

Tuesday 30 June 2015

Issue 3105





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Jetstar

Greece Advice: Err On Side Of Caution

Kiwi travellers are being urged to 'err on the side of caution' despite the Greek Government saying foreigners won't be subjected to cash restrictions put in place this week.

Greece's banking system is in turmoil and reports yesterday said banks and ATMs had shut for the week. Today (29 Jun local time) the Greek Tourism Ministry clarified the issue, saying credit and debit cards issued abroad aren't subject to the measures, including a EUR60 withdrawal limit.

"The restriction measures on the capitals do not refer to those who want to make transactions via ATM with credit or debit cards issued abroad," says a statement from the ministry.

However this doesn't mean travellers won't be subjected to other problems, including long lines at ATMs and a cash shortage.

Flight Centre's Travel Money says it's aware of the government assurances but is urging Kiwi travellers to 'err on the side of caution' given media reports that there may not be any money in the ATMs. The chain has reported high levels of enquiries from travellers asking for advice, and says yesterday brought higher than usual sales volumes of EUR.

"With Greek banks and ATMs now shut all week you really need to have enough cash to last five-seven days if

5 Pages This Issue

your itinerary includes Greece," says Travel Money's Scott McCullough.

He's also reassuring travellers that their EUR won't be devalued if it's issued by Greece rather than any other EU country.

Meanwhile House of Travel's Brent Thomas says while they are also advising customers bring extra cash with them, they need to be aware that this brings its own problems.

"They need to be very careful obviously around that from a security point of view," he says. "People will know that tourists will have [cash]."

. . . Tourism Impact

The tourism ministry says tourists in Greece as well as those that 'are going to come will not be at [sic] the least affected by the latest developments and can continue to enjoy their vacations in Greece without the slightest problem'. It also said 'there is sufficiency in fuel as well as products and services that secure the smooth daily life of the tourists in the cities, regions and on the islands'.

Travel Corporation brands, including Adventure World, Contiki, Insight Vacations and Trafalgar are currently operating to and in Greece as scheduled. "We are very much monitoring the situation maintaining constant dialogue with our partners in Greece as guests and staff will always be our top priority," says a local Travel Corp spokesman.

Where The Beer Is Cheap

Krakow and Kiev are among the cheapest cities to buy a beer while in Geneva and Hong Kong travellers should expect to pay at least USD10 for a 330ml glass in a bar, according to the GoEuro 2015 Beer Price Index. GoEuro compared the prices of a 33cl (330ml) beer at the supermarket and in bars for 75 cities around the world. Auckland was one of the pricier cities, coming in at 50th with a beer priced at an average of USD3.78 (USD1.67 in the supermarket, USD5.88 at the bar). Cheap options for a drink at the bar include Ho Chi Minh (USD2.58), Bangkok (USD3.12), Cape Town (USD3.20), Bali (USD3) and Budapest (USD3.90).

Heading out for a drink is likely to put a dent in the expenses in cities including Sydney (USD6.56), London (USD7.35), Rome (USD8.15) and New York (USD8.97) though.

For a full list of prices see goeuro.com/beer-price-index

Remote Planes?

A company that builds unmanned, remote-controlled aircraft believes that in another five years they'll be carrying passengers—and they'll be safer than piloted planes. The experimental aircraft are currently being tested in the USA, and are marketed as a cheaper way to survey property, *Reuters* reports. However the FAA is reportedly looking into new regulations for if they were to be used to carry passengers, and engineers are working on collision avoidance technology to avoid crashes.

MFAT Tunisia Update

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has updated its travel advice for Tunisia in light of the terrorist attack on 26 Jun, but says there are no changes to its risk levels. It is continuing to advise caution in most parts of Tunisia due to the threat from terrorism and kidnapping (some risk). See safetravel.govt.nz/tunisia





Tue 30 Jun 15

VA America Changes

From 02 Jul, Virgin Australia will no longer accept VA fares ex New Zealand to North America to be plated on Delta Air Lines (006) ticket stock. It will also no longer be possible to ticket DL fares ex New Zealand to North America on VA (785) ticket stock. Fare rules will be updated in line with the change in the GDS.

Four Corners Removal

Air New Zealand has advised of the removal of Four Corners UK/Europe economy and business class fares, effective 10 Jul. All existing bookings must be ticketed by 10 Jul or should choose a rebooking option using valid fares and itineraries will need to be re-costed.

