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Tuesday 20 September 2016

Issue 3398

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IATA: People Still Want To Travel

Global passenger traffic demand for Jul showed growth over the previous five months, largely thanks to lower fares and shows people want to travel despite lingering impacts from terror attacks and a fragile economic backdrop, says IATA.

“Jul saw demand strengthen, after a softening in Jun. Demand was stimulated by lower fares, which, in turn were supported by lower oil prices. And near record high load factors demonstrate that people want to travel. But, there are some important sub-plots to the narrative of strong

demand,” says IATA boss Alexandre de Juniac. “Long-haul travel to Europe, for example, suffered in the aftermath of a spate of terrorist attacks.”

Total demand rose 5.9%, year-on-year, with all regions reporting growth. Monthly capacity rose 6% and average loads were 83.7%, just 0.1 percentage point below the record Jul high achieved in 2015.

IATA says Jul international passenger demand rose 7.1% on Jul 2015, which was an increase over the 5% yearly increase in Jun. Airlines in all regions recorded growth; with total capacity climbing 7.3%, causing load factors to slip 0.2 percentage points to 83.5%. In particular for Asia-Pacific airlines, traffic rose 9.8%; capacity increased 8.6% and load factor climbed 0.9 percentage points to 81.7%.

De Juniac adds that while passenger demand has broadly grown in line with the average of the past 10 years, the industry faces some potential headwinds. “The environment in which aviation operates is dynamic—even volatile,” he says. “Speed is of the essence. As an industry we must be prepared for rapid innovation in order to manage shocks and take advantage of opportunities as they arise.”

Man’s 18-day SIN Stay

A man who spent 18 days living in executive lounges at Singapore Airport by creating fake boarding passes has reportedly been sent to jail.

The Malaysian man is said to have missed his flight and then spent the next 18 days sleeping on chairs, eating in the lounges and using their showers. He apparently downloaded images of mobile boarding passes and used software on his laptop to add his name.

Global Security Call

UK Prime Minister Theresa May is set to promote a resolution for proper bag checks and a ban on liquids at airports around the world during her trip to the United Nations in New York, say reports.

The resolution would mean countries across the globe would be encouraged to provide the same, high levels of security.

At the same time, the reports say all countries would be encouraged to enforce the rules of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

The British PM is also proposing that richer countries would help meet the cost of the border security improvements in developing countries.

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Airport Tower Unmanned

Two flights into Palmerston North on Mon evening reportedly had to be cancelled as the city's airport tower went unmanned for a few hours, after staff called in sick. Airways told stuff.co.nz that it was an unusual event and apologised for the inconvenience caused.

QF Aussie Fares

Qantas has one-way Australia fares from \$189 in economy and \$599 in business class, valid for sales and ticketing until midnight 21 Sep. See qantas.co.nz/agents for details.

Nigeria's Fuel Problems

Nigeria's Arik Air cancelled services for one day last week, standing thousands of passengers, reportedly due to delayed insurance paperwork. However, Nigeria has suffered frequent flight delays and cancellations this year, due to shortages of aviation fuel, which has reportedly doubled in price this year. Two international airlines have stopped flying to Nigeria, and others are using smaller planes, as a result of the increased prices, say reports.

US-made A321 For Spirit

Spirit Airlines has received its first US-made A321 aircraft from the Airbus manufacturing plant in Mobile, Alabama.

QF Nth America Fares

Qantas has short-life fares ex Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington to North America, starting from \$649 one-way or \$1290 return. The fares are for sales to 26 Sep and conditions apply. See the GDS or qantas.co.nz/agents for details.

WLG, IVC, ZQN Win Airport Awards

Wellington, Invercargill and Queenstown Airports have won the top awards at the New Zealand Airports Conference, recognising recent redevelopments and ZQN's mission to introduce after-dark flights.

