

# ▲ SPECTRUM HOLIDAYS CHRONICLE

FEBRUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year adventurers! 2013 has arrived in full force and we are in for our best year yet. Here's a taste of what's to come.

## Welcome to Natalie

We are excited to welcome Natalie Box to our team in the role of **Travel Writer and Marketing Specialist**. Natalie studied Marketing and Communications and worked as a Marketing Manager for seven years. She has lived in Hong Kong, Boston and New York and travelled Europe extensively. We are thrilled to have her as part of the team. She loves writing, travelling and singing and also has a blog, **The Writer's Ink**. For a dose of inspiration check it out at [www.thewritersink.com.au](http://www.thewritersink.com.au)

## The Adventures of Dana

In October, Dana returned to Canada after spending four years working with us. In true pioneer spirit, Dana and her husband Brian decided to turn their journey home into a real adventure. On the first leg they caught a cargo ship to Auckland, then boarded another vessel and spent 18 days crossing the Pacific Ocean on their way to Oakland. The irony was that Dana has never previously spent more than 24 hours on a boat. Not to be daunted, she made the most of the opportunity and caught up on some reading! On the next leg our intrepid friends travelled by Amtrak train to Vancouver. You may think this epic story would have ended when they make it back to Canada. Fear not, they have now purchased a motor home and started driving across Canada. At the moment, they are not certain when and where they are going to settle down. We will keep you posted!

## Shena's new role

In addition to handling reservations for independent clients, Shena's role has been expanded to include reservations for our Alaska and Canada group tours. Shena is doing a wonderful job in her new role.

## Future Tours

In the last newsletter we asked for ideas for future tours. We have already developed itineraries for two of the suggestions (Croatia/Turkey and India) which were submitted.

Over the next couple of months we will start planning our 2014 tour program. If you have a destination or tour theme on your "bucket list", please let us know. For example you might be interested in gardening, photography, rail travel, quilting or history. If there is enough interest we can develop an itinerary based around your theme.



Our newest team member.....Nat Box

## Tour Preview Invitation

We intend to launch our 2014 tour program with a preview night. If you live in the Melbourne area or happen to be visiting, you are invited to attend.

Details are as follows:

Date: Friday 26 April  
Venue: Spectrum Holidays Office  
Time: 7.00 - 9.00pm

Please let us know if you can attend. The idea is to briefly run through the different tours we are planning for the next 12 to 18 months. For those who live interstate or cannot attend, we are investigating the possibility of creating a DVD which we can be mailed out or viewed on our website.

*Andrew McMaster*

## PAST TOUR REVIEWS

*"Travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living." Miriam Beard*



Scandinavia Group

### Scandinavia & Russia

We are pleased to report everyone on the Scandinavia and Russia tour had a wonderful time. The weather was kind and the ten members of the group all got along extremely well. During the four week trip the group toured cities including Moscow, St Petersburg, Helsinki, Tallinn, Bergen, Oslo, Stockholm and Copenhagen. They journeyed through the heart of Lapland and then travelled down the coastline of Norway using the local Hurtigruten ferries. One of the most memorable moments of the tour was attending a brilliant Russian Dance Performance in Moscow called Kostroma.

### Borneo

In October, we toured the Borneo states of Sarawak and Sabah, visiting national parks and towns. The group spent time with the Iban people in their longhouse on Lemanak River and learned about their communal lifestyle. While cruising up the Kinabatangan River the party had a rare encounter with over 60 pygmy elephants in the process of swimming across the river. Several other wildlife and bird species were also spotted, including long nose proboscis monkeys, macaques, leaf monkeys, wild boar, hornbills and owls. A moving experience for the group were visits to the Ranau and Sandakan Death March war memorials. In 1945, the Japanese forced 2,345 Australian and British prisoners of war to march some 260 km from Sandakan to Ranau. Tragically, only six people survived the march.



