



# **PLANNING A PHOTOGRAPHIC HOLIDAY - a methodical system to work out what can be achieved.**

(Or what can I get to see with my time and  
Budget)

- \* How do I get there?  
Planes, Trains &  
Automobiles....
- \* How long will it take me  
to get there?
- \* Are there travel  
warnings?
- \* Do I need a Passport?
- \* Do I need a Visa?
- \* Do I need to be  
immunised?

- \* What is the best time to  
visit?
- \* What are the costs?
- \* Have I included Travel  
insurance?
- \* How long do I choose to  
stay?
- \* How soon do I pay, and  
can I afford it?
- \* How much cash-flow will  
I have left?

**\*What do I want to see?**

- \* How do I get there - Fly or Cruise
- \* 5 Hr flight or
- \* 12-14 Day cruise
- \* Passport required -Visa's handled by Cruise
- \* Immunisation required
- \* English is primary spoken language
- \* Reputation for being very safe place to visit
- \* Lot's of tourist attractions

## \* Example one - Singapore

## FLY

- \* Get there in 5 Hrs, but jetlagged
- \* About \$1300 return PP
- \* Gives maximum time in destination.
- \* Flexible timetables, lots of flights
- \* Excess baggage over 20Kg's

## CRUISE

- \* 12 - 14 days to really unwind and be pampered
- \* About \$3,000 cruise (ocean view) \$700 one way airfare
- \* Covers all meals, entertainment & accommodation for trip
- \* Excursion's off ship are extra cost
- \* Baggage allowance is 2 x 32Kg's per person - 64Kg!

# Comparison of Travel options

- \* Adequate leave / available time 😊
- \* Travel & Accommodation within budget 😊
- \* Travel & Leave booked and confirmed 😊
- \* Travel Insurance paid covering unforeseen cancellations & any special conditions 😊
- \* Diary marked clearly with deadline dates for payments 😊
- \* Plan any Itinerary 😊

**\* Checklist for trip.**

## Caravan

- \* More fuel costs for travel & more time needed (110 Vs 90Km/h - 17,500Km's need 3,000 Litres = \$5K fuel budget)
- \* Most sites vary \$30 to \$50 (en-suite) Allow \$350 PW
- \* About 12 Days travel at furthest point to get home.

## Accommodation

- \* Convenience, vary according to location
- \* 17,500Km's requires about 2,200 Litres = \$3,500 - save \$1500 towards accommodation.
- \* Costs between \$750 - \$1100+ PW
- \* Shorter return possible - 6 days by shorter roads

# \* Example Two - Queensland

- \*The cheapest option is actually tenting it in unpowered sites - about \$140 per week, but very weather dependant.
- \*Some companies offer cheap rates for driving campervans one way. A cheaper option if you have the time.
- \*On a longer trip, hiring or buying & selling a campertrailer may be a better option.

**\*Conclusion 1- Caravan more practical for longer stay**

- \* Many places have 3 Tier pricing - Peak, shoulder, and off-peak. You may be able to pick wisely, avoid crowds and get better value. Find out the dates of these periods, a move of a week could save heaps of money!
- \* Check out the weather for the intended time of year (Wet Season/Dry Season) and pack accordingly. Don't expect to go from our summer to a Northern Winter without discomfort. (Perth - Seattle at Xmas!-Brrrrr!)

## \* More financial considerations

How much spending money needed?

Have I allowed for emergencies?

What bills are due before I leave? (Shire Rates, Car rego etc)

House sitter/Pet boarding?





\* 😊 All systems go - within budget & have sufficient (holiday) time to do it 😊

# \*What do I want to photo?

- \*What is essential for the trip? - Camera, favourite lens(es) cleaning cloth, spare batteries etc.
- \*What do I take with me and never/rarely use? Tripod, Filters, Flash. Will I use it this time?
- \*Am I better off to hire equipment there? E.g. a 70-200 F2.8 IS for zoo & bird park days @\$68 a day. Tripod for \$10-15 a day. Excess luggage Vs Hiring locally.
- \*Photo storage. What is your plan and are you backing up to avoid any disasters. How many Gb do you expect to shoot. Backing up to laptop/notebook or dedicated Media storage (Nexto Card reader etc)
- \*Use <http://app.photoephemeris.com/> for sunrise/sunset and lighting angles.
- \*For ideas, <http://www.shothotspot.com/>

# \*OVERSEAS TRAVEL

- \* If you are on any medications, obtain a letter from your Doctor stating what you are taking, both the actual and brand name and dosages. Some local brands are not known overseas, and could be mistaken for illegal drugs. Better to be safe!
- \* Most scripts are subsidised by the PBS system. Fill enough before you leave to cover the duration of the trip. Having to buy outside the safety-net could be an expensive surprise.
- \* Scripts have an expiry date, and must be used within 6 Months of the date of issue.
- \* If filling several Months worth of Scripts, expect to be asked why, and you may need to produce an itinerary or bookings to show your valid reason. Our explanation was that remote Country Chemists may not carry them.
- \* Take a travel 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit with essentials. Enough to deal with gastro, diarrhoea, travel sickness..

