



VERY BEST OF AUSTRALIA CHRISTMAS

29-day Christmas and New Year tour departing 6th December 2018 - £6,995pp

Distant Journeys brings you the ultimate way to spend Christmas and New Year - in the height of summer Down Under. The itinerary for the Christmas departure is slightly different to our normal Very Best of Australia tour, to take in to account the festive celebrations.





Bondi Beach, Sydney

TOUR HIGHLIGHT - Kangaroo Island



This tour includes a fabulous two night stay on stunning Kangaroo Island, where you will witness friendly, native wildlife amongst natural, unspoilt wilderness.

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
- ✓ Premium Economy and Business Class upgrades are available on selected routes for a supplement

Great choice of included stopovers

- ✓ Your choice of two night outbound stopover in Singapore or Dubai
- ✓ 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 £349pp
- ✓ Buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef
- ✓ Luncheon cruise around Sydney Harbour
- ✓ Christmas dinner and drinks in Cairns

New Year's Eve in Sydney

- ✓ Evening meal at Sydney Harbourview Hotel
- ✓ Drinks reception and live music
- ✓ Exclusive viewing platform for an unrivalled view of the amazing Harbour Bridge fireworks

Unforgettable experiences included

- ✓ Sightseeing tours in Singapore, Melbourne, Adelaide, Alice Springs and Sydney
- ✓ Uluru (Ayers Rock) at sunset and sunrise
- ✓ Full day on the Great Barrier Reef
- ✓ Luncheon cruise around Sydney Harbour

We include even more

- ✓ Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
- ✓ All hotel portage
- ✓ 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



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Perth



Sea lions, Kangaroo Island

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/Perth

We have based days 2 – 4 of this itinerary on a stopover in Singapore. Alternatively you may choose to stop in Dubai or spend an extra two nights in Perth for the same price. The alternative stopovers include transfers to and from the hotel, daily breakfast, and if choosing Dubai a city sightseeing tour. Flight timings and departure airports vary with alternative stopovers – please speak with one of our personal 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. Witness the intriguing ethnic quarters where Chinese, Malay and Indian influences fuse to produce Singapore’s unique culture. Also visit Singapore’s Merlion and the botanical gardens.

Return to the hotel where the rest of our day is free to spend as we please.

Breakfast included

Day 4: Perth, 3 nights

A day at leisure in Singapore until it’s time to leave for our evening flight to Perth. Possibly visit nearby Sentosa Island. Upon arrival into Perth later tonight, clear customs and transfer to the Pan Pacific Hotel for our first three nights in Australia.

Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included

Day 5: Perth

Named ‘The friendly city’ by tourists from all over the world, Perth is the world’s most isolated city and is the capital of Western Australia. Today, we have arranged a tour to explore the city and surrounding area, including a visit to King’s Park, with its enchanting wild flowers and bushland, and amazing views over the city’s skyline. We will also travel to the nearby port town of Fremantle and enjoy an included visit to the fascinating Maritime Museum. Later, we see the Millionaires Mansions as we return to the hotel with a cruise along the Swan River.

Breakfast included

Day 6: Perth Freedom Day

Our first Australian Freedom Day allows us to spend the day as we please. Our Distant Journeys Tour Manager will be on hand to help with advice on things to do, where to eat, make any arrangements and book excursions for you to further explore the area. Perhaps take a cruise to the wineries along the beautiful Swan River or an optional trip to the Nambung National Park to visit the fascinating limestone formations known as

the Pinnacles. However you choose to spend your day – enjoy!

Breakfast included

Day 7: Kangaroo Island, 2 nights

Following breakfast this morning, we board our flight to Adelaide, capital of South Australia. Upon arrival meet our waiting coach and continue to the Fleurieu Peninsula, where we board a ferry to Penneshaw on Kangaroo Island. We make our way to the Aurora Ozone Hotel, situated in a prime position on Kangaroo Island, where we spend two nights.

Breakfast and in-flight refreshments included

We recommend: Nambung National Park



Take an optional tour to the Nambung National Park to visit the fascinating limestone formations known as the Pinnacles.

