



Doorstep deals

➤ **BEACHSIDE:** The 4.5-star Coral Sea Resort (pictured) at Airlie Beach has garden-view suites for \$240 per night, ocean-view for \$280, bay-view spa suites for \$320 and Coral Sea spa suites for \$380 per night until January 31, excluding December 31. Noosa Blue Resort has self-contained garden suites for \$440 per night and pool-view suites for \$460 per night from December 28-January 7. Tel: 1300 788 553. www.discoverqueensland.com.au

➤ **RAINY DAYS:** It's officially the wet season in Cairns where the Pullman Reef Hotel Casino has created a Wet, Wet, Wet holiday package priced from \$339 per couple, including overnight accommodation with full breakfast daily, half-day Barron River water-rafting experience and a bottle of Australian sparkling wine. The offer is subject to availability and valid for sale and travel until March 31. Tel: 4030 8888. www.pullmanhotels.com

➤ **DOLPHIN VISIT:** Feed dolphins at Moreton Island's Tangalooma Island Resort on a three-night holiday from \$345 per person twin share. This includes three nights' accommodation, a dolphin hand-feeding program, return launch transfers, buffet breakfast and daily maid service.

Price is based on minimum three-night stay. Valid for sale until March 31 for travel January 27-March 31. www.escapetravel.com.au

➤ **HANDS ON:** Have a one-hour couple's massage during a four-night stay at the five-star Sheraton Noosa Resort & Spa. The package includes accommodation in a spa studio, buffet breakfast, a massage at the Aqua day spa, complimentary use of Aqua therapy centre and steam rooms and valet parking daily. Prices from \$699 per person twin share. Valid for sale until January 15 for travel January 27-February 8, February 15-28. www.escapetravel.com.au





TRAVEL BRIEFS

Explore coastline

North Star Cruises is offering a 20% discount on its 2010 cruise season opener, the West Coast Explorer, on board True North.

The cruise departs Perth in February and travels to the stunning Abrolhos Islands, Shark Bay World Heritage Area, Ningaloo Reef and Montebello Islands on a 10-day voyage of discovery and luxury.

North Star general manager Peter Trembath said the special offer made the True North experience very affordable.

"The special discount can also be combined with our 'previous guest bonus', which means a saving of more than \$7500 when travelling in an Explorer Class cabin," Mr Trembath said.

The West Coast Explorer Cruise departs Fremantle on February 27 and disembarks in Dampier on March 9. Prices start from \$6476 (conditions apply) and places are strictly limited.

For more information visit www.northstarcruises.com.au.

Queensland escapes

Discover Queensland still has limited special offers available on summer holiday accommodation from Port Douglas to the Gold Coast.

Peppers Beach Club in Port Douglas provides easy access to the Great Barrier Reef with special rates available on all suites from January 10.

Mantra Trilogy in Cairns has special rates available on two-bedroom apartments from December 26-29 and on one-bedroom apartments from January 3.

The 4.5-star Coral Sea Resort at Airlie Beach has garden view suites available for \$240 per night, ocean view suites for \$280 per

night, bay view spa suites for \$320 per night and Coral Sea spa suites for \$380 per night until January 31, excluding December 31.

Artique in Surfers Paradise has 4.5-star fully self-contained one-bedroom apartments available from now until January 31 (excluding December 31) for \$311 per night.

One-bedroom accommodation above the Broadbeach Mall with ocean or Gold Coast views is also available at South Pacific Plaza from January 3 for \$270 per night

Prices shown are per room per night and are based on the applicable dates displayed. Minimum stay periods apply and rates are subject to availability.

For more information visit www.discoverqueensland.com.au or call 1300 788 553.

Clipper cruising

Star Clipper will sail to a string of pristine islands, many of them uninhabited, on four cruises from Phuket in February.

Many of the islands are national parks boasting deserted white-sand beaches, crystal clear water ideal for snorkelling and diving and walking trails through dense rain forests.

The seven-night cruises on the 115-metre 170-passenger Star Clipper, a true tall ship with the ambience and luxury of a private yacht, are on February 6, 13, 20 and 27. Cruise-only prices start at \$2672 including port taxes and all meals and entertainment.

On the northern route (February 6 and 20) a highlight is a full-day visit to the Similan Islands group nestled in the Andaman Sea north of Phuket, rated as one of the finest underwater sightseeing regions in the world. This cruise also visits the nearby Surin Islands before heading south again to the towering limestone islands of Phang Nga Bay. The

ship also calls at the Malaysian resort island of Langkawi.

On the southern route (February 13 and 27) a major focus is the 51-island Butang Archipelago in the Tarutao marine national park. All but one, Koh Lipe, are uninhabited tropical gems. Star Clipper spends a day for bargain shopping in Penang, Malaysia and also sails north to the Similans.

The ship completes the 2009/2010 Far East season with a seven-night cruise from Phuket to Singapore on March 6, returning from Singapore on March 13 before repositioning to the Mediterranean.

Contact 1300 362 599 or visit www.starclippers.com

Japan snow trip

Pay for five nights and get two nights free, or pay for 10 nights and get an additional four free at SkiJapan Travel's managed properties, such as the new luxury Snow Crystal two- and three-bedroom apartments in the heart of Niseko.

The western-style complex is a snowball's throw from the Ace Family double chairlift, which is regarded as one of the premium locations in Niseko. The free nights offer is available from March 6 until the end of the 2010 winter season.

Snow Crystal is also ideally positioned for guests to appreciate the resort's renowned apres ski action and spectacular views of Mount Yotei from the apartments themselves. Also Ski Japan Travel will always determine the cost of client's snow holiday based on the actual exchange rate on the day they pay for their holiday.

For more details contact Ski Japan Travel on 1300 137 411 or log on to www.skijapansnowwave.com.

