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## Newsletter October 2014

SPECIALIST AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

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### NEW ZEALAND

#### ICONIC NZ WALKS GO ONLINE

NEW Zealand Walks has been announced as a niche online travel agent (OTA) platform promoting New Zealand's iconic tracks.

It is accessible on multiple devices and is designed to help targeting and growing the number of walking and hiking visitors.

With an initial focus on DoC's Great Walks as well as the Queen Charlotte Track, Hollyford Track and Hump Ridge Track – New Zealand Walks Online (trading simply as New Zealand Walks) offers a specialist OTA dedicated to booking hiking holidays in New Zealand. Please contact us for further information.

#### TAXES TO BE INCLUDED IN ROTORUA (NZ) AIR FARES

THE \$5 domestic or \$15 international departure taxes will be included in all fares for flights out of Rotorua from February 1. The departure levies were introduced in 2002, to make a contribution to the ongoing development of the airport.

#### NEW ZEALAND PLANNING FOR INBOUND TOURISM SUCCESS

The Tourism Export Council of New Zealand, ANZ NATURE TOURS LTD is a member of, has produced a guide on how to work with inbound tour operators, as a preparation tool for the expected upcoming inbound success. Chief executive officer, Lesley

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Immink says that for too long tourism and travel distribution has been misunderstood by the industry.

#### CRUISE INDUSTRY SAID TO BE WORTH \$373 MILLION TO NZ

CRUISE ships are expected to make 124 voyages around New Zealand in 2014-15, spending 712 days at ports throughout the country, according to a new economic report by Cruise New Zealand.

The main cruise ports and emerging cruise destinations such as Nelson, Kaikoura and Stewart Island are expected to reap the cruise sector's spread of wealth throughout New Zealand, says GM Raewyn Tan. Half of the voyages will take place in January and February, and regions like Auckland, Tauranga, Akaroa and Fiordland will have a number of three-ship days to manage.

#### RADIOLOGISTS FOR AUCKLAND

A major medical conference has been confirmed for Auckland in March 2018. The Asia Pacific Congress of Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology (APCCVIR) is expected to attract 800 delegates.

Auckland Convention Bureau manager Anna Hayward says the four-day congress is the radiology industry's premier conference in the Asia Pacific region and will create substantial economic benefits for Auckland.

#### NUGGET POINT HOTEL

Queenstown (NZ) will be under new management later in the year. New Zealand owned hospitality management company, Capstone Hotels & Resorts, will take over management of the luxury boutique hotel on 1 December 2014.

#### WAKATIPU COLLECTION'S

(NZ) newest addition to their accommodation

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range, Highview Retreat, is a stylish 7-bedroom self-contained home on Queenstown Hill that is perfect for corporate retreats, intimate weddings, golf weekends and family holidays. The property features full kitchen and dining facilities, many spaces to relax and take in the stunning views, an open fire and an outdoor hot tub for gazing at the stars in Queenstown's clear night sky. Optional add-ons include a private chef and in-house massage and spa therapies provided by Body Sanctum.

### THE BEST OF "NORTH AND SOUTH" IN NZ: OTAHUNA & WHAREKAUHAU

For the first time, these 2 top lodge are offering a joint "Stay 6 – Pay 5" package with Wharekauhau Country Estate in the Wairarapa region outside of Wellington. Guests can enjoy 1 free night when staying for at least 3 nights at both Otahuna and Wharekauhau on the same itinerary. For further information please enquire.

### WHEELAWAY HOLIDAYS - ONLINE BOOKING SERVICE FOR NZ HOLIDAY PARKS

Wheelaway Holidays of New Zealand offers the ability to book all Holiday Park accommodation requirements at one location. Most Parks offer Powered Sites and Self Contained Units. This is always subject to change and a current version can always be downloaded from the Home Page of [www.wheelawayholidays.com](http://www.wheelawayholidays.com).

## AUSTRALIA

### AUSTRALIA ENJOYING ITS BIGGEST TOURISM BOOM SINCE SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPICS

Short-term arrivals in the year to August compared with the previous 12 months show double-digit growth in tourists travelling here from Malaysia,

China and India.

