Exploring Australia & New Zealand

22 days from $9,384 total price from Los Angeles
($8,995 air & land inclusive plus $389 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 to sophisticated Sydney; from New Zealand’s towering Mt. Cook and breathtaking Milford Sound to high-spirited Queenstown and nautical Auckland.

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, with the rest of the day at leisure. 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 an early morning flight to remote Alice Springs, where upon arrival we venture to Simpsons Gap and Standley Chasm for a picnic lunch amid the sheer rock walls. Then we visit the Alice Springs School of the Air, which provides schooling to widely scattered Outback children. B,L

Day 7: Alice Springs This morning we embark on an Aboriginal “dreamtime” tour, where we meet Walpiri tribespeople and learn about their ancient culture. After this First Australians experience, we encounter the acclaimed Royal Flying Doctor Service then visit the Anzac Hill Monument to Australian and New Zealand soldiers. Tonight, we enjoy a traditional Outback Bushman’s Dinner around a campfire. B,D

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 visit 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 Rocks historic neighborhood, 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 wombats, dingos, and koalas reside. Then the afternoon is at leisure; tonight we enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant.  

Day 12: 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.”  

Day 13: Christchurch/Mount Cook National Park  This morning’s orientation tour features the Botanic Gardens and Cathedral Square, the beating heart of Christchurch and site of Christchurch Cathedral. Then we board our motorcoach for the journey south to Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, in the Southern Alps. En route, we stop in the town of Geraldine for lunch and to see sheep dogs and a sheep shearer in action at a local farm. We continue on to Mount Cook, arriving late afternoon.  

Day 14: 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 achievements, including the first ascent of Mount Cook’s difficult South Ridge in 1948 (at 12,316 feet, Mount Cook is New Zealand’s tallest mountain). After time in the village for lunch on our own, this afternoon is at leisure to relax amid the breathtaking scenery, hike, or take an optional scenic flight (weather permitting).  

Day 15: 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.” We dine tonight at our hotel.  

Day 16: 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).  

Day 17: Queenstown  Today is at leisure to enjoy New Zealand’s adventure capital as we wish.  

Day 18: Queenstown/Rotorua  We depart today for the Maori center of Rotorua, with its geysers, bubbling mud pools, and hot thermal springs. Upon arrival, we take a panoramic tour of this city on the shores of Lake Rotorua. This evening we visit Te Puia Thermal Reserve and Cultural Centre for a traditional hangi dinner and Maori performance.  

Day 19: Rotorua  This morning we visit Rainbow Springs Nature Park, a popular showcase of native flora, fauna, and birdlife, and where we also tour the National Kiwi Trust, which rehabilitates injured kiwis, the national bird.  

Day 20: 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.  

Day 21: 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.  

Day 22: 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.  

“The trip exceeded my expectations.”  
— TAR HEEL TRAVELER  

Post-Tour Extension  
March 18-20, 2023  
Auckland – On Your Own  
3 days/2 nights for $295 total price  
Single Supplement: $225  
Enjoy additional time in the sparkling “City of Sails,” at your own pace.  

Your Tour Price Includes  
• 2 nights’ accommodations at Grand Millennium Auckland (Superior First Class)  
• 2 meals: 2 breakfasts  
• Transfer to airport  
• Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within itinerary  
• 19 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels  
• 34 meals: 19 breakfasts, 5 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  

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Tour Departors: February 25, 2023  
Prices include international airline and all taxes, surcharges, and fees  

Los Angeles $9,384  
Dallas, Houston, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle $9,684  
Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Tampa $9,784  
Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, DC $9,884  
Raleigh-Durham $9,934  
Land Only (transfers not included) $8,295  

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $389, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add $2,195. Your $500 deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days before departure. All 2023 tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed. Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Pacific flight: Business Class – $5,995 per person; Premium Economy – $2,795 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change). Please note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and significant amounts of walking – between 1-3 miles per day, unassisted – on stairs and uneven surfaces. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.  

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

UNC General Alumni Association