

TABS ON TRAVEL TODAY

Incorporating Tabs on Travel

Wednesday 14 December 2016

Issue 3458

7am every weekday Wellington to Auckland ✈

Jetstar

Confusion Over Sth Africa Visa Rules

The industry has been left scrambling for information after an apparent announcement from South Africa that New Zealanders will need visas to enter the country from Jan—and they'll need to travel to Wellington to get them.

The announcement was made by Minister of Home Affairs Malusi Gigaba at a media conference and shared on Twitter by the Department of Home Affairs. "New Zealand diplomatic, official and ordinary passport holders who arrive at a South African port of entry on or after 16 Jan 2017 and who are not in possession of a visa for the intended purpose and duration of stay, will not be allowed entry into South Africa," says Gigaba.

Kiwis will need to visit dha.gov.za to find out what documents they need, then visit the South African High Commission in Wellington 'to submit a visa application form and supporting documents in person', says Gigaba. The move is in retaliation to the New Zealand Government tightening up its own visa requirements. Kiwis and South Africans have enjoyed visa free travel since 1996, but in Sep New Zealand introduced new requirements, saying too many South Africans were being refused entry at the border.

Gigaba says South Africa has for some time 'adopted a visa policy which is based on the principle of reciprocity', and so a decision was made

to withdraw the visa exemption. South African visas cost ZAR425 for most categories and ZAR1520 for work and business visas, although these will increase in due course 'to align with inflation', says Gigaba. He also noted the application for a New Zealand visa costs 'almost four times the amount', but says he has 'decided not to reciprocate on that matter'.

... Confusion

Airlines and wholesalers spoken to today hadn't received any official announcement of the new policy and are seeking more information.

World Journeys director Ange Pirie said enquiries to the High Commission and South Africa Tourism haven't provided any clarification, 'particularly with regard to the unprecedented requirement to apply for a tourist visa in person, in Wellington'.

"World Journeys, in partnership with other principals, will be doing all possible, from a tourism perspective, to initiate an objection in the hope of overturning this decision," she says.

Calls by *Travel Today* to the High Commission went unanswered, and SA Tourism's Australasia office said it hadn't received anything official.

Industry sources said the move as it stands will have a negative impact on tourism to South Africa, particularly if visitors need to travel to Wellington for their visa.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the team at AirTahitiNui



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Strike Closes Eiffel

The Eiffel Tower closed Tue (local time) due to a strike which could extended through to Wed (local time), say reports.

Tower management told *Associated Press* that the workers are 'disconnected from reality' and don't understand the current environment in Paris, where tourism is suffering following terror attacks, floods and air pollution. Visitor numbers to the tower have dropped from around seven million last year to six million this year, *AP* reported.

A note on the tower's official website reads 'due to a social movement, the Eiffel Tower is closed for the moment'.

KLM/AF Departs

Travel Today understands that KLM/Air France will effectively withdraw from this market in its own right.

It is further understood that Sandy Stewart, the sole staff member in New Zealand, has been made redundant, effective 31 Dec. See tomorrow's edition of *Travel Today* for more.

Rio 'Mugging' Tax?

Rio de Janeiro mayor-elect Marcelo Crivella has reportedly proposed a new tourist tax with the hopes of using the funds to then reimburse visitors if they were mugged in the city. The *New York Times* says the city wants to shed the 'negative image' that was portrayed during the Olympics. "Rio de Janeiro cannot continue treating its tourists as if they were an afterthought," he was reported as saying.

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HAWAIIAN AIRLINES

Agent Week Success

TAANZ says the interaction and engagement for its Travel Agent Awareness Week social media campaign 'exceeded our expectations by a mile'. "We are really pleased to see the immense support from fellow agents and customers—a fantastic social response," says TAANZ's Emmy Hanrahan.

The campaign received a total of over 13,000 unique views and 300 shares, she adds. TAANZ is encouraging its members to regularly keep in touch with the TAANZ social profiles to help spread the word and increase the TAANZ agent profile.

Air Seoul On Sabre

Korea's newest low-cost carrier, Air Seoul, has signed a distribution agreement with Sabre which will make the carrier's content available to agents via the GDS for the first time. Air Seoul launched earlier this year, commencing domestic flights between Gimpo and Jeju in Jul, and last month launched international operations with routes to Japan and Cambodia.



