

Hi Everyone

It's that time of year when there do not seem to be enough days and evenings to fit everything in!

However, I have had a little time over the last few days to reflect on what has been a very busy, travelling year.

Here are a few statistics!

- This year I've travelled to 11 countries, including Mongolia, Brazil, Cuba, Croatia, Malta, Myanmar and Laos.
- My personal tally of countries visited has now hit 97.
- This year, I've taken more than 60 travellers with me on adventures around the globe.
- There are now 80 Jill's Journey Club members – people who have travelled with JWT two or more times.

Of course, travel and running tours is much more than statistics. When I look at my wall calendar of this year's tours, many memorable moments stand out:

- Myanmar and Laos – cruising languidly along both the Irrawaddy and Mekong rivers.
- Croatia – Mel's birthday dinner on the deck of Luna in the Adriatic. Another triumph from Philip the chef!
- Mongolia – sunlight and wind turning the rich grasslands of the Gobi steppes a sea of rippling silver.
- Brazil – the first sight of a magnificent jaguar padding out on to the riverbank of the Pantanal (and yes, making my first ever Lime scooter ride – along Ipanema Beach in Rio!)
- Islands of the Mediterranean – arriving by sea in Bonifacio, Corsica – one of the most spectacularly sited towns I can think of!
- Cuba – waking up in Baracoa to the sound of a fire engine under my bedroom window and discovering the house next door was on fire just metres from our rooms. This really could only be Cuba!



Bonifacio, Corsica

Christmas in Leeston

I'm chief cook this year and for the first time in possibly a decade, both kids and their partners will be with us. So that will be Rachel and Atkins and Nate (who will be 11 months old) and Jono and Emily here for Christmas Day (Jono and Em live with us so there really was no escape for them!!). We'll be joined by one of my brothers and his three boys. I do the full traditional Christmas, so on Christmas morning will be grappling with a massive turkey due to popular demand!

However, and wherever you will be spending Christmas I do hope that you have a wonderful day too, whether it be peaceful or chaotic, traditional or barefoot on the beach.



I also want to thank very sincerely everyone who has travelled with me this year, booked future tours with me for next year or who continue to check out what I'm up to. I really, really value your support, your company and enthusiasm on tour and your interest in what I'm planning next. I couldn't do this without you. I still continue to love doing what I do (there are of course odd moments such as when falling full length into a massive puddle in only my nightie while evacuating tour members from a fire (see above) when I do question my sanity) but most of the time I love helping you have an amazing time in some of the less-visited parts of the globe and helping you create memories to last a lifetime.

So, Happy Christmas and a Great New Year – may 2020 be studded with travels...hopefully at least some of them with me!!!

Best wishes for the Festive Season and 2020 too, from Moray who I know my tour members have thoroughly enjoyed working with as they finalise all their tour arrangements.

A Small Boost of Christmas Cheer

I know it's a busy time of year, but Moray and I would really appreciate it if you can take a few minutes to fill out the attached questionnaire and email it back to Moray by Wed 18 December.

Everyone who returns their survey by this date will go into a draw to receive a Christmas hamper of goodies that will be delivered to their door by December 23.

We do need your name if you are to go into the draw!

Safe and Happy Holidays,

Jill and Moray