

TABS ON TRAVEL TODAY

Incorporating Tabs on Travel

Tuesday 07 April 2026

Issue 5188



 Fly for business AKL-CHC 6:10am / CHC-AKL 5:20pm weekdays

Jetstar 

The NTIA 2026 Finalists Announced

The TAANZ NTIA 2026 finalists are out today—following record entries across several categories, says TAANZ ceo Julie White.

“The strength and depth of nominations reflect an industry that continues to go above and beyond for its customers, particularly in times of disruption,” says White, adding that the calibre of entries highlights both the professionalism and resilience of the sector.

“What stood out this year was the genuine care our members show for their customers and communities. The record number of entries, particularly in community connection and customer advocacy, reinforces the critical role travel advisors play in supporting New Zealanders, especially during challenging times.”

The NTIAs come at a time when the industry has been navigating ongoing global disruption, including recent challenges in the Middle East, says White. “Despite this, demand for travel remains strong, with advisors continuing to support customers through complexity with expertise, care, and professionalism.”

“Our members have been carrying a significant workload, supporting customers through uncertainty while ensuring their travel plans stay on track. NTIA is our opportunity to pause and recognise that

effort—and to celebrate the incredible value travel advisors bring to Kiwi travellers.” See a full list of the 2026 NTIA finalists [HERE](#).

... Engagement

Encouragingly, White says there’s also been strong engagement from travel advisors in voting for supplier categories, ‘reflecting the deep partnerships that underpin the industry and the shared commitment to delivering outstanding travel experiences’.

This year TAANZ has also introduced a *People’s Choice Award* ‘designed to elevate the profile of travel consultants at a consumer level and shine a spotlight on the talented individuals who help thousands of New Zealanders explore the world with confidence’. See the list of 2026 people’s choice finalists [HERE](#).

... Tickets

There are still tickets available for the awards, in Auckland on Sat 16 May. White is encouraging those in the trade, from across the country, to attend. “This is our industry’s night of nights. We encourage our out-of-town members and partners to join us, to take a moment to celebrate, reconnect, and recognise the collective strength of our industry, particularly after the headwinds we’ve faced.”

QF: Win Footie Tix

Qantas is giving away five double passes to the Auckland FC vs Melbourne Victory match on 11 Apr in the Go Media Black Knights Lounge. To be in to win, agents need to e-mail QF with why they should win. Entries close at 1200 09 Apr, and winners will be drawn 09 Apr. E-mail entries [HERE](#)

FJ Cyclone Policy

Fiji Airways is offering flexibility to FJ and Fiji Link customers with valid 260 tickets for travel 07-09 Apr, when tropical cyclone Vaianu is expected to hit Fiji. These passengers can defer travel to later flights without change fee and fare difference for travel up to 30 Apr.

A fare difference may apply for travel deferred to 01-31 May, though the change fee will be waived. This policy is valid to 15 Apr. See details [HERE](#).

Latest From Emirates

Emirates has updated its re-accommodation policy for passengers. Those booked on EK 176 ticket stock for travel 28 Feb-30 Apr are now able to rebook onto another flight within the same region for travel to 15 Jun, or request a refund. Use endorsement/waiver code ‘INVOL’ for both options.

EK has also updated flexibility for future bookings. Clients who book flights from 02 Apr are offered one complimentary date change, valid across all cabins. See details [HERE](#).

Air NZ Extends Cuts

Air New Zealand is extending cuts to its network into May and Jun as soaring fuel costs continue to bite. NZ says ‘consolidations’ affect around 4% of flights but only 1% of total passengers due to travel across this period. “We have worked hard to keep disruption to a minimum, with the vast majority of impacted customers still travelling on the same day.” Affected customers should be notified by the end of the week. “These changes are relatively small compared to others in the New Zealand market, where some airlines are reducing capacity by more than 10%.”

... Advice To Agents

NZ says schedule changes will be progressively rolled out to the GDS from today and urges agents to check their queues. Clients with affected flights who no longer wish to travel may opt for a refund. Changes announced in Mar and running to early May affected 1100 flights and 44,000 passengers. NZ has also cancelled two AKL-SIN flights this week due to an aircraft needing an engine change. Passengers have been rebooked on the next available service.

11 Pages This Issue

News.....	p1, 3, 5, 7, 9-11
Qantas.....	p2
TAANZ NTIA.....	p4
Wendy Wu.....	p6
TAANZ NTIA.....	p8

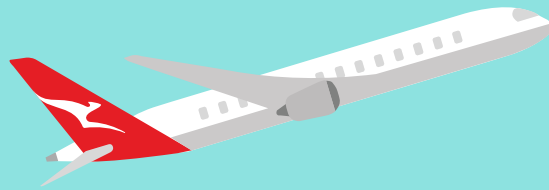
SMARTER SEARCHING. FASTER BOOKINGS. BETTER MARGINS

Instant access to a huge range of worldwide accommodation, transfers and tours. Instant purchase and book now, pay later options, plus fully integrated with Viator. Easy payment via our seamless MINT payment integration or credit card (zero fees). 24/7 in-destination emergency support. ReadyRooms offers more choice, more control and more commission.

