

# 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.

## January 2011

Hope you survived Hogmanay wherever you spent it. I trust you were lucky enough to have a tall dark stranger cross your threshold and wish you luck. Even if you weren't that lucky then I hope you are lucky enough to take advantage of our high dollar and go see the world.

The last two pages has a focus on several trips trekking and adventuring in Nepal, one of favourite countries along with Turkey.

### Horoscopes and travel

For those into the Stars I have found your dream destination! On the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2011 the Sun-Herald in Sydney consulted the horoscopes to find the best holidays for all of us. I have created a PDF version so if you want a copy please [email me](#)



Caledonian Canal near Inverness

## West Highland Way

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



Northern shores of Loch Lomond

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.](#)

## A cruise around Wild and Ancient Britain

Explore remote and isolated coastlines of the British Isles where windswept cliffs and promontories teem with the largest seabird colonies of Europe, including puffins, guillemots, kittiwakes, and gannets. Our voyage takes us walking in heather-clad moorlands, through the magnificent geological wonderland of the Giant's Causeway, and among the ruins of fortress-castles that echo the lore of the Celts and Anglo-Saxons.

From the sub-tropical gardens on the Isles of Scilly to the sacred sites of the Inner Hebrides and the stark beauty of Fair Isle, our unique itinerary captures the ancient spirit and wild heart of Britain.

The price starts at \$9980 per person in a double/twin cabin. Starts 1<sup>st</sup> July in London and ends in Edinburgh on the 15<sup>th</sup> July.

The vessel is the Clipper Odyssey and you will visit places such as Isle of Man, Isles of Iona & Staffa, St Kilda & Flannan Islands, Orkney Islands; Shetland Islands, Fair Isle and Bass Rock

### **Walking in Hungary and Slovenia**

Bronny Tudor is a very good friend of mine and works for a travel company in Adelaide. She is leading a walking tour in the heart of the magnificent Julian Alps of Slovenia and the picturesque villages and countryside of Hungary.

This will cost you \$6970 per person from Australia based upon twin share accommodation and starts 10<sup>th</sup> September to 29 September. [Email me for more details.](#)

### **Flight booking hint - Plan ahead**

Unfortunately many people leave it to the last minute and as most of you probably no doubt know, booking flights is never easy. There are always obstacles in our way such as school holidays, money and ticket deadlines.

Most planes have a mixture of First, Business and Economy Class seats. Each class is represented in the booking and on the ticket by a letter, F, J and Y respectively. But to complicate matters, within each class there are sub-classes. For example economy class can have other letters such as S, M and L where each letter represents a different fare.

Qantas may have 10 fares to London all with different conditions such as minimum stay, maximum stay, number of stopovers and whether you go via the US or Asia.

As you would expect, the cheaper more restrictive fares tend to sell first. If there are no more seats available for the fare you want it might be possible to put your name on a waiting list. However this is

usually not a good idea unless you have a high level Frequent Flyer status with the airline concerned.

Any airfare is never guaranteed until you actually pay in full.



### **The Great Glen in Scotland**

But watch out for Murphy's law! This law states that if you book and pay for a fare now, some 'special' will come along later. Conversely if you wait for that elusive special, it may never happen and you end up paying a higher fare or compromising on your choice of airline. My advice is to pay as soon as you have decided on the airline, itinerary and airfare. Saves a lot of stress for all of us.

### **Vienna to Prague by bike**

The Czech Republic, thanks to the beautiful and varied countryside, architecture, rich culture and other culture monuments has become one of the most visited countries in Europe.

However it is still easy to get away from the crowds and I now give you the chance for close-up views of this beauty and of course the history of this country.

This can be undertaken as a self-guided trip or you can join a group. [More details.](#)

### **Relaxing**

What better way to plan your next holiday while enjoying a spa bath at a luxury retreat in Daylesford, less than 2 hours north-west of Melbourne! [For more information click here.](#)

### **More reading**

If you want to see any previous Newsletters go to [my website](#)

### **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 Helsinki taking in Ulaan Baatar, Irkutsk, Lake Baikal, Ekaterinburg, Kazan, Moscow and St Petersburg. I have been involved with the operation and selling of these trips for about 20 years and have done the trip twice, once in winter. You will have Hogmanay in China and Orthodox Christmas on the 7<sup>th</sup> January in Russia. Another excuse for a celebration is the Eastern Orthodox Church civil New Year on the 14<sup>th</sup> 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, snow-shoe in the Ural Mountains and see the Aurora Borealis (the Northern Lights) in St Petersburg. Details in my next newsletter but please [email me](#) if you are interested.

### **And in the end...**

Thanks for all your support over the past few years and you are more than welcome to pass on my details to your friends and work colleagues.

## Nepal

To many people Nepal is synonymous with Everest, to some it is just some developing country surviving on foreign aid while to others it is a complete mystery.

Lying between India to the south and Tibet to the north it relies totally on tourism, trekking and mountaineering for its income, although it does export some rice and jute.



