

Flying Colours Travel

# Autumn Newsletter

March 2011

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It's been a very busy start to the year for us here at Flying Colours and we are so pleased to welcome

Angela Heyne back to the office. Ange has been travelling for the last 7 months throughout Mexico.

We also are pleased to welcome Ky Graham to the Flying Colours Team. For the past 12 months Ky has been completing a correspondence travel course and has settled in very nicely with our Team here at Flying Colours.

Kirsten and Amanda have been busy updating their travel knowledge, you can read the enclosed articles for the latest news in Thailand and Vietnam.

We have experienced some shocking natural disasters over the past few months and we are very pleased that where we could assist we have been able to make alternative travel arrangements for any of our clients in need. It once again brings home the importance of Travel Insurance and the Smart Traveler Website.

[www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au)

The above website is a must for all travellers to look at prior to travelling overseas, you will find current travel warnings along with an area that you can register with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Wishing you a Happy Easter....

The Flying Colours Team

### Foreign Currency

- *Don't forget a Travelex Debit card in foreign currency for your next trip over seas.*
- *We can assist you with your foreign currency requirements prior to your departure, contact our office for updated/current rates*

### Travel Expo

In February we held our Travel Expo at Sporting Legends, Sale.

We had 25 wholesalers from many different specialty companies attend and all were very pleased with the enquiry and attendance.

It is our pleasure to provide our clients with an opportunity to speak to the individual operators from these companies.

We were delighted to be able to offer some "Exclusive" deals at the Expo and would suggest that you keep a watch out in our future Newsletters for our next Travel Expo.





## Vietnam—Kirsten

Earlier this month I was fortunate enough to travel to Vietnam to experience first hand this truly incredible destination. I can now fully appreciate why it is such a popular holiday hot spot.

From the bustling streets of Hanoi, the “Paris of Asia” with its old French Style buildings, quaint back streets, and locals sitting along side the streets eating noodles and gossiping.

In true Asian style the traffic is something to see, but surprisingly no road rage or accidents. If you want to get a real feel of the traffic and submerge yourself truly, a \$2.50 cyclo ride through the streets and traffic is a must.

From there a 3.5 hour drive will get you to the UNESCO listed Halong Bay – an incredible formation of freestanding limestone protruding from the water. We cruised for 2 hours before stopping for the night on our traditional Junk, and the entire time we were surrounded by limestone, often passing villages and houses (complete with the family dog) on the water.

Options are available for both day and overnight trips, if you have the time, waking up on the bay surrounded by the morning mist, though there are many boats camped around you, it felt like we were the only people there. I can highly recommend it.

From here we headed to Hoi An, about 20 mins from Danang past China Beach which I'm sure you have all heard of. There is an incredible amount of construction happening along this stretch of beach with lots of big hotels and golf courses.

Hoi An offers a great choice of options to stay either on the beach or in town. If you have the luxury of time I would definitely mix it up so you can have time to do the best thing there is in Hoi An – SHOP. You want it, they've got it and if they haven't they'll jump on their motorbike and in a few minutes they'll come back with it. Tailors, handicrafts, DVD's, CD's, bags, shoes, every brand you can think of they copy it to match. Some places very well, and cheap. We only had a few hours spare in Hoi An, and after scouring the place for awhile I decided to get some shoes made. I am a little skeptic and I probably gave the girl a bit of a hard time – what if I'm not happy with them, what if they don't fit, what if they're not ready because I leave in the morning... she assured me they will be right. And they were. A quick measure up and picking out the colour I wanted, 4 hours later I went back to collect my shoes and they fit perfectly.

If you have clothing or shoes that you want made up, or even a picture take it with you. They can make anything. You do get what you pay for, so if you go to a slightly upmarket store and pay a little more then chances are the quality is going to be better.

Saigon is a bustling metropolis, combining old French buildings, war history, modern buildings and high end stores – Gucci, Louis Vuitton they are all there - along side the locals in their conical hats selling fruits, street food and handicrafts.

If you have forgotten to buy anything along your travels, fear not – the Binh Tay market has everything you have already seen.. and more !

And if its all too much, stop at one of the foot massage parlours. \$10.00AUD got me a 70min foot massage which included foot, leg, back, shoulders and head. The Air Conditioned room was worth the money itself, a nice break from the Saigon heat.

Vietnam was everything I hoped it would be and I can't wait to go back. If you have been thinking about getting there yourself, I would suggest getting there sooner rather than later as it is going to change dramatically in the next few years.



Traditional Junk—  
Halong Bay



Planting Rice

## Mexico—Angela

Angela has recently returned to the office after spending seven months in Mexico.

