



Ultimate Australia and New Zealand

Featuring Ayers Rock, Milford Sound, Cairns, The Great Barrier Reef and Sydney

A 22 Day-19 Night Cruise/Tour

Join TRIPS as we travel 'Down Under' to both Australia and New Zealand.

Your adventure begins in cosmopolitan Sydney where you tour the world famous Opera House, enjoy a lunch cruise with spectacular views and visit delightful Bondi Beach. Travel to the outback for three days visiting famed Ayers Rock, one of the most impressive landmarks in Australia. Enjoy both sunset and sunrise excursions as well as a magical evening under the stars. Travel north to Cairns, the jumping off point for your visit to the spectacular Great Barrier Reef for a thrilling day on the water. Your tour continues as you board the Norwegian Star for a relaxing cruise with ports of call that include Melbourne, Tasmania and the best of New Zealand. You have a full day cruising through spectacular Milford Sound with towering granite cliffs and waterfalls pounding hundreds of feet. This is truly the Ultimate way to experience 'Down Under' - the TRIPS way!

Days 1, 2 and 3 - Superb Sydney

Board your international flight bound for **Sydney, Australia** crossing the International Dateline! On arrival, you'll be met and assisted with your hotel transfer. The afternoon is at your leisure and this evening, enjoy a **Welcome Dinner** on the waterfront with awe-inspiring views of the world-famous Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Overnight: Sydney (or similar)

(D)

Day 4 - Sydney: Harbour to Opera House

Your full day begins with a **guided city tour of Sydney**. With stunning architecture, spectacular harbour views and the world famous **Bondi Beach**, this is a fun and exciting city. Travel through Chinatown and Darling Harbour stopping to take in the fantastic views and photo opportunities, learning about the history and significance of the area. Then, enjoy a **Catamaran Harbour Lunch Cruise** complete with commentary as you enjoy the food and excellent views of the harbour! After, you'll walk a short distance to see an Opal demonstration, learning about this magnificent Australian gemstone. Then, it's off for another short walk to the **Sydney Opera House** where you'll tour this miracle of architecture and engineering, host to 1,500 performances a year.

Overnight: Sydney (or similar)

(B/L)

Day 5 - Mystical Ayers Rock

After breakfast **fly to Ayers Rock**, one of Australia's most identifiable icons. Considered sacred to the local Aborigines, the rock's color changes spectacularly with the sunset as well as sunrise. On arrival, travel to **Uluru National Park** where you hear about the formation of the domes' and the flora and fauna of the area. Then, view **Uluru** at **sunset** witnessing a display of colors from gentle dusky blues and purples to fierce oranges and reds. **Truly spectacular!**

Overnight: Ayers Rock (or similar)

(B)

Day 6 - Sounds of Silence

Rise early this morning to watch the **day's first light illuminate Ayers Rock** in a fantastic array of every changing colors. On your tour around the base of the rock, see ancient rock-paintings, water holes and hear stories of Aboriginal legends. Travel to the **Cultural Centre and Maruku Arts and Craft Coop** to learn more of this ancient culture. Return to your hotel with the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. This evening, enjoy a spectacular **Sounds of Silence** experience, dining under the canopy of the desert night with your very own storyteller sharing tales as told in the stars. As the sun sets, listen to the sounds of the didgeridoo while the stars twinkle

overhead as you locate the Southern Cross, Milky Way and planets and galaxies seldom seen elsewhere.

Overnight: Ayers Rock (or similar)

(B/D)

Day 7 - Ayers Rock to Cairns

This **morning is free** to enjoy included daily activities such as indigenous art markets, guided garden walks, boomerang throwing and more! This afternoon, transfer to the airport for your **flight to Cairns** with the remainder of the day at leisure. Enjoy the warm climate and see why Cairns has been voted **Australia's most livable regional city**.

Overnight: Cairns (or similar)

(B)

Day 8 - Railway, Cableway and Butterflies

Your day begins on the **Kuranda Scenic Railway** offering old world charm as you travel in authentic timber carriages, gently meandering past breathtaking scenery. This spectacular journey offers unsurpassed views of dense rainforest, steep ravines and picturesque waterfalls. Next, enjoy a **Behind the Scenes Tour** of the **Australian Butterfly Sanctuary** with over 1500 magnificent tropical butterflies. Be sure and wear something bright like red, white or hot pink and let the beautiful and colorful creatures flutter all over you! After an **included lunch**, you'll ride the **Skyrail Rainforest Cableway** gliding over the canopy with spectacular views of the rainforest, tropical Cairns, the Coral Sea and the lush Cairns Highlands. Return to your hotel later this afternoon with the remainder of your day at leisure.

