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The Art of Travel  
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## Newsletter January 2015

SPECIALIST AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

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### NEW ZEALAND

#### **2014 WAS STELLAR YEAR OF GROWTH – TNZ**

INTERNATIONAL visitor arrivals continue to grow, continuing a 15-month trend, with total arrivals up 5.1 percent to more than 2.8 million for the year ending November 2014. Total holiday arrivals were up 6.2 percent for the same period. "The industry has seen a stellar year of growth which we expect to see continue through the summer months," says TNZ CEO Kevin Bowler. Overall growth has been supported by strong holiday arrivals from Asian markets including China (10.4 percent), Singapore (up 15 percent) and Korea (up three percent).

Holiday arrivals from Japan are also back in growth with 2.1 percent growth. Holiday arrivals from Germany, the US and the UK were up 16.7 percent, 12.7 percent, and 2.9 percent respectively for the year. TNZ's priority emerging markets are performing well with arrivals from India up 20.9 percent, Brazil up 20.7 percent and Indonesia up 8.4 percent year-on-year.

#### **NEW ALCOHOL & SPEED RESTRICTIONS (NZ)**

From the 1st of December, the legal alcohol limit for drivers aged 20 years and over has been lowered from 400mcg to 250mcg of alcohol per liter of breath.

#### **THRIFTY RENTAL (NZ)**

We are enjoying Thrifty's new mobile Wi-Fi product. The pocket-sized 3G mobile unit comes with a 150MB daily allowance to surf, Skype, download and play wherever, all without the worry of a big bill and roaming charges. At just \$12.50 per day, the

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compact unit is available at Thrifty's Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Picton & Queenstown locations.

#### **JETSTAR ANNOUNCES MORE OZ SERVICES INTO WELLINGTON**

JETSTAR is launching a four-flights-a-week service from Melbourne to Wellington from March 30. The announcement comes less than a week after its inaugural Gold Coast-Wellington service. "This is outstanding news for Wellington tourism," says Mayor Celia Wade-Brown. "This It will increase the region's connectivity with Melbourne's four million residents and bring more visitors the capital to experience our diverse and exciting tourism offerings."

#### **FIJI AIRWAYS STARTS NEW FLIGHTS TO LA**

Beginning on June 25, 2015, travelers will have the option to purchase round-trip flights from Los Angeles to Wellington, New Zealand with Fiji Airways. The Los Angeles-Wellington route is made possible by the addition of direct flights from Nadi, Fiji to Wellington. The new Los Angeles-Nadi-Wellington route opens up an additional 328 seats per week between Fiji and New Zealand.

#### **WELLY 6TH TOP CITY TO VISIT IN 2015 (NZ)**

WELLINGTON has capped off another stellar year as "the world's coolest little capital" with sixth place in *Rough Guides* Top 10 Cities to Visit in 2015.

#### **NEW DAY TRIPPER SERVICE FOR BAY OF ISLANDS (NZ)**

A new ferry service to Otehei Bay on historic Urupukapuka Island in the Bay of Islands offers tourists and locals a chance to explore some of New Zealand's few remaining archaeological wonders – or just have a relaxing day trip to the beach.

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Leading tourism operator Explore Group now sails four times a day from Paihia and Russell to Otehei Bay, extending to eight in the height of summer, which is the jump off point to everything from sandy beaches and prime fishing spots, through to cultural experiences such as flax weaving and a workshop teaching traditional Maori remedies.

One of the biggest draw cards on Urupukapuka – the largest island in the Bay of Islands which holds historic significance for local Maori – is the island's archaeological remains.

Many of these can be seen along a 7km archaeological walk and includes pa sites, terraces, storage pits, and fortified and unfortified villages.

