

TABS ON TRAVEL TODAY

Incorporating Tabs on Travel

Thursday 23 June 2016

Issue 3335

7am every weekday Wellington to Auckland ✈️

Jetstar

HLO Surprisingly Coy On New Stores

helloworld New Zealand has confirmed it has signed two new stores and while the group is keeping mum on its further expansion plans, *Travel Today* understands it is already in advanced discussion with several other franchisees.

helloworld (HLO) opened a new store in Petone earlier this month and has today confirmed that World Travellers Orewa, north of Auckland will be its first store to move from an existing retail group to the helloworld branded network.

"We have been somewhat forced to act given the level of interest in our new brand," says helloworld supply partnerships head Andrew Harrison.

"There are more in the pipeline. Our marketing strategy has generated far more enquiry than we expected

and we are well short of stores to handle these levels effectively."

Harrison says the Orewa location 'was an excellent fit given our lack of blue in the area' but also because the chain had noted a disproportionate number of customers and enquiry coming from the catchment area.

... Future Plans?

When asked about further HLO retail store growth plans both Harrison and HLO New Zealand boss Simon McKearney were coy on the actual details.

"We have a pretty clear plan on what we want to achieve and our marketing has been going exceptionally well even without the full complement of people on board," says McKearney. "We need more stores to achieve our ultimate objective of servicing the customers that are walking through our franchisees' doors."

However, McKearney declined to comment further on just where those stores will be, or how many it is planning to open.

Peru Strike Off

The strike that was planned for this Wed in Arequipa, Puno, Cusco and Ica, among other cities in the southern region of Peru, has been cancelled, advises Viva Expeditions. All tours are operating as normal, says the company.

Michelin Food Poisoning

A popular Michelin-starred restaurant in Japan has closed temporarily after 14 people got food poisoning. Located among the trees of Kamakura, Kita Kamakura Saryo Gentoan serves the likes of squid, eel, jelly with sea urchin and pumpkin cooked with fish and is well-known for serving meals in quiet Japanese-style rooms, reports AAP. The cause of the food poisoning remains under investigation.

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End Of Cheap EU Travel?

With Britain about to vote on whether it wants to stay a part of the European Union, some sources have claimed that any exit from the EU could lead to the end of cheap travel in the region.

The entry of low-cost airlines has seen an increase in flights between the UK and Europe, while fares have fallen by as much as 40%, according to some carriers. The LCCs have flourished due to treaties allowing a single aviation area across Europe, and the Brexit could see the end of that, according to some reports. Access to the market would depend on the UK securing entry to the European Common Aviation Area.

Quietest Seat In The Sky

Clients looking for the quietest place to sit when flying should aim for the front of a cabin, forward of the wings, according to a JetBlue pilot. The pilot told reporters that sitting in front of the wing is like being behind a speaker, where 'all of the sounds of the engine and disturbed air are projected away from you', resulting in less noise. However, other experts have said travellers should choose an aisle seat to avoid loud engine noise.

Fiji 72-Hr Stopovers

Fiji Airways has welcomed the news that the Fijian Government plans to waive the departure tax for stopovers of less than 72 hours, as announced in its 2016/17 Budget.

The change means FJ will be able to offer Fiji plus another destination without any extra cost to the customer, meaning two destinations for the price of one, says FJ's regional general manager for New Zealand Mohan Chandra. "We also expect a lot of people taking a break before continuing their journey because we will be competitive in the market," he says. The move is likely to appeal to both business and leisure travellers, adds FJ executive gm corporate Shaenz Voss. "Business travellers can combine business with leisure on trips between Australia or New Zealand and the US with a stopover in Fiji," says Voss. "Holiday-makers can plan for dual destination vacations. It really positions Fiji as a travel and transit hub."

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QANTAS



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Driveaway Competition

DriveAway Holidays is giving New Zealand agents the chance to win iPads and Fitbits in a new promotion running until 31 Aug. Agents receive an entry into the iPad competition for every booking of a DriveAway product, with the three top-selling agents winning the prizes. There's also five Fitbits up for grabs for agents who submit the best road trip or driving picture to promotions@driveaway.co.nz

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Surprise As NZ Defers Philippines

Industry sources have expressed their surprise at Air New Zealand's decision to defer the launch of its direct flights to Manila until further notice—although they say they understand the carrier's rationale.

