

TABS ON TRAVEL TODAY

Incorporating Tabs on Travel

Tuesday 16 August 2016

Issue 3373

6.45am every weekday Auckland to Christchurch ✈️ **Jetstar**★

IATA & Partners Threaten Lithium Ban

Global airline associations and lithium battery manufacturers are joining forces to demand stricter enforcement of international regulations regarding the transport of lithium batteries to ensure they can be carried safely.

It is believed shipments of lithium batteries pose a risk on flights, as if left unattended the batteries could over-heat, burst into flames and overpower airline fire-suppression systems.

“Safety is aviation’s top priority,” says IATA’s director general Tony Tyler. “Airlines, shippers and manufacturers have worked hard to establish rules that ensure lithium batteries can be carried safely. But the rules are only effective if they are enforced and backed-up by significant penalties. The IATA boss says governments must

step up and take responsibility for regulating rogue producers and exporters. “And flagrant abuses of dangerous goods shipping regulations, which place aircraft and passenger safety at risk, must be criminalised,” he adds.

IATA, the US Rechargeable Battery Association, the European Advanced Rechargeable and Lithium Battery Association, the Global Shippers Forum and the International Air Cargo Association have teamed up to call for safety regulations to be enforced at the point of origin including the initial shipper and the battery manufacturer. They have sent a joint letter to the ministers of Trade, Industry and Transport, and Directors of Civil Aviation in the world’s largest manufacturing and export countries.

The letter also called for implementation of cooperative enforcement initiatives between jurisdictions to address situations as well as for significant fines and custodial sentences to be imposed on those who circumvent the regulations.

“Lack of enforcement is increasing pressure on airlines and regulators to unilaterally ban all forms of lithium battery shipments from aircraft,” adds IATA.

“This would add to the cost of global supply chains and consumer goods, and encourage those who flout the law to increase mislabeling of batteries, further increasing safety and security risks.”

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PER-LON A Real Option?

Qantas is said to be eyeing direct flights between Perth and London as a ‘real option’. Australia’s *Daily Mail* newspaper says the flights would take around 18 hours and that QF is looking at services between Sydney and Chicago and Melbourne and Dallas.

World’s Shortest Flight?

In what may just be the world’s shortest flight, Greater Toronto Airways reportedly plans to start daily scheduled flights from Toronto’s Billy Bishop Airport to the Niagara District Airport, at a flying time of just 12 minutes. The flights start 15 Sep.

WLG Agent Mystery

Travel Brokers Wellington, a travel broker business set up by Jitesh Mistry and Mohan Mistry, has become a talking point across the industry.

The former Mistry is said to be the same Jitesh Mistry, a travel agent who was last year convicted on fraud charges after his Eva Enterprises, operating as Travelsmart Manners St, in 2011 defaulted on its BSP payment obligations to the tune of \$900,000-plus.

Locally, airlines say they are now looking into wellingtontravel.co.nz

At the same time *Travel Today* understands that while the website carries the tagline ‘Travel Better-Travel Smart with us’ and uses email addresses with @tsmatters, Mistry’s new venture is in no way connected with TravelSmart.

The TravelSmart brand is managed in New Zealand by the Travel Managers Group .

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SPANTO Winner

House of Travel New Plymouth's Theresa Coates was the major prize winner at SPANTO's New Plymouth roadshow, taking home return flights to Rarotonga for two, flying with Air New Zealand, and five nights' accommodation at Manuia Beach Resort, with daily breakfast, return airport transfers and daily cultural activities. Coates (middle) is pictured with Cook Islands Tourism's Danika Cooper and Air New Zealand's Sandy Trapski.

Uniworld Extends Offer

Uniworld has extended its early full payment offer for its 2017 cruises through Vietnam and Cambodia, China, Egypt and India, where clients can save up to \$2000 per couple for bookings to 31 Aug. Highlights include a 15-day Timeless Wonders of Vietnam, Cambodia & the Mekong cruise from \$8999pp t/s; the 12-day Splendours of Egypt & The Nile from \$8209pp t/s; and the 13-day India's Golden Triangle & The Sacred Ganges from \$13,449pp t/s, to name a few. In addition, an early booking discount for the collection of luxury Asian cruises of \$850 per couple is still available when booked and deposited by 31 Oct. See uniworld.com/nz

Vanuatu Kiwi Roadshow Is Back

The Vanuatu Tourism Office is gearing up for its Auckland roadshow event—the first in the country in five years—where agents will be able to upskill and learn about all of the latest developments within the Pacific Island nation and be in the draw to win major prizes.

