



Sydney Harbour sunset

## HIGHLIGHTS OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

28 days from only £5,295 per person

**Beautiful New Zealand awaits with its sparkling lakes, gushing geysers and snow-capped mountains. You'll see the very best of the country's incredible landscapes and waterside cities.**

**Cosmopolitan Melbourne welcomes you to Australia. Savour tropical Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef. Next, the haunting splendour of the outback - Alice Springs and Uluru are never to be forgotten. And finally, fabulous Sydney is the natural climax to this tour of highlights.**

**Including a choice of outbound stopovers in Singapore, Dubai or Bangkok, and guided throughout New Zealand and Australia by your experienced Distant Journeys Coach Captains and Tour Manager, you can be sure this holiday will provide you with highlight after highlight.**







**feefo** 88 reviews

Product Rating:

**99%**

ON THIS ITINERARY

### **TOUR HIGHLIGHT**

**The Great Barrier Reef**



Snorkel in the sheltered coral lagoon or marvel at the colourful sealife from the comfort of the underwater observatory or the semi-submersible vessel.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

### Flights with leading scheduled airlines

- ✓ Return economy class flights with Qantas / Emirates
- ✓ Depart from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow at no additional cost
- ✓ All domestic flights within Australia and New Zealand
- ✓ Premium Economy and Business Class upgrades are available on selected international routes for a supplement

### Great choice of included stopovers

- ✓ Your choice of two night outbound stopover in Singapore, Dubai or Bangkok
- ✓ Your stopover includes airport transfers, accommodation, daily breakfast and a city sightseeing tour

### Carefully selected hotels

- ✓ Superior hotels in great locations, as detailed in the itinerary

### Many meals included

- ✓ Daily breakfast included, worth £434pp
- ✓ Maori Hangi dinner in Rotorua
- ✓ Buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef
- ✓ Luncheon cruise on Sydney Harbour

### Unforgettable experiences included

- ✓ Sightseeing tours in Singapore, Christchurch, Rotorua, Auckland, Melbourne, Alice Springs and Sydney
- ✓ Full day excursion and cruise on Milford Sound
- ✓ Franz Josef Glacier
- ✓ Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve
- ✓ Maori concert
- ✓ Ayers Rock at sunset and sunrise
- ✓ Full day on the Great Barrier Reef
- ✓ Luncheon cruise around Sydney Harbour

### We include even more

- ✓ Services of experienced local Coach Captains and Tour Manager
- ✓ All hotel portorage
- ✓ All overseas transfers and transport in modern air-conditioned coaches
- ✓ All airport charges, security charges and applicable fuel surcharges
- ✓ UK Air Passenger Duty
- ✓ No surcharge guarantee
- ✓ ATOL protection for your holiday

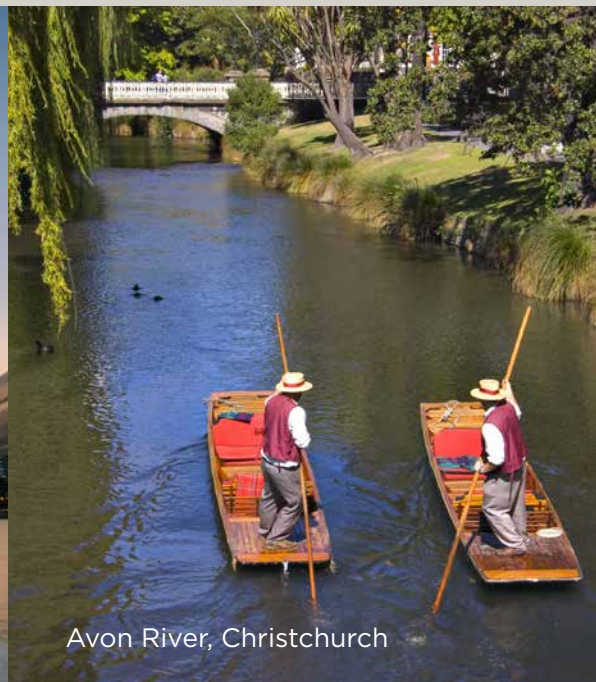


# HIGHLIGHTS OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Days 1 to 8: Singapore - Christchurch - Franz Josef - Queenstown



Singapore



Avon River, Christchurch

## Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from the UK airport most convenient for you with Qantas / Emirates, at no extra cost: London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow.

