

For Six Month Period Ending MAR 31 2004
(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant (b) Registration No. 4777
DEVELOPMENT COUNSELLORS INT'L

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant
461 PARK AVE. SOUTH
NEW YORK, NY
10016

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

- (a) If an individual:
- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Residence address | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Citizenship | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Occupation | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
- (b) If an organization:
- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Name | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Ownership or control | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Branch offices | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.

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IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.
Yes No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (a waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Internal Security Section, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name Position Date Connection Ended

(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name Residence Address Citizenship Position Date Assumed

5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal? Yes No

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service.

(b) Have any employee or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name Position or connection Date terminated

(c) During this six month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name Residence Address Citizenship Position Date Assumed

6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement? Yes No

N/A

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

FLANDERS

Date of termination

12/31/03

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal² during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes No

If yes, furnish following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

HONG KONG
SINGITA
TASMANIA

10. EXHIBITS A AND B

(a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following:

Exhibit A³ Yes No N/A
Exhibit B⁴ Yes No

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during this six month period? Yes No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

2 The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

3 The Exhibit A, which is filed on form CRM-157 (Formerly OBD-67) sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

4 The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form CRM-155 (Formerly OBD-65) sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

HONG KONG TOURISM: PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PROMOTIONAL IDEAS TO ATTRACT TOURISTS TO HONG KONG

FLANDERS: DEVELOP A MARKETING STRATEGY

SINGITA: DEVELOP A PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN

TASMANIA: DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM COVERING CONSUMER TRADE & MEDIA

12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places, of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

13. In addition to the activities described above, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes No

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government, a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS-MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes No

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies⁶

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
10/1/03 - 3/31/04	HONG KONG	FEE	\$ 63,000.00
10/1/03 - 3/31/04	SINGITA	FEE	\$ 12,000.00
10/1/03 - 3/31/04	TASMANIA	FEE	\$ 54,000.00
10/1/03 - 12/31/03	FLANDERS	FEE	\$ 20,000.00
			Total
			\$ 149,000.00

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D to your registration? Yes No

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____.

(c) RECEIPTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal	Date received	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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6, 7 A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

8 An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

9 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) **DISBURSEMENTS-MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes No

(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes No

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

All expense MONIES WERE PAID IN the U.S.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
------	---------	---------	--------

Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date disposed	Name of person to whom given	On behalf of what foreign principal	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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(c) DISBURSEMENTS-POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or thing of value	Name of political organization	Name of candidate
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10, 11 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials¹²?
Yes No

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal:

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- Radio or TV broadcasts
- Magazine or newspaper articles
- Motion picture films
- Letters or telegrams
- Advertising campaigns
- Press releases
- Pamphlets or other publications
- Lectures or speeches
- Internet
- Other (specify) _____

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- Public Officials
- Newspapers
- Libraries
- Legislators
- Editors
- Educational institutions
- Government agencies
- Civic groups or associations
- Nationality groups
- Other (specify) _____

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- English
- Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act? Yes No

¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI-EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

4/19/04

(Type or print name under each signature¹³)

Carrie Nepo

CARRIE NEPO

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¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

THIS FORM IS TO BE AN OFFICIAL ATTACHMENT TO YOUR CURRENT
SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT - PLEASE EXECUTE IN TRIPLICATE

SHORT-FORM REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET

SECTION A

The Department records list active short-form registration statements for the following persons of your organization filed on the date indicated by each name. If a person is not still functioning in the same capacity directly on behalf of the foreign principal, please show the date of termination.

Short Form List For Registrant: Development Counsellors International

Last Name	First Name and Other Names	Registration Date	Termination Date	Role
Bendel	Margaret R.	3/12/93		
Levine	Andrew T.	3/12/93		

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2004 APR 23 AM 9:45

SECTION B

In addition to those persons listed in Section A, list below all current employees rendering services directly on behalf of the foreign principal(s) who have not as yet filed short-form registration statements. (Do not list clerks, secretaries, typists or employees in a similar or related capacity. If there is some question as to whether an employee has an obligation to file a short-form, please address a letter to us describing the activities and connection with the foreign principal.)

Name	Function	Date Hired

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Title: _____

MEDIA ALERT

Satellite Uplink for International Musical Fireworks Competition U.S. Vs. Japan In Sparkling Showdown October 12, 2003

What: International Musical Fireworks Competition

Where: Hong Kong

When: Sunday, October 12, 2003
11:45-12:25 GMT

Why: A U.S. team of fireworks professionals (Infinity Visions of Bellevue, Washington -- www.infinityvisions.com) battle the Japanese team in 10-minute displays choreographed to music. The first of its kind in Asia, the all-new competition started on October 1 and also includes teams from Italy and Hong Kong. At the conclusion of the U.S vs. Japan showdown, a "Champion of Champions" will be declared.

The competition is the latest in a series of mega events sponsored by the Hong Kong Tourism Board as part of its Global Tourism Revival Campaign.

Satellite Uplink: RTHK - SATELLITE UPLINK
Video Link: PW918161

A. Asiasat 2 (100.5') C band XP 2A Ch. 1, UL: 5912 Mhz (H)/ DL:3687 Mhz (V)
Symbol Rate = 6,1113, FEC = 3/4

B. Eurosat W1 (10') B5 Ch B, DL: 11141.75 (H)
Symbol Rate = 6,1113, FEC = 3/4

C: PAS-2/05 C MCPC Ch1 (169E)
U/L 6075. Mhz (V), D/L 3850 Mhz (H), Allocated Bandwidth (Mbits): 8:00
Symbol rate (M/s): 14.9, FEC: 2/3, Virtual Channel 1, Network ID:1

D: Pas-9/10C MCPC Ch. 7 (58W')
U/L 6105 Mhz (V), D/L 3880 Mhz (H), Allocated Bandwidth (Mbits); 8:00
Symbol rate: (Ms/s): 27.69, FEC: 7/8 Virtual Channel: 7, Network ID: 5002

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GRN/105

Copy on Approval
October 21, 2003

Hong Kong Goes All Out for 2004 ASTA World Travel Congress *43 Pre and Post Tours in 8 Asian Countries, 6 Cruises, Unrivalled Hotel Offers*

MIAMI (October 24, 2003) -- When the 74th ASTA World Travel Congress is held in Hong Kong next September 28 – October 3, 2004, travel agents will be able to choose from an unrivalled selection of nearly 50 Pre and Post tours and cruises, as well as dozens of appealing hotel offers.

“Hong Kong is honored to host the 2004 ASTA World Travel Congress and will be rolling out the red carpet to showcase the diversity and sophistication of Asia’s world city,” said Clara Chong, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), today in a press briefing at the 2003 ASTA conference. Highlighting HKTB’s new “Live It, Love It” Global Tourism Revival marketing campaign, Mrs. Chong and Hong Kong Hotel Association Chairman Mark Lettenbichler revealed well-developed plans for next year’s conference, which is expected to be the last held outside of North America.

Travel agents participating in the five-day conference will be able to select accommodations from among 20 of Hong Kong’s premier hotels, which blend the best of Western amenities with Eastern service. Options run the gamut from the world-renown Peninsula Hong Kong with its fleet of Rolls-Royce limousines and helicopters (\$230/night) to The Charterhouse Hotel, a boutique-style hotel within walking distance of the convention center, shopping and the entertainment district (\$70/night).

During the conference, ASTA delegates will be offered free guided tours of Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, harbor cruises and tours of the New Territories and Outlying Islands designed to educate agents about the rural side of Hong Kong. The congress also coincides with the China National Day celebrations on October 1 when dazzling fireworks displays light up the dramatic skyline surrounding Victoria Harbor.

Underscoring Hong Kong’s strategic location at the heart of Asia, 43 different tours will be offered in eight countries immediately before and after the conference.

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Page 2...Hong Kong Goes All Out for 2004 ASTA World Travel Congress

China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam have put together offerings ranging from a one-day golf tour in China to a nine-day tour of Bangkok, Phuket and other south Thailand cities. There are also six different cruise tours departing from Hong Kong's famed Victoria Harbor.

In addition, a dozen top hotels in other Asian countries are offering discounts to travel agents who book stays immediately before or after the World Travel Congress.

Participants include the following:

- China – JW Marriott Hotel Shanghai, Renaissance Shanghai Pudong Hotel
- Indonesia – Novotel Coralia Lombok, Raddin Sanur Bali, The Royal Seminyak
- Thailand – JW Marriott Hotel Bangkok, JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa, Novotel Bangkok on Siam Square Hotel, Regency Park Bangkok, Sofitel Silom Bangkok
- Vietnam – Sofitel Metropole Hanoi, Sofitel Plaza Hanoi

During the press briefing today, HKTb also previewed plans for numerous tourism developments planned or now underway in Hong Kong. Among these are an exciting new Avenue of the Stars and other improvements in the Tsim Sha Tsui area; Hong Kong Disneyland opening on Lantau Island in 2005/2006; a stunning new waterfront and cultural district in West Kowloon; and other projects ranging from a new Victoria Harbor lighting show (2003/2004) to the opening of a second cruise terminal ((2008/2009.)

