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ISSUE 1044

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## Long haul competition doesn't phase Destination NSW boss

Competition from long-haul destinations, driven by cheap airfares, has not dented New Zealand travellers' enthusiasm for Sydney and its surrounds and is unlikely to, says Sandra Chipchase, chief executive officer of Destination New South Wales (DNSW).

Chipchase points to upgraded air services between Auckland and Sydney, and the fact that trans-Tasman has its own good value fare offerings, as part of the reason behind her confidence. But she also has hard figures to back her claims.

'New Zealand numbers are still increasing. At the end of June 2017 we had 423,881 visitors from across the Tasman and the average length of stay was 4.1 nights. That is up 3% on the year before.'

Chipchase says 41% were visiting friends and relatives (VFR), 34% were on holiday and 22% on business – the latter market being further encouraged by the new Sydney Convention Centre on Darling Harbour.

'We've got another 7000 hotel rooms coming in the next two or three years and that's going to increase competition. It's great for the consumer and the trade because there is

*Continued on page 3*

## Join GTN for a new perspective

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## Williment gets official nod for World Cup Sevens 2018

Williment Travel has been confirmed as an official travel agent for Rugby World Cup Sevens 2018, which will be hosted in the United States next July for the first time in the event's history.

Supporters from all over the world will travel to San Francisco for three days of rugby at the iconic AT&T Park from 20-22 July 2018.

With a 50-year legacy sending Kiwis overseas for rugby events, Williment is offering package options for fans anxious to see reigning champions New Zealand retain the world champion title.

Williment Travel's general manager Adair Cameron says the team has been inundated with queries about the event before going on sale and expects strong sales with two years to go until Rugby World Cup 2019.

'The sevens debut at the 2016 Olympic Games really raised the profile of the sport and, in particular, in North America. After all, it was USA's Perry Baker who scored the most tries during the HSBC



The Rugby World Cup Sevens will be at AT&T Park, San Francisco in 2018

World Rugby Sevens Series 2016-17 so RWC Sevens 2018 is sure to attract a huge crowd of American fans, creating an incredible atmosphere,' Cameron says.

The 'San Fran Sevens Experience' is Williment's signature package for the event, priced from \$4995pp (twin/double-share) with the following inclusions: return airfares, five nights'

accommodation, three-day match ticket, airport transfers, merchandise, plus an exclusive Williment tour personality (subject to minimum numbers).

Travel agents can earn 10% commission on this specific package, plus the top selling agent will be in the running to win a \$1000 prezzy card.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

## The TAANZ tick and more

The Travel Agents' Association New Zealand (TAANZ) says its new consumer proposition and a 'suite of assets' promoting the benefits of using a TAANZ travel agent are now available for members.

This includes the new look logo and a 'Five Reasons to Choose a TAANZ Accredited Travel Agent' chart which

can be easily integrated into agents' own websites.

First Travel Group's Margaret Spiro, who was on a special marketing group for the project, says the aim was to modernise the logo and the message and make TAANZ more credible to the consumer.

'I think that has been achieved,' she adds.

Spiro says YOU travel agents have always used the TAANZ logo and would now be encouraged to point customers towards the 'Five Reasons' chart.



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## Kiwi takes the lead



Alan Watts

New Zealander Alan Watts is the Hilton's new executive vice president & president Asia Pacific.

Effective 1 January, 2018, Watts will oversee operations of more than 200 Hilton properties across the region.

'I'm excited to be joining Hilton at such a pivotal time for the company in the APAC region,' he says.

'I look forward to leading the team to ensure that Hilton continues to deliver the exceptional hospitality the company is known for all over the world.'

## Long haul competition doesn't phase DNSW

*Continued from page 1*

increased choice and better price points.'

'Kiwis are great travellers but as the world becomes a little more unsettled people are looking for closer, safer destinations. New South Wales is still fun, it's exciting and there is more to explore.'

'People are busy, time poor and hassled so a three hour flight has appeal.'

Chipchase points to a myriad of events that will attract New Zealanders back to Sydney and the wider state – Beautiful, the Carol King Musical; Sculpture by the Sea; the Sydney International Art Series; Muriel's Wedding – The Musical; Mammoth – Giants of the Ice Age at the Australian Museum and much more.

