

GOWAY PACKAGES AUSTRALIA'S AWARD-WINNING TASMANIA

Goway is offering a Discover Natural Tasmania six-day tour where travelers might complement a visit to Australia's mainland with a wilderness escape to take in the island state's World Heritage-listed wilderness areas and national parks, and unique wildlife and historic attractions.

Adventurers hike over the Hazards Range to world-renowned Wineglass Bay, tour amongst the treetops at Tahune Air Walk and come face-to-face with a Tasmanian devil at Bonorong Wildlife Conservation Centre.

Goway's package includes three nights in Hobart at The Old Woolstore and Wrest Point Casino and one night each at Freycinet Lodge at Coles Bay and at Diamond Island Resort, both on Tasmania's east coast. Also included is admission to Mount Field National Park, Freycinet National Park, Tahune Air Walk and Bonorong Wildlife Conservation Centre, an expert guide for four days, all meals and touring as per itinerary, as well as airport transfers.

Prices are from \$1,557 ppdo, ground only (valid until end of March). Current prices should be requested for the dates one wishes to travel.

Goway, 800-387-8850, www.goway.com/downunder/australia/tasmania/index.html

NEW ZEALAND TRAINING EVENT KIWI LINK 2009 SET FOR APRIL

Registrations are now open for Kiwi Link, Tourism New Zealand's North American product training event scheduled for April 3-5, 2009. Held every two years, the program is a unique opportunity for the US travel trade to receive up-to-date training from New Zealand product operators. The convention will be held at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel in Los Angeles.

Registrations are open to anyone selling New Zealand, which includes travel agents, frontline reservation staff and sales teams



TASMANIA

of wholesalers and airlines. Kiwi Link 2009 has traditionally attracted over 40 New Zealand operators in key areas of accommodation, transport, and activities as well as regional tourism organizations.

Kiwi Link 2009 will highlight the importance of sustainability and the environment. The event will embrace measures such as using hotels with sound environmental policies, the offsetting of travel emissions, and encouraging participants to engage in responsible environmental practices.

Registrations for Kiwi Link close on March 6, and participants are encouraged to enroll early on the website.

Tourism New Zealand, www.newzealand.com

DREAM TAHITIAN HONEYMOON PREPARED BY SOUTH PACIFIC MANAGEMENT

Beginning this month, South Pacific Management, which oversees Pearl Resorts & Spa, is offering a special package for honeymooners who wish to travel to any of its exotic destinations including Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa; French Polynesia's sole Relais & Chateaux property; and Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa, part of Leading Small Hotels of the World.

The bride will receive 15 percent off her chosen accommodations—rooms, bungalows, villas, and suites (subject to availability), and a Tahitian black pearl pendant in its jewel case. Upon arrival, the couple will

receive a bottle of French champagne.

Each tucked-away spot is a short distance from Tahiti and offers something for every couple. Newlyweds in search of adventure and minimalism can escape to either the Hiva Oa Hanakee Pearl Lodge or Nuku Hiva Keikahanui Pearl Lodge in the Marquesas Islands (three hours north of Tahiti) where hiking, waterfalls, and traditional wood carving await.

The bride and groom can find relaxation and romance at one of SPM's Manea Spa properties—Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa, Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa, Moorea Pearl Resort & Spa, Tikehau Pearl Beach Resort & Spa, or Manihi Pearl Beach Resort & Spa, with massages and treatments, white-sand beach picnics, and world-class diving. For other special options, couples can choose to stay at Manava Suite Resort Tahiti (opening March 2009), Huahine Te Tiare Beach Resort, or Raiatea Hawaiki Nui Hotel.

This offer is valid for new bookings only and cannot be combined with other special offers. A copy of the wedding certificate is required upon registration.

The offer is valid from January 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010, and can only be used up to nine months from the official wedding date. Couples must notify SPMHNY once reservations are made. The offer is available through any tour operator or travel agency.

South Pacific Management Hotels Resorts & Spa, www.spmhotels.com

SARAWAK'S MICE MARKETING PROGRAM VOTED ICCA WORLD'S BEST



Jill Henry, Chief Executive Officer, Sarawak Convention Bureau; is shown with Amelia Roziman, Convention Bid Manager, Sarawak Convention Bureau, who shared Sarawak culture at the ceremony.

