

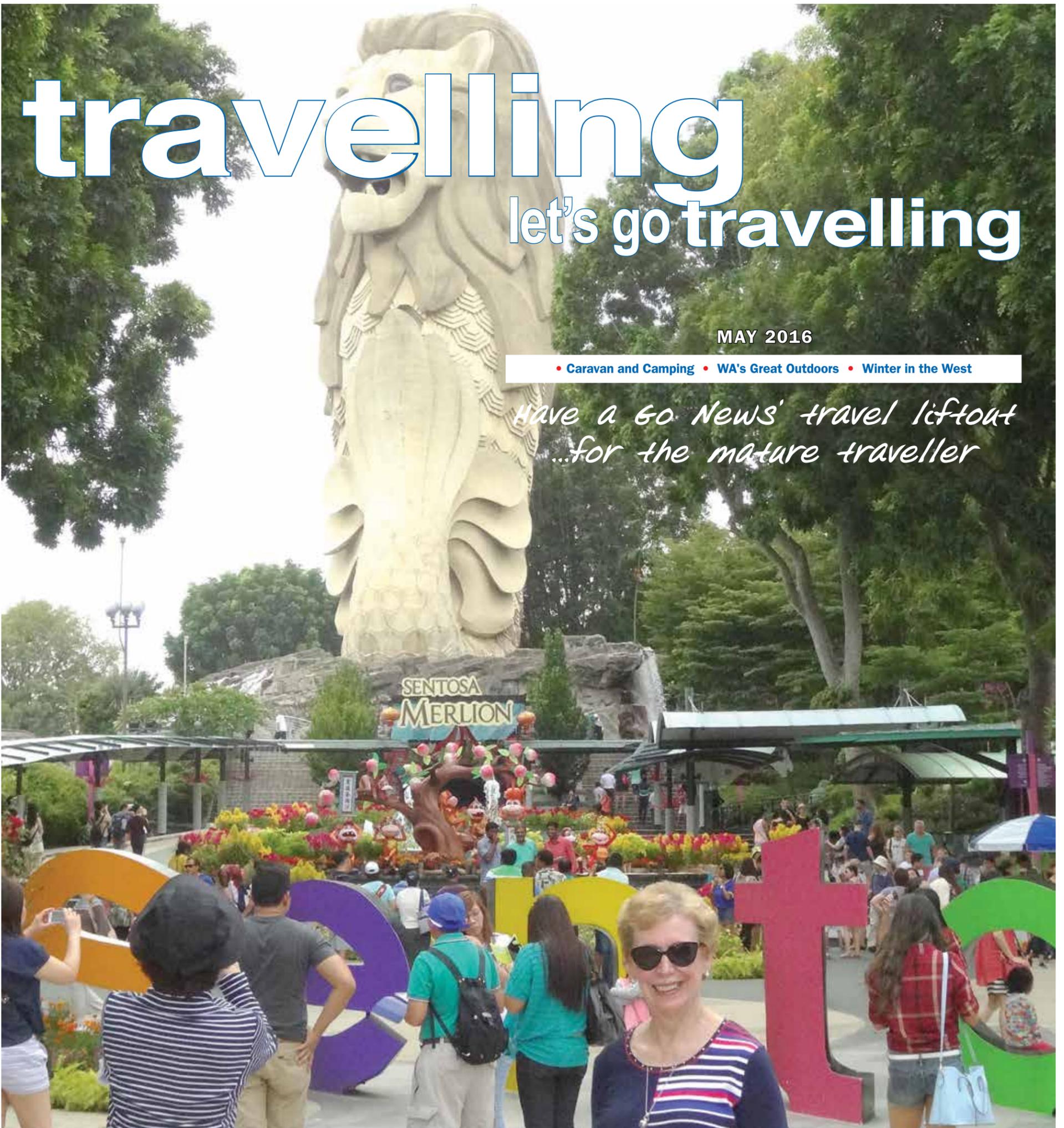
# travelling

let's go travelling

MAY 2016

• Caravan and Camping • WA's Great Outdoors • Winter in the West

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



Journalist Josephine Allison is pictured in front of the Merlion on Singapore's Sentosa Island. Read more about the delights of Singapore on pages 24 and 25.

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# let's go travelling

ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian



Jen Merigan

SINGAPORE has been a favourite destination of many travellers and this month we feature some interesting and informative articles about this vibrant Asian city.

Writers Josephine Allison and Steve Collins both have found some interesting places to visit in Singapore.

We held our first Talking Travel at the Peregrine Travel Centre last month with Mike Woods speaking about some of his travels.

He spent quite a lot of time outlining some of his visits to Antarctica and what an amazing place it would be to visit.

On Australia Day next year there is going to be a flight leaving Perth and

heading to Antarctica with QANTAS for a day trip.

It's around 12 hours there and back and there is the opportunity for various seat options.

I have had quite a few readers interested in this amazing day trip and I have decided to get a *Have a Go News*' group together for this event.

I will announce prices and seating options next month but seats are limited and if you would like to join us for this experience please register your details by either emailing me on jen@haveagonews.com.au or call the office on 9227 8283 and leave your details.

These trips book out

quickly so we need to finalise the bookings very soon.

The next Talking Travel will be held in a few months, we are awaiting some dates from Perth Airport.

WA is sailing towards its biggest cruise season with P&O's Pacific Eden being based in Fremantle for the next four months.

There have already been 43 cruise visits to Fremantle this year and it provides a great injection into the local economy.

The new rail link to the Perth airport has been approved and the state government say that this will commence operation in 2020.

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 <https://www.facebook.com/Haveagonews>.

Happy trails

Jennifer Merigan  
Travel Editor



## It's all about our iron heritage in Wundowie

WUNDOWIE was the birthplace of WA's iron ore industry. This unique event celebrates the heritage of the area. On Sunday 15 May, Wundowie Oval comes to life with iron sculptures, paintings and photography, as well as kids activities, stalls and much more.

Nestled amongst dense bushland, Wundowie is approximately 65km east of Perth via the Great Eastern Highway and 30km west of Northam, the regional centre. Visiting this year's Wundowie Iron Festival is the perfect scenic drive for any day tripper.

The original concept for Wundowie was formed in 1942 following an investigation into the feasibility of establishing an iron and

steel industry in WA. The industrial history of Wundowie was born on 15 April, 1948, when the completed Wundowie Charcoal Iron and Steel mill was opened. The mill was closed in 1981 after 33 years of operation and Bradken now operate out of the foundry facilities, keeping the link to Wundowie's commercial heritage alive.

The core feature of this year's celebrations is the Iron Beast Competition. The Iron Beast is an individual or team effort to build a device, predominantly from iron and steel, propelled by the downward force of a 20kg weight. A prize of \$1,000 will be awarded for the longest distance travelled in 30 seconds.

For 2016 the Festival will include prize money of: \$1,500 for the 2016 Bradken Iron Sculpture Award; \$1,000 for the Linley Valley Fresh Painting (iron theme) Award; \$500 BGC Open painting any theme; \$500 Komcat Electro Photography Award and \$350 each for the Peoples choice 2D and 3D Awards.

All work will be displayed in the Wundowie Community Hall from 10am to 4pm Sunday 15 May. Prizes will be presented on the Wundowie Sports Oval.

**Date:** Sunday 15 May 9am - 4pm. **Venues:** Wundowie Community Hall and Wundowie Oval.

For more information please contact Helen Hayward 0417 903 867 or email [wif@live.com.au](mailto:wif@live.com.au)

## Discover a different Europe with Beyond Travel



Sighisoara to the clock tower

**PREDICTED** to be the next new hotspot of Europe, Romania is a diverse and authentic destination that is still relatively untouched by tourism. It is comparable to what Europe was 100 years ago according to Sydney-based Eastern Europe specialist Beyond Travel.

Offering a wealth of medieval towns, fortified churches, rugged mountains, ski resorts and traditional food and wine - it is best known for the fabled region of Transylvania - home to

the legend of Dracula.

Beyond Travel has a range of tailor-made privately escorted tours that can be customised to suit individual travellers. Most popular is the seven-day Discover Romania itinerary, a roundtrip from Bucharest visiting many highlights such as the beautiful citadel Sighisoara known as the last inhabited citadel in Europe and the birthplace of Vlad Dracul.

Priced from \$2465 per person twin share the Discover Romania private tour includes accommodation with daily breakfast and dinner, transportation, sightseeing with English-speaking tour escort and return transfers.

For those with less time there are three and four-day options in Transylvania from only \$1425 per person twin share with the same inclusions. Beyond also offer other escorted tours and short city stays with accommodation, transfers and sightseeing in Bucharest and regional cities.

For more details contact Beyond Travel on 1300 363 554 or visit [www.beyondtravel.com.au/romania](http://www.beyondtravel.com.au/romania)

**www.asiadiscoverytours.com.au** LIC: 2TA005740 HAGN#033/290

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\*Special conditions apply to all our special offers.

<b>13 Day China Tour with Majestic Yangtze</b> *\$3,490, now fr. \$3,090 departing 05/09/16 & 17/10/16 flying Singapore Airlines including Shanghai, Yichang, Yangtze River Cruise, Chongqing (visiting Panda House), Xian & Beijing.	<b>14 Day Panoramic Sri Lanka Tour (with option to Maldives)</b> *\$3,980 now \$3,780 flying Singapore Airlines and departing 24/07, 03/09 & 05/11/2016 including Colombo, Negombo, Anuradhapura, Habaran, Kandy and Nuwara Eliya.
<b>10 Day Best Hits of Japan Tour</b> *\$4,580, now fr. \$4,180 departing 28/06, 09/09, 03/11/16 & 02/04/17 and flying Singapore Airlines including many highlights in Japan from Tokyo to Osaka.	<b>17 Day Ultimate Russia Waterways Tour</b> *\$4,680, now \$4,280 departing 15/09/16 on a deluxe Russia river cruise from Moscow to St Petersburg with stopover in Shanghai.
<b>17 Day Myanmar Highlights Tour</b> *Fr-\$5,580, now fr. \$4,880 departing in May and September covering lots of highlights in Myanmar including Yangon, Bagan, Heho, Kalaw, Pindaya, Inle, Sakar, Sittwe & Mrank U.	<b>13 Day Vietnam Holiday Special Tour</b> *\$2,980, now fr. \$2,680 flying Singapore Airlines and departing monthly till Nov. 16 covering the must-see highlights in Vietnam from North to South.
<b>15 Day Vietnam and Cambodia Tour</b> *\$3,780, now \$3,480 flying Singapore Airlines and departing monthly until Nov. 16 including 10 days in Vietnam & 4 days in Cambodia	<b>19 Day Scandinavia &amp; Baltic States Tour</b> *\$8,680 now \$7,980 departing 05/08/16 including 9 countries in Scandinavia and Baltic areas.

Discount applies to ADT club members. Please join now (Conditions apply)

All prices include airfare, airport tax & fuel surcharge (subject to change), transfers & transport, most meals, 4 or 5\* hotels, 5\* cruise ship for China Yangtze cruise, sightseeing tours with admission & English speaking guide.

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OCTOBER	AMAZING ALBANY WILDFLOWERS	\$1,795
DECEMBER	MANJIMUP CHERRY FESTIVAL	\$ 900
DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS BY THE BAY	\$1,850

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**3 Cities & 3 Trains** 11 NIGHTS DEPARTS PERTH ON SUNDAYS

• Rail travel on the Indian Pacific, Perth to Sydney in gold service cabin • 3 nts in Sydney • Sydney Harbour Story Cruise • Rail travel on the XPT, Day Service Sydney to Melbourne • 3 nights in Melbourne • City tour and river cruise • Rail travel on the Overland, Melbourne to Adelaide • 2 nights in Adelaide • Adelaide City Sights Tour • Air travel, Adelaide to Perth

**GOLD \$3450 per person twin share**  
**PLATINUM \$5620 per person twin share**

**Darwin & The Top End** 7 NIGHTS DEPARTS PERTH ON SATURDAYS

• Air travel, Perth to Darwin • 3 nights in Darwin • 2 day Kakadu and East Alligator Tour including all touring and 1 night accommodation in Kakadu • Darwin City Tour • Rail travel on The Ghan, Darwin to Adelaide in gold service cabin • Including all meals, drinks and off train excursions • 1 night in Adelaide • Air travel, Adelaide to Perth

**GOLD \$3830 per person twin share**  
**PLATINUM \$5530 per person twin share**

**Around Australia by Rail** 18 NIGHTS DEPARTS PERTH ON TUESDAYS

Air travel, Perth to Broome • 3 nts in Broome • Town Tour • Air travel, Broome to Darwin • 2 nts Darwin • City Tour • Air travel, Darwin to Cairns • 3 nts in Cairns • Rail travel on the Spirit of Queensland, Cairns to Brisbane (Rail Bed) inc meals • 1 nt Brisbane • Rail travel on the XPT, Brisbane to Sydney • 2 nts Sydney • City Tour • Rail travel on the XPT, Sydney to Melbourne (First Class Seat) • 2 nts Melbourne • City Tour • Rail travel on the Overland, Melbourne to Adelaide • 2 nts Adelaide • City Tour • Rail travel on the Indian Pacific, Adelaide to Perth in Gold Service inc meals

**GOLD \$5590 per person twin share**  
**PLATINUM \$7680 per person twin share**

**Christmas in July** FREE UPGRADE TO AN OUTSIDE CABIN - BOOK NOW! TWO DEPARTURES 7 AND 28 JULY

Return flights Perth, Adelaide Perth • 2 nt in Adelaide • 3 nt Murray Princess cruise inc Return transfers, all meals, onshore excursions

**ON SALE \$1999 per person twin share** (based on inside cabin)

**South African Treasure** 16 DAY TOUR DEPARTS 11 JUNE, 2 & 16 JULY AND 13 AUGUST **INCLUDING FLIGHTS**

Return flights from Perth • transfers and transport • 14 nights accommodation - room and breakfasts & 4 dinners • Discover the Rainbow Nation, a land of breathtaking scenery, colourful history and cultural contrasts. This odyssey between South Africa's 2 largest cities showcases the major highlights: The Panorama Route from Johannesburg to Kruger NP, Hluhluwe-Imfolozi NP, St Lucia World Heritage Wetland Park, the Drakensberg Mountains, along the Garden Route and touching the Karoo to arrive in vibrant, cosmopolitan Cape Town nestling in the shadow of the spectacular Table Mountain.

