zanzibar and the Sacred City of Kandy, 115km from Colombo.

The cruise will also include eight overnight calls in Lima, Rapa Nui, Bora Bora, Singapore, Bali, Sydney, Zanzibar and Cape Town.

Furthermore, *Seabourn Quest* will take guests to a range of remote destinations, including Nuku Hiva in the Marquesas Islands, Praslin in the Seychelles, Antsiranana in Madagascar, Akaroa in New Zealand and Burnie in Tasmania.

Guests who book the full voyage will receive up to \$4,000 shipboard credit per verandah suite or up to \$8,000 credit per penthouse suite, round-trip business class flights, one night pre-cruise stay in Miami, an upgraded wi-fi package, unlimited laundry and a 50% deposit reduction at booking. *JB*



SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL THAT MAKES AN IMPACT

HX Expeditions' **Amber Wilson** on inspiring travellers to take action.

READ THE CRUISE GUIDE





QF extends dominance

QANTAS Group has further strengthened its position in Australia's international aviation market, capturing 33.5% of scheduled passenger traffic in May according to new BITRE data.

Accounting for 17.8% of the overseas market, Qantas led the pack ahead of budget sister brand Jetstar, which held 15.7%, putting the carriers comfortably ahead of Singapore Airlines, which held 9.5% of flights servicing Australia.

Air New Zealand followed with 6.6%, ahead of Cathay Pacific (4.8%), Malaysia Airlines (3.9%), China Southern (3.4%), Scoot (2.8%), Virgin Australia (2.5%) and Emirates (2.5%).

The international market softened in May, with 3.3 million



international passengers carried, down 1.4% year-on-year, while available seats also fell by 0.9%.

Load factor edged back to 79.6% from 79.9% over the year to May.

Sydney remained the country's largest international gateway with 17.5 million passengers, followed by Melbourne at 12.3 million and Brisbane at 7.2 million.

Brisbane grew 11.2%, while Adelaide and Gold Coast surged 20.8% and 24.3% respectively.

Singapore remained the key international market, with Sydney-Singapore, Melbourne-Singapore and Perth-Singapore the three busiest city pairs. *ZH*

At the top of Asia

TOPDECK Travel has added five new small-group tours across Asia with departures from Nov.

New trips include the 13-day 'China: Modern Cities & Ancient Worlds' itinerary from \$3,999pp; the 13-day 'Sri Lanka: Safaris & Shorelines' itinerary from \$2,799pp; the 12-day 'Komodo & Beyond: Islands & Indigenous Stories' itinerary from \$2,999pp; the 11-day 'Bali: Culture & Coastlines' trip from \$2,090pp; and the eight-day 'Maldives: Sunset & Sea Life' trip from \$2,999 per person.

All departures have a maximum of 18 travellers, combining iconic attractions, local experiences and free time to explore. *JB*

Del Rio case waived

A JUDGE in Miami has dismissed former Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings (NCLH) CEO Frank Del Rio's lawsuit against the company and its former directors.

Del Rio claimed that the directors never intended to honour an oral agreement for a full 4.5 years of paid consulting for US\$18 million (A\$25m) that he was owed after exiting the role last year (*TD* 19 Feb 2025).

He had also alleged that fraud and conspiracy were involved.

According to his attorney, Sergio Pagliery of Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP, Del Rio is planning to launch an appeal. *JM*

THAI unpacks growth plan



VISITING Thai Airways executives shared key portions of its future strategy with attendees at a recent reception in Sydney.

CCO Kittiphong Sansomboon (**pictured**) revealed to guests that the Asian airline's plan is to grow its existing fleet from 95 to 150 by 2033, as well as further details around its Silk Hub strategy.

"Our ambitions for the Silk Hub are simple - we just want to make sure Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport is not the hub where you just change flights, but we want to make sure that it is a hub that you choose when you travel," Sansomboon said.

He added that long-haul services such as those from Australia will play a key role in the development of the region.