“So much has changed in Vanuatu over the past two years with many properties refurbishing and upgrading,” says VTO’s local rep Jacquie Carson. “The destination is looking fantastic and agents need to update themselves to be confident to sell Vanuatu to their clients.”

Taking place 14 Sep, Carson adds that it’s a timely event, as its current destination campaign (which has been underway since Jun) is already inspiring potential travellers, with numbers starting to show results. In addition, Air Vanuatu has increased to four services during the high season to cater for the demand that is being created, she says.

Representatives from Nasama Resort, Holiday Inn Vanuatu, The Savannah Resort, Coconut Palms, Aore Island Resort, Moorings and

The Espiritu are among properties attending. Air Vanuatu is sponsoring the event, so agents will have the chance to win flights and accommodation, along with spot prizes.

... Invites

Travel Today will be sending out registrations in the next couple of weeks. Places will be limited; and the VTO is also set to put aside 15 places for agents from regional centres in New Zealand.

News & Product

Aeremexico's Expansion

Aeromexico has expanded its service to the United States from Mexico City with the addition of Austin, Texas to its route network on 17 Nov, advises local reps Discover the World. The carrier will operate the flight four times a week using an Embraer 170 aircraft, with seating for 76. Schedules have been loaded into the GDS.

Dublin Distillery Closure

Dublin's Jameson Distillery will be closing its doors 01 Sep-01 Mar 2017 in order to carry out re-development works, advises Tourism Ireland. However, its second brand home, The Jameson Experience in Middleton Co. Cork will be open.

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SEE PAGE 8

Orbit WLG Appt

Orbit World Travel Wellington has welcomed Sarah Holbrook to the team as conference and event manager. Holbrook, who has previously worked for the brand, will be focused on growing Orbit Groups and Events.



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Bali Booze Ban Looming

Indonesia is looking to ban the production, distribution and consumption of alcohol across the country; and many are saying the move has the potential to crush Bali's tourism industry and boost the sales of bootleg liquor.

Local reports say Indonesia's House of Representatives is deliberating a bill to ban the sale, distribution and consumption of drinks containing more than 1% of alcohol, after being introduced by the Island United Development Party and the Prosperous Justice Party.

If passed, there's a possibility that there may be some exceptions for travellers, customary activities and religious rituals.

EK Expands A380

Emirates is set to operate the A380 on its Dubai-Guangzhou service from 01 Oct this year.

Disney DESTINATIONS



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Expedia Unveils Best Value

Expedia.co.nz has released its annual Expedia Value Tracker, detailing where Kiwi travellers can get more bang for their buck by compiling a list of top value destination swaps.

While demand for travel from New Zealand to Japan was up nearly 10% year-on-year during the first month of 2016, it says Kiwis looking for a value-for-money trip to East Asia should instead look to China, as the NZD has seen 13% growth year-over-year against the Chinese yuan, compared to 12% depreciation against the Japanese yen. It adds that the cost per night for a hotel in China (\$166) is 13% cheaper than Japan's \$191 average per night rate.

Those looking to venture a little further afield should consider swapping salsa in Brazil for tango and steak in Argentina, especially considering prices in Brazil are sky-rocketing due to the current Olympic Games. It adds that the NZD has appreciated 73% against the Argentine peso when compared to the same time last



year; and that there was also a substantial 36% decline in average flight prices at \$1309 and a 13% drop in average room rates to \$154 per night. Also interesting to note is that Kiwis can stretch their dollar further by visiting Canada instead of the US. Expedia reveals that average flight prices ex New Zealand to Canada are down 6% year-over-year to \$1754; while the NZD is up 10% against the Canadian dollar, year-over-year, compared to 5% growth against the US dollar.