***In-flight meals and drinks included***

## Day 2: Singapore, 2 nights

All flights to Singapore will travel via Dubai. Arrive into the wonderful city of Singapore and transfer to the four star Copthorne Kings Hotel, situated in an enviable position close to the banks of the Singapore River.

***In-flight meals and drinks included***

## Alternative Stopover - Dubai or Bangkok

We have based days 2 – 4 of this itinerary on a stopover in Singapore.

Alternatively you may choose to stay in Dubai or Bangkok for the same price. All stopovers include transfers to and from the hotel, daily breakfast and a city sightseeing tour.

Flight timings vary dependent on your choice of stopover please speak with one of our travel experts for more details.

## Day 3: Singapore

Known as ‘the crossroads of Asia’, Singapore is a city where east meets west; a cosmopolitan melting pot with an inspirational identity. This morning enjoy a tour of this wonderful city. Included is a stop at Merlion Park with impressive views of Marina Bay. See the historic Civic District, Thian Hock Keng Temple

and the fabulous orchid gardens set within Singapore’s botanical gardens. Return to the hotel where the rest of our day is free to spend as we please.

***Breakfast included***

## Day 4: Depart Singapore

A day at leisure until it’s time to leave for the airport and our flight to Christchurch. Possibly enjoy high tea at Raffles or visit the wonderful Gardens by the Bay.

***Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included***

## Day 5: Christchurch, overnight

We transit through Australia and continue our journey to Christchurch, New Zealand. Christchurch is a charming city renowned for its many gardens and parks. Overnight at the delightful Heartland Hotel Cotswold.

***In-flight meals and drinks included***

## Day 6: Franz Josef, 2 nights

Today we embark on one of the most stunning drives in New Zealand. Travel through the Canterbury Plains, heading towards the imposing Southern Alps and across Arthur’s Pass. We make the spectacular descent down the western side of the Southern Alps, towards the rocky beaches of the untamed west coast. Our route takes us along striking wild scree-scarred terrain with forests of Crimson Rata and Kahikatea. Pass Lakes lanthe and Mapourika before entering the Westland National Park. Our next two nights are at the Franz Josef Glacier Hotel.

***Breakfast included***

## Day 7: Franz Josef Freedom Day

Today is left completely free to absorb the beauty of Franz Josef. For those that so wish, we shall drive to the Franz Josef Glacier terminal where we will have the opportunity to walk towards the glacier. Weather permitting we may also take an optional scenic flight (at an additional cost) over the awe-inspiring Alpine region.

***Breakfast included***

## Day 8: Queenstown, 3 nights

Witness incredible scenery today as we travel through Mount Aspiring National Park, and across the Haast River Bridge on one of the most exciting scenic roads ever built. We journey along the shores of Lakes Hawea and Wanaka as we enter New Zealand’s Central Otago region. Later in the afternoon we arrive at the four star Millennium Hotel in the stunning alpine resort of Queenstown, which will be home for the next three nights.

***Breakfast included***

## We recommend: Scenic flight over Franz Josef Glacier



Enjoy an optional helicopter flight over awe-inspiring Franz Josef Glacier.





Franz Josef Glacier



# HIGHLIGHTS OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Days 9 to 20: Milford Sound - Queenstown - Rotorua - Auckland - Melbourne - Cairns



Milford Sound, New Zealand



Twelve Apostles, Australia

## Day 9: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** Milford Sound



Today we travel to the magnificent Fiordland National Park and to Milford Sound, which will undoubtedly prove to be one of your tour highlights.