Vivid, which runs in the winter months



Destination New South Wales' Sam Cameron, country manager New Zealand; and Sandra Chipchase, chief executive officer

is celebrating its 10th anniversary next year on the back of just being named the best Australian tourism event.

• *See more on page 6*

## Ambae volcano has no effect on tourists

Vanuatu Tourism Office and Air Vanuatu says that international tourism is unlikely to be effected by the volcanic activity on Ambae Island.

In a statement NF says: 'Whilst not wishing to make light of the situation in Ambae, currently approximately 8000 people have been evacuated from the eastern side of the island as volcanic ash is contaminating the water supplies.'

'The alert is on a relatively confined basis and this is not currently affecting air services either to Ambae itself or the rest of the Air Vanuatu network.'

VTO's new Zealand rep Jacquie Carson says Ambae is a small island in the Penma Province, not highly visited

by tourists. 'The situation on Ambae is not impacting other more populated and tourist focussed destinations. Tanna volcano remains accessible to visitors and its operations have not been affected.'



## SPANTO heads to Hamilton

Spanto's upcoming roadshow in Hamilton is being held at the Ferrybank Conference Centre on 25 October at 6pm.

Agents who attend will be up for a prize that includes return economy class flights for two to Apia courtesy of Air New Zealand, two nights at Tanoa Tusitala Hotel, including buffet breakfast daily and three nights at Saletoga Sands Resort, including continental buffet breakfast daily.



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Closing date is **13 October 2017**.

Only successful applicants will be contacted.

## Pacific Islands

### New Caledonia sings new tune with latest campaign

New Caledonia Tourism (NCT) is singing a different tune with the launch of a new destination marketing campaign, 'Sounds of New Caledonia', in collaboration with popular artists Crooked Colours.

Regarded as one of Australia's rising musical acts in the electronic scene, Crooked Colours were tasked with combining their musical talents and passion for travel to record two audio tracks that recall their recent adventures in the South Pacific paradise, New Caledonia.

NCT director Australia, Caroline Brunel says the campaign has taken a new direction for the tourism board, but one that is necessary to attract a fresh wave of New Zealand travellers.

'We wanted to break away from creating another glossy destination video set to an upbeat music track. Instead, we looked to create something that would not only spark emotion and desire when heard, but that would also reflect on the true essence of New Caledonia,' Brunel says.

'Crooked Colours have brought the destination to life by combining a mixture of interesting visual imagery and shot composition alongside artistic craftsmanship to create something that we feel will resonate with and entice New Zealanders looking for a sensory travel experience.'

Brunel says the two tracks aim to highlight the different adventures, tastes and cultures that New Caledonia offers. The first track is upbeat, representing the cosmopolitan city vibe found in the country's capital city, Nouméa, whilst the second is more calming, symbolising relaxation and 'island time'.

The tracks are coupled with inspiring imagery from the different locations around New Caledonia where the sound was captured, creating a montage of visual and aural moments to evoke the emotional journey of a New Caledonian adventure.

Crooked Colours frontman Phil Slabber says the collaboration with NCT enabled the

trio to draw upon the distinct Pacific Island sounds to create tracks that are fresh and authentic.

'When we travel, sound is a defining part of the fabric of our experiences. Sound is embedded in every memory of our holiday, be it the music we take with us, the tongues of new local friends, the songs of wildlife, the percussive rhythm of transport, the soft flutter of fresh sheets or in the collective orchestral boom of a city. Sound is everywhere,' Slabber says.

'From the outset, we wanted to draw on all of these sounds to create a track that would capture a different side to the destination. We wanted to let the destination guide our journey. New Caledonia didn't disappoint; the more we explored the more bespoke sounds we uncovered. All of this combines with the visual content we captured and the realistic documentary.'

Agents can listen to the tracks at [www.newcaledonia.travel/nz/sounds](http://www.newcaledonia.travel/nz/sounds)

Crooked Colours in New Caledonia recording the Sounds of New Caledonia



### Niue Tourism unveils Responsible Tourism Policy

Niue Tourism, alongside the Niue government, has launched its Responsible Tourism Policy, complemented by Tourism Business and Visitor Codes of Conduct.

