

AOT Product News

AOT News:

20 July 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.

The AU AOT Inbound FIT and Product teams will be involved in a staff training exercise on Wednesday 25th July 2018. As a result, response times may be delayed.

Australia:

Updates

- Alice Wanderer Centre Sightseeing – Ceased Operation
- Oaks Pacific Blue, Port Stephens – Restaurant Closure
- Reef Magic Cruises, Cairns – Tour Name Change
- Freycinet Lodge, TAS – Room Update
- Scenic World Blue Mountains, NSW – Cableway Closure

Special

- Oaks on Market, Melbourne – Reduced Rate

Destination Feature – Broome, WA

Ramada Eco Beach Resort & ADAMS Pinnacle Tours

Refurbishments

- The Langham Melbourne – Refurbishment
- Oaks Horizons Adelaide – Pool Closure
- Peppers Airlie Beach – Maintenance Works

Specials Events

- The Field of Light: Avenue of Honour – Albany

New Zealand:

Updates

- Rainbow Springs, Rotorua – Kiwi Encounter Hatchery Renovation
- Bush and Beach – Auckland Untamed Island Tour Ceased Operation
- Budget Rent a Car – Auckland City Depot is Relocating

Destination Feature – Auckland

Castaways Resort

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PRODUCT NEWS – AUSTRALIA



Alice Wanderer Centre Sightseeing – Ceased Operation

From Alice Wanderer Centre Sightseeing:

From 01 April 2019, Alice Wanderer will cease to trade as an operating brand. All transfers previously booked with Alice Wanderer can be booked through Emu Run Experience.

Reports have been run and all affected bookings have been contacted.



Oaks Pacific Blue, Port Stephens – Restaurant Closure

From Peta Phillips, National Sales Manager Coach and Wholesale:

Effective immediately, the hotel restaurant has ceased operations.



Reef Magic Cruises, Cairns – Tour Name Change

From Sales Team:

Effective immediately, Reef Magic Cruises has advised of the following changes to their tour names:

Was: Outer Reef Full Day Cruise-Snorkel

Now: Marine World Outer Reef Cruise-Snorkel

Was: Outer Reef Full Day Cruise – Guided Snorkel Tour

Now: Marine World + Guided Snorkel Tour

Was: Outer Reef Full Day Cruise-Snorkel+5min Heli

Now: Marine World + Snorkel + 5Min Heli

Was: Outer Reef – 1 Certified Dive-Full Gear

Now: Marine World + 1 Certified Dive – Full Gear

Was: Outer Reef – 2 Certified Dive-Full Gear

Now: Marine World + 2 Cert Dive-Full Gear

Was: Outer Reef Full Day Cruise + Intro Dive

Now: Marine World + Intro Dive



Freycinet Lodge, TAS – Room Update

From Destinations by RACT:

Effective 16 August 2018, the “Deluxe Spa Cabin” Room category will no longer be offered.

These cabins will be incorporated into the 1 Room Cabins inventory.



Scenic World Blue Mountains, NSW – Cableway Closure

From Sarah-Ashley Pike, Industry Relations Coordinator:

Further to our Product Newsletter 13 July 2018:

From 01 August 2018 (previously – 25 July 2018) the Cableway will be closed and replaced with works still expected to be completed by 16 September 2018.



The Langham Melbourne – Refurbishment

From Geeta Seneviratne, Director of Sales:

From 01 February 2019, refurbishment works will commence on the Executive Rooms and Deluxe River Rooms, the Club Lounge, Swimming Pool and Pool Deck which are expected to be completed by 31 July 2019.

During this time, the hotel will be operating with Superior Rooms only and no upgrade room types will be available for sale. The hotel pool area will be closed and alternative arrangements will be available to guests at an off-site venue.

Works will involve jackhammering and drilling. Buffer floors will be allocated to minimise the noise, guests will be allocated rooms away from works to minimise disruption. Works will take place from Monday to Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm.



Oaks Horizons Adelaide – Pool Closure

From Peta Phillips, National Sales Manager Coach and Wholesale:

Effective immediately, the pool is closed for renovations which are expected to be completed by 15 August 2018. Guests can use alternative facilities located within 50m of the hotel. Hotel reception will provide more details to guests on request.

