

# TABS ON TRAVEL TODAY

Incorporating Tabs on Travel

Tuesday 16 December 2014

Issue 2990



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## NZ Boosts Islands; Overnights Removed

**Selling the South Pacific could be easier in 2015 following the latest move by the national carrier.**

Air New Zealand will increase its Pacific Islands flights by 5% overall from next Apr. It's also rescheduling some of its South Pacific flights, to avoid what it says are inconvenient departure and arrival times.

The changes include capacity increases to Fiji, Hawaii, Niue, New Caledonia, Tahiti, Samoa and Vanuatu, and are as a result of growing demand, says NZ. Kiwi travellers will also have more options for long weekend stays in many destinations.

"The islands schedules have historically had very early morning departure and arrival times with overnight flying," says Simon Kleinsorge NZ's manager of networks and planning

for international markets. "Many of these overnight flights have been rescheduled for the coming year to daytime flying, whilst still retaining connecting options to and from domestic New Zealand ports."

### ... The Changes

The changes include an 11% AKL-Fiji increase, with daily widebody services May-Oct and extra capacity in the Jul school holidays; and flights from CHC and WLG to Fiji will increase overall by 29%, including an extended CHC season, and WLG services will operate during the Oct school holidays.

AKL-HNL flights will increase 12%, and 33% in Apr and May peak periods. AKL-IUE will increase 11%, with two-weekly services Wed and Sat 08 Apr-08 Nov; and an additional Thu service will operate AKL-NOU 02 Jul-26 Aug and 24 Sep-08 Oct. An extra AKL-PPT flight will operate Apr and Jul holidays; and daily AKL-APW services will operate 30 Mar-26 Apr and 29 Jun-24 Oct.

AKL-TBU will see extra flights in May and Jun, and all overnight flights have been removed. AKL-RAR will remain similar to 2014, with overnight flights being reduced but Australia capacity maintained and widebody aircraft operating daytime.

AKL-VLI capacity will increase 26%; and Bali flights will also return, with two flights a week 30 May-10 Oct. For full details, see [airnzagent.co.nz](http://airnzagent.co.nz)

### Kiwi Airline Progress

Car dealership 2 Cheap Cars has announced it's backing a new airline being set up to take on regional routes dropped by Air New Zealand. Kiwi Regional Airlines (KRA) is the brainchild of Kiwi Air founder Ewan Wilson, who plans to have the airline operating in 2016. The car dealer is the first to join a consortium to set up the airline, and says there's more partners to be announced soon.



### TA Instagram Success

Tourism Australia says it's the most followed tourist destination on Instagram with more than one million followers—well ahead of New Zealand's 30,000. The @australia account posts a steady stream of scenery and cute animals (like this western pygmy possum in South Australia)—however it's not just about pretty pictures, says TA boss John O'Sullivan. Some 91% of respondents in a recent survey said @australia inspired them to find out more about Australia as a destination, and 87% said the content made them more likely to travel there.

### Taj Mahal E-Ticketing

India will reportedly begin trialling an on-line booking system for the Taj Mahal this Christmas—and if it's a success, the system will be expanded to other monuments in the country. The move could see the end of long queues and ticket scalpers at the Taj, although visitors will still be able to buy tickets at the gate.

4 Pages This Issue

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### NZ RWC Reminder

Air New Zealand reminds agents holding group bookings for the Rugby World Cup that the non-refundable deposit is due no later than 1600 on 31 Dec. Agents should ensure the deposit guarantee form for RWC 2015 is completed and sent through by this time. Any bookings without a form will be cancelled without further notice due to high demand. See [airnzagent.co.nz](http://airnzagent.co.nz)

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## TAANZ Partners With IATA On NDC Study

**TAANZ is among the agent associations around the world working with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to research the proposed New Distribution Channel (NDC) and its practical application.**

The Coalition of National Travel Agent Associations (which includes TAANZ) is collaborating on a study to evaluate options that could benefit agents, as the NDC's XML standard is considered for implementation by airlines and technology providers.

The research, to be conducted by an independent consultant appointed by the coalition group and IATA, will cover the impact of NDC for agents and explore the options to overcome possible obstacles to a successful roll out of NDC. The aim of the review, says IATA, is to also provide scenarios 'of the potential funding models for the transaction of airfares and airline ancillary products via the travel agent channel using the NDC standard'.

