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Monday 10 April 2017

Issue 3519

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IATA: Restrictions A Concern, Travel Up

IATA remains concerned by the impact that travel restrictions or closing of borders may have on travel—but the agency’s director general Alexandre de Juniac says it has ‘not seen the attempted US ban on travel from six countries translate into an identifiable traffic trend’.

“Overall travel demand continues to grow at a robust rate,” says the IATA boss as it announces the Feb passenger demand figures, which show continued demand growth for 2017. “The year has opened with some shocks—the attempted ban on travel to the US by citizens of six countries and the restrictions on the carry-on of large electronic items from certain airports in the Middle East and North Africa on direct flights to the US and the UK,” says de Juniac. “The potential implications of the Brexit talks on the air transport industry are significant and the political rhetoric of protectionism and closing of borders is adding to the ambiguity.” Lower overall fares and a healthier global economic backdrop have contributed to the continuing strong demand momentum, says IATA. Total Feb revenue passenger kms

(RPKs) rose 4.8%, year-on-year; monthly capacity (available seat kms or ASKs) was up 2.7%, and loads rose 1.6 percentage points to 79.5%, year-on-year—the highest ever recorded for Feb, notes IATA.

... International

International passenger demand was up 5.8% in Feb; total capacity climbed 3.4%, and loads rose 1.8 percentage points to 78.4%. Feb traffic was up 5.2% in Feb for Asia Pacific carriers, year-on-year maintaining the strong momentum of the past few months, adds IATA. “Intra-Asia traffic remains robust and conditions on the Asia-Europe route have continued to recover from last year’s terrorism-related slowdown,” adds the airline body. Capacity in the region increased 2.9% and loads climbed 1.7 points to 79.8%. Middle East carriers had the strongest growth, up 9.5% for Feb; while European carriers saw demand increase 6.5% year-on-year. “Traffic has resumed its growth [in Europe] after the terrorist disruptions in 2016, supported in part by momentum in the regional economy,” says IATA.

Low-cost Regional?

Boeing is one of the investors behind a US company that’s working on small hybrid electric aircraft which it says could cut the cost of regional flights by as much as 40-80%. Zunum Aero says its technology would make inexpensive short-haul flights a possibility, and hopes to one day see travellers hop on a flight instead of taking a bus or train. The company aims to be flying routes of up to 700 miles by the mid-2020s, according to reports.

Leighton Buys Agency

After months of low profile, Greig Leighton has surfaced with the announcement that he and wife Caroline have purchased Concept Travel, which also owns Ski Travel Specialists. However, Greig Leighton told *Travel Today* that he will not be in the business day-to-day. After 30 years of running her own travel business Julie Lewisham (ex Julie Coulston) has made the decision to sell, but will remain in the business in a selling role. “It’s been a huge part of my life, a passion of mine and I have a strong desire to ensure the business continues to prosper,” said Lewisham. Steve Teixeira, ex Dive Fish Snow, has been appointed as manager.

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Win A Hawaii Trip

Contiki and Hawaiian Airlines are giving agents the chance to win a trip to Hawaii, to celebrate the launch of Contiki's new nine-day Big Kahuna island-hopper trip.

Agents who sell any Contiki USA trip or HA airfare between 03 Apr and 30 May will go in the draw to win five nights' accommodation and 200,000 HawaiianMiles (enough for return flights for two to Hawaii). Every trip and fare sold gives agents one entry into the draw. See contiki.com/agents

Best Drinks On VA

Virgin Australia has won an award for best onboard beverages at the Onboard Hospitality Awards. The carrier won for The Duo, which was developed in partnership with Barossa Valley winery St Hallett specifically for consumption at high altitudes. It's served in business class and in VA lounges.

Air NZ Aussie Fares

Air New Zealand has fares to Australia on sale to 11 Apr. One-way Seat + Bag fares are from \$169, premium economy fares are from \$379 and business class from \$649.

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Daydream Island Closed Until 2018

Daydream Island Resort and Spa will remain closed until the middle of 2018, with the property bringing forward a planned refurbishment after substantial damage from Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Daydream announced earlier this year that it would close for a period early next year to allow an AUD50 million refurbishment to go ahead. It now says it's not feasible to invest money in reopening in the next few months, only to close again for the refurbishment. Following the cyclone, Daydream had said it wouldn't accept guests until at least 30 Apr 2017. Guests with forward bookings are being contacted.