To register for the 2004 ASTA World Travel Congress in Hong Kong and qualify for the special Pre and Post tours, cruises and hotel offers, complete the registration form in the back of the conference brochure. The registration form may also be obtained by calling 800-ASK-ASTA (for members), ASTA's Meetings Department at (703) 739-2782 (non-members) or visit www.astanet.com.

For more information about Hong Kong, visit www.DiscoverHongKong.com/usa or call 1-800-282-HKTb (4582).

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For Immediate Release

WinterFest Transforms Hong Kong into Christmas Wonderland With Bright Lights, Family Fun, Shopping and Dining Delights

LOS ANGELES (November 2003) – Hong Kong WinterFest is one of the world's premier holiday festivals that just keeps getting bigger and better. Slated for November 27 through January 4 this year, the event will be held for the first time in the city's central business district and will bring together bright lights and dazzling decorations, family fun, world-class shopping and special dining promotions. International horse racing and culinary cooking demonstrations by award-winning chefs top off the celebration.

Central's Statue Square, which is surrounded by a unique mix of historic colonial monuments, gleaming office towers and opulent shopping centers, will be transformed into a **Christmas Wonderland** with festive decorations and a giant **Wishing Tree** as its centerpiece. The tallest Christmas tree in town, the **Wishing Tree** will be accompanied by lighting, musical effects and an interactive element that allows visitors and locals to add their personal wishes. A miniature **Reindeer Express** will add even more excitement.

A special **Jingle Bell Boulevard** is also being created where hundreds of jingling Christmas bells and sparkling snowflakes will line both sides of the covered walkway and pedestrian tunnel that lead from Ferry Pier to Statue Square. People will be encouraged to add their holiday wishes to the ornaments, as well as ring a pair of oversized Christmas bells for good wishes.

On December 20, **A Symphony of Lights** launches. Nearly 30 skyscrapers and landmarks around Victoria Harbor will be decked out in a synchronized lighting show, accompanied by music, to enhance the holiday spirit. The spectacular light show will include fireworks every night for the first month.

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Page 2...Hong Kong WinterFest

Neighborhoods around Statue Square also will be adorned with joyful holiday decorations and lighting. Likewise, Hong Kong's famed Star Ferry, Peak Tram and other public transportation will be aglow with special lighting. The waterfront at Tsim Sha Tsui East will also be lit up in classic style beginning November 28.

Adding to the festive and joyful ambience around the Central area will be a band of street performers dressed as Santa Claus. Choral singing, juggling, mime performances and many other street activities will all be part of the fun.

To encourage family travel, the Hong Kong Tourism Board is publishing a special **Family Fun Guide** and offering a special **Junior Explorer's Passport** during WinterFest. The passport rewards visitors with a list of merchants, restaurants and attractions that have special offers for families. The guidebook highlights attractions, kid-friendly shopping and dining outlets and entertainment programs that will appeal to families. The **World Carnival at Tamar**, for example, starts December 16 and offers thrilling rides for young and old alike.

For adult visitors, a special **Santa's Passport to Great Shopping** will feature Christmas gift-giving ideas from merchants accredited by QTS (Quality Tourism Services), along with special discounts. A special **Shopping and Dining Delights** section of the WinterFest Activities Guide will highlight the specialties and special deals offered by Hong Kong's shopping malls and food districts during the winter festival.

WinterFest also offers a prime time for visitors to take in world-class horse racing. On December 14, **Hong Kong International Races** is expected to attract horsemen, owners and spectators from around the globe to the Sha Tin Racetrack in the New Territories. The day comprises four international races, along with Hong Kong's only thoroughbred sale, a jockey championship and other popular events. Life-size horse statues at major tourist spots around Hong Kong will call attention to the international races, as well as themed racing days on December 10 and 26. Special "Come Horseracing" tours also are being offered, which include roundtrip transfers, admission badge to the Racing Box, buffet meal, betting orientation and voucher, guided tours and

more. For details, visit www.splendidtours.com or www.grayline.com.hk.

Especially exciting for those who truly appreciate the gastronomic excellence of Hong Kong as the "Culinary Capital of Asia," WinterFest coincides this year with the culmination of the **2003 Best of the Best Culinary Awards**. Award-winning chefs will be invited to demonstrate their cooking skills and reveal some of their trade secrets as only thoroughbred sale, a jockey championship and other popular events. Life-size horse statues at major tourist spots around Hong Kong will call attention to the international races, as well as themed racing days on December 10 and 26. The special two-hour cooking classes will be held at the Towngas Cooking Center on December 10, 11, 17 and 18. Participants will sample the award-winning dishes and two other classic specialties, as well as bring home the recipes for each.

Examples of the multitude of special packages offered for WinterFest include:

- **Aberdeen Tours Winterfest \$999 for 2!** -- This special offer is just \$999 for two people and includes airfare, 3 nights at a four-star hotel, half-day island tour, free entrance to the Museum of History and "Meet the People" cultural programs. For details, call (877) 956-8886 or e-mail info@aberdeentours.com
- **Hong Kong WinterFest by Asian Adventure** – Starting at just \$799, this package includes roundtrip airfare from Los Angeles, San Francisco or New York, five nights at a choice of nearly a dozen hotels, half-day island tour and services of a local host for local tours or shopping suggestions. The package also features a special shopping value pack, which includes a free gift when shopping at one of Hong Kong's leading jewelers, a discount coupon worth \$250HK toward purchases at selective stores and participation in a drawing for a \$1million HK credit card shopping spree. Call (866) 238-8388 for details.
- **United Vacations 5 Day Hong Kong Winterfest** – This special offer, starting at \$850, includes roundtrip airfare from San Francisco, Los Angeles or New York on United Airlines, three nights at the Novotel Century Harbor View, free island hopping pass and more. Call (800) 917-9246 or visit www.UV-Asia.com

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Page 4...Hong Kong WinterFest

- **GTS Globotours “Shop for Less”** – Shoppers can enjoy great savings on everything from designer fashions and antiques to electronics and hand-tailored clothing when they take this seven-day trip to Hong Kong during WinterFest. The package includes roundtrip airfare on Cathay Pacific or Asiana Airlines, five nights at a choice of hotels, VIP discounts at more than 600 outlets and more. For details, call (800) 988-4833 or visit www.globotours.net.

~ For more information about Hong Kong, visit www.DiscoverHongKong.com/usa or call 1-800-282-HKTB (4582).

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For Immediate Release
December 4, 2003

800 Free Airline Tickets to Hong Kong Up for Grabs In Fun, Easy Game At www.DiscoverHongKong.com

LOS ANGELES (December 2003) -- Between now and December 23, 2003, 800 free roundtrip airline tickets to Hong Kong will be given away in a fast, easy game on www.DiscoverHongKong.com.

Organized by the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) and sponsored by Cathay Pacific Airways and Dragonair, the "Hong Kong – Live It, Love It" online game offers free airfare from 26 cities worldwide to Hong Kong. There are 60 tickets allocated to U.S. participants, with flights offered from New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The consumer promotion is part of Hong Kong's new "Live It, Love It" global marketing campaign designed to sustain the tourism revival momentum and strengthen the city's position as one of the world's most popular destinations.

The "Hong Kong – Live It, Love It" game gives contestants 10 seconds to view six fabulous photos of Hong Kong and memorize their captions, such as "Feel It," "Taste It," and "Experience It." To play the game, contestants simply match the slogans with the images. There is no time limit and contestants can press the "help" button at any time during the game. After correctly matching the photos and captions, contestants are asked to complete a simple registration form that enters them in the drawing.

Every registered contestant will be asked to invite friends to play the game and will be given an additional chance to win if a referral is registered successfully. Each contestant can gain a maximum of 50 bonus points for referrals.

There will be four weekly draws held in Hong Kong for the free roundtrip economy-class tickets. The game is open to all non-Hong Kong residents 21 years or older, unless prohibited by law, and no purchase is necessary to enter or win. The Cathay

Pacific Airways tickets must be used by March 15, 2004.

Suite 2050, 10940 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90024-3915, USA

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Potential winners will be notified by e-mail and results of the weekly draws will be posted on the game Web site within seven days after each draw. Comprehensive terms and conditions as they apply to U.S. residents are also posted on the Web site.

For more information about Hong Kong, visit www.DiscoverHongKong.com/usa or call 1-800-282-HKTB (4582).

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December 8, 2003

Hong Kong Food Scene Heats Up With Best of Best Culinary Awards *Visitors Can 'Savor It' in Culinary Capital of Asia*

LOS ANGELES (December 2003) – In a hotly contested cook-off that rivals the best the world has to offer, Hong Kong crowned winners this month in its annual **Best of the Best Culinary Awards** competition.

