



THE BEST OF BEAUTIFUL JAPAN

12 April to 1 May 2026 – 18 nights

Personally escorted by Jacquie Turner



Discover the best of beautiful Japan, from vibrant metropolises to serene rural regions bursting with culture. Among many highlights, a chance to see Japanese Macaques, enjoy a private dinner with a geisha or maiko, walk along the Nakasendo trail and savour spectacular cuisine along the way.

Take part in a Japanese calligraphy lesson, learning all about the nation's three alphabets – kanji, hiragana and katakana – and trying your hand at writing your own characters under the guidance of an expert instructor.

Delight in a lunch and visit to Nadagiku Sake Brewery where you will see tools that were used until the late 1950's. For an authentic taste of Japan, sample Sake and learn about the brewing tradition that has been passed down through the generations.

Enjoy a Sarubobo-making experience. An amulet particularly common in Takayama and the nearby Hida region, Sarubobo are red dolls with no facial features. Learn how to make the dolls and perhaps find some good luck yourself.

Explore the Sanmachi Suji district in Takayama, a beautifully preserved area with traditional Edo-period wooden buildings. Wander the quiet old streets lined with craft shops, sake breweries, and historic merchant houses, sampling local tea and digging into local treats like wagyu sushi.

Sunday, 12 April**Gippsland – Melbourne Airport****(D)**

We depart Gippsland for an overnight stay at the Park Royal Airport Hotel which will include dinner.

Monday, 13 April**Arrival in Tokyo, Japan****(D)**

We walk to the airport terminal for our flight to Tokyo. On arrival at Tokyo Narita International Airport, we will be transferred to our hotel for our 3-night stay. Tonight, after our dinner at the hotel restaurant.

Accommodation: **Hotel Niwa Tokyo, or similar**, for 3 nights.

**Tuesday, 14 April****Tokyo****(B L D)**

We have a full day exploring Tokyo, firstly to the **Toyosu Fish Market** before our visit to the **Tokyo Imperial Palace Eastern Garden**, a scenic and historically rich part of the Imperial Palace grounds in Tokyo. The Eastern Garden offers visitors a glimpse into Japan's imperial heritage and natural beauty.

For a cultural experience, we witness a **Sumo demonstration**. Watch wrestlers perform the traditional sumo stance of Shiko and experience the practice of Suppari face-to-face. For lunch, a main course of tonkatsu, a typical Japanese home-style meal, and chanko-nabe soup, a sumo stable tradition, will be served.

In the afternoon we travel to **Asakusa**, a historically bustling entertainment district which continues to celebrate its heritage with festivals and cultural events and a lively central area. The neighborhood retains a traditional atmosphere with its narrow streets, traditional shops, and rickshaws. The area is also home to Senso-ji, Tokyo's oldest and most significant temple.

We return to our hotel and have dinner at a local restaurant within walking distance.

Accommodation: **Hotel Niwa Tokyo, or similar**.

Wednesday, 15 April**Tokyo****(B L)**

After breakfast, we will meet our guide for another full day touring Tokyo. Our first highlight today is the **Shibuya Meiji Shrine**. The Shinto shrine is dedicated to Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken and is surrounded by a forested area offering tranquility in the heart of Shibuya.



Next, we head to **Shibuya Crossing**, also known as the Shibuya Scramble. This iconic pedestrian crossing is surrounded by neon lights and bustling with pedestrians from all directions, a symbol of modern Tokyo. It is one of the busiest pedestrian crossings in the world, famous for its bustling activity and surrounding shopping and entertainment districts. The famous Hachiko dog statue in front of the station is also a popular landmark here.

For lunch today, a veteran chef will teach you a meticulous and authentic **sushi nigiri experience at Tukiji Tamazushi Harumi Street Branch**. This is a hands-on experience of making and tasting your own sushi, and enjoy grating real wasabi, watching a bamboo leaf cutting show and an omelette show right before your eyes, making for a fulfilling experience. At the end of the course, you will receive a 'Certificate of Completion'.