The works will take place daily from 09:00am to 5:00pm.

Peppers Airlie Beach – Maintenance Works

From Tina Strazdins, Sales – Mantra Group:

Further to our Product Newsletter on 08 June 2018:

There has been a delay to repair works which are now expected to be completed by 09 September 2018 (previously – 27 August 2018).



Oaks on Market, Melbourne – Reduced Rate

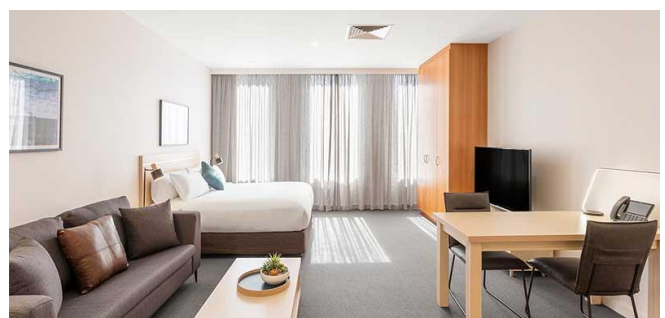
Stay 3 nights or more and receive a reduced rate.

Conditions:

- Valid New bookings only
- Offer not combinable
- Option Codes: RMAB and RMAA

Validity:

- Sale: 20JUL18 to 26OCT18
- Travel: 14JAN19 to 27JAN19



SPECIAL EVENTS – AUSTRALIA

City of Albany - The Field of Light: Avenue of Honour

****05 October 2018 – 25 April 2019****

From Inbound Product:

An immersive art installation by Bruce Munro, Field of Light: Avenue of Honour will pay homage to the Anzacs with 16,000 shining spheres at Mt Clarence marking the last sight of home for 41,000 troops who departed from Albany for the Great War. The internationally renowned UK artist's ephemeral landscape installation will reference the national flowers of Australia and New Zealand; honouring 100 years since the First World War's end and celebrating Albany's unique biodiversity with thousands of lights shining in the whites, yellows and gold of the wattle and the kowhai.



Discovery Green Field of Light 2014
Image credit: Bruce Munro Studio

Highlighting the region's unique sense of place and identity in sophisticated, contemporary ways, Field of Light: Avenue of Honour will symbolise wild beauty, sacrifice, courage and honour. The installation was commissioned by independent, non-profit cultural organisation FORM with the City of Albany and made possible by funding from the Australian Government through the Building Better Regions Fund and the State Government through Tourism Western Australia and Lotterywest. It will coincide with peak wildflower season and the conclusion of the Anzac Centenary commemorations, exhibiting from October 2018 through to Anzac Day in April 2019.



The Field of Light exhibit will be open to visitors as a free public art exhibition, located at the base of Mt Clarence, adjacent to the Avenue of Honour. The City of Albany has committed to the development of tour products which will connect the Field of Light to the summit of Mt Clarence, in addition to inviting visitors to experience the National Anzac Centre and the Princess Royal Fortress precinct. The two touring options, Field of Light Sunset Panorama Tour and National Anzac Centre Field of Light Panorama Pass are available to book on the AOT

The **Field of Light Sunset Panorama Tour** will take visitors to the summit of Mt Clarence, where guests experience a self-guided walking tour of the ANZAC monuments including the location of Australia's first Anzac Dawn Service Mass. Discover Albany's amazing stories and view the panorama of King George Sound at sunset, imagining the departure of the ANZAC fleet. As our bus leaves Mt Clarence at dusk, guests will experience the panoramic view of the Field of Light; Avenue of Honour exhibit, before alighting for a self-guided walk, immersed in the cascading panorama of 16,000 lights whilst descending through the exhibit, like a field of wildflowers amongst native Australian trees.



Hermitage Museum and Garden Field of Light 2014
Image credit: Bruce Munro Studio



Atlanta Botanical Garden Forest of Light 2015
Image credit: Bruce Munro Studio

The **National Anzac Centre Field of Light Panorama Pass** combines 2 incredible Albany experiences in one commemorative pass. Visit the award-winning National Anzac Centre; Australia's only museum dedicated solely to the conflicts of World War 1. Experience the multi-media interpretive exhibits as you follow the personal journeys of WW1 veterans. Then travel to the summit of Mt Clarence to experience the panoramic views of King George Sound; the last glimpse of Australia for the ANZAC fleet in 1914. Visit the location of Australia's first ANZAC Day Dawn Service Mass and be immersed in the cascading panorama of 16,000 lights as you descend through the Field of Light exhibit, like a field of wildflowers amongst native Australian trees.

