



Winter 2020

Just when we thought the light at the end of the tunnel was starting to shine a little brighter, this last week has seemed to have other ideas. Though we Victorian's are still restricted to domestic travel for the near future we will still dream and plan for what awaits when this is all over.

Many of our much loved tour companies are now offering limited edition domestic tours so we can spread our wings and explore local regions and Australia with great deals and unique itineraries to keep your travel urges satisfied.

For those of you with tour credits you can use these toward a domestic tour as well if you aren't sure about travelling overseas just yet.

You may not know that we can look after every facet of your Australian holiday - flights, accommodation, tours and car hire. Not just interstate but locally as well. Planning a road trip? WE CAN HELP! Not to mention the classic trips such as the Ghan, Indian Pacific or a Kimberly Cruise. If your plans have been affected this year and you think that 2021 might be on the cards for your big trip within Australia, keep in mind that others will be thinking the same thing. Tours and cruises will have limited numbers and limited departures so if you have an idea that you are toying with, let us look into the dates, availability and costings for you to give you the best opportunity for your preferred dates and tours.

You can find some great inspiration for Australian breaks inside !

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our clients for the kind messages, flowers, morning tea and continued support through this incredible time we are all facing. We are incredibly lucky to be surrounded by the support of you all and can't wait to help you with your next adventures.

If you haven't already please be sure to follow us on social media for inspiration, a moment to escape and dream of the next adventure. If you would like to be part of our #wanderlustwednesday campaign keep reading for how you can be involved and have your picture featured.

Stay safe,

Jacqui, Mel, Angela, Kirsten, Ky, Blaise and Rebecca

WITHOUT A TRAVEL AGENT YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN



@flying_colours_travel



Flying Colours Travel

WE ARE OPEN

In line with Government guidelines there are limits to the number of clients allowed in the office at any one time.

As always you are

welcome to contact your preferred consultant or call the office 0351443 199.

Our revised office hours Monday—Friday
9am - 5.30pm

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Picture Credit Pintrest

Domestic Touring at its finest

Even though recent the announcements have put a halt to the travel plans of Victorians, we will still dream to what awaits us on the other side. To adjust with a 'new normal' our most loved touring companies have created a number of limited edition domestic tours to satisfy our wanderlust with the companies that we know and love.

Have a Touring Credit from a cancelled international tour and aren't yet sure about travelling overseas ? These will be the perfect opportunity to explore somewhere you may not have thought previously and make use of your holding credits.

APT - Have released a new series of Luxury Short breaks to our favourite areas with a focus on relaxation, wine, food and longer stays. Covering region such as Margaret River (wine anyone?), Flinders Ranges in South Australia and a beautiful Tasmanian Epicurean escape which includes 2 nights at the spectacular Saffire Freycinet Lodge. These Luxury Escapes are on sale now with savings of up to \$600.00 per couple. These escapes are in addition to the always popular extended touring options through the Kimberly, Tasmania, Queensland options on offer. Conditions apply.

Travelmarvel - After something close to home? Travelmarvel have released a limited edition tour departing from Melbourne that will take you right through the Gippsland Lakes! From Melbourne the tour travels through Walhalla, Lakes Entrance, Metung, Bruthen and then across into the beautiful High Country of Bright and Beechworth. Perfect for those who don't want to fly anywhere - you can simply catch the train to Melbourne. Travelmarvel's itineraries' also cover Tasmania, Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales with some great savings to be had. There are some great savings to be had on a number of itineraries - contact the office for further details.

Insight Vacations - Local Escapes extend across South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and New Zealand with a focus on the best each area has to offer with small groups and interactions with locals. Local Escapes are limited to 22 passengers and Insight are current offering \$99.00 per person deposits and a 30 days refund guarantee. Conditions apply

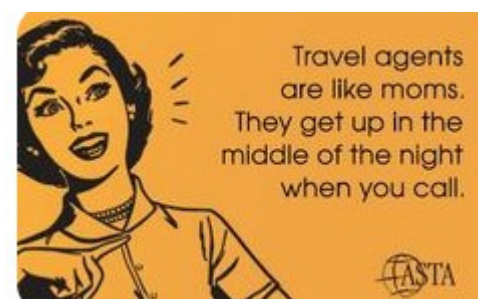
Trafalgar Tours - Another of our much loved touring companies with a vast array of domestic itineraries on offer from short 4 day trips to the Great Ocean Road to extended touring to your favourite destinations across Australia and New Zealand. Trafalgar Tours are offering \$99.00 per person deposits with flexible options to change your plans until 30 days prior to departure. Conditions apply.

AAT Kings - Having been at the forefront of extended domestic travel, short trips and day tours for a long time AAT Kings offer a diverse and extensive range of domestic options. Guided Holidays range from 4 –22 days providing an in depth exploration of the chosen regions. Short Breaks are just that, 2 - 7 days with a combined driver guide to showcase the destination. Day tours are offered across all of Australia including Melbourne and surrounds.

Inspiring Journeys - Small group boutique journeys with a maximum of only 20 people allows you the opportunity to immerse yourself truly into your destination to create memories to last a lifetime. Tours can be secured with a \$99.00 deposit per person and the flexibility to change your trip dates until 30 days prior to departure. Conditions apply.

Contiki - The right of passage Contiki trip to Europe might be off the cards for now but Contiki have released a number of Local Travel options for the 18 - 35 year olds through. The perfect end of school celebration. Keep an eye out for Zac Efron and the Hemsworth Brothers in Byron Bay, explore the Great Barrier Reef. Always wanted to visit Uluru? Now is the perfect time and all in legendary Contiki fashion. Great specials are on offer now with a \$99.00 per person deposit to lock in your place. Conditions apply.

WE SURE DO ! As a client you get access to our after hours number if you need emergency assistance whilst you are away.



Intrepid - A pioneer in grass roots travel with a loyal following, they too now offer an increased range of domestic trips including a new 'Intrepid Retreat' Category of tour focusing on interacting with local artisan producers in the Yarra Valley exploring local food & wine and a gin masterclass

As always our companies have the health and safety of guests at the core of their values and have all implement protocols in line with the COVID 'new normal' standards of health and safety. If you would like to learn more please check out the respective tour company websites.

Cruising

We understand the reluctance to commit to future trips with the unknown we are facing at the moment. Whilst the fleets are currently docked there are some great specials to get your back onto the water, many offering revised terms and conditions to have you booking with confidence. Sometimes we all need something exciting to look forward to.

Princess Cruises - Have temporarily revised final payment dates and cancellation policies for voyages through April 30, 2021. As always, any payments made prior to the final payment date are refundable to you in the original method of payment. We have new policies handling cancellations and refunds after the final payment date: Cancel up to 30 days before you sail and receive a Future Cruise Credit* for any cancellation fees^ and a refund of additional funds received to the original payment method. Final payment is due 60 days before departure, not our usual 90 days^. We may not know when we'll be sailing again, but we want you to feel comfortable to make plans and dream of your next cruise holiday! *A Future Cruise Credit is like a voucher for a holiday at a later date, the promise of another adventure at sea. ^Please refer to Princess standard cancellation and refund policies for details about cancellation fees and final payments.

P & O - PO Assurance allows for any existing or new bookings made on cruises departing between 1 September to 31 October, 2020, your clients can now cancel their booking for any reason up to 48 hours prior to departure and receive a Future Cruise Credit to the value of the original cruise fare paid to us, valid for use until 31 December 2021.

Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruises - Cruise with confidence with RCC and Celebrity and you cancel any cruise (booked by August 1, 2020) that sets sail from now through April 30, 2022 and you're covered. Cancel at least 48 hours before the sail date, your clients' will receive a Future Cruise Credit that can be used on any cruise through December 31, 2021 or 12 months from your cancellation date - whichever is further.

Cunard - With their current Annual Savings Event on offer now with savings up to 30% Cunard require only a 5% non refundable deposit to secure your place and balance due 120 days prior to sailing. On sale until 31 July 2020.

Viking Ocean Cruising - With no kids and no casinos Viking remains incredibly popular with the Australian market. With some voyages closer to home now on sale they have a wonderful Sydney to Bali and vice versa via Queensland, Darwin and Komodo Island departing March 2022. Also on offer is a Sydney to Auckland or visa versa departing December 2021, January - February 2022.

The Risk-Free Guarantee allows guests to change their cruise date up until 24 hours before their planned departure and Viking will waive any fees. This offer covers all Viking reservations that are made between May 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020. Conditions apply.

Holland America Line - Cancel for any reason up until 30 days prior to sailing and receive a Future Cruise Credit (FCC) equal to the amount paid to Holland America Line. This is applicable on sailings booked by 31 August 2020 and eligible on cruises departing on or before 31 December 2021.

Seabourn Cruises - Is offering similar to the above, but cruises must be booked by 31 July 2020 for cruises departing until 31 December 2021.

With the increased flexibility in booking conditions gives you confidence to book and peace of mind that should you need to cancel. Please take note to understand all terms and conditions fully when booking as they are subject to change at any time and policies to be withdrawn any time.

DID YOU KNOW.... Eating with chopsticks engages 50 different muscles and joints within your body including the fingers, wrist, arm and shoulders. Studies have also shown that regular use of chopsticks can help decrease the risk of osteoarthritis in the hand. Pass the chopsticks please ! Quote credit: the internet

Angela heads to South Africa with Bench Africa

In February I was lucky enough to travel back to the amazing continent of Africa. Of course we had no idea that we would be in the last weeks of travelling before the world as we know it changed.

With Sydney based African Specialist company Bench Tours we departure for a ten day tour of South Africa's Garden Route. Having been to Africa previously, this was a great option for a second time visitor to continue exploring the continent.

The 300 km stretch of coastal road on the South West tip of South Africa is regarded as the most beautiful region in the country. Known as The Garden Route, the road trip gets its name from the Garden Route National Park that it covers, along with the diverse vegetation and wildlife, abundance of lagoons, lakes, mountains, forests, and beaches along its winding roads. We started without a doubt our touring highlight - a two night stay at the luxury Shamwari Long Lee Manor. Shamwari Long Lee Manor is one of the 7 lodges that lies on a Private Game Reserve located one hours drive from Port Elizabeth Airport.

This luxury property located on Shamwari Private Game Reserve is home to the coveted Big 5 and luxurious experiences including both fine & casual dining along with an amazing infinity pool overlooking the landscape. The daily early morning and late afternoon-evening game drives were the highlights of my visit to South Africa for sure.

We all then headed by road for a picturesque 4 hour journey on the Garden Route through to Knysna.

Knysna is situated in the Western Cape of South Africa in the heart of the Garden Route. A quaint town located on the edge of a vast estuary which flows into the Indian Ocean through two giant sandstone heads.

Exploring the natural beauty of Knysna and the surrounding area including nature walks and a leisurely cruise around bay.

After our two night stay in Knysna we made our way by road to George and flew to Capetown which was a short 50minute flight. Located 40 minutes by road from Capetown Airport is the beautiful winery property of Spier Hotel located in Stellenbosch. The Spier Hotel is a 4 star property situated on the historic Spier wine farm in the heart of the Stellenbosch winelands.

Stellenbosch is a university town in South Africa's Western Cape province and surrounded by the vineyards of the Cape Winelands and the mountainous nature reserves of Jonkershoek and Simonsberg. The town's oak-shaded streets are lined with cafes, boutiques and art galleries. Cape Dutch architecture gives a sense of South Africa's Dutch colonial history, as do the Village Museum's period houses and gardens.

The next three days included winery visits, spa treatments and visits to neighboring towns including Franschhoek, known as the French Corner of the Cape and considered to be the food and wine capital of South Africa.

Our last two nights were spent in Cape Town.

Our stay at the Southern Sun Waterfront Cape Town was perfect to explore the city and surrounds. This 4 star property is located in the heart of the city's most tourist friendly precinct, and is a short walk from the V&A Waterfront.

Our three day stay in Cape Town included a private guided City Tour and a cable car to the top of the world famous Table Mountain and spectacular views of the city. A full day private guided tour took us to Cape Point & the

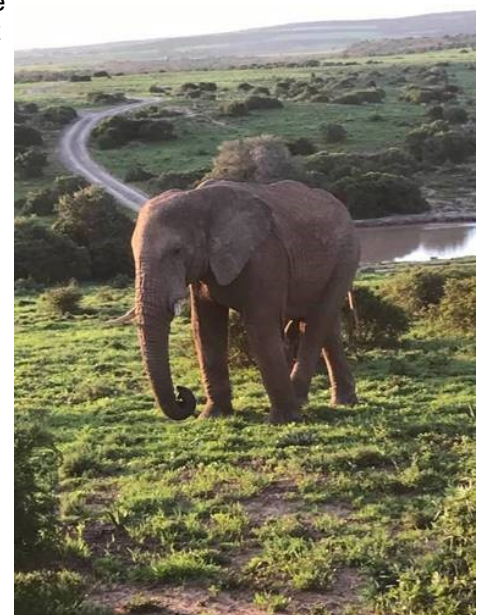
Peninsular.

This awe-inspiring tour to the towering headland known as Cape Point encompasses magnificent beaches, breath taking views and picturesque coastal villages.

The Cape Peninsula is one of the world's most scenic areas and stretched from the City Centre to Cape Point.

Africa is an amazing part of the world that I cannot wait to visit again.

Contributions from Angela and her provided Bench Tours travel itinerary



Weekend Away with Mel and her mum

In February this year, before Covid-19 took over our lives, I had perfectly timed girls weekend away in Sydney with my Mum. I had never been to Sydney before and was very much looking forward to being a tourist in my own country. Something I believe we will all be doing more of due to current circumstances.

We stayed in The Rocks district at the Rendezvous Hotel. Getting to the hotel from the airport we caught the train getting off at Circular Quay and it was just a 5 minute walk to the hotel. Perfect location and a great base to set out and explore the city from. One thing to keep in mind is it is quiet hilly and there are a number of stairs to navigate. Wandering along the little alleyways though there is some great history to uncover.

We hadn't pre booked any activities yet we certainly had a few things in mind of what we would like to do, number one being climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge. On our first morning after breakfast we made a beeline to the ticket office to see if there was any availability and lucky for us we could join a climb with only an hours wait. There are three different climbs you can do depending on the amount of time you have and how high up the Bridge you are wanting to go. We went right to the top, with the climb taking a total of 3 ½ hours. Keeping in mind about an hour of this is taken up with safety briefings and instructions.

The climb itself was fairly easy with plenty of stops along the way to enjoy the view. You cannot take any personal belongings with you or loose items – so no camera's, however your guide will take photos of you as you go along.

That afternoon we explored Circular Quay, the Opera House and the Botanical Gardens. We didn't do a guided tour of the Opera House, instead decided to go see a show that night. Depending on seat availability you can purchase tickets the day of and receive a discount. We saw a Comedy Theatre performance and although it wasn't in the main concert hall the experience was still amazing. We also did a short harbour cruise. As we didn't have anything pre booked we just got on one of the hop-on hop-off ferries which take you to a few different stops before returning you to Circular Quay or Darling Harbour. It was great to be on the water and look back on the city however if I was to do this again and had the time I would book a lunch or dinner scenic cruise.

The following day we jumped on the bus and headed to Bondi Beach. The great thing about Sydney public transport is you don't have to purchase an opal card if you don't want. Instead you can just tap you credit card every time you get on/off a train or bus. Half an hour later we were at famous Bondi Beach. It wasn't an overly hot day but the beach was still packed. There is a great little walk along the coast line that takes you out to Mackenzie's Point with fantastic photo opportunities looking back over the beach. If you keep going you will end up at Bronte Beach, another popular swimming spot. Instead we decided to do a bit of shopping and find a bar and watch the world go by.

Our last day in Sydney we got up early and visited the 'Sunrise' Channel 7 studios (and waived to Sam & Kogie), before exploring a bit of the city. From Martin Place we made our way through Hyde Park and into the ANZAC Memorial (free entry) before making our way back to the hotel to check out. Our time in Sydney had come to an end. I can say I thoroughly enjoyed my brief time in Sydney and am already looking at going back to do some of the things I didn't have time for such as visit Manly Beach.

DON'T FORGET we can help you with your domestic getaways and girls/lads/golf/horse racing/sporting/school group trips. We have access to group flights, great accommodation and tour rates so let us know your plans, or if you have no idea what you would like to do we can provide you with some great ideas to help create the perfect getaway.



Wanderlust - *noun, a strong desire to travel.*

Ref: Oxford Dictionary #wanderlustwednesday - you may have seen across our social media pictures from our clients and the amazing places we've helped them travel. If you would like to be featured in our #wanderlustwednesday socials please email your picture, where it was taken, name and a testimonial caption to admin@flyingcolourstravel.com.au or through Messenger on our FB page. A huge thanks to all who have submitted and featured so far. You can follow us on Facebook and Instagram @flying_colours_travel.

***If you are including photos of people, please ensure that all parties give permission for publication*



DID YOU KNOW that between all the staff at Flying Colours we have covered pretty much every corner of the globe - Europe, Africa, Antarctica, Asia, North/South and Central America, the Pacific, New Zealand and places in between. We've backpacked, camped, cruised, coach toured, RV'd, gone by cyclo, tuk tuk, luxury trains, not so luxury trains, stayed in the finest of hotels and slept on the ice. We've helped people plan surprise honeymoons, weekend getaways, the annual family holiday and the once of a lifetime adventures. The internet is overflowing with information, and its not always the right information for you. Internet filters can only refine your

searches so much.. and if you search by price they may not tell you in bold before you click BUY that the \$400.00 flight to Europe you found will actually take you 72 hours, travels via somewhere you need a transit visa and doesn't include baggage, food or entertainment. Or that non refundable hotel you booked is actually having major renovations. That was all in the fine print that you overlooked. We want to ensure that you have the best possible time and that its just like the vision you have when you imagine your holiday, we'll take the time to work with you to make sure that the places or trips we suggest are fitting to your travel style/budget. Chances are someone from the office has been where you'd like to go and experienced it first hand. We can tell you about the amazing restaurant down the street that's not in the guidebook or on the internet. We can tell you about the special souvenir or specialty shops or what rooftop bar showcases the best sunset cocktails. We can do things the internet can't. You wont be on hold for hours trying to get help when you need it most. Pop in anytime to ask a question about your trip and talk to a local. One that you know, and who knows you. Who can support your school, sporting club or raffle when you continue to support our local business. We will always treat your holiday plans as if it were ours, looking for the best value and best experience. Did you know that your online booking platforms are owned by overseas corporations based overseas (eg Expedia and WOTIF.com are US owned)? Flying Colours Travel is owned and staffed by locals, just like many of you. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to helping you plan your future adventures. Out of interest Kirsten googled "Mexico Vacations" ... both Kirsten and Angela have been to Mexico. You are welcome to scroll through the 61 million results, or save yourself some time and give them a call.

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