

JILL WORRALL TOURS NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2018

Hi Everyone

This newsletter comes to you in the brief spell I have home between my Morocco, Gibraltar and Southern Spain tour and my last tour for the year, India.

Morocco, Gibraltar and Moorish Spain

We seem to fit in so much in our three weeks away that it's hard to know where to start! There was the stunning mosque in Casablanca, the souks of Fez and Marrakech, Africa's largest movie studio and of course, what was for almost everyone in the group, their first experience of the Sahara!



I was so proud of the whole group making it to our desert camp by camel too. We checked out desert fossils, date production, tasted camel milk, ate all kinds of specialities foods in Fez's wonderful souks and stayed in the most amazing riad (traditional house) in Fez, complete with pools fountains and gorgeous tiles. Then it was across to Gibraltar which I think all of us agreed was well worth an overnight stay, in fact I reckon two would be even better. We crossed in Spain next where some fantastic local guides brought the delights of Granada, Seville, Cordoba, Toledo and Madrid alive. Our Seville hotel (a collection of seven traditional houses) was a delight as was our short tour around some of Madrid's traditional shops (including espadrilles, yummy pastries and lingerie!) The grand finale was our farewell dinner in a restaurant where the staff are also opera singers. Thanks so much to Mohammad in Morocco and Jonathan (Gibraltar and Spain) who really added to our enjoyment of these three countries.

Here's some hot-of-the-press feedback from the tour"

"Thanks so much for a great tour – a really amazing experience for me" Sally.

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This month's feature tour

In May next year a maximum of 15 fortunate travellers will be coming with me on my second Croatia Odyssey cruise. I ran this tour for the first-time last year and the feedback was so exceptional I decided to offer it again in 2019. After four days on mainland Croatia we travel to Trogir near Split to board the beautiful Luna, a luxury motor vessel with just eight cabins. We will then spend the next two weeks cruising the waters of the Adriatic Sea, visiting at least 10 islands and several mainland highlights including Dubrovnik and Split. Every day Luna's fabulous chef will [produce a full three-course lunch or dinner (along with beautiful breakfasts) plus we have an entirely open bar for the entire trip. This means all local wines, spirits, beers plus non-alcoholic drinks, plus tea and coffee are absolutely free of charge.

The joy of travelling on Luna is that she can call into some of the smaller, less-visited islands along with beautiful bays where there is a chance to swim or kayak.

The one single cabin available on this cruise is already booked, as are two other double cabins so do get in touch with Moray soon if you'd like to join me as these remaining cabins could be snapped up quickly.



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Jill's Journey Club

We're approaching the 60-member mark! That means nearly 60 people have already joined at least two Jill Worrall Tours. Welcome to the following new members: Catherine Ward, Al and Alison Rowland, Paul and June Turnbull, Diana Stewart. Your JJC bag tags and a small gift will be on their way to you soon.

And what am I up to at home?

Well, the good news is finally we've sold our house in Timaru (barring any last-minute hiccups) and have bought a house we like very much in Leeston (which is about 30 minutes' drive from Christchurch, near Lincoln University).

We move in mid-December, rather unfortunately while I'm in Antarctica (more about that below). We have got the professionals moving us so don't worry Derek is not being left on his own to pack up! I will arrive home in time to be involved in most of the unpacking and then get ready for Christmas with our extended families (not sure there'll be the usual Worrall Christmas cake on offer this year with time being slightly at a premium to bake it!)

I'm so happy that we're going to be all settled in before daughter and son-in-law (Rachel and Atkins) baby arrives in mid-January as we'll only be about 30 minutes' drive from them and the new house has plenty of room for family to stay. I've also managed to pot up many of my garden treasures (including plants from my late mother's and grandmother's gardens) which will lessen the wrench of leaving a garden I've taken 20 years to develop.





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My Facebook Page

Now that all my tours are being run in conjunction with House of Travel I have reformatted my Facebook page. It may be that you have already found that the tour Facebook page has disappeared but rest assured it is back in action!

So, if you want to continue to follow my tours and keep up with other tour news do please search for Jill Worrall Tours. If you "like" the new page you will be notified of new postings.

I'd also welcome some new tour reviews for the page too. Even a few sentences would be great.

I will be back posting this weekend when my group begin our adventure in India, my last tour of the year.

An unexpected expedition

As some of you know, earlier this year I took 10 Kiwis on an amazing expedition cruise to Franz Josef Land in the Russian Arctic. The company that run this trip, Poseidon Expeditions have now offered me a berth on a 12-day cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula. The timing (just three days after I get back from India and now with a house shift in the middle of it) could be better but how could I refuse! And it does mean that I can investigate first-hand the possibility of an Antarctic-Patagonia cruise/tour, possibly for 2020. Watch this space...

Best wishes

Jill