

TIME TRAVEL

Australia

SPRING 2001

2001 has been another successful year, completing two overseas tours. Unfortunately, numbers were insufficient to go ahead with our tour to South America but we will certainly be visiting that continent again in the future.

With the tragedy of the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the subsequent retaliatory moves by the USA, I fear that travel in the future will never be the same. I can understand that many will be reluctant to visit any of the countries in the Middle-East. We are being positive and will go ahead with the promotion of all our planned tours for 2002 and this includes Egypt, Jordan and Syria. These tours are scheduled for June/July. Let us hope that everything has settled well before then and that peace has been restored as best it can after such a disaster.

Back to 2001. Spain was wonderful, yet again. Myths, Magic and Extra-Terrestrials was an ambitious tour due to its duration (7 weeks) and distance covered but, I believe, it was a resounding success. The modular format proved itself, allowing people to join or leave the group to suit their own schedules. Starting with eight and finishing with twelve, only two hardy souls completed the entire journey. We visited a fantastic range of sites, experienced a diverse number of cultures and feasted heartily where ever we went.

Highlights for me included our flight out of Cuzco which flew over the sites along the Urubamba Valley and directly over Machu Picchu; seeing the Castillo of Chichen Itza emptied of tourists when a thunderstorm struck; walking around Mayapan unaccompanied by other tourists; the mariachi bands on the crowded Lake Xochilmilco canals; the extreme security measures adopted by American Airlines at Lima airport (where was it on 11 September!); swimming in the turquoise blue waters of the Caribbean; windswept Tintagel Castle; sunset over the Valley of the Kings and the Nile; the view of Petra from the High Altar...just to name a few.

Sitting back recapping the tour on our last evening in Amman, Jordan, highlights were many and varied and comments were very positive ... if we adopted all of them the tour would take at least three months! Overall, taking in your comments and criticisms, we feel that the tour was well structured and see little need for change in content for its repeat in 2003 - although we may extend it by a few days here and there.

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We have also begun to work very closely with Travel Makers, a Canberra based travel agent. We had previously used another, larger company. While I was pleased with the service provided, they were a franchise and were unable to provide the individual attention we desired. This change in travel agents has enabled us to control our itineraries much more closely and substantial benefits will be passed on to our clients.

HISTORIC IRELAND FROM NAOMI BELL , JUNE 2000...

Newgrange - looking at it from the entrance the tractor that was doing work beside it looked like a tiny, Meccano toy. The original builders of long ago certainly knew how to site a building to advantage! The huge decorated boulders around the base are unbelievable. Management was taking bookings for the winter solstice when at 9.00am, the rising sun shines directly down the long but not quite straight tunnel inside. On inquiry we didn't bother - bookings were for 2016 and beyond! Knowth is similar, not nearly as large (but still very big) nor anywhere near as tidy. The grass on top had not been mown so it looked like it must have done all those many centuries ago when the only equipment to do a job was hand held. Investigative digging was going on here. We stayed at the most westerly, privately owned B&B in the EU, with magnificent views thrown in. Later, on the Aran Islands, we were treated to do some wonderful Irish dancing after taking the shortest, lowest flying, commercial flight I have ever been on. It took longer to take off and land than the actual flight! And then the walk to the B&B took longer still. Dun Aengus with its chevaux de frise made with well sharpened rocks packed closely together, an even older version than the middle-age spiked stakes that caused havoc amongst the mounted invaders. Trying to get through this maze of 'stakes' without being cut by the dangerous looking limestone would not be easy even today.

Promontory forts, built stone on stone somewhere between 500BC and 500AD; Celtic crosses, lots of them, each one different and each worth looking at closely; ancient churches built and rebuilt, sometimes three times on approximately the same site, with the position of each church still clearly seen. Ring forts, about 4 metres high, usually enclosed the farmsteads of free farmers, they were well built, small in circumference and probably used by one or two families. Originally built in ancient times, they were inhabited until about 1200AD. In some, a well-made staircase ran from ground level to the top of the ring, giving a good view of the surrounding country.

Dublin is a charming, thriving city with a mixture of different people from all parts of the globe. Its layout is such that it is an easy place to walk around, so take your choice on whatever type of food you wish to eat.

And should your intrepid leader casually remark that 'he hadn't been down this road before, do you mind if we take a look?' Don't hesitate, go, all roads are worth exploring!

