

Summer 2019

In our Summer Newsletter:

- Our Birthday AND Name Change!
- Save the Date for February 2020
- Lauren cruises on the Ovation of the Seas

- Foodies Guide to Thailand
- 10 Travel Tips for Seniors
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Until next year, Merry Christmas & happy holidays!
From Deb, Lauren, Lucy, Georga & Jen xo

CELEBRATION TIME FOR US!

They say that a change is as good as a holiday! Of course, *nothing* is as good as holiday, but a big birthday AND a name change is very exciting!

You might have already noticed some changes around the place. On 19 December we will formally change our name to Helloworld Travel Monbulk. For years now we have been aligned with Helloworld Travel, but now we have decided to become a fully accredited member with all the business support that comes with it.

NEW NAME, SAME FACES

Our name has changed and our office will look different with the new colour scheme, but nothing else will change. You will still be provided with the same brilliant local service that you have come to expect.

"I couldn't be more proud of what we've all accomplished in the 10 years we have been operating in Monbulk. We've gone from strength to strength over the years, and not only have we become one of the most respected businesses in the district. We've taken great pride investing back into our community, in terms of both financial support and involvement in community initiatives.

Without the professionalism and dedication of my amazing team, none of this would have ever been possible. I am truly honoured to have the friendship and support of this incredible group of women", Jenny Watson, owner of Nexus Travel Monbulk, now Helloworld Travel Monbulk

helloworld
TRAVEL
THE TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS
MONBULK

OUR TEAM:

- Has tripled in size over the past ten years
- Have travelled to 66 countries combined, and amassed an enormous amount of knowledge along the way
- Have won numerous awards
- Are extremely skilled, creative & reliable travel experts

10 year
Celebrations!

Save the Date!

FRIDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY, 2020
5-7PM

Nexus Travel, now Helloworld Travel Monbulk



OVATION OF THE SEAS: Cruise Review by Lauren

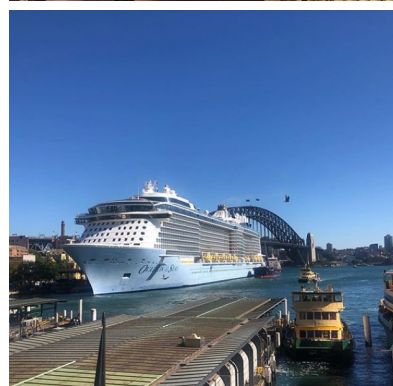
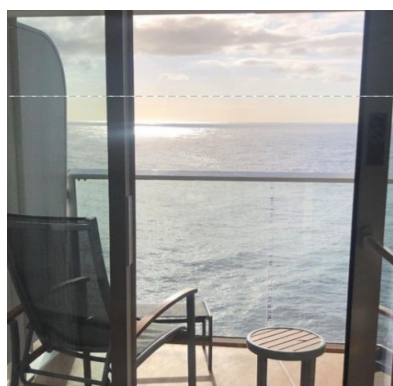
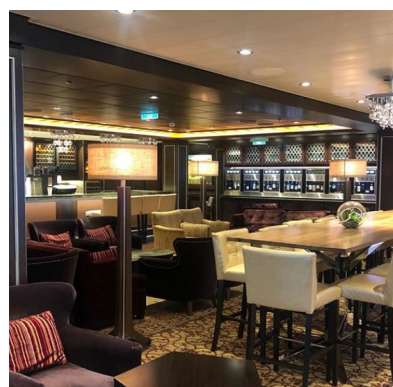
I was excited to explore the Ovation of the Seas recently on a 3-day cruise. From the moment we arrived at Circular Quay in Sydney, I was absolutely blown away by the size of Ovation of the Seas. She is something extraordinary to see. This beauty was constructed in 2015, is 350 metres in length, 169000 tonne and holds a capacity of 5000 passengers, plus crew! She isn't even the largest ship in Royal Caribbean's fleet, they are floating hotels.

When I said there is something for everybody on a cruise ship – the Ovation of the Seas is perfect for young families! Where do I start? Dodgem cars, table tennis, full size basketball court, Zumba classes, rock climbing wall, running track, sky diving simulator, water slides, Xbox room, roller skating rink, games arcade and multiple swimming pools. While the kids are having a ball, Mum and Dad could be having a massage, having a drink in one of the many bars & restaurants, relaxing by the pool, playing bingo, doing a Sushi making class, watching a Jazz band or walking off those cruise kilo's in the ocean-view gym.

If you're a foodie, a cruise couldn't be a better type of holiday. Particularly with a large ship like the Ovation, you're offered an array of restaurants, majority of which are included in the price you've already paid. If you don't feel like a buffet lunch, head down to Sorrento's for a pizza or up to the English Pub for old fashioned fish and chips or a Guinness Pie! One very cool part of the ship is the Bionic Bar – order yourself a drink on the iPads provided and within a couple of minutes a robot will have made your drink, to order! Unfortunately, we realised we're looking straight into the future.

Another bonus is you unpack once. In each room you'll find a closet with coat hangers and plenty of space to lay out your suitcase. My lovely room attendant Beny went above and beyond to ensure my stay was comfortable. After breakfast each morning he made up my room and again that evening whilst we were out for dinner.