**ON SALE FROM ONLY \$3905 pp twin share**

**3 STATE FLY & SAIL GETAWAY** DEPARTS 7 DECEMBER VISITING SA, VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

Air travel, Perth to Adelaide • 3 night's accommodation in Adelaide • City Tour • Barossa & Hahndorf full day tour • 7 night cruise on the Sun Princess (inside cabin), departing Adelaide and visiting: Burnie • Melbourne • Port Lincoln and disembark in Fremantle (includes: meals & entertainment)

**ON SALE FROM ONLY \$1680 per person twin share** (Upgrades available based on interior cabin)

# Travel Overseas with Villa Carlotta Travel

## New England and East Coast Canada in Fall



**Highlights** | Hudson River Cruise, New York  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York  
Broadway Show, New York | 10 Day Cruise: Massachusetts, Maine, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Gulf of St Lawrence, Quebec City, Saguenay Fjord | City Tours – New York, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto | Royal Canadian Mounted Police Stables Tour | Scenic 1000 Island Cruise  
Casa Loma, Canada's Castle | Omega Wildlife Park  
Niagara Falls Cruise and Illumination Dinner

**East Coast Canada, New England and New York**  
Featuring Colours of Canada and New England Cruise

**24 Days** | Wed 21 Sep to Fri 14 Oct 2016  
Staterooms From \$13100 pptw | Single Option \$2925  
FreeCall 1800 066 272 for full itinerary details

## Cruise Ocean to Ocean Through the Panama Canal

Explore Central America with Holland America's extraordinary choice of shore excursions and relax in the famous Bahamas.

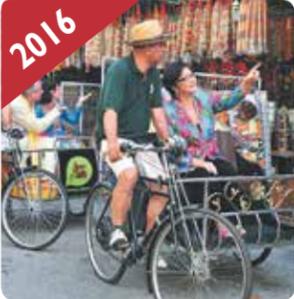
**Highlights** | 2 Nights San Diego, USA  
15 Nights Holland America Cruise | 5 Ports of Call  
6 Days at Sea | 6 Countries | Puerto Vallarta and Huatulco, Mexico | Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala | Corinto, Nicaragua  
Puerto Caldera (Puntarenas), Costa Rica | Panama Canal  
Cartagena, Colombia | Half Moon Cay, Bahamas

**Panama Canal Adventure Cruise**  
Featuring Mexico, Bahamas and Central America

**21 Days** | Wed 25 Jan to Tue 14 Feb 2017  
Staterooms from \$10995 pptw | Single Options \$2355  
FreeCall 1800 066 272 for full itinerary details



## Exclusive Solo Traveller Holiday to Singapore



On this exclusive solo traveller getaway, spend time wandering through the amazing variety of shops, stalls and markets and discover gardens, culture, enclaves and sights. With amazing sights and sounds, Singapore is a wonder to behold.

**Highlights** | Arab Street and Kampong Glam | Singapore River Cruise  
National Orchid Garden | Jurong Bird Park | Afternoon Tea at Raffles  
Peranakan Culture Tour | Singapore Night Markets  
Chinatown Evening | Free Day in Singapore

Just for Singles **Singapore Sights and Shopping**  
**24 Days** | Fri 25 to Wed 30 Nov 2016  
Guaranteed Single Room \$5160 | Share a Room and Save \$830  
FreeCall 1800 066 272 for full itinerary details

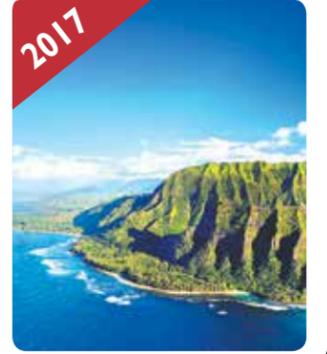
just for singles

## Explore the Islands of Hawaii

Enjoy 2 amazing nights in Los Angeles and a 15 night Star Princess cruise crossing the Pacific Ocean to beautiful Hawaii. Experience enriching activities, world-class entertainment and gourmet cuisine. Journey home via Ensenada, Mexico before returning to LA. The perfect way to see Hawaii and with a variety of restaurants, pools and activities on board, you will have the cruise of a lifetime!

**Highlights** | 1 Night Sydney | 2 Nights Los Angeles | Los Angeles City Tour  
15 Night Hawaii Cruise | 9 Days at Sea | Hilo, Hawaii | Honolulu, Hawaii  
Kauai, Hawaii | Maui, Hawaii | Ensenada, Mexico

**Hawaiian Islands Cruising**  
**21 Days** | Sun 19 Feb to Sat 11 Mar 2017  
FreeCall 1800 066 272 for full itinerary details



# Fabulous Floral Fun with Villa!

## Toowoomba Flower Festival Fun

A kaleidoscope of colour will greet you at one of Australia's longest running flower shows of its kind. Floral Parades, the Flower, Food and Wines Festival, entertainment, visual arts and stunning gardens will leave you spellbound.

**Highlights** | Cobb and Co Museum | Spring Bluff Railway  
Highfields Pioneer Village | DownStream Tourist Railway and Museum  
Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers | Grand Central Floral Parade  
Australian Army Flying Museum

**Toowoomba the Garden City and Carnival of Flowers**  
**7 Days** | Tuesday 13 to Monday 19 September 2016  
Price \$3685 pptw | Single Option \$600  
FreeCall 1800 066 272 for full itinerary details

## Floriade Festival Canberra to Sydney

Showcasing Australia's best spring colours with glorious displays, Canberra's springtime gift to the people of Australia is festive in spirit and filled with celebrations including music, entertainment, demonstrations, arts, crafts and produce.

**Highlights** | Entry to the Floriade Festival | Canberra City Sightseeing Tour  
Southern Highlands and Blue Mountains | Tulip Farm, Corbett Gardens,  
Greenbrier Park Garden | Berrima and Bowral  
The International Cricket Hall of Fame | Norman Lindsay Gallery  
Blue Mountains Scenic Railway | Cableway and Skyway  
Mount Tomah Botanical Gardens | Sydney Harbour Cruise  
Floriade Festival and Glorious NSW Gardens

**11 Days** | Monday 19 to Thursday 29 September 2016  
Price \$4595 pptw | Single Option \$950  
FreeCall 1800 066 272 for full itinerary details

## Exclusive Solo Traveller Holiday

Join with your fellow solo travellers for this amazing holiday to the beautiful Yarra Valley. The feature will be the Tesselaar Tulip Festival that includes over 500,000 tulips and 100 varieties in bloom!

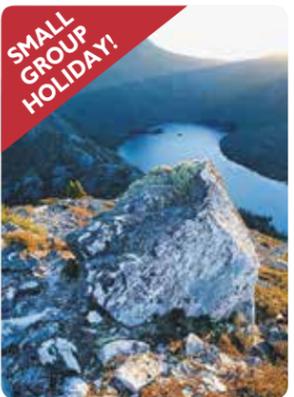
**Highlights** | Full Day at Tesselaar Tulip Festival | Dandenong Steam Train Ride  
Bavarian Entertainment and Dining | Skyhigh Mount Dandenong  
Dame Nellie Melba Estate | Tractor Orchard Tour  
Garden Tours – Coombe Estate and Big Bouquet | Mont De Lancey Homestead  
Who Dunit Mystery Night | Yarra Valley Produce

Just for Singles **Yarra Valley and Tesselaar Tulip Festival**  
**6 Days** | Monday 19 to Saturday 24 September 2016  
Guaranteed Single Room \$3535  
Share a Room and Save \$305  
FreeCall 1800 066 272 for full itinerary details

just for singles

# Small Group Wilderness Adventures!

## Tantalizing Tasmania is Calling



Your Tasmanian Wilderness Explorer holiday will reward you with pristine wilderness, breathtaking scenery, distinctive wildlife, colonial heritage, ruins and architecture, memorable encounters with the locals and culinary delights.

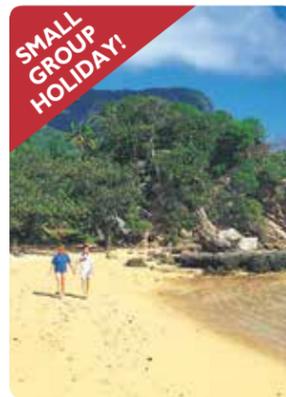
**Highlights** | Maria Island Walks, History, Nature | Freycinet Peninsula Cruise  
Freycinet Marine Farm Tour | Corinna Wilderness Experience  
Pieman River Cruise, Tarkine Wilderness | Tarraleah Village and History  
Guided Walk | Tasman Peninsula Cruise | Salamanca Markets, Hobart  
Port Arthur | Cradle Mountain | Mt Field National Park Walks  
Marakoopa Cave Guided Tour

Discovery **Tasmanian Ultimate Wilderness Explorer**  
**14 Days** | Saturday 5 to Friday 18 November 2016  
Price \$6490 pptw | Single Option \$1365  
FreeCall 1800 066 272 for full itinerary details

villa discovery

ACTIVITY LEVEL VERY HIGH | MAX TRAVELLERS 25

## Spectacular Lord Howe Island Awaits



Less than 2 hours from Sydney is a world of paradise to be discovered. World Heritage listed Lord Howe's beauty and natural wonders will take you on a journey of discovery and tranquility. This will be a world away from the city sights of Sydney that prelude your paradise experience.

**Highlights** | 3 Nights Sydney | 5 Nights Lord Howe Island  
Taronga Zoo Adventure | Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk  
Fort Dennison Tour and Lunch | Lord Howe Island Adventures  
Guided Walking Tour | Glass Bottom Cruise  
Island Tour | Turtle Tours | Environmental and History Tours

Discovery **Lord Howe Island – The Last Paradise**  
**9 Days** | Saturday 12 to Sunday 20 November 2016  
Price \$6685 pptw | Single Option \$1085  
FreeCall 1800 066 272 for full itinerary details

villa discovery

ACTIVITY LEVEL VERY HIGH | MAX TRAVELLERS 14

## Villa's Free Travel Presentations in 2016

Villa is delighted to announce the launch of our monthly free travel information sessions in Perth at the State Library of Western Australia. Each session runs from 9am to 1pm. Come to one, come to them all!

**Thursday 30 June 2016** Featuring Antarctica, Tasmania, The America's and New Zealand

**Thursday 28 July 2016** Featuring Discovery and Just for Singles Tours, Christmas in New Zealand and Europe

**Tuesday 9 August 2016** Featuring 2017 Holidays and Last Chance 2016 Departures.

FreeCall 1800 066 272 or email [events@villa.com.au](mailto:events@villa.com.au) RSVP is essential

All Villa Carlotta Travel holidays are fully escorted, depart from Perth and include courtesy home collection (Perth and Mandurah metro only)\*, airfares, taxes, insurance\*, gratuities\* and most meals. \*Terms and conditions apply.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian

## Sophisticated Singapore: a modern city of many moods and colours



Young Singaporeans perform for Chinese New Year - Illuminated super trees, part of the Bay South Garden - rooftop view from the Marina Bay Sands Hotel

by Josephine Allison

IT HAD been almost 12 years since we last visited Singapore and we weren't really prepared for the dramatic transformation. We decided to visit during the Chinese New Year which added to the flavour and spectacle of our stay; it was also one of the

coolest times of the year. We stayed at a hotel-style serviced apartment not far from Orchard Road which was convenient to restaurants and the MRT. Orchard Road is now very much upmarket, lined with luxury stores including Gucci, Dior, Armani, Burberry and Calvin Klein. But peel

back the sophisticated veneer of Singapore and you still find a city steeped in tradition with its own unique cuisine, lifestyle and customs. I especially enjoyed the Chinese New Year performances by young Singaporeans clad in neon orange costumes. We dropped into various shopping centres and managed to view some of the performances by lion dancers who did the high pole dance which calls for great agility and physical fitness.

