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SA visas – they need to go online, says TAANZ

A salve has been applied to the South African visa situation with the establishment of a second application centre – but there is still a way to go, says TAANZ.

The South African High Commission has announced VFS Global will run a centre in Auckland from today. The facility is in addition to the one being run in Wellington.

This development comes on the back of a New Zealand Government ruling that South African visitors now require visas following alleged concerns about counterfeit passports – and the subsequent reciprocal action from the republic's government, which meant New Zealanders intending to visit South Africa needed to visit the South African Consulate in Wellington in person to obtain visas.

The move created an outcry. Andrew Olsen, chief executive of the Travel Agents Association of New Zealand (TAANZ), was particularly vocal, describing the situation as a schelmuzzle after visiting the centre in the capital.

In response to the latest announcement, Olsen says the new offering is an improvement but TAANZ is still hopeful the New Zealand government will change its decision, particularly given the move has resulted in soaring visa costs for Kiwis. Requests to meet with the government have

Continued on page 3



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Fathom Asia changes hands

Fathom Asia has been sold to Francis Travel Marketing, filling a new niche for the Auckland headquartered company, says FTM managing director Tony Smith.

Francis Travel Marketing is a well-established specialist tourism marketing campaign and has boutique wholesalers AIM Holidays (Australia and United

States, sports, events and shows) and Orton International (Europe) under its umbrella.

'We've got cruising well covered and we offer an extensive land-based range worldwide, which will be well complemented by Fathom Asia's suppliers.'

'This gives us more opportunities for inter-selling between companies and brands.'

Smith and Bruce Church, who has owned Fathom Asia for the past three years, says the new ownership came into effect yesterday. Church and Val Minter, who works with Fathom Asia, will continue to provide assistance to FTM while it takes over the business.

Tim Butcher of Travel Directions (right) and Tony Smith of Francis Travel Marketing toast to FTM's purchase of Fathom Asia



Agents can see Gary in advance

South Sea Cruises Group is inviting Auckland-based travel agents to share a movie and a laugh on Wednesday, 15 March.

The group, which incorporates South Sea Cruises, Blue Lagoon Cruises, Yasawa Island Holidays, Awesome Adventures Fiji and Vinaka Fiji Volunteering, is hosting a special preview of *Gary of the Pacific* before the movie's public release.

The preview will be at Event Cinemas in Newmarket. RSVP by Friday, 7 March, to jesse@ssc.com.fj

Adventure World hits the road

Adventure World is next month hosting its Our World Your Way 2017 National Roadshow in Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Wellington and Christchurch.

The roadshow is designed to give agents an opportunity to learn more about the company's offerings, including information on trips across Africa, Canada, Asia, South America and the USA.

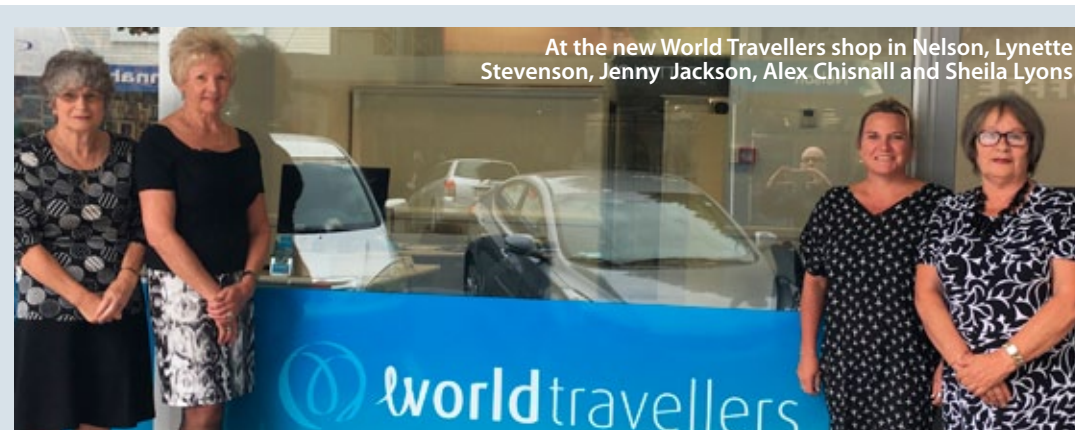
It will also offer agents chances to win prizes.

The roadshow is being hosted in

conjunction with Lindblad Expeditions, Exodus Travels, TrekAmerica, Star Clippers, Exo Travel, Oman Tourism, Rocky Mountaineer, South African Airways and LATAM Airlines.

It arrives in Auckland on 6 March, before going to Tauranga the following day and Wellington on 8 March before winding up in Christchurch on 9 March.

www.adventureworld.co.nz/
2017-roadshows



World Travellers opens up shop in Nelson

A new World Travellers has gone up in Nelson, with travel agent Alex Chisnall and her team joining the group.

Chief executive officer Eden Stevenson says it is the beginning of some exciting times ahead for World Travellers.

'Last year for us it was about our

supply channels and the GDS (global distribution system) tender, a real year of administration if you like,' says Stevenson.

'This year for World Travellers it is about maintaining our relevance in the market place and growing the group as a whole.'

