

2019 TOUR UPDATE



It's hard to believe we are halfway through the year and the shortest day has come and gone. We have had some very successful and enjoyable tours in the first half of the year.

On our **Cruise and Bike in France** tour in April, we experienced crisp spring mornings and only one day of rain. An appetite for delicious French food and wine was built during the biking along river paths and country roads. The group really appreciated e-bikes and we will continue to offer them as much as possible on all our biking tours.

Walking in the Greek Islands had all the ingredients of a successful walking tour. A camaraderie developed amongst the group who were fun to travel with and maintained their enthusiasm for the walks even though they were challenging at times. The cool but fine weather didn't inspire us to swim in the Aegean Sea but was perfect for walking. Comfortable accommodation, with the last five nights at a delightful small hotel on Naxos where the owner welcomed us to the 'best hotel in Universe'. A guide who was described by the women in the group as looking like a 'Greek God'. And as often happens on walking tours, there was a real sense of achievement at the end.

Our largest group of the year to date was on a new tour to **Normandy, the Channel Islands and Cornwall**. Inspired by the book/movie 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society', the tour was lead by Jenny Newby Fraser. She comments on some of the many highlights... the iconic irises in Monet's garden at Giverny; the war history of Normandy as commemorations for the 75th anniversary of D-Day landings were about to take place; the history and the charming, winding roads of the Channel Islands; and the unique open air Minack Theatre perched high above the Atlantic Ocean. We are planning to run this tour again in 2021 so please get in touch if you would like to register your interest.

In June, a tour of **China's Borderlands – Yunnan and Tibet**, was a rich and colourful experience for participants. On our Facebook page, you can see some of the stories and wonderful photos taken by Andrew Matheson and on our website, read his blog post about the many ethnic minority groups who live in distinctive ways with their own language, culture, clothing, cuisine and religion. This tour was full of memorable moments.

We have nine more confirmed tours for this year.



2019 PHOTO OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

We know that many of you take excellent photos while you are away on tour. So, we have decided to run a competition to find our favourite photo... as voted by you!

The winner will receive a prize of their choice of \$500 off their next trip or \$500 donated to a charity of their choice in their name. You will find details of how to send your photo to us in your post-tour evaluation.

2020 TOURS

Look out for our 2020 brochure which will be in your mail box in late July. If you know of anyone who would enjoy receiving our brochure, please get in touch by phone or email and we will add them to our mailing list.

We are now working on the detailed tour itineraries and as we complete them, we will add them to our website. Twelve of our 2020 tour itineraries are now on our website and most of the others will be available over the next month.



2020 CONFIRMED SMALL SHIP CRUISES

As we have mentioned in the past, securing places on small ships requires us to make commitments and take bookings well in advance. We are pleased that we have already been able to confirm two of our cruises for 2020.

RUSSIA AND THE BALTICS
16 June – 08 July 2020

CRUISING THE KIMBERLEY
19-31 July 2020



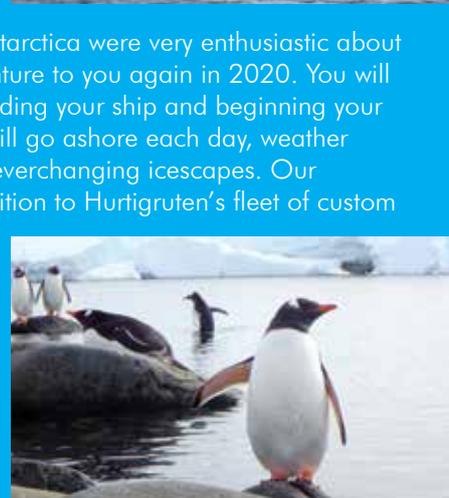
We have space still available on both these tours, please contact us if you would like more information or to register for the tour.

ANOTHER OF OUR 2020 CRUISES

ANTARCTICA
07-18 December 2020

Journey by ship to a continent considered by many to be the ultimate destination where the wildlife is abundant and the scenery is stunningly beautiful.

The people who travelled on our last two tours to Antarctica were very enthusiastic about the experience and so we decided to offer this adventure to you again in 2020. You will begin in Buenos Aires before flying to Ushuaia, boarding your ship and beginning your journey to the Antarctic Peninsula. Once there you will go ashore each day, weather permitting, and also cruise in zodiacs to take in the everchanging icescapes. Our expedition ship, *MS Fridtjof Nansen*, is the latest addition to Hurtigruten's fleet of custom built ships and brings together state of the art technology and premium on board experience with Hurtigruten's 125 years of experience. If you are interested, please let us know by the end of July so we can hold a cabin for you. If you would like to talk with one of our tour managers or participants who have been on this tour, we can put you in touch with them.



WALKING IN JAPAN: THE NAKASENDO WAY

CONFIRMED DEPARTURE
03-19 November 2019

Three people have pulled out of our November tour so there is space to join a small group and walk in the heart of old Japan off the tourist route.

Walk 10-17km a day, carrying only a day pack. Eat delicious, traditional cuisine, bathe in thermal baths and discover the fascinating history of the Samurai and the post towns that connected Kyoto with Tokyo during the Edo period. The tour begins with three days in Kyoto, the ancient capital and ends with three days in vibrant Tokyo.

CRUISING THE SOUTH ISLAND

CONFIRMED DEPARTURE
07-18 December 2019

We have two cabins available on the *Coral Discoverer* for a cruise from Milford Sound to Wellington enjoying the less accessible places the South Island has to offer and seeing the coastlines from a new perspective. Visit World Heritage listed waters of Fiordland National Park, remote Stewart and Ulva Islands, Dunedin, Akaroa, Kaikoura and the Marlborough Sounds. Wake up to new vistas each day and relax in the comfort of life on board a small expedition ship.

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