

TABS ON TRAVEL TODAY

Incorporating Tabs on Travel

Friday 10 March 2017

Issue 3498

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Jetstar 

NZ, BNE Trial The 'Future Of Travel'

Air New Zealand, Brisbane Airport and SITA are trialling new facial recognition technology which removes the need to show a passport or boarding pass at the gate.

The Australian-first Smart Path trial is set to 'transform the future of travel', says the group. Passengers present their details at a self-service kiosk at check-in then board the aircraft through an automated boarding gate, which uses face recognition technology to verify their details. Once travel documents are linked to the biometric details at check-in, the passenger can complete boarding without presenting a boarding pass or passport.

Air NZ passengers will be the first to trial Smart Path at BNE, with plans to expand the service to more international airlines in the coming months. The technology integrates with BNE's existing infrastructure like check-in kiosks and boarding gates, meaning it can be used by any airline that uses common-use kiosks.

"This is a great opportunity for passengers to help shape the future of travel," says airport gm strategic planning and development Roel Hellemons. "We're always striving to im-



prove the airport experience at BNE and this trial will allow us to test and refine new technology that we hope will make standard check-in and boarding processes more efficient and secure in the very near future."

Smart Path can be extended to include any processes and checkpoints that require document checks, and Hellemons says as it progresses the airport hopes to integrate with various government systems for immigration and border checks.

Australia's Department of Immigration and Border Protection announced earlier this year that it wants to adopt a new biometric-based passenger identification system that would remove the need for passport scanners, instead using facial recognition and fingerprint scanners to recognise passengers. The government is planning to pilot the system later this year, and roll it out by 2020.

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G-Adventures

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NZ BUE Increases

Air New Zealand will operate up to four flights a week to Buenos Aires from 06 Nov-24 Mar, increasing to five services a week over the 02 Dec-24 Mar peak. The flights are now available in the GDS.

Beer-themed Hotel

For all the beer lovers out there, craft beer company Brewdog is reportedly set to open a beer-themed hotel in Columbus, Ohio.

The hotel, named The DogHouse, will include a craft beer spa, complete with hop face masks, malted barley massages and even hop-infused shampoo and shower gels. But that's not all—mini fridges stocked with craft beer are set to be in the showers, while a draught will be on tap in the bedrooms and there will also be beer-infused breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

The hotel is expected to open by the end of Sep 2018.

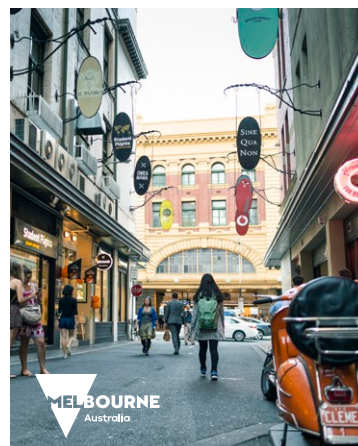
Spaces On MEL Trip

Visit Victoria has some last-minute spaces available on its Melbourne and Beyond Experience, which will see agents head to Melbourne for famils and a workshop in the city.

Demand was high for the all expenses paid famil but due to some cancellations, five spots have opened up on the trip, which takes place 19-25 Mar. The famils will feature food, wine, sports, culture and adventure, taking in Melbourne and regional VIC. For details and to register [CLICK HERE](#)

Pets Over Travel?

A new survey has revealed that pets take priority over travel for a number of Kiwis. Research from Comparetravelinsurance.co.nz reveals that one in 10 Kiwis aren't fulfilling their holiday resolutions due to concerns with leaving their pets at home; while other reasons to put off a getaway was a lack of disposable income (43%) and family commitments (14%).



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CX Ups Frequencies

Cathay Pacific will increase the frequency of services to some of its most popular destinations, including San Francisco, Brisbane, Manchester, Paris and Madrid, to meet growing demand.

