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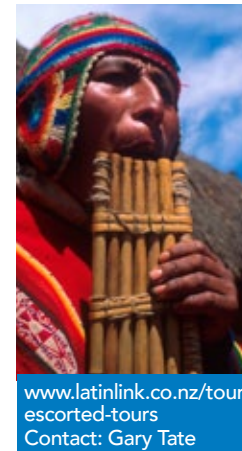
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## SA visa requirements yet to be confirmed

By Julie Cleaver

The recently announced South African visa restrictions, which would require Kiwis to visit Wellington in person before obtaining entry to the country, are yet to be confirmed, according to Stephen Tanner of South African Airways.

At last night's South African Airlines agent recognition event Tanner said this year has been going great for the airline and that the timing of this announcement came as a surprise.

'We gave them stricter visa requirements recently, so I knew this was coming, but I didn't think it would happen now just before Christmas. So the timing is very surprising.'

However, Tanner says agents shouldn't worry too much just yet as the requirements are still in deliberation.

'I was just on the phone to the South African High Commission and we are discussing where things are going. I can't say anything yet, but the final regulations should be announced within the next two to three days.'

Tanner says this visa change will be the airline's biggest challenge in the coming year.

'We don't want to kill momentum we've been working hard to build for so long. But it is out of our control. It's a political decision and something we cannot dictate.'

*For photos see page 4.*

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## One more to go, folks!

The year is fast coming to a close, but we're not ready to shut up shop yet.

The TRAVELinc Memo team will be back on deck next week to bring you the final edition of the year.

So be sure to watch for all the latest travel trade news next Tuesday before you sign off for a well-deserved holiday with friends and family.

## Just so you are aware...

The amount of Kiwi agents who got in behind Travel Awareness Week earlier this month far exceeded expectations.

The Travel Agents Association of New Zealand (TAANZ) urged agents to support an international social media campaign created by the American Society of Travel Agents and designed to drive consumers towards their services.

Social media data for the week, which ran from 5 December, showed the promotion generated more than 13,000 unique views and 300 social shares.

'Social shares and engagements exceeded our expectations by a mile. We are really pleased to see the immense support from fellow agents and customers – it was a fantastic social response,' says TAANZ chief executive Andrew Olsen.

Although the week-long initiative is over, Olsen says TAANZ will continue to spread the message to consumers about the benefits of using a TAANZ travel agent.

'Members are encouraged to regularly keep in touch with the TAANZ social profiles to help spread the word and increase the TAANZ travel agent profile,' he says.

## Kiwi and US trade: the future is looking bright

By Lisa Bradley

In a year when America will be remembered for political surprises, New Zealand's ongoing tourism relationship with the States has never been more assured.

That was the message from Brand USA Australia and New Zealand director Matt Fletcher who was back in the country to celebrate a booming tourism year between the two nations.

Australian-based Fletcher joined with Brand USA account manager Wayne Mitcham to update its industry partners at a celebration event attended by around 80 people at Johnny Barr's last night.

'It has been a year of unpredictability with Brexit and Trump's winning election, but the ongoing position of trade here is one of certainty going into 2017.'

Fletcher says blossoming tourism ties are being well bolstered by the increasing strength of the Kiwi dollar in the US.

However, the biggest factor behind the growth market has been a 40% hike in air capacity this year. The country now has four direct and two indirect airline

options to the US.

Although official 2015 figures are unavailable, Mitcham says numbers to America have gone from 139,000 in 2005 to almost 300,000 last year – a hike of around 112%.

'Taking into account the increase in the number of flights, the 2016 figures would have gone up by at least 10% to about 330,000,' he adds.

Air New Zealand's decision to fly direct to Houston five times a week, reveals how hungry Kiwis are for US ports outside of the West Coast, Mitcham says.

'Although the West Coast is still important to us, especially for first-time New Zealand travellers to the US.'

Brand USA's promotional campaign this year centred on the great outdoors, and Fletcher says the focus will turn to pop culture in 2017.

It will be an exciting campaign, he says, as it will give the organisation a huge nationwide promotional toolbox to draw from, and one that will put a particular focus on music, movies and sport.

As part of the campaign, Brand USA will be releasing a series of short films in which movie directors and sporting

greats will reveal how their American roots have shaped their lives.

Fletcher and Mitcham say trade can expect to hear about other developments and projects during the Brand USA Discover America Roadshow set down for Wellington on 27 February and in Auckland the next day.

More than 100 exhibitors have signed up for next year's event – a recordbreaker, says Mitcham, adding the growth of the Kiwi market was prompting more organisations to also invest in New Zealand while they were on a promotional trail in Australia.

Registration for the roadshow is expected to become available mid-January.



Brand USA Australia and New Zealand director Matt Fletcher and Brand USA account manager Wayne Mitcham



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# South African Airlines evening

Continued from page 1



The South African Airways team. Nigel Bale; Zonja Beretta; Suzette du Bois and Stephen Tanner



Chris Daw and Paul Parkin of Flight Centre Botany posing with the South African Airways signage



Allen Bell, Global Travel Network and Rhiannon Grieve, Airtickets



Rob Beecher, Global Travel Network; Ange Pirie, World Journeys and Tony Terrill, Mondo



David Nagel, helloworld Milford; Siwan Nadan, Airtickets



Rob Beecher, Global Travel Network; Vicky Lowe, Helloworld and Brooke Jamieson, helloworld\*

## Air Canada and Virgin buddy up

Air Canada has signed a Memorandum of Understanding Virgin Australia, making travel from Canada to Australia and New Zealand a lot easier.

