

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of the latest industry news, plus a full page from Emirates.

Red Centre boost

SIX HUNDRED interstate visitors will have access to \$500 vouchers that can be spent at the Red Centre, thanks to a new Federal Govt campaign designed to get more Aussies on the road.

Funded through the government's \$5 million Red Centre Marketing Boost, The Red Centre Drive Voucher campaign will see credits awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Gift certificates will be redeemable at eligible accommodation operators in the Red Centre, with application for travellers now live on Tourism Central Australia's website.

"The Albanese Government is backing regional tourism because we know it delivers real economic benefits," Federal Minister for Trade & Tourism Don Farrell said.

The marketing boost is part of an \$8.5m investment in the Red Centre, including \$3.5m in grants for local tourism businesses. ZH

Volcano strands 170,000

QANTAS is offering fee-free refunds, travel credits or date changes of up to seven days for customers booked on flights to or from Jakarta, after Mount Anak Krakatau erupted in Indonesia's Sunda Strait last Fri.

The waiver applies to customers booked on or before 05 Sep, for travel between 05-11 Sep inclusive, with customers also able to change their booking to depart from or land at Denpasar.

Australian travellers are among those affected, with Qantas flights in and out of Jakarta cancelled, while Bali flights remain operational.

Some Virgin Australia routes under codeshare agreements with Singapore Airlines have also been impacted.

Around 170,000 passengers have been stranded in total, with nearly 1,600 flights impacted by Sun evening local time.

Finnish the lightshow

THERE is still time to win a trip to the Northern Lights in Finland with Emirates.

See more on the **back page**.



Authorities have warned of further eruptions and flow-on impact on aviation. ZH

Happy b'day TAF

TRAVEL Agent Finder (TAF) is celebrating its fifth birthday with Five Years of Finding the Perfect Match, inviting agents and their clients to share their TAF success stories for a chance to win from a prize pool worth over \$12,500.

Agents can go in the running by submitting a story about a TAF booking, client or partnership, while travellers can share how they found their advisor on TAF and the difference they made.

"This campaign is simply us sharing in that, celebrating their successes," CEO and founder Anna Shannon said.

Entries close 04 Oct. ZH



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Monday 7th Sep 2026

Carnival's cabanas

CARNIVAL Cruise Line has marked the official opening of the Tantalooma Dunes Cabana Club on Moreton Island, as part of the line's partnership with Tantalooma Island Resort.

The club features 20 private cabanas available for day hire, each seating up to eight. *JM*



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Let's Chat

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TEQ adds heavyweight

QUEENSLAND has named John O'Sullivan (**pictured**) as chair of a regionally focused Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) Board.

With 30 years of experience across media, travel, tourism, sport and entertainment, he will replace Grant Hunt, who served as the board's chair from 2023.

Krista Adams, Jacob Cassidy, Damien Massingham and Roderic Rees will also join the board.

The TEQ executive is tasked with delivering Destination 2045, growing Qld's visitor economy and cementing its reputation as the 'Home of the Holiday'.

Travelmarvel all at sea

TRAVELMARVEL is set to launch its first-ever ocean ship in Apr 2029, which will feature an ice-class hull that will allow it to navigate remote regions around the world.

The announcement represents "an exciting step forward for the brand", according to APT Travel Group chief executive officer David Cox, marking a shift away from using chartered vessels to operate its ocean voyages.

"As demand continues to grow, we identified a gap in the market for a contemporary small ship that delivers quality, comfort and engaging destination experiences at great value," Cox added.

The vessel's specifications, capacity and inaugural itineraries will be revealed closer to its launch date. *JM*

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Key goals include doubling visitor expenditure to \$84 billion, creating 45 world-class ecotourism experiences, and establishing the state as Australia's events capital.

"Queensland is the home of the holiday, and we have a clear plan to grow our visitor economy and create more opportunities for Queenslanders," Qld Minister for Tourism Andrew Powell said.

"We want more visitors choosing Qld, staying longer and exploring more because that means more customers through the doors of local businesses." *ZH*

Fly for free with LE

LUXURY Escapes has launched a 'Fly For Free' campaign for its LuxPlus+ members, who can now score a free return flight when booking the direct Melbourne to Maldives service, which is set to begin flying year-round in 2027 (*TD* 27 Aug 2026).

