# MARKET PROFILES & CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

## 2019/2020





#### INTERNATIONAL Overall Market Profile

Visitor Origin <sup>1</sup>	
New Zealand	68.0%
Australia	17.0%
North America	5.0%
Northern Europe	3.1%
Canada	1.9%
United Kingdom	1.8%
Southern Europe	1.5%
Nordic	0.7%
China	0.4%
Japan	0.2%
Other	0.4%



Source: CIT, International Visitor Survey

1.

2.

Visitor Arrivals<sup>1</sup>



## 'THE SOFT EXPLORER'

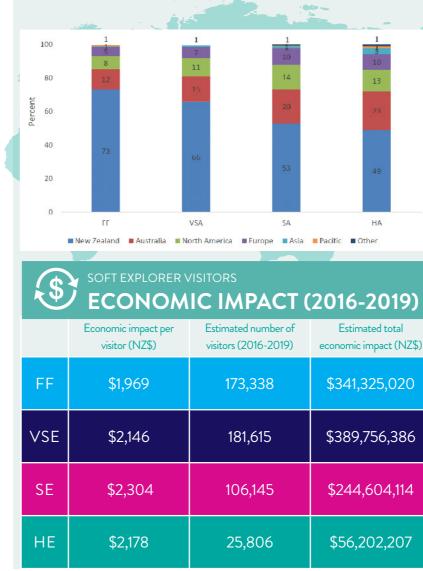
The strategic focus of our marketing efforts targets the 'Soft Explorer'. These visitors are similar to an adventure traveller.

The 'Soft Explorer' is one who will participate in activities that enable them to have an authentic Cook Islands experience.

To better understand the 'Soft Explorer' market segments we have divided visitors into four groups: fly and flop (FF), very soft activities (VSA), soft activities (SA), and hard activities (HA).

Note that visitors who participate in less than 3 soft adventure activities but visited outer Islands other than Aitutaki are categorised as 'Soft Explorer' visitors. The data is drawn from the IVS and covers the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019.

#### SOFT EXPLORER VISITORS COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (2016-2019)



FLY AND FLOP	Visitors who participate in 1 or less soft
(FF)	adventure activities.
VERY SOFT EXPLORER	Visitors who participate in 2-3 soft
(VSE)	adventure activities.
SOFT EXPLORER	Visitors refer to those who participate in
(SE)	4 to 6 soft adventure activities.
HARD EXPLORER	Visitors who participate in more than 7
(HE)	soft adventure activities

SOFT EXPLORER VISITORS

36%

VISITOR % (2016-2019)

V. SOFT EXPLORER 37%

22%

Estimated total

\$244,604,114

#### LIST OF ACTIVITIES THAT IDENTIFIED AS **'SOFT EXPLORER' ACTIVITIES**

Water Based Activities: Kayaking, Stand up paddle boarding, Fishing - deep sea fishing, Diving, Ocean cruise, Kitesurfing, Fishing - bonefishing, Whale watching Cultural Interactions: Church on Sunday, Island celebrations or events, Meal at a Cook Islands home, Dance / language / Art classes, Tumunu on Atiu Land Based Activities: Treks and trails, Cultural tour, Cycling, 4WD adventure, Sporting Events

## NEW ZEALAND Market Profile



.Onights

8

\$1,308 + [40% of \$1,687]

New Zealand remains the largest market for visitor arrivals accounting for 68% of total visitor arrivals.



#### **PRIORITY SEGMENTS**

Families, Couples and Romance, Wedding, Honeymoon, Reason Bound Travel - Special Occasions, Activities (Fishing, Diving), Events/MICE, Fly and Flop, Soft Explorers and Experience Seekers

#### **MAJOR AIRLINE PARTNERS**

Air New Zealand, Virgin Australia and Jetstar

#### **CHALLENGES**

- Combating the increased competition from traditional competitors like Fiji and Tahiti and continued threat from non-traditional such as Hawaii and Bali
- Limited accommodation supply in terms of style and quality. Eg. Family Friendly vs Adults Only
- Reducing common perception that food and • beverage is expensive
- Capturing price sensitive consumers with many • destinations to choose from
- Filling the low and shoulder seasons
- Competing with destinations that have their own national airline
- Increasing visitation to Aitutaki and Sister Islands •
- Increasing length of stay (competing destinations • promoting 4 night stays)
- Increasing the percentage of higher yielding visitors
- Increasing brand visibility budget constraints
- Lack of accommodation in peak months of June-September

