

Inspired.

Issue 27. Autumn 2017

Roam where
you want to



In this issue

Cool destinations
New Zealand to
Antarctic

Going places
On tracks, roads,
water or by air

South Pacific
Family fun
in the sun



Travel
Managers
As individual
as you are



Welcome to Inspired, which has great holiday ideas plus helpful hints from personal travel managers to help you plan for your next journey.

From family friendly fun in the South Pacific and luxury cruises in Europe, there are many ways to roam around the world.

To find up to date holiday deals that relate to the articles, and a personal travel manager to help you plan your next holiday, please visit travelmanagers.com.au.

Happy travels
The TravelManagers Team



Where will you roam to?

We appreciate the support of our travel partners in helping us to inspire your next holiday.



Contents

04 The personal travel manager difference

With an average of over 20 years' experience, a personal travel manager can help you plan and book your next adventure.



06 Family. Islands in the Sun

South Pacific fun in the sun.



08 Family. Self drive New Zealand

Explore the South Island at your own pace.



10 Touring. Escorted coach travel

Relax in armchair comfort as you travel through New Zealand.



12 Luxury. Mega yacht cruising

First class travel on the waters of the Aegean and the Adriatic.



14 Touring. Festive Europe

Discover a magical winter wonderland in Europe.



15 Self guided. Journey into Europe

Make the most of your travels in London and Paris.



16 Cruise. European rivers

Cruise the waterways in all-inclusive luxury.



18 Air travel. Celebrate with Singapore Airlines

The world's most awarded airline turns 50.



20 Adventure. Antarctic expedition

Get up close to wildlife and icy landscapes.



22 Top travel tips

Personal travel managers share their top tips to ensure you get the most from your holiday.



24 Hassle-free roaming

Stay connected without it costing a fortune.

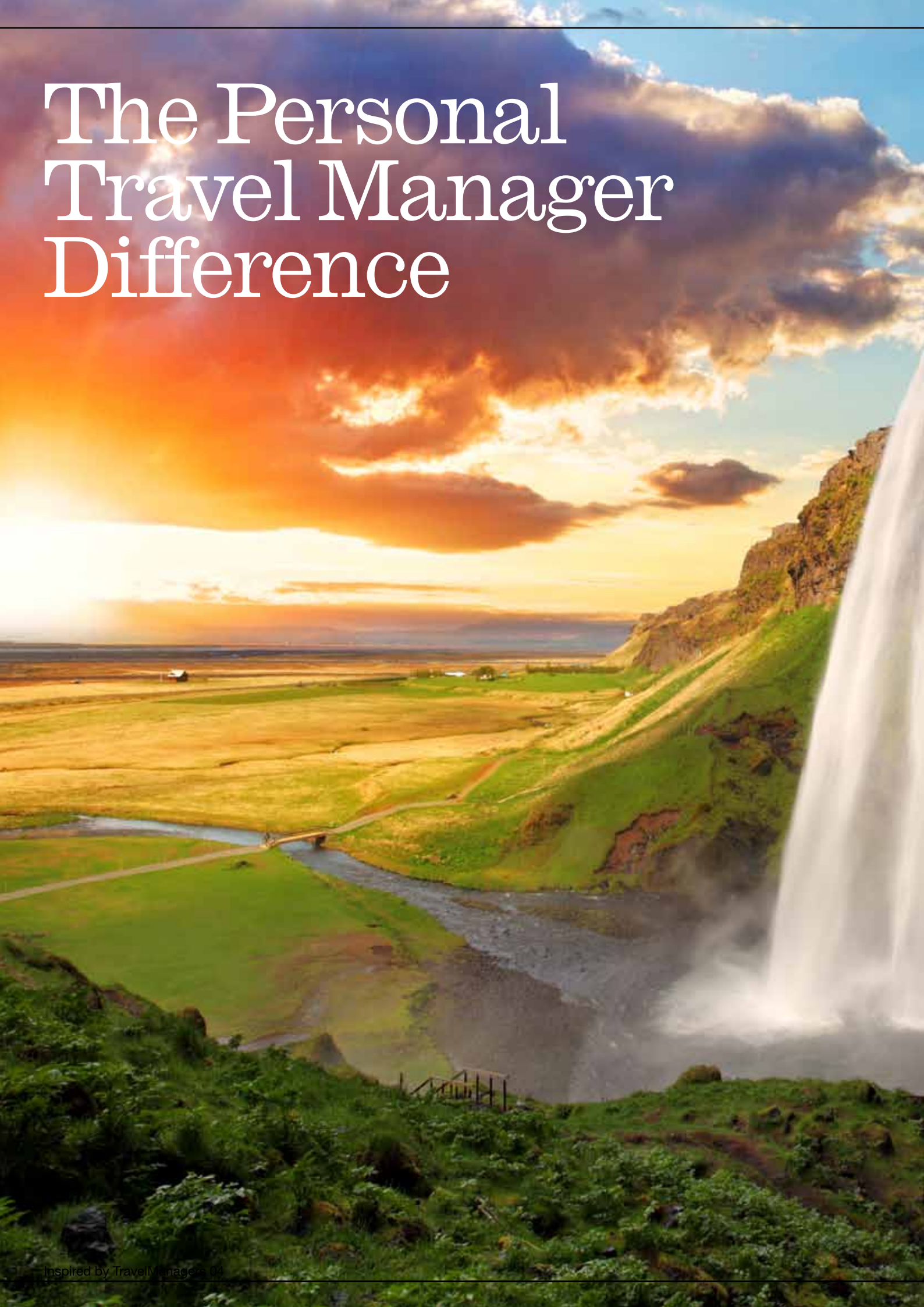


Vomo Island Resort, Fiji

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Front cover and inside cover photos are courtesy of Vomo Island Resort, Fiji