 ReadyRooms

[CONTACT US](#)





Win the ultimate Qantas travel pack

Sell Qantas for your chance to win one of six premium prize packs

How to win:

- Sell Qantas (081 ticket stock and QF flight number) return from New Zealand to anywhere on our network
- Complete the QAC registration form with the required information (one entry per booking)
- Winners will be selected at random. The more you enter, the more chances you have to win

Selling period:

Monday 23 March–Friday 1 May 2026

The prizes:

Each Qantas travel pack will include:

- Qantas x July Exclusive Edition Checked Luggage
- Apple iPad Air 11-inch M4 512GB Wi-Fi
- Apple AirPods Max (USB-C)
- \$1,000 Visa Prezzy Card

[Enter now](#)

Terms and conditions apply.



AKL Victoria's Secret

Auckland International Airport's new Victoria Secret store opened last week. Lucy Thomas, AKL head of retail, says the store was opened with duty-free operator Lagardère. "It's all part of our commitment to deliver a vibrant and contemporary retail experience," she adds.

ISSN 2323-5275

Travel Today (incorporating Tabs on Travel) is published by Tabs on Travel Ltd, New Zealand. Ph +64-9-415 8111. news@traveltoday.co.nz tony@traveltoday.co.nz

[Click Here for Existing Subscription Updates](#)

© All contents are copyright, and must not be transmitted or copied without specific approval.

PO Box 305-167, Triton Plaza, Auckland 0757, New Zealand. 2F, 5 Ceres Court, Rosedale, Auckland 0632, New Zealand.

[Click Here for NEW Subscriptions](#)

[Click Here to Unsubscribe](#)

Asia Roadshow Reflects Demand

The Asia Now Roadshow will be travelling the country from Sep, after a pause in 2025, returning as demand for Asian destinations surge. Local Wendy Wu and Paul Dymond says the Kiwi trade events are a great opportunity for agents to update their Asia product knowledge in one place.



"I think Asia will be a preferred choice for mid- to long-haul travellers for the next 18 months, so for agents to have a chance to connect with some well-informed presenter it will only help them be prepared and informed for their clients, which should lead to growth in their business."

Agents will have the chance to hear directly from tourist boards on what is going on in their countries, with theatre-style presentations as well as networking time.

"2026 is going to be full of changes and continuing updates, so having some face-to-face interactions will mean that agents can get the answers they personally need for

their business, from the presenters," adds the Wendy Wu executive.

... Prizes

There will be Asian themed food and door prizes offered at the roadshow. Events will be held in Tauranga, Hamilton, Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington—as well as in the Hawkes Bay where Dymond says it's probably over 15 years since an Asia roadshow has been hosted here.

Presenters this year include Exotic Holidays, Francis Travel, Wendy Wu Tours, Korea Tourism Organization, Japan National Tourism Organization, Air New Zealand and Airline Marketing representing Philippine Airlines. More details, including registration links, will be out soon. See event dates [HERE](#).

BLC's Grounded Ship

Blue Lagoon Cruises' MV Fiji Princess was grounded on a reef in the Mamanuca Islands in the early hours of Sat (04 Apr). The company says all 30 guests and non-essential crew disembarked the ship with their belonging and be transported to Port Denarau.

Impacted guests have been accommodated by Blue Lagoon Cruises at Denarau hotels and provided a full refund for their cruise, it adds. The cruise line's immediate priority now to finalise a plan to recover the ship, reducing environmental risk, with Blue Lagoon having appointed a leading marine recovery and salvage specialist from Australia to oversee recovery operations.


An investigation into the grounding is also underway, with the cruise line stating that it appears a sudden, severe squall caused the ship's anchor to drag, pushing the vessel onto a reef.

... Rebooking

Agents with clients booked aboard MV Fiji Princess up to the end of Apr can choose to cancel or defer, while those booked in May and beyond will be contacted within the next seven-14 days with options. See [HERE](#).

ENVOYAGE
for every journey


Travel thrives on connection, both the journeys we craft and the relationships we build along the way. Our global community of travel advisors creates a network where professional growth and shared passion intersect.



"Envoyage has such a strong sense of community, and they are committed to helping us grow - not just as business owners, but as people."

**AMANDA KING
KING TRAVEL**

[LEARN MORE](#)



**Infinity
Holidays**

CLIENTS DREAM IT.
YOU BOOK IT.
WE MAKE IT HAPPEN.

