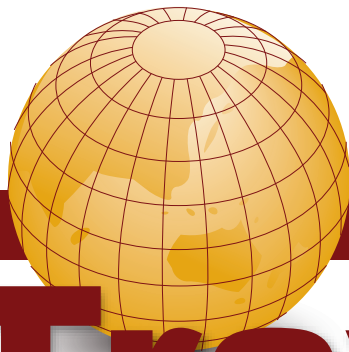




GIPPSLAND TRAVEL

AUGUST 2026

Travel News

Exciting Travel Adventures Ahead

It has been a busy and exciting year involving plenty of travel adventures. We have both been fortunate enough to spend time exploring some incredible destinations, gathering new experiences and inspiration to share with you.

Between escorting groups to beautiful Japan and the ever-popular Canada and Alaska, Jacquey undertook a Stans reconnaissance trip, where she explored this fascinating region in preparation for our inaugural tour later this month.

Linda too has enjoyed her travels this year, also visiting Japan and will be exploring Croatia and Turkiye this month. You can read all about the wonderful time she had in Japan in *Postcards* over the page.

Also in *Postcards*, we are sure you will enjoy Rob and Jenny's great report on their tour of Antarctica and South America earlier in the year with Jacquey.

Some of you may have noticed some unusual activity at the front of our office recently following an unexpected incident that caused damage to our storefront.

Repairs are currently pending and may take some time to complete. In the meantime, our office remains open and is operating normal business hours.

Our annual Travel Expo is always a Gippsland Travel highlight and we look forward to welcoming you again this October for another fantastic evening of travel inspiration. If you would like to join us, please contact the office to register your interest – *see the details below*. We would love to see you there.

Looking ahead, we are already busy scheduling our 2028 itineraries and cannot wait to showcase these exciting journeys to you all as details are finalised.

Thank you for your continued support.

Until next time... *Jacquey & Linda*



TOUR LAUNCH EVENINGS FOR 2027 TOURS

UK with a Difference Wed 26 August 2026

Wonders of Eastern Canada including the Maritime Provinces

Wed 30 September 2026

Please call the office to register your attendance.

FREE TRAVEL EXPO

WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2026 FROM 6.30PM

Come along to our Gippsland Travel office and talk with a range of travel specialists who will be joining us on the night.

INTREPID
JOURNEY BEYOND
ENTIRE TRAVEL GROUP
GLOBUS
COSMOS

AVALON WATERWAYS
SCENIC LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS
BACK ROADS
TOPDECK
TRAFALGAR TOURS

Have your travel questions answered, learn about new exciting places to visit and open doors to new adventures.

Please contact our office to register your interest

03 56 235151

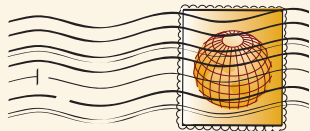
📍 3/126 Albert Road, Warragul

✉ info@gippslandtravel.com.au

**GIPPSLAND
TRAVEL**



Postcards



Beautiful Japan

By Linda Sharpe

In May, I had the opportunity to travel to Japan with my best friend on an Intrepid Basix tour.

It was an incredible experience that combined the excitement of exploring vibrant cities with the rich history, culture, and traditions that make Japan such a fascinating destination. Travelling as part of a small group allowed us to experience local life while still having plenty of time to explore independently.

Our journey began in Tokyo, a city that perfectly blends futuristic technology with centuries-old traditions. We quickly discovered how efficient and easy it was to navigate the city using Japan's extensive train network, while also spending hours exploring on foot. One of the highlights was visiting teamLab Planets, where immersive digital art installations created an unforgettable sensory experience. We also attended a morning sumo wrestling practice, which gave us a rare insight into the dedication, discipline, and traditions of Japan's national sport. Another memorable day was our excursion to Mt Fuji, where we were fortunate enough to enjoy spectacular views of Japan's iconic mountain.

Like many visitors, we had heard people rave about Japan's 7-Eleven convenience stores, and they certainly lived up to the hype. They became our go-to stop for surprisingly delicious meals, fresh snacks, coffee, and supplies while travelling between destinations. Everything you've read about Japanese 7-Elevens is true - they are convenient, affordable, incredibly well-stocked, and a destination in their own right!

From Tokyo, we travelled on the famous Shinkansen, or bullet train, to Hiroshima. Experiencing the speed, comfort, and punctuality of the Shinkansen was an attraction in itself. Hiroshima was both moving and inspiring. Visiting the Peace Memorial Park and Peace Memorial Museum provided a powerful reminder of the city's history and its message of peace. During our stay, we also took a day trip to Miyajima Island, famous for its floating torii gate and peaceful atmosphere. Wandering through the island, surrounded by nature and the overly friendly deer, was a wonderful contrast to the bustling cities.