The resort is to receive major infrastructure upgrades including accommodation refurbishments,

renovations to existing attractions and new features which it says will turn it into an upscale 4.5 star resort. Major works will include redeveloping the Waterfalls restaurant, Lagoons bar, all room types, expanding the Lovers Cove function area and building a new Asian-inspired restaurant overlooking Mermaids Beach.

... Easter Ready

Meanwhile, the Whitsundays region is steadily coming back on-line following the impacts of ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie, says Tourism Whitsundays.

The foreshore and beach areas as well as the main street of Airlie Beach have been cleaned up; while power is being reinstated to the region, area by area, with completion expected 11 Apr.

While the region is 'not out of the woods yet', Tourism Whitsundays chief executive Craig Turner says signs were looking good for the coming Easter weekend and ensuing holiday period, with plenty of tours and trips operating again and accommodation providers back up and running. Shops, restaurants, cafes and other business have also started to open this week, he added. For an up-to-date list of what's operational, [CLICK HERE](#)

Cyclone For New Cal

A category three cyclone near Vanuatu is expected to make landfall in New Caledonia tonight. Cyclone Cook caused strong wind, rain and flash flooding in Vanuatu over the weekend, but is said to have caused little damage. Airports in both Espiritu Santo and Port Vila have been inspected and reopened, and tourism businesses are back in operation today, says Vanuatu Tourism. There is some cleaning up to do which is already well underway.

The cyclone is expected to strengthen before hitting New Caledonia. Kiwis in New Caledonia should follow the advice of local authorities and their accommodation, says the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

QF Australia Sale

Qantas has flights to Australia on sale until midnight 12 Apr, with one-way fares priced from \$189 to Melbourne, \$199 to Brisbane and Sydney, and \$449 to Perth.

EK Aussie Fares

Emirates has economy, business and first class saver fares ex New Zealand to Australia on sale to 12 Apr. Auckland to Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane is from \$199 one-way economy; and Christchurch to Sydney is from \$199 one-way economy. Business class fares are available from \$649 one-way and first class is from \$999 one-way. Select travel dates apply.

HKG Sevens 'The Best'



Flight Centre duo Roann Roberts and Rafael Sandoval is pictured above on left with Cathay Pacific's Vanessa Traill at the Hong Kong Sevens on Sat.

Fiji beat the Kiwi team in the final, but the atmosphere at the legendary sevens event continues to make for an amazing experience and can be highly recommended for clients, says Flight Centre's Roann Roberts.

"The atmosphere's awesome and the event lives up to its premier of the circuit reputation. Some 120,000 fans pack the seats and it's a phenomenal party atmosphere bringing the tournament to life," says Roberts.



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Record 2017 Bookings For Avalon



With a record year for 2017 cruise bookings out of New Zealand, Avalon Waterways is seeing the momentum continue with its 2018 preview sales.

With competitive airfares fuelling the demand for travel to Europe this year, Avalon's Troy Ackerman is expecting a similar result in 2018, with 'solid' sales already recorded during the line's preview offering. However, along with Europe, South East Asia itineraries are also proving popular for 2018, says Ackerman.

With Avalon's 2018 brochures out now, and expected to arrive at agencies throughout the country over the next few weeks, highlights include that Avalon's Air Credit deal is back—largely thanks to its popularity for 2017 bookings. Clients who book by 06 Jun will receive between \$325 and \$1250 in air credit per person. The credit will be processed as a dis-

count off the cruise, making it simple for agents to book and administrate, adds Ackerman.

A single traveller offer is also available for early birds, with the single supplement removed on any cruise booked with a deposit by 06 Jun.

Avalon has also dropped its Panorama Suites upgrade prices by up to 15%; while a selection of base prices for 2018 departures have been decreased. Ackerman (second from right) is pictured with Avalon Waterways' former president Patrick Clark, New Zealand personality Judy Bailey, Avalon Imagery II captain Nico Van den Boon and Globus family of brands md Australasia Stewart Williams at last year's launch of the Avalon Imagery II.

Avalon's 2018 river cruise season launch coincides with the one-year anniversary of the Avalon Imagery II, adds Ackerman. See avalonwaterways.co.nz

Muse A Popular Choice

Silversea is gearing up for the launch of Silver Muse, with a 'very positive' response from the New Zealand market so far. This year, around 25% of all Silversea bookings from New Zealand are for travel aboard Silver Muse, from a combination of both new and repeat guests.