EUROPE EARLY BIRD FARES EXTENDED

Flight Centre Loses ACCC Case, Again

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has won a long-running case against Flight Centre, after the High Court overturned a decision made in Flight Centre's favour in 2015.

The ACCC accused Flight Centre of price fixing on six occasions from 2005 to 2009, by asking airlines not to offer prices directly to travellers that were lower than those available on Flight Centre's website.



Drink The Plane Dry

The pilot of a 3.5 hour Southwest Airlines flight from California to Kansas City was so impressed that passengers managed to drink all of the alcohol onboard that he made an announcement just to congratulate them all. Reports say the majority of those onboard were American football fans travelling to support the Oakland Raiders in their match against the Kansas City Chiefs.

Flight Centre was found guilty and fined AUD11 million in Dec 2013. This was overturned by the Federal Court last year—but this morning, the High Court overturned the Federal Court decision.

Flight Centre has previously called the case a 'competition law test case' and maintained it did nothing illegal by seeking the best deals for its customers. The company said this morning it is reviewing the latest judgement and hopes to provide an update later today.

LH/SQ Approval

The Competition Commission of Singapore has approved Singapore Airlines' joint venture with the Lufthansa Group, says SQ. The decision follows approval from Australia, and is 'another step that will enable the two airline groups to build an integrated alliance'.

"We welcome the approval from the CCS and look forward to working with the Lufthansa Group to bring more benefits to customers through harmonisation of our respective networks," says SQ boss Goh Choon Phong. The JV will provide 'unparalleled network connectivity between Europe and Asia Pacific', he says.

New oneworld Fare

The oneworld alliance has released a new three continent fare for the first time from selected southern hemisphere origins including New Zealand and Australia, Qantas has advised. Travel is permitted between the South West Pacific, Africa and South America. Fares are offered in economy and business class. See qantas.co.nz/agents

WRE Overhaul Complete

Whangarei Airport can now host more passengers and accommodate larger aircraft following the completion of a \$1 million upgrade, says Transport Minister Simon Bridges. The overhaul includes extra seating space for passengers, new bathrooms, and a larger internal baggage claim area; while outside, there's more taxi ranks and footpaths, and upgraded pathways. There's also a second airport entry and a car park extension.

On the tarmac, aircraft taxiways have been resurfaced to better accommodate the larger aircraft now operating at the airport.



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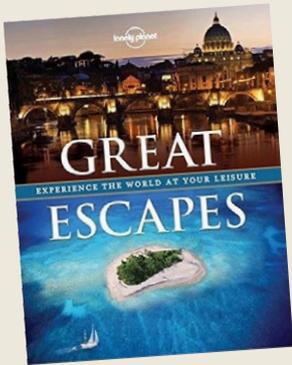
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Lonely Planet Winner

helloworld Miramar's Tori Maxwell is the winner of *Travel Today's* festive Facebook giveaway for a copy of Lonely Planet's *Great Escapes* book. Entrants had to tell us their dream escape, with the Greek Islands and Antarctica proving to be the most popular destinations, while Maxwell's top holiday choice would be to visit Costa Rica's Monteverde Cloud Forest. The winner was chosen at random.

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EUROPE EARLY BIRD FARES EXTENDED

News & Product

HA Embraces Its Cultural Roots

Hawaiian Airlines was playing up its cultural roots last night at the New Zealand premiere of the new Disney film *Moana*.

The carrier is already operating three *Moana*-themed A330s across its network and is leveraging off its partnership with the Disney movie, which follows the adventure of a young Polynesian girl (Moana) as she voyages across the Pacific with the help of demi-god Maui.

"As a destination carrier our goal is to carry our Kiwi passengers to and from our island home—so it was a natural fit with the movie," says HA New Zealand manager Russell Williss.



EK Singapore Fares

Emirates has economy class saver fares from New Zealand to Singapore from \$688 for sale today only. Travel is valid between 15 Feb-26 Mar, 25 Apr-13 Jun or 20 Jul-14 Sep. See your GDS for further details.