Destination Feature - Australia

Broome, WA

Broome is an exotic pearling town at the western gateway to The Kimberley region of Western Australian and has left a rich history and a unique multi-cultural mix of people. The pristine waters, wide empty beaches, abundant wildlife, tropical climate and breathtaking colours attract thousands of visitors each year. Broome is most popular during its dry season between April and October; Ride a camel along Cable Beach, shop for pearls in Chinatown; see dinosaur footprints and bird watch in Roebuck Bay. Soak up the Indian Ocean sunsets and on a Full moon, catch the 'moon staircase' illusion. Broome, a great base if heading north to Cape Leveque and east to visit the Bungle Bungles, El Questro or the famous Gibb River Road drive



Ramada Eco Beach Resort

Ramada Eco Beach Resort is a multi-award-winning 4.5 star eco resort set amongst the pristine and untouched Kimberley environment. Located 130km south of Broome, the eco resort provides guests with an unforgettable and unique experience. The exceptional accommodation offered by the resort includes 25 superbly appointed Eco Villas interlinked by over 1km of elevated wooden boardwalks, and 30 luxurious safari style Eco Tents.

Ramada Eco Beach aims to provide an unforgettable and unique wilderness experience while leaving minimal impact on the surrounding landscape by setting a benchmark for ecologically sustainable tourism. During the day, guests can relax and unwind on the pool deck with its alluring infinity pool, spot playful dolphins from the prime beachfront position and, in the evening, indulge in fine cuisine and enjoy a cold beer offered at the open-air bar and restaurant. Kayaks and paddle boards are available for hire, giving guests the opportunity to explore the beauty of the secluded coastline that surrounds the resort and admire the marine life at Roebuck Bay.



For keen fishermen, the resort offers several options including land based fishing at Jack's Creek, ocean fishing trips and heli fishing. Tackle kit and rod are also available for hire from the reception desk for guests who want to cast a line at the beach in their own time. Other activities available at the resort (at own expense) include guided cultural bushwalks, half day cruises, turtle watching tours (from October – December), whale watching (June – September) and scenic helicopter flights. The resort also offers complimentary yoga classes.

Rates can be found on the online tariff.



ADAMS Pinnacle Tours

Depending on which tour style you choose you will travel in either luxury coach, luxury 4WD or more intimate minivans and small 4WDs with ADAMS Pinnacle Tours. The vehicles are designed with safety and luxury in mind and come standard with on-board rest rooms, spacious fabric reclining seats, panoramic windows and air-conditioning. Experience ancient landscapes, unique wildlife, picture perfect coastlines and towns steeped in history and discover the beauty of Western Australia with ADAMS Pinnacle Tours



Afternoon Broome Town Tour & Cable Beach Sunset – BS Visit Chinatown and hear fascinating stories of this colourful precinct. Call into a pearl shop, followed by a visit to Sun Pictures, the world's oldest operating open air picture gardens. Take a drive through Old Broome to view typical local architecture and old Pearling Masters homes, then view the aqua waters of Roebuck Bay at Town Beach and learn of Broome's One Day War.

Stop at Matso's Broome Brewery to sample their hand made ales and famous ginger beer, or visit one of the local arts and craft galleries nearby. Visit the Japanese Cemetery and Broome Port before arriving at Gantheaume Point which is known for dinosaur footprints and Anastasias Pool. Finally head to Cable Beach to enjoy light refreshments and nibbles as you watch the sunset.

Rates can be found on the online tariff.

Rainbow Springs, Rotorua – Kiwi Encounter Hatchery Renovation

From David Hurst, International Sales Manager, Ngai Tahu Tourism:

Thank you for your support of Rainbow Springs and in particular the Kiwi Encounter “behind the scenes” experience.