#### Key New Zealand trade and consumer events in 2019 and 2020

Event	Location	Date
House of Travel EXPO	Waikato and Bay of Plenty	August 2019
Flight Centre Travel EXPO	Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch	September 2019/ February 2020
Love A Little Wedding Show	Auckland	September 2019
Bride and Groom Show	Auckland	March 2019
SPANTO	Christchurch and Tauranga	August 2019
Love A Little Incentive Event	Auckland	September 2019

#### **STRATEGY**

- Ensure CI is highly visible in market for ten months of the year (cut activity in Dec/Jan)
- Adopt social media and digital channels to target specific demographics cost effectively - FB and banner ads
- Utilise Air NZ's Grabaseat platform to promote air and land packages - especially for low season
- Run brand tactical and brand call to action campaigns with retailers and accommodation operators
- •
- Work with wholesalers and PR to raise awareness of reasons to stay longer
- Get more PR/stories on Rarotonga and the Sister • Islands, and support with tactical initiatives
- Solicit partner funds to leverage our total budget, • including non-traditional partners
- Renewing content ensuring that content reflects our USP's and helps to differentate us.
- Ensure good visibility/availability on portals that consumers are increasingly using - OTA's, Tripadvisor ETC

- Use various mediums to attract high yield clients
- Facilitate direct to consumer EDM and direct mail targeted at higher yielding clients, using partners



# AUSTRALIA MARKET PROFILE



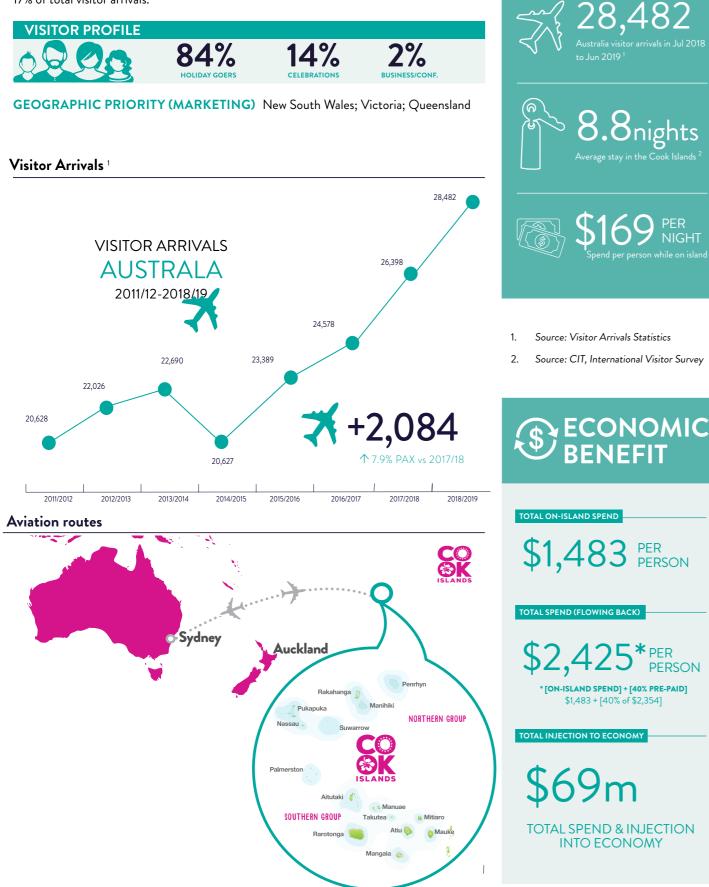
## AUSTRALIA Market Profile



.8nights

\* PER PERSON

Australia is the second largest market for visitor arrivals to the Cook Islands accounting for 17% of total visitor arrivals.



