

Time Travel Australia

Our Business is in Ruins

**Newsletter
Autumn 2016**

Our recent tour to SW NSW was, as always, a great trip. We were fortunate that the rain did not ruin the trip but it did cause us a lot more driving and to miss spending more time at the Willandra National Park. Localised thunderstorms closed the road between Balranald to Mungo just as we were to head in that direction. Thankfully the road from Mildura to the park remained open and we managed to get there. We were foiled again a when the road between Menindee and Ivanhoe was closed – and it was still closed two weeks later!

On this tour we stayed at Bindara on the Darling for the first time. This has been a lunch stop on the past two tours but this time we utilised the accommodation there and it was a highlight of the tour. A beautiful spot, cooking on an open fire and Barb is the perfect host. The only downside was the absence of water in the Darling. There were a couple of pools in the bends but that was all. The recent rain would have freshened them up for the fish (if there are any left) but would not have been sufficient to get the river flowing.

While the lack of water in the river was disturbing, we witnessed another disturbing incident near Lake Tandou. We had stopped near one of the irrigation ponds to look at some waterbirds when we noticed a large black animal on the shore. Two black swans were in the water nearby and looked quite agitated. On closer examination we found that a feral cat had just caught a swan and had it by the throat. The area around them was churned up so the cat had only just caught the bird. The other two swans were obviously distressed but unable to do anything about it. This was not a huge cat, not one of the mythical, huge wild cats, just a standard size moggie but it was capable of attacking and killing a much larger animal. Had I not seen it myself, I would have thought a swan would not have been at risk from a cat. What chance do smaller species have when ferals can do this to such a

large animal? The things you see when you haven't got a gun! It would have been far too late for the poor swan but we would have felt a lot better if the cat had been dispatched!

Our trip home was very wet and several of the planned visits were cancelled, however the Juneec Chocolate and Liquorice factory was open and a welcome diversion!



Sunrise over the River Murray - Euston

I have finally completed the itinerary and costing for the Camino de Santiago tour for April 2017. I have sent it out to the people who have already expressed an interest. Please let me know if you were on the list and didn't receive a copy.

Ian Fraser has just returned from a successful tour to Borneo. I am offering a similar tour next year, again working in concert with Stewart McPherson and Redfern Productions. This tour will be also offered in the UK so expect some new faces if you wish to come along.

You will note that we are expanding the range of tours and tours leaders. Many of you would know Doug Williams from our work together in south-west NSW and the Flinders Ranges. Those who know him will vouch for his skills as a

leader and teacher, along with his passion for archaeology and cultural heritage.

On a different tack, we are offering a tour to the highlands of Scotland next year where the focus will be on landscapes, nature and literature (both reading and writing!). Inga Simpson will lead this tour and will offer the opportunity to participate in writing workshops as the tour proceeds (with optional activities for the non-writers). Inga is an award winning author and her books include *Mr Wigg*, *Nest* and *Where the Trees Were*. If you are not interested in this tour but enjoy reading then I can recommend all of these books without reservation. Inga writes beautifully and brings rural NSW to life.

We are heading to Ireland in a few weeks and I will be taking a group to Greece in September. If you try to get in touch and I seem to be a little slow in responding, bear with me as I may be out of range every now and then.

Happy travels!

Chris Carter

Vale

It is with much sadness that I report the passing of Debbie Wooller, a good friend and regular traveller. She passed away a few weeks ago after a brief illness.

I will always remember Deb's spark and energy. She was an active member of any group, regaling us with tales and jokes (that were not always 100% PC). Her contribution in the kitchen was always above and beyond what was expected but always gratefully received – including a stint in the galley of the Lady Nelson sailing out of Hobart. I think Captain Bligh's wife was in charge of the cooking on that trip but Deb handled her with great aplomb – as she did everything else that was expected on the deck of a square-rigger.

Deb will be missed on future trips and we send our sincere condolences to Harry.

Scheduled Tours 2016

The Magic of Peru

18 days, November 2016

Led by: Chris Carter & Janelle Woodham

From the snow-capped peaks of the Andes to the dry coast of Peru, the depths of Colca Canyon, Lake Titicaca, mystical Machu Picchu and colonial Cusco and Arequipa. The *culture* has developed from a fusion of an indigenous past, Colonial conquest and modern immigration - a mix of place and character that varies from north to south.

We'll try some of the finest cuisine in the world in Lima and Cusco; drive through the Andes and visit Machu Picchu – the lost city of the Inka.

Call Janelle on 02 62232780 for details.

A Taste of the National Parks of Chile and Argentina

16 days, November 2016

Led by: Roberto Yamaichi (Santiago) and Jorge Valenzuela (south)

Join us as we travel from Santiago, the capital city of Chile, south through the Lakes District to Puerto Montt visiting a number of Botanic Gardens, National Parks and forests as we proceed. We will see a number of tree species familiar to us, including several that grow at the National Arboretum Canberra, walk through ancient forests with trees up to 3,000 years old, and experience the spectacular landscapes of the southern Andes.

Our local guides will point out many of the birds and animals that are found in these areas. We will also enjoy traditional dishes that can be found in this ethnically mixed region – from the indigenous Mapuche to the German immigrants who settled over a century ago.

There will be an option to extend the tour by seven nights and travel through the stunning Patagonian fiords and cross to the island of Chiloe before returning to Santiago.

