

# TABS ON TRAVEL TODAY

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Friday 25 January 2013

Issue 2532

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## Win SQ Tickets In New Incentive

Singapore Airlines is giving agents the chance to win one of 100 tickets to any Singapore Airlines destination in a new incentive this Feb.

**3 Pages This Issue**

### White Island Warning

The aviation colour code and Volcanic alert level for White Island has been upgraded following changes in the 'style' of seismic activity. The Volcanic Alert level has now at level 1, which indicates signs of volcanic unrest, and the Aviation Colour Code has been changed from yellow to orange as of yesterday, says GNS Science. Volcanologists say visitors to the island are now at the highest level of risk since the start of the 2012 eruptions, and eruptions are possible with little or no warning.

Agents who sell Singapore Airlines/SilkAir during the Fantastic Feb Fares Sale will have the chance to win in the incentive, with the prizes split between top sellers and randomly-drawn entries.

The 40 top sellers of tickets during the Feb campaign will receive one free return ticket to any destination in the SQ network (with a maximum of five tickets per store).

Every SQ ticket sold also earns agents an entry into the draw to win one of 60 tickets.

The offer is valid for all new bookings made and ticketed 25 Jan-04 Mar.

### ... SQ Feb Sale

SQ has both economy and business class fares to UK/Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East available in its Fantastic Feb Fares Sale (25 Jan-04 Mar).

Fares include London from \$2625, Istanbul from \$2386, Barcelona from \$2404 and Amsterdam from \$2417.

Clients who book economy class fares during the sale will also receive an extra 10kg of baggage.

Clients can also take advantage of Singapore stopover accommodation rates starting from \$37pp t/s through the Singapore Stopover Holiday promotion, and an SGD40 Changi Dollar Voucher will be given to all transit passengers travelling through Singapore before 30 Jun.

### Geckos' F\*\*\*ing Rebrand

Geckos has undergone a rebrand with an interesting new tag-line—'May your heart be light, your step be swift and your stories f\*\*\*ing epic'.

The rebrand features in the new brochure and on the website, and includes a focus on quirky travel stories and experiences. Off-the-wall characters in new imagery include a man with fish down the front of his pants. Geckos says the change is all about speaking to its target audience: 'The kind of traveller who doesn't need to be spoon-fed, is ready to step outside the comfort zone and who isn't dependent on a tour leader telling them when to sleep'. See [geckosadventures.com](http://geckosadventures.com)

### World's Biggest Airport

The world's largest airport by passenger numbers is reportedly being planned for Istanbul. The six-runway airport would be able to handle 150 million passengers a year, with the first stage operational in 2017.

### TAS Marketing Shake-up

Tourism Tasmania is withdrawing its in-market representation from New Zealand at the end of Feb after a 'thorough' review of its international marketing program. The STO will now instead focus on cooperative marketing activities with Tourism Australia. "The aim is to better capitalise on Tourism Australia's multi-million dollar investment in international marketing through programmes like their visiting journalist programme, in-market campaigns, and their digital and PR activities," it says in an overview of the changes on its website. There will also be increased support for 'industry-led international sales and marketing programs', it adds. The new approach to marketing will also focus on attracting international already living in Australia, and the VFR market that stems from them. Tourism Tasmania chief executive John Fitzgerald was unavailable for comment by press time today.



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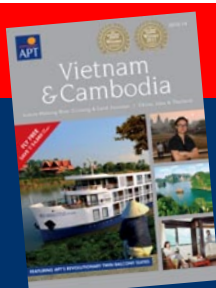
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### Garry Threatens Aitutaki

A tropical cyclone alert is in place for the Southern Cook Islands, including Aitutaki, as Tropical Cyclone Garry continues on its path. The storm has intensified to category three.

### NZ AKL Anniv. Hours

Air New Zealand advises that Agency Group Sales and Partner Services office will be closed Mon 28 Jan for Auckland Anniversary Day. Normal operating hours will resume Tue. Agency Sales Support will remain open but on reduced staff on Mon, adds the carrier.

### EY LON Chauffeur

Etihad Airways has extended its chauffeur service to economy class passengers in London for the first time. Guests travelling to or from Heathrow can book and manage their booking online, and choose between executive, luxury or mini-van vehicles—with rates comparable to London's black cabs.

### AZ China To Europe

Alitalia has some 'great value' fares for clients who travel from Beijing to Europe via the carrier's Rome hub, says World Aviation. Beijing to London via Rome starts from \$1519, sales and travel are open.

### GO Europe With QF

GO Holidays has Europe packages flying Qantas on sale to 13 Mar, for travel throughout 01 Feb-31 Oct. Three nights in London is from \$2679pp t/s, three nights in Paris is from \$2859pp t/s and three nights in Rome from \$2539pp t/s.

