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TRAVEL

VIRTUOSO.
SPECIALISTS IN THE ART OF TRAVEL



Saffire
FREYCINET



Saffire, a Virtuoso hotel, is a luxury coastal sanctuary on Tasmania's east coast, capturing the essence of this unique region. Distinct in its design, Saffire is dedicated to providing quality, memorable service, unforgettable experiences, indulgent and self-selected dining options, inspiring accommodation spaces and an overall sense of wellbeing and relaxation. Saffire is boutique not only in its size, with just 20 accommodation suites, but in its approach to making your well deserved break last a lifetime. All suites are luxuriously appointed and designed for the utmost privacy while taking in magnificent views of crystal-clear blue waters and white sandy beaches.

With Freycinet National Park on your doorstep, there are deserted islands, wild bushland and secluded beaches to explore. Enjoy the abundance of wildlife such as penguin rookeries, seal colonies and Southern Right whales from May to November. This property truly offers a unique experience that very few can offer—and all set in what is considered to be the cleanest air in the world! **Call your MP Leisure Department for further details on 02 9993 9000.**

PROFILE IT!



Airlines such as Qantas send SMS alerts to the mobile number that is stored in your Qantas Frequent Flyer profile. So if your **mobile number changes**, in addition to updating your MP Travel profile, please also update all frequent flyer profiles to ensure the SMS alert reaches you.

News Flash.....

NEW AFTER HOURS TELEPHONE NUMBER

The NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER for MP Travel's EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS SERVICE is now the same as our office number

Sydney +61 2 9993 9000

Melbourne +61 3 9948 0700

Brisbane +61 7 3334 8888

Please note that our business hours are 8.30am to 6.00pm EST — Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays)



AIRLINE UPDATES...

QANTAS DIRECT SERVICES FROM SYDNEY TO DALLAS

Qantas has announced it will begin direct services from Sydney to Dallas Fort Worth International Airport from 16 May 2011, giving Australians unprecedented access to destinations across the United States and beyond. The route will see Qantas operate outbound flights from Sydney to Dallas and returning to Sydney via Brisbane. There will be four return flights to Dallas each week, featuring a three-class Boeing 747 aircraft. Flights will depart Sydney Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat at 1.25pm and depart from Dallas at 10.00pm the same day. Direct Sydney-San Francisco services will be discontinued on 14 May 2011, but San Francisco will remain part of the Qantas network as a codeshare destination.

QANTAS INCREASED SERVICES

Qantas will now deliver more choices for travel within the USA. Thirteen new destinations and three Mexican destinations will join the Qantas network through new codeshare services with American Airlines, meaning a total of 51 destinations in the US, Canada and Mexico are available to travellers. In further positive news, Qantas will also increase the frequency of its Los Angeles-New York codeshare service from six times per week to daily, from June 2011.



VIRGIN BLUE BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Pacific Blue and Polynesian Blue have aligned baggage allowances and fee structures with that of **Virgin Blue** from December 2010. Traveller's baggage allowance when purchasing a GO fare or Blue Saver will increase from 20kg to 23kg. Corporate Plus fares is 32 kg while Premium Economy allowance increased to an extremely generous 69kg (up from 32kg).

THE LOUNGE REFURBISHMENTS IN BRISBANE AND MELBOURNE

Virgin Blue will commence refurbishments in February to The Lounges in Brisbane and Melbourne airports. The Melbourne Lounge will close for approximately two weeks and complimentary food and beverage vouchers will be offered. The Brisbane Lounge refurbishment will run from the end of February to early March and temporary facilities will operate with a restricted range of services during this period. The changes will enhance comfort and space, providing a more exclusive and refreshing Lounge experience to members.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES LAUNCHES A380 SERVICE TO L.A.

Singapore Airlines Airbus A380 services will be extended to Los Angeles with SQ 12/11 operated by the super jumbo on Singapore-Tokyo Narita-Los Angeles route from 27 March 2011. Los Angeles will be the eighth destination that the A380 will serve from Singapore.



