

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of news, including a special feature from **Switzerland Tourism** and our **Sustainability feature**, plus a full page from **Silversea**.

Jetstar touches down

THE opportunity to win prizes and connect with Jetstar's senior leaders and partners is on offer through the carrier's roadshow taking place next month.

Visiting every state capital city and the Gold Coast, the events will provide guests with drinks and nibbles, with Jetstar adding there will be a major prize up for grabs, with details under wraps.

All events will run from 6-9pm - to RSVP and find out the dates and venue, click **HERE**. **AB**



Carriers push for fuel levy

THE Federal Government's push to insulate Australia from volatile global oil prices via increased local biofuel production could lead to travellers paying a green fuel levy on airfares, according to sources cited by *The Australian*.

While both Qantas and Virgin Australia have been supportive of Australia ramping up the production of local sustainable aviation fuel, new reports suggest the carriers have asked that consumers help foot the bill to assist with the transition from fossil fuel to green energy.

Australia's two biggest airlines have lobbied for a levy to offset the costs involved in participating in the government's green energy plans, with their formal positions now in front of policy-makers as industry consultation continues.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment

and Water previously stated that a sustainable aviation fuel levy was one possible option to allow airlines to recover compliance costs through a transparent passenger charge.

However, if such a green air tax was to go ahead, it would arrive at a challenging time for Aussies, with higher airfares brought on by the Iran war and inflation already creating headwinds. **AB**

Princess' simple tips

PRINCESS Cruises has updated its Plus and Premier packages to make it simpler to sell for agents.

From 13 Oct, for Aussie guests cruising on Princess ships where onboard purchases are charged in US dollars, new packages will be available at A\$89pp, per day for Princess Plus and A\$139pp, per day for Princess Premier packages, with crew gratuities included in the price.

According to the cruise line's crew appreciation charge policy, guests in suites normally pay US\$20pp, per day, while most other stateroom categories pay US\$18pp, per day. **AB**

Silversea \$7k saving

SILVERSEA has savings of up to \$7,000 per suite and reduced deposits on offer, ending 02 Nov. See details on the **back page**.

Win a trip to Puglia

TRAVEL Puglia is now the official sponsor of the St Ali Italian Film Festival across Australia.

To celebrate, the company is offering festival audiences the chance to win a trip for two to Puglia including a '5 Senses of Puglia' tour for two valued at \$13,000 and \$5,000 to go towards flights from Australia.

Guests will enjoy seven nights in a traditional farmhouse, olive oil tasting, mozzarella making, local cooking and guided tours.

For details on how to enter the competition, click **HERE**

Travel Puglia is also giving away two double passes to the film festival to **Travel Daily** readers.

For your chance to win, answer the question 'Who are the two Travel Puglia co-founders?'

Hint: visit Travel Puglia **HERE** to find the answer.

Send your answers to: competitions@traveldaily.com.au to be in the running. **JHM**

Business Development Manager
Full time - Hybrid
Travel Advisor Training and
Network Success
MTA Travel, Gold Coast, QLD



Turn your travel industry experience into a role where you can coach, train and help other travel professionals build successful businesses.

MTA - Mobile Travel Agents is looking for an experienced travel professional to join our national Business Development team. Based on the Gold Coast, this role combines advisor support, business coaching, recruitment and the delivery of our three-day Welcome Training program for new MTA Advisors each month at Head Office.

This is not a traditional sales-focused BDM role. You will work closely with independent travel advisors across Australia, helping them establish, grow and strengthen their businesses while acting as an important link between our advisor network and Head Office.

For further information or to apply, please send your resume /interest to: enquiry@mtatravel.com.au

Applications close 9 October 2026

AIR NEW ZEALAND

**More space.
More commission.**

Give your customers more space while earning more with Economy Skycouch™

[Find out how](#)

Ends 6 Nov. T&Cs apply.