COURSES

AN INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY (UNI OF SYDNEY ~ KIOLOA) FRI/SAT/SUN 22~24 FEBRUARY, 2002

This course will take the format of a workshop including classroom lectures as well as instruction in the field. The aim of this course is to introduce the discipline of archaeology and provide participants with both a better knowledge of the depth and breadth of the subject as well as trying to instill a desire for further study into this fascinating area. We will briefly look at the history of the discipline and the techniques used to learn about our past. This short course will include a practical component with participants taking part in map reading exercises, surveying and excavation.

The course will be conducted at the Edith & Joy London Foundation, Kioloa, an ANU owned property on the south-coast of NSW near Bawley Point. There are numerous prehistoric and historic sites on or around the Kioloa property including Aboriginal middens, axe-grinding grooves and artefact scatters.

Contact CCE at the University of Sydney on 02 93513281 for details.

FROM NEANDERTHALS TO COLUMBUS ~ THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SPAIN (SYDNEY UNI)

9.00am to 4.30pm, Saturday, 20 April, 2002.

This short course will cover examine the archaeology of Spain from the arrival of the first hominids nearly 1,000,000 years ago to the expansion of the Spanish Empire in 15th and 16th Centuries.

Contact CCE at the University of Sydney on 02 93513281 for details.

WEEKENDS AWAY

ARCHAEOLOGY & DEATH

~ SYDNEY 30 NOVEMBER ~ 2 DECEMBER, 2001

This weekend excursion follows the course 'Archaeology & Death' held at the ANU CCE, however course attendance is not a prerequisite. While primarily designed for Canberra residents, those living in Sydney (or elsewhere) are welcome to attend on a daily basis. We will visit exhibits at the Australian Museum, the Museum of Ancient Civilisations at the Macquarie University and an evening tour of the Rookwood Cemetery. We have also arranged a visit to the Macleay Museum to see the only Peruvian mummy held in Australia.

Cost \$319.00 (inc GST) - includes bus transport from Canberra, 2 nights accommodation, full breakfasts and entry into exhibits.

SCHEDULED TOURS – 2002

HISTORIC TASMANIA

~13 DAYS, 28 FEBRUARY 2002

Staying in luxuriously renovated historic houses and travelling by private bus, we will visit sites that highlight both the beauty and cultural heritage of this unique island. Beginning with a walking tour of Hobart, some of the highlights include Port Arthur, Queenstown, cruise Macquarie Harbour to see Sarah Island, the Nut at Stanley, historic homes in Deloraine, Ross and Richmond, the goldmines at Beaconsfield and the Queen Victoria Gallery in Launceston.

We are also offering an optional extra to spend three days walking in the Cradle Mountain National Park. This will involve day walks and we will spend our nights in cabin accommodation.

Cost \$2,585.00 (inc GST) - includes return flight from Canberra, Sydney or Melbourne (prices from other cities on request); land transport by private bus; entry into selected sites; accommodation in deluxe or first class hotels and all breakfasts. Cradle Mountain walking tour is an extra \$660.00

THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA **~ 12 DAYS, 3 APRIL, 2002**

This short tour will include visits to a range of sites that contributed to the development of South Australia through sites highlighting settlement, industry and transport. See the Barossa Valley, Flinders Ranges, the Gulf Ports, the River Murray and the historical sites of Adelaide.

Cost \$1870.00 (inc GST) - includes flight from Canberra, Sydney or Melbourne; land transport by private bus; accommodation and all breakfasts.

SPAIN

1 ~ CASTILLA Y LEON & BEYOND ~ 16 DAYS, MAY, 2002

2 ~ SPIRIT OF THE SOUTH ~ 16 DAYS, MAY/ JUNE 2002

The departure date has been tentatively set for May. This tour has been divided into two modules, each being 15 days in duration. The first module begins in Barcelona and circuits the north of Spain ending in Madrid, the second continues from Madrid and circuits the south including Sevilla, Cordoba and Granada.

The tour will visit prehistoric, Bronze Age, Roman, Muslim and Christian sites including the Alcazar of Segovia, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, the Alhambra in Granada, the Mezquita of Cordoba and the Palacio Real in Sevilla.

Cost: \$5,995.00 for either leg or \$9,895.00 for both.

An optional 9 day tour to Morocco will also be offered to follow this tour.

