

The Newcastle Herald – Villa Mako

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TRAVEL

weekender

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GOING PLACES
by JOHN ROZENTALS



Cuba is a fascinating destination to explore by motorbike.

CUBA MOTORCYCLE TOURS

Extreme Bike Tours will run its first Cuban tour in 2016, with adventurers choosing from a Harley Davidson, BMW 800cc or Suzuki VStrom to ride across the exotic Caribbean island. The 13-day tours are priced at about \$8100 per rider and \$5760 per pillion passenger, including accommodation, seven dinners, three lunches, fuel and motorbike hire, with departures February 21 and March 6. Trip will include visits to rural villages, the museum at the Bay of Pigs and the mausoleum of executed Marxist revolutionary, Che Guevara, with an optional ride to Guantanamo also available. Visit extremebiketours.com.

GOLD COAST SUPERCARS

It's claimed to be the Gold Coast's biggest party – the V8 Supercars Castrol Gold Coast 600, to be held from October 23-25. Among many packages is a four-night Sportsnet deal including accommodation in the Mantra Legends Hotel, a three-day trackside pass to the Castrol Gold Coast 600, a pit-lane walk experience, and entry to Shipwrecked – an exclusive Sportsnet Island Function. From \$785 per person twin-share. Visit sportsnetholidays.com.



Villa Mako is set well away from Bali's tourist areas.



ENJOY OFF-BEATEN TRACKS

Cruise Traveller's 29-night Scottish Highlands to French Riviera itinerary next May explores the backroads of Britain and France, blending luxury with off-the-beaten-track experiences – and a seven-night cruise on Ponant's 132-cabin luxury megayacht Le Boréal. From \$15,999 per person twin-share, including return Emirates flights from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. Phone 1800 507 777 or visit cruisetraveller.com.au.

COOKING CLASSES FOR KIDS

Phuley Bay, a Ritz-Carlton property in Thailand's seaside Krabi resort precinct, is inviting younger guests to unleash their inner culinary skills with its new Petit Chef program. Offered complimentary to resort guests, the activity allows children aged 5-11 to spend a day walking in a chef's footsteps, from selecting ingredients in the resort's organic garden to whipping up a delicious meal. Visit phuley-bay.com.

BALI VILLAGE LIFE

The colonial design of Bali's Villa Mako owes much to the architecture of traditional Javanese plantation houses with the high, wooden-strutted ceilings of the villa's central hall taking their inspiration from an old college in Central Java. Set well away from Bali's tourist areas in the tiny village of Tiyang Tutul, Villa Mako sits amid the rhythms of agricultural life and it gracefully honours Balinese culture. Rates start at about \$600 per night. Visit villamako.com.

EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISE

Cruise for 15 days aboard a Scenic SpaceShip from Amsterdam to Budapest along the Rhine, Main and Danube Rivers in November 2016 and pay from \$6795 per person twin-share. This deal includes return flights to Europe. However, full payment for the cruise must be received by August 31 this year. Phone 138 128 or visit scenic.com.au.

CUNARD BIRTHDAY SPECIAL

Cunard, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, will give its illustrious flagship Queen Mary 2 a 25-day break next May for a "significant refurbishment" at the Blohm+Voss Shipyard in Hamburg. Passengers travelling with man's best friend are obviously high on the priorities list. Key developments in the refurb include the addition of 15 single staterooms, 30 Britannia Club balcony staterooms plus 10 more kennels. Visit cunardline.com.au.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA DELIGHT

Pay from \$149 per night this winter for a studio room at the Sebel Bussetton and savour all the delights of Western Australia's south-west. Indoor activities include a large heated swimming pool, two glass-fronted squash courts, and facilities for a game of pool or table tennis. There are also regular visits from a coffee van, a French Bakery van and a curry van. Phone 08 9754 9800 or visit thesebel.com.

Going Places

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The colonial design of Bali's Villa Mako owes much to the architecture of traditional Javanese plantation houses with the high, wooden-strutted ceilings of the villa's central hall taking their inspiration from an old college in Central Java.

Set well away from Bali's tourist areas in the tiny village of Tiyang Tutul, Villa Mako sits amid the rhythms of agricultural life and gracefully honours Balinese culture.

Guests are welcome at Hindu ceremonies in the nearby temple, which provide a unique insight into the religion and customs of Bali.

Rates start at USD445 per night.

Visit www.villamako.com.



Villa Mako ... set well away from Bali's tourist areas.