Organized by the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) to reinforce the city's growing reputation as the "Culinary Capital of Asia," the contest pitted top chefs at 40 restaurants against each other in preparing classic Hong Kong delicacies in four categories: duck/goose, fish, fried noodles and vegetables. Winners of the "Gold with Distinction Awards" were:

- **Fish:** "Steamed Spot Garoupa with Hashima" created by Tsui Hang Village Restaurant (Central).
- **Fried Noodles:** "Fried Noodles with Shrimps, Cuttlefish and Chicken" created by Maxim's Golden Court Restaurant (Tin Chug) and "Lobster with Egg White on Noodles" created by The Royal Garden Chinese Restaurant.
- **Vegetables:** "Stir-Fried Assorted Mushrooms" created by Super Star Seafood Restaurant (Tsim Sha Tsui) and "Braised Assorted Vegetables with Deep-Fried Mushrooms" created by Yee Hung Heen Chinese Restaurant.
- **Duck/Goose:** "Smoked Duck Breast in Honey Flavor" created by City Chiu Chow Restaurant (Tsim Sha Tsui) and "Deep-Fried Marinated Duck" created by Wing Lai Yuen Restaurant.

"Hong Kong has long been known as a gourmet's paradise, but these Best of the Best Culinary Awards heighten the visibility and stature of our vibrant culinary scene," said Lily Shum, Regional Director of the Americas, HKTb. "Since the awards' inception in 2001, thematic tours tied to the culinary competition have attracted more than 14,500 visitors," she said. "Special menus featuring the top-ranked dishes have also proven extremely popular among visitors and local residents, with award-winning restaurants experiencing up to 15% growth in business as a result of being named a winner," she added.

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The 2003 Best of the Best Culinary Awards were conducted in three stages beginning in August and September when restaurants entered close to 380 dishes in the competition. In the first phase, culinary ambassadors anonymously visited each restaurant, appraised the entry dish and created a short-list of 20 entries in each category. During the second stage, two-member teams sampled the dishes and narrowed the field to the top 10. The public was then invited to vote on these 10 finalists by going to the HKTB web site – www.DiscoverHongKong.com – and casting a ballot for “My Favorite Dish.”

During the final stage, the 40 finalists were invited to take part in a cook-off held at the Chinese Cuisine Training Institute. Teams of judges evaluated dishes based on taste, presentation, fragrance and quality of dishes. The restaurant’s safety compliance, hygiene and service quality, as well as votes received in the “My Favorite Dish” poll, were also taken into account. Each category of the four categories had its own judging panel comprising a number of well-known local and international gourmets and public figures.

During Hong Kong’s WinterFest celebration in December, chefs who won Gold with Distinction and Gold Awards will demonstrate their winning dishes to visitors and locals at the Towngas Cooking Center. In addition, HKTB will publish a “Best of the Best Culinary Guide,” which will also contain a list of restaurants that reviewers considered to be the epitome of excellence.

More Restaurants Per Capita Than Any Other City in the World

Hong Kong has more restaurants per capita than any other city in the world, with a cosmopolitan selection befitting an international city. The selection runs the gamut from elegant fusion cuisine served at some of the city’s best and most exclusive restaurants to open-air food standards serving all manner of grilled, fried and steamed tidbits. Dai pai dongs – tiny restaurants with a few tables and chairs inside and out on the sidewalk – serve excellent noodle soups for a song.

If preparing food is a passion, travelers can sign up for a special guided market visit and cooking class tour. The four-hour tour starts with a visit to a traditional dried food market to learn about some of the ingredients that make Chinese cooking so distinctive. Participants will then attend a culinary demonstration to teach how to achieve the perfect balance of taste and texture that lies at the core of exceptional Chinese cuisine.

Some of Hong Kong's top restaurants are also hosting cooking classes. Chefs from the world-renowned Peninsula Hong Kong and Mandarin Oriental now hold monthly classes in their famous kitchens. Travelers can also spice things up with fragrance cuisine from India with classes at Veda located in Central's SoHo or Koh-I-Noor in Lan Kwai Fong.

Although all Hong Kong vacation packages deliver visitors to the heart of a culinary adventure, the following incorporates elements to savor:

- **Maupintour "Hong Kong Gutsy Women Travel"** – Fully escorted and limited to 15 people or less, this women-only tour includes five nights at the luxurious Peninsula Hotel, Peking duck welcome dinner, sunset cocktail cruise in the harbor, a cooking demonstration in a Chinese restaurant by a distinguished chef, a Chinese vegetarian meal and authentic buffet, a full course of skin care and massage in a health spa and much more. Prices start at \$1,450 for land only or \$2,450 for land and roundtrip airfare. For details, call (866) 464-8879 or visit www.gutsywomentravel.com

For more information about Hong Kong, visit www.DiscoverHongKong.com/usa or call 1-800-282-HKTB (4582).

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News News



HONG KONG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Following is a sample of events in Hong Kong. For a complete list of events, visit our Web site at www.discoverhongkong.com/usa and click on Festivals and Events for an interactive calendar. This calendar was compiled in October 2003. All information is subject to change.

November 2003 –April 2004

NOVEMBER

Through
November 16

Legends of China Festival

Aimed at promoting a better understanding of Chinese culture and art, this festival features nearly 100 performances and other activities. It showcases the best known personalities from Chinese history, literature, legends and folklore through opera, theater, music, dance and puppet shows.

Information: <http://www.china-embassy.ch/eng>

November 1-2

Hong Kong Cricket Sixes Tournament

The Hong Kong Cricket Association together with China Cricket International host a two-day tournament where teams compete for the \$80,000 first prize purse and the honor of lifting the prestigious Butani Cup.

Information: <http://www.hkcricket.org>

November 28
to January 2004

Hong Kong WinterFest

A Christmas Wishing Tree in Statue Square, Christmas Bell Boulevard, Christmas Garden and festive street performances, shopping and dining delights, special events and a "lucky draw" are designed to dazzle adults and children alike during the holiday season. Nearly 30 skyscrapers and landmarks around Victoria Harbor will be decked out in a synchronized lighting show to enhance the holiday spirit.

Information: <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/usa>

November 13-16

Hong Kong Ballet: "Beauty and the Beast"

Under the direction of Stephen Jefferies, this classical ballet company brings to life Belle, Mrs. Potts, Lumiere and other characters from Disney's classic "Beauty and the Beast." Evening and matinee performances are held at the Grand Theatre at the

Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

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DECEMBER

December 4-7

Hong Kong Open

Attracting some of the world's top players, the Hong Kong Open features 60 golfers from the Davidoff Tour and 60 players from the European Tour. The tournament is played at the beautiful Hong Kong Golf Club in the New Territories. Information: <http://www.discoverhongkong.com>

December 14

2003 Hong Kong International Races

Attracting horsemen, owners and spectators from around the globe to the Sha Tin racetrack in the New Territories, this event comprises four international Group 1 events: the Hong Kong Cup (2000m), the Hong Kong Vase (2400m) the Hong Kong Mile (1600m) and the Hong Kong Sprint (1000m). Festivities leading up to the race include Hong Kong's only thoroughbred sale, a jockey championship and other popular events.

Information: <http://www.hongkongjockeyclub.com>

December 18-21

Hong Kong Ballet: "The Nutcracker"

December 23-26

No holiday season would be complete without taking in a performance of "The Nutcracker" and the Hong Kong Ballet does the classic ballet in grand style.

Information: <http://www.hkballet.com>

December 22

Dong Zhi (Winter Solstice Festival)

Celebrated on the longest night of the year, Dong Zhi is the second most important festival of the Chinese calendar. The festival can be traced to the Chinese belief in yin and yang, which represent balance and harmony in life. The yin qualities of darkness and cold are at their most powerful this night, but it is also the turning point toward the warmth and light of yang. People dress in their finest and visit family with gifts to celebrate into the long night.

Information: <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/usa>

December 31

New Year's Eve

Temple and church bells ring as people gather in Causeway Bay's equivalent of Times Square for the annual countdown. The Family Fun Carnival at Victoria Park rings in the new year with fireworks and other festivities.

Information: <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/usa>

JANUARY 2004

January 22

International Chinese New Year Night Parade

Considered one of the greatest parades on the planet, the Hong Kong International Chinese New Year Parade will get even better this year as it is staged for the first time ever at night with festive illuminations. Held on the first day of the Year of the Monkey, the parade will weave together magnificently decorated floats, multicultural performances, marching teams and bands, as well as colorful dragon and lion dances.

Information: <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/usa>

FEBRUARY

February 5

Spring Lantern Festival or Yuen Siu Festival

Held on the 15th day of the lunar New Year, this festival marks the end of the Chinese New Year celebrations. It is also regarded as the Chinese St. Valentine's Day. Colorful lanterns in traditional designs decorate market stalls, homes, restaurants and temples.

Information: <http://www.discoverhongkong.com/usa>

February 8

Hong Kong Marathon 2004

The biggest participation sporting event in Hong Kong, attracting over 18,000 local and overseas runners from the US, Japan, Germany, United Kingdom, Asian countries, Kenya, Zimbabwe and other countries.

Information: <http://www.hkmarathon.com>

February 5 to
March 5

Hong Kong Arts Festival 2004

Long established as a major international arts festival and the premier arts event in the Asia-Pacific region, the annual Hong Kong Arts Festival presents events of the highest artistic standard from around the world, together with leading artists from the Mainland and Hong Kong. The festival is a showcase of music, theatre, dance, entertainment and visual arts.