Available until 14 Sep - unless sold out prior - the offer is valid for members who book an eligible Maldives hotel and flight package, with the discount applied automatically at checkout, generating up to \$699 worth of savings.

For more details, click **HERE**. *JM*

MEL sets a date

MELBOURNE Airport will open its new pick-up and drop-off zones for terminals 1, 2 and 3 on 06 Oct, CEO Lorie Argus revealed this morning (*TD* 21 Aug 2026).

The new facilities will replace the airport's kerbside drop-offs, providing more space and helping to ease congestion. *JM*

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CTM places value on UK

CORPORATE Travel Management has put a clearer figure on the cost of resolving its UK accounting crisis, revealing it has crystallised \$166.6 million in customer-related liabilities through a series of final settlement agreements.

The disclosure came as CTM reported a sharp recovery in underlying earnings, with underlying EBITDA rising 36% to \$113.6 million, up from \$83.6 million in FY25.

In its FY26 annual report, CTM said its UK business reached “full and final settlement agreements” with several key impacted customers in Aug, marking a significant milestone in its efforts to draw a line under the issues.

“Throughout this challenging period, CTM’s core business has remained resilient, supported by a highly diversified client base, longstanding client relationships and a service model deeply

embedded in our clients’ travel programmes,” Group CEO and managing director Ana Pederson said in the report.

Chairman Ewen Crouch explained that the company had emerged from the challenges with a “clear path forward”.

The report further highlighted that CTM’s FY27 agreements would allow it to de-recognise \$28.4 million in customer-related liabilities, while deferring a further \$88.1 million through quarterly instalments, with another \$22 million pushed into 1H28.

The group paid \$23.3 million in refunds during the financial year, including \$20.2 million to customers covered by the final settlement agreements.

Meanwhile, revenue and other income rose 4% to \$669.9 million, while net profit rebounded to \$17.7 million, compared with a \$348.5 million loss in FY25. *ZH*

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LE’s travel tester

LUXURY Escapes has selected an emergency nurse from Orange, NSW, as its first-ever travel tester, following a three-month-long campaign (*TD* 01 Jun 2026).

Emily Sutherland (**pictured**) will get to travel to some of Luxury Escapes’ most in-demand destinations, including the Maldives and Sri Lanka, during her annual leave breaks.

Over a period of 12 months, the 27-year-old emergency department worker will road-test the experiences, which are valued at more than \$50,000, and report back to the agency with her honest feedback.

Sutherland was selected out of more than 30,000 applicants from around Australia. *JM*



Britain on a mission

VISITBRITAIN is gearing up to lead a major trade mission this month to Australia and New Zealand to boost inbound tourism and visitor spending.

Following a trade workshop in Auckland, the DMO will visit Sydney and Melbourne across five days between 14-18 Sep, with dozens of British travel trade and industry suppliers to meet with more than 300 buyers and advisors from Australia.

One-on-one business meetings are set to take place during the mission, with opportunities for Australian advisors to learn about the destination’s latest products and innovations.

Attendees will hear from VisitScotland, Visit Wales, Marketing Manchester, Visit Birmingham & West Midlands, Visit Lake District and Visit West, as well as attractions, accommodation providers and tour operators.

For more info, click **HERE**. *JM*

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Jet Zero adds investment

TOWNSVILLE-BASED aviation biofuels company Jet Zero Australia has secured additional investment from POSCO, a major Korean manufacturer.

POSCO is the latest backer of the SAF project, that has already sourced funding from Qantas, Airbus, and Japanese refiner Idemitsu (TD 31 Mar 2023).

The \$30 million capital raising takes total investment in Jet Zero



to more than \$80 million.

"We are particularly pleased to welcome POSCO International as a strategic investor," Jet Zero chief executive officer Ed Mason said.

"Their financial strength, global reach and deep understanding of energy markets make them an ideal partner," he added.

A POSCO International spokesperson said they were thrilled to partner with Jet Zero at such a pivotal time.

