

# TABS ON TRAVEL TODAY

Incorporating Tabs on Travel

Wednesday 05 October 2016

Issue 3409

Low fares at peak times ✈

Jetstar

## Aviation Tackles Climate Challenge

Governments around the world are meeting in Montreal to try and agree on a plan to tackle carbon emissions from aviation, and it's likely to have implications for the industry—but they're inescapable, according to one expert.

Air New Zealand hosted a Sustainability Breakfast in Auckland this morning to discuss its progress since launching its Sustainability Framework last year. NZ boss Christopher Luxon and the chair of NZ's Sustainability Advisory Panel, Sir Jonathon Porritt, spoke on the importance of sustainability globally, and particularly to the aviation industry.

This week, ICAO is hosting a meeting to try and agree on a global scheme to offset carbon emissions in aviation, a significant contributor to the greenhouse gas problem.

As an industry heavily reliant on fossil fuels, aviation faces major challenges in how it can reduce emissions, says Luxon, who says NZ is 'very, very supportive' of introducing a global market-based measure such as the one being discussed in Montreal.

"Just announcing that we want to be carbon neutral by 2020 is lovely, but we have to do the work," he says. "It's really hard for our industry to solve that problem."

Biofuels are an option but a long-term one and not likely to be on a large enough scale to really tackle the

problem; and major technological leaps in aviation come only every 20 years or so, with the Dreamliner the most recent.

Technology is a huge challenge for aviation—it can't do the equivalent of swapping a petrol-powered car for an electric one, says Porritt.

This leaves carbon offsetting (where emissions are counter-acted by an equivalent reduction in carbon dioxide, such as by planting trees), but this comes with consequences too.

### ... The Cost

"The amount of money involved to just deal with carbon neutral growth after 2020 runs into tens of billions of dollars," says Porritt. After achieving neutrality, there's a goal of reducing emissions, which would take an 'astounding amount of money'.

As a result the 'world will see a transfer' where the wealthy may end up paying more, to the benefit of some of the poorer countries, who need help putting climate programmes in place. Although it might not start happening for another 10 years or so, 'this is going to be part of the deal for aviation', says Porritt—who adds that while some think it's 'scary', he believes it's necessary. "We're going to pay a more realistic price and in the process help the poor."

For more on NZ's sustainability progress, see p5.

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### JQ FlexiBiz Takes Off

The New Zealand market has accounted for almost half of all FlexiBiz fares sold since they were launched in New Zealand, Australia and Singapore, says Jetstar.

"Our new flexible fare appears to have hit a real sweet spot with Kiwi trade and business travellers," says JQ sales manager Mick Cottrell. "We launched FlexiBiz for sale in early Sep and in the first month the three key business routes between Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch have become the top performing FlexiBiz routes across all launch markets."

Most of those bookings are coming from corporate travel agents and TMCs, says Cottrell, who says the fares' popularity is 'confirmation that our early trade engagement and feedback was the right way to build this new business travel product'.

5 Pages This Issue

### Vanuatu Runway OK?

Air New Zealand has said the runway at Port Vila is acceptable for A320 flights, Vanuatu's Infrastructure Minister has told *Radio New Zealand*. However there's been no word from Air NZ on the update, including on when it might resume services.

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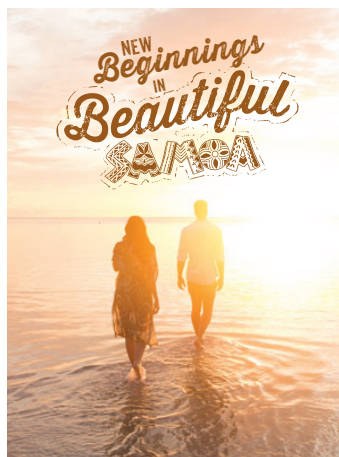
HAWAIIAN AIRLINES

## Mid-flight Orchestra

Passengers on a Qantas flight from Sydney to Singapore last week were treated to a pop-up concert, thanks to fellow passengers from the Australian World Orchestra. A nine-piece ensemble, including a French horn, snare drum, cello, flute, trumpets and saxophone serenaded everyone onboard with a live performance, arranged in partnership with Qantas. The performance was said to have taken place shortly after take-off, with nearly 300 passengers onboard.

## LHR Protest, 'Die-in'

More than 100 people staged a 'die-in' protest at London's Heathrow Airport on Sat (local time) to highlight the impact of air travel on climate change and pollution levels. Reports say the protest, in which many donned white masks and lay on the ground in Terminal 2, was also timed to coincide with the government's upcoming decision on where a new runway will be built. The decision is set to be made in mid-Oct, with both Heathrow and Gatwick airports on the cards; with Heathrow reportedly set to comply with an extended ban on night flights as well as meet European air quality rules if the project gets the go-ahead. The airport operated as normal during the protest.



