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Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of news, plus a cover wrap from **Regent Seven Seas**, our **Sustainability feature**, and a special feature from **Tourism Solomons**, plus a full page from **Celebrity**.

Havard now on deck

THE team at *Travel Daily* has welcomed aboard senior journalist Zach Havard.

His career has included news writing roles in B2B media and the position of content marketing specialist at Adventure World.

Havard is also a Cronulla Sharks fan, but the editorial team has pledged not to let that fact constrain his advancement.



New management at TIC

EXCLUSIVE

TRAVEL Industry Club (TIC) founder and director Sue Francis has handed the keys to travel consultant and co-worker Meagan Crighton, marking a new chapter for the luxury cruise-focused travel deals business.

Crighton has worked alongside Francis for the past two-and-a-half years, in that time gaining experience across all aspects of the business and positioning

her well to lead TIC into its next phase of growth.

The transition process is already underway, with the duo working through a carefully planned handover strategy to ensure continuity for TIC members, partners and suppliers.

Francis will remain involved with the business as a consultant, providing ongoing support and sharing her industry knowledge.

The TIC director of 30 years also stressed this was not a "sudden change", but rather a "well-planned transition".

"Meagan...understands our members and partners, and I'm confident she is the right person to take the company into its next chapter," Francis said.

TIC was founded after Francis identified a clear gap in the market for a business that could offer travel industry employees access to exclusive offers available in other industries. **AB**

Qantas in the USA

QANTAS is offering major savings on its North American network for one week only.

Economy flights include SYD-LAX for \$1,049 return, coinciding with the Super Bowl or BNE-VAN to catch the snow season for \$1,459.

Other highlights include premium economy and business fares to Honolulu for \$2,549 and \$6,099 respectively. **ZH**

Win a trip to Tokyo

TOKYO Tourism is offering agents the chance to win one of six trips to Tokyo upon completing its e-learning program.

The 2026 educational program contains the latest Tokyo selling points, from the latest attractions and accommodations to standout visitor experiences.

Tokyo Tourism's grand prize includes return flights with ANA and four nights' accommodation across two of Far East Village's Tokyo hotels.

Other prizes include two-night stays at Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo and Palace Hotel Tokyo.

The 2026 expert campaign runs from 08 Sep to 15 Dec 2026, and is open to Australian travel advisors to enter **HERE**. **ZH**

RSSC Europe deals

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) is offering a range of deals on 2027 Europe sailings.

See more on the **front page**.

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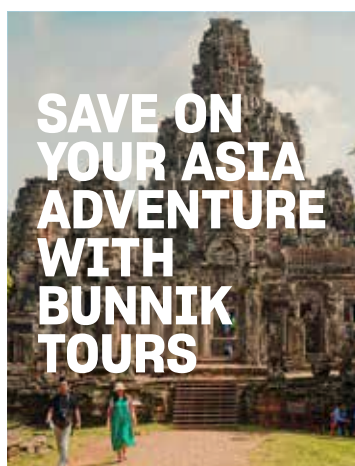
HAWAIIAN
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Spring like a celeb

CELEBRITY Cruises has launched its Spring Sale, offering up to 75% off a second guest, discounts of up to \$1,200 per room, and up to \$600 off select 2027 sailings.

This sale is valid on bookings until 23 Sep - see **page eight**.



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Windermere eyes Aussies

UK OPERATOR Windermere Lake Cruises has set its sights on growing the Australian and New Zealand markets, aiming to attract visitors to Cumbria's Lake District in northwest England.

Windermere Lake Cruises operates a fleet of 17 passenger vessels, including four historic lake steamers, which take visitors on sightseeing cruises, as well as longer journeys between the lake's main towns and attractions.

Visitors can also hire rowing boats and self-drive motorboats, while private charters and cruises for special events are available.

The company is embarking on a trade mission to ANZ this week, led by director of sales and marketing Jennifer Cormack, alongside other Cumbrian tourism businesses, including World of Beatrix Potter, Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway, Lake District Country Hotels and Cumbria Tourism.

"We tend to find that overseas



visitors travel in the quieter seasons, including autumn and winter," Cormack told *The North-West Evening Mail*.

"Their presence in our community is vital to ensuring a year-round visitor season." *JM*

Feeling good in China

WENDY Wu Tours (WWT) has introduced a new wellness journey through China, which aims to showcase the country's cultural heritage and traditional wellness practices across Chongqing and Jiuli.