Kiwis can also consider trading camel rides in Morocco for safaris in South Africa, says Expedia, with average flight prices ex New Zealand to Morocco up 35% to \$2590 while falling by 22% for flights to South Africa to \$1637 during the first six months of 2016. Average hotel prices in South Africa are \$175 per night, while the NZD has appreciated 28% against the South African rand, it adds.

"With the NZD currently strong, Kiwis have the opportunity to travel smarter by keeping an eye on currencies. . . When considering where to go, we recommend to hunt around

for deals, be flexible with your dates and bundle hotels and flights to stretch your dollar even further," says Expedia's Georg Ruebensal.


One&Only Offer

One&Only Hayman Island is offering a five-night stay in a one-bedroom pool suite from \$1320 per night for two, including daily breakfast, return luxury yacht transfers, use of its fitness centre, paddleskiing, windsurfing and catamaran sailing as well as complimentary KidsOnly and Teens Club access. The offer is valid for sales to 31 Oct and travel 15 Oct-31 Mar 2017.





Art Exhibition Opens At LAX Airport

A new art exhibition is taking centre stage at Los Angeles International Airport's Terminals 7-8. *Like Sound Going Sideways*, by LA artist Timothy Nolan features collages and collage-based artworks on paper, vinyl, fabric and aluminium that examine natural phenomena and the intersection of culture and nature. The main exhibition is on view for ticketed passengers in the departure level hallway and three prints are on view for the public in the ticketing lobby, through until Jan 2017.



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Bridge Jump Gone Wrong

A New Zealander is in a 'serious but stable' condition at a Venice hospital after jumping off a bridge and landing on a passing water taxi. Reports say the 49-year-old man, who lives in St Tropez for part of the year, was thought to be drunk when he leapt off the Rialto Bridge and that he will face charges of endangering public transport.

Otago Ski Getaway

Close to four of Otago's ski fields, Heritage Boutique Lake Resort is offering daily free ski rental from its on-site ski shop when clients stay two nights in a one-bedroom villa, suitable for two adults and two children. Prices begin from \$248 per night.

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News & Product

Kiwi Stands Out In Global Awards

The beginning of Voyage Affaires' 30th year in business couldn't have started any better, with chief executive Carol Morgan taking out the coveted Most Admired Advisor—Asia Pacific title in the global 2016 Virtuoso Awards.

"My company is a boutique agency, so to win the award over my esteemed peers who work in much larger businesses in Australia made the win even more special for me," she says. "It certainly has topped my career accolades." Morgan adds that while she has been nominated for the award in previous



years—which is an achievement in itself—to win the award, after being a Virtuoso member for 11 years, was 'amazing and a true honour'.

Virtuoso Asia-Pacific managing director Michael Londregan says Morgan's award is recognition that 'amongst the best travel advisors in the Asia Pacific, she is seen as a leader by her peers, luxury suppliers and by her clients'. "She is a worthy brand ambassador for our global brand."

... Other Winners

In addition, Emirates took out the Best Airline in the awards; while Travel Insurance Services was named as the Best Specialty Provider. Crystal Cruises took out the Best Luxury Cruise Line Award; Royal Caribbean International won the Best Resort/Contemporary Cruise Line Award; and Oceania Cruises was named as the Best Premium Cruise Line. AmaWaterways was recognised as being the Best River Cruise Line.

This year Virtuoso received more than 2200 votes from advisors and suppliers—in which travel providers vote for agencies and advisors, while travel agency members vote for preferred partners.

GC Parks, Hotel Offer

Mercure Gold Coast Resort has teamed up with Dreamworld, Whitewater World and Skypoint Observation Deck to offer a new family package.

Priced from AUD598, it includes two nights' accommodation mid-week for up to two adults and two children at the resort (or add an extra AUD30 for a weekend stay); a three-day family ticket to visit the three attractions; buffet breakfast daily; and complimentary parking at the resort. The offer is valid for sales to 30 Sep and stays from 01 Aug to 22 Dec. Some blackout dates apply. See mercuregoldcoastresort.com.au



US Wilderness On Show

Clients can save \$735pp when booking Adventure World's 12 Sep departure of its Western Dream tour, taking in the wilderness of America's western states between Las Vegas and San Francisco. The 12-day tour includes visits to the Monument Valley, Grand Canyon National Park, Lake Powell and Yosemite National Park, while 10 nights will be spent camping and the further two will be in three-star t/s accommodation. Bookings must be made by 31 Aug. Prices start from \$2945.