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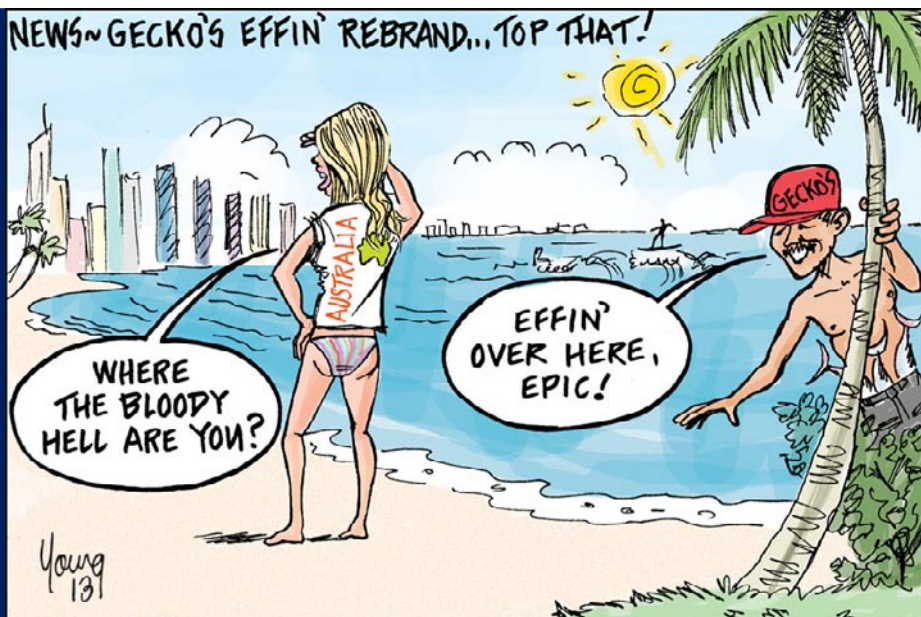
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## Industry Comment



## Mahalo Month: Hawaii Deals For Agents

Hawaii Tourism is extending its popular Mahalo Month promotion, offering special rates for the travel industry for an extra month this year.

Throughout Mahalo Month, retail and reservation agents and tour operator staff that sell Hawaii are given access to special rates by airlines, accommodation providers and activities.

Air New Zealand already has fares available for Kiwi travel agents, while Hawaiian Airlines will release agent fares in mid-Feb.

Traditionally held in May, this year the specials will also be available in Apr.

With all the Hawaii hype this year, it's a great chance for agents to experience the destination for

themselves, says Hawaii Tourism. The promotion is designed to work as a self-famil, with deals available on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Hawaii Island, Lanai and Molokai.

For more information, see [mahalomonth.com](http://mahalomonth.com) and use password [mahalo2013](http://mahalo2013)

### Samoa Most Ethical

Samoa has been named one of the most ethical destinations in the world to visit in 2013 by non-profit group Ethical Traveler.

The group selects the ten countries it believes are doing the best job of promoting human rights, preserving their environment and creating a sustainable tourism industry. Barbados, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Ghana, Latvia, Lithuania, Mauritius, Palau and Uruguay also made the list.

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### Visa In Myanmar

As at 18 Jan Visa card holders can now access cash at major tourist regions in Myanmar, Active Asia advises. Nearly 90 ATMs operated by Co-operative Bank and Kanbawza Bank accept the cards—significant progress for Myanmar's electronic payments infrastructure, says Active Asia.

### TN To US East Coast

Clients can experience Tahitian hospitality when flying to the US with Air Tahiti Nui flight numbers available all the way to Washington, Boston and New York City, World Aviation reminds agents. Flights to Washington start at \$1345 one-way or \$2263 return, sales and travel dates are open.



