

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

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Vietnam Beach Bicycle Back roads Tour 2012

9th-21st April 2012 13 Days
637km ride

Inclusions: Return airport transfers, 3-5 star accommodation, Western leaders, Local guides, Medical Staff, Masseuse Staff, Support Vehicles, 12 x Breakfasts, 9 x Lunches, 8 x Dinners, Mechanics, Water and snacks whilst riding. All entrance fees, Tour T-shirt, 3 x Beach Parties, 1 x Donation bicycle per rider (a small percentage of your tour cost includes a bicycle for your presentation to a charity along the way)

\$2990.00 pp + Flights

Places limited to 60

Contact the office for more info

Latest News

Can you believe that its already Christmas ??!?

We are already planning and booking trips for 2012 and even have forward bookings for cruises into 2015!!!! It sounds crazy I know but the Cruise market is growing in popularity so much that if you really want a particular cruise its important to book well in advance.

Our group departures have proven to be very popular again this year and we have departures planned for next year, already some of which are sold out.

The Australian dollar is still going strong and due to this

we are seeing a lot of people taking advantage of this and traveling overseas. There really has never been a better time to travel with airlines and hotels offering some fantastic value for money deals.

We look forward to assisting you with your future travel plans and once again that you for your continued support.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year .

Safe Travels

The Flying Colours Team.



Direct flights to Honolulu

Air Australia, previously Strategic Airlines, are commencing direct flights from Melbourne to Honolulu from 16th December 2011.

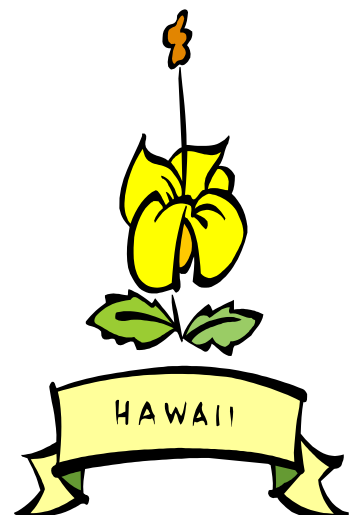
This we believe is going to be a very popular service. Honolulu is fantastic place to visit and having a direct service means only a 9 hour flight, and no more having to transit through Sydney.

Call our office for full

details of airfares and package available.

Angela from the office is going to be traveling on the inaugural flight and will certainly be able to give you some first hand knowledge and experience.

Stay tuned !!



WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY— TRAVEL EXPO

Flying Colours Travel will be holding its annual Travel Expo

Wednesday 22nd February

Sporting Legends

“Thyme on York” Function Room

233 York Street, Sale

1.30pm until 6.00pm

Our 2012 Expo will be our biggest yet, with over 30 International and Domestic Tour operators in attendance. This is a fantastic opportunity to speak to the operators directly. All operators will have their current special deals that are available along with some exclusive deals for Flying Colours Travel clients.

ADVENTURE WORLD, ALASKA BOUND, AUSTRALIAN PACIFIC TOURS, BROOME AND THE KIMBERLEY HOLIDAYS, BUNNIK TOURS, CORAL PRINCESS, CRUISECO, DRIVEAWAY, GLOBUS, COSMOS AND AVALON CRUISES. GRAND PACIFIC, GREAT SOUTHERN RAIL, HELEN WONG, CIT, INTERASIA, ISLAND ESCAPES, KIRRA TOURS, FREESTYLE HOLIDAYS, ROSIE HOLIDAYS, QANTAS HOLIDAYS, RAIL PLUS, ROYAL CARRIBEAN CRUISES, SCENIC TOURS, SUNLOVER HOLIDAYS, SURESAVE TRAVEL INSURANCE, SWAGMAN TOURS, TEMPO HOLIDAYS, COX AND KINGS, TERRITORY DISCOVERY'S, TRAFALGAR TOURS, SPIRIT OF TASMANIA, TRAVEL THE WORLD MARKETING, TAUCK TOURS, VIKING RIVER CRUISES, WIDE EYEDS TOURS AND V AUSTRALIA.

