

TABS ON TRAVEL TODAY

Incorporating Tabs on Travel

Wednesday 07 October 2015

Issue 3176

Jetstar to fly to the biggest towns in NZ starting with 'N'

Subject to Government and Regulatory approval. Flights are operated by Eastern Australia Airlines for Jetstar Airways.

Nelson → Auckland

Jetstar

JQ: Expect Lower Fares On AKL-RAR

Jetstar will become the first new carrier in more than 10 years to launch flights on the Auckland-Rarotonga route from next Mar, and it's confident the service will result in market growth.

From 22 Mar JQ will bring some 25,000 more seats to the Auckland-Rarotonga route—capacity growth of more than 15%.

The flights are expected to 'significantly lift' passenger numbers from both New Zealand and Australia, and they should result in lower fares too, says JQ's New Zealand boss Grant Kerr. "We know that whenever we enter a market and provide competition and provide people a choice, we see fares drop by up to 40%," he told *Travel Today*. "We actually stimulate the market so we know there's going to be growth."

The return flights originate from Sydney or Melbourne and will operate year-round, departing AKL on a Tue, Sat and Sun. They'll also connect with JQ's new regional flights in New Zealand.

Launch fares went on sale for 12 hours from 1130, starting from \$129 ex AKL, with regular one-way lead-in fares to start from \$219. JQ will also be



releasing wholesale fares, with flight and accommodation holiday packages available shortly via wholesalers.

... Trade Opportunity

Some 82,000 Kiwi visitors head to the Cooks each year, and the new flights will 'certainly help visitor numbers to grow', says Cook Islands Tourism general manager Graeme West, pictured above right with JQ boss Grant Kerr.

"It's going to generate incremental business, no doubt about it," he says. The NTO is planning 'various activity that the trade can be part of' around the new flights, with details coming out over the coming weeks.

It's also looking at holding a roadshow in the first half of next year.

... More Islands?

When asked if JQ is considering flying to any other island destinations, Kerr would only say 'we're always looking for opportunities at JQ so if we believe there is an opportunity we look at it seriously'.

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Asia Smoke Pollution

It has been recommended that agents with clients heading for Singapore, Malaysia and other adjoining countries, suggest that their clients go onto the SafeTravel pages of the Ministry of Foreign and Trade (MFAT) for any updates on the smoke haze pollution that is currently an issue in the region.

There have been flight cancellations as a result of the smog, and the Insurance Council of New Zealand warns travellers that someone who books a flight and takes out travel insurance knowing that flights in the area are being disrupted at the time may have difficulty with a subsequent claim.

"Airline websites, the general media and the safetravel.govt.nz website are worth keeping an eye on," says a spokesperson. "ICNZ always recommends people read and understand the terms and conditions of their insurance in full and asking their insurer questions if they are unsure."

More Aus For EK?

Emirates is reportedly looking at secondary cities in Australia as part of its relationship with Qantas, with EK boss Tim Clark telling reporters in Dubai that Darwin, Cairns, Broome and Alice Springs are all possibilities.

Clark met with QF head Alan Joyce last week to chart the next three to five years of the carriers' alliance, and said Sydney, Melbourne and Perth are primary areas.

... No New Orders?

Clark also hinted to reporters that EK is unlikely to announce any big aircraft orders at the Dubai Airshow next month, and won't make a decision this year on whether to buy A350s or a B787s.

Clark said EK is still taking delivery of planes it ordered at the 2013 show, including 777-Xs arriving in 2018-2019, and 'that's enough for the time being'.

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HAWAIIAN
AIRLINES

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GDS Bags Commission

Air New Zealand has advised that the commission for issuing prepaid baggage EMDs is available at the time of ticketing through GDS for New Zealand agents, effective immediately. See airnzagent.co.nz/prepaid-extra-bags

Aniston For Emirates

Emirates has unveiled its new commercial starring Jennifer Aniston and the carrier is pouring millions of dollars into screening the campaign around the globe. In the short video, Aniston searches in vain for an aircraft's shower and bar before waking up in an EK private suite in first class and realising it was all just a bad dream. The digital and television campaign was created by a man famous for his Super Bowl ads and kicks off in the USA and UAE, before rolling out to other countries, including New Zealand. EK has already invested USD20 million in securing television spots worldwide for the TVC. Check it out on our Facebook page [HERE](#)

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Ireland On Track For Record Year

Tourism Ireland is celebrating the destination's best-ever Jan-Aug period for international visitors, with more than 5.8 million arrivals recorded—up 12% on the first eight months of 2014.

