

Time Travel Australia

Our Business is in Ruins

Newsletter Autumn 2011

We are now back home after a fantastic eight months overseas. Even though we spent seven weeks living in a tent in the Atacama region of Chile, it was a wonderful experience for the whole family. The field work achieved far more than anticipated and I can now see a lifetime's work ahead of me. Thank you to all those who assisted on the dig and to the hardy few who spent time helping sort through some of the hundreds of bags of gravel that we retrieved. I hope I can do justice to the hard work that you all put in.

That being said, we didn't spend the entire time in Chile. I led a short tour to Spain and thanks to the generosity of the group, Genelle and Georgia were welcomed along and it became more of holiday for me than just work (although I think many of you don't believe that I have a real job anyway). Spain was at its best and we had a successful tour with some memorable meals.

From Spain we went on to lead a tour through Turkey – including a week on a gulet (yacht) sailing through the Aegean. Apart from one broken arm courtesy of the mud baths, the tour went well and we all had a wonderful time.

I spent a week working at the American Museum of Natural History in New York on the way back to Chile. The AMNH has a collection of artefacts that were collected in 1893 from the area where I am currently working. This was a great opportunity, not only to work in such a location but it was a great privilege to handle material collected during the 19th century. The collection there is amazing and there are endless possibilities to be had fossicking through the thousands of boxes and drawers in that building. If only

I am currently working at the ANU but will be leading a few more tours in the coming year. There isn't really enough time to come along on either the Peru or Mexico tours (if you hurry, you may just find a seat on a plane) but I have flagged a couple of tours for 2012 to give you ample time to prepare. The Camino de Santiago is a walking tour and I would recommend plenty of training beforehand.

I have also just been advised of breaking news from Arica, Chile. It has been raining!! I regularly tell people that it never rains and I have never seen it rain in the fifteen years that I have been visiting the area. I

have been informed that while there were only a few millimetres of rain, there has been quite a lot of damage. You may ask how that may happen with such a light shower, however, consider an area where there is no rainfall – there is no need to install guttering or drains; there is no stormwater in the roads; some restaurants have netting roofs; normally clad roofs have never been tested for leaks. A light shower can, and did, cause quite a lot of damage. I am now wondering what happened at Caleta Vitor and how much damage was done to my site.

We have also had the news that Arica suffered an earthquake (6.3 on the Richter scale) on 7 March. The only damage of any consequence seems to have occurred around Putre in the highlands.

Chris Carter



Tours – 2011 & 2012

Peru: More than Machu Picchu

22 days April 2011

Led By Penelope Heath & Juan Cardenas

Having just returned from twelve months in Peru, Penny would now like to invite you to visit the country that so inspired her. Of course the tour includes Machu Picchu, that most mystical of sites, however Peru has so much more to offer - its history, both pre-Columbian and Colonial; the natural environment from coastal deserts, across the magnificent Andean mountains and the high alti-plano to the virgin rain forests of the Amazon basin. Its archaeological sites range from those of pre-Incan cultures through to the

majesty of the Inca as well as the Colonial architecture. The diversity of the country has led to the development of different cultures with influences from Spain and Africa as well as the traditional people who still live simple lives in villages in the Andes.

Penny would like to invite you to share her experiences. With a maximum of 12 people we will visit many of the highlights of Peru including Cusco and Machu Picchu but also many other places of interest that are historically, geographically and archaeologically important.

Contact me directly for further information on 041 2001586 – probably a bit late to join the tour this year.



The Colourful Cultures of Mexico – from the Prehistoric to the Present.

20 days May/June 2011

Led by Chris Carter

This tour will explore the homelands of a range of past cultures including the Aztecs, Maya, Toltecs and Olmecs. From the jungles of the Yucatan to the Caribbean coast through to the snowcapped peaks surrounding the Valley of Mexico, we will visit sites including Teotihuacan, Monte Alban, Mitla, Palenque, Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Mayapan and Tulum. Apart from Mexico City, one of the most populous cities in the world, we will also visit the Colonial centres of Puebla, Oaxaca and San Cristobal de las Casas.

Experience the music and dance of these cultures and enjoy their culinary traditions; see the art of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo; and shop in the village markets where local crafts and costumes are still traded.

This tour is being offered by the Australian Museum. Please contact them directly on 02 93206381 for further information

The Southern Cone: Argentinian & Chilean Patagonia

20 days November 2011

Led by Chris Carter

We begin this tour in Buenos Aires and spend a few days exploring some of the interesting sites this city has to offer. By night, we will experience the culture of Argentina and have a chance to tango.

From BA we will head to Bariloche, the Lakes District of Chile and the island of Chiloe before embarking on a cruise through the fiords and channels of Patagonia to visit the Torres del Paine National Park – landscape at its spectacular best. We will cross back into Argentina to visit the Perito Moreno Glacier before heading back to Buenos Aires.

This tour is being offered by the University of Sydney Centre for Continuing Education. Please contact them directly on 02 90364766 for further information

An Andean Adventure

21 days, May 2012

Led by Chris Carter

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*.

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



Camino de Santiago:

Via la Plata – Sevilla to Santiago de Compostela

21 days September/October, 2012

Led by Chris Carter

Well, we are not walking the entire distance! Via Merida, Caceres and Salamanca we will follow the Via la Plata by bus, walking only selected sections



until just beyond Zamora. From that point we will walk the rest of the way to Santiago de Compostela.

As we have done before, we will not be staying in refugios. Accommodation will be in hotels, generally for 3 night stays, and we will have a bus that will pick us up each afternoon and return to the hotel. We will then be taken

back to where we left off to continue walking the following day. We will be walking 15 days out of the total 21 for a total of around 320km.

A detailed itinerary will not be available until later in the year but please register your interest ASAP if you are at all interested in coming along. Perhaps you can start training as well ...

If you are interested, please let us know as soon as you can as the group size will be limited to twelve and we have already had a number express interest in this tour – no obligation attached but you will have first refusal should numbers exceed our group size.



Gaicho-Tango Argentina

18 days October 2012
Led by Oscar Del Pozo

From the sophistication of Buenos Aires to the spectacular landscapes of Salta and Jujuy, this tour will provide a great introduction to the culture and history of Argentina. Taste the wines of Mendoza, take a boat to the foot of Iguazu Falls and explore the Jesuit history of Cordoba and Posadas. You will also experience tango first hand and have an option to extend the tour to Patagonia to walk on the Perito Moreno Glacier and visit Torres del Paine National Park just over the border in Chile.

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.

Chris Carter

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There is no office number at this time. We will be moving premises shortly.

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