

# GIPPSLAND TRAVEL

SEPTEMBER 2025

# Travel News

**Gippsland Travel has had a busy and exciting few months since our last newsletter, and we are delighted to share the latest updates with you.**

Jacquey has recently returned from her third escorted tour for 2025, a wonderful journey through the UK and Ireland that was blessed with beautiful weather and an abundance of sights and experiences.

Why not consider a break from the Gippsland winter and join Linda in August 2026 on a 7-night cruise around the Hawaiian Islands, including a few days exploring Honolulu? See page 2 for further information.

You'll find further details of our 2026 and 2027 escorted tours at the end of this newsletter. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

We're excited to invite you to our annual Travel Expo on Wednesday 8th October. The event will be held in our Gippsland Travel office. Discover the latest travel deals, meet with travel experts, and get inspired for your next adventure. We'd love to see you there!



## LAUNCH EVENINGS FOR 2026 TOURS

**Aloha Adventure  
– Hawaii**

Wed 26 Nov 2025

**Northern Lights &  
European Christmas**

Wed 3 Dec 2025

Please call the office to register your attendance.



Finally, we would like to acknowledge the retirement of our much-valued team member, Jan Darby, who finished with us at the end of June after many years of dedicated service. Jan will be greatly missed, and we extend our warmest wishes to her and her husband, Graeme, as they embark on this next chapter.

Until next time... *Jacquey & Linda*

# TRAVEL EXPO

WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER  
2 sessions: 6pm & 7pm



**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**

- Norwegian Cruise Line • Apt Luxury Travel
- Travelmarvel • Botanica World Discoveries
- Insight Vacations • Trafalgar Tours
- Costsaver • Luxury Gold • Contiki
- Uniworld Boutique River Cruises
- Globus • Cosmos • Avalon Waterways
- Viking Cruises • Scenic Luxury Cruises & Tours
- Back Roads • Topdeck • The Kimberley Collection
- The Territory Collection • Anzcro

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



GIPPSLAND  
**TRAVEL**



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# ALOHA ADVENTURE

## Say 'Aloha' to your next Island-Hopping Adventure with Linda Sharpe!

**Tour dates: 13 – 26 August 2026**

Join Linda Sharpe on an unforgettable, personally escorted journey through the breathtaking and diverse Hawaiian Islands. This carefully crafted itinerary blends relaxation with discovery, offering you the very best of Hawaii in both comfort and style.

The adventure will begin and conclude in vibrant Honolulu, where you'll experience the magic of a traditional Luau and delve into the rich Polynesian culture. Explore the natural beauty of the North Shore and surrounding areas on enriching day tours and pay a meaningful visit to the historic Pearl Harbor site.

You'll also enjoy plenty of free time to soak up the sun, indulge in some shopping, or simply unwind in paradise.

A 7-night cruise around the Hawaiian Islands will be a highlight of this tour, giving you the chance to discover the unique charm and landscape of each destination – from lush rainforests and cascading waterfalls to volcanic wonders and golden beaches.

We will set sail on the Norwegian *Pride of America* and cruise around Hawaii, this is one of the most convenient and immersive ways to explore the Hawaiian Islands, especially for travellers who want to see multiple islands without the hassle of inter-island flights or hotel changes.

This one-of-a-kind cruise, which departs from Honolulu, visits four of Hawaii's main islands: Oahu, Maui, the Big Island (Hilo and Kona), and Kauai.

The itinerary includes overnight stays in both Maui and Kauai, giving guests ample time to explore the islands' natural wonders.

The ship itself features a wide range of amenities including multiple restaurants, pools, bars, a spa, a fitness centre, and spacious staterooms. Whether you're interested in adventure, culture, or simply relaxing in paradise, the *Pride of America* offers a comprehensive Hawaiian experience unlike any other cruise.

This is more than a holiday – it's a tropical escape filled with culture, adventure, and lifelong memories.



