

TRAVEL THE WORLD WITH

We all love to travel. It is in our blood to explore and to find new places and different cultures. I have created this sheet to help you plan your holiday or adventure. So whether it is your first time travelling or you are ready for that journey of a lifetime, it is probably time to make that dream become a reality.

I'm told I'm a lucky person being paid to tell people where to go! I'm looking forward to helping you.

February 2011

So much happening in the world and a world of change coming. As some countries close others open so if there is a smooth transition say in Libya look out for the loosening of the visa restrictions. The weather is also very unpredictable so here's hoping for a normal northern hemisphere summer.

Horoscopes and travel

For those into the Stars I have found your dream destination! Not sure if you agree but it's a good read.

Lhasa to Kathmandu by bike

I have always wanted to cycle from Lhasa to Kathmandu (via Everest Base Camp) and to that aim I plan to lead a trip in early September 2012. In 2000 I cycled down the KKH with 5 others and in 2004 from Leh to Manali with four others, both unsupported which meant we were self sufficient.

At this stage I would love to cycle across Tibet unsupported but this may change for any number of reasons. Please email me if you are interested and let me know if you would prefer to be unsupported or not. Read more on my [KKH trip](#) and [Leh to Manali](#).

European cruising

I have just found a new family owned European cruising company This 35 year-old French family-run company Croisieurope is Europe's largest river cruise line. Offering a tempting choice of port of call, state-of-art facilities and carefully planned itineraries, our 26 vessels supply the European rivers as well as the Adriatic coast and Red sea.

I have picked out one cruise in summer as well as a Christmas one. My favourite time in Europe is autumn and Christmas. Here are two ideas.

Christmas on the Danube: Come and visit Europe's most beautiful towns and cities decorated in all their finery as they begin their preparations for Christmas and New Year celebrations. The sweet aromas of cinnamon and mulled wine, Christmas markets with manger figurines (santons), decorations and cakes will delight young and old alike.

Join a 5 day cruise starting and ending in Vienna taking in the imperial cities of Budapest and Bratislava all beautifully illuminated by their festive lights.

Budapest to Strasbourg by boat:

How about a 13 day/12 night Trans-European cruise from Budapest to Strasbourg along the Danube and the Rhine rivers? Price is \$2586 per person based upon two people sharing and includes full board from dinner on the first day to breakfast on the final day including all drinks with the meals. Only two dates: July 17 and October 3.

A group walk in Scotland

The prices for my walking tour are on my website. I have a detailed trip dossier so if you are interested please email me.

Accommodation is limited and I am not able to hold an allotment so if you are interested please book sooner rather than later.

The walk is a combination of two distinct walks, the West Highland Way and the Great Glen Way. However if you do not have the time to do both walks then you can choose to do only one. [Prices and itinerary.](#)

Trans Siberian trains

A few months ago I sent out a PDF with some information about travelling along this fabled route. Just in case you want to find it again please [click here.](#)

Some contemplation

I saw this article from The Independent and thought it might be of interest to you. Are we forever going on the wrong kind of holiday?

I am sitting in a room - a "controlled environment," says the scientist chap - with my brain wired up to a computer in the hope of determining whether the holidays I suggest I like to go on are the holidays that I "really" want to go on. The discrepancies between one and the other, by all accounts, can be considerable, and are by no means unique to me.

We all continually say one thing while meaning quite another, the brain's inability to lie one of its more enduring traits. Within the realms of our holidaying habits, this means that while we profess to love the "idea" of diving and abseiling, of rock climbing and living on our wits in the jungle, what we are really drawn to is a couple of weeks by the pool with the latest Jilly Cooper in hand.

The collective failure to recognise this within ourselves means, essentially, that we are forever going on the wrong kind of holiday.
©2009 Independent News and Media.

Contiki

Contiki is the worldwide leader in tours for 18-35's, operating in over 40 countries around the world. It has now added China to its list. The price for the 12 night tour is \$2499 per person based upon 2 people sharing with the first tour starting on the 2nd May

Greek Island sailing

I was sailing around the Greek islands when I heard the following conversation on the radio.

1st voice: "please could you move 5 degrees to starboard as we are on a collision course."

2nd voice: "it would be much easier if you could move 5 degrees to port."

1st voice: "I insist you move 5 degrees to starboard."

2nd voice: "I am the captain of the HMS Glencoe and I command that you move 5 degrees to port."

1st voice: "I don't really care who you are but I am a lighthouse. Your call!!

Vienna to Budapest by Bike

This tour leads you to three famous cities on the Danube: Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest. Your route passes wide-open plains and small villages giving an insight into Hungarian life away from the tourist tracks. You cycle through idyllic meadows below imposing castles and through small farming villages. In the tree-covered hills of the "Gerecse" mountains there are some uphill stretches and in the village of Szentendre you will find many artist's

A good book

The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul by Deborah Rodriguez depicts the lives of five women in Kabul.

A Sign to remember

My friend Oz told me about a sign he recently saw on a caravan while driving on the Hume Highway. 'Adventure before Dementia.' Book soon I say!!

Charity in Nepal

Carlie Young is trekking to Everest base Camp in mid April. This is the pre-monsoon season and it was in this period that Hillary and Tenzing climbed Mt Everest in 1953. Like Hillary, Carlie wants to help the people of Nepal.

She plans to raise money and bring awareness to the non-profit organisation A Simple Thing (please see attached or [click here](#)). Her ambition as a traveller to remote areas is to give something back, rather than leaving a place with just fond memories and pictures.

Attached is more information about her fund raising activities so any donations much appreciated.

Emperors, Khans and Czars

I am planning to lead a Trans Mongolian rail trip in January 2012. We will start in Beijing and end in Moscow taking in Ulaan Baatar, Irkutsk, Lake Baikal, Ekaterinburg and Kazan. You will have Hogmanay in China and Orthodox Christmas on the 7th January in Russia. Another excuse for a celebration is the Eastern Orthodox Church civil New Year on the 14th January.

It will be cold, it will be beautiful, it will be magical and everyone should do it once in this short life. You can ice-fish on Lake Baikal, cross-country ski in Mongolia, snowshoe in the Ural Mountains and perhaps see the Aurora Borealis (the Northern Lights). Please [email me](#) if you are interested.

And in the end...

Thanks for all your support and please tell your friends.