



AUSTRALIA

Traversing Australia's Outback, Coast, and Bush

16 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: **SEP - JUN**

Experience the best of Australia on this 16-day adventure. See the iconic skyline of Sydney on a harbor cruise, and take in the sprawling vistas of the Blue Mountains. Snorkel at the Great Barrier Reef, step into the Daintree Rainforest, and stroll along the shores of Cape Tribulation. Discover the spiritual significance of enormous sandstone formations in the red-desert Outback, and witness the "Penguin Parade" on Phillip Island. No matter the landscape, you'll enjoy active days, come face-to-face with Australia's unique fauna, and learn more about the people who call this striking country home.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Go off the beaten path to witness hazy blue forests, rock formations, and waterfalls in Blue Mountains National Park.
- Snorkel the colorful underwater world of the Great Barrier Reef.
- Explore Daintree, the oldest rainforest in the world, during hikes, a river cruise, and an off-road vehicle safari.
- Venture into the heart of the Outback to Uluru and learn about the monolith's cultural and spiritual significance to local Aboriginal people.
- Observe Australian wildlife such as koalas, wallabies, kangaroos, penguins, crocodiles, and cassowaries during excursions to a variety of habitats.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE BY HAI LINH TRUONG

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER



DAY 1 - DEPARTURE

Depart the U.S. for the flight to Australia.

DAY 2 - IN TRANSIT

Overnight flight crossing international dateline.

DAY 3 - SYDNEY

Upon arrival early this morning at the airport in Sydney proceed through Immigration and Customs to the Arrivals Hall. You will then transfer by private vehicle to your hotel, located in Sydney's Central Business District. Early this afternoon, take a short walk to the Circular Quay for the Captain Cook Harbour Story Cruise on beautiful Sydney Harbour. The cruise will include views of Sydney's iconic landmarks such as the Sydney Opera House, Sydney Harbour Bridge, Royal Botanic Gardens, Garden Island Naval base, Taronga Zoo, Government House, palatial waterfront homes, Fort Denison and more. On return to Circular Quay, make your way back to your hotel. *Overnight at The Grace Hotel.*

DAY 4 - SYDNEY

The Blue Mountains National Park is one of seven national parks that make up the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, sprawling with sandstone outcrops, deep ravines, hazy blue eucalyptus forests and stunning views. Today, venture off the beaten track with your guide to visit remote lookout locations and discuss the history, flora and fauna of this magnificent region. The first stop is at Calmsley Hill, a working farm also home to kangaroo, emu, wombat and koala. Enjoy morning tea and time to wander at leisure. Continue to ascend the Blue Mountains via the highway then visit a stunning outlook over the Jamison Valley. Continue to Eaglehawk Lookout, a remote lookout point, for views of the famous Three Sisters rock formation. Lunch is at the Hydro Majestic Hotel. After lunch visit Govetts Leap a magnificent waterfall that drops a total of 590 feet to the base of a cliff before descending into Hartley Vale, a beautiful farmland valley. The last stop is at the Blue Mountains Botanic Gardens where there's time for a short inspection of the flora including the ancient Wollemi Pine (*Wollemia Nobilis*). Return to Sydney, arriving at your hotel early this evening. *Overnight at The Grace Hotel. (BL)*

DAY 5 - BRISBANE

After breakfast, check out and transfer to Sydney Domestic Airport for the flight to Brisbane. Upon arrival Brisbane Airport transfer to O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat. The two hour drive takes you through open farmland and eucalyptus woodland, then into southeast Queensland's coastal mountain range. Here, catch views of the magnificent Lamington National Park, which encompasses Australia's most extensive remaining tract of subtropical rainforest and one of its richest wildlife areas. Sitting on a plateau, among mountain peaks, cliffs and gorges, lies O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat. Check in on arrival, and spend the remainder of the day exploring your surroundings. Close to the Retreat you'll meet Crimson Rosellas and King Parrots. You can walk along the rainforest trail down to the ancient "Wishing Tree," an Antarctic Beech, for a chance to spot Bassian Thrush, Brown Thornbill, and more logrunners. Enjoy watching the pademelons, a type of small marsupial, from the deck of the Sunset Lounge before dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat. (BD)*

