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FRI
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ISSUE
1014

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Self famils in Saigon and Buenos Aires

Adventure World and Air New Zealand have launched new travel agent self-famil packages for Buenos Aires and Saigon.

Trade can explore Vietnam for four nights for \$1180 per person plus taxes for agents and one companion, including return flights Auckland to Saigon with Air New Zealand, four nights' accommodation at the four-star Grand Hotel, return airport transfers with an English-speaking guide, private half-day city tour and Cu Chi tunnels tour.

Or agents can visit Buenos Aires for \$1291 per person plus taxes for the agent and a companion, including return flights Auckland to Buenos Aires with Air New Zealand, four nights' accommodation at the four-star Intersur Recoleta hotel, return airport transfers, half-day city tour and La Ventana tango dinner and show.

'Our 2016 self-famil packages were extremely popular with agents and we're excited for them to return for 2017. It can be difficult to be an expert on somewhere you haven't visited, so we see real value in agents experiencing these destinations that are becoming increasingly popular with Kiwis first-hand,' Adventure World NZ general manager Dave Nicholson says.

Both offers must be booked before 30 June for selected

Continued on page 2

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DriveAway offers Mustangs in Germany

DriveAway has launched American Mustangs in Germany, providing more variety for clients' self-drive holidays.

From July, travellers can collect their vehicles from Frankfurt, Munich, Hamburg, Berlin, Dusseldorf and Stuttgart (both downtown and airport locations). DriveAway has seen an increase in collections throughout Germany from 2015 to 2016 of approximately 10%.

DriveAway's managing director Chris Hamill says DriveAway continues to grow and looks forward to offering different vehicles in a variety of destinations.

'We continue to add more and more supply options globally as our growth continues. To drive an American Muscle car in Europe is something we would have only dreamt about 10 years ago.'

The Mustangs are priced from NZ\$217 per day. Prices include, unlimited kilometres, airport surcharges, winter tyres between November and March, collision damage waiver, theft protection, third party liability insurance, taxes and 24 hour roadside assistance.

www.driveaway.co.nz



Default case results: TAANZ comments

The chief executive of the Travel Agents Association of New Zealand yesterday issued the following statement referring to the Greenwood's Corner default.

Dear all.

TAANZ has today received confirmation from its associates at the NZ Police that Nimesh Kumar AMIN was sentenced yesterday to 3 years and 2 months jail time. He has served 12 months concurrently. An appeal process is open to him. He has been ordered to repay 105,000 dollars to customers and creditors. It has taken some time to get

this result which would not have been possible without the perseverance of the NZ Police assigned to the case and their listening to our urgings that AMIN was in fact involved in criminal activity.

The judge granted the defendant bail to allow him to go to Westpac to obtain the bank cheque for \$105,000, before surrendering himself into custody.

Kind regards,

*Andrew Olsen
Chief Executive
TAANZ*

Two pronged learning experience

Philippines based Pack Ya Bags team members Kristine Diabardo, finals and pricing; and Herlee Loreto, social media and websites; were reaping double benefits by being in New Zealand this week.

As well as visiting outbound travel agents, the pair have been having a look around New Zealand in preparation for the launch of Pack Ya Bags' inbound brochure for this market.

Pack Ya Bags director Penny Henderson says the Philippines is an emerging inbound market for New Zealand. 'We've already had some interest out of the



Visiting New Zealand... Kristine Diabardo and Herlee Loreto, based in the Philippines with Pack Ya Bags

Philippines and it will be good to have people who can talk to Filipino agents about the destination.'

Self famils in Saigon and Buenos Aires

Continued from page 1

travel periods in 2017. Connections from all other Air New Zealand-served domestic airports are available at \$150 per person return. **CLICK HERE** for details.



Buenos Aires... one of the self-famil destinations

KEEP YOUR CLIENTS HAPPY



Click here to order

Last chance for Cup

Innovative Travel has limited allocations for America's Cup packages in Bermuda and last minute demand is high, says managing director Robyn Galloway.

The lead in price for four nights includes accommodation in a four star hotel including return airport transfers and two on water viewing tickets start from \$3350 pp/share twin.

'As it down to the wire now, clients need to act quickly and full payment must be guarantee full payment to secure their clients booking,' says Robyn Galloway.

Dubai incentive to Excite NZ agents

Excite Holidays, in conjunction with Visit Dubai, is launching a new Dubai campaign and rewards point incentive. For the next two weeks, it will showcase to agents the opportunities, activities and experiences on offer in the city.

Highlights include the largest shopping mall in the world to the world's tallest skyscraper, traditional souks, and culinary delights.

Excite's curated destination guide focuses on the different types of travellers and has been designed especially for



Dubai is home to the largest shopping mall in the world

agents, to give them the tools to create a Dubai adventure for their clients. **CLICK HERE** for details.

Luxury lodge for sale in Waikato

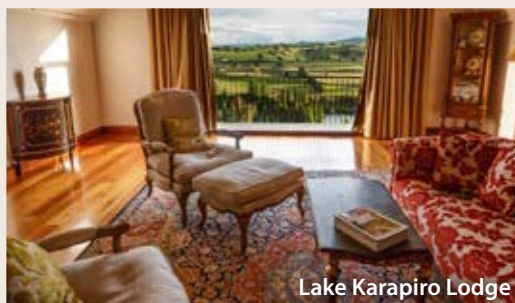
A luxury lodge in New Zealand's best-known freshwater sporting hub is on the market.

Lake Karapiro Lodge overlooking Lake Karapiro in the Waikato is a six suite high-end commercial accommodation provider – with nightly rack-rate room charges ranging between \$295 - \$900. The venue also has a large 'barn' building with modern interior decor used for hosting functions.

The lodge was purpose-built in 2004 and has 730 square metres of accommodation and venue space sitting on some 9,921 square metres of freehold commercially-zoned land. The guesthouse was personally built by its owner, Ed Rempelberg, who is a qualified engineer and draftsman.

Lake Karapiro Lodge land, buildings and business are being marketed for sale by Bayleys, with an asking price of \$3.5 million + GST (if any). Bayleys' tourism group salesperson Carolyn Hanson says the lodge benefits from its proximity to the hugely popular Lake Karapiro - New Zealand's premier fresh-water sporting venue.

www.bayleys.co.nz



Lake Karapiro Lodge

Olympic website

A new website 'NowPyeongchang.com' will assist visitors to plan their time in the region of Pyeongchang during 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Korea from 9-25 January, 2018 followed by the Paralympic Games.

The new website offers advice on the Pyeongchang region on the east coast of Korea and the main Olympic venues located at Pyeongchang, Gangneung and Jeongseon. It will help Olympic enthusiasts to find suitable accommodation in the region and has advice on where to eat, where to sightsee, plus transportation to and between the major venues. It also details attractions in the surrounding area.

NowPyeongchang.com



Travel Assistant / Sales Support

Do you have a friend looking to join the travel industry?

Do you want to 'step away' from a front line sales role but stay in travel?

Gilpin Private Travel is looking for a new team member to join our office in Grey Lynn.

This full time role will be assisting our Leisure Travel Expert, Monday – Friday, no weekends!

Training will be given but industry experience and/or an industry qualification will be an advantage. We would welcome a Personal Assistant from outside the industry who is well travelled and loves planning holidays.

Your day will consist of producing quality itineraries, liaising with clients regarding passports and airline memberships, helping with holiday quotes, receipting client funds & emailing payment reminders, quoting & issuing travel insurance for our clients.

We will teach you how to book flights, add seating, issue tickets, book hotels, cars and more.

If you already have these skills then the hourly rate will reflect your experience.

You will be eligible for an annual paid "educational" trip after your first year.

Great product knowledge is important, you will be required to attend supplier meetings and tradeshow with other members of the Gilpin Team.

Make this role your own – your first step into travel, a change of career or a step away from a full time consulting role.

Please email your CV and a cover letter outlining your suitability for this role to:

privatetravel@gilpin.co.nz

Applicants must be eligible to work in New Zealand

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Opening signals Niue's place as a year round destination

By Kathy Ombler in Niue

The new Matavai Conference Centre Niue was opened yesterday by New Zealand Prime Minister, Bill English, and Sir Toke Talagi, Premier of Niue. It aims to bring a massive boost to tourism and the economy of Niue.

The multi-million dollar centre, with capacity for up to 168 conference delegates, sits in a spectacular cliff top location at the Scenic Matavai Resort Niue.

Brendan Taylor, Scenic Hotel Group managing director, says the opening of the conference centre will act as a 'huge enabler' for the island's emerging tourism industry. 'Flow-on benefits from this high yielding sector will likely filter throughout the island's economy.'

Brett Inkster, Scenic area manager Niue, told TRAVELinc Memo that Niue

is ready to step up to the next level, from a seasonal tourism destination to a place that can host year round tourism, conference, incentives and wedding business.

'This is something big for a small nation; the opportunity to enter the C&I market. It's untapped here, with all the soft adventure; fishing, diving, snorkelling and the ability to get anywhere quickly. Niue is also a great place to bring a partner,' he says.