The global airline body says the study will evaluate the issues from the perspectives of large, medium and small agencies; and seek views from key stakeholders across the distribution value chain such as airlines, global distribution systems, and travel technology firms.

TAANZ chief executive Andrew Olsen has welcomed the move.

"It's a great development and the WTAAA has worked hard with IATA to get to this point," says the TAANZ boss. "It's a wonderful opportunity to find out how [NDC] will work and what, if any, impact it will have; and the cost and benefits for agents."

Locally, Olsen says Air New Zealand's Sky Couch is a good example of a product which will benefit from the NDC. "The scope for airlines and agents to do more and sell more is boundless," says Olsen.

He's hopeful the study will demonstrate where the NDC will 'plug in'; and 'where the GDSs are all at with [NDC]'.

The coalition group is comprised of agent associations in New Zealand, the Americas, South Africa and India.

### Vietnam Visa Waiver?

A resolution has reportedly been passed in Vietnam to consider waiving tourist visa requirements for more nationalities, and it's thought New Zealand travellers could be among those included. The government is looking at several ways to boost its tourism industry, including improving visa processes, say reports. While the nationalities that could be included in the visa waiver weren't listed, the tourism minister recently proposed waiving visa requirements for countries including New Zealand.

### AirAsia X Order

AirAsia X has placed a firm order with Airbus for 55 A330neo aircraft, the largest single order to date for the best-selling A330 Family. The announcement includes the firming up of a memorandum of understanding for 50 A330neo signed during the Farnborough Air Show in Jul. Deliveries will begin in 2018.



### New Lounge At Heathrow Terminal 2

A new pay-per-use lounge has opened in the arrivals area of London Heathrow's new Terminal 2 – The Queen's Terminal, home to Star Alliance airlines including Air New Zealand. The Plaza Premium Lounge (Arrivals) is open to all travellers and offers showers, food and beverage and a spa. Access is from GBP25pp for one hour including shower, food, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages, Wi-Fi, newspapers and magazines. Massages are priced from GBP45 for 30 minutes and GBP80 for one hour. There's a similar lounge in the departures area.

### QF And Jetstar Japan

Qantas plans to begin codesharing with Jetstar Japan from 15 Jan, according to the GDS. The QF code will appear on Jetstar Japan flights from Tokyo Narita to Fukuoka, Kagoshima, Kumamoto, Matsuyama, Oita, Okinawa, Osaka Kansai, Sapporo and Takamatsu.

### EK's Adds A380 To PER

Emirates will up-gauge one of its three daily services between Perth and Dubai to an A380, effective 01 May 2015, in response to growing demand. The change from a 777-300ER aircraft will see an increase in capacity of 131 seats per flight and 1834 seats per week, adds the carrier.

### Canada LCC 737 MAX

Jetlines, a new ultra-low cost carrier based in Vancouver, has placed an order for five 737 MAX 7s as it looks to build its future fleet. Jetlines plans to tap into passenger demand by offering low cost airfares on routes that avoid direct competition with other airlines, says Boeing.

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### Western Wonderland

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**AATKings**

**TAT: No Photos Please**

The Tourism Authority of Thailand is promoting a new animal rights campaign which encourages visitors not to pay to have their photo taken with an animal.

The No Photos Please campaign by the Freeland foundation is being promoted at major tourist destinations in Thailand, including Pattaya and Phuket, as well as at Suvarnabhumi Airport, says TAT. TAT is also helping push a new mobile app called WildScan which aims to help prevent wildlife trafficking.

**No More Bali Mushrooms**

Denpasar police have reportedly announced plans to end the sale of magic mushrooms in hotels and restaurants in Bali from 01 Jan. The mushrooms are currently freely available in Bali, but police say they're classified as an illegal narcotic and those selling or consuming them will be subject to arrest.

**Change To Intrepid BDM Structure**



**Intrepid Group bdms will now represent all of the Intrepid Group brands in New Zealand and Australia, instead of a few each, the group announced this morning.**

Locally, it means Leah Johnson, Rod Griffiths (Griff) and Tom Svensen (pictured) will each represent Dragoman, Geckos Adventures, Intrepid Travel, Peregrine, Peregrine Reserve and Urban Adventures. The change means the bdms will have the ability to see industry partners more often as they will manage smaller geographical regions, says Intrepid. "Each industry partner will now have one Intrepid Group bdm working with them, who will be across all our brands and who can provide

support immediately for all customer needs," says Intrepid regional director Pete Rawley. "This means that our bdms now have the ability to work far more closely and regularly with our agent partners to fully understand their business needs. Being across all brands enables them to advise on multiple product trends within the local marketplace and be a more valuable resource for agents."

