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# TRAVELinc MEMO

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## Agent trade famils a part of NZ focus for Mauritius

A growth of 26% in visitor arrivals, albeit from a small base, last year has prompted Air Mauritius and the country's tourism board to draw up a plan to engage more with travel agents in New Zealand in 2017.

James Blake, regional manager Australia and New Zealand with Air Mauritius says the airline will launch a new trade website in the first half of March and is also keen to get Kiwi agents on famils to the destination for the first time.



James Blake

Blake was in New Zealand this week, visiting wholesalers and other trade partners as well as building up strategies with GSA (general sales agent) Airline Marketing New Zealand.

'We will be looking at getting somewhere between 12 and 24 New Zealand agents in our next financial year.

'We had just short of 1000 New Zealanders visit Mauritius last year but we are seeing a marked increase in both arrivals and enquiries so we feel there are definite opportunities to work with the trade here. New Zealanders are looking for different destinations and Mauritius fits that description nicely.'

He says indications from the Australian market are that

*Continued on page 2*

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## Love is not making Kiwis' world go round

Kiwis may love to travel, but they tend not to travel for love.

So shows research from House of Travel, which reveals less than 1% of New Zealanders are choosing to holiday for romance in 2017.

House of Travel marketing director Ken Freer says family holidays dominated Kiwis' reasons for travel.

'Out of more than 12,000 New Zealanders who were opting to travel for either romance, adventure, family or to relax and refresh, only 25 prioritised travel for romance – less than 1%,' he says.

The number of people travelling for family was high at 72%.

'However, time together as a family is very different from time together as a couple. We were surprised so few Kiwi couples are choosing to invest in quality time together in 2017 – even five years ago, travelling to reconnect as a couple was much more common than it is today.'

Freer says as travel becomes more accessible for Kiwis, particularly to destinations traditionally considered off the beaten track, people are choosing to travel for adventure (13% of those involved in the survey, much higher than those on the hunt for romance).

House of Travel wants to bring back the love and is offering new deals for couples to Fiji, Australia and Bali to encourage more Kiwis to travel for romance this year.

It is also offering Kiwis the chance to win a trip for two to Paris flying Singapore Airlines.

## Agent trade famils a part of NZ focus for Mauritius

*Continued from page 1*

leisure travellers are split between those heading just to Mauritius and those using it as a stopover to or from other parts of Africa.

The airline currently flies from Perth to Mauritius twice a week and from 7 July it will increase that to three times a week, with a fourth service over Christmas and New Years. It also flies out of Singapore three times a week and Hong Kong twice a week. For clients travelling through

Australia to connect, Virgin Australia is the codeshare partner.

On the African continent, Air Mauritius flies to Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban, Dara Salam, Mozambique, Nairobi and Madagascar.

Air Mauritius is taking delivery of its first A350-900 in September, with the second in October preludeing advance orders for a further four. These will be added to an existing fleet of A330s, A340s, A319s and ATR 700s.

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[aklmk@airlinemarketing.co.nz](mailto:aklmk@airlinemarketing.co.nz)

## Big events confirmed for new centre

The New Zealand International Convention Centre (NZICC) has secured bookings for two large-scale medical conferences in 2020.

The events are expected to bring 15,000 room nights and \$11 million in economic benefit for Auckland.

The conferences are the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), who will hold back-to-back conferences for five days.

Four thousand medical professionals from around the world will come to Auckland for the APAO Congress, and 2000 eye care providers will attend the IAPB General Assembly.

## Product Update Spain

WIN flights to  
Spain with Emirates

DATE: Monday, 6 March 2017

VENUE: Grand Millennium

Mayoral Drive  
Auckland

TIME: 5.30 – 8.00pm

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## Big trend? Ultra long haul flying popular

The next step in the golden era of travel is ultra long haul flying, says Graham 'Scroo' Turner, founder and chief executive officer of Flight Centre Travel Group.

'Qantas is starting Perth – London, obviously in part to compete with the Middle Eastern carriers,' he says.

'The 777-X is on the drawing board and when that is in service we will see direct services like Sydney – New York and Sydney – Melbourne.'

'Carriers like Air New Zealand and Qantas will really be able to take advantage of that ultra long haul aircraft and I would expect to see it around 2022 – 2025. It is not just about distance, it's efficiency too.'



Some of the Flight Centre delegation at Beirut Restaurant in Auckland: Dean Smith, managing director – The Americas; Graham 'Scroo' Turner, founder and CEO; Melanie Waters, chief operating officer; Chris Galanty, managing director - UK

Turner was in Auckland this week with other big hitters from the Flight Centre Group.

## Flight Centre, TAANZ 'talking' on awards

Flight Centre remains open to competing in the National Travel Industry Awards (NTIA) in New Zealand, despite a current stance of not being involved, says David Coombes, managing director New Zealand.

He says Flight Centre remains in discussion with the Travel Agents Association of New Zealand (TAANZ), which runs the awards. 'Flight Centre is not a member of TAANZ and taking part in the awards before being a member is a bit cart before the horse. But we are in dialogue.'

He points out that Flight Centre does enter a number of awards, such as the New Zealand Retail Awards.

His comments came when Graham 'Scroo' Turner, the founder and chief executive officer of Flight Centre Group, was in Auckland this week. During a media lunch Turner noted that it was important to the group that New Zealand had a strong travel agency presence.