BUS, BARGE & BLISTERS ~ HISTORIC IRELAND **~ 16 DAYS, JULY/AUGUST 2002**

Travelling by private bus, canal barge and along walking trails, this tour will circuit the Republic of Ireland visiting historic and archaeological sites en route. We intend to use a canal barge as a base for 5 days, while using the bus to visit sites to the north and south of the Grand Canal each day. Apart from the canal barge, accommodation will be in B&Bs with private facilities. Weather permitting we will walk a part of the Burren Way and the Ring of Kerry. Sites on the itinerary include Newgrange, Kells, the ring forts and megalithic tombs of the west, the Aran Islands, church ruins and graveyards, the Rock of Cashel, Jeerpoint Abbey and the monastic centres of Glendalough and Clonmacnoise.

Cost: \$5,890.00

MEXICO, BELIZE AND GUATEMALA

~ 25 DAYS JUNE 2002

This tour will explore the homelands of a range of past cultures including the Aztecs, Maya, Toltecs and Olmecs. From the Caribbean through the jungles of the Yucatan to the snowcapped peaks surrounding the Valley of Mexico, we will visit sites including Teotihuacan, Monte Alban, Mitla, Tikal, Palenque, Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Mayapan and Tulum.

Cost: \$8,740.00

THE HISTORY OF MOTORING ~ FRANCE AND ENGLAND

~ 23 DAYS JUNE/JULY 2002

This tour begins with at Le Mans in France and after viewing the race, visits local motor museums to explain France's role in the development of the motor car. Travelling by train to Britain, the tour takes in the British Grand Prix and a week of racing historic vehicles at Goodwood. Again, local museums will be also visited to explain the place of the motor car in Britain's recent history. A visit to the Jaguar factory will be a highlight of this part of the tour.

Cost: \$ 8,790.00

DESERT DISCOVERY ~ SYRIA, JORDAN AND EGYPT

~ 25 DAYS JUNE/JULY 2002

This tour will include some of the most famous tourist attractions across Syria, Jordan and Egypt. We will begin in Aleppo making our way south to Damascus through Rusafa, Hama, Crac des Chevaliers, and Palmyra. From Damascus the tour moves into Jordan taking in the sites of Jerash, Madaba, the Dead Sea and of course Petra. The final leg takes us to Egypt, moving through Cairo, Alexandria and the Upper Nile. Sites visited include the Pyramids, Sphinx, Saqqara, Luxor, Karnak, Abu Simbel and the Valley of the Kings.

Cost: \$6,280.00

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD WORK

CHILE, OCTOBER, 2002

Two fourteen day blocks of field work are planned and will involve a week conducting further surveys in the Quebrada de Tiliviche which we began last year. Test excavations will be carried out on sites selected during earlier surveys. The second week will include a return to Milluni in the Lluta Valley to carry out further investigations within a pre-Hispanic village as well as extending the survey eastwards along the valley. We are also considering excavations at 9th - 12th Century Pukara near Belen.

This project will provide anyone interested in archaeology with 'hands on' experience and a better understanding of what archaeologists do. Students, either undergraduate or postgraduates, will be able to gain worthwhile experience and develop their expertise in field techniques, surveying and handling of a range of artefact types.

Participants will work in teams of about four or five persons with one archaeologist to oversee the work of each team. The project will be directed by Professor Calogero Santoro PhD of the Universidad de Tarapaca.

Full details should be available early in 2002.

PROPOSED TOURS ~ 2003

Full details for these tours will become available during 2002.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

This 23 day tour begins in the Bahamas, sails to Cuba and ends in the Yucatan Region of Mexico. This tour will include visits to marine and terrestrial sites that relate to the history of the pirates in the region. We will have a dive master on board to allow access to shipwrecks that can only be reached via scuba-diving. Wrecks accessible via snorkeling will also be visited. The tour will sail to several of the Bahamas and then on to Cuba where we will transfer to land based transport before flying on to Mexico (Cancun).

While the theme concentrates on the history of pirates in this region, other sites of archaeological and historic interest will be visited. Of note this includes some of the most famous Mayan sites in Mexico: Chichen Itza, Mayapan and Uxmal.

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highlights were many and varied and comments were very positive ... if we adopted all of them the tour would take at least three months! Overall, taking in your comments and criticisms, we feel that the tour was well structured and see little need for change in content for its repeat in 2003 - although we may extend it by a few days here and there.

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“Our Business is in Ruins...”