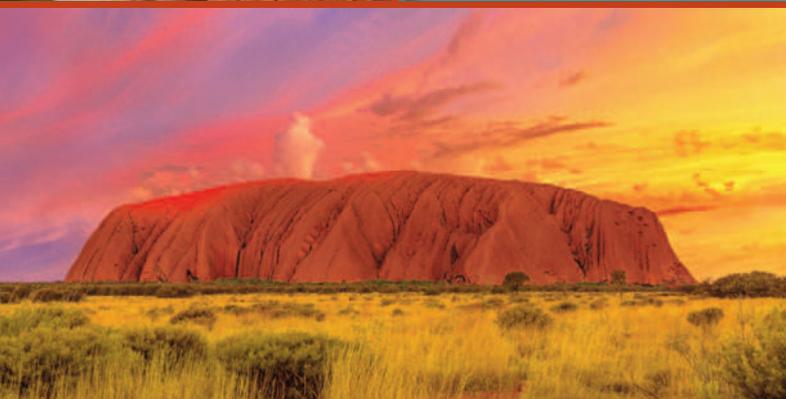


distantjournneys
Your Time to Explore

Australia & New Zealand



Escorted Touring Holidays
2022 - 2023

Outstanding, superb, magnificent and any other superlatives that you can think of. This holiday was everything we hoped it would be and more.

Mr & Mrs Todd, Lincolnshire



A Warm Welcome Awaits

Australia - a land of superlatives, of breath-taking landscapes, natural wonders and iconic sights; a country where the warmth of its climate is matched by the welcome of its people. A bright, modern nation forged from the ancient dreaming of its indigenous people.

Half a world away, New Zealand's two main islands have distinct identities, but both are blessed with awe-inspiring scenery; from glaciers, fiords and snow-capped mountains to bubbling mud pools, geysers and sub-tropical rainforest.

Explore Australia and New Zealand with Distant Journeys and see for yourself why these countries are everything you have ever imagined, and so much more.

Over 75 years creating incredible touring holidays

Our Directors have over 75 years combined travel industry experience and are true escorted touring experts. Between them, they have created an exciting style of flexible, award-winning touring holidays, giving you the chance to create a holiday which is perfect for you. Many years of meticulous planning go into delivering touring holidays of exceptional standards and unbelievable value.

Operated at a leisurely pace and providing you with unrivalled flexibility and value for money, we tailor our itineraries to the tastes of UK travellers, and our aim is simple - to make every moment of your holiday as memorable as it should be.

Award-winning holidays

Our friendly travel professionals are experts in the destinations we visit and are happy to share their passion with you at any time. The exceptional quality of our touring holidays means that Distant Journeys has been a ten-time winner at the prestigious British Travel Awards, including five awards for our holidays to Australia and New Zealand.

Platinum standard customer satisfaction

We are so proud our customers really love what we do. This is shown by the fact Distant Journeys has achieved an incredible 99% satisfaction rating with independent reviews provider Feefo. What's more, Distant Journeys has been awarded its highest 'Platinum Trusted' rating, for consistently delivering an excellent level of customer service.

Our Covid Guarantee

For your peace of mind, if Distant Journeys is unable to operate your tour due to Covid-19, we will give you the option to change to another tour, defer your holiday to a later departure date or cancel your holiday with a full refund.

Financially protected

Distant Journeys are fully bonded by the Civil Aviation Authority and The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited, meaning you can book in confidence, knowing your money is 100% safe.

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Why Choose Distant Journeys?

1. **Exceptional value, uncompromising quality**
Our aim is to offer exceptional value for money without compromising on the quality of your holiday. You'll find included all you would expect from a touring holiday, along with a few special extras you might not expect.
2. **Meticulously designed tours**
With over 75 years combined experience, our directors understand just what it takes to design the perfect touring holiday. Many years of planning go into every detail of our holidays, and each element is carefully chosen with our customers' enjoyment in mind.
3. **Personal knowledge and expert advice**
Distant Journeys has a team of professional travel specialists with personal knowledge of the countries we visit, our selected hotels and the fabulous experiences offered.
4. **Leisurely paced itineraries**
Our holidays operate at a relaxed pace, as we aim to give you plenty of time to fully explore and savour each area, as well as giving you some time to unwind.
5. **Hand-picked hotels**
You'll be delighted by your hotels, as Distant Journeys only select accommodation which meets the high standards of quality, service and location our guests have come to expect.
6. **Once in a lifetime experiences**
From exciting rail journeys to exploring lesser-known gems, our holidays feature many incredible experiences which will provide memories to cherish forever.
7. **Experienced Tour Managers and Coach Captains**
Our Tour Managers, Coach Captains and local guides are all greatly experienced in their field, and have the right balance of organisational skills and local knowledge, coupled with a warm, friendly personality.
8. **Personalise your travel arrangements**
Flying from regional UK airports at no extra cost, choosing your preferred stopover, upgrading your flight and extending your holiday are just a few of the ways in which you can personalise your tour so it's perfect for you.
9. **Freedom to explore**
We know our customers rightly expect to have all the must-see excursions included, but we understand they also want to tailor their holiday to their own tastes. That's why our tours have several Freedom Days to allow you the flexibility and choice to decide how you wish to spend your time.
10. **Our Price Promise**
We want you to have the peace of mind you are paying the best price for your holiday, so Distant Journeys guarantees this through our Price Promise.

Price Promise ✓

Early booking offers

Our philosophy is simple - the earlier you book the better the offer you will receive.

No last minute discounts

Distant Journeys never discount our holidays at the last minute, so you can be confident you will never see your holiday at a lower price than the one you paid.

No surcharges

Irrespective of any additional costs incurred by Distant Journeys as a result of currency fluctuations, air fare increases or other costs associated with your holiday, surcharges will never be added once you have confirmed a booking.

Price match

We want you to have the peace of mind when booking a Distant Journeys holiday that you are receiving the best possible price. So, if you see the same holiday cheaper, not only will we match that price, we will also give you £200 off the price of a future holiday with Distant Journeys.

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Terms & Conditions on page 145.



Exceptional Value

We are passionate about what we do, passionate about the countries we visit, the experiences we include, the service we offer and the value for money we deliver to our guests without compromising on the quality of the holiday experience.

With Distant Journeys, value for money means we will provide you with the opportunity to discover Australia and New Zealand in comfort and style, with so much flexibility and so many experiences included in the itinerary, without it costing the earth.

So much included

From start to finish, each Distant Journeys holiday is meticulously planned. As you would expect from a touring holiday, we include return international flights from the UK on award-winning scheduled airlines, with all your on-board meals and drinks included. What you might not expect is having a choice of five regional UK airports, without paying any extra. Not only that, on the majority of our tours you have a choice of included outbound stopovers, which gives you a chance to explore a new and exciting destination.

All your touring holiday essentials are included, such as overseas transport in modern air-conditioned coaches, a porter service for your luggage, all pre-payable airport and resort taxes, and all the entrance fees to the many incredible places and monuments you will visit. What's more, to help you make the most of your time, you will be accompanied by a knowledgeable Tour Manager in Australia and Tour Manager or Coach Captain in New Zealand.

Unforgettable experiences

To make your holiday extra special, along with all the must-see excursions already included, Distant Journeys includes a number of once in a lifetime experiences and visits to lesser-known hidden gems. These are all included to create memories you will treasure forever.

Comfort and convenience

Hotels are carefully selected to make the most of each location, and offer quality and comfort so you can unwind and relax when returning from a day's exploring. Daily breakfast is included, in addition to a selection of other meals.





Award-winning Customer Service

We believe great customer service should be at the heart of everything we do, and we never lose sight of what matters most – you, our valued customers. We are with you every step of the way; before, during and after your tour. We recognise our guests are individuals, with different requirements, tastes and needs, and we tailor our service accordingly.

Our commitment to excellence in customer service has won us many awards, which recognise the superb customer service and high standards throughout the entire experience of booking and travelling with Distant Journeys. We are determined to continue to exceed expectations when it comes to our guests and their well-deserved holiday.

A team of dedicated travel experts

Our Travel Experts are friendly, well-travelled individuals with a passion for Australia and New Zealand, and love to share their experience and knowledge with you. We have travelled on our tours and visited the places you will visit, so we can offer advice from personal experience and give you practical recommendations. Our Travel Experts are always available to answer your queries, no matter how small; it's your holiday of a lifetime and we want you to be able to look forward to it with excitement and confidence.

Our service to you doesn't stop once you're on holiday, as you will then be in the capable hands of our Tour Managers and Coach Captains. Once your tour is over, we will contact you to welcome you home and to hear all about how you enjoyed your holiday.

Experienced Tour Managers and Coach Captains

A highly experienced Tour Manager is an absolute must on any escorted tour, playing several roles to ensure we deliver a successful tour; a leader who works tirelessly to ensure everything runs smoothly, a destination expert happy to share their local knowledge, recommendations and advice, and a friendly, resourceful presence always on hand to help.

Distant Journeys' Tour Managers and Coach Captains are all personally selected to ensure they are the best in the business. Individuals who share a mutual passion for travel and for delivering exceptional service. Their enthusiasm is unfeigned; as proud Aussies and Kiwis, they love nothing more than to share their country with our customers. Whether they are recounting sacred stories of the indigenous people, speedily checking you into a hotel, recommending the best coffee shop in town, or just lending a friendly ear; your Tour Managers and Coach Captains are there to take away your concerns and ensure you have the best possible holiday.

Platinum Trusted Service

Distant Journeys is proud to have been awarded Feefo's Platinum Trusted Service award every year since its inception in 2019. The Platinum Trusted Service award is based on independently verified customer reviews, and is only given to companies who consistently offer excellence in customer service. As you plan your holiday with Distant Journeys, we trust that reading our Feefo customer reviews will reassure you that you will be in safe hands.

Travel with the award-winners

Over the years, Distant Journeys has consistently won awards for its touring holidays. The British Travel Awards are based on travellers' votes, and celebrate the very best in travel providers throughout the UK. For five years in a row, we have received an award in the 'Best Small Holiday Company to Australasia' category, and we have also received awards in the prestigious 'Best Small Escorted Tours Holiday Company' for three years running. These are remarkable achievements in the travel industry's most highly-prized awards.





Hand-Picked Hotels

Distant Journeys appreciate the hotels in which you stay are an integral part of your holiday enjoyment, which is why we take great care in hand-picking all the accommodation featured in our itineraries.

Location and quality are always paramount considerations, and we strive to provide the best of both.

Hotel ratings

Each property has been personally inspected whilst planning our holidays, and you can be confident the hotels featured in this brochure have been carefully selected for their location, quality, facilities and level of service.

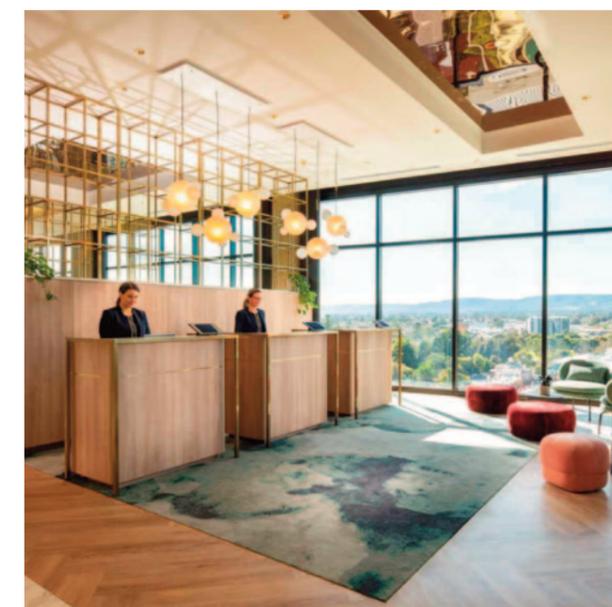
We understand from many years of experience that accommodation ratings may vary from country to country. We therefore provide our own ratings, which are based on the expectations of guests from the United Kingdom, alongside the official hotel rating. Please review our hotel directory on pages 130-137 for more information regarding the hotels included.

Location, location, location

Relax in the knowledge that every hotel has been carefully chosen to allow you to make the most of each destination you visit. In Australia for instance, the five-star Sofitel Wentworth Hotel is a lovely hotel in the heart of central Sydney, perfectly located just a short stroll from Circular Quay, Sydney Opera House, and the city's main shopping and restaurant districts.

Rural charm

When staying in more rural areas, Distant Journeys has selected accommodation that really makes the most of the surrounding landscapes. For instance, the Scenic Hotel in Franz Josef enjoys a secluded location, with lovely views of the nearby mountains and rugged terrain.





Freedom & Flexibility

Imagine being able to enjoy all the benefits of travelling with a group of like-minded people; the fun, the camaraderie, the friendships, the hassle-free organisation - and at the same time being able to personalise your holiday so that it's perfect for you.

When it comes to having the freedom to tailor your touring holiday to suit your tastes and wishes, the flexibility provided by Distant Journeys cannot be beaten.

Fly from your local airport

To get your journey off to the best possible start, Distant Journeys offer you flights with Qantas or Emirates from a choice of regional UK airports, at no extra cost. Choose from London Heathrow, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle or Glasgow. Or, if you are booking one of our New Zealand holidays, you may also choose to fly with award-winning Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester on certain days of the week.

Flight upgrades

If you would like to treat yourself to a little more comfort on your international flights, Premium Economy and Business Class upgrades are available on selected routes. Please see pages 140-141 for more details.

A choice of included stopovers

A two or three night outbound stopover is included on the majority of our holidays to Australia and New Zealand. Your options, dependent on your preferred itinerary, include Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai - you decide and we will take care of the rest.

Freedom Days

For an escorted tour to be truly memorable, we believe you should have the freedom to customise your touring experiences to match your interests. That is why the vast majority of Distant Journeys tours have a number of Freedom Days for you to spend as you please. What's more, you don't have to decide now. For most activities and excursions you can make your choices whilst on holiday.

Extend your holiday

You may wish to combine your holiday with a visit to see family and friends or explore another area within your chosen destination. We will be happy to make arrangements for you, it's all part of the Distant Journeys service.

Homebound stopovers at amazing prices

You have the opportunity to experience another country on your way home with a stopover in fantastic destinations such as Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Dubai or Bali. What's more, early bookers may be eligible for a fantastic offer on our homebound stopovers. Please see pages 138-139 for more details.





Once in a Lifetime Experiences

Distant Journeys offer touring holidays to a selection of truly magical countries, featuring an incredible array of holiday experiences.

When you travel with Distant Journeys, you can be confident that not only will all the must-see sights be included, but you will also enjoy several extra special experiences to make your holiday as memorable as it should be.

Australia's great rail journeys

Imagine Australia's wonderful landscapes unfolding before you as you enjoy a leisurely dining experience on board either The Great Southern or the legendary Ghan. As guests in Gold Service, you will enjoy the romance of a bygone era with every modern comfort on this all-inclusive rail adventure. After dinner, retire to your private cabin and sleep to the rhythm of the rails.

The Great Barrier Reef

The largest living organism on Earth, and even visible from outer space; cruise, snorkel or dive the Great Barrier Reef, home to countless colourful fish, beautiful coral and marine life. Travel by high-speed catamaran to the outer Barrier Reef and spend several wonderful hours enjoying the incredible sights.

Uluru

Uluru is the world's largest monolith, set in the heart of Australia's red centre, and a site of great significance to the Aboriginal people. Watch the sun set over Uluru, enjoying a glass of sparkling wine as you witness the ever-changing colours of the sandstone rock as darkness falls.

Milford Sound

Get your camera ready as you cruise one of the most beautiful places on earth. Explore the enigma of New Zealand's stunning Milford Sound and discover spectacular waterfalls, temperate rainforest, towering mountains and abundant wildlife.

The Bay of Islands

Famous for its sandy beaches and turquoise waters, the subtropical Bay of Islands offers some of the most spectacular coastal scenery in New Zealand, and is steeped in rich Maori history. Enjoy a cruise in search of dolphins, past unspoiled islands, the historic Cape Brett Lighthouse and the majestic Hole in the Rock.

New Zealand's most scenic railway journeys

From the snow-capped volcanoes and spectacular peaks of Tongariro National Park on board the Northern Explorer, to the secluded bays and isolated beaches viewed from the Coastal Explorer and the majestic mountain peaks experienced on the stunning TranzAlpine - lose yourself in New Zealand's scenery from the comfort of your seat on three spectacular, yet very different rail journeys.





Essential Australia

19 days from only £4,195 per person

Australia is immense! This vast island is home to some of the world's oldest cultures, its most spectacular landscapes and an array of remarkable wildlife. Its cosmopolitan waterside cities provide endless opportunities for sightseeing and adventure, and this country is fast becoming a wine and food-lover's dream.

Join Distant Journeys on our 19-day Essential Australia tour, where you will admire the iconic sights of Sydney Harbour, indulge in the beauty of tropical Northern Queensland, be mesmerised by stories of Dreamtime in the Red Centre, and experience the celebrated lifestyles and natural wonders of this incredible country.

With a choice of UK departure airports, all international flights and domestic travel within Australia, quality hotels, full daily breakfast and many memorable experiences included in the price, Essential Australia provides you with an amazing itinerary, at an unbeatable price.



③ = Number of nights

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

Carefully selected hotels

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

Many meals

- Daily breakfast, worth £297 per person
- Buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef
- Lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour

Unforgettable experiences

- Sightseeing tours in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth
- Experience Uluru at sunset and sunrise
- Full day excursion to the Great Barrier Reef

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 covered by our Covid Guarantee*
- Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 144-147.



Great Ocean Road



Giant Sea Turtle, Great Barrier Reef



Sydney Harbour

Essential Australia

Days 1 to 10: UK - Melbourne - Sydney - Cairns

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: Melbourne, 3 nights

All flights with Qantas & Emirates to Melbourne travel via Dubai. After clearing customs and collecting our luggage we board our waiting coach late in the evening and transfer to the four-star Clarion Suites Gateway Hotel. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: Melbourne

We take our first look at Melbourne on a sightseeing tour. Sights include Treasury Gardens, 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. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: 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 with advice on things to do, where to eat, make any arrangements and book excursions to further explore the area. 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 a trip to Phillip Island, home to the world's largest colony of Fairy Penguins, to view the 'Penguin Parade'. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Phillip Island's Penguin Parade

Take a trip to Phillip Island, home to the world's largest colony of Fairy Penguins, to see the Penguin Parade.



Day 5: Sydney, 3 nights

Tour Highlight

This morning we make our way to Melbourne Airport in time for our flight to Sydney. We begin our tour of Sydney in the best possible way – enjoying a lunch 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. Later, our tour takes us through some of Sydney's most fashionable inner-city suburbs en route to Bondi Beach. 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. Here we stop for the classic photo opportunity of the world famous Opera House and Harbour Bridge. We finish at the Novotel Sydney Central, our home for the next three nights. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 6: Sydney Freedom Day

Our first of two Freedom Days in Sydney to spend as we please. For those that so desire, we shall take 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 7: Sydney Freedom Day

A second Freedom Day in Sydney to further explore this wonderful city. 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 cafes, endless shopping opportunities and a vibrant culture and it's very easy to understand why Sydney is one of the world's favourite cities. Enjoy! **Breakfast included**

Day 8: Cairns, 4 nights

Sadly, we must say goodbye to Sydney, but we will be consoled by the beauty of tropical Queensland which awaits. We return to Sydney Airport in time for our flight to Cairns. Upon arrival we shall transfer to the DoubleTree by Hilton, home for the next four nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: The Great Barrier Reef

Tour Highlight

A holiday to Australia would not be complete without a visit to the Great Barrier Reef. Its colourful marine life and coral make this World Heritage site a must see for all visitors. Our day begins when we board our high-speed catamaran and journey to a 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 glass-bottomed boat. With four hours at the reef there is plenty of time to do it all. For the more adventurous, there are several 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 10: Cairns Freedom Day

Although today has been left free, you may wish to take an optional trip to Kuranda. 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 on 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 to Cairns. **Breakfast included**



Koala



Uluru

Essential Australia

Days 11 to 16: Cairns - Uluru - Alice Springs - Perth

Day 11: Cairns Freedom Day

Another Freedom Day to enjoy 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. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: Uluru, Overnight

Tour Highlight

An early start today as we make our way to Cairns Airport in time for our flight to Australia's Red Centre and the next leg of our exciting journey. Upon arrival we visit the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as the Olgas. Later in the day we travel to Uluru where we shall enjoy a glass of sparkling wine whilst witnessing Uluru's changing colours as the sun begins to set. It's truly a photographer's delight. Overnight at the Outback Pioneer Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Alice Springs, 2 nights

Uluru is the icon of Australia's outback, and the world's largest monolith. For early risers, a dawn visit to the rock has been arranged. Seeing Uluru at sunrise, from a different position and a different light, offers a totally new perspective on the ever-changing colours and character of the rock. This afternoon we travel east through amazing landscapes as we journey along the Lasseter and Stuart Highways and make our way to the outback town of Alice Springs and the four-star Crowne Plaza Lasseters Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: Alice Springs Freedom Day

Nestled within the Western MacDonnell Ranges, Alice Springs is the geographical centre of Australia, made famous by its rich pioneering history and ancient indigenous culture. This morning you may wish to take an adventure in slow motion with an optional hot air balloon trip over outback landscapes. After breakfast, there is a choice of optional tours available. Perhaps join a half day sightseeing tour of this 'Town Called Alice'. 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. Alternatively, 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. In the evening, we highly recommend joining an outback bush barbecue. **Breakfast included**

Day 15: Perth, 3 nights

This morning we make our way to Alice Springs Airport in time for our flight to Perth, capital of Western Australia. Upon our arrival we shall transfer to the Crowne Plaza Hotel, overlooking the beautiful Swan River. This afternoon take a stroll by the river to become acquainted with this stunning city. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: Perth

Named the 'friendly city' by tourists from all over the world, Perth is the world's most isolated city. This morning we have arranged a tour to explore its beauty further. Visit King's Park, with its captivating wild flowers and bushland, and its location affording incredible views over the city. We 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**



Western MacDonnell Ranges



The Pinnacles



Merlion, Singapore



Dubai

Essential Australia

Days 17 to 19: Perth - UK

Day 17: Perth Freedom Day

Your final Australian Freedom Day allows you to spend the day as you please. 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. **Breakfast included**

Day 18: Depart Perth

The day is your own until it's time to depart for the airport. Our flights to our chosen UK airport operate via Dubai where there will be a change of aircraft. London Heathrow passengers may be able to take advantage of the non-stop Qantas flight from Perth. **Breakfast and in-flight meals & drinks included**

Day 19: 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 from only £295 per person

If you would like to explore somewhere new on your way home from Australia, a stopover is a perfect way to make your journey more relaxing and to experience a wonderful new city.

Singapore - Copthorne Kings Hotel

Two nights from £295 per person

Standing proud near the historic and picturesque Singapore River, Copthorne King's Hotel Singapore is close to a dazzling array of shopping, dining and entertainment venues. Tantalise your taste buds in Tien Court Restaurant, enjoy relaxed dining in Princess Terrace Café or savour cocktails, beers and wines in Connections Lounge.



Sentosa Island - Rasa Sentosa Resort

Two nights from £445 per person

Stopover in style at Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort, a beautiful beachfront resort on Singapore's Sentosa Island. The island of Sentosa is only 20 minutes from downtown Singapore and the hotel is perfect for relaxing by its large pool, and dining is always a pleasure at its Asian inspired restaurants.



Dubai - Marriott Hotel Al Jaddaf

Two nights from £345 per person

Located within easy reach of Dubai Mall, the Marriott Al Jaddaf is the perfect alternative to a beachside hotel. With an outdoor swimming pool, deluxe spa and a choice of seven restaurants it's a great location from which to explore downtown Dubai.



Please see pages 138-139 for more details on homebound stopovers.

Departure Dates & Prices

2022 Departures

06 November 2022

2023 Departures

12 February 2023

05 March 2023

23 April 2023

Prices

Prices from £4,195 per person. Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement

From £895.

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 in Singapore, Sentosa Island or Dubai on the return journey. Prices from £295 per person.

Stopovers may be on special offer, please call for details.

Flight upgrades

Upgrade to Premium Economy on selected routes from £1,895 per person return. Upgrade to Business Class from £4,795 per person return.

Visa information

An Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) is required to enter Australia. A processing fee of £25 per person will be added to your confirmation invoice.

Important information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Terms & Conditions are available on pages 144-147

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

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





Wonders of Australia

22 days from only £5,395 per person

Australia – a land so vast and timeless, where ancient Aboriginal cultures blend with modern life to create one of the most cosmopolitan and friendly nations on earth.

Australia is a country of great contrasts and immense beauty and the Wonders of Australia tour offers a fabulous way to explore this amazing country at a relaxed pace.

From the glitter of Sydney and Melbourne, to the haunting splendour of the outback – we visit all the must-see sights, including four nights in tropical Cairns, the ideal base to visit the Great Barrier Reef.

Including a choice of three night outbound stopovers, an overnight journey on board 'the legendary Ghan', and guided throughout Australia by your experienced Distant Journeys Tour Manager, you can be sure the Wonders of Australia tour will create memories that will last a lifetime.



③ = Number of nights

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 and first class hotels in great locations
- Overnight train journey onboard the legendary Ghan
- All hotel portorage
- Applicable hotel taxes

Many meals

- Daily breakfast, worth £349 per person
- 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), Melbourne, Adelaide, Alice Springs and Sydney
- Experience Uluru at sunset and sunrise
- Full day excursion to 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 covered by our Covid Guarantee*
- Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 144-147.



Puffing Billy



Kangaroo

Wonders of Australia

Days 1 to 7: UK - Singapore - 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, 3 nights

Flights from London Heathrow may travel direct to Singapore. All other 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. Should 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.

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 the city. Included is a stop at Merlion Park with its 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**

Day 4: Singapore Freedom Day

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

Day 5: Melbourne, 3 nights

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight to Melbourne. With a late arrival into Melbourne we transfer directly to our hotel, the four star Stamford Plaza, situated in the heart of the city. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 6: Melbourne

A leisurely start this morning, prior to our Melbourne city tour. Sights include Treasury Gardens, 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, returning to our hotel later in the day. **Breakfast included**

Day 7: 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 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 tour along one of the world's most spectacular coastal drives, the internationally renowned Great Ocean Road. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Great Ocean Road

Journey along one of the world's most spectacular coastal roads, the internationally renowned Great Ocean Road.



It was just all round BRILLIANT. So well organised and we would recommend Distant Journeys in a heartbeat (and we have already done so to several friends).

Mr & Mrs Turner, Hampshire



Melbourne



Uluru



Great Barrier Reef



The Ghan

Wonders of Australia

Days 8 to 16: Adelaide - The Ghan - Alice Springs - Uluru - Cairns - Great Barrier Reef

Day 8: Adelaide, 2 nights

Following breakfast this morning, we board our flight to Adelaide. Surrounded by grassy parkland, picturesque hills and the Mount Lofty Range, Adelaide could scarcely present a more captivating aspect. We shall take a sightseeing tour and be introduced to Adelaide's streets, fine Victorian buildings and attractive parks and gardens that surround the city. Later, we arrive at the Peppers Waymouth Hotel for our next two nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: 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 visit Kangaroo Island, situated off the Fleurieu Peninsula, which offers a unique touring experience combining friendly, native wildlife with natural, unspoilt wilderness. **Breakfast included**

Day 10: The Ghan, Overnight

Tour Highlight

A morning at leisure until we make our way to Adelaide Parklands Rail Terminal in time for a magnificent overland journey to Alice Springs, in the heart of Australia's outback. Renowned as one of the world's most iconic train journeys, The Ghan was named after the Afghan cameleers who once traversed this route. Our twin accommodation is in Gold Service, airconditioned, private sleepers, all with upper and lower bunk beds, en-suite shower, wash basin and toilet. Single travellers will stay in single cabins, which are configured as a lounge chair, converting into a bed at night, with shared bathroom facilities at the end of each carriage. Whilst on board, all meals are included as are a wide selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. During lunch, marvel at the ever-changing landscape as we journey north. This evening, following dinner, sleep to the rhythm of the rails. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

Day 11: Alice Springs, 2 nights

Awake this morning to notice the contrast between the fiery red earth and the cobalt blue skies. Enjoy an off-train experience as The Ghan makes a short stop in Marla – in the middle of the Australian outback. In just 25 hours aboard The Ghan we will have covered 1,555 kilometres and passed golden wheatfields, vast sheep stations, rugged mountain ranges, salt lakes and the fierce Simpson Desert. Upon arrival into Alice Springs we will board our coach and enjoy a sightseeing tour of the outback's largest town. 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 we arrive at the four-star DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: 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 13: Uluru, Overnight

Tour Highlight

Leaving Alice Springs, we head west through amazing outback landscapes as we travel along the scenic Stuart and Lasseter Highways and make our way to Uluru, the icon of Australia's outback, and the world's largest monolith. Rising from the flat surrounding scrubland, Uluru is a site of deep cultural significance to the Aboriginal communities of the Northern Territory. Relax and enjoy a glass of sparkling wine whilst witnessing the changing colours as the sun begins to set. It's truly a photographer's delight. Overnight at the four-star Desert Gardens Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: Cairns, 4 nights

For early risers, a dawn visit to the rock has been arranged. Seeing Uluru at sunrise, from a different position and a different light, offers a totally new perspective on the changing colours and character of the rock. We return to the hotel for breakfast, prior to a gentle stroll around significant areas of the rock to learn more about its historical and cultural importance. Later, we visit the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as the Olgas. Afterwards we leave for the airport in time for our flight to Cairns. Upon arrival we shall transfer to the perfectly located Cairns Hilton, which will be our home for the next four nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 15: Great Barrier Reef

Tour Highlight

A holiday to Australia would not be complete without a visit to the Great Barrier Reef. Its colourful marine life and coral make this World Heritage site a must see for all visitors. Our day begins when we board our high-speed catamaran and journey to a 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 glass-bottomed boat. With four hours at the reef there is plenty of time to do it all. For the more adventurous, there are several 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 16: Cairns Freedom Day

Although today has been left free, you may wish to take an optional trip to Kuranda. 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**

We recommend

Kuranda Railway & Skyrail

A journey to Kuranda by the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, returning on the Kuranda Scenic Rail journey.