- \* <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/> is a website to register your travel plans with. It will update you with travel warnings, and expedite contact in a disaster. - It's free!
- \* Duty Free is actually available before you depart without the sealed bag routine. The Tourist Refund scheme allows you to get back the GST on items purchased within 60 days of Departure that cost \$300 or more. Advantages of this are local warranty, and ability to charge batteries and use and learn the device prior to departure.
- \* The GST paid is refunded to your credit card by filling out forms either before, or at the airport. <http://www.customs.gov.au/trs/TRS-applications.asp>
- \* Use a currency calculator like <http://www.oanda.com/> to keep an eye on the exchange rate, to ensure a competitive price.

- \* Advise your credit card provider that you will be overseas from (Date to Date), and the type of items and expected price you might put on your card. That way, if the card is stolen, it will most likely raise suspicion when for example a jewellery purchase of a substantial quantity is made, where a Camera one would not. This helps them to help you.
- \* Keep your passports in the Hotel safe, and carry a colour scanned copy on you. This is sufficient to prove ID, but more difficult for people to fraud you if it's stolen and you still have the real one to fly out with. In the highly unlikely event Police need to sight the original, they can take you to the Hotel to allow you to retrieve it.
- \* Don't be scared of declaring things. Most prohibited items are of a quarantine nature, and are simply yes/no. And the queue for declaring us usually a lot shorter (read quicker). A Travel agent friend purchases boiled lollies, and would ask if it needed to be declared. Most times they said "Is that all?" and waved him through.

- \* Make your luggage stand out (Not boogie board style!). It's much easier to locate a bright tag or sticker on both sides of a bag than just another black suitcase. And use the luggage tamper seals where you can. Domestic luggage in the USA is not allowed to be locked now, unless with TSA approved locks. If not, they will break the locks. TSA locks can be opened with a master key, and pop up a Red "Flag" to show if it's been opened by them. If the TSA search it, get them to tape it up, and then put on your seals. Then it won't be touched for the remainder of the trip.
- \* Check out local laws on Photography. Since September 11, many Government buildings, presidential palaces etc. are not allowed to be photographed. I'd rather ask and get declined than spoil my holiday for a snap I could get on a postcard.
- \* Don't try to be too cheap. If you want to stay in miserable places, that's what you'll remember. You don't have to be extravagant at all, but for the sake of an extra couple of hundred dollars it can make a cheapskate memory into a far better one. Remember, it's never cheaper than when you are already there!



# \* ALL TRAVEL

- \* Plug all your power packs into one long power-board. Use tape or tie-downs to hold them on. This helps when you stay at places where there are very few power-points. Keep in mind if it's overseas travel, there might only be one international power-point, or adaptor, so if you have to charge still and video cameras, backup devices, laptops, mobile phones, you would have to run a roster to get them all charged by the next day, or risk things running flat.
- \* Keep a list of all serial numbers of your gear. Most gear is recovered by serial number matches at pawnbrokers, as they have to notify all serial numbers of items purchased or risk cancellation of their trading licence. They also have to obtain ID of the seller, and many use CCTV of the selling area. They then have a withholding period before they can sell it. For those who can't be bothered, my thoughts are if they have smashed the window of my vehicle and stolen my stuff, anything to nail them for it and give them grief is time well spent!
- \* Backup frequently! DVDs and CDs are very cheap nowadays, so we mail them home on a regular basis for the kids. That way, if disaster strikes, we don't lose the lot. And don't forget the Video Camera too. There are backup devices like the NEXT0 that will back up them as well. I can think of nothing worse than losing one of the new HD-DVD HDD camera's with 3 weeks of holiday all gone. Call me a Luddite, but I'm happy with Mini-DV Tapes, and critical things get dropped to DVD on the laptop as well.

