

# Travel News

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2025.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking so many of you for your kindness following Bob's passing in early February after a long period of ill health.

Bob and I bought this business in 1988 and his energy and belief in what we could become underpinned the successful development of the business to where we are today.

As part of our ongoing strategy to ensure the long-term sustainability and growth of the business, I'm pleased to share that, Linda Sharpe, Office Manager, became a shareholder over recent years and was appointed as a director earlier this year. This is a significant and positive development for the company, and I shall be continuing in my current role as we move forward with strength and confidence.

While Gippsland Travel has earned a great reputation for its personally escorted tours, our highly trained and experienced consultants can help with a wide range of individual travel arrangements to suit any budget.

Following our recent tour of Egypt, Dubai and East Africa, I am looking forward to visiting these fascinating destinations again during our February 2027 tour.



### Staff news

Currently, one of our receptionists Deirdre Green and consultant Brianna Van de Ven are both on extended leave so we are pleased to welcome Annette Solomon to our team.

Annette will be responsible for managing the reception desk serving as the first point of contact for our visitors and callers.

With over 10 years of experience in the travel industry, Annette brings valuable experience that will be an asset to the role.

Until next time... *Jacquey*



## ALOHA ADVENTURE CRUISE



Escorted by Linda Sharpe  
**12-25 August 2026**

Enjoy 11 days in paradise including a 7-day cruise from Honolulu on the *Pride of America* visiting Kahului, Hilo, Kona, Nāwiliwili, Kaua'i and returning to Honolulu. The Hawaiian islands boast breathtaking landscapes, including lush rainforests, volcanic mountains, beautiful beaches, and stunning waterfalls. Oahu, Maui and Hawaii have their own unique geography and charm, but all have stunning natural beauty.

### Tour Launch Evenings for 2026 tours

#### Japan

Wednesday 30 April

#### Stans

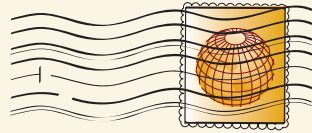
Wednesday 14 May

#### Canada Alaska

Wednesday 21 May

Please call the office to register your attendance.

# Postcards



## Stunning Switzerland & French River Cruise

*By Tour Group Member Elva Cashin*

In September I joined Jacquey's 15-day tour of Switzerland followed by a 7-day River Cruise from Paris to Normandy.

Flying to Zurich we were met and driven through the lovely countryside to Lucerne where we visited the Lion Monument and fabulous Swiss Transport Museum, cruised on Lake Lucerne, and caught a cogwheel railway and cable car to the top of the mountain for dinner.

At the Chocolate Factory we ate lots of delicious samples and made our own chocolate bar. We had lunch in a monastery and dinner and a show in a Swiss Music Hall.

Before boarding a paddlewheel boat to Interlaken we cruised to a beautiful historical hotel and had lunch overlooking the waterfall at Giessbach.

Our guide Michael then took us on to the beautiful village of Grindelwald. The views from our rooms were magic especially in the morning when it was snowing! We had a wonderful day up on Jungfrauoch, the Top of Europe, where we explored the Discovery Centre, walked on a glacier, through an Ice Palace and out to different viewpoints. The drive through the Julian Pass to St Moritz was lovely with lots of snow.

Next day we drove down through the mountains to Tirano, had lunch, explored the area then caught the UNESCO world heritage Bernina Train back to St Moritz. There Jacquey surprised us with a ride on a funicular up to Muottas Muragl followed by a relaxing horse and cart ride up the valley for lunch with stunning views of the mountains.



From St Moritz we took an 8-hour trip on the famous Glacier Express to Zermatt through the beautiful Rhine Gorge with lunch included. All our rooms at Zermatt had views of the famous Matterhorn – spectacular in the morning sun.

After our wonderful time in the mountains, it was time for the drive to Montreux, where our hotel had fabulous views across Lake Geneva. We visited Lavaud Winery, a UNESCO site for wine tasting, and lunched on local meats and cheeses.

While in Montreux we visited the Gruyere cheese factory and Charlie Chaplin's house and ended the day with another wine tasting in the Chillon Castle on the lake.

From Montreux we had a day trip to the Swiss capital Bern and visited the Bear Pit, Clock Tower, Cathedral and former home of Albert Einstein.

Our last day included the Olympic Museum, lunch in Lausanne and a cruise on Lake Geneva.

We then travelled to Paris for our river cruise to Normandy. We had a busy week including visits to the Castle at La Roche Guyon, Giverny – Monet's home and gardens, Rouen where we had a private evening concert, and a coach trip to the charming seaside village of Honfleur.

I also really enjoyed our special day exploring Normandy Battle Fields and seeing the Bayeux Tapestry depicting the story of William the Conqueror. We also visited Versailles and had a fun 70s night on board.

Time in Paris was limited, but we had a choice of a tour around the city, a visit to the Eiffel Tower or the Moulin Rouge. It was then time for home with an overnight stop in Dubai.

Her attention to detail, the way she looks after us, staying in the best hotels and joining in all our activities is why I only travel with Jacquey of Gippsland Travel.

# Travel Experience



## Southern Spain & Barcelona

*By Senior Consultant Jo Baxter*

I joined my 7-day Southern Spain and Barcelona Tour, hosted by Entire Travel Group in Madrid. Traveling on a small group tour in a luxury coach was extremely comfortable and a great way to see the countryside.

