

TRAVEL

Wednesday's Travel News: Noma Goes to Sydney; LOT Expands in the United States

JULY 29, 2015

JULY 29, 2015



New river cruises in Europe, including visits to Amsterdam. CroisiEurope

In Transit

By ELAINE GLUSAC

Our weekday morning digest that includes consumer news, deals, tips and anything else that travelers may want to know.

NOMA POPS UP IN SYDNEY

One of the world's most acclaimed restaurants, the Copenhagen-based Noma, renowned for using foraged foods, is heading to Sydney for its second temporary residency abroad. Starting in January, Noma will shut

down in Copenhagen and relocate for a 10-week period to Sydney Harbour, in a new waterfront development known as Barangaroo.

Just as it did this past winter, when it moved to Tokyo, Noma will take its entire staff — from chef to dishwasher, along with spouses and children — over to Sydney. The restaurant plans to serve lunch and dinner five days a week, with bookings available later this year on its [website](#).

“I have always been attracted to the incredible diversity you find in Australia’s landscapes and ingredients, because they are like no other place I’ve seen before,” said René Redzepi, Noma’s chef, said in an announcement. “Australia combines strong influences from its Indigenous people with new communities from around the world. When you mix it all together, the result is something truly inspiring. It really is the perfect place to come and learn.”

FINDING FOOD IN THE AIR

[Routehappy](#), a website that rates flights based on amenities and comfort, will begin detailing food on-board and include the data in its happiness ratings, a one-to-10 scale that takes into account aircraft model, seat pitch, seat configuration, power availability, entertainment options and Wi-Fi. The website now identifies the availability of food and whether it is free or provided for a fee on over 100 airlines. According to the site, United States carriers typically offer food for sale on domestic flights that are longer than about 700 miles.

AIRLINE EXPANDS IN AMERICA

[LOT Polish Airlines](#) announced this week it would expand service to the United States in 2016. Starting in January, LOT will schedule daily flights from Warsaw to Kennedy International Airport in New York and Chicago O’Hare Airport. The airline is also bulking up its European network, in an effort to make Warsaw a connecting hub for passengers coming from the United States. Travelers will soon be able to connect to more than a dozen European destinations, including Venice, beginning in January, and Ljubljana, in March. LOT will also add direct flights to Tokyo in January. LOT is a member of the Star Alliance along with United Airlines.

THAI AIRWAYS CONTRACTS

Thai Airways, another Star Alliance member, said over the weekend that it would eliminate its flights between Los Angeles and Bangkok, a money-

losing route and the last of the airline's operations in the United States, according to a report by [Reuters](#). Thai ended its unprofitable route to New York in 2008. The announcement came as the Federal Aviation Administration earlier this week gave Thailand 65 days to correct some critical safety issues the agency found with the country's commercial aviation industry. Failure to comply could lead to a ban of Thai airlines flying to the United States.



A rendering of one of Carnival's two new Costa ships.

COSTA CRUISES TO ADD MEGASHIPS

Carnival Corporation, parent of [Costa Cruises](#), announced yesterday that it has ordered two megaships for the Italian line's fleet, with launches expected in 2019 and 2020. Each of the two 180,000-gross-ton ships will be able to accommodate 6,600 passengers, making them the largest in the world by number of guests. The current largest ships, Royal Caribbean's twin ships Oasis of the Seas and Allure of the Seas, accommodate about 5,400 passengers each. Carnival's new ships will both have Italian themes, through their interior design, food and entertainment choices. In a first for the industry, Carnival said the ships will be powered by liquefied natural

gas. The two new ships will be built by the German shipbuilder Meyer Werft at the company's shipyard in Turku, Finland.

NEW RIVER SHIPS IN EUROPE

[CroisiEurope](#), which owns and operates 43 cruising ships, primarily on Europe rivers, has added nine new itineraries in 2016 in France, Germany and Hungary. Several of the new trips feature four ships CroisiEurope plans to launch in 2016, including the 24-passenger barge Deborah, which will run seven-day itineraries along the Loire (from \$2,738 per person, for double occupancy) and the new 80-passenger paddle wheel ship Elbe Princesse, which will accommodate nine-day journeys from Berlin to Prague (from \$3,087). Travelers booking any 2016 cruise before Oct. 31 will receive a 10 percent discount on fares by using the code BOOK2016 online.

A NEW THEME PARKS WEBSITE

Introduced this week, [ThemeGo](#) offers advice and reviews of 24 major theme parks around the world, including Disney, Universal and SeaWorld parks. Founded by Yariv Padva, a Tel Aviv-based theme park fan, the site aims to consolidate information on competing parks for travelers, provide recommendations on top attractions, restaurants and hotels at the parks, and offer a platform for user reviews. For now, users can build daily itineraries on the site and bookmark them for reference at the park. In the next few weeks, the site promises to offer hotel bookings. Full travel packages including flights, accommodation and theme park entry will be added later this year.