WLG was named Major Airport of the Year in the awards, thanks to 'impressive progress with its redevelopment of the terminal campus'. Its Terminal South extension has created an enhanced passenger experience, and it's expanding its infrastructure to keep pace with demand, investing in additional parking structures and aircraft stands, says award sponsor Beca.

IVC was named Regional Airport of the Year for the transformation of its Terminal Building following five years of planning, design and construction, which has 'lifted the spirits of those working at and passing through the airport', say judges. Meanwhile the Project of the Year prize went to ZQN for a 'truly collaborative effort between client, airline

stakeholders, consultant and contractors to enable the introduction of after-dark flights'.

Wanganui's Allan MacGibbon was named Airport Personality of the Year in recognition of his commitment to New Zealand's airports and Wanganui. "He has ably and vocally represented the interests of the regional airports and regional economies in New Zealand and has been instrumental in agreeing service levels with Airways New Zealand," said judges.

NZ 48-hour Sale

Air New Zealand reminds agents that its 48-hour Aussie fares sale ends at midnight tonight. Levels are priced from \$169 Seat+Bag ow; and business fares are from \$599 ow. See the GDS for details.

New Canada Flights

Aeromexico plans to increase flights to Canada, following Canada's recent announcement to drop visa requirements for Mexicans. The routes, which serve Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver using the carrier's 16-seat Boeing 737-800, are scheduled to begin 01 Dec.

MEL Occupancy Flat

A flat year-over-year performance from Melbourne is reported in STR's preliminary Aug data for the Victorian capital. Daily data from the eighth month shows an increase in supply and demand of +2.7% with flat occupancy at 82.9%. A 0.1% decrease in ADR to AUD178.20 and flat RevPAR at AUD147.72 rounded out the gloomy news. However, Sat nights during Aug saw ADR growth, which falls more in line with the overall trend in 2016, noted the supply and demand data specialist. But a lack of weekday ADR growth subdued gains for the market despite solid occupancy, said STR.

Industry Talent Show

Royal Caribbean is hosting the New Zealand Travel has Talent grand final on 30 Sep, and is asking agents who are keen to attend to register their interest.

The evening will include an industry talent show, dinner and drinks, guest appearances, and an after party with a live band. A maximum of three people can be accepted per agency. For details, see p7

MH To LON From \$1483

Malaysia Airlines has released inclusive fares to London from \$1483 economy or from \$5419 business, ex Auckland, for sales to 30 Sep and travel 01 Apr 2017-31 Jul 2017.

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UA Thanks Trade As It Goes Daily

United Airlines is reporting solid business from the New Zealand market as the carrier gets set to move to a daily service between Auckland and San Francisco.

"We are really pleased with the level of support we've had since our launch from the travel trade throughout New Zealand," says Julie Reid, UA's director of sales Australia and New Zealand. "Our focus continues to be to work with our travel partners and to be easy to do business with." UA will move from a thrice times

weekly service to daily from 30 Oct, as announced earlier this year.

"We have increased our frequency to offer daily flights between Auckland and San Francisco to meet strong demand during the peak New Zealand summer season," says Reid. "With this daily service, we want to make it as easy as possible for Kiwis to visit more of the US, more often."

... Connections

UA reminds agents that clients will have more than 44 destinations accessible via its SFO hub with a single stop. This includes being able to leave Auckland in the afternoon and arrive in New York in time for dinner on the same day, says the carrier.

"Kiwis are becoming increasingly adventurous when it comes to exploring the US and are looking well beyond the traditional gateways for more authentic US travel experiences," adds Reid. "With almost 300,000 New Zealanders visiting the US last year, we're seeing a growing demand from Kiwis to connect onwards to a growing range of destinations throughout our domestic network."



Brochure Bags

Adventure World has unveiled the first in its series of limited edition brochure bags, which will be sent out to agents with its new brochures. Each of the bags is themed to relate to the corresponding brochure destination; with the first utilising Masai fabric for its 2017/18 Africa brochure. Out next will be its Asia brochure and bag.