The first stage of the codeshare agreement is scheduled to be implemented in early 2017 when Air Canada customers will be able to book travel on a single ticket to an additional 10 cities throughout Australia and New Zealand on Virgin Australia-operated flights connecting with Air Canada's daily year-round service to Sydney and Brisbane.

Subject to obtaining the necessary regulatory approvals, Air Canada will place its code on Virgin Australia

flights to Adelaide, Canberra, Cairns, Melbourne and Perth as well as to Christchurch and Auckland.

Customers will also be able to travel on Virgin Australia flights from Sydney to Brisbane, Sydney to the Gold Coast and Brisbane to Wellington.

*For more airline news, go to page 11*



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## Five go into Six Senses in Bhutan

Six Senses Hotels Resorts & Spas is developing five resorts in Bhutan which will be open from mid-2017, report World Journeys.

A total of just 82 guest suites and villas will be distributed between the five lodges.

The design emphasis of the resort in the capital of Thimphu will be culture, combining a modern style with cultural items and handcrafted elements.

Also on the circuit is Bumthang, set within a woodland, and Punakha, which is designed to reflect a traditional farmhouse set in a rural region.

Meanwhile, a bird-watching bridge is a special feature of the resort in Gangtey and the lodge in Paro is located on a site of old stone ruins.



Six Senses Punakha in Bhutan

Details and rates will feature on the World Journeys website nearer to the openings.

**[www.worldjourneys.co.nz/destinations/indian-subcontinent/bhutan/](http://www.worldjourneys.co.nz/destinations/indian-subcontinent/bhutan/)**

## Mosque opens in all its grandour

The new Mohammed Al Ameen Mosque in Muscat, Oman, is now open for visitors.

Built on a site that can be seen from almost any approach to Muscat, the scale and grandeur of this mosque reflects what it is said to have cost – US\$4 million was how much was reportedly spent on the carpet alone.

The complex features striking architecture and marble cladding as well as decorative mosaic works and bronze doors.

Visitors are advised to dress modestly: men are asked to wear long pants while women are told to wear full-sleeves, long pants or skirts and



Mohammed Al Ameen Mosque Muscat

cover their hair.

The mosque is closed on Fridays.

World Journeys can include a visit to the Mosque with its tailor-made Oman itineraries of Oman.

**[www.worldjourneys.co.nz/destinations/middle-east/oman/](http://www.worldjourneys.co.nz/destinations/middle-east/oman/)**



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## Wadi Rum

Exotic Holidays is highlighting Jordan's Wadi Rum, also known as The Valley of the Moon, due to its lunar landscape and unusual rock formations.

Aside from its natural heritage, Wadi Rum is known for its cultural patrimony, with tens of thousands of petroglyphs and inscriptions serving as evidence of the area's 12,000 years of inhabitation. More than 25,000 ancient petroglyphs adorn the crags and rocks of the area.

**Click here** for details.

## Save on luxury Balinese resort

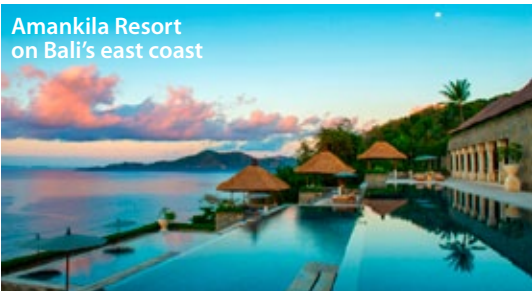
World Journeys is offering up to 25% off three Aman resorts in Bali if booked before 30 April, 2017.

The resorts include the Amankila Resort on the east coast of Bali, the Amanusa Resort on the Nusa Dua peninsula, and the Amandari Resort in central Bali near Ubud.

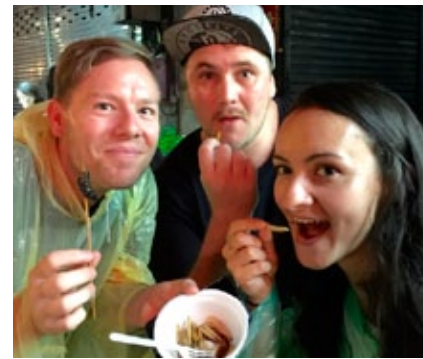
Staying at any of the resorts for three nights is priced from \$1384 per person twin share. This cost includes return airport transfers from Denpasar, three nights accommodation with breakfast daily, and wifi. The offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time.

**[www.worldjourneys.co.nz/destinations/asia/bali/](http://www.worldjourneys.co.nz/destinations/asia/bali/)**

Amankila Resort  
on Bali's east coast



Sivana Shine Flight Centre Kaitiaki; Aurelia Didenko, Flight Centre Barrington; Marieanne Ouwehand Tourism Authority of Thailand New Zealand office; Charlotte Duhig Flight Centre Bayfair and Community Newspaper Group's Julian Wright



It's crunch time! The group comes to grips with some dining classics at China Town in Bangkok (from left): Dwayne Dean Flight Centre Blockhouse Bay; Julian Wright and Aurelia Didenko, Flight Centre Barrington

## Grubs up: Flight Centre agents enjoy a taste of Thailand

The hospitality of the people of Thailand, a 'secret' bar and scorpions were among the top experiences Aucklander Dwayne Dean came home with after a famil last month.

