

FLYING COLOURS TRAVEL

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Can you believe that Christmas is almost here and we are heading very quickly into 2020! I'm not sure about you but I know that the year has gone way to fast for me.

We have had a few very busy months with our Travel Expo and staff being away, it feels like only last week I was putting the newsletter together.

We were thrilled with the amount of people we had at our Travel Expo in October and I think that the Venue was perfect for the day. We had fabulous feedback from the wholesalers that attended along with very positive comments from clients. Your support of Flying Colours Travel is greatly appreciated and we certainly hope that those that attended on the day were able to get some wonderful ideas for their next trip away.

As always if you see a deal in the paper that catches your eye please be sure to pop in or call the office to see if we can match the deal. You would be very surprised with what we have access to. Our marketing budget does not allow us to advertise all the amazing deals that come through but in most cases we are able to match or better what you see in the papers.

I hope that you enjoy our Summer newsletter and wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas & New Year.

Regards

Jacqui & The Flying Colours Team



December 2019

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STAFF TRAVELS 2019

Where have we been this year, all in the line of duty... a mixture of work trips and our own holidays:-

Maldives

Japan x 3

Auckland

Fiji

UK & Scotland

Copenhagen

Vietnam

Christchurch

Kimberley

Bali

Rwanda

Our passion is travel and we love to share our own experiences with our clients...

"Experience our Experience"

We have stayed in many different styles of accommodation and used different means of transport to travel in these wonderful destinations.

Check out some of the amazing destinations we have sent our own intrepid travelling clients to on page 3.

Japan — Jacqui

Jeff & Myself had a very quick trip to Japan in November, we stayed in Tokyo, Osaka, Koyasan along with visits to Mt Fuji, Hiroshima and Miyajima.

This was my first trip to Japan and it was an amazing experience. A few things that really stood out are that the Japanese are extremely polite people and very helpful to tourists. On a few occasions we had people come and ask us if we needed any help!!! They could obviously see the look on our faces that we had no idea what we were doing, ie...purchasing a ticket for a local train from a vending machine, trying to follow the right line to get the correct platform, attempting to find the local restaurant we were booked into where English signs didn't exist. All of these experiences make for great memories and that's what travel is all about. Our experiences and memories that bring a smile to our faces.

You need to take Japanese Yen cash with you as some of the vending machines and there are many only accept local Japanese cards or cash.

Slip on shoes are very handy when you are visiting temples that require shoes to be removed.

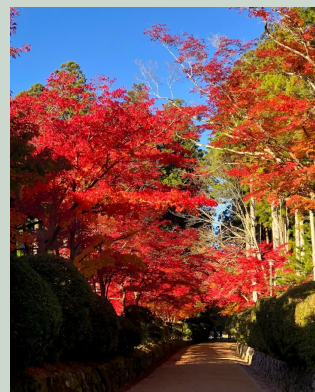
Eat where the locals eat, if you eat in the hotels it is EXPENSIVE, just a short walk will take you to some great local restaurants that are actually very good value.

Accommodation is expensive and the standard is not like we have in Australia and beds can be VERY firm. If accommodation is important to you please be sure to not have standard rooms as you may be disappointed. A lot of the hotels are located right at the train stations and this makes great sense.

The trains are absolutely fantastic and amazing. A Rail Pass is a MUST if you are doing independent travel and must be pre-purchased prior to your departure.

It was Autumn when we travelled and the colours of the trees were just phenomenal. I would strongly recommend travelling at this time of the year, the weather is a bit cooler but the colours are outstanding. Most people like to travel around the Cherry Blossom time but there are no guarantees you will see them as it is such a small window they are on show...in Autumn the colours are on show for a much longer period of time.

A big thing to keep in mind is that the Itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima is under renovations until August 2020. I heard a lot of upset people who did not know this. Its much better to be informed rather than disappointed.

