

# GT

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## Doing Business in Christchurch

A Destination On The Rise

## Luxury in Fiji

The very best the island has to offer

## Business Events in Australia

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### Business Events Australia

There is a huge amount of business done between Australia and this country and there is an organisation that can guide you through the process of holding conferences, events or even corporate retreats in Australia.

Showcased in this feature is the very latest attractions and amazing venues the Aussies have to offer from the new Melbourne wheel which has hosted hundreds of business events in the sky.

The new Melbourne convention centre is a great example of revitalising the waterfront, so if you want to impress your market across the ditch take full advantage of the services that Business Events Australia has to offer.

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### Doing business in Christchurch

Still under going a massive rebuild, business in Christchurch is brisk to say the least. At this time of the year hotels are full to overflowing and there are thousands of tourists visiting Canterbury mingling with engineers and builders.

Residents have moved to the outer suburbs and there are fantastic new developments including the Tannery. We report on the very best Christchurch has to offer, from NZ's best boutique hotel The George to the fantastic resort that hosts the NZ Golf Open Clearwater.

There is also lots of interesting "Pop Up" shops and restaurants everywhere. But even after three years since the quake, there is so much more to do, making Christchurch a great place to do business.

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### Luxury in Fiji

With another five star resort opened in March, Fiji is investing heavily in the luxury market. Getting to Fiji on Fiji Airways starts off our tour of luxury with their ultra stylish cabins designed by Sofitel designers.

Then it's off to the Sofitel Fiji the very best Denarau Island has to offer, with its newly refurbished rooms and their stunning lagoon pool.

Then hop aboard Pacific Air for a quick flight on their romantic seaplane or fast helicopter to Fiji latest resort Nanuku Resort And Spa.

Finish off with a cruise around the stunning Yaswas on Blue Lagoon Cruises. Enjoy their unmatched Fijian hospitality.

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Production Manager:  
Christina Thiele

Proof Reader:  
Peter Downey

Head PR:  
NZ Herald

Global Traveller  
Magazine:

Email:  
General Inquires: karl@globaltraveller.co.nz  
Advertising: ads@globaltraveller.co.nz  
Sales: sales@globaltraveller.co.nz

Editor:  
Karl Schutt

Prepress:  
Ultimo Group

Writer:  
Brent Gibson  
Simon Cameron  
Karl Schutt

Photography:  
David Perrillo

Phone:  
+64 (9) 520 3052  
Mobile  
+64 (0) 274 692 677

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Chelsey O'Neill

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# The Chedi Sakala

## The Ultimate Bali Destination



The just opened Chedi Sakala, promises a hospitality experience long on culinary sophistication, sublime wellness opportunities and a room-by-room spaciousness that is otherwise a rarity on the Island of the Gods.

The hotel's 247 suites each offer a minimum of 58 square metres and include a kitchenette. The two-bedroom, ocean-view suites deliver up to 150 square metres and feature a separate living room, dining room and walk-in pantry. Infinity pools with built-in whirlpools and full kitchens highlight each of the 14, two-storey pool villas.

Beyond the generous personal space, the hotel is sharpening a reputation as one of Bali's most rarified dining experiences. A harbinger of its lofty ambitions, Sakala Bali opened on the resort's grounds two years ago and quickly garnered acclaim for dishes that marry local product with French culinary sensibilities, per the expertise of Quebec-born Executive Chef Frederic Boulay.



As a complement and a fledgling rival to Sakala Bali for in-house guest affection, The Restaurant is positioning itself as the preeminent address for Asian and European staples. Half the menu is dedicated to the interpretation of favourites from Indonesia, India, Thailand, China and Japan, while the other half is based on beloved bites from the Mediterranean and the south of France.

The dining area overlooks the lagoon pool, which is accessible also from the ground-floor Cabana Suites. The hotel also features a sleek, open-air lobby bar with views of the ocean and Sakala Bali's beachfront infinity pool.

The destination itself is one of Bali's most enticing new lures. Long the province of fishing boats and downscale accommodation, the charms of this peninsula, from its unrivalled access to water sports activities to its proximity to the island's oldest Chinese temple, are set to seduce upscale guests of The Chedi Sakala.

Among the resort's more dazzling attributes is the spa facility, which is expected to debut this spring behind The Restaurant. Upon entry, guests will make their way

underground, via an 18-metre spiral staircase, to a reception area surrounded by eight treatment rooms filled with the aroma of frangipani petals.

Another distinguished space, The Chedi Ballroom, occupies 630 square metres below The Restaurant. It is connected to a foyer accented by stout, marble pillars and features low-slung ceilings and warm, earth-tone design flourishes. As versatile as it is visually appealing, the space divides into six meeting rooms to accommodate all manner of MICE events.

Though the hotel itself is new to Bali, the management is not. The Chedi Sakala opens its doors on Bali as the third hotel on the island managed by GHM, complementing the renowned Legian in Seminyak and The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah in Ubud.

As such, the new hotel on Tanjung Bena is GHM's most expansive property to date, and a brand new opportunity for larger groups bent on the sophistication of a GHM experience.

visit: [ghmhotels.com/en/the-chedi-sakala](http://ghmhotels.com/en/the-chedi-sakala)

## Jetstar scoops best low fares carrier In Airline Rating Awards



The Jetstar Group has been named the best LCC in the Asia Pacific following a survey of all international airlines across the globe.

AirlineRatings.com awarded Jetstar the nomination in recognition of the airline's successful decade of growth as well as for its commitment to innovation and safety. In 2013, the Jetstar Group carried more than 23 million passengers and grew the number of aircraft in the fleet to 117. Jetstar is also the first LCC 787- Dreamliner operator in the Asia Pacific

visit: [jetstar.co.nz](http://jetstar.co.nz)

## China Southern Airlines adds flights on Guangzhou to Auckland route

Auckland Airport has welcomed the decision by China Southern Airlines to extend its offering of 10 flights per week on the Guangzhou to Auckland route until 30 October 2014.

China Southern Airlines announced last year that it was increasing the number of weekly flights on this route from seven to ten over the 2013 / 2014 peak summer period. Due to continued strong demand for this service and growth of the Canton route services, China Southern Airlines has made the decision to extend this period.

The additional flights will see an extra 45,000 seats on the Guangzhou to Auckland route during the extended period of 28 February to 30 October 2014, which will be serviced by the new Boeing 787 aircraft. Mr Henry He, China Southern Airlines' general manager Australasia, says "We are very happy with the success that China Southern Airlines has experienced in New Zealand and this latest increase in flights is a reflection of this."

"Our Guangzhou to Auckland service offers convenient morning and evening departure and arrival options. We also provide further services on our growing network from Guangzhou through to London, Paris, Amsterdam and Asian destinations including India and Japan," says Mr He. "As well as this we now offer a direct service from Guangzhou to New York, providing even more connectivity for New Zealanders."

"New Zealanders are also entitled to 72 hours visa-free entry to Guangzhou. This means they can fully explore the delights of the city when on their way to another destination."

visit: [csair.com/en/](http://csair.com/en/)



## SOFITEL NEW ZEALAND EARNS TOP HONOURS

### In Tripadvisor's 2014 Travellers' Choice Awards

Sofitel Luxury Hotels in New Zealand is basking in the glow of its recent 2014 TripAdvisor Traveller Choice Awards successes, with both the Sofitel Queenstown Hotel & Spa and Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour announced among the world's best accommodation providers by the popular website.

Sofitel Queenstown Hotel & Spa received a number of accolades in the 2014 awards, which is based on reviews and opinions posted on the site by guests and travellers from around the world.

The boutique style Sofitel in Queenstown was ranked the #2 top hotel in New Zealand, #19 in the broader South Pacific region, and #17 in terms of most romantic hotels in New Zealand. It also secured a place in the top 24 luxury hotels in New Zealand.

For the second year in a row, Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour continued to be recognized by TripAdvisor travelers by being selected as one of the top 25 hotels in New Zealand.

Travellers' Choice award winners from TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel site, were determined based on the reviews and opinions of millions of TripAdvisor travellers around the globe.

The 12th annual global awards honour top hotels overall and in categories including B&Bs, Inns, Luxury, Romance, Family and Small Hotels. There were a total of 7123 properties awarded worldwide this year, 126 of which were from New Zealand.

visit: [sofitel.com](http://sofitel.com)

# Tanjong Jara Resort

Reopens Its Door For 'Unmistakably Malay' Beach Getaways



A sanctuary of tranquility immersed in the age-old traditions of the East Coast of Malaysia, the 99-room Tanjong Jara Resort reopened after a two-month-long rejuvenation.

The refreshment exercise focused on maintenance of the glorious architecture that the Aga Khan Award winning resort is known for, designed to reflect the grandeur of 17th century Malay palaces.

Embracing the Malay concept of Sucimurni, which emphasises purity of spirit, health and wellbeing, Tanjong Jara Resort offers a host of wholesome experiences for all to enjoy. From cultural activities such as Kampong Sucimurni Lifestyle, a weekly showcase of a traditional Malay village atmosphere, and guided bicycle tours through the idyllic countryside of Terengganu, to exploring the great outdoors with the Jara Hill walk guided by the Resident Naturalist, there's something for every holidaymaker.

visit: [tanjongjaresort.com](http://tanjongjaresort.com)

## PRESENTING PALM COURT

Stylish and sophisticated à la carte dining with a refined service now has a new home: Palm Court.

This elegant new bar is The Langham Auckland's exquisite centrepiece, serving breakfast, light snacks, drinks and Tiffin Afternoon Tea daily.

The hotel's guests and visitors can now start the day with a stylish and sumptuous à la carte breakfast that includes pancakes with bacon, maple syrup and cream cheese or warm croissants with Champagne and strawberry jam.

Should they wish to return for a daytime snack, the salmon poached in duck fat or the beef Carpaccio with rocket, parmesan shavings, truffle oil and balsamic vinegar will undoubtedly tickle their fancy.

Paired with a perfectly aged wine that's been elegantly decanted and placed on the table alongside the extravagant Christofle silver cutlery and Wedgwood Fine Bone China and Palm Court's guests will never want to leave.

