

## Travel Talk



Our Kokoda group training took us to Melbourne's **Dandenong Ranges National Park** on Saturday to climb the Kokoda 1000 Steps.

The steps are situated on the last part of the very steep Fern Tree Gully Track – and if you think 1000 steps sound cruel; you are right!

Most of us mastered the steps five times - clocking up 10,000 very steep steps for the day.

Good training, and I think half of Melbourne did the same thing on Saturday.

The track was full of people in training, whether it be for Kokoda (they were the ones lugging the backpacks and wearing hiking boots), football teams (they ran up the steps!) or people just trying to improve their health (they were the slow ones) – this is a popular spot so get there before sunrise if you want a bit of room to move around.

+++ If you are on a strict budget but still want to travel the world, here is a list of the **cheapest destinations:**

India, Nepal (home of Mount Everest), Indonesia (stay clear of the tourist-trap resorts), Iran - where you definitely will not find a glut of tourists, Poland (especially tiny towns like Krasnystaw in the Lublin Province – a miser's wonderland!) Laos with its untouched river valleys and chilled-out micro villages along the Mckong River, Sudan which is a bit hard to get to but where you will find a bed for \$10 a night and Honduras where developers have not quite invaded yet to capitalise on the world-class scuba diving spots.

+++ If, like me, you missed out on the **Edinburgh Military Tattoo** performance in Sydney in February, you can see the real thing in August – if you happen to be in Scotland.

The musical show marks its diamond jubilee this year and will run from August 6 to 28 in Edinburgh. Ticket prices are very reasonable, ranging from \$27.

+++ Debt-ridden **Japan Airlines (JAL)** will reportedly scrap 29 international routes by the end of fiscal 2010, nearly double the number of routes the carrier had initially decided to cut.

At this stage Australia is not on the hit-list which includes Narita-Sao Paulo, Narita-Milan, Kansai-Bangkok and (surprisingly) Kansai-Beijing.

+++ Don't forget to check our website for specials – [www.haytravel.com.au](http://www.haytravel.com.au)

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