In Australia, CX will increase capacity and offer more non-stop services, including replacing its four-times weekly one-stop service to Brisbane via Cairns with direct flights to both cities from Oct-Mar.

From the end of Oct, SFO will be served three times a day following the addition of four flights to its weekly schedule, while at the same time flights to Los Angeles will drop from 28 to 21 a week. In Europe, CX will increase services to Madrid from four to five per week from late Oct; and a sixth weekly flight will operate to Manchester from early Dec. At the same time, Paris will see the resumption of an 11th weekly service.

QF South Africa

Qantas has flights to South Africa on sale to 30 Mar, priced from \$1909 to Johannesburg and \$1939 to Cape Town. Premium economy fares are from \$2989 to Johannesburg.

High Occupancy For MEL

Melbourne hotels reached near-record highs for occupancy in Feb, says STR. The hotels saw a 2.8% increase in supply and 2.2% increase in demand in Feb. Occupancy dropped 0.6 points to 88.1% but was still a near-record, and was impressive considering the supply growth, says STR. Average daily rate dropped-5.4% to AUD191.63.

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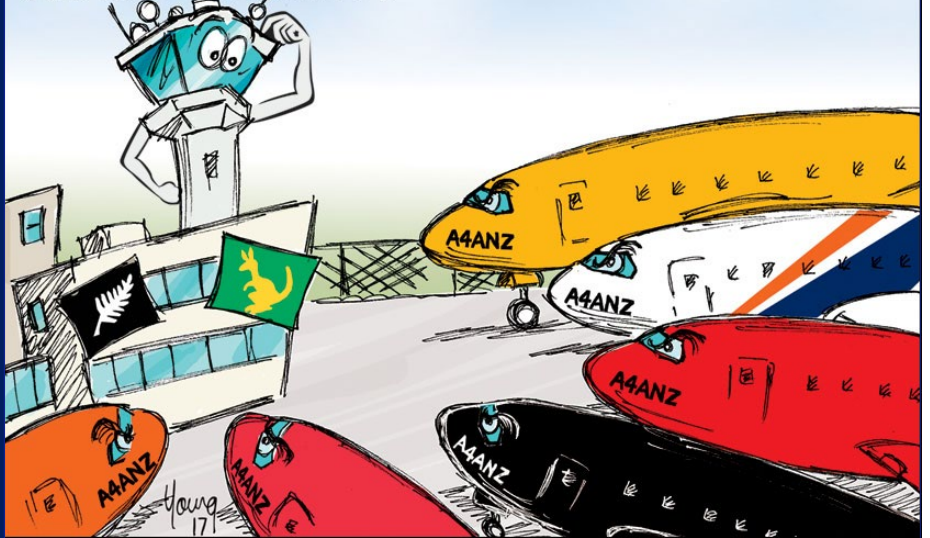
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Industry Comment

NEWS ~ AIRLINES FOR AUSTRALIA NEWZEALAND (A4ANZ) GROUP TO TAKE ON AUST/NZ AIRPORTS



IATA: Japan Upgrades Needed

IATA is calling on Japan to prepare its airport infrastructure for the 2020 Olympics, with the country hoping to welcome 40 million visitors in the 2020 Olympic year—a large increase on the some 24 million international tourists it welcomed in 2016.

Successful infrastructure planning will play a key role in the continued growth of tourism in Japan, says IATA, with the development of Tokyo-Haneda's international network, the privatisation of Sendai and Osaka's Kansai and Itami Airports, and continuous efforts in reducing costs and optimising infrastructure all welcome developments.

"Not that long ago Japanese airports were the most expensive in the world," says IATA boss Alexandre de Juniac. "They are not cheap today, but Kansai and Narita have dropped from among the 10 most expensive to 13th and 23rd, respectively. We are moving in the right direction and there is still more to be done—particularly at Haneda which is bucking the positive trend by raising charges."

De Juniac adds that recent agreements for charges to be reduced

for Kansai and Sendai airports has marked a positive start, but that he hopes that Japan has found a formula that will work long-term.

