

# SJR TOUR NEWSLETTER

May 2026

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## JAPAN 2026 / 2027

Takako includes unique elements in her **Japan** tours – two and three week options available – ‘Autumn Colours’ and ‘Cherry Blossoms.’ Explore regional Japan with its rich nature, folk crafts, food and history – experience the stunning Japanese scenery on one of our rail tours. Japan’s **Autumn Colours 2026** tour includes new destinations and experiences. Lovely ryokan accommodation set amidst beautiful nature; local food experiences, and famed onsen for the quality of their water. Our **March / April 2027 Cherry Blossoms tour** gives you a taste of all four island. Learn of the Kumano Kodo trail, visit locals at a fisherman’s village, blossoms in Iwakuni, pause at the Peace Museum, Hiroshima, view highlights of Kyoto and more. **Brochures are available for Autumn 2026 / Blossoms 2027.**



## New Zealand’s Forgotten World Railway

30 Jan to 8 Feb 2026





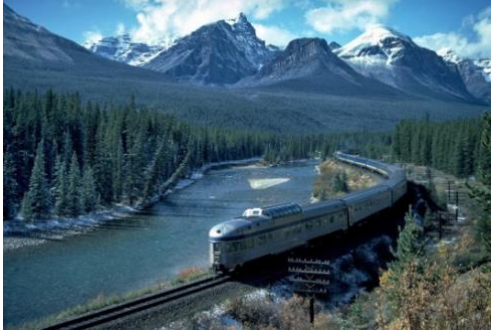



Enjoy a short break in New Zealand to experience the ‘Forgotten World’ – a 142km railway adventure - drive your own motorised rail cart through 24 tunnels and across 98 bridges – along the abandoned Stratford – Okahukura railway line. Travel through the rugged King Country landscape – a unique 10 day rail experience on the north island of New Zealand.





## Vietnam by luxury train – March 2027

Join us to discover Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, and experience an eight-day / seven-night train journey that turns Vietnam into a slow-unfolding panorama, trading speed for immersion and rhythm. Voyage through spectacular destinations, from Ho Chi Minh City’s vibrant pulse to Hanoi’s timeless charm, past UNESCO World Heritage sites and pristine coastal wonders in unparalleled comfort. Luxury double and twin sleeping compartments, fine dining and compelling off train excursions. This is Asia luxury travel reimagined: where every moment blends cultural immersion with refined elegance. **A brochure is available. Places remain.**




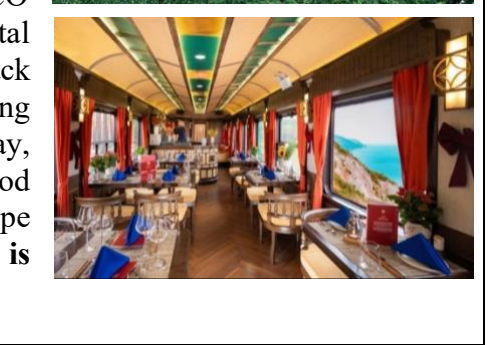
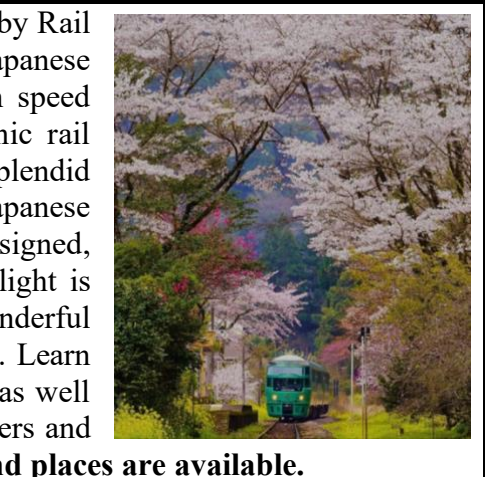