# Market Profile

#### **PRIORITY SEGMENTS**

**AUSTRALIA** 

Soft Explorer, Experience Seekers, Couples, Celebrations

#### **MAJOR AIRLINE PARTNERS**

Air New Zealand, Virgin Australia and Jetstar

#### **CHALLENGES**

- Lack of destination awareness
- Lack of airline capacity primarily non-stop, but also via Auckland. This is the single largest factor restricting growth, as only one non
  - stop flight per week is insufficient to grow the market substantially; and given high load factors ex Auckland, it is becoming more costly and difficult to transit via Auckland
- Lack of acommodation availability, especially June - September
- Competition from Fiji and other Pacific Islands

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#### Key Australia trade and consumer events in 2019 and 2020

Event	Location	Date
Flight Centre Expos	Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney	October 2019 and Feb 2020
Treasures of the Pacific	Sydney, Newcastle, Gold Coast and Brisbane	August 2019
Flight Centre Expo and Aitutaki on Tour		

#### **STRATEGY**

• Trade Education: sales calls, specialist training, webinars. A sales ambassador has been employed

Secure a second SYD/RAR weekly flight

Continue to grow our destination awareness by advertising in mainstream media and focus more budget on advertising

Ensure that we are in-market with consumer facing above the line activity constantly; and not only when we are in a tactical campaigns

Target NSW as a priority given this is the easiest and most convenient port to depart from for the direct service

• Social media/digital engagement driving awareness (including blogs, FB, instagram, influencer strategy)

PR: Major increase in media famils

Increase of Brand Advertising

# NORTH AMERICA MARKET PROFILE

## NORTH AMERICA-USA Market Profile



.233

**Z**nights

Source: Visitor Arrivals Statistics

Source: CIT, International Visitor Survey

SECONOMIC BENEFIT

\$1,845 PER PERSON

\* [ON-ISLAND SPEND] + [40% PRE-PAID] \$1,845 + [40% of \$3,130]

TOTAL SPEND & INJECTION INTO ECONOMY

7\* PER PERSON

TOTAL ON-ISLAND SPEN

TOTAL SPEND (FLOWING BACK)

\$3.09

TAL IN JECTION TO ECONOM

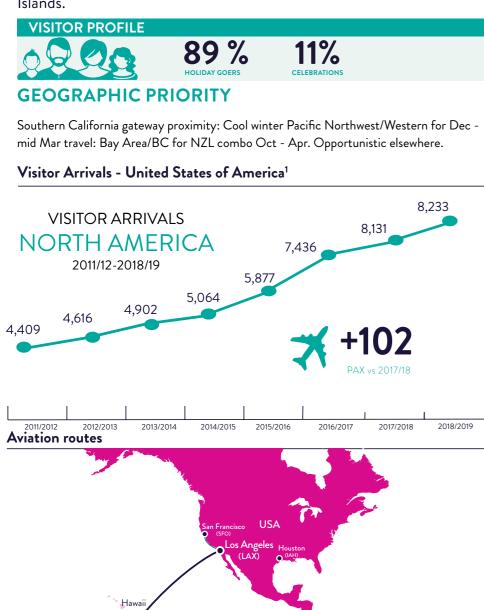
\$25m

1.

2.

PER NIGHT

The USA market makes up 5% of total visitor arrivals into the Cook Islands.





NORTH AMERICA - CANADA Market Profile

The Canada market makes up 2% of total visitor arrivals into the Cook Islands.





• Auckland (AKL) New Zealand

12 Cook Islands Tourism - Market Profiles & Campaign Activities



## 58 1% **2.**/nights PER NIGHT 3,287 3,058 Source: Visitor Arrivals Statistics 1. Source: CIT, International Visitor Survey 2. PAX vs 2017/18 S ECONOMIC BENEFIT 2017/2018 2018/2019 OTAL ON-ISLAND SPEN \$1,851 PER PERSON OTAL SPEND (FLOWING BACK) 33\* PER PERSON \$3. \* [ON-ISLAND SPEND] + [40% PRE-PAID] \$1851 + [40% of \$3,205] TAL IN JECTION TO ECONOM \$9.5m **TOTAL SPEND & INJECTION** INTO ECONOMY



#### **PRIORITY SEGMENTS**

Primary: Adults 25-54yrs, House Hold Income \$100k+, Secondary: Young Professionals. Honeymooners. Celebrators - anniversaries, birthdays, "Escape/Relax, Bucket listers", Winter escapers, and, Cultural explorers.

