

travelling

let's go travelling

DECEMBER 2015

• Holiday Guide to WA • Titanic the Exhibition • Explorer of the Seas

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



Fishing is a great way to while away a summer day and WA has some of the best fishing spots in the world. Our fishing writer Mike Roennfeldt talks about the opening of the new season on 16 December for mainstream bottom feeders such as dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper, read more about his story on page 27 and get out and have a go to catch the big one! © Dirk Hartog Island National Elements MR

LONDON TO FREMANTLE VIA THE PANAMA CANAL

54nt Cruise Holiday - Departs 16 Oct 2016 - Second Guest HALF price



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New terminal showcases the best Perth Airport has to offer



Jen Merigan
by Jen Merigan

I attended the opening and was thrilled that the changes which are going to ensure we have a world class airport for our city.

Don't forget that now the airport is working on its T1, T2, T3 and T4 outline, so do make yourself familiar with where those terminals are. You can find out more information by visiting www.perthairport.com.au

Tourism Awards. They also announced that they intend to add a new property to their stable in the George Street precinct in Fremantle which is scheduled to be open in the first quarter of 2016.

The development is set around an open airy piazza with shops and cafes with guests able to enjoy a rooftop tapas and a cocktail bar with views over Fremantle.

The Federal Court has decided that Jetstar and Virgin have both engaged in drip pricing. This means that advertised prices for airfares do

not include all the costs such as booking and service fees.

The court found Jetstar and Virgin contravened sections of Australian Consumer Law by not disclosing certain fees and charges until the end of the booking process.

Last month the Federal Government decided to also enforce a ban on excessive credit card surcharges as well, so let's hope the consumer wins out at the end of the day with properly displayed prices in advertisements.

MSC cruises have announced a partnership with Cirque du Soleil to provide a new standard of entertainment at sea. Both companies have worked together to design a custom made dining and entertainment venue to become the first of its kind on a ship, which will offer two shows per night, six nights a week.

The inaugural season will commence in June 2017

aboard the next generation *Meraviglia*.

Thank you to the many readers who contact me over the year. I take this opportunity to wish our readers and advertisers the compliments of the season. I hope the festive season brings you happiness, good health, peace and enjoyment.

See you in 2016!
If you have a travel issue, enquiry or would like to

share some information, don't hesitate to contact me on the email below.

If you're a facebooker than like *Have a Go News* at <https://www.facebook.com/Haveagonews>, there's always extra opportunities to win prizes and share interesting and fun information.

Happy trails

Jennifer Merigan
Travel Editor

IT'S been a busy month in the travel scene and congratulations must go to Perth Airport for the stunning new T1 terminal which opened recently.

Seashells Hospitality Group celebrated its 21st birthday last month and also took out a silver award in the deluxe category at the WA

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

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Create your own Eastern European holiday with Beyond Travel

Schloss Leopoldskron Salzburg

EASTERN European holiday specialists Beyond Travel have released a new collection of suggested tailor-made packages across Eastern Europe to showcase the best of the many countries in the region.

These package holidays offer the value and convenience of pre-booked services with the freedom to customise holidays and the independence to explore destinations at your own pace. Each tailor-made package can be altered to suit individual traveller needs.

New for 2016 is the 11-day Romantic Road, Bavaria, The Alps and Vienna itinerary which travels from Frankfurt through stunning countryside visiting picturesque regional towns and onwards to Salzburg and Vienna in Austria.

Prices start from \$2465 per person twin share and include all accommodation with daily breakfast, transportation via air-conditioned coach, private car transfers, first class rail and arrival and departure transfers, plus services of local representatives and sightseeing.

Also new is the slightly longer 'Best of the Baltics and Poland, travel across Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. It is available in three or four star accommodation and like all suggested tailor-made itineraries, travellers can extend their itinerary with pre or post touring, longer hotel stays and car hire.

Priced from \$4650 per person twin share it offers the same inclusions as the above package.

For more details on creating your perfect Eastern European holiday contact Beyond Travel on 1300 363 554 or visit www.beyondtravel.com.au

SENIORS BREAKS

5 Day 4 Night Albany Escapade

Albany and its surrounding areas are rich in natural beauty. Boasting renowned restaurants, wineries and local seafood, the Southern Ocean coastline makes this region a real treat to explore. Albany is the oldest town on the West Coast, set on the beautiful King George Sound and Princess Royal Harbor. Come check out their newest attraction The National ANZAC Centre, see dolphin and whales playing in the harbor just to mention a few. Use your pension free pass to travel on the bus free!

Three Chimneys Bed & Breakfast Price includes full cooked breakfast daily \$370pp twin share	Sleepwell Motel Price includes continental breakfast daily \$640 solo traveller	\$248pp twin share	\$448 solo traveller
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*Please note that this is not a guided package tour. It is independent travel on either TransWA or self drive.

Call 1800 812 808 now for you free copy of Senior Breaks 2015 with great deals for Busselton, Esperance, Albany, Kalbarri, Kalgoorlie and Bunbury.

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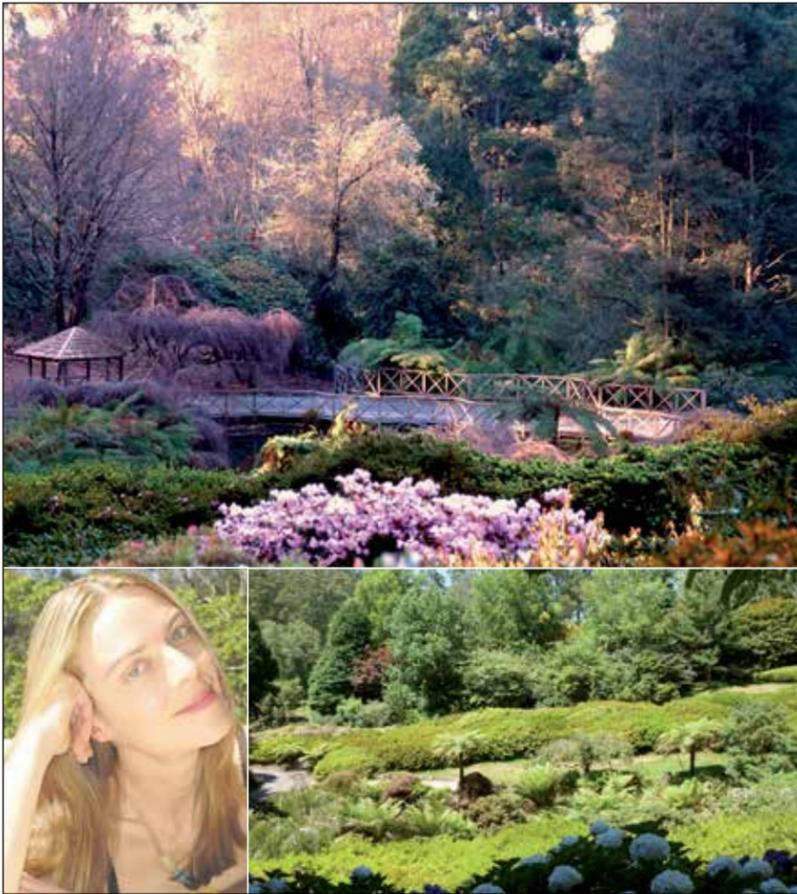
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ADVERTISING FEATURE



