

SJR TOUR NEWSLETTER

July 2026

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JAPAN 2026/2027/2028

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 and 2027** tours include 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 2028 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 Colours 2026.**



New Zealand’s Forgotten World Railway

30 Jan to 8 Feb 2026




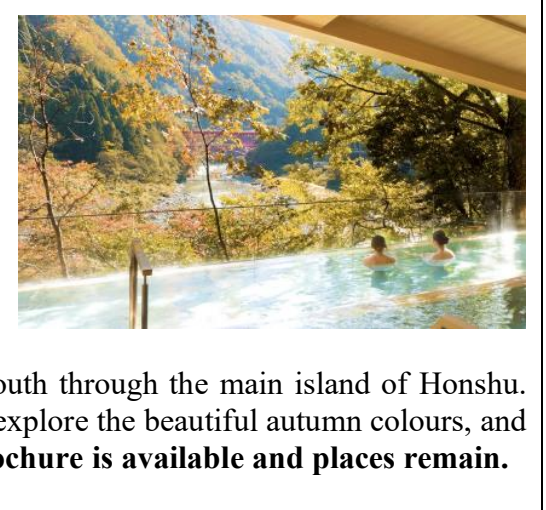
Enjoy a short break in New Zealand to experience the ‘Forgotten World’ – a 142km railway adventure - drive your own motorised rail cart through 24 tunnels and across 98 bridges – along the abandoned Stratford – Okahukura railway line. Travel through the rugged King Country landscape – a unique 10 day 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>Mon 19 October to Tue 10 November 2026</p>	<p>Autumn Colours, Art and Gourmet Japan by Rail – 3 week tour</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. A brochure is available and places remain.</p>	
<p>Mon 19 October to Wed 4 November 2026</p>	<p>Autumn Colours, Art and Gourmet Japan by Rail – 2 week tour</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. A brochure is available and places remain.</p>	
<p>Fri 11 December 2026</p>	<p>Christmas Luncheon</p>	<p>Our annual Christmas Luncheon – keep the day free and we will send details when finalised. A brochure will be available in August 2026.</p>	

<p>Sat 30 January to Monday 8 February 2027</p>	<p>Forgotten World Railway Adventure – a unique rail journey through beautiful NZ countryside</p>	<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. A brochure is available.</p>	
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<p>Sat 20 February to Fri 5 March 2027</p>	<p>Vietnam to Cambodia – cruise the Mekong River</p>	<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. A brochure is available – currently there is a waitlist. Please let us know if you are interested.</p> 
<p>Mon 8 to Sat 20 March 2027</p>	<p>Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi by luxury train</p>	<p>Experience an eight-day / seven-night 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. A brochure is available and 2 suites remain.</p>  
<p>Next tour in 2028</p>	<p>Cherry Blossoms - Japan by Rail</p>	<p>Our Japan by Rail tour to view cherry blossoms on the Japanese islands is being refreshed and we won’t be operating it in 2027. A brochure for our 2028 Cherry Blossoms - Japan by Rail will be available in early 2027.</p> 
<p>Wed 23 to Mon 28 April 2027</p>	<p>Anzac Rail Cruise – Orange, Temora, Griffith, Junee</p>	<p>Join us for our annual rail cruise through NSW, and commemorate Anzac Day in Griffith, in the beautiful NSW Riverina region. Travel on our private chartered two car rail motor, with overnight stops in Orange, Griffith (to nights) and Junee (two nights.) Daylight rail travel across the Blue Mountains to Orange, then Parkes through Forbes to Temora and Griffith. Visit Merriwagga by rail, then Junee and Wagga Wagga. Details and a brochure available very shortly.</p> 

**Sunday 23 May
to Friday 11
June 2027**

**Southern
France by
Rail**

Experience the highlights of Southern France by rail. From Paris explore the French cuisine, culture and landscapes as we visit Bordeaux, Toulouse, Montpellier, Nîmes, 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. **Let us know if you are interested to receive a brochure.**






**Sun 13 to Sun
20 June 2027**

**Burgundy and
Provence by
river boat –
Arles to Lyon
on Uniworld's
S.S. Catherine**

Cruise the Rhône and Saône rivers, enjoying the region's incomparable wine and cuisine and discovering its many treasures. Stroll the very streets of Arles made famous by Van Gogh. Visit Avignon's majestic Palace of the Popes. Experience "Village Day" in enchanting Viviers. Hike the vineyards of the Rhône or pedal through Lyon, a city designed with bike riders in mind. Explore unforgettable "Burgundy & Provence" where tradition is as deeply rooted as the historic grapevines on the hills. **Let us know if you are interested to receive details and a brochure.**



<p>Sun 27 June to Fri 19 July 2027</p>	<p>Switzerland and Austria by Rail</p>	<p>Experience the beauty of the Swiss and Austrian alps by rail 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. Let us know if you are interested to receive a brochure.</p> 
<p>Fri 15 October to Saturday 30 October or Saturday 6 November 2027</p>	<p>Autumn Colours, Art and Gourmet Japan by Rail – 2 or 3 week tour</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. Brochures are available and places remain.</p> 
<p>Sunday 7 to Monday 22 November 2027</p>	<p>Tokyo to Singapore on Silversea’s Silver Moon</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. Let us know if you are interested to receive details of the current fares.</p> 

Fri 10 December 2027	Christmas Luncheon	Our annual Christmas Luncheon – keep the day free and we will send details when finalised. Brochures will be available in mid 2027.
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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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