We complete our tour today with a visit to **Azabudai Hills, teamLab Borderless**. This digital art museum offers immersive, interactive installations and exhibits that blur the boundaries between art and technology.

Accommodation: **Hotel Niwa Tokyo, or similar.**



Thursday, 16 April

Tokyo – Hakone Kanagawa

(B L D)

Our drive today takes us to Kamakura, the ancient capital of Japan, where we visit the 750-year-old **Great Buddha of Kamakura**, a bronze statue of Amida Buddha, which stands on the grounds of Kotokuin Temple. With a height of 11.4 meters, it has long been the second tallest bronze Buddha statue in Japan, surpassed only by the statue in Nara's Todaiji Temple and some recent creations. We shall also take a short ride on a local train giving us a peek into the homes that closely line the track.

After our lunch at a local restaurant, we will enjoy a **Hakone Lake Ashi Cruise** in the Hakone region known for its scenic beauty and views of Mount Fuji. Lake Ashi, also known as Ashinoko, was formed in the caldera of Mount Hakone after the volcano's last eruption about 3,000 years ago.

We shall take the **Hakone Ropeway** offering stunning views of Owakudani and Mount Fuji, connecting Togendai and Sounzan stations. We will continue to our hotel where there will be time to freshen up before we dine at the hotel's restaurant.

Accommodation: **The Fujiya Hotel**, or similar, overnight.



Friday, 17 April

Kanagawa – Matsumoto Nagano

(B D)

We journey to Matsumoto, gateway to the Japanese Alps, with a stop at the **Itchiku Kubota Museum**. Kubota Itchiku was the artist who revived the lost art of Tsujigahana silk dyeing, used to decorate elaborate kimono during the Muromachi Period. Exhibited are several of the artist's kimono creations, depicting themes of nature, the cosmos and the seasons. Also on display are parts of his unfinished masterpiece "Symphony of Light", a huge work comprised of 80 kimono that together form of a picture of Mount Fuji.

After time for lunch, we shall also visit the famous **Matsumoto Castle** dating back to 1593, one of Japan's most beautiful and well-preserved castles, known for its distinctive black exterior and historical significance. We continue to our hotel where there will be time to relax before we take a short walk to a local restaurant for dinner.

Accommodation: **Onyado Nono Matsumoto**, or similar, for two nights

Saturday, 18 April

Matsumoto

(B L D)

Our sightseeing today includes **Jigokudani Yaen-Koen**, the only place in the world where wild snow monkeys bathe in hot springs. Here is a paradise on earth for monkeys to live in. The troops of wild Japanese macaque (they are popularly known as snow monkeys) have inhabited here naturally through the ages. The monkeys' presence can vary depending on the season and environmental conditions.

After lunch in Hotarutei, we head to the **Daio Wasabi Farm**, one of Japan's largest wasabi farms, featuring scenic waterways, walking paths, and fresh wasabi products.

Our final tour stop for the day is the **Japan Ukiyo-e (Ukiyoe) Museum**, a print maker's dream, holding the largest private collection of ukiyo-e (woodblock prints), paintings screens and old books in the world. The Sakai family has collected more than 100,000 pieces over several generations.

We return to the hotel with time to freshen up before we take a walk to a local restaurant for dinner.

Accommodation: **Onyado Nono Matsumoto**, or similar.



Sunday, 19 April

Matsumoto - Takayama

(B D)

Today we travel by coach through the ruggedly beautiful Alps to the quiet, isolated town of Takayama, where old traditions are untouched by the passage of time. We shall visit the famous **Takayama Festival Float Museum**. The splendid yatai elaborate floats used in the famous Takayama Festival are known for their colorful and intricate decorations, and embody skills handed down over generations, and it's easy to see why the Takayama Festival is considered one of the three finest in Japan.