Silversea adds that while all of Silver Muse's itineraries are proving 'very popular' so far, the Mediterranean and Europe continue to be a major highlight. The first of the ship's 12 voyages will take place in Europe, while she will also visit North, Central and South America as well as cross the Atlantic.

RSSC Book Now Offer

Regent Seven Seas Cruises is offering a Book Now reward offer, allowing clients to receive up to USD500 shipboard credit per suite, for all new bookings on any 2017 voyage. Clients booking a Mediterranean voyage will receive USD500 credit; while a USD250 credit is applicable to all other bookings. The offer is valid through until 31 May. See rssc.com for more.

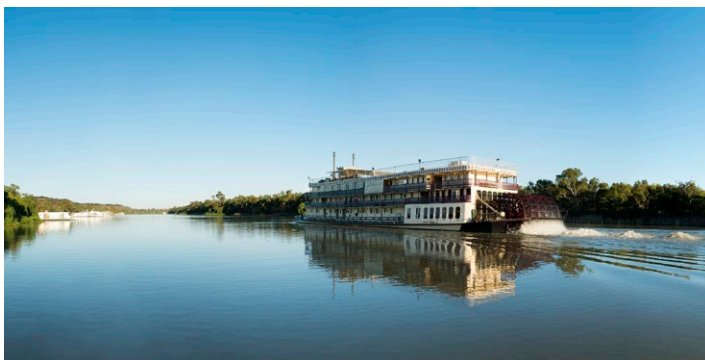
Cunard World Voyage

Cunard's 108-night World Voyage, onboard Queen Mary 2 and travelling roundtrip from New York, is on sale from \$31,829pp t/s for bookings to 30 Jun, advises GO Holidays. Departing 03 Jan 2019, the voyage will call at Athens, Dubai, Phuket, Hong Kong, Chennai, Abu Dhabi and Aqaba, to name a few. Clients can also receive up to USD1300 onboard credit per stateroom. GO has details.

Island Escape Extension

Island Escape Cruises has extended its cruise region to include Doubtful, Dusky, Breaksea and Dagg Sounds in 2018, and to celebrate it is offering an early payment saving of \$1000pp for sales to 30 Jun.

On offer is a seven-night Northern Fiords Cruise, taking in Doubtful, Nancy, Charles, Caswell, George, Bligh and Milford Sounds, priced from \$6250pp; and a seven-night Southern Fiords Cruise, taking in Dusky, Breaksea, Dagg and Doubtful Sounds, priced from \$6950pp. Both itineraries travel roundtrip from Queenstown. T&Cs apply. Island Escape has full details.



Mid-Winter Christmas Cruise

Captain Cook Cruises is offering three-, four- and seven-night Christmas in July cruises, complete with Christmas-themed activities, games and music, a traditional Christmas dinner or lunch and a visit from Santa with presents for everyone onboard. Travelling onboard the newly refurbished PS Murray Princess, the Christmas-themed Murray River cruises depart between 07 and 27 Jul. Prices start from AUD803pp t/s for a three-night cruise. See murrayprincess.com.au

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Egypt Bombing

Egyptian authorities have declared a three-month state of emergency to allow additional security measures to be implemented following the church explosions that killed at least 44 people on 09 Apr. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has reviewed its travel advice for Egypt, and continues to advise against all tourist and non-essential travel. See safetravel.govt.nz/egypt

QF Hong Kong Fares

Qantas has Hong Kong fares ex New Zealand from \$899 on fare basis OLNZH and from \$999 on fare basis QLNZH. The fares are valid for sales and ticketing until midnight 18 Apr.

Sweden Travel Advisory

Following an attack in central Stockholm (07 Apr), in which a man drove a truck into pedestrians before crashing into a department store, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade continues to advise caution in Sweden due to the threat of terrorism. See safetravel.govt.nz/sweden for further details.

‘Once In A Lifetime’ Stay At Hilton Fiji



In what’s being hailed as a ‘once in a lifetime travel deal’, **DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Fiji—Sonaisali Island** has released a new package that allows exclusive use of the resort.