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Thai: Business As Usual To Europe

Thai Airways says it will continue to operate as normal to European destinations, dispelling reports suggesting its EU flights may be in doubt due to Thailand's Department of Civil Aviation being redflagged by the ICAO.

ICAO issued a Significant Safety Concern (SSC) on Thailand's DCA in Feb as a result of Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program findings.

However the EU released its updated EU Air Safety List last week, which outlines which airlines are subject to an operating ban or operating restrictions in European airspace, and Thai Airways was not on the list, the

UA, Azul Partner

United Airlines is to acquire a 5% stake in Azul Brazilian Airlines in a new strategic partnership that will pave the way for codesharing, expanded connection opportunities between North and South America, and joint loyalty programme participation. Azul serves more destinations in Brazil than any other Brazilian carrier. The partnership also enables an improved transfer process at Guarulhos for timely connections for customers and their bags. The airlines have announced plans for United to place its code on flights in Azul's network from Guarulhos to key destinations throughout Brazil, as well as on Azul's flights to Florida; Azul plans to place its code on United routes throughout North America and the Caribbean, pending government approval.

carrier's president Charamporn Jotikasthira has pointed out.

The carrier will operate as normal but says it has prepared a business continuity plan in all operational areas in case of a major operational disruption.

"Thai anticipates that the Thai DCA will resolve and correct the SSC findings within the timeframe of the ICAO, in order that Thai carriers can return to normal operations soonest," says the airline. "Thai values the public concern on aviation safety, and would like to assure that Thai will continue to operate under high safety standards of the European Aviation Safety Agency."

. . . Philippines Okay

Meanwhile, a ban on airlines from the Philippines operating flights to the EU has been removed, with the country removed from the EU's Air Safety List. It's taken five years of hard work to clear the airlines from the list, says the EU, and the result should 'serve as an example for other countries which have difficulty to match their safety oversight capabilities with the growth of their industry'.

Napier, Gisborne Sale

Gisborne and Hawkes Bay is the latest region to feature in Air New Zealand's Your Favourite Place 48hour regional domestic sale. Fares to the region from Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch are on sale from \$49 one-way seat-only, until midnight 01 Jul. See airnzagent.co.nz

More DL LAX/SFO-JFK

News & Product

Delta Air Lines says it will soon offer the most seats of any airline between JFK and LAX/SFO, as it prepares to launch additional and upgraded transcontinental service. From Nov, DL will increase flights between JFK and LAX from nine to 10 daily peakday flights; and will upgrade three of its eight daily JFK-SFO flights to

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2016 EARLYBIRD





TRAVEL TODAY

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USA Culinary strategy

Brand USA says research across 12 key international markets shows that food is one of the top five motivations for travellers selecting an international destination. In fact, says the bureau, it was actually the top motivator in seven of the 12 markets it investigated, so a culinary tourism strategy has been put into place.

In Jul Brand USA—with the Food Network (International) and Travel Channel (International)—will broadcast a series of vignettes featuring notable American chefs showcasing regional cuisines from their hometowns and favorite US destinations, which will air in 98 countries across Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Other components have already begun with the May launch of Brand USA's first-ever culinary content hub, Flavours of the USA, which is available from DiscoverAmerica. com listing culinary-inspired travel itineraries, food festivals and events, wine and beer trails, and regional recipes by top chefs.

News & Product

CX May Traffic Up

Cathay Pacific Airways and Dragonair traffic figures for May show both the number of passengers carried and the cargo and mail uplift grew year on year.

CX says passenger demand remained robust in most key markets, and the increase in passenger numbers easily outpaced the growth in capacity.

The two airlines carried a total of 2,901,558 passengers in May, up 11.8% on the same month last year. The passenger load factor grew by 2.9 percentage points to 85.9% while capacity, measured in available seat kilometres (ASKs), increased by 7.5%. In the year to the end of May, passenger traffic grew 9.1% while capacity was up by 6.5%.

The two airlines carried 147,034 tonnes of cargo and mail last month, an increase of 6.2% compared to May 2014. The cargo and mail load factor fell by 0.9 percentage points to 62.1%. Capacity, measured in available cargo/mail tonne kilometres, rose by 11.1% while cargo and mail revenue tonne kilometres flown increased by 9.5%. In the year to the end of May, tonnage rose by 9.6% against a capacity increase of 9.6% and a 12.2% rise in RTKs.

Hwang added that demand out of the key Hong Kong market was strong, buoyed by the public holidays at the beginning of the month. "We entered the traditional slack season for Australia and New Zealand but Japan remained hugely popular as a leisure destination and we saw high loads in the economy cabin on many other routes. A higher proportion of connecting traffic and lower-than-expected premium traffic on long-haul routes both had a negative impact on yield."

