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TRAVEL TODAY

Incorporating Tabs on Travel

Wednesday 22 March 2017

Issue 3506



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US, UK In-flight Electronics Ban

The US and UK governments' decision to ban the cabin carriage of electronic devices larger than a mobile phone on some flights to the two destinations is expected to have little impact on Kiwi travellers.

However in a global context the move is being called the most significant restriction imposed on air travel since the liquids, aerosols and gels (LAGS). The US Department of Homeland Security has ruled that all devices bigger than a cellphone must be packed in

checked luggage on flights to the US, from 10 airports in the Middle East and Africa, including Doha, Dubai and Abu Dhabi (see p2 for the full list).

At the same time the UK Department for Transport too has banned the cabin carriage of electronic devices larger than 16cm long, 9.3cm wide and 1.5cm deep on UK-bound flights from Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Tunisia.

The enhanced security measures are said to be in response to a terrorist threat and are said to apply for travel from 25 Mar.

... Lithium Battery

While organisations such as the US Travel Association and Global Business Travel Association, as well as affected carriers, say the safety of passengers remains paramount—some security experts are now questioning the risk of carrying the devices, some of which have lithium batteries, in the cargo hold. At the same time passengers are said to be concerned about the safety of packing valuable items such as cameras and laptops, for fear of them being damaged or stolen.

... Large Devices

The UK and US bans include digital cameras, laptops, tablets, e-readers, portable DVD players, electronic gaming devices larger than a smartphone and travel printers and scanners.

South Africa Update

The industry has made it clear to the South African High Commission that tourism to South Africa is under threat under new visa regulations. Agents and suppliers were invited to air their grievances at a meeting today, chaired by High Commissioner Zodwa Lallie.

TAANZ boss Andrew Olsen says the meeting was positive and the commission was attentive to the industry's concerns. Potential issues to be addressed include proxy applications and creating an agent portal through VFS.

"Industry needs to now allow the commission some breathing space to do its assessment," says Olsen. TAANZ will also meet with the New Zealand Government around the visa rules introduced for South Africans, which 'started the fight'.

For more on today's meeting see tomorrow's issue.

Expedia TAAP Packages?

Travel Today understands Expedia is set to launch a 'package' product next month, through its TAAP programme. An 'excited' broker contacted Travel Today this week about the new package deals which are said to have been on trial with selected New Zealand brokers and agencies.

One of the main selling points is that the programme is said to bring back IT package pricing for travel agents—and that the booking must include an airfare. Travel Today also understands agents are able to make air bookings with their normal suppliers, and not necessarily through the OTA.

The broker said the Expedia package product enabled them to 'keep up' with savvy clients who were also gathering prices on-line. "We are able to match prices our clients are getting off the internet," the broker said.

Expedia was unavailable for comment at presstime.

6 Pages This Issue

News.....p1-5
Travelmarvel..... p6



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HAWAIIAN AIRLINES

IFE The Focus

Passengers aboard flights affected by the new US and UK security measures (see p1) are expected to now place a greater importance on a carrier's in-flight entertainment offering. Emirates was quick to find a positive in the situation, posting a video clip on Twitter showcasing its vast ICE in-flight entertainment offering and quipping 'who needs tablets and laptops anyway?'

... US List

The new electronics ban for flights to the US applies to services operating from: Casablanca's Mohammed V International; Istanbul's Ataturk Airport; Cairo International; Jordan's Queen Alia International; Jeddah's King Abdulaziz International; King Khalid International in Riyadh; Kuwait International; Doha's Hamad International; Abu Dhabi International and Dubai International.



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Big Changes Are Coming At LAX

One-third of the airlines at Los Angeles Airport will relocate their operations over a five-day period in May, in what the airport says is a 'move of airlines never before seen at a major US airport'.

The airlines will move to new terminals or ticket counters, with the moves to take place overnight on 12, 14 and 16 May. It's in response to Delta Air Lines' shift from Terminals 5 and 6 to Terminals 2 and 3. Airlines involved in the move include Virgin Australia, which will shift from TBIT

T3 check-in to TBIT T2 check-in; Hawaiian Airlines, which moves from T2 to T5; and Air Canada, which moves from T2 to T6.

"Delta's move is one more element of LAX's massive modernisation effort which continues the transformation of the airport and will improve the guest experience," says LAX Board of Airport Commissioners president Sean Burton. "While moving 21 airlines over three nights is a monumental task, Delta and the LAWA team have been planning and preparing for months to ensure a smooth transition."

During the move, DL will operate from as many as four terminals on certain days, and the carrier will be in constant communication with customers over this time.

