



Hi Everyone

You will be reading this email while I am sailing around the Croatian Adriatic. Those of you who have been with me in this part of the world will know what a good time my group will be having!

It was a busy few weeks leading up to our departure as I had two three-day trips to the North Island to talk to House of Travel consultants and their clients about my tours for this year and 2020. It was great to meet many new people who seemed very enthusiastic about the tours so I'm looking forward to them joining me somewhere, sometime in the future.

By the time you read this I will also have been part of the House of Travel's Travel Bazaar in Auckland which always attracts thousands of people so I'm hoping to be very busy after that full-on, one-day event.

On the Home Front

All is quiet on the Leeston front at present. Derek really enjoyed being on the Myanmar and Laos tour with me in March and is now taking up his role as PA while I'm away again. This also means a spot of weeding in the new gardens as well as his usual admin work!

My grandson Nathaniel is now over three months' old and growing fast. He's smiling such a lot and now, thanks to a short shopping foray in Laos now has a mini Liverpool football uniform (Derek was doing a pre-emptive strike as Nate's Dad, Atkins, is a Man U supporter!)

This month's feature tours

Cuba Encompassed

Oct 31 – Nov 18, 2019

\$14,995 pp twin-share

I'm delighted to be going back to Cuba for a fifth time this November. This tour is always so much fun, plus endlessly fascinating. Cuba really does have it all – fantastic architecture spanning many centuries, intriguing history, tropical climate, friendly people, a diversity of scenery, wonderful music and great cocktails!

My tour will take us from Havana, then out west to Vinales then we will head all the way east to Baracoa and then back again to Havana, taking in Trinidad, Santiago de Cuba, Camaguey, Santa Clara, Sancti Spiritus and Holguin en route.

We will mostly be using privately operated bed and breakfasts which give you a great opportunity to stay in the heart of the cities and towns we are visiting and to meet people in their own homes. We also use many private restaurants for included meals (six dinners and nine lunches while in Cuba) – the standards of food in these has been great.



Along with a full sightseeing programme including walking tours of the historic centres of Havana, Trinidad and Baracoa, there'll be the chance to have a swim in the Caribbean Sea, see the Bay of Pigs and Guantanamo Bay, hear live Cuban music and attend a uniquely Cuban show, see how Cuba's famous rum and cigars are made and learn about Cuba's revolutionary history. We will also be cruising Havana in a fleet of 50s US automobiles – that's always a highlight!



Romania and the Balkans

Roads Less Travelled in Europe

May 3 – May 24, 2020*

From \$11,495 pp, twin share*

These are indicative dates and price and are subject to change. Finalised dates and prices will be available in July (approx)

This tour combines highlight from two previous sell-out tours plus a new country!

We will be starting in Romania where, of course, Transylvania and legendary "Dracula's" Castle are on our programme, before travelling to Bulgaria and visiting the Unesco-listed World Heritage site – the spectacular Rila Monastery. Then we will cross through the southern part of Serbia, one of Europe's least visited but very scenic countries before entering Kosovo, Europe's newest country. I was there with a group just last year and Kosovo turned out to be quite a highlight as it wasn't all what any of us expected! So much growth and energy in an extremely young population. Then we head to Albania, another country undergoing huge change and finish our tour in North Macedonia, which last year was known simply as Macedonia. That will be an especially intriguing destination given the ongoing controversy over the name change!



This tour through six countries offers a wealth of diverse scenery, history, cultures, religions, foods and wines. It's a region that is still largely off Europe's main tourist trails which adds to its charms and for those independent meals and free time it's also exceptionally good value.



Jill's Journey Club

We have nine new Jill's Journey Club members. These are tour members who have travelled with Jill Worrall Tours at least twice. So, welcome to Lesley Dalley, Annette Lucas, Jo Hawkey, Celia Henderson, Bev Turton, Patricia Garford, Ginny and Wayne Parker, Ann Ross and Don Powley.

In addition to these new members, Brian and Karen Walker have just graduated to Silver Membership after taking their fifth tour with JWT! There are six more regulars who just need one more tour to join the Walkers.

New members on the above list will have received their personalised bag tags and a small gift in the post and from their third tour onwards are entitled to the Jill's Journey Club discount. Silver members receive new silver tags and I always try to make sure that JJC members have something extra on each tour, whether it's a room upgrade, bottle of wine or similar.

2020 Tours

Moray and I have been working hard to get the finalised 2020 itineraries completed.

If you are interested in any of the tours listed below but haven't requested the full itinerary do get in touch with Moray and she will send it to you as soon as possible As many of you know she's very, very efficient so you won't have to wait long!

Tour information with approx. dates and indicative prices:

- Iran
- Romania and the Balkans
- The Pamir Highway
- Jill's Significant Birthday Party and Greek Island-Hopping Tour
- Ethiopia



Tour information with overnight itineraries (prices still to come)

- Islands of the North Atlantic
- Patagonia and Antarctica
- Colombia

Some of these tours are already attracting a lot of interest and as some of them are for very limited numbers of travellers do get in touch soon if you would like more info.

Happy travelling and travel planning and I will look forward to seeing you somewhere, sometime in the near future!

Best wishes

Jill

The Croatia group currently on tour...