**Westin Spa Studios Fiji**

Westin Denarau Island Resort and Spa in Fiji has started transforming its existing Village 700 accommodation block into spa studios and suites, as it looks to attract the growing spa retreat market.

Located adjacent to Heavenly Spa, the adults only concept is designed to offer guests a retreat with highly personalised service to 'nourish the soul', says Westin. There will be 36 studios in total, with each ground floor studio featuring a private plunge pool, and the top floor studios will offer a private spa bath on the balcony.

Renovations have already begun and are due to be completed end of Feb, during which time the resort will endeavour to accommodate guests away from the renovations (no renovations will take place 20 Dec-05 Jan). The resort will also have some treatment rooms relocated during this time.



**Taronga Zoo's Wild Ropes Course**

Taronga Zoo has opened a new treetop high ropes adventure that gives visitors a new perspective on its wildlife and harbour views.

Wild Ropes features more than 60 challenges over four courses, including suspension bridges, rope climbs and zip-lines, while giving visitors a bird's eye view of animals such as koalas, kangaroos and wallabies. Climbers can reach heights of up to 10m and capture their adventure in an on course action photo.

It costs AUD35 for adults and AUD30 for kids, or AUD69 adults and AUD45 kids including zoo entry. See [taronga.org.au/wildropes](http://taronga.org.au/wildropes)

**Canada By Rail**



Clients can discover parts of Western Canada only accessible by rail and sea with Adventure World's 14-day Western Canada by Rail independent journey. The trip highlights stunning vistas and untamed wilderness, with a chance of sighting some of Canada's coveted wildlife, says Adventure World. Clients will journey through coastal and mountain towns on board two trains, the Rocky Mountaineer and VIA Rail's Skeena. It's priced from \$6699pp including accommodation, some sightseeing and some meals.

TABS ON  
**TRAVEL  
TODAY** Instant Poll

**How have your 2014 sales compared to expectations of a bumper 12 months?**

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**TRAVEL  
TODAY**

**GOLD COAST BREAKFAST EVENT**

Christchurch, Queenstown & Wellington  
28, 29, 30 January 2015

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### VA MEL Fashion Fest

The Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival will expand to nine days when it returns next year (14-22 Mar), says Tourism Australia. The nation's largest consumer-focused, fashion, business and cultural event will see more than 100 established and emerging designers take to the runways. Festival highlight The Cultural Program also returns in 2015 across Melbourne and regional Victoria with a series of exhibitions, talks and activities on 15 Feb-15 Mar. See vamff.com.au

## Industry Diary

### JANUARY

#### Singapore Tourism Roadshow

**Christchurch:** Tue 27, Strange & Co, 5:30pm. **Wellington:** Wed 28, Monsoon Poon, 5:30pm. **Auckland:** Thur 29, Imperial Lane, 5:30pm.

#### Gold Coast Tourism Sales Mission

**Christchurch:** Wed 28, Fairway Room, Russley Golf Club, 7.30-9.30am (breakfast). **Queenstown:** Thu 29, Prime Waterfront Restaurant & Bar, 7.30-9.30am (breakfast). **Wellington:** Fri 30, Shed 5 Restaurant & Bar, Queens Wharf, 7.30-9.30am (breakfast).

### FEBRUARY

#### Queensland on Tour

**Auckland:** Tue 03, Pullman Auckland, 1400-2000.

#### Discover America Trade Seminars

**Wellington:** Mon 23, Inter Continental Hotel, 1700-2100. **Auckland:** Tue 24, Sky City Convention Centre, 1700-2000.

### MARCH

#### Jaws 2015

**Queenstown:** Mon 02 (new for 2015). **Dunedin:** Tue 03. **Christchurch:** Wed 04. **Nelson:** Thu 05. **Auckland:** Wed 11 (new for 2015). **Whangarei:** Thu 12. **Napier:** Mon 16. **Wellington:** Tue 17. **Palmerston North:** Wed 18. **New Plymouth:** Thu 19. **Tauranga:** Tue 24. **Hamilton:** Wed 25. Times and venues TBA.