DAY 6 - BRISBANE

This morning, after breakfast, enjoy a four hour private tour with a guide from O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat to learn about the flora and fauna of Lamington National Park. This afternoon, continue your own exploration of the Retreat's surroundings. *Overnight at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat. (BD)*

DAY 7 - CAIRNS

After an early breakfast, transfer to Brisbane Airport for your flight to Cairns, in tropical north Queensland. On arrival at Cairns Airport transfer to your hotel, located on the Esplanade. You will have the remainder of the day to explore your new surroundings. *Overnight at Pacific Hotel Cairns. (B)*

DAY 8 - CAIRNS

After breakfast, walk a short distance from your hotel to the Reef Fleet Terminal and board the Ocean Spirit, a 105 foot sailing catamaran, for your day trip to the Great Barrier Reef. Arrive at Michaelmas Cay, the largest of the local uninhabited coral cays. Here, you can snorkel in the cay's protected shallow waters, cruise in the semi sub for a diver's view of the reef, watch the fish feeding presentation, and observe the island bird life. Throughout the day, the "beach buggy shuttle" will transfer you between the Ocean Spirit and the beach. If you prefer a more leisurely day on the Great Barrier Reef, relax on the beach or on the catamaran's spacious decks. Morning and afternoon tea, buffet lunch, snorkeling equipment, buoyancy vests, and lycra suits are all provided. On return to Cairns and Marlin Marina, walk the short distance back to your hotel. *Overnight at Pacific Hotel Cairns. (BL)*



DAY 9 - CAIRNS

Enjoy an early breakfast, then depart for a safari tour of Daintree Rainforest and Cape Tribulation. As this is a full day tour, be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes and bring hats, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a water bottle. Drive north along the scenic Captain Cook Highway, learn about the history of the area and admire spectacular views of the coastline and Coral Sea. Stop for a guided river cruise on the Daintree River, home to estuarine crocodiles, mangrove forests, and endemic wildlife. Take a guided tour of the ancient rainforest along elevated boardwalks in search for the elusive Southern Cassowary. After a barbecue lunch, hand feed wallabies before your tour continues onto the 4WD Bloomfield Track to pristine Emmagen Creek, a hidden gem of the rainforest, where you'll have the opportunity to swim without any crowds. Then, head to Cape Tribulation Beach for a stroll along the beach and the boardwalk to the photography platform. After a brief refreshment stop, cross the Daintree River by cable ferry and begin the journey back to the hotel. *Overnight at Pacific Hotel Cairns. (BL)*

DAY 10 - ULURU

Transfer to Cairns Domestic Airport for your flight to Uluru in Central Australia. Upon arrival transfer to Yulara Village and your hotel. (Note: check-in not available until 3 pm, however, hotel reception will store luggage.) After check in and lunch (at own expense), transfer to the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park, the most profound and culturally significant monolith in Australia. Please wear covered shoes and bring at least one liter of water, a fly net screen, and a full brimmed hat. As you enter the park, your first stop allows for a photographic opportunity of Uluru and its towering presence. Head to the Mutitjula Waterhole, to learn the creation stories of Liru (the poisonous snake) and Kuniya (the python) as well as other prominent Tjukurpa (Dreaming) stories. You will also see ancient Aboriginal rock art and learn how Uluru has always been a culturally and spiritually significant site for the local indigenous people. Then, journey to Talinguru Nyakunytjaku viewing area for an uninterrupted view of Uluru with Kata Tjuta behind it. Return to your hotel at approximately 7 pm. *Overnight at Voyagers Desert Garden.*