The policy and codes were announced and released to mark Niue's contribution to World Tourism Day on 27 September.

Niue Tourism director of marketing Felicity Bollen says tourism is a vital part of the island's economy and the policy is

intended to 'help preserve Niue's largely unspoilt natural attractions'. It also marks Niue's support for the United Nations' 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

'The policy identifies how local planning and strategic developments will contribute to a responsible tourism industry, which operates sustainably and with respect for the environment and the local community,' says Bollen.

'It outlines actions that will deliver triple-bottom-line benefits to Niue – for

the environment, the community and the economy – but also looks at how we will meet those UN sustainability goals as well as support Pacific Region initiatives,' she explains.

Bollen says the codes are a guide for both the tourism operators and the visitors on how they can meet the requirements of responsible tourism, respecting the local people and environment and contributing to Niue's sustainable economic development.

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# New Zealand

## New GM in Cromwell



Jennifer Harper

Jennifer Harper is the new general manager of the Heritage Collection Lake Resort, Cromwell.

She has an advanced diploma in travel and tourism and began her career in wholesale travel in Christchurch before moving into sales and event management in Queenstown.

She was conference and sales events manager for Copthorne Lakefront Resort Queenstown from 2003 for three years, before moving to the role of hotel manager for the Haast World Heritage Hotel in 2006 where she worked for a further two years.

Moving north in 2008 Harper was the sales and operations manager at the Grand Mercure Puka Park Resort, Pauanui for two years. She left for Fiji on an expat sabbatical for six years and returned in 2017 to Otago. Her new appointment coincides with the opening of a purpose-built conference centre on site at the Lake Resort, Cromwell.

**CLICK HERE** for details.



Heritage Collection  
Lake Resort, Cromwell



## Big response to Ruapehu ski passes

Mt Ruapehu has unveiled its new season pass prices for 2018 and says the response has been overwhelming.

With the company's best season pass price in over a decade, **mtruapehu.com** saw a record amount of daily traffic on the first day of the sale, recording over 14,000 page views in the sale's first 24 hours. The first Facebook post promoting the sale reached 130,000 in 24 hours, gaining 38,000 views and 2300 comments, shares and reactions.

Mt Ruapehu marketing manager Matt McIvor says Whakapapa and Turoa wanted to ensure a season of skiing or snowboarding is within reach for everyday New Zealanders and families. 'We also wanted to offer the same reach for tertiary students, re-introducing an even lower season pass

price exclusively for them.'

The current low season pass prices end on 30 November, when they are scheduled to go up incrementally every month until the opening of the 2018 Winter Season. Current prices are:

- Adults \$349
- Youth (5-17 yrs) \$249
- Child (5-10 yrs bought with adult pass) \$49
- Student \$249
- Infant (0-4 yrs) FREE
- Super Super (70+ yrs) FREE

The passes offer unlimited skiing and snowboarding at Whakapapa and Turoa ski areas for the 2018 Winter Season with no close-out dates and can be used during the last week of the 2017 season from October 16-23. They come with a range of additional benefits.

## ZQN expansion for Swiss-Belhotel International

Swiss-Belhotel International has taken over the management of the five-star Pounamu apartments, renaming it Swiss-Belsuites Pounamu Queenstown.

The rebranding retains the property's heritage, Pounamu, while incorporating the five-star brand of Swiss-Belsuites.

The new management will see Grant Gaskin, area general manager of New Zealand, overseeing the hotel with Fauzan Mulla, hotel manager, in charge of day-to-day operations.

The property has 64 serviced apartments and sits alongside Lake Wakatipu. Suite sizes range from studio up to two bedroom, with full facilities including unlimited free wifi, heated spa, and undercover parking.

This is the second Queenstown property for Swiss-Belhotel International – the other being Swiss-Belresort Coronet Peak, which is now being refurbished and upgraded. The third property in New Zealand, Swiss-Belsuites Victoria Park, Auckland opened in October 2016.



Belsuites Pounamu Queenstown



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## Australia

Artist's render of glamping accommodation at Rottnest Island



### Island's first glamping resort

Glamping has been given the go-ahead on Rottnest Island from the summer of 2018-19, after plans to build a new beachfront eco-resort were conditionally approved.