INFINITYHOLIDAYS.CO.NZ

[MORE INFO](#)

NTIA26



FINALISTS CONGRATULATIONS

Retail Travel Agency of the year

SPONSORED BY



FINALISTS

Flight Centre Masterton
House of Travel Motueka
Pukekohe Travel
Streeter and Turner Travel Associates
helloworld Travel Strandon

Retail Travel Agency Manager of the year

SPONSORED BY



FINALISTS

Karen Jelas - Flight Centre Masterton
Kelly Streeter - Streeter & Turner Travel Associates
Jo Coolen - House of Travel Kapiti Coast
Kylie Wright - Wright & Turner Travel Associates
Linda & Jason Kroupa - House of Travel Motueka
Hannah Freeman - Freeman & Turner Travel Associates

Retail Rookie of the year

SPONSORED BY



FINALISTS

Ayden Stevens - Flight Centre Riccarton Mall
Halie Allan - House of Travel Invercargill
Shannara Robinson - Best Travel & Cruise
Emily Whiley - House of Travel Dunedin City
Brooke Thompson - helloworld Travel Rototuna
Carly Dorrington - House of Travel Papamoa

Retail Consultant of the year

SPONSORED BY



FINALISTS

Gaylene Solly - House of Travel Hamilton City
Craig Martin - Streeter & Turner Travel Associates
Ellise Buckley - helloworld Travel Palmerston North
Brendon Maguire - House of Travel Nelson
Alexandra Hannagan - Hannagan & Greive Travel Associates

Travel Broker (Individual) of the year

SPONSORED BY



FINALISTS

Tania Stranks - Fuzion Travel World Travellers
Kristy Cockerill - Wanderlust Travel Experts
Angela Lester - NZ Travel Brokers
Trish Seeherr - Wanderlust Travel Experts
Robert Schroder - Mondo Travel

Travel Broker (Business/Team) of the year

SPONSORED BY



FINALISTS

Travel Lounge - Envoyage
360edge Travel - Wanderlust Travel Experts
Kelly Bowater Travel - Envoyage
xtravel - Envoyage
Red Dragonfly Travel - NZ Travel Brokers

Customer Advocacy of the year

SPONSORED BY



FINALISTS

Debra Campbell - FCM Travel NZ
Jaimee Phelps - BCD Travel NZ
Nikita McCarthy - FCM Travel NZ
Tori Keating - xtravel
Carla McKinnon - House of Travel Whanganui
Ashleigh Jarvis Branks - FCM Travel NZ

Corporate Travel Agency of the year

SPONSORED BY



FINALISTS

BCD Travel NZ
FCM Travel NZ
Orbit World Travel
Corporate Traveller

Corporate Travel Agency Manager of the year

SPONSORED BY



FINALISTS

Faye Bantjes - Corporate Traveller
Alana Kerr - FCM Travel NZ
Carolyn Richards - Corporate Traveller

Marketing Campaign of the year

SPONSORED BY



FINALISTS

Toussaint & Turner Travel Associates
Zest4Travel - First Travel Group
Travel Your Way - Envoyage
House of Travel Invercargill
xtravel - Envoyage

Corporate Consultant of the year

SPONSORED BY



FINALISTS

Jessica Dunn - FCM Travel NZ
Matt Roberts - Orbit World Travel
Lacca Du - FCM Travel NZ
Mandy Bester - Corporate Traveller
Cecilia Foese - FCM Travel NZ

Community Connection of the year

SPONSORED BY



FINALISTS

Kay Gregan - The Travel Brokers
YOU Travel & Cruise Orewa
xtravel - Envoyage
helloworld Travel Rotorua
Hannagan & Greive Travel Associates

Winners announced at NTIA26 on 16 May 26
Contact email: ntia26@taanz.org.nz

Oceania Savings Deal



Oceania Cruises reminds agents clients can save up to 50% off select sailings with its Exceptional Savings offer.

Voyages across Australia, Asia and more are available, and include the free amenities of Your World Included, gourmet specialty dining and unlimited wifi.

The 14-day *Indochina to Bali Seafarer: Singapore to Bali* departs 23 Nov on the Oceania Natuica, now priced from \$7846pp for a veranda stateroom; the 14-day *Lanterns & Lotus: Bali to Hong Kong* departs 07 Dec on the same ship, now priced from \$7170pp for a veranda stateroom. See all cruises on offer [HERE](#).

Princess On New Alaska Experiences

Princess Cruises is expanding its range of North to Alaska experiences, ahead of its largest ever Alaska season in 2026, when eight ships will offer 180 departures.

First introduced in 2015, the North to Alaska program connects guests with local personalities, culture and food, with Princess vp entertainment John-Paul Lamb saying it's designed to bring guests closer to the spirit, culture and natural beauty of Alaska. "From encounters with local experts and native storytellers to immersive entertainment and scenic glacier viewing, these experiences allow our guests to connect with Alaska along every step of their journey."

The first new experience for 2026 is The Glacier Experience: A Signature Princess Day, this including scenic cruises guided by park rangers that offer close up glacier views.

There's Welcome to Alaska presentations designed to help guests get the most from their experience; and Après Sea: Elevated Post-Adventure Experience, which offers access



to an après-ski inspired lounge with warm drinks and panoramic views. The fourth addition is the Candlelight Concert Series: Fire & Ice, an extension of Princess' current Candlelight Concert Series, which has performances by Alaska singer-songwriters.