Information: <http://www.hk.artsfestival.org>

MARCH

March 21

Hong Kong Derby (horse racing)

First run in Happy Valley in 1873, this derby is one of the only races in the world where 4-year-olds run over 2,000 meters.

Information: <http://www.hongkongjockeyclub.com>

March 26-28

Hong Kong Sevens (rugby tournament)

Top international rugby teams compete against the Hong Kong Seven for tournament titles. Games are held at Hong Kong Stadium in Causeway Bay.

Information: <http://www.hksevens.com.hk>

March 26-28

Hong Kong Ballet: "Legend of the Great Archer"

Celebrating its 25th Anniversary, the Hong Kong Ballet will perform the world premiere of this full-length story ballet which reinterprets the classic Chinese mid-autumn tale. With music performed by the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and special multimedia effects, the ballet is filled with jealousy, intrigue and passion.

Information: <http://www.hkballet.com>

APRIL

April 6-21

Hong Kong International Film Festival

Hundreds of movies from around the world are screened during this two-week celebration of cinema, including numerous films from independent filmmakers. The festival, now in its 28th year, is one of the best for those interested in Asian filmmaking.

Information: <http://www.hkiff.org.hk>

April 21-May 31

Le French May

Asia's biggest French arts and culture festival combines dance, theater, music, exhibitions, cinema, food and entertainment.

Information: <http://www.frenchmay.com>

April 25

Queen Elizabeth II Cup (horse racing)

This popular horse race for three-year-olds is contested over a 2,000-meter turf track at Sha Tin Racecourse.

Information: <http://www.hongkongjockeyclub.com>

Visit www.DiscoverHongKong.com/usa and click on "Festivals and Events" for an interactive calendar or call 1-800-282-HKTB (4582) for additional information.

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For Immediate Release

Hong Kong To Open New Exhibition Center in 2005 *AsiaWorld-Expo To Host Major Concerts, Conferences and Entertainment Events*

LOS ANGELES (December 2003) – A major new exhibition and events center is set to open in Hong Kong in December 2005. To be called AsiaWorld-Expo and located next to the Hong Kong International Airport, the center will be an integral part of several new developments, including Disneyland, in the vicinity.

AsiaWorld-Expo will offer more than 70,000 square meters of rentable space, including 66,000 square meters of ground-level, column-free exhibition hall space. The complex will also include an arena-style, multipurpose hall that will stage major international concerts, conferences and a wide range of family entertainment events. Seating capacity is 13,500.

“AsiaWorld-Expo is truly going to be a world-class facility and will be instrumental in expanding and leading the exhibition market in the world’s fastest growing region,” said Lily Shum, Regional Director of the Americas, Hong Kong Tourism Board. “Unrivalled in its ability to accommodate large events, the new center will definitely take us to a new level as the convention and exhibition hub in the Asia-Pacific region,” she added.

Construction of the center is now underway at the heart of a unique multimodal transportation hub. The adjacent airport offers connections to more than 140 cities worldwide on some 75 airlines. The center will also have its own dedicated Mass Transit Railway station which will link to Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and parts of the New Territories. In addition, a cross-boundary ferry terminal will give travelers easy access to key destinations in China’s Pearl River Delta and Macau.

The new center is being built under a public-private partnership, with the Airport

-more-

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Hong Kong To Open New Exhibition Center in 2005

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Authority contributing the land and the Hong Kong Government, Dragages et Travaux Public and Yu Ming Investments providing the finance and operational management. The NEC Group is providing management and operational expertise.

For more information about Hong Kong, visit www.DiscoverHongKong.com/usa or call 1-800-282-HKTB (4582). To download photos, please go to AsiaWorld's Web site at www.asiaworld-expo.com.

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Tasmania

Discover Australia's natural state
Tourism Tasmania

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TASMANIA OFFERS OUTDOOR ADVENTURES FOR THRILL SEEKERS FROM MILD TO WILD

Hobart, Tasmania, Australia (December 2003): From rock climbing the sheer cliffs of Cataract Gorge to diving centuries-old shipwrecks off a remote island, Tasmania offers some of the world's most exciting – and unusual – outdoor adventures.

Tasmania, an island situated 150 miles off Australia's southern coast that is known for its pristine wilderness, provides an equally stunning backdrop for tame adventures such as kayaking a rainforest river in search of platypus or heart-pounding thrills such as four-wheeling on the beach. Here is a sampling of just a few of the mild-to-wild adventures that await visitors:

Tasmanian Panorama

For an outdoor adventure of a lifetime, Tasmanian Expeditions offers a 13-day expedition that allows visitors to sample the best of Tasmania by bushwalking, cycling and rafting. The trip begins with six days of backpacking and camping in the Cradle Mountain and Walls of Jerusalem National Parks, where wildflowers, unique rock formations, panoramic views and wildlife such as wallabies and wombats are common sights. After a night in Launceston, participants mount bicycles for six days of leisurely peddling down the beautiful east coast, exploring historic villages, Freycinet National Park, Maria Island and colonial Richmond before a final day of rafting near Hobart. The cost, including all meals and lodging, is US \$1,726. For details, visit www.tasmanianexpeditions.com.au

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REGISTRATION UNIT

Abseiling and Rock Climbing Cataract Gorge

For the ultimate in adrenaline pumping adventures, visitors can book a tour with Tasmanian Expeditions to experience the challenge of abseiling and rock climbing Launceston's famous Cataract Gorge. After climbing the sheer cliffs, participants will abseil or "drop from the top" suspended by ropes and pulleys. No prior experience is needed. A half-day tour costs US\$66; a full-day tour costs US\$117 including lunch. For details, visit www.tasmanianexpeditions.com.au

Mildside MTB Guided Tour

For those who want to share the excitement of Wildside MTB – a four-day mountain bike race on Tasmania's east coast, from January 31-February 4, 2004 – but don't want the pressures of participating in the race, Island Cycle Tours is offering "Mildside MTB." A small group will ride the same trail as the competitors, but will start either early or late to avoid the mad rush of bikes and bodies. The tour includes a support van, guides and the opportunity to see some of the athletes in action at stages throughout the course. The US\$506 Standard Package enables participants to make their own accommodations and dinner arrangements. The US\$1,020 Deluxe Package includes all meals, as well as lodging at high-quality hotels close to each day's finish line. For details, visit www.islandcycletours.com

Friendly Beaches ATV

If mountain biking seems like too much work, visitors might try exploring with ATVs, four-wheel motorbikes that are semi-automatic and easy to drive. Tasmania Outdoors offers a day-long guided ATV tour to the South Friendly Beaches. Catering to beginners, each tour begins in Coles Bay with a full safety briefing and rider instruction. The group then winds its way through eucalyptus-covered hills, past granite boulders and through coastal heath to fine white sand beaches. The cost is US\$62 per person. For details, visit www.adventuretasmania.com

Strahan Platypus Paddle

A half-day kayak trip on Tasmania's west coast allows paddlers to hunt for the shy and elusive platypus in its natural habitat. Participants in the guided tour – which is limited to six people – will experience the quiet beauty and charm of the meandering Henty River. A prehistoric rain forest of ancient Huon Pine will reflect on the dark water as paddlers drift to catch the rare sight of platypus playing along the banks of the river. The cost is US\$59 per person. For details, visit www.adventuretasmania.com

Free New Lonely Planet Mini-Guide to Backpacking Tasmania

Tourism Tasmania and Lonely Planet have teamed up to produce a new backpacking mini-guide to Tasmania. The 72-page guide showcases Tasmania's nature, heritage, adventure activities, food and wine, with color photographs and straightforward itinerary suggestions. Titled *Tasmania, Adventure Island*, the guide will be available free from backpacker hostels, travel agents, travel expos and Tasmania Travel Centers, as well as electronically at www.discovertasmania.com

Cycle and Canoe Longford

On this two-day easy tour offered by Tasmanian Expeditions, visitors will explore the picturesque rolling countryside south of Launceston, cycling through patchwork fields and canoeing on the Macquarie and South Esk Rivers. A celebratory dinner and accommodations at a heritage guest house in Longford turn this gentle adventure into an indulgent experience. Participants will have the opportunity to visit the historic Woolmers mansion and gardens and should see some of the abundant wildlife of the area, including black swans, cockatoos, kookaburras and platypus. The cost, including experienced guides, canoes, bicycles, lodging and all meals, is US\$319. For details, visit www.tasmanianexpeditions.com.au

King Island Dive Charter

Located halfway between Tasmania and the mainland of Australia, King Island is one of the most wreck-littered coastlines in the world, claiming more than 60 ships, 800 lives and hundreds of tons of cargo lost as early as 1801. King Island Dive Charters specializes in the eerie and exciting experience of diving these shipwrecks on one- to five-day charters. Guided by long-time residents with intimate knowledge of diving this rugged and untouched region, the dives pass by intriguing underwater scenery and marine life. Southern rock lobsters, dolphins and whales are encountered throughout the season. Pricing ranges from US\$55 for a single dive to US\$760 for a 5-day tour including accommodation, rental car, some meals, and all daily dives. For details visit www.kingislanddivecharter.com.au/.