"The eyes of the world's aviation community will be following developments closely," he says. "The Olympics are an important milestone and an impetus to get things done. But it must be part of a long-term joined-up planning process focused on the big prize of welcoming 60 million visitors to Japan [2030 target] annually..."

SQ Voucher Extension

Singapore Airlines advises that its Changi Dollar Voucher (CDV) is now available through to 31 Mar 2018. The SGD20 CDV is available to all transit clients originating from New Zealand and travelling on SQ, Silk Air and specific Air New Zealand operated flights. The CDV is valid for return e-tickets issued on/between 01 Apr and 30 Sep for travel until 31 Mar 2018. See krisport.co.nz for further details.

QF Perth On Sale

Qantas has flights to Perth on sale to 16 Mar, with one-way fares from \$399 in economy and \$1199 in business class. See qantas.co.nz/agents

NZ, ANA Expands

Air New Zealand will expand its codeshare service with ANA from 22 Jul, the same day it begins its Auckland-Tokyo Haneda service, according to the GDS. New routes include Haneda to Fukuoka, Osaka Itami and Sapporo New Chitose.



Visit California is searching for agents who will be the faces of their new digital training platform, California STAR.

A video competition has been launched and agents are invited to submit a 15 second video with their STAR tips about travel to California.

[CLICK HERE](#)
for further
information



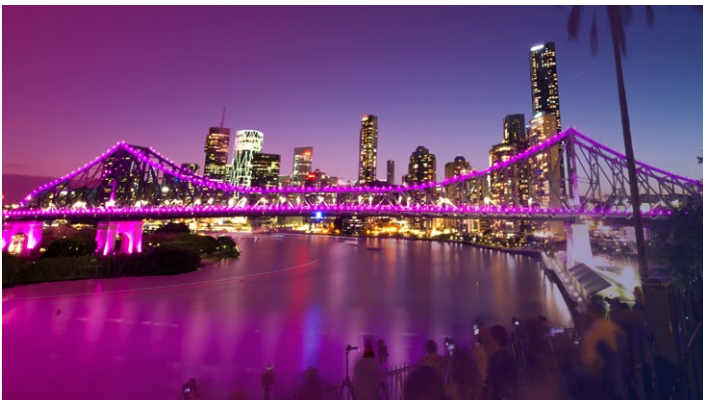
Vanuatu Canoe Comp

The annual Maskelyne Canoe Race and Festival takes place 28-29 Jul with the main race on 30 Jul, Vanuatu's Independence Day.

The Maskelynes are north of Efate and the islands' three communities (Percarus Village, Pelongk and Lutes Village) will take up the challenge. Teams will also battle it out to carve and paint their racing canoe. Visitors are welcome to take part in the single/double canoe races.

The two-day festival also features customary dances, traditional fire making, weaving demonstrations, kava competition and a big island night to end the festival.

Other activities on Maskelyne includes snorkelling, visiting resident dugongs, a clam sanctuary, bush walks and various community projects. Malampa Travel offers a four-day outrigger canoe trip and bungalow accommodation, see malampa.travel



State Of Origin Tour With Global Sports & Events

Global Sports and Events reminds agents that it is hosting a two-night tour to the State of Origin Game 1 in Brisbane, with Monty Betham, 30 May-01 Jun. Land packages are \$1295pp t/s and include 10% agent commission. See globalsportsandevents.com for further details.

QF's New BNE Lounge, Entry



Qantas will next Tue open the doors to its new larger Domestic Business Lounge and an airline-first Premium Lounge Entry process.

The premium entry gives top-tier frequent flyers an exclusive check-in area, bag drop, security screening and escalator with direct entry to the new Lounge Precinct.

