
INSIGHTS TOURS NEWS

DECEMBER 2023



South Island NZ chartered train
(Pāhiatua Railcar Society)

Welcome to Insights Tours latest news

As we approach the end of 2023 we'd like to say a very big thank you to all our guests who've travelled with us during the year. But before we enter the Christmas Season here's some news about the New Year and beyond.

What's in store for 2024?

We have 4 tours covering the genres you've come to know so well from Insights; chartered railcar travel, touring by chartered aircraft, shorter duration touring by coach and a regional tour of a lesser known part of the great state of South Australia – Eyre Peninsula Insights. If you would like the detailed itinerary brochure for any of these tours, please don't hesitate to contact us.

South Island NZ Insights

13th to 23rd March 2024

Commencing from the northern tip of the South Island this extensive rail journey aboard our private, chartered railcar is a unique itinerary and a very special travelling experience. There are a few places available. Bookings close on 12th January.

Eyre Peninsula Insights

11th to 19th June 2024

A 9 day tour to South Australia's lesser-visited Eyre Peninsula. This tour will start and finish in Adelaide and will travel to the Eyre Peninsula on our chartered coach. The itinerary includes Port Augusta, Whyalla, Cowell, Port Lincoln, Coffin Bay as well as some highlights of the Yorke Peninsula and the mid north of South Australia.

The tour coincides with the peak time of the mass congregation of cuttle fish in Spencer Gulf. We plan to view this spectacle from our chartered glass bottom boat from Whyalla. Other highlights include; a chartered cruise of Boston Bay at Port Lincoln, abalone tasting with a local producer at Streaky Bay, chartered trains on the Pichi Richi Railway and at the Moonta Mines Museum. A few places are available.



Top End Insights

28th August to 7th September 2024

Top End Insights will start and end in Cairns. Flying in our chartered Cessna Caravan aircraft; some of the highlights will include Horn Island, the Torres Strait including visits to Thursday Island and two other remote Torres Strait islands such as Erub, Maisig, the contrasting eastern and western coastlines of Cape York, Cooktown, remote Arnhem Land, Gove, Groote Eylandt, Aboriginal rock art, Cobbold Gorge and more!

Stunning landscapes, rarely visited islands, unique contrasting experiences all in the one tour. *Top End Insights* will depart in July with our customary small group of maximum 6 guests per tour guaranteeing everybody their own window seat.

Spring Insights

8th to 11th October 2024

Spring Insights will follow the concept of a small group travelling in a full size chartered coach. You can look forward to 2 nights at Mudgee with a day of touring then via a Southern Tablelands route to make a circuit tour. As well as visiting some spring time floral highlights we are working on some insightful experiences and special visits. Fine details to come. If you would like to know more, register your interest and we will send you the brochure once its ready.

WA Insights by Air

July 2025



This is a comprehensive air tour of Western Australia by private, chartered aircraft. This 13 day itinerary starting and ending in Perth encompasses superlative scenery and experiences in some of the remotest regions in Australia. Travelling in a Cessna Caravan aircraft with a maximum of 6 other

Guests you will experience the length and breadth of this diverse state from your guaranteed window seat. Experience the wonder and sensation of flying into Bungle Bungles Purnululu World Heritage area and Karijini National Park. Stunning landscapes rarely seen from the air await you on this carefully crafted, unique itinerary.

Patagonian Insights

October 2025

This tour is anticipated to be released in mid 2024. A sneak preview of what is shaping as a 18 day itinerary with the first stopover in Buenos Aires, exploring some of its hidden gems with our expert local guides. Heading south to Puerto Madryn we commence our Patagonian Insights with visits to the Valdes Peninsula renown for its southern right whale migration, penguin colonies and also some of the many paleontological discoveries of South America have been found and preserved in this area.





Both images taken during our recent fact finding tour. Skorpios 3 and Torres del Paine NP

The Tren Patagonico train sedately reveals the pampas and steppe of Patagonia as we travel to the foot of the Andes at Bariloche.

Crossing through the mighty Andes mountains via a series of lakes and interconnecting roads we arrive in Chile at Puerto Varas. The stunning conical shape of Osorno volcano lies nearby as well as forest where ancient alerce trees which can grow to 2,000 to 3,000 years are found. Then south to the Chilean fjords and Torres del Paine National Park where we spend 2 nights before boarding the 100 passenger ice- certified Skorpios III (pictured) for a discovery cruise of 4 nights 5 days to the glaciers and fjords of far southern Chile.

