

# Newsletter

**Orbit**  
Corporate Travel

part of the House of Travel group

Welcome to the winter newsletter from Orbit Corporate Travel Hamilton. It has been a very busy period since our last newsletter with ash cloud from Iceland affecting a significant part of worldwide travel to the political unrest in Thailand.

## CHANGES IN THE ORBIT OFFICE

This issue we welcome Tony Dickson to the Orbit Team. He has been appointed as a Commercial Account Manager to work alongside Melissa Neal. Welcome to the team Tony. Congratulations to Mira Cornes and her husband Greg on the safe arrival of their beautiful baby girl Tessa.



## AIR NZ'S ECONOMY SKYCOUCH

Air NZ's new Skycouch can be booked now for departures from April 2011 on selected flights between Auckland, Los Angeles and London.



From this date; these flights will be operated by Air NZ's new Boeing 777-300 aircraft. To travel in an Economy Skycouch passengers will need to upgrade their Economy Class ticket/s.

## PACIFIC BLUE'S FOURTH WEEKLY FLIGHT TO COOK ISLANDS

Pacific Blue has announced that they will begin a permanent fourth weekly flight between Auckland and Rarotonga, adding over 9,000 extra seats to the route each year. The additional flight, will depart Auckland on Monday, 6.30pm; the return flight from Rarotonga at 1.50am. The airline's other three Auckland-Rarotonga services are on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. The new schedule commences 5 July 2010.



## QANTAS CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Exclusive 12 month membership from \$299 per person. Includes access to over 250 Qantas Club partner airline and associated airline lounges worldwide, dedicated check-in area, priority baggage handling and allowances. Contact your dedicated Orbit Account Manager for information.

## AIR NZ'S NEW TRANS TASMAN FARES

Air NZ are introducing new Trans Tasman fares on their A320 aircraft. These fares will be available between Christchurch and Australia – purchase now for departures from 18 August; and between Auckland/Wellington and Australia – dates to be confirmed (likely purchase in Sept for departures from late Nov).

- **Seat Only:** one carry-on bag (7kg), entertainment (TV, music, games), tea, coffee and water.
- **Seat + Bag:** Seat product plus; one checked bag (up to 23 kg).
- **The Works:** Seat + Bag product plus; seat request, entertainment including movies, a meal and drinks.
- **Works Deluxe:** The Works product plus; premium check-in, two priority bags (up to 23 kg each), lounge access, neighbour-free guarantee.

Airpoints Gold Elite and Gold members can take an additional carry-on bag (up to 7kg) with any of the above fare types.

Airpoints Gold Elite, Gold and Koru members can take an additional checked bag (up to 23kg) with Seat + Bag, The Works and Works Deluxe products.

**Contact your dedicated Orbit Account Manager on 07 857 0377, for further information.**

## AIR NZ'S NEW BAGGAGE POLICY

As of 26 May 2010, new baggage allowances apply to all Air NZ airfares.

From this date Air New Zealand's checked baggage allowances for travel on Air New Zealand domestic and international flights will move to a piece system, standardising the approach and creating a consistent policy across the entire Air NZ network.

**Checked baggage allowances** will change to three pieces (Business), two pieces (Premium Economy), one piece (Economy). The maximum weight per piece will be standardised at 23kgs across the network in all classes. Please note;

Customers purchasing domestic 'Flexi Plus' fares are entitled to two pieces of checked baggage.

Customers who purchase the new 'Works Deluxe' fares (for Christchurch-Sydney for travel from 18 August and progressively rolled out to all Tasman and Pacific markets later in 2010) are entitled to two pieces of checked baggage.

**Overweight bags** (updated policy for Domestic New Zealand) – any piece of baggage over the per piece allowance of the allotted 23kgs but less than 32kgs will be subject to an overweight bag fee based on the following zone based charges; Domestic \$50, Tasman \$50, Rest of World \$75. As per the current policy, any bag over 32kgs will not be accepted for carriage, due to OSH regulations.

**Sporting allowances** – in addition to the checked baggage piece allowance, customers will be able to check-in one sporting item at half the first additional bag cost for all international flights. For example, a non-High Value Customer passenger travelling Christchurch-Sydney from 18 August on a Seat+Bag fare with one piece of checked baggage (23kg) and one golf club bag will be charged \$25 for the golf bag.

**Strollers/car seats** – customers will be able to carry these for free both domestically and internationally. Infants are entitled to the accompanying adult checked baggage allowance (excluding the additional frequent flyer allowance).

**Contact your dedicated Orbit consultant with queries regarding these changes.**



## ROWING WORLD CHAMPS

The 2010 Rowing World Championships are being held at Lake Karapiro from Thursday 4 – Sunday 7 November.