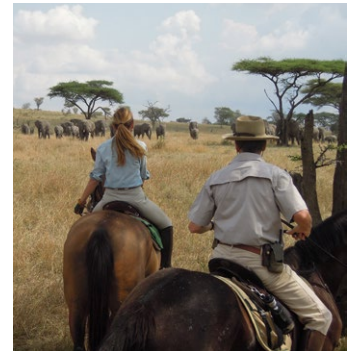
"Premium Lounge Entry is a first for Qantas and will streamline the departure process, so our top tier frequent flyers can move through the terminal quickly and maximise their time in the lounge," says QF

head of domestic lounges Helen Gray. The new lounge meanwhile is 30% larger than the previous facility, and offers a number of dining features including a Mexican cantina serving dishes like soft tacos and quesadillas. The lounge will also feature a full bar, all-day barista coffee, and a Quench hydration station serving non-alcoholic drinks.

The new lounge and entry are part of a multi-million dollar upgrade at Brisbane Airport which saw a new International Lounge opened last Oct. The upgrade will be completed in the coming months with an upgraded Qantas Club and new Chairman's Lounge at the domestic terminal.

Botswana Reminder

World Aviation Systems reminds agents that Air Botswana connects Botswana with South Africa, with fares starting from \$610. It adds that agents need to use a direct airline availability display to see BP fares in the GDS, and to ticket via BSP.



Masai Mara By Horse

World Journeys can now offer clients the chance to explore the Masai Mara on horseback. Suitable for competent riders (due to the uneven terrain), the two-hour activity allows clients to get up-close to animals in the plains. The rides take place either in the morning or afternoon, and clients will be provided boots, helmets and half-chaps. Contact World Journeys for a quote.



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Island Of Adventure



Nature's fireworks show: On 26 Jul 2016, the lava from Kilauea reached the ocean again for first time since 2013—and it continues to offer visitors an unforgettable experience.

If there ever was a time to visit the Island of Hawaii—it is now.

The island's marine-based activities, beaches, rain forests and golf courses continue to attract Kiwi travellers, but local geologists are calling the current volcanic activity 'unprecedented' with two vents of the Kilauea Volcano offering a unique opportunity for visitors to the island. Kilauea Volcano has been erupting almost continuously since 1983, when a new vent known as Pu'u O'o burst through the surface. The vent then slowly created subterranean lava tubes which saw lava from the volcano first flowing into the ocean in Nov 2006.

In 2008, a second vent opened within Halemaumau Crater at the summit of Kilauea, and the lava lake at the summit still lights the night sky.

Tina Neal, the scientist-in-charge of the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Obser-

vatory, says it's the longest time that there's been two eruptions going on at the same volcano.



Lava Tunnels

The Thurston Lava tube is located a short ride from the Kilauea Visitor Centre. It's an easy 10-minute round trip walk through the 550-year-old lava cave which formed when an underground channel of molten lava drained from its cooled walls forming a huge, hollow chamber.

Volcanoes 101

Hawaii Island's high profile volcanic activity is a drawcard for visitors, but urge clients to manage their expectations as it's a naturally occurring event, and activity and visibility can vary.

There's no escaping the volcanic landscape on an island dotted with giant volcanoes and landscapes carved by lava. A visit to Volcanoes National Park is a recommended stop for all of those visiting the island. Those short of time should head to the Jagger museum and the lookout for views of the crater. During the day there's usually a heavy plume of smoke coming from the caldera, but urge clients to visit at dusk or later or pre-dawn to see the orange glow which lights up the sky. The lookout is open 24/7.

On the other side of the national park, the Kilauea Visitor Centre offers a host of updated information on the current volcanic activity and is the base for a number of day hikes—which range from short walks to steam vents to, if conditions permit, a 10 mile hike out toward the site where the lava is flowing into the sea.

It is essential to seek the advice of the park rangers as the situation changes daily. The area around the lava flows into the ocean may look solid but can be unstable as the violent reaction of cold water and hot lava can see rocks the size of washing machines hurled into the air, along with toxic gas and shards of volcanic glass.

For lava updates see hvo.wr.usgs.gov

Did You Know?

