

Australia | New Zealand

Escorted Touring Holidays **2024 – 2025**



distantjourneys
Your Time to Explore



Traditional Maori dance, New Zealand

“A Warm Welcome Awaits”



I am delighted to introduce our new Australia and New Zealand 2024/25 brochure, showcasing meticulously designed and insightful tours that allow you to truly explore these fascinating countries with Distant Journeys.

Australia is 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. 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.

Over the following pages you will find some of our best-selling tours alongside a sprinkling of new itineraries. As Distant Journeys celebrates its 10th birthday in 2024, I am reminded of what Andrew, Richard and I set out to do from the very beginning. Our aim is simple – to make every moment of your holiday as memorable as it should be.

With over 80 years of experience between us, and the support of an immensely passionate and knowledgeable team, both here in the UK and overseas, we have created an exciting style

of flexible touring holidays that meet 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. The exceptional quality of our touring holidays means that Distant Journeys has been a winner on 13 occasions at the prestigious British Travel Awards, and was also awarded a 'Platinum Trusted' rating by independent reviews provider Feefo, for consistently delivering an excellent level of customer service.

We are so proud our customers love what we do, and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank every single one of you for the loyalty and trust shown over the years. It has been our absolute honour to create these holidays of a lifetime for you, and we look forward to helping you plan your next adventure soon.

And, for those of you who haven't travelled with Distant Journeys yet, a very warm welcome. Our friendly travel professionals are experts in the destinations we visit and would love the opportunity to share their passion with you at any time.

With best wishes for the season ahead,

Simon Whittle
Managing Director

OUR DISTANT JOURNEYS...

For me, Australia felt a little bit like coming home. We have a fantastic team on the ground in Oz and they made me feel so welcome. Nothing was too much trouble, everything was taken care of so well, and they are so proud of their country. Listening to tales from our Tour Managers about the history, heritage and culture of Australia was spell-binding. The scenic flight over the Great Barrier Reef was a moment I'll never forget.

Amelia Hanson
Product Team



OUR DISTANT JOURNEYS...

For a small country, New Zealand has a huge variety of landscapes, from the beaches of subtropical Northland to Fiordland's dramatic peaks and glaciers. The Maori culture is fascinating, and New Zealanders are so proud to share their love of their homeland with visitors. What makes New Zealand special is that it's so remote, yet so familiar. I've been lucky to travel to many wonderful countries, but New Zealand is the place that stays in my heart.

Sarah Rimmer
Operations Team



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Why Choose Distant Journeys?



Award-winning holidays

Our aim is to offer exceptional value for money without compromising on the quality of your holiday. Our success is evident, with Distant Journeys winning at the prestigious British Travel Awards 13 times.



Meticulously designed tours

Many years of planning go into every detail of our holidays, and each element is carefully chosen with our customers' enjoyment in mind.



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 experiences offered.



Freedom to explore

Our holidays operate at a relaxed pace to give you plenty of time to fully explore and savour each area, as well as giving you some time to unwind. Many of our tours also have Freedom Days, to spend as you wish.



Hand-picked hotels

We only select accommodation which meets the high standards of quality, service and location our guests have come to expect.



Once in a lifetime experiences

From exciting rail journeys and cruises to exploring lesser-known gems, our holidays feature many incredible experiences which provide memories to cherish forever.



Expert Tour Managers, Coach Captains and local guides

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 warm, friendly personalities.



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.



Book with confidence

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.



Above: Great Ocean Road, Victoria, Australia
Below: Polynesian Spa, Lake Rotorua, North Island, New Zealand

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 you paid.

No additional charges

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 Booking Conditions on pages 148-151.

YOUR TOUR MANAGER SAYS...

Australia is so vast and there is so much to see. The shorter tours are perfect for those who are time-poor but curious to explore Australia. You will be rewarded with a lifetime passion for the country and the desire to return. And when you do, take the opportunity to develop a long-term relationship and really get to know Australia.



James Maccallum
Australia

YOUR COACH CAPTAIN SAYS...

Distant Journeys escorted tours have been designed over a great number of years by experienced staff, meaning that you can relax and enjoy New Zealand stress-free with everything arranged for you. Unique culture, nature, wildlife and geothermal phenomena means New Zealand should be top of your bucket list!













Peter Nonu
New Zealand

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

-  Return international flights from the UK on award-winning scheduled airlines, with all on-board meals and drinks included
-  Choice of regional UK airports on all Australia and/or New Zealand tours, without paying any extra
-  Choice of included outbound stopover on the majority of our tours to Australia and/or New Zealand, giving you the chance to explore a new and exciting destination
-  Carefully selected hotels offering quality and comfort. Daily breakfast is included in addition to a selection of other meals
-  Overseas transfers and transport, in modern air-conditioned coaches
-  Porter service for your luggage
-  All pre-payable airport and resort taxes. All the entrance fees to the many incredible places and monuments you will visit
-  Experienced Tour Managers, Coach Captains or local guides on all escorted tours
-  Once in a lifetime experiences
-  Visits to lesser-known hidden gems



Milford Sound, South Island, New Zealand

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL...

Travelled with Distant Journeys for the first time on their combined tours, the Very Best of New Zealand and the Very Best of Australia, with stopovers in both directions in Singapore. 56 days of pure delight. A fantastic, all-encompassing tour that covers virtually all key cities, staying in quality hotels and The Ghan train from Alice Springs to Darwin.

The pace of the tour was perfect with 14 'Freedom Days' to do your own exploring or take one of the many optional tours available. Our wonderfully titled 'Coach Captain' Peter in New Zealand really made this beautiful country even more special and our guide, James, led us expertly around Australia involving so many internal flights. If you want to 'do' Australia or New Zealand or both, then I suggest you look to Distant Journeys for their range of tours that are both comprehensive and great value.

Mr Kristiansen — Australia and New Zealand combination tour

Award-winning Customer Service

Great customer service is 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 support accordingly.

Our commitment to excellence 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 the destinations we visit, 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.

Experienced Tour Managers, Coach Captains and local guides

Distant Journeys' Tour Managers, Coach Captains and local guides 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; they are there to take away your concerns and ensure you have the best possible holiday.



Sundowner drinks, South Australia

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 always 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 132-141 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 Sofitel Sydney Wentworth 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.

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

OUR HEAD OF PRODUCT SAYS...

I would choose the Hilton Cairns Hotel as my favourite spot, primarily because of its top location overlooking Cairns Esplanade and Waterfront. Its close proximity to various tourist spots such as the Night Markets, Aquarium and Shopping Centres make it popular too. The hotel has its own restaurant and bar right on the waterfront, providing an exquisite setting for dinner or drinks. You can make the most of the glorious Aussie sunshine with a swim in the heated outdoor pool which is surrounded by sun loungers. After a day of exploring Cairns, it is the perfect place to relax!



Liz Reddy
Head of Product



Hilton Cairns Hotel, Queensland, Australia



Vintage W-Class Tram, Melbourne, Australia

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 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 & Emirates from a choice of regional UK airports, at no extra cost. Choose from London Heathrow, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle or Glasgow. Or, on selected itineraries you may fly with award-winning Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester.

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. See pages 144-145 for more.

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, with many activities and excursions to choose from.

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, Dubai or Bali. What's more, early bookers may be eligible for a fantastic offer on our homebound stopovers. Please see pages 142-143 for more details.

Once in a Lifetime Experiences

When you travel with Distant Journeys, you can be confident that all the must-see sights will be included, along with several extra special experiences to make your holiday as memorable as it should be.

The legendary Ghan

Imagine Australia's wonderful landscapes unfolding before you as you enjoy a leisurely dining experience on board 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 boat 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.

Natural New Zealand

New Zealand's landscapes are among the world's finest, from the bays and coves of subtropical Northland to the peaks and glaciers of Fiordland. Walk sections of the celebrated Milford and Kepler tracks and witness Rotorua's bubbling geothermal geysers.

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 Pacific 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.



Anti-clockwise from top: The Ghan, Australia; Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia
Australasian Gannets, New Zealand; Kepler Track, Fiordland, South Island, New Zealand



Essential Australia

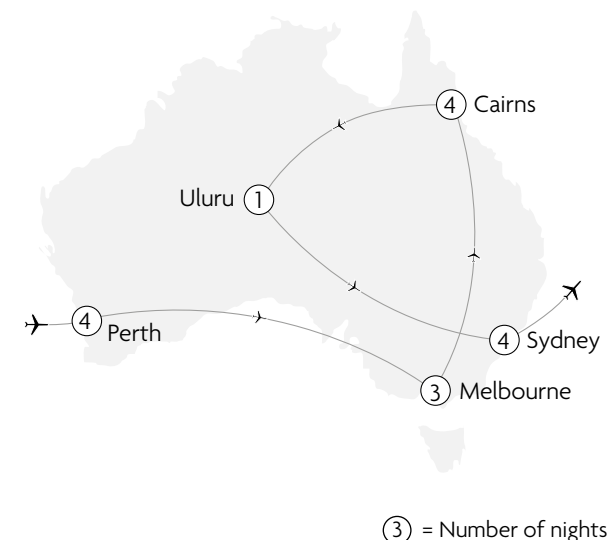
📅 19 days 💷 from £5,495pp 🌐 November 2024 – April 2025

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

Join Distant Journeys on our 19-day Essential Australia tour, our shortest trip down under, and 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, Essential Australia provides you with an amazing itinerary, at an unbeatable price.

Clockwise from above: Sydney Harbour, New South Wales; Great Barrier Reef, Queensland; Uluru, Northern Territory



Your holiday includes

✈️ Return economy flights with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. All domestic flights within Australia are also included

🏠 Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes

🍴 Meals worth £447 per person, with daily breakfast, a buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef and a lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour

🌐 Unforgettable experiences including:
★ Sightseeing tours in Perth, Melbourne and Sydney
★ Explore Caversham Wildlife Park
★ Full day excursion to the Great Barrier Reef
★ Experience Uluru at sunset and sunrise
★ Cruise Sydney's famous harbour

📖 Services of an experienced local Tour Manager

🚌 All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

🔒 Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 148-151.



Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road, Victoria



Giant Sea Turtle, Great Barrier Reef, Queensland



The Pinnacles, Western Australia

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, 4 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 the centrally-located Novotel Perth Langley Hotel. **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. Following a leisurely breakfast, we meet our Tour Manager and fellow travellers to find out more about our adventure ahead. Later, we enjoy the perfect introduction to Australia's native wildlife, during a visit to Caversham Wildlife Park. The park showcases many of Australia's unique and iconic animals, including koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, possums, Tasmanian devils and wombats. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Perth

This morning we have arranged a tour to explore Perth and nearby Fremantle. 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**

Day 5: 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, and assist with 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 6: Melbourne, 3 nights

In the morning, we make our way to Perth Airport in time for our flight to Melbourne. On arrival, we transfer to the centrally-located Clarion Gateway Suites, where we will stay for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 7: Melbourne

We take a first look at Melbourne on a sightseeing tour. Sights include Treasury Gardens, Victoria Markets, Federation Square, the Melbourne Cricket Ground 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

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 8: Melbourne Freedom Day

A Freedom Day in Melbourne, 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's first stop is 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 or perhaps take a tour 'Around the Bay in a Day'. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: 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 Hotel, home for the next four nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 10: 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 a marine biologist on a guided snorkel safari, or soaring above the reef on a spectacular scenic helicopter flight. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 11: 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**

We recommend

Kuranda Railway & Skyrail

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





Koala

Essential Australia

Days 12 to 17: Cairns - Uluru - Sydney

Day 12: 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**

Day 13: 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. We continue our day with a visit to the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as the Olgas, and in the evening, 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 Hotel & Lodge. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: Sydney, 4 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 explore Uluru's visitor centre and continue to the airport, where we 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 15: 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**



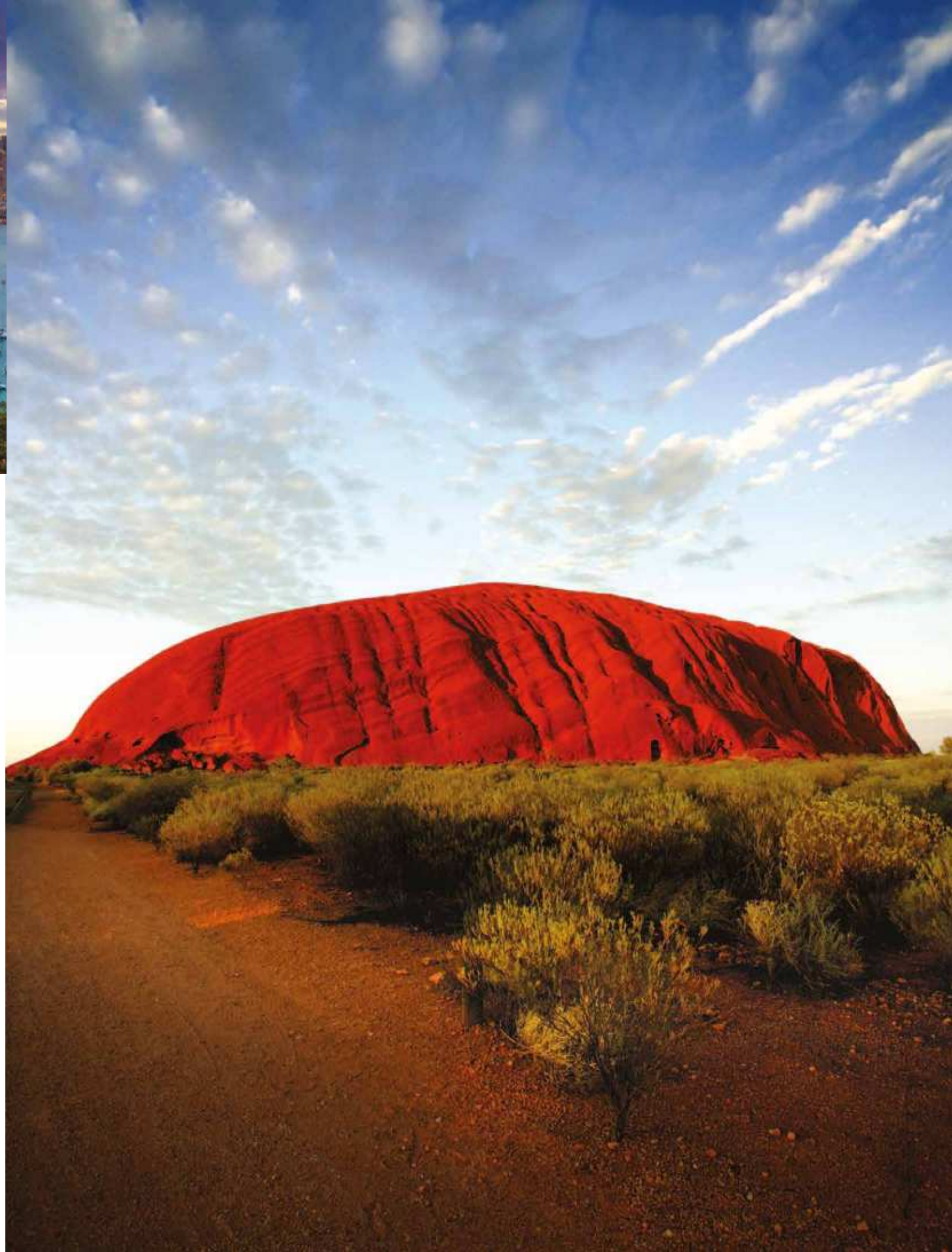
Harbour Bridge, Sydney, New South Wales

Day 16: Sydney Freedom Day

A Freedom Day in Sydney. 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, and includes afternoon tea at the historic Hydro Majestic Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 17: 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**



Uluru, Northern Territory



Sydney Harbour, New South Wales



Merlion Park, Singapore



Jumeirah Beach, 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**

Why not combine with a tour of New Zealand?



If you wish to make the ultimate journey to Australasia, combine Essential Australia with one of our incredible New Zealand tours.

Please see pages 128-129 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 142-143 for more details on homebound stopovers.

2024 Departures

04 November 2024 **£5,495** per person

2025 Departures

27 January 2025 **£5,595** per person

17 February 2025 **£5,495** per person

03 March 2025 **£5,495** per person

07 April 2025 **£5,495** per person

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

£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 £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 Booking Conditions are available on pages 148-151.

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





Clockwise from above: The Ghan; Gardens by the Bay, Singapore; Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road, Victoria



Wonders of Australia

📅 22 days 💷 from £6,895pp 🌐 October 2024 – July 2025

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.

This is a country of great contrasts and immense beauty and the Wonders of Australia tour offers a fabulous way to explore it all 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.



Your holiday includes

- Return economy flights with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. All domestic flights within Australia are also included
- Choice of three-night outbound stopover – choose from Singapore or Dubai
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £596 per person, with daily breakfast, a buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef and a lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour
- Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ 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
 - ★ Cruise Sydney's famous harbour
- Overnight journey on-board The Ghan train, on an all-inclusive basis, with all meals and selected alcoholic & soft drinks included
- Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
- All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 148-151.



Puffing Billy Steam Train, Victoria



Kangaroo



The Ghan

Wonders of Australia

Days 1 to 12: UK - Singapore - Melbourne - Adelaide - The Ghan - Alice Springs

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 M Hotel Singapore. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Alternative stopover: Dubai

We have based days 2-4 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 to savour a Singapore Sling. Discover the wonderful Gardens by the Bay, visit Singapore Zoo or maybe indulge in some of 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 Points by Sheraton Docklands, situated in the Docklands area of the city. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 6: Melbourne

After breakfast, we enjoy a 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. Our afternoon is at leisure. Perhaps use this opportunity to take a trip to Phillip Island, home to the world's largest colony of Fairy Penguins, to view the 'Penguin Parade'. **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, and assist with excursions for you to further explore the area. For example, take the Puffing Billy steam train through the Blue Dandenong Ranges, 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.



Day 8: Adelaide, 2 nights

Following a leisurely breakfast, we head to the airport for 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 we 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 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 fascinating 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, air-conditioned, 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 Crowne Plaza Lasseters Hotel. In the evening, we highly recommend joining an outback bush barbecue. **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**



Uluru, Northern Territory



Great Barrier Reef, Queensland



Daintree River, Queensland

Wonders of Australia

Days 13 to 20: Uluru - Cairns - Great Barrier Reef - Sydney

Day 13: Uluru, Overnight Tour Highlight

Leaving Alice Springs, we head west through amazing outback landscapes as we travel along the 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. We take a gentle stroll around significant areas of the rock to learn more about its historical and cultural importance. Later, 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. Following breakfast 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 Hilton Cairns Hotel, 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 a 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. 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**

We recommend

Kuranda Railway & Skyrail

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



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 visit to beautiful Mossman Gorge 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 the pretty village of Leura and includes afternoon tea at the historic Hydro Majestic Hotel. **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, New South Wales



Sentosa Island, Singapore



View from the Burj Khalifa, 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, combine the Wonders of Australia with one of our incredible New Zealand tours.

Please see pages 128-129 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 142-143 for more details on homebound stopovers.

2024 Departures

11 October 2024	£6,895 per person
07 November 2024*	£6,895 per person

2025 Departures

21 February 2025	£6,895 per person
07 March 2025	£6,895 per person
04 April 2025	£6,895 per person
25 July 2025	£7,195 per person

* This date operates a variation of the tour as shown. Please call for details.

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement £1,245.

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 Booking Conditions are available on pages 148-151.

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





Clockwise from above: Wine tasting in the Yarra Valley, Victoria; Cassowary



NEW Enchanting Australia – A Small Group Adventure

📅 22 days 💷 from £8,295pp 🌐 October 2024 – April 2025

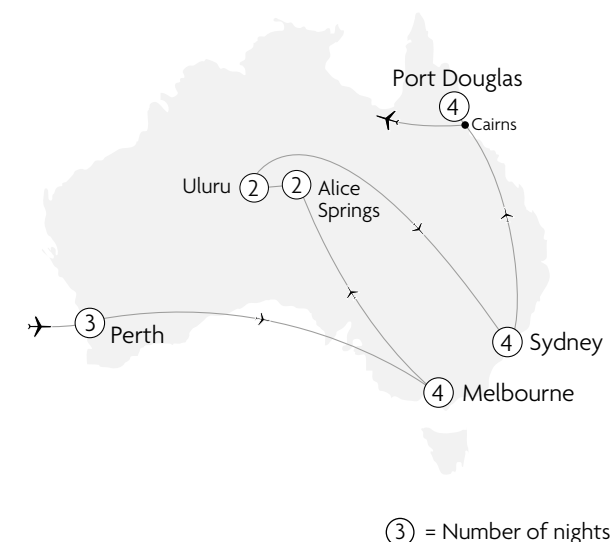
Australia is a truly diverse country and one of the most exciting destinations for a touring holiday – landscapes, culture and experiences are varied and intriguing, with so much to see and do.

