

Welcome to 2020!



A NOTE FROM KEVIN AND THE TEAM

Happy new year! We hope you have had a relaxing Christmas and New Year break. I had the pleasure of attending the Boxing Day cricket test in Melbourne and although the result didn't go our way, it was so much fun being in such a magnificent stadium with an enthusiastic group of New Zealand supporters.

It is an exciting time for Penny, Kathryn and I as we take over the reins from Rosanne and John Matheson.... who aren't getting too much rest as they will be tour managers on three tours this year including our first departure of 2020, Cruise & Walk in Tasmania, in March. As we enter a new decade and celebrate the 30th anniversary of Calder & Lawson Tours, we are very much looking forward to continuing the Calder & Lawson Tours tradition of small group tours to fascinating places with fellow travel lovers.

Our 2020 tours are filling nicely and since our Christmas newsletter we have confirmed two more and now have 12 confirmed departures for 2020. Two of our biking tours: New York, Cape Cod & Vermont and Sail and Bike Slovenia & Croatia are almost full. There is still space on the Bike Northern Italy & Provence September departure, which has been a favourite, and certainly if you have not biked in Europe with us would be a great introduction to European biking tours (e bikes are available). Our Scottish walking tour is sold out however we still have spots on John Matheson's favourite...Walking Italy in May.

2019 PHOTO COMPETITION

Thank you to everyone who entered our photo competition for 2019. We are pleased to announce that the winner of the \$500 prize is Jackie Levy for this lovely picture from our Walking in the Greek Islands tour. We thought this photo had everything – Greek architecture, blue skies, wildflowers and of course good-looking walkers!

Jackie has chosen to donate her prize to Te Omanga Hospice who do wonderful work in the Hutt Valley community. You can learn more about them at: www.teomanga.org.nz/

You can follow this link for the other finalists. www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz/photocompetition

We will be running a photo competition again in 2020 with the same prize of \$500 towards your next tour or as a donation to the charity of your choice. So please keep snapping and we look forward to seeing your great pictures in 2020.



NEW YEAR HONOURS FOR WARWICK SILVESTER

We are very proud to acknowledge one of our long standing tour managers, Emeritus Professor Warwick Silvester who recently received the honour of **Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to science and conservation**. This is a wonderful and well deserved recognition of a lifetime and career in the biological sciences. Warwick is as busy as ever, involved in many projects including Tane's Trees, the Number 8 Network in Hamilton and of course as a Tour Manager for us. Warwick will be taking two tours in 2020, Costa Rica in March and Hawaiian Islands in July.



SINGLES LOOKING TO SHARE

We have the following places available for single travellers willing to share. **Please contact Penny or Kathryn in the office and they can discuss further with you.**

Woman to share on Uzbekistan – confirmed departure 19 May

Woman to share on Sail and Bike Slovenia & Croatia – confirmed departure 19 May

Woman to share on Bike New York, Cape Cod & Vermont – confirmed departure 1 October

Man to share on Bike New York, Cape Cod & Vermont – confirmed departure 1 October



OFF THE BEATEN PATH: NORTH KOREA

We mentioned in our November newsletter that we have an opportunity to visit this reclusive country with Andrew Matheson as your tour manager. **We are very close to being able to confirm the departure so if you would like to join us, please give us a call or email for more details.**

UP AND COMING DESTINATION: UZBEKISTAN

The economist recently named Uzbekistan it's "most improved" country of the year. The government is making real efforts to reform politically and economically. In particular there is a focus on growing tourism, and to that end they now offer visa free travel for 65 countries, including New Zealand. What we also know is that this means the country will inevitably become more popular and more touristed. We think 2020 is a fantastic time to visit before it gets too popular. **We still have a couple of places available on our confirmed departure of May 19.**



LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER

We are rapidly approaching deadlines for some of our tours, especially those on small ships. If you are still thinking about joining us on any of these tours, please do get in touch so you don't miss out.

All four of the tours below are confirmed departures so you can register with the knowledge that the tour will definitely be going ahead.

- Cruise & Walk Tasmania – confirmed departure **8 MARCH**
- Costa Rica – confirmed departure **21 MARCH**
- Sail & Bike Slovenia & Croatia – confirmed departure **19 MAY**
- Russia & the Baltics – confirmed departure **16 JUNE**

OTHER CONFIRMED DEPARTURES FOR 2020

- Egypt & Jordan with Sue Hayman
- Walking in Italy with John Matheson
- Gems of the Silk Road Uzbekistan with Andrew Matheson
- Cruise the Kimberley with Penny Pickett
- Marquesas by Passenger Freighter with Kathryn Hunter
- Highlands & Islands of Scotland with Peter Oetli
- Biking in New York, Cape Cod and Vermont with Pat Mandeno
- Antarctica with Leen Van Duin

Contact us for itinerary and details

Forward this newsletter to family and friends for them to receive our travel inspirations straight to their mailbox.



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