The 2.8h development, known as Pinky Beach Eco Retreat and Beach Club, will be an ecologically sensitive eco retreat built as part of the Rottnest Island Authority's vision for revitalising the island's accommodation offerings.

The Eco Retreat will provide different levels of accommodation to suit various budgets, available from about \$100 up to \$350 per night. It will comprise of 86 eco accommodation tents with ensuites, as well as a Beach Club comprising a licensed bar, cafe, restaurant and function area with views over the ocean to Perth.

Access to Pinky Beach will also be improved with the development, with two extra boardwalks and new access to The Basin, linking to the Wadjemup Bidi walk trail.

Tourism Minister Paul Papalia says this is the first major development for Rottnest Island in over 30 years.

## Kiwi incentives in sight of NSW regions

Destination New South Wales (DNSW) has launched a new regional conferencing unit, and Kiwis are among its key targets.

Sandra Chipchase, chief executive officer of DNSW, says the organisation has actually taken notice of how New Zealand has successfully developed its regional meetings and incentive sector.

'I think new Zealanders have been leaders in developing regional product. So we have looked at what we can learn and how we can add to it in an Australian context. We'd also like to look at how we can lead share for more regional business.'

Chipchase says New Zealand-based

corporate meeting and retreat planners, as well as incentive organisers are an obvious market for the new unit.

'We know that a lot of Kiwi planners are looking for high-end luxury close to home and that they like to build in adventure and team building. Regional New South Wales can offer all of that – a treasure hunt around the south west by Ferrari, food and wine experiences, horse riding trails, outback activities and more.'

She says New Zealand groups already incorporate Sydney shows into their programmes and it is easy to do this and then head into a region such as The Blue Mountains.

## Know more, sell more, says DNSW's CEO

Knowing more about the client and selling experiences to suit is the key for the trade to sell more of New South Wales, says Sandra Chipchase, chief executive officer of Destination New South Wales.

Chipchase says that though 93% of New Zealanders are repeat visitors to Sydney and the state, travel agents can get their share of the trans-Tasman action by matching events, activities and attractions to their clients' interests.

'We can all do more and I think it is important to become more targeted. If agents work out what their clients enjoy doing and when they are travelling they can take more advantage of what's on offer and sell into low and shoulder seasons.'

'An agent can say to their client, 'I know you don't usually travel at this time – but I have something different for you'.'

She says Sydney and New South Wales have events to suit any client.

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## Touring Thailand

Backyard Travel has revealed two new tours through Thailand packed with city excursions and adventures through the outdoors.

The first is a 9-day, 8-night Bangkok To Chiang Mai Tour: A Journey Through Time takes travellers on a historic trip through Thailand's capitals

For families looking to tour Thailand, the Teak And Temples: A Thailand Family Tour offers 10 days and 9 nights of kid-friendly adventure.

'We created these two tours to give travelers and families a chance to see Thailand from a more 'local' perspective,' says Maeve Nolan, General Manager of Backyard Travel.

'Activities such as staying with local families, cycling through ancient cities and floating downriver on bamboo rafts prove there's always an exciting new way to see Thailand, whether you're a seasoned traveler or simply want a more fulfilling, authentic holiday.'

## Extreme Bike Tours relaunches with 10% discount

Extreme Bike Tours is offering a 10% discount on its 2018 Himalayan expedition.

After a three-year hiatus, the motorcycle tour operator is offering a saving of US\$435 on the 16-day tour, starting 7 July 2018 for bookings made by 31 October 2017.

The high-altitude, small-group rides are open to licensed motorcyclists and pillion passengers. Clients ride on a classic Royal Enfield 500cc Bullet motorcycle.

The expedition travels over mountain passes including the highest motorable road pass on the planet, Khardung La in India, which soars 5600m. The tour begins in New Delhi on 7 July 2018, with a train trip north to Narkanda in the foothills of the Himalayas. From there, the riding begins travelling on narrow, winding roads filled with gorges and cliffs. Guests will visit the Lahlung and Dahnkar monasteries, and immerse themselves in Indo-Tibetan culture as they



visit the small hidden mountain villages of Spiti and Komic. Guests will be able to let loose along the long stretching road of the Moray Plains, a desert surrounded by towering Himalayan peaks, before conquering the mighty Khardung La mountain pass.