Many of Australia's best kept secrets are accessible only to smaller groups, which is why we have designed this brand-new tour, exclusively for groups no larger than 16, which will provide an intimate experience with like-minded travellers.

Enchanting Australia gives you the chance to truly get under the skin of Australia, with 22 days of unmatched discovery, aimed at uncovering every aspect with local guides. You will explore must-see landmarks such as Sydney Harbour, Uluru and the Great Barrier Reef, alongside a whole host of lesser-known treasures. Enjoy a wine tasting in Yarra Valley; marvel at the incredible Blue Mountains and discover the Daintree Rainforest.

Food and drink play an important part in this holiday, with your local guides introducing you to the best places they like to visit, from hidden rooftop bars and restaurants, to sailing clubs with extraordinary views.

Take a tour of Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden with an Aboriginal guide and snorkel the Outer Barrier Reef. Other highlights include visits to the marine paradise of Rottnest Island and a journey to Phillip Island to watch the 'Penguin Parade'.



Your holiday includes



Small group touring, with max. 16 passengers



Return economy flights with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. All domestic flights within Australia are also included



Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes



Meals worth £733 per person, including daily breakfast, dinners in Fremantle, Melbourne, Phillip Island, Sydney and Port Douglas, a Yarra Valley winery lunch, barbecue lunch in Standley Chasm, afternoon tea in the Blue Mountains and lunch on the Barrier Reef



Unforgettable experiences including:

- ★ Sightseeing tours in Perth, Melbourne, Alice Springs and Sydney
- ★ Discover the beauty of Rottnest Island
- ★ Visit Rippon Lea Estate & Phillip Island for the Penguin Parade
- ★ Tour Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary and the Yarra Valley wine-growing region
- ★ Discover the Western MacDonnell Ranges
- ★ Experience Uluru at sunset and sunrise
- ★ Behind the scenes tour of the Opera House
- ★ Aboriginal guided tour of Sydney's Botanic Garden
- ★ Explore the Blue Mountains
- ★ Trip to Daintree Rainforest and Cape Tribulation
- ★ Cruise and snorkel the Outer Barrier Reef



Services of experienced local tour guides



All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout



Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 148-151.



Group dining



Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road, Victoria



Kangaroos

Enchanting Australia

Days 1 to 9: UK - Perth - Melbourne - Alice Springs

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from the UK airport most convenient for you with Singapore Airlines. Choose from London Heathrow or Manchester, and whichever you depart from, there is no extra cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Perth, 3 nights

After a transit in Singapore, we arrive into Australia and the wonderful city of Perth; capital of Western Australia and the world's most isolated city. After clearing customs, we'll be warmly greeted by our local guide and whisked to our home for our first three nights in Australia, The Melbourne Hotel. This evening, we shall gather for a welcome drink, providing an opportunity to meet our fellow travellers and learn more about the adventures ahead. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: Perth

Our first day in Perth begins with a sightseeing tour of the city and the surrounding area. First of all, we visit King's Park, a landscape of bushland, exotic trees like the baobab and rare wildflowers, affording glorious views over the city's skyline and Swan River. Our next stop is the white sands of Cottesloe Beach before heading to Elizabeth Quay and the Bell Tower, which, with its famous Swan Bells, is an iconic Perth landmark. Constructed to mark the new millennium, the tower houses 18 bells, 12 of which once rung in St. Martin-in-the-Fields church in London. We continue to Elizabeth Quay to board the ferry to Fremantle, Perth's historic port city. Freo, as it's known locally, has plenty of colonial charm and a laid-back, quirky vibe. Here, we have time to explore the town before settling into a casual harbourside eatery for dinner. The perfect way to end our first full day in Australia. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Rottnest Island

This morning, we embark on a full day excursion to Rottnest Island, a marine paradise just 19kms off the coast of Perth. After a short ferry crossing, we have the day free to explore at our own pace. Rottnest Island is blessed with secluded sandy bays, crystal clear waters and many unique wildlife species, the best-known of which is the quokka. These friendly marsupials can be found resting under shady bushes by day – have your cameras ready for the obligatory quokka selfie! As a protected nature reserve, there are no cars permitted on Rottnest Island and cycling is the best way to discover the island. Bicycle hire for the day is included, or for those who prefer it, there's a hop on/hop off bus service that regularly runs around the island, stopping at many lovely vantage points and secluded beaches. Our local guide will provide tips on the best spots to seek out. After a day of exploration, we return to the mainland for our final evening in Perth. **Breakfast included**

Day 5: Melbourne, 4 nights

Following breakfast this morning, we board our flight to Melbourne, capital of Victoria. Our waiting guide will greet and transfer us to our home for the next four nights, The Savoy Hotel on Little Collins, located in the city centre. Melbourne is a stylish, cosmopolitan, sports-mad and cultural city. It's also a big foodie destination, well known for its fantastic dining and its secret bars and restaurants, that only the locals know about. After freshening up, our guide will take us to one such venue, where drinks will be provided, along with dinner. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 6: Melbourne and Phillip Island

This morning, we head out to explore Melbourne. It's a compact city, full of well-preserved architecture and leafy parks, and easily explored on foot and by the city's famous tram network. Later, we travel out of the city to Phillip Island. En route, we take a guided tour of Rippon Lea Estate's Victorian mansion and its 14 acres of beautiful gardens. On Phillip Island, we take an early dinner before joining the highlight of today's excursion – the Penguin Parade. Every evening, hundreds of tiny Fairy Penguins emerge from the sea, and waddle along the beach to their burrows on Phillip Island. Enjoy 'Penguin Plus' premium viewing for the best seat in the house to watch this charming spectacle. Once darkness has settled, we return to the city and our hotel. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 7: Yarra Valley

We spend our morning in and around the wonderful Yarra Valley. Less than an hour's drive from Melbourne, the area is known for its lush green landscapes and fabulous wines, and we shall immerse ourselves in both of these throughout our day. We begin with a visit to Healesville Sanctuary, specialising in native Australian animals, where we can view and learn about these animals from the knowledgeable sanctuary team. Our next stop is a local winery, to discover the wine-making process during a guided tour, followed by a tasting session and lunch. Our afternoon is free to relax. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 8: Melbourne Freedom Day

Our final day in Melbourne is left entirely free to explore at our own pace or take an optional excursion. Perhaps join a full day tour along one of the most spectacular coastal drives in the world, the Great Ocean Road. The first stop is Torquay, home to the world-famous Bells Beach, and from here our tour will take us along Victoria's dramatic coastline to our end destination, the iconic Twelve Apostles. Alternatively, take the Puffing Billy steam train through the Blue Dandenong Ranges or explore Victoria's superb food and wine scene with the Around the Bay tour. You may just prefer to spend the day strolling through the laneways and green spaces of Melbourne at leisure. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Alice Springs, 2 nights

Today, we board our flight to Alice Springs, at the heart of Australia's Red Centre. Surrounded by the MacDonnell Ranges, Alice Springs is a town made famous by its rich pioneering history and indigenous culture. On arrival, we'll tour the 'Town Called Alice' and visit three of its most notable institutions: the School of the Air, which provides an education for children living in some of the remotest parts of the outback via radio; and the Royal Flying Doctor Service, an essential lifeline for the health and wellbeing of isolated communities. Finally, we visit the Old Telegraph Station, now a museum and the site of the old springs from which Alice gets its name. Our home for the next two nights is the Crowne Plaza Lasseters Hotel. After settling in, there is the option to ride into the sunset on board a camel on an enjoyable trek, guided by a cameleer. **Breakfast included**



Uluru, Northern Territory



Sydney Harbour, New South Wales

Enchanting Australia

Days 10 to 13: Alice Springs - Uluru - Sydney

Day 10: Western MacDonnell Ranges

This morning, we leave town, heading west on Larapinta Drive into the Western MacDonnell National Park. Highlights of today's tour include Desert Park, a conservation park displaying the plants, birds and animals of Australia's central desert environment. We also discover Standley Chasm, a spectacular geological and significant cultural icon of the Red Centre, with a striking deep red cleft that glows with reflected sunlight. Following a barbecue lunch, we explore more of the area's gorges and outback landscapes, and visit Hermannsburg Mission Reserve, before returning to our hotel. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 11: Uluru, 2 nights

Leaving Alice Springs, we head west through outback landscapes, dotted with desert oaks, as we travel along the Stuart and Lasseter Highways as we make our way to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. On arrival, we visit the soaring domes of Kata Tjuta, otherwise known as the Olgas, and take the Walpa Gorge Walk. Walpa Gorge is a desert refuge for plants and animals, shielded from the hot desert sun. As we walk along the rocky track, cooled by the breezes passing through the gorge, look out for rare plants and spearwood trees.

Tour Highlight

After checking in and freshening up at the Desert Gardens Hotel, enjoy a truly special experience. As the sun sinks behind Uluru, its colours change by the minute, and we will witness this awe-inspiring sight at a dedicated viewing area, with a glass of sparkling wine and canapes to hand. Once darkness has settled, we're taken back to the hotel to spend the remainder of the evening as we wish. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: Uluru

This morning, there is an opportunity to enjoy a sunrise viewing at Uluru, and witness yet more changing colours of this beautiful monolith. Whilst this is an optional activity, it more than justifies the early alarm call! Fortified by a hearty breakfast back at the hotel, our guide will take us for a closer look at the environment surrounding the rock. If you prefer, there is an option (at an additional cost) to head out for an adventure on two wheels, cycling around the base of Uluru. Bike hire lasts for three hours, plenty of time to complete the circuit of Uluru and discover its ancient rock art and hidden waterholes at our own pace. The afternoon is left free to relax or explore as we wish, and for a truly special evening activity you have the option of dining under the stars at the legendary Sounds of Silence dinner. Alternatively, visit the Field of Light, a stunning art installation of more than 50,000 slender solar powered stems crowned with frosted-glass spheres that bloom as darkness falls over Australia's spiritual heartland. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Sydney, 4 nights

Today we exchange the outback landscapes for the sparkling waters and vibrant streets of Sydney. Our flight arrives late afternoon, and our Sydney guide will greet us and accompany us to Mantra 2 Bond Street, located at the heart of Sydney's bustling centre, which will be home for the next four nights. Tonight is left free to settle in – there's a vast array of restaurants, bars and cafes just a short walk away. **Breakfast included**



Western MacDonnell Ranges, Northern Territory



Three Sisters, Blue Mountains, New South Wales



Great Barrier Reef, Queensland



Crocodile, Daintree River, Queensland

Enchanting Australia

Days 14 to 20: Sydney - Port Douglas - Great Barrier Reef

Day 14: Sydney

Despite its size, Sydney is very much a walkable city and we head out on foot this morning to the nearby Royal Botanic Garden. A verdant oasis in the heart of the city, the Garden is home to thousands of different plants. We take a tour in the company of an Aboriginal guide, to learn more about the Gadigal – the indigenous custodians of the Sydney region – and the Royal Botanic Garden's rich Aboriginal heritage. Next, we continue to the museum of Hyde Park Barracks, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site and an extraordinary living record of early colonial Australia. After a fascinating and thought-provoking morning, we shall take a bus through many beautiful waterside suburbs to Watson's Bay, one of Sydney's most stunning harbourside locations, boasting sandy beaches and splendid views of Sydney Harbour. From here, we drive along the coast to Bondi, Australia's most famous beach, blessed with golden sands and rolling surf. We have time to soak up the Bondi vibe – stroll along the water's edge, breathe in the salty air and why not join your fellow travellers for an early dinner in a relaxed club, perched on top of a cliff top (at your own expense), as the sun sets on another glorious day in Australia? **Breakfast included**

Day 15: Blue Mountains

Tour Highlight

Today, we leave the city and head to the Blue Mountains, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This National Park is home to an expansive area of Australia's iconic bushland, carpeted with gnarly gum trees, deep gorges and craggy peaks. During our excursion, we visit a series of lookouts where we can take in some of the best views of the Blue Mountains, including some lesser-known, but arguably more beautiful, vantage points. The Blue Mountains feature some of Australia's most spectacular bushwalks, and we will select one for a short walk. The Hydro Majestic is an iconic, historic hotel in the Blue Mountains, and a welcome resting place after a day's activity. Here we are served afternoon tea whilst enjoying spectacular views of the Megalong Valley.

Arguably the best way to experience Sydney's harbour is from the water, and our day comes to a conclusion as we reach the outskirts of Sydney, with a journey on an iconic ferry from the Parramatta River to Circular Quay in the heart of Sydney. En route, we can break the journey at any of the 15 stops. Perhaps visit Cockatoo Island, a former convict penal establishment and naval shipyard, or enjoy some retail therapy at Birkenhead Point, a high-end shopping area in Drummoyne. Once back at Circular Quay, our hotel is just a short walk away. **Breakfast and afternoon tea included**

Day 16: Sydney

Our last full day in Sydney begins with a free morning to spend as we please. This is the perfect opportunity for those with a head for heights to enjoy the world-famous Bridge Climb – a truly unforgettable experience and well worth the effort! Alternatively, visit the majestic Sydney Opera House or Taronga Zoo, in the suburb of Mosman. Sydney Harbour has many beautiful bays, known to the locals but largely undiscovered by tourists. As our final night in Sydney approaches, we take to the water and discover some of Sydney's hidden bays by ferry, water taxi and on foot, before dinner together in a bay-side restaurant few tourists would ever find. It's the perfect way to bid farewell to Sydney. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 17: Port Douglas, 4 nights

A morning transfer takes us to Sydney Airport in time for our flight to Cairns in Northern Queensland. On arrival, we'll be met and driven north to Port Douglas via the coastal road, which is flanked by forest on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other. Port Douglas is a tropical resort which combines a laid-back atmosphere with a lively restaurant scene. Our accommodation for the next four nights is Peppers Beach Club, an elegant resort hotel boasting lush gardens and a wonderful lagoon swimming pool, with the golden curve of Four Mile Beach just beyond its back door. Port Douglas is noted for its stunning sunsets, and this evening we'll enjoy our first, accompanied by a chilled 'sun-downer'. **Breakfast included**

Day 18: Daintree Rainforest

Port Douglas is the only place on earth where two UNESCO World Heritage-listed sites meet, namely the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Rainforest. We explore both of these fascinating places during our time here, and today's full day excursion takes us to the Daintree National Park. Commencing at Mosman Gorge, the gateway to the Daintree Rainforest, our guide takes us on a walk whilst sharing their knowledge of this enchanting rainforest environment. Learn about the fascinating secrets of the Daintree, the oldest tropical rainforest in the world. We also enjoy a cruise on the Daintree River – look out for saltwater crocodiles! Next, we cross the Daintree River and travel to Cape Tribulation, a remote headland, with glorious unspoilt beaches and lush forests. Our return journey to Port Douglas winds through the rainforest of the Alexandra Range, with spectacular views over the Daintree River estuary, Snapper Island and beyond to the Coral Sea. **Breakfast included**

Day 19: Great Barrier Reef

Tour Highlight

Today, we enjoy a full day at the Great Barrier Reef, one of the world's most celebrated natural wonders. We make our way to Port Douglas marina to board our custom-designed reef boat for our journey through Opal Reef, St Crispin Reef and Tongue Reef, to the edge of the continental shelf, where the deep ocean begins and the reef's richest biodiversity can be found. Our vessel has been designed and built in Australia utilising the latest technology to enable access to the outer reef with the most comfort and least impact. During our snorkelling at three fabulous reef sites, the highly-experienced, fully-qualified guides will ensure that everyone can make the most of this wonderful experience. In between activities, relax on the spacious sundecks or the air-conditioned lounges, and enjoy a buffet lunch. We return to Port Douglas late afternoon, where our evening is left at leisure to reflect on a fabulous day of exploration. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 20: Port Douglas Freedom Day

Our final full day in Australia has been left free for us to spend as we please. There is the option of a full day tour to Kuranda, the 'village in the rainforest'; we travel there via the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, sailing above the canopy of treetops, whilst enjoying far-reaching views over the rainforest. Kuranda has a laid-back atmosphere and it's easy to spend a couple of hours browsing the craft stalls, visiting the butterfly sanctuary or exploring the Koala Gardens. The journey back is aboard the heritage Kuranda Scenic Railway, a feat of railway engineering that crosses over 40 bridges and through 15 tunnels. For those longing to explore the marine world a little more, a day trip to the Low Isles is the perfect opportunity to enjoy some easy snorkelling amid 55 acres of coral reef that surround the cays. This evening, we gather together for our farewell dinner. Our venue is a relaxed restaurant beloved by locals, and it's the perfect spot to swap stories and share some laughs over dinner and drinks, as the sun sets on Port Douglas and, indeed, on our fabulous Enchanting Australia holiday. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Four Mile Beach, Port Douglas, Queensland



Cruise, Great Barrier Reef, Queensland



Aboriginal artefacts

Enchanting Australia

Days 21 to 22: Port Douglas - UK

Day 21: Depart Port Douglas

This afternoon we'll be taken by coach to Cairns for our flight, via Singapore, to our chosen UK airport. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 22: Arrive UK

We arrive into our preferred airport (London Heathrow or Manchester), bringing to an end our incredible three-week adventure around Australia. **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, combine Enchanting Australia with one of our fantastic tours of New Zealand.

Please see pages 128-129 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £295 per person

Why not extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey? Choose from Singapore or Sentosa Island. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.



Singapore

Two nights from £295 per person

Singapore provides a perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures. Accommodation is at the M Hotel, a modern, stylish hotel offering a warm welcome and a range of services alongside comfortable, contemporary accommodation in the heart of downtown Singapore.



Sentosa Island

Two nights from £495 per person

Sentosa Island is either a relaxing sanctuary, or a fun-filled adventure, located only 20 minutes from Singapore. Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort provides our guests with a beautiful beachfront location, perfect for relaxing by its large pool, and dining is always a pleasure at its Asian-inspired restaurants.

Please see pages 142-143 for more details on homebound stopovers.

Departure Dates & Prices

2024 Departures

06 October 2024 **£8,295** per person

03 November 2024 **£8,295** per person

2025 Departures

26 January 2025 **£8,395** per person

16 February 2025 **£8,295** per person

09 March 2025 **£8,295** per person

06 April 2025 **£8,295** per person

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement
£1,995.

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.

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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 Booking Conditions are available on pages 148-151.

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





Clockwise from above: Queensland – Whitehaven Beach, Whitsunday Islands; Brisbane; Maheno shipwreck, K'gari

NEW Australia's East Coast Jewels

📅 27 days 💷 from £7,395pp 🌐 November 2024 – March 2025

Australia is the world's largest island, and the spectacular East Coast offers endless opportunities for exploration and adventure.

Illuminating authentic experiences with a completely unique itinerary, Australia's East Coast Jewels includes visits to many places not featured in any other Distant Journeys tour. If this is a return visit to Australia, or you're looking to delve a little deeper into all this vast country has to offer, this is the holiday for you.

Cruise the sparkling waters of the Whitsunday Islands to explore the powder soft sands of Whitehaven Beach, and explore the sand dunes, shipwrecks, tropical rainforests and freshwater lakes of the World Heritage listed Fraser Island, also known as 'K'gari' – meaning 'paradise'.

Discover Australia's capital, Canberra, as well as the coastal city of Townsville and its neighbouring Magnetic Island, home to the largest colony of koalas in North Australia. Visit the beating heart of Queensland, Brisbane, and the city of Rockhampton, where we will learn about the sugar cane farmers of the Mackay region and discover the limestone formations of Capricorn Caves, dating back 400 million years.

Paired with stays in the ever-popular Sydney, the Blue Mountains and Port Douglas, with options to explore the Great Barrier Reef, you can guarantee a holiday of a lifetime.