According to the Singapore Wushu Dragon and Lion Dance Federation, demand for lion dance performances has gone up 10 per cent compared with last year but the number of fresh recruits is dwindling. There is a call for young members to do the jumps, lifts and climbing but parents worry about the risks of their children doing these stunts. Performers get paid around \$50 a day for Chinese New Year performances and \$20 a day during the rest of the year. Several schools have lion dance groups which helps encourage

the preservation of lion dance. We were swept up in the colourful performances, the bang of the drum signalling the young performers to roar into action, showing their athletic skills and commitment to a special part of the Chinese culture. They work hard during performances and have a busy schedule during Chinese New Year. Singapore's reputation for innovation and enterprise is well reflected in Gardens by the Bay, a nature park spanning 101 hectares opened to the public in June 2012. We visited the park during the day and again at night to see the super-trees come alive with a light and music show called the OCBC Garden Rhapsody. The night show was packed with locals and international visitors who marvelled at the spectacle.

Gardens by the Bay consists of three waterfront gardens with the largest, the Bay South Garden, at 54ha which showcases the best of tropical horticulture and garden artistry. Even if you aren't a gardener, you can wander at your heart's content and marvel at the logistics behind the project, part of a strategy by the Singapore government to transform Singapore from a garden city to a city in a garden. There are two cooled conservatories, the Flower Dome and the Cloud Forest, located along the edge of the Marina Reservoir. The Flower Dome at 1.2ha features seven different gardens as well as an olive grove with a bistro and an ever changing central display field designed to allow flower shows and displays to be held within the conservatory. The Cloud Forest at 2ha replicates the cool, moist conditions found in tropical mountain regions. You can explore the highlands amidst orchids, pitcher plants and ferns complete with a 35m man-made mountain and waterfall. We also opted for a rooftop view from the opulent Marina Bay Sands Hotel which looks like a giant surfboard stretched across the top of three separate buildings. Our friends, who used to live in Singapore but now live in Perth, took us to their former sub-

urb, Joo Chiat, where we sampled the local cuisine and an authentic, local buzz unique to Singapore with the neighbourhood vibe in contrast to sophisticated Orchard Road. Each business offers a product with a strong heritage story to it, local snacks and delicacies, traditional Peranakan (Straits-born Chinese) attire and accessories and various heritage-inspired souvenirs. On another day we headed for Sentosa using the traveller which opened in 2011. The island has changed dramatically from more than a decade ago with many attractions including Universal Studios theme park, Madame Tussauds and stores. No visit to Singapore would be complete without a stop at the Botanic Gardens which has more than four millions visitors annually. The national orchid garden is a highlight and has more than 1000 species and 2000 hybrids, offering a permanent showcase and the largest display of orchids in the world. After all, the orchid epitomises the colour, grace and many moods that is Singapore.

Cathie Rice Travel presents

### ROCK & ROLL - RAIL & SAIL!

Travel in style on the Indian Pacific to join the PS MURRAY PRINCESS

LIVE entertainment every night onboard the cruise!

ALL INCLUSIVE TRAIN & CRUISE PACKAGE!

## 60s, 70s & 80s MUSIC CRUISE

Departs Perth 31 July 2016  
8 NIGHTS from ONLY \$3695 ppts

**Train inclusions:**

- 3 days/2 nights in a Gold Service private sleeper cabin with ensuite from Perth to Adelaide
- Off train excursions in Kalgoorlie and Cook
- All meals and beverages onboard the train

**Cruise inclusions:**

- 3 night PS Murray Princess cruise in an Outside Cabin
- All meals onboard including the Captains Buffet dinner
- Live entertainment every night of the cruise!
- A selection of onshore tours and onboard activities

Also includes Qantas airfare Adelaide to Perth, 3 nights at the Stamford Plaza Adelaide including breakfast daily, half day Adelaide city tour, and Hahndorf & Barossa Valley full day tour with wine tasting and lunch.

For a brochure call 9721 9588 or Free Call 1800 177 788

\*Conditions apply. Price valid for travel ex PER and includes pre paid taxes. Single supplement available

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On the Blackwood River, Bridgetown

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## Rock and Roll aboard the Rail and Sail Music Cruise

CATHIE Rice Travel has put together a fantastic package for the inaugural PS Murray Princess Music Cruise, including first class rail, a short stay in Adelaide, the three night music cruise, and flights with Qantas.

If you loved the music of the 60s, 70s and 80s, then you'll love this cruise. Why not get a group of friends together, get your 70s costume out of the back of the cupboard and put your dancing shoes on for a fun music cruise on the Murray River?

Travel in all-inclusive comfort and style on the mighty Indian Pacific from Perth to Adelaide, departing 31 July. Your journey includes gourmet meals in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant; a superb selection of wines, and an array of popular and boutique beers; hand-picked off-train excursions in Kalgoorlie and Cook; and beautifully appointed private sleeper accommodation in twin or single cabins that convert to a lounge during the day.

The Outback Explorer Lounge is the social hub of the train, exclusive to Gold Service travellers, a place to meet new friends over a cup of coffee or a glass of wine.

Guests enjoy a short stay in Adelaide at the central Stamford Plaza Hotel with local and Barossa Valley sightseeing, before travelling to Mannum to join the PS Murray Princess.

The Murray Princess Music Cruise includes live entertainment every night, all meals onboard including the captains buffet dinner, accommodation in an outside cabin, dance competitions, music quizzes, shore tours and more.

Call Cathie Rice Travel on 9721 9588 or Free call 1800 177788 for more details.

## Fall Colours Garden Cruise of Canada & USA

Led by garden expert Deryn Thorpe

Sail on MS Rotterdam from Montreal to New York, visiting stunning gardens in glorious Fall Colours. Visit Quebec, Charlottetown, Sydney and Halifax in Canada, Bar Harbor, Boston and Newport USA, with 2 nights in Montreal and 4 nights in New York.

**13 Oct - 1 Nov 2016**

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian

## A sausage, a selfie and stock exchange priced beer - three uncanny Singapore experiences to find in Chinatown...



Clockwise from left; #Selfie Coffee - The Wuerstelstand - be emblazoned in coffee at #Selfie Coffee

by Steve Collins

I WAS wandering through Singapore's Chinatown when the heavens suddenly opened up. It was a typical tropical storm, raindrops as large as marbles fell in a torrent from the darkened skies.

Charging for the cover of a nearby food market I was nearly soaked after just a few seconds. When finally protected I looked around for something to drink and perhaps a small snack to keep me occupied for the duration of the storm.

I had started to love the local iced lemon tea, which is brilliantly refreshing in Singapore's hot and sultry climate. Being smack-bang in the middle of Chinatown I was expecting to order usual Asian fare, noodles, pork buns, perhaps one or two dim sum snacks. Then I saw a large sign for the Wuerstelstand which proudly advertised that it was the last sausage kiosk before the equator.

Truthfully, that's no idle boast for Singapore is indeed very close to the equator and sausage kiosks are not terribly common throughout Asia.

The stall was owned by Erich, an ex-pat Austrian,

who seemed to have the Singaporean market for German-style sausage pretty well covered. He also did a nice line in Backstube, Austrian-style muffins. Erich is a fantastic, larger-than-life, lanky character who is both garrulous and very entertaining. He was immaculately dressed in a

spotlessly clean, starched chef's jacket, and for me he even donned a tall toque. Erich would have looked at home in a Michelin three star kitchen.

His signature currywurst was indeed a delicious and very cheap accompaniment to the iced lemon tea.

The Wuerstelstand was not what I was expecting to find in Chinatown but my trip was definitely enriched by having the opportunity to taste and discuss sausage with Erich.

Singaporeans are known for their business acumen and in nearby Clarke Quay I found a bar that operates much like a stock exchange. By climbing a steep, dark staircase I entered a large space that is the beer market. Big screens were scattered

around the bar. Emblazoned across them were the brand names of beers, with their prices heralded in different colours in the next row.

These prices are changed every 20 minutes. I didn't ask why they magically changed after 20 minutes. Perhaps that's the average time for chugging down a pint? In which case, beer drinking is about the only pursuit I can accomplish in better-than-average time.

I learnt that if the price is unchanged, its colour appears as white. If the price has risen, green is the indicator. The one to look for is red, for this confirms that particular brew is cheaper than previously. The spot prices are based on popularity; the more a particular

beer sells, the higher its price. Those that are seldom purchased lose value.

Not all beers are initially priced the same, so that even if a poor-selling beer drops in price, it may still be more expensive than those on the rise. Reason being that not all beers are the same. Price depends on type, brand and especially alcoholic content, with strong beers costing more than light beers.

I had one beer, admittedly one that had fallen in price, then left, figuring that I would save a lot more money by not drinking beer at all.

There was one experience in Singapore that I have never had before - sucking my own face.

This was in one of my favourite areas, Kampong Glam, around Arab Street, which now is a really hip place. Whilst idling along Haji Lane which, with its garishly-painted buildings, cafes and boutiques, is full of interesting places to visit, I saw a shop called #Selfie Coffee.

Being naturally curious I ambled in to ask how it all worked.

They hand you a camera, you take a selfie, choose your brew, and it gets delivered with your face printed on the foam. I'm not at all into taking selfies, but this opportunity seemed too

good to dismiss, so I took the camera and pulled a stupid face, not that you can tell with me.

After ordering an iced coffee I sat at an outside table and waited. Soon, my drink arrived and, as promised, my face was emblazoned across the foam in full colour. I have no idea how the printing process works, but it was actually quite impressive.

So, I put a straw through my eye and started drinking.

This was much better than dieting because the more I drank the skinnier my face became. If I had of known this earlier I would have taken a full length selfie so I could watch myself get slimmer just by drinking iced coffee.

The saddest part is when you ingest the last of your face.

By then I really needed to get moving again, to walk off all those calories I'd just enjoyed.

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# Great Value

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### 4 Day Kalgoorlie Step Back in Time

Discover the history and heritage of the Goldfields with this exclusive "Step Back in Time" holiday package. Use your free Transwa pensioner pass to travel on the Prospector and undertake three tours.

#### Holiday includes:

- Return Prospector rail Perth to Kalgoorlie
- 3 nights choice of accom, inc cont. b/fast (buffet b/fast at Quality Inn)
- Tram Tour
- Loopline Railway Museum
- Hannans North Tourist Mine
- Questa Casa Bordello Tour
- Kalgoorlie Boulder Audio Walking Tour

#### Day 1: Perth to Kalgoorlie

7.10am depart Perth on the Prospector and travel through the scenic Wheatbelt in air-con comfort, arrive Kalgoorlie 2pm. Transfer to your hotel at own expense, then free afternoon to explore the city.

#### Day 2: Kalgoorlie touring

After breakfast, make your way to the Visitor Centre at own expense to catch the 10:12am "hop on hop off" Tram Tour of the City. Stop at both Hannans North Tourist Mine then the Loopline Railway Museum. Hop on board again, perhaps for a final stop at the WA Museum\* in Hannan Street.



#### Day 3: Kalgoorlie touring

After breakfast, make your way to the Visitor Centre at own expense and collect your Kalgoorlie Boulder Audio Walking Tour package, which includes your head set, souvenir guide book, bottled water, hat and stubby cooler. In the afternoon, join the most popular Questa Casa Bordello Tour starting at 3pm.

#### Day 4: Kalgoorlie to Perth

After early breakfast, transfer to the rail station at own expense. 7.05am depart Kalgoorlie Station and travel on the comfortable Prospector, arriving Perth 1.45pm.

#### Departs Perth Monday or Tuesday, every week

Cost per person (twin share)	Free Pass	Pen/Sen	Adult
Best Western Hospitality Inn	\$285	\$370	\$475
Ibis Styles	\$310	\$395	\$500
Quality Inn Railway Motel	\$310	\$395	\$500
Rydges Resort & Spa	\$315	\$400	\$505
The View on Hannans	\$330	\$420	\$520

\* WA Museum entry is a \$5 recommended donation, not included in package price. Optional Extra: Add car hire to this package for an additional \$55 per car, per day

from **\$285**  
twin share with  
pensioner free pass  
(adult \$475)

### 4 Day Golden Quest Discovery Trail Drive

Discover Kalgoorlie Boulder and the Goldfields at your own pace with the convenience of a rental car. Perhaps visit The Superpit, Hannans North Tourist Mine and wander the historic streets of Kalgoorlie and Boulder before you head north on the fabulous Golden Quest Discovery Trail.

#### Holiday includes:

- Return Prospector rail Perth to Kalgoorlie
- 2 nights choice of Kalgoorlie accom, inc cont. b/fast (buffet b/fast at Quality Inn)
- 1 night accom Leonora Lodge, inc cont. b/fast
- 3 days car hire, mid-sized auto sedan, unlimited mileage
- Golden Quest Discovery Trail 164 page self-drive guide book

#### Days 1 and 2: Perth to Kalgoorlie

7.10am depart Perth on the Prospector and travel through the scenic Wheatbelt in air-con comfort, arrive Kalgoorlie 2pm. A representative from Racey Rentals will meet you at the Station with your rental car. The next 2 days are free to explore this wonderful inland city. Wander its wide streets and take in the vivid architecture, check out the view from the Superpit and relive Goldfields history at Hannans North Tourist Mine or the Kalgoorlie WA Museum. In Boulder Town Hall, view the Goatcher Curtain and look down into an old mine shaft at the Metropole Hotel.