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River Torrens, Adelaide

Day 8: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** Kangaroo Island



Our Kangaroo Island adventure commences with a scenic drive to Seal Bay Conservation Park. Here we will walk on the beach amongst a colony of rare Australian sea lions with a National Parks Ranger. Our next stop is Hanson Bay Sanctuary, where we stroll among eucalypti looking for the wonderful koalas. Spend the afternoon at Flinders Chase National Park, renowned as a sanctuary for native Australian animals including kangaroos, wallabies, koalas and echidnas. The tour of the park will also take us to the rugged southern coastline for a walk on the Remarkable Rocks, which provide us with great photographic opportunities and stunning sea views. We continue to Admirals Arch boardwalk, which takes us down a rugged cliff face to reveal a spectacular rock archway, a natural nursery and safe haven for playful Long-nosed Fur Seals. After a wonderful day spent amongst Australia's very best wildlife, we return to our hotel for a second night.

Breakfast included

Day 9: Adelaide, 2 nights

After meeting a variety of Australia's wildlife up close and personal, it's time to make our way back to the mainland by ferry. En route to Adelaide, we visit Australia's oldest surviving German settlement in the quaint village of Hahndorf, with its tree lined streets and original 'Fachwerk' buildings. Surrounded by grassy parkland, picturesque hills and the Mount Lofty Range, Adelaide could scarcely present a more captivating aspect. During this afternoon's sightseeing tour we will be introduced to Adelaide's streets, fine Victorian buildings and attractive parks and gardens that surround the city. Later, we arrive at the Stamford Plaza for our next two nights.

Breakfast included

Day 10: Adelaide Freedom Day

A Freedom Day to spend as you please. Take a look around Adelaide on foot or perhaps take an optional tour to the famous wine growing region of the Barossa Valley. Alternatively a lunch cruise along the Murray River may be a lovely way to spend a few hours.

Breakfast included

Day 11: Melbourne, 3 nights

This morning we make our way to the airport in plenty of time for our flight to Melbourne, capital of Victoria state and Australia's second largest city. Melbourne's allure lies in the fabulously preserved Victorian architecture of its many public buildings and gracious homes. Enjoy a sightseeing tour including 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. Home for the next three nights is the four star Clarion Suites, situated in a wonderful location, just a short stroll from Melbourne's fashionable Southbank.

Breakfast and in-flight refreshments included

Day 12: Melbourne Freedom Day

This is our first Freedom Day in Melbourne, where we have the opportunity to take a trip to Phillip Island, home to the world's largest colony of Fairy Penguins, to view the Penguin Parade. Alternatively, take the Puffing Billy steam train through the Blue Dandenong Ranges, explore the city's most famous sporting landmarks or take dinner on the city's historic tramcar.

Breakfast included



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Princes Bridge, Melbourne



Thorny Devil, Uluru (Ayers Rock)

Day 13: Melbourne Freedom Day

With so much to do and see in and around Melbourne, a further Freedom Day is an 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 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.

Breakfast included

Day 14: Uluru, Overnight

Following breakfast this morning, we board our flight via Alice Springs to Uluru (Ayers Rock) in Australia's Red Centre. Before landing we may have the opportunity to view the world's largest monolith from our aircraft. Rising from the flat surrounding scrubland, Uluru is a site of deep cultural significance to the Aboriginal communities of the Northern Territory. Upon arrival we shall make our way to the four star Desert Gardens Hotel. Later, we depart for a Rock Base Tour enabling us to discover more about its historical and cultural importance. Enjoy a glass of sparkling wine with your travelling companions whilst witnessing the changing colours of Uluru as the sun begins to set. It's truly a photographer's delight.

Breakfast included

Day 15: Alice Springs, 2 nights

This morning we leave for a tour of the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as the Olgas, before travelling along the scenic Lasseter and Stuart Highways to Alice Springs. Upon arrival we make our way to the four star DoubleTree by Hilton.

Breakfast included

Day 16: Alice Springs Freedom Day

Our day is free to relax or explore the outback. You may wish to take a trip to the western MacDonnell Ranges; 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 17: Darwin

Nestled between the MacDonnell Ranges, Alice Springs is an iconic town made famous by its rich pioneering history and ancient indigenous culture. This morning you may wish to take an adventure in slow motion on an optional hot air balloon trip over the outback landscapes. Or you may prefer to simply relax by the hotel pool. Later, we board our coach and enjoy a sightseeing tour. Visits include the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the School of the Air, and the Old Telegraph Station, now a museum and the site of the old springs from which Alice gets its name. Later in the afternoon it's time to make our way to the airport for our flight to Darwin. Upon arrival we transfer to the Double Tree by Hilton Esplanade.