Your holiday includes



Return economy flights with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Domestic flight within Australia is also included



Two-night outbound stopover in Singapore



Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes



Meals worth £726 per person, including daily breakfast, lunches in Taralga, Babinda, Mackay and K'gari, dinner in Port Douglas, dinner cruise on Sydney Harbour, a Canberra winery lunch, lunch on the Whitsundays cruise and lunch at the Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve



Unforgettable experiences including:

- ★ Sightseeing tours in Sydney, Canberra, The Blue Mountains, Rockhampton
- ★ Tour of Sydney Harbour and the Botanic Garden
- ★ Wine tasting in Canberra
- ★ Discover Australia's wildlife at Taralga Wildlife Park
- ★ Explore Magnetic Island
- ★ Experience Whitehaven Beach
- ★ Learn about the sugar cane industry
- ★ Two-night stay on K'gari (Fraser Island)



Services of an experienced local Tour Manager



All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout



Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 148-151.



Sydney, New South Wales



Didgeridoos



Parliament House, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

Australia's East Coast Jewels

Days 1 to 9: UK - Sydney - Canberra - Katoomba

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from London Heathrow or Manchester with Singapore Airlines. No matter which 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 M Hotel. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: Singapore Freedom Day

Known as 'the crossroads of Asia', Singapore is a city where the east meets the west; a cosmopolitan melting pot with an inspirational identity. Today we can choose to relax or explore as we please. For example, we have the opportunity to join a tour of this fabulous city including Marina Bay, Merlion Park, the historic Civic District, Thian Hock Keng Temple and the fabulous orchid gardens set within Singapore's botanical gardens. Alternatively, enjoy high tea in the elegant surroundings of Raffles Hotel, or discover the wonderful Gardens by the Bay. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Sydney, 3 nights

After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our flight to Sydney. Our Australian Tour Manager will be waiting and we transfer directly to our hotel, the Crowne Plaza Darling Harbour, ideally located for exploring the city and Darling Harbour's many eateries. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 5: 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 the excellent restaurants and cafés, endless shopping opportunities, and vibrant culture, and it's easy to see why Sydney is one of the world's favourite cities.

After a morning at leisure, this afternoon's sightseeing tour begins at Hyde Park Barracks, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Explore the structure that was built to house convicts and later served as an immigration depot for women, an asylum, and later law courts. Then, onward to tranquil Watson's Bay, a former fishing village and now a lush Sydney suburb. A stop is made at Bondi, before we reach Barangaroo! Known as Sydney's harbourside 'playground', Barangaroo is buzzing with beautiful bays, and incredible dining. We end our afternoon at the King Street Wharf, a waterside precinct filled with locals and tourists alike. This evening, relax on a fabulous sightseeing dinner cruise around spectacular Sydney Harbour. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 6: Sydney

First stop today is the Royal Botanic Garden of Sydney, where we are treated to a private tour with an Aboriginal guide. Beyond the 'usual suspects,' including rose gardens and succulents, discover the Cadi Jam Ora – First Encounters Garden, which explores the relationship between people and plants on the site that the Cadigal people encountered the first fleet in 1788. Next, get those cameras ready as we head for a tour of the spectacular Sydney Opera House. Whilst the exterior is known to every visitor to Australia, we step inside to discover the story beneath those magnificent sails. Learn about the controversial history and memorable performances of the Opera House's past and what its future may hold. The rest of the afternoon is left free to spend as we please.

Breakfast included

Day 7: Canberra, 2 nights

It's time to say goodbye to Sydney as we travel via the historic city of Goulburn, Australia's first inland city. Encounter country charm and admire Goulburn's historic buildings that are still very much in use, including the strikingly beautiful Court House and the Post Office. We arrive into Canberra early afternoon. As the seat of the Australian government, Canberra boasts countless museums and historical sites. We head for the stately War Memorial and museum collections, a combination of museums, shrines, and an extensive archive documenting the men and women who served and continue to serve Australia. Later, we arrive at the Hotel Kurrajong Canberra for our next two nights. Those of us who wish to attend the Last Post ceremony are able to return to the Memorial. The ceremony begins with the Australian national anthem, followed by the piper's lament. Visitors are invited to lay flowers beside the Pool of Reflection as the story behind a name on the Honour Roll is shared, followed by an ode recited by Australian Defence Force personnel. The meaningful ceremony concludes with the sounding of the Last Post. **Breakfast included**

Day 8: Canberra

After breakfast today, we head for Parliament House to enjoy a guided tour of Australia's government buildings. From the towering flagpole to the Great Hall Tapestry, take in the architecture of the Senate and House of Representatives, as well as the paintings that adorn these historic and hallowed halls. We continue to the National Gallery, known for its great Aboriginal Art Collection. We shall also experience the Aboriginal Memorial up close, an installation of 200 hollow log coffins from Central Arnhem Land, commemorating the indigenous lives lost defending their land since 1788.

Canberra is also known for its wine, so we make our way to one of the best local wineries in time for lunch, and, of course, a little wine tasting! Afterwards, we head for Mount Ainslie's lookout point for a panoramic view of the surrounding scenery. Spot Lake Burley Griffin and see Canberra's attractions from up high. The remainder of the day is ours to enjoy at leisure. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 9: Katoomba, 2 nights

First stop today is Taralga Wildlife Park. Get a front-row seat to Australia's wildlife with mini-goats, kangaroos, quokkas, wallabies, emus, camels and more, not to mention over 500 birds and 100 individual bird species. Admire honeyeaters, macaws, black cockatoos, and the majestic wedge-tailed eagle. Enjoy lunch at the historic Argyle Inn, the oldest still-trading hotel in Taralga, built in 1875 and lovingly restored in 2016 in the Victorian tradition. From here, we head north via the verdant town of Oberon to Katoomba in the heart of the Blue Mountains. Later this afternoon, we arrive at the heritage-listed Carrington Hotel, built in the 1880s to cater for the railway boom. Make yourself comfortable and explore the historic surroundings, brimming with both antiques and modern comforts. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Blue Mountains, New South Wales



Rainbow Lorikeet, Queensland

Australia's East Coast Jewels

Days 10 to 13: Blue Mountains - Port Douglas

Day 10: Blue Mountains

Today we shall explore this scenic region. Believed to be a 'tonic' in the form of mountain air, the Blue Mountains have been promoted for their health benefits since the early 1800s. Learn of the legend of the Three Sisters, a spectacular landmark located at Echo Point. Meander the Fairfax Heritage Walking Track with sweeping vistas of the Grose Valley and take in the view from Govetts Leap, one of the most famous lookouts on the continent! This afternoon, we make our way to the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre to see the World Heritage Exhibition. The interactive high-tech exhibition explores the natural and social landscapes of the region, offering visitors an immersive experience that exposes them to the wonders of this incredible heritage area. Later in the day, we return to our hotel.

Breakfast included

Day 11: Port Douglas, 4 nights

This morning we board our flight to Cairns, in tropical north Queensland. After collecting our cases, we transfer to Port Douglas via one of the most scenic highways in the country. Upon arrival, settle into the Peninsula Hotel where we enjoy ocean-view suites. This evening, we gather for dinner in a relaxed waterside restaurant, beloved by the locals. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 12: Port Douglas Freedom Day

It's time to soak up all that Port Douglas has to offer! Whilst you are welcome to relax by the poolside, we have two optional trips available to the Great Barrier Reef. Our first option visits the Low Isles. This full-day experience offers both snorkelling and sailing on a catamaran. Recline on the white sandy beach of the island or snorkel over the vivid coral gardens in the blue lagoon, accompanied by a marine biologist. Maybe we'll be lucky and spot a turtle! The glass-bottom boat experience is enhanced by reef commentary by our skipper. Alternatively, for stronger swimmers seeking more time in the water, our second option is onboard a yacht visiting various sites known for spectacular snorkelling. Some of the crew will be in the water with us, ready to answer any questions. Whichever option you choose; enjoy your day! **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Port Douglas Freedom Day

A day at leisure to spend as you please. We have an optional excursion to the World Heritage listed Daintree Rainforest. Travel into the Mossman Gorge National Park, the most southern part of the Daintree Rainforest, for a guided tour. The tour includes a ferry transfer across the Daintree River, and on to the Jindalba Boardwalk. This afternoon we head for Cape Tribulation, where the rainforest meets the reef. Discover the area's rich history and enjoy a tropical fruit-flavoured ice cream on the way back to the Daintree River. Later, we board our Wildlife Cruise and search for snakes, birds and massive saltwater crocodiles. After all of the day's adventures, return to our hotel.

Breakfast included



Great Barrier Reef, Queensland



Marina, Port Douglas, Queensland



Sea turtle



Whitehaven Beach, Whitsunday Islands, Queensland

Australia's East Coast Jewels

Days 14 to 22: Port Douglas - Townsville - Airlie Beach - Rockhampton - K'gari

Day 14: Port Douglas Freedom Day

Another day at leisure to enjoy Queensland's Tropical North. Perhaps take an optional tour to Hartley's Crocodile Adventures for an up-close and personal experience with these prehistoric creatures. Founded in 1934, Hartley's is known for its emphasis on sustainability, respecting their animals while offering an authentic eco-attraction. Beyond crocodiles, exhibits include Komodo Dragons, snakes, alligators, cassowaries, wombats, koalas, emus, kangaroos and wallabies.

Breakfast included

Day 15: Townsville, 2 nights

After breakfast, we must say farewell to Port Douglas. First stop today is Rex Lookout, a panoramic spot to scope out the expanse of Trinity Bay's azure water and golden sand. At Babinda Boulders, enjoy an easy walk through lush rainforest to a creek lined with massive boulders. The water at the pool here remains cool all year round, despite the tropical heat. We continue to Cardwell to enjoy the view across the water to Hinchinbrook Island. Later, we arrive into Townsville and our next two nights at the Hotel Grand Chancellor.

Breakfast and lunch included

Day 16: Townsville

After breakfast, we board the ferry from Townsville to the breathtakingly beautiful Magnetic Island, or, as the locals call it, 'Maggie'. Palm-fringed coastlines, huge granite boulders, and warm, sandy beaches with turquoise water lapping around coral reefs, Magnetic Island is paradise on earth. Keep your eyes peeled for koalas as Maggie is host to the largest colony in the north of Australia. We board a bus trip taking us to Horseshoe Bay, a sheltered U-shaped bay with 3km of golden beach. Learn about the area's history, geography, wildlife and folklore and later in the day we return to Townsville.

Breakfast included

Day 17: Airlie Beach, 3 nights

After breakfast, we head for our next destination: Airlie Beach, the gateway to the incredible Whitsunday Islands. Take time to stroll around the coastal town and pick a lunch spot with views of the calm aquamarine waters. Whilst walking, gather ideas for how your afternoon could be spent. Home for the next three nights is the fabulous Coral Sea Resort, and after settling into our ocean-view rooms, the day is ours to enjoy at leisure.

Breakfast included

Day 18: Airlie Beach Freedom Day

A day left totally free to spend as you please. Take the opportunity to relax by the hotel pool or stroll along the lovely boardwalk into the village. For water enthusiasts, an optional cruise on the 'Lady Enid' offers barefoot luxury and comfort during a Langford Island sailing tour. Climb the steps to the Langford Island lookout for incredible photos and head back down to cruise around the Whitsundays and experience it face-down... with a little snorkelling! Gear up (all gear provided) and swim through the exquisite coral gardens and crystal-clear water. Langford Island is a famous turtle hotspot, so keep an eye out for these majestic creatures in their natural habitat.

Breakfast included

Day 19: Whitehaven Beach

Today we join a scenic cruise through the magnificent Whitsunday Islands. Relax in air-conditioned comfort aboard our luxury catamaran, including a rooftop deck. Learn about the Whitsundays' 74 islands, and the marine life, including manta rays, turtles, humpback whales and more. Walk on powder-soft white silica sand and swim in the pristine blue water. Our cruise allows for two hours at Whitehaven Beach, providing plenty of time to bask in the water, stroll along the shore or walk up to the lookout point. Salt, sun and sea: just another day in paradise.

Breakfast and lunch included

Day 20: Rockhampton, 2 nights

Enjoy breakfast and pack for the trip ahead. This morning we take a tour to learn about sugar cane farming – the sweet lifeblood of the Mackay region. See the sugar cane patch and explore a mill and distillery. Taste liqueur products, chutneys, relishes, sauces, ginger beer and freshly spun fairy floss. Learn about rum's distilling process from the crushing of sugar cane to the distilled cane spirit that forms the base of the Sarina Sugar Shack's rum and liqueurs. Following lunch, we continue our journey to Rockhampton. Centrally-located, our hotel, Empire Apartment Hotel, takes in views of the Fitzroy River, Mount Archer and the sprawling city of Rockhampton.

Breakfast and lunch included

Day 21: Rockhampton

This morning we head for Capricorn Caves, and enjoy an early breakfast. Afterwards, we tour limestone cave formations dating back 400 million years. Our local guides enchant us with tales of this ancient space. Later, head for the Rockhampton Botanic Gardens. This serene haven boasts an impressive array of both native and exotic plants. Traverse streams and learn of the floral beauty that surrounds us. Next, enjoy a riverside walk along the Fitzroy River, flowing from the joining of the Dawson and Mackenzie Rivers. This evening, perhaps join your fellow travelling companions to share stories at The Caves Country Pub, a Rockhampton institution.

Breakfast included

Day 22: K'gari (Fraser Island), 2 nights

First stop today is the Langmorn Homestead, a cattle station operational since the 1870s. Explore the original buildings and learn about the grazing necessary for the herd. Later, we arrive at Riverhead, Hervey Bay, where we board our ferry to K'gari and check in for our two-night stay at the Kingfisher Bay Resort. Fraser Island is 122km long and the largest sand island in the world. Combining sand dunes, tropical rainforests, freshwater dune lakes and, of course, endless stretches of beach, this heritage site is truly extraordinary. It's little wonder the Aboriginal people call the island K'gari, meaning 'paradise'.

Breakfast included



75 Mile Beach, K'gari, Queensland



Dingo, K'gari, Queensland

Australia's East Coast Jewels

Days 23 to 25: K'gari - Brisbane

Day 23: K'gari

Today we embark on a full-day, four wheel drive tour to see all that iconic K'gari has to offer. Visit beautiful Lake McKenzie and walk along its powder-soft sand and crystal water. See the famous Maheno shipwreck, remnants of the luxury liner wrecked by a cyclone. Eli Creek awaits: a freshwater creek with the purest water imaginable, gushing 3.5 million litres of fresh water into the ocean every hour. Drive along the famous 75 Mile Beach highway, where the beach becomes the road, as we travel alongside the tide. Learn the legend behind the coloured sands of the Pinnacles, a collection of dunes in strange spires, the fusion of wind, rain, sand, and clay over hundreds of thousands of years. Meander through Pile Valley's magnificent satinay and brush box forests, with trees well over a thousand years old, creating a canopy over 50 metres high. Birdwatchers will be delighted by the turquoise parrots, plumed frogmouths, red goshawks and glossy black cockatoos. Closer to the ground, dingoes can be spotted scavenging along the forest floor. Our tour includes lunch and refreshments, so all we need to pack is our spirit of adventure. Oh, and swimwear and sun cream! **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 24: Brisbane, 2 nights

Today we must leave K'gari for the mainland and our first stop is Queen's Park, Maryborough. The park is a botanical retreat, providing a serene backdrop overlooking the Mary River. Maryborough has a beautiful ensemble of lovingly-restored heritage buildings, and is also the birthplace of Pamela Lyndon Travers, the creator of Mary Poppins. Her birth house is demarcated with signage of a lady holding the iconic umbrella. The area is also steeped in history with the Ariadne connection, an immigrant ship which sailed from Liverpool to Maryborough in 1862. Later, visit the Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, a biodiverse area of endemic subtropical rainforest containing 391 plant species, 141 bird species and 68 species of mammals, reptiles and amphibians, many of which are threatened or rare species. Brisbane's Stamford Plaza is our final destination and home for our final two nights in Australia. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 25: Brisbane Freedom Day

The Stamford Plaza is in the perfect position to explore Brisbane, located next to the botanic gardens and a stone's throw from the CBD. Completion of a footbridge across the river to Kangaroo Point, known for its fantastic food scene, is expected in 2024. Make your way around Brisbane with both public transport and ferries. The day is ours to enjoy at leisure. **Breakfast included**



Maheno shipwreck, K'gari, Queensland



Brisbane, Queensland



Aboriginal man



Hindu temple, Bali, Indonesia

Australia's East Coast Jewels

Days 26 to 27: Brisbane - UK

Day 26: Depart Brisbane

All good things must come to an end, and this morning we transfer to Brisbane Airport. Our flights with Singapore Airlines will travel via Singapore. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 27: Arrive UK

Breakfast is served shortly before our arrival into London Heathrow or Manchester, bringing to an end our wonderful tour. **In-flight drinks and breakfast included**

Why not combine with a tour of New Zealand?



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Please see pages 128-129 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £295 per person

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Sentosa Island

Two nights from £495 per person

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08 February 2025 **£7,395** per person

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Call to book

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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





Treasures of Australia

29 days from £7,295pp October 2024 – February 2025

The chance to explore this very special corner of the world may not come around often, so you really want to make the most of your holiday.

To make sure you don't miss out on the country's many highlights and hidden gems, we've put together an incredible Australian adventure — The Treasures 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, wonderful wildlife, witness sunset at the sacred monolith of Uluru and enjoy a lunch cruise on the glistening waters of Sydney Harbour.

Clockwise from above: Koala; Sydney Harbour, New South Wales; Maruku Arts, Uluru, Northern Territory



Your holiday includes

- Return economy flights with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. All domestic flights within Australia are also included
- Choice of 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 in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £650 per person, with daily breakfast, buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef, lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour and a winery lunch in the Barossa Valley
- Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Dubai), Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Alice Springs and Sydney
 - ★ Explore Caversham Wildlife Park
 - ★ Wine tasting in the Barossa Valley
 - ★ Experience Uluru at sunset and sunrise
 - ★ Full day excursion to the Great Barrier Reef
 - ★ Cruise Sydney's famous harbour
 - ★ A behind the scenes tour of the Opera House
 - ★ Aboriginal guided tour of Sydney's Botanic Garden

Services of an experienced local Tour Manager

All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 148-151.



Perth, Western Australia



Rottneest Island, Western Australia



Hahndorf, South Australia

Treasures of Australia

Days 1 to 12: UK - Singapore - Perth - 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 Park 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, 4 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 Duxton Hotel for our first four 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. Following a leisurely breakfast, we meet our Tour Manager and fellow travellers to find out more about our adventure ahead. Later, we enjoy the perfect introduction to Australia’s native wildlife, during a visit to Caversham Wildlife Park. The park showcases many of Australia’s unique and iconic animals, including koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, possums, Tasmanian devils and wombats. **Breakfast included**

Day 6: Perth

This morning we have arranged a tour to explore Perth and nearby Fremantle. 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**

Day 7: 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 assist with 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 Rottneest 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 8: Adelaide, 3 nights

In the morning, we make our way to Perth Airport in time for our flight to Adelaide. Surrounded by grassy parkland, picturesque hills and the Mount Lofty Range, Adelaide could scarcely present a more captivating aspect. On arrival, we will be introduced to Adelaide’s streets, fine Victorian buildings and the attractive parks and gardens that surround the city. Later, transfer to the centrally-located Crowne Plaza Hotel, where we will stay for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Adelaide

During this morning’s sightseeing tour, we leave the city to visit Australia’s oldest surviving German settlement in the quaint village of Hahndorf, with its tree-lined streets and original ‘Fachwerk’ buildings. We continue to the famous wine growing region of the Barossa Valley where, after a visit to a working blacksmith museum, we enjoy wine tasting and lunch in one of the picturesque wineries. **Breakfast and lunch 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 Kangaroo Island, situated off the Fleurieu Peninsula, which offers a unique touring experience, combining native wildlife with natural, unspoilt wilderness. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Kangaroo Island

A full day tour, with an opportunity to meet a variety of Australia’s wildlife up close and personal.



