

Travel Guide

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Distant Destinations are worth the long flight !!

By SALLY RUTENBERG

The modern airplane has brought many countries to our doorstep and has increased our appetite to explore the strange lands and visit the people who inhabit them. However, even now many people refrain from flying to Australia and far east because of the amount of time spent in the air just to get there. On our recent trip we found that the flight from Los Angeles to Sydney Australia was made quite bearable by our approach to the problem. We refrained from alcohol and caffeine and restricted our fluid intake to water and juices. This plus a mild sedative prescribed by our doctor enabled us to relax and sleep for a good portion of the trip.

We left Los Angeles about 10p.m. and landed in Sydney about 11a.m. the next morning - time zones and the international date line all added up to about 14 hours in the air. A light but pleasant breakfast prepared us for our arrival in Sydney and the first part of our adventures. Do not let the thought of a long flight prevent you from traveling because it can open the door to many exotic and wonderful places.

For people with a sense of adventure and a thirst for knowledge, a trip to Australia and the Java Seas is an extraordinary experience filled with primitive tribal cultures, rare and remarkable wildlife and spectacular scenic splendor. Our 28 day trip took us to the modern city of Sydney, Australia's largest city. Skyscrapers, the Sydney harbour bridge and the spectacular opera house dominate the skyline of this cosmopolitan city with its fabulous parks, gardens and

golden beaches a short distance away.

Leaving Sydney we flew north to Cairns where we boarded the ship the Orient Pearl our home for the next 18 days. The Great Barrier Reef one of the wonders of the world extends for 1,240 miles along the north east coast of Australia and is a labyrinth of unimaginable colour, a lacy coral kingdom sheltering up to 1500 species of fish and aquatic life. We viewed much of this from glass bottomed boats, windowed submersible and through the masks of our snorkles.

In the days to follow we visited Port Moresley in Papua New Guinea, Kahadu National Park near Darwin, Australia (Crocodile Dundee land) the island of Kormodo with its monster lizards (dragons) as much as 11 feet long, the island of Bali and it's beautiful rice fields terraced to make the maximum use of the limited space and the abundant rainfall and many other exotic and entrancing places and peoples with their ancient cultures unspoiled by our so called civilization.

Our trip ended in Singapore a world class city, clean, busy, orderly, tropically lush with flowers, parks and gardens and the inevitable bargain of Far East shopping.

Our flight back was long by way of Tokyo and Los Angeles but again we were able to relax and rest. We arrived home with a new insight on how to cope with the rigors of long distance travel.



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