We will have free time for lunch and to wander the streets and explore the shops of this very traditional village. Later in the afternoon we shall visit the **Hida Folk Village**, an open-air museum featuring traditional thatched roof houses and buildings from the Hida region, showcasing rural life in Japan. We will also have the opportunity to learn how to make a traditional Sarubobo doll.

After we check in to our hotel, we will have dinner in the restaurant.

Accommodation: **Hotel Associa Takayama Resort**, or similar, for two nights.

Monday, 20 April

Takayama

(B D)

This morning, we enjoy a drive through the mountainous Shokawa Valley to **Shirakawago Village**. Shirakawa-go is a historic village located in the Gifu Prefecture in central Japan, known for its traditional gasshō-zukuri farmhouses, some of which are over 250 years old.



We shall also visit **Wada House**, one of the most iconic traditional gasshō-zukuri houses. Shirakawa-go, along with the nearby Gokayama region, is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site, known for its unique thatched-roof houses that have been preserved for centuries.

We shall stop at the **Shiroyama Tenshukaku Observation Deck** where we can see a nostalgic Japanese landscape spread out below, with thatched gassho-style houses amidst forests and rice fields. Flanked by the "Tenbodai Souvenir Shop" and "Tenbodai Cafe," this will be the ideal stop for lunch and some retail therapy.

We arrive back at the hotel with time to freshen up before dinner.

Accommodation: **Hotel Associa Takayama Resort, or similar.**

Tuesday, 21 April **Takayama - Kyoto** **(B D)**

We leave the delightful village of Takayama and drive to Tsumago-juka where we will stretch our legs on the **Nakasendo Walk** from **Magome-Tsumago** Trail, an attractive walk along the old Nakasendo. The trail between Magome and Tsumago is a well-maintained section of the former Nakasendo, the route that ran along the Kiso Valley and connected Tokyo with Kyoto during the Edo Period.

There will be time for lunch before we drive to Nagoya Station to board the bullet train to Kyoto. On arrival we will be transferred to the hotel. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel.

Accommodation: **Hotel Okura Kyoto, or similar** for four nights.



Wednesday, 22 April **Kyoto** **(B L)**

We have a full day of touring with our first stop at the **Kinkaku-ji Temple**. The Golden Pavilion is covered in gold leaf and reflects on a pond surrounded by lush gardens; originally built in 1397 as a retirement villa for a shogun, Kinkaku-ji, the Temple today is considered one of Kyoto's most important locations.

Our next visit is to the **Arashiyama, Tenryu-ji Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring a beautiful landscape garden with a central pond; one of Kyoto's five great Zen temples founded in 1339.

For lunch we shall enjoy shojin ryori (Zen vegetarian cuisine) at **Shigetsu Shojin Ryori** a large temple-style restaurant surrounded by the natural beauty of Tenryu-ji's World Heritage gardens. Shojin ryori has its origins in Chinese Zen and was brought to Japan together with the Zen teachings during the thirteenth century. As natural parts of everyday life, cooking and eating have always been regarded in Zen as forms of spiritual practice.

Shojin ryori manifests this outlook in a cuisine that harmonizes with Buddhist ideals, creating satisfying, nourishing meals from fresh seasonal vegetables, herbs, and wild plants while depriving no animals of life that both sustains the body and provides a true taste of Zen.

On our way back to the hotel, we shall stop at **Arashiyama Bamboo Grove**, a serene bamboo forest with towering stalks creating a peaceful atmosphere; adjacent to temples and the famous **Togetsukyo Bridge**, offering scenic views of the Hozu River.

We return to the hotel and the rest of the evening is at your leisure.

Accommodation: **Hotel Okura Kyoto**, or similar.

Thursday, 23 April **Kyoto** **(B)**

Our drive this morning take us to Nara, where we will visit the Home to the Great Buddha statue, this temple is one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples. The **Great Buddha of Nara** is officially called "Rushanabutsu," or Rushanabutsu, and is about 15 meters high, or 18 meters including the pedestal. The Great Buddha is facing forward with his right hand. This means "do not be afraid," and his left-hand means "I will grant people's wishes". Japan at that time was suffering from plague and disasters. The Daibutsu-sama represents Emperor Shomu's kind prayer for relief from such suffering.