NZ announced this morning that it's decided to defer its Philippines service 'until further notice', and cited administrative delays in being able to make the new route available for sale, coupled with the traditionally longer booking window for the market.

"It's not a major blow to us, but it was unexpected," says one industry airfares expert. "I guess the official

line is because they can't get the paperwork done, and if they can't sell travel in Dec, which is the highest VFR selling period, then it makes sense to defer the launch."

But at the same time others are wondering when and if NZ's Manila flights will take off.

"When NZ announced the proposed services they had the aircraft available, fuel was cheap and it worked; I guess time will only tell—but it could be a case of if not when these services launch."

VS Chauffeurs

It's now easier to book clients' complimentary chauffeur transfers in London for clients travelling in Virgin Atlantic Upper Class, says World Aviation. A new VS online booking tool makes it quicker and easier to make and manage bookings, and allows time/location changes, or cancellations, any time between 330 days and 12 hours prior to departure. Cars are no longer bookable by adding an OSI to the PNR, adds World Aviation.

Five-Star EVA

Skytrax has awarded EVA Air its five-star airline ranking during a special ceremony in Taiwan, says the carrier. The five-star ranking is Skytrax's highest global quality rating, and the result of analysis of as many as 800 different areas of EVA's product and service delivery.

FJ To Honolulu

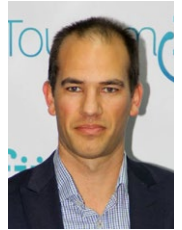
Fiji Airways has flights to Honolulu on sale starting from \$799 ex Auckland, \$929 ex Wellington and \$786 ex Christchurch, for sales to 06 Jul. Connections don't work one way ex WLG, so clients may need to stop over in Fiji, notes FJ. Book T Class. Some blackouts apply, see GDS for details.

Tourism Fiji's New Boss

Tourism Fiji's new chief executive brings 'unique experiences and perspectives' through his previous engagements as a tourism consultant, including consulting on the Fiji Tourism Development Plan 2014-2020, says the NTO.

Mathew Stoeckel was announced earlier this week as the new chief executive for Tourism Fiji—a role that has been vacant since the departure of Rick Hamilton in 2014, although there have been acting chief executives in this time.

"We look forward to Mr Stoeckel's contribution to the growth of tourism in Fiji and in particular, to strengthen Tourism Fiji in its role of destination branding and tourism awareness to generate visitor arrivals, increase length of stay and increase earnings for Fiji's leading industry," says Tourism Minister Faiyaz Siddiq Koya.



QF Aussie Fares

Qantas has one-way fares to Brisbane from \$199 and Cairns, Hamilton Island or Townsville from \$299 on sale until 01 Jul. Fares are available in the GDS or see qantas.co.nz/agents

Local Tourism Rise

International tourism to New Zealand's steady rise has continued through the month of May, with recent figures showing year-end international visitor growth of 10.6% compared to the previous 12 months. Holiday arrivals also grew 15.6% in the 12 months to May 2016, with all of Tourism New Zealand's priorities top six markets showing holiday growth of 9.1% (Australia) to 31.4% from China. Tourism New Zealand's Kevin Bowler has welcomed the figures and says there is still 'plenty of room for more visitors'.

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Chimu Charters Five Antarctic Cruises



Chimu Adventures has chartered five Antarctica cruises in a bid to raise money for charity; and says it's the only company in New Zealand with this kind of offering.

Chimu's Rachel Williams says they host these cruises each year, using well-known personalities to add an 'interesting flavour to the journey', while berth sales are donated to chosen charities. She adds that the exclusive journeys are tailored towards those who wish to travel as part of a group, and that while they aren't entirely group tours, everything is organised by the company, making it hassle-free.

On offer this year is the 12-day Pure Antarctica cruise, which will raise funds for Chimu's own MAD Project, which helps to fund a number of initiatives throughout Latin America. Special guests Andrew Denton and Jennifer Byrne are set to join this journey, sharing their passion and Antarctic knowledge. It departs 04 Feb 2017 and is priced from USD9995.

And raising money for the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, clients can join Samuel Johnson from *Love Your Sister* on the 10-day Epic Antarc-

tica trip. Onboard the M/V Ushuaia, the cruise departs 17 Mar 2017, is priced from USD6450 and clients will also have the chance to watch, or join, Samuel as he does a polar plunge in honour of his sick sister Connie.