Crammed full of rich cultural traditions and diverse geography, there is something for everyone - from the hot beach playground of Cancun to the jungles of the Yucatan and from the World Heritage Site of Chichen Itza to the thriving metropolis of Mexico City.

Often used as a stopover point for Caribbean cruises, the Yucatan peninsula is just like a postcard picture – white sandy beaches, crystal turquoise blue waters; its definitely worth the extra days and travel to experience this and the ruins of the old Mayans.

Mexico City – Mexico's enormous capital city was a fantastic and surprisily safe destination

A large number of striking landmarks are scattered around the city, many of which date back literally hundreds of years, such as the 16th-century City Hall (Ayuntamiento), the 17th-century Parliament Building (Palacio Nacional), and the centrally located Plaza de la Constitución (El Zócalo), where many local celebrations often take place.

Chichen Itza located in Yucatan State was one of the most important [Maya civilizations](#) in its time and also being a World Heritage Site.



## Thailand—Amanda

Last month I had the pleasure of flying to Phuket with Strategic Airlines. They are a new Full service airline that fly direct from Melbourne to Phuket twice weekly. They fly Melbourne to Phuket on Tuesdays and Fridays Returning Phuket to Melbourne on Thursdays and Sundays. The Cabin Crew were friendly, there were 3 movies to choose to watch on your individual screen, 2 meal and 3 drink services. All in all a very comfortable experience. Strategic Air fares start from \$930.00 return.

April to October is low season in Phuket and most resorts have excellent Pay stay Deals (Stay 8 pay for 4, Stay 10 pay for 5. Stay 14 pay for 7)

The 3 most popular regions to stay in Phuket are Patong Beach, Karon Beach and Kata Beach.

**Patong Beach** approximately 50 minutes from Phuket airport is the largest and busiest area.. Teaming with shops, including the large Jung Ceylon shopping centre, restaurants and the “Famous Thai Night life”. There are many resorts in Phuket that are across the road from the beach. The Chaise Lounges and Umbrellas on the beaches can be rented from local vendors on a daily basis. But most hotels aslo have beautiful pools.

**Karon Beach** is about 10 minutes drive from Patong. There are still many restaurants and shops, but not the Night Clubs of Patong. So it is a wonderful choice for Honeymooners or Families that want to be able to walk to different eateries every day but aren't interested in Partying everynight.

**Kata Beach** is another 10 minutes from Karon Beach. We visited the beautiful *Katathani Phuket Beach Resort*. If you were looking for a “Romantic Getaway” and price was no object the “Seaview Pool Villa” at *the Shore at Katathani* are amazing.

**Hidden Secret** – If you are wanting a Resort Holiday in Phuket but shopping just isn't your thing, then the newly opened *Indigo Pearl Phuket* could be the destination for you.



**The Centara Grand Resort and Spa, Karon Beach**



**DB Suite at Indigo Pearl**

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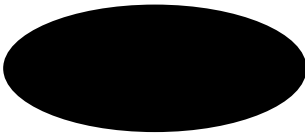
## Flying Colours Travel

83 Cunninghame Steet  
Sale Vic 3850

Phone: 03 51 443199  
Fax: 03 51441816  
E-mail: [flyingcolours@netspace.net.au](mailto:flyingcolours@netspace.net.au)



**Experience our Experience**



### GROUP DEPARTURES:

We have some excellent Group Departures still available for 2011. Call our office if you are interested in any of the following:

**CHINA NOW- 16 Days Fully Inclusive Departing 06 Sept 2011**

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**EUROPE RIVER CRUISE— Australian Pacific Tours**

**Prague to Amsterdam Departing 10 September 2011**

.....

**Best of Alaska and Canada Tour—33 Days**

**Anchorage to Vancouver Depart 15 August 2011**

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**SOUTH AMERICA FARMING TOUR**

**Swagman Tours**

**October 2011**

**We have quite a few itinerary's available for 2012 and we are currently planning our 2012 Gippsland Departures brochure.**

## Exciting News:

### Website:

We are currently in the process of getting our new web site up and running.

Name of course will be:

[flyingcolourstravel.com.au](http://flyingcolourstravel.com.au)

We plan to have all our latest specials and news posted to our website. We welcome your feedback and look forward to the site being up and running in the very near future.



### Appointments:-

To make things easier for our busy clients we are happy to make appointments for you, please call in advance to confirm a preferred appointment time with your preferred consultant.

### AFTA Awards:

Once again we are excited to have nominated for 'Best Retail Single Agency - Australia' with AFTA. This is the 3rd time we have been nominated for this award and are hoping that this might be our year...It is very exciting for a Country Agency to be nominated in this field. I feel its due to our great staff and dedication which has once again given us this honour. Good Luck Girls...

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