THE Anaheim INSIDER

Win A Place On A Fam Trip To Anaheim

18 to 24 November flying with Air New Zealand.

Last year we were lucky enough to have several of our Visit Anaheim partners down to Auckland for a one night industry destination workshop/update.

We were disappointed they weren't able to tour the country, and so devised a plan whereby we filmed all their presentations and had made them into one so you can have the same experience as those who attended in Auckland!

The presentations are short and can be stopped at any time and resumed.

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Cycle Vietnam

The Northeast region of Vietnam has escaped the impacts associated with mass tourism because, until recently, the Vietnamese Government restricted travel to the area. These restrictions have now been lifted and the territory can be explored by cycle with Ride & Seek, a company based in Berry, NSW.

Vietnam Untouched takes a look at some of the 13,000km² of Ha Giang in this region, much of which has remained detached from modern Vietnam and frozen in the past, says R&S. Nearly 90% of the population are ethnic minorities and this land abutting the Chinese border with high peak and deep valleys, is probably the most striking in Vietnam, reckons the company, making for 'stunning landscapes, great people, phenomenal food, and most importantly monumental climbs'. It is not for the faint-hearted, says R&S, but masseurs also accompany the tour, providing end of day massages.

Cost is from USD3,350 pp for the 10-day tour from 16-25 Oct. See rideandseek.com/local/vietnam

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Peppers, BreakFree New Mobile App

Peppers properties in Australia, New Zealand and Bali, as well as BreakFree on Cashel in Christchurch, have launched a new mobile app which allows guests to check in on the go before they arrive, order drinks poolside, access destination-specific information, and order in-room dining any-time, anywhere.

"All guests will benefit from this new app technology, which was specifically built to address the growing migration to mobile devices, and gives Mantra Group an outstanding platform to offer a more convenient service and seamless guest journey," says Mantra Group.

MIA Art Happy Hour

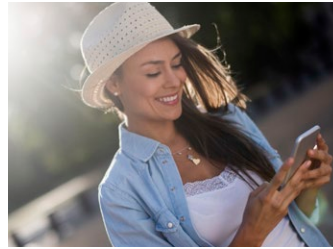
The art deco Sagamore Hotel in Miami has partnered with local art advisor Sebastien Laboureau to offer The Art of Happy Hour, 'the newest social event on South Beach tailored to art enthusiasts'. Every Fri he will take a guided art walk through the property's collection of art, fashion, and technology that combines interactive experiences with 'never-before-seen pieces'.

The Sagamore is locally renowned for its art and the owners were reportedly the first to put art front and centre at the hotel, making contemporary art central to the guest experience. The art tour includes the Happy Hour (actually over three hours: 1700-2000), which offers USD5 drinks and food specials including special dinner menus. Details, sagamorehotel.com

Hotel's Eco Commitment

The James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor executive team made its yearly trip to Mangarara Station to plant additional trees along the 100m driveway entrance to the eco lodge. Mangarara Station was one of the first projects for the Air New Zealand Environmental Trust, which the hotel sponsors (\$2 from every New Zealand room night is donated). It has over 600 acres, aspires to safeguard the area for endangered species and create efficient 'carbon sinks'.

JCHGC gm Steve Martin says the trips have inspired new concepts on how the hotel can manage and minimise its impact on the environment, with the long-term goal to source produce from the family farm for the hotel's restaurants.



The app is available for download from the Apple iTunes Store and Google Play.

More Keep Left Signs

Tourism operators are being applauded for installing more 'Drive on Left' signs at rental carparks, intersections and tourist spots. Tourism Holdings has installed signs at its Maui, Britz and Mighty branches in Auckland, Christchurch and Queenstown and at its Waitomo Glowworm Caves facility. Southland District Council is installing signs at key locations in the region. "The Transport Agency is working with other organisations, including motels and tourism operators, to install even more signs around the country," says Associate Transport Minister Craig Foss.



