



Paramount  
Tours  
Newsletter

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# Tours at a Glance

by Laura Di Leva

Welcome to the mid-year newsletter.

I cannot believe how fast time is going. We have had some memorable tours in the last 6 months, including Perth and one overseas trip and all of them a great success!

We started out in February with a Mystery Day trip. We took everyone up the coast to Norah Head Lighthouse for a photo opportunity with buffet lunch at The Entrance Diggers. It was a glorious summer's day and everyone had a good time.



This year, we celebrated Easter in Griffith. It was great to visit Margery Rosewood's garden and have a delicious Italian lunch on her rustic farm.

In April, we spent 8 fantastic days touring Perth and southwest WA.

We visited Busselton and the famous Pier, Mammoth Cave, the Margaret River area including Windows Estate winery and Gabriel's chocolate factory.

We then travelled 5 hours inland to Hyden to see the Wave Rock and marveled at its geological formation.

For our last part of the tour, we spent 3 nights in Fremantle, visiting the port area and the Immigration Monument dedicated to

all those who landed in Fremantle – some even found ancestors. We had an informative tour of Perth visiting all of the city's landmarks including the beautiful Kings Park where we took a stroll around the gardens.



We also visited The Pinnacles – amazing limestone pillars to the north of the city.



Wow, what an amazing tour, made extra special by great company!

# Islands in the Sun

## *Mediterranean Islands Tour*

3 - 26 JUNE 2018

Our first overseas tour this year was dedicated to visiting the most beautiful islands in the Mediterranean – Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily and Malta.

We starting out in Versilia (La Spezia) and visited the beautiful Cinque Terre area – Portovenere and Monterosso. Then onto the Gulf of Tigulio with stops in Rapallo, Portofino and Santa Margherita di Ligure on the Ligurian Coast.

We then crossed over to Corsica by ferry from the port of Livorno. One of many ferry crossings on this tour. We arrived in Bastia and then made our way through the winding roads and mountains of Corsica to reach our destination of Ajaccio – the capital.

In Ajaccio, we visited Napoleon's family home and a local winery which has been in the same family for 6 generations. We visited the hilltop town of Sartène before making our way to Bonifacio for another ferry crossing to Santa Teresa di Gallura in Sardinia.



In Sardinia, we saw many beautiful and fascinating places. We visited the Garibaldi museum on the island of

Caprera, the Emerald Coast and Porto Cervo.

Our journey then took us to Alghero where we stayed in an agriturismo savouring delicious Sardinia food, typical of that region. Whilst in Alghero we saw the Nuraghe of Palmavera and Capo Caccia, location of the "Grotta di Nettuno". Although the sea was too rough to enter by boat, a few ventured down the 654 steps from the car park to the entry of the cave.

We then proceeded to Cagliari, the regional capital, via Oristano. Whilst in Cagliari, we visited the church of our Lady of Bonaria, the wetlands where the flamenco nest, the port area and of course the UNESCO heritage listed site of SU NURAXI of Barumini.

From Cagliari, we made our way to the island of Sicily via overnight ferry. Landing in the port of Palermo, we made our way to Monreale to visit the Norman Cathedral.

In Sicily, we visited Palermo city staying right in the centre of town in a most beautiful historic hotel which was once the residence of a baron! We visited the Norman Cathedral in Palermo, the seaside town of Cefalù with plenty of free time to taste the delicacies of Sicilian cuisine and sweets, especially arancini, cannoli and granita. We also went to the Eolian Islands of Lipari and Vulcano.

Making our way to the south of the island, we stopped in Siracusa to visit the archeological park to see the ear of Dionese and the Greek amphitheatre and also visiting the baroque town of Ortigia - its cathedral and Aretusa fountain. Our final stop in Sicily was in Pozzallo where we had the best seafood dinner, before catching the catamaran to the island of Malta.

Malta was a pleasant surprise. We visited the old town of Mdina (the former capital) with its narrow winding streets and Barrakka Gardens where there is a cannon salute every day at 12:00 noon.

Our trip would not be complete without visiting the island of Gozo, Calypso's cave, Victoria and of course a boat ride to the Blue Grotto.

Throughout our trip, we saw many beautiful towns, villages and cities that make the Mediterranean islands a truly magical place.

### OUR GROUP

There were 14 of us in the group including myself. Thanks to everyone in the group for making this a remarkable and memorable journey.



I would like to thank all the tour participants for making all our tours such fun and always a pleasure.

Look out for our new brochure for all 2019 tours, including tours to Spain and Portugal, Calabria, Puglia and the Greek Islands, Northern Italy and many more. **For any information or brochures, please contact us: 1300 969 704 – office or 0414 295 367 – Laura's mobile.**