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Tuesday 14 February 2017

Issue 3480



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Travel Is The Secret To True Happiness

While couples around the country celebrate Valentine's Day it's timely to point to new research which claims it's travel, not romance, that is the key to true happiness.

Booking.com's global survey of some 17,000 people included some 1000 from New Zealand—and the Kiwi results mirror the global findings. Some 44% of the Kiwis polled said travel was more important to their happiness than getting a new job; 39% saw travel as more important than their wedding day; for 38% travelling was more important than getting engaged. But wait, there's more—some 31% of the Kiwis surveyed declared travel was more important than having a baby. Participants from 17 countries around the globe participated in the survey, says Booking.com, which found that travel gives people such a powerful emotional boost that those polled, including Kiwis, consider go-

ing away on holiday more vital to our happiness than other big life events.

... Selling Tool?

For agents looking to convert client interest into bookings—perhaps try to use the happiness factor as a sales tool.

Booking.com says the survey also revealed that 69% of Kiwis agreed that travel experiences bring more lasting happiness than material things. "Based on a decade of research, the greatest competitive advantage of the modern world is a positive brain," says 'happiness expert' Shawn Achor. "In fact I recently found that people who take all of their vacation days are not only happier, they are 34% more likely to receive a bonus over the next three years. Happy travel pays."

... Air NZ At It Again

Meanwhile Air New Zealand is doing its bit for happiness by reuniting two friends as part of its Valentine's Day #GoingTheDistance campaign. NZ flew a Christchurch woman to the UK to surprise her best friend whose husband passed away on Valentine's Day over 20 years ago. To see the re-union, [CLICK HERE](#)

Tourism Blunder

The head of Lithuania's state tourism agency has reportedly resigned after being caught using stock photos from Nordic and eastern European countries in an international social media campaign to promote the Baltic country.

An Uber Boat, Please

Because Uber for cars just isn't enough, this (northern) summer will see Croatia trial an UberBOAT service.

According to local reports, boat owners within Croatia will be able to make their boats available for hire, allowing tourists to request boats on-demand through the Uber mobile app.

EK Single-Aisle?

Emirates is reportedly considering buying small single-aisle aircraft, a marked departure for the carrier which currently relies on twin-aisle A380s and 777s. EK boss Tim Clark told CNN that there's three options the carrier is considering over the next 18 months—whether to stick to large twin-aisle aircraft like A320s and 737s, or combine them with smaller twin-aisle jets. It's been more than 20 years since EK flew a single-aisle jet, according to CNN.

Clark added that EK has reduced its fares 'to the point of stupidity' in the last few years as oil prices have dropped, and that the carrier is having a 'difficult time in global economics'.

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Doubtful Sound Tour

7 - 13 April

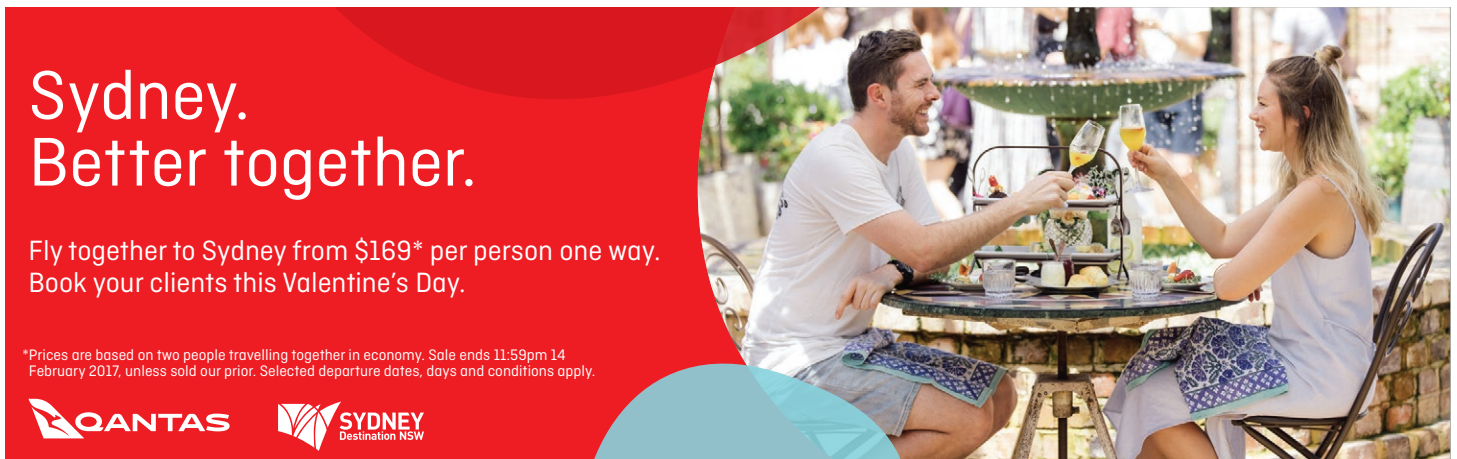
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QANTAS SYDNEY Destination NSW

