

Day 1

Arrive Auckland

Kia Ora and Welcome to New Zealand! On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your Auckland hotel. Enjoy some free time to relax and freshen up before your afternoon city tour. Join your Goway Tour Director for a city orientation tour including the bustling downtown and waterfront areas, and see panoramic views of the city from the Auckland Domain and the pretty north shore from the Auckland Harbour Bridge. Tonight you will meet your Tour Director and fellow travellers at a special 'Welcome to New Zealand' dinner with an amazing 360-degree view of Auckland at SkyCity Orbit restaurant.

Meal Plan Dinner

Duration 1 Night

Accommodation

Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour

Day 2

Auckland to Rotorua

This morning enjoy a delicious breakfast at your hotel before we depart Auckland. First, journey to Waitomo, where we enjoy a guided excursion underground through the Waitomo Cave Complex with its fascinating natural landforms including tiny glow-worms that shine in the dark like stars. After Waitomo, there will be a stop for lunch (own expense) and we continue our scenic journey through the rich farming country before reaching Rotorua, in New Zealand's thermal heartland. Check-in and freshen up before this evening's cultural performance and dinner.

This evening visits an authentic Maori village in the midst of Rotorua's ancient Tawa Forest and immerses yourself in the colourful culture of the Tamaki Maori Cultural Experience. It is an evening of ritual, ceremony, amazing Maori cultural performance, cultural storytelling, interaction and traditional feasting as you relive significant portions of New Zealand's pre-European history and real events!

Meal Plan B D

Duration 2 Nights

Accommodation

Millennium Hotel Rotorua

Day 3

Rotorua Sightseeing

Start your day with a hearty kiwi breakfast. After breakfast, we meet our coach and guide for our in-depth sightseeing tour of Rotorua. Our first stop this morning is the Te Puia Arts and Culture Centre, where you will see the renowned geothermal activity including boiling mud pools, gentle hot springs and violent geysers; this includes the world-famous Pohutu Geyser and the opportunity to sample eggs cooked in a natural thermal pool.

From Te Puia, we are off to the Agrodome for your exclusive Wool Shed & Mustering Experience. Travel to the Wool Shed by tractor where you'll experience a private demonstration of Sheep feeding, Dog mustering, sheep shearing, Wool grading & wool baling before returning to the main area. Spend time feeding the Alpacas and Llamas, sampling Kiwi juice and honey before a short tour of the farm for an introduction to the other breeds of sheep. Our day concludes at our hotel, where we will have dinner and relax for the remainder of the evening.

OPTION FARM STAY – MUST BE PREBOOKED

For those passengers who have chosen to be guests of a "Kiwi" family tonight, your hosts will pick you up at the hotel at approximately 3:30 PM and take you to their homes for dinner and an overnight stay. After a hearty country breakfast the next morning, you will be taken back to the hotel to rejoin the group.

NOTE: We suggest you only take a small overnight bag and store your large suitcase at the hotel. You will need to check out of your room at the hotel in the morning before heading off on the Rotorua tour.

Meal Plan Breakfast and Dinner

Day 4

Rotorua to Queenstown

This morning after breakfast we leave the thermal wonderland and fly south to the mountain resort town of Queenstown (airfare not included in the tour cost, to be purchased separately). On arrival, we are met and transferred to our hotel. This region is home to the rugged, snow-capped Remarkable Mountains towering over the deep blue waters of Lake Wakatipu, fringed by poplars and weeping willows that form the backdrop to Queenstown - probably New Zealand's most spectacular and popular resort town. Magnificent scenery, lovely promenades, lake cruises and great shopping - there is something for everyone.

This evening we transfer to the Skyline Gondola for a scenic ride to the Stratosphere Restaurant, located at the top of the Gondola. As you dine, the panoramic view from the windows will captivate you. Enjoy a relaxing dinner while the sun sets over the Remarkable Mountains. After dinner, we will be transferred back to our hotel.

