



# FLIGHT CENTRE®

## Unbeatable

### International Airfares

#### FLIGHT CENTRE EXCLUSIVE

**LOS ANGELES OR  
SAN FRANCISCO  
OR VANCOUVER**

RETURN FROM

**\$1535\***

	ECONOMY CLASS RETURN FROM	BUSINESS CLASS RETURN FROM
Auckland	\$655*	\$1875*
Bali	\$1225*	\$1789*
Bangkok	\$929*	\$2099*
Fiji	\$699*	\$2099*
Ho Chi Minh City	\$1159*	\$3845*
Hong Kong	\$1095*	\$2765*
Kuala Lumpur	\$969*	\$3499*
London	\$1749*	\$5779*
Manila	\$1185*	\$2995*
Paris	\$1679*	\$5779*
Phuket	\$1019*	\$2545*
Round the World	\$2239*	\$7749*
Singapore	\$765*	\$2069*
Tokyo	\$1059*	\$2555*

### Australian Holidays

#### GOLD COAST

4½-STAR

**\$155\***

FROM

**INCLUDES** 3 nights accom at the 4½-star Watermark Hotel & Spa in Surfers Paradise.  
**ADD** Return airfare from \$198\*.

**Ayers Rock 5-Star** WAS \$714\* NOW FROM \$475\*  
**INCLUDES** 3 nights accom at the 5-star Voyages Sails in the Desert with return transfers.  
**ADD** Return airfare from \$454\* and a Sounds of Silence dinner from \$153\*.

**Broome 4½-Star** FROM \$549\*  
**INCLUDES** 5 nights accom at the 4½-star Cable Beach Club Resort with buffet breakfast daily and return transfers. **ADD** Return airfare from \$680\*.

**Gold Coast Indy 300** FROM \$449\*  
**INCLUDES** 3 nights accom in a 1 Bedroom Apartment at the 4½-star Mantra Bel-Air and a 4-day Indy 300 General Admission pass.

**Mt Hotham Ski Weekend** FROM \$399\*  
**INCLUDES** 2 nights accom, a 2-day lift pass and 2 days skis, poles and boots or snowboard and boots hire. **ADD** Clothing hire from \$45\* and 2 lessons from \$58\*.

**Port Douglas 6 Nights** FROM \$399\*  
**INCLUDES** 6 nights accom at the 4½-star Rydges Sabaya Resort Port Douglas. **ADD** Return airfare to Cairns from \$338\* and a full-day reef cruise from \$164\*.

### Australian Airfares

#### SYDNEY

ONE WAY FROM

**\$79\***

Adelaide	ONE WAY FROM \$59*
Ballina Byron	ONE WAY FROM \$109*
Brisbane	ONE WAY FROM \$109*
Broome	ONE WAY FROM \$330*
Cairns	ONE WAY FROM \$169*
Canberra	ONE WAY FROM \$95*
Darwin	ONE WAY FROM \$129*
Fraser Coast	ONE WAY FROM \$169*
Gold Coast	ONE WAY FROM \$99*
Hamilton Island	ONE WAY FROM \$169*
Hobart	ONE WAY FROM \$79*
Launceston	ONE WAY FROM \$59*
Mackay	ONE WAY FROM \$189*
Newcastle	ONE WAY FROM \$69*
Perth	ONE WAY FROM \$199*
Port Macquarie	ONE WAY FROM \$199*
Sunshine Coast	ONE WAY FROM \$109*
Whitsunday Coast	ONE WAY FROM \$205*

### International Holidays

#### BALI

6 NIGHTS

**\$1169\***

FROM

**INCLUDES** Return airfare and 6 nights accom at the 4-star Wina Holiday Villa with breakfast daily.  
**ADD** Extra nights from \$25\* per night.

**New Zealand Fly/Drive** FROM \$479\*  
**INCLUDES** Return airfare to Christchurch and 7 days car hire with unlimited kilometres.  
**ADD** Accom from \$45\* per night.

**Bangkok and Phuket** FROM \$1379\*  
**INCLUDES** 10 Nights  
**INCLUDES** Return airfare, 2 nights accom in Bangkok, 8 nights accom in Phuket and breakfast daily.  
**ADD** 2 nights accom on Phi Phi Island with breakfast daily and return transfers from \$185\*.

**Paris 4 Nights** FROM \$299\*  
**INCLUDES** 4 nights accom with breakfast daily.  
**ADD** A Paris Seinorama tour from \$92\*.

**USA Disneyland** FROM \$1999\*  
**INCLUDES** Return airfare to Los Angeles, 4 nights accom and a 2-day Disneyland Resort Park Hopper ticket. **BONUS** Up to 7 days car hire.

**Vanuatu 7 Nights** FROM \$1099\*  
**INCLUDES** Return airfare and 7 nights accom.  
**ADD** A sunset cruise from \$57\*.

