



# The Very Best of Australia

29 days from only £5,995 per person

If you're going to travel all the way to the other side of the world, you will really want to make the most of your holiday.

So, to make sure you don't miss out on the country's many highlights and hidden gems, we've put together the ultimate Australian adventure, The Very Best of Australia tour.

What makes this tour magical is the diversity of the destinations you'll visit, which allow you to experience all of the country's different cultures and traditions. The incredible cities will give you a taste of modern 'down under', whilst your visit to the outback offers an authentic insight into the country's rugged natural beauty and ancient culture.

As always with a Distant Journeys tour, you'll also enjoy a number of once in a lifetime experiences. For example, you'll have the chance to discover the Great Barrier Reef; explore the wonderful wildlife on Kangaroo Island; spend a night on the legendary Ghan; and enjoy an enchanting cruise through Katherine Gorge.

**feefo**  ★★★★★  
Product Rating 41 reviews

## Your holiday includes

### Flights with leading scheduled airlines

- ◆ Return economy class flights
- ◆ Fly with Qantas / Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow
- ◆ All domestic flights within Australia
- ◆ All airport charges, security charges and any applicable fuel surcharges
- ◆ UK Air Passenger Duty

### Choice of outbound stopover

- ◆ Two-night outbound stopover; choose from Singapore or Dubai
- ◆ Alternatively, add two nights to the beginning of your stay in Perth

### Carefully selected hotels

- ◆ Superior hotels in great locations
- ◆ Overnight train journey onboard the legendary Ghan
- ◆ All hotel portorage
- ◆ Applicable hotel taxes

### Many meals

- ◆ Daily breakfast, worth £443 per person
- ◆ Lunch on Kangaroo Island
- ◆ Buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef
- ◆ Lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour

### All-inclusive on The Ghan

- ◆ All meals
- ◆ Selected alcoholic and soft drinks

### Unforgettable experiences

- ◆ Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Dubai), Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Alice Springs and Sydney
- ◆ Full day touring Kangaroo Island
- ◆ Experience Uluru (Ayers Rock) at sunset and sunrise
- ◆ Cruise down the scenic Katherine Gorge
- ◆ Full day on the Great Barrier Reef
- ◆ Lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour

### On the ground

- ◆ Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
- ◆ All overseas transfers
- ◆ Modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

### 100% confidence

- ◆ Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise\*
- ◆ Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

\* For more information on our Price Promise, please see our booking conditions on pages 104-107.



② = Number of nights



# The Very Best of Australia

Days 1 to 12: UK - Singapore - Perth - Kangaroo Island - Adelaide - Melbourne

## Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from the UK airport most convenient for you with Qantas / Emirates, at no extra cost. Choose from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 2: Singapore, 2 nights

Flights from London Heathrow may travel direct to Singapore. All UK regional flights 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 stopovers:

#### Dubai or Perth

We have based days 2-4 of this itinerary on a stopover in Singapore. If you prefer, you may choose to stop in Dubai or spend an extra two nights in Perth for the same price. Your stopover includes transfers, accommodation, daily breakfast, and if choosing Dubai a city sightseeing tour. Flight timings will vary. 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. Visit Singapore's Merlion and the botanical gardens before returning 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 or enjoy high tea at Raffles. Upon arrival into Perth later tonight, clear customs and transfer to the Pan Pacific Hotel for our first three nights in Australia. **Breakfast, 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 its surrounds. Visit 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 a visit to the fascinating Shipwreck Gallery. Later, we see the Millionaire 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 with advice on things to do, where to eat, make any arrangements and book excursions for you to further explore the area. Perhaps take an optional trip to the Nambung National Park to visit the fascinating limestone formations known as the Pinnacles. Alternatively, make the short journey to Rottnest Island, a protected nature reserve with white-sand beaches and secluded coves, and home to the small wallaby-like marsupial, the quokka. However you choose to spend your day – enjoy! **Breakfast 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.





#### 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 included**

#### Day 8: Kangaroo Island Tour Highlight

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 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, providing 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 and lunch 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 the attractive parks and gardens that surround the city. Later, we arrive at the Peppers Waymouth Hotel 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 is a lovely way to spend a few hours. **Breakfast included**

#### Day 11: Melbourne, 2 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 included**

#### Day 12: Melbourne Freedom Day

Today we can choose to relax or explore 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. For example, we have the opportunity to take a trip to Phillip Island, home to the world's largest colony of little 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, tour along one of the world's most spectacular coastal drives - the internationally renowned Great Ocean Road; or take dinner on an historic tramcar. **Breakfast included**



# The Very Best of Australia

Days 13 to 17: Uluru - Alice Springs - The Ghan

## Day 13: Uluru, 2 nights

Following breakfast this morning, we board our flight 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 make our way to the four star Desert Gardens Hotel.

## Tour Highlight

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 14: Uluru

This morning, we have the option of viewing Uluru at sunrise. After breakfast we leave for a tour of the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as the Olgas before returning to our hotel in the afternoon. **Breakfast included**

## Day 15, Alice Springs, 2 nights

We have a leisurely start following breakfast this morning before it is time to make our way to Alice Springs, travelling along the scenic Lasseter and Stuart Highways. Upon arrival we check-in 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: The Ghan, Overnight

Nestled within 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. 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.

## Tour Highlight

Later in the afternoon it's time to make our way to Alice Springs Rail Terminal ready for our magnificent overland rail journey to Darwin, on Australia's northern coastline. Known for being one of the world's iconic rail journeys, The Ghan was named after the Afghan cameleers who once traversed this route. Our twin accommodation is in Gold Service cabins, air-conditioned, private sleepers, all with upper and lower bunk beds, en-suite shower, wash basin and toilet. Single travellers will be accommodated in Gold Service single cabins, which are configured as a lounge chair by day, converting into a bed at night, with shared bathroom facilities at the end of each carriage. Whilst on board, all our meals are included, as are a wide selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Following dinner in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant, enjoy drinks with your travelling companions in the Outback Explorer Lounge. **Breakfast and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**





# The Very Best of Australia

Days 18 to 21: Darwin - Cairns - Great Barrier Reef

## Day 18: Darwin, 2 nights

Following breakfast, The Ghan arrives into Katherine. Here we have the opportunity to visit nearby Nitmiluk National Park, home to the spectacular Katherine Gorge. The gorge is a series of 13 sandstone gorges carved over many millions of years by the Katherine River. As we cruise up the river, calls of the cicada resonate across the water between the towering sandstone cliffs. Listen to stories of how the gorge was named, whilst marvelling at the sheer walls, etched by time and the elements, and home to a myriad of plant and animal life. Afterwards, return to The Ghan in time for lunch as we continue our journey to Darwin. Upon arrival we transfer to the Mantra Esplanade, situated on Darwin's striking esplanade. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 19: 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 sites 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**

## We recommend

### Litchfield National Park

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



## Day 20: Cairns, 4 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 four nights. **Breakfast included**

## Day 21: Great Barrier Reef

### Tour Highlight

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, glass-bottomed boat, 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**





# The Very Best of Australia

Days 22 to 27: Cairns - Sydney

## Day 22: Cairns Freedom Day

Although today has been left free, you may wish to take an optional trip to Kuranda. Our tour begins with traditional Tjapukai aboriginal culture including authentic music, dance and storytelling by Tjapukai people. We ascend to Kuranda by the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, a beautiful experience gliding over the rainforest canopy. 'The village in the rainforest' Kuranda awaits. It's a lovely place to while away a few hours visiting the markets, butterfly sanctuary or the Koala Gardens. Travel back to Cairns along one of the most unique rail journeys in Australia, the Kuranda Scenic Railway. See how the track clings to the rockface along a narrow coastal strip. During our journey we encounter no fewer than 40 bridges and 15 tunnels as we make our way back to Cairns. **Breakfast included**

## Day 23: Cairns Freedom Day

Another Freedom Day to enjoy 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 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, 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**

## Day 25: Sydney Tour Highlight

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 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 27: Sydney Freedom Day

A further Freedom Day to experience Sydney in a way that suits you. Take an optional behind the scenes tour of Sydney Opera House, visit fascinating Kuringai National Park, catch up on some shopping or possibly climb the impressive Harbour Bridge. Whatever you wish to do, our Tour Manager will be very happy to help. **Breakfast included**

*Wonderful holiday from beginning to end. Jenni our tour guide is simply the best. I will highly recommend Distant Journeys to friends and family. Their organisational skills are second to none. I will definitely book with them again in the future.*

Mr & Mrs Thurland, North Yorkshire





# The Very Best of Australia

Days 28 to 29: Sydney - UK

## 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, 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**

## Why not combine with a tour of New Zealand?



If you wish to make the ultimate journey to Australasia, combining The Very Best of Australia with Very Best of New Zealand tour makes perfect sense.

Please see pages 88-89 for more details.

## Homebound stopovers from £195 per person

Why not extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey? Choose from the captivating Asian cities of Singapore, Bangkok or Hong Kong, a beach stay in Bali or a stay in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover package includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast. Please see pages 98-99 for more details.

### Dubai - Two nights from £345 per person

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 - Two nights from £345 per person

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 - Two nights from £195 per person

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

### Singapore - Two nights from £245 per person

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 - Three nights from £395 per person

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.





## Departure Dates & Prices

### 2019 Departures

12 October 2019	<b>£6,195</b> per person
02 November 2019	<b>£6,195</b> per person
06 December 2019 <sup>^</sup>	<b>£6,995</b> per person

### 2020 Departures

25 January 2020	<b>£6,195</b> per person
08 February 2020*	<b>£6,195</b> per person
14 March 2020	<b>£6,195</b> per person
18 April 2020	<b>£5,995</b> per person

#### Prices

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

#### Supplements

Single occupancy supplement £1,595

Single occupancy supplement 06 December 2019, £2,195

#### Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling Premium Economy, and £3,750 per person for Business Class.

#### Homebound stopovers

Extend your holiday with a stopover on the return journey. Prices from £195 per person. Stopovers may be on special offer, please call for details.

#### Flight upgrades

Upgrade to Premium Economy on selected routes from £1,495 per person. Upgrade to Business Class from £3,655 per person.

#### Christmas departure<sup>^</sup>

An altered itinerary including Christmas Dinner and drinks in tropical Cairns and New Year's Eve Dinner, drinks, live band and views over the Harbour Bridge in Sydney. The Ghan does not operate on this date. Please call for full itinerary and details.

#### Important information

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

To enter Australia, British Citizens require an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA). Our processing fee is £25 per person and will be added to your confirmation invoice.

\* This date operates a variation of the tour as shown and may use alternative hotels of the same standard. Please call for details.

Full booking conditions are available on pages 104-107.

**To book, call us on 01695 577 961**

**Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm**

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry. **Email:** [enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk)