Dean was one of four Flight Centre travel agents who were accompanied by Marieanne Ouwehand from the Tourism Authority of Thailand New Zealand office on a trip to Malaysia and Thailand from 16 to 22 November.

The famil was organised by TAT, Tourism Malaysia and AirAsia X to showcase Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and the airline.

While in Kuala Lumpur, the group visited the Batu Caves, where they climbed 272 steps up a limestone hillock to the shrine of Hindu Lord Murugan – a site visited by more than a million pilgrims every year on the annual Thaipusam Festival.

They also visited the Royal Selangor Pewter Factory, Petronas Twin Towers and the national mosque, Masjid Negara.



Flight Centre's Aurelia Didenko is not getting taken for a mug outside the Royal Selangor Pewter Factory Kuala Lumpur

The famil then reached Bangkok where the agents explored China town, sampling a selection of insects when they hit the street stalls.

They also called in on the 100-year-old Nang Loeng market, which is renowned for curries, noodle soup, pad Thai and sweets using recipes that have been handed down from generation to generation.

The famil experience was topped with a shopping excursion and Thai massage.

## Calling seasoned travellers to China

Second-time travellers to China will be drawn to a round-trip train journey through the Yunnan province from Kunming.

Adventure World say the trip will appeal to those looking for something different. The journey is a mix of cultural and ethnic minority experiences, and it includes the UNESCO World Heritage-listed old towns of Dali and Lijiang.

The five-night journey departs daily and is priced from \$1975 per person, including accommodation, many meals, sightseeing, train travel, the services of a private car and driver for excursions and a local English-speaking guide.

**[www.adventureworld.co.nz/china/yunnan-dali-lijiang-by-train/](http://www.adventureworld.co.nz/china/yunnan-dali-lijiang-by-train/)**

## Your boarding pass to style

Males passing through Singapore's Changi Airport may want to leave time for a hair trim.

The Male Grooming Club, a barber shop offering men pre-flight pampering and grooming services, has popped up for a limited time at Changi Airport, Terminal 3.

The promotion and services have been designed to ensure male passengers arrive at their destination looking groomed and ready for business.

The Male Grooming Club will run until 24 January, 2017.

## Europe – Africa

## Off the beaten in Ireland and beyond

A growing demand for off-the-beaten-track experiences is reflected in the itineraries on offer in World Journeys' latest tailor-made travel brochure, World 2017.

Following a research trip to Ireland, director and Europe product manager Kate Gohar has introduced a range of manor house and country hotel accommodation offerings there.

A new 10-day self-drive Manor Houses of Ireland itinerary takes in accommodation ranging from a 17th century Georgian house to a restored 1590s castle and a selection of Irish country houses.

World Journeys is also promoting the Belmond Grand Hibernian as a signature Irish experience, with two, four and six-night itineraries available April to October. The train accommodates 40 guests in private ensuite cabins.

Luxury trains in Spain are on the bill again next year. The El Transcantabrico Clasico journey through Northern Spain has been particularly popular this year.

In Italy, World Journeys has a large selection of tailor-made itineraries that include walking tours or art and cuisine. There are some set group coach departures such as the six-day Tuscan Cuisine & Culture trip.

Other new features for 2017 are:

- Visit the Balkans, an 11-day journey through Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia and Slovenia
- The Land of Fire & Ice, a seven-day tour by 4WD exploring the natural wonders of Iceland, with rustic accommodation.
- A 15-day Scandinavian Highlights deluxe group tour from Copenhagen to Helsinki.

[www.worldjourneys.co.nz/destinations/europe/](http://www.worldjourneys.co.nz/destinations/europe/)



Itineraries aboard the Chobe Princess are flexible

## Botswana safari – on the water

Adventure World has a different Botswana safari on offer – a three-day riverboat cruise aboard Chobe Princess.

The riverboat, featuring a small number of suites, departs daily along the Chobe River.

Adventure World's round-trip cruise from Kasane is priced from \$1509 per person and includes two nights cruise accommodation, meals, beverages, water-based game viewing on tenders, a cultural tour, fishing and return transfers from Kasane Airport.

[www.adventureworld.co.nz/Botswana/chobe-princess](http://www.adventureworld.co.nz/Botswana/chobe-princess)

## European cruises: Tempo has got it covered in 2017

Tempo Holidays is offering a 10% discount on a small-yacht cruise, Adriatic Odyssey, which visits Croatia, Albania, Montenegro and Greece.

Prices start from \$2585 per person for travel starting Sundays during June to September, 2017. It includes meals and an English speaking cruise escort.

Also on offer is the eight-day Jewels of the Cyclades, which sails to Santorini, Mykonos, Syros and Paros for \$2335 per person. This trip leaves Fridays from 21 April to 13 October.

Book by 28 February to receive discount.

[res@tempoholidays.co.nz](mailto:res@tempoholidays.co.nz)

## Watch this space

World Journeys' Epic Africa sales incentive has closed.

The incentive was launched in August and director Ange Pirie says the incentive unleashed the competitive nature of travel agents. 'They are definitely motivated by prize trips like these, and its worked wonders for generating some really high value bookings.'