24-hour Golf In Northern Norway

Norway's Lofoten Links, one of the world's most northerly courses, has launched a range of accommodation, allowing visitors to play golf under the midnight sun, tee off 24 hours a day during the summer months, or enjoy the Northern Lights late Aug-Apr. The Lofoten Links Lodges has a range of one- and three-bedroom apartments, as well as three- or four-bedroom lodges available. It is offering a range of special golf and accommodation packages to coincide with 24-hour golf and the Northern Lights. See lofotenlinks.no



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Chinese Airlines Well Connected

Chinese airlines are meeting the needs of passengers with 80% adopting connected aircraft and 100% investing in mobile-based services and the Internet of Things, according to the 2016 SITA Passenger IT Trends survey.

The global average of connected aircraft is 45%. China has the highest proportion of 'hyper-connected' passengers worldwide with 24% compared to the global average of 14%. These passengers tend to use technology, such as mobile devices to book, check-in and manage their trip, more frequently than the other profiles.

According to the 2016 SITA Passenger IT Trends survey, in China 98% of passengers carry at least one mobile device and 49% carry a tablet. They also score very highly on an index of online and mobile service usage in their everyday lives at 7.1 out of 10 and increasingly are using mobile services for travel. Today nearly 17%

of these passengers check-in using a mobile app and airlines are predicting a jump in adoption over the next three years, say SITA.

SITA's survey shows that 40% of Chinese airlines believe that the key benefit of connected aircraft will be improving the passenger experience and 100% plan to invest in wireless in-flight services for passengers over the next three years. Already in China 58% of passengers use their mobile devices onboard for in-flight entertainment.

The 'Internet of Things' (IoT) is also high on the agenda of airlines in China with 100% planning to invest in IoT over the next three years and 78% are planning major programs. Currently the only IoT initiative already implemented at Chinese airlines is fuel/engine monitoring and this by just 10% of airlines. The main areas of focus over the next three years are smart bag tags, asset tracking and monitoring the aircraft cabin environment.

Abu Dhabi Occupancy

STR's preliminary Jul 2016 data from Abu Dhabi indicates occupancy growth and lower rates, with year-over-year comparisons showing a 4.1% increase in supply and 7.9% increase in demand; a 3.7% increase in occupancy to 61.6%; a 5.4% decrease in average daily rate to AED368.43; and a 1.9% decrease in revenue per available room to AED227.07. It adds that the Ramadan calendar shift between 2015 (18 Jun-17 Jul) and 2016 (06 Jun-05 Jul) led to significant variance in Abu Dhabi's monthly performance figures for Jun and Jul. When shifting the comparison to the two Ramadan periods, 2016 resulted in a 14.3% decrease in RevPAR. That decrease was driven equally by lower occupancy levels and lower ADR.

Gosford Car Museum

Over 400 cars and motorcycles including vintage classics, supercars, modern classics and military vehicles makeup the Gosford Classic Car Museum, which opened in May. Central Coast Tourism says this is the largest car museum in the Southern Hemisphere and includes Ferrari, Porsche, a Mercedes gullwing, Aussie Invader III jet-powered car and an American LaFrance New York Fire Truck imported from the Bronx. Opening hours are seasonal, with some days by appointment only. See gosfordclassiccarmuseum.com.au

Industry Diary

AUGUST

'California Dreaming' Agent Breakfast

Auckland: Mon 22, Ostro Brasserie, 0700-0900

Lindblad Expeditions Agent Breakfasts

Auckland North: Tue 23, Takapuna Boating Club, 0715.

Auckland South: Wed 24, Urban Soul Cafe, 0715,

Wellington: Thu 25, Amora Hotel, 0715,

SEPTEMBER

Bula Marau Fiji Roadshow - Couples & Luxury

Tauranga: Mon 05, Mills Reef Winery, 0700-0930.

Hamilton: Mon 05, Ferrybank Reception Centre, 1730-2015.

Christchurch: Tue 06, Peppers Clearwater Resort, 1730-2015.

Wellington: Wed 07, InterContinental Hotel, 1730-2015.

Auckland: Thu 08, Pullman Hotel, 1730-2015.

Auckland North Shore: Fri 09, QBE Stadium, 0700-0930.