# NZ Incentive, First Voucher Winners

Air New Zealand has drawn the first two winners of its UK/Europe agent incentive; and there's still time for agents to enter, with three more prizes to be drawn.

House of Travel Papamoa's Tanya Aitken (pictured on right) and World Travellers Best Travel Hastings' Christine Sheppard (pictured on left) have both won their choice of vouchers valued at \$3000, from one of NZ's fuel, power or grocery partners.

Aitken, who was 'very excited' upon finding out she had won, says she had plenty of clients who snapped up NZ's earlybird fares, with interest particu-



larly high for travel to London, France and Italy. She adds that she looks forward to contributing her prize to the store's team trip away next year.

The incentive runs through to 31 Oct, with agents who sell two NZ (086) tickets from New Zealand to the UK or Europe eligible to enter. The grand prize winner will receive a year's worth of New World groceries gift card valued at \$10,000. For full details, and to enter, [CLICK HERE](#)

## VS Policy Change

Virgin Atlantic has altered its sports equipment policy, advises World Aviation. Effective immediately, customers who have already used their standard baggage allowance will be able to purchase an extra piece of sports equipment within size/weight limits for GBP65. Contact the GSA for details.

## DL's Europe Expansion

Delta is expanding service from New York and Boston to Europe in summer 2017 with a new service between Boston and Dublin and between New York and Lisbon, as well as returning service between New York and Berlin. All flights will operate in conjunction with DL's joint venture partners Air France-KLM and Alitalia.

## NZ China Changes

Air New Zealand has made changes to its long-term China fares, for sales effective immediately. They include new destinations have been added, and there's routing amendments. See [airnzagent.co.nz](http://airnzagent.co.nz)

## PR Cairns On Sale

Philippine Airlines has flights ex Auckland to Cairns on sale to 28 Oct, starting from \$648. The fares are valid for travel departing 01 Nov-10 Dec and 02 Feb-30 Sep. See GDS for terms and conditions.

## Airberlin Restructure

Airberlin is set to restructure its business, in which up to 1200 positions will become redundant and it will focus its core operations on serving higher-yielding markets from its two key hubs in Berlin and Dusseldorf. Its core operations will be served by a fleet of 75 aircraft from (northern) summer 2017, with its profitable long-haul programme to be expanded with new routes and frequencies. Its short- and medium-haul programme, in addition, will concentrate on year-round business markets with a strong focus on Italy, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe. Meanwhile, its leisure flying will be combined into an independently operating touristic-focused business unit; and it is set to provide up to 40 A320 family aircraft to the Lufthansa Group to employ excess aircraft and crew capacity.

# Non-stop to the Gold Coast

From Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown

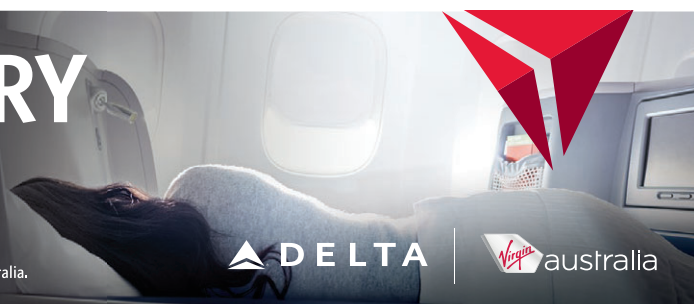
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### QF, Airbnb Partnership

Qantas and Airbnb have partnered in a move that will give QF Frequent Flyer members the chance to earn QF Points when booking Airbnb accommodation through qantas.com. Members will receive one QF Point for every dollar they spend on any Airbnb listing, and it's come at a time when the way people plan, book and experience travel is changing rapidly, says QF's Alan Joyce. "We know many of our customers are just as likely to arrange an Airbnb as they are to book a hotel, and we wanted to recognise and reward them for that," he says.

However, not everyone is happy, with Tourism Accommodation Australia saying the partnership is a 'slap in the face' for traditional hotel partners. "While we respect the right of airlines to make commercial agreements with various organisations, QF should understand the importance of working with partners who fully support and contribute to the tourism industry and meet all their regulatory requirements," says TAA chief executive Carol Giuseppi.

