

AOT Product News

AOT News:

3 August 2018

The 2019/20 tariff link is now available to access online for both Australia and New Zealand. Rates are being loaded daily; please check the tariff update chart for a summary of what has been added.

Please remember to change the parameters to 19/20 dates in the Search Panel to pick up 19/20 rates.

Australia:

Updates

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*Country Comfort Port Macquarie
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*The Great Journeys of New Zealand –
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Billy Tea Safaris, Cairns – New Tour

From Marcus Brady, Marketing Manager:

Billy Tea Safaris has announced the launch of the new **Best of Cairns Tablelands** tour which will begin operating from 07 August 2018.

Showcasing the high-country west of Cairns, the tour will provide visitors with an opportunity to experience the unique and amazing local history, characters, and wildlife all combined with a chance to taste some of the best produce in Australia. Highlights include a visit to Coffee Works for coffee and chocolate tasting, exploring the Herberton Historic Village (one of Australia's top 10 museums) and a visit to the Australian Platypus Centre.

Billy Tea Safaris will run the tours each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Rates will be available on the online tariff soon.



Oaks Resort & Spa Hervey Bay, QLD – Change of Management

From Oaks Sales Team:

Effective immediately, Oceans Resort, an Ascend Hotel Collection member has left Choice Hotels and will be managed by Oaks Hotels & Resorts. The property has been renamed Oaks Resort & Spa Hervey Bay.



RAC Karri Valley Resort, WA – Refurbishment

From Tessa MacLeod, Marketing & Sales Coordinator:

Effective immediately, a refurbishment has commenced, which is expected to be completed by 30 December 2018.

Forest and Lake View Chalets (between 3 and 6 at any one time) are expected to be completed by 13 November 2018. Lakeside Rooms will be closed one block at a time from 19 August 2018 until completion on 30 December 2018.



In addition, an extensive refurbishment to their restaurant has commenced, which is expected to be completed by 18 August 2018. During this time the kitchen will operate for takeaway meals and inroom dining only. Lakeside rooms will be affected by noise from the construction to the restaurant.

All works will be carried out from Monday to Sunday from 8.30am and 5.00pm.

Daintree Ecolodge, QLD – Stay/Pay

Stay 3 nights and receive the 4th night free (maximum 1 free night). Includes Full Breakfast.

Conditions:

- Valid New bookings only
- Offer not combinable
- Option Codes: 1BRMCB, 1BRMBT and 1BRMBU
- Black-out Dates: 01APR19 to 22APR19, 02JUN19 to 31AUG19 and 21SEP19 to 12OCT19

Validity:

- Sale: 03AUG18 to 15DEC19
- Travel: 23APR19 to 01JUN19, 01SEP19 to 20SEP19 and 13OCT19 to 15DEC19

Rates can be found on the online tariff.

SPECIAL EVENTS – AUSTRALIA

Brisbane International, QLD

****30 December 2018 – 06 January 2019****

From Inbound Product Team:

The Brisbane International is part of the ATP World Tour 250 series of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) World Tour and of the WTA Premier tournaments of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Tour.

It is held annually in January at the Queensland Tennis Centre, prior to the Australian Open in Melbourne. For booking enquiries, please contact the AOT Reservations team via email.



Please note that tickets must be booked in conjunction with accommodation and strict terms and conditions apply.

Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne

****14 – 17 March 2019****

From Inbound Product Team:

The spectacular setting of Albert Park Melbourne is the perfect place to begin a new and exciting season of Formula 1. The circuit, which lies between artificial lakes and cricket fields, combines fast straights and very demanding slow speed turns, offering numerous overtaking opportunities for drivers and thrilling action for passionate fans.

4 Day Grandstand Tickets are available to book, which includes a reserved seat for Friday, Saturday and Sunday and an unreserved roaming grandstand seat on Thursday.

For any grandstand ticket purchased before 30 November 2018, guests will receive the following Silver Advantage Member Benefits:

- Pit Roof Access on Thursday
- Access to GPA Members Party
- GPA Members enclosure (subject to capacity)
- Souvenir ticket and lanyard
- Pit Lane Walk Thursday evening
- Sunday Walker Straight Walk
- Early Melbourne Walk Access on Saturday

For booking enquiries, please contact the AOT Reservations team via email. Please note that tickets must be booked in conjunction with accommodation and strict terms and conditions apply.



Destination Feature - Australia

Port Macquarie, NSW

Located on the Mid North Coast of NSW, being 4 hours' drive north of Sydney or 6 hrs south of Brisbane. Port Macquarie boasts 17 gorgeous beaches, a lush hinterland, a diverse variety of attractions including; the Koala Hospital, Billabong Zoo, river cruises, and a choice of accommodation Holiday Parks to 3.5 or 4 star hotels. Top it off with one of the best year-round climates and a busy events calendar, there is plenty to do in this small city.



Country Comfort Port Macquarie Waters Edge

Part of the Next Story Group, this 3.5 star property boasts 61 Standard and Deluxe rooms, situated on the picturesque Hastings River.

All rooms are comfortably furnished, with a balcony, Free Wi-Fi, LCD TV with Foxtel and digital channels, tea & coffee making facilities, reverse cycle air conditioning. If you want a view of the pool or Canals, choose the Deluxe room.

Take a dip in the large outdoor swimming pool (there is also a children's pool for the little ones), have a cookout at the BBQ area, relax or enjoy the sunset on the large open deck or enjoy a well-deserved drink before dinner in the Terrace outdoor area. Children can entertain themselves in the play area which features a structure and slide.

