



# INSIGHTS TOURS NEWS

## May 2019

Welcome to our latest newsletter with news of our future planned tours.

### **North Island New Zealand Insights by Train**

Our recent tour of the North Island of NZ by chartered railcar was such a success that we have been encouraged to investigate operating a tour of the South Island with the same railcar. At this stage there are numerous logistical hurdles to cross so we will provide more news in our future newsletters. At this stage we envisage that a future tour may be possible in October 2021.



### **Program of Tours**

#### **Taiwan Insights - 14th to 29th November 2019**

Our agent in Taiwan - Golden Foundation - owned and managed by Mrs Chang, is one of the longest operating inbound agencies in Taiwan and with whom Insights Tours has a longstanding personal connection. Our unique tour with our out-of-the-ordinary experiences and touring arrangements have been meticulously managed by Golden Foundation. We believe that having a local agency on the ground in each country that we visit is essential to your tour running as smoothly as possible and you can always be assured of this on whatever tour you may choose with us.

Taiwan's mountainous spine has an amazing statistic that it has over 200 peaks over 3,000 metres high. You will see some of these stupendous mountains when we travel on the Alishan Mountain Railway climbing from the lush coastal plains to a height of 1750m above sea level within about 50 kms. The east coast of Taiwan is home to several of the indigenous tribes such as the Bunun tribe who inhabit the area around Taroko Gorge and with whom we have lunch on the day we travel to Taroko Gorge. We have several places still available.

#### **Lake Eyre by Air - 21st to 29th August 2019**

As you may have read, floodwaters are entering Lake Eyre from the recent floods in north west Queensland. The latest forecast is that the water level in the lake will be something approaching the record 1974 flood levels. Regardless, the result of the flood waters

currently coursing down the Diamantina, Warburton, Bulloo, Georgina and Cooper Creek systems will ensure a spectacle which will be best appreciated from the air.

This year's tour will see the results of the major flooding which has occurred in the Diamantina River system especially around Birdsville and the Simpson Desert near the northern shoreline of Lake Eyre – Kati Thanda. The first of the floodwaters have recently entered the lake with significant flows expected for another month or more meaning that our tour guests will see the desert with a post flood verdancy that few people ever see.

Our 7 day / 6 night tour by light aircraft to see the true Outback – Kilcowera Station, Thargomindah, Noccundra, Innamincka, Birdsville, Broken Hill and Lake Mungo.

Lake Eyre by Air operates with a maximum of 6 guests and we currently have 2 vacancies.

The interior of the aircraft which we operate on both the Lake Eyre tour and the Islands of Tasmania tour is configured with 6 very comfortable leather seats and all are adjacent to windows so everybody has their own unobstructed bird's eye view.



### Islands of Tasmania - departing 17th February 2020

This truly unique tour connects lots of spectacular scenery, remote islands and many special experiences which are only possible because you are travelling in your private chartered plane.



This 7-day tour visits five of the Tasmanian islands: Flinders, King, Maria, Bruny and Sarah, with comprehensive guided sightseeing throughout the tour. Experience the diversity of Tasmania's islands, their unique Aboriginal and colonial history and rugged natural beauty. Enjoy delicious local food and wine of Tasmania and get up close with nature in the comfort and warm hospitality of an Insights Tour.

### The Grand Circle Train - May 2020

Unfortunately we are unable to operate this tour in 2020. Insurmountable hurdles continue to thwart us. Railway regulators have not yet approved our favourite railcar – the 620 class – to operate over the lines between Melbourne and Adelaide and Broken Hill. We are continuing to work on this tour for operation in the future but for the present, the tentacles of bureaucracy have frustrated our plans.

But if you are keen for a relaxing train tour we are very pleased to offer **Northern NSW by Train**. Set for departure on 6th May 2020 it will include 6 days of railcar touring and with

our usual accompanying coach you will have plenty of interesting sightseeing and touring. Full details will be published soon.