The Island of Hawaii is the southeastern-most isle in Hawaii—and thanks to the lava now flowing into the ocean it's getting bigger. Hawaii Island is home to 10 of the world's 14 different climate zones on Hawaii from snow (polar tundra) on Mauna Kea to tropical. The popular resort town of Kailua-Kona gets just a few inches of rain a year while Hilo is rather lush, thanks to its 130-plus inches of rainfall a year.



Lava From Air And Sea

Watching a waterfall of lava flow into the sea, and hearing the crack as the molten lava hits the ocean is nothing short of spectacular.

Helicopter tours offer a bird's eye views of the volcanic current activity—and Paradise Helicopters' images of the so-called smiling lava lake grabbed global attention last year. However many believe the best experience is a lava boat tour, which takes visitors up close to the action.

Lava Ocean Tours is one of the licenced operators and offers up to eight trips a day out to the current lava flow. The sunrise tour is the most popular, followed by its sunset tour. These make the most of the low light which complements the lava flows.

The tours are for those who don't mind the wet and are comfortable on the open ocean. The two-hour tours spend about 20 minutes at the lava site with the boat making regular passes past the lava so everyone on board gets a good view.

'Captain Shane' is well-known and respected with the island's tourism industry and despite the proximity to the molten lava agents can book the tours with confidence.

Urge clients booking a Lava Ocean Tour to head to the seats at the very back of the boat on the sides. These offer uninterrupted views facing out to sea—and clients won't get as wet as they would in the front row. Clients must be in good health and need warm clothes and a waterproof jacket. They will get wet—but the experience is unforgettable. Pre-booking is essential. For details see, seelava.com



Aloha Maui! AKL ✈ HNL ✈ OGG/JHM!

HA now flies to both Kahului & Kapalua airports

Fares from **\$699*** one way

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HAWAIIAN AIRLINES



LON Coffee Experience

Budding coffee connoisseurs can enjoy an all-new Coffee Experience at London's The Montague on the Gardens.

The four-star Red Carnation Hotel property has transformed its outdoor deck area into a coffee station for the very first time, where expertly brewed coffee will be served as part of an educational experience, complete with food pairings.

On offer throughout Mar and Apr, the Coffee Experience is priced from GBP30pp and will be available from 1400-1700 seven days a week. See montaguehotel.com

In The Footsteps of King Arthur

The new *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword* film, directed by Guy Ritchie and featuring Charlie Hunnan, Jude Law and David Beckham among others, is expected to generate significant location tourism, says VisitBritain.

Historians have varying theories about who King Arthur was and where he came from, but many are convinced he existed. While details remain shrouded in mystery, medieval writings have connected places across Britain to the legend of King Arthur, so VB has put together an itinerary that reflects the 'real' legend, rather than the movies.

They include Tintagel Castle, Cornwall, south-west England, said to be where King Arthur was born. The 12th century castle has an exhibition celebrating the hero and afterwards visitors can visit the beach below to build a few (sand) castles of their own.

Glastonbury, south-west England was known in ancient times as the Isle of Avalon—a legendary island appearing in historical writings as the place where King Arthur's



sword Excalibur was forged, and later where Arthur was taken to recover from his wounds after the Battle of Camlann. Avalon became associated with Glastonbury when monks claimed to have discovered the bones of Arthur and his queen at Glastonbury Abbey.

Arthur's tale is deeply engrained in Welsh folklore, and Wales' 2017 Year of Legends is the perfect time to explore the legend and associated locations, reckons VB. Snowdonia National Park and Mount Snowdon is where Arthur reputedly killed a fearsome giant, Rhitta. At least two lakes in Snowdonia are claimed to be home to the Lady of the Lake and the final resting place of Excalibur, Arthur's legendary sword.

Legend has it that Carlisle in Cumbria was King Arthur's Camelot. An Arthurian pilgrimage of Britain would not be complete without a visit to the rumoured site of Arthur's Round Table in the Eamont Bridge area of Cumbria, dating from about 2000 BC.