Before we have time for lunch, we will visit the **Nara Park**, famous for its free-roaming deer, which are considered sacred and are friendly to visitors. We also visit the **Kasuga Taisha**, a Shinto shrine known for its many lanterns, donated by worshipers, and its beautiful, forested surroundings.

We return to the hotel and the rest of the evening is at your leisure.

Accommodation: **Hotel Okura Kyoto**, or similar.



Friday, 24 April **Kyoto** **(B D)**

Our sightseeing this morning will feature many cultural experiences including a tea ceremony, we learn the significance of the kimono and see the art of calligraphy. There will be free time to explore the market and sample some of the local delicacies at your own pace.

In the afternoon we visit the historic streets of **Sannensaka** and **Ninenzaka**, lined with traditional shops, cafes, and teahouses; preserved to reflect Kyoto's Edo-period charm and atmosphere. Tonight, we will enjoy an authentic private **Maiko dinner** at a traditional Japanese restaurant. During our dinner, you will watch a geiko or maiko (apprentice geiko) dance performance.

After the performance, we can talk to the geiko or maiko and ask questions. If there is time left, you can also play traditional games.

Accommodation: **Hotel Okura Kyoto**, or similar.



Saturday, 25 April

Kyoto - Kurashiki

(B L)

This morning, we transfer to the Kyoto station to board our bullet train to Himeji. On arrival we visit one of Japan's most iconic and best-preserved castles, known as the "White Heron Castle" due to its elegant appearance. **Himeji Castle** dates to 1333 and is the largest and most visited castle in Japan. It was registered in 1993 as one of the first UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the country

We shall enjoy lunch and a tour of **Nadagiku Sake Brewery**. During the tour of a few of the buildings, we will see tools that were used until the late 1950's. For an authentic taste of Japan, we can sample Sake and learn about the brewing tradition that has been passed down through the generations.

We reboard the bullet train to Okayama. On arrival we shall be met and will be transferred by coach to Kurashiki to our hotel. The rest of the evening is at your leisure.

Accommodation: **Kurashiki Royal Art Hotel**, or similar, for two nights.

Sunday, 26 April

Kurashiki

(B D)

This morning, we transfer to the Uno Port to board a ferry to **Naoshima Island**. Commonly known as Art Island, Naoshima Island is peppered with elegant galleries and outdoor art pieces. We visit **Chichu Art Museum**, a unique museum built into the hillside overlooking the coastline. Designed by Ando Tadao, the building lies mostly underground and relies only on natural light to illuminate each work.

The museum's permanent collection of Monet's famous Water Lilies comes to life in the adjacent Chichu Garden, where 200 kinds of flowers faithfully recreate the physical experience captured in Monet's works. Step inside the **Benesse House Museum**, which was also designed by Tadao.

Later, we visit the **Art House Project**, which features an abandoned temple and shrine, along with a collection of abandoned houses and workshops converted into art installations and galleries by artists and architects from across the world. A ferry will take us back to Uno and we join our coach to Kurashiki for dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: **Kurashiki Royal Art Hotel**, or similar.

Monday, 27 April**Kurashiki - Hiroshima****(B L)**

We depart the hotel and shall walk along the canal to the **Bikan Historical Quarter**, a well preserved area with Edo-period buildings, picturesque canals, and traditional shops and museums.

On our way to Hiroshima, we shall stop in at the **Mazda Museum** which captures over 100 years of a unique history, from challenging and innovative technologies to award-winning design and next-gen engineering. We stop for lunch in Naoshima at a local okonomiyaki restaurant. The word "okonomiyaki" is derived from "okonomi" meaning "as you like" and "yaki" meaning "grilled. It's commonly referred to as being a Japanese pancake. We will arrive at our hotel in the afternoon and then the rest of the day is at your leisure.