'That's not only us, but our competitors as well because it improves the market. The better we are, the better the overall market is.'

## First shop in New Zealand?

Where was the first Flight Centre retail store in New Zealand?

A video presented to media this week, coinciding with the group's 30th anniversary here, stated that the first shop was in Queen Street, the second in Fort

Street (both Auckland) and the third in Christchurch.

But founder Graham 'Scroo' Turner is pretty sure the first shop was just a little bit off Queen Street – in Vulcan Lane and called The Flight and Travel Centre.



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**For the successful applicant we offer a remuneration package including a base salary, 4 weeks annual leave, travel benefits, and subsidized superannuation and medical cover.**

**Applications should be forwarded by Monday 27th February, by email to the Sales Manager, Ian Peddie: [ianp@thaairways.co.nz](mailto:ianp@thaairways.co.nz)**

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



At Emporium Hotel are, from left, Peter Carpenter, Planet Earth Travel; Cindy Chi, Aspire Travel Group; Vikki Bell, Supreme Tours; Netra Bashyal, Travel Corner and Veru Bakshi, Skytravel

## GTN agents in Queensland

Brisbane's trendy Fortitude Valley was the first stop on Global Travel Network's fam to Queensland's Whitsundays this week.

The group of eight flew business class on Emirates and spent the first night at the Emporium Hotel in Brisbane where they could explore the dining and shopping precinct of the 'valley.'

Yesterday they headed north on Virgin Australia to the Whitsundays' Blue Horizon Resort and today the group begins a weekend of sailing, snorkelling and diving with Cruise Whitsundays. See Tuesday's Memo for full coverage.

## Travelport and Air Canada sign agreement

Travelport, a global travel commerce platform, and Air Canada have signed a new, long-term agreement that establishes a framework for merchandising, branding, and technology collaboration between the two companies.

Under the full content agreement, Travelport-connected agencies in over 180 countries will get real-time access to search, sell, and book Air Canada's fares.

Air Canada will also start using Travelport's Rich Content and Branding (app and website software) to display its

content and ancillaries to travel agencies, enabling them to help their customers make informed travel choices.

Chris Engle, Travelport's vice president Americas, air commerce says Air Canada was an early adopter of Travelport.

'This agreement further strengthens our partnership in a manner that promises a robust future with expanded opportunities for Travelport agency customers and their travelers to personalise their unique travel experiences on Air Canada.'

## Viva offers musical Latin tours

Jo Saunderson from Viva Expeditions is excited to be running her next ukulele-inspired tour in October.

After the success of her recent music tour to Hawaii with a group of fellow ukulele players and music lovers, Saunderson will now head to Mexico and Cuba, destinations well known for their musical flair.

The Sounds of Mexico & Cuba Tour departs 7 October 2017 and is priced from \$6976 per person twin share.

## Standard set for ServiceIQ

The international standard ISO 9001:2015 has been awarded to ServiceIQ, the industry training organisation (ITO) for the service sectors of tourism, hospitality, aviation, retail, travel and museums.

'This means that we have been assessed by Telarc, an independent agency, as having robust internal systems that align with internationally recognised standards,' says Dean Minchington, ServiceIQ chief executive.

ServiceIQ conforms to ISO 9001:2015 and is Telarc registered for the provision of workforce development, skills standard setting, qualification development, and arranging training across the service sector; as per Tertiary Education Commission Gazetted Coverage.

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## Europe

### CostSaver releases deals

CostSaver, operated by Trafalgar, has released new deals on a selection of Europe tours, departing April and May this year.

Savings of up to \$1,194 per couple are available on holidays throughout the continent ranging from eight to 28 days.

The tour prices include airport transfers, a Trafalgar-trained travel director, hotels, sightseeing in major cities, local specialists, all breakfasts and many dinners, air-conditioned vehicles, baggage handling, hotel charges and local taxes.

On offer is the 13 day Splendours of Italy, departing 8 April, 2017. This takes guests from Rome to the Bay of Naples, Sorrento, Venice, Tuscany and Florence and costs \$163pp per day.

Also on offer is the eight day England and Scotland Heritage, commencing on 12 April, 2017. This journey travels through London, Windsor Castle, Ben Nevis, Pitlochry, York, and Grasmere and is priced from \$165pp per day.

The 10 day Croatia and Bosnia Herzegovina is another deal, departing on 29 April, 2017. This trip takes guests to the Balkans, Zagreb, Dubrovnik and Split and is priced from \$171pp per day.

Tours through Italy are \$163 a day with CostSaver



Scenic is adding to its European cruise programme, which takes in trips such as this through Portugal

### Deals and a view with Scenic

Scenic has discounted offers and new itineraries as part of its 2018 pre-release luxury Europe river cruising programme.

One saving enables clients who book now the chance to pay 2017 prices on all 2018 departures. Also, solo travellers can save 50% off the single supplement on selected departures of 11 days or more.

Those who pay for a journey in full before 31 May this year will secure an additional \$600 off per couple when booking cruises of 11 days or longer, and \$300 off per couple for cruises of 10 days or less.

