

# TRAVEL CONSUMER DAILY

Monday, August 10, 2009



## All's fair in desert regatta

AS A live event, it's a bit like Monty Python's *The Meaning of Life* meets the first *Mad Max* movie.

It's quite possibly the only regatta that's ever been cancelled because there was too much water lying around (it was cancelled in 1993 when the Todd River in Alice Springs flooded).

But it will be business as usual at this year's Henley-on-Todd regatta on Saturday, 22 August, when citizens dress up as pirates, stage

CONTINUED PAGE 2

# BALI'S QUIET RELIEF

BALI'S tourism industry is quietly awaiting confirmation of a massive de-escalation of the terrorism risk to the holiday island following the reported killing of terrorist bomb-maker Noordin Top at a village in central Java on Saturday.

Tourism and business leaders have been enthusiastic supporters — though not in public — of the elimination of Top and the dismantling of the Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist network that, since 2002, has created high levels of public fear in Indonesia, nervousness about the country from foreign investors and a decimation of tourism numbers at prime locations like Bali.

Bali foreign tourist arrivals fell almost 50% after the 2002 Bali bombings — for which Top is believed to have prepared the explosives — that killed 202 people including 88 from neighboring Australia, the is-

*Tourism and business leaders have been enthusiastic supporters — though not in public — of the elimination of Top and the dismantling of Jemaah Islamiyah*

land's second-biggest tourism market after Japan. The island was gripped by mass unemployment as everyone from cleaners to taxi-drivers lost their jobs.

However, Bali tourism has strongly rebounded and, remarkably, airlines reported that bookings, especially from Australia, hardly registered a downward ripple after the July 17 bombing of the Marriott and Ritz Carlton hotels in Jakarta, attributed to a group

led by Top, that killed seven people, three from Australia, as well as two suicide bombers.

Last year, a total of 313,313 Australian tourists visited Bali, jumping 52.68 percent from the year before when the figure was 205,205.

In the first quarter this year, Australia was in the second place in foreign tourism arrivals after Japan with 83,470 tourists. "The Australian tourists accounted for 14.67 percent of

the total tourists coming to the Island of Paradise in the first quarter, which reached 490,454," head of the Bali Office of the Central Statistics Board (BPS) Ida Komang Wisnu said.

China came in third with 56,030 tourists, followed by Malaysia with 29,971 tourists, he said. The number of Japanese arriving this year is expected to be affected by swine flu, which is spreading in Bali and Indonesia, but Australians are arriving in ever-increasing numbers following a build-up in weekly capacity by Jetstar and Virgin Blue's overseas carrier, Pacific Blue, which has introduced non-stop 737 flights to Denpasar this year from Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

Air Asia's Indonesian arm has also begun flights to Den

CONTINUED PAGE 2

din Top's terror disciples, who split from the Al Qaeda movement several years ago because it wasn't violent enough, are still at large in Indonesia.

"[Noordin's] presence in Indonesia for such a long time, with a series of terrorist actions carried out until July 2009, shows that he has continued to build up his power base in the form of cells," Ansyad Mbai, head of the anti-terror desk at the coordinating ministry for political, legal and security affairs, told the *Jakarta Globe* at the weekend. "It would therefore be incorrect to assume that with his death, his entire terror network has been paralysed. "The skills of the Noordin M Top group in making bombs has continued to be developed and can be seen from their modus operandi. These skills, of course, have also been acquired by members of their cells which have been built up

*We continue to focus on the comfort and safety of our guests visiting Bali at this time and refrain from any comments regarding last night's and this morning's events* —ROBERT LAGERWAY, chairman, Bali Hotels Association

for a long time — at least over the past four years."

Police, using DNA samples from Top's two young children, who were detained with their mother after the July 17 attacks in Jakarta, expect to be able to positively identify Top's body as early as today.

Police aren't the only ones being cautious until Top (pictured above) is officially identified as the man who was reportedly screaming "Noordin Top" as police pumped hundreds of rounds of ammunition into the Java farmhouse he was holed up in when it was surrounded by counter-terrorism snipers on Friday night and early on Saturday.

"We continue to focus on the comfort and safety of our guests visiting Bali at this time and refrain from any comments regarding last night's and this morning's events," the chairman of the Bali Hotels Association, Robert Lagerway, told *TCD* in an email late on Saturday. "It is too premature to make statements." ■

#### FROM PAGE 1

pasar from Perth, while Indonesian national carrier Garuda also plans capacity increases.

This is in spite of the fact that the Australian Foreign Affairs Department continues to warn that a "very high threat of terrorist attack" exists in Bali and Indonesia – its second-highest alert.

"We continue to receive credible information that terrorists could be planning attacks in Indonesia and that Bali remains an attractive target for terrorists," the department warns in its latest official travel advice.

However, Australian travel insurers continue to honour policies for travel to Bali, in spite of some legal doubt over whether the insurers are entitled to "pull" their cover.

Indonesian hoteliers and tourism operators have been campaigning to have the Australian Foreign Affairs Department downgrade its advice. They believe the department has decided it will never downgrade its advice to cover itself against potential legal claims.

However, one of Indonesia's top security officials has warned that dozens of Noor-

*Rotorua airport CEO George White (left) and Rotorua mayor Kevin Winters at the announcement of the new services.*

## Air NZ non-stops to open up Rotorua

Australians will be able to fly non-stop to regional tourism hot-spot Rotorua on the New Zealand north island from Christmas this year.

Air New Zealand will start twice-weekly non-stop flights in both directions from Sydney on December 12 starting at \$249 one-way.

Rotorua is famous for its hot springs and geysers, but it's strategically important because of its proximity to other key destinations for tourists.

It is just 45 minutes by road from both Tauranga's ocean beaches to the north-east and

to the fishing wonderland, Lake Taupo, to the west.

However, a key factor that will enable Air New Zealand to make it a year-round tourism destination from Australia like Queenstown is that it is less than two hours by road to the North Island's biggest ski fields around Mount Ruhapehu.

Unlike Queenstown, it is also a cultural centre for New Zealand Maoris able to capitalise on increasing demand for cultural tours.

For more information on what Rotorua and Central North Island has to offer visit [www.rotoruanz.com](http://www.rotoruanz.com)

## Everything's fair in Alice Springs regatta

#### FROM PAGE 1

*mock battles and race over the dry sand of the Todd River bed.*

*The teams bring everything from assorted 'mortars' to high pressure water cannons into play to thwart their opponents at every turn and aid their own charge towards the finish line.*

*Visitors to the town who don't have time to build their own vessel can choose their event and register on the day using a provided competition boat. However, many travellers prefer to get their own boats up and running, according to promotions and marketing manager, Merrilyn McIver.*

*"A lot of tourists get involved, particularly the backpackers, and a lot of our grey nomads*

*come in either as participants or spectators," she said.*

*Unlike past decades, access to Alice Springs has been revolutionised by the arrival of Tiger Airways, which charges from \$A98 one-way for the flight from Melbourne. It's more expensive for the Henley regatta weekend, which creates a temporary peak-time demand*

*"Southerners" escaping winter, but fares on the route, quoted this past weekend, were as little as \$218 one-way (Tiger) and \$249 (Qantas) flying up on Thursday and back on Tuesday.*

*Qantas's "best" fares from Darwin or Sydney start at a steep \$255 one-way, because there's no competition.*

● SEE TODAY'S BEST FARES GUIDE ON PAGES 3, 4.