The Personal Travel Manager Difference





Why you need a personal travel manager



Joshua Faddoul

Part of the House of Travel Group, TravelManagers Australia Pty Ltd is a network of over 500 home-based mobile personal travel managers. Each personal travel manager has an average of over 20 years' travel industry experience. Above all, personal travel managers are passionate about travel and can help you plan and arrange everything for your next holiday or business trip.

Since first opening in New Zealand in 1986 and its arrival in Australia in 2007, House of Travel has grown into the largest independent travel company in Australasia. This means that not only does your personal travel manager have access to amazing travel deals, but you are provided with peace of mind as your money is secure through the booking process.



Pride of lions, Kenya

We'll save you money

Our strong relationships with reputable airlines, wholesalers and tour operators, means your personal travel manager has access to very competitive rates and exclusive deals. They also know when early bird and special deals are released, so can save you even more!

We know travel

Your personal travel manager has a wealth of travel experience. Plus, some specialise in fields such as group touring, river cruising, snow holidays or safaris. Their specialities are listed on their profile at travelmanagers.com.au.

We'll save you time

We know you're busy, so your personal travel manager does all the research and running around for you, comparing deals, flights, transfers and tours. They'll tailor make an itinerary to your wishes and budget. And to make it even easier, they can come to you. Or will happily manage everything by phone or email if you prefer.

We're here for you

No two trips are the same, so if something unexpected happens while you're away, your personal travel manager is available 24/7 to help sort everything out.

As individual as you are



Angkor Wat, Cambodia



Find Your Personal Travel Manager

Let your personal travel manager take all the stress and worry out of your next trip. Visit travelmanagers.com.au



Ramada Resort, Vanuatu



Vomo warriors with kids group

Islands in the sun

As the days grow colder, it's time to start thinking about your next getaway in the sun. Look no further than the perpetual warmth of the South Pacific Islands with Qantas Holidays.

Fiji time

Fiji is home to long stretches of beautiful beaches, warm and friendly Fijians and a relaxed way of life where you don't need a watch.

As you arrive to an infectious Bula greeting, any stress begins to melt away. Be captivated by the glorious sunsets while enjoying a delicious cocktail, fresh seafood carefully prepared by gourmet chefs and luxurious accommodation.

Live out your island fantasies at the remote Vomo Island Resort. On its own private island and offering a truly unique personal Fijian experience, either as a romantic getaway or a unique family escape, you will experience a real slice of Fijian barefoot luxury.

Just 15 minutes by helicopter from Nadi International Airport or a 75 minute boat ride from the Denarau Marina, there is plenty to do from the moment you arrive. From spa treatments at the renowned Kui spa, to an early morning walk up Mt Vomo, followed by a snorkelling trip to the many coral reefs. There is also a 9-hole golf course, or you can reconnect with the family as you watch your children dash around in the Kids Village, including the opportunity to care for the turtles in their nursery.

Discover your own tropical paradise at the newly opened 5-star Fiji Marriott Resort, Momi Bay. While it is one of the most secluded and untouched areas on the western coast of the main island of Fiji, it is only a 45 minute drive from Nadi International Airport.

Surrounded by tropical vegetation and a beautiful man-made lagoon, luxurious family-friendly guestrooms and over water bure villas (children 16+ years) feature private balconies or terraces with extensive views of the pool, lagoon or ocean.

Soak up the sun at one of the three large swimming pools, rejuvenate at the Quan Spa or enjoy the resort's extensive water sport activities.

Wind down in Vanuatu

Escape to the island paradise of Vanuatu, which is not only an idyllic destination for a relaxing holiday, but also a great place full of fun-filled action and adventure activities both in and out of the water.

Vanuatu is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world from its food to languages, ceremonies and customs. In Port Vila enjoy the variety of restaurants and cafes or shopping where you can stock up on your French items from perfume to designer handbags.

The Holiday Inn Vanuatu is everything you could imagine an island resort to be. Located on the Erakor lagoon great for paddle boarding and relaxing on the beach, the resort has beautifully landscaped gardens and two swimming pools with lots of activities to keep the kids amused.

The Holiday Inn Resort is a great place to slow down and immerse yourself 'in the moment'. Relax and unwind or plan for some more adventurous action – the choice is yours.

The Ramada Resort Port Villa is a newly built full service beachfront resort nestled on the cliffs of Erakor Lagoon, just a few minutes from downtown Port Villa. Offering self-contained apartments with panoramic lagoon views, this premier resort caters perfectly to families for a fantastic getaway.

Qantas Holidays Packages

Find deals from Qantas Holidays for Fiji and Vanuatu at travelmanagers.com.au or ask your personal travel manager.



