

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

TRAVEL + INDULGENCE

AUGUST 25-26, 2018

DESTINATION AFLOAT



Rolling down the river

FAMILY-FRIENDLY ADVENTURES ON THE MEKONG PAGE 10

■ Alaska by small ship ■ The oddest jobs at sea



East Coast, Top to Rock with Sun Princess

15 nights departing 5 March 2019

- 7 nights aboard **Sun Princess** cruising from Sydney to Darwin with a port call in Brisbane. Includes on board meals & entertainment.
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- **Litchfield National Park & Waterfalls** tour.
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NORFOLK ISLAND

WORLD HERITAGE PARADISE

“Morla aklan gwen rama f’ hihī”

In one small sentence you have travelled to St Kitts in the West Indies, journeyed to Scotland, jumped across to England, and then sailed to tropical Tahiti. This is but a small taste of the eclectic Norfolk Island language, known simply as ‘Norf’k.

When speakers of different languages converge to communicate, there is an understanding that words will be mispronounced, grammar rules will be broken and new ways to describe the world may need creation. After the infamous ‘Mutiny on the Bounty’, the band of twenty-eight Europeans and Polynesians that eventually settled Pitcairn Island combined their broad variety of dialects and languages to form a new native tongue. It was an organic process, grown within the isolated womb of Pitcairn.

Sixty-six years after settling Pitcairn, the entire community relocated to Norfolk Island, though they carried their unique language and culture to the new land. The ‘Pitkern’ tongue adjusted to a Norf’k dialect, though today the two islands still share a common identity.



In 2007 UNESCO recognised Norf’k as an endangered language, which marked an important shift in its value: for as languages become extinct, not only words disappear, but also valuable knowledge and worlds of thought. The growing pride in the Norf’k language is also linked to the cultural revival that has taken place on the island; also seen as a renewed interest in Tahitian dancing, weaving and tattooing.



A Norfolk Islander will travel the globe, but say in all sincerity that their island is “D’ baes said orn erth” (The best place on Earth) – and you may just agree after spending some time surrounded by Norfolk’s majestic natural beauty, kind salan (people) and fabulous wetls (food). Greet the consultants at Spacifica with a hearty “Watawieh”, and they’ll share with you some invaluable local insights.



YOUR OWN PRIVATE CABIN! ADD A BOUNTY BUNDLE FOR \$99

The Governor’s Lodge Resort Hotel,

Norfolk Island’s first and only environmentally sustainable hotel, offers boutique style accommodation with onsite restaurant, cafe & pool. The hotel has 55 individually private cabins set amongst 12 acres of landscaped sub-tropical gardens incorporating majestic Norfolk Pines. Centrally located to the shopping centre and World Heritage – Kingston.

BOUNTY BUNDLES:

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- Food & Entertainment Bundle

SALE ENDS 31 AUG!

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- Entry to the World of Norfolk Exhibit
- Half day Orientation Tour
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T+I LOVES



WELL, WELL, WELL DETOX AT KATA ROCKS katarocks.com

The five-star Kata Rocks oceanfront resort, on the west coast of Phuket, Thailand, has a trio of new three-night rejuvenation packages, dubbed Energise, Detox and Glow. The deals include accommodation in a one-bedroom Sky Pool Villa; morning yoga; personalised spa programs; healthy daily breakfasts and tonics; wellness-inspired cooking class; daily blood-pressure checks; health assessment; and home remedies. T+I feels better already thinking about a detox uplift with a two-hour chromotherapy session and marine flora immersion “to extract deep toxins”. Add-ons include the likes of a vitality wrap or sleeping pod experience. The resort features 34 Sky Pool Villas of one to four bedrooms, each with pool. From 82,000 Thai baht (\$3382) a villa, valid to November.

SUSAN KUROSAWA



ORCAS UP CLOSE SWIM WITH WHALES majesticwhaleencounters.com.au

For many people, the idea of paddling in the ocean with a killer whale, as orcas are commonly and misleadingly called, is akin to cuddling a grizzly bear. But a 10-day Norwegian tour package aims to erase those fears with the chance to swim with the black-and-white giants. Swimmers will be decked out in dry suits to protect them from frigid winter waters and can warm up afterwards on board the centrally heated 16-passenger expedition vessel MS Stronstad. The trip from Tromso includes a six-night cruise along Norway’s fjords and three nights in boutique cabins, with the chance to meet indigenous Sami people and hopefully see the Northern Lights. Reindeer farms and husky mushing are also on the agenda, plus sightings of humpback, fin and minke whales, puffins and bearded seals. Departs November 16 and 22, 2019; book by October 1 to save \$600 a couple.

PENNY HUNTER



LOOK UP ULURU ASTRONOMY WEEKEND ayersrockresort.com.au

The magnificence of Uluru will play second fiddle to the vast night skies during a weekend of stargazing next month. Voyages Ayers Rock Resort is hosting the Uluru Astronomy Weekend for the fifth year, with the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for All Sky Astrophysics in 3 Dimensions (ASTRO 3D). Entry to many activities is free but two offerings cost extra. An Astro Trivia Lunch is \$55 for

adults and \$27.50 for children; and a Stellar Starlit Dinner (\$210/\$105) features a bush tucker-inspired buffet, Aboriginal dance performance and tour of the night sky. ABC weather presenter and meteorologist Nate Byrne is at the helm, with leading astrophysicists and astronomers. Voyages’ special offer for September 14-16, from \$315 a room a night, based on a two-night stay, includes airport transfers, Astronomy Weekend activities (excluding signature events) and indigenous activities program.

PH

CAPITAL GAINS CANBERRA FLORIADE floriadeaustralia.com

If you think Canberra’s annual flower festival is as exciting as a Senate committee hearing, then think again. The event, in its 31st year, attracts about half a million visitors to Commonwealth Park each spring. This year, from September 15-October 14, the theme is pop culture and retro-styled flowerbeds will shine a light on some of the 20th century’s iconic figures. Sunday afternoons will be a swinging affair with Jazz in the Park, while the NightFest is back for five fun evenings from September 26-30. Soul songstress Caiti Baker and Bowie Unzipped (Jeff Duff and



Kate Miller-Heidke) will entertain the crowds on the Thursday and Friday night while on Saturday, September 29, cover band Cell Block 69 gets the party started. Comedians such as Arj Barker and Matt Okine are there just for laughs on the Sunday night. Our best four-legged friends get their turn at Dogs’ Day Out on the final day. NightFest tickets from \$25, adults.

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