"We look forward to co-developing SAF supply chains that will ultimately grow into a vital hub, contributing to the shared energy security of both South Korea and Australia." ZH

Accor's Brissy move

ACCOR has confirmed that one of its "iconic brands" will return to Brisbane through a conversion of an existing hotel.

Speaking with *HM Magazine*, Accor COO for the Pacific, Adrian Williams, said a formal announcement would be made in the next few weeks.

The development coincides with several refurbishments in Brisbane for Accor. AB

Aman has real soul

AMAN has announced plans to open its first property in South Korea, with Aman Seoul, a fully integrated property with a luxury hotel and branded residences overlooking the Han River, slated for a 2029-2030 launch date.

Anchoring the development will be spa and wellness facilities spanning multiple floors, such as the Aman Club, which will feature a pool, gym and social spaces.

The property will also feature dedicated dining concepts, with details to be revealed soon. JB

Sheraton Sydney sold

SINGAPORE-BASED Hoi Hup Realty has acquired Four Points by Sheraton Sydney, Central Park for US \$201.8m (A\$280.3m), marking its first investment in the Australian hotel market.

The 309-key property recently underwent significant capital expenditure works, including the addition of 12 guest rooms. ZH

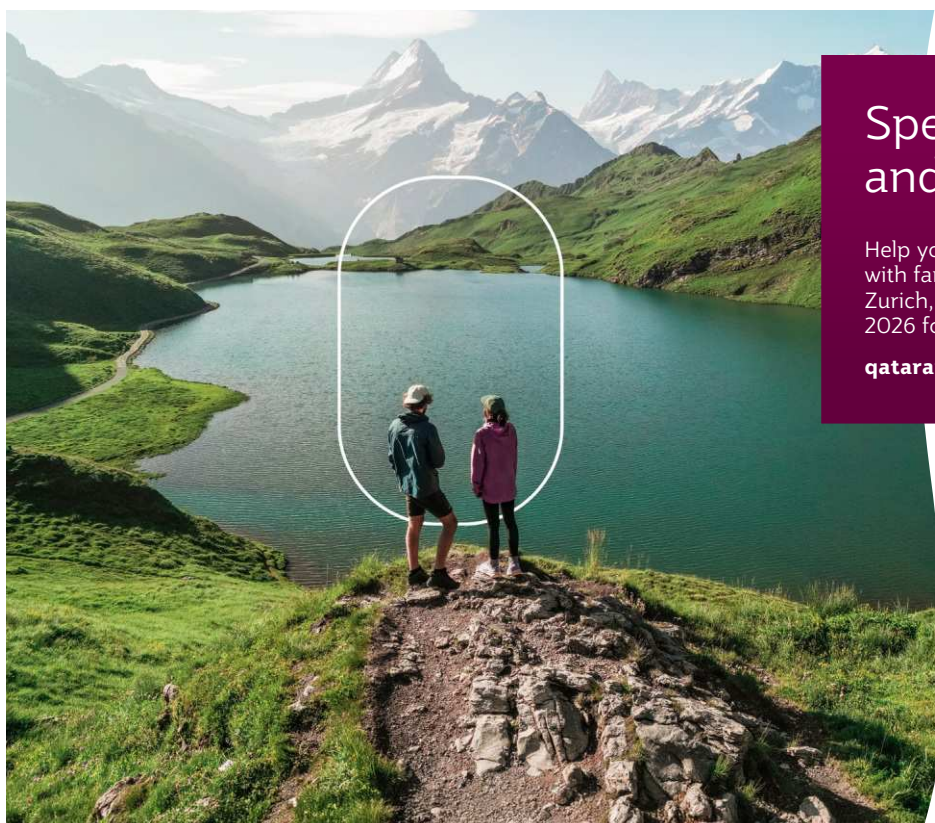


Window Seat

ONE of travel's PR queens endured a very scary incident over the weekend, after flames burst from the engine of a Qantas plane that she was on bound for Sydney.

ATIA's head of comms and Powerhouse Communications co-founder LJ Loch said the crew handled the precarious incident wonderfully.

The aircraft was diverted and landed safely in Christchurch.