The scenic drive takes us through a variety of landscapes - farmland, native tussock grasslands, lush beech forests and impressive glacial valleys - before arriving at Milford Sound to begin our cruise. Only when out cruising on Milford Sound can the sheer scale of the dramatic scenery be fully appreciated: towering peaks rise all around and spectacular waterfalls cascade into the calm waters below. Our cruise takes in the impressive Mitre Peak and Bowen Falls. Remember to keep a look out for dolphins as well as seals and penguins.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 10: Queenstown Freedom Day

Our day is free to take advantage of the incredible variety of activities available in and around New Zealand's most glamorous alpine resort. Maybe go horse riding or take a four wheel drive safari over old mining tracks. For those requiring a more tranquil day, there is also an opportunity to take an optional leisurely cruise (at an additional cost) across Lake Wakatipu aboard the vintage steamboat TSS Earnslaw. The cruise includes a

visit to Walter Peak Homestead and a sheep shearing show, before returning to Queenstown aboard Earnslaw.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 11: Rotorua, 2 nights

After breakfast we make our way to Queenstown Airport in time for our Jetstar flight to Auckland. Upon arrival we board our waiting coach and make our way to the world famous thermal region at Rotorua for our next two nights at the Distinction Hotel, situated close to Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 12: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** Rotorua sightseeing and Maori Hangi



Our sightseeing this morning takes us to Te Puia, home to the Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve with its spurting geysers and boiling mudpools. After time exploring Te Puia, we continue our orientation tour via Rotorua's famous Bath House, a Tudor-style building situated within the Government Gardens. Your afternoon is at leisure to relax. For those that so wish, optional activities include a float plane journey over Mount Tarawera, or perhaps an afternoon enjoying the healing properties of the thermal pools at the Polynesian Spa may be more appealing? Rotorua is the heart of New Zealand's rich

Maori culture and this evening we attend a concert featuring traditional song and dance, including the world famous war dance - The Haka. Also included is a Hangi buffet dinner, cooked using traditional Maori methods.

**Breakfast and dinner included**

## Day 13: Auckland, overnight

After breakfast it's time to leave Rotorua as we make our way to the beautiful city of Auckland, the 'City of Sails'. Our sightseeing tour this afternoon begins with a drive along the beautiful coastline of the famous Waitemata Harbour. In the distance you can see Rangitoto Island, an extinct volcano, dominating the horizon. We continue to the stylish Viaduct Harbour, host to many America's Cup celebrations. Our final night in New Zealand is spent at the centrally located Scenic Hotel, Auckland.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 14: Melbourne, 3 nights

Enjoy a day at leisure in New Zealand's largest city. Auckland boasts a beautiful waterside setting and an America's Cup excursion (at your own expense) around Waitemata Harbour offers the fun and pleasure of a real sailing experience and at the same time providing magnificent views of the city's skyline. Alternatively visit the boutique shops of nearby Parnell or take a trip to the top of Sky Tower. The panoramic views from the tallest building in the southern hemisphere are truly breathtaking. We take an early evening flight to Melbourne. Once your luggage has been collected, you'll meet your local Australian Tour Manager and transfer to the four star Rendezvous Hotel, where we spend three nights.

**Breakfast included**





Great Barrier Reef

#### Day 15: Melbourne

We take our first look at Melbourne on a sightseeing tour. Sights include Captain Cook's Cottage (optional entry at own expense), Victoria Markets, Federation Square, the MCG and Rod Laver Arena. We also head out of the city to see the waterside suburbs of St. Kilda and Port Melbourne. In the afternoon, why not take a trip to Phillip Island, home to the world's largest colony of Fairy Penguins, to view the 'Fairy Penguin Parade'?  
**Breakfast included**

#### Day 16: Melbourne, Freedom Day

This is our first Freedom Day in Australia, where we can choose to relax or explore as we please. We have the opportunity to enjoy an optional tour along one of the world's most spectacular coastal drives, the internationally renowned Great Ocean Road. The full day optional tour begins in Torquay (home to the surfing paradise of Bells Beach) and meanders along the dramatic southwest coastline of Victoria to the impressive Twelve Apostles. Alternatively, take the Puffing Billy steam train through the Blue Dandenong Ranges.  
**Breakfast included**

#### We recommend: The Colonial Tramcar Restaurant



Glide along the scenic streets of Melbourne while enjoying a seasonally selected menu, fine Australian wine, and a fully-stocked bar.