Available for one or 239 travellers, the resort’s all-new Full Island Experience package is priced from FJD75,000 per night (approx \$51,500) and allows clients to book out the property (which was formerly known as Sonaisali resort).

Clients will have access to all 120 guest rooms and bures, as well as all other resort facilities, such as the lagoon pool, spa and dining venues.

Also included in the price is daily buffet breakfast, a two-course lunch at Vulani restaurant, a three-course dinner at Vulani or Tavu restaurant, plus a beachside dinner on one of the nights and one-hour sunset drinks. Clients also have the option to arrive via coach or a private car transfer; and they will be welcomed with a traditional warrior dance.

The property has also launched two additional all-inclusive packages, Full Board and Full Experience, allowing clients to choose the package that best suits.

Clients must stay a minimum of two nights. See fiji.doubletree.com

NZ’s Marathon Boost

Air New Zealand is adding flights from Auckland and Christchurch to allow more competitors to get to the Hawke’s Bay International Marathon on 13 May. NZ will operate seven extra flights from Auckland and two from Christchurch between 12 and 14 May to accommodate demand for the marathon.

A&K India Savings

Abercrombie & Kent has savings of up to \$4340 per couple on a 10-day private journey through India. Clients can choose their own dates between Apr and Sep and will travel to Delhi to Agra and through the deserts of Rajasthan, with guides on hand. It is now priced from \$4595pp or \$8535 for solo travellers for bookings by 31 Jul and travel 15 Apr-30 Sep. See abercrombiekent.com.au

CX Peak Travel Caution

Cathay Pacific is urging consultants to ask their clients travelling on CX over the 12-14 Apr Easter Peak to arrive at Hong Kong International Airport at least three hours prior to departure—especially those travelling with children. The carrier says check-in, security and immigration formalities may take longer over the holiday period.

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APRIL

Avalon Waterways 2018 Launch

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

Visit USA NZ Regional

Roadshow 1

Napier/Hastings: Wed 03, from 4pm, venue tba.

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.

SEPTEMBER

Visit USA NZ Regional

Roadshow 2

Dunedin: Wed 06, from 4pm, venue tba.

DECEMBER

Visit USA NZ Regional

Roadshow 3

Tauranga/Mt. Maunganui: Mon 04, from 4pm, venue tba.

Exploring Coastal Oregon

The Kiwi Oregon Rally Team finished off their adventure at the weekend, leaving the town of Eugene for Florence on the Oregon Coast.

The scenic drive took in highlights such as one of the state's 50 covered bridges in Walton, before the group took to the sands of Oregon—by

board and by horse back. From Florence the group travelled onto Newport, for (you guessed it) another craft brewery—this time the Rogue Brewery and dining out on the state's famed Dungeness crab at Gino's Fish Market. Retail therapy was on the agenda for the last day of the rally. The group escaped the wild weather by

driving up to Lincoln City to spend up at the outlet shops and sample the local coffee, the cuisine at the beachside Pelican Brewing, and the cheese and ice-cream at Tillamook.

The weary but well-travelled group headed back to Portland before flying out on United Airlines home to New Zealand.



1 Teams New Zealand, Australia and the Netherlands are ready to compete, on horse-back at the beach in Florence, Oregon. **2** Team New Zealand's finale photo. Pictured from left is Lisa Itel from Travel Oregon; New Zealand Travel Brokers' Yvonne Wilson; UA's Leanne Cheesman; Steph Daji from Travelsmart Meadowbank; and in front, HoT Wellington's Alex Lord and Sarah Guarch from STA Queenstown. **3** Board Silly: The Kiwi team is pictured jumping for joy in the dunes of Florence. From left is New Zealand Travel Brokers' Yvonne Wilson; Steph Daji from Travelsmart Meadowbank; UA's Leanne Cheesman; Alex Lord from HoT Wellington; and STA's Sarah Guarch. **4** Yvonne Wilson, New Zealand Travel Brokers is pictured sandboarding the dunes of Florence, Oregon. **5** Dungeness crab is the

state crab of Oregon—and dinner at OceanBleu located at Gino's Fish Market & Café on the west end of Newport's historic Bayfront can be highly recommended. **6** It would be rude not to stop off at yet another

craft brewer—The Rogue Brewery. **7** Alex Lord from HoT Wellington gets set to tuck into her crab dinner. **8** The Walton Covered Bridge—one of the state's 50 covered bridges.

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