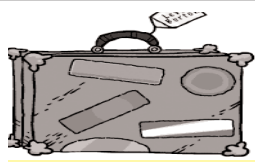


Travel Talk



I love it when people embrace others' culture and last Saturday's charity cricket match at Hay Park showed that others in the community feel the same.

There was a wonderful Indian/Sri Lankan atmosphere at the Mayor's Eleven vs Doctor's Eleven with local supporters of Dr Ratnam's team donning their saris.

Pictured at right, dressed for the occasion, are Sue Flynn, Kerrie Pritchard, Janice Dwyer, Sandra McRae, Jan Hemphill and Sue Ovens.

+++ One of the most misguided information I have ever been given on my travels was to attach my child to my body when I visited Egypt for the first time.

Will was six years old at the time and we were told that he would be kidnapped the moment we took our eyes off him.

I went to Antonakas Hardware and purchased a chain and the biggest dog collar I could find.

When the plane touched down in Cairo, before even disembarking, the dog collar was placed around Will's waist and attached to the heavy duty chain which was securely attached to my wrist with a lock.

Passengers avoided eye contact with us, custom officers gave us a thorough and lengthy screening and once outside even the taxi drivers pretended we did not exist.

At least my child was safe!

This lasted a full day and a half before I realised how utterly stupid we were, and how much we were missing out on.

Will was released from his dog collar and chain and never once in our 10 days in Egypt did I feel he was in any danger.

He was given free bananas in the markets, his blonde hair stroked and his head patted by strangers.

Egypt is the most exotic place I have ever visited and I am counting the days to our escorted tour which leaves in October.

On my previous trips to this fascinating country I did not have the luxury of an Egyptologist by my side, so for this tour I made sure that it was included.

For me personally the highlight will be a 4-night luxury Nile cruise from Luxor to Aswan. Cruising down the Nile has always been on my Big 5 Must Do list – and I'll soon be ticking that one off!

We will also be visiting the incredible step pyramid of Sakkara, the giant statue of Ramses II and the old capital of Memphis.

One thing I have learned from previous visits to Egypt is that you do not skimp on accommodation – it is not a good sight watching the water rise in the bath when you pull the plug!

So all accommodation is 4-5 star and believe me – this is a must.

We have also included a full day touring El Alamein and a day in Alexandria, which will be new territory for me.

We have had a cancellation for our Egypt tour, and now have six places available.

Tour is fully escorted (by me) from Melbourne, but I have a couple of spare seats if you need a lift to the airport.

+++ Don't get too excited about news that online booking service, wotif.com now handles flights as well.

They are more often than not dearer than booking with your local travel agent (we've done the comparisons) and they do charge a booking fee on top of taking commissions.

When online booking agencies first started out some years ago their hotel listings did represent good value for money, but now that they are well established there are few bargains.

+++ Don't forget to check our website for specials – www.haytravel.com.au

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Picture courtesy Margie McClelland.

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Australian Government

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To keep up-to-date with technology

- It's important that Australia keeps pace with worldwide changes in technology
- Overseas programs are increasingly being produced in the digital format only
- Australian TV shows need to be produced in the digital format to be easily exported overseas

To free up broadcast space

- In Australia, TV is currently broadcast in both digital and analog signals
- This is costly and inefficient
- Turning off the analog signals will free up space that could be used for other services for the community

To improve your viewing experience

- Picture and sound quality on digital TV is better
- Pictures on digital TV can be seen in widescreen
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