The Grand Epic Africa prize for first place is a 20-night journey for two in Southern and East Africa, including return flights from Perth with South African Airways.

TRAVELinc Memo will name the winner in next week's edition.



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## Pacific Islands



The team at Hawaiian Airlines is excited to bring *Moana* to the world (from left): Tad Fujinaka, Jaime Hightower, Rusty Williss and Brandy Perry enjoy the Kiwi premiere



The Kiwi cast of *Moana* and Hawaiian Airlines staff on the red carpet premiere at Sylvia Park (from left): Rusty Williss and Tad Fujinaka, Hawaiian Airlines; cast members Temuera Morrison, Rachel House, Jemaine Clement, Opetia Foa'i; Hawaiian Airlines' Jaime Hightower and Brandy Perry and actor Oscar Kightley



Hawaiian Airlines staff in front of a traditional sail signed by the *Moana* cast and crew (from left): Debbie Nakanelua-Richards, Honalulu Hawaiian Airlines; Mischa Knox and Lindsey Morgan, Auckland Hawaiian Airlines

# Moana: lights, camera, boom time for Pacific tourism

By Julie Cleaver

Traditional drums were beating, Pacific dancers were performing and leis were being gifted at the New Zealand premiere of *Moana* in Auckland's Sylvia Park on Wednesday.

It was a perfect Polynesian showcase, the kind which lead Hawaiian Airline's NZ country director Rusty Williss to comment the animated film has the potential to have a significant impact on the Hawaiian tourism market.

Speaking to TRAVELinc Memo at the red-carpet event, Williss says: 'It probably won't

be as large as *Lord of the Rings* was for New Zealand, but it will increase awareness and drive enquiries into the region, especially for the new generation coming through.'

He believes the movie has resonating cultural ties with New Zealand, Hawaii and Polynesia.

'These cultural demonstrations will help the next generation understand their own culture as well as take an interest in Hawaii from a young age.'

*Moana* cast member and Kiwi talent Jemaine Clement also thinks the film will

promote tourism in Polynesia. 'Although it is an animated movie, it does make you want to go jump into some clear blue water.'

And *Hunt for the Wilder People* star and *Moana* cast member Rachel House adds: 'Despite common understanding, this film is not actually set in Hawaii. But it will definitely promote travel all around the Pacific region and encourage people to come and see how diverse we are.'

Meanwhile, the airline also decked out three of its A330s with *Moana*-themed images.

## Kiwis join Australians at KOCI 2016

The sun was shining and smiles were blazing when 14 Kiwi and Australian trade representatives visited Cook Islands last week for KOCI 2016.

It is the first time the Cook Islands Tourism faml and Busines2Business expo combined Australia and New Zealand delegates, who visited Rarotonga as well as the outer islands

of Aitutaki and Atiu. The itinerary also included time in Rarotonga inspecting multiple accommodation options.

Members of the group also got the opportunity to experience activities offered by Koka Lagoon Cruises, Raro Buggy Tour, Ariki Sea Scooter Tour, Te Vara Nui, the Atiu Cave Tour, Atiu Bird and Eco Tour and the Vaka Cruise.

## Yatule special

Eye 4 Travel is reminding agents of the 20% off special at Yatule Resort & Spa located at Natadola Beach in Fiji – a 45-minute drive from Nadi Airport.

The 20% off special is valid for travel from 9 January to 31 August with a small closeout over the Easter period (13 to 17 April, 2017, inclusive).

It is valid on all buré types.



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Paula Watson, HOT Product, and Gareth Waddington, helloworld



Cheers all round from Sharma Smith and Kate Lawson, HOT Product; Shelley Gutry, Our World, and Paula Lipscombe, GTA



Colin Caldwell and Jo Glass, Dive Fish Snow Holidays

## SPANTO to beef up its presence in 2017

The South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPANTO) is taking its roadshow to 10 regions throughout New Zealand (up from eight this year) in 2017.

'We will be including Blenheim, and going back to Queenstown', reports Jacquie Carson from the Vanuatu Tourism Office.

'We received so much positive feedback for taking SPANTO representatives for the face to face meetings with agents to the regional cities – they really do appreciate it and we want to acknowledge this.'

'Many members of SPANTO are one-man operators – the likes of Vanuatu Tourism, New Caledonia and Tahiti, and

it is such a bonus to be able to get in front of these agents.'

Look out early in the New Year for the roadshow dates and places of where the six member countries of the Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Samoa alongside airlines and wholesalers will be.



At yesterday's SPANTO lunch at The Tasting Shed in Kumeu is Danika Cooper, Cook Islands Tourism Corporation; Cameron Taylor, Tourism Fiji; Rob Thompson, Tahiti Tourisme; Jacquie Carson, Vanuatu Tourism Office; Graeme West, Cook Islands Tourism Corporation; Moana Mckeen, Tahiti Tourisme; Sally Pepermans; New Caledonia Tourism; Sonny Rivers, Samoa Tourism Authority and Sonya Lawson, Tourism Fiji



James Leslie and Andrew Davidson, Air New Zealand, check out the al fresco dining at The Tasting Shed



Teresa Matheson and Nadege Landa, Expedia

## South Sea Cruises changes tack

South Sea Cruises Group has announced a change in the way it handles sales and marketing.