Luckily then, Tiffin Afternoon Tea has two servings daily. Every day at 11.30am and 2.30pm, the most exquisite little treats arrive on three-tiered silver stands only to be devoured within seconds.

Who could possibly resist quail egg Waldorf salad on a potato and white truffle mousse, carrot flan on polenta with drunken raisins, peanut butter mousse with milk chocolate Chantilly and chocolate cake with peanut brittle?

With clotted cream and homemade jams such as strawberry and Champagne and orange and whisky served with tea leaves

delivered straight from the Dilmah family's private reserve, this is the easily the finest afternoon tea in town.

Award-winning wines, liqueurs and cocktails also take centre stage in the new Palm Court. Take the Caramel Popcorn Martini for example: An indulgent, sweet cocktail combining vanilla vodka, butterscotch schnapps, cream and homemade liquid popcorn served in a chilled martini glass with a honey and crackle crystal rim.

**Breakfast is served from 7-10am, Monday to Friday and 8-10am, Saturday and Sunday.**



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## Pioneering Health Retreat Promises Optimal Wellbeing



For those seeking optimal health and wellbeing Aro Ha Wellness Retreat promises the ultimate elixir. Just opened Aro Ha exclusively offers fully-inclusive Wellness Adventures which are immersive detox retreats designed to encourage exceptional physical and emotional wellbeing. Unlike most health retreats, Aro Ha takes a holistic approach that requires consistent participation to yield unparalleled results.

The blueprint has been refined over the last decade by Managing Partner Damian Chaparro. The retreats are based on the proven results from Damian's experience at world-renowned health retreat, The Ashram California. These programs are legendary for exceptional results, celebrity clientele, and lengthy waitlists, according to Chaparro.

"We have developed Aro Ha as an innovative wellness concept to facilitate life changing and body morphing practices," says Damian Chaparro, who created Aro Ha, a NZ\$30million purpose-built facility, with fellow American Chris Madison. "We searched the world for the best possible place to create this retreat and found it on the Wyuna Preserve near Queenstown, New Zealand."

Aro Ha's five and seven day all-inclusive Wellness Adventures are targeted at small groups working together to succeed as a team. A typical day at Aro Ha begins before 6am with sunrise Vinyasa Yoga followed by a 3-4 hour sub-alpine hike, dynamic strength training, meditation, therapeutic massage and other featured programming. Remaining time is spent with sessions in the contrast hydro spa, which includes infra-red or Finnish saunas and outdoor hot and cold pools. All elements of the wellness retreats are seamlessly integrated for a unified approach to overall wellbeing, and a team of leading international experts, both in-house and guest educators, will deliver all activities.

The daily program is supported by an organic vegetarian diet that has been specifically developed for Aro Ha. The cuisine has been created with detoxification in mind and limits guests to a maximum of 1200 calories daily. Examples of dishes served include sprouted avocado benedict with a cucumber lime juice cleanser for breakfast, and carrot tacos with living green corn chowder for dinner. Alcohol is off the menu.

"Guests will simply arrive, unplug, and experience the shift from the daily roller coaster of modern diet and lifestyle, towards the natural high that fully delivers the feeling of being ecstatically alive and centred," says Chaparro.

The retreat complex is built to exacting standards combining leading-edge architecture and design, permaculture principles and sustainability.

Aro Ha opens on 12 January 2014 with a 7-day Delve Deep retreat. Pricing for a 5-day Enrich and Invigorate retreat starts at NZ\$4550 per person and 7-day Delve Deep retreat at NZ\$6250 pp, land-only, fully inclusive of all meals, and intensive programming.

visit: [aro-ha.com](http://aro-ha.com)

## Anvaya Cove Debuts Seaside Golf Course

Philippine real estate giant Ayala Land has unveiled Anvaya Cove Golf & Sports Club. The 7030-yard course, designed by Golfplan partner Kevin Ramsey, opened for play in December, and the initial reaction from members, international media and course raters has been straightforward and uniform: Wow.

Perched on the West Philippine Sea, 2.5 hours from downtown Manila, the course routing at Anvaya Cove Golf & Sports Club runs the gamut of pulse-quickening golf environments. Several holes play directly alongside the beach, while others occupy bluffs some 30 meters above the surf. Several more cut daring paths through thick, tropical jungle, while the remaining play along ridges 100 meters above sea level.

"With that sort of elevation change, there are only a few holes that don't have an ocean view, but it's always a thrill to deploy salt water as a legitimate hazard, and we did that multiple times out here at Anvaya Cove," said Ramsey, whose California-based firm has, since its founding in 1972, designed more than 200 courses in 75 different countries -- including The Club at Nine Bridges, in South Korea, one of only two modern Asian courses ranked on GOLF Magazine's World Top 100.

visit: [anvayacove.com](http://anvayacove.com)



Golf Course Pic

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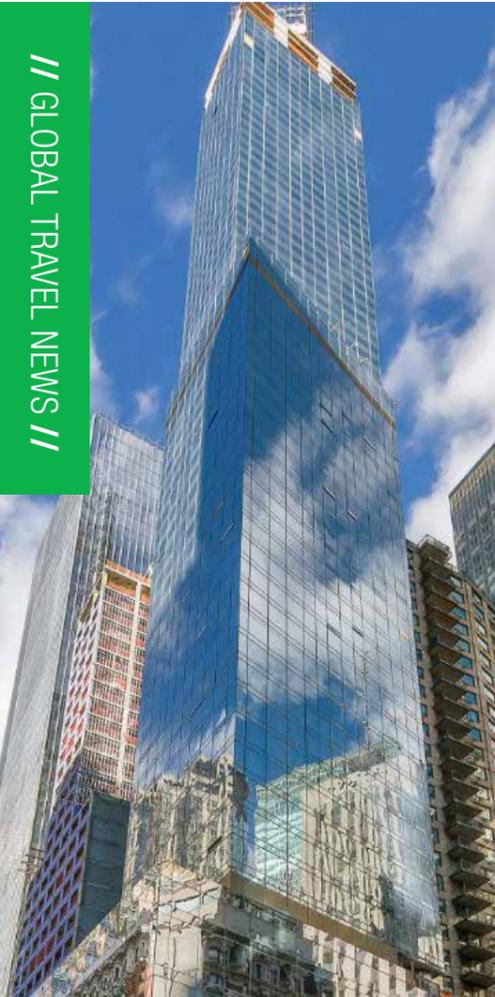


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### Locations and Reservations

Auckland	(09) 377 0773
Wellington	(04) 387 4600
Christchurch	(03) 379 5888
Dunedin	0800 789 789
Queenstown	0800 789 789





## Marriott Opens North America's Tallest Hotel In New York City

Marriott International has announced the opening of an iconic addition to the New York City skyline. The \$320 million tallest single-use hotel in North America combines the 378-room Courtyard hotel with the 261-suite Residence Inn hotel in Midtown Manhattan.

Located at 1717 Broadway, the impressive 68-story building is just steps from Central Park and Times Square. The hotels offer guests convenient access to Carnegie Hall, the Broadway Theater District, Fifth Avenue, Rockefeller Center and Radio City Music Hall. As one of the top travel destinations in the world, New York City welcomed 54.3 million visitors in 2013.

Ideal for visitors to New York City, the hotels offer valet parking and share 6,000 square feet of meeting space, a fitness center located on the 35th floor with floor-to-ceiling windows and an outdoor sundeck

for stretching, relaxing or seasonal sunning. Some guest rooms also feature floor-to-ceiling windows offering spectacular views of Central Park, Times Square and the Hudson River.

In addition to fabulous views, a stellar New York City location and amenities galore, the hotel's 21st century telecommunications, with free international phone calls, digital systems and hi-tech wiring, set these hotels far above the standard that business travellers expect.

Whether traveling on business or pleasure, guests will enjoy the complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the hotel. In addition, each room delivers 1.25 gigabytes of bandwidth with horizontal and vertical fiber optical cable network that allows for fast, extensive use on multiple devices at one time. Smart TVs offer 60 HD channels.

visit: [marriott.com](http://marriott.com)

## All-new lounge concept Vancouver International Airport introduces five-star guest comforts

After a five-month renovation, Plaza Premium Lounge has entered a new era with the re-opening of its flagship International Departures Lounge at Vancouver International Airport.

Centrally located in the airport's International Departures Hall and measuring 6,700 ft<sup>2</sup>, the expansive retreat will be the largest pay-per-use lounge in Canada.

The lounge, designed by leading Hong Kong designer Kinney Chan of Kinney Chan & Associates, is divided into several zones to provide travellers with multiple experiences and choices. Beyond the luxurious reception area, guests enter the main lounge and are greeted by a variety of seating configurations and a sleek, sophisticated design.

Catering to single travellers, couples and large parties, guests can choose to take a seat at one of the comfortable sofa chairs, share a communal table or appreciate the panoramic view of the runway through expansive windows. While the neutral

palette conveys warmth, the designer has taken full advantage of the full-length windows, inviting an abundance of natural light into the space.

Throughout the lounge and at the fully-equipped computer workstations, executives can stay connected with the lounge's complimentary Wi-Fi, charge up their devices in one of the many power sockets or complete a transaction at the private workstations.

Plaza Premium Lounge also introduces a new dining concept in the dining areas. Catering to discerning diners with an appetite for variety, two separate dining areas comprise a range of food and beverage options, from a salad bar and buffet area serving a range of healthy food options, to a noodle bar serving Hong Kong-style Fish Ball Noodle Soup.

Visitors preparing for a long-haul flight or transit passengers midway through their journey can freshen up in one of the two showers, each one stocked with the full set of amenities, or take a nap in one of three nap rooms.