STAR ALLIANCE

THE
PLACE TO BE

Visit our dedicated trade website

Centara Grand Lagoon Maldives

CENTARA
HOTELS & RESORTS

Most cruise education ever

CRUISE Lines International Association (CLIA) is gearing up to launch its biggest-ever program of webinars for members during its 2026 Cruise Month campaign taking place in Oct.

Close to 40 individual webinars will be offered throughout the month, each aligned with four weekly themes - ocean (04-10 Oct), river (11-17 Oct), expedition (18-24 Oct) & luxury (25-31 Oct).

Offered exclusively to CLIA members, each session will be



presented by a different CLIA cruise line, providing insight into each brand's latest initiatives including their newest ships, itineraries, sales tips and the latest product knowledge.

CLIA managing director in Australasia Joel Katz said this year's Cruise Month webinar series will look to build on last year's successful program.

"Our webinar program is designed to give travel agents the insight they need to engage clients and inspire them to select their next cruise," Katz said.

"Cruise Month is an opportunity to create a buzz around cruising and the summer sailing season, so the webinar program is a great way to gain up-to-date product knowledge," he added.

View more details [HERE](#). *AB*

Discover UAE by rail

ETIHAD Rail has now opened bookings for guests travelling between Dubai and Abu Dhabi ahead of its 30 Sep launch.

Connecting the new Al Yalayis Station in Dubai to Mohamed bin Zayed City Station in Abu Dhabi, the 57-min trip is a new way for guests to travel along the corridor beyond cars, taxis & buses. *JHM*

Win a trip to Spain

BUNNIK Tours and Singapore Airlines (SIA) have teamed up to launch the Sell Your Way to Spain incentive, giving Aussie agents the chance to embark on an eight-day famil in Mar 2027.

Running until 30 Nov, agents who sell Bunnik small group tours and SIA products will go into the running to win the trip.

Agents do not have to sell Spain or package Bunnik and SIA products to secure the prize.

During the famil, agents will experience Barcelona, Seville, Granada and much more. *JB*

Allianz goes beyond

ALLIANZ Partners has joined the Beyond Borders Travel Summit 2026 in Melbourne on 09 Oct as a major sponsor.

Alongside having a strong presence throughout the event, a spokesperson for the travel insurance business will also join a panel comparing research with current market behaviours across networks, as well as providing insights around business growth opportunities.

"Beyond Borders provides a [key] opportunity to connect with the industry, share insights into what this next chapter means for our partners, and discuss how we can continue to support travellers in an evolving market," Allianz Partners head of travel & tourism Dylan Wilkinson said. *AB*

Earn Exclusive Rewards on eligible Royal Brunei Airlines return **London** ticket issuances

- A\$200 Reward Voucher for every 5 eligible Return Economy Class tickets sold
- A\$150 Reward Voucher for every 2 eligible Return Business Class tickets sold

Plus, earn 1 prize draw entry for every eligible return passenger booked

BOOK EARN WIN

Win 1 of 2 Return **Business Class Tickets** MELBOURNE ↔ LONDON A\$1,000 TRAVEL SPENDING MONEY

Effective until 30 November 2026

*Terms & conditions apply

One Stop to London Thousands in Rewards

Register Now!

ROYAL BRUNEI AIRLINES



CT Partners grows team



CT PARTNERS has expanded its Australian team, as the company grows its on-ground support for members and supplier partners.

Natalie Brean (pictured left) has joined the CT Partners team as its operations coordinator.

Based in Sydney, the newly-created role combines the supplier and member sides of the business and its operations.

Brean brings over 20 years of experience, joining from Air Canada where she served as part of its sales support team over the last three years.

She also spent nearly 20 years at British Airways, most notably working in the role of sales support administration executive.

In addition, CT Partners' Liz Rooney (pictured right) has been promoted to commercial performance manager.

She has been with the company for the past four years, serving as



its commercial analyst.

Her experience includes being operations analyst at Globetrotter Corporate Travel and the role of corporate account manager at Executive Business Travel. *JB*



One booking. More earning potential.

