

TRAVELTIMES

New website launches

Today, Friday 30th November, we launched our brand-new website.

Completely different in style to the old site, the new travelocator.co.uk has been designed to make it even easier for customers to plan their independent travel.

New features include travel videos created by our travel experts. The videos are a great way for visitors to discover the countries to which they are travelling.

Founder and CEO, Oily Beckett, praised the designers who put together the site and said "the past few weeks have been a real challenge to get the site ready and working.

Now we can offer something which will become a vital tool for the independent traveller who will look no further when planning their holiday"

Our travel experts now have combined travel experience in over 60 countries in the Americas, Africa, Asia, Australasia and Europe.

TRAVELCATOR go your own way Beta **FREE** for a limited time only [Customer support](#) [More about us](#) [Contact us](#)

We know...

...everything about Australia's bus network

Make the most of your precious holiday time and save money by getting us to plan your independent travel for you. At no cost to you, we produce detailed travel itineraries for your budget. Your travel itinerary will include information such as:

- Where to go in the time you have

Fill in your travel class here

Take a sneaky peek at one of our

Screen shot from new travelocator home page

Flying low cost to Australia

Yes, it's now possible to fly all the way to Australia using low-cost flights.

That's the good news. The bad news is that it will involve at least 5 flights just to get there.

Here's how it's done; firstly, take an easyJet flight to Istanbul. Then, Air Arabia to

Sharjah, known as the cultural capital of the UAE. Back on Air Arabia for a flight to either

Bangalore or Chennai where you can catch Tiger Air flights to Singapore and then Tiger Air again to Perth.

Of course, 5 flights needn't be bad news; all of these places would make great stopovers, and we know just the right places to go!



Boutique hostels found worldwide

The days of slumming it in grimy hostels are well and truly over.

The rise in popularity for boutique hostels has led to an increase in these establishments all over the world.

But what exactly is a boutique hostel? Design is a very important aspect. Gone are the days of plain concrete and metal. Hostel customers can now expect to find their accommodation stylishly and thoughtfully decorated.

Communal areas in boutique hostels tend to bring people together much more than a



Youthpalace, Davos, Switzerland

conventional hostel. Again, this comes down to design, with welcoming sofas, well-stocked libraries and free tea and coffee facilities amongst the many aspects customers can enjoy.

A common feature of the boutique hostel is the proliferation of private rooms and private bathrooms. This is where the boundaries between hostel and hotel blur. If an establishment only had private rooms with ensuite facilities, it could only be classed as a hotel.

So does this mean prices are much higher? Not usually. Often, all you need to do is put in some extra research to discover these special places, without having to pay any more than normal. And, of course, this is where travelocator can help you out!

Travelling on the world's longest train journey

Travel expert Anna tells us about her recent trip on the Trans-Siberian railway.

Standing on the cold platform at Yaroslavsky station in Moscow, I was a bit apprehensive at spending the next week confined to my cabin and the carriages of the Trans-Siberian.

My bag was weighed down with books but my aching back and concern was alleviated when the smiling Chinese steward welcomed me aboard.

The cabin was spacious enough, had very comfortable beds and was spotlessly clean. As we passed through Moscow's suburbs I met my fellow cabin and carriage buddies.

There was a total of 7 nationalities in our group of 15 and luckily we all spoke the common language of card games. Just as well as many a game was had over the journey.

Soon we were amongst the pine forests of Siberia. This was proper wilderness, and it felt very decadent to be travelling through it reclined on my bed reading a trashy novel.

After the trees came the plains. Now we could see the horizon and not a lot in-between. It was incredible to see such huge spaces and the massive sky above.

One morning we woke up beside icy Lake Baikal where the tracks ran right alongside the water.

The Russian dining car offered mediocre food at very high prices. When we reached the grassy hills of Mongolia we gained a Chinese dining car where the food was much better and reasonably priced.

It's also possible to make your own food, just so long as it doesn't involve anything more complicated than using the hot water from the samovar

at the end of each carriage.

Beyond the camel strewn Gobi, the wheels were removed from the carriages and replaced with Chinese gauge.

Now came the most spectacular part of the journey, winding through a steep gorge before emerging amongst the many factories of Beijing.

To truly appreciate the vastness of our planet, this journey is a must-do.

Just don't forget to bring your Pot Noodles.

