

Time Travel Australia

Our Business is in Ruins

**Newsletter
Autumn 2014**

We have just returned from the south-west of NSW - our first tour for 2014. We were very lucky with the weather and only managed to bog the bus once! Rain was an issue in several areas but we were either a few days ahead or behind the showers until the drive home. One brief 'shower' dumped 18mm of rain in 12 minutes near Mildura - luckily we were on bitumen!

The tour was a great success. We visited a number of beautiful and interesting sites, some of them for the first time. Adelong Falls Mine Precinct was judged to be worthy of future visits as was the drive down the Murrumbidgee through Gobarralong. We dined at Stefanos and I still can't remember how many courses we had, nor can I recall what all of them were. We were presented with a copy of the menu but I seem to have lost mine.



Bus - a little bit bogged, Waldaira Station.

As an adjunct, Tony Corrigan came along on his first tour to assist me. He is a ecologist/biologist from ACT Parks. His knowledge of the landscape, plants and wildlife added greatly to the tour and was welcomed by the group. He will be leading his first tour in October when we hope to return to the south-west of NSW. He will be ably assisted by Penny Heath who came along to cook for us on this last trip.

It is obvious that people are enjoying the chance to see more of our own country and we will be offering a tour to South Australia next year. Let

us know if you have any ideas regarding places you would like to see and we will try to come up with a solution.

Chris Carter



Daydream Mine - Silverton NSW

To the Edge of the Outback

I wasn't really keen to go at first. But my wife, Lois, has qualifications in archaeology and anthropology among other ologies, and she had made up her mind to join Chris's tour, so I went along for the ride. After all, we had travelled with Chris a couple of times before, so I knew that I'd enjoy the trip for its social content if for no other reason.

What a good decision that was! On Day One, in our petite and tightly-packed coach, we visited the beautiful country out behind Adelong and Gundagai. We were immediately captivated by the remnants of early European settlement, including deserted farmsteads and a church which the local faithful had constructed on private land, never consecrated but still in occasional use. We also clambered all over the old Adelong Falls mine-workings which have been carefully preserved and partly reconstructed and are becoming quite a tourist attraction.

And so it went on: each day brought a new adventure and new sights. I was immediately converted, and took great pleasure in the treasures each new day brought forth.

We saw the Shearers Hall of Fame near Narrandera, including a shearing exhibition in its historic woolshed, we visited a wetlands sanctuary where Chris' right-hand man, Tony, pointed out and identified the plant and bird life thriving there. Onward through Balranald and Mildura, where we enjoyed a short cruise aboard the PS Melbourne on the Murray while learning about its lock systems.

For me, the trip's highlight was the visit to Lake Mungo, where a local indigenous guide, Ivan, led us through the mysteries of ancient aboriginal usage of what is now a heritage site of internationally recognised importance. We spent two nights 'roughing it' in the shearers' quarters, travelling out each day to the Walls of China, where new artefacts and sometimes remains are often revealed by a passing storm. We (or many of us) demonstrated our fitness by climbing the enormous sand-dunes. I've got photographs to prove it! It was on this visit that we tasted, for the first but not last time, the evidence of the teams' bush-cooking skills, brilliantly led by the lovely Penny and others of the group who helped out in many ways.

Broken Hill was a revelation. We spent three days and four nights in very comfortable accommodation seeing much, but not all, of what that unexpectedly (for me) charming city offered. We'll never forget our visit to the now-closed mine, with its magnificent memorial to those who lost their lives there. Some of us also visited the Art Gallery, with its impressive collection of Australian works, including some by local boy made good, Pro Hart. Nearby Silverton, where we visited the now-defunct Day Dream mine, Mad Max's car and the impressive museum, provided another unforgettable experience.

Another highlight was our day trip to Mutawintji National Park, where a local guide introduced us to some of the rock paintings and carvings, accessible only with NP guides. Some sites remain sacred to the local indigenous population and even the Park guides may not visit them.