Back-Roads' Win

Back-Roads Touring has been named as the Best Small Coach Holidays Company for the second year in a row in the British Travel Awards. "We take a lot of pride in putting the customer at the heart of everything we do. The British Travel Awards validate the collective efforts of our team," says gm Australia and new Zealand Dennis Basham. "This award is a testament to the uniqueness of our product offering in the marketplace and the passion behind its operation."

Basham adds that UK remains the most popular destination for its Kiwi clients.

The carrier points out its long-standing connection to 'wayfinding' from its aircraft named after constellations, native birds and winds 'to recognise the ingenuity of skilled Polynesian navigators'.

"The film does a fantastic job of representing all Polynesian cultures and we're incredibly proud to be part of this celebration," adds Williss. "It also showcases the similarities between the Hawaiian and Maori cultures, so while there's a build-up of excitement for Kiwis travelling on HA across the Pacific, there's also that sense of familiarity once they're there—as well as the shopping and dining etc."

Hawaii Tourism's Darragh Walshe echoes this sentiment and adds that the voyaging and cultural connections between the two destinations remain a drawcard for Kiwi travellers.

... Agent Screening

Kiwi agents will have a chance to see the movie themselves early next year. Williss says HA is set to host a trade screening of *Moana* in mid-Jan. More details on the event will be released in the New Year.

New Air Canada Services

Air Canada will launch six new non-stop US services in 2017. Three of the routes, Toronto to San Antonio, Memphis and Savannah, bring new destinations into the airline's US network, while the addition of Montreal to Dallas-Fort Worth, Vancouver to Denver and the conversion of the Vancouver-Phoenix route to year-round operation, will deepen the airline's trans-border schedule. The new services will be operated by Air Canada Express, starting in May, and continue year-round, except for Toronto-Savannah, which will operate on a (northern) summer seasonal basis.

World Journeys Bali

World Journeys has up to 25% off three-night stays for three Aman resorts in Bali, if booked by 30 Apr 2017. The resorts include the Amankila Resort, a beachside haven on the remote east coast of Bali; Amanusa Resort, on the Nusa Dua peninsula; and the Amandari Resort, set in central Bali near Ubud. Packages are priced from \$1384pp s/t for a three-night stay, including return airport transfers from Denpasar, daily breakfast and Wi-Fi.



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Quito to Cuzco

Adventure World has a new itinerary combining two of its best-selling destinations, Galapagos and Machu Picchu. The new 14-day Galapagos and Machu Picchu Discovery has an emphasis on history, scenery and nature, and travels from Quito to Cuzco, exploring Galapagos, Lima, Yucay and Machu Picchu. It's priced from \$7685pp, including hotel and cruise accommodation, many meals, sight-seeing with local English-speaking guides and domestic flights.

LHR's Runway Plans

Heathrow is looking to formally submit an application to expand the airport with a new runway in 2019. The news follows the UK government's announcement in Oct that a new runway at Heathrow is its preferred option for airport expansion. The airport is now set to undertake engagement and consultation with local communities and other stakeholders and various aspects of the scheme including environmental impacts and project design.



New SYD Airport Gets Green Light

The Australian government has given its tick of approval on the Western Sydney Airport plan, to be located at Badgerys Creek—and it's a move that has been welcomed by the Tourism & Transport Forum Australia.

TTF says the 'historic' decision will transform Western Sydney and provide additional aviation capacity for Australia to take advantage of the growth in the Asia-Pacific. "We've had so many false starts on this critical aviation project that very few thought we would ever see the day when the Federal Government gave the green light for a Western Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek to be built – but here we are at last," says TTF chief executive Margy Osmond.

She adds that the airport has the potential to fundamentally change the way Sydney operates, but that the right infrastructure will need to be put in place to connect it to the Sydney CBD and the broader Western Sydney region. "TTF has been a vocal advocate of building transport infrastructure including fast rail to the new airport to ensure it can reach its full potential," she says. "I've said before we don't want it to become a 'hitchhiker's' airport—we must have an ironclad plan to deliver rail as soon as possible."

Reports say the airport is expected to

be up and running in the mid-2020s and would be expected to initially service around 10 million passengers a year. It is due to operate with a single runway upon opening, with a second parallel runway expected to be required by 2050, say reports. For details see westernsydneyairport.gov.au

Tigerair Mobile Passes

Tigerair Australia has introduced mobile boarding passes, enabling clients to use their mobile devices to book, check-in and board their Tigerair service.