We will have the world covered with this amazing range of operators, please call our office if you have any queries in relation to our Expo.

Exclusive Gippsland Departure information available also.

Gippsland Departures

Once again next year we will be running our ever popular Group Departures. Just released are the final details for our 3 fabulous 2012 Rail Journeys -

Ghan: 11—18 May 2012

Departing from Gippsland, fly to Darwin and experience the always popular Charles Darwin Sunset Dinner Cruise, Litchfield National Park, a night at Mary River Wilderness Park and the Ghan Gold Service from Darwin to Adelaide. Price from \$3920.00 per adult

twin share including flights. Pensioner discounts are available.

Indian Pacific:

15—23 September 2012

After a brief flight, we arrive in Adelaide. A day tour to historic Handoff starts the trip before boarding the Indian Pacific for the journey to Perth. We've added in Fremantle, Margaret River, Pembleton and Busselton for something a little different this year. This always popular trip is sure to fill quick! Prices from

\$4005.00 per adult twin share including flight.

And brand new for next year *Outback Spirit* :
30 May—08 June 2012

Something a little different for next year. From Brisbane we travel along the coast via Hervey Bay and Flinders Island before boarding the Spirit of the Outback to Longreach. Prices from \$3640.00 per adult twin share. These tours are bound to fill quickly, if you are interested give the office a call today !!!



Dallas Fortworth & Disneyworld Orlando Amanda

At the end of October I road tested Qantas' new direct flight from Sydney to Dallas Fortworth. This is an excellent flight option for clients wanting to see the Southern and Eastern states of America.

While there I stayed at the Hyatt Place in the historic district with its cobblestoned streets and cowboy vibe. The hotel was across the road from the Stockyards where every

Saturday night they hold a rodeo. During the day we toured the Bureau of Engraving & Printing (where they put a little FW on every note!) and took a fast lap in a NASCAR around the Texas Motor Speedway. After 4 days we then flew to Orlando and spent 5 fun filled days at Disneyworld.

We stayed at two of the Disney resorts, the

Contemporary Resort and the Disney Yacht Club. Both are fantastic. I was blown away by the size of Disneyworld. My new favourite ride is the Aerosmith themed Rock 'n' Rollercoaster at Disney's Hollywood Studios and finally after six visits to various Disneyworlds I got to ride Splash Mountain!



Western Australia Angela

In October I made a quick trip to Perth to visit family.

We visited the Botanical Gardens at Kings Park which is adjacent to Swan River. The afternoon was spent walking one of their many nature trails and then settled at one of their amazing restaurants for a late lunch.

Heading south, we stopped

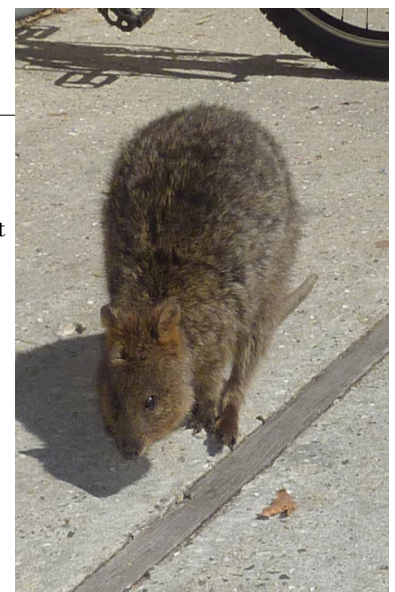
at Mandurah. Once a small fishing town Mandurah is now a bustling waterfront town alive with restaurants, cafes and gift shops.

With over 130 square kms of inland waterways, it's twice the size of Sydney Harbour.

One hour further south to Bunbury was our next stop.

Bunbury is the third largest city in Western Australia after Perth and Mandurah.

Bunbury is located on a peninsular and a major seaport of the South West region. With an array of activities including fishing, amazing pristine beaches, temperate climate and proximity to the South West's popular towns make Bunbury a great holiday



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Vietnamese Spring Rolls Recipe

This is a family recipe my guide gave me. Hope you enjoy!