### Swiss Insights - September 2020

The very best of this most stunning country... scenery, cuisine, culture. See hidden treasures of this mountainous confederation, hear the alphorn, eat rösti, admire the punctual trains including our very special favourite... the Salon Rouge dining car on the Brienzer Rothorn railway which we charter especially for a degustation lunch during our tour.



### Patagonian Insights - November / December 2020



Our agent partners in Argentina and Chile are working on our special arrangements for this tour. Currently we are in the process of trying to secure the services of a small charter train from EFE – Chilean Railways for a journey from Puerto Montt to Santiago. Our aim is to encompass the route from Puerto Montt in the Lakes District all the way north – over 1000 kms with insightful stops and visits at Valdivia, Concepcion, Temuco, Constitution, Talca among others.

Some of the trains which we hope to include are the Tren Patagonico from Viedma to Bariloche, La Trochita narrow gauge from Esquel to El Maiten, the Train at the End of the World in Ushuaia, and the Gondola Carill – a unique Chilean railmotor for a trip in to the Andes Mountains for lunch.

*Patagonian Insights* will take in the best of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego from both Chilean and Argentinean perspectives.

### Christmas in Bethlehem, New Year in Rio de Janeiro

#### 16th December 2020 – 3rd January 2021

Celebrate Christmas in Bethlehem then New Year's Eve in Rio de Janeiro.

First class hotels, all inclusive, exclusive. Imagine... 2 diverse corners of the globe: Midnight Mass in the Church of the Nativity in Jerusalem, biblical land sites then fly to Rio for a truly exuberant festive experience that only the Brazilians can do. Includes the mighty Iguassu Falls. Business class flights.

### Siberian Insights – July 2021

Following on from John's visit to the international travel trade show in Berlin – ITB – we have been in negotiations with Russian Railways.

Our plans for *Siberian Insights* are evolving however we can report that the Russian Railway's Imperial Train operating across 7 time zones and 9,300kms from Vladivostok to Moscow will feature in this tour.

The train provides first class service, dining and lounge cars and ensuite cabins. Our customary insightful touring will be arranged at places such as Lake Baikal, Novosibirsk, Kazan, Ekaterinburg and of course, Moscow. After visiting Moscow we shall travel by express train to St Petersburg and finish the tour there amongst the astonishingly beautiful Hermitage Museum and the Summer Palace of Peter the Great.

### Petite Insights

For many years we have had the pleasure of welcoming guests on our many shorter itineraries. They feature Insights' customary hallmarks such as all-inclusive tariff, all meals, insightful guided touring and being fully escorted. Generally, these tours include 3 or 4 nights accommodation and travel by coach. For our guests who prefer a shorter tour but with the same attention to detail, we invite you to consider these tours. Our next is:

### Valleys and Mountains Insights - 21st – 24th October 2019

*Valleys and Mountains Insights* is our next tour in the Petite Insights category. We will spend 3 nights at the Zig Zag Motel in Lithgow and enjoy 4 days of very interesting sightseeing taking in Oberon, Hartley, Capertee Valley, Rylstone and Kandos and the Blue Mountains.

The Itinerary has just been released. If you have registered your interest previously, your itinerary will be posted to you. If you would like to consider the itinerary we would be delighted to post you a copy or you may read all the details on our website.

3 bookings already received.

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If you wish to receive a detailed itinerary brochure for any of our tours, please register your interest by returning the enclosed form or just drop us a line via your preferred method: by email, telephone, post, fax, or in person.

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We welcome all enquiries and would be delighted to send you our itineraries.

We send this newsletter a few times per year to our previous guests and people who've registered their interest in our tours. If you do not wish to receive it, please advise us by any convenient means.

Insights Tours is now on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) and we invite you to follow us.

We look forward to welcoming you on one of our tours.

Kind regards,

Paul, Brigitte and John Tuckerman

