

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND 11 days & 3 days optional extension

Itinerary:

Day 1 : Arrive Sydney

Upon your arrival in Sydney transfer to hotel to relax from your flight.

Lodging: Amora Hotel

Day 2 : Sydney - City Tour (B / L)

After breakfast start your discovery of Sydney. First is a walking tour of the Rocks historic quarter with its narrow lanes leading to the location of the first settlement, Argyle street and the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Up next the visit of the Opera House takes you through the process of this remarkable achievement, a true architectural miracle, hear and see why it was such a challenge to finalize its construction. Visit the interior and the Concert Hall to complete your tour of this landmark. Time for a well deserved BBQ lunch at Philips Foote, a pub restaurant nestled in the Rocks quarter offers a real Australian experience. The meat is excellent, you cook it to your own taste on a large BBQ in addition to a rich buffet. The lovely courtyard is a perfect setting for this delicious meal. Afterwards drive to Mrs Macquaries Chair, where you have an outstanding view of the city, the harbour and the Opera House. Then continue towards Rose Bay, les Vaucluse, Watson's Bay and Paddington - simply a great day in this amazing city.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Amora Hotel

Day 3 : Sydney - Blue Mountains (B / L)

Today after breakfast drive toward the Blue Mountains National Park (about 2 hours) with a stop at Featherdale Wildlife Park which offers the opportunity to pat Kangaroos and see all kind of local animals like Koalas, Dingoes, Wombats, Tasmanian Devil and many more. Enjoy lunch in Leura, a charming village overlooking the Grand Canyon. In the afternoon descend into the Grand Canyon using the cable rail and the cable way to travel back. Discover the thrill of a 52 degree incline riding the steepest passenger railway in the world. Experience descends 310 meters through a cliff-side tunnel emerging into ancient rainforest at the Jamison Valley floor. A promenade along the track overlooking the Grand Canyon is a good opportunity to see its full beauty an untouched giant pocket of nature. Return to your hotel after a stop at Katoomba.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Amora Hotel

Day 4 : Sydney - Alice Springs (B / L)

In the morning after breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight to Alice Springs. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel before lunch in town. This afternoon visit the School of Air (or School of distance education) a wonderful organization looking after the education for children living in remote areas with no access to schools. Next is the Reptile Centre where you take a walk near the telegraph station to see the wallabies who usually come out here before sunset.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Double Tree by Hilton Hotel

Day 5 : Alice Springs - Kings Canyon (B / L / D)

After breakfast this morning learn about the Aboriginal culture with an Aboriginal guide who shows you different aspect of their life in the desert. Among others you are introduced to the use of the boomerang and the tools searching for food and water. Later enjoy lunch in town before departing for Kings Canyon. After arrival time to relax before dinner at the Kings Canyon Resort.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Lodging:** Kings Canyon Resort

Day 6 : Kings Canyon - Ayers rock (B / L / D)

Early in the morning take a walk to admire the canyon. A moderately challenging walk takes in a magnificent view of the Canyon rim, the weathered buttressed domes of 'the Lost City' and the 'Garden of Eden', a sheltered valley with permanent waterholes and lush vegetation. Later lunch at Kings Creek Station before driving to Ayers Rock. At sunset admire the impressive changes in the colour of the rock as it changes from mauve to a brilliant red/orange. This amazing play of nature calls for sparkling wine before dinner is served at the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Lodging:** Desert Garden Hotel

Day 7 : Ayers Rock - Cairns (B / L)

After breakfast take a walk at Mala and Mutitjulu, two very meaningful sites for the Aborigines who live here and give their full respect to Uluru (Ayers Rock) a sacred place. Lunch at the hotel before transfer to the airport for your flight to Cairns. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Pacific International Hotel

Day 8 : Cairns - Great barrier reef (B / L)

After breakfast start you full day cruise to the Great Barrier Reef on board the Ocean Spirit. Included in your day is snorkeling, explanations about the reef by a Marine Interpreter, a glass bottom boat tour, semi-submersible, a snorkeling tuition, snorkeling equipment (masks, flippers, snorkel), buoyancy snorkel vests, a 5 full hours on the Reef. Enjoy tea and coffee all day during your trip and a large smorgasbord buffet lunch as well as tropical fruits, cheese and crackers, assorted cake served during the day. Truly a wonderful day filled with great experiences.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Pacific International Hotel

Day 9 : Cairns - Kuranda (B / L)

After breakfast a short walk to the train station awaits you to board the Kuranda train for a panoramic ride through the beautiful rainforest. Cross bridges overlooking the Barron gorges and 35 tunnels to reach Kuranda village. Once you arrive enjoy free time to stroll through the market and the many small shops before lunch. Later return by gondola passing beautifully above the canopy with an outstanding view of the coastline. Stop on your way down to learn about the eco-system and the existing battle between native plants and those brought by the pioneers before making your way back to the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Pacific International Hotel

Day 10 : Cairns - Far North Queensland (B / L/ D)

After breakfast start your journey following the beautiful coastal drive to reach the wild untouched region of Far North Queensland, the last frontier. Meet with an Aboriginal guide who takes you for a walk, explaining about its culture, belief and their strong link with the rich environment. Depending on the season, lunch is either at an orchard or in the village of Port Douglas. Port Douglas is a charming village with a tropical flair, a nice small harbour and many cute shops worth a visit before heading back to Cairns. Today farewell dinner is at the Red Ochre restaurant known for its local and bush cuisine.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Lodging:** Pacific International Hotel

Day 11 : Cairns - Departure or OPTIONAL extension New Zealand (B)

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your international return flight or OPTIONAL extension to New Zealand Queenstown. Upon arrival in Queenstown transfer to hotel to relax from your flight before dinner in the hotel

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** St. Moritz Hotel

Day 12 : Queenstown (B)

After breakfast enjoy a day at leisure in this picturesque city and choose from the myriad of activities that Queenstown has to offer.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** St. Moritz Hotel

Day 13 : Queenstown - Auckland (B / D)

After breakfast transfer to Queenstown airport for your flight to Auckland. With 1.5 million inhabitants, Auckland is New Zealand's largest city but nevertheless enjoys a very relaxed lifestyle, with 37 000 ha of protected parks, a stunning harbour and numerous beaches. There are 48 volcanoes in the region and it is also the only city in the world to be flanked by 2 separate oceans: the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Out west, the Waitakere Mountain Range is covered by lush subtropical rainforest where clear streams and waterfalls flow to the black sand of the Tasman Coast. To the east the Hauraki Gulf is Auckland's favourite playground and has earned the nickname "The City of Sails" due to the numerous pleasure boats taking advantage of the harbour, its many islands and golden beaches. Upon arrival you have free time for lunch before taking a tour of Auckland city with your guide. Highlights include Mount Eden for panoramic views of the City of Sails, Queen Street and the wonderful Auckland museum with its extensive collection of Maori and Polynesian art and artefacts. You also take the ferry across to historic Devonport to explore this quaint village suburb before dinner at Harbourside Seafood Restaurant situated in the historic Ferry Buildings on Auckland's port

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner **Lodging:** Stamford Plaza Hotel

Day 14 : Auckland - departure (B)

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your international departure.

Meals: Breakfast