## Tourism To Benefit Countries In Crisis

**Increased cooperation between tourism source markets and destinations that have been affected by crises is needed to ensure affected countries recover, says UNWTO secretary-general Taleb Rifai.**

Speaking at the Summit of the Federal Association of the German Tourism Industry, Rifai says supporting these countries will benefit the whole tourism sector and the whole of society.

### Am. Samoa Schedules

Polynesian Airlines (OL) and Talofa Airways (TA) have released their new flight schedules for travel between Samoa and American Samoa, says the American Samoa Visitors Bureau. OL's new schedule (valid 25 Sep-31 Oct) will see a total of 59 return flights between Fagali Airport and Pago Pago International Airport, as well as four return flights a week PPG to Fitiuta Airport (FTI) on Ta'u Island and one flight a week PPG to Ofu Airport (OFU) on Ofu Island. TA's new schedule is valid 24 Sep-15 Dec with a total of 56 flights per week FGI to PPG and seven flights a week from Faleolo International Airport (APW) to PPG.

"Safety and security is one of the global challenges our world is experiencing. No country is immune to security risks. Not one. It is a global responsibility that we must face together, across sectors and borders," he says. "Let us respond not with isolation but with unity. We must be vigilant to ensure that cooperation prevails over isolation and that safe and seamless travel can go hand in hand. A condition of tourism's success is positive cooperation—between visitor and host, between source market and destination, and also between the tourism and security sectors."

Rifai adds that coordination, information sharing and communication mechanisms between tourism and security will lead to safer and more seamless travel, as well as better crisis management.

### New Peru Lodge

Mountain Lodges of Peru has opened a new hotel in Cusco, Viva Expeditions has advised. The El Retablo B&B is located in the heart of the historic capital, three blocks from the Main Square, and has 17 rooms. See [elretablo.com](http://elretablo.com)



### Free Asia Add-ons

To celebrate the release of its new Asia & India brochure, Adventure World is offering several complimentary add-ons for new bookings across its top selling Asia trips before the end of Oct. Clients can receive a bonus two-day Mekong Delta extension for new bookings on the Handpicked Vietnam journey for travel between May and Sep 2017; while those who book a Handpicked Sabah journey, for departures in Mar and Apr 2017, will receive a free Turtle Island Escape overnight package.

### Greece Travel Advisory

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has reviewed its travel advice for Greece and continues to advise caution due to the potential for civil unrest and an underlying threat of terrorism. See [safetravel.govt.nz/greece](http://safetravel.govt.nz/greece) for further details.



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## Sustainable LATAM

LATAM Airlines Group says it has been named in the 'World' category of the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) for the third consecutive year earlier this month—and is one of only two airlines currently listed in the world category. The DJSI World index comprises the top 10% of leading global companies in the 'S&P Global Broad Market Index' in terms of sustainability, based on an annual independent assessment of economic, social and environmental criteria.

## New Broadway Show

The story of Jenna, a waitress and expert pie maker who dreams of a way out of her small town and loveless marriage is now showing on Broadway. Since it opened earlier this year, *Waitress* has received great reviews as well as four Tony Award nominations. Tickets are on sale until 18 Dec. See [broadway.com](http://broadway.com)



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# New For Cost saver UK/Europe 2017

**Trafalgar's CostSaver brand has released its Europe & Britain 2017 programme with new destinations for 'value-conscious' clients.**

Following the success of the first standalone CostSaver Europe & Britain 2016 programme, four new European trips have been added to the portfolio and there's also a new North America collection with 14 trips throughout the USA, Canada and Mexico, says CostSaver.

"Since launching CostSaver less than a year ago the response to the brand has been amazing and we have listened to our guests who wanted us to take them to new destinations and the launch of our USA, Canada and Mexico collection has done exactly that," says Travel Corporation New Zealand's director of marketing and communications Tony Laskey. CostSaver Europe & Britain 2017 features 37 itineraries in 33 countries, all of which include airport transfers (except London), daily breakfast, transport and the services of a Trafalgar-trained guide.

New for 2017, there's the nine-day

Highlights of Sicily; eight-day Jewels of France; 11-day Highlights of Poland; and nine-day Grecian Magic. For the first time CostSaver is also inviting clients to experience the Edinburgh Tattoo in 2017.

A range of discounts are available including up to 10% off for travellers aged five to 17; or a 5% discount when five to 15 guests travel together in a group. There's past guest discounts of 5%, and those who book two CostSaver holidays are eligible for up to 2.5% off the land portion (seven days or more).

