

Travel News

As I prepare for our group departure to Switzerland later this month, I've been reflecting on some wonderful experiences I've already had this year escorting groups to great destinations in Europe and in our own beautiful country.

I have just returned from a very quick trip to South Australia in preparation for our group tour there in November. Although I already knew there was a lot to see and do I was delighted by the variety of sightseeing opportunities, the beautiful scenery, great food and wine, and the friendliness of everyone I encountered.

In April I very much enjoyed escorting a group to Spain and Morocco and I look forward to sharing a report from one of my group members with you in a future newsletter.

A month later and I was experiencing the best of the Kimberley region as I escorted another group to this vast and spectacular part of Western Australia and I am sure you will enjoy this great report on our trip from our group member Rosalie Murphy.

Antarctica

Looking ahead, I am very excited to advise I shall be taking a group to Antarctica in February 2026. This incredible part of the world offers an experience like no other.

We will embark on a true Antarctica expedition as we will not only explore the western side of the Antarctica Peninsula but also attempt to venture east towards the icy perimeter of the Weddell Sea, which is often guarded by impenetrable packs of ice and is home to awe-inspiring tabular icebergs. We shall be exploring the area on the extremely comfortable and modern *Sylvia Earle* with daily excursions by zodiac.

Our itinerary includes some time in Chile and Argentina and there are also opportunities to extend your time in South America. If you are interested in joining me, we have one cabin available.

Central Asia

Later in 2026, I am planning to venture to Central Asia to travel along the Silk Road by luxury train on board the *Golden Eagle*.



We will travel through the magnificent "Five Stans" – a fascinating patchwork of countries with shared history of 'Sovietisation', yet fiercely independent in identity.

From the magnificent mosques and bustling bazaars of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan to the breathtaking expanse and landscapes of

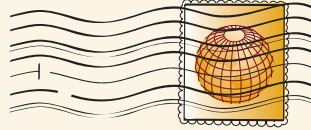
Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, this will be an incredible adventure.

We are still finalising the details but we would love to hear from you if you are interested in receiving further information as it becomes available.

Until next time... *Jacquey*



Postcards



My Adventure Tour of the Kimberleys

by tour group member Rosalie Murphy

Arriving in Broome on a public holiday, our accommodation hosting a beer tasting night followed by a 4.45am wake up call set the scene for our trip. Our driver Simon proved to be very knowledgeable not only on our

destinations but passionate about the Aboriginal culture of the areas visited. Being at the end of the wet season at times presented its challenges. Our vehicle was a truck with the suspension doing its best for our comfort – not a bus.

Heading off on the iconic Gibb River Road we started to encounter rough roads. Tunnel Creek was our first challenge with only a few of us managing to enjoy one of the oldest cave systems with its historic Aboriginal background. Fitzroy River Lodge our first overnight stay. Who would have thought you would have had to do a breathalyser test before enjoying a relaxing drink?

Travelling on we enjoyed four different campsites that were above expectations: tents were en-suited, beds comfortable, and all set in relaxing bush settings.

Bungle Bungle Wilderness Lodge, Purnululu National Park: exploring the ancient Bungle Bungles. Our trip in took 2.5hrs travelling 50ks over 40 river/creek crossings, staying at Emma Gorge: our first challenging walk over rocks and boulders. Lunch at El Questro: what a popular destination this has become for travellers. Mitchell Falls Wilderness Lodge: another challenging road trip once again arriving at dusk. Some of us experienced the 2-hour walk to the falls, some a helicopter ride – quite spectacular this time of year with the water volume so high. Bell Gorge Wilderness Lodge: located in part of King Leopold Ranges: enroute calling into Barnett River Roadhouse and lunch stop Manning Creek.

These camps provided fine dining experiences, relaxing areas were open-sided to cope with the Kimberley extreme weather. All our meals were excellent, chefs often from overseas, producing meals of local foods. Breakfast was full on, didn't matter how early – full cooked breakfasts greeted us on our early morning starts. Our overnight stops varied, Drysdale Station, a working station the last stop for caravans travelling north, as roads are far too rough.



At our Kununurra stop visiting Lake Argyle, we enjoyed a trip down the Ord River, followed by a spectacular sunset dinner cruise. Further on a lunch stop at Parry Creek Farm, once again experiencing the local cuisine, was followed by an unexpected visit to a bird Sanctuary.

This trip took in many walks into gorges, swimming pools, visiting Aboriginal rock art and views that required travelling on rough roads to admire. Our final nights were at Cable Beach Resort watching the sunset from the Sunset Bar: weather perfect. An early morning 5k stroll along Cable Beach, what bliss!

On reflection my milestone was being able to walk into the Mitchell Falls then the helicopter trip back for our truck trip to camp. This adventure took us over many rough roads and river crossings that I have never experienced before. We had very cold nights and very early morning starts and I just loved it – thanks Simon, thanks Jacquy.