## Our Staff Adventures

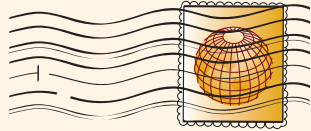
At Gippsland Travel, we don't just organise your journey — we experience the destinations ourselves, so we can plan your holiday with first-hand knowledge and genuine insight. Over the past year, our passionate travel team has explored destinations across the globe including:

Africa	European Christmas Markets	Malta
Airlie Beach	Germany	Narooma
Albany	Gold Coast	P&O Cruise
Austria	Greece	Perth
Bali	Hamilton Island	Phillip Island
Bratislava	Hungary	Port Douglas
Brisbane	Ireland	South Australia
Busselton	Italy	Southern India
Cape Peninsula	Kangaroo Island	Spain
Denmark	1770	Switzerland
Dubai	Mackay	UK
Egypt	Mallacoota	Wilsons Prom





# Postcards



## Southern India

By Krystal McCallum

After an enjoyable journey with Thai Airways, transiting through Bangkok, I arrived safely in the vibrant city of Chennai in India's south.

Our first morning was spent with a walking tour visiting local temples and getting a taste of the hustle and bustle of an Indian city.

Following a restful sleep and yummy breakfast, we departed our hotel for our next destination. Along the way we visited the UNESCO World Heritage listed Shore Temple. It is believed that originally there were seven temples, six of them having been destroyed by natural erosion.

That afternoon we visited Pondicherry, a city with a fascinating history closely tied to the French. The town is divided into two distinct settlements, the French section on the eastern side of the canal and the Tamil section on the western side. We were there on a Saturday and it was fun to see the locals letting their hair down and having a much-needed weekend break.

We farewelled Pondicherry and spent the next few days exploring Kumbakonam, Tanjore, Chettinad, and Madurai. Along the way, we visited many temples, each one more impressive and awe-inspiring than the last. Highlights included the Brihadeshwara Temple, Darasuram Temple, and the stunning Meenakshi Temple.

When visiting these sacred sites, it's important to dress appropriately and be prepared to remove your shoes. As the heat can make the ground extremely hot, we found it very helpful to carry socks to wear inside the temples.

Along the way we enjoyed tasting a variety of delicious cuisines. It was fascinating to see how each destination prepared their dishes slightly differently, with unique spices and flavors that reflected their region. Visiting local markets was also a highlight, offering a glimpse into where the locals source their ingredients and showcasing the incredible range of fresh produce and foods available. The fish markets were an amazing (although rather smelly) experience.



We then headed up into the high country of Munnar. At 1,600 metres above sea level, this hill station was the summer resort of the British Government in South India. We visited a working tea factory and learnt first-hand how tea is grown and the various stages of tea production from plucking and withering to rolling, fermenting, drying, and sorting. We were able to sample a variety of teas, including black, green, and flavoured teas and learnt about the unique characteristics and flavours of each type. I was fascinated by the elephant tracks weaving through the mountains, but I was a little disappointed not to spot any elephants.

No trip to India feels complete without a ride in a local tuktuk (auto-rickshaw). As we weaved our way through the port of Cochin and the old quarters of Mattancherry, our guide brought the streets to life with fascinating stories of grand buildings and mansions - once Portuguese homes, Dutch bastions, and British tea-broking offices.

Our tour ended with a stay at the 12-hectare eco-friendly retreat, Coconut Lagoon. This was truly a highlight of our journey. Accessible only by boat, the arrival itself was unforgettable, gliding through a narrow canal before reaching reception. Each of us stayed in a charming heritage bungalow, dating back more than 150 years.

The resort offered lots of relaxing experiences, from the enchanting butterfly garden to canoeing, fishing, pottery, yoga, cooking classes, and of course, a rejuvenating Ayurvedic massage - the perfect way to end our trip.