AccorHotels Showcase

Auckland: Tue 06, Pullman Auckland's Princes Ballroom, 1600-2000.

Discover Amadeus

Auckland: Tue 13, Rydges, 59 Federal Street, Cnr Kingston Street, 0800-1115.

Globus & Cosmos

Europe/UK Launch 2017

Dunedin: Tue 15.

Christchurch: Mon 19.

Lower Hutt: Mon 19.

New Plymouth: Tue 20.

Kerikeri: Tue 20.

Whangarei: Wed 21.

Timaru: Thu 22.

Invercargill: Mon 26.

Hamilton: Mon 26.

Auckland, West: Mon 26.

Auckland, North: Tue 27.

Tauranga: Tue 27.

Queenstown: Tue 27.

Auckland, East: Wed 28.

Napier: Wed 28.

Nelson: Wed 28.

Blenheim: Thu 29.

Venues and times tba.

The Travel Corporation 2017 Launch Event

Auckland: Wed 21, venue tbc.

Destination NSW Agent Quiz Nights

Auckland: Tue 27, Albion, 119 Hobson Street, CBD, 1730-1900.

Christchurch: Wed 28, Lonestar Riccarton, 364 Riccarton Road, 1730-1900.

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Marco Polo Appt

Marco Polo Hotels has appointed Christopher Hoeflich as general manager of Marco Polo Shenzhen. He was previously hotel manager of the three Marco Polo hotels in Hong Kong.



HKG Geopark Packages

Hong Kong's two geopark hotels, L'hotel Island South and L'hotel élan, are both offering the Geo Excursion Package and the Geo Stay & Dine Package until 30 Sep.

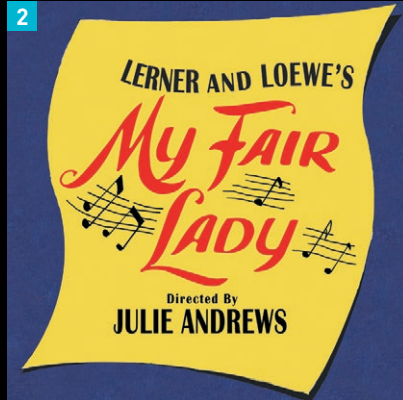
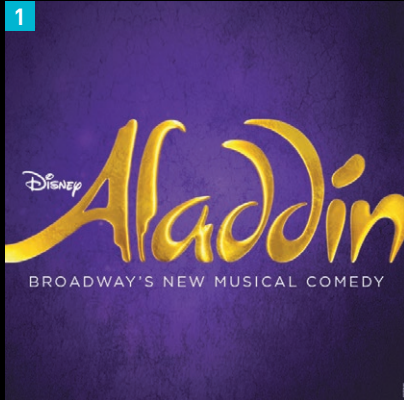
Geo Excursion Package costs from HKD2188 double, p/r p/n and includes one night in a Geo-themed room, welcome drink, buffet breakfast, half-day Geopark Guided Tour at Sai Kung High Island Geo Trail, access to pool and gym and late checkout at 1500. Add HKD600 for the Geolicious Set Dinner for two persons. Conditions apply.

The Geo Stay & Dine Package starts from HKD1288 and includes one-night stay in a Geo-themed room (single or double); welcome drink for two, buffet breakfast for two, four-course Geolicious Set Dinner for two; and access to pool and gym. Conditions apply.



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DISNEY'S ALADDIN - THE MUSICAL

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Capitol Theatre, Sydney

MY FAIR LADY

From 30 August 2016

Don't miss this 60th Anniversary production directed by Julie Andrews.

Sydney Opera House

DREAM LOVER - THE BOBBY DARIN MUSICAL

From September 2016

Starring David Campbell, Dream Lover reveals the extraordinary story of legendary singer, songwriter and actor Bobby Darin.

Sydney Lyric Theatre

2016 NRL TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP GRAND FINAL WEEK SYDNEY

26 Sep - 2 Oct, 2016

A week-long calendar of events leading into the NRL Telstra Premiership Grand Final.

ANZ Stadium, Sydney
Olympic Park

HSBC SYDNEY 7s

3 - 5 February 2017

A fun, colourful and fast-paced seven-a-side competition with 16 teams from around the world.