#### Day 3: Kalgoorlie to Leonora (235km)

After breakfast, explore the Northern Goldfields along the Golden Quest Discovery Trail, guide book provided. Driving



north, stop at Menzies for a coffee before heading to the Antony Gormley "Inside Australia" exhibit, at Lake Ballard. This afternoon, perhaps drive to scenic Niagara Dam and historical Kookynie, before arriving in Leonora for the night.

#### Day 4: Leonora to Kalgoorlie to Perth

After an early breakfast, head out to Gwalia. Wander through historic prospector's huts then Hoover House Museum on the edge of St Barbara open cut mine. Depart Leonora no later than 11am for the return drive to Kalgoorlie. Be at Kalgoorlie Station at 2.45pm, return the rental vehicle ready for a 3pm (Friday) departure on the Prospector, arriving Perth 9.45pm.

#### Departs Perth Tuesday, every week

Cost per person (twin share)	Free Pass	Pen/Sen	Adult
Best Western Hospitality Inn	\$299	\$385	\$475
Ibis Styles	\$315	\$400	\$490
Quality Inn Railway Motel	\$315	\$400	\$490
Rydges Resort & Spa	\$320	\$405	\$495
The View on Hannans	\$330	\$415	\$505

\*Entry fees to suggested attractions and museums not included. Car rental is for 3 x 24 hour periods, pick up/return to Kalgoorlie Train Station. Unlimited mileage and collision damage waiver inc., normal excess \$1500. Drivers to be 21 and over, surcharge applies for P plate drivers. Car to be returned with a full tank of fuel.

from **\$299**  
twin share with  
pensioner free pass  
(adult \$475)

### 4 Day Kalgoorlie Golf Extravaganza

Gold was discovered in Kalgoorlie in 1893 and the gold rush began, but these days it's the GOLF RUSH! Play one of the world's greatest desert golf courses, designed by Graham Marsh. Travel to Kalgoorlie FREE on the Prospector by using your Transwa pensioner pass.

#### Holiday includes:

- Return Prospector rail Perth to Kalgoorlie
  - 3 nights choice of accom inc cont. b/fast (buffet b/fast at Quality Inn)
  - 2 days x 18 holes of golf on the Kalgoorlie Golf Course, inc. 2 days green fees & 2 days golf buggy hire
- EXTRA COST: BYO golf clubs on Prospector extra \$15 per bag each way or rent clubs from KGC extra \$30 for the 2 games.

#### Day 1: Perth to Kalgoorlie

7.10am depart Perth on the Prospector and travel through scenic Wheatbelt in air-con comfort, arrive Kalgoorlie 2pm. Transfer to your hotel at own expense, then free afternoon to explore the city.

#### Day 2: Kalgoorlie Golf

After breakfast, you are free to enjoy the sights of Kalgoorlie or undertake the first of your two 18 hole golf games.



#### Day 3: Kalgoorlie Golf

After breakfast, you are again free to enjoy the sights of Kalgoorlie or undertake the second of your 18 hole golf games.

#### Day 4: Kalgoorlie to Perth

After breakfast transfer to rail station at own expense. 7.05am depart Kalgoorlie Station on the Prospector with in-seat entertainment, arriving Perth 1.45pm.

#### Departs Perth Monday or Tuesday, every week

Cost per person (twin share)	Free Pass	Pen/Sen	Adult
Best Western Hospitality Inn	\$320	\$410	\$495
Ibis Styles	\$345	\$430	\$520
Quality Inn Railway Motel	\$345	\$430	\$520
Rydges Resort & Spa	\$350	\$440	\$525
The View on Hannans	\$365	\$455	\$540

Optional extra: Add car hire to package for additional \$55 per car, per day

from **\$320**  
twin share with  
pensioner free pass  
(adult \$495)

# let's go travelling

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## Barry Matheson sips his way around Alsace



Clockwise from left; Colombarge Alsace © Colmar - Cycling through the vines © Infra - Strasbourg Cathedral © Krzysztof Janiczek and The Quay at Strasbourg © Nadi+ Moreau

by Barry Matheson with Michael Osborne

SIPPING a crisp Pino Gris with Albert Seltz in his cellar, I'm somewhat startled when he pours me what he calls his love wine, a tasty Gewurztraminer, one of the seven white wine varieties his family has been growing for fourteen generations on his vast Alsatian estate.

"It's guaranteed to give you amour," says this passionate French vintner who proudly tells me it's a wine for ladies.

"We had a group visit us from Germany and I told them about my love wine and one lady ordered her husband to buy a half a dozen bottles immediately", he laughed.

The 17th century Albert Seltz Winery is in the heart of Mittelbergheim, one of the 120 pretty villages that dot the 170 km Alsatian Wine Route (Route des Vins) where wine growers have been producing fragrant white wine since the 2nd and 3rd centuries.

Of the 80 million tourists who visit France annually, it's safe to say a good majority of them will

head for Bordeaux and Burgundy, renowned for their irresistible red wine.

But, if you're a white wine lover, Alsace is for you, and it's less than two hours from Paris on the TGV.

White wine seems to be everywhere, and in everything - at La Gouronne restaurant in the village of Scherwiller, 30 minutes' drive from the capital Strasbourg, I was served a Riesling soup followed by a fillet of Perch with Riesling sauce, with a bottle of delicious Riesling wine, of course.

Winemakers even put empty Riesling bottles on their roofs to signify they have a daughter to marry off, and there were plenty of those bottles hanging from the roofs as I drove through Scherwiller.

Some 18 million tourists visited Alsace in 2014. With the combination of wine, the beauty of the villages and houses decorated with flowers, many of which date as far back as 1570, they have a timeless charm.

Stop in the town of Rosheim to see its 10th century church, and in Klingenthal drop into the

Sword Museum. The place has been making swords since the 18th century. Napoleon had his swords made here.

If you're really into medieval weapons, head up to Haut-Koenigsbourg Castle built in the 12th century. Perched 700-metres high on a mountain top, the castle has a large collection of crossbows, swords and armour, not to mention beautiful rooms, paintings, Renaissance furniture and enormous cast-iron stoves.

In the city of Strasbourg, a must-see is its splendid gothic cathedral - Notre-Dame - and its amazing astronomical clock with its moving figures. There are daily shows and from the top of the 142-metre spire, you'll get sweeping views of the River Rhine.

Make sure you visit the Strasbourg hospital, called Porte de l'Hôpital and its underground wine cellars which are a tourist attraction in their own right. The hospital was devastated by fire in 1716, but the wine cellars dating back to 1395 were spared.

Back then, patients were given two-litres of wine a day and many paid for their care by leaving parcels of land, mainly vineyards to the hospital.

Today, the cellars produce some 150,000 bottles a year, quality stuff, and a steal at only around eight Euro a bottle. Staff will show you one barrel that contains what is reputed to be the oldest wine on earth, dating from 1472.

Not far from Strasbourg is Colmar which calls itself the capital of Alsatian wine. It was the last town in France to be freed during the Second World War, and it's just about the prettiest place you'll see.

Known as Little Venice, it has a well-preserved Old Town and on each side of the Lauch River that winds its way through the city are fairytale, multi-storey, half-timbered houses built centuries ago, all beautifully kept with flower baskets hanging from the walls.

Colmar's most famous son is Frederic Bartholdi who conceived and designed the Statue of Liberty. A 12-metre high replica greets you on the outskirts of the town, while his memory is treasured by his museum which is in the house where he was born in the Old Town.

Here, you'll find the original drawings for the Statue of Liberty.

Eating in Alsace, expect a combination of German hearty fare, fused with the elegance of French cuisine.

Accommodation in Alsace ranges from boutique and chain hotels to guest houses and B and Bs. Two-star hotels cost from 60-70 Euros a night, three-star from 70-110 Euros a night and four-star 110-160 Euros a night.

More information: [www.tourism-alsace.com](http://www.tourism-alsace.com)  
The writer was a guest of Alsace Tourism.

## Wundowie Iron Festival

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Iron Beast

Circle of Swords

Produce and Craft Stalls

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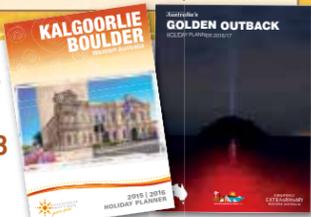
or phone Helen on 0417 903 867

Sunday 15 May 2016 9am-4pm  
Wundowie Community Hall and Oval

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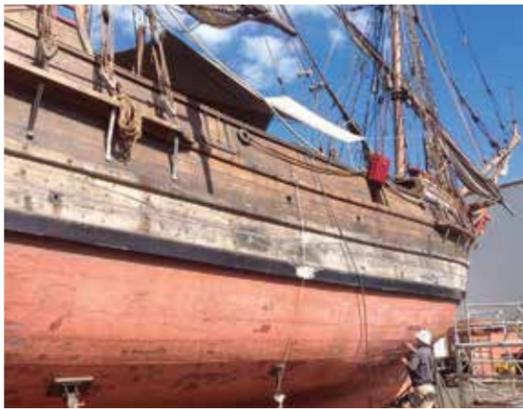
Prices correct at the time of publication but subject to increase. Pensioners & Seniors discounts only available for holders of WA Pension Card & Seniors Card. All products are subject to availability. Prices for tours are per person twin share, valid to 31/7/2016, extra cost for single accommodation. Amendment and cancellation fees apply, \$20 per booking.

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## Dirk Hartog - here comes the *Duyfken*



The *Duyfken* in dry dock

AFTER ten weeks of toil, all the major renovation and maintenance tasks to prepare *Duyfken* for her voyage to Shark Bay, and Dirk Hartog Island are nearly done.

This has been a massive undertaking, the first major renovation of the ship since it hit the water back in 1999.

The list was long and

included the complete replacement of the old deck with new Oregon timbers sourced from the forests of the United States. Our team of shipwrights, most of whom had helped build *Duyfken* back in the late 90's, used many of the traditional timber skills of 400 years ago to complete the task. Oakum was laid between

each of the new deck planks, with heated black pitch then poured over the seams to make the deck water tight.

The success of this deck replacement project has been important in extending the life of *Duyfken* for at least another 30 years, that will make her 46, and she will have lived 34 years longer than the original which came to grief after a 12-year life back in the early 1600s.

Not content with just a makeover of the deck, a hardy team of volunteers set to work in chipping back the old anti-fouling paint in preparation for a refreshing facial of new paint. This is an arduous task, its all done with paint scraper in hand and plenty of elbow grease... and the consequent sweat equity.

With 200 square metres of hull to scrape back, the team of 12

set about their task and had the job done in two days. Being a volunteer as part of the *Duyfken* crew is viewed by all as a most rewarding experience as each 'vollie' puts a little bit of themselves into the upkeep of this magnificent sailing ship that represents so much of significance in the early European engagement with Australia back in the 1600s.

Over coming weeks, the crew that have nominated to be part of this year's *Duyfken* 2016 Hartog Commemorative Voyage will hit the water for a series of sea trials and sail training sessions in preparation for the voyage from Fremantle to Shark Bay.

Then on 20 August, 2016 *Duyfken* will depart from Fremantle Harbour bound for Bunbury, the first of seven ports of call where she will open on ex-

hibition for school groups and members of the local community. Aside from Bunbury, *Duyfken* will visit Mandurah, Hillarys, Jurien Bay, Dongara, Geraldton, and Denham.

Tickets for the *Duyfken*/Hartog Community Exhibition will go on sale for all ports in mid-May and will be available by visiting [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au). This is one exhibition you and your friends will not want to miss.

Well that's all for this month from the *Duyfken* team...see you next month.

[www.duyfken.com](http://www.duyfken.com)



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## WA Wildflower holidays are calling people this spring

VILLA Carlotta Travel have a great range of wildflower holidays to tantalise you this spring. Whether you want to head north, south or east they have you covered. Starting with their West Coast Wildflowers Explorer, check out the wonders of the Batavia Coast and enjoy seeing the dolphins of Monkey Mia. Departing Tuesday 2 to Monday 8 August, this is a wonderful holiday experience.

Still in the north, Villa's Geraldton and Midlands Wildflower Extravaganza includes the Mullewa Wildflower Show and the Coal-seam Conservation Reserve. Go in search of the fabled Wreath Leschenaultia from Saturday 27 to Wednesday 31 August.