#### **MAJOR AIRLINE PARTNER**

Air New Zealand.

#### **CHALLENGES**

- Increasing destination brand awareness, balancing need for tactical call-to-action.
- - Educating the true uniqueness of the Cook Islands compared to perceived like-minded choices.
- Reaching target consumers with a small budget compared to competing destinations.
- Achieving a significant step-up in sales for the B777-200 +36% aircraft capacity.
- - Increasing the ratio of high end customers to fill many additional premium cabin seats.
- Filling air seats January April while often capacity restricted on northbound RAR-LAX.
- Integrating newest technologies for Content, Email and Social Media Marketing.
- - Locating and influencing new business from structured tour operators (USTOA+) and from small corporate meetings/incentives.

#### **STRATEGY**

- USP motivation to consumers extremely or very interested in visiting Cook Islands, Tahiti or Fiji or Hawaii.
- Creating highly qualified "Ambassador agents", making them easily accessible to consumers.
- Highly targeted digital consumer campaigns using a creative approach that integrates brand with tactical.
- Deluxe "overnight bed to paradise", product partnering, and accessing high-end Premium travellers to visit.
- Business Break program to access New Zealand and Australia Business Premiere travellers.
- "Ultimate Pacific Island stopover" program, featuring and biasing seasonal southbound stopover incentives.
- Significant increase in professional Content Marketing, Email, and Social Media, embracing Brand Personality.
- Partner with Air New Zealand Sales, to identify • and agree on best tactical methods of influencing.
- Huge focus onto utilising CTA's

#### Key USA/Canada trade and consumer events in 2019 and 2020

Event	Location	Country	Date
Alaska PFD Travel Fair	Anchorage, AK	USA	Oct-19
New York Times Travel Show	Vancouver, BC	New York	Jan-20
USTOA	Hollywood, FL	USA	
Travel & Adventure Show	San Diego, CA	USA	Jan-20
Travel & Adventure Show	Chicago, IL	USA	Feb-20
Travel & Adventure Show	Bay Area, CA & Washington DC	USA	Mar-20
Travel & Adventure Show	Los Angeles, CA	USA	Feb-20
Outdoor Adventure & Travel Show	Vancouver, BC	Canada	Feb-20
Travel & Adventure Show	Denver, CO	USA	Feb-20
Outdoor Adventure & Travel Show	Calgary, AB	Canada	Mar-20

# NORTHERN EUROPE **MARKET PROFILE**

## NORTHERN EUROPE Market Profile



Jnights

ECONOMIC

PER

195<sup>\* PER</sup> PERSON

\$1,512 + [40% of \$2,457]

INTO ECONOMY

PERSON

The Northern Europe market makes up 3.1% of the total visitor arrivals into the Cook Islands.



# Market Profile

NORTHERN FUROPE

#### **PRIORITY SEGMENTS**

Romance, Silver Surfers, Backpackers, Beach Holiday Seekers, Weddings, Honeymoons, Youth, Holiday Makers ( adventure, high end, culture), Adventure Seekers

#### MAJOR AIRLINE PARTNERS

Air New Zealand, Singapore Airlines (SQ), Virgin Australia (VA), Etihad (EY), Emirates (EK)

#### **CHALLENGES**

- Generating Awareness
- Competing exotic destinations competitor budges are higher for the South Pacific
- Cost of aquisition is considered as not cheap
- Sun destinations at doorstep (Mediterranean, Spain, Greece etc)
- Competing "exotic" destinations; esp. the Indian Ocean & South Pacific neighbours
- Competitor budgets higher for the South Pacific
- Try to influence flight imbalance (LAX-RAR vs. RAR-LAX)

- **STRATEGY**

#### Key Northern Europe trade and consumer events in 2019 and 2020

Event	Location
ITB	Berlin
Meet the Cook Islands	Italy, France, Spain
Meet the Pacific	Italy, France, Spain, Amster
	Stockholm & Copenhagen

• Mainly work with trade and airline partners, as well as TNZ and ANZ to cooperatively market to the consumer (B2B2C).

