

travelling

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APRIL 2017

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*Have a Go News' travel liftout
...for the mature traveller*



Bob and Carol Simpkins love to go off the beaten track when they travel. This month they share with readers their four-month adventure throughout South America. See page 25 for the full story.

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let's go travelling

ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian



AS THE weather cools in Perth many of our grey nomads are preparing to head to warmer climes and it's timely that we have some good information for travellers to the north west.

For those who love their pets and don't want to travel without them, we have a great feature highlighting pet friendly accommodations.

Glamping is becoming popular in WA and *Have a Go News'* admin lady Lisa McMahon recently spent a weekend glamping in Margaret River.

She said it was perfect for those who wanted to have a go at camping but not buy all the equipment or have to set it up.

She and a group of six friends went on a hens weekend staying at Wharnclyffe Mill Eco Retreat on Carters Road.

Lisa said that when they arrived their canvas bell tent was completely set up with beds made, heaters, lights, little touches like sheepskins and extra blankets, outdoor chairs and tables

and they paid a little extra for a kitchen and pantry supplies box.

She said it was a great experience with everything really well styled in the tent, very comfortable beds and the location which was a couple of kilometres out of Margaret River was pretty and peaceful.

It cost her about \$60 per night and she said for someone who hasn't camped before it was a very comfortable and enjoyable experience.

The girls booked through Wild Goose Camping which set up the glamping experience at any destination.

Some trivia came across my desk the other day from my journalist extraordinaire Frank Smith...

He said he pities the poor Germans as they could be forgiven for having a confused identity. They call themselves Deutsche, we call them Germans with its hint of lack of hygiene, the Spanish Alemá, the Danes Tysk, the French say Les Allemands when being polite, the

Italians i Tedesci and the Poles Niemiecki which can be loosely translated as 'without brains'.

Maybe Donald Trump had read this when he decided not to shake Angela Merkel's hand on her recent visit to the US.

Many parts of the state are much greener and there are many more active rivers and waterfalls due to the substantial rains over summer. 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 face-booker than like *Have a Go News* at www.facebook.com/Haveagonews.

Happy trails

Jennifer Merigan
Travel Editor



Discovering Gibb River, the Bungles and the Kimberley

IMAGINE travelling on the iconic Gibb River Road, or walking through the towering Bungle Bungle Range, or even marvelling at the ancient boabs that dot the Kimberley.

For people who want to do this, Aussie Redback Tours have three amazing tours to the Kimberley this year to experience the beauty and grandeur of the area, with its mind-blowing scenery and its powerful presence.

Their 14 day Gibb River - Bungle Bungles tour, which leaves on the 10 June takes guests to places they've only dreamt about, such as Bells Gorge (pictured), Galvins Gorge, the unbelievable Cockburn Ranges, El Questro, Cambridge Gulf, Cathedral Gorge (in the Bungle Bungles), and Hidden Valley, just to name a few. They make sure guests enjoy each spot and have time to immerse themselves in one of the world's most pristine untouched landscapes in the world.

Their nine-day Kimberley Dreaming tour, departing on the 23 July takes guests to Kununurra, Tunnel Creek, Lake Argyle, Keep National Park, El Questro, Windjana Gorge, China Wall, Geikie Gorge and more. This tour would suit those wanting just a taste of the Kimberley but be warned, it will leave people wanting more.

Their 11-day Kimberley Landscapes Art Tour departs on the 27 May and has been tailored for artists and photographers to spend extra time in different locations to really capture the spirit of the Kimberley on paper and canvas. Well-known Australian artist, Greg Allen, will be the tutor for this tour.

This year the Kimberley experienced an above-average wet season which means visitors should be treated to some of the most colourful scenery the area has ever seen. For those who have wanted to travel to the Kimberley, now is the time. All of the tours include the opportunity to fly by helicopter or fixed wing over these popular attractions. All tours include motel and cabin accommodation, flights, most attractions and most meals.

Contact Aussie Redback Tours on 1300 662 026 or aussieredbacktours@yahoo.com.au for a detailed itinerary or for more information.



Top; Glamping in Margaret River
Left; Jennifer Merigan

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- Gibb River - Bungle Bungles 10-23 June, 14 days, Seniors \$490pp Adults \$4950pp S/Supp \$980
- Alice to the Top End 9-20 July, 12 days, Seniors \$4320, Adults \$4279 S/Supp \$770
- Kimberley Dreaming 23 - 31 July, 9 days, Seniors \$3600pp Adults \$3650pp S/Supp \$560
- Mt Augustus - Karjini - At Wildflower Time 14 - 23 August, 10 days, Seniors \$2825pp Adults \$2875pp S/Supp \$650
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(cabin upgrades available additional cost)

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GOLD \$5920 per person twin share
PLATINUM \$7730 per person twin share

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian

Much travelled Pinjarra couple enjoy big adventure to South America



Clockwise from top left; Magellanic Penguins - Tribute to the fallen Argentinians in the Malvine or Falklands war - pretty ice cream shop - Perito Moreno Glacier with tourist boat - San Martin's lake, town at far right

by Josephine Allison

INTREPID travellers Bob and Carol Simpkins of Pinjarra like to go off the beaten track when it comes to seeing other parts of the world. Not for them tourist buses and first class hotels; they like to sample the local culture firsthand and are not adverse to roughing it.

The couple returned home last December after a memorable four-month trip to South America where they climbed lots of mountains, saw wondrous waterfalls and wildlife and took a 40-day Drago-man Overland truck tour. Bob even survived being locked up in a chocolate factory in Ecuador.

To prepare for the trip the fit 65-year-olds, who have two adult children, undertook two years of training – three days a week at their local gym and 10km to 16km walks around Pinjarra, the Mandurah beach front, walking trails and parts of the Bibbulmun Track.

The Simpkins want other people to know that people of their age group can do such travel, as long as they are fit and ready for anything. As backpackers in their youth, they were prepared for any problem

and adapted well to difficult terrains and cultures.

They first went to Santiago, taking a cable car to the top of the hill, Cerro San Cristobal, for a view over the city and the snow-capped mountains. They then headed to Valparaiso, Chile's political capital famous for its street art and where Augusto Pinochet launched his coup d'état in 1973 and later visited Arica at the extreme top of Chile on the edge of the Atacama Desert.

Bob said: "We decided to visit South America several years previously when we met a man the same age as us from Mandurah in Rwanda while looking at the gorillas and he inspired us. We set ourselves some goals to be physically fit to do the Machu Picchu four-day trail which is a real slog at high altitude. We joined an overland truck in Bolivia for 40 days and went down up to the border with Peru to Lake Titicaca.

"From there we crossed into Peru and headed to Cusco where a political protest meant people were blocking roads and we had to make long detours. We did a four-day hike over passes, the worst is Deadwoman's Pass

at 4200 metres; the second pass is around 4000 metres. It's pretty tough going.

"The truck had 13 people on board and we were the only two doing the classic Inca trail, along with four other people from Britain and Brazil who joined us on it. The British man was a pole dancer and ultra marathon runner and extremely fit, the Brazilian girl was in the army. Only 500 people are allowed on the trail on any one day, 200 hikers with the remainder porters and guides.

"The porters go on ahead and set up tents and a three-course lunch, then they run on again

to set up tents for the night. On our last day we were up at 3am to see Sun Gate where the sun shines through a certain archway and lights up the whole of Machu Picchu below."

The final section of the trek is known as the gringo killer which is straight up and aptly named, according to Bob.

"You go hand and foot up but we survived it. We were slower than some others but there is a lot of camaraderie on the trail."

The couple visited the Colca Canyon, a river canyon in southern Peru to view the condors, waking early to see the birds with three-metre wing spans soar out of the canyons. They also saw the World Heritage listed Nazca Lines ancient geoglyphs in the Nazca Desert which can only be fully appreciated from the air.

They stayed at a homestay at Raqchi where they had a special home-cooked meal by a local woman.

"There are 3000 different types of potatoes in Peru and we had three or four different ones with

each meal," Bob said.

Bob's brush with the chocolate factory happened in the small town of Salinas in Chile. The couple had a coffee and then headed down the valley but Bob's stomach started playing up so he headed back to the factory to use the toilet.

"When I came out it was siesta time and everyone had left not knowing I was locked inside. Carol realised my predicament when she heard the front door being rattled from the inside. I was finally set free by the manager about an hour later."

The couple visited Iguazu Falls (regarded as the best in the world) on the border of Brazil and Argentina. They flew to Buenos Aires for five days and then to Ushuaia – which has the most

southerly post office in the world – to join a 10-day Tucan overland trip to Patagonia travelling in a truck to see the Torres del Paine national park.

As Carol says: "its turquoise lakes, snow-capped mountains and glaciers are breathtaking. It can cost up to \$500 (US) per person a night in hotels so we enjoyed the delights of camping and the beautiful views."

Undeterred by previous reports of mishaps, the couple boarded a cargo ferry in Puerto Natales to see the Chilean fjords. The boat had basic cabins and cafeteria-style food but the couple said the trip was well worthwhile, with a naturalist on board giving daily talks.

"We crisscrossed through the stunning

Lake District between Argentina and Chile. Our trip was ending at Mendoza further north in Argentina," Carol said. "We had a few days to try the wines and beautiful steaks. Then we crossed back into Chile through the spectacular snowy peaks of the Andes, and returned to Santiago and our flight back home."

Are they resting up for now? Travel to South-East Asia is being planned and maybe a big trip next year.

Bob and Carol Simpkins will speak about their South American trip at the U3A (University of the Third Age) in Mandurah from 1.30pm-3.30pm on Thursday 1 June. Cost: members \$2, visitors \$3. Program available online at u3amandurah.org.au/program/

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian

It's all laughs with Melbourne's super cool comedy festival



by Jeanette Woolerton

MELBOURNE International Comedy Festival is in full swing this month, so be prepared for some

hearty belly laughs. From the 29 March to the 23 April, the Victorian capital city is arguably proud to be the laughing stock of the country.

The festival's opening night, which commenced on the 29 March at the Regent Theatre, showcased hilarious and exceptionally talented acts from around the globe.

Hosts included Peter Helliar, Eddie Perfect, Tim Minchin and Julia Morris with the wonderful

Kitty Flanagan taking to the stage to deliver The Opening Night Comedy Allstars Supershow as MC.

Events include tasty titbits from the all-original Aboriginal Comedy Allstars.

Through these gifted individuals, you will experience the oldest culture on earth delivering the freshest and funniest stand-up comedy in the country.

Featuring three of the brightest stars under the Southern Cross, namely Andy Saunders, Kevin Kropinyeri and Sean Choolburra, it doesn't get much better (or more Australian) than this.

But what's on the international menu?

From the USA, Arj Barker is back by popular demand, for ten days only, with his hilarious show - *Organic*.