Breakfast included

We recommend:

Litchfield National Park



Explore the spectacular beauty of the national park, with its impressive waterfalls and expanses of rainforest.

Day 18: Darwin Freedom Day

Darwin is the capital of Australia's Northern Territory and is known for its laid-back fusion of frontier outpost and modern city. Your day has been left totally free to spend in your own particular way. Perhaps visit the Defence of Darwin Experience, an immersive, interactive multimedia experience telling the story of Darwin's role in World War II - a very important time in Northern Territory history. Alternatively visit the thundering waterfalls, rainforest pockets and sacred sights of Litchfield National Park. For those wishing to venture further afield, a full day overland or flightseeing excursion to Kakadu National Park can be arranged.

Breakfast included



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Cairns Esplanade

Day 19: Cairns, 5 nights

An early start, as we leave for the airport in time for our one-stop flight to Cairns. Upon arrival we shall transfer to the ideally located four star DoubleTree by Hilton, which will be our home for the next five nights.

Breakfast included

Day 20: Cairns, Christmas Day

Merry Christmas! Our morning is free to spend as we please, perhaps with a stroll along the Esplanade. Enjoy a festive Christmas dinner with our new-found friends in our hotel.

Breakfast and dinner included

Day 21: 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 22: **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 breathtakingly 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 23: 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, we suggest a day trip to the nearby Daintree Rainforest, where the oldest rainforest in the world meets the reef at the World Heritage-listed Cape Tribulation. 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

Day 24: Sydney, 4 nights

This morning we make our way to Cairns airport in time for our flight to Sydney. Upon arrival we head to the four star North Sydney Harbourview Hotel, overlooking Sydney Harbour Bridge. Sydney is a city that takes full advantage of its natural setting – its sparkling harbour is host to the world famous Sydney Harbour Bridge, affectionately known as 'the coat hanger' 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 very easy to understand why Sydney is one of the world's favourite cities.

Breakfast included



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Opera House, Sydney

Day 25: **TOUR HIGHLIGHT** Sydney - Sightseeing and luncheon cruise



This morning, our sightseeing tour begins with a drive through some of Sydney's most fashionable inner city suburbs en-route to Bondi Beach. Travel by Rushcutters Bay and Double Bay as we make our way back to the city centre. Travel via Hyde Park and Parliament House to Mrs Macquarie's Chair, an exposed sandstone rock cut into the shape of a bench by convicts in 1810, as a gift to Governor Macquarie's wife, Elizabeth. Here we stop for the classic photo opportunity of the world famous 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

Day 26: Sydney, New Years Eve

Sydney is known around the world for welcoming in the New Year with style, and this year you'll be right there. From its enviable position overlooking the harbour, the North Sydney Harbourview Hotel will ensure you have a night to remember: with food, drinks and live music until it's time to watch the famous fireworks.

Breakfast and dinner included

Day 27: Sydney Freedom Day

A Sydney Freedom Day to spend as you please. Although today has been left free, 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 28: Depart Sydney

The day is yours until it's time to depart for the airport. Our flight to our chosen UK airport operates via Dubai, where there will be a change of aircraft.

Breakfast, and in-flight meals and drinks included

Day 29: Arrive UK

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

In-flight meals and drinks included



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Uluru

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.

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.



Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

Supplements

Single supplement is £2,495.

Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling in economy class, £1,950 per person if travelling in premium economy, and £3,750 per person for business class.

Visa

£25 per person processing fee. To enter Australia, you need an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA). We will obtain this on your behalf and the cost will be added to your confirmation invoice.

Homebound stopovers

Homebound stopovers in Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok, Bali or Dubai are available on all dates. The stopovers may be on special offer - please call our travel experts for the most up to date prices and offers.

Terms and conditions

Prices are subject to the availability of flights in the lowest fare booking class and may change, however the correct price will always be confirmed before you book.