Borneo Group relaxing at Sukau

## DID YOU KNOW...WE ARE ALSO A RETAIL TRAVEL AGENCY?

*"Once you have travelled, the voyage never ends, but is played out over and over again in the quietest chambers. The mind can never break off from the journey." Pat Conroy*

Many people are not aware that we are also a fully registered travel agency. In addition to organising our own tours, we can also take care of all your domestic and worldwide travel arrangements.

Wayne and Jacquie, who look after our retail agency, have travelled extensively throughout the world. In fact, they have over 60 years travel experience between them. Feel free to give them a call on 03 8804 2422 or 1300 130 840 if you would like to have a chat or have any questions.

As you can imagine, we are constantly receiving information from suppliers on their latest travel deals. Some of the best deals around at present include:

**PRINCESS CRUISES** are offering up to 35% off cruises around Australia, New Zealand, Asia, South Pacific and Europe. On selected cruises, balcony cabins are available at ocean view cabin fares. This offer ends 28 February 2013 unless sold out prior.

**VIKING RIVER CRUISES** are offering flights for just \$990 when booked in conjunction with a European cruise. You can discover the great rivers of Europe: the Rhine, Moselle, Main, Danube, Rhône, Saône and Seine. This offer ends 28 February 2013.

If you book a tour with either **APT, Globus, Insight, Trafalgar or Scenic** over the value of \$7,500 per person we will give you a \$100 per person credit towards your holiday. The credit can be used for an additional stopover or other travel arrangements. Our offer ends 31 March 2013.

## FUTURE ESCORTED GROUP TOURS

*"Two roads diverged in a wood and I - I took the one less travelled by" Robert Frost*



Plain of Jars



Angkor Wat



Argentinian Gaucho

### Myanmar and Laos with Angkor Wat, Vietnam and Mekong River extension

The hidden South East Asian gems of Myanmar and Laos have long been on a journey of transformation. Once left off the travel itinerary, now these incredible bustling nations are emerging as two of the world's most popular travel destinations.

Highlights of Myanmar include colourful Yangon (Rangoon), the stunning pagodas of Bagan, the world famous 1.2km U Bein Bridge, Irrawaddy cruise, the WW2 Burma Railway Memorial and the stunning crafts of Mandalay. We also visit Inle Lake with its floating villages and spectacular leg rowing fisherman. Once you arrive in Laos, the French influence is evident in beautiful provincial buildings scattered everywhere. Visit the royal city of Luang Prabang, the mysterious Plain of Jars and the delightful, quaint French colonial town of Vientiane.

The extension available on this trip takes you into the fascinating lands of Cambodia and Vietnam. Also moving forward on a journey of restoration, Cambodia's highlights include the stunning Angkor Wat, Tonle Lake and Phnom Penh. From picturesque countryside to quaint villages, Vietnam will captivate you. From Hanoi to Halong Bay, Hoi An to Saigon, Vietnam is such a treat to the senses.

**Departing:** 30 October 2013

**Costs (\$A per person twin share):**

- Myanmar and Laos land including international flights \$ 6,900
- Angkor Wat, Vietnam and Mekong extension \$ 3,900

### Adventures in South America

An adventure to one of the most unique parts of the world, our South America tour is anything but 'normal'! With a variety of incredible stops, the itinerary for this tour is wild, daring and exciting. With never a dull moment, the features of this trip include staying overnight on a working ranch, visiting the gaucho (cowboy) capital and attending a Chilean rodeo.

Other highlights of the tour include Santiago, the Southern Lakes crossing from Chile into Argentina, travelling through Argentina on the new express sleeper train, Buenos Aires, Iguazu Falls, Rio de Janeiro, Lima and spectacular Ecuador. You will have the opportunity to visit Cuzco, Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca or the Colca Canyon. Upon completion of this tour you may be interested in persuading some of the interesting extension options available. These include the Galapagos, Easter Island and Antarctica.