"Today's figures indicate that we are heading for a record year for Irish tourism in 2015, says Niall Gibbons, CEO of Tourism Ireland. Growth has been recorded from all markets, including record numbers from 'Australia and Developing Markets (ADM)', up 9% or 30,000 additional visitors.

"This was a strong performance and reflects the sentiment we are hearing from our tourism industry partners overseas, including tour operators and carriers, as well as tourism businesses here at home," says Gibbons. "We are determined to ensure that tourism growth continues."

The Sep-Dec usually brings in as much as 30% of Ireland's annual overseas tourism business, Gibbons adds.

... Kiwi Growth

The local Tourism Ireland office says visitor numbers from New Zealand have increased and will 'no doubt rise above the 25,000 mark'.

The Wild Atlantic Way (WAW), which

has only been marketed in recent years, is contributing to growth with a recent survey showing increased business for hotels in the region, says Tourism Ireland's Mary Galway. There's also been strong interest in the Giant's Causeway, Belfast City, the new Gobbins attraction and Van Morrison's recent concerts, she says. "Along the WAW and in Ireland in general there's something for everyone to participate in, be they walkers, surfers, bikers, history buffs or foodies."

Passport Kiosk Upgrade

Orlando International Airport has upgraded its automated passport control kiosks to include facial recognition for arriving passengers. Supplied by SITA, the technology is part of a new requirement from the US Customs and Border Protection. This requires that APC kiosks authenticate identity by matching people's faces to the biometric record in their e-passport; and Orlando Airport is the first to put this in place. SITA president Americas Paul Houghton says with more and more passengers arriving in the USA, the kiosks are a welcome addition to arrival areas and have helped reduce lines by as much as 40%.

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FJ's New iPad IFE

Fiji Airways will introduce iPad in-flight entertainment for its business class passengers on its B737 fleet from 01 Nov. The iPads will be loaded with 23 movies, 19 television shows and a range of music, and the selection is set to increase to offer more than 100 hours of entertainment by Mar 2016. It's part of FJ's overall upgrade of IFE content across its fleet, including more content and in-flight advertising, which will start appearing on screens early next year.

SABRE... LEADING THE WAY IN TRAVEL TECH INNOVATION

With over 10 leading products launched so far in 2015, Sabre leads the way in developing cutting edge technology to help you achieve your business goals.

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Disney Unveils Ports & Itineraries



Disney Cruise Line is set to return to popular destinations in the Caribbean and Bahamas in early 2017; and clients are able to book from tomorrow.

For the first part of the year the cruise line will continue sailing from Port Canaveral and Miami, in addition to

cruises from San Juan, Puerto Rico and Galveston, Texas. Most cruises will feature a stop at Castaway Cay, a private island reserved exclusively for Disney Cruise Line clients.

With three Disney ships in port and cruises spanning three, four and seven nights, clients have a host of options from Port Canaveral in early 2017; such as Eastern and Western Caribbean voyages, as well as cruises to Nassau and Castaway Cay.

Meanwhile, the Disney Magic will offer three-, four- and five-night voyages ex Miami to the Bahamas, plus select five-night Western Caribbean cruises, through 31 Mar. Departing 09, 16, 23 and 30 Apr, the Disney Magic will then sail seven-night cruises to the Southern Caribbean, with highlights including calls on Barbados, St. Lucia, Martinique, Antigua and St. Kitts, ex San Juan.

Finally, the Disney Wonder will complete a season in Galveston with two seven-night Bahamian voyages to Key West, Castaway Cay and Nassau on 03 and 13 Jan. From there the ship will embark on a six-night journey to San Juan on 20 Jan with stops in Cozumel, Grand Cayman and Falmouth, Jamaica. Or on 26 Jan, clients can cruise from San Juan to Port Canaveral over three-days.