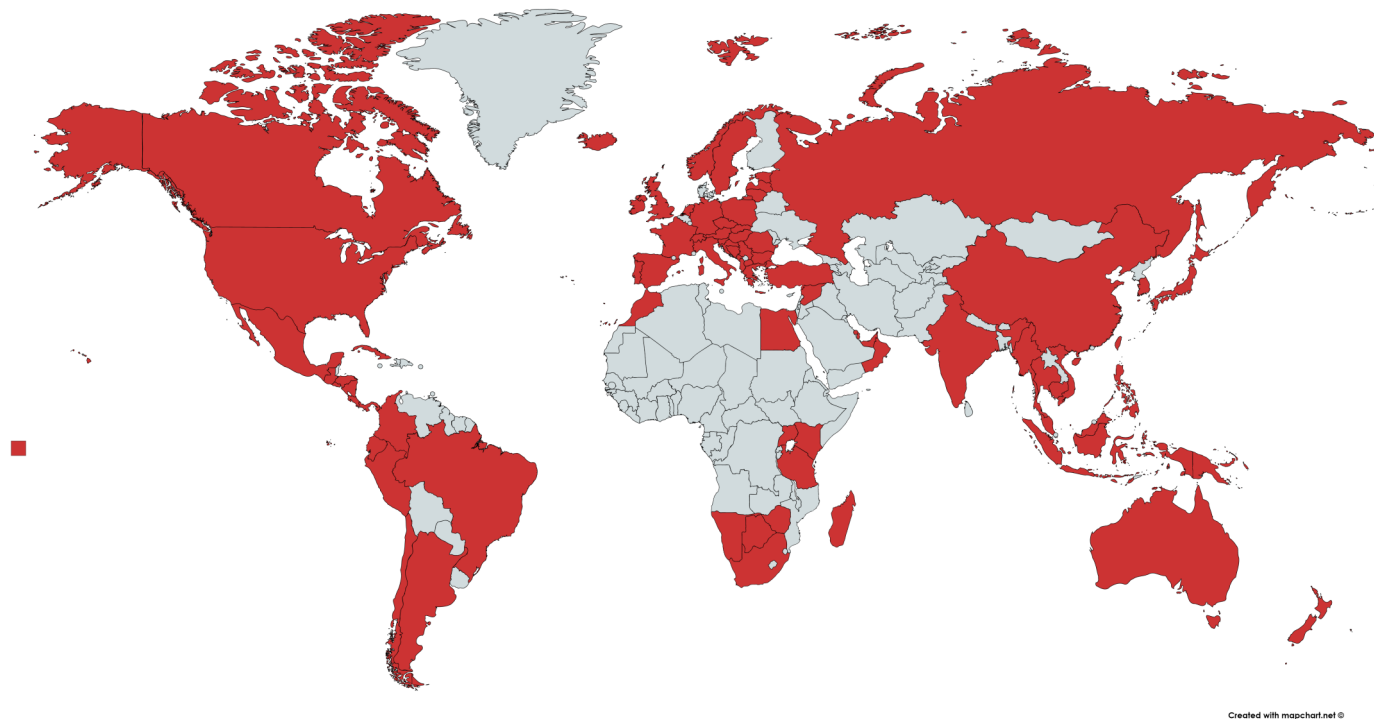


Put the caption for your photo here.

Where have you been?

It's been a busy year once again in travel and we have assisted people with their travel plans to lots of wonderful and different destinations around the world. Many different cruise lines and airlines and means of travel have been used to suit our clients requests.

I don't think I have missed a country but if I have, be sure to let me know if you have been to one of the areas not highlighted.



CHOOSE YOUR CRUISE TIPS

Cruising continues to be a very popular way to travel and there are so many different cruise lines in the market now. It is very important that you chose the cruise that is right for you. The wrong cruise line for your requirements could put you off cruising forever.

Take into account the size of the ship, the inclusions offered by the cruise line, if tipping is included, compulsory or optional. Are drinks included, WIFI, optional tours and applicable costs. Sometimes a cruise can look very cheap and then you find you have a lot of extras to add to the original costs which push it up to something you were not expecting.

Where is the Cruise line from and what is the normal demographic for the cruise line and the area they are cruising.