'We have been promoting the new convention centre at tradeshow for the past twelve months and there has been a significant response.'

Simon Jackson, general manager Scenic Matavai Resort, says there is a willingness among the island's tourism operators to make it happen. 'They are already hosting good numbers of leisure visitors during the tourist season and

they are capable of and willing to take it to the next level.'

Development of the Matavai Convention Centre has been co-funded by the New Zealand Government and the Government of Niue. The project was undertaken by New Zealand companies Cequent Project Management, Arrow Construction and Jasmax architects.

Meanwhile, Scenic Matavai Resort, already Niue's largest resort, has also just opened 12 new deluxe clifftop rooms, bringing the total number of rooms and apartments to 56.

Yesterday's official opening was a high level island affair; as well as the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gerry Brownlee, and representatives from all New Zealand political parties were in attendance.



Key players in the Matavai Convention Centre development Katie Roche, MFAT programme manager, Niue; Brett Inkster, Scenic area manager Niue; Michael Hornikel, Arrow Construction; Ross Adern, New Zealand High Commissioner to Niue; Brendon Taylor, Scenic Hotel Group managing director



Prime Minister Bill English speaking by the bay where the whales come in



Special on Treasure Island

Treasure Island, Fiji is offering a 40% discount on accommodation for clients with a minimum four night stay.

Guests in an ocean view room receive F\$100 food and beverage credit, children under 12 transfer free and other benefits apply, including a lovo dinner for two adults in Eluvuka Restaurant. Guests in higher category rooms receive increased food and beverage credits.

Dates and conditions apply.



There's more to do in Vanuatu

DIVING - FISHING - ISLAND HOPPING
LAND DIVING - LIVE VOLCANO



AirVanuatu

Experience Aloha Business Exchange

New heights for Umauma Falls ZipLine

Umauma Falls ZipLine Experience on Hawaii's Big Island has added another adventure to its line up – the Ultimate Waterfall Rappel and River Experience.

Voted the best zip line in East Hawaii for six years running, the operator has been going from strength to strength since opening seven years ago, general manager John McCollum says.

The experience has nine zip lines, a 200-foot suspension bridge over a 2000-year-old lava tube, a giant swing activity, a VIP cruise tour, with the Umauma River and 14 waterfalls on the property.

Come July, the operator is launching its latest venture, which allows visitors to rappel waterfalls, swim and float down the Umauma River, and go down a natural waterslide. The tour takes three



John McCollum

to three-and-a-half hours, and ends with a deli-style lunch. Tour sizes are limited to groups of eight and are led by three rappel guides.

McCollum expects the new tour to be especially popular with Kiwi visitors to Hawaii, saying New Zealanders are known for their love of adrenalin-pumping activities.

McCollum also revealed the company has teamed up with Kailani Tours Hawaii to offer a deluxe zip line and volcano experience. The Ultimate Big Island Combination Tour involves travel by a Mercedes Sprinter to Umauma ZipLine, followed by a tour of Kilauea volcano's craters and lava tubes. The package includes dinner at the four-star Kilauea Lodge, finishing off with an evening viewing of the lava glow at Halemaumau Crater.

– Shannon Williams



Umauma Falls ZipLine Experience... adding a new adventure in July

Sheraton Kona's new look

Hawaii's Sheraton Kona Resort will invest more than two million dollars in the property as part of a renovation set for 2018.

The renovation will focus on room refurbishes and upgrading the Rays in the Bay restaurant to cash in on the resort's big drawcard - the manta rays that swim up to the property at night.

The hotel will also move breakfast to this location, as its current primary morning meal location at Ainakai is not ocean front. On top of that, the hotel is extending its current retail space to include a gourmet grab and go option, servicing arrivals to the hotel at different hours of the night. The grab and go will be open until midnight.



Denise Albano and Stan Glander, Xplorer at the Experience Aloha Business Exchange

Fitness doesn't stop for clients on Oahu

Agents with fitness-mad clients looking for the ultimate adventure challenge should take a look at Xplorer, a Hawaii-based fitness challenge operator that provides multi-day adventure tours on Oahu.

The operator launched around a year ago to meet demand for fitness-inspired experiences.

Speaking at the Experience Aloha Business Exchange, Xplorer CEO and

founder Denise Albano says the all-inclusive tours provide participants an experience the average tourist might not get to have.

'The nature of our tours mean they get to experience an environment of Oahu without being stuck on a tour bus.'

Geared toward very active people, the Xplorer offers four different kinds of tours: the seven-day, four-day and three-

day adventure challenges, and the one-day Xplorer epic challenge.

