

Hi Everyone

It's a very positive sign that over the past few newsletters I've been able to announce the good news that another tour is now a confirmed departure. And I can now do that again because my two-week Western Australia tour, departing NZ on Sept 30, this year is now also a confirmed departure.

So, if you were thinking about joining me as we tour around **WA's Great South-Western Edge** during whale and wildflower season but didn't want to sign up for a tour that was not confirmed, now is the time to book! Also do remember that this tour price was set well before fuel and other price rises so this tour price of **\$8599 per person**, twin share, will never be repeated and will be hard to match by any other operators.

Over the past week or so you should have received, either by good old-fashioned snail mail or by email, a copy of my 2022-2023 tour flier, detailing all my tours for the rest of this year and for all of 2023. If you haven't received this, do please let me (jill.worrall@xtra.co.nz) or Moray (morayj@hot.co.nz) know.

I thought it was important to contact everyone personally (every mailed flier was folded and addressed by me!) as I both appreciate very much your interest in my tours and hopefully, your on-going support.

This Month's Feature Tours

The UAE and Oman Tour: Nov 20 – Dec 5, 2022



This tour is close to being a confirmed departure so it would be great to have a few more bookings. I've chosen this part of the Middle East very deliberately for my first overseas tour (excluding Australia) since March 2019.

This tour involves just one long haul flight to Dubai and return; secondly, the region has an excellent health and travel infrastructure and both the UAE and Oman have recently dropped their Covid-related travel restrictions for visitors and they are very stable parts of the Middle East with very few regulations for travellers (head coverings for women, for example, are only needed in mosques).

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There are non-health-related reasons too! The Emirates and Oman offer amazing contrasts in geography, history and culture. We'll be travelling from the dazzling skyscrapers of Dubai to semi-nomadic Bedouin encampments in Oman.

I've travelled through Oman so know first-hand how authentic it is and how I was blown away by its dramatic landscapes. The coastline is spectacular (as is the highway that runs beside it!) and the mountains with their deep gorges are stunning. In towns I shopped for frankincense and textiles in the souks, watch the sun set over Arabian sand dunes and swam in palm-fringed oasis pools. We'll visit the builders of traditional Arabian dhows, have a cuppa with a Bedouin family and walk through several mountain villages.

I'm also looking forward to our visits to Sharjah and Abu Dhabi, along with bling-filled Dubai. It's not all razzle-dazzle though as we're going to tour the Museum of Islamic Civilisation in Sharjah and the Louvre Abu Dhabi. But we'll get a taste of the highlife in Abu Dhabi with the famed 24-carat gold coffee and afternoon tea in the Emirates Palace Hotel.

The tour, priced at \$13,995 pp, twin share includes all breakfasts, 10 lunches and seven dinners while on tour, along with quality hotels throughout, including a desert camp experience (with en suite bathrooms!)

If you'd like to join me on the Arabian Peninsula this November, do contact Moray for the full itinerary and I'm very happy to answer any questions about the tour.

Cherry Blossom Time in Japan: April 4 to April 18, 2023



Japan has been slowly opening its doors to overseas travellers and, with current rules allowing only guided tours to visit, my tour is ideal, especially as we will be ahead of the main wave of the country's reviving tourism scene. It has also been carefully timed to give us the best chance of seeing Japan's much loved and celebrated cherry trees in bloom.

It is just one flight away from New Zealand, with just a few hours' time difference and flying Air NZ, Japan offers exotic travel without the downsides of jetlag and airport transits.

Seeing these trees in flower will be a highlight of this tour but this two-week tour of Japan will be much more than just admiring blossom...much more.



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With more than 2000 years of culture and heritage, but at the same time one of the most technologically advanced societies in the world, Japan truly is a land of contrasts. Ancient traditions coincide with a young population that delights in quirky fashion and lifestyles; the land itself is nearly 70 per cent forested while megacity Tokyo, with a population of about 38 million people, is the world's largest city.

My tour is a carefully researched journey that includes city highlights, cultural experiences, superb gardens and a chance to experience the Japanese countryside. There is a wealth of World Heritage sites in the programme, which includes quality accommodation, all breakfasts, 12 lunches and four dinners and an English-speaking Japanese guide throughout.