# \* REMOTE TRAVEL

- \* Research your destination, and the best time of year to go. Use resources like the local tourist bureau, CALM, RAC journey planner, Shires, and even the Local Police Station. And don't forget the internet; there are plenty of Blogs etc., which can tell you what you need.
- \* VEHICLE PREPARATION - Work out your worst Mileage situation, than carry another 25% at least, in case you get bogged. Carry adequate spare tyres, and make sure you have no doubts about your vehicle reliability. And always carry water in the cabin in a squeeze bottle if 4WDing through long grass. Many a car has been lost with a hot exhaust starting a scrub fire. And don't forget the trailer/Camper. Make sure the bearings are fine, and it's roadworthy too.
- \* NOTIFICATIONS - For many things, especially the Canning Stock Route, PLAN!!!! Make a responsible person your point of contact, and make sure if you don't report in, he'll make the necessary calls to get help on its way. Drop in your itinerary to your local Police Station with Vehicle registrations and descriptions, how much fuel and water you are carrying, how many people, and **any medical issues (Diabetes, heart condition)**
- \* COMMUNICATIONS - Satellite Phones are expensive to hire and call. About \$5 per minute! And HF Radio's are also out of the reach for occasional travellers. Consider an EPIRB. They are cheap to hire or borrow from someone with a boat not being used. When they are activated, they are a Federal Government responsibility. Aircraft can be diverted to look for you, and it offers the best response. The WA police won't be making budget considerations on search planes, as the Commonwealth pick up the tab. Don't activate needlessly, but when you need the cavalry, they are there for you.



# \* Don't forget these items back home!

- \* Put your Car(s) on a trickle charge during extended holidays, or arrange a friend to drive them in your absence. Alarms and immobiliser's will flatten batteries over time.
- \* Security - Arrange mail collection/holding, and put timer lights on, and arrange lawn/yard attention so your house looks lived in. Don't forget paper deliveries
- \* Check your insurance - most have a "vacant house" clause if absent over too long a period. Pay the extra or get a house-sitter. A friend had a water damage that cost \$22K to fix!



Darwin to Perth	4396km
Perth to Adelaide	2706km
Adelaide to Melbourne	726km
Melbourne to Sydney	887km
Sydney to Brisbane	972km
Brisbane to Cairns	1748km



