

Bob's Corner



Welcome to the August/September edition of the wanderings newsletter!

Welcome to the August/September 2011 edition of Wanderings!

You'll find it packed with great specials on cruise, Small Group travel, and individual opportunities.

All three of our offices have been very busy with clients finalising plans for the Northern Summer tourist season. It looks like being a great year for European and North American travel, given the strength of the Aussie dollar.

I am heading off shortly for a unique opportunity to go 'inside' North Korea, prior to escorting our annual group to the Silk Road and Tibet. Beth will also be escorting our fabulous Africa and Egypt tour in August, where if it's anything like last year, the group will witness the magnificent Migration of the Wildebeest at its height.

Bookings are already coming in on the May 2012 tour to South America and only a few places remain on the two 'expedition' trips to North West Passage and Bhutan /Brahmaputra Valley. We'd love you to join Beth and I as these two journeys will in all probability never be repeated.

Our recent information evening focusing on our Eastern Europe / Russian Waterways tour for 2012 bought together those interested and as a result the group is already half full. Our full colour, informative brochure is now available.

Please take the time to check out the cruise specials in this issue along with the usual segments that we trust you find readable and interesting and remember our senior consultants are on hand at all three offices to assist with your travel plans. Call or drop in. Until next issue, Happy Travels!

Bob Malcolm

Managing Director – Travel Masters Group

MY EUROPE BASE

Explore Europe from Your Own Home Base

Travel Masters have joined with the owners of My Europe Base to offer clients the opportunity to enjoy the beauty and relaxing countryside of the Mosel River area in the comfort of your long or short term home away from home!

Located in the heart of Europe's Rhineland, My Europe Base offers affordable, 3.5 - 4 star apartments within the idyllic holiday location of Zell an der Mosel.

The good news is these apartments are available to Travel Masters clients on a long term rental from 2 nights to 6 months for an amazing starting cost of only \$200 per week! Rates of course do vary dependent upon seasonality but are extremely good value regardless of what time or season you stay.

The house which overlooks the Mosel River is just 2 minutes walk to the historic pedestrian precinct of Zell an der Mosel. There are five attractive apartments that make up the complete residence. The Zell house is Australian owned and provides a unique holiday option for touring Europe particularly when a semi permanent land home base is required.

This is also a great option as a pre or post cruise experience. If you're interested, contact any of our offices for further information and book your ideal European holiday home NOW!



Tour Mystical Bhutan and Cruise India's Magical Brahmaputra River

ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

Exclusive and Unique Small Group Tour

- 5 Night Tour of Bhutan in 4/5 Star Accommodation
- 7 Night Cruise on board the most luxurious expedition river boat on the Brahmaputra - the brand new *MV Mahabaahu* in a Deluxe Cabin

HIGHLIGHTS: Elephant Ride within Kaziranga National Park - Exotic Birdlife and Wildlife along Brahmaputra River - Ancient Tantric Temples & Hindu Monasteries - Expert Naturalists and Cultural Guides - Visit Tashichhodzong, medieval fortress/monastery in Bhutan - Experience Bhutanese culture and traditional arts - Visit Tiger's Nest Monastery, icon of Bhutan - Experience the heart of the Himalayas in the Dragon Kingdom - Witness local cooking, poojas, festivals and cultural rituals along the banks of the Brahmaputra, plus MUCH MORE!

15 Days - Departs 30 January 12 - Cost: \$8,990pp

Includes sightseeing, tips & meals!

International airfare not included.

CALL TODAY FOR THE DETAILED BROCHURE

**HURRY
Limited Space
BOOK NOW**

Your say

Beth – thank you for giving us the opportunity to go on this once in a lifetime adventure in South America. It was indeed a wonderful, awe-inspiring and memorable holiday. We saw some wonderful sights in the continent, from the Nazca Lines to the charming city of Buenos Aires. We also shared some wonderful experiences like trudging to all those places where the Incas of old had gone before, riding on a reed boat on Lake Titicaca, walking along the boardwalks over Iguassu Falls, and riding horses with the gauchos in Buenos Aires. But the highlight was Machu Picchu....it will be etched in our minds for a long, long time.

Jade Boey

Here we are putting our Travel Masters caps to good use at the Giza Pyramids on a recent cruise with our favourite small ship *The Spirit of Adventure*. The 28 day cruise covered the eastern Mediterranean and North Africa and we visited some absolutely wonderful ports and seldom visited destinations - 24 ports in 12 countries!. Photo is courtesy of fellow Travel Masters and Spirit cruisers Margaret and Ashley Coleman - many thanks for another great photo to add to our growing collection of "Spirit" memories. And not to forget Michele at Lifestyle Coolangatta who made it all happen so efficiently - looking forward to planning more adventures with you.



