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## Newsletter July 2015

SPECIALIST AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

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### NEW ZEALAND

#### **SIA to boost South Island tourism (NZ)**

SINGAPORE Airlines is increasing its daily service into Christchurch to between nine and 10 flights a week between December 2 and 15 February next year. This means an extra 7,290 seats worth up to \$15 million to the South Island, says Christchurch Airport CEO Malcolm Johns.

#### **Strong arrivals growth in NZ**

TOTAL visitor arrivals for the May year rose 6.9 per cent, with holiday arrivals up 9.8 percent. For the month arrivals were up 16.5 percent. "It is fantastic to see such strong visitor growth extending well past the traditional holiday season," says TNZ CEO Kevin Bowler. "This month's arrivals bring us ever closer to an annual arrivals figure of three million, a new milestone for the New Zealand tourism industry," he says. "The US and Germany were outstanding performers over summer and both have maintained significant growth across the shoulder season with US holiday arrivals up 12 percent and Germany up eight percent for the year ending May.

#### **Choice Hotels adds Kaikoura to NZ portfolio**

Choice Hotels Australasia, one of Australasia's largest hotel franchisors, welcomes Quality Suites Kaikoura to its growing portfolio. Based in the seaside town of Kaikoura, the addition of Quality Suites Kaikoura will take its New Zealand offering to 35 properties, represented under the Econo Lodge, Comfort, Quality and Clarion hotel brands. Newly refurbished and offering exceptional views of the township, mountains and ocean, the 4-star Quality

Suites Kaikoura boasts 20 rooms and is located a short stroll from the beach and Kaikoura Township.

#### **GO Rentals (NZ)**

- A permanent free ferry for the vehicle is applicable to all South to North hires [except Wellington drop offs] effective immediately.
- Two new permanent directional offers are available in 2016 also available for sale immediately

#### **First Adina Apartment Hotel to open in New Zealand**

Overlooking Queen's Wharf harbour in the city, TFE Hotels is pleased to announce its newest New Zealand property, the Adina Apartment Hotel Auckland, Britomart opening mid-October 2015.

The new Auckland property will offer 128 stylish and modern apartments, located just a short stroll from the waterfront. Contemporary in design; the rooms will be appointed with fully-equipped kitchens, comfortable living space and laundries, with a real focus on comfort and lifestyle, including an on-site gym and undercover parking. The hotel will also operate a lobby bar and café. This hotel opens to a successful market as the New Zealand Tourism Industry continues to grow, with a recorded increase of seven per cent more visitors to New Zealand since April 2014.

#### **Pacific Trailways launches low-level flightseeing by DC3**

NEW operator Pacific Trailways is launching a low-level aerial tour of New Zealand by DC3 in February and March next year with further departures in 2017. And CEO Steve Reeve says the DC3 New Zealand Air Tour will use ZK-DAK a certified and professionally operated 28-seat classic Accommodation is at 4 and 5-star hotels and tours include a selection of ground activities, cruises and

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attractions. The first departure is on February 12 and the second on March 11. Contact: Steve Reeve 0275-311405 or [steve@pacificrailways.co.nz](mailto:steve@pacificrailways.co.nz).

### **New free app a quiz for drivers**

A free app aimed at educating overseas visitors about driving in New Zealand has been launched by the team behind the free CamperMate travel app. The NZ Driving Quiz application comes in four languages. It provides a multiple choice quiz on areas such as road signs, driving on the left, speed limits, safe passing and one lane bridges. When an incorrect answer is selected, the user must watch a short video clip in their native language before proceeding.

The app, made for tablets and phones, aims to educate travellers on road rules and road signs prior to starting their trip.

### **New Kiwi airline buys first plane**

New Zealand's latest airline startup has inked an agreement to take delivery of its first aircraft, and plans to start flying in September.

Kiwi Regional Airlines said it has signed a sales and purchase agreement for a Saab 340A plane from Polish airline Sprint Air. The 36-seater aircraft is "a highly reliable and efficient commuter airliner," a company statement said. The carrier will fly daily from Dunedin to Queenstown, said chief executive Ewan Wilson. Fares for the route will be \$134 one way, with an extra \$20 for checked baggage.

### **Scenic Hotel Group (NZ)**

is proud to be the first hotel group in New Zealand to introduce free 24hr Wi-Fi for guests of our NZ hotels from September 2014. A new brand and service for Scenic Hotel Group has commenced operations. Amaia Luxury Spa opened in a serene setting at our 5-star Te Waonui Forest Retreat, Franz

Josef Glacier in late 2014 for the tourist season. Heartland Hotel & Scenic Suites Queenstown is also now home to the company's second Spa having just opened (July 2015). A key focus for refurbishment is at Heartland Hotel Fox Glacier where the second phase of a major upgrade of the Sullivan B Accommodation Wing. By completion in August the rooms will feature upgraded ensuite bathrooms and revamped guest rooms finished with new joinery, electrics and contemporary furnishings. Guest rooms in the Sullivan A wing are also scheduled for a bathroom renovation and an update of bed furnishings.