Day 11: Melbourne, 4 nights

This morning we take a short flight to Melbourne, capital of the state of Victoria. Melbourne is a blend of well-preserved grand buildings, bustling laneways, world-class restaurants and captivating museums, which we will see on this afternoon’s tour. It’s unarguably the sporting capital of Australia, and we will see the Rod Laver Arena, home to Australian Open tennis, and Melbourne Cricket Ground, known as the MCG. Our tour also takes in Treasury Gardens, Victoria Markets and Federation Square, before finishing in the waterside suburb of St Kilda. Our accommodation for the next four nights is the Pullman Melbourne 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 the scenic Blue Dandenong Ranges and ride the Puffing Billy steam train. **Breakfast included**



Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road, Victoria



Kangaroo

Treasures of Australia

Days 13 to 17: Melbourne - Uluru - Alice Springs - Darwin

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's first stop is Torquay (home to the surfing paradise of Bells Beach) and meanders along the dramatic southwest coastline of Victoria to the impressive Twelve Apostles. Alternatively, you may prefer to explore Victoria's superb food and wine scene with the 'Around the Bay' tour. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: Melbourne Freedom Day

A final Freedom Day provides an opportunity to discover Phillip Island, home to the world's largest colony of little penguins. Every evening, in what's known as the Penguin Parade, hundreds of tiny Fairy Penguins waddle from the beach to their burrows after a day out at sea. **Breakfast included**

Day 15: 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 16: Alice Springs, Overnight

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 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 17: Darwin, 2 nights

After a leisurely morning, we visit 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. Later, we board our flight to Darwin, capital of the Northern Territory. Our hotel for the next two nights is the DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade, which overlooks Darwin Harbour. **Breakfast included**



Uluru, Northern Territory



Saltwater Crocodile



Great Barrier Reef, Queensland



Sydney Harbour, New South Wales

Treasures of Australia

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

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 Darwin Airport in time for our one-stop flight to Cairns. Upon arrival we shall transfer to the perfectly located Hilton Cairns 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. 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 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

On this Freedom Day you may wish 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.



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. 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, such as Double and Rose Bay, en-route to Watson's Bay. Here, at the harbour's entrance, take in the fresh salty air and brilliant vistas of towering cliffs on one side, and the imposing city skyline in the distance on the other. We visit the most famous of Sydney's city beaches – Bondi – before we make our way back to the city centre. We complete our introduction to Sydney with 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 26: Sydney

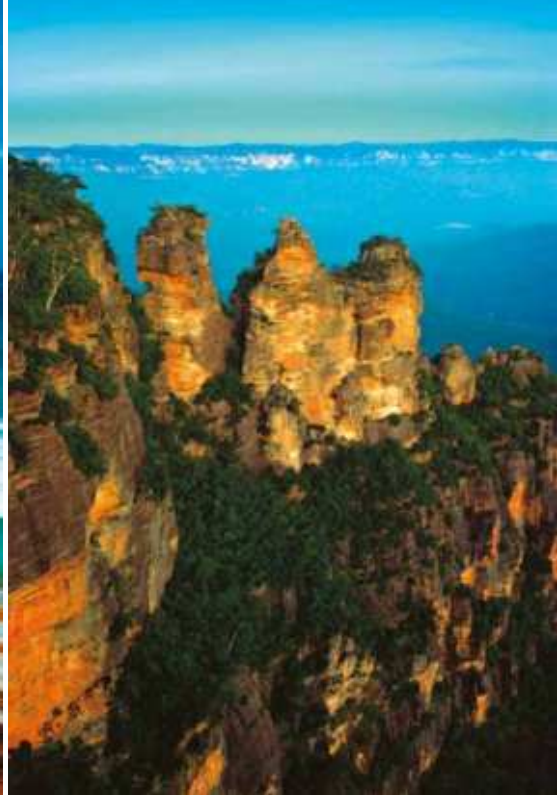
This morning offers three very different treats: a guided tour of Sydney's Opera House; a stroll through Sydney's famous Botanic Garden with an Aboriginal guide; and a glimpse into the convict origins of Sydney at the interactive Hyde Park Barracks Museum – a world heritage site. The afternoon has been left free for you to explore as you please. Catch up on some shopping or perhaps climb the impressive Harbour Bridge. Whatever you wish to do, our Tour Manager will be very happy to assist. **Breakfast included**

Day 27: Sydney Freedom Day

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, and includes afternoon tea at the historic Hydro Majestic Hotel. **Breakfast included**



Bondi Beach, Sydney, New South Wales



Three Sisters, Blue Mountains, New South Wales



Statue in Wat Phra Kaew, Bangkok, Thailand

Treasures 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, combine the Treasures of Australia with one of our fantastic tours of New Zealand.

Please see pages 128-129 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 142-143 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2024 Departures

12 October 2024* **£7,295** per person

2025 Departures

25 January 2025 **£7,295** per person

08 February 2025 **£7,295** per person

* This tour spends three nights in Melbourne and two nights at Ayers Rock.

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

£1,745.

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 Booking Conditions are available on pages 148-151.

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





Clockwise from above: Kangaroo and joey in pouch; Great Barrier Reef, Queensland



Your holiday includes



Return economy flights with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. All domestic flights within Australia included too



Choice of 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 in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes



Meals worth £801 per person, with daily breakfast, lunch in a Barossa Valley winery, buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef and a lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour



Unforgettable experiences including:

- ★ Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Dubai), Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Alice Springs and Sydney
- ★ Explore Caversham Wildlife Park
- ★ Wine tasting in the Barossa Valley
- ★ Experience Uluru at sunset and sunrise
- ★ Cruise scenic Katherine Gorge
- ★ Full day excursion to the Great Barrier Reef
- ★ Cruise Sydney's famous harbour
- ★ A behind the scenes tour of the Opera House
- ★ Aboriginal guided tour of Sydney's Botanic Garden



Overnight journey on-board The Ghan train, on an all-inclusive basis, with all meals and selected alcoholic & soft drinks included



Services of an experienced local Tour Manager



All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout



Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 148-151.

The Very Best of Australia

📅 29 days 💷 from £7,995pp 🌐 September 2024 – April 2025

Ultimate discovery and adventure awaits you on our Very Best of Australia tour. This in-depth tour covers so much of enchanting Australia, be it vibrant, world-class cities, the mesmerising outback or the ancient tropical rainforests of far North Queensland.

This tour also includes a journey aboard the legendary Ghan, one of the world's most famous rail journeys.

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. Travel in style on board in your own private cabin, with all meals and drinks included.





Penguins, Phillip Island, Victoria



Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road, Victoria



Perth, Western Australia

The Very Best of Australia

Days 1 to 12: UK - Singapore - Perth - 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 Park and the botanical gardens before returning to the hotel, where the rest of our day is free to spend as we please. Perhaps visit nearby Sentosa Island or enjoy high tea at Raffles. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Perth, 4 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 the superbly-located Duxton Hotel for our first four 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. Following a leisurely breakfast, we meet our Tour Manager and fellow travellers to find out more about our adventure ahead. Later, we enjoy the perfect introduction to Australia’s native wildlife, during a visit to Caversham Wildlife Park. The park showcases many of Australia’s unique and iconic animals, including koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, possums, Tasmanian devils and wombats. **Breakfast included**

Day 6: Perth

This morning we have arranged a tour to explore Perth and nearby Fremantle. 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**

Day 7: 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 assist with 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 8: Adelaide, 3 nights

In the morning, we make our way to Perth Airport in time for our flight to Adelaide. Surrounded by grassy parkland, picturesque hills and the Mount Lofty Range, Adelaide could scarcely present a more captivating aspect. On arrival, we will be introduced to Adelaide’s streets, fine Victorian buildings and the attractive parks and gardens that surround the city. Later, transfer to the centrally-located Crowne Plaza Hotel, where we will stay for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Adelaide

During this morning’s sightseeing tour, we leave the city to visit Australia’s oldest surviving German settlement in the quaint village of Hahndorf, with its tree-lined streets and original ‘Fachwerk’ buildings. We continue to the famous wine growing region of the Barossa Valley where, after a visit to a working blacksmith museum, we enjoy wine tasting and lunch in one of the picturesque wineries. **Breakfast and lunch 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 Kangaroo Island, situated off the Fleurieu Peninsula, which offers a unique touring experience combining a rare colony of sea lions with natural, unspoilt wilderness. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Kangaroo Island

A full day tour, with an opportunity to meet a rare colony of sea lions.



Day 11: Melbourne, 4 nights

This morning we make our way to the airport 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 four 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 the scenic Blue Dandenong Ranges and ride the Puffing Billy steam train. **Breakfast included**



Alice Springs, Northern Territory



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's first stop is Torquay (home to the surfing paradise of Bells Beach) and meanders along the dramatic southwest coastline of Victoria to the impressive Twelve Apostles. Alternatively, you may prefer to explore Victoria's superb food and wine scene with the 'Around the Bay' tour. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: Melbourne Freedom Day

A final Freedom Day provides an opportunity to discover Phillip Island, home to the world's largest colony of little penguins. Every evening, in what's known as the Penguin Parade, hundreds of tiny Fairy Penguins waddle from the beach to their burrows after a day out at sea. **Breakfast included**

Day 15: 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 16: Alice Springs, Overnight

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 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 17: The Ghan, Overnight

Nestled within the MacDonnell Ranges, Alice Springs is a 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 fascinating 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



Katherine Gorge, Northern Territory



Crocodile, Daintree River, Queensland



Bondi Beach, Sydney, New South Wales

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 with our Aboriginal guide, 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 Cairns 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, such as Double and Rose Bay, en-route to Watson's Bay. Here, at the harbour's entrance, take in the fresh salty air and brilliant vistas of towering cliffs on one side, and the imposing city skyline in the distance on the other. We visit the most famous of Sydney's city beaches – Bondi – before we make our way back to the city centre. We complete our introduction to Sydney with 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 26: Sydney

This morning offers three very different treats: a guided tour of Sydney's Opera House; a stroll through Sydney's famous Botanic Garden with an Aboriginal guide; and a glimpse into the convict origins of Sydney at the interactive Hyde Park Barracks Museum – a world heritage site. The afternoon has been left free for you to explore as you please. Catch up on some shopping or perhaps climb the impressive Harbour Bridge. Whatever you wish to do, our Tour Manager will be very happy to assist. **Breakfast included**

Day 27: Sydney Freedom Day

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, and includes afternoon tea at the historic Hydro Majestic Hotel. **Breakfast included**



Sydney Harbour, New South Wales



Camel, Dubai



Buddha statues, Bangkok, Thailand

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, combine The Very Best of Australia with one of our fantastic tours of New Zealand.

Please see pages 128-129 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 142-143 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2024 Departures

28 September 2024* **£7,995** per person
26 October 2024 **£8,095** per person

2025 Departures

22 February 2025 **£8,095** per person
15 March 2025 **£8,095** per person
05 April 2025* **£8,095** per person
26 April 2025* **£8,095** per person

* These tours spend three nights in Melbourne and two nights at Ayers Rock.

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement
£1,795.

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.

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 Booking Conditions are available on pages 148-151.

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





Clockwise from above: New Year's Eve fireworks, Sydney Harbour, New South Wales; Santa hat on the beach; Great Barrier Reef, Queensland

Christmas & New Year in Australia

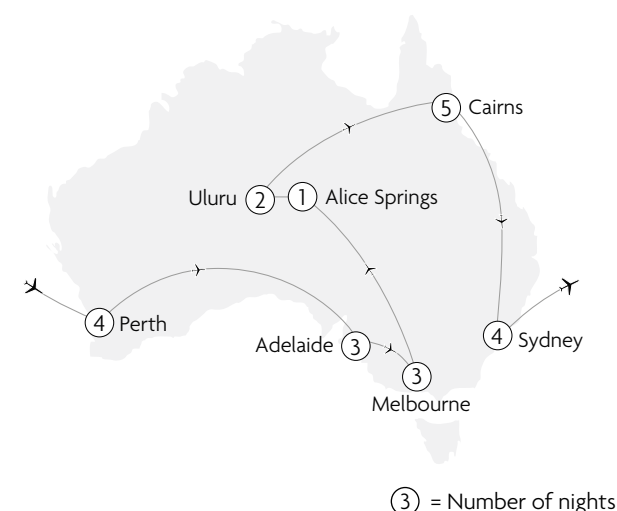
📅 27 days 💷 from £8,395pp 🌐 December 2024

Celebrate the festive season in a country renowned for its year-round sunshine, on our magical Christmas & New Year in Australia tour.

Escape the darkness of the UK's midwinter and enjoy Christmas Aussie style, where barramundi and barbecues replace turkey and tinsel, then be among the first people to greet the dawning of a New Year at the heart of a world-famous celebration.

This itinerary, crossing 2024 and 2025, has been designed to not only include all of Australia's incredible highlights such as its great waterside cities, the Great Barrier Reef and Uluru, but also some of its wonderful hidden gems.

It goes without saying that both Christmas and New Year will be celebrated in style. Christmas will be spent in the lush tropical surroundings of Cairns, and on New Year's Eve we will experience Sydney's world-renowned firework celebration from the convenience of our luxury vessel, anchored in a prime position in Sydney Harbour!



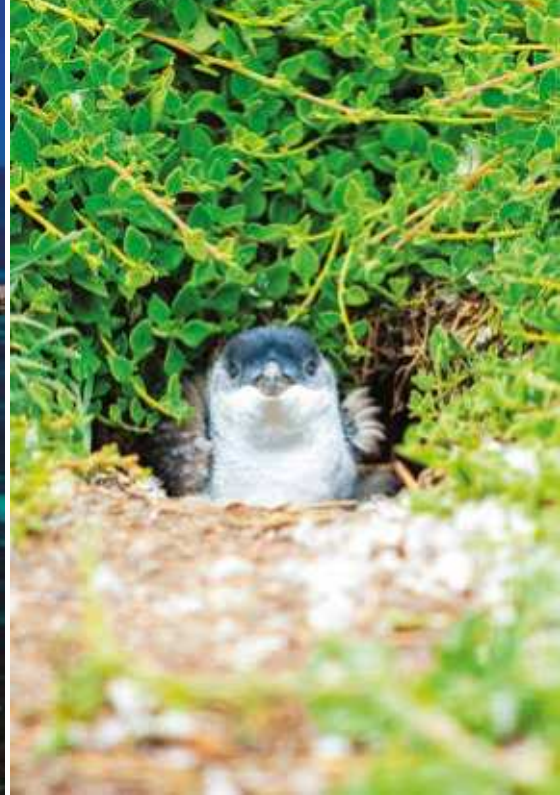
Your holiday includes

- Return economy flights with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. All domestic flights within Australia included too
- Choice of 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 in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £2,235 per person, with daily breakfast, buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef, celebratory Christmas dinner & drinks and an absolute highlight – New Year's Eve dinner cruise in Sydney
- Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Dubai), Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Alice Springs and Sydney
 - ★ Explore Caversham Wildlife Park
 - ★ Wine tasting in the Barossa Valley
 - ★ Experience Uluru at sunset and sunrise
 - ★ Full day excursion to the Great Barrier Reef
 - ★ Incredible festive highlights include a celebratory Christmas Day dinner in Cairns and magical New Year's Eve dinner cruise on Sydney Harbour
 - ★ A behind the scenes tour of the Opera House
 - ★ Aboriginal guided tour of Sydney's Botanic Garden
- Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
- All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 148-151.



Rottnest Island, Western Australia



Penguin, Phillip Island, Victoria



Uluru, Northern Territory

Christmas & New Year in Australia

8th to 27th Dec: UK - Singapore - Perth - Adelaide - Melbourne - Alice Springs - Uluru - Cairns

Sunday 8th Dec: Depart the UK

Fly with Qantas & Emirates from Birmingham, Glasgow, London Heathrow, Manchester or Newcastle at no extra cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Monday 9th Dec: Singapore, 2 nights

Arrive into the island 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.

Tuesday 10th Dec: Singapore

This morning we head out on a sightseeing tour taking in the main highlights of the city, such as Merlion Park, various ethnic quarters including Little India and Chinatown, and the beautiful Botanical Gardens – the first and only tropical botanic gardens on UNESCO's World Heritage list. Afternoon at leisure. **Breakfast included**

Wednesday 11th Dec: Perth, 4 nights

A day free to spend as we please in Singapore until it's time to head to the airport for our evening flight. Recommended excursions in Singapore include a visit to the Gardens by the Bay or a trip to nearby Sentosa Island. On arrival in Perth, our Tour Manager will greet us and we shall transfer to the Duxton Hotel. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Thursday 12th Dec: Perth

Named the 'friendly city' by tourists from all over the world, Perth is also the world's most isolated city. Following a leisurely breakfast, we meet our Tour Manager and fellow travellers to find out more about our adventure ahead. Later, we enjoy the perfect introduction to Australia's native wildlife, during a visit to Caversham Wildlife Park. The park showcases many of Australia's unique and iconic animals, including koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, possums, Tasmanian devils and wombats. **Breakfast included**

Friday 13th Dec: Perth

Our sightseeing tour begins in King's Park, boasting some 400 hectares of bushland and pretty wildflowers, and offering stunning views over the city's skyline. Next, we travel to the nearby port town of Fremantle to visit the fascinating Shipwreck Galleries and enjoy a gentle cruise along the Swan River returning to the city centre. **Breakfast included**

Saturday 14th Dec: Perth Freedom Day

Today is our first Freedom Day in Australia, and we can spend the day however we please. Optional tours include an excursion to Nambung National Park, home to hundreds of striking limestone pillars known as the Pinnacles. Alternatively, you can take a trip to Rottnest Island, a protected nature reserve with a coastline of hidden coves and white sandy beaches, and the only place in the world to see Quokka in their natural habitat. **Breakfast included**

Sunday 15th Dec: Adelaide, 3 nights

In the morning, we make our way to Perth Airport in time for our flight to Adelaide. Surrounded by grassy parkland, picturesque hills and the Mount Lofty Range, Adelaide could scarcely present a more captivating aspect. On arrival, we will be introduced to Adelaide's streets, fine Victorian buildings and the attractive parks and gardens that surround the city. Later we transfer to the centrally-located Crowne Plaza Hotel, where we will stay for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**

Monday 16th Dec: Adelaide

During this morning's sightseeing tour we leave the city to visit Australia's oldest surviving German settlement in the quaint village of Hahndorf, with its tree-lined streets and original 'Fachwerk' buildings. We continue to the famous wine growing region of the Barossa Valley where, after a visit to a working blacksmith museum, we enjoy wine tasting and lunch in one of the picturesque wineries. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Tuesday 17th Dec: 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 Kangaroo Island, situated off the Fleurieu Peninsula, which offers a unique touring experience combining rare, native wildlife with natural, unspoilt wilderness. **Breakfast included**

Wednesday 18th Dec: Melbourne, 3 nights

A short morning flight to Melbourne, where we enjoy a city sightseeing tour including the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Treasury Gardens, Victoria Markets, the Rod Laver Arena and Federation Square. Our hotel for the next three nights is the four-star Pullman on the Park. **Breakfast included**

Thursday 19th Dec: Melbourne Freedom Day

A Freedom Day in Melbourne. Perhaps consider an optional trip to Phillip Island, home to the world's largest colony of Fairy Penguins, to view the Penguin Parade. **Breakfast included**

Friday 20th Dec: Melbourne Freedom Day

Today provides an opportunity to take an optional tour along what consistently features in the Top 10 of the world's greatest scenic coastal drives, the Great Ocean Road, to the iconic stone monoliths known as the Twelve Apostles. **Breakfast included**

Saturday 21st Dec: Alice Springs, Overnight

We fly to Alice Springs, in Australia's Red Centre. On arrival, we enjoy a sightseeing tour, visiting the Old Telegraph Station, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the School of the Air. Later, we check in to the Crowne Plaza Lasseters Hotel. In the evening, there's the opportunity to enjoy an optional Aussie bush barbecue under the desert skies. **Breakfast included**

Sunday 22nd Dec: Uluru, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

Today's journey along the Stuart and Lasseter Highways takes us to Uluru. Upon arrival we make our way to the Desert Gardens Hotel. Later, we witness the spectacular sunset over Uluru. **Breakfast included**

Monday 23rd Dec: Uluru, Overnight

After a hearty breakfast, visit a landscape of giant granite boulders, formerly known as The Olgas. Their Aboriginal name is Kata Tjuta, meaning many heads. A tour around the base of Uluru gives us a chance to see the monolith, its strange patterns and unique vegetation up close. In the evening, we have the option to dine in the desert under the stars, at the aptly named Sounds of Silence. **Breakfast included**

Tuesday 24th Dec: Cairns, 5 nights

Wake up on a Christmas Eve like no other as early risers have the option of viewing Uluru at sunrise. Our morning flight takes us to Cairns, in tropical far North Queensland. The Hilton Cairns Hotel will be our home for the next five nights. **Breakfast included**

