

Incorporating Tabs on Travel

Friday 12 June 2015

**Issue 3093** 





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# New Beijing Flights Set To Launch

Chinese carrier Hainan Airlines is said to be looking to start a twice-weekly service between Auckland and Beijing, with flights tipped to commence in the last quarter of 2015.

A spokesman for Auckland Airport said the airport company was unable to comment on the rumours, other than to say 'we are in discussions with a number of international airlines about the possibility of them flying to Auckland.'

However, *Travel Today* understands that the Chinese carrier currently has a tender in the Kiwi market for ground handling, and is hoping to launch the flights in Oct.

# ... Is It Feasible?

Industry commentators are now questioning the feasibility of the additional capacity expected to come on routes between New Zealand and China.

Air New Zealand pulled off the Beijing route a couple of years ago and currently has proposed a joint venture with Air China before the New Zealand regulators.

There are also persistent rumours that China Southern is to launch a scheduled service into the South Island in the not too distant future.

At the same time NZ's load factors continue to grow in Asia, and its Shanghai service loads are expected to be improving off the back of the inbound growth from China, and the introduction of the 787 on the route. However, one aviation commentator says despite the strong travel growth between China and New Zealand that there would have to be 'significant' growth to sustain the capacity increases expected.

"The number of airlines flying between New Zealand and China over the peak summer period could reach five in the coming season—when there was only two carriers operating on the route around 12 months ago," he says. "There really would have to be very strong growth out of northern China to sustain the services that are coming particularly when northern China has helped fuel CZ's growth in to New Zealand with feeder travel through Guangzhou."

# ... About Hainan

On its website, Hainan Airlines says it has been operating safely for 21 years and maintained an 'excellent safety record'. Last Oct the carrier won the 2014 annual World Travel Awards category Asia's Best Business Class category, and in Jan this year it was named as one of the 100 Most Valuable Chinese Brands by BrandZ. Hainan has 142 aircraft currently in operation, with a mix of 737, 767 and 787 aircraft as well as A330s. The closest point it currently operates to is Singapore.

# **Canada Visa Change**

Canada is introducing a new Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) for international travellers, including those from New Zealand, who enter the country by air. From 01 Aug, travellers will be able to apply for an ETA online, and as of 15 Mar 2016, they will need an ETA before they're allowed to board a flight to Canada. The authorisation is electronically linked to a traveller's passport and is valid for five years or until their passport expires, whichever comes first. It costs CAD7. See cic.gc.ca

# **Bud And Breakfast?**

A 'bud & breakfast' resort is reportedly set to open in Colorado, where cannabis is legal. CannaCamp is a 170acre 'slice of heaven' where guests can openly smoke marijuana anywhere except in their rooms, and the resort will host marijuana related activities. See cannacamp.co

# **Airbus Crams More In**

Airbus, which recently announced a new A380 11-across economy cabin layout, says it's continuing to work on ways to squeeze in more seats.

The manufacturer formed a team of technical experts to 'generate new ideas for enhancing the A380's cabin economics', and says around two-thirds of these are now being developed for availability, beginning with new aircraft delivered in 2017.

There's a particular focus on introducing more high-value premium seats, and the team has come up with options like rotating sidewall lining, combining or moving crew rests, and adding new lie-flat beds that can be pivoted and moved closer together.

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# **NZ's Wine Experts**

Air New Zealand has appointed two leading wine experts to its wine selection programme—Linda Murphy, based in Sonoma County and Beijing's Fongyee Walker. They will join New Zealand-based consultants Jim Harre and John Belsham in selecting around one million bottles of wine annually.



# **Free BNE Transfer Bus**

The transfer bus linking the domestic and international terminals at Brisbane Airport is now free for all passengers. Travellers will no longer be required to present a boarding pass to transfer between terminals on the dedicated terminal transfer bus that operates from 0520-2300 daily.

