

# TIME TRAVEL

Australia

## WINTER 2004

Time passes without a pause, another year already into its second half.

The war in Iraq made for a quiet 2003 however 2004 has been somewhat busier. We toured Chile in February and March and it was a wonderful experience. It is difficult to try and describe the spectacular landscapes of the far south, particularly the Torres del Paine National Park. Chiloé was terrific and the weather superb. We spent a memorable day aboard the 'Cahuella' cruising out to see seal colonies and picnicking on a crowded beach - we had to share the beach with a colony of Magellanic Penguins!

The field-work in Arica was again very successful. Not only did we survey a number of previously unrecorded sites, but we also salvaged the contents of a disturbed tomb and removed most of a mummy. We collected material from two sites flanking the Lluta River about 16km north of Arica . Two tombs were excavated; one was empty and the other contained the aforementioned mummy plus some grave goods – a woven bag, cane bowl and a number of corn-cobs. The surface collection included fragments of pottery, textiles, stone points, bone and plaited hair. The material has been lodged with the Museum and we will be working on the assemblage over the coming seasons.

The major site that we worked on is located on Army land. I got quite a shock when we were first surveying the site when we were approached by three young men, all carrying with rifles. After finding someone with the appropriate rank to give us permission to work in the area, we were able to proceed and we even had a soldier or two occasionally join us for lunch. This area is only a few kilometres from the Peruvian border and has a constant military presence. The area of Army land covers hundreds of hectares, none of which has been previously surveyed. We now hope that the Army will allow us to survey more of their land as it is potentially a very rich area. Without further survey, we have already identified a number of features that are worthy of further examination and excavation. Our plans for 2005 include more detailed recording of this site plus conducting further surveys in the area.

Our tour of Turkey was fantastic. We spent seven days travelling from Ankara south through Cappadocia and its wonderful landscapes. From there we drove to the coast and joined our boat at Fethiye. The next seven days were wonderfully relaxing. Mornings were spent cruising along the coast, swimming in calm coves, taking lunch on board and then exploring some spectacular Classical sites, many of which are inaccessible by road. The food was superb, the crew very helpful and the whole time

spent cruising was very, very difficult to leave behind – it was a great shock to return to land and resume travelling by bus! I may have to lead the next tour myself!

## CHILE – FIELD WORK 2004

**SUBMITTED BY ANN MCKENZIE**

Ian, my husband, announced that he'd arranged for me to go with him to South America in March for an archaeological dig. I wasn't too keen to go – we were supposed to be camping for the first two weeks while we were excavating which didn't appeal at all, but I was lured by the promise of visiting Machu Picchu , so I decided to grin and bear it. You can imagine how happy and relieved I was when we arrived in Arica (far North Chile) to be told we had a fully serviced apartment right on the beach. There were seven of us and we all fitted in with each other really well. They were a really good group and it was hard to believe we hadn't met before.

The excavation was very interesting and really exciting when we found something. I was stunned by the wonderful 700 year old fabrics which were in comparatively good condition. They were beautifully woven, very fine with beautiful designs and still in one piece after lying around for all that time, but it's so dry in that area that nothing seems to deteriorate. We were particularly thrilled to discover the remains of a mummy. Unfortunately he fell to pieces when we tried to move him. He'd been disturbed at some time by grave robbers looking for gold and silver, and his head was missing. We were all really happy when we found it (the head) the next day and put him together again. We also found his mummified foot which Chris – our fearless leader – decided to take back to the apartment for safe-keeping. Not a mutually agreeable decision! He also had a woven bag and a small wicker bowl – both in very good condition – with him. He's now in the archaeological museum at Arica . We spent two very happy weeks digging around. We also went visiting other sites and although we catered for ourselves most of the time, we still managed to eat at some good restaurants, and we had a ritual of going out for a walk after dinner and calling in at a café for a drink, usually a Pisco Sour – a truly magical drink. We were also pleased to have the beds made and clean towels supplied, as we got really filthy.

After two weeks we set off on a tour of pre-Inca sites in Bolivia and Peru , and saw some wonderful things. Walked miles and up and down mountains, and had some really strange experiences. The most memorable one was the boat trip on Lake Titacaca in an overloaded boat with a drunken skipper and his mate! It was the skipper's birthday and he'd been celebrating all night and continued on the boat. We were caught in a bus strike and were unable to get from Copacabana in Bolivia to Puno in Peru , so Chris chartered a boat so that we could cross the lake. Unfortunately the skipper allowed a number of backpackers on board and they refused to get off. Because we were miles from anywhere there was nothing we could do but go along with him. I was very scared and it was the longest eight hours of my life! I had visions of the headlines –

"Thirteen Australians lost in overloaded ferry tragedy on Lake Titicaca"! (We picked up several Australians in the hotel we were staying in)

Machu Picchu was amazing – very powerful and foreboding. I've always wanted to see it, but wouldn't want to go back. There was a landslide a couple of days before we were due to go there and the railway line was cut (you can only get in by rail) so we were concerned we might not get there but thankfully it was fixed in time. Then there was another landslide the week after we got home, so we were lucky. The country seems susceptible to landslides. We were held up by another one on the Pan American Highway . Would have loved to go to Buenos Aries too, in fact in retrospect we should have extended our stay, and spent more time in Santiago . Next time!