Meal Plan Breakfast and Dinner

Duration 3 Nights

Accommodation

Millennium Hotel Queenstown

Day 5

Milford Sound Tour

After a hearty breakfast, we depart on our full-day tour to spectacular Fiordland National Park and world-famous Milford Sound. Our route takes us along the shores of Lake Wakatipu, one of New Zealand's prettiest lakes, and through some of the world's finest vertical landscapes, hanging valleys, precipices and raging torrents surround us on our way to this beautiful Sound. The road follows through the Homer Tunnel and the Eglinton Valley to Milford and the famous mile-high Mitre Peak. Rudyard Kipling once described this Sound as the "eighth wonder of the world." Our cruise includes a picnic-style lunch and will cover the length of the fiord right up to the 1200-foot cliffs and thundering waterfalls. As our vessel turns at the point where the fiord meets the Tasman Sea, we will see how this majestic fiord, hidden at first, unfolds before us. The captain is an expert at seeking out playful schools of dolphins and fur seals basking on the sunny rocks. We return to our hotel in the early evening.

Meal Plan Breakfast and Lunch

Day 6

Queenstown at Leisure

We have a full day at leisure to relax or to join one of the many optional tours and activities that are available (at additional cost). Some suggestions are: get a thrill on the famous Shotover Jetboats; take a guided walking tour of the Queenstown Wine Trail including an underground wine cave tour; cruise Lake Wakatipu on the historic Earnslaw Steamer; shop in all the stores and boutiques in the town centre or just relax in the sheer beauty of it all! If you haven't pre-booked an activity, your Goway Tour Director will help arrange the activities for you.

Meal Plan Breakfast

Day 7

Queenstown to Christchurch

This morning, we depart after breakfast, driving through some of the most scenic landscapes in New Zealand, We will journey through the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch, renowned as the "most English city outside of England". We will make a stop en route for lunch (own expense). On arrival to Christchurch enjoy an orientation city tour before checking in at the hotel. Tonight enjoy a lovely three-course dinner onsite.

Meal Plan Breakfast and Dinner

Duration 1 Night

Accommodation

Crowne Plaza Christchurch

Day 8

Fly Christchurch to Melbourne

This morning, we transfer to Christchurch airport for our flight to Melbourne (airfare not included in the tour cost, to be purchased separately). On arrival in Melbourne, enjoy a brief city orientation tour before transferring to our hotel for check-in. Melbourne is a magnet for people because its distinctive characteristics create memorable experiences and a vibrant lifestyle. Encircled by parkland, Melbourne is the cultural capital of Australia with everything from grand opera to sidewalk art. The city is rich in its multicultural identity, classic buildings, beautiful parks and gardens, sophisticated dining and enviable shopping.

Early evening, enjoy a visit to Eureka Skydeck. Nothing you have ever experienced will prepare you for the awe-inspiring views from the highest viewing platform in the Southern Hemisphere at Melbourne's iconic Eureka Tower, currently the world's tallest residential building. Skydeck 88 is Australia's newest "must see" attraction with two dedicated lifts propel visitors to Level 88 in under 40 seconds. After the visit, enjoy a welcome dinner in one of Melbourne's Southbank restaurants.

Meal Plan Breakfast and Dinner

Duration 2 Nights

Accommodation

Crown Metropol Hotel

Day 9

Melbourne Sightseeing

After breakfast this morning we discover the secrets and hidden treasures of Melbourne's lanes and arcades on a walking tour. We will immerse ourselves in the heritage and culture of this cosmopolitan city, and visit local artisans and up-and-coming fashion designers. Join the café society and soak up the atmosphere of old-world charm as well as discover a little history, architecture, street art and more! There will be a tea/coffee stop in the middle in addition to bottled water and chocolate tasting. Our walk will end with a tasty lunch and a glass of wine. Enjoy some free time to wander around the shops and take in the Melbourne atmosphere.

Later, we set out to see Koalas in the wild in the beautiful Australian bush. Your expert nature guide will share the knowledge of these wonderful pouched animals with you. You will also see mobs of free-ranging Eastern-grey kangaroos in a natural bush setting and learn about many other Australian animals and birds at Serendip open-range sanctuary on the vast Western Plains near Melbourne. The tour is timed to coincide with the sunset which is the best time to see large flocks of waterbirds return to the Serendip Sanctuary to overnight in safety. There is majesty and movement right across the sanctuary as the sun drops quietly into the savannah.

During dinner, you will meet and talk to representatives of the Aboriginal tribal community. You will hear Aboriginal stories direct from the lips of Aboriginal people and hear the evocative music of the Didgeridoo. This is not a staged show but a shared experience where cultural interchange occurs in a traditional oral fashion. You will also learn about modern Aboriginal life. A delicious bush BBQ dinner is provided at Serendip.