The seven-day challenge includes accommodation, specially crafted meals and massages. The tour involves a 'grueling' 5-day Stage Race, three hours of racing each day and 11,000ft worth of elevation change.

'It's for people who want more than a beach holiday,' Albano adds.

– Shannon Williams

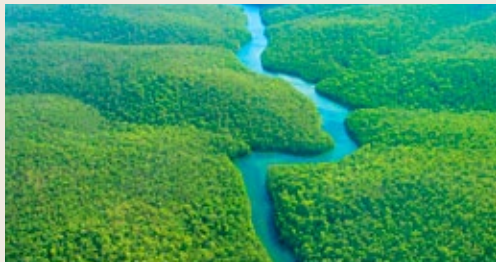
Grand Tour of South America

World Journeys has released a small group hosted journey to South America for 2018.

The 34-day “Grand Tour of South America” journey will depart 26 August 2018. The itinerary visits five countries – Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, and Argentina. Highlights include the Amazon rainforest, a five-day Galapagos Islands cruise on-board the Santa Cruz II, Cuzco and Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, Iguazu Falls and Rio de Janeiro. Priced from \$25,270 per person (share twin) it includes flights ex Auckland, four-star hotel accommodation, all transport, sightseeing and entrance fees, some meals and a host accompanying the group throughout.

A US\$100 Galapagos fee, and airline taxes of \$585 are additional and subject to change. A guaranteed-to-go departure, the maximum group size is 18. Book by 30 November 2017 to save \$400 per couple, and clients who have been on a World Journeys hosted tour before can save an additional \$400 per couple.

CLICK HERE for details.



The itinerary visits the Amazon rainforest

USA remains key destination for millennials

The United States continues to attract millennial travellers, according to two sets of research conducted by Contiki.

In developing The No Regrets List late last year, research polling the travel interests of more than 5000 18 to 35-year-olds around the world saw the US in the top three destinations for travel in 2017.

A companion study in 2017 found that the vast majority of millennials polled by Contiki continued to show interest in the destination, with 22% of respondents definitely considering travel and 39.9% very likely to consider travel to the US within the next two years.

‘Millennials champion local experiences above anything else,’ says The Travel Corporation NZ marketing and communications director Tony Laskey.

Leveraging this insight, Contiki has launched ‘Welcome to my Neighbourhood’ in partnership

with Brand USA’s global digital team; a content campaign featuring neighbourhood guides curated by influential locals in five key US destinations.

Knowing 33% of millennial travellers seek out locals to influence what they do in destination, the guides feature sights, activities and venues in local neighbourhoods in New York, Miami, New Orleans, Austin and San Diego as curated by local business owners. The guides are: Williamsburg, New York, by local tour guide Dan Correa, who leads Contiki groups visiting NYC; Little Havana, Miami, by Miami public relations expert and creator of the 3:05 Cafecito movement, JennyLee Molina; Bywater, New Orleans, by artist, community mentor and owner of Studio BE Branden ‘Bmike’ Odums; The 04, Austin, by co-founders of Lick Honest Ice Cream Chad Palmatier and Anthony Sobotik; Golden Hills, San Diego, by Hillary Kearney, beekeeper and owner



Food trucks at Austin Texas

of community beekeeping project Girl Next Door Honey.

The campaign is supported by social video content and innovative crowd-sourced Google Maps guides that will leverage travel tips from Contiki’s community around the world, making them publicly available for future travellers to each destination.

Contiki’s USA & Canada 2017-19 brochure is out now, with savings of up to 7.5% on trips booked and paid before 10 August 2017.

contiki.com

Chimu’s guide – Keep safe, travel smart

The question of personal safety seems to come up quite a lot when talking about travel to South America, says Rachel Williams, managing director of Viva Expeditions / Chimu Adventures. ‘Although it’s fair to say that this probably relates to every corner of the planet nowadays, nevertheless in an effort to help answer agents questions and to provide them with resources to best assist their clients, Chimu

Adventures has put together a guide to Keeping Safe & Travelling Smart in South America.

‘This article covers 10 general tips on how to travel smart in South America and keep yourself safe and happy and also provides specific guides for destinations which often come under question when it comes to safety, namely for Brazil, Mexico, Cuba and Colombia.’

CLICK HERE for details.

Backstreet Boys are back

Backstreet Boys have announced 15 additional performances for their record-breaking Las Vegas residency. Tickets to performances from November 2017 through February 2018 for “Backstreet Boys: Larger Than Life” at The AXIS at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino will go on sale to public Friday, June 16 at 10am.

Opening special at Sydney Airport hotel

Mantra Hotel at Sydney Airport has an opening special of A\$159 per night in a studio king room including 1GB of internet access daily, a welcome drink voucher on arrival and room upgrade (subject to availability).