Accommodation: **Sheraton Grand Hiroshima Hotel**, or similar, for two nights.

**Tuesday 28 April****Hiroshima****(B D)**

Our first stop today is the Hiroshima Peace Park to visit the **Peace Memorial Museum**, **Memorial Hall** and **Atomic Bomb Dome**, which memorialise and is a poignant reminder of the lives lost in the atomic bombing.

We continue our excursion to **Miyajima Island** where we will explore the island on foot, taking in its scenic beauty and unique atmosphere. **Senjokaku**, also known as the "Pavilion of a Thousand Tatami Mats". This large wooden hall located on Miyajima was commissioned in 1587 by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, one of Japan's most powerful feudal lords and a prominent unifier of the country during the Sengoku period. However, Hideyoshi died before its completion, and the hall remains unfinished to this day. Originally intended to be a Buddhist library to house and study sacred texts, Senjokaku's construction was halted after Hideyoshi's death.

After some time for lunch, we will visit the **Itsukushima Shrine**, famous for its "floating" **Torii Gate** that appears to float on the water during high tide.

Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant, before we return to the hotel.

Accommodation: **Sheraton Grand Hiroshima Hotel**, or similar.



Wednesday, 29 April

Hiroshima - Osaka

(B D)

We leave Hiroshima today and walk to Hiroshima Station where we will board a bullet train to Osaka, a charming, relaxed city best known for its food, fun and nightlife—with some history and culture peeking through.

On arrival in Osaka, there will be some free time for lunch and to explore the **Dotonbori** district before we check in into our hotel. Dotonbori is located along the canal, a colorful district featuring an explosion of neon lights, mouthwatering street food, retro vibes, clubs, stores, and bars.

Tonight, we shall celebrate our experiences in Japan with a farewell dinner at local teppanyaki restaurant.

Accommodation: **Patina Osaka**, or similar, overnight.



Thursday, 30 April

Osaka - Australia

(B)

This morning there will be time for last minute shopping. After transferring to the airport, we shall depart Japan on our flight to Melbourne.

Friday, 1 May

Australia

We arrive back in Melbourne, and will be met and transferred by coach back to Gippsland.



YOUR TOUR LEADER

JACQUEY TURNER has more than 40 years' experience as a highly successful travel agent and tour guide. Jacquie's attention to detail and personal care ensures that everyone travelling in her group will have a most enjoyable holiday experience.

"I thoroughly enjoy escorting tour members to so many wonderful places in the world. The sights, sounds and history all contribute to a fabulous experience but most importantly it is the people that you meet and have the privilege of travelling with that has the most lasting impression. We always have lots of fun and continue to enjoy the memories for many years."

INCLUSIONS

- Personally escorted throughout the entire 18-day tour by Jacquie Turner
In the unlikely event that Jacquie is not available to escort all or part of the tour, she will be replaced with a well-trained tour escort.
- Minimum 16 and maximum 20 guests
- Coach transfers between Warragul and Melbourne
- Return economy airfares and taxes
- 1st class (Green Class) on four Bullet Trains
- All airport arrival and departure transfers
- Excellent hotel accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities throughout the tour
- Private large luxury coach
- Private Professional English-speaking guides.
- Experienced drivers throughout tour.
- Comprehensive sightseeing as per itinerary and admission fees where applicable
- Meals as per itinerary: **37 meals** - 17 Breakfasts (B), 7 Lunches (L), 13 Dinners (D)
- Complimentary water throughout the tour
- Gippsland Travel hat or cap; luggage strap; luggage tag, hand gel;
- Gippsland Travel journal and photos supplied on USB showcasing your time on the tour.
- Audio guiding system
- Porterage (one suitcase per person)