Mother Nature wins hands down when it comes to Christmas peace and joy

by Jeanette Woolerton

AS CHRISTMAS approaches, the streets of Melbourne are adorned with lights and shopping centres display trees laden with colourful baubles. Suburbs are awash with a kaleidoscope of vibrant hues and the atmosphere is electric.

However, beyond the festive fanfare of the CBD and suburban sprawl, elevated in the misty mountain realm of the majestic Dandenong Ranges, nature hosts a spectacular Christmas show of her own.

Bursting with brilliant colour and spectacular trees, The National Rhododendron Gardens are listed among the most magnificent in Victoria. Created in 1960 by the Australian Rhododendron Society, the gardens have a wonderful walking track, which winds its way around the external boundary. The path is well maintained and mostly flat, with an expansive botanical plantation which houses a wide range of flora and fauna.

Framed by a cluster of magnificent mountain ashes (the tallest flowering trees in the world) the garden spans 104 acres (42ha) of vibrant floral sen-

sations, which rival any Christmas bauble in colour and splendour. There are more than 280,000 flowers in these gardens (which were originally designed as a showcase and national collection of rhododendron species, but burgeoned on to include other species).

Currently there are 15,000 rhododendrons from approximately 550 species displayed throughout. In addition, the Garden is home to 12,000 azaleas, 3000 camellias, 250,000 daffodils, lupins, golden wattles, laburnums, proteas and cherry trees.

It comes as no surprise then that one of the most memorable aspects is the birdlife, with kookaburras, blue wrens, parrots, rosellas, ducks and Lyrebirds foraging in the lush undergrowth. For picnicking, the best picnic spots are located on the right hand side of the entrance and include private gazebos, picnic tables and benches.

At this time of year, the garden is transformed into a breathtaking display of deep oranges, pinks and reds – the traditional colours of Christmas, while birdsong replaces traditional carols.

I was surprised to see a Wollemi pine in the National Rhododendron Garden, as it is one of the greatest botanical discoveries of the 1990s. This prehistoric pine is a living fossil from the dinosaur days. Prior to its discovery in NSW by David Noble in 1994 (an officer of the National Parks) the previous known fossil samples were only from leaf, cone and pollen grain.

A huge bonus to visiting the National Rhododendron Garden is that it is free. There are no entrance fees, thanks to Parks Victoria who care for it and manage it for the public's benefit.

So if, like myself, you tire of the manic consumerism preceding the Holy Day of 25 December, take a deep breath and head for the hills.

For gracefully set upon their ethereal heights, Mother Nature's Christmas pageant is in serious competition with Father Christmas' bold city baubles. In my humble opinion, Mother Nature wins in both the beauty and budget categories.

May you all be blessed with the opportunity to stop, take a breath and smell the roses this year and have a very Merry Christmas.

Clockwise from top; Fairyland - National Rhododendron Gardens - Jeanette Woolerton



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Christine's the lucky winner...

CHRISTINE Joyce, of Duncraig was *Have a Go News* lucky winner of a \$25 Coles/Myer voucher.

The next winner will be contacted in December and the name published in our January issue. Good luck to our subscribers!

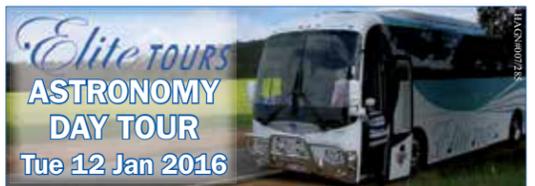


- DAY TOURS**
- Christmas Lunch Mystery Tours 19 & 20 Dec 2015
 - Dwellingup Hotham Valley Train Tour 10 Jan 2016
 - Australia Day Celebrations 26 Jan 2016
 - Valentine's Day 14 Feb 2016

- EXTENDED TOURS**
- 7 Day Albany & Esperance 17 Jan 2016
 - 6 Day The Wet Northern Safari 2 Feb 2016
 - 6 Day Southern Parks 20 Feb 2016
 - 6 Day Outback Goldfields 1 Mar 2016
 - 13 Day Nullarbor & Great Ocean Road 14 Mar 2016
 - 7 Day SA Outback Tracks 2 Apr 2016
 - 6 Day Monkey Mia 17 Apr 2016

\$100 off the Northern Wet Safari Tour if booked before 26 Dec 2016.

For all prices, full itineraries and brochures, please phone 1300 662 026 or email aussieredbacktours@yahoo.com.au or visit www.aussieredbacktours.com.au



ASTRONOMY DAY TOUR
Tue 12 Jan 2016

Cost: \$80 Seniors/Adults, \$75 Children [6-16]
Departs 8am 79 Paget St Hilton
8.30am Canning Hwy & Murray Rd Melville
9am Pagoda Hotel Corner St Como
9.30am East Perth Terminal
10am Neil Hawkins Park Joondalup
Returns 3.30pm-4pm

Includes: Morning tea, entries, lunch and luxury coach travel.
Travel to Neil Hawkins Park Joondalup for morning tea, continuing on to Bindoon and Windmill Farm for lunch. After lunch, audio visual presentation on the universe at the Windmill Farm followed by viewing of the sun. This is done through a very special and expensive filter called H-Alpha Filter [0.9 Angstrom] which allows us to see sunspots and spectacular prominence activity at the limb, flares are also visible on the surface along with white light detail.