Sarawak Convention Bureau's destination marketing programs have won the International Convention and Congress Association's (ICCA) Best Marketing Award at the Association's International Convention held in Victoria, Canada. Competing against two finalists from Liverpool, United Kingdom and Salt Lake City, USA, Sarawak's campaign "Harnessing the Power of Story Telling to Launch a New Meetings Destination" was voted the winner of the 2008 Award by a panel of international judges and 740 delegates from over 20 countries.

The prestigious international award capped off a triumphant year for the Bureau, following the launch of its unique destination commercial "Recharge in a New World Sarawak-Borneo" that earlier took out the Diamond Award for best overall entry across all categories at ITB in Berlin followed by a Gold Camera Award at the Los Angeles Film Festival in June and a Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) 2008 Gold Award, in September.

The ICCA Best Marketing Award, established in 1997, recognizes the excellence and outstanding achievements of member organizations in their effort to market their destination or product. Entries can range from full-scale campaigns and branding exercises to individual promotions and events.

The Bureau's entry was presented by CEO Jill Henry. Convention Bid Manager, Amelia Roziman, co-presented sharing Sarawak stories and performing a specially-choreographed welcome dance from the Iban community.

"We were thrilled just to be selected as finalists as it gave us a chance to promote Sarawak to international meeting planners,"

said Jill Henry. "As a relative newcomer we did not expect to be bringing this prestigious award home to Malaysia. Nothing is more daunting than presenting to a tough international audience like ICCA. The members represent the most experienced international marketers in the MICE industry today."

As an added bonus, the 2008 winner also receives a marketing package worth approximately \$12677 from the Best Marketing Award sponsor, Bedouk Publications and acknowledgement on the ICCA website and in other international publications.

Sarawak Convention Bureau; jillhenry@sarawakcb.com

FIRST RIVER CRUISE IN BORNEO'S SARAWAK SET BY PANDAW RIVER CRUISES

Pandaw River Cruises is planning a new expedition cruise on the Rajang River in Sarawak, Malaysia's longest river, on the island of Borneo that will present a total jungle experience with rainforest and fast-flowing waters traversing the second largest island in the world after Greenland.

On July 1, the new 60-passenger *m/v Orient Pandaw* will commence a series of eight-night cruises from Sibu to the Pelagus Rapids and beyond up the Baleh River. Shore excursions include a visit to Iban longhouses, boat trips up tributary rivers, a walk about the vestiges of the colonial Brooke Raja that ruled Sarawak for 100 years, tours of pepper farms, fruit plantations and other exotic fruit in Sareiki and a trip to the weaving workshops that produce traditional songkat textiles in Tanjung Manis. Jungle treks will offer opportunities to spot abundant wildlife.

The cruise originates and ends in Sibu, with its old shop houses, markets and friendly inhabitants. The roomy *Orient Pandaw* has only 30 staterooms with 60 beds on two spacious decks, and a restaurant, bar, café, spa, and sun deck. Main deck cabins are \$2,248 per person; upper deck is \$2,495 per person. Rates include shore excursions, all meals including snacks, an open bar (for locally manufactured spirits), evening entertainment, transfers in Sibu and port charges.

Guests have the option to add a two-night stop in the capital of Kuching—a glimpse of what Singapore or Bangkok must have been like half a century ago, untrammelled by commercial development. The serene Sarawak River flows through the city center, flanked by Brooke Raj palaces, courts and a fort that marks the first White Raja's landing.

Pandaw River Cruises, specialists in small-ship cruising to exotic destinations, operates five vessels that ply the rivers of Southeast Asia including the Irrawaddy and Mekong rivers. The UK-based company is owned by Paul Strachen, a businessman and philanthropist whose cruise services directly benefit the people of the countries they cruise. Pandaw River Cruises raised more than \$500,000 in Burmese aid following the recent cyclone disaster.

Pandaw River Cruises, 800-798-4223, www.pandaw.com

MARCEL CAMACHO NAMED NEW DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER FOR GUAM VISITORS BUREAU



MARCEL CAMACHO

The Guam Visitors Bureau has announced the selection of Marcel Camacho as its new Deputy General Manager. Camacho brings years of experience and an extensive knowledge of the tourism industry to his new position with GVB.

Camacho, a former Senator with the 25th Guam legislature, graduated from California Polytechnic University with a degree in Hotel and Restaurant

Management.