Published by:  
Travel Media  
Australia Pty Ltd  
ACN 136 814 456

Publisher:  
CLIVE DORMAN  
Email: [editor@travelconsumerdaily.com](mailto:editor@travelconsumerdaily.com)

Phone:  
(613) 5258 2068

Website Design:  
[websiteconcepts.com.au](http://websiteconcepts.com.au)

Webhost: Melbourne IT  
Business Consulting:  
Ross McCarthy, Future Value  
Pty Ltd

Finance systems:  
Leanne Hamer,  
Crystal Vision Consulting  
Pty Ltd

Graphic Design:  
53 Designs  
0400 509853

## from MELBOURNE

Abu Dhabi QF 2053 rtn  
 Adelaide QF 85 DJ 69 JQ 59 TT 39  
 Alice Springs QF 229 TT 98  
 Albury QF 211 DJ 189 ZL 105  
 Amman QF 2082 rtn  
 Apia DJ 469  
 Auckland QF 199 DJ 189  
 Ayers Rock QF 280  
 Bahrain QF 2038 rtn  
 Ballina DJ 149 JQ 99  
 Bangkok QF 1277 rtn JQ 409  
 Beijing QF 1004 rtn  
 Beirut QF 2074 rtn  
 Brisbane QF 145 DJ 139 JQ 99  
 Broome QF 402 DJ 340  
 Buenos Aires QF 1738 rtn  
 Burnie ZL 124  
 Cairns QF 279 DJ 199 JQ 209  
 Canberra QF 89 DJ 85 TT 28  
 Chengdu QF 1184 rtn  
 Christchurch QF 387 DJ 189 JQ 169  
 Coffs Harbour QF 219 DJ 170  
 Darwin QF 333 DJ 169 JQ 159  
 Delhi QF 1137 rtn  
 Denpasar DJ 459 JQ 439  
 Devonport QF 130  
 Dunedin DJ 259  
 Frankfurt QF 1869 rtn  
 Fraser Coast DJ 179  
 Gold Coast DJ 99 JQ 99 TT 78  
 Hamilton (NZ) DJ 279  
 Hamilton Island DJ 179 JQ 159  
 Hobart QF 98 DJ 64 JQ 59 TT 28  
 Hong Kong QF 943 rtn  
 Honiara DJ 509  
 Honolulu QF 1246 rtn  
 Jakarta QF 803 rtn  
 Johannesburg QF 2184 rtn  
 Kalgoorlie QF 349  
 Karratha QF 398 DJ 340  
 King Island ZL 131  
 Kuala Lumpur D7 \$219  
 Launceston QF 132 DJ 59 JQ 55 TT 28  
 London QF 1941 rtn  
 Los Angeles QF 964 rtn UA 931  
 rtn NZ 866 rtn VA 945 rtn  
 Mackay QF 279 DJ 199 TT 88  
 Manila QF 976 rtn  
 Merimbula ZL 140  
 Mexico City QF 1774 rtn  
 Mildura QF 117 DJ 99 ZL 99  
 Moruya ZL 183  
 Mount Gambier ZL 109  
 Mount Isa QF 374  
 Mumbai QF 1157 rtn  
 Nadi QF 315 DJ 349  
 Newcastle DJ 69 JQ 69  
 Newman DJ 340  
 New York QF 1170 rtn UA 1470  
 rtn  
 Noumea 4411  
 Papeete QF 1368 rtn  
 Paris QF 1892 rtn  
 Perth QF 214 DJ 213 JQ 179 TT 108  
 Port Hedland QF 409 DJ 340  
 Port Macquarie DJ 179  
 Port Moresby DJ 399  
 Port Vila QF 440 DJ 339  
 Queenstown QF 355 DJ 399  
 Rarotonga DJ 439  
 Rockhampton QF 243 DJ 180  
 TT 88  
 Rome QF 1883 rtn

## When is a deal not a deal? Sharp practices can go close to the line

"You know the AirAsia \$99 deal? (one-way Melbourne Kuala Lumpur, announced last week)," a reader writes. "I have tried to access that fare for two days and whenever I put in my travel dates for four people it gives me a total fare of \$2520 ... an average of about \$630 ... which is a good fare, but not \$99."

"I rang the airline and the call centre girl, who was Malay, said, if I can make out her twisted logic, that I had to be lucky with the time I logged on, or lucky with the date ... I've tried several times and used various dates but I can't access the cheap fare. What's up?"

We'd like to know, too. It's OK for an airline to advertise a cheap fare — and Air Asia is a great success story delivering very cheap fares — but if it's virtually unavailable, it's not a deal at all, is it? TCD will be making inquiries with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. We'd like to hear of your experiences (letters@travelconsumerdaily.com) with the airline industry which, as Fairfax papers reported on Saturday, now accounts for more consumer complaints than any other category.

Today, we've included Perth in the mix. Soon we will start on key Asian cities. All fares are one-way unless designated 'rtn'. Best fares exclude credit card charges, are sometimes bettered by sale fares and are sometimes unavailable. Carefully check multi-sector fares against the total of best fares for each sector. All care is taken, but these fares should be used as a guide only. All figures Australian dollars.

LEGEND: QF (Qantas) JQ (Jetstar) DJ (Virgin Blue, Pacific Blue) TT (Tiger Airways — Australia) TR (Tiger Airways — international) ZL (Rex) D7 (Air Asia X) UA (United Airlines) NZ (Air New Zealand) VA (V Australia). QZ Indonesia Air Asia XR Skywest

Santiago QF 1724 rtn  
 San Francisco QF 1053 rtn  
 Seoul QF 1633 rtn  
 Shanghai QF 965  
 Singapore QF 930 rtn JQ 349  
 Sunshine Coast DJ 109 JQ 119 TT 88  
 Sydney QF 89 DJ 89 JQ 49 TT 39  
 Tonga (Nuku Alofa) DJ 379  
 Tokyo QF 1103 rtn  
 Townsville QF 301 DJ 209 JQ 179  
 Vancouver QF 1538 rtn  
 Wagga Wagga ZL 109  
 Wellington QF 239 DJ 259  
 Whitsunday Coast (Proserpine) DJ 199  
 Xian QF 1184 rtn

## from

## SYDNEY

Abu Dhabi QF 2070 rtn  
 Adelaide QF 165 DJ 129 JQ 89  
 Alice Springs QF \$255  
 Albury QF 99 DJ 82

Amman QF 2099 rtn  
 Armidale QF 122  
 Apia DJ 429  
 Auckland QF 199 DJ 189 JQ 179  
 Ayers Rock QF 271 DJ  
 Bahrain QF 2055 rtn  
 Ballina DJ 75 JQ 69 ZL 129  
 Bangkok QF 1282 rtn  
 Bathurst ZL 94  
 Beijing QF 982 rtn  
 Beirut QF 2091 rtn  
 Brisbane QF 95 DJ 89 JQ 69  
 Broken Hill ZL 198  
 Broome QD 426 DJ 350  
 Buenos Aires QF 1616  
 Cairns QF 239 DJ 159 JQ 169  
 Canberra QF 90 DJ 75  
 Chengdu QF 1201 rtn  
 Christchurch QF 199 DJ 189 JQ 169  
 Coffs Harbour QF 107 DJ 89  
 Darwin QF 299 DJ 235 JQ 169  
 Delhi QF 1154 rtn  
 Denpasar JQ 439 DJ 459  
 Devonport QF 207  
 Dubbo QF 117 ZL 116  
 Dunedin DJ 259  
 Frankfurt QF 1886 rtn

