



TASTING INDIA WITH CHRISTINE MANFIELD

Our second culinary tour to India with iconic Australian Chef and Indiaphile Christine Manfield, explored the delights of Kerala and South India. The trip was a great success and we are now planning 2 new trips with Christine for November this year and February 2012 to meet the overwhelming demand for these sought after tours.

Our November 2011 tour will be a celebration of Christine's new book *Tasting India* to be released in October this year. A labour of love that has taken over 5 years to complete, this 600-page book promises to be the quintessential guide to cuisine and travel in India. Our tour will explore many of Christine's favourite places from Delhi to Amritsar, Rajasthan to Mumbai and ending in Hyderabad. We will taste the Royal cuisine of the Raj, street food in Amritsar and the cuisine of the Moghuls in Hyderabad.

The tour will commence in Delhi where we are privileged to have a private evening lecture with the world famous writer William Dalrymple, author of many books on India including *City of Djinns*, *The White Moghul*, *The Last Moghul* and more recently *Nine Lives*. William will talk with us about Delhi where he currently resides, reflecting on the City of Djinns and the implications for the city resulting from the economic changes that are occurring in India.

We visit Amritsar and its spectacular Golden Temple before spending a few days relaxing in one of the most beautiful desert properties in Rajasthan, Amanbagh.

After an exciting few days exploring Mumbai and its hidden treasures, we travel to Hyderabad where we stay in the magnificently restored Falaknuma Palace once home to the Nizam's of Hyderabad and now after more than 5 years of restoration the shining star for the Taj Hotel group. The city of Hyderabad offers a deep and rich history of the Muslim Dynasties that ruled the region for many centuries. The magnificent collection of often faded but beautiful Islamic architecture is a highlight along with dare I say, the best Biryani in India.

Please email or call us for details



BHUTAN – LAND OF THE THUNDER DRAGON

A short flight from India is the magnificent Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan. I was privileged to visit Bhutan after our tour in Kerala as a guest of the Tourism Council of Bhutan, Uma Paro Hotel and Taj Tashi Hotel. This is a unique and beautiful country with a population of around 700,000 and a landscape of high mountains, deep valleys and pristine natural beauty.

From the moment you take off on your Druk Airlines flight into Bhutan you realize how special this journey is as you fly alongside some of the highest peaks in the world including Mount Everest. And landing at Paro airport is a spectacular experience in itself. The two hotels planned our itinerary and although it was too cold to undertake any overnight trekking, the day treks and cycling were fantastic — perfect for our luxury soft adventure profile.

Bhutan offers a wonderful amalgam of culture, spirituality, exceptionally friendly people and great walking in an unspoiled natural environment dotted with prayer flags and Buddhist monuments, a constant reminder that we are in a deeply spiritual land.

We plan to offer tours to Bhutan in early 2012 – watch the website for details.



WINTER ESCAPES IN THE OUTBACK

Record rains in Central Australia during 2010 and early 2011 hold promise of an amazing season on the Larapinta Trail with an outstanding array of birdlife and flora. If you've been toying with the idea of undertaking this spectacular walk 2011 offers a once in a lifetime opportunity. We still have space on a few of our 6-day departures in May, June, July and August.

If you're short on time or don't want to commit to 6 days of walking, we've introduced a 3-day Taste of the Larapinta Trail tour for those wanting a shorter and softer outback adventure. It offers highlights of the trail and the beauty of the West MacDonnell Ranges. It's also been designed to fit perfectly with our new tour Life on an Outback Cattle Station and the Utopian Aboriginal Artistic Community, so it's possible to do the 2 tours together or do either as a stand-alone trip.



LIFE ON AN OUTBACK CATTLE STATION AND THE UTOPIA ABORIGINAL ARTISTIC COMMUNITY

We have developed this new tour in conjunction with Charlie and Sonja Charmers from MacDonald Downs Station. Charlie and Sonja are opening their home and station for Epicurious guests to experience life on a remote Central Australian cattle station and meet Utopian artists painting on the station grounds, where Sonja's Eastern Desert Art Gallery is based. We also visit the original historic homestead on the adjoining property and take a stunning bush walk in the recently classified National Parks and Wildlife Mac and Rose Chalmers Conservation Park at Tower Rock.

Discover what it's like living and working on this remote outback station. Meet Aboriginal painters while they work on their canvases in a relaxed outdoor environment. Taste the delicious roo tail that the men cook while the women paint. Learn about the history of the station and the interpretation of the land and its bush tucker by a local bushman. Enjoy delicious picnic lunches in the bush and share delightful dinners with the Chalmers family in their lovely homestead, dining on organic produce from the station.

Tours will operate weekly from May to September. Call or email for details.



<p>May 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Ocean Walk weekly departures • Larapinta Trail weekly departures • Camino de Santiago • Mystical Umbria • Heart of Tuscany 	<p>June 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larapinta Trail weekly departures • Mystical Umbria • Heart of Tuscany • Ladakh Himalaya Village Walks
<p>July 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larapinta Trail weekly departures • Mystical Umbria • Heart of Tuscany • Ladakh Himalaya Village Walks 	<p>August 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larapinta Trail weekly departures • Flinders Ranges • Mystical Umbria • Heart of Tuscany • Ladakh Himalaya Village Walks
			
<p>September 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flinders Ranges • Camino de Santiago • Ladakh Himalaya Village Walks 	<p>October 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colours of Andalucia • Basque Country Culinary Tour • Kumaon Himalaya Village Walks • Sikkim Himalaya Village Walks • Majestic Rajasthan, Spiritual Varanasi • India's Seductive South • Kerala Cultural and Culinary
<p>November 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian High Country Walk • Great Ocean Walk weekly departures • Kumaon Himalaya Village Walks • Sikkim Himalaya Village Walks • Majestic Rajasthan, Spiritual Varanasi • India's Seductive South • Kerala Cultural and Culinary 	<p>December 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Ocean Walk weekly departures • Victorian High Country Walk • Kumaon Himalaya Village Walks • Sikkim Himalaya Village Walks • Majestic Rajasthan, Spiritual Varanasi • India's Seductive South • Kerala Cultural and Culinary