Meanwhile, this coming northern winter, the airline confirmed it will double its daily services to Paris and increase flights to Munich and Zurich, in addition to introducing its service to Da Nang in Vietnam in Dec.

Sansomboon then offered guests a sneak peek of the

airline's future cabin interiors, designed in collaboration with aviation manufacturers Safran, Recaro and Thompson.

All classes will be upgraded, with the introduction of what Sansomboon described as "a super business class".

Thai Airways will be the launch customer for that specific product from May next year.

"During the past two years, our strength was our soft product - people, food and service," CEO Chai Eamsiri explained to guests.

"Our weakness is hardware, we know that - next year, with a good soft service [and] hardware, I think we will be second to none."

The event was attended by VIP guests including Naruchai Ninnad, Consul-General of Thailand, and Pichaya Saisaengchan, director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand in Sydney.

Eamsiri expressed his appreciation for the connection between Thailand and Australia after 55 years, hinting that the airline is looking to expand to the southern hemisphere. *JHM*

INTRODUCING THE NEW LUXURY TRAVELLER

Read about all the trends you need to know.

» **CLICK HERE TO READ**

Travel Daily

CORPORATE UPDATE

The keys to relaxation

HOTEL rooms are one of the few places that business travellers feel they can truly switch off, according to new research commissioned by Hyatt.

Ninety percent of respondents said their hotel room is the only place they feel “off the clock” during a work trip, while nearly half (47%) said they would rather spend free time relaxing alone in their room than attending optional networking events.

Some travellers also admitted the ways they protect that free time, including blocking fake meetings on their calendars or coming up with creative excuses to skip optional work events, such as video calls with family.

The study found that comfortable, consistent accommodation mattered the most to business travellers, with respondents prioritising comfortable beds, reliable in-room wi-fi, 24-hour food options, complimentary breakfast and early check-in.

“Business travel has evolved and so have travellers’ expectations,” Jason Ballard, senior vice



president global brand leader, essentials, Hyatt said.

“From a thoughtfully designed guestroom and comfortable bed to reliable wi-fi and breakfast before early meetings, every detail matters.” JM

Biz a Priority for QR

QATAR Airways has inked a new agreement with Priority Pass, the world’s largest airport experiences program, to offer enhanced value and rewards to business travellers through its Beyond Business corporate travel program.

Beyond Business members will soon be able to redeem Qrewards for access to more than 1,900 airport lounges around the world through the Priority Pass network.

The tie-up aims to cater to demand from corporate travellers for greater flexibility, choice and premium experiences throughout their journey, while helping organisations maximise the return on business travel. JM

ANA updates fares

ALL Nippon Airways (ANA) has released an updated fare sheet for its business class, premium economy and economy fares between Australia and Japan.

The new prices came into effect on 01 Sep - advisors can view the fare sheet [HERE](#). JM



Travel Daily

**SPECIAL REPORT
OUT NOW**
River Cruising
starts a new chapter
» CLICK HERE TO CHECK IT OUT

Buyers embrace the future



BUSINESS travel buyers at a recent GBTA 2026 convention reported a largely optimistic view of AI, with more than 78% saying they were already “hooked” on generative AI and 92% believing the technology will make their jobs “more strategic” rather than replacing them.

Live polling results from the interactive Buyer Buzz session also revealed attendees’ primary concerns around AI, with 64% citing “hallucinations and incorrect information” as more worrisome than its environmental impact.

Opinions were more split when it came to whether AI should enforce travel policy automatically, with 51% agreeing it should and 49% preferring the tech stick to recommending the best travel choices.

Despite embracing AI, nearly six in 10 (58%) of buyers identified “seamless human response and

support” as the most important factor of traveller safety, particularly when it came to disruption, uncertainty or risk.

The live polling also highlighted the increasing complexity of managing meetings and events, with 64% saying groups and meetings were harder to manage than transient travel, with buyers expressing a desire for new approaches to managing change and leveraging AI. JM

Join the bleisure club

THE Fullerton Hotel Sydney has launched its ‘Bleisure Sundays’ package, available on Sun nights between 06 Sep and 27 Dec.