**Departing:** November 2013

**Costs (\$A per person twin share):**

To be advised



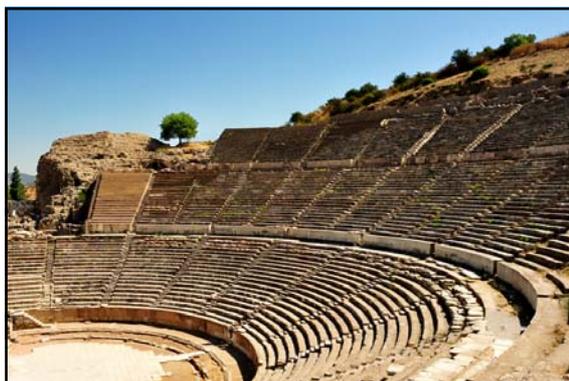
Cinque Terre



French Provincial Food



Korcula Island



Amphitheatre at Ephesus

## The Beauty of France and Italy

Narrow cobblestone streets, leafy avenues and rustic architecture surrounded by manicured gardens; the beauty of France and Italy beckons you to explore. Taking you on a journey through picturesque Provence, the Cinque Terre and the Lakes District, this 23 day walking tour includes some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. The landscape is diverse and impressive, with rugged terrain, mountains, countryside and coastal panoramas, including the breathtaking scenery of the Swiss Alps. In addition to the walking tours, we have included a tour of the enchanting Loire Valley. Here we stay in a chateau, giving you the chance to step back in time and experience the elegant and sophisticated royal way of life.

Beginning in Paris, we weave our way through stunning France and Italy, ending the tour in the beautiful Lakes District. Highlights include the Loire Valley, the Italian Riviera, the charming villages of Provence and the spectacular Lakes District Cruise. You also have the option of including your own personal travel arrangements before or after the tour.

In order to gain maximum enjoyment from this tour a reasonable level of physical fitness is required. Details of the length and duration of the walks are available for those people interested in the tour.

**Departing:** 17 September 2013  
**Land costs (\$A per person twin share):** \$9,250

## Croatia and Turkey

Located on the Adriatic and Mediterranean Seas, Croatia and Turkey promise some of the most striking coastlines and landscapes in the world. This three-week tour includes a weeklong cruise along the Dalmatian Coast, where you'll view a stunning contrast of turquoise blue waters, whitewashed walls and brilliant orange rooftops. Cruise features include the magnificent Dubrovnik, Split, Makarska, Hvar and Trogir, as well as the islands of Mljet, Korcula, and Brac. The ship docks at an island village each night giving you the opportunity to try local restaurants and get a taste of the authentic island life. Heading inland, Plitvice National Park is an impressive sight to see. Surrounded by thick forest, sixteen turquoise lakes are connected by over 60 pristine waterfalls. The next stop is Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, where we will take a half day city tour.

The tour continues on to Turkey, and our first stop is Istanbul. Kicking off with a full day guided tour of the old town, you'll experience the delightful sights, sounds and smells of this vibrant city. Highlights of Turkey include Ephesus, Cappadocia, with its magical "moon like" landscape and fairy chimneys and Troy with its famous horse. We also have the honour of visiting Gallipoli including Anzac Cove and the Lone Pine Cemetery.

**Departing:** 10 September 2013  
**Costs incl flights (\$A per person twin share):** \$11,700



The Red Fort in Agra



Bengal Tiger at Ranthambhore National Park



Hidcote Manor Gardens

## A Journey to India

Our Indian journey commences in lively, bustling Dehli, with a sightseeing tour of the old and new town. The adventure really begins with an exciting journey through Udaipur, Jaipur, the Ranthambore National Park, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, and Jodhpur. Here we take part in some sightseeing activities including elephant and camel rides. We'll take a rickshaw ride to a bird sanctuary before visiting Agra and the incomparable Taj Mahal.

Highlights include Varanasi and Darjeeling. Varanasi is a vibrant, colourful city on the banks of The Ganges. Sail past buildings of orange, mustard and red and witness the early morning locals bathing in the river. Darjeeling, famous for its fine tea industry, sits perched among the thick, dense mountains of the Darjeeling Himalayan hill region. Activities here include a tour of the city and a train ride to the Ghoom Monastery. We will also visit the Tibetan Refugee Centre, famous for its elaborate carpets, woollen clothing, leatherwork and woodwork.