Plaza Premium Lounge welcomes passengers travelling on any airline irrespective of fare class. Single Lounge Visit starts at CAD 35 (plus tax) for 2 hours lounge use and include full use of the lounge facilities and all food and beverages. Showers, VIP room and nap rooms are charged separately.

visit: [plaza-network.com](http://plaza-network.com)

Ad Page

# SINGAPORE'S Hot New Hotels for 2014

## Patina Capitol Singapore

The Patina, Capitol Singapore, is Patina Hotels & Resorts' flagship hotel. Blending heritage and contemporary interiors with modern technology, highly personalised service and a world-class art collection, 157 guest rooms and suites will deliver an unparalleled experience for guests - traditional, yet contemporary; intimate, yet in the heart of the city. Housed in the iconic Capitol Building and Stamford House, and masterfully restored by Pritzker Prize Architecture Laureate Richard Meier.

visit: [patinahotels.com](http://patinahotels.com)

The Patina, Capitol Singapore

This ever changing city state has introduced a whole range of brand new hotels for 2014 – from budget to over the top, Singapore really does have an amazing range of accommodation on offer – check out the very latest.



## Sofitel So Singapore

The Sofitel So Singapore, a luxury boutique hotel by Sofitel will be opening in the heart of Singapore's central business district.

The hotel's 134 rooms will include 10 suites, and it will be located at the former Ogilvy Centre, a landmark conservation building opposite the iconic Lau Pa Sat. The five-star hotel will retain its neo-classical facade and some of the existing building structures. Originally built in 1927, the building has

its roots as a telecommunications and postal building when it was first the Cable and Wireless Building and then later the Telecommunications Authority of Singapore in 1992.

visit: [sofitel.com/Hotel](http://sofitel.com/Hotel)



Fully furnished to provide a rich hotel experience within a tropical garden ambience

One Farrer Park Hotel & Spa

## HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS CLARKE QUAY

opening early 2014

Located minutes away from both the financial centre and top dining and bar spot Clarke Quay, the new Holiday Inn Express Clarke Quay will be a smart choice for both savvy business and leisure travellers.

With 442 rooms that will have floor-to-ceiling windows and high quality bathrooms complete with a rain shower to recharge after a long day, this will be a welcome addition to the downtown area.

visit: [ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/singapore/sincq/hoteldetail](http://ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/singapore/sincq/hoteldetail)

## THE AMOY Singapore

The Amoy is the latest boutique addition to Far East Hospitality, the largest hotels and serviced residences operator in Singapore. Centrally located within Far East Square, a heritage conservation project in the heart of the Central Business District with a vibrant mix of eateries and retail shops, the exclusive 37-room hotel will bring you back to an era that is both historically and culturally rich and diverse.

visit: [stayfareast.com/en/hotels/amoy.aspx](http://stayfareast.com/en/hotels/amoy.aspx)



The Amoy, Singapore



Elevate your senses in the new Westin Singapore's rejuvenating urban sanctuary overlooking vibrant Marina Bay.

Westin Singapore

## Westin Singapore opened November 2013

The hotels refreshing ambience, innovative programs and thoughtful amenities help provide a stay that leaves you feeling better than when you arrived. The hotel offers 301 guest rooms and suites, which are restorative sanctuaries above the city.

visit: [starwoodhotels.com/westin/property](http://starwoodhotels.com/westin/property)

## One Farrer Park Hotel & Spa opening early 2014

The Farrer Park Hotel and Spa offers guests a choice of accommodation types that range from serviced apartments, to villas and standard rooms. All accommodation options will feature generous bathrooms with rain showers and spectacular window views. A ground floor retail arcade will help with those last minute purchases before your flight!

visit: [onefarrer.com/pages/home.aspx](http://onefarrer.com/pages/home.aspx)

# Q&A with Jenny Aitken

General Manager NZ – Tourism Australia

**Q:** How can Business Events help NZ companies planning to hold their next conference in Australia?

Business Events Australia is dedicated to promoting Australia internationally as a business events destination. We can introduce you to a fresh way of thinking about our country through unique experiences and products to world class business venues. We'll help inspire new ideas and affordability that organisations demand, exclusive itinerary ideas and help businesses achieve their goals.

**Q:** Why Australia?

Australia is a welcoming and dynamic destination and unique in so many ways. This ancient land comprises of immense unchanged landscapes and modern, sophisticated cities. Australia stands out for its integrity, authenticity, genuine warmth and track record in delivering outstanding business events, including corporate meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions.

With spectacular destinations, an innovative culture and world-class business facilities, Australia is a welcoming and inspiring destination with exhilarating unique experiences. Iconic native wildlife, coastal lifestyle, vast outback and vibrant cities have long been motivating reasons to choose Australia. But Australia offers much more than just a spectacular destinations – we have an exceptional range of top-end corporate meeting experiences and luxury incentive options – often set in fantastic locations which provide the perfect atmosphere to reward and energise your next incentive group.

Whether its cuisines from around the world at Melbourne International Food and Wine Festival or host a glamorous private party aboard a yacht on Sydney Harbour. Swim with the blue-fin tuna in South Australia or rise a camel along Cable Beach as the sun sets over the Indian Ocean. Take an open top car out to the Gold Coasts spectacular hinterland, or simply unwind and enjoy island like on the Whitsundays. Choose Australia to take your thinking to a whole new place.

**Q:** How can you find out more information about the services Business Events has on offer.

[www.australia.com/businessesvents](http://www.australia.com/businessesvents)

**Q:** There must be some amazing corporate activities on offer - what are some of your favorites?

That's a tough question as I have so many, but a recent group took a whole new look at Sydney and surrounds. After arriving in Sydney, a helicopter over Sydney Harbour (wow...Sydney Harbour with the infamous Opera House and Harbour Bridge from the air is just spectacular), fly over the Blue Mountains terrain (its called that for a reason, a beautiful shade of blue), arriving in heaven at Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort and Spa, set amongst stunning scenery and rugged mountains...the luxury villas with their open fire place and your own swimming pool make it a difficult choice for guests to leave their sanctuary to explore the surrounds, or a quick spa is just too hard to resist Its back to Sydney eventually, with a delectable lunch on Cottage Point Inn on the river before heading to the Bledisloe Cup.....

This itinerary was purpose built for this group and Business Events Australia can help design itineraries with experiences and locations to suit every need.

**Iconic native wildlife, coastal lifestyle, vast outback and vibrant cities have long been motivating reasons to choose Australia.**

## NEW OBSERVATION WHEEL

Delivers Unique Incentive Experience



The brand new Melbourne Star Observation Wheel opened in late December and has already received 30,000 business and public visitors.

It delivers the most unique viewing experience of one the greatest cities in the world. Incentive guests can relax in its exclusive cabins enjoying specialty Australian food and wine, while they take in unrivalled views of Melbourne. The Star's revamped function spaces and are capable of hosting small and large gatherings for up to 1,500 people.

## Hunter Valley Conference & Events Centre Breaks Ground

The Hunter Valley's largest conference and events centre has broken ground and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2014.

The Hunter Valley Conference & Events Centre will have the capacity for up to 1000 delegates, and will provide the largest and most comprehensive conference and exhibition facilities in the Hunter Valley.

Built overlooking garden spaces within Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, the centre has a combined 2,012 square metres of pre-function, meeting, exhibition and convention space; each with their own separate access, spaces and natural light.



## MELBOURNE FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL 2014

The Melbourne Food and Wine Festival takes place from 28 February – 16 March 2014 and will encompass more than 200 events, celebrating the abundant food and wine offering in the area.

The festival provides a vast array of experiences for delegates including taking in part in the opening 'Long Lunch', where up to 2,500 people are expertly catered for with fine wine and food along a 450m table next to the Yarra River.

## Four Points by Sheraton Sydney, Darling Harbour Embarks on a further \$160 Million Transformation Project



Four Points by Sheraton, Darling Harbour is embarking on a \$160 million development plan in early 2014, spearheading the transformation of the area as a convention precinct, close to the hub of the city. A 230 room extension will be added to what is already Australia's largest hotel. The development will also include 4,810 square metres of pillar-less convention, exhibition and function space.



## \$1bn International Convention Centre Moves a Step Closer

The development of the \$1 billion International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney) at Darling Harbour is a step closer, with its financial backing now confirmed.

ICC Sydney will be operated by leading venue management company AEG Ogden and will feature convention facilities capable of holding four fully separated concurrent events of more than 12,000 delegates and total exhibition capacity of 40,000sqm.

# AIR FRANCE DEBUTS NEW BUSINESS CABIN



## WINTER WARMERS on board La Première

In March, La Première customers can enjoy new dishes, designed for them at the heart of winter by Michelin-starred chef Guy Martin and Guy Krenzer from Lenôtre.



Sumac shrimp enveloped in chicken breast

Guy Martin, the Michelin-starred chef from the Grand Véfour restaurant has been designing new dishes inspired by travel, colours, scents and emotions. The Chef, who specializes in using local produce, has created a new starter and four brand new hot dishes, on offer in March on departure from Paris-Charles de Gaulle.

Foie gras with lemon zest and candied date dumplings, sumac shrimp enveloped in a chicken breast, fried cod with coconut milk and roast rack of lamb with herbs and aromatic juices are just a few of the new gourmet creations on offer in the La Première cabin.



La Première cabin

Air France is continuing its move upmarket and has unveiled its new Business class seat, for a completely renewed travel experience.

In total, 2,102 seats will be installed between June 2014 and summer 2016 on 44 Boeing 777, the core of Air France's long-haul fleet.

Every detail has been specially modelled to give the seat its unique design. The passenger is instantly enveloped in its graceful curves into a cocoon-like state of special care.

This real cocoon, with its particularly refined finishing touches (leather upholstery, topstitching) provides another level of comfort and offers the prospect of a perfect sleep.

visit: [airfrance.com](http://airfrance.com)

# Christchurch

## A Destination On The Rise

Christchurch is winning favour with users of the world's largest travel website, who have voted the city as the number one 'Destination on the Rise' in the South Pacific.



Trip Advisor says although Christchurch is still recovering from the February 2011 earthquake it "abounds with arts, adventure and optimism" and describes it as the "gateway to the beautiful Canterbury region."

In Trip Advisor's annual list of Travellers' Choice Destinations on the Rise Christchurch has come out top of the list of South Pacific destinations on the rise.

In the past 12 months Christchurch's tourism industry has made significant progress on its road to recovery. Several hotels have re-opened, the heritage tramway and the gondola have recommenced operations, and the café and shopping precinct in historic New Regent St has swung back into life.

Work has also begun on the creation of a new river park that will form a green ribbon through Christchurch's new central business district.