Frenchmans Cap Trek

Craclair Tours has been offering walking tours of Tasmania's wild for the past 35 years and now offers an assortment of tours to fit every taste, from gentle three-day cabin-based excursions to extended hikes of ten days or more. Among the offerings is a seven-day trek to Frenchmans Cap which offers a contrasting southwestern environment of rugged mountain scenery with broad, deep valleys, lakes and tarns. A tent-based camp is established at the base of the mountain, but good huts are available on the climb to the summit. Prices vary from US\$400 to US\$1,057. For details, visit www.craclair.com.au/.

Freycinet Kayak Adventures

Clear blue waters, small uninhabited islands, sandy white beaches and curious dolphins make Freycinet National Park a kayaker's dream. Freycinet Adventures offers guided tours to suit every need, including a Morning Explorer, three-day Explorer, five-day Explorer and Twilight Paddle. Participants on the five-day expedition, for example, will explore the remote southern reaches of Freycinet Peninsula and the dramatic beauty of Schouten Island. The outfitter supplies all equipment, delicious meals of fresh local produce and experienced guides. Costs range from US\$36 for the Twilight Paddle to US\$727 for the five-day trip. For details, visit www.freycinetadventures.com/

Bicheno Dive Centre

Classified as one of the best temperate water dive locations in the world, Bicheno Dive Centre on Tasmania's east coast is a gateway to an underwater paradise. Boat dives leave twice daily and charters to places with names like Golden Bommies, The Castle or Muirs Rock can be planned to suit the individual or group. In winter when diving is best and water visibility reaches 30 meters, divers may swim alongside schools of dolphins or whales that use Bicheno as a stopover in their migration. Fishing charters targeting Flathead, Morwong and the elusive Tasmanian Striped Trumpeter can also be arranged. Prices vary. For details, visit www.bichenodive.com.

Tasmania Wild Escapes

Based on the success of the luxury 4WD and small-group eco tours it has been conducting from Sydney for the past 15 years, Australian Wild Escapes is opening an office in Tasmania in December 2003. The company has initially designed four day tours from Hobart: Freycinet Wilderness Experience, Hobart to Huon Explorer, Launceston Discovery and the Port Arthur Discovery tour. Departing daily from Hobart in small luxury vehicles with no more than 8 guests, the tours include home-style morning teas, sumptuous lunches and knowledgeable guides. The company is also developing a range of two-, three- and four-day extended tours. Prices vary. For details, visit www.australianwildescapes.com.

Bruny Island Charters Eco-Cruise

Untouched wilderness and abundant wildlife are the highlights of a relaxing three-hour eco-cruise offered by Bruny Island Charters, which is located off the southeast coast of Tasmania. Passengers aboard the "Albatross" will view remote bays, secret caves and sculptured rocky islands that fringe South Bruny's National Park. The tour also visits Friar Rocks, home to Australian fur seals, fairy penguins, albatross, white bellied sea eagles and peregrine falcons. The cruise costs US\$62 for adults and US\$36 for children ages 4 through 16. A special family discount and full-day cruise with pickup in Hobart also are available. For details, visit www.brunycharters.com.au/

Wilderness On Water

For those who truly want to get away from it all, Roaring 40° Ocean Kayaking offers three- and seven-day sea kayaking trips that start with a 40-minute bush plane flight from Hobart to Melaleuca Inlet. From there, trip participants paddle 10 km to Bathhurst Harbor in finely made collapsible kayaks, camp in two-person tents and dine on freshly prepared meals. Groups are limited to six people and participants can expect to paddle from four to six hours each day. The three-day trip costs US\$881; the seven-day trip is US\$1318. For details, visit www.seakayakingtasmania.com

For additional information on travel to Tasmania, visit www.discovertasmania.com or e-mail Tasmania@infox-usa.com to receive a free Tasmania Holiday Planner.

NOTE: All prices in US dollars – check <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> for current exchange rates. US\$1 = AU \$1.36 as of December 6, 2003.

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FEATURED TASMANIA EVENTS

December 26-31, 2003

Annual Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, Hobart

<http://rolexsydneyhobart.com>

Over the past fifty-eight years the Sydney to Hobart route has grown from a club race between a group of friends to one of the world's most spectacular ocean competitions. It has featured some of the world's best yachts and sailors and been witness to controversy, triumph and tragedy.

January 31, 2004 – February 3, 2004

Wildside MTB, Strahan and the West Coast

www.wildsidemtb.com

More than a mountain bike race, this four day event is an adventure and a journey. Beginning at Cradle Mountain, the race and finishes at Strahan. Over the four days riders tackle seven competition stages linked by six cruising stages.

February 14, 2004

The Century Ride, Evandale area

www.evandalevillagefair.com

This annual event is a sight to be seen, with Pennyfarthing devotees participating in a marathon, one-day 100-mile race. Less committed riders can try their hand at a range of shorter races at the Evandale Village Fair and Pennyfarthing Championship the following week, an event that draws about 50 competitors and more than 10,000 spectators.

April 9-14, 2004

The Australian Three Peaks Race, Hobart

www.wtc.tas.gov.au

On this four-day non-stop 335 nautical mile sailing race around Tasmania's East Coast, teams of two runners go ashore for 82 miles of running, scaling three rugged mountain peaks. Australia's ultimate endurance challenge of sailing and running in a non-stop competition, commences at Beauty Point on the Tamar River just north of Launceston and finishes in Hobart on the Derwent River. En-route, teams have to scale Mt Strzelecki, Mt Freycinet and Mt Wellington.

April 27, 2004-May 2, 2004

Targa Tasmania, Statewide

www.targa.org.au

This 6-day International Classic for motorsport fans features a tarmac rally with competitive stages on closed roads for the best touring, sports and GT cars in the world. The competition concept is drawn directly from the best features of the Mille Miglia, the Coupe des Alpes and the Tour de Corse. It is an invitation only event with up to 300 cars usually participating in four divisions: historic, touring classic, classic and modern.

FEATURED TASMANIA TRAVEL PACKAGES BY GOWAY

"A Great Tasmania Active Adventure"

Unearth the wonders of Tasmania and experience the magnificent landscapes and untamed wilderness on this adventurous 6-day Tasmania itinerary. Hike to the top of breathtaking waterfalls, mountain bike the rugged trails and canoe in beautiful world heritage national parks. Six-day tour price begins at US \$610 per person (including most meals, touring and accommodation.) **Departures occur daily** from October to April; Thursday & Sunday from May to September.

1-day air and land package begins at US\$2089 per person (including international airfare from Los Angeles, 6-day adventure package, 2-nights in Tasmania's Capital City Hobart and 2 nights in Melbourne, some touring and meals. Price does not include airport taxes.)

For specific details of this package, visit

http://www.goway.com/downunder/australia/tasmania/tas_taste.html

To book your vacation, contact Goway at 800-387-8850 or visit www.goway.com.

"Cycle Tasmania"

Tasmania is famous for its English colonial heritage, and what better way to explore and experience this heritage than at the relaxed pace of a bicycle. Beginning in Launceston, travelers will cycle south through patchwork fields, along hawthorn hedge lined country lanes, with views to the Western Tiers. On your ride about the island, you'll witness the beautiful, rugged east coast while exploring Freycinet National Park's cliffs and white sand beaches, and wonder at the melancholy ruins of the Port Arthur penal settlement historic site.

Each night participants will stay at restored historic accommodation, from an old world guest house to a Georgian mansion. Because cycling builds up an appetite, guests eat in style – either a gourmet meal created by your guides or by chefs at one of Tasmania's famous regional restaurants.

Six-day tour price begins at \$2041 per person (including 6-day cycling tour, per person. (Price includes 6-day cycling tour, historic bed and breakfast accommodation each night, daily meals). 11-day air and land package begins at US\$3549 per person. (Price includes international airfare from Los Angeles, 6-day cycling tour, historic bed and breakfast accommodation each night, daily meals, 1-night in Hobart and 1-night Launceston, 2-nights Melbourne.) Trips depart Sundays, October to April.

Additional details can be found at:

http://www.goway.com/downunder/australia/tasmania/tas_cycle.html

To book this vacation, contact Goway at 800-387-8850 or visit www.goway.com



Tasmania

Discover Australia's natural state
Tourism Tasmania

Media Contact: Malcolm Griffiths, DCI
(212) 725-0707; mgriffiths@dc-intl.com

Tasmania leads gay rights reform

Hobart, Tasmania, Australia (23 January, 2004) – Tasmania has become the first state in Australia to accept same-sex unions giving gay and lesbian partnerships equal status to married couples under state law.

Tasmanian residents can now legally register their same-sex union with the state's department of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Tasmania joins the US states of Vermont and more recently New Jersey in legislation allowing domestic partnership rights.

The registration system, established under the state's new Relationships Act, came into effect January 2, 2004.

The state's progressive laws and positive community attitudes towards same-sex couples has led Tasmania to become a top vacation destination for gay and lesbian travelers, particularly for those aged in their 30s and 40s.