How many days at sea do you have and does the cruise have sufficient activities for you to do on those days.

What sort of cabin are you after, what is the size of the cabin, how old is the ship.

Do you need Visa's to travel to where you are going.

Also check your Travel Insurance has cruise cover automatically included or do you have to pay extra for this cover.

Once again better to be informed at the start and know what to expect when you get on board.

It is a wonderful easy way to travel and certainly one of my favourite ways to see this beautiful world we live in.

FLORENCE – From Exclusively Italy

When staying in such an amazing town as Florence, whose skyline has become iconic, wouldn't you fancy getting the chance to compare that image of your mind to the real one from the window of your hotel room?! Well, by staying at Villa La Vedetta, every morning you will open up your shutters and pull the curtains on a breath-taking scene of Florence. Villa La Vedetta is an authentic "Urban Resort" standing half way up the hill overlooking Florence, just a stone's throw away from both Piazzale Michelangelo and Ponte Vecchio. The Hotel consists of the elegant Villa, built in the 1800s, with its "Romantic Cottage" and a lovely Italian garden surrounding the property. The pool offers the perfect treat after hot summer days walking and sightseeing under the Tuscan sun, just dive into the refreshing water and enjoy the lovely atmosphere of your Florentine mansion with the view. The secluded "Secret Garden" shadowed by scented and colourful wisteria and the wonderful Terrace are the guests' favourites to sip and savour a glass of wine at sunset!

Rooms are all bright and spacious, with elegant and neat furnishings, which combine classic taste with modern features. Your day at Villa La Vedetta will start with a tasty breakfast made of genuine and high-quality products both for the fans of healthy food and incurable gourmands. Your day might end at the refined Restaurant, whose rich wine list, including the red most notorious ones from Tuscany and the attention to the raw materials and ingredients are the characterizing elements of the place.

On your first day in Florence, it might be helpful and advisable to take an orientation tour and get your bearings around the cradle of Renaissance. A walking tour might be an option for sure, though, you will probably walk to and from museums, squares, churches and monuments on your next few days you are staying in Florence, so why not go for something different, why not take the chance to ride through the hidden streets and narrow alleys of Florence in a vintage sidecar? Go for a late afternoon tour with an Italian "Aperitivo" at sunset as part of it. You will start your tour after the heat, when the sun is still high but almost ready to set down, this is the "Golden Hour" for photographers and possibly the most romantic time of the day for everyone else. During the tour, you will see colours change as the light of the sun becomes more and more gentle, up to the moment it fades away and each beam dissolves on the ever famous monuments and the surrounding landscape. You will get to see the iconic landmarks and highlights as you map down, where they are and how you can get there – Piazzale Michelangelo and San Miniato Church, the Oltrarno district with its traditional shops and workshops, Giotto's Bell Tower.... The tour will end with an authentic wine and food Florentine style aperitivo at sunset in one of our favourite spots in town.

As you are in Florence, it is well worth going beyond into Tuscan Countryside and get the chance to visit one of the most sought-after landscapes in the world, with green rolling hills covered in olive groves and vineyards. Your driver will meet you at your hotel and take you on a leisurely drive outside the main town and into the countryside. You will learn about the different towns, villages and take in the habits and history of the many different places. You will then stop for a wine tasting experience at Castello di Alma, a mesmerizing place where you will reconnect with nature and traditions. A place whose beauty and uniqueness enticed a Pallanti family from Rome in the early Seventies. Bound by their love of wine, they replanted the vineyards and introduced new production methods, building a new winery with the ultimate goal of producing Chianti Classico and returning Ama to its former glory. The 75 hectares of vineyards surrounding the village at an altitude that ranges between 420 and 527 metres result in characterful wines suitable for long ageing. As you walk through the property, you will get to see amazing works of art which blend with the place and are meant to generate a childish surprise in each and every traveller visiting the town.

**** Exclusively Italy is an 5 star operator we use in Italy for personalised holidays for those wanting a little extra detail to the Italy itinerary ****

Japan — Angela

In October I had the chance to visit Japan for the first time.