Our next stop was Kyoto, which quickly became one of my favourite destinations. The city is filled with beautiful temples, shrines, gardens, and traditional architecture. We explored the famous Fushimi Inari Shrine, walking beneath thousands of striking red torii gates that wind up the mountainside. We also visited the magnificent Golden Pavilion (Kinkaku-ji), admired the peaceful gardens, and explored Nijō Castle, famous for its unique "nightingale" floors that squeak as you walk to warn of approaching visitors.

Kyoto also offered some of the most memorable cultural experiences of the trip. We participated in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony in a beautiful 100-year-old Japanese house, learning about the history, etiquette, and rituals behind this centuries-old practice. We also took part in a hands-on Kintsugi workshop, where we learned the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery. Rather than hiding imperfections, Kintsugi celebrates them by highlighting the cracks, symbolising resilience and finding beauty in things that have been broken. It was a meaningful experience and one of the most unique souvenirs we brought home.

We also visited Kiyomizu-dera, one of Kyoto's most famous Buddhist temples, with its impressive wooden stage overlooking the city. Exploring the historic Gion district during the day revealed charming streets lined with traditional wooden buildings, while an evening walking tour taught us about Kyoto's geisha culture and history, making the area come alive in a completely different way.

Our final destination was Osaka, known for its vibrant atmosphere and fantastic food scene. We wandered through the colourful streets of Dotonbori, taking in the bright lights, lively crowds, and famous neon signs. We also visited Osaka Castle, an impressive landmark surrounded by beautiful parklands that offered a glimpse into Japan's feudal history.

Throughout the trip, we travelled almost exclusively by local trains, the Shinkansen, public transport and many kilometres of walking. Japan's transport system was remarkably clean, reliable, and easy to use, though Google maps helped make it easy to workout. Travelling with my best friend made the experience even more special, as we shared every adventure, from navigating busy train stations to discovering hidden streets and local restaurants.

The Intrepid Basix tour provided the perfect balance of organised activities and free time, allowing us to experience Japan at our own pace while making lifelong memories. The journey gave me a greater appreciation for Japan's unique blend of tradition and innovation, and it is a trip I will never forget.



South America & Antarctica

by Rob & Jenny

We arrived in Santiago after a pleasant flight with amazing views of the Andes mountains as we were nearing Santiago and were met by our guide Matias who escorted us by bus to our hotel, which was situated in a vibrant neighbourhood. We then had a lovely meal at a local restaurant before an early night in preparation for our tour of Santiago the next day and dinner at a French restaurant.

We were up early for our flight to Puerto Natales and arrived safely despite a somewhat chaotic experience of the airport. We were transported by bus over some very rough, gravel roads for our two-hour drive to our lodge in Patagonia.

The next morning, we walked across sandbars to our vessel for a cruise around Lake Grey. Apart from the magnificent scenery, we were able to get very close to Grey Glacier. The following day was spent exploring parts of Torres del Paine National Park with more spectacular views and lots of animal and bird life. We were then up early for our five-hour bus trip to Punta Arenas where we checked in with the Aurora staff, took a bus to the airport and then flew down to King George Island where we transferred to our ship, The Sylvia Earle.

We spent the next 10 days exploring the Weddell Sea, an old whaling station, other outposts and enjoying many zodiac landings. Again, spectacular views of mountains, icebergs and wildlife which included seals, whales, penguins and birdlife. We were kept informed on the environment with the many lectures given by the scientific staff on board. As we were nearing the end of our Antarctic expedition, some brave members of our group braved the icy waters for a "polar plunge".



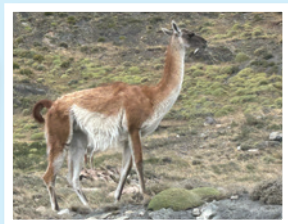
Buenos Aires was our next destination, and we enjoyed a tour of the city. We were treated to some amazing sights including an historic café, an enormous bookshop situated in an old theatre, lunch with a display of Tango dancing and Recoleta Cemetery, the burial site of Eva Peron. That night we were treated to an Argentine Experience and lots of delicious food.

Up early the next day, we caught our flight to Iguazu Falls. We were fortunate enough to see the falls from both the Brazilian and Argentine side. We enjoyed incredible views, a train ride and walking through the jungle where we saw birdlife and animals. The café where we had lunch was fenced in with mesh to prevent the wildlife from taking our food.

Our second last day was spent travelling back to Buenos Aires where more food and drink was enjoyed including a fabulous final dinner at Rufino restaurant.