The Avon River precinct is the first in a series of anchor projects that will completely transform the central city.

Global Traveller takes a look at what is open, and the amazing hotels and resorts that make Christchurch unique...

Jetstar flies direct between Auckland and Christchurch with everyday low fares. Check out [Jetstar.com](http://Jetstar.com) for more information and to book.



## NOVOTEL CHRISTCHURCH RECEIVES QUALMARK NOD

The newly re-opened Novotel Christchurch Cathedral Square hotel has been rated 4 Star Plus under the New Zealand quality rating system for tourism product, Qualmark.

The Qualmark Hotel rating comes as a welcome boost to the Christchurch property which closed in February 2011 following The Great Earthquake. After 30 months of remediation and renewal, the Novotel re-opened its doors officially on 4th September 2013.

Novotel Christchurch Cathedral Square General Manager, Carl Braddock, says "It is a moment of pride for the team in Christchurch and Accor in New Zealand, to see Novotel Christchurch rated the newest 4 Star Plus hotel in town with the Qualmark stamp of approval."

"The extensive refit of Novotel, which was only a year old when the earthquake hit, saw only minor structural repair and extensive cosmetic repair, mostly to the exterior panels giving a look as good as the day it opened in 2010", says Carl.

"The Qualmark rating signals to the world that we are not only fit for purpose but stylishly handsome in our rooms and facilities, and we look forward to welcoming guests to our 4 Star Plus hotel."

The 154 room Novotel takes pride of place in Cathedral Square and features a floor dedicated to Meetings and Conferences, The Square Restaurant and Bar, a gymnasium and a combination of Premium, Executive Rooms and Suites.

Novotel Christchurch Cathedral Square is just a short walk from many of the city's re-emerging areas, such as the New Regent Street art deco shopping precinct and the ultra innovative Re:Start shopping mall, built from brightly coloured and attractively arranged shipping containers.

visit: [accorhotels.com](http://accorhotels.com)

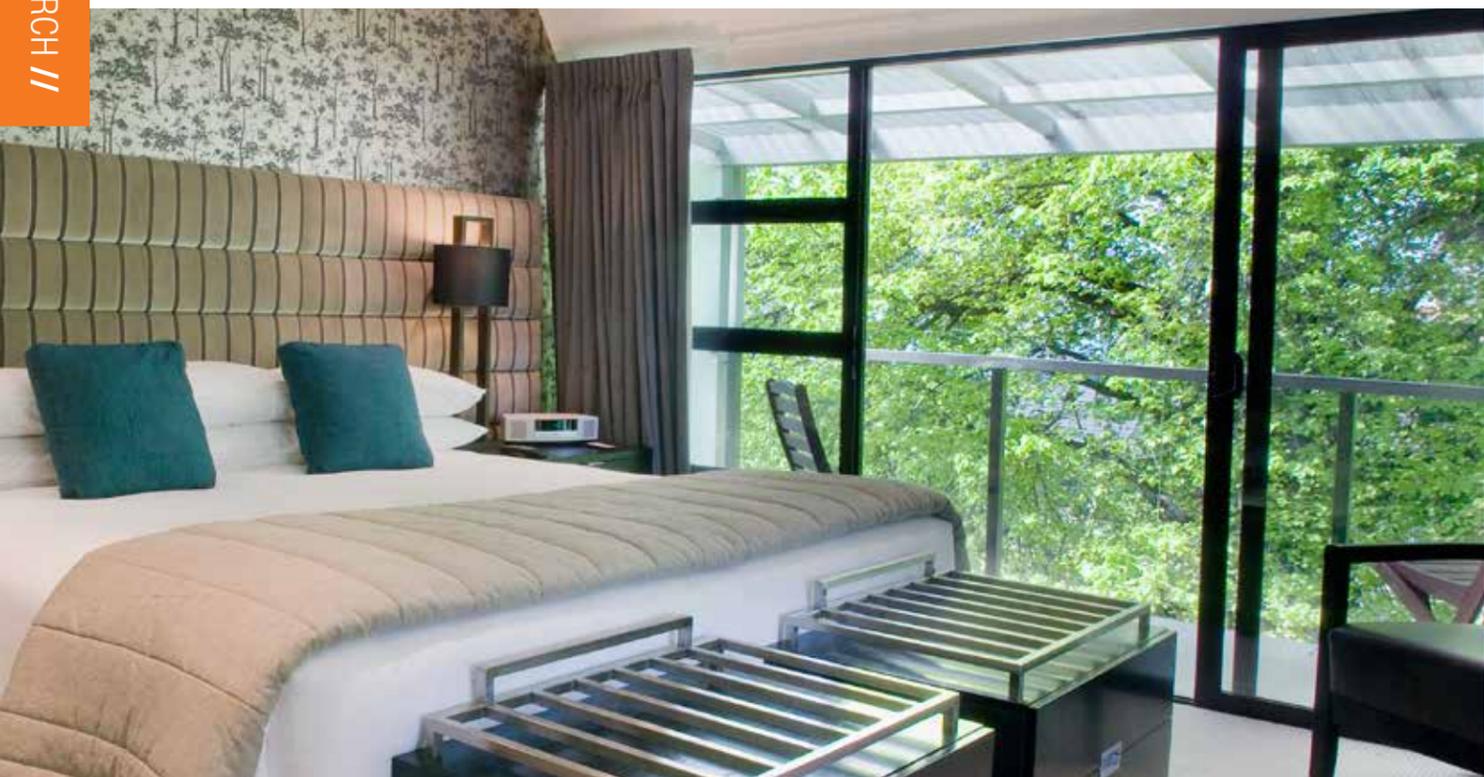
// The Qualmark rating signals to the world that we are not only fit for purpose but stylishly handsome in our rooms and facilities. //



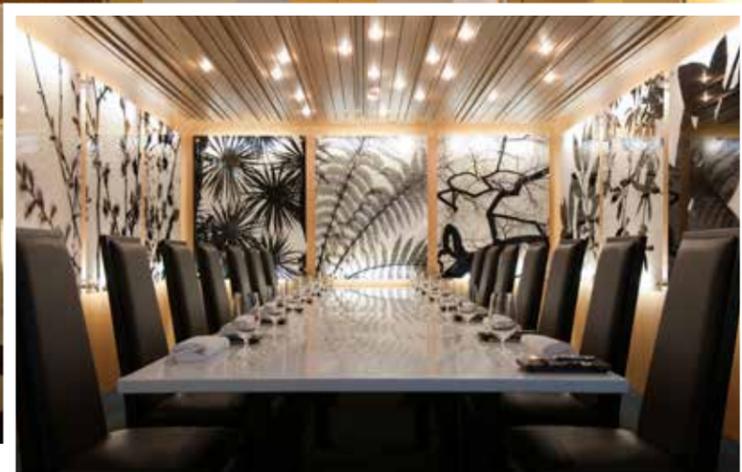
# THE GEORGE

## New Zealand's Leading Boutique Hotel\*

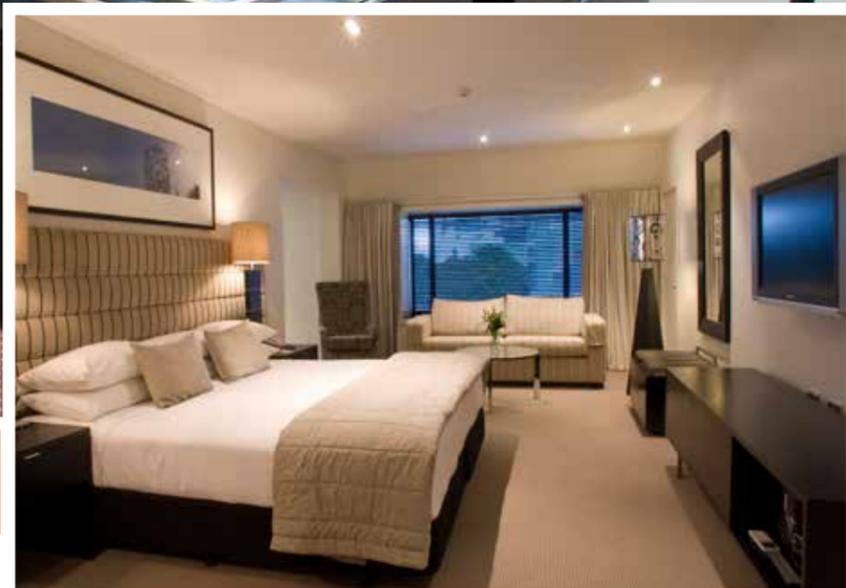
The George, a luxury boutique hotel, is the essence of supreme comfort and is renowned for offering a personalised stay and attentive staff. Located in the heart of Christchurch overlooking the picturesque Hagley Park and river Avon you will find peaceful Christchurch accommodation just steps from the cultural precinct and key attractions. Impeccable service in an intimate ambience is guaranteed at The George, the only Christchurch Hotel with a one-to-one staff to guest ratio.



The George, a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, tops the list of Christchurch Hotels. In 2013, 2012 and 2010



Enter the luxurious world of Christchurch's iconic Hotel The George.



Here, the chefs delight with their skillfully prepared innovative cuisine at two award-winning restaurants featuring exciting contemporary Pescatore and the bustling 50 Bistro, plus an option of summertime alfresco dining.

Offering a range of function rooms The George is an ideal conference and business venue. However it's beautiful gardens, fabulous location, attentive service and stunning food, make The George one of Christchurch's top wedding venues.

The George, a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, tops the list of Christchurch Hotels.

Recognised as 'New Zealand's #1 City Hotel' in *Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards 2013* and was 'New Zealand's Leading Boutique Hotel' 2006 – 2010 & 2012 – 2013 in the *World Travel Awards*.

As part of the community, The George understands that its actions impact the larger environment, view Caring Luxury for details of their responsible tourism practices.



visit: [thegeorge.com](http://thegeorge.com)

# ClearWater Resort

## A Paradise For Not Just Golfers

Located just seven minutes from Christchurch airport, Peppers Clearwater Resort is a stunning lakefront resort set within beautiful grounds and surrounded by clear shimmering lakes and waterways from which the resort gets its name. You simply cannot go past this magical Christchurch accommodation option, especially for travellers wishing to be in close proximity to the airport.