## Pristine Niue On Show

National Geographic has picked Niue as one of the world's most pristine places, says Niue Tourism. Nat Geo is currently carrying out research in the waters around Niue for its Pristine Seas project, which includes just 19 places, and only two others in the South Pacific (Kiribati and Rapa Iti).

The project aims to map the locations, raise awareness and help protect the marine environments. "They have also been drawn by the beauty of our waters and the strong connection between the Niuean people and the sea," says Niue Tourism chief executive Felicity Bollen. Check out some of their adventures so far [HERE](#)

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The **F1 Grand Prix** highlights for Kiwis include Monaco, Singapore, Italy and of course, Australia. **Isle of Man TT** and the **MotoGP** series are also popular sellers. **V8 Supercars** have a huge following, especially Bathurst 1000, Gold Coast 600 and the 'race that rocks' Clipsal 500.



**Australian Open** tennis is one of the biggest selling events and the **Melbourne Cup** Carnival is huge for Kiwis too. Then there's aviation, netball, cricket, football and golf!

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## More Centric in USA

Hyatt has added to its Centric Brand in the US with three new properties—Hyatt Centric French Quarter New Orleans, Hyatt Centric Times Square New York and Hyatt Centric Key West Resort & Spa.

Launched last year, the Centric brand is Hyatt's take on full-service lifestyle hotels located in prime destinations and aimed at 'millennial-minded' travellers who want to be in the middle of the action. They focus on delivering 'everything guests want and nothing they don't', including environmentally conscious bath products, Bluetooth-enabled electronics, restaurant-to-go delivery service and salon-grade blowdryers. Centric brand hotels are in Chicago, San Francisco, Park City, Santa Barbara, Long Beach, Miami, Houston, and Montevideo. By early 2018 Centric-branded properties are expected to also open in Waikiki, Bridgetown (Barbados) and Tokyo.



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## Air New Zealand Goes Electric

Air New Zealand has revealed plans for all of its company cars to be electric by the end of the year, as part of its efforts to build a more sustainable business.

A year on from the launch of its Sustainability Framework, chief executive Christopher Luxon outlined NZ's progress at a breakfast in Auckland this morning.

Air NZ has an ambition to build one of the most sustainable airlines in the world, said Luxon this morning, and it's very proud of what it's achieved so far over the last year—but there's still a long way to go.

Highlights have included signing up around 80% of its supplier spend to a code of conduct which outlines things like human rights and ethical sourcing; and with the announcement of the new electric vehicles, NZ is issuing a challenge to other corporates, and eventually the government, to follow suit.

The carrier also announced today an expansion of its partnership with the Department of Conservation, with three new conservation initiatives on three of the country's Great Walks—the Heaphy Track, the Whanganui River Journey and Lake Waikaremoana. The projects are an expansion of the Air New Zealand Great Walks Biodiversity Project.

### Innovative's 27th Year



Entering into its 27th year, Innovative Travel has decided it's time for a refresh, and so has created a new logo, one which it says reflects its New Zealand heritage and base. "New Zealand clients are different in their travel styles to many other markets and we're able to listen carefully to both agent and client feedback which is really helpful in staying relevant to the market," says managing director Robyn Galloway.

Reflecting the new look is the 2017 Innovative Asian Experiences brochure, says Galloway, which is online now and available to order from Fri. Included for the first time this year is Borneo and a Java to Bali tour in Indonesia, whilst back by popular demand is Vietnam, Myanmar and India.

There is a selection of earlybird deals on offer for clients who book and pay by 15 Nov.



**1** Stacey Kerr, South Australian Tourism Commission and Kate Wright, Tourism Western Australia. **2** Air NZ chief executive Christopher Luxon. **3** Air NZ Sustainability Advisory Panel chair Sir Jonathon Porritt. **4** Joanna Garrie, Tourism Victoria and Danielle Gregory, Tourism and Events Queensland with one of NZ's new electric cars.

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## CX Charity Success

Cathay Pacific and the Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF have celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Change for Good inflight fundraising programme, with plans in place to give it a face-lift. The carrier is now set to support the UNICEF School's for Asia initiative by contributing 30% of the programme's annual donation to two of the Schools for Asia countries, China and India, in 2016. To date, more than HKD165 million has been raised to support UNICEF's programmes in over 150 developing countries worldwide, since the inflight fundraising programme's launch in 1991.

## New Eco Tents

The Northern Territory's Banubanu Wilderness Retreat has added three new beachfront eco safari tents to its offering, advises Tourism Australia. The tents are located on the water's edge of the Arafura Sea and are complete with free toiletries, a fan, ensuite and an outdoor sitting area. See banubanu.com for more.