Guests can enjoy a 1pm check-in, buffet breakfast, a piece of its signature 32-layer chocolate cake and a complimentary room upgrade to the next category, subject to availability. JB



UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL: Join Our Mentoring Program and Ignite Your Success!

TIME is a Career Advancement Path for all Employees in Travel, Tourism, Hospitality, Cruise and Aviation Industry including Regional, and Rural Areas across Australia

**WHAT TIME CAN
DO FOR YOU...**

- Further develop your management and leadership potential
- Develop confidence and networking opportunities
- Strategic career planning
- Increase your knowledge of organisational culture & processes

For more information visit - www.travelindustrymentor.com.au

SPECIALS

Send your special deals to:
specials@traveldaily.com.au

Trip.com's Sep Mega Sale continues with flash sales on airfares and accommodation. On 08 Sep, domestic flights between Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide start from \$29, and flights to Bali and Ho Chi Minh City from \$149. On 09 Sep, travellers can save up to 70% on hotel stays globally, up to 50% on car hire, alongside a free eSIM. See [HERE](#) for more details.

Cunard is offering reduced deposits down to 5% for bookings on *Queen Anne* made before 14 Sep. Featured voyages include the 56-night 'South America Discovery' sailing roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale on 19 Mar 2027. Fares on the cruise start from \$18,619pp in a balcony stateroom. Make the most of the offer [HERE](#).

Contiki has extended its \$0 deposit offer until 17 Sep, allowing travellers to secure their spot without needing to pay for 30 days. It is available on all 2026 and 2027 trips worldwide. To see the full range of departures and book, click [HERE](#).

APT Luxury Travel is offering savings of up to \$5,400 per couple on selected 2027 Asia tours. Travellers can receive the largest discounts on the 21-day 'Best of Vietnam & Cambodia' river cruise and the 17-day 'Golden Triangle, Kolkata and Lower Ganges Cruise'. The sale ends 16 Sep unless sold out prior. Bookings can be made [HERE](#).

Aurora Expeditions has launched its Antarctica Active: All Inclusive Activities initiative, allowing travellers to enjoy a range of experiences on one expedition at no extra cost. Experiences range from camping and snowshoeing to polar paddling. The offer is available on select itineraries between Oct 2027 and Dec 2027 aboard both *Douglas Mawson* and *Greg Mortimer*. See more [HERE](#).

Uniworld has extended its Cruise & Air Credit offer until 30 Sep, with up to \$3,000pp air credit on every cruise in 2026 and 2027. Travellers will receive bonus credit of \$2,000 per person in any stateroom on any cruise and \$3,000*pp in any suite in Europe. To see the full range of departures, click [HERE](#).

Bunnik Tours has launched a new Asia sale, with up to \$2,000 per couple on certain 2027 and 2028 Asia departures. Select itineraries range from Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and India, along with two brand-new itineraries: 'Korea & Jeju In-Style' and 'Colours of Northern Sri Lanka'. Click [HERE](#) to book before the sale ends 09 Oct.

Fiji Airways is celebrating its 75th anniversary with a sale across its international network. Aussies can fly to Nadi from \$275 one-way, along with connections to international destinations such as Tonga, Samoa, Canada, the US and Japan - leading in from \$375. All fares are valid for travel between 06 Oct and 15 Aug 2027. The sale ends 08 Sep. To access the offer, click [HERE](#) for details.

Stay Updated
on the latest travel news

Follow Travel Daily on social media to get your travel news first

Facebook Instagram Travel Daily

Luai a tourism icon?



RUGBY league player and future PNG Chief Jerome Luai has been earmarked as a potential national tourism ambassador in Papua New Guinea.

Speaking alongside PM James Marape at Port Moresby's APEC terminal this week, the country's Tourism Minister, Belden Namah, said that a formal submission has been lodged to the country's National Executive Council, establishing Luai as a potential roving tourism ambassador.