Arj Barker is one of Australia's favourite American comedians. In recent years, he has spent more time in our country than he has spent in his own and appears to understand our culture better than we understand it ourselves. His stand-up is both insightful and on point as he tickles the funny bone

with his spoofs on new age and alternative practices.

"As always, I start with the finest free-range topics, nurture them until they're brimming with wholesome hilarity, and ready for the tellin'."

"Remember, my cruelty-free jokes are always tested on animals, and 100 per cent goat-approved by the time you hear them. That's quality you can trust," said Arj, then with tongue firmly in cheek, added, "may contain traces of nuts..."

There are also a number of special events which invite audience participation, such as *Deadly Funny* - cheeky and loud, black and proud.

This national comedy competition unearths the freshest, fiercest and funniest new Indigenous performers from around the country. In this, the National Grand Final and Showcase, comedy competitors perform alongside the deadliest professional comedians in a bid to see who will take out the generous \$2,000 prize.

Hosted by Sean Choolburra, Shiralee Hood, Kevin Kropinyeri, and Andy



The Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Saunders, and featuring a performance by 2016 winner Jalen Sutcliffe, this one-of-a-kind comedy program (and competition) is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people aged 18 and over.

No festival would be complete with the joyful rendition of Anh Do's bestselling book *The Happiest Refugee*.

Anh has made people laugh and cry, and his book was described by Russell Crowe as "the most surprising and inspiring read I have had in years."

Anh's stage show combines stand-up comedy with real life drama, photos and filmed pieces which, combined to retell

his incredible story.

Another highlight of the festival would have to be *Abnormal Dick Tricks: A Dirk Darrow Investigation*

Added to this spectacular line up is eight-time Fringe festival award-winning magician Tim Motley, creator of *2 Ruby Knockers*, *1 Jaded Dick*.

Motley is anything but motley. This performer is a mind-blowing mentalist who collides with danger in an all new thrilling film noir murder mystery. Tim's breath taking magic tricks will delight the senses and his comedy element will have you roaring with laughter.

Overall, this hilarious psychic detective puts on a killer show... be warned

however, you may die laughing.

Voted the Funniest Show at the London Fringe, as well as Best of Fest at the Edmonton Fringe and Patron's Pick at the Winnipeg Fringe, this is one show that is a must see.

The Melbourne Comedy Festival is internationally renowned for good reason.

Please ensure that you head down to Victoria for this fabulous, fashionable, funfest.

For further information, show times, venues and bookings, refer to the website at www.comedyfestival.com.au/2017

These April fools are super cool!

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COLUMNIST Mickel Smits wrote about Holden celebrating 160 years in Australia in December 2016. This prompted reader Frank Pratt to send into us an old photo he took in 1950 at Fitzroy Crossing.

"Was this the very first Holden to travel around Australia?"

Frank recalls he had travelled from Perth and was staying at the Fitzroy Crossing Inn as part of Doug Graham's team who were building a dining room. He was sleeping on the

front veranda of the Fitzroy Crossing Inn at the time and recalls the early morning wake up when the FX Holden roared into the yard.

"I got out my Brownie box camera and took this snap which also featured the Inn's pig in the paddock.

Frank subsequently found out that the two men in the Holden were Sydney Anderson of Perth car fame and Bert Kanzler who ran a picture theatre in Albany.

They had gone anti-clockwise around Aus-



tralia when they made a surprise stop at Fitzroy Crossing.

The pair where on the way back to Perth and had many a story of their trek around the country.

They had hit a kangaroo at 70mph. In the Kimberley near La

Grande Station they became bogged and had to walk 30 miles to obtain a donkey team to pull them out. Near Anna Pains rain kept them stranded for two days and they ran out of cigarettes so they smoked paper.

On the way to De Pledge's Mandora Station the track was badly rutted and the tyres could not grip the road.

The only way they could make the car move was to set the hand throttle and push. When the car started to get away from them they would clamber onto the back bumper. The ruts held the car on the track. When they arrived at Mandora the owners was amazed they had got so far.

The two men covered 10,600 miles and used 388 gallons of petrol, the trip took them over smooth highways at speeds of up to 80mph and much slower over tracks, deserts, mudflats and creeks with no mechanical trouble at all.

Frank would love readers' help to know whether anyone could confirm that this was the first Holden to travel around Australia. If anyone has any information about the car please contact the editor via email jen@haveagonews.com.au or call the office on 9227 8283.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



Villa has Christmas and event holidays covered throughout this year



three-day paddle steamer Murray Princess Discovery Cruise as well as other delights including time at the Monarto Open Range Zoo, free time in beautiful Hahndorf and a tour of the Heritage Farm and Railway. This six-day getaway departs Wednesday 19 to Monday 24 July and prices start from just \$2915 per person twin share.

For those people who love arts and crafts, then villa has the perfect holiday. Their brand new six-day tour, Craft and Quilt Fair Adelaide features markets, galleries, historic collections and scenic touring. The highlight of this holiday is Australia's number one craft and quilt fair. There will be a huge range of stalls, displays and workshops to choose from all under the one roof. Add to this a great range of touring including Hahndorf, Carrick Hill, the famous Barossa Valley and the Yalumba Estate. This will be a crafters' delight, so get your friends together for a wonderful holiday experience. Departing Tuesday 19 to Sunday 24 September and with prices starting from just \$2920 per person twin share, this will be the ultimate arts and

crafts pilgrimage. Finally, Villa has a huge range of Christmas holidays on offer this year. Brand new this year is the Hahndorf Christmas Spirit tour. This holiday will feature the amazing Christkindmarkt and Lights of Lobethal. Other fun highlights include a walking tour of Hahndorf, Heritage Platform 1 Railway, Heysen - The Cedars Tour, Adelaide Hills wine, chocolate and cheese, Murray River lunch cruise, Haighs at Christmas and the incredible Adelaide Christmas lights display. With four nights staying in beautiful Hahndorf, guests will enjoy this wonderful six-day break just before Christmas. Starting from just \$2895 per person twin share and departing Tuesday 12 to Sunday 17 December, this is the perfect, relaxing holiday with great opportunities to acquire some unique Chrissy presents for loved ones this year. To book on any of these fantastic Villa holidays, FreeCall 1800 066 272 or email holidays@villa.com.au now. And don't forget to check out Villa's huge range of holidays at www.villa.com.au.

WHO doesn't love a great Christmas in July holiday? Beginning in WA, Villa Carlotta Travel's Christmas in July in the south west features a fantastic range of highlights including the Yalungup Shearing Shed, wine and flowers at Anniebrook Emporium, rugged Cape Naturaliste scenery and the Blackwood Valley. The absolute highlight of this trip will be the journey to Dwellingup where the group will board the Dwellingup Restaurant Train and enjoy a five-course Christmas in July dinner in the 1919 vintage dining car as the train meanders through the night forest. Departing Tuesday 18 to Saturday 22 July and

priced from only \$1335 per person twin share, this will be a wonderful mid year getaway. For those who prefer to head to a slightly warmer climate, Villa's Kalbarri Christmas in July holiday is the perfect trip. This relaxing getaway features the Kalbarri National Park, Batavia Coast, a Kalbarri River Queen cruise on the Murchison River and Murchison House Station tour. The highlight will be a special Christmas in July dinner celebration at the resort. This five-day holiday will depart on Monday 17 to Friday 21 July and prices start from \$1355 per person twin share. Finally, Villa's amazing Christmas in July on the Murray will feature a

Worldwide river cruising - information sessions in Mandurah

MANDURAH Travel and Cruise will be holding information sessions in April to showcase river cruising options around the world. Destinations covered will include Europe, America, Burma, Asia, India, South America and Africa. There will be product presentations by representatives from river cruise companies including APT, Uniworld and G Adventures. Owner, Annette Porter, will also present on Crystal River Cruises, Croisi Europe, Murray River and Mississippi River Cruises. Brochures will be available and there will be special deals offered on the day for attendees. Sessions will be held in Mandurah on the 19 April from 11.30am to 1.30pm and 22 April from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. Solo travellers are welcome to join a special solo traveler meet-up with partners Travel with Me, held prior to both of the presentations. Contact Mandurah Travel and Cruise on 9581 5944 or info@mandurahtravelandcruise.com.au for further information or to book a place.




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ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian

The battle for supremacy on the transatlantic crossing part two



Chris Frame

THIS is the second in a three part feature by maritime historian Chris Frame and looks at the rise of heavier than air flight across the atlantic.

AS early as 1919, fixed wing aircraft had completed transatlantic crossings. The first direct transatlantic flight took place from 14 to 15 June 1919 when a British Vickers Vimy bomber travelled 3,600 km from St John's Newfoundland to Galway, Ireland.

The first non-stop westbound crossing in July that same year, travelling from RAF East Fortune to New York. This trip was undertaken by a British airship - R34; while in 1927 the first heavier than air flights between Europe and the American mainland took place.

This historic flight was followed 11 years later by an even more significant event; the first heavier than air transatlantic passenger service - a Boeing 314 operated by Pan American Airways.

Boeing's 314 utilised the large wing of the XB-15 bomber with a fuselage capable of carrying 74 passengers and a 3,500-mile range.

Nicknamed the Clippers, after the American ocean-crossing sailing ships, the aircraft offered highly luxurious air travel, with the seats being easily converted into bunks for overnight flights.

Aboard the Clippers, luxury hotels provided meals for the flights, which were prepared and served from on board galleys.

The passenger service was preceded by a transatlantic mail contract, providing a regular, reliable income from carrying mail. This system had been used by shipping lines throughout the early history of transatlantic crossings.

The following year, both Pan American Airways and Transcontinental Western Air (later Trans World Airways) commenced passenger services utilising Boeing 307 Stratoliners.

The design of the Stratoliner was based on Boeing's B-17 heavy bomber. Completed with a pressurised cabin, the aircraft could fly at an altitude of 6,096 metres.

This ushered in a new era of comfort, as the aircraft flew above prevailing weather conditions. The aircraft sported a 3.6 metre wide cabin; which allowed for comfortable overnight berths for passengers.

The Stratoliner was an instant hit with passengers. While they didn't eclipse the ocean liners in their popularity, they were a comfortable and luxurious way to cross the North Atlantic.

Pistons Rule the Sky

Following World War II, Boeing, Lockheed, Vickers and Douglas began to design larger and faster aircraft for the transatlantic service.

Each manufacturer based their designs on successful military aircraft, with Lockheed's Super Constellation being one of the most recognisable aircraft of its day. In fact, even today the four engine, tri-tailed airframe evokes a sense of glamour, adventure and excitement each time it undertakes a flight.

Lockheed had achieved success with their L-14 Super Electra in both military and passenger variants, with more than 350 airframes built. This success resulted in a commitment to build a large airliner capable of undertaking transcontinental flights within the USA and led to the development of the L-049 Constellation.

Its development was based around TWA's initial range and performance requirement. It was powered by the 2,000hp R-3350 18 cylinder Duplex Cyclone engines which allowed the aircraft to cruise at 482 km/h with a range of 4087 km.