Fraser Coast QF 159 DJ 105 JQ 79  
 Gold Coast DJ 75 JQ 69  
 Grafton ZL 146  
 Griffith ZL 135  
 Hamilton (NZ) DJ 229  
 Hamilton Island DJ 165 JQ 159  
 Hobart QF 196 DJ 89 JQ 89  
 Ho Chi Minh JQ 389  
 Hong Kong QF 960 rtn  
 Honiara DJ 479  
 Honolulu QF 1124 rtn JQ 459  
 Jakarta QF 781 rtn  
 Johannesburg QF 2162 rtn  
 Kalgoorlie QF 353  
 Karratha QF 417 DJ 360  
 Kuala Lumpur  
 Launceston QF 193 DJ JQ 79  
 Lismore ZL 129  
 London QF 1958 rtn  
 Los Angeles QF 981 rtn UA 931  
 rtn  
 Mackay QF 238 DJ 149  
 Manila QF 964 rtn  
 Melbourne DJ 89 TT 39 JQ 49  
 Merimbula ZL 140  
 Mexico City QF 1691 rtn  
 Mildura QF 178 DJ 189  
 Moree QF 122  
 Moruya ZL 126  
 Mount Hotham QF 199  
 Mount Isa QF 344  
 Mumbai QF 1135 rtn  
 Nadi QF 285 DJ 289  
 Narrandera-Leeton ZL 119  
 Newman DJ 360  
 New York QF 1181 rtn  
 Norfolk Island QF 307  
 Noumea QF 363  
 Orange ZL 132  
 Osaka JQ 429  
 Papeete QF 1242 rtn  
 Paris QF 1909 rtn  
 Parkes ZL 109  
 Perth QF 244 DJ 209  
 Phuket JQ 409  
 Port Hedland QF 437 DJ 249  
 Port Macquarie QF 100 DJ 102  
 Port Moresby QF 837 rtn  
 Port Moresby DJ 319  
 Port Vila QF 392 DJ 269  
 Queenstown QF 259 DJ 299  
 Rarotonga DJ 439  
 Rockhampton QF 207 DJ 125  
 Rome QF 1901 rtn  
 Santiago QF 1602 rtn  
 San Francisco QF 1031 rtn  
 Seoul QF 1611 rtn  
 Shanghai QF 982 rtn  
 Singapore QF 947 rtn  
 Sunshine Coast DJ 94 JQ 89  
 Tamworth QF 122  
 Taree ZL 126  
 Tonga (Nuku Alofa) DJ 339  
 Tokyo QF 909 rtn JQ 429  
 Townsville DJ 149 JQ 129  
 Vancouver QF 1455 rtn  
 Wagga Wagga QF 99  
 Wellington DJ 249  
 Whitsunday Coast (Proserpine) DJ 189  
 Xian QF 1201 rtn

## from

## BRISBANE

Abu Dhabi QF 2076 rtn  
 Adelaide QF 176 DJ 149 JQ 109  
 Alice Springs QF 259  
 Albury DJ 179

# TCD BEST FARES

Amman QF 2103  
Apia DJ 429  
Auckland QF 240 DJ 259  
Ayers Rock QF 254  
Bahrain QF 2060 rtn  
Bangkok QF 1278 rtn  
Barcaldine QF 139  
Beijing QF 1005 rtn  
Beirut QF 2097  
Biloela QF 139  
Blackall QF 139  
Blackwater QF 139  
Broome QF 449 DJ 390  
Buenos Aires QF 1740 rtn  
Bundaberg QF 75  
Cairns QF 210 DJ 159 JQ 159  
Canberra QF 143 DJ 119  
Charleville QF 134  
Chengdu QF 1223  
Christchurch QF 387 DJ 189 JQ 179  
Coffs Harbour DJ 139  
Darwin QF 273 DJ 199 JQ 159  
Delhi QF 1160 rtn  
Denpasar DJ 419 JQ 396  
Devonport QF 265  
Dunedin DJ 219  
Emerald QF 152  
Fraser Coast QF 114  
Gladstone QF 121  
Hamilton (NZ) DJ 229  
Hamilton Island DJ 99 JQ 89  
Hayman Island DJ 254  
Hobart QF 235 DJ 149  
Hong Kong QF 991  
Honiara DJ 359  
Honolulu QF 1248 rtn  
Jakarta QF 804  
Johannesburg QF \$2185  
Karratha QF 351 DJ 380  
Kuala Lumpur  
Launceston DJ 149 JQ 139  
London QF 1964 rtn  
Longreach QF 149  
Los Angeles QF 987 rtn VA 945 rtn  
Mackay QF 122 DJ 89 JQ 79  
Manila QF 960 rtn  
Melbourne QF 145 DJ 139 JQ 99  
Mexico City QF 1797  
Mildura DJ 219  
Mount Isa QF 262  
Mumbai QF 1158 rtn  
Nadi QF 283 DJ 269  
Newcastle QF 77 DJ 59 JQ 59  
New York QF 1293 rtn  
Norfolk Island QF 283  
Noumea QF 351  
Papeete QF 1369 rtn

Perth QF 275 DJ 269  
Port Hedland QF 299 DJ 249  
Port Macquarie DJ 179  
Port Moresby QF 618 rtn DJ 239  
Port Vila QF 343 DJ 249  
Queenstown QF 346 DJ 399  
Rarotonga DJ 439  
Rockhampton QF 97 DJ 85 JQ 69  
Roma QF 88  
Santiago QF 1725 rtn  
San Francisco QF 1055 rtn  
Seoul QF 1635 rtn  
Shanghai QF 1005 rtn  
Singapore QF 953  
Sunshine Coast  
Sydney QF 95 DJ 89 JQ 69  
Tonga (Nuku Alofa) DJ 379  
Tokyo QF 904  
Townsville QF 177 DJ 139 JQ 89  
Wellington QF 323 DJ 259  
Whitsunday Coast (Proserpine) DJ 89 JQ 79  
Xian QF 1223 rtn

## from ADELAIDE

Alice Springs QF 189  
Albury DJ 219  
Apia DJ 892.70  
Auckland QF 449 DJ 389  
Ayers Rock QF 330  
Bahrain QF 2073 rtn  
Ballina DJ 185  
Bangkok QF 1292 rtn  
Beijing QF 1020 rtn  
Beirut QF 2108  
Brisbane QF 176 DJ 149 JQ 109  
Broome QF 343 J 299  
Buenos Aires QF 1953 rtn  
Cairns DJ 249 JQ 169  
Canberra QF 147 DJ 109  
Chengdu QF 1218 rtn  
Christchurch QF 422 DJ 369  
Coffs Harbour QF 269 DJ 220  
Darwin QF 340 DJ 245 JQ 189  
Delhi QF 1151 rtn  
Denpasar DJ 325  
Devonport QF 235  
Frankfurt QF 1883  
Fraser Coast QF 239 DJ 195  
Gold Coast DJ 119 JQ 109  
Hamilton DJ 349  
Hamilton Island DJ 265  
Hobart QF 203 DJ 109  
Hong Kong QF 1001 rtn  
Honiara DJ 508  
Honolulu QF 1460 rtn  
Jakarta QF 1320

Johannesburg QF 2177  
Kalgoorlie QF 209  
Karratha QF 447 DJ 299  
Launceston QF 209 DJ 139  
London QF 1986  
Los Angeles QF 1298 rtn  
Mackay QF 295 DJ 249  
Manila QF 1203 rtn  
Melbourne QF 85 DJ 69 JQ 59  
Mexico City QF 2007 rtn  
Mildura DJ 159  
Mumbai QF 1172  
Nadi QF 419 DJ 418.20  
New York QF 1504 rtn  
Noumea QF 441  
Papeete QF 1591 rtn  
Paris QF 1906 rtn  
Perth QF 159 DJ 149 JQ 119  
Port Hedland QF 445 DJ 299  
Port Macquarie DJ 199  
Port Moresby DJ 388  
Port Vila QF 567 DJ 449  
Queenstown QF 502  
Rockhampton QF 265 DJ 220  
Rome QF 1938 rtn  
Santiago QF 1939 rtn  
San Francisco QF 1367 rtn  
Seoul QF 1705 rtn  
Shanghai QF 1020 rtn  
Singapore QF 945  
Sunshine Coast DJ 170  
Sydney QF 165 DJ 129 JQ 89  
Tonga (Nuku Alofa) DJ 508  
Tokyo QF 1138 rtn  
Townsville QF 304 DJ 239  
Vancouver QF 1772  
Wellington QF 418 DJ 360  
Whitsunday Coast (Proserpine) DJ 275  
Xian QF 1218 rtn