We fly home after the cruise but if you would like to extend your stay there will be the perfect opportunity as we stay in Santiago on our last night. Patagonia Insights will be worthy of your consideration for its diverse insightful touring in both Argentine and Chilean Patagonia.

South West Queensland by Train

18th to 26th May 2025

We are pleased to announce this tour. Since Insights Tours inception in 2005 many of our tours have featured private chartered trains. Our many returning guests have encouraged us to continue operating our specialised train tours which are complemented by off-train touring with our accompanying coach. The logistics of these tours involving chartered trains is very challenging to organise but the rewards of enjoying such a unique experience have made it worthwhile. Our longstanding guests can attest that many of our past train tours are no longer operationally possible such as Tasmania and large parts of NSW due to line closures or lack of available trains to charter.

The good news! Our next such venture will be in Queensland. We have made an agreement to charter a special train from the Southern Downs Railway at Warwick on the Darling Downs of Queensland. For those guests who travelled on North Coast Insights you will recall that a part of that tour included travelling from Warwick to Wallangarra on a chartered train from Southern Downs Railway. The same train will be used for our May 2025 tour which will be an extensive, relaxing and informative itinerary taking in not only the Darling Downs but Miles, Surat, Toowoomba and Goondiwindi.

Our coach will start from Wollongong with pick-ups available in Sydney. The coach portion of the tour to and from Queensland will incorporate some lesser known northern NSW towns and regions. Please register your interest to receive the brochure as soon as its ready.



Our coach driver Wolfgang and guest John B at Stanthorpe station alongside our chartered train. This same train will feature in our May 2025 tour.

A Few Words About a Couple of Our Policies and How We Aim to Operate

Accommodation



Our policy is to stay at properties where dinner can be served in a dining room or restaurant on site. We are very occasionally forced to arrange dinner at another location where there no alternative. Another exception to the rule is where there is a special dinner experience such as during our forthcoming South Island NZ Insights when we enjoy dinner aboard the Christchurch Dining Tram.

Meals



Generally we arrange a set menu for each meal and ensure that there is a diversity of menus and culinary experiences throughout the tour.

We take your dietary requirements and requests that are noted on your booking form and co-ordinate with our caterers and chefs to ensure your needs are met.

Other News



ITB is an international travel fair held annually in Berlin. It's a terrific source of travel and tour trade information on the latest developments and updates on transport, accommodation and services in almost every country around the world. One of the most important benefits for Insights Tours of our participation at ITB has, and continues to be, the establishment and maintenance of connections with our trusted agents around the world.

Our agents are the secret to our successful international tours. Expert local operators help to arrange the most intricate of logistical requests. For guests who travelled to Madagascar; think of boarding our chartered plane at the very remote airstrip near the Big Tsingy, or boarding a chartered 1 carriage train at Sarajevo to travel to Mostar via the Neretva River Gorge, stepping aboard our chartered speed boat to travel 2 hours along a tributary of the Amazon from Tefe to our floating lodge.

These are just a few examples of the need for careful planning, informed, professional local advice, expertise and back-up if things don't go quite according to plan. When those occasions arise our guests never need know; the aim of your Tour Escort is to resolve any challenges quietly, and without interfering with our guests' enjoyment.

Since our inception in 2007 every one of our tours has been led by an Insights Tour Escort. Our attention to behind-the-scenes events is to ensure you of the best possible experience without concern for logistical and administrative challenges.

Our investigations for future tours are focussing on regions which some of our guests have expressed interest so if there's somewhere that takes your fancy, let us know!

On the horizon are: *Islands of the Indian Ocean* (Reunion, Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros, Zanzibar, Madagascar and Mayotte) and *Japan Insights*.



*Brigitte, Paul and John
would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas!*

Enjoy the Festive Season and we look forward to seeing you on a tour in 2024!

With our best wishes
Brigitte, John and Paul

If you are interested in any of the tours we invite you to register your interest and we will be pleased to send you a detailed itinerary brochure. Just let us know of your interest via your preferred method: by email, SMS, telephone or post.

All our tour itineraries are also published on our website.

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