Unlock discounted **Package Rates**, add an **Agency Service Charge** and discover how you could **earn more** from the same property booking.

[Find out how](#)

Expedia TAAP

AATKings

SAVE up to **\$2,200**

per couple on selected 2027/2028 tours*

*T&C's apply

[Book now](#)



Travel Beyond, Under the Same Moon.

Departing from: Sydney • Melbourne • Brisbane

Save up to **15%** off

Book by
18 OCT 2026

Depart from
21 OCT 2026



EY doubles Sydney

ETIHAD Airways will fly double daily between Abu Dhabi and Sydney Airport from 15 Dec, shifting to roughly 5,000 seats a week in each direction.

The second daily flight also allows Aussies to break up their onward journeys, with a free one- or two-night hotel stay available through the Abu Dhabi Stopover program, which now includes the oasis city of Al Ain.

Etihad's network already includes daily flights between Abu Dhabi and Melbourne. *AB*

Xe sponsors panel

CURRENCY exchange business Xe has signed on as a sponsor of the Tales on the Road panel at the 2026 CATO Christmas Lunch.

Tour guides still have the opportunity to be part of the panel, with entries open until 30 Sep via cato@cato.travel.

The event will take place at Le Montage in Sydney on 03 Dec. *AB*

A signature Aussie approach

EXCLUSIVE

SIGNATURE Travel Network is taking a targeted approach to growing its local membership, with new GM ANZ Damian Borg highlighting the differences between the US and Australian agency distribution models.

Borg (pictured) told *Travel Daily* that Signature was focused on bringing agencies into the network that could contribute to its current structure, rather than pursuing expansion plans for the sake of growth.

"It is really about assessing the quality of those agents and what they can contribute to the existing model," Borg explained, adding that the network wants to remain aligned with its established model while also recognising the different structure of the Aussie market.

"We want to be true to that model in this market," he said.

Unlike the US, where agencies



typically align with a single consortium, Borg said Australian agencies can use additional networks such as Signature to supplement their existing offering and differentiate their proposition to customers.

Signature's global scale and supplier relationships are helping to generate interest among Australian agencies and suppliers as the local distribution landscape evolves, Borg confirmed.

"The time is right," he added. *ZH*

Kimberley here early

APT Luxury Travel has released its 11-day 'Kimberley Coastal Expedition' trip in 2028 early to cater for strong demand.

Available in both directions between Broome and Darwin, the exploration offers guests an in-depth adventure in the Kimberley, hosting Zodiac explorations to Horizontal Falls, a sailing through King George River, as well as a traditional Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony.

The tour takes place aboard *Le Jacques Cartier*, a purpose-built expedition ship that can accommodate 184 guests.

Guests can enjoy several lounges and dining venues, a theatre, wellness area and swimming pool on board. *JB*






Tempting Tahiti

Five archipelagos, two ships, one tempting offer!

Your clients receive:
\$1,000/€1,000 shipboard credit on all 2026 & 2027 sailings*

You receive:
One AU\$200 gift card for each booked passenger!*

1300 737 178 | au.ponant.com | reservations.aus@ponant.com

*US\$1,000 (Paul Gauguin) and EUR1,000 (PONANT) shipboard credit offers are based on double occupancy and valid for new bookings only, made between 1 September and 31 October 2026 (US\$500 / EUR500 for single use of cabin); offers are combinable with Bonus/Early Booking Savings, PONANT Yacht Club Savings, Consortia Amenity Programs, Onboard Savings, Referral offer and roadshow special offer, but not combinable with free or reduced solo supplement or any other offer. Paul Gauguin offer valid on all 2026 & 2027 departures; PONANT offer valid on Le Jacques Cartier French Polynesia 2026 & 2027 select cruises only. Full terms and conditions available at au.ponant.com/tempting-tahiti-2026. Travel agents earn a \$200 gift card for every guest booked and deposited on the Tempting Tahiti offer between 1 September and 31 October 2026, dispatched by 30 November 2026 after validation.



