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A visit to the Taj Mahal, was one of the highlights of journalist Frank Smith's trip to India. See inside for his journey around the country.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian



Jennifer Merigan

INDIA has become a popular destination for travellers and certainly is a country of contrasts with a massive population, extreme poverty and its many historical sights.

When I visited there nearly 10 years ago I remember the night I arrived in Mumbai and checked into a marble monolith of a hotel which oozed luxury only to wake the next morning to look out my window to slums reaching as far as the eye could see.

I was mesmerised watching the day-to-day goings of the people below me and it was a contrast I wasn't quite expecting.

This month our journalist Frank Smith shares some stories from his trip to India where he spent five weeks late last year.

Plans are well underway for the direct flight from Perth to London which will commence in April 2018.

This service will not only shave some hours off the travel time to London but hopefully generate some much needed tourists to Perth.

As many people start planning their sojourns north to escape the Perth winter we feature the Coral Coast area and the Goldfields in this

month's section.

Also featured in this section is a guide to the Perth Caravan and Camping Show which returns to Claremont Showgrounds from 22 to 26 March.

Over the last 12 months consumer group *Choice* has been campaigning the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) regarding the perceived shonky practices of domestic airlines and it is now been announced that the ACCC will investigate the claims.

"From repeatedly informing travellers they have no refund rights to a lack of redress when flights are delayed and cancelled, domestic airlines have been flying below the radar for too long when it comes to consumer protection," said *Choice* director of campaigns, communications and content Matt Levey.

Fingers crossed, this means that consumers will get a better deal after the investigation.

It's hard to believe that summer is officially over after Perth has experienced one of the wettest and probably coolest summers on record.

We've had reports that the Goldfields, the Kimberley and Pilbara are looking quite different with green pastures and lots of active rivers and waterfalls. If you're heading north or east send us a photo or publish one to our Facebook page.

If you have a travel issue, enquiry or would like to share some information, don't hesitate to contact me on the email below. If you're a facebooker than like *Have a Go News* at www.facebook.com/Haveagonews.

Happy trails

Jennifer Merigan
Travel Editor

Light up your life with Singapore's Christmas Lights



EVERY year Travel Tree designs a seven-day tour to Singapore escorted by George Booth to coincide with the Christmas Lights display and to take advantage of the festive season shopping sales.

The tour is designed for singles and couples who want the hassle taken out of their holiday and an opportunity to meet new friends and have the security of a tour escort available throughout the tour.

George has been visiting and has worked in Singapore for more than 40 years and always has pleasure in introducing people to the hidden secrets of the

destination through walks around Little India, China Town, Arab Street and Singapore River are great spots for strolling and taking in the sights of multicultural Singapore.

At the hotel there is a daily information board and tour desk to ensure all guests are aware of tour times, optional opportunities and to provide information on general aspects such as shopping and where to eat.

Due to the nature of the tour, participants are invited to eat at night wherever George and wife Josephine are having dinner, so no one ever has to eat alone and they always try somewhere different.

This year is the 75th Anniversary of the fall of Singapore and a visit to the Changi Museum and Village and the Kranji War cemetery is included in the tour content. Also included is a tour to Tiger Brewery at Jurong.

For those on their first or repeat tour there is an opportunity to take optional tours to Singapore Zoo, Gardens by the Bay, Singapore Botanical Gardens or Sentosa Island.

It is a tour designed with sufficient activities included, but time to relax, shop or swim in the hotel pools.

For more information on the tour call Chris at Travel Tree on 9382 5084 or email: chris@traveltree.com.au

Cruising the peaceful Collie River and finding its many hidden secrets makes a great day out

by Chris Tate

CRUISING on the Collie. It just rolls off the tongue. Popular with seniors, the tour gives passengers a real chance to sight nesting ospreys, dolphins and pelicans.

The peaceful Collie River also contains many hidden secrets such as native water rats, introduced trout and perch plus native species of bream, cobbler and many birds.

Captain Mike and

cruise director Jo offer informative and humorous commentary plus give amazing details about bottle-nosed dolphins travelling up the river in search of fish. Many bird species are identified.

Dr Alexander Collie, a ship's surgeon aboard the *HMS Sulphur* first explored the region in 1829. The area was originally recognised as being ideal as pasturelands and for timber production with coal being discovered in 1883.

Fresh water flows down the Collie River from the Wellington and Harris dams near Collie. It winds its way west out to the three waters of Bunbury: Leschenault Inlet, Leschenault Estuary and Indian Ocean near Koombana Bay.

The only vessel offering trips along the Collie River is the *Elandra* operated by Three Water Cruises. Built in WA in 1974, it's licensed to carry 55 passengers in fully covered, air-conditioned comfort.

Nearly 20 years ago a run-down ferry was tied up at the historical Parade Hotel jetty. It had been inherited along with the hotel lease but the owner was not interested in running a charter-boat business. An offer was



Cruise director Jo and captain Mike

made to purchase the boat and soon after it had a new lease of life.

She was taken out of the water, dismantled down to a bare hull and completely rebuilt from the deck upwards and re-named *Elandra*, an Aboriginal word meaning "home by the sea".

Refurbished, the *Elandra* was back in the water in 2005. It now takes visitors several kilometers from a landing near the Collie Bridge, Bunbury along the river for a 90-minute tour. On one side is Australind and on the other are Eaton and City of Bunbury. Slightly further upstream the scenery changes to farming country and natural bush.

Many people from Perth bring visiting friends and relations from interstate and overseas to Bunbury

to enjoy the cruise. Most cruises are pre-booked and include group bookings from local businesses and morning teas for coach groups, buffet lunches, barbecue breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Locals book tours for birthdays, engagements, hens' nights, weddings and even wakes.

An optional cruise is to visit a farming property up river where passengers can have a barbecue lunch. Facilities include a shaded area with padded bench seating and tables situated on beautiful farming land containing cows, birdlife, shaded paddocks and scenery.

For more information about Three Water Cruises contact Jo Sharpe on 0400 254 540 or email captain@threewatercruises.com.au.



The travel industry and readers are welcome to contact the travel editor: Ph 9227 8283
Email: jen@haveagonews.com.au



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29 March	Swan River Cruise	\$85
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005 SPANISH

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian

Faye's ongoing adventures to exotic locations becomes a book



Traveller and author, Faye Day

by Josephine Allison

FAYE DAY is an intrepid traveller and backpacker who has visited most parts of the world, seen beautiful sights and made many friends along the way. The sprightly 78-year-old, who has just released her first autobiographical book on her travels, is busy planning a big overseas trip later this year.

Why does she do it? Faye is quick to answer: "Because I have a passion for travel and I like doing it solo. Many women love shopping, I don't. I will move on quite quickly once I have seen something. I won't just sit inside a hotel room."

Faye's first taste for travel started after her two children, Selina, an editor for AAP in Sydney, and Michael, a professor

of veterinary research in Britain, were grown up. In 1972 she organised a trip from Perth which included Korea but didn't take groups there. She started as a tour leader in 1976 for various companies and was offered one trip for American Express.

"In 1983 I was offered a tour to Ladakh, a region in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir," she said "But it didn't sell so I went as a solo traveller. Unfortunately I suffered altitude sickness because Ladakh is the second highest capital in the world. One year I took four tour groups to India which was not a destination then.

"I spent 12 years organising and operating international group tours into countries as varied as Egypt, Jordan, China and Sulawesi but I couldn't

compete with the big travel companies in Europe."

Faye was supported by the then travel editor of *The Sunday Times* and ran her company from home. But times and rules changed and she decided to write and travel on her own, something she has been doing for more than two decades.

Despite a few health issues and the rigours of producing five travel books – the second *Every Nook and Cranny: A World Travel Guide* is about to be released and a third has been submitted to the publisher – Faye is planning a two-month trip later this year, visiting Dubai's fabulous gardens, Iran, Sudan, Pakistan and Lebanon.

Faye recalls an occasion a few years ago when she visited Myanmar. She was taken around the country for two weeks by two young men in a vehicle. In Vietnam she was a pillion passenger on a motor cycle, paying \$US5 a day to see the sights. In Papua New Guinea in the 1980s she got caught up in tribal warfare. She visited the Trobriand Islands where the single hotel run by a European had only a dirt floor.

Faye visited the jungles of Irian Jaya in 2012 to see a Stone Age tribe that few people have con-

tact with. They wear no clothes, live in trees and use stone axes. "We had to traipse through mud, cross rivers on logs and camp out so it was quite difficult," Faye said. "The people weave baskets from the sago palm to catch fish and cook using hot stones."

Faye has some timely tips for the keen traveller: wear a lot of black, comfortable sneakers and travel light because in countries like China men won't come to a woman's rescue if she has a heavy suitcase.

She lists her three favourite countries scenically as Canada, Norway and New Zealand.

If a traveller should become ill on a trip, there is always a pharmacy not far away that sells antibiotics without a prescription, she says.

Her first book is a wealth of stories about many countries less travelled with invaluable advice for the first-time traveller and lots of pictures.

"Everywhere is different, I have done some wonderful things," Faye says. There have been some scary moments too such as when she was held up by five armed men in Guatemala. But somehow she survived and got out of the country. She estimates she has been mugged five times

but that doesn't faze her.

Faye visited the Karni Mata rat temple in Rajasthan, India which she saw barefoot with hundreds of rats revered by the locals running across the floor. A quick trip with her scarf to a street tap to wash her feet saved the day. She has made three big truck trips across Africa and, on one occasion, had video equipment stolen from her bag.

In Benin, West Africa, it was arranged for her to attend a voodoo ceremony with an English speaking guide to assist spirits depart the world.

"We arrived early and joined a circle in the roadway where a costume supposedly inhabited by a spirit and accompanied by a man with a stick, moved around soliciting donations. The belief was that if a contribution was refused and the person was touched by the spirit they would have died, so the stick was used to fend off the colourful figure as it approached each group. They then ran off screaming in genuine fear.

"I was happy to leave after an hour because more spirits appeared on the scene and it was difficult to know which way to run. For all my scrutiny I could not detect a figure inside the costume, which was the intimidating thing."

An animal lover, Faye has seen the polar bears in Churchill, Canada, grizzly bears in Alaska fishing for salmon and taken part in a gorilla trek in Rwanda.

Typically modest, Faye says she never thought she would write a book, let alone five. But she swapped stories and photos with backpackers and her daughter convinced her to write a series. She gets up at 4am each day to write.

"Travel has become

an obsession," she says. "It's so enlightening and you see wonderful things; it broadens the mind."

Faye Day's first book, *Every Nook and Cranny: A World Travel Guide Book 1* (XLibris Publishing), costs \$40 softcover and \$60 hardcover. It is available from Xlibris, Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Ingram or contact Faye Day on 9341 5652 or email fayeday2@yahoo.com.au. It is also available as an ebook.