Chris and Tony shared driving duties, including extricating our bus from where it became bogged, and overseeing our evacuation on the dreadful back road from Pooncarrie to Menindee where there was a real danger that we wouldn't get through a flooded section of the track fully laden. Tony took a flying run around the edges and, although skidding much of the way, made it through to where we had walked on ahead. In fact, that road was so rough that our trailer's spare wheel broke loose and darted into the scrub, never to be seen again.

We saw a great selection of wild-life during our fortnight's adventures. But on the whole trip we didn't see one rabbit or snake, although this was balanced by our seeing hundreds of well-fed feral goats (a nuisance, reaching plague numbers), and one or two bush flies. One or two million, that is .

I've barely touched the surface, mentioning only a small part of all that we saw and did. There's so much more I could say, such as how we enjoyed visiting the old Yanga homestead and woolshed; seeing the confluence of the Australia's two longest rivers; having a wonderful feast at Bindara homestead between Pooncarrie and Menindee and much more – but this would turn into a book rather than a thank-you note.

As I said at the outset, I wasn't so keen on making the trip at first, but I'm so glad I did.

Thanks, Chris and team.

Fred Roberts

Scheduled Tours – 2014

Mt Serle Archaeological Survey Project Northern Flinders Ranges, SA

10 days from 16 June 2014

Led by Doug Williams & Christopher Carter

Mt Serle Station is located in the northern Flinders Ranges of South Australia. Working closely with the traditional owners, the Adnyamathanha people, this project will involve a survey and recording plan of this property and will be undertaken over a number of years.

A detailed project itinerary and study plan/methodology will be developed and released in the coming months, but we're encouraging anyone who would like to do some archaeological survey in the Flinders Ranges to contact us and express their interest ASAP.

Accommodation will be in an established camp located adjacent to Mt Serle. Some camping may be required when working in more remote locations.

To the Edge of the Outback: Mungo, Broken Hill & Beyond.

15 days from 18 October March 2014

Led by Tony Corrigan

This tour aims to introduce the depth and breadth of the cultural and natural history of South-West NSW. Departing from Canberra, we will follow the expansion of settlement along the Murrumbidgee River stopping off at Gundagai and Balranald on the way. We will then detour inland to see Lake Mungo and discuss its 50,000 years of prehistory.

After a night in Mildura (including a dinner at Stefano's) we will head north along the Darling to Bindara Station before heading on to Broken Hill where we will visit some of the historic sites of this famous area. We will also visit Mutawintji National Park to experience some of its Aboriginal prehistory.

Accommodation varies between hotel, motels and shearers' quarters where sleeping bags will be required.

Call or email us directly for further information.

Al Andalus: Morocco & Spain

18 days from 28 August 2014

Led by Christopher Carter

The theme of the tour will follow the Islamic expansion from north Africa early in the 8th century when they decided to cross the Straits onto the Iberian Peninsula. The Moorish invasion of Spain was swift, expansive and left a telling mark on modern Spanish culture. This tour will commence in central Morocco, move inland to visit several of the classic cities before passing through the Rif mountains to Tangier where we cross the Straits of Gibraltar into Southern Spain – 'al Andalus' to the Moors.

Moving through the mountains we will visit Ronda before driving on to Sevilla and the original Muslim capital of Cordoba. We will then follow the fall of Islam in southern Spain and follow the frontier as it collapsed toward Granada.

Contact Travelmakers on 02 62474444 for further information.

A Taste of Turkey

21 days, September 2014

Led by Phil Dalley & Sami Ozcini

Experience the Byzantine and Ottoman splendour of Istanbul, including the bazaars, mosques, ancient palaces and the seraglio of the sultans. We will tour the battlefields of Gallipoli, birthplace of modern Turkey and an Australian legend; explore legendary cities of the Aegean coast, from Troy to Pergamon and Ephesus; explore the wonders of Cappadocia.