We will be visiting Tokyo, Takayama Shirakawago village, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Nara, the forested tranquility of Shikoku Island, Hiroshima and Mt Fuji. Several journeys on Japan's famous bullet trains are included and we will visit two of Japan's top-rated best gardens, Kenrokuen Gardens in Kanazawa and Korakuen in Okayama.

If you'd like to join me in Japan, do contact Moray for the full itinerary and I'm very happy to answer any questions about the tour.

Covid-related Insurance Cover

Moray and I have been receiving a number of queries about what kind of insurance cover is available for Covid-related travel disruptions.

The very good news is that most insurance companies are now offering this. It would take up too much space to outline all available policies here but attached to this email is a one-page summary of what Allianz is offering. This is the travel insurance we offer for JWT but I've attached it here so you can get an idea of what is covered - not because I'm trying to sell it to you!

In brief, Covid insurance will cover you for accommodation and flight changes if you catch Covid overseas and have to isolate and for medical/hospital care if you need extra treatments. Cover includes pre-departure Covid-related disruptions and while you are travelling.

It is vital you check what your chosen insurance provider does cover and make sure you understand their requirements such as the need for medical certificates to prove you have Covid and so on.

Whatever insurance cover you have please remember that if you are with me on tour and there is any kind of Covid disruption we will be on hand to help you reorganise flights, find accommodation etc in conjunction with your insurer.

A few things to note:

- 1) We are still requiring travellers on a JWTour to be fully vaccinated against Covid 19.
- 2) If you do contract Covid on a JWTour, even if you have no or minor symptoms, we do require you to leave the tour and self-isolate (which is where your travel insurance will kick in with regards to costs). There is going to be some element of trust involved in this! I will be carrying testing kits on every tour.

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- 3) In the event of a tour member contracting Covid on a tour and having to self-isolate, the tour will continue (in accordance with the relevant country's requirements).

Updates on other tours

Croatia Odyssey: An idyllic 20-day holiday including a two-week cruise of the Adriatic

May 10 - May 30, 2023

There are just **two cabins** (twin and double) left for this wonderful cruise along Croatia's Adriatic coastline, including the islands of Hvar and Korcula and the stunning coastal towns of Split and Dubrovnik. There is even a day trip to the neighbouring country of Montenegro included.



Walking Ireland's Pilgrim Paths June, 2023 and Ecuador and the Galapagos, July, 2023

This itineraries for both these tours will be released in August. Vacancies on these tours will be limited so if you'd like to go on the advance mailing list for the itineraries please get in touch with Moray or me soon.

The itineraries for **Spain and Portugal** in September 2023 and **Egypt and Jordan** in November 2023 will be available over the next few months.

On the Home Front

My third grandchild has arrived! The second granddaughter to arrive this year, no less.

Georgia Rata Meadowcroft arrived on Wednesday, July 13 at 12.55am. She was clearly very keen to meet her Mum, Emily and Dad, my son Jono, as she was nearly three weeks early. Everyone is doing very well now and back at home.

Emily and I had spent the day before preparing meals and baking for the freezer. It wasn't a day too soon!



Above left: Jono with Georgia

Above middle: Natey, Atkins with baby Georgia (his niece) and Jono with Zoe (his niece!)

Above right: Georgia coming home from Rolleston Birthing Centre

Natey (my grandson) and Zoe (who is less than six months older than Georgia) have met their cousin already. We expect the two girls to be partners in all sorts of mischief in the years to come. Natey is just impatient for them both to start walking and talking, although once they do, he might not be quite so keen! But at present he adores his little sister and helpfully points out to us when he thinks she is hungry, needs a nappy change, or need a new toy to play with.

When I'm not helping with the grandchildren and enthusiastically working on my tours, I've undertaken a new garden project. More lawn has gone under the spade in favour of plants so I'm now working at shifting everything around. The new bed is going to feature my dahlia, lily and salvia collections. I've sold this to Derek by pointing out there is now less lawn to mow.

Keep warm and I'll be in touch again late in August when I will be reporting back to you on my first overseas tour in over two and a half years!

Jill