Half Price Antarctica

Quark is offering 50% off six of its Antarctic expeditions, with 16 departure dates to choose from, Viva Expeditions has advised. The deal is available for sales until 1200 on 23 Sep, and includes nine departures of the Antarctic Explorer; one Crossing the Circle; two departures each of the Antarctic Express Cruise South, Fly North, and the Fly South, Cruise North; the 15 Nov departure of the Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica: Explorers and Kings; and the 09 Feb departure of the South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula. Viva has details.



MEL Cup With Cpt Cook

Captain Cook Cruises has a Melbourne Cup Lunch cruise 02 Nov, offering views of Sydney Harbour from the Sydney 2000; while a large screen broadcasts the live action. Earlybird prices start at AUD109pp, including a three-course menu and welcome drink. There's prizes up for grabs including best dressed, lucky door and sweeps. The cruise departs 1200 from No.1 King St Wharf Darling Harbour and returns at 1545. See captaincook.com.au

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Tassie Bird Festival

Tasmania's Bruny Island Bird Festival (14-17 Oct) celebrates Bruny's birds, habitats and landscapes. From bird-watchers to novices, there's events for everyone, say organisers. Guests can join bird-watching tours, and walks in forests, on beaches and onto properties not normally open to the public. See brunybirdfestival.org.au



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Emerald Ireland Kiwi Winner

YOU Travel Timaru's Selese Rowe has recently returned from the Ireland Specialists Mega Fam trip with the title of Emerald Ireland Specialist 2016, after completing a range of challenges during the trip.

The challenges included the likes of creating a 45-second video about an attraction to sell it to clients; taking part in a film and TV locations quiz; and completing a series of photo challenges as part of a treasure hunt. Overall, Rowe says she already can't wait to go back to Ireland, largely thanks to the friendly locals. She adds that Dublin is a 'must visit' on any Ireland itinerary, and suggests



clients visit Trinity College, Temple Bar and the Guinness Storehouse; while Belfast is also a highlight, she says, and easily accessible on foot. She recommends clients visit the Titanic Museum. And for those

visiting Northern Ireland, Rowe says a stay in Londonderry is a must, as is the Giant's Causeway. Rowe is pictured pouring a pint of Guinness at Dublin's Guinness Storehouse, and giving hurling a try.

Oz Zoo Holiday Fun

Australia Zoo has a number of initiatives planned for the upcoming school holidays 17 Sep-02 Oct. It will have a major prize draw, where guests can try their luck by entering on the iPads near its Croc Lair shop, with the chance to win a range of prizes, including a trampoline, with admission open from 0900-1700 daily. There will be free painting at admission from 0900-1100 every weekend; a free colouring competition; pony rides on offer; and a chance to meet Bindi and the Jungle Girls 02 Oct. Another highlight is set to be its Robert's Treasure Hunt, where kids and adults alike will be able to solve hidden clues through a looking glass to uncover a prehistoric animal. The stops will tour the zoo with animals acting as their guides. See australiazoo.com.au

Fiji's New Playground



Outrigger Fiji Beach Resort has opened a new playground for children in a FJD50,000 investment that it says highlights its continued commitment to providing memorable holiday experiences for children.

The play equipment includes slides, lookouts, monkey bars and a flying fox. The resort offers an extensive Meimei Nanny Service for infants from six months as well as a Kids Club program, Little Riggers for three to seven year olds and Beach Riggers for eight-12 years.