Our hatchery at Rainbow Springs is the largest kiwi conservation hatchery in the world, 76% of all North Island chicks and 55% of chicks hatched nationwide are incubated and hatched at our hatchery and visitors on our “behind the scenes” tours are given a unique insight into the plight of the kiwi and the work that our team do every day to help save kiwi.



Upgrades to the hatchery

We are excited to announce that we will soon be making some fantastic upgrades to the hatchery which means that we will be able to save 50% more kiwi, with a new capacity of 180 kiwi per season.

Brown kiwi, one of the five kiwi species, will be a specific focus for the hatchery capacity increase. Brown kiwi are currently decreasing at a rate of 2% a year and we are the only conservation centre hatching them. Without our hatchery’s work, Brown Kiwi would be extinct within two generations.

In the wild, the successful hatch rate of kiwi is approximately 50% and then only 5% make it to adulthood. Our facility lifts the hatch success rate of viable eggs to 98% (last season) and once we have cared for the chicks until they are about a kilo in weight their success rate in the wild increases to approximately 68%.

You can understand why increasing the capacity of our work is vital.

How the upgrades affect your clients

Construction around the kiwi hatchery is due to start at the end of July and our improved kiwi hatchery and behind the scenes tours will be complete in mid-November.

The following changes to our kiwi experience will apply during the redevelopment period:

- Modified behind the scenes tours will still take place until the new facility opens in mid-November. These will be different in that we will have relocated incubators, brooder huts and all other hatchery equipment into a temporary area. Tours will still be high quality and high value, they will just be in different locations.
- The nocturnal house will remain open at all times throughout the redevelopment period, allowing visitors to view kiwi during their guided tour.
- Due to kiwi breeding cycles, there are not typically any kiwi eggs at the facility from June through to September.
- *No eggs or chicks will be visible for approximately six weeks between October to mid-November. To compensate for this, the kiwi husbandry team will increase the information they share about our injured kiwi rehabilitation work, with case studies unique to the National Kiwi Trust shared
- The behind the scenes admission fee goes directly back into our kiwi raising programme



Thank you for your continued support which is helping to make the future look brighter for kiwi, and for your patience as we go through these exciting changes.

Bush and Beach – Auckland Untamed Island Tour Ceased Operation

From Product Team, AOT NZ:

Bush and Beach have advised that effective immediately their Auckland Untamed Island Tour - Great Barrier (Full Day) BB6 tour has ceased operation. All forward bookings will be honoured.

Budget Rent a Car – Auckland City Depot is Relocating

From Kenneth Wong, Sales Manager Leisure NZ, Avis Budget Group:

Budget Auckland city depot has been operating out of 163 Beach Road, Auckland City for a number of years. The existing facility has outgrown its current capacity, plus the new road layout on Beach Road added logistical challenges. So after months of planning and shortlisting, we can now share with you – we have secured a new location! This is an exciting step for us to deliver a great experience for our mutual clients.

