

# Making Travel Easy with

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

## August 2012

Time travels fast when you are having fun. One minute it's May and next it's August and I have missed two newsletters! It has been a very busy few months with many people taking advantage of our high dollar and some very good value airfares. Someone once told me life is too short to drink cheap red but I think life is too short not to travel.

## Walking in Scotland 2013

I plan to lead a walking tour along the West Highland Way in September next year. If you are interested please [email me](#).

## PNG for a break

Airfares have always been expensive to PNG but have recently come down in price. Airlines PNG flies out of Cairns and Brisbane with through fares available from Melbourne and Sydney to connect.

[Tufi Resort](#) is a place that makes the outside world and all its daily stress seem a million miles away. The Resort is perched on an amazing, cliff-top terrace overlooking Tufi Harbour. The flight time from Port Moresby to Tufi Resort is just less than 1 hour and you fly directly into the resort.

## Travel Trivia Evening

Thanks to all those who were part of my recent Travel Trivia evening. And thanks for all the feedback. I will look for a different venue and will start working on some more interesting questions. I will plan another one for early next so watch this space.

## Travel insurance

For comprehensive insurance hit the Covermore icon on my [website](#).

## Bali with a difference

In July I went to Bali. It's not a place I would normally travel to but an opportunity came up and we took it.

A friend of mine recommended a resort up on the north coast near the village of Pemuteran. So I organised a car and driver for the four hour drive from Denpasar airport. We travelled through some spectacular mountain scenery and past the Three Lakes area before going west along the north coast.

We stayed at a four star resort but there are many budget hotels as well as a few homestays. I have a good operator in Bali who can organise transfers as well as accommodation at competitive prices.



Breakfast on the beach

A good friend, Gordon, has just left today for a week up here and he is also spending a couple of nights at a resort in the mountain village of Pupuan, an alternative to Ubud.

So for those who don't want the noise and hussle of the Kuta area or are not into shopping then here's your answer.

## Mountain biking in Bali

We also did a mountain bike tour with a company based in Ubud. It's very easy cycling mostly downhill starting near Mt Batur where we had breakfast before the decent. [More details here](#).



Cycling in Bali

## Car hire

For car hire quote and car bookings all over the world, hit the Driveaway icon on my [website](#). Very competitive prices with instant confirmation and all prices in Australian dollars.

## Cycling in Tibet

This trip is now full and there will be 10 hoping the Chinese don't close the border.

## Some airfare thoughts

To London Royal Brunei Airlines (BI) has an economy class fare for \$1395 including tax while business class will cost you \$3720 including tax. This fare is for departure up to 30 November after which fares increase substantially. BI travels via the city of Bandar Seri Begawan on the island of Borneo and currently has some of the cheapest fares to London.

There are a few companion business class fares with reduced prices if two or more of you travel together. Thai (TG), Japan Airlines (JL) and Air France (AF) have such fares.

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### Premium Economy class

A number of airlines now have PE seats on many of their aircraft. Fares are much less than business class and sometimes not much more than economy class.

Seats are wider than normal economy seats with more distance between you and the seat in front. Meals and service are also a cut above economy. However seats and service vary depending on the airline

take you to London for about \$3300 including tax including a free night at Narita airport on the way there only. Melbourne passengers For example Japan Airlines (JL) can fly Qantas to and from Sydney to connect. Similar fares apply to Paris, Frankfurt and Moscow.

Cathay Pacific charges \$5400 including tax while Qantas Premium economy fares to London start at \$5100 including tax.



Vladivostok railway station

### An Inca Trail read

Getting old has its advantages. Once I wrote travel stories for general publications but now I have had a story published in the Senior Traveller. Maybe old by age but still youthful by nature. [Read more here](#) and go to the July edition.

### Pop up shops

Our city office has a lot of spare room and over the next few months we are going to have a series of 'pop-up shops' using this space. Currently we have some very cheap Ski clothing which is being packed away on Tuesday. If you are interested come into our office at 1/361 Little Bourke Street or to the office at Pinnacle Outdoors at 382 Little Bourke street.



House on the shores of Lake Baikal

### Airport lounges

Many of you might believe that airport lounges are only for members, frequent flyers and those travelling business and first class. However there are a number of airports which have lounges for the general public. You can pre-book through me or pay upon arrival if there is enough room.

In May I had 7 hours between flights in Hong Kong so rather than spend time and money using a hotel I paid about \$70 and spent the time in the lounge. Before I boarded the flight I even had a shower, so it's not true what they say about Scotsman!

Airports with public lounges include Singapore, KL, Bangkok, Tokyo and Dubai. They are on the airside so no need to clear immigration. About \$30 for three hours is not a bad price to pay (Singapore Changi airport).

### City Passes

There are a number of cities around the world which have pre-paid Tourist Passes which give you free access to many of the main

attractions. This saves standing in queues. London has a Travelcard which allows for up to 7 days unlimited travel on train and buses. So buy before you go by letting me know which cities you are visiting.

### Crossing the border

While crossing the US-Mexican border on his bicycle, the man was stopped by a guard who pointed to two sacks the man had on his shoulders. "What's in the bags?," asked the guard.

"Sand," said the cyclist.

"Get them off - we'll take a look," said the guard.

The Cyclist did as he was told, emptied the bags, and proving they contained nothing but sand, reloaded the bags, put them on his shoulders and continued across the border.

Two weeks later, the same thing happened. Again the guard demanded to see the two bags, which again contained nothing but sand. This went on every week for six months, until one day the cyclist with the sand bags failed to appear.

A few days later, the guard happened to meet the cyclist downtown. "Say friend, you sure had us crazy", said the guard. "We knew you were smuggling something across the border. I won't say a word - but what is it you were smuggling?" "Bicycles!"

### Duty Free

It is important that buy any alcohol duty free at the last stop on the way home. Don't buy it in Paris if you transit Singapore where it will be taken from you.

### And in the end...

Thanks again for all your support. If you do not wish to receive my newsletters please write the words "Please take me off your newsletter list" in the subject line of an email.