



Connected Travel

SENSE OF ADVENTURE REQUIRED

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

WHERE COMFORT MEETS CURIOSITY, AND TRAVEL IS DESIGNED TO FEEL AS GOOD AS IT LOOKS.

Welcome to Sense of Adventure Required

The Soft Adventure Edit

This is where I share destinations I know deeply, journeys I'd confidently send my own clients on, and the thoughtful details that turn a trip into something that stays with you. Expect considered advice, personal perspective, and travel ideas for those who want a sense of adventure, without rushing, roughing it, or ticking boxes.

ATIA CEO PUSHES BACK ON “CANCEL YOUR EUROPE TRIP” HEADLINES

Reports suggesting Australians should cancel travel plans for the next six months are simply wrong. Asian carriers - Singapore Airlines, multiple Chinese carriers - are operating normally and providing reliable alternative routings to Europe. Yes, flight times may be slightly longer. No, you don't need to cancel your trip.

With headlines telling Australians to cancel their travel plans, ATIA CEO Dean Long offers a grounded, expert counterpoint and reassure travellers that Europe is still very much on the table in a media release on the 5th of March.

Quotes from ATIA CEO Dean Long:

"There are plenty of safe ways to get to Europe and the aviation sector has and will continue to adapt. Asia is open and operating. We have flights coming out of the Middle East.



There will be some delays and a bit more disruption than what we're used to but no one in the travel industry is going to put you in a place where it's unsafe."

"Importantly, do not cancel. Whether you are booked to travel in the next weeks or planning to travel in coming months. If you're booked to go shortly via the Middle East, it is critical that you do not panic-cancel but rather wait for your airline to cancel as otherwise you are erasing all of your rights of a refund or rebook. If your trip is in the next couple of months, talk to your accredited travel agent or tour operator as there are plenty of alternates."

This is a situation the industry has navigated before. Twelve months ago, a 12-day conflict in the Middle East caused disruption and the travel industry resolved it quickly.

ATIA's practical advice for travellers right now:

- Download your airline's app and check the Manage My Booking tab before heading to the airport to make sure your flight is actually going ahead
- Register with Smart Traveller <https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au>
- If you're already in the Middle East and want to get home, register with DFAT now - Middle Eastern carriers are repatriating Australians with no additional charges
- If you're booked to travel in the next few weeks, don't Panic-Cancel.



TRAVEL HACK

SOFT ADVENTURE HACK: THE "SUNRISE SWAP"

If you want a sense of adventure without extreme effort, try the Sunrise Swap.

Instead of squeezing sightseeing into the busiest part of the day, wake up one hour earlier and visit your destination at sunrise. Why it works:

- You get the same views with fewer crowds
- The light is dramatically better for photos
- Wildlife and local life are more active
- The experience feels calmer and more immersive

Soft-adventure examples:

Walk to a viewpoint before breakfast

Rent a bike and explore empty streets

Take a short sunrise hike to a lookout

Visit a famous landmark before tour buses arrive

You'll still be back in time for coffee, but you'll feel like you had a real adventure before the day even started.

Pro tip: Search Google Maps for "viewpoint," "lookout," or "scenic point" within 10–15 minutes of where you're staying.

SUPPLIER SPOTLIGHT

INTREPID TRAVEL



For travellers seeking meaningful adventures rather than mass tourism, Intrepid Travel has become one of the world's most recognised names in small-group exploration. Founded in Melbourne in 1989, the company has grown from a single grassroots tour operator into a global leader in responsible travel, offering more than 1,000 guided itineraries across over 120 countries. Today, Intrepid's philosophy is simple: travel in a way that benefits local communities, protects the planet, and creates authentic cultural experiences.

Small Groups, Big Experiences

One of Intrepid's defining features is its small-group travel model. Tours typically average around 10 travellers, creating a more intimate and flexible experience compared with large coach tours.