Additionally, this season sees the launch of two new itineraries. One is the 12 Day Rhine Christmas Markets, which

travels between Amsterdam and Basel in December, taking in the festive markets of Germany. This can also be extended by five days in Switzerland.

Also new is the 15 Day Imperial Russia, which travels from Moscow to Volgograd (Stalingrad) and stops at a few lesser-known ports, including Kostroma and Saratov.

Aleisha Fittler, executive general manager, says cabins are limited for the 2018 Europe season, and Scenic anticipates it will sell out.

'Pre-registration was strong this year so we encourage agents to book their clients now to guarantee their preferred travel dates and choice of suite,' says Fittler.

## PORTUGAL



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## Bolivian entry requirements

The Bolivian authorities have introduced a new regulation regarding yellow fever, advises World Journeys.

Effective 2 March this year, if travellers have visited any South American country (except Chile or Uruguay) prior to entering Bolivia, they must hold a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate or a letter of exemption, as this may be asked for by officials on arrival.

World Journeys director Chris Lyons says most Kiwi travellers enter Bolivia from Peru, therefore this will affect a large number of travellers.

[www.worldjourneys.co.nz/destinations/south-america/bolivia/](http://www.worldjourneys.co.nz/destinations/south-america/bolivia/)

## Seeing Lisbon and Sintra by foot

Lisbon and Sintra, close to Portugal's main airport, is the country's most visited region.

Not surprisingly, Lisbon is the starting point for a number of tours including A Walker's World's most popular Portuguese walk, Lisbon & Sintra eight day self-guided tour.

A Walker's World director Jill Grant says



Pena Palace, Sintra

the itinerary starts in the 'swish, charming coastal village of Cascais' - a short train ride from Lisbon and where Portugal's most expensive real estate can be found.

'Walkers cross a white sandy beach to enter Sintra National Park where beautiful forest trails lead to Sintra's stunning palaces and manor house. The terrain is hilly with the steepest climb being up to the 11thC Moorish Castle to walk on the original fortifications, a heady experience with stunning vistas,' says Grant.

Accommodation on the tour features a restored Saturnine convent plus a hotel in the heart of Sintra village and overlooking Sintra Palace.

The cost is from \$1784 share twin, which also includes a multi entrance pass to Pena Palace, the Moorish Castle, Capuchin Convent, and Montserrat Palace in Sintra. Tours operate year round.

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



Tom Wardell, Adventure World; Karen McCardle, Canuckiwi; Helen Dobbs, Holland Clarke & Beatson; Corey Marshall, Canuckiwi; Wayne Mitcham (Brand USA)

## Adventure World's LA prize winner

Helen Dobbs from Holland Clarke & Beatson in Christchurch was the lucky winner of two return flights to Los Angeles at Adventure World's USA roadshow last week, thanks to American Airlines.

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

## Madrid's got Pride for world event

Madrid will host the largest global event for the LGBT community, World Pride 2017, later this year.

Madrid Pride is already one of the city's best known festivals, open to the LGBT community as well as anyone who wants to hit the streets to celebrate, demonstrate and demand diversity. Attendance grows each year – roughly 1.5 million people gathered in the capital in the 2016 edition to take part in this big celebration, which has become a major event for the entire city.



The festival includes music, dance, performing arts, plastic arts, literature, sport competitions, lectures, children's activities and more.

The hub of World Pride 2017 will be the capital's famous LGBT district, Chueca, and the event will spill out onto the main streets of Madrid. It kicks off with an opening ceremony on 22 June and the main event, the Pride Parade, will take place on 1 July, before the closing ceremony the next day.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the first Gay Pride demonstrations in Spain.



Madrid will be the host city for World Pride 2017

The World Pride event will be one aspect highlighted at the Spain Product Update being held at the Grand Millennium in Auckland on 6 March from 5.30pm to 8pm.

To register [click here](#).

## Warner Bros. ups promotions

Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood has appointed Asia Pacific Travel Marketing Services (APTMS) to represent it in Australia and New Zealand.

APTMS will from 1 March implement a sales and marketing plan to assist with promotions that will be spread throughout the travel trade industry.

'Australia and New Zealand are strategic development markets, and we look forward to working with APTMS to grow visitation to our attraction in Los Angeles,' says studio director of marketing Gary Soloff.

## A pearler for families

The Pearl Resort & Spa, Fiji has an all-inclusive family package for sale until 30 April, and for travel until 31 March 2018.

The package is for three nights in guaranteed interconnecting rooms in the new four-star hotel block. Dining inclusions are for two adults and two children – buffet breakfast, one-course lunch and either a two-course or buffet dinner daily (valid at Riviera, Pacific Bar & Grill or The Deli restaurants), unlimited soft drink and free daily dessert for the kids.

A daily activity programme for the kids is also included, as is the use of all non-motorised watersports.

Prices start at F\$547.20 per night in two Premium Garden View rooms. The package is available through wholesalers.