// From bread makers, cooking fresh bread on your arrival to the huge outdoor BBQ, the Villa really is five star. //



Once inside the gates, its another world - beautifully manicured grounds, stunning villas and golf holes as far as the eye can see. Inside the reception area you catch a glimpse of the waterways everywhere outside.

The property is so big that you need one of the resort's space age buggies to get around. My home away from home for the weekend was the three bedroom, Quay Villa which consists of three interconnecting rooms; one Quay Suite and two Quay Rooms. The Villas boast full kitchen and laundry facilities, a balcony to enjoy the stunning views and even your own jetty.

Looking around you really notice the attention to detail - from bread makers, cooking fresh bread on your arrival to the huge outdoor BBQ, the Villa really is five star. Next it was a quick call to reception for my ride to dinner at 'The Lakes'. Overlooking the Kaikainui Lake and the 18th green, The Lakes Restaurant offers a relaxed and casual restaurant, featuring modern New Zealand cuisine and Canterbury's food heroes. And the service was very attentive but not overbearing and the food was exceptional, I guess that was why it was

busy for Tuesday night. It's good see locals have cottoned on. And with many golf players from around the world dining - 'The Lakes' had a real international vibe. The next morning the view from the bedroom balcony was breathtaking, foggy but as still as could be, with the mist hanging over the waterways and the course of into the distance - it was very hard to believe you are just minutes from the CBD - This place is amazing and I didn't even play a round.

visit: [peppers.co.nz](http://peppers.co.nz)



# Christchurch Airport bringing the world South



Christchurch Airport is New Zealand's second largest airport and welcomed five and a half million passengers last year. About the same number came through the airport to greet and farewell those passengers, so that's around 11 million visitors to the campus each year.

The airport occupies a unique position economically, as the South Island's busiest and most strategic air connection to the world's trade and tourism markets. 81% of international visitors to the South Island are welcomed and farewelled at Christchurch Airport. Internationally award-winning airbridges, such as the Canterbury Sheep Farm, offer visitors a sensory experience (visual, audio and scents) of South Island scenes.

In addition, the airport plays an important role as the South Island's major domestic hub servicing all New Zealanders, enabling passengers to connect to a full spectrum of destinations throughout New Zealand.

Government policy currently offers "Open Skies" over Christchurch until 2017, giving favourable consideration to airlines offering new services to and from the city.

CIAL is the first airport company in the Southern Hemisphere to attain certified carbon neutral status and is the second carbon neutral certified airport company in the world.



Malcolm Johns  
CEO, Christchurch Airport

## A very special Chinese New Year

February 3 was an exciting day at the airport, with the arrival of a China Southern Airlines charter flight to celebrate Chinese New Year.

More than 220 Chinese travellers to Christchurch and the South Island arrived on the flight, which was notable as the first Dreamliner to fly to Christchurch commercially, the first Chinese airline to fly to New Zealand's second largest city and the first China Southern charter flight to the South Island.

It's a fact that Chinese travellers are lured to New Zealand by the iconic images of New Zealand's South Island. This island is very much a key weapon for New Zealand in its bid to continue to attract high value visitors from China - their total expenditure in New Zealand is 737 million dollars a year. Put simply, Chinese visitors coming to the South Island are good for the whole country.

## A living wall

Life has literally been breathed into the airport, by installing a huge image of Aoraki Mt Cook with the region's vegetation planted underneath it. There's more than 2500 plants in the Living Wall, with 22 different varieties of plants across an area of 29 square metres.

The feature purifies the air, reduces noise pollution, acts as a carbon sink and is a calming environment for travellers and visitors – plus, of course, it looks amazing.

The Living Wall is another step in Christchurch Airport's focus on the environment. In 2007, the airport became the first Southern Hemisphere airport to attain certified carbon neutral status, through reducing and offsetting greenhouse gases.

The Living Wall is not only stunningly beautiful and intriguing, but also a reminder of the South Island scenery so many visitors come to see.



## New Chief Executive of Christchurch International Airport

Malcolm Johns became the new Chief Executive of Christchurch Airport in January.

He is acknowledged as passionate about innovation, thought leadership, being a Kiwi and New Zealand's place in Asia – especially after six years as deputy chairman of Tourism New Zealand and now a director of the Tourism Industry Association.

Malcolm graduated from Waikato University's school of management and joined Hyatt International Hotels' corporate trainee programme. He worked for Mount Cook Group and, after its sale, for Tourism Holdings as product manager Landline and General Aviation.

He has spent the past nine years at InterCity Group, most of that time as CEO. InterCity operates New Zealand's largest and most complex piece of commercial transport infrastructure.

## New award-winning terminal building

The new \$237M terminal building at Christchurch Airport was officially opened last April and has won many awards since.

The previous terminal opened in 1960 and was built to handle around 200,000 passengers. Today, that number comes through every 13 days.

The new integrated terminal was built over and around the old one and during its construction roughly 44 million visitors walked through it, while almost 300,000 commercial flights operated through it.

The integrated check-in hall accommodates both domestic and international services. The baggage handling system is also integrated, which makes everything easy for travellers. The passenger experience was top of mind when the terminal was designed, with the new terminal larger, more intuitive, with signage in four languages and friendly ambassadors on hand to answer any queries.

# Garden City Helicopters

The Best Way to See Our World

A scenic heliflight with Garden City Helicopters is the best way to see the most that the amazing Canterbury region has to offer. The company have a wealth of experience flying scenic helicopter tours to some of the most picturesque and exciting landscapes you'll ever experience.



To get an idea of the rapid changing landscape of Christchurch the best way is by helicopter and Garden City Helicopters have the perfect solution, the Christchurch City experience with a full commentary from your experienced pilot, fly over Sumner and Redcliffs and you will be astounded by the effects of the earthquake.

Or try the legendary Canterbury winery lunch - why not touch down at the renowned French Farm, Waipara Hills or Pegasus Bay - allow 3 hours.

**There is a wide range of tours or you can design your own helicopter tour or charter.**

visit: [helicopters.net.nz](http://helicopters.net.nz)

**Garden City Helicopters**  
515 Memorial Avenue  
Christchurch Airport  
0800-359-424

## Hammerheads



# Return To Paradise

## RESORT & SPA

### Honeymoon Suite Packages



Spend your honeymoon wrapped in luxury in a beautiful honeymoon suite. You will enjoy a king-sized bed, ensuite bathroom, private mineral pool, complimentary couple's massage, welcome fruit platter and complimentary bottle of NZ bubbly.



Return To Paradise has an experienced team who will create you a romantic wedding you will never forget. Get married with breathtaking views under a flower arch of intoxicating tropical flowers.

To arrange your special romance at Return to Paradise Resort and Spa, contact: [romance@returnparadiseresort.com](mailto:romance@returnparadiseresort.com)

### Samoa's Newest Resort opens March 2014

Turn left out the main airport gate and drive 5 minutes through David Tua's village, then drive 15 minutes over the top of the island and down into Matautu-Lefaga and then its just minutes to Paradise.

Samoa is spectacularly beautiful and the Return to Paradise Beach is one of the most stunning of locations in the world.

The soon to be open **Return To Paradise Resort & Spa** has everything you could want in paradise; a beautiful lagoon, sparkling, white, sandy beaches, dazzling marine life, colourful coral, mineral pools, private forests, spectacular gardens, and banyan trees that tower over the forest canopy.

Just beyond the beach are blue lagoons, protected by the fringing coral reef that keep the powerful force of the Pacific Ocean at bay.

The resort has paid a lot of attention to providing their guest with some of the best food on the island, with Paradise Kitchen serving dishes such as Lobster & prawn with crème fraîche, wasabi caviar and tuna wafers. There is even an outdoor woodfired pizza oven – this place really is paradise.

For dessert how about Return to Paradise coconut baked Alaska with berry lava and passion fruit rocks.

And what a location to hold a conference, From a small meeting to a large conference

for 300, the resort has venues for every need from the large conference fale to breakout rooms with a wide range of activities and entertainment options available. Simply contact their events team and they will take care of everything. Paradise is waiting for you in this brand new resort.

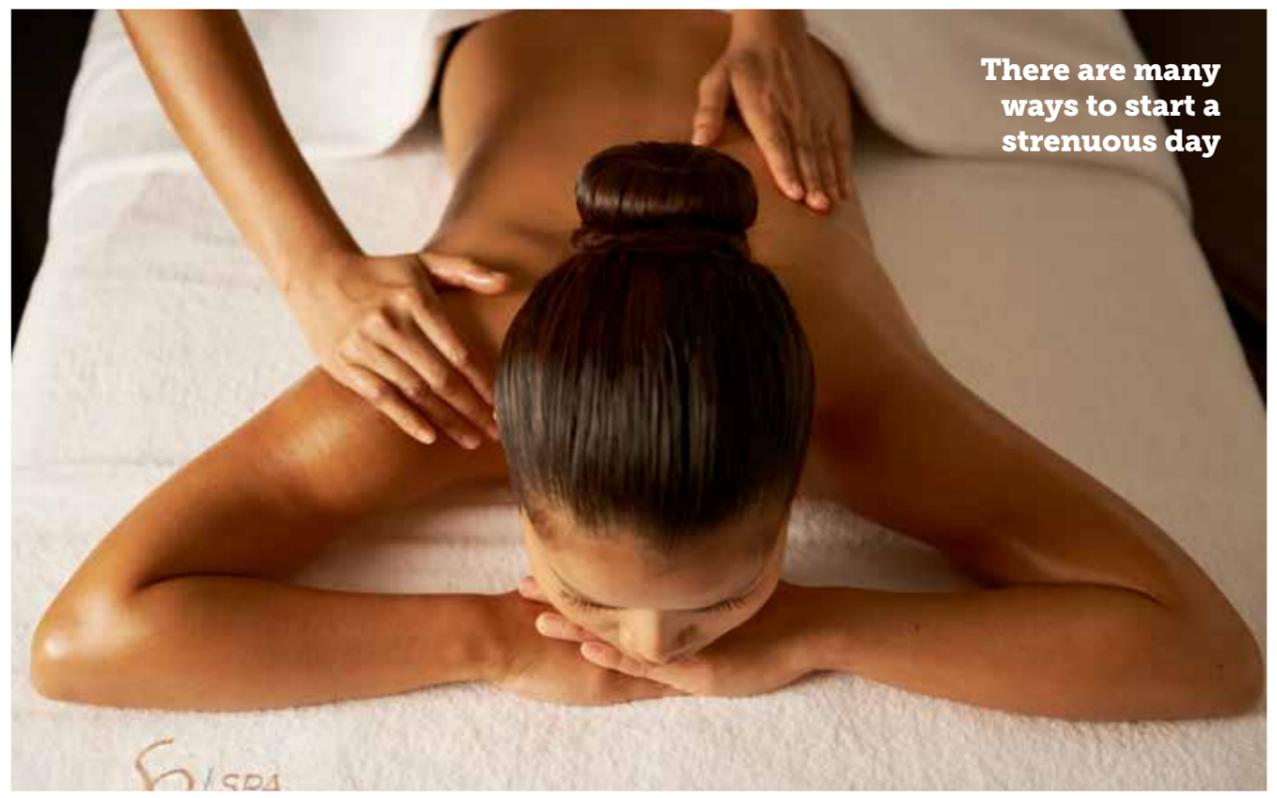
visit: [returntoparadiseresort.com](http://returntoparadiseresort.com)