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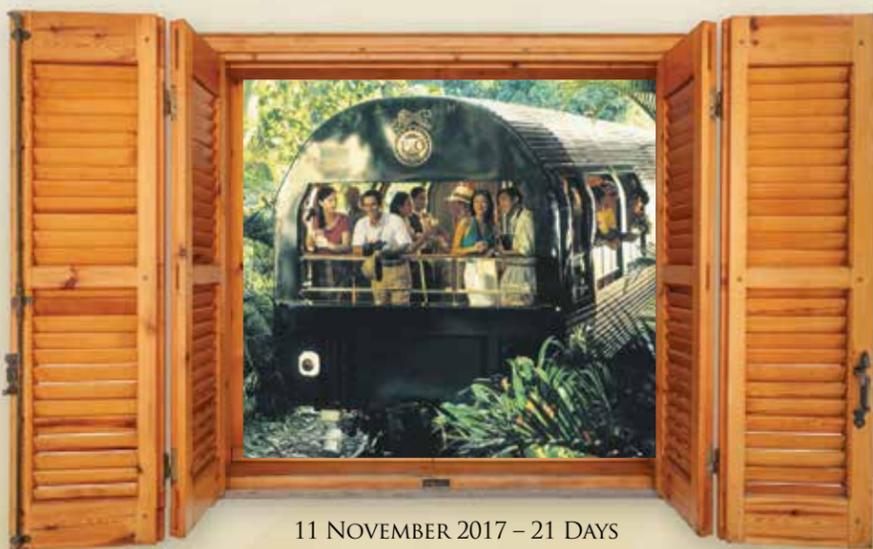
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ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian

March into the Castlemaine Festival for a taste of arts in country Victoria



by Jeanette Woolerton

RENOWNED nationally as the Garden State, Victoria is, without doubt, a verdant paradise of exotic

and native plants. As an added bonus, beneath the thick fringe of lush foliage, lies a heart of pure gold. One hundred and twen-

ty kilometers north-west of Melbourne, lies the sophisticated central Victorian community of Castlemaine. Nestled between Bendigo and Ballarat in



Above: Jeanette Woolerton
Left: The festival is popular with tourists

of Downes Road and Walker Street.

Between Thursday and Sunday, meals at The Good Table are reasonably priced with two courses of sumptuous dishes made using fresh local produce for only \$25. If you are after a local wine, the Bridge Hotel at 21 Walker Street is a warm and welcoming pub hosting live music performances.

The town is only a 90-minute drive from Melbourne and a great place to begin your tour of the Goldfields. It is the perfect time to visit the town right now, as during the month of March, the Castlemaine State Festival springs into action.

The festival is the brainchild of Berek Segan AM OBE and since its inception in 1976, has grown to become Australia's flagship regional arts festival.

The Castlemaine Festival preceded any other Victorian arts festival. It is also unique in its scope and diversity and its impact on the social and cultural fabric of the Mount Alexander Shire is immense.

The festival program

encompasses visual arts, music, theatre, opera and dance.

It has also been a major contributor in connecting people and developing enterprise within the regional community.

Many organisations in the community have participated in the past and continue to do so in the present. These include local schools, sporting groups, the local aged care facility, manufacturing and agricultural workers, street rod enthusiasts, musicians, designers, gardeners, heritage specialists and a myriad of artists and artisans who live and work in the district.

Each organisation brought their specific interests to the festival, creating pathways to connection, reflection and innovation.

The Castlemaine State Festival is a 10 day extravaganza of art, music, film, culture and fun in some of Australia's finest Gold Rush era venues, attracting both national and international tourists. It starts on 17 March with the grande finale on 26 March.

At peak festival time, the town of 7,000 inhabitants swells to more than 15,000 and the atmosphere is soaked in celebration and the weather mild and sunny.

The 2017 festival will once again play host to more than 50 international artists, flying in from around the globe and bringing with them a treasure trove of cinema, visual and performance art.

With more than 400 participating artists and over 100 Australian, local and international acts performing, audiences have the rare opportunity to mingle with the artists and experience creative culture at its finest.

This biennial, 10-day, multi-arts celebration, set against a stunning backdrop of established trees, gardens and historical buildings, lovingly preserved and tastefully renovated, is not one to be missed.

For further information and accommodation bookings and options, please refer to the website at www.castlemaine-festival.com.au/

See you there!




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A story of love, travel and making the most of life's second chances

and a heart warming tale about second chances. It's definitely a 'chick' book with beautifully descriptive pieces about Italy and particularly Tuscany, smattered with translations of many Italian sayings and the idiosyncrasies of daily life there. It all adds an interesting and amusing extra dimension. Carnevale's capacity for character development in this her first novel is strong. Early in the story you feel empathy with the likeable main character Mia. Mia is an aspiring young Australian artist who after battling cancer gives up her love of painting and battles her own internal fears of life and death. She decides to head to Tuscany for a fresh start. It's a pleasant and easy read which provides delicious descriptions of the beauty of Italy and as well as creating a camaraderie with Mia who is learning many of life's lessons. Fear is what restricts so many of us in our lives and Carnevale beautifully executes her characters' thoughts and actions, ultimately leading her to paint again. A great book club read, with some interesting twists and turns, it is a fine first romance novel from Vanessa Carnevale. Published by Harlequin Books, *The Florentine Bridge* is available at all good book stores for \$29.99 and includes book club discussion notes.

by Jennifer Merigan

AUSTRALIAN author Vanessa Carnevale's recently published book *The Florentine Bridge* offers the reader three of my favourite things from a book; a love story, travel

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let's go travelling

ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian

Discovering the hidden treasures of southern Africa is a 'must do' experience



Left to right; Lukimbi Game Drive - Table Bay Hotel, Cape Town - Rovos Rail observation carriage

WITH more than 11 years experience in the travel business Simon Atherton has focused on Southern Africa as his specialist destination for the last five years.

South Africa has recently been voted as the most beautiful country in the world to visit and is winning many international travel prizes with tourists raving about it.

Simon has designed a selection of tours to the country and offers travellers his knowledge and expertise to provide help

and planning for a trip of a lifetime.

He leads his Pride of Africa tour annually, which offers guests a small group, five star luxury tour to experience exotic animals, beautiful landscapes and many hidden treasures.

In January this year, Simon escorted 18 people on this tour which has many inclusions; air fares, tours, accommodation, most meals and transport within the country.

The tour departs Perth

and flies South African Airways direct to Johannesburg and then on to Durban where endless beaches and clear skies welcome the group.

The first day of the tour is a city tour of Durban where guests have the opportunity to experience the culture, beaches, food, crafts and flea markets which line the streets followed by some rest and relaxation at the Fairmont Zimbali Resort.

Then the following day it's all aboard the Rovos train for a truly first class three day train trip from Durban to Pretoria.

Along the way people have options to participate in different tours and game drives at unique destinations. After each adventure they return to the train to find the

warmest of welcomes of a red carpet and champagne.

Simon said that one of the highlights of the train trip was a visit to the Nambiti Game Reserve for a safari. The reserve was teaming with giraffe, warthogs, impala, kudu, cape buffalo, herds of elephant and wildebeest roaming together.

He said that over the three days aboard the train they are spoilt with indulgent breakfasts and four course meals for lunch and dinner.

"In the evening we were invited to mingle with our fellow passengers over cocktails and famous South African wines," he said.

"Our final morning found us arriving in Pretoria where we were

greeted by the owner of the train Rohan Vos.

"It was such an honour that my group were personally shown around his private historical train museum," said Simon.

The next part of the tour takes in the Lukimbi Safari Lodge and one of South Africa's oldest reserves, Kruger National Park. The region is one of the best areas for bird watching with more than 500 species and has more large species of mammals, including the famous big five than any other African reserve.

The luxuriously appointed Lukimbi Safari Lodge has a distinct African feel. There are two to three game drives per day, all included in the price, in specially adapted safari vehicles by local

and highly knowledgeable guides.

Simon says it really is the best way to see this stunning environment.

"After a remarkable three days, in which I had seen elephants drinking at a waterhole outside my chalet window and a fully grown lioness stalk past as I was brushing my teeth we said goodbye to Lukimbi and headed to Cape Town," he said.

Simon said that location is everything when staying in Cape Town and he chooses to stay with the group at the Table Bay Hotel which is perfectly situated to take full advantage of Cape Town's most incredible sights.

"In the morning we indulged in a breakfast buffet like no other and then

gathered for a city tour of Cape Town where we were fortunate enough to take the four-minute revolving floor cable car to the top of a cloudless Table Mountain.

"The view from the top is absolutely breathtaking with sweeping views of the city, Robben Island and the docked Queen Mary 2 liner; it is a perfect end to an amazing tour," said Simon.

The 14-day 2018 Pride of Africa luxury tour departs on 15 January 2018. It has options to include returning aboard the Queen Mary 2.

See Southern African Safaris advertisement on this page for details on all tours to southern Africa or call Simon on 6162 6492 for further information.



Katanning Discovery Tour
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Enjoy an Easter break with Cascade Tours in Margaret River

CASCADE Tours are venturing down to Margaret River to celebrate Easter, staying three nights at the Quality Inn from 14 to 17 April.

Guests will be picked up from home and delivered to the coach by support cars.

Good Friday will be the travelling day. Participants will enjoy lunch in Bunbury and a visit to the longest jetty in the southern hemisphere in Busselton.

Once settled in the accommodation in Margaret River the next two days will be spent

sightseeing around the region and includes lunch at the Bootleg Brewery.

Other highlights include a visit to Olive Grove, visits to the cheese factory and, of course, a winery and a brewery in the region.

Cowaramup is a much loved destination with its life size cows decorating the main streets and a visit to the Candy Cow fudge shop is always delicious.

The cows dotted around Cowaramup make great subjects for photographs so guests are

encouraged to bring their cameras.

The final day of the trip is a relaxed return to Perth with stops at Gnomesville and a delicious restaurant lunch with a difference.

Guests are then met at the coach and returned home by car.

Places are limited so early booking is recommended.

Contact Chris on 0413 741 556 or call the Cascade office on 9574 0218 for bookings and itineraries.



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- Visiting a fabulous Olive Grove, winery, cheese factory
- Sightseeing in Cowaramup, visiting the Candy Cow Fudge Shop
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ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian

The battle for supremacy on the transatlantic crossing - part one

OVER the next few months, Chris Frame looks into the long history of transatlantic travel, and traces the times when flight challenged traditional ocean crossings for transatlantic supremacy.

by Chris Frame

THE NORTH Atlantic Ocean is one of the most treacherous expanses of ocean on earth. Yet millions of people have made a transatlantic journey since the earliest days of recorded history.

Norse explorer Bjarni Herjólfsson is believed to have made the first transatlantic crossing in 985. This long forgotten event was a precursor for what would become a journey that is, nowadays, undertaken by millions of people each year.

For nearly 60 years now, the fear and discomfort of a long ocean voyage has been eclipsed by the speed and convenience of jet airliners. The North Atlantic passage has been the domain of some of the world's greatest aircraft, including the massive Zeppelins, supersonic Concorde and the Queen of the Skys.

