

*Full Itinerary*

## INSPIRING AUSTRALIA



TALK TO OUR WELL  
TRAVELLED TEAM OF  
EXPERTS

Toll Free US and  
Canada: 1 (855)  
342-4127

Office open: Monday - Thursday  
9:00am - 8:00pm, Friday 9:00am -  
5:30pm (London time). Call  
answered 24/7



### JOURNEY SNAPSHOT

ACTIVITY LEVEL:

Level 2

DESTINATION:

Inspiring Australia

DURATION:

13 nights / 14 days

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Please arrange your flights to arrive at Melbourne  
Airport [MEL], Australia on Day 1 and end at  
Sydney Airport [SYD] Australia on Day 14.

PICKUP LOCATION:

Melbourne Airport

## OVERVIEW

Choose your own departure date for your group.

Sydney, Melbourne & Adelaide visiting Ayres Rock, Bondi Beach, Frazer Island and Lady Elliot Island - a great start to the exploration of all the wonders found "Down Under"

Experience cosmopolitan Australia in the cities of Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney and gain an understanding of it's more ancient past and aboriginal culture at the Tower Hill reserve in Victoria. This experience wouldn't be complete without heading to Uluru, also known as Ayer's Rock, to one of the most sacred aboriginal sites in Australia for it's spectacular sunsets across awe-inspiring vistas of the desert. As if that's not enough, this tour also provides plenty of opportunities to explore some of the world's most beautiful beach experiences, including the world-famous Bondi beach and at the World Heritage Sites of Fraser Island by 4WD and the Great Barrier Reef with your snorkel.

## ITINERARY SUMMARY

**DAY 1** - Welcome to Melbourne & City Tour

**DAY 2** - Warrnambool via the Great Ocean Road

**DAY 3** - Horsham via Grampians National Park

**DAY 4** - Adelaide

**DAY 5** - Alice Springs

**DAY 6** - Uluru

**DAY 7** - Kata Tjuta & Sydney

**DAY 8** - Sydney City Tour

**DAY 9** - The Blue Mountains

**DAY 10** - Fraser Island

**DAY 11** - Fraser Island

**DAY 12** - Lady Elliot Island

**DAY 13** - Sydney

**DAY 14** - Goodbye to Australia and Home

## FULL ITINERARY

### DAY 1 - WELCOME TO MELBOURNE & CITY TOUR

G'day to Australia and to vibrant Melbourne! Melbourne, Victoria's state capital, is regarded as the world's most liveable city. Guests arriving in the morning will be able to meet your Big Journey Company Tour Director and join the afternoon city tour to explore the highlights of Melbourne and experience the world's most liveable city for themselves. Join in the hustle and bustle of the Queen Victoria Markets, see the Melbourne Cricket Ground and the visit Royal Botanic Gardens. There will also be time to explore trendy St Kilda and enjoy afternoon tea, with a photo stop at the colourful Brighton Bathing Boxes. The tour ends at the Eureka Skydeck for spectacular city views.

We will gather together this evening for a welcome dinner at our hotel or a popular nearby restaurant and finish the day by sipping a cocktail with a view at one of Melbourne's many rooftop bars, where your Big Journey Tour Director will discuss the coming tour with you further.

**Included meals:** Dinner

**Accommodation:** Spicers Potts Point, Sydney

### DAY 2 - WARRNAMBOOL VIA THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD

The iconic Great Ocean Road is a world famous coastal drive where you will enjoy a day of amazing contrasts and breath-taking scenery today. Torquay, the official starting point of the Great Ocean Road and is our first stop today. Continue the Great Ocean Road journey for a photo stop at Memorial Arch and to visit Erskine Falls, the most popular waterfall in the Otway Range which plunges 30 metres into the lush tree-fern gully of the Erskine River. Feel the fine, refreshing mist from the cascading water as you take in the views from one of two lookouts.