<p><b>4 July to 1 August 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Great Britain's Northern Islands – Shetland, Orkney, Skye and the Outer Hebrides</b></p>	<p>Join us to explore the islands off the north of Great Britain. Lindisfarne (Holy Island), Shetland, Orkney, Skye, Harris, Lewis, Uist, Barra and Mull. Dramatic landscapes, wonderful nature, birdlife, rich cultural heritage, archaeological sites dating back thousands of years. <b>A brochure is available and 2 places remain.</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p><b>5 to 31 August 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Canada's East Coast - Quebec, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland – optional Canadian across Canada</b></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. <b>A brochure is available and 2 places remain.</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p><b>15 September to Sunday 4 October 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Vienna, Ljubljana, Opitija, Croatia's Istria region, Trieste and Venice</b></p>	<p>Travel by rail as we explore from Vienna through Slovenia, the Istria region and coast of Croatia, Bled, Trieste and Venice. Wonderful scenery, excellent local produce and Croatian and Italian coastal scenery. Visit the cities of Zareb and Ljubljana, culinary highlights at Lake Bled, the Julian Alps on the edge of Lake Bohinja, and the historic cities of Trieste and Novo Gorica. On arrival in Venice choose to stay for as long or as little as you wish, exploring this stunning city. <b>A brochure is available, and places remain.</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>

<p><b>15 September to Tuesday 13 October 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Vienna, Ljubljana, Opitija, Croatia's Istria region, Trieste and luxury 7 night cruise on the Venetian Lagoon and exploration of Venice</b></p>	<p>Travel by rail as we explore from Vienna through Slovenia, the Istria region and coast of Croatia, Bled, Trieste and Venice. Wonderful scenery, excellent local produce and Croatian and Italian coastal scenery. Visit the cities of Zareb and Ljubljana, culinary highlights at Lake Bled, the Julian Alps on the edge of Lake Bohinja, and the historic city of Novo Gorica. On arrival in Venice join the luxurious S.S. La Venezia for a seven-night cruise on the Venetian Lagoon, with exploration of Venice, Murano, Burano, Chioggia and more. A moving hotel for you to explore this famed city. <b>A brochure is available and places remain.</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p><b>Mon 19 October to Tue 10 November 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Autumn Colours, Art and Gourmet Japan by Rail – 3 week tour</b></p>	<p>The fine autumn colours of Japan are a splendid wave of colour as they move through Japan in the late October / early November period. Explore less well known locations with our expert Japanese tour leader Takako Ishige, who designed and researched the tour - Hokkaido, now linked with the Shinkansen, northern Tohoku with its fine lakes and mountain and south through the main island of Honshu. Enjoy the Jozankei Gorge, experience a maiko (trainee geisha) performance; walk the originally Nakasendo trail between historic post towns; taste a range of great Japanese cuisine – washed down with a Japanese sake or beer. <b>A brochure is available and places remain.</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p><b>Mon 19 October to Wed 4 November 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Autumn Colours, Art and Gourmet Japan by Rail – 2 week tour</b></p>	<p>The fine autumn colours of Japan are a splendid wave of colour as they move through Japan in the late October / early November period. Explore less well known locations with our expert Japanese tour leader Takako Ishige, who designed and researched the tour - Hokkaido, now linked with the Shinkansen, northern Tohoku with its fine lakes and mountain and south through the main island of Honshu. Perfect for those with less time to explore the beautiful autumn colours, and get a taste of regional Japan. <b>A brochure is available and places remain.</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">  </div>

Fri 11 December 2026	Christmas Luncheon	Our annual Christmas Luncheon – keep the day free and we will send details when finalised. <b>Brochures will be available</b> in mid 2026.
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**2027**

Sat 30 January to Monday 8 February 2027	Forgotten World Railway Adventure – a unique rail journey through beautiful NZ countryside	<p>If you haven't joined before, don't miss this opportunity for a short break to New Zealand to experience the 'Forgotten World' – a 142 km railway adventure where we drive our own motorised rail carts through 24 tunnels and across 98 bridges – in each direction – along the abandoned Stratford – Okahukura railway line. Travel through the rugged King Country landscape – a unique 10 day rail experience on the north island of New Zealand, with two nights in Auckland before the tour to explore Waiheke Island. <b>A brochure is available.</b></p>	
Sat 20 February to Fri 5 March 2027	Vietnam to Cambodia – cruise the Mekong River	<p>Fly to Ho Chi Minh city to explore, then cruise the Mekong from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to Siem Reap, Cambodia, discovering life along this critical waterway. Luxury cruise ship facilities, included sightseeing tours each day on land, and fine dining options with included refreshments. <b>A brochure is available and 2 deluxe suites remain.</b></p>	
Mon 8 to Sat 20 March 2027	Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi by luxury train	<p>Experience an <b>eight-day / seven-night</b> journey that turns Vietnam into a slow-unfolding panorama, trading speed for immersion and rhythm. Voyage through Vietnam's most spectacular destinations, from Ho Chi Minh City's vibrant pulse to Hanoi's timeless charm, past UNESCO World Heritage sites and pristine coastal wonders in unparalleled comfort. Unpack once as the train becomes your moving hotel – with off train excursions each day, meeting local people, tasting local food and immersing yourself in the landscape through which we pass. <b>A brochure is available and 3 suites remain.</b></p>	 
Tue 23 March to Thu 8 or 15 April 2027	Cherry Blossoms - Japan by Rail	<p>Join us for a <b>two or three week</b> 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, castles, rivers and mountains. <b>A brochure is available and places are available.</b></p>	