Marine Tourism Management, which previously managed the marketing aspects of the group, incorporating Awesome Adventures Fiji, Yasawa Islands Holidays, Blue Lagoon Cruises and Vinaka Fiji Volunteering closed the existing MTM office yesterday (15 December).

All sales and marketing matters for brands will now be managed inhouse by a new sales and marketing team led by recently appointed director of sales and marketing Wayne Deed.

He says that it's very much business as usual. 'We continue to look forward to working with our valued trade and industry partners.'

Deed adds that all trade contracts and marketing arrangements with South Sea Cruises Group remain unchanged as part of this new direction.

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## Cruising

### P&O's new onboard app

P&O Cruises has launched its first onboard app, allowing guests to plan activities, make bookings and share experiences throughout their cruise.

Available free on personal devices when connected to P&O Cruises' wifi, the WhatsOn app enables holiday makers to send messages to people they are travelling with, check in and 'like' locations as well as recommend activities.

Guests can also book shore tours, check their onboard account, view promotions available across the ship and keep up to date with the latest news.

## Set sail for Christmas 2017

The festive boat may have sailed for this year, but Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) and Oceania are offering deals so revelers don't dip out on 2017 Christmas or New Year's voyages.

Steve Odell, senior vice president and managing director for Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, Asia Pacific, says there is a growing trend for people to opt for a sailing adventure over the traditional home-based festive gathering.

'Early booking is advised not only to lock down lower prices, but to secure a preferred cabin type, especially for families or groups seeking larger suites or inter-connecting options,' Odell says.

Sailings include:

- Norwegian Cruise Line's Norwegian Jewel, embarks on a 13-day round-trip voyage from Sydney on 23 December, 2017. Visits include Melbourne, Wellington, Napier, Rotorua, Auckland and the Bay of Islands. Bookings made before 16 January, 2017, qualify for up to five complimentary inclusions (two for oceanview, balcony and mini-suite bookings; all five for suites or The Haven bookings).

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

- Among Oceania Cruises' offerings is a 14-day Auckland to Sydney cruise, which departs 6 December, 2107. It takes in visits Rotorua, Napier, Milford Sound Fjords and Melbourne.

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

Auckland to Sydney on sale



### Last minute sale on Australasia cruise

Holland America Line is offering a discounted price on its 13-night Auckland to Sydney cruise.

Departing 2 January next year onboard Maasdam, the trip will cost \$1489 per person twin share if booked before 5pm on 20 December, 2016.

The journey will take passengers along the coast of New Zealand through to Tasmania, Melbourne and ending in Sydney, meaning Kiwis only have to book one international flight.

## Norwegian announces its itineraries

Norwegian Cruise Line today has announced its 2018 and 2018/19 itineraries.

The deployment spans across the globe, including Alaska, where the new Norwegian Bliss arrives in June to lead the fleet. It will offer seven-day voyages departing each Saturday from Seattle.

In Europe, Norwegian Breakaway will depart her New York homeport on 15 April for the first time since her inaugural season in 2013 for a 12-day transatlantic voyage to London (Southampton).

Following her arrival in Europe, it will undergo enhancements in dry dock and

then journey to her new seasonal homeport of Copenhagen, where she will sail nine-day Scandinavia and Russia cruises through the summer season.

Norwegian Jade will return to Europe in summer 2018 and sail a series of Norway, Iceland, and North Cape cruises from London (Southampton) and Hamburg.

In winter 2018/2019, Norwegian Spirit will set sail from Barcelona to the Canary Islands & Morocco, on a series of 10- and 11-day cruises.

Norwegian will continue its tradition of sailing from both New York City and Boston to Bermuda between April and September 2018.



## Airlines

## Qantas seals MEL to LAX service

Qantas 787-9 Dreamliner's inaugural Melbourne to Los Angeles service is cleared for take-off to fly six days a week from 15 December next year.

The Dreamliner will carry 236 passengers in a three-class configuration, and complement the daily Airbus A380 service already flying from Melbourne to Los Angeles.

Operating six times per week, the Dreamliner will replace the 747 service that currently operates on this route alongside the A380.

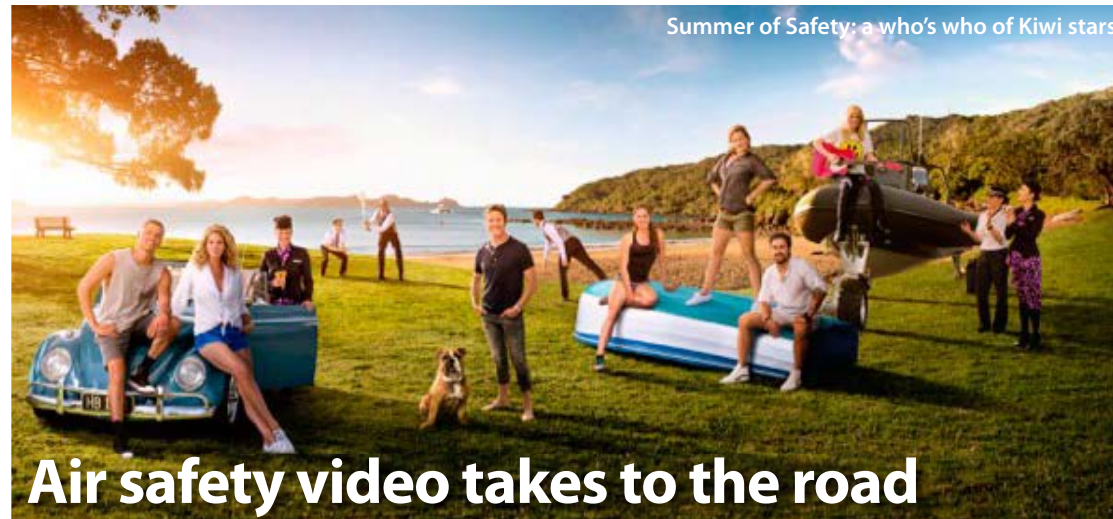
Qantas International CEO Gareth Evans says the arrival of the Dreamliner would be a step change for the airline and customers, both in terms of operational efficiency and passenger comfort.