Trips are led by knowledgeable local leaders who share insider insights into their home destinations. Instead of staying in large international hotels or relying on private transport, Intrepid itineraries often use locally owned accommodation, regional restaurants, and public transport to provide travellers with a more authentic perspective on each destination.

This approach allows travellers to engage with communities in a way that feels immersive rather than staged.

A Leader in Responsible Travel

Sustainability sits at the heart of Intrepid's business model. The company is a certified B Corporation, meaning it meets high standards for social and environmental performance, transparency, and accountability.

In recent years, Intrepid has introduced several initiatives aimed at making travel more responsible, including:

- Carbon labelling across hundreds of itineraries to show the environmental impact of each trip
- A commitment to supporting locally owned businesses and guides
- The Intrepid Foundation, which funds grassroots community projects around the world

A Global Company with Local Impact

Despite its global reach, Intrepid still operates with a community-focused mindset. The company hosts hundreds of thousands of travellers each year and employs more than a thousand staff and trip leaders worldwide.

Popular destinations include **Vietnam, Morocco, India, Peru, Japan and Italy**, though the company continually expands into new regions and emerging destinations. Their diverse portfolio ranges from cultural discovery trips and food tours to active adventures such as trekking, cycling, and wildlife experiences.

Why Travellers Love Intrepid

For many travellers, the appeal of Intrepid lies in its ability to combine structured travel with authentic discovery. Guests benefit from expert planning and local knowledge while still enjoying free time and flexibility during their journey.

Whether it's sharing street food with locals in Vietnam, hiking ancient trails in Peru, or navigating bustling markets with a local guide, Intrepid trips focus on experience-rich travel that connects people with the places they visit.

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY 2026

GIVE TO GAIN

This International Women's Day 2026, the theme "Give to Gain" celebrates how supporting others can create meaningful change for everyone involved. In travel, that spirit comes to life through initiatives that empower women and open doors to authentic cultural experiences.

Intrepid Travel's Women's Expeditions bring travellers of all ages together to explore destinations through the eyes of local women. Led by female guides, these journeys connect travellers with women-owned businesses, community groups, and inspiring local leaders. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

By supporting women in tourism, travellers help create opportunities for economic independence and leadership within local communities. In return, they gain something invaluable: deeper cultural insight, unique experiences, and genuine human connections.

It's travel that not only broadens horizons, but also helps build a more inclusive and empowering tourism industry



★ 4.9 (184)

India: Women's Expedition

🕒 13 days

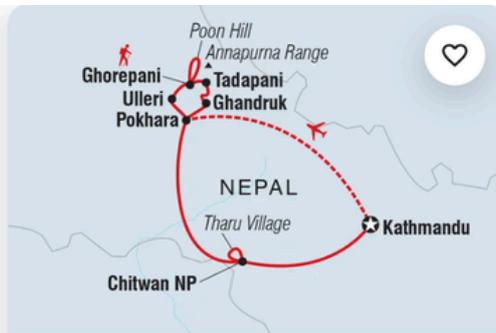
Original

+ Add to compare

From AUD \$2,320 **AUD \$1,856**

HHSL

Lowest price 12 Apr 2026



★ 5 (96)

Nepal: Women's Expedition

🕒 13 days

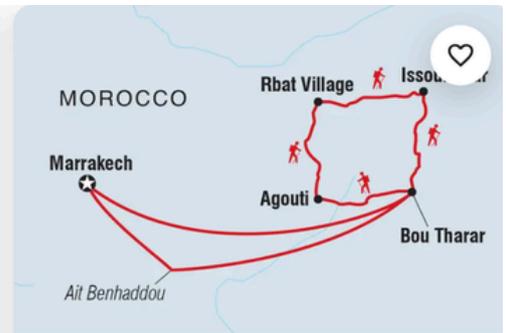
Original

+ Add to compare

From AUD \$2,730 **AUD \$2,457**

HNSW

Lowest price 26 Mar 2026



★ 4.9 (138)