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SCULPTURE BY THE SEA
20 Oct – 6 Nov 2016
 The world's largest annual free-to-the-public outdoor sculpture exhibition, is celebrating 20 years. See the spectacular Bondi to Tamarama coastal walk transformed into a two kilometre long temporary sculpture park featuring over 100 sculptures.
Bondi to Tamarama Coastal Walk

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE – THE OPERA (THE EIGHTH WONDER)
28 – 29 Oct and 3 – 5 Nov 2016
 The story of the construction of the Sydney Opera House doesn't shy away from drama, with more twists and turns than most operas. See the building's steps transformed into an opera stage for the first time.
Sydney Opera House Forecourt

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL ART SERIES – Nude: Art from the Tate Collection
5 Nov 2016 – 19 Feb 2017
 Explore the nude through 200 years of paintings, sculptures, photographs and prints by renowned artists such as Auguste Rodin, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse and Louise Bourgeois.
Art Gallery of NSW

HANDA OPERA ON SYDNEY HARBOUR – CARMEN
24 Mar – 23 Apr 2017
 A harbourside setting with an unrivalled view of the Sydney skyline with bars, restaurants, outdoor seating, a monumental set, eye-catching costumes, dance and fireworks – a night to remember.
Mrs Macquaries Point, Sydney

ARSENAL FC IN SYDNEY
13 & 15 July 2017
 English Premier League powerhouse Arsenal is heading to Sydney in July 2017 to play back-to-back matches against Sydney FC and Western Sydney Wanderers at ANZ Stadium.
ANZ Stadium, Sydney Olympic Park



If it's on in Sydney, it's on sydney.com/nz



Please note that events are subject to change or cancellation (check relevant website for further details prior to the event). Destination NSW acknowledges and appreciates all photographic images supplied by each event owner for use in this advertisement. Photo Credit: Sydney International Art Series: Auguste Rodin The Kiss (Le Baiser) 1901-04. Tate; Purchased with assistance from the Art Fund and public contributions 1953. Image © Tate London, 2015. Benjamin Storch, undulation, Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi 2015. Photo Jessica Wyld.



India Botanical Tour

Exotic Holidays is hosting an Eastern Himalayas Botanical Tour, escorted by Kiwi writer and photographer Liz Light. The 18-day tour, aimed at nature lovers, flora and fauna enthusiasts and walkers, departs Auckland on 26 Mar and visits Darjeeling and Sikkim. It's a small group tour with a maximum of 14 people, and is selling fast with only a few places left, says Exotic. It's priced from \$8150pp t/s or \$10,460 single, including return flights from Auckland. Exotic has details.

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Europe Still Main Focus For Kiwis



Consumer travel interest in Europe remains high, with compelling airfare offers said to be helping convert interest into bookings, says one operator.

The Travel Corporation's (TTC) new united brand front was on display at last weekend's Flight Centre travel expo with its new multi-brand sales team promoting the full suite of TTC guided holidays and river cruises.

"Europe was definitely the main focus of enquiry. With the cheap airfares and the TTC flight credit deal it makes Europe extremely compelling for 2017 travel," says Tony Laskey, TTC's director of marketing and communications. "What we are seeing is the pent up demand from those that didn't travel to Europe in 2016 and those that were always planning to travel in 2017."

Laskey says the sale team noted enquiries from consumers who'd travelled on TTC brands before (such as Trafalgar or Insight) and were now looking at other options within the TTC family such as Uniworld and AAT Kings.

"Many of our previous guests hadn't realised that the associated sister companies were part of the family of brands, so the expo stand really helped to cement the connection."

In terms of trends, Laskey says the Adriatic continues to be a 'hot' destination with Kiwi travellers—along with strong enquiry for destinations such as Ireland, Italy and Scandinavia. "For many Kiwis though, they are keen to get a taste of multiple destinations so our discovery (multi-country) trips are still incredibly popular," he adds.

As well as AAT Kings, Contiki, Insight Vacations, Trafalgar and Uniworld, the expo display introduced consumers to Trafalgar's sister brand CostSaver and Insight Vacations' sister brand Luxury Gold, adds Laskey.

... Agents To Benefit

Trafalgar, Contiki and Insight Vacations are offering flight credits of up to \$1800pp on qualifying holidays—and Laskey says the initiative also gives its trade partners 'the chance to secure 2017 Europe sales now and benefit from commissions and incentives they have with us and the partner airlines'.

The flight credit amount depends on the trip price, and range from \$800pp to \$1800pp on Emirates or Singapore Airlines flights only. Contact TTC for more details.