Rail Europe On Sale

Rail Europe has released summer sale fares for first class travel on selected routes between France, Germany, Belgium and Italy, for sales to 24 Aug and travel 03 Jul-31 Aug. Oneway tickets start from \$56, and agents should note that bookings must be made a minimum of three days in advance. Rail Europe GSAs are Rail Plus and GO Holidays.

New For Accor

Accor has increased its presence on the Sunshine Coast, recently announcing the addition of a new upscale address, The Sebel Pelican Waters Golf Resort & Spa in Caloundra. The property, formerly the Pelican Waters Golf Resort & Spa, is Accor's fifth for the region, and will commence operation under the Sebel brand in late Jul. Located just 90 minutes from Brisbane and 40 minutes from the Sunshine Coast Airport, the resort is situated on a championship golf course and offers 76 resort rooms, a day spa, swimming pool and restaurant and bar options. It is also a popular wedding and conference destination. See thesebel.com

LON Night Tube

London is launching 24-hour tube service on weekends from 12 Sep, just in time for the Rugby World Cup which launches 18 Sep. The Night Tube will operate Fri and Sat nights on the Jubilee, Victoria, and most of the Central, Northern and Piccadilly lines. Trains will run every eight to 20 minutes, depending on the service, and fares will be charged at standard off-peak rates.

Transport For London says the service has been made possible thanks to continued modernisation of the underground network. It will cut night-time journeys by an average of 20 minutes, while some journey times will improve by more than an hour



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TECH FEATURE

TAKE YOUR WORLD WITH YOU WITH NEW SABRE VERO

At last month's Sabre Tech Summit, we announced the launch of a new service to help New Zealand agencies take advantage of cloud computing. Sabre Vero is the next evolution in computing infrastructure which allows you to access your agency applications as a virtual desktop.

This new service provides access to the agent desktop from multiple devices, across multiple locations, each with user controlled authentication for increased security. Perfect for remote or mobile team-members, in-office hot-desking and anyone who wants the freedom to take their world with them wherever they need it.

With Sabre Vero, you have the flexibility to pick and choose which applications to include in your virtual desktop based on your individual requirements. You can include Sabre Red, Sabre Pacific applications, Microsoft Office applications, one drive, printing, anti-virus and any agency web applications.

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Our customers look to Sabre as their technology partner to be more than just their GDS. So contact us today to discuss your IT infrastructure needs.



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Harry Potter Sweets

Jelly snakes, floating pudding, butterbeer icecream and other treats from Honeydukes and Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes, as well as 'frozen' deserts from Florean Fortescue's ice-cream parlour are part of the new Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The

Making of Harry Potter Sweets and Treats feature. Based in the Ministry Munchies kiosk from Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, expert prop and cake makers will dem-



onstrate the techniques used to construct the floating pudding from Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets and Gillyweed, as used in the Second Task of the Triwizard Tournament in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. Some 'iconic' sets will also be given a makeover for the summer season such as the Great Hall and Gryffindor common room. The Studio Tour's Sweets and Treats feature will run 20 Jul – 06 Sep. Tickets must be pre-booked and all extra activities are included in the ticket price.

Beach House Dining

Nha Trang city's only beachfront resort, Evason Ana Mandara, has announced the opening of its newly renovated restaurant and bar, Ana Beach House, says World Journeys. The all-day dining focuses on delicious home-style Vietnamese dishes and seafood cuisine, accompanied by the resort's signature cocktails and bespoke wine list.

Guests can choose to dine in a private dining room, a walk-in wine cellar, an open sandy beach area, or next to the infinity pool. World Journeys has bonus night offers for travel to 31 Oct.

PATA Arrivals On Track For Q1 2015

International visitor arrivals to 25 Asia Pacific destinations that have released first quarter 2015 data show a combined inbound total of more than 101 million.

This is just 1.9% off the forecast volume for that period as predicted in the 'PATA Asia Pacific Visitor Forecasts 2015-2019 - Volume II' recently released. PATA chief executive officer Mario Hardy says 'these numbers highlight the accuracy of these forecasts which reliably predict turning points in the visitor projections for 38 Asia Pacific destinations as they accelerate, or, as in a few cases, contract their foreign inbound figures during 2015'. "The availability of these forecasts on a quarterly basis provides destinations with a timely mechanism for adjusting their promotional strategies to take advantage of surges in outbound travel from particular origin markets at to re-deploy resources to their best advantage," he says.