Call 1300 727 706  
flightcentre.com.au

**LOW PRICE  
PROMISE**  
If you happen to find a cheaper  
available price, we'll beat it.

\*Based on Australian registered businesses and websites for travel departing within Australia. Quote must be presented at time of booking. \*Travel restrictions & conditions apply. Please ask us for further details. Prices & taxes are correct as at 21 May 08 & are subject to change without notice. Prices are per person & are subject to availability. Accommodation (if included) is based on twin share unless otherwise stated. Seasonal surcharges may apply depending on date of travel. Additional levies, government charges & other applicable fees may apply & are beyond our control. Additional taxes specific to your flight routing may apply (where airfare is included). Payments made by credit card will incur a surcharge. Service charges from \$10 per one way domestic airfare & \$15 per one way trans-Tasman airfare apply to in-store & telephone bookings. Online air bookings will incur a non-refundable booking and credit card fee of \$15.95. Seasonal surcharges, blackout dates and minimum/maximum stay restrictions may apply. Advertised price includes any bonus nights. Please call Flight Centre for further details. Packages: Airfares are not included unless otherwise stated. Domestic Airfares: Some fares valid for midweek departures only. Gold Coast Indy: Valid for travel 23 - 26 Oct 08. Price excludes service fees of \$10.15 per booking. Mt Hotham Ski Weekends: Valid for travel 6-26 June and 12-28 Sept 08. New Zealand Fly/Drive: A Pacific Blue surcharge of \$30 per person applies when travelling between 22 June-15 July 08. Vehicle insurance excess of NZ\$1800 applies. This can be reduced to NZ\$220 by paying NZ\$15 per day (non-refundable). Bangkok and Phuket: Valid for sale until 30 May 08. USA Disneyland: Additional taxes, levies and surcharges are payable direct on car pick-up. Insurance excess and other charges may also apply. Hong Kong Business Airfare: Price is valid when 2 adults are travelling together on all sectors. FROM MELBOURNE Lic No. 31089. mhs\_23may\_384.f



Beijing games: costume and make-up is used to reveal identity and location.

# So you don't lose the plot

Beijing's historic opera now comes with subtitles, writes Ewen Bell

**T**HE Beijing Opera draws inspiration across the kingdom of China, presenting a nightly feast of lavish costumes and acrobatic dances.

The melodramatic story lines performed on stage are a window to the nation's history — and make for a great night out.

In centuries past the opera would start after dark and continue past midnight, leaving actors and audience weary and emotional.

A good story needs time to be fully explored, and thousands of years of Chinese kingdoms have produced plenty of those.

The modern version at the Liyuan Theatre is a greatly shortened experience, offering three acts taken from three different operas and performed to an intimate audience of a few hundred people.

Liyuan Theatre is a gentle introduction to the art. It explores nuances and acts that have proved popular with out-of-town crowds.

English subtitles have also made it easier for foreigners to enjoy the experience — pig-faced masks and oriental clowns don't make much sense if you can't follow the plot.

The focus of most traditional operas is the battle between good and evil, love and hate, or right and wrong.

The setting can vary greatly from palatial residences in the north to distant mountains in the west, but the stage itself does not change much at all.

Costumes, make-up and simple props are used to reveal identity and location.

Faces of a monkey god are intricately painted with mischievous lines of black and red, venerable emperors wear exaggerated beards and yellow robes, feminine grace is highlighted with feathers and flowers.

Dress reveals to the audience what the scene is all about, but movement is the key to expressing emotion for the characters. Subtle hesitations demonstrate anxiety, flowing strides convey passion and a sudden stillness can betray hidden desires.

When a romantic connection is portrayed on stage there is an invisible

### THE DEAL



GB/Herald Sun 23/5/08

➔ **Getting there:** Thai Airways flies daily from Melbourne to Beijing, with daily services via Bangkok and optional stopovers. Fares from \$1420. Ph: 1300 651 960 or visit [www.thairways.com.au](http://www.thairways.com.au)

➔ **Staying:** Imperial Expeditions' \$1540 four-night package at China World Hotel includes a night at the opera, day trip to the Great Wall and tours of the city's highlights. Visit [www.imperialexpeditions.com](http://www.imperialexpeditions.com) or ph: 8005 0499.

➔ **Opera:** The Liyuan Theatre stages nightly performances. Bookings: [www.qianmenhotel.com/en/liyuan](http://www.qianmenhotel.com/en/liyuan) Tickets from \$55.

➔ **More information:** [english.visitbeijing.com.cn](http://english.visitbeijing.com.cn)

line between the characters, evident only by the movements on stage.

The pinnacle of any show is revealed in acrobatic choreography.

During the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s almost anything to do with imperial rule was held in disdain, and opera troupes in Beijing had to be careful in their choice of material.

New operas were developed to echo revolutionary zeal and glorify the Red Army. Only in recent years have the Maoist overtones been abandoned, allowing the depth of operatic culture in Beijing to be restored to its full potential.

Bitter-sweet stories of Mongolian invaders, epic tales of Manchurian dynasties and the lessons of Buddhist parables all get their turn on stage in the Olympic City.