'The aircraft offers passengers larger windows, a smoother ride and better air quality to reduce jetlag,' Evans says.

'In economy there's more room and plenty of storage. In business, our suites will offer a fully-flat bed and direct-aisle access. We'll be unveiling our premium economy in the first quarter of next year and it will set new standards for the industry.'

The announcement follows the news that Qantas will fly non-stop from Perth to London from March 2018.

The Dreamliner will replace the 747 service



## Air safety video takes to the road

Air New Zealand has cast an all-star lineup of Kiwi talent in its latest safety video, which highlights the Northland region of New Zealand.

Inspired by the Kiwi road trip, Summer of Safety follows the adventures of Shortland Street's Jayden Daniels as he travels around Northland's Bay of Islands and Hokianga encountering a host of friendly locals, famous faces and iconic attractions.

Joining Daniels' getaway is supermodel Rachel Hunter and actor Joe Naufahu

– straight from a fiery stint on Game of Thrones. Stuntwoman Zoe Bell and canine sidekick Blossom the British Bulldog, IndyCar legend Scott Dixon and Olympic bronze-medallist Eliza McCartney also jump on board the road trip, which was filmed at ten locations across Northland.

Air New Zealand says the video attracted more than 2.2 million views in its first day.

**Click here** to watch the video.

## Winter is coming, more flights to Queenstown

Virgin Australia and Air New Zealand plan to introduce new services between Australia and Queenstown in time for next winter, adding an extra capacity of more than 5500 seats across the four weeks.

The airlines will also move some existing flights to the evening so visitors can maximise their stay.

This means that, subject to regulatory approval, Virgin Australia will operate evening services from Queenstown to Brisbane on

Friday and Sunday from 23 June, 2017, while Air New Zealand will operate services from Queenstown to Sydney on Saturday and Sunday from 1 July, 2017. The new services are on sale from Wednesday 14 December, 2016.

If given the go ahead, next year there will be a total of 38 return services each week between Australia and Queenstown during the 2017 ski season.

## IN BRIEF

### Jordan's Hidden Beauty

Royal Jordanian (RJ) has short life fares valid for sale until 31 December. The return fare to Amman is priced from \$1744 including taxes, for travel before 28 February. Travel AKL MH KUL RJ AMM. Refer to GDS or contact World Aviation Systems.

### Irish Eyes are smiling

World Aviation advises that passengers travelling trans-Atlantic on Aer Lingus (EI) from Shannon (SNN) or Dublin (DUB) can pre-clear US immigration at both SNN and DUB airports before departure. Fly SNN to BOS on EI return from \$745 including taxes. Valid for travel completed by 31 March, 2017, and ticketing by 31 December, 2016.

## Cathay Pacific daily to Hong Kong

Cathay Pacific's current four-times-weekly service between Hong Kong and Gatwick will become a daily operation from 1 June, 2017. The move reflects the success of the route since its launch in September last year. To further boost the airline's UK connectivity, Manchester Airport will operate an additional fifth weekly flight to Hong Kong. This upgrade will also see the A350 replaced by the Boeing 777-300ER on all flights to the airport.



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# Adventure World takes America on the road

Adventure World is releasing a standalone USA brochure for the first time and invites agents to celebrate the launch early next year.

Agents in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch can attend one of Adventure World's USA launch events in February 2017 to learn about the great adventures available away from the country's major gateways.

'Adventure World has an extremely diverse soft-adventure product portfolio in Canada and Alaska, after an extensive market review we determined an opportunity to curate a tailor-made USA collection focusing on the lesser known regions and states,' Adventure World NZ general manager Dave Nicholson says.

'Focusing on the Pacific North West, New England Maritimes, National Parks and the Southern cultural corridor we will be bringing some programmes to the New Zealand market that have not previously

Bryce Canyon, Utah



been readily available and that we know will be popular with agents.'

Launch events will be held in Auckland, Wellington in Christchurch on the 7, 8 and 9 February, respectively. Auckland's event will be held at GRID AKL in the city, Wellington's event will be at Mac's Brew Bar on Taranaki Street

and the Christchurch RSA will host Adventure World's South Island event.

Adventure World's USA roadshow is supported by Travel Oregon, Visit Anchorage, Visit Utah, Travel Nevada and Brand USA.

[www.adventureworld.co.nz/usa-brochure-launch](http://www.adventureworld.co.nz/usa-brochure-launch)

## Discounted wine trail in New England

To celebrate the Coastal Wine Trail's 10th anniversary, member vineyards in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island are offering 67% off a Vintner's Tasting Ticket.