Across the region, the Americas is performing at 4.9% above the first quarter forecasts, while South Asia is performing at 3.2% above them. Northeast Asia is just 2.2% behind the first quarter forecast, while six destinations in Southeast Asia are collectively -4.2% behind the forecast volumes. The Pacific is -0.7% under forecast. Year-on-year, the first quarter results for this cluster of 25 destinations is 5.1% better than the first quarter of 2014, with an additional 4.9 million arrivals added to the collective total for that period. The strongest performers in terms

Bennelong Opening

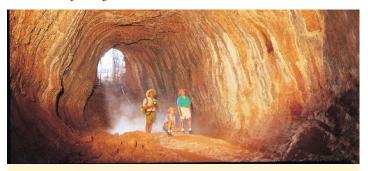
The highly anticipated Bennelong restaurant at The Sydney Opera House will open on 01 Jul, advises Tourism Australia. Chef Peter Gilmore will provide a menu driven by raw, cured and cultured Australian produce with a brasseries-style food offering. See sydneyoperahouse.com for further information.

of period-to-period growth are Palau (+46.6%), Japan (+43.7%), Thailand (+23.5%), Sri Lanka (+13.6%) and Korea ROK (+13.4%). Hardy says with the speed of change today, it is important to have reliable benchmarks against which to measure success and failure in specific markets. For more details about the forecasts, contact the Strategic Intelligence Centre at sic@pata.org

Translation App

News & Product

Not being able to speak the language of the destination you are visiting now doesn't have to be a problem for travellers, with the number of translation apps on the rise. For example, the Slovoed Dictionaries app has a host of features, including a currency converter, audio pronunciations, flash cards, learning tools, detailed grammar information and more. It offers more than 180 dictionaries for over 35 languages, available for in-app purchase. The app is available for free download for both Apple and Android.



TNQ Self-Drive Route Includes Lava Caves

A new self-drive route has launched in Tropical North Queensland, which is enjoying huge growth in Kiwi visitor numbers. The Lava Tubes, Gems and Gorges Trail loops almost 300km through the Etheridge Shire and takes in the McBride Volcanic Province, where eruptions millions of years ago formed a spectacular landscape. The itinerary of up to seven days includes exploring the longest lava tubes in the world at Undara Volcanic National Park, learning about fossicking at Mount Surprise and looking for topaz at O'Brien's Creek. See drivenorthqueensland.com.au

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Tue 30 Jun 15

New Penang Hotel

The former Hydro Hotel in the northern beach area of Penang near the UNESCO World Heritage Site of George Town is undergoing 'extensive' refurbishmentof its public areas, rooms and suites to become the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Penang, due to open next year. The 318 rooms and suite property is set into the hillside along Jalan Batu Ferringhi and most have views of the sea from private balconies.

The resort will have three restaurant and bar options including an allday dining outlet, a lobby bar and a café, meetings and events facilities including a ballroom and four function spaces covering an area of more than 1,300 square meters, gym, an outdoor pool and children's recreational area.

It will be the third DoubleTree Resort property in Malaysia following Kuala Lumpur and Johor Bahru.

Le Touessrok Closure

Mauritius' famous luxury hotel, Le Touessrok, has closed for extensive renovations and will relaunch as Shangri-La's Le Touessrok Resort & Spa in Nov, advises World Journeys. The wholesaler is now taking reservations for stays from 01 Nov.

SITA Focus On Border Automation

SITA has announced the formation of the SITA Border Automation User Group, in a bid to drive greater efficiency and passenger satisfaction as the demand for automation grows.

SITA recently brought together airlines, airports and government representatives from across the US, along with experts in border technology, to explore ways to improve the passenger experience while maintaining security.

The two-day session included discussions on best practices for integrating next-generation technology such as beacons, mobile apps and WiFi, as well as how to optimise Federal Inspection Station design.

SITA president, Americas Paul Houghton says SITA is committed to working together with its customers and early adopters of border automa-

Port Lincoln Tour

Tasting Eyre has launched a new Port Lincoln day tour that allows visitors to experience the region's rugged coastline, pristine beaches, national parks, fresh local produce as well as the chance to interact with wildlife, advises Tourism Australia. The tour departs Mon, Wed and Sat and is priced from AUD99pp. See tastingeyre.com.au



Six Senses Samui Set To Open 01 Jul

After an extensive upgrade and revitalisation of guest accommodation and public areas, Thailand's Six Senses Samui is set to re-open on 01 Jul. The entire villa interior and furnishings have been refinished, whilst all villa pools have been resurfaced, and an additional seven pools have been added. The all-day venue Dining on the Hill and the adjacent infinity pool have also undergone an upgrade, with new landscaping, decking and refreshed furniture, plus there's a new display buffet counter and a show kitchen. The resort's signature restaurant Dining on the Rocks will introduce a new lounge deck; the Library has an expanded range of reading material; and the lobby has also undergone a refreshment.

tion technology to deliver the best passenger experience.

