

INSIGHTS TOURS NEWS

November 2019

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

Our most recent tour was Mountains and Valleys which featured touring in the Capertee Valley, Oberon, Blue Mountains and Lithgow. The tour was so well subscribed that we were pleased to be able to arrange a full size coach and from the feedback we received about the extra level of comfort and space, our policy will now be to include a full size coach whenever we can for our future Petite Insights tours. Our next will be in October 2020. If you like details of this tour, just let us know and we will send you the itinerary as soon as its published.

Program of Tours

Taiwan Insights - 14th to 29th November 2019

Our next tour is *Taiwan Insights* which departs on 14th November with 8 guests. The itinerary combines a host of special experiences, sights and a plethora of diverse culinary treats.

Lunch with the and Maitian indigenous people in the east coast region and with the Bunan clan in the mountains near Taroko Gorge are 2 of the special lunch arrangements we have in store. With less than 10 days until departure, if you are up for a last minute decision, we could accept your booking but you will have to be quick.



Two highlights of Taiwan Insights are Taroko Gorge and the mountain town of Alishan.

Taroko Gorge is a stupendous, marble gorge. It deep, narrow chasm stretches more than 20 kms to Silks Place Hotel where we stay 2 nights right beside the roaring river. We spend a day and a half exploring the many trails and tracks, lookouts and suspension bridges to an array of vantage points.

Alishan Mountain is about 2200 m above sea level and for most of that climb Insights Tours guests will be travelling on their own private chartered train. Departing Chiayi at 0830 on the 18th November, an auspicious day for one of our guests, Gerard will bring up his 50th birthday whilst our train carries us on our 5 carriage train from the lush fertile coastal plain to the alpine forest of Alishan. Yes, you did read correctly; it's a 5 carriage train for 8 guests. We requested 1 carriage and 1 locomotive and the logic and logistics of the railway have prevailed thus we have 5 carriages.

Islands of Tasmania - departing 1st and 17th February 2020

This truly unique tour connects many spectacular, scenic and remote islands. There's a host of special experiences on the ground as well as the flight-seeing from your seat in a 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. You will experience the diversity of Tasmania's islands, their unique Aboriginal and colonial history and rugged natural beauty.

Our 17th February departure is now fully booked but we do have 3 places available on our 1st February departure.



Insights guest J2 checking out the geological formations on Flinder's Island. Photo: John. Tuckerman



L: Insights guests admiring a cuddly cutie at Whitemark, Flinder's Island.

R: Wineglass Bay from the air. Photos: John Tuckerman

Northern NSW by Train - 7th to 13th May 2020

Places are filling on our tour in May featuring relaxing travel on our chartered railcar (pictured).

Departing from our home base in the Illawarra but also with a convenient Sydney area departure point, the tour departs on 6th May 2020 featuring railcar touring and our accompanying coach.

We offer you plenty of interesting sightseeing and touring including one regional NSW's best art galleries at Armidale, an emu farm, Warrumbungles National Park and a chartered cruise on Brisbane Water from Gosford.

If you wish to join in the Newcastle area please contact us for the amended tariff.

The detailed itinerary is available on our website or contact us if you'd prefer a copy in the post



Lake Eyre by Air - 21st to 29th August 2020

Following the feedback from our guests on this year's Lake by Air tour, we have programmed the same itinerary for August 2020. We are delighted that Paul Horder loved last year's tour so much he has decided to book on Lake Eyre 2020. Whilst Lake Eyre may not have as much water as this year we have found over the years that we have operated this tour that our guests have often remarked that it doesn't matter how much water there is...it's the majestic spectacle of this vast lake and seeing its enormous catchment area that make the tour such a great experience. The watercourses of the Diamantina, Warburton, Bulloo, Georgina and Cooper systems is a fascinating spectacle which will be best appreciated from the air.



Siller's Lookout, Arkaroola Sanctuary on day 5 of Lake Eyre by Air. Photo: Chris Bruce



Simpson Desert west of Birdsville day 4 of Lake Eyre by Air. Photo: John Tuckerman

Our 7 day / 6 night tour by chartered Cessna Caravan aircraft (pictured) to see the true Outback – Kilcowera Station, Thargomindah, Noccundra, Innamincka, Arkaroola, Birdsville, Broken Hill and Lake Mungo.



Lake Eyre by Air operates with a maximum of 6 guests and we currently have 5 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. We take care to ensure that which ever side you happen to be seated that you get to see everything. Our pilots are specially briefed on this facet of our tour so you can be assured that all our

guests have a great view. This also applies on our Islands of Tasmania tour when we are flying along coastal areas. The aircraft will track in a way that allows a view of the coast from each side. Just one of the aspects that Insights Tours takes care to ensure all our guests have a memorable tour.

Private tours ... to anywhere

In August Insights Tours had the pleasure of arranging a tailor-made tour for Mr and Mrs Chris and Vicki Bruce. The brief; to incorporate Uluru, Kata Tjuta, King's Canyon and Alice Springs into an extended Lake Eyre by Air tour... just for them. Flying in a 4 seat plane Insights Tours arranged all the ground touring and accommodation. Some of the many images captured by Chris can be admired on our Facebook page.