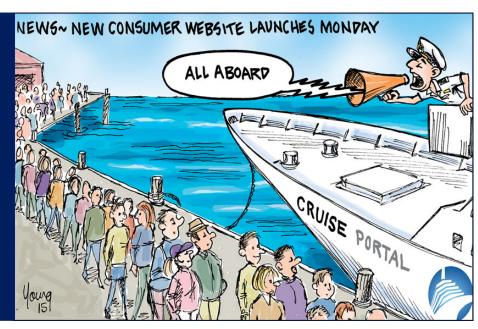


# **Suitcase Giveaway**

American Tourister has launched a new range of colourful suitcases and Travel Today has one of the bright new cases to give away. The new Cubepop cases are made from polycarbonate, designed to be lightweight but durable, and feature 360° spinner wheels, integrated TSA combination lock, ID tag and 'ergonomically designed straps'. They're available in after dark, fuschia, midnight blue and a limited edition mint green, in 55cm/2.7kg, 68cm/3.9kg and 79cm/5kg sizes. To be in to win a midnight blue 68cm case, valued at \$349.99 RRP, send us your top packing tip for international travel by 1700 on Fri 19 Jun. Send your answer, with Cubepop in the subject line, to faith@traveltoday.co.nz

# **News & Product**

# Industry Comment



# IATA Focuses On Passenger Rights

IATA is stepping up engagement with consumer groups, governments and travellers on consumer protection rules, saying current passenger rights regulations are confusing.

More than 60 countries have some form of passenger rights regulations, with more countries considering new rules, says IATA's Paul Steele. "The growing patchwork of consumer rights regimes is leaving travellers confused when they are subject to multiple different passenger rights regimes at the same time. We need an air transport system that balances the need to protect consumers while allowing the airline industry to compete and innovate," he says.

IATA is engaging consumer protection bodies globally in a dialogue aimed at finding a balanced solution, and says airlines have developed a set of core principles for governments to consider when adopting consumer protection regulation. They include calling for regulations to be clear so passengers can understand their rights, calling on airlines to ensure their passengers are always kept informed and to establish efficient complaint handling procedures, calling for

# EY Abu Dhabi-Zurich

Etihad Airways has announced the expansion of its Boeing 787 Dreamliner flight network with the deployment of the aircraft on the Abu Dhabi-Zurich route. From 06 Jul, EY will swap the A330-300 aircraft currently used on the route with the three-class Dreamliner.

passenger entitlements to be proportional in a situation of service breakdown, and calling for governments to be consistent when regulating, so airlines and consumers don't have to contend with contradictory passenger rights regimes around the world.

# **New EK Lounge For NRT**

Emirates has opened a new lounge in Terminal 2 of Tokyo's Narita International Airport. The 174-seat lounge is open to EK's first and business class customers, as well as platinum and gold Skywards members.

# **Vietnam Wi-Fi Spots**

Hoi An, and the nearby My Son Sanctuary, now have Wi-Fi on-site, Exotic Holidays has advised.

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Fri 12 Jun 15

# **Rail Plus Webinars**

Rail Plus has introduced a range of webinars for agents, designed to answer the most common questions asked of the company's reservations staff. The four- to nine-minute webinars cover topics including how consumers validate a rail pass and how to secure a seat reservation in Europe. There are seven webinars, with more to be introduced throughout the year. To access the webinars, log in to the myRailPlus section of the Rail Plus website, then check under myRailPlus Tools. See railplus.co.nz

# **Monkey Problems**

A British tourist reportedly tried to press charges against two monkeys who 'sexually assaulted' her. The tourist was visiting the Barbary Macaques in Gibraltar when the monkeys began groping her, and one pulled off her bikini top. The tourist reportedly tried to lay charges with the police, however, they weren't able to help, saying monkeys are wild animals that cannot legally commit a crime or be held liable.

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news@traveltoday.co.nz tony@traveltoday.co.nz

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# **News & Product**

# **New For Trafalgar Americas 2016**

Trafalgar has combined its 2016 USA, Canada, Central and South America product into one brochure to offer agents what it says is its most comprehensive Americas programme yet, featuring more than 60 itineraries including seven new holidays.

"We believe that by combining our entire Americas product into the one brochure, not only will it

simplify the process for our agent partners and enable them to confidently sell the real Americas, the significantly expanded product offering for next year means more opportunities to cross-sell and more commission to be generated," says Trafalgar gm Scott Cleaver.

Featured itineraries in the programme include the 14-day East Coast USA & Canada holiday, from \$5495pp t/s including a stay at Boston's Omni Parker House, where John F. Kennedy proposed to Jackie O.

On the 10-day Tastes and Sounds of the South (from \$3975pp t/s) guests will enjoy Insider Experiences such as dining at two period homes with Joe Stone and celebrated American chef Esther Carpenter. New in 2016, guests can extend their trip to include a seven-night American Queen Mississippi River Cruise, attend the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival or join Mardi Gras celebrations.