Festival adventures

ADVENTURE World has launched its last-minute Christmas itineraries for this year, offering escapes to Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Cambodia.

Trips include the 10-day 'A Taste of Vietnam' tour, combining Ho Chi Minh City with Ho Tram during the dry Dec season, and the five-day 'Authentic Siem Reap' journey, featuring Angkor Wat and Beng Mealea.

The 16-day 'Authentic Sri Lanka' itinerary is also on offer, featuring a trip along the hill country railway, in addition to visits to tea estates, wildlife safaris, and stays in Ella or Nuwara Eliya. *JB*

Solomon visa change

THE Solomon Islands Government has introduced a new electronic visa system, requiring travellers to apply for a visa on the online portal before departing Australia.

View more details **HERE**. *AB*

Women over 50 neglected

EXCLUSIVE

THE 50-plus female traveller market remains one of the most underserved for both tourism operators and destinations, according to Leatherback Travel CEO and founder Mat Newton and Courtney Harman (**pictured**), general manager of its subsidiary Patch Adventures.

Speaking with **TD**, Newton said the mature female category of traveller is not only a high-spend market, but also a demographic that enjoys a wide range of experiences when travelling.

"There are many more types of women than just the standard stereotypical 50-plus woman who wants to go on a cruise to Fiji," Newton explained.

"There is the 50-plus woman who wanted to go on an overland trip through Iran and Afghanistan in their twenties [and] they are still the same person.

"They want to do something



super interesting and that market is completely unserved."

With Patch Adventures' trips tailored towards this demographic, Harman added that many of the travellers that embark on its tours tend to gravitate towards community-focused experiences.

"A lot of the women that do our trips are established, highly educated working professionals, and that lifestyle comes with wanting to give back," she said.

"They have that drive and consideration for other people - and that is why we attract them," Harman added. *JB*

Discover with Ponant

PONANT Explorations has announced the return of its Discovery Sessions in Australia and New Zealand, with exclusive events across Auckland, Christchurch, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and Brisbane.

Each session will offer delegates insights into Ponant's 2028 and 2029 itineraries, complemented by first-hand accounts from the cruise line's experts.

Those attending the Australian sessions will hear from Captain Mathieu Tsingrilaras, who brings over 11 years of experience with Ponant across Antarctica, the Arctic and Polynesia, while at the NZ sessions, guests will hear from expedition leader Xavier Moroy, who will share insights from Antarctica, the Kimberley, Japan and French Polynesia.

Attendees can also make the most of exclusive event offers, such as 5% savings on staterooms and suites for voyages departing within 12 months of the event. *JB*

NEW CALEDONIA

EXPERIENCE IT TO SELL IT

SELF FAMIL TO NEW CALEDONIA

Explore New Caledonia with our exclusive Self Famil Programme, **open to certified New Caledonia Specialists**. Enjoy special industry rates on **Aircalin flights**, plus discounts on hotels, activities, and transport — all at your own pace. Immerse yourself in the charm of the French Pacific to better inspire and inform your clients.

→ Register now here

Agency amps up the power

SPECIALIST luxury travel, tourism, and hospitality communications agency Powerhouse has added seven companies to its portfolio and appointed five team members to its network, in its largest assault on the industry since its launch earlier this year (**TD** 26 Feb).

Powerhouse will represent Quest Apartment Hotels, Scenic Group, Mulpha Group, The Ascott, Brady Hotels, Plaza Premium Group, and Hunter Valley Operations.

The agency has also welcomed Anthony Dennis as senior counsel, one of Australia's most recognised travel and tourism journalists, who served for almost 15 years as the editor of *Nine's Traveller* masthead.

Dennis also functioned as the editor of *Travel + Leisure*.