Depending on the trade partner, focus on selling the Cooks as stand alone destination, in conjunction with Tahiti, as an add-on to NZ or as an add-on to Australia.

Highlight the beauty of the Cook Islanders and the beauty of the natural environment and the Outer Islands experiences.

Use PR to increase awareness.

Emphasize on the beauty and authenticity of the Cook Islands and it's happy & friendly inhabitants.

More Online Marketing (B2B and B2C), to push traffic to website, specialist training and esp. to landing pages of our trade partners to stimulate sales.

• Communicate/sell new products, i.e. Mangaia, Mitiaro Homestay, etc.

Try to influence flight imbalance (LAX-RAR vs. RAR-LAX).

• Increase awareness of SYD-RAR and by packaging new products

Date

rdam,

## SOUTHERN EUROPE Market Profile

The Southern Europe market makes up 1.5% of the total visitor arrivals into the Cook Islands.



**GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITY** Italy, France , Spain,

**Aviation routes** 



**VISITOR ARRIVALS** SOUTHERN EUROPE 2011/12-2018/19 1,932 1,775 1,534 1,301 1,272 1,064 2012/2013 2013/2014 2014/2015 2015/2016 2016/2017 2011/2012

# SOUTHERN EUROPE

**MARKET PROFILE** 









/nights ŏ



- 1. Source: Visitor Arrivals Statistics
- 2. Source: CIT, International Visitor Survey





299

PAX vs 2017/18

2,484

2,185

2017/2018



## SOUTHERN EUROPE Market Profile

#### **PRIORITY SEGMENTS**

Honeymooners, Weddings, Luxury travellers, Eco/Nature Lovers. + niche markets: families, Gay & Lesbians, Working Holiday Visas (France)

#### MAJOR AIRLINE PARTNERS

Air New Zealand, Singapore Airlines (targeted Ethiad, Qantas/Emirates, Qatar Airlines, Cathay, Virgin Australia Air Tahiti Nui, Korean)

#### **CHALLENGES**

- Foreign Language & Cultures
- Low awareness of the Cook Islands (Retail Trade)
- Accessing key Trade partners & empower them • to sell Cooks more effectively
- High cost of accommodation low perceived value for money, loss of competitive edge on price vs Tahiti, low service level
- "Difficult air access & Air New Zealand "unuser-friendly fares & rules" impacting wholesalers selling destination"
- No major wholesalers to focus on driving growth or major investment partners

#### **STRATEGY**

- Train/educate retail trade, motivate sales & raise awareness
- Target Bridal & top end users, + adventure and Nature lovers, repeaters to SWP
- Increase consumer engagement with social media channels
- Focus on forging relations with airlines with view to make booking, fares and fare rules easier for wholesalers.
- Exploit partnerships & resources with Air NZ and Tourism NZ especially France & Spain
- Continue with PR & Media relations and media trips to raise consumer awareness

# UNITED KINGDOM **MARKET PROFILE**

#### Key Southern Europe trade and consumer events in 2019 and 2020

Event	Location	Date
Cook Islands Expo Roadshow	Italy, France, Spain	Jan 2020
Meet the Pacific	Italy, France, Spain, Amsterdam, Stockholm & Copenhagen	Feb 2020

## UNITED KINGDOM Market Profile



+nights

ECONOMIC

PER PERSON

[ON-ISLAND SPEND] + [40% PRE-PAID] \$956 + [40% of 2,433]

