

SJR TOUR NEWSLETTER

February 2025

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JAPAN 2025 / 2026

Takako includes unique elements in her **Japan** tours – ‘Autumn Colours’ and ‘Cherry Blossoms.’ Explore regional Japan with its rich nature, folk crafts, food and interesting history – plan to experience the stunning Japanese scenery on one of our rail tours. Japan’s **Autumn Colours 2025** our has just been released, visiting different places from prior years. Experience lovely ryokan accommodation set amidst beautiful nature; local food experiences, and famed Akiu Onsen for the quality of its water. In **March / April 2026 our Cherry Blossoms tour** gives you a taste of all four island. Learn of the Kumano Kodo trail, visit a fisherman’s village with locals, view blossoms in Iwakuni, pause in the Peace Museum in Hiroshima. The highlights of Kyoto and the dynamic Tokyo.



Scenic Rail Journeys of Great Britain 2025



Join us for a great rail discovery of Great Britain. Explore the splendid scenery of coast and mountain by scheduled and heritage trains. Beautiful rail experiences with good food and comfortable hotels. To Cornwall along the Dawlish sea coast; the North Yorkshire Moor railway to Whitby; the night sleeper to Fort William; the Welsh Highland Railway and the great little railways of Wales and more. **A brochure is now available.**








Hamburg to Vienna by rail – Sep/Oct 2025

Join us for twenty-four days discovering the highlights of eastern Germany and the western Czech Republic. Great rail journeys, culture, architecture and scenic landscapes. The tour is led by Berlin based, Eastern European expert Martin Kopetschke, with Takako Ishige & Owen Johnstone-Donnet. The tour begins in Hamburg and ends in Vienna. Explore Hamburg, the Baltic seaside, Berlin, Dresden, the Harz Mountains, Erfurt, Leipzig, Prague, Ceske Krumlov and more. Heritage steam train journeys, riverboat experiences, and the land of German fairy tales: steep-roofed houses with tiny windows and narrow, cobblestone streets.

Crowdy Head Eco Resort 10 to 14 February 2024






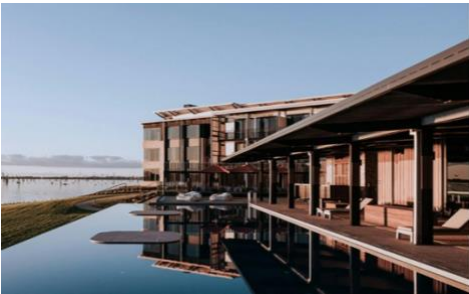




Various dates	Luncheon and sashiko lesson with Takako	Meet at the Tattersalls Club, 181 Elizabeth St, Sydney, overlooking Hyde Park. Enjoy a two-hour sashiko lesson – learning about its history and making your own creation. Takako will provide all the things you need – needle, threader, pattern and cloth – flown in from Japan.	
Mon 10 to Fri 14 February 2025	Crowdy Head, Hallidays Point, Old Bar, Harrington,	Enjoy a short five day / four night tour to the mid north coast. By train to Taree, then exploring the coastal region around Halliday's Point and Crowdy Head. Lovely coastal scenery and fresh local produce – with splendid beaches, headlands, and river scenery. Two places are available.	
Wed 19 March to Thu 10 April 2025	Cherry Blossoms - Japan by Rail	Our 2025 Japan Cherry Blossom tour is fully booked – details for our March/April 2026 tour will be available shortly. Explore all four islands of this wonderful country, travelling in first class Shinaknsen trains, with ryokans, onsen, meeting local people and more. Let us know if you are interested.	
Mon 21 to Fri 25 April 2025	Anzac 2025 Southern Aurora Rail Cruise	Our annual Anzac rail cruise on the Southern Aurora carriages travels through the Southern Highlands and Riverina of NSW, returning through the Central West to Orange and the Blue Mountains of NSW. The Anzac 2025 Rail Cruise is FULL – let us know if you would like to be on a waitlist.	
Wed 4 June to Wed 2 July 2025	Great rail journeys of Great Britain	Join us for a great rail discovery of Great Britain. Explore the splendid scenery of coast and mountain by scheduled and heritage trains. Beautiful rail experiences with good food and comfortable hotels. Pullman dining on the Great Central; cruise on Loch Nevis; to Cornwall along the Dawlish sea coast; the North Yorkshire Moor railway to Whitby; the night sleeper to Fort William; the Welsh Highland Railway and other great little railways of Wales and more. Fine dining on the rails, local produce. A brochure is available and places remain.	 