Joining Dennis are Cynthia Dammerer, Natalie Brown, Nicole Ford and Ginni Post, who have all been appointed as 'Powerhouse Amplifiers', to work as consultants



on its roster of brands.

Powerhouse has also signed a memorandum of understanding with Saigontourist, one of Vietnam's leading hospitality and tourism conglomerates, in partnership with Australia Vietnam Tourism Promotion. **MS**

Morgan's AI venture

FOUNDER and director of solo travel specialist Two's a Crowd, Ken Morgan, has co-founded another business venture aimed at assisting businesses to improve their online presence using AI.

Set to formally launch next year, Climb Digital will offer clients two options, either the tools needed such as AI prompts and templates to implement plans independently, or a wider service where the agency takes care of all aspects of the client's needs.

The latter option will see Climb Digital take on the keyword research, content, optimisation and reporting required to lift online visitation.

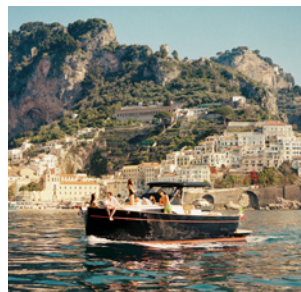
"Two options. One proven methodology. No agency price tag," Morgan said.

Follow Climb Digital on LinkedIn to stay up-to-date with its launch date and services **HERE**. **AB**

New gig for Mannix

FORMER senior cruise sales executive Cameron Mannix has started a new role as account director - leisure at Crystalbrook Collection - Cairns.

Mannix boasts an impressive resume in the cruise world, having previously led the Australia and NZ sales strategy for both Celebrity Cruises and Royal Caribbean Cruises. **AB**



Travel Daily

**SPECIAL REPORT
OUT NOW**

*Luxury on the move:
Welcome to a new era in travel*

➡ **CLICK HERE TO CHECK IT OUT**

ATIA UPDATE

from Ingrid Fraser, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy



01 Oct already has a few claims to fame.

Walt Disney World opened its gates on that date in 1971, and

Yosemite became a national park in 1890.

It is also Int'l Coffee Day.

This year, travel businesses have a few more reasons to circle it.

It is a date we are very pleased to take off the calendar but others need a bit more unpacking.

One thing that will not be happening this Oct is a four-day wait before travel businesses can offer clients travel insurance.

That was the risk if travel's exemption from the deferred sales model were to expire.

After seven months of work with govt, our insurance partners and consumer advocates, ATIA has secured another five years, through to Oct 2031 (**TD** 21 Sep).

That keeps the insurance conversation where it belongs - at the time of booking.

The Maldives is a different story.

From 01 Oct, its 17% Tourism GST will extend to overseas businesses selling Maldives

product, including Australian agents, wholesalers and tour operators with no physical presence there.

Australia is one of the Maldives' top ten visitor markets, and our travel businesses have real influence over where that demand goes through what they package, promote and recommend.

Make a destination significantly harder and more expensive to sell, and businesses can shift their focus elsewhere.

ATIA delivered that message directly to the Maldives High Commissioner last week and is working with international counterparts to push for more time and a workable approach.

And then there is surcharging.

The new rules also start on 01 Oct, with ATIA's fact sheets and webinar resources available to help businesses prepare.

At Beyond Borders next week, we will have a dedicated session on keeping the focus on value while navigating new payment options and customer conversations.

It is one of a great line-up of sessions tackling the issues shaping travel right now, so if you have not booked your Beyond Borders ticket yet, make sure you do so **HERE**.

Go further with Hawaiian Airlines

Now is a great time to fly with Hawai'i's airline. Your holiday begins the moment you step onboard—and with exciting new partnerships, there's even more to enjoy.

Status around the world

As a oneworld Alliance member, Hawaiian Airlines recognises status across more than a dozen global airlines.

Complimentary stopover in Hawai'i

Enjoy a complimentary stopover in Honolulu(HNL) when traveling onwards to more Hawaiian Islands or the Continental U.S.

