



travel cuts

Compiled by Linda Archdeacon

IT'S ALL UNDER ONE ROOF

For the first time, Flight Centre Limited will bring together leading airlines, travel wholesalers and cruise companies specialising in Canada, Alaska and the United States for one giant travel show. The Canada, Alaska and the United States Travel show will be held at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre on Sunday, August 19, and admission is free. Flight Centre general manager marketing Colin Bowman says visitors to the show can expect exclusive offers, great savings and expert advice.

GET IN EARLY

Early-bird ticket specials for the 2007 Ubud Writers & Readers Festival have been released and travellers can receive a 10 per cent discount on four-day festival passes and workshop passes until Monday when booking online. Tickets are also on sale for the festival's Programs of Adult Workshops and Feature Events. A highlight of the feature events is a literary lunch, *Unknown Roads*, with writers Adib Khan and Richard Flanagan. Both writers will conduct an in-depth conversation about the impact of terrorism on people's lives. Two award-winning Egyptian writers Somaya Ramadan and Iman Mersal will take guests on a journey down the Nile on a *Thousand and One Nights* as they share tales from their lives and read from their work. Kiran Desai and Shashi Tharoor take participants *Out of India* through an intimate candle-lit conversation about passion, politics and prose. Desai, the youngest woman to win the Man Booker prize, and Tharoor, a former United Nations diplomat will reflect, with moderator Deepika Shetty, on

whether identity is determined by our place of origin or the paths we take. Some of the cultural and writing workshops at this year's festival include making a living from travel writing, finding the stories through yoga, writing a play-in-a-day, turning your life into a book and developing place and character. Workshops will begin on September 25 and run until September 30. Immediately following the festival, in the creative atmosphere of Ubud, a five-day writing workshop led by Australian writing teacher Patti Miller will take place, and is open to beginners and more experienced writers. Details: www.ubudwritersfestival.com.

LET THE PORTER DO IT

Anyone transporting bulky and expensive sporting equipment around the world can take advantage of the new global door-to-door luggage delivery company Personal Porter. The service provides convenience, security and reliability, with equipment being picked up from homes, hotels or offices and delivered to any destination in the world. James Garrod, co-founder and group marketing director of Personal Porter, says all it takes is four easy steps. First log on to the website, enter your travel itinerary to obtain a quote, complete the online booking payment, and Personal Porter will do the rest. Details: www.personalporter.com.au.

WORLD CUP UP CLOSE

Combine the scenery of Paris and the excitement of the Rugby World Cup Final on Globetrotter Corporate Travel's tour being led by ex-Wallaby and Western Force star John Welborn. The eight-day

tour includes accommodation, transport, meals and tickets to both semi-finals, the third vs fourth place play-off and, of course the World Cup final for \$11,510. Along with world-class rugby and the sights and sounds of Paris, guests will enjoy a three-night excursion to Dijon, exploring the Burgundy wine region. Phone Murray Skea on 9442 0140 or email: murray.skea@globetrotter.com.au

DIVE INTO A WONDER WORLD

Learn to dive in the waters off the east coast of Malaysia, with Sibul Island Cabanas resort offering one of the richest and most varied diving environments in the world. The coral reefs around Sibul-Tinggi are marine park and are home to myriad reef fish, hard and soft corals, cave corals and sponges. The dive season starts in March, following the monsoon. Resident dive instructor Jason Simmonds has experience diving in Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and Malaysia. Visitors wishing to dive will need to have basic swimming skills and be of reasonable health. Travellers can take the PADI Open Water Diver e-learning course online at www.padi.com and once the course is completed, the water portion can be finished at the resort. Sibul Island resort is a 4½-hour drive from Kuala Lumpur and a three-hour drive from Singapore and transfers can be organised. Guests can stay at one of the two types of accommodation on offer, the La Bamba Chalets and Cabanas Chalets. Details: www.sibulidland.com.

Conditions apply and deals are subject to change without notice.