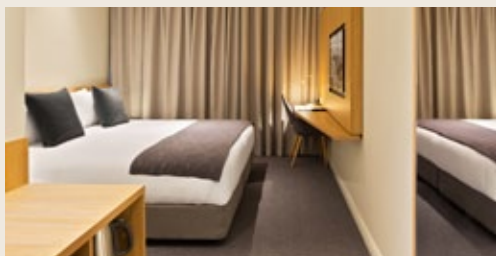
Taking guests from July 19, Mantra Hotel at Sydney Airport will feature 136 contemporary studio rooms, a restaurant and bar, and an integrated lobby and reception space.

Close to the domestic airport and its terminals, the nine-level new build hotel will have a 24/7 service, express check-out, internet kiosk, and relaxed dining.

Airport-facing rooms located on the fourth floor and above have views of the domestic and international airport runways as well as the premium arrivals section of the airport where VIP charter jets park.

Mantra Hotel at Sydney Airport is at 3 Ross Smith Avenue, a short distance from Sydney Airport's T2 and T3 domestic terminals.

www.mantra.com.au



Mantra Hotel at Sydney Airport has an opening special

Do you want a room with your chocolate?

Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens has launched a Chocolate Winter Escape Package enabling guests to stay in a chocolate-themed hotel room.

Located in Melbourne's CBD, Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens has partnered with Ganache Chocolate to create the theme.

The Chocolate Winter Escape Package starts from A\$279.00 per night and includes overnight accommodation for two in the chocolate-themed room, room service breakfast for two, welcome hot chocolate on arrival with chocolate amenity, overnight valet parking, Ganache Chocolate take home gift plus other treats available for sale.



A Melbourne hotel is offering chocolate themed rooms over winter

Flying golf challenge

Air Adventure Australia is offering the 'Epic Golf Challenge' to be played this December in Tasmania and King Island.

'The challenge can take a maximum 42 golfers, and already over \$10,000 in prizes is on offer, so should be a great event,' says Air Adventure Australia's New Zealand representative Mike Hogan, of Hogan and Associates.

The challenge plays four courses and travel is in the privately chartered Air Adventure Outback Jet Cessna Conquest II.

The package includes premium accommodation in boutique providers such as Boomerang by the Sea and Lost Farm Lodge, a three course welcome dinner, and many other features.

mike@hoganreps.co.nz

Whitsundays on the board

The Whitsundays has come out as one of the destinations in the new, limited-edition Australian Monopoly game, due to launch in July.

Whitsunday regional council Mayor Andrew Willcox was present for the exciting announcement made in Sydney today.

'This success was due to the collaboration between Whitsunday Regional Council and Craig Turner's Tourism Whitsunday Team driving this initiative forward to be in a prime location just like the Whitsundays,' he says.

One of the top spots on the board, Bond Street was secured after a massive collaborative campaign by Tourism Whitsundays, Whitsunday Regional Council and industry to encourage people to vote – means worldwide exposure for the region amongst board game lovers all over the world.

Special offer in Perth

Rendezvous Hotel Perth Central is offering a special A\$125 per night.

The hotel is close to the retail precinct of Hay St and Murray St, Kings Park and a small bar culture.

The price includes a complimentary breakfast for two and a late checkout. Rendezvous Hotel Perth Central has a 24-hour reception, a restaurant and bar, secure parking and a gym.

Rendezvous Hotel Perth Central places guests right at the centre of a rich arts and culture scene, vibrant nightlife and outdoor destinations, such as Swan River, the famous Bell Tower, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, and the cosmopolitan buzz of Elizabeth Quay.

Stay dates are now to 31 July, 2017, bookings required by 31 July, 2017.



Rendezvous Hotel Perth Central Alfresco Bar

Strong earlybird sales for CroisiEurope 2018

CroisiEurope's first round of earlybirds for 2018 are selling well, says product manager Nicholas Bloom.

'With over 2,000 departures scheduled for 2018, from four to 18 day cruises, there is plenty of choice for the first time traveller on a budget or for a repeat traveller wishing to explore a region in more detail,' he says.

'The 13 day river cruise from Budapest to Strasbourg is priced from only \$266 per person/per day – share twin. Considering this price is all inclusive featuring an open-bar, daily sightseeing and all meals, it represents value for money for the price conscious client.'

Bloom says CroisiEurope is also popular with solo travellers, with the single supplement for this 13 day cruise from \$1695pp. 'For cruisers with a more regional interest, the eight day Porto and Douro Valley, or the eight day Landscapes and Castles of the Loire in France are also great options.'