Fraser Island  
Noosa  
Brisbane



## Area size comparison of Australia and Europe

Australia's area = 7,706,168 sq km  
Europe's area as shown = 3,483,066 sq km

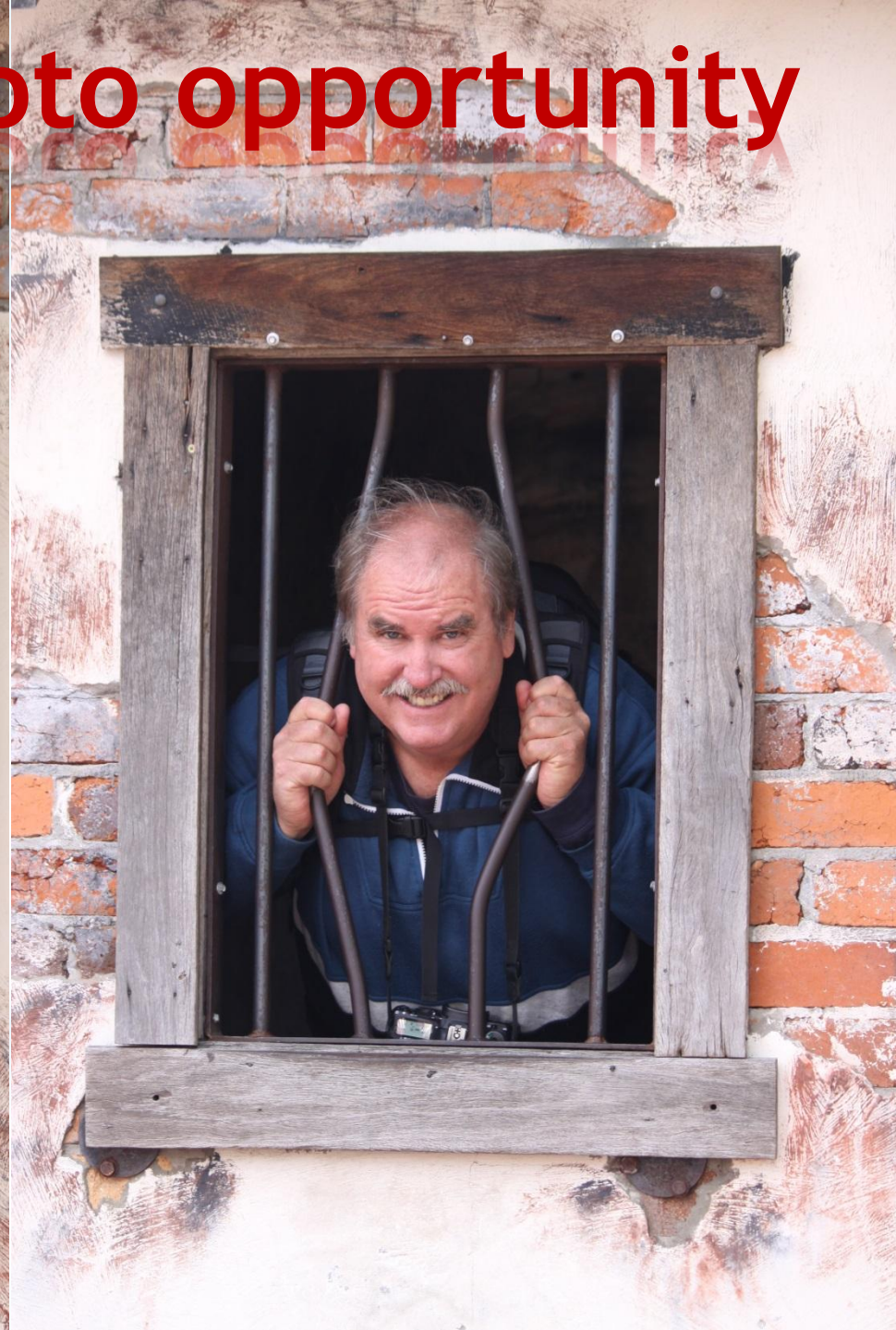
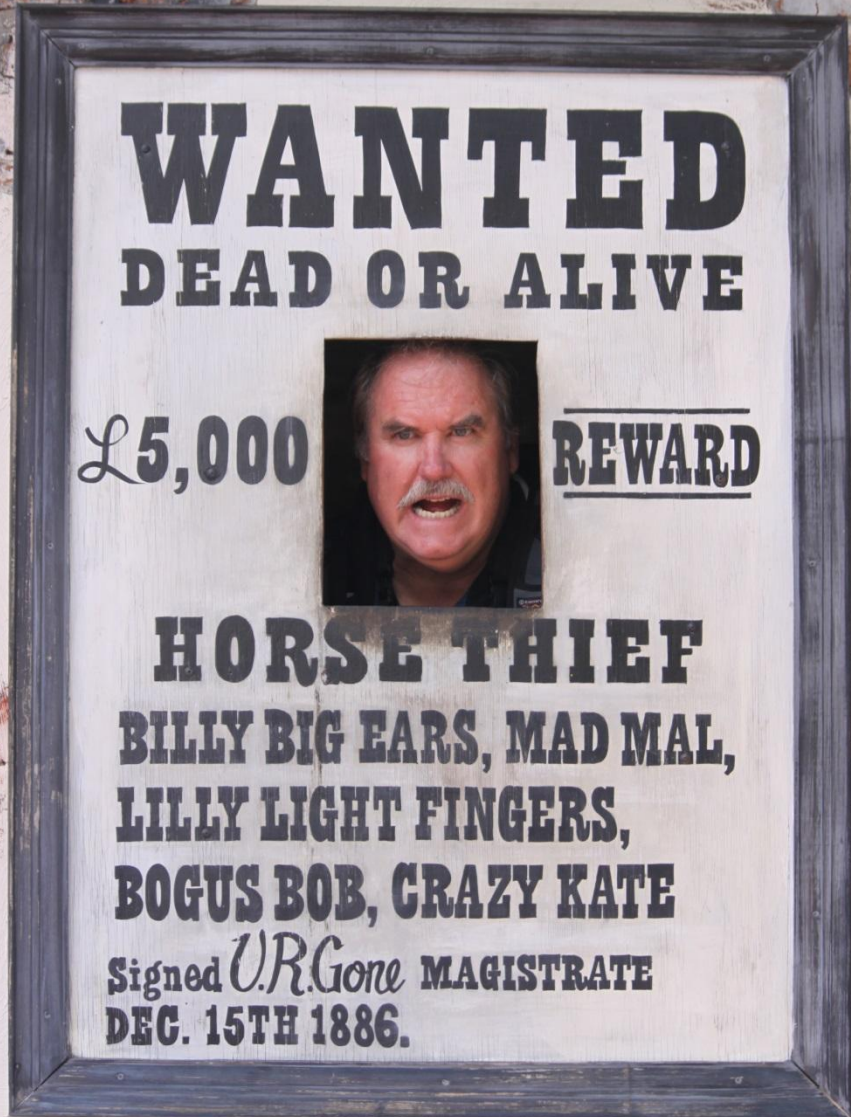