Passengers who check-in at Tigerair.com.au can choose to receive a mobile boarding pass directly to their mobile device either by e-mail or SMS. It has also introduced an Apple iOS Passbook Wallet version of the mobile boarding pass for iPhone users.



Local Stars, Northland Favourites In NZ's Video

Air New Zealand has released its latest safety video, starring plenty of famous Kiwis and highlighting Northland's tourism jewels. Inspired by the classic Kiwi road trip, *Summer of Safety* follows *Shortland Street* actor Jayden Daniels as he travels around the Bay of Islands and Hokianga—encountering familiar faces, friendly locals and iconic attractions along the way. Supermodel Rachel Hunter, *Games of Thrones* actor Joe Naufahu, stuntwoman Zoe Bell, IndyCar legend Scott Dixon and Olympic bronze-medallist Eliza McCartney all make an appearance in the film, while controversial broadcaster Mike Hosking also makes a cameo. The video will be rolled out across the fleet from today. To watch it, [CLICK HERE](#)

Broome Xmas

Conti Restaurant & Bar at Mercure Broome is offering a Christmas Day buffet lunch. Cost is AUD155 per adult and AUD49 for children (four-12).

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Fri 16 Dec is our last issue for the year,
Mon 16 Jan is the first issue for 2017

Again this year **Stop Press** e-mail broadcasts will be published in between these dates should there be important breaking news.

Holiday Update e-mail broadcasts will also be available for timely or important product announcements by suppliers.

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Thank you and Merry Christmas from the team at Jetstar.





Meet The Baby Lemurs

Australia Zoo guests can now meet its baby lemurs, the first to be born at the zoo. The twin lemurs were born in Aug, and for a limited time guests will be able to meet the family. The encounter happens daily at 0930 and costs AUD79pp (plus zoo entry), for a maximum of four people per encounter. For details and to book, [CLICK HERE](#)

Industry Diary

FEBRUARY 2017

2017 Adventure World USA Roadshow

Auckland: Tue 07.
Wellington: Wed 08.
Christchurch: Thu 09.
Venues, times tba.

MARCH 2017

2017 Adventure World Roadshow

Auckland: Mon 06.
Bay of Plenty: Tue 07.
Wellington: Wed 08.
Christchurch: Thu 09.
Venues, times tba.

JAWS Roadshow 2017

Dunedin: Mon 06.
Christchurch: Tue 07.
Nelson: Wed 08.
Whangarei: Tue 14.
Auckland North: Wed 15.
Napier: Mon 20.
Wellington: Tue 21.
Palmerston North: Wed 22.
New Plymouth: Thu 23.
Tauranga: Tue 28.
Hamilton: Wed 29.
Venues tba.

Tourism Fiji Roadshow

Nelson: Mon 27, Grand Mercure Monaco Hotel, breakfast.
Wellington: Mon 27, Rydges Wellington, evening.
Christchurch: Tue 28, Addington Raceway & Events Centre, evening.
Auckland, CBD: Wed 29, Pullman Hotel, evening.
Hamilton: Thu 30, Ferrybank Reception & Conference Centre, evening.
Auckland, North Shore: Fri 31, QBE Stadium Albany, breakfast.



Virgin Space Flight



Virgin Galactic's new spaceship, the VSS Unity, successfully completed its first free flight last week—and says it's 'an important step forward on our road to space'.

It's more than two years since one of Virgin's space ships crashed, killing

the co-pilot. The latest test flight over the Mojave Desert marks the first time a vehicle built by sister organisation, The Spaceship Company, has flown fully under its own control.

The glide flight was the first of many, and Virgin Galactic says it hasn't yet reached the rocket powered phase of the test flight program. It hasn't given any update on when the more than 700 prospective astronauts, including around eight from New Zealand, will finally get to space.

For a video of VSS Unity's flight, [CLICK HERE](#)



BNE Weekend Away

Brisbane's newest hotel, the Swiss-Belhotel Brisbane, is offering a 'Weekend with Bernie' package which includes overnight accommodation in a superior room, a bottle of Chandon on arrival, breakfast for two, late checkout, parking and Wi-Fi. Guests will also receive a 'Bernie'—the hotel's St Bernard mascot. Rates start from AUD229pn. The package is available until 30 Jun.