Daintree River

Wonders of Australia

Days 17 to 20: Cairns - Sydney

Day 17: Cairns Freedom Day

Another Freedom Day to enjoy 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, as well as the option to take a hot air balloon ride over the Atherton Tablelands. 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. **Breakfast included**

Day 18: Sydney, 3 nights

This morning we make our way to Cairns Airport in time for our flight to Sydney. 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 dining venues, endless shopping opportunities and a vibrant culture and it's very easy to understand why Sydney is one of the world's favourite cities. Upon arrival we head to the four-star Mantra 2 Bond Street, superbly located in the heart of Sydney's main attractions. **Breakfast included**

Day 19: 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. We journey 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 lunch 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 20: 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**

We recommend

World Heritage Blue Mountains

Experience the panoramas from a series of lookouts, including Echo Point – the prime position to view the Three Sisters rock formation.



Sydney Harbour Bridge



Sydney



Hong Kong



Dubai

Wonders of Australia

Days 21 to 22: Sydney - UK

Day 21: Depart Sydney

The day is ours until it's time to depart for the airport. Our flights to our chosen UK airport operate via Dubai or Singapore, where there will be a change of aircraft. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 22: 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**

Why not combine with a tour of New Zealand?



If you wish to make the ultimate journey to Australasia, combining the Wonders of Australia with one of our New Zealand tours makes perfect sense.

Please see pages 118-127 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Why not extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey? Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bangkok or Hong Kong, a beach stay in Bali or a stop in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

Hong Kong - Two nights from £345 per person
An iconic skyline, bustling street markets and a mix of Chinese and colonial cultures.

Dubai - Two nights from £345 per person
The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Bangkok - Two nights from £195 per person
Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

Singapore - Two nights from £295 per person
A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Sentosa Island - Two nights from £445 per person
A relaxing sanctuary or fun-filled adventure, only 20 minutes from Singapore.

Bali - Three nights from £445 per person
A truly relaxing stopover on the white sands of the hotel's private beach.

Please see pages 138-139 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2022 Departures

- 07 October 2022
- 03 November 2022*

2023 Departures

- 24 February 2023
- 10 March 2023
- 14 April 2023
- 28 July 2023

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

Prices

Prices from £5,395 per person. Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement
From £1,095.

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 £1,895 per person return. Upgrade to Business Class from £4,795 per person return.

Visa information

An Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) is required to enter Australia. A processing fee of £25 per person will be added to your confirmation invoice.

Important information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Terms & Conditions are available on pages 144-147

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

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





The Very Best of Australia

29 days from only £6,795 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 a spectacular Australian adventure - The Very Best of Australia.

What makes this tour magical is the diversity of the destinations, 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 discover the Great Barrier Reef and explore the wonderful wildlife on Kangaroo and Rottneest Islands; enjoy The Sounds of Silence dinner under the stars at Uluru and an evening of song and laughter at the Outback Bush Barbecue.



③ = Number of nights

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, spend two extra nights in Perth at the beginning of your tour

Carefully selected hotels

- Superior and first class hotels in great locations
- All hotel portorage
- Applicable hotel taxes

Many meals

- Daily breakfast, worth £462 per person
- Lunch on Rottneest Island
- Picnic lunch on Kangaroo Island
- Sounds of Silence dinner at Uluru
- Outback Bush Barbecue
- Buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef
- Lunch in Port Douglas
- Lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour

Unforgettable experiences

- Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Dubai), Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Alice Springs and Sydney
- Explore Rottneest Island
- Full day touring Kangaroo Island
- Experience Uluru at sunset and sunrise
- Full day excursion to the Great Barrier Reef
- Visit Hartley's Crocodile Adventures and Port Douglas
- 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 covered by our Covid Guarantee*
- Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 144-147.



Seal Bay Conservation Park, Kangaroo Island



Rottneest Island



Hahndorf

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. Should you prefer, you may choose to stop in Dubai or spend two extra 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 city tour. 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. Possibly visit nearby Sentosa Island or enjoy high tea at Raffles. **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. 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. 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: Rottneest Island

Today's adventure is a visit to Rottneest Island, a paradise of white-sand beaches and secluded coves. Enjoy a buffet lunch and embark on a tour of the island, taking in pristine beaches, the unique flora and fauna, as well as Wadjemup Lighthouse. Learn about the island's Aboriginal history and of course we hope to meet the most famous local resident of Rottneest Island, the friendly and adorable quokka. Return to Perth late afternoon. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 7: Kangaroo Island, 2 nights

Following breakfast this morning, we board our flight to Adelaide, capital of South Australia. Upon arrival, we 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 Mercure Kangaroo Island Lodge, situated in a bayside location on Kangaroo Island, for the next 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. Visit a centre dedicated to the conservation and preservation of birds of prey. We spend the afternoon at Flinders Chase National Park, renowned as a sanctuary for native Australian animals including kangaroos, wallabies, koalas and echidnas, to view how the park is quickly regenerating following the fires of 2020. The tour of the park will take us to the rugged southern coastline for a walk on the Remarkable Rocks, providing great photographic opportunities and stunning sea views. We continue to Admirals Arch, 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 picnic 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 in the day, we arrive at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. **Breakfast included**

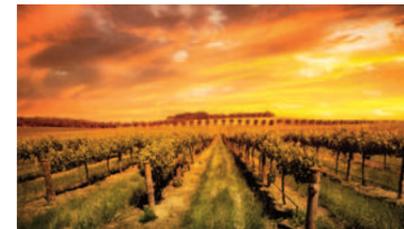
Day 10: Adelaide Freedom Day

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 while away a few hours. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Barossa Valley, Adelaide

Experience some of Australia's finest wines on a wine tour of this famous region.



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 Treasury Gardens, 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 two nights is the four star Pullman on the Park. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: Melbourne Freedom Day

Today we can choose to relax or explore as we please. 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 tour along one of the world's most spectacular coastal drives - the internationally renowned Great Ocean Road. **Breakfast included**



Sounds of Silence, Uluru



Kangaroo

The Very Best of Australia

Days 13 to 17: Uluru - Alice Springs - Darwin

Day 13: Uluru, 2 nights

Following breakfast this morning, we board our flight to Uluru in Australia's Red Centre. Prior to 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

Tonight, we dine under the stars at the Sounds of Silence experience. Our evening begins with canapés and sparkling wine served on a viewing platform overlooking Uluru. As the sun sets and darkness falls, the sounds of a didgeridoo fill the air and candles glow as we take our seats and enjoy a lavish three course meal in the most spectacular of settings. **Breakfast and dinner, with selected drinks included**

Day 14: Uluru

This morning, we have the option of viewing Uluru at sunrise. Following breakfast we leave for a tour of the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as the Olgas. Your afternoon is at leisure to enjoy one of the many activities on offer. This evening, we highly recommend a visit to the Field of Light; a light installation of more than 50,000 slender stems crowned with glass spheres that bloom as darkness falls over Australia's spiritual heartland. **Breakfast included**

Day 15, Alice Springs, 2 nights

After a leisurely start to the day, we board our coach for a journey along the Lasseter and Stuart Highways to Alice Springs. Home for the next two nights is the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. In the evening, enjoy a quintessentially Aussie experience of great food and laughter at the Outback Bush Barbecue. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 16: Alice Springs

Alice Springs is a small town with a rich indigenous culture and pioneering history. This morning's sightseeing tour includes visits to two institutions which provide an essential lifeline to people living in the remotest parts of the outback; the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the School of the Air. We also visit the Old Telegraph Station, the site of the old springs from which Alice gets its name, and ANZAC Hill which has panoramic views over the surrounding MacDonnell Ranges. Our afternoon is free to spend at leisure – maybe visit the Desert Park, an authentic recreation of the desert habitats and life as lived by the local indigenous people for thousands of years? **Breakfast included**

Day 17: Darwin, 2 nights

This morning, we board our flight to Darwin, capital of the Northern Territory. On arrival, we visit the fascinating Darwin Military Museum to learn about the important strategic role played by Darwin in World War II. Our hotel for the next two nights is the DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade, which overlooks Darwin Harbour. **Breakfast included**



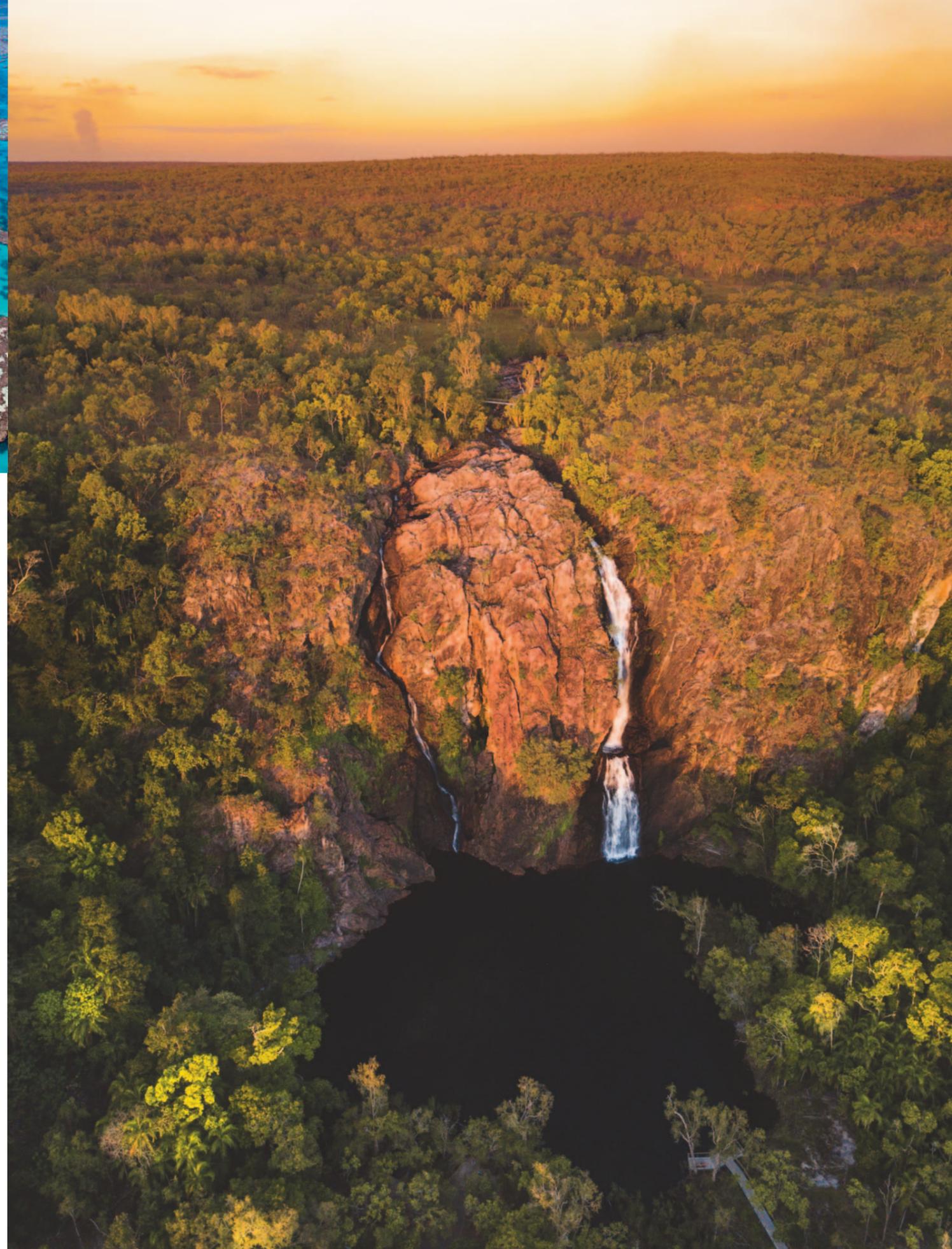
Uluru



Saltwater Crocodile



Great Barrier Reef



Wangi Falls, Litchfield National Park

The Very Best of Australia

Days 18 to 22: Darwin - Cairns - Great Barrier Reef

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 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

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 perfectly located Hilton Hotel, which will be our home for the next five nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 20: Cairns Freedom Day

Although today has been left free, you may wish to take an optional trip to Kuranda. 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: Great Barrier Reef

Tour Highlight

A holiday to Australia would not be complete without a visit to the Great Barrier Reef. Its colourful marine life and coral make this World Heritage site a must see for all visitors. Our day begins when we board our high-speed catamaran and journey to a 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 glass-bottomed boat. With four hours at the reef there is plenty of time to do it all. For the more adventurous, there are several 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 22: Cairns Freedom Day

Another Freedom Day to enjoy 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

We recommend

Kuranda Railway & Skyrail

A journey to Kuranda by the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, returning on the Kuranda Scenic Rail journey.





Four Mile Beach, Port Douglas



The Very Best of Australia

Days 23 to 27: Port Douglas - Sydney

Day 23: Port Douglas

We drive north this morning and visit Hartley's Crocodile Adventures. As well as being the best place to see crocodiles in Queensland, there are miles of timber boardwalks winding through rainforest from where you can see an array of wildlife, including beautiful tropical birds, reptiles, insects and other native fauna. Later, arrive at Port Douglas, a tropical beach resort with a laid-back atmosphere where we enjoy lunch in a legendary local restaurant. There's free time to spend on the beach soaking up the tropical sun or enjoy a swim before heading back to Cairns via the Rex Lookout – a viewpoint offering the most picture-perfect views. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 24: Sydney, 4 nights

This morning we make our way to Cairns Airport in time for our flight to Sydney. 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. Upon arrival we head to the Sofitel Wentworth Hotel, in the heart of central Sydney. **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. Continue 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 we 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, 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 assist. **Breakfast included**



Sydney Harbour



Bondi Beach, Sydney



Three Sisters, Blue Mountains



The Very Best of Australia

Days 28 to 29: Sydney - UK

Day 28: Depart Sydney

The day is ours until it's time to depart for the airport. Our flight to our chosen UK airport operates via Dubai or Singapore, 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 one of our New Zealand tours makes perfect sense.

Please see pages 118-127 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Why not extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey? Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bangkok or Hong Kong, a beach stay in Bali or a stop in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

Hong Kong - Two nights from £345 per person
An iconic skyline, bustling street markets and a mix of Chinese and colonial cultures.

Dubai - Two nights from £345 per person
The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Bangkok - Two nights from £195 per person
Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

Singapore - Two nights from £295 per person
A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Sentosa Island - Two nights from £445 per person
A relaxing sanctuary or fun-filled adventure, only 20 minutes from Singapore.

Bali - Three nights from £445 per person
A truly relaxing stopover on the white sands of the hotel's private beach.

Please see pages 138-139 for more details on homebound stopovers.



Departure Dates & Prices

2023 Departures

21 January 2023

04 February 2023

Prices

Prices from £6,795 per person. Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement

From £1,495.

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 £1,895 per person return. Upgrade to Business Class from £4,295 per person return.

Visa information

An Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) is required to enter Australia. A processing fee of £25 per person will be added to your confirmation invoice.

Important information

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Full Terms & Conditions are available on pages 144-147

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

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





The Very Best of Australia, including The Ghan

29 days from only £6,595 per person

29 days of discovery and adventure await you on our Very Best of Australia tour, including The Ghan. You will explore the same amazing places as our Very Best of Australia tour, including vibrant, world-class cities, the haunting outback and the ancient tropical rainforests of Far North Queensland, with the added bonus of a journey aboard the legendary Ghan.

What makes this tour so special is the variety of included immersive activities which give you a true insight into the real Australia, its indigenous culture, its rich history and its warm, friendly people.

Amongst many other unforgettable experiences, this tour includes an overnight journey aboard the legendary Ghan, travelling north from Alice Springs in the heart of the Red Centre to Darwin at Australia's Top End, with a cruise through the enchanting Katherine Gorge included along the way. As you enjoy one of the world's most iconic railway journeys, you will travel in style on board The Ghan in your own private en-suite cabin, with all meals and drinks included.



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, spend two extra nights in Perth at the beginning of your tour

Carefully selected hotels

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

Many meals

- Daily breakfast, worth £462 per person
- Picnic 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 at sunset and sunrise
- Cruise scenic Katherine Gorge
- Full day excursion to 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 covered by our Covid Guarantee*
- Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 144-147.



Penguins, Phillip Island



The Twelve Apostles



Perth

The Very Best of Australia, including The Ghan

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. Should you prefer, you may choose to stop in Dubai or spend two extra 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 city tour. 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. Possibly visit nearby Sentosa Island or enjoy high tea at Raffles. **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. 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 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**

Day 7: Kangaroo Island, 2 nights

Following breakfast this morning, we board our flight to Adelaide, capital of South Australia. Upon arrival, we 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 Mercure Kangaroo Island Lodge, situated in a bayside location on Kangaroo Island, for the next 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. Prior to our picnic lunch we visit a centre dedicated to the conservation and preservation of birds of prey. We spend the afternoon at Flinders Chase National Park, renowned as a sanctuary for native Australian animals including kangaroos, wallabies, koalas and echidnas, to view how the park is quickly regenerating. The tour of the park will 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, 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 picnic 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 in the day, we arrive at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. **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 while away a few hours. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Barossa Valley, Adelaide

Experience some of Australia's finest wines on a wine tour of this famous region.



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 Treasury Gardens, 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 two nights is the four star Pullman on the Park. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: Melbourne Freedom Day

Today we can choose to relax or explore as we please. 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 tour along one of the world's most spectacular coastal drives - the internationally renowned Great Ocean Road. **Breakfast included**



Alice Springs



Koala

The Very Best of Australia, including The Ghan

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

Day 13: Uluru, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

Following breakfast this morning, we board our flight to Uluru in Australia's Red Centre. Prior to 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. 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. Following breakfast we leave for a tour of the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as the Olgas. Your afternoon is at leisure to enjoy one of the many activities on offer. On your second evening in Ayers Rock Resort, watching the sun set at the Sounds of Silence dinner is highly recommended. **Breakfast included**

Day 15, Alice Springs, 2 nights

We have a leisurely start to our day. Later, we make our way to Alice Springs, travelling along the Lasseter and Stuart Highways. Upon arrival we check-in to the four star DoubleTree by Hilton. In the evening, we highly recommend experiencing the Outback Bush Barbecue. **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, which provides 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

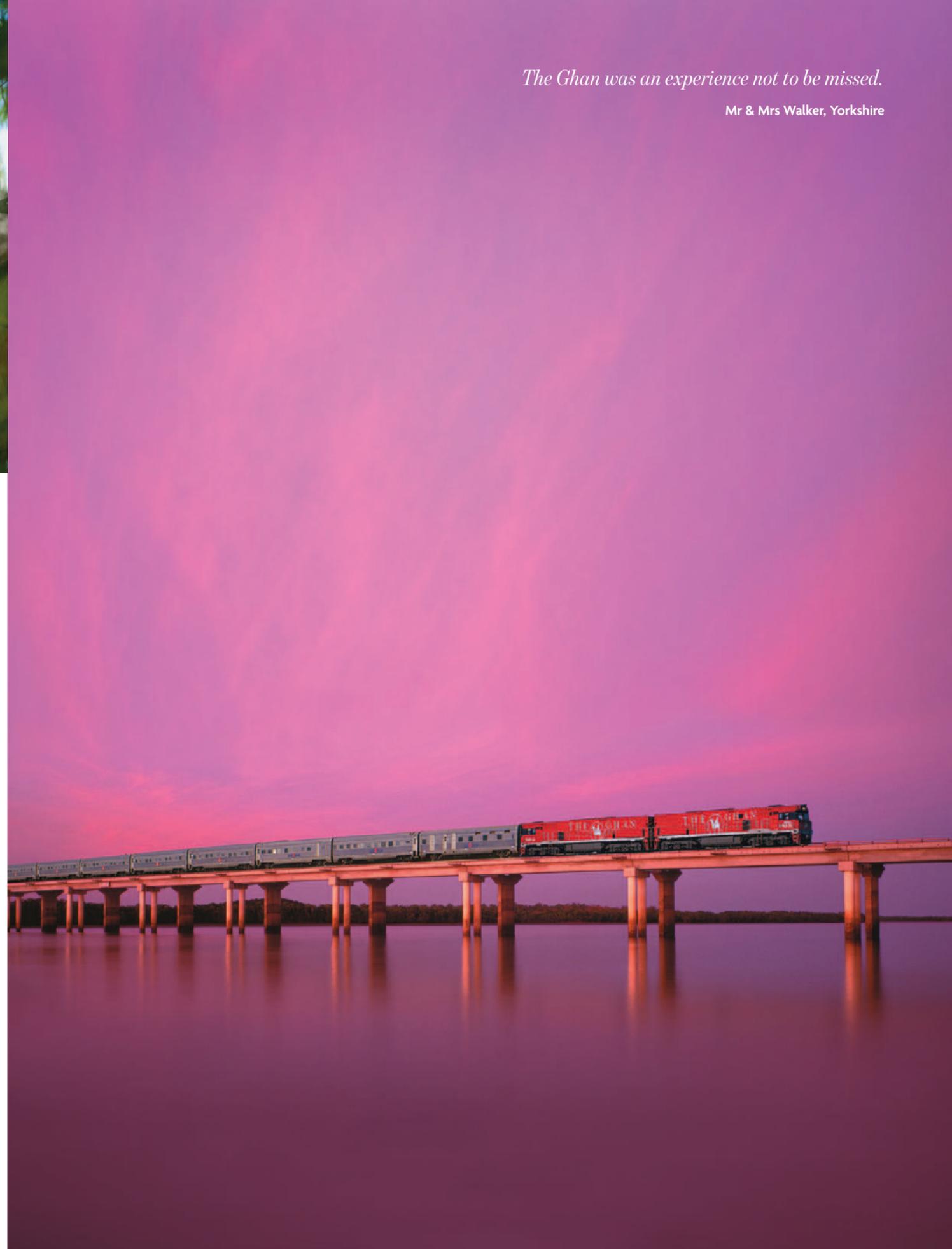
Nestled within the MacDonnell Ranges, Alice Springs is an iconic town made famous by its rich pioneering history and ancient indigenous culture. This morning you may wish to take an adventure in slow motion on an optional hot air balloon trip over outback landscapes. Later, we board our coach and enjoy 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 in time 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, 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 Ghan was an experience not to be missed.

Mr & Mrs Walker, Yorkshire



The Ghan



Katherine Gorge



Crocodile, Daintree Rainforest

The Very Best of Australia, including The Ghan

Days 18 to 22: The Ghan - Darwin - Cairns - Great Barrier Reef

Day 18: Darwin, 2 nights

Following breakfast, The Ghan rolls into Katherine. Here we 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 DoubleTree by Hilton 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**

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 perfectly located Hilton Hotel, which will be our home for the next four nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 21: Cairns Freedom Day

Although today has been left free, you may wish to take an optional trip to Kuranda. 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 22: Great Barrier Reef

Tour Highlight

A holiday to Australia would not be complete without a visit to the Great Barrier Reef. Its colourful marine life and coral make this World Heritage site a must see for all visitors. Our day begins when we board our high-speed catamaran and journey to a 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 glass-bottomed boat. With four hours at the reef there is plenty of time to do it all. For the more adventurous, there are several 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**

We recommend

Litchfield National Park

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



Great Barrier Reef



Bondi Beach, Sydney



Cassowary



Blue Mountains

The Very Best of Australia, including The Ghan

Days 23 to 27: Cairns - Sydney

Day 23: Cairns Freedom Day

Another Freedom Day to enjoy 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. 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. Upon arrival we head to the Sofitel Wentworth Hotel, in the heart of central Sydney. **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. Continue 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

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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, 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 assist. **Breakfast included**

We wanted to see as much as we could. Distant Journeys made all this possible. They took away any worries we might have had.

Mr & Mrs Bridge, Lancashire



Sydney Harbour



Dubai



Bangkok

The Very Best of Australia, including The Ghan

Days 28 to 29: Sydney - UK

Day 28: Depart Sydney

The day is ours until it's time to depart for the airport. Our flight to our chosen UK airport operates via Dubai or Singapore, 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

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Please see pages 118-127 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

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An iconic skyline, bustling street markets and a mix of Chinese and colonial cultures.

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Bangkok - Two nights from £195 per person
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Singapore - Two nights from £295 per person
A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Sentosa Island - Two nights from £445 per person
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Bali - Three nights from £445 per person
A truly relaxing stopover on the white sands of the hotel's private beach.

Please see pages 138-139 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2022 Departures

01 October 2022	SOLD OUT
08 October 2022	
15 October 2022	SOLD OUT
22 October 2022	
29 October 2022	SOLD OUT
05 November 2022	SOLD OUT

2023 Departures

18 February 2023	SOLD OUT
25 February 2023	SOLD OUT
04 March 2023	
11 March 2023	
15 April 2023	

Prices

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Single occupancy supplement
From £1,495.

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.

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Upgrade to Premium Economy on selected routes from £1,895 per person return. Upgrade to Business Class from £4,295 per person return.

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





The Grand Australian

31 days from only £7,745 per person

Distant Journeys are delighted to bring to you a brand new tour - The Grand Australian. Join us on a holiday full of memorable experiences and magical adventures. Taking in all the must-see destinations including six nights in Australia's beautiful island state, Tasmania, as well as a fabulous two-night rail journey aboard the Great Southern - this really is a tour of awe-inspiring wonder; showcasing Australia at its finest.

Over 31 leisurely days, admire the elegant cities of Melbourne and Adelaide and delve into the rural idyll and colourful history of Tasmania. Aboard the Great Southern, you will travel through Australia's south-east, stopping in many fascinating places en route to Brisbane. Four nights in Cairns allow us to soak up the beauty of tropical Queensland, before we are immersed in Aboriginal culture in the Red Centre. Sydney is a natural climax to the tour; an iconic city which sums up this incredible country.

You will be accompanied throughout by an experienced Tour Manager, ensuring that every moment of your Grand Australian tour will make memories to last a lifetime.



Map not to scale

③ = Number of nights

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 and first class hotels in great locations
- Two-night train journey onboard The Great Southern
- All hotel portorage
- Applicable hotel taxes

Many meals

- Daily breakfast, worth £498 per person
- Two dinners and one lunch in Strahan
- Lunch at Port Arthur
- Buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef
- Lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour

All-inclusive on The Great Southern

- All off-train experiences and excursions
- All meals
- Selected alcoholic and soft drinks

Unforgettable experiences

- Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Dubai), Melbourne, Cradle Mountain, Adelaide, Alice Springs and Sydney
- Cruise Tasmania's Gordon River
- Explore historic Port Arthur
- Full day excursion to the Great Barrier Reef
- Experience Uluru at sunset and sunrise
- 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 covered by our Covid Guarantee*
- Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 144-147.



Dove Lake, Cradle Mountain



The Twelve Apostles

The Grand Australian

Days 1 to 7: UK - Singapore - 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, 3 nights

Flights from London Heathrow may travel direct to Singapore. All other 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. Should 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.