There is no denying that cruising is fantastic value for money – if you're not a big drinker you could get away with spending very little onboard. The short 3 night cruise that I had the pleasure of taking was a great taster for those who had not cruised before, I would highly recommend trying this with friends, or as a family, if you're considering cruising for your next holiday to ensure you can handle those sea legs. I do believe there is a cruise line and a cruise ship for everybody and for those who haven't cruised it's our job as Travel Specialists to ensure you are perfectly matched with the right ship that suits your taste.



FOODIES GUIDE TO THAILAND

Thailand is one of the world's greatest street food destinations and as soon as you arrive and start exploring you'll discover that there's an abundance of delicious things to eat everywhere you look. Along with street food, Thailand is also a country where restaurants of all levels, serving both Thai and an extensive range of international cuisine, are flourishing.



Thai Street Food

Street food is one of the ultimate joys of being in Thailand. You can get anything from a snack to eat while you're walking down the sidewalk, to an entire sit-down meal feast on the streets, twenty four hours a day. Bowls of piping hot noodles, stir fried dishes all sorts of curries, grilled meats, and green papaya salad, are just a few examples of foods you'll encounter.

Local Thai restaurants (shophouses)

While we really love street food and the atmosphere of dining on the streets, the best Thai food comes from local restaurants, or shophouse restaurants – the taste of food is often a notch above street food. Some shophouse restaurants actually started off as street food stalls, but due to success or progression, they have since moved into a more permanent facility. Shophouse restaurants are where many of the best traditional Thai and Thai Chinese chefs operate from.



Fine Thai Dining

When you choose a fine dining Thai restaurant in Bangkok, you have to be careful. There are many high-end restaurants that serve mediocre food (at best), that's actually watered down from the real Thai taste, but just prettified. The good news is, there are a growing handful of higher end restaurants that are truly serving outstanding Thai food, using high quality ingredients, and being creative, yet not compromising the balance and robustness of Thai flavours.

Thai Eating Etiquette

Thai food is normally eaten "family style". You order a selection of dishes to share amongst everyone at the table. It's typical that everyone would get their own plate of rice and then start by taking a little of one dish and eating that before taking a little more of a different dish. Thai etiquette is to approach a shared meal with care always respecting others and taking care not to inconvenience anyone at the table. Thai food is normally eaten using a fork and spoon together. The spoon dominates as the main tool and the fork acts to help push food onto the spoon. Chopsticks are almost exclusively used for soup noodles but are rarely used to eat rice or curry.

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS FOR TRAVEL LOVERS

Do you have someone in your life that is hard to find that special Christmas Gift for? Are they a travel junkie? We've been doing some research and we've come up with 9 great suggestions to fit any budget.

- A microfibre turban for less than \$10 is perfect for drying hair on the fly
- Compression Socks come in all sorts of jazzy colours these days
- A bright funky passport cover makes it easy to find in the bottom of their bag
- A funny, personalised or bright coloured luggage label will ensure that their suitcase is always easy to identify .
- A world wall map to record their travels and plan their next holiday
- Bluetooth and/or noise cancelling earphones are always a good idea – there are even waterproof versions!
- An Audible subscription is a great gift for those book lovers



OR give the ultimate **gift of travel** – a Helloworld Monbulk Gift Voucher could be just the ticket. Our gift certificates can be used toward flights, hotels, insurance, tours, anything. They can be personalised and can be any amount from \$20.

10 TRAVEL TIPS FOR SENIORS

As a rule, today's senior travellers are healthier and more energetic than ever before. But even for these folks, travel abroad is not without questions and concerns.

1. You'll definitely need travel insurance. Seniors pay more for travel insurance, but are also more likely to use it.
2. Ensure that your suitcase has wheels so that you can roll it along behind you and if you bring a second bag, make it a small one that stacks neatly on top of your wheeled bag.
3. Pack a full supply of your medications. It can be almost impossible to fill a prescription overseas. Transport your prescription drugs in their labelled containers and carry a copy of the written prescription with you to avoid problems at the airport.
4. Keep your medication in your carry-on bag in case your checked baggage is delayed.
5. Drink lots of water during your flights, and get up frequently to stretch your legs.
6. Spend at least two nights in each place to allow yourself a more leisurely tempo.
7. Pack a small magnifying glass to help you read detailed maps; a keychain torch for dark hotel hallways; and a small notebook to jot down facts and reminders.
8. Always ask about seniors' discounts, even if you don't see them posted—you may be surprised.
9. If you're travelling with more active companions and need a break, set a rendezvous point in a sidewalk café for a drink and people-watching.
10. If you wear a hearing aid, be sure to bring spare batteries. Don't forget the charger for your iPod, camera and mobile phone.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

From Jen, Deb, Lauren, Lucy & Georga

This year we are skipping our Christmas party and having ONE BIG PARTY on February 7th to celebrate our 10th Birthday. We wish you and your family a very safe and happy festive season and summer holidays.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OFFICE HOURS

Christmas Eve: 9am – 4pm

Christmas Day: closed

Boxing Day: closed

Fri Dec 27: 9am – 5pm

Sat Dec 28: closed

Sun Dec 29: closed

Mon Dec 30: 9am – 5pm

New Years Eve: 9am – 3pm

New Years Day: closed

Thur Jan 2: 9am – 5pm



MEET THE TEAM...

At Nexus Travel Monbulk we live and breathe travel. We have lots of stamps in our passports and many more ideas to help design your dream holiday. Pop in anytime for a chat with Deb, Lauren, Lucy and Georga, or email us at: admin@nexustravel.com.au

FIND US AT

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