Sanctuary Deals

Sanctuary Retreats' Stay Longer, Pay Less extended stay deals on its African safaris, offers savings of up to 40% for those who stay three nights or more at any combination of the company's African camps and lodges. Options include; stay three to four nights and save up to 30%, stay five to seven nights and save up to 35%, and stay eight or more nights and save up to 40%. Terms and conditions apply. Details, sanctuaryretreats.com

Exclusive RTW offer

MSC Magnifica will depart Genoa 05 Jan 2019 on the cruise line's first-ever World Cruise, returning 119 days later after calling at 49 destinations, in 32 countries on six continents. The itinerary includes the Panama and Suez Canals, the Caribbean, Columbus, Aruba, Sand Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Hawaii, Tonga, Samoa, Tahiti, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, the Maldives and the Emirates. The schedule promises an 'above-industry average' stay of 13 hours on shore per port of call. Extended stays are also offered in some ports.

Until 15 Dec, MSC Cruises Voyagers Club members can exclusively book before general sales open on 19 Dec. Fares starts at \$21379 pp t/s inside cabin and from \$31499 pp t/s in a balcony cabin.

Yatule On Sale

Yatule Resort & Spa is offering 20% off stays from 09 Jan-31 Aug (except 13-17 Apr), advises Eye 4 Travel. The hotel is located along Natadola Beach, a 45-minute drive from Nadi Airport. The offer is valid on all bure types and includes a Yatule welcome pack (glass of bubbles, cold towels and handcrafted leis on arrival), plated breakfast daily and free Wi-Fi in the lobby, restaurant and bar areas.



Dubai On Show For Kiwis

Emirates took a group of Kiwi agents to experience the sights of Dubai recently for the carrier's annual mega famil. The group experienced some of the emirate's new attractions, including Legoland. Pictured on famil is:

1 At Legoland is Tina Strachan, FC Broker; Fiona Burns, Orbit; Carla McKinnon, HOT Wanganui; David Campton, Orbit; and Sara Moore, FC Ashburton. **2** The group took an abra across the Dubai Creek, including (front, left to right) Kirsty Stewart, HOT; David Campton, Orbit; Amanda Marshall, FC Botany; and Lynda Tudor, Emirates.



Moana New Zealand Premiere



HAWAIIAN
— AIRLINES —

Hawaiian Airlines, in conjunction with Walt Disney Animation Studios, hosted the New Zealand premiere of hit new movie 'Moana', in Auckland last night. The film is inspired by the cultures of the south Pacific and follows the journey of adventurous youngster Moana as she voyages through the Pacific, with the help of Maui, a demi-God. The cast features a number of well-known New Zealanders—some of which attended last night's event.



1 Hawaiian Airlines' trio Mischa Knox, Rusty Williss and Lindsey Morgan. **2** HA's Tad Fujinaka and Jaime Hightower with Colin Mathura-Jeffree and HA's Brandy Perry and Rusty Williss. **3** Striking a pose like Moana and Maui is Hawaii Tourism's Darragh Walshe and Megan Hornblow. **5** *The Crowd Goes Wild's* James McOnie with HA's Jaime Hightower, Rusty Williss and Brandy Perry. **6** Tight four *Moana* Kiwi cast members Opetaiia Foa'i, Oscar Kightley, Rachel House and Jemaine Clement. **7** Cute couple? Jemaine Clement, the voice of Tamatoa, and *Travel Today's* Faith Thumath. **8** Resident Hawaiian princess HA's Lindsey Morgan is 'pictured' with Moana and Maui. **9** Temuera Morrison, HA's Rusty Williss and actress Teuila Blakely. **10** Temuera Morrison and visiting authentic Hawaiian wayfinder and Hokulea crew member Billy Nakanelua. **11** HA's Rusty Williss is pictured with Jo Holley and Shavaughn Ruakere. **12** Shaka time: HA's Tad Fujinaka, Jaime Hightower and Brandy Perry with some very excited young wannabe Hawaiians (Lucca, Ryder and Laine).