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 the city. Included is a stop at Merlion Park with its 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**

Day 4: Singapore Freedom Day

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

Day 5: Melbourne, 3 nights

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight to Melbourne. With a late arrival into Melbourne we transfer directly to our hotel, the four star Stamford Plaza, situated in the heart of the city. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 6: Melbourne

A leisurely start this morning, prior to our Melbourne city tour. Sights include Treasury Gardens, 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, returning to our hotel later in the day. **Breakfast included**

Day 7: 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 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 tour along one of the world's most spectacular coastal drives, the internationally renowned Great Ocean Road. **Breakfast included**



Puffing Billy



Hobart waterfront



Wombat

The Grand Australian

Days 8 to 12: Cradle Mountain - Strahan - Hobart

Day 8: Cradle Mountain, 2 nights

After breakfast we leave for the airport and our short flight across the Bass Strait to Launceston, Tasmania. Known as the 'Apple Isle', for its abundant fruit orchards as well as its shape, Tasmania is an island state of captivating beauty. On arrival, our first port of call is Trowunna Wildlife Reserve, an 85-acre wildlife sanctuary where native Tasmanian fauna and flora thrive. Among the residents are bandicoots, wombats, wallabies and quolls, plus the famous Tasmanian Devil. We continue with a scenic journey to the Cradle Mountain Hotel, home for the next two nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Cradle Mountain

This morning we make a short journey to Dove Lake, a glacially carved tarn in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park. Enjoy a walk around the lake, which has epic views of Cradle Mountain taking us through some of Tasmania's unique vegetation, including sassafras and buttongrass. Our afternoon is at leisure. Perhaps visit the Wilderness Gallery, in the grounds of the hotel, showcasing the work of Tasmanian artists and craftspeople, and enjoy a free tasting of delicious local honey. **Breakfast included**

Day 10: Strahan, 2 nights

We journey west today, stopping at the Vale of Belvoir lookout for a different view of Cradle Mountain, en route to Zeehan, an historic mining town named after explorer Abel Tasman's sailing brig. Next, we see the Henty Sand Dunes, a series of giant dunes behind Ocean Beach, formed by the wild winds of the Roaring Forties. Watch the huge breakers crash down onto Ocean Beach. Later, we arrive at the small town of Strahan and the Strahan Village Hotel. After settling in we enjoy dinner together. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 11: Strahan Tour Highlight

After breakfast we board the 'Spirit of the Wild' for a wonderful cruise along the Gordon River. We cruise through the notorious Hells Gates, where Macquarie Harbour and the Southern Ocean meet, and learn about salmon and trout farming on the west coast of Tasmania, before entering the beautiful Gordon River. Our vessel is purpose-built for cruising in the sensitive environment of the UNESCO Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, and we cruise in 'whisper mode', enjoying the serenity from the comfort of our window seats. Stopping at Heritage Landing we walk through the temperate rainforest, and enjoy a delicious buffet lunch on board.

To finish, we explore the ruins of Sarah Island, a former penal colony where our guide will regale us with chilling tales of its convict history. We return to Strahan mid-afternoon, and this evening we gather again to enjoy dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 12: Hobart, 2 nights

This morning we travel to Queenstown in time to board the West Coast Wilderness Railway, for a steam powered trip deep into cool, remote rainforest. We climb one of the Southern Hemisphere's steepest tracks using a rare rack and pinion system. Later, we continue to Hobart with a stop to view Lake St Clair, Australia's deepest lake. On arrival in Hobart, the state capital of Tasmania, we take a short orientation tour. Later, we arrive at the Crowne Plaza Hobart. **Breakfast included**



Gordon River cruise



The Great Southern



Brisbane



Sea Turtle, Great Barrier Reef

The Grand Australian

Days 13 to 22: Hobart - Adelaide - The Great Southern - Brisbane - Cairns - Great Barrier Reef

Day 13: Hobart

Our morning begins with a spectacular drive along the Tasman Peninsula to the Port Arthur Historic site. Port Arthur began life as a penal settlement in 1830 and quickly grew in importance within the colonies. It is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and one of the best surviving examples of large-scale convict transportation. During our visit we explore the site to learn about its fascinating history, and enjoy a short harbour cruise. After lunch, we return to Hobart where the rest of the day is free to enjoy as we please. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 14: Adelaide, 2 nights

Leaving Tasmania, we depart for Adelaide. Surrounded by rolling parkland and the Mount Lofty Ranges, 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 in the day, we arrive at the Peppers Waymouth Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 15: Adelaide Freedom Day

A Freedom Day to spend as we please. Explore Adelaide on foot or perhaps take an optional tour to the famous wine growing region of the Barossa Valley. Alternatively, visit Kangaroo Island, situated off the Fleurieu Peninsula, offering a unique touring experience combining friendly, native wildlife with natural, unspoilt wilderness. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: The Great Southern, 2 nights Tour Highlight

Excitement builds this morning as we check in to Adelaide Parklands Terminal, ready for our magnificent Great Southern rail journey to Brisbane. 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 onboard, all our meals are included, as are a wide selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. As the Great Southern rolls out of Adelaide, settle in as morning tea is served followed by a relaxed lunch on board while the ever-changing landscape glides by.

In the afternoon, we experience the spectacular wilderness of the Grampians National Park, where we disembark to explore the area. Once back aboard the Great Southern, a late supper is served in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant before we retire to our cabins to sleep to the rhythm of the rails. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

Day 17: The Great Southern

After breakfast, we once again disembark our train to continue by coach into the Australian Capital Territory, to Canberra, Australia's political capital. A splendid lunch is served in Parliament House, after which we enjoy a tour of either the Australian War Memorial, the National Gallery of Australia or Parliament House itself. Following dinner back on board the train, unwind with a nightcap in the Outback Explorer Lounge. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

Day 18: Brisbane, 2 nights

This morning's choice of activities are all based in Coffs Harbour, a coastal city north of Sydney. Opt for the Boardwalk to Beach excursion, taking in views of the spectacular coastline and the Great Dividing Range. Or take the Coffs Explorer Experience to Sealy Lookout, where the Forest Sky Pier viewing platform soars dramatically out from the hillside, affording magnificent views of the coastline to Solitary Islands Marine Park.

You may prefer to spend the entire morning soaking up the sunshine and relaxed atmosphere of Coffs Harbour; whatever you choose, a final lunch will be served back on board before the Great Southern arrives into Brisbane. Upon arrival, our waiting coach will whisk us downtown to the Stamford Plaza occupying a superb position on the banks of the Brisbane River, close to the Botanical Gardens. **Breakfast and lunch PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

Day 19: Brisbane Freedom Day

A Freedom Day in Brisbane, to enjoy as we wish. Have a lazy day strolling around Brisbane's gardens and river boardwalk, and enjoy a bite to eat at the recently restored Howard Smith Wharves, under the city's iconic Story Bridge. If you would like to venture further afield, a Scenic Rim day tour may fit the bill. However you spend your day, enjoy! **Breakfast included**

Day 20: Cairns, 4 nights

This morning, we make our way to the airport for our flight to Cairns. Upon arrival, transfer to the perfectly located Cairns Hilton, home for the next four nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 21: Cairns Freedom Day

Although today has been left free, you may wish to take an optional trip to Kuranda. 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 22: Great Barrier Reef Tour Highlight

A holiday to Australia would not be complete without a visit to the Great Barrier Reef. Its colourful marine life and coral make this World Heritage site a must see for all visitors. Our day begins when we board our high-speed catamaran and journey to a 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 glass-bottomed boat. With four hours at the reef there is plenty of time to do it all. For the more adventurous, there are several 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**



Aboriginal dancers



Bush tucker

The Grand Australian

Days 23 to 26: Cairns - Uluru - Alice Springs

Day 23: Cairns Freedom Day

Another Freedom Day to enjoy 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, as well as the option to take a hot air balloon ride over the Atherton Tablelands. 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. **Breakfast included**

Day 24: Uluru, Overnight

Tour Highlight
Leaving Cairns on an early flight, we head to Uluru, the icon of Australia's outback, and the world's largest monolith. Upon arrival, we take a tour of the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as the Olgas. Our next stop is Uluru, a site of deep cultural significance to the aboriginal communities of the Northern Territory. Relax and enjoy a glass of sparkling wine whilst witnessing Uluru's changing colours as the sun begins to set. It's truly a photographer's delight. Overnight at the four-star Desert Gardens Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 25: Alice Springs, 2 nights

This morning, for those of us who so wish, there's an opportunity to see the sunrise over Uluru. Seeing Uluru at sunrise, from a different position and a different light, offers a totally new perspective on the ever-changing colours and character of the rock. Later, we travel east through amazing outback landscapes as we journey along the Lasseter and Stuart Highways and make our way to the outback town of Alice Springs. On arrival, we visit the Old Telegraph Station, a heritage museum and the site of the old springs from which Alice gets its name. Our home for the next two nights is the four-star Crowne Plaza Lasseters Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 26: 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. Tonight, there's the option to enjoy an evening of Aussie food and laughter at the Outback Bush Barbecue. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Western MacDonnell Ranges

Experience spectacular scenery, and learn about life in Australia's outback.



Uluru



Blue Mountains



The Grand Australian

Days 27 to 29: Alice Springs - Sydney

Day 27: Sydney, 3 nights

This morning, we board our coach and enjoy a sightseeing tour of Alice Springs. Visits include the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the School of the Air. Later, we make our way to Alice Springs Airport in time for our flight to Sydney.

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 dining venues, endless shopping opportunities and a vibrant culture and it's very easy to understand why Sydney is one of the world's favourite cities. Upon arrival we head to the Sofitel Wentworth, in the heart of central Sydney. **Breakfast included**

Day 28: 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. We journey 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 lunch 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 29: Sydney Freedom Day

Today has been left free, and 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**

We recommend

World Heritage Blue Mountains

Experience the panoramas from a series of lookouts, including Echo Point – the prime position to view the Three Sisters rock formation.



Sydney Harbour



Sydney Harbour



Melbourne tram

The Grand Australian

Days 30 - 31: Sydney - UK

Day 30: Depart Sydney

The day is ours until it's time to depart for the airport. Our flights to our chosen UK airport operate via Dubai or Singapore, where there will be a change of aircraft. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 31: 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**

Why not combine with a tour of New Zealand?



If you wish to make the ultimate journey to Australasia, combining The Grand Australian with one of our New Zealand tours makes perfect sense.

Please see pages 118-127 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Why not extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey? Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bangkok or Hong Kong, a beach stay in Bali or a stop in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

Hong Kong - Two nights from £345 per person
An iconic skyline, bustling street markets and a mix of Chinese and colonial cultures.

Dubai - Two nights from £345 per person
The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Bangkok - Two nights from £195 per person
Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

Singapore - Two nights from £295 per person
A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Sentosa Island - Two nights from £445 per person
A relaxing sanctuary or fun-filled adventure, only 20 minutes from Singapore.

Bali - Three nights from £445 per person
A truly relaxing stopover on the white sands of the hotel's private beach.

Please see pages 138-139 for more details on homebound stopovers.



Departure Dates & Prices

2023 Departures

12 January 2023

02 February 2023*

* This tour stays in alternative accommodation on days 10 and 11. Please call for details.

Prices

Prices from £7,745 per person. Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement

From £1,695.

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 £1,895 per person return. Upgrade to Business Class from £4,795 per person return.

Visa information

An Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) is required to enter Australia. A processing fee of £25 per person will be added to your confirmation invoice.

Important information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Terms & Conditions are available on pages 144-147

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

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





Magnificent New Zealand

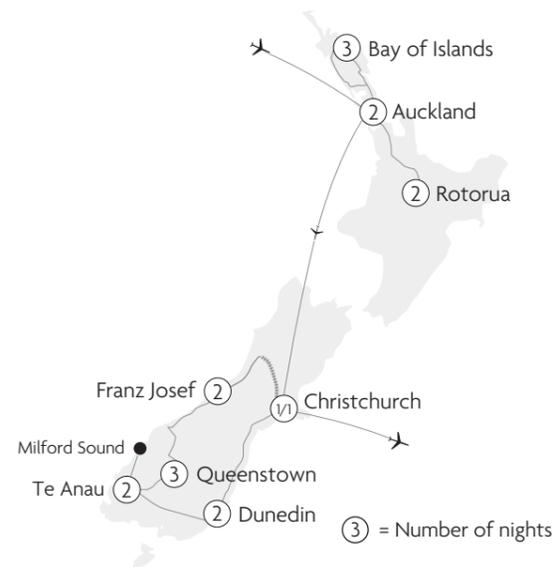
24 days from only £4,195 per person

New Zealand is like no other place on earth – packed full of amazing and diverse landscapes. New Zealand's North Island is dominated by ancient volcanoes, stunning coastal scenery and pristine beaches.

South Island possesses high mountain peaks, deep fiords, lush rainforests and magnificent glaciers.

Distant Journeys' leisurely itinerary visits all the must-see attractions during our comprehensive 24 day tour. We explore the country's breathtaking scenery, vibrant cities and rich Maori culture – and experience an unforgettable cruise along spectacular Milford Sound.

Our itinerary operates at a leisurely tempo and allows plenty of Freedom Days to fully explore each area at your own pace.



Your holiday includes

Flights with leading scheduled airlines

- Return economy class flights
- Fly with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow
- Alternatively, fly with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester on certain days of the week
- Domestic flight within New Zealand
- 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 (dependent on choice of airline)

Carefully selected hotels

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

Many meals

- Daily breakfast, worth £324 per person
- Dinner in Rotorua

Unforgettable experiences

- Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Bangkok or Dubai), Auckland, Rotorua, Queenstown, Dunedin and Christchurch
- 'Hole in the Rock' cruise in the Bay of Islands
- Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve
- Maori concert
- Scenic rail journey on board the TranzAlpine
- Morning cruise on Milford Sound

On the ground

- Services of experienced Coach Captains
- All overseas transfers
- Modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

100% confidence

- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise*
- Your holiday is covered by our Covid Guarantee*
- Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 144-147.



Auckland



Maori carving



Hole in the Rock, Bay of Islands

Magnificent New Zealand

Days 1 to 7: UK - Singapore - Auckland - Bay of Islands

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from the UK airport most convenient for you with Qantas & Emirates. Choose from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow. Alternatively, fly direct to Singapore with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester. Flights with Singapore Airlines from Manchester are available on selected dates. Please speak with one of our travel experts for more details. No matter which airline or airport you choose, there will be no additional cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Singapore, 2 nights

Arrive into the island 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 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 if flying with Qantas & Emirates. 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. Perhaps explore the impressive Gardens by the Bay or enjoy high tea at Raffles Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Depart Singapore

A day at leisure in Singapore until it's time to leave for our evening flight to Auckland. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 5: Auckland, 2 nights

If flying with Qantas & Emirates, flights will transit in Australia. On arrival into Auckland we meet our local Coach Captain, who will be our driver and guide during our time on New Zealand's North Island. Transfer to the centrally located Grand Millennium Auckland, where we spend our first two nights in New Zealand. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 6: Auckland

This morning, we 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 stunning 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. Our afternoon is free for us to enjoy as we please. Perhaps take a trip to the top of Sky Tower; the panoramic views from the tallest building in the southern hemisphere are truly breathtaking. **Breakfast included**

Day 7: Bay of Islands, 3 nights

Our travels today commence with a drive over the impressive Waitemata Harbour Bridge. Journey past dairy farms and rolling hills as we make our way north. We continue to the Waipoua Kauri Forest Reserve, where we stop to view the gigantic kauri tree Tane Mahuta, 'Lord of the Forest.' We then travel across country to the beautiful Bay of Islands and our home for the next three nights, the Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands, located in the picturesque seaside town of Paihia. **Breakfast included**



TranzAlpine



Bay of Islands

Magnificent New Zealand

Days 8 to 13: Bay of Islands - Rotorua - Christchurch - Franz Josef

Day 8: Bay of Islands Tour Highlight

Visiting this stunning area wouldn't be complete without a cruise around the Bay of Islands, no doubt one of your tour highlights. Cruise via Red Head Passage to Cape Brett and Piery Island and on to the famous 'Hole in the Rock'. In these world-famous deep-sea fishing grounds dolphins and schools of fish are frequently seen. Our return trip travels via historic Russell once known as the 'Hell Hole of the Pacific', but now a peaceful and picturesque township. There is an opportunity to disembark for those that wish, returning to Paihia independently by purchasing a ticket for the public ferry. Our free afternoon provides an excellent opportunity (at an additional cost) to visit the grounds of the Waitangi National Reserve where, in 1840, the British and Maori chiefs signed the Waitangi Treaty. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Bay of Islands Freedom Day

Although our day has been left at leisure, we have the opportunity to join a fantastic optional trip to Cape Reinga. This full day excursion visits the northern tip of New Zealand, where the Tasman Sea meets the Pacific Ocean. The area holds special spiritual significance in Maori tradition, as the place where Maori spirits return to their traditional homeland, Hawaiki-A-Nui, via the roots of a lone (and still standing) 800 year old pohutukawa tree. Highlights of today's tour include magnificent coastal landscapes, the Te Pahi sand dunes and a drive along Ninety Mile Beach. **Breakfast included**

Day 10: Rotorua, 2 nights

We travel south this morning via Auckland as we make our way to the world-famous thermal region of Rotorua. 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 buffet dinner. The next two nights are spent at the four star Distinction Hotel. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 11: Rotorua

Our sightseeing this morning takes us via Rotorua's famous Bath House, a Tudor-style building within the Government Gardens. We continue to Te Puia, home to the Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, with its spurting geysers and boiling mud pools. Our 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 visiting the Hobbiton Movie Set from The Lord of the Rings may be more appealing. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: Christchurch, Overnight

This morning we make our way to Auckland Airport for our Jetstar flight to Christchurch. We meet our South Island Coach Captain and enjoy a brief orientation tour, before arriving at the centrally located Distinction Hotel, Christchurch. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Franz Josef, 2 nights Tour Highlight

After breakfast we transfer to Christchurch railway station in plenty of time to catch the TransAlpine, arguably one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world. Cross the fertile farmlands of the Canterbury Plains, and enjoy thrilling vistas over deep gorges as we travel alongside the ice-fed Waimakariri River. We climb the mighty Southern Alps, where at every turn, spectacular views of the chiselled alpine landscape take our breath away. At Arthur's Pass we join our waiting coach to make the spectacular descent down the western side of the Southern Alps through thick native beech forest. Our travels continue southbound taking us alongside striking wild scree-scarred terrain with forests of Crimson Rata and Kahikatea. Just a few miles further south we pass Lakes lanthe and Mapourika before entering the Westland National Park and reaching the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier for our next two nights. **Breakfast included**

This is one of the best holidays we have had. We couldn't have been looked after better and so much was included in the price. We had a fantastic time. We would not hesitate to recommend a holiday in New Zealand, travelling with Distant Journeys.

Mr & Mrs Griscti, West Sussex



Bath House, Rotorua



Mitre Peak, Milford Sound



Dunedin



Queenstown

Magnificent New Zealand

Days 14 to 22: Franz Josef - Queenstown - Te Anau - Milford Sound - Dunedin - Christchurch

Day 14: 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 to view the glacial valley. Weather permitting we may also take an optional scenic flight (at an additional cost) over the glacier and the awe-inspiring Alpine region. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Scenic flight over Franz Josef Glacier

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



Day 15: Queenstown, 3 nights

Incredible scenery today as we travel across the Haast River Bridge and via Clark Bluff along one of the most exciting scenic roads ever built. Travel along the shores of Lakes Wanaka and Hawea as we enter New Zealand's Central Otago region. We continue via Lake Dunstan, created by the mighty Clyde hydro dam in 1994. Later in the afternoon we reach beautiful, cosmopolitan Queenstown, and our home for the next three nights, the four star Millennium Hotel, situated only a short walk from the centre of town. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: Queenstown Freedom Day

Queenstown smiles south across Lake Wakatipu into an incomparable alpine scene. Poplars and willows surround the lake front and the lake seems to glisten every shade of blue. Today has been left free to take advantage of the incredible variety of activities available in and around New Zealand's most glamorous alpine resort. For a relaxing experience, follow Queenstown's wine trail, an enjoyable day excursion of wine tasting and sightseeing. There is also an opportunity to take an optional leisurely cruise 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 17: Queenstown Freedom Day

A further Freedom Day to enjoy in this wonderful alpine setting. The 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. For a more serene experience maybe stroll by the lakeside or take a gondola ride to the top of Bob's Peak for a magnificent panoramic view of Queenstown. **Breakfast included**

Day 18: Te Anau, 2 nights

This morning we take a tour to visit the nearby historic mining town of Arrowtown. 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. Afterwards, depart through high country landscapes and trout fishing rivers and travel onwards to the shores of Lake Te Anau, the biggest of South Island's many lakes. Enjoy the next two nights at the Distinction Hotel and Villas. **Breakfast included**

Day 19: Milford Sound Cruise

Tour Highlight

An early start this morning as we embark on a stunning scenic drive into the heart of Fiordland National Park to join our morning cruise on spectacular Milford Sound. By choosing to cruise early in the morning, we will experience a quieter environment in which to enjoy all the wonders this beautiful fiord has to offer. See towering cliffs and peaks, including the iconic and much photographed Mitre Peak, rising more than a kilometre straight out of the sea. Waterfalls cascade into the fiord and luxuriant rain forest clings to sheer rock faces. Later we return to Te Anau where there is ample time to enjoy the delights of this quaint township. **Breakfast included**

Day 20: Dunedin, 2 nights

This morning we say goodbye to Fiordland. A morning drive takes us via Mossburn and Lumsden to Gore. Fresh, green farm scenery will accompany us to Balclutha, which has a distinctive arched concrete bridge. Known as the 'Edinburgh of the South', Dunedin is South Island's second largest city and is considered New Zealand's architectural heritage capital, with its lovingly restored Victorian and Edwardian buildings. On arrival, we enjoy a sightseeing tour taking in the city's neo-Gothic churches, town hall, opulent theatres, and other 19th century buildings. We have time to admire the beautifully landscaped trees and plants of Dunedin Botanical Gardens and the spectacular views of the Otago Peninsula and Harbour before we reach our hotel, the Distinction Dunedin. **Breakfast included**

Day 21: Dunedin Freedom Day

A day at leisure to spend as we please. Perhaps join an Otago Peninsula Wildlife Tour - the perfect optional excursion for nature lovers. The tour includes an Otago Harbour cruise to Taiaroa Head, home of the world's only mainland nesting place of the Royal Albatross, and a visit to Penguin Place, a private conservation reserve for the endangered Yellow Eyed Penguin. Alternatively, you may wish to travel on the Taieri Gorge Train as it travels through ten tunnels and over countless bridges and viaducts, stopping or slowing down at various scenic points along the way for photos. **Breakfast included**

Day 22: Christchurch, Overnight

This morning, our travels take us north once more. We stop at Hampden Beach to witness the geological curiosities known as the Moeraki Boulders, huge spherical boulders which are scattered along the beach, whilst others can be seen emerging from the sandstone cliffs. Each boulder weighs several tonnes and is up to two metres in diameter. According to Maori legend, the boulders are gourds washed ashore from the great voyaging canoe Araiteuru when it was wrecked upon landfall in New Zealand hundreds of years ago. Scientists explain the boulders as calcite concretions formed about 65 million years ago. The soft mudstone containing the boulders was raised from the seabed around 15 million years ago and waves, wind and rain are uncovering them one by one. Later in the day we arrive at the Distinction Hotel, Christchurch for our final night in New Zealand. **Breakfast included**



Moeraki Boulders



Maori boat



Bangkok

Magnificent New Zealand

Days 23 to 24: Christchurch - UK

Day 23: Depart Christchurch

All good things must come to an end, and this morning we transfer to Christchurch Airport. Dependent on your choice of airline your flight will either connect via Australia and Dubai, if flying with Qantas & Emirates, or Singapore if your chosen airline is Singapore Airlines. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 24: Arrive UK

Breakfast is served shortly before our arrival, bringing to an end our Magnificent New Zealand tour. **In-flight drinks and breakfast included**

Why not combine with a tour of Australia?



If you wish to make the ultimate journey to Australasia, combining the Magnificent New Zealand tour with one of our Australia tours makes perfect sense.

Please see pages 118-127 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Why not extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey? Your stopover options are dependent on your choice of airline. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

Singapore - Two nights from £295 per person
A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Sentosa Island - Two nights from £445 per person
A relaxing sanctuary or fun-filled adventure, only 20 minutes from Singapore.

Hong Kong - Two nights from £345 per person
An iconic skyline, bustling street markets, and a mix of Chinese and colonial cultures.

Dubai - Two nights from £345 per person
The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Bangkok - Two nights from £195 per person
Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

Bali - Three nights from £445 per person
A truly relaxing stopover on the white sands of the hotel's private beach.

If flying with Singapore Airlines, your homebound stopover choices are Singapore or Sentosa Island. If travelling with Qantas & Emirates your homebound stopover choices are Singapore, Sentosa Island, Hong Kong, Dubai, Bangkok or Bali.

Please see pages 138-139 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2022 Departures

04 November 2022

17 December 2022*

2023 Departures

13 January 2023

03 February 2023

03 March 2023

21 April 2023

* The Christmas and New Year tour includes Christmas dinner in the Bay of Islands and a celebratory dinner on New Year's Eve in Queenstown.

Departure Dates & Prices

Prices

Prices from £4,195 per person. Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement

From £1,395.

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 £1,995 per person return. Upgrade to Business Class from £4,495 per person return.

Visa information

Travellers to New Zealand are required to obtain a visa (NZeTA). For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 142-143.

Important information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Terms & Conditions are available on pages 144-147

Call to book

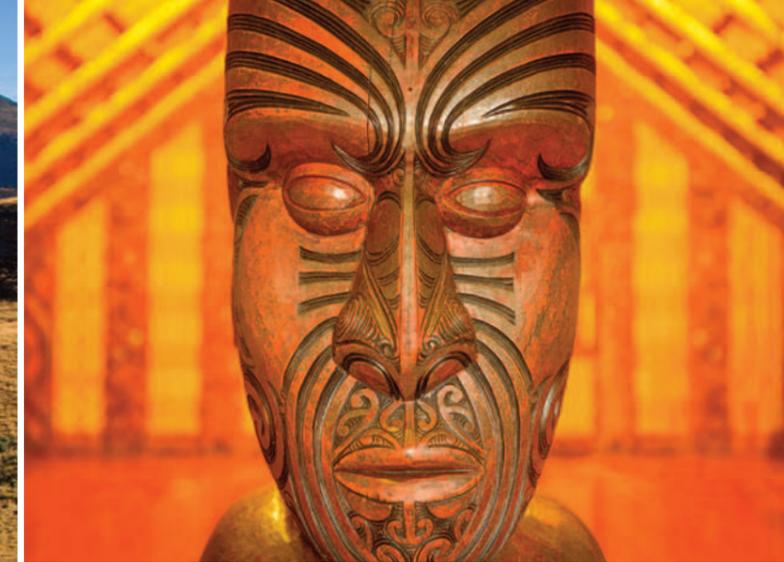
Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

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





New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

27 days from only £4,995 per person

New Zealand is a land of unique beauty and distinctive landscapes, whose two main islands offer sub-tropical rainforest and unspoilt beaches, ancient volcanoes and geothermal geysers, rolling pastoral scenery, rugged mountain ranges and fathomless fiords.

Distant Journeys' touring holidays are always conducted at a leisurely pace, and our 27-day itinerary offers the ultimate in relaxed travel; a tour of both North and South Islands including three wonderfully scenic rail journeys.

Travel on the Northern Explorer from Hamilton to Wellington, through the Tongariro National Park; on South Island we board KiwiRail's Coastal Pacific to journey from Picton to Christchurch, and finally we enjoy one of the world's great rail journeys from Christchurch to Greymouth via the Southern Alps, on board the TranzAlpine.

Each rail journey offers stunning scenery at every turn, so sit back, relax and take in New Zealand's magnificent landscapes from the comfort of your seat on this fabulous new touring holiday.



Your holiday includes

Flights with leading scheduled airlines

- Return economy class flights
- Fly with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow
- Alternatively, fly with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester on certain days of the week
- 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 (dependent on choice of airline)

Carefully selected hotels

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

Many meals

- Daily breakfast, worth £342 per person
- Dinner in Rotorua
- Barbecue lunch at Walter Peak, Queenstown

Incredible rail journeys

- The Northern Explorer
- The Coastal Pacific
- The TranzAlpine

Unforgettable experiences

- Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Bangkok or Dubai), Auckland, Rotorua, Queenstown, Dunedin and Christchurch
- 'Hole in the Rock' cruise in the Bay of Islands
- Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve
- Maori concert
- Cruise the Cook Strait
- Cruise Lake Wakatipu on the TSS Earnslaw
- Cruise on Milford Sound

On the ground

- Services of an experienced Tour Manager and Coach Captains
- All overseas transfers
- Modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

100% confidence

- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise*
- Your holiday is covered by our Covid Guarantee*
- Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 144-147.