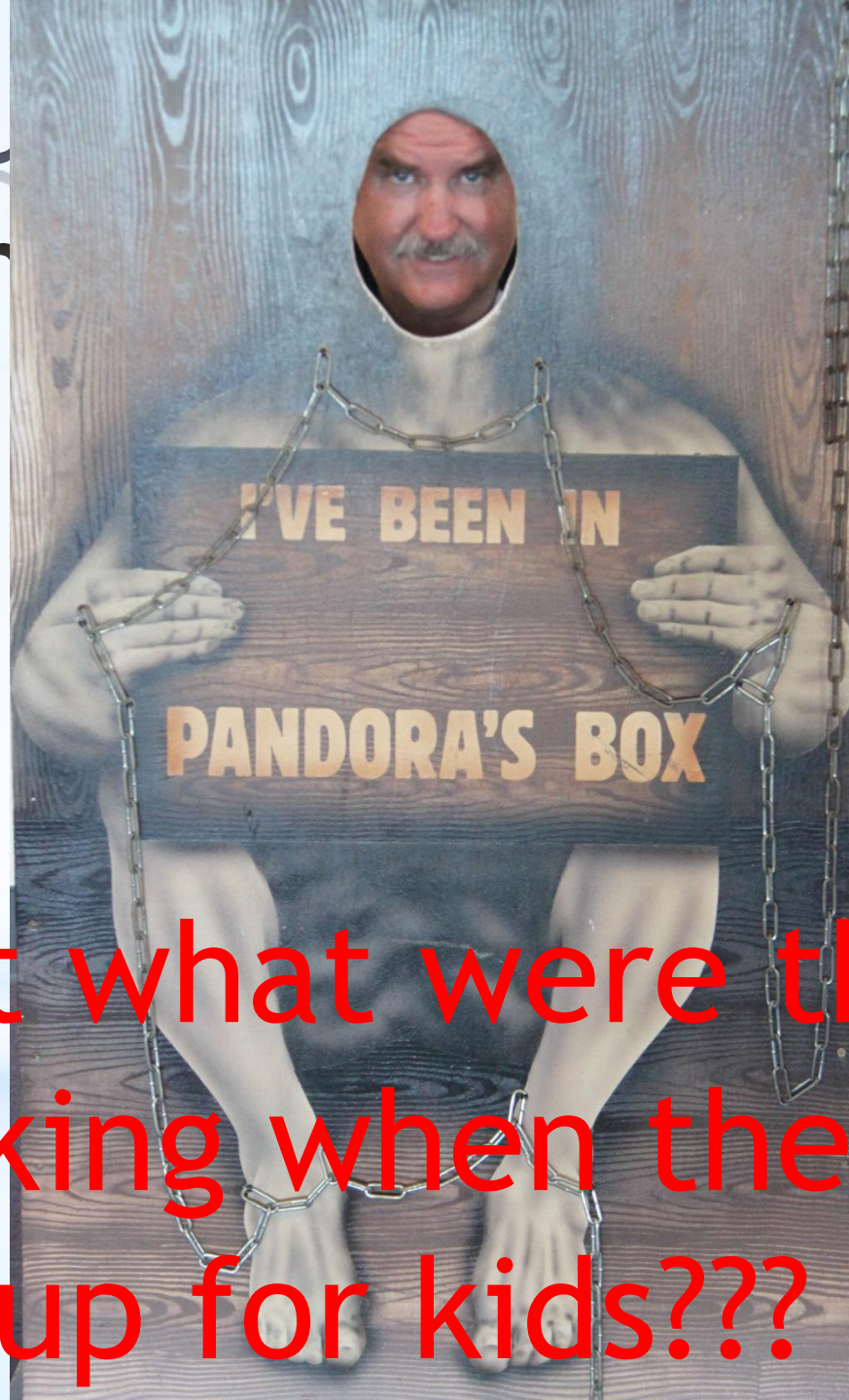


\*Always a photo opportunity





\* Conclude the trip & the photo's



\* Just what were they thinking when they put this up for kids???