Christine & Reg Hall

JUMP ONBOARD - Great Cruise Specials

SYDNEY TO ISTANBUL

ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING ITINERARY

Includes FREE ONE WAY AIR Istanbul to Sydney
Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Burma, Andaman Islands, India, Oman, Egypt, Jordan, Suez Canal, Israel, Cyprus, Turkey

66 Nights - Almost 2½ Months!
Departs 10 February 2012

CRUISE & FLY FREE from \$11,270pp

Oceanview from \$11,895pp

Other Itineraries Available

Call for More Information



4 Star *Discovery*

A GREAT CRUISING EXPERIENCE
Winner of 2010 Best Niche Cruise Line

SINGAPORE TO HONG KONG

Singapore, 2 days Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), 2 days Hong Kong (China), Hualien (Taiwan), Taipei/Keelung, Nagasaki (Japan), Shanghai (China), Pusan (South Korea), Hiroshima (Japan), Kobe, Kagoshima, Taipei/Keelung (Taiwan), Hualien, Hong Kong (China)

26 Nights - Departs 28 February 2012

FLY, CRUISE & STAY from \$6,249pp

Oceanview from \$6,799pp

Balcony from \$8,199pp

Includes return air ex Bris, 1 night Singapore, 26 night cruise



5 Star *Azamara Quest*
FANTASTIC VALUE

Includes
Tips & Wine
with Lunch
& Dinner

JAPAN - INLAND SEA & CULINARY CRUISE

Kobe (Japan), Shimonoseki (Honshu Is), Busan (South Korea), Nagasaki (Kyushu Is), Okinawa (Ryukyu Is), Kobe, Uno Ko (Honshu Is), Hiroshima, Miyajima (Inland Sea), Uwajima (Shikoku Is), Nagasaki (Kyushu Is), Busan (South Korea), Sakai Ko (Honshu Is), Sado Is, Niigata (Japan)

16 Nights - Departs 27 April 2012

On Board Luxury Expedition Ship 'Orion'

SAVING 20% - CRUISE from \$12,099pp

INCLUDES SHORE EXCURSIONS

SOUTH AMERICA & PANAMA CANAL

- 3 Nights Fort Lauderdale
- 15 night cruise on 5 Star 'Celebrity Infinity'
Ft Lauderdale, Cartagena (Colombia), Colon (Panama), Transit Panama Canal, Manta (Ecuador), Callao/Lima (Peru), Arica (Chile), Coquimbo/La Serena, Valparaiso/Santiago
- 2 nights Santiago

20 Nights - Departs 30 November 2011

FLY, CRUISE & STAY from \$6,195pp

Oceanview fr \$6,425pp - Balcony fr \$6,850pp

Includes return air ex Brisbane, & Sightseeing

EXTRAORDINARY EUROPE RIVER CRUISE & TOUR

BOOK BY 31 AUGUST & FLY FREE

- 3 Night pre or post stay in Prague
- 14 night luxury River Cruise between Passau and Giurgiu on board Uniworld's 'River Beatrice'
- 9 night pre or post coach tour with luxury hotels exploring Romania, Bulgaria & Turkey with Insight Vacations

27 Days- Departs 24 May & 1 June 2012

Cost: from \$11,490pp

MEDITERRANEAN & BALTIC CAPITALS

Genoa (Italy), Malaga (Spain), Cadiz, Lisbon (Portugal), Vigo (Spain), Dover/London (UK), Kiel (Germany), Copenhagen (Denmark), Stockholm (Sweden), Tallinn (Estonia), St Petersburg (Russia), Kiel (Germany)

19 Nights - 24 April 2012

On Board 'MSC Poesia'

FLY & CRUISE from \$4,810pp

Oceanview fr \$5,050pp - Balcony fr \$5,530pp

Includes return air ex Bris, 1 night Genoa & 16 night cruise

Sensational Package Deals

HARBIN ICE & SNOW FESTIVAL

A Truly Unique & Special Escorted Package

HIGHLIGHTS: The world's most spectacular Ice and Snow Sculptures at Ice and Snow World, Sun Island and Zaolin Park, Siberian Tiger Park, St Sophia Church, Watch the locals Ice Swimming, Dragon Tower, Buddhist Precinct & MORE!

6 Days - 15 January 2012 - \$3,350pp ex Brisbane

Includes: Return air ex Brisbane, 5 nights accommodation at 4 Star Holiday Inn, almost all meals, entrance fees, transfers and all tipping.

THIS IS A SENSATIONAL EXPERIENCE



EASTERN U.S. & CANADA DISCOVERY

Regional Discovery Tour with Globus

2 nights Boston, Franconia Notch, 2 nights Quebec City, 1 night Montreal, 1 night Ottawa, 2 nights Toronto, 1 night Niagara Falls, 1 night Lancaster, 2 nights Washington DC, Philadelphia, New York

13 Days - Regular Departures 2012

Cost: from \$2,639pp

BOOK & PAY IN FULL TO SAVE 10%



Escorted Small Group Tours

CENTRAL EUROPE & RUSSIA WATERWAYS OF THE CZARS

ONE ONLY SPECIAL DEPARTURE



Stunning Scenic Beauty & Unique Cultural Centres

CENTRAL EUROPE

10 Day, 5 Star Coach Tour - Spectacular Budapest, Vienna, Prague, Dresden & Berlin

WATERWAYS OF THE CZARS

12 Day Luxury Cruise on one of the Best Ships in Russia, *'Viking Peterhof'* Moscow to St Petersburg

26 Amazing Days
Departs 26 June 2012

All-Inclusive Cost, \$11,875pp

SENSATIONAL SOUTH AMERICA



Outstanding Attractions - Ancient Cultures - Colourful Lifestyles

Nazca Lines, Lima, Cusco, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, Ollantaytambo, Puno, Lake Titicaca, Amazon River, Manaus, Rio de Janeiro, Iguassu Falls, Buenos Aires, Santiago

GREAT CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Gaucha Fiesta, Tango & Samba Shows, Andean Markets, Scenic Rail Trips, Wildlife Excursions & 3 day Amazon Cruise

30 Amazing Days - Departs 21 May 2012

All-Inclusive Cost, \$14,300pp
Galapagos Island Extension Available

CALL FOR THE COMPLETE BROCHURES

Cruising the PANAMA CANAL

By Chris Randall, Senior Consultant, Travel Masters

In April I was given the opportunity to cruise aboard Celebrity Cruises, Infinity on the voyage from San Diego, California to Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Aside from the general enjoyment one gets on board a high quality cruise ship of this type, my primary reason for taking the trip was to experience passing through the Panama Canal.

I had been keen to scratch it off my 'Bucket List' and the Canal definitely didn't disappoint.

The first thing I had to get my head around was the unique fact that even though I would be entering the Canal from the west (Pacific Ocean) and travelling to Florida in the east (Atlantic Ocean) the journey in fact travels from the southeast to the northwest!

77 kilometres in length, the Panama Canal is one of man's greatest engineering achievements and named one of the seven modern wonders of the world by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Aside from witnessing first hand the ship's passage through the three locks and standing on deck as we passed through the Central American waterscapes, it was also very helpful to receive professionally presented lectures on board covering the history and constructional details concerning this massive feat of engineering.

One particular reason for doing the cruise this year was that by 2014, the Panama Canal will have undergone a major 6 billion dollar widening with new locks and a doubling of capacity.

I'd suggest if you want to see the Canal in its historical state before modernisation, there will never be a better time than now. I'm certainly glad I saw it when I did!

If you'd like to talk with Chris about her Panama Canal experience, give her a call on (07) 555 42 777.

"There are no foreign lands. It is the traveller only who is foreign"

Foreign Currency - BEST RATES ON THE COAST

See us to get your currency for your holiday at the best rates, all day, everyday





The Bucket List

All-Inclusive Resorts

Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, Maldives

Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, Maldives, is an exclusive, private and romantic island resort lush with tropical plants and encircled by the clear blue waters of one of the largest lagoons of the Maldives. Taj Exotica Resort & Spa spreads idyllically along a pristine beach and serene lagoon and offers the finest in contemporary luxuries and services

Maekok River Village & Resort, Thailand

The Maekok River Village Resort is idyllically located on the banks of the Mae Kok River with sweeping views across the valley to the distant forested mountains. The peaceful, rural setting makes an ideal getaway for those wanting to escape the usual city tourist traps.

Nukubati Private Island Great Sea Reef, Fiji

Nukubati is a private all inclusive island resort in the Fiji Islands - a wonderful eco resort for the getaway of your dreams. It is the only resort in Fiji with access to the Great Sea Reef - this vast underwater treasure, where manta rays, dolphins, turtles, whales and innumerable fish species parade around the corals.

Lizard Island, North Queensland

Beautiful, natural and wild, Lizard Island is a place reserved for the fortunate few. Beaches are plentiful, with fine powdery white sand, undisturbed but for the occasional footprints. Enjoy five star cuisine and indulging spa treatments. Room for only a few with a choice between private villas, suites, or a pavilion. Watching the sunset on a day-bed overlooking the water, it's little wonder Lizard island consistently makes the Top 10 Hotels of the World list.

These are just a small selection of the all-inclusive luxury resorts located all around the world. For more information on these and other options, please contact our Senior Consultants.



Q Super Centre
Bermuda St, Mermaid Waters
Ph 5572 7272



Cnr Cotton & Ferry Sts
Nerang
Ph 5554 2777



Beachcomber Arcade
122 Griffith St, Coolangatta
Ph 5599 2929

LAST MINUTE DEALS

Get in Quick! These Won't Last!



TRANSATLANTIC

Civitavecchia/Rome (Italy), Ajaccio/Corsica (France), Barcelona (Spain), Cartagena, Malaga, Tangier (Morocco), 1 day at sea, Funchal/Madeira (Portugal), 7 days at sea, Ft Lauderdale (USA)

15 Days - Departs 6 November 2011

On Board Premium 'Rotterdam'

FLY & CRUISE from \$3,499pp

Oceanview from \$3,599pp

Balcony from \$4,249pp

LORD HOWE LUXE

See the delights of the world's southernmost coral reef at Capella Lodge, Lord Howe's most luxurious, all-inclusive lodging.

Stay 7, Pay 6 - Free Return Flights Ex Bris - Complimentary Upgrade to Next Suite Category - \$100 Spa Voucher - Bottle Of Bollinger Champagne On Arrival

Includes Gourmet Breakfast, Sunset Drinks & Canapes, 3 Course Dinner, Select Dinner Wines, Island Airport Transfers

7 Nights from \$7,800 per couple

Must travel by 30 September 2011

PALACE ON WHEELS

SAVE OVER \$1790 PER COUPLE, plus FREE FULL DAY DELHI TOUR

New Delhi, Jaipur, Ranthambore National Tiger Reserve, Cittagarth, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, Agra, Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sakri, New Delhi

7 Nights - Departures 7, 14, 21 & 28 Sep 11

Cost from \$2,708pp - Saving \$897pp

Includes onboard accommodation in a luxurious cabin, 3 meals daily & sightseeing

SOUTHEAST ASIA & CHINA

Beijing/Tianjin (China), Busan (South Korea), Nagasaki (Japan), Shanghai (China), Hong Kong, Nha Trang (Vietnam), Ho Chi Minh City/Phu My, Bangkok/Laem Chabang (Thailand), Singapore

16 Nights - Departs 10 November 2011

On Board 'Diamond Princess'

FLY & CRUISE from \$2,899pp

Obstructed Oceanview fr \$3,199pp

Oceanview fr \$3,399pp

Balcony fr \$3,699pp

Includes return air ex Brisbane, 16 night cruise

These deals are correct and available at time of print. Please contact us as soon as possible to secure your reservation. Full payment is required at time of booking.

A Friendly Reminder...We are a Major Selected Representative for the following...



...and many more!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SOLO TRAVELLERS CLUB OVERNIGHT TOUR - 8 OCT

Shakespeare in the Park - Toowoomba

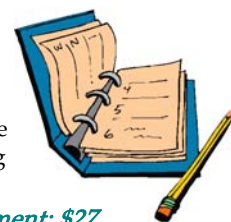
Local Pick-Up & Drop Offs - Gold Coast, Brisbane & Ipswich

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" - Live Performance at the beautiful Queens Park in Toowoomba. In addition to the performance we will be going back stage to meet the performers as well as a number of touring highlights around the Garden City on the Saturday and Sunday.

8-9 October, Cost: \$295pp (\$275pp Concession), Single Supplement: \$27

For full details, please visit our website: www.travelmasters.com.au/solo-club-events

TO BOOK: Contact Cheryl on 555 42 777, full payment required at time of booking.



All offers are subject to change and some conditions may apply. Prices are per person, twin share. Please contact us for more information. Privacy Policy: Your information will not be passed on to any third parties and will only be used to communicate travel related information. Please contact us if you do not wish to receive information from us.