Visitors also swarmed to Australia from Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan with an overall increase in short-term arrivals of 8.2 per cent.

Tourism Australia managing director John O'Sullivan said 538,800 people arrived for a short-term visit in August. "We haven't seen these sorts of international arrivals numbers since the days of the Sydney 2000 Olympics," said Mr O'Sullivan.

"What's especially pleasing is that we're seeing strong performances across the board, from our traditional Western markets as well as the newer, emerging Eastern markets that are now very much part of today's Australian tourism story."

### ADVENTURE TOURS AUSTRALIA LAUNCHES RED CENTRE TRIPS FROM YULARA

Adventure Tours Australia (ATA) is providing the option to start and finish its iconic three day Uluru Explorer trip in Ayers Rock rather than Alice Springs, allowing travellers to save on time and utilise more affordable flights to Yulara.

ATA is one of the only tour operators beginning and ending comprehensive Uluru trips from Yulara, the closest airport to Ayers Rock. The Uluru Explorer trips cuts out the five and a half hour commute from Alice Springs, foregoing an early morning start and a night's pre-accommodation, and giving travellers more time to explore the Red Centre.

Furthermore, travellers can take advantage of affordable flights with low cost carrier airlines from Australia's East Coast cities to Yulara, rather than paying a premium to fly to Alice Springs.

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### **FLYING KANGAROO A HOP AWAY FROM DALLAS/FORT WORTH**

Qantas will now fly direct A380 services from Sydney to Dallas/Fort Worth, connecting the world's largest planes to the world's longest route.

With a flying time of nearly 16 hours, Qantas Group chief executive officer Alan Joyce said the Airbus A380 was suited for this route, previously flown by the B747.

With the aircraft change, Qantas has introduced a new schedule offering more options for customers flying to and from the US.

Qantas recently announced increased services to the US, and now offers clients 41 services per week to North America.

### **VIRGIN AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCES VARIOUS NEW CODESHARES**

Virgin Australia announced that for the first time it is offering a codeshare flight with South Africa's largest carrier, South African Airways.

Virgin will commence codeshare on South African Airways' daily direct services from Perth to Johannesburg, with fares available for sale from Tuesday 14 October 2014. The airline also announced they will be expanding their partnership in North America with Delta Airlines by adding three new destinations as part of their codeshare agreement.

Customers of both airlines will now be able to fly from Australia to Nashville, Kansas City and Raleigh/Durham as part of the alliance's continued commitment to strengthening its footprint in the US market.

The airline also announced they will be expanding

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### **EXPEDIA'S ACQUISITION OF WOTIF MAY HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON INDUSTRY**

Recently the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) granted Expedia a 100 per cent acquisition of Wotif.com, since this decision the rest of the industry has voiced some concerns. Currently Expedia is estimated to hold 10 per cent of the Australian hotel portal market. With the acquisition of Wotif, Expedia will grow to 45 per cent. This acquisition removes choice for accommodation providers between foreign and Australian operators and the end effect of acquisitions and concentrations of market power may cause the consumer to bear the cost of less competition.

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### **SOUTH PACIFIC**

#### **TAHITI CRUISES**

Aranui 3 Cruises - An extraordinary Cruise Experience! Aranui 3 is a custom built vessel designed with passengers in mind. Savour local & French inspired cuisine plus enjoy 16 included shore-excursions with guides. An unmissable experience, a remote destination and an extraordinary cruise experience! All of our customers return raving high regard for this unique product.

The 2015 departures are out with some specials. Please approach us for special rates.

#### **MARINER BOATING SAIL TAHITI 2015**

Join Mariner Boating on a sailing adventure through the spectacular Leeward Islands of French Polynesia. Explore miles of white sandy beaches, lush rainforest, waterfalls, coral reefs and a relaxed

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water culture. It is the perfect tropical sailing destination. Sail into stunning Bora Bora, arguably the most beautiful island in the world. Snorkel in coral gardens of Taha'a and sip cocktails on the beach in Huahine. Discover coves, bays and inlets in vibrant warm clear lagoons. Pair this with fun races and a lively social program designed by Mariner Boating to create the perfect mix of relaxation and adventure.

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