New Bali Port?

Work is underway to determine whether or not an international cruise port in North Bali's Buleleng Regency at Lovina is feasible. According to *balidiscovery.com*, the Bali Transportation, Information and Communication Department is surveying the area and examining the condition of a pier to determine an outcome; with hopes the pier could be used as a jetty, if renovated.

Antarctic Expeditions

Silversea Expeditions will operate a series of voyages to Antarctica to mark the centenary of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Endurance expedition. Clients will visit iconic areas of the Antarctic and hear from historians onboard. Departures are available in Nov 2015 or Jan, Feb and Dec 2016.

Earlybird Savings

Alaskan Dream Cruises' eight-day voyages have an early booking discount of 10%, whilst nine- and 11-day voyages have a 3% discount. Francis Travel Marketing says the offers are valid to 31 Oct. E-mail reservations@ftmcruise.co.nz for full details.



Seabourn, APT Package With Cruise World

Cruise World reminds agents of the European Rivers to the Mediterranean cruise package with Seabourn and APT. The 23-night luxury rivers and ocean cruise, departing 23 Sep 2016 is priced from \$19,995pp s/t. The package includes APT's 14-night Magnificent Europe cruise from Budapest to Amsterdam; Seabourn's seven-night Seabourn Odyssey Cruise from Venice to Athens; a flight from Amsterdam to Venice; one nights' accommodation in Venice and Athens; and private return transfers between airport/hotel/cruise. Highlights include cruising the Rhine, Danube, Croatian Coast and Greek Isles. It is on sale to 01 Nov or sold out. For further details e-mail info@cruiseworld.co.nz

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Subject to Government and Regulatory approval. Flights are operated by Eastern Australia Airlines for Jetstar Airways.

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JAWS 2016 Dates

Organisers of next year's JAWS roadshow have decided to skip Auckland and Queenstown, in favour of a 'slightly shortened event focusing on the main regional centres'. Dates for the roadshow are out now, with venues and other details TBC. See industry diary for details.

New Canberra Mantra

Mantra Group has secured the leasehold for a new Mantra-branded full-service hotel to open in Canberra City late 2016.

An existing 10-level office tower in Turner will be converted to the 176-room Mantra Canberra Hotel as part of a new mixed-used precinct. It will offer a mix of 136 rooms and 40 suites.

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Animal-Friendly TravCorp Pledge

The Travel Corporation New Zealand's brands are promising to offer cruelty-free tourism products with the adoption of a new Animal Welfare Policy and Elephant-friendly Tourist Pledge.

AAT Kings, Adventure World, Contiki, Insight Vacations, Trafalgar and Uniworld have adopted the TreadRight policy, which says animals under human control should have freedom from hunger and thirst; discomfort, pain, injury, and disease; freedom to express normal behaviour; and freedom from fear and distress.

The policy will guide TTC's operations team when assessing animal-related activities, and activities that may not be in line with the policy will be phased out and replaced with those that do.

In addition, on World Animal Day (04 Oct) TTC signed the World Animal Protection Elephant-friendly Tourist



Pledge, committing that it won't sell, offer or promote venues or activities involving elephant rides and shows. The brands will offer only those with a high standard of elephant welfare and conservation, with responsible viewing of elephants in wild or semi-wild habitats, says TTC.

"As TTC and our family of brands continue on our sustainability journey, guided by The TreadRight Foundation, we recognise the importance of continually adopting new best practices and policies in the interest of helping to drive the positive transformation of the travel industry," says TTC boss and TreadRight co-founder Brett Tollman.



New A&K Manager

Abercrombie & Kent has appointed Wendy D'Arcy as its country manager for New Zealand as it looks to 're-establish a strong presence' here following 'unprecedented demand' for the destination. D'Arcy is familiar to the industry from her roles including general manager of The Travel Brokers

New Dubai Resort?

A new themed resort is set to open in Dubai, and reports suggest the project will revolve around the movie and entertainment industry. Al Ahli Holding Group chief executive Mohammed Khammas told *Arabian Business* they are currently working on plans for the resort, however, the only details revealed include that every aspect will be themed; from the workers to the resort itself.

