



We wish you a Merry Christmas and joy, hope and good health in the coming year.
From the Calder & Lawson Tours team.

Christmas special

save \$500

PORTUGAL & SOUTHERN SPAIN

23 nights | 02-25 October 2019

Register for the tour by 8 February 2019 and receive an early bird discount of \$500 per person on this tour. The tour price includes: economy class airfares, 19 nights in 4-star accommodation in Portugal and Spain, many meals, and all group transfers and tips.

Magnificent architecture, fiery flamenco and tantalising tastes make the Iberian peninsula one of our favourite destinations. The first half of this tour is in Portugal where we visit the port wine lodges and tiny villages which dot the intricately terraced vineyards of the Douro Valley. We spend several days in Sintra, one of Europe's most romantic towns and from there explore the captivating city of Lisbon. In southern Spain, we follow in the footsteps of the Moors to admire their imprint on the architecture; sumptuous palaces such as the Alhambra and Generalife and Cordoba's grand mosque. For five hundred years Moorish Spain was the most culturally advanced corner of Europe. Both countries have a long tradition of delicious food and wine that is celebrated the world over and we will learn more about the food during Portuguese and Andalusian cooking classes, tapas tours and other 'foodie' visits.



Tour update

I let you know about the ten tours that are confirmed departures for 2019 in my last newsletter. Since then we have been able to confirm two more.

Cruise & Bike in France – 09-27 April 2019. One upper deck cabin left.

Walk in the Red Centre of Australia – a short break for seven nights in July 2019.



Other tours that are close to being confirmed are:

China's Borderlands: Yunnan & Tibet – a man looking to share.

Biking in Sweden & the Baltics

Iran

One woman looking to share on the confirmed **Normandy, Channel Islands & Cornwall** tour.

Using your phone camera

Many of us are using our phone as a camera. One of our travellers, Sue Primrose, takes particularly good photos on her iPhone X and I asked her to share her top tips with us.

- Use on-line tutorials (You Tube is good).
- Take the photo as soon as you think it looks right – don't wait.
- To open the camera app quickly from the locked screen, swipe fast from right to left.
- Tap the screen to adjust the focus and exposure.
- Use portrait mode – it helps recognise the subject and separate it from the background.
- Use the zoom function but don't pinch the screen to zoom – it's better to crop the image later or use the zoom option on the phone.
- Turn on the camera grid – it divides the screen into nine squares (go to settings/camera) and helps you get better composition (rule of thirds) and keep the images level.
- Use panorama – rotate the phone, not your body and hold the phone vertically.
- Use the video – remember to zoom in/out when taking the video. Take videos in landscape mode.
- Use burst mode to capture movement – tap and hold down the shutter mode, then select your favourite image/s.
- Rest the phone on a ledge if it is difficult to hold it steady – use the volume buttons for the shutter release.
- Get down on your knees – to the level of your subject.
- Get up as close as possible to your subject – fill the screen if you don't want any background.

Travel apps we recommend

While John and I were taking a tour in Namibia and Botswana this year, one of our digitally astute travellers introduced us to a travel app that we think is great. Thanks Jim! It is called **MAPS.ME** You can download the app and then individual maps for destinations in advance, and navigate yourself around even when offline.

Another app we find useful is **XE Currency** which give precise conversion rates for every currency you can think of. It is updated every minute and stored offline so that even when you are not in a wifi zone, you can still use the app.



A new cruise

JEWELS OF THE SOUTH SEAS

March 2020

We know that some of you prefer to travel closer to home and we think this cruise might appeal.

Sail from French Polynesia to Fiji via Samoa on board Le Soleal. Idyllic beaches, turquoise waters and encounters with little-known cultures await you. Boarding in Papeete, your first stop is in Bora Bora and then onto the clear waters of the Aitutaki lagoon in the Cook Islands. Discover Wallis and Futuna, small pieces of France lost in the Pacific, before landing on Taveuni, the garden island of Fiji and finishing in Lautoka.

One of the Ponant fleet, Le Soleal, is a luxury small ship which holds up to 264 passengers.

To hold cabins for cruises in early 2020, we need to take an allocation of cabins now! So although you may not be thinking about your travel for 2020, let us know if this 13 day cruise in the South Pacific is of interest to you. We can hold cabins until 20 March 2019.

The price, depending on your cabin choice, is from \$13,900pp twin share.



Our office is closed for the festive season on Tuesday 18 December and opens again on Tuesday 08 January 2019.

You can find information about all our 2019 tours on our website.

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