

TRAVELLER

Darrell Hardidge founder and chief executive of Saguity

First, business or economy? Usually economy to save the expense for better experiences. But if it's a long trip, then premium economy works fine.

Favourite destination Europe is always great. There's so much diversity within a short distance. Just being part of the day to day is great. Enjoying a coffee in the morning rush tells you a lot about how they behave and respect each other.

Favourite airport Singapore's Changi Airport is the best because there is plenty to do. I have spent a lot of time there exploring the watch and tech shops. I also enjoy the rawness of domestic airports in places like Myanmar.

If I ran my own airline I would ... Make the customer experience the No. 1 priority. Consumers have a lot of choice and politeness and good service do not cost a cent more but make a world of difference. Travel is tiring

and a genuine smile and support go a very long way.

Where would you go with an unlimited travel budget? I'd take my closest family and friends to Antarctica on a five-star trip to experience the power of nature in this significant place. But ultimately I would like to do a quick lap of the planet on Virgin Galactic – once they sort out any safety issues.

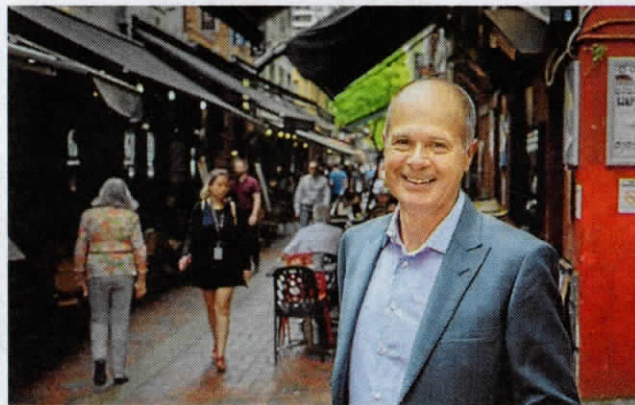
Worst place you've been lost? New Orleans late at night. It's a very scary city to find your way around. I'll never make that mistake again.

Best trip ever For my 50th birthday, we spent five weeks in Europe – one week for every decade. We made it a celebration trip and totally indulged. We spent my birthday in Granada, Spain.

Most memorable overseas dining Vietnam House, Luke Nguyen's restaurant in Ho Chi Minh City. The food was sensational.

In the suitcase Often too much, but I'm getting better. I always allow space in case I find something I want to buy. I'm organised about chargers, earphones and tech stuff. I take the time to understand the climate and pack to suit the weather. There's nothing worse than being caught out in the cold.

First thing you do in a new city
Go for a walk to find out where the best coffee



Darrell Hardidge:
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walk in a new city
and find out where
the best coffee is.

is for the morning and make sure I'm ready for what I'm there to do. If it's a keynote speaking gig, then I check out the venue as soon as I can in case it's not as expected – I hate surprises. Then maybe I'll watch a movie and switch off.

How do you make the most of a spare afternoon in a strange city? Go to the heart of the city and experience the culture. I love to watch people and how they engage. I challenge myself by starting up a conversation and learning about the city.

Most like to travel with Sir David

Attenborough. I would have him choose the destination and just tag along. He is wise, has the most profound knowledge of nature and is the greatest example of purposeful living. A day with him would change your view of the world.

Cure for jet lag I don't have one other than to stay up as late as I can, drink lots of water and try to fit into the local time zone, especially for meals. I find fasting helps as well as walking around to keep busy until it's bedtime.

Other travel tips

Don't eat at the hotel. I get out into the city. I prefer smaller boutique hotels that focus more on the guest experience rather than being just a number in a 300-room hotel.

Best overseas purchase My Bose noise-cancelling headphones. They are the best for blocking out screaming kids and parents.

Best travel tale I was visiting Penfolds in the Barossa in my early 20s, trying to find a particular red to replace a bottle we shouldn't have drunk from a friend's cellar (yep, it was Grange). I asked an old gentleman where I could find one, only to see him on television shortly after. I was chatting with Max Schubert [the pioneering Australian winemaker] and didn't know who he was. Ouch!

lifandleisure@afrc.com