The four experiences join its current offering such as the Great Alaskan Lumberjack Show and Puppies in the Piazza.

These voyages will feature a speaker series and Campfire Movies Under the Stars and Stargazing Nights, while the more daring can opt for The Great Big Adventure, which challenges survivalists to navigate the rugged Alaskan wilderness in pursuit of food, shelter, and water. See more details [HERE](#).

News & Product

WA Cyclone Update

Western Australia is still safe to visit following Cyclone Narelle, and its tourism body is urging Kiwi travellers not to cancel their holiday plans.

The cyclone caused damage across the Gascoyne, Mid-West and Pilbara regions, with Exmouth the most impacted.

Tourism Western Australia md Anneke Brown says the STO has set up a dedicated task force with the immediate focus on supporting industry recovery while maintaining confidence in travel to Western Australia where safe to do so.

For travellers, she says local operators are working hard to restore services, and many experiences and businesses remain ready to welcome visitors safely.

"We are encouraging people to continue to travel, once access allows, and support local businesses, as we know the vital role visitors play in recovery."

Learmonth Airport remains closed due to damage to the runway and terminal facilities caused by the cyclone, with no air access for tourists into Exmouth, some access roads to Coral Bay are open, with caution. See more details on WA [HERE](#).



NEW CALEDONIA

EXPERIENCE IT TO SELL IT

SELF FAMIL TO NEW CALEDONIA

Explore New Caledonia with our exclusive Self Famil Programme, **open to certified New Caledonia Specialists**. Enjoy special industry rates on **Aircalin flights**, plus discounts on hotels, activities, and transport — all at your own pace. Immerse yourself in the charm of the French Pacific to better inspire and inform your clients.

→ [Register now here](#)

TRAVEL INFORMATION SESSIONS BY LAND, RAIL AND SEA



Meet our travel experts at a venue near you

Join Wendy Wu Tours, Journey Beyond, and Viking
for a remarkable travel event that is sure to inspire your next great escape.

Whether you're dreaming of faraway cultural discoveries, riding the rails on an iconic journey aboard The Ghan, or setting sail on a river, ocean or expedition voyage, this is your chance to discover it all - straight from the experts.

NORTH ISLAND SESSIONS

Palmerston North 13 April
Whanganui 15 April
New Plymouth 16 April
Kapiti 22 April
Lower Hutt 23 April
Wellington 23 April
Warkworth 5 May
Kerikeri 6 May
Whangarei 7 May
Hamilton 26 May
Rotorua 27 May
Taupo 28 May

SOUTH ISLAND SESSIONS

Blenheim 3 June
Nelson 4 June
Invercargill 23 Sept
Dunedin 24 Sept

WHAT TO EXPECT

- ★ Captivating presentations from three award-winning travel companies
- ★ Exclusive offers that you won't find anywhere else
- ★ Expert advice and one-on-one time with travel specialists
- ★ A relaxed, inspiring atmosphere with like-minded travellers
- ★ Welcome refreshments at morning/evening sessions

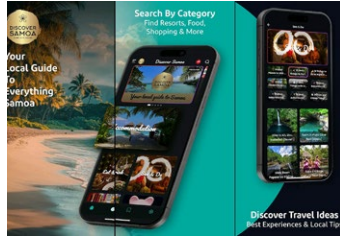


PLACES LIMITED - REGISTER NOW

This event is FREE to attend, however spaces are limited, so register today at travelinformationssessions.co.nz/event-list-trade
OR simply scan the QR code

For more information call 0800 266 610 or email caroline.king@wendywutours.co.nz

Discover Samoa App



The Samoa Tourism Authority and the South Pacific Broadband Company (SPBC) have launched the Discover Samoa App. The new platform offers visitors access to information about local businesses, including hotels, restaurants and a wide range of hospitality services. SPBC's Dirk Loosen says the app is a result of increasing demand from travellers seeking accessible and reliable information. He says SPBC plans to expand to include other destinations in the app, including Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, the Cook Islands, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. See more [HERE](#).

Niue Unveils More Ocean Offerings

Niue is gearing up for its winter peak season and has welcomed more air capacity for whale and dolphin watching experiences, as the destination expands its maritime offerings with a focus on sustainability, and the first cruise ships are sailing in.



Scenic II arrived in Niue in Mar with 200 guests aboard who explored the island. "Feedback from visitors and crew was outstanding" says Niue Tourism's Hayden Porter, who adds that one of the expedition team onboard messaged him to say Niue was 'the most beautiful place I have ever visited'. "They have rebooked for 2028 already," says Porter. Giant superyacht M/Y Octopus also sailed into Niue recently embarking on a land program from Niue Tourism and local operators. Porter saying the vessel is one of the growing number of superyachts that has recently visited with several enquiries from others planning to visit. But the focus is on sustainable

ship visits. Porter says the destination turned down around 10 cruise visits last year as there were just too many people aboard, which would be more damaging than beneficial to Niue. "Instead, we have focused on the exploration-style companies and delivering high quality, high yield experiences with no more than 250 people coming ashore in any one visit." Those that have been approved, and are visiting in the next year, include Silversea, Island Sky and National Geographic. At the same time Explore Niue has welcomed a second custom 6.5m Smuggler RIB, meaning more whale and dolphin experiences. Humpback whales are in Niuean waters mid-Jul through to late Sep, and the dolphins can be spotted year-round. The operator also offers fishing charters, and land-based scenic tours, all of these are commissionable for agents. See more on Niue [HERE](#).