Empire Lift Adventure

The Empire State Building's new elevator experience offers one-of-a-kind mini-shows with sound playing on the ceiling of the elevator cars on both the ascent to and descent from the 86th Floor Observatory. From the moment the elevator doors close, the ascent show transports visitors back in time to the construction of ESB, spotlighting workers, machinery, and materials in a fanciful depiction of the construction process.

On the descent, the show prepares visitors for the ride back to the New York City streets by showcasing different features of the art deco masterpiece lobby, with distinct features floating in to ultimately form the iconic mural that adorns the Fifth Avenue entrance.

Details and ticket purchases from esbny.com

Anzac Commemorations

The 2017 Anzac Day commemorative services at Gallipoli will be held 24 and 25 Apr, advises the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and this year there is no ballot, but clients will require an attendance pass. MFAT says anyone wishing to attend the Dawn Service can do so regardless of nationality while the New Zealand Service at Chunuk Bay is also open to all nationalities.

Consular staff from MFAT will be positioned in Istanbul, Canakkale and on the Gallipoli Peninsula over the period of 16-26 Apr to provide assistance required by Kiwis attending the Gallipoli commemorations. See ww100.govt.nz for further details.

Celebrity Chef NYC

There has never been a better time to experience a meal prepared by a celebrity chef than now in New York City, reckons Fred Dixon, NYC & Company's president and chief executive. From developing neighbourhoods to museums to new hotels, these chefs have established new dining concepts across the city. For a list go [HERE](#)



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Due to growth, an exciting opportunity is now available for an experienced Account Manager to join the CTM team in Newmarket!

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- Exceptional communication & presentation skills
- High level negotiator
- Fantastic organisational & time management skills

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To be able to work autonomously whilst in a team environment and a high attention to detail and accuracy is essential:

Minimum skills

- Broad understanding of BSP, AR and Payroll
- Experience with fare and ticketing audits, accounts receivable functions
- Word/Excel/SAP/BSPLink/AirConnect

Applicants must have NZL permanent residence.

Written applications, with CV should be forwarded no later than Friday 17 March 2017 to:

leena_shinmar@singaporeair.com.sg

(Only short listed candidates will be contacted)

Hawkes Bay Growth

Statistics New Zealand's latest Commercial Accommodation Monitor (CAM) report for Nov 2016 shows a 20.4% increase year-on-year for Hawkes Bay. This equates to an additional 16,000 nights spent in commercial accommodation in Hawke's Bay in Nov.

The increase was made up of a leap in both domestic and international visitor nights. International visitor nights rose 16.4% to 32,009 with domestic visitor nights recording a substantial 22.5% increase, totalling 64,706 nights.

The result was New Zealand's largest guest night increase year on year, followed by Northland up 11% (16,000), Queenstown up 5.2% (15,000) and Nelson-Tasman 13.5% (14,000).

CT Antique Trail

An antique trail through what is described as some of America's finest and largest collections to be found in the New England countryside includes 'charming' auction houses, local antique shops, outdoor antique shows, events and historic inns. For details on the self-drive Connecticut Antiques Trail visit ctvisit.com/antiquestrail

New Ride At Rainbow's End

Auckland fun park Rainbow's End last night launched its latest addition—AA Driver's Town.

Children up to the age of 13 can

practice their driving skills in a controlled environment, with electric cars imported from Europe.

The new ride takes up 1200m² has

taken four years of planning at a cost of around \$1.1 million, and was officially opened last night by Auckland Mayor Phil Goff.



Mayor Phil Goff with Ross Robertson, member of the Otara-Papatoetoe Local Board Auckland Council; Grant Lilly, AA and Tourism Industry Assn; and Rodney Walshe, Rainbow's End board member.

Industry Diary

MARCH

JAWS Roadshow 2017

Whangarei: Tue 14, Forum North, 1700-2000.

Auckland North: Wed 15, Spencer on Byron, Takapuna, 1700-2000.

