

Jill Worrall Tours June 22 Newsletter

Hi Everyone

It was about -4C here in Leeston overnight but with the shortest day now past, it's good to know the year is rolling on towards spring.

The South Island has turned on one of those cloudless, sunny days, which is more than it managed when we were cruising in southern Fiordland last week, but more about that later!

I'm also really delighted to report that my Grand Circuit of Tasmania tour in October this year is now a confirmed departure but there is room for just a few more travellers.

As mentioned in earlier emails, my Northern Territory tour in August is now full. In addition to this we only need just a few more bookings to be able to confirm the Western Australia tour in late September-October while the Lord Howe Island and Snowy Mountains tour scheduled for February next year is also nearly full.

It's been a long haul to get to this point, so thank you so much to everyone who has shown interest in and/or booked to come with me.

There's an update on my other tours later in this newsletter.

As mentioned above, there are two or three vacancies on a couple of the Australian tours so I'm going to highlight these now. Do keep in mind that there are no pre-departure Covid tests for entry into Australia or on our way back home. There are a few straightforward requirements needed but we will make sure you have all the information and any assistance necessary to make sure you have everything in order before travel. I have travelled internationally in the past month and the process was straightforward and fuss-free.

The Great South-Western Edge – Western Australia

Sep 30 - Oct 13, 2022

With two national parks, one Unesco-listed biosphere reserves of globally importance, one of Australia's best cave systems, a treetop walk through a grove of trees more than 400 years old and two wildlife trips, this tour is a must if you love nature and especially flowering plants and birds.



Jill Worrall Tours June 22 Newsletter

October in the south-west of WA is a prime viewing time for the region's famous wildflowers. The season begins much earlier in the north of WA but moves south as the year progresses. All kinds of factors come into play in terms of peak flowering times but with so many excellent locations for flowers included in my itinerary we are bound to see some of this magnificent display (one of the greatest arrays of wildflowers in the world) on our journey.



As well as scheduling this tour very carefully to give us excellent opportunities to see some of WA's stunning wildflowers, October is also a great time to spot marine animals, including humpback whales.



The two national parks are Porongurup and Stirling Ranges. Porongurup is famed for its wildflowers and massive granite domes, and Stirling is considered one of the best places in the world in terms of diversity and sheer number of plant species.

The Fitzgerald River National Park (the Unesco-listed biosphere reserve) is one of the largest national parks in Australia and is not only full of special plants but is situated on a stretch of dramatic, remote and beautiful coastline.



Jill Worrall Tours June 22 Newsletter

We will have a guided marine tour in Geographe Bay and in Recherche we'll cruise around the archipelago, which is home to seals, sea lions, dolphins and sometimes, passing whales.

I've also made sure that this region's history and cultural icons are not forgotten as we tour around.

All of these highlights are accompanied by excellent accommodation, all breakfasts and 12 lunches or dinners.

Remaining vacancies are very limited.

Tasmania -The Grand Circuit

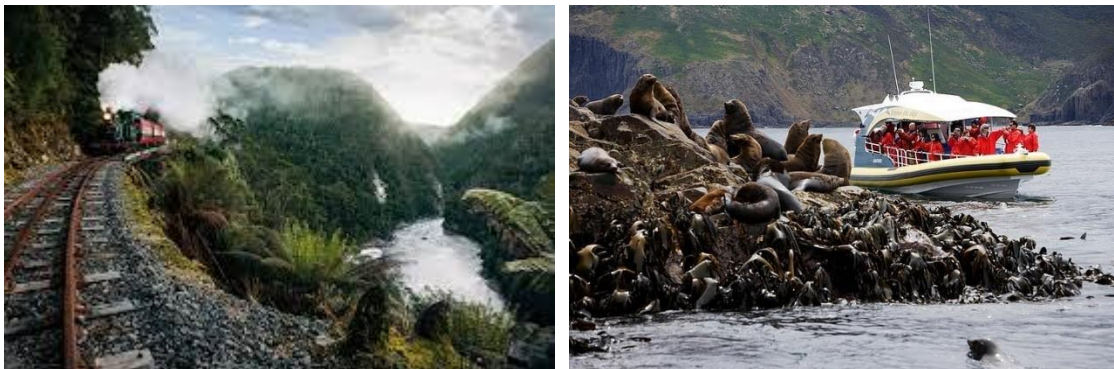
Oct 16 – Oct 30, 2022

This tour is a confirmed departure, but I do have room for just a few more travellers. One real bonus with this tour is that Air New Zealand has reinstated its direct Auckland-Hobart flights making travel to and from Tasmania very straightforward.

My itinerary is one long list of highlights, including Port Arthur, Hobart's Salamanca Market, Cradle Mountain and the Gordon River cruise. So that's scenic wonders, history and some retail therapy taken care of but there is, as they say, much more.



As something of a steam train buff I'm really looking forward to the West Coast Heritage Railway that will take us about 35km through temperate rainforest between Queenstown and Strahan. The train has a rack and pinion system, essential for hauling the train up one of the steepest railway inclines in the Southern Hemisphere.