There's also four new Hidden Journeys in the programme, including the 10-day Secrets of Rockies and Glacier National Park (from \$5175pp t/s) exploring Calgary, Waterton, Glacier National Park, Lake Louise, Jasper, Columbia Icefield and Banff National Park; the 12-day Secrets of Newfoundland and Labrador (from

# **Sheraton Indo Expansion**

Starwood Hotels & Resorts has announced the signing of Four Points by Sheraton Bintan, Lagoi Bay, which marks the first Four Points beachfront resort in Indonesia. Located on the northern coastline of Bintan Island facing the South China Sea, the new build hotel is scheduled to open mid-2018, as part of the Lagoi Bay Bintan mixed-use development. The hotel will feature 308 guest rooms, including 17 suites and eight villas. For more information visit spg.com



\$7275pp t/s) discovering the cultures of Canada's neighbouring provinces; the nine-day Secrets of Ecuador (from \$3175pp t/s) exploring the active volcano at the heart of Cotopaxi National Park in Ecuador; and the

16-day Secrets

of Panama and

Costa Rica with dining experiences at a family's equestrian estate and a special dinner at Haciendo Pozo Azul (from \$7425pp t/s).

Early payment discounts of up to \$1217pp are available when booked and paid in full by 30 Oct, and past passenger discounts of 5% are also available.

# PATA Conference In AKL

The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) is to host its inaugural PATA Global Insights Conference at the SkyCity Grand Hotel in Auckland on 16 Oct. The conference will explore the key influences driving and shaping future thinking in terms of tourism destination development, design, access and marketing. It brings together international thought leaders who will discuss topics like the rapid boom of digital technologies; retail and online payment systems and the consumer purchasing experience; increasing market access through aviation expansion; and destination design, branding and positioning in a cluttered market. See pata.org/pgic-2015

# **Le Lagoto Distinction**

World Resorts of Distinction has announced it has been awarded the sales representation contract for Samoa's Le Lagoto Resort in Savaii. The resort features 10 bungalow rooms and two family rooms. See lelagoto.ws

# TECH UPDATE For ALL Travel Agents



By Tony Carter, Managing Director, Amadeus IT Pacific

We recently hosted a media roundtable to celebrate QBT being named the sole provider of travel management services to the Whole of Australian Government (WoAG).

The contract win saw Amadeus and QBT pair up to leverage best-in-class global technology and subject matter experts, to deliver a locally tailored solution for WoAG.

Understandably, WoAG is complex, so the winning solution needed to provide full transpar-

ency in real-time to manage duty of care for everyone in government, from defence to health workers.

Travellers from the 142 government agencies under the WoAG agreement will now access an integrated online and mobile global selfbooking solution, Amadeus e-Travel Management (AeTM).

AeTM keeps control of corporate travel programmes whilst offering the traveller the best choice. For example, when corporate traveller John gets a phone call from his office while stuck in traffic on a business trip, his colleague tells him that he needs to be in Auckland the next day for an urgent meeting!

John uses his mobile to book his flight, hotel and his taxi transfers using Cabforce, all through AeTM from the taxi. His boss then receives an approval request for John's trip, and can review and approve with enough time for John to complete the booking without even stepping into the office.

More information on Amadeus' simple and seamless online booking solution, AeTM can be found HERE.

amadeus



Fri 12 Jun 15 P

## Aussie Snow Season

The snow season has kicked off at ski resorts across Victoria and New South Wales. There are Snow Victoria holiday packages available which offer accommodation and all inclusive package deals for the budget conscious. Victoria's alpine resorts include Mt Buller, Mt Stirling, Mt Hotham, Falls Creek, Lake Mountain, Mt Baw Baw and Dinner Plain. New South Wales has Thredbo, Perisher, Jindabyne, Alpine Way, Charlotte Pass, Mt Selwyn and Canberra. All resorts offer self-contained apartments, hotels, lodges or bed and breakfast. See snowvictoria.com or ski-nsw.com.au

# **APT Captures More Small Ship Market**

Small ship cruising is attracting a growing number of clients as more and more Kiwis fall in love with its intimate yet adventurous cruise style, says APT.

The company is gearing up for another successful small ship cruising season and has launched a new look 'Small Ships—Exploring the World 2016' brochure. The guide showcases 24 fully all-inclusive small ship cruise holidays to a range of destinations, including the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, Asia, the Kimberley and Antarctica.