EXCLUSIONS

- Comprehensive travel insurance. We highly recommend insurance be issued at time of paying full deposit. It is a condition of our tours that comprehensive travel insurance is in place at the time of final payment.
- Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, telephone charges, alcoholic beverages, medical expenses, and transfers/sightseeing or meals not included in itinerary.
- Any optional tours or activities other than those specified in the itinerary
- Excess baggage charges.
- Health requirements



THE BEST OF BEAUTIFUL JAPAN

12 April to 1 May 2026 – 18 nights

TOUR COST: **\$22,399 per person on a twin share basis**
\$ 4,398 single supplement

- ★ Upgrade to Business Class – cost on application
- ★ Should you wish to extend your travel arrangements after the tour, please contact me to discuss further options.
- ★ Should you select to travel on flights other than the included group flights, or upgrade to business, payment for the air fares will be required at the time of booking the flights.
- ★ Please note that a surcharge due to currency fluctuations may arise. If applicable, this will be confirmed prior to the balance of deposit being due.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Full deposit	Due by 9 May 2025 to secure place on tour	\$5000 per person
Further payment	Due by 30 June 2025	\$2000 per person
Balance of payment	Due by 21 January, 2026	
Information Night	Wednesday, 21 January 2026	

The tour cost is based on a minimum and maximum of 20 participants. In the unlikely event that this number of participants is not reached, Gippsland Travel reserve the right to cancel the tour. In this instance only, a full refund of all deposits paid will be refunded.

CANCELLATION FEES

Cancellation date	Cancellation fee
Cancellation received after full deposit has been paid	\$5000 pp
Cancellation received after 30 Jun 2025 and prior to 21 Jan 26	\$7000 pp
Cancellation received on or after 22 January 2026	100% of tour cost

ITINERARY VARIATIONS

The itinerary may have to be varied due to circumstances beyond our control but all inclusions will remain of a similar standard. The cost is subject to change in the event of a decrease in the value of the Australian Dollar against Japanese Yen and the US Dollar.

Costs based on exchange rates prevailing on 28 April 2025.

GIPPSLAND TRAVEL ESCORTED TOURS - TERMS & CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION:

This contract is governed by Gippsland Travel Centre Pty Ltd and all members of the travelling parties as listed on your itinerary.

Gippsland Travel Centre acts as the agent selling and coordinating products on behalf of a third-party travel supplier/s. A separate contract with the supplier/s will apply and will be governed by the supplier's Terms and Conditions. Gippsland Travel cannot guarantee the performance of any third-party supplier/s. Gippsland Travel may receive fees, commissions, gifts or financial incentives from third party supplier/s under this contract.

LATE BOOKINGS

Higher deposit payments are required for late bookings. A guarantee of full payment is required at the time of booking for all bookings received within 4 weeks of departure.

GOVERNING LAW

These booking conditions are governed by the law in force in Victoria, Australia.

PASSPORT and VISA

A valid passport is required for all international travel.

If you do not hold an Australian passport, you may require a resident return visa. Some countries require a visa to be issued before you depart Australia. Gippsland Travel will advise you of all passport and visa requirements for this tour.

The Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade regularly updates travel advice on various destinations. We recommend that you refer to www.dfat.gov.au for the latest updates before choosing to travel and prior to departure.

HEALTH & FITNESS

A minimum level of fitness is required to be able to participate on a Gippsland Travel Tour, you are required to at least:

- Be able to walk at least 1 hour on uneven surfaces without the use of any walking aid (walking stick for stability is acceptable)
- Walk up flights of stairs and short, steep hills
- Stand for 20 minutes without needing to sit down, often in hot/humid climates
- Carry your own hand luggage / handle your own suitcase when portage is not supplied eg. at airports.
- Get on and off various modes of transport without assistance, including small boats. Assistance will be offered where necessary.

Passengers must inform us of any medical conditions which may affect your ability to participate in the tour.

At our discretion we can exclude you from a tour or any activity if we consider that you are unable to safely participate in that tour or activity or we consider your participation may place the safety of other guests at risk.