Following graduation, Camacho worked for the Hilton hotel conglomerate in Southern California for many years before returning home to Guam. His experience as a Guam senator, and his previous experience in developing the island's zoning and land-use master plan, will bring an element of policymaking expertise to the bureau.

Gerald S. A. Perez, GVB's General Manager, stated that "Mr. Camacho's professional background and experience will be an important asset as the bureau continues to work on the brand-building and community outreach initiatives outlined in the Five Year Tourism Strategic Plan."

Guam Visitors Bureau, gsap43@yahoo.com,
www.visitguam.org

SHAUN LANDING APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF SALES AND MARKETING FOR ONE&ONLY RESORT



SHAUN LANDING

One&Only Resorts has announced the appointment of Shaun Landing as Director of Sales and Marketing for One&Only Reethi Rah in the Maldives. Landing will manage all sales activities and streamline operations for both the Reservations and Sales and Marketing teams at the famed resort.

"Shaun has developed solid relationships in the travel industry that will add a strong dimension in securing new and repeat business for the resort," says Michael R. Payne, General Manager. "With his talent and passion for the industry, we will continue our quest to amaze our guests and offer the most memorable moments during their stay on our beautiful island."

Landing's entry into tourism began after obtaining his Business Management degree from South African College School.

Following his education, Landing moved on to acquire years of experience in the industry—covering a range

of fields from corporate travel and car rental to hospitality management.

He has held similar executive positions in international hotels and resorts in Dubai, Malawi, Kazakhstan and South Africa. Prior to his appointment at One&Only Reethi Rah, Landing worked as Sales and Marketing Director for Pezula Resort Hotel & Spa in South Africa.

"I believe the key to success is developing a win-win approach while building passion and ability among a growing team," says Landing. "This is my goal at One&Only Reethi Rah and I feel privileged to have the support of such an acclaimed group of team members."

One&Only Resorts, www.oneandonlyresorts.com

KEMPINSKI HOTEL SANYA APPOINTS PUNEET SINGH GENERAL MANAGER



PUNEET SINGH

Kempinski Hotel Sanya has announced the appointment of Puneet Singh to the position of General Manager.

Mr. Singh brings multicultural experience and knowledge to Sanya Bay's only international five-star luxury beach resort.

He started his hospitality career with the Kempinski Hotels in 1992 in Munich, Germany and since then has worked in over eight countries including Germany,

USA, Egypt, Turkey, People's Republic of China, Russia, United Arab Emirates, and Tanzania with Kempinski Hotels and other international hotels and resorts.

Before joining Kempinski Hotel Sanya, Mr. Singh was the General Manager in Zamani Zanzibar Kempinski, Tanzania.

Kempinski Hotel Sanya is located on a sandy beach at the southernmost tip of China, spanning out on 166 acres of lush tropical greenery and palm trees. The hotel is 15 minutes away from Sanya Phoenix International Airport, Sanya city center and is close to key attractions such as Love Zoo, The End of the Earth, Nanshan Cultural Tourism Zone, Deer Looking Back Park and golf courses.

Kempinski Hotel Sanya has eight meeting rooms with approximately 15,070 square feet of meeting space with an adjoining tropical garden lawn.

The resort is designed to cater towards outdoor and indoor MICE functions.

Culinary combines Europe and Asia, with a favorite—the Paulaner Brauhaus—presenting Bavarian food along with a first-hand glimpse of how beer is freshly brewed in-house by Master Brewer Andreas Heidenreich from Paulaner Brewery in Munich, Germany.

Kempinski Hotel Sanya, Sanya Bay West,
www.kempinski-sanya.com

AIR INDIA APPOINTS CHITRA SARKAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE AMERICAS



CHITRA SARKAR

India's largest airline, Air India, has announced the appointment of Chitra Sarkar to the position of Executive Director–Americas. Based in New York, Mrs. Sarkar will be responsible for the airline's operations in the United States and Canada, as well as sales and marketing activity throughout the Americas.

Prior to assuming her new role, Mrs. Sarkar held key managerial positions at Air India in Tourism, Marketing and

Training. During her 30-year career with the company, she's also been posted to various foreign stations including Hong Kong, Singapore, Los Angeles, and Chicago. In 2006 Mrs. Sarkar was appointed Dy. Commercial Director–Traffic Services with overall responsibility for establishing policy and procedures at all airports in Air India's global network. She most recently served as Executive Director–Cargo at Air India's headquarters in Mumbai prior to transferring to New York.