Meal Plan Breakfast and Dinner

Day 10

Melbourne to Adelaide

Enjoy breakfast this morning at our hotel before transferring to the airport for our flight to Adelaide (airfare not included in the tour cost, to be purchased separately) in the state of South Australia. On arrival, we head out for a private tour of the Adelaide Hills for wine tasting and lunch at Maximilian's, a superb restaurant where you will delight in the sweeping views over the lake and vineyard. Next, enjoy a special visit to the National Wine Centre. We will enjoy a tour of the wine discovery museum and a single wine-tasting station - receive an insight into wines from South Australia's premium winemaking regions by tasting their most renowned wine variety. The remainder of the evening is at leisure

Meal Plan Breakfast and Lunch

Duration 2 Nights

Accommodation

Hilton Adelaide

Day 11

Adelaide

Breakfast is at your leisure this morning. The day is free to explore the city. Perhaps consider adding a day excursion to Kangaroo Island, known as Australia's Zoo without fences. Other options include city walking tours, 4WD safari-style tours or even an intimate visit to the Adelaide Central Market (optional sightseeing not included in the tour cost, to be purchased separately)

OPTION THE GHAN - MUST BE PRE-BOOKED

Breakfast is at your leisure this morning before we transfer to the train station in time to board the world-famous Ghan for an overnight journey through the remote outback region to Alice Springs. This is one of the world's great and legendary train journeys. This famous train was named after the Afghan Cameleers and their camel trains, the most efficient transport through the desert in the late 1800s, linking Central Australia and other parts of the continent. After settling into Gold Service Cabins, lunch will be served as the train pulls out of Adelaide Station. Relax and enjoy the rhythm of the rails for the afternoon before our dinner sitting in the lovely Queen Adelaide Restaurant Car.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner and all beverages while on the train

Meal Plan Breakfast

Day 12

Adelaide to Alice Springs

Start the day with a hearty breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport for our flight to Alice Springs (airfare not included in the tour cost, to be purchased separately). On arrival, transfer to the hotel for check-in. Next, take a short drive to Alice Springs Train Station to collect your fellow guests who are arriving on the Ghan Train. When everyone is together again, we tour Alice Springs, the main service centre for the vast Outback region. Alice Springs is set against the rugged mountain backdrop of the magnificent MacDonnell Ranges 1500kms from the nearest capital city. 'Alice' was originally known as Stuart Town after the first European who, on his fifth attempt to cross Australia from Adelaide to Darwin surveying the route for the Overland Telegraph Line, discovered the spectacular mountain range now known as the MacDonnell Ranges. The largest of the many repeater Telegraph Stations completed in 1872, it was situated at Stuart Town, later renamed Alice Springs after the Postmaster's wife.

Our tour includes visits to the Royal Flying Doctor Service to see how this marvelous facility operates to provide a "Mantle of Safety" to the people of the Outback and the School of the Air - a school with a difference & the first of its kind. The School of the Air covers 1.3 million square kilometres including most of the NT, northern SA and eastern WA. You'll learn about this unique school at the Visitors Centre, one of the most popular attractions in Alice Springs. This evening, we enjoy an entertaining Outback BBQ Dinner

Meal Plan Breakfast and Dinner

Duration 1 Night

Accommodation

DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs

Day 13

Alice Springs to Ayers Rock

After breakfast commence a fascinating journey through the semi-arid desert that is known by the locals as the 'Red Centre' to the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park. On the way, we will make a short comfort stop. We will explore the fascinating base of Ayers Rock and hear some of the Aboriginal legends about this sacred land. The Rock has become one of the symbols of Australia that is recognized everywhere in the world. Nothing can give a sense of its size except standing beneath the towering 348 meters wall of rock.

As we tour the Rock's base with our knowledgeable driver/guide, we will fully appreciate not only its size but also the way it appears to continually change. From one angle it looks almost like a huge box; from another, it sprawls elegantly across the plain. Visit the Cultural Centre where there is the opportunity to purchase lunch.