**Departing:** 27 November 2013  
**Costs incl. flights (\$A twin share per person):** \$10,895

## Western USA National Parks Tour

We have organised a 21-day Western USA National Parks tour for the Bayside Bushwalking Club. The tour will begin in the beautiful seaside city of San Francisco. Travelling inland on the California Zephyr rail service they will head to Salt Lake City. From here they visit a variety of world famous National Parks including Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Zion, Monument Valley, Bryce Canyon and Mesa Verde. The tour covers the states of California, Utah, Colorado, Arizona and Nevada.

We are looking to organise a similar tour in 2014, which will be open for all clients.

**Departing:** 30 September 2013  
**Costs incl. flights (\$A twin share per person):** \$7,975

## English Summer Gardens with Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

Set amidst a backdrop of historical, fairytale England, where dreams of exquisite gardens come alive, a Sisley Garden Tour is a must-see for all garden enthusiasts. On the summer tour you can visit Hidcote Manor Garden with its famous "garden room"; Wisely Garden, home of the Royal Horticulture Society, and the home of David Austin, with a grand tour of his lavish rose garden. As one of world's top rose breeders, David's garden will surely inspire. A highlight of this tour is a visit to the magnificent Hampton Court Palace Flower Show. This is considered the Royal Horticulture Society's greatest annual flower show. If you are interested in this tour and would like assistance with the flights please let us know.

**Departing:** 7 July 2013  
**Land costs (\$A twin share per person):** \$2,937

## FACEBOOK AND PINTEREST

---

### Pinterest

This is a virtual pinboard where beautiful photographs are shared and displayed. We have created our own page which is quickly filling up with stunning photographs from all over the world. We invite you to visit our Pinterest page [www.pinterest.com/spectrumholiday](http://www.pinterest.com/spectrumholiday). If you have any ideas for new pinboards we can create, please let us know!

### Photos and Comments

Our Spectrum Holidays Facebook page is a great way to share photos and news. We know many of you have some fantastic photos of your trips. So why not upload some of your favourite tour photos to Facebook and "tag" Spectrum Holidays in them. This way, they show up on our page for everyone to see and others may "like" your photos. Facebook is also a great way to keep in touch with fellow travellers.

### Liking our Facebook Page

By clicking "Like" on our Spectrum Holidays Facebook page, you'll automatically receive all our Facebook updates! Simply go to the Spectrum Holidays Facebook page and click the "Like" button just underneath the top photo.

We currently have 38 "Likes", so let's see if we can make it to 100 by April! Also, if you hold your mouse over the "Like" button, you can tick "Get Notifications" and "Show in News Feed", this will ensure you don't miss out on any of our exciting travel news or announcements.

## GROUP TOUR REUNIONS

---

On Saturday 30 November, a group from our Spring Alaska 2012 Tour joined together at our office for a reunion. What an enjoyable time it was! The afternoon was spent reminiscing, viewing photographs, swapping stories and reliving the wonderful memories we all shared. We were very blessed to have Greg and Janet Carson and Helen Donkersley with us.

The Carson's made the long drive down from Sydney whilst Helen came all the way from Adelaide. To see photos of the day along with some great shots of the tour, check out our Facebook page, the album is called Memories of Spring 2012. Please let us know if you are interested in attending a reunion for your group.



## GETTING TO KNOW JACQUIE

*Jacquie Snare is one of our travel specialists with over 30 years experience in the industry. Looking after our retail clients, she also has a passion for France and Italy. The very talented Jacquie oversees our wonderful France/Northern Italy Tour, creating the itinerary and then personally leading the tour. We chatted with Jacquie about some of her travel and life experiences.*

### **Where was the first place you travelled overseas, and what do you remember most about it?**

We travelled to Asia for our honeymoon. We went to Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand combined. However, we actually didn't have a very good time as my husband had seven days of food poisoning and I was sick for three days! But after we had recovered, my highlight would have been the night we spent on the River Kwai. It was a beautiful bamboo boat, and seeing the war history was fascinating.

