

## 5 Things to Know

# 5 things to know: 15 May 2018

15 MAY 2018 9:46 AM

From the desks of the Hotel News Now editorial staff:

AccorHotels exec: Buying spree fueled by similar deals  
41.5 million Americans set to travel for Memorial Day  
Visitors not affected by volcano on Hawaii's Big Island  
Japan's tourism boom results in investor hotel interest  
Quarterly pipeline report for US hotels



By the HNN editorial staff

1

AccorHotels exec: Buying spree fueled by similar deals: AccorHotels has been on a buying spree, recently acquiring [Chile's Atton Hoteles](#) and [Switzerland-based Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts](#), which an AccorHotels executive said is possible because of how similar the deals are, HNN's Terence Baker writes.

Patrick Mendes, CEO of AccorHotels South America, said the secret to his company's success is looking for the same types of deals with local players.

Accor plans to co-brand Atton Hoteles' assets, Mendes said.

"We will fund the two brands, and after two to three years, we will look at it all again," he said. "We have also put into place CapEx plans."

## 2

41.5 million Americans set to travel for Memorial Day: Americans are expected to kick off the summer season by [traveling in near-record numbers during Memorial Day weekend](#), AAA reports.

AAA predicts 41.5 million Americans will travel Memorial Day weekend, an approximately 5% year-over-year increase.

Global transportation analytics company INRIX expects major roads will be backed up three times longer than normal, with 24 May and 25 May being the most congested as Memorial Day travelers and commuters mix together.

Travel by automobile is expected to total 36.6 million, and 1 million Americans are expected to fly over the holiday weekend, AAA reports.

## 3

Visitors not affected by volcano on Hawaii's Big Island: The Kilauea volcano on Hawaii's Big Island has been spewing lava into nearby neighborhoods, [threatening residents on the island](#), but Hawaii tourism officials said "the island chain is vast and most popular island destinations are several hundred miles from the geologic activity," USA Today reports.

Ross Birch, executive director of the Island of Hawaii Visitors Bureau, told the newspaper travelers can "land on the island and still enjoy their time despite the volcanic eruption happening at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park." The island has 4,028 square miles of coverage with less than 10 square miles damaged by the lava, USA Today reports.

Hotels and airlines are reporting only a few cancellations, according to the article, and no hotels, restaurants or other attractions have closed because of the lava.

## 4

Japan's tourism boom results in investor hotel interest: Investors are looking into hotels in Japan with [tourism in the country booming](#) and the 2020 Olympic Games ahead, JLL's The Investor reports.

Visitors to Japan were up 19% to 25.5 million travelers in 2017, which is a large increase compared to the 6.2 million oversea tourists recorded for 2011, the news outlet reports.

"Tourism demand is expected to grow significantly towards the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games," said Kei Sumiyoshi of JLL Hotels & Hospitality Group. Amid the influx, "Asian investors led by China remain keenly interested in hotel investment."

## 5

Quarterly pipeline report for US hotels: New York; Orlando, Florida; Dallas; Los Angeles/Long Beach; and Nashville, Tennessee, made it into the [top markets for total rooms in construction](#) as of April 2018, according to data from STR, HNN's parent company.

The U.S. hotel industry has 1,422 properties with 185,593 rooms in construction, 1,919 properties with 219,856 rooms in final planning and 1,718 properties with 190,722 rooms in planning.

New York led the way with 12,741 rooms in construction, which is 10.6% of existing supply, followed by Orlando with 6,981 rooms in construction, equaling 5.5% of existing supply.

*Compiled by Danielle Hess.*