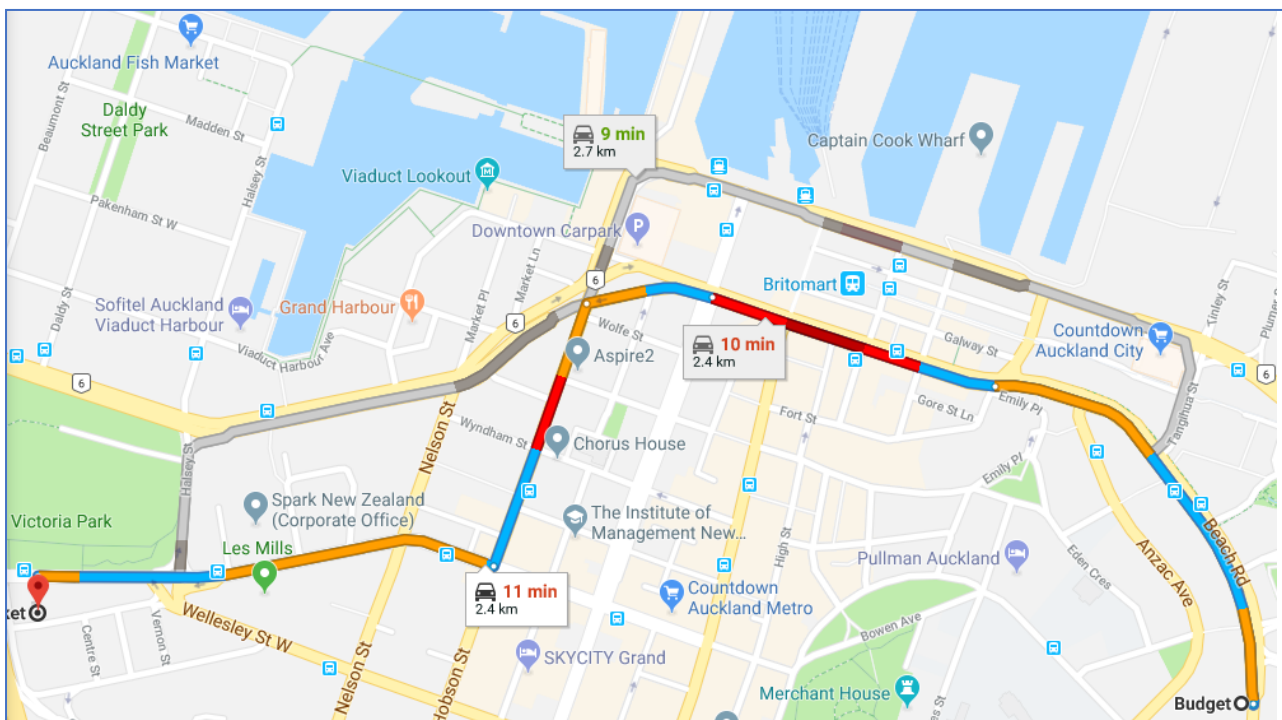
Where

- The new Auckland City Depot will move to Unit C & D, 206 Victoria Street, Auckland. The new location is adjacent to the Victoria Park Market, directly underneath the Swiss Belsuites where the new shops are.
- We will be moving the Budget counters into the two retail stores and will operate out of the Wilsons Carpark attached to it.

When

- The first day of operation from our new address will be Monday the 6th of August 2018.
- The existing Beach Road site will be permanently closed from 6:00pm, 5th August 2018.

While there will be signage at the existing location, please ensure that any of your clients travelling post 05 August 2018, have the new address details on their documentation. Also please ensure Databases are updated to the new address.



Destination Feature – New Zealand

Auckland

Auckland is encircled by three harbours and has 29,000 kilometres of coastline, this means hundreds of beaches are within easy reach. The rugged, dramatic beauty and pounding waves of our wild West Coast beaches draw surfers, artists and locals alike, one area in particular that is a bit off the beaten track is Karioitahi Beach.

At just an hour south from the city centre of Auckland, Karioitahi is something of a hidden gem, even to many Aucklanders. There's so much to do here from horse riding, surfing, blow-karting, paragliding, hang gliding and 4 wheel driving. If you'd rather keep it chilled out, take a walk and leave the action behind, or go fishing with the locals.

On your way there or back, explore nearby Waiuku Forest, with a range of tracks, trails and recreational activities, or drive to the end of Awahitu Peninsula and climb the Manukau Heads Lighthouse.



Castaways Resort

Castaways Resort is situated on the spectacular coastal cliff tops of Karioitahi Beach only 50 minutes' drive south from Auckland airport, overlooking the crashing surf and black sand beaches of the Wild West coast. A wonderful first or last night on a New Zealand itinerary, the property offers a taste of escape on the real West Coast New Zealand.

Castaways Resort has been developed with views and privacy in mind with genuinely breathtaking ocean views from every chalet and studio.



The property features spacious, well-appointed two bedroom self-contained chalets nestled amongst the clifftops all affording spectacular ocean views from their large balconies. Perfect for families or couples travelling together, these chalets have two double bedrooms both with ensuite, a large open plan lounge with full kitchen and dining area plus private laundry facilities.



Comfortable ensuite Studio units are also offered which include a kitchenette and private balcony with ocean views; perfect for couples or the dingle traveller. All bedding throughout the resort can split to twin.

The accommodation is complemented by Agave Restaurant with uninterrupted ocean views which is open for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner; the contemporary Bersantai Day Spa with outdoor Balinese style baths and calming treatment rooms plus there a range of adventure activities may be booked on site.

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

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