Premium Ocean View Room at the Pearl Resort & Spa, Fiji

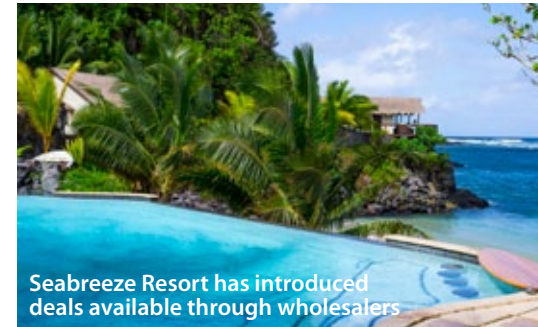
## Special at Seabreeze Resort in Samoa

Seabreeze Resort in Samoa is giving guests who stay five nights one three course dinner for two with a bottle of wine plus complimentary return airport transfers for two and one 30 minute massage per room per stay.

Guests are also invited to have 'Seabreeze Sundowners', poolside at Paulini's Bar every afternoon at 4pm (excluding Friday, Fia Fia Culture Night) where they can enjoy a complimentary glass of sparkling wine, beer or soft drink and some hors d'oeuvres.

The special is valid for all bookings made by 20 March 2017, for travel from now to 31 March 2017 and again from 1 November 2017 to 20 December 2017. If travelling in high season 1 April 2017 to 31 October 2017 guests receive all of the above minus the transfers.

Both the high and low season offers also



include a la carte breakfast daily, nightly turndown service, complimentary mini bar replenished daily, use of new smart phones during guests' stay, complimentary food platter in room for arrivals after 9pm and before 7am and complimentary use of glass bottom kayaks and snorkelling equipment.

These bonuses are valued at \$1640 per stay in low season and \$1375 per stay in high season.

## New face at South Sea Cruises

Jesse Wynne is sales and marketing co-ordinator at South Sea Cruises, working with marketing manager Carl Amos and based in the New Zealand office in Auckland.



Jesse Wynne

Wynne joined South Sea Cruises late last year and comes from an insurance background, most recently with Zurich Insurance and before that, QBE.

As reported in yesterday's One Minute Memo, South Sea Cruises has just launched a new island day retreat in Fiji – Malamala Beach Club. It will welcome its first guests in mid-2017.

## Explore the set of Vanuatu's film debut

Vanuatu Tourism Board, Omniche Holidays and White Grass Ocean Resort are offering a special Tanna deal to mark the success of the country's first feature movie.

The special offer, costing A\$2199 per person twin share, celebrates *Tanna*, which has been nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards.

The package includes Air Vanuatu return economy flights, airport transfers, five nights B&B in an Ocean View room at White Grass Ocean Resort, Yakel village visit, volcano safari, black magic tour and kava tasting, Louniel Beach and waterfall safari,

30 minute aromatherapy massage, and one night pre and post at Coconut Palms Resort in a Superior Orchid Room.

The flight leaves from Brisbane and is available for travel from 5 May to 25 June, 2017, and 4 August to 25 August, 2017. Alternatively, guests can travel from Sydney for A\$2249 per person from 3 May to 28 June, 2017, and 2 August to 31 August, 2017. Terms and conditions apply.

The film *Tanna* is based on a true story about forbidden love, where a woman and a man (grandson of the chief) fall in love, but cannot be together as the woman is promised to



someone in another tribe to form an alliance.

The directors Bentley Dean and Martin Butler spent seven months living in the remote tribe in the village of Yakel. While there, the duo worked closely with the ni-Vanuatu people to ensure the story was captured and told in a respectful and accurate way.

## Promoting Niue

Niue launches an exciting new initiative over the weekend and (although the details are embargoed until tomorrow) gave New Zealand trade partners and media a sneak preview at The Kingslander this week.



At the launch were Susie Williams, Mike Hogan, both Hogan and Associates; Laura Ciblich, RUN; and Marco Siraky, Content Boutique

## Taking in Tonga with Tanoa

A group of wholesalers – product managers and trade media arrived in Tonga last night to check out the new look Tanoa International Dateline, Nuku’Alofa.

The Tanoa name brings with it a new chapter for the hotel, which has 122 rooms ranging from superior to ocean view suites. Facilities include two swimming pools, restaurants and bars, 24 hour reception, gym and extensive conference and meeting venues – including a festival lawn that can cater for up to 500 guests. The hotel is close to the central business district and about 40 minutes from the airport.



Starting in style... at the Air New Zealand Koru Lounge in Auckland for the flight to Tonga, Nick Ridling, Tanoa Hotels; Shelley Gutry, Our Pacific

## Fiji's first island club set to launch mid 2017

South Sea Cruises will establish Fiji's first ever island bar – Malamala Beach Club – scheduled to open in mid-2017.

The venue will be accessible by private jetty and guests will be able to move from the boat to the club without getting their feet wet.

The Beach Club will have a large infinity-edge pool looking out onto the ocean, snorkeling in the surrounding reef, plus complimentary non-motorised water sport activities. There will also be a chapel on-site, making it a good wedding venue.

Located 30 minutes from Denarau Marina, Fiji's primary transport hub, the club will be suited to both corporates events and intimate gatherings.