On the drive to the seaside town of Apollo Bay, you see rugged cliffs drop dramatically to the ocean on one side and the beautiful national park on the other. A Kennett River we will spot koalas in their natural habitat before continuing to Apollo Bay for today's lunch stop.

As we continue round the coast through Great Otway National Park, you'll spot the craggy limestone towers of the Twelve Apostles, once connected to the mainland cliffs. Waves and wind carved them into caves, then arches, and has eventually battered them down into 45-metre-tall columns, only eight of which still stand. Other highlights include Gibson Steps, London Bridge and the spectacular views around Bay of Islands.

We end the day in historic Warrnambool, overlooking the deep blue of the Southern Ocean.

**Included meals:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** The Deep Blue Hotel & Hot Springs

### DAY 3 - HORSHAM VIA GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK

The Grampians is a majestic mountain range and forest rising out of flat farmland in Victoria's west with woodlands, waterfalls and rock formations. The national park is home to a huge array of native plants and animals and a rich and continuing Aboriginal history. First stop today is at the Tower Hill Reserve. Here we will meet koalas, emus, kangaroos and many of the species of water birds that roam freely in their natural habitat. We also learn about Aboriginal history and cultural heritage.

For lunch we arrive in Halls Gap, surrounded by the Wonderland and Mount William ranges. We visit the Brambuk Cultural Centre and will try to have a 'meet & greet' with the native kangaroo population who gather at the local sportsground almost every afternoon.

We explore the Grampians National Park in the afternoon and enjoy majestic views from Reeds Lookout and The Balconies, we will see MacKenzie Falls and one of the ancient Aboriginal rock art sites to be found in this area.

**Included meals:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Comfort Inn May Park, Deluxe Room

### DAY 4 - ADELAIDE

Today we will relocate to the capital city of South Australia, Adelaide, passing through typical Australian country towns and visiting the historical village of Hahndorf on the way. A stroll through historic Hahndorf's main street is the highlight for many visitors to the region. Settled in 1839 by Prussian Lutherans bravely seeking religious freedom on the other side of the world, Hahndorf's picturesque colonial charm remains remarkably intact. It still has a strong German flavour most evident in the bakeries, pubs, restaurants and cafes that line the bustling main street. Once considered a sleepy city, Adelaide is undergoing a rapid transformation with a burgeoning small-bar scene, world-class art and music. Discover its laneway secrets and find delicious treats around every bend as you enjoy dinner at your leisure in the city this evening. Your Big Journey Tour Director is on hand to help with recommendations if you would like.

**Included meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Ibis Adelaide

## DAY 5 - ALICE SPRINGS

Today we head for Australia's Red Centre on a morning flight into Alice Springs. A town surrounded by red dirt and hauntingly beautiful mountain ranges, Alice Springs is the beating heart of Australia.

We head out to explore in the afternoon. We stop at the top of Anzac Hill for sweeping views of the town and the surrounding outback before visiting the historic and original working base of the Royal Flying Doctors. We continue to Desert Park for an introduction to Australia's outback and life in Central Australia. The Park is a botanical garden, a wildlife haven, a centre for Aboriginal culture and an environmental conservation institute all rolled into one. On top of all that, it's located in a magnificent setting at the foot of the MacDonnell Ranges.

**Included meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs

## DAY 6 - ULURU

Time to start our Red Centre adventure! After breakfast we travel to Uluru. Once renamed Ayer's Rock, it was given back its traditional name of Uluru in 1995, to show respect for the Anangu people and, in particular, to acknowledge their ownership of and relationship to the area. We will take the Ernest Giles Road for the ultimate outback experience, subject to road conditions.

There really is nothing else on earth quite like Uluru or its sister rock formation, Kata Tjuta. We visit the Uluru Cultural Centre, the best place to learn about the area and the Anangu culture. We continue to get up close to the rock and walk a section of the base. You won't realise just how incredible Uluru is until you do this walk!