Allianz Stadium, Sydney



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Please note that events are subject to change or cancellation (check relevant website for further details prior to the event). Destination NSW acknowledges and appreciates all photographic images supplied by each event owner for use in this advertisement.



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TABS ON
TRAVEL TODAY
 Tue 16 Aug 16 p9

WeHo & Surrounds



Outdoor mall The Grove is an ideal one-stop retail and dining stop for clients staying in West Hollywood and surrounds.

The Grove features a selection of higher end stores (Barneys, Michael Kors, Nordstrom and the like) through to the well-known brands such as H&M, Nike, Zara, Topshop, MAC and Gap. There's also homeware stores and a three-level Barnes & Noble bookshop. A 14-screen movie theatre is also part of the development along with restaurants such as The Cheesecake Factory.

The Grove's worth a visit for the atmosphere alone, there's a giant water fountain playing to classic songs (think the Brat Pack) and a retro

open-air trolley operating between the Grove and the adjacent Original Farmers Market. It's open 1000-2100 and to 2200 on Fri and Sat nights. See the grovela.com



... American Girl

The mall is also home to an American Girl shop, spa and cafe. The store sells dolls with customisable skin, hair and eye colour and has a cult following with young girls across the globe. There are only a number of stores across the US, and The Grove shop includes a spa where the dolls can get their hair and nails done (I kid you not) as well as a cafe where girls can dine with their dolls. The two-storey store sells a huge range of dolls clothes and accessories. Prices are not cheap—but the dolls are hugely popular with their target audience.

Must-see LA Institution

The Original Farmers Market, located adjacent to The Grove, offers a selection of over 100 shops, gourmet grocers and restaurants. It's popular with the locals and visitors alike—with peaks over the traditional meal times. The bustling market offers something to suit all palates from traditional to contemporary fare and is open daily. It's worth a visit—and makes the perfect partner to a little retail therapy at The Grove. See, farmersmarketla.com



Indulge LA Style

From organic juice flights (like beer tasting flights, but juice) to all-organic restaurants health conscious visitors to LA are spoiled for choice. There's some innovative options for those looking to indulge. Fonuts, located a couple of blocks from The Grove offers delicious gluten free, Vegan faux donuts or fonuts made from almond flour and baked not fried, there's every flavour from salted caramel to chorizo cheddar.

Bargain Hunting

For clients looking for bargains, there's a cluster of discount stores across the road from The Grove at the intersection of 'third and Fairfax'. The line-up includes the likes of Kmart and Ross Dress For Less. There's also a Whole Foods Market offering fresh produce and all things natural as well as a 'make your own salad.' For details, [CLICK HERE](#)

WeHo Like A Local

West Hollywood-based writer/producer Tracy Pattin, who played tour guide for the famil group, shares her top travel tips for visitors.

Sunset Plaza, 8623 Sunset Blvd. A WeHo crown jewel, the two-block precinct juxtaposes history and new adventures along the iconic Sunset Strip. There's flower-covered medians, coloured awnings, fashion boutiques and outdoor dining. Cafe Med is feature in an episode of the reality series 'The Wahlburgers.' [CLICK HERE](#)

Book Soup, 8818 Sunset Blvd is WeHo's beloved book store where you can browse through the many cases of books. It's a great place to shop for unusual gifts too. Plus you might catch a famous author doing a book signing.

The Design District. 8687 Melrose. A great way spend an afternoon in WeHo is to stroll the streets of The Design District with its unique and diverse offering of art galleries, bistros and bars. Wander along Melrose Ave and in art galleries and dine at quaint bistros like Zinque Cafe or Urth Caffe.



Restoration Hardware, 8564 Melrose. Take a break from shopping on Melrose Ave and walk through this upscale homewares store up two sets of stairs—to a beautiful rooftop park and garden with olive trees, an angel sculpture and expansive views of the city. The rooftop is open to the public.

Barney's Beanery 8447 Santa Monica. One of the oldest establishments in WeHo it's been a popular watering hole for locals, rock stars like Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix and celebrities like Quentin Tarantino (he's rumored to have written Pulp Fiction here).

For Pip's Anaheim travel tips

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