Fiji Marriott Resort Momi Island







Dunedin Railway Station



Aoraki / Mount Cook

Self drive with ease in New Zealand

New Zealand is a great touring destination and is easy to explore with a self drive holiday from nzsidekick.

Self drive freedom

nzsidekick offers car rentals, accommodation, private airport and train transfers as well as the TranzAlpine rail journey and a Milford Sound Nature Cruise, all packaged up in a wide range of itineraries and accommodation styles to suit your budget.

One example is the ten-day itinerary of the South Island, which offers a fascinating landscape with beautiful vistas around every corner.

Begin your adventure in the ever-evolving city of Christchurch with a visit to the world's only Cardboard Cathedral. Take a historic tram ride, catch the gondola to the rim of an extinct volcano, or visit the Botanic Gardens if you prefer a slower pace.

From here you'll drive through the heart of the South Island, crossing the vast Canterbury Plains. Ascending Burkes Pass, you'll come to the picturesque lakeside town of Tekapo. Follow the road and take in the view of Aoraki Mt Cook (New Zealand's tallest mountain) from the shores of Lake Pukaki, known for its glacier-fed, turquoise colour.



Milford Sound Real Journeys

Remarkable scenery

Reach the summit of Lindis Pass at 971 metres. Drive through the gold settlements of Central Otago, then through the Kawerau Gorge and into one of New Zealand's premier wine-growing regions: the Gibbston Valley. You'll carry on south past the impressive Remarkables mountain range and into Te Anau, the gateway to Fiordland National Park.

Take the spectacular Milford Road to Milford Sound, where you'll find some of the most beautiful and iconic scenery in the country, before jumping on your nature cruise with Real Journeys. Travel through the rolling Southland countryside and pass through Mossburn, the deer capital of the nation, then follow Lake Wakatipu to Queenstown.

Queenstown action

In Queenstown, the Adventure Capital, there's time to enjoy the scenery and the endless activities on offer - take your pick from the Shotover Jet, Nevis Bungy, Canyon Swing, Zipline, Luge or Heli-ski.

Take the highest sealed road in New Zealand over the Crown Range to Wanaka, then travel the spectacular Haast Pass before heading up the wild West Coast - a 600-kilometre stretch of bush and native rainforest. You will then be welcomed by Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers.

Drive north along the stunning West Coast Road and take the TranzAlpine train, considered one of the world's great train journeys, back to Christchurch.

nzsidekick Holiday Packages

Find deals from nzsidekick at travelmanagers.com.au or ask your personal travel manager.



Hobbiton Movie Set



TranzAlpine Railway

New Zealand is magical by coach

Travel with Grand Pacific Tours, the New Zealand coach holiday specialist, and experience spectacular landscapes plus a rich Maori culture.



Maori girl at Whakarewarewa

Coach Travel Your Way

Whether you are marvelling at the spectacular glaciers and picturesque fiords or simply relaxing in a thermal pool, New Zealand is magical. Travelling by coach, you can relax in armchair comfort, feeling secure in the hands of a professional Coach Captain sharing his vast knowledge of each region.

Choose your style of touring

With so much jaw-dropping diversity packed into such a small country and with each destination distinctive in character, you can easily visit the best of this spectacular land on a coach holiday. Grand Pacific Tours offers five different styles of touring to suit all budgets and interests. Choose from Affordable Coach, Escorted Coach, Ultimate Small Group, Cruise & Luxury Coach and Special Interest Tours.

Spectacular any time of year

Your New Zealand holiday would not be complete without a visit to one of the most stunning locations on earth: Milford Sound. Springtime, which lasts from September to November, is New Zealand's 'waterfall season' – when the country's falls multiply to magnificent effect. This is the best time to see the magnificent fiord which was carved out during the Ice Ages and has been described as the 'Eighth Wonder of the World'.

Spring is also the time when the new flowers and leaves start appearing. Visit the Hobbiton Movie Set and see the charming bluebells and Middle Earth gardens in flower. In the South Island of New Zealand, the garden city of Christchurch is full of remarkable gardens and parks that are bursting with colour. It's also the starting point for the world-famous TranzAlpine rail journey, which

traverses the mighty Southern Alps through a sequence of alpine gorges that are breathtaking at every turn.

By contrast, autumn in New Zealand (March to May) is a fantastic time of the year to travel; a time of spectacular changes in colour. This is especially the case in Queenstown, a town set on the shores of crystal-clear Lake Wakatipu, and the Otago region. Deciduous trees turn to brilliant hues of yellow, gold and hot orange, and it's all set against a sky that seems far too blue to be true.

At this particular time of year, Aoraki Mount Cook is another must-see. The contrast of seasons, with the snowy mountains standing tall behind golden fields, combined with the startlingly-blue lakes fringed with autumn trees, will amaze you.

As you witness all of this spectacular scenery by coach you can also discover Maori culture and tradition, an integral part of Kiwi life. Learn about fascinating myths and legends, see displays of visual arts and enjoy speciality cuisine.

Food lovers won't be disappointed by the Kiwi food and wine on tour. New Zealand is renowned for its distinct Pacific Rim-style cuisine, and coach touring here is all about discovering this. With most meals included, and free time to dine at exciting local restaurants, your appetite will most definitely be satisfied.