Complimentary Starlink Wi-Fi

Stay connected throughout your flight with our onboard high speed wi-fi available on all our A330 and A321neo aircrafts.

Generous baggage allowance

Shop and pack to your heart's desire with an allowance of two baggage up to 23 kg.

Request 'AS' in your GDS



**HAWAIIAN
AIRLINES**



Content produced
in collaboration with
Switzerland Tourism

SWISS train travel continues to be a highlight for Australian travellers, with sales revenue from Jan to Aug 2026 remaining on par with the same period last year, despite the impact of the conflict in the Middle East on travel to Europe.

It is easy to see why travelling by train in Switzerland is so appealing.

With one single ticket, the Swiss Travel Pass, guests can travel across the country by train, bus and boat, discover panoramic routes, access selected mountain railways and visit more than 500 museums.

The journey becomes part of the holiday, with lakes, mountains, cities and villages unfolding beyond the window.

For travel advisors, navigating the range of options, routes, reservations and experiences can sometimes feel complex.

Knowing what is included, when clients need to reserve seats, and how to combine well-known

journeys with lesser-known gems takes confidence and expertise.

Switzerland Tourism's resources are designed to make that knowledge easier to access, helping advisors feel more confident in planning, recommending and selling Switzerland.

Finding the right local voice was equally important. With more than 20 years' experience in travel and tourism and a deep understanding of the ANZ travel trade, Destination Webinars' Charlie Trevena was the natural choice to join forces with Switzerland Tourism.

Seamless Switzerland with Charlie Trevena



Designed to help you

SANDRA Babey, Switzerland Tourism's director for Australia and New Zealand, and Charlie Trevena, founder of Destination Webinars, put Swiss public transport to the test recently, travelling on inter-city and panoramic trains, buses, boats, trams and mountain railways.

The result is *Seamless Switzerland*, a helpful five-part video series created to show travel advisors just how simple public transport in Switzerland really is.

Along the way, they answer common questions about the Swiss Travel Pass, explain reservations and luggage services, and share practical itinerary ideas.

They venture beyond the headline routes to reveal experiences travel agents may not yet know.

The series gives advisors a first-hand view of how easily the pieces connect - and the confidence to turn that knowledge into memorable journeys for their clients.

The Swiss Army Knife

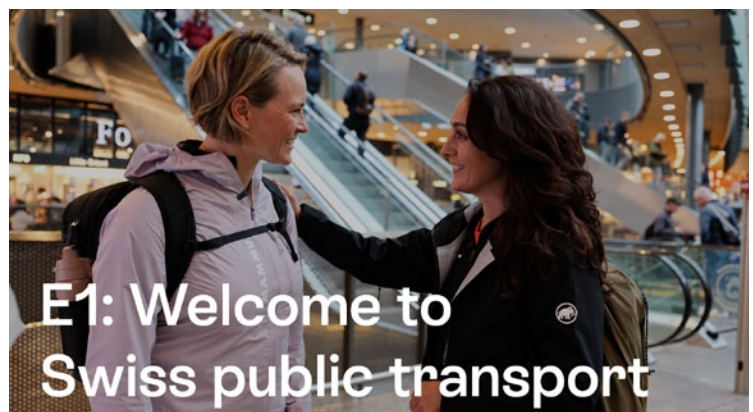
THE video series complements Switzerland Tourism's comprehensive 75-page Travel Trade Guide, which launched earlier in the year.

"The guide is the professional equivalent of a Swiss Army Knife for travel agents - versatile, reliable and ready

when they need it," Sandra Babey said.

"It provides the essential information, while *Seamless Switzerland* brings it to life through real journeys, advice and inspiring itinerary ideas."

Order your copy at trade.anz@switzerland.com.



Swiss Public Transport made simple.

Watch now!