The trip was amazing and well planned with a unique blend of history, culture and cuisine; all brought together by our attentive and informative tour guide.

The first morning was spent exploring the main attractions and familiarizing ourselves with the layout of Madrid on a fantastic guided walking tour, taking in the Plaza Mayor, Royal Palace, and Plaza de la Villa just to name a few. In the afternoon we were free to explore and the evening was spent discovering rooftop bars and eating tapas.

From Madrid we headed to Seville via Merida. Arriving before lunch we had time to explore the maze of narrow streets filled with shops and restaurants. After a beautiful lunch we had a guided tour through the Teatro Romano (an ancient Roman Amphitheatre), established in 15BC and still used today for concerts and plays. We also visited an amphitheatre dating back to 8BC that was used for gladiator contests.

After another informative walking tour, winding our way through the Jewish Quarter, exploring the Plaza de Espana and the Cathedral of Seville, I took a trip to Jerez de La Frontera, in the Andalusia region famous for its sherry, horses and Flamenco.

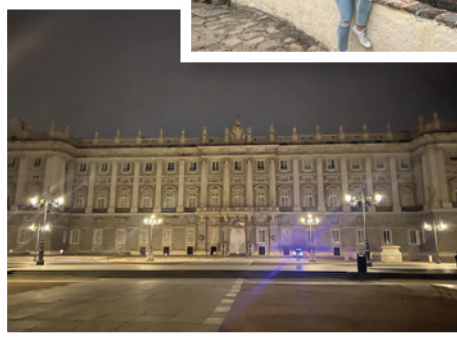
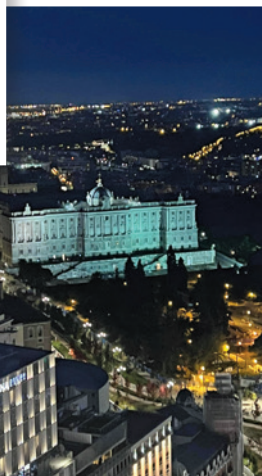
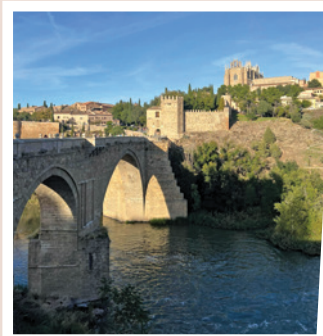
From Seville we headed to Cordoba, home of the Mosque Cathedral, an incredible mosque that is now a Christian cathedral, before heading to Granada where we attended a Flamenco show in a cave.

The highlight of Granada was the Alhambra Palace, a truly amazing experience of history and architecture. I also did another walking tour of the Albaicin Moorish quarter that made me feel like I was in Morocco.

We made our way to Valencia via Ubeda and visited the Religiosas Franciscanas Clarisas convent, where we had an amazing shopping experience: we entered a room with a list of baked goods, ordered from a nun we couldn't see, placed our money on a 'lazy susan' which turned round to her side and came back with our order!

A full day in Valencia included a guided walk through the old town and a visit to the Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias, a modern scientific and cultural complex, a stark contrast between the old and the new.

Our tour finished in Barcelona and the views of the city from Montjuic Mountain were spectacular, as were the facades of Gaudi's buildings along the Paseo de Gracia, but the highlight was the Sagrada Familia. Another must in Barcelona is just sitting in a tapas bar on Las Ramblas and watching the world go by, a perfect way to end a magical trip.





# 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



### 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.  
*Tour waitlisted.*



### 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.  
*Tour waitlisted.*

## 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.  
*One cabin available.*



### THE BEST OF BEAUTIFUL JAPAN March/April

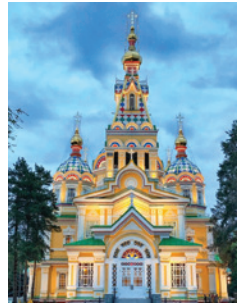
Japan is known for its beautiful landscapes, its ancient temples and shrines, its vibrant cities, its delicious cuisine, its culture of politeness, and its unique fashion and art. Japan is famous for its rich cultural history and its unique blend of traditional and modern culture.  
*Tour launch Wednesday 30 April.*



## 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 to Alaska visiting quaint towns and enjoying magnificent views of breath-taking glaciers. *Tour launch Wednesday 21 May.*



## THE SILK ROAD - STUNNING STANS

September/October

The 'Five Stans' are 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. *Tour launch Wednesday 14 May.*



## EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS CRUISE

December

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 river cruise on which we will celebrate Christmas Day.

## 2027 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.



## SPECTACULAR SCANDINAVIA May

With its spectacular scenery and historic traditions, Scandinavia is also known for the friendliness of its people. As well as visiting enchanting Scandinavian cities, we will include a cruise through the majestic fjords.



## CAPE YORK EXPERIENCE July

Cape York, the northernmost point of the Australian mainland, offers pristine beaches, lush rainforests, rugged mountains, and vast wetlands creating a unique blend of natural beauty, rich Aboriginal culture, and rugged adventure.



## EASTERN CANADA September/October

This 4-week tour featuring the wonder of Niagara Falls and the sprawling natural beauty of Newfoundland will visit Toronto, Montreal and Quebec along with the maritime landscapes of Nova Scotia. There will also be the option to visit Churchill, the polar bear capital of the world!



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