Northern Explorer



Tane Mahuta



Auckland

New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

Days 1 to 7: UK - Singapore - Auckland - Bay of Islands

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from the UK airport most convenient for you with Qantas & Emirates. Choose from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow. Alternatively, fly direct to Singapore with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester. Flights with Singapore Airlines from Manchester are available on selected dates. Please speak with one of our travel experts for more details. No matter which airline or airport you choose, there will be no additional cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Singapore, 2 nights

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 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 if flying with Qantas & Emirates. 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. Perhaps explore the impressive Gardens by the Bay or enjoy high tea at Raffles. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Depart Singapore

A day at leisure in Singapore until it's time to leave for our evening flight to Auckland. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 5: Auckland, 2 nights

For those flying with Qantas & Emirates, there is a change of aircraft in Australia. If travelling with Singapore Airlines, the flight is direct to Auckland. On arrival, we are transferred to the centrally located Sudima Auckland City Hotel for the first two nights of our New Zealand adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 6: Auckland

This morning we explore Auckland, taking in the natural beauty of Waitemata Harbour and the numerous volcanic hills dotting the landscape. We also visit fashionable Parnell Village, and bustling Viaduct Harbour area with its many waterside bars and restaurants. The remainder of our day is free to relax or further explore Auckland. A trip to enjoy the views of Auckland and its harbour from the top of the southern hemisphere's tallest building, Sky Tower, is highly recommended. **Breakfast included**

Day 7: Bay of Islands, 3 nights

We journey north from Auckland, crossing the city's imposing Waitemata Harbour Bridge, into a landscape of rolling hills and farmland. In the afternoon we explore Northland's Waipoua Kauri Forest Reserve, home to gigantic kauri trees, the most famous of which is Tane Mahuta, 'Lord of the Forest'. A stop is made in Omapere, where the panoramic views of the spectacular sand dunes and Tasman Sea are truly magnificent. Our journey ends in Paihia, gateway to the Bay of Islands, and our next three nights at either the Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands or the Copthorne Hotel. **Breakfast included**



Pohutu Geyser, Rotorua



New Zealand Fern



Coastal Pacific

New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

Days 8 to 16: Bay of Islands - Rotorua - Wellington - Christchurch - Franz Josef

Day 8: Bay of Islands Tour Highlight

This morning we board our catamaran as we go in search of dolphins which inhabit the deep-sea fishing grounds around the Bay of Islands. We explore the spectacular scenery of Red Head Passage, Cape Brett and Piery Island before our skipper safely navigates through the famous 'Hole in the Rock'. On the return journey, there's an opportunity to purchase a public ferry ticket and visit the picturesque township of Russell to learn more about its history as a lawless trading centre of the 19th century. Our free afternoon provides an excellent opportunity (subject to dates of operation) for rail enthusiasts to experience the Bay of Islands Vintage Railway, which has been operational for over 150 years. Alternatively, visiting Waitangi National Reserve, where Maori and British chiefs signed the Waitangi Treaty in 1840, is a fascinating way to spend a few hours. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Bay of Islands Freedom Day

Our day has been left at leisure to further explore the beautiful Bay of Islands. For many this provides a great opportunity to visit New Zealand's northern tip at Cape Reinga, where the Pacific Ocean and Tasman Sea collide. This fabulous full day excursion also includes a journey along Ninety Mile Beach in a custom-built coach that moves effortlessly over the terrain of sandy beaches, rugged roads and quicksand streams. **Breakfast included**

We recommend Cape Reinga

Take a tour to Cape Reinga, at the top of the North Island, where the Pacific Ocean and Tasman Sea meet, followed by a drive along Ninety Mile Beach.



Day 10: Rotorua, 2 nights

A full day travelling from the Bay of Islands to Rotorua, the centre of New Zealand's rich Maori culture and renowned for its geothermal landscapes. Spend two nights at the four-star Distinction Hotel, where we enjoy a Maori concert of traditional song and dance – including of course the world-famous Haka. Also included is a buffet dinner. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 11: Rotorua

This morning we tour some of Rotorua's most famous sights, including its tudor-inspired Bath House. We explore Te Puia, home to the Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve and its spouting geysers, bubbling mud pools and hissing fumaroles. During our free afternoon you may wish to visit the Hobbiton Movie Set, featured in The Lord of the Rings. Other optional activities include relaxing at the Polynesian Spa or a scenic flight over Mount Tarawera. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: Wellington, 2 nights Tour Highlight

Departing Rotorua, we cross the Mamaku Ranges and arrive into Hamilton where we board the Northern Explorer for our rail journey to Wellington. We view spectacular scenery through our carriage's panoramic windows, including rocky coastlines, river gorges, dense forest, rolling green farmland, quaint towns and the spectacular peaks of Tongariro National Park. We also experience an amazing feat of railway engineering as we wind our way through the Raurimu Spiral. We arrive into Wellington early in the evening and transfer to the Rydges Hotel, for the next two nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Wellington

Wellington is New Zealand's capital city, beautifully located within a hook-shaped harbour and surrounded by mountains. The city's downtown area is relatively compact, making it easy to explore its many theatres, galleries and museums on foot. This morning's orientation tour features the key sights within the city, such as the government buildings and Parliament House, as well as enjoying wonderful views of the city and its picturesque harbour from the top of Mount Victoria. Our free afternoon provides an excellent opportunity to explore Wellington further. A visit to Te Papa (New Zealand's national museum) is highly recommended. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: Christchurch, 2 nights Tour Highlight

We leave Wellington this morning and board our ferry, and cruise across the Cook Strait to New Zealand's South Island. Dolphins and sea birds can often be seen playing in the waters, and the scenery is truly magnificent as we enter Queen Charlotte Sound and reach South Island. In Picton, we board KiwiRail's Coastal Pacific train, and from the comfort of our reclining seats, we are in prime position to view lush native bush, soaring mountains, pretty coastal towns and the roaring Pacific Ocean, as we wind our way along this truly stunning coastline. On arrival in Christchurch, we transfer to the Distinction Hotel Christchurch, located in the heart of the city, for a two night stay. **Breakfast included**

Day 15: Christchurch

This morning, we discover Christchurch on an orientation tour, and witness its remarkable development since its devastating earthquake in 2011. Later we journey to the Waipara Valley, whose warm and dry summers, followed by cool autumn nights, make this region perfect for growing olives, lavender, hazelnuts and grapes. We explore this pretty area and sample its cool climate wines during a tasting and lunch in one of its wineries. This afternoon, there is an opportunity to join the historic Weka Pass Railway, which uses both vintage steam and diesel-electric locomotives to travel through unique limestone landscapes. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 16: Franz Josef, 2 nights Tour Highlight

After breakfast, we experience South Island's striking natural landscapes in all their glory as we journey between Christchurch and Greymouth on the TranzAlpine. Considered to be one of the greatest rail journeys in the world, we cross the patchwork fields of the Canterbury Plains, travel the edges of the ice-fed Waimakariri River, view miles of native beech forest and traverse the Southern Alps. Leaving the epic backdrop of the Southern Alps in our wake, we arrive into Greymouth on the west coast, where our coach will be waiting to take us to Shantytown Heritage Park, to learn more about the area's gold rush in the late 1800's. We continue south to Westland National Park, and the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier, which will be our home for the next two nights. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

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





TSS Earnslaw



Milford Sound

New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

Days 17 to 21: Franz Josef - Queenstown - Milford Sound

Day 17: Franz Josef

A relaxing day to absorb the beauty of Franz Josef and the surrounding area at our leisure. Our Tour Manager will arrange a journey to the Franz Josef Glacier terminal for those who wish to take a short stroll to view the glacial valley. For those who want to experience a spectacular aerial view of the glacial valley and the nearby Alpine peaks, there is an opportunity to take an optional scenic helicopter flight. Timings of the helicopter flights are flexible to allow for the best weather conditions and visibility.

Breakfast included

Day 18: Queenstown, 4 nights

South Island's spectacular scenery never fails to impress. Today's journey takes us over the Haast River Bridge and onwards via Clark Bluff and the shores of Lakes Wanaka and Hawea, to the Central Otago region. In the late afternoon, we arrive into Queenstown, situated within one of the most naturally stunning landscapes of New Zealand, on the shores of Lake Wakatipu and surrounded by incredible mountains. Our next four nights are spent at the conveniently located Copthorne Lakefront Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 19: Queenstown

This morning, we visit nearby Arrowtown, a picturesque town which has lovingly preserved its heritage of two very different goldrush communities – Chinese and European. It's a lovely place to explore on foot, with a well-preserved avenue lined with galleries, craft shops and cafes. We return to Queenstown and join the iconic TSS Earnslaw for a cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak High Country Farm. Overlooking Lake Wakatipu and Queenstown's alpine landscapes, Walter Peak is a wonderful place to enjoy a barbecue lunch within the homestead's sweeping lakeside grounds. On returning to Queenstown, the remainder of our day is at leisure. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 20: Milford Sound

Tour Highlight

This morning we take a scenic journey to Fiordland National Park for what will undoubtedly be one of the tour's main highlights. The pot of gold at the end of the Milford Highway is the incredible Milford Sound, where we enjoy a breathtaking cruise. The scale of Milford's glacier-carved scenery may only be appreciated from the water, where cruise ships and kayakers are dwarfed by towering peaks rising from the glittering water. The focal point for so many photographs is Mitre Peak, arguably the most dramatic mountain to appear from the fiord's indigo waters. When the rain falls, dozens of waterfalls cascade into the calm waters below. There is also a good chance of sighting dolphins, fur seals and penguins. We return to Queenstown later this afternoon. **Breakfast included**

Day 21: Queenstown Freedom Day

A Freedom Day to enjoy our glamorous alpine setting as we please. From gentle wine-tasting tours in Central Otago to incredible walking trails, exhilarating jet boat rides and four-wheel drive excursions, there are so many ways to enjoy Queenstown's beautiful scenery. Whatever you choose to do – enjoy! **Breakfast included**



TranzAlpine



Dunedin



Fresh seafood

New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

Days 22 to 25: Dunedin - Christchurch

Day 22: Dunedin, 2 nights

After a hearty breakfast, we say goodbye to Queenstown. Enjoy wonderful scenery today as we travel through the Central Otago region, often referred to as New Zealand's fruit bowl, with its many orchards and fruit plantations lining the hillsides. Our journey takes us via Lake Dunstan, created by the mighty Clyde hydro dam in 1994, and the former gold-mining settlements of Cromwell and Roxburgh. Later in the afternoon, we arrive at Dunedin, considered the country's architectural heritage capital, thanks to its lovingly restored Victorian and Edwardian buildings. Enjoy two nights at the Scenic Hotel Southern Cross. **Breakfast included**

Day 23: Dunedin

This morning we take a scenic journey from Dunedin on the Taieri Gorge Railway. The beautiful landscapes we see are not accessible by road, as we travel through challenging terrain featuring numerous tunnels and countless bridges and viaducts. The train slows or stops at various scenic points for photo opportunities, and the journey is accompanied by an informative and entertaining commentary. We return to Dunedin in the afternoon and the remainder of the day is ours to spend as we please. **Breakfast included**

Day 24: Christchurch, 2 nights

The final part of our journey in New Zealand takes us north as we return to Christchurch. A stop is made in Moeraki to view a collection of huge spherical boulders which are scattered along a beautiful stretch of beach. Maori legend says that the boulders are gourds washed ashore from a voyaging canoe called Araiteuri that was wrecked when it made landfall a long time ago. Scientists have discovered the boulders are actually calcite concretions, created about 65 million years ago, which have been raised from the seabed and uncovered one by one by the elements. We arrive at the Distinction Hotel in Christchurch, where we spend our final two nights in New Zealand. **Breakfast included**

Day 25: Christchurch Freedom Day

A free day to spend as we please. Christchurch is a lovely city to discover, with the Riverside Markets, Christchurch Botanic Gardens and many galleries and cafes within easy strolling distance. Alternatively, an excursion to the nearby historic village of Akaroa is highly recommended. The scenic journey takes us via the stunning Banks Peninsula to the former French settlement of Akaroa, with its harbourside streets lined with arts and craft stores. We join a nature cruise around the harbour which features majestic scenery and an opportunity to discover the rare and playful Hector's dolphins, native fur seals, penguins and many seabirds. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

The charming township of Akaroa

Cruise the fertile waters in search of Hector's dolphins, lunch by the popular waterfront and enjoy local cheese tasting.



Otago Peninsula



Maori greeting



Hong Kong



Singapore

New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

Days 26 to 27: Christchurch - UK

Day 26: Depart Christchurch

We depart New Zealand for our journey home. All flights will require a connection en-route to the UK, which will be dependent on your choice of airline, stopover, flight availability and your preferred UK airport. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 27: Arrive UK

Breakfast is served shortly before our UK arrival, bringing to an end our New Zealand adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Why not combine with a tour of Australia?



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Please see pages 118-127 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Why not extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey? Your stopover options are dependent on your choice of airline. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

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A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Sentosa Island - Two nights from £445 per person
A relaxing sanctuary or fun-filled adventure, only 20 minutes from Singapore.

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Dubai - Two nights from £345 per person
The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Bangkok - Two nights from £195 per person
Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

Bali - Three nights from £445 per person
A truly relaxing stopover on the white sands of the hotel's private beach.

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Please see pages 138-139 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2022 Departures

23 October 2022

13 November 2022

2023 Departures

08 January 2023

~~22 January 2023~~ **SOLD OUT**

~~05 February 2023~~ **SOLD OUT**

12 February 2023

26 February 2023

12 March 2023

16 April 2023

Departure Dates & Prices

Prices

Prices from £4,995 per person. Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement

From £1,395.

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.

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Stopovers may be on special offer, please call for details.

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Call to book

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Call FREE on 0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

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





The Very Best of New Zealand

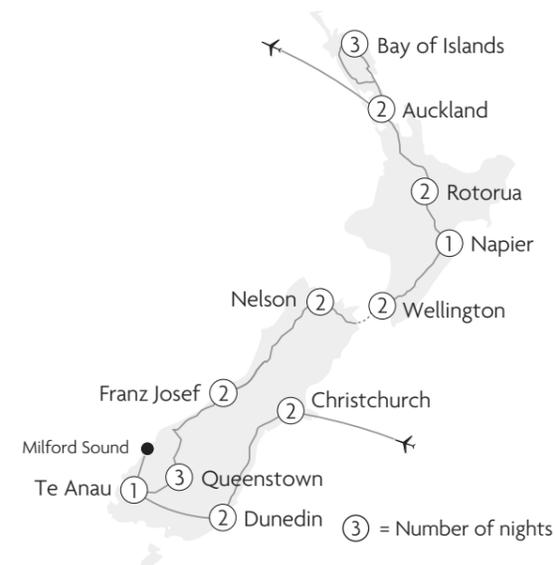
28 days from only £4,695 per person

New Zealand is known for so much - its stunning and other worldly landscapes, its Maori culture and laid-back lifestyle, its unique flora and fauna; the list is endless.

For that reason, if you're going to travel to the other side of the world, you need to allow plenty of time to appreciate everything that New Zealand has to offer.

Distant Journeys' Very Best of New Zealand tour takes in all the sights that would top anyone's wish list with the addition of some less well known gems that many itineraries just wouldn't have time to visit. For instance, we discover the Art Deco city of Napier as well as arty, bohemian Nelson. Arguably the highlight of the tour is an unforgettable morning cruise on Milford Sound.

The tour is leisurely paced with plenty of free time to explore as you please, and truly does showcase The Very Best of New Zealand.



Your holiday includes

Flights with leading scheduled airlines

- Return economy class flights
- Fly with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow
- Alternatively, fly with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester on certain days of the week
- 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 (dependent on choice of airline)

Carefully selected hotels

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

Many meals

- Daily breakfast, worth £367 per person
- Lunch in Rotorua
- Dinner in Te Anau

Unforgettable experiences

- Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Bangkok or Dubai), Christchurch, Dunedin, Queenstown, Wellington, Rotorua and Auckland
- Morning cruise on Milford Sound
- Maori concert
- Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve
- 'Hole in the Rock' cruise in the Bay of Islands

On the ground

- Services of an experienced Coach Captain
- All overseas transfers
- Modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

100% confidence

- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise*
- Your holiday is covered by our Covid Guarantee*
- Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 144-147.



Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Tekapo



Lambs



Milford Sound

The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 1 to 11: UK - Singapore - Christchurch - Dunedin – Te Anau - Milford Sound - Queenstown

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from the UK airport most convenient for you with Qantas & Emirates. Choose from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow. Alternatively, fly direct to Singapore with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester. Flights with Singapore Airlines from Manchester are available on selected dates. Please speak with one of our travel experts for more details. No matter which airline or airport you choose, there will be no additional cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Singapore, 2 nights

Arrive into the island 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 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 if flying with Qantas & Emirates. 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. Perhaps explore the impressive Gardens by the Bay or enjoy high tea at Raffles. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Depart Singapore

A day at leisure in Singapore until it's time to leave for our evening flight to Christchurch. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 5: Christchurch, 2 nights

If flying with Qantas & Emirates, your flight will transfer via Australia before arriving into Christchurch. The Singapore Airlines flight is direct from Singapore. On arrival we meet our local Coach Captain, who will be our driver and guide during our time in New Zealand. Transfer to the centrally located Distinction Hotel Christchurch, where we spend our first two nights in New Zealand. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 6: 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. This morning we take a tour to see what this exciting developing city has to offer. We start our day with a visit to the Sign of the Takahe, an historical building on the edge of the city and continue to view the key landmarks of the city centre, including the transitional 'Cardboard Cathedral'. From here we take a visit to the Botanic Gardens. Founded in 1863 with the planting of an English oak tree, the Christchurch Botanic Gardens contain an impressive array of flora and fauna. Our afternoon is at leisure to continue exploring this delightful city. **Breakfast included**

Day 7: Dunedin, 2 nights

This morning, we begin our journey south towards Dunedin. We stop at Hampden Beach to witness the geological curiosities known as the Moeraki Boulders, huge spherical boulders which are scattered along the beach, whilst others can be seen emerging from the sandstone cliffs. Each boulder weighs several tonnes and is up to two metres in diameter. According to Maori legend, the boulders are gourds washed ashore from the great voyaging canoe Araiteuru when it was wrecked upon landfall in New Zealand hundreds of years ago. Scientists explain the boulders as calcite concretions formed about 65 million years ago. The soft mudstone containing the boulders was raised from the seabed around 15 million years ago and waves, wind and rain are uncovering them one by one. Our next two nights are spent at the Distinction Hotel Dunedin. **Breakfast included**

Day 8: Dunedin

This morning, we enjoy a sightseeing tour taking in the city's neo-Gothic churches, town hall, opulent theatres, and other 19th century buildings. We have time to admire the beautifully landscaped trees and plants of Dunedin Botanic Gardens and the spectacular views of the Otago Peninsula and Harbour before we return to our hotel. Our afternoon is at leisure to spend as we please. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Te Anau, Overnight

We say goodbye to Dunedin this morning. We drive through Balclutha, which has a distinctive arched concrete bridge and pass through fresh, green farm scenery as we continue through Gore and Lumsden to Te Anau, the largest of South Island's many lakes. After checking in to either the Distinction Luxmore or Distinction Hotel and Villas our afternoon and evening are free to spend as we please in this pretty lakeside setting. Perhaps take a scenic walk to Te Anau Bird Sanctuary to discover some of the country's fascinating species, such as the flightless takahe, the kaka and the morepork. Alternatively, you may wish to take this opportunity to enjoy a short screening of 'Ata Whenua' or Shadowland, which perfectly showcases the exhilarating and utterly stunning scenery of Fiordland, or explore the beautiful limestone passages of Te Anau glow worm caves. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 10: Milford Sound & Queenstown, 3 nights **Tour Highlight**

Today is undoubtedly one of the highlights of the tour as we enjoy a morning cruise on spectacular Milford Sound. It's an early start as we journey along the Milford Highway, stunning scenery surrounding us, into the heart of Fiordland National Park where we board our vessel. Cruising in the peaceful stillness of the morning allows us to truly appreciate the beauty of Milford Sound, where towering cliffs and peaks rise from the sparkling waters. The most-photographed of these is mighty Mitre Peak, soaring more than a kilometre straight out of the sea.

Waterfalls cascade into the calm waters of the fiord and lush rain forest clings to sheer rock faces. Milford Sound is also a haven for wildlife, with sightings of dolphins, fur seals and penguins always possible, as well as a myriad of bird life. After a truly memorable experience, we travel through high country landscapes and trout fishing rivers to Queenstown. Our home for the next three nights is the four-star Millennium Hotel, situated only a short walk from the centre of town. **Breakfast included**

Day 11: Queenstown

This morning, we visit the historic mining town of Arrowtown. 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. Queenstown smiles south across Lake Wakatipu into an incomparable alpine scene. Poplars and willows surround the lakefront and the lake seems to glisten every shade of blue. The afternoon has been left free to take advantage of the incredible variety of activities available in and around New Zealand's most glamorous alpine resort. For a relaxing experience, follow Queenstown's wine trail, an enjoyable day excursion of wine tasting and sightseeing. There is also an opportunity to take an optional leisurely cruise 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**



TSS Earnslaw, Queenstown



Franz Josef Glacier

The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 12 to 16: Queenstown - Franz Josef - Nelson

Day 12: Queenstown Freedom Day

A further Freedom Day to enjoy in this wonderful alpine setting. The 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. For a more serene experience maybe stroll by the lakeside or take a gondola ride to the top of Bob's Peak for a magnificent panoramic view of Queenstown. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Franz Josef, 2 nights

Incredible scenery today as we travel via Lake Dunstan, created by the mighty Clyde hydro dam in 1994. We make our way through New Zealand's Central Otago region, along the shores of Lakes Hawea and Wanaka. We will also travel along one of the most exciting scenic roads ever built – crossing the Haast River Bridge. Later in the afternoon, we reach Franz Josef in the Westland National Park. Our home for the next two nights is the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: 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 to view the glacial valley. Weather permitting, we may also take an optional scenic flight, at an additional cost, over the glacier and the awe-inspiring Alpine region. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Scenic flight over Franz Josef Glacier

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



Day 15: Nelson, 2 nights

Journey north this morning along the Heritage Highway, passing Lakes Mapourika and lanthe as we leave Westland National Park. Our travels continue northbound taking us via Hari Hari and Hokitika, travelling alongside striking wild scree-scarred terrain with forests of Crimson Rata and Kahikatea. We visit Punakaki (Pancake Rocks), an incredible maze of limestone rocks with booming blowholes stacked high above the sea, before arriving in Nelson and the Rutherford Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: Nelson Freedom Day

Nelson is a delight for explorers on foot. Scattered throughout the city are art galleries and workshops, historic buildings and street-side cafés. On our Freedom Day, perhaps consider a trip to Abel Tasman National Park, New Zealand's smallest national park, blessed with golden beaches, sculptured granite cliffs, and its world-famous coast track. A cruise along the coast will take you to the very best scenery this region has to offer. Alternatively, you may wish to take a tour to visit some of the region's award-winning wineries. **Breakfast included**



Abel Tasman National Park



Wellington



Napier

The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 17 to 22: Wellington - Napier - Rotorua - Bay of Islands

Day 17: Wellington, 2 nights

This morning we leave South Island in our wake as we board the ferry for our interisland cruise to New Zealand's North Island. During the cruise, enjoy spectacular views as we depart Queen Charlotte Sound. With the possibility of birds and dolphins following, we make our way across the Cook Strait to Wellington. Upon arrival we re-join our coach and make our way to the Copthorne Hotel Oriental Bay, where we spend the next two nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 18: Wellington

Wellington is compact, cultured and full of character. Its interesting and varied architecture provides the ideal starting point for our orientation tour this morning. We visit Wellington's administrative area, taking in Parliament House, 'the Beehive' – you'll understand the name when you see it – and the government buildings. We then continue to the top of Mount Victoria for the finest view of the city and its picturesque harbour. Our afternoon is at leisure. A visit to Te Papa museum is highly recommended, as it offers a fascinating insight into New Zealand's rich history and cultural heritage. Alternatively, ride a cable car to Wellington's beautiful botanical gardens. **Breakfast included**

Day 19: Napier, Overnight

This morning our journey continues north via the Kapiti coast and Hastings as we make our way to the Art Deco city of Napier, located in an area dominated by orchards and vineyards. Napier's city centre has the feeling of a time capsule - the seamless line of 1930s architecture is quite extraordinary. One of the ways to enjoy the streetscape is on a self-guided tour. Our evening is spent at the delightful Scenic Hotel Te Pania, superbly situated on Napier's sea front. **Breakfast included**

Day 20: Rotorua, 2 nights

Today we make our way along the Thermal Explorer Highway to Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake. We visit the impressive Huka Falls where the Waikato River suddenly narrows to a chasm less than 15 metres across and heaves its vast bulk over an 11-metre ledge to boil furiously in a deep semi-circular basin below. We continue to Rotorua, the heart of New Zealand's rich Maori culture, and enjoy lunch inspired by traditional Maori cooking. This afternoon, we explore, Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, with its spurting geysers and boiling mud pools, and attend a concert featuring traditional song and dance, including the world famous war dance – The Haka. After a wonderful day, we head to the Millennium Hotel for two nights. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 21: Rotorua Freedom Day

A day at leisure in Rotorua. For those that so wish, optional activities include a float plane flight over Mount Tarawera, or perhaps a visit to the Hobbiton Movie Set from The Lord of the Rings may be more appealing? **Breakfast included**

Day 22: Bay of Islands, 3 nights

We travel north this morning, as we make our way to the pale sands and turquoise waters of the Bay of Islands. In the pretty seaside town of Paihia, the Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands will be our home for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**



Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve

All contact was polite, friendly, helpful and knowledgeable. We were made to feel confident in our choice of holiday and could relax as everything was taken care of. We would definitely recommend Distant Journeys and hope to use them in the future.

Mr & Mrs Buck, West Yorkshire



Bay of Islands



Auckland



Dolphin, Bay of Islands

The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 23 to 26: Bay of Islands - Auckland

Day 23: Bay of Islands cruise

Tour Highlight

Undoubtedly one of the highlights of our tour is a cruise around the Bay of Islands, as in our opinion, there's no better way to see this picturesque area of New Zealand. We cruise via Red Head Passage to Cape Brett and Piercy Island and on to the famous 'Hole in the Rock'. In these world-famous deep-sea fishing waters it's not uncommon to see dolphins and schools of fish. The return trip travels via historic Russell. It's hard to believe that this quaint township was once known as the 'Hell Hole of the Pacific'. As the afternoon has been left free, we have an excellent opportunity to take an optional visit to the grounds of the Waitangi National Reserve. It was here in 1840 that the British and Maori chiefs signed the Waitangi Treaty. **Breakfast included**

Day 24: Bay of Islands Freedom Day

Today we have a full day at leisure, allowing you to do the things that really interest you. For example, there is the opportunity to join a fantastic optional trip to Cape Reinga. It's a full-day excursion which visits the northern tip of New Zealand. Not only is this where the Tasman Sea meets the Pacific Ocean, but it also holds a special significance in Maori tradition as the place where Maori spirits return to their traditional homeland, Hawaiki-A-Nui, via the roots of a lone – and still standing – 800 year old pohutukawa tree. Other standout locations during the tour include the Te Pahi sand dunes and a drive along Ninety Mile Beach, passing some magnificent scenery along the coast. **Breakfast included**

Day 25: Auckland, 2 nights

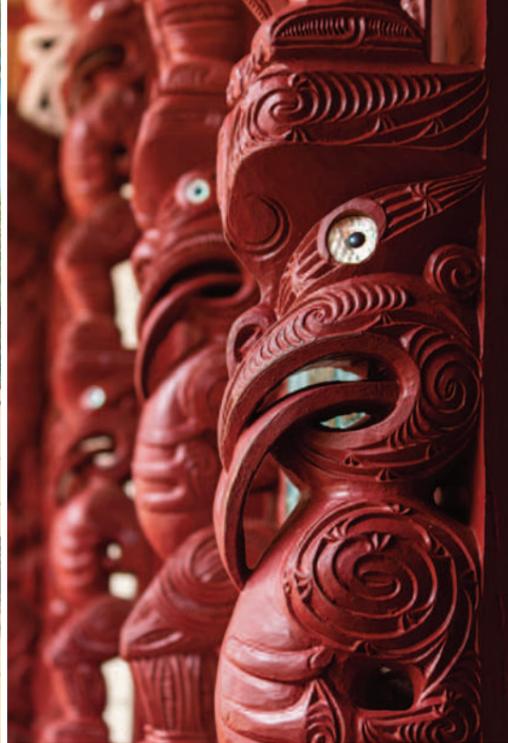
After breakfast this morning, we leave the Bay of Islands. On the drive to the Waipoua Kauri Forest Reserve, we pass rolling hills dotted with dairy farms which give way to lush forest the closer we get to the reserve. Be prepared to marvel at the gigantic kauri tree Tane Mahuta, or 'Lord of the Forest.' From here, we cross the impressive Waitemata Harbour Bridge and head into Auckland and the Grand Millennium Hotel for our final two nights in New Zealand. **Breakfast included**

Day 26: Auckland

Start the morning with an orientation tour of the city. Auckland has a beautiful waterside setting, with a modern skyline standing out against a backdrop of volcanic hills. As part of the tour, we'll drive along the famous Waitemata Harbour. We are able to see Rangitoto Island, an extinct volcano, which dominates the horizon. Visit the stylish Viaduct Harbour, which has played host to many America's Cup celebrations. As the afternoon has been left free for us to enjoy however we would like, why not take in the panoramic views from the top of the Sky Tower? As you would expect from the tallest building in the southern hemisphere, the views are truly breathtaking. **Breakfast included**



Sentosa Island



Maori carving



Gardens by the Bay, Singapore

The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 27 to 28: Auckland - UK

Day 27: Depart Auckland

All good things must come to an end, and this morning we transfer to Auckland Airport. Dependent on your choice of airline your flight will either connect via Australia and Dubai, if flying with Qantas & Emirates, or Singapore if your chosen airline is Singapore Airlines. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 28: Arrive UK

This morning we arrive into our chosen airport, bringing to an end our incredible adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Why not combine with a tour of Australia?



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

Please see pages 118-127 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Why not extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey? Your stopover options are dependent on your choice of airline. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

Singapore - Two nights from £295 per person
A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Sentosa Island - Two nights from £445 per person
A relaxing sanctuary or fun-filled adventure, only 20 minutes from Singapore.

Hong Kong - Two nights from £345 per person
An iconic skyline, bustling street markets, and a mix of Chinese and colonial cultures.

