



# The Very Best of Australia

29 days from only £7,645 per person

29 days of discovery and adventure await you on our Very Best of Australia tour. You will explore 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 £522 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 132-135.





Penguins, Phillip Island



The Twelve Apostles



Perth

# 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 M Hotel Singapore. **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

An early start as 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 waterside 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, 3 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 three nights is the four star Pullman on the Park. **Breakfast included**

## Day 12: Melbourne Freedom Day

This is our first Freedom Day in Melbourne, where we have the opportunity to take a trip to Phillip Island, home to the world’s largest colony of little penguins, to view the ‘Penguin Parade’. Alternatively, take the Puffing Billy steam train through the Blue Dandenong Ranges. **Breakfast included**





Alice Springs



Koala

# The Very Best of Australia

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

## Day 13: Melbourne Freedom Day

With so much to do and see in and around Melbourne, a further Freedom Day is an opportunity to enjoy an optional tour along one of the world's most spectacular coastal drives, the internationally renowned Great Ocean Road. The full day tour begins in Torquay (home to the surfing paradise of Bells Beach) and meanders along the dramatic southwest coastline of Victoria to the impressive Twelve Apostles. **Breakfast included**

## Day 14: Uluru, Overnight

Following breakfast this morning, we board our flight to Uluru in Australia's Red Centre. Before landing we may have the opportunity to view the world's largest monolith from our aircraft. Rising from the flat surrounding scrubland, Uluru is a site of deep cultural significance to the Aboriginal communities of the Northern Territory. Upon arrival we make our way to the four star Desert Gardens Hotel.

## Tour Highlight

Later, we depart for a rock base tour enabling us to discover more about its historical and cultural importance. Enjoy a glass of sparkling wine with your travelling companions whilst witnessing the changing colours of Uluru as the sun begins to set. It's truly a photographer's delight. **Breakfast included**

## Day 15: Alice Springs, 2 nights

This morning, we have the option of viewing Uluru at sunrise. After breakfast we leave for a tour of the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as the Olgas, before travelling along the scenic Lasseter and Stuart Highways to Alice Springs. Upon arrival we make our way to the four star Crowne Plaza Lasseters Hotel. 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

*The Ghan was an experience not to be missed.*

Mr & Mrs Walker, Yorkshire





Katherine Gorge



Crocodile, Daintree Rainforest



Bondi Beach, Sydney

# The Very Best of Australia

Days 18 to 27: The Ghan - Darwin - Cairns - Great Barrier Reef - Sydney

## 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. 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: 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.



## 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 visit to beautiful Mossman Gorge 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

A Sydney Freedom Day to spend as you please. Although today has been left free, for those that so desire, we shall be taking an optional trip to the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains. The Blue Mountains are a perfect example of native Australian bushland, with gum trees, majestic peaks and deep gorges stretching as far as the eye can see. Experience the panoramas from a series of lookouts, including Echo Point – the prime position to view the Three Sisters rock formation. The excursion also visits 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



Dubai



Bangkok

# 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 tours of New Zealand makes perfect sense.

Please see pages 106-115 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 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

30 September 2023	£7,645 per person
21 October 2023	£7,645 per person
04 November 2023	£7,645 per person

## 2024 Departures

24 February 2024	£7,745 per person
02 March 2024	£7,745 per person

## Prices

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

## Single occupancy supplement

£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 £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

