

Australia & New Zealand

Escorted Touring Holidays **2025 – 2026**



distantjourneys
Your Time to Explore



Traditional Maori greeting, New Zealand

“A Warm Welcome Awaits”



It gives me great pleasure to introduce our new Australia & New Zealand 2025-26 brochure, showcasing insightful tours that have been carefully crafted to 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. 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.

Both are incredible touring destinations, and we have been offering award-winning escorted tours to Australasia for over 10 years. Whether this is your first visit or a return trip, we have exciting holidays on offer, and for the ultimate exploration Down Under, experience the best of both Australia and New Zealand on one of our combined tours.

As always, our aim at Distant Journeys is to make every moment of your holiday as memorable as it should be. Great care and consideration go into every aspect of our itineraries, built upon a wealth of experience and the support of an immensely passionate and knowledgeable team, both here in the UK and overseas.

We have created unforgettable holidays for thousands of happy travellers, and the exceptional quality of our touring holidays means that Distant Journeys has been a winner on 18 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.

Nothing makes me happier than to know that our customers cherish their time with us, and I would like to thank each 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.

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 we would love the opportunity to share our passion with you at any time.

With best wishes,

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
Marketing 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 18 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 (ATOL) and The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), meaning you can book in confidence, knowing your money is 100% safe.



Above: Great Ocean Road, Victoria, Australia
Below: Lake Tekapo, South 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 160-163.

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



Uluru, Northern Territory, Australia

Holiday Styles to Suit You

Although our love of travel unites us, we all have our own individual requirements when it comes to how we travel. It's your holiday, and with Distant Journeys you can choose the style of holiday that suits you.

Classic Tours

Our Classic escorted tours are a great way to travel and experience a country's scenery, culture and sights with a group of like-minded people, guided by a friendly and knowledgeable Tour Manager who will bring the destination to life. Your carefully-crafted touring itinerary includes a variety of wonderful activities and sightseeing excursions, many meals, and accommodation in top-quality hotels throughout. In Australia and New Zealand, our Classic tour groups guarantee good company and camaraderie.

Solo Tours

Join a small group of like-minded travellers as you explore Australia with our brand-new Exclusively Solos itinerary. You will be accompanied by a Tour Manager, dedicated to taking away any worries and ensuring you get the best from every moment of your well-deserved holiday. And at the end of a busy day, retreat to the privacy of your own hotel room, safe in the knowledge that there's no single occupancy supplement to pay. Our range of included activities and sightseeing will create friendships forged through shared experiences, and memories to last a lifetime.

Rail Tours








Prepare to journey deep into the fiery red heart of Australia on the legendary Ghan, accessing parts of Australia no other holiday can come close to, whilst offering the perfect balance of comfort and adventure. In New Zealand, traverse its beautiful landscapes on three train journeys, the TranzAlpine, Northern Explorer and The Coastal Pacific, on our incredible New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea tour.

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, we give you the opportunity to discover Australia and New Zealand in comfort and style, with so much flexibility and so many experiences included in the itinerary, offering exceptional value for money.

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.



Traditional Maori dance, 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.



Attentive service on board The Coastal Pacific train, New Zealand

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 144-153 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 in Australia, 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



Dove Lake, Cradle Mountain, Tasmania, 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, Stansted or Gatwick, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh 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 156-157 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

From a brand-new holiday extension to the island state of Tasmania in Australia, to combining your holiday with a visit to see family and friends, we can take care of all the arrangements.

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, Hong Kong, 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 154-155 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.

Australian icons

No trip to Australia is complete without a visit to Sydney, with its iconic Opera House and Harbour Bridge. And, on our Christmas & New Year in Australia tour, our guests have the perfect position to enjoy the city's world-renowned fireworks spectacle, from the comfort of an exclusive dinner cruise on Sydney Harbour.

Most of our tours include a visit to Uluru, 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 this true landmark, enjoying a glass of sparkling wine as you witness the ever-changing colours of the sandstone rock as darkness falls.

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 catamaran to the outer Barrier Reef and spend several wonderful hours enjoying the incredible sights.

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.



Clockwise from top: The Ghan, Australia; Milford Sound, South Island, New Zealand; TranzAlpine train, New Zealand; New Year in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Australia

Vast, Transcendent, Unique

Australia is a diverse country known for its intriguing wildlife, captivating landscapes, cosmopolitan cities and rich Indigenous culture, all waiting to be discovered on an unforgettable journey Down Under.



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



Essential Australia

19 days from £5,495pp February 2025 – April 2026

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 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.



③ = Number of nights

Your holiday includes



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



Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portage 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 160-163.



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, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh 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

Today we take a tour of this coastal city and explore the variety of sights it has to offer. Our day begins with a cruise along the scenic Swan River towards the delightful port town of Fremantle. Here we discover more about the many ships that have wrecked off the coast of Western Australia at the Shipwreck Galleries. Later we return to Perth via delightful Cottesloe Beach, finishing our day at the city's famed Kings Park, where there are wonderful views over the city as well as the park's own wild flowers and bushland. **Breakfast included**

Day 5: Perth Freedom Day

This is our first Freedom Day, where we can choose to relax or explore as we please. Perhaps take an optional trip to visit the fascinating limestone formations known as the Pinnacles, or make the short journey to Rottnest Island, a protected nature reserve home to the small wallaby-like marsupial, the quokka. Alternatively, travel south of Perth to experience Margaret River, or visit the Swan Valley, Western Australia's oldest wine area. **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 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, discover the historic delights of Geelong on the lovingly-restored Q Train, or perhaps take a Food & Wine Around the Bay tour. **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 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 on one of the most unique rail journeys in Australia, the Kuranda Scenic Railway. During our journey up to Kuranda we encounter no fewer than 40 bridges and 15 tunnels as we make our way to Cairns. '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 by the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, a beautiful experience gliding over the rainforest canopy with stunning views out over the Cairns coastline. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Kuranda Railway & Skyrail

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





Koala

Essential Australia

Days 12 to 17: Cairns - Uluru - Sydney

Day 12: Cairns Freedom Day

Another Freedom Day to enjoy tropical northern Queensland. Cairns has 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 and Cape Tribulation. The tour includes a visit to beautiful Mossman Gorge and a cruise spotting saltwater crocodiles. Alternatively, take a trip to Hartley's Crocodile Adventures, a 10-hectare wildlife sanctuary located between Cairns and Port Douglas; delight in an early morning hot air balloon ride over the Atherton Tablelands; or perhaps finish your day with a sunset dinner cruise. **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. Later, we travel to the airport, where we board our flight to Sydney. Upon arrival we transfer either to the Crowne Plaza Darling Harbour, or the View Hotel Sydney, home for the next four 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. Join an optional behind the scenes tour of Sydney Opera House or take a scenic helicopter flight over Sydney's spectacular skyline. Visit Taronga Zoo, 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, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow), bringing to an end our incredible adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Holiday Extension

Extend your holiday with a visit to Tasmania



6 nights from £2,395 per person

Known as the 'Apple Isle', join us for our six-night Tasmania Holiday Extension and discover why this small island is often referred to as Australia's 'best kept secret'.

Available on selected dates.
Please see pages 82-83 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey. Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bangkok, Hong Kong, a beach stay in Bali or a stop in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

Bali – Three nights from £495 per person

A truly relaxing stopover at this beachfront hotel, where turquoise waters lap at white-sand shores and swaying palm trees.

Bangkok – Two nights from £195 per person

Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

Dubai – Two nights from £345 per person

The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Hong Kong – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Sentosa Island – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Singapore – Two nights from £345 per person

A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Please see pages 154-155 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2025 Departures

17 February 2025	£5,495 per person
03 March 2025	£5,495 per person
07 April 2025	£5,495 per person
03 November 2025	£5,895 per person

2026 Departures

09 February 2026	£5,895 per person
02 March 2026*	£5,895 per person
06 April 2026	£5,995 per person

* This departure stays at the Vibe Hotel Melbourne Docklands

This itinerary was correct at the time of printing. For latest information, dates and prices, and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/EA.

Departure Dates & Prices

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

February – April 2025: £1,095
November 2025 – April 2026: £1,195

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.

Tasmania Holiday Extension

Our Tasmania Holiday Extension is available on the following departures:
02 March 2026

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 £35 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 160-163.

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



Your holiday includes



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



Three-night outbound stopover – choose from Singapore or Dubai



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



Meals worth up to £651 per person, with daily breakfast, a lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour and a buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef



Unforgettable experiences including:

- ★ Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Dubai), Melbourne, Adelaide, Alice Springs and Sydney
- ★ Experience Uluru at sunset and sunrise
- ★ Cruise Sydney's famous harbour
- ★ Full day excursion to the Great Barrier Reef



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 160-163.

Wonders of Australia

📅 24 days 💷 from £7,495pp 🌐 February 2025 – April 2026

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 five 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.





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. Choose from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow. Alternatively, fly direct to Singapore with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester. No matter which airline or airport you choose, there will be no additional cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Singapore, 3 nights

Flights from London Heathrow with Qantas & Emirates 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 City Centre, situated in an enviable position close to the banks of the Singapore River. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Alternative stopover: Dubai

We have based days 2-4 of this itinerary on a stopover in Singapore. Should you prefer, and if you fly with Qantas and Emirates, 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. This morning, enjoy a tour of the city. Included is a stop at Merlion Park with its impressive views of Marina Bay, the historic Civic District, Thian Hock Keng Temple and the fabulous Singapore 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 discover the wonderful Gardens by the Bay or visit Singapore Zoo. **Breakfast included**

Day 5: Melbourne, 4 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 Crowne Plaza Hotel, conveniently located in the heart of the city and on the banks of the Yarra River. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 6: Melbourne

After breakfast, we begin our day with a city tour of Melbourne. Sights include Treasury Gardens, Victoria Markets, Federation Square, the MCG and Rod Laver Arena. We also head out of the city to see the waterside suburbs of St. Kilda and Port Melbourne. 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. Perhaps, take the Puffing Billy steam train through the Blue Dandenong Ranges or enjoy a Food & Wine Around the Bay tour. **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: Melbourne Freedom Day

Our second Freedom Day in Australia. We have the opportunity to enjoy an optional tour along one of the world’s most spectacular coastal drives, the Great Ocean Road. The full-day optional tour begins in Torquay, and meanders along the dramatic southwest coastline to the impressive Twelve Apostles. Alternatively, discover the historic delights of Geelong on the lovingly-restored Q Train, or perhaps take an Around the Bay sightseeing tour and cruise. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Adelaide, 2 nights

Following breakfast this morning, we board our flight to Adelaide. Surrounded by grassy parkland, picturesque hills and the Mount Lofty Range, Adelaide could scarcely present a more captivating aspect. We 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 10: Adelaide Freedom Day

A Freedom Day to spend as you please. Perhaps take an optional tour to the famous wine growing regions of the Barossa Valley or McLaren Vale. Alternatively, visit Kangaroo Island, situated off the Fleurieu Peninsula, which offers a unique touring experience combining friendly, native wildlife with natural, unspoilt wilderness. **Breakfast included**

Day 11: The Ghan, Overnight

Tour Highlight

A morning at leisure until it’s time to make our way to Adelaide Parklands Rail Terminal for a magnificent overland journey to Alice Springs, in the heart of Australia’s outback. Renowned as one of the world’s most iconic train journeys, The Ghan was named after the Afghan cameleers who once traversed this route. Our twin accommodation is in Gold Service, air-conditioned, private sleepers, all with upper and lower bunk beds and private facilities. Single traveller cabins 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. 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**

Gold Premium on The Ghan

Upgrade from £245 per person



With newly designed cabins of walnut timber and polished brass, along with exclusive access to the Gold Premium Lounge and Gold Dining carriages, upgrade your Ghan experience to Gold Premium and make your journey through the outback a little more special.

See pages 142-143 for more details.

Day 12: Alice Springs, Overnight

Awake this morning and enjoy an off train experience as The Ghan makes a short stop in Marla – in the middle of the Australian outback. Upon arrival into Alice Springs we 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. Later in the afternoon we arrive at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. Later, you may wish to join a fun evening at our optional Bush Barbecue. **Breakfast included**



Uluru, Northern Territory



Great Barrier Reef, Queensland



Daintree River, Queensland

Wonders of Australia

Days 13 to 22: Uluru - Sydney - Cairns - Great Barrier Reef

Day 13: Uluru, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

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

Day 14: Uluru

Today, we discover more about Uluru's historical and cultural importance, with a tour of the rock followed with a visit to the intriguing Kata Tjuta (The Olgas), an impressive series of rounded ochre-coloured sandstone domes. Our afternoon and evening are left free to relax or enjoy a pre-booked optional activity, such as the impressive Field of Light; a scenic flight over Uluru; or the Sounds of Silence dinner under the stars. **Breakfast included**

Day 15: Sydney, 3 nights

For early risers, a dawn visit to the rock has been arranged. Seeing Uluru at sunrise, from a different position and a different light, offers a totally new perspective on the changing colours and character of the rock. We return to the hotel for breakfast. Later in the morning we make our way to Ayers Rock Airport in time for our flight to Sydney. Upon arrival, we head to the four-star Hyatt Regency Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: Sydney

Tour Highlight

This morning's sightseeing tour begins with a drive through some of Sydney's most fashionable inner-city suburbs en-route to Bondi Beach. Travel by Double Bay and Rushcutters Bay as we 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 afternoon has been left free to spend as we please. Catch up on some shopping, climb the impressive Harbour Bridge, visit Taronga Zoo, or enjoy a scenic helicopter flight over Sydney Harbour. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 17: Sydney Freedom Day

Today has been left free, but for those that so desire, we take an optional trip to the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains. The Blue Mountains are a perfect example of native Australian bushland, with gum trees, majestic peaks and deep gorges stretching as far as the eye can see. Experience the panoramas from a series of lookouts, including Echo Point – the prime position to view the Three Sisters rock formation. The excursion also visits the pretty village of Leura, famous for their annual garden festivals and playing host to many of the region's local artists. **Breakfast included**

Day 18: Cairns, 5 nights

This morning, we leave for the airport in time for our flight to Cairns. Upon arrival we transfer to the perfectly-located Hilton Hotel, which will be our home for the next five nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 19: Great Barrier Reef

Tour Highlight

The Great Barrier Reef is an amazing array of coral reef and marine wildlife just waiting to be explored. In fact, a holiday to Australia would not be complete without viewing this must-see World Heritage site. Boarding our high-speed catamaran in Cairns, we travel to our platform, situated on the Outer Reef. Activities commence as soon as we arrive. If you're a non-swimmer or just don't fancy getting wet, there are options to view the reef from a glass bottom boat, or semi-submersible. Or for an additional cost, you can view the reef from above on a scenic helicopter flight. For anyone happy to get into the water, there's snorkelling in the sheltered coral lagoon, or join a marine biologist on a guided snorkel safari. For the more adventurous, further optional activities include a Seawalker Helmet dive, an introductory scuba dive, or if qualified a certified scuba dive. In between activities, included is a tropical fresh buffet lunch and after four hours at the reef, we return to Cairns sharing stories of our day's adventures. **Breakfast and lunch 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 on one of the most unique rail journeys in Australia, the Kuranda Scenic Railway. During our journey up to Kuranda we encounter no fewer than 40 bridges and 15 tunnels as we make our way through the pristine rainforest. '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 by the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, a beautiful experience gliding over the rainforest canopy with stunning views out over the Cairns coastline. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Kuranda Railway & Skyrail

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



Day 21: Cairns Freedom Day

Another Freedom Day in this tropical paradise. We recommend a day trip to the World Heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest, the oldest rainforest in the world. The tour gives a wonderful insight into the rainforest's unique flora and fauna, including an informative nature walk and a cruise spotting saltwater crocodiles. **Breakfast included**

Day 22: Cairns Freedom Day

A final Freedom Day to enjoy the delights of Cairns and tropical northern Queensland. Cairns is perfect for strolling and there are also numerous art galleries and museums to explore. Alternatively, there is the option to take a hot air balloon ride over the Atherton Tablelands, or visit Hartley's Crocodile Adventures. To finish your day, why not join a sunset dinner cruise? **Breakfast included**



Sydney Harbour, New South Wales



Sentosa Island, Singapore



View from the Burj Khalifa, Dubai

Wonders of Australia

Days 23 to 24: Cairns - UK

Day 23: Depart Cairns

The day is ours until it's time to depart for the airport. Our flights with Qantas & Emirates to our chosen UK airport operate via Sydney and Dubai. Flights with Singapore Airlines travel via Singapore. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 24: Arrive UK

This morning, dependent on your choice of airline, we arrive at our chosen airport; London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow, bringing to an end our incredible adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Holiday Extension

Extend your holiday with a visit to Tasmania



6 nights from £2,395 per person

Known as the 'Apple Isle', join us for our six-night Tasmania Holiday Extension and discover why this small island is often referred to as Australia's 'best kept secret'.

Available on selected dates.
Please see pages 82-83 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £345 per person

Extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey. Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island, a beach stay in Bali or a stop in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

Bali – Three nights from £495 per person

A truly relaxing stopover at this beachfront hotel, where turquoise waters lap at white-sand shores and swaying palm trees.

Dubai – Two nights from £345 per person

The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Sentosa Island – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Singapore – Two nights from £345 per person

A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Please see pages 154-155 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2025 Departures

	Ghan Gold	Ghan Gold Premium
28 Feb 2025*	£6,895pp	£7,140pp
07 Mar 2025*	£6,895pp	£7,140pp
04 Apr 2025*	£6,895pp	£7,140pp
21 Jul 2025*	£7,195pp	£7,440pp
23 Oct 2025	£7,495pp	£7,740pp

2026 Departures

	Ghan Gold	Ghan Gold Premium
26 Feb 2026	£7,495pp	£7,770pp
05 Mar 2026	£7,495pp	£7,770pp
02 Apr 2026	£7,495pp	£7,770pp

* Please note, these dates operate on an alternative 22-day itinerary. Please call for details.

This itinerary was correct at the time of printing. For latest information, dates and prices, and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/WOA

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

February 2025 – July 2025: £1,245
October 2025 – April 2026: £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.