Over nine days, the 'In Pursuit of Wellness in China' itinerary will incorporate mindfulness, traditional Chinese medicine, Qigong, reiki, mineral hot springs, Chinese herbal meals and Miao medicine, alongside sightseeing.

"Travellers will have the opportunity to slow down, learn about traditional practices and experience the culture in a more hands-on way, while still enjoying some of Chongqing's most memorable attractions," WWT head of product Sonia Orrego said.

The tour is fully inclusive, with departures available across 2027 and 2028 currently priced from \$6,880 per person, twin share. *JM*

Keep the safeguards

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) has insisted the European Union extend temporary flexibility measures for its biometric Entry/Exit System (EES) in order to prevent border congestion from worsening.

SVP for external affairs Thomas Reynaert said it was "absolutely necessary" for the safeguards to remain in place until the end of the European winter season. *JM*

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MWTOURS

VIEW DEAL

Solomon adventures

SOLOMON Islands has a range of experiences for travellers looking for adventure.

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See more on the **back page**.

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EU eyes short-stay cap

THE EU is preparing to crack down on Airbnb-style holiday accommodation, with proposed new rules to allow destinations facing housing shortages to cap short-term rentals.

The slated measures would allow local authorities to limit new short-term rental licences or introduce quantitative caps so long as there is evidence of housing pressure, rather than imposing outright bans.

Crucially, the proposal sets criteria for what constitutes a housing squeeze, with authorities to assess factors including the price-to-income ratio and its growth over time, as well as population growth and housing supply and demand trends.

The issue has parallels in Australia, where PM Anthony Albanese has argued platforms such as Airbnb take long-term housing supply off the market and contribute to rental affordability (**TD** 11 June 2026). European Commission VP Teresa Ribera (**pictured**) will present the *Affordable Housing Act* on 09 Sep, after which it will be debated by EU member states and the



European Parliament.

The move comes after cities including Paris, Barcelona and Venice have taken action against short-term rentals, amid concerns they are reducing housing available to long-term residents.

Lobbying group CCIA, whose members include Airbnb, has urged the Commission to resist disproportionate restrictions. *ZH*

Taiwan wants you

TAIWAN will begin rolling out a tourism stimulus package worth around A\$144 million this month.

The campaign will target domestic and international visitors, including repeat travellers who have entered Taiwan since 01 Jan 2023 through a weekly lottery, offering winners A\$217 in credit and A\$130 for accompanying family or friends.

International group tours with at least four participants can also qualify for subsidies ranging from A\$435-\$1,303 per group, provided repeat visitors represent at least 10% of the participants.

Additionally, eligible visitors attending conferences and exhibitions through Mar 2027 will be able to receive a free sightseeing bus tour and a Taiwan PASS high-speed rail ticket. *JM*

Save big on solos

JUST You is offering savings on a range of its 2026 solo tours, departing in Oct and Nov.

Notable deals include \$400 discounts on its 15-day 'Breathtaking New Zealand' tour, departing 19 Oct; \$200 savings on the 10-day 'Wild Borneo' itinerary, departing on 03 Oct; and \$200 off its eight-day 'St Lucia: Island in the Sun' tour, departing 02 Nov. *JB*

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Golden age of Oosterdam



HOLLAND America Line (HAL) has debuted its refreshed Ocean Bar aboard *Oosterdam*, introducing a new stage, lounge spaces and a more open layout designed to bring guests closer to live performances.

The revitalised venue blends art deco elegance and subtle nautical influences, featuring details inspired by vintage travel trunks and luggage.

Additionally, the stage can now showcase a wider range of entertainment offerings, including Vivace Strings, soloists, pianists and late-night cabaret.

The redesigned bar, which has been strategically relocated, offers a space for guests to gather, watch performances and engage in conversation.

"Inspired by our maritime heritage, including design details drawn from *Rotterdam V*, this reimagined venue creates a setting where guests can gather for a cocktail, enjoy live music and immerse themselves in the refined elegance that has always been part of the Holland America experience," Michael Stendebach, SVP of food, beverage and rooms division for HAL, said.

Ocean Bar's overhaul is part of the largest fleet update in the line's history, and includes all six Vista- and Signature-class ships.