The 16-day tour includes 12 days of riding

and is open to licensed motorcycle riders from US\$3915, including the 10 per cent discount if booked by 31 October 2017. The fare includes accommodation, meals, fuel and local. Mention the offer when enquiring online with Extreme Bike Tours.

[www.extremebiketours.com](http://www.extremebiketours.com)

## Bangkok on top in 2017 travel destinations

Bangkok is the leading travel destination for 2017, according to the Mastercard Global Destinations Cities Index 2017.

Asia Pacific destinations made up five of the top 10 in the annual survey, which ranks the world's 132 top destination cities – with Bangkok in Thailand taking out first place.

'It is easy to see why Bangkok has topped the Global Destinations Cities Index as a great place to travel. For New Zealanders it is a close, cost-effective and exciting destination. Lots of Kiwis are making the most of the close proximity of Southeast Asia to enjoy fantastic cuisine, scenery and warmer weather,' says Peter Chisnall, Mastercard country manager for New Zealand and Pacific Islands.

Asia Pacific had the highest amount of

international overnight visitor spending among its top 10 cities bringing in \$91.16 billion USD in travel expenditure in 2016.

Following Asia Pacific was Europe (\$74.74 billion USD), and North America (\$55.02 billion USD).

• See more page 11



Bangkok trumps all as Mastercard's number one global destination for 2017

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## Cruising

### Cruising into October

MSC Cruises is offering 50% off the second passenger during October for Plan a Cruise Month.

During the month the company is offering an array of itineraries, including a 7-night West Mediterranean cruise from AU\$799 first passenger and from AU\$487 for the second passenger (from NZ\$1089 first passenger and from NZ\$650 second passenger).

### Silversea's Silver Spirit to go under the knife

Silversea has unveiled plans for its first-ever ship lengthening.

The transformation of the company's Silver Spirit will happen early next year at the Palermo shipyard of Fincantieri.

Starting in early March, Silver Spirit will be lengthened by inserting a prebuilt 49-foot-long midsection housing 6 Silver Suites, 26 Veranda Suites and 2 Panorama Suites.

Silver Spirit will be lengthened



Azamara Cruises to add new ship to its fleet

### Azamara Club Cruises to purchase new ship

Azamara Club Cruises has entered into an agreement to purchase a sister ship to Azamara Journey and Azamara Quest, with delivery taking place in March 2018.

'We are pleased to expand our portfolio by 50%, allowing us to visit even more regions of the world through the

acquisition of this sister ship,' says Larry Pimentel, President and CEO of Azamara Club Cruises.

The ship's décor will be updated to match the brand and will be similar to the renovations recently introduced on the Azamara Journey and Azamara Quest.

### Mega savings for Royal Caribbean's birthday

Royal Caribbean is offering savings of up to 40% on a range of international and local itineraries, as part of its 10th Birthday Sale.

Priced from \$559, with children travelling from \$79 per day, guests have a choice of four ships from Royal Caribbean, sailing from Sydney to the South Pacific, New Zealand and around Australia, including the new Ovation of the Seas, twin sister ships Voyager of the Seas and Explorer of the Seas and culinary favourite Radiance of the Seas.

There is the three-night 'cruise to nowhere' from Sydney on Voyager of the Seas, departing on 2 February 2018. Was \$889, now priced from \$559pp, twin share

in an interior stateroom.

The nine-night roundtrip Sydney itinerary on Explorer of the Seas departs 12 February 2018 to Mare, Port Vila, Mystery Island and Noumea. Was \$1539, now priced from just \$1029pp, twin share in an interior stateroom.

Or guests can cruise in New Zealand with a 12-night roundtrip cruise from Sydney on Ovation of the Seas, departing on 17 October 2017 and calling at Sydney to Bay of Islands, Auckland, Tauranga, Dunedin and Milford Sound region. Was \$3259, now priced from \$2089pp, twin share in an interior stateroom.

Offer ends 31 October 2017.