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### NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

#### CRICKET WORLD CUP, AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Please note the Cricket World Cup is being held in various cities around Australia and New Zealand during February and March 2015. We are already seeing high occupancy at hotels over the dates when matches are being held and many of the hotels are only offering best available special event rates. We recommend sending us a quote request for any clients travelling during this period. The dates for the matches can be seen at <http://www.icc-cricket.com/cricket-world-cup/fixtures>

#### TFE HOTELS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Guests checking into any TFE hotel in Australia and New Zealand from 1 January 2015 will have access to free WiFi.

It means being connected will be easier for guests staying at Adina Apartment Hotels, Medina  
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Serviced Apartments, Rendezvous Hotels, Vibe Hotels, Travelodge Hotels and Hotel Kurrajong Canberra, who will be offered free WiFi on check-in.

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### AUSTRALIA

#### CROWN SUITES LAUNCHES FIRST PROPERTY IN SYDNEY

Scheduled to open in 2017, the new suites will be part of Crown Group's iconic AUD\$250-million Clarence Street development, Sydney by Crown. Crown Suites will offer a unique guest experience, combining the exclusive privacy of a high-end apartment; with five-star guest services and amenities including a pool, gym and concierge. The announcement marks Crown Group's entry into the luxury accommodation and travel markets after the hugely successful Sydney by Crown residential sales launch on November 22.

#### HERTZ, AUSTRALIA

Please take note of the following with regards to driver licences when renting vehicles. All Renters must present a full, valid national driver's licence that has been held for at least one year. Where a licence has two parts, photo card and paper, both parts of the licence must be presented. An overseas driver's licence, issued in a language other than English, must be accompanied by a current International Drivers Permit (IDPs) or where in a country where IDPs are not issued official government approved translation document. Restricted, Provisional or Probationary Licences are NOT accepted. An International Drivers Permit will not be accepted without the drivers' overseas driver's licence.

#### SCENIC TOURS LAUNCH WA/NT AND TASMANIA PROGRAMS FOR 2015/2016

Scenic Tours, the leading operator of all-inclusive  
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and fully escorted domestic luxury tours has launched its 2015 WA/NT and 2015/2016 Tasmania programs, which include a number of new hotels, and cultural and dining experiences. In Western Australia enjoy a new once-in-a-lifetime Scenic Enrich experience – a guided tour of the farming community of Kununarra, the new food bowl of Australia in the East Kimberley region. New Scenic FreeChoice activities include a cruise on Corroboree Billabong in the Mary River Wetlands, home to the world's largest concentration of saltwater crocodiles, and a food and wine trail offering 25 different tasting experiences through the award winning Swan Valley in Perth. And in Tasmania guests can visit the award winning Pyengana Dairy Company, widely reputed to produce Australia's very finest cheddar, for a taste of the ultimate cheeseboard and a traditional Devonshire cream tea.

#### **BRISBANE HOSTS AFC ASIAN CUP AND CHINA'S NEXT TOP MODEL**

The international spotlight once again shines on Brisbane as the city hosts two Asian entertainment giants when the AFC Asian Cup 2015 goes head to head with China's mega popular reality television show I, Supermodel in a spectacular fusion of football and fashion.

Hosted by fashion stylist Kimberly Gardner, the parade showcases the latest sports luxe trends from top Queensland and Australian designers.

The fashion show forms part of an episode of I, Supermodel, a popular Chinese television show that attracted 60 million people during its inaugural season last year with He Sui on the judging panel.

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#### **SOUTH PACIFIC**

#### **BOOKING VANUATU TRAVEL NOW EASIER WITH NEW CONSUMER WEBSITE**

Client considering a holiday to Vanuatu will now be able to access current travel packages and deals, as well as helpful destination tips, thanks to a new consumer facing website, launched this week by Vanuatu Tourism Office (VTO).

[www.discovervanuatu.com.au](http://www.discovervanuatu.com.au), has been created with Australians in mind, highlighting top travel experiences available across Vanuatu's 83 islands including options for the adventure traveller, family holiday, couples and those looking for culture or cuisine. Advice on how to access Vanuatu and its outer islands, such as Tanna, Espiritu Santo and Malekula can be found on the website as well as inspirational sample itineraries.

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