Each year CroisiEurope continues to grow, and those agents who are not including this as part of their offering maybe missing out on potential clients, says Bloom.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

Great Plains and wildlife

World Journeys is promoting a nine-day Great Plains & Wildlife itinerary for the serious (and high end) safari aficionado, in Kenya's Masai Mara, Chyulu Hills and Laikipia Plateau. Wildlife encounters with some of the best guides in the business are a highlight, particularly due to the small number of guests, and the often exclusive areas explored. The Mara Plains camp is combined with the Segera Retreat and Ol Donyo Lodge where activities include game drives, walking with expert trackers, horse riding, mountain biking, or with Maasai interactions and more.

Flying between camps and lodges makes the most of your time on safari. Priced from \$14,600 per person, this includes eight nights' luxury accommodation, all light aircraft flights from Nairobi, safari activities, National Park and conservancy fees, all meals and beverages (except premium brands), and laundry service.

Those wanting a shorter taste of luxury can enjoy a special offer valid for travel to 19 December 2017: Clients who stay three nights at either Ol Donyo Lodge, Mara Toto or Mara Plains Camps will receive free round trip flights between Nairobi



Ol Donyo Lodge

and Ol Donyo Lodge or Nairobi and Mara Plains/Toto. A six night stay can combine two properties and receive both sets of free flights.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

Set sail

SeaDream Yacht Club is sailing from Dubrovnik to Nice on July 3 2018 for 11 nights on-special from US\$7470pp twin-share

This is a saving of US\$3101pp from the original brochure price of US\$10,571pp.

The price includes SeaDream's 5-star cuisine, premium wines, spirits and other drinks with meals, power and sail water-sports, use of the golf simulator and fitness centre, port charges and taxes, and even staff and crew gratuities.



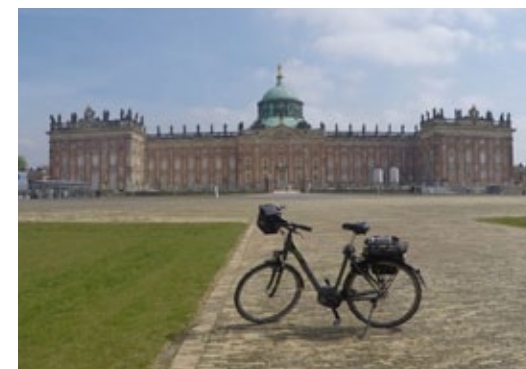
SeaDream off Taormina in Sicily

Putting the E (bike) in Europe

European activity travel specialist UTracks has expanded its electric bike (e-bike) option, which now covers more than 80% of its cycling programme across the continent.

E-bikes are rising in popularity as they make the journey physically easier without taking away from the adventurous spirit of a cycling trip, allowing anyone to join in. 'E-bikes are gaining steam as more and more people realise their potential to let them explore the world on two wheels,' says UTracks NZ general manager Natalie Tambolash.

Because of its higher cost (the price of an e-bike is roughly three times that of a traditional bike), upgrading to an e-bike with UTracks comes



with a small supplement.

From Germany and Holland in northern Europe to Italy, Croatia and Greece in the Mediterranean, there are more than 100 cycle itineraries to choose from. UTracks is part of the World Expeditions Travel Group.

www.utracks.co.nz



The Lanka Challenge in Sri Lanka

Tuk tuk roadtrip

The Lanka Challenge rickshaw adventure is described by Exotic Holidays as 'the ultimate road trip for those who like their travel fully-charged and no-holds-barred'.

Each day clients wake up, get told where they need to be by sundown, and get handed a list of challenges to complete along the way – the completion of which will see their team accrue points.

Coming departures are: September 2017, southern route; April 2018, northern route; September 2018, southern route

CLICK HERE for details.

Healthy welcomes in Bali

Rejuvenation starts at the check in at several Bali Marriott properties, as discovered by Kiwi wholesalers on a recent fam to the island resort.

First up was the 'Jamu', a detoxing blend of tamarin juice, turmeric and honey served to the group on arrival at Le Meridien Jimbaran.

Next afternoon, at Sthala A Tribute Portfolio Hotel, guests were greeted with a refreshing 'Beji' with 'young coconut water', sugar, lime juice and mint leaves. The W Bali, in Seminyak, went all smoky and spectacular with a Lychee Rose Tea, made from 'muddled lychee, rose syrup and English breakfast tea', all fired up with dry ice and for some reason served in a bird cage. Some semblance of good/bad balance was restored at Four Points Seminyak's new rooftop bar, 'Above'. As the sun went down the group sipped on a 'Mule



W-Bali – welcome drink in a cage, watched by Selene Donovan, Flight Centre, and Hylda Bloomfield, Air New Zealand

Above', one of the new bar's signature cocktails, a rather appealing concoction of vodka, ginger beer, coriander syrup, lemon grass, basil and mint.

