



# Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

## 29 days from only £5,495 per person

Our Highlights of Australia and New Zealand tour is perfect for showcasing two very different but equally magical countries. Including all the must-see attractions and experiences of both countries, highlight will follow highlight on this 29-day adventure.

Your voyage of discovery starts in beautiful New Zealand 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. Then it's Australia's cosmopolitan cities, tropical rainforests, Great Barrier Reef and the haunting splendour of the outback – Uluru is a sight never to be forgotten. And finally, fabulous Sydney, 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 memories to cherish forever.

**feefo**  ★★★★★  
Product Rating 256 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
- ◆ Flights between New Zealand and Australia
- ◆ All domestic flights in 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, Bangkok or Dubai

### Carefully selected hotels

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

### Many meals

- ◆ Daily breakfast, worth £407 per person
- ◆ Dinner in Rotorua
- ◆ Buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef
- ◆ Lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour

### Unforgettable experiences

- ◆ Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Bangkok or Dubai), Auckland, Rotorua, Christchurch, Queenstown, Melbourne, Alice Springs and Sydney
- ◆ Maori concert
- ◆ Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve
- ◆ Cruise on Milford Sound
- ◆ Experience Uluru (Ayers Rock) at sunset and sunrise
- ◆ Full day on the Great Barrier Reef, including lunch
- ◆ Luncheon cruise around Sydney Harbour

### On the ground

- ◆ Services of experienced Coach Captain in New Zealand and Tour Manager in Australia
- ◆ 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



# Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 1 to 7: UK - Singapore - Auckland - Rotorua

## 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 Stopover: Dubai or Bangkok

We have based days 2-4 of this itinerary on a stopover in Singapore. Should you prefer, you may choose to stop in Bangkok or Dubai for the same price. Your stopover includes transfers, daily breakfast and 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. 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 in Singapore until it's time to leave for our evening flight to Auckland. Perhaps explore the impressive Gardens by the Bay or enjoy high tea at Raffles. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 5: Auckland, 2 nights

We change aircraft in Australia (Singapore Airlines passengers will fly direct to Auckland). On arrival into Auckland we meet our local Coach Captain, who will be our driver and guide during our time in New Zealand. Transfer to the Adina Apartment Hotel, Auckland, where we spend our first two nights in New Zealand. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 6: Auckland

This morning, we will take an orientation tour of the city. Known as the 'City of Sails', Auckland is New Zealand's most populous city, with a beautiful waterside setting and a landscape dotted with volcanic hills. We drive along the beautiful coastline of the famous Waitemata Harbour. In the distance see Rangitoto Island, an extinct volcano, dominating the horizon. We continue to the stylish Viaduct Harbour, host to many America's Cup celebrations. Your afternoon is free to enjoy as you please. Perhaps take a trip to the top of Sky Tower; the panoramic views from the tallest building in the southern hemisphere are truly breath-taking. **Breakfast included**

## Day 7: Rotorua, 2 nights

Departing Auckland this morning we travel to the world-famous thermal region of Rotorua. The next two nights are spent at the four star Distinction Hotel Rotorua, superbly situated close to the Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve. Later in the day we enjoy a welcome drink to become better acquainted with our fellow travelling companions. Rotorua is the heart of New Zealand's rich Maori culture and this evening, at our hotel, 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**

*The office staff were always very helpful, both on the telephone and via email. Always polite and knowledgeable. Would definitely recommend Distant Journeys, in fact have already done so.*

Mrs Rugg, Essex



# Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 8 to 17: Rotorua - Christchurch - Franz Josef - Queenstown - Milford Sound - Melbourne

## Day 8: Rotorua

Sightseeing this morning takes us to Te Puia, home to the Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, with its spurting geysers and boiling mud pools. Later we visit the Maori Arts and Crafts institute. In the early 1920's traditional Maori art such as weaving and carving were in danger of extinction. Established in 1926 to protect and preserve this unique art form, today the institute provides a vital role in the teaching of these skills to the next generations. Your afternoon is at leisure to relax. For those that so wish, optional activities include a float plane flight over Mount Tarawera, or perhaps an afternoon enjoying the healing properties of the thermal pools at the Polynesian Spa may be more appealing? **Breakfast included**

