



A member of

**TRAVELSCENE**

Travel created for you

**AMERICAN EXPRESS**

The Travel Industry has had a very interesting year. The GFC has certainly tested the airlines; we have seen the most amazing specials not likely to be repeated for a very long time. Fares to New York for \$549.00 (plus taxes) who would ever have thought we would have seen fares as low as this. Cruising has also been effected and again the specials that have come out have been unbelievable. Regent Seven Seas Cruises a 5 star cruise line have had 2 for 1 specials however most ships now are sold out, in particular in Alaska.

I would like to welcome our newest staff member Sandii Douglas who joined us this year and to welcome back Karen Binks who was absent in the UK for two years. Kerrie M<sup>c</sup>Beath (Danaher) was married this year and is now to become a "mum" in 2010.

## 2010

In May 2010 Beverley Sutherland Smith will lead our exclusive "Roses to Royalty" tour which takes in numerous gardens one being Highgrove House the home of Prince Charles and will also have exclusive entry to the Members Day Only at the Chelsea Flower Show. We still have spaces available. This will be a very small group of maximum 15 persons.



Welcome to our Christmas newsletter for 2009.



From all of us here at Craig's Travel we wish you Seasons Greetings and a happy and safe Christmas.

## OUT AND ABOUT

### Pat Craig

I recently returned from Europe. I flew to Paris on the Singapore Airlines A380 which was amazing. The boarding was seamless for such a big aircraft. Business class is upstairs with a small portion of economy at the back (the preferred section to be in for economy) first class suites are in the front downstairs and behind is the bulk of economy.

Once again I stayed at the Hotel Esprit located in St. Germaine des Pres. This is a really lovely 4 star hotel in a very central location. From here I flew to Fes, once the capital of Morocco. I stayed at the Riad Fes which I can highly recommend and Fes is a must on a visit to Morocco. I then attended a Pure Life Conference in Marrakech. Here I stayed at the Riad Naoura Barriere just inside the Medina walls. This is a 5 star property of high quality. The Pure Life Conference brought 700 suppliers and buyers from all parts of the world. It was a new revolution in the landscape of travel exhibitions. It was the world's only specialist trade to trade exhibition for the exploding Experiential Travel sector which allowed us to meet with leading international Private Travel Designers. On completion I then continued on to the Atlas Mountains to the Virgin resort Kasbah Tamadot. This is Sir Richard Branson's 5 star Moroccan Resort in the mountains, again a must on a visit to Morocco. Then on to London and Brown's Hotel. Brown's Hotel is now part of the Rocco Forte group and has been fully renovated. I was told that they have the best "high tea" in London (perhaps the Ritz may challenge this). Two restaurants I visited were the Wolseley, a café-restaurant in the grand European tradition located in Piccadilly and can definitely recommend. I also dined at Locanda Locatelli owned and operated by the Italian chef Giorgio Locatelli. This is a great restaurant and is located in the Hyatt Regency Hotel.



## Kerrie M<sup>c</sup>Beath

I recently enjoyed a quick trip up to Hayman Island. Flying Jetstar on their non stop services is the quickest and easiest way to arrive on to Hamilton Island. Beware the carrier is vigilant on the weight of your baggage and carry-on luggage dimensions! Upon arrival you are met and transferred by Hayman's luxury launch to the island. Hayman Island, which is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World and the Chaine des Rotisseurs, offers a wide variety of accommodation and resort experiences with many excursions and activities to be enjoyed both on and off the island. Hayman is known for its culinary excellence and I can certainly recommend the Oriental Restaurant and the fine-dining La Fontaine as a memorable experience.

Lastly don't forget a visit to their Spa Retreat – no island resort experience is complete without a session of luxurious pampering!



## Brigid Buchanan

In September our family headed off to Sabah for 10 nights of relaxation at the Shangri-la Tanjung Aru Resort in Kota Kinabalu. The resort is located approximately 20 minutes from the airport, but you would think you were on a private island. We stayed in the Club rooms, which is worth the extra cost. The rooms were spacious, facing the sea. The Club Lounge offers breakfast and complimentary soft drinks and cake available all day. From 5–7pm complimentary drinks are served with a buffet of snacks.

The resort offers all the facilities that the family enjoyed – sailing, fishing, white water rafting etc. We took the day trip to Shangri-la Rasa Ria to visit the Orangutans. The resort has a bus that travels between the two resorts and takes approximately 1 hour. The visit to the Orangutans was wonderful. Provided with a detailed tour and the walk through the rain forest to see the Orangutans so close and in a natural habitat was fantastic. Another great day trip is to visit a few of the small islands off the coast and go snorkeling. The marine life was so vibrant and prolific.

I also attended the Travelscene conference in Shanghai in November. It had been 23 years since I was last in Shanghai and it was fascinating to see the changes that have happened to this vibrant city. The conference was held at the Four Seasons Hotel with easy access to all parts of the city. Shanghai is gearing up for the World Expo being held next year from May to September 2010 so much of the city is under construction. The surprise was how sophisticated the city is with its restaurants, bars, night life and of course shopping!