"Our automated passport control kiosks, which are already widely used in the US, and our automated border control gates, are part of an end-toend suite of solutions designed to facilitate and provide a more secure passenger journey throughout the airport and across borders," he says. By the end of 2015 SITA will have provided close to 450 kiosks at 11 international airports.

Explore Vanuatu

News & Product

GO Holidays reminds agents of its Explore Vanuatu packages. The deals include economy class seat + bag flights ex Auckland to Vanuatu flying Air New Zealand.

Flights and seven nights at The Melanesian Port Villa is priced from \$799pp s/t; or upgrade to Nasama Resort, flights and seven nights from \$1089pp s/t. Packages at the adultsonly Mangoes Resort, with flights and seven nights from \$1179pp s/t; or Warwick Le Lagon Resort & Spa, flights and seven nights from \$1499pp s/t. On sale to 06 Jul for travel 28 Jul-20 Mar 2016. Closeouts apply. GO has details

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Air New Zealand's Southern **Hospitality Roadshow**

Napier: Tue 30, Lone Star Restaurant, Cnr Marine Parade and Emerson Street, 1830-2030

Scenic Information Sessions

Timaru: Tue 30, Landing Services Building.

Scenic Information Sessions

Dunedin: Wed 01, Hotel St Clair. Invercargill: Thu 02, The Kelvin Hotel.

Nepal Fundraiser In conjunction with South African Airways and **Adventure World**

Auckland: Wed 01, Sky City Convention Centre, 1730-1800 Drinks/ Nibbles, 1800-1930 Travel Ouiz.

Globus Family of Brands 2016 North America Launch

Nelson: Wed 01, Action Indoor Sports Stadium, 30 McPherson Street, Richmond, 1745.

Pukekohe: Tue 21. Pukekohe Cosmopolitan Club - Ten Pin Bowling Centre, 78 Nelson Street, 1745.

Air New Zealand's Southern **Hospitality Roadshow**

Tauranga: Wed 01, Lone Star Restaurant, 41 The Strand, 1800-2000. Hamilton: Thu 02, Lone Star Restaurant, 185 Victoria Street, 1800-

Globus Family of Brands and Rocky **Mountaineer-2016 North America** Launch

Lower Hutt: Mon 06, Strikenz, 399 Hutt Road, 1745. Palmerston North: Tue 07, Bowlarama Ten Pin Bowling Centre, 94 Cuba Street, 1745. Christchurch: Tue 21, Tequila Mockingbird, 98 Victoria Street, 1745.

South Pacific Association of National Tourism Offfices

Nelson: Tue 21, the Suburban Club, 1730.

Auckland: Thu 23, Travel Corporation offices 131 New North Rd. Eden Terrace from 1800.

Hawaii Tourism MCI Roadshow

Auckland: Fri 24, Hilton, 1730-

AUGUST

Bula Marau Fiji Roadshow -**Around Viti Levu**

Christchurch: Mon 3, Novotel Christchurch, 1730-2030. Wellington: Tue 4,

InterContinental, 1730-2030. Auckland: Wed 5, Stamford Hotel, 1730-2045.

Hamilton: Thu 6, Novotel Tainui, 1730-2030

Anaheim Roadshow

Auckland: Mon 24, The Hilton,

South Pacific Association of National Tourism Offfices

Napier: Mon 24, the Crown Hotel, 1730.

SEPTEMBER

TAANZ AGM

Auckland: Wed 09, Heritage Hotel, from 1500.

Royal Caribbean - New Zealand's Travel Has Talent **Grand Final**

Auckland: Fri 11, the Pullman hotel

The Travel Corporation 2016 Launch

Hamilton: Mon 21, PM. Tauranga: Tue 22, AM. Auckland: Tue 22, PM. Christchurch: Wed 23, PM. Dunedin: Thu 24, PM. Nelson: Mon 28, AM Wellington: Mon 28, PM Hawkes Bay: Tue 29, PM Palmerston North: Wed 30, PM

For more see Monday's Travel Today