Just north of Perth is beautiful Cervantes. Villa's Cervantes Wildflower tour includes the Lesueur and Badgingarra Na-

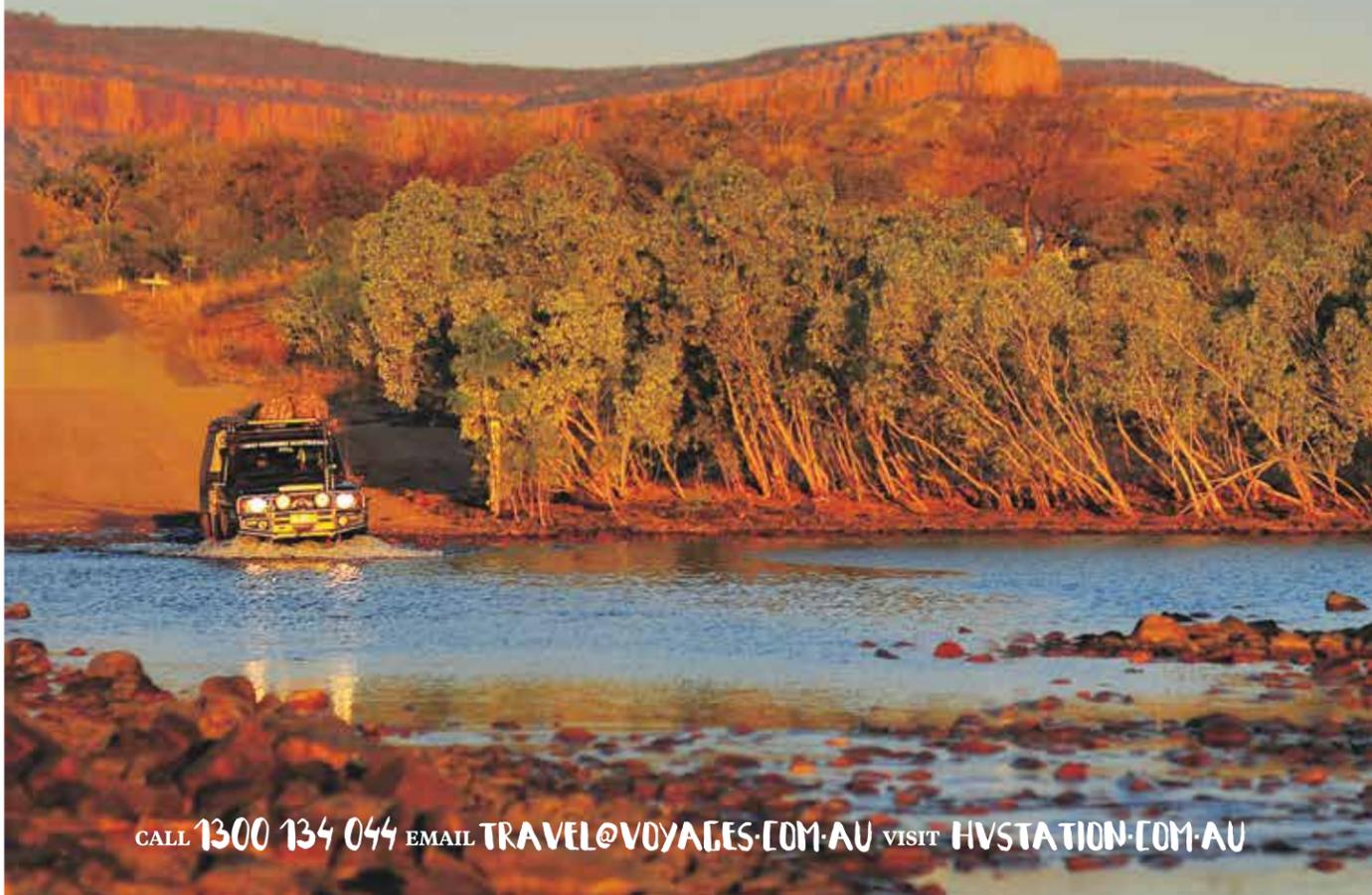
tional Parks and the Pinnacles and departs Friday 16 to Monday 19 September. Heading south, villa's Southern Wheatbelt Wildflower Wonders holiday features the Stirling Range and Fitzgerald River National Parks. Both amazing places to see WA's amazing range of wildflowers. This tour departs Wednesday 5 to Sunday 9 October. Last but by no means least, Villa's Hyden and

the Wheatbelt Wildflower Trail getaway will take to Hyden to see incredible Wave Rock and the rural hamlet of Lake Grace. This holiday departs Tuesday 11 to Friday 14 October.

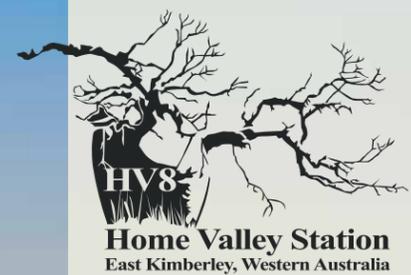
To find out more or to book on one of these amazing wildflower holidays, FreeCall 1800 066 272, email [holidays@villa.com.au](mailto:holidays@villa.com.au) or check out their website [www.villa.com.au](http://www.villa.com.au) today!

# INTO THE NEVER NEVER

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Engulfed by a landscape of breathtaking contrast, Home Valley Station is located on the iconic Gibb River Road, at the foot of the majestic Cockburn Range. A truly unique and intimate Kimberley wilderness experience with a warm and decidedly Australian style of hospitality.

Reignite your spirit of adventure. Reel in that elusive Barramundi from the banks of the Pentecost River, swim in natural sapphire pools dwarfed by ancient red gorges or explore Australia's last frontier from the air, by foot or on horseback.

**OUTBACK PACKAGE**  
**\$250\***  
2 nights per person twin share

#### INCLUDES

- + 2 nights accommodation in a Guesthouse Room
- + Daily buffet breakfast
- + Access to walking trails
- + Entertainment at Dusty Bar & Grill

\*Conditions apply, offer is subject to availability. Lead-in price is per person based on 2 adults staying in a Guesthouse Room using existing bedding for travel 1 Jun - 31 Aug '16. Low season rates apply for travel 1 - 31 May '16 and 1 Sep '16 - 31 Oct '16 from \$210\* per person twin share. Extra person rate applies for a rollaway bed. Quote ESCAPE2 at time of booking. Minimum 2 night stay applies. All prices quoted are in Australian dollars, inclusive of GST. Voyages general terms and conditions apply, visit [voyages.com.au/terms](http://voyages.com.au/terms). Photo credit: Carlisle Rogers



# Canada & Alaska

27 DAYS, MONDAY 22 MAY TO SATURDAY 17 JUNE 2017

When you hear someone say that they are going to Canada and Alaska, chances are you're imagining one of a few things; the turquoise blue water in stunning Lake Louise, winding through the Rockies on the world famous Rocky Mountaineer or seeing the ice fall from the glacier while you're cruising through the Inside Passage. We invite you to experience the breathtaking scenery and witness the ever-changing landscape on this once in a life-time journey. Not only will you tour through the Rockies staying in deluxe hotels, you'll cruise up the inside passage to Anchorage where you'll begin your next adventure. Board the full dome railcar on the 'Midnight Sun Express' train to the Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge and encounter the unique Alaskan wilderness.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- \* Cruise the spectacular waterways of the Inside Passage
- \* Travel along the scenic Icefields Parkway
- \* Explore Banff National Park and see Emerald Lake and Natural Bridge
- \* Discover Vancouver's famous sights
- \* Visit the ski resort town of Whistler
- \* Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Victoria
- \* Experience the famous Glacier Bay National Park
- \* Explore Juneau, the colourful Alaskan capital
- \* Relive the gold rush history of Skagway
- \* View College Fjord, home to 16 Glaciers
- \* Explore Denali National Park, Mt McKinley and Fairbank

## TOUR INCLUSIONS

- ✓ Home pick-up and return
- ✓ Kings Tour Manager
- ✓ The services of a local Tour Director
- ✓ 1-night pre-tour accommodation in Hong Kong
- ✓ 12 Day Canadian Rockies Coach Tour
- ✓ 7 Nights on a luxury cruise ship in an Ocean View Stateroom
- ✓ 6 Day Alaskan Wilderness Coach & Rail Tour
- ✓ 2 Day Rocky Mountaineer Rail Experience in Silver leaf
- ✓ Premium First Class hotels including all hotel service charges and portage
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AND AND PAY THE 2017 PRICE**

TWIN SHARE **\$12,050pp**  
SINGLE **\$15,400**

\* The above prices are Land Only

## BUY ONE AIRFARE GET ONE FREE!

Optional Shore Excursions are an additional cost. A visa waiver is required for the US and Canada (additional cost). Airfares are not included in the tour cost. Special Deals Apply.

### DAY 1: PERTH TO HONG KONG ( IFM )

Your holiday begins from when you are picked up from home in a private car and transferred to the airport. Meet your Tour Manager and fellow passengers and fly overnight to Hong Kong. On arrival we will transfer to our hotel and check-in. Enjoy the evening at your leisure. **Hotel: YMCA Salisbury Hotel or similar in Hong Kong for 1 night**

### DAY 2: HONG KONG – VANCOUVER – VICTORIA ( B / D )

You will have the morning at leisure before departing for our flight to Vancouver and then on to Victoria. Welcome to Canada! You will be met at Victoria International Airport and transferred to your hotel. This evening meet your Tour Director and fellow travellers for a welcome dinner at your hotel. **Hotel: Inn at Laurel Point for 2 nights**

### DAY 3: VICTORIA – BUTCHART GARDENS ( B )

This morning visit the world-famous Butchart Gardens. Learn about the history and flora while exploring this 22 hectare showplace of colourful gardens. Afterwards enjoy an orientation tour of Victoria's Inner Harbour, Bastion Square, Beacon Hill and residential areas.

### DAY 4: GEORGIA STRAIT – WHISTLER ( B )

Drive north along Vancouver Island to Nanaimo. Board the BC Ferry and travel through Georgia Strait to Horseshoe Bay. Journey along the Sea to Sky Highway as the road follows the rugged coastline. You will have the chance to stop at the awesome Shannon Falls before arriving at the charming alpine resort of Whistler Village. **Hotel: Hilton Whistler Resort & Spa for 1 night**

**\*\*Opportunity to view this spectacular landscape from the air with a one hour floatplane flight over the Georgia Strait to the alpine resort of Whistler (seasonal, must be pre-booked, additional cost)\*\***

### DAY 5: WHISTLER – SUN PEAKS ( B / D )

Travel along the scenic Duffy Lake Road lined with thick forest into the town of Lillooet. In the afternoon we head to the picturesque ski resort of Sun Peaks. You're Invited: This evening enjoy a fur traders feast and presentation accompanied by a tranquil canoe journey. **Hotel: Hearthstone Lodge for 1 night**

**Hotel: Hearthstone Lodge for 1 night**



### DAY 6: SUN PEAKS - JASPER ( B / D )

Today you will be rewarded with astounding views as you reach the grandeur of the Canadian Rockies. Weave through thick forests, past meandering rivers, enjoy vistas of the soaring mountains, ice age glaciers and tumbling waterfalls as you make your way through the spectacular Jasper National Park. **Hotel: Best Western Jasper Inn for 1 night**

### DAY 7: ICEFIELD PARKWAY – GLACIER ICE EXPLORER – LAKE LOUISE ( B / D )

This morning enjoy a guided walk through the stunning Maligne Canyon, one of Canada's most spectacular gorges. Depart Jasper and travel along the breathtaking Icefields Parkway, acclaimed as one of the most incredible journeys in the world. Make a stop at the Columbia Icefield, North America's largest sub-polar ice pack where you'll climb aboard the mighty Ice Explorer for an once-in-a-lifetime journey onto the 300 metre thick Athabasca Glacier. Finish the day at the famous 'Diamond in the Wilderness', the beautiful Lake Louise where we will stay in one of the Rockies most stunning and historic properties. **Hotel: Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise for 1 night**

### DAY 8: LAKE LOUISE - BANFF ( B / D )

Visit the spectacular Natural Bridge, which has been carved by the Kicking Horse River, and Yoho National Park that houses the glacier fed Emerald Lake. Arrive into the impressive Banff National Park and enjoy a sightseeing tour including Bow River, the Hoodoos, Bow Falls and a ride to the top of Sulphur Mountain for incredible views across the Rockies. **Hotel: Banff International Hotel for 2 nights**

### DAY 9: BANFF AT LEISURE ( B )

Today is free for you to enjoy Banff and its many sights and attractions.

### DAY 10: ROCKY MOUNTAINEER – KAMLOOPS ( B / L )

Set off on a two day rail experience on 'The Most Spectacular Train Journey in the World'. Settle back in your Silver Leaf carriage (upgrade to Gold Leaf at additional expense). Cross Kicking Horse Pass and view glaciers and snow-capped mountains before arriving into Kamloops. **Hotel: Kamloops Hotel for 1 night (as assigned by Rocky Mountaineer)**

### DAY 11: ROCKY MOUNTAINEER – VANCOUVER ( B / L )

This morning we re-board the Rocky Mountaineer and continue our journey west, follow the Thompson River and pass through the magnificent Fraser Valley and arrive into Vancouver. **Hotel: Pinnacle Hotel for 2 nights**

### DAY 12: VANCOUVER SIGHTS ( B / D )

You're Invited: Experience Vancouver's delectable food scene as you're guided through some award winning restaurants and cafés on a breakfast tasting tour. Later, set-off on a sightseeing tour of Vancouver including Stanley Park, famous for its totem poles, the waterfront and Gastown. Visit Capilano Suspension Bridge suspended 70 metres above the river. Make your way across, then walk amongst the canopy on the award winning Treetops Adventure.

### DAY 13: VANCOUVER - 7 NIGHT ALASKAN CRUISE ( B / D )

This morning board your luxurious cruise ship for a 7 night Alaskan Voyage in your Outside Stateroom

on the Star Princess. Discover the many services, facilities and activities on offer.

**Cruise: Princess Cruise for 7 nights**

### DAY 14: SCENIC CRUISING ( B / L / D )

Sit back and enjoy the scenery as you cruise north. Canada and Alaska's coastline reveals North America's last great wilderness. Keep a look out for wildlife such as orcas, humpback whales and bald eagles.