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Adventure World specialist returns



Danielle Barton-Sheriff

Danielle Barton-Sheriff has started working at Adventure World as a North America & Asia specialist after eight years away from the company.

Barton-Sheriff worked for AW

between 2006 and 2009 as a senior reservation sales consultant before spending three years working at House of Travel and then moving into office management.

'I'm excited to be back working for Adventure World and I'm already enjoying getting stuck into the fantastic products we offer to clients,' says Barton-Sheriff.

SA visas – they need to go online, says TAANZ

Continued from page 1

been ignored, he adds.

'There were 18,000 visitors who arrived from South Africa last year. No one has shown any data on how many were refused entry. Should not the counterfeit passports be picked up pre embarkation? It's a problem and now a huge cost for the New Zealand traveller,'

Olsen says.

'The dual city arrangement is what we asked for from day one. It's an improvement but outsourcing the service is gouging the New Zealand traveller who now will pay four times as much for the privilege of a visa it should not need to obtain.

'South Africa needs to have an online



Andrew Olsen

offering. We've been pushing for that and will continue to do so until the visa offering is seamless, online and available equally to everyone irrespective of where they live. After all that is the reciprocal arrangement that NZ offers South Africa.'

The visa centre will be situated in Auckland's central city on Shortland Street. It will be an appointment-based system, but walk-ins will also be accommodated.

The total visa cost is now \$181 per person, which is made up of a \$95 processing fee and a NZ\$86 service charge. The previous cost is said to have been around \$50.

– Lisa Bradley

NZ convention organiser makes big move in Sydney

New Zealand's biggest convention and event organiser, The Conference Company, will this month open its first dedicated off-shore office in Sydney's central business district.

Managing director and president of the International Association of Professional Congress Organisers (IAPCO) Jan Tonkin says the Castlereagh St office, headed by Asia Pacific manager Stephen

Noble, is a significant investment for the company.

'Face-time with clients and our industry partners is critical to the success of our business, so investing in Sydney bricks and mortar was a logical next step as we continue to develop our international connections,' Tonkin says.

'We are experiencing a strong growth phase following the announcement of Auckland's International Convention

Centre, which has put New Zealand on the global conference map, and the investment in Australia represents a major push for new regional and international business,' she adds.

Tonkin says the Australasian market is reaping the benefits of increased investment in the sector, which relies on a multi-agency approach to secure valuable international conferences and events.

The Eagle has landed for solo travellers

Luxury Trans-Siberian Express Golden Eagle is offering solo travellers savings from more than US\$10,400 on its 4 June train journey from Moscow to Vladivostok.

Russian specialist Innovative Travel says Gold Class travel is now available on the share twin rate of US\$20,595 for those travelling solo. In Silver class, there is a saving of US\$8000 in Silver Class, as single travellers are now eligible for the share twin rate of US\$16,995 per person.

The 15-day journey starts in Moscow, and takes in Yekatinburg, Novobirsk, Irkursk. The price includes guaranteed English sightseeing, meals and drinks allowance.

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New Zealand Bronze Agency of the Year winner Amanda Ellis from Cruiseabout Parnell with Star Cruises' Brigita Devries



RCI's Adam Armstrong with New Zealand Gold Cruise Agency of the Year winner Eve Murphy from Pukekohe Travel



Rising Star New Zealand Melanie Morrison with Francis Travel Marketing's Tony Smith



Plan A Cruise Month Promotion Winner Gerard Murphy from Bon Voyage Cruises & Travel NZ with Travelmarvel's Deb Fox

Pukekohe Travel sails off with top CLIA honours

It was a golden night for Pukekohe Travel at the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Australasia 16th Annual Cruise Industry Awards, held in Sydney on Saturday.

The agency won the New Zealand Gold Agency of the Year Award for the second time in three years, while store manager Gail Littin also claimed the mantle of New Zealand Cruise Consultant of the Year – the first time a Kiwi agency and one of its team has taken home both top awards.

House of Travel Orewa was awarded Silver in the New Zealand Agency of the Year section, followed by Cruiseabout Parnell, which claimed bronze.

The awards, attended by more than 500 people, included the inaugural Australasian Plan a Cruise Month Agency promotion award. The title was won by New Zealand's Bon Voyage Cruises & Travel.

A total of 19 awards were handed

out across nine categories with the top Australian going once again going to Western Australia's Bicton Travel. In addition to winning an unprecedented sixth Gold Agency of the Year award, Bicton founder Carole Smethurst was inducted into the CLIA Hall of Fame.

CLIA Australasia chairman Steve Odell says the 16th awards night was a fitting celebration following a massive year for the cruise industry in Australia and New Zealand.

"The Cruise Industry Awards bring together the industry's brightest stars from across Australia and New Zealand in a fantastic celebration that recognises their outstanding achievements. Each year, the event continues to grow in stature in-line with the impressive expansion of the industry, cementing the CLIA's as the cruise industry's "night of nights", Odell says.

The full list of Kiwi winners were:

- **Cruise Agency of the Year – New Zealand:**
Pukekohe Travel, Gold;
House of Travel Orewa, Silver;
Cruiseabout Parnell, Bronze.
- **Online Agency of the Year – New Zealand:**
Cruise Republic.
- **Broker of the Year – New Zealand:**
Debbie Bradford, NZ Travel Brokers.
- **Cruise Consultant of the Year – New Zealand:**
Gail Littin, Pukekohe Travel.
- **Rising Star Award – New Zealand:**
Melanie Morrison, HOOT Cruises.
- **Plan a Cruise Month Agency Promotion Award – Australasia:**
Bon Voyage Cruise & Travel, New Zealand.



New Zealand Silver agency of the year Dennis Payne and Yvonne Payne from House of Travel Orewa

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HARBOURSIDE DINING IN SYDNEY

Masts clinking, waves lapping and coastal panoramas – waterside dining is one of Sydney's essential experiences. With its abundance of harbour and ocean coastline, the city is filled with restaurants where a table right by the water heightens the culinary experience.

LuMi Bar & Dining, on one of Pyrmont heritage wharves, makes the most of the harbour surrounds with all-glass walls and, at night, twinkles like a jewellery box.

Emerging waterfront development Barangaroo now boasts Somer Sivrioglu's **Anason**, where the Efendy chef is bringing his delicious Turkish Meze treats from Bosphorus to Sydney Harbour.

To the north of the Harbour, Manly's lovely 1933-built bathing pavilion has re-opened as **The Bistro at Manly Pavilion**. Perched over the water, the new eatery combines Mediterranean dishes with amazing views out to the mouth of the harbour and its dramatic headlands. Nearby, **Hugo's Manly** makes the most of the panoramas from Manly Wharf with luxurios outdoor seating.



Hugo's Manly

One-way 4WD campervan deals

DriveAway Holidays has released free one-way camper pick-ups from Melbourne for as little as \$52 a day.

The deal applies to Britz Outback and Safari Landcruiser 4WD vehicles, which can be returned to Perth, Broome, Darwin, Alice Springs, Cairns or Brisbane if travelling between 1 April and 15 May and booked before 28 February.

This offer applies to rentals of between seven and 14 days for all destinations except Broome, where the booking requirement is from 14 to 21 days.

Vehicles are suitable for up to five people.

www.driveaway.co.nz



DriveAway Holidays have cheap deals from Melbourne

Take the kids to the Outback these holidays

New South Wales touring company, Out of the Ordinary Outback, is offering two discounted packages for families keen to explore the destination during the school holidays this April, which includes Easter and Anzac Day.

The first deal is a 10% discount on one-day tours to Mutawintji National Park (when booked before 28 February, 2017).

This park is five hours north west of Broken Hill and boasts red rock ledges and caves containing indigenous art. It is a restricted area that Tri State Safaris (part of Out of the Ordinary Outback) has gained special access to.

Discounted prices for the tour in a coach (including lunch and morning tea) cost A\$198 for adults, A\$158 for 14 to 17 year-olds, A\$99 for children aged 5 to 13, and kids under five travel free.

The next offer is a 'stay three nights and get the fourth night free' deal for caravan and camping bookings at the Warrawong on the Darling camp, which is situated by a billabong at Wilcannia in the outback.

Alternatively, caravanners and campers can pay for three nights and receive a camp dinner around the fire for four people for half price.

The camp offers secluded caravan and camping sites by the river, a new amenities block, laundry, camp kitchen and BBQ area, a small shop and art gallery and bushwalking tracks.

Under the discounted offer, a family of four can stay for four nights on a powered site for A\$141 (nightly rate is A\$47 per night) or on an unpowered site for four nights for A\$111 (A\$37 a night).

outoftheordinaryoutback.com.au

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Cruising

Cruising with celebrities

Sweetie, darlings... Iris is on board

Fashion royalty Iris Apfel will join Cunard's line-up of fashion icons to sail onboard Queen Mary 2 for the cruise line's second annual Transatlantic Fashion Week from 31 August to 7 September, 2017.

Apfel, 95, is a jet-setting celebrity known for her individual style and joyful flair. Featured in cutting-edge style campaigns for Macy's, MAC, Kate Spade and Swarovski, Apfel has become renowned for her signature bold round glasses, oversized bangles and necklaces, and rich, flamboyant, colourful garments.

During Transatlantic Fashion Week, Apfel will present a Q&A session and will introduce a showing of Iris, a documentary featuring fashion, creativity and her soaring free spirit.

'I've lived quite a life of fashion and can't wait to experience style at sea,'



Iris Apfel's fashion choices are about to make waves on Queen Mary 2

she says.

Transatlantic Fashion Week 2017 will also feature designer Julien Macdonald and fashion historian Colin McDowell.

Departing Southampton the voyage costs from \$2029 per person twin share.

www.cunard.com

Holland America and Oprah partner up

Holland America Line and *O, The Oprah Magazine* have announced an exclusive partnership that will see Oprah Winfrey cruise around Alaska in July.

'I'm so excited to continue 2017 as my Year of Adventure with another bold, new place I've never been before: Alaska!' says Winfrey.

Additionally, four activities inspired by the magazine will be scheduled aboard select North America ships throughout 2017 and 2018.

These cruises will feature programmes developed with the *Oprah Magazine's* editors. One of the initiatives will see members of the SuperSoul 100 — thought leaders and visionaries who use their talents to elevate humanity — onboard sharing inspirational ideas and tips.