"Jerome is now a role model for our young people - [his] face and persona will promote the PNG Chiefs, rugby league, and our iconic tourism products like the Kokoda Track and the historic Battle of Milne Bay," Namah said.

Marape praised Luai for joining the PNG expansion team in 2028, claiming that he chose to join for cultural legacy and regional impact over financial benefits.

"Jerome is our first mover, and we owe a great debt of gratitude to him, and the other six who are also joining us," Marape said.

"While critics focus on money, Jerome and our incoming players could earn those same dollars in

Sydney or New Zealand. *JB*

Pictured: Luai posing as brand ambassador for Pepsi in Papua New Guinea.

Uber restructure

UBER will cut around 10% of its global workforce as part of a major organisational overhaul aimed at simplifying its structure and freeing up more investment for growth plans.

CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said rapid expansion, which saw revenue for the ride-share nearly triple, had created additional layers & slowed decision-making.

The changes are aimed at reducing middle management, consolidating teams and bringing Uber's three Delivery Ops divisions under single leadership.

Uber will also concentrate roles in key hubs including New York and San Francisco, with only about 1% of employees expected to continue working remotely going forward.

Khosrowshahi said the leaner structure would generate savings to reinvest in growth, innovation, drivers and more. *ZH*

ULTIMATE JOURNEYS

BY **VIVA**HOLIDAYS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA DISCOVER THE DREAM STATE



📍 Busselton Jetty | Undalup

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA
WALKING ON A DREAM



📍 Margaret River Region



📍 Swan Valley, Perth

ULTIMATE JOURNEYS BY **VIVA**HOLIDAYS

6 DAY EXCLUSIVE PERTH & MARGARET RIVER SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

Indulge in the very best of Western Australia's acclaimed food, wine, and natural landscapes on this unforgettable gourmet escape.

Discover the art of winemaking at Vasse Felix, the founding winery of the Margaret River Region, savour exceptional seasonal cuisine at Lamont's Smiths Beach, and taste premium Greenlip abalone fresh from the pristine waters of Augusta / Tallinup. In the Swan Valley, immerse yourself in a day of culinary delights at Mandoon Estate, featuring award-winning food, wine and uniquely Western Australian experiences.

Set against a backdrop of spectacular coastlines, rolling vineyards and towering forests, this carefully curated small-group journey showcases the finest flavours and breathtaking beauty of the Margaret River Region and Swan Valley.

The ultimate experience for food and wine lovers seeking an authentic taste of Western Australia.

INCLUDES:

- 3 nights' accommodation at InterContinental Perth City Centre in a King Classic Room
- 2 nights' accommodation at Smiths Beach Resort in a One-Bedroom Ocean View Villa
- Daily breakfast for five mornings
- Busselton Jetty Train Ride
- Beachfront lunch featuring fresh local flavours at The Goose, Busselton / Undalup
- Premium handcrafted wine tasting at boutique, family-owned winery, House of Cards
- Two evenings of three-course à la carte dining at Lamont's Smiths Beach (excluding beverages)
- Lunch at The Colour Patch, Augusta
- Guided tour of the Rare Foods Australia Abalone Farm
- Award-winning wine tasting at Subsea Estate
- Three-course lunch and hosted wine tasting at Vasse Felix
- Five-course degustation lunch with matched wines at Mandoon Estate
- Bush Tucker Experience at Mandoon Estate
- Macaron and wine pairing experience at Mandoon Estate
- Three days of private touring through the Margaret River Region with an expert driver-guide
- Private airport transfers between Perth Airport and your accommodation
- Services of a dedicated Tour Leader



5 NIGHTS FROM **\$5,199*** PER PERSON TWIN SHARE

DEPARTS: 15 June, 24 August 2027. Other dates available, seasonal surcharges apply.

TO VIEW DEALS AND DOWNLOAD MARKETING ASSETS

CLICK HERE

📞 13 27 87 🌐 AGENTS.VIVAHOLIDAYS.COM.AU