### DAY 15: KETCHIKAN ( B / L / D )

Welcome to the salmon capital of the world! Part of the town is built along a steep hillside, part is built on pilings over the water where bald eagles watch from waterside perches. The collection of totem poles is an essential stop for anyone interested in native art.

### DAY 16: JUNEAU ( B / L / D )

Surrounded by the Gastineau Channel, the Mendenhall Glacier and the Juneau Icefields, Alaska's capital is famed for its scenery and isolation.

### DAY 17: SKAGWAY ( B / L / D )

Cruise into Skagway, the gateway to the Klondike. Enjoy free time to go ashore and stroll along the weathered boardwalks admiring the shop front facades, reminiscent of the gold rush era.

### DAY 18: GLACIER BAY ( B / L / D )

Early this morning, enter the iceberg strewn waters of Glacier Bay National Park. Marvel at the glacial ice wall carved by nature. This breath-taking scenery will be brought to life by a National Park Service Ranger as they help you spot wildlife and interpret the glacier activity.

### DAY 19: COLLEGE FJORD ( B / L / D )

Within Prince William Sound lies College Fjord and its collection of glaciers. The magnitude of these glaciers is difficult to imagine. Some reach forty stories above sea level, dwarfing even the largest cruise ship.

### DAY 20: WHITTIER – ANCHORAGE ( B / L / D )

Disembark in Whittier and travel via the Alaska Wildlife Refuge to Anchorage. Explore Anchorage Markets (subject to operation). After a brief orientation tour of Anchorage, the rest of the day is at leisure. **Hotel: The Hotel Captain Cook for 1 night**

### DAY 21: ANCHORAGE – MT MCKINLEY ( B / L / D )

You're Invited: Visit the home of Iditarod (sled dog racing) champion Martin Buser. Meet the friendly dogs and take a virtual trip along the Iditarod trail including a sled dog demonstration. Continue our journey deep into the Alaskan wilderness arriving in Mt McKinley. Nestled in a prime location, this gorgeous lodge is the perfect starting point for your wilderness adventure. **Hotel: Mt McKinley Princess Wilderness Lodge for 1 night**

### DAY 22: MIDNIGHT SUN EXPRESS TRAIN ( B / L / D )

Board our full dome railcar on the 'Midnight Sun Express' train. Open-air viewing platforms allow you to step outdoors for the perfect snapshot. The highlight this evening is a Music of Denali Dinner Show. **Hotel: Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge for 2 nights**

### DAY 23: DENALI NATIONAL PARK ( B )

Denali is deep in the Alaskan wilderness and this unique location gives you the opportunity to enjoy some fascinating wilderness and wildlife tours.

Embark on a Tundra Wilderness Tour which takes you into the park for a once in a lifetime experience.

### DAY 24: FAIRBANKS ( B / D )

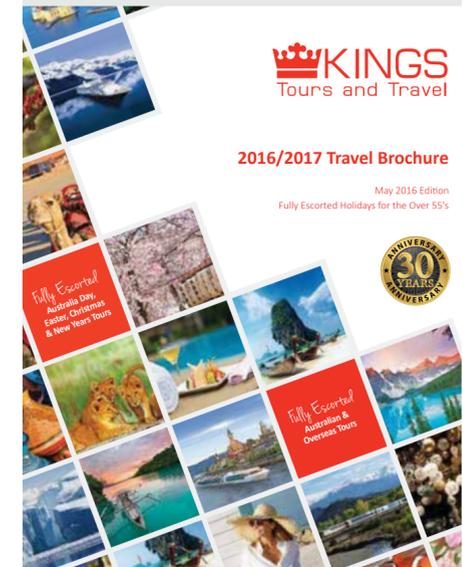
Continue your journey into the heart of the last frontier to Fairbanks. Board an authentic sternwheeler 'Discovery III' for an afternoon cruise. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner with your Tour Director. **Hotel: Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge for 1 night**

### DAY 25 / 27: FAIRBANKS - PERTH ( B )

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before transferring to Fairbanks Airport for your flight home to Perth. Upon arrival in Perth your driver will be waiting to take you home.

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# A caravan tale of epic proportions – saviours help along the Nullarbor

by Imperia Scott

MY husband and I left Busselton for a three-month holiday to visit our family in Port Lincoln South Australia.

After a great night rest in Mundrabilla caravan park, all was going well, when an idiot in a hurry and driving at great speed and coming in on the wrong way (the exit) on the dirt driveway to the Mundrabilla Road House, nearly cleaned us up (car and caravan) and the poor people in an Expenda behind us.

My husband had a tough job controlling the situation and said that it was the worst experience he ever had in the many years of his trucking life.

We always travel with our CB on channel 40, however before we left that morning, we had changed to 38, because we had been trying to

reach a friend, who was working on the road works along that stretch.

A further 18km east and we heard this almighty bang and the car and vehicle swayed, and we nearly went over. The person behind us had been calling on channel 40 to tell us that our right hand tyre on the van was smoking, and apparently this was from the time my husband put the skids on to try to miss the idiot before, and got worse when we restarted our trip.

My husband is 68 in the fourth stage of COPD, and has severe asthma. This was to be our last trip across the paddock, after waiting for our doctor to say "ok you can travel." We had been looking forward to seeing our son and his family for so long, but this was going to end our holiday for sure.

We and Jimmy (the person behind us) stopped to see what could be

done, but the job was too big for us all.

A lady travelling towards Perth, stopped and asked if she can do something to help, because there is no phone signal out there. She told us that she would get to the next roadhouse and send someone to help.

However I had visions of being stuck out there for days, though we would have been ok, we had plenty of food and water, but the van was not off the road properly, so I was panicking (a) because of what could happen and (b) because of my husband's health.

Jimmy reminded me of the CB, "Get on CB and start calling and see who will answer," he said. So I was calling Peter our road works friend on 38, and Jim's wife was on 40 calling truckies. Not that any of them replied, much less slow down as they came past.

About an hour later a white van arrived heading towards Perth, and the driver yelled out, "OK, we are here to help."

My heart just sank and I could not believe what was happening to us. Thanks to Freddie Potts, who was on his way to see a doctor in Norseman because he had injured his leg, and his mate. They got us going again – our saviours; angels from heaven.

I offered them enough money for a few beers each, but they refused, I just threw my arms around them and cried on their shoulder.

Now you might say why did they start the trip if they could not handle the repairs, if anything happened. Well we could have done except the tyre jack that we had been told was good enough to lift the Queen Mary a month before at the cost of \$97, was not able to lift a motor bike let alone a loaded caravan. And because of the shock of the whole event my husband had an asthma attack.

We arrived at Madura

Pass, and I went in to book in for the night and told the manager what had happened to us along the way. He promised that all will be well, because he was going to get the service station manager on to it, and they would find us a new tyre, and what ever else we needed. But we had to wait till Sunday morning.

Early Sunday morning I get back to the van after a shower, and lo and behold the van was leaning to the right. The spare tyre had gone flat over night, when I told my husband he came out the van, slamming the door shut. This locked us out, with the van and our car keys inside the van.

Thanks to John the service station manager and the manager at Madura Pass Caravan Park, our trip was saved once more. Hence we got to our family in South Australia and had a great holiday.

On our way back all was well until we got to Esperance, tired and hungry after seven hours of driving and heat, we

pull into the Esperance Caravan Park.

I asked if we could have a spot close to the ablutions and someplace so we did not have to unhook the van because my husband still had problems with his back after the first episode and would have found it hard to unhook the van.

Unfortunately they would not let us stay if we could not unhook so we headed to Ravensthorpe to stay there.

We started out early in the morning thinking we'll be home by 6pm, wrong, 40km along the track I stated hearing this funny sound, and this voice came over the CB, "driver in the Viscount van, you better stop, I think you blew a tyre."

My heart sank once again, I knew we had not run over any black cats, or any of the proverbial things that gets blamed for mishaps, in years (not that we ever did). Sure as apples grow on trees, we had a flat tyre on the left hand side of the van, and this was after we had taken the van to a tyre

place in Port Lincoln and had three new tyres put on to make sure that we did not have the problem again. But we ended up getting home safe.

I share this story with readers to remind them about checking your van as well as you can before travelling. Also be grateful for the road workers out there on the track as they may be able to assist and help in a situation.

And I would like to say a massive thanks to Freddie Potts, and his offsider (first episode) and John the service station manager and park manager at Madura Pass and Ben (second episode).

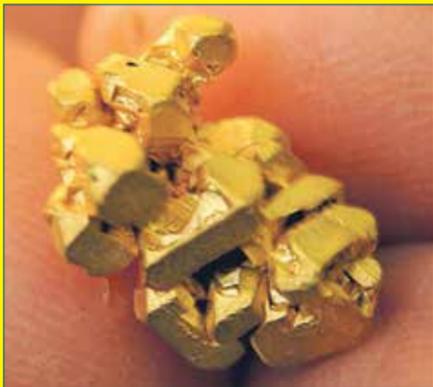
My husband is doing fine and I have once again started to believe that there are good people in this country of ours.

Oh and I must not forget the young guy who was woken up early from his cosy bed in Madura Pass, so he could come down and crawl through the van window and open the door for us. Again, thank you.

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## Margaret River - rich and famous, bountiful and beautiful



Clockwise from left; Kytren Goats Cheese and Cullen Chardonnay Honey - Basildene Manor and Oak Valley Truffle Farm

by Helen Flanagan, with Michael Osborne

AUSTRALIA'S hottest food and wine destination is arguably the Margaret River Region. Forget the blink-and-miss-tour, take the slow indulgent route and let the taste buds dance on the tongue all the way. Seriously.

From Perth, turn off the Forrest Highway and meander the wildflower-fringed road to the Margaret River region from Busselton to Albany, the 300km length of Western Australia's southwest coast, which is bookmarked by the lighthouses of Cape Naturaliste to the north, and Cape Leeuwin in the

south. In-between are 40-plus beaches with surf-lashed sands and huge swells, national parks, karri forests and oft spooky caves, and a region which has successively prospered on timber, cattle and more recently world class wine. Add best surf breaks, hiking tracks, golf, water sports and seasonal whale watching. Little wonder locals are adamant there is no comparable region in Australia. Others say it's two faced. Cheeky perhaps? Well, there is the glossy magazine profile of fancy pants cellar doors, multi-course lunches, being seduced by the particular 'nose' of a chardonnay or cabernet sauvignon

or a craft beer plus elegant retreats where fine dining and sumptuous suites are de rigueur.

Turn the other cheek and head up a dusty bumpy track to lurk amongst season-worshipping small batch farmers, biodynamic bakers, sheep's cheese makers, snout-to-ground-pig producers plus small wineries where the pick, crush and pour is done by hand, by the family. And let's not forget freshly foraged truffles even the French are clamouring for.

Where to start? Go In Style with Peter Norris at the wheel of his Jaguar Sovereign, with a tea and scones stop at quaint Nannup before heading to Manjimup for a tour of the 75ha Oak Valley Truffle Farm, a large contributor to the 85 per cent of Australian truffle production. English oak and hazelnut trees, inoculated with the melanosporum fungus are planted alternatively in rows. "We've seen an amazing elevation in truffle quality this season," says an elated Fabio Deitos, the Oak Valley truffle manager who uses trained truffle dogs ranging from labradors and kelpies to German short haired pointers to detect the ripe Perigord beauties. "Plus there's been a 130 per cent increase in production".

Time to whet the appetite and be spoilt for choice. An understatement.

Vasse Felix was established in 1967 by Dr Tom Cullity. Today it's one of the region's largest producers and is owned by the powerful Holmes a Court family. Large sculptures grace the manicured gardens, there's a chic-looking cellar door and a gallery of paintings houses Janet Holmes a Court's private collection. Sitting on the deck enjoying a splendid spring day it's easy to be placated by chef's charcuterie plate and a glass of cabernet sauvignon.

Since 1971 when Cullen Estate was planted, chemical intervention is minimal and the family's concern for the environment paramount. All food prepared in the restaurant uses only fresh, biodynamic and organic produce which is sourced mainly from its own garden, such as the chardonnay honey used on the Kytren goats cheese dish. And how about a glass of Kevin John chardonnay before a stroll amongst the vines.

Degustations don't get much better than at light-filled, breezy and view-tiful Wills Domain, where the quiet unassuming chef Seth James creates an impressive six or eight course marathon, using only the best ingredients. Matching wines are optional.

For festival aficionados, diarise November's three-day Margaret River Gourmet Escape extravaganza with more than 45 food and wine events including indulgent beach barbecues, sumptuous forest feasts under the stars, extra-long lunches in award-winning wineries plus culinary super-stars such as Marco Pierre White and Rick Stein.

Where to stay? The Grand Mercure Basildene Manor, classified by the National Trust of Australia, has sumptuous rooms, delightful breakfasts, and delicious afternoon teas featuring home-made jams plus beautiful gardens to admire.

Cape Lodge has the feel of a grand country-house estate. Twenty-two lavish guest suites plus a five-bedroom private residence are arranged across 16ha of parkland, lakes and garden. Forest Suites, with lake and woodland views, private balcony and underfloor heating in the bathroom have an I-could-easily-live-here quality. Stroll to the Cape Dutch-style main lodge for aperitifs in the Drawing Room before a decadent dinner in the award-winning lakeside restaurant. Savour Margaret River wineries' back vintages and fine fare from executive chef Michael Elfving, who champions local produce such as Pemberton marron and Arkady lamb and also leads farmgate tours and cooking classes.