Grand Pacific Tours Holiday Packages

All tours are inclusive of modern coach travel, hotel accommodation, most meals, sightseeing and attractions. Find Grand Pacific Tours deals for New Zealand at travelmanagers.com.au or ask your personal travel manager.





Cabin with balcony



Le Lyrial

Luxury mega-yacht cruising

An APT mega-yacht cruise offers a brand new perspective from which to view the wonders of the world. On board, sheer luxury abounds whilst on shore, rich history, local culture and a wealth of enriching experiences beckon.

Le Lyrial

Picture yourself relaxing on the sun deck, cool drink in hand, as the luxurious *Le Lyrial* charts a course across the glittering waters of the Aegean and the Adriatic. With beautiful suites, first-class dining, idyllic destinations and a touch of French chic, this cruise is every bit the private yacht experience, and you only need to unpack once.

From sun drenched beaches and dazzling blue seas to ancient Roman relics and forgotten civilizations, it's difficult to find history more compelling and landscapes more beautiful than those of the Aegean and the Adriatic Seas. Taking you to the most idyllic ports in Italy, Croatia, Montenegro, Greece and Turkey, the luxurious *Le Lyrial* provides an unforgettable journey.

Unique land excursions

Explore the wealth of these rich and varied coastlines as you bask in the beautiful warm weather and enjoy all-inclusive luxury. Unlike most ocean cruises, shore excursions are included in every port. Each handpicked adventure offers an insight into the culture of this beautiful coastline, all accompanied by expert local guides.

In true APT style, dedicated Cruise Directors along with your crew are on hand to ensure your holiday is hassle-free and fun. In addition, expert guest lecturers enhance your experience.

Linger longer

Be enticed to extend your stay with a city stay in either Venice or Istanbul, or further immerse yourself in the wonders of Europe with an escorted land journey.

Discover the fine arts and exquisite architecture of Italy with a journey from Rome to Venice via Florence or explore the natural wonders of Turkey, including the thermal springs of Pamukkale and World Heritage-listed Cappadocia.

APT Holidays Packages

Find deals on mega-yacht cruising with APT at travelmanagers.com.au or ask your personal travel manager.



Dubrovnik, Croatia



Valletta, Malta





Neuschwanstein Castle,
Germany



Rothenburg Christmas Markets

Celebrate the festive season in Europe

There is a magical European winter wonderland out there waiting for you, filled with exciting 'bucket list' experiences, amazing adventures and heart-warming festivities with Albatross Tours.

Albatross Tours offers an exciting range of Christmas and New Year tours and new Winter Wonderland tours, which will take you on an unforgettable adventure. Explore stunning Christmas Markets, take incredible cable car rides up the Alps, stay in a 900-year old Italian castle and visit the fairy-tale castles of Germany. There are so many experiences to be had, including romantic horse and carriage rides and enjoying traditional mulled wine and ginger biscuits.

Leisurely stays

Discover a different style of touring with Albatross Tours, with leisurely stays ranging from three to seven nights, which allow you time to enjoy each captivating city, town or region. Each tour is packed with fabulous local dining, high quality excursions, activities and unique experiences, and they are all included in the price!

Unique itinerary

You could be waking up in a splendid half-timbered hotel inside the medieval walls of Rothenburg ob der Tauber, or in the Swiss village of Grindelwald, surrounded by soaring peaks. Tours are packed with so many experiences and are genuinely inclusive. In Switzerland you will travel on the famous Glacier Express train, in Austria you will hurtle down the Olympic bobsled run and in France you will gasp at the astounding views across Mont Blanc as you soar 4,000 metres to the peak of the mighty Aiguille du Midi.

Albatross Tours Holidays Packages

Find festive season deals from Albatross Tours at travelmanagers.com.au or ask your personal travel manager.



Aiguille du Midi, French Alps



Eurostar



Tower Bridge, London

Journey your way through Europe

With so much to see and do, the range of tickets and sightseeing tours from Rail Plus will help you make the most of your journey.

London Calling

There's little doubt as to why London continues to top the list of favourite travel destinations for Australian holiday makers. Boasting a rich history and some of the world's best galleries and museums, it's easy to see why London is attracting more visitors with each passing year.

With Paris just a stone's throw away and so well connected that you can be in the heart of the city of romance within hours, London is the ultimate home base.

A great way to get your bearings in a new city quickly is to jump aboard a Hop On Hop Off Bus. Offering some of the best views in town, these open-air double-decker buses stop at key points of interest and provide an on-board commentary as you loop past attraction after attraction. The passes operate on an open-ended basis for 24 or 48 hours and allow you to hop on and off as much as you please.

Rail Plus also offers the Oyster Card for travel on London's public transport network. Your card will be pre-loaded with an initial GBP10, GBP15, GBP20 or GBP50 balance, so that you are ready to get moving as soon as you hit the ground. The cards can then be topped up with additional money at Tube stations, Oyster Ticket Stops and a range of places around London.

The London Pass gives you the best chance to make the most of the museums, attractions, shopping and restaurants for which the city is made famous, and is available to purchase prior to your departure. Included on the Pass is free entry into over 65 of London's top attractions.