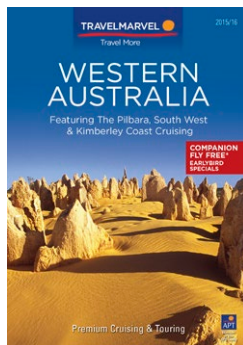
#### Tourism Fiji's Mamanuca & Nadi Roadshow 2015

**Tauranga:** Mon 23, breakfast, 0700-1000. **Christchurch:** Mon 23, evening, 1730-2100. **Wellington:** Tue 24, evening, 1730-2100. **Hamilton:** Wed 25, evening, 1730-2100. **Auckland:** Thu 26, evening, 1730-2100. Venues tba

## Travelmarvel's WA 2015: What's New

Travelmarvel has added cruising on the Kimberley Coast on the 25-suite Coral Princess to its Western Australia premium touring programme for 2015.

The 10-night cruise features on the 23-day Top End and Kimberley Coast Cruise and the 31-day West Coast Discovery and Kimberley Coast Cruise. It includes highlights like King Cascades and King George Falls, seeing ancient aboriginal art, a gourmet beach barbecue and a ride through Horizontal Falls on an inflatable Zodiac. Travelmarvel's land tours for 2015 also feature a range of new accommodation and sightseeing, including two nights at the Oaks Cable Beach in Broome and the chance to stay at the Kununurra Country Club on the 16- and 18-day West Coast Adventure and the 16- or 18-day Last Frontier. On the 13- or 15-day Western Wildflower Wonderland, clients will have the chance to spend two nights at



the Abbey Beach Resort, and new sightseeing includes a tour of the Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse, wine tasting at Palmers Wines, an exclusive tour and tasting at Gabriel Chocolates and the chance to explore Ngili Caves.

There's a range of early-bird offers available, including 'Companion Fly Free' on all departures from Auckland to Perth or Darwin for all West Coast Adventure, Last Frontier and Western Wildflower Wonderland tours departing Apr-Oct 2016, and Mar 2016. There's also a solo traveller saving of up to \$1300pp on select departure dates.

See [travelmarvel.co.nz](http://travelmarvel.co.nz)

### Hertz Europe Expansion

Hertz says it has opened more than 80 new locations in European cities this year, marking its 'rapid and ongoing expansion across the continent's urban centres'. The brand has launched in key cities including Madrid, Athens, Oslo and Stockholm over the last 12 months, in train stations and city centres.

### Langham AKL In Top 10

The Langham Auckland hotel has been ranked eighth in Trip Advisor's Travellers' Choice list of the Top 25 hotels in New Zealand and the property says it was the only Auckland five-star hotel to make the Top 10. The list was compiled using independent Trip Advisor traveller reviews and recommendations, it adds.

Two other Auckland five star hotels made the top 25: SkyCity Grand Hotel and Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour.

### Shangri-La SYD Lounge

Shangri-La Hotel Sydney has launched a new five-star hotel club lounge and 90 newly refurbished hotel rooms and suites on its top five accommodation levels as part of its AUD8 million refurbishment, says Tourism Australia. The expanded lounge can accommodate up to 123 guests and offers views of the Sydney Harbour. Clients who book Horizon Club accommodation receive exclusive privileges including coffees made by trained baristas, a Shangri-La signature cocktail, deserts by executive pastry chef Anna Polyviou, and house-made butter and honey from the hotel's rooftop beehive. See [shangri-la.com/sydney](http://shangri-la.com/sydney)



### More Disney Magic

Disney has expanded its popular 'Glow With the Show' technology, which sees guests become part of the show by wearing a hat that lights up in time with the shows at Disneyland and other parks. As well as the hats, Disneyland and Disney World are now selling Made With Magic items including a Minnie Mouse headband, Mickey Mouse glove and a magic wand that can alter the light patterns of the other items. They can be used at any park, regardless of where they're bought, and cost USD25.

### Tassie Folk Festival

The small town of Cygnet, an hour from Hobart, hosts their 33rd annual folk festival over three days 09-11 Jan, welcoming local and international musicians and fans to the close-knit village. This year they include award-winning Danish band Afenginn! and Celtic folk virtuoso Tim Edey from the UK. See [cygnetfolkfestival.org](http://cygnetfolkfestival.org)

# Merry Christmas

**Fri 19 Dec**  
is our last issue for the year,

**Mon 19 Jan**  
is the first issue for 2015

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

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

Contact  
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