Tasmania offers a myriad of authentic Australian experience. Escape to an island of dramatic mountains, rugged coastline, dense wilderness, endless history, charming villages, gourmet food, superb wine, world-class accommodation and friendly locals.

DISCOVER TASMANIA NOW!

Best of Tasmania From \$859

See Tasmania at its best over six days. From behind the wheel, Australia's island state is waiting to be discovered. Experience Hobart with its intriguing blend of heritage, lifestyle, scenery and culture; the remarkable beauty of the Freycinet Peninsula and Launceston's gourmet delights. Overnight in luxurious boutique accommodations.

Package Inclusions:

- Six days medium size car rental
- Two nights Corinda's Cottages, Hobart
- Two nights Freycinet Lodge, Coles Bay
- One night Hatherley House, Launceston
- Daily continental breakfasts
- Dinner daily at Freycinet Lodge

For more information visit contact Newsman South Pacific Vacations' at **(888) 592-6224**.

The package is based on per person, twin share arrangements and covers ground costs only. This package is valid until March 31, 2005.

North Americans who are interested in receiving a FREE Tasmania Holiday Planner email [**tasmania@infox-usa.com**](mailto:tasmania@infox-usa.com). For additional information on G&L travel to Tasmania, visit [**http://www.discovertasmania.com**](http://www.discovertasmania.com).

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WHAT'S NEW IN TASMANIA IN 2004

February 2004 marks 200 years since Tasmania, the intriguing island off Australia's southern coast, was first settled. While much of the island's stunning coastline, soaring granite mountains, tranquil rivers and unique marine and wildlife remains unchanged, fabulous new lodges and resorts, eco-tours and other amenities continue to be developed.

NEW "HOT & HIP" TASMANIA HOTELS

Peppers Seaport Hotel to Open February 2004

Peppers Retreats and Resorts offer a collection of indulgent escapes throughout Australia, offering visitors the chance to stay in vineyards, outback cattle stations, rainforest lodges, mountain resorts, golfing getaways, country estates and tropical islands.

The newest member of their boutique club is the new Peppers Seaport Hotel, slated to open in February 2004, is at the heart of major redevelopment of the Seaport Dock area on the Tamar riverfront just five minutes from downtown Launceston. With 60 guest rooms/suites, the hotel has a restaurant and bar overlooking the river and is in walking distance of numerous bistros, shops and entertainment venues.

www.peppers.com.au

Henry Jones Art Hotel: Hobart's New 5-Star Boutique Hotel Opens April 2004

Scheduled to open in April 2004 in elegant 1825 stone warehouses that stand precisely on the waterfront site where Europeans first landed in Tasmania two centuries ago, the new Henry Jones Art Hotel is expected to draw rave reviews as a luxury, five-star boutique hotel where "old meets new." The hotel's 50 luxury suites, a spectacular three-story-high glass atrium and public spaces will showcase works by Tasmania's leading and emerging artists. The hotel is being developed by Flora de Kantsow, whose new Hatherley House in Launceston was recently named by *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine as one of the best 80 new hotels in the world.

www.thehenryjones.com

The Hazards At Freycinet: New US \$16.4 Million Resort To Open In 2005

In early 2005, Federal Hotels and Resorts will open The Hazards at Freycinet, a US \$16.4 million new resort with more than 100 suites, many with breathtaking views of Coles Bay and Freycinet National Park on Tasmania's east coast. The elegant five-star waterfront property will offer guests luxury catamaran cruises to Wineglass Bay, named one of the top 10 beaches in the world by *Outside* magazine.

www.federalresorts.com.au

New Resort In St. Helens On Tasmania's East Coast Opened In December 2003

St. Helens, a beautiful town on Tasmania's northeast coast, is destined to become a new hot spot for international travelers with the opening of the new Doherty Tidal Waters St. Helens Hotel in December 2003. The new US\$2.6 million waterfront resort features 60 guest suites, two restaurants, swimming pool, tennis court and extensive conference facilities, along with gorgeous shoreline views and two acres of natural lagoons.

www.dohertyhotels.com

Family-Friendly Villas Newly Refurbished in August 2003

Fresh from a major refurbishment completed in August 2003, the Country Club Resort and Villas at Launceston is ideal for families. Its 74 villas are private and self-contained with a range of one-, two- and three-bedroom units, as well as four-star executive spa suites. Nestled in bushland popular with kangaroos and fringed by a world-class 18-hole golf course, the resort also offers a trout fishing lake, horseback riding, boutique casino, heated indoor pool, tennis courts, health club with sauna, and a great restaurant.

www.federalresorts.com.au

Luxury Accommodation Now Nestled in Rosevears Estate Vineyards

Sixteen luxury apartments are part of this new accommodation among the vines at the elegant Rosevears Estate Winery overlooking the Tamar River. Opened in June 2003, just 20 minutes from Launceston, these self-contained apartments are built along eco-friendly lines, and the latest in innovation and luxury. Rosevears Estate also produces a range of premium cool climate wines under the direction of winemaker Russell Cook, who has worked as a winemaker for more than 20 years.

www.rosevearsestate.com.au

Hatherley House Offers 5 Star Luxury in Launceston

Named to *Conde Nast Traveler's* HOT LIST in May 2003, this five-star hip hotel in Launceston provides the traveling connoisseur with an exceptionally stylish accommodation experience. Listed on the National Register, this grand 1830s home has been re-crafted to retain all its original magnificence and style, but transformed into a lavish hotel with soaring ceilings, elaborately carved fireplaces and rooms abounding with natural light. Its interior has become an unexpected combination of antique and ultra modern -- with gilded paintings, winding staircases, hidden passages, and lovely gardens.

www.hatherleyhouse.com.au

NEW SPA-TACULAR RETREATS

Healing Dreams Retreat – Flinder’s Island, Tasmania

A new health retreat located far from the pressures of urban living has opened on Flinder’s Island, a remote and beautiful island in Bass Strait, off the coast of northeast Tasmania. Healing Dreams Retreat offers a solution to those seeking to heal body and soul. Guest numbers are kept small – no more than 15 at a time - with trained specialists offering massage treatments, yoga classes and dream workshops. Organic produce grown on the property is used in specially prepared organic meals.

Over four days, guests learn through discussion, writing, drawing and painting, to connect to with one’s inner voice that speaks through dreams and learn how to respond to one’s natural wisdom. Prices begin US\$1230 which includes accommodation, all meals and return flight from Launceston or Melbourne.

The retreat is a vision begun by David and Lila Tresemer in 1997 after they fell in love with the island and its mountain during a visit from the US. David Tresemer has a Ph.D in psychology from Harvard University and has written and worked in horticulture, farming, psychology, mythological theatre and astrosophy (Star Wisdom). Lila has worked as a multi-media artist for 30 years, designing audio-visuals for John Denver, Jack Canfield and Barbara D’Angelis. She has led and facilitated training in psycho-spiritual areas for several decades, focusing on women’s remembrance of ceremony.

The Tresemers established two elegantly furnished lodges, linked by wooden decks and walkways, comprising eight double rooms with ensuites; each room with a sweeping view across the property. One structure includes a gymnasium, art area, treatment rooms and sauna, while the other has private nooks to read, a conversation area, dining room and a secluded greenhouse. A short walk through a tea tree grove, past lily-covered ponds and a bubbling stream is a secluded yurt for yoga and meditation classes.

www.healingdreams.com.au

New Waldheim Spa At Cradle Mountain Is Tasmania’s First True Spa

In June 2003, Cradle Mountain Lodge completed a nearly US\$1 million dollar refurbishment, creating Tasmania’s first true alpine spa and establishing premium level accommodations at the celebrated mountain retreat.

Cradle Mountain Lodge’s Waldheim Alpine Spa has six therapy rooms, including a specialty double treatment room to be used by couples and two wet treatment rooms, a steam room and a large spa bath for hydro therapies. An extensive menu of signature treatments is being developed for the spa that will incorporate many Tasmanian alpine ingredients and natural therapy products made by local manufacturers.

SAMPLE SERVICE: Tasmanian Leatherwood Honey and Lavender Facial

Slow down the signs of aging with this exclusive facial treatment, ideal for all skin types. This intensive moisturizing therapy uses spring water rich in minerals and a combination of essential oils applied to the face to stimulate the production of collagen and elastin. Skin is cleansed, toned and exfoliated using products derived from local ingredients such as Tasmanian Leatherwood Honey, used for its restorative properties, and local lavender, used for its calming, therapeutic benefits. A deeply penetrating thermo active clay mask is followed by a cooling aqua lift that soothes the face, giving skin a revitalized radiance.

