

# Happy Holidays from the team at **YOU Travel!**

**Dear Travellers & Valued Clients**

Well another year passes us by and what a fabulous year we have had.

**Winning the NZ Best Retail Travel Agency of the Year – Single Location was the highlight of our careers!**



It is a credit to our team, the knowledge and experience we have here in the office, which we love passing on to you. We are feeling extremely proud and thank all of our wonderful clients for your support.

Throughout the year we have all continued to upskill ourselves. Early in the year we had a team-building weekend in Samoa, a destination none of us had been to.



It was brief, but we all came away from the weekend wanting to go back there. The hospitality of the locals would have to be a highlight, along with swimming in the To Sua Ocean Trench.



Kiri and Mandy attended the annual Cruise 360 conference in Sydney. There is an unbelievable amount of new cruise ships on order, and the growth in cruising at our end of the World is huge! We continue to visit as many ships as possible when they dock in Auckland, there are opportunities at times to be able to take Clients on board.

**Please let us know if there is a particular cruise line you are interested in, and would like to be notified if there is an opportunity for this.**



# What have the team been up to in 2018!

## KIRI – BUENOS AIRES, CROATIA, ISTANBUL, ROME

The highlight of my travels this year was in September. We headed to Europe to meet up with our daughter and partner who were travelling on their OE. We enjoyed a wonderful few days' stopover in Buenos Aires, where we had fabulous food (superb Steak & Malbec), cycle tour, Tango and shopping.



We then travelled to Croatia (where I hadn't been since 1991 when the war started & the border closed). We started with 4 Nights in Old Town Dubrovnik (day trip to Montenegro), before Island hopping to Hvar & Korcula, then Split, Zadar, Plitvice & Zagreb. Highlights would have to be swimming in that amazing Adriatic and early morning walking through the Avatar like world of Plitvice Lakes (turquoise colour of water has to be seen to be believed). Thanks to the Game of Thrones filming locations in Croatia it has certainly become on the trend destination but with some careful planning it was possible to avoid the crowds. Amazing destination that I would highly recommend.



Next stop for us was Istanbul. We were lucky enough to have a private tour to Gallipoli hosted by Ahmet (who had guided Peter Jackson for 3 months while he mapped & planned for the Gallipoli Te Papa exhibition) he was able to share every bit of information about the NZ involvement and in particular our Grandfather which was just incredible.



We then had 4 days in Rome where we based ourselves in the Bohemian area of Trastevere. We did a great cycle tour (learnt so much, although we had been many times before), shopped & wine and dined and re visited some of those amazing ancient sights. We stopped in Hua Hin on the way home which was lovely to have some rest, massage & great Thai food.

## MANDY – INDIA, HAWAII, ADELAIDE, SAN FRANCISCO, CHICAGO

I had the pleasure of taking our 1st. Escorted trip away in April to India – Exotic Marigold India.

A fantastic group, and fantastic itinerary! A quick stopover in Singapore for a couple of nights to acclimatise and sightsee was a great way to start, before arriving in Delhi. The 2-week itinerary took us to Delhi, Agra (you can't miss seeing the beautiful Taj Mahal!), then onto colourful Rajasthan. The people, the colour – it was awesome. The itinerary is called Exotic Marigold India, and yes, we did stay at the Exotic Marigold Hotel!! We also stayed at a hotel that they used as the Vice Roy Club in the Exotic Marigold movie. Both hotels had a lot of character. Travel was mainly by air-conditioned coach, but there were a few tuk-tuk rides, rickshaw, jeeps and an ox-cart ride. All very memorable.



The trip was such a success, Kiri is taking a group in Nov 2019, doing the same Exotic Marigold India itinerary. If you are interested let us know. At this stage there are still spaces available, but not many.

In July I went to Hawaii with my daughter, and friends. I hadn't been for 25 years, and it has changed a lot. Very busy in Waikiki, but lots of fun. We spent 5 nights in Waikiki, which the girls loved for the shopping. We then went out to Maui for 3 nights, which I must say was my favourite place. A lot more laid back, it felt like you had gone back in time in places like Paia and Lahaina.



In November Wayne and I went to Adelaide and the Barossa Valley for a long weekend. We had never been, and we both enjoy our food and wine. It was the perfect destination for that! Good food and wine are plentiful. The highlight would have to be the degustation lunch at Hentley Farm in the Barossa!

I'm off to San Francisco and Chicago at the end of November, for a brief visit and fly on the inaugural Chicago to Auckland flight on Air New Zealand. Chicago will be a new destination for me, so I'm looking forward to that.



