

VA & NZ Corporate Famil

Sydney

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Sydney Corporate Famil

TABS ON
**TRAVEL
TODAY**

Wed 04 Nov 15 p2

Combining Work With Pleasure In Sydney



The Kiwi agents arrived in style before heading straight out on the Sydney Harbour with Sensational Sydney Cruises to enjoy the Sydney sunshine and icons.

Sydney and New South Wales attract a significant number of Kiwi business travellers annually—and with anecdotal feedback suggesting more New Zealanders are combining a little leisure time on their work trips, corporate agents on the NZ/VA Great Aussie Escape Sydney famil experienced the best of both worlds.

Consultants on the trip sampled the best of Sydney from on the harbour to climbing high above the city, to fine dining and exploring behind the scenes at the Sydney Opera House.

... VA/NZ Corporates

The NZ/VA alliance has upgraded its offering for corporate customers this year, and consultants on the weekend's Sydney corporate famil got to experience the carriers' premium in-flight product first hand. VA now offers business class seats on all of its Tasman flight and NZ has its popular Premium Economy product available on its widebody aircraft operating on the Tasman.

"The improvements are also rolling out across our ground products, with refreshed lounges in Auckland and Sydney, therefore it's great to share these experiences with our TMC agents, providing them the most up to date product knowledge to pass on to their clients," says Antony Price, NZ's general manager New Zealand and Pacific Islands sales.

Getting Around

Sydney is undergoing going tremendous change. There's construction across the city, and a number of road closures are in place due to the infrastructure required for Sydney's new light rail development. So it's worth mentioning the possibility of road closures and traffic delays to clients with a jam packed itinerary. The train from the airport to Sydney's CBD (AirportLink) is said to be an increasingly popular way for business travellers to avoid potential road congestion, both to and from the city. For details, see airportlink.com.au

Dine Shop And See

Australia's latest visitor arrival stats (IVS) show, not surprisingly, that eating out at a restaurant or cafe was the most popular activity for Kiwis (85.3%) visiting New South Wales. Shopping was the next most popular option (63.3%) well ahead of sightseeing (44.3%). For an overview of the state's dining, shopping and touring options, see destinationnsw.com.au

... H&M Opens

Hugely popular chain store H&M opened in Sydney's Pitt St mall at the weekend—complete with crowd control and a police presence. The flagship store boasts men's, women's, children's and homeware sections and got a great big thumbs up from those on the corporate famil who braved the crowds.



AKL Koru Lounge

Consultants on the Famil started the trip in style, at Air NZ's revamped Koru Lounge. The living wall was a highlight for some agents, while the ability to order your own coffee on your phone via the NZ app was all round.

Pictured: Air NZ's Kendal Tobeck with Samantha Roberts from Orbit World Travel HLZ pictured at the AKL Koru Lounge's living wall.



Sydney Shows And Anything Goes

Visitors to Sydney are spoiled for choice in terms of events, and the restaurants, on offer. A popular addition to a corporate itinerary is to take in one of the city's ever-changing range of stage shows. A number of restaurants offer pre or post theatre dining, with the choice of a la carte of fixed menus. The Kiwi contingent got the chance to dine at the esteemed Aria restaurant, which is located on Circular Quay, just a short walk to the Sydney Opera house for clients taking in a show there. *Anything Goes* was the show of choice for the group (which earned rave reviews) and coming soon to Sydney is the Queen inspired musical *We Will Rock You*.

DNSW's Sam Cameron is pictured on left with Nicola Segal from Virgin Australia, Air NZ's Kendal Tobeck, Tahlee Renyolds from Tandem Travel and Megan Caghey from Orbit World Travel DUD

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AIR NEW ZEALAND



Sydney Corporate Famil

TABS ON
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TODAY**

Thu 05 Nov 15 p3

Cooking School A Sydney Highlight



With culinary skills ranging from zero to advanced, a cooking lesson at the Sydney Seafood School was a highlight for a number of corporate consultants on the famil.

Located at the famed Sydney Fish Market, the cooking school trains around 1300 students a year. It's suitable for FIT or small groups and there's a range of classes on offer such as the four-hour Seafood BBQ experience for AUD165pp (which the Kiwi group sampled) or a two-hour lesson for AUD90.

The four-hour session includes a demonstration in a tiered auditorium before the students recreate their dishes themselves, and then sit down and enjoy the meal.

NSW's The Business

Business travellers still account for a significant chunk of Kiwis visiting NSW and Sydney.

The latest Australian visitor statistics (IVS) show that of the 398,000 Kiwis who travelled to the state in the year ending in Jun, 23% of those were business travellers and stayed an average of 4.3 nights (slightly less than the 6.8 night average for Kiwi holiday arrivals).

A number of the experienced chefs on the famil learned a valuable trick or few, while some at the other end of the 'scale' enjoyed the challenge and took home a wealth of new skills. For details, [CLICK HERE](#)

1 Hostess with the Most-est Air NZ's Kendal Tobeck has 'fun with food'.

2 Ta-dah, salmon perfection. DNSW's Sam Cameron with Darlene Pierson from BCD WLG, NZ's Kendal Tobeck, Tahlee Reynolds from Tandem Travel and Laker HoT's Rebecca Ellison.



... Short On Time?