Many more things happened, but I don't want to be a bore! You know what it's like when you start to remember your holiday – it's hard to stop, and then people's eyes start to glaze over. So... I'll stop here.

## COURSES – 2004

### THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA (ANU CCE)

~ 2 SATURDAY MORNINGS, 28 AUG. & 4 SEPT.

Beginning with the origins of New World occupation, this course will examine the archaeology of Central and South America from its earliest occupation, through the rise of civilisations to the arrival of the Spanish in the 16 th Century. Cultures discussed include the Olmecs, Toltecs, Maya, Aztec, Mochica and Inca looking at their art, architecture, ritual and economy.

Contact ANU CCE on 02 61253891 for details.

### THE MOAI OF RAPA NUI (UNI OF SYDNEY CCE)

~ 9.00AM – 4.30PM SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER

The enigmatic Moai of Easter Island have been the subject of intense speculation ever since their discovery by Europeans in the 16th century. Who were the people who carved these giant monoliths from the volcanic rock of one of the most isolated places in the world? This day looks closely at the Rapa Nui , who settled the island in the 4th century, and discusses the many theories raised to explain the origin, construction and transportation of their extraordinary statuary.

Contact Sydney Uni CCE on 02 93512907

## **WALKING THE INCA TRAILS (UNI OF SYDNEY CCE)**

**~ 9.30AM – 4.30PM SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER**

Once part of a vast network linking an empire, the Camino Inca now draws walkers attracted by the magnificent scenery and extraordinary archaeological sites along the route. This day looks at the history and archaeology of the region, from the high Andean peaks to the Atacama desert and the jungles of Vilcabamba . We'll examine some of the most accessible trails and discuss practical issues such as when and where to go, what equipment you'll need, how to cope with walking at high altitudes, and the tour options available to the prospective walker.

Contact CCE at the University of Sydney on 02 93512907 for details.

## **SCHEDULED TOURS ~ 2005**

### **CHILE : A LAND OF EXTREMES**

**~ 24 DAYS, MARCH 2005**

Led by Chris Carter

Travelling between 54 to 18 degrees south, this tour will take in the extremes of Chile : from the glaciers of the south to the absolute desert of the Atacama. We will explore the geography, geology and archaeology of the country and examine how the environment played an important part in cultural development of the region. We may also be lucky enough to see some rare wildlife including Darwin 's rhea, vicuña, condor, Humboldt's penguin and sea-otters.

Approx. \$7,850.00 ex Sydney

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD WORK**

**~ ARICA , CHILE , FEBRUARY 2005.**

Fourteen days of field work are planned and will involve the excavation of a Pre-Incan site flanking the Lluta River just north of Arica , Northern Chile . This work continues the project commenced in 2000. Apart from excavation and the sorting and cataloguing of artefacts we will also visit other sites in the area.

The project will be directed by Professor Calogero Santoro PhD of the Universidad de Tarapaca, Arica .

Contribution of \$1,920.00 (covers accommodation in beachside apartment, meals, transport and supervision) plus airfares to Arica .

Full details will be available late in Nov. 2004.

## TURKEY

We will be running three separate tours to Turkey in 2005. Each tour will include one leg cruising the Aegean coast in a chartered yacht. The yacht has en suite accommodation in eight separate cabins.

### **ANZAC ~ 90 TH ANNIVERSARY**

**~ 22 DAYS, APRIL, 2005.**

Led by Lt Col. Jack Leggett (retd)

After spending two days exploring the old city of Istanbul , we will visit the battlefields of Gallipoli and attend the dawn service of the 90 th Anniversary of the ANZAC landings. The tour follows with visits to many of the famous classical sites of Turkey including Ephesus and Troy . We then sail along the Aegean coast aboard our own yacht, stopping en route to walk the hills and visit sites, many of which are inaccessible by road. After leaving our yacht at Bodrum, we will travel overland to Pamukkale and on through the spectacular scenery of Cappadocia to Ankara .

Approx. \$ 7,350.00 ex Sydney

### **TASTE OF THE SULTANS: A CULINARY TOUR**

**~ 21 DAYS, AUGUST, 2005**

Led by Melanie Wood (a qualified chef)

Modern Turkish cuisine was conceived at the tables of the Ottoman Sultans, whose delicate tastes fashioned a unique fusion of Mediterranean , Middle Eastern and Central Asian culinary themes which in turn became the most sophisticated fare in the world.

