



Wonders of Australia

Christmas & New Year

24 days departing 11th December 2019 only £6,195pp

Swap the grey skies for blue skies as Distant Journeys brings you the ultimate way to spend Christmas and New Year – in Australia.

A country of great contrasts and immense beauty our Wonders of Australia Christmas and New Year departure offers a fabulous way to enjoy the festive season and explore this amazing country at a relaxed pace.

You'll experience all of the must-see sights, including the haunting splendour of the outback. Experience Christmas dinner Aussie style in tropical Cairns and experience the amazing view of Sydney's New Year's Eve firework display.

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

- ◆ Three night outbound stopover; choose from Singapore or Dubai

Carefully selected hotels

- ◆ Superior hotels in great locations
- ◆ All hotel portorage
- ◆ Applicable hotel taxes

Many meals

- ◆ Daily breakfast, worth £334 per person
- ◆ Buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef
- ◆ Lunch 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

- ◆ Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Dubai), Melbourne, Alice Springs and Sydney
- ◆ Experience Uluru (Ayers Rock) at sunset and sunrise
- ◆ 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 refer to our website www.distantjourneys.co.uk



② = Number of nights



Wonders of Australia

11 Dec to 17 Dec: UK - Singapore - Melbourne

11 Dec: 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**

12 Dec: Singapore, 3 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 stopover: Dubai

We have based days 2-5 of this itinerary on a stopover in Singapore. If you prefer, you may choose to stop in Dubai for the same price. Your stopover includes transfers, accommodation, daily breakfast and a city sightseeing tour. Flight timings will vary. Please speak with one of our personal travel experts for more details.

13 Dec: 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 and the impressive views of Marina Bay. We continue to 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**

14 Dec: Singapore Freedom Day

A Freedom Day in Singapore to further explore the city. Possibly visit historic Raffles for high tea or to savour a Singapore Sling. Discover the wonderful Gardens by the Bay, visit Singapore Zoo or maybe indulge in some of the amazing shopping opportunities that can be found around the city. **Breakfast included**

15 Dec: Depart Singapore

A day at leisure in Singapore until it's time to leave for our evening flight to Melbourne. Possibly enjoy high tea at Raffles or explore the wonderful Gardens by the Bay. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

16 Dec: Melbourne, 3 nights

After clearing customs and collecting our luggage this morning, we take a city tour of Melbourne. 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. We spend our first three nights in Australia at the four star Mercure Treasury Gardens, situated in a wonderful location, just opposite Fitzroy Gardens. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

17 Dec: Melbourne Freedom Day

This is our first Freedom Day, where 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 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**



Wonders of Australia

18 Dec to 22 Dec: Melbourne - Uluru - Alice Springs - Darwin

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.



18 Dec: 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

19 Dec: Uluru (Ayers Rock), 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 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

20 Dec: Alice Springs, 2 nights

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 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

21 Dec: 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

22 Dec: Darwin, 2 nights

We enjoy a leisurely morning before boarding our coach for a sightseeing tour of Alice Springs. 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. We say good-bye to the outback and make our way to the airport in time for our flight to Darwin. Upon arrival we transfer to the Mantra Esplanade, situated on Darwin's striking esplanade. Breakfast included



Wonders of Australia

23 Dec to 27 Dec: Darwin - Cairns - Great Barrier Reef

23 Dec: 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.



24 Dec: Cairns, 5 nights

A leisurely day to further enjoy this tropical city. Later we transfer to 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**

25 Dec: Christmas Day

Merry Christmas! Today has been left for you to spend as you choose. Open some presents, take a walk along Cairns Esplanade or simply relax by the pool. Later in the day we join together to celebrate Christmas Day with a celebratory Christmas dinner, including drinks. **Breakfast and Christmas Dinner with drinks included**

26 Dec: Cairns Freedom Day

A 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**

27 Dec: 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**



Wonders of Australia

28 Dec to 30 Dec: Cairns - Sydney

28 Dec: Cairns Freedom Day

A second Freedom Day to further enjoy the many delights of the region. 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**

29 Dec: 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

30 Dec: 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**



Wonders of Australia

31 Dec to 03 Jan: Sydney - UK

31 Dec: New Year's Eve

A day at leisure to relax and enjoy Sydney ahead of this evening's celebrations. Sydney is known the world over for welcoming in the New Year in style, and this year you can be part of it. Begin the evening with drinks and a wonderful meal in our hotel complete with a live band to get the party started. Then head outside for a fantastic view of the Harbour Bridge fireworks signalling the start of a new year. **Breakfast and dinner included**

01 Jan: Sydney Freedom Day

Hello 2020! 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**

02 Jan: 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**

03 Jan: 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**

For further information on departure dates and prices for this itinerary, please refer to our Australia and New Zealand brochure 2019 / 2020

or call and speak to one of our friendly travel experts on

01695 577 961

www.distantjourneys.co.uk