## from PERTH

Adelaide QF 159 DJ 149 JQ 119  
Alice Springs QF 313  
Albany XR 129  
Albury DJ 309  
Apia 992.70  
Auckland QF 584 DJ 479  
Ayers Rock QF 305  
Brisbane QF 275 DJ 269  
Broome QF 245 DJ 219 XR 159  
Buenos Aires QF 2138  
Cairns QF 454 DJ 340 JQ 209  
Canberra QF 292 DJ 240  
Carnarvon XR 222  
Christchurch QF 581 DJ 449  
Coffs Harbour QF 383 DJ 290

Darwin QF 339 DJ 279 XR 199  
Delhi QF 1133 rtn  
Denpasar DJ 195 JQ 239 OZ 217  
Devonport QF 294  
Dunedin DJ 449  
Esperance XR 162  
Frankfurt QF 1865 rtn  
Fraser Coast QF 369 QF 315  
Geraldton XR 135  
Gold Coast DJ 249  
Hamilton DJ 409  
Hamilton Island DJ 335  
Hobart QF 339 DJ 290  
Hong Kong QF 877  
Honiara DJ 3897  
Honolulu QF 1645 rtn  
Jakarta JQ 209  
Johannesburg QF 1810 rtn  
Kalbarri XR 163  
Kalgoorlie QF 119 XR 163  
Karratha QF 229 DJ 199 XR 192  
Kuala Lumpur D7 135  
Kununurra XR169  
Launceston QF 352 DJ 290  
Learmonth XR 222  
London QF 1968 rtn  
Los Angeles QF 1507 rtn VA 762  
Mackay QF 414 DJ 325  
Melbourne QF 219 DJ 215 JQ 179 TT 128  
Mexico City QF 2216 rtn  
Mildura DJ 289  
Monkey Mia XR 222  
Mumbai QF 1115 rtn  
Nadi QF 504 DJ 520.20  
Newcastle DJ 250  
Newman QF 229 DJ 189  
New York QF 1713 rtn  
Noumea QF 559  
Papeete QF 1783 rtn  
Paraburdoo QF 215  
Paris QF 1888 rtn  
Port Hedland DJ 199  
Port Macquarie DJ 309  
Port Moresby DJ 1664  
Port Vila QF 680 DJ 459  
Queenstown QF 643 DJ 559  
Rockhampton QF 399 DJ 320  
Rome QF 1881 rtn  
Santiago QF 2124 rtn  
San Francisco QF 1552 rtn  
Singapore QF 567 JQ 189 TR 124.64  
Sunshine Coast DJ 310  
Sydney QF 244 DJ 209  
Tonga (Nuku Alofa) DJ 724  
Tokyo QF 1100 rtn  
Townsville QF 318 DJ 290  
Vancouver QF 1981 rtn  
Wellington QF 573 DJ 439  
Whitsunday Coast (Proserpine) DJ 325

*Playwright, author,  
humourist, TV  
weatherman — and  
now lyricist and musical  
performer — MONTE  
DWYER spent almost a  
year travelling Australia  
and writing about it in his  
original and entertaining  
style. This is Monte's  
book — with optional  
CD. Go to [monte.com.au](http://monte.com.au)  
for more information.*

When you're not here, we suggest you go here:

## BEN SANDILANDS PLANE TALKING

[blogs.crikey.com.au/planetalking](http://blogs.crikey.com.au/planetalking)

*One of the world's most  
authoritative voices on  
airlines and aviation*

# ted's WORLD calendar

## of absolutely EVERYTHING

### AUGUST 10-16

#### AUSTRALIA

**06 – 15 Aug. Ekka! - Royal Queensland Show, RNA Showgrounds:** Every year the show attracts around 700,000 visitors, who eat around 173,000 dagwood dogs, 48,000 hotdogs and 96,000 sausages. There are more than 210,000 strawberries eaten, 1.3 million cups of tea and coffee drunk and 753,000 beers consumed. Needless to say, it's very Australian, and a whole lotta fun!

**15- 16 Aug. Memories of Elvis, Parkes, NSW:** 2009 will be the 32nd anniversary since Elvis' untimely death. The weekend will include a candlelight vigil at the Elvis Wall of Fame on Saturday evening and Sunday will see the Elvis Church service commencing at 9.00am at the Uniting Church Hall Elvis Lennox Private Collection of Elvis Memorabilia will be open all weekend at 16 Wentworth Street, Parkes.

**13-30 Aug. Darwin Festival, McMinn st, Darwin, NT:** The Darwin Festival program provides a feast of local, national and international performances to excite, inspire and entertain. There are few festivals around the world that can boast the weather that Darwin has and this is what makes it a perfect festival town. Held in August, the festival includes everything from free outdoor events to theatre, dance, music, cabaret, films, workshops and comedy, not to mention the sensational cuisine. Running for 18 nights, with over 70 productions, 112 events and performances and over 1,000 international, national and Territory artists and cultural groups, the Darwin Festival reflects the indigenous, Asian and Pacific cultures of the region.

#### NEW ZEALAND

**Now -31 Aug: HotHouse – Flaming good ideas, The New Dowse, Lower Hutt, Wellington:** A showcase of New Zealand's hottest entrepreneurial ideas, refueled every four months, HotHouse celebrates the places where new ideas ignite. From flax surfboards to biotech fabrics, sports tables and jetpacks - discover why New Zealanders are considered some of the most inventive and resourceful people in the world.

**15 – 23 Aug. Good Vibes Boogie, Motueka, Nelson:** Good Vibes '09 New Zealand's Largest Annual Skydiving Event. Where like minded sports skydivers gather for 9 days of adrenalin fuelled fun.

**15 Aug. Waikato Draught Tough Guy and Gal Challenge, Lakes Ranch, Rotorua:** So you're tough. But are you tough enough to take on the Waikato Draught Tough Guy & Gal Challenge? This unique off-road running event continues to grow in popularity and status. Get down and dirty while you tackle the course that includes water trails, a spider's web net climb, mud slide, crawl under barbed wire, beautiful native bush trails, swamp crossings and more mud. The course has been designed with an array of natural and man-made obstacles for you to conquer and have one of the most memorable experiences of your life.

#### INDIA

**15 Aug. Independence Day, Delhi:** This is a time as much for mourning as celebration, as the end of British rule involved the partition of the country which resulted in mass migration and horrific bloodshed. More than ten million people are thought to have migrated during partition, of which at least 250,000 were murdered by opposing religious factions. Masses of people were killed as they tried to cross the borders. The slaughter in Delhi itself was also particularly bad. The 15 August is therefore an incredibly important and sombre day for the whole of India.

#### THAILAND

**13 -16 Aug. Bangkok International Fashion and Leather Fair, Impact Exhibition and Convention Centre:** Buy the latest clothes, textiles and fashion accessories from Thailand, Hong Kong, China, India and elsewhere at the Bangkok International Fashion & Leather Fair. Held at the Impact Exhibition and Convention Center, the first two days are for trade only.

#### SINGAPORE

**12 Aug. Lady Gaga 'Live', Fort Canning Park:** Get ready to party as dance floor diva Lady Gaga plays Fort Canning Park for one night only. Be prepared as this number one, ultra glam, Grammy nominated queen takes the stage!

**Now – 31 Aug. The Boy Who Cried Wolf, DBS Arts Centre:** The Boy Who Cried Wolf is a fun yet educational play at Singapore's DBS Arts Centre. Based on Aesop's well-known fable, the story follows shepherd boy Peter, who learns that telling white lies can lead to trouble.