Wednesday 25th Dec: Christmas Day, Cairns

Tour Highlight

Merry Christmas! Begin the day with a hearty breakfast to set you up for the celebrations ahead. Our day is free to spend as we please, perhaps take a stroll along the Esplanade followed by a picnic on the grass in the sunshine or even a swim in Cairns' lagoon pool. This evening we gather in the hotel to enjoy a celebratory Christmas buffet dinner and drinks with our new-found friends. **Breakfast and dinner, including selected alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks**

Thursday 26th Dec: Cairns Freedom Day

A popular optional excursion takes us to Kuranda, 'the village in the rainforest'. Our tour begins with a spectacular journey on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway to Kuranda, where we spend time with the Pamagirri Aboriginal people. We return to Cairns on the unique and historic Kuranda Scenic Railway. **Breakfast included**

Friday 27th Dec: Cairns, Great Barrier Reef

Tour Highlight

The Great Barrier Reef is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's most enduring natural wonders. We spend several hours at the Outer Reef as we please; snorkelling in the sheltered coral lagoon, viewing from a glass-bottomed boat, or taking in the sights from a semi-submersible reef viewer. Optional experiences include helicopter flights, guided snorkel safaris and scuba diving. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Cairns, Queensland



Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, Cairns, Queensland



New Year's Eve, Sydney Harbour, New South Wales

Christmas & New Year in Australia

28th Dec to 3rd Jan: Cairns - Sydney - UK

Saturday 28th Dec: Cairns Freedom Day

A Freedom Day to perhaps explore the Daintree Rainforest and Cape Tribulation? During the excursion, stroll in the oldest surviving rainforest on the planet, be treated to the lush beauty of Mossman Gorge and cruise the Daintree River in search of saltwater crocodiles. **Breakfast included**

Sunday 29th Dec: Sydney, 4 nights

We fly to Sydney, our final port of call on this wonderful tour of Australia. We stay in the landmark Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, just a short walk from Sydney Harbour and the world-famous Opera House. **Breakfast included**

Monday 30th Dec: Sydney

Our tour of Sydney includes all the famous highlights: Harbour Bridge, The Rocks and iconic Bondi Beach. Also included are three special treats: a guided tour of Sydney's Opera House; a stroll through Sydney's famous Botanic Garden with an Aboriginal guide; and a glimpse into the convict origins of Sydney at the interactive Hyde Park Barracks Museum – a world heritage site. **Breakfast included**

Tuesday 31st Dec: New Year's Eve, Sydney

Tour Highlight

The eyes of the world fall on Sydney on New Year's Eve, and this evening we are among the privileged few who are at the epicentre of the celebrations. Following a free day to explore as we please, the excitement builds as we make our way to King Street Wharf to board Clearview, our luxury cruise vessel. Enjoy amazing 360-degree views around Sydney Harbour and a prime position for viewing the fireworks. We will be welcomed aboard with a glass of finest Australian sparkling wine, before being served a fabulous dinner. The conversation and the drinks will flow, and after dinner we will be entertained by a live band. As midnight strikes, Sydney's annual firework spectacular bursts into life, and we will truly feel at the heart of the festivities as we view the stunning display from the comfort of our boat. Happy New Year! **Breakfast and celebration dinner including selected alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks**

Wednesday 1st Jan: Sydney Freedom Day

Why not clear your head with an optional climb of Sydney Harbour Bridge or a trip to the Blue Mountains. However you choose to spend your final full day in Sydney, relax and enjoy it as our wonderful tour draws to a close. **Breakfast included**

Thursday 2nd Jan: Depart Sydney

A day at leisure until our flight departs to our chosen UK airport via Dubai or Singapore. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Friday 3rd Jan: Arrive UK

We arrive into our chosen UK airport. **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, combine the Christmas & New Year in Australia tour with one of our fantastic New Zealand tours.

Please see pages 128-129 for more details.

Departure Dates & Prices

2024 Departure

08 December 2024 **£8,395** per person

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

£1,995.

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. Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bangkok, Dubai or Bali. 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 Booking Conditions are available on pages 148-151.

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





Clockwise from above: Lake Tekapo, South Island; Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, Rotorua, North Island; Seals



Your holiday includes



Return economy flights with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow, or Singapore Airlines from Manchester or London Heathrow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Domestic flight within New Zealand is also included



Choice of two-night outbound stopover – choose from Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai (depending on airline)



Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes



Meals worth £440 per person, with daily breakfast and a dinner in Rotorua



Unforgettable experiences including:

- ★ 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 on Milford Sound



Services of experienced Coach Captains



All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout



Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 148-151.

Magnificent New Zealand

📅 24 days 💷 from £5,395pp 🌍 November 2024 – April 2025

New Zealand is like no other place on earth – packed full of amazing and diverse landscapes. Its North Island is dominated by ancient volcanoes, stunning coastal scenery and pristine beaches, whereas South Island possesses high mountain peaks, deep fiords, lush rainforests and magnificent glaciers.

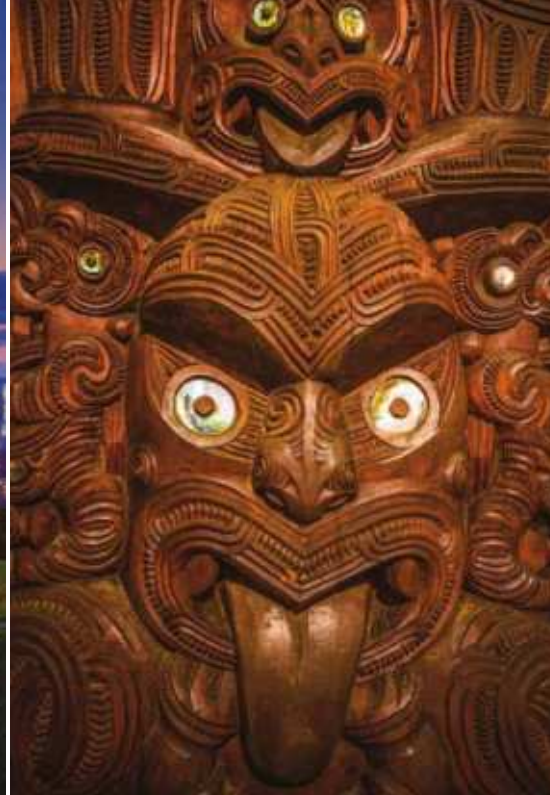
Distant Journeys' leisurely itinerary visits all the must-see attractions during our comprehensive 24-day tour. We explore the country's breathtaking scenery, vibrant cities and rich Maori culture – and experience an unforgettable cruise along spectacular Milford Sound.

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





Auckland, North Island



Maori carving



Bay of Islands, North Island

Magnificent New Zealand

Days 1 to 13: UK - Singapore - Auckland - Bay of Islands - Rotorua - Christchurch - Franz Josef

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 M Hotel Singapore. **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 transfer to the centrally located Grand Millennium 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 on New Zealand's North Island. **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, either the Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands or the Copthorne Hotel Bay of Islands. **Breakfast included**

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 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 world-renowned Polynesian Thermal Pools for a soak in their therapeutic geothermal waters. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: Christchurch, Overnight

This morning we make our way to Auckland Airport for our 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

Today we embark on one of the most stunning drives in New Zealand. Travel through the Canterbury Plains, heading towards the imposing Southern Alps. We climb the mighty Southern Alps, where at every turn, spectacular views of the chiselled alpine landscape take our breath away. There is also an opportunity to take an optional journey on the TranzAlpine, arguably one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world. On board, you will enjoy thrilling vistas over deep gorges as we travel alongside the ice-fed Waimakariri River. From Arthur's Pass, we make the spectacular descent down the western side of the Southern Alps by coach, 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**

We recommend

The TranzAlpine

An opportunity to join one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world.





Mitre Peak, Milford Sound, South Island



Clock tower, Dunedin, South Island



Twizel, South Island

Magnificent New Zealand

Days 14 to 22: Franz Josef - Queenstown - Te Anau - Milford Sound - Dunedin - Twizel - 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 into the valley of Franz Josef Glacier, where we will have the opportunity to walk through the rainforest and enjoy views of the steep 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

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. In the afternoon, you are free to enjoy 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, Overnight

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. We spend tonight at the Distinction Hotel and Villas. **Breakfast included**

Day 19: 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 20: 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 to 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. **Breakfast included**

Day 21: Twizel, 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. Our next stop is Oamaru, where we stroll through New Zealand's best-preserved Victorian streets. Later in the day we arrive at the Distinction Mackenzie Country Hotel in Twizel. **Breakfast included**

Day 22: Christchurch, Overnight

On leaving Twizel, we head northeast to the turquoise-tinted Lake Pukaki, which gains its colour from the melting water of a glacier. We also stop at The Church of the Good Shepherd on the shores of Lake Tekapo, where there is also an opportunity to make an optional visit to the Dark Sky Project, an interactive journey delivering thought-provoking insight into the world of tatai aroraki (Māori astronomy). Later, we descend from Mackenzie Country to the Canterbury Plains and to Christchurch, where we spend our final night in New Zealand at the Distinction Hotel. **Breakfast included**



Moeraki Boulders, South Island



Maori canoe



Night markets, Bangkok, Thailand

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, combine the Magnificent New Zealand tour with one of our incredible Australia tours.

Please see pages 128-129 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.

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, Dubai, Bangkok or Bali.

Please see pages 142-143 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2024 Departures

03 November 2024 **£5,795** per person

2025 Departures

12 January 2025 **£5,995** per person

09 February 2025 **£5,895** per person

09 March 2025 **£5,895** per person

20 April 2025 **£5,395** per person

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

£1,595.

20 April 2025 £1,225.

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

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 146-147.

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 Booking Conditions are available on pages 148-151.

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





Clockwise from above: Bay of Islands, North Island; Yellow Eyed Penguins; Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland, Rotorua, North Island

Natural Wonders of New Zealand

📅 24 days 💷 from £6,195pp 🌍 October 2024 – February 2025

Out of all the many reasons to visit New Zealand, surely the most compelling is to experience its natural beauty and unique environment. New Zealand's remoteness and relatively small population means so many of its landscapes are unspoilt, its air is crystal-clear; and its wildlife is diverse and plentiful.

Our Natural Wonders of New Zealand tour showcases the diversity of both North and South Islands, with a focus on exploration that celebrates New Zealand's unbeatable surroundings. We cruise the sheltered waters of the Bay of Islands, traverse the Southern Alps, walk sections of the celebrated Milford and Kepler Tracks and hope to encounter whales, dolphins, seals and a host of birdlife.

Freedom Days allow you to pursue interests of your choosing, and there is also a choice of included activities in several places we visit; whether it be kayaking on a stunning lake in Franz Josef or exploring part of the famous Kepler Track. To fully appreciate the natural beauty of New Zealand, many places are only accessible on foot, meaning this itinerary is perfect for keen walkers and those who like to keep active.



Your holiday includes



Return economy flights with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow, or Singapore Airlines from Manchester or London Heathrow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Domestic flight within New Zealand is also included



Choice of two-night outbound stopover – choose from Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai (depending on airline)



Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes



Meals worth £500 per person, with daily breakfast, barbecue lunch in the Bay of Islands and a dinner in Rotorua



Unforgettable experiences including:

- ★ Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Bangkok or Dubai), Queenstown, Dunedin and Christchurch
- ★ Wildlife cruise in the Hauraki Gulf, Auckland
- ★ Cruise and visit to Urupukapuka Island, Bay of Islands
- ★ Maori concert and Wai-O-Tapu in Rotorua
- ★ Cruise or kayak beautiful Lake Mapourika
- ★ Guided nature walks on the Milford and Kepler Tracks
- ★ Milford Sound cruise
- ★ Wildlife on the Otago Peninsula



Services of experienced Coach Captains



All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout



Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 148-151.



Whirinaki Rainforest, North Island



Tui



Otehei Bay, Bay of Islands, North Island

Natural Wonders of New Zealand

Days 1 to 11: UK - Singapore - Auckland - Bay of Islands - Rotorua

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 vibrant city of Singapore and transfer to the four-star M Hotel Singapore. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Alternative stopovers:

We have based days 2-4 of this itinerary on a stopover in Singapore. If you are flying with Qantas & Emirates, you may choose to stop in Bangkok or Dubai for the same price. Your stopover includes transfers, accommodation, daily breakfast and a city sightseeing tour. Flight timings will vary and will be advised at the time of booking.

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

If flying with Qantas & Emirates, flights will transit in Australia. On arrival into Auckland we transfer to the centrally-located Airedale Boutique Suites, 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 on New Zealand's North Island. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 6: Auckland's Hauraki Gulf

On our first morning in New Zealand (or Aotearoa), we enjoy a short walk from the hotel through Queen Street to the Harbour, a great way to experience the bustling atmosphere of New Zealand's largest city. Once at the harbour, we set sail on a fabulous wildlife cruise. The Hauraki Gulf is abundant with a diverse array of marine wildlife, including whales, dolphins, seals, penguins and a variety of interesting birdlife. During our cruise we learn about the fascinating history of the land and sea surrounding Auckland and its original inhabitants, the Maori tribe, Tamaki Makaurau.

Alternatively, for those who are interested in New Zealand's birdlife, you may instead choose to visit the nearby island of Tiritiri Matangi, one of New Zealand's most successful conservation projects. The wildlife on this spectacular island sanctuary includes precious populations of kokako, tieke and tuatara. We join a guided tour to learn about the fascinating wildlife and flora of the region, whilst hopefully spotting some of the rare birds found on the island. **Breakfast included**

Day 7: Bay of Islands, 3 nights

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

Day 8: Bay of Islands Tour Highlight

Visiting this stunning area would not be complete without a cruise around the Bay of Islands, no doubt one of your tour highlights. After a leisurely breakfast, we board our catamaran for a fabulous cruise, via Red Head Passage, Cape Brett and Piercy Island, to the famous 'Hole in the Rock'. In these world-famous sheltered waters whales, dolphins, seals and schools of fish are frequently seen. Our cruise continues to the scenic Otehei Bay on Urupukapuka Island, where we enjoy a barbecue lunch. Our afternoon is at leisure with the opportunity to explore the island on one of the numerous walking tracks and learn about the restoration project for the island's natural ecosystem. The island is teeming with birdlife and incredible views. Alternatively, you may prefer to enjoy a swim in the bay or relax on the beach. Later, we return to our hotel. **Breakfast and lunch 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 Paki 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 we attend a concert featuring traditional song and dance, including the world famous war dance – The Haka. The next two nights are spent at the four-star Distinction Hotel Rotorua. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 11: Rotorua

Rotorua is well known for its spectacular geothermal activity and this morning, we join an excursion to Wai-O-Tapu, considered to be New Zealand's most colourful and diverse geothermal wonder. Sculptured by volcanic activity and thousands of years in the making, we view spouting geysers, steaming vents, boiling lakes, bubbling mud pools and colourful sinter terraces. Following a visit to spectacular Huka Falls and Lake Taupo, we travel to the Wairakei Terraces, where we have the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the mineral-rich, naturally-heated thermal pools. We complete our day with a visit to the National Kiwi Hatchery where we learn about the conservation project and the unique kiwi. **Breakfast included**



Rainforest walk, Franz Josef, South Island



Kiwi chick

Natural Wonders of New Zealand

Days 12 to 16: Christchurch - Franz Josef - Queenstown

Day 12: Christchurch, Overnight

This morning we make our way to Auckland Airport for our flight to Christchurch. Enjoy a brief sightseeing tour, prior to our arrival at the centrally-located Distinction Hotel, Christchurch. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Franz Josef, 2 nights

Today we embark on one of the most stunning drives in New Zealand. Travel through the Canterbury Plains, heading towards the imposing Southern Alps. We climb the mighty Southern Alps, where at every turn, spectacular views of the chiselled alpine landscape take our breath away. There is also an opportunity to take an optional journey on the TranzAlpine, arguably one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world. On board, you will enjoy thrilling vistas over deep gorges as we travel alongside the ice-fed Waimakariri River. From Arthur's Pass, we make the spectacular descent down the western side of the Southern Alps by coach, 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 Ianthe and Mapourika before entering the Westland National Park and reaching the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier for our next two nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: Franz Josef

Today, we discover the immense beauty of New Zealand's West Coast and one of the region's true gems – Lake Mapourika. We explore the lake's spectacular beauty with either a scenic cruise or a guided kayak tour. The Jurassic rainforest-fringed shoreline is a landscape photographer's dream, with spectacular panoramic views of glaciers and the Southern Alps. As we navigate the lake, keep watch for curious native birdlife, and we may spot one of the region's legendary locals – the White Heron. In addition, for those that so wish, we shall drive into the valley of Franz Josef Glacier, where we will have the opportunity to walk through the rainforest and enjoy views of the steep glacial valley. Weather permitting, we may also take an optional scenic helicopter flight (at an additional cost) over the glacier and the awe-inspiring Alpine region. **Breakfast included**

Day 15: Queenstown, 2 nights

Enjoy 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 two nights, the four-star Heritage Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: Queenstown Freedom Day

Queenstown smiles south across Lake Wakatipu into an incomparable alpine scene. 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 for an enjoyable day of wine tasting and sightseeing, or take leisurely cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard the vintage steamboat TSS Earnslaw. For something a little more adventurous, a jet boat ride along the glacier-fed Dart River or a four-wheel drive adventure along the famous Skippers Road may be appealing. **Breakfast included**



Lake Mapourika, West Coast, South Island



Kepler Track, Te Anau, South Island



Allans Beach, Otago Peninsula, South Island



Doubtful Sound, South Island

Natural Wonders of New Zealand

Days 17 to 22: Te Anau - Milford Sound - Dunedin - Otago Peninsula - Christchurch

Day 17: Te Anau, 3 nights

This morning we tour 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 lakeside town of Te Anau, gateway to the spectacular Fiordland National Park, Milford Sound and the beginning of our next adventure. For those that wish there is the opportunity (at an additional cost), to visit the magical glow-worm caves. We stay the next three nights at the Luxmore Hotel, Te Anau. **Breakfast included**

Day 18: Milford Track & Milford Sound Tour Highlight

This morning, we embark on a stunning scenic drive into the heart of Fiordland National Park, encountering soaring cliffs, ancient rainforest, vast lakes and snowy mountains. Keen walkers may be familiar with the Milford Track, at 32-miles long, it is New Zealand's most-famous walking trail. Today, we enjoy a six mile walk along a section of the Milford Track, in the company of an expert nature guide, who will point out unique native fauna and flora whilst sharing fascinating stories about the rich history of the area. Later, we embark on a fabulous cruise on Milford Sound. Witness towering cliffs and peaks, including the iconic and much-photographed Mitre Peak, rising more than a kilometre from the sea. Waterfalls cascade into the fiord and luxuriant rainforest clings to sheer rock faces. Later we return to Te Anau to relax and savour the day's experiences. **Breakfast included**

Day 19: The Kepler Track Tour Highlight

The Kepler Track showcases the best of the Fiordland region, and today we can choose one of the following two options to experience a section of this beautiful track. The first option begins with a jet boat ride along the majestic Waiau River. At Lake Manapouri we join a three and a half mile nature walk along part of the picturesque Kepler Track to Rainbow Reach. Our expert guide will share incredible insights and lead us through the native forest, and tree-lined beaches of this well-maintained (and mostly flat) trail. Keen ramblers have the opportunity to extend this walk by a further six miles.

Our second option on the Kepler Track today is available at an additional cost of £195 per person, and begins with a spectacular helicopter flight from Te Anau, over hidden lakes and beech forest to Mount Luxmore. Accompanied by our knowledgeable nature guide, we learn about the area's flora and fauna. Enjoy the panoramic views of the Te Anau basin, its scenic lakes and the surrounding Fiordland mountains as we descend a well-formed section of the Kepler Track. After approximately four miles of walking, we arrive at Brod Bay, where our awaiting boat will take us across the lake to the town of Te Anau.