We have time to freshen up at our hotel before being transferred to the site of the amazing Night at Field of Light.* Your evening begins at a remote desert location with majestic views of Uluru. As the sun sets on the horizon to the music of a didgeridoo, enjoy gourmet canapes and chilled sparkling wine. As darkness falls and the coloured lights of the 50,000 glass spheres gently come to life, join your table of fellow travellers for an exceptional three-course menu infused with bush tucker flavours. As the night ignites with countless stars, settle back and listen to a resident star talker decode the southern night sky. Your host will provide insights into the art installation that awaits you, before you're invited to immerse yourself in the Field of Light, its pathways glistening softly with rhythms of coloured light, beckoning you to explore.

* Guests traveling in March will be offered a Sunset Tour & BBQ Dinner in lieu of The Night at Field of Lights & Sounds of Silence

Meal Plan Breakfast and Dinner

Duration 1 Night

Accommodation

Desert Gardens Hotel

Day 14

Fly Ayers Rock to Cairns

After breakfast at our hotel, our Driver and coach will be waiting to transfer us out to the Olgas, also known in the Aboriginal language as "Kata Tjuta" translated as "many heads." The Olgas are a collection of smaller, more rounded rocks, located 32km to the west of Ayers Rock. Each of the 36 domes has a story in mythology and is of significance to the Aboriginal Dreamtime (legends).

Immerse yourself in culture as you learn about the local Anangu tribe through their Dot Painting Art. Have a chance to create your own story with your own dot painting.

Return to the Desert Gardens for some time to relax before heading to the airport to connect with a flight to Cairns (airfare not included in the tour cost, to be purchased separately).

Cairns is a modern, vibrant city and the unofficial capital of tropical North Queensland. Not only is the city the gateway to two amazing natural wonders, the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree National Park, but it is also connected to a strong Aboriginal Culture and historical links to WW II and the battles for the Pacific. On arrival, transfer to the hotel for check-in. Tonight, enjoy a 3-course dinner at Peppers Crane Terrace in the hotel

Meal Plan Breakfast and Dinner

Duration 3 Nights

Accommodation

Riley Hotel - Crystalbrook Collection Resort

Day 15

Full Day Green Island and Great Barrier Reef

Another great day today as we board the Great Adventures catamaran for our Great Barrier Reef experience. Details of your chosen option - Green Island or Outer Reef Excursion -- are outlined below.

Green Island/Outer Reef Option: Depart Cairns on Great Adventures fast catamaran for the short trip to Green Island, a true coral cay. On arrival, you have 2 hours of free time to explore the island. The island is perfect for strolling through the cool rainforests, lazing on white coral sands, swimming or snorkeling on the surrounding coral reef or relaxing around the resort's pool. From Green Island, you re-board the catamaran and head to Great Adventure's 3-level pontoon on the outer edge of the Great Barrier Reef. The pontoon features undercover seating and tables where you will enjoy a sumptuous buffet lunch. The pontoon also has a large sundeck, full bar facilities, an underwater observatory, and a semi-submersible coral viewing tour. You will be able to snorkel or dive (a surcharge applies for diving) among the reef's spectacular coral gardens and beautiful marine life. Return to Cairns at approximately 5:30 pm.

Green Island Only Option: Depart Cairns on Great Adventures fast catamaran for the short trip to Green Island, a true coral cay. On arrival, you have the rest of the day to explore the island. The island is perfect for strolling through cool rainforests, lazing on white coral sands, swimming or snorkeling on the surrounding coral reef or relaxing around the resort's pool. While on the island, your snorkeling equipment and an excursion on a glass-bottom boat are included. A delicious buffet lunch is also included in the island's resort restaurant. Return to Cairns at 2:30 pm or you can choose to stay until 4.30 pm.

For both options, we strongly recommend you take a hat, swimsuit and plenty of sunscreen lotion. This evening is at leisure.

Meal Plan Breakfast and Lunch

Day 16

Full Day Kuranda Rail/Rainforestation Tour

After breakfast, we board the Kuranda Scenic Railway for one of the most spectacular journeys in Australia. We will enjoy "Royale Service" as the train slowly winds its way up the epic pioneer track with every turn revealing a new panorama - sugar plantations, Barron Falls and Stoney Creek Falls. Our Royale service includes champagne and orange juice which we can sip while we listen to the informative commentary as the majesty of this area unfolds.