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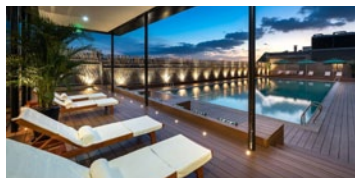


Premium is a big priority

MILLENNIALS and Gen X are leading demand for high-end holiday experiences, with new Trip.com data showing these demographics made up the majority of first and business class flight bookings for the first half of 2026.

The data also revealed that close to one-in-two international travellers who booked five-star hotels in the second half of this year were aged between 35 and 49, while Millennials and Gen X were also among the higher tiers of Trip members, suggesting they prioritise quality experiences.

Figures showed global searches



for first and business class flights grew by 99% year-on-year in the first half of 2026, while five-star hotel searches grew by 57% YoY.

Additionally, custom tours on Trip.com, where users are able to chat with a travel expert and book a tour fully tailored to their requests, have seen bookings jump by over 600% YoY globally.

Global bookings for platinum luxury hotels on Trip.com also rose in the first half of this year, with demand focused on properties in mainland China and Southeast Asia.

For instance, bookings for platinum luxury hotels in the Minamitsuru District in Japan, an area known for Mount Fuji views and lakeside resorts, saw a three-digit YoY jump.

The five-star Novotel Shanghai Clover in Shanghai (pictured) was also one of the most popular choices among international travellers in the second half of this year. *JM*

London via Phuket

VIRGIN Atlantic will begin flying direct from London Heathrow to Phuket from 18 Oct, opening up a new option for Aussies heading to Europe via Asia.

Flights will operate three times weekly using Boeing 787-9s. *JM*

Air Moana raises

AIR Moana will undertake an equity-raising initiative of up to almost €17 million (A\$27.4 million) in a bid to support growth across the French Polynesian inter-island market.

Around €5 million (A\$8 million) of the capital will be open to private investors through Fenua Financement, Les Entrepreneurs and Rattel AERO, while the wider funding round will combine multiple sources and categories.

Air Moana president Olivier Jean Breaud said it was an opportunity for Polynesians and new investors to take part in the next stage of the carrier's journey.

"Air Moana was created to give Polynesians and visitors to our islands greater choice and better access to air travel," he said.

The capital raising is slated to kick off this month, subject to legal and regulatory approval. *ZH*

Singapore green levy

SINGAPORE will start charging departing air pax a sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) levy from 01 Jan 2027, with the tax to apply to tickets booked from 01 Oct.

Australian travellers are listed as a Band II market, with economy/premium economy passengers to be charged S\$2.80 (A\$3.10), and business/first class seats to incur S\$11.20 (A\$12.30) per person.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore said the green impost must be reflected in the fare breakdown alongside other taxes and charges, with money raised to be used to purchase SAF. *AB*

Scenic opens 2028

SCENIC Group has opened early access to its 2028 Europe river cruise and land program, expanding cruise-and-stay options across Scenic and Emerald Cruises.

The program responds to demand for longer European holidays, with Scenic adding new extensions in the French Riviera, Loire Valley, Brittany and Munich, while also reshaping its 11-day 'Spectacular South of France' itinerary with additional overnight stays and cruising towards Burgundy.

"Europe is one of the world's most immersive regions to explore by river, and for 2028 we have expanded the ways guests can experience it," Scenic Group VP river cruising product Elisabeth Sadler said.

Emerald will meanwhile introduce 'Danube Capitals & Crossroads', an 11-day sailing from Passau to Belgrade through five countries, combining Vienna and Budapest with destinations including Novi Sad and Belgrade.

The new program is being supported by early access offers, including Scenic flight credits of up to \$4,500pp and savings of up to \$2,500pp on selected cruises, while Emerald is offering Super Earlybird savings of up to \$3,500 per person. *ZH*



SCA finds new chief

SUNSHINE Coast Airport (SCA) has named Tony Edmondstone as CEO from 2027, replacing Chris Mills (*TD* 12 Aug 2026).

Edmondstone brings executive leadership experience from multiple verticals, including aviation, having most recently served as CEO of Airport Development Group.

His appointment comes as the airport makes progress on its \$170 million terminal redevelopment (*TD* 23 Feb 2026).