Overnight: Cairns (or similar)

(B/L)

Day 9 - The Amazing Great Barrier Reef

Set sail aboard a **luxury sailing catamaran** for a day to remember as you experience the many treasures of the **Great Barrier Reef!** Included activities range from **snorkeling** to enjoying a **cruise on a semi-sub** with a diver's view of the reef without getting wet. A tropical **smorgasbord lunch** is included along with **afternoon tea**. A delightful way to enjoy this truly special area! Return to your hotel later with the remainder of the day at leisure.

Overnight: Cairns (or similar)

(B/L)

Day 10 - Board the Norwegian Star

After breakfast today, board your return flight to Sydney. On arrival, transfer to the pier and board the **Norwegian Star**. Be sure to be on deck to enjoy the views as you sail from Sydney at **5pm**.

(B/L/D)

Day 11 - Relax, You're At Sea

Today is your day to relax and enjoy a day at sea. From the world-class spa to amazing entertainment, the Norwegian Star offers options galore. Or, choose to do nothing at all relaxing by the pool with a refreshing drink and a book. It's **Freestyle Cruising**, so you decide! (B/L/D)

Day 12 - Melbourne

Dock in **Melbourne**, the cultural and sporting capital of Australia, from **8am-6pm**. Once the richest city in the world thanks to a gold rush, Melbourne is **Australia's cultural capital** with striking architecture, chic galleries and boutiques. Get close to a koala at a wildlife park or perhaps visit **Chinatown** – the oldest one in the West. (B/L/D)

Day 13 - Tasmania

You'll be in Burnie, **Tasmania** today from **8am-5pm**. Located on the northwest coast, it has a long history as a community that makes things. Locally crafted cheeses, fine papers, ceramics and single-malt whisky will surely tempt you! Surrounded by wilderness areas, you can still get a glimpse of **penguins** and **platypus** in the wild. (B/L/D)

Days 14 and 15 - Two Delightful Days at Sea

As the Star sails towards New Zealand, you have **two days** to enjoy your floating hotel. With **14 dining options** and **9 bars and lounges**, it's easy to find just what you're looking for. If you're feeling lucky, you might choose to try your luck in the **Star Dust Casino**. (B/L/D)

Day 16 - Milford Sound

Today, cruise through **Milford Sound**, described by **Rudyard Kipling** as the **'eighth wonder of the world'**. The fjord's cliffs rise vertically from the dark waters, mountain peaks scrape the sky and waterfalls cascade downwards, some as much as 3,000 feet. Find a spot onboard to sit back, relax and take in the sights! (B/L/D)

Day 17 - Dunedin

Your first port of call in **New Zealand** is **Dunedin** where you'll be from **9am-6pm**. With a mix of **natural beauty and fascinating history** you'll find a combination of Victorian and Edwardian architecture dating from the gold rush. New Zealand's only **castle** sits high above the city

with sweeping views from it's famous gardens. And, you'll find delightful shopping with locally made crafts, wool and leather items. (B/L/D)

Day 18 - Akaroa

Today finds you in **Akaroa** from **8am-5pm**. This historic settlement is nestled in the heart of an ancient volcano with **tiny penguins** ruling the roost in this Mediterranean climate. This foodies paradise is well known for locally grown olives, grapes, walnuts, lavender and lemons as well as award-winning local wines. (B/L/D)

Day 19 - Wellington

You're in **Lord of the Rings** country, **Wellington**, New Zealand's capital city. Renowned for its arts, heritage, culture and native beauty the area is home to **world-class wineries** as well. You may just find that there isn't enough time to enjoy all this beautiful area has to offer as you'll be docked here from **8am-6pm**. (B/L/D)

Day 20 - Napier

Beautifully preserved 1930s architecture is Napier's claim, and you have from **8am-5pm** to enjoy it. Take a leisurely stroll along **Marine Parade**, a tree-lined ocean boulevard with fountains and gardens, or travel to the countryside to enjoy lovely vistas, tour **superb vineyards** and relax with a glass of