Who doesn't love sleeping under the stars? Five stars of course!

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### New lookout is open at The Gap near Albany



Sally Bostwick and family at The Gap

THE UPGRADE of facilities at The Gap and Natural Bridge in Torndirrup National Park on the south coast opened last month.

The redevelopment features two universally accessible lookout structures with connecting paths, a picnic area, interpretive signage and a car park.

Visitors can experience the dramatic coastline and spectacular scenery out to West Cape Howe from a grated see through platform that rises about 40 metres above the ocean and extends 10 metres out from the cliff face with four metres directly above the ocean.

The Gap and Natural Bridge receive more than 210,000 visits a year and this new development which provides wonderful views of the Great Southern Ocean should encourage more tourists to visit the area.



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A fully grassed 9-hole golf course is situated next to the Ledge Point Holiday Park. This golf course is an amazing facility and has grassed greens which are unique to the region.

The Ledge Point Country Club is situated next to the golf course and is open every day of the week.

A la carte dining is available on Friday and Saturday nights. At the club people can play lawn bowls, darts or just relax with a few drinks.

LEDGE POINT Holiday Park in conjunction with the Ledge Point Country Club would like to invite your group to experience the wonderful facilities they have in Ledge Point.

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## Chasing salmon in Dunsborough



A nice early season salmon from Bunker Bay

by Mike Roennfeldt

BY the time this is in print the 2016 metro salmon season should just about be over. Having said that, the 2015 season didn't end in May as is usually the case, with fair numbers of fish hanging around right through the winter months out behind Garden Island, Carnac and the Mewstone.

Who knows what will happen this year, but with the warm inshore water of recent years still happening we may well have the

same situation again.

I've just returned from a couple of days down at Dunsborough, getting in an early season preview of what we might expect salmon-wise up here in Perth this year. It was pretty encouraging, although we didn't fare particularly well. You know how it is, sometimes you zig when you should have zagged and we spent a lot of time zigging. Big salmon were about in good numbers and those fisher people lucky enough to be out in boats were into the thick

of the action.

Fish that make their way up the west coast are generally a fair bit bigger than those along the south coast and this year was no exception. Most we saw or caught were over 5kg and pretty keen on having a swipe at a passing lure.

On the few occasions when schools came in within casting distance of shore there were almost always several boats in attendance, some of which made life difficult for the unfortunate shore-bound contingent, placing themselves between the shore and the school. We did manage to hook up on three fish though and they each performed in spectacular fashion in the shallows.

What we missed big time was a red hot session at Bunker Bay first thing on the first morning we were there, where it seemed everybody caught fish before the boats turned up. I was too busy having a magnificent breakfast and coffee at my favourite Dunsborough cafe, so I had no one to blame but myself.

Not helping our cause

were the prevailing westerly winds while we were there, which meant most of the spots between the Capes would have been difficult to fish. It meant we weren't able to get in a session at Mitchells Rocks between Wyadup and Injidup, a place that has given me so many happy salmon fishing memories from past years.

Most people lure fish for salmon, although a mulie or live bait fished on the bottom or under a float will do the trick as well. Which lure to use depends largely on the situation. When distance casting is important, as it often is along Dunsborough beaches, the best option is a metal lure. With the 2.7m, 6kg outfit I use, a 40g Twisty is ideal, while heavier lures suit bigger outfits.

When the fish are in closer, 120-140 mm shallow running minnow style lures are the go, while surface poppers and stickbaits offer the most fun when the fish are hungry. I was particularly impressed with the castability and action of the new Halco C-gar on this trip.

## Fremantle Harbour Masters gather for a special 100th birthday celebration



Celebrating Capt. Adams' 100th birthday were (from left) Capt. Allan Gray (No.21, 2008 - present), Capt. Michael Coleman (seated, No. 18, 1976-86), Capt. John (Jack) Adams (No. 16, 1968-72) and Capt. Eric Atkinson (No. 20, 1988-2008)

THE four surviving Port of Fremantle Harbour Masters gathered in the Harbour Master's office recently to celebrate Captain John (Jack) Adams' 100th birthday on 15 March.

Captain Adams began working for the then Fremantle Harbour Trust in 1949 as a marine pilot. He served as Chief Pilot (1963-65), Deputy Harbour Master (1965-68), Harbour Master (1968-72)

and Divisional Manager - Operations (from 1972 until retirement in 1976).

Accompanied by his wife Lorna, daughter Judy Boyne and son Ross Adams, Capt. Adams was pleased to see former Harbour Masters Capt. Michael Coleman and his wife Lyn, and Capt. Eric Atkinson. They also met current Harbour Master Capt. Allan Gray and Deputy Harbour Master Capt. Stuart Davey in Fremantle Ports' administration building, on Victoria Quay.

After signing the roll call of Fremantle Harbour Masters that usually hangs in the Harbour Master restaurant at Rydges' Esplanade Hotel, in Fremantle, Capt. Adams cut a chocolate birthday cake and enjoyed afternoon tea and the views of the harbour from his old office. Capt. Gray presented him with a copy of

John Dowson's book *Fremantle Port*.

The Fremantle Harbour Master is responsible for enforcing the regulations of the Port of Fremantle to ensure the safety, security and operation of the port and shipping.

The Port of Fremantle encompasses Fremantle Inner Harbour, and five bulk facilities in the Outer Harbour in Cockburn Sound: Kwinana Bulk Jetty and Kwinana Bulk Terminal (both owned by Fremantle Ports), Alcoa Alumina Jetty, BP Jetty and Co-operative Bulk Handling Grain Jetty, and 383 square kilometres of water.

Current Harbour Master Capt. Gray also holds the position of general manager port operations.

The first Port of Fremantle Harbour Master, Capt. Mark John Currie, was appointed in 1829.

Quit Targa South West (QTSW) is a 3 day Tarmac Rally of up to 60 classic & modern cars competing over 21 special stages. Over the past 8 years the event has become a firm favourite on the Southern Forests calendar attracting thousands of spectators each year to Manjimup & Pemberton.

Spectating is free and there are many opportunities to see the rally action. People can even ride in a rally car in exchange for a donation at the Charity Ride Day on Friday. On the Saturday evening 400 competitors, officials, service crews, volunteers and public then enjoy a buffet meal at the Pemberton Sports Club. Sunday the action commences early with the rally staying in close proximity to Pemberton and culminating with a number of runs through the town centre. Sunday afternoon the Pemberton's main street hosts the podium finish and trophy presentation.

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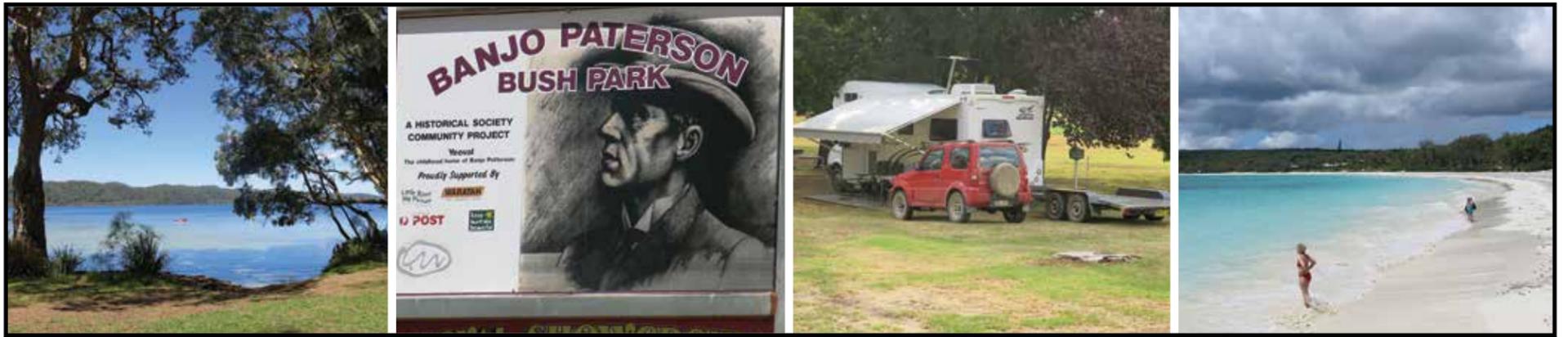
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# The eternal question – caravan or motor home to travel around Australia...



Modern motor homes are great for one nighters - Traditional caravan is ideal for longer stays - A luxury motor home with a car towed behind and Australia has thousands of amazing campsites like Myall Lakes

Words and images by Dallas Sherringham with Michael Osborne

WHILE sitting around the campfire recently at the beautiful Wellington Caves in western NSW, the eternal question was raised once again.

Which is better for touring Australia – a caravan or a motor home?

As the sun set over the wilderness of the Catombal Ranges and kangaroos and wallabies came down from the hills to feed on the sweet grass of the nearby golf course, the camping battle of the ages was in full swing.

There were two sides to the argument roughly divided between the grizzled, bearded veterans who loved their vans and those “haughty newcomers”, the swanky motor home brigade.

Of course there was no perfect answer, but it got me thinking about my own experiences in Australia and overseas.

It all comes down to how you plan to travel. Will you be spending one night in every town, or will you stay for a week? Will you be simply driving to North Queensland and parking near a beach for the whole winter?

If you plan one nighters, the motor home is perfect. If you plan longer stays, I would go for the caravan option.

I had a motor home in New Zealand some years ago and it was a great way to get around. The major drawback was the amount of time it took to get anywhere. The small diesel engine was unable to go much over 80kph and going uphill I was passed by joggers heading in the same direction.

A big bonus was the fact that the design had seatbelts installed in the back so you could sit around the table and gaze

out the big rear window as New Zealand passed you by.

It was annoying having to pack everything up when you left the campsite to drive into town, so we made sure we did our shopping along the way.

Motor homes are also smaller inside than most caravans. However this allows them to park in a normal car space at shopping centres and in towns.

The answer is to stay at the family home, spend the kids' inheritance and buy one of those big rigs that have plenty of room inside and allow you to tow a car behind.

However I'm told the fuel bill can be horrendous and they are slow to drive and hard to park in town.

Another thing you have to factor into your camping trip these days is the high price of overnight stays in major caravan parks. This has grown rapidly from \$15 a night in a powered site to more than \$50 in some parks. If you are on a six-month journey, that works out at a costing of just under \$10,000 for camp sites.

One answer is to stay at free camp sites or cheap council sites such as showgrounds.

Free camping is well

catered for in some areas of Australia, particularly the Northern Territory. However, they normally have pit toilets which are horrendous and have no water supply or electricity. The garbage often sits for days before being collected.

Something to also consider is the re-sale value of your motor home or caravan. Motor homes hold their value much better in my experience.

I had friends who bought a good second hand van in Los Angeles for \$28,000. They toured the USA for six months and sold the van for

\$30,000 at the end of their trip.

Caravans are economical if you buy a second hand one. I have seen excellent vans for around \$15,000.

However you need rear wheel drive and preferably a 4wd vehicle to tow them and this can be quite pricey.

Finally, at a campfire somewhere in Australia tonight the eternal question will be asked once again. And once again there will be as many viewpoints as there are people. I hope I have helped you make up your mind.

## Struth - movie's park bench a Perth treasure



The park bench from the 1999 romantic comedy, Notting Hill – now a treasure at Perth's Queens Gardens with a history that's both richly famous and sad. (Parks Photography)

IN his continuing search for the more weird, wacky and wondrous in this world, David Ellis says there's a park bench in Perth's Queens Gardens that looks like it could be any old-style bench in any gardens in any part of the world.

But this one has fame on its side, although not many visitors are actually aware, for it has a history that's both equally famous and sad.

Famous because it was the park bench on which Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant talked love in the 1999 romantic comedy *Notting Hill*.

And sad because a Perth man subsequently bought the bench after the film had creamed the box office, and gave it as a birthday gift to his girlfriend – and one day when they sat on it, proposed to her.

Unfortunately for him his plea was rebuffed, the relationship ended and he finished up with the bench, which he decided to give to the Gardens, so that with its history, it could be enjoyed by others.

Now considered something of a Gardens treasure it still has the words carved onto it from the film: 'For June who loved this garden, from Joseph who always sat beside her.'

The donor insisted that despite the value of his gift to the Gardens his identity always remain secret, the only clue to be and the lady who rejected his hand in marriage being 'Rodd & Nicole 2002,' etched behind the bench's top rail.

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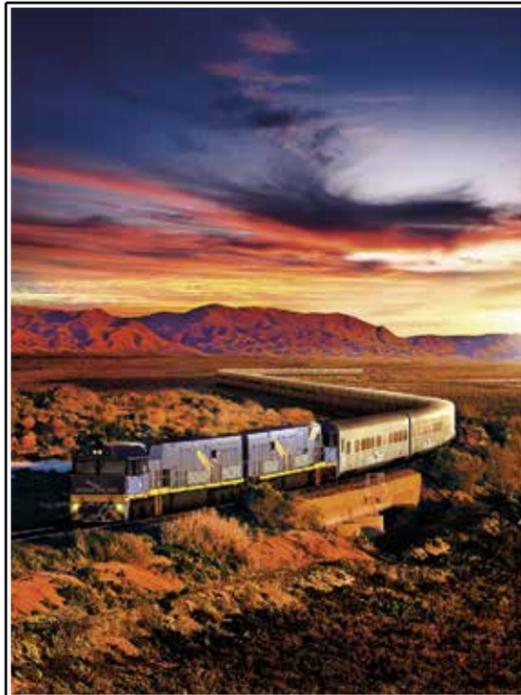
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# Travelling by train...from the lushness of the Blue Mountains to the vast wilderness of the Nullarbor Plain



The Indian Pacific - The dining car



the same as staying at a five-star city hotel with meals and a few top drops.

