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#### Travel Today Feature P1

Top GO Tips

Andrea Stowers Product Development Manager Australia GO Holidavs

- nt the Gold Coa
- Fly direct into the Gold Coast. Within 45 minutes of arriving at the airport clients can pick up a rental car and be in the heart of Surfers Paradise.
- For an affordable night out urge clients to try the local Northcliffe Surf Life Saving Club for dinner. Located right on the beach, they even have little goodie bags to keep the kids entertained.
- A Gold Coast trip isn't complete without a Theme Park visit. Clients should purchase the Dreamworld and Whitewater World Pass as it allows them to go from one park to another. If they get too hot on the rides they can cool off at Whitewater World.
- For clients returning to the area, who have a rental car, recommend the Robina Town Centre for something different. It's only a 20-min drive and has a wide range of shops including the Gold Coast's only David Jones.
- Recommend sunset cocktails at the Skypoint Observation Deck. It's the highest point above the Gold Coast and has the most stunning views of the Gold Coast and beyond.

# Gold Coast Demand Heads Upmarket



The Gold Coast is New Zealand's single biggest international destination and remains hugely popular with Kiwi travellers—and GO Holidays says it's not all about lead-in deals.

"It's a destination that still represents great value for Kiwi travellers, both in terms of the variety of accommodation and activities and experiences on offer, but the Gold Coast is also increasingly becoming a weekend short-break destination, especially for couples, given its accessibility and range of accommodation and holiday options," says GO short-haul manager

#### **Green Behind The Gold**

For clients looking to explore the area, within 30 min from the coast they can experience quaint villages, National Parks and the rainforest reserves of the hinterland. GO recommends the Tree Tops Walk at O'Reilly's. "It's only about half an hour walk and involves nine suspension bridges up to 15m off the ground in the rainforest canopy," says GO. "Or there's plenty of beaches along the coast. Burleigh Heads is [a] favourite spot and only about a 10min, drive from Surfers Paradise." Wayne Deed."We're seeing an increase in the number of Kiwis opting for high end hotel-style accommodation. Places like Palazzo Versace, Sheraton Mirage Gold Coast, Hilton Surfers Paradise are selling well in that higher end of the market."

Deed says most Kiwis, and agents, have been to the Gold Coast before but adds there's always something new to try and experience.

#### ... Transport

If agents can upsell in one area, he adds, it should be sorting out their transportation arrangements. "Hiring a car will give clients the chance to explore much more of what the Gold Coast has to offer," says Deed. "It's so easy to navigate around and most of the apartments have free parking which is a huge bonus."

#### **Croc Express Option**

GO says the Australia Zoo remains 'incredibly' popular with Kiwi travellers. For clients based in the Gold Coast, but wanting to take in the Aussie icon, the wholesaler says the Croc Express day trip offers the best of both worlds. The Sunshine Coast trip is from \$164 adults, \$107 per child.

# **Gold Coast**

#### Palazzo Versace Brunch

Palazzo Versace's Vie Bar + Restaurant now offers a Sun brunch, says GO. Options include everything from the classics to crab cakes and scrambled truffle-scented eggs. GO says children are welcome and there's even a variety of kid's portions available. Background music creates the perfect vibe for a leisurely brunch. Brunch is 1030-1500 each Sun and GO recommends prebooking. See palazzoversace.com



#### **New To Harbour Town**

Shopping remains a prominent fixture for Gold Coast-bound Kiwi travellers and GO Holidays says new shops at the popular Harbour Town outlet mall mean clients shop more and spend less. Lee and Wrangler, United Colors of Benetton, Rusty, Rubi Shoes and Ritual Accessories have all recently opened at the mall. The centre is an easy drive from the coast and is on the Surfside bus network.

#### Try Tedder Ave

There's a wide range of self-catering options across all levels, which offer great value, says GO Holidays. For clients looking for a great selection of restaurants and cafes, try Tedder Ave just back from Main Beach. Popular with locals the area also has a number of boutique stores.