**TOTAL SPEND & INJECTION** INTO ECONOMY

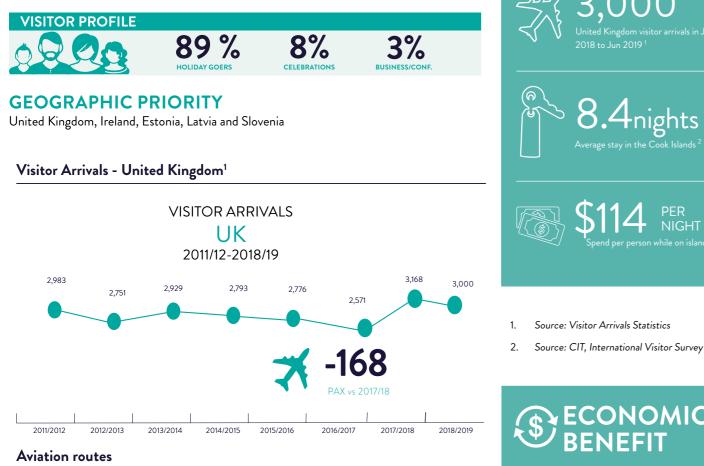
DTAL ON-ISLAND SPEN

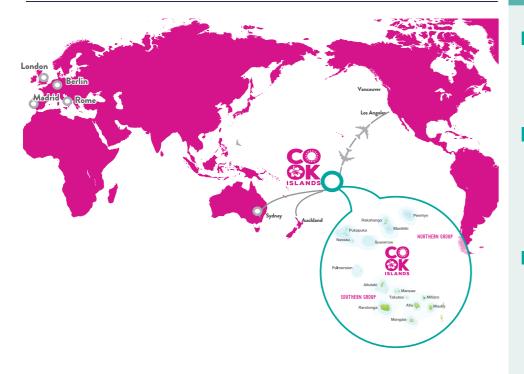
OTAL SPEND (FLOW

\$956 PER PERSON

NIGHT

The United Kingdom market makes up 1.8% of the total visitor arrivals into the Cook Islands.





#### 22 Cook Islands Tourism - Market Profiles & Campaign Activities

## UNITED KINGDOM Market Profile

#### **PRIORITY SEGMENTS**

Primarily stopover traffic to/from New Zealand/Australia. Weddings, Backpackers and Niche markets

#### **MAJOR AIRLINE PARTNERS**

Air New Zealand, Virgin Australia, Jetstar (QF) other carriers into AKL / SYD

#### **CHALLENGES**

- Economy growing but interest rates low 0.5% so no earnings on savings
- Outcomes of UK leaving the European Union . •
- Stopovers to NZ, influenced by better airfares • via Asia and Middle East
- Heavy reliance on NZ to promote the destination /route
- Client (and trade) lacks understanding between the difference in South Pacific Destinations
- Limited One stop air access from UK (only • NZ)

- Delevoping PR and Media Awareness programs
  - Programs
  - Wholesalers in joint marketing Focus on longer stay, and Cooks as an add-on, rather than a stopover
  - Focus on 'soft adventure' traveller who wants more than just beach
- Focus on group leisure business Eg Lions Tour
- Focus on Weddings / Honeymooners •

#### Key United Kingdom consumer events in 2019 and 2020

Location	
London	
Helsinki	
London	
Tallin	
Oslo	
	London Helsinki London Tallin

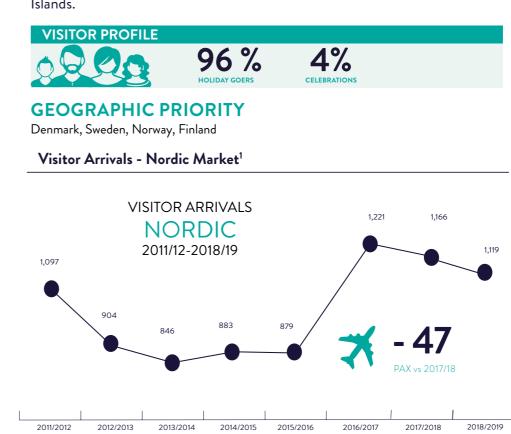
#### **STRATEGY**

- Focus on developing digital campaigns
- Travel Trade Support and Online Training
- Support and work with identified key

Date

### NORDIC Market Profile

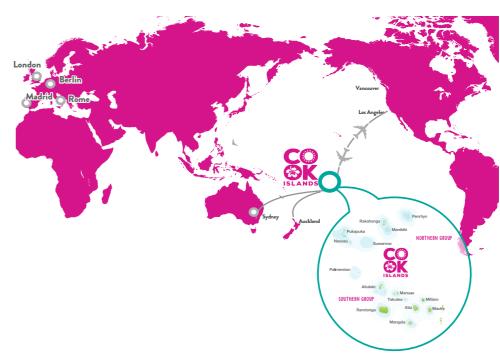
The Nordic market makes up 0.7% of the total visitor arrivals into the Cook Islands.