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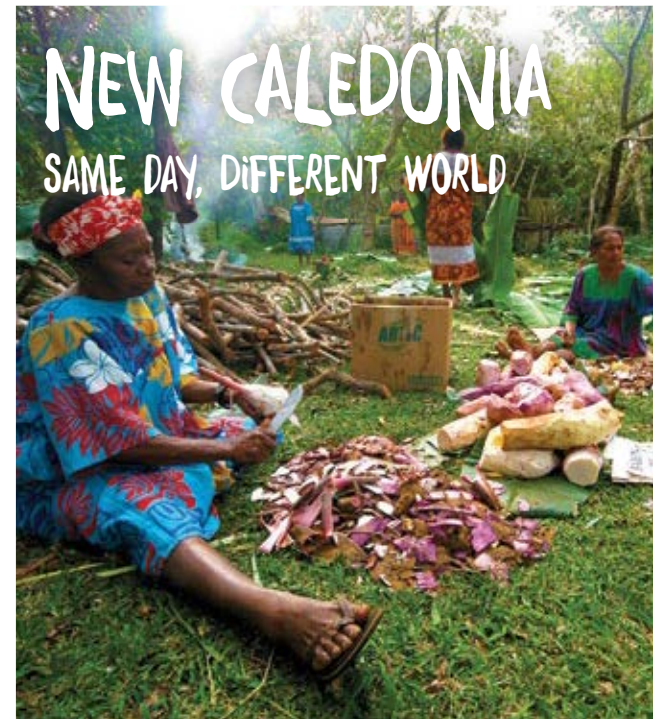
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Pacific heart



## New tourism appointments

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism (HWT) has two new directors with the appointment of Malcolm Phillipps and Karleen Turner-Puriri to the HWT board. Both are Waikato-based.

Turner-Puriri, with Waikato and Ngāti Maniapoto affiliations, is a business development analyst with particular experience in the Māori economy and tourism, business transformation and entrepreneurship. She holds a Bachelor of E-commerce and post-graduate diploma in management studies and is completing her MBA.

Phillipps, who runs his own strategic marketing consultancy, has more than 20 years marketing experience, including as chief marketing officer at 2degrees. He has a background in communications, media and digital environments and has held various governance roles. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Administration, is a member of the NZ Institute of Directors and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing.



Malcolm Phillipps



Karleen Turner-Puriri

## Family day to discover Mount Hutt

The Discover Mt Hutt family open day will be on 4 March 2017.

It celebrates Mt Hutt's second award for best New Zealand Ski Resort, at the same time helping Canterbury charity Māia Health Foundation raise funds for a future-proofed rooftop helipad at Christchurch Hospital.

Sightseers, walkers and bikers (with their bikes) will get a ride up Mt Hutt's massive six-seater chairlift to the summit where, weather permitting, they will get views of the Southern Alps and Canterbury Plains. They will then be able to descend back on the chairlift or walk or bike down from the summit.

There will be a giant slip & slide set up for kids near the Magic Carpet Learners area, a BBQ run by the Lions, plus other refreshments, as well as live music. For those who fancy watching the proceedings



from the air, Christchurch Helicopters will be operating scenic flights.

The charge is \$20 per person or \$40 for a family. The admission price includes free travel on the chairlift all day. Eftpos will be available. The road opens at 9am with the Summit 6 chair lift running from 10am – 4pm. Methven Travel will be running a bus service and bookings are essential; 0800 684 888.

## Crowdfunding for edible park

The Ōtākaro Orchard has launched a new crowdfunding campaign with the hope of raising \$2 million to construct a fruit/veg/herb community park, cafe and local food information centre in Christchurch.

The first stage of construction (building the edible park) will soon commence. This park will feature a heritage orchard and multiple herb and vegetable beds, as well as space for educational workshops and an amphitheatre for public gatherings and events.

## New Cambridge accommodation

Kelly Rd Cambridge Lodge is on track to open in April 2017, adding 22 rooms to the accommodation inventory in Cambridge. The region continues to experience high demand, especially over special event and high season periods.

As part of the Waipa Home of Champions, Kelly Rd Cambridge Lodge will celebrate the Waipa's distinguishable high performance culture - particularly in equestrian, cycling and rowing, as well as many others.

One and two bedroom suites and studio apartments will make up the

## Big days for inbounders

Registrations are now open for the inbound sector to attend the 2017 RTONZ (Regional Tourism Organisations of New Zealand)-Inbound Trade Event.

The event will be held on Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 April 2017 at the Heritage Hotel in Auckland. There are 27 Regional Tourism Organisations (RTO's) participating and they'll meet with inbound managers during one-on-one individual appointments.

Both days are exactly the same, so inbound senior staff, product managers and decision-makers are invited to attend the day most convenient for them.

This event is hosted by the RTO's and is a free event for the inbound attendees.

To register [click here](#).

## Sailing the Med's coast

SeaDream Yacht Club's SeaDream II will this April sail the entire western Mediterranean coast from one of the oldest cities in the world, Malaga in Spain's south, to Monaco in the Mediterranean's far north.

After leaving Malaga, with history dating back some 2800 years, SeaDream II will take eight nights from 28 April calling into port cities such as Cartagena, Valencia and Barcelona in Spain, Collioure and Sanary-sur-Mer in France, and the French Riviera's glamorous Saint-Tropez and Nice before sailing into Monaco's casino capital of Monte Carlo.

Carrying a maximum of 112 guests served by 95 crew, the mega-motor-cruiser's prices for the eight nights begin from US\$4287pp twin share including award winning cuisine, selected wines, spirits and bar drinks, power and sail water-sports, golf simulator, fitness centre, port charges and taxes, and even staff and crew gratuities.

