

Agents upskill with interactive online training

An interesting and valuable initiative currently being offered by New Caledonia Tourism offer travel industry participants the opportunity to become a New Caledonia Specialist. The online educational package offers participants the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills with through fun, interactive online courses that allow them to discover everything they need to know about New Caledonia!

The program provides a pathway to increased sales and creates knowledge of the wonderful benefits of visiting the French jewel in the Pacific.

The easily managed program consists of 6 interesting, informative and enjoyable modules. Benefits include a competitive advantage when offering a unique destination and being able to specialise and to create outstanding New Caledonian itineraries for clients.

Recently Sally Pepermans, New Zealand Director of Nouvelle Calédonie Tourisme hosted a family to New Caledonia for the recent High Achievers from the online Course.

Enjoying the delights of New Caledonia were Oliver Thomson (House Of Travel, Johnsonville); Prachi Koli (The Travel Brokers), Karen McIntosh (The NZ Travel Brokers), Selese Rowe (Travel Managers) and Bianca Henry (NCT NZ).

The participants completed their New Caledonia Course with escorted visits to many of the landscapes and attractions that attract visitors whilst enjoying the culture and ambience of Noumea and surrounds.



Showponi to represent New Caledonia Tourism NZ

Showponi, leading tourism representation and PR agency, has announced that it has been appointed by Nouvelle Vague Marketing to represent New Caledonia Tourism NZ ahead of Sally Pepermans' departure on a 12-month sabbatical.

Caroline Brunel, founder of Nouvelle Vague Marketing, expressed her excitement about the partnership, saying, "We are thrilled to partner with Showponi in representing New Caledonia Tourism NZ. We believe that their expertise and experience in the New Zealand market will be instrumental in promoting New Caledonia as a premier travel destination."

Gordy Bayne, CEO of Showponi, said he was thrilled at the appointment of Bianca Henry as Account Director for New Caledonia Tourism NZ. Henry will be focusing on promoting trade, consumer, and MICE activity for Kiwis to travel to New Caledonia in 2023 and 2024.

Henry, who has just returned from New Caledonia on the NZ Top sellers' fam trip, expressed her enthusiasm about her new role, saying, "As a proud French person, I was excited to see New Caledonia thriving as a holiday destination. I am looking forward to educating all of our trade partners on all the new updates that are now available for their customers to enjoy."



Odyssey: Dive with the experts

Created by Dr Bastien Preuss (who has a PhD in Marine Ecology), Odyssey is a dive operation that offers brilliant experiences for underwater adventurers. Divers can take the opportunity to explore and photograph the beautiful waters around New Caledonia. With its lagoon listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, New Caledonia has some of the last unspoiled places on earth. An expert in underwater photography, Bastien will ensure you will have images to take home that will provide memories of a unique oceanic experience. If you need a guide for a trip on your own boat, or full organisation of your expedition - including an effective team, equipment and boat, ODYSSEY is here to meet your needs in the best possible way.



Aircalin upgrades its fleet

Aircalin has emerged from the pandemic with one of the youngest fleets in the Pacific. The company is justifiably proud of what was achieved during the pandemic as they sought to improve the flying experience for their passengers.

Their Pacific network includes New Zealand, Australia, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tahiti, Wallis and Futuna, Singapore and Tokyo. Since 2019 they have progressively updated their fleet with the fuel-efficient Airbus A320Neo and A330 Neo.

Flights to and from Auckland are on the A330Neo - an aircraft that offers state-of-the-art seating and the latest LED HD touchscreen televisions offering more than 90 programs. Optional extras available as paid services include preferred seating, extra baggage and an a la carte meal menu.

The options for seating are Premium Economy and Economy and all passengers are offered a selection of magazines to download to personal devices 48 hours before departure. Inflight duty-free options have been upgraded to include natural products produced from the native flora of New Caledonia. It's great to see Aircalin making such positive strides.



Hertz adds electric options

Hertz New Caledonia is taking steps to support the protection of the precious environment in this destination. They have recently added their first electric vehicles (MG ZS EV and BYD DOLPHIN) to their modern fleet available in Noumea.

Hertz has 5 agencies in New Caledonia including three in Noumea (including one at Magenta Airport). Offering the usual exacting standards of vehicle and service that characterise Hertz worldwide, Hertz New Caledonia take care of all needs for visitors including full 24-hour service and responses.

The addition of the new electric vehicles is an indication of the Hertz New Caledonia agencies offering a complete range of vehicles to suit all visitor requirements. To complement the addition of electric vehicles, Hertz has also built their first electric station for customers to recharge their car at any time.