"Tony's appointment reflects the board's focus on securing a leader with the experience to guide both the airport's ongoing aviation growth and the delivery of its significant commercial and precinct development opportunities," SCA chair David Ryan said. *JM*

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Striking a work balance

THE Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC) has called on the Federal Government to focus on attracting higher-value Working Holiday Makers (WHM) as part of its migration reform agenda.

While acknowledging the government's need to manage overall migration numbers, the industry body said that a balanced approach is needed, highlighting the economic value generated by international visitors who come to Australia to work.

According to Tourism Research Australia, WHMs spent \$2.5 billion around the country in 2024, with ATEC estimating that the current tourism expenditure could now be around \$3-3.3 billion annually.

ATEC believes this figure could grow to \$6 billion annually by 2035 by increasing the value, rather than the quantity, of WHMs, through enhanced pre-arrival information, stronger connections with trusted employers, and clearer pathways to valuable regional work and travel opportunities.

"The WHM program is first and foremost a travel and cultural exchange program, which has been building connections between Australia and young people around the world for more than 50 years," ATEC MD Peter Shelley said.

"Work is an important part of the experience because it enables young visitors to fund longer holidays, explore more of



Australia, travel beyond our major cities, and spend most of what they earn while they're here."

ATEC's comments follow a similar call from the Tourism & Transport Forum for the Federal Government to offer more certainty around WHM visas, after changes to the processing arrangements resulted in growing delays (*TD* 01 Sep 2026). *JM*

SAA CEO troubles

SOUTH African Airways (SAA) is publicly advertising for a chief executive, raising questions over the future of acting group chief executive officer Koekie Mbeki only weeks into the role.

A listing for the full-time position states that SAA is seeking a permanent CEO as the airline continues to navigate a period of leadership churn.

Mbeki, the airline's chief legal officer, was installed as acting CEO in Aug after Matshela Seshibe was placed on special leave pending an internal process, just four months after he replaced John Lamola.

Seshibe had taken over following Lamola's resignation as CEO at the end of Apr, after he led SAA through its post-restructuring recovery from 2022. *ZH*

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DESTINATION Canada's Australia Strategic Advisory Group has returned from a visit to Manitoba, gaining first-hand insight into the province's tourism offering and exploring ways to strengthen demand from the Australian market.

The mission was organised by Julie King & Associates, Destination Canada's GSA in Australia, hosted by Travel Manitoba and supported by Air Canada, Winnipeg Economic Development & Tourism, Indigenous Tourism Manitoba, Frontiers North, Churchill Wild and other key partners.

Travelling through Winnipeg, Churchill and Riding Mountain, the group enjoyed guided walks viewing polar bears, kayaking with belugas, witnessing the aurora night after night in Churchill, and spotting bison and bald eagles.

"These were extraordinary experiences but also powerful reminders that travel is ultimately about connection...and perhaps

that is where Canada's Heart is Calling resonated most strongly," Julie King, founder and CEO of Julie King & Associates, said.

The trip also included a strategic planning day between Australian industry leaders and Manitoba partners, with talks centred on opportunities to drive greater regional and seasonal dispersal, new product development, longer stays, and tourism that delivers value for communities. *JM*

Three-park tickets

UNIVERSAL Orlando Resort has launched a new ticket option that gives travellers access to its three theme parks over the course of three days from US\$105.43 (A\$146.25) per day.

The ticket includes access to its newest theme park, Universal Epic Universe, as well as Universal Studios Florida and Universal Islands of Adventure, with holders getting a seven-day period to use up the three days. *JM*