The new aircraft made its first mark on international transportation in a military role. With the outbreak of World War II, it was developed into the C-69 series of fast transports for the USAAF.

After the war Connie, as the Constellation became fondly known, entered domestic service. A more powerful variant than originally intended, the L-649 and L-749 proved to be popular with airlines; with 22 and 119 built respectively. Orders came from airlines as diverse as Air France, KLM, Eastern

and Qantas, as well as South African Airways, Air India and of course, TWA.

More popular yet was the 1950s era Super Constellation. Stretched, with new engines, the aircraft could carry over 20 extra passengers. It went on to sell 259 civilian models.

Constellations were not the only piston driven aircraft making transatlantic crossings. Douglas' DC-4 had been operated as early as 1946 on Atlantic services by Aerolíneas Argentina, Aeropostal Venezuela, Ibera Airlines and Cubana. However the larger, pressurised Douglas DC-6 proved to be more popular on the transatlantic run, with airlines using it on services to South America, as well as direct North Atlantic services to America and Canada.

Pan American World Airways commenced transatlantic services in 1952, utilising a DC-6B. The aircraft was designed to carry 48,500kg and was equipped with engines rated at over 2,500 hp.

By 1956 Lockheed had responded with the introduction of the L-1649 Starliner.

1956 was the last year that more passengers travelled across the North Atlantic by ship than by air, signalling the end of an era.

Flying is a fad

As piston engined aircraft became more sophisticated, comfortable and safe, passengers started to fly on the transatlantic run.

The new airliner routes were expensive when compared to the shipping lines, and thus attracted mainly business travellers. Never the less, the speed and convenience of aircraft led

more people crossing the North Atlantic by air than by sea for the first time in 1957.

BOAC pioneered transatlantic jet services with the Comet 4 on 4 October 1958. But this flight was just the tip of the iceberg. With the introduction of Pan American World Airways' first Boeing 707 services in October 1958, the transatlantic journey took hours rather than days.

The 707's swept wing design and four powerful Pratt and Whitney engines made it an instant hit with airlines; and soon many carriers were flying 707s - including BOAC.

Passengers flocked to the new jets. With the Douglas DC8 and Vickers VC10 following the 707 into transatlantic service, more airlines started to operate jet services.

The shift to transatlantic flight caught many shipping lines off guard. One Cunard Line director was quoted as saying: "flying is a fad". But flying was no fad and in just a few years jet airliners had conquered the transatlantic route.

Some shipping lines attempted to adapt to the new market by partnering with airlines. One such example was BOAC-Cunard, a partnership between the British Overseas Airways Corporation and Cunard Line.

The airline flew VC10s and 707s on services to the United States and the tropics, but was ultimately unsuccessful. The corporate cultures of BOAC and Cunard were too different to successfully merge. In the end, BOAC was far more successful going it alone than trying to cooperate with a shipping company.

Japan a popular destination among rail travellers



mix of culture, ancient traditions, cutting-edge technology, infrastructure, quirks and cuisine among other interests," says Kocijan.

"With more affordable and frequent flight options made available complemented by lower rail travel costs, there is no doubt we'll continue to see the numbers grow in healthy double digits."

According to Kocijan,

more and more travellers are also appreciating and enjoying the bonuses and savings afforded by Japan Rail Passes. They include free seat reservations, outstanding on-board services and facilities, the free use of certain bus lines, ferries and airport trains, as well as free entry to popular attractions such as Tokyo Tower, Mt Fuji and Himeji Castle among

many others.

Rail Plus currently offers the lowest prices for Japan Rail Passes in Australia and New Zealand, with the seven-day consecutive pass starting at \$178 for children under 11 and \$355 for adults. Passes are valid for non-Japanese residents and must be obtained before travelling to Japan. Visit www.railplus.com.au for more information.

RAIL Plus has reported that Japan is one of the hottest destinations for rail travellers from Australia and New Zealand.

Already recording a 10 per cent year on year increase in sales this year, the rail provider says the busiest period for Japan rail travel is between December and April during the winter months and Sakura (Cherry Blossom) season.

Commercial director of Rail Plus, Ingrid Kocijan, says while Japan's rail network has a solid reputation of being one of the world's safest and most punctual, naturally becoming an essential experience to any visit to the country, increased accessibility to and around Japan also plays a large part in the steady growth in visitor numbers.

"Japan has always been a fascinating country for many Australian and New Zealand

travellers thanks to the country's spectacular

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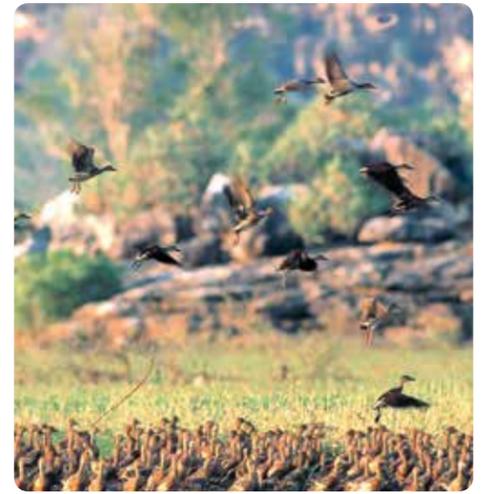
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Highlights | Broome Pearl Luggers Museum | Lake Argyle and the Ord River | Fitzroy Crossing and Geikie Gorge | Katherine Gorge Cruise | Katherine Outback Experience | Katherine Hot Springs | Kakadu National Park | Aboriginal Rock Art and Paintings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

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

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Highlights | Kuranda Rail and Skyrail Journey | National Heritage Listed Paronella Park | Cairns Harbour Cruise | Cairns Night Markets | Atherton Tablelands | Lake Barrine Cruise | Millaa Millaa Falls | Curtain Fig Tree | Port Douglas | Rainforest Habitat Wildlife Sanctuary

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Port Douglas, Cairns and The Daintree



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Highlights | Daintree Wilderness | Kuranda Railway and Gondola | Rainforest Evening Experience | Lake Barrine Cruise | Mamu Tropical Skywalk | Atherton Tablelands and Gallo Dairy | Port Douglas | Hartley's Crocodile Adventures | Working Sugar Cane and Cocoa Farm | Great Barrier Reef Outer Reef Cruise

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Sydney Observatory Step Back in Time Tour | Hyde Park Barracks | Taronga Zoo Gondola, Show and Lunch

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Aboard the Indian Pacific, relax as your epic journey from coast to coast commences. Travelling east to Kalgoorlie settle into your surrounds and enjoy the privileges of Gold Service. Overnight: The Indian Pacific Train.
- DAY 2 Cook and the Nullarbor Plain** BLD
Today you will arrive into Cook. There is time to disembark to stretch your legs and to explore the ghost town that has a population of four. Overnight: The Indian Pacific Train
- DAY 3 South Australia and Broken Hill** BLD
Travelling towards the Pacific Coast, your journey today will take you across South Australia and into New South Wales. You will wake this morning to the City of Churches. In the afternoon, discover Broken Hill. Overnight: The Indian Pacific Train.
- DAY 4 The Blue Mountains** BD
This morning from the carriage windows, watch as you travel through the Blue Mountains and descend into Sydney. On arrival into Sydney, your Coach Captain will greet you and take you on a tour of Sydney. Overnight: Novotel Sydney Darling Harbour, Sydney.
- DAY 5 Sydney Sightseeing** BD
Sydney shines today with some amazing museums and significant historic sites including the Museum of Sydney and Sydney Observatory. Lunch is at your leisure at the iconic destination of "The Rocks" followed by Hyde Park Barracks which will showcase one of the most significant convict sites in the world and in the afternoon visit the Royal Botanical Gardens. Overnight: Novotel Sydney Darling Harbour, Sydney.
- DAY 6 South Coast** BD
Less than an hour from Sydney is the entrance to the Royal National Park the world's second oldest and the beginning of the 140km Grand Pacific Drive. We have a delightful lunch planned before returning to the bright lights of Sydney. Overnight: Novotel Sydney Darling Harbour, Sydney.
- DAY 7 Taronga Zoo and Free Time** BLD
Today enjoy a wonderful outing to the famous Taronga Park Zoo. With its spectacular views of beautiful Sydney Harbour, it is the perfect place to see native wildlife and rare exotic animals. Enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure before coming together for one final dinner. Overnight: Novotel Sydney Darling Harbour, Sydney.
- DAY 8 Sydney to Perth** B
Your coast to coast journey comes to an end with transfers to the Sydney Airport for your return flight to Perth. On arrival, our courtesy small charter vehicles will be on hand to see you safely home. *Itinerary is subject to change. Terms and conditions apply. FreeCall 1800 066 272 for details*

Journey Darwin to Adelaide on the Legendary Ghan



Travel to the Northern Territory to explore the Top End's sights. You will share in the Territory's ancient landscapes, enjoy a sunset dinner cruise on Darwin Harbour, cruise the waters of the famous Adelaide River to see the abundant wildlife and tour Darwin. Then aboard a legend in Australian history, The Ghan rail journey, enjoy the exciting new four day journey from Darwin to Adelaide. Prepare for an experience of unimaginable proportions as the legendary Ghan takes you deep into the heart of Australia. And when the train stops along the way, the real adventures begin with amazing Off Train excursions that will leave you in awe and the promise of access to experiences that can only be shared on a Ghan journey.