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DECEMBER

11 to 13	MANJIMUP CHERRY FESTIVAL	\$900
22 to 26	CHRISTMAS BY THE BAY	\$1,795

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Titanic's Grand Staircase

Experience firsthand the moving story behind the opulent *Titanic* and its tragic sinking to a watery grave

For the first time in Australia and coming to Perth, the largest and most comprehensive *Titanic* exhibition (which has toured overseas) features more than 375 artefacts directly from the pre-sinking *Titanic* and her nearly identical sister ship, *Olympic*, providing a rare opportunity to view the grand *Titanic* as she was before sinking to her watery grave.

Select artefacts were removed from *Titanic* before she sailed to New York, others were found in the ocean immediately after her sinking, and a lucky few survived the disaster in the coat pockets of the rescued. Extra artefacts from James Cameron's 1997 movie, *Titanic*, are also featured, including the famous Heart of the Ocean necklace worn by Kate Winslet.

Titanic the Exhibition is a journey on-board 1912's largest and most luxurious ship, culminating in one of the deadliest maritime disasters in history. Starting with her conception and construction, the exhibition sails through *Titanic's* short but grand life at sea and includes recreations of her interiors alongside relevant artefacts.

Sights, sounds and smells transport visitors back to 1912 to experience the opulent and excessive era of luxury steamship travel.

Visitors to *Titanic the Exhibition* receive a launch ticket containing the personal information of an actual First, Second or Third class *Titanic* passenger, or crew member, offering a perspective on the passenger or crew member's background and life on board. The experience culminates in the Memorial Gallery where visitors learn their chosen passenger or crew member's fate on the cold, early morning of 15 April 1912.

The exhibition runs to 12 December to 9 February at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. Tickets available from www.ticketek.com.au/titanic

WIN WIN WIN

TO be in the draw to win one of five passes to *Titanic the Exhibition* simply email win@haveagonews.com.au with *Titanic* in the subject line or call the office during business hours on 9227 8283. Competition closes 7/01/16.

THE ongoing fascination with the *Titanic*, the most recognisable story of maritime accomplishment and disaster is coming to WA for the first time. The Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre is the setting from 12 December for the story of *Titanic's* first and final voyage told through dramatic room re-creations and 100-year-old artefacts.

Elite TOURS
ASTRONOMY NIGHT TOUR
 Fri 29 Jan 2016

Cost: \$85 Seniors/Adults, \$80 Children [6-16]
Departs 3pm 79 Paget St Hilton
 3.30pm Canning Hwy & Murray Rd Melville
 4pm Pagoda Hotel Corner St Como
 4.30pm East Perth Terminal, 5pm Neil Hawkins Park Joondalup
Returns 10pm-10.30pm
Includes: Dinner, entries and luxury coach travel.

Come and join our experienced and passionate tour guides for an Astro Night Tour. You will be picked up in our 5 Star 49-seater luxury coach at one of five convenient locations and taken to Windmill Farm in Bindoon just in time to feed the kangaroos before dinner. Your dinner is a country roast followed by homemade dessert, tea or coffee. We begin with the audio visual presentation in the air-conditioned conference centre on the Windmill Farm, followed by laser constellation tour then let us take you through the lenses of our telescopes to view the universe. This is truly a magical night for young and old.

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Embark on the trip of a lifetime with the Jewels of Spain and Portugal tour



AU REVOIR Travel is delighted to invite people to join it on the fully escorted 'Jewels of Spain and Portugal' tour including a unique Douro River Cruise departing Perth in September 2016.

Indulge the passion for food, history and art and discover the warmth of Portugal and Spain offering a rich and varied culture with unexpected architectural, geographical and gastronomic delights.

From amazing Barcelona with its tree-lined boulevards to its medieval Gothic Quarter through to vibrant Madrid with its famous museums, flamenco dancers and authentic tapas bars.

All Insight Vacations itineraries are expertly designed for smaller groups. Each tour includes the services of an experienced tour director who acts as 'travelling concierge' and signature experiences that provide a unique and revealing look into history and culture of each destination. The Jewels of Spain and Portugal escorted journey is no exception.

This tour includes such highlights as two nights in

Granada with a visit to the exquisite Alhambra Palace built as a citadel by the Moors in the 13th century. We also stop at the Caves of Nerja a series of grottoes so large they are a popular venue for concerts. Enjoy seven nights in one of Spain's most charming jewels, Andalusia with white washed villages crowned with castles.

This unique escorted journey is complemented with one of Europe's best kept secrets, the dramatic Douro River Valley. Travellers will join Uniworld's Boutique all-inclusive luxury cruise ship the chic *Queen Isabel*. A perfectly paced cruise/tour that blends captivating cities picturesque villages and un-

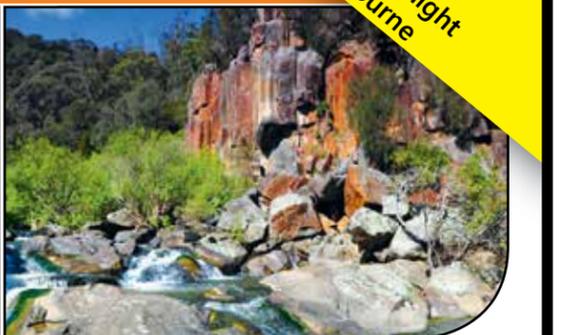
paralleled scenic cruising. Travel onwards from Douro River to Porto where the river meets the Atlantic Ocean. Famous for the birthplace of Henry the Navigator, here people will find classis cafes, fine wine and much more. Travel through the beautiful countryside to Lisbon, en route stopping in Coimbra, the birthplace of six of Portugal's kings. This exciting tour is priced from \$13,500 per person based on twin share accommodation. For a detailed itinerary and further information please contact Jane or the girls at Au Revoir Travel Mt Lawley on 9242 3339 or email info@au-revoir-travel.com.

