



Newsletter May 2014

SPECIALIST AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND

NZ TOP FOR FREEDOM BUT NOT SO GOOD IN OTHER AREAS

NEW Zealand is the top nation out of 130 when it comes to political rights such as freedom of speech and private property rights and personal freedom and choice, according to the latest Social Progress Index. We are fourth for water and sanitation, access to schooling and advanced education, and tolerance and inclusion. But we're 28th on nutrition and basic medical care, partly because of a high maternal death rate during childbirth, and 35th on health and wellness measures such as obesity, suicide and life expectancy. It also scores badly on ecosystem sustainability. New Zealand is again top on a lack of corruption and freedom of religion.

SIA, AIR NZ CODESHARE APPROVED

Air NZ and SIA plan to boost capacity by 30 per cent with the collaboration which will also see Air New Zealand return to Singapore for the first time since 2006.

Air NZ will take over five flights currently operated by SIA in return for the preservation of its Singapore to Christchurch route.

As part of the deal, SIA passengers will be able to travel across Air NZ routes while Air NZ passengers will have access to similar codeshare arrangements on SIA networks.

GERMANY OVERTAKES JAPAN AS NZ'S FIFTH LARGEST VISITOR MARKET

With 9,424 extra arrivals for the 12 months to the end

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of March, Germany has overtaken Japan to become New Zealand's fifth largest visitor market.

Total arrivals from Germany were up 14.5 per cent for the year to 74,224 – the highest ever recorded for a 12 month period, with 6.4 per cent growth in March.

USA continued positive growth, with total arrivals up 9.5 per cent, and holiday arrivals up 11.1 per cent in March.

SIX OF THE BEST FOR KIWI EXPERIENCE

THE first six of 20 new state-of-the-art Scania Euro 5 coaches are joining the Kiwi Experience fleet over the next 18 months. They have "unrivalled comfort and technology including large windows, high-tech air conditioning and on-board recharge facilities for personal electronic devices".

AUSTRALIA

SIA TRIMS SERVICES TO AUSTRALIA

Singapore Airlines (SIA) will drop some of its A380 services to Sydney and Melbourne, further decreasing available services from Australia to Singapore.

The move, which follows recent changes by Qantas Airways to its schedule, means that SIA will only offer one daily A380 flight from 26 October this year and will abandon its Singapore to Melbourne flights entirely, The Sydney Morning Herald reported. Singapore Airlines has previously had trouble filling its seats on Australian flights because there is such a glut of capacity – its passenger load factor has now fallen to 74.3 per cent.

TOURISM AUSTRALIA TEMPS TOURISTS WITH AUSTRALIAN TUCKER

Tourism Australia has formally launched 'Restaurant Australia' advertising campaign before the

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advertising in 12 key international markets.

The ad campaign, which is part of the broader, "There's nothing like Australia" campaign positions Australia as a high-class food and wine destination, The Herald Sun reported.

The campaign is being supported by some of the key names in the Australian hospitality industry, including chefs Peter Gilmore, Neil Perry and Kylie Kwong and Penfolds' chief winemaker Peter Gago. The campaign features feasting on Whitehaven Beach in the Whitsundays, balloon riding in the Barossa Valley followed by a visit to Hentley Farm

AWE-INSPIRING EVENTS IN TASMANIA'S BREATH-taking LANDSCAPE

Australia's southern-most state, Tasmania combines the 'best of' collections, such as Luxury Lodges of Australia and Great Golf Courses of Australia, with pristine beaches, award-winning local food and wine, unique wildlife, diverse wilderness and a friendly locals.

Stay in the city of Hobart, voted the second Friendliest City in the World by Condé Nast Traveler readers, and enjoy waterfront accommodation at Henry Jones Art Hotel, waking up to views overlooking the beautiful Derwent River.

For an alpine experience in the Tasmanian Highlands, Cradle Mountain Chateau is the perfect venue for an event in a stunning World Heritage Listed Area. And on the dazzling east coast, Saffire Freycinet, a Luxury Lodge of Australia will exceed expectations with a signature experience in Freycinet National Park, such as tasting fresh oysters and local sparkling wine while standing knee-deep in an estuary.

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LUXE TREKKING LAUNCHES ON QUEENSLAND'S SUNSHINE COAST

One of Australia's most spectacular – and most accessible – nature walks, the Sunshine Coast Hinterland Great Walk, is now offering a 'luxé trekking' option for those who want to savour the natural beauty of the Sunshine Coast rainforest, while also savouring deluxe accommodation, indulgent spa baths, and fine food and wine.