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



SeaDream in Monte Carlo

Uniworld's SS Catherine



Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection is addressing four key trends in its 2017 – 2018 programme - multigenerational travel, solo travel, wellness travel and a younger, adventure-seeking generation of river cruisers.

'The nature of the travel industry is one that is constantly evolving,' says Ellen Bettridge, president and chief executive officer of Uniworld.

In 2016, Uniworld increased the number of multigenerational family departures from five to 13, including itineraries for arts and crafts lovers, active families, thrill seekers, foodies and history buffs.

Uniworld's Generations programme includes activities like hiking, cooking classes and language lessons, as well as a visit to the BMW factory in Regensburg, white-water rafting, biking to Monet's garden at Giverny and a culinary treasure hunt.

A trend to solo travel has caught the eye of the industry and sparked a new

wave of offerings. Uniworld provides solo travellers with a variety of all-inclusive itineraries that venture everywhere from Europe's major cities, to the smaller, less travelled villages.

Wellness travel has had a big impact over the years. Uniworld offers onboard yoga and other exercise classes and a Travelling Lite menu of healthy culinary options plus a guided Go Active onshore programme.

According to a recent study, travellers aged 18-35 are not only interested in river cruising but also respond more strongly than generation X and baby boomers to most of the attributes of river cruising, including the convenience of docking in the heart of a city and ship amenities like onboard entertainment and dining.

Uniworld has announced U BY UNIWORLD – a brand for adventure seekers 18-40 years old – set to launch sales in March 2017 and begin sailings early 2018. [uniworld.com](http://uniworld.com)

## Investigation on Emerald Princess

A spokesperson from Princess Cruises has advised that the Emerald Princess is fully operational and continuing sailing from Sydney as scheduled following the tragedy on 9 February where a worker died while onboard.

The ship was docked at Port Chalmers near Dunedin when the incident occurred.

The spokesperson has thanked the New Zealand authorities and Port Chalmers and Dunedin communities for their care and consideration following the tragedy.

'The cruise line has focused on caring for the crew member's family and at the time of the accident, it expressed its gratitude to guests on the cruise for their patience and understanding, and especially the crew for continuing to provide care and service as they came to terms with the loss of a much respected colleague,' says the spokesperson.

The Transport Accident Investigation Commission is currently conducting an investigation to discover the circumstances of the incident.

A spokesperson from the Commission says the investigation is expected to take 12-18 months and that the process will be done carefully to ensure the truth is discovered. The findings will then be examined to help prevent this sort of accident from happening again in the future.

The Bermuda authorities, where the ship is registered, have been informed of the investigation.



## Poke in to Giraffe Manor

World Journeys says interest in Giraffe Manor (Nairobi, Kenya) has been growing, requiring clients to book early, as this small, boutique property has just ten rooms.

The Manor is on 12 acres of private land within 140 acres of forest. During breakfast and dinner the resident herd of Rothschild giraffes sometimes poke their long necks into the windows in the hope of a treat, before retreating back to their forest sanctuary.

Therefore sticking around for breakfast is advised, otherwise clients may miss this incredible giraffe interaction.

World Journeys' eight day Fly Around Kenya safari features a stay at Giraffe Manor, or it can be added into any East African itinerary.

**CLICK HERE** for details.



## New GC food and wine tours

Gold Coast Food and Wine Tours is a new business that provides walking tours of the Burleigh Heads, Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise.

Accredited tour guide and business owner Karen Inglis-Turner recently launched the company to cater for the growing interest in the region's food and wine.

'High quality dining experiences have

put the Gold Coast on the map as a foodie destination, with food tourism one of our fastest growing markets,' says Inglis-Turner.

On tours people can explore 'hidden gems' and foodie secrets within the region and meet the bakers, baristas and brewers behind the service.

[www.goldcoastfoodandwinetours.com.au](http://www.goldcoastfoodandwinetours.com.au)

## LEGO Land at Dreamworld

The first official LEGO Store in Australia and the biggest in the Southern Hemisphere has joined Dreamworld in the Gold Coast.

Ten life-size Stormtroopers and a seven-foot Hulk stand in front of the shop, and 20 'brick specialist' employees are there to assist kids with customising their own LEGO set.

The shop has enough LEGO to fill two

Olympic-sized swimming pools and is home to a two by three metre LEGO mosaic, stations for kids to make their own minifigures, and the LEGO 'Pick a Brick' wall.

The new stand-alone precinct also features a Jelly Belly store and The Park Patisserie & Grill, which will open this month and can be accessed via the theme park and externally.

## Partnership displays ANZAC history

The Australian Outback Spectacular show has a new partnership with the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame (a memorial) and the Outback Heritage Centre in Longreach, Queensland.

This official friendship has allowed a WW1 Centenary Museum attraction to be added to the Australian Outback Spectacular, providing guests with greater insight into the ANZAC journey.

The show's general manager Shane Phillips says this partnership will add authenticity to the guests' experiences.

'The pieces in the WW1 Centenary Museum have been put together especially for us by curator David Marcel and feature a combination of objects, images and open displays following the fascinating and courageous journey of our ANZACs. It is a touching military tribute that is not to be missed.'

## New Mercure for NSW

Tamworth's newest four and a half-star hotel, Mercure Tamworth, was opened recently by Barnaby Joyce, the Deputy Prime Minister of Australia.