Outback South Australia by Air – 12th to 19th September 2020

And our next specially arranged tour is Outback South Australia by Air. Commissioned by several of our recent guests on Lake Eyre by Air, an itinerary has been developed taking in Maralinga, Forrest WA, Flinder's Island SA, Ceduna, Cape Willoughby on Kangaroo Island and even a train trip: the heritage Colonel Light carriage will be attached to the rear of the Afghan Express exclusively for our guests to travel from Quorn through the Pichi Richi Pass to Port Augusta.

Contact us if you would like to discuss your own private adventure or to book your next airline ticket.

Swiss Insights - September 2020 now 2021

We have decided to delay this tour until 2021 due to some of the special features which we think cannot be missed being unavailable for various reasons. Our resident Swiss advisor agrees that visits to a Swiss dairy farm; a Swiss cheese enterprise; and a Swiss chocolate factory must be included.

We regard these iconic Swiss as synonymous with Switzerland and without these inclusions we felt that it warranted a delayed operation of the tour. We won't compromise on the quality of our itinerary so please stay patient while we plan the very best of these iconic Swiss experiences.

We guarantee a Swiss Australian tour escort so that you can get all the intrinsic details accurately translated. Come with Insights Tours to experience 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.

Images from and of the Salon Rouge dining car train on the Brienzer Rothorn railway



Patagonian Insights – departing November 2020

Patagonian Insights has now been confirmed and the itinerary published.

Our earlier thought to include train travel from Puerto Montt to Santiago proved impossible but we are very excited that the true heart of Patagonia – both in Chile and Argentina is comprehensively covered in our itinerary. As we often do during our tours, we will have some special transportation arrangements.

One of the special train inclusions in Patagonia are the sleeping car *Tren Patagonico* from Viedma to San Carlos de Bariloche, run by the provincial government of Rio Negro, the train is a once-a-week service and is equipped with a dining car serving hearty Patagonia fare. The 5ft 6in gauge – one of the widest in the world - provides a more stable ride.



Further south at El Maiten we will travel on *La Trochita*. It's a narrow gauge train which Paul Theroux wrote about in his book *The Old Patagonian Express*. It's anything but an express but it's a great way to see the Patagonia scenery from the veritable luxury of its dining car which we have chartered for a luncheon trip from the town of El Maiten.

And in so called Green Patagonian we fly in our chartered aircraft from Chiloe Island to Chaiten

Even further south at Ushuaia we have arranged to ride the *Train at the End of the World* in their first class car which we have chartered – lunch will be served during our journey.

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 to 3rd January 2021

We have decided not to proceed with this tour due to the very limited amount of interest which we received.

Siberian Insights – July 2021

At the moment we are still awaiting the finalization of the operating dates from our friends at Russian Railways. It will almost certainly be in late July departing from Vladivostok.

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.



Images of the ensuite cabins on the Russian Railway's Trans Siberian train and below of the route



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:

Southerly Insights - 26th to 30th October 2020

Cooma, Tumut and Junee Insights is our next tour in the Petite Insights category. We will spend a night at Cooma and Tumut and 2 nights at Junee. Travelling in a full size coach we'll visit the Snowy Mountains including Australia's highest town, Cabramurra; easy access Yarrangobilly Caves, Tumut broom factory, Wagga Protea farm, Coolamon Cheese, Junee licorice factory and much more!

Full details will be available in the New Year.

John is currently researching and planning a very special Eastern European Insights. We plan to charter a first class carriage from our good friends at Slovenian Railways – for our guests who were on Balkans Insights, you will recall the carriage we chartered for that tour (pictured). This tour will feature private chartered train travel in Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Czech, Bulgaria and Romania. Visiting Dracula's Castle, Transylvania, the High Tatras and Carpathian Mountains, World-Heritage Listed towns of Cesky Krumlov in Czech, Veliko Tarnovo in Roumania, underground salt mines in Poland, verdant scenery, exquisite hotels and an unrivalled travelling perspective from your own train



And finally, a sneak preview of one of our tours in early planning stages... **Central Asian Insights**

The 7 Stan countries: Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakstan, Pakistan and Afghanistan. A selection of some of the most spectacular and little known areas in each of these countries. The Silk Road cities of Samarkand and Bukhara are unmissable but our partners in Tajikistan and Afghanistan have enticed us with some proposed touring in the remote Wakhan region where the borders of Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and Tajikistan meet.

More on this after a further research trip in the first half of 2020.

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, SMS, telephone, post 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 have expressed an interest in our tours. We look forward to welcoming you on our tours.

And we would like to wish you and family a very Happy Christmas and a beaut New Year!

Our best wishes,

Paul, Brigitte and John Tuckerman





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TOUR CALENDAR

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Name	
Address	
Email	
Phone	

	ISLANDS OF TASMANIA	departing 1 st February 2020
	NORTHERN NSW BY TRAIN	departing 6 th May 2020
	LAKE EYRE BY AIR	departing 19 th August 2020
	SOUTHERLY INSIGHTS	departing 26 th October 2020
	PATAGONIAN INSIGHTS	departing 16 th November 2020
	SIBERIAN INSIGHTS	departing July 2021
	SWISS INSIGHTS	departing 1 st September 2021
	EASTERN EUROPEAN INSIGHTS	departing September 2022
	CENTRAL ASIAN INSIGHTS	departure TBA. Possibly late 2022