EK Seat Res In The GDS

Agents can sell Emirates advanced seat reservation in Travelport and Sabre from tomorrow, with Amadeus to follow shortly. The carrier launched seat reservation on-line last Oct, and following strong demand from agents has been working with GDS partners to deliver the same functionality in the GDS. Customers booking Economy Class Special or Economy Class Saver fares will pay a charge if they wish to select their preferred seat before check-in opens. This applies to booking classes X, V, T, L, Q and N on both revenue and redemption bookings. For details see emiratesagents.com

Transavia Changes

KLM's low-cost subsidiary Transavia will drop flights from Munich at the end of Oct, and focus instead on growing its home markets in the Netherlands and France. Air France-KLM boss Jean Marc Janaillac says the move will result in a stronger proposition in the Dutch market, and allow Transavia to reallocate resources to accelerate the change.

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Record WLG Pax Expected In 2017

Wellington Airport is bracing itself for a big year with significant events drawings crowds to the capital set to tip annual passenger numbers over the six million milestone—two years earlier than forecast.

The number of travellers is expected to hit a peak this month thanks to the Guns'n Roses concert and Black Caps vs South Africa cricket test and one-day match adding to an already busy period. Meanwhile, later in the year the airport is anticipating a further increase in passenger flows with the British and Irish Lions tour games in Jun/Jul and the Rugby League World Cup quarter final.

In 2012 the airport reached five million passengers and anticipated hosting six million in 2019, however, since then numbers have risen and forecasts suggest the record will be reached this year.



Passenger numbers have been lifted by new Jetstar, Fiji Airways and Singapore Airlines routes, increases in capacity from both Air New Zealand and Qantas and new services from Sounds Air; while last year international passenger volumes grew by 16% to 900,000.

Cook Is, SIN Agreement

The Cook Islands and Singapore have reportedly signed an Air Services Agreement, in a move that is expected to eventually lead to air connectivity between the nations, according to *Radio New Zealand*. It is thought the agreement will also allow improved access for the Cook Islands to the Singaporean tourism market.

Cathay Asia On Sale

Cathay Pacific and partner airline Cathay Dragon have flights to destinations in Asia on sale until 27 Feb. Fares start from \$979 to destinations such as Ho Chi Minh, Siem Reap and Phuket. Flights are valid for departures 14 Feb-31 Oct. See cxagents.com/nz



Emirates Exposes Its Cargo Of Roses

It's Valentine's Day, which means millions of roses have been making their way around the world in the belly of aircraft—including this Emirates Sky-Cargo Boeing 777-F freighter, which has received a special decal to mark the occasion. EK transports fresh flowers across its network every day, including from New Zealand, and last year it's estimated to have carried more than 70,000 tonnes. There's a marked increase in the number of flowers, especially roses, transported for Valentine's Day, and EK adds extra capacity on the major flower trade lanes to bring the flowers to Aalsmeer, the world's largest flower auction house in Amsterdam. Meanwhile Heathrow says almost eight million stems of roses, or 570 tonnes, will be imported in Feb—three times more than on an average month. Almost 93% of fresh cut roses imported to the UK arrive on aircraft.

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Sheraton Tokoriki Open

The Sheraton Resort and Spa, Tokoriki Island has officially opened today following a FJD25 million refurbishment. The resort has been closed since last Feb, following Cyclone Winston. See sheratontokorikiisland.com

White Night Returns

White Night is returning to Melbourne 18 Feb (1900-0700), advises Visit Victoria, bringing together lighting projections and art installations in an all-night celebration of the city's creative talent.

Plus, for the first time, the event will debut in regional Victoria, with Ballarat to welcome its own White Night 04 Mar.

Gambia Risk Down

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has lowered its risk level for Gambia, saying the situation has stabilised with the return of new President Adama Barrow. MFAT now advises caution due to the potential for civil unrest (some risk).



Francis Travel Buys Fathom Asia

Francis Travel Marketing has bought Fathom Asia, effective 13 Feb, adding Asia to FTM's product range.