News & Product

CLIAs 2027 Update



Cruise Lines International Association's 24th Cruise Industry Awards for Australasia will return to Sydney, and the International Convention Centre, on 13 Feb 2027. The association's executive director Australasia Joel Katz says next year's event will build on the success of this year's, which attracted more nominations than ever before and more attendees.

Details of the award categories and nominations will be announced later this year, and tickets will go on sale exclusively to CLIA members closer to the event. See more [HERE](#).

Vanuatu For Families

Our Pacific has Vanuatu family land packages including seven nights at Warwick Le Lagon Resort from \$2799 per family (two adults and two children under 12 years). The package, on sale to 30 Jun, includes breakfasts, free meals for the children and free kids club. Travel dates include 21 Apr 2026-31 Mar 2027, close outs apply. See [HERE](#).



SAVE UP TO \$13,400 PER COUPLE*

WHERE THE BEST VIEW IS ALSO THE BEST-RATED.

OUR PANORAMA SUITES SPAN TWO FULL DECKS ON EVERY SUITE SHIP, OFFERING THE WIDEST-OPENING WINDOWS IN RIVER CRUISING.





Avalon Waterways
Best River Cruise Line



Avalon Waterways
Best for Active Cruisers



Avalon Waterways
Best Cabins



Avalon Waterways
Cruisers' Choice

[LEARN MORE](#)



BEDS THAT FACE THE VIEW



AWARD-WINNING PANORAMA SUITESSM



FLEXIBLE DINING AND WORLD-CLASS MENUS



CHOICE OF EXCURSIONS ACTIVE, DISCOVERY OR CLASSIC



FEWER GUESTS MEANS MORE SPACE



PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Now open - vote for your favourite travel advisor.
Individual finalists below, in alphabetical order.
Voting closes 17 April 26

[Vote here](#)

**CORPORATE TRAVEL
AGENCY MANAGER
Alana Kerr**

**RETAIL TRAVEL
CONSULTANT
Alexandra Hannagan**

**TRAVEL BROKER
(INDIVIDUAL)
Angela Lester**

**RETAIL ROOKIE
Ayden Stevens**

**RETAIL TRAVEL
CONSULTANT
Brendon Maguire**

**RETAIL ROOKIE
Brooke Thompson**

**RETAIL ROOKIE
Carly Dorrington**

**CORPORATE TRAVEL
AGENCY MANAGER
Carolyn Richards**

**CORPORATE
CONSULTANT
Cecilia Foese**

**RETAIL TRAVEL
CONSULTANT
Craig Martin**

**RETAIL TRAVEL
CONSULTANT
Ellise Buckley**

**RETAIL ROOKIE
Emily Whiley**

**CORPORATE TRAVEL
AGENCY MANAGER
Faye Bantjes**

**RETAIL TRAVEL
CONSULTANT
Gaylene Solly**

**RETAIL ROOKIE
Halie Allan**

**RETAIL TRAVEL
AGENCY MANAGER
Hannah Freeman**

**CORPORATE
CONSULTANT
Jessica Dunn**

**RETAIL TRAVEL
AGENCY MANAGER
Jo Coolen**

**RETAIL TRAVEL
AGENCY MANAGER
Karen Jelas**

**RETAIL TRAVEL
AGENCY MANAGER
Kelly Streeter**

**TRAVEL BROKER
(INDIVIDUAL)
Kristy Cockerill**

**RETAIL TRAVEL
AGENCY MANAGER
Kylie Wright**

**CORPORATE
CONSULTANT
Lacca Du**

**RETAIL TRAVEL
AGENCY MANAGER
Linda & Jason Kroupa**

**CORPORATE
CONSULTANT
Mandy Bester**

**CORPORATE
CONSULTANT
Matt Roberts**

**TRAVEL BROKER
(INDIVIDUAL)
Robert Schroder**

**RETAIL ROOKIE
Shannara Robinson**

**TRAVEL BROKER
(INDIVIDUAL)
Tania Stranks**

**TRAVEL BROKER
(INDIVIDUAL)
Trish Seeherr**

Winner announced at NTIA26 on 16 May 26
Contact email: ntia26@taanz.org.nz



Rail Europe Sleepers



Rail Europe is now selling European Sleeper services, offering access to overnight routes connecting key European cities such as Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels and Prague, as well as the recently-launched Paris and Berlin service. There's further expansion planned, to routes such as Brussels and Milan, as the platform reports a significant increase in passenger volumes on overnight services in recent years. The new European Sleeper services are available via Rail Europe's platform and API, enabling partners to seamlessly integrate overnight rail options into their product offering. See more [HERE](#).