Halloween Frights

Themed haunted houses, 'scare zones' and mazes inspired by critically-acclaimed movies and television series such as *American Horror Story*, *The Exorcist*, the *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* and the *Walking Dead* are part of this year's Halloween scares and fear at Universal Orlando Resort (on now until 31 Oct). Ticketing for Universal's Halloween Horror Nights, as well as horrifying sneak previews, can be found at halloweenhorrornights.com/orlando/

Largest Craft Fair In Oz

The Tasmanian Craft Fair (04-07 Nov) is said to be Australia's largest craft fair and showcases the work of Tasmania's finest craftspeople and cottage industries. Woodcarvers, glassmakers, leather and metal workers, potters, lead light artists, embroidery displays, silversmiths, goldsmiths and painters will attend with work for sale. This year's featured artist is Esther Shohet, a painter who produces her work on silk. The chosen emerging artist for 2016 is local student Myles Kirkman, the youngest ever recipient at only 18, who makes his collectible knives from Tasmanian timber and recycled, high carbon, metal-cutting bandsaw blades. See tascraftfair.com.au



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Any attendees who no show on the night or do not advise us of cancellation will be charged a no show fee of NZD50

Industry Diary

SEPTEMBER

Scenic Ever Wondered Sessions

Auckland: Wed 21, Waipuna Hotel, Mt Wellington. **Auckland North:** Thu 22, Bruce Mason Centre Takapuna.

Globus & Cosmos

Europe/UK Launch 2017

Whangarei: Wed 21, Killer Prawn, 1745.
Timaru: Thu 22, Mocca Cafe, 1745.
Invercargill: Mon 26, Kelvin Hotel, 1745.
Hamilton: Mon 26, Hamilton Gardens Cafe, 1745.
Auckland, West: Mon 26, Black Salt, 1745.
Auckland, North: Tue 27, Takapuna Boating Club, 1745.
Tauranga: Tue 27, Macau Restaurant,

1745. **Queenstown:** Tue 27, Prime Waterfront Restaurant, 1745.
Auckland, East: Wed 28, Celsius Gastrobar, Botany Junction, 1745.
Napier: Wed 28, Crown Hotel, 1745.
Nelson: Wed 28, Cafe Affair, 1745.
Blenheim: Thu 29, Raupo Cafe, 1745.

The Travel Corporation 2017 Launch Event

Auckland: Wed 21, venue tbc.

All About Argentina Roadshow

Auckland: Mon 26 Sep, SkyCity, 1800-2000.

Destination NSW Agent Quiz Nights

Auckland: Tue 27, Albion, 119 Hobson Street, CBD, 1730-1900.
Christchurch: Wed 28, Lonestar Riccarton, 364 Riccarton Rd, 1730-1900.

New Zealand Travel Has Talent grand final

Auckland: Fri 30, The Great Room, Langham Hotel, 1900.

OCTOBER

Globus & Cosmos

Europe/UK Launch 2017

Wellington: Mon 03, Shed 5, 1745.
Pukekohe: Tue 04, Town & Mouse Cafe, 1745.

Palmerston North: Wed 05, Distinction Palmerston North, 1745.

ACTE/CAPA Auckland Education Forum

Auckland: Thu 13, Langham Hotel, Timings tba.

P&O Pop Up

Tauranga: Thu 13, Club Mount

Maunganui, 45 Kawaka Street, from 1745.

Visit Sunshine Coast agent events

Auckland: Tue 18, Pullman Hotel, 1700.

Wellington: Wed 19, Rydges Hotel, 1700.

Christchurch: Thu 20, Breakfree on Cashel Hotel, 1700.

South African Tourism roadshow

Auckland: Wed 26, Millennium Hotel, 1730-2130.

NOVEMBER

Viva Mexico Day of the Dead function

Auckland: Thu 03, Besos Latinos Restaurant, 1730.

For more see Monday's
TRAVEL TODAY