Myself and 12 fellow travel agents boarded Japan Airlines for their flight into Tokyo. Japan Airlines fly direct from Melbourne to Narita-Tokyo and after our 10 hour flight we arrived to be met by Princess Cruises.

After our 90 minutes transfer by coach we arrived at Yokohama Pier to disembark on our 5 night cruise aboard the Diamond Princess.

With 3 port visits and two seas days, it was a good balance to enjoy Japan on land and the Diamond Princess on the sea days.

Our first stop was Busan, South Korea where I joined a shore excursion with Princess Cruises visiting Bokcheon Museum which showed the history of pre-historic era to the Three Kingdom period that spanned from the 1st century B.C. to the 6th century A.D.

We then travelled onto Yongdusan Park which offers amazing views of Busan Port and the surrounding scenery. Our last stop was in the CBD of Busan for some retail therapy which was an experience visiting local shops and restaurant.

Our two sea days allowed us time to experience the Diamond Princess; many activities and facilities available on board, in particular The Lotus Spa which provides a variety of treatments, such as aroma stone therapy massages and detoxifying ocean wraps.

The entertainment on board was also excellent and of course the endless amount of top quality cuisine, the two sea days soon past quickly.

Our next stop was back to Japan visiting Nagasaki where I again joined a cruise excursion with Princess Cruises.

We boarded our motorcoach and travelled northeast from Nagasaki, passing scenic Ariake Bay en-route to the mountainous Shimabara Peninsula before arriving at Shimabara Castle.

Shimabara Castle is situated in the centre of this historic old town, and is an example of the classic Japanese castle design known as the Flatland style.

A walking tour through the charming cobblestone streets of Shimabara gave us an opportunity to learn more about the historic area, and a visit to a traditional "samurai village" offering a glimpse into the ways of Japan's warrior class.

After enjoying a traditional Japanese lunch at a local restaurant we then headed to Mizunashi Honjin; a small village which was buried by ash during the eruption of Mt. Fugen in 1991.

Early evening we arrived back at Nagasaki pier to board the Diamond Princess and sail towards Yokohama, Japan.

After dis-embarking the next morning; we joined a half day tour of Tokyo visiting highlights such as 'The Seaside Top' located on the observation deck of the World Trade Center Building giving us panoramic views of Tokyo's bay area.

Our tour also took us to Senso-ji Temple which is Tokyo's oldest temple and Nakamise Shopping Street. We then finished with a short cruise on the Sumida River at dusk.

Being my first time visiting Japan & South Korea I found cruising aboard Princess Cruises a perfect introduction to these destinations and will definitely plan to visit again and explore more in depth.



**IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE OUR
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Blaise heads to Bali

I recently went over to Bali, Indonesia for my Holidays during early November. I flew with Garuda who were fantastic! They went above and beyond with the service, if you are looking at heading over to Bali, I highly recommend them. During my time in Bali I stayed at the Courtyard by Marriot in Seminyak which was amazing. The resort was beautiful, and their pool was spectacular. The room was incredible, it was spacious and featured an outdoor balcony alfresco area.

I pre booked a tour that included a private driver coming to my hotel to pick me up and take me around all day to explore Ubud. I went to the Bali Swings which were incredible, they are big swings set in between trees. That was such a fun experience to do. I went to the Monkey Forest, which is a great experience if you love monkeys, I spent the rest of the afternoon visiting the rice patties, the coffee plantation, Temples and the Waterfalls.



On one of the spare days in Bali I went to the Waterbom Water Park which was probably one of the highlights of my trip. They have many water slides, pools, a lazy river and many kids activities there. It is a good experience for anyone. I had an absolute ball there.

During most nights in Bali I went along the Markets, went shopping or found somewhere nice to eat in Seminyak, Legian and Kuta.

My first experience in Bali was a good one, I highly recommend it and would absolutely like to go back in the future. This was a good learning experience as I now know more about Bali, what sort of activities / tours I can send clients on as well as what areas I would recommend staying in.