Should you prefer a more relaxing experience today, there is an opportunity to join an unguided full day excursion to Doubtful Sound, with its magnificent waterfalls and wonderful wildlife. Sometimes called the 'Sound of Silence', Doubtful Sound is the deepest and second longest of South Island's fiords. This scenic excursion includes a cruise across Lake Manapouri, to a waiting coach which will transfer guests over Wilmot Pass to join their cruise on Doubtful Sound. **Breakfast included**

Day 20: Dunedin, 2 nights

This morning after a hearty breakfast 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 before we reach our hotel, the Southern Cross Hotel, our home for the next two nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 21: Otago Peninsula

A morning at leisure to spend as we please. In the afternoon we travel across the quaint communities and rural farms of the beautiful Otago Peninsula to visit the Royal Albatross Colony. We visit The Observatory, where, from behind tinted glass, we look out over the nesting sites. Watch as the parent birds interact with their chicks and soar around the headland. Following a scenic cruise along the rugged coastline, we return to Dunedin. **Breakfast included**

Day 22: Christchurch, Overnight

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. Our next stop is Oamaru, where we stroll through New Zealand's best preserved Victorian streets. Later in the day, we arrive at the Distinction Hotel in Christchurch for our final night in New Zealand. **Breakfast included**



Sandfly Point, Milford Track, South Island



Royal Albatross, Otago Peninsula, South Island



Lake Mapourika, West Coast, South Island

Natural Wonders of 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 drinks and meals included**

Day 24: Arrive UK

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

Why not combine with a tour of Australia?



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Please see pages 128-129 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

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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.

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.

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Please see pages 142-143 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2024 Departures

27 October 2024 **£6,195** per person

2025 Departures

16 February 2025 **£6,295** per person

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement
£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

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Call to book

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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





Clockwise from above: TranzAlpine Railway; Cook Strait, North/South Islands; Dolphins, Bay of Islands, North Island

New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

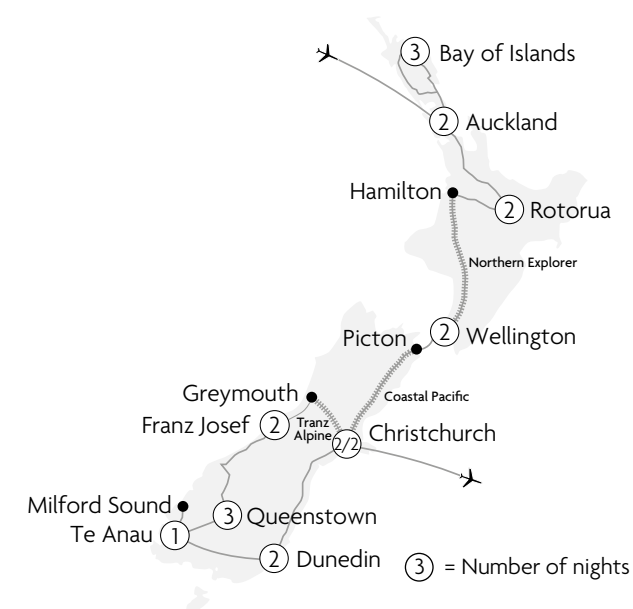
📅 27 days 💷 from £6,295pp 🌐 October 2024 – April 2025

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' Rail, Road & Sea tour includes both North and South Islands and features 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 touring holiday.



Your holiday includes

✈️ Return economy flights with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow, or Singapore Airlines from Manchester or London Heathrow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty

📍 Choice of two-night outbound stopover – choose from Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai (depending on airline)

🏠 Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portage and applicable taxes

🍴 Meals worth £503 per person, with daily breakfast, a dinner in Rotorua and lunch in a Waipara Valley winery

🌐 Unforgettable experiences including:

- ★ 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 on Milford Sound

🚂 Three incredible rail journeys on board The Northern Explorer; The Coastal Pacific and The TranzAlpine

📖 Services of an experienced Tour Manager and Coach Captains

🚌 All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

🔒 Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 148-151.



The Northern Explorer, Tongariro National Park, North Island



Tane Mahuta, Waipoua Kauri Forest, North Island

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 M Hotel Singapore. **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

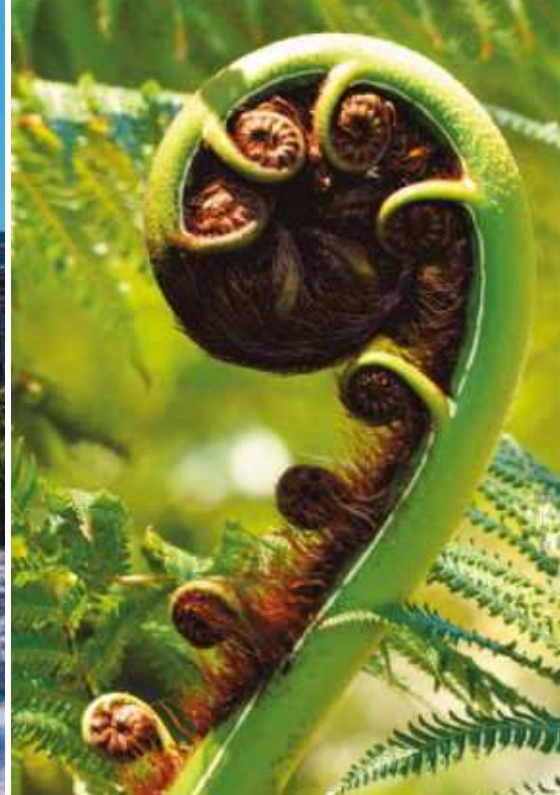
We journey north from Auckland, crossing the city's imposing Waitemata Harbour Bridge, into a landscape of rolling hills and farmland. In the afternoon we explore Northland's Waipoua Kauri Forest Reserve, home to gigantic kauri trees, the most famous of which is Tane Mahuta, 'Lord of the Forest'. A stop 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 are spent at the Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands. **Breakfast included**



Auckland, North Island



Pohutu Geyser, Rotorua, North Island



New Zealand Fern



The Coastal Pacific, South Island

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 Piercy 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 in the 19th century. Our free afternoon provides an excellent opportunity to visit Waitangi National Reserve, where Maori and British chiefs signed the Waitangi Treaty in 1840. **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. This evening 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

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 take a scenic flight over Mount Tarawera or visit the world-renowned Polynesian Thermal Pools. **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 Copthorne Hotel Oriental Bay, 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 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 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. **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 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**



TSS Earnslaw, Queenstown, South Island



Mitre Peak, Milford Sound, South Island



Seals, Otago Peninsula, South Island

New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

Days 17 to 25: Franz Josef - Queenstown - Milford Sound - Te Anau - Dunedin - Christchurch

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 short journey into the Waiho Valley, where those who wish may take a short stroll through rainforest to a view point, to take in the glacial valley landscape. 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

We recommend

Scenic flight over Franz Josef Glacier

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



Day 18: Queenstown, 3 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 either the Millennium Hotel or the 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 the remainder of our day is at leisure. **Breakfast included**

Day 20: 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, a cruise on the the iconic TSS Earnslaw or 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**

Day 21: Te Anau, Overnight

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. We spend tonight at the Distinction Luxmore Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 22: 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. 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 Scenic Southern Cross. **Breakfast included**

Day 23: 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. In the afternoon, why not join an optional wildlife cruise to the Otago Peninsula? Enjoy uninterrupted views of the world's only mainland colony of royal albatross. You may also encounter sea lions, blue penguins and Hector's dolphins. **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. Our next stop is Oamaru, where we stroll through New Zealand's best preserved Victorian streets. 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 and enjoy lunch by the popular waterfront.





Maori greeting



Wat Arun, Bangkok, Thailand



Joo Chiat Road, 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?



If you wish to make the ultimate journey to Australasia, combine the New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea tour with one of our incredible Australia tours.

Please see pages 128-129 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.

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, Dubai, Bangkok or Bali.

Please see pages 142-143 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2024 Departures

06 October 2024	£6,695 per person
10 November 2024	£6,695 per person

2025 Departures

12 January 2025	£6,995 per person
02 February 2025	£6,895 per person
16 February 2025	£6,795 per person
09 March 2025	£6,695 per person
13 April 2025	£6,295 per person

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

£1,795.

13 April 2025 £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

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 146-147.

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 Booking Conditions are available on pages 148-151.

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





Clockwise from above: Traditional Maori festival; Milford Sound, South Island; Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, Rotorua, North Island



The Very Best of New Zealand

📅 28 days 💷 from £5,995pp 🌍 October 2024 – April 2025

New Zealand offers so much. From breath-taking and sometimes other worldly landscapes to its vibrant Maori culture; its welcoming and laid-back lifestyle to the unique flora and fauna; the list is endless.

This tour is one of our most popular, with 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 lesser-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 Kaikoura, famed for its whale watching. Arguably the highlight of the tour is an unforgettable cruise on Milford Sound.

The tour is leisurely-paced with plenty of free time to explore as you please, and truly does showcase this wonderful country in all its splendour.



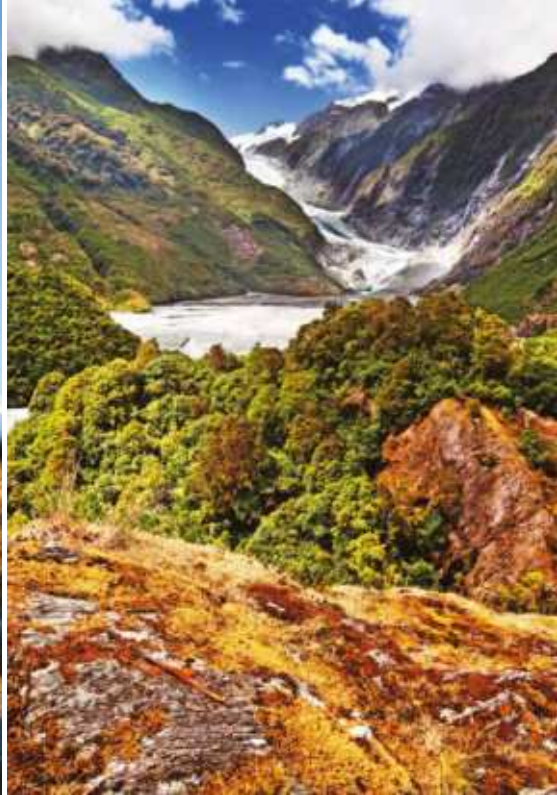
Your holiday includes

- ✈️ Return economy flights with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow, or Singapore Airlines from Manchester or London Heathrow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
- 🕒 Choice of two-night outbound stopover – choose from Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai (depending on airline)
- 🏠 Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- 🍴 Meals worth £565 per person, with daily breakfast and a dinner in Rotorua
- 🌍 Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Bangkok or Dubai), Christchurch, Queenstown, Dunedin, Wellington, Rotorua and Auckland
 - ★ Cruise on Milford Sound
 - ★ Maori concert
 - ★ Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve
 - ★ 'Hole in the Rock' cruise in the Bay of Islands
- 📖 Services of an experienced Coach Captain
- 🚌 All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- 🔒 Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 148-151.



Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Tekapo, South Island



Franz Josef Glacier, West Coast, South Island



TSS Earnslaw, Queenstown, South Island

The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 1 to 11: UK - Singapore - Christchurch - Franz Josef - 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 M Hotel Singapore. **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, flights will transit in Australia. The Singapore Airlines flight is direct from Singapore. On arrival into Christchurch we transfer to the centrally located Distinction Hotel Christchurch, 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 throughout 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, a historical building on the edge of the city, and continue 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, 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: Franz Josef, 2 nights

Today we embark on one of the most stunning drives in New Zealand. Travel through the Canterbury Plains, heading towards the imposing Southern Alps. We climb the mighty Southern Alps, where at every turn, spectacular views of the chiselled alpine landscape take our breath away. There is also an opportunity to take an optional journey on the TranzAlpine, arguably one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world. On board, you will enjoy thrilling vistas over deep gorges as we travel alongside the ice-fed Waimakariri River. From Arthur’s Pass, we make the spectacular descent down the western side of the Southern Alps by coach, 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 Ianthe and Mapourika before entering the Westland National Park and reaching the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier for our next two nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 8: Franz Josef Freedom Day

Today is left completely free to absorb the beauty of Franz Josef. For those that so wish, we shall drive into the valley of Franz Josef Glacier, where we will have the opportunity to walk through the rainforest and enjoy views of the steep 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**

Day 9: Queenstown, 3 nights

Enjoy 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. **Breakfast included**

Day 10: Queenstown

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. In the afternoon, you are free to enjoy 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 11: Queenstown Freedom Day

Queenstown smiles south across Lake Wakatipu into an incomparable alpine scene. 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 for an enjoyable day of wine tasting and sightseeing, or take leisurely cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard the vintage steamboat TSS Earnslaw. For something a little more adventurous, a four-wheel drive adventure along the famous Skippers Road may be appealing. **Breakfast included**



Milford Sound, South Island



Clock tower, Dunedin, South Island

The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 12 to 16: Te Anau - Dunedin - Christchurch - Kaikoura

Day 12: Te Anau, Overnight

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. We spend tonight at the Distinction Hotel and Villas. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: 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. Enjoy two nights at the Distinction Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: 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. In the afternoon, why not join an optional wildlife cruise to the Otago Peninsula? Enjoy uninterrupted views of the world's only mainland colony of royal albatross. You may also encounter sea lions, blue penguins and Hector's dolphins. **Breakfast included**

Day 15: Christchurch, Overnight

Our journey 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. Our next stop is Oamaru, where we stroll through New Zealand's best preserved Victorian streets. We arrive at the Distinction Hotel in Christchurch, where we stay overnight. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: Kaikoura, Overnight

After breakfast, we bid farewell to Christchurch and head towards the coastal town of Kaikoura, admiring the picturesque valley of Waipara, one of the country's most notable wine regions, as we make our way north. Kaikoura means 'crayfish' in Maori, and the town is known as the crayfish capital of New Zealand. Kaikoura's coast is also home to a variety of whale species, most prominently sperm whales, which can be seen year-round. This afternoon you will have the option to take a whale-watching cruise, weather permitting, with the chance to see these magnificent creatures, as well as orcas, dolphins and other marine life. After checking in to our hotel for the evening, the ideally located Sudima Hotel, the rest of the day is yours to enjoy as you please. Explore the cafes and shops of the charming Kaikoura township, a great place for fish & chips, and of course the local crayfish. We also recommend a walk along the coast towards Point Kean, where you may see New Zealand Fur Seals basking in the sun. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Kaikoura whale watching cruise

An opportunity to spot sperm whales, orcas, dolphins and other marine life.



Whale Watching, Kaikoura, South Island

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



Cable Car, Wellington, South Island



Napier, North Island



Bay of Islands, North Island

The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 17 to 26: Wellington - Napier - Rotorua - Bay of Islands - Auckland

Day 17: Wellington, 2 nights

This morning we journey from Kaikoura to Picton, taking in incredible coastal scenery and the landscapes of the Marlborough wine growing region. In the afternoon we leave South Island in our wake as we board the ferry for our inter-island 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 enjoy a brief sightseeing tour. The capital of New Zealand is compact, cultured and full of character. 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 then continue to the top of Mount Victoria for the finest view of the city and its picturesque harbour. The next two nights are spent at the Copthorne Hotel Oriental Bay. **Breakfast included**

Day 18: Wellington Freedom Day

A Freedom Day to spend as we please. There are a whole host of excellent activities in and around Wellington. 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 or take a relaxing stroll through the city's streets and waterfront. **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. This evening 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 21: Rotorua

This morning, we explore some of Rotorua's most famous sights, including its tudor-inspired bath house. We continue to Te Puia, home to Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, to view its spouting geysers, bubbling mud pools and hissing fumaroles. During our free afternoon you may wish to take a scenic flight over Mount Tarawera or visit the Polynesian Thermal Pools. **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 or Copthorne Hotel will be our home for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**

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**

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 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, Singapore



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, combine a tour of Australia with The Very Best of New Zealand tour.

Please see pages 128-129 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.

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, Dubai, Bangkok or Bali.

Please see pages 142-143 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2024 Departures

11 October 2024	£6,495 per person
08 November 2024	£6,595 per person

2025 Departures

17 January 2025	£6,895 per person
07 February 2025	£6,895 per person
21 February 2025	£6,795 per person
14 March 2025	£6,595 per person
25 April 2025	£5,995 per person

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

£1,875.

25 April 2025 £1,545.

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

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 146-147.

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 Booking Conditions are available on pages 148-151.

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.

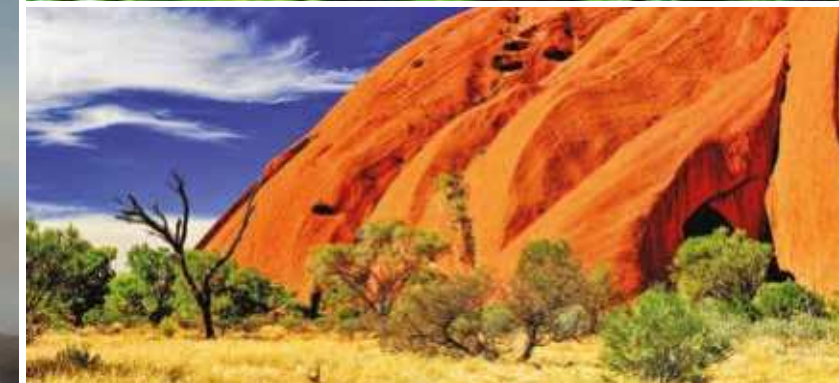
Call FREE on 0800 141 3745

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





Clockwise from above: Te Puia, Rotorua, North Island, New Zealand; Native Kiwi, New Zealand; Uluru, Northern Territory, Australia

Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

📅 31 days 💷 from £7,495pp 🌐 October 2024 – April 2025

The best of both worlds! 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 Australia and New Zealand, you can expect highlight upon highlight on this epic 31-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

- Return economy flights with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. All domestic flights within Australia and the flight between New Zealand and Australia are also included
- Choice of two-night outbound stopover – choose from Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £690 per person, with daily breakfast, a lunch in Rotorua, buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef and a lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour
- Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ 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
 - ★ Cruise Sydney's famous harbour
- Services of an experienced Coach Captain in New Zealand and Tour Manager in Australia
- All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 148-151.



Merlion Park, Singapore



Auckland, North Island

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 Airedale Boutique Suites 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 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, South Island



Lake Tekapo, South Island



Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road, Victoria

Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 8 to 20: 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 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 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, a 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 Heritage Hotel in the stunning alpine resort of Queenstown, which will be home for our next three nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: 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 15: 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 16: Melbourne, 4 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 before we bid farewell to New Zealand and head to 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

After a leisurely morning, we take a first look at Melbourne on a sightseeing tour. Sights include Treasury Gardens, Victoria Markets, Federation Square, the Melbourne Cricket Ground and Rod Laver Arena. Later, we head out of the city to see the waterside suburbs of St. Kilda and Port Melbourne. **Breakfast included**

Day 18: Melbourne Freedom Day

This is our first Freedom Day in Melbourne, where we have the opportunity to take a trip to the scenic Blue Dandenong Ranges and ride the Puffing Billy steam train. Alternatively, 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 19: 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's first stop is 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 20: Cairns, 4 nights

This morning we travel to Melbourne 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. Located in the heart of Cairns, our hotel for the next four nights is the DoubleTree by Hilton. **Breakfast included**



Clownfish, Great Barrier Reef, Queensland



Kuranda Scenic Railway, Queensland



Standley Chasm, Western MacDonnell Ranges, Northern Territory

Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 21 to 29: Great Barrier Reef - Cairns - Uluru - Alice Springs - Sydney

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

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 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, 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. Or you might prefer to experience Hartley's Crocodile Adventures. Whatever you choose - enjoy your day! **Breakfast included**

Day 24: 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. As an alternative, you may choose the optional Sounds of Silence experience, including dinner under the outback stars. **Breakfast included**

Day 25: 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 26: 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 prefer 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 27: 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 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. 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 29: 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, and includes afternoon tea at the historic Hydro Majestic Hotel. **Breakfast included**



Blue Mountains, New South Wales



Asian dumplings



Hindu temple, Bali, Indonesia

Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 30 to 31: Sydney - UK

Day 30: Depart Sydney

The morning 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

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 142-143 for more details on homebound stopovers.

2024 Departures

14 October 2024 **£7,595** per person

2025 Departures

27 January 2025 **£7,795** per person

10 February 2025 **£7,695** per person

03 March 2025 **£7,695** per person

21 April 2025 **£7,495** per person

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

£1,895.

21 April 2025 £1,795

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.

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Visa information

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Important information

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Call to book

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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





“For the ultimate adventure down under, you can combine a selection of our full Australia and New Zealand tours”

Australia & New Zealand Combination Tours

Whilst friendly neighbours, Australia and New Zealand are magnificent countries in their own right, completely unique to one another despite their proximity.

Australia is a land of contrasts, from ancient Aboriginal cultures to cosmopolitan cities; vast desert landscapes to sparkling seas. New Zealand is home to dominating mountain peaks and volcanoes; lush rainforests and enchanting natural beauty.