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## Airlines

## SAA reduces flights in regional Africa

South African Airways have reduced regional flight schedules between Johannesburg and some African countries.

The changes reflect demand on affected routes as well as the airline's desire to maximise efficiencies across its network and to return to profitability as soon as possible.

No intercontinental routes are impacted by the announcement with the changes taking effect from the end of September finalising in November 2017.

Tim Clyde-Smith, SAA's country manager for Australasia says the frequency changes reflect SAA's desire to best meet the needs of business and recreational passengers in Africa.

## BA revolutionises aircraft departure

British Airways has become the first airline worldwide to introduce high-tech remote controlled devices to push back aircraft across its short-haul operation.

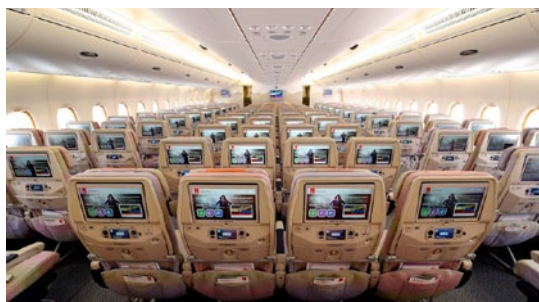
In partnership with Heathrow Airport, the eco-friendly Mototok tugs will give British Airways staff the tools to prepare aircraft for departure more efficiently.

The equipment, used to move Airbus short-haul aircraft, replaces traditional diesel tugs, allowing a single ramp agent to push an aircraft backwards from the gate remotely.

## Emirates launch additional Stockholm flights

Emirates will introduce three additional flights per week to Stockholm from 8 December 2017. The new scheduled flights will be added to meet the growing demand for travel on the route, particularly during the winter and festive season.

The introduction of the three additional flights on every Friday, Saturday and Sunday is in response to the increased demand since launching its current daily



scheduled service in September 2013.

The new Emirates flight, EK155, will depart Dubai at 1500, arriving in Stockholm Arlanda Airport at 1845. The return flight, EK156, will depart ARN at 2110 arriving at Dubai International Airport at 0630 the following day.

The timing of the three additional flights provides easier southbound connections from Stockholm. Passengers from EK155 will be able to connect to Emirates' non-stop flight to Auckland as well as the Christchurch flight.

The current existing daily flight schedule: EK 157 departs Dubai at 0810, providing connections from New Zealand services, arriving at ARN at 1155. The return flight EK158 departs ARN at 1335, landing back in Dubai at 2255.

## Emirates cleans up

Emirates took home the Passenger Choice Award for Best Entertainment at the 2017 APEX Passenger Choice Awards this week.

The airline also won the award for Best Original Video for its Welcome to ice video and was given a Five-Star Global Airline Official Airline Rating.

Emirates took home the award for Best Original Video



Ceanne Savoura Coutinho

## New face at KE

Ceanne Savoura Coutinho is now sales representative at Korean Air. This is her first foray into the airline sector, having most recently worked at a radio station in Auckland.

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NOTE: Travel must be completed before December 10, 2017. International and domestic sectors must be booked on the same booking class and issued under one ticket. Offer not applicable from USA and Canada.





## Americas – Africa

## Daily service to Tunis

Emirates will increase the frequency of flights between Dubai and Tunis from six to seven a week starting 30 October.

The additional Dubai-Tunis flight will be operated every Monday with an Emirates Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, offering eight private suites in first class, 42 lie-flat seats in business class and 310 seats in economy.

The daily service from Dubai will provide direct connections with all four daily Emirates A380 flights from New Zealand (three from Auckland and one from Christchurch).

Tunis is a popular destination for international travellers with its heritage sites and coastal lifestyle. Tourist hot spots include El Djem, known as the walls of the mighty Roman amphitheater; Sidi Bou Said, an artistry spot located on top of a steep cliff overlooking the Mediterranean Sea; and Carthage, once Rome's major rival.

## Take a trip to New York

Airbnb's Trips platform brings together locally led experiences for travellers looking to head to a particular destination, and it's just been unveiled in New York.

Other cities on the Trips platform include Sydney, Queenstown, London, Rome, Paris and Tokyo.