Wellness & Walks In Queenstown

As the current climate has Kiwis increasingly seeking close to home getaways, Destination Queenstown & Lake Wānaka Tourism are highlighting some of the new offerings in the region.

Watershed has opened on St Omar's Wharf, a premium floating sauna experience boasting uninterrupted views of Lake Whakatipu. Clients can mix the sauna with a cold plunge into the lake. Sessions start from \$59pp. Also new on the wellness front is The Bathhouse Queenstown on Brecon Street, offering hot pools, saunas, and wellness treatments inspired by classic European bathhouses. A 60-minute sessions starts at \$99pp.

... Soft Adventure

For those a little more active, Wanaka Water Taxis has unveiled Shepherd's Lookout, a new boat-in/boat-out half-day hiking experience that includes private access to Mt Burke Station's remote peninsula. Guided and



©Watershed Sauna

self-guided options are available, starting at \$99pp. For history, *The Goldrush Tour* has debuted, exploring Skipper's Canyon and the stories from this historic area, as well as some Lord of The Rings filming locations. Prices are from \$169pp. Rounding out the list is the new Gibbston Valley Golf Course, a nine-hole, par 32 golf course that also features a Clubhouse, pro shop, gym, heated pool and jacuzzi. Fees start at \$125 for non-affiliated/public/international players. For more information on the above, and what else is on offer in Queenstown and Wanaka, see details [HERE](#).

News & Product

Green Levy Delayed



Singapore is deferring a sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) levy as travellers face soaring ticket prices due to war in the Middle East. The levy was to be imposed on tickets sold from 01 Apr, but instead has been pushed out to 01 Oct. "Singapore remains firmly committed to aviation decarbonisation. We are taking a pragmatic pause in view of the current situation. We will continue to work closely with our aviation industry partners and monitor global developments," says the CAA of Singapore. The fee depends on flight distance and cabin type but ranges from SGD1 to SGD10.40 in economy while premium passengers pay four times that. The levy will apply for all origin-destination passengers, origin-destination cargo shipments, and general and business aviation flights departing Singapore.

Paul Gauguin
CRUISES

Take your Sweetie to Tahiti!

COMPLIMENTARY
US\$500
SHIP BOARD CREDIT
PER PERSON!^{*}

0800 767 018 | AU.PONANT.COM/PAUL-GAUGUIN | RESERVATIONS.AUS@PONANT.COM

Tahiti & the Society Islands

BOOK EARLY & SAVE UP TO 20%

Roundtrip Papeete | 7 Nights | From AU\$7,220pp^{*}

RECEIVE US\$500 SHIP BOARD CREDIT[^]

when you book on the following departures:
6 Jun, 4 Jul, 8 Aug., 5 Sep., 3 Oct., 14 Nov., 12 Dec 2026

Cook Islands & Society Islands

BOOK EARLY & SAVE UP TO 15%

Roundtrip Papeete | 11 Nights | From AU\$14,790pp^{*}

RECEIVE US\$500 SHIP BOARD CREDIT[^]

when you book on the following departure:
21 November 2026

Marquesas, the Tuamotus & Society Islands

BOOK EARLY & SAVE UP TO 15%

Roundtrip Papeete | 14 Nights | From AU\$18,840pp^{*}

RECEIVE US\$500 SHIP BOARD CREDIT[^]

when you book on the following departures:
20 June, 15 Aug., 24 Oct., 19 Dec. 2026

*Prices are per person twin/double share in a lower deck balcony Stateroom. Available and correct at 26/3/26. Subject to availability at time of booking. ^Shipboard Credit is per person, in US dollar (onboard currency) and not redeemable for cash. Shipboard credit is not available to children when their cruise fare is free. Available for new bookings only booked between 01 March to 30 April 2026. Combinable with PONANT Bonus, Free Solo Supplement, PONANT Yacht Club Member Offers, Consortia Contracted Amenities. Not combinable with any other offers. See au.ponant.com for full booking conditions. See au.ponant.com or your Travel Agent for full booking conditions. Mention code SWEETAH at time of booking.

PDX New Terminal



Portland International Airport is nearing the completion of its new terminal, scheduled for Jun. The terminal has an award winning mass-timber roof sourced from nearby forests and via tribal partnerships and offers a woodland feel with its wavy ceiling and more than 5000 plants. It has local restaurants and shops showcased, including Powell's Books, Columbia Sportswear, Portland Coffee Roasters and more. The USD2.2 billion project has doubled the terminal capacity to handle 35 million passengers a year by 2045. See more [HERE](#).



**Last-Minute?
No Problem.**

Find the perfect stay faster with smarter search, themed collections, and deals from 20% off - all on one refreshed page.