Napier: Mon 20, Napier Sailing Club, 1700-2000.

Wellington: Tue 21, Rydges Wellington, 1700-2000.

Palmerston North: Wed 22, Distinction Hotel, 1700-2000.

New Plymouth: Thu 23, Novotel Hotel, 1700-2000.

Tauranga: Tue 28, Tauranga Yacht Club, 1700-2000.

Hamilton: Wed 29, Novotel Tainui, 1700-2000.

Lufthansa Agent Training Days
Hamilton: Tue 14, Distinction Hotel & Conference Centre, 0830.

Tauranga: Wed 15, Trinity Wharf, 0830.

Auckland Central: Tue 21, Wintergarden Pavillion, Auckland Domain, 0830.

Auckland North: Thu 23, The Spencer on Byron Hotel, 0830.

Tourism Fiji Roadshow

Nelson: Mon 27, Grand Mercure Monaco Hotel, breakfast.

Wellington: Mon 27, Rydges Wellington, evening.

Christchurch: Tue 28, Addington Raceway & Events Centre, evening.

Auckland, CBD: Wed 29, Pullman Hotel, evening.

Hamilton: Thu 30, Ferrybank Reception & Conference Centre, evening.

Auckland, North Shore: Fri 31, QBE Stadium Albany, breakfast.

APRIL

Tourism Fiji Roadshow

Tauranga: Mon 03, Club Mt Maunganui, 1730-1930.

Rotorua: Tue 04, Novotel Rotorua, 0700-0845. **Taupo:** Tue 04, Lonestar Taupo, anytime between 1200-1400.

Napier: Tue 04, Crowne Hotel, 1730-1930.

Palmerston North: Wed 05, Distinction Hotel, 1730-1930.

Wanganui: Thu 06, Stellar Restaurant and Bar, anytime between 1200-1400.

New Plymouth: Thu 06, Novotel New Plymouth, 1730-1930.

Avalon Waterways 2018 Launch

Lower Hutt: Tue 04, The Dowse Art Museum, 1745.

Wellington: Tue 04, Lone Star, 1745.

Pukekohe: Tue 04, Townmouse Cafe, 1745.

Blenheim: Wed 05, Watery Mouth Cafe, 1730.

Whangarei: Wed 05, Dickens Inn, 1730.

Palmerston North: Thu 06, Distinction Palmerston North, 1745.

Nelson: Thu 06, Bacco Restaurant, 1730.

Hamilton: Mon 10, Hamilton Gardens Cafe, 1745.

Christchurch: Mon 10, Dux Central, 1745.

Auckland East: Mon 10, Pakuranga Golf Club, 1745.

Tauranga: Tue 11, Macau, 1745.

Auckland North: Tue 11, Takapuna Boating Club, 1745.

Timaru: Tue 11, Mocca Cafe, 1730.

Napier: Wed 12, East Pier Hotel, 1745.

Dunedin: Wed 12, Luna Bar, 1745.

Auckland West: Wed 12, The Falls, Henderson, 1745.

New Plymouth: Wed 19, Waterfront Hotel, 1745.

Queenstown: Wed 19, Mercure Hotel, 1745.

MAY

Lufthansa Agent Training Days

Wellington: Wed 03, Intercontinental Wellington, 0830.

Nelson: Thu 04, Rutherford Hotel, 0830.

Christchurch: Tue 23, Ilex Botanic Gardens, 0830.

Dunedin: Wed 24, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, 0830.

2017 Amazing Thailand Roadshow

Auckland: Mon 08, Sky City Convention Centre.

Asia Now Roadshow

Wellington: Wed 10.

Christchurch: Thu 11.

Tauranga: Mon 15.

Hamilton: Tue 16.

Auckland Central: Wed 17.

Auckland North Shore: Thu 18.

Venues, times tba.

JUNE

Lufthansa Agent Training Days

Queenstown: Thu 22, Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, 0830.