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- East Coast Natureworld
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- Port Arthur Site
- Salamanca Market
- Tahune Forest Airwalk
- Wall in the Wilderness Gallery
- West Coast Wilderness Railway
- Gordon River Cruise
- Cradle Mountain

FARES	LOW SEASON	PEAK SEASON
per person twin share	Jan 11, Apr 25	Feb 8, 15, Mar 21, 28, Apr 18
ex Perth	\$4,445	\$4,595
Single Supp	\$ 705	\$ 705

Tasmanian Short Break - 9 days



departs **Feb 29, Mar 7, 14, Oct 17, Nov 14**

ex Perth **\$3,275** ppts **\$425** single supp

Page 54

THE **SAMAYA**
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The Samaya Seminyak, offers the prime location at the beach front of Seminyak beach with spectacular, unobstructed ocean views. Featuring a private stretch of long sandy beach, The Samaya Seminyak is within walking distance to anything in Seminyak, including well known restaurants, bars, and shops.

The Samaya Seminyak has 52 luxurious private villas complete with its own swimming pool arranged over four hectares of land, 22 in the Royal Courtyard, just across the peaceful of 30 beachfront villas.

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Single Price \$12,150

Join Kings Tours and Travel on an incredible journey through the picturesque countryside of Britain and Ireland. Enjoy four nights in the one of the most magnificent cities in the world, London, including a day visiting the world's most famous flower show at Chelsea. Highlights include a special lunch at Ashford Castle, Ireland's most famous hotel which has hosted famous people such as JFK, a visit to the Penderyn whisky distillery and Caernarfon Castle in Wales, an overnight stay in Ruthin Castle including a Welsh Banquet dinner with opera singers, and sightseeing with a Local Specialist in Edinburgh.

DAY 1/2: PERTH / LONDON IFM / D
Begin your holiday when you are picked up in a private vehicle and transferred to the airport. Meet your Kings Tour Manager and fellow passengers and fly to London. Upon arrival we will transfer to our hotel. Settle in and enjoy some free time before dining in the hotel's restaurant.
Hotel: The Cumberland, London for 4 nights

DAY 3: LONDON AT LEISURE B / D
Today is a full day at your leisure so you can adjust to London time. Tonight we head out to a typical London pub for dinner.

DAY 4: MAGIC OF LONDON B / HIGH TEA
We join a Local Specialist and enjoy the city sights including the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace, where you'll watch the Changing of the Guard. Visit the Tower of London to see the impressive Crown Jewels. Visit St. Paul's Cathedral including the unique Whispering Gallery, before savouring a traditional English afternoon tea.

DAY 5: CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW B
Held in the grounds of the Chelsea Hospital every year since 1913 is the most prestigious flower show in all of Britain; the Chelsea Flower Show. It is also one of the highlight inclusions of our tour. We will see magnificent floral displays, model gardens, English garden tools and a multitude of garden structures and artefacts. There will be extensive displays, with areas to learn about plants and growing flowers.



Stunning Floral Display at the Chelsea Flower Show

DAY 6: BLENHEIM PALACE - SWANSEA B / D
We travel to Oxfordshire to visit Blenheim Palace; a monumental country residence which is the ancestral home and birthplace of Winston Churchill. Explore the fabulous rooms and gardens before travelling further west to Wales. Stop is the Big Pit National Coal Museum, a real coal-mine and museum which tells the heritage of coal-mining in Wales. Travel 300 feet underground with a real miner and see what life was like for the thousands of men who worked at the coal face. Hotel: Dragon Hotel, Swansea for 2 nights

DAY 7: BRECON MOUNTAIN RAILWAY B / L
Brecon Beacons National Park is home to waterfalls, forests, market towns and the highest peak in southern Britain. For a dose of pure nostalgia, Wales' vintage railways are pretty hard to beat. Jump aboard a lovingly restored narrow gauge steam train and relax as it puffs and chuffs away – a short but delightful trip. Continue to Hay on Wye where we enjoy lunch followed by some free time to explore this quaint village. Later we visit Penderyn Distillery and learn the history of whisky making in Wales including a taste of the local drop.

DAY 8: SWANSEA - WATERFORD B / D
Enjoy a scenic drive through Pembrokeshire and cross the Irish Sea to Rosslare. Continue to your hotel in Waterford, where we dine tonight.
Hotel: Waterford Marina, Waterford for 1 night

DAY 9: WATERFORD – KILLARNEY B
Today we visit the renowned House of Waterford Crystal for a Cultural Insight demonstration. Watch the master craftsmen at work during your tour of the workshop. Travel along the south coast to Cobh to visit the Titanic Experience, where you will learn about the poor souls who embarked on the ill-fated maiden voyage of the RMS Titanic. Continue to the village of Blarney to visit Blarney Castle and kiss the Blarney Stone. Enjoy some time exploring Blarney Woollen Mills before driving to Killarney. Another highlight tonight is our dinner at a traditional Irish farm.
Hotel: Killarney Heights, for 2 nights



Blarney Castle

DAY 10: RING OF KERRY B / L
View the highlights of Ireland's natural scenery on the Ring of Kerry where the road winds in-between the mountains and the Atlantic coastline. Enjoy a pub lunch before taking the bridge to Valencia Island. Visit the Skellig Experience to learn about the rocky islands off the end of the peninsula where monks lived in early Christian times.



Cliffs of Moher

DAY 11: CLIFFS OF MOHER B / D
On our way to Limerick we drive through Adare; one of Ireland's prettiest villages which is on the banks of the River Shannon. View King John's Castle, St Mary's Cathedral and the Treaty Stone. Visit the magnificent Cliffs of Moher, a spectacular wall of limestone that reaches to almost 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. We continue around the shores of Galway Bay to take a short orientation tour of Galway city before checking-in to our hotel. Hotel: Pillo, Galway for 2 nights

DAY 12: CONNEMARA / ASHFORD CASTLE B / L
Today we explore the Connemara region, famed for its hills, lakes and peat bogs. Travel alongside Galway Bay and stop at Standun of Spiddal for coffee and a talk on various aspects of Irish life and traditional crafts. Continue to the quaint village of Cong where the 'Quiet Man' film was filmed in 1952. Located on the banks of Lough Corrib, Ashford Castle stands as one of the most magnificent hotels in the world. Take the time to stroll around the grounds before enjoying lunch in the hotel restaurant. Later, board a boat for a scenic cruise around the lake before returning to Galway.

Phone Kings Tours on **08 9380 6656** or **1800 677 760**

Air taxes are subject to change until full payment is made. Private car transfers arranged by Kings Tours & Travel and are provided within the Perth Metropolitan area including Mandurah. Travel Insurance recommended.



