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The Art of Travel 旅行的艺术

Newsletter May 2015

SPECIALIST AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND

Visitor arrivals to New Zealand numbered 2.95 million in the year ending March 2015,

the highest-ever annual total and 7% higher than the previous year..... The biggest annual increase in visitor arrivals was from China, followed by Australia, the USA and Japan. International visitor arrivals in NZ Total visitor arrivals are up 7% compared to the same four-week period last year.

UP: Canada 34%, India 34%, USA 29%, China 24%, Japan 20%, Korea 19%, Singapore 14%

DOWN: UK 8%, Germany 8%.

Kiwis some of the happiest people!

THE Swiss are the happiest people in the world, followed by those living in Iceland, then Denmark, Norway, Canada, Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden. New Zealanders are ninth in the latest World Happiness Report. Australians are 10th happiest, Americans 15th, Brits 21st, Singaporeans 24th, the French 29th, Japanese 46th, Russians 64th, Bhutanese 79th, Chinese 84th and the least happy, at 158th, are the people of Togo.

Europcar now provides bike carriers

To meet growing demand, Europcar is introducing the first rental cars with bike carriers into the New Zealand market, providing a ready made solution for cycling tourism. The fleet of bike-ready SUVs were first trialed in Australia, and have been welcomed by New Zealand cyclists, including the Avanti Racing Team.

Jucy's quality service recognised

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JUCY Rentals has been named best in class for car rentals service in this year's Quality Service Award Survey. It was deemed to have the highest quality service in the competitive category of car rental companies.

GO Rentals NZ

GO Rentals has some exciting NEW vehicle additions to our fleet. Which will be available in all locations from 8th June 2015 onwards. Introducing the BRAND NEW 2015 models, Hyundai Santé Fe (Group 7 – Large 4x4) and Hyundai iX35 (Group 6 – Intermediate 4x4).

Tourism New Zealand grows cycling holidays

Cycling has been identified by Tourism New Zealand as a special interest activity with the potential to drive shoulder season travel and attract higher value visitors. Following a \$50 million investment by the New Zealand Government and a further \$30 million from local communities to develop Nga Haerenga (The New Zealand Cycle Trail), more Australians are now jumping on a bike when visiting New Zealand. With over 2,500 kilometres of pristine trails, the diverse routes offer visitors a unique way to see untouched national parks, mountains and lakes of the North and South Islands.

New mobile apps for NZ destinations

Travel website, My Destination New Zealand has launched a series of new mobile apps around the country offering informative guides based on invaluable local knowledge. Visitors to Auckland, Rotorua, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown can now tap into specialist local tips and keep up-to-date with what to see and do on the apps. An 'interactive map' makes it easier for users to locate and access directions to nearby attractions using GPS tracking which has a compass to guide visitors to a place, once selected, in both on or

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offline mode. The apps can be downloaded in the Apple Store by searching for My Destination and the city they are visiting

Accor renames two properties

ACCOR is renaming Quay West Auckland The Sebel Quay West Auckland and The Sebel Auckland The Sebel Auckland Viaduct Harbour.

Travel Bug Award winners

WINNERS of this year's Travel Bug Awards are: Ibis Wellington, Wellington; High Street Living Motel, Picton; Aaron Court Motor Inn, Hamilton; Distinction Hotel, Palmerston North; Greerton Motor Inn, Tauranga.

Skyline Queenstown plans New Zealand's first suspended viewing cube

The tourism operator has today applied for resource consent to build the glass cube off Skyline Queenstown's famous viewing deck, at the top of Bob's Peak. The 1 metre-wide, 1m-deep and 2m-tall 'cube' will give guests the feeling of being suspended in mid-air as they look out towards the Remarkables mountain range, the Crown Range and over Lake Wakatipu to Cecil Peak, while standing directly above the Skyline Queenstown luge track. The design was inspired by the 'Step into the Void' installation at the Aiguille du Midi in Mont Blanc. It is believed the Skyline Queenstown glass cube is the first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. The viewing cube development is the latest in a string of recent additions and upgrades at Skyline Queenstown, following purpose-built mountain-bike trails, the Stratosfare Restaurant & Bar rebrand launch, Market Kitchen and a mini diggers attraction for kids. www.skyline.co.nz

Luxury Lodges of New Zealand

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Split Aple Retreat has applied for membership of this exclusive group of lodges.