# Sofitel SoSpa AUCKLAND

Spa treatments are not just to pamper; as I discovered at Sofitel's So Spa nestled among Auckland's Viaduct Harbour, carefully selected luxury proves essential to face the day's challenges ahead.



There are many ways to start a strenuous day

With Auckland's humidity preventing a deep sleep, relentless gridlock paralyzing any chance of a smooth commute, and a brim-filled diary; it seemed the stars were aligned to ensure that today, I would remain grumpy, tired and stressed with only a distant gin and tonic to compensate at the end.

Greeted with a warm "Bonjour" from the delightful spa receptionist Keira, I hoped Sofitel Viaduct Harbour's So Spa would change all that. There are not many ways to remedy a strenuous day, but this would be one of them.

An effortless friendliness and reassuring interior meant SoSpa had read my mind and knew what I needed. Bergamot scented the air while the most difficult action I was tasked with was sipping a green tea whilst deciding which of the orange, spearmint or lavender oils should be glided across my weary skin for the next hour or so.

I must confess, with my hectic schedule ahead, I feared a massage would tempt my head back to the pillow – a luxury I could ill afford today. Wrong. Keira had already fixed that by selecting So Spa's delicious Greenstone Massage, designed to soothe and recharge. The uplifting spearmint oil was recommended after being knowingly asked "how did I feel today?"

I took her good advice and unwound with So Spa's steam and sauna facilities – well

stocked with balms and lotions from Lanvin – for 20 minutes prior to my treatment. The solitude of the dark almond and caramel hued changing rooms, white pebbled shower area with harakeke patterned walls and thick waffled robes will remove you from the running mental commentary of unimportant thoughts – priming your treatment from a good space.

Asha, the poised and skilled therapist, embodied the calm competence you should expect from the Sofitel brand. Tactfully deflecting my instinct to launch into a conversation, Asha brought my mind and body back to its neutral, inert state. With gently heated spearmint-oiled greenstone rocks cupped in her palms, each muscle in my body took on just the right amount of pressure and release; the noisy cortisol in my brain giving way to gentle waves of endorphins as my body started to awaken and relax simultaneously. I let out the odd involuntary sigh, which only served to confirm my new reflexive state; a welcome change from the previous tension and rigidity that now seemed so remote.

It's usually a cruel thing to draw bliss to a close, but the aim of my 60 minute Greenstone treatment had emerged. I was now ready to face the day. Sipping a lemongrass tea in one of the four daybeds in the cabana area, mind and body were now gently organized and recharged. To seal in this goodness, the range of Therae and Plantagen products on offer combined the best of French and Aotearoa cosmetology;

**// An effortless friendliness and reassuring interior meant SoSpa had read my mind and knew what I needed. //**

familiarizing Sofitel's presence in NZ without making me feel marketed at.

Like the staff, the hard product delivered authenticity and hospitality. With enough money it's always possible to create the most extreme and lavish spa facilities for the modern traveller. But impressing with flashy decor will never replace the essence of spa treatments which So Spa has mastered: the Art of blending personality with skill.

Daniel Richardson



**Michael Hobbs**

**Gadgets**

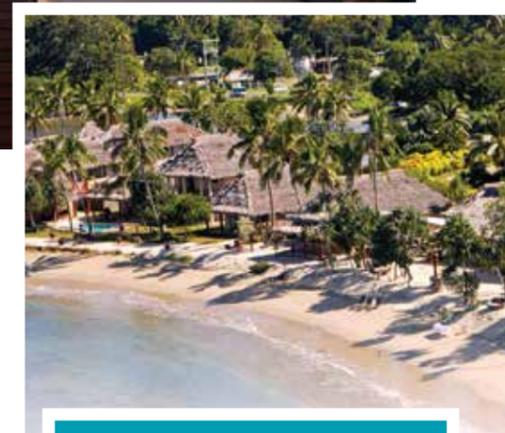


# Nanuka Resort & Spa

The quintessential South Pacific paradise



Set in lush tropical gardens fronting pristine Beqa Lagoon on one of Viti Levu's best sand beaches, the new resort delivers a blend of contemporary luxury and traditional Fijian design.



Global Traveller takes a peek at the very best Fiji has to offer from FIJI'S NEWEST LUXURY ESCAPE Nanuka Resort & Spa, to the island's world class airline Fiji Airways and their new luxurious plane, small ship cruising favorite Blue Lagoon Cruises and of course the legendary Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa.

Heralding a new era for Fiji tourism and taking the destination's luxury resort offerings to new heights, the boutique Nanuka Resort & Spa opened its doors on 1 March 2014. Located on the Pacific Coast of Viti Levu, Nanuka Resort & Spa is the first all-villa boutique resort on the main island.

Set in lush tropical gardens fronting pristine Beqa Lagoon on one of Viti Levu's best sand beaches, the new resort delivers a blend of contemporary luxury and traditional Fijian design. The villa residences have been designed with large air-conditioned living and entertaining areas, luxurious en-suites complete with spa baths, private yoga bures, plunge pools, media rooms, expansive decks and outdoor living rooms, private landscaped gardens and daybeds.

Nanuka Resort & Spa offers its guests a two-tiered choice of accommodation – the Vunikau Residence perched on a volcanic outcrop overlooking the lagoon, and five striking Beachfront Residences.

The resort has placed a large emphasis on its service, with personal butlers, chefs and private nannies on call to cater to every guest's needs. Personalised dining experiences can also be arranged in Kanavata Bar & Restaurant at the resort's Club House, in-villa or in a variety of locations including the resort's own private island.

visit: [nanukufiji.co](http://nanukufiji.co)

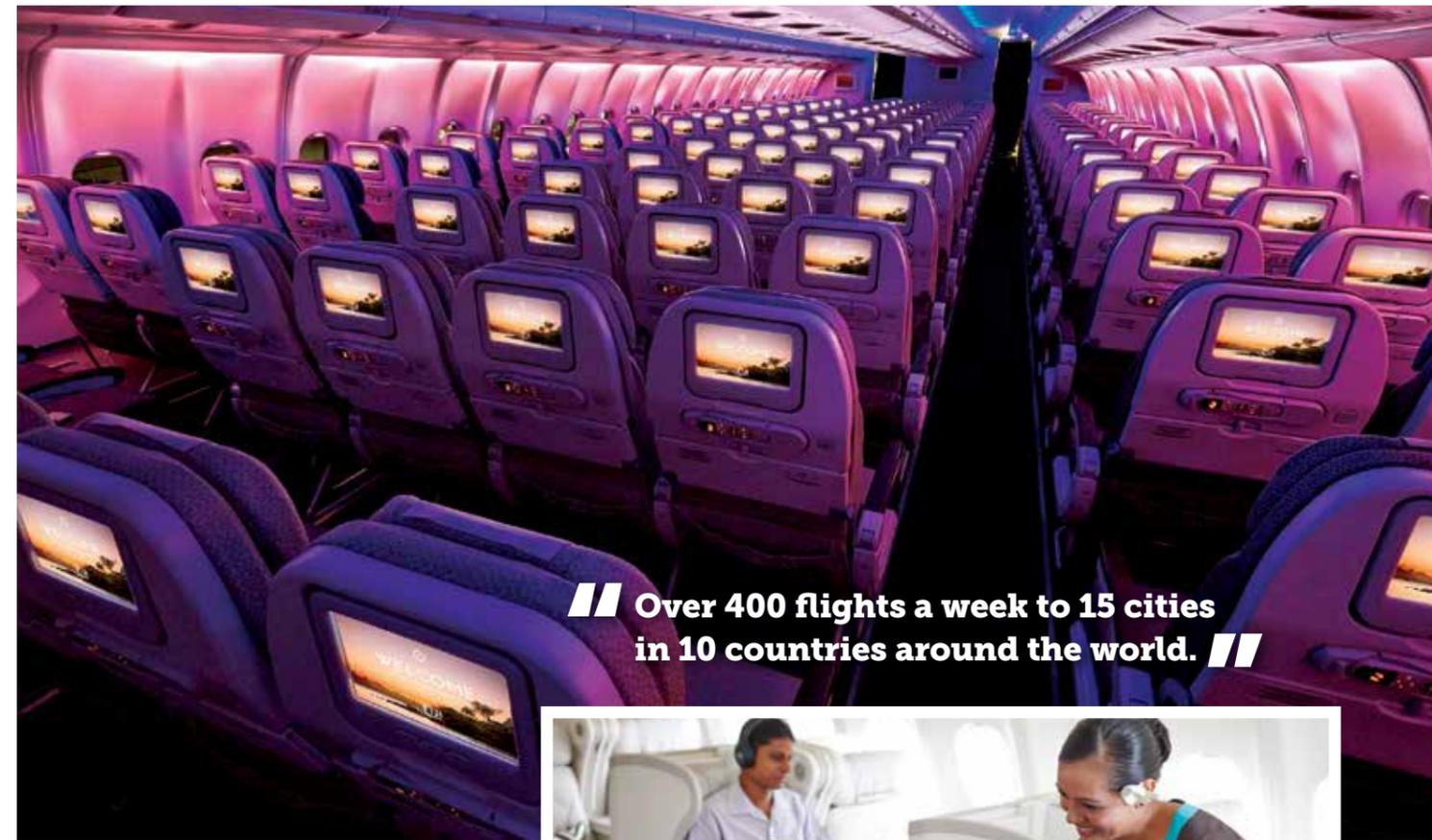
**Nanuka Resort & Spa has an introductory a five-night stay based on a four-night price.**

Pricing for the special offer starts from NZ\$8350. That includes all accommodation in one of the resort's five duplex residences, all meals, personal butler and nanny services, use of a golf buggy and all non-motorised water-sports equipment, free Wi-Fi and daily hosted drinks and canapés with resort management. The offer also includes return private car transfers from either Nadi International Airport or Suva International Airport.