#### HONG KONG

**13 – 17 Aug. Hong Kong Food Expo, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre:** Organised by the Trade Development Council, the Hong Kong Food Expo at the Convention and Exhibition

Listings edited by Grace@TravelConsumerDaily.com

Centre celebrates and promotes the island's food industry to both trade and consumers. The five-day event includes entertainment, demonstrations, food sampling and kitchen tips.

**13 -15 Aug. Hong Kong International Tea Fair, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre:** Taste teas from the great tea-growing regions of the world and enjoy tea-making ceremonies, or learn about tea investment and more.

#### PHILIPPINES

**Now – 31 Aug. Cinemania International Film Festival, Gateway Mall Complex 10:** No small affair, the event draws renowned guests such as the 2007 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, Quentin Tarantino, and offers a range of educative seminars on the film industry. Held annually since 1989, Cinemania is an international juried film festival that celebrates and promotes Filipino and Southeast Asian Cinema. Screenings, seminars and workshops are held at Gateway Mall Complex 10 and on the Boracay Islands.

#### JAPAN

**13- 15 Aug. O-Bon (The Festival of The Dead):** The great Buddhist festival of O-Bon, celebrated all over Japan (either in July or August), is often referred to as The Feast of Lanterns. According to tradition, the souls of the dead visit their living relatives on this day. Special offerings of food are made at temples and house altars, and at sunset lanterns are lit and hung in front of houses to guide the spirits back home.

#### EUROPE

**11 Aug. Madonna, Parken Stadium, Copenhagen, Denmark:** The undisputed queen of pop and worldwide superstar Madonna continues her extensive Sticky & Sweet tour. This show is at Copenhagen's Parken Stadium. Expect to hear songs from her latest

**15- 16 Aug. Chicago Air and Water Show, Lincoln Park:** The Chicago Air and Water Show presents two fun-packed days of spectacular air and watercraft demonstrations on Lincoln Park's lakefront, with North Avenue Beach as focal point. Highlights include jets performing in a renowned delta formation. The show is the oldest and largest free air show in the United States attracting around two million spectators. Be sure to catch the US Navy Blue Angels and the US Army Parachute Team Golden Knights. The displays take place at the edge of the lake and the planes seem to narrowly miss some of the tall buildings on the waterfront as they zoom over the heads of the crowd.

**16 Aug. New York City Half Marathon, Manhattan:** If you don't fancy a full marathon, the New York City Half-Marathon offers an opportunity to get into shape and raise some money for charity. So get fit, get sponsored and take on this 13.1 mile (21km) run through Manhattan.

**Now – Aug 31. San Francisco Giants, AT&T Park:** AT&T Park is home to the San Francisco Giants Major League Baseball team and stages games from April to October. The Giants compete in the National League West, which includes the LA Dodgers, Arizona Diamondbacks, Colorado Rockies and San Diego Padres.

### AUGUST 17-23

#### AUSTRALIA

**23 Aug. Fifties Fair, Rose Seidler House, Sydney:** Let the good times roll at the 15th annual Fifties Fair! Enjoy live rockabilly, jump blues, lounge jazz and swing music, dancing demonstrations, vehicle displays and kids activities set against the backdrop of the iconic Rose Seidler House. Come dressed in your best 50s threads for a chance to win a prize in the famous Fifties Fair

## THAT'S not a festival — THIS is

**12 - 17 Aug. Sziget Festival, Shipyard, Obuidai Island, Hungary:** You have two options here – either go, or be prepared to be very very jealous of those who do. This year, like all the others, the Sziget Festival is not to be missed. Epic headliners, such as Fatboy Slim, Lily Allen, The Prodigy, Pendulum, Placebo will rock out on the main stages, whilst Armin Van Buren, Eric Prydz and Paul Oakenfold amongst many more will keep the ravers happy. The week-long festival has grown from a relatively low-profile 1993 student event to become one of the definitive European rock festivals by the late 1990s, with about half of all visitors coming from outside Hungary, including the UK and France. It also boasts a dedicated "party train" service (with resident DJ's) that transports festival goers from Western Europe. Sziget is not only a festival, but a week-long opportunity to camp out in the temporarily built festival city on a gorgeous island where besides basic facilities posting and banking services, restaurants, pubs, shops and a number of other amenities provide comfort and entertainment. Sziget is actually many festivals in one: each venue proposes a series of programs, "individual festivals" are offered to the audience, to the lovers of the mainstream, hard rock, world music, electric dance music, alternative styles, blues and jazz. Visitors can enjoy a number of prosaic, dance and motion theatre performances during the week-long festi-

album, Hard Candy. Madonna's live shows are legendary: the peroxide crackle and fizz of Blonde Ambition, the sleazy abandon of The Girlie Show and the jaw-dropping theatrics of Drowned World have been cited as ground-breaking in their innovation and spectacle.

**11 – 12 Aug. British Fireworks Championship Finals, Plymouth:** The finals are eagerly anticipated by many thousands of people each year. Early evening entertainment is followed by displays from 9.30pm onwards. Six leading fireworks companies battle it out for the honour of being crowned British Champions, after which they represent Britain at an International Competition. Spectacular!

**7 -12 Aug. Open Air Cinema, Nantes, France:** Nantes welcomes the summer by screening free films every Wednesday in the city's most beautiful pockets of greenery. Visitors can pack up a picnic and watch comedies and thrillers, cartoons and classics. Screenings begin at dusk, with a musical performance to get people in the mood.

**12 – 17 Aug. Sziget Festival, Shipyard, Obuidai Island, Hungary:** You have two options here – either go, or be very, very jealous of everyone who is. Hundreds of thousands of festival goers will line up to see Lily Allen, Fatboy Slim, The Prodigy, Placebo and Faith No More, while the Burn Party Arena is set to rock to tunes from Pete Tong, Armin Van Buren, Grooverider, Eric Prydz and Paul Oakenfold. Folk music from around the globe comes from acts as diverse as Orquesta Buena Vista Social Club, Khaled and Amadou & Miriam. Don't miss out.

#### USA

fashion awards. Specialist collectors and dealers will sell fabulous 50s pieces including household gadgets, toys, jewellery, knick-knacks, books, clothing and furniture.

**17 – 22 Aug. Rosemount Sydney Fashion Festival, Sydney CBD:** The Rosemount Sydney Fashion Festival brings Australia's biggest fashion names to the public in August 2009. Featuring five days of free and ticketed public events, the festival profiles the contemporary Spring Summer Collections of local and international fashion brands as these new season's looks ve into stores throughout the city. A specially built, state-of-the-art marquee at Martin Place welcomes international models to the catwalk and celebrities to the front row. Brought to you by the same professional team of experts responsible for the world-renowned fashion industry event, Rosemount Australian Fashion Week, be prepared to be inspired.

**19- 23 Aug. Stiches and Craft Show, Rosehill Racecourse:** The Stitches and Craft Show is a unique event which has gained a reputation as the largest art, craft and design event in Australia. Featuring emerging independent crafters and designers, as well as over 200 retailers and suppliers, the show provides plenty of inspiration as well as the latest craft products. Expect to find fabrics, zines, knitting, project sheets, and more. Indie crafters and designers will also be there selling their handmade products, patterns and supplies. Workshops covering a variety of crafty pursuits from sewing to "do it yourself" printing are conducted throughout the show.

**16-31 Aug. North Haven Beaches, Port**

**Macquarie, NSW:** The Australian Surf Titles have been held since 1964 - the longest running surf event in Australia. In 2008, it becomes the 'Australian Surf Festival' - combining the National Shortboard and Longboard Titles for the first time and expanding into a unique celebration of the Australian surf lifestyle. It will include the 'Wine and the Waves' Festival, surf art and photography exhibitions, skateboarding displays and much more over two full weeks!