MEL – UGANDA

Last month I had the opportunity to tick off one of the items on my bucket list. Seeing the Gorilla's in the wild. Along with 5 other travel agents I travelled to Uganda for this once in a lifetime opportunity.

I flew into Entebbe where I had two nights to get over the flight and acclimatise before starting the tour. We travelled with Wild Frontiers who are the local operator for Africa Safari Co one of the Africa Specialist we use in store. Our guide Moses was amazing, he picked us up from the airport on day one and stayed with us to the end. First stop on our itinerary was Kibale Forest National Park and on arrival at the Primate Lodge, our nights accommodation, we were welcomed by some traditional songs and dances before sitting down to the first of many amazing 3 course meals. Our main reason to visit here was to see the Chimpanzees in the wild, which we did on a 3 hour trek the next morning. The trek itself was of a moderate level, there are no marked path's, except for tracks in the mud that we followed in our search for the Chimps. It took a little longer than expected to find these animals however we were well rewarded towards the end when we came across a large family group swinging through the treetops causing quite a commotion chattering amongst themselves.

From here we travelled to Ndali Lodge which is a small Colonial style property built on the top of a crater lake with the most amazing views of the countryside. Dinner tonight was candlelit as like most properties we stayed at there is no electricity, just solar power and if your lucky, backup generators. We could have spent a few days here exploring all the activities on offer, however the next morning we were back on the road making our way to Queen Elizabeth National Park.

MEL – UGANDA CONTINUED

On route we stopped for a boat cruise along the Kazinga Channel where we saw many hippos, water buffalo, crocodiles and different species of birds. It was a very relaxing couple of hours. Our accommodation for the next two nights was the Ishasha Wilderness Camp. This is the only lodge located inside the southern sector of the Queen Elizabeth National Park. This was very much a glamping experience when walking out of your (very large) canvas - for lack of a better word, tent you had river views and if lucky enough wildlife sightings without taking more than 2 steps. For this reason, outside of daylight hours, you were escorted by a staff member to and from the dining area for safety reasons.

In Queen Elizabeth National Park we had a full day for Games Drives. We started off before breakfast and came across a large family of Elephants including 2 little babies, from here we came across a hyena hunting it's prey as well as hundreds of Uganda Kobs. After a quick breakfast we headed back out in search of our main reason to be here, the tree climbing lions. It wasn't long before a call come through as a sighting had been made, 5 Lions in 2 different trees. All with very full bellies. It is quiet rare to see a lion in a tree, in fact Queen Elizabeth Park in Uganda is one of only two locations you can see this.

However it was starting to get down to the business end of the trip and the reason why we were all here. The Gorilla's. Arriving at the Buhoma Lodge, nestled alongside the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest we were all very excited, nervous and anxious for our trek the next day. After a safety briefing we were divided up into groups of 8 (the maximum number of people allowed to see the gorilla's at one time) and were told which family group we setting out to find. The are 5 family groups in the area and we were lucky enough to be heading towards the Rushegura family which happened to be located closet to where we were departing from. We took our time climbing the mountain (and it was a real climb) as the Gorilla's were heading down the mountain towards us. The first hour was reasonable flat, however the second half on the climb was very steep, muddy and slippery. We all hired a porter for the day which carried our backpacks and pushed and pulled us up the mountain when assistance was required.

Though, all the hard work was soon forgotten with the very first sighting, the Silverback. Words cannot describe the feeling of seeing these amazing animals in the wild. Out of the 15 family members we saw 13 of them including 2 silverbacks and a couple of babies. Most of them were high up in the trees however we did get quite close (1-3 meters away) to the few on the ground. After our hour was up it was sadly time to say goodbye and head back down the mountain. Again, not an easy process, but with all the adrenaline pumping through our bodies we arrived back to the starting point very much on a high. To top the day off the lodge provided complementary massages to sooth our sore and weary legs. Waking up a bit stiff the next day, we were all sad to be heading home.

This trip was by far the most exhilarating experience I have had in all my travel's.