# Fiji Airways

## ARRIVES IN STYLE

Officially launched in June, 2013, Fiji Airways has already been voted airline of the year by Auckland Airport. Ranked in the top five for on-time performance at the airport, Fiji Airways is now flying its new A330'-220's into Auckland.



Over 400 flights a week to 15 cities in 10 countries around the world.



These brand new craft are spectacular both visually from the outside of the aircraft with its distinctive, authentic Fiji branding to the inside of the luxurious cabin which has a Sofitel influence, with its rich browns and cream colours.

The airline certainly has come a long way since its first flight on 1st September 1951. A7-seater De Havilland Dragon Rapide took off from Nausori Airport and landed near Latoka, a far cry from the over 400 flights a week to 15 cities in 10 countries around the world Fiji Airways now flies to.

On board, Fiji Airways has revitalized their service, including new meal options, new crockery and linens, have been introduced to offer an improved long-haul dining experience.

Business class guests will enjoy a new fine dining experience and a new wine cellar with world-class wine options on-board. Special Fiji Airways designed amenity kits for overnight flights and noise cancelling IFE headsets are part of the full suite of new on-board products.

State-of-the-art in-flight entertainment systems, duty free in-flight shopping, and the introduction of a sleeper and breakfast service routines complete the new Fiji Airways experience.

Fiji Airways has also released new schedules for travel throughout 2014 which will mean increased frequencies between Fiji and some of its biggest tourism markets. The new schedules will increase connectivity between the South Pacific

Islands, New Zealand and Australia, and Hong Kong and the USA via Nadi; and the world via the airline's interline partners.

visit: [fijiairways.com](http://fijiairways.com)



# Sofitel Fiji

## A new level of family luxury

THE Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa has launched a new luxury family room category for families looking to stay in comfort and upgrade on their next Fijian holiday. Located on the ground floor with direct access to the beach, lawn areas and lagoon style pool, the new luxury family room is ideal for families who enjoy outdoor living, extra space and entertainment options.



For added lifestyle indulgence, each room features floor to ceiling sliding glass doors which open out to a personal outdoor entertainment area, complete with spacious timber decking and furniture to encourage time outside in the tropics.

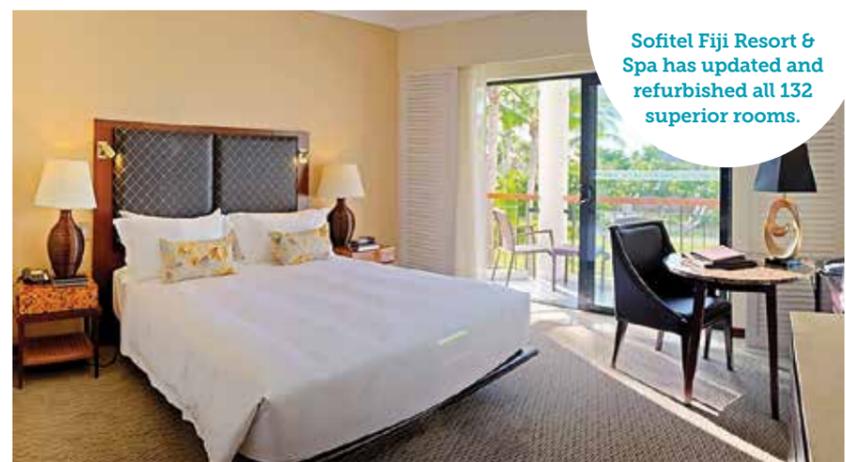
The Turtle Kids Club at the Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa's offers a combination of local pastimes, outdoor and indoor activities to keep children between 2 and 12 years of age entertained.

The Club is open from 9.00am to 9.00pm daily and the activities programme has been carefully planned to encourage maximum fun for children while incorporating a touch of Fijian culture into their holiday experience.

In addition to regular resort-style activities and games, Sofitel Fiji offers junior guests the chance to 'play' like a local.

As part of the upgrade, Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa has updated and refurbished all 132 superior rooms at the resort, in addition to the existing family rooms and suites.

Bed and breakfast packages for luxury family rooms are priced from FJD\$315 per night, including a welcome drink and cold towel on arrival at the resort, complimentary buffet breakfast for two adults and two children under 12 years at Lagoon Restaurant and accommodation in the new luxury family room.



Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa has updated and refurbished all 132 superior rooms.

For a limited time only, Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa are offering 25% off Best Available Rate for travel up to 30 June 2014. Simply log on to [www.accorhotels.com](http://www.accorhotels.com), select your travel dates and enter promotion code "FJFUN".



// In addition to regular resort-style activities and games, Sofitel Fiji offers junior guests the chance to 'play' like a local. //



# Blue Lagoon Cruises

## Escape to Paradise

Global Traveller takes a cruise with the iconic Blue Lagoon Cruises who have more than 50 years experience cruising the Yasawa Islands in the untouched South Pacific.

Having been on three Blue Lagoon cruises, I can highly recommend them, sure there are bigger ships with more activities to do on board, more restaurants, ice skating rinks etc.

But that's not what island cruising is about. Instead of looking at the glamorous people on the Captains table in the middle of a huge dining room, try going fishing with the Captain at 2am for that personal touch, or having a game of touch rugby with the crew on a deserted beach.

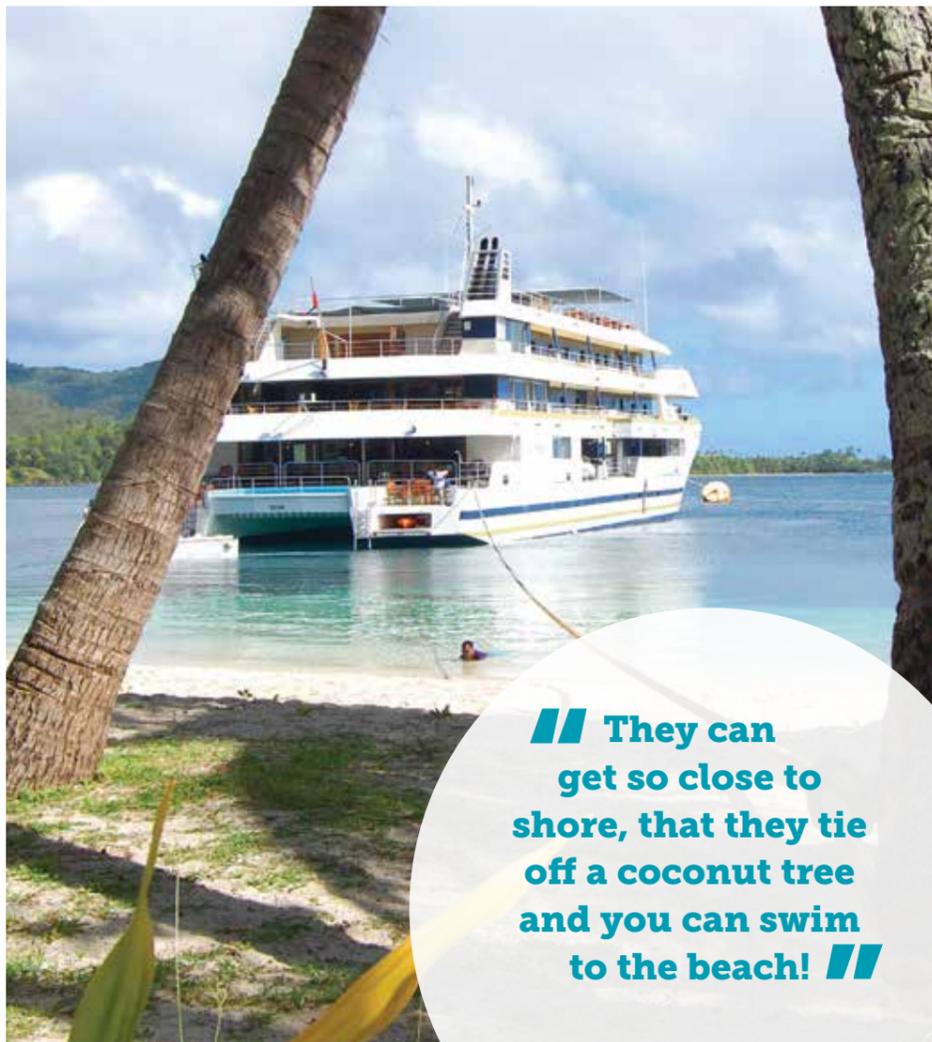
Blue Lagoon is really on another level, one where the whole crew knows your name and takes time to chat and explain where you are heading and the history of the Yasawas.

Blue Lagoon Cruises ship, Fiji Princess has been purpose-built for cruising and selected for the ocean going conditions of the Fiji waters, especially around the Yasawa Islands.

The small size of Blue Lagoon Cruises boutique cruise ship, Fiji Princess is just one of the things that makes the cruise so special.

Accommodating up to 68 passengers and measuring only 179 feet (55 metres) in length, the ship can access bays and islands that would be impossible to reach in a large ship.

They can get so close to shore, that they tie off a coconut tree and you can swim to the beach! Here are some reasons I love small ship cruising.