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Caernarfon Castle

DAY 13: GALWAY – KILBEGGAN - DUBLIN B / D

This morning we travel to Kilbeggan and visit the world's oldest whisky distillery, the Kilbeggan Distillery, established in 1757. See how whiskey is distilled on modern equipment in the old buildings and enjoy a sample of the finished product. We continue onto Dublin this afternoon and see tour the city with a Local Specialist. Before arriving at our hotel we visit the Old Library in Trinity College to see the 8th century Book of Kells. Tonight enjoy dinner and a lively show of traditional music, songs and dancing. Hotel: Royal Marine (Dun Laoghaire), Dublin for 2 nights

DAY 14: POWERSCOURT GARDENS B / L

Travel south of Dublin to County Wicklow and visit Powerscourt Gardens, one of the most beautiful in Ireland which date from the 18th century. Visit Kilmainham Gaol, a museum which has played an important part in Irish history. Many leaders of Irish rebellions were imprisoned here, with some even being executed as well. Visit the Guinness Storehouse to enjoy a Highlight Lunch and learn how to 'pull the perfect pint'.

DAY 15: CAERNARFON CASTLE B / D

Cross the Irish Sea back to Wales. Visit Caernarfon Castle, possibly the most famous castle in Wales. Its sheer scale and commanding presence easily sets it apart from the rest. This evening, enjoy a Welsh medieval feast at your castle hotel. Hotel: Ruthin Castle, Ruthin for 2 nights

DAY 16: CONWY EXCURSION B / D

Today enjoy an excursion to the medieval walled town of Conwy. Your options include visiting Conwy Castle or making the short trip by taxi to Bodnant Garden – a National Trust property with spectacular views over the River Conwy (entrances not included). This evening visit Llandudno for dinner at a local restaurant and be entertained by a Traditional Male Voice Choir concert (subject to availability).

DAY 17: LAKE DISTRICT - EDINBURGH B / L

This morning, we make our way north to the idyllic Lake District. Travel along the shores of England's largest lake, Windermere. View the grave of William Wordsworth, buried in the village of Grasmere. Enjoy

lunch in this idyllic National Park before continuing north to Scotland. Visit Gretna Green, where eloping couples would make their vows over the anvil. Later, we arrive in the Scottish capital, Edinburgh, your home for the next two nights. Hotel: Jurys Inn, Edinburgh for 2 nights



Edinburgh Castle

DAY 18: EDINBURGH SIGHTSEEING & FREE TIME B / D

This morning, our Local Specialist takes us on a sightseeing tour of this wonderful city, including a visit to Edinburgh Castle which is perched high above the city. See the Royal Mile, Palace of Holyrood house and the new Scottish Parliament building. Tonight, experience a traditional Scottish night out including traditional song, dance and Scottish fare

DAY 19: EDINBURGH – YORK B / D

We visit the medieval market town of Alnwick to see the impressive castle and the Teantry Column, topped by the Percy Lion. Marvel at the magnificent scenery on our way to York where we will enjoy a walking orientation tour which includes the Shambles and the awe-inspiring Minster. This evening, we enjoy our final dinner together at a local restaurant. Hotel: Holiday Inn, York for 1 night

DAY 20/21 YORK - CAMBRIDGE - PERTH B / IFM

After breakfast, travel to the stunning university city of Cambridge and see the magnificent architecture of King's College Chapel in the prestigious University City. Get an inside look at life as a student at one of these renowned colleges as you glide past the famous 'backs' on the River Cam with your Local Specialist 'chauffeur' on a flat-bottomed boat known as a 'punt'. We continue to London Heathrow airport and check-in for our flight home. Upon arrival in Perth, your driver will be waiting to transfer you home.

Tour Highlights

- ★ Champagne Afternoon Tea in London
- ★ Ride on the London Eye
- ★ Attend the Chelsea Flower Show
- ★ Titanic Experience
- ★ Blarney Castle and Blarney Stone
- ★ Ireland's natural scenery on the Ring of Kerry
- ★ Lively dinner and show in Dublin
- ★ Lunch and tour at the Guinness Storehouse
- ★ Visit Caernarfon Castle
- ★ Sightseeing tour of Edinburgh

Tour Inclusions

- ★ Home pick-up and return
- ★ Kings Tour Manager
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let's gotravelling

Over 55s walking group sample picturesque Pemberton's many delights



Left to right; Over 55 Walking Association of WA members disembark from trip onboard Donnelly River's boat - Members enjoy a sundowner at Gloucester Motel while dressed in dressing gowns for the themed evening ahead

IN OCTOBER, 68 members of the Over Fifty-five Walking Association of WA descended on the small picturesque town of Pemberton. This southern forests town was to be their home for five days.

The manager of the Gloucester Motel was welcoming as the first cars rolled in from Perth. Members were quickly shown to their units (no waiting around for the official check in time often the rule at other establishments).

The rooms were squeaky clean and well equipped with very comfortable beds, TV, and the like. A small table and chairs was placed outside each unit so that coffee or a glass of wine could be enjoyed outside.

A dozen or so members used their free government pass and made the journey by train and coach - they were collected by other members with cars from the centre of town and transported to the

motel.

The group's activities began with a sundowner held in the motel's gazebo situated on the lawn area where they shared nibbles and drinks - some dressed in dressing gowns (the theme for this year's opening get together).

As dusk came in the shed the group retired to the motel function room - the venue for each evening's dinner and social activities.

The chef and waitresses did

everyone proud, the quality and quantity of the food was outstanding. A bar was available where drinks could be purchased at reduced prices. The group was entertained on the first evening by a lady who spoke and showed slides of the local wildflowers which were blooming in profusion at that time of the year.

The next morning a walk was arranged by the efficient walk co-ordinators Doug and Kevin to the towering

Gloucester Tree. Doug even climbed to the top just to show the admiring band of onlookers that you are never too old to "have a go".

A trip on the Donnelly River is a must. The boat has windows and a glass roof - so no problem if the weather is inclement. It holds about 30 passengers so the group was divided into two. Shaun collected the group from the motel in a small coach and drove everyone to the embarking point - what an entertainer and mine of information is that man.

The cruise began at 2pm meandering along a 12km stretch of river from karri to sea which is only accessible by boat. At the spot where the river reaches the sea everyone disembarked and enjoyed a stroll on to a magnificent stretch of pristine sand.