More than 300 Holland America Line cruises sailing in North America

from August 2017 through to 2018 will have a variety of activities that bring the magazine to life, including meditation, tai chi, healthy cooking demonstrations, an onboard book club and more.

O, The Oprah Magazine's 'Share the Adventure' Cruise to Alaska will take place on 15 to 22 July, 2017.

www.hollandamerica.com/OprahMag

Oprah Winfrey's magazine will hold special demonstrations onboard Holland America Line cruises



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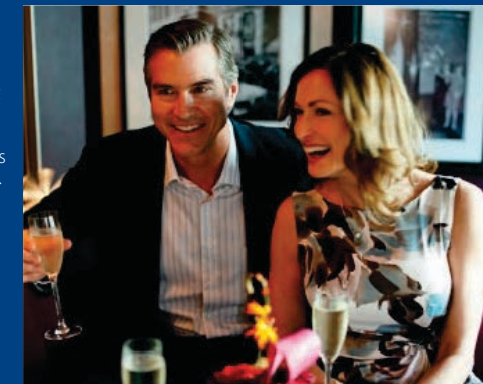
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Crusing

Kiwis flock to uber-luxurious Silver Muse

The clock is ticking until the much-lauded official launch of Silversea's new flagship, Silver Muse, from Monte Carlo on 19 April.

And Silversea's managing director Asia Pacific, Amber Wilson, confirms cruise-loving Kiwis will be among the passengers counting down the days.

'Interest has been high from the Asia Pacific region for Silver Muse's inaugural season, and there have been substantial bookings from New Zealand for 2017.'

Wilson says Kiwi passion for the new vessel is in line with increased New Zealand attention being placed on the cruise line's other itineraries, adding the market has been growing between five to 10% per year.

Strong Kiwi figures were noted on

Mediterranean, Alaska and Canada runs during 2016. There was also increased interest from the New Zealand market in Silversea's Expedition products and journeys to the Galapagos Islands.

This year, Silversea's Mediterranean itineraries are taking top billing among Kiwis, followed by the Baltic and South America.

The addition of the 596-passenger Silver Muse will expand Silversea's fleet to nine ships. After the christening, the vessel sets sail the next day on 20 April, and will visit 34 countries and more than 130 ports during her inaugural year. It will spend the European spring and summer months around the Mediterranean before crossing to North America where it will homeport in Fort Lauderdale's Port Everglades from October.

In other changes, Silversea's first vessel, Silver Cloud, will be converted into an ice-class ship and moved into the liner's Expedition line, which is presently served by three ships. The new-look Cloud will launch on 15 November on a 16-day voyage encompassing Antarctica.

Silver Mews



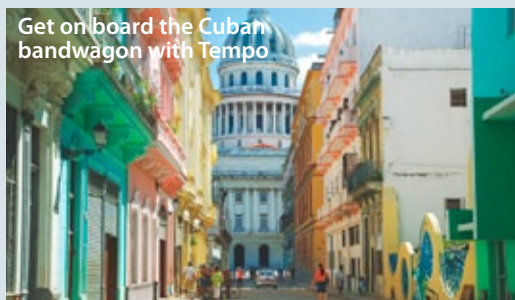
Tempo – no cabin fever here

Tempo holidays is offering 25% off the cabin cost of its 2017 Celestyl Cruise Cuba itinerary.

The saving, on offer until 28 February, means the cost is reduced by \$247.5 per person. The discount brings the overall cruise price, including taxes, a beverage package and shore excursions, to around \$2066 per person.

The eight-day programme also includes meals. Additionally, on board there is

Get on board the Cuban bandwagon with Tempo



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Applicants who applied for our other recent Sales Representative role last year need not re-apply.

Vietnamese cycling tours a hit with Kiwis

A boom in Kiwi travellers to Vietnam combined with a trend in travellers seeking more active holidays has led to an increase in enquiry for Exodus' Cycling Vietnam itinerary, Adventure World says.

The 14-day trip combines some of the best cycling routes in Vietnam with time to explore the country's long coastline of beaches, paddy fields and forested mountains.

Clients can relax in the beachside town of Nha Trang before cruising around the landscape of Halong Bay, while incorporating cycling into many areas of the trip.

This adventure from Ho Chi Minh in the south to Hanoi in the north is



Adventure World gets the wheels in motion in Vietnam

priced from \$2535 per person, including accommodation, many meals, transport, activities and an Exodus tour leader throughout.

Make it Mewar for culture and art

The annual Mewar festival, held in Udaipur, Rajasthan, celebrates age-old traditions, culture and art in the region.

Exotic Holidays' managing director Rahul Sharma says: 'People get indulged in this event. They enjoy fun-filled opportunities, and learn local arts from professional artists.'

This year the festival dates are 30 March to 1 April.

Once the religious part of the festival is over, Rajasthani culture comes to the fore through songs, dances and other performances. The event culminates with a fireworks display.

Folk music (including classical vocal and instrumental music) and traditional dance performances are



Mewar Festival is in Udaipur, India

organised by professionals throughout the three-day festival.

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Mark your calendars for the September festival at Inle Lake

Exotic Holidays is reminding agents of a major festival that takes place at one of the most famous shrines in Myanmar – Paung Daw U Pagoda in Inle Lake, which is home to five small buddha images.