Highlights | Darwin Sunset and Dinner Cruise

Litchfield National Park Touring | Corroboree Billabong Cruise

Darwin Sightseeing | The Legendary Ghan (Darwin to Adelaide)

Nitmiluk Gorge Katherine | Off Train Excursions Alice Springs

MacDonnell Ranges Outback Evening BBQ

Off Train Excursions Coober Pedy

The Ghan and Top End

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Solo Traveller Exclusive Departure

8 Days | Sunday 30 July to Sunday 6 August 2017



YOUR HOLIDAY ITINERARY (ex Perth, Western Australia)

- DAY 1 Perth to Darwin** D
The warmth of the tropical top end awaits you. On arrival in Darwin, an orientation tour will introduce you to your tropical surrounds. Overnight: Hilton Hotel, Darwin.
- DAY 2 Adelaide River and Darwin's Sights** BD
Leaving Darwin, we travel the Arnhem Highway to the Adelaide River floodplain where a spectacular cruise on the Corroboree Billabong awaits. After a visit to the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, enjoy a special welcome dinner is planned aboard the Charles Darwin. Relax as a sunset cruise travels the Harbour and a unique tropical dining experience is provided for you. Overnight: Hilton Hotel, Darwin.
- DAY 3 Litchfield National Park** BLD
Today explore the thundering falls, the walking tracks, rainforest pockets, intriguing magnetic termite mounds and the pandanus lined pools on a full day adventure into the stunning Litchfield National Park. The spectacular Florence Falls cascades into a plunge pool and the platform above offers panoramic views of the open valley. Reinvigorated by the cool waters of the Litchfield National Park meander back to Darwin. Overnight: Hilton Hotel, Darwin.
- DAY 4 The Legendary Ghan - Katherine** BLD
Departing Darwin, begin your great rail adventure aboard the legendary Ghan. For four days and three nights, you will discover the extraordinary landscapes of our outback at a relaxing pace in refined comfort and style with your all-inclusive Gold Service experience including Off Train Experiences and your Gold Service sleeper cabin serviced by your own steward. On arrival into Katherine, the Nitmiluk Gorge will delight you. Overnight: The Ghan.
- DAY 5 The Legendary Ghan - Alice** BLD
Each new day begins with a fresh new panorama. Awake to the essence of central Australia. Today you will arrive in the outback town of Alice Springs where there is time to explore the oasis of history, culture and beauty. Continue into the evening where your Off Train Experience in Alice Springs includes a dinner under the stars. Overnight: The Ghan.
- DAY 6 The Legendary Ghan - Coober Pedy** BLD
Enjoy a full day in Coober Pedy, the sun-scorched opal mining capital of the world where more than half of the residents live underground. Venture into the tunnels and caves of this underground town, mined for riches and visit the stunning outback moonscape that is the Breakaways. Overnight: The Ghan.
- DAY 7 The Legendary Ghan - Arrive Adelaide** BD
Today is your last morning aboard The Ghan and the culmination of a north to south traverse across the centre of Australia. The red desert gives way to the fertile hills and vineyards of the Clare Valley and the Mount Lofty Ranges. Arriving into Adelaide we bid farewell to The Ghan. Your coach captain will provide an orientation tour of Adelaide followed by free time in the city at your leisure. Overnight: Ibis Adelaide, Adelaide.
- DAY 8 Adelaide to Perth** B
Following breakfast, transfer to the Adelaide Airport for the return flight to Perth. On arrival a courtesy small charter vehicle will see you safely home. *Itinerary is subject to change. Terms and conditions apply. FreeCall 1800 066 272 for details*

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DEPARTS 24 October 2017 & 17 March 2018

>> ITINERARY

(B) Breakfast, (L) Lunch, (D) Dinner, (SD) Speciality Dinner.

DEPART PERTH

Today you will be transferred from your home to Perth Airport for your overnight flight to Auckland.

DAY 1: Arrive Auckland (Free Day) (B,D)

On arrival into Auckland you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel for immediate hotel check-in. Enjoy breakfast at the hotel followed by time at leisure.
Hotel Grand Millennium Hotel

DAY 2: Auckland - Bay of Islands (B,D)

Depart Auckland and travel to the Parry Kauri Park to see a magnificent example of a Kauri Tree. Enjoy a visit and informative talk at the Kauri Museum in Matakohē, then travel via Whangarei to Paihia, situated in the heart of the beautiful Bay of Islands. Enjoy a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the location of the signing of the treaty between the Maori tribes and the British.
Hotel Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands (2 nights)

DAY 3: Bay of Islands (Free Day) (B)

Today is a free day. Choose from the many optional activities available, including the Cape Reinga coach trip via Ninety Mile Beach or a spectacular scenic flight. This evening is also free and you may like to enjoy a relaxing dinner cruise (optional).

DAY 4: Bay of Islands - Auckland (B,D)

This morning travel aboard a luxury catamaran to Cape Brett and the famous Hole in the Rock. Keep an eye out for bottlenose and common dolphins before returning to Paihia. Travel south via Whangarei to Auckland's north shore, where you will see stunning views of Rangitoto Island, Auckland Harbour and the Hauraki Gulf.
Hotel Spencer on Byron

DAY 5: Auckland - Rotorua (B,D)

This morning enjoy a city sights tour of Auckland before travelling

to Glenbrook Vintage Railway for a nostalgic 15 kilometre trip back in time on a beautifully restored vintage steam train. Visit the restoration workshop and on return to Glenbrook Station, morning tea will be served. Depart Glenbrook and travel through magnificent countryside of rolling hills and green pastures famous for dairying. Continue to Rotorua to visit Paradise Valley Springs, a superb wildlife park where you can hand feed rainbow trout.
Hotel Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua (Superior Room, 2 nights)

DAY 6: Rotorua (B,SD)

Today begins with a gondola ride and breakfast at Skyline Rotorua. There is also time for a luge ride! Next stop is the Agrodome for an action packed hour of farming entertainment and education that's unlike anything you've seen before. Enjoy some free time this afternoon before travelling to Te Puia to see the boiling mud pools and awesome geysers that Rotorua is famous for. This evening experience an entertaining Maori Hangi and Concert.

DAY 7: Rotorua - Wellington (B,D)

Travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to the spectacular Huka Falls. Continue to Lake Taupo for some free time to enjoy this scenic lakeside town. Travel via the Tongariro National Park and then continue south to the capital city of Wellington.
Hotel James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor (2 nights)

DAY 8: Wellington (B)

A highlight this morning will be time to explore Gallipoli: A Scale of War exhibition at Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum. Cutting edge technology brings these stories to life through the eyes of New Zealanders who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances. Reboard your coach for an extensive city tour. Enjoy free time this afternoon and this evening is also free.

DAY 9: Wellington - Blenheim (B,D)

This morning board the Interislander Ferry, cross Cook Strait and travel through the Marlborough Sounds to Picton. Travel to Blenheim, the heart of wine-growing Marlborough. This afternoon a



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fascinating guided tour of the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre will transport you from WWI to WWII featuring an extensive collection of aircraft belonging to Sir Peter Jackson.

Hotel Scenic Hotel Marlborough or Chateau Marlborough

DAY 10: Blenheim - Christchurch (B,D)

Today's travel takes you through the alpine village of St Arnaud, the enchanting beech Maruia Forest and the scenic Lewis Pass. Continue south to the Garden City of Christchurch for an informative city tour.

Hotel Quality Hotel Elms

DAY 11: Christchurch - Arthur's Pass

- Franz Josef (B,D)

This morning board the TranzAlpine, one of the great train journeys of the world. Travel over massive viaducts, river valleys and spectacular gorges as you ascend to Arthur's Pass located in the centre of the Southern Alps. Board your coach and travel to Hokitika, famous for its Greenstone before arriving at Franz Josef where time is available to experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the spectacular glaciers.

Hotel Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier (Douglas Wing)

DAY 12: Franz Josef - Queenstown (B)

See the snow capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel south via the Haast Pass, an area of stunning beauty before arriving into picturesque Queenstown, a year round resort situated on the shores of magical Lake Wakatipu. This evening is free to dine at

one of the many fine restaurants.

Hotel Cophthorne Hotel and Resort Lakefront (2 nights)

DAY 13: Queenstown (Free Day) (B,SD)

Today is a free day for you to explore Queenstown. Your Tour Guide and Coach Captain are available to assist with the many options available. This evening board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. Sit back, relax and enjoy a gourmet barbecue dinner which the chef will prepare in front of you at the Colonel's Homestead. After dinner enjoy a short farm tour then reboard the TSS Earnslaw for a sing along by the piano on your return cruise.

DAY 14: Queenstown - Milford Sound Overnight Cruise (B,D)

This morning travel to Arrowtown and visit the Lakes District Museum. Continue via Te Anau to Milford Sound and board the Milford Mariner for your amazing overnight cruise. There is plenty of time to view the fiord's spectacular waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife - you're bound to encounter seals and if you're lucky maybe dolphins and penguins. As evening falls enjoy a delicious carnivore buffet prepared freshly by the onboard chef.
Overnight Milford Mariner

DAY 15: Milford Sound - Te Anau (B,D)

Start the day with a hearty breakfast before heading back out to the Tasman Sea (weather permitting) to explore more of the fiord. Return back to the wharf to meet your coach and enjoy the scenic drive to Te Anau. This afternoon enjoy a cruise across Lake Te Anau

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to visit the Glow Worm Caves where you will admire the incredible limestone caverns, waterfalls and mystery of the Glow Worm Grotto.
Hotel Distinction Luxmore (Deluxe Room)

DAY 16: Te Anau - Dunedin (B,SD)

Travel via Gore and Balclutha to Dunedin. After time for lunch board the Silver Fern railcar for a journey along spectacular cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean and Blueskin Bay. On return to Dunedin's historic Edwardian Railway Station, board the coach for an informative city tour. Tonight a Scottish evening will be presented comprising of bagpipes, great food, Haggis Ceremony and gift.
Hotel Scenic Hotel Southern Cross (2 nights)

DAY 17: Dunedin (B,D)

Travel along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle for a guided tour. Next visit Glenalloch Restaurant for a delightful morning tea. Return to the city for some free time. You might choose to board The Taieri Gorge Limited for a journey through spectacular scenery only accessible by rail (optional).

DAY 18: Dunedin - Christchurch (B,SD)

This morning visit Olveston House, a prestigious historic home before travelling to Oamaru, famous for its limestone. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner with your new found friends.
Hotel Sudima Hotel Christchurch Airport

DAY 19: Depart Christchurch (B)

Time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a memorable New Zealand holiday.

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- Enjoy 3 rail journeys - Glenbrook Vintage Railway, the world renowned TranzAlpine and the Silver Fern Seaside
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*Price is valid ex Perth departure and includes prepaid taxes of \$170, correct at time of print. Prices and taxes are subject to change. **Private car transfers arranged by Kings Tours & Travel and are provided within the Perth Metropolitan area including as far north as Yancheep and as far south as Mandurah. Early hotel check-in and breakfast included in itinerary, subject to change due to flight schedules. Travel insurance recommended. Jacket is one per person. Deposit amount is \$450 per person with final balance due 120 days prior to departure.





Ningaloo manta ray named Aurora

EXMOUTH Visitor Centre's Name a Ningaloo Manta Ray competition has come to its conclusion, with the public voting to name one of the Ningaloo Reef's resident manta rays.

The Ningaloo Reef is home to a large population of manta rays, with more than 850 individual mantas having been identified using the unique dot patterns found on the belly of each ray. In conjunction with Project

Manta and The University of Queensland, the identification program was expanded in late 2016 to include the northern part of the Ningaloo Reef, around Exmouth.

To commemorate this, the Exmouth Visitor Centre and Project Manta asked the public to name the 50th manta ray identified as part of Project Manta's northern Ningaloo Reef expansion.

More than 120 names were entered, with the

public then having the final say on the winning name via the Exmouth Visitor Centre Facebook page. By an overwhelming majority, the winning name was Aurora.

Two separate entrants suggested the name Aurora, Jasmine Pestell from the United Kingdom and 11-year old Kristian van der Meijis from Norway. Both Jasmine and Kristian chose the name Aurora in reference to the Southern Lights (Aurora Australis),

comparing the beauty of this incredible natural phenomenon to that of this graceful manta ray.