For clients looking for a budget option, the 10-day Images of Antarctica itinerary, exploring the Antarctic Peninsula and its wildlife and pristine landscapes, is priced from USD4950, 'at possibly the best price in the market'. It departs 01 Nov 2017.

In 2018, there's an 11-day Discover the Frozen Frontier cruise on offer, also supporting the MAD Project, and will host author Peter Fitzsimons. Departing 24 Feb 2018, it is priced from USD8495, with an early booking of 10% off select cabins available; while an 18-day Shackleton's Antarctica journey will trail in the wake of Sir Ernest Shackleton and explore the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. A portion of the profits of this voyage will directly benefit the Mawsons Huts Foundation. It's set to depart 05 Mar 2018 and is priced from USD12,995 also with a 10% earlybird discount available. Chimu has full details.

Astronauts On Serenity

Popular NASA astronauts and twins Scott and Mark Kelly will host live lectures and Q&A sessions onboard Crystal Serenity's 26 Jun sailing from Anchorage to Vancouver. Scott recently spent 340 consecutive days in space, earning the coveted position as America's first year-round astronaut, while Mark served on the ground as a control model in an experiment to understand how space affects the human body. The sailing visits Sitka, Juneau, Skagway and Ketchikan with fares starting at USD3175pp.

25% Off Xmas In Jul

Captain Cook Cruises is offering 25% off selected three-, four- and seven-night Christmas cruises in Jul. Onboard the newly refurbished PS Murray Princess clients will enjoy a range of Christmas-themed activities and games, music, egg nog and of course, a visit from Santa with presents. Prices for the three-night cruise start from AUD694.50pp, AUD949.50pp for four nights and from AUD1416pp for the seven-night option. Select departure dates apply.

P&O Record Season

P&O Cruises' biggest New Zealand season has come to a close, with Pacific Pearl setting sail for Sydney today, following her five-month Auckland deployment, carrying more than 34,000 passengers on 20 cruises.

To mark her transition back to Australia, Pearl's four-day cruise will feature a range of Kiwi versus Aussie battles, such as jandal-throwing, touch rugby and a Marmite versus Vegemite bake-off.

Pearl will return to Auckland for its final two-month season in Feb, before being replaced by Pacific Jewel from Sep-Oct.

Uniworld Golf Excursions

Uniworld is adding new golf excursions to its 2017 Paris and Normandy itinerary, giving guests access to two of Europe's most renowned courses: Golf de Rouen Mont-Saint-Aignan in Rouen and Golf d'Etretat which overlooks the coastline of Etretat. The Go Active golf programme will ensure all golf equipment is available onboard.



Panama Canal Expansion Opens Soon

The newly expanded Panama Canal will officially open 26 Jun, following a USD5.25 million, nine-year project. The expansion has seen the introduction of a third, additional lane of traffic, which will allow bigger ships to traverse the stretch, in turn, doubling capacity.

The Timeless Nile



Aswan to Cairo | Aboard SS Misr | Sailing 29 April 2017
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Includes: Airport transfers, meals onboard, all excursions and entrance fees as described in itinerary, English speaking guide and cruise director throughout.

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Francis Travel Marketing on 09 4442298 | reservations@ftmcruise.co.nz



Disney Dessert Party

Disney's California Adventure Park has a new World of Color evening option where guests can book a place at a dessert party with views of the World of Color—Celebrate show. The Dessert Party is available at Paradise Park and guests are seated at high-top tables and offered a sweet and savoury selection of desserts including dulce de leche-filled cookies, Mickey coconut macaroons, fruit and cheese. There's also sparkling wine for the grown-ups. The party costs US-D79pp, including gratuity. Make reservations at disneyland.com/dine

**Industry
Diary**

JUNE

Tourism Philippines 'More fun in the Philippines' Roadshow
Christchurch: Thu 23, Rakaia/Crossings Lounge Novotel, 1800.

Globus family of brands, Rocky Mountaineer 2017 "The Americas" Season

Auckland, Central: Mon 27, Novotel Hotel, 1745.

Auckland, North: Tue 28, Takapuna Boating Club, 1745.