# NORDIC MARKET

#### **MARKET PROFILE**

**Aviation routes** 







19

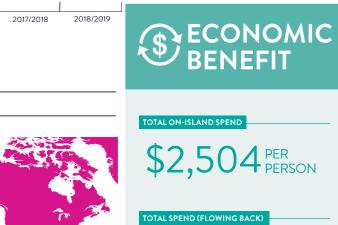








- Source: Visitor Arrivals Statistics 1.
- 2. Source: CIT, International Visitor Survey





OTAL INJECTION TO ECONOM





## NORDIC Market Profile

#### **PRIORITY SEGMENTS**

Sweden, Norway to continue, Denmark, Finland to grow

#### **MAJOR AIRLINE PARTNERS**

Air New Zealand, Emirates (Virgin Australia / Jetstar)

#### **CHALLENGES**

- Middle East Airlines now focusing on market taking pax East instead of West (EK/QR)
- NZ have no interline fares with SK on LAX route (just on LHR)
- Denmark still need to focus on this market •
- Sweden Strong awareness, spend on travel being reduced overall
- Norway Economic challenges mainly due to low oil price
- Finland economic challenges, impacted by both EU and Russia

#### **STRATEGY**

- Focus on developing digital campaigns
- Delevoping PR and Media Awareness programs •
- Travel Trade Support and Online Training Programs
- Support and work with identified wholesalers in each market
- Encourage staff to sell and to come to the • Cook Islands
- Focus on cultural traveller who wants more • than just beach
- Focus on those coming via East instead of US

# **(HINA MARKET PROFILE**



## CHINA Market Profile



The China market makes up 0.4% of the total visitor arrivals into the Cook Islands.





\$1,684 PER PERSON

TOTAL ON-ISLAND SPE

OTAL SPEND (FLOW

PER PERSON \* [ON-ISLAND SPEND] + [40% PRE-PAID] \$1,684 + [40% of \$2,027]

m TOTAL SPEND & INJECTION INTO ECONOMY

## CHINA Market Profile

#### **PRIORITY SEGMENTS**

Families, Couples, Wedding, Honeymoon, Romance

#### MAJOR AIRLINE PARTNERS

Air New Zealand, Virgin Australia, China Southern, China Eastern, Air China

#### **CHINA MARKET**

#### **CHALLENGES**

- Brand awareness is low
- Agents found the hotel profit is low
- Advertising travel agencies sell the Cook Islands as an extention to New Zealand
- No stable price from China Rarotonga

#### **STRATEGY**

- "Use social media as cost saving tool to promote the Cook Islands
- Ensure travel agency puts the Cook Islands as an extention of New Zealand • Work with KOL to bring up the awareness
- tele
- •

- Ensure Cook Islands visibility
- Build relationships with Travel Trade so they can continue to create awareness with Clien-

Bigger presence at Trade and Consumer Shows



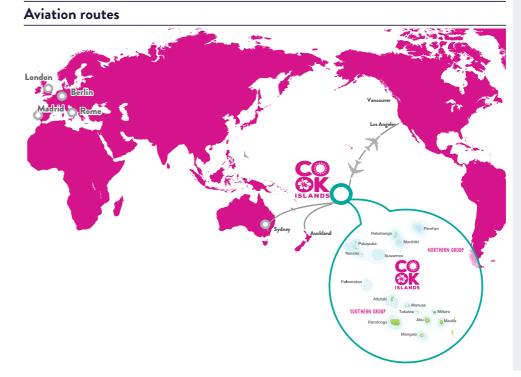
## JAPAN Market Profile

The Japan market makes up 0.2% of the total visitor arrivals into the Cook Islands.



Visitor Arrivals - Japan<sup>1</sup>





# JAPAN MARKET PROFILE







326



3.3nights



TOTAL ON-ISLAND SPEND