New features for 2016 include a new itinerary and three new extended cruise and land combinations. The

new 15-day Sailing the Japanese Isles itinerary is priced from \$10,445pp s/t and sails from Osaka to Manila; whilst on the 23-day Italian Sojourn with Adriatic & Aegean Odyssey guests can enjoy a six-night land journey; on the 34-day Ultimate Britain & Ireland Adventure, APT combines a 22-day land tour of England, Scotland and Ireland with an 11-night coastal cruise of the British Isles; and on the 20-day Scandinavian Wonders & Majestic Norwegian Fjords cruise, guests can enjoy a seven-night land journey.

Guests can choose from two cruise styles, Boutique Collection Cruising, which will focus on a particular region or a theme, and Expedition Collection Cruising, whereby guests are taken off the beaten path. All cruises sail aboard either the MS Caledonian Sky, the MS Island Sky or the MS Hebridean Sky. The small ship cruises are fully all inclusive, offering complimentary beverages available all day while on-board, as well as meals, sightseeing and free Wi-Fi in cabins within one price. Three 'SuperDeals' are on offer, including a 'Fly Free – including Taxes', 'Companion Fly Free' and 'Airfare Credits'. See aptouring.co.nz

# ndustry Diary

### JUNE

# **Scenic Information Sessions**

Hamilton: Mon 15, Hotel Novotel. Tauranga: Tue 16, Mills Reef Winery. Auckland East/South: Wed 17, Waipuna Hotel. Auckland North: Thu 18, The Spencer on Byron Hotel. Nelson: Mon 29, Rutherford Hotel. Timaru: Tue 30, Landing Services Building.

### Air New Zealand's Southern Hospitality Roadshow

Albany: Mon 22, Lone Star
Restaurant, Corner Oteha Valley Rd
and Appian Way, 1800-2000.

Dunedin: Tue 23, Lone Star
Restaurant, 484 George Street, 18002000. Christchurch: Wed 24, Lone
Star Restaurant, 26 Manchester Street,
1800-2000. Nelson: Thu 25, Lone Star
Restaurant, 88-90 Hardy St, 18002000. Wellington: Mon 29, Lone Star
Restaurant, 66 Tory Street, 1800-2000.
Napier: Lone Star Restaurant, Cnr
Marine Parade and Emerson Street,
1830-2030.

# Globus Family of Brands and Rocky Mountaineer 2016 North America Launch

Hamilton: Tue 23, Jukebox Diner, 11 Railside Place, 1745. Tauranga: Wed 24, Rye- American Kitchen, 19 Wharf Street, 1745. Napier: Thu 25, Hogs Breath Café, 49 Marine Parade, 1745.

# Globus Family of Brands 2016 North America Launch

Auckland Central: Tue 23, MetroLanes, Level 3, 291-297 Queen Street, 1800. Auckland North: Wed 24, Xtreme Wairau Park, 10 Target Crescent, 1800. Auckland East: Thu 25, Xtreme Botany Park, 500a Ti Rakau Drive, North Park, 1800.

### JULY

# **Scenic Information Sessions**

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

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

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

### Globus Family of Brands 2016 North America Launch

Nelson: Wed 01, Action Indoor Sports Stadium, 30 McPherson Street, Richmond, 1745. Pukekohe: Tue 21, Pukekohe Cosmopolitan Club - Ten Pin Bowling Centre, 78 Nelson Street, 1745.

### Air New Zealand's Southern Hospitality Roadshow

**Tauranga:** Wed 01, Lone Star Restaurant, 41 The Strand, 1800-2000.

Hamilton: Thu 02, Lone Star Restaurant, 185 Victoria Street,

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

**Lower Hutt:** Mon 06, Strikenz, 399 Hutt Road, 1745.

Palmerston North: Tue 07, Bowlarama Ten Pin Bowling Centre, 94 Cuba Street. 1745.

Christchurch: Tue 21, Tequila Mockingbird, 98 Victoria Street, 1745

Hawaii Tourism MCI Roadshow Mon 27, Dates and venue tba.

# The **FRIDAY** Files

True stories from the mouths of clients, as shared by Kiwi agents.

I once had a client ask me how heavy a 20 kilo bag was?

Have you got a funny travel story to share? We won't publish your name or agency details.
Send your funny travel stories to faith@traveltoday.co.nz

# **OT Hotel For WLG**

Australian brand QT Hotels, known for its quirky properties featuring eclectic décor and unusual staff uniforms, has announced its plans to debut in New Zealand.