The three-storey, 52-room hotel will be operated by Wests Entertainment Group in partnership with AccorHotels.

Barnaby Joyce says, 'This \$12 million investment recognises the opportunity Tamworth offers as a regional city and creates 35 local jobs, as well as a brand new hotel for Australia's country music capital.'

The hotel is located within the League Club's precinct on Phillip Street, which offers food and beverage outlets, entertainment venues, a stadium as well as gaming and conferencing facilities.

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## Into the foothills

The foothills of the majestic Annapurna mountain range, selected as one of the must see tourist destinations by the local tourism entrepreneurs, is being promoted by Exotic Holidays.

Rahul Sharma, managing director of Exotic, says foothill experiences offer panoramic views of dozens of the Great Himalayan Range, with different trek routes including the Pokhare Bagar-Ghar- Ghorepani, Ghandruk - Ghorepani and Nagi - Ghorepani.

The Ghorepani Pun hill trek is an ideal trek for a short trip to the lower elevations of the Annapurna region. This trek leads guests to lush valleys, cascading waterfalls, dense forest and colorful villages.

The key highlight of this trek is the trip to Poon Hill. Sunrise from Poon Hill is one of the most amazing experiences as clients can take in the incredible panoramic view of the Annapurna range Dhaulagiri (8167m), Annapurna (8091m), Fishtail (6997m), and Annapurna South, Himchuli, and more.

Exotic's Nepal holiday starts from \$1977.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

Trekking in the Annapurna Foothills



## Macao rises to the challenge of bustling tourism industry

Macao is embracing its booming tourism industry with new attractions and improved infrastructure to complement a growing number of hotels, shops and eateries.

Visitor numbers to the Portuguese enclave last year rose to 31 million. The number of New Zealanders visiting Macao grew by 1.2% in 2016 to 13,572.

Macao also last year welcomed the opening of Cotai hotel-resorts The Parisian and the Wynn Palace, which boosted hotel room numbers to more than 37,600 – an increase of 13.9% on 2015.

The number will be further boosted in mid-2017 with the opening of the five-star MGM Cotai. This development will bring an additional 1400 guest rooms and suites to the destination.

The 'seven-star' THE 13 – a \$1.3 billion property neighbouring Coloane for the



The Parisian – one of many new hotels cropping up in Macao

super rich – is also timetabled to open this year. The hotel, designed by New York architect Peter Marino, will have 200 multi-level luxury suites with a blend of 17th-century French Renaissance and Baroque décor.

Another 780 guest rooms, suites and top-storey villas will be added to the Cotai Strip when the City of Dreams'

Fifth Hotel Tower opens this year. This hotel comes after the 2015 launch of its sister resort, Studio City.

To meet tourist demand on the street, pedi-cabs numbers will be increased and positioned in key locations to provide holidaymakers with more free 20-minute rides.

Meanwhile, the historic Taipa village has undergone a festive treatment with the addition of new restaurants and indoor and outdoor art galleries and street performances.

And construction continues on the above-ground multimillion-dollar Light Rapid Transit light rail system which will ultimately link the major holiday resorts. This link, spanning 35.6km, is set to open in two years time.

[www.visitmacao.com.au](http://www.visitmacao.com.au)

[www.macaotourism.gov.mo](http://www.macaotourism.gov.mo)

## Explore the Silk Route with A&K

Abercrombie & Kent is offering two hosted journeys across the Silk Routes of western China and Central Asia – a path that has connected the Mediterranean and China for 2000 years.

First is the 10 day Ancient Silk Road Hosted Group Journey with A&K's Australian managing director Sujata Raman. This trip is priced from A\$10,995 per person, with a maximum of 18 guests, and runs from 3 to 12 September, 2017.

Travellers leave Beijing to start the trip in Dunhuang, visiting the ancient cities of Urumqi, Turfan and Kashga along the way.

Also on offer is A&K's 15 day The

Ancient Trade Routes of Central Asia Hosted Group Journey, priced from A\$11,995 per person.

Uzbekistani guide Victoriya Yalanskaya will host this trip, taking guests around Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, as well as the ancient cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva.

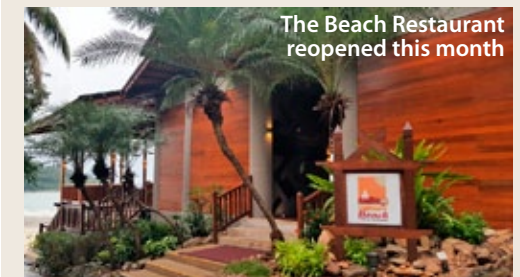
The trips run from 6 to 16 May, 2017, 16 to 30 September, 2017, and 7 to 21 October, 2017.

Travellers can save A\$1000 each when they combine A&K's Ancient Silk Road Hosted Journey and its Ancient Trade Routes of Central Asia Hosted Journey on the 30 September, 2017 departure.

## By the beach

Berjaya Langkawi Resort reopened The Beach Restaurant this month after extensive renovations.

Perched on the beach, the restaurant is open-air and features Indian and western dishes. A bar has been added to the new restaurant as well.