Pre-flight crossings

While the airliner now reigns supreme on the North Atlantic; the first voyages across this ocean were undertaken by ship. In fact, from 1838 to the 1950s the vast majority of people travelled across the Atlantic by sea.

For the first six decades of transatlantic ocean liner travel, there was no aircraft. During that time great ocean liners ploughed across the Atlantic. Mass immigration from Europe to the United States and Canada was the main driving force behind the boom in transatlantic travel, with ocean liners grossing tens of thousands of tons and transporting thousands of people at a time.

The movement of people, cargo, mail and goods across the North Atlantic was solely the domain of ships. Names like Cunard, White Star Line, French Line, Norddeutscher Lloyd and Hamburg - Amerika evoked the same instant recognition as British Airways, American Airlines and Virgin Atlantic do today.

As time passed, liners grew in size and speed; with crossing time reducing from two weeks to as little as four days. A race to offer the fastest service, and thus attract the most passengers, ensued. During this time the Blue Riband,

an award for the fastest westbound crossing, was highly coveted.

Despite the speed of these liners, people wanted to go faster. Travel for business could take up to a week, making commerce far slower and less efficient than it is today. But there was a limit to the speed that ocean liners could achieve. Thus, inventors and entrepreneurs looked to the sky for a faster way to travel.

It was not until the early 20th century that the Wright Brothers mastered powered flight in heavier than air craft. Their flying machine was a modern marvel, which attracted the world's attention. However, in its early form the aircraft posted no threat to the dominance of the great ocean liners.

Early aircraft were simple in their design, although advanced for their day. Their relatively flimsy construction; modest speeds and short range meant they were not a viable mass-transportation vehicle.

It wasn't until after World War I that aircraft design allowed powered flight across the North Atlantic. In 1919 British airmen John Alcock and Arthur Brown completed the first non-stop transatlantic crossing from Newfoundland to Ireland, lasting around 16 hours.

Less than a decade later, on 20 May, 1927 Charles Lindberg departed New York on his solo non-stop transatlantic flight. His successful solo crossing captured the hearts and minds of the American public, which boosted public support for the fledgling airline companies forming across the country.

Despite the progress being made with aeroplanes, the first major aircraft to challenge the reign of the great passenger ships were not

piston driven fixed wing aircraft. Rather, it was the giant airships of inter-war Germany that offered the first true alternative to a long ocean voyage.

The Airships

There has never been an aircraft that challenged the ocean liner in terms of size and scale like the German airships. These mighty aircraft with dimensions that rival the RMS Titanic, even dwarf today's largest passenger aircraft, the Airbus A380. In fact, the largest airships were nearly three and half times longer than the A380.

As early as 1874, the German Zeppelin Company was working on concepts for intercontinental airship transportation. Years of planning and design were fraught in the early years by disaster, including the destruction of the organisation's fourth airship, LZ4.

LZ4, designed to operate long distance voyages, was tied up for repairs when it caught fire and was completely destroyed in 1908. The Achilles-heel of the Zeppelins was their reliance on hydrogen for lift. While helium was a non-flammable gas, the highly flammable hydrogen was both cheaper and easier to acquire; hence

it was extensively used in the Zeppelins.

But, despite its risks the momentum of the Zeppelin Company was not derailed, and the organisation went on to build bigger and better airships, with the capability to transit vast distances such as the North Atlantic.

By the late 1920s the company was operating LZ127, better known as Graf Zeppelin. The rigid frame airship measured 236.6m in length and carried more than 105,000 cubic metres of hydrogen gas; making it, at the time, the largest airship in the world.

Graf Zeppelin undertook its first transatlantic flight in 1928, flying from Friedrichshafen Germany to Lakehurst in the United States of America. The 9,920km trip was completed in 111 hours, or four and half days.

But the speed of the airship was not fast enough to comfortably trump the fastest ocean crossings. Transit times were only marginally faster than that of the transatlantic liners, and the cost of a Zeppelin voyage was prohibitive for all but the wealthiest of people. Hence operators of transatlantic liners were not overly concerned by the new form

of competition.

German Supremacy

At the time Graf Zeppelin entered service, transatlantic ocean liners could carry more people, in greater luxury for a fraction of the price of an airship crossing.

But, the Zeppelin's were attracting a unique clientele of elite passengers wishing to try this new form of transportation. Services were timely and most importantly safe, with the Zeppelin Company having an excellent safety record.

By 1929 Germany ruled both the waves and the air; with the fast Zeppelin's complemented by the German ocean liners Bremen and Europa which had captured the Blue Riband for the fastest westbound Atlantic crossing by sea.

With the introduction of Zeppelin LZ 129 Hindenburg on 4 March 1936, German mastery over the transatlantic air corridors seemed to be unstoppable. The new class of airship was able to easily eclipse the speed of the ocean liners, and with it offered hope for real competition and aerial domination on the North Atlantic.

Hindenburg was a behemoth of the sky, mea-

suring 245 metres long. At this length, she was only 41 metres shorter than Bremen and Europa. Hindenburg had a cruising speed of 125 kilometres per hour, achieved with four Daimler-Benz DB602 engines.

It was partnered with the smaller Graf Zeppelin on transatlantic flights. While the ruling Nazi party used both aircraft for propaganda missions.

However Germany's reign over the Atlantic was short lived, with the Hindenburg's catastrophic to-

tal loss on 6 May 1937 at Lakehurst.

The disaster, caused by static electricity igniting the hydrogen filled gasbags, resulted in all Zeppelins being grounded and the momentum was lost in the challenge for trans-atlantic supremacy with the liners. By 1937 France's Normandie held the speed record. She lost it the following year to Britain's Queen Mary.

At that stage, the fastest way to cross the Atlantic was three days and 21 hours aboard an 81,000 ton liner.

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The Perth Caravan and Camping Show returns to Claremont Showgrounds



From left to right; There are more than 270 exhibitors displaying their products at the Perth Caravan and Camping Show - Discover the latest caravans - Learn how to 'tow and go' with the Global Gypsies

THE Perth Caravan and Camping Show will be bigger and better when it returns to the Claremont Showgrounds from Wednesday 22 March to Sunday 26 March, 9am to 5pm daily. With the latest in caravan and camping products on display and to buy, seminars, destination information, prizes and show bags, visitors will be spoilt for choice with the amazing array of displays.

Entry
Ticket prices - Adults: \$19.50 - Concession: \$14.50
Children under 16 free

when accompanied by an adult.

RAC Members receive a 10 per cent discount off tickets.

To avoid the queues, plus receive free public transport with Transperth to and from the show, purchase tickets online at www.caravanandcampingshow.com.au

Getting There
By car
The Royal Agricultural Society of WA offers parking at the Showground, via Gate 8 off Ashton Ave at a cost of \$5 (cash only) per vehicle. Be aware of local parking signs as

town rangers regularly patrol the area looking for illegally parked cars.

Please take note that due to road works being carried out the parking on Shenton Road is not available.

Train
The Showground Train Station on the Fremantle Line is operational during Show opening times, however "express" trains do not stop at the Showground Station. Tickets purchased online at www.caravanandcampingshow.com.au receive free public transport (for three hours before and for three hours after Show times) with Transperth to and from the event. Remember to keep your show ticket for

the return journey.

Acrod Parking
Limited ACROD parking is available inside the showgrounds and is free of charge.

Weekend Offsite Parking
Visitors to the RAC Perth Caravan and Camping Show can park for free at the Swanbourne Primary School on Saturday and Sunday.

Courtesy Golf Buggy
Proudly sponsored by Jayco Caravanland. To make browsing around the many areas of the RAC Perth Caravan and Camping Show easier, a golf buggy will be available to shuttle people around. The buggy is doing a continual loop around the Showground

and will pick up and drop off at three dedicated stops. The location of these stops are identified on the show map available on site.

Wheelchair Hire
Wheelchair hire through Bluesky Healthcare will be located inside Gate 1, accessed from Graylands Road. Customers can pre-book direct with Bluesky Healthcare on 9242 7333 or visit the website: www.blueskyhealthcare.com.au

Exhibitors
The RAC Perth Caravan and Camping Show is a one-stop-shop featuring all of the latest caravans, camper trailers, motorhomes, cars, 4WDs, tents, swags, ac-

cessories, fridge/ freezers, fishing and camping gear, off-road equipment and more. There are more than 270 exhibitors displaying their products. Visit the Tourism Pavilion which provides visitors with expert advice for various WA destinations.

Parcel Pickup
Leave your Show purchases at the parcel pickup near Gate 12. Pick up your goods when you have finished at the Show for the day, via Shenton Road. This is a secured area and your goods will be supervised and signed in and out using photo ID. This is a free service for all patrons attending the show, however a Gold Coin Donation to the Royal Flying Doctor Service is appreciated.

Free Show Bag
A free show bag is available for all visitors to the Show. They can be collected from the Information Stands located just inside the gates.

Seminars and Demonstrations
Learn important skills from the experts:
Bush cooking with Jo Clews.

Using recovery equipment with Eureka 4WD Training.
Tow before you go with Global Gypsies.

Fishing in WA, with Recfishwest
Caravanning made easy, with Sid Whiting from Grey Nomad 101

Competitions
There is an amazing selection of prizes to win at this year's show by entering the Passport to Freedom competition.

First prize is the winner's choice of either a Coromal Element E552s (RRP \$52,990) or a Windsor Seka SKL552s (RRP \$46,600) caravan thanks to Coromal and Windsor Caravans. Entry forms are available at information stands on the grounds and there are seven prizes in total to be won.

Take a break
Facilities are available to make people's stay at the show as enjoyable as possible. There are plenty of food and drink options available, at both the food precinct and the new Piazza. Additional shade and seating is provided in the Food Precinct for those people who want to bring their own picnic lunch, or anyone just needing a rest. (Note: no BYO alcohol is permitted on the premises).

Community Partner
The RAC Perth Caravan and Camping Show would like to welcome their 2017 Community Partner - Royal Flying Doctor Service. Come to see and interact with their RFDS medical simulator at The Piazza.

Kids Fun Land
While there are plenty of products to see and lots of information to plan a getaway more enjoyable, there is also a lot to do for the entire family.

Included among the activities are: Climbing Wall, Bouncy Castle, Face Painting, Giant Games and Glamping Tent.

Activities will be available on Saturday and Sunday only.

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TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Try a kayaking session in Mandurah in April

COME and have a go at kayaking session in Mandurah for people with the Mandurah Over 55 Canoe Club on Sunday 9 April from 10am to 12 noon, at Estuary

Bridge/Osprey Waters foreshore.

30 - 40 members regularly paddle Monday, Wednesday or Saturday mornings, all year round. Mo55sCC promotes a safe, healthy, inclusive, environmentally friendly and social pastime.

Members at the try session on 9 April will provide all necessary equipment and share their knowledge, followed by a barbecue for all participants.