## Industry Diary

### JANUARY

#### Adventure World Roadshow 2013

**Wellington:** Tue 29, Travel Lodge, 2-6 Gilmer Tce, 1730 for 1800 start.

**Auckland:** Wed 30, Parnell Centre, Jubilee Building, 545 Parnell Rd, 1730 for 1800 start.

**Hamilton:** Thu 31, Novotel Hotel, 7 Alma St, 1730 for 1800 start.

### FEBRUARY

#### Canival Spirit Ship Tour

**Bay of Islands:** Sun 03.

**Auckland:** Mon 04.

**Tauranga:** Tue 05.

**Napier:** Wed 06.

**Wellington:** Thu 07.

#### Gold Coast Tourism

#### New Zealand Sales Mission

**Christchurch:** Mon 11, Sudima Hotel, CHC Airport, 0730-0900.

**Dunedin:** Tue 12, Mecure Hotel, 0730-0900.

**Invercargill:** Tue 12, Kelvin Hotel, 1730-1900.

**Queenstown:** Wed 13, The Rees Hotel, 1730-1900.

**Auckland:** Thu 14 Feb, Shed 5, 90 Wellesley St (plenty of parking at Shed 5).

### MARCH

#### JAWS PLUS 2013

#### 20th Anniversary Roadshow

**Dunedin:** Tue 12, Mercure Hotel, 310 Princes Street, 5-8pm.

**Christchurch:** Wed 13, Chateau on the Park, 1700-2000.

**Nelson:** Thu 14, Monaco Resort, Stoke, 1700-2000.

**Napier:** Mon 18, The Sailing Club, 63 West Quay, 1700-2000.

**Wellington:** Tue 19, Level 2, West Lounge, Westpac Stadium, 1700-2000.

**Palmerston North:** Wed 20, Travelodge, 1700-2000.

**New Plymouth:** Thu 21, Copthorne Hotel Grand Central, 1700-2000.

**Tauranga:** Tue 26, Yacht Club, Sulphur Point, 1700-2000.

**Hamilton:** Wed 27, Wintec Campus, Bill Gallagher Room, Gate 3 Tristram St, 1700-2000.

#### Sunshine Coast Roadshow

**Auckland:** Mon 18.

**Hamilton:** Tues 19.

**Tauranga:** Wed 20.

**Wellington:** Wed 20.

**Christchurch:** Thu 21.

For more see Monday's  
**TRAVEL TODAY**

## Inspiring Journeys Reduce Oz Prices

Inspiring Journeys has reduced the prices of its six Australia itineraries and is offering earlybird discounts of up to \$710 per couple on select journeys when clients book at least six months in advance.

AAT Kings' sales manager Reece Scott says the reduction comes as travellers continue to demand a 'more competitive deal when it comes to touring locally'. "To this end Inspiring jour-

neys has responded by significantly reducing the price of its Australian itineraries without compromising on delivering the very best in immersive and authentic experiences," he says. Prices now range from \$2950pp s/t for the five-day Mysterious North roundtrip from Darwin to Kakadu, Katherine and Litchfield to \$4625pp s/t for the seven-day Unknown Wilderness exploration of Tasmania. See [inspiringjourneys.co.nz](http://inspiringjourneys.co.nz)

### Top Gear Fest Details

The official schedule for the inaugural Top Gear Festival Sydney (09-10 Mar) was released yesterday, with plenty of petrol-headed action headed up Jeremy Clarkson, James May and The Stig.

The Red Bull Racing Formula One team will square off against V8 Supercars champions in a F1 Vs V8 competition; Clarkson will challenge various forms of transport; May will attempt to speed up the Express Postal service; and the Stig will race some of the world's rarest supercars. A world-renowned athlete will take on Clarkson in a 100m race; there's a race between a car and a plane; and three celebrity teams will battle it out in a tri-nations cup (Australia, New Zealand and the rest of the world). There are plenty of other events on throughout the festival at the Sydney Motorsport Park, see [topgearfestivalsydney.com.au](http://topgearfestivalsydney.com.au)

### NZ Sustainable Award

Air New Zealand has been named a finalist in the 2013 Tourism for Tomorrow Awards recognising sustainable tourism best practice.

The carrier says it aims to become the world's most environmentally sustainable airline and has worked hard to achieve this goal, including enhancing fuel efficiency, partnering with the Department of Conservation and supporting green projects around the country through its environment trust.

### EY Unveils New B777

Etihad Airways unveiled its brand-new B777 aircraft in Washington DC this week ahead of the launch of its daily flights to the city from 31 Mar.

Guests sampled the carrier's on-board cuisine, created and served by classically-trained chefs and food and beverage managers, and checked out the aircraft interior.

## News & Product

### QF On NZ Contract Loss

Qantas says it does not expect there to be compulsory redundancies resulting from the loss of a check-in and ground handling contract with Air New Zealand. "Air New Zealand advised Qantas in Nov that they would not be renewing their contract for ground handling services when the current contract expires in Mar," says QF. "We are currently looking at what impact this will have on our employees." The Australian Services Union is said to be meeting with QF management tomorrow, and it too does not expect compulsory job losses.

### IATA Runway Safety Plan

IATA is working with aviation stakeholders to reduce runway excursions in Europe—one of the most common types of air accidents.

In 2011, 13% of all accidents in European airspace were runway excursions, and globally they accounted for 19% of all accidents.

IATA has joined 16 other stakeholders to develop a European Action Plan for the Prevention of Runway Excursions. They aim to tackle the issue through providing operational and system recommendations to aircraft operators, air navigation service providers, airports and regulatory authorities.

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