1 Pkt Rice Paper
500g minced Pork or Chicken
1/2 Cup minced Crab or Shrimp meat
1 Cup Onion
1/3 Cup Chopped Mushrooms
1 Tsp Salt
1/4 Tsp Pepper
1 Tbs Vinegar
1 Tsp Sugar
1 Cup Water
Vegetable Oil for Deep Frying

Combine all ingredients

In another bowl combine water, sugar and vinegar.

Put 1 rice paper sheet on a plate and put a little bit of your water mix on it (to make it soft)

Put 1 Tbs of spring roll mix at 1 end of the rice paper, fold over sides and roll up. Rolls should be approx 2.5" (6cm) and 1" (2.5cm).

Deep fry for 5-7 minutes or until golden brown. Drain on paper towel and enjoy!



Don't forget to checkout our Website !

For those interested in Cruising you will find some fantastic deals with last minute availability.

As part of the CruiseCo buying group we are able to help you with all your Cruising needs, if you see something advertised in the paper or on TV give us a call, in most cases we are able to assist with these bookings.

For people with a little extra time on their hands we are finding that a lot of Cruise lines are releasing unsold cabins at discounted rates at the last minute. If you are interested in this sort of thing please contact our office and we will put you on an email list of last minute deals that may become available.

Vietnam Ky

Scooters, mopeds or motorbikes, call them what you like but when there's hundreds of roaring engines surrounding you and truck and car horns are blaring... watch out! Welcome to Vietnam

If you can place your memory back to the Autumn 2011 newsletter, Kirsten wrote about her travels to Vietnam. This destination sounded too good to be true, so I wanted to experience the place for myself.

I started in Ho Chi Minh City (or Saigon to the older Vietnamese generations), a city of bright lights, endless shopping and trendy cafes. A must-go-to city to take a step back in time in history - The Cu Chi Tunnels, The War Remnants Museum and the Reunification Palace just to name a few. Just as in any Asian city, Ho Chi Minh has its local markets and the Ben Thanh Markets has everything and it's expected of you to bargain and barter for your goods. They love it and you'll love it too. While we all love a good deal, keep in mind when you shop; this is their livelihood so \$1.00 less to you is a bigger loss to them. The language barrier can certainly be a disadvantage but my local guide (Minh) reassures me they're teaching English in schools and for the benefit of their own people to earn a better living for themselves.

A journey to the local floating markets along the Mekong Delta in the morning was followed by a homestay in the town of Vinh Long with a local family. It's a tradition to have several generations under the one roof and a beautiful example of their family bonds, beliefs and pride. It's a pleasing thing to watch daughters helping their mothers cook and clean with a smile on their face and sons helping their fathers bring in the daily harvest to sell at the markets.

A short 1 hour flight to Danang and a 20 minute drive past China Beach has us in Hoi An. Development and construction of hotels and villas continues in Danang along its famous beach as well as a completed Colin Montgomerie designed golf course in the middle for the golf enthusiasts. After trying your bartering skills in HCMC, Hoi An is where to put them to the test - tailors, bags, shoes, dvd's, cd's and local handicrafts, its all here. Cant find it? Just ask the locals, someone will have it! If you can get to Hue and a must see is the Citadel. I would highly recommend a guide as I couldn't believe the history in the one place.

A 3 hours drive from Hanoi will have you at the UNESCO heritage listed Ha Long Bay and is sure to amaze - its something that has to see to be believed. There are often up to 30 other junks (boats) in the same area, but somehow you still feel like you are the only ones there.

If you've been to Thailand or Bali you can appreciate the organised chaos of Asian roads. Hanoi is no exception. A cyclo tour around the streets of Hanoi can be a little intimidating but a few beeps of a horn or flick of a bell tells the others where you are and seems to avoid any accidents.

Museums, water puppet theatre, relaxation and pampering a friendly city with lots to see. Vietnam will be the new Thailand or rather it was Thailand 20-30 years ago. It's a destination you must add to the wish list.