Interested people should contact Mike on 0415 531 341 or Greg on 0498 647 925 beforehand.

WA's GREAT Outdoors

CARAVANNING • CAMPING • ACCOMMODATION



let's gotravelling

There's plenty to learn about at this year's Perth Caravan and Camping Show

THE Piazza offers visitors to the show a new and exciting precinct which will be a hive of activity for demonstrations and seminars. There will also be a catering area, Segway Tours and the Royal Flying Doctor Service will be on display. Check out some of the seminars available for people each day.

How to pitch a tent...

Join the Nature Play WA team at Tent Land for their fun (and funny!) "how-to" tent pitching demonstrations with an "expert" tent pitcher, and learn some great lessons in choosing the best campsite, preparing and laying out the tent, and putting it up with ease - perfect for first time campers.

Take part in the family tent pitching challenge: work together as a family team to pitch your tent in the allotted time and win vouchers to spend at Get-away Outdoors.

'How to Pitch a Tent' demonstrations will be held at 10am, 12pm and 2pm on Saturday and Sunday only. Family Tent Challenges will take place at 11am, 1pm and 3pm at Tent Land on Saturday and Sunday only.

Learn to tow with Global Gypsies

Global Gypsies demonstrations are designed to encourage novice and newbie caravanners to 'learn to tow before you go' and will focus on one of the most commonly expressed concerns - reversing.

The 20-minute Gypsies towing demonstrations will take place just outside the Silver Jubilee Pavilion at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 3pm daily.

Commentary will be provided by two professional towing trainers as they execute a stress-free and 'divorce-proof' parking manoeuvre in which a driver and a 'guider' use only hand signals to reverse a 20' caravan into a tight parking spot. Admission is free, seating will be provided and there will be time for questions afterwards.

4WD tips and hacks with Eureka 4WD

At this year's show the guys from Eureka 4WD Training will have lots of recovery gear at their stand including high lift jacks, exhaust jacks, winches and recovery boards, which they will be more than happy to demonstrate how to attach and use these products safely on a vehicle. They will have a few products relating to tyre deflation and inflation and will be happy to have a chat about driving through sand when towing a camper trailer or caravan. The team at Eureka offer visitors the opportunity to win one five recreational four wheel drive courses. The recovery seminars will be held daily from 10am to 4pm.

Camp oven cooking with Jo Clews

Join bush chef Jo Clews for an exciting seminar on the quality culinary delights people can rustle up when they're out on the road. Jo will demonstrate her skills and provide some hints and tips on how to cook up a storm on your next outdoor adventure. She'll be drawing on her years of experience in creating a variety of mouth-watering meals for

shearers and station hands, in a wide range of camping and outdoor environments. Let Jo provide ideas that will make the next outdoor cooking experience a delicious one. She will be on stage at the Piazza at 10:30am, 12:30pm and 2:30pm daily.

Caravanning made easy with Sid Whiting from Grey Nomad 101

Tips, tricks, traps and advice - how to get out there and do it! (Before you spend too much money.)

In the last few years, Sid and Sandie Whiting have covered more than 200,000 kilometres towing their caravan around Australia. When they first started out, they made a few mistakes, and even now they still make the odd one.

While every experienced traveller has a wealth of knowledge gathered along the way, Sid has taken it a step further by documenting it all in a DVD series (Grey Nomad 101). His seminars take an interesting look at some of the most important topics. These seminars touch on many aspects of caravanning and motor-homing, from how to choose the right rig, through to setting it up with the best mix of tools and equipment, to some of the things that can go wrong, how things work and what's it like out on the road.

With questions from the floor encouraged, each seminar is different, with something for everyone from new chums to old hands. Whether it's buying a caravan, fishing, cooking, hitching, photography, security, electric brakes, ants in your van, the list is endless.

Sid answers tricky questions like: what does "semi-off-road" really mean? How you can come unstuck with "payload and tare weight". Pop-top or not? Caravan or motorhome - or fifth wheeler?

Sid's easy, humorous style is guaranteed to keep people entertained, while arming them with tips and ideas that'll save money, time and headache. Demonstrations take place daily at the Piazza at 11.30am.

Fishing in WA with Recfishwest

WA's peak body for recreational fishing 'Recfishwest' will be on stage to talk all things fishing. They'll cover what people can catch, where they can catch it including some hot tips for certain areas and species.

The fishing experts will also shed some light onto what's being done around WA to make fishing better.

Artificial reef installation, fish restocking, safety, conservation and

community projects are just a few things allowing people to have better fishing experiences in WA. Recfishwest will talk about their new fishing App which is filled with all of WA's fishing rules, species identification and handy tips. Got a fishing question? Come and see them at the show at the Piazza at 1.30pm daily.

Caravan Clubs for newcomers with WA Association of Caravan Clubs

People who are new to caravanning may like to consider joining a local Caravan Club. The WA Association of Caravan Clubs will present daily at 3.30pm at the Piazza. The association will detail information about what caravan clubs do and the different types of caravan clubs, and the benefits of being part of a club.

Royal Flying Doctor Service

The community partner for this year is the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) will display their RFDS Aero Medical Training Simulator, giveaways and a small selection of merchandise along with front line staff including RFDS doctors, nurses and pilots.

For more information on all the demonstrations and seminars, including daily times, visit www.caravandcampingshow.com.au/whats-on

Superb trout fishing in Tasmania



Fishing on Little Pine Lagoon

Not enough variation in water levels? Who knows what is behind it? All I know is that the fishing was much better when the duns hatched more regularly in summer.

On the positive side, the fish in Little Pine this year were in outstanding condition. Small heads and tails with a big, bulky body in between signifies plenty of feed available to the fish and rapid growth rates. We didn't catch a lot but those we did were a credit to the species, putting on fast runs sprinkled with powerful jumps. Adding to the quality of the fish, the flesh was a superb deep orange colour, promising top notch eating quality.

I did bring a handful of fish back with me. I filleted and vacuum packed them before freezing and they kept amazing well over the long trip home from the central highlands of Tassie to Perth.

I only do one thing with the trout I bring back from there. After removing the pin bones I hot smoke the fillets and break them up into a pot full of angel hair pasta laced with an equal mix of olive oil and lemon juice, spiced up with chilli flakes and minced garlic. A big handful of rocket is tossed in and allowed to wilt a little before serving.

They keep coming back for more.

by Mike Roennfeldt

MOST years I do my best to get across to Tasmania for the trout fishing. A couple of old mates own a shack on the bank of Little Pine Lagoon, a lake that has been called Australia's premier trout water by more than one expert in the past.

That claim is probably debatable these days, but it is still a superb trout water, especially on those occasions when the local duns (mayflies) decide to hatch. It's an amazing sight, where one minute the surface of the water can be devoid of insect life and the next covered by millions of duns looking for all the world like tiny grey/brown sailboats.

These duns are the trout's favourite food and the hatch is usually a signal for the fish to get up off the bottom of the lake and start cruising the surface, sucking down insects all over the place. This is one of the best of times to be a fly fisherman and a small dry fly lying on the surface in front of a feeding fish is unlikely to be refused.

While fishing a big hatch is one of fishing's most exquisite moments, the sad thing is that on Little Pine at least, it doesn't seem to be happening nearly as much as it did 20 years ago. Changing climate? Changing environmental conditions? Too much variation in water levels?

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Alpine Christmas Markets &

Magical Switzerland

Tuesday 12 December to Thursday 28 December 2017

DAY 1/2: PERTH TO MUNICH (IFM / D)

Your holiday begins when you are picked up from home by a private vehicle and transferred to the airport. Meet your fellow travellers and Kings Tour Manager then fly to Munich. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to the hotel. This afternoon, enjoy an orientation tour that will show you all the city's major sights, culminating in the Marienplatz, with its soaring Town Hall and Glockenspiel. Here, the Christkindmarkt will be in full swing - an entrancing festival of light and music. You will be introduced to one of the market stallholders for a taste of traditional Bavarian Lebkuchen and a fragrant cup of Glühwein. This evening enjoy a Welcome Reception with dinner and wine. **Hotel:** Leonardo Royal Hotel, Munich for 2 nights

DAY 3: FREE TIME IN THE BAVARIAN CAPITAL (B)

The day is all yours to enjoy the vibrant festive markets that abound in this city or spend the day how you wish. On crisp winter days, organ music and carols ring out from the ancient churches. If snow has fallen, the vast English Garden provides lovely winter vistas. Another option is to experience the romantic royal palaces of the Bavarian Alps.

DAY 4: LAKE CHIEMSEE, SALZBURG AND INNSBRUCK (B / D)

Today drive beside the tranquil waters of Lake Chiemsee on your way to Salzburg in Austria, where the spires and domes of the old town are often draped in snow come December. A walk with a Local Expert will show you Mozart's family home and the rosy hues of the 500-year-old Christmas Market in front of the cathedral. Head through the mountains to your Innsbruck hotel. In the evening, drive to the charming town of Hall in Tirol - boasting one of Austria's best-preserved historic centres. Soak up the unique atmosphere in a 700-year-old building and delight your palate with a medieval banquet and wine. **Hotel:** Hilton, Innsbruck for 2 nights

DAY 5: INNSBRUCK AT LEISURE & CARRIAGE RIDE (B)

Spend the morning at leisure. Immerse yourself in the festive atmosphere of the Old Town and Christmas Markets, set in front of the Golden Roof, graced by beautifully preserved medieval façades. In the afternoon, enjoy delightful scenery and crisp, fresh air on a horse-drawn carriage ride through the countryside of Tyrol.

DAY 6: THE BLACK FOREST (B / D)

After breakfast this morning we take Austria's longest road tunnel back into Germany and pause in the tiny island-town of Lindau. Walk through the maze of ancient streets down to the harbour. Across the lake, often shrouded in mist, look for the rising silhouette of snow-capped peaks. After time to explore, continue

along the shores of the Bodensee to your hotel in the Black Forest for three fabulous nights. **Hotel:** Maritim Titisee Hotel for 3 nights

DAY 7: FREIBURG SIGHTSEEING (B)

This morning we visit Freiburg - a lively university city with a charming Christmas atmosphere. Walk from the medieval Münster through the heart of the historic old quarter, past colourful stalls offering a range of festive goodies from the Black Forest.

DAY 8: STRASBOURG & ALSACE EXPERIENCE (B / D)

After a leisurely start to this morning we cross the Rhine to the region of Alsace, wedged between the Black Forest and the Vosges Mountains. This area has changed nationality four times since 1870! Arrive in Strasbourg, the 'city at the crossroads', where the Christmas Market is the oldest and one of the largest in France. Spend time in a cosy neighbourhood of timbered fairy-tale buildings, with Christmas shops and a gingerbread bakery, warm with fragrant promise. Return to Germany and your Black Forest hotel in time for dinner.