## Crystal Weekly

Wednesday, 9 December 2009

### 20 YEARS OF CARING FOR OUR VALUED GUESTS



*The Difference is Crystal Clear - Welcoming graciousness and a friendly smile, an unwavering standard of excellence by professionals who share your passion for world discovery. The essence of Crystal Cruises lies in its people - The Crystal Family.*

**GENUINE HOSPITALITY** - Service begins with one of the highest staff-to-guest ratios in the industry, delivered by a European-trained staff selected for winning personalities and unparalleled expertise.

**MASTER OF THEIR CRAFT** - The perfect vintage to complement exceptional cuisine, a new pinot noir discovered on a journey Down Under... Tapping a cellar of more than 25,000 bottles, our sommeliers share engaging insight into the histories of wines both rare and popular.

**AUTHENTIC WITH EVERY BITE** - From an Asian moo goo gai pan or kung pao chicken to an American lobster tail or BBQ, lavish themed buffets transform Lido Deck, allowing you to immerse your palate in the authentic flavours of worldly destinations.

**AN AIR OF SOPHISTICATION** - White-gloved service at Afternoon Tea, homemade croissants and fresh-squeezed juice for breakfast. Without a hint of pretension, life's most indulgent treats are enjoyed with a contemporary flair.

**COME HOME WITH US** - The shared laughter, the engaging stories, the sincerely profound admiration. The friendships fostered between you and the staff are one of the intangible delights that make Crystal the very best in the world.



**CRYSTAL CRUISES**  
The difference is Crystal clear.

**20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

- NEW 2-FOR-1 FARES\*
- UP TO US\$2,000 PER COUPLE \*ALL-INCLUSIVE. AS YOU WISH.\* SPENDING CREDITS
- AIR ALLOWANCE CREDIT on most 2010 voyages
- PRICE GUARANTEE

### Crystal Society Benefits

*From the moment you step aboard, you become so much more than a guest... you become a privileged member of our Crystal Family at sea, the Crystal Society.*

- Automatic membership after your first sailing
- Special events and receptions on board and a Crystal Society Hostess on every voyage
- Special Crystal Society 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Sailings on voyage 0210, which is also our annual President's Cruise

In addition, Crystal Society members earn reward points that include:

- Stateroom upgrades
- Cruise fare savings on every voyage
- Onboard spending credits
- Complimentary cruises



**ARABIAN TREASURES V0210**  
**Dubai to Athens on Crystal Symphony**  
Departs 12 May 2010 (Days 14)  
Fares From: US\$6,345\* (Cat. E)



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Terms & Conditions: \*Fares are per person in U.S. dollars, based on double occupancy for the first two full-fare guests in stateroom and do include port security and handling charges which vary by departure. Single supplement of 25% for category C and 35% for categories B and A. Brochure Fares, in effect as of 21 September 2009, may not have resulted in actual sales. \*All-inclusive. As You Wish.™ 2010 World CruiseBank of US\$10,000 per couple (US\$5,000 per guest) shipboard credit applies to voyage 0302F (Full World Cruise); 2010 World CruiseBank of US\$2,000 per couple (US\$1,000 per guest) shipboard credit applies to voyages 0302, 0307-0308 (World Cruise segment voyages); 2010 World CruiseBank of US\$1,000 per couple (US\$500 per guest) shipboard credit applies to voyages 0303-0306. Offer is capacity controlled and may be withdrawn at any time. Only applies to first two guests in stateroom or suite. Credit is not redeemable for cash and cannot be used in casino, for bingo or towards future bookings. Air Allowance Credit applies to most 2010 voyages and credit sum varies dependent upon destination and accommodation category. The Crystal Assurance Plan Price Guarantee assures that you will receive the lowest Crystal Cruises published fare for your voyage; special programs as designated by Crystal Cruises may not apply. All promotions are capacity-controlled, subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Restrictions apply. See crystalcruises.com for complete terms and conditions of all offers. ©2009 Crystal Cruises, Inc. Ships' registry: The Bahamas. Wiltrans International Licence No: 27A 5386. Issue date: 9 December 2009.

## MALAYSIA AIRLINES BUSINESS CLASS NEW YEAR CELEBRATION COMPANION FARE

**EAST COAST RETURN FARE TO  
KUALA LUMPUR FROM**  
**AUD2584**  
(EXCLUDING TAXES, LEVIES & SURCHARGES)

**EAST COAST RETURN FARE TO  
UK/EUROPE FROM**  
**AUD4992**  
(EXCLUDING TAXES, LEVIES & SURCHARGES)

## MALAYSIA AIRLINES BUSINESS CLASS NEW YEAR CELEBRATION FARE

**EAST COAST RETURN FARE TO  
KUALA LUMPUR FROM**  
**AUD2748**  
(EXCLUDING TAXES, LEVIES & SURCHARGES)

**EAST COAST RETURN FARE TO  
UK/EUROPE FROM**  
**AUD5377**  
(EXCLUDING TAXES, LEVIES & SURCHARGES)

**Sale & Ticketing: 08 DEC 09–31 JAN 10**  
**Departures 08 DEC 09–30 SEP 10**  
(Further conditions apply)