Back on board Shaun treated the group to fresh muffins, tea and coffee before commencing the return journey. Members were delivered back at the motel in time for a wash and brush up before dinner af-

ter which they had a fun quiz night compared by club historian Gordon.

Wednesday morning and the group all hopped in the cars and headed for Big Brook Dam where after an easy, delightful walk around the crystal clear water they enjoyed a delicious sausage sizzle. The sausages, salad and rolls were provided by over 55s club president Bronwen while Doug, John and Kevin (the onion king) shared the cooking.

After lunch, some members sat around digesting lunch while others took a trip to Beedelup Falls, which tumbles 100 metres over granite rocks in the karri forest. As it was spring the flow was impressive.

The group made it home to the Gloucester Motel in time for the evening sundowner before dinner and a talk by a local vigneron who described the process of wine making and then they had the pleasure of sampling his product.

Thursday morning and a walk had been planned. Members gathered at the designated

spot but rain had descended after three days of sunshine. Some members braved the weather while others decided to seek other delights of the Pemberton area like the wineries; Tangletoe Cidery, Holy Smoke Gourmet Food Shop or even a tram ride through the forest. The rain soon cleared so whichever activity was chosen everyone enjoyed.

The final dinner was held at the Gloucester Motel and the amazing chef and his helper were called from the kitchen so that group members could applaud their culinary skills as were the wait staff for their excellent service over the past five days.

Friday morning and the group reluctantly checked out and headed for homes in the metropolitan area, carrying fond memories of a wonderful getaway in Pemberton.

If anyone would like to join the Over Fifty Five Walking Association please contact Bronwen 9448 6965, 0414 682 785, Rhonda 9275 1681 or visit over55walkingassociation.myclub.org.au.

Discover the hidden beauty of our State right on our doorstep

TRAVELLING in our home state offers so many varied experiences, being one of the largest states in Australia and the world, the WA traveller is spoilt with choices about what to do and where to go.

During the summer months the southwest comes alive with many visitors seeking the cooler climes of the area.

The Margaret River region is certainly popular over summer with beautiful beaches, forests, excellent food and wineries abounding.

As our tourism industry develops the Great Southern area has

flourished and Albany and its surrounds offers much for the traveller.

Fishing is a great activity all year round but the summer months offer fabulous fishing throughout the state.

Whether you drop a line in Perth or head off north or south, our fishing columnist Mike Roennfeldt each month provides the best spots to fish and this month gives you all the information about where to catch mainstream bottom species like dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper, the season starts from 16 December.

Many people don't tend to head to our northwest in the wet season

especially as many roads close during the season for caravanners.

The wet season does offer a particular beauty and many people love to travel during this time to beat the crowds and discover the charm of these areas.

Remember to check with visitor centres up north about road closures and the like, if you plan to travel over the wet season.

We have a wealth of natural beauty right at our fingertips in WA and as many Western Australians look forward to discovering more about the world far from our shores. Don't forget you have a plethora of fantastic holiday options right here at home.

Join us online:

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- 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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Big countdown to legally fish mainstream bottom species



If you want to catch snapper like this in Cockburn and Warnbro sounds you will have to wait until 1 February.

by Mike Roennfeldt

THE 16 December is the date west coast demersal fishermen look forward to with relish each year. It marks the first time it's legal to fish for the mainstream bottom species after a two-month closure between just north of Kalbarri and just east of Augusta and the early open season catches are usually pretty good.

The main species affected are dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper, all of which spear to make some sort of comeback in terms of numbers if not size yet. Perhaps the most obvious success story is with pink snapper, where catches in the metro area appear to be the best they have been for at least 25 years.

It has reached the stage where people are specialising in catching pinkies in shallow water well outside the recognised spawning areas. Late afternoon and evening have been peak times and a good percentage of the fish are being caught in depths of 12m or less.

I'm not convinced the two-month demersal closure is really necessary but like all catch restricting regulations seem to be, once one is put in it there's very little chance of it being taken off the books, regardless of the need or lack of need.

Effectively managing fish stocks means striking

a balance between conservation and meeting community needs. Obviously the precautionary principle dictates that conservation of the species is paramount but that doesn't mean that fisheries managers shouldn't be prepared to relax restrictions, at least on a trial basis, when stocks appear to be in good shape again.

This seems to be the case at the moment. The two-month closure was part of a package of strategies implemented a few years ago to bring about a 50 per cent reduction in the catch of demersal species in the West Coast Bioregion. Now that the required reduction appears to have been successful and the stocks have seemingly built up again, do we still need a 50 per cent reduction in the take?

In pink snapper terms at least, my guess is that the spawning aggregation protection in Cockburn and Warnbro sounds is quite possibly a more important factor in the recent build-up of stocks of that species. A closed season applies to pink snapper fishing in these areas from 1 October to 31 January each year, so don't get caught out enjoying the open demersal season in the wrong spot. For the great metro sheltered water fishing for this hugely popular species you'll just have to wait until 1 February.

Strike the right note next year and travel "The Tip" in style



Jabiru Lodge

sealed roads from Cairns. He has made the trip 40 times so has a sound knowledge of the Cape York country and its people.

Eight departures of the 15-day Northern Adventure trip are scheduled between May and September. The tour takes ferries to Thursday Island and back to Horn Island for return flight to Cairns over The Great Barrier Reef.

Launching the 2016 program, Mark Essenhigh said May departures show The Cape at its greenest best following the January-April wet season. Peak season is June to August when temperatures are coolest.

Their Cape York Northern Adventure is designed for discerning travellers who prefer true small group trav-

elling over 20-passenger tour groups, stylish comfortable accommodation over camping and flexible itineraries over rigid schedules.

A "No Rush" philosophy also means the Off Road Adventure Safaris group is last to leave after breakfast, but they always arrive at the night's accommodation in time for sunset drinks. The day's journey is flexible to the needs of passengers. For instance, if the group wishes to linger at a swimming hole in preference to visiting an old mining site further on, so be it, says Mark.

Earlybird deals

Off Road Adventure Safaris is adding a complimentary

25-minute helicopter flight over Cape York's tip (normally \$200) for 2016 bookings made before 31 December.

A further \$300 pre-December 31 booking discount is offered on the 13 May departure. Discount price is \$8,495 per person twin share (normal \$8,795), which includes choice of local Cairns tours, 12-day road trip, Kuranda VIP Skyrail, return flight to Cairns, accommodation, all meals, tea/coffee breaks, park/guide fees, and ferry and airport transfers. Single supplement is \$1,395.