Dubai - Two nights from £345 per person
The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Bangkok - Two nights from £195 per person
Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

Bali - Three nights from £445 per person
A truly relaxing stopover on the white sands of the hotel's private beach.

If flying with Singapore Airlines, your homebound stopover choices are Singapore or Sentosa Island. If travelling with Qantas & Emirates your homebound stopover choices are Singapore, Sentosa Island, Hong Kong, Dubai, Bangkok or Bali.

Please see pages 138-139 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2022 Departures

09 October 2022

06 November 2022

2023 Departures

08 January 2023

~~22 January 2023~~ **SOLD OUT**

29 January 2023*

~~12 February 2023~~ **SOLD OUT**

19 February 2023

05 March 2023

24 April 2023

* This departure operates with a slightly altered itinerary. Please call for details.

Departure Dates & Prices

Prices

Prices from £4,695 per person. Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement

From £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 £1,995 per person return. Upgrade to Business Class from £4,495 per person return.

Visa information

Travellers to New Zealand are required to obtain a visa (NZeTA). For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 142-143.

Important information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Terms & Conditions are available on pages 144-147

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

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





Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

30 days from only £5,695 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 in both countries, highlight will follow highlight on this 30-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 Captain and Tour Manager, you can be sure this holiday will provide you with memories to cherish forever.



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 £437 per person
- Lunch 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, Wellington, Christchurch, Queenstown, Melbourne, Alice Springs and Sydney
- Maori concert
- Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve
- Cruise Milford Sound
- Experience Uluru at sunset and sunrise
- Full day excursion to the Great Barrier Reef
- Lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour

On the ground

- Services of an 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 covered by our Covid Guarantee*
- Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 144-147.



Singapore



Rangitoto Island, Auckland

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 regional UK departures will travel via Dubai. Arrive into the island 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. Perhaps explore the impressive Gardens by the Bay or enjoy high tea at Raffles. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Depart Singapore

A day at leisure in Singapore until it's time to leave for our evening flight to Auckland. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 5: Auckland, 2 nights

Following a change of aircraft in Australia, we continue to New Zealand. 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 Grand Millennium Hotel Auckland, where we spend our first two nights in New Zealand. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 6: Auckland

This morning, we 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, a dormant volcano, dominating the horizon. We continue to the stylish Viaduct Harbour, host to many America's Cup celebrations. Our afternoon is free to enjoy as we 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. Rotorua is also well-known for being the heart of New Zealand's rich Maori culture, and today we enjoy a lunch inspired by traditional Maori cooking methods. Following lunch, we explore Te Puia, Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, with its spurting geysers and boiling mud pools, and attend a concert featuring traditional song and dance, including the world famous war dance – The Haka. After a wonderful day soaking up traditional Maori culture, we head to the Millennium Hotel for two nights. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Maori greeting



Milford Sound



Lake Tekapo



Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road

Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 8 to 19: Rotorua - Wellington - Christchurch - Queenstown - Milford Sound - Melbourne - Cairns

Day 8: Rotorua Freedom Day

A day at leisure in Rotorua. For those that so wish, optional activities include a float plane flight over Mount Tarawera, or perhaps a visit to the Hobbiton Movie Set from The Lord of the Rings may be more appealing? **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Wellington, 2 nights

This morning our journey continues south along the Thermal Explorer Highway, via Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake. We travel on the Desert Road, crossing the vast volcanic plateau of the Tongariro National Park, home to three active snow-capped volcanoes, as we make our way to Wellington, New Zealand's capital. We spend the next two nights at the Copthorne Hotel, Oriental Bay. **Breakfast included**

Day 10: Wellington

Wellington is compact, cultured and full of character. Its interesting and varied architecture provides the ideal starting point for our orientation tour this morning. We visit Wellington's administrative area, taking in Parliament House, 'the Beehive' (you'll understand the name when you see it) and the government buildings. We continue to the top of Mount Victoria for the finest view of the city and its picturesque harbour. Our afternoon is at leisure – a visit to Te Papa museum is highly recommended, as it offers a fascinating insight into New Zealand's rich history and cultural heritage. Alternatively, ride a cable car to Wellington's beautiful botanical gardens. **Breakfast included**

Day 11: Christchurch, 2 nights

This morning we leave North Island in our wake as we board the ferry for our inter-island cruise to New Zealand's South Island. With the possibility of sea birds and dolphins following, we make our way across the Cook Strait to Picton, and enjoy spectacular views as we approach Queen Charlotte Sound. We travel along the beautiful east coast of South Island, until we arrive at the Distinction Hotel Christchurch, located in the heart of the city, for our next two nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: 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. This morning we take a tour to see what this exciting developing city has to offer. We start our day with a visit to the Sign of the Takahe, an historic building on the edge of Christchurch before continuing to view the key landmarks of the city centre, including the transitional 'Cardboard Cathedral'. From here we take a visit to the Botanic Gardens. Founded in 1863 with the planting of an English oak tree, Christchurch Botanic Gardens contain an impressive array of flora and fauna. Our afternoon is at leisure to explore further. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Queenstown, 3 nights

On leaving Christchurch, we head south west across the Canterbury Plains and climb into Mackenzie Country. A stop is made at The Church of the Good Shepherd and the turquoise-tinted Lake Tekapo, which gains its colour from the melting water of a glacier. We continue through the Lindis Pass and later in the afternoon we arrive at the four star Millennium Hotel in the stunning alpine resort of Queenstown, which will be home for our next three nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: Queenstown Freedom Day

Queenstown smiles south across Lake Wakatipu into an incomparable alpine scene. Poplars and willows surround the lake front and the lake seems to glisten every shade of blue. Today has been left free to take advantage of the incredible variety of activities available in and around New Zealand's most glamorous alpine resort. For a relaxing experience, follow Queenstown's wine trail, an enjoyable day excursion of wine tasting and sightseeing. The 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. There is also an opportunity to take an optional leisurely cruise 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 15: Milford Sound Tour Highlight

Today we travel to the magnificent Fiordland National Park and to Milford Sound, which will undoubtedly prove to be one of our tour's many 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 16: Melbourne, 3 nights

This morning we take a tour to visit the nearby historic mining town of Arrowtown. 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. Sadly we must bid farewell to New Zealand as 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 Clarion Suites Gateway Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 17: Melbourne

We take a first look at Melbourne on a sightseeing tour. Sights include Treasury Gardens, Victoria Markets, Federation Square, the MCG and Rod Laver Arena. Later, we head out of the city to see the waterside suburbs of St. Kilda and Port Melbourne. This afternoon, why not consider a trip to Phillip Island, home to the world's largest colony of Fairy Penguins, to view the 'Penguin Parade'? **Breakfast included**

Day 18: 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. **Breakfast included**

We recommend Fairy Penguin Parade

Take a trip to Phillip Island, home to the world's largest colony of Fairy Penguins, to see the Penguin Parade.



Day 19: Cairns, 4 nights

This morning we travel to the airport in time for our flight to Cairns. Upon arrival, and after transferring to our hotel, our 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 DoubleTree by Hilton. **Breakfast included**



Clownfish, Great Barrier Reef



Kuranda Scenic Railway

Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 20 to 23: Great Barrier Reef - Cairns - Uluru

Day 20: Great Barrier Reef

Tour Highlight

A holiday to Australia would not be complete without a visit to the Great Barrier Reef. Its colourful marine life and coral make this World Heritage site a must see for all visitors. Our day begins when we board our high-speed catamaran and journey to a 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 glass bottomed boat. With four hours at the reef there is plenty of time to do it all. For the more adventurous, there are several 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 21: Cairns Freedom Day

Although today has been left free, you may wish to take an optional trip to Kuranda. 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 22: Cairns Freedom Day

Another Freedom Day to enjoy 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 23: Uluru, Overnight

Tour Highlight

An early start today as we make our way to Cairns Airport in time for our flight to Australia's Red Centre and the next leg of our exciting journey. Upon arrival we visit the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as the Olgas. Later in the day we travel to Uluru where we can enjoy a glass of sparkling wine whilst witnessing Uluru's changing colours as the sun begins to set. It's truly a photographer's delight. Overnight at the Desert Gardens Hotel. **Breakfast included**



Uluru



Standley Chasm, Western MacDonnell Ranges



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

Mr & Mrs Steventon, West Midlands

Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 24 to 28: Alice Springs - Sydney

Day 24: Alice Springs, 2 nights

Uluru is the icon of Australia's outback, and the world's largest monolith. For early risers, a dawn visit to the rock has been arranged. Seeing Uluru at sunrise, from a different position and a different light, offers a totally new perspective on the ever-changing colours and character of the rock. This afternoon we travel east through amazing landscapes as we journey along the Lasseter and Stuart Highways and make our way to the outback town of Alice Springs. 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. Our next two nights are at the four-star DoubleTree by Hilton. **Breakfast included**

Day 25: Alice Springs Freedom Day

Nestled within the MacDonnell Ranges, Alice is the geographical centre of Australia, made famous by its rich pioneering history and ancient indigenous culture. This morning you may wish to take an adventure in slow motion with an optional hot air balloon trip over the outback landscapes. Alternatively, 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 26: Sydney, 3 nights

In the morning, we visit the remarkable Royal Flying Doctor Service and the School of the Air before we say a fond farewell to the Red Centre as we board our flight to Sydney. Upon arrival we head to the four star Crowne Plaza Darling Harbour, ideally located for exploring the city and Darling Harbour's many eateries. 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 27: Sydney

Tour Highlight

This morning's sightseeing tour begins with a drive through some of Sydney's most fashionable inner-city suburbs enroute to Bondi Beach. Travel by Double Bay and Rushcutters Bay as we make our way back to the city centre. Continue 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 lunch 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 28: Sydney Freedom Day

Today has been left free, but for those that so desire, we shall take 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**



Sydney Opera House



Blue Mountains



Asian dumplings



Hindu temple, Bali

Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 29 to 30: Sydney - UK

Day 29: Depart Sydney

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

Day 30: Arrive UK

We arrive into our preferred airport (London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow) bringing to an end our incredible adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Why not extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey? Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bangkok or Hong Kong, a beach stay in Bali or a stop in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

Hong Kong - Two nights from £345 per person
An iconic skyline, bustling street markets and a mix of Chinese and colonial cultures.

Dubai - Two nights from £345 per person
The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Bangkok - Two nights from £195 per person
Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

Singapore - Two nights from £295 per person
A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Sentosa Island - Two nights from £445 per person
A relaxing sanctuary or fun-filled adventure, only 20 minutes from Singapore.

Bali - Three nights from £445 per person
A truly relaxing stopover on the white sands of the hotel's private beach.

Please see pages 138-139 for more details on homebound stopovers.



Departure Dates & Prices

2022 Departures

~~25 October 2022~~ **SOLD OUT**

01 November 2022

2023 Departures

24 January 2023

07 February 2023

28 February 2023

18 April 2023

Prices

Prices from £5,695 per person. Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement

From £1,495.

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 £1,945 per person return. Upgrade to Business Class from £4,995 per person return.

Visa information

An Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) is required to enter Australia. A processing fee of £25 per person will be added to your confirmation invoice. Travellers to New Zealand are required to obtain a visa (NZeTA). For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 142-143.

Important information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Terms & Conditions are available on pages 144-147

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

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





Wonders of Australia & New Zealand by Rail, Road & Sea

43 days from only £9,395 per person

The Very Best of New Zealand & Wonders of Australia

47 days from only £9,495 per person

There are so many wonders of Australia just waiting for you to discover. And that's what our Wonders of Australia Tour is all about – sharing them with you. From the colourful corals of the Great Barrier Reef and the mysterious monoliths of the outback, to the cultured cities of Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney and the tropical rainforest of Queensland, our tour will amaze at every turn.

New Zealand is a country best explored by land, rail and sea, and the New Zealand by Rail, Road & Sea tour will introduce you to the beauty of this magical landscape in comfort and style. Enjoy three different scenic rail journeys, through the geothermal heart of North Island, along the Pacific Ocean coastline and across the rugged Southern Alps, and cruise the Cook Strait, the Bay of Islands and Milford Sound to uncover the essence of New Zealand.



2022 Departures

07 October 2022

Prices

Prices from £9,395 per person.
Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement

From £2,395.

For full itinerary information

Wonders of Australia: Pages 24-33
New Zealand by Rail, Road & Sea:
Pages 82-93

The Very Best of New Zealand tour takes in all the country's unmissable sights; its spectacular scenery, Maori culture and quaint villages plus some lesser-known gems that shorter tours wouldn't have time to visit, such as the Art Deco city of Napier and bohemian Nelson. All conducted at a leisurely pace and designed to showcase everything this wonderful country offers.

Following a further night in Auckland, you will fly to Melbourne, where you will spend an additional two nights prior to meeting your new travelling companions and embarking upon the next leg of the tour. From bustling cities to the haunting splendour of the Outback; from tropical Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef to an overnight journey on board the legendary Ghan – the Wonders of Australia has it all.

2022 Departures

09 October 2022

2023 Departures

12 February 2023*

*48-day altered itinerary. Please call for details.

Prices

Prices from £9,495 per person.
Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement

From £2,875.

For full itinerary information

The Very Best of New Zealand: Pages 94-105
Wonders of Australia: Pages 24-33

Call to book

0800 141 3741

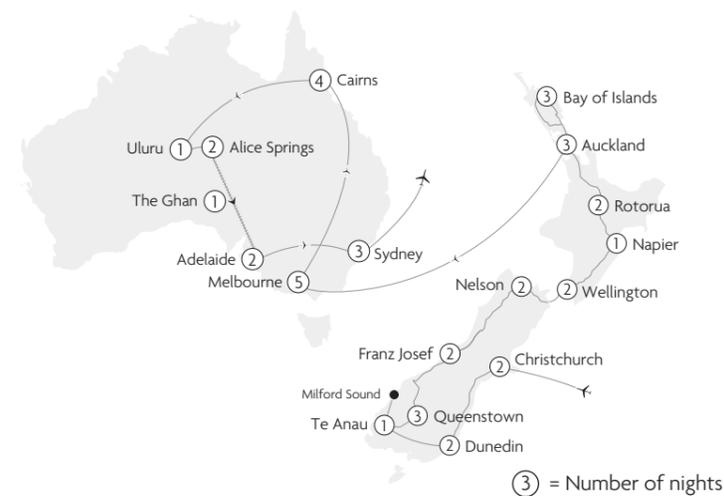
Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday Open in peak season.
See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk



Call to book

0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday Open in peak season.
See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

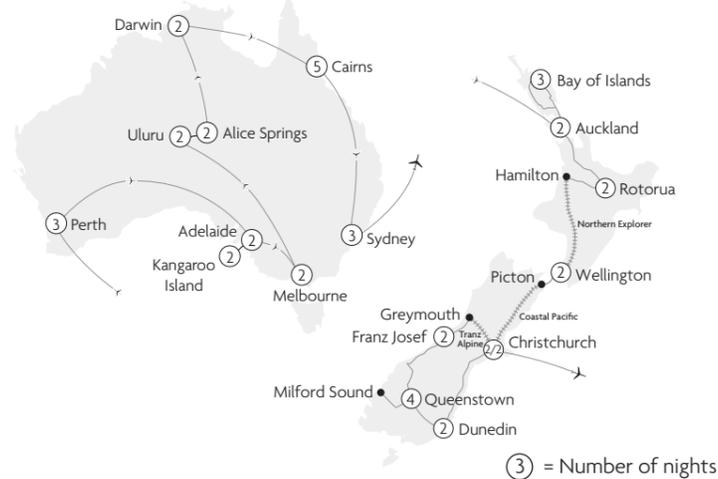


The Very Best of Australia & New Zealand by Rail, Road & Sea 49 days from only £10,695 per person

Magnificent New Zealand & The Very Best of Australia 51 days from only £10,295 per person

The Very Best of Australia is a tour packed with excitement and adventure, in-depth exploration and deep relaxation. The world-class cities will give you a taste of modern 'Down Under', whilst your time in the outback offers an authentic insight into the country's rugged natural beauty and ancient indigenous culture. This tour really does showcase the Very Best of Australia.

Leaving the sparkling city of Sydney, relish the delightful contrast on arrival in tranquil New Zealand. Our New Zealand by Rail, Road & Sea itinerary is the epitome of relaxed travel; a leisurely tour of both North and South Island including three wonderfully scenic rail journeys, through rugged mountain ranges, past ancient volcanoes and unspoilt beaches. Cruise the calm waters of the Bay of Islands and journey across the Cook Strait between the two main islands of New Zealand.



2023 Departures

04 February 2023

Prices

Prices from £10,695 per person.
Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement

From £2,795.

For full itinerary information

The Very Best of Australia: Pages 34-45
New Zealand by Rail, Road & Sea:
Pages 82-93

Call to book

0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday Open in peak season.
See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

The Magnificent New Zealand tour is the perfect introduction to the Land of the Long White Cloud, packed full of exploration and adventure yet with plenty of free time to relax and soak up New Zealand's beauty. Traversing the country, we discover North and South Island's distinct characters and enjoy many unique experiences, including a journey across the Southern Alps on board the TranzAlpine train.

Once in Australia, recharge your batteries ready for the adventures ahead with a three-night stay at a resort hotel in Perth, before embarking on The Very Best of Australia tour. This itinerary really does showcase the best of what this vast country offers, with included experiences that will show you the authentic Australia – a timeless land with a rich indigenous culture and warm, friendly people.



2023 Departures

13 January 2023

Prices

Prices from £10,295 per person.
Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement

From £2,795.

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.

For full itinerary information

Magnificent New Zealand: Pages 72-81
The Very Best of Australia: Pages 34-45

Call to book

0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday Open in peak season.
See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk



Magnificent New Zealand & The Very Best of Australia, including The Ghan 51 days from only £10,295 per person

Magnificent New Zealand & The Grand Australian 51 days from only £11,245 per person

Magnificent New Zealand is a tour full of breath-taking sights and fascinating experiences – the perfect introduction to this unique, unforgettable, country. Conducted at a leisurely pace with plenty of free time, some of the tour’s contrasting highlights include three nights spent in the subtropical Bay of Islands, and two nights in Franz Josef, deep in the heart of Fiordland.

The Australian leg of your tour begins with a fabulous three-night stay at a relaxing resort hotel in Perth, before joining your new travelling companions and embarking on The Very Best of Australia, including The Ghan tour. The ultimate in exploration and excitement, this tour showcases the country’s highlights and hidden gems plus many once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Discover the Great Barrier Reef; see the wonderful wildlife on Kangaroo Island; travel on the legendary Ghan and enjoy a cruise on Katherine Gorge.



2023 Departures

03 February 2023

Prices

Prices from £10,295 per person. Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement

From £2,795.

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.

For full itinerary information

Magnificent New Zealand: Pages 72-81
The Very Best of Australia, including The Ghan: Pages 46-57

Call to book

0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

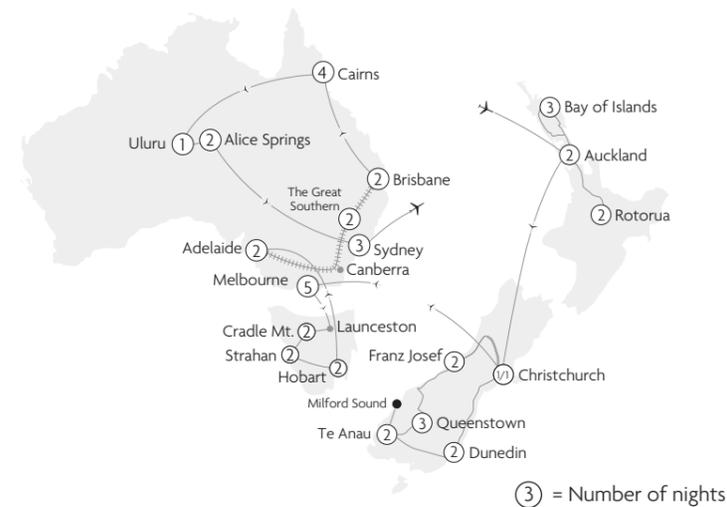
Sunday Open in peak season.
See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

Magnificent New Zealand is the must-do tour of New Zealand, encompassing both North and South Islands and exploring its Maori culture, lively towns and quaint villages. At every turn, awe-inspiring panoramas unfold, from the rugged peaks and glaciers of Fiordland to the white sand beaches of sub-tropical Northland. Conducted at a leisurely pace, there’s plenty of time to fall under New Zealand’s spell.

The Grand Australian is an odyssey through this vast, wondrous continent, including the bucket-list places of Sydney, Uluru and the Great Barrier Reef among many others. Explore the ‘Apple Isle’ of Tasmania and the elegant cities of Melbourne and Adelaide, followed by a truly unforgettable two-night railway journey aboard the Great Southern, through Australia’s south-east to Brisbane.



2023 Departures

13 January 2023

Prices

Prices from £11,245 per person. Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement

From £2,895.

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.

For full itinerary information

Magnificent New Zealand: Pages 72-81
The Grand Australian: Pages 58-71

Call to book

0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday Open in peak season.
See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

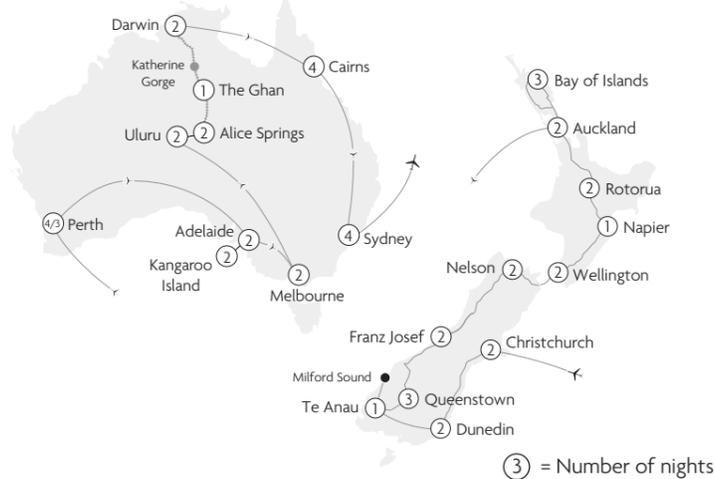


The Very Best of New Zealand & The Very Best of Australia, including The Ghan 56 days from only £10,595 per person

The Very Best of New Zealand & The Very Best of Australia 56 days from only £10,895 per person

For an incredible adventure Down Under, combine two of our most comprehensive New Zealand and Australia tours into one amazing, 56-day holiday. Beginning with the Very Best of New Zealand, immerse yourself in the peaceful splendour of New Zealand's pastoral scenery and embrace the vibrancy of its modern cities. Along the way, you gain insights into Maori culture; cruise the inky waters of Milford Sound and travel through the pristine landscapes of this beautiful country.

Your introduction to Australia is a holiday within a holiday – four nights at a resort hotel in Perth to recharge the batteries ready for the next adventure. The Very Best of Australia, including The Ghan will take you across this vast country from west to east, south to north and deep into the heart of the Red Centre where you will witness sunrise at the sacred monolith of Uluru. Just one of a tour of highlights, leaving you with memories to last a lifetime.



2022 Departures

09 October 2022

2023 Departures

~~22 January 2023~~ **SOLD OUT**

29 January 2023*

~~12 February 2023~~ **SOLD OUT**

*Altered itinerary. Call for details.

Prices
 Prices from £10,595 per person.
 Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement
 From £3,295.

For full itinerary information
 The Very Best of New Zealand: Pages 94-105
 The Very Best of Australia, including The Ghan: Pages 46-57

Call to book

0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday Open in peak season.
 See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.
Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

Combine our two best-selling tours of Australia and New Zealand to make a spectacular two-month holiday. New Zealand is first, with its unspoiled beauty and rich Maori culture. The Very Best of New Zealand tour takes in all the sights that would top anyone's wish list with the addition of some less well-known gems that many itineraries wouldn't have time to visit such as the Art Deco city of Napier and arty, bohemian Nelson.

After a leisurely start with a resort stay in Perth, your tour of Australia is a procession of highlights. The world-class cities will give you a taste of modern 'down under', whilst your time in the outback offers insights into the country's extraordinary natural beauty and ancient culture. Spend the evening dining under the stars at Uluru, enjoy a traditional Aussie Bush Barbecue in Alice Springs and get close up to the unique wildlife of Kangaroo and Rottne Islands; this really is the Very Best of Australia.



2023 Departures

08 January 2023

Prices
 Prices from £10,895 per person.
 Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement
 From £3,295.

For full itinerary information
 The Very Best of New Zealand: Pages 94-105
 The Very Best of Australia: Pages 34-45

Call to book

0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm
Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday Open in peak season.
 See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.
Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk



The Very Best of New Zealand & The Grand Australian

56 days from only £11,995 per person

New Zealand is a land like no other; ancient landscapes, Māori culture, unique flora and fauna and a laid-back lifestyle. Our Very Best of New Zealand tour shows you all the must-see spots and some lesser-known treasures. With three-night stays in the subtropical Bay of Islands and lakeside Queenstown, it's the ideal tour for those who like their sightseeing at a more leisurely pace.

Australia provides a lively contrast, and we ease ourselves in with an additional two nights in Melbourne before embarking on the Grand Australian tour; four thrilling weeks of exploration throughout areas as diverse as tropical North Queensland and peaceful, historic Tasmania. Among the tour's many highlights are sunset at Uluru, a lunch cruise on Sydney Harbour and a two-night journey aboard the Great Southern railway from Adelaide to Brisbane.



2023 Departures

08 January 2023

Prices

Prices from £11,995 per person. Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement

From £3,495.

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.

For full itinerary information

The Very Best of New Zealand: Pages 94-105
The Grand Australian: Pages 58-71

Call to book

0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday Open in peak season.

See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

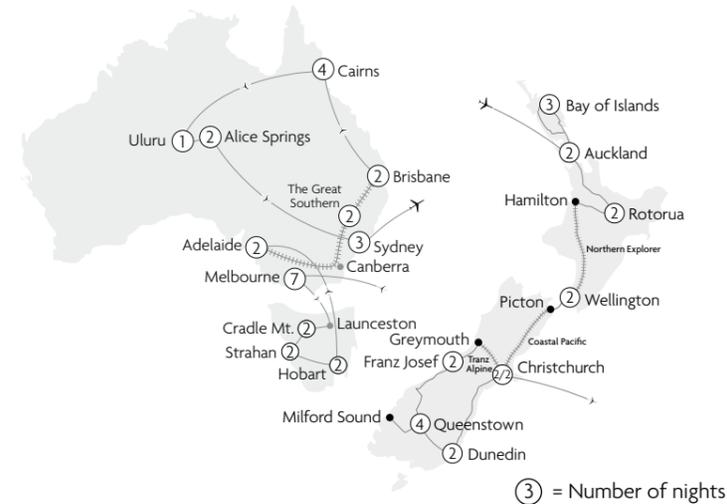
Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

New Zealand by Rail, Road & Sea and The Grand Australian

56 days from only £12,245 per person

The New Zealand by Rail, Road & Sea tour explores the unique landscape of New Zealand by including three of the most scenic railway journeys on the planet. We travel on the Northern Explorer through Tongariro National Park; the Coastal Pacific journeys from Picton to Christchurch, and we traverse the Southern Alps on board the TranzAlpine. Sit back, relax and take in New Zealand's magnificent landscapes from the comfort of your seat on this fabulous touring holiday.

The Grand Australian begins with an additional four-night stay in Melbourne, prior to embarking on the tour. Across the Bass Strait lies Tasmania, whose pastoral farmland, abundant wildlife and fascinating history we will explore in depth. Boarding the Great Southern railway in Adelaide, we will make our way through Australia's south-east to Queensland where the Great Barrier Reef awaits us. The Grand Australian ends on a fittingly high note in sparkling Sydney.



2023 Departures

08 January 2023

Prices

Prices from £12,245 per person. Please refer to our price booklet or website for up-to-date pricing.

Single occupancy supplement

From £3,495.

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.

For full itinerary information

New Zealand by Rail, Road & Sea: Pages 82-93
The Grand Australian: Pages 58-71

Call to book

0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm

Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday Open in peak season.

See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

Great Australian Rail Adventures



The romance and adventure of long-distance railway travel is captured by two spectacular journeys across the Australian landscape, travelling in unparalleled style on board The Ghan and the Great Southern.

The Ghan

A journey on The Ghan echoes the spirit of adventure of the Afghan cameleers after whom the train is named. The railway line was opened in 1929, with the train dubbed the Afghan Express, or 'Ghan', and ran from Adelaide to the remote town of Stuart, later renamed Alice Springs. A mere 75 years later, the railway line was completed with the opening of the Alice Springs to Darwin route.

Whether you choose the rail journey from Adelaide to Alice Springs, part of our Wonders of Australia tour, or the journey from Alice Springs to Darwin, included on our tour, The Very Best of Australia, including The Ghan, you can look forward to an amazing experience on board.

The Great Southern

Younger sister to The Ghan, the Great Southern cuts a swathe through Australia's south east, her distinctive orange liveried locomotive flashing through the diverse scenery of this very special region. From South Australia to Queensland the train travels along more than 2,000km of track, traversing Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory as she goes.

On the 'Grand Australian', our journey on board the Great Southern is a wonderful two-night odyssey from Adelaide, the City of Churches, to Brisbane in sunny Queensland. Enjoy life in the slow lane and immerse yourself in the stunning panoramas unfolding before you.