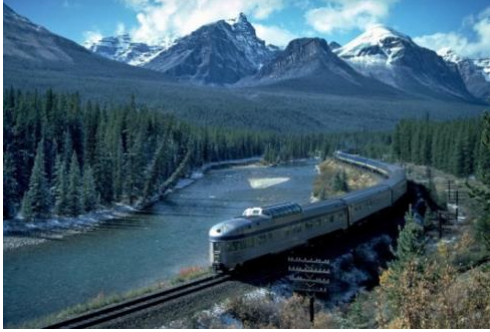



<p>Sat 26 July to Sun 3 August 2025</p>	<p>Central Australia Pilgrimage – Alice Springs, Kings Canyon, Uluru</p>	<p>In July 2025, SJR has been asked to organise a pilgrimage to Central Australia for the Living Well Spirituality Centre, based in Melbourne. We journey from Alice Springs to Standley Chasm, Ormiston Gorge, Simpsons Gap, Hermmansburg, Kings Canyon, Uluru and Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) - through the landscapes of central Australia. Whilst the pilgrimage will encompass opportunities to participate in meditation, prayer and personal reflection, we also explore the landscapes and culture of the region. While we will be travelling as a group, each person is invited to consider this as their own personal encounter, and to be involved as much or as little as you wish. A brochure is available and places are available.</p>	
<p>Wed 20 August to Wed 3 September 2025</p>	<p>West Australian Coast</p>	<p>Cruise from Broome to Fremantle (Perth) aboard Scenic Eclipse II. Luxury accommodation, verandah staterooms, multiple dining options; included expeditions; naturalists and lecturers aboard. Return from Perth on the the new five day / four night Indian-Pacific rail journey. Limited places available.</p>	
<p>Thu 18 September to Monday 13 October 2025</p>	<p>Hamburg to Vienna – scenic and heritage rail and river experiences through the east of Germany and the west of the Czech Republic</p>	<p>Journey from Hamburg to Vienna exploring the heritage and scenic rail journeys of Eastern Germany and through the western area of the Czech republic to Vienna. Highlights include the steam train <i>Mollie</i> along the main street of Bad Doberon; the Grand Hotel Heiligendamm on the Baltic Sea; the <i>Rasender Roland</i> steam train in Ostseebad Binz; the unified and vibrant Berlin; the extensive Harz Mountain steam railways; mediaeval Quedlingburg; charming well-preserved Erfurt; stunning Dresden; cruising the Elbe River by steamer; ‘park’ railways; the delights of Prague; the UNESCO World Heritage Cesky Krumlov; and the beauty of Vienna. A brochure is available and places remain.</p>	

<p>Thu 30 October to Mon 24 November 2025</p>	<p>Autumn Colours, Art and Gourmet Japan by Rail</p>	<p>The fine autumn colours of Japan are a splendid wave of colour as they move through Japan in the November period. We explore less well known locations with our expert Japanese tour leader Takako Ishige, who designed and researched the tour - southern Hokkaido, now linked with the Shinkansen, northern Tohoku with its fine lakes and mountains, south through the main island of Honshu to Shikoku. Explore the Art Islands of the Inland Sea, part of the Nakasendo way, the stunning Miho Museum and more. A brochure is available.</p>	
<p>Sat 13 December 2025</p>	<p>Christmas Luncheon</p>	<p>Our annual Christmas Luncheon – keep the day free and we will send details when finalised. Brochures will be available in mid 2025.</p>	