The Beach Restaurant reopened this month



Penny Henderson and Liz Anderson of Sundowners Overland... the increase in interest from New Zealand consumers has been marked



On the Silk Rd with Sundowners Overland

## Agents urged to 'overcome the fear' and sell overland experiences

The amount of consumers who say 'I didn't know we could do that' convinces Penny Henderson, who represents Sundowners Overland and Tucan Travel in New Zealand, that many agents are still hesitant to promote and sell niche adventure experiences.

Henderson and Sundowners Overland Melbourne-based general manager Liz Anderson were constantly busy at Flight Centre's Travel Expo in Auckland over the weekend, often with 14 or 15 people listening in at once.

'People see the things like the Trans Mongolian and Trans Siberian train journeys and say that it's always been on their bucket list but they had no idea how to do it,' says Henderson.

Anderson adds that the legendary Silk Road itinerary, 16 days travelling from Tashkent to Tehran, is probably generating the most enquiries of all at the moment. It utilises two private trains,

visits five UNESCO World Heritage sites, travels through remote deserts and crosses three countries – Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Iran.

Henderson is convinced that many agents don't promote these trips enough, often to their detriment. 'The increase in interest has been marked and people are looking at solid expenditure for some of these journeys.'

She says the trips tend to appeal to people of many age groups and demographics, from mature, experienced travellers seeking something truly different to young adventurers.

'For young clientele wanting to get to London, this is well worth considering. From Beijing to Moscow costs about \$2000, and that covers accommodation, transport and tour guides in the visited cities. They are buying their own food, but they are paying local prices, not tour prices.'

  
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**Self Nominations**  
27 March–7 April  
**Ticket Sales**  
24 April  
**Voting**  
8–19 May (2 weeks)  
**Finalists**  
**Public Judging**  
31 July–3 August  
**Auckland Event**  
30 September

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## MYSTERY PERSON



## It's a mystery

Who is this mystery person on the left, photographed at the Momentum Hub opening in South Auckland last week, hob-knobbing with the Prime Minister Bill English.

If you recognise this person, and we have a funny idea that he works with an airline, send his name to [competitions@promag.co.nz](mailto:competitions@promag.co.nz). Remember to put Mystery Person in the subject line.

We may have given a subtle clue to last week's mystery person, but we think most of you recognised Peter Tuohy from Travcour. A copy of National Geographic Traveller, courtesy of Adventure World, is on its way to Debby McRobbie from House of Travel Jenny Nilsson.

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Amid the spirituality and incense smoke, the famil group gather at the Tao Temple at Lukong (from left): Mann Travel's Santosh Kumar; Sid Sharma from China Airlines; YOU Travel's Susan McAtear; Victoria Vital, Planet Earth Travel; Daniel Bloomfield, Target Travel; Fine Travel's Irene Field; Nigel Seidelin, First Travel Group; Amy Maas; Stephanie Worsop; YOU Travel's Gina McCarthy; House of Travel's Andrew Phillips and Elleysen Tan from Elite Travel

## Taiwan tourism buddies up with Kiwi trade

A 14-strong famil hit Taiwan yesterday morning, leaving a China Airlines' flight at Taoyuan International Airport in Taipei to board a colourful bus for Taichung.

The 90-minute ride to Rainbow Village was the first stop on a six day itinerary, which will take in the 2017 Taiwan Lantern Festival in Yunlin, Formosan Aborincal Cultural Village and a boat ride on Sun Moon Lake.

The trip, organised by the airline in conjunction with the Taiwan Tourism Bureau, is inline with moves by the destination to be considered an up and coming tourism hotspot for travelling Kiwis.

It comes on the back of a similar agent/media famil held in September last year. China Airlines account manager Sid Sharma says positive feedback from that trip promoted the two organisations to invite more Kiwis back this year.

Andrew Phillips from House of Travel Whangarei is on this week's trip. As a first-timer to Taiwan, he says he's on the hunt for attractions that will be a particular pull for New Zealanders.

'In 16 years in the industry, I can count on one hand the number of people I have sent to Taipei so I am looking forward to seeing what it has to offer as a fresh transit point option for people going on to Europe.'

## TTC's La Dolce Vita incentive winner

The Travel Corporation has drawn a random winner for its first industry-wide La Dolce Vita agent incentive, running across its Contiki, Trafalgar, Insight Vacations, Uniworld and AAT Kings brands.

Ros Chapman of You Travel Feilding took home the \$250 prezzy card. Agents can enter the draw with every trip sold on any of TTC's above brands before 28 February for the chance to win a Vespa scooter or the cash equivalent.

## TRAVELinc MEMO

Your personal magazine  
twice a week

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## Accor scores big with rugby league contract

AccorHotels has been named the Official Accommodation Partner of the Rugby League World Cup 2017 (RLWC2017) taking place in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea from 27 October to 2 December, 2017.

This partnership means AccorHotels (Pullman, Novotel, Mercure and ibis) will accommodate teams, officials and tournament organisers in every Australian and New Zealand host city.

In addition, this deal extends to the Women's Rugby League World Cup in Sydney from 16 to 26 November, with the final in Brisbane on 2 December, 2017.

RLWC2017 games will be held in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Hamilton, Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra, Darwin, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and Port Moresby.

### PEARL'S PEARLER

'Worrying doesn't take away tomorrow's troubles, but it does take away today's strengths.'

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