Tasmania Holiday Extension

Our Tasmania Holiday Extension is available on the following departures:
05 March 2026

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 £35 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 160-163.

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

Australia's East Coast Jewels

📅 27 days 💷 from £7,395pp 🌐 March 2025 – February 2026

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.

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 learn about the sugar cane farmers of the Mackay region and discover the limestone formations of Capricorn Caves, dating back 400 million years.

This is a holiday of highlight followed by highlight, where so many of Australia's 'jewels' will not only be in its beautiful sights and vibrant cities, but also its less-visited rural towns, the people you meet and the stories you hear.



③ = Number of nights



Your holiday includes



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



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 Gardens
- ★ 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 160-163.



Sydney, New South Wales



Australian Memorial, Canberra, Australia Capital Territory



Blue Mountains, New South Wales

Australia's East Coast Jewels

Days 1 to 11: UK - Singapore - Sydney - Canberra - Katoomba - Blue Mountains - Port Douglas

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. We have the opportunity to join a tour of this fabulous city including Marina Bay, Merlion Park 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. On arrival, our Australian Tour Manager will be waiting to transfer us directly to our hotel, the Sofitel Wentworth. The hotel is located just a short walk from Circular Quay and Sydney Harbour, home to the world-famous Sydney Opera House. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 5: Sydney

Tour Highlight

Sydney is a city that takes full advantage of its natural setting. After a morning at leisure, this afternoon's sightseeing tour begins at Hyde Park Barracks, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Originally built to house convicts, we explore this immersive museum and learn of the men, women and children once held or housed there. We continue to 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,' We end our afternoon at King Street Wharf. 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 tour with an Aboriginal guide. 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. Perhaps climb Sydney Harbour Bridge, visit Taronga Zoo, or take a scenic helicopter flight over Sydney's spectacular harbour. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb

Known to Sydneysiders as 'The Coathanger', climb the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge for an exhilarating adventure with breath-taking views.



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. 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, 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. Hear the story behind a name on the Honour Roll, 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, we head for Parliament House. 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. 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. 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. Enjoy lunch at the historic Argyle Inn, the oldest still-trading hotel in Taralga, built in 1875 and lovingly restored in 2016. From here, we head 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**

Day 10: Blue Mountains

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. This interactive exhibition explores the natural and social landscapes of this incredible heritage area. **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. **Breakfast included**



Magnetic Island, Townsville, Queensland



Rainbow Lorikeet, Queensland

Australia's East Coast Jewels

Days 12 to 16: Port Douglas - Townsville

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 travels via catamaran, to the Low Isles. Recline on the white sandy beach of the island, snorkel over the vivid coral gardens in the blue lagoon, accompanied by a marine biologist or enjoy a glass bottom boat experience of the reef. Alternatively, for stronger swimmers, our Great Barrier Reef snorkelling experience, allows for snorkelling straight from the back of the boat! Owned and operated by marine biologists we visit several sites known for spectacular snorkelling. You can expect some of the crew to be in the water with us, ready to answer any questions and point out the exciting coral and fish. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

The Great Barrier Reef

Join a trip to the Great Barrier Reef and discover the magic of this underwater world.



Day 13: Port Douglas Freedom Day

A day at leisure to spend as we 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 leisurely walk. 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 saltwater crocodiles. **Breakfast included**

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. Other activities today include a food and wine exploration of local Producers and a trip to Kuranda, travelling via the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway. This evening, we gather for dinner in a relaxed waterside restaurant, beloved by the locals. **Breakfast and dinner 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

Today, we travel via ferry to Magnetic Island, or, as the locals call it, 'Maggie'. Palm-fringed coastlines and warm, sandy beaches with turquoise water lapping around coral reefs, Magnetic Island is paradise on earth. 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 keep your eyes peeled for koalas as Maggie is host to the largest colony in the north of Australia. **Breakfast included**



Great Barrier Reef, Queensland



75 Mile Beach, K'gari, Queensland



Dingo, K'gari, Queensland



Whitehaven Beach, Whitsunday Islands, Queensland

Australia's East Coast Jewels

Days 17 to 27: Airlie Beach - Whitehaven Beach - Rockhampton - K'gari - Brisbane - UK

Day 17: Airlie Beach, 3 nights

Saying goodbye to Townsville, we head for our next destination: Airlie Beach, gateway to the incredible Whitsunday Islands. 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 free to spend as we 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 sailing to Langford Island. Swim and snorkel 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. Alternatively, join a Crocodile Safari to see estuarine crocodiles in the wild, take to the skies for a scenic helicopter flight or finish your day with a sunset sailing cruise. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Sunset sailing cruise

Soak up a magical sunset whilst sailing through of idyllic waters of the Whitsundays.



Day 19: Whitehaven Beach

Tour Highlight

Today, we join a scenic cruise through the magnificent Whitsunday Islands to Whitehaven Beach. Learn about the Whitsundays' 74 islands, and the marine life, including manta rays, turtles, humpback whales and more. Our cruise allows for two hours at Whitehaven Beach, providing plenty of time to stroll along the powder-soft white silica sand and swim in the pristine blue water. Salt, sun and sea: just another day in paradise. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 20: Rockhampton, 2 nights

Leaving the Whitsundays behind, we continue south towards Rockhampton. As the landscape changes, we stop to take a tour to learn about sugar cane farming – the sweet lifeblood of the Mackay region. Taste 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 rum and liqueurs. Following lunch, we continue our journey to Rockhampton and our hotel, the centrally located Empire Apartment Hotel. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 21: Rockhampton

This morning, we head for Capricorn Caves. Enjoy breakfast here, before we take a tour of the limestone cave formations dating back 400 million years. Our local guides enchant us with tales of this ancient space. Later, head for Rockhampton Botanic Gardens and enjoy a riverside walk along the Fitzroy River. 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 Alkoomi Farms cattle station, where we enjoy breakfast and a chat with the ranchers. Later, we arrive at Hervey Bay, where we board our ferry to K'gari and check in for our two-night stay at the Kingfisher Bay Resort. K'gari 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**

Day 23: K'gari

Tour Highlight

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. Visit the popular freshwater, Eli Creek, and 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, meander through Pile Valley's magnificent satinay and brush box forests and look for wild dingoes. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 24: Brisbane, 2 nights

Returning to the mainland, our first stop Maryborough, home to a beautiful ensemble of lovingly-restored heritage buildings. The town 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. 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 city centre. The day is ours to enjoy at leisure. Make your way around Brisbane with both public transport and ferries or join our Best of Brisbane Brewery tour and visit some of the region's award-winning independent craft breweries in the city's trendiest suburbs. **Breakfast included**

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, 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 meals and drinks included**



Uluru, Northern Territory



Aboriginal Art



Singapore

Australia's East Coast Jewels - Uluru Extension

Days 26 to 30: Uluru - Brisbane - UK

3 days from
£1,795
per person

Uluru is one of Australia's most famous landmarks and a site of deep cultural significance to the Aboriginal communities of the Northern Territory. Why not extend your holiday with a trip into the outback to explore this ancient monolith?

Day 26: Uluru, 2 nights Tour Highlight

Following breakfast, we make our way to Brisbane Airport in time for our flight to Australia's Red Centre. 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. Later, we travel to Uluru and enjoy a glass of sparkling wine whilst witnessing the changing colours as the sun begins to set. Our accommodation for the next two nights is the four-star Desert Gardens Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 27: Uluru

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, offers a totally new perspective on the ever-changing colours and character of the rock. After breakfast, we take a short walk at the base of Uluru and explore the Cultural Centre, where we learn about traditional Aboriginal life. Our afternoon and evening are left free to relax or enjoy an optional activity such as dinner and drinks under the stars at the Sounds of Silence evening or a walk through the Field of Light. **Breakfast included**

Day 28: Brisbane, Overnight

After breakfast, we leave for a tour of Kata Tjuta, also known as the Olgas, a series of rounded sandstone domes which also have great significance to the indigenous population. Following a wonderful two days, we bid farewell to Australia's red centre and board our afternoon flight to Brisbane. We stay overnight at the centrally-located Stamford Plaza Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 29: 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 30: Arrive UK

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

Please note, our Uluru extension and Tasmania extension cannot be combined.

Homebound Stopovers from only £345 per person

Extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey. Choose from Singapore or Sentosa Island.



Singapore

Two nights from £345 per person

Singapore provides a perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.



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.

Tour stopover includes: return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast. **Please see pages 154-155 for more details.**

Departure Dates & Prices

2025 Departures

01 March 2025	£7,395 per person
18 October 2025	£7,795 per person

2026 Departures

07 February 2026	£7,995 per person
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This itinerary was correct at the time of printing. For latest information, dates and prices, and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/AECJ

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

March 2025: £1,995
October 2025 – April 2026: £2,095

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.

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 £35 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 160-163.

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

Treasures of Australia

29 days from £7,295pp February 2025 – January 2026

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 enjoy a number of once in a lifetime experiences. For example, you 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.



③ = Number of nights

Your holiday includes

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

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, winery lunch in the Barossa Valley, 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
- ★ 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 Gardens

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 160-163.



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, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh 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 stopover: 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. For those interested this afternoon, take an optional trip to Nambung National Park to visit the fascinating limestone formations known as the Pinnacles. **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, 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. Alternatively, travel south of Perth to experience Margaret River, or visit the Swan Valley, Western Australia’s oldest wine area. 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: Hahndorf & Barossa Valley

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 we please. Discover Adelaide on foot or perhaps enjoy an afternoon of wine tasting in the McLaren Vale. Alternatively, join a scenic lunch cruise on the mighty Murray River, or perhaps visit Kangaroo Island - situated off the Fleurieu Peninsula, offering a unique touring experience combining friendly, 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, 3 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 and captivating museums. It’s unarguably the sporting capital of Australia, and we view 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 three nights is the Pullman on the Park Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: Melbourne Freedom Day

This is our first Freedom Day in Melbourne, where we have the opportunity to spend the day exploring its many parks and laneways or enjoy an excursion aboard the Puffing Billy steam train on Australia’s most notable narrow-gauge railway, through the beautiful Blue Dandenong Ranges. Alternatively, if you’re looking to sample local gourmet delights, you may wish to take an optional Around the Bay Food & Wine Tasting Tour, sampling some of the best produce in Victoria. **Breakfast included**



Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road, Victoria



Kangaroo

Treasures of Australia

Days 13 to 18: Melbourne - Uluru - Alice Springs - Darwin

Day 13: Melbourne Freedom Day

A further Freedom Day is an opportunity to enjoy an optional tour along one of the world's most spectacular coastal drives, the Great Ocean Road. This full day tour meanders along the dramatic southwest coastline to the impressive Twelve Apostles. Alternatively, join an optional Around the Bay Sightseeing tour, taking in the stunning Mornington Peninsula and including a lunch and dolphin spotting cruise. Or why not discover the historic and gastronomic delights of Geelong with a trip on the lovingly-restored Q train, or Phillip Island, home to the world's largest colony of little penguins? **Breakfast included**

Day 14: Uluru, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

Following breakfast this morning, we board our flight to Uluru (Ayers Rock) in Australia's Red Centre. Before landing, we may have the opportunity to view the world's largest monolith from our aircraft. On arrival we take a rock base tour enabling us to discover more about its historical and cultural importance. After checking in at the four-star Desert Gardens Hotel, this evening we enjoy a glass of sparkling wine with our travelling companions whilst witnessing the changing colours of Uluru as the sun begins to set. It's truly a photographer's delight. **Breakfast included**

Day 15: Uluru

This morning, before breakfast, we have the option of watching the sunrise over Uluru, an awe-inspiring sight. Later, we leave for a tour of the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as Kata Tjuta, or the Olgas. Our afternoon and evening are left free to relax or enjoy a pre-booked optional activity such as the impressive Field of Light or the Sounds of Silence dinner under the stars. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: Alice Springs, Overnight

Leaving Uluru this morning, we drive through the Outback along the Lasseter and Stuart Highways to Alice Springs. Home for tonight is either the Crowne Plaza Lasseters or the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. This evening, perhaps enjoy a quintessentially Aussie experience at the Outback Bush Barbecue, or the unique Sunset Camel Tour. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Outback Barbecue

A fun-filled evening of entertainment and outback cuisine.



Day 17: Darwin, 2 nights

Nestled within the MacDonnell Ranges, Alice Springs is an iconic town made famous by its rich pioneering history and ancient indigenous culture. This morning you may wish to take an optional hot air balloon trip over the outback or enjoy a morning tour of the Western MacDonnell Ranges. Later, we enjoy a sightseeing tour. Visits include the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the School of the Air, and the Old Telegraph Station. 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**

Day 18: Darwin Freedom Day

Darwin is known for its laid-back fusion of frontier outpost and modern city. Our day has been left totally free to spend in our 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**



Uluru, Northern Territory



Saltwater crocodile



Great Barrier Reef, Queensland



Sydney Harbour, New South Wales

Treasures of Australia

Days 19 to 27: Cairns - Great Barrier Reef - Sydney

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 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. '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 by the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, a beautiful experience gliding over the rainforest canopy with stunning views out over the Cairns coastline. **Breakfast included**

Day 21: Great Barrier Reef

Tour Highlight

A holiday to Australia would not be complete without a visit to the Great Barrier Reef. Its colourful marine life and coral make this World Heritage Site a must see for all visitors. Our day begins when we board our high-speed catamaran and journey to a platform located on the Outer Reef. Snorkel in the sheltered coral lagoon, or if you prefer to stay dry, view the reef from the semi-submersible reef viewer or glass-bottomed boat. With four hours at the reef there is plenty of time to do it all. For the more adventurous, there are several activities available at an additional cost, including scuba diving (no experience necessary), joining the marine biologist on a guided snorkel safari, or soaring above the reef on a spectacular scenic helicopter flight. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 22: Cairns Freedom Day

Another Freedom Day to enjoy in Far North Queensland. For an unforgettable experience, take a day trip to nearby Daintree Rainforest, the world's oldest rainforest. Learn about the fascinating secrets of the Daintree on a walk with an Aboriginal guide, and enjoy a cruise on the Daintree River – look out for saltwater crocodiles! The excursion continues to Cape Tribulation, a remote headland, with glorious, unspoilt beaches and walking tracks through the lush forests. If you prefer to stay in Cairns today, there's lots to enjoy, whether you browse the many shops and galleries or take a cooling dip in the infinity pool at Cairns Lagoon. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Daintree Rainforest

Visit the Daintree Rainforest, cruise the Daintree River looking for crocodiles and view the glorious, unspoilt beaches of Cape Tribulation.



Day 23: Cairns Freedom Day

Another day to enjoy the laid-back tropical city of Cairns. Perhaps take a hot air balloon ride at dawn or stroll along the esplanade and enjoy one of the many al fresco cafes. Alternatively, why not take a trip to Hartley's Crocodile Adventures? Just a short drive from Cairns, there are miles of timber boardwalks and paths winding through woodlands and rainforest where we can see an array of wildlife, including beautiful tropical birds, reptiles, insects and other native fauna. In the evening, you may wish to complete your day with a sunset cruise. **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 to explore as we please. Catch up on some shopping, climb the impressive Harbour Bridge, visit Taronga Zoo, or enjoy a scenic helicopter flight over Sydney Harbour. 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 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**



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, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow) bringing an end to our incredible adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey. Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bangkok, Hong Kong, a beach stay in Bali or a stop in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

Bali – Three nights from £495 per person

A truly relaxing stopover at this beachfront hotel, where turquoise waters lap at white-sand shores and swaying palm trees.

Bangkok – Two nights from £195 per person

Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

Dubai – Two nights from £345 per person

The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Hong Kong – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Sentosa Island – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Singapore – Two nights from £345 per person

A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Please see pages 154-155 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2025 Departures

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

11 October 2025 **£7,795** per person

2026 Departures

31 January 2026 **£7,795** per person

This itinerary was correct at the time of printing. For latest information, dates and prices, and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/TRAU

Departure Dates & Prices

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

February 2025: £1,745

October 2025 – January 2026: £1,945

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.

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.

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



Your holiday includes



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



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 portage 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 Gardens



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 160-163.

The Very Best of Australia

📅 29 days 💷 from £8,095pp 🌐 February 2025 – April 2026

Ultimate discovery and adventure awaits 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.

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 11: 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, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh 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 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

Our day begins with a sightseeing tour of the city and the surrounding area. We visit King’s Park, a landscape of bushland and pretty wild flowers, offering astounding views out over the city’s skyline. Later, we visit the nearby port town of Fremantle to visit the fascinating Shipwreck Galleries. The tour will end with a relaxing cruise along the Swan River back to Perth. This afternoon there is an option to view the spectacular natural landscapes of Nambung National Park, home to hundreds of striking limestone towers known as the Pinnacles. **Breakfast included**

Day 7: Perth Freedom Day

Our first full 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 Rottnest Island, a protected nature reserve with white-sand beaches and secluded coves, and home to the small wallaby-like marsupial, the quokka. Alternatively, travel south of Perth to experience Margaret River, or visit the Swan Valley. 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 we please. Discover Adelaide on foot or perhaps enjoy an afternoon of wine tasting in the McLaren Vale. Alternatively, join a scenic lunch cruise on the mighty Murray River, or you may wish to visit Kangaroo Island situated off the Fleurieu Peninsula, offering a unique touring experience combining friendly, native wildlife 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.