Morocco: Women's Expedition

🕒 8 days

Original

+ Add to compare

From AUD \$2,140 **AUD \$1,712**

XMRW

Lowest price 18 Apr 2026



★ No reviews yet

New

Cambodia: Women's Expedition

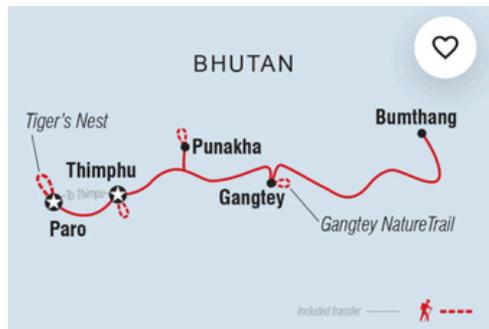
🕒 8 days

Comfort

+ Add to compare

TKSW

From **AUD \$2,150**



★ No reviews yet

New

Bhutan: Women's Expedition

🕒 11 days

Original

+ Add to compare

HNZW

From **AUD \$7,270**



★ No reviews yet

New

Peru: Women's Expedition

🕒 8 days

Comfort

+ Add to compare

GGKW

From **AUD \$3,240**

WHICH BALI ARE YOU

REFLECTIONS FROM MY 10 -DAY WORKING HOLIDAY

I've just returned from a 10-day working holiday in Bali, where mornings were spent answering emails with a tropical view and afternoons were dedicated to exploring different corners of the island. It reminded me once again that Bali isn't just one destination, it's a collection of completely different travel experiences, each with its own rhythm, energy, and personality.

Nusa Dua — The Peaceful Luxury Escape

If your idea of a holiday is unwinding, slowing down, and letting the ocean set the pace, Nusa Dua is your Bali. After the busier parts of my trip, this area felt like a gentle exhale. The beaches are clean and calm, lined with upscale resorts that create a peaceful and polished atmosphere. I spent mornings riding one of the complimentary bikes along the beachfront paths, watching the sun rise over the water while the island slowly woke up.

Afternoons were for long walks along the sand, stopping at beachfront restaurants for lunch or a cold drink. Even the shopping felt relaxed with a visit to Bali Collection, which many hotels provide a free shuttle to. It's the kind of place where you finish a busy trip, take a deep breath, and enjoy a few days of pure relaxation before heading home. If you missed it, you can [Read My Full Blog](#) about Nusa Dua.



Kuta & Legian — Bali Turned Up a Notch

A short drive away, the mood changes completely. The streets of Kuta and Legian are buzzing with motorbikes, music, and vendors inviting you into their shops. Bargaining is part of the shopping experience, and if you're after bargains you'll certainly find them, from sports jerseys to sunglasses and handbags.

This is also where Bali's beach culture comes alive. Legian Beach is lined with casual beach bars, bean bags scattered across the sand, and loungers perfectly placed for sunset. It's the kind of place where you grab a drink, watch the sky turn orange, and listen to music drifting down the beach. Cheap beach massages are everywhere too, one of my favourites was a simple but relaxing treatment at Tonys. On the other end of the scale, a fellow traveller enjoyed a four-hour pamper session at Padma Resort Legian for around AUD \$200, incredible value compared to Australia.

And the food scene? Fantastic. I found myself returning more than once to Mozzarella Restaurant & Bar, along with great meals at Lemongrass Thai Restaurant and Fat Chow. The best part of this area is the contrast, step outside your resort and you're in the middle of Bali's lively entertainment scene. Step back inside and you're surrounded by pools, gardens, and calm again. [Read my full "Kuta & Legian: Bali Turned Up a Notch" blog.](#)



Ubud — Bali's Cultural Heart

Further inland, the energy shifts again. Ubud is where jungle landscapes, rice terraces, and temples define the experience. It's a place for slow mornings overlooking lush green valleys, wandering through artisan markets, and discovering the spiritual side of the island. Many travellers come here for yoga retreats, wellness escapes, and cultural experiences, and it's easy to see why. The pace is slower, the scenery is breathtaking, and there's a deeper connection to traditional Balinese culture. Read more here on my travel inspiration story called [Bali - Ubud, Elephants & Orangutangs](#)