Travel in Gold Service comfort and style

Our guests travel in style on board The Ghan and the Great Southern, in Gold Service accommodation. Enjoy your own private cabin with a dedicated Cabin Steward. You won't find a television in the cabin, and there's no WiFi, so your cabin provides the perfect place to relax and recharge, and at the end of the day, retire to your comfortable room and let the rhythm of the rails sway you to sleep ahead of your next adventure.

Twin Facilities

- Upper and lower berths that convert to a three-seater settee by day
- Private en suite bathroom with toilet, washbasin and shower
- Power outlets in cabin
- In-cabin music channels and journey audio commentary available

Single Cabins

- A bed that converts to a seat by day
- Washbasin and vanity unit
- Shared shower/toilet facilities located at either end of the carriage
- Power outlets in cabin
- In-cabin music channels and journey audio commentary available

Your journey beyond

Life on board The Ghan and the Great Southern is the ultimate in slow travel – with no phone signal or WiFi, you can switch off, go incommunicado and lose yourself in a reverie as you gaze through the window at the glorious scenery unfolding before you with every passing kilometre.

Along your journey, you will enjoy a variety of off-train excursions. The Great Southern includes visits to the Grampians, Canberra and Coffs Harbour, and depending on your choice of tour itinerary, guests on The Ghan can disembark before dawn to watch sunrise in the heart of the Australian outback, or explore the pristine wilderness of Nitmiluk National Park with a cruise through Katherine Gorge.



Gold Service food and beverages

As well as your own private cabin, travelling in Gold Service on board The Ghan and the Great Southern means you will enjoy all-inclusive, top-quality dining and beverages throughout your journey, and access to the Outback Explorer Lounge and Queen Adelaide Restaurant.

Outback Explorer Lounge

The Outback Explorer Lounge is the social hub of the train and the place to get to know your fellow travellers. Open from breakfast to late at night, the lounge has comfortable seating and picture windows to soak up the amazing views over morning coffee or a pre-lunch aperitif. By night, the Outback Explorer Lounge is where guests gather before dinner and relax over a nightcap before retiring to bed.

Queen Adelaide Restaurant

One of the undoubted highlights of your journey will be the quality of the food and wines you enjoy in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant. Using the finest locally sourced ingredients, chefs create innovative, regionally-inspired menus accompanied by all-inclusive fine wines and beverages. Expect to find delicious menus such as a South Australian seafood tasting plate, or a regional Barossa Valley cheese plate paired with outstanding local wines.

Gold Service Inclusions

- All-inclusive dining in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant
- All-inclusive Australian wines, beers, base spirits and non-alcoholic beverages

Australia Hotel Directory



Adelaide - Crowne Plaza

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Crowne Plaza Adelaide is a brand-new hotel in a great location in the heart of Adelaide city centre. Offering stylish, modern and comfortable accommodation, the hotel has a heated, outdoor infinity pool and a state-of-the-art gym. Savour Asian and Australian fusion delicacies at Koomo Restaurant, and relax with a drink in Luna10 bar.



Adelaide - Peppers Waymouth

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Peppers Waymouth Hotel is ideally located in the heart of Adelaide. There's a lovely heated indoor pool, and the hotel's restaurants, Essay Kitchen and Barketta, offer exceptional food using the best South Australian produce. Each of the hotel's spacious and modern rooms offers floor-to-ceiling windows, affording great views of Adelaide's skyline.



Alice Springs - Crowne Plaza Lasseters

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Crowne Plaza Lasseters Hotel is an oasis in the outback. Guest rooms draw on the area's indigenous culture, with Aboriginal art adorning the walls. Relax by the outdoor pool and choose from a variety of restaurants and bars. Tali serves a combination of French and modern Australian flavours, and The Goat & Bucket does excellent steaks in a pub-style setting.



Alice Springs - DoubleTree by Hilton

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

With the Western MacDonnell Ranges as a backdrop, the DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs is located just outside the town centre. The hotel features an outdoor swimming pool, perfect to cool off in the desert heat and there's a choice of dining options. Hanuman is an award-winning Thai and Indian fusion restaurant, and The Deck Bar serves up light snacks and refreshing drinks.



Ayers Rock - Voyages Desert Gardens

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Located within Ayers Rock Resort, the Voyages Desert Gardens is set within an oasis of native gardens, with magnificent ghost gums and flowering shrubs. The hotel has a pool and it's only a short stroll to the resort's numerous lookouts, to view arguably Australia's finest sunset. Dine at Arnguli Grill and savour an à la carte flame-grilled menu.



Ayers Rock - Voyages Outback Pioneer

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

In the heart of Ayers Rock Resort, the Outback Pioneer features spacious and comfortable rooms and use of the nearby Desert Garden's outdoor swimming pool. The hotel has three dining options, including the Pioneer BBQ and Bar, perfect for a quintessentially Down Under experience.



Brisbane - Stamford Plaza Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Stamford Plaza Brisbane occupies a superb position on the banks of the Brisbane River and close to the Botanical Gardens, boasting views of the city's Story Bridge and Kangaroo Point cliffs. Guest rooms have a classic, elegant style with river views, and the hotel has three different restaurants: The Brasserie on the River, Kabuki and The Pav Bar and Courtyard.



Cairns - DoubleTree by Hilton

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Centred around a unique rainforest atrium, the charming DoubleTree by Hilton Cairns includes an outdoor swimming pool, restaurant and bar. The DoubleTree is just a few minutes walk from Cairns' shopping and entertainment centre. The Atrium restaurant offers Mediterranean-inspired dishes and an extensive wine list.

Australia Hotel Directory



Cairns - Hilton Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

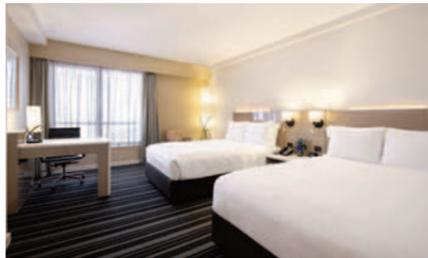
The Hilton Cairns is located on the Esplanade, just a short walk from all Cairns' attractions. Guest rooms are tastefully furnished and include a private balcony. The hotel benefits from a fitness centre and an outdoor lagoon pool. Its all-day restaurant, Mondo on the Waterfront, serves award-winning cuisine.



Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park - Cradle Mountain Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

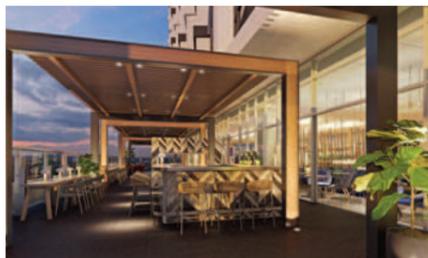
Cradle Mountain Hotel is nestled within breath-taking alpine woodland in the pristine surrounds of north-west Tasmania. Guest rooms are cosy and warm, with a Juliet balcony to watch for native wildlife in the hotel grounds. Altitude Restaurant serves up hearty, seasonal fare showcasing the flavours of Tasmania among stunning views of surrounding woodland.



Darwin - DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Overlooking the Esplanade, the welcoming DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade is within walking distance of Darwin's city centre and historic attractions including the War Memorial and Parliament House. Cool down with a dip in the impressive outdoor swimming pool. The hotel's poolside restaurant and bar, Aqua, offers dishes prepared with Mediterranean and Territory influences.



Hobart - Crowne Plaza Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

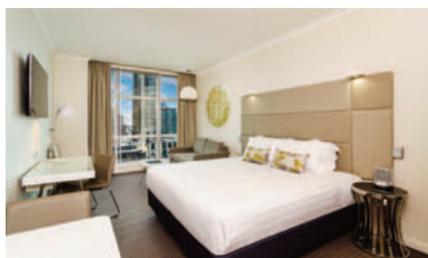
Crowne Plaza Hobart is a modern, stylish hotel offering comfortable accommodation in the heart of Tasmania's capital. The spacious hotel rooms all feature flat screen tv and a comfortable bed ensuring a great night's sleep. Core Restaurant serves a lavish buffet breakfast and The Deck is the hotel's stylish outdoor bar and restaurant overlooking the city with Mount Wellington as a backdrop.



Kangaroo Island - Mercure Kangaroo Island Lodge

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Kangaroo Island Lodge has been designed to blend in with its unique wilderness location and natural surroundings, and is situated on the edge of American Bay River. The light, spacious guest rooms are arranged among stone pathways and native gardens. Reflections Restaurant showcases locally sourced Kangaroo Island cuisine, with an emphasis on fresh, seasonal produce and the bar has a selection of local Kangaroo Island wines.



Melbourne - Clarion Suites Gateway

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Just a gentle stroll from the banks of the Yarra River, Clarion Suites Gateway is ideally located within Melbourne's CBD, just minutes from the city's world-class shopping and restaurants. The hotel boasts an indoor swimming pool and William's Bar & Café, offering modern international cuisine served in a relaxed environment. Rooms are spacious and very well equipped.



Melbourne - Pullman on the Park

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Pullman on the Park puts you within the city's main sports and entertainment district, and is directly opposite the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The spacious guest rooms are well-equipped, and hotel facilities include a heated outdoor pool, sauna and jacuzzi. The Cliveden Bar and Dining uses fresh local produce to create Mediterranean and European-inspired cuisine.



Melbourne - Stamford Plaza

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Stamford Plaza Hotel is located at the 'Paris end' of Little Collins Street in the heart of Melbourne. The spacious guest rooms are well-equipped, and hotel facilities include an indoor rooftop swimming pool and gym. Harry's Restaurant & Bar showcases fresh, seasonal local produce and outstanding wines in an intimate setting. Many other dining options including China Town are all within minutes of the hotel.



Mornington Peninsula - Portsea Village Resort

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Portsea Village Resort is a boutique apartment complex located on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula, opposite the beach and within easy strolling distance of Portsea village centre. The accommodation is stylish and airy with a private balcony, and the resort's facilities include two pools (one indoor), spa, sauna, and tennis courts.



Perth - Crown Metropol

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Positioned on the banks of the Swan River, the Crown Metropol Perth offers stylish accommodation just a short distance away from Perth city centre. Guest rooms are modern, light and spacious and the Crown Metropol's facilities include a resort-style pool area, casino and theatre. There is a selection of restaurants and bars, offering a range of cuisines.



Perth - Crowne Plaza

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Crowne Plaza Perth is conveniently located close to picturesque Langley Park and the beautiful Swan River. The hotel rooms are bright and airy, with views over the Swan River. Relax in the open-air infinity pool, and enjoy dinner and drinks under the palm trees at Gusti Restaurant.



Perth - Pan Pacific

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Pan Pacific Hotel is located just a short stroll from the Swan River as well as Perth's main shopping and entertainment hub. Rooms are bright, spacious and modern, perfect for a stay in the city. The hotel features an award-winning dinner buffet at Monterey's Restaurant, offering fresh Australian seafood and dishes inspired by the hotel's Asian heritage.

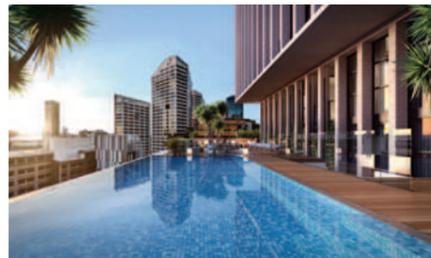
Australia Hotel Directory



Strahan - Strahan Village

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Strahan Village offers charming waterfront guest rooms and delicious local dining on the west coast of Tasmania. Accommodation is in a range of quirky, comfortable en suite rooms designed to reflect Strahan's heritage as a fishing village, with picturesque views of the harbour. Enjoy dinner at View 42° Restaurant & Bar, or a pub meal at friendly Hamer's Bar & Bistro.



Sydney - Crowne Plaza Darling Harbour

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Crowne Plaza Darling Harbour boasts a superb location, just 10 minutes' walk from the vibrant Darling Harbour foreshore. Hotel rooms are spacious and airy, and there's an open-air rooftop pool and sun deck. Breakfast is served in TWO 88 Bar and Kitchen, and La Bella Trattoria & Bar offers both à la carte and casual dining.



Sydney - Mantra 2 Bond Street

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Mantra 2 Bond Street is located at the heart of Sydney's bustling centre, with Circular Quay, Sydney Opera House and Darling Harbour all just a short walk away. Executive studio rooms have a split-level, open plan layout and a very useful kitchenette, and the hotel has a rooftop pool and jacuzzi. Modern Australian cuisine is served all day in Memento Lounge & Bistro.



Sydney - Novotel Sydney Central

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

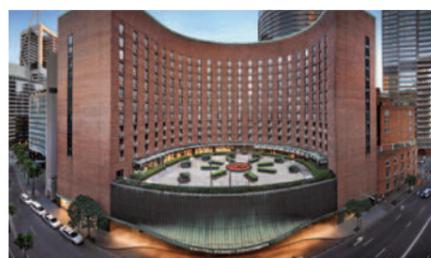
Novotel Sydney Central is conveniently located within easy walking distance of Darling Harbour. The hotel has spacious guestrooms, a state-of-the-art gymnasium, an outdoor heated pool and garden area. Thomas St. Kitchen & Bar offers a warm and welcoming ambience, with an all-day bar menu, barista-made coffee and an award-winning wine list.



Sydney - Radisson Blu Plaza

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Radisson Blu Plaza is a landmark hotel, within walking distance of Circular Quay and the Sydney Opera House. Rooms are spacious and comfortable, combining boutique-style elegance with modern amenities, and there is an indoor pool and fitness centre. Enjoy fine Australian cuisine in Bentley's Restaurant and relax with a drink in the Fax Bar.



Sydney - Sofitel Wentworth

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The centrally located historic Sofitel Sydney Wentworth offers stylish accommodation. Guest bedrooms are spacious and contemporary, with a luxurious marble bathroom with walk in shower. Garden Court Restaurant serves French-inspired cuisine with modern Australian flavours, and Soirée at the Wentworth is the perfect spot for morning coffee or a late night drink.

New Zealand Hotel Directory



Auckland - Grand Millennium

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Superbly located with some of the city's finest dining, shopping and entertainment venues on its doorstep, the Grand Millennium Auckland offers stylish rooms, chic décor and floor to ceiling windows. Guests can enjoy the hotel's many facilities including the indoor heated pool, Atrium Bar, the Grand Millennium Brasserie and Katsura Japanese Restaurant.



Auckland - Sudima Hotel Auckland City

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Sudima Auckland City is a new hotel, conveniently located in the heart of the city. Guest rooms are air-conditioned and well-equipped, with flat screen television, an Amazon Echo and a handy mini-fridge. Enjoy a hearty buffet breakfast in East Restaurant, while the Lobby Bar is the perfect spot for a coffee with friends in the morning and to relax with a drink before dinner. Head to the Sudima Hotel's rooftop bar for a cocktail or two while enjoying the fabulous views of Auckland Harbour.



Christchurch - Distinction Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Located right in the heart of Christchurch, in Cathedral Square, the Distinction Hotel is just a short stroll to Oxford Terrace, home to some of Christchurch's best restaurants and bars. The hotel enjoys stylish and modern rooms and features an on-site gym, sauna, restaurant and bar.



Dunedin - Distinction Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Formerly the 1930's Chief Post Office, the Distinction Hotel Dunedin has been elegantly restored, and is located in the rejuvenated Warehouse Precinct. The hotel offers guest rooms which are spacious and modern. Guests can enjoy drinks in the stylish Post Bar and dine in the popular Parcels Restaurant which is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Dunedin - Scenic Hotel Southern Cross

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Scenic Hotel Southern Cross is housed in a landmark building dating back to 1883, combining traditional Dunedin heritage with modern day style and comfort. The hotel is located at the heart of Dunedin's city centre, just a short walk to the Octagon. Bedrooms are comfortable and well-equipped, and the hotel's facilities include free WiFi, a fitness centre and two guest laundries. Breakfast is served in The Carlton restaurant, and by night, Ports O'Call Bar & Grill is a cosy and welcoming spot for dinner or a drink.



Franz Josef - Scenic Hotel Franz Josef

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Nestled on the edge of the Westland World Heritage Park, and just moments from one of New Zealand's most spectacular natural attractions, the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef makes the most of its dramatic location. The hotel offers Canavans Restaurant, serving hearty, West Coast fare. Moa Bar with its open fireplace, is located in the heart of the hotel.

New Zealand Hotel Directory



Napier - Scenic Hotel Te Pania

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Wake up to beautiful views of Hawke's Bay at the superbly positioned Scenic Hotel Te Pania. This modern hotel is just a short walk away from Napier's famous art-deco area with its many restaurants and bars. Dine alfresco at Curve Restaurant & Bar and admire the tranquil ocean vistas. Sample wines from the region and take your pick from the enticing menu filled with local delicious produce.



Nelson - Rutherford Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Rutherford Hotel is centrally located in a prime location from which to visit the many sights of Nelson. All guest rooms enjoy modern décor and internet access, and the hotel features include a gym, sauna and an outdoor swimming pool. The hotel's Oceano Restaurant serves fresh New Zealand produce and the award-winning Miyazu Japanese Restaurant is always popular.



Paihia - Copthorne Hotel Bay of Islands

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Copthorne Hotel Bay of Islands enjoys a superb waterfront location set in 60 acres of subtropical gardens, next to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds. The hotel rooms all have either a balcony or a patio, and hotel facilities include a tennis court and lagoon-style swimming pool. Jimmy Cook's Kiwi Kitchen serves up Kiwi and international favourites and Jimmy Cook's Bar has an alfresco seating area; the perfect spot to enjoy morning coffee, a light lunch or a late night sundowner at the end of the day.



Paihia - Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

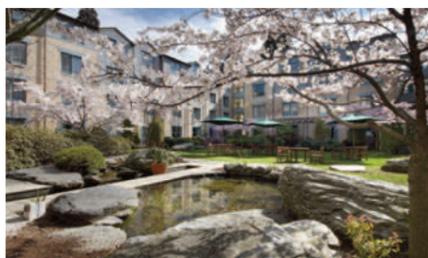
With its welcoming atmosphere and beautifully landscaped grounds, The Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands is situated at the entrance to the seaside town of Paihia. It's a pleasant stroll to the main wharf, bars, restaurants and shopping. Dining options may be found in Nikau Restaurant, and the spacious rooms all have a private patio or balcony. The outdoor pool is the perfect spot for a cooling dip.



Queenstown - Copthorne Hotel Lakefront

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Copthorne Hotel Lakefront is a four-star property overlooking Lake Wakatipu and just a short walk from the centre of Queenstown. The hotel's guest rooms are spacious and comfortable. Impressions Restaurant takes its inspiration from its stunning surrounds, offering Kiwi classics and international favourites. Impressions Cocktail bar has indoor and outdoor seating with expansive views over Lake Wakatipu.



Queenstown - Millennium Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

This welcoming hotel captures the essence of a truly unique region and is the perfect restful haven after a day exploring. The Millennium Hotel is only minutes from Queenstown's central shopping, entertainment and outdoor activities. The hotel enjoys spacious guest rooms, a gym, sauna, spa, bar and restaurant.



Rotorua - Distinction Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Distinction Rotorua Hotel is situated just a few minutes drive from the centre of Rotorua, in a peaceful garden setting close to the Whakarewarewa Forest. There is a heated outdoor swimming pool and a choice of dining options, ranging from the casual poolside Pavilion Café & Restaurant to Mr Yakitori's, for flame-grilled meats and fish.



Rotorua - Millennium Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Millennium Hotel takes full advantage of Rotorua's unique qualities by using its natural geothermal resources to heat the hotel and indoor pool. The location couldn't be better, right alongside Lake Rotorua and an easy walk into the city centre. As well as the pool and spa, the hotel's facilities include Restaurant Nikau, for locally sourced New Zealand dishes, and Bar Zazu.



Te Anau - Distinction Luxmore

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

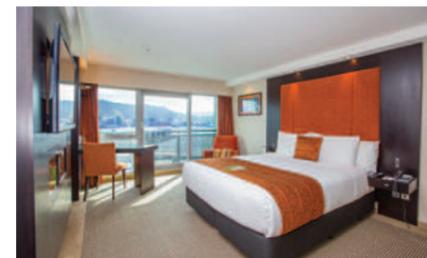
With Fiordland-themed décor, the Distinction Luxmore Hotel is located in the heart of town, just a short stroll from Lake Te Anau. The hotel offers modern guest rooms as well as a choice of two dining experiences, Bailiez Cafe & Bar with its cafe style menu, and Highlights Restaurant, known for its carvery buffet dinners.



Te Anau - Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

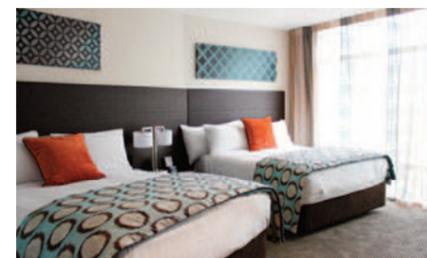
Located on Te Anau lakefront, Distinction Te Anau Hotel and Villas not only offers spectacular views of the serene lake, but is also surrounded by acres of colourful gardens. During your stay, indulge in some of the very best South Island cuisine at MacKinnon Room Restaurant, or enjoy a drink on the Lakefront Terrace with uninterrupted views of Lake Te Anau.



Wellington - Copthorne Hotel Oriental Bay

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Perfectly situated in Wellington's famous Oriental Bay, the Copthorne Hotel offers a great and comfortable base. The hotel is just a few minutes walk from the city's main shopping and dining areas. All guest rooms are modern and spacious. The hotel offers local fare in the stylish One80° Restaurant and Cocktail Bar.



Wellington - Rydges Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Rydges Wellington is centrally located and is within easy walking distance of nearby Lambton Quay. The hotel enjoys modern guestrooms, and offers a range of leisure facilities including a 17 metre long lap pool, and a gym. Portlander is Rydges Wellington's hotel restaurant, popular with guests and locals alike.

Choose your Airline and Stopover



As a specialist in touring holidays to the far flung corners of the globe, Distant Journeys understands the importance of making your journey as comfortable and convenient as possible.

Outbound stopovers

When travelling to Australia or New Zealand, Distant Journeys generally includes a two or three night stopover in a choice of fabulous destinations on your way Down Under. Not only does this make your journey more relaxing, but also gives you an opportunity to explore somewhere new.

Homebound stopovers

Should you wish to break your journey on your way home, there are opportunities to arrange a stopover in a variety of incredible destinations, including Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bali, Hong Kong, Bangkok or Dubai. Early bookers may be able to take advantage of special offer prices on these homebound stopovers, so please visit our website or call us FREE on 0800 141 3741 for details.

Your stopover options are dependent on your departure airport, holiday and airline preference. To help understand your stopover options, we have created a helpful table below.

Australia & New Zealand

Tour	Airline	UK departure airports	Included outbound stopover	Optional inbound stopover (additional cost)
Essential Australia	Qantas & Emirates	London Heathrow, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle or Glasgow	None	Singapore, Sentosa Island or Dubai
Wonders of Australia The Grand Australian			Singapore or Dubai	Hong Kong, Dubai, Bangkok, Singapore, Sentosa Island or Bali
The Very Best of Australia The Very Best of Australia, including The Ghan			Singapore, Dubai or Perth	
Highlights of Australia & New Zealand			Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai	
Magnificent New Zealand The Very Best of New Zealand	Singapore Airlines	London Heathrow or Manchester [*]	Singapore	Singapore or Sentosa Island
New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea	Qantas & Emirates	London Heathrow, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle or Glasgow	Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai	Hong Kong, Dubai, Bangkok, Singapore, Sentosa Island or Bali

^{*} Available on certain days of the week. Please speak with one of our travel experts for more details.

Stopover Hotel Directory



Bali - Meliá Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Meliá Hotel in Nusa Dua is an oasis of calm surrounded by lush tropical gardens, boasting five restaurants, an expansive freeform pool and its own private stretch of beach. Make your stopover even more enjoyable by opting for an all-inclusive package including all meals, drinks and a wide range of water sports. Upgrades to all-inclusive available from £74 per person per night.

Homebound stopover prices Three nights £445 per person Single occupancy £695



Bangkok - Pathumwan Princess Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Pathumwan Princess Hotel has a superb location at the heart of Bangkok's shopping, entertainment and arts district, and is situated above the MBK Shopping Mall. The hotel features a 25 metre rooftop swimming pool surrounded by landscaped gardens, and has multiple dining options.

Homebound stopover prices Two nights £195 per person Single occupancy £295



Dubai - Marriott al Jaddaf

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Marriott Al Jaddaf Hotel is the perfect alternative to a beachside hotel, boasting a rooftop swimming pool, deluxe spa and a choice of five restaurants. Guest rooms are spacious and elegant, and dining choices include Scots American Grill for steaks and seafood. Enjoy a beer at sociable BnB Bar or sip a poolside cocktail at Aqua Chill.

Homebound stopover prices Two nights £345 per person Single occupancy £545



Hong Kong - Regal Kowloon Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Regal Kowloon Hotel is conveniently located in Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong's renowned shopping and entertainment district. Tastefully-designed guest rooms are spacious and comfortable. The hotel offers a choice of restaurants; Mezzo, an American Italian restaurant, and traditional Cantonese favourites can be enjoyed in Regal Court.

Homebound stopover prices Two nights £345 per person Single occupancy £545

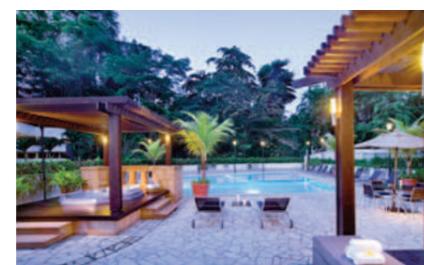


Sentosa Island - Rasa Sentosa Resort

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort is the only beachfront resort in Singapore. Guest rooms have a private terrace or balcony and are contemporary styled, light and airy. The resort boasts a large, freeform pool for relaxing in the tropical heat. 8 Noodles restaurant features popular Asian noodle dishes, while Casserole's menu includes favourites from Southeast Asia.

Homebound stopover prices Two nights £445 per person Single occupancy £645



Singapore - Copthorne King's Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Located near the historic and picturesque Singapore River, Copthorne King's Hotel Singapore is close to a dazzling array of shopping, dining and entertainment venues. The newly renovated deluxe rooms have floor to ceiling windows offering panoramic views of the city and river. Tantalise your taste buds in Tien Court Restaurant or enjoy relaxed dining in Princess Terrace Café.

Homebound stopover prices Two nights £295 per person Single occupancy £395

Our Airline Partners

Fly with award-winning scheduled airlines

Distant Journeys appreciate how important it is to make sure your holiday starts and ends in the best possible way. Our award-winning airline partners offer great quality and comfort in their Economy Class cabins, which are all the more important when travelling to long haul destinations.

Why not make your holiday even more memorable with a flight upgrade? With priority check-in, lounge access and spacious comfortable seats, it will take your flying experience to a new level of comfort and service.

Economy Class

Sit back and relax in Emirates' spacious Economy Class, with a typical seat pitch of 32". Enjoy your own personal in-seat widescreen TV with a wide selection of world movies and music. Enjoy regionally inspired multi course meals served with a selection of complimentary beverages.





Upgrade to Business Class from £4,995 return

Your holiday starts the moment you step outside your front door with a complimentary chauffeur drive to the airport*. Taste your way around the world with fine dining complimented with exclusive wines and spirits. Stretch out and relax in lie-flat Business Class seats.

- Complimentary chauffeur drive*
- Fully flat bed seat with a seat pitch of up to 79"
- Large in-seat entertainment screen
- Fine dining meals served on Royal Doulton China
- Complimentary champagne, wines and spirits
- Priority check-in and priority boarding
- Lounge access

Economy Class

Singapore Airlines' Economy seats are designed to give you more personal space with a typical seat pitch of 32". Enjoy KrisWorld inflight entertainment with over 1,800 options of film, television, music and games and enjoy generous, complimentary meals and refreshments.







Upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,995 return

From check-in to boarding and baggage handling, to reserving your main meal before you fly, you will enjoy priority treatment throughout your journey. In an exclusive, spacious cabin, Premium Economy Class seats are designed for your enhanced comfort, including a calf and foot rest built right into your seat.

- Priority check-in and boarding
- Typical seat pitch of 38"
- Personal 13.3" widescreen LCD
- Option to pre-book meals with Book the Cook
- Integrated calf and foot rest
- Noise cancelling headsets

Upgrade to Business Class from £4,495 return

A seat that seamlessly reclines into a bed. An 18" touchscreen monitor in high definition paired with noise-cancelling headphones. Personalise dinner time with Book the Cook meal options, served on the finest porcelain and paired with champagne and wines from the finest vineyards around the world.

- Dedicated check-in and boarding
- Typical 50" seat pitch which converts into 78" long bed*
- 18" widescreen LCD
- Option to pre-book exquisite meals with Book the Cook
- Lounge access
- Premium champagne, wines and spirits



Economy Class

Experience warm hospitality onboard your Qantas flight and relax in your ergonomically-designed seats with a typical seat pitch of 31" including a personal inflight entertainment system. From welcome drinks, award-winning wines to menus that reflect the freshest seasonal ingredients - you'll be spoilt for choice.