Amalgamated Holdings has acquired the Museum Art Hotel in Wellington and says the 163-room property will be rebranded as a QT hotel following a refurbishment.

It seems likely the Wellington property will be similar in style to QT's arty Sydney hotel, with current owner Chris Parkin saying much of the inspiration for its recent renovation came from QT Sydney.

"In my opinion, QT Hotels is the only brand in Australasia fully compatible with the spirit of the Museum Art Hotel," he says. "I'm confident they can transition the brand without losing the magic and over time create something even greater."

The sale is expected to be completed in Aug. The chain has no further plans for additional properties in New Zealand at this stage.

# **Hong Kong Discounts**

The Hong Kong Tourism Board is rolling out its Hong Kong Summer Fun campaign 15 Jun-31 Aug, offering city-wide shopping and dining deals, as well as two lucky draws at Hong Kong International Airport. Visitors entering and leaving Hong Kong through the airport can take part in the two lucky draws to win prizes provided by local merchants and attractions. The grand prize, 'Return to Hong Kong like a Millionaire' will offer a luxury return trip to Hong Kong for ten prize winners, whilst the 'Instant Mega Draw' guarantees a prize for every visitor. For the city-wide spending offers, visitors can download e-coupons from the HKTB website, and the 'My Hong Kong Guide' mobile app to enjoy the offers, whilst a range of special offers will be available during the campaign period. See discoverhongkong.com

# **WELCOME ABOARD**



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For more see Monday's Travel Today



# Aloha Friday



Fri 12 Jun 15 p5

# New Food Tours Launch On Kauai



Visitors will interact with Kauai's farmers, chefs and artisan food producers on Tasting Kauai's new farm to fork food tours, which are focused on the north and south shores, east side and farmers markets.

The tours are described as 'playful, educational edible experiences' and are based on the seasons. They're designed to connect people with the farmers and chefs of Kauai, who produce an abundance of food.

On the North Shore tour (every Tue, 1100-1500, USD120), clients follow their guide to out-of-the way establishments, taste products made



# **Kids Golf Free**

For a fun day of family golf, kids play free with their parents at Hawaii Prince Golf Club on Oahu and Hapuna Golf Course on Hawaii Island, through to 30 Sep. The promotion is applicable to registered hotel guests who are confirmed on rack rates, packages and promotional rates. Parents must purchase one round of golf at full price to qualify. Some blackout dates and restrictions apply, and rates are based on availability. See princeresortshawaii.com

with exotic fruit, sample Hawaiian food and learn about Tiki cocktail culture.

The South Shore tour (every Wed, 1315-1700, USD120) takes in the sights, flavours and history of the region with stops to celebrate street food like tacos and tropical gelato, finishing up at the Kauai Culinary Market.

The Royal Coconut Coast tour is offered monthly on a Thu (USD120) and includes strolling down an old plantation road, learning about taro farming (pictured), sampling street food and tastings at some of the area's best farm-to-table restaurants.

The Farmers Market tour (Wed, 1500-1600, USD30) aims to help guests distinguish between what's grown in Mexico and what's genuinely from Kauai, as well as learning how to select perfect produce and how to cook it.

See tastingkauai.com

# **Slack Key Guitar Fest**

The 33rd Annual Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Festival is taking place at Waikiki's Queen Kapiolani Park and Bandstand from 1200 on 16 Aug, says sponsor Outrigger Resorts. The celebration will include performances by some of Hawaii's greatest ki hoalu players, as well as Hawaii's next generation of slack key guitarists. See slackkeyfestival.com/

# **Ala Moana Refresh**

All guest rooms at the Ala Moana Hotel will undergo a soft goods refresh from 15 Aug-mid Dec, including new carpeting, drapery, sofa sleeper/chair and bedspreads, Outrigger has advised. The refurbishment programme will have little or no impact on guests, as the hotel will close three floors at a time with buffer floors above and below.

# **Hawaii Getaway**

GO Holidays has seven-night Waikiki packages ex Auckland flying Air New Zealand priced from \$1549pp s/t, including one extra checked-in bag up to 23kg per person. Clients need to add an additional \$169pp for travel from all other NZ domestic departure points; and can upgrade to the works from \$100pp. The offer is for sales to 15 Jun and travel to 27 Oct-11 Dec or 11 Feb-31 Mar. GO has details.