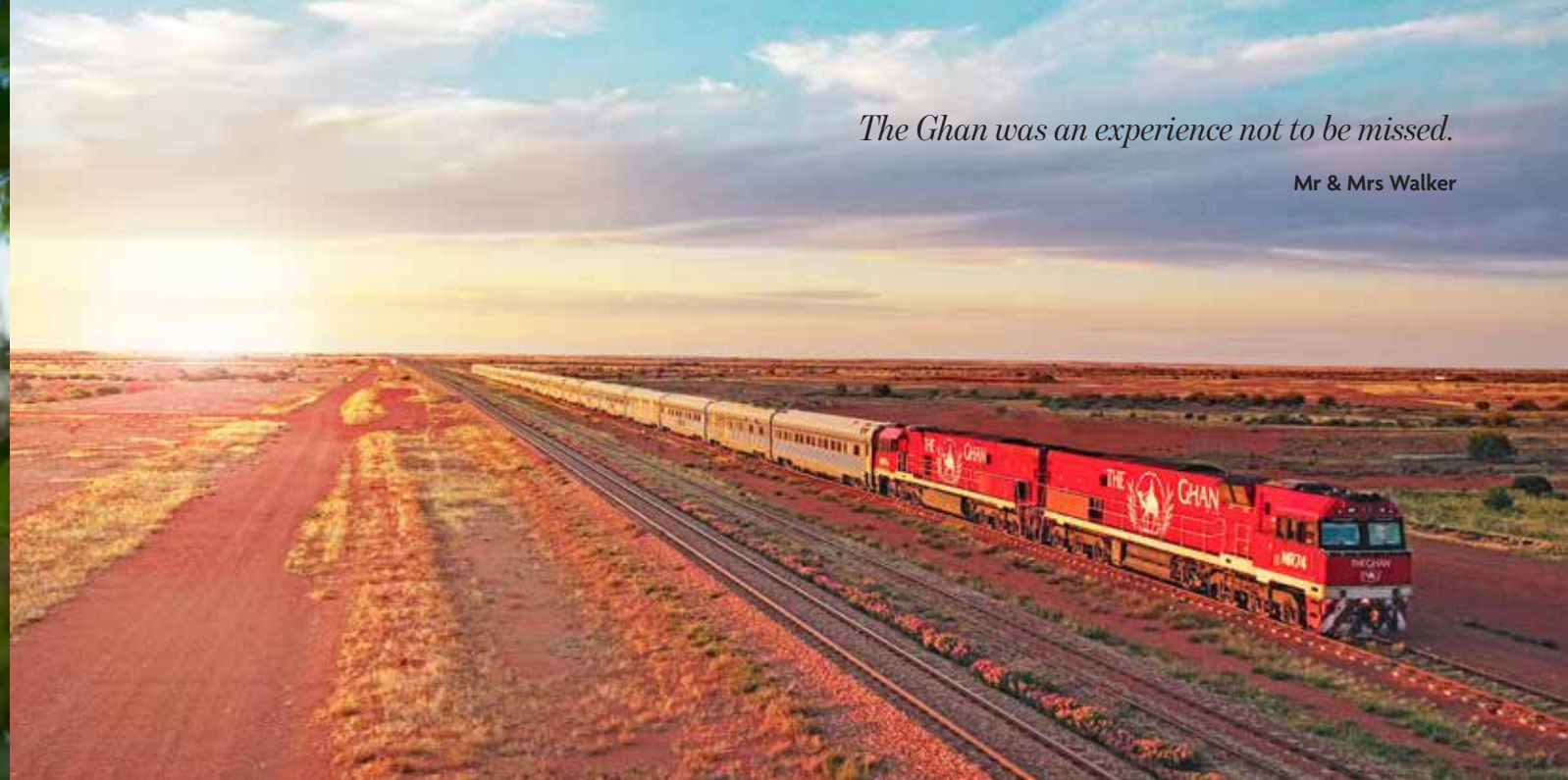




Alice Springs, Northern Territory



Koala



The Ghan

The Ghan was an experience not to be missed.

Mr & Mrs Walker

The Very Best of Australia

Days 12 to 19: Melbourne - Uluru - Alice Springs - The Ghan - Darwin

Day 12: Melbourne Freedom Day

This is our first Freedom Day in Melbourne, where we have the opportunity to spend the day exploring its many parks and laneways or enjoy an excursion aboard the Puffing Billy steam train on Australia's most notable narrow-gauge railway, through the beautiful Blue Dandenong Ranges. Alternatively, if you're looking to sample local gourmet delights, you may wish to take an optional Around the Bay Food & Wine Tasting Tour, sampling some of the best produce in Victoria. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Melbourne Freedom Day

A further Freedom Day is an opportunity to enjoy an optional tour along one of the world's most spectacular coastal drives, the Great Ocean Road. This full day tour meanders along the dramatic coastline to the impressive Twelve Apostles. Alternatively, Join an optional Around the Bay Sightseeing tour, taking in the stunning Mornington Peninsula and including a lunch and dolphin spotting cruise. Or why not discover the historic and gastronomic delights of Geelong with a trip on the lovingly-restored Q train, or discover Phillip Island, home to the world's largest colony of little penguins. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: Uluru, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

Following breakfast this morning, we board our flight to Uluru (Ayers Rock) in Australia's Red Centre. Before landing, we may have the opportunity to view the world's largest monolith from our aircraft. On arrival we take a rock base tour enabling us to discover more about its historical and cultural importance. After checking in at the four-star Desert Gardens Hotel, this evening we enjoy a glass of sparkling wine with our travelling companions whilst witnessing the changing colours of Uluru as the sun begins to set. It's truly a photographer's delight. **Breakfast included**

Day 15: Uluru

This morning, before breakfast, we have the option of watching the sunrise over Uluru, an awe-inspiring sight. Later, we leave for a tour of the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as Kata Tjuta, or the Olgas. Our afternoon and evening are left free to relax or enjoy a pre-booked optional activity such as the impressive Field of Light or the Sounds of Silence dinner under the stars. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: Alice Springs, Overnight

Leaving Uluru this morning we drive through the Outback along the Lasseter and Stuart Highways to Alice Springs. Home for tonight is either the Crowne Plaza Lasseters, or the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. This evening, perhaps enjoy a quintessentially Aussie experience at the Outback Bush Barbecue, or the unique Sunset Camel Tour. **Breakfast included**

Day 17: The Ghan, Overnight

Nestled within the MacDonnell Ranges, Alice Springs is an iconic town made famous by its rich pioneering history and ancient indigenous culture. This morning you may wish to take an optional hot air balloon trip over the outback landscapes or enjoy a morning tour of the Western MacDonnell Ranges. Later, we enjoy a sightseeing tour. Visits include the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the School of the Air, and the Old Telegraph Station.

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. 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 with private facilities. Single traveller cabins, 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**

Gold Premium on The Ghan

Upgrade from £245 per person



With newly designed cabins of walnut timber and polished brass, along with exclusive access to the Gold Premium Lounge and Gold Dining carriages, upgrade your Ghan experience to Gold Premium and make your journey through the outback a little more special.

See pages 142-143 for more details.

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, 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 thundering waterfalls, rainforest pockets and sacred sites of Litchfield National Park. For those wishing to venture further afield, a full-day flightseeing excursion to Kakadu National Park can be arranged. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Litchfield National Park

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





Katherine Gorge, Northern Territory



Crocodile, Daintree River, Queensland



Bondi Beach, Sydney, New South Wales

The Very Best of Australia

Days 20 to 27: Cairns - Great Barrier Reef - Sydney

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 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. ‘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 by the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, a beautiful experience gliding over the rainforest canopy with stunning views out over the Cairns coastline. **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**

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. Perhaps take a hot air balloon ride at dawn, or 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. Alternatively, why not take a trip to Hartley’s Crocodile Adventures? Just a short drive from Cairns, there are miles of timber boardwalks and paths winding through woodlands and rainforest where we can see an array of wildlife. In the evening, you may wish to complete your day with a sunset cruise. Enjoy your day! **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Daintree Rainforest

Visit the Daintree Rainforest, cruise the Daintree River looking for crocodiles and view the glorious, unspoilt beaches of Cape Tribulation.



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, climb the impressive Harbour Bridge, visit Taronga Zoo, or enjoy a scenic helicopter flight over Sydney Harbour. 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



Harbour, Hong Kong, China

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 (Choose from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow) bringing an end to our incredible adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Create the ultimate tour of Australasia

50 to 56 Days from £13,395 per person



If you wish to make the ultimate journey to Australasia, combine The Very Best of Australia Tour with either our Very Best of New Zealand tour or our New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea tour.

Please see pages 138-141 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey. Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bangkok or Hong Kong, a beach stay in Bali or a stop in fashionable Dubai.

Bali	Three nights from £495 per person
Bangkok	Two nights from £195 per person
Dubai	Two nights from £345 per person
Hong Kong	Two nights from £495 per person
Sentosa Island	Two nights from £495 per person
Singapore	Two nights from £345 per person



Please see pages 154-155 for more details on homebound stopovers.

Holiday Extension 6 nights from £2,395 per person



Extend your holiday with a visit to the island of Tasmania.

Known as the 'Apple Isle', join us for our six-nights Tasmania Holiday Extension and discover why this small island is often referred to as Australia's 'best kept secret'.

Available on selected dates.
Please see pages 82-83 for more details.

Departure Dates & Prices

2025 Departures

	Ghan Gold	Ghan Gold Premium
22 Feb 2025*	£8,095pp	£8,340pp
05 Apr 2025	£8,095pp	£8,340pp
26 Apr 2025	£8,095pp	£8,340pp
30 Sep 2025	£8,595pp	£8,840pp
18 Oct 2025	£8,595pp	£8,840pp
08 Nov 2025	£8,595pp	£8,840pp

2026 Departures

	Ghan Gold	Ghan Gold Premium
28 Feb 2026	£8,695pp	£8,970pp
14 Mar 2026	£8,695pp	£8,970pp
04 Apr 2026	£8,695pp	£8,970pp

* This tour operates on a different itinerary to the one shown. Please call for details.

This itinerary was correct at the time of printing. For latest information, dates and prices, and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/VBOA

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

February 2025 – April 2025: £1,795
September 2025 – November 2025: £1,895
February 2026 – April 2026: £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.

Tasmania Holiday Extension

Our Tasmania Holiday Extension is available on the following departures:
08 November 2025
28 February 2026

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 £35 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 160-163.

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; Great Barrier Reef, Queensland

Christmas & New Year in Australia

26 days from £8,795pp December 2025

Enjoy your Christmas and New Year celebrations in a country known for its year-round warming sunshine, on Distant Journeys' very special Christmas & New Year in Australia tour:

This unique itinerary has been designed to include not only all of Australia's incredible highlights such as the Great Barrier Reef and Uluru, but also some of its wonderful hidden gems. Over 26 days, we experience the contrast of Australia's modern cities alongside its rugged outback, and discover Australia's diverse culture and traditions.

It goes without saying that both Christmas and New Year will be celebrated in style, with Christmas spent in the lush tropical surroundings of Cairns and New Year's Eve spent experiencing Sydney's iconic firework celebrations. The world-renowned fireworks on Sydney's harbour are truly unforgettable, and our guests have the perfect position to enjoy this amazing New Year's Eve spectacle – from the comfort of an exclusive dinner cruise on Sydney Harbour!



Your holiday includes

- Return economy flights with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh, or Glasgow and all domestic flights within Australia, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
- 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, lunch in the Barossa Valley, 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 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 Gardens

Services of an experienced local Tour Manager

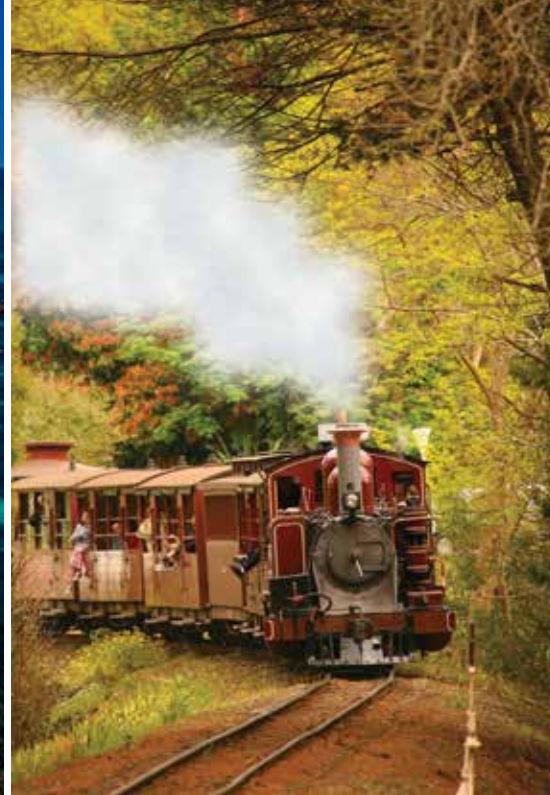
All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

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 160-163.



Rottnest Island, Western Australia



Puffing Billy, Melbourne, Victoria



Melbourne, Victoria

Christmas & New Year in Australia

9th to 20th Dec: UK - Singapore - Perth - Adelaide - Barossa Valley - Melbourne

Day 1 – Tuesday 9th Dec: Depart the UK

Our adventure begins. Fly with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh, or Glasgow. Regardless of your choice, there's no extra cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2 – Wednesday 10th Dec: Singapore, 2 nights

On arrival into Singapore we transfer to the four-star M Hotel City Centre, situated close to the banks of the scenic Singapore River. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Alternative stopovers: Dubai or Perth

We have based days 2-4 of this itinerary on a stopover in Singapore. If you prefer, you may choose to stopover in Dubai or head straight to Perth for an extra two nights before the tour starts, all at no additional cost. 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 – Thursday 11th Dec: Singapore

This morning, we head out on a sightseeing tour taking in the main highlights of the city, such as the waterfront Merlion Park, home to the famous Merlion statue which is a national symbol of Singapore; the various ethnic quarters such as Little India and Chinatown, and the beautiful Botanical Gardens. With an afternoon at leisure perhaps treat yourselves to Afternoon Tea at the elegant Raffles Hotel? **Breakfast included**

Day 4 – Friday 12th 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 to Perth. Recommended excursions include a visit to the Gardens by the Bay, or a trip to nearby Sentosa Island. On arrival in Perth, we transfer to the Duxton Hotel, where we will stay for the next four nights. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks**

Day 5 – Saturday 13th 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**

Day 6 – Sunday 14th December: Perth

Our day begins with a sightseeing tour of the city and its surrounding areas. We start at King's Park, which is larger than New York's Central Park and has some 400 hectares of bushland and pretty wildflowers, offering stunning views over the city's skyline. Next, we travel to the nearby port town of Fremantle to visit the fascinating Shipwreck Galleries. The tour ends with a gentle cruise along the Swan River back to the city centre. This afternoon there is an option visit Nambung National Park, home to hundreds of striking limestone pillars known as the Pinnacles. **Breakfast included**

Day 7 – Monday 15th Dec: Perth Freedom Day

Today is our first Freedom Day in Australia, and we can spend the day however we please. Take an optional trip to Rottnest Island, just a short ferry ride from Perth. A protected nature reserve with a coastline of hidden coves and white sandy beaches, Rottnest is the only place in the world to spot Quokka in their natural habitat. Alternatively, travel south of Perth to experience Margaret River, or visit the Swan Valley. **Breakfast included**

Day 8 – Tuesday 16th 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 are 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 stay for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 9 – Wednesday 17th Dec: Barossa Valley

We leave the city this morning, heading first for Mount Lofty Botanic Garden before continuing to Australia's oldest surviving German settlement, the quaint village of Hahndorf, with its tree-lined streets and original 'Fachwerk' buildings. After a stop at a working blacksmith museum, we head to the Barossa Valley, a renowned wine growing region, to enjoy wine tasting and lunch. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 10 – Thursday 18th Dec: Adelaide Freedom Day

A Freedom Day to spend as we please. Discover Adelaide on foot or perhaps enjoy an afternoon of wine tasting in the McLaren Vale. Alternatively, join a scenic lunch cruise on the mighty Murray River, or you may wish to visit Kangaroo Island situated off the Fleurieu Peninsula, offering a unique touring experience combining friendly, native wildlife 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 – Friday 19th Dec: Melbourne, 3 nights

This morning, we transfer to the airport for our short flight to Melbourne, the capital of the state of Victoria. On arrival, we enjoy a city sightseeing tour. Among the places we visit are the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Treasury Gardens, the Victoria Markets, the Rod Laver Arena (home to tennis' Australian Open) and Federation Square. We also visit two of Melbourne's waterside suburbs: Port Melbourne and St Kilda. Our hotel for the next two nights is the four-star Pullman on the Park. **Breakfast included**

Day 12 – Saturday 20th Dec: Melbourne Freedom Day

A Freedom Day in Melbourne. Take a morning excursion to ride on the Puffing Billy steam train through the Blue Dandenong Ranges. Or perhaps, experience the 'Around the Bay' tour, taking in the stunning Mornington Peninsula and including a lunch and dolphin spotting cruise. **Breakfast included**



Great Barrier Reef, Queensland



Penguin, Phillip Island, Victoria



New Year's Eve cruise, Sydney

Christmas & New Year in Australia

21st to 31st Dec: Melbourne - Uluru - Cairns - Sydney

Day 13 – Sunday 21st Dec: Melbourne Freedom Day

A further day to spend as we please. 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. This full day tour meanders along the dramatic southwest coastline of Victoria to the impressive Twelve Apostles. Alternatively, take a trip to Phillip Island, home to the world's largest colony of Little Penguins, to view the Penguin Parade. Or why not discover the historic and gastronomic delights of Geelong with a trip on the lovingly-restored Q train. **Breakfast included**

Day 14 – Monday 22nd Dec: Uluru, 2 nights Tour Highlight

Following breakfast this morning, we board our flight to Uluru, formerly known as Ayers Rock. Deep in the heart of Australia's Red Centre, before landing, we may have the opportunity to view the rock from our aircraft. On arrival we travel to the impressive series of rounded sandstone domes known as Kata Tjuta, or the Olgas. After checking in at the four-star Desert Gardens Hotel, this evening we enjoy a glass of sparkling wine with our travelling companions whilst witnessing the changing colours of Uluru as the sun begins to set. It's truly a photographer's delight. **Breakfast included**

Day 15 – Tuesday 23rd Dec: Uluru

This morning, before breakfast we have the option of returning to Uluru to watch the sunrise, an awe-inspiring sight. We return to our hotel for breakfast, before discovering more of Uluru's cultural significance to the Aboriginal communities of the Northern Territory with a base tour of the rock. This evening there is an optional Sounds of Silence Dinner, where you can experience canapes and chilled sparkling wines, served overlooking the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. **Breakfast included**

Day 16 – Wednesday 24th Dec: Cairns, 5 nights

Wake up to a Christmas Eve like no other. Following breakfast, we leave the Red Centre behind as we take our morning flight to Cairns. On arrival, we head straight to our hotel, the Hilton Cairns. Situated in a prime spot right on Cairns' Esplanade, the hotel will be our home for the next five nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 17 – Thursday 25th Dec: Cairns, Christmas Day

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 with a stroll along the Esplanade 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 included**

Day 18 – Friday 26th Dec: Cairns Freedom Day

Although today has been left free, you may wish to take an optional trip to Kuranda. We ascend to Kuranda on one of the most unique rail journeys in Australia, the Kuranda Scenic Railway, encountering no fewer than 40 bridges and 15 tunnels. '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. Later, we visit 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 by the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, a beautiful experience gliding over the rainforest canopy with stunning views out over the Cairns coastline. **Breakfast included**

Day 19 – Saturday 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**

Day 20 – Sunday 28th Dec: Cairns Freedom Day

Another Freedom Day to enjoy. Perhaps take a hot air balloon ride at dawn, or 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. Alternatively, why not take a trip to Hartley's Crocodile Adventures? Just a short drive from Cairns, there are miles of timber boardwalks and paths winding through woodlands and rainforest where we can see an array of wildlife. In the evening, you may wish to complete your day with a sunset cruise. Enjoy your day! **Breakfast included**

Day 21 – Monday 29th Dec: Sydney, 4 nights

We fly to Sydney, our final port of call on this wonderful tour of Australia. We are taken speedily to the Sofitel Wentworth, located just a short walk from Circular Quay and Sydney Harbour and where we will stay for the next four nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 22 – Tuesday 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**

We Recommend

Kuranda Railway & Skyrail

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



Day 23 – Wednesday 31st Dec: Sydney, New Year's Eve

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 included**



Sydney, New South Wales



Bali, Indonesia



Wat Phra Kaeo, Bangkok, Thailand

Christmas & New Year in Australia

1st Jan to 3rd Jan: Sydney - UK

Day 24 – Thursday 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**

Day 25 – Friday 2nd January: Depart Sydney

Our remaining time in Sydney is yours to spend as you please until we leave for the airport. Flights to our chosen UK airport travel via Dubai or Singapore. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 26 – Saturday 3rd January: Arrive UK

This morning, we arrive back into the UK at our chosen airport: either London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh, or Glasgow, bringing our unforgettable journey to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey. Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bangkok, Hong Kong, a beach stay in Bali or a stop in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

Bali – Three nights from £495 per person

A truly relaxing stopover at this beachfront hotel, where turquoise waters lap at white-sand shores and swaying palm trees.