As the winners of the Name a Ningaloo Manta Ray competition, Jasmine and Kristian have both won four tickets to swim with Ningaloo manta rays thanks to Coral Bay Eco-tours.

Project Manta encourages citizens to contribute to its manta ray database by submitting any photos taken of manta rays they see throughout the Ningaloo region. The unique spot pattern on a manta ray's belly is like a fingerprint, so a photo of the underside of a manta allows the research team to cross reference their existing database and determine if it is a new or previously identified Ningaloo manta ray.

Project Manta Ningaloo representative, Jessica Smith said the Ningaloo Reef and in particular Coral Bay is one of very few

places in the world that is home to a resident population of manta rays, and as such, ongoing monitoring of manta numbers and movements is an important part of extending our knowledgebase on the species as a whole.

"Project manta has been working on extending its monitoring range of manta rays in Western Australia, focusing on the Ningaloo Reef. Coral Bay is well known for its resident population of manta rays, but up until now very little was known about manta rays that are sighted around Exmouth and north Ningaloo.

"We currently have 57 mantas in the database first sighted around Exmouth and we continue to record sightings and identifications to gather an idea of where these individuals are traveling to after visiting Exmouth," Ms Smith said.

Project Manta researchers from Queensland will

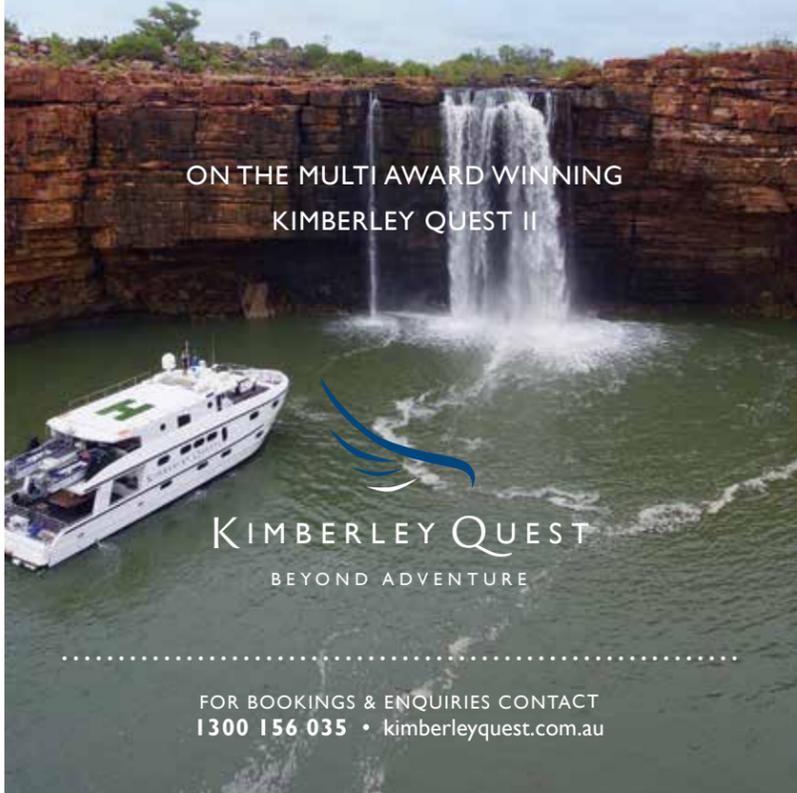


Aurora the 50th manta ray identified under Project Manta's northern Ningaloo Reef expansion

be visiting the Ningaloo region again in May 2017 to continue this identification research and investigate the movements of manta rays throughout the Ningaloo.

For more information on tours to swim with Ningaloo manta rays, contact the Exmouth Visitor Centre on 9949 1176 or email: reservations@exmouth.wa.com.au.

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Visitors to the north west are reminded to protect themselves from mosquito bites

REMEMBER to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites if you are a resident and traveller in the north of Western Australia.

The warning follows a significant increase in Ross River virus (RRV) cases in the western Kimberley, as well as evidence of Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) activity this year.

WA Health's senior scientific officer, Dr Andrew Jardine, said there had been a confirmed detection of MVE in the east Kimberley region and probable detections of MVE and Kunjin virus in

the Pilbara region.

"While no human cases of MVE or Kunjin have been reported in WA since 2011, evidence of the viruses has now been detected in sentinel chicken flocks, which are used as an early warning system for virus activity," Dr Jardine said.

"Both viruses are only carried by mosquitoes, and while the risk of being infected and becoming unwell is low, the illnesses can be severe.

"It is important that people in the north of WA protect themselves from mosquito bites into the Easter holiday period."

Initial symptoms of MVE include fever, drowsiness, headache, stiff neck, nausea and dizziness. People experiencing these symptoms should seek medical advice quickly. In severe cases, people may experience fits, lapse into a coma, be left with permanent brain damage or die.

Dr Jardine said Kunjin virus usually caused milder symptoms than MVE virus, but in rare cases could also cause severe symptoms, including headache, neck stiffness, fever, delirium and coma.

Symptoms of infection with RRV include painful or swollen joints, sore

muscles, skin rashes, fever, fatigue and headaches which can last for weeks or months.

There are no specific cures or vaccines for any of these viruses so it is important that people take care to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes.

"People do not need to alter their plans to visit the Kimberley or Pilbara regions, but it is important they take some simple steps to avoid mosquito bites when camping, fishing or undertaking any other activity outdoors," Dr Jardine said.

Simple steps to avoid mosquito bites are:

avoid being outdoors with exposed skin around dawn and early evening.

wear protective (long, loose-fitting, light-coloured) clothing when outdoors.

apply a personal repellent containing diethyl toluamide (DEET) or picaridin to exposed skin or clothing. The most effective and long-lasting formulations are lotions or gels. Natural or organic repellents are generally not as effective as DEET or picaridin or need to be reapplied more frequently.

Use mosquito coils and mosquito lanterns and apply barrier sprays containing bifenthrin in patio and outdoor areas around houses.

Ensure insect screens are installed and in good condition on houses and caravans.

Use mosquito nets and mosquito-proof tents when camping.

Ensure infants and children are adequately protected against mosquito bites, preferably with suitable clothing, bed nets or other forms of insect screening.

For more information about mosquito prevention visit: healthywa.wa.gov.au/Healthy-living/Prevent-mosquito-bites



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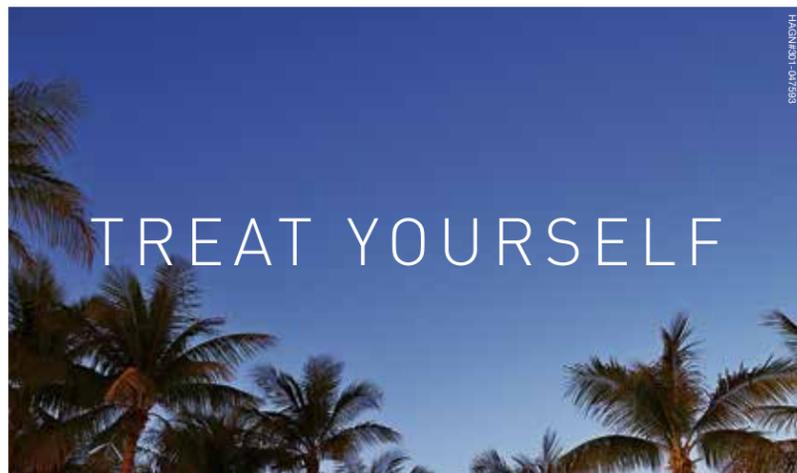
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Fishing in the Abrolhos Islands



Mackerel fishing can be red hot at the Abrolhos

by Mike Roennfeldt

LATE last month I was supposed to be having a wonderful time aboard a mate's beautiful big boat up at the Abrolhos Islands, fishing the Geraldton and Districts Offshore Fishing Club's annual Abrolhos Gamefishing Tournament.

The promise of good company and red hot fishing in the awesome setting of the Abrolhos had been dominating my waking thoughts for a while, but sometimes things just

don't work out. In this case it was a wedding in the family and I hadn't woken up to the clash of dates.

At least it got me around to sorting out some fishing gear before the cancellation. And while I was working out what I'd need up there, I remembered some of the great fishing of times past in those waters.

The Abrolhos consists of three groups of islands in a north-south chain. Many of the islands are not much more than rocks, sitting just a metre

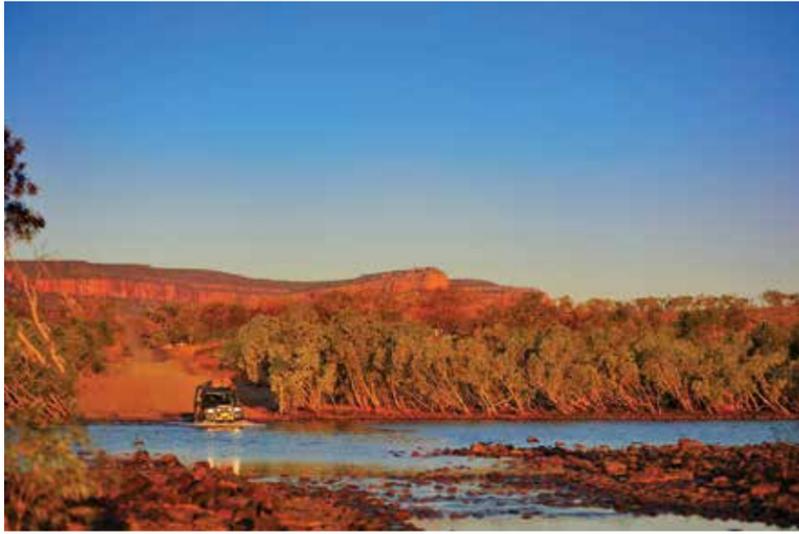
or two above sea level, but protected against the ravages of the open ocean by wide expanses of very shallow coral reefs. While the Abrolhos is renowned for its once violent history and the fact that it is one of our most important crayfishing areas, it also has the distinction of being the closest place to Perth where you can enjoy the best of the northern sport fishing experience.

Not only do some of our most highly regarded northern species call the place home, but there's a fair mix of the best of what the south has to offer as well. A session trolling around the maze of islands is just as likely to turn up a huge yellowtail kingfish as a hard running Spanish mackerel. And for those who get their kicks bottom bouncing, the next fish coming up could just as easily be a dhufish as a coral trout. In fact, there's everything from herring to marlin on tap up there. You just have to decide what range of species you intend to target.

The trolling can be awesome. We used to do most of our fishing around the middle and southern groups of islands, where you could invariably spot some sort of seabird activity somewhere if you scanned the horizon for a few seconds. Funnily enough though, the most action didn't always come from around the bait fish schools. There were particular underwater features that seemed to hold Spaniards, Samsons and kings, while the bird activity generally signalled the presence of smaller tuna and shark mackerel. These days the tournament is based around Pigeon Island in the Wallabi Group and most of our fishing takes place farther north than it used to.