#### NEW ZEALAND

**20 – 30 Aug. Oh Baby Baby!; OOH BABY BABY!** draws from the styles of French circus cabaret, grand scale slapstick theatre, dance and the madness of life! It tells the story of love, relationships, parenthood and all the other BIG issues that are commonplace on the set of the classic medical TV drama. A blend of comedy, aerial work, acrobatic theatre and original design, OOH BABY BABY! is an hilarious theatrical excursion based around the doctors who run a fertility clinic. Encounters with patients who are pathologically afraid to give birth, are struck by womb envy, been sprung by their biological clock or are obsessed with the world's falling sperm count, make for a funny, poignant, sexy saga of new life.

**21 Aug. Scenic Cellars – Bleasdale Wine Tasting:** Join Michael Potts, Chief Winemaker for Bleasdale Winery, Langhorne Creek, South Australia, as he presents his range of wines in a structured tasting. The tasting will include Bleasdale's signature red wines and a few surprises. Bleasdale Vineyards is Australia's second oldest family owned winery, established in 1850 by English migrant Frank Potts. Today the winery is owned and operated by fifth generation members of the Potts family.

**22 – 30 Aug. Winter Games NZ:** The largest winter sports event outside of the Winter Olympics, Winter Games NZ is a unique winter sports competition that provides the world's elite winter sports athletes with the ultimate testing ground where they can experiment and explore performance limits against world class competition. Every four years, the Games will act as a direct lead-up to the Winter Olympics providing athletes with an invaluable training opportunity. The first Winter Games NZ will take place at Coronet Peak, The Remarkables, Cardrona Alpine Resort, Snow Farm, Naseby and Dunedin from August 22 to 30, 2009 and will feature disciplines of alpine skiing, free skiing, x-country skiing, snowboarding, curling, ice skating and adaptive snow sports.

#### INDIA

**23 Aug. Ganesh Festival, Pune:** Ganesh Festival is the birthday of Lord Ganesh, the Hindu God of wisdom and auspiciousness. The elephant-faced Hindu god Ganesh is one of the most popular deities in Hinduism and is today worshipped around the world. During the festival, families and friends come together to eat modak, the famous sweet loved by the god, and enjoy organised theatre, art and music performances. It is a wonderful way to observe the traditions of such a rich culture.

**Now – 31 Aug: Vipassana Meditation Course, Dehradun Vipassana Centre:** Dehradun has its very own Vipassana Centre, which holds traditional ten-day silent retreats throughout the year - just as the Buddha suggested. The course offers a non-denominational alternative to the other main means of learning the technique of meditation: staying at a Buddhist monastery. Be prepared for a challenge however- the silent retreats are based around the idea that participants should not talk or even exchange eye contact with anyone.

#### THAILAND

**Now – 30 Aug. Bridge over the river Kwai, Katchanaburi, Thailand:** Definitely worth a visit is the Bridge over the River Kwai in Kanchanaburi which has become a symbol for the barbarity and suffering of war. Visit the restored bridge and over 800 tombs of the Allied POWs who built it. The prisoners became the human material used for the construction of the River Kwai railway line, working under extreme conditions of poor hygiene, lack of food, malaria, cholera and other tropical diseases. Many died. However harrowing the experience may be, it is a must for anyone visiting Thailand.

#### INDONESIA

**Now - 31 Aug. Jaksa Street Festival, Jakarta:** Jalan Jaksa is the main backpacker and tourist street in Jakarta, and is lined with cheap accommodation, budget restaurants and friendly bars. Each year, it celebrates its diverse identity with the annual Jaksa Street Festival which includes live music, local Batawi art exhibitions, craft stalls and sporting contests. The sole goal of the day is to have fun and entertainment usually carries on late in to the night.

#### SINGAPORE

**19 – 30 Aug. Singapore Art Show, Singapore:** Singapore Art Show is a biannual national visual arts platform dedicated to celebrating and presenting local arts and artists. It provides a platform for different voices in the wider community – artists, art groups,

# ted's WORLD calendar

institutions, and private collections. For those who love art, this is definitely one to mark in your diary.

## HONG KONG

**21 – 23 Aug. Cinderella, Hong Kong Cultural Centre:** Cinderella has been enchanting children for over a century, and even the adults will be in awe of the splendid sets, glittering costumes, magical choreography all set to a wonderful score by Sergei Prokofiev. Watch and be delighted as Cinderella comes alive.

**21 – 24 Aug. Hong Kong Computer and Communications Festival:** Nerd Alert! Nerd Alert! This festival showcases all things digital to the public and season professionals alike, geeks and technologically illiterate. See state of the art technologies, prototypes, and all the latest industry trends. Open the curtains and venture outside for this one!

## PHILIPPINES

**Now – 31 Aug. Kasutang Filipino Exhibit and Fashion Show, Museo ng Makati, Makati City:** A yearly exhibit mounted at the city's museum featuring the evolution of Filipino costumes per region in celebration of the month of Filipino Costumes. See this traditional dress and more as you take in the culture of the Philippines.

## JAPAN

**Now – 30 Aug. Disneyland Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan:** Tokyo Disneyland goes out of its way to rival its bigger American cousins with wild rides, divided into seven themed zones, and all-singing all-dancing parades featuring familiar costumed characters. Kids (and adults) won't be disappointed. Visitors enter the park through World Bazaar, a replica of a small town in turn-of-the-century America complete with a Penny Arcade and a cinema showing vintage Disney cartoons. There are plenty of rides that will please lovers of Disney's classic movies. Take a crazy ride on Roger Rabbit's Car-Toon Spin in Toontown, or fly with Peter Pan over London and on to Never Land in Fantasyland.

## EUROPE

**Now – Aug 31. Summer Workshops at the Parc de la Villette, Paris, France:** Make like the locals in Paris this summer and get down to the Parc de la Villette for a selection of sunny workshops (ateliers). Take your pick from gardening, cooking, star gazing, painting and much more. French is not a prerequisite, but you're bound to pick up a few words while you're out enjoying yourself in the sunshine.

**19 Aug. Red Bull Air Race, Budapest, Germany:** The Red Bull Air race series stages spectacular stunt-flying competitions across the world. Fearless pilots race at speeds of up to 400 km/h through low-level inflatable "air gates". This leg of the competition takes place above the hills of Budapest.

**Saturdays and Sundays 1-31 Aug. Neapolitan Antique Fair:** The Neapolitan Antique Fair is a huge event featuring antique and modern furniture, arts & crafts and collectors' items. It is generally held on the third and fourth weekend of most months in Naples' beautiful Villa Comunale gardens.

## USA

**Now – 23 Aug. Chicago Summerdance, Spirit of Music Garden, Chicago:** The annual Chicago Summerdance provides an hour's worth of dance lessons to taped music, followed by free live music and dancing. The festival is held from Thursday to Saturday throughout the summer at Grant Park's Spirit of Music Garden. Summerdance brings in a multitude of musicians for visitors' dancing pleasure. Among the styles you might be introduced to are Celtic, Afro-Cuban, Balkan, West African hi-life, Brazilian forro, Hungarian, merengue, punta rock, Middle Eastern, Puerto Rican plena and klezmer.

**Now – 21 Aug. Hudson Riverflicks, Pier 54, Manhattan, NYC:** Free films are shown down by the riverside and out beneath the stars in Manhattan during the Hudson Riverflicks festival. Wednesday nights at Pier 54 is for adults while Fridays at Pier 46 for kids. In a romantic setting, Hudson Riverflicks entertains with cult classics and free popcorn. Films begin generally between 8pm and 8.30pm. **Now – 27 Aug. Santa Monica Pier Twilight Dance Series, Santa Monica Pier, Los Angeles:** The Santa Monica Pier Twilight Dance Series takes advantage of the beautiful Californian summer evenings in the stunning location of Santa Monica Pier. The event attracts performers playing everything from Latin jazz and pop to hip-hop and blues. Audiences for these free concerts each Thursday evening are increasing every year - last year approaching the 10,000 mark - so arrive early to get a good spot.

