

# THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW

FRIDAY 20 MAY 2005

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## TRAVELLER

### James Elkington

**Position:** Managing director, Esker Australia. Esker is a French software company. The Esker Australia subsidiary manages business for the Asia-Pacific region. A few years ago, travelling to various offices for product training/briefing sessions, updates for on-the-ground staff etc was necessary. These days, however, it's mercifully less frequent for us due to the use of tele-conferencing and with email.

**Most frequented business destination:** Singapore.

**Favourite airline:** You begin to feel that they are all pretty terrible after a



while. But, if I have to fly, I will choose BA. I've been a Qantas frequent flyer for more than 10 years and have never been offered an upgrade. On my second trip with BA,

they offered me an upgrade and I hadn't even applied for the frequent flyer program.

**Favourite hotel:** The M Hotel in Singapore. It has great decor and it's great value for money. The service is also good. After my second visit, all the staff remembered my name.

**Can you recommend a restaurant overseas?** Creperie Ar-men restaurant in Singapore. It's truly authentic French. (37 Duxton Road, SQ)

**Travel tips for others:** Install video conferencing at your office. I prefer to save travelling for my family. Business travel is not as enjoyable as some believe – or I may just have been really unlucky.

**Mobile communications:** Most decent hotels have internet access and technology keeps making it easier with wireless hot spots in most airports these days. I always take a Triban Mobile as they work everywhere, so I don't have to keep remembering which phone works where.

**Shopping:** I'm not a big shopping fan but I find Singapore a very palatable place to shop – it's always nice to bring home surprises.

**Most memorable moments travelling:** A trip to Taipei. There were no English signs in the airport and guards with machine guns everywhere. A very dubious looking

transfer bus and my room was situated on the 34th floor. When I looked through the literature in the room, I began to get extremely anxious about the emergency evacuation procedure: "In case of earthquake, rope and harness located in cupboard at end of hall, happy abseil!"

**Do you have linen and dry cleaning problems when travelling?** Why would I?

**Greatest thing about travelling?** Doing it in personal time for R&R with family. Meeting interesting locals at each destination.

**Worst thing about travelling?** Being away from my family.