Uluwatu — Cliffs, Surf & Sunsets

On the southern peninsula, Uluwatu offers some of the island's most dramatic scenery. Here the coastline rises into towering cliffs overlooking powerful ocean waves. It's a paradise for surfers, sunset lovers, and travellers who enjoy beach clubs with incredible views. Watching the sunset near Uluwatu Temple while the sky turns deep shades of orange and pink is one of those Bali moments that stays with you long after the trip ends.

Seminyak — Stylish & Social

If your Bali includes boutique shopping, trendy cafés, and stylish villas, Seminyak might be your perfect match. Seminyak blends luxury with social energy. You'll find beautiful beach clubs, designer boutiques, and cafés serving some of the best coffee on the island. Days here are spent browsing shops, lounging by the pool, and ending the evening with cocktails by the ocean.

Ultimate Bestseller is Back! Nusa Dua All-Inclusive Luxury with Massages & Unlimited Free-Flow Drinks

FROM **A\$2204** PER ROOM

Jen Camilleri
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+61 411332172

Nusa Dua All-Inclusive Beachfront Indulgence with Massages, Unlimited Dining & Free-Flow Drinks

FROM **A\$2599** PER ROOM

Jen Camilleri
jen.camilleri@connectedtravel.com.au
+61 411332172

Extended by Popular Demand: Nusa Dua All-Inclusive Beachfront Bestseller with All-Day Dining & Unlimited Free-Flow Drinks

FROM **A\$1889** PER ROOM

Jen Camilleri
jen.camilleri@connectedtravel.com.au
+61 411332172

GRAND HYATT BALI

GRAND MIRAGE RESORT

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CONNECTED TIDES

CUNARD TO FOCUS ON LONGER VOYAGES

SLOW travel and longer voyages will be a heavier focus for Cunard Line in the future, senior vice president commercial Liz Fettes told Cruise Weekly. This style of sailing is popular with Australians, explained Fettes, who is Down Under for Cunard's 'A Letter from Australia to the World' event aboard Queen Mary.

Despite the ending of its home port program in Australia, the market remains one of Cunard's most important, she said. "Australia is such a vital market for us, and we appreciate the loyalty and the affinity



Despite the ending of its home port program in Australia, the market remains one of Cunard's most important, she said. "Australia is such a vital market for us, and we appreciate the loyalty and the affinity for the brand," said Fettes, pictured right with sales & marketing director Amy Williams.

The local market will be key to the cruise line's guest sourcing for its lengthier, more destination-heavy voyages. "Grand World Voyages will always have a presence with Australia, I think that's a huge push for us. "We're also looking at specific voyages we can do back-to-backs on," Fettes added.

Other programs popular with Australians are Cunard's 'connected voyages', she said, which encourage guests to daisy chain sailings aboard the cruise line's different 'Queens'. Cunard's European program will also begin to include more long voyages, in response to the line's focus on extended voyages. A lot of Cunard's current European itineraries are seven nights, Fettes explained, with the cruise line to incorporate more 14, 21, and 28 night voyages with few repeated ports.

AIR, LAND & SEA	AIR, LAND & SEA	CRUISE-ONLY
<h3>Alaska Adventure</h3> <p>Seattle Return</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes International Flights 2 Nights Hotels in Seattle 11 Night Cruise, <i>Queen Elizabeth</i> Main meals & entertainment onboard <hr/> <p>13 NIGHTS FROM \$4,275pp* Departs: 25 Aug 2026 Valid until: 31 Mar 2026 Bonus: SAVE up to \$3,540*</p>	<h3>Panama Canal and Caribbean Discovery</h3> <p>Seattle to Miami</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes International Flights 1 Night Hotel in Seattle & Miami 21 Night Cruise, <i>Queen Elizabeth</i> Main meals & entertainment onboard <hr/> <p>23 NIGHTS FROM \$7,399pp* Departs: 23 Sep 2026 Valid until: 30 Mar 2026 Bonus: SAVE up to \$2,099*</p>	<h3>Under Norway's Dancing Skies</h3> <p>London (Southampton) return</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 Night Cruise, <i>Queen Anne</i> Discover the Northern Lights & more Onboard Credit up to US\$200 per stateroom Main meals & entertainment onboard <hr/> <p>12 NIGHTS FROM \$2,659pp* Departs: 13 Oct 2026 Valid until: 30 Mar 2026 Bonus: SAVE up to \$2,380*</p>