#### **Latest Dining Precinct**

A new precinct known as Yarra Lane has opened in the upmarket Melbourne inner city suburb, says GO. Dining options include MoPho noodle bar, Outpost café and Beba sushi bar by MEL "coffee king" Salvatore Malatesta and Mama Baba, by renowned Melbourne restaurateur George Calombaris. See, yarralane.com



#### MEL Outlet Shopping

Outlet Shopping Tours are a great way to explore some of Melbourne's lesser-known outlet shops. The fullday tour is \$115pp, including transport around the city's outlet centres and warehouse sales, a gift and café lunch with a glass of bubbles. The tour is a wise investment for clients looking to shop, says GO's Maya Fabijancic.

Some of the bargain purchases from her last tour include an Italian Leather Pierre Cardin bag for AUD120 (was AUD350), a Bolle "Puffer" jacket AUD90 (was AUD160-190) and some Wittners leather ankle boots for AUD130 (were AUD280). The tours run Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri and Sat.



Victoria is well-known as home to Australia's cosmopolitan capital, Melbourne-but the state also offers a huge variety of regional touring options for clients looking to get beyond the gateways, says GO Holidays.

Well-known self-drive routes-such as the Great Ocean Road-continue to be popular, but as more Kiwis take frequent short-breaks the wholesaler says it's also seeing increasing demand for add-ons just outside the MEL gateway. The Yarra Valley, Daylesford and Mornington Peninsula are all an easy drive from the city and boast a wide range of options, adds GO.

#### ... MEL In Winter

Hidden laneways and incredible dining along with an eclectic selection of shops and an ever-evolving range of shows and exhibitions continue to attract Kiwi travellers over the cooler

#### **Around MEL For Free**

The burgundy and gold City Circle trams offer clients free and convenient transport around the city, says GO. In addition the free MEL City Tourist Shuttle Bus offers a hop-on & hop-off service to a number of tourist points. It runs 0930-1630 daily.

winter months. This year's Winter Masterpieces will showcase Viennese artworks rarely seen outside of Europe and Andrew Lloyd Webber's new musical Love Never Dies opens at the Regent Theatre 28 May. In addition the widely acclaimed King Tut exhibition is on show and the 80s-inspired musical Rock Of Ages, which opened last month, is getting rave reviews.



#### **Iconic Ocean Rd Drive**

Exploring the 243km Great Ocean Road is an ideal option for clients looking to get beyond the gateway. The route stretches from Torquay to Warrnambool and swoops by rainforests, national parks, waterfalls, gullies and villages. For clients keen to see the famed '12' Apostles, GO recommends a heli-tour as the best option. An easy self-drive, the road also passes through historic villages. GO recommends a min. three-night stay.



Wayne Deed Product & Marketing Manager Australia GO Holidays

#### **My Favourite Things** To Do In Melbourne

- Visiting the NGV to see their latest exhibition-there is always something exciting to see.
- Madame Brussels in the early evening for wicked and saucy cocktails by the jug . . . such a den of debauchery.
- A very long lunch at Movida divine tapas and such a buzz with people and noise.
- Heading out of Melbourne to the coast along the Great Ocean Road ... amazing scenery, food and wine along the way.
- Head up the Yarra Valley to De Bortoli Wines and experience an amazing wine and cheese tasting in their private dining room. Don't leave without a few bottles of their Black Noble fortified wineheaven in a glass!
- Collins Kitchen at The Grand Hyatt for a sumptuous breakfast-with five concept food stations, you are spoilt for choice.
- Wandering around the Crown Complex-shops and food (again).

