

2020 TOURS UPDATE

WALKING IN ITALY BY JOHN MATHESON

**CONFIRMED DEPARTURE - 22 May – 14 June 2020,
23 nights. \$13,880 pp twin share**

This is my favourite walking tour, so I am delighted that we are offering it again in 2020 and I will be able to take people to some of the places that I have enjoyed most on my three previous tours. Some of the highlights of walking in Italy are the gourmet dinners and luscious red wines! Charming Michelangelo, our local guide, will accompany us again. He has a special skill of leading and pacing walking groups so that everyone feels satisfied, and he knows where the best gelato shops are!

Even if you have visited Italy before, walking offers a new perspective; it takes you away from the tourist hot spots; you travel at a slower pace to savour the sights, sounds and smells and enables a close look at local life.

We walk in three contrasting regions of Italy and so the walks are very varied. The colourful Tuscan landscape of wheat fields, vineyards, olive groves and wooded hills; the charming pathways and villages of the Ligurian Peninsula and the lakes, mountains and romantic gardens of Como and Garda.

The Northern Italian Lakes are a new addition to the tour and recently, I spent a week in this area checking the accommodation and walks. One day I caught the ferry from Menaggio to perhaps the most photogenic village I have visited, Varenna. A delightful day was spent hiking up to Vezio Castle for sweeping views; wandering the overgrown gardens of Villa Monastero; and eating delicious osso bucco at a small restaurant. Three and four-night stays in small hotels in inviting villages give a chance to unpack and get to know the village in a relaxed way. There are walks on most days, some as long as 6 hours and some shorter. Generally, the paths are a good standard, but some are narrow and rocky. Always the effort is rewarded with spectacular views and a feeling of satisfaction.

COSTA RICA BY WARWICK SILVESTER

**CONFIRMED DEPARTURE - 21 March – 7 April, 21 nights,
\$10,980 pp twin share**

It has been said many times about many countries, but you'd better believe it; Costa Rica is one of the best kept secrets! It has so many things going for it. It's a small country, just about half the size of our North Island, and has 30 National Parks and another 30 protected areas! I took a tour there two years ago and many of the highlights will be repeated on this trip. The amazing Tabacon hot springs that cascade in a series of swimming holes and cataracts. The cloud forest at Monteverde where the toucans fly and maybe a quetzal can be seen. And yes, there is every chance you will see, as we did, a sloth, not doing very much.

Costa Rica has preserved, and is continuing to add, an enormous proportion of the country in forest reserves. We will visit a national park on both the Caribbean and Pacific sides of the country where opportunity is given to enjoy the unique wildlife, especially birds. There are 918 species of birds in Costa Rica. Another highlight is a visit to a working coffee, cocoa and sugar cane farm.

Socially Costa Rica is a settled and progressive democracy that did away with their military in 1948 and has poured those resources into health and education ever since. It has headed the world Happy Planet index three times in the last six years.

You might like to listen to Monica Araya's TED talk which gives her view of the enormous conservation and sustainability ethic that drives her and this country.

Discover the secrets of Costa Rica with Warwick Silvester who was Professor of Biological Sciences at Waikato University and continues his passion for planting native forests.





2019 PHOTO OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Don't forget to send us the excellent photos you took while on a Calder & Lawson tour. The winner will receive \$500 off their next trip or \$500 donated to a charity of their choice in their name.

COFFEE MEETINGS ARE COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Meet the team and other travellers for coffee and a chat about the 2020 tours. An invitation with details of time and place will be sent to you. We hope you can come along.

PEOPLE LOOKING TO SHARE

We have women who are looking for someone to share with on the Tasmania, Costa Rica and Uzbekistan tours

FACEBOOK

You might like to follow us on Facebook where you will find out more about the destinations we visit and other travel information.

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CONFIRMED TOURS FOR 2020

RUSSIA AND THE BALTICS

Our tour in June/July 2020 sold out quickly and is now full so we are offering this tour again in September.

19 September – 11 October 2020, 22 nights, from \$15,399 pp twin share, depending on cabin type.



CRUISE THE KIMBERLEY

19-31 July 2020, 12 nights from \$13,755 pp twin share depending on cabin type. **Four cabins left, three on the coral deck.**



CRUISE AND WALK TASMANIA

8 -16 March 2020, 8 nights, from \$8290 pp twin share depending on cabin type. **Only two twin cabins left in our allocation.**



SAIL AND BIKE SLOVENIA AND CROATIA

19 May – 9 June 2020, 21 nights, \$14,799. We have **4 spaces left** so register now for this popular tour with Leen and Diane Van Duin.



OUR TWO TOURS TO SCOTLAND ARE FILLING UP FAST

WALKING THE WEST HIGHLAND WAY AND HEBRIDEAN ISLANDS

30 July – 21 August 2020, 22 nights \$12,899 pp twin share.

We can take a maximum of 13 people on this tour - three spaces are still available.



HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND

28 August – 18 September 2020, 21 nights, \$15,399 pp twin share

CALDER & LAWSON TOURS

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