Bookings are now open for *Oosterdam* and *Zuiderdam* cruises following both refurbishments - details **HERE**. *JM*

Qantas gives back

FORTY-SEVEN recipients will share \$2 million in funds, flights and marketing support, as part of the fifth annual Qantas Regional Grants program.

Among the recipients is The Gunggandji Aerospace Foundation, providing pathways for First Nations students in rural Queensland for careers in the aviation and aerospace industries.

Another recipient is Country Hope, which provides travel for children in the region who have cancer or other serious illnesses; as well as Artback NT, which will receive extra flights to help promote arts and cultural experiences to communities across the Northern Territory.

Since its launch in 2019, the program has supported over 150 organisations. *JB*

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Falling into Paris

SINGER Celine Dion's comeback concerts at Paris La Defense Arena have seen international flight searches to Paris increase 11% YoY and flight bookings up 5%, according to the latest data from Amadeus.

There are clearly plenty of Aussie fans of the *My Heart Will Go On* artist as well, with Australia recording a 5.1% growth in bookings share to Paris during Dion's residency, which will run from this month through to 17 Oct across 16 concerts.

The United States led the global interest for Paris however, accounting for more than a quarter of demand, ahead of Brazil (11%) & Canada (7.4%). **AB**

Globus goes North

GLOBUS has launched two new North American itineraries for 2027 covering New England and British Columbia.

The 12-day 'New England & Canadian Maritimes Voyage' includes stops in Boston, Newport, Quebec City and Montreal, priced from \$7,791pp.

Travellers can also embark on the seven-day 'Signature British Columbia: Vancouver, Victoria & Whistler' tour from \$6,119 per person, offering Fairmont stays, cruises to the Gulf Islands, various Indigenous experiences and whale watching.

All bookings made until 30 Oct include a complimentary pre- or post-night stay, valued at up to \$600 per person. **JB**

Ripper yarns at Xmas

THE Council of Australian Tour Operators (CATO) is on the hunt for tour guides to take the microphone as part of its star 'Tales from the Road' panel at the 2026 Christmas Lunch.

Rather than naming a traditional guest speaker, CATO will instead opt to regale guests with the



stories usually reserved for the back of the bus, delivered by those who have seen it all.

CATO is asking tour operators to put forward their best storytellers, encouraging them to send in a one-minute video of their best anecdotes for a chance to win a spot on the panel.

"Touring creates some of the most extraordinary and life-enriching travel experiences... and who better to showcase the power of our sector than the guides who bring those experiences to life every single day?" ATIA director of CATO Mira Yates said.

The 2026 event will be held at luxury waterfront venue Le Montage with this year's theme, 'Sparkle & Shine', (**TD** 17 Jul 2026) - see more on **p5**. **ZH**

First Cortina lands

THE Pavilions Hotels & Resorts will open The First Cortina, a new 76-key property in its European portfolio in Dec this year, completing the group's evolution into three distinct brands.

The hotel will join The First's luxury hotels in Rome, alongside wellness-focused Revivo and experiential brand The Pavilions.

Located on Cortina's Corso Italia, the property will feature a 1,000m² Reviva spa and wellness facility, and its signature restaurant Zuma Cortina.

It will also offer a new alpine setting for Revivo's wellness and longevity offering.

Founder Gordon Oldham said the property would create a contemporary social address shaped by "design, dining and wellness" in one of the world's leading alpine destinations. **ZH**



Hydro Majestic listed

THE iconic Hydro Majestic Hotel in the Blue Mountains has been listed for sale.

Located in Medlow Bath and overlooking the Megalong Valley, the 84-key property first opened in 1904 as the country's first hydropathic health retreat.

The sale campaign points to an option to add 91 new suites, conference facilities plus a revival of the Roadhouse bar. **ZH**

QantasLink milestone

QANTASLINK celebrated a milestone in Perth this week as its first Embraer E190 touched down in Perth yesterday.

Its arrival is the first of 14 planes that will be modernised and used largely to support WA and its resources sector.

The investment in the E190s is part of QantasLink's broader investment in its Western Australia fleet, with 19 Perth-based A320s being fitted with wi-fi and undergoing seat and cabin upgrades. **ZH**

Indonesia Preferred

PREFERRED Hotels & Resorts has strengthened its presence in Southeast Asia with the addition of four new member hotels in Bali to its global portfolio.