Venturing Across the Channel

Eurostar is the fast and convenient way to travel easily between London and Paris. With onboard passport control, you skip the chaos of busy airport protocols and arrive in around two hours.

The journey times are so fast that even the extremely time-poor can make a return trip in one day. Reaching speeds of up to 300 kilometres per hour, the Eurostar also connects travellers to Brussels, Lille and Lyon, and seasonally to other regional areas in France.

Rail Plus Holiday Deals

Find Rail Plus deals at travelmanagers.com.au or ask your personal travel manager.



River Seine and the Eiffel Tower, Paris





Chateau Giscours



Somme Battlefields

Experience the rivers of Europe in luxury

The Scenic Space-Ship fleet cruises the rivers of Europe in all-inclusive luxury. From exclusive Scenic Enrich experiences and Freechoice activities, butler service, sumptuous meals at a choice of up to six onboard dining venues, complimentary beverages, transfers and tips: everything is included.



Scenic Jasper on the Danube at Wachau Valley

Majestic Waterways

A cruise along the Rhine, Main and Danube rivers will let you discover the hidden gems of Europe as you travel through the Netherlands, Germany, Austria and Hungary, while the Moselle River showcases some of Europe's most scenic river cruising panoramas. These majestic waterways span a varied and spectacular region with so much to offer - from timeless villages that preserve traditions most other regions have lost, to spectacular cities and architectural masterworks. Guests will enjoy exclusive once-in-a-lifetime events including a private concert in Palais Liechtenstein, the 'Best of the Sound of Music and Salzburg Show' and a Bavarian 'Tastes of Oktoberfest' experience.

Enriching Experiences

In France guests can cruise the Seine in northern France, the Saône and Rhône in the south of France and the three waterways of Bordeaux. A rebuild of Scenic Diamond in Bordeaux and Scenic Sapphire in the south of France means they now offer more public space, two Royal Owner's Suites and a vitality pool. Explore some of the finest local recipes, taught by experts, in our private onboard cooking emporium. Using the finest in local ingredients and recipes, Scenic Culinare has been designed to immerse guests even further into the delights of French gastronomy. Covering varied interests such as war history, gastronomy and art, every day is a unique experience, and with Scenic's Freechoice and Tailormade programmes, guests can choose what most interests them. A number of exclusive Enrich events have also been created on Scenic's France programme, including fine dining in the opulent Chateau Giscours, a classical concert in Fécamp's

Benedictine Palace, and the French cabaret extravaganza: Scenic Rouge.

Portugal

Scenic Azure has been purpose-built for Portugal's winding Douro River and features only 48 cabins with the same all-inclusive luxury experience synonymous with the Scenic Space-Ship fleet. With no overnight sailing, the 11-day round trip cruise from Porto travels through the Douro Valley to Vega de Terron over the Spanish border taking in the vineyards, historic towns and villages and the rich culture this region has to offer. Guests can look forward to an exclusive cocktail event after hours on the terrace of the Douro Museum, and a decadent fine dining experience with traditional Fado music at the wine caves of Burmester Cellars.

Unique Itineraries

A cruise along the Volga River is one of the best ways to experience Russia. Scenic welcomes guests aboard Scenic Tsar, a boutique river cruise ship that travels from St. Petersburg to Moscow. Guests can look forward to special experiences and events, including a private ballet performance at the Palace of Prince Vladimir, a meeting with a real cosmonaut and the museum village of Mandrogi. New for 2018 the 15 Day Imperial Russia is a unique itinerary cruising from Moscow to Volgograd stopping at unique ports including Kostroma and Saratov, and giving guests that have previously travelled to Russia a reason to return and explore the country further.

Scenic Cruise Packages

Find Scenic deals for Europe at travelmanagers.com.au or ask your personal travel manager.





Airbus A380



Iconic Singapore Girl

50 years of award winning flying

It's been 50 years since Singapore Airlines launched flights to Australia. Since the inaugural service on 5 April 1967, the world's most awarded airline has grown from flying twice weekly, to operating more than 120 flights per week from six Australian cities. Alongside its regional wing SilkAir, Singapore Airlines provides Australians with access to a global network of 102 destinations in 34 countries through the world famous Singapore Changi Airport hub.



First class

A year of milestones, a history of excellence

2017 marks a significant year in the Singapore Airlines story.

Following its 50th anniversary in Australia in April, Singapore Airlines will commemorate 70 years of global service in May. In 1947, the inaugural flight of a Malayan Airways Limited aircraft from Singapore Kallang Airport marked the company's humble beginnings. In 1966 the company became Malaysia-Singapore Airlines, then six years later, in 1972, Singapore Airlines' iconic Kris Bird and Singapore Girl were born, when the company split to create the Singapore Airlines brand that has become globally recognised and respected.

In September, Singapore Airlines will celebrate the first anniversary of its history-making Capital Express service, which links Singapore, Canberra and Wellington.

Then, on 25 October, Singapore Airlines will mark the 10th anniversary of the world's first ever commercial Airbus A380 flight. Operated from Singapore to Sydney on 25 October 2007, the tenth anniversary of this historic occasion will provide an opportunity to celebrate a major milestone for the world's largest commercial aircraft.

A company of firsts

Throughout its 70-year history, Singapore Airlines has remained committed to product innovation and service excellence.