With this new addition, Kiwi travellers and guests of Airbnb heading to New York can now learn hip-hop dance moves from a local South Bronx dance crew, taste authentic Latin food with a Dominican Queens native, or embark on an underground tour of the subway system with a transit expert.



Travellers can jump on board an authentic Latin taste trail with Airbnb Trips



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## All eyes on London

London has come second to Bangkok as a top-ranked international travel destination, according to the annual Mastercard Global Destinations Cities Index released this week.

It is the second year running that London has held second place, based on 19.06 million overnight visitors from overseas in 2016.

Forecasts for continued growth in 2017 are also positive, and London is predicted to eclipse Bangkok's growth. Travellers from USA and France represented nearly one quarter of visitors to London, with 2.32m and 1.99m visitors respectively. Eighty one percent of visitors to London are for leisure, while the remaining one in five people are in London for business reasons.

International visitors spent \$16.09 billion in 2016, the highest of all European destinations, and significantly higher than Paris, which came in second for expenditure with \$12.03 billion.



Savings can be had when clients book Spain and Portugal next month with Tempo Holidays, which is offering savings of A\$645//\$685 per couple from 1 October to 30 November 2017.

A range of coach tours are on sale including Spain & Portugal from Barcelona, Andalucía & Barcelona and

the North of Spain. Spain & Portugal from Barcelona includes 11 nights in superior accommodation, breakfast daily and a morning sightseeing tour of Lisbon. Prices start from A\$4495/ NZ\$4800 per couple and is valid for travel on 13 May, 10 June, 9 September and 7 October 2018.

## Six Senses in India

Six Senses' latest heritage property has opened in India. Just over 100km southeast of Jaipur, the Barwara Fort was constructed in the 14th century and was once owned by the Rajasthani Royal family, World Journeys reports.

Conservation experts are working to preserve the original fort structure on the 2.2 hectare site, which is encircled by an imposing rock wall.

Inside the fort, three palaces and two temples are being restored, and outside, the protected land will be reforested. Six Senses Fort Barwara will feature 48 suites in total, along with two restaurants, bar



and lounge, two swimming pools, banquet space, retail boutique and kids club.

The property will feature a large Six Senses Spa. Due to open in late 2018, Barwara Fort will offer daily tiger safari drives into the Ranthambhore National Park, just a half hour's drive away.

[info@worldjourneys.co.nz](mailto:info@worldjourneys.co.nz)



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## Makeover in the Maldives

Club Med Kani in the Maldives has recently relaunched its Manta exclusive space.

The luxury Manta exclusive space features 75 overwater suites and offers a range of new services and activities.

New features include a private beach just for Manta guests, VIP check-in, priority reservations at Kandu restaurant, weekly private snorkeling tours and more.

Guests can also enjoy complimentary day access to the Finolhu Villas, Club Med's flagship resort, just a five-minute speedboat ride away.

## Trading places at Service IQ



Clare Savage

In a case of 'trading places' Clare Savage takes over travel and tourism at Service IQ from 2 October. Suzi Nock, in turn, shifts across to Quick Service Restaurants. Savage has more than eight years'

experience in industry training.

There are also two internal moves to sector advisor travel and tourism roles.

Andrew Milne takes one of the positions, having previously been taring advisor – Taupo.

And Mike Southcombe's recent departure to House of Travel sees Elaine Kellett becoming a sector advisor after having been in the ServiceIQ customer experience team. Kellett has a solid background in travel and tourism.



Suzi Nock

## On track to Europe

UTracks has announced its annual Early Bird sale, which commenced this week and runs through until Friday 20 October.

Clients can save up to 10% off the base tour price on active European walking and cycling tours departing in 2018.

UTracks's 2018 line up includes over 40 brand new itineraries for clients to choose from.