The properties include Ametis Villa Bali, located in Canggu; Nuju Uluwatu in the sought-after Bingin neighbourhood; Samsara Ubud, a One-Michelin Key resort set in Bali's Kelusa Village; and The Meru Sanur, an oceanfront 184 all-suite resort.

"As demand for authentic, experience-driven luxury travel continues to grow in the region, these new member properties enhance the diversity and competitiveness of our regional portfolio while providing travellers and our industry partners with greater choice in one of Asia Pacific's most sought-after destinations," Christine Tan, area managing director, Southeast Asia, Preferred Hotels & Resorts said.

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Hopping to support KI



SEALINK South Australia has contributed \$1.3 million in investment to the Kangaroo Island community over the past five years through its

Newy's new record

NEWCASTLE Airport has reported record passenger numbers in the last financial year, with 1.38 million guests coming through its terminals.

The figure represented a 10% increase on the previous financial year, and was assisted by new services to Bali (**TD** 21 Oct 2025), Perth (**TD** 08 Sep 2025) and Hobart (**TD** 02 Sep 2026) - all contributing a combined 94,000 added passenger movements across the year.

FY26 also saw the Newcastle Airport report its busiest Jul on record at 112,689 passengers, alongside its strongest-ever quarter during quarter four 2025 (**TD** 02 Feb 2026). *JB*

CommunityLink program, offering sponsorships and cheaper travel.

The contributions include more than \$335,000 invested through CommunityLink and sponsorships in 2026/27, benefiting initiatives across education, sport, arts and culture, environmental conservation and wellbeing.

SeaLink South Australia general manager Tracy Croft said CommunityLink was about backing the people and organisations that contribute to life on Kangaroo Island.

"We are proud to continue investing in the people, organisations and events that strengthen the Island's communities, help protect its unique natural environment, and make Kangaroo Island such a special place to live and visit."

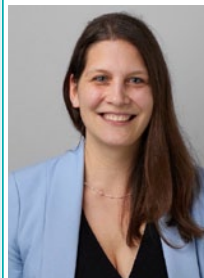
The company has also supported major events that have attracted visitors to Kangaroo Island and delivered strong economic benefits. *JM*

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ATIA UPDATE

From Mira Yates, Director of CATO and Education



ONE of the things I love most about touring is that the people delivering the experience

are often just as memorable as the destination itself.

That is why for this year's annual CATO travel industry Christmas lunch, we are doing something a little different.

Instead of a traditional guest speaker, we will be putting tour guides centre stage for 'Tales from the Road' - a panel celebrating the funny, unexpected and unforgettable moments that happen behind the scenes of life on tour.

Touring creates some of the most extraordinary and life-enriching travel experiences, and our guides are such an important part of making that happen.

They are storytellers, problem-solvers and destination experts, often turning a great itinerary into a memory a traveller carries with them for years.

We are now calling on CATO members to nominate their best

storytellers to join us on stage in front of more than 500 travel industry professionals at Le Montage in Sydney on 03 Dec.

We cannot wait to hear some of the funniest and most memorable moments from behind the scenes of life on tour.

Tickets for this year's Sparkle & Shine Christmas Lunch are selling quickly and, with the event on track to sell out, I encourage anyone planning to attend to secure their tickets or tables as soon as possible.

A small number of selected sponsorship opportunities are also still available.

You can find all event details and book your tickets at cato.travel/Xmas2026.

We also know the upcoming RBA surcharging ban is very much on everyone's mind.

Another benefit of the CATO and ATIA merger is that we are now able to combine our resources and expertise, and we will be releasing further practical guidance for members in the coming days, including resources specifically tailored for the B2B market.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Sydney in Dec for CATO's big day.

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CRETE SUFFERS 'NIGHTMARE' CROWDS

VIRAL TikTok footage of "nightmare" overcrowding at the famous Balos Beach in Crete last week has renewed calls for visitor restrictions to the region, which is located within a protected area under the European Union's Natura 2000 Network.

"Crete in Aug is a pure nightmare," one person commented on a TikTok video.

A proposal submitted to Greece's Ministry of Environment and Energy last month suggested an online reservation system with timed entry periods, limiting up to 1,200 people on the beach during a three-hour period.

If it goes ahead, the restrictions could also be introduced at other beaches in Crete.