Explore Last-Minute Deals



NYC Spots Matched to Personality

New York City offers a range of attractions for a range of personalities, from history buffs to art lovers to cuisine connoisseurs.

Art aficionados can check out the Banksy Museum, which has more than 160 pieces of re-productions of works by the street artist. The museum sprawls across two floors, with large murals paintings installed on walls treated to mimic outdoor streetscapes.

The Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum is also a must see for lovers of contemporary and historical design. The collection has more than 215,000 items, including textiles, decorative arts and interior design installations.

Send history buffs to the RiseNY amusement park ride-meets-history lesson. Visitors will be guided through New York City from a flight simulator, as if they are suspended 30 feet in the air above the skyline.

The Alice Austen House Museum also offers a gothic cottage belonging to American photographer Alice Austen. It is now a designated LGBTQ+ history site, and has a permanent collection of her images from the early 20th century capturing mostly women and immigrants in New York City.

Entertainment enthusiasts can check out various *On-Location Tours* where their favourite TV shows were filmed, be it *Sex and the City*, *The Sopranos*, or *Gossip Girl*. Madame Tussauds New York offers travellers to have their picture taken with lifelike celebrity wax figures, from Beyoncé to Iron Man.

AC Boss 'Retires

Air Canada has announced that its ceo Michael Rousseau will retire by the end of Q3 2026.

He will ensure a seamless and smooth transition. For a replacement, the board says it will consider a number of criteria including the ability to communicate in French, after the fallout from Rousseau's English-only statement following the recent fatal air accident.

Board chair Vagn Sørensen thanked Rousseau for his contributions to AC on behalf of the board. Rousseau says it has been an honour to work with the people of AC.



Foodies can enjoy *A Man and His Sandwich Tours* at various locations, where they will be guided between various locales, or visit Dizzy's Club Jazz at Lincoln Center for Southern food and cocktails with a side of jazz. See more [HERE](#).

News & Product

Moorea Tiki Lodge



A new, boutique accommodation option has opened in Moorea, near Coco Beach Pier, advises Tahiti Tourisme.

The Moorea Tiki Lodge offers three independent bungalows, each with a fully equipped kitchen and within close proximity to beaches, shops and restaurants. See more details on the property, [HERE](#).



**FORTIS
TRAVEL**

**GROUPS TRAVEL
CONSULTANT**

Freemans Bay, Auckland

Fortis Travel is seeking a dedicated Groups Travel Consultant to join our dynamic team!

What We Offer:

- ▶ Salary up to \$90,000pa plus benefits
- ▶ A collaborative & supportive work environment
- ▶ Exciting opportunities in corporate and groups travel
- ▶ Stunning office in Freemans Bay

Your Role:

- ▶ Manage & coordinate business & group travel bookings
- ▶ Provide exceptional customer service & tailored travel solutions
- ▶ Liaise with clients & suppliers to ensure seamless travel experiences

Qualifications:

- ▶ Must be experienced Sabre GDS Consultant

Apply Now

Mandy Nicod | p: 027 705 5289
e: mandy.nicod@fortistravel.co.nz

Wildflower Llama Trek



©Northwest Llama Treks

For a quirkier experience in the State of Washington, Northwest Llama Treks by Zollers has launched a new *Wildflower Llama Trek*.

The experience explores Catherine Creek with a three-kilometre guided hike through wildflowers in the Columbia River Gorge alongside llamas. Tours are available for dates in May through the end of Jun, with prices from USD200 per person, around \$348. See more information [HERE](#).

Alpe's New Role

Dan Alpe has been appointed as ceo of Entrada Travel Group, a move it says marks its next chapter as it builds on strong foundations and progresses long-term strategic ambitions across its portfolio.

Alpe has 20 years of experience in tourism and transport across New Zealand and Australia and says he's looking forward to the new role. "There is a strong foundation in place, and a real opportunity to build on that with clear focus, disciplined execution, and a continued commitment to delivering great customer experiences."

Royal Caribbean's Hero Of The Seas

Royal Caribbean's fourth Icon Class ship, *Hero of the Seas*, will sail ex Miami from Aug 2027 with more pools and dining venues than any other ship currently at sea.

Michael Bayley, president and ceo of Royal Caribbean, says Icon



Class set a new standard for family vacations, and that *Hero of the Seas* takes that vision further.

The ship will have nine pools, including a new Caribbean-inspired pool, three adults-only options, and the largest swim-up bars at sea. There's also Category 6, said to be the largest waterpark at sea, as well as skywalk x zipline Crown's Edge, the FlowRider surf simulator and the Adrenaline Peak rock-climbing wall.

A 'record-breaking' 28 dining venues will include options such as the Orleans Parish Supper Club offering Cajun and Creole dishes, Royal Railway that sees diners transported via train car to new

destinations, and a new cooking class venue, this yet to be named. *Hero of the Seas* will also feature Icon Class favourites from the Royal Promenade neighbourhood to Central Park, as well as the Royal Theater, the AquaTheater and Absolute Zero, the largest ice arena at sea.