Once a year there is an 18-day festival during which the Buddha images are ceremonially rowed around the lake in a colourful barge accompanied by many other boats and

the Inle leg rowers.

Only four Buddha Images are carried on the royal barge and conveyed around 14 villages on the Lake because it is said that once the barge tipped over and the fifth image was temporarily lost. It was later reported to mysteriously appear back at the pagoda.

Large crowds of people gather on the shore to celebrate the occasion. There are also different dance shows

and fairs during this time and the most interesting event of the festival, especially for travellers, is the boat races by leg rowers.

The festival this year is from 21 September to 8 October – the end of the monsoon season.

www.exoticholidays.co.nz/destination/packages/Cambodia/8

Paung Daw U Pagoda festival



Bike ride for Anzac Day in Thailand

Grasshopper Adventures is hosting a four-day bicycle trip to the River Kwai in central-west Thailand from 23 to 26 April.

The journey weaves through a historical landscape that was ruled by Khmer kings a thousand years ago and then invaded by the Imperial Japanese Army in 1941.

The trip includes attendance to the Anzac Day dawn service in Hell Fire Pass and mid-morning wreath laying ceremonies in the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery on 25 April to commemorate those who served during the two world wars.

'The bike riders join in honouring those who gave their lives in the service of their country and who suffered the hardships of Japanese prisoner of war camps to build the Death Railway,' says Adam Platt-Hepworth, CEO of Grasshopper Adventures.

During the trip participants will walk across the bridge on the River Kwai, visit an additional war cemetery, tour the Hellfire Pass museum, eat a traditional Gunfire Breakfast of tea and ANZAC

Bike riders take to Thailand to honour those who served in the two world wars



biscuits, ride the train over the Krasae Cave trestle bridge, and visit the Muang Singh Khmer temple remains.

Travellers will also cycle 37km on 23 April, 29km on the 24th, and 43km on the 26th. Much of the riding is on scenic back roads in Kanchanaburi, which is known for its tall jungle-clad hills, Buddhist caves and emerald water falls.

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Pacific Islands – Africa

Rising up for fitness

Uprising Fiji in Pacific Harbour is launching health and fitness retreats this year.

General manager James Pridgeon says the resort will work with Tribal Strength Academy to release the programme to the local market in March, with the intent of rolling it out to international markets.

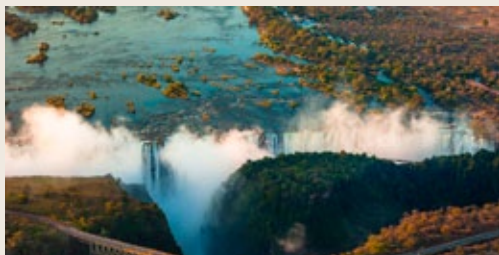
‘It’s what they already do so well in places like Bali and Thailand, but we are so much closer for the Australasian market. We will be providing programmes that include yoga, clean eating, detox and working on fitness. It works well with our current emphasis on sports tourism.’

More flights link Kruger to Vic Falls

World Journeys has welcomed increased frequency of Airlink flights between Nelspruit KMIA and Livingstone, saying this will enhance the ability to link the top spots of Kruger National Park and Victoria Falls in a tailor-made itinerary.

Effective from 26 March, 2017, Airlink will increase the frequency of flights from three times a week to a daily service.

info@worldjourneys.co.nz



Namibia in high demand, says World Journeys

World Journeys reports demand for travel to Namibia continues to grow, often combined with trips to South Africa and/or Botswana.

World Journeys has added a private touring option to its Ultimate Namibia Safari, for those who prefer private arrangements plus the flexibility of choosing their own travel dates.

The 10-day Ultimate Namibia Safari is a small group (a maximum of eight participants) exploration of the dunes of Sossusvlei, the Namib Desert, the German heritage of Swakopmund, and the wildlife of remote Damaraland and Etosha National Park.

The package is priced from \$4101 per person (twin) including nine nights accommodation, luxury safari vehicles, guides, meals, entrance fees and park fees.



Herd of elephants snapped in Etosha National Park in Namibia

The Ultimate Namibia Safari - Private version of this itinerary is priced from \$5640 based on a party of four travelling with a guide. Pricing varies seasonally and depends on the number of people travelling together.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wedding venue plans

Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort is building a new wedding venue due to demand. General manager of the resort, Peter Hopgood says the venue is expected to open early next year and will accommodate 250 guests for a reception as opposed to the 100 currently catered for. ‘This market is performing strongly and we are expecting a 5% increase this year. We had 215 weddings in 2016 and that is set to increase to 230.’

Sea Fiji energised

Sea Fiji has added a new boat to its fleet. Ron Bradley, global director of the company, says the addition means Sea Fiji can now carry 110 passengers across the fleet. The new boat, Energiser, will be designated for inter-island services consisting of fast boat transfers to the Mamanucas. Other boats in the fleet, like Delta and Echo, continue to service the outer islands.

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New Zealand

Four new suites

New Zealand's newest luxury lodge, Mahu Whenua Ridgeline Homestead and Eco Sanctuary, a 20-minute drive from Wanaka, has introduced four new suites to cater for demand.