DAY 9: SWISS CITY OF ZÜRICH (B / D)

Today we cross the Swiss border and head for Zürich where sightseeing includes the imposing Grossmünster, elegant Fraumünster, and winding alleys of the old town alongside the River Limmat. A highlight is Europe's biggest indoor Christmas extravaganza held in the main railway station, with over 160 wooden chalets and a three-storey Christmas tree, draped with Swarovski crystals. In the evening, toast to the culmination of your Yuletide tour with a festive Celebration Dinner and wine. **Hotel:** Mövenpick Hotel Zürich-Airport for 1 night



DAY 10: ZÜRICH AND LOVELY LUCERNE (B / D)

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast before checking out of the hotel and transferring to Lucerne. On arrival at the hotel you will have the afternoon at leisure and the we will enjoy wine and dinner. **Hotel:** Hotel Astoria for 1 night

DAY 11: LUCERNE AND ST. MORITZ (B / D)

Today you will experience Lucerne, a beautiful 14th century city still protected by medieval fortifications. Your Tour Director will reveal the covered wooden bridges, the painted gables and the sorrowful Lion Monument. Then there's time to enjoy the excellent shops and lakeside walks before heading along the dramatic Walensee, past Chur, to the fashionable ski resort of St. Moritz. Set in the sparkling Engadine Valley, this elegant resort nestles below the awe-inspiring, majestic Grisons Alps. **Hotel:** Hotel Laudinella for 2 nights

DAY 12: ST. MORITZ AT LEISURE (B)

This whole day is completely at leisure, so maybe opt for a late breakfast to start? Then, perhaps explore the spa quarter of this chic resort, see the houses with their traditional 'sgraffito' façades or indulge in the stylish boutiques? You may even consider joining the Bernina Express for a scenic rail journey of such epic proportions that it has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site?

DAY 13: CHRISTMAS EVE - GLACIER EXPRESS TO BRIG (B / D)

Today we board the world famous Glacier Express for a spectacular ride with lunch included, through the heart of the Swiss Alps. Descend through the tunnels of the Albula Pass and traverse the lofty Landwasser Viaduct. Your train then joins the broad Rhine Gorge and meanders beside rock-strewn rivers before climbing through snowy pastures and woodlands. Picturesque landscapes of ice-capped mountains and stone-built villages with chalet-style houses glide by. After a series of spirals, you will reach the highest point of the route: the icy Oberalp Pass. Modern, panoramic viewing cars ensure that you won't miss a thing on your descent to Andermatt and down the Rhône Valley. Around mid-afternoon, you will disembark in Brig. **Hotel:** Hotel Alex for 2 nights

DAY 14: Christmas Day THE MATTERHORN VILLAGE OF ZERMATT (B)

Merry Christmas. Today enjoy dramatic Swiss scenery as you follow the narrow valley which leads to Täsch. Here, you leave the coach to board the cogwheel train that takes you to the traffic-free haven of Zermatt, at the foot of the Matterhorn. Wander along its cobbled streets to browse among the shops, explore the ancient wooden farmhouses and 'mazot' barns in the back alleys, or visit the Matterhorn Museum to pass through the homes of yesteryear. If you have a head for heights, then you may like to board the cable car up the

Klein Matterhorn. From the summit, marvel at the incredible views of the icebound Swiss Alps (weather permitting). Return to your hotel in Brig where the remainder of the day is at leisure.

DAY 15: CHILLON CASTLE AND GENEVA (B / D)

After breakfast journey along the Lower Rhône Valley to the shores of Lake Geneva where the associations with the early European 'Romantic' movement are very strong. With a Local Expert, visit beautiful Chillon Castle, former home to the Counts of Savoy, set on a rocky islet in the lake. In 1816, the castle inspired Lord Byron to write the poem 'The Prisoner of Chillon', following his walk through the dungeons. Look out for his name, which he carved into a pillar. Close by is the sophisticated tiered town of Montreux, where it is delightful to stroll along the lakeside promenade. A beautiful drive beside the lake, passing Vevey and Lausanne, brings you to the immaculate town of Geneva. On arrival, sightseeing includes the United Nations Building (Palais des Nations), the Old Town, Reformation Monument and if operating, the Jet d'Eau. Spend your night in Geneva, rejoicing with your friends at a final Celebration Dinner complete with wine. **Hotel:** Warwick for 1 night

DAY 16 / 17: GENEVA TO PERTH (B / IFM)

Today your magical journey comes to an end after breakfast. We depart from the hotel and transfer to Geneva airport for our flight home to Perth. Upon arrival into Perth your driver will be waiting to take you safely home.

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Tour Highlights

- ★ Visit the 500 year old Christmas Markets in Salzburg
- ★ Horse-drawn carriage ride through the picturesque countryside
- ★ Attend Europe's biggest indoor Christmas Market in Zurich
- ★ Visit Chillon Castle on the shores of Lake Geneva
- ★ Take a ride on the famous Glacier Express in the Swiss Alps
- ★ Christmas Eve Highlight dinner in Brig

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TRAVELLERS love unusual experiences and Ningaloo Reef is the perfect place to provide some lifetime experiences.

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Swimmers have the opportunity for some rare marine experiences with humpback whales, man-

ta rays and whale sharks. Ningaloo Reef is one of the few places in the world where these creatures congregate in great numbers.

Every year, between mid March and mid July, whale sharks, the gentle giants of the ocean, congregate following the mass spawning of coral. Harmless to humans, they are the world's largest species of fish and can grow up to 18 metres

in length.

Whale shark tours are available both in Coral Bay and in Exmouth.

Swimming with the manta rays is available year round in Coral Bay.

Manta rays are filter feeders and have a large and toothless mouth which they use to scoop up plankton and krill.

Unlike stingrays they do not have a sharp barb which makes them very safe to swim and snorkel with.

These beautiful creatures have a wingspan which can measure up to several metres which enables them to swim at high speed. Occasionally they can be seen leaping out of the water and landing with a slap. It provides a theatrical experience for those lucky enough to experience it.

They glide elegantly and effortlessly through the water and to see a

group of males displaying their acrobatic skills competing for a female's attention is a sight to behold.

Last year the inaugural swimming with humpback season was held in Ningaloo with the trial proving very successful.

Again this year visitors to the region will have the opportunity to take part in this experience from August to November.

Last year more than 1600 people experienced swimming with these beautiful creatures. Interest has been so great that you should register now to ensure you get a spot.

The tours focus on small group encounters and there is a maximum of ten swimmers per tour with five in the water with any one whale pod.

The humpback whale was previously an endangered species along the WA coast but due to

conservation efforts the population in the area is around 30,000 now.

The whales usually arrive in the area from mid-July and the operators in the area offer a full day tour.

It costs around \$400 to \$500 per tour but is an experience of a lifetime to swim amongst these gentle giants in the sea.

There are a variety of experiences to be had with sea creatures along the Coral Coast from feeding the dolphins in Monkey Mia, to kayaking with sea turtles and dugongs in the Ningaloo Marine Park.

A visit to the coral coast provides an opportunity for people to get in touch with nature in one of the cleanest environments in the world.

A full list of tour operators is available from www.australiascoralcoast.com



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There's much to do in Kalbarri and the only catch is the seafood

TAKING about six hours to drive north from Perth, the town of Kalbarri is the perfect spot for a relaxed getaway.

It's also easily accessible by TransWA coach or by regional plane service with Qantas or Virgin.

It's a definite 'must do' stop for the grey nomads as they head north and there's many reasons to spend some time in this lovely seaside town.

Kalbarri is perfect to visit all year round and provides visitors with an opportunity for the quintessential Australian laid back holiday.

It's also the perfect

place to get your fill of deliciously fresh fish and seafood and there's an abundance of eateries offering some of WA's freshest and finest.

Kalbarri is one of the few places where tourists can try a lobster pot pulling tour, where a local guide will take you to catch your own western rock lobster.

Once in the bag so to speak guests can take their catch to a local restaurant where it will be prepared, cooked and served.

It really doesn't get much fresher than that.

There's an array of accommodation in the

area for all budgets and tastes including self-contained houses for rent, the popular Murchison Caravan Park, Kalbarri Sea Front Villas and the four star Kalbarri Edge Resort.

A visit to Kalbarri is not complete without a visit to Nature's Window (pictured left) in the National Park.

There's much to do in the park from walks and hikes to boat trips along the river and soon the addition of the skywalks.

A visit to the largest free flight aviary at the Rainbow Jungle to see some of the world's most colourful birds is a fun day and afterwards wander through the outdoor maze.

In summer enjoy an evening under the stars at the outdoor cinema.

For those who are looking for some adventure, you can explore the region by quad bike or hop on a dune buggy and enjoy an afternoon billy tea with an indigenous elder.

The coastal walks along the cliffs are picturesque. During the whale migration season humpbacks can be seen from the cliffs.

South of Kalbarri, the seaside towns of Port Gregory (home of the Pink Lake - Hutt Lagoon) and Horrocks offer great swimming and fishing.

The Pink Lake is found on the scenic coastal road between Port Gregory and Kalbarri.

Depending on the day the lake's colour, which is caused by naturally occurring beta carotene algae can change from red to bubble gum pink to a lilac purple.

It's been used for plenty of fashion and cosmetic photographic shoots and is something not to be missed.

There's plenty to discover in and around Kalbarri and the only catch is some of WA's best seafood.

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So many great holiday options to tour around the country with Villa this year



Visitors at Kata Tjuta

VILLA Carlotta Travel's popular AFL tours continue in 2017 with the mighty West Coast Eagles battling Port Power in Adelaide this May. This five-day AFL in Adelaide tour departs 4 May and will feature not only the big game but also some fantastic Adelaide sights including the famous Central Markets, a cruise down the River Torrens, tours of Ayres House and Carrick Hill and also a tour of the famous Adelaide Oval before the game.

Villa also has a dedicated solo traveller adventure showcasing spectacular Uluru and Alice Springs. This nine-day tour will have people in awe as they watch the sunrise and sunset over Australia's most famous rock. Other highlights include Kata Tjuta (the Olgas), camel farm tour, RFDS Centre, West MacDonnell Ranges and a variety of outback experiences. Departing on Tuesday 2 May with a guaranteed single room from \$5205, this will be an unforgettable adventure.

Do you want to journey from the spectacular Northern Territory across the top to Townsville but worry it's too big a drive? Well worry no more and let Villa Carlotta Travel take guests across the top in comfort and safety. Villa's fully escorted Discovery Across the Top Drivers Dream holiday takes you from Darwin to Townsville with stops on the way including Katherine, Mataranka, Tennant Creek, Mt Isa and Charters Towers. Enjoy outback bush barbecues, visit extensive stations and experience life like the locals. Departing Friday 23 June and starting from only \$6320 per person twin share, this will be the adventure of a lifetime.

Finally, come with Villa to experience two wonderful productions in Australia's events capital, Melbourne. First up is Disney's *Aladdin*, a hit Broadway musical that will delight. This show-stopping production is filled with astonishing visual effects and will leave people breathless. Next, *My Fair Lady*, directed by the incredible talent of Dame Julie Andrews will be the thrill of a lifetime. Along with these amazing theatre experiences, you will enjoy some great holiday touring including the Yarra Valley, Ballarat and Melbourne. Departing Monday 19 June and starting from only \$3255 per person twin share, this six-day tour is not to be missed.