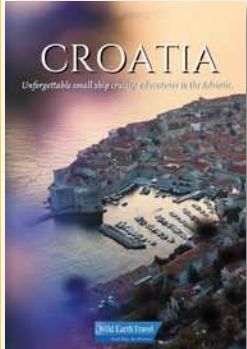
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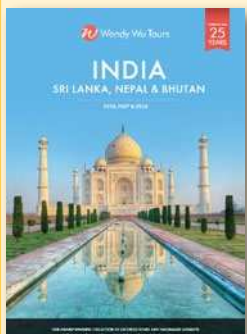
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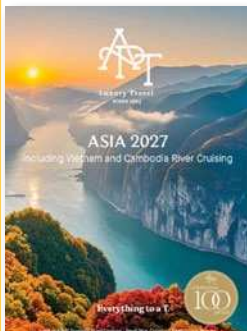
The new brochure from Wild Earth Travel gives travellers access to info on over 80 Croatia itineraries across more than 40 vessels. Each itinerary provides a mix of experiences including exploration of Roman ruins and medieval old towns, seafood and wine tastings, exploring remote coves and islands, and hiking through national parks. Notable itineraries include the eight-day 'Classic Croatia: Trogir to Dubrovnik' journey, offering explorations of the Dalmatian coast with visits to Split and Dubrovnik. Travellers can also embark on the 'Dalmatian Coast: Venice to Dubrovnik' itinerary, also eight days, with destinations including Rovinj, Hvar and Korcula.



Wendy Wu Tours: India, Sri Lanka, Nepal & Bhutan, 2026, 2027 & 2028

WWT's new brochure gives travellers a comprehensive look into its offerings in the subcontinent. Key itineraries on show include the 18-day 'Highlights of India' trip, the 24-day 'Himalayan Kingdoms' tour and the brand-new 14-day 'India Explored & Goa Beach' departure. Many itineraries in the brochure also come with an extended beach stay, such as the 14-day 'Classic Sri Lanka & Maldives Beach', which gives travellers five days in the South Male Atoll.

Cruise options include a voyage along the Brahmaputra on board *ABN Charaiew II* or a pre-trip cruise on *Celebrity Solstice*.



APT Luxury Travel: Asia 2027

The new Asia brochure from APT highlights travel options in Asia for 2027, calling out river cruises on offer in Vietnam and Cambodia. The itineraries cover an array of destinations, including China, Japan, South Korea, India and Sri Lanka. Cruise departures are anchored by four luxury ships: *Mekong Serenity*, travelling up and down the Mekong River; *Lyra Grandeur*, sailing through Ha Long Bay and Lan Ha Bay; *Yangzi Explorer*, taking guests along the Yangzi River and through Three

Gorges Dam; and *Ganges Voyager*, exploring the rarely-travelled lower Ganges. Those who book before 30 Nov receive earlybird savings of up to \$2,800 per couple.

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Princess hits the mark



PRINCESS Cruises has concluded its nationwide Alaska trade roadshow, which attracted a total of 289 advisors across five events in Brisbane, Adelaide, Sydney, Perth and Melbourne.

Hosted in partnership with Visit Seattle and State of Washington Tourism, the events featured destination training and networking, with a bit of axe throwing in the mix to give agents a taste of The Great Land.

"We were pleased to partner with Princess Cruises on these exciting and engaging training events; educating advisors is an important part of marketing Seattle as the gateway to Alaska cruising," Millie Browne, Australia and NZ account director

for Visit Seattle and State of Washington Tourism, said.

The events supported the line's current Alaska booking incentive, which will see 10 advisors join a co-hosted Alaska family in May 2027, featuring an overnight stay in Seattle and a seven-night cruise aboard *Star Princess*. *JM*

Flying cancer risk

A **NEW** study has found that pilots and flight attendants had the highest and second-highest proportions of deaths from radiation-related cancers among 503 US occupations.

After analysing more than 12.7 million US death certificates from 2020-2024, researchers found that radiation-related cancers accounted for 6.9% of flight attendant deaths and 6.7% of pilot deaths.

The findings, which were published on the American Medical Association's JAMA Network website, support concerns over long-term exposure to cosmic radiation at cruising altitudes, although researchers said the study does not establish a direct causal link. *JM*

MEL to host ACI '27

MELBOURNE Airport is set to host the Airports Council International (ACI) 2027 World Airport Experience Summit, marking the first time the event will be held in Oceania.

The announcement follows this year's summit, which saw 800 participants from around the world gather at Istanbul Airport.

EDITORIAL

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The Emirates logo, featuring a stylized falcon head in white above the word "Emirates" in a bold, white serif font, all set against a red background.