Upgrade to Premium Economy* from £1,895 return

Stretch out and relax in the award-winning Premium Economy* cabin. With luxurious levels of space, attentive service and seated in an intimate and private cabin, you'll enjoy dedicated check-in, priority boarding, a refreshed menu and extensive wine list.

- Priority check-in and boarding
- Pre take-off drinks including sparkling wine
- Wider seat with a typical seat pitch of 42"
- Integrated leg rest with fold out foot rest
- Noise cancelling headsets
- Amenity kits on international flights
- Premium quilted blanket and pillow

Upgrade to Business Class from £4,295 return

Fly with ease in the superior surrounds of Business Class. Comfort, space and style have been thoughtfully considered from the moment your trip commences. Sit back and relax with spacious seats that convert into fully-flat beds* and enjoy menus made from the freshest seasonal ingredients.

- Complimentary chauffeur drive*
- Priority check-in counters and dedicated boarding
- Lounge access
- Private Business Suite or Skybed that convert to a fully-flat bed*
- Signature Qantas pyjamas and amenity kits
- Turndown service with mattress, pillow and quilted blanket

Important information: Please note all prices are supplements to the individual tour price. All prices shown are for return flights, and are subject to the availability of flights in the lowest available booking class and may change. The correct price will always be confirmed when flights are available to book. Images shown are representative of the product and may vary dependant of the aircraft type. *Complimentary chauffeur service is available on selected routes. Restrictions may apply. ^Seat pitch is dependent on the aircraft type. *Premium Economy is only available on selected flights.

Important Information

We recommend that you read our Important Information, together with our Terms & Conditions before booking your holiday.

Entry requirements

The following information on entry requirements, passports and visas is for British Citizens only. Any visa information covers visa requirements for the duration our tour stays in any given country. If you intend to stay longer you should seek additional information before booking.

Holders of a British Subject passport, non-British citizens and holders of a passport endorsed in any way should check immigration requirements with the relevant embassy or consulate of the country to be visited, as should clients with dual nationality or renounced citizenship.

It is important to recognise that whilst the information below is correct at the time we go to print, all requirements may change and all clients must check the up to date position in good time before departure with the Embassy or consulate of the country(ies) you are travelling through and to.

Passports

A valid ten-year British passport is required for all our holidays, valid for a minimum of six months after your return date to the UK. If you are not currently in possession of a valid passport please make sure you leave plenty of time before your holiday to apply for this document.

A full British passport presently takes approximately two to six weeks to obtain. If you are 16 or over and have not yet arranged a passport, you should apply for one at least six weeks before your departure from the UK. The UK Passport Service has to confirm an applicant's identity before issuing their first passport and will ask them to attend an interview in order to do this. Please note, if you need to apply for visas after you receive your new passport, you will need to factor in additional time for this.

For more information on passport and entry requirements please visit the Government Passport Office website, or see our website for more details.

Visas

Both Australia and New Zealand require British Citizens to obtain a visa before travelling.

Country	Visa required	Cost
Australia	Yes	£25 Distant Journeys processing fee. Alternatively you can apply via the Australian Government website
New Zealand	Yes	NZD \$12 for an online application, NZD \$9 for applications via the smartphone app. An International Visitor Levy Fee of NZD \$35 is also payable

Applying for your visa

The below information provides guidance on how to apply for your visa. For more detailed information along with useful links to the Foreign Office and any online applications, please refer to the FAQ section of our website.

Australia

Applications for ETAs will be processed by Distant Journeys at the time of booking or you can apply via the Australian Government website.

New Zealand

You are required to apply for an NZeTA before travelling to New Zealand. Applications can be made online on the government's immigration website or by its smartphone app. In addition to the fee for the NZeTA, you will also be required to pay an International Visitor Levy (IVL). This will be processed at the same time as your NZeTA.

Please note, visa requirements are subject to change. Distant Journeys will inform you of any changes.

Health & vaccinations

Health facilities, hygiene and disease risks vary worldwide and may change at any time. You should take health advice from your GP or local travel clinic about your specific needs as early as possible and ensure that vaccinations or preventative measures are taken early enough (which may be a month or more prior to departure) to be fully effective by the date of travel.

We also suggest referring to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> and the NHS Travel Vaccinations website, <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/travel-vaccinations/>

Staysure™

Distant Journeys customers will benefit from a 15% saving on the base premium of Annual-Multi Trip or Single Trip policies booked through our insurance partner Staysure. For a no obligation quotation, call Staysure on Freephone 0800 652 1125, and quote reference DJ15 to be eligible for the 15% saving. Alternatively, visit our website [distantjourneys.co.uk/insurance/](https://www.distantjourneys.co.uk/insurance/)

Travel insurance

We highly recommend that you take out sufficient and appropriate travel insurance. We recommend you do this at the time of booking so that in the event of cancellation, providing it is covered by your policy, your deposit (less any applicable excess) is protected. Distant Journeys work alongside Staysure to offer you a range of comprehensive single trip and annual multi-trip insurance policies.

Reciprocal Health Care Agreement

If you are travelling to Australia, the Reciprocal Health Care Agreement (RHCA) covers UK visitors for any medical treatment required due to ill health or injury occurred during your stay in Australia only. While this agreement means visitors may receive treatment in Australia, we'd like to emphasise that this should not replace the need for having adequate travel insurance. If required, your tour manager will provide advice on registering and making claims.

Medication and pre-existing conditions

If you have any pre-existing medical conditions or walking difficulties, you should inform us at the time of booking. It is your responsibility to ensure that any medication you are carrying is permitted to be taken into the countries you are visiting. We recommend you consult with your GP and relevant embassy before booking or travelling. Always carry medicines in their original, labelled packaging and in your hand-luggage along with a copy of your prescription. Whilst we recommend only carrying enough for the duration of your time away, a small spare supply can be useful. Check that the expiry dates of your medicines will be valid for the duration of your visit abroad.

Mobility on tour

Many of our itineraries include sightseeing tours which involve walking for medium to long periods of time and over uneven surfaces. Steps may also feature, either as part of a tour or within your accommodation. For your enjoyment we recommend a reasonable level of fitness and mobility is required for all tours. If you are in any doubt of the suitability of any of our tours, or have reduced mobility in any way, it is essential you discuss this with us before making a booking.

Travel documents

On payment of a deposit, your holiday is confirmed and we will send you your confirmation email. It is important you check this email as soon as you receive it. Check the tour name and departure date is correct, check names exactly match your passport and familiarise yourself with the times of your flights. If anything is incorrect, please call us immediately.

Your full travel documents which include electronic tickets, a final itinerary, luggage labels and holiday information booklet will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to your departure.

Weather

Generally, all our tours travel when it is considered the best time to travel for the local climate, however it is important to note that both Australia and New Zealand cover different climate zones within their respective countries, so climates may vary between north and south of the countries. It is also important to recognise that weather patterns around the world are becoming less predictable and the information we provide should be used as a guide only and is no guarantee of the weather at the time you travel. We also recommend checking up-to-date weather forecasts before you travel.

Australia

Australia's seasons are opposite to those in the northern hemisphere, although the country enjoys a temperate climate for most of the year. The tropical northern states (where Cairns and Darwin are found) typically experience very warm weather and can be very humid in the Australian summer. The southern states are typically warm and sunny.

New Zealand

Whilst the opposite of those in the northern hemisphere, New Zealand's seasons are blessed with mild temperatures, moderate rainfall, and many hours of sunshine. The Bay of Islands in the far north has subtropical weather during summer.

Clothing

Dress for our tours is generally relaxed and informal during the day, dressing to suit the weather conditions and the activity you are undertaking. Evening dinners are also informal, with smart casual dress being the norm. It's likely there will be occasions when exploring you'll be walking on uneven surfaces, so we recommend sturdy and comfortable walking shoes. Wearing layers of clothing means it's much easier to deal with potentially varied weather conditions – remember it will be cooler at higher altitudes - and it's always advisable to carry a waterproof. We would also recommend taking good insect repellent, a high factor sun-screen lotion and a hat for protection from the sun. When visiting Australia's Red Centre, some guests appreciate taking a fly net which can be placed over a hat to keep flies away. It is always worth being aware of local customs when visiting sacred places. As a general rule when visiting such places, it is recommended that arms and legs are covered. Women may also wish to take a shawl to cover their shoulders and all visitors should wear long trousers, or skirts or shorts that reach below the knee.

Baggage allowance

You're entitled to carry one suitcase per person with the total sum of its length, width and height not exceeding 160cm (63 inches) and weight 20kg (44lbs). Please be aware that in most instances, this will be less than the airlines' permitted allowance. Luggage is restricted to accommodate for coach capacity, domestic flights and where applicable local health and safety laws. You must ensure that luggage meets the weight requirements as overweight or oversize items will not be carried.

Personal and valuable items such as cameras, medication, money / credit cards etc. should be carried in a travel bag or on your person.

If travelling on the Ghan or Great Southern in Australia, we would suggest a small bag with sufficient clothing for your journey as your main luggage will be accommodated in the luggage carriage. If you are travelling on the Northern Explorer, Coastal Pacific or TransAlpine trains in New Zealand, we would suggest taking a small bag with what you need for the day, as your cases will either be locked in the luggage carriage or be kept on our coach to follow the train.

Currency, credit cards and currency cards

Country	Currency
Australia	Australian Dollar
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dollar
Indonesia	Indonesian Rupiah
New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar
Singapore	Singapore Dollar
Thailand	Baht
U.A.E	Dirham

No matter which country you are travelling to please take note of the following general advice:

- ATMs are generally available in major cities, less so in rural areas.
- Credit cards are generally widely accepted in the majority of hotels, cruises, larger international restaurants and shops, although be aware credit card payments may incur an additional fee.
- If purchasing small items or purchasing from local shops, restaurants and markets, local currency is always recommended.
- Outside of major cities, with the exception of hotels, local currency is always recommended.
- If you are planning to use your debit or credit card whilst travelling, advise your bank of your travel plans in advance so you do not encounter potential problems when trying to withdraw cash or make a payment.
- When you change money, ask for some small bills and keep these, along with coins separate from the larger ones, so that they're readily accessible. Carrying small notes and coins separately is also handy for tipping.
- It is always worth carrying a small amount of UK Sterling or US Dollars as these can always be readily exchanged.
- Keep your exchange receipts as these may be needed if you want to exchange any remaining currency you have at the end of your trip.

Currency, or travel cards are a popular way of buying currency for your holiday. You can pre-load these before leaving the UK and many also offer advantageous exchange rates. If travelling to multiple countries, different currencies can be loaded and used for card payments or ATM cash withdrawals. We recommend two companies who offer different types of currency card. The Revolut card offers 150 currencies and enjoys favourable exchange rates, making it a perfect card to use for any card payments, such as hotels and restaurants. You can withdraw cash from ATMs whilst abroad, but there is a limit of £200 per month, before paying a 2% fee. For ATM cash withdrawals, we recommend using the Caxton currency card. This card has the advantage of no overseas ATM fees, meaning you can make unlimited withdrawals whilst on holiday. For further benefits on using currency cards, more information on both companies and relevant website links, please visit www.distantjourneys.co.uk.

Tipping

Tipping varies from country to country. It is not customary to tip in Australia or New Zealand however, as in the UK, if dining in restaurants you may wish to tip up to 10% for good service. If you have received great service from your Tour Manager, guides or driver you may wish to tip them for their service. We are frequently asked for guidance on this and would suggest a minimum of £2-£3 per person, per guide and per driver per touring day, dependent on your level of satisfaction. For more details on tipping practices in each country and the appropriate amounts, please refer to our Distant Journeys website.

Airline seats

With many airlines you can pre-book your seats prior to check in to give you a wider choice of seat selection. Please note, many airlines now charge for this service. Pre-selected seating is not guaranteed and can be charged at the airlines discretion.

Domestic flights

All domestic flights within our tours are booked on a group basis. Your tour manager will fully assist with the check-in process for these flights.

Freedom Days

During your tour, you can book a range of additional optional excursions and activities. These are at an additional cost, subject to availability and seasonal operations, and may be subject to minimum/maximum numbers. Where possible we allow for these to be booked locally with your Tour Manager or Coach Captain, however, in some instances pre-booking will be required. When booking locally, in some countries these excursions can only be paid for in cash.

Details on the Freedom Day experiences available for your tour, along with costs and information on how to book, may be found on our website alongside the itineraries of each individual tour.

Public holidays

On occasions some of our tours may be travelling during National or Public Holidays, some of which are religious. In some instances, this can mean a limitation of services, or reduced opening hours for shops and restaurants. Alternatively, it may mean that some attractions are much busier than normal. For more detailed information, please refer to the Distant Journeys website.

Seat rotation on coaches

On group tours we offer a fair system of seat rotation to allow all passengers to experience a variety of views. Exceptions cannot be made to this policy.

Smoking

Smoking, including electronic cigarettes, is not allowed at any time onboard our coaches or any flight. Within hotels, smoking and the use of electronic cigarettes may be restricted to designated areas. We'll endeavour to ensure there are frequent stops on any coach trip, however we can't guarantee smoking facilities will always be available. It is also worth noting some countries are beginning to ban the use of electronic cigarettes. We recommend you check for up-to-date information before you travel.

Tour Manager

An experienced English-speaking Tour Manager or Coach Captain accompanies every tour. On some tours your Coach Captain will also be your guide. They are there to ensure your comfort, answer your questions and make your holiday relaxed and memorable.

Travel extras

Distant Journeys offer you a range of travel extras – from airport transfers, or airport parking and hotels, to security fast track and airport lounges. For more information and prices on the range of extras available to book, please visit the Distant Journeys website.

Further information

The information provided here is as a general guide only. For more detailed information please refer to our FAQ section on our website www.distantjourneys.co.uk

Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements 2018

Part 1: General

The combination of travel services offered to you is a package within the meaning of the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018. Therefore you will benefit from all EU rights applying to the packages. We, Distant Journeys Limited, a company registered in England with company number 08994196 and registered office at 8 Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY, will be fully responsible for the proper performance of the package as a whole. Additionally, as required by law, we have protection in place to refund your payments and, where transport is included in the package, to ensure your repatriation in the event that we become insolvent.

Part 2: Key rights under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018

- Travellers will receive all essential information about the package before concluding the package travel contract.
- There is always at least one trader who is liable for the proper performance of all the travel services included in the contract.
- Travellers are given an emergency telephone number or details of a contact point where they can get in touch with the organiser or the travel agent.
- Travellers may transfer the package to another person, on reasonable notice and possibly subject to additional costs.
- The price of the package may only be increased if specific costs rise (for instance fuel prices), and if expressly provided for in the contract, and in any event not later than 20 days before the start of the package. If the price increase exceeds 8% of the price of the package, the traveller may terminate the contract. If the organiser reserves the right to a price increase, the traveller has a right to a price reduction if there is a decrease in the relevant costs.
- Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee and get a full refund of any payments if any of the essential elements of the package, other than the price, has changed significantly. If before the start of the package the trader responsible for the package cancels the package, travellers are entitled to a refund and compensation where appropriate.
- Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee before the start of the package in the event of exceptional circumstances, for instance if there are serious security problems at the destination which are likely to affect the package.
- Additionally, travellers may at any time before the start of the package terminate the contract in return for an appropriate and justifiable termination fee.
- If, after the start of the package, significant elements of the package cannot be provided as agreed, suitable alternative arrangements will have to be offered to the traveller at no extra cost. Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee, where services are not performed in accordance with the contract and this substantially affects the performance of the package and the organiser fails to remedy the problem.
- Travellers are also entitled to a price reduction or compensation for damages or both where the travel services are not performed or are improperly performed.
- The organiser has to provide assistance if the traveller is in difficulty.
- If the organiser becomes insolvent, payments will be refunded. If the organiser becomes insolvent after the start of the package and if transport is included in the package, repatriation of the travellers is secured. Distant Journeys Limited has taken out insolvency protection for flight-only booking and flight inclusive packages by way of our Air Travel Organiser's Licence number I0913, issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK, telephone 0333 103 6350, email: claims@caa.co.uk. For package holidays which don't include flights, Distant Journeys provides full financial protection by way of a bond held by The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) (ABTOT membership number 5427) and in the event of their insolvency. You may contact ABTOT'S 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company. Travellers may contact this entity if services are denied because of Distant Journeys Limited's insolvency. Please see our Booking Conditions for further information.

Part 3: The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 can be found here:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents/made> as amended
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/1367/contents/made>

Terms & Conditions

1. Important

The following Terms & Conditions together with our Privacy Policy, the general information contained in our tour brochure and any other written information we brought to your attention before we confirmed your booking form the basis of your contact with Distant Journeys Limited, a company registered in England with company number 08994196 and registered office at 8 Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY (“we”, “us”, “our”). Please read them carefully as they set out our respective rights and obligations. In these Terms & Conditions references to “you” and “your” include the first named person on the booking and all persons on whose behalf a booking is made or any other person to whom a booking is added or transferred.

Except where otherwise stated, these Terms & Conditions only apply to the tour arrangements shown in our brochure (including accommodation required both before and after your main holiday and activities and other services) which you book with us and pay for before departure from the UK and which we agree to make, provide or perform (as applicable) as part of our contract with you.

All references in these Terms & Conditions to “holiday”, “booking”, “tour” or “arrangements” mean such tour arrangements unless otherwise stated. All bookings are made pursuant to these Terms & Conditions. **Please be aware that your deposit is non-refundable, (unless stated otherwise in our Covid-19 Guarantee, see clause 11).**

By making a booking, the first named person on the booking agrees on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking that:

- he/she has read these Terms & Conditions and has the authority to and does agree to be bound by them;
- he/she consents to our use of information and personal data in accordance with our Privacy Policy and is authorised on behalf of all persons named on the booking to disclose their personal details to us, including where applicable special categories of data (such as information on health conditions or disabilities and dietary requirements);
- he/she is over 18 years of age and resident in the United Kingdom and where placing an order for services with age restrictions declares that he/she and all members of the party are of the appropriate age to purchase those services;
- he/she accepts financial responsibility for payment of the booking on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking.

2. In these Terms & Conditions

a. Unless these Terms & Conditions state otherwise, any reference to European Union law and/or International Conventions in these Terms & Conditions, that is directly applicable or directly effective in the United Kingdom is a reference to how it applies in England and Wales. This includes where the law has been retained, amended, extended, re-enacted or given effect on or after 11pm on 31st January 2020 (including the transition period).
b. “Force Majeure” means any event which we or the supplier of the service(s) in question could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events are likely to include, but are not limited to (whether actual or threatened) war, terrorism, fire, chemical or biological disaster, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination, epidemics, plagues or pandemics (including, but not limited to the ongoing effects of Covid-19 and/or any other strain of the coronavirus) or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely to the travel destination or remain at the travel destination, loss of power, industrial disputes, slow-downs or other strike activities, riots or civil disturbances, acts of government, government agencies or other authorities, inability to obtain any necessary licence or consent through no fault of ours and any other event or circumstances beyond the control of us or any supplier of any part of your tour.

Brexit implications; please note that certain travel arrangements may be affected as a result of the United Kingdom’s decision to leave the European Union. This could include an unavailability of certain flight routes, access to certain ports and airports and changes to the visa requirements of British citizens travelling to, within or through the EU. Please rest assured that this is something we will continue to monitor and will advise our customers as soon as possible if we become aware of any confirmed bookings that will be affected. However, since this is something which is completely unprecedented and outside our control, we would treat any such changes as Force Majeure, and whilst we will endeavour to provide suitable alternative arrangements or refunds where possible, we will not be liable to pay you any compensation.

3. Fitness to travel, disabilities and medical problems

Many of our itineraries include sightseeing tours which may involve walking for medium to long periods of time and over uneven surfaces. Steps may also feature, either as part of a tour or within your accommodation. Different modes of transport, such as trains, rickshaws and boats may also be used.

It is therefore a condition of booking that you are fit and able to take care of yourself for the duration of the tour and recognise that if you do have any disabilities or walking difficulties you may find access to certain attractions restricted.

If you are in any doubt of your suitability for any of our tours, have reduced mobility in any way, have any medical condition, or any special requirements as a result of any medical condition or disability (including any which affect the booking process), it is essential you discuss this with us before making a booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking.

We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance to a passenger for walking, dining, pushing their wheelchair, getting on and off motor coaches or other transportation vehicles or other personal needs. Therefore, passengers who need such assistance, or passengers with disabilities or special needs must be accompanied by a companion capable of providing all assistance required.

We reserve the right to refuse to carry any person who we deem cannot fully care for themselves on tour without assistance or whenever we reasonably feel unable to accommodate the needs or restrictions of any particular passenger. You must also notify us of any changes or deterioration in the disability or medical condition or development of any disability or medical condition after booking.

We further reserve the right to cancel your booking and impose cancellation fees if we are not fully advised of any relevant disability or medical condition at the time the booking is made and/ or promptly notified of any development, change or deterioration occurring after booking. On occasions, the decision to cancel can only be made at the time the person concerned joins the tour as it may only be apparent at this stage that their disability or medical condition cannot be accommodated.

Any passenger affected by a disability or medical condition must ensure they have notified this to their travel insurers and that their travel insurance will cover it. We may refuse to allow you on the tour or may have to terminate your participation in your tour if your mental or physical condition is such as to render you, in the reasonable opinion of any representative of ours or any carrier or other person in authority, incapable of caring for yourself or a hazard to yourself or other passengers.

We will not be liable for any expenses arising from your being precluded from joining or completing the tour for any such reason and no refunds or compensation will be paid.

Mobility aids

If you are planning to take a mobility scooter or other mobility aid please be aware each airline has their own restrictions in regards to what they will carry. This can include, but is not limited to, battery wattage, size and weight. It is your responsibility to ensure you have checked that you meet the airlines requirements. We cannot accept any liability if you are refused boarding or unable to take intended equipment.

Destination specific terms

We use different suppliers in each of the destinations in which we offer tours. Some of the suppliers which we use are unfortunately unable to accommodate particular disabilities or mobility issues and we have set out a brief description of these below:

Australia Tours: If you are taking your own wheelchair when travelling on The Ghan or Great Southern you will be required to use one of the local supplier’s wheelchairs for the duration of the journey on the train.

All Tours: Passengers with disabilities or walking difficulties may find access to certain attractions restricted, due to the number of stairs, distance or uneven ground.

Please Note: The above is not an exhaustive list and we would still strongly advise that you contact us to discuss any disability which you have so that we can ensure that your chosen tour is suitable for your needs.

4. Minimum number of bookings

The operation of all tours is conditional on us securing the minimum number of bookings required to operate the tour. Unless notified otherwise, the minimum number which we aim for in respect of each tour is 15 travellers. Where sufficient numbers cannot be achieved, we reserve the right to cancel or change a scheduled tour. Please also see clause 14. We will endeavour to make any decision to cancel or significantly change a tour no less than 60 days prior to the scheduled departure date of the tour but in any event will notify you no less than 30 days prior to the departure date of the tour.

If you are offered a new travel date as a result of this clause 4, it is your responsibility to advise your travel insurance company of your new travel dates. We are not liable for any loss in failed insurance claims if you fail to do this.

5. Special requests

If you have any special requests (including dietary requirements) you must notify us at the time of booking. Whilst every effort will be made by us to try and arrange your reasonable special requests, we cannot guarantee that they will be fulfilled. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract by us unless the request has been specifically confirmed by us. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier of any service(s) or the inclusion of the special request on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met.

Unless and until specifically confirmed by us in writing, all special requests are subject to availability. We cannot accept any conditional bookings, i.e. any booking which is specified to be conditional on the fulfilment of a particular request. All such bookings will be treated as “standard” bookings subject to the above provisions on special requests.

If you have any food allergies which may cause significant health issues, you must tell us before you confirm your booking. Whilst our partners will try to accommodate any such requests, it is your responsibility to ensure that you actively avoid any food you are allergic to and make all appropriate enquiries to establish the ingredients contained within any food. The supplier is not under any obligation to prepare or provide special meals.

6. Booking and making payment for your arrangements

To secure any booking, you must pay the applicable deposit or full payment if booking 90 days or less before the start of the tour. Unless otherwise notified to you in writing by us, the deposit for each booking is £1,000 per person if travelling in economy flight class, £1,950 per person if travelling in premium economy flight class, or £3,750 per person if travelling in business flight class. Where fares are higher than our standard rates, an additional deposit may be required. We reserve the right to return your deposit and decline to issue a booking confirmation at our absolute discretion. The deposit or full payment, as applicable, must be received by us within 7 days of booking to ensure your place on the tour is held. Bookings will be automatically cancelled if the applicable deposit or full payment, as applicable, is not received by us within this 7 day period and we will have no further liability to you. We will not refund your deposit in such circumstances. Deposits are non-transferable and non-refundable except as expressly set out in these Terms & Conditions. We therefore recommend that you have adequate insurance to cover this.

The balance of the tour price (after deduction of the applicable deposit) must be received by us no less than 90 days prior to the start of your tour. If we do not receive all payments due (including any surcharge where applicable) in full and on time, we are entitled to believe that you wish to cancel your booking. In this case, we will be entitled to keep all deposits paid or due at that date. If we do not cancel straight away because you have promised to make payment, you must pay the cancellation fees shown in clause 15 depending on the date we reasonably treat your booking as cancelled.

Please Note: If you are a single passenger, the applicable single supplement will be added to your invoice at the time of your booking. We will aim to accommodate single passengers in twin or double rooms, with single occupancy.

7. Your contract

Subject to availability we will confirm your booking by issuing our confirmation invoice. This invoice will be sent to the lead name on the booking (“Lead Name”). If your confirmed arrangements include a flight, we will also issue you with an ATOL Certificate. Upon receipt, if you believe that any details on the ATOL Certificate or confirmation invoice or any other document are wrong you must advise us immediately as changes cannot be made later and it may harm your rights if we are not notified of any inaccuracies in any document within ten days of our sending it out (five days for tickets).

A binding contract between you and us comes into existence when we dispatch our confirmation invoice for all bookings.

8. Law and jurisdiction

We both agree that English law (and no other) will apply to your contract and to any dispute, claim or other matter of any description which arises between us (“claim”) (except as set out below). We both also agree that any claim (and whether or not involving any personal injury) must be dealt with by the Courts of England and Wales only unless, in the case of court proceedings, you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In this case, proceedings must either be brought in the courts of your home country or those of England and Wales. If proceedings are brought in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose to have your contract and any claim governed by the law of Scotland/Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply).

9. What are your obligations whilst on tour?

- You must follow the Tour Manager’s or, where applicable, Coach Captain’s instructions at all times to ensure on tour safety. You acknowledge that failure to do so may result in restricted access to places of interest on tour or, if necessary for your own safety and/or that of other passengers, withdrawal from the tour.
- All our customers are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and acceptable manner and not to disrupt the enjoyment of others. If we, or our staff or suppliers, are of the view you are negatively affecting your own health, safety or environment or that of other passengers, we can oblige you to withdraw from the tour immediately and we will terminate your booking with us with immediate effect. We will have no further obligations to you and/or your party and we will not be liable to you for any loss, cost or damage resulting from your withdrawal. If you are withdrawn from the tour, you must make your own return travel arrangements at your own expense

No refunds for lost accommodation or any other arrangements will be made. You and/or your party may also be required to pay for loss and/or damage caused by your actions and we will hold you and each member of your party jointly and individually liable for any damage or losses caused by you or any member of your party. Full payment for any such damage or losses must be paid directly to the hotel manager or other supplier prior to departure. If you fail to make payment, you will be responsible for meeting any claims (including legal costs) subsequently made against us as a result of your actions together with all costs we incur in pursuing any claim against you.

- You must make your own enquiries regarding your tour, including being aware of any relevant government travel or safety warnings.

10. Tour price

Prices shown in our brochures and on the website are believed correct at the time of publication. We reserve the right to alter our advertised (brochure or website) tour prices, introduce supplements or correct pricing errors at any time before your booking is confirmed. We also reserve the right to correct any errors in any tour price and not be legally bound in the case of incorrect pricing and acknowledgement of such an error does not mean acceptance of it. We will advise you of any error of which we are aware and of the revised applicable price at the time of booking. Once the tour price has been confirmed at the time of booking, clause 11 below will apply.

11. Price Promise and Covid Guarantee

Early booking offers: Whilst we may offer promotional discounts and/or additional inclusions on some tours, these offers reduce in value closer to the departure date meaning the earlier you book the better offer you will receive. Last minute discounts: It is our policy never to sell any holiday cheaper than originally advertised. In the unlikely event we reduce the price of your holiday to below what you have already paid (after any discounts have been applied), we will contact you to refund the difference. **No surcharges*:** We guarantee that no surcharge will be added to the basic price of your holiday once your booking has been confirmed, irrespective of any fluctuation in currency exchange rates, increases in international included economy air fares, or increases in other costs associated with your holiday other than the circumstances set out in the paragraph below which are expressly excluded from the price promise. In return for this guarantee and its risk to us, we shall not be able to make any refunds in the event of favourable exchange rate variations or other decreases in costs which would otherwise result in the reduction of the selling price except for the circumstances identified in the paragraph below.