Bangkok – Two nights from £195 per person

Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

Dubai – Two nights from £345 per person

The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Hong Kong – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Sentosa Island – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Singapore – Two nights from £345 per person

A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Please see pages 154-155 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2025 Departures

09 December 2025 **£8,795** per person

This itinerary was correct at the time of printing. For latest information, dates and prices, and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/XMAS

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.

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 £35 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 160-163.

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





NEW EXCLUSIVELY FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS

Contrasts of Australia – Exclusively Solos

📅 21 days 💷 from £8,095pp 🌍 October 2025 – March 2026

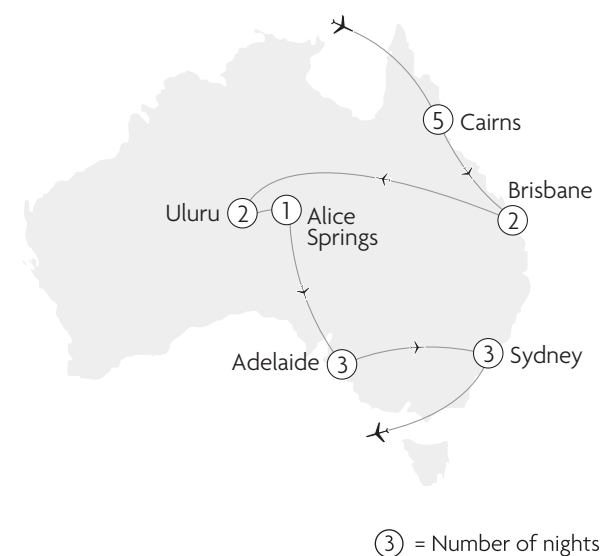
Discover the many faces of Australia and its landscapes, people and wildlife on our brand-new Exclusively Solos itinerary. This tour has been carefully crafted for solo travellers to soak up all this magnificent country has to offer, with everything taken care of, and no single supplement.

From the beautiful bursts of colour and the marine life that call the Great Barrier Reef home, to postcard-perfect Sydney, dominated by its Harbour Bridge and Opera House, or Uluru rising from the vibrant red sands of the Outback – Australia surprises and delights at every turn.

Get ready to experience all of its many contrasts, along with great cities, ancient culture, true wilderness and an intriguing natural world. This is a magical mix of sights and experiences that make for a holiday like no other.

This 21-day solo tour is complete with experienced guides, carefully selected hotels and a well-crafted itinerary to create lifelong memories and friendships, with many unforgettable experiences included.

Clockwise from above: Aboriginal artwork; Outback, Northern Territory. Credit: Tourism NT/Tourism Australia; Great Barrier Reef, Queensland



Your holiday includes

- Return economy flights with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester, and all domestic flights within Australia, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
- Two-night outbound stopover in Singapore
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £658 per person, including daily breakfast, lunch in Port Douglas, buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef, dinner in Singapore, Brisbane and Adelaide, barbecue in Alice Springs and a dinner cruise on Sydney Harbour
- Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Singapore, Alice Springs, Adelaide and Sydney
 - ★ Discover tropical Port Douglas
 - ★ Full day excursion to the Great Barrier Reef
 - ★ Explore Brisbane's Hinterland
 - ★ Experience Uluru at sunset and sunrise
 - ★ Enjoy a nocturnal walk at Desert Park
 - ★ Visit Cleland Wildlife Reserve
 - ★ Aboriginal guided tour of Sydney's Botanic Gardens
 - ★ Dinner cruise on 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 160-163.



Shopping in Port Douglas, Queensland



Brisbane, Queensland



Frankland Islands, Queensland

Contrasts of Australia – Exclusively Solos

Days 1 to 10: UK - Singapore - Cairns - Great Barrier Reef - Port Douglas - Brisbane

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 where we meet our local guide and transfer to our hotel, The Robertson House, where we will spend the next two nights. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

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. Following a leisurely morning, we gather with our travelling companions for a city sightseeing tour. Witness the intriguing ethnic quarters where Chinese, Malay and Indian influences fuse to produce Singapore’s unique culture. Later, we explore Singapore’s iconic Merlion Park and the botanical gardens. This evening, we dine together at a local Peranakan restaurant. Bursting with flavour, this delicious cuisine is popular throughout Singapore and is renowned for its mix of Chinese, Malay, Indian and Eurasian ingredients. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Cairns, 5 nights

After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our flight to Cairns. On arrival, our Australian Tour Manager will be waiting to transfer us directly to our hotel, the DoubleTree by Hilton, where we spend our first five nights in Australia. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 5: 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 with a scenic river cruise on the Mulgrave, whose lush ecosystem supports a diverse range of wildlife. Our destination is Normanby Island, part of the beautiful Frankland Island Group, in the Great Barrier Reef Marine National Park. This uninhabited island is home to vibrant fringing reef and many species of marine life. With the shortest crossing time of all Great Barrier Reef sites, we have ample time to explore the island and the unspoilt beauty above and below the waterline. Take a guided snorkel safari with a marine biologist, explore the sea floor on a semi-submarine tour, join an informative guided island walk and enjoy a delicious beachside buffet lunch. Late afternoon, we return to Cairns after a magical day of exploration. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 6: Port Douglas

This morning, we travel to the laid-back tropical town of Port Douglas. Travelling via one of the most scenic coastal highways in the country, we stop by the tree-fringed sands of Four Mile Beach, where we take in the panoramas of this magnificent stretch of coastline. The heart of Port Douglas is Macrossan Street, filled with chic cafes and local arts and craft shops. Sundays are known for its markets, where vendors travel from all over North Queensland to sell their products. We have free time to explore and wander amongst the stalls, where we may find everything from local arts and crafts to fruit and vegetables. Later, enjoy lunch with a view at a local venue situated overlooking Port Douglas’ inlet and the Daintree Rainforest. We return to Cairns in the afternoon, via the same scenic highway, stopping at Rex Lookout for a stunning coastal view. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 7: Cairns Freedom Day

Although today has been left free, you may wish to take an optional trip to Kuranda. We ascend to Kuranda on one of the most unique rail journeys in Australia, the Kuranda Scenic Railway. It traverses no fewer than 40 bridges and 15 tunnels. Kuranda, ‘the village in the rainforest’, 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 by the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, a beautiful experience gliding over the rainforest canopy with incredible views out over the Cairns coastline. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Kuranda Railway & Skyrail

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



Day 8: 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. Perhaps take 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. Alternatively, why not travel to Hartley’s Crocodile Adventures? Just a short drive from Cairns, there are miles of timber boardwalks and paths winding through woodlands and rainforest where we can see an array of wildlife – including the fearsome saltwater crocodile. Enjoy your day! **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Brisbane, 2 nights

Following breakfast, it’s time to say goodbye to Cairns we make our way to the airport in time for our flight to Brisbane. The sunny capital of Queensland, Brisbane is a cosmopolitan city of two million people, with a relaxed atmosphere. Upon arrival we tour the city’s landmarks, conveniently lined along the bends of Brisbane River: historical buildings such as city hall and customs house, the old botanic gardens, Story Bridge and Kangaroo Point. Our accommodation for the next two nights is the Hotel Grand Chancellor, facing the award-winning Roma Street Parklands. **Breakfast included**

Day 10: Brisbane Hinterland

Today, we leave the city behind us and travel inland to the stunning Brisbane hinterland. Think fresh mountain air, pretty, rural towns full of character and charm and lush green rainforests. Our morning drive takes us towards the Glass House Mountains National Park, where remnants of extinct volcanoes form an otherworldly landscape, stopping at picturesque lookouts along the way. We spend time in the quaint village of Montville. First settled in 1887, Montville is home to art galleries, boutique stores and cosy coffee shops. We finish our day with a visit to 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. Following our return to Brisbane, tonight we dine together at the vibrant Howard Smith Wharves, under historic Story Bridge. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Uluru, Northern Territory



Koala



Sydney Harbour, New South Wales

Contrasts of Australia – Exclusively Solos

Days 11 to 18: Uluru - Alice Springs - Adelaide - Sydney

Day 11: Uluru, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

We leave the state of Queensland this morning on our flight bound for Uluru (Ayers Rock), deep in the heart of Australia's vast outback. 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. On arrival we transfer to the Outback Hotel and Lodge, where we stay for the next two nights. Later, we enjoy a glass of sparkling wine with our 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 12: Kata Tjuta (Olgas) and Uluru

With an Indigenous name meaning 'many heads', our day begins with a tour of the impressive Kata Tjuta, or the Olgas as they are also known, an impressive set of domed rock formations, rising from the red sand of the outback. Later, we visit the Cultural Centre, where we learn more about Anangu culture and the park's natural environment. We finish our day with a tour around the base of the rock, enabling us to discover more about its historical and cultural importance. This evening, relax or enjoy a pre-booked optional activity such as the impressive illuminations of the Field of Light installation, or the Sounds of Silence dinner under the stars. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Alice Springs, Overnight

This morning, before breakfast, we have the option of watching the sun rise over Uluru, an awe-inspiring sight. Later, we leave Uluru and drive through the outback along the Lasseter and Stuart Highways to Alice Springs. Home for tonight is the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. A true gem close to Alice Springs is the unique Desert Park, home to the astonishingly rich wildlife of this desert landscape. As most of these creatures are nocturnal, a visit at dusk gives us a chance to observe them at their most active. We begin our evening visit with a pleasant barbecue dinner. After night falls, in small groups and guided by a ranger, we come face to face with endangered and uniquely Australian wildlife, such as Mala, Bilby and Bandicoot. **Breakfast and barbecue dinner included**

Day 14: Adelaide, 3 nights

Today we enjoy a sightseeing tour of Alice Springs. 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, we travel to the airport and bidding a final farewell to the outback, board flight to Adelaide in South Australia. On arrival, we transfer to the Peppers Waymouth Hotel, our home for the next three nights. Tonight, we dine together at the hotel's restaurant. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 15: Adelaide

Surrounded by grassy parkland, picturesque hills and the Mount Lofty Range, Adelaide could scarcely present a more captivating aspect. This morning, we are introduced to Adelaide's streets, fine Victorian buildings and its attractive parks and gardens. Leaving the city, we travel to Mount Lofty lookout, before continuing to Australia's oldest surviving German settlement, the quaint village of Hahndorf, with its tree-lined streets and original 'Fachwerk' buildings. Returning towards the city, our final stop of the day is the Cleland Wildlife Park. With a beautiful natural bush setting, Cleland offers the opportunity to discover and interact with kangaroos and wallabies, and observe koalas, wombats and even the elusive echidna. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: Adelaide Freedom Day

A Freedom Day to spend as we please. Discover Adelaide on foot or perhaps enjoy a visit to one of Australia's famed wine-growing regions, the Barossa Valley, to partake in wine tastings and lunch at one of the local wineries. Alternatively, you may wish to visit Kangaroo Island. Situated off the Fleurieu Peninsula, Kangaroo Islands offers a unique touring experience combining friendly, native wildlife with natural, unspoilt wilderness. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Barossa Valley

Experience some of Australia's finest wines and a leisurely lunch on a tour of this famous wine-growing region.



Day 17: Sydney, 3 nights

This morning, we make our way to Adelaide Airport in time for our flight to Sydney, the sparkling harbour city of New South Wales. Sydney is a city that takes full advantage of its natural setting – its famous harbour host to the 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 View Hotel, where we will spend our final three nights in Australia. **Breakfast included**

Day 18: Sydney

Tour Highlight

Following breakfast, we begin our exploration of Sydney. Our first stop is Sydney Opera House where we enjoy a guided tour of this iconic building. The Royal Botanic Gardens are Australia's oldest botanic gardens and command an enviable location in the heart of Sydney, overlooking the harbour. We are joined by an Aboriginal guide as we wander through the grounds, listening to stories of Gadigal lifestyle, traditions and history. Later, we drive out to 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. As twilight falls, perhaps take the opportunity to climb the impressive Harbour Bridge. **Breakfast included**



Aboriginal art



Dining in the Barossa Valley, South Australia



Sydney, New South Wales

Contrasts of Australia – Exclusively Solos

Days 19 to 21: Sydney - UK

Day 19: Sydney Freedom Day

Our final day in Sydney is free for independent exploration. Enjoy Sydney's retail scene, wander the streets and boutiques of the historic Rocks area, or perhaps 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.

Tour Highlight

On our final evening in Australia, we head to the harbour for a magical dinner cruise. As the sun sets and the city's iconic attractions light up the night, enjoy a three-course meal made with beautiful New South Wales and Australian ingredients, as we cruise along this famed harbour. Dinner is accompanied by a selection of beers, great regional wines and soft drinks along with tea and coffee. The evening will be a truly memorable way to bring our time in Australia to a close. **Breakfast and dinner with selected drinks included**

Day 20: Depart Sydney

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

Day 21: Arrive UK

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

Homebound Stopovers from only £475 per person

Extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey. Choose from Singapore or Sentosa Island.



Singapore

Two nights from £475 per person

Singapore provides a perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.



Sentosa Island

Two nights from £795 per person

Sentosa Island is either a relaxing sanctuary, or a fun-filled adventure, located only 20 minutes from Singapore.

Tour stopover includes: return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast. **Please see pages 154-155 for more details.**

Departure Dates & Prices

2025 Departures

21 October 2025 **£8,095** per person

2026 Departures

03 February 2026 **£8,095** per person

17 March 2026 **£8,095** per person

This itinerary was correct at the time of printing. For latest information, dates and prices, and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/COA

Prices

Prices are per person based on one person in a twin or double room. No single occupancy supplements apply.

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.

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 £35 per person will be added to your confirmation invoice.

Important information

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Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 160-163.

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



NEW

Tasmania Holiday Extension



Tasmania 6 nights from only £2,395 per person

Strahan waterfront

Tasmanian food platter

Dove Lake, Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park

Above: Cradle Mountain Hotel; Below: Tasmanian Devil

Australia's beautiful island state of Tasmania is also known as the 'Apple Isle', named as such because it was one of the world's biggest producers and exporters of apples. Less visited than the mainland, Tasmania has a captivating remoteness that enthral and delights, with many unique experiences waiting to be discovered. Guests can expect majestic, rugged wilderness, an interesting history and some of the best food in Australia, all around every corner.

Join Distant Journeys for our six-night Tasmania Holiday Extension and discover why this small island is often referred to as Australia's 'best-kept secret'.

Day 1: Cradle Mountain, 2 nights

After breakfast, we leave for Sydney Airport and our flight to Launceston, Tasmania. On arrival, we are met by our local Tour Manager, who will be our driver and guide throughout our time in Tasmania. Our journey west will meander through farmland and historic towns, before turning inland and climbing onto the Alpine Plateau to the gates of Cradle Mountain-Lake St Claire National Park. We arrive the Cradle Mountain Hotel, our home for the next two nights. Before dinner, we highly recommend exploring the hotel's beautiful grounds in search of wombats, which roam freely. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 2: Cradle Mountain

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

Day 3: Strahan, 2 nights

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

Day 4: Strahan

Tour Highlight

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

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

Day 5: Hobart, 2 nights

This morning, we board the West Coast Wilderness Railway for a trip into cool, remote rainforest, before travelling east to stop and view Lake St Clair, Australia's deepest lake. On arrival in Hobart, we take a short orientation tour of the city. Later, we reach the Crowne Plaza Hobart, where we stay for two nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 6: Hobart

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

Day 7: Depart Tasmania

We say a fond farewell to Tasmania as we head to Hobart Airport for our flights to the UK. Flight routing and timings will be dependent on your choice of stopover and UK airport. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Our Holiday Extension to Tasmania is available with the following tours:

Essential Australia

See pages 20-27

Wonders of Australia

See pages 28-35

The Very Best of Australia

See pages 56-65

Please note, dependent on your choice of tour, additional nights may be required in Sydney. Your itinerary, along with full pricing, will be confirmed at the time of booking.

