

# SJR TOUR NEWSLETTER

September 2025

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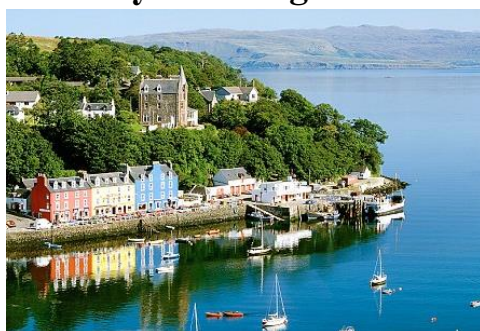


## JAPAN 2025 / 2026

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** tour includes different destinations and experiences 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 locals at a fisherman’s village, view blossoms in Iwakuni, pause in the Peace Museum, Hiroshima. The highlights of Kyoto and the dynamic Tokyo. **2 places remain for Autumn 2025.**



## Great Britain’s Northern Islands 4 July to 1 August 2026



Join us on a twenty-seven day tour of Great Britain’s northern islands. From Lindisfarne (Holy Island) to Orkney and Shetland, through the Scottish Highlands and Inverness to Skye, and across to the Inner and Outer Hebrides. Freshly caught seafood, beautiful scenery, birdlife, archaeology, history, culture and crafts - **a brochure is available. Places remain.**







## Sri Lanka by private train – Jan/Feb 2026

Boasting eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites, 1,330 kilometres of coastline, 15 national parks showcasing an abundance of wildlife, nearly 500,000 acres of lush tea estates, 250 acres of botanical gardens, 350 waterfalls, 25,000 water bodies, and a culture that extends back to over 2,500 years. Once known as Serendib, Taprobane, the Pearl of the Indian Ocean, and Ceylon, Sri Lanka was a valued British colony. Our twenty-one day tour is, we believe, the most comprehensive and comfortable way to explore Sri Lanka on our private train - you will leave amazed at the diversity and beauty of the country. **A brochure is available. Places remain.**
















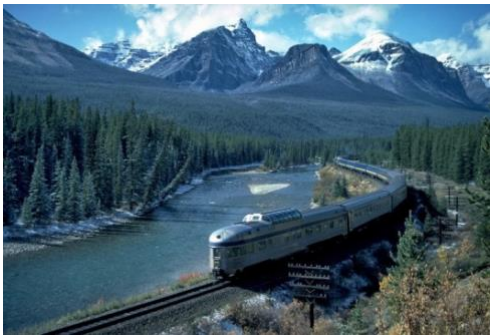

<b>Thu 30 October to Mon 24 November 2025</b>	<b>Autumn Colours, Art and Gourmet Japan by Rail</b>	<p>Explore Japan and experience the wonderful diversity of landscapes, foods, culture and more. The fine autumn colours of Japan are a splendid wave of colour as they move through Japan in the November 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. <b>A brochure is available. Two (2) places remain.</b></p>	 
<b>Sat 13 December 2025</b>	<b>Christmas Luncheon</b>	<p>Our annual Christmas Luncheon – keep the day free and we will send details when finalised. <b>Brochures will be available</b> shortly.</p>	



<b>19 January to 10 February 2026</b>	<b>Sri Lanka by private train</b>	<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 <b>landscapes, pristine beaches, captivating cultural heritage</b> and unique experiences within such a compact location. Boasting eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites, 1,330 km of coastline, 15 national parks, 250 acres of botanical gardens, 350 waterfalls, and a culture that extends back to over 2,500 years. The island has <b>a wonderful broad gauge colonial-relic railway system very much as the British left it</b>, none of it electrified. We <b>travel mostly with our private "Viceroy" train</b>. The tour features cultural highlights and natural wonders, amazing bird life Excellent hotels, dedicated coach to transfer luggage and us to / from hotels, trains and local sights.</p>	 
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<p><b>Tue 24 March to Thu 16 April 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Cherry Blossoms - Japan by Rail</b></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, castles, rivers and mountains. <b>A brochure is available and places are available.</b></p> 
<p><b>Mon 20 to Mon 27 April 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Anzac Rail Cruise to Bairnsdale and Swan Hill, Victoria</b></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 to Bairnsdale, Bendigo and Swan Hill. Fantastic scenery, great food, wine and the company of SJR friends. <b>A brochure is available.</b></p>  
<p><b>Sun 10 May to Sat 6 June 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Spain and Portugal by rail</b></p>	<p>Join us to explore the highlights of Spain and Portugal. Travel by rail and coach to visit highlights such as Barcelona, Madrid, Granada, Tarifa, Córdoba, Cádiz, Seville, the Algarve, and Lisbon. <b>A brochure is available.</b></p>  
<p><b>Sun 1 to Tue 16 June 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Lisbon to Portugal by rail and Douro River Cruise</b></p>	<p>Join us to explore the highlights of Lisbon – the Alfama District, sweeping views from the Miradouros of Santa Luzia and Portas do Sol, and the wonderful trams that criss cross the city of hills. Then by rail to Porto, before joining an eight day / seven night river cruise along the Douro. Conclude with sightseeing in Porto. <b>A brochure is available</b></p>  



<p><b>Sat 13 to Tue 30 June 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Porto to Santiago de Compostela and northern Spain aboard the luxury Transcantábrico Gran Lujo Train to Bilbao and San Sebastián</b></p>	<p>Join us to explore the highlights of Porto, before heading to Vigo and Santiago de Compostela to explore the destination of the famed Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. Today we begin our seven night / eight day journey aboard the ‘Transcantábrico Gran Lujo’ train - a jewel of a train converted into a luxurious hotel, with historic original wagons from the 1920s and first-class suites that combine the elegance of yesteryear and the comfort of the 21st century. A dream trip through northern Spain on a journey through beautiful landscapes and cities of Galicia, Asturias, Cantabria and the Basque Country. With all the comforts, personalized attention, haute cuisine and leisure activities. <b>A brochure is available.</b></p> <div data-bbox="528 443 1005 788">  </div> <div data-bbox="1037 443 1513 788">  </div>
<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 places remain.</b></p> <div data-bbox="539 996 1037 1317">  </div> <div data-bbox="1054 996 1495 1317">  </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</i>’s 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 will be available very shortly and places remain.</b></p> <div data-bbox="539 1720 1031 2054">  </div> <div data-bbox="1043 1720 1505 2054">  </div>

September 2026	Vienna, Ljubljana, Opitija, Istria region, Trieste and Venice	<p>Travel by rail was we explore from Vienna through Slovakia, the Istria region and coast of Croatia, Bled, Trieste and Venice. Wonderful scenery, excellent local produce and Croatian and Italian coastal scenery.</p> 
Thu 29 October to Mon 23 November 2026	Autumn Colours, Art and Gourmet Japan by Rail	<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. <b>A brochure will be available in late 2025.</b></p> 
Sat 12 December 2026	Christmas Luncheon	<p>Our annual Christmas Luncheon – keep the day free and we will send details when finalised. <b>Brochures will be available</b> in mid 2026.</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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