See Northern Adventure departures at www.tourcapeyork.com.au, call (07) 4128 2049.

CAPE York (as opposed to the Cape York Peninsula) was named by Captain Cook in honour of the Duke of York. It is properly known as Pajinka and commonly referred to as 'The Tip'.

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Includes cruise, entry fees, morning and afternoon tea.

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Young men with dreams... Dutch mariners tackle a new route to the East Indies



Hendrik Brouwer;

Source: <https://sites.google.com/site/radiogolvenenboeggolven/Home/ontdekking-sreizen/nederlandse-ontdekkingsreizigers/hendrik-brouwer>

SAILING a vessel to the East Indies was no easy task in the early 1600s. The voyage was long, any-

where up to twelve months in duration... a real test for a captain to keep his crew focussed on the task at hand, for any slacking in attention could well meet with disaster... and rescue missions were not a thing of the day.

Prior to 1610 the favoured route from Texel in Holland to the Indies was via the Cape of Good Hope at the tip of southern Africa, from where ships would head north east along the coast of Africa. Upon passing Madagascar they would adopt a more easterly course that took them via Mauritius and Sri Lanka on then after many days at sea into the waters of the East Indies.

This route was first established by the earliest Portuguese explorers who ventured forth a full century before the Dutch began courting the idea of a trade route to and from the East Indies.

It was not easy for any aboard these ships. The winds were often less favourable with many days of forward passage being lost whilst waiting for the winds to embrace a more suitable direction to carry forward a square-rigged ship. And in among all this the captain was always ever alert for the sound of waves breaking on nearby reefs and island shores... too close and the

voyage would end in tragedy.

The conditions for the crew were hardly ideal on such a long voyage. Much of the time was spent sailing through the tropical latitudes, an environment in which the heat and humidity would quickly rot the food stores, spoil the limited fresh water and spread disease among the crew.

All in all, a bugger of a way to earn a living, and yet the ships of the VOC were never short of young men seeking the opportunity to sail to the Indies with its lure of riches beyond imagination.

Things were soon to

change though.

Having made a few voyages to the East using the "old" route, one of the well regarded commanders of the time Hendrik Brouwer, soon realised that the strong westerly winds of the Southern Ocean had the potential to save many months at sea enroute to the Indies.

A brave man he must have been when he departed Cape Town in the early months of 1611 to head south into these unknown waters where the wind and seas could wreak havoc on the ill prepared. This investigative voyage took Brouwer and his three ships south into the latitudes of 30

to 40 degrees. Once in the Roaring Forties they set a cracking pace reducing the voyage time by a full six months.

Not only was the faster sailing time a real plus but the conditions experienced meant that the crew arrived in Java in a far healthier state whist the ships and their respective cargoes also arrived in better condition.

So what soon became known as the Brouwer Route was embraced by the VOC as the preferred route for all its vessels sailing to the Indies... a route that would soon have many ships sailing in close proximity to the coastline of

Western Australia.

See you next month when the Dutch maritime journey continues...

You can experience what it was like to sail aboard a 17th century sailing ship by joining an Ocean Sailing Adventure aboard the replica ship *Duyfken*. Details are available at www.duyfken.com/sailing



Bali holiday winner



CONGRATULATIONS to Joanna Alcock from Alkimos who was the lucky winner of our Bali holiday, thanks to Best Western Bali and Garuda Indonesia. She received her prize at the Garuda Perth office last month and presenting her the prize was *Have a Go News* travel editor Jen Merigan with Garuda Indonesia's general manager Aryo Wijoseno and winner Joanna Alcock.

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North Perth B&B offers something different for guests and pets

WHAT makes a B&B appealing? Ask Dr Sarah Rossetti, who has been successfully running Above Bored Bed and Breakfast in North Perth for the past 10 years. Dr Rossetti, a personable television screenwriter, believes, "In addition to the price advantage B&Bs offer, it's the comfort of knowing that an experienced host lives on-site.

"B&B guests are looking for something different to bog standard, often overpriced, hotel rooms. We have many regulars, who know they cannot run up a bill here. They enter via a code and pull the door behind them when they leave, so it's relaxed. We include free breakfast, WiFi and parking, and if they book more than one room or stay a week, they receive great discounts."

Above Bored is a AAA 4 star rated, 1927 federation home and cottage just five minutes north of Perth CBD, in a quiet street. It is child friendly and offers pet friendly accommodation where pets stay free in guests bedrooms "without a pet bond." Sarah says.

"It's knowing what pleases guests, like spacious rooms, no shared bathrooms or stairs, the comfort of knowing children are never frowned upon, and pets always welcome." Sarah says, "My personality as a writer and diver is reflected in the king sized room bathroom's amazing underwater fresco ceiling, which kids adore; in the romantic ensuite master room with French doors and a gas log fireplace.

"Pet owners and car fanatics love the garden room cottage because pets romp freely in the secure back yard, and cars are tucked away safely in a remote controlled garage."

Keen to volunteer for Parks and Wildlife?

Did you know that the Department of Parks and Wildlife manages more than 300 volunteer projects across Western Australia?

On behalf of the people of WA, the department works with the community to protect and conserve the State's parks, wildlife, forests and other natural assets. Individuals, volunteers, community groups, schools and businesses all contribute to a vast range of important environmental and conservation programs across the State.

Volunteer projects include the Wildcare Helpline and associated wildlife rehabilitation programs, campground hosting at some of our most popular national parks, flora and fauna monitoring, or volunteering at the WA Herbarium.

For more information on volunteering for the Department of Parks and Wildlife visit www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved.




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HOLIDAY GUIDE TO WA

let's gotravelling



by Chris Frame

THE PERTH summer cruise season kicked off last month with the arrival

Explorer of the Seas impresses Perth

of the *Explorer of the Seas*; the largest cruise ship to be based fulltime in Australia this summer.

The "Voyager Class" ship made her maiden call in Fremantle after an epic 44 day trip from Southampton, England. Her arrival brought more than \$500,000 into the local economy and saw the ship take on a full complement of WA cruisers for the journey to the east coast, where she will be based.

The ship is a marvel of modern design and will impress not just young families but also senior cruisers, singles and couples. At over 138,000 tons she's around

three times the size of the *Titanic*, and with this size comes an array of amenities designed to create the ultimate floating resort.