Our Tasmania Holiday Extension is available on selected dates.

2025 & 2026 Departures

All dates from **£2,395** per person

Your Tasmania Holiday Extension includes:

Return flights to/from Tasmania; two nights accommodation in Cradle Mountain, Strahan and Hobart; daily breakfast, two lunches, three dinners; walking tour around Dove Lake; Gordon River cruise; journey on West Coast Wilderness Railway; tour of Port Arthur Convict Historical Site; national park fees; services of a local Tour Manager and all transfers. Exact travel arrangements will be confirmed at time of booking.

Single occupancy supplement from £595

New Zealand

Dramatic, Diverse, Spectacular

New Zealand is a country like no other. With its other-worldly geothermal landscapes, snow-capped mountains, lush forests and pristine beaches, paired with its fascinating Maori culture, charming towns and vibrant cities – you're guaranteed a trip of a lifetime.





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



Magnificent New Zealand

📅 24 days 💷 from £5,395pp 🌍 January 2025 – April 2026

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

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



Your holiday includes

- Return economy flights with Qantas & Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow, or with Singapore Airlines from Manchester or London Heathrow. Domestic flight within New Zealand. Inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
- Two-night outbound stopover – choose from Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai (dependent on your choice of airline)
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £440 per person, with daily breakfast and dinner in Rotorua, Pahia and Twizel
- 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 160-163.



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, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow. Alternatively, fly direct to Singapore with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester. 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 City Centre. Occupying a great location in Singapore city centre, our hotel offers a warm welcome and a range of services alongside comfortable, contemporary accommodation. **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. 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. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Depart Singapore

A day at leisure in Singapore until it's time to leave for our evening flight to Auckland. Perhaps explore the impressive Gardens by the Bay or enjoy high tea at Raffles. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 5: Auckland, 2 nights

If flying with Qantas & Emirates, your flight will transfer via Australia before arriving into Auckland. On arrival, transfer to either the Grand Millennium Auckland or the Hotel Grand Chancellor 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 stunning coastline of the famous Waitemata Harbour. In the distance see Rangitoto Island, a dormant volcano, dominating the horizon. Our afternoon is free to spend 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 Northland to the beautiful Bay of Islands and our home for the next three nights, the Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands, located in the picturesque seaside town of Paihia. **Breakfast and dinner 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 fishing grounds, dolphins and schools of fish are frequently seen. Our return trip travels via historic Russell, a peaceful and picturesque township. 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. The next two nights are spent at the four-star Distinction Hotel. Rotorua is the heart of New Zealand's rich Maori culture and this evening, at our hotel, we attend a concert featuring traditional song and dance, including the world-famous war dance – The Haka. **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 floatplane 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 Jetstar 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, as we head 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. From Arthur's Pass, we make the spectacular descent of the western side. Our travels continue, taking us alongside striking wild scree-scarred terrain, with the forests of Crimson Rata and Kahikatea. We pass lakes Lanthe and Mapourika before entering Westland National Park and reaching the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier for our next two nights. **Breakfast included**

TranzAlpine Adventure

from £98 per person



There is the opportunity to take the journey from Christchurch to Arthur's Pass on the TranzAlpine train, arguably one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world. On board, we enjoy thrilling vistas over deep gorges as we travel alongside the ice-fed Waimakariri River.

Please call for details.



Mitre Peak, Milford Sound, South Island



Clock tower, Dunedin, South Island



Twizel, South Island

Magnificent New Zealand

Days 14 to 21: Franz Josef - Queenstown - Te Anau - Milford Sound - Dunedin - Twizel

Day 14: Franz Josef Freedom Day

Today is left completely free to absorb the beauty of Franz Josef. For those that so wish, we drive to the Franz Josef Glacier terminal where we have the opportunity to walk through the rainforest and enjoy views of the glacier 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

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, we 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 17: Queenstown Freedom Day

Queenstown smiles south across Lake Wakatipu into an incomparable alpine scene. Poplars and willows surround the lakefront and the lake seems to glisten every shade of blue. 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 the option to take a 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 the Earnslaw. **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, 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 and the historic buildings of Otago University and the famous Dunedin Railway Station, before we arrive at our hotel. Our next two nights are spent at the Distinction Hotel Dunedin. **Breakfast included**

Day 20: Dunedin Freedom Day

A day at leisure to spend as we please. Perhaps join the Otago Peninsula Wildlife Tour – a perfect optional excursion for nature lovers. The tour includes an Otago Harbour cruise to Taiaroa Head, home of the world's only mainland nesting place of 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. 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 and dinner included**



Moeraki Boulders, Hampden Beach, South Island



Maori canoe



Night markets, Bangkok, Thailand

Magnificent New Zealand

Days 22 to 24: Christchurch - UK

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 the Tasman Glacier. If we are lucky with the weather, we may see the Southern Alps and the mighty Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain. We also stop at the Church of the Good Shepherd on the shores of Lake Tekapo. Later, descend from the Mackenzie Country over Burkes Pass to the Canterbury Plains and travel through small townships like Geraldine to Christchurch. We spend our final night in New Zealand at the Distinction Hotel Christchurch. **Breakfast included**

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, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 24: Arrive UK

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

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey. Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bangkok, Hong Kong, a beach stay in Bali or a stop in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

Bali – Three nights from £495 per person

A truly relaxing stopover at this beachfront hotel, where turquoise waters lap at white-sand shores and swaying palm trees.

Bangkok – Two nights from £195 per person

Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

Dubai – Two nights from £345 per person

The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Hong Kong – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Sentosa Island – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Singapore – Two nights from £345 per person

A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Please see pages 154-155 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2025 Departures

12 January 2025	£5,995 per person
09 March 2025	£5,895 per person
20 April 2025	£5,395 per person
05 November 2025	£5,995 per person

2026 Departures

11 February 2026	£6,295 per person
22 April 2026	£5,995 per person

This itinerary was correct at the time of printing. For latest information, dates and prices, and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/MNZ

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

January 2025 – March 2025: £1,595
April 2025: £1,225
November 2025 – March 2026: £1,595
April 2026: £1,295

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.

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 158-159.

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 160-163.

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

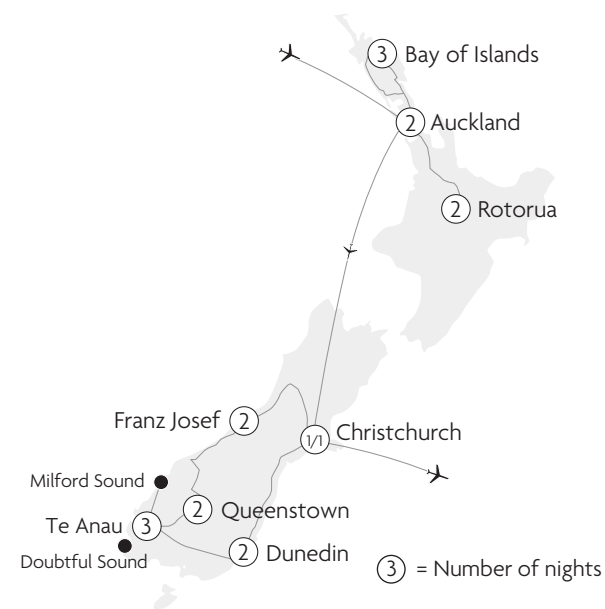
Natural Wonders of New Zealand

📅 24 days 💷 from £6,595pp 🌐 October 2025 – February 2026

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 near Franz Josef or exploring Doubtful Sound. 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. Domestic flight within New Zealand. Inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
- Two-night outbound stopover – choose from Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai (dependent on your choice of airline)
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £503 per person, with daily breakfast, barbecue lunch in the Bay of Islands, dinner in Rotorua, Pahia and Twizel
- Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Bangkok or Dubai), Queenstown, Dunedin and Christchurch
 - ★ 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 160-163.



Bay of Islands, North Island



Tui bird

Natural Wonders of New Zealand

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

Day 1: Depart UK

Fly with Qantas & Emirates from the UK airport most convenient for you: choose from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow. Or you may fly directly to Singapore with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester (selected dates). Regardless of which airline or airport you choose, there will be no extra cost involved. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Singapore, 2 nights

Touch down in the city state of Singapore for our two-night stopover and transfer to the four-star M Hotel City Centre. Occupying a great location in Singapore city centre, our hotel offers a warm welcome and a range of services alongside comfortable, contemporary accommodation. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Alternative stopover

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

Singapore is a lively, fascinating city where east meets west, where historic buildings from its colonial past sit alongside gleaming skyscrapers and bustling markets. Enjoy a morning tour of this wonderful city, with stops at the historic Civic District, Thian Hock Keng Temple, Merlion Park with its views across Marina Bay, and Singapore's Botanical Gardens. The remainder of our day is free to spend at leisure. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Depart Singapore

Enjoy free time in Singapore until we depart for the airport and our evening flight to Auckland. Perhaps explore the impressive Gardens by the Bay or enjoy high tea at Raffles. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 5: Auckland, 2 nights

If flying with Qantas & Emirates, your flight will involve a transit stop in Australia. Land in Auckland and 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

This morning, we take an orientation tour of the city. Known as the 'City of Sails', Auckland has 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, a dormant volcano, dominating the horizon. Our afternoon is free to spend 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

Leaving Auckland via the striking Waitemata Harbour Bridge we head north, and the cityscape gives way to rolling pastures as we enter the Waipoua Kauri Forest Reserve. Here we stop to view Tane Mahuta, otherwise known as 'God of the Forest', a giant example of a kauri tree. Our destination is the beautiful Bay of Islands and on arrival we head to our home for the next three nights, the Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands, located in the pretty seaside town of Paihia. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Auckland, North Island



Rainforest walk, Franz Josef, South Island



Kiwi chick



Champagne Pool at Wai-O Tapu, North Island

Natural Wonders of New Zealand

Days 8 to 14: Bay of Islands - Rotorua - Christchurch - Franz Josef

Day 8: Bay of Islands

Tour Highlight

Visiting this stunning area would not be complete without a cruise around the Bay of Islands. 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. 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

On today's Freedom Day, there is the option to join a wonderful excursion to Cape Reinga, at the northernmost tip of New Zealand. Here, the Tasman Sea meets the Pacific Ocean, and the area has a deep spiritual significance to the Maori people. They believe Cape Reinga is the place where Maori spirits return to their traditional homeland, Hawaiiki-A-Nui, via the roots of an ancient and still-standing pohutukawa tree. Today's tour will include breathtaking coastal landscapes, the Te Paki sand dunes and a drive along Ninety Mile Beach. The beach is actually 55 miles long but was named thus by early European settlers because they knew their horses could travel up to 30 miles in a day, and the journey along the beach took them three days! **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

This morning, we leave the Bay of Islands and travel via Auckland to the geothermal region of Rotorua, at the heart of New Zealand's rich Maori culture. Our next two nights are spent at the four-star Distinction Hotel Rotorua and later this evening we attend a concert of traditional Maori song and dance, which will include the legendary, fearsome Haka. **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**

Day 12: Christchurch, Overnight

We leave North Island today and take a short flight to Christchurch. On arrival, we meet our new Coach Captain, who will be our driver and guide during our time on New Zealand's South Island. We enjoy a brief sightseeing tour of the city before checking in to the Distinction Hotel, at the heart of Cathedral Square. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Franz Josef, 2 nights

Today we embark on one of the most stunning drives in New Zealand as we head 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. From Arthur's Pass, we make the spectacular descent of the western side of the Southern Alps. Our travels continue southbound taking us alongside striking wild scree-scarred terrain, with the forests of Crimson Rata and Kahikatea. We continue past Lakes Lanthe and Mapourika before entering Westland National Park and reaching the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier for our next two nights. **Breakfast included**

TranzAlpine Adventure

from £98 per person



There is the opportunity to take the journey from Christchurch to Arthur's Pass on the TranzAlpine train, arguably one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world. On board, we enjoy thrilling vistas over deep gorges as we travel alongside the ice-fed Waimakariri River.

Please call for details.

Day 14: Franz Josef

Following breakfast, 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 the afternoon, 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**



Milford Track, South Island



Doubtful Sound, South Island



Wildlife cruise, Otago Peninsula, South Island

Natural Wonders of New Zealand

Days 15 to 22: Queenstown - Te Anau - Milford Sound - Dunedin - Christchurch

Day 15: Queenstown, 2 nights

Enjoy beautiful scenery as we travel across the single-lane Haast River Bridge and via Clarke Bluff along one of the most exciting scenic roads ever built, the Haast Pass. We pass the peaceful shores of Lakes Wanaka and Hawea as we enter South Island's Central Otago region, and travel via Lake Dunstan, a man-made lake and reservoir formed on the Clutha River as a result of the construction of the Clyde Dam. Later today we reach the lively lakeside town of Queenstown, and our home for the next two nights, the Copthorne Hotel or the Heritage Hotel.

Breakfast included

Day 16: Queenstown Freedom Day

Situated on the shores of Lake Wakatipu and surrounded by the Remarkables mountain range, Queenstown sits in an enviable location and offers a wide variety of activities to suit every taste. Today has been left free for you to choose how you spend your day. For a relaxing experience, join the Queenstown's wine trail for an enjoyable day of wine tasting and sightseeing. Or take a leisurely cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard the vintage steamboat TSS Earnslaw. For something a little more adventurous, try a jet boat ride along the glacier-fed Dart River or a four-wheel drive adventure along the famous Skippers Road. **Breakfast included**

Day 17: Te Anau, 3 nights

This morning, we visit the nearby historic mining town of Arrowtown, a charming, quirky gold-rush village nestled beside the sparkling Arrow River. At its heart is Buckingham Street, a row of heritage buildings and quaint tea rooms that stretch into a tree-lined avenue of well-preserved miners' cottages. We travel onwards through high country landscapes to the lakeside town of Te Anau, gateway to the spectacular Fiordland National Park. We spend the next three nights at the Distinction Luxmore Hotel, Te Anau. Tonight, there is the opportunity (at an additional cost), to visit the magical Te Anau glow-worm caves.

Breakfast included

We Recommend

TSS Earnslaw

Enjoy a leisurely cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard the vintage steamboat TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak Homestead.



Day 18: Milford Track and 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 our 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 rain forest clings to sheer rock faces. Later we return to Te Anau. **Breakfast included**

Day 19: The Kepler Track or Doubtful Sound

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 is available at an additional cost of £195 per person, and begins with a spectacular helicopter flight from Te Anau, to Mount Luxmore. Accompanied by our knowledgeable nature guide, we learn about the area's flora and fauna. Enjoy the panoramic views 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

Say goodbye to Fiordland as our morning journey travels through lush pastoral scenery and the rural towns of Mossburn, Lumsden and Gore. En route, we see Balclutha, and its distinctive arched concrete bridge. Our destination today is Dunedin, South Island's second largest city. Known as the 'Edinburgh of the South', on arrival, we enjoy a sightseeing tour of Dunedin's, lovingly-restored Victorian and Edwardian buildings, neo-Gothic churches, town hall, opulent theatres, and other 19th century buildings. We enjoy the beautifully-landscaped flora of Dunedin Botanical Gardens before we reach our hotel, the Southern Cross Hotel, where we spend 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

This morning, we head north from Dunedin to Christchurch. En route, we stop at Hampden Beach to view the Moeraki Boulders, huge spherical boulders scattered along the beach. Geological curiosities, created about 65 million years ago, each boulder weighs several tonnes and is up to two metres in diameter. More poetically, Maori legend has it that 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. Our next stop is Oamaru, which boasts some of New Zealand's best-preserved Victorian Streets before we arrive at the Distinction Hotel in Christchurch for our final night in New Zealand. **Breakfast included**



Sandfly Point, Milford Track, South Island



Hong Kong



Lake Mapourika, West Coast, South Island

Natural Wonders of New Zealand

Days 23 to 24: Christchurch - UK

Day 23: Depart Christchurch

Our time exploring the Natural Wonders of New Zealand comes to an end this morning when we transfer to Christchurch Airport. Your flight will either connect via Australia and Dubai, if flying with Qantas & Emirates, or Singapore if flying with Singapore Airlines. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 24: Arrive UK

Breakfast is served shortly before we land, after a holiday of a lifetime in New Zealand. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey. Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bangkok, Hong Kong, a beach stay in Bali or a stop in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

Bali – Three nights from £495 per person

A truly relaxing stopover at this beachfront hotel, where turquoise waters lap at white-sand shores and swaying palm trees.

Bangkok – Two nights from £195 per person

Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

Dubai – Two nights from £345 per person

The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Hong Kong – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Sentosa Island – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Singapore – Two nights from £345 per person

A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Please see pages 154-155 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2025 Departures

29 October 2025 **£6,595** per person

2026 Departures

04 February 2026 **£6,895** per person

This itinerary was correct at the time of printing. For latest information, dates and prices, and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/NWONZ

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement
£1,595

Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling Premium Economy, and £3,750 per person for Business Class.

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 158-159.

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 160-163.

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: TranzAlpine Railway; Cook Strait, between North and South Islands

New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

📅 27 days 💷 from £6,295pp 🌐 February 2025 – April 2026

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 and Sea tour includes both North and South Islands and features three wonderfully scenic rail journeys.

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

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, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh 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
- 🕒 Two-night outbound stopover – choose from Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai (dependent on your choice of airline)
- 🏠 Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- 🍴 Meals worth £503 per person, with daily breakfast, dinner in Rotorua and lunch in a Waipara Valley winery
- 🌍 Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Singapore (or Bangkok or Dubai), Christchurch, Dunedin, Queenstown, Wellington, Rotorua and Auckland
 - ★ Cruise on Milford Sound
 - ★ Cruise the Cook Strait
 - ★ Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve
 - ★ Maori concert
 - ★ Hole in the Rock' cruise in the Bay of Islands

- 🚂 Three incredible rail journeys on board The TranzAlpine, The Coastal Pacific and The Northern Explorer
- 📖 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 160-163.



Joo Chiat Road, Singapore



Maori greeting

New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

Days 1 to 6: UK - Singapore - Christchurch - Dunedin

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from the UK airport most convenient for you with Qantas & Emirates. Choose from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh 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 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 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. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Depart Singapore

A day at leisure in Singapore to further explore the city, until it's time to leave for our evening flight to Auckland. Possibly visit historic Raffles for high tea or discover the wonderful Gardens by the Bay. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 5: Christchurch, Overnight

If flying with Qantas & Emirates your flight will travel via Australia before arriving into Christchurch. We transfer to the centrally-located Distinction Hotel Christchurch, where we spend our first night in New Zealand. On arrival we meet our Tour Manager in New Zealand. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 6: Dunedin, 2 nights

We travel south, first making a stop at Oamaru, where we stroll through New Zealand's best-preserved Victorian streets. A stop is then made in Moeraki to view a collection of huge spherical boulders which are scattered along a beautiful stretch of beach. Maori legend says that the boulders are gourds washed ashore from a voyaging canoe called Araiteuri, that was wrecked when it made landfall a long time ago. Scientists have discovered the boulders are actually calcite concretions, created about 65 million years ago, which have been raised from the seabed and uncovered one by one by the elements. We continue to 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. Upon arrival we will check in to Southern Cross Hotel for a two-night stay. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Moeraki Boulders, Hampden Beach, South Island



TSS Earnslaw, Queenstown, South Island



Mitre Peak, Milford Sound, South Island



TranzAlpine train, South Island

New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

Days 7 to 16: Dunedin - Te Anau - Queenstown - Franz Josef - Christchurch - Wellington

Day 7: 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. We may also encounter sea lions, blue penguins and Hector's dolphins. **Breakfast included**

Day 8: Te Anau, Overnight

This morning, we say goodbye to Dunedin. Fresh, green farm scenery will accompany us to Balclutha, which has a distinctive arched concrete bridge. We travel onwards via Gore and Lumsden until we reach Te Anau. We spend tonight at Distinction Hotel Luxmore. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Queenstown, 3 nights

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. 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. In the afternoon, we travel to Queenstown, where a scenic drive takes us through a variety of landscapes – farmland, native tussock grasslands, lush beech forests and impressive glacial valleys. Enjoy three nights at the four-star Millennium Hotel. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

TSS Earnslaw

Enjoy a leisurely cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard the vintage steamboat TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak Homestead.



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, we 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**

Day 12: Franz Josef, 2 nights

Enjoy incredible scenery today as we travel via Lake Dunstan, created by the mighty Clyde hydro dam in 1994. Continue along the shores of Lake Wanaka and across the Haast River Bridge and via Clark Bluff, along one of the most exciting scenic roads ever built. Later in the afternoon we reach Westland National Park and the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier. **Breakfast included**

Day 13: Franz Josef Freedom Day

A relaxing day to take in the beauty of Franz Josef and the surrounding area at our leisure. A transfer has been arranged to the Franz Josef glacier valley. From here, we can stroll through the amazing rainforest to a viewpoint, from which there is a wonderful vista of the steep glacier valley and the glacier terminal in the distance. Weather permitting, we may also take an optional scenic flight, which is 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 14: Christchurch, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

After breakfast, we experience South Island's striking natural landscapes in all their glory as we journey between Greymouth and Christchurch onboard the TranzAlpine. Considered to be one of the greatest rail journeys in the world, we traverse the Southern Alps, view miles of native beech forest, travel the edges of the ice-fed Waimakariri River and cross the patchwork fields of the Canterbury Plains. Our final stop is in Christchurch, where we stay for two nights at the centrally-located Distinction Hotel Christchurch. **Breakfast included**

Day 15: Christchurch

This morning, we discover Christchurch on an orientation tour. Later, we journey out of the city 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: Wellington, 3 nights

Tour Highlight

Another fantastic rail experience awaits today as we board KiwiRail's Coastal Pacific train. 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. We disembark in Picton and cruise across the Cook Strait to New Zealand's North Island. Dolphins and sea birds can often be seen playing in the waters, and the scenery is truly magnificent as we travel through Queen Charlotte Sound. On arrival in Wellington, we transfer to the Copthorne Hotel Oriental Bay, for a three-night stay. **Breakfast included**



The Coastal Pacific train, South Island



New Zealand Fern



The Northern Explorer train, Tongariro National Park, North Island

New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

Days 17 to 25: Wellington - Rotorua - Bay of Islands - Auckland

Day 17: Wellington

Today, go behind the scenes of some of the best-loved movies in history with this tour of the Weta Workshop near Wellington, a studio famous for creating some of the movie industry's most famous costumes, props, special effects and much more. Their creations have featured in much-loved films including Lord of the Rings, Avatar and District 9. After our visit of the Weta Workshop we enjoy a short orientation tour of Wellington, including a scenic drive to Mount Victoria for a fantastic view over the city. **Breakfast included**

Day 18: Wellington Freedom Day

A Freedom Day to spend as we please. Wellington is compact, cultured and full of character. 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: Rotorua, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

We board the Northern Explorer train and depart Wellington for our rail journey to Otorohanga. View spectacular scenery through our carriage's panoramic windows as we journey north, including fascinating coastline, river valleys, rolling green farmland and quaint towns. From the comfort of our carriage or from the open observation carriage we may view the spectacular dormant volcanoes of Tongariro National Park. Later, we experience an amazing feat of railway engineering as we wind our way through the Raurimu Spiral. We disembark in Otorohanga, and travel by coach to Rotorua. The next two nights are spent at the Distinction Hotel Rotorua. **Breakfast included**

Day 20: 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. 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. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 21: Bay of Islands, 3 nights

We journey north from Rotorua, crossing a landscape of rolling hills and dairy farmland. We cross the Waitemata Harbour on the famous Auckland Harbour Bridge and spend time at one of Auckland northern beaches. In the afternoon, we continue into the Northland region, which is known as the 'winterless north', as its lovely climate is influenced by subtropical conditions. We drive past Whangarei and 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**

Day 22: Bay of Islands

Tour Highlight

This morning, we discover the spectacular scenery of the region and learn about the area's rich culture and history during a spectacular cruise. When conditions permit, get up close to the dramatic cliffs at Cape Brett and travel through the iconic 'Hole in the Rock' on Motukokako. Encounter diverse wildlife in their natural surroundings and keep an eye out for dolphins and birdlife during your cruise. The skipper will stop at Otehei Bay on Urupukapuka Island, with time for a short walk or relaxation on its beautiful beach, before we return to Paihia. There is the opportunity to disembark in the picturesque township of Russell and return to Paihia by public ferry (at an extra cost) in the early afternoon. Alternatively, our free afternoon provides an excellent opportunity to visit the Waitangi National Reserve, where Maori chiefs and the British Governor signed the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. **Breakfast included**

Day 23: 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 24: Auckland, 2 nights

We journey south from Pahia with a stop in Waipoua Kauri Forest Reserve, home to gigantic kauri trees, the most famous of which is Tane Mahuta, 'Lord of the Forest'. Later, we arrive into Auckland, crossing the city's imposing Waitemata Harbour Bridge, and stay for two nights at the Airedale Boutique Suites. **Breakfast included**

Day 25: 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, a dormant volcano, dominating the horizon. Our afternoon is free to spend 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**



Pohutu Geyser, Rotorua, North Island



Tane Mahuta, Waipoua Kauri Forest Reserve, North Island



Auckland, North Island

New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea

Days 26 to 27: Auckland - UK

Day 26: Depart Auckland

All good things must come to an end, and this morning we transfer to Auckland Airport. Our flights to our chosen UK airport operate via Australia and Dubai if travelling with Qantas & Emirates, or via Singapore if travelling with Singapore Airlines. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 27: Arrive UK

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

Create the ultimate tour of Australasia

50 Days from £13,395 per person



If you would like to create the ultimate holiday to Australasia, combine our New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea with The Very Best of Australia.

Please see pages 138-141 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey. Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bangkok, Hong Kong, a beach stay in Bali or a stop in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

Bali – Three nights from £495 per person

A truly relaxing stopover at this beachfront hotel, where turquoise waters lap at white-sand shores and swaying palm trees.

Bangkok – Two nights from £195 per person

Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

Dubai – Two nights from £345 per person

The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Hong Kong – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Sentosa Island – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Singapore – Two nights from £345 per person

A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Please see pages 154-155 for more details on homebound stopovers.



Departure Dates & Prices

2025 Departures

23 February 2025*	£6,795 per person
09 March 2025*	£6,695 per person
13 April 2025*	£6,295 per person
18 October 2025	£6,995 per person

2026 Departures

17 January 2026	£7,295 per person
07 February 2026	£7,295 per person
21 February 2026	£7,295 per person
07 March 2026	£7,295 per person
04 April 2026	£6,995 per person

* Please note, these dates operate using an alternative itinerary. Please call for details.

This itinerary was correct at the time of printing. For latest information, dates and prices, and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/NZRAIL

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

February – March 2025: £1,795
April 2025: £1,595
October 2025 – March 2026: £1,895
April 2026: £1,695

Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling Premium Economy, and £3,750 per person for Business Class.

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 158-159.

Important information

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Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 160-163.

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



The Very Best of New Zealand

📅 28 days 💷 from £5,995pp 🌍 January 2025 – April 2026

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 Blenheim, located in the heart of Marlborough, one of New Zealand's famed wine regions. Arguably the highlight of the tour is an unforgettable cruise on Milford Sound.

The tour provides 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, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh 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 (dependent on your choice of airline)

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

🍴 Meals worth £565 per person, with daily breakfast and dinner in Rotorua and Dunedin

🌍 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 160-163.



Dunedin, South Island



Otago Peninsula, South Island



Milford Sound, South Island

The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 1 to 10: UK - Singapore - Christchurch - Dunedin - Te Anau - Queenstown

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from the UK airport most convenient for you with Qantas & Emirates. London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow. Alternatively, fly direct to Singapore with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester. 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 City Centre, where we spend the next two nights. Occupying a great location in Singapore city centre, our hotel offers a warm welcome and a range of services alongside comfortable, contemporary accommodation. **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. 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 Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 4: Depart Singapore

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

Day 5: Christchurch, 2 nights

If flying with Qantas & Emirates your flight will transfer via Australia before arriving into Christchurch. We transfer to the centrally-located Distinction Hotel Christchurch, where we spend our first two nights in New Zealand. On arrival 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: 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 take a visit to the Botanic Gardens. Founded in 1863 with the planting of an English oak tree, the Christchurch Botanic Gardens contain an impressive array of flora and fauna. Our afternoon is at leisure to continue exploring this delightful city. **Breakfast included**

Day 7: Dunedin, 2 nights

We travel south, first making a stop at Oamaru, where we stroll through New Zealand's best-preserved Victorian streets. A stop is then made in Moeraki to view a collection of huge spherical boulders which are scattered along a beautiful stretch of beach. Maori legend says that the boulders are gourds washed ashore from a voyaging canoe called Araiteuri, that was wrecked when it made landfall a long time ago. Scientists have discovered the boulders are actually calcite concretions, created about 65 million years ago, which have been raised from the seabed and uncovered one by one by the elements. We continue to 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. Upon arrival, we check in to Southern Cross Hotel for a two night stay. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 8: Dunedin

This morning, we enjoy a sightseeing tour taking in the city's neo-Gothic churches, town hall, opulent theatres and other 19th century buildings. 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. We may also encounter sea lions, blue penguins and Hector's dolphins. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Te Anau, Overnight

This morning, we say goodbye to Dunedin. Fresh, green farm scenery will accompany us to Balclutha, which has a distinctive arched concrete bridge. We travel onwards via Gore and Lumsden until we reach Te Anau. We spend tonight at the Distinction Hotel and Villas. **Breakfast included**

Day 10: Queenstown, 3 nights

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. 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. In the afternoon, we travel to Queenstown, where a scenic drive takes us through a variety of landscapes – farmland, native tussock grasslands, lush beech forests and impressive glacial valleys. We spend the next three nights at the four-star Millennium Hotel. **Breakfast included**



Arrowtown, South Island



Franz Josef Glacier, West Coast, South Island

The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 11 to 15: Queenstown - Franz Josef - Christchurch

Day 11: 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 12: 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**

Day 13: Franz Josef, 2 nights

Enjoy incredible scenery today as we travel via Lake Dunstan, created by the mighty Clyde hydro dam in 1994. Continue along the shores of Lake Wanaka and across the Haast River Bridge and via Clark Bluff, along one of the most exciting scenic roads ever built. Later in the afternoon we reach Westland National Park and the Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier for our next two nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: Franz Josef Freedom Day

A relaxing day to take in the beauty of Franz Josef and the surrounding area at your leisure. We will arrange a transfer from the Franz Josef township to the Franz Josef glacier valley. From here, we stroll through the amazing rainforest to a viewpoint, from which there is a wonderful view of the steep glacier valley and the glacier terminal in the distance. Weather permitting, we may also take an optional scenic flight, which is at an additional cost, over the glacier and the awe-inspiring Alpine region. **Breakfast included**

Day 15: Christchurch, Overnight

Today, we begin our adventure towards Christchurch. We pass Lakes lanthe and Mapourika taking us alongside striking wild scree-scarred terrain with forests of Crimson Rata and Kahikatea. From Arthur's Pass, we make the spectacular ascent up the western side of the Southern Alps, through thick native beech forest. As we descend every turn, offers spectacular views of the chiselled alpine landscape that take our breath away. Our journey continues through the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch. We stay overnight at the centrally-located Distinction Hotel Christchurch. **Breakfast included**

TranzAlpine Adventure

from £98 per person



There is the opportunity to take the journey from Arthur's Pass to Christchurch on the TranzAlpine train, arguably one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world. On board, we enjoy thrilling vistas over deep gorges as we travel alongside the ice-fed Waimakariri River.

Please call for details.



TSS Earnslaw, Queenstown, South Island



Vineyard, Marlborough, South Island



Bay of Islands, North Island



Maori House, Rotorua, North Island

The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 16 to 26: Blenheim - Wellington - Napier - Rotorua - Bay of Islands - Auckland

Day 16: Blenheim, 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 we 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. Later, we travel onwards to the township of Blenheim and our hotel for the night, the Scenic Hotel Marlborough. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Kaikoura whale watching cruise

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



Day 17: Wellington, 2 nights

This morning, we spend at leisure in Blenheim before a visit to a local winery for a chance to taste Marlborough's world-renowned Sauvignon Blanc and other fantastic wines. We journey from Blenheim to Picton, and 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 re-join our coach and make our way to the Grand Chancellor Hotel James Cook, where we spend the next two nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 18: Wellington Freedom Day

A Freedom Day to spend as we please. Wellington is compact, cultured and full of character. 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 seafront. **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, which is at 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, via Auckland, as we make our way to the pale sands and turquoise waters of the Bay of Islands. In the pretty seaside town of Paihia, the Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands will be our home for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 23: Bay of Islands cruise

Tour Highlight

Undoubtedly one of the highlights of this 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 Piery Island and on to the famous 'Hole in the Rock'. In these world-famous deep-sea fishing waters, it's not uncommon to see schools of fish and dolphins. 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 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 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, 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. There's a chance to marvel at the gigantic kauri tree Tane Mahuta, or 'Lord of the Forest.' From here, we head south, crossing the impressive Waitemata Harbour Bridge and head into Auckland and the Grand Chancellor Hotel for our final two nights in New Zealand. **Breakfast included**

Day 26: 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 Waitemata Harbour. In the distance see Rangitoto Island, a dormant volcano, dominating the horizon. Our afternoon is free to spend 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**



Napier, North Island



Maori carving



Gardens by the Bay, Singapore

The Very Best of New Zealand

Days 27 to 28: Auckland - UK

Day 27: Depart Auckland

All good things must come to an end, and this morning we transfer to Auckland Airport. Our flights to our chosen UK airport operate via Australia and Dubai if travelling with Qantas & Emirates, or via Singapore if travelling with Singapore Airlines. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 28: Arrive UK

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

Create the ultimate tour of Australasia

56 Days from £13,795 per person



If you would like to create the ultimate holiday to Australasia, combine The Very Best of New Zealand tour with The Very Best of Australia tour.

Please see pages 138-141 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey. Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bangkok, Hong Kong, a beach stay in Bali or a stop in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

Bali – Three nights from £495 per person

A truly relaxing stopover at this beachfront hotel, where turquoise waters lap at white-sand shores and swaying palm trees.

Bangkok – Two nights from £195 per person

Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

Dubai – Two nights from £345 per person

The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Hong Kong – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Sentosa Island – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Singapore – Two nights from £345 per person

A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Please see pages 154-155 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2025 Departures

10 January 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
12 October 2025	£6,895 per person
15 December 2025^	£7,495 per person

2026 Departures

11 January 2026	£7,295 per person
01 February 2026	£7,295 per person
22 February 2026	£7,295 per person
26 April 2026	£6,995 per person

* Please note, these dates operate on an alternative itinerary. Please call for details.

^ This departure includes Christmas dinner in Queenstown and New Year's Eve dinner in Wellington.

This itinerary was correct at the time of printing. For latest information, dates and prices, and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/VBONZ

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

January 2025 – March 2025: £1,875
April 2025: £1,545
October 2025 – February 2026 £1,995
April 2026: £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.

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 158-159.

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 160-163.

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



Australia & New Zealand

Whilst friendly neighbours, Australia and New Zealand are magnificent countries in their own right, completely unique to one another despite their proximity. Both are incredible touring destinations, and Distant Journeys have many years experience operating across Australasia.



Clockwise from left: Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia
Maori man, New Zealand; Kangaroo, Australia;
Maori carving, New Zealand. Credit: Graeme Murray



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

Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

📅 31 days 💷 from £7,495pp 🌐 April 2025 – April 2026

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, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh, or Glasgow and all domestic flights within Australia, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
- Two-night outbound stopover – choose from Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £690 per person, with daily breakfast, dinner 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 160-163.



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, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh 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 City Centre, where we spend the next two nights. Occupying a great location in Singapore city centre, our hotel offers a warm welcome and a range of services alongside comfortable, contemporary accommodation. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Alternative stopovers:

Dubai

We have based days 2-4 of this itinerary on a stopover in Singapore. If you prefer, you may choose to stopover in Dubai for an extra two nights before the tour starts, all at no additional cost. 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 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

Following a change of aircraft in Australia, we continue to New Zealand. On arrival into Auckland, we transfer to the Airedale Boutique Suites Auckland, where we spend our first two nights in New Zealand. Later, 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 travel over Auckland Harbour Bridge to Bastion Point, from where we enjoy the vistas over Waitemata Harbour. In the distance see Rangitoto Island, a dormant volcano, dominating the horizon. Our afternoon is free to spend 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: Rotorua, Overnight

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 explore Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, with its spurting geysers and boiling mud pools. After a wonderful day soaking up traditional Maori culture, we head to the Distinction Hotel for an overnight stay, where we attend a concert featuring traditional song and dance, including the iconic war dance – The Haka. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Maori greeting



Kiwi bird, New Zealand



Huka Falls, North Island, New Zealand



Lake Tekapo, South Island, New Zealand

Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 8 to 17: Napier - Wellington - Christchurch - Queenstown - Milford Sound - Melbourne

Day 8: Napier, Overnight

This morning, we make our way along the Thermal Explorer Highway to Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake. 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. Our destination today is the Art Deco city of Napier, located in an area dominated by orchards and vineyards. Take time this afternoon to explore the city. The seamless line of 1930s architecture is quite extraordinary and one of the best ways to experience the town is on a self-guided walk. We stay overnight at the delightful Scenic Hotel Te Pania, superbly situated on Napier's sea front. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Wellington, 2 nights

Our journey continues south via Hastings and the Kapiti Coast as we make our way to Wellington, New Zealand's capital. Upon arrival we have a short orientation tour of Wellington, including a visit to the top of Mount Victoria for the finest view of the city and its picturesque harbour. From Mount Victoria we make our way to Wellington's Copthorne Hotel Oriental Bay, where our evening is at leisure. **Breakfast included**

Day 10: Wellington Freedom Day

The capital of New Zealand is compact, cultured and full of character. On our Freedom Day we have the opportunity to explore Wellington as we please. A visit to Te Papa Museum is highly recommended, as it offers a fascinating insight into New Zealand's rich history and cultural heritage. There is time to ride a cable car to Wellington's beautiful botanical gardens or simply stroll alongside the beautiful waterfront and enjoy the city's many galleries, cafes and restaurants. **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, where we stay for 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 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 before climbing 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 the 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**

We Recommend

TSS Earnslaw

Enjoy a leisurely cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard the vintage steamboat TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak Homestead.



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. Sadly we must bid farewell to New Zealand as we head for Queenstown Airport for our flight to Melbourne, Australia. Upon arrival, we meet our Australian Tour Manager and make our way to the Clarion Suites Gateway. **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**



Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road, Victoria, Australia



Dandenong Ranges, Victoria, Australia

Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 18 to 21: Melbourne - Cairns - Great Barrier Reef

Day 18: Melbourne Freedom Day

Our first Freedom Day in Melbourne. We have the opportunity to enjoy an optional tour along one of the world's most spectacular coastal drives, the Great Ocean Road. Or perhaps, discover Phillip Island to view the 'Penguin Parade'? Alternatively, if you're looking to sample local gourmet delights, you may wish to take an optional Around the Bay Food & Wine Tasting Tour or discover the historic and gastronomic delights of Geelong with a trip on the lovingly-restored Q train. **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

Our second Freedom Day in Australia, so we may relax or explore as we please. We have the opportunity to enjoy an excursion aboard the Puffing Billy steam train on Australia's most notable narrow-gauge railway, through the beautiful Blue Dandenong Ranges. Another escape from the city is offered on the optional Around the Bay Sightseeing tour, taking in the stunning Mornington Peninsula and including a lunch and dolphin spotting cruise. **Breakfast included**

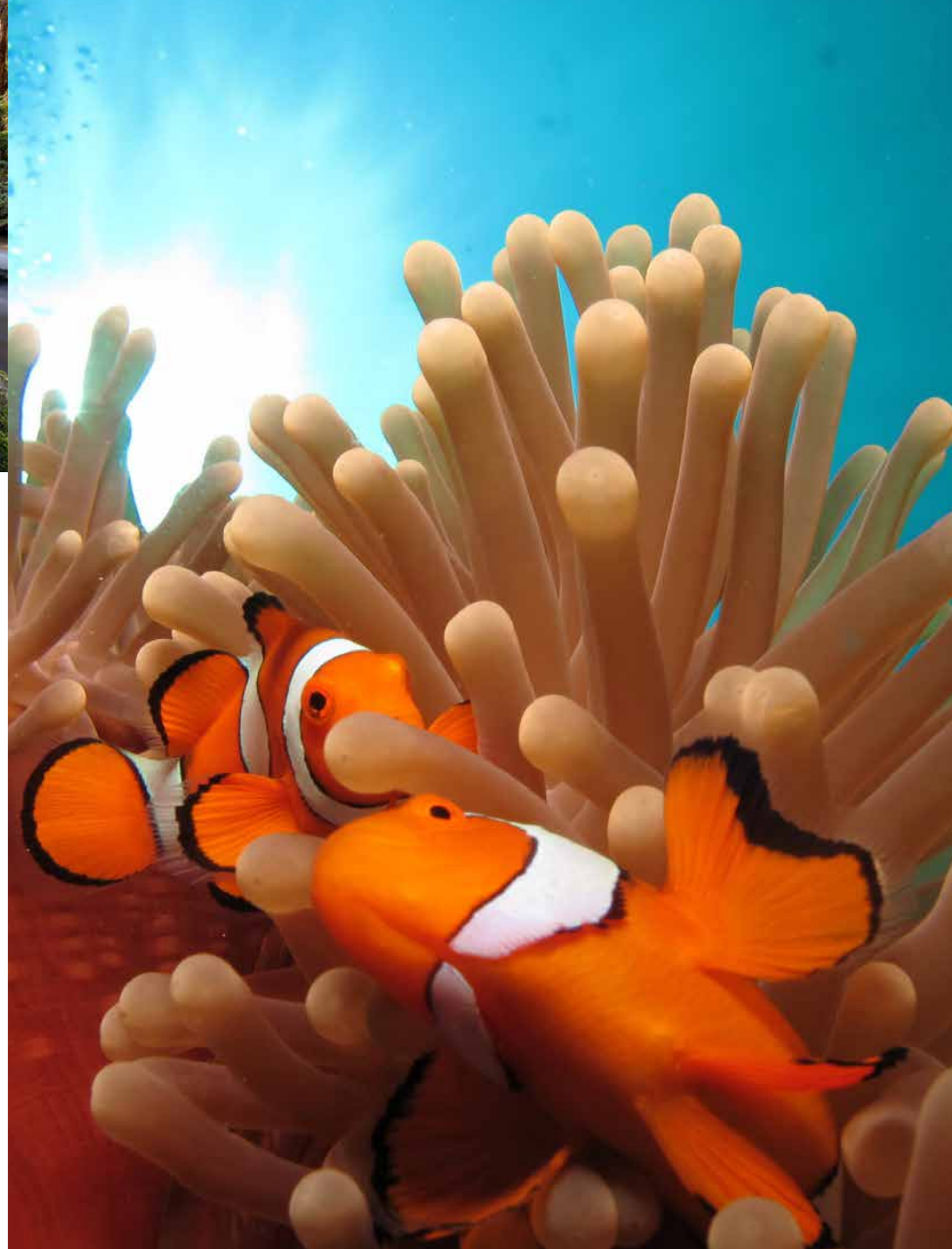
Day 20: Cairns, 4 nights

This morning, we return to the airport in time for our flight to Cairns. Upon arrival, and after transferring to our hotel, our afternoon is free to become acquainted with tropical Queensland. Centrally located in the heart of Cairns, our hotel for the next four nights is the DoubleTree by Hilton. **Breakfast included**

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 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 is a number of activities available at an additional cost, including scuba diving (no experience necessary), joining the marine biologist on a guided snorkel safari, taking a Seawalker helmet dive, or soaring above the reef on a spectacular scenic helicopter flight. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Clownfish, Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia



Uluru, Northern Territory, Australia



Kuranda Scenic Railway, Queensland, Australia



Standley Chasm, Western MacDonnell Ranges, Northern Territory, Australia

Highlights of Australia & New Zealand

Days 22 to 29: Cairns - Uluru - Alice Springs - Sydney

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 on one of the most unique rail journeys in Australia, the Kuranda Scenic Railway. During our journey to Kuranda, we encounter no fewer than 40 bridges and 15 tunnels. ‘The village in the rainforest’, Kuranda, awaits. It’s a lovely place to while away a few hours visiting the markets, its 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 by the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, a beautiful experience gliding over the rainforest canopy with stunning views over the Cairns coastline. **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. Perhaps take a hot air balloon ride at dawn, or 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. Alternatively, why not take a trip to Hartley’s Crocodile Adventures? Just a short drive from Cairns, there are miles of timber boardwalks and paths winding through woodlands and rainforest where we can see an array of wildlife. In the evening, you may wish to complete your day with a sunset cruise. 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 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. As an alternative, you may choose the optional Sounds of Silence experience, including dinner under the outback stars. We stay overnight at the Desert Gardens Hotel. **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. Our next two nights are at the four-star DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 26: Alice Springs

Nestled within the MacDonnell Ranges, Alice was made famous by its rich pioneering history and ancient indigenous culture. This morning you may wish to take an optional hot air balloon trip over the outback landscapes. Alternatively, you may prefer to take a trip to the Western MacDonnell Ranges. The half day excursion takes us through the wondrous and picturesque scenery of Simpson’s Gap and the towering granite walls of Standley Chasm. In the afternoon, enjoy a tour of this outback 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. In the evening, we highly recommend joining the Outback Barbecue. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Outback Barbecue

A fun-filled evening of entertainment and outback cuisine.



Day 27: Sydney, 3 nights

In the morning, we say a fond farewell to the Red Centre as we board our flight to Sydney. Upon arrival we head to the four-star Parkroyal 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 enroute to Bondi Beach. Travel by Double Bay and Rushcutters Bay as we make our way back to the city centre. Travel 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 be taking an optional trip to the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains. The Blue Mountains are a perfect example of native Australian bushland, with gum trees, majestic peaks and deep gorges stretching as far as the eye can see. Experience the panoramas from a series of lookouts, including Echo Point – the prime position to view the Three Sisters rock formation. The excursion also visits the pretty village of Leura, famous for their annual garden festivals and playing host to many of the region’s local artists. **Breakfast included**



Blue Mountains, New South Wales, Australia



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 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, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow) bringing to an end our incredible adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Homebound Stopovers from only £195 per person

Extend your holiday with a stopover on your homeward journey. Choose from Singapore, Sentosa Island, Bangkok, Hong Kong, a beach stay in Bali or a stop in fashionable Dubai. Your stopover includes return airport transfers, accommodation and daily breakfast.

Bali – Three nights from £495 per person

A truly relaxing stopover at this beachfront hotel, where turquoise waters lap at white-sand shores and swaying palm trees.

Bangkok – Two nights from £195 per person

Glittering temples, diverse and wonderful cuisine and graceful service with a smile.

Dubai – Two nights from £345 per person

The magic, mystery and traditions of Arabia, combined with an ambitious futuristic vision.

Hong Kong – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Sentosa Island – Two nights from £495 per person

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

Singapore – Two nights from £345 per person

A perfect blend of ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

Please see pages 154-155 for more details on homebound stopovers.



2025 Departures

21 April 2025*	£7,495 per person
21 October 2025	£8,095 per person

2026 Departures

06 January 2026	£8,295 per person
03 February 2026	£8,295 per person
10 March 2026	£8,295 per person
14 April 2026	£8,095 per person

* Please note, this date operates on an alternative itinerary. Please call for details.

This itinerary was correct at the time of printing. For latest information, dates and prices, and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/HANZ

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

April 2025: £1,795
October 2025 – March 2026: £2,095
April 2026: £2,045

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.

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 £35 per person will be added to your confirmation invoice. Travellers to New Zealand are required to obtain a visa (NZeTA). For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 158-159.

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 160-163.

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



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

Australia & New Zealand Combination Tours

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.

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.

Dependent on which combination you choose, there may be a few days between one tour ending and the next beginning. We include accommodation for these additional days, so you can choose to enjoy independent exploration or simply relax and recharge before the beginning of the next leg of your adventure.

Durations for our Combination Tours range from 50 to 56 days, and prices start at £13,395 per person.

For more information and prices, see pages 140-141 or visit distantjourneys.co.uk/ANZ

Left: Kata Tjuta, Northern Territory, Australia
Right: Milford Sound, South Island, New Zealand



New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea and The Very Best of Australia – 50 days from only £13,395 per person

Clockwise from left: Coastal Pacific train, New Zealand; Waitangi, Bay of Islands, North Island, New Zealand; Opera House at sunset, Sydney, Australia

Perfectly paired, discover two of our most popular touring itineraries on an incredible Australasian adventure. First, we uncover enchanting landscapes on our New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea tour, featuring three of the most scenic railway journeys on the planet. We traverse the Southern Alps on board the TranzAlpine, take the Coastal Pacific from Christchurch to Picton, and travel on the Northern Explorer through Tongariro National Park. Sit back, relax and take in New Zealand's magnificent vistas from the comfort of your seat on this fabulous holiday.

We leave Auckland for Perth, and all of Australia's wonders as we join our Very Best of Australia tour, packed with excitement and exploration. Australia's world-class cities will give you a taste of modern 'Down Under', whilst your time in the Outback offers an authentic insight into the country's rugged natural beauty and ancient indigenous culture. With a journey on the legendary Ghan train also included, this tour really does showcase The Very Best of Australia.

2025 Departures

18 October 2025 **£13,395** per person

2026 Departures

07 February 2026 **£13,595** per person

21 February 2026 **£13,795** per person

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

October 2025: £3,745

February 2026: £3,895

For full itinerary information

The Very Best of Australia: Pages 56-65

New Zealand by Rail Road & Sea: Pages 104-113

* Please note in order to connect with our Very Best of Australia tour, your stay in Auckland will be reduced by one night.

Call to book

0800 141 3745

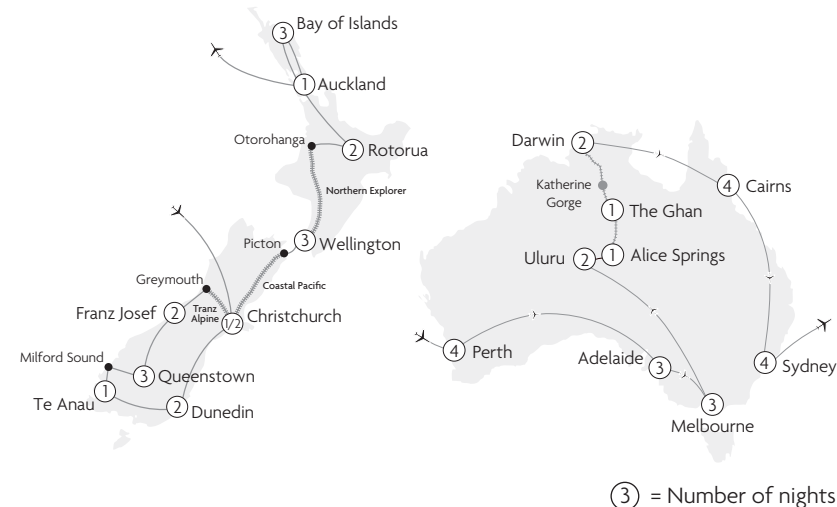
Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm

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



The Very Best of New Zealand and The Very Best of Australia – 56 days from only £13,795 per person

Clockwise from left: Uluru, Northern Territory, Australia; The Ghan train, Australia; Traditional Maori dress, New Zealand

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

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

2025 Departures

12 October 2025 **£13,795** per person

2026 Departures

01 February 2026 **£14,095** per person

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

October 2025: £4,295

February 2026: £4,445

For full itinerary information

The Very Best of Australia: Pages 56-65

The Very Best of New Zealand: Pages 114-123



Call to book

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



The Ghan The Ultimate Outback Experience



Clockwise from above: The Ghan; Gold Service Twin Cabin; Stop at Marla, South Australia

Queen Adelaide Restaurant

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

Your Journey

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.

Dining

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

Outback Explorer Lounge

The social hub of the train and the place to get to know your fellow travellers. 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.

Travel in 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. You won't find a television in the cabin, so your cabin provides the perfect place to relax and recharge as the outback passes by.

Gold Twin Cabins

- 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

Gold 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

Gold Inclusions

- All-inclusive dining in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant. Hearty breakfasts, two course lunches and three course dinners.
- All-inclusive Australian wines, beers, base spirits and non-alcoholic beverages in the Outback Explorer Lounge

Upgrade to Gold Premium from £245 per person



For those looking to enhance their outback adventure aboard the Ghan, upgrade to Gold Premium.

Guests are accommodated in newly-designed, contemporary cabins and have exclusive access to the Gold Premium Lounge and Gold Premium Dining carriages. Slightly larger than Gold Service, within your cabin, guests find high-quality luxuriously soft linen, a satin eye mask, and premium toiletries.