Jill Worrall Tours June 22 Newsletter

Our Bruny Island wilderness cruise, along a spectacular wildlife-rich coastline, will also be a wonderful experience as will our tour around the island visiting some of its famous food and beverage producers (tastings and lunch are provided on this day out).

In Tasmania's northern region we will also spend a day visiting artisans and producers of everything from silk to wine and cheese. Our base for this trip will be Launceston, one of only two Australian cities to be named a Unesco city of gastronomy.

The visit to the Brickendon Estate, one of Australia's oldest farming operations, established in 1824, will be memorable too, especially as our tour will be conducted by a member of the family who is now into its 7th generation on the land. This visit will have everything – an insight into the estate's farming heritage, a beautiful garden and historic buildings.

This will be a relaxed tour, with excellent accommodation (I can't wait to stay at both the Cradle Mountain and Freycinet Peninsula lodges) but at the same time we're going to see and experience so much of what Tasmania has to offer.

There are just a few vacancies left on this tour, which is already a confirmed departure.



What's happening with my other tours?

Oman and the UAE

Nov 20 – Dec 5, 2022

This tour is close to being a confirmed departure so if you'd like to join me while we explore historic and scenically spectacular Oman and head off the transit stop tourist path in Dubai and into the less-well-travelled emirates of Abu Dhabi and Sharjah, do get in touch with Moray or me soon.



Jill Worrall Tours June 22 Newsletter

Japan in Springtime

April 2023

The full itinerary and price for this tour will be available in just a few days. If you are already on the interested list for this tour watch out for this information in your inbox or letterbox and if you are not already on the list do get in touch soon. Along with the chance to experience the culturally and spiritually important cherry blossom season beloved of Japanese people, exciting Tokyo, the historic jewel of Kyoto, iconic Mt Fuji and Hiroshima are all included, as are several journeys on Japan's amazing 'bullet' trains.



Cruising the Croatian Adriatic

May 2023

Already, four of the seven available cabins on this small-ship cruise along Croatia's beautiful coastline have been booked. The diversity of islands, mainland harbours (including Split and Dubrovnik) that we visit over two weeks is stunning; not to mention our amazing on-board chef. This is an exclusive Jill Worrall Tours charter and about the most relaxed holiday you could imagine. The fact that three of the seven cabins have been snapped up by people who have sailed aboard Luna with me before says it all really! I have no plans to be doing this cruise again over at least the next three years.



Jill Worrall Tours June 22 Newsletter

And after that?

Full itineraries for Walking Ireland’s Pilgrim Paths; Ecuador and Galapagos; Spain and Portugal and Jordan and Egypt will all be available over the next few months.

Our Southern Fiordland Cruise



I’ve just returned home from our week-long cruise in Southern Fiordland aboard Heritage Expedition’s small cruiser, Heritage Explorer. There were 10 JWT passengers along with me on this trip that began with a spectacular helicopter flight from Te Anau to Preservation Inlet, the southernmost of the region’s fiords.



The mountains were dusted with snow and over the next few days we experienced even more snowfalls, some right down to deck level, along with hail, sleet and rain! But despite the less than welcoming weather we still set off at least once a day on Zodiac cruises and walks.

The original itinerary had us ending our cruise in Doubtful Sound but sea conditions and also the closure of the Wilmot Pass over to Lake Manapouri due to a massive snowfall, meant a bonus helicopter flight out of Dusky Sound back to Te Anau.



Jill Worrall Tours June 22 Newsletter

Dusky Sound was an absolute highlight – we saw dolphins, albatross and seals on our cruise around its myriad of islands and bays. A visit into Pickersgill Harbour where Captain Cook spent five weeks in 1773 repairing his ship the Resolution and allowing time for his crew to recover from an arduous sea journey. It was awe-inspiring to be on the water almost directly above where the Resolution would have been anchored.

Many of us also accomplished a very muddy and root-strewn track in Wet Jacket Arm (and yes, we all had those) to Moose Lake. On the way we were lucky enough to see two whio (the rare blue duck) for some of us that was our first encounter of these birds in the wild.

Meanwhile, warm and cosy on board we had talks on the history, wildlife and geology of the region and were fed much too well by young French chef, Seb.

If my schedule permits, there is a chance I might offer this JWT special departure again next year.



On the Home Front

We're now on the countdown for the arrival of my son Jono and partner Emily's first baby at the end of July-early August. We know they are having a girl, which is exciting as she will only be about six months younger than my first granddaughter Zoe Rose who is now four months' old. She is a very smiley, chatty baby (not sure where all the chat comes from....!) who already looks adoringly at her brother Natey. He's going to swimming lessons at present, has got very interested in space rockets and showing early signs of some footballing skills.

We enjoyed having Derek's youngest daughter Rachael home from the UK where she's been working as a nanny for the past three years. She's now back in Oxfordshire, getting ready to head to Italy with her UK 'family' for a week's holiday in an Umbrian villa with its own small castle.

In between tour preparation I'm about to expand the garden a little more. Derek's been surprisingly calm about this because it means less lawn to mow!

That's all for this month. Do stay in touch as I do love hearing from everyone...it's been a long time since that last full year of touring back in 2019!

Very best wishes

Jill