"Fathom Asia complements the other product we've got, namely AIM Holidays and Orton International, and will also complement our cruising product for cruises that embark and disembark in Asia," says FTM's Tony Smith—who adds he's looking forward to working with the trade on the new venture.

Brochures are available for the new product and there's an 'excellent res team' prepared and waiting for agents' calls, he says.

HA Pilots Pay Rise

Hawaiian Airlines has reached a tentative agreement with the Air Line Pilots Association, which includes a 'significant increase in compensation'. HA has been negotiating with the union over pay since Sep 2015. The 63-month agreement covers the airline's 665 pilots, who will vote on the agreement in Mar.

Fathom Asia bookings paid for up to 10 Feb will come under former owner Bruce Church, who will continue providing assistance to FTM. Fathom Asia owned by FTM will be responsible for bookings and enquiries not yet finalised after that date.

Church has thanked the trade for its support over the past three years, and says he's confident that Smith and his team at FTM will continue to develop the Fathom Asia brand.

Fathom Asia's previous phone numbers have been transferred and the website is currently in the process of moving to its new domain at fathomasia.co.nz

Contact Francis Travel Marketing for more information.

CLIA Clarification

CLIA Australasia has corrected a statement it made when releasing the Annual Cruise Industry Awards winners yesterday. Pukekohe Travel is in fact the second agency to have won both the Gold Agency of the Year and Cruise Consultant of the Year awards—following House of Travel Howick's lead in 2009.

DL Aeromexico Buy

Delta Air Lines has launched a cash tender offer to acquire up to 32% more of Aeromexico, which would bring its total ownership in the carrier to 49%. DL had originally planned to offer MXN43.59 per share, but is now offering MXN53 due to 'exchange rate movements and other factors'. The MXN has hit record lows since the US election.

G Summer Sale

G Adventures has launched an endless summer sale, with 10-20% off a range of tours until 28 Feb, for departures through to 31 Dec.

The trips vary in length and style, and make the most out of the warmer seasons, including to places such as Vietnam, Spain, Italy, Mexico or Peru.

Tours on sale include the Peru Panorama, now from \$3646 (save \$643); the Sailing Greece—Athens to Santorini, from \$2623 (save \$656); and the Mayan Sun—Southbound, from \$1495 (save \$264).

Back-Roads Giveaway

Back-Roads Touring is giving away Samsonite B Lite 78cm suitcases with all new bookings made from 01 Feb and paid in full by 31 Mar. See backroadstouring.com/samsonite

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Galway Gastronomy

Galway has been designated as a European Region of Gastronomy for 2018, the first region in Ireland to receive such designation, says Tourism Ireland.

Galway is home to two of Ireland's Michelin star restaurants as well as lots of other high quality restaurants and fantastic local produce, says the NTO. Next year it will host a year-long programme of events highlighting its food culture. For more, see galwaygastronomy.ie

Industry Diary

FEBRUARY

Wendy Wu Tours Movie Night

Christchurch: Thu 16, Hoyts Northlands, 1815. **Wellington:** Thu 23, Embassy Cinemas, 1800.

Canada Roadshow 2016: Adventure World, Rocky Mountaineer, Air New Zealand & Francis Travel Marketing

Auckland, North Shore: Mon 20, The Postman's Leg, Glenfield, 1800. **Tauranga:** Wed 22, Alimento Café, 0730. **Hamilton:** Wed 22 Feb, Joe's Garage, 1600. **Palmerston North:** Thu 23, Joe's Garage, 1800.

Brand USA's Discover America Trade Expos

Wellington: Mon 27, Shed 6, Queens Wharf, 1700-2130. **Auckland:** Tue 28, ANZ Viaduct Events Centre, 1700-2130.

MARCH

2017 Adventure World Roadshow

Auckland: Mon 06. **Bay of Plenty:** Tue 07. **Wellington:** Wed 08. **Christchurch:** Thu 09. Venues, times tba.

JAWS Roadshow 2017

Dunedin: Mon 06, Kingsgate Hotel, 1700-2000. **Christchurch:** Tue 07, Rydges Latimer Hotel, 1700-2000. **Nelson:** Wed 08, Rutherford Hotel, 1700-2000. **Whangarei:** Tue 14, Forum North, 1700-2000. **Auckland North:** Wed 15, Spencer on Byron, Takapuna, 1700-2000. **Napier:** Mon 20, Napier Sailing Club, 1700-2000. **Wellington:** Tue 21, Rydges Wellington, 1700-2000. **Palmerston North:** Wed 22, Distinction Hotel, 1700-2000. **New Plymouth:** Thu 23, Novotel Hotel, 1700-2000.



Chimu Antarctica

Chimu Adventures has launched what it says is largest Antarctica collection available on the market—including a new 12.5 hour sightseeing flight from Sydney, Melbourne or Perth.

The programme covers the widest range of itineraries, vessels and activities available to the Kiwi traveller, says Chimu.

New voyages include Shackleton's Antarctica (from \$19,885pp), an 18-day expedition travelling on a Chimu charter in the wake of Sir Ernest Shackleton.

There's also the 11-day Frozen Frontier (from \$12,978pp), which raises money for the MAD Project; and the 26-day In the Wake of Mawson (from

\$26,576pp), retracing the footsteps of Sir Douglas Mawson and including exclusive access to the rare tourist ships departing Hobart.

New Interior Antarctic Experiences cater to passengers who want to venture beyond the coast, including exploring the South Pole, taking in views from some of Antarctica's highest peaks or visiting an emperor penguin rookery.

"We are always looking for the best ways to support our agent partners when selling our product and therefore tried to come up with a brochure design that we hope will become a 'go to' for Antarctica product as it's filled with all the information they need, making it easier than ever to sell this popular destination with confidence," says Rachel Williams, managing director of Chimu in New Zealand.

To celebrate the launch of the brochure, Chimu is offering a 20% early bird discount on the Shackleton's Antarctica and Frozen Frontier itineraries.

TSA Clothes Homeless

More than 400 articles of clothing left at LaGuardia Airport have been donated to homeless war veterans. Belts, hats, scarves, gloves, lightweight jackets and sweatshirts are often left behind at TSA checkpoints, and the TSA donated those that weren't claimed within 30 days, in accordance with the Clothes a Homeless Hero Act.

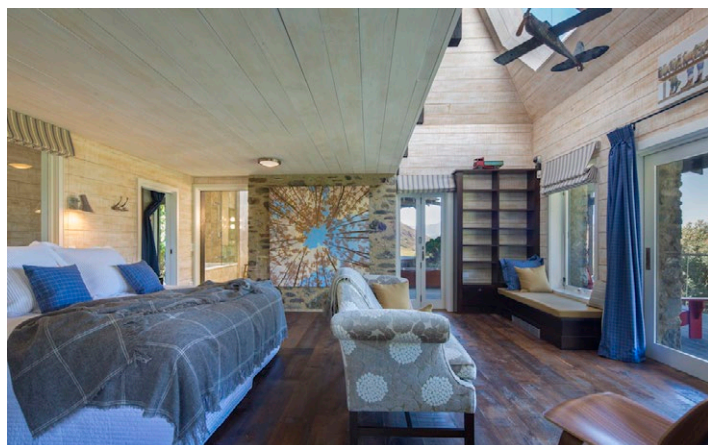
Ramada Noumea Spa

Effective immediately, the Harnn Spa at Ramada Hotel and Suites, Noumea is closed for business. Coconuts Travel Marketing will advise when the spa is open again.

New Mantra In NSW



Mantra the Observatory at Port Macquarie, one of Australia's few certified 100% carbon-neutral hotels, has just joined the Mantra portfolio as the group's fourth property on the NSW North Coast. Popular with families, couples and corporate travellers, the hotel overlooks Port Macquarie's main Town Beach and features 85 hotel rooms, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. Many rooms feature ocean views with large private balconies, kitchens and coffee pod machines. The hotel is a 400m walk from the town centre, and also features an indoor heated lap pool, sauna and heated spa, and barbecue entertainment area. Dining options include the Scampi's Seafood Bar and Grill or Milkbar, and there's also an endota day spa. Opening rates start from AUD162pn in a hotel room, including free Wi-Fi, for sales and travel to 31 Aug (minimum two-night stay).



New Lux Suites In The South Island

The South Island's Mahu Whenua Ridgeline Homestead and Eco Sanctuary has introduced a lodge style individual suite accommodation option to cater for demand following its recent launch. The four Ridgeline Suites on offer—two self-contained Cottage Suites and two Homestead Suites within the original building—boast mountain, lake or river views, as well as supreme privacy. Sleeping up to two people each, the suites feature a king or king-split bed and ensuite with bath; while clients will have a host and chef available to them; as well as access to two dining areas, a media and games room, library, kitchen, spa pool, swimming pool and more. An opening rate of \$1850 per suite per night for up to two guests, including all meals, is on offer. See mahuwhenua.co.nz



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