#### Day 17: Cairns, 4 nights

This morning we return to the airport in time for our flight to Cairns where the afternoon is free to become acquainted with tropical Queensland. Centrally located in the heart of Cairns, our home for the next four nights is the four star DoubleTree by Hilton.

**Breakfast and in-flight drinks included**

#### Day 18: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** Great Barrier Reef



A holiday to Australia would not be complete without a visit to the Great Barrier Reef. Its vibrantly coloured marine life and breath-takingly beautiful coral make this World Heritage site a must see for all visitors. During our full day Great Barrier Reef excursion, we board our high-speed catamaran and journey out to the Marine World platform located on the Outer Reef.

Snorkel in the sheltered coral lagoon, or if you prefer to stay dry, view the reef from the semi-submersible reef viewer or underwater observatory. With five hours at the reef there is plenty of time to do it all. For the more adventurous, there are a number of activities available at an additional cost, including scuba diving (no experience necessary), joining the marine biologist on a guided snorkel safari, or soaring above the reef on a spectacular scenic helicopter flight.

**Breakfast and lunch included**

#### Day 19: Cairns Freedom Day

Although today has been left free you may wish to take an optional trip to Kuranda. To begin the day, guests are able to immerse themselves in traditional aboriginal culture at the Tjapukai Cultural Centre, with authentic music, dance and storytelling by the Tjapukai people. We then take the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, a beautiful experience gliding over the rainforest canopy, to the picturesque market town of Kuranda, 'the village in the rainforest'. Kuranda is a lovely place to while away a few hours visiting the daily markets, the butterfly sanctuary or the Koala Gardens. The tour returns to Cairns by a scenic railway journey.  
**Breakfast included**

#### Day 20: Cairns Freedom Day

Another free day to enjoy and relax in tropical northern Queensland. Surrounded by rainforest and mountains, Cairns boasts over 200 walking tracks; there are also numerous interesting museums and art galleries to explore. If you prefer to venture further afield, a day trip to the nearby World Heritage listed Daintree Rainforest, the oldest rainforest in the world, is a fascinating experience. The tour gives a wonderful insight into the rainforest's unique flora and fauna, including a guided walk with an aboriginal guide and a cruise spotting saltwater crocodiles. Enjoy your day!  
**Breakfast included**



# HIGHLIGHTS OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Days 21 to 25: Alice Springs - Uluru - Sydney



Daintree Rainforest



Aboriginal music, Uluru (Ayers Rock)

## Day 21: Alice Springs, 2 nights

This morning we make our way back to Cairns Airport in time for our flight to Alice Springs in the Northern Territory and Australia's Red Centre. Upon arrival we enjoy a sightseeing tour of the outback's largest town. Alice Springs was originally established in the 1870's as a staging post for the overland telegraph line between Darwin and Adelaide. During our sightseeing tour we relive a bygone era at the Old Telegraph Station historic reserve, which faithfully recreates the settlement's earliest years. Also included is the remarkable Royal Flying Doctor Service and the School of the Air. These unique institutions provide real insight into life in the vast Australian outback. Later in the afternoon we arrive at the four star DoubleTree by Hilton.

**Breakfast and in-flight drinks included**

## Day 22: Alice Springs Freedom Day

Our day is free to relax in the outback town of 'Alice'. You may wish to take an optional hot air balloon ride over the outback. Alternatively a visit to the Western MacDonnell Ranges is an excellent opportunity to get a real picture of life in the outback. The full day excursion takes us through the wondrous and picturesque scenery of Simpson's Gap and the towering granite walls of Standley Chasm.