Both are incredible touring destinations, and Distant Journeys have many years experience operating across Australasia.

For the ultimate adventure down under, you can combine a selection of our full Australia and New Zealand tours, as many of our customers visiting this corner of the world opt to do.

There are various permutations available, some touring New Zealand first then heading to Australia — or the other way around.

Depending on which combination you choose, there may be a few days between one tour ending and the next beginning. We include accommodation for these free days, so you can enjoy some independent exploration or just relax and recharge the batteries before embarking on your next chapter.

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

Left: Outback sunset, Australia
Right: Milford Sound, South Island, New Zealand

The Ghan

The Ultimate Outback Experience



The Ghan



Top: Gold Service Twin Cabin. Bottom: Stop at Marla, South Australia



Queen Adelaide Restaurant



Onboard dining

A journey on board The Ghan is an iconic Australian experience; a legendary rail journey which captures the spirit of adventure of the Afghan cameleers after whom the train is named.

More than 120 years ago, before a road or rail infrastructure was developed, camel drivers came to Australia from Afghanistan to lead camel trains throughout outback Australia, transporting supplies to regional towns, mines and cattle stations. The railway line was opened in 1929, with the train dubbed the Afghan Express, or ‘Ghan’, and ran initially 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.

Today, regarded as one of the world’s greatest rail journeys, and the ultimate in relaxed travel, an overnight journey on board The Ghan is a true highlight of Distant Journeys’ tours of Australia and never fails to amaze our guests.

Whether you choose the rail journey from Adelaide to Alice Springs, which forms part of our Wonders of Australia tour, or the crossing from Alice Springs to Darwin, which is included on our Very Best of Australia tour, you can look forward to an amazing experience both on and off the train.

Travel in Gold Service comfort and style

Our guests travel in style on board The Ghan, in Gold Service accommodation. Enjoy your own private cabin with a dedicated Cabin Steward. 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 lounge 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 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, depending on your choice of itinerary, you will either stop in the desert after dinner, to take in the velvety night sky studded with stars; alight the train before dawn to watch sunrise in the heart of the Australian outback; or explore the pristine wilderness of Katherine with a cruise through Nitmiluk Gorge.



Gold Service Twin Cabin

Gold Service food and beverages

As well as your own private cabin, travelling in Gold Service on board The Ghan 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 dishes 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



Coral Sea Resort, Airlie Beach, Queensland



Adelaide – Crowne Plaza
Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★
Crowne Plaza Adelaide is a 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 restaurant, Tutto Cucina & Bar, offers 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.



Airlie Beach – Coral Sea Resort
Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★
Coral Sea Resort in Airlie Beach is a relaxing, beachside resort that serves as a sanctuary away from the demands of everyday life. Guests can enjoy picturesque views of the Whitsundays while lazing in the hammock on each room's private balcony or soak up the sun by the outdoor lagoon-style pool. The Rocks poolside restaurant and bar features fresh, locally-sourced cuisine, accompanied by world-class beverages and stunning scenery. For complete rejuvenation, the resort offers a day spa where guests can enjoy a variety of revitalising treatments.



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 Juicy Rump Bar does excellent steaks in a pub-style setting.



Brisbane – Stamford Plaza
Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★
A stone's throw from the Botanic Gardens in Brisbane, the Stamford Plaza is an elegant hotel providing a sophisticated, stylish stay in the heart of the city. Guest rooms are elegantly designed with tasteful, modern furnishings, offering sweeping views of the Brisbane skyline or Brisbane River. The hotel is home to Kabuki, serving contemporary Japanese cuisine, as well as La Boca, an authentic Argentinian bar and grill. It also comes equipped with amenities including an outdoor heated pool and fitness centre.



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 hotel 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 Cairns 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.



Canberra – Hotel Kurrajong

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

Conveniently located in the heart of Canberra, Hotel Kurrajong offers a refined and tranquil retreat. Inspired by the heritage and culture of Australia's capital city, the hotel features elegantly designed rooms, each showcasing a blend of modern comfort and timeless style. Guests can indulge in a culinary journey at Chifley's Bar & Grill, where sumptuous dishes are expertly crafted using locally sourced ingredients. The hotel also boasts an array of services and amenities, including a fully equipped fitness centre.



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.



Katoomba – The Carrington Hotel

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

The historic Carrington Hotel stands proudly as Australia's oldest remaining resort-style hotel and radiates an air of classic elegance. Nestled in the beautiful mountain town of Katoomba, in Australia's famous Blue Mountains, this heritage-listed gem beckons travellers to step back in time, with each room offering a unique configuration. Enjoy exquisite culinary delights crafted by the hotel's talented chefs and explore a range of convenient services and amenities.



K'gari (Fraser Island) – Kingfisher Bay Resort

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

Kingfisher Bay Resort, nestled on picturesque K'gari (Fraser Island), is a hidden paradise that blends seamlessly with its World Heritage-listed natural surroundings. This award-winning resort offers the ultimate island getaway, with delicious dining experiences at a choice of stylist restaurants and bars, and a pool surrounded by lush greenery and of course the island's awe-inspiring beauty.



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 is located 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 – Four Points by Sheraton Docklands

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

The Four Points by Sheraton Docklands hotel is located in Melbourne's fashionable Docklands area, a modern harbour development popular for its shopping and dining options. The bright, spacious air-conditioned hotel rooms offer floor-to-ceiling windows with sweeping views of the city of Melbourne. The hotel has a well-equipped fitness centre and a heated outdoor pool. Dock 18 Restaurant and Bar specialises in farm to fork cuisine, with the accent on locally sourced produce.



Melbourne – The Savoy Hotel on Little Collins

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

The Savoy Hotel on Little Collins offers a cosmopolitan, sophisticated experience for travellers seeking a stylish and central city stay. With plush guest rooms, complete with modern amenities and a classic charm, the hotel exudes effortless elegance. Built in 1866, this historic hotel provides an array of dining options to suit all tastes, from an Australian-inspired restaurant to the chic Alexander Bar. Guests can also enjoy access to a state-of-the-art fitness centre.



Perth – Duxton Hotel Perth

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

Located in the heart of Perth, the Duxton Hotel offers excellent accommodation in its tastefully appointed suites. Guests have access to a 24-hour fitness centre with heated pool as well as exquisite cuisine in the stylish ambiance of the Firewater Grille restaurant and The Bar – a popular haunt for guests and locals alike. The Duxton is well located for exploring nearby attractions, including the Swan River, Botanic Gardens and the renowned Kings Park.



Perth – Novotel Perth Langley

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

Just a short walk away from Elizabeth Quay and a wide range of shops, restaurants and popular attractions. Novotel Perth Langley is an ideal base from which to explore the city of Perth. The hotel offers spacious guest rooms with modern amenities and a fitness centre overlooking Langley Park and the Swan River. Dining options include the Sen5es Restaurant and Wine Bar where guests can sample some of Australia's finest wines, as well as the hotel's own Irish bar, Fenian's.



Perth – The Melbourne Hotel

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

The Melbourne Hotel in Perth has been welcoming guests since 1897. Located in the heart of the city, the hotel blends contemporary and heritage styles, so whether guests are seeking Old World charm or modern-day sophistication, there's something for everyone. Dining options range from classic Australian to authentic Asian cuisine and after a day of exploring Perth, guests can relax in the charming De Baun & Co pub or watch the sun go down over the city at Aurora rooftop bar.

Australia Hotel Directory



Port Douglas – Peppers Beach Club

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

Peppers Beach Club is a stunning coastal resort located in the iconic tropical North Queensland town of Port Douglas. The resort offers spacious and elegant rooms each featuring a private balcony or terrace with garden or pool views. Meanwhile, at the Koko Poolside Bar & Kitchen, guests can enjoy fresh seafood and classic cocktails in a spectacular setting. Peppers Beach Club is just a stone's throw away from the pristine sands of Four Mile Beach and close to all the natural wonders of this World Heritage region.



Port Douglas – Port Douglas Peninsula Boutique Hotel

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

The Port Douglas Peninsula Boutique Hotel is a peaceful retreat offering travellers a memorable tropical escape. Nestled amidst the natural beauty of tropical Queensland, with views of Four Mile Beach and the Coral Sea, the Peninsula offers inviting suites, each featuring a private balcony or terrace to enjoy the breathtaking views. Guests can relax at the open-air restaurant, enjoy a drink at the swim-up pool bar (surrounded by an idyllic lagoon-style pool), or surrender to the tranquil embrace of the on-site spa.



Rockhampton – Empire Apartment Hotel

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

Located in the heart of Rockhampton, the Empire Apartment Hotel, with its riverfront setting offers beautiful views of the Fitzroy River and Mount Archer and is ideally placed for exploring the city. This apartment hotel features elegantly designed rooms and a range of dining options, including authentic Italian cuisine and casual meals at the hotel's restaurant and café. Guests can unwind with a refreshing swim in the outdoor pool or savour a cocktail at the bar.



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 – 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 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.



Townsville – Hotel Grand Chancellor

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

Hotel Grand Chancellor offers comfortable accommodation in the heart of the bustling business and shopping districts of Townsville. Guests can enjoy panoramic views of Castle Hill, Magnetic Island and the city from their rooms or from the rooftop pool. The hotel's location makes it a convenient spot to access attractions such as the Strand waterfront and Reef HQ Aquarium, as well as the excellent local restaurants and nightlife.



Uluru – Desert Gardens Hotel

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

Located within Ayers Rock Resort, the Desert Gardens Hotel 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.



Uluru – Outback Hotel & Lodge

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

In the heart of Ayers Rock Resort, the Outback Hotel & Lodge 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.

New Zealand Hotel Directory



Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands, Paihia, North Island



Auckland – Airedale Boutique Suites

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

Airedale Boutique Suites occupies a prime position in the heart of Auckland's theatre district. The distinctive heritage building has been sympathetically restored to offer comfortable, stylish guest rooms. Trocadero Restaurant and Bar offers an extensive buffet breakfast and an all-day menu of dishes made with fresh, seasonal produce.



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 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 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 Glacier

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 Glacier 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.



Kaikoura – Sudima Hotel

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

Sudima Kaikoura is a brand-new hotel on Kaikoura's Esplanade, with sweeping views of sea and mountain. This central location makes it an ideal base for whale watching expeditions, Kaikoura's main attraction. Superior guest rooms are bright and spacious, and the hotel has a fitness centre and outdoor heated infinity pool. Hiku is the Sudima Kaikoura's all-day restaurant, its name coming from the Maori word for 'whale tail' and offers delicious, New Zealand fare.

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.



Paihia – Copthorne Hotel and Resort Bay of Islands

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

The Copthorne Hotel and Resort 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 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 and Resort Lakefront

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

Copthorne Hotel and Resort Lakefront overlooks Lake Wakatipu and is 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 – Heritage Hotel

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

The Heritage Hotel Queenstown takes full advantage of its beautiful alpine setting alongside Lake Wakatipu. Built from ages-old rock and cedar, the hotel offers comfortable, elegant accommodation. Guest rooms are sumptuous and stylish with super king beds and fluffy bathrobes. Mackenzie's Restaurant and Bar boasts breathtaking views over Lake Wakatipu, and offers a lavish breakfast buffet, a perfect start to an adventure-filled day.



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 the lake. The hotel offers modern guest rooms as well as a choice of two dining experiences, Bailiez Cafe & Bar with its cafe style menu, and Hilights 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 & 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.



Twizel – Distinction Mackenzie Country Hotel

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

The Distinction Mackenzie Country Hotel features a stonework exterior that befits the stunning landscapes of New Zealand's Mackenzie Country, offering comfortable rooms with balconies and panoramic views. Guests can savour the flavours of the region at the hotel's authentic Four Seasons Restaurant & Bar while enjoying the picturesque surroundings.



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 provides local fare in the stylish One80° Restaurant and Cocktail Bar.

Choose your Airline and Stopover



Wat Arun Temple, Bangkok, Thailand

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, 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 3745 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	Dubai, Bangkok, Singapore, Sentosa Island or Bali
Wonders of Australia			Singapore or Dubai	
Treasures of Australia The Very Best of Australia			Singapore, Dubai or Perth	
Highlights of Australia & New Zealand			Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai	
Enchanting Australia	Singapore Airlines	London Heathrow or Manchester^	None	Singapore or Sentosa Island
Australia's East Coast Jewels			Singapore	
Magnificent New Zealand Natural Wonders of New Zealand	Singapore Airlines	London Heathrow or Manchester^	Singapore	Singapore or Sentosa Island
The Very Best of New Zealand New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea	Qantas & Emirates	London Heathrow, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle or Glasgow	Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai	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 £100 per person per night.

Homebound stopover prices	Three nights £495 per person	Single occupancy £745
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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
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Dubai – Marriott Hotel al Jaddaf
Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★
The Marriott Hotel Al Jaddaf 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 are varied to suit all tastes. 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
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Sentosa Island – Shangri-La 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 £495 per person	Single occupancy £695
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Singapore – M Hotel
Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★
M Hotel is a modern, stylish hotel offering a warm welcome and a range of services alongside comfortable, contemporary accommodation in the heart of downtown Singapore. The spacious guest rooms are equipped with flat screen TV and free WiFi, and there is a pool and fitness centre. Cafe 2000 serves a lavish spread of steaks and seafood, and The Buffet Restaurant offers authentic Chinese cuisine. J Bar has an outdoor seating area overlooking the harbour.

Homebound stopover prices	Two nights £295 per person	Single occupancy £395
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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 inches[^]. 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

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.

- Fully flat bed seat with a seat pitch of up to 79 inches[^]
- 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 Class seats are designed to give you more personal space with a typical seat pitch of 32 inches[^]. 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 £2,295 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 inches[^]
- Personal 13.3 inch widescreen LCD
- Option to pre-book meals with Book the Cook
- Integrated calf and foot rest
- Noise cancelling headsets

Upgrade to Business Class from £4,995 return

A seat that seamlessly reclines into a bed. An 18 inch 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 inch seat pitch which converts into 78 inch long bed[^]
- 18 inch 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 inches[^] including a personal inflight entertainment system. From welcome drinks and award-winning wines to menus that reflect the freshest seasonal ingredients – you'll be spoilt for choice.



Upgrade to Premium Economy* from £2,295 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 inches[^]
- 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 £4,995 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.

- 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. 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 Booking 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.

We also suggest referring to the UK government's Foreign Travel Advice website, gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice for advice about travelling abroad, including the latest information on safety and security, entry requirements and travel warnings.

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 up to 10 weeks to obtain. If you are 16 or over and have not yet arranged a passport, you should apply for one at least 10 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. Alternatively, if you would prefer to have assistance with your visa and have the application process managed by a visa company, we recommend The Visa Travel Company.

For more detailed information along with useful links to the Foreign Office, online applications and The Visa Travel Company 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.

In addition to the UK government's own travel advice website, we also recommend visiting the NHS Travel Vaccinations website, nhs.uk/conditions/travel-vaccinations for more information any required 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

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. Due to the limited accessibility to many of the sights and restrictions on included activities, our tours are generally not suitable for wheelchair bound customers or customers with restricted walking abilities.

If you are taking your own wheelchair, when travelling on The Ghan, you will be required to use one of the local supplier's wheelchairs for the duration of the journey on the train.

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.

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.

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.

Travel documents, which include electronic air tickets, helpful information and a final itinerary, can be accessed using the Distant Journeys app, approximately 2-3 weeks prior to your departure. Luggage labels will be sent at the same time.

Weather

Generally, all our tours operate when it is considered the best time to travel however it is important to note that Australia and New Zealand cover different climate zones, so climates may vary throughout your tour. As weather patterns around the world are becoming less predictable 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. Guests joining the Natural Wonders of New Zealand tour should take walking boots. 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, 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.

Bear in mind some countries you will visit adopt a more conservative standard of dress than we are used to in the UK. When visiting sacred 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. Taking off your shoes is also a prerequisite before entering many sacred places.

Currency, credit cards and currency cards

Country	Currency
Australia	Australian 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 Cards

In addition to using Travel Credit and Debit cards, a currency card is also a popular way of buying currency for your holiday. You can preload 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 the Revolut card, which 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 further benefits on using currency cards, more information on Revolut please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/revolutcurrency-card

Tipping

Whilst it is not compulsory to tip in Australia or New Zealand, it is now an accepted practice in many areas. It is the norm, for example to tip in a restaurant if you are happy with the service, usually around 5-7%.

For your tour, tipping is discretionary, however, suggested tipping amounts for your driver and guides would be as follows:

Australia

Tour Manager: \$5.00 AUD per person per day
Coach Driver: \$5.00 AUD per person per day

New Zealand

Coach Captains, Tour Managers & Drivers: \$7.00 - \$15.00 NZD per person per day

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 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 TranzAlpine 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.

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 airline's 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.

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/Coach Captain

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 distantjourneys.co.uk/faqs

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 10913, 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:
legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/634/contents

Booking Conditions

Distant Journeys Booking Conditions. Published September 2023

1. Important

The following booking 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 contract 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. By asking us to confirm your booking, we are entitled to assume that you have had the opportunity to read and have read these booking conditions and agree to them.

In these booking 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 added to a booking or to whom a booking is transferred.

Except where otherwise stated, these booking 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 booking conditions to “holiday”, “booking”, “tour” or “arrangements” mean such tour arrangements unless otherwise stated. All bookings are made pursuant to these booking conditions. **Please be aware that your deposit is non-refundable where you choose to cancel your holiday.**

By making a booking, the first named person on the booking (the “lead name”) agrees on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking that:

- he/she has read these booking 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.

The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 will apply to your contract. For more information on your rights under these regulations please see the link <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents>.

2. In these booking conditions

- Any reference to an EU regulation in these booking conditions should be taken to mean the UK legislation which replaces (or has replaced) that EU regulation and/or any EU regulation which continues to have effect in the UK as a result of being incorporated into UK law (in all cases referred to as ‘retained EU law’). Changes to retained EU law are likely to be made over time. Reference to any EU regulation in these booking conditions is intended to refer to the relevant retained EU law at the applicable time.
- Unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances means a situation which is beyond our control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken. Such situations are likely to include (whether actual or threatened) war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural disaster, fire, flood, an outbreak of a serious illness at your holiday destination, severe adverse weather conditions, closure, restriction or congestion of airports, other transport hubs or airspace, flight restrictions imposed by any regulatory authority or third party and any volcanic activity. Unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances also include the covid-19 pandemic and its impact on travel. When we refer to the covid-19 pandemic in these booking conditions, we mean the pandemic resulting from the illness or disease caused by the novel coronavirus which is now called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and any mutations or variants of the same and/or any other coronavirus (and its mutations and variants) which is treated as part of the same pandemic and/or another pandemic however described.

3. Special requests / fitness to travel medical conditions / disabilities / reduced mobility / allergies / special dietary requirements

If you have any special request, you should advise us in writing at the time of booking. Although we will endeavour to pass any reasonable requests on to the relevant supplier, we regret we cannot guarantee any request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier or the inclusion of the special request on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. All special requests are subject to availability and we cannot guarantee that your special request will be met.

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 safari vehicles, houseboats, sampans and rickshaws may also be used.

This is not an exhaustive list and it is therefore a condition of booking that you are fit and able to take care of yourself for the duration of the tour. You must have a level of fitness suitable for your chosen tour and must recognise that if you do have any disabilities or walking difficulties you may find access to certain attractions and/or parts of your tour restricted.

Our tours may not be suitable for people with certain disabilities, medical conditions or significantly reduced mobility. Before you make your booking, we will advise you as to whether the proposed holiday arrangements are generally suitable for someone with reduced mobility. However, reduced mobility of course means different things to different individuals as we fully appreciate that individual capabilities, restrictions and requirements are likely to vary considerably. When we refer to reduced mobility, this means any material reduction in mobility whether this is permanent or temporary and whether caused by age or by physical or mental disability or impairment or other cause of disability.

If you have any doubts about the suitability of a tour or should you suffer from any medical condition, disability, significant reduction in mobility or significant allergy which may affect your tour (including any which affect the booking process) or have any special requirements as a result, please tell us before you confirm your booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking. We will need to notify our suppliers to ensure that they can meet your needs. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any material change in your condition, disability or mobility occurs. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition, disability, reduced mobility or significant allergy which may affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed.

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

We may require a doctor’s note to confirm that you are fit to travel if we have concerns about your ability to participate in a tour.