You will be requested to supply a letter from your doctor indicating your prescription medication and your reason for taking it, which shall be carried in the event of an emergency. This information will remain confidential and can be supplied in a sealed envelope.

BOOKINGS SOLD ON A SHARE BASIS

Bookings may be accepted on a share room basis on the proviso that the person requesting the share reservation agrees that while every effort will be made to match suitability of the passengers there is no guarantee that a share room can be provided. If a share room is not available at the time of final payment, either the single room supplement will apply, or the cancellation conditions detailed in your itinerary will apply.

UNUSED COMPONENTS OF THIS TOUR

We regret refunds will not be given for any unused component of this tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation or transfers.

ITINERARY CHANGES and ITINERARY VARIATIONS

Gippsland Travel reserves the right to amend the hotels, itinerary and excursions if deemed advisable or necessary due to adverse weather conditions, road conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. Any necessary alternative arrangements will be made to a similar standard.

Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of Gippsland Travel make it necessary to change airlines, hotels or amendments to daily activities. We will inform you of any changes as soon as they occur.

GENERAL CONDUCT

Gippsland Travel reserves the right to remove a traveller from a tour if they are acting in a way that interferes with the general operation of the tour or compromises the general enjoyment of the tour by other travellers in any way

FLIGHT SCHEDULES

Airlines schedules are subject to change without notice. Voluntary date changes will incur fees. Gippsland Travel is not liable for delays or disruption of air travel.

FORCE MAJEURE:

Force Majeure means the occurrence of an event that is beyond Gippsland Travel's reasonable control and which could not have been reasonably prevented by Gippsland Travel. Force majeure includes, but is not limited to: acts of God, accident, riots, war, terrorist act, epidemic, pandemic, quarantine, outbreaks of infectious disease or any other public health crisis, civil commotion, breakdown of communication facilities, natural catastrophes and natural disasters (including but not limited to flooding, fire, earthquake, landslide), adverse weather conditions, high or low water levels; government directed travel restrictions or omissions, changes in laws or regulations, national strikes, explosion, generalised lack of availability of raw materials or energy, nuclear or other industrial accident causing environmental pollution or contamination; change in law, meaning, enactment, amendment (including repeal) in the law or administration of any law in Australia or any jurisdiction or territory relevant to the booking contract, which includes changes in statute, regulation, determination, by-law, declaration, licence and the common law as applicable from time to time.

For the avoidance of doubt, Force Majeure shall not include (a) financial distress nor inability of either party to make a profit or avoid a financial loss, (b) changes in market prices or conditions, or (c) a party's financial inability to perform its obligations hereunder.

In the event that a Force Majeure is declared, the customer will be bound by the third-party supplier/s Terms and Conditions, if applicable.

TERMINATION OF BOOKING CONTRACT OR CHANGE OF TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS DUE TO FORCE MAJEURE

If Gippsland Travel, in its reasonable opinion, considers that any Force Majeure event prevents Gippsland Travel (whether directly or through its employees, contractors, subcontractors and agents) from lawfully or safely providing any products or services subject of the booking contract with you, Gippsland Travel may immediately by written notice; (a) terminate the booking contract (in whole or part of); or (b) change your travel arrangements as reasonably practicable to ensure your safety and invoice for any additional costs.

If you are eligible for a refund once a booking has been cancelled, the balance less any non-refundable amounts will be forwarded to you once received by Gippsland Travel from the third-party supplier/s.

Gippsland Travel is not responsible for any delays of refunds from the third-party supplier/s. Refunds from third party supplier/s can take in excess of 6 weeks. Refunds will be processed as per original form of payment.

Travel insurance policies may provide cover for cancellation fees subject to their terms and conditions.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY:

Subject to Australian Consumer Law, Gippsland Travel does not accept any liability in contract, tort or otherwise for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or inconvenience caused by a third-party supplier/s over who we have no direct control. Gippsland Travel is not liable for Force Majeure or any other event which is beyond our control or which is not preventable by us.



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



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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.

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