It was the first airline to offer free headsets, a choice of meals and free drinks in Economy Class. It was also the first to involve a comprehensive panel of world-renowned chefs, known as the International Culinary Panel, to develop in-flight meals in 1998.

In 1989, Singapore Airlines made history when it operated the first international commercial flight across the Pacific Ocean with the Boeing 747 Megatop, from San Francisco to Singapore via Hong Kong in eighteen hours.

It again made history in 2007 as the launch customer for the Airbus A380, becoming the first airline to operate a commercial flight with the world's largest commercial aircraft in the sky.

An eye to the future

With a continued focus on product innovation, the second half of 2017 will see Singapore Airlines unveil a new range of cabin products for the A380, including new Suites, and Business and Economy Class seats.

Its commitment to providing customers with network connectivity will also continue as it expands its global network in May to include Stockholm. It will also look to boost services and capacity in the Australian market, including greater availability of Premium Economy class in Sydney and Melbourne.

In 2018, it will become the launch customer for the new Airbus A350-900 Ultra Long Range aircraft as well as the Boeing 787-10, continuing its commitment to operating a young and modern fleet.

With all of these milestones and achievements thus far, as well as Singapore Airlines' continued focus on service excellence, there is no denying that they truly are a great way to fly.

Singapore Airlines Deals

Find airfare specials from Singapore Airlines at travelmanagers.com.au or ask your personal travel manager.



Antarctic Penguins



Veranda Suite

Supreme comfort and thrilling views

View a unique landscape aboard *Silver Cloud*. Follow in the footsteps of great explorers with Silversea Expeditions and get close to wildlife without giving up your creature comforts.



Observation Lounge

After extensive refurbishment, *Silver Cloud* is the most spacious and comfortable vessel in expedition cruising; her large suites, destination itineraries and unparalleled service make her truly special. 80 percent of her suites include a veranda so watching a breaching whale or cavorting penguins has never been so personal. Broad sweeping decks with multiple open spaces, a fitness centre, beauty salon and a heated swimming pool complete what is one of the most distinctive expedition ships sailing today.

Fully converted into an Ice Class ship, *Silver Cloud* is well-prepared to meet the challenge of Antarctica. With her ice-strengthened hull, she can navigate through ice floes and pack ice in complete safety. Distinctions such as five dining options and unrivalled service and space ratios, ensure adventure travellers the exhilaration of exploring destinations in luxurious comfort and style.

Exploration at its finest

A limited number of guests, (just 200 in polar waters), means that *Silver Cloud* has the highest space to guest, and crew to guest, ratios in expedition cruising. A team of 19 passionate and dedicated Expedition Team experts are always at hand to ensure your voyage is enhanced with the onboard lectures. With her fleet of 18 zodiacs, the possibilities are almost limitless, with ship-wide simultaneous explorations to see wildlife, glaciers and icebergs of the Antarctic peninsula, accompanied by an expedition leader.

Back on board, you can swap tales at an open bar with like-minded guests or dine in the comfort of your suite.

Silver Cloud offers the ultra-luxury of a classic Silversea ship combined with the strength and maneuverability required for expedition cruising. And thanks

to her recent conversion, she flaunts the gleaming interiors and sophisticated hi-tech equipment of what is essentially a brand new ship.

Antarctic highlights

- Port Stanley, Falkland Islands - the administrative centre for Falkland Islands, a very British community.
- Deception Island, South Shetland Islands - the ship's entry into the ancient caldera is spectacular. There are several different landing sites and remains of a whaling station and scientific stations can be seen.
- Cruise the Gerlache Strait - scenic islands, bays and glaciers are found along the Strait.
- Elephant Island - see where Shackleton's men had to spend several months awaiting rescue.
- Grytviken, South Georgia - visit the old whaling station, museum and Shackleton's grave.
- Antarctic Peninsula - the last continent where you will see icebergs, glaciers, penguins, whales and birds.
- Set afoot on the Antarctic mainland.

Voyage highlights

- Excursions & activities - Zodiac® excursions hosted by an expedition leader to see wildlife, glaciers and icebergs of the Antarctic peninsula.
- Onboard lectures from the Expedition Team.
- All-suite accommodation with butler service.
- Gourmet meals with complimentary wines, Champagne and spirits.
- Complimentary Haglöfs parka.

Silversea Cruise Deals

Find luxury Silversea deals for Antarctica at travelmanagers.com.au or ask your personal travel manager.



Top travel tips



Fiji Magic

With short flight times and a natural love of families, the South Pacific Islands are an excellent option for a safe, family holiday.

The kids clubs aren't just a babysitting service but one where kids learn about sea life and caring for the environment with nature based activities.

There are teen clubs to keep even the most unenthusiastic teen occupied with others of a similar age, making local crafts and offering a range of fun activities both on land and sea.

Fijians are some of the most delightful and hospitable people in the South Pacific. Their genuine hospitality is a natural fit for kids as they are maternal, nurturing and above all, HAPPY!

Fiji also offers a range of resorts that can cater for special needs - both physically and those with special meal requirements.

For special requirements, stick with the bigger hotels as they have more facilities and the appropriate amount of trained staff to assist.

Larger resorts can also offer parents the opportunity to play golf, enjoy a massage or head to the gym.