On arrival at Kuranda Station - a cool, tropical environment of native shrubs, ferns and flowers - we meet up with our coach driver for the short transfer to Kuranda Village, where we will have some free time to browse around the quaint township before enjoying a restaurant lunch. After this, we head to our next adventure at Rainforestation.

Our visit includes the Pamagirri Aboriginal Dancers who perform in the Rainforest Amphitheatre, a guided Dreamtime Walk, a boomerang throwing demonstration and an exciting ride on an amphibious army duck for an informative tour through the rainforest. Later we will also have the opportunity to visit the native animal enclosure to meet a koala. From Rainforestation, we take our coach back down to Cairns arriving at approximately 5.00 pm.

Rest and relax before this evening's dinner at a local highly awarded restaurant than a casual stroll through Cairns Night market.

Meal Plan Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 17

Cairns to Sydney

Transfer to the airport this morning after breakfast for our flight to Sydney (airfare not included in the tour cost, to be purchased separately). On arrival in Australia's largest city, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Sydney, Australia's gateway city and the capital of New South Wales, is a vibrant city of unsurpassed style and variety. Established in 1788 as a convict settlement, Sydney has grown from these humble beginnings to become Australia's biggest, oldest and liveliest city and one of the great international cities of the world. Today, over 5 million people live in Sydney and its suburbs. Sydney is built around one of the largest and most beautiful natural harbours in the world. Miles of surfing beaches stretch north and south of the city on the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

The most famous of Sydney's landmarks is the Harbour Bridge and the spectacular Opera House with its graceful 'sails' - the centre of Sydney's cultural activities. Combined with a sunny climate and a relaxed outdoor lifestyle, Sydney is a magnet for the best the world has to offer.

Meal Plan Breakfast

Duration 3 Nights

Accommodation

Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney

Day 18

Blue Mountains

A full-day tour today takes us to the Blue Mountains outside of Sydney. Visit Scenic World and enjoy rides on the Skyway - a glass-bottomed aerial cable car, the Scenic Cableway - the steepest aerial cable car in the Southern Hemisphere and the Scenic Railway, the steepest passenger railway in the world followed by a short walk through the Cold Mountain Rainforest. We then stop for lunch after which we head to one of the lookout points to experience the full beauty of the Blue Mountains. The views from the park's lookouts are magnificent; we will look out over hazy blue forests, waterfalls and interesting rock formations.

We return to Sydney in the late afternoon.

Meal Plan Breakfast and Lunch

Day 19

Sydney Sightseeing – City Tour / Sydney Opera House / Sunset Dinner Cruise

After a relaxing breakfast this morning at our hotel, we head out of downtown Sydney via the historic Rocks area and through the suburb of Paddington known for its turn-of-the-century terraced houses

before arriving at Sydney's famous surfing mecca, Bondi Beach. There will be time to explore and enjoy a morning refreshment. Later, we return to the city, arriving at the Sydney Opera House for a 'Tasting Plate' light lunch before a guided walking tour. The Opera House is Australia's premier venue for the performing arts and is home to the Australian Opera Company, the Australian Ballet, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Sydney Theatre Company.

It was designed by Jorn Utzon, and, on completion in 1973, was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Beneath the huge sail roofs are four major halls which are acoustically balanced to suit their own particular form of entertainment. In addition to the spectacular architecture, the appeal of the Opera House is its location on the harbour foreshores, bounded by the Botanical Gardens, Circular Quay and overlooked by the Harbour Bridge. At the completion of this tour, we will transfer to the King Street Wharf in Darling Harbour where we will enjoy our 'Farewell to Australia' Captain Cook's Dinner Cruise on Sydney Harbour. Relax and enjoy the sights of Sydney's foreshore suburbs and the upper and lower reaches of Sydney Harbour while enjoying a unique dining experience. We then cruise past Fort Denison, a fortress island also known as "Pinchgut," where convicts prone to escaping were detained on a diet of bread and water. Looking back at the city skyline we gain a totally different perspective of Sydney's best-known landmarks - the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge.

Meal Plan Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 20

Depart Sydney

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast this morning at the hotel. This is the end of your Holiday of a Lifetime. If you are flying out of Sydney today you will be transferred to the airport. Of course, if you have the time, why not stay longer and explore some different parts of Australia.