Our final day was spent with a tour of some of the more affluent neighbourhoods of Buenos Aires as well as the less affluent. We also cruised along waterways, villages and waterside homes. It was then time to return to the hotel, pack up and head to the airport for our return flight home.

Many thanks to Gippsland travel and Jacquey for a wonderful and informative trip.



Why Booking with an Accredited Travel Agent Matters

At Gippsland Travel, we understand that trust is one of the most important factors when planning your holiday. That's why we are proud to be an ATIA-accredited travel agency. Accreditation is not simply a logo – it is independent recognition that our business meets strict financial and ethical standards and is assessed annually to ensure those standards are maintained.

For our clients, this means:

- Confidence that you are booking with a reputable travel professional
- Access to an independent complaints resolution process
- The ability to verify our accreditation through TravelTick

- Peace of mind that your travel arrangements are being managed by a business committed to industry best practice.

You may have seen recent media reports surrounding the collapse of AVG Travels. This agency was removed from ATIA's accreditation program in 2022 and was not an ATIA-accredited business at the time of its collapse. This just highlights the importance of choosing a trusted and accredited travel professional.

At Gippsland Travel, we're committed to providing expert advice, personalised service, and the confidence that comes from dealing with an accredited travel agency you can trust.

ATIA Accredited Tick website: <https://traveltick.com.au/>



GIPPSLAND TRAVEL PERSONALLY ESCORTED TOURS

Every Gippsland Travel Escorted Tour is accompanied by an experienced member of the Gippsland Travel team, providing friendly support, expert guidance, and peace of mind throughout your journey. As our escorted tours are often in high demand, we encourage you to register your interest as soon as they are announced. For more information or to register your interest, please contact our office by phone or email.

2026 Escorted Tours



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.

Fully booked



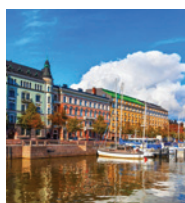
LAPLAND EXPERIENCE & EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS CRUISE

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.

Fully booked

2027 Escorted Tours



SPECTACULAR SCANDINAVIA & ICELAND

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 voyage through the majestic Norwegian fjords. While we are in Iceland, we will discover dramatic volcanic landscapes, thundering waterfalls, and otherworldly natural wonders.

Limited availability



CAPE YORK EXPERIENCE

June

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.

Limited availability



UK WITH A DIFFERENCE

July/August

This 3-week tour of England and Wales combines iconic cities such as York, Lincoln and Cambridge with a collection of lesser-known destinations, offering a unique journey beyond the usual tourist trail. Discover charming villages, rich history and stunning landscapes as you explore some of Britain's hidden treasures.

Tour Launch – Wednesday 26 August 2026



WONDERS OF EASTERN CANADA INCLUDING THE MARITIME PROVINCES

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, Prince Edward Island and much more. There will also be the option to visit Churchill, the polar bear capital of the world!

Tour Launch – Wednesday 30 September 2026

2028 Escorted Tours

Our 2028 Escorted Tour launches will take place approximately 12 months prior to each tour's departure.



TREASURES OF THE MEKONG

March

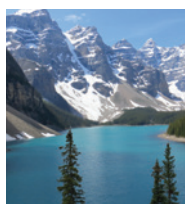
Experience the magic of Southeast Asia on this luxurious journey through Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Laos. Combining two boutique Mekong River cruises with hand-picked stays in iconic destinations, this unforgettable adventure showcases spectacular scenery, rich cultures and timeless history.



EAST AFRICA & MADAGASCAR

October

This memorable tour combines the highlights of East Africa with unforgettable Madagascan wonders. Experience incredible wildlife safaris through Kenya and Tanzania, featuring breathtaking game viewing, world-class lodges, and unique stays in spectacular locations. Madagascar is home to thousands of animal species, including its famous lemurs, which are found nowhere else in the world.



CANADA & ALASKA

June

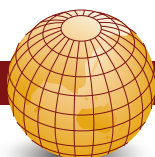
This spectacular journey includes travelling through the fabulous Rockies on the Rocky Mountaineer Railway as well as coach, plus a couple of days in Vancouver. We then have a relaxing 7-night cruise through the inside passage to Alaska visiting quaint towns and enjoying magnificent views of breathtaking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



ULTIMATE NEW ZEALAND

November

Explore New Zealand's North and South Islands aboard a luxury coach, specially designed to provide Business Class comfort. Combined with a magical overnight cruise on Doubtful Sound, this journey showcases historic cities, cultural highlights, iconic landmarks, and breathtaking scenery.



**GIPPSLAND
TRAVEL**

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We hope you enjoy receiving our newsletter. If you would prefer not to receive future editions, please contact us, and we will promptly remove your details from our mailing list.