Georgina Grandi, Personal Travel Manager, Queensland



Self tour New Zealand

New Zealand is a country that is very easy to drive around.

A few points to think about when planning your drive is how long you want to spend in the car each day and what attractions you want to see in the towns along the way.

Queenstown is the adventure capital of New Zealand and experiencing jet boating, bungy jumping, skyline luge or a more relaxing pursuit like a cruise on Lake Wakatipu or a round of golf at Millbrook Resort can easily occupy two full days. Beautiful Milford Sound is a must and you can drive to Te Anau and stay the night or make it a day trip from Queenstown. Driving across the Canterbury Plains to Dunedin is a picturesque start to exploring Larnoch Castle, Speights Brewery or steaming through the Coal Viaducts on the Taieri Gorge Steam Train.

When selecting the size of your vehicle, take into account your suitcases too. A very small car might sound economical but not if you can't fit your two to three medium sized suitcases in them and feel comfortable.

Karryn Bartlett, Personal Travel Manager, New South Wales



On board the Le Lyréal

The Compagnie du Ponant in Venice is one of the highlights of my travels.

We set sail with the sun disappearing over the sunken city of Venice to experience the Dalmatian coast and the finest ports of Croatia and Turkey. The small yacht-like cruise ship has a maximum capacity of 240 passengers and with its unique global positioning system, allows stops in small ports like Montenegro, Senj, Zadar, Split, Rovinj, Korcula, and Dubrovnik the Pearl of the Adriatic.

My air-conditioned balcony stateroom was pure luxury, complete with ipod dock, TV, safe, bar fridge, bathrobe, hairdryer and L'Occitane products (replenished on demand) with plenty of wardrobe space. A big plus is a separate toilet from the bathroom.

From the first meal on board this casual but elegant vessel, I fell in love with the French inspired menu. Not to mention the carefully selected French wines that accompanied the meals, served in the more formal dining room on deck two or the restaurant on Deck six, which opens onto the pool area. I enjoyed many an outdoor breakfast in the casual relaxed atmosphere admiring the little islands dotted along the turquoise coast.

Annalize Troost, Personal Travel Manager, New South Wales



Scenic New Zealand

Born in Auckland, I could possibly be biased, but I believe New Zealand is one of the most scenic countries in the world. Taking a bus tour with an experienced driver at the wheel allows you to time to relax and enjoy the scenery in comfort.

Auckland is the departure point for day trips to Waiheke Island for wine tasting and ziplining and the island sanctuary of Tiritiri Matangi Island.

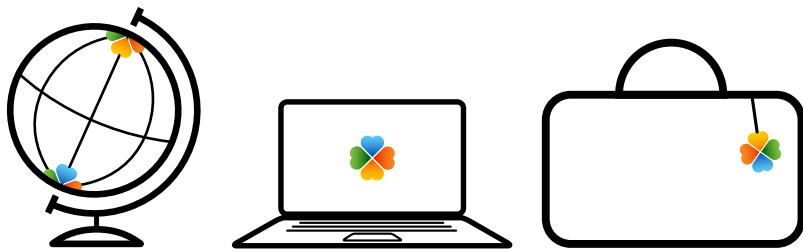
Tours can also include a cruise around the Bay of Islands with a sail through the Cape Brett Hole in the Rock before visiting the Waitangi Treaty Grounds.

The North Island offers fabulous beaches, warmer weather and lots of fun in the geothermal areas of Rotorua and Taupo, easily reached with a day tour from Auckland. The kids will love the glow worms at Waitomo Caves or visiting the Hobbiton movie set.

Renowned for its natural beauty, The Coromandel is blessed with beautiful hidden beaches and the 82km Hauraki Rail Trail. Dig your own natural spa at the Hot Water Beach but you need to be there two hours either side of low tide to enjoy it!

If you crave adventure, you can take advantage of a range of outdoor sports at Taupo or take a serious hike on the Tongariro Crossing. Afterwards you can revive yourself at one of the many hot springs.

Rebecca Harrison, Personal Travel Manager, Queensland



Your personal travel manager has the insider information to make your next holiday your best yet!



Winter Wonderland

One of my favourite destinations in Germany is Füssen. If you are looking for a fairytale Christmas with the WOW factor, you should visit Neuschwanstein Castle and Hohenschwangau Castle.

You can walk from the village to Neuschwanstein Castle or take a ride on a horsedrawn carriage. For the photo enthusiast take great photos of Neuschwanstein Castle from the Marienbrücke or St Mary's bridge, which sits high above the Poellat Gorge if weather permits.

Füssen is an ancient village with cobblestone lanes – if you are lucky enough to be there in December, the Christmas markets start from the first Sunday of Advent until 11 December. It's a wonderful atmosphere to help get you into the Christmas spirit!

Bavaria is full of historic castles – Linderhof Palace is nearby as well as Wieskirche, or Church in the Meadow, one of the few buildings in Bavaria that are on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

Oberammergau is a lovely village and is home to the world famous passion plays that happen every 10 years.

It also has a long tradition of woodcarvings, something very unique and I can highly recommend watching the artists creating their masterpieces.