#### SUE – TAHITI, LONDON, NEW YORK, CANADA

Having experienced Tahiti a year earlier exploring numerous luxury resorts in Papeete, Moorea and Bora Bora, this April was Tahiti once again but under sail on Windstar's luxury Wind Spirit. With only 135 passengers on board (max 148), it was a very relaxed, stylish and intimate way to explore the Tuamotu and Society Islands. Swimming and snorkelling in the warm tropical waters was heaven. Diving in the various lagoons was hugely popular among the experienced divers. Sunsets off the large open deck were memorable as was the ship's on-board Signature barbecue. The main dining room was a very elegant affair complimented by wonderful food and service. Dress code at night was smart casual (no T-shirts, shorts or thongs in the main dining room). Excursions were many and varied, if somewhat expensive, but offered the experience of local culture with special guest performers, visits to various pearl farms, and snorkelling and diving in the main.

In September I did a Silver Sea Cruise from London to New York via north-eastern Canada. The ship lived up to its name for sophisticated, European style and service.

My favourite excursion was visiting Newport, Rhode Island after many many years. It still held the same magic and we visited the two Vanderbilt mansions, among the many that dot the area. Arriving in New York by ship was a new experience. The day we arrived was the first day of the UN General Assembly which meets once a year in late September for 4 days. With so many heads of state in town, Manhattan was in total lockdown (no flights overhead), total gridlock, police everywhere, and car convoys accompanied by an array of sirens. Bedlam. Fortunately, we were staying on the west side in Tribeca. Like all large cities, shops in the east side were replicated here too. There was a wealth of restaurants to choose from within walking distance of where we were staying.

I used the NY underground for the first time and visited the very impressive Twin Towers Memorial and the Memorial Museum. The Met is always a must see...but so busy and I find the Frick the most enjoyable museum to visit. While I loved NY and explored new areas of this great city including Greenwich Village and SoHo (where I would stay next time).

#### KATIE – FIJI, AUSTRALIA

2018 has been a wonderful year for me, working with the You Travel team for over a year now! I have had the pleasure of two lovely family



holiday's this year – Fiji and Australia. We stayed at Plantation Island on Malolo Lailai Island and also visited Musket Cove Resort. The outer Fiji Islands are beautiful for pristine beaches, snorkeling and close enough to world class surf breaks!! In November we visited the Gold Coast for some theme park action and then travelled to Byron Bay, New South Wales for a week of surf, sun, yoga and relaxation. The Byron Bay Lighthouse and Cape Byron Wilderness area is one of my favourite walks and the best spot for breathtaking photos of the bay.

And lastly I can't forget our fabulous staff educational trip to Samoa – a little island gem just waiting to be discovered. To Sua Ocean Trench is a must see.

#### PATRICK – SINGAPORE, MALDIVES, MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE

In May I visited Singapore and the Maldives and inspected several hotels in both destinations. One of my favourite hotels in Singapore was the Carlton for a five-star option with beautiful views of the Marina Bay area. I would highly suggest people upgrade to the Executive Club Lounge at the Main Tower. Indulge in benefits such as complimentary breakfast, afternoon tea and evening cocktails with hors d'oeuvres in privacy and comfort. Four star hotels were the Park Hotel or Novotel Clark Quay perfectly situated by the River with so many dining options at restaurants.



In the Maldives I visited five resorts and I would recommend for the best value for money, to have an all-inclusive deal with all meals and drinks included at any one of these resorts. The scenery is stunning on the Atoll's with fifty shades of blue - the colours' were beautiful!! You could combine a trip to the Maldives with Sri Lanka or Singapore or even a stopover to Europe.

In October I took a seven night Mediterranean Cruise departing from Barcelona on the Norwegian Capricorn Line (NCL) Epic. This large ship had probably some of the best shows on the ocean like "Priscilla Queen of the Desert" and "Burn the Floor". It also offered multiple free dining options onboard. We visited Cannes, Naples, Rome, Florence and Palma. Barcelona is such a great city, I would definitely recommend to stay for a good amount of time here and do a Tapas Tour (we got taken to four different local restaurants' is was fantastic value, cultural and vibrant). Barcelona is easy to get around on the hop on hop off bus.

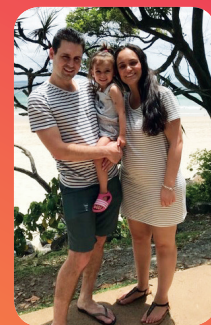
It's been a full year since joining You Travel Orewa and I have enjoyed working with new clients!

#### RACHAEL – GOLD COAST

This year I went to the Gold Coast in February and October to visit family and explore the beaches, national parks and theme parks with my husband and our 3 year old daughter.

Having been there about 15 times, I know the areas from Main Beach to Coolangatta very well. We went to Dreamworld, White Water World and Movie World. Dream World and White Water World was definitely the favourite as it is more toddler friendly with the Dream Works rides, the new Trolls area and the huge splash pad at White Water World, but there is still plenty too for thrill seekers including the Claw, Tower of Terror and the Giant Drop. If you're after a real roller coaster thrill ride, head to Movie World to experience the new Joker roller coaster, you might need to take a change of clothes though! There is plenty of shopping options on the Gold Coast, from outlet shopping mall Harbour Town where you'll find some great bargains to luxury clothing at Marina Mirage in Main Beach, or for something in between, check out the newly renovated Pacific Fair in Broadbeach.