Yacht rep

World Resorts of Distinction has been appointed global marketing representative for Samata, a luxury yacht that explores the Indonesian archipelago.



Samata



Ancient cave village of Iran

Live the life of a troglodyte

Exotic Holidays and Fez Travel are promoting Iran's ancient village of Maymand, located around 900km south of the capital Tehran.

The village features many troglodytic dwellings – cavernous, underground homes carved out of soft rock. Stone engravings found at the site are estimated to be more than 10,000 years old.

A Unesco World Heritage Site, Maymand is said to have been inhabited

continuously for more than 2,000 years, which makes it one of Iran's oldest surviving villages.

Exotic Holidays managing director Rahul Sharma says the village is tucked away in a valley within the arid mountains of central Iran, Maymand experiences extremely hot summers and severely cold winters. To adapt to these harsh conditions, villagers switch homes according to the season.

Of the 400 caves built more than 10,000 years ago, 90 remain intact. These cave homes can contain up to seven rooms, each about two metres tall and 20m squared, although size varies from cave to cave.

Maymand has caves where tourists can stay the night to experience a way of life that has persisted for millennia.

CLICK HERE for details.

New lodge in Invercargill

Invercargill has a new accommodation offering. The Lodges At Transport World offers six boutique apartment units.

Easy to find, The Lodges At Transport World is located directly across the road from Bill Richardson Transport World on Anglem Street. Onsite parking is available.

Active Asia expands Japan



Active Asia has expanded its Japan brochure. As well as Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka the brochure includes Hakone, Kanazawa, Hiroshima and Sapporo.

It has more sightseeing options to appeal to

clients who wish to explore on their own with hop on hop off and transport passes. Three day city stopovers in Tokyo and Osaka start from \$465 and include three star accommodation and a transport pass.

For clients wanting the essence of Japan a Ryokan stay provides an experience in age-old Japanese hospitality and customs.

Ski Japan is a new addition. Pricing for this will be on application and available at the beginning of July.

CLICK HERE for details.

New Pullman for Tokyo

Pullman Tokyo Tamachi will open for the northern autumn of 2018. With 143 rooms, the hotel connects the international style of Pullman with a touch of Japanese art and culture.

This business and leisure hotel includes meeting facilities and unique dining concepts. It is directly connected to the JR Tamachi Station east exit and a three-minute walk from the Toei Subway Mita Line. The hotel to the Haneda International Airport is about 30 minutes

by public transport.

'Japan keeps attracting more and more international travellers, with a historically high growth rate recorded in the beginning of 2017,' says Patrick Basset, chief operating officer for upper Southeast and Northeast Asia, AccorHotels. 'The inbound market is on a continuous positive trend which will be amplified as the country will benefit from the worldwide attention with the upcoming 2020 Summer Olympic Games.'



Artist's impression of the new build Pullman in Tokyo

Disney shuttle

Hong Kong's Harbour Plaza Eight Degrees hotel will offer guests a free shuttle service to Disneyland during the busy summer period from 14 July to 20 August, but the service must be booked in advance.

The hotel is located near the Kai Tak Cruise terminal, about 20 kilometres from the theme park. The shuttles depart the hotel at 10am and 11am.

The service will operate on Friday, Saturday and Sunday exclusively for in-house guests.

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SIA – more to Paris

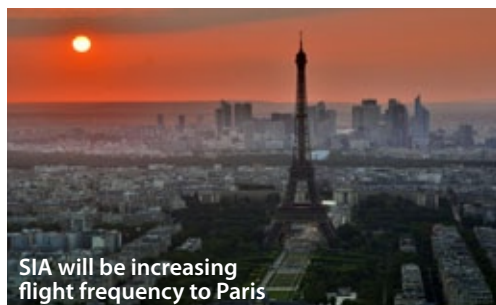
Singapore Airlines (SIA) will be increasing flight frequency to Paris to 10 per week from the current seven during the northern winter operating season (29 October 2017 to 24 March 2018).

The three additional flights will operate on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays to Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport as SQ334 (Singapore-Paris) and SQ333 (Paris-Singapore), starting 30 October 2017. The additional flights will complement the current daily SQ336 (Singapore-Paris) and SQ335 (Paris-Singapore) services.

The additional flights as well as the seven existing flights will be operated with a Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, rather than the Airbus A380-800s which currently serve the Paris route.

