



Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

30 days from only £6,495 per person

Our Highlights of Australia and New Zealand tour is perfect for showcasing two very different but equally magical countries. Including all the must-see attractions and experiences 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 will 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 £481 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 132-135.



Singapore



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 M Hotel Singapore. **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, we transfer to the Grand Millennium Hotel Auckland, where we spend our first two nights in New Zealand. At the hotel, we meet our local Coach Captain, who will be our driver and guide during our time 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 centrally-located Rydges Hotel. **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 will 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. From here we visit 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 TSS 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**

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 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**

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



Standley Chasm, Western MacDonnell Ranges

Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 20 to 28: Great Barrier Reef - Cairns - Uluru - Alice Springs - Sydney

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. 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 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 visit to beautiful Mossman Gorge and a cruise spotting saltwater crocodiles. Enjoy your day! **Breakfast included**

Day 23: Uluru, Overnight Tour Highlight

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 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**

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. Alice Springs was originally established in the 1870's as a staging post for the overland telegraph line between Darwin and Adelaide. On arrival 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 Crowne Plaza Lasseters Hotel. **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 experience 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 the pretty village of Leura, famous for their annual garden festivals and playing host to many of the region's local artists. **Breakfast included**



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 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.

Departure Dates & Prices

2023 Departures

31 October 2023 £6,995 per person

2024 Departures

16 January 2024 £7,195 per person

30 January 2024 £7,195 per person

13 February 2024 £6,995 per person

12 March 2024 £6,995 per person

16 April 2024 £6,495 per person

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

£1,795.

16 April 2024 £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 £2,245 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 130-131.

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