During the relocation and in the weeks following, passengers are advised to check-in online and check terminal and gate information before arriving at LAX. They should also aim to arrive earlier than usual.

For more information and a map of the changes, see laxishappening.com/laxonthemove

TRAVELMARVEL

Travel More

SEE PAGE 6

DL To Launch SEA-ORD

Delta Air Lines will launch flights between Seattle and Chicago from 19 Jun, with three flights a day on the route. The A319 flights will feature seat-back entertainment, USB and power points.



Fly Direct To Vic Falls

Airlink is set to operate a direct flight between Cape Town and Victoria Falls, starting from 02 Jul, says Adventure World. The South African airline will run the service Mon-Fri and on a Sun. Adventure World adds that clients can make use of the new service by booking the three-day Victoria Falls itinerary, priced from \$719pp and adding on a Cape Town holiday.

World's Fastest Indian

According to the OAG, the world's fastest growing airline is IndiGo, a low-cost carrier based just outside Delhi. It carried 53m passengers in 2016, up 27.5 per cent from 40.8m in 2015. Also in the top 10 are Xiamen (+24.5%), Shandong (+14.5%) and Hainan (+14.4%). Ryanair (+13.4%) is ninth. The fastest growing airport on Earth is Dubai, followed by Shanghai Pudong, Bangkok Suvarnabhumi and Chengdu Shuangliu, say OAG.

Czech Tourist Detained

A tourist has reportedly been fined AUD2000 for attempting to smuggle over 4000 native insects, including spiders and scorpions, on a flight out of Perth. The Czech national, who was about to board a flight to Abu Dhabi and admitted to having the insects in his bag, was arrested and charged, say reports.

LHR Voted Top

Heathrow says it's been awarded Best Airport in Europe among airports with over 40 million passengers per year in the Airports Council International 2016 Airport Service Quality Awards.

Last year 82% of passengers rated their LHR experience as either very good or excellent, a record score. The airport this year will open new luxury lounges, start construction on a hotel for Terminal 2, and reopen Gordon Ramsay's Plane Food in Terminal 5.

TAP Branded Fares

Clients can pay for only what they need with TAP's new branded fares, says World Aviation. Discount fares from Porto to London Gatwick are from \$91 one-way; or Basic fares (which include checked bags) are from \$114 one-way.



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[^] Price varies depending on route. T&Cs apply.





IHG's New SYD Move

Adding 305 rooms in Sydney by 2020, InterContinental Hotels Group and Linzhu Pty Ltd have signed an agreement to open the Holiday Inn Sydney Central in the city's CBD. To be located in the 430 Pitt St development, the hotel will be home to a restaurant, terrace bar and meeting space, and will be part of a mixed-use development that will include a private art gallery and a retail concourse.

More Hotels Coming To Auckland

Two international brand hotels are set to open in Auckland before Christmas.

Marriott expects to debut its Four Points by Sheraton brand in New Zealand later this year, with the opening of Four Points by Sheraton Auckland (pictured).

The 255-room hotel at 396 Queen Street (pictured) is currently being converted from office space and is expected to open late 2017. It will feature an all-day dining restaurant, bar and lounge, 300m² of conference and meeting space, fitness centre, on-site parking and signature Four Points amenities like free bottled water, WiFi in all public areas, breakfast and the Best Brews programme.

Marriott manager of development for Australia, New Zealand and Pacific, Maria Verner, says there's 'huge potential' for the Four Points brand



in New Zealand. "With occupancies and room rates at a record high, it's a thrilling time to be investing in this market," she says.

... And A Sebel

Meanwhile, AccorHotels has today announced that it will open a new-build Sebel apartment hotel in Manukau, Auckland in the third quarter of this year.

The 4.5 star Sebel Auckland Manukau will have 152 rooms over six floors as well as a café/restaurant, conference space, gymnasium and car parking.

The Bodyguard In SYD

Award-winning musical, *The Bodyguard*, is coming to Sydney Lyric Theatre in Apr. Staring Australian pop sensation Paulini, the romantic thriller will feature a host of Whitney Houston's greatest hits. Previews begin Fri 21 Apr. Tickets are from AUD89.90 via ticketmaster.com.au



More For Potter Fans

The Forbidden Forest will open at the Warner Bros. Harry Potter Studio Tour London on 31 Mar. Visitors will enter through the Hogwarts Gates and venture deep into the Forbidden Forest encountering beasts including Aragog, the huge spider and a full-size model of Buckbeak, which is new to the tour. The new, 'must-see' expansion has been created by many of the crew members who worked on the film series. See wbstudiotour.co.uk

New Oaks Benefits

Oaks Hotels & Resort has unveiled a new-look member benefits program. MyOaks members will now receive a 10% discount on all bookings across the property portfolio, spanning destinations in Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, the UAE and India. Other benefits include an 1100 check-out, free internet, plus hotel deals where members will enjoy exclusive offers of up to 50% off. Members will also get a 10% discount on stays with parent company Minor Hotels and its global network of brands. See minorhotels.com/en/oaks/myoaks

ISSN 1176-5275

Travel Today (incorporating Tabs on Travel) is published by Tabs on Travel Ltd, New Zealand. Ph +64-9-415 8111.