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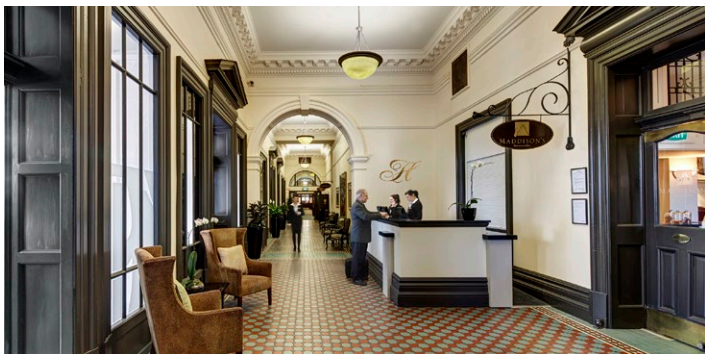
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New Winnipeg Lounge

The new Plaza Premium Lounge at Winnipeg Richardson International Airport, located in the domestic and international departures area, has opened. It is the first independent airport lounge in Winnipeg, and measures over 310 square metres, with seating for nearly 100 people. It features complimentary Wi-Fi, electrical outlets, an array of food and beverage options and more.



Peek Behind The Scenes At Heritage Christchurch

Clients visiting Christchurch can celebrate the city's heritage with a look behind the scenes at the Heritage Christchurch, set in the Old Government Building on Cathedral Square. The 102-year-old building's doors will open to the public for tours on 18 Oct, as part of the Beca Heritage Week. The 30 minute tours will be held at 1300, 1400 and 1500 and are free, however, gold coin donations are welcomed. For more, [CLICK HERE](#)

Plane Spotters: Not All Old Guys In Anoraks

London City Airport has been busy busting myths around plane spotters and says it's uncovered some surprising results.

If you pictured 'a clichéd older gentleman in an anorak with a pair of binoculars around their neck, a thermos of tea in one hand, a pocket guide to planes in the other,' you'd be wrong. A survey of 233 plane spotters has revealed it's a popular activity for the young as almost half (43%) are under the age of 25 and only 6% of retire-

ment age. Additionally, 56% revealed they have travelled abroad to spot planes; 30% of those asked have visited 21 or more airports; 35% admitted to plane spotting at least once a week; and 70% said they did it for more than three hours at a time. As for how it all started, over half (56%) said they took the hobby up as a child, and 30% got into it as a teenager.

New DoubleTree In Chile

DoubleTree by Hilton has opened its second hotel in Chile: DoubleTree by Hilton Calama in Chile's El Loa Province. Originally opening in 2010, the now converted hotel is currently undergoing a property-wide enhancement project, scheduled to be completed by Q2 2016, which will see refreshed guestrooms, public spaces, meeting rooms and other amenities. To mark the opening, Hilton HHonors members will earn 1000 points for each night's stay now through to Dec. See calama.doubletree.com

Solomons Numbers Up

International visitor numbers to the Solomon Islands increased by 14.9% to reach 1681 in May, with the growth following a 15.5% increase in Apr.

Australian arrivals contributed some 47% of all visitation followed by Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the US and New Zealand.

The Solomon Islands Visitor Bureau is attributing a strong marketing effort to the results, and says roadshows in Australia and New Zealand in May and Jun will continue the growth.

"2014 proved a tough year for the Solomon Islands—the Honiara floods in Apr followed by the prolonged Fiji-Solomon Islands air impasse had a major effect on our visitation," SIVB boss Josefa Tuamoto says.

"But it also gave us the opportunity to consolidate our position, look at where we wanted to go and start building the platform we needed to build in order to begin boosting the country's tourism fortunes. We hope to emulate the Apr/May performance in coming months, particularly in Australia and New Zealand, on the back of the road shows and supportive promotional activity."

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OCTOBER

Fez Travel Turkey Trade Event
Wellington: Wed 07, Cafe Pasha, Dixon Street, 1730.

Bula Marau Fiji Roadshow – Luxury & Couples

Nelson: Mon 12, Grand Mercure Monaco Resort, 0730-0930.

Christchurch: Mon 12, Peppers Clearwater, 1730-2130.