With free car parking on site, this property is perfect for self-drivers between Sydney and Brisbane.

Rates can be found on the online tariff.



ibis Styles Port Macquarie

Part of the Accor Hotels chain, this 3.5 star offers unique accommodation at Port Macquarie's finest beachfront location. The 43 room hotel prides itself in providing exceptional, personalised service.

All rooms feature a marble bathroom. Features of the property include a fabulous guest lounge hash with 180 degree views, an outdoor swimming pool and complimentary guest laundry. Guests can enjoy a leisurely breakfast from the stunning top floor Breakfast Lounge overlooking Town Beach.

Rates can be found on the online tariff.



The Great Journeys of New Zealand – Coastal Pacific Returns

From Lisa Ashford, International Trade Manager:

The Great Journeys of New Zealand advised that KiwiRail's iconic Coastal Pacific scenic journey will be operating between Picton and Christchurch from 01 December 2018.

They are delighted to confirm this well-loved service will be running again this summer, allowing thousands of travellers from around the world to once again enjoy this spectacular coastline by train.

Key Facts:

- The Coastal Pacific will run seven days a week from December 1, 2018 through until 28 April in 2019.
- The service will operate with 126 seats, Café Car, Viewing Car and Luggage Van
- Key stops along the route include Rangiora, Kaikoura and Blenheim.
- The five-hour journey includes 98km travelling along the rugged Pacific Coastline. It also journeys through 22 tunnels and crosses 175 bridges



AOT NZ – Document Fee Change

From AOT NZ, Product Team:

Please note the updated document fees for the 2019/20 season.

Flexi

- 1 – 9 days: NZD 105.00
- 10 – 20 days: NZD 155.00
- **NEW*** 21+ days: NZD 175.00

Set Itineraries (\$5 increase from 18/19)

- 3 - 6 days: NZD 85.00
- 7+ days: NZD 105.00

Charges for amendments will be as following:

Language: NZD 130.00

English: NZD 60.00

Cancellation: NZD 50.00

PRODUCT NEWS – SOUTH PACIFIC

Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort, Cook Islands – Fire Damage

From Richard Skewes, Australian Marketing Manager:

Aitutaki Lagoon Private Island Resort advised that there was a major fire on Monday 30 July at the resort. The Flying Boat Beach Bar & Grill and 3 Beachfront Bungalows were completely destroyed.

No guests, staff, first responders or those assisting to fight the fire were injured. They do not expect a disruption to their services due to the limited area of the fire's impact.

Agents with bookings affected have been advised.



Destination Feature – New Zealand

Picton

The picturesque seaside town of Picton is the South Island base for the ferry service that links the main islands of New Zealand and the heart of the Marlborough Sounds.

Built around a very sheltered harbour, the town has an attractive seafront dotted with cafes, restaurants, various types of galleries. There's also a floating maritime museum and an aquarium. Local operators can take you cruising, fishing, dolphin watching, sea kayaking or mountain biking.



The Queen Charlotte Track is a major local attraction; you can conquer it on foot or on a mountain bike.



The Great Journeys of New Zealand – Coastal Pacific

With the Pacific Ocean lapping at its wheels on one side and the Kaikoura ranges rising majestically on the other, the Coastal Pacific is undoubtedly one of the most picturesque scenic journeys.

In the freshness of early morning, the Coastal Pacific departs Christchurch and heads north, passing through the rolling countryside of Canterbury and the farmsteads and wineries of Rangiora and Waipara. The Coastal Pacific then cuts east and joins the coast to begin its amazing course along the edge of the Pacific Ocean.



sea and mountains for company.

The Coastal Pacific meets the sea in spectacular style to the south of Oaro. From here, the Coastal Pacific cuts a lonely course alongside the sea, with sheer cliffs on one side and gentle waves lapping on the other. In the distance, the huge peaks of the Kaikoura ranges descend dramatically into the sea. For the next half-hour, the Coastal Pacific ducks in and out of rocky bays with the mountains growing ever-larger.

By late morning, the Coastal Pacific is easing into the seaside town of Kaikoura, famed for its marine wildlife and activities. Beyond Kaikoura, the Coastal Pacific cruises across grassy flat coastlands with nothing but

As the train continues northward, the sparkling waters of the Pacific Ocean and the jagged peaks of the Kaikoura mountains come ever closer on either side of the tracks. Eventually they meet near Hapaku and the Coastal Pacific once again dances along the rocky shoreline, kissing the water's edge.

One of the most spectacular moments comes at Mangamaunu, where the train rounds the southern end of the bay and delivers exceptional close-up views of the Kaikoura mountain ranges rising up out of the water.



As the mountains descend, even the coastal path becomes obscured. The train now clings to the cliffs and ducks through a series of short tunnels as the mountains stretch out into the sea.

The Coastal Pacific then crosses the border into Marlborough and the landscape quickly changes. The climate in Marlborough is renownedly hot and the grasses soon turn to parched shades of yellow and orange. You will also notice the landscape turn curiously pink as the Coastal Pacific travels through the heart of the salt plains at Lake Grassmere.

By lunchtime, the Coastal Pacific is amongst the sunny vineyards of Blenheim at the heart of Marlborough, New Zealand's premier wine region. The Coastal Pacific ends its epic voyage in the quaint port of Picton, in perfect time for the



If you have any queries on the features above, please contact AOT's Product Departments.

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