But price aside, it's the glorious Australian landscapes - from the lushness of the Blue Mountains to the vast wilderness of the Nullarbor Plain - that you can't see from 35,000 feet up above the clouds.

For a train pulling as many as 32 carriages with an average length of 774 metres, the Indian Pacific team at Sydney Central Station make the boarding process appear like a simple operation, despite having to load the heavy suitcases of most passengers onto a separate carriage.

And it's not surprising

that the train - resplendent with its wedge-tail eagle symbol on the side of each carriage - slowly heaves its way out of Sydney's Central Station, picking up speed in the mid-afternoon sun as it heads west on the long-haul journey - a whopping 4352 kilometres (2704 miles) to the sun-drenched shores of the West Australian capital.

It seems like Sydney's urban sprawl will never end before the train begins its huff and puff up towards the towering majesty of the Blue Mountains, where the blue haze covering the valleys contrasts with the famous sandstone escarpments. By dusk, the train is on the straight

and narrow again with the two locomotives stepping up the pace to the maximum 115 km/hr (average 85 km/hr) - clickety clacking across the rolling green hillsides of the Flinders Ranges

They even serve the 'upper classes' with an early morning cup of tea every day. This was a much-needed pick-up after the first night aboard, particularly as were up just after dawn to trudge around the so-called Silver City of Broken Hill, where the golden days of its rich lead-zinc ore deposit have seemingly fallen in a hole.

Back on track, Adelaide beckons in another seven hours and time to stretch the legs for an extended stay when Platinum and Gold Service passengers can opt for a tour of the fast-growing South Australian capital or a coach trip for a Shiraz or two in the Barossa Valley, topped off with a succulent roast lamb dinner at the farm shop of celebrity chef Maggie Beers - a delightful end to an indulgent half-day quaffing some of Australia's premium wines.

No sooner had we hit the unusually green Nullarbor than wedge-tail eagles began to hover above in search of some tasty morsel. Rabbits and reptiles - and perhaps a hairy-nosed wombat - would be on the menu list for Australia's largest bird of prey with its massive two-metre wingspan. One of Australia's largest population of these wombats live on the Nullarbor, as do more than 80 reptile species and more than 200 bird species.

Derived from Latin meaning 'no trees' - the Nullarbor was not living up to its name as miniature trees had burst into life as we zipped along the world's longest straight railway stretch covering 478 kilometres between Ooldea and Loongana, with human habitation non-existent apart from two couples living at Cook, where we clambered off while the train was topped up with fuel and water.

There's still another 1520 plus kilometres to go as the replenished train set off for the last stop before Perth. This time it's in the evening glow of the moon at

Rawlinna, a railway siding next to and named after Australia's largest sheep station. Eager - and hungry - passengers are met by lanterns and log fires (it does get cool after dark on the Nullarbor) as they mix for a slap up roast dinner on trestle tables laid out as far as the eye can see along the side of the train. It was an idyllic scene under the stars that will live in the memory of hundreds of people travelling on the weekly Sydney-Perth Indian Pacific run.

The gold mining city of Kalgoorlie passed by in the middle of the night with just a matter of hours before the Indian Ocean was a continent away from its Pacific counterpart.

After an epic, eye-opening journey - with many amusing moments (and few dull ones) - the Indian Pacific finally rolled into East Perth Station 65 hours after it left Sydney Central.

For Sydney-Perth and Perth-Sydney timetables and prices on the Indian Pacific - go to: [www.greatsouthernrail.com.au](http://www.greatsouthernrail.com.au)

The author travelled as a guest of GSR

by John Newton with Michael Osborne

railway journeys outpricing the trip by air.

It's simple really. The train journey these days is a four day/three night adventure in either Platinum or Gold Service with all gourmet meals, selected complimentary drinks and excursions included in the price - which is around

NOT LONG ago, you could jump aboard the Indian Pacific from Sydney to Perth for a lot less than the cost of flying economy across the continent. But it's a different story today with one of the world's great



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- Phoenix Tailings Dump  
- resembles a topless pyramid and contains gold
- Granite Woodlands Discovery Trail - 16 interpretive sites, offers opportunities for camping, bushwalking, exploring granite rock formations and viewing spring wildflowers
- Pack a BBQ picnic and take the 28 km heritage trail to explore Dundas Rocks' huge ancient boulders and rock formations.
- Hyden Rock - enjoy the rock's walks, surrounding flora and fauna.
- Bromus Dam - free camping area with bushwalks, lots to explore or a great place to have a BBQ or picnic.
- Mt Jimberlana - 5km east of town, offering spectacular views from the top with a picnic area at the base.
- Phoenix Park - educational, historical and is close to the town centre




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**Quairading Nature Reserve** - 527 hectares of native bushland west of the town along the railway line to York. The reserve contains York Gum, Salmon Gum, Wandoo and Casuarina trees, and wildlife including the eastern wallaroo, western grey kangaroo, echidnas, reptiles and birds.

**Nookaminnie Rock** - a large granite rock, provides a view over the town and surrounding areas.

**Pink lakes** - Lies 11 km east of Quairading on the Bruce Rock Road. It is regarded as a phenomenon, as certain times in the year one side have a distinctive pink colour whilst the other side remains its natural blue. **The Toapin Weir** - 12 kilometres northwest of the town, constructed in 1912 to collect rainwater runoff and irrigate the nearby farms.

**Cubbine** - a homestead 17 kms north of Quairading originally owned by Alexander Forrest.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



## Bendigo celebrates Marilyn Monroe



Since her untimely death on 5 August, 1962, Marilyn has become one of the most celebrated and enigmatic film stars in history.

In celebration of her life, The Bendigo Art Gallery brings together authentic artefacts, clothing and other objects belonging to (or worn by) Marilyn in a breathtaking exhibition.

The exhibition, which runs until the 10 July, displays more than twenty original costumes from some of Marilyn's greatest films (such as *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Love Nest*) which feature alongside numerous dresses and accessories from Marilyn's personal wardrobe.

This exceptional collaboration with Twentieth Century Fox allowed unprecedented access to twelve of the films that Marilyn completed with the studio.

Curated by Bendigo Art Gallery, the costumes, personal clothing and artefacts have been drawn from private collections around the world and this is the first exhibit of its kind to take place in Australia.

To complement the exhibition, Bendigo Art Gallery has secured Seward Johnson's eight metre high sculpture of Marilyn Monroe, *Forever Marilyn*. The sculpture has been

seen in Chicago and Palm Springs, USA, and makes its international debut in Bendigo as an integral part of the exhibition.

Tickets are currently on sale through the Bendigo Art Gallery website and are priced \$25 for Adults and \$20 for Concession Card holders (include seniors, Health Care Card holders, pensioners and full time tertiary students).

Gallery Members (Bendigo Art Gallery and PGA) pay the discounted price of \$16 and children aged 5 to 18 years are \$12. Children under 5 are free and do not require a ticket. A family ticket of 2 adults and 2 children is priced at \$60.

For group bookings contact box office on (03) 5434 6100. An exhibition catalogue, priced at \$35, can also be purchased online or from the gallery shop.

For more information about the exhibition, ticketing and what's on in Bendigo, visit: [www.bendigoartgallery.com.au/Exhibitions/Current\\_Exhibitions/Bendigo\\_Art\\_Gallery\\_and\\_Twentieth\\_Century\\_Fox\\_present\\_Marilyn\\_Monroe](http://www.bendigoartgallery.com.au/Exhibitions/Current_Exhibitions/Bendigo_Art_Gallery_and_Twentieth_Century_Fox_present_Marilyn_Monroe)

Bendigo is about 150km north-west of Melbourne or 90 minutes by car or Vic Rail.

Book now and celebrate Marilyn's birthday with the respect and reverence that this remarkable woman deserves.



Above; Marilyn Monroe and Jeanette Woolerton

by Jeanette Woolerton

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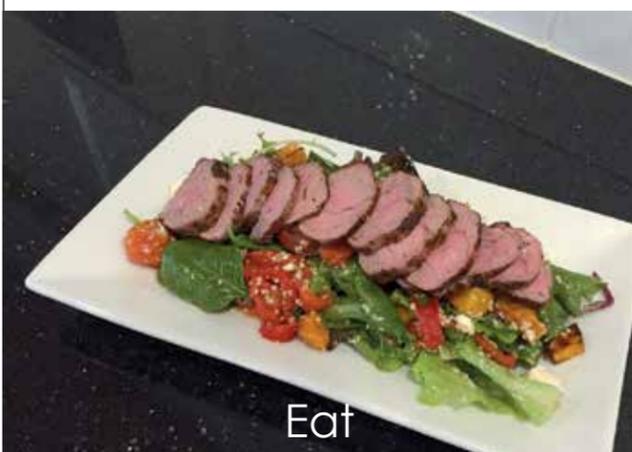
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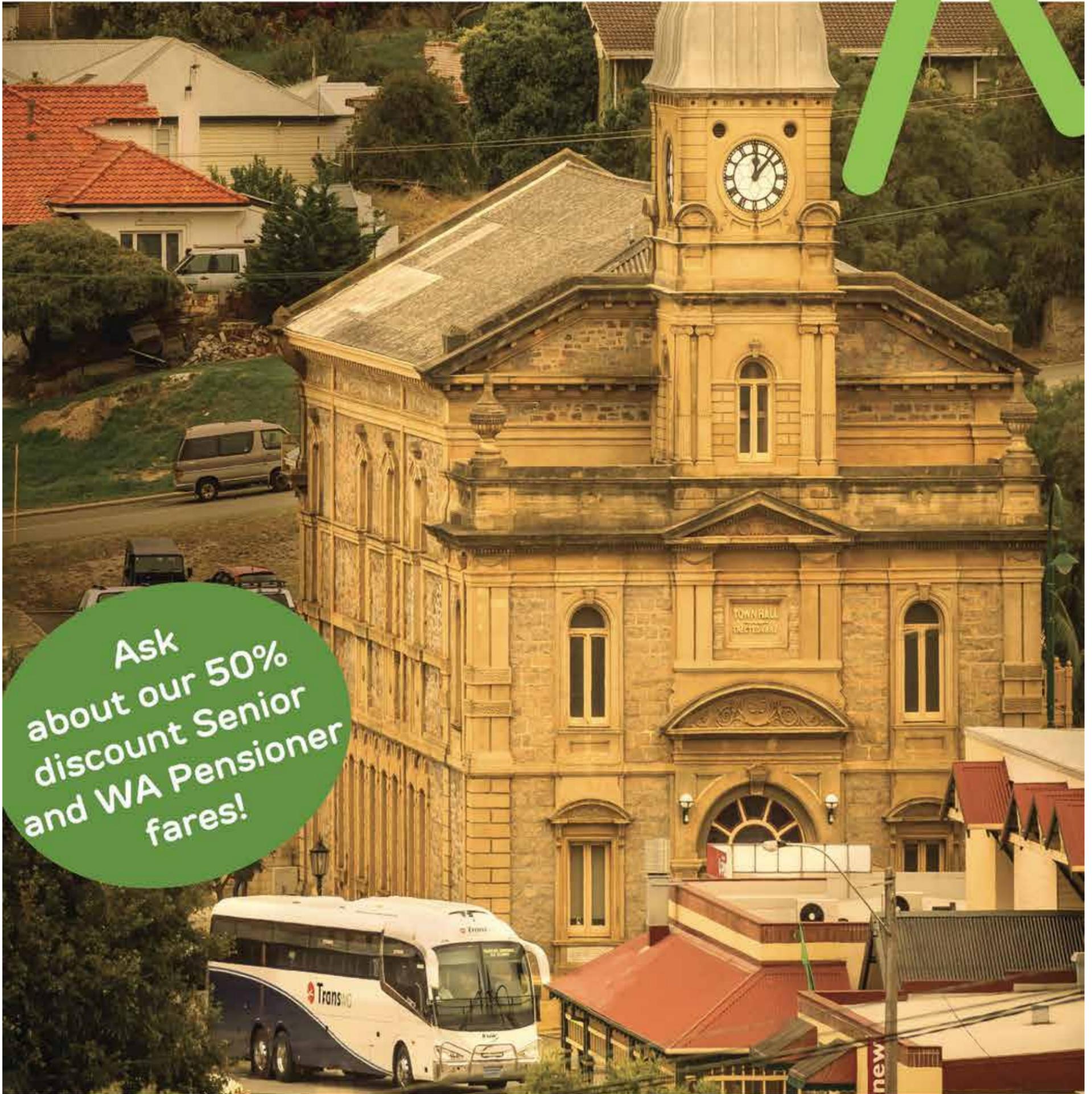


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