

Take the journey Jamie First

Weekly Times readers are well catered for when it comes to travel, writes Jamie First.

Perhaps you have always longed to see more of Australia's dusty outback. Or maybe it's the remote shores of a far-flung part of the world - such as England or Denmark - that has your heart.

Designed exclusively for *Weekly Times* readers, Swagman Tours' national and international trips take in the main tourist sites, while including some specialist farm visits for country readers.

Swagman Tours is offering *Weekly Times* readers a chance to explore the Kimberley and Top End, in a 17-day trip, setting off next month.

It is here you will see some of the most picturesque scenery in the country.

Visit Lake Argyle on the Ord River, which stores a volume of water 16 times greater than Sydney Harbour, stop off at beautiful Kununurra, visit irrigation farms and see how local farmers live.

Discover ancient gorges like those at El Questro Wilderness Park, Chamberlain River, Windjana and Geikie, learn about the pearling town of Broome, and take in vast family and commercial-run cattle stations.

If you want to travel farther afield, the UK 30-day Farming Tour in July might be for you.

The major attractions - Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, the London Eye, Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London - are sure to impress.

The English countryside is a standout, with stopovers at farms in Woodbridge, Stowmarket, Sleaford and Durham, where you can visit potato growers, Wagyu beef and pork producers, and agricultural equipment manufacturers.

Crossing the border into Scotland, you stop at Edinburgh Castle and Loch Lomond, then back into England to see Beatrix Potter's house and the Honister Slate Mine.

Trips to the World Heritage-listed Caernarfon Castle and the Royal Welsh Show in Wales; Stonehenge in England; and a sightseeing tour of Dublin are also on the itinerary.

Alternatively, if you have the Continent in your sights, Swagman is offering a leisurely European three-river cruise in July.

Featuring the romantic Rhine and rock of Lorelei, the French battlefields and the Camargue and Ardeche Gorges, this 25-day trip is ideal for those who like to look around in style.

Starting in Strasbourg, France, passengers will cruise the Rhine's tributaries, and visit several German towns in shore visits.

Tours of French battlefield sites and cemeteries, including Bullecourt, Fromelles, Hooge Crater, Tyne Cot, Polygon Wood and Mont St Quentin are on the agenda, too.

The second river cruise will explore the ancient Roman ruins and villages in the South of France, while the third cruise journeys to Venice's lagoons.

Swagman Tours is also offering a 23-day trip to Scandinavia and Russia in July.

The first stop is Copenhagen, where you will see the mix of architectural styling, medieval churches and 18th-century merchant housing for which the city is known.

Visit hobby and livestock farms, and speak with those in the business.

Other highlights include visits to the Trelleborg Viking Fortress, the Winter Palace, the Lomonosov porcelain gallery, the Kremlin, a tractor factory, fish markets and dozens of cathedrals.

Bergen, Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki, St Petersburg and Moscow are also to be explored.

For animal lovers, South Africa is the place to go in June.

From a safari adventure at Kruger National Park, where you will get the chance to see the big five, to a live game auction, this Swagman Tour has it all.

You will visit beef, ostrich, mixed wool, herb, nut and dairy farms, learn about exporting and taking in the stunning countryside.

One of the seven natural wonders, Victoria Falls, is always a standout, as is the morning game viewing by boat at Chobe River and the Blyde River Canyon.

The 24-day tour explores Boer and Zulu battlefields, as well as the cosmopolitan cities of Cape Town and Johannesburg

For details or to book any of the Swagman Tours, visit swagmantours.com.au or call (03) 5222 2855