Scheduled Tours 2017

In the Wake of the Beagle: The Voyage of Charles Darwin

In 4 modules for a total of 42 days
January/February 2017
Led by: Chris Carter

From Cambridge University to the Galapagos Islands, we will follow the route of the Beagle in an attempt to better understand the voyage of Charles Darwin and how it shaped his thinking. We will visit a Museum in Cambridge where many of his specimens are still housed and Down House in Kent before flying to Rio de Janeiro; cruise from Buenos Aires via the Falklands, around Cape Horn to Valparaiso; journey up the west coast of Chile and Peru before spending seven days cruising the Galapagos Islands.

While we will not be able to follow the Beagle's itinerary in its entirety, we will certainly experience many of the areas visited by Darwin and see how his observations helped develop his understanding and eventual theories.

This tour can be taken as a whole or in part, joining the group at convenient points along the way.

Camino de Santiago: Via de la Plata – Sevilla to Santiago de Compostela

21 days, April/May 2017
Led by Chris Carter

Well, we are not walking the entire distance! Via Sevilla, Merida, Caceres and Salamanca we will follow the Via de la Plata by bus, walking only selected sections until just beyond Mombuey. From that point we will walk the rest of the way to Santiago de Compostela.

As we have done previously, we will not be staying in refugios or hostals. Accommodation will be in hotels, generally for 3 night stays, and we will have a bus that will pick us up each afternoon to return to the hotel. We will then be taken back to where we left off to continue walking the following morning. We will be walking 15 days out of the total 21 for a total distance of around 300km.

We are also offering a six day tour around Madrid prior to the main tour.

Walking in Peru

18 day tour, June/July 2017
Led by: Genelle Carter & Juan Cardenas

At its peak, the Inca Empire maintained over 20,000 kms of roads – across mountains, through desert and jungle. The aim of this tour is not only to introduce you to these spectacular landscapes and visit the archaeological sites of the region but also to provide an understanding of the practical, spiritual and ritual significance of these trails and their contribution to the success of the Empire.

From Cusco we will take a series of walks around the city and into the Sacred Valley before commencing THE Inca Trail, the popular tourist trail to Machu Picchu (optional activities available for those not wishing to walk the trail).

Perfect One Day: Central Queensland

16 days, June/July 2017
Led by Chris Carter & Tony Corrigan

Join us as we travel north from Canberra and Sydney through northern NSW via Lightning Ridge into Queensland. We will explore parts of the Carnarvon Gorge National Park before heading across to the coast at 1770, Lady Musgrave Island and Fraser Island. The tour will finish in Brisbane, allowing you to fly home from there.

Full details will be available in a few months. If you are at all interested, please register your interest as places are limited.

Wild Borneo

16 days, August 2017
Led by: Stewart McPherson & Chris Carter

The expedition takes in the very best wildlife highlights that Borneo has to offer. Starting with a boat journey to see proboscis monkeys, you will explore towering tropical rainforests in search of one of the world's largest flowers, with blooms up to one metre in diameter. Then travel upriver by canoe to stay at a remote longhouse, experiencing traditional life and customs, and

explore vast caves used by gatherers of bird nests.

Observe orangutans up close, before relaxing in soothing geothermal hot water springs with an option to ascend of Borneo's tallest and most spectacular mountain, Mt. Kinabalu. We will finish the tour on a beautiful coral island for two days of relaxing on tranquil beaches and snorkelling in fish filled waters.



Probiscus Monkey - Borneo

Walking and Writing:

The Wilds of Scotland

16 days, August 2017

Led by: Inga Simpson

Join Inga Simpson, the award winning author of *Mr Wigg, Nest* and, most recently, *Where the Trees Were*, as she travels through the Scottish highlands, seeking out places that are historically significant, spectacularly beautiful or filled with subject matter that will test your writing skills.

Concentrating on the natural wonders of Scotland, their histories, reading some of the literature of the places we visit, and learning how to write about place and the natural world, Inga will offer writing workshops as we travel. She

will also provide one-to-one feedback as you hone your skills en route.

The tour will commence in Edinburgh before heading north through the Grampians, Trossachs National Park and the Cairngorms before we travel on to Inverness and northern Scotland. There will be an option to spend five days on the Orkneys at the conclusion of the base tour. Chris will join the tour toward the end of the base tour to assist with the tour in the Orkneys. There will be optional activities available for those not wishing to participate in the writing workshops.

A detailed itinerary will be available in October. In the meantime, please get in touch if you would like to know any details concerning the structure of the tour.

A Journey through Crete & the Cyclades: The Greek Islands

18 days, August, 2017

Led by: Doug Williams

From Delos to Knossos and the Venetian ports of Crete, this tour will provide a glimpse of Greece from an Aegean perspective and also provide you with a chance to sample Greek culture and cuisine at its source.

The itinerary includes five days in Crete, along with stays in Santorini, Naxos and Mykonos. We will also spend several days in Athens with an option to visit the Peloponnese region of southern Greece. While an itinerary and costing will not be available until October, please let us know if you are interested in visiting this area.

**The Southern Cone:
Argentina & Chile**

21 days, November 2017

Led by: Chris Carter & Penny Heath

The *place* - contrasting countries from the snow-capped peaks of the Andes, the vast Pampas, jungle shrouded Iguazú Falls to cosmopolitan Buenos Aires. The *culture* - evolved from a fusion of an indigenous past, Colonial conquest and modern immigration - a mix of place and character that varies from north to south and west to east, absorbing that of its neighbours while each place created a sentiment of its own.

We'll see tango in BA; taste the wines of Mendoza; drive through the Andes passing by Aconcagua – the highest mountain in the Southern Hemisphere; walk on a glacier; and marvel at the awesome scenery of the Patagonian national parks.

The itinerary will be available shortly.

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

We are always looking for ideas for new tours, feel free to forward any ideas.

Chris Carter

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Condors, Perito Moreno Glacier – Argentinian Patagonia.