Wellington: Tue 28, Lone Star Café, 1745. **Nelson:** Wed 29, Lone Star Café 1745. **Blenheim:** Thu 30, Ten Pin Bowling, 1745.

Spain Leisure Product Update
Auckland: Mon 27, Rydges Hotel (Hobson Room), 1730-2000.

JULY

Globus family of brands, Rocky Mountaineer, 2017 "The Americas" Season

Invercargill: Mon 04, Kelvin Hotel, 1745.

Dunedin: Tue 05, Lone Star Café, 1745.

Christchurch: Wed 06, Lone Star Café, 1745.

Hamilton: Mon 18, Hamilton Gardens Café, 1745.

Tauranga: Tue 19, Macau, 1745. **Napier:** The Crown Hotel, 1745.

Hong Kong Airlines "Fresh + very Hong Kong" Agent seminars

Auckland Central: Tue 05, Novotel Hotel Ellerslie, 1800.

Auckland North: Wed 06, Spencer on Byron Takapuna, 1800.

For more see Monday's
TRAVEL TODAY

Universal's New Water Park



Universal Orlando Resort has unveiled plans for its new 28 acre water theme park, Universal's Volcano Bay, set to open next year—and it's promising an end to waiting in queues.

The park is described as an 'entirely new kind of water theme park experience' and Universal says families 'won't have to stand in long lines or wrestle with tubes before diving into the unique attractions'.

"Volcano Bay will redefine the queue experience so guests can focus entirely on having fun and spending time together," promises Universal—although there's no details yet on just how the park will achieve that.

The park will feature 18 attractions

in four themed areas, including a multi-directional wave pool with sandy beaches, winding river, twisting multi-rider raft rides, speeding body slides that drop from the top of the volcano into the waters below, and a marquee attraction to be revealed at a later date.

Universal Orlando will soon introduce a new three-ark Explorer ticket so guests can plan to experience Volcano Bay for travel dates from 01 Jun 2017. See universalorlando.com

IPW To Washington DC

Destination DC has revealed some of its plans for next year's IPW, which will be held in the city for the first time 03-07 Jun. Washington DC will welcome 6000 delegates from 70 countries, including New Zealand, for the show, and some of the city's top attractions will host events throughout IPW. Washington DC expects to receive an extra one million visitors in the three years following the show.



MythBusters On Show

Clients can uncover the truth behind popular myths in Space Center Houston's new summer exhibit, *MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition*, running until 05 Sep. As seen in the TV series *MythBusters*, the exhibition creates hands-on, interactive experiences for guests of all ages by combining scientific facts with family-friendly displays. Clients will be able to participate in experiences and live-demonstrations. See spacecenter.org/visitor for more.



Stones Exhibit To NYC

The Rolling Stones' first major exhibition, *Exhibitionism*, will make its North American debut in New York City this Nov after drawing huge crowds at its London showing.

Exhibitionism marks the first time the band has unlocked its private archive for the public, and tells the story of the Stones from their early days in a tiny flat through to headlining massive concerts. It features more than 500 items including instruments, clothes, works of art, handwritten lyric books and personal diaries, recordings, unseen film and interactive recording studio.

"It's not going to be like walking into a museum. It's going to be an event, an experience. It's about a sense of The Rolling Stones—it's something we want people to go away talking about it," says lead singer Mick Jagger. *Exhibitionism* will be held in the Industria Superstudio in the West Village. Tickets go on sale in Sep, register at stonesexhibitionism.com



Live Music At Coney Island

A new open air music venue is set to open at Coney Island New York later this month. The venue will host a full summer series of live music, comedy shows and family entertainment, in a 5000-seat covered open-air arena. The line-up includes Sting and Peter Gabriel (03 Jul), The Beach Boys (04 Jul) and Willie Nelson (13 Sep). Tickets are on sale now. The venue, which incorporates the landmark Childs Restaurant building, will also be the new home of the free Seaside Summer Concert Series. See coneyislandlive.com

Pullman Sydney Airport Now Open

Dubbed 'Sydney's newest business playground', the Pullman Sydney Airport has officially opened, becoming the first internationally branded five-star new-build hotel to service Sydney Airport.

The 229-room luxury hotel located on O'Riordan St, Mascot is expected to be popular with both business and leisure travellers due to its five-star offering and location (600m from the domestic airport terminal and 3km from the international airport), says Accor.