## Day 9: Christchurch, Overnight

After breakfast, we head to Auckland Airport in plenty of time for our flight to Christchurch. Considered the most English of New Zealand's cities, today in the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake, Christchurch is in the midst of an epic rebuild that has completely reconstructed the city centre. We view the key landmarks of the city centre, including the transitional 'Cardboard Cathedral' and the Botanic Gardens. We stay overnight at the Distinction Hotel Christchurch, ideally located in the heart of the city. **Breakfast included**

## Day 10: 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 Scenic Franz Josef Hotel. **Breakfast included**

## Day 11: Franz Josef

The Westland National Park has some of the most spectacular scenery in New Zealand and this morning we 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. This afternoon is at your leisure to enjoy. **Breakfast included**

## Day 12: 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**



#### Day 13: 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. Thrill-seekers amongst us may wish to try the Shotover Jet – an exhilarating boat ride amongst the crags and boulders of the Shotover River canyon. Wine-lovers may wish to follow Queenstown's wine trail – an enjoyable afternoon of wine tasting and sightseeing. **Breakfast included**

#### Day 14: Milford Sound Cruise Tour Highlight

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 15: Melbourne, 3 nights

This morning we take a tour to visit the nearby historic mining town of Arrowsmith. The heart of its history is Buckingham Street, a procession of small town heritage buildings that stretch into a tree-lined avenue of tiny miners' cottages. Be sure to try a cream tea in one of the quaint tea rooms. It's time now to leave New Zealand. We head for Queenstown Airport for our flight to Melbourne, Australia. Upon arrival, we meet our Australian Tour Manager and make our way to the centrally located four star Clarion Suites for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**

#### Day 16: 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 little penguins, to view the 'Penguin Parade'? **Breakfast included**

#### Day 17: Melbourne Freedom Day

Our first Freedom Day in Australia, so we may 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. This evening there is the option to enjoy dinner on an historic tramcar. **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.





# Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 18 to 22: Cairns - Uluru

## Day 18: 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 hotel for the next four nights is the four star DoubleTree by Hilton. **Breakfast included**

## Day 19: 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 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**

## Day 20: 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 the 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 21: 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, 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 walk with an aboriginal guide and a cruise spotting saltwater crocodiles. Enjoy your day! **Breakfast included**

## Day 22: Uluru (Ayers Rock), Overnight

This morning we make our way back to Cairns Airport in time for our flight 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**







# Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 23 to 26: Alice Springs - Sydney

## Day 23: Alice Springs, 2 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. Leaving Uluru, we head east through amazing outback landscapes as we journey along the scenic Lasseter and Stuart Highways and make our way to Alice Springs in the Northern Territory and Australia's Red Centre

Upon arrival, 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 our hotel, the four star DoubleTree by Hilton. **Breakfast included**

## Day 24: 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 fiery red earth. 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 25: Sydney, 3 nights

We have a leisurely start to the day as later this morning we must say a fond farewell to the Red Centre as we board our flight to Sydney. After arriving in Sydney we transfer to our home for the next three nights, the four-star North Sydney Harbourview Hotel, which enjoys an excellent position overlooking the magnificent Sydney Harbour. This sparkling harbour is also home to two of the city's most famous landmarks, the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House. You will also be well-placed to explore the rest of Sydney as you wish, whether you choose to visit the variety of shops and acclaimed restaurants in the city centre or the beautiful suburbs leading to lush bushland and perfect sandy beaches. **Breakfast included**

## Day 26: Sydney

### Tour Highlight

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**





# Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 27 to 29: Sydney - UK

## Day 27: 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 28: Depart Sydney

The morning is yours until it's time to depart for the airport, this afternoon. Our flights to our chosen UK airports operate via Dubai where there will be a change of aircraft. Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included

## Day 29: Arrive UK

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 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

13 September 2019	<b>£5,995</b> per person
11 October 2019	<b>£6,195</b> per person
08 November 2019	<b>£6,195</b> per person

## 2020 Departures

03 January 2020	<b>£6,195</b> per person
24 January 2020	<b>£6,195</b> per person
07 February 2020	<b>£6,195</b> per person
06 March 2020	<b>£6,195</b> per person
24 April 2020	<b>£5,495</b> per person

### Prices

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

### Supplements

Single occupancy supplement £1,795  
Single occupancy supplement 24 April 2020, £1,595

### 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 £3,755 per person.

### 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.

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)