For clients just looking to sample the local seafood the Sydney Fish Market is a local institution. Fishmongers are joined by delis, fruit stalls, and souvenir stands. You can buy everything from fish and chips to fresh sashimi—and there's even a store offering beer, wine and cider to accompany the seafood. The market is open 0700-1600ish daily. See sydneyfishmarket.com.au

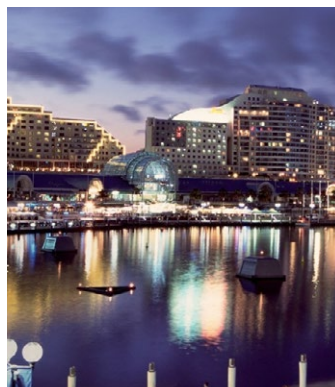
Darling Harbour Covered

Accor will have Darling Harbour covered for budgets from three- to five-star when its new Sofitel property opens—offering a total of 1200 rooms across its brands. Corporate agents on the Sydney famil experienced the Novotel Darling Harbour product, complete with harbour views and its revamped meetings offering and new concept The Ternary dining precinct.

The 4.5-star Novotel is located close to the new Sydney Convention Centre, which is under construction, and for smaller groups boasts a wide range of meeting rooms—many offering views over the harbour. The Hunter Rooms (up to four, three sold individually) are located at the end of the new Ternary dining experience, with views out over the harbour and access out to the balcony. Catering for up to 200 people, delegate packages are available from AUD79. There are also loft apartments (popular with wedding parties but also suitable for executive meetings). For more meeting options [CLICK HERE](#)

... Fireworks

The property also offers a fireworks value-add for clients staying at, or attending a meeting on-site. The city puts on a weekly firework's display in Darling Harbour at 1900 every Sat, which can be viewed from some rooms, the restaurants and many of the meeting rooms.



Taking In The Ambience

Sensational Cruises offers Sydney-bound business travellers who are short on time the chance to get out on the harbour, either as FITs or in small groups. The company offers scheduled morning tea (from AUD99pp) and lunch cruises (from AUD275pp) as well as private cruise options. Kiwi agents on the weekend's Sydney famil were treated to a cruise of the icons, sights (and exclusive real estate) of the harbour before drinks and a BBQ lunch at the picturesque Taylor's Bay. Consultants on the tour said the cruise was an ideal option for clients looking to fit some sightseeing in between meetings. For more, see sensationalcruises.com.au
Pictured: Virgin Australia's Nicola Segal and Amy McMillan from Flight Centre are pictured enjoying the ambience on Ambience.

Exploring Barangaroo

For clients who are repeat travellers to the city, urge them to check out Sydney's newest park Barangaroo, which has opened on the harbour to the west of the Rocks precinct. The six hectare coastal park sports a new Wulugul Walk—which follows the harbour's original shoreline. The walk features giant slabs of sandstone and thousands of plants native to Sydney Harbour. The park is suited to wheelchairs and strollers. For more, see barangaroo.sydney

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AIR NEW ZEALAND



Sydney Corporate Famil

TABS ON
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Fri 06 Nov 15 p4

Kiwis On A High On Final Day In Sydney



Sydney is a city of icons, and for clients looking to fit in a little touring between their business commitments, the BridgeClimb is a tried and proven product.

There's a range of climb options, including an Express tour, night climbs as well as options and pricing for groups. Described as a travel bucket list item for some corporate consultants in the Kiwi group—the climb 134m above the harbour did not disappoint (especially the morning after the AB's Rugby World Cup win). The BridgeClimb Express is the fastest tour to the summit and is a good



option for business travellers. Priced from AUD228, adults, the tour is just over two hours long.

The company can also create experiences for corporates and groups of any size, and climbs can be adapted to be team building exercises or celebrations. For details, see bridgclimb.com

... Tips

Just remember that climbers need enclosed rubber soled shoes to climb and loose items must be left in lockers. Climbers must also pass an alcohol breathalyser test.

1 All smiles, the newly-informed Kiwi group stops at the top to enjoy the views—BridgeClimb, still a bucket list experience.

2 Rebecca Ellison from Laker House of Travel is pictured at the BridgeClimb 'summit' high over the city.



Slower-Paced Rocks

A quick stop at the historic Rocks area can be recommended for clients looking for a change of pace. Quirky pubs and boutiques line the lane ways.

On a Fri there's a Foodie Market, 0900-1500 at Jack Mundy Place, and on weekends The Rocks Market is open 1000-1700 offering everything from designer dog collars to scented candles. Tandem's Tahlee Reynolds and Darlene Pierson from BCD WLG take in the Rocks Markets. For more details see [the rocks.com](http://therocks.com)

Hidden Paddington Gem

Family-owned for 100 years, The Imperial pub in Sydney's Paddington precinct has been redeveloped and offers bars and courtyards—as well as meeting rooms and a rooftop suite for small meeting and incentive groups.

Described as a 'hidden gem' and ideal for the Kiwi groups and business travel market, Virgin Australia's Nicola Segal said she would be recommending the pub's roof top suite, in particular, and cuisine.

The Kiwi corporate agents were impressed by the menu on offer, which they said rivalled some of Sydney's top restaurants. The meal was matched with local wines and complemented by the sweeping views across the Sydney Harbour. For more details on the pub's offering for groups, [CLICK HERE](#).



Afternoon Tea With Coco And Champagne

For clients looking for a decadent treat, the Afternoon Tea With Wedgewood at the Langham Sydney was a highlight for many consultants on the famil. Staged in the hotel's Palm Court the lavish spread of sweet and savoury delicacies (including the obligatory scones with cream and jam) was accompanied by a selection of teas (AUD65pp week days). There's also the option of afternoon tea and a glass of Champagne (AUD85pp week days).

1 DNSW's Sam Cameron with her gluten free treats. **2** NZ's Kendal Tobeck enjoys a Champagne with Coco the bear. **3** Flight Centre's Amy McMillan with Kingston the Langham bear.

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