Each suite sleeps up to two people and features a king or king-split bed as well as an ensuite with bath. Prices start at \$1850 per suite per night for up to two guests, including all meals, an in-house chef, concierge and staff.

www.mahuwhenua.co.nz

Contiki – changes in NZ itineraries

Contiki has launched its 2017/18 South Pacific brochure with six new and improved trips in New Zealand and Australia, including a seven-day trip to the Rhythm & Alps festival in Queenstown.

Comprising 22 itineraries across Australia and New Zealand, with six ways to travel, Contiki's 2017/18 South Pacific product offers 'No Regrets Experiences', from outback adventures to beach and reef trips.

The new trip to Rhythm & Alps departs on 28 December, 2017, staying three nights in Queenstown and three nights in glamping accommodation at the festival in Cardrona.

Amended New Zealand trips include The Big Tiki, Kiwiana Panorama, Sun & Steam, Northern Choice and Jaffas 'n' Jandals for 2017. The itineraries have changed in the North Island to

Crowne Plaza's new-look meeting spaces

Crowne Plaza Queenstown will have a fresh look following upgrades to its conference spaces and public areas.

The half million-dollar refurbishment will see the introduction of more high-end meeting technology and new carpets fitted in all conference and meeting rooms, the pre and post-function area, threesixty restaurant, lobby, and around the concierge desk and hotel corridors.

New furniture in the lobby, threesixty restaurant and The Atrium will add a modern twist to interiors.



Crowne Plaza Queenstown will revamp its lobby bar, entrance areas and threesixty restaurant

DoubleTree is set for Wellington

The Hilton is opening its first property in Wellington this year under the DoubleTree by Hilton brand.

The seven-story hotel, expected to open late 2017, will be located in the T&G Building on Lambton Quay.

When complete it will have 108 rooms (including 21 suites), a restaurant, bar, boardroom and gym.

Dianna Vaughan, senior vice president and global head, DoubleTree by Hilton says: 'The hotel boasts an ideal location for both the business and leisure traveller with close proximity to the central business district and walking distance to Te Papa Museum and the cable car as well as numerous shops and cafes.'

The property is operated by Sarin Investments, which has signed a franchise agreement with DoubleTree by Hilton.

Cricket helps Wellington Airport bat for six million

Wellington Airport is getting ready for a big year, gearing up for six million annual visitors to pass through its gates three years ahead of schedule.

The airport had anticipated it would reach the six-million milestone in 2019, but large events are expected to draw big crowds to the capital.

This month is likely to be the busiest month, thanks to the Guns 'n Roses concert and Black Caps versus South Africa cricket matches coupled with the already bustling business and leisure period.

Later in the year, the airport is anticipating a significant increase in passenger flows due to the British and Irish Lions tour games in June/July and the Rugby League World Cup quarter final in November.

Wellington Airport's chief commercial officer Matt Clarke says these big events are exactly what the airport had in mind when it completed its new domestic terminal last year.

'We're well prepared to handle these peaks and provide visitors to the capital a great welcome and add to a smooth journey,' says Clarke.

Passenger numbers are thought to have been lifted by new Jetstar, Fiji Airways and Singapore Airlines routes, as well as an increase in capacity from both Air New Zealand and Qantas and new services from Sounds Air.



remove Waitomo as a destination, and instead adding in a new destination Mount Ruapehu and a new Special Stay overnight at the Kings Hotel. There are also changes to the product in Paihia to include a visit to the Treaty of Waitangi grounds for a guided tour.

Amended Australian trips include the Big Walkabout, City to Surf, Beaches & Reefs, Reefs & Rainforest and Sunsets & Surf, which now allow for almost another full day in Byron Bay to soak up the vibes.

Contiki is offering savings of up to \$435 on trips booked and paid before 11 April. Further discounts include booking trips to Australia and New Zealand at the same time saving \$50 as well as 5% off the price of the second trip (the discount will be applied to the less expensive trip).

www.contiki.com

Passengers sharpen fitness with Man City

Etihad Airways has launched a new inflight fitness video featuring an all-star lineup from Manchester City Football Club.

In the video footy players Vincent Kompany, Pablo Zabaleta, Fernando and Bacary Sagna team up with the airline cabin crew to perform a series of stretches and exercise tips.

Workout suggestions in the video include shoulder circles, rotations, neck rolls, ankle circles, arm and leg stretches and forward bends. The team also recommends staying hydrated during the flight.

Man City supporters are renown for their dedication to the team. Any fan who travelled to support Man City at a ll of their international games last year would have travelled almost 50,000 miles – nearly 10 times more than the average person travels in a year.

Airline seating: it can be a squeeze

Air intelligence company OAG says airlines are now fitting between 7% to 8% more seats into their aircraft than they were initially designed to carry.

Research compares 14 major airlines, including British Airways, Delta Air Lines and Qatar Airways, and highlights seat configuration, seat width and recline, entertainment screen size and legroom space for each airline's economy and business class cabins.

Most of the airlines researched offer a spacious business class cabin. The premium seat cabin on A330 flights with Aer Lingus offers a 1-2-1 seat configuration, and the upper class cabin on Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner flights with Virgin Atlantic, has a 1-1-1 seat layout.

The situation in economy class is obviously different. For example, the research says economy cabins on board B777-300ER aircraft with Emirates and Boeing 747-400 aircraft with KLM

feature a 3-4-3 seat configuration.