This tour includes wine tastings for two at each of the 14 member wineries – a total of 28 tastings. If booked before 31 December, 2016, the discounted ticket for two costs \$99.

The trail is a non-profit group of wineries that showcase what Southeastern New England has to offer. The close proximity of the wineries means travellers can tour the entire wine trail in two to three days, sticking close to New England's scenic coastline throughout.

[www.coastalwinetrail.com/on-sale-vintners-tasting-ticket](http://www.coastalwinetrail.com/on-sale-vintners-tasting-ticket)

## Climb every (remote) mountain

Glaciers, alpine meadows, mountain ridge walks and forested valleys are on the agenda with a four-day heli-hiking trip in the Columbia Mountains.

The Adventure World journey includes accommodation at either Bugaboo Lodge or Bobbie Burns Lodge.

It departs on selected dates from

July to September 2017 and is suitable for families, couples, friends, solo travellers, mountaineers, hikers, trekkers and walkers.

Described as an ideal introduction to heli-hiking, the trip is priced from \$4159 per person including transport, transfers, sightseeing and activities.

**Click here** for details.

## Two of the best in just one hit

Adventure World has released a new itinerary combining two of its bestselling destinations, Galapagos and Machu Picchu.

The 14-day Galapagos & Machu Picchu Discovery has an emphasis on history, scenery and nature, with explorations of Quito, Galapagos, Lima, Cuzco, Yucay and Machu Picchu on the trip from Quito to Cuzco.

The itinerary is priced from \$7685 per person, including hotel and cruise accommodation, many meals, sightseeing

Sealed – a two-for-one destination experience



with local English-speaking guides and domestic flights.

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





## Darling, it's time to party at the museum

This New Year's Eve the Australian National Maritime Museum is offering families a night of food, drink and entertainment as well as a great view of the Darling Harbour fireworks display.

Two family packages are on offer – a Tinnies Package, which costs \$130 per adult, \$80 per child or \$355 per family. This price includes a Big Ticket to the museum as well as dinner and drink

accompaniments on the night.

The premium Yachts Package includes a bird's eye view of the Darling Harbour fireworks and exclusive access to the helideck of the destroyer HMAS Vampire. Tickets cost \$185 per adult, \$105 per child or \$490 per family.

[www.anmm.gov.au/whats-on/events/new-years-eve](http://www.anmm.gov.au/whats-on/events/new-years-eve)

## Four Points ready for March opening in Melbourne

Four Points by Sheraton, Melbourne Docklands will open to guests on 28 March, 2017.

The hotel, part of Four Points by Sheraton and Marriott International, will form part of the Marina Tower complex – an urban development covering 3795sq m of riverside land. It has 273 guest rooms, including 16 studios. Each room has city or river views.

Additional hotel amenities include a 25-metre outdoor heated swimming pool with a deck area and a 24-hour fitness centre with a spa and steam room.

There are also meeting and function rooms that can cater up to 450 guests. Gatherings can also be hosted outside.

Reservations are now open.

The special opening rate starts from A\$199 per night for guest rooms, covering stays between 28 March and 28 September, 2017, subject to availability. This rate includes a buffet breakfast for two.

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# Queestown: yes to visitor levies, with qualification

Bed taxes will not scare off international travellers, but they must be managed in the region where they are paid and not go into a national fund, says Destination Queenstown CEO Graham Budd.

His comments follow the recent release of the McKinsey Report, which considers options to fund tourism infrastructure. The report suggests a tourism development \$130 million fund be established, with contributions from a border tax and a 2% bed tax on all accommodation, matched by a contribution from government's GST returns.

'For too long too many New Zealanders have been scared of introducing a visitor levy in commercial accommodation. We have to get past that,' says Budd.



Destination  
Queenstown CEO  
Graham Budd

'There is a stack of evidence around the world that shows that such levies have no impact on visitor numbers; that visitors have no problem contributing towards funding for the facilities of a region they are visiting.'

Budd says that both Destination Queenstown and the Queenstown Chamber of Commerce have for some time been supportive of an initiative to develop a local accommodation visitor levy.

'In the context of a resort destination such as Queenstown, which has a very small rate paying population, we are very much in favour of a local based visitor levy.'

However, he says the key lies in fund being managed locally, in the region where they are collected.

'While it is very important that there is a national regulation or framework (you can't have every town and region running ad hoc), it does need local control and implementation. Locals know best what their needs and priorities are. There are some good international models we can look to for this, he adds.

Budd says RTONZ, of which he is chair, has a similar view. 'RTONZ has said yes, we are in support of the McKinsey Report and united industry recognition of the problems we are trying to solve, with the qualification that funds collected within a local authority or region should be vested in that region.

'This will also help address resident resistance towards tourism growth in parts of the country where relatively small ratepayer communities are under severe pressure during peak times,' he says.

## Quake-struck Hurunui welcomes funding

Hurunui has welcomed a government announcement that the region is up for a \$350,000 tourism funding boost.

Hurunui Tourism chair Janice Fredric says the earthquakes have had a significant impact on tourism in the district.

'The closure of SH1 has really changed things for us. Parts of our district are now benefitting from the increase in traffic along SH7, but other areas are losing business while the detours are in place.'

Fredric says the government fund will enable Hurunui Tourism to action the

plans it has established to support the most-affected areas.

'We're looking at specific campaigns to attract visitors to these areas – this will include showcasing all they have to offer.'