#### **New MEL Family Eatery**

Affordable, fresh and flavours are the promise from new Melbourne restaurant St Katherines. A venture by celebrity chefs George Calombaris and Shane Delia, the restaurant is based around shared platters from the Turkish grill and wood-fired oven. A four course sharing menu is AUD58. See, stkatherines.com.au





### **GO Top Tips**



Natalie Te Dorsthorst Shorthaul Consultant GO Holidays

- If clients love a bargain direct them to The Rocks Market to hunt through the stalls before grabbing lunch at my favourite pub, The Mercantile. For those on a girly break suggest clients set aside a whole day and take the train to Westfield Bondi Junction.
- There's numerous ways to see Sydney Harbour, but I recommend a Tall Ship Harbour cruise. You get to see this modern vibrant city from a truly unique perspective, while also getting an unforgettable taste of history.
- Sydney Bridgeclimb is truly a bucket list item. However if clients are not that adventurous, suggest they take a walk across this iconic structure. The views from the bridge are unforgettable.
- A personal favourite of mine is lunch at Nick's Bondi Beach Pavilion; great food, great wine and especially great people watching.
- Sydney's an easy city to get around. I recommend the train as the preferred way of getting into town from the Airport. It's quick, affordable and a lot easier than clients might think.



A city of icons, Kiwis are very familiar with Sydney but there's always another restaurant to try, precincts to explore or new tours to experience, says GO Holidays.

Along with the usual shopping and dining haunts, more Kiwis are exploring the inner city suburbs like Surry Hills. The area boasts a number of small bars like Tokonoma, a Japanesethemed bar alongside trendy Toko Restaurant; Pocket Bar (great for a cocktail and a crepe) and the Commons, a local eating house and a great place for a drink.

#### ... And Beyond

GO urges agents to upsell repeat visitors, or those looking at self-drive options, to spend a couple of night in

#### **Spooks, Sharks, Segways**

For something a little different Sydney offers a wide range of tour options, says GO. Ghost tours of The Rocks and a quarantine station or diving with sharks at Oceanworld Manly will suit thrill-seekers. Not so nerve-wracking are Segway Tours, chauffeured Harley Davidson Trike Trips and the hilarious Tours By Diva, led by a drag queen. Or clients can wind down with a strolling Sydney Photography Tour, or take a Rocks Pub Tour with drinks included. surrounding areas such as the Blue Mountains, Hunter Valley, Wollongong and Port Stephens. "They're all located within two hours drive from SYD and offer something to suit all interests, from beaches and wine and food trails to hiking in the mountains," says the wholesaler.

\*Sydney's city-wide Vivid Festival of light, music and ideas (27 May-13 Jun) includes nightly projections on the Opera House sails (pictured).

#### **Insider Suggestions**

For clients looking for something different, suggest dinner at the Bathers' Pavilion Balmoral Beach. Clients can book a window seat in the fine diner or rock up to the casual café. Or for the best view in Sydney direct them to the Aria East Circular Quay. Again, ask for a window table in the rounded room overlooking the Opera House and order the five spice duck consommé to complete the experience.

#### **Sydney For Free**

Free Sydney experiences include coastline walkways at Manly and Bondi and I'm Free Walking Tours departing the Town Hall 1030 and 1430. led by a local guide. There's also free entry to a number of the city's museums and galleries. See sydney.com

#### **Opera On The Harbour**

Sydney & NSW

Taking in the opera in Sydney isn't new—but watching a full-scale Opera Australia production performed on the Sydney Harbour is going to be a must-see for opera fans, says GO Holidays. The outdoor productions will open next year on a massive purpose-built floating stage moored off-shore from the Royal Botanic Gardens. Opera on Sydney Harbour will begin with La Traviata, complete with giant chandelier and fireworks. There will be 22 performances over six weeks from 24 Mar, says GO.



#### **Be First In Fashion**

Sydney's new Westfield shopping centre offers clients the chance to buy from up-and-coming designers at its 'fashion incubator concept' pop-up retail space. The precinct also includes Gucci, Hugo Boss and DKNY Jeans, with Australia's first Zara store, Prada and Miu Miu opening soon.