**Breakfast included.**

## Day 23: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** Uluru, (Ayers Rock), Overnight



Leaving Alice, we head west through amazing outback landscapes as we journey along the scenic Lasseter and Stuart Highways as we make our way to Uluru. Rising from the flat surrounding scrubland, Uluru is a site of deep cultural significance to the Aboriginal communities of the Northern Territory. It is the icon of Australia's outback, and is also the world's largest monolith. This afternoon we take a gentle stroll around certain areas of the rock to learn more about its historical and cultural importance. Later, we have the opportunity to witness the changing colours with a glass of sparkling wine, as the sun begins to set. It's truly a photographer's delight. Overnight at the four star Desert Gardens Hotel.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 24: Sydney, 3 nights

For early risers, a dawn visit to the rock has been arranged. Seeing Uluru at sunrise, from a different vantage point and in a different light, offers a totally new perspective on the ever changing colours and character of the rock. We return to the hotel in time for breakfast. Afterwards, we visit the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as the Olgas. Later this morning we must say a fond farewell to the Red Centre as we board our Jetstar flight to Sydney. Upon arrival we head to the four star North Sydney Harbourview Hotel, overlooking Sydney's

magnificent harbour. Sydney is a city that takes full advantage of its natural setting – its sparkling harbour is host to the world famous Sydney Harbour Bridge and the spectacular Sydney Opera House. Sydney's suburbs are blessed with lush native bushland and pristine sandy beaches. Add to this the excellent restaurants and cafés, endless shopping opportunities and a vibrant culture and it's so very easy to understand why Sydney is one of the world's favourite cities.

**Breakfast included**

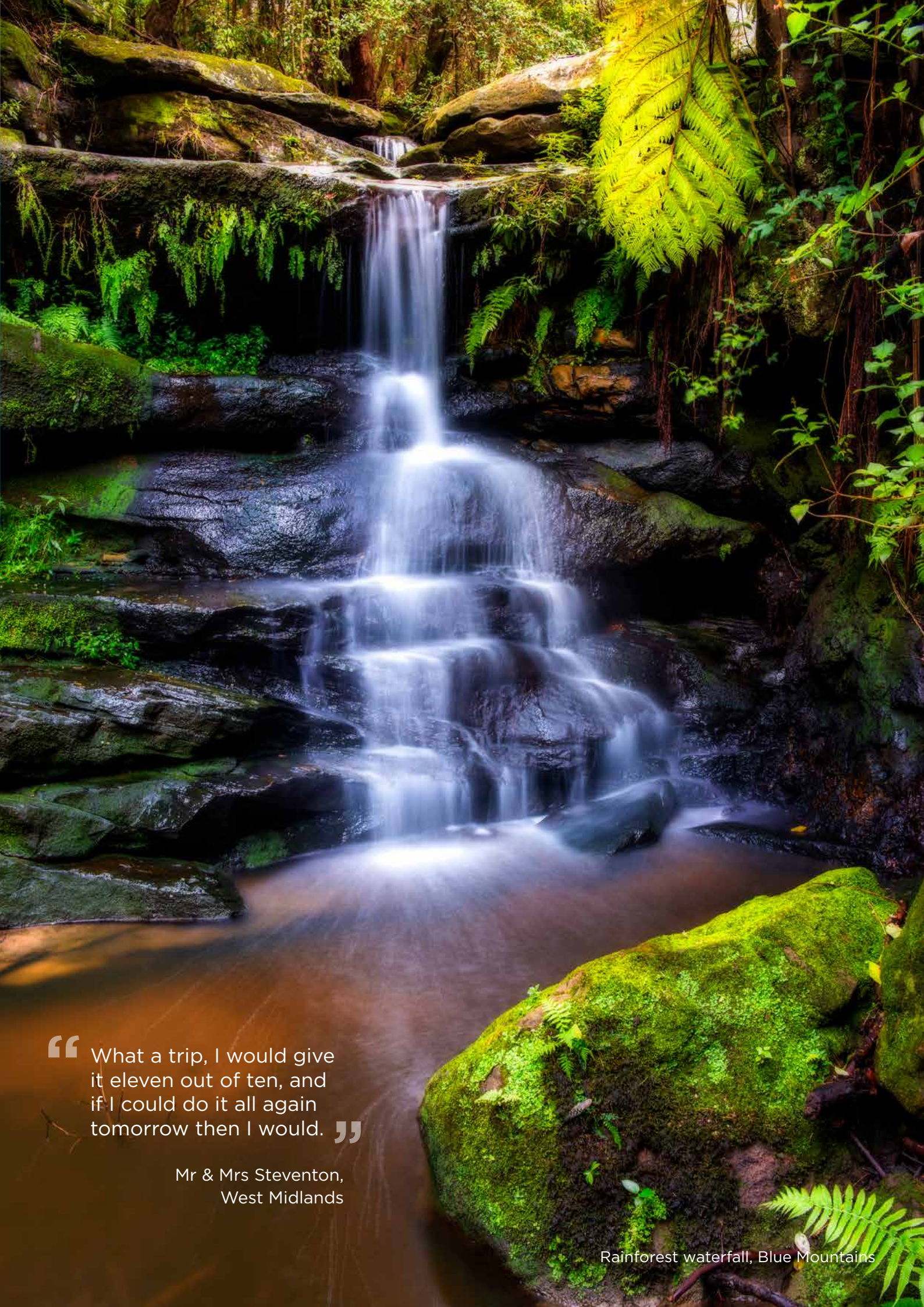
## Day 25: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** Sydney - Sightseeing and lunch cruise



