



## **Kat Discovers Something About Men, Money & Travel**

By Kat, Ciao Bella Travel's Home Correspondent

March 08

Well that's the Easter break, gone in the blink of an eye. To combat the back to work blues I always like to have a holiday to plan, even if it's just a quick weekend away.

I went through a quarter-life crisis a few months ago when I realised it was entirely possible that the next time I'd travel around Europe for an extended period of time might be when I'm retired. And for me, the allure of Paris isn't quite the same with grey hair and control underwear. When I imagine myself tripping around Europe, being young and sexy is as essential to the trip as trying to get a photo of the Mona Lisa as if you're the only person in the room.

So I floated the idea of a long overseas holiday with Mark one night over dinner. I reeled off my holiday wish list. Three months travelling, we could stay with friends most of the way.

Mark, aka Captain Cautious met my ambit claim for a fabulous holiday with his characteristically grim outlook on our financial situation.

"If not now, when?" I airily replied to his litany of reasons why we shouldn't. So what if this is our first year into a crippling mortgage, and interest rates are on the rise?

So I devised a scaled down itinerary. Four weeks away, including a couple of sweeteners just for him, like a visit to see a friend of his in Philadelphia and a few days in Berlin to check out the music scene.

I got a quote for flights and emailed it to Mark. He didn't reply. Weeks went by. I followed him up about it over dinner one night and he pronounced it too expensive.

So every week I came back with a different idea. How about Vietnam? New Zealand? Or the West Australian Coast instead?

Finally, I snapped. Why couldn't he get excited about coming on holidays? He looked at me puzzled, and explained that he couldn't get excited because I kept changing my mind about where I wanted to go! I was speechless.



I'd all but given up, until one day, inexplicably; he announced he was on board. It was like a timer had gone off that signalled to him that he'd considered it long enough, it was definitely a good idea to spend our money on a holiday.

Of course the money we're spending on this holiday would be better spent pumped into the mortgage, or on a knee reconstruction (but that's story for another time). There are always so many things vying for those valuable dollars. And I know that struggling with these decisions isn't unusual. It reminds me of those wonderful words about life being a journey, not a destination. And this time, we chose to have a good time along the way!

Ciao bella!

Kat Cutler

*Local Knowledge: If you're at Kingscliff in northern New South Wales anytime soon, make sure you pop into Gelateria Vernazza at Salt for the most delicious gelati. The young Italian guy who runs it is from Vernazza in Italy's Cinque Terre region. And the 'Salt Special', a creamy mix of yoghurt, passionfruit and white chocolate is ridiculously yummy.*