

Travel Log

Our roundup of the best Down Under news, views and gossip

Photos: Shutterstock, Swimhut Words: Liane Voisey

FABULOUS SWIMWEAR ALL YEAR ROUND

It's never easy finding swimwear in the shops when you're still struggling with cold temperatures in the UK, which is why, if you're planning a long-haul flight to sunnier climes, it's worth logging onto Swimhut.com which has just launched its 2008 range, and offers fabulous swimwear all year round for men, women and girls of all shapes and sizes. With styles from brands such as Red Carter, Sunseeker, Island Company and Moontide, you're spoilt for choice, and better still, many styles are exclusive to Swimhut.com. Customers also get free delivery and free returns, with overnight delivery also available. Lucky readers can get a 10 per cent discount of orders between 3 April to 1 May if they quote 'Australia and NZ magazine'. www.swimhut.com



Hollywood comes to the Whitsundays

The success of America's latest box office hit *Fool's Gold* has been attributed to the spectacular footage of Australia's stunning Whitsunday islands and Great Barrier Reef. With a backdrop of pristine white beaches and turquoise sea, Hollywood lists Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson as estranged married couple searching for lost treasure.

The cast and crew made Hamilton Island their home while shooting the movie – which is released in the UK on 18 April. In their spare time, McConaughey is regularly seen out jogging or driving around in a golf buggy, while Hudson liked shopping in the boutiques.

"It is easy to see why Hamilton was such a draw for Hollywood," said Hamilton Island's marketing director Michelle Kenna. "It truly is one of the most beautiful locations in Australia and is the ideal base from which to explore the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef."

Book a one-week stay on Hamilton Island from £1,369 pp (inc flights and B&B) through Trailfinders on 0845 050 5871 www.trailfinders.com



DID YOU KNOW? There are 8,222 islands in Australia. Queensland has 1,955, Western Australia has 3,747, Tasmania has 1,000, Northern Territory has 887, South Australia has 346, Victoria has 184, and New South Wales has 103. *SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA.

IN-FLIGHT GURUS FOR AIR NZ

Ever sat on a long-haul flight wanting to know information about your destination that isn't in the guidebook?

Air New Zealand is set to provide the answers when it becomes the world's first

Zealand, escorting passengers to and from aircraft, staying with passengers who are affected by weather disruption and helping with onward bookings. The airline thought up the idea after cabin crew said they were too busy to

FLYING TO SYDNEY WAS SUPERSONIC, BABY!

Thinking of moving to Australia but put off by the long 21 hour flight to get there? A UK firm has unveiled plans for a hypersonic passenger jet that could take just five

3000mph. Designed by Reaction Engines, the A2 could be here within 25 years if there was a demand for it, said senior engineer Alan Bond. The engine would run on liquid hydrogen in order to reach the required speeds, and

ROMANCE IS OFF

Spare a thought for the shipwrecked passengers of the Australian schooner *Romance* whose crew ended with them being winched up to safety by helicopter. The Airline community called a