TRAVEL EXPO

WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER
2 sessions: 6pm & 7pm



GIPPSLAND
TRAVEL



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A range of Travel Specialists will be here on the night to answer your questions, offer advice and open the doors to new adventures.

Come along for some great deals and door prizes.

JOINING US ON THE NIGHT WILL BE REPRESENTATIVES FROM

- Collette Tours & Small Groups • Princess Cruises
- Apt Luxury Travel • Travelmarvel
- Botanica World Discoveries • Insight Vacations
- Trafalgar Tours • Cost saver • Luxury Gold • Contiki
- Uniworld Boutique River Cruises
- ANZCRO • Murray River Paddlesteamers
- Viking Cruises • Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours

Places are limited so registration to attend the evening is essential by phoning the office on 5623 5151.



JACQUEY'S PERSONALLY ESCORTED TOURS

We recommend registering your interest in any of our escorted tours with a \$250 holding deposit, which is fully refundable if you change your mind. For some tours you may be placed on a waitlist until availability is secured or the final itinerary is released. Please call or email the office for more information or to register your interest in any of our tours.

2025 Escorted Tours



EGYPT, DUBAI & EAST AFRICA

February

One of our all-time favourites, our itinerary incorporates an extensive tour of Egypt, including a first class Nile Cruise, a 3-night Dubai stopover and a stunning wildlife safari of Kenya and Tanzania. *Tour waitlisted.*



ITALY, MALTA & GREEK ISLANDS

May

Combining the Puglia and Bologna regions of Italy, with time in Malta with its ancient buildings, this tour ends with a small ship cruise of the Greek Islands. *Tour waitlisted.*



UK & IRELAND

August

This comprehensive tour of England, Scotland and Ireland ends with four days in the heart of London. We will combine visits to the wonderful icons of British history with delightful trips off the beaten track down country lanes to the quaintest of villages. *Limited places available.*



ULTIMATE NEW ZEALAND

October

Experience New Zealand onboard a deluxe Ultimate Coach. This 21-day tour covers the North and South Islands by rail, coach and an exclusive overnight cruise. We visit the best of New Zealand at a relaxed pace. On three rail journeys we will experience an operating steam railway; the wild spirit of the coast on the Coastal Pacific; the magnificent Southern Alps on the TranzAlpine, one of the world's great train journeys; and the rugged and spectacular Taieri Gorge River.

Launch Night – Wednesday 27 November

MIGHTY MURRAY Luxury Cruise on PS AUSTRALIAN STAR

*Escorted by Senior Consultant,
Krystal McCallum*

**27 November to
2 December 2025**



On our way to Echuca, we overnight and explore historic Bendigo before we board the new PS Australian Star to cruise the waters of the mighty Murray River. On our return journey, we overnight in enchanting Bright, before returning to Warragul. *Launch Night – Wednesday 20 November*

2026 Escorted Tours



AWESOME ANTARCTICA with a Taste of South America

February

Including a 13-day Wild Antarctica Weddell Sea Expedition Cruise. As well as being the world's most important natural laboratory, Antarctica is a place of great beauty and wonder. By visiting, you become part of Antarctica's history, and everything you see - a particular iceberg, the glitter of a snow-covered slope - will never stay the same and that you are witnessing nature at its most pristine. *Only 2 berths available.*



THE BEST OF BEAUTIFUL JAPAN

March

Japan is known for its beautiful landscapes, its ancient temples and shrines, its vibrant cities, its delicious cuisine, its vibrant nightlife, its culture of politeness, and its unique fashion and art. Japan is famous for its rich cultural history and its unique blend of traditional and modern culture.



CANADA & ALASKA

July

This spectacular journey includes travelling through the fabulous Rockies on the Rocky Mountaineer Railway as well as coach, plus a couple of days in Vancouver. We then have a relaxing 7-night cruise through the inside passage of Alaska visiting quaint towns and enjoying magnificent views of breath-taking glaciers.



STUNNING STANS – Republics of the Silk Road

September/October

Embarking on the Golden Eagle, we travel the captivating 'Five Stans', a mosaic of countries intricately linked by a common history of Soviet influence yet distinctly independent in character. Explore the grand mosques and vibrant bazaars of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, then venture into the serene landscapes of Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, adorned with lush expanses and tranquil beauty.



EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS CRUISE

December/January

A chance to experience the wonderful traditions and celebrations of the European Christmas, including the historic Christmas markets where we can buy all kinds of traditional gifts and sample the local fare while enjoying a delicious mulled wine with gingerbreads. This tour includes a 10-night cruise on which we will celebrate Christmas Day and New Year's Eve, as well as visiting all the Christmas markets along the way.



GIPPSLAND TRAVEL

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We hope you enjoy receiving our newsletter, however, should you wish to be taken off our mailing list please don't hesitate to contact us.