This morning's sightseeing tour begins with a drive through some of Sydney's most fashionable inner-city suburbs en-route to Bondi Beach. Travel by Double Bay and Rushcutters Bay as we make our way back to the city centre. Travel via Hyde Park and Parliament House to Mrs Macquarie's Chair in the Royal Botanical Gardens, where we stop for the classic photo opportunity of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. We complete our tour in the best possible way – enjoying a luncheon cruise around Sydney's beautiful harbour. The views of the opera House, the Harbour Bridge and the many dream homes nestled along the edge of the water are truly amazing. The afternoon has been left free to spend as we please.

**Breakfast and lunch included**





“ What a trip, I would give  
it eleven out of ten, and  
if I could do it all again  
tomorrow then I would. ”

Mr & Mrs Steventon,  
West Midlands

Rainforest waterfall, Blue Mountains



# HIGHLIGHTS OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Days 26 to 28: Sydney - UK



Singapore Sling,  
Singapore



Dubai

## Day 26: Sydney Freedom Day

Today has been left free, but for those that so desire, we shall be taking an optional trip to the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains. The Blue Mountains are a perfect example of native Australian bushland, with gum trees, majestic peaks and deep gorges stretching as far as the eye can see. Experience the panoramas from a series of lookouts, including Echo Point – the prime position to view the Three Sisters rock formation. The excursion also visits Wentworth Falls and the pretty village of Leura, famous for their annual garden festivals and playing host to many of the region's local artists.

**Breakfast included**

## Day 27: Depart Sydney

The morning is yours until it's time to depart for the airport, in the afternoon. Our flights to your chosen UK airport operate via Dubai where there will be a change of aircraft.

**Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 28: Arrive UK

This morning we arrive into our chosen airport (London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow) bringing to an end our incredible adventure.

**In-flight meals and drinks included**

## HOMEBOUND STOPOVERS

If you would like to break your journey on the way home, we have a selection of fabulous stopovers for you to choose from: Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Bali or alternatively, enjoy a stay in Dubai, leaving a relatively short flight back to the UK. Further information on these stopovers may be found on pages 128 – 131.

### Dubai – 5\* Marriott al Jaddaf Two nights from only £295pp

To take in the magic, mystery and culture of Arabia perhaps consider a stopover in Dubai, home to the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa.

### Hong Kong – 4\* Regal Kowloon Two nights from only £345pp

The Far East's number one stopover destination. Be sure to take in a Victoria Harbour cruise and indulge yourselves in the very best street markets, vibrant shops and excellent dining.

### Bangkok – 4\* Amari Watergate Hotel Two nights from only £195pp

Why not consider a stopover in Bangkok, the City of Angels, with its glittering temples, buzzing street markets, indulgent spas and graceful service?

### Singapore – 4\* Copthorne Kings Hotel Two nights from only £245pp

Possibly a two night break in the Lion City of Singapore might be on your wish list? A former British trading colony, Singapore perfectly blends ancient eastern with modern western cultures.

### Bali – 4\* Melia Bali Three nights from only £395pp

For a truly relaxing homeward stopover, a stay in this beachside resort with its large private pool and many on-site dining options, is a must.