We end today watching the sunset over Uluru with canapes and drinks, mesmerized by how the colours change over the world's largest monolith.

**Included meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Desert Gardens Hotel

## DAY 7 - KATA TJUTA & SYDNEY

Rise early to enjoy a spectacular sunrise over Uluru with a 360-degree view before continuing to Kata Tjuta, a group of large, ancient rock formations about 30 kilometres away from Uluru.

Kata Tjuta is made up of 36 sandstone domes spread over an area of more than 20 kilometres. These domes are believed to be about 500 million years old. Kata Tjuta is a sacred site for men in the Anangu Aboriginal culture and many of the legends surrounding the site are kept secret. We will enjoy the Walpa Gorge Walk, taking in the stunning scenery.

We return to our accommodation to pick up our baggage and travel on to nearby Ayers' Rock Airport for the flight to Sydney. Sydney is one of the world's most loved cities and it has a lively and vibrant buzz. We stay in a historic area called The Rocks, the birthplace of Sydney where settlers first began their occupation.

**Included meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Novotel Darling Harbour Sydney

## DAY 8 - SYDNEY CITY TOUR

Today we will enjoy Sydney's natural beauty, from unspoilt beaches to public gardens and, of course, the glistening harbour on a city tour. We will also see St. Mary's Cathedral and visit Sydney Tower for unrivalled 360 degree views. The two icons of this city, the Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House will be tour highlights.

At Bondi Beach you will have ample time to enjoy coffee or lunch with a view. You could also go for a swim; public changing rooms and showers are available. We highly recommend you join your Big Journey Tour Director and local guide to walk a section of the Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk, which will take you along scenic cliff tops. The walk, very popular amongst Sydneysiders, is a medium grade urban walk, featuring stunning views, beaches, parks, cliffs, bays and rock pools.

Late in the afternoon we will take the public ferry to coastal and cosmopolitan Manly, taking in ever changing views of the city as we cross the harbour. Here we enjoy a-la-carte dinner together at a restaurant which is a favourite amongst the locals. Return to our hotel by coach.

**Included meals:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Novotel Darling Harbour

## DAY 9 - THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

With a blue horizon of eucalyptus trees that appears to stretch on forever, expect to be enchanted by the natural beauty of the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Included on today's itinerary is a visit Scenic World, where you can ride their skyway, walkway, cableway and railway (which is the steepest incline passenger railway in the world!). In your leisure time, you may want to explore some of the 87 miles of walking tracks, admire the native bushland and marvel at the impressive rock formations on a day centred around the outdoors, but be sure to remember the time for meeting the coach for our return trip to Sydney in the late afternoon.

**Included meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Novotel Darling Harbour

## DAY 10 - FRASER ISLAND

We take a morning flight from Sydney to Hervey Bay, Queensland. WE then transfer to Hervey Bay harbour for the 50-minute ferry crossing to spectacular Fraser Island.

Fraser Island, the largest sand island in the world, really does deserve its listing as a World Heritage area. The rest of the afternoon is at your own leisure. You may want to join one of the ranger-guided walks and talks, try your luck at fishing or just relax by the pool.

Enjoy sundowners with a view before sitting down for a Bush Tucker dinner (Aboriginal inspired) at the resort's renowned Seabelle Restaurant together this evening.

**Included meals:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Kingfisher Bay Resort

## DAY 11 - FRASER ISLAND

We will spend a full day off-roading in a custom- designed 4WD vehicle, visiting the top natural attractions of Fraser Island. Paddle in the crystal clear blue water of Lake McKenzie with its pure white sandy shores. Visit the lush rainforest at Central Station and renowned Wanggoolba Creek with its rare King Ferns. You will marvel at the tall Satinay trees of Pile Valley. Stop for a wander around the boardwalks at Eli Creek and witness enormous volumes of cool fresh water running out to sea. Enjoy the commentary of your ranger as he explains the island's flora and fauna, the history of the shipwreck "Maheno", the formation of the fascinating coloured sands on the Eastern Beach as well as the Aboriginal and European history of the island. The tour includes a buffet lunch.