Jutta Portelli, Personal Travel Manager, Victoria



Europe by rail

There are so many reasons why travelling on the Eurostar train, between London and Paris is more beneficial than flying.

It's quicker than flying: by the time you check-in at the airport (at least 3 hours prior to departure for an international flight) you'd be in Paris or London already! Check-in for the Eurostar is up to 30 minutes prior to departure. The Eurostar offers lots of daily services with very few delays.

You arrive in the heart of the city: London St Pancras railway station and the Paris Gare du Nord railway station, are centrally located, saving time and money if you were to commute to the airport.

Lots of space: Eurostar trains offer modern, clean, spacious, air-conditioned carriages, reclining seats with lots of leg room and panoramic windows to admire the scenery. There are no luggage weight restrictions or baggage check in either. Another bonus is that you take your luggage with you so you don't have to wait around for it at a carousel.

Keep connected: Take advantage of the free Wi-Fi in the Eurostar station terminals. Some seats also have tables and USB ports, so you can use your laptop, play cards and charge your devices whilst travelling.

Nicole Edgar, Personal Travel Manager, Victoria



Stop in Singapore

Stopover in Singapore to recover from jet lag, shop or just enjoy the sights.

Singapore Airlines offers good connections through to Europe. The in-flight service is very efficient but it's the airline's frequent flyer programme, KrisFlyer, that gets a big tick.

Singapore is so easy to enjoy – the shopping is great at Bugis or Chinatown Street markets and there's a variety of cuisines to tempt you. The city is clean, orderly and safe and it's easy to get around with cheap taxis and convenient transport links.

Try a Champagne brunch at The Regent, St Regis or Ritz-Carlton Hotels before you head out for the day to one of the many shopping malls, or book a table at a celebrity chef restaurant looking out over the city.

Head down to Marina Bay and see the light show at night, stroll through the Gardens by the Bay and visit the world-famous Marina Bay Sands. Enjoy a meal or drink at Ce La Vi on the rooftop deck, or take a selfie at the place to be seen - the world's largest infinity pool with its breathtaking views.

Penny Treyvaud, Personal Travel Manager, Victoria



Antarctica is amazing

There is great interest from Australians on visiting Antarctica as there has always been a strong connection dating back to the days of Mawson and other early expeditions.

The earlier you book your Antarctic cruise the better as you have the best prices and choice of cabins. The main season for travel is November through to March.

Most ships carry no more than 200 passengers as the Antarctic Treaty allows only 100 people to go ashore at any one time. There are a lot of options in cruise ships so your personal travel manager can help you choose the right ship for your travelling style.

In the Antarctic it is all about the ice and wildlife. Some of my most memorable experiences include Emperor Penguins under the midnight sun in the Weddell Sea, paying homage to Sir Ernest Shackleton and Douglas Mawson at their huts in the Ross Sea, whale watching from zodiacs only metres away, canoeing amongst the spectacular tabular icebergs and walking amongst the seals and King penguins on South Georgia.

Neil Saunders, Personal Travel Manager, South Australia

Hassle-free roaming



So you're heading off on your next big adventure, but you want to stay in touch with the folks back home? If you want to ensure that you're not paying for that contact long after you've returned, follow our top tips for hassle-free connection.

- 1** Download the TravelManagers app, your personal itinerary manager. The app contains your full travel itinerary and also features handy travel tools like currency converter and maps to ensure you have all you need at your fingertips. Speak to your personal travel manager about downloading the app.
- 2** Before you leave, call your mobile provider to check that roaming is available in your destination. Even more importantly, find out what the rates are for using your phone while you're away: mobile data, text and phone charges can be astronomical if you don't arrange a phone and data package before you leave.
- 3** Find out whether your phone will accept an overseas SIM card – this may be a cheaper alternative than roaming with your home provider. Some phones are locked so that they can only accept SIM cards from a specific provider. If you can't unlock your phone, a local prepaid phone may be a better option.
- 4** Check what power supply is available in your destination: will your charger work in a local power outlet, or do you need to pack an adapter? USB chargers now make it easier as in many cases you can simply plug into the USB port on a TV or computer and recharge that way.
- 5** If you're unsure about data, turn your phone on flight mode for the duration of your stay. That way you'll avoid hefty bills and you can still use the Wi-Fi function when it's available. Look out for free Wi-Fi at hotels, cafes and airports.
- 6** Use apps to communicate such as Skype, WhatsApp and Messenger, both for instant messaging and video calls. Be sure to set up accounts before you leave home so that you don't have to waste time or limited Wi-Fi once you're on the road.
- 7** If you have an ISP-hosted email account, check that you can access a webmail version on your travels. Alternatively, create a webmail account such as Outlook.com, Gmail or Yahoo Mail.
- 8** If your access to emails is going to be infrequent, consider setting up an automated response advising this. Leave an alternate point of contact for urgent issues and explain that your response time may be longer than usual, but for security purposes, don't provide too much detail.
- 9** Technology is a wonderful thing, but don't let it become a distraction. Be sure to put your device away and soak up the sights, sounds, smells and emotions of your destination. And for an extra thrill for those back home, consider sending a good, old-fashioned postcard or letter. They're a great way to fill in time when you're in transit or on a long journey, and you're sure to make someone's day – even if you arrive home before it does!



Contact your personal travel manager:

