

JILL WORRALL TOURS NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2018

Welcome to the first Jill Worrall Tours newsletter produced in conjunction with House of Travel Riccarton. The exciting start of a new era!

And there's lots of news to cover so here goes:

Meet Moray

I know some of you have already been in contact with Moray Johnston who is a House of Travel consultant appointed to work solely on my tours. So, you will already know how great she is to deal with and be enjoying her prompt replies to queries etc. I do encourage you, even if you're not planning any more trips right away, to give her a call (Ph 03 3413908), or if you're in Christchurch to drop into the House of Travel Riccarton office (it's on the Riccarton Road-Kauri Street corner, right opposite the main entrance to Westfield Mall) and meet her. Email contact morayj@hot.co.nz

And where have I been lately?

Well, I'm just back from an extremely enjoyable tour of the Balkans. I was joined by 12 people for a journey that took us from Thessaloniki in Greece through Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. I think we were all surprised by Kosovo and how go-ahead and vibrant it was, and the transformation of Albania's capital Tirana was astounding. It was such a lovely group too and great to see some new faces as well.



Just before that I was in the Arctic on an expedition cruise to Franz Josef Land in the Russian Arctic. What an astounding place this was. There were 10 in my group joined by 11 Americans who I was also helping to look after. They were fun people too and we all had a great time together. We saw about 14 polar bears, hundreds of walrus, along with beluga and bowhead whales and arctic fox. Keep an eye out your local Fairfax paper and on the Stuff website for an article written by me about Franz Josef Land, it's due to appear soon.



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As a result of that trip (and despite rumours to the contrary, not because I'd been sitting on the captain's knee on the bridge!) I've been invited to join the same expedition ship on a 12-day Antarctic Peninsula cruise this December. I'm so excited (not to mention amazed to be offered a free trip!) as it means I can start to plan an Antarctic and Patagonia trip for you and on a personal note, step foot on the only continent I'm yet to visit.

Tour of the Month

Myanmar and Laos – a 23-day tour from March 4, 2019-March 26, 2019 (\$11,695 pp, twin-share)

This will be my first tour of 2019 and because we are spending some time on small cruisers, space is limited. We'll be starting in Myanmar and as well exploring Yangon and Mandalay, spending two nights on an Irrawaddy River cruise, touring Inle Lake by boat and then, after crossing into Laos via a two-night stop in Chiang Rai, Thailand. We then take a slow boat down the Mekong River with our tour ending in the Laotian capital of Vientiane. Along the way we'll visit ethnic communities, craft workshops and markets and have the chance for some optional kayaking. These two countries are the least visited in South East Asia but that's bound to change soon so now's the time to go!



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A taste of 2020

I know how many of my travellers like to plan well ahead so here's some advance notice of what we're working on for 2020:

Iran with Reza (this will include some of the more off-the beaten-track destinations in Iran (such as Bushehr and the Zambil ziggurat)

Ethiopia with Jill (I've received many requests for this and numbers will be limited to about 15 people)

Greenland, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia

Bulgaria, Romania and Moldova

Ukraine (by cruiser on the River Dnieper) and Belarus.

The Pamir Highway (Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan)

And the Big Birthday Extravaganza Tour (I have a significant birthday in 2020...yes finally hit 40) and Zlatko my European tour organiser and very good friend and I are organising something very special. Jill's Journey Club members and other regular travellers of mine will receive the info on what we have planed in advance of any other publicity.





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And on the Homefront

We at time of writing, are still trying to sell our house but are hopeful we will have made the move to Leeston, (near Christchurch) in the next couple of months. Anyone want a house? If you come from Auckland this could be the bargain of the century!!!

I'm also incredibly excited by the news that I'm going to be a grandmother in January (again, who would have thought when I'm just 40...). Rachel and Atkins who I know many of you have met or who have at least heard all about, are expecting their first baby. It will still be full steam ahead with tours of course, I just expect to be bringing home a few more presents (the baby already has a very cute polar bear cub stuffed toy from Svalbard!).

Feedback

It's always so heartening to get feedback from you about the tours you have been on. Here is a little from recent tours.

"I did have a wonderful time, made some new friends with similar interests...I appreciated all your wonderful organisation and care." Marian, Balkans.

"Thanks for a marvellous, well organised trip and your care of me." John, Adriatic Explorer.

"I just loved the tour and have felt the best I have in years since I got back." YJ, Adriatic Explorer.

Jill's Journey Club

Membership has now passed the 50 mark! Everyone who has been on two Jill Worrall Tours automatically becomes a member of the Club and is entitled to a 2.5 per cent discount for any subsequent tours they book and pay for. Please do remember though that to get this discount you must book direct through Moray at House of Travel, Riccarton.

Welcome to the following new members: Marian Dixon, Megan Clark, Allan Edwards, Maire Coyte, Royden Smith, Val Johnstone, Lynette Patrick, Marg Palmer and Lisa Gullen.

Your JJC name tags and gift will be sent out soon (I have to wait until I reach a certain number before the tag printing can be done).

Congratulations to Louise Davies and Lesley Pellowe, who having now been (or are about to go on) their fifth and sixth tours, so are about to receive new silver tags!

Members, if your tags have been damaged or lost do please let me know and I will get them replaced in the next printing round.

Also, if you think you should be eligible for JJC membership but haven't heard from me, do get in touch. It is possible there are gaps in our records which Moray and I are now working hard to correct.

Very best wishes

Jill

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