



Hi Everyone and Happy New Year

I do hope you have had an excellent festive season, whether that meant crowds of people, a quiet lowkey celebration or simply a time to relax at home or away.

As you can see Jill Worrall Tours is back up and running (in fact Moray and I only really took the stat days off even if it's not been full days at the computer over the holiday break!). Most of the world has been doing the same so we needed to keep up with all those emails etc coming in from overseas.

This will be a relatively short newsletter but will bring you right up to date with all the latest on my 2024 tours (and beyond!).

2024 Tour Update

In a few weeks I will be heading off to **Sweden, Finland and Norway** with 17 travellers on what I'm sure will be a genuinely awe-inspiring adventure. There will be more about the tour in the February newsletter but do remember that, wherever possible, I try to post photos from our activities daily on [the Jill Worrall Tours Facebook page](#). You do not need to be signed up to Facebook to see these photos.

After that, it's full steam ahead for my March-April tour to **Vietnam and Cambodia** and after a short break at home, my tour to **Central America's Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama**.

We've just had a late cancellation for the Central America tour (which had been full) so, it is possible we can fit one or two extra people on that tour. I know it's short notice and we can't guarantee we can get spaces on flights but if you are at all interested in this tour, do get in touch with me or Moray ASAP.

The tour includes the stunning natural scenery and wildlife of peaceful, relaxed Costa Rica (including cloud forests and the Caribbean coastline), Guatemala's historic colonial-era town of Antigua and one of the best Mayan sites in the region, Tikal and a cruise along the Panama Canal.

A July Special – the Galapagos!

As you may recall, last year I did not have enough people able to come with me to Ecuador and its wonderful Galapagos archipelago but there's now a very real possibility of getting this tour up and running again this **July-August**.

I hate disappointing people who sign up for a tour which we then cannot run so I'm really determined to try to make this work in 2024.

Not to mention I know what a fantastic tour this is going to be as we have a top Ecuadorian guide and wildlife expert and photographer with us.

Jill Worrall Tours January 2024 Newsletter

I also do need to stress that these days its best to think of all my tours as not-to-be-repeated adventures. I will not be taking tours forever and while there are still new tours and destinations to explore, I'm not planning on many, if any, repeats. So, this really is the last time I'll be offering this tour and, if we can run it, especially with smaller numbers it will be an experience you are unlikely to find on offer anywhere else.

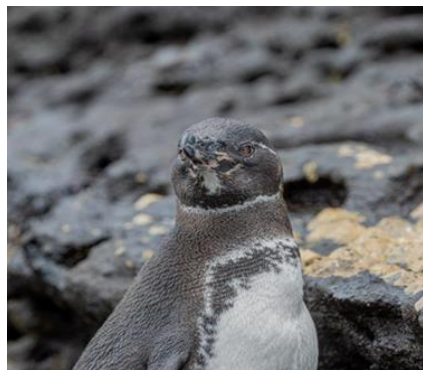
Already several people have expressed interest in this tour and over the next few weeks we'll be making the call on whether we can run it, even with fewer people than our usual 10-person minimum.

The tour dates in Ecuador and the Galapagos are approximately July 23 to Aug 10.

Highlights will include Ecuador's capital Quito, two nights in the Minto cloud forest, excellent chances to see the world's largest flying bird, the condor, the rare spectacled bear and giant hummingbirds and the World Heritage-listed Spanish colonial-era town of Cuenca.



Then there are our six nights based in the Galapagos islands. We'll stay and/or visit the islands of San Cristobal, Espanola, Santa Cruze, Isabella and Morth Seymour and on the way see giant tortoises, marine iguanas, lava lizards, sea lions, blue-footed boobies and Darwin finches.



And all of this with a world class wildlife guide accompanying us, and all tipping and ALL meals while on tour.

If you are interested in this unique opportunity, please get in touch with Moray or me as soon as you can.

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Important note for the Galapagos Tour: Unlike almost all my tours that need 10 people to book for it to be a confirmed departure it is possible for us to run this tour if only SEVEN people book. This is a very rare chance to join me on a special small group tour. It's definitely a one-off opportunity. The one catch is that if you are already booked on one of my confirmed departures for 2024, unfortunately, it is not possible to swap to the Galapagos tour.

In September I'm off to **Zambia, Botswana and Namibia** with another full tour.

Last up for 2024 is **South India**. Indian hotels are taking a while to get back to us about their prices for later in the year, hence the delay in getting the itinerary out to you but we do hope to have this out by February at the latest. I know we have so many people interested in this tour!



And for 2025

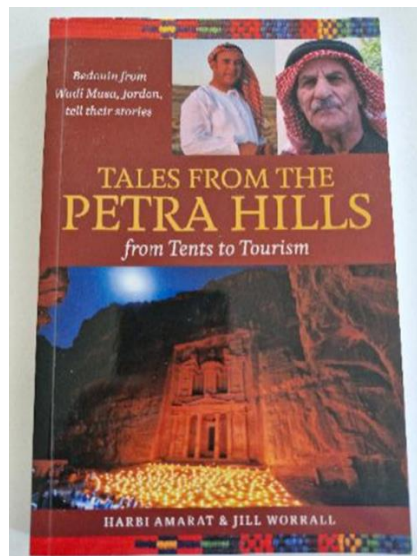
My plans for 2025 are slowly taking shape. Already we have provisional tour dates for my **Sri Lanka and Seychelles** tour planned for March 2025 and the itinerary confirmed for my September **Pamir Highway and Uzbekistan** tour. I'll be announcing more tour details as this year progresses. Images below are of Sri Lanka.



Tales from the Petra Hills

Some of you will remember that some years ago I wrote a book in partnership with Harbi Amarat in Jordan to tell the story of the Bedouins who live around the Petra area of Jordan. This book was always destined for sale in Petra, so almost the entire consignment was sent direct to Jordan. Consequently, I only ever had a few copies in New Zealand as sending large numbers of the book from the Middle East to NZ was prohibitively expensive.

Now, thanks to several tour members who brought home some copies for me at the end of my November tour of Jordan and Egypt, I now have a very limited supply (about 10 copies!) of these books available for sale. If you are interested in a copy, please just email me. The cost is \$30 including postage and packaging.



On the Home Front

The house seems very quiet this week as, not only did we have Rachel, Atkins, Natey and Zoe staying over Christmas but shortly afterwards Derek's daughter Rachael was here on holiday from the UK where she is now based. With Jono, Em and Georgia in Australia visiting Em's family for Christmas and other family members also away on the big day we had a number of pre-Christmas Christmases. Our fridge was covered in menu and shopping lists!

Natey had been a little concerned that Santa Claus wouldn't know he was at our house on Christmas Eve rather than at his house, but a quick letter was dispatched to the North Pole with our address, so all was well. He was especially excited next morning to find that the 'reindeer food' on the lawn had been eaten up!

We all enjoyed so much family time together, all apart from my little cat Flynnie, who basically lived in the garden for about 10 days (he's especially not a fan of the under twos...)

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Later this week we're having a week-long family holiday on Banks Peninsula – after we've gone shopping for Natey's school uniform!

Until February, all the best and I'm off to start packing up my snow boots and lots of thermal clothing!

Jill



Derek and Rachael



Em and Georgia



Natey and Zoe Christmas morning