Hurunui Mayor Winton Dalley says fortunately, the district has plenty to showcase.

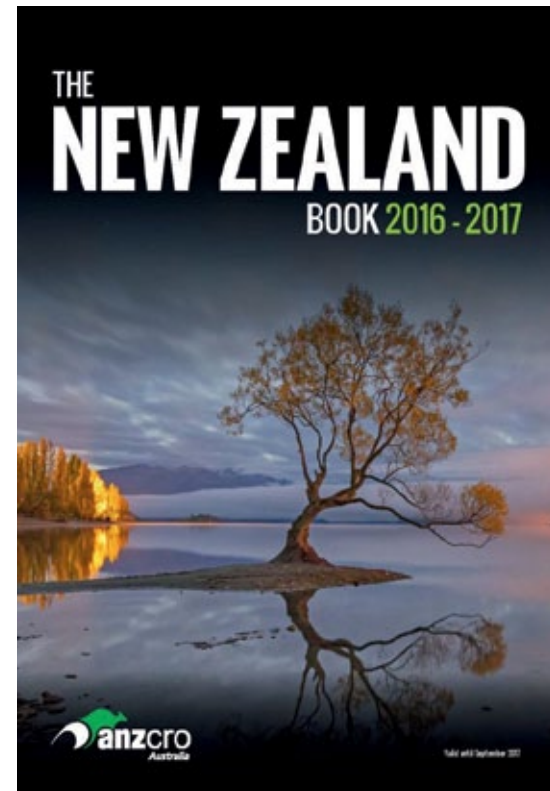
'Thankfully many of our core tourism assets came out of the earthquake undamaged – including the the iconic Cathedral Cliffs in Gore Bay, the Waipara Valley and its numerous wineries and, of course, New Zealand's alpine spa village Hanmer Springs.'

## Te Anau flight

Air Milford, a Scenic Flight Operator based at Queenstown Airport has announced they will be initiating a scheduled return flight from Queenstown to Te Anau.

Air Milford Operations Manager Antony Sproull says the trial service will begin on 14 January, 2017, and will run every Saturday for 12 weeks through the peak tourist season.

We believe the timing is ripe to re-launch this service – the first since Mt Cook Airlines ceased the link more than 16 years ago.



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## MYSTERY PERSON



## Who is in the shadez?

We recognise Sonya Lawson, Tourism Fiji; Adele Barker, Air New Zealand and Wayne Deed, South Seas Cruises, but we cannot identify the lady on the left.

If you think you know, send the answer to [competitions@promag.co.nz](mailto:competitions@promag.co.nz) and remember to put Mystery Person in the subject line.

Jetstar's very own Mick Cottrell was last week's mystery person and we drew Prashila Ramritu from helloworld in Wellington from the pile of entries. Congratulations Prashila, a copy of National Geographic Traveller, courtesy of Adventure World is on the way.

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## Kiwis lap up the Las Vegas night life

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) rolled out the red carpet for seven Australian and New Zealand wholesale product managers last week, showcasing what the 'entertainment capital of the world' has to offer.

Over three nights, the group experienced some quintessential Las Vegas adventures including the Richard Petty Driving Experience; an evening helicopter flight over the Las Vegas Strip; views from the world's tallest observation wheel and Cirque du Soleil's KÀ show.

LVCVA Australia and New Zealand representative Sarah Anderson says the

authority sees huge value in the Australasian travel trade and is eager to invest in educating the industry on the destination.

'Las Vegas is a continually evolving destination so these trips are really important to ensure the people promoting us are fully aware and up to speed on the latest openings, activities, restaurants, events and general happenings in Vegas,' Sarah says.

'This trip also provided the wholesalers with an opportunity to expand their existing Las Vegas product offering, which is great for us,' she says.

The group flew with American Airlines and stayed at SLS Las Vegas.



(From left): Mark Brooker, helloworld; Kiwi Petra Pinto Correa, Scoopon Travel; Louise Sutton from the Flight Centre in New Zealand; Sarah Anderson, LVCVA AUS/NZ; Louise McAlpine, Excite Holidays; New Zealander Suia Perry, Lifestyle Holidays; Jessica Harding, Freestyle Holidays and Ruth Bullock, Flight Centre Travel Group

## Barker takes new role



Andrew Barker

Andrew Barker has been appointed to the position of director of sales at cievents.

Barker will be responsible for leading the sales team in New Zealand and will focus on developing existing client relationships as

well as building new business opportunities.

With more than 10 years' experience in the industry, Barker has considerable operational experience drawn from an events background.

In his most recent role he was meeting and events sales manager for Pullman Auckland. Prior to that he was the events and business development manager for The Orange Group.

Barker comments: 'I see great growth opportunity within New Zealand for cievents and I am excited to be a part of that, contributing to the ongoing success of the business and taking on new challenges.'

## Spots running out for VIP famil

Only a few seats left on the VIP tour being organised out of New Zealand by ProMag Publishing, to the Asia Pacific Incentives and Meetings Expo (AIME) in Melbourne in February.

The famil is open to qualified

incentive and conference practitioners and includes hosting by AIME, plus special features. The famil is being escorted by ProMag director and event manager Allyssa Eastaugh.

Expressions of interest to [allyssa@promag.co.nz](mailto:allyssa@promag.co.nz)

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