**Included meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Kingfisher Bay Resort

## DAY 12 - LADY ELLIOT ISLAND

We reach the mainland by marine transfer after breakfast. From Hervey Bay Airport we take a 40-minute scenic flight to Lady Elliot Island. Lady Elliot Island, at the southern tip of the Great Barrier Reef is famous for it's glittering white beaches made entirely of crushed coral and its extraordinary marine life. Here it is easy to feel like a modern-day castaway.

Situated within a highly protected 'Green Zone' Lady Elliot Island is a sanctuary for over 1,200 species of marine life and is known for its abundance of manta rays, turtles and unspoilt coral reef. Go snorkelling straight from the beach, diving (optional) or board the glass bottom boat to explore this unique underwater world. You may also want to embark on a Reef Walking Tour (tide dependent) or opt for a leisurely 45-minute beach walk around the emerald green-edged island.

Enjoy buffet-style dinner together before taking part in one of the evening activities, which may include specialist presentations in the education centre and turtle viewing (in season).

**Included meals:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort

## DAY 13 - SYDNEY

Go for a sunrise walk or early morning snorkel as a fond farewell to this beautiful place before having breakfast on the deck overlooking the coral lagoon. We return to Hervey Bay by small plane for our next flight bound for Sydney.

The afternoon in Sydney is free to spend as you wish before we meet one last time for a farewell dinner together this evening.



**Included meals:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Novotel Darling Harbour, Sydney

## DAY 14 - GOODBYE TO AUSTRALIA AND HOME

This Australian adventure comes to an end after breakfast. You will be transferred to Sydney International Airport for flights home.

**Included meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** none

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Meet & Greet at the airport on arrival and transfer to the hotel as detailed in the itinerary.
- Accommodation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Transportation in an air-conditioned, deluxe vehicle
- Domestic economy flights, from Adelaide to Alice Springs, from Ayers Rock Airport to Sydney, from Sydney to Hervey Bay, from Hervey Bay to Lady Elliot Island, from Lady Elliot Island to Hervey Bay, from Hervey Bay to Sydney.
- Meals as detailed in the itinerary
- All activities, visits and excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- English speaking Tour Director for the duration of the tour.

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights arriving into Melbourne Airport, Australia [MEL] on Day 1 and departing Sydney Airport, Australia [SYD] on Day 14
- Transfers on arrival or departure, to/from the airport(s), outside of the journey dates.
- Drinks
- Gratuities
- Visas, travel or medical insurance
- Any personal items and anything not mentioned under included in price above
- Any meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Any optional activities offered
- Any COVID tests or related entry & exit requirements

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- The Journey will start at Melbourne Airport [MEL], Australia on Day 1 and end at Sydney Airport [SYD] Australia on Day 14.
- Please let The Big Journey Company know prior to travelling if you have any medical needs or take any medication that we need to be made aware of to ensure that you have a safe and pleasant journey.
- Check in is after 2-3pm and check out is before 10am unless otherwise specified in the itinerary.
- Cancellation 90 - 0 days prior to departure cancellation fee is 100%. It is your responsibility to ensure the correct travel insurance in place to protect you against the need to cancel your holiday. Deposits are non-refundable.
- A non-refundable deposit is due at the time of booking. Full balance will be due 14 weeks prior to departure. Full cost of any flights purchased from us is required at the time of booking.
- Further terms and conditions apply and will be provided upon request or at the time of booking. The Big Journey Company reserves the right to withdraw any offer prior to accepting a reservation request. This does not affect your statutory rights. This offer is subject to availability and space is limited.



## BOOK YOUR JOURNEY

*Choose from the list of dates below*

*Call to Book*

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