Mrs. Sarkar is an alumnus of Cathedral School in Mumbai, as well as Elphinstone College. She holds a First Class Master's Degree in Business Management from the University of Bombay. She is married and has two sons.

Air India is India's national carrier and largest airline. It has been in operation since 1932, and currently offers non-stop flights to Mumbai and Delhi from JFK International Airport in New York, plus direct service from Liberty International Airport (Newark) and O'Hare International Airport (Chicago).

Air India, 800-223-7776, www.airindia.in

NEW KOSRAE SURF CAMP BECKONS SURFERS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NEW

A new surf camp is now open for surfers of all skill levels on the still-unspoiled Micronesian island of Kosrae, one of the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Kosrae Surf Tours Corporation (KSTC), an eco-tourism business providing all-inclusive surf tourism packages, is the only licensed surf tour on the island. KSTC provides exciting experiences to adventurous tourists looking to explore hidden destinations. According to Grant Ismael, director of the Kosrae Visitors Bureau, Kosrae offers the perfect experience for the surfer who wants to surf in a secluded region away from the crowds.

The cost of the surf camp is \$150 per day per surfer, with a non-surfing partner rate of \$100 per day. Typical stay is 10 to 14 days. This fee includes accommodations in cottages at Kosrae's rustic Pacific Treelodge Resort, an eco-lodge that sits next to an ancient mangrove forest and calm lagoon. Also covered are food, land and boat transfers, as well as a full-time surfer guide. Optional activities included at no cost include a one-day, boat-based snorkeling/bottom fishing trip, several land-based snorkeling trips,

kayaking, jungle hikes, and anthropological site tours. Air travel to Kosrae is not included.

KSTC's 27-year-old owner Matt Rott has emphasized responsible surf tourism since moving to Kosrae in 2000. The island, just 42 square miles, is located north of the Solomon Islands, approximately 1,418 miles southeast of Guam and 2,960 miles southwest of Hawaii. With 70 percent of its area mountainous, the majority of Kosrae's roughly 7,000 people live in its five coastal villages.

KSTC is booking the 2008-2009 season that ends March 31, 2009. Reservations can be made through The Perfect Wave of Sydney, Australia.

Kosrae Visitors Bureau, www.Kosrae.com; The Perfect Wave, www.theperfectwave.com.au

ADVENTURE MAGAZINE PLACES TIGER MOUNTAIN POKHARA LODGE ONE OF TOP 50 ECO-LODGES WORLDWIDE



Adding to an impressive list of accolades, Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge was included in the world's top fifty eco-lodges by *National Geographic Adventure* magazine in its November 2008 issue. The global eco-lodges were rated because they provide "great service and comfort in spectacular locations, but they also support local communities, connect their guests to cultures on an authentic level, create impactful conservation initiatives, and increasingly place adventure at the center of the experience."

As the only property in Nepal and one of only five in the Indian subcontinent, Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge is one of the region's leaders in responsible conservation tourism.

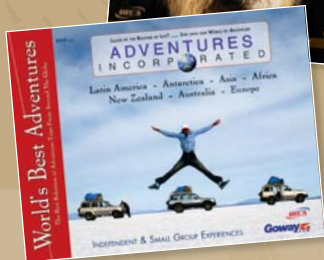
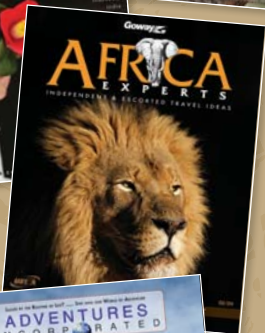
Lisa Choegyal, Marketing Director, notes that this is a fitting tribute to the hard work of the staff team over the past ten years, since its opening in October 1998 by Sir Edmund Hillary. The Tiger Mountain Group has pioneered Himalayan trekking and wildlife tourism since the 1960s.

Pokhara Lodge's previous awards include Conservation International Ecotourism Excellence Award; *Conde Nast Traveler* Eco-Awards Best Lodge; Pacific Asia Travel Association Heritage & Culture Gold Award; TravelAsia Best New Ecotourism Product; World's Top "Room with a View"—Independent UK; Tourism Gold Award, Business Leaders Club Madrid, Spain; and Richard Hammond's Top 30 Green Places to Stay Worldwide.

Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge; tigermountain.com

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