Wellington: Tue 13, Amora Hotel, 1730-2030.

Auckland: Wed 14, Pullman Hotel, 1730-2045.

Hamilton: Thu 15, Novotel Tainui, 1730-2030.

Small Group Journeys Breakfast – Update on Trek America, Grand American Adventures and Exodus with Adventure World

Wellington: Tue 13, James Cook Hotel, 0715-0830.

Innovative Travel Ancient Kingdoms Holidays 2016 Launch

Wellington: Mon 19, The Wellington Club, 1730.

Auckland: Tue 20, Parnell's on the Rose Garden, 1730.

Christchurch: Wed 21, Christchurch Bridge Club, 1730.

South Pacific Association of National Tourism Offices

Tauranga: Tue 20, Club Mount Maunganui, 1730.

Rotorua: Wed 21, Novotel Rotorua Lakeside 1730.

Sunshine Coast Roadshow

Auckland, Tue 27, Pullman Hotel, 1730-1930. **Hamilton**, Wed 28, Novotel Tainui, 1730-1930. **Christchurch**, Thu 29, The George, 1730-1930.

FEBRUARY 2016

JAWS Roadshow

Dunedin: Mon 29, Venues, times tba.

MARCH 2016

JAWS Roadshow

Christchurch: Tue 01,

Nelson: Wed 02,

Whangarei: Tue 08,

Napier: Mon 14,

Wellington: Tue 15,

Palmerston North: Wed 16,

New Plymouth: Thu 17,

Tauranga: Tue 22,

Hamilton: Wed 23,

Venues, times tba.

Perth Revitalisation



Perth is undergoing a rapid transformation with a number of public spaces and facilities to be revitalised, advises Perth Convention Bureau.

The Elizabeth Quay precinct will cover nearly 10 hectares and will feature landscaped terraces, boardwalks and promenades, fringed by shops, cafes, restaurants and more. Meanwhile, the Perth City Link is set to reconnect the city centre with Northbridge

for the first time in over 100 years; Scarborough is set to undergo a 'major revitalisation to help the popular tourist area fulfil its enormous potential as one of Australia's best beachfront destinations'; and Perth's Chinatown is being brought back to its former glory, just to name a few. To watch a video showcasing the various new hotel and infrastructure developments, [CLICK HERE](#)

VA Makes Music

Virgin Australia has signed a three-year partnership with the Australian Chamber Orchestra which will see it continue as principal partner of the ACO.

TAM's First A350 XWB

TAM Airlines will become the first airline from the Americas to fly the A350 XWB and the fourth operator in the world. Its first A350 XWB rolled out of the Airbus paint shop in Toulouse recently, revealing the aircraft in its signature red, white and blue livery. The aircraft will continue through the next stages of production, including the installation of engines, completion of cabin furnishing and cockpit fitting, before starting ground and flight tests. The aircraft is scheduled for delivery to TAM Airlines in Dec, with flights between Sao Paulo and Manaus, followed by international operations between Sao Paulo and Miami, and Sao Paulo and Madrid expected to begin Jan 2016.

Westin Excelsior Sells

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide has agreed to sell The Westin Excelsior Rome to Katara Hospitality for over USD394 million. As part of the deal the historic hotel will be renovated in the next five years, including a top-to-bottom transformation of all guestrooms. CEO of Starwood on an interim basis, Adam Aron, said Starwood has now exceeded its goal of completing over USD1.25 billion asset sales in 2015. "...the sale of the Westin Excelsior Rome brings us to [over USD1.28 billion] of hotel assets sold so far this year," Aron said.



Exotic Adds Iran

Iran's popularity is likely to soar following the lifting of economic sanctions, says Exotic Holidays, which has released a new programme for the destination.

Tourism numbers are expected to reach as high as 20 million a year, as visitors flock to see the country's 19 World Heritage Sites, diverse landscape, and a young and welcoming population (two-thirds of Iran's people are under 25, says Exotic). "It is a very affordable country to travel in and the people are genuinely hospitable and welcoming," says Exotic's Rahul Sharma.

Exotic has nine tours available ranging from an eight-day Triangle Tour, priced from \$4480pp, to a 21-day Explore Iran, from \$9934pp.

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