**// They can get so close to shore, that they tie off a coconut tree and you can swim to the beach! //**



Small ship cruising allows Fiji Princess to tie up to coconut trees during the day. We can explore the lagoons and coves that would be inaccessible to a large vessel.

Because of the small number of guests on the Fiji Princess, no matter which beach or island you visit, you won't be overwhelmed by crowds. Most the time, your fellow passengers are the only people on the beach!

Blue Lagoon prides itself on their personal and usually operate at a 2 to 1 passenger to staff ratio and everyone is referred to on a first-name basis, which is unheard of on most cruise ships.

Small ship cruising also offers a very relaxing experience. Because of this, you'll adapt with the greatest of ease to 'Fiji Time'. Plus you only need to unpack once but you'll visit numerous islands.

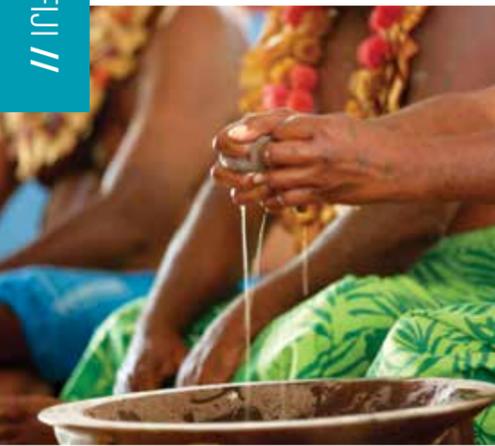
Another bonus is that the cruises are very casual and informal. There is no need to bring several outfits to wear for evening functions.

Passengers often make friends for life, given the social atmosphere of small ship cruising. It maybe a boutique ship but it doesn't mean there are no facilities on board, in fact there is even free WiFi for those addicted to work.

There is the Senikai Spa to relax in or chill out in the pool at the back of the ship, the perfect place to have a Fiji Bitter while watching the islands past by.

There is even exercycles for the fitness junkies. Combine this with a glass bottom boat, bbqs on the beach and great refurbished cabins, What more could you want?





// Blue Lagoon Cruises ship, Fiji Princess has been purpose-built for cruising and selected for the ocean going conditions of the Fiji water //



// With more than 50 years experience cruising the Yasawa Islands, Blue Lagoon really have figured out the winning formula for taking guests to the most beautiful places in Fiji //

Blue Lagoon Cruises offer three boutique itineraries, each taking you on a journey into Fiji's spectacular Mamanuca and Yasawa Islands. Sail to uninhabited tropical islands, anchor in private lagoons, spend countless hours lazing on golden beaches and swim, snorkel or dive in clear blue waters.

A maximum 4 hours cruising per day ensures you spend more time exploring onshore and less time on the ship. Visit remote island villages, discover the ancient Fijian culture, sit down to an island feast set on a breathtakingly beautiful beach, swim with manta rays, learn how to cook traditional Fijian dishes, and stop off at the Sacred Islands and Sawa i lau Caves.

Once a week, Fiji Princess departs Denarau Marina for her voyage into the enchanting Mamanuca and Yasawa Islands. There, she spends seven days cruising from one spectacular setting to the next before returning to Denarau (this is their 7 night cruise).

Blue lagoon also operate a high-speed transfer vessel, which meets Fiji Princess in the Sacred Islands, connecting the 3 and 4

night guests with the cruise. By operating the itineraries in this way means one thing: you spend more time cruising the Yasawas, and less time getting there!

During the day, I found there was a multitude of things to do. A favorite activity was exploring the island we would pull up too, then just relaxing on the beach. The crew set up a cash bar on the sand and before long most of the passengers are laying in the shallow tropical waters, sipping cocktails and chatting.

It's extra special as Blue Lagoon also have their own island, so it feels totally private, no fighting off hawkers, just uninterrupted paradise under the coconut trees. Soon it's time for lunch which is cooked on shore by the ships chefs. The fish could not be any fresher!

The only thing left to do is get back into the water and lay like a star fish and order another drink, which of course the bar staff deliver into the water on a silver tray.

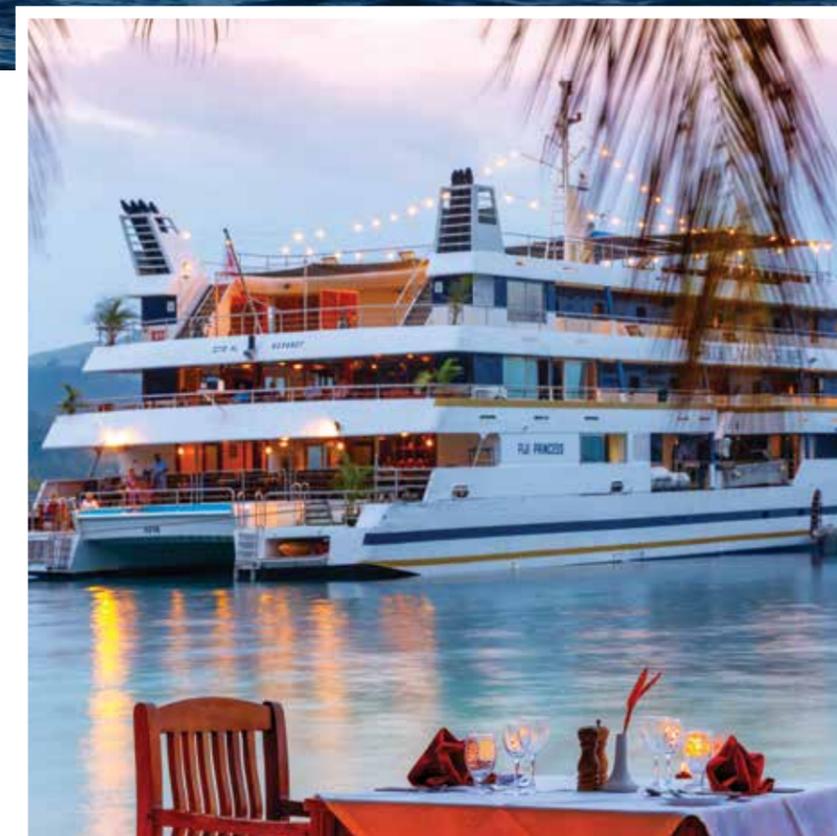
One of the highlights of the cruise is the visit to one of the local villages, it's a real

eye opener, you very rarely see people with so little yet so happy. It's also a very rewarding experience as both passengers and crew bring presents and books and school equipment for the children.

In fact Blue Lagoon actively support the locals with their XXXX programme. Which gives back to the local community, so it's a win win. Naturally the Kava ceremony is very enjoyable. One of the passengers is appointed 'chief' for the day and replies and thanks the real chief for the visit.

And there is nothing the locals love more than if you ask for more Kava, what a day. Next it's back to the ship for cocktails on the sundeck with our new friends to watch the amazing Fijian sunset.

With more than 50 years experience cruising the Yasawa Islands, Blue Lagoon really have figured out the winning formula for taking guests to the most beautiful places in Fiji, showcasing the most rewarding activities and giving you the best possible experience in the untouched South Pacific!





# Pacific Island Air

When happiness takes flight



You will have more 'island time'

If you want to get to your cruise ship or island resort in double quick time, Pacific Island Air has the flexibility and capability of flying to any destination in Fiji. Passengers can even fly by seaplane one way and return by helicopter, offering two distinctly different experiences from one operator.

The company is based at Nadi Airport with a check-in desk situated at the domestic terminal. You can also find them at their operations base in Denarau.

While a large part of their business involves transfer flights to resorts and islands, Pacific Island Air also offer's scenic flights, private charters and adventure packages in association with other tourist operators in Fiji. Including lunch at Castaway Island or maybe a mystery tour? Or the day on your own mystery island, the options are limitless.

Pacific Island Air's new twin engine Squirrel helicopter seats 6 passengers + 15kg of luggage per person. The quickest, hassle free and most scenic way to arrive at a resort is by helicopter. From the airport in Nadi to your island resort in 10-20minutes!

They even greet you off your international flight and assist you to the Pacific Island Air check-in.

But what could be more romantic and nostalgic than arriving directly to a resorts beach than by seaplane! The airline has a 8 passenger Otter seaplane and two 4 passenger Beaver seaplanes.

visit: [pacificislandair.com](http://pacificislandair.com)

# Hertz Rent a Car

## Launches Stunning Dream Collection in the Uk



Motoring enthusiasts can now whisk away a car of their dreams, including the Bentley Continental GT, Bentley Flying Spur, Aston Martin DB9, Range Rover Sport, Mercedes C63 AMG, BMW X5, Mercedes SL63 AMG, Mercedes E400 AMG Coupe, Audi Q7 and Maserati Ghibli

Hertz, has just launched its Dream Collection in the UK with stunning marques designed to make motoring enthusiasts' dreams come true. Currently featuring the powerful Bentley Continental GT, the luxurious Bentley Flying Spur, the iconic Aston Martin DB9, and the all-new Range Rover Sport, the Hertz Dream Collection

will also include the Mercedes C63 AMG, BMW X5, Mercedes SL63 AMG, Mercedes E400 AMG Coupe, Audi Q7 and Maserati Ghibli in the coming weeks.

Featuring a VIP customer service and Hertz's famous Make and Model Guarantee, the Dream Collection has been rolled out at Hertz's London Marble Arch and at Heathrow Airport. All Dream Collection vehicles can be booked from [hertzdreamcollection.co.uk](http://hertzdreamcollection.co.uk), and will be available to rent for a minimum period of one day up to a maximum of 28 days.

Perfectly polished right down to the tyres, Hertz Dream Collection cars are handed over to the customer in person by one of the specially trained Dream team, so that

customers can bypass the counter. The team will also help load bags into the car and configure devices such as NeverLost GPS according to the customer's requirements. In addition, each stage of the rental will be closely monitored to ensure complete satisfaction.

Customers must be aged 30 and over and have held their driving license for a minimum period of five years. Two credit cards are needed in order to qualify. Other important terms and conditions apply. Hertz Dream vehicles are also available in the Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and the United States.

visit: [hertz.co.nz](http://hertz.co.nz)



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