

Media Release

For Immediate Release

**MORE SINGAPOREAN INTEREST
FOR AUSTRALIA'S WHALE SHARK DIVING HOT-SPOT
ON CHRISTMAS ISLAND**

Perth, 13 August 2007...Enticed by its safe and clear waters, an increasing number of Singaporeans are taking the plunge into the spectacular waters the Indian Ocean's hottest diving location – Christmas Island.

The remote Australian island, which rises dramatically from the edge of the Java Trench, and located just a short 2 hours 15 minutes flight from Singapore, boasts some of the best scuba diving and longest drop-offs (up to 5000m) in the world. Its' clear blue waters and the majestic rise of the island's contour promises a diverse variety of marine life. Whale sharks are a regular visitor to this island, migrating in the months of December until April and sometimes earlier or later every year.

"The island's unique geography contributes to endless kilometres of spectacular drop-off diving with most walls being only 20 metres from the shoreline," remarks experienced diver and Christmas Island Tourism Association spokesperson, Ms Linda Cash *"There are some diving spots in the world that offer cave diving and vibrant corals, others offer wall diving with excellent visibility and several places offer whalesharks – but few boast all of these and more,"* she further adds.

Accessibility between Singapore and Christmas Island was made available since February 2006 by a weekly charter flight between Austasia Airlines and Silk Air utilizing an A320 aircraft. This flight is now listed on the GDS (Global Distribution Systems) worldwide, opening the availability for easy ticket purchases from all travel agents.

Commencing August 2007, the Singapore and Australian Governments have approved this as a **weekly regular scheduled passenger flight**. Departing every Thursday from Changi International Airport at 16:50 hrs and returning back to Singapore at 22:05 hrs, the flights arrive on Christmas Island at 18:05 hrs local time and depart for Singapore at 18:50 hrs after a ground time of 45 minutes.

Managing Director of Austasia Airlines, Ed Turner said *"This flight now opens up one of the most pristine diving locations on the planet with spectacular sea life, and the high standard of flight services offered by Silk Air"*.

Page 2/ continued...

With the flights availability from Singapore to Christmas Island, an increasing number of Singaporeans have started discovering the delights of diving on Christmas Island. A word of warning however - as space on the island's dive boats is limited, it is strongly recommended that divers pre-book dives ahead of their arrival.

A seven nights dive package to Christmas Island starts from AUD 1,965.00 with various selections of accommodations. The package is inclusive of :

- ❖ Return flights from Singapore to Christmas Island
- ❖ Seven nights accommodation
- ❖ Return airport transfers
- ❖ 10 Boat dives with Experienced Dive Guide
- ❖ Tanks and Weight belts with lunch for 5 days
- ❖ Christmas Island Orientation Tour
- ❖ Half Day Island Tour (choice of nature, bird or panoramic tour)

Other packages are available for non-divers starting from AUD 1,110.00 per person minimum twin sharing with optional inclusions.

For package bookings, contact Eco Adventure on 6538 4441 or email : eaw@eaw.com.sg for flight reservations, please consult your preferred travel planner.

For more information please contact :

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Other sites to browse for information on Christmas Island are :

- www.islandexplorer.com.au
- www.christmas.net.au