"Our ambition is to be known as a welcoming sanctuary for business and leisure guests, away from the hustle and bustle of the airport, a space where travellers can be both productive and relaxed, without be-



ing too far from the convenience of a major international transport hub," says airport gm Bernie Boller.

The hotel is perfect for business travellers, says Accor, with three meeting and conference rooms that can combine to form a large venue and a private boardroom with video conferencing. There's also the signature Executive Club Lounge where clients can work remotely or enjoy evening canapés and beverages with colleagues. The lounge also caters to those in transit, with shower facilities and flight information.

... Launch Deals

The hotel is offering an opening special of AUD229pn including Wi-Fi, for bookings to 30 Jun and travel to 01 Dec.

Mercure AKL's New Deck

Mercure Auckland has a new event space located on the second floor. Affectionately known as The Deck, the outdoor space can cater for up to 80 guests for cocktails and is a 'fantastic complement' to the six conference and event spaces at the hotel, says AccorHotels.

The property is well into its progressive multimillion-dollar refurbishment and has completed accommodation on five floors, including new Superior Rooms and three new elevators.

Amadeus Duty Of Care

Amadeus has launched a new Mobile Messenger tool it says enables TMCs and employers to better manage and comply with duty of care obligations for employees, in the wake of new health and safety legislation.

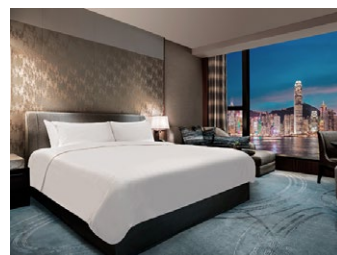
With the workplace now defined as anywhere employees are located and carrying out their work duties, Duty of Care obligations are extended to travelling employees. Amadeus says its Mobile Messenger tool enables employers to locate, communicate with and assist staff.

APX, which was the first TMC in Australasia to run Mobile Messenger, says it's 'our most powerful tool yet to give organisations the means to ensure their employees are well informed of travel risks when travelling for work'.

Amadeus has also launched a discussion paper called *Taking Care of Business: Building a confident, secure employee travel program*. See amadeus.com

Whisky At Amsterdam

Passengers travelling through Lounge 2 at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol will now be welcomed into Europe's first Johnnie Walker House, where they can sample some of the world's top Scotch Whiskies in a private bar while waiting for their flight. Travellers will be taken on a 'multi-sensory journey' by whisky ambassadors, and can buy rare whisky to take home.



Shangri-La Hong Kong

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts has announced plans to open its fourth hotel in Hong Kong, under its Kerry brand. The 545-room, 16-storey Kerry Hotel, Hong Kong is scheduled to open in Dec at Hung Hom Bay on the Kowloon waterfront. More than 60% of guestrooms will feature harbour views, with sizes ranging from 42m² to the 294m² rooftop suite. It will offer five restaurants and bars, and extensive meeting and event facilities including 17 flexible meeting venues and a Club Lounge. The hotel will start taking reservations from Sep.

Waikato Winter Deals

Novotel and Ibis Tainui Hamilton have a winter special with day delegate rates priced from \$49pp, and delegate accommodation starting at \$109. The hotels are located in the Hamilton CBD and adjacent to the Waikato River. The rates are valid for Jul and Aug 2016, subject to availability.

GOT
BUSINESS NEWS?
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EVERY THURSDAY

Manage Your Meals

Many organisations are spending more on business dining largely because employees are travelling more, but it's one of the most undermanaged areas of the corporate expense budget, according to a new study by Dinova. More than half of respondents to the study said they have yet to focus on dining spend as an area of savings significance, and many companies are missing opportunities to save on dining expenses, says the company.


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Fly smarter for business

Affordable, flexible fare options





Disney · PIXAR
**FINDING
DORY**

In Cinemas 23 June

She's back! Colour in Dory and her friends to win.

Qantas is excited to be partnering with The Walt Disney Company for the launch of Disney·Pixar's Finding Dory, the latest film that welcomes everyone's favourite and forgetful blue tang Dory back to the big screen.

To celebrate the release of Finding Dory, in cinemas now, we are giving away 50 double passes to the movie and a chance for one lucky family to win return flights for four to Queensland.

For full details and to download the Finding Dory colouring competition, visit qantas.co.nz/agents.



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