To book on any of these amazing holidays, FreeCall 1800 066 272 or email travel@villa.com.au and speak with one of Villa's friendly travel coordinators today.

Skywalks will prove to be a great attraction in Kalbarri

KALBARRI is one of the WA's most loved country towns with its balmy climate. Moreover there is much to discover in around the town.

The town is located where the Murchison River meets the Indian Ocean, and offers visitors river and coastal gorges and protected swimming bays.

The Kalbarri National Park has superb walking trails and boasts more than 800 species of wildflowers which create an awe-inspiring display from July to October.

In August this year the breathtaking twin Skywalks will open in

the Kalbarri National Park.

It will become a major tourism drawcard for the region providing stunning vistas of the Murchison River gorge's rust red cliffs.

The skywalks will be built 100 metres apart at the Inyaka Wookai Watju site (the West Loop) which will project beyond the gorge rim.

One walk will project 20 metre beyond the rim and the other 12 metres.

Currently the area is experiencing a large redevelopment with parking for coaches and large caravans, a kiosk, shade shelters and toilets.

Two indigenous park rangers will be employed to welcome tourists and an anthropologist is currently collecting the Nhandu stories which will be used for interpretive signage.

The Nhandu community have been heavily involved in the project and will be producing outdoor art works for the new precinct.

The area is about to become more accessible with sealing of the Loop/Z Bend Road.

Mobile phone access in the park will also be improved and the skywalks will be accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

Changing of the guard at Emu Creek Station

DARRYL and Joyce Penny wish to thank all their wonderful guests over the past seven and a half years. They've made them laugh, cry and reinforce the gratitude they have felt at being able to live in such a naturally beautiful part of the world. The Pennys' know visitors to Emu Creek Station have enjoyed sharing the homestead and campground facilities with them and marveling at the variety of bird-life and other critter company.

Some guests have been around the station at muster time and watched the chaos convert into trailer loads of cattle for market. They've gone on amazing sunset tours and seen more stars than they thought existed. They've taken part in windmill tours and seen a tiny bit of what it takes to put a steak on a plate. They've sat round campfires, glass in hand and laughed at yarns (some even true). Darryl and Joyce thank everyone who has visited for the memories.

They are happily passing on the baton to a younger family – Kurt and Nikki Elezovich and their young boys – who hail from Broome and look forward to welcoming campers and caravanners at Emu Creek. Bookings for homestead stays will be considered from April.

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Kalgoorlie Boulder is a great base to discover the goldfields...



From left to right; Paddy Hannan's statue - Hannan's North Tourist Mine - the Super Pit - interactive display at Hannan's North

KALGOORLIE Boulder's thriving days of glory began in 1893 when three down on their luck Irishmen, Patrick Hannan, Tom Flanagan and Daniel O'Shea stumbled across 100 ounces of alluvial nuggets when they were forced to stop to replace a shoe for their horse.

Hannan then rode through to Coolgardie and registered the claim on 17 June 1893, and so it was through that ensuring Goldrush that Kalgoorlie was born.

In 1989, the two towns of Kalgoorlie and Boulder amalgamated to form one twin City. Kalgoorlie Boulder is still one of the world's biggest gold mining cities and that

feeling of excitement and discovery is still in the air today. Both Kalgoorlie and Boulder have beautiful examples of Goldrush architecture to explore.

Walking down the main street in Kalgoorlie is, for many, like going back in time. You will find great examples of architecture from bygone eras, including such gems as the City Markets (1901), Government Buildings (1899), the York, Palace, and Exchange Hotels and The Kalgoorlie Miner building (1900).

Located within the walls of the historic Kalgoorlie Town Hall (1908) is the original tribute statue to Patrick Hannan, with a replica statue positioned outside the building welcoming visi-

tors old and new.

At the top end of Hannan Street, underneath an original poppet head, more treasures can be found at the WA Museum of Kalgoorlie Boulder. The displays of historical memorabilia regale amazing tales from the early pioneers of the City. The history of mining in Kalgoorlie Boulder is a fascinating journey - a celebration of innovation, ingenuity and sheer hard work.

Kalgoorlie and Boulder owe much of their success to the engineering skills and vision of CY O'Connor. O'Connor was responsible for the design and construction of a pipeline which was to supply much needed water to the re-

gion. The pipeline was opened in 1903, delivering fresh clean water from Mundaring Weir to the Mount Charlotte Reservoir in Kalgoorlie. The original pipeline is still in use and remains the lifeline that supplies water to the region today. With a guaranteed supply of fresh water and ever increasing finds of gold, the population of Kalgoorlie Boulder swelled as men came by the thousands to find their fortune on the Gold-

fields. With the influx of single men, so too came the demand for goods and services. Like Kalgoorlie, the main street of Boulder, Burt Street, boasts many architectural beauties. The most notable

of these include the Palace Theatre (1930) and its art deco design, the Court Hotel (1900), the Loopline Railway Museum and the Boulder Town Hall (1908). The Boulder Town Hall houses the remarkable stage curtain painted by Philip Goatcher, the famous theatrical scene painter, it is the only one of its kind left in the world. Burt Street underwent extensive restoration work during 2014-2015 to return many of the shop fronts back to their original facades of the early 1900s.

In the main street of Boulder stands the Miners Monument, a proud statue erected in tribute to the miners of the Goldfields - past, present

and future. In Kalgoorlie on the first Sunday of every month, market day is held in Saint Barbara's Square located on Hannan Street in the central business district. There is a wide range of stalls and family activities, with all stall holder proceeds going to the Lion's Club to assist those in need.

On the third Sunday of every month, Boulder Market Day takes place in historical Burt Street. From 9am until 1pm, shops open their doors for business and the streets overflow with a diverse range of multicultural food stalls, art, craft and gift stalls, buskers, entertainers and displays.

continued on page 35

Old world charm with modern refurbishing



Lake Grace Hotel welcomes you with local accommodation. Rooms are motel units with individual bathroom, TV, fridge, toaster, kettle, tea/coffee. Meals, bar with bottle shop, and parking.

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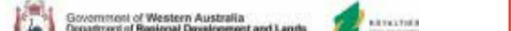


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- **Bromus Dam** - free camping area with bushwalks, lots to explore or a great place to have a BBQ or picnic.
- **Mt Jimberlana** - 5km east of town, offering spectacular views from the top with a picnic area at the base.
- **Phoenix Park** - educational, historical and is close to the town centre

Norseman Community Resource Centre
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Enjoy a stay at Discovery Parks Kalgoorlie in autumn

HAVE you ever wanted to discover goldfields with its ghost towns, history and high adventure in the heart of Western Australia's wild west?

Discovery Parks – Kalgoorlie, the number one family accommodation provider in the area is calling on kids of all ages to start planning their next school holiday adventure, as Goldfields Kidsfest 2017 rolls into town.

Mark the calendars for 22-23 April as Goldfields Kidsfest kicks

off its two-day, free family event with activities, workshops and entertainment set in a desert oasis. There is no better time for families to visit this hidden gem.

Whisper in mum, dads or the grandparents' ear, pack the pickaxe, maps and a bit of good luck and come and encounter the best of Western Australia's gold country, exploring the rich history and a taste of true Aussie outback adventure.

It's not just the kids who can

take advantage on what's on offer, Kalgoorlie oozes that gold rush romance from its charming colonial architecture to historic pubs. It is also a great place to encounter an authentic Aboriginal way of life.

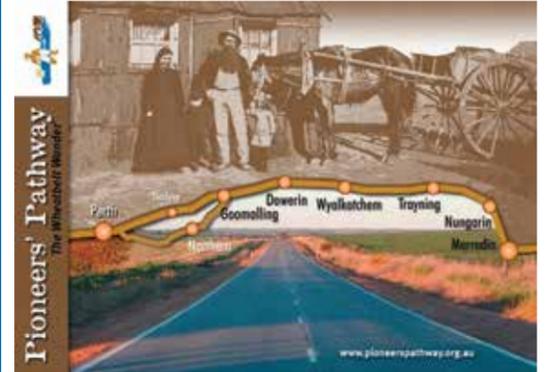
Discovery Parks – Kalgoorlie has a diverse range of accommodation types including deluxe cabins and ensuites and for campers there are large powered and unpowered sites. You will have no trouble finding the

right accommodation type that suits the size of your family. The park itself has barbecues, playground and swimming pool so you can entertain the little ones without stepping out the park.

If you are thinking about an adventurous and fun getaway, head to Kalgoorlie and stay at Discovery Parks for some fun family time.

For more information on Discovery Parks, please visit: www.discoveryholidayparks.com.au/.

Take a self drive through the Pioneers Pathway



THE PIONEERS Pathway Self Drive follows in the footsteps of the early farming and gold mining pioneers who journeyed east into the WA wheatbelt to find their fortunes living on the land. It's a three day journey which covers more than 500km. It's a great opportunity to follow the path of the pioneers when heading east to discover the goldfields.

Day 1: Perth – Dowerin - 160 kilometres/two hours

Leave the hustle and bustle of the city behind and follow Pioneers Pathway Self Drive through the hills to the pretty farming town of Toodyay. Valley views and a patchwork of farmland make this a scenic stop for lunch at a local pub or riverside picnic spot. Continue north east to Goomalling, crossing the Avon River tributary at Mortlock River - a well known wildflower stop during spring. The Tin Dog sculpture welcomes you to Dowerin. Take the walk trail to see local wildlife.

Day 2: Dowerin – Merredin - 155 kilometres/two hours

The drive from Dowerin winds through farmland, bush reserves and spring time wildflowers. Enjoy a pub lunch at Wyalkatchem and a visit to the local museum before heading through Nungarin and Trayning to Merredin in the heart of the wheatbelt. See the biggest grain storage facility in the country and learn more about the daily life of this friendly farming community.

Day 3: Merredin – Perth - 260 kilometres/three hours

Return to Perth along the Great Eastern Highway, or perhaps take a detour south via Hyden and Wave Rock, one of Australia's best known natural icons.

To ensure people enjoy a safe and well-planned journey, take a look at travel times and distances, road safety and important travel tips. If people have their camping gear or caravan in tow, check out the range of caravan parks and camping sites available in Australia's Golden Outback.

For more information visit www.australiasgoldenoutback.com

continued from page 34

Kalgoorlie Boulder is a great base to discover the goldfields...



Walking down Hannan Street, there are a wide variety of retail outlets - both boutique stores and major household names alike. There are lots of independent stores where people can browse local products and handmade items, as well as international fashion and accessories.

There are many supermarkets in the City, with Coles, K-Mart, Woolworths, Target and IGA all within walking distance of the CBD. Boulder too will surprise you with an eclectic mix of different stores. If you prefer shopping in a mall environment, Hannans Boulevard is situated to the north of the City, where you will find specialty shops, a post office, chemist and supermarket.

