



Young woman at a horse festival, Tagong, Tibet, 1999, from *Looking East: Portraits* by Steve McCurry.

# global traveller

From Tanunda to Tibet, what's hot in hotels, books and arm-candy luggage

words **BELINDA JACKSON**



Hanging around: this is not a bedroom, but a 'bedscape' at the New Majestic hotel, Singapore.

## TRAVEL BIBLES

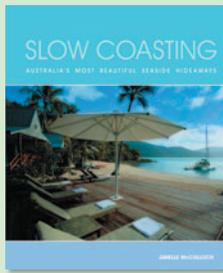
### Eastern eye

Steve McCurry shot to fame with his portrait of an Afghan girl in 1984 for National Geographic, now one of the world's best-known travel photographs. This lush hardcover book is an extension of that idea – the faces of south and southeast Asia, from the coal-blackened face of an Afghan miner to that of a Tibetan pilgrim and a tribal Indian girl. *Looking East: Portraits* by Steve McCurry (Phaidon, \$69.95).



### World shopper

Credit cards on alert: imagine a friend who tucks your arm in theirs and leads you through the back streets of the world, to unearth the most fabulous clothes, gifts or furniture. *The Passionate Shopper* by Marion von Alderstein (Lantern, \$39.95).



### Go coastal

Indulge your oceanic obsessions without leaving the suburbs via this glossy page-turner that uncovers Australia's most beautiful beach hideaways. The ideal antidote to a gloomy afternoon. *Slow Coasting* by Janelle McCulloch (New Holland, \$34.95).

Sleep among the best design that Singapore has to offer in the New Majestic hotel, opened earlier this year. Boutique and beautiful, it has just 30 rooms, and every one is different. Five are designed by the cream of the city's design coterie, with emerging artists letting loose in the four styles of edgy concept rooms: the suspended bed, mirror room, loft and

the strangely beguiling aquarium rooms, which feature transparent bathrooms. Try the award-winning Cantonese restaurant, as befits its location, in the city's Chinatown. In another touch of the bizarre, the restaurant looks up into the hotel's rooftop lap pool... New Majestic Hotel, from \$243/double, Design Hotels 0011 800 3746 8357 (toll free), [www.designhotels.com](http://www.designhotels.com).

### OUTWARD BOUND

- France is the world's most-visited country, with 76 million people popping in each year, of which half a million are Aussies. Mon dieu!
- We're a patriotic bunch, with our own home state still the most popular destination for holidays. When we go overseas, nearly a quarter of us (24%) make a beeline for Europe over the Americas (16%), Asia (13%) and NZ (12%).



photography Grant Nowell

### HEAVEN SCENT

You might be flying over Siberia, but you can still smell of Australian bush flowers with this beautiful face and body mist. The lemon, geranium and peppermint will pick you up so the lag won't bring you down. It's all organic, not tested on animals, Aussie-made and even carries a good price tag: in short, it lives up to its name. Perfect Potion Jet Setter aromatic mist, \$15.95, Star of Beauty, 8376 5759



**VIRTUAL TOURIST** QANTAS HAS JOINED VIRGIN BLUE IN ALLOWING DOMESTIC TRAVELLERS TO CHECK IN VIA THE INTERNET UP TO 24 HOURS BEFORE DEPARTURE. NO FUSS!



### TOP 3 TRAVEL TOTES

#### REAL BRAZILIAN

Cow-as-art has never looked so good as this transformation of a caramel-and-cream hide into a totally delicious travel bag. Spacious, capacious and bodacious, snap up your essential weekender before it appears on everyone's arms. Also available in snappy black-and-white. Cowhide bag, \$400, Ideal Shoe Repairs 8223 4017



#### BAGGAGE WITH BLING

We don't know why this shiny gold bag is called The Status Belly - we hazard a guess that even its maker, Crumpler, can't remember how it gained that moniker. But, hey, it's gold and, with the addition of a bit 'o bling, aka the Crumpler pendant, in either stainless steel, 9- or 18-carat gold (you so need it!), you'll be a little ray of sunshine wherever you travel.

The Status Belly bag, \$80, pendants, \$50/\$748/\$1600, Crumpler 8232 8272, [www.crumpler.com.au](http://www.crumpler.com.au).



#### DUCK L'ORANGE

This season, it's all about orange. Well, we know it's been big in Italy for the past few years, but even they're still running with it, as the new divine Isi range from Mandarin Duck shows. The smart burnt orange scheme, in three sizes, will ensure yours is not one of the boring black bag brigade on the collection carousels. Mandarin Duck Isi VO2, \$175/38l, Leigh Street Luggage 8231 9616 \*

