

• GOOD DEALS AROUND THE GLOBE •

navigator

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FREE NIGHT IN SOUTH AFRICA

There is a free night's accommodation at the Makutsi Safari Springs lodge, when booking a seven-night, land-only package. It starts at \$1555 per person, including accommodation, breakfast, dinner, game drives, a tour of Kruger National Park, sightseeing at Drakensberg Mountain, a Blyde River canyon excursion and a tribal village visit. The deal is valid for sale until March 31 and for travel until October 31. Ph: 1300 3623 055 or visit adventureworld.com.au

WILDLIFE GALORE

A seven-night Alaskan cruise should satisfy wildlife lovers, with waters filled with sea lions and sea otters. Migrating whales, plus moose, deer and bears are also on the cards. The tour visits ports of Juneau, Ketchikan and Victoria British Columbia. Guests will view rugged coastlines and glaciers. Prices start from \$1645 per person twin share and include the seven-night cruise aboard the *Norwegian Pearl*, all onboard meals and pre-paid gratuities. Check it out by visiting cruiseabout.com.au or ring 1300 363 428.

Advertisement

ePassport holders now have the option of using SmartGate.

All passports with the gold international ePassport symbol* are called ePassports. The good news is that Australians and New Zealanders with ePassports can use SmartGate to self-process through passport control.

SmartGate is an easy, two-step process that performs the customs and immigration checks usually conducted by a Customs and Border Protection officer. It offers travellers flying into Australia another safe, efficient way to clear through passport control.

Already operational in Brisbane, Cairns, Melbourne and Adelaide, SmartGate will be progressively rolled out to all other major Australian international airports.

To use SmartGate, you must also be aged 18 or over. And while Customs and Border Protection is pleased to offer you this option, just remember you can still have your ePassport manually checked if you prefer.

For more information visit australia.gov.au/smartgate



*All Australian passports issued after October 2005 and all New Zealand passports issued after November 2005 are ePassports.

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In the end our pick is *Chicago*, located at the Ambassador Theatre, walking distance from Times Square. Booking in advance online gave us great seats.

Tip: Walk around Times Square after the show. It's all neon lights, crowded and loud and unforgettable.

Cost: Cost \$A97 to \$A185.

www.chicagothemusical.com

DAY THREE

MOVIE TOUR

OUR first activity on day three is a movie tour. Donning our thermals, we brave the cold and head down to the Ellen's Stardust Diner on Broadway, a retro 50s restaurant reminiscent of the TV sitcom *Happy Days* that is complete with singing waiters.

On the toasty warm bus, our On Location tour director, herself an aspiring actress, keeps us entertained with trivia about the 60 or so movie and TV locations we're seeing. We sit on the steps of the Cosby home, stand in front of the *Friends* apartment building and eat rice pudding at Rice to Riches, the location of several movies.

Tip: Take notes, otherwise you'll have lots of photos you can't place.

Cost: \$A55. www.screentours.com

CENTRAL PARK.

ONE of the highlights of my quickie trip to New York is a horse and carriage ride through Central Park. In the middle of winter, you probably won't want to brave walking around the 339 hectares of parkland.

Tip: Ask the drivers lots of questions. These guys know their city well.

Cost: About \$A52 for 30 minutes.

www.centralpark.com

ICE-SKATING AT THE ROCKEFELLER CENTRE.

IT'S winter and we are in New York. An obvious activity is ice-skating at the Rockefeller Centre.

Billed as one of New York's most celebrated traditions, the rink, although small, can accommodate up to 150 skaters at a time. Since 1936, the rink has attracted 250,000 people each year.

Tip: Rug up well - it's freezing!

Cost: Adult \$A26, child \$A18.

www.nyctourist.com

TOP OF THE ROCKS

ONCE again, we find ourselves getting a bird's eye view of New York, this time from the observation deck at the Rockefeller Centre.

The building is 70 floors high and gives us 360-degree views of this dazzling city.

Looking at the city skyline, I feel a sense of pride. We have navigated around this huge city in three days. I purchase a Christmas bauble, which will serve as a yearly reminder of a truly amazing trip.

Cost: Adult \$A30, child \$A19.

www.topoftherocknyc.com

Step 1

- Look for the SmartGate kiosk, located in the concourses or at passport control.
- Place your ePassport into the reader and answer standard declarations using the touch screen.
- The kiosk will issue you a SmartGate ticket, which you'll need for step 2.



Step 2

- At the gate, insert your SmartGate ticket.
- Look at the camera while your face is compared to your ePassport photo.
- Retrieve your ticket and proceed through the gate.
- Collect your luggage and proceed to the Customs check-point.
- Hand in your SmartGate ticket and Passenger Card.



Australian Government



Authorised by the Australian Government, Capital Hill, Canberra.