2026

<p>January / February 2026</p>	<p>Sri Lanka by private train</p>	<p>A place where the original soul of Buddhism still flourishes and where nature’s beauty remains abundant and unspoilt. Few places in the world offer such a remarkable combination of stunning landscapes, pristine beaches, captivating cultural heritage and unique experiences within such a compact location. Boasting eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites, 1,330 km of coastline, 15 national parks, an abundance of wildlife, 250 acres of botanical gardens, 350 waterfalls, and a culture that extends back to over 2,500 years. The island has a wonderful broad gauge colonial-relic railway system very much as the British left it, none of it electrified. The railway reaches the highest summit anywhere in the world of broad gauge railway at an impressive 6228ft. We travel mostly with our private “Viceroy” train and explore the extremities of the island. The tour features cultural highlights and natural wonders, amazing bird life and nature reserves boasting elephants and other wildlife. Excellent hotels, dedicated coach to transfer luggage and us to / from hotels, trains and local sights.</p>	
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<p>Wed 18 March to Thu 9 April 2026</p>	<p>Cherry Blossoms - Japan by Rail</p>	<p>Join us for Japan by Rail tour to view cherry blossoms on the Japanese islands. Travel first class on the high speed 'Shinkansen' trains, enjoy special scenic rail journeys through the countryside. Splendid scenery, food and culture led by Japanese expert Takako Ishige, who designed, researched and leads the tour. A highlight is meeting local people, sharing a wonderful seafood barbecue with local fishermen. Learn of arts and crafts, textiles and fabrics, as well as seeing splendid gardens. A new itinerary featuring less well known places.</p> 
<p>Mon 20 to Sun 26 April 2026</p>	<p>Anzac Rail Cruise</p>	<p>Join our annual Anzac rail cruise as we travel south through the NSW countryside to Albury, and then into Victoria to explore on our private train – fantastic scenery, great food, wine and the company of SJR friends. A brochure will be available in mid 2025.</p>  
<p>June 2026</p>	<p>Spain and Portugal</p>	<p>Join us to explore the highlights of Portugal and Spain. Travel by rail and ship to visit highlights such as Bilbao, Porto, the Douro Valley, Lisbon, Barcelona, Santiago de Compostella and more.</p>  
<p>July 2026</p>	<p>Great Britain's Northern Islands – Shetland, Orkney, Skye and the Outer Hebrides</p>	<p>Join us to explore the islands off the north of Great Britain. Lindisfarne (Holy Island), Shetland, Orkney, Skye, Harris, Lewis, Uist, Barra and Mull. Dramatic landscapes, wonderful nature, birdlife, rich cultural heritage, archaeological sites dating back thousands of years. Wonderful ferry crossings, stunning rail journeys, great seafood and more.</p>  

<p>August 2026</p>	<p>Canada's East Coast - Quebec, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland – optional <i>Canadian</i> across Canada</p>	<p>Explore Toronto, Montreal, Quebec, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. Fly to Toronto to begin the tour, or travel from Vancouver across Canada by rail to Toronto. Experience the beauty of Canada from rail, sea and coach and explore the vibrant cities of the east, as well as the more remote communities in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Optional five day / four night rail journey across Canada before <i>The Canadian's</i> fabulous streamliner carriages are retired. Don't miss the chance to experience dome cars, skyline cars and the bullet lounge before these wonderful cars are replaced. Let us know if you are interested in this tour.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p>September 2026</p>	<p>Vienna, Ljubljana, Opitija, Trieste, Venice and to Sicily</p>	<p>Travel by rail as we explore from Vienna through Slovakia, the Istria region and coast of Croatia, Bled, Trieste, Venice and to Sicily. Wonderful scenery, excellent local produce and Croatian and Italian coastal scenery.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>

We trust one of our tours may appeal and look forward to your company with us as we continue to explore Australia and the world by train.

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