DAY 11 - ULURU

Rise early this morning for your tour of Kata Tjuta. Please wear covered shoes, and bring at least one liter of water, a fly net screen, and a full brimmed hat. Upon arrival, approach the best vantage point to observe the 36 domes that make up this spiritual site. Then, head to the western side of Kata Tjuta, to enjoy an outback picnic breakfast. Walk through Walpa Gorge and learn about the geological history and cultural significance of this sacred ceremonial site. Return to your hotel, and enjoy free time in Yulara Village. Early this evening, attend the Sounds of Silence Dinner, a buffet incorporating native bush ingredients while you listen to the

sound of a didgeridoo. After dinner, stargaze with a resident star talker, and locate constellations, planets, and galaxies visible due to the exceptional clarity of the atmosphere. (An upgrade to the internationally acclaimed art installation Field of Light is available at additional cost.) *Overnight at Voyagers Desert Garden. (BD)*

DAY 12 - KINGSCOTE

After breakfast, transfer to Uluru Airport for your flight to Adelaide via Alice Springs. On arrival at Adelaide Airport, collect your luggage and proceed to the Regional Express (REX) check in. *Check in baggage weight is restricted on this flight, and you may have to place some of your luggage in the secure locked area until your return to Adelaide Airport. If so, a small fee will be incurred. From Adelaide, fly to Kingscote on Kangaroo Island (airfare included in tour cost). On arrival in Kingscote, check in at your hotel and enjoy dinner. *Overnight at Aurora Ozone Hotel. (BD)*

DAY 13 - ADELAIDE

Embark on a full day wildlife tour of Kangaroo Island. Begin the morning with a "cuppa" and homemade cakes before taking a trail walk through tall eucalyptus trees where koalas snooze overhead. Then travel to the north coast of the island and arrive at Latham Conservation Park, for a guided bush walk. Look for wallabies, which are near extinct on the mainland, and a subspecies of kangaroo that's found nowhere else. Enjoy lunch at a private bush location, and sample local fish, fresh salads and fine South Australian wines. In the afternoon, head to Seal Bay Conservation Park, for a guided beach walk

among Australian sea lion, and learn about their breeding biology. For the rest of the afternoon explore more of the southeast island destinations and experiences dependent on the season. Afterwards transfer to Kingscote Airport for your flight back to Adelaide. Collect any stored luggage from Regional Express (REX), then check in for your flight. *Overnight at Majestic Roof Garden. (BL)*

DAY 14 - MELBOURNE

After breakfast, transfer to Adelaide Airport for your flight to Melbourne. Check in at the hotel, have lunch (at own expense) before departing on a tour to Phillip Island and the world renowned "Penguin Parade." Begin the journey through Melbourne's bayside suburbs on the way to Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Park. Here, enjoy a guided wildlife walk where there is the opportunity to meet and hand feed many species of native Australian animals. Afterwards it's onwards to the main event, where just after dark every night the world's smallest penguins waddle ashore after spending the day fishing out at sea. After the parade there is plenty of time to explore the Visitor Centre before returning to Melbourne. You will have an opportunity for dinner (at own expense) on Phillip Island. *Overnight at Clarion Suites Gateway. (B)*



PENGUIN PARADE

DAY 15 - MELBOURNE

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel, then meet your guide for today's nature and wildlife tour. Please wear walking shoes, and bring sunscreen, a hat, a water bottle that can be refilled during the day, plus a light rain jacket in case of inclement weather. Prepare for five individual one mile walks. Travel just 45 minutes west of Melbourne, to the bushland of You Yangs Park. This area is of great significance to the local Aboriginal People of the Wathaurong Tribe; the granite rock formations of the You Yangs have served as a meeting place for Aboriginal People from all over southeastern Australia. The park is also home to a population of wild koalas that are researched and monitored to ensure the best possible sightings. Search for koalas, wallabies, kangaroos, and birds in their natural setting. Your wildlife guide will introduce you to each koala as an individual, with a history, social life, and family. For lunch, enjoy a picnic served under the gum trees. Depart and head to Serendip Sanctuary to seek out eastern grey kangaroos in the wild. *Overnight at Clarion Suites Gateway. (BL)*

DAY 16 - DEPARTURE

After an early breakfast, check out from your hotel and transfer to Melbourne International Airport for your flight home. *(B)*

LAND PRICING

\$10,550 (10 participants + 1 leader)

\$9,150 (15 participants + 1 leaders)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, or items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2021.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Non-refundable final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe

