



Essential Australia

19 days from only £5,195 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 £328 per person
- Buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef
- Lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour

Unforgettable experiences

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

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 132-135.



Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road



Giant Sea Turtle, Great Barrier Reef



The Pinnacles

Essential Australia

Days 1 to 11: UK - Perth - Melbourne - Cairns - The Great Barrier Reef

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: Perth, 3 nights

Unless travelling on the non-stop Qantas flight from London Heathrow to Perth, all flights with Qantas & Emirates to Perth travel via Dubai. After clearing customs and collecting our luggage we board our waiting coach and transfer to Crowne Plaza Hotel, overlooking the beautiful Swan River. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: 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**

4: Perth 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. 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 5: Melbourne, 3 nights

It's an early start this morning, as we make our way to Perth Airport in time for our flight to Melbourne. On arrival, 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. Following our sightseeing, we transfer to the View Hotel, where we will stay for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 6: Melbourne Freedom Day

Our first of two Freedom Days in Melbourne where we can choose to do as much or as little as we please. This morning there is the option to take the Puffing Billy steam train through the Blue Dandenong Ranges, along Australia's most notable narrow-gauge railway. 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 7: Melbourne Freedom Day

A second Freedom Day in Melbourne. 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. **Breakfast included**

Day 8: Cairns, 4 nights

Sadly, we must say goodbye to Melbourne, but we will be consoled by the beauty of tropical Queensland which awaits. We return to Melbourne 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 a natural lagoon, fringed with beautiful coral, or if you prefer to stay dry, view the reef from the semi-submersible reef viewer or glass-bottomed boat. With ample time 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 a Seawalker Helmet dive, scuba diving (introductory and certified), 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. We continue our adventure with a visit to Rainforest Station, where we spend time with the Pamagirri Aboriginal people and learn about one of the oldest surviving cultures in the world. Travel back to Cairns on one of the most unique rail journeys in Australia, the Kuranda Scenic Railway. During our journey we encounter no fewer than 40 bridges and 15 tunnels as we make our way to Cairns. **Breakfast included**

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 visit to beautiful Mossman Gorge and a cruise spotting saltwater crocodiles. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Kuranda Railway & Skyrail

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





Koala



Uluru

Essential Australia

Days 12 to 17: Uluru - Alice Springs - Sydney

Day 12: Uluru, Overnight

Following breakfast, 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. Dating back some 300 million years, we may have the opportunity to catch our first glimpse of Uluru from our aircraft as we make our approach. Upon arrival, we travel to Uluru where we embark on a tour around its base and learn of its historical and cultural importance. Later, we relax with a glass of sparkling wine whilst witnessing the changing colours as the sun begins to set. It's truly a photographer's delight. Our accommodation tonight is the friendly Outback Pioneer. **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. After breakfast, we continue our day with a visit to the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as the Olgas. We then 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, where we spend the next two nights. **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. Your day has been left free to explore this outback town. 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: Sydney, 3 nights

This morning we say goodbye to Australia's Red Centre and board our flight to Sydney. Upon arrival we shall transfer to the Crowne Plaza Darling Harbour, home for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: 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 return 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 17: Sydney Freedom Day

Our final Freedom Day in Australia. 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 the pretty village of Leura, famous for their annual garden festivals and playing host to many of the region's local artists. **Breakfast included**



Western MacDonnell Ranges



Sydney Harbour



Merlion, Singapore



Dubai

Essential Australia

Days 18 to 19: Sydney - UK

Day 18: Depart Sydney

The day is your own 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 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 £195 per person

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

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 £495 per person

A relaxing sanctuary or fun-filled adventure, only 20 minutes from Singapore.

Bali - Three nights from £495 per person

A truly relaxing stopover on the white sands of the hotel's private beach.

Please see pages 126-127 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2023 Departures

06 November 2023 **£5,295** per person

2024 Departures

29 January 2024 **£5,395** per person

19 February 2024 **£5,295** per person

04 March 2024 **£5,295** per person

22 April 2024 **£5,195** per person

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement
£995.

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 £2,295 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.

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 132-135.

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 3745

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