You must have travel insurance to cover any medical condition, disability, significant reduction in mobility or significant allergy.

Acting reasonably, if we or our suppliers are unable to properly accommodate the needs of the person(s) concerned, we will not confirm your booking or if you did not give us full details at the time of booking, we will cancel it and impose applicable cancellation charges when we become aware of these details. On occasion, 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 we cannot properly accommodate the needs of the person concerned. 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.

We will advise our suppliers of any allergy information you provide us with. However, you must take appropriate precautions to protect yourself whilst on holiday. Without limitation, it is your responsibility to ensure that any food you are intending to consume does not include anything to which you are allergic at the time you order or purchase this.

Please see further information relating to mobility aids and destination specific term by visiting the FAQ section of our website <https://www.distantjourneys.co.uk/faqs/>

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, or if travelling to Japan, the minimum number is 20 travellers. For Private Tours, Holiday Extensions and our African Rail Adventure, the minimum number is 2 travellers. For Solo Tours, the minimum number is 10 travellers. *For Enchanting Australia, the minimum number is 9 travellers. Where sufficient numbers cannot be achieved, we reserve the right to cancel or change a scheduled tour. Please also see [clause 13](#). 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 20 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. Booking and making payment for your arrangements

To secure any booking, you must pay the applicable deposit as notified to you at the time we provide our quotation or full payment if booking 90 days or less before the start of the tour. 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 and we will have no further liability to you. Deposits are non transferable and non refundable except as expressly set out in these booking 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 assume 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 14](#) depending on the date we reasonably treat your booking as cancelled.

Please Note: If you are a single customer, unless travelling on one of our Solo Tours, the applicable single supplement will be added to your invoice at the time of your booking. We will aim to accommodate single customers in twin or double rooms, with single occupancy.

6. Your contract

Subject to availability we will confirm your booking by issuing our confirmation invoice. This invoice will be sent to the lead name. If your confirmed arrangements include a flight, we will also issue you with an ATOL Certificate.

Please check this invoice and the ATOL certificate carefully as soon as you receive them. Contact us immediately if any information which appears on any document appears to be incorrect or incomplete as it may not be possible to make changes later. We regret we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracies (for which we are responsible) in any document within 10 days of our sending it out. We will do our best to rectify any mistake notified to us outside these time limits but you must meet any costs involved in doing so.

If you wish to, you may contact us by e-mail for any of the reasons mentioned in these booking conditions (for example, to request an amendment) providing you do so to enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

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

7. 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).

You may also use the AITO dispute resolution service, see [clause 21](#).

8. 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 customers, withdrawal from the tour. On Private Tours, your obligation is to the appropriate Distant Journeys representative, be that a local guide, or driver guide.
- All our customers are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and acceptable manner and not to disrupt the enjoyment of others. If in our reasonable opinion, or in the reasonable opinion of any person in authority, you behave in such a way to cause danger, distress or upset or distress to any third party or damage to any property or the environment, we are entitled, without prior notice, to terminate the holiday of the person(s) concerned. In this situation, the person(s) concerned will be required to cease all use of the holiday services including leaving the tour and any accommodation. We will have no further responsibility toward such person(s) including any return travel arrangements. No refunds will be made and we will not pay any expenses, costs or loss incurred as a result of the termination.
- When you book with us, you accept responsibility for any damage or loss you cause. 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.

9. 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 10](#) below will apply.

10. Price Promise

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.

Additional charges *: 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.

11. 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 booking conditions.

12. Brochure validity

The tour brochure and these booking 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.

13. 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 unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances. 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 will be insignificant and we have the right to make these. If we make an insignificant change to your holiday, we will make reasonable efforts to inform you as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure. No compensation is payable for insignificant changes. Examples of insignificant changes include alteration of your outward/return flights and/or coach journeys by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type (if advised) or carrier, destination or departure airport to one in a similar geographical location, change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard, minor changes to the itinerary.

- Occasionally, we have to make a significant change to 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, for example missing out a significant destination entirely.

- In the event we have to significantly alter any of the main characteristics of your confirmed arrangements or accepted special requirements, we will provide you with the following information in writing as soon as possible: (i) the proposed alteration and any impact this has on the price; (ii) in the event that you do not wish to accept the alteration, details of any alternative holiday arrangements we are able to offer (including the applicable price); (iii) your entitlement to cancel your booking and receive a full refund if you do not want to accept the alteration or any alternative holiday arrangements offered; and (iv) the period within which you must inform us of your decision and what will happen if you don’t do so.

- If you choose to cancel your booking in accordance with [clause 13\(4\)](#), we will refund all payments you have made to us within 14 days of the date the cancellation takes effect and terminates your contract (which is usually the date we send you a cancellation invoice following receipt of your written cancellation notification). If we don’t hear from you with your decision within 7 days (having provided you with the above mentioned information for a second time), we will assume that you have chosen to accept the change or alternative booking arrangements. No compensation will be payable or other liability accepted where a change results from unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.

- Occasionally, it may be necessary to cancel a confirmed booking. We have the right to terminate your contract in the event (i) we are prevented from performing your contracted holiday arrangements as a result of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances and we notify you of this as soon as reasonably possible or (ii) (where applicable) we have to cancel because the minimum number of bookings necessary for us to operate your group holiday has not been achieved and we notify you of cancellation for this reason as referred to in [clause 4](#). Where we have to cancel your booking in these circumstances, we will refund all monies you have paid to us for your booking within 14 days of the effective date of cancellation (see [clause 13\(5\)](#)) but will have no further or other liability to you including in respect of compensation or any costs or expenses you incur or have incurred as a result, including without limitation any payments in relation to travel insurance premiums. We will of course endeavour to offer you alternative holiday arrangements where possible which you may choose to book (at the applicable price) in place of those cancelled. We also have the right to cancel if you fail to make payment in accordance with the terms of your contract in which case [clause 14](#) will apply.

- Please note, a full refund entitlement only arises where we are prevented from performing your contracted holiday arrangements as a result of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances in accordance with [clause 13\(6\)](#) and we exercise our right to cancel as a result. Without limitation, you will not be entitled to a full refund and cancellation charges are likely to apply where such circumstances affect your ability to travel on your holiday rather than our ability to perform or provide the contracted arrangements. This may be the case, for example, where measures applied by the UK or any other government or public authorities mean you are unable to leave your home/local area and/or travel to or gain entry into the country(ies) where your holiday is due to take place. The issue of advice or recommendations against travel by public authorities (such as the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) does not automatically mean we are prevented from performing your holiday arrangements but may instead affect your ability to travel. Any obligation to quarantine or self-isolate on your return to your country of residence does not affect our ability to provide your holiday and will not entitle you to cancel without paying our usual cancellation charges.

- In the event that unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances occur in the place of destination of your holiday or its immediate vicinity and significantly affect the performance of the contracted arrangements or the carriage of passengers to that destination, you will be entitled to cancel prior to departure without payment of cancellation charges and receive a full refund of all monies you have paid to us for your booking (except for any previously incurred cancellation or amendment charges and travel insurance premiums).

Where applicable, you must notify us of your wish to cancel for this reason in writing. Providing we are in agreement that you are entitled to do so in accordance with this clause, we will send you a cancellation invoice to confirm the cancellation. Any refund then due will be paid in accordance with [clause 13\(5\)](#) above. We will notify you as soon as practicable should this situation occur. You will not be entitled to any compensation. Please note, certain situations arising from or in connection with the covid-19 pandemic may constitute unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances. However, this does not mean they will entitle you to cancel and receive a full refund as set out in this clause or in regulation 12(7) of the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018.

- If we have to make a significant change to or cancel a confirmed tour, we will 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 an insignificant change;
- where we make a significant change or cancel your arrangements more than 90 days before departure;
- 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 unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.

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.

14. 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 booking 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
- d) the transferee agrees to these booking 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 customers 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.

In calculating our cancellation charges, we have taken account of possible cost savings and the generation of income from other bookings which may be able to utilise cancelled services to the extent this is likely to be achievable. 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.

15. Our liability

- We promise to make sure that the holiday arrangements we have agreed to make, perform or provide as applicable as part of our contract with you are made, performed or provided with reasonable skill and care. This means that, subject to these booking conditions, we will accept responsibility if, for example, you suffer death or personal injury, or your contracted holiday arrangements are not provided as promised or prove deficient as a direct result of the failure of ourselves, our employees, agents or suppliers to use reasonable skill and care in making, performing or providing, as applicable, your contracted holiday arrangements. Please note, it is your responsibility to show that reasonable skill and care has not been used if you wish to make a claim against us. In addition, we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within the course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers).
- We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any injury, illness, death, loss (for example, loss of enjoyment or loss of possessions), 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
 - unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.
- We cannot accept responsibility for any services which do not form part of our contract. This includes, for example, any additional services or facilities which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you where the services or facilities are not advertised by us in our brochure or on our website and we have not agreed to arrange them as part of our contract and any excursion or activities you purchase during your tour. In addition, regardless of any wording used by us on our website, in any advertising material or elsewhere, we only promise to use reasonable skill and care as set out above and we do not have any greater or different liability to you.
- The promises we make to you about the services we have agreed to provide or arrange as part of our contract, and the laws and applicable standards of the country in which your claim occurred, will be used as the basis for deciding whether the services in question had been properly provided. If the particular services which give rise to the claim were provided in compliance with the applicable local laws and standards, the services will be treated as having been properly provided. This will be the case even if the services did not comply with the laws and standards of the UK which would have applied had those services been provided in the UK. The exception to this is where the claim concerns the absence of a safety feature which might lead a reasonable holidaymaker to refuse to take the holiday in question. Please note, however, our obligation is to exercise reasonable skill and care as referred to in clause 15(1). We do not make any representation or commitment that all services will comply with applicable local laws and standards and failure to comply does not automatically mean we have not exercised reasonable skill and care.
- Except as set out in clause 15(6) or as otherwise permitted by English law, we do not limit the amount of damages you are entitled to claim in respect of personal injury or death which we or our employees have caused intentionally or negligently. For all other claims, if we are found liable to you on any basis, the maximum amount we will have to pay you is three times the total holiday cost (excluding any insurance premiums and amendment charges) paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total, unless a lower limitation applies to your claim under clause 15(6). This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you have not received any benefit at all from your holiday.
- Where any claim concerns or is based on any travel arrangements (including without limitation, the process of getting on and/or off the transport concerned) provided by any air, sea or rail carrier to which any international convention or EU regulation applies where we have arranged that travel as part of our contract, our liability (including the maximum amount of compensation we will have to pay you,

the types of claim and the circumstances in which damages / compensation will be payable) will be limited as if we were the carrier in question as referred to in this clause 15(6). The most we will have to pay you for that claim if we are found liable to you on any basis is the most the carrier concerned would have to pay you under the applicable international convention(s) or EU regulation(s). Such conventions and regulations include the Warsaw Convention as amended or unamended, the Montreal Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air 1999 and for airlines with an operating licence granted by an EU country, the Regulation (EC) No 889/2002 on air carrier liability in the event of accidents, the Athens Convention relating to the carriage of passengers and their luggage by sea 1974 (as amended by the 2002 protocol), and Regulation (EC) No 392/2009 on the liability of carriers of passengers by sea in the event of accidents, the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims as amended by the 1996 protocol and the Convention of 1980 concerning International Travel by Rail (COTIF) as amended and Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations. You may also have rights under regulation (EU) no 1177/2010 concerning the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway or regulation (EC) no 1371/2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations. Where a carrier would not be obliged to make any payment to you under the applicable international convention or EU regulation (including where any claim is not notified and issued in accordance with the stipulated time limits), we, similarly, are not obliged to make a payment to you for that claim. When making any payment, we will deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the carrier for the claim in question. Copies of the applicable international conventions and EU regulations are available from us on request. Please note that strict time limits apply for notifying loss, damage or delay of luggage to the airline or ferry / cruise operator. Any proceedings in respect of any claim (including one for personal injury or death) must be brought within 2 years of the date stipulated in the applicable convention or EU regulation.

- We cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss, expense or other sum(s) of any nature or description which (a) 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 or (b) did not result from any breach of contract or other fault by ourselves or our employees or, where we are responsible for them, our suppliers or (c) relates to any business (including without limitation, loss of self employed earnings).

16. Conditions of carriers or other suppliers

Many of the services which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers such as airlines or cruise lines. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions usually referred to by airlines or cruise lines as conditions of carriage. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable international conventions or EU regulations (see clause 15(6)). Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions and of the international conventions / EU regulations are available on request from ourselves or the supplier concerned.

17. Risk and travel insurance

You acknowledge and accept that there are inherent risks associated with our tours, for example unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances, hazards of travelling in undeveloped areas, travel by boat, train, automobile, aircraft or other means of transportation particularly in undeveloped 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.

18. 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. Up to date UK border control measures are available at www.gov.uk/uk-border-control. 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.

19. 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, cameras, medication, passport, money/credit cards etc should be carried in a travel bag or on your person. You must ensure that 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.

Knight Inlet: If travelling to Knight Inlet, on our Canada tours, as access is by floatplane, you will be restricted to one piece of luggage weighing no more than 14kg. We suggest taking a small bag for this trip and arranging storage for your main luggage.

20. 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 cannot be accepted on our tours, unless travelling on a private tour.

21. Complaints and Arbitration

If a problem occurs during your tour, you must advise our representative (South Africa only – or appropriate manager, senior personal, when travelling on Rovos Rail) 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.

In the unlikely event of our being unable to reach an amicable resolution of any complaint, you may use the AITO dispute resolution service which provides a simple and inexpensive method of arbitration on documents alone. Full details are available on request.

22. Tour price and duration

All prices in our brochure(s) are quoted in English pounds (Sterling). The information contained on our website and in our other advertising material is believed to be correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing or publication. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the website, quotations and prices at the time of publication/printing or when they are given to you, regrettably errors may occasionally occur and information may subsequently 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.

23. 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), portage 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. *On Private Tours, you will receive the services of a driver(s) and local guides, or a driver guide, as appropriate.

NOT included in your fare

Meals not specified in the itinerary, drinks unless specified in the itinerary, laundry, passport and visa fees, Dubai Tourism tax (if stopping over), 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.

24. 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 14** 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 10**(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.

25. 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. We have 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 us.

Specific instructions relating to departure and travel arrangements will be sent electronically with your air or other travel tickets approximately 2 weeks before departure. You must check your documents very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times and other up to date travel information. It is possible that flight times may be changed even after documents have been sent. We will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs.

In accordance with EU regulation (EC) No 2111/2005 as incorporated into UK law and amended, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a UK Air Safety List which contains details of air carriers who are subject to an operating ban in the UK. The UK Air Safety List (which is updated from time to time) can be found on the UK CAA's website www.caa.co.uk.

We will advise you of the actual carrier(s) (or, if the actual carrier(s) is not known, the likely carrier(s)) who 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 will advise 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.

If the carrier with whom you have a confirmed reservation becomes subject to a UK operating ban and we/ the carrier are unable to offer you a suitable alternative the provisions of **clause 11** will apply.

Any change in the identity of the carrier, flight timings, and/or aircraft type (if advised) will not entitle you to cancel or change to other arrangements without paying our normal charges except where specified in these conditions.

26. Delay and Denied Boarding Regulations

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 any flight delay or cancellation at your UK or overseas point of departure, the airline is responsible for providing such assistance as is legally required by the Denied Boarding Regulations (see below). Except where otherwise stated in our brochure or on our website, we regret we cannot provide any assistance in such circumstances other than information and advice to the extent we are in a position to do so.

We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in clause 15 (2) of these Booking Conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on the flight who, for example, fails to check in or board on time). In addition, we will not be liable for any delay unless it has a significant effect on your holiday arrangements.

If your flight is cancelled or delayed, your flight ticket is downgraded or boarding is denied by your airline, depending on the circumstances (including the airport of departure and/or return of the flight and whether you are flying with a UK or EU airline), 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 Regulation EC 261/2004 (as amended by The Air Passenger Rights and Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (Amendment)(EU Exit) Regulations 2019 ('UK Denied Boarding Regulations')). 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 and/or any other payment due to you where applicable. 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 UK 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 UK 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 UK 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 your airline does not comply with its obligations under the UK Denied Boarding Regulations, where applicable, you may use the CAA Passenger Advice and Complaints Service. See www.caa.co.uk/passengers/resolving-travel-problems for further details.

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, visas and health requirements

It is your responsibility to meet all applicable entry and other requirements of your destination country (ies) as well as those applicable on your return home. You must ensure that all your travel documents (physical and electronic), including your passport,

visas / visa waivers, evidence of any other health related requirement and currency are in order, meet all applicable requirements and are valid for travel. All costs incurred in meeting all requirements applicable to your holiday must be paid by you. If you attempt to travel without fully complying with all requirements, you are likely to be refused boarding on your flight or other transport or entry into your destination country. We cannot accept any liability and cancellation charges will apply (as set out in **clause 12**) if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country, or decide not to travel, due to failure (or inability) on your part to obtain and carry all required documentation or to otherwise comply with all applicable requirements.

The passport and visa requirements applicable to the holidays we offer are shown on the FCDO website <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>. You must check entry and other official requirements for all countries to or through which you are travelling as well as any requirements applicable on your return to your home country, at the time of booking, and in good time before, and close to departure. Requirements may change and travel restrictions may be imposed (which could be at no or very short notice prior to departure). You must also keep up to date with this information while you are away.

A British passport would can take up to 10 weeks to obtain and may take longer. If any member of your party (who is a British citizen) is 16 or over and hasn't got or previously held a British passport, even more time needs to be allowed as the UK Passport Service has to confirm your identity before issuing your first passport. If any person on the booking is not a British citizen or holds a non British passport, you must check the applicable passport and visa requirements with the embassy or consulate of the country (ies) to or through which you are intending to travel. Please ensure that you check the latest position on applying for or renewing a passport at the earliest opportunity.

Details of any compulsory health requirements applicable to your holiday appear on the weblink below for the National Travel Health Network and Centre. It is your responsibility to ensure you obtain details of and comply with all recommended and required vaccinations, health precautions and other health related in good time before departure. You must also keep up to date with the latest information. Details are available from your GP surgery, local travel clinic and the National Travel Health Network and Centre <http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/>. Vaccination and other health requirements/recommendations are subject to change at any time for any destination, including at short or no notice. Please therefore check with a doctor or clinic or other reliable source of information not less than 6 weeks prior to departure and also closer to departure to ensure that you are aware of and can meet the necessary requirements and have the latest information.

In the event that you have not received any compulsory vaccination, you may be unable to enter your destination country(ies) or to access certain services and may encounter other difficulties. You will not be entitled to cancel (without payment of cancellation charges) or receive any refund and we will not have any responsibility for any costs or expenses you suffer as a result in any such situation.

It is the responsibility of the person who makes the booking to ensure that all persons travelling are in possession of all necessary travel and health documents before departure. If failure to have any necessary travel or other documents results in fines, surcharges, other financial penalty, costs or expenses being incurred by us, you will be responsible for reimbursing us accordingly.

28. Financial security, ATOL and AITO membership

We hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (ATOL number 10913). All flights and flight inclusive holidays we offer are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive package 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.

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 services you have bought or a suitable alternative (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.

The Civil Aviation Authority can be contacted at Aviation House, Beehive Ringroad, Crawley, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK tel +44 (0)333 103 6350, www.caa.co.uk

In the event of our insolvency we, or any appointed insolvency practitioner, may disclose your personal information to the CAA, and/or any insurers so that they can assess the status of your booking and advise you on the appropriate course of action under any scheme of financial protection. The CAA's General Privacy Notice is at <https://www.caa.co.uk/Our-work/About-us/General-privacy-notice/>

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:

- 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.

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.

You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents>.

We are a member of AITO, The Specialist Travel Association. All AITO members are required to provide the highest level of customer satisfaction by concentrating on three main pillars: Choice, Quality and Service – as enshrined in their Quality Charter. Every company admitted to AITO is financially assessed and bound by AITO's own code of business practice. AITO requires that we arrange financial protection for all holidays, including accommodation-only options and tours, as well as any other arrangements. This financial protection applies to customers who are resident in the UK at the time of booking and to most overseas customers who have booked directly with us.

29. Coaches

On our group tours, to ensure all customers 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. Medication

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 booking 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.

35. Amendments to these booking conditions

These booking conditions may be subject to amendment from time to time. Amendments will be posted on the Distant Journeys website www.distantjourneys.co.uk