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Seward Whale Watching

Major Marine Tours has launched a new whale watching day cruise out of Seward, Alaska, advises local Visit Anchorage rep Canuckiwi.

The Orca Quest Cruise will be on offer mid-May through mid-Jun, when orca whales are most frequently found feeding in local waters. Rather than following a set route, clients will be taken to recent hotspots for sightings as the orcas shift around the region's bays and fjords.

For further details see majormarine.com

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SYD Pompeii Exhibition

The Australian Maritime Museum is unpacking and installing a selection of objects dating back thousands of years for its new international exhibition, *Escape from Pompeii*, opening 31 Mar. The exhibition will showcase the rescue attempt following the eruption of Mt Vesuvius and the destruction of Pompeii in 79AD, with Roman jewellery, tableware, food items, a warship and event body casts of five victims to be on display. It runs to 30 Aug, with tickets AUD32 for adults, AUD20 for children and AUD79 for families. See anmm.gov.au/pompeii for further details.

Save In Samoa

The four-star Saletoga Sands Resort and Spa in Samoa has 30% off five-night stays for sales to 30 Apr and travel 01 Apr-12 May, 18 May-30 Jun, 01 Aug-4 Dec, 5 Jan-31 Mar 2018. Meanwhile the three-star Saletoga Beach Bungalows and Hotel has 40% off five-night stays for sales to 30 Apr and travel to 30 Jun, 01 Aug 2017- 01 Mar 2018. Contact your wholesaler or Coconuts Travel Marketing.

Major Expansion For Graceland



Priscilla Presley cut the ribbon at the opening of an expansion at Elvis Presley's Graceland in Memphis earlier this month.

The 16ha, USD45 million, state-of-the-art entertainment complex is the largest and most significant expansion since Graceland first opened to the public in 1982, says the complex. It makes room for the thousands of artifacts that couldn't previously be showcased because of lack of space. It also allows visitors to follow the path Elvis took, surround themselves with the things he loved, and experience the sights and sounds of the city that inspired him. Guests will fully immerse themselves in his life and career 'like never before'. While the

existing Graceland Mansion tour will continue to present the personal and family side of Elvis' life, Elvis Presley's Memphis will tell the rest of the story. The opening also introduced a new Ultimate VIP tour experience, which takes a small group of visitors on an 'unprecedented' journey through his life and the history of Rock 'n' Roll. There are several other new additions including The Guest House at Graceland resort, which opened last Oct (the largest hotel to open in Memphis in 90 years); Presley Motors Automobile Museum with over 20 of automobiles including the iconic Pink Cadillac; Presley Cycles with Elvis' motorcycles; and Private Presley: Elvis in the Army Exhibit.



Travel In Style

For high-end clients who are time poor, World Journeys suggests Aman's Private Jet Expeditions, which allows travellers to stay in five-star properties and fly between sites onboard a private jet. Highlights include a Europe itinerary, which takes in the likes of Montenegro, Macedonia, Greece, Sicily and Venice (12-22 Sep); while a Pan-Asia itinerary (08-24 Oct) takes in old and new China in Lijian and Shanghai as well as India and Sri Lanka. Each itinerary is limited to 20 guests, and they do sell out, says World Journeys.

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If you have these attributes and would like to join the Global Aviation Team in New Zealand please forward a current CV to:

admin@globalaviation.co.nz

Applications close 31 March 2017.

Global Aviation Services



Plantation Is. deal

Plantation Island Resort has stay seven, pay four or stay five, pay three deals for sales to 15 Apr and travel 16 Aug-21 Sep, 10 Oct-17 Nov, 13-24 Dec and 10 Jan-31 Mar. The packages can be bought in conjunction with the current 3KIDS special. However, the deals do not include poolside rooms. Coconuts Travel Marketing has details.

Industry Diary

MARCH

JAWS Roadshow 2017

Palmerston North: Wed 22, Distinction Hotel, 1700-2000.

New Plymouth: Thu 23, Novotel Hotel, 1700-2000.

Tauranga: Tue 28, Tauranga Yacht Club, 1700-2000.

Hamilton: Wed 29, Novotel Tainui, 1700-2000.