There are plans to develop more tourism opportunities at the Abrolhos but as it is now, the only easy ways you can enjoy the islands experience is by taking a charter or owning a big boat yourself. Some of the more adventurous Geraldton locals make the long haul out there in boats as small as 6m in the right conditions, but it's not something for the inexperienced or under-prepared.

Home Valley Station located in the East Kimberley re-opens for the new season



© Carlisle Rogers

HOME Valley Station in Western Australia's spectacular East Kimberley, will be welcoming guests from 1 May following its annual hiatus over the wet season.

To celebrate the re-opening, the heritage cattle station offers a two-night package* from \$210 per person, twin share.

"Home Valley Station

offers a quintessentially Australian outback experience where guests can enjoy genuine hospitality while discovering the spectacular landscapes of the Kimberley. We're delighted to be opening our doors for the 2017 season," says Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia's chief executive officer Andrew Williams.

Located on the iconic Gibb River Road, at the foot of the majestic Cockburn Range, the historic station is the ideal base from which to explore the pristine wilderness.

Guests can enjoy a range of adventurous activities including sunset touring, Station 4wd tours, scenic flights or soaking up the atmosphere at the

famous Dusty Bar and Grill. During the season other activities on offer will include hiking, swimming in pools surrounded by ancient red gorges, heli-fishing, horse riding, boating, star gazing, nature and crocodile spotting and barramundi fishing on the Pentecost River.

The package includes two nights' twin share accommodation in a guesthouse room, daily buffet breakfast, access to walking trails and entertainment at Dusty Bar and Grill.

Home Valley Station offers a range of accommodation options for travellers - from comfortable guesthouse rooms and elegant grass castles overlooking Bindoola Creek to eco tents and camping facilities.

*Conditions apply, subject to availability. Rate is available for travel 1-31 May 2017.

For bookings contact travel@voyages.com.au or 1300 134 044. Go for further information go to: www.hvstation.com.au

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RECORD rainfall in the Kimberley during this year's wet season means that visitors to the area are in for a treat with waterfalls in full flow, an abundance of wildlife and stunning scenery.

It's the perfect time to visit the area and to cruise along the Kimberley coast.

Multi-award winning cruise company Kimberley Quest is operating wilderness expeditions along the coast between Broome and Wyndham.

The Kimberley Quest II is a 25 metre vessel which has been designed for relaxing while exploring the coastline. The custom design of the boat allows them to visit areas that many other Kimberley cruises cannot reach.

While on board guests can enjoy indoor and outdoor dining areas, a refreshing dip in the spa and gourmet cuisine prepared by the on-board chef.

Kimberley Quest takes a maximum of 18 guests and the personalised service and attention to detail means that people will enjoy the amazing surrounds in complete comfort and luxury.

Guests can select from one of their exciting Kimberley cruise options for their Kimberley adventure.

There are a range of Kimberley tours available and the daily activities aboard provide lots of opportunities for guests to really explore the region.

With custom-built tender vessels, guests have the opportunity to explore the untouched river systems, view ancient Aboriginal rock art and fish the tidal creeks. They will discover the in-depth history of the area, view rugged cliffs, caves, waterfalls and gorges, spot wildlife, enjoy refreshing dips in secluded waterholes and much more.

The Kimberley is prolific with islands, whirlpools, inlets, extensive waterfalls, pristine beaches and unforgettable scenery that will take a visitor's breath away.

The team at Kimberley Quest will convey their passion for this ancient land, forging the sights and sounds of the area into their guest's memory forever.

Don't miss the opportunity to visit the area as the phenomenal wet season subsides to reveal the extensive beauty which may be a once in a lifetime opportunity. Visit www.kimberleyquest.com.au for further information on Kimberley Quest cruises.



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Holidays options with pets in WA

MOST dog lovers don't like to leave their precious fur babies behind when they go on holidays.

But before taking your pooch on holidays it's always good to make sure they are up-to-date with all their vaccinations. If it is likely that dogs will be mixing with various other canines, be sure to treat them with a C5 vaccination. C5 vaccinates against severe kennel cough and dogs of any age can be affected.

We all know dogs love to go exploring, especially when in new locations. It's well worth making sure your animal is micro-chipped and has a collar tag with your mobile number on it.

And don't forget to bring dog food, dog bowls for water and food, some clean bedding, a few toys and of course a leash.

This month we've compiled this handy guide to accommodation options which are pet friendly.

Albany

Coraki Holiday Cottages offers guests riverside accommodation on ten acres of rolling lawns and surrounded by beautiful bushland only 12km from Albany. Dogs are welcome to stay at the two and three bedroom cottages. For more information call 0456 704 008 or email info@corakicottages.com.au

Augusta

Flinders Bay Caravan Park is Augusta's only beachfront holiday park and they welcome dogs. Call 9780 5636 for bookings.

Bridgetown

Sunny Hurst Chalets in Bridgetown offer five fully self contained two bedroom chalets and welcome guests to holiday with their pets. Sunny Hurst is located in a tranquil area which is perfect to discover the delights of the Bridgetown area. Call 9761 1081 or email enquiries@sunnyhurstchalets.com.au for bookings.

Busselton

The popular holiday town is always a pleasant place to stay. Grangeview Guest House welcomes pets at its self contained two bed unit located in a relaxed bush setting. The unit is fully furnished with television, DVD, reverse cycle air-conditioning the master bedroom has an ensuite. There is plenty of space to walk dogs and it's close to the Margaret River wine region. Call 0400 765 244 or email jo.grangeview@gmail.com for bookings.

Cowaramup

Caves Road Chalets offer one and

two bedroom self contained rustic loft style chalets in 64 acres of natural bushland. Close to the heart of the Margaret River region and all its delights, this is the perfect spot to relax and enjoy a break with your pets. Call 9755 5266 or email admin@cavesroadchalets.com.au for bookings.

Greenbushes

The BlueSky Retreat offers a pet friendly three-bedroom cottage in a country setting on 100 acres. Offering outstanding views with a peaceful ambience this is the perfect place to enjoy a family holiday. Call 0419 929 310 or email blueskyretreat@westnet.com.au for bookings.

Margaret River

Beachside Prevelly Villas offer guests five holiday homes in Prevelly Park to choose from. The villas are located across from the store and it's an easy walk to the pristine dog beaches in the area. These villas offer the perfect affordable beachside getaway with you pooch. Call 0417 969 770 for bookings.

Nannup

The Loose Goose Chalets are located in the Jarrah Forests of Nannup and offer the visitor individual self contained chalets or a dormitory style bedroom for up to 20 people. These are popular all year round and the chalets offer log fires in winter. Dogs are welcome and it's the perfect spot to enjoy the pristine forests in the area. Call 9756 1170 for bookings.

Perth

For those who need to visit Perth and bring your dog, Above Bored Bed and Breakfast say they welcome children, pets and even adults.

Located close to the CBD in North Perth, this bed and breakfast is a home away from home where pets are welcome to stay in the rooms and their owners are not charged a pet bond. Contact stay@abovebored.com.au or call 9444 5455 for bookings.

Waroona

The Lake Navarino Family Holiday Park has a range of accommodation to suit every taste and budget. There are cabins, cottages, caravan and tent sites and the popular glamping tents all located in a bush setting. Located two minutes drive to a lake where visitors can swim, enjoy water sports or just relax, this is the perfect spot to enjoy a relaxed holiday with your dog. Call 9733 3000 or email linda@navarino.com.au

What makes a bed and breakfast appealing?



DR SARAH Rossetti (pictured above) has been successfully running Above Bored bed and breakfast in North Perth for the past 14 years.

Dr Rossetti, a personable film and television screenwriter, be-

lieves that what B&Bs have to offer is the comfort of knowing that an experienced host lives on-site as well as the price advantage.

"B&B guests are looking for something different to bog standard, often overpriced, hotel rooms.

"We have many regulars, who know they cannot run up a bill here.

"They enter via a code and pull the door behind them when they leave, so it's relaxed.

"We include free breakfast, WiFi and parking, and if they book more than one room, or stay a week, they receive great discounts," she said.

Above Bored is an AAA four star rated, 1927 Federation home and cottage just five minutes north of Perth CBD, in a quiet street.

"We have child friendly and pet friendly accommodation where pets stay free. They can stay in

guests' bedrooms without a pet bond," Dr Rossetti said.

"It's knowing what pleases guests, like spacious rooms, no shared bathrooms or stairs, the comfort of knowing children are never frowned upon, and pets always welcome," she said.

"My personality as a writer and diver is reflected in the King room bathroom's amazing underwater fresco ceiling, which kids adore; in the romantic en-suite master room with French doors and a gas log fireplace. Pet owners and car fanatics love the garden room cottage because pets romp freely in the secure back yard, and cars are tucked away safely in its own remote controlled garage."

For more information and bookings contact 9444 5455, email stay@abovebored.com.au or visit www.abovebored.com.au.

Explore Margaret River from your own private chalet

CAVES Road Chalets is the perfect spot to escape the bustle of everyday life. They are nestled amidst the picturesque bush land Margaret River is renowned for. Each chalet is fully self-contained, with air-conditioning, wood burning fires, linen and everything you need for a relaxing holiday.

Kids will have plenty to do, with their own playground, and loads of places to explore. There are wonderful attractions for families in the south west, including mazes, ani-

mal farms, mini-golf and heaps more. To make life easy for people with children, they have cots, high chairs and baby baths.

Pets are more than welcome to join in on a Margaret River adventure too, on request, and with 64-acres to run free, pups will love their new backyard. Most dogs are accepted. They are charged at \$11 per night per dog. Maximum two to a chalet. Each chalet has an enclosed dog run alongside it or at the back of it.

From the chalet, you can explore the many wonders of the Margaret River region. Dive into the beautiful Indian Ocean, just minutes from your new home, or take in the stunning wildlife and flora on a relaxing hike through natural bush land.

Each chalet features one or two bedrooms, as well as a flat screen TV and DVD player – perfect for a cosy night in with a bottle of wine from the fa-

mous wine region. Guests may also like to visit the charming township, which features some of the best food and wine establishments in Australia.

During the day you can head out and join a wine tour, or explore the world-class vineyards, breweries, distilleries and restaurants. The getaway can be as action-packed or relaxed as required – one of the many beauties of Margaret River.

BlueSky Retreat Cottage

Quality pet friendly three bedroom cottage in a country setting on 100 acres with outstanding views and a wonderfully peaceful ambience.