If you're a lover of nature and the great outdoors, you'll delight in the natural woodlands, trails and leisure parks in and around the City. Kalgoorlie Boulder is situated on the edge of the largest temperate woodlands on earth. Spanning 16 million hectares, it is home to almost 20 per cent of the country's known plant species. The Great Western Woodlands, also known as the Goldfields Woodlands, have been kept largely intact because of their remoteness and unsuitability for agriculture. A showcase of the woodlands can be seen at Karlkurla Park (pronounced 'gull-gurl-la'), 200 hectares of bush land on the north-

ern outskirts of the City. Enjoy one of the many walking trails which meander through the park and marvel at the Gimmets, Salmon Gums and Wildflowers. A viewing platform is located in the heart of the park, offering superb 360 degree views of surrounding bush lands - a majestic sight, particularly at sunrise or sunset.

The City has many leisure parks in both Kalgoorlie and Boulder. A favourite with families is Hammond Park, located in the northern suburbs of the City.

The park is home to a range of native animals and features a miniature Bavarian castle made from local rocks and gems. It is surrounded by expansive open grassed areas, children's play equipment and has free barbecue facilities. The Arboretum is the perfect place for a stroll with its wide variety of indigenous flora, interpretive walk trails, a small dam and recreational facilities.

The goldfields is also

a hot spot for wildflower enthusiasts, with a wide variety on display during wildflower season. The wildflower season runs from July to October (the middle of winter through to the middle of spring). Good winter rains see the forests and shrubs burst into colour in the spring time - where you can witness a striking array of native flowers.

Kalgoorlie Boulder is often used as a base for people exploring the Goldfields region.

There are some fantastic driving trails that can help you make the most of your time here. For the more adventurous explorers, the Golden Quest Discovery Trail is a 965km self-drive adventure trail through the goldfields region. This trail takes you to many interesting spots, including Lake Ballard, the living ghost towns of Kookynie and Gwalia and panoramic views at The Terraces north east of Leonora.

Linking in with the Golden Quest Discovery Trail, The Green Trail

highlights sites in the Coolgardie bioregion with outstanding environmental, historical and cultural values. At each of these sites you will discover different landscapes, become aware of unique flora and fauna and learn about ancient Aboriginal culture and European practices of the area.

The National Trust of Australia has developed

a range of exciting programs from the award winning exhibitions at No 1 Pump Station, part of the "Golden Pipeline Trail" as well as a range of recreational trails to help residents and visitors discover more about the incredible goldfields water supply pipeline.

For more information visit www.kalgoorlietourism.com

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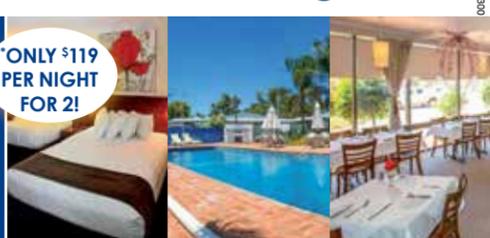
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There will be many diverse sellers displaying goods from bygone years from period pieces to the very popular retro.

There is also a Saturday and Sunday Market in the Peace Park opposite with lots of bric a brac in the local shops.

The event at the Town Hall is run by the York Friendship Club and costs Adults only \$5, kids are free and once again all proceeds go to the Fred Hollows Foundation.

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let's go travelling

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Celebrating the strong WA women from our history



Georgiana Molloy

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AS *Have a Go News* celebrates its 300th edition, the WA Women's Hall of Fame celebrates its sixth year of recognising remarkable women in our community. Women who have paved the way for others and who have already, and will continue to, mark their mark in our State's history.

The WA Women's Hall of Fame was launched in 2011 to celebrate the centenary of International Women's Day in Western Australia. Whilst the women acknowledged have left their mark, it was not easy for our fore-bearers.

Born in Adelaide in 1874, Bessie Rischbieth married in 1898 and moved to Western Australia with her husband Henry, a wealthy wool merchant, who successfully traded as Henry Wills & Co. In 1908 they travelled to London and Bessie attended a suffrage meeting which changed the course of her life. Having already founded the Children's Protection Society in 1906,

on her return Bessie went on to become possibly WA's most influential leader in the women's movement.

Bessie was the inaugural vice-president and later president of the Women's Service Guilds of WA. The Guild lobbied for equal rights for women and men including; equal pay, women doctors in public service, female lawyers and equal guardianship of children. Through the guilds' lobbying, King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women was established in 1916.

Bessie was appointed in an honorary capacity to the Children's Court in 1915 and in 1925, became the inaugural secretary to the WA Women Justices' Association. Her tireless pursuit for equality did not end there. She was the first president of the Australian Federation of Women's Societies from 1921 to 1942 and co-founder of the British Commonwealth League of Women. Bessie was rightfully awarded an OBE in 1935. In 1955, she was made a life member of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

Georgiana Molloy was born in 1805 in England and went on to become a pioneering botanist. She was a resilient, independent woman of strong values, whose appreciation and wonder of the landscape around her become her salvation, and her legacy. Leaving England in 1829 for the new colony, Georgiana and her husband Captain John Molloy decided to settle in Augusta when the Blackwood River on the Flinders Bay was opened.

It was tough life and for relief, Georgiana turned her attention to botanizing. Already a keen gardener, she turned her attention to studying

the indigenous flora. She gathered and pressed samples in hortus siccus (an arranged collection of dried plants) and then in 1836 Lady Stirling's cousin, Captain James Mangles, R.N. of England, invited her to collect and send him seeds of the native plants of the region. Georgiana embraced the challenge and not only sent the samples, but accompanied them with written descriptions of the pressed flowers. Her work resulted in seeds being given to different botanical gardens in England. Unfortunately our first female botanist died in 1843, but her work will be remembered.

The women in our State's history have not only helped change the course of our society, they have left their mark in business, agriculture, health and in parliament.

The WA Women's Hall of Fame provides a list of extraordinary women from our past and present, and gives us a glint of what the heritage others have left behind, and how they have impacted on our heritage and will continue to do so in our future.

For more information about the WA Women's Hall of Fame and the inductees, visit www.wawomenshalloffame.com.au. For more information about Heritage Perth visit www.heritageperth.com. You can also follow Heritage Perth on Facebook www.facebook.com/HeritagePerth and twitter.com/heritageperth



Meandering through the backwaters of Kerala



Top; One of the Houseboats
Above; Mary Helen and Frank Smith on board

by Frank Smith

THERE are few more relaxing ways to see India than wandering through the backwaters of Kerala, southern India, in a kettuvallam, a traditional rice barge converted into a houseboat.

Some 700 of these ply between Kollam and Alappuzha. They come in all sizes from small houseboats carrying one couple to massive boats with bunks for eight or more adults.

Each houseboat comes with a crew of three, a cook, steersman and deckhand and can be hired by the day or for the 200km two-night, three day north to south or vice versa cruise.

Our boat had comfortable state-rooms with queen sized bed and ensuite, not dissimilar to an Indian three star hotel. Meals were largely vegetarian with fish, fruit and eggs much in evidence. Try as hard as I can to eat like the locals I still can't handle curry for breakfast.

The houseboats moor at night and stop for interesting shore excursions and to meet the locals, but for me the bird life was the highlight. Brown and white sea eagles – ospreys – hovering overhead and diving to catch unwary fish with their talons.

We travelled during the Kerala festival of Onam. Villages we passed were in festive mode with lights, decorations and images created from flower petals or coloured salt crystals. During festi-

vals each village made a lot of noise, but thankfully ceased around midnight. You can always tell when Indians are happy by the volume of music played.

Along the way we met teams practising for coming boat races including the prestigious Nehru Cup at Punnamada – Alappuzha District. Up to 20 rowers enthusiastically ply their paddles in a long boat not dissimilar to the Dragon boat races of China.

We passed many traditional fishing nets. These are lowered into the water and then hauled up using brute strength aided by counter-balanced weights, hopefully with fish trapped in the net.

Another side trip took us to a Syrian-Catholic church of Saint Mary's Forane at Champakulam. Christianity in Kerala was founded by St Thomas (doubting Thomas) around 52 AD. The first church on the site was built on land given by the local Hindu King Devanarayanan in 427AD. The present church was built on the same site in the seventeenth century.

Nowadays the population of Kerala is roughly equally divided between Christians, Moslems and Hindu and unlike many parts of India relations between the religions are cordial, with each faith participating in festivals held by the others.

The backwaters are important as a tourist attraction but are under threat due to pollution and industrial and agricultural development. There are 29 major lakes of which seven drain into the sea. Reclamation for rice paddies has reduced the area from 440 square kilometres to around 350 over the last 50 years. In the 19th century they were some three times their present size.

Ecological damage includes pollution, extinction of mangroves, crocodiles and oyster beds but the most obvious problem is the proliferation of water hyacinth that blocks channels of slow moving water and can make navigation difficult.

That said a backwaters cruise remains one of the highlights of an Indian holiday and perhaps the only bit that is truly relaxing.



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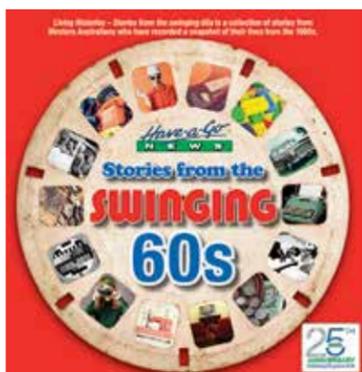
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The Top End is a place of magnificent natural beauty and ancient landscapes. One of Australia's true frontiers, its ancient red landscape is crossed by rivers and gorges, monsoonal rainforest and floodplains. Begin your adventure in the holiday mecca of Broome, marvel at the expanse of Lake Argyle, cruise the cool deep waters of Geikie and Katherine Gorges, bathe in the hot springs at Katherine Hot Springs and travel into the heart of Kakadu National Park. Your Kimberley, Katherine and Kakadu tour culminates in the thriving multicultural city of Darwin.

Highlights | Broome Pearl Luggers Museum | Lake Argyle and the Ord River | Fitzroy Crossing and Geikie Gorge Katherine Gorge Cruise | Katherine Outback Experience | Katherine Hot Springs | Kakadu National Park Aboriginal Rock Art and Paintings | Jumping Crocodile Cruise | Darwin Harbour Cruise

Kimberley, Katherine and Kakadu Road Trip Broome to Darwin

12 Days | Sunday 18 to Thursday 29 June 2017 | Price \$5825 pptw | Single Option \$1335

Travel the Gibb River Road

Fly over Lake Argyle and Explore the Bungle Bugles



Your adventure begins with two days discovering the history and culture of Darwin. Leaving the Top End capital, immerse yourself in the Territory's wilderness in Litchfield National Park and Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge. The Kimberley region is renowned as one of the planet's last great wilderness areas. Travel along the Gibb River Road and into El Questro Wilderness Park. Experience a breathtaking scenic flight over Lake Argyle and the world famous Bungle Bungle Ranges, and explore the Purnululu National Park gorges by foot, for close up viewing of the amazing "beehive" domes. Cruise along Geikie Gorge, before spending three nights in Broome, Australia's Pearl Capital!