## AUGUST 24 – 30

### AUSTRALIA

**21- 30 Aug. Melbourne Writers Festival, Southbank, Melbourne:** The Melbourne Writers Festival brings together 250 writers from overseas, nationally and locally, for a ten day feast of ideas, debate, readings, discussions and interviews. In its 24th year, the festival presents 250 unique sessions at venues in Federation Square and nearby venues, and provides an opportunity to relax and mingle with writers and other audience members in the Atrium festival hub.

**27-31 Aug. Mikado – Gilbert and Sullivan, The Opera House, Sydney:** The Mikado Is Anthony Warlow Australia's most versatile stage performer today? He's certainly one of the funniest. Get ready to fall about laughing when he stars in this wacky romp through love, life and death. Three little

maids are on the loose in Titipu. Their guardian, Ko-Ko, aka the Lord High Executioner, intends to marry one of them, but his chosen bride Yum-Yum is in love with a wand'ring minstrel and part-time trombonist. Confused? Don't be, because this is Gilbert and Sullivan, so a happy ending is assured, with a song and a dance and some wicked jokes along the way. Anthony Warlow is Ko-Ko, Taryn Fiebig and Lorina Gore play the delectable Yum-Yum, and the Opera Australia Chorus sing up a storm in this irresistibly silly family favourite. Performed in English with subtitles. Running time is two hours and 40 minutes including one 20 minute interval.

**29 Aug. Stone Country Festival, Gunbalanya (Oenpelli), Northern Territory:** Share the culture and hospitality of the Gunbalanya (Oenpelli) community at the Stone Country Festival. The community of Gunbalanya (Oenpelli) in western Arnhem Land, through its traditional Aboriginal owners, welcomes visitors to spend the day in their community and share in the many activities taking place. Gunbalanya is located 320 kilometres east of Darwin and can be accessed via Kakadu National Park. The Stone Country Festival features a sports carnival, scenic flights, cultural dancing, painting and weaving demonstrations, bush foods, didjeridu-playing demonstrations, children's activities and novelty eves.

### NEW ZEALAND

**29 Aug. Whitianga Scallop Festival, Whitianga Marina, Coromandel:** Mouth watering indulgence!

A weekend long celebration of Coromandel seafood and cuisine.

Over 60 food and wine stalls, cooking demo's, loads of competitions and great entertainment! On Friday and Saturday nights Whitianga's restaurants and cafe's will be cooking up a storm and hosting some great entertainment too.

**29 Aug – 31 Aug. Gay Ski Week NZ, Novotel Queenstown:** New Zealand's South Island resort of Queenstown will live up to its name when hundreds of gay men and women arrive from all over the world to celebrate Gay Ski Week NZ now in our 7th year. Official Gay Ski Week functions include the Welcome Party, BUSTED! the after ski party, Cowboy Dinner, Karaoke Casino Night, Skyline Charity Dinner/Show, and the final night's White Out Party!

**27 -28 Aug. AUT Maori Expo 09, Vector Arena, Auckland:** By day it celebrates, educates and motivates, but by night it lets its hair down and becomes a festival on the floor with the biggest local music line up Vector Arena has ever seen. It's AUT Maori Expo '09. Now in its 14th year, Maori Expo is all about celebrating Maori achievement in all fields – cultural, political, sports, education, and the arts. After a day of stalls, debates, fashion shows and kapa haka, relax and unwind with AUT Maori Expo's first ever night concert. See six of our finest local acts in a way you've never seen them before; on a stage that's played host to the likes of Kanye West, the Kings of Leon, The Killers, Coldplay, and the Pussycat Dolls.

### INDIA

**29 – 6 Sep. Delhi Book Fair, Pragati Maidan:** The Delhi Book Fair brings together high-profile works and new editions recently published in India at the vast Pragati Maidan. The fair offers novels, non-fiction, children's and college text books. Magazines, maps, teaching aids and computer software are also on display.

**23- 25 Aug. Tarnetar Fair, Temple of Shiva: Tarnetar Fair** of Gujarat is a popular husband-hunt fair. During this fair young women with colorful dress walk through the Tarnetar Fair and choose their groom among the young men who assemble under gorgeously embroidered umbrellas. On the serious side, you will find a unique synthesis of folk music, folk art and color. The Tarnetar Fair is well known for its Rasda and Hudo dances where the dancers clap their hands and stamp their feet according to the rhythm of music. Rasada is a Gujarati folk dance performed by hundreds of women in colorful dresses at the Gujarat Tarnetar Fair.

### THAILAND

**30 Aug. Songkhla Marathon, Songkhla:** Marathon, Half Marathon, Mini Half Marathon, Wheel Chair Marathon, and Jogging for Health. Pick up your running shoes, and take the chance of running with our world's most seasoned athletes who look forward to this event. Come and take a challenge in the ultimate test of fitness and endurance, not to mention the chance to exercise in one of the most beautiful countries in the world.

### SINGAPORE

**21 Aug – 19 Sept. Ramadan, Singapore:** Every ninth month of the Islamic calendar, Muslims around the world fast for one month from dawn to dusk, breaking fast at sundown with special prayers at mosques. This practice serves to remind them to empathise with those less fortunate than themselves. Join in night-time festivities and see traditional dance performances during the fasting month of Ramadan in Singapore's Malaysian quarter.

### HONG KONG

**26 Aug. Seven Sisters Festival, Lovers' Rock:** The Seven Sisters Festival for unmarried girls and young lovers is a major date in the Chinese calendar and a spectacular event in Hong Kong. The focal point is Lovers' Rock in Wan Chai, but there are celebrations everywhere. Some of the rituals of the festival include needle-threading competitions and burning toiletries in seven sets to represent the seven sisters. As part of the worship, young women make offerings to the night sky and the two stars that represent the cowherd and the maid.

**27 Aug – 06 Sept. Murder in San Jose – a drama,** Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong: What

does it take to incite murder in a perfect migrant Chinese family? In this thrilling dissection of human frailty, an unexpected visit unleashes suspicion and jealousy. A critically acclaimed sell-out at this year's 37th Hong Kong Arts Festival, the play is back on stage in August starring three of Hong Kong's most celebrated and versatile actors: Alice Lau, Tang Wai-kit and Kearen Pang. Murder in San Jose is a class act that you should not miss.

### PHILIPPINES

**18 - 24 Aug. Kadayawan Sa Dabaw, Davao City:** The annual thanksgiving festival, Kadayawan Sa Dadaw brings a week of festivities to Davao City. Events include a fashion show, an agricultural fair and the highlight on Saturday, the Kadayawan parade. Colourful floats decorated with orchids process through the streets, followed by dancers moving to the tribal beat of wooden drums. Truly spectacular.

### JAPAN

**26 -27 Aug. Dai-Chochin Matsuri, Suwa Shrine:** A festival to ward off evil spirits and pray for a calm sea and a large catch. This festival features enormous chochin (paper lanterns), also known as "amazingly gigantic lanterns," which measure over 5 meters in diameter and 10 meters in length. The 12 sets of paper lanterns appearing at the festival are depicted with pictures and Chinese characters which embody all kinds of meanings and stories. The scene of the Dai-Chochin Tsurriage when the huge brightly-colored paper lanterns are hoisted up very slowly is just breathtaking.

**29 Aug. Asakusa Samba Carnival, Tokyo:** The streets of Tokyo's Asakusa district come alive with dancing girls, fabulous costumes and Latin sounds for Japan's version of the Rio Carnival. The highlight is the Grand Parade, which starts mid-afternoon and lasts for several hours.

### EUROPE

**24 Aug. Fifth Test Match, England vs. Australia (Final Day, Final Test), Oval Cricket Ground:** The battle for the Ashes resumes as England play Australia at the Oval in the final Test of the five-match power Test series.