Charlie Trevena
shows how in
Seamless Switzerland.

travel swi+zerland



HILTON ZEROS IN ON GREEN HOME2 BRAND

HILTON has introduced a Clean Energy Prototype for its Home2 Suites brand, with the property free of any operational emissions.

The prototype hotel features an all-electric building system, renewable energy and an enhanced building envelope, aimed at increasing energy efficiency by 30% and reducing annual energy costs by 18-40%.

Once rolled out, this all-electric design is projected to cut operational carbon emissions by 440 metric tonnes per property.

Jean Garriss Hand, vice president and global head, sustainability & responsible business at Hilton, said that the initiative would support higher property valuations and ensure that the building has a stronger return on investment over their lifetimes.

"At Hilton, we know that sustainability solutions are most



impactful when they are scalable, practical and make strong business sense to help power the future of responsible travel," Hand explained.

"Our owners, many of whom operate small businesses, are facing rising energy costs and are looking for a turnkey option to lower operating expenses, improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions.

"With the Home2 Suites Clean Energy Prototype, Hilton is working to demonstrate that sustainable innovation can also be a driver of long-term business value," she added.

The Clean Energy Prototype comes amid growing pressure as hotel operating costs in the US have grown four times faster than revenue, with utility costs up 28% during the same period. *JB*

Green and clean

KELSIA has outlined plans for a 50% reduction in Australian Bus Scope 1 emission intensity by 2035, as per its recently-released 2025/26 ESG Report.

The company currently operates 454 Zero Emission Buses (ZEBs) nationwide, with one ZEB matching the capacity of 40 cars.

In response, the company has increased efforts to encourage more people to choose public transit over private vehicles, ultimately reducing emissions.

The business is also working with governments and transport authorities on green projects, such as delivering specialist electric vehicle training at TAFE NSW.

During FY26, Kelsian recorded no significant environmental spills or fines for non-compliance and continues to push initiatives such as protecting at-risk environments, marine conservation, reef protection and litter removal.

In South Australia alone, the company supported 61 community groups and initiatives during the financial year, providing over \$268,000 for both ferry travel across Kangaroo Island and the Fleurieu Peninsula and supporting their respective local communities. *JB*

Get behind SAF

GREEN Fuel Forward (GFF) has announced changes to its partnership structure, placing greater emphasis on sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and SAF certificate transactions in Asia.

The move allows certified organisations to support SAF use and claim associated emissions reductions without needing to purchase or access the fuel itself. *JB*

TUI Group's war on single-use plastic

TUI Group has recorded a 13% YoY reduction in single-use plastic across its owned and managed hotels.

As a result, plastic use across its entire network is around 30% less than it was in 2022.

At hotels under the TUI Blue brand, plastic water bottle use has reduced by almost half, driven by the use of water dispensers, refillable bottles and reusable glasses.

Additionally, TUI Blue has removed single-use condiments, as well as plastic straws, stirrers, cups and laundry bags.

TUI is also rolling out microfibre filtration technology to its hotels, following successful trials on its cruise ships, capturing 99% of microfibres released during washing and preventing them from entering the water. *JB*

Introducing Australia's *most rewarding*
club for travel connoisseurs

SIGNATURE
Travel Club

Get in touch to *find*
out how you can
partner with us

EMAIL TODAY

MONEY

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

AU\$1 = US\$0.701

THE Reserve Bank of Australia meets today, where most economists predict it will hike rates for a fourth time this year.

The AUD/USD was treading water just above the 70-cent mark yesterday, as the local currency continued its lack of direction of late.

This comes off the back of the resurgence of buying interest in the USD, as investors continue to assess the latest headlines from the Iran war.

And, although fiscal figures out of China have stabilised the Australian economy, they have not driven the AUD higher.

Everybody is now looking to the RBA this afternoon, where Governor Michele Bullock is expected to deliver the bad news for travellers.