Lufthansa Agent Training Days

Auckland North: Thu 23, The Spencer on Byron Hotel, 0830.

Africa Safari Co. Roadshow

Auckland: Thu 23, Rydges Hotel, 1800

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.

APRIL

Tourism Fiji Roadshow

Tauranga: Mon 03, Club Mt Maunganui, 1730-1930.

Rotorua: Tue 04, Novotel Rotorua, 0700-0845. **Taupo:** Tue 04,

Lonestar Taupo, anytime between 1200-1400.

Napier: Tue 04, Crowne Hotel, 1730-1930.

Palmerston North: Wed 05, Distinction Hotel, 1730-1930.

Wanganui: Thu 06, Stellar Restaurant and Bar, anytime between 1200-1400.

New Plymouth: Thu 06, Novotel New Plymouth, 1730-1930.

For more see Monday's
TRAVEL TODAY

MKR Winners At Ubud Food Festival

Indonesian-born Tasia and Gracia Seger, otherwise known as the Spice Sisters who won My Kitchen Rules last year, will headline at the third Ubud Food Festival 12-14 May.

The sisters will appear alongside other 'culinary icons' including the world's foremost tempeh expert, Professor Winarno, and raw food specialist Arif Springs, whose plant-based approach to nutrition is underpinning a growing health food movement across Indonesia.

Other guests include Charles Toto, the Jungle Chef from Jayapura, Papua, who uses local ingredients from his homelands to put a Papuan twist on well-known Western favorites and Bo Songvisava and Dylan Jones of Bangkok's Bo.lan, which featured in S. Pellegrino & Acqua Panna Asia's 50 Best Restaurants 2015 list. The husband and wife duo will be collaborating with the 'Street Food Chef'

Will Meyrick to present a special event at his celebrated Hujan Locale restaurant.

The three-day programme spans a range of ticketed and free events, from cooking demonstrations, special events, workshops and food tours, to markets, film screenings, live music and in-depth forum discussions. Special events will take place before, during and after the Festival, at various locations across Ubud and Bali.

The full program, line-up and tickets will be announced via the website in late Mar. See ubudfoodfestival.com



Noumea Cheese Fest

Le Meridien Noumea has announced the return of its French cheese festival, New Caledonia Tourism has advised. The French Cheese Festival features more than 130 cheese specialities presented by a 'cheese master'. It's on 06-17 Jun, contact the hotel for details.

One&Only Cape Town

One&Only Cape Town has 25% off suites, plus a stay four pay three, deal for travel 23 Apr-30 Jun, Adventure World has advised. The hotel is located in the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, and features panoramic views of Table Mountain. A four-night stay in a one-bedroom Marina Suite including breakfast is from \$2511 pp t/s.

Jags In Port Stephens

For clients heading to the region this weekend, Ramada Resort Shoal Bay will be home to a fleet of some 250 Jags when Jaguar enthusiasts from across Australia converge on the property for the 48th Jaguar National Rally. A fleet of new and old jags will be on display at the Ramada property 24-27 Mar and clients are encouraged to head along. See jaguarNationalrally2017.org.au

ZA Property Closure

Le Quartier Francais in South Africa's Winelands will be closed for refurbishment 01 Jun-10 Jul, advises World Journeys. All rooms and suites will be upgraded while The Tasting Room will be transformed into a new restaurant (closed 29 Apr and expected to reopen in Aug). Reservations have been moved to either Leeu Estates or Leeu House, it adds.

Titanic Tours Coming

A London tour company is reportedly going to offer trips for intrepid travellers to explore the RMS Titanic shipwreck in 2018. Commencing in May next year, Blue Marble Private is reportedly set to run eight-day journeys that will see clients flown by helicopter or seaplane from St John's, Newfoundland to spend time on an expedition yacht near the ship. Once onboard the yacht, clients will have the chance to board a submersible to get an up-close look at the decaying remains, as well as to spend time with scientists and deep ocean explorers. However, a chance to experience this will reportedly cost GBP86,500pp.

Bronx Week In NYC

Bronx Week is a 12-day festival (10-21 May) which dates back to the 1970s and puts the spotlight on New York's northernmost borough, says NYC & Company. Visitors can enjoy a parade, a variety of smaller festivals and live music performances, and take a trolley tour highlighting the arts and culture of the South Bronx.

Backstreet Tickets Out

Tickets for the *Backstreet Boys: Larger Than Life* residency at The AXIS at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino start from USD55, advises local GSA Discover the World. VIP packages and meet and greets are also available. All shows begin at 2100. See backstreetboys.com



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Visit California is searching for agents who will be the faces of their new digital training platform, California STAR.

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