Highlights | Darwin Sunset Dinner Cruise | Mindil Beach Markets | Litchfield National Park Nitmiluk (Katherine) Three Gorge Cruise | Kununurra, Lake Argyle and Ord River Dam | Geikie Gorge Cruise Bungle Bungle Scenic Flight and Walks | Broome Sightseeing | El Questro Chamberlain Gorge Cruise

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2 Nights Bridgetown

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Wheatbelt and Albert Facey Country

4 Days | 12 to 15 May 2017 | From \$1280 pp twin share
3 Nights Narrogin

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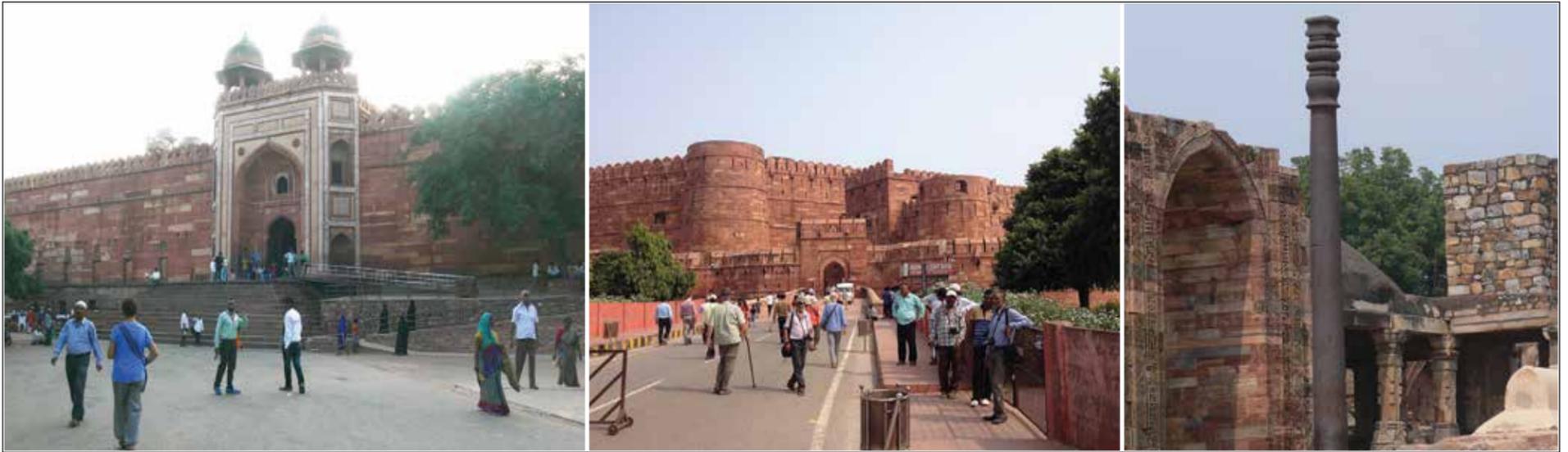
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The golden triangle - Mughal monuments of India in a nutshell



Left to right; Fatehpur Sikri - Agra fort - Seven-metre iron pillar in the courtyard of Qutab Minar

by Frank Smith

SEEING the Taj Mahal, India's premier tourist venue must be on nearly everybody's bucket list. Seen in the early morning light of Agra, India this white marble mausoleum is truly stunning, and its appearance varies during the day as the angle of the sun changes.

Mughal emperor Shah Jahan built the Taj in memory of his second wife Mumtaz Mahal who died giving birth to her 13th child in 1631. Building took 22 years and involved more than 20,000 workers.

Long before it was completed Shah Jahan was deposed by his son Aurangzeb

and confined to the massive red sandstone Agra fort from where he could look out and see the Taj Mahal every day. After his death he too was buried in the Taj.

An easy three-day trip from Delhi by bus or car can cover all major surviving Mughal buildings in northern India, known as the Golden Triangle. All are world heritage sites listed by UNESCO and all are well curated by the Indian Archaeological survey and kept uncharacteristically clean and free from beggars and touts.

Start at Delhi with its modern planned capital of New Delhi visiting the red fort, the tomb of Humayun, the second

Moghal emperor and Qutab Minar.

Humayun's tomb, built in 1570, is of particular cultural significance as it was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent. It inspired several major architectural innovations, culminating in the construction of the Taj Mahal. It was built by Humayun's son, Akbar. Persian and Indian craftsmen worked together to build the garden-tomb, far grander than any tomb built before in the Islamic world.

The Qutab Minar is a soaring, 73m-high tower of victory, built in 1193 by Qutab-ud-din Aibak immediately after the defeat of Delhi's last Hindu

kingdom. At the foot of the tower is the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque, the oldest mosque in India. A seven-metre high iron pillar stands in the courtyard of the mosque. The thousand-year-old pillar is made of high phosphorus rust-resistant wrought iron, a technique only developed in Europe during the 19th century.

The next city on our itinerary is Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan. Jaipur is noted for its elegant wind palace, the Hawa Mahal designed to allow harem women to observe life in the city without being seen. Five stories high but only one room in width it takes advantage of every cooling breeze.

The Amer fort built by a Rajput prince dominates a hill just outside Jaipur. The massive yellow sandstone fort and contained palace were built in the 1600s and embellished over the years. At the entrance to the palace there is a Hindu temple dedicated to Sila Devi. Visitors must remove their shoes and anything made of leather. I was relieved to find my belt was plastic.

Next on the itinerary is the abandoned city of Fatehpur Sikri. The city contains palaces built by the greatest of the Mogul emperors Akbar. Each of his principal wives, one Christian, one Hindu and one Muslim had a separate palace

within the overall palace.

Some 50km later we arrive in Agra best known for the Taj Mahal but also containing the Agra fort, a walled city originally built as a military base with two and a half kilometres of massive 20m high walls encircled by a moat. During Shah Jahan's reign it gradually developed into a palace and became the imperial residence of the Mughal dynasty.

Returning to Delhi completes the golden triangle after a visit to most of the major architectural wonders of India in the space of three to four days. Lonely Planet refers to the trip as India 101. It's a much less arduous trip than most in India.

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Delhi, a quiet street

by Frank Smith

ONE driver told me that to drive in India you need good reactions, good brakes and good luck. The latter applies particularly to passengers.

In addition to conventional taxis, Indians travel by scooters and three-wheelers motor bike taxis, also known

as tuk-tuks or auto-rickshaws.

On my first day in Trivandrum, Kerala's capital, I took a ride in a tuk-tuk. Appropriately it was on World Suicide Prevention day.

Tuk-tuks are noisy, with a single cylinder diesel engine, ubiquitous, cheap and convenient, but safety is not their first priority.

Travelling to India is an eye-opener...

Calcutta (Kolkata) has 12,000 of them and according to the Calcutta Telegraph only half are legal. One reason for this is that legally registered tuk-tuks must take an annual fitness test, which many would probably fail.

Without tuk-tuks the city would come to a halt so police regularly turn a blind eye to unregistered vehicles.

Drivers charge around 20 rupees (40c) for a one kilometre ride although foreigners usually pay more. Meters sometimes work in some cities but generally fares are a matter for negotiation.

In spite of spending their life driving around the city many drivers could not find their way out of a paper bag. On my first ride the driver took me to the wrong museum, on return the driver could not find my tourist hotel and took me for a long run round the city before stopping to ask the way.

But the real excitement is the ride. The only road rule consistently

obeyed is to honk when wanting to pass a cow, vehicle, pedestrian or anything mobile. Otherwise three tuk-tuks abreast fill a two lane carriage-way. They happily drive the wrong way down a divided road and think nothing of passing other vehicles on either side or jumping the queue while waiting for traffic lights to change colour.

In theory tuk-tuks have room for a driver and two passengers. A third can usually be squeezed in the back seat and often a fourth added by a passenger precariously sharing the driver's seat.

While drivers usually try to avoid road humps and potholes it is well nigh impossible for a three wheeler to avoid potholes, so progress down ill-maintained roads is hazardous.

Tuk-tuks are used to carry an assortment of goods as well as people. Often piles of boxes are tied on the roof creating an unstable appearance.

Scooters are even more dangerous than tuk-tuks. You will often find a father in the driving position with a small boy astride the petrol tank in front of him. His wife is sitting side saddle behind him with a baby on her knee. Other sights we observed included one scooter with the pillion passenger carrying a sheet of plate glass about one metre wide in his two hands. The driver was meanwhile carrying on a conversation on his mobile.

Another scooter had driver and pillion passenger sitting astride with a goat on his knee across the scooter. Cows, donkeys, goats and water buffalo share the road in many cities with cows showing little fear as they wander across roads in search of grazing or edible rubbish.

Being fatalistic is the only way to travel in India. At least if you are unfortunate you can hope for reincarnation as a higher status person or perhaps a sacred cow.

Kings tour manager honoured for 16 years of service



Kings Tours and Travel owner Jenny Franceschi presents Dorothy Buktenica with some memorabilia of her tour leading at her retirement lunch in February

ONE of the most enjoyable aspects for guests on any escorted tour is the wealth of experience that comes from the tour manager.

Kings Tours and Travel's Dorothy Buktenica has had a 16-year career as a tour leader.

Dorothy was meant for a career in travel, her family owned a travel agency and she started her career as a flight attendant. After flying she joined 6PPR and then went on to Channel 7 Perth where she and former owner of Kings Bob Page worked together.

After Bob started Kings he asked Dorothy to come and train as a tour manager and during that 16 years she has led tours all across the world.

Her very first tour was with the Kings' only tour manager at the time, Rae Pearce. Dorothy's name was on the passenger list as trainee.

At 55 years old she began her new career in tour leading.

She has looked after hundreds of clients during her time and has been a much loved tour leader and her wealth of experience has helped people enjoy the best aspects of touring.

Dorothy said that while the overseas trips were always amazing, she remembers fondly many of the Australian tours.

"Visiting Mt Augustus in the early days of Kings was a real experience, the accommodation was basic, the guides were authentic and the clients had a real experience of outback Australia," she said.

When Dorothy started there were only two tour managers and as Kings has grown there are now eight tour leaders in the company.

Kings owner Jenny Franceschi says that Dorothy has been a wonderful tour leader for the company.

"Dorothy has been part of the Kings family for so long, she has watched the company grow, been a great friend to me and my family and I am so happy that she has been part of our team," said Jenny.

Dorothy Buktenica was honoured at a special retirement lunch last month.

She has hung up her tour leading cap now but will remain part of the Kings family and will help at presentations and document hand outs.

She looks forward to spending more time with her family and helping the Little Sisters charity. Kings' guests may even find her joining a tour as a passenger.

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