# STUNNING STANS

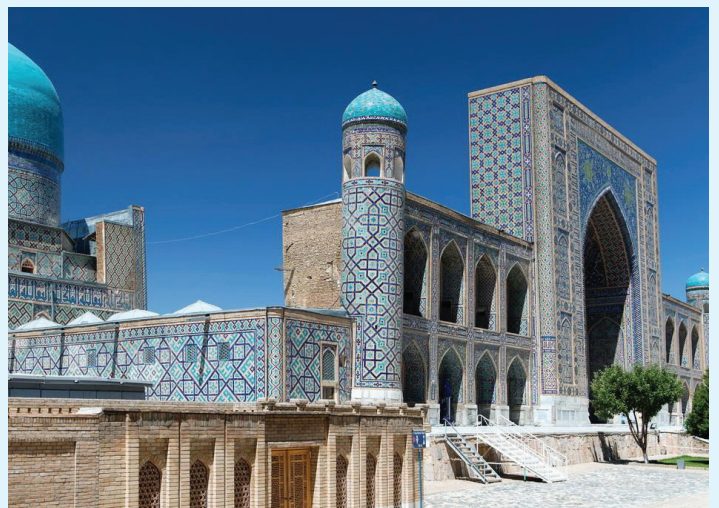
**We have limited availability on Jacquey Turner's Personally Escorted Stunning Stans Tour.**

Join us for an unforgettable journey through Central Asia's most captivating landscapes, cultures, and ancient Silk Road cities.

Explore the serene landscapes of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, where lush expanses and tranquil beauty await. Then, venture into the grand mosques and vibrant bazaars of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, rich with history and cultural splendour.

Don't miss your chance to travel with Jacquey on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure! Tour Dates: 28 August - 19 September 2026

Please contact the office for further information.



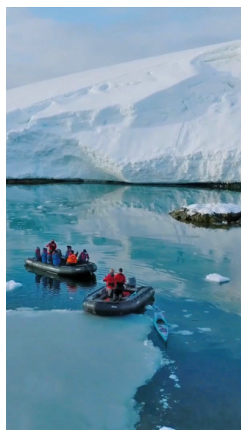




# GIPPSLAND TRAVEL PERSONALLY ESCORTED TOURS

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.

## 2026 Escorted Tours



### AWESOME ANTARCTICA with a Taste of South America & Iguazu extension

**February/March**

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. This tour also includes a visit to both sides of Iguazu Falls.

*Escorted by Jacquey Turner  
Fully booked – Waitlist open*



### THE BEST OF BEAUTIFUL JAPAN

**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.

*Escorted by Jacquey Turner  
Limited availability*



### 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.

*Escorted by Jacquey Turner  
Fully booked – Waitlist open*



### ALOHA ADVENTURE

**August**

Immerse yourself in the rich culture, incredible landscapes, and delicious cuisine of Hawaii. This tour will include a 7-day cruise from Honolulu on Pride of America. Explore an island every day from the lush, fragrant vegetation of Kauai to the Big Island's dramatic volcanoes and the famous surfing beaches of Oahu. Enjoy overnight stays in Maui and Kauai, giving you even more time to discover the best of island living. When on land we will explore the island of Oahu.

*Escorted by Linda Sharpe  
Tour launch – Wednesday 26 November*



### STUNNING STANS

**August/September**

Journey through the captivating 'Five Stans', a mosaic of countries intricately linked by a common history of Soviet influence, yet distinctly independent in character. Explore the serene landscapes of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, where lush expanses and tranquil beauty await. Then, venture into the grand mosques and vibrant bazaars of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, rich with history and cultural splendour. *Limited availability*  
*Escorted by Jacquey Turner*



### NORTHERN LIGHTS & EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS CRUISE

**December**

This is a chance to experience the amazing Northern Lights and wonderful traditions and celebrations of a European Christmas, all in one tour. We will start by chasing the Northern Lights before visiting 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 gingerbread. This tour includes a river cruise on which we will celebrate Christmas Day.

*Escorted by Jacquey Turner  
Tour launch – Wednesday 3 December*

## 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.

*Escorted by Jacquey Turner*



### 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.

*Escorted by Jacquey Turner*



### CAPE YORK EXPERIENCE

**June/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. *Escorted by Linda Sharpe*



### UK WITH A DIFFERENCE

**July/August**

A 3-week tour of England and Wales, offering an unusual tour visiting some of the lesser-known and out-of-the-way places in these countries, but also including such famous cities as York, Lincoln, and Cambridge.

*Escorted by Jacquey Turner*

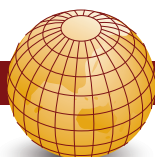


### EASTERN CANADA

**September**

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!

*Escorted by Jacquey Turner*



**GIPPSLAND  
TRAVEL**

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