Marianne Ouwehand, TAT with You Travel Manly's Sandra Barclay-Graham

## So long Marianne...

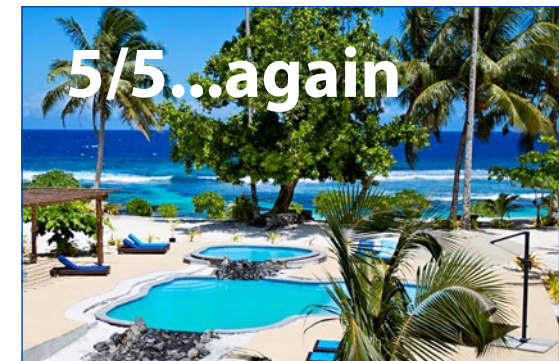
Tourism Thailand Authority's Marianne Ouwehand said goodbye to the trade this week as she wound up a second stint with the NTO. Close travel friends and partners gathered at Ponsonby's Longroom to farewell the industry identity.



Electric Art's Dave Riddel and Gaye Wood, AP Travel Marketing



Flighties Rebecca Goodin and Kristy Goodhew with TAT's Marianne Ouwehand and Sanchia Stott



## 5/5...again

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Louise Reeves - House of Travel

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## MYSTERY PERSON



## Who is this mystery person?

We managed to get the names of Kelly Richards and Peter Tuki before they headed into dinner and presentations at the Argentinian Roadshow last night and we know they are both from Cruiseabout Parnell.

But who is the mystery man on the right? Is he also a cruise? If you know the answer send it to [competitions@promag.co.nz](mailto:competitions@promag.co.nz) with Mystery Person in the subject line.

Congratulations to Stephanie Mitchell of YOU Travel who correctly guessed last week's mystery man Gerard Murphy. A prize will be making its way to you shortly.

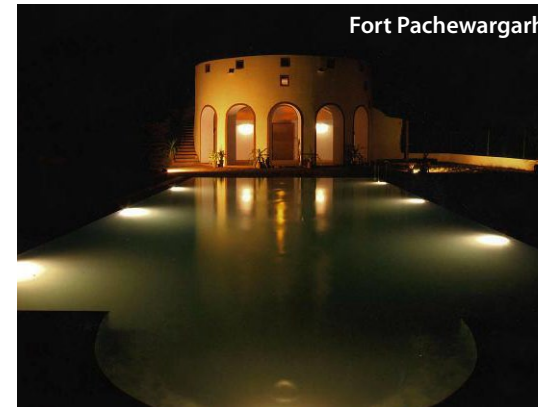
## Staying in a fort in Rajasthan

Exotic Holidays is promoting Fort Pachewargarh in the heart of Rajasthan, India, 90 kms from Jaipur.

Managing director Rahul Sharma points out that this fort is more than 300 years old, and has been renovated and converted into a luxurious heritage hotel.

Fort Pachewargarh is situated in the middle of the village from where guests can have a panoramic view. A visit to the village gives clients the opportunities to see the ancient temples, royal cenotaphs situated on the banks of Lake Pampasagar, and different artisans at work - like black smith, gold smith, earth pot maker, carpet weaving, making of blue pottery etc.

In the evening guests change their attire into colorful royal rajputana dresses and have their cocktails while watching puppet shows and local folk dances being performed by the local artists. This is



followed by a candle light dinner where Rajasthani cuisine is served.

Swimming pool, massage, Mahendi (heena), car rental, internet, and money exchange are all available.

Clients can also ask for an opportunity to discuss the history and culture with members of the Royal Family and have cooking demos in a local house.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

## Tourism in Japan gets the tech tick

Japan's National Tourism Organisation (JNTO) has launched an official travel app. An app for overseas tourists in Japan, it aims to make travelling in the country hassle-free for visitors by providing public transport route guidance, free Wi-Fi spot and ATM locations and safety alerts for natural disasters among other things.

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## FCM debuts new technology

FCM Travel Solutions has launched a new travel programme to provide a better and more efficient business travel experience for clients.

FCM Connect is an integrated global technology platform which gives clients access to multiple tools that deliver on their travel programme.

'We believe technology should move our customers forward, and the next generation release of our technology offering, FCM Connect, is designed to do just that,' says Marcus Eklund, global brand leader, FCM Travel Solutions.

FCM Connect was previewed to clients and industry earlier in the year at the London Business Travel Show and Global Business Travel Association Conference in Sydney, Australia.

## PEARL'S PEARLER

'The beginning, as the proverb insists, is half the whole.'

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