Planning a Winter Break?

Mandarin Oriental Hotel Offer

Stay two nights at any Mandarin Oriental Hotel and you will receive up to **USD100 per day*** to spend at the hotel (or up to USD200* if you stay in a suite).

These world class, luxurious hotels are located in Asia, USA, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Call your MP Travel Consultant on 02 9993 9000 for bookings and further details.

*Credit will be given in local currency and represents a value in USD100 or USD200.



Fairmont Peace Hotel SHANGHAI

Fairmont Peace Hotel has been a Shanghai landmark for over a century, enjoying a premier location on the Bund, facing the Pudong area over the Huangpu River. Proud, legendary and lavish, the Fairmont Peace Hotel is the social heart of Shanghai boasting the city's most exciting events. Newly restored, the hotel has captured its former glory and ushers in a new era of elegance and comfort for discerning travellers to Shanghai. For further details and bookings call your MP Travel Consultant on 02 9993 9000.



Introducing MP Travel's Leisure Travel Specialist ...

Tracy Anderson

"I am thrilled to be joining the MP Travel team in Sydney after many years of living in the USA. Travel is my passion and knowing that I can assist you to maximise your travel experience makes me a happy travel consultant!



My experience spans the world's grand hotels and resorts to chic and unique small properties, from off the beaten path intimate bed and breakfasts to the hippest new hotels. I can share my knowledge of destinations worldwide from the Portuguese Algarve to the Adriatic Riviera, Provence to Aberdeen, the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco to the Horn of Africa, Cape Churchill Manitoba to the Straights of Magellan; all the beautiful places in the four corners of the world. And most importantly, how best to get there comfortably!

I love a challenge and approach each trip as a mystery to be solved. Combining the best value, the most convenient options and appropriate choices for each of my very individual clients solves that mystery to make every trip special and unique. That's what I love about what I do, truly something new every day!

My travel prediction for 2011 follows the trend of the dollar, travel to the US will be popular this year. If you want to see the Antebellum South and Washington DC cherry blossoms in the spring or leaf peeping for the fleeting magnificence of the change of color of New England in the fall please let me know so I can share my unique knowledge of the United States. A travel tip for 2011: While the crowds are in New Zealand during the Rugby World Cup, why not head to Europe or even South Africa? There will be great pricing and lots of room. But be quick before everyone else realises the same thing!"

**Call Tracy on 02 9993 9050 or email
tracy.anderson@mptravel.com.au**

Toll News



Avis in partnership with the NSW Roads & Traffic Authority ('RTA') is now able to provide customers with a stress-free way of using ALL toll road facilities throughout the east coast of Australia.

From 16th December 2010, all Avis vehicles in most of South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and South Queensland will be fitted with E-Tags.

This means the renter will be able to use any toll road facility and not have to worry about how to pay for the use of the toll, or stop and use cash booths (although if they prefer to stop and pay cash, when available, they still can), regardless of where they rent the vehicle from.

The RTA is administering this service. Avis will not collect any moneys, or charge any additional fees from the renter on the rental document for any tolls. The RTA will automatically charge the customer's credit/debit card (presented at time of rental) for the service fees and toll charges as applicable. The RTA will bill the renter's credit/debit card a service fee of \$2.20 per calendar day that a toll road is used, **plus** the applicable fees for tolls the renter has used.



You can
fit 45 motor vehicles on only
one wing of a Boeing 747!



UK VAT INCREASE

On 4 January 2011 the British Government has increased the standard VAT rate from 17.5% to 20%.

LONDON SHOPPING IS CALLING \$

Travelling to London between January & March? Why not visit some amazing shops and take advantage of savings from winter sales? Reductions of up to 75% are now on at some of London's most famous department stores. Try **Westfield London**, **The Village** and as an alternative to West End shopping, try the recently opened **One New Change** located in the heart of the city.



"I recently had the opportunity to visit the magnificent country of Cambodia. Even though the war ended in 1998, the Cambodian country side is in peace with the sites that Siem Reap has to offer. I was lucky enough to experience the magic of this town with its 400kms of UNESCO World Heritage Site of Angkor.

