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Travel News: July 30, 2014 – Louvre Hosts Rats, Delta Introduces New Entertainment Options and Luxury Hobbit Trip To New Zealand

July 29, 2014 / By Matt Long



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[Visit Paris, Which Is Now Infested by Rats Tourists Seem to Love](#)
CityLab

France's capital is so damned sophisticated, it seems that even the city's vermin are cultured. The lawns of the Louvre Museum have a new breed of visitors joining the usual art-loving crowd this summer: rats. Loads of rats.

Hiding in the formal box hedges that run like ribs across the lovely Jardin Du Carrousel, the Louvre's rats may number in the hundreds this year. According to many reports in the French press, they've gotten so bold that they're coming out in daylight, skittishly sucking up the crumbs



of a thousand tourist picnics before scuttling back to shelter. Like most big cities, Paris has its fair share of rodents. And the Louvre's proximity to the Seine means its precincts have always acted as a sort of murine highway. Still, Paris isn't used to anything like the sheer effrontery of these daytime packs, who have arrived in such numbers due to a special set of circumstances.



[Hotel charges man \\$127 for three bottles of water](#)

Fox News

Hotels are notorious for overcharging customers for everyday items, but one U.K. businessman is reeling after being charged about \$127 for three bottles of sparkling water.

Edward Heaton, a U.K.-based property advisor, scheduled a meeting with his client at the Crystal Bar of the Wellesley Hotel in London. According to the Independent, the businessman ordered three 500ml bottles of San Pellegrino, a sparkling water that usually retails for around \$2 a bottle.

Though Heaton expected to pay a little more for the hotel's premium service, he was floored when the bill arrived. The water came to £16.50 (about \$28). What Heaton didn't realize is that the 5-star hotel imposes a service charge of £25 (\$43) per person for customers using its bar after 4 p.m. This was on top of a £50.17 (\$85) "minimum spend" fee -bringing the total to £75.

[Delta adds free in-flight entertainment for all fliers](#)

USA Today

Delta Air Lines will roll out free video programming that customers can stream to their electronic devices, a move Delta claims will give it "more free entertainment than any other carrier."

The nation's No. 3 carrier says the option will be available on its domestic mainline aircraft and two-cabin regional jets starting Aug. 1.

The carrier already has seat-back entertainment on many of its aircraft, but the streaming option will give customers access to on-demand offerings even on aircraft without individual screens. With the streaming option, Delta says all customers will have access to "a selection of free entertainment options" on flights of 90 minutes or more.

[Zicasso Offers Luxury Tour of New Zealand's Hobbit Sites](#)

Travel Agent Central

It's only a few months until the final film in Peter Jackson's Hobbit series is released, so tour operator Zicasso is offering a New Zealand excursion to celebrate the films, the previous Lord of the Rings movies and the 60th Anniversary of J.R.R. Tolkien's original books.

Zicasso's exclusive One Tour to Rule Them All: The Ultimate 60th Anniversary Lord of the Rings Tour brings film fans to filming locations in New Zealand on a high-end private 11-day journey.

Highlights include:

- Private helicopter tour over hard-to-reach filming locations and special access to exclusive movie costumes and props in Queenstown
- Full-day, private Lord of the Rings tour in Wellington including a helicopter ride and lunch at a New Zealand winery

- Private, after-hours tour of the Weta Workshop where artists conceptualized the creatures and props for the films
- Behind-the-scenes private tour of the Hobbiton set located in Rotorua

Bonus: Guests on the tour will stay in top-tier hotels, including a Lord of the Rings-themed room. Pricing for this customizable tour starts at \$7,000 per person, double, and includes four private tours with helicopter explorations as well as exclusive access to the film design workshop, 10 nights accommodations, three lunches and 11 days of car rental. Flights are not included.

Visit [Zicasso](#) for more information.

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By: Matt Long



Matt has a true passion for travel. As someone who has a bad case of the travel bug, Matt travels the world in order to share tips on where to go, what to see and how to experience the best the world has to offer. Also follow Matt on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Google Plus](#).

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