Over this time Hamilton and surrounding areas are expecting accommodation, rental cars, flights, taxis and airport shuttles to be heavily booked.

If you are planning to travel in the period leading up to, during and after these dates we suggest you book early to avoid disappointment.

**If you have any queries, contact your dedicated Orbit consultant or phone 07 856 9009 for more information.**

## AIR NZ'S TRANS TASMAN SELF SERVICE CHECK IN

Air NZ has rolled out the first international self service check in kiosks for Trans Tasman passengers.



Passengers travelling to Australia from Auckland can now scan their machine readable passports at a kiosk and subsequently be issued with a boarding pass and bag tags. Customers then take bags to the 'bag drop' area, where they are scanned and passenger IDs checked.

Air NZ will be progressively introducing the new kiosks in Wellington, Queenstown and Christchurch international check in areas, for passengers travelling to Australia over the next nine months.

Customers travelling to an Australian destination with a passport that has a machine-readable zone will be able to use the self service kiosks.

## CONTINENTAL AIRLINES ANNOUNCES NEW SERVICES

**From Houston hub to Auckland.**

Continental Airlines has announced another major step in development of its Houston hub with plans to begin non-stop Boeing



787 flights to Auckland on 16 November 2011 (subject to government approval).

Auckland will be added to the 63 international destinations that Continental currently serves non-stop from Houston, and will become the 26th destination in Continental's Pacific network. Continental serves more destinations in the Pacific region than any other US carrier.

## RUGBY WORLD CUP 2011

**House of Travel is the Official Travel Agent for the Rugby World Cup 2011**

taking place in our backyard in September and October 2011.

Packages are now available for the quarter-finals, semi-finals and the RWC 2011 Final.

Package options include:

- Centrally located accommodation, official RWC 2011 match tickets and return match transfers; or
- Official RWC 2011 match tickets and return match transfers only

Our Official Travel Agent status allows us to sell tickets to all matches between all teams from the opening ceremony to the RWC Final. There's no minimum purchase and no need to wait for the public ballot in 2011.



Tickets are selling fast; avoid the disappointment of missing out on being part of this phenomenal event.

**Contact Wendy 07 857 0373 or [wendyh@orbit.co.nz](mailto:wendyh@orbit.co.nz)**

With New Zealand hosting the Rugby World Cup in 2011, accommodation, rental cars, flights, taxis and airport shuttles could be fully booked at this time. If you are planning any travel between 7 September – 25 October 2011 please book early to avoid disappointment. If you have any queries regarding this, contact the Orbit Team.

## MELBOURNE CUP 150TH ANNIVERSARY

This year is the 150th Anniversary of the Melbourne Cup. We have some great packages available to this event.

Packages include:

- Five nights accommodation
- Return economy airfares to Melbourne from Auckland
- Two day uncovered lawn stand reserved seat in the stand to Derby Day on Saturday 30 October and Melbourne Cup Day on Tuesday 2 November.

Melbourne has much more to offer, so take advantage of your time there – soak up the culture, hit the sporting grounds, taste the dynamic food and wine, dance till dawn or wander the parks and leafy boulevards. Shop till you drop on funky Brunswick Street or upmarket Chapel Street. Wander Southbank's cafes, bistros and bars and get a world tour of cuisines in Carlton, Richmond and Fitzroy.

**To book a package or for more information on the Melbourne Cup, contact our holiday specialists on [calder@hot.co.nz](mailto:calder@hot.co.nz) or phone 07 856 9009.**



## STAFF TRAVELS – Beijing, China by Jocelyn Shireffs

Recently, I was lucky to be chosen from 200 applicants to join a five day travel agents' fam trip to China with China Travel Service. We departed New Zealand on 26 May flying Air NZ both ways. I flew in Premium Economy to Beijing and Business Class back. I was impressed with the fantastic service provided by Air NZ staff. It's a long 13 hour direct flight – I was glad to have the comfort and space of both classes. Beijing is a great stopover alternative. You can pack a lot into a short stay but here are my picks.

- Great Wall – no visit to China is complete without visiting the wall, an hour's drive from central Beijing. Pack good walking shoes, views at the top are worth every step.
- Kung Fu show – a touch of Cirque Du Soleil, combined with martial arts and a good love story narrated in English. Absolutely amazing.
- Shopping at Pearl and Silk markets – a bartering experience not to be missed. What you can't buy in Beijing isn't worth buying, from the knock-off goods, to tailored suites to the latest technologies and much more.
- A half day city tour – check out the Forbidden city, Tian'anmen Square, Temple of Heaven, Museum of Natural History, Ming's Tomb and much more.

**For more information on travel to China, please contact us on 07 856 9009.**



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