When flying in an economy seat the distance between the back of a seat and the rear of the seat in front (seat pitch) varies from 73.66cm for standard seats on easyJet flights, to 81.82cm with Singapore Airlines. Extra legroom space may be provided in the exit row of many aircraft, although there may be certain restrictions for passengers wishing to sit in these.

In terms of elbow space in economy cabins, the distance between armrests (seat width) only varies slightly across the 14 airlines researched. There is 4cm difference between Ryanair's measurements of 43cm and Singapore Airlines' measurement of 47cm.

Nine of the airlines researched provide economy cabin passengers with reclining seats, including British Airways and American Airlines, which offer a seat recline of 5.08cm and 15.24cm respectively.

Airlines strong but momentum slows

The airline industry's initial financial results for the fourth quarter of 2016 indicate a continued solid performance for the air transport industry, albeit with ongoing signs that momentum in the profitability cycle has weakened.

International Air Transport Association's (IATA) Financial Monitor report for January 2016 shows global airline share prices began this year on a positive note, rising 1.5% in January and a healthy 6.8% over the past year. However, the industry has lagged the overall performance of global equities on both measures.

Crude oil prices have been broadly stable around US\$55/bbl since the start of December and spent January trading in a tight range. Prices are expected to rise only gradually.

Downward pressure on industry-wide passenger yields remains, despite increases in key cost components, particularly fuel and, in some markets, labour. However the aggregate masks differences in individual markets.

Both passenger and freight demand ended 2016 on a strong note, delivering above-average growth for the year. Likewise, load factors also performed strongly in 2016, with the passenger measure registering a record annual outcome.

Premium airfares continue to generally hold up better than those of the economy cabin, helping to support airline financial performance.

Concorde finds its final resting place at new Bristol museum

Plane spotters of the first order will no doubt be marking Bristol in their calendars this year.

The south-west English city has now given the supersonic passenger aircraft, the Concorde, its final resting place at the soon-to-be opened Bristol Aerospace Centre.

The Concorde, which had been parked on a runway since it's last flight over Bristol in 2003, will be the centrepiece at the £16m museum, which opens in July or August this year.

Visitors to the museum will be able to step inside the Concorde, which was built and tested in Bristol as well as the last city in the world to be flown to.

Capable of cruising at more than twice the speed of sound and crossing the Atlantic in under three hours, passengers aboard the Concorde reportedly took in the curvature of the Earth while sipping Champagne.

The museum, covering more than a century of flights, two world wars and modern aircraft, will offer guided



From 2179km/h to standstill – aviation buffs now have a chance to get on board the final Concorde

tours and group rates as well and the opportunity to host events under the wings of the Concorde.

www.aerospacebristol.org



Spa on rails

World Journeys advises that the luxury Belmond Royal Scotsman will have a new spa carriage from April this year.

It will offer 'Bamford' treatments for passengers travelling on overnight rail journeys throughout Scotland and Great Britain.

The two single treatment rooms will feature picture windows looking out onto the Scottish countryside.

Belmond has also just named golfing professional Sam Torrance as host of the 'Scottish Golf Tour' on board Belmond Royal Scotsman from 26 to 30 June 2017. Departing from Edinburgh, this fully inclusive four-night golfing adventure offers guests the unique chance to play with a champion golfer and take on the challenge of three of Scotland's award-winning courses, including Royal Dornoch Golf Club and Castle Stuart Links Course in the Highlands. Non-golfers can visit Dunrobin Castle, seat of the Earls and Dukes of Sutherland, visit Glenmorangie distillery, and join excursions to 'pearl of the north' Ballindalloch Castle, the Pitmedden Gardens and 13th Century Fyvie Castle. info@worldjourneys.co.nz

Chimu offers up new Antarctica experiences

Chimu Adventures has unveiled its Antarctica brochure for 2017/18.

The programme features a number of new itineraries and activities, which include:

- Shackleton's Antarctica (priced from \$19,885 per person), an 18-day exploration cruise following in the wake of explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton
- Frozen Frontier (\$12,978 per person), an 11-day fundraising voyage organised by Chimu in conjunction with MAD Project
- In the Wake of Mawson (\$26,576 per person): A 26-day expedition retracing the footsteps of Sir Douglas Mawson. This trip is a collaboration between Chimu and Mawson's Hut Foundation,



which departs Hobart, Australia, for east Antarctica

- Antarctica in a day – a 12-and-a-half hour sightseeing flight departing Sydney, Melbourne or Perth for Antarctica. This adventure is designed for travellers who have little time and are on a limited budget

The brochure is available through brochure net and is being distributed to travel agents

across the country.

To celebrate the launch, Chimu is offering a 20% early bird discount on the Shackleton's Antarctica and Frozen Frontier itineraries for a limited time.

CLICK HERE for details.

Explore the backroads of Nevada

Adventure World is offering Kiwis the chance to see Nevada beyond its bright lights.

The 11-night self-drive Backroads of Nevada will take travellers to Death Valley, Yosemite, Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks. The journey also visits Lake Tahoe, Reno, Eureka, Ely and Tonopah on the round-trip from Las Vegas.

The holiday is priced from \$1555 per person, including accommodation, car rental for 10 days, driving directions and an information package.