These days, tourism is superseding Gurkha earnings as Nepal's chief foreign currency earner. Nepal's mineral wealth appears to be quite limited and is inaccessible due to the fact that the country is still geographically young, although it has a vast potential for hydro-electric power.

The population of the country is roughly 20 million and of that just over 1 million live in the capital, Kathmandu. But like the geography, the people are extremely diverse in both culture and ethnicity.

There are many tribes in Nepal with some quite famous ones like the Sherpas who live in the

Everest region and are best known for their mountaineering skills. Similarly there are the Gurungs, Magars and Chetris who have made their mark as Gurkha soldiers in the British and Indian armies. Many retired Gurkhas still receive a very minimal pension once a year which they collect near Pokhara, Nepal's second largest town.

This is an annual pilgrimage for them to make the trip out of their native hills and it can take them three or four days walking to reach the pick up point.

Nepal is also divided into two distinct living groups, one is the city dwellers and the other is rural. Due to the diverse terrain, steep hills, isolation and poor infrastructure, many of the villages in Nepal lack basic amenities like clean drinking water, medical facilities, electricity, school teachers and basic supplies.

### Everest Base Camp

I am looking for three more people to join this trek to Everest Base Camp starting 17th April 2011. It is a 15 day trek and costs AU\$1580 per person. It includes flights (Kathmandu - Lukla - Kathmandu), Guides, Porters, all accommodation in teahouses and three star in Kathmandu, all meals while trekking, trekking permits, airport transfers, local

taxes. THIS IS A FUNDRAISING TREK WITH ALL PROFITS GOING TO A SIMPLE THING.

**A Simple Thing** is a 100% not for profit group that works for the betterment of life in Nepal's Rural Villages. The project is backed by a local company in Nepal and funded by donations from people just like you. "Our work is based on trust, you trust us with your donations and the villagers trust us to deliver to them a better standard of life. Our guarantee is that 100% of what you donate goes to where it is promised, not on admin costs, not to ourselves and not to fees and charges imposed by governments, councils and INGO/NGO not for profit organisations. We are just a group of people who want to make a difference and who want to make sure YOUR money goes where it is intended to".

### Multi Adventure

Another good trip is the Mud and Madness 12 Multi tour starting 9th June. This is AUD\$1330 per person. This is a multi adventure including rafting, bungee jumping, mountain biking, Chitwan jungle safari and paragliding. Price includes internal flights, all private transport, all accommodation, meals as per itinerary, all activities mentioned in itinerary, Bhaktapur sightseeing, guides,

all safety equipment etc for activities.



### **Machapuchare from Pokhara in Nepal**

#### **Mountain Bike, raft and Jungle**

This 14 day Adventure Tour starts on the 15th September and costs AUD\$1350 per person. Price includes all transport and domestic flights, all activities equipment and safety gear, all accommodation, most meals, guides, permits and entry fees.

#### **Mera Peak**

If the previous ones don't suit you how about this one? Mera Peak lies south-east of the fabled Khumbu region and the trek to Base Camp is as exciting and challenging as the climb to the summit.

We begin in Kathmandu with a traditional Nepali feast followed by a morning tour of this charming capital. We then travel by bus to Jiri and walk east, across rolling hills and valleys, following in the footsteps of the early mountaineers.

At Pike we enjoy a spectacular panorama including Cho Oyu, Makalu, Lhotse and Everest - and on a clear day we can see the craggy outline of Kanchenjunga over in the east. Following the old Sherpa trails we trek into the Hinku Valley, a region of incredibly steep alpine meadows and pastures.

There may be snow on several passes, which will be good training for the climb ahead. We spend two nights at picturesque riverside locations and there will be plenty of time for acclimatisation and instruction in technical climbing methods. We begin our slow ascent towards the summit, reaching Mera La at 5415m before making our high camp on a rocky outcrop that divides the Mera and Naulekh Glaciers.

This is one of the best views in Nepal; a panorama of Chamlang, Kanchenjunga, Makalu and Baruntse sweeping round from the east, while due north Everest peers over the crumbling rock bands that make up the south face of Lhotse. The peaks of AmaDablam, Cho Oyu and Kangtega dominate in the west. We make our final push towards the summit (weather permitting) and then descend to Lukla for our flight back to Kathmandu.

Price: \$3295 per person, twin share (climbers)

Price: \$3090 per person, twin share (non - climbers)

Price includes: 4 nights in Kathmandu at 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  - star Everest Hotel; traditional Nepali welcome dinner; half day sightseeing tour; airport arrival and departure transfers; 17 - day lodge trek (camping while on Mera Peak); vehicle transfer Kathmandu to Jiri; domestic flight from Lukla to Kathmandu; Peter Counsell as Expedition Host; experienced Nepalese Trek Leader assisted by Sherpa Guides; team of porters to carry both personal and group trekking equipment; all meals while on trek; trek pack including sleeping bag, down jacket, inner sheet, poncho and rain jacket; all National Park fees, trek permits and crew insurance; group First Aid kit (trekkers should also bring their own); portable altitude chamber; comprehensive pre - trek information kits to help you prepare.

Please [email me](#) for more detailed itineraries.

## **NAMASTE**