

Adventure tour 'not for the faint-hearted'

THE 14 Tasmanians who braved South America on motorbike have returned safe and sound.

A former Launceston lad, John Wells, and his Argentine wife Gabriela Zampini, run South American Motorcycle Tours out of Santiago.

The Sunday Examiner ran a feature on their tours last year and pointed out that a bunch of Tasmanian easy riders were saddling up for an adventure through the diverse and historic terrain of Chile, Bolivia and Peru.

Testimonials of the wild bunch suggest that they had a ball.

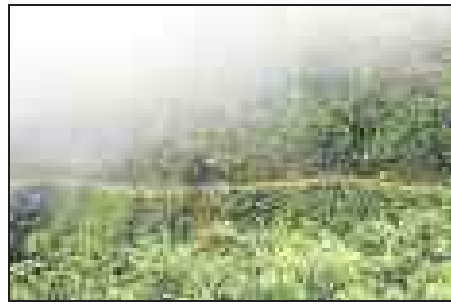
This from Alan Weeding, of Weeding Party Hire in Launceston:

"Our recent adventure to Chile, Bolivia and Peru was a once in a lifetime chance to experience the culture, dramatic scenery and people of these exciting destinations in South America.

"Our 23-day adventure holiday exceeded all our expectations from the top of the range BMW motorbikes and top quality of our hotel accommodation.

"My wife Helene and I are telling swashbuckling stories to friends of the place, people and lifetime experiences we had."

John and Penny Hewitt called it the



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"trip of a lifetime which was definitely not for the faint-hearted".

The Hewitts said the holiday was full of "action, diversity, challenges (with a few hairy moments thrown in for good measure!) and last but not least, spectacular scenery".

Brendan Groves reckons he would still like to be there cruising.

"There would be no better way to see South America than on a motorcycle. Everyday since returning I have flashbacks to the wonderful scenery, the roads, the people we met and the experiences gained. People ask me



what was the highlight and I tell them all of it, every day was a highlight."

The photos they've sent back certainly convey a wonderful journey. See www.samtours.com



from 10.40am (repeat 8.40pm) from August 30.

Under-12s discounts

NO sooner has this column lamented the passing of the children's discount on airline seats when Garuda bounces into my inbox with a Kid Fly Free offer.

It applies to under-12s travelling with two adults and is available for travel to Jakarta and all domestic connections in Indonesia.

Garuda and Bali Tours have a range of packages to take advantage of the deal. These include seven nights at Bali's Legian Village Hotel in a standard room and return economy airfares from \$1240 a person. Another \$47 and the rug rat comes along for the ride.

For more details call Garuda on 1300 365 330 or see www.balitours.com.au.

Airporter's view

AUTHOR Alain de Botton's observations of Heathrow Airport will be read out over the airwaves from August 30 on ABC Radio National.

Last year De Botton was appointed the first writer-in-residence at Heathrow and was given access to the broad human tapestry of travellers, pilots, check-in staff, executives and baggage handlers that work or pass through this high-volume airport.

De Botton wrote best sellers *The Art of Travel*, *Status Anxiety* and *How Proust Can Change Your Life*.

He reads *A Week At The Airport* on the *First Person* program weekdays

SCENIC TOURS

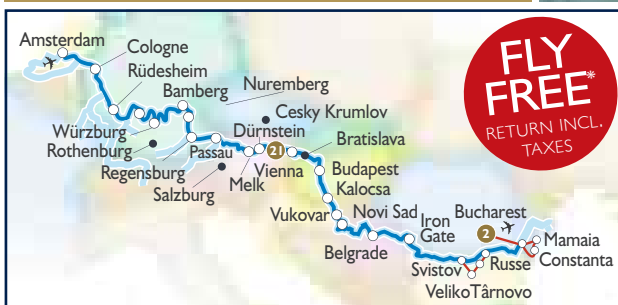
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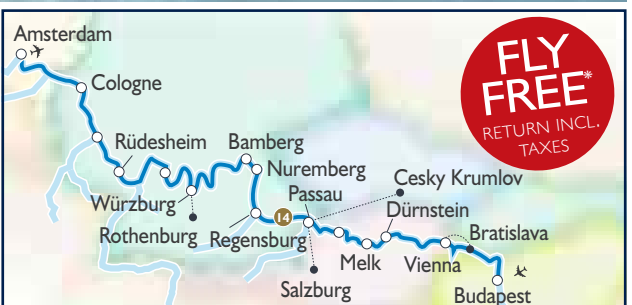
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For more information call one of our Scenic specialist agents

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*Conditions Apply. Prices based on per person twin share ex SYD/MEL/BNE/PER/ADL, a surcharge applies from all other ports, are strictly limited & subject to availability on specific dates, until sold out and includes port charges and taxes. Airline/Airport taxes from \$250 pp and port charges included. Surcharges may apply from other ports. Offers for new bookings only and not in conjunction with any other offers including group deals and may be withdrawn at any time. Any maps or other route depictions are intended as an indication only and are subject to change. Surcharge for payment by credit card applies. A \$3000 non refundable deposit is required within 7 days of booking. For flight deals flights must be booked by Scenic Tours. Scenic Tours reserve the right to ticket the airfare upon receipt of deposit. Once issued, air tickets are subject to amendment and cancellation fees as established by the applicable airline. Fly Free/Partner Fly Free available on selected departures in economy W or R class on Emirates. Should Emirates not be available for any reason Scenic Tours reserves the right to substitute another airline. Offer available until 30 Sept 2010 unless sold out prior. **ABBU:** Price based on 25 May 2011 departure in E cabin category (no balcony). Offer available on all cabin categories March to Nov 2011. **AMBA:** Price based on 12 April 2011 departure in E cat cabin (no balcony). Offer available on D/E cat cabins Mar to Nov 2011. **STC:** Price based on 9 Nov 2011 departure in E cat cabin (no balcony). Offer available all cabin categories Mar & Nov and D/E cabins Mar to Nov 2011. 7 | Prices correct as at 16 Aug 2010. For full terms & conditions refer to relevant brochures. Licence No. 2TA 002 633 ABN 85 002 715 602.