Our tour explores the origin and practice of this excellent cuisine, sampling the delights of village cooking and experiencing the blend of flavours which places Turkish cookery at the forefront of world cuisine. We sail around the Turkish shores, cooking on board and watching cooking in villages around the coast with our guide and mentor, Suleyman, who is internationally famous for his cookery exhibitions.

Approx. \$7,250.00 ex Sydney

## FROM MOTHER GODDESS TO GALLIPOLI: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ODYSSEY

~ 23 DAYS, SEPTEMBER, 2005

Led by Dr Andrew Fairbairn

Turkey sits astride Europe and Asia and has for millennia been a meeting place at which cultures from north, south, east and west have passed through, blended and come into conflict. Beginning at the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations in Ankara , we will travel through the Turkish heartland of the Anatolian Plateau, home of the mother goddess at Çatalhöyük and the great Hittite empire, via the majestic Taurus Mountains to the Aegean Sea and some of the wonders of Classical civilization. Cruising the Aegean coast will allow us access to sites that are difficult to reach by road.

From the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus to legendary Troy , we will traverse the cities of the Aegean, visit the battlefields of Gallipoli and conclude with several days exploring the great city of Istanbul .

Approx. \$7,550.00 ex Sydney

We are now agents for a cruise company sailing out of Bodrum in southern Turkey . Please contact me directly for information regarding private charter (up to sixteen per boat) or for details of scheduled cruises (7-14 day) departing every Saturday during the northern summer.

## AN ANDEAN ADVENTURE

~ 24 DAYS, OCTOBER 2005

Travelling through Chile , Bolivia and Peru this tour will provide a basic understanding of the cultures of the Central Andean Region of South America. While it would not be possible to follow a distinct chronological route, the theme of the tour will basically follow the Inka Empire from its southern periphery in the Atacama Desert to its inner sanctum in Cuzco . *En route* we will also visit a range of sites that present evidence of many of the cultures that either pre-date or were contemporaneous with the Inka. The tour takes in Easter Island *en route* .

Approx. \$7,580.00 ex Sydney/Canberra

An option is available to walk the Inka Trail (add four days).

## ORIGINS & ANCESTORS: SOUTH AFRICA & NAMIBIA

~ 22 DAYS, OCTOBER 2005

In eastern and southern Africa fossil evidence has confirmed Africa as the epicentre of much of human physical and cultural evolution. South Africa was the site of the discovery of the first protohuman in 1924 and now has the largest collection of fossil hominids discovered anywhere on earth. Few people have ever had the opportunity of seeing the excavations or the material upon which the theory of human evolution is based. Through close connection with the museums and universities we are able to offer a unique hands-on experience of the sites, skulls and scholars who are at the forefront of evolutionary study.

We visit major hominid discovery sites as well as excavations of the newest sites such as Drie Meulen, as well as the massive site of Makapan. The tour will involve some of the main research experts in the field who will enable us to visit the sites and the collections at the Transvaal Museum where the original specimens are kept and where we shall explore the most up to date theories of human origins. None of these are open to the public.

Southern Africa has also led the world in research into the all important environmental background to the emergence of humans - the climate, flora and fauna which stimulated these events. Accordingly, we will supplement this unique hominid experience with a visit to game reserves in South Africa and Namibia , including four nights camping in the Namibian desert. We shall also visit rock engravings, prehistoric paintings, Stone Age and Iron Age sites.

Approx. \$9,950 ex Sydney (all meals included)

If you are a member of a club or interest group that may be interested in a lecture on archaeology, I would be happy to participate (provided I am given enough warning). I have given lectures to a variety of groups ranging from primary school to College students and including the University of the Third Age. These lectures are provided free of charge.

We welcome comment on existing trips and new ideas for tours and/or courses. We rely on feedback from participants to enable us to continue updating the services we provide. Such feedback is also an important tool for us to maintain a high level of service.

If you have any news that would be of interest to our readership, feel free to forward items, snippets of news or photographs to the address below for inclusion in our next newsletter.

Time Travel Australia also offers customised tours for schools, clubs or any groups ranging from 1 to 100 participants. We have a range of skilled group leaders available, all with professional qualifications and teaching experience. We can design a tour in its entirety or work with a group to design an itinerary to suit your requirements and budgets.

We also offer a service to assist with the planning of private tours for individuals to any of the countries we visit. We use overseas operators who are experienced arranging tours of all standards, from sheer luxury to high adventure. We can offer basic advice or move through to full design and complete all bookings, or anywhere in between.

#### CONTACT TIME TRAVEL AUSTRALIA:

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“Our Business is in Ruins...”