**Now – 31 Aug. Robola Wine Festival, Fragata, Greece:** Fragata's first Robola Wine Festival was organised in 1978. Following its huge success it's been a fixture ever since. Every August visitors and locals enjoy food like boiled she-goat and feta, drink abundantly and participate in the village's traditional dances.

**Now - 31 Aug. Thornton Highland Gathering, Memorial Park, Scotland:** As usual, the might of the "heavy" events contrasts with the more artistic displays and competitions of Scottish dancing, as well as solo and team bagpiping. The "heavy" events include shot-putting, hammer-throwing and the most famous of Highland sports - tossing the caber. It may be stereotypical - large men in tartans hurling huge objects as far as they can - but it is also hugely impressive. There is a team event too - tug o' war - while cycling and field events are also included.

### USA

**24 Aug. Family Winemakers San Francisco Tasting, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco:** With its palate-tingling reputation, 300 of California's wineries come together at the Fort Mason Center to present some 1000 wines to the trade and public alike. It's the world's largest tasting of the Sunshine State's finest wine. Visitors are invited to savour, scrutinise, taste and toast the vast range of wine on offer. There's a lot to cram in, so make use of the Family Winemakers website to plan your time. Sunday's tasting is open to the public and trade. Monday's is for the wine-buying trade only.

**Now – 30 Aug. Kids' Summer at Theatrum Bontanicum, The Will Geer Theatrum Bontanicum, Los Angeles:** School is out; why not head to Theatrum Bontanicum for some summer fun! Every Sunday in August, the popular venue presents a range of educational activities for children. Highlights include entertainers from Peter Alsop's Kids Concerts. The events engage children by opening their eyes to the endless possibilities of performance art and theatre while educating them about nature.

**Now – 30 Aug. New York International Fringe Festival, Manhattan:** Visitors enjoy over two weeks of the weird, wild and wonderful at what is affectionately known as FringeNYC. The multi-arts festival, the largest in North America, features dance, puppetry, multimedia and just about anything else you would care to name. The multilingual theatre extravaganza includes only stuff you would see below 14th Street - in other words, off-off-Broadway. This is theatre for those who are tired of glossy, corporate musicals and prefer the alternative.

## AUG 31-SEPT 6

### AUSTRALIA

**04 – 10 Sept. Perth Fashion Festival, various venues, Perth, WA:** Perth will be awash with fashion fever as the annual Perth Fashion Festival comes to life for 2009. Presented by the City of Perth, this year the festival will showcase the latest Spring/Summer collections. The 2009 festival is set to be the biggest yet. Do it like Carrie and strap on your stilettos now for the coveted front row seats! For more information, visit perthfashionfestival.com.au.

### NEW ZEALAND

**05 Sept. Great Tastes Food Show, Forum North, Whangarei, Northland:** Indulge yourself in a "delicious day out" at the bi-annual Great Taste Food Show. Exhibitors from throughout Northland and further afield will showcase a wide range of products and gastronomic delights for the public to sample and buy. Doors open at 8:30am. Small entry fee applies. Show includes Northland's Barista

competition, the famous "ready steady cook" competition comprising of Northland's talented young chefs; and wine tasting classes with none other than wine connoisseur Mr Vic Williams.

### INDIA

**05 Sept. Delhi Book Fair, Pragati Maidan, Delhi:** The Delhi Book Fair brings together high-profile works and new editions recently published in India at the vast Pragati Maidan. The fair offers novels, non-fiction, children's and University text books. Magazines, maps, teaching aids and computer software is also on display, all the resources you need to become a worm for a day!

### THAILAND

**05 Sept. Monthly Auctions, River City Shopping Complex:** These monthly auctions are a fantastic opportunity to pick up genuine antiques and traditional handicrafts from Thailand and beyond at reasonable prices. The auctions offer anything from ceramics and porcelains to woodcarvings and laquer ware from China, Japan, Vietnam and Burma. Viewings take place between 11am and 5pm, five days before the auction. A collectors dream!

### SINGAPORE

**Now – 13 Dec. Baba Bling: The Peranakans and their Jewellery, Peranakan Museum:** an exhibition showcasing some of the finest jewellery from Peranakan families and private collectors. Over 300 glittering jewels will be on display, including some of the oldest surviving pieces of Peranakan jewellery form the 19th century, as well as contemporary pieces, from Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

**Now – 21st Jan 2010, From Vintage to Grand Prix, Singapore Philatelic Museum:** Gearing up for the 2009 Grand Singapore Grand Prix, this exhibit will take you on a trip of discovery of the history of the automobile from its early steam-powered version that resembles a horse-drawn carriage to today's performance cars that not only win awards for their speed but for design as well. Explore an era of car development to understand man's fascination with speed and the thrill of the ultimate grand prix racing through stamps and philatelic materials.

### HONG KONG

**01 – 13 Sept. Architecture is Art Festival: Rethinking Cultural Waterfront, various venues around Hong Kong:** Architecture is Art Festival will re-examine architecture from an artistic point of view, manifesting various artistic possibilities of architecture with different art forms. For more information, visit www.aiaf.hk

**Now – 07 Sept. International Film Festival, various venues around Hong Kong:** From Bollywood to Hollywood, this popular film festival features over 60 screenings of the coolest titles from Asian cinema and the latest award-winning films from world-class film festivals.

### PHILIPPINES

**Now – 31 Sept. The Hobbit House, Malate, Manila:** Unmissable on a trip to the Philippines is The Hobbit House is Malate. A die-hard Tolkien fan welcomes visitors to 'The Shires', where they can listen to folk, blues and funk while enjoying beers and tequila served by cheery pint-sized Filipinos.

### JAPAN

**01 – 03 Sept. Owara Kaze-no-Bon Festival, Toyama:** Locals of Yatsuo-machi in Toyama take time out from work to don traditional costume and celebrate the Owara Kaze-no-Bon Festival. Their singing, dancing and lantern-lighting are thought to protect the town from wind damage and encourage a successful autumnal harvest.

**04 – 06 Sept. Tokyo Jazz Festival, Tokyo International Forum:** The laid-back melodies of big bands, quartets and soloists from across the world fill the Tokyo International Forum during its annual Jazz Festival. Join foot-tapping audiences for a lunchtime or evening concert, or treat your ears to a one-day pass.

### EUROPE

**31 Aug. Notting Hill Carnival, London:** Around a million people hit Notting Hill's streets in West London for Europe's biggest carnival. Fabulous floats make a colourful circuit of the area and sound systems blast out music all day. Sample delicious Caribbean jerk chicken or Jamaican patties.

**28 Aug – 01 Sept. International Beatle Week, Liverpool:** The annual International Beatle Week is a celebration of the music and lives of one of the best pop groups of all time. Naturally, there's only one place for it to be held - their home town, Liverpool. Over the week there are guided tours, auctions, the annual Beatles convention and performances by scores of bands and tribute groups. Catch the action at the world-famous Cavern Club and all over town.

### USA

**04 – 05 Sept. Beach, Boogie and BBQ Festival, Myrtle Beach:** Slap on some sunscreen and join in with the Beach Boogie & BBQ Festival in Myrtle Beach. One of the highlights of the Sun Fun Festival, the two-day event includes live music and South Carolina's official barbecue competition. The festival is a mix of everything from classic car shows to arts and crafts vendors and there's a buzzing children's area. Sign up for the 5K run/walk if you're feeling fit, or unwind with a boat ride across the lake.

**05 Sept. The Irvington Stomp, White Fences Vineyard and Winery:** The Irvington Stomp is an annual harvest-time festival at the White Fences Vineyard in Irvington. To celebrate the harvest, attendees are invited to stomp grapes in individual barrels or in a large family-sized barrel. A 'King and Queen of the Stomp' is decided through a 'stomp-off' between local officials and luminaries and there is also live music..