Under-35s cruise bookings up

Younger Australians are fuelling a growing appetite for cruise holidays over the next 12 months, according to new data from the Tourism & Transport Forum Australia.

Around 44% of Aussies aged under 35 said they plan to book a cruise over the next year, a solid increase on the 35% recorded just two years ago. The younger demographic spurred the overall rise in cruise sentiment, with one in three Aussies now indicating a desire to take a cruise in 2026.

While under 35s showed the biggest growth trajectory, interest also remains strong among 35- to 44-year-olds - a key demographic for families with 42% mulling a cruise this year. This cohort was also found to be one of the most interested in booking a local cruise.



Sense of Adventure Required

A Travel Blog Igniting Your Passion for Travel because the world is full of wonders waiting to be explored, my blog is here to inspire, guide, and spark your wanderlust. From hidden gems to unforgettable journeys, let's uncover the beauty of travel together.



Missed Something Recently?

If you've missed any of my recent blogs, you can catch up via the links below. I share longer-form stories, destination insights, and thoughtful travel reflections there.

[Kuta & Legian: Bali Turned Up a Notch](#)

[A Sense of Soft Adventure, the Bali Nusa Dua Way](#)

Never miss a blog, subscribe to have them delivered straight to your inbox

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Soft Adventure Travel Tips for Bali

1. Start Your Days Early

Bali is at its most magical in the early morning. . Whether it's a quiet walk along Legian Beach, a gentle bike ride along the coast in Nusa Dua, or a peaceful coffee overlooking the jungle in Ubud, mornings offer adventure without the rush.

2. Mix Activity with Relaxation

Spend a morning visiting temples, markets, or rice terraces, then reward yourself with a beachside massage or pool time in the afternoon.

3. Embrace Slow Wandering

Wander through small streets, explore local markets, and follow beachfront paths instead of rushing between attractions. In places like Seminyak or Legian, simply strolling can lead to hidden cafés, boutique shops, and unexpected sunset spots.

If this newsletter stirred something, a memory, a curiosity, or the sense that it might be time to plan a journey of your own, I'm always happy to help shape it. Thoughtfully planned, well connected, and designed around how you want to experience the world.

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Call: 0411 332 172

Follow: <https://www.facebook.com/ConnectedTravelJenCamilleri>



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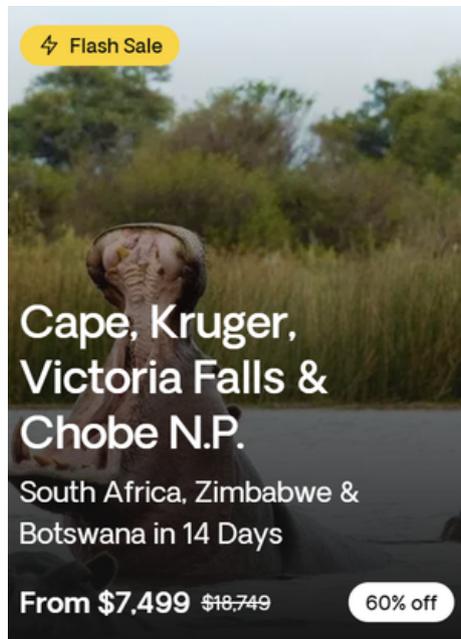
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China in 13 Days

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⚡ Flash Sale



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