Price match: Price match applies to an identical holiday operated by another tour operator (excluding travel agents and arrangements made independently) at the same or a lower price within 7 days of booking with us. By ‘identical holiday’, we mean one which: (i) departs on the same day from the same airport, with the same flight number and carrier, (ii) visits the same destination(s) for the same duration and offers the same number of included excursions/meals, (iii) features the same accommodation and board basis, and (iv) utilises the same services of a Tour Manager/Coach Captain. If this happens we will refund the difference between the cost of the holiday you have booked with us and the price of the identical holiday offered by the competitor. Plus, we will give you £200 per person towards a future booking. Our Price Promise applies once a booking is confirmed and a contract exists between us. It applies to tour prices only and does not include ad hoc or optional services such as airline upgrades, holiday additions, extended stays or regional connecting flights. Additionally, this price promise does not apply to optional services including, but not limited to, visa charges, excursions and amendment fees.

***Exclusion:** The price promise excludes surcharges which are a direct consequence of changes in the level of taxes, fuel surcharges or fees chargeable for services applicable to the holiday imposed by third parties not directly involved in the performance of the holiday, including, but not limited to, tourist taxes, landing taxes, embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports or airline fuel surcharges. Where such circumstances apply, you will be charged for the amount of any increase in accordance with this clause. However, if this means that you have to pay an increase of more than 8% of the price of your confirmed holiday (excluding any insurance premiums, amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements), you will have the option of accepting a change to another holiday if we are able to offer one (if this is of lower quality you will be refunded the difference in price), or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid to us, except for any insurance premiums and any amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements. Should you decide to cancel for this reason, you must exercise your right to do so within 7 days from the issue date printed on your final invoice. We will consider an appropriate refund of insurance premiums paid if you can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy. Should the price of your holiday go down due to the changes mentioned above, then any refund due will be paid to you less an administrative fee of £25. There will be no change made to the price of your confirmed holiday within 20 days of your departure nor will refunds be paid during this period.

Covid Guarantee: If Distant Journeys is unable to operate your tour as planned due to Covid-19 (a Force Majeure event), we will notify you as soon as possible. If there is time to do so before your departure date, and if available, Distant Journeys will offer you the following options:

- (for significant changes to your tour) accepting a change to your tour (including, but not limited to, changes to certain arrangements that make up your tour, a change to another tour or deferring your tour to a later departure date); or

- purchasing alternative arrangements from Distant Journeys, of a similar standard to those booked if available, with you paying a supplement if the alternative arrangements are more expensive than those originally booked (you will receive a refund if you select an alternative which is of lower value); or
- cancelling or accepting the cancellation of your tour and receiving a full refund of all monies you have paid to Distant Journeys, in accordance with these Terms & Conditions.

The above options will not be available where any change made to your tour as a result of Covid-19 is considered a minor change (please see clause 14). Please note that before you travel you should ensure that you and each member of your party have obtained adequate travel insurance (see clause 18). Where you and/or a member of your party are forced to cancel your tour due to contracting Covid-19, we will be unable to refund any monies paid (outside the scope of our Terms & Conditions) and will direct you to your travel insurer.

12. Tour features

The features of the tour are set out in the tour brochure. We make no representations about the features of any tour other than those expressly set out in the tour brochure and these terms and conditions.

13. Brochure validity

The tour brochure and these Terms & Conditions are valid for the departure dates as stated in the tour brochure, or additional departure dates we may introduce, unless otherwise expressly advised by us.

14. Variation or cancellation by us

As we plan your holiday arrangements many months in advance we may occasionally have to make changes or cancel your booking and we reserve the right to do so at any time. We reserve the right to alter or change the accommodation, carriers, vehicles, vessels or any other service(s) which form part of any tour at any time for any reason and cancel or alter the itinerary and/or tour at any time without notice as we consider necessary for any reason whatsoever including road, weather or traffic conditions, non-performance of suppliers, industrial action, operational conditions and requirements, water level problems, excessive winds or Force Majeure. Errors in the details of advertised and/or confirmed tours and/or other details occasionally occur and we reserve the right to correct these whenever they occur.

- In the event of industrial action affecting air, rail, cruise or other tour related transportation we will make every effort to contact the lead name and advise of alternative arrangements (if any).
- Most changes made to a confirmed tour are minor. If we make a minor change to your holiday, we will make reasonable efforts to inform you as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure but we will have no liability to you. Examples of minor changes include alteration of your outward/return flights and/or coach journeys by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type, change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard, changes of carriers. Please note that carriers such as airlines used in the brochure may be subject to change.
- Occasionally, we have to make a significant change to or cancel a confirmed tour and we reserve the right to do so. A significant change is a change made before departure which, taking account of the information you give us at the time of booking or which we can reasonably be expected to know as a tour operator, we can reasonably expect to have a significant effect on your tour. Examples of “significant changes” include the following, when made before departure:
 - A change of accommodation area for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
 - A change of accommodation to that of a lower standard or classification for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
 - A change of outward departure time or overall length of your arrangements by more than 12 hours.
 - A change of UK departure airport except between:
 - The London airports: Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Stansted, London City and Southend
 - The South Coast airports: Southampton, Bournemouth and Exeter
 - The South Western airports: Cardiff and Bristol
 - The Midlands airports: Birmingham, East Midlands and Doncaster Sheffield
 - The Northern airports: Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds Bradford
 - The North Eastern airports: Newcastle and Teesside
 - The Scottish airports: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick and Aberdeen
 - A significant change to your itinerary, missing out one or more destination entirely.

We will not cancel your travel arrangements less than 90 days before your departure date, except for reasons of Force Majeure, failure by you to pay the final balance or where the minimum number of clients required for a particular tour is not reached.

- If we have to make a significant change or cancel, we will tell you as soon as possible. If there is time to do so before departure, you will be offered the following options: (for significant changes) accepting the changed arrangements; or
- purchasing alternative arrangements from us, of a similar standard to those booked if available, with you paying a supplement if the alternative arrangements are more expensive than those originally booked (you will receive a refund if you select an alternative which is of lower value); or
- cancelling or accepting the cancellation and receiving a full refund of all monies you have paid to us.

You must notify us of your choice within 7 days of our offer. If we do not hear from you within 7 days, we will contact you again to request notification of your choice.

If you fail to respond again, we will assume that you have chosen to accept the change or alternative booking arrangements. Please note, the above options are not available where any change made is a minor one.

- If we have to make a significant change to or cancel a confirmed tour, we will in addition to the options set out above pay you reasonable compensation in the following circumstances*:

- If, where we make a significant change, you do not accept the changed arrangements and cancel your booking; or
- If we cancel your booking and no alternative arrangements are available and/or we do not offer one.

The compensation that we offer does not exclude you from claiming more if you are entitled to do so.

Period before departure within which notice of Cancellation or major change is notified to you	Compensation payable per person booking
91 days or more	Nil
75 - 90 days prior to departure	£10
60 - 74 days prior to departure	£20
30 - 59 days prior to departure	£30
Less than 30 days prior to departure	£40

IMPORTANT NOTE: We will not pay you compensation in the following circumstances:

- where we make a minor change;
- where we make a significant change or cancel your booking and you do not accept the change; or
- where we make a significant change and you accept those changed arrangements or you accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements;
- where we have to cancel your arrangements as a result of your failure to make full payment on time;
- where the change or cancellation by us arises out of alterations to the confirmed booking requested by you;
- where we cancel due to insufficient bookings;
- where we are forced to cancel or change your arrangements due to Force Majeure.

Very rarely, we may become unable to provide a significant proportion of the arrangements that you have booked with us after you have departed. If that occurs we will, if possible, make alternative arrangements for you at no extra charge and where those alternative arrangements are of a lower standard, provide you with an appropriate price reduction.

15. Amendment or cancellation by you

If you wish to make any amendments to your confirmed booking you must notify us in writing as soon as possible. Whilst we will do our best to assist, it may not always be possible to make such amendments. Where we can, an amendment fee of £75 per person will be payable together with any costs incurred by ourselves and any costs or charges incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers in making this change. You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and you should contact us as soon as possible. A change of tour dates will normally be treated as a cancellation of the original booking and rebooking in which case cancellation fees will apply. Changes may result in the recalculation of the tour price where, for example, the basis on which the price of the original tour was calculated has changed. Where we are unable to assist you and you do not wish to proceed with the original booking we will treat this as a cancellation by you. A cancellation fee may be payable in accordance with these Terms & Conditions.

Transfer of booking:

- If you or any member of your party is prevented from travelling, that person(s) may transfer their place to someone else, subject to the following conditions:
- that person is introduced by you and satisfies all the conditions applicable to the holiday;
 - we are notified not less than 7 days before departure;
 - you pay any outstanding balance payment, an amendment fee of £75 per person transferring, as well as any additional fees, charges or other costs arising from the transfer; and
 - the transferee agrees to these Terms & Conditions and all other terms of the contract between us.

You and the transferee remain jointly and severally liable for payment of all sums. If you are unable to find a replacement, cancellation fees as set out below will apply in order to cover our estimated costs. Otherwise, no refunds will be given for passengers not travelling or for unused services.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements. Air Passenger Duty will always be non-refundable.

You may cancel your booking by notice to us in writing, this may be by letter or email, and payment of the applicable cancellation fee as shown below. Cancellation notifications are not effective until received by us in writing (if received by us on a weekend day or public holiday the notification will be treated as having been received by us on the next working day). Should one or more member of a party cancel, it may increase the per person holiday price of those still travelling and you will be liable to pay this increase.

The following cancellation fees apply to each individual person who cancels and where shown as a percentage are based on the total cost of the arrangements which are being cancelled excluding any insurance premiums, amendment fee or previously incurred cancellation fees which are all non-refundable in the event of your cancellation:

Cancellation fees

Period before your tour commences within which written notification of cancellation is received by us:

Tour cancellation period	Fee per person
More than 90 days prior to departure	Loss of Deposit
90 days to 75 days prior to departure	50% of holiday price
74 days to 60 days prior to departure	60% of holiday price
59 days to 30 days prior to departure	75% of holiday price
30 days prior to departure or less	100% of holiday price

NB Transferring to another departure date is highly likely to be treated as a cancellation by our suppliers and the cancellation fees above will apply. Depending on the reason for cancellation, you may be able to reclaim these cancellation charges (less any applicable excess) under the terms of your insurance policy. Claims must be made directly to the insurance company concerned.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements. Air Passenger Duty will always be non-refundable.

Cancellation by you due to unavoidable & extraordinary circumstances:

You have the right to cancel your confirmed holiday before departure without paying a cancellation charge in the event of “unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances” occurring at your holiday destination or its immediate vicinity and significantly affecting the performance of the holiday or significantly affecting the transport arrangements to the destination. In these circumstances, we shall provide you with a full refund of the monies you have paid but we will not be liable to pay you any additional compensation. Please note that your right to cancel in these circumstances will only apply where the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office advises against travel to your destination or its immediate vicinity. For the purposes of this clause, “unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances” means warfare, acts of terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely to the travel destination. This clause 15 outlines the rights you have if you wish to cancel your booking. Please note that there is no automatic statutory right of cancellation under the Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013.

16. Our liability

- We will accept responsibility for the arrangements we agree to provide or arrange for you as an “organiser” under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 (as amended), as set out below and as such, we are responsible for the proper provision of all travel services included in your package, as set out in your confirmation invoice. Subject to these Terms & Conditions, if we or our suppliers negligently perform or arrange those services and we don't remedy or resolve your complaint within a reasonable period of time, and this has affected the enjoyment of your package holiday you may be entitled to an appropriate price reduction or compensation or both. You must inform us without undue delay of any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services included in this package. The level of any such price reduction or compensation will be calculated taking into consideration all relevant factors such as but not limited to: following the complaints procedure as described in these Terms & Conditions and the extent to which ours or our employees' or suppliers' negligence affected the overall enjoyment of your holiday. Please note that it is your responsibility to show that we or our supplier(s) have been negligent if you wish to make a claim against us.
- We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any injury, illness, death, loss, damage, expense, cost or other claim of any description if it results from:
 - the acts and/or omissions of the person affected; or
 - the acts and/or omissions of a third party unconnected with the provision of the services contracted for and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable; or
 - Force Majeure.
- We limit the amount of compensation we may have to pay you if we are found liable under this clause:
 - loss of and/or damage to any luggage or mobility aids or personal possessions and money: the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is an amount equivalent to the excess on your insurance policy which applies to this type of loss per person in total because you are required to have adequate insurance in place to cover any losses of this kind.
 - Claims not falling under (a) above and which don't involve injury, illness or death: the maximum amount we will have

to pay you in respect of these claims is up to three times the price paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total. This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you or your party has not received any benefit at all from your booking.

- Claims in respect of international travel by air, sea and rail, or any stay in a hotel:
- Where applicable, the extent of our liability will in all cases be limited as if we were carriers under the appropriate Conventions, which include The Warsaw/Montreal Convention (international travel by air); The Athens Convention (with respect to sea travel); The Berne/Cotif Convention (with respect to rail travel) and The Paris Convention (with respect to hotel arrangements). You can ask for copies of these Conventions from our offices. Please contact us. In addition, you agree that the operating carrier or transport company's own 'Conditions of Carriage' will apply to you on that journey. When arranging transportation for you, we rely on the terms and conditions contained within these international conventions and those 'Conditions of Carriage'. You acknowledge that all of the terms and conditions contained in those 'Conditions of Carriage' form part of your contract with us, as well as with the transport company and that those 'Conditions of Carriage' shall be deemed to be included by reference into this contract.
- Where applicable, in any circumstances in which a carrier is liable to you by virtue of EC 261/2004 (denied boarding and flight disruption), any liability we may have to you under our contract with you, arising out of the same facts, is limited to the remedies provided under the Regulation as if (for this purpose only) we were a carrier.
- When making any payment, we are entitled to deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the transport provider or hotelier for the complaint or claim in question.
- It is a condition of our acceptance of liability under this clause that you notify any claim to us and our supplier(s) strictly in accordance with the complaints procedure set out in these conditions.
- Where any payment is made, the person(s) receiving it (and their parent or guardian if under 18 years) must also assign to us or our insurers any rights they may have to pursue any third party and must provide ourselves and our insurers with all assistance we may reasonably require.
- Please note, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss or expense or other sum(s) of any description:
 - which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you;
 - relate to any business;
 - indirect or consequential loss of any kind.
- We will not accept responsibility for services or facilities which do not form part of our agreement or where they are not advertised in our brochure. For example any excursion you book whilst away, or any service or facility which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you.
- Where it is impossible for you to return to your departure point as per the agreed return date of your package, due to “unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances”, we shall provide you with any necessary accommodation (where possible, of a comparable standard) for a period not exceeding three nights per person. Please note that the 3 night cap does not apply to persons with reduced mobility, pregnant women or unaccompanied minors, nor to persons needing specific medical assistance, provided we have been notified of these particular needs at least 48 hours before the start of your holiday. For the purposes of this clause, “unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances” mean warfare, acts of terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely back to your departure point.

17. Carriers

The applicable conditions of sale / carriage in use by the carriers will apply to you. These may limit or exclude the carriers' liability to you, usually in accordance with international conventions. Copies of these are available on request.

18. Risk and travel insurance

You acknowledge and accept that there are inherent risks associated with our tours, for example events of Force Majeure, hazards of travelling in undeveloped areas, travel by boat, train, automobile, aircraft or other means of transportation particularly in underdeveloped countries or more remote locations, forces of nature, political unrest and accident, illness, epidemics or pandemics in regions without means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities. We cannot accept any liability regarding the provision of medical care or the adequacy of any care that may be rendered where it is provided by third parties.

It is a condition of your booking and your responsibility to ensure that you have sufficient and valid travel insurance to cover your booking with us. We reserve the right to decline your booking if adequate proof of such current and valid travel insurance is not provided to us if requested. Please note that we do not check individual policies for suitability. We insist you take out appropriate travel insurance to cover as a minimum: pre-existing medical conditions, medical expenses, repatriation in the event of accident or illness, cancellation by you for any reason, cancellation charges, loss of luggage, early return following death of a relative as defined

in the respective proposal forms or emergency repatriation, for example in the event of accident or illness. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance fully covers all your personal requirements and the specific risks outlined above. Please read your policy details carefully and take them with you on your tour. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance cover you purchase is suitable and adequate for your particular needs.

If you choose to travel without adequate insurance cover, we will not be liable for any losses no matter how arising, in respect of which insurance cover would otherwise have been available. If you have any questions, these should be raised with your travel insurance provider.

19. Itinerary changes and travel advice

During local or national holidays, certain facilities such as museums and restaurants, sightseeing tours and shopping may be limited or not available. Alternatives will be offered if possible. Your safety is our first consideration and if the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) advises against travel to a certain country, we act on this advice. The FCDO issues regular advice and updates on its website www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice which you are recommended to consult before booking and in good time before departure. You are responsible for making yourself aware of FCDO advice in regard to the safety of the countries and areas in which you will be travelling and to make your decisions accordingly.

20. Baggage allowance

You are entitled to carry one suitcase per person with the total sum of its length, width and height not exceeding 160cm (63 inches) and weight 20kg (44 lbs). Hand luggage must have a total sum of its length, width and height not exceeding 115cm (45 inches) and weight 5kg (11lbs). Personal and valuable items such as make-up, the cameras, medication, passport, money/credit cards etc should be carried in a travel bag or on your person. You must ensure that the luggage meets the weight requirements as overweight or oversize items will not be carried. Some carriers may impose a small surcharge per day for a second suitcase per person. Excess baggage is always at your cost.

21. Young travellers

Travellers who are less than 16 years old on the departure date must be accompanied by and share a room with an adult aged 16 or over. Children under 8 years of age cannot be accepted on our tours.

22. Complaints

If a problem occurs during your tour, you must advise our representative immediately so that steps can be taken to resolve the matter and you can continue to enjoy the remainder of your tour. You must also advise the supplier concerned. If your complaint is not resolved locally, please contact us by email at info@distantjourneys.co.uk or call 01695 577 961. If you remain dissatisfied, any complaint must ideally be made in writing to us giving full details within 30 days of the end of the tour. If you fail to follow this procedure, your right to claim compensation you may otherwise have been entitled to may be affected or even lost as a result.

23. Tour price and duration

All prices in our brochure(s) are quoted in English pounds (Sterling). All prices in our brochure(s) are believed to be correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing but errors may occur and prices are subject to change. You must therefore ensure you check all details of your chosen tour (including the price) with us at the time of booking. The number of days duration stated in each itinerary includes day of departure and day of return. Tour durations may vary should you choose to have a stopover, and airline flight schedules and the itineraries in our brochure(s) should be used as a guide only.

24. Included in your fare

All airfares from the UK in economy class (unless specified at the time of booking), coach travel and overseas transfers* whilst travelling as part of the group or on one of our organised stopover programmes, service of a Tour Manager or Coach Captain (if applicable), portorage whilst on tour, airport transfers, meals as specified, accommodation as specified (please note, the third bed in a triple room may be a rollaway bed), sightseeing and admissions and other services as expressly indicated in the itinerary. * Should you be travelling outside of the main group travel dates from or to the UK transfers are not included on any outbound or return stopovers. These are available to purchase at an additional cost.

NOT included in your fare

Meals not specified in the itinerary, drinks unless specified in the itinerary, laundry, passport and visa fees, expenses of a personal nature and any other items which are not expressly included in the cost of your tour. Changes to flight schedules may require additional overnight accommodation at either commencement or completion of tour which is at your own expense.

25. Airfare conditions

Your Distant Journeys travel expert will book the most appropriate fare for your tour based on the information you provide to us. Full details and conditions may be obtained from your travel expert. Changes to original tickets will incur amendment or cancellation fees, are subject to availability and surcharges may apply. Please see clause 15 above. Please note: all airfares are subject to routing restrictions. Airfares and applicable taxes are subject to increase without notice due to fare and tax changes, surcharges dependent on class available at time of booking and other factors outside our control, subject to the provisions of clause 11 (Price Promise) above. Please contact your travel consultant for the applicable rules and regulations. At the time of booking please ensure you supply your

first name and surname as they appear in your passport, as these must be stated on your flight ticket. In some instances, the airline will also request your middle name. You may not be able to travel if the name on your passport and documents do not match. Any costs for ticket changes due to an incorrect name on paperwork which has been sent to you, will result in a cost which we will pass on to you.

26. Flights

For flight inclusive tours, the flight timings given on booking are for general guidance only and are subject to change. The latest timings will be shown on your confirmation documents. As flights only become available to book around 11 months in advance, we are only able to confirm upgrade prices at time of booking your flights. However, the actual flight times will be those shown on your tickets which will be dispatched to you approximately two weeks before departure. You must accordingly check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times. It is possible that flight times may be changed even after tickets have been dispatched - we will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs. Distant Journeys has no control over the allocation of seats by the airline, and even if you have requested or made payment directly with the airline to pre-book seats, no guarantees can be made. The provision of such seats does not constitute a term of your contract with Distant Journeys.

Where applicable and in accordance with EU Directive (EC) No 2111/2005, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a “Community List” which contains details of air carriers that are subject to an operating ban within the European Union. The Community list is available for inspection at https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/safety/air-ban_en. We are also required to advise you of the carrier(s) (or, if the carrier(s) is not known, the likely carrier(s)) that will operate your flight(s) at the time of booking. Where we are only able to inform you of the likely carrier(s) at the time of booking, we shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of this. Any change to the operating carrier(s) after your booking has been confirmed will be notified to you as soon as possible. Any change in the identity of the carrier, flight timings, and/ or aircraft type (where advised) will not entitle you to cancel or change to other arrangements without paying our normal charges except where specified in these Terms & Conditions. If the carrier with whom you have a confirmed reservation becomes subject to an operating ban as above as a result of which we/ the carrier are unable to offer you a suitable alternative the provisions of clause 12 will apply.

If you suffer a delay in your outbound travel arrangements, we will do our best to ensure you make the start of your tour or, if this cannot be achieved, join it as soon as possible. Any costs we incur in making any alternative arrangements in this situation where the delay was due to your own actions will be your responsibility. In the event of a flight delay, the airline concerned may provide refreshments and/or other assistance depending on factors such as the length of the delay, time of day and number of passengers affected. We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in the definition of “Force Majeure” (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on the flight who, for example, fails to check in or board on time).

If your flight is cancelled or delayed, your flight ticket is downgraded or boarding is denied by your airline, depending on the circumstances, the airline may be required to pay you compensation, refund the cost of your flight and/or provide you with accommodation and/or refreshments under the Denied Boarding Regulations 2004. Where applicable, you must pursue the airline for the compensation or other payment due to you. All sums you receive or are entitled to receive from the airline concerned by virtue of these Regulations represent the full amount of your entitlement to compensation or any other payment arising from such cancellation, delay, downgrading or denied boarding. This includes any disappointment, distress, inconvenience or effect on any other arrangements. The fact a delay may entitle you to cancel your flight does not automatically entitle you to cancel any other arrangements even where those arrangements have been made in conjunction with your flight. We have no liability to make any payment to you in relation to the Denied Boarding Regulations or in respect of any flight cancellation or delay, downgrading of any flight ticket or denial of any boarding as the full amount of your entitlement to any compensation or other payment (as dealt with above) is covered by the airline's obligations under the Denied Boarding Regulations. If for any reason, we make any payment to you or a third party which the airline is responsible for in accordance with the Denied Boarding Regulations, you must, when requested, assign to us the rights you have or had to claim the payment in question from the airline. If the airline does not comply with these rules, you should refer to the Civil Aviation Authority at www.caa.co.uk/Passengers/Resolving-travel-problems/

A number of Governments are introducing new requirements for air carriers to provide personal information about all travellers on their aircraft to the Authorities before the aircraft leaves the UK. The data will be collected either at the airport when you check in or in some circumstances when, or after you make your booking. Accordingly, you are advised to allow extra time to check in for your flight. Where we collect this data, we will treat it in accordance with our Privacy Policy.

27. Passports and visas

You must have a valid passport with at least 6 months validity following your return date. It is your responsibility to ensure any visas required for countries to be visited on the tour have been obtained prior to the tour departure date. Failure to obtain correct

documentation, visas and/or any other requirements for travel will mean that you may be unable to participate in particular excursions and may be denied boarding and/ or entry into certain countries.

Passport and visa entry requirements and costs are your sole responsibility. We can only provide general information about this. You must check requirements for your own specific circumstances with the relevant Embassies and/or Consulates as applicable. Requirements do change and you must check the up to date position in good time before departure. We cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure on your part to carry correct documentation. If failure to have any necessary travel or other documents results in fines, surcharges or other financial penalty being imposed on us, you will be responsible for reimbursing us accordingly.

Please note: The impacts of Brexit may change your visa, ticket and health requirements. Third country nationals may require an airport transit visa when passing through EU Member States. You should check any impacts of Brexit on your travel, in advance of your departure, to ensure that you fulfil the requirements post-Brexit, including any passport validly requirements. The UK Government passport checker can be found at www.gov.uk/check-a-passport-travel-europe

28. Insolvency protection

We provide financial security for flight-inclusive packages and ATOL protected flights by way of our Air Travel Organiser's Licence number 10913, issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK, telephone 0333 103 6350, email: claims@caa.co.uk. When you buy an ATOL protected product from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. For further information, visit the Civil Aviation Authority website at www.caa.co.uk/atol-protection/. The price of our flight inclusive arrangements includes the amount of £2.50 per person as part of the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. Not all holiday or travel services offered and sold by us will be protected by the ATOL Scheme. ATOL protection extends primarily to customers who book and pay in the United Kingdom and European Economic Area (EEA).

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with the services you have bought (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL Scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable).

If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

We provide full financial protection for our package holidays which don't include flights, by way of a bond held by The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited. The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for Distant Journeys (ABTOT membership number 5427) and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following:

- non-flight packages

ABTOT cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if transportation was included in your package. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Distant Journeys, 08994196. In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call our 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company.

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You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents/made>

29. Coaches

On our group tours, to ensure all passengers have the opportunity to enjoy front and window seats, a daily seat rotation system is employed on all of our coaches and you must follow the seat rotation system.

If you suffer from travel sickness, you should arrange medication or other alternatives to treat symptoms as we cannot make allowances in the seat rotation policy for this, in fairness to other guests.

30. Optional activities and dining

Optional activities and dining are subject to availability, seasonal / operational factors and minimum / maximum numbers. More details on optional tours may be found on our website. On occasion, it may not be possible to arrange an included activity. Suitable alternatives will be arranged. Inclusions may also be subject to change.

31. Vaccines, medication and medical services

Health facilities, hygiene and disease risks vary worldwide. It is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of all recommended vaccinations and health precautions for the countries you are visiting and ensure that vaccinations or preventative measures are taken early enough to be fully effective by the date of travel. You should take health advice about your specific needs as early as possible and recognise that advice may change, prior to your departure. Please see the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice and NHS Travel Vaccinations on <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/travel-vaccinations/> for up to date information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that any medication you need to carry is permitted to be taken into the countries you are visiting. We recommend you consult with your GP and relevant embassy before booking and review in good time before your departure as advice may change. Any medical services and costs required on tour are at your expense. We strongly recommend suitable and adequate travel insurance.

32. Images, photographs, maps and information
The photographs in the brochure and information provided represent typical scenes and descriptive detail for each tour, but it is possible that the subject matter may not be seen or experienced whilst on the tour itself. Some pictures may have been digitally enhanced.

Maps or tour depictions contained in this brochure or any other brochures issued by Distant Journeys, are intended as an indication only and should not be relied upon as the actual route taken during the tour. Distant Journeys are not liable to you for any variation to the tour.

33. Prompt assistance

If, whilst you are on holiday, you find yourself in difficulty for any reason, we will offer you such prompt assistance as is appropriate in the circumstances. In particular, we will provide you with appropriate information on health services, local authorities and consular assistance, and assistance with distance communications and finding alternative travel arrangements. Where you require assistance which is not owing to any failure by us, our employees or sub-contractors we will not be liable for the costs of any alternative travel arrangements or other such assistance you require. Any supplier, airline or other transport supplier may however pay for or provide refreshments and/or appropriate accommodation and you should make a claim directly to them. Subject to the other terms of these Terms & Conditions, we will not be liable for any costs, fees or charges you incur in the above circumstances, if you fail to obtain our prior authorisation before making your own travel arrangements. Furthermore, we reserve the right to charge you a fee for our assistance in the event that the difficulty is caused intentionally by you or a member of your party, or otherwise through your or your party's negligence.

34. Conditions of suppliers

Many of the services which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions which will form part of your contract with us. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable International Conventions. Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions are available on request from us or the supplier concerned.

35. Amendments to these Terms & Conditions

These Terms & Conditions may be subject to amendment from time to time. Amendments will be posted on the Distant Journeys website www.distantjourneys.co.uk

Other Destinations

South Africa

India

Sri Lanka

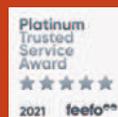
Japan

China

Vietnam

Cambodia

distantjournneys
Your Time to Explore



To book, call our travel experts FREE on

0800 141 3741

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

Email enquiries@distantjournneys.co.uk Visit www.distantjournneys.co.uk

Address 8 Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY