

# 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.

# March 2013

Our dollar is at a 28 year high against the British pound so what better time to go to the UK! It is also very high against the Euro and Japanese Yen. If you have no immediate plans to travel then buy some now and hold onto it.

Why not join me in Scotland as I walk the West Highland Way in September? See below for more details. This newsletter has a distinctly Scottish flavour so enjoy.

Many airlines are offering some excellent airfares with flights filling fast. So a good time to travel!

# Walking in Scotland 2013

There are still spaces left on my walking tours along the West Highland Way. I now have two dates with the earlier one being a shorter and easier walk.

First trip starts 30 August with a price of \$1299 per person if two people sharing a room. My second, and longer one, starts on the 9 September and is priced at \$1799. If you are interested please <u>email me.</u>



**Crossing the Rannoch Moor** 

# A smile costs less than electricity and gives more light.

# Facebook

Please like me on my Facebook page! Just go to my website and click on the Facebook icon. You may be friends with me already but it is LIKES I would prefer.



Off road cycling in Nepal!!

# **Airline seats**

Some airlines now charge for booking an actual seat. Qantas, for example, charges \$25 per flight per seat in economy class unless you are a higher level FF member. I hate giving airlines too much money but it is a good idea to buy your seat as you may be allocated the seat with a box in your leg area.

# A joke

A Scotsman was on a visit to New York and decided to get his hair cut. Seeing a barber's salon, he went it. "How much for a haircut?' he said. Haircuts start at twenty dollars,' he was told. He rubbed his chin. "How much for a shave?" "A shave? Oh, a shave's ten dollars." "Shave my head then," said the visitor.

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# Adventure in Africa

If you are adventurous, and love discovering the hidden gems that are just waiting to be found, then Drifters has the perfect answer for you. In conjunction with local communities we have developed 4 Drifters Adventure Camps along what is the ultimate adventure playground - the Transkei Wild Coast.

This is the ultimate adventure DIY holiday. Take a backpack or a mountain bike and traverse this incredible stretch of coastline - or get a bunch of mates together and spend a week at one of the camps - all located for easy access, and amazing adventure!

Remember, for most of these Camps, you need to be very self-sufficient. In other words, you need to take most of your provisions in with you. Whilst they are all within driving distance of shops, the roads are not ideal, and why waste time on the roads when you can be playing?

The 4 camps are located between Port St. Johns and the Mkambati Game Reserve. <u>Email me!</u>



The bonnie banks of Loch Lomond

# A thought

Mahatma Gandhi once said `If you don't ask you don't get." Therefore why not ask me where you want to travel to!?

1/361 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia Tel (61-3) 9670 3928, mobile 0411 133 790 and <u>colin@hikebike.com.au</u> <u>www.hikebiketours.com.au</u> and <u>www.makingtraveleasy.com.au</u>

# Important

Airline schedules are always changing and most of the time I am notified. I then pass onto you. However, sometimes I do not receive a notification and occasionally I forget to pass on (I'm only human).

So it is very important to phone the airline on the day of departure to double check the departure time and to make sure your flight is on time.



Scotland's Great Glen

# Drover's Trail to Skye

Based on an old Drovers' trail, this trek takes you into some of the most remote and magnificent areas in the Western Highlands. This trip is for 6 nights with 5 days of walking with first night in Fort William and the last night on the beautiful Island of Skye

You journey north beside the famous Caledonian Canal by lochs and forests through the Great Glen to Invergarry. From here you head west through Glen Garry by remote forest trails and scenic lochs to Tomdoun. Walk from Kinloch Hourn through some truly stunning scenery to reach the west coast at Arnisdale.

# A very good airfare

Malaysia Airlines has a business class fare to Edinburgh or Glasgow for about \$6200 including tax. You fly to KL and then to London where you connect onto a BA flight. Pay by 29<sup>th</sup> March! Business class airfares are non-seasonal which means same price all year round.

# **Fife Coastal path**

Our route begins at North Queensferry on the north shore of the Forth Estuary, in the shadow of the mighty Forth Rail Bridge. It snakes its way around the golden coastline of this historic county arriving at its northern termination, the Tay Road Bridge.

This waymarked route of 81miles (135km) is suitable for walkers of all ages and abilities, consisting of a mixture of rough paths, sandy beaches, surfaced promenades and roadside footpaths.

Walkers will experience dramatic cliffs and caves, rocky seashores, miles of sandy beaches, small fishing villages with quaint harbours, ancient castles and stunning sea views. Its coastlines is a haven for wildlife with basking seals and many varieties of seabirds including Puffins, Kittiwakes, Razorbills, Guillemots, Terns, Shags, Oystercatchers and Eider Duck.

Towards the end of the walk you arrive at the university town of St Andrews, the "World Home of Golf". It boasts 7 golf courses and centuries of history with the ruined castle, cathedral remains and university buildings. More details here.

#### **Scottish weather**

A technician was sent to Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis on a month's contract. He arrived on a grey, cloudy, drizzly day. He woke up next morning to find it was grey, cloudy and drizzling. The next day was the same, and the next. On the day after that as he came out of his lodgings to find it was grey, cloudy and drizzling, he saw a small boy passing and said in exasperation, "Does the weather here ever change?

"I don't know," said the child, "I'm only six."

This is not true of course as we do have days of blue sky and temperatures up to 25 degrees Celsius.

# Another airfare idea

Emirates has three flights a day out of Melbourne, only one of which flies non-stop to Dubai. Another travels via KL while the other flies via Singapore. There can be substantial savings if you fly on one of the latter two flights. However the one via KL leaves and arrives very early morning so it's a balance of budget over inconvenience.



Walking in Scotland

# Island hopping on a bike

Take a 11 day magical journey from the small west highland village of Dalmally, along the shore of beautiful Loch Awe to Kilmartin.

Catch the ferry at Kennacraig to Islay and Jura. Although these islands are close together and linked by a small ferry, they are totally different in character. Islay was the ancestral seat of the Lords of the Isles, who called Islay "the Jewel of the Hebrides", because of its extraordinary greenness and fertility. Jura - Deer Island, is rugged, wild and mountainous with plenty of remote moorland.

Colonsay, a naturalist's paradise, has beautiful golden sandy beaches and crystal clear waters. Complete you memorable cycle tour through scenic Glen Lonan to Taynuilt and Dalmally.

# 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.

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