She is likely to highlight local conditions that have led to the rate-hike decision, the *ABC* believes, such as declining productivity, an economy running close to capacity and huge AI investment funds.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.701
UK	£0.530
NZ	\$1.239
Euro	€0.617
Japan	¥110.4
Thailand	฿23.58
China	¥4.707
Jet fuel	US\$185.43
Canada	\$0.994
Bitcoin	A\$0.0000084

Great Plains Down Under



FORTH & Wonder has brought Great Plains Conservation directly to Australian travel advisors through exclusive events in Sydney and Melbourne.

The luxury Africa specialist hosted a SmartFlyer-exclusive dinner at Bistro Ebony in Sydney, followed by a private lunch for Virtuoso advisors at Melbourne's Botanical Hotel.

Great Plains Conservation chief brand officer Hilton Walker shared insights into the operator's luxury lodges and camps, guest experiences and conservation work, alongside AfricaReps' Herbie Rosenberg.

"Great Plains is focused around creating exceptional safari experiences that give guests the time, space and access to experience Africa in a deeply personal way," Walker said.

"Our partnership with Forth & Wonder is particularly valuable because they share our belief in the importance of knowledgeable, trusted travel advisors who understand their clients and the experiences they recommend."

Forth & Wonder also held private visits with Wentworth

Travel and Travelcall, with further partner events planned for Oct and Nov. *ZH*

W360 links Spotify

WORLD360 Rewards has partnered with Spotify to launch The Passion Project, a user-generated campaign shifting the focus of loyalty from transactions to the reasons people travel.

The Flight Centre Travel Group program is inviting members to share candid travel moments through its Real Reels initiative, with entries posted via a dedicated hub and Instagram using #travellisthepoints.

"We are moving away from the points-for-purchases mindset and meeting our members directly inside their real-world passion points, whether they are travelling for wellness and reset, chasing fandoms and screen sets, or witnessing spectator sports," World360 Rewards' Clinton Hearne said.

Travellers can win a share of \$47,000 in prizes, including an Intrepid Dolomites tour for two and Fiji Airways flights. *ZH*



Window Seat

A SYDNEY man is making the most of his retirement, becoming the first Australian to ride around the country on an electric motorcycle.

Former electrical engineer Ed Darmanin has been on the road for the past three months, navigating some of the country's most dangerous roads and meticulously planning his trip around the few-and-far charging stations.

His journey began in Sydney on 24 Jun, travelling anti-clockwise around Australia, with the goal of visiting every mainland state and territory.

While most stages of the journey have been completed solo, Darmanin has been accompanied by his wife and son during several periods on his journey.

Darmanin explained to the *ABC* that distances between charging ports for his bike were as far as 300km, adding that he was forced to ride well below the speed limit to consume less power.

This week, he is riding from the Melbourne suburb of Frankston to Lakes Entrance in Victoria's Gippsland, before the final leg back to Sydney, marking the end of an 18,000km journey.





EXPIRES NOVEMBER 2, 2026

SAVE UP TO \$7,000*
PER SUITE

NAFPLION, GREECE

LIMITED-TIME OFFER

SAVE UP TO
\$7,000 PER SUITE

REDUCED DEPOSITS
FROM 15%

ALL-INCLUSIVE
VOYAGES

INTIMATE
SHIPS

Boost your earnings with this limited-time offer. Your clients can enjoy **savings of up to \$7,000 per suite, with reduced deposits from 15%**. Reserve by **November 2, 2026**, and increase your bookings.

OUR ALL-INCLUSIVE ONBOARD EXPERIENCE

- Spacious all-suite accommodations
- Premium beverages in-suite and throughout the ship
- Butler service for every suite
- Multiple complimentary dining options, plus 24-hour in-suite dining
- Onboard gratuities, port taxes, and fees
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Personalised service — nearly one crew member for every guest

Contact your Silversea Sales Manager or Reservations on +61 2 9255 0600 silversea.com/trade



Royal Caribbean Group



ROYAL
CARIBBEAN

Celebrity X Cruises®



SILVERSEA®

*Terms and conditions apply