Ramada Hotel and Suites creates home for sports fans

An enjoyable experience waits at the iconic Sports Bar at the Ramada Hotel and Suites in Noumea. As part of the Ramada, the Sports Bar provides continental Parisian or American buffet breakfasts in the gardens around the pool.

The Sports Bar also offers an extensive lunch menu and bar snacks and in the evening a selection of Tapas. With displays of sporting memorabilia, the Sports Bar is a great place to relax and enjoy your favourite drinks or develop new ones from the exotic cocktails available.

The Sports Bar has a large flat screen TV that covers various sports including NRL, NBZ (USA), Super Rugby and Australian Football (AFL). The Sports Bar offers worthwhile specials with Tuesday Gentlemen's Evening, Wednesday Creole tastes, specialties and customised cocktails and Thursday Girlfriends Two Hour Happy Hour for the ladies only.

Plenty of events staged at the Sports Bar including but not confined to Karaoke, various Quiz nights and retro dance evenings. A popular spot amongst locals and visitors, the Sports Bar is well worth a visit or two during your time in Noumea.



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DoubleTree Hilton: unplug in paradise

Following on from the renovation and rebranding to the Hilton chain in March 2021, DoubleTree by Hilton Noumea Ilot Maitre Resort has been a favourite with New Zealand visitors since borders were reopened.

The Resort's unique 'island-off-Noumea' location offers a relaxing and tropical getaway. The hotel has recently partnered with the Centre for the Environment of the Southern Province to create an eco-educational walkway around the island with panels located at various points of interest.

The panels detail the numerous endemic species that have made the island their home, including the magnificent turtles that populate the 200-hectare marine reserve.

The resort's aquatic centre is open daily with jet skis, canoes, stand-up paddleboards and other equipment for hire. Snorkelling gear is available free of charge. Guests wanting to transfer into Noumea can travel free of charge - it's a 30-minute boat ride to Port Moselle in Noumea.



A choice of two at Gondwana Hotel

A unique and quirky hotel, the Gondwana is situated in the centre of Noumea's Latin Quarter, conveniently located near the Marina, restaurants and bars.

Le City Green Hotel (one half of this two-hotel complex) is the first High Environmental Quality certified hotel in the French Overseas Territories.

The second hotel in the complex, Le City Art is linked to Le City Green by a delightful central patio with a well-established zen atmosphere. Breakfasts are served in the patio lounge that features gardens with medicinal, aromatic and edible local plants that illustrate the richness of the New Caledonian intriguing fauna.

A family establishment committed to great pricing and the environment, the Gondwana Hotel provides an enjoyable, relaxed stay for anyone visiting Noumea.

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Le Méridien Ile des Pins: enjoy a summer soiree

Le Méridien Ile des Pins in New Caledonia is an enchanting resort destination boasting Le Méridien's renowned service and upscale amenities, set against an idyllic backdrop of white sandy beaches and blue Pacific seas. From May to October 2023, guests can experience the unique "Au Soleil" summer soiree.

It's an experience where you can immerse yourself in island life, enjoy swimming, pampering, relaxing, and fantastic dining, including the very best rosé and sparkling cocktails at a new pop-up beach bar or at the Longitude 167 bar.

You can satisfy your taste buds at the new "Lobster Shack," where you can indulge in Isle of Pines rock lobster creations, followed by a sweet frozen treat and summer flavors with home-made gelato and sorbet at "Le Scoop" by Le Méridien.

Need some pampering? You can replenish your well-being with a therapeutic massage or custom facial at Deep Nature Spa, float in the sparkling infinity pool, or take a 15-minute walk to the island's beloved "natural swimming pool" phenomenon.

Don't miss the chance to escape New Zealand's winter and visit this special part of New Caledonia.



Adventure meets history at Amedee Lighthouse

Looking for a little adventure in New Caledonia? Look no further than the day trip out to Amedee Lighthouse - a historical landmark was built back in 1862 and has been restored to its former glory.

Getting to Amedee Island is easy - just take a boat tour from the capital city of Noumea. The ride takes about 45 minutes, and you'll be rewarded with amazing views on the way.

Once you arrive, you can explore the lighthouse and learn about its fascinating history. There are tales of shipwrecks, daring rescues, and heroic lighthouse keepers that will capture the imagination.

If you're into snorkelling or diving, a marine reserve surrounds Amedee Island. (There's an incredible variety of fish and coral.) If you prefer to stay on land, you can relax on the beach or take a stroll around the island.

All in all, Amedee Lighthouse and Island is a unique destination that mixes history, natural beauty, and adventure. And it's definitely a must-do day trip.