... Accommodation

The ship will offer a new accommodation for multi-generational families, including the three-storey Ultimate Family Treehouse, with a rooftop terrace and private whirlpool, a two-deck teen space, and two main bedrooms each with their own bathroom and balcony. A three-level Ultimate Family Townhouse will have direct access to Surfside, the upscale Royal Loft Suites and Icon Loft Suites, as well as Interior Plus and Sunset Suites. *Hero* will offer seven-night Eastern and Western Caribbean sailing ex Miami, calling into Perfect Day at CocoCay, with bookings opening for Crown & Anchor Society loyalty members from 01 Apr, and to the public on 02 Apr. See more details [HERE](#).

Mount Rainier Update

Mount Rainier National Park is not implementing timed-entry reservations for any part of the park in 2026, advises.

The State of Washington. However agents with clients keen to explore are encouraged to consider week-day trips and visiting outside of the park's peak hours of 0700-1600, that. See details [HERE](#).

HAL's Grand Offer



Holland America Line has a Book Early & Save offer on its 2027 Grand Voyages available to 15 May, advises GO Holidays.

This offer includes an AUD1500 reduced deposit for full Grand Voyages or AUD750 deposit for Grand Voyage segments, as well as up to USD9900 in early booking benefits.

Included in the offer is the 129-day *Grand World Voyage*, sailing roundtrip ex Fort Lauderdale on 05 Jan, now AUD43,799pp, as well as the 41-day *Grand South America & Antarctica Voyage* ex Fort Lauderdale to Buenos Aires on 03 Jan, from AUD15,499pp. See details [HERE](#).

Travel Today

Travel news, deals and industry pics... direct to your inbox every weekday!



Click [HERE](#) to subscribe

INDUSTRY DIARY

Want To Add Your Event? e-mail news@traveltoday.co.nz

APRIL

Land, Rail, & Sea: Wendy Wu, *Journey Beyond, Viking*
Palmerston North: Mon 13, Event Cinemas, 1030 & 18:30. **Whanganui:** Wed 15, Whanganui Golf Course, 1830. **New Plymouth:** Thu 16, Novotel, 1430 & 1830. **Kapiti:** Wed 22, Coastlands Event Cinemas, 1030. **Lower Hutt:** Thu 23, Boulcotts Heritage Farm Golf Course, 1030. **Wellington:** Thu 23, Grand Chancellor James Cook Hotel, 1830.

Scenic Cruises Info Sessions

Hamilton: Tue 21, Novotel Hamilton Tainui, 1000, 1200. **Tauranga:** Thu 23, Trinity Wharf Tauranga, 1000, 1200. **Havelock North:** Thu 30, Porters Boutique Hotel, 1800.

Emerald Cruises Info Sessions

Hamilton: Tue 21, Novotel Hamilton Tainui, 1400. **Tauranga:** Thu 23, Trinity Wharf Tauranga, 1400.

MAY

Hawai'i Tourism: Month of Lei Destination Training

Auckland: Mon 04, JW Marriott Auckland, 1730.

Emerald Cruises Info Sessions

Auckland: Tue 05, Park Hyatt, 1000.

Scenic Cruises Info Sessions

Auckland: Tue 05, Park Hyatt, 1130/1800.

Wendy Wu, Journey Beyond, Viking
Warkworth: Tue 05, The Stables Matakana, 1030. **Kerikeri:** Wed 06, The Turner Center, 1030. **Whangarei:** Thu 07, Event

Cinemas, 1030 & 1830. **Hamilton:** Tue 26, The Veranda, 1430 & 1830. **Rotorua:** Wed 27, Novotel Rotorua Lakeside, 1830. **Taupo:** Thu 28, The Lakeview Hotel & Convention Center, 1030 & 1830.

The Auckland Travel Show

Auckland: New Zealand International Convention Centre on Sat 09 & Sun 10.

JUNE

APT Travelmarvel

Hibiscus Coast: Tue 02, Wainui Golf Club, 1000. **Auckland East:** Wed 03, Sorrento in the Park, 1000. **Tauranga:** Thu 04, Trinity Wharf, 1000. **Christchurch:** Tue 09, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū, 1000. **Lower Hutt:** Wed 10, Boulcott's Farm Heritage Golf Club, 1800. **Masterton:**

Thu11, The Screening Room, 1800. **Hamilton:** Tue 16, Narrows Landing, 1000.

AUGUST

Viva Beyond The Brochure

Christchurch: Mon 31, Chateau on the Park, 1730.

SEPTEMBER

Viva Beyond The Brochure

Wellington: Wed 02, Dowse Art Museum, 1800. **Auckland:** Thu 03, CBD (Venue TBC), 1730.

Asia Now Roadshow 2026

Tauranga: Tue 15, 1800. **Hamilton:** Wed 16, 1800. **Auckland:** Thu 17, 1800. **Christchurch:** Tue 22, 1800. **Wellington:** Wed 23. **Hawkes Bay:** Thu 24, 1800. (Venues TBC).