#### Cheap Eats

Sydney offers a number of cheap eats including the Malaysian food at Mamak in Haymarket. The menu includes roti, satay and one of Sydney's best nasi lemaks. Alternatively the Pastizzi Café on Crown St in Darlinghurst has the Maltese treats for under AUD2 each. Not the most glamorous venue, but great value, says GO.





#### **Beaches And Art**

There are eight palm-fringed beaches to choose from over a 26km stretch north of Cairns, says GO. The most open and flat is Yorkeys Knob; Kewarra is private and predominately local; and Ellis Beach is wide and sandy. Most have a café or restaurant, it adds.

For the arty client, Cairns has a 'burgeoning' underground art scene, with many local artists producing distinctive works, says GO. Galleries include the Cairns Regional Gallery and the KickArts Contemporary Gallery, which also shows work from Cape York Aboriginal communities.



#### **Surf's Really Up**

Jungle Surfing Canopy Tours in the Daintree rainforest allows visitors to swoop through the trees on flying-fox ziplines. There's five platforms along the route, with views over the treetops and stream and out to the Great Barrier Reef. Speed is controllable, adds GO. See, junglesurfing.com.au





Kiwis love to get away to somewhere warm over the winter months and GO Holidays' Wayne Deed says Queensland's varied offering, from TNQ through to the Sunshine Coast offers clients huge choice.

"The climate, great shopping, dining, day tours and amazing 4WD outback adventures are just a few of the drawcards," says Deed.

The wholesaler recommends at least a one-week stay and urges agents to recommend self-drive as an option for clients looking to get out and explore the regions.

#### **The Sunshine Coast**

"It's always the big decision for Brisbane-bound Kiwis whether to head south to the Gold Coast with all its glitter and excitement or head north to the relaxed and laidback Sunshine Coast.

"The Sunshine Coast is a completely different holiday experience," says GO Holidays Wayne Deed. "While the Gold Coast will always be the number one spot for Kiwi's, those who have discovered the Sunshine Coast will always go back."

Noosa is the traditional Kiwi favou-

rite on the Sunshine Coast, with its boutique style and a real foodie culture, says GO.

Huge development at the usually high-end Noosaville is also said to be making the area more affordable with a range of accommodation to suit all budgets.

"Places like Caloundra, Mooloolaba and Alexandra Headland are gaining popularity, especially for families, as there is a good range of three-bedroom apartments that are really affordable," says Deed. "My top tip—there's heaps to do but to get the most out of a Sunshine Coast holiday, hire a car!"

#### . . . TNQ

TNQ's milder 'dry' months are an ideal time for Kiwis to visit the region, says the wholesaler.

In addition to the vast array of Great Barrier Reef-based experiences, there's also plenty of land options.

"In the TNQ clients can grab a rental car, make up a picnic lunch from a local café or supermarket and explore the beaches just 10 minutes north of Cairns. Or head up to Kuranda and the Atherton Tablelands and enjoy the local craft sights along the way."

### Queensland

**Pa Tere** Shorthaul Wholesale Consultant GO Holidays

#### **Best Of Queensland**

- Mooloolaba's my favourite Sunshine Coast destination. Top picks include Australia Zoo or Under Water World and a stroll along the Esplanade is a must. Suggest clients rent a car and head up to the hinterland for panoramic views of the Glasshouse Mountains and the coast.
- Further north the busy seaside village of Noosa offers a wide range of options. Hasting St has shops and restaurants right by the beach and there's national parks nearby. For a local experience urge clients to try the Eumundi Markets. Open Wed and Sat the township is transformed into a bustling market with over 500 stalls.
- For Port Douglas-bound clients suggest they include a cruise to the Barrier Reef and spend the day snorkelling the magical under water world of the reef or travel up to Cape Tribulation and explore the Daintree National Park. Or urge them to rent a car for the day and explore other beaches close by—Palm Cove, Trinity beach, Yorkeys Knob just to name a few.
- Another must-do is the Kuranda Rail Skyrail. Our operator Down Under Tours offers ex Cairns or Port Douglas. I suggest clients go up by Kuranda rail and back down by Skyrail. It's an amazing tour and the views you get on the way back down as you travel over the rainforest are breath taking.