Also included in the refurbishment program are newly constructed premium King Billy Suites, taking their name from the awe-inspiring 1,500 year old King Billy Pines growing near the lodge. The new suites offer guests secluded and comfortable accommodations with expansive living areas and a large outdoor private deck complete with hot tub.

www.cradlemountainlodge.com

DIVINE DINING & WINEING IN PARADISE

Franklin Manor's Outstanding New Two-Star Michelin Chef

Built for the Harbour Master in 1896, Franklin Manor is a lovingly restored boutique hotel in Strahan, gateway to the Tasmanian World Heritage area. In 2003, French-born Meyjtte Boughenout, a two-star Michelin chef, was appointed Chef at the property. Here he crafts modern French food inspired by local ingredients: trout, lobster, crab and salmon come from Strahan's fishermen; partridge, quail, and squab are sourced from a Tullah gamekeeper; scallops and abalone make the journey from north of Hobart; sea urchins come from Launceston; and cheese from across Tasmania. The award-winning Huon Pine Wine Cellar showcases premium wine from around the world.

www.franklinmanor.com.au

Peppermint Bay Restaurant and Function Center

In November 2003, a unique food and wine experience called Peppermint Bay opened overlooking the unspoiled waters of D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Bruny Island, 30 minutes south of Hobart. The US\$7.4 million center features a restaurant and farmhouse kitchen specialising in Tasmania's world famous fresh produce. The chefs have ensured that authentic regional cuisine sourced direct from growers, is presented from gate to plate in an innovative way.

The Woodbridge complex, with commanding water views, a landscaped garden and village green, will host regular festivals, concerts and a farmers' market. In addition the garden houses an impressive sculpted herb garden. A fully stocked fish race will provide an on-site seafood supply -- believed to be a first for Tasmania.

The Peppermint Bay venture also includes a US\$2.2 million luxury catamaran and cruise center, based in historic Sullivan's Cove, Hobart. The Hobart Cruise Company now offers cruises along the Derwent River and D'Entrecasteaux Channel, with full interpretation services, on *Peppermint Bay I* -- including a visit to Peppermint Bay.

On the way to Peppermint Bay visitors will be taken on a guided journey to learn about Tasmania's world famous crayfish and salmon. Guests are transported past a unique rugged coastline of sea cliffs that are home to sea eagles, penguin rookeries, dolphins and -- in the right season -- Southern Right whales.

Associated attractions include Regnan's Fine Art Gallery and the Peppermint Bay Cheesery -- a fully operational sheep and goat's milk cheesery which offers cheese tastings and a chance to watch "the girls" get milked.

Limited luxury accommodation at Peppermint Bay is planned for the future.

Savor A New Private Wine Tour In Tasmania

Tasmania's newest wine tour, launched in November 2003, combines the indulgences of food and wine with a dash of adventure. DeeTours DownUnder now offers several palate-pleasing tours called "Vino Ventures," steering guests off the beaten track to blend wine, food and outdoor activities such as golfing, fishing, bush walking, cycling or kayaking. The custom-tailored tours begin with an adventure or wilderness experience and progress to behind-the-scene visits to elite and boutique vineyards and restaurants. Guests are able to connect with the wine growers and restaurateurs, beyond the cellar door tasting or usual dining experience offered to other travelers.

Hand-selected tour escorts whose experience and knowledge deliver the dream wine tour and three levels of touring -- tasters, gourmands or connoisseurs -- leave guests satisfied.

Tours are offered from Hobart or Launceston and include trips to all of the major wine regions of the state: Freycinet Coast, Tamar, Coal River, Derwent and Huon Valleys, plus the up and coming product along the Tasman Trail.

www.deetoursdownunder.com

TASMANIA'S TOP NEW ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES

New Maria Island Walk

This new four-day guided walk was developed by bushwalkers Ian and Bronwyn Johnstone to showcase the dramatic scenery and diverse wildlife of Maria Island National Park, a short boat ride from Triabunna on Tasmania's east coast. The walk follows secluded beaches and bays along the Maria Island coastline before heading inland through forests to the world-class Fossil Cliffs and the convict settlement at Darlington. It concludes with a sunrise boat trip to the Australian Fur Seal colony on Ile des Phoques and a stop at the outskirts of the award-winning Meadowbank Winery for a sampling of Tasmania's finest wine and cheeses. Guests carry a light backpack with personal items; packs, sleeping bags, accommodations in beach camps and historic homes, meals and wine are provided. Cost is US\$1,077.

www.mariaislandwalk.com.au

Mildside MTB Guided Tour

For those who want to share the excitement of Wildside MTB – a four-day mountain bike race on Tasmania's east coast, from January 31-February 4, 2004 – but don't want the pressures of participating in the race, Island Cycle Tours is offering "Mildside MTB." A small group will ride the same trail as the competitors, but will start either early or late to avoid the mad rush of bikes and bodies. The tour includes a support van, guides and the opportunity to see some of the athletes in action at stages throughout the course. The US\$506 Standard Package enables participants to make their own accommodations and dinner arrangements. The US\$1,020 Deluxe Package includes all meals, as well as lodging at high-quality hotels close to each day's finish line.

www.islandcycletours.com

Abseiling And Rock Climbing Cataract Gorge

For the ultimate in adrenaline pumping adventures, visitors can book a tour with Tasmanian Expeditions to experience the challenge of abseiling and rock climbing Launceston's famous Cataract Gorge. After climbing the sheer cliffs, participants will abseil or "drop from the top" suspended by ropes and pulleys. No prior experience is needed. A half-day tour costs US\$66; a full-day tour costs US\$117 including lunch.

www.tasmanianexpeditions.com.au

King Island Dive Charter

Located halfway between Tasmania and the mainland of Australia, King Island is one of the most wreck-littered coastlines in the world, claiming more than 60 ships, 800 lives and hundreds of tons of cargo lost as early as 1801. King Island Dive Charters specializes in the eerie and exciting experience of diving these shipwrecks on one- to

five-day charters. Guided by long-time residents with intimate knowledge of diving this rugged and untouched region, the dives pass by intriguing underwater scenery and marine life. Southern rock lobsters, dolphins and whales are encountered throughout the season. Pricing ranges from US\$55 for a single dive to US\$760 for a 5-day tour including accommodation, rental car, some meals, and all daily dives.

www.kingislanddivecharter.com.au

Frenchmans Cap Trek

Craclair Tours has been offering walking tours of Tasmania's wild for the past 35 years and now offers an assortment of tours to fit every taste, from gentle three-day cabin-based excursions to extended hikes of ten days or more. Among the offerings is a seven-day trek to Frenchmans Cap which offers a contrasting southwestern environment of rugged mountain scenery with broad, deep valleys, lakes and tarns. A tent-based camp is established at the base of the mountain, but good huts are available on the climb to the summit. Prices vary from US\$400 to US\$1,057.

www.craclair.com.au

Freycinet Kayak Adventures

Clear blue waters, small uninhabited islands, sandy white beaches and curious dolphins make Freycinet National Park a kayaker's dream. Freycinet Adventures offers guided tours to suit every need, including a Morning Explorer, three-day Explorer, five-day Explorer and Twilight Paddle. Participants on the five-day expedition, for example, will explore the remote southern reaches of Freycinet Peninsula and the dramatic beauty of Schouten Island. The outfitter supplies all equipment, delicious meals of fresh local produce and experienced guides. Costs range from US\$36 for the Twilight Paddle to US\$727 for the five-day trip.

www.freycinetadventures.com

For additional information on travel to Tasmania, visit **www.discovertasmania.com** or e-mail **tasmania@infox-usa.com** to receive a free Tasmania Holiday Planner.

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TASMANIA STORY IDEAS FOR 2004

TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA IN MINIATURE

Beaches, Wildlife, Cities, Historic Sites, Wilderness - All Within Easy Reach

Although located 150 miles off the southeastern shores of mainland Australia, Tasmania stands as a miniature version of it's northern neighbor, offering visitors a chance to witness breathtaking landscapes and unique wildlife, savor amazing cuisine and wine, and experience some of the wildest adventures on planet earth – all within a short drive!

More than a third of Tasmania is protected in national parks, World Heritage Area, and forest and marine reserves. So, within hours in Tasmania you can wander past the world's last temperate wilderness, ancient rainforest, glacial tarns, tall waterfalls, secluded ocean beaches and towering sea cliffs. Most of Tasmania's natural places are stunningly beautiful and within easy reach, with no location more than 70 miles from the sea.

Amidst this wilderness is amazing, often rare or endangered, wildlife. From the spotted tailed quolls, to pademelons to pygmy possums to the tiny Tasmanian bettong – with a body like a miniature wallaby and small, round face and ears - Tasmania's habitat provides shelter. In fact, Tasmania is the only place to see in the wild a Tasmanian devil, a marsupial the size of a small dog but with a bite as strong as a crocodile. Thanks to expert guides, visitors to Tasmania are certain to witness wonderful wildlife.

The island has preserved a rich legacy of heritage, including Australia's oldest continuously operating theatre, the Theatre Royal (Hobart); the country's first Jewish Synagogue, still in use in Hobart; and its oldest golf course, in the historic town of Bothwell. The nation's oldest bridge and church are at Richmond. One of Australia's leading historic sites, Port Arthur Historic Site on the Tasman peninsula has more than 30 historic buildings and ruins interpreting the lives of the convicts who resided here, as well as beautiful gardens.

Tasmania is truly Australia in miniature.

CYCLING, DIVING, PADDLING, & TREKKING ADVENTURES IN PARADISE

Adventure experiences in Tasmania are like the island's spectacular landscape – unspoiled, personal and offering a world of rejuvenation. This paradise is shared with visitors in an environmentally-friendly way through numerous adventure and eco-tours, including abseiling and rock climbing; kayaking; white water rafting; trekking/hiking; diving; sailing; cruising; fishing; cycling and horse riding.