MEANWHILE, in response to escalating overtourism, shoulder season travel is continuing to increase, especially as clients are



realising that it can help to reduce costs, Cruise Travel Centre's Summer Matthews told **TD**.

"There is often better availability for flights, accommodation and tours, which can also give clients more flexibility when planning their holiday," she said, adding that Italy, Greece, and Spain are ideal destinations to visit outside of the

summer months.

"Shoulder seasons can also mean fewer crowds while still offering good weather in many destinations," she added.

Skyscanner's Horizons 2025-26 research also recently revealed that 31% of tourists intend to visit popular destinations during shoulder season due to concerns around overtourism. *JHM*

Better standards

THE Tourism Sustainability Certification Alliance (TSCA) has released new global standards for sustainable tourism certification - the TSCA Minimum Standards.

Designed in collaboration with TSCA member organisations and with extensive stakeholder consultation, the benchmarks have been created for tourism businesses, as well as destinations.

The certification delivered through the standards will help organisations and destinations "better manage their environmental, social and economic impacts, improve transparency and accountability, and create lasting benefits for communities, visitors and natural environments".

"The release of these minimum standards represents an important step towards greater consistency, transparency and trust in sustainable tourism certification," said TSCA chairperson Elissa Keenan.

"By aligning around a common set of minimum requirements, we are strengthening confidence in sustainability certification while continuing to support innovation and diversity among certification programs." *JHM*

Dolphins at risk

TOURISTS feeding wild dolphins could double the probability of their extinction, according to research from QUT.

Although feeding the animals in Australia is illegal, four locations have permission to provide limited food for tourism purposes, including Monkey Mia and Bunbury in WA, and Tin Can Bay and Tangalooma in Qld.

Air transport tackles sustainability

THE International Air Transport Association's fourth World Sustainability Symposium will take place on 13-14 Oct in Brussels, discussing the policies and actions required to help the industry transition to net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The agenda will focus on three key themes: scaling solutions for air transport's energy transition; designing and harmonising policies that

encourage global, transport and competitive markets in sustainable aviation fuel and carbon credits; as well as advancing innovations such as emerging technologies, non-carbon effects and sustainability through the aircraft lifecycle.

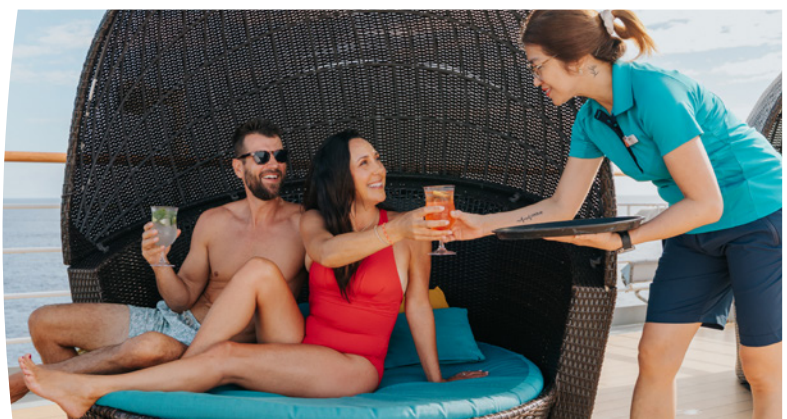
Speakers include LATAM Airlines Group CEO Roberto Alvo, Member of the European Parliament Cynthia Ni Mhurchu, and more. *JHM*



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MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.72

THE Australian dollar has reached its highest point since mid-May, as the prospect of an RBA interest hike seems more likely, according to experts.

This is in addition to a weaker USD as the Federal Reserve opts for unchanged rates.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.72
UK	£0.53
NZ	\$1.22
Euro	€0.62
Japan	¥111
Thailand	฿23.72
China	¥4.84
Jet Fuel	US\$171.01/bbl
Canada	\$0.99
Bitcoin	฿0.000009143

A prestigious clean

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has unveiled its largest wellness offering aboard *Seven Seas Prestige*, available when the ship debuts in Dec.

Dubbed Serene Spa & Wellness, the facility on deck four boasts multiple treatment rooms, including an acupuncture room, a medi spa room and a couples' treatment room.