The 777-300ERs are fitted with 264 seats, of which four are in First Class, 48 in Business Class, 28 in Premium Economy Class and 184 in Economy Class.

The additional flights are subject to regulatory approvals. Tickets will be made available for sale progressively through the various distribution channels.



SIA will be increasing flight frequency to Paris

Sichuan Airlines arrives in Auckland for the first time



New service gets Kiwis deeper into China's west

Sichuan Airlines new service between Chengdu and Auckland will allow agents to highlight the attractions of the province to their clients.

New Zealand general manager JC Zhi says Sichuan Province is 'home of the giant panda' and the giant panda research base.

'There is a saying that once you come to Chengdu you do not want to leave, which reveals the charm of the city and the food of the province,' says Zhi.

The first Sichuan Airlines flight between Chengdu and Auckland arrived in the New Zealand city on Tuesday night. The new 13 hour direct service provides a seventh direct connection from Auckland Airport to a major Chinese city.

The Auckland route is Sichuan Airlines' longest direct flight yet, with the A330-200 featuring 24 business class flat-bed seats.

JC Zhi says Sichuan cuisine is one

of China's four big cuisines. 'We are delighted to bring the Sichuan flavour into the cabin. Authentic dishes such as hot pot, firewood chicken and barrel fish will be sure to awaken the senses of first time visitors on board,' he says.

Rumours are that there is another Chinese airline eyeing New Zealand – with Xiamen Air being hinted to start services in mid-December.

– Peter Clark

Qatar to Dublin service launches

Qatar Airways is now flying between Dublin and Doha.

The airline recently flew its next-generation Airbus A350 aircraft for the inaugural flight to Dublin, giving VIP guests and key media the opportunity to tour the state-of-the-art aircraft. This was the first time a commercial passenger Airbus A350 aircraft has landed on Irish soil and the feedback from those on board was extremely positive.

In future, Qatar Airways will operate

its daily Dublin service with a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, which has a two-class configuration including 22 seats in Business Class and 232 seats in Economy Class.



Qatar is now flying to Dublin

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MYSTERY PERSON



Mystery woman

Our photographer must have been suffering from heat stroke when she took this photo, because we don't have the name for the woman on the left. We recognise Megan Hornblow from Hawaii Tourism, and Chris McLean from Air New Zealand. But who is the mystery woman on the left? All three of them were spotted in Hawaii for the Experience Aloha Business Exchange. If you can solve our dilemma, send your answer to competitions@promag.co.nz with Mystery Person in the subject line. And congratulations to Susie Sherley of House of Travel Morrinsville who successfully identified our mystery man last week, Darragh Walshe from Hawaii Tourism. A copy of *National Geographic Traveller*, courtesy of Adventure World is on its way.

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Hong Kong hotels' new agents rates

The North Sydney office of Regal Hotels has just released special rates for two of its Hong Kong properties which New Zealand and Australian agents can book direct on-line.

The Regal Riverside hotel in Shatin, with good access to New Territories attractions New Town Plaza and Shatin Racecourse has added value to its rates by including free wifi, food and beverage discounts and return airport transfers. Rates starting from A\$90 are valid through to 16 September.

Regal's Iclub property, Fortress Hill has rates starting at A\$85 until March 31, 2018 with some close out dates.

The hotel is a short walk from an MTR for a five minute ride to the Casueway Bay area and is adding value in free wifi and use of the Iclub lounge for tea, coffee and snacks on a 24-hour basis. Check dates.



Fortress Hill

Agents should book direct with www.regalhotel.com/regal-riverside-hotel/en/home/home.html and www.iclub-hotels.com/iclub-fortress-hill-hotel/en/home/home.html

Groups galore

Silversea Cruises has a new group sales programme that's available for bookings across all of its 2017 and 2018 voyages.

Incentives with the new group bookings include price protection for 90 days, Onboard Spending Credits of up to US\$300 per suite, and other advantages.

'With these enhancements, it's easier than ever for agents to sell group travel with Silversea and introduce their clients to an award-winning luxury travel experience that is unsurpassed,' says Amber Wilson, managing director Silversea Cruises Asia-Pac.

Jones a claire winner

Claire Jones from helloworld Milford was the winner of an incentive recently run by Qatar Airways. The promotion gives the successful agent two tickets (with a space available upgrade to business class) anywhere on the airline's European network.

Qatar Airways reports being 'inundated' with entries.



Aish Rangarajan, sales exec Qatar Airways with Claire Jones from helloworld Milford

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PEARL'S PEARLER

'If I won the award for laziness, I would send somebody to pick it up for me.'

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