



Around Luxurious Oz in 15 Days!

Phileas Fogg may have taken on the World, but Travel Time's Director Kathi had but 15 days to see "luxury Australia".

- Flying with Emirates
- Taking a stopover in Dubai to rest; enjoy the sights from the Burj Khalifa – at present the tallest building in the world -& sample the facilities at the new downtown Palace Hotel. She checked out the latest hotel developments in Sydney & The Blue Mountains
- Travelling south to Adelaide & Kangaroo Island, then North to Queensland

"I tasted just some of the true luxuries Australia has to offer". Says Kathi "From the breathtaking scenery at exclusive Southern Ocean lodge KI, to meeting the locals in the outback, all unique experiences of discovery.

The peace and tranquillity at Wolgan Valley in The Blue Mountains; exploring The Daintree Rainforest up to Cape Tribulations; self indulgence in the Barossa tasting magnificent wines; relaxing aboard the luxurious "Aquarius" on the Great Barrier Reef, all in the name of research, a dream come true. See Kathi's A-Z of her trip on pages 3 to 4.





Chinese New Year in The Alps

Travel Time celebrated the incoming year of the Rabbit in style with the help of some unexpected celebs!

The slopes of Les Gets may have been basking in sunshine, but the luxurious Chalet Monet took on a truly Oriental feeling when Travel Time hosted their annual winter house party. The chalet hosts excelled, providing a sumptuous Chinese meal and as keen skiers, Rowland & Debs say “It was the best ever”. “Les Gets was perfect for our whole group, which included boarders, walkers & we skiers. We found good snow generally, enjoying the resorts of Avoriaz, Morzine & nearby Switzerland as well as locally” reports Mike Hirst “It’s our second visit to the Chalet Monet, the outdoor hot tub & sauna here are an unexpected bonus”.

Register for Zermatt 2012

Our escorted Chalet party goes on sale 01 March 2011



We can't promise “Chinese Dolly” but there's always a surprise in store in the mountains with the Travel Time crew. 2011 saw bunnies and bobble hats; 2010, Burns Night; 2009, strictly; line dancing in Steamboat; curling in Zermatt and dog sledging in Whistler. One year they even played golf. Just be prepared and enjoy the fun.



Call Travel Time now for prices and to register 01797 260900



We did it :- The A-Z of my whirlwind Oz Experience by Kathi Hirst

The **Ambitious** itinerary was completed and survived

We **blazed** from **Blue** Sydney to **Blue** Mountains, across the Eastern Seaboard of Oz and beyond

Collecting and **collating** information and observations – but sadly saw no **crocodiles**

Dining at some of the best locations in Oz, **discussing** the merits of hotel facilities and rooms

Experiencing everything from the **epicurean** delights of The Observatory, Sydney to the Wonders of KI

Fraternising with the locals – Col and Gisele from Adelaide being the **favourites** encountered at **Flames in The Forest** - and **forging** useful business contacts

Gleefully sampling **glasses** of **Gewürztraminer** and **Grenache** in The Barossa courtesy of the knowledgeable Jason miller from Rich and Lingering food and wine tours

Hauling luggage to yet another **Hotel**. **Hearing** the alarm clock welcome in another day, another location

Initiating another airline check-in, **inspecting** another property

Jumping aboard yet another transfer vehicle – followed hopefully by another baggage trailer

And still, we **knew** we could do it, this ambitious itinerary

As **Kangaroos** chomped we sipped Champagne, **lamented** the **late** arrival of Rex Airlines and **left** the South for warmer **latitudes**

Managing to live out of a suit case and **manipulating** the wardrobe to suit the occasion

Negotiating a little time to sample the stunning Timeless Spa at Wolgan Valley and Southern Spa at Southern Ocean Lodge – **NOT** to be missed

Observing the local flora and fauna of KI and The Daintree, while taking in **obligatory** local haunts such as the Tin Shack in Port Douglas and The Club in Tanunda

Partaking of hospitality, second to none, everywhere from the **Peninsula**, **Pepper's** Balé and Silky Oaks Queensland to **The Palace in Dubai**

Questioning the viability of properties, their locations and **quintessential qualities**, with our own respective clients in mind



Reporting and **remonstrating** on the state of the travel business in general over dinner with our most generous hosts, including Paul Van Min at Silky Oaks and Rita at the Observatory, Sydney.

Recalling amongst ourselves, just how much we have covered in these 15 days together, from the **rouged cliffs** at Southern Ocean Lodge and Remarkable Rocks, to **The Rain forest** and **The Reef**, at Cape tribulation

Snorkelling, sailing, relaxing.

Sharing stories with our **shipmates**, aboard the luxurious 62ft catamaran Aquarius, on our journey to the Low Isles. Even, being entertained by **sharks**

Taking in the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef and life below the ocean from the comfort of our own glass Bottom Boat. **Touching** a rescued wallaby as it was being hand fed at Southern Ocean Lodge.

Treating myself to breakfast(organic naturally) in front of the fire, in my private luxury heritage suite at Wolgan Valley, whilst being **tantalised** by the private swimming pool which awaited me on the deck.

Emirates **upgrading** us where possible.

Getting **Up** early each morning to take in new experiences

Voting amongst ourselves for our favourites - breakfast has to be at Jacob's Creek retreat; the most entertaining and **vivacious** host's prize going to Michelle at Thala.

The Australian **Wilderness** at **Wolgan Valley** in the **World Heritage** Blue Mountains – truly unforgettable – a must for any luxurious itinerary to Oz – without forgetting of course our Host Andrew, who made us so **welcome**

X marks the spot where we crossed the Daintree River on the chain ferry, to discover the secrets of the rain forest with the Excellent Wild Escapes Guide Cathy Wharton – snakes, surely not!

Yes it was worth it. I may have returned tired and exhausted, **yet** that's soon forgotten and I look back now on what we achieved in such a short time

OZ – so much to see, so little time. I've certainly needed lots of "**Z**" time since my return to catch up on lost sleep, but Yes, it was worth it, I knew it would be of course, **OZ** is always worth it

So ends my Australian trip alphabetical observations.

As the Australian Aboriginal proverb goes " Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow.....and then we return home".

Kathi Hirst, MD, Travel Time, East Sussex