Take the ice skating rink for example. Here passengers of all ages can learn to skate with expert instructors; while in the evening the room becomes an entertainment venue with professional skaters putting on a show that is sure to be remembered for years to come.

On deck, there's a full scale sports and recreation centre. Amenities include a basketball court, proper full size mini golf course, a jogging track and multiple

swimming pools.

A recent refurbishment saw the addition of a "flow rider" to the aft deck, which allows surfers (or those wishing to learn) the change to ride waves in the safety of a controlled environment.

For those looking for a more subdued and relaxing way to spend an afternoon, there's a large beauty salon and day spa as well as a full scale gym, complete with sweeping views. Here, trained health and fitness professionals can assist with exercise programs, health treatments and massage using quality products, including the luxury British

brand Elemis.

And what's a cruise without food and shopping? Not to worry, *Explorer of the Seas* really has you covered. Everyone aboard gets a reservation in the three tier main restaurant. But there are plenty of other options, such as an alternative alfresco dining room (The Windjammer), a pub, eateries, cafés, a sea going Johnny Rocket hamburger bar and room service in your own cabin.

Many of the onboard eateries are positioned in the centre of the ship near the "Royal Promenade" shopping arcade. This space is

a multi storey "high street" style mall with stores selling all manner of items; from toiletries to Taittinger; shoes to Swarovski.

To finish your day off, the evening entertainment is plentiful. A full scale roadway theatre is complemented by smaller Cabernet lounges, piano bars as well as outdoor venues to ensure you are entertained in a way that suits your own personal style. The ship is so large, with such varied amenities, that during the cruise you're

unlikely to sample all there is to offer.

And for those wishing to escape the kids, there is an adults only retreat with plush padded steamer deck chairs, food and drink service and a beautiful view of the ocean.

Explorer of the Seas sure does impress, and with her sister ship *Voyager of the Seas* also in Australia this season, there are ample chances to experience the largest cruise ships ever to be based in Australia.



Rosenborg Castle Copenhagen

Beyond Travel offers new choices for travel to three Scandinavian countries in 2016

small group special journeys, tailor-made tours, premium escorted tours, short stay packages, hotels, ferry tickets and sightseeing.

A highlight of the new range is an 18-day rail, ferry and Hurtigruten package which visits major sights in Sweden, Denmark, and Norway with a five-night cruise from Kirkenes in northern Norway through the Lofoten islands in daylight and a crossing on the Arctic Circle before exploring the Fjords

through to Bergen.

The itinerary includes five nights cruise accommodation with all meals on the cruise sector, private transfers, 11 nights hotel accommodation with daily breakfast, rail tickets from Stockholm to Copenhagen, overnight ferry Copenhagen to Oslo and sightseeing in Copenhagen, Stockholm and Oslo. Priced from \$8920 per person twin share, there are daily departures between May and September.

For those with less time there is a five day tour which departs Oslo in Norway and includes a scenic rail journey to Trondheim in the country's north and a day and night aboard a Hurtigruten vessel. Priced from \$1735 per person twin share it also includes hotel accommodation and sightseeing.

For the complete product range for Scandinavia visit www.beyondtravel.com.au or call 1300 363 554.

EUROPE touring specialist Beyond Travel has recently released its new Scandinavia program for 2016, including a selection of new product and the introduction of special packages featuring the Hurtigruten

coastal voyages.

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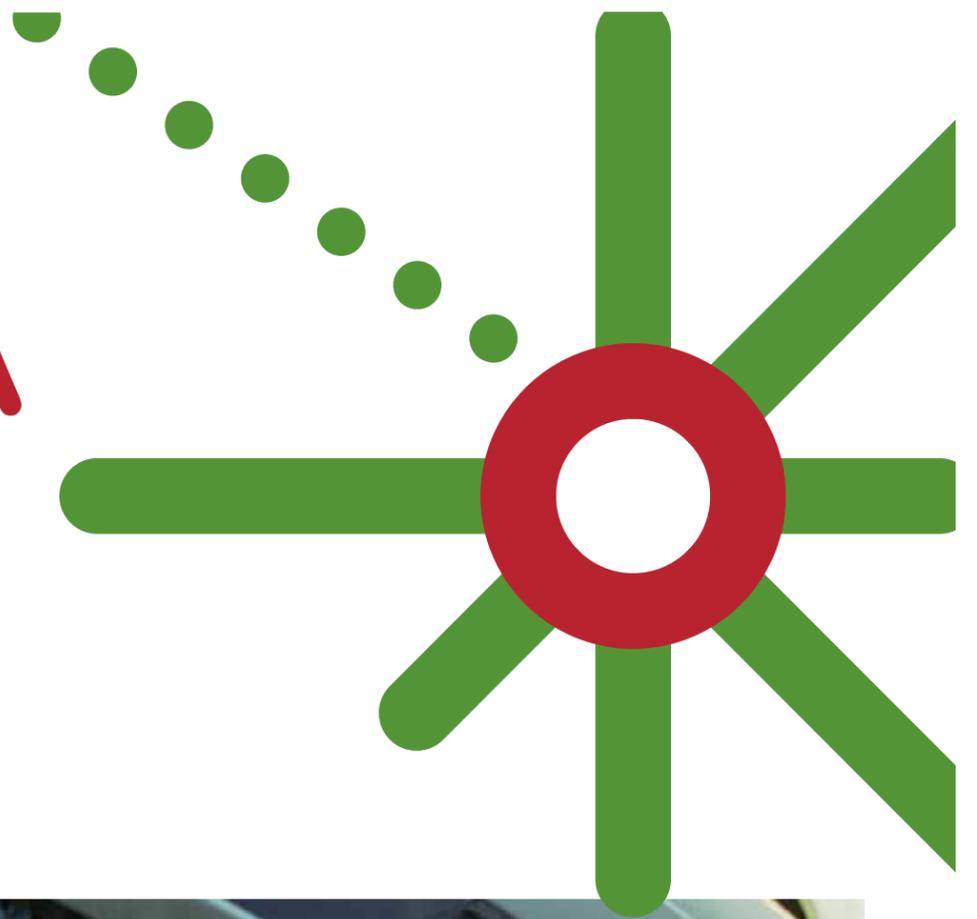


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