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Coraki Holiday Cottages is riverside accommodation on ten acres of rolling lawns, surrounded by native bushland, located 12 km from Albany's CBD. You and your dog are welcome. 2 & 3 Bedroom cottages available. \$15/dog (maximum 2 dogs) 16 Nanarup Rd, Lower King, Albany WA Phone: 9844 7068 or 0456 704 008 Email: info@corakicottages.com.au Website: www.corakicottages.com.au

Holiday with YOUR Pets

Tracey & Cos invite you to stay in any one of their 5 chalets; The Sunrise, Sunset, Misty, Meadows & Shadow Chalet. One 2bed QB chalet and four 2brm Swiss style timber chalets, fully contained, an intimate atmosphere for winter and summer. Log fire, BBQ, TV/DVD, mini golf, feed the livestock, tranquil atmosphere. Ph: 9761 1081 Lot 15 Doust St Bridgetown Email: enquiries@sunnyhurstchalets.com.au

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Explore Margaret River from your own private chalet

1 and 2 Bedroom a/c, self contained, rustic loft style chalets, nestled in 64 acres of natural bushland in the heart of the Margaret River Wine Region. Close to wineries, town, beach, all natural and tourist attractions. Abundant birdlife and wildlife, pet friendly too. Bookings: 9755 5266 Web: www.cavesroadchalets.com.au Email admin@cavesroadchalets.com.au Lot 5023 Caves Rd, Cowaramup WA

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Above Bored Bed and Breakfast offers exclusive, non-intrusive, boutique hotel accommodation in North Perth, Western Australia. Catering equally to the lone traveller looking for an inexpensive home away from home, couples seeking a romantic getaway, or families where the children and pets aren't frowned upon, this charming Bed and Breakfast suits all. Pets stay for FREE. No Pet Bond. Pets can stay in guest rooms. Free wifi and parking all rooms all stays. Take a virtual tour on our website. STAY A WEEK GET YOUR 8TH NIGHT FREE, PLUS MULTIPLE ROOM DISCOUNTS AAA RATED ★★★★★ 14 Norham St, North Perth Tel: 9444 5455 Mob: 0419 838 282 Email: stay@abovebored.com.au Web: www.abovebored.com.au "ALL FOUR-LEGGED GUESTS RECEIVE GIFTS"

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Pets welcome at the beachside Prevelly Villas in Margaret River



ENJOY sea breezes, stunning sunsets and easy strolls to nearby pristine beaches (and dog beaches), from a superbly located holiday house. The Sea Gardens Café is a beach cafe and is a brisk walk away and the Prevelly store is opposite the villas. The houses are well priced for guests and pets are genuinely welcome, with enclosed yards at each villa. The five villas offer three bedrooms each, wood fires, air conditioning/heating and spacious private surroundings giving you the opportunity to truly relax and enjoy the seaside holiday ambience of Prevelly Park. Call Peter and Deirdre 0417 969 770 or 9757 2277 or visit www.prevellyvillas.com.au

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Eurostar journeys on sale for Australian travellers

TRAVELLERS planning and budgeting for their upcoming 2017 European summer holidays can now take advantage of Rail Europe's discounted Eurostar journeys. Bookings made by 24 April, can enjoy one-way fares on journeys between London/Ebbsfleet/Ashford and Brussels, and between Lille/Calais and Paris starting from \$A66. Travel is valid till 20 August 2017. Please allow for foreign exchange fluctuations. Black-out dates and terms and conditions apply. Visit www.raileurope.com.au for more information and bookings.

Bush Poets head to the Moondyne Festival in Toodyay

MEMBERS of the WA Bush Poets will be sharing the stage with Jarrah Celtic Band at the Colonial Village at this year's Moondyne Festival in Toodyay on Sunday 7 May. They will also be busking with musicians Kate Linke and Warwick Trant. Kate, a genuine country girl has been a popular attraction since the group started performing at Moondyne. The Bush Poets will be reciting poems from the early days of European settlement in Australia as well as more modern works. WA Bush Poets will return to Toodyay for their annual state championships from 3 - 5 November. This year the Australian championships are being held in conjunction with the Bush Poetry Festival. Having been widely promoted in the eastern states, this event promises to put Toodyay on the bush poetry map and bring a good number of visitors to this historic town. Some of the best bush poets from across Australia will be converging on Toodyay for the Australian Championships. Visitors to the Bush Poetry Festival can be assured of a feast of traditional and modern poetry in the style of the great masters Banjo Paterson and Henry Lawson. There will also be a concert on the Friday night and a family bush dance on the Saturday night. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge for any of the weekend. For more about the competition check the bush poet's website www.wabushpoets.asn.au or contact the president, Bill Gordon president@wabushpoets.asn.au or phone 0428 651 098.

Club 55 travel club present new day tours



service from the club or a location wherever is convenient for the members. You can be assured of a great day out with owner Chris Hadland who has been conducting tours for Perth's seniors for more than 30 years. His is a truly West Australian family owned and operated business.

Call Chris Hadland's daughter Tanya on 1300 653 696 between 9am and 2pm or visit their web page at www.club55.com.au where people can download the latest brochures. There is a section for group bookings and for individuals where they can book and pay for their outings online and sign up for free membership to the travel club. Club 55 Travel is proud to support *Have a Go News* and will be advertising all of their upcoming tours on page three each month. They will also be supporting *Have a Go News* with monthly prizes for a regular competition. They look forward to welcoming you on their tours.

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- ✓ Transfers throughout
- ✓ Breakfast daily, 3 dinners and 3 lunches
- ✓ All sightseeing and entry fees as per the itinerary

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- ✓ Sightseeing and entry fees as per the itinerary
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- ✓ Kings Tour Manager*
- ✓ Return Economy Airfares & Taxes flying Cathay Pacific
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- ✓ English speaking National Guide throughout the tour
- ✓ All transportation, daily tours and admission fees
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- ✓ Christmas Eve Highlight dinner in Brigg

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- ✓ Home pick-up and return by Hughes*
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FROM
15 DAYS \$5,195*



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TOUR INCLUSIONS

- ✓ Home pick-up and return by Hughes*
- ✓ Kings Tour Manager*
- ✓ Return economy airfares and taxes
- ✓ 3-nights accommodation in the Adelaide Hills
- ✓ 3-nights accommodation in the seaside suburb of Glenelg in Adelaide
- ✓ Breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 6 dinners
- ✓ All sightseeing and entry fees as per the itinerary
- ✓ Deluxe coach travel throughout
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Celebrating the staircase of the moon in Broome



Left to right; Relics from the Pearl Luggers - Cable Beach - Sun Pictures - Beautiful scenery

by June Kingston Smith

"ARE you going to hire a car or do lots of tours?" friends asked. "No, we're just going to spend our time in town," we said. "No lazing on the beach or sitting in a coach or 4-wheel drive for hours." "You'll run out of things to do," they said. But we didn't. We had five lovely days in Broome, soaking up its history and enjoying warm sunshine instead of hibernating during a cold winter in Perth.

Broome, named in 1883 after the Governor of WA, Sir Frederick Napier Broome, has a lot to offer. After a smooth flight, landing in what seemed like the middle of town, a

quick trip in a mini-bus full of people soon had us at our hotel.

We were hungry and had missed lunch so were directed to the Runway Bar and Restaurant in Carnarvon Street. As we sat outside enjoying the weather and our meal (accompanied of course, by a nice Riesling) we soon found out why it was called the Runway.

Day two began with breakfast and, as we were now on 'Broome time', at 9.30 we strolled slowly down the road to Matso's, the award winning café and brewery, which had been recommended by our daughter.

Originally the Union Bank, it was built in 1910

in Sheba Lane, an area notorious for opium dens and brothels (probably a good place to locate a bank). The building was eventually moved and became a store, then was moved again in 1997 to its current location in Hamersley Street where it morphed into a café and brewery. Lucky for us.

After lunch we sauntered along Carnarvon Street, past four life size statues paying tribute to men and their involvement in establishing Broome as the centre of the world's pearling industry and stopped at Sun Pictures, the world's oldest operating open-air picture gardens.

The Kimberley Coast

has the biggest tides in the southern hemisphere – the difference between high and low tide can be up to 10 metres. At extremely low tides the full moon rises over exposed mudflats in Roebuck Bay creating the illusion of a staircase reaching to the moon.

As it was the first night of this famous Broome phenomenon (and the reason we were here) we decided to watch it on the beachfront of the Mangrove Hotel.

The lawn area was filled with tables and chairs, food kiosks and a bar, and the atmosphere was buzzing. At 5.47 pm people were jostling for position at the railings as the moon made its first surreal appearance, a tiny curve of bright colour seeming to rise from the water. As it slowly climbed into the sky the 'staircase' appeared below it and we stood mesmerised.

Because of the crowd we decided to find another place for dinner, so walked to the 18 Degrees Restaurant, located in the Seaview Shopping

Centre near our hotel, and managed to get the last available table. Good food and an extensive wine list. Bliss.

The following day we strolled into Chinatown, browsed the shops in Johnny Chi Lane and enjoyed coffee and sandwiches under some shady trees in the garden of a little café before joining Calvin, the owner/operator of Top Deck Tours for an afternoon tour.

We sat on the top deck of his wonderful old red double decker bus while Calvin provided an informative and humorous commentary as he drove our group around Broome's famous places, including of course, Cable Beach, to which we returned in the late afternoon on a local bus (reliable and easy to use).

Upon finding a table facing the ocean (naturally) at the Sunset Bar and Grill at Cable Beach Resort we sat back to watch the amazing sunset about which we had been told.

We weren't disappointed. As the sky turned from blue to orange the blazing

sun seemed to sink into the water with the same effect as the moon rising from it, a wonderful spectacle of colours.

Discovering we were in time to watch that evening's Staircase to the Moon at Town Beach, the site of the World War II Japanese air attack in 1942 and a few minutes from our hotel, we found a lively market taking place on the lawn area.

The following morning we walked to Dampier Terrace for the Pearl Luggers' Classic Pearling Tour, which actually took place on their premises. It was a fascinating hour-long talk on the history of the pearling industry which began in the 1800s with the collection of Mother of Pearl shell, used for the production of buttons.

In the afternoon we returned by local bus to Cable Beach. Well, we couldn't leave Broome without a camel ride at sunset, could we?

Plodding along that long stretch of sandy beach on Gemma and watching the wonder-

ful sun sinking in a blaze of glorious colour again was an experience I will remember always. It's not every day you can see a marvellous sunset from the back of a camel.

Back in our room, I drew back the curtains. We had a view of the ocean over the roof tops and there was the first glimpse of the moon beginning its climb into the sky.

From the comfort of our balcony we watched it rise elegantly until the 'stairs' turned to a silver shimmer on the black water. A private viewing. What a way to celebrate our last night.

Five days had passed very quickly and now we had to adjust our watches from 'Broome time' back to Perth time.

No helicopter flights; no four wheel driving; no 20,000 year-old Aboriginal rock art or horizontal falls, but as we waited to board our plane we decided that they were terrific reasons to return to the welcoming and colourful town that is Broome.

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EXPIRY: □□ □□



EXPLORE Gwalia & Leonora

See the sights and soak up the stories on the self-drive Leonora loop trails. Step back in time at Gwalia ghost town and museum on the edge of an opencut goldmine. After a busy day exploring, stay the night in Hoover House B&B.