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news@traveltoday.co.nz  
tony@traveltoday.co.nz  
adsales@traveltoday.co.nz

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## Philippines Famil, Highlights



**A group of Kiwi agents have just returned home from exploring the Philippines on an Adventure World famil, taking in Manila, Boracay, Cebu and Bohol over 10 days.**

Adventure World's host Michelle Momberg says the trip was 'fantastic' and that the agents concluded the Philippines is a great alternative to Thailand and Vietnam—or as a destination in its own right.

Highlights included snorkelling in the clear waters of Boracay's White Beach; following in the footsteps of Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan in Cebu; viewing Bohol's Chocolate Hills; and shopping in Manila, adds Momberg.

Adventure World tailor-makes holidays in the Philippines, however, one of its best-selling itineraries is the 10-day Northern Philippines journey, priced from \$4388pp.

Pictured during the famil is: Hawera Travel's Rochelle Fowlie snorkelling at Crystal Cove.

At the Lind Hotel, Boracay is: HoT Merivale's Sandra Connolly, Philippine Airlines' Jack Walshe,



Flight Centre Alexandra's Courtney Gettery, Hawera Travel's Rochelle Fowlie, helloworld Hamilton's Megan Brunel, Quay Travel – helloworld North Harbour's Lucinda Palmer, Flight Centre South City Christchurch's Jana Schleeauf and Adventure World's Michelle Momberg.

## UTrack's Latest Offering

Hiking around Europe's second highest peak, Mont Rosa, exploring the remote Northern Ireland coastline by boat and bike, and visiting the men's only monastic republic of Mount Athos in Greece are just some of the new experiences on offer in UTracks 10th birthday program, advises World Expeditions. The European walking and cycling company now boasts 400+ rides and rambles to destinations such as Lithuania and Latvia, the Camino in Spain and Mont Blanc in France, to name a few; while expected to be especially popular in 2017 is Portugal. Following increased demand, it has extended its range of trips on offer across the peninsula, with new walking and cycling trips along the Algarve and in the Alentejo region. Other highlights include that there's plenty of new, and more premium boat options as part of its bike and barge concept, in destinations such as Holland, Greece and Croatia. It is currently offering a 10% discount. For more see [utricks.co.nz](http://utricks.co.nz)

## Fez 2017 Savings

Fez Travel is offering 20% off its 2017 Balkans, Greece & Turkey and Turkey group tours for those who book and pay in full by 31 Jan; while for those who book and pay in full from 31 Jan-31 Mar, they will receive 15% off, advises Exotic Holidays.

## Industry Diary

### OCTOBER

**Globus & Cosmos**

**Europe/UK Launch 2017**

**Palmerston North:** Wed 05, Distinction Palmerston North, 1745.

**ACTE/CAPA Auckland Education Forum**

**Auckland:** Thu 13, Langham Hotel, 0900-1700.

**P&O Pop Up**

**Tauranga:** Thu 13, Club Mount Maunganui, 45 Kawaka Street, from 1745.

**Visit Sunshine Coast agent events**

**Auckland:** Tue 18, Pullman Hotel, 1700.

**Wellington:** Wed 19, Rydges Hotel, 1700.

**Christchurch:** Thu 20, Breakfree on Cashel Hotel, 1700.

**South African Tourism roadshow**

**Auckland:** Wed 26, Millennium Hotel, 1730-2130.

### NOVEMBER

**Viva Mexico Day of the Dead function**

**Auckland:** Thu 03, Besos Latinos Restaurant, 1730.

**Tourism Ireland Travel Trade Roadshow**

**Auckland:** Mon 14, Details tbc.

**Canada Roadshow 2016 Adventure World, Rocky Mountaineer, Air New Zealand & Holland America Line**

**Invercargill:** Mon 14, Kelvin Hotel, Starts at 1800.

**Dunedin:** Tue 15, Otago Museum, Starts at 1800.

**Christchurch:** Wed 16, Christchurch RSA, Starts at 1800.

**Travelport Airline Event**

**Auckland:** Wed 23, Seafarers Club, Britomart 1800-2100.

### MARCH 2017

**JAWS Roadshow 2017**

**Dunedin:** Mon 06.

**Christchurch:** Tue 07.

**Nelson:** Wed 08.

**Whangarei:** Tue 14.

**Auckland North:** Wed 15.

**Napier:** Mon 20.

**Wellington:** Tue 21.

**Palmerston North:** Wed 22.

**New Plymouth:** Thu 23.

**Tauranga:** Tue 28.

**Hamilton:** Wed 29.

Venues tba.