***Join Phil in Turkey and spend six days cruising
the Aegean.***

As with previous tours, we will spend six nights cruising the Mediterranean on a private chartered yacht. We will also experience a range of Turkish cuisine from simple home-cooked meals, making your own pides through to the finest restaurants.

Contact Travelmakers on 02 62474444 for further information.

**An Andean Adventure:
Chile & Peru**

21 days, from 20 September, 2014
Led by Christopher Carter

Travelling through Chile and Peru this tour will provide a basic understanding of the cultures of the Central Andean Region of South America. While it would not be possible to follow a distinct chronological route, the theme of the tour will basically follow the Inka Empire from its southern periphery in Chile and the Atacama Desert to its inner sanctum in Cusco. *En route* we will also visit a range of sites that present evidence of many of the cultures that either pre-date or were contemporaneous with the Inka.

This tour is being organised for the Art Galley of NSW and bookings are handled by Renaissance Tours, Sydney.

Call Lissa on 1300 727095 for further information.

2015

Itineraries and prices for the 2015 tours will be available around twelve months prior to departure.

**The Many Cultures of Mexico:
From Aztec to Maya**

20 days – from 17 April 2015
Led by Christopher Carter.

Mexico has a rich tradition filled with music and dance. The tour includes visits to venues to experience it first hand and you will also have free time to further explore these areas at your own pace. We will visit the colonial cities of Luebla, Merida and Oaxaca as well as many archaeological sites including Teotihuacan, Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Mayapan and Palenque with an option to go on and see Tikal.

The tour also takes us to the shores of the Caribbean and we will also have some time to relax and have some fun. There is an option to extend the tour into Belize and Guatemala.

This tour is being run on behalf of the Australian Museum Members as an adjunct to the Aztecs exhibition beginning later this year.

The Archaeology of South-West USA

21 days, August 2015
Led by Doug Williams

Due to unforeseen circumstances we will not be able to offer this trip in 2014.

This tour will consist of two components – two weeks archaeological field work at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Centre (Colorado) and a week visiting some of the better known sites of the Four Corners region of the USA including Mesa Verde and Monument Valley.

The Crow Canyon Archaeological Centre is dedicated to understanding, teaching, and helping to preserve the rich history of the ancestral Pueblo people of the American Southwest. Time spent at the Centre will include archaeological excavation as well as laboratory work.

This tour is still in the developmental stage and we do not have more details available at present. Please let us know if you are interested at all.

**More than Machu Picchu
Chile, Bolivia & Peru**

21 days, September 2015
Led by Juan Cardenas
Tour manager: Penny Heath

Travelling through Chile, Bolivia and Peru this tour will provide a basic understanding of the cultures of the Central Andean Region of South America. While it would not be possible to follow a distinct chronological route, the theme of the tour will basically follow the Inka Empire from its southern periphery in the Atacama Desert to its inner sanctum in Cuzco. *En route* we will also visit a range of sites that present evidence of many of the cultures that either pre-date or were contemporaneous with the Inka.

An option will be available to walk the Inka Trail (adds four days).

Ecuador and the Galápagos

23 days - October/November 2015

Led by: Christopher Carter

Ecuador is a remarkable country, apart from being the 'most biodiverse' in the world, it has a rich and varied history and numerous cultural sites including the World Heritage Sites of old Quito and the centre of Cuenca. In the Amazon, where we shall learn something of the culture and modern life of the Añangu Quichua people. Ecuador also has some of the northern most Inka sites including Ingapirca where you will see of the fine masonry similar to that found in Cusco.

This tour focuses on four key areas – the southern high Andes near Cuenca, the north-western cloud forests, the eastern lowland Amazon basin rainforests and of course the near-mythical, remote and wonderful Galápagos archipelago, in the Pacific 1000 kms west of mainland Ecuador.

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Please contact us directly if you have any questions or require further information for any of the tours.

If you have any news that would be of interest to our readership, feel free to forward items, snippets of news or photographs to the address below for inclusion in our next newsletter.

Chris Carter

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