Gold Premium Cabins

- A comfortable lounge by day that converts to bunk-style sleepers at night
- Private en suite bathroom with LaGaia amenities
- Power outlets in cabin
- In-cabin music channels and journey audio commentary available

Gold Premium Lounge & Dining

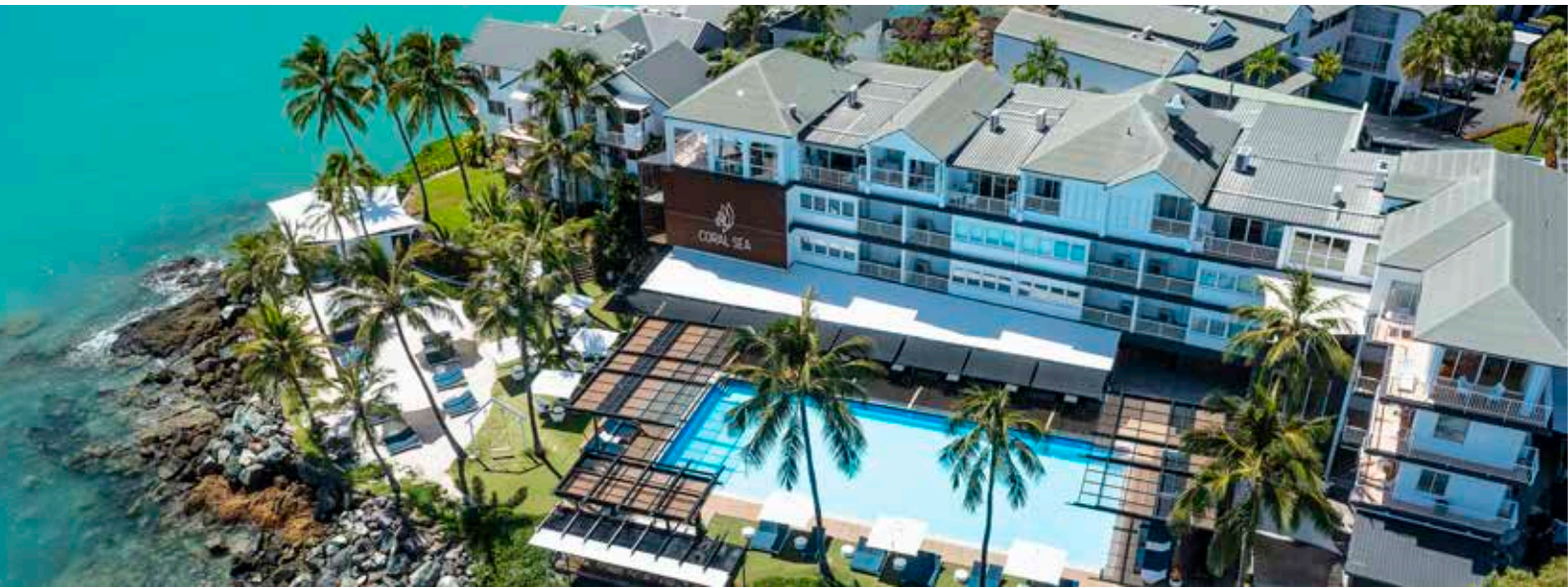
Guests in Gold Premium have exclusive access to both the Gold Premium Lounge and the Gold Premium Dining carriages. The lounge is your social hub, with leather seating and swivel chairs, perfect for enjoying a mid-morning coffee, or an after-dinner nightcap. Each meal served in the dining room and features the finest ingredients from local suppliers, farmers and providers. All accompanied by a selection of premium beverages and Australian wines.

Gold Premium Inclusions

- All-inclusive dining in the Gold Premium Dining carriage. Hearty breakfasts, two-course regionally-inspired lunches and four-course dinners
- All-inclusive premium beverages and Australian wines in the Gold Premium Lounge

Gold Premium is available as a twin share cabin only.

Australia Hotel Directory



Coral Sea Resort, Airlie Beach, Queensland



Adelaide – Crowne Plaza

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

Crowne Plaza Adelaide offers a great location close to Rundle Mall, home to many high-end shops and restaurants, making it easy access to all this charming city has to offer. Light and airy hotel rooms offer comfortable accommodation that is stylish and modern. The hotel has a heated, outdoor infinity pool and a state-of-the-art gym. Savour Asian and Australian fusion delicacies at Koomo, the hotel's main restaurant, and relax with a drink in Luna10 bar.



Adelaide – Peppers Waymouth

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

Encompassing personal service and charm, the 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. Designed with European flair and leaving no detail untouched, 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.



Alice Springs – DoubleTree by Hilton

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

On the banks of the Tood River, with the MacDonnell Ranges as a backdrop, the DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs is a lovely outback resort. Guest rooms offer views of the landscaped gardens, which can be enjoyed from your balcony. The hotel has a swimming pool, ideal for cooling off in the desert heat of Alice Springs, and there's a fitness room and tennis court for those feeling more energetic as well as a choice of eateries.



Brisbane – Hotel Grand Chancellor

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

Perched at the highest point in central Brisbane, the Hotel Grand Chancellor Brisbane boasts breathtaking views of the Brisbane River, the city's skyline, and its iconic landmarks. Guest rooms have en-suite bathrooms, air-conditioning and free wi-fi. Make the most of the Queensland sunshine at the heated rooftop swimming pool and enjoy breakfast with some of Brisbane's best views at Fresco's Restaurant. Fresco's Bar & Café is the perfect spot to sip a sundowner with new-found friends as night falls over Brisbane.



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 is surrounded by landscaped, tropical gardens and is just a pleasant few minutes' walk from Cairns' shopping, restaurants and entertainment. Guestrooms offer floor-to-ceiling windows and have all you need for a comfortable stay. Take a refreshing dip in the outdoor swimming pool or enjoy a cocktail or a chilled glass of wine before enjoying Australian-inspired specialities in the Atrium restaurant.



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.

Australia Hotel Directory



Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park, Cradle Mountain Hotel
Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Cradle Mountain Hotel is nestled within breath-taking alpine woodland in the heart of the UNESCO Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Guest rooms are cosy and warm, with a Juliet balcony to watch for native wildlife in the hotel grounds. The Wilderness Gallery showcases the work of Tasmanian artists, and the Wilderness Boardwalk is ideal for more wildlife spotting. Altitude Restaurant serves up hearty, seasonal fare showcasing the flavours of Tasmania.



Darwin – DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade
Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

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



Hobart – Crowne Plaza Hotel
Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Crowne Plaza Hobart is a modern, stylish hotel offering comfortable accommodation in the heart of Tasmania's capital. Salamanca Place whose cobbled streets are home to a vibrant cultural scene, is within easy walking distance. The spacious hotel rooms all feature flat screen tv and a comfortable bed ensuring a great night's sleep. Core Restaurant serves a lavish buffet breakfast and The Deck is the hotel's stylish outdoor bar and restaurant overlooking the city with Mount Wellington as a backdrop.



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 – Crowne Plaza Hotel
Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Situated on the riverfront, within walking distance of Melbourne's many attractions, the Crowne Plaza Melbourne offers guest rooms that are spacious and contemporary, with breathtaking views of the Yarra River. Dining options at the Crowne Plaza reflect the city's love of good food and drink. Ottie's Bistro, is where European influences blend with Australian flair. Dive Bar is your go-to place for a signature cocktail at the nightly Happy Hour.



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 – Vibe Hotel Melbourne Docklands
Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Vibe Hotel Melbourne Docklands is located in Melbourne's fashionable Docklands area, a modern harbour development popular for its shopping and dining. The bright, spacious rooms offer floor-to-ceiling windows with sweeping views of the Yarra River and city of Melbourne. The hotel has a well-equipped fitness centre and a heated outdoor pool. Dock 18 Restaurant and Bar is the hotel's dining venue.



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.



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.

Australia Hotel Directory



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.



Strahan – Strahan Village

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

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



Sydney – Crowne Plaza Darling Harbour

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

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



Sydney – Hyatt Regency

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

Hyatt Regency Sydney enjoys a prime location in the heart of Darling Harbour, close to Sydney's main attractions. Spacious guest rooms have views of Sydney's CBD and there is a well-equipped gym plus Nabea Spa, offers a range of relaxing treatments. There's a choice of dining venues, sky-high Zephyr bar offers stunning rooftop views of Darling Harbour and the hotel also incorporates one of Sydney's oldest surviving pubs!



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 – ParkRoyal Darling Harbour

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

The ParkRoyal Darling Harbour Hotel Sydney is superbly located in the heart of lively Darling Harbour, one of Sydney's prime spots. Superior guest rooms are spacious and bright, with modern amenities and comfortable furnishings, and the hotel has a well-equipped fitness centre. Kick-start your day with breakfast in Barkers Restaurant and unwind over a drink in ABODE bar before enjoying modern Australian cuisine in the Bistro.



Sydney – View Hotel

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

Located on the fashionable north side of Sydney Harbour, the hotel has quick and easy access to all that Sydney has to offer. Each of hotels guestrooms rooms have panoramic windows, allowing you to fully enjoy the views of the city and its most iconic landmarks. Wylde Bar, is the perfect spot to enjoy a glass of wine, or a cocktail. At LB's Restaurant you can take your pick from its creative and contemporary a la carte menu along with a unique view towards the harbour and city.



Sydney – Radisson Blu Plaza

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

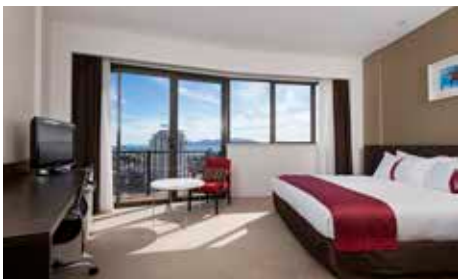
The Radisson Blu Plaza is a landmark hotel, within walking distance of Circular Quay and the Sydney Opera House. Rooms are spacious and comfortable, combining boutique-style elegance with modern amenities, and there is an indoor pool and fitness centre. Enjoy fine Australian cuisine in Bentley's Restaurant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

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

Located close to the Sky Tower and the city's bustling central dining hub, Hotel Grand Chancellor offers a comfortable and convenient stay during your time in Auckland. The hotel features an inviting courtyard to relax in and spacious rooms equipped with all the amenities you will require during your stay. Its restaurant, Wellesley Bar & Grill offers delicious buffet and a la carte options, accompanied by views over central Auckland.



Blenheim – Scenic Hotel Marlborough

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

Convenient and comfortable hotel located in Blenheim. Your room is bright and airy, featuring air conditioning, satellite TV, tea and coffee-making facilities, and free Wi-Fi. You benefit from an en-suite bathroom with a hairdryer and toiletries. The stylish Savvy Restaurant & Bar offers an a la carte menu as well as a dinner buffet on Saturdays, featuring seasonal dishes such as pumpkin risotto, Arataki honey ice cream meringue cake. You will also find an inviting swimming pool along with a sauna and hot tub (available on request).



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.



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.

New Zealand Hotel Directory



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 Highlights Restaurant, known for its carvery buffet dinners.



Te Anau – Distinction Te Anau Hotel and Villas

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

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



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.



Wellington – James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor

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

For a comfortable and convenient stay in the heart of Wellington, James Cook Grand Chancellor Hotel is a stone's throw from the city's fantastic shopping, eateries, and main attractions. Rooms are spacious with complimentary wi-fi, an en-suite bathroom and tea/coffee making facilities. Whitby's Restaurant & Bar is located on the 17th floor and offers fantastic views along with a delicious a la carte menu. For those that want a quick meal, head to Sojourn Restaurant & Bar for classic baked goods and famously good coffee.

Choose your Airline and Stopover

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

Outbound stopovers

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

Tour	Airline	UK departure airports	Included outbound stopover	Optional inbound stopover (additional cost)
Essential Australia	Qantas & Emirates	London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow	None	Dubai, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore, Sentosa Island or Bali
Treasures of Australia, The Very Best of Australia			Singapore, Dubai or Perth	
Highlights of Australia & New Zealand			Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai	
Wonders of Australia	Qantas & Emirates	London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow	Singapore or Dubai	Dubai, Singapore, Sentosa Island or Bali
	Singapore Airlines	London Heathrow or Manchester^	Singapore	Singapore or Sentosa Island
Australia's East Coast Jewels	Singapore Airlines	London Heathrow or Manchester^	Singapore	Singapore or Sentosa Island
Contrasts of Australia				
Magnificent New Zealand Natural Wonders of New Zealand New Zealand by Rail, Road and Sea The Very Best of New Zealand	Qantas & Emirates	London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stanstead, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow	Singapore, Bangkok or Dubai	Dubai, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore, Sentosa Island or Bali
	Singapore Airlines	London Heathrow or Manchester^	Singapore	Singapore or Sentosa Island

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

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, Hong Kong 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 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.



Wat Arun Temple, Bangkok, Thailand



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



Hong Kong – Marco Polo Hong Kong Hotel

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

Ideally located in Kowloon overlooking Victoria Harbour and beside Harbour City shopping centre and within easy reach of numerous restaurants and bars. Classically decorated rooms present great amenities and comfortable king or twin beds. Café Marco offers an extensive buffet breakfast, and Italian restaurant Cucina provides lunch and dinner with spectacular harbour views. Relax in the stylish Lobby Lounge, or take a refreshing dip in the outdoor pool.

Homebound stopover prices Two nights £495 per person Single occupancy £795



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 £795



Singapore – The Robertson House

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

Superbly located at bustling Robertson Quay, The Robertson House blends sophisticated modernity with colonial charm. Guest rooms are furnished with every modern convenience, and leisure facilities include a 25-metre outdoor swimming pool. Breakfast in style at Entrepôt, The Robertson House hotel's Anglo-Asian culinary haven and by night, delve into the opulent embrace of Chandu, the hotel's hidden bar.

Homebound stopover prices Two nights £475 per person



Singapore – M Hotel City Centre

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 £345 per person Single occupancy £495

Stopover Hotel Directory



Bali – Merusaka Hotel

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

The beachfront Merusaka in Nusa Dua is an oasis of calm surrounded by tropical beauty, where turquoise waters lap white-sand shores and swaying palm trees. Guests can expect modern, comfortable rooms with elements of Balinese design; three outdoor pools and a spa. Dining options are superb, with a choice of restaurants, bars and eateries, and upgrades to all-inclusive are available from £120 per person per night.

Homebound stopover prices Three nights £495 per person Single occupancy £745



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 £345

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

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

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 Premium Economy* from £2,295 return

Enjoy added comfort and relaxation in Emirates new Premium Economy Cabin, with enhanced dining and beverages.

- Dedicated check-in at certain airports
- Spacious and comfortable cream leather seats offering up to 40 inches of leg room
- Adjustable cushioned leg rest and a greater recline
- Spacious woodgrain tables that fold neatly into the arm of your seat
- Complimentary amenity kits on selected flights
- Large pillows designed for all Premium Economy seats
- Enjoy a choice of delicious multi-course meals with a wide range of 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

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 dependent 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	£35 Distant Journeys processing fee. Alternatively you can apply via the Australian Government website
New Zealand	Yes	NZD \$23 for an online application, NZD \$17 for applications via the smartphone app. An International Visitor Levy Fee of NZD \$100 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

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
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dollar
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 are entitled to carry one suitcase per person. Total dimensions for each piece must not exceed 158cm (62in) and weight must not exceed 20kg (44lbs). Dimensions for luggage are calculated by adding together the length, height and depth of the piece of baggage. In most instances this will be less than the airlines permitted allowance and is restricted to accommodate for coach and, or train capacity, domestic flights and where applicable local health and safety laws. We are unable to accommodate more than one suitcase per person, or any oversized pieces of luggage.

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/uksi/2018/634/contents.

Booking Conditions

Distant Journeys Booking Conditions. Published September 2024

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 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, 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 coronavirus pandemic and any other epidemic or pandemic and any resultant impact on travel.

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.

Before you make your booking, please do let us know in writing if 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. We will 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. You must inform us in writing if there is a material change in your condition, disability, mobility or allergy or if one develops after your booking has been confirmed. If we or our suppliers are unable to properly accommodate the needs of the person(s) concerned, we will unfortunately not be able to confirm your booking or if we did not know at the time and we cannot assist you, we must reserve the right to cancel your booking and apply cancellation charges.

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 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 multi-day railtours, the minimum number is 2 travellers. For Solo Tours, the minimum number is 10 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 (30 days or less if booking an African multi-day railtour) 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 (30 day on an African multi-day railtour) 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 our multi-day railtours and Private Tours, your obligation is to the appropriate Distant Journeys representative, be that a local guide, Train Manager, 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 the end of your stay or relevant service(s), as applicable. 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.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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.
- (6) 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.
- (7) 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.
- (8) 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.
- (9) 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
- 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

Note: In travelling on The Brahmaputra River & Darjeeling tour, India, the following tour cancellation fees will apply

Tour cancellation period	Fee per person
90 days prior to departure or less	100% of holiday price

Note: In travelling on African Rail Adventure, Namibian Rail Safari, or South African Rail Discovery tours, the following cancellation fees will apply

Tour cancellation period	Fee per person
130 days to 30 days prior to departure	75% of holiday price
30 days prior to departure	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

- (1) 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).

- (2) 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.

- (3) 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.

- (4) 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 / or applicable local 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 / or local 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 / or 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 local standards and failure to comply does not automatically mean we have not exercised reasonable skill and care.

- (5) 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.

- (6) 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 license 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. 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.

- (7) 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 underdeveloped countries or more remote locations, forces of nature, political unrest and accident, illness, epidemics or pandemics in regions without means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities. We cannot accept any liability regarding the provision of medical care or the adequacy of any care that may be rendered where it is provided by third parties.

It is a condition of your booking and your responsibility to ensure that you have sufficient and valid travel insurance to cover your booking with us. We reserve the right to decline your booking if adequate proof of such current and valid travel insurance is not provided to us if requested. Please note that we do not check individual policies for suitability. We insist you take out appropriate travel insurance to cover as a minimum: pre-existing medical conditions, medical expenses, repatriation in the event of accident or illness, cancellation by you for any reason, cancellation charges, loss of luggage, early return following death of a relative as defined in the respective proposal forms or emergency repatriation, for example in the event of accident or illness. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance fully covers all your personal requirements and the specific risks outlined above. Please read your policy details carefully and take them with you on your tour. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance cover you purchase is suitable and adequate for your particular needs. If you choose to travel without adequate insurance cover, we will not be liable for any losses no matter how arising, in respect of which insurance cover would otherwise have been available. If you have any questions, these should be raised with your travel insurance provider.

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. Total dimensions for each piece must not exceed 158cm (62in) and weight must not exceed 20kg (44lbs). Hand luggage must not exceed total dimensions of 115cm (45in) 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 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*, Train 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 13 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 relevant 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 14) 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 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 usually takes approximately 3 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, 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 www.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 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: 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.

34. 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



Other Destinations

India

Sri Lanka

Japan

China

Vietnam & Cambodia

South Africa

Kenya

Canada & Alaska



To book, call our travel experts FREE on

0800 141 3745

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm **Sunday** Open in peak season

Email enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk **Visit** distantjourneys.co.uk

Address 8 Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY

Opening hours may vary, please see website for details.

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