Please refer to the below. As a wholesale partner ANZ NATURE TOURS LTD supports the luxury lodges.

Members of the group are:

The Lodge at Kauri Cliffs - Eagles Nest - Mollies - Earthsong Lodge - The Boatshed - Bushland Park Lodge - Peppers on the Point - Solitaire Lodge - Treetops Lodge - Huka Lodge - Lake Taupo Lodge - River Birches Lodge - Poronui Lodge - The Farm at Cape Kidnappers - Breckenridge Lodge - Wharekauhau Country Lodge - Greenmantle Lodge - Stonefly Lodge - Edenhouse - Bay of Many Coves - Hapuku Lodge - Grasmere Lodge - Otahuna Lodge - Annandale - Kaimata Retreat Lodge - Pen-y-bryn Lodge - Minaret Station - Blanket Bay Lodge - Matakauri Lodge - The Lodge at the Hills - Fiordland Lodge

*www.lodgesofnz.co.nz
cebook.com/nzlodges*

**<http://www.facebook.com/nzlodges>

AUSTRALIA

G'day mate: Australia in top 10 of world's most tourist-friendly countries

The Travel And Tourism Competitiveness Report 2015, released this week, placed Australia seventh on the list, with Spain taking out the number one spot, thanks to its culture, infrastructure and "outstanding attractions." Australia is home to the largest number of amusing gifs of kangaroos behaving like assholes World Heritage listed natural sites, and attractions like the Great Barrier Reef helped us make the cut.

Spirit of Tasmania has launched a micro web site

Spirit of Tasmania has launched a micro web site (www.spiritoftasmania.com.au/discover) to provide information about the refurbishment of its vessels.

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The site features an updated concept video that takes visitors on a journey through the stylish new facilities, updated images and information on the new dining and entertainment options.

SOUTH PACIFIC

500 sign up Fijian Tourism Expo 2015

Organisers have signed up about 500 participants for the country's premier tourism event.

According to Tourism Fiji events director Sally Cooper, 292 Fijian tourism product and service providers registered for the three-day event and 125 booths have been booked.

"About 169 international buyers and media are confirmed to attend the Fijian Tourism Expo this year and they are being brought in by our platinum sponsor, Fiji Airways," Ms Cooper said.

The Taveuni Explorer - A New Adventure In Paradise

Paradise Taveuni is delighted to welcome The Taveuni Explorer to its fleet.

The new addition offers 40 passenger Day Trips twice weekly where tourists will enjoy snorkeling Rainbow Reef and the Ringold Islands as well as visiting and Rabi and enjoy a Meke performance by the locals of one of these islands. Buy trinkets from the shell markets and enjoy a BBQ lunch on board. Twice weekly, the Taveuni Explorer will give up to 32 scuba divers the opportunity to explore largely untouched islands and previously inaccessible dive sites. It will include spots just off Taveuni and its surrounding islands including Rabi, Namena, Ringold and Koro.

International flights to Vava'u start November

International direct flights from Nadi to Vava'u operated by Fiji Airways are expected to start in November, as well as direct flights from Apia to Tongatapu. The new services will open up

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international access to Vava'u from Asia and Australasia via Nadi.

Fiji's First Floating Bures have Arrived!

Koro Sun Resort's NEW Floating Bures are here! These adults only Floating Bures are the latest addition to our "Edgewater Lagoon" and offer a direct on-the-water experience - the only one of its kind in the South Pacific!

Located directly on the calm waters of our Marina, these Floating Bures are perfect for honeymooners and couples looking to swim, kayak or snorkel directly from their bure deck! These unique accommodations include a King sized built-in bed, modern bathroom with shower, separate lounge area, mini fridge, as well as air conditioning throughout. Come float with us!

Aranui Cruises the plush future of cargo cruising in Tahiti

Launching in 2016 with capacity for 260 passengers, the 125-metre long modern freighter will offer a range of accommodation options, from the operator's first single staterooms to new premium and deluxe categories.

The renderings of the ship's interior reveal spacious cabins styled in a natural colour palette, with Polynesian flourishes including Marquesan-inspired décor, Paul Gauguin prints and original paintings by Erhard Lux, a German artist who lives part-time in Moorea. The cruise line has announced that to cater to the demand for balcony cabins, more than half of the ship's rooms (60) will feature a private balcony – five times more than Aranui 3.

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