Additionally, the complimentary thermal suite will house RSSC's inaugural salt room, alongside saunas, steam rooms, a hydrotherapy pool, aroma room and snow room.

Serene's salon features three hair stations, a barber station & two pedicure-manicure areas. *JB*

Speaking about Qld



THE agenda for Queensland Tourism Week on 04-06 Nov has been revealed, with leaders to come together and discuss how to leverage future opportunities.

Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee President Andrew Liveris and demographer and trends analyst Simon Kuestenmacher have been named as the headline speakers.

Liveris will discuss the ways tourism businesses can make the most of the Games in 2032, while Kuestenmacher will analyse Qld's changing demographics and lifestyles and how they are impacting how people travel.

Across the three days industry leaders, operators and government officials will gain insights into topics such as First Nations tourism, changing visitor expectations, workforce and artificial intelligence.

"Tourism Week brings the industry together not simply to talk about where we want to go, but to work through what needs to happen to get there and then celebrate the people making it happen," Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) CEO Natassia Wheeler said.

"Each day builds on the last - we begin by grounding the future in

culture, country and community, move into the decisions, investment and capability needed for growth, and finish by recognising businesses turning that ambition into outstanding visitor experiences." *JB*

ACMI key to Egypt

EGYPT'S airlines should combine permanent fleet expansion with leased aircraft to meet the country's ambitious tourism growth targets, according to KlasJet CEO Justinas Bulka.

Egypt welcomed nearly 19 million tourists in 2025 and is targeting 30 million annually by 2030, creating significant demand for additional airline capacity.

While EgyptAir and Air Cairo have major fleet expansion plans, Bulka said ACMI leasing can help carriers manage seasonal peaks, launch routes and cover delivery delays without committing to permanent capacity.

"Not every increase in demand requires a permanent aircraft," Bulka said, stating ACMI can provide a flexible layer of capacity alongside long-term fleet growth.

KlasJet previously worked with Air Cairo in 2025, deploying an aircraft to Cairo within three days of an agreement being signed. *ZH*



Window Seat

AS AN unabashed NRL fan, this writer must confess feeling slightly giddy at the prospect of an interactive theme park themed around the sporting code.

As wild as the concept sounds, NRL Land has been floated by rugby league kingpin Peter V'landys as a legitimate way to further commercialise the game.

While there has been no formal announcement regarding an opening date or location, V'landys has built himself a reputation for following through on ideas that many initially thought were too outlandish to become a reality.

The NRL is also buying up property at a rapid rate, so keep an eye on land purchased near the big stadiums.

A moment in the sun

VISIT Sunshine Coast has launched the next phase of its Sunshine Moments ad campaign, targeting visitation for spring and early summer.

Running between now and 27 Oct, the marketing push is live across Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, and is present across billboards, train stations and bus stops, as well as digital ads on popular platforms such as YouTube and TikTok.

In addition, several Sunshine Coast-focused articles will appear across mastheads such as *7News*, *Daily Mail* and *The Australian Women's Weekly*. *JB*

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Solomon Islands – raw, real and ready

STRETCHING from Papua New Guinea to Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands remains one of the world's last truly untouched adventure destinations.

Little has changed since Spanish explorer Alvaro de Mendana first sailed into this tucked-away corner of the South Pacific in 1568.

As a result, having escaped mass tourism – think no McDonalds, no KFC, no Starbucks and not a hotel chain in sight – this pristine eco-paradise offers a rare alternative for travellers seeking authentic adventure.

For divers, the steep walls and unspoiled technicolour coral gardens teem with marine life, complemented by hundreds of WWII shipwrecks and aircraft

littering the seabed.

A previously well-kept secret safeguarded by only a handful of hard-travelling board riders, for surfers, the Solomon Islands offers some of the world's most perfect and uncrowded waves.

For sports fishermen too, the Hapi Isles present a fisherman's nirvana. Whether you troll, fly fish, surf cast or simply dangle a hook, the isles offer something to suit every type of angler.

Ancient rainforests, volcanic landscapes, unspoiled jungle trails, and hidden waterfalls await the keen trekker, and birdwatchers will be equally captivated by over 300 distinct bird species found here, acting as a magnet for twitchers from all over the world.

For those seeking adventure far beyond the ordinary in an unspoiled eco-environment, this is one part of the South Pacific that remains as it all once was and always will be – raw and real.

NEED HELP?

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

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