### **Tourism New Zealand Partners With Signature Travel Network to Promote Destination**

Tourism New Zealand is growing its trade, public relations and marketing activities in the lucrative premium sector by joining forces with Signature Travel Network.

## **AUSTRALIA**

### **Sydney in top five best places in the world to visit**

Sydney has once again been recognized as a top tourist destination with the world-class city ranked number five in the U.S News top 25 World's Best Places to Visit list. U.S News compiled the list of destinations using opinions and recommendations from travel experts and users, with Sydney the only Australian city to make the final list.

### **Australian Luxury making the mark on International scale**

Two Australian luxury resorts have been nominated in one of the most prestigious industry awards, the Virtuoso Best of the Best awards, which recognize the world's top properties and hoteliers across 100 countries. "Australian properties are really meeting the mark when it comes to offering exceptional

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quality and luxury, so it is no surprise these properties are stand outs in such a strong international field," Virtuoso Asia Pacific Managing Director, Michael Londregan said beginning of July. Gaia Retreat & Spa on the NSW North Coast has been in nominated for 'Best Spa' category, while newly opened Lizard Island Resort on the Great Barrier Reef has been nominated in the 'One to Watch' category. Both properties will compete in a field of five and have been nominated from a list of more than 1000.

### **Australia's first support network for Indigenous tourism staff launched**

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) and corporate partner Echo Entertainment Group celebrated the creation of Australia's first support network for Indigenous employees in the tourism industry in Cairns on Tuesday 7 July.

The new network, for existing and potential Indigenous employees in Queensland's tourism sector, is designed to support and retain staff in the industry and further strengthen the representation of Indigenous employees

### **New Luxury in the Blue Mountains**

The Fairmont Resort Blue Mountains, located outside Sydney, has unveiled 12 new rooms and suites, including one spacious Grand Luxury Suite. Part of Accor's MGallery Collection of hotels, the Fairmont Resort Blue Mountains attracts guests from all over the world seeking refined accommodation in the heart of a World Heritage location.

### **Qantas Flying Nonstop From San Francisco to Sydney**

Qantas Airways announced that it will be adding a new flight from San Francisco to Sydney. Beginning December 18, 2015, the flight is now available for bookings. The airline will be flying its B747 aircraft,

which features comfortable arrangements for Economy, Premium and Business Class seating.

### **Tourism Australia Teams Up With Expedia**

Tourism Australia has signed a new three-year partnership with Expedia, aimed at developing marketing campaigns and content to increase international travel to Australia.

### **Official Gold Coast Travel app**

Make the most of your next Gold Coast holiday with the Official Gold Coast Travel app. Map out your days and nights as you explore all the amazing things to see and do in Australia's favourite playground.

### **Australia to welcome first Hyatt Place hotel**

Expected to open in 2017, Hyatt Place Melbourne will be located in the Essendon Fields development, which is quickly becoming the epicenter of business in Melbourne's northwest region, and guests of the hotel will enjoy convenient access to Tullamarine International Airport. Hyatt Place Melbourne Essendon Fields will join five Hyatt-branded hotels in Australia, including Park Hyatt Melbourne, Grand Hyatt Melbourne, Hyatt Hotel Canberra – A Park Hyatt hotel, Park Hyatt Sydney, and Hyatt Regency Perth.

## **SOUTH PACIFIC**

### **Turtle Airways (Fiji)**

is now offering scenic flights and day trips with unique experiences. The airline is offering 20-, 40-, and 55-minute plane tours departing from Nadi that will fly guests over rainforests, tropical jungles and coral reefs. Unique experiences offered through Turtle Airways' day packages include a visit to the central Yasawa Islands, also known as the Blue Lagoon region following the 1980 film starring Brooke

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Shields. Visit [www.fiji.travel/transport/turtle-airways](http://www.fiji.travel/transport/turtle-airways).

### **Treasure Island Resort**

has announced the opening of its new “Premium Beachfront Bure” rooms. The bures (Fijian for “wood and straw hut”) have traditionally styled décor with a modern twist and are 25 percent larger than the existing bures on the island. They can accommodate two adults, three children and an infant. The facility’s bathrooms have been extensively remodeled and separated from the main living space for added privacy. The resort also offers interconnecting family bures.

### **WORLD**

#### **TripAdvisor becoming a booking site**

It has been slowly happening but now appears to be in full swing, at least in the US. Now that they have such market dominance, TripAdvisor are becoming a full blown booking site and maximizing their returns. With Instant Book, or Book on TripAdvisor, consumers get the convenience of booking the hotel on TripAdvisor or in its apps without having to navigate to a hotel or online travel agency site. The hotels pay TripAdvisor a commission instead of paying for clicks. The commissions undercut those that they might have to pay to Expedia or Booking.com, for example.

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