The aptly named 58km Great Walk rambles its way over the peaks and ravines of the Blackall Range, linking several parks and reserves, including Kondalilla National Park, Mapleton Falls National Park and Mapleton Forest Reserve. One of the most attractive features of the Sunshine Coast Hinterland Great Walk is that it can be walked in a series of day or half day sections, making it perfect for those who want to combine their walk with sightseeing and a luxury getaway.

The multi-award winning Narrows Escape Rainforest Retreat is located near Montville adjacent to the Hinterland Great Walk, and is celebrating its reopening following a major upgrade by offering a new Luxé Trekking package. The three day/two night package offers the best of nature, and the best of comfort.

SOUTH PACIFIC

NEW FIJI CRUISE BROCHURE UNLOCKS SECRETS OF REMOTE FIJI

A holiday cruising the picturesque waters of Fiji and experiencing true Fijian culture is now easier than ever to plan with the release of Captain Cook Cruises Fiji's new "Fiji Islands Small Ship Cruising" 2014/2015 brochure.

The 12 page brochure includes accommodated cruises around the Yasawa Islands, Fiji's remote

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north and Lau islands, wedding and romance packages, functions and events, day cruises and Tivua Island stays.

RUMOURS LUXURY VILLAS & SPA – COOK ISLANDS

Wins Best Luxury Boutique Spa - Cook Islands at the 2014 World Luxury Spa Awards. For the 4th consecutive year, Rumours Luxury Villas & Spa has taken home a highly coveted World Luxury Spa Award winning Best Luxury Boutique Spa - Cook Islands, 2014.

ARANUI ADDS BORA BORA TO REVAMPED 2015 PROGRAM

Bora Bora's impossibly blue lagoon is set to become a regular highlight for Tahiti's freighter cruise line Aranui, which has added the famed Society Islands to its 2015 program.

For the first time, every 14-day Aranui roundtrip cruise from Papeete will call at Bora Bora as well as French Polynesia's mysterious Marquesas Islands and the pristine Tuamotu atolls. Next year also marks the last chance for clients to cruise on the popular Aranui 3 which is due to retire after 12 years cruising the region. The 256-passenger Aranui 5 is scheduled to commence service in late 2015.

A highlight of the 2015 program is the chance to experience the four-yearly Marquesas Art and Culture Festival with a special 15-day itinerary in December including a visit to Hiva Oa during the event.

NEW LOOK FIJI PRINCESS

Blue Lagoon Cruises flagship vessel, Fiji Princess has undergone a \$1.2 million interior refurbishment this April after coming under new management. Customer feedback has influenced other changes including new itineraries, with a maximum of four hours cruising each day, more activities and a more

personal experience of the Fijian culture.

LIKULIKU LAGOON RESORT

The Likuliku Lagoon Resort has been announced as the Best Overseas Resort in the Australian Luxury Travel Magazine's 2014 gold List awards for the fifth consecutive year, and is now featured in the Hall of Fame.

LAUCALA ISLAND RESORT OFFERS UNDERWATER PLANE

Laucala Island Resort, a luxury resort owned by Red Bull CEO Detrich Mateschitz, located on the north-east coast of Tavenui, is now offering a two-person submersible. Guests of the resort are able to dive deep into the pristine waters of the South Pacific Ocean on a two-hour trip with 360-degree views of magnificent coral reefs, abundant fish and sharks, all from the safety of the craft.

MATAMANOVA FIJI MOVES

All 22 beach front burés at Matamanoa are set for a complete refurbishment. The development will include adding a deck, day bed and outdoor pool to the burés, as well as a complete upgrade of furnishings in the actual rooms and new tiles in the bathrooms and toilets.

The work is expected to start by the end of the year, with the new look rooms open some time in 2015.

TOK TOK VANUATU' RETURNS FOR 2014

The travel trade is invited to register now for Tok Tok Vanuatu 2014, which will be held in Vanuatu from 25 to 30 August 2014.

Wholesalers and travel industry buyers from Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Asia, the USA and New Caledonia will be able to interact with Vanuatu partners throughout the tradeshow to gain a

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firsthand insight into the exotic archipelago paradise.

Tok Tok Vanuatu 2014 will kick off with two days of pre-tours to the outer islands of Tanna, Espiritu Santo and Malekula followed by two days in Port Vila for pre-scheduled meetings, local touring options and hotel site inspections. Proceedings will then be closed with a gala dinner on the 29 August.

COOK ISLANDS AMENDS VISITOR DRIVING LICENSE LAW

The Cook Islands Parliament has approved a major law change which means visitors from Australia, New Zealand, US, Canada, UK and the EU can now drive in the country for up to six months using their overseas license. Visitors whose license is written in a language other than English will need an accurate translation.