# **Earn More With TARP**

The Activities and Attractions Association of Hawaii (A3H) is encouraging Kiwi agents to sign up to its Travel Agent Referral Program (TARP) and start earning up to 15% commission on activities in the islands.

Agents who register for TARP, and sign up for free monthly webinars, will earn commission of up to 15%, says A3H. For an overview of TARP CLICK HERE or see hawaiitarp.com

# **HA May Traffic Up**

Hawaiian Airlines carried 4.1% more passengers in May than the same time last year, with demand up 5.3% and capacity increasing 3.3%. Load factors rose 1.4 points to 80.5%. Year-to-date, passenger numbers are up 4.5%, demand is up 4.5% and capacity up 4.4%, with load factors steady at 79.1%.



# **Historic Rail And Outlet Shopping Tour**

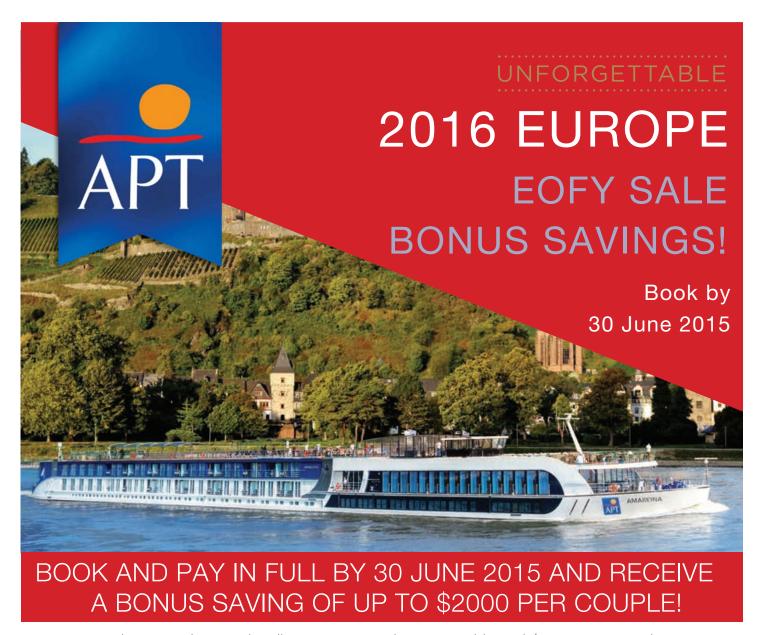
Island Railway Tours has launched a new Historic Train Ride and Waikele Shopping tour, which combines a ride on Oahu's only active historic railroad as well as shopping at the Waikele Premium Outlets.

During the 90-min train ride, passengers hear the story of how sugar cane trains were used on the sugar plantations, and see historic Fort Barrette and the 'ghost town' of Gilbert. The train travels through Kalaeloa, Kapolei and Ko Olina, and includes ocean views of the west shore where whales and dolphins can be spotted.

The tour is USD90 for adults, USD80 for children (two-12) and operates every Mon, Wed and Fri. Guests are picked up in Waikiki at 0830 and given a Kona Coffee and Malasada treat at the station before the 1100 train ride. Shopping is from 1300-1500, and guests are dropped back at Waikiki at 1700. There's also a train-only option priced at USD45 for adults, USD40 for kids. See islandrailwaytours.com







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Magnificent Europe			✓	✓	✓
Rhine & Rhone	✓		✓	✓	
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Rhine & Moselle Discoveries					$\checkmark$
Seine & Rhone			✓		
Charms of Southern France		✓	✓		
Grand Bordeaux			✓		
Douro Delights			✓		
Enchanting Rhine	✓				
Rhone Treasures					✓

\*Conditions apply — New Early Payment offer is combinable with applicable air offer, Solo Traveller Offer and Travelling with Friends discount. Offer not combinable with APT EXPO savings.

Offer valid for new bookings only made between 1 — 30 June. BONUS SAVING: \$500 pp offer is applicable to Royal Collection cruise tours between 7—14 days on select dates that are paid in full by 30 June 2015. \$1000 pp offer is applicable to Royal Collection cruise tours of 15 days or longer on select dates that are paid in full by 30 June 2015. \$1 st non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 pp must be paid within 7 days of making the booking. Full payment must be received by 30 June 2015. Available on new bookings only. Any bookings that have not received payment will have the additional saving removed.