Museum: 9037 7122
Info Centre: 9037 7016
www.leonora.wa.gov.au
www.gwalia.org.au

Have a Go NEWS

Have a Go News is available from your local Spud Shed store;

| | |
|------------|--|
| Australind | Cnr Forrest Hwy & Paris Rd |
| Baldivis | 124 Kerosene Lane |
| Innaloo | Mega Centre, 37 Ellen Stirling Boulevard |
| Jandakot | 630 Karel Avenue |
| Kelmscott | 2853 Albany Highway |
| Mandurah | Pinjarra & Ronlyn Roads |
| Morley | Coventry Village 243-253 Walter Road |
| Wanneroo | Wanneroo Farmer's Market 37-39 Prindville Drive |

Call in to your nearest Spud Shed and pick up Have a Go News

GARDEN CRUISE & TOUR OF JAPAN WITH SUE McDOUGAL

Experience the culture and beautiful gardens on this 10 night luxury cruise aboard Celebrity Millennium. Highlights include the masterpiece garden at the Katsura Imperial Villa in Kyoto, and the bonsai collection in the Omiya Museum in Tokyo.

20 Sep to 8 Oct, 2017

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Cruise aboard the luxurious Celebrity Solstice on this 12 night cruise to New Zealand and experience the majesty of Milford Sound and enjoy beautiful gardens in Dunedin, Akaroa, Wellington, Rotorua, Auckland and spectacular Bay of Islands.

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York - Perth's historic playground hosts myriad events throughout the year



PICTURESQUE York is the perfect place to start a historic journey with a range of activities, accommodation and events encouraging visitors to eat stay and play in this historic town situated less than 100 kms from Perth's CBD.

The journey through York starts at the York Visitor Centre, located at the iconic York Town Hall on Avon Terrace. Avon Terrace is home to many other beautiful heritage buildings and attractions

including the old courthouse and gaol, York Motor Museum, swinging bridge, Residency Museum, Mt Brown Lookout and the old Sandalwood Yards and Tipperary School Museum.

York also has a free 24-hour RV parking on Lowe Street, by the Avon River and Pioneer Park, and has more than 300 beds in accommodations that tailor to every taste and budget.

April sees York as the launching platform, in

conjunction with the Annual Motorcycle Festival, of the Avon Valley Motorcycle Friendly Region, an initiative encouraging motorcycle riders to experience the Avon Valley on two wheels.

The Shire of York is focused on bringing a vibrant range of major events to visitors and the community throughout the year. Events include: York Motorcycle Festival - 23 April.

Avon Valley on Two Wheels, Motorcycle Friendly Region Launch - 23 April.

Perth International Jazz Festival in York - 26-28 May.

Vintage Motor Show - 2 July.

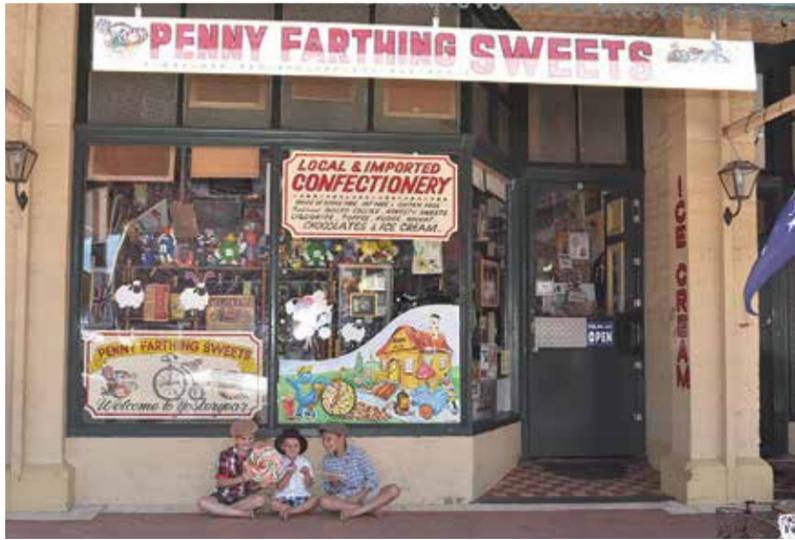
York Festival - 9-10 September.

Nature Play Family Festival - 7-8 October.

Art and Craft Awards - 8-16 October.

For further information visit www.york.wa.gov.au

York has the best little fair in the west



BE SURE to visit historic York for the annual Antique Fair and markets at the Town Hall and surrounds on

Easter weekend Saturday 15, Sunday 16 and Monday 17 April. This popular event has been on York's calendar

since 1988. The historic town of York is only an hour's drive from Midland and Easter is the perfect

time for a visit to the town.

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.

Proudly presented by the York Friendship Club Inc for various charities world wide.

Enquiries phone 9641 1541 or email ccrcpeetion@westnet.com.au

Clubs or groups wanted as helpers for the Avon Descent

AVON Descent Association is looking for a club or group to be the campsite management team at Cobble Pool.

They would prefer an existing club consisting of 25 to 30 members who are available between 4 to 6 August.

They will be in charge of restoring, setting up and managing the Cobble Pool campsite for the Northam Avon Descent Association.

The team's duties will include helping spectators with general services, taking care of the entry gate, traffic flow, pit areas, transport, tents and marquees.

If you are interested, contact media liaison officer Karolina Tanskanen on 0405 095 233 or email media@avondescent.com.au

Take a day trip to Wundowie for the Iron Festival in May

WUNDOWIE was the birthplace of WA's iron industry and Wundowie Progress Association celebrate its heritage by holding an Iron Festival.

The original concept for Wundowie was formed in 1942 following a feasibility study to establish an iron and steel industry in WA. By 1948 the Wundowie charcoal iron and steel mill was opened.

The town was built for the workers by State Housing and set out on an English Garden City plan. It has been registered as a heritage town. A drive around the streets of Wundowie is like driving through a 1950s town.

Wundowie was also the first home for many migrants who came to WA after WWII.

This year Wundowie Progress Association is holding the 10th annual Iron Festival on 21 May.

A feature of the festival is an art award and exhibition held in the community hall and the running of the Iron Beast competition on the adjacent sports oval.

With free entry to the festival, there is lots of entertainment and activ-

ities for children, including machinery and tool preservation displays, circle of swords demonstrations, produce and craft stalls, show bags and an art exhibition. There is something of interest for everyone. Food and refreshments will also be available.

Attending the Wundowie Iron Festival is

a great opportunity to catch up with old friends.

Wundowie is in the Shire of Northam approximately 65km east of Perth via the Great Eastern Highway and 30km west of Northam.

Visiting this year's Iron Festival is the perfect scenic drive for any day tripper.



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E: stars@thespaceplace.com.au
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Just one hour from Perth, travel through the rural landscape of the historic Chittering Valley for a weekend escape or day visit to Bindoon.

A wide range of accommodation is available throughout the area complemented by picnic areas, food and walk trails. Seasonal fruit can be bought from roadside stalls and during spring the area is renowned for its wide range of wildflowers.

2017 Spring Flower Festival, Bindoon
Friday 15 - Sunday 17 September, 9am-4pm
Festival programme available on our website.

Chittering Visitor Centre
6180 Great Northern Hwy, Bindoon
Ph 9576 1100 Email bindinfo@inet.net.au
www.chittering.travel

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9.30am-3.30pm
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York Town Hall
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www.york.wa.gov.au



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Group lunches 12-2pm and dinners 6-8pm available
Bookings required for large groups.
Open 11am - close (12 midnight) 340 Great Eastern Hwy, Bakers Hill
Ph: 9574 1526 Email: mick.doyle@live.com.au

Wundowie Iron Festival

"It's all about our iron history"

FREE entry to Festival
FREE children entertainment and activities
Art competition & exhibition for both adults and youth

Iron Beast
Circle of Swords
Produce and Craft Stalls
Show Bags

Food and Refreshments available

Visit our website for more info wundowieironfestival.com.au
Like us on Facebook Wundowie Iron Festival
or phone Helen on 0417 903 867

Sunday 21 May 2017 9am-4pm
Wundowie Community Hall and Oval

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Doug Parkinson - "A Rolled Gold Superstar" *The Australian*

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Book - 9550 3900 / www.manpac.com.au

Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre - Fri 26 May - 8pm
Book - 1300 661 272 / www.bunburyentertainment.com

Crown Theatre Perth - Sat 27 May - 8pm
Book - 136 100 / ticketmaster.com.au

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Live in concert

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STARRING LUCY HOLMES IN A 2 HOUR CONCERT SPECTACULAR!

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recreates this historic period.

Mark Anthony, one of the most dynamic Elvis
tribute artists in the world today, brings this unique
period to life - the songs, the costumes, the emotion, the
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Mark Anthony is
officially endorsed
by Elvis Presley
Enterprises and
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Elvis Presley's pianist & world
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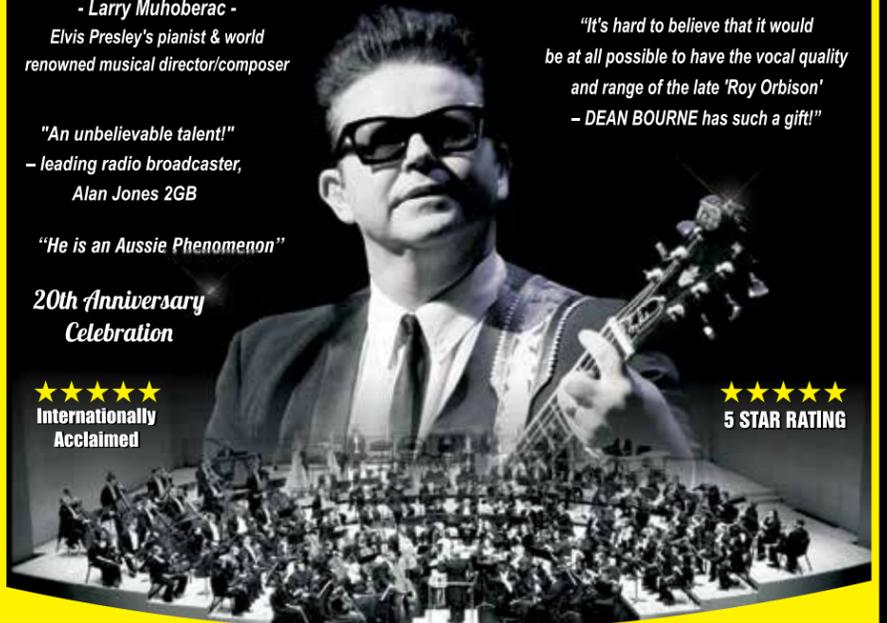
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be at all possible to have the vocal quality
and range of the late 'Roy Orbison'
- DEAN BOURNE has such a gift!"



★★★★★
5 STAR RATING

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Groups 8+ call 1300 889 278 or email groups@ticketmaster.com.au