<p><b>Wed 23 to Mon 28 April 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Anzac Rail Cruise</b></p>	<p>Join us for our annual rail cruise through NSW, and commemorate Anzac Day in a regional community. <b>Details and a brochure available in coming months.</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday 23 May to Friday 11 June 2027</b></p>	<p><b>Southern France by Rail</b></p>	<p>Experience the highlights of Southern France by rail. From Paris explore the French cuisine, culture and landscapes as we visit Bordeaux, Toulouse, Montpellier, Nimes, Avignon, Marseilles, Aix-en-Provence, Toulon, Nice and Monaco. Marvel at the Ligne des Cévennes, running from Clermont-Ferrand to Nîmes - a spectacular 304 km route known for its dramatic engineering, with over 1,000 bridges and 106 tunnels. Ride Le Train d'Artouste on a 10km journey to the top of the Pyrenees, with panoramic views to the Ossau Valley. Wonder at the construction of the Nice to Tende railway, with 81 tunnels (three helical) over 44km, and a drop of more than 1km in altitude, following the Roya Valley. Delight with Le Train Rouge from Axat to Rivesaltes, and then to Perpignan. <b>Let us know if you are interested to receive a brochure when finalised.</b></p>   
<p><b>Sun 13 June to Fri 5 July 2027</b></p>	<p><b>Switzerland and Austria by Rail</b></p>	<p>Experience the beauty of the <b>Swiss and Austrian alps by rail</b> during the summer months – over three weeks journey on some of the most scenic and spectacular rail lines of Europe; cruise on century old paddle steamers; enjoy mountain rack railways and cable cars; dine on the move; and swim in beautiful lakes. Delight in the wonderful mountain railways to the ‘top of the world’ and stay in lovely hotels - as we travel by rail through the remarkably beautiful mountains, valleys and lake districts of Switzerland and Austria. Explore historic, cultural and cosmopolitan activities, as well as special rail experiences. Enjoy the stunning mountain, lake and river landscapes of Switzerland and Austria by rail – fantastic scenery, great hotels and good company. <b>Let us know if you are interested to receive a brochure when finalised.</b></p> 

<p><b>Fri 15 October to Saturday 30 October or Saturday 6 November 2027</b></p>	<p><b>Autumn Colours, Art and Gourmet Japan by Rail – 2 or 3 week tour</b></p>	<p>The fine autumn colours of Japan are a splendid wave of colour as they move through Japan in the late October / early November period. Explore less well known locations with our expert Japanese tour leader Takako Ishige, who designed and researched the tour - Hokkaido, now linked with the Shinkansen, northern Tohoku with its fine lakes and mountain and south through the main island of Honshu. Enjoy the Jozankei Gorge, experience a maiko (trainee geisha) performance; walk the originally Nakasendo trail between historic post towns; taste a range of great Japanese cuisine – washed down with a Japanese sake or beer. <b>Brochures are available and places remain.</b></p>	
<p><b>Sunday 7 to Monday 22 November 2027</b></p>	<p><b>Tokyo to Singapore</b></p>	<p>Join us at the end of our land tour in Japan to cruise from Tokyo to Singapore. Visit Kagoshima, Nagasaki, Keelung (Taiwan), two full days and overnight in Hong Kong, two nights in Ho Chi Minh City, and to Singapore. Enjoy the excellent Silversea service aboard the luxury <i>Silver Moon</i>, and cruise from Japan to Singapore. <b>Let us know if you are interested to join to receive details of the current fares.</b></p>	
<p><b>Fri 10 December 2027</b></p>	<p><b>Christmas Luncheon</b></p>	<p>Our annual Christmas Luncheon – keep the day free and we will send details when finalised. <b>Brochures will be available</b> in mid 2027.</p>	

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.

**Takako Ishige and Owen Johnstone-Donnet**

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