With a stopover in Singapore and one night's accommodation in the famed Raffles Hotel, the 120 year old property still has the charm of when it was visited by famous authors - Rudyard Kipling and Somerset Maugham and artists like Charlie Chaplin, Maurice Chevalier and Jean Harlow. In the early 1900's, bartender Ngiam Tong Boon created the first ever Singapore Sling and it is still a popular drink to this day.

With beautifully appointed suites (separate living/bedroom areas), and lush gardens surrounding the hotel, it can be a home away from home. But the most interesting rooms are the Personality Suites – 12 out of the 103 suites are named after personalities that have been associated with the hotel since it opened.

I stayed in the Courtyard Suite and was very happy. The king bed (or twin) was large and with a great mattress – I slept "like a log!". I was impressed that the room had 2 hairdryers – one in the bathroom and the other located in the bedroom dresser drawer. They also had an Illy Coffee Machine and fine quality coffee – of course. But I am sure that the dedicated Butler can accommodate your every need. The Raffles Arcade located at the hotel has beautiful shops and the restaurants are great. You can also spoil yourself with the Spa located at the hotel.

From the Raffles Hotel Singapore I travelled to the Raffles Grand Hotel D'Angkor – Siem Reap—Cambodia. Our 2 night stay at this 1930's hotel was fantastic. Located only 8kms from the majestic Angkor Wat, this hotel is an oasis in itself. I stayed in a State Room, with the pool view, but some have balconies and garden views. They also have cabanas which have private terraces with day beds and access to the Kingdom's largest swimming pool – which believe me – it was! The hotel provides 24 hour on call valet service, a computer to be used free of charge on every floor, 4 restaurants/bars, specialising in local Khmer cuisine. There is also a Spa on site and they do provide some treatments by the pool.

It was very hard to leave the peaceful surrounding of the hotel but we had to see the sites of the town. We cruised along the floating villages on Lake Tonle Sap (the largest fresh water lake in South East Asia), visited the Bayon Temple – 12th century temples with more than 200 faces with half smiles on the exterior walls, rode elephants around the temple walls which was a great way to soak in the atmosphere and visited Ta Phrom Temple "Jungle Temple" made famous by the film Tomb Raider. The temple has been left largely in its natural state since being rediscovered by French explorers. The jungle has taken over the ruins but it seems so natural. It is one of the largest temples at Angkor – dating back since 1186.

Finally I visited Angkor Wat, the majestic "Taj Mahal" of the east – the largest temple in the world with a volume of stone equalling that of the Cheops pyramid in Egypt. Conceived by Suryavarman II, it took an estimated 30 years and tens of thousands of men to build.

I am hoping that the blessing that I received from the Monk at the temple has guaranteed that I will return to this lovely Kingdom which has so much sad history but now will flourish as it has so much to show the world."



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TRAVEL

stay at Europe's New Hotels! Paris



Shangri-La hotel

PARIS

Located amidst one of the highest concentrations of museums in Europe, the recently restored **SHANGRI-LA HOTEL PARIS** features breathtaking views of the Eiffel Tower, Seine River, the Louvre and Montmartre. The hotel is surrounded by secluded gardens, boasts 81 rooms and suites and is the largest luxury hotel in Paris offering guests a true Parisian experience. A must stay while you are in Paris. For all bookings call your MP Travel Consultant on 02 9993 9000.



London



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FOUR SEASONS HOTEL *London at Park Lane*

Re-opened in January 2011, **THE FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, London at Park Lane**, presents a completely new experience in the heart of Mayfair. Defining London's new standard of contemporary chic, Four Seasons blends British club tradition with bright, airy sophistication. Discover the next generation of hotel comfort in London's most perfect location overlooking Hyde Park. You can also enjoy a rooftop fitness centre and a glass-walled spa offering celestial treatments and 360 degree views of this magnificent city. For all bookings and **Virtuoso** benefits call your MP Travel Consultant on 02 9993 9000.

