



DISCOVER AUSTRALIA'S SECRET TRAVEL STORIES

WITH  australia

Shopping, Shows & Events Nationwide

**Simon
McKearney**

General Manager
Product
Flight Centre
New Zealand



I love a destination that offers something for everyone and Australia certainly offers a superb selection when it comes to shopping, shows and events. Melbourne is a personal favourite of mine, not least for the fact that it is the hub of sporting activity with world-class events such as Melbourne Cup, AFL, Melbourne Grand Prix and the Australian Open. What this means is that it is great for groups of friends or couples to indulge their own personal passions whilst still enjoying the same holiday destination. If a day at the footie is not for everyone, then there is bound to be a great stage show or exhibition on or head to anyone of the numerous, unique shopping precincts with everything from vintage to popular culture to high fashion. The South



Wharf outlet store guarantees to keep even the most efficient shopper occupied for hours! Sydney is also a great place to indulge in a passion for shopping and shows and it can certainly surprise, with an ever evolving market scene,

shopping precincts and a year round calendar of festivals and events. There is also the bonus of great food and wine experiences and my favourite spot to stop for lunch is Café Sydney with great food and outstanding views!

A Most Fashionable Festival



Mike Scott

General Manager
- Marketing
Virgin Australia

My family and I live in Point Lonsdale, a small beach community in Victoria which sits on the south side of Port Phillip Bay and the beginnings of the beautiful Great Ocean Road (a must drive, ride or walk!). However, the cultural event that brings Melbourne to life in the month of March is the Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival. The Festival puts on a series of runway events that showcase the seasonal collections of premium and emerging Australian fashion designers as well as an extended program of business and cultural activities that sets it apart from other major fashion festivals. It's wonderful to be able to

have a world-class event in Melbourne that showcases and demonstrates how to wear the latest season of Australian fashion, and also provides an arena for a great night out with friends. A highlight of last Festival for me, was a solo show that celebrated fashion designer Camilla Franks and her vibrant and playful collection. Hyper colorful prints glided down the runway in what felt like the charge of a warrior tribe, a feeling encouraged by rhythmic drum beating and percussion sounds of the supporting act of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra musicians. I cannot wait to see what the Festival delivers for 2015.



"Hi, I'm Marea, Cabin Crew at Virgin Australia Airlines. We're searching for secret travel discoveries in Australia. Tell us your stories and if voted one of New Zealand's favourites, you could win one of four amazing Australian adventures flying Virgin Australia. Enter now at australiatravelstories.co.nz."

5 Things You Didn't Know About Shopping & Shows

1 Sydney Good Food Month

– October: A month long food fest showcasing the best of Sydney and regional restaurants, cafes and produce markets. Includes the iconic 'Night Noodle Market' in Sydney's Hyde Park, which has been going since 1998. sydney.goodfoodmonth.com

2 For the ultimate guide to Sydney's fashionable best check out [Urban Walkabout Sydney](http://urbanwalkabout.com/sydney) for the best in food, fashion and design. urbanwalkabout.com/sydney

3 Enter the Fashion World of **Jean Paul Gaultier – from the sidewalk to the Catwalk** in Melbourne this world-class exhibition is a must see for fashionistas or those who just want an insight into from 17 October 2014 – 08 February 2015. [CLICK HERE](#)

4 The only holiday where you should pack nothing! Take an empty suitcase to [Brisbane](#) and the [Gold Coast](#) this season and shop up a storm at designerbrand outlet stores – there is even a huge one just minutes from Brisbane airport!

5 Get into Australia's biggest celebration of Spring this September and October. Flower power is in full bloom at Canberra's [Floriade festival](#) which runs from 13 September – 12 October – check out the nightfest for those who only bloom at night! floriadeaustralia.com

For more inspiring travel stories and to enter your own for a chance to win visit www.australiatravelstories.co.nz

