

Making Travel Easy with

I'm told I'm a lucky person being paid to tell people where to go! I'm looking forward to helping you.

June 2013

India is one of those places you either love or hate. I love it and I am just back from my umpteenth visit. My last visit to Delhi was in 2006 after cycling through the Indian Himalaya from Leh to Manali. And my last visit to the Taj Mahal was in 1985 on my marathon cycle trip from Edinburgh to Sydney.



Taj Mahal from the Red Fort

I joined friends Chris and Ross and travelled from Delhi to Jaipur to Todigarh, Ranthambore NP, Baratapur Bird Sactuary, Agra and the Taj Mahal and finally east to Khajuraho, home of the Kama Sutra temples. It was over 40 degrees and the long awaited monsoon was just days away.



A licenced water seller

I have selected a few photos which might give you an idea of what it is like.

A travel game

Just click on where you think the city is and the plane will land there, then it will show where the city actually is!! This is a lot of fun and informative too. [Good luck here!!!](#)



Qutub Minar pillar near Delhi Airport

Facebook

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Taj Mahal – the entrance

A380 landing at San Francisco

How good is this? Watch, from inside the cockpit, a Lufthansa Airbus A380 land at San Francisco airport. Only nobs to turn re speed, altitude etc!! Once you have [clicked here](#) then click on full screen icon bottom right.



Chandni Chowk bazaar in Delhi

A Scottish Wedding

At the Scottish wedding reception the D.J. yelled... "Would all married men please stand next to the one person who has made your life worth living". The bartender was almost crushed to death.



Taj Mahal - classic photo

Facebook

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World's shortest flight

There is no time for meal service, or even a cup of tea, on the world's shortest scheduled air route. The veteran pilot who has been flying it for 24 years is about to retire. He says he has flown the sector 12,000 times in as little as 47 seconds, depending on the strength and direction of the wind. The two points it serves are Westray and Papa Westray in Scotland's Orkney Isles and the sector distance is only 2.8 kilometres. The scheduled flight time is two minutes, including taxiing.

The route, operated by Scotland's Loganair, has been thrown into the spotlight by Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper, in an article about the retirement of Loganair pilot Stuart Linklater.

The return flight costs GBP21 (about AU\$33), making it perhaps the most expensive flight in the world in terms of cost per kilometre. At that rate, a flight from Sydney to Los Angeles would cost over AUD 142,000. But the routes are, to put it mildly, not comparable.



Papa Westray airport

The Orkney inter-island service is a Public Service Obligation contract funded by Orkney Islands Council. Loganair has operated the route since 1967. Using Britten-Norman BN-2 Islander planes, the service transports teachers and pupils to school and conveys food, mail and banking supplies as well as patients to hospital. The aircraft are configured to carry a pilot and eight passengers.

Walking in Scotland 2013

There are still spaces left on my walking tours along the West Highland Way.

My first trip starts 30 August with a price of \$1299 per person if two people sharing a room while my second, and longer one, starts on the 9 September and is priced at \$1799. If interested please [email me](#).

Some good airfares

There are many fares to London under \$2000 including tax. For example Royal Brunei Airlines charges from \$1820 flying via Brunei and Dubai while Finnair has a year round fare for about \$1900 via Asia and Helsinki. Fares include all taxes.



Taj Mahal - close up

Another airfare idea

Many airlines are now adding another cabin into some of their aircraft. Premium Economy usually gives you more legroom and wider seats with inflight service better than economy but not as good as Business class. You can fly to Paris on Cathay Pacific in Premium Economy from \$3690 including tax.

Everest 60 years on

Last Wednesday, the 29th May was the 60th anniversary of the first ascent of Mt Everest. But did you know that the first Brit on top was Dougal Haston, a Scot, followed by Doug Scott, an Englishman?

The first Saudi Arabian women summited last week as did the oldest person, an 80 year old Japanese man. Most of us still have time!!!

The Golden Triangle

This is the name given to the journey comprising Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. These three cities will show you to best of the Moghul empire which lasted from 1526 to 1757. Here you will see the many Moghul monuments including Etimad-ud-Daula's Tomb, Sikandra, the Red Forts of Agra and Delhi, Fatepur Sikri, the Jama Masjid Mosque in Delhi and of course the unequalled Taj Mahal.



Local laundry near Taj Mahal

Cycling along the Danube

This is a very easy cycle trip with no hills and lots of fun! You can cycle from Passau to Vienna or Vienna to Budapest. Both are 8days/7nights.

[More details here.](#)



Kama Sutra – some ideas!

Some cycle photos

Over the years I have done a bit of cycling in various countries. I really do enjoy cycling in remote and mountainous areas. [View some of my cycling trips here.](#)

And in the end...

Thanks again for all your support. If you do not wish to receive my newsletters please write the words "Please take me off your newsletter list" in the subject line of an email.