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#### Travel Today Feature P5



#### V8 Supercar Package

GO Sports & Events has three-night Bathurst V8 Supercar packages from \$1889pp s/t, 06-09 Oct. The deal includes airfares ex Auckland, return airport transfers to Orange, welcome get-together, three nights accommodation, daily Mt Panorama track transfers, three-day Pit straight Grandstand ticket with paddock pass, farewell dinner and a GO escort.

#### ... Brad Jones Option

For clients looking for a real taste of racing, GO has a five-day Brad Jones

Racing (BJR) Bathurst 2011 Experience from \$2699pp s/t. This allows clients to see Bathurst 1000 from a drivers perspective, says GO. Included is a



coach lap of Mt Panorama with commentary by a BJR driver, private dinner at the Panthers Club with a BJR driver, a pit walk of the BJR garage at Bathurst 1000 and official BJR merchandise.

# **Events Give Kiwis New Reasons To Visit**



The number of Kiwis travelling to Australia continues to rise and many repeat travellers are looking for new experiences across the Tasman, which is why events-based Tasman travel is becoming increasingly popular, says GO Holidays.

"New Zealanders have always headed across for the hallmark events like the Melbourne Cup, Bathurst and the Australian Open (pictured)-but now we're noticing increasing demand for special interest events like the upcom-

#### **Oz Netball Fest In Sep**

The first mass participation netball event of its kind will be held on the Gold Coast 08-11 Sep, and is attracting strong Kiwi interest, says GO. The wholesaler has land packages valid over the event from \$469pp based on seven people staying in a twobedroom apartment and includes five-day Europcar 12-seater van hire and BNE or OOL airport pick-up/ drop-off. NetFest is open to male and female players over 18 years. See netfest.com.au.

ing Netfest on the Gold Coast or the Cooly Rocks On rock 'n' roll and classic car festival," says GO short-haul manager Wayne Deed.

#### Elton Rocks Oz

Elton John is staging concerts in Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth Nov/Dec and GO has land-only packages to the events from \$588pp s/t in BNE. Packages include bronze/general admission ticket, three nights accommodation and bonuses if specified. Silver and Gold ticket upgrades available. Elton rocks BNE 30 Nov; MEL 06 Dec; ADL 09 Dec; and PER 11 Dec.

#### **Opening In MEL**

New shows and exhibitions opening in Melbourne this winter include new Andrew Lloyd Webber musical Love Never Dies, opening at the Regent Theatre 28 May; and the MEL Winter Masterpieces, Vienna: Art and Design, opens at the NGV 18 Jun. Other events on in the city include the hugely popular King Tut exhibition and the eighties-themed musical, Rock of Ages.



Special Interest

#### Maja Fabijancic Product & marketing exec. groups, sports & events, GO Holidays

### **GO Top Sports Events**

- ·Bathurst 1000: Bathurst is a three-hour drive from Sydney, suggest clients book accommodation close to Bathurst.
- Grandstand tickets offer the best view of the start/finish line and give clients a base for the weekend. They also include access to the Pit.
- For a view over the race track, urge clients to head to the top of Mt Panorama. Buses run every 5-mins. To witness the fastest section of the track, direct clients to the Conrod Straight.
- Melbourne Cup: Ensure you qualify clients for the right tickets. Do they want to be indoors or outdoors, in covered or uncovered seats, or would they like to be in one of the Marquees?
- The train is the most convenient and fastest way to get to/from Flemington. Trains depart from Flinders Station and run every 4 mins. Last year I waited over an hour for a taxi from Flemington, so I highly recommend the train.
- •Australian Open Tennis: The main choice is to either see the first round of play or the 'final five'. I recommend clients opt for the final five, including the quarter- and semi-finals as well as finals contenders. Preferred seating at the Rod Laver arena is in the lower bowl.

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