Exclusive UNC GAA departure – March 27-April 18, 2017

EXPLORING AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

23 days from $8,557 total price
from Los Angeles
($7,495 air & land inclusive plus $1,062 airline taxes and fees)

Small group touring and the Lands Down Under – they add up to a perfect combination as we travel from Australia’s spectacular Great Barrier Reef and the storied Outback and Ayers Rock to sophisticated Sydney; from New Zealand’s Christchurch, towering Mt. Cook, and breathtaking Milford Sound to high-spirited Queenstown and nautical Auckland.

On Day 17, we see for ourselves why serene Milford Sound ranks as New Zealand’s most popular destination.

Days 1 & 2: Depart U.S. for Cairns, Australia

Day 3: Arrive Cairns This afternoon we arrive in Cairns, gateway to Australia’s Far North and the Great Barrier Reef. We transfer to our hotel where tonight we enjoy a briefing and dinner. D

Day 4: Cairns/Kuranda We take an orientation tour of Cairns then board an historic railway to the mountain village of Kuranda. After time to explore here, we descend via the gondolas of Skyrail. We return to our hotel and the remainder of the day is at leisure to explore Cairns independently. B

Day 5: Great Barrier Reef This morning we board a boat for a day-long excursion to the Great Barrier Reef, at 1,200 miles long the world’s largest living organism and richest marine resource. We pull up at Michaelmas Cay where we can swim, snorkel, or view the reef from a semi-submersible vessel. B,L

Day 6: Cairns/Alice Springs We take a morning tour to Alice Springs, where we see the Anzac Hill Monument to Australian and New Zealand soldiers, Royal Flying Doctors Service, and School of the Air, which provides schooling to widely scattered Outback children. Tonight we enjoy a traditional dinner in the “bush.” B,D

Day 7: Alice Springs This morning we embark on an Aboriginal “dreamtime” tour, to meet Walpiri tribespeople and learn about their ancient culture. Then we visit Simpsons Gap and Standley Chasm, where we enjoy a picnic lunch and see the sheer rock walls aglow in reflected sunlight. B,L

Day 8: Alice Springs/Ayers Rock We reach our Ayers Rock hotel early afternoon. After lunch on our own, we visit Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site that is the traditional land of the Anangu Aboriginal peoples and home to the Olgas rock formations and Uluru (Ayers Rock). We watch the sun set over this fabled sandstone monolith that rises to a height of 1,114 feet. B,D

Day 9: Ayers Rock/Sydney This morning we tour the base of Uluru and the interesting museum here. Mid-day we fly to Sydney, arriving late afternoon. B,D

Day 10: Sydney Today’s tour features the breathtaking Royal Botanic Gardens, Darling Harbour and Mrs. Macquarie’s Point, Rose and Watson’s bays, and popular Bondi Beach. Then we board a catamaran for a lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour. B,L

Day 11: Sydney This morning we tour Featherdale Wildlife Park, where koalas reside. Next we drive
along Sydney’s Northern Beaches, a string of 18 stunning playgrounds, then stop in fashionable Manly for free time and lunch on our own. B

Day 12: Sydney Today is at leisure to explore Sydney as we wish; tonight we enjoy dinner together in the popular “Rocks” area at the Waterfront Restaurant, with excellent seafood and a beautiful setting. B,D

Day 13: Sydney/Christchurch, New Zealand After a late morning tour of the iconic Sydney Opera House, this afternoon is free for independent exploration. This evening we board a flight to Christchurch, New Zealand’s “Garden City.” B

Day 14: Christchurch/Mt. Cook National Park This morning’s orientation tour features the acclaimed Botanic Gardens and “Re:START” Mall,” the vibrant civic area that rose from the rubble of the 2011 earthquake. Then we board our motorcoach for the journey south to Mt. Cook National Park, stopping en route at a farm to watch a sheep-shearing demonstration and to see the amazing sheep dogs in action. Upon reaching Mt. Cook in the Southern Alps late today, we dine at our hotel. B,D

Day 15: Mount Cook This morning’s tour of alpine Mount Cook Village includes a visit to the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Center, where we see a 3D planetarium movie about the region. We also visit the Hillary Gallery, commemorating Sir Edmund’s first ascent of Mount Cook in the Southern Alps late today, we dine at our hotel. B,D

Day 16: Mount Cook/Queenstown We depart this morning for Queenstown, stopping en route in historic Arrowtown for lunch on our own followed by a visit to Kawarau Bridge Bungy, the world’s first bungy jump operation open to the public. Mid-afternoon we reach Queenstown, New Zealand’s “adventure capital.” B,D

Day 17: Milford Sound Our day-long excursion to Milford Sound includes a nature cruise through the breathtaking fjords. We have lunch on board then later have the opportunity to return to Queenstown on an optional scenic flight (weather permitting). B,L

Day 18: Queenstown Today is free to explore Queenstown independently. B

Day 19: Queenstown/Rotorua We depart today for Rotorua, with its geysers, bubbling mud pools, and hot thermal springs; and a center of Maori culture. Our tour here includes the new Rotorua Museum. B

Day 20: Rotorua This morning and early afternoon are at leisure; late afternoon we visit Te Puia Thermal Reserve and Maori Cultural Center for a traditional hangi dinner and performance. B,D

Day 21: Rotorua/Auckland En route to Auckland, we stop this morning at Ruakuri Caves to see the unique glowworms that illuminate the underground grottoes and caves. We reach Auckland late this afternoon; we’re on our own for dinner tonight. B

Day 22: Auckland Our half-day tour of this city set atop 48 volcanic hills features glittering Auckland Harbour and the America’s Cup Village. We also visit the War Memorial Museum, with its prized Maori and Pacific Islander collections. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner at our hotel. B,D

Day 23: Depart for U.S. Very early this morning we depart for the airport for the flight to Los Angeles (via Sydney) and our return flights home. B

Sydney’s iconic Opera House, which we tour on Day 13.

Tour limited to 24 UNC alumni and friends

“One of our best tours ever! We really enjoyed the size of the group, too.”
– Billy Pennington, 2012

Day 24: Depart for U.S. Early this morning we depart for the airport for the flight to Los Angeles (via Sydney) and our return flights home. B

For questions, call the GAA’s Tar Heel Travel office at 1-877-962-3980

Tour Depart: March 27, 2017

Tour Price Includes
- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within itinerary
- 20 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
- 34 meals: 20 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 10 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees

Los Angeles $8,557
Dallas, Houston, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle $8,857
Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Tampa $8,957
Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, DC $9,057
Land Only (transfers not included) $7,295

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Your Tour Price Includes
- 3 days/2 nights for $265 total price
- Single Supplement: $165
- Enjoy additional time in the sparkling “City of Sails,” at your own pace.

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