Home to the purest water in the world, Tasmania is recognized as a haven for enviro-friendly adventure travelers who enjoy kayaking and rafting. From the challenging nine-day Franklin River Rafting experience to a kayak paddle to spot dolphins, fairy penguins or platypus, Tasmania is a watersport enthusiasts dream retreat.

Tasmania also has a delicate underwater environment with thousands of kilometers of coastline and hundreds of offshore reefs and islands, it offers a wide range of temperate diving experiences and a rich variety of marine habitats.

Island Cycle Tours offers a glimpse of Tasmania by bike, combined with the best boutique accommodation and fine Tasmania food and wine. From the *Coastal Calm* ride past Wineglass Bay, Friendly Beaches and Maria Island National Park, to the *Glimpse of Gondwana* through temperate rainforests and through Mt. Field National Park, avid outdoor enthusiasts will love these cycling experiences.

The island is one of the world's best trekking and walking destinations. It has more than 1800 miles of world-class walking tracks, thousands of highland lakes, hundreds of clean beaches, extensive underground caverns, large and small islands both remote and accessible, and mountain peaks and crags. Renown guided trekking experiences include Freycinet Experience, Bay of Fires Walk, Cradle Huts Walk, South Coast Track and the new Maria Island walk.

From mild to wild, an adventure in paradise awaits in Tasmania.

TASMANIA'S FABULOUS FOOD AND WINE

The clean southern air, unpolluted seas and fertile soils provide abundant conditions for prime dairy products, fresh seafood – farmed and gathered in the wild – succulent beef, mouth-watering berries and some of the world's best cool climate wines. This makes Tasmania a premier destination for culinary travelers.

Tasmania boasts award-winning cheeses such as those from King Island Dairy, Thorpe Farm and Elgaar Dairy Farm and salmon that is only farmed salmon in the world that does not require chemical treatment to remove impurities. The island also produces two of the three best-selling premium beers in Australia, from Cascade Brewery in the south and J Boag & Son in the north (its premium lager the winner of a grand champion award at the Australian International Beer Awards).

Around the island, restaurants offer superb food and service. Lebrina in Hobart combines the best local produce with stylish presentation; Meadowbank Estate, features seafood, game and its own award-winning wines; and Stillwater Restaurant on the banks of the Tamar, has modern Australian cuisine.

On the east coast you can taste Tasmanian fare with Japanese flair at Kabuki by the Sea on the cliff tops near Swansea, or over to the west coast, dine in heritage surroundings at Franklin Manor, overlooking Macquarie Harbour. You can also enjoy one of the many food and wine festivals held across the State including the Taste of Tasmania in Hobart (late December – early January), which combines a festival with watching the winners cross the finish line in the ocean-racing classic, the Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

A trip to Tasmania is a gourmet treat for travelers.

TASMANIA: BIRDING IN PARADISE

In Tasmania, bird life is prolific. Home to 12 endemic birds and the Orange Bellied Parrot, birding enthusiasts are amazed with the menagerie that routinely appears before their binoculars and cameras. Sea eagles hover in the updraughts from coastal cliffs and hunt along quiet western rivers. Shearwaters make an astonishing annual journey north of the Arctic Circle, then return almost to the day each year to exactly the same burrow. Rare swift parrots, ocean-going albatrosses and pink robins dart through filtered sunlight on the rainforest floor.

The isolated, island habitats of Tasmania have made it one of the few places in the world where the entire island is identified as an Endemic Bird Area. It is ranked beside Amazonian Brazil, Galapagos and Mauritius. And while spring (September to December) is always the best time to see birds, Tasmanian endemics can be seen any time of the year.

So grab your binoculars and venture to Tasmania to bird watch in paradise.

TASMANIA: HARBORING THE GARDENS OF PARADISE

Just south of Australia awaits Tasmania, an island oasis of flora. Here, gardens grace historic cottages, and rolling hills of lavender, blooming tulip fields, nature's wild alpine wonders and the world's biggest hedge maze await! In fact, this exotic island is the exclusive home of more than 200 species of native Australian flowering plants.

Blooming Tasmania: *THE Festival For Flower Lovers* is the premier celebration of Tasmania's diverse horticultural and botanical delights, highlights garden shows and tours from September – May. Themed itineraries include Behind the Hedges Garden Tour, Freycinet Experience Four-Day Spring Wild Flower Walk, and Wellington Wine & Roses. But beyond the festival, from the formal **The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens** to **B&B Garden Retreats** such as **Corinda's Cottages** and **Bridestowe Estate Lavender Farm**, your senses will awake to the fabulous aroma of this island garden paradise!

If you need assistance with story angles, research or would like visit Tasmania on assignment, contact Karyl Leigh Barnes at Development Counsellors International, Public Relations Counsel for Tourism Tasmania in North America: kbarnes@dc-intl.com or (212) 725-0707.

For additional information on travel to Tasmania, visit www.discovertasmania.com or e-mail tasmania@infox-usa.com to receive a free Tasmania Holiday Planner.

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Singita Named Best Game Reserve in Africa For 3rd Consecutive Year

*Conde Nast Traveler readers again
rate exclusive South African private game reserve tops*

New York, NY, October 2003 -- South Africa's celebrated Singita Group with exclusive luxury game lodges in the Sabi Sand Reserve and Kruger National Park has been singled out for the third consecutive year as the best game reserve in Africa by the readers of Conde Nast Traveler magazine. Singita's score of 94.8 outdistanced all other game reserves, as well as all hotels in Africa and the Middle East.

"We are delighted and honored that our guests have been so pleased with their experience at Singita," said owner Luke Bailes, who accepted the award at the prestigious Conde Nast (USA) Reader's Choice Awards ceremony in New York.

Singita's remarkable achievement in the 2001 poll as the only property ever to secure a perfect score of 100% across all categories including accommodation, food and service, remains unchallenged. Earlier this year another respected USA travel publication, Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report, ranked Singita for the third consecutive year as the world's No. 1 Resort Hideaway for properties under 50 rooms.

"Our many repeat guests – and those who have been recommended to us by others – encourage us to strive to make every visit to Singita a lifetime highlight. The addition earlier this year of our new Singita Lebombo Lodge within Kruger National Park, will offer new and returning guests the perfect complement to our Ebony and Boulders lodges in the Sabi Sand Reserve," Bailes added.

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The *Conde Nast Traveler* Readers' Choice Awards are based on the votes of readers in the USA who have stayed at a resort or hotel in the past three years and who rate properties according to the standard of rooms, food, location and service.

For more information on Singita, visit their website at www.singita.co.za. For reservations, email: ken@kenhermer.com; or call (858) 350-1354.

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Singita nurtures body, mind and soul New Singita Bush Spa opens in Kruger National Park

The promise of rejuvenation and absolute escape from the distractions of the world lures the most discerning guests to Singita and now Africa's finest Safari destination has opened a spectacular new Bush Spa on an exclusive 15 000ha concession in Kruger National Park.

Situated at Singita Lebombo in a setting reminiscent of a village square at the confluence of the Nwanetsi and Sweni Rivers, the new Bush Spa perpetuates a sense of space through modern contemporary lines. Full integration with the African outdoors is achieved through massive floor to ceiling glass walls leaving guests with a sense of oneness with the serene surroundings of aloes, euphorbias and ancient rhyolite ridges.

Designed to enhance the Singita guest experience, this new world-class Singita Bush Spa ensures that guests have a truly unforgettable stay. Full time beauty therapists pamper guests with body treatments of their choice either in their rooms or in the spa. From ancient Thai massage, hot stone therapy, African head massage and reflexology to spectacular outdoor mineral salt scrubs and seaweed mud wraps, the spa experience helps to nurture body, mind and spirit. The spa even has its own qualified physiotherapist who offers a range of specialised treatments to release body tension and assist with body alignment, as well as specialised techniques such as acupuncture.

For the ultimate escape and rejuvenation, the 3 ½ hour Lebombo Ultimate Retreat more than lives up to its promise. Start your day in the inhalation room where aromatherapy oils calm the mind and relieve congestion, followed by a replenishing facial, a full body massage and culminating with a unique African head massage to finally clear your mind.

more ...

Singita Bush Spa two and last/...

The new spa has three treatment rooms each with its own spectacular vista of the bush. In true African tradition, the spa's own medicinal garden provides a fresh source of life affirming indigenous herbs that can be added to scrubs, wraps and steamers.

The gym has its own steam room with an outside area to cool down and is stocked with state of the art cardiovascular equipment and free weights to keep you in good shape between game drives.

The Singita bush spas are managed by London trained Jennifer Eales Skin Care Clinic and only Dermologica products, the top American beauty product range, are used.

For more information on Singita, visit their website at www.singita.co.za. For reservations in South Africa Email: reservations@singita.co.za, Tel: 27-21-683 3424, Fax: 27-21-683 3502.

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ATTACHMENTS

to this document can be

found in the original file.