CLICK HERE for details.



Hit the road with Adventure World

Talking Tucan

Tucan Travel's new Worldwide Adventure for All Brochure has extra information on how clients can get the most out of a Machu Picchu trek.

Penny Henderson, who represents the company in this market, says Tucan has also added a one day trek to its choices. The excursion is permitted and limited to 250 people a day. Tucan continues to offer the four day, three night programme.

'The Inca Trail is always popular,' says Henderson. 'This year we have seen a spike in the awareness of the trail.'

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Fares, GDP, and desire for difference all in mix

Cheap fares are only part of the equation when it comes to the current leisure travel boom out of the country, says Sean Berenson, product nation leader at Flight Centre.

The company kicked off its New Zealand expo season in Auckland over the weekend and tentative figures indicate that 14,000 to 15,000 visited the ASB Showgrounds event.

The figure is about the same as last year but suppliers on the floor reported interest was probably at its highest level yet, and Flight Centre stores that were open around the city also reported strong bookings.

The show hits Wellington next weekend and Christchurch a week later.

Berenson says there is no doubt that highly publicised record low fares, particularly to Europe right now, were

encouraging New Zealanders to look at taking more than one trip a year.

‘Going to Europe is not a trip of a lifetime any more. I think what has changed is that Kiwis are taking more than one overseas trip a year. They are saying, “We’ll still get to the South Pacific this year and then in July we’ll go to Europe as well.” There are still only 4.67 million people in New Zealand so the only way the market can be growing is if people are travelling more.’

Berenson says other influencing factors were the strong economy, the desire to see new destinations and a growing trend in experiential travel.

‘The GDP is definitely part of the equation and we find that people are really wanting to get off the beaten track, experience culture and get amongst nature. It’s not just about going to an

island for a flop and drop these days.’

Backing up the ‘more than one trip theory’ is evidence that destinations such as USA, Australia, Pacific and Asia were all generating considerable interest and bookings over the weekend.

‘We are finding that everywhere is tracking up,’ says Berenson.

Jodie Burnard, general manager marketing at Flight Centre, says the expo had a number of changes this year – including a layout that put consultants in the middle of the floor instead of at the edges, food stations, and more of an experiential focus with virtual reality goggles in Discovery Zones.

To see more pictures from the expo click here:

www.travelinc.co.nz/content/events/paparazzo



Sian Amani, Grace Kim and Amber Holyoake



Cheryl Dunleavy, Tahlia Sundrum, Flight Centre Howick



Welcome to the Flight Centre Expo, says Natalia Spreys and Eliza Ferguson



It looks like the travel industry is sailing with a tail wind this year – and at the wheel to chart the course at the Flight Centre Expo were Tori Courtney, Sean Berenson, and Jodie Burnard



Heather Gordon, The Warwick Fiji; Petero Manufofau, Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort and Ema Rayasi, The Naviti Resort



Rebecca Binkhorst, Jess Noble, both Student Flights

MYSTERY SHOP



The latest mystery

We've stumbled across another mystery shop. As usual, we don't need help with the brand – that's pretty obvious – but where is it?

We are looking for the name of an Auckland suburb this week and if you think you know the answer send it to competitions@promag.co.nz. Remember to put Mystery Shop in the subject line.

Last week's mystery shop was a bit more difficult than usual but we were chuffed when plenty of staff from helloworld Miramar recognised their own store. Awesome team work – we drew Tori Maxwell's name out of the barrel. A Lonely Planet book is on its way.

Forging closer tourism ties

New Zealand tourism officials on Friday welcomed a delegation of 10 travel companies lead by chairman of the China National Tourism Administration, Jinzao Li.

The delegation attended the China-New Zealand Tourism Forum 2017, which was staged at The Langham Hotel in Auckland to promote bilateral tourism.

Before the forum, Tourism Minister Paula Bennett hosted Li and the group at the Wellington Beehive.

Topics discussed during both events included visas and New Zealand's lack of tourism-related infrastructure.

At the forum, Grant Webster,



Minister of Tourism Paula Bennett and CNTA chairman Li Jinzao

Tourism Industry Aotearoa chair, urged tourism executives to increase skills that cater to savvy Chinese tourists.

Fancy a trip to Laos?

Innovative Travel advises trade there are two places left on its Laos and Singapore Airlines educational departing on 15 March.

Famil highlights include visiting the Plain of Jars, plus historical and cultural experiences in Laos.

On return to New Zealand, there is an opportunity to update on Singapore's latest attractions.

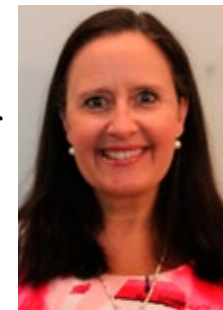
tours@innovative-travel.com

New with Ponant

Deb Corbett will take up the newly created position of commercial director Asia Pacific (APAC) for cruise company Ponant.

Corbett has had 25 years in the travel industry across many levels including leadership, team development, negotiation, customer relationship, brand management, and traditional and social media.

Prior to this role, Corbett was head of sales, marketing and product with Travel the World and held senior management roles with Garuda Indonesia, Travelscene American Express and CTC Lines.



Deb Corbett

TRAVELinc

Your personal magazine twice a week

MEMO

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