### **Tell us about your funniest travel experience?**

My gosh, this is funny, but very embarrassing. We were in Siem Reap to visit Angkor Wat, and at the hotel I needed to cash some travellers cheques. So I took my passport to reception and cashed the cheques and off I went. It was dusk at that time, so the lighting in the lobby wasn't great. It was a beautiful four-star hotel with beige high gloss floors, and the surrounding edges of the floor were lined with black, shiny tiles. I was walking along, minding my business when I suddenly went face first into a metre deep pond! I hadn't noticed the pond because it looked like part of the black tiles. The pond was full of fish, big ones around 8-10 inches, and one of them swam right into my mouth! Luckily I held the passports and travellers cheques up in the air! I got up and of course everyone in the lobby was hysterical. Then I had to walk back through the restaurant, because my husband was there having a drink, and I needed to get the key from him so I could get to the room. So I was drenched and dripping, walking into this restaurant while everybody's looking over at me thinking "what in the world is this woman doing?" The funniest part was the look on my husband's face. I have never seen him look like it before and I have never seen him look like it since! When I saw his expression I cracked up laughing!

### **What are five top destinations on your travel wish list?**

South America, Egypt, New York, Africa and Croatia.

### **If there were three things you could take on a plane (in addition to your travel documents) what would they be?**

Toothbrush, make up and book.

### **Now we'd love to get to know a bit more about you, what's your favourite song of all time?**

I have two. Jimmy Barnes version of 'Flame Trees' and Robbie Williams 'Angels'.

### **At school, what were your best and worst subjects?**

My best was Music. And... the worst would have been Science.

### **Do you have a favourite ice cream flavour?**

Choc chip honeycomb.

### **And lastly, what's your idea of a perfect Saturday?**

- 8:30am Get up and the housework is already done.
- 8:45am Enjoy a fresh fruit and vegetable juice to start my day.
- 9:30am Head to the Dandenongs for coffee at the Abbey in Sassafras.
- 11:00am Browse through the gorgeous shops in Olinda.
- 12:30pm Relax over an alfresco lunch in the Yarra Valley at a picturesque winery.
- 3:00pm Head into the city for a drink and to watch some great live music.
- 5:00pm Check into a luxury hotel with champagne and strawberries on arrival to enjoy whilst indulging in a two hour spa treatment.
- 7:30pm Head to dinner in St Kilda at a beautiful restaurant overlooking the bay.
- 10:00pm Arrive back at the hotel to watch a late comedy before falling into a wonderful deep sleep!



## FURTHER INFORMATION AND TOUR SUGGESTIONS

Please send information on the following:

### Escorted Group Tours

- Myanmar and Laos with Angkor Wat, Vietnam and Mekong Cruise
- South America.....
- The Beauty of France and Italy.....
- Croatia and Turkey.....
- Journey to India.....
- Western USA National Parks.....
- English Summer Gardens with Hampton Court Flower Show.....

### Other Areas of Interest or Comments

---

---

---

---

---

### Name(s) and Contact Details

---

---

---

---

Please return this form to Spectrum Holidays. You are welcome to mail the form to PO Box 201, Mitcham, Victoria, 3132 or fax on 03 8804 2426. You can also email brochure requests and suggestions for tours to [info@spectrumholidays.com.au](mailto:info@spectrumholidays.com.au)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please let us know and we will remove your name from the mailing list.

### Contact Details

Interstate - 1300 130 840  
Melbourne - (03) 8804 2420  
Fax - (03) 8804 2426  
[info@spectrumholidays.com.au](mailto:info@spectrumholidays.com.au)  
[www.spectrumholidays.com.au](http://www.spectrumholidays.com.au)



### Spectrum Holidays Pty Ltd

ACN 122 284 119  
ABN 92 045 858 474  
Licence No 32827  
IATA 02-3 5481 1  
511 Whitehorse Rd  
Mitcham VIC 3132