For a shopping and culinary experience, head to Robina mall which has a mix of great restaurants such as my favourite, Saiko, a Japanese Teppanyaki restaurant. For a sweet treat, head to BamBam Bakehouse in Mermaid Beach which will entice you with their pink Barbie coffee and their Nutella Cruffins (a croissant muffin). A must do outdoor activity is the Burleigh Heads National Park walking track, with amazing views of Tallebudgera Creek looking out to Coolangatta and beyond (grab a coffee in Burleigh Heads first), then take a dip in the amazing Currumbin surf around the corner!



## Escorted trips departing in 2019

As our escorted India trip went so well, we are proposing to have 3 YOU Travel Orewa, escorted trips departing in 2019

### THE 1ST TRIP IN MAY IS TO SRI LANKA WITH MANDY FROM YOU TRAVEL OREWA.

It is a 2 week trip seeing colourful Sri Lanka. A comprehensive itinerary including Lion Rock, the historic sights, beautiful tea plantations, down to Yala National Park for some safari time, then on to the Galle beach area.

While you are so close, perhaps extend your holiday with an extension to the Maldives? For the 2-week Sri Lanka tour including flights on Singapore Airlines, a lot of meals and sightseeing the share twin price is \$5999, single supplement \$1300.

### THE 2ND TRIP WILL BE IN OCTOBER, A SEMI/ESCORTED TOUR TO EAST AFRICA WITH FRANCEE THORNTON, CLIENT AND FRIEND OF YOU TRAVEL OREWA.

Francee used to live in East Africa and is very passionate about the people and places you will visit. Travelling in East Africa with Francee will be memorable!!

A fly-around East Africa itinerary, including the Masai Mara, Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater and Zanzibar. Fantastic game viewing, amazing culture, some R&R in Zanzibar mixed with lots of laughter with Francee.

This East Africa itinerary can be part of a more extensive Africa itinerary or a stand-alone. The price of \$8,790 share twin is based on land-only, as there will be lots of options for flights.

### THE 3RD TRIP IN NOVEMBER IS TO INDIA WITH KIRI FROM YOU TRAVEL OREWA.

The 2-week itinerary includes 2 nights in Singapore, and a 10-day itinerary of the Golden Triangle and more! Starting in Delhi, then onto Agra to visit the magnificent Taj Mahal, carrying on to the colourful, Rajasthan cities of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, with a stay at the iconic Marigold Hotel! Including flights on Singapore airlines, lots of sightseeing and meals, the share twin price is \$7499, single supplement \$2400.

As well as our own escorted tours, there are a number of companies that also have these. World Journeys have a brochure dedicated to their escorted tours, which include destinations such as Cuba, The Med, Ethiopia, Africa and South America.

*If you would like more information on any of these tours, please let us know.*

## Local community involvement

**THE HOSPICE WEARABLE ARTS** was a new opportunity for us to be involved in and we were one of the main sponsors. Patrick was able to go to the show and see how much talent there is in our community. Harbour Hospice raised \$10,000 which was fantastic. If you didn't get a chance to go this year, look out for it next year. An entertaining show, and such a fantastic cause.

### Sponsoring the OREWA AND RED BEACH SURF CLUBS, "SURFS UP" FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN,

was another highlight. The Clubs collectively raised another \$40,000! It is an awesome achievement to the Clubs for selling these raffle tickets. They rely so much on community support, and it feels great to be a part in helping them. The 1st prize next year will be a 6 night Hawaii package, so if you want to support the Clubs, and be in draw to win a fantastic Hawaii holiday don't forget to buy a ticket – contact us for details.

We have also partnered again with our friends at Northern Arena sponsoring the "SWEAT FOR SYDNEY" promo, we love getting behind our community's health and fitness.

**THE OREWA BEACH SERIES** is another event we sponsor. It is such a lovely way to get some exercise, either walking, running, swimming or paddle boarding. There's something very rewarding taking part in a community based event, with the bonus of some great prizes! Don't forget to go down and check this out on a Thursday night, Surf Club end of Orewa Beach from November – March. I can recommend the meals at the Surf Club afterwards too. Come and see us for a free Beach Series pass to try this out.



Thanking you all for your support throughout 2018 – Wishing you all a very Merry Xmas and Happy 2019.



YOU Travel Orewa's friendly team  
(Rachael, Kiri, Patrick, Mandy, Katie, Karlene & Sue).



see us instore [www.youtravel.co.nz](http://www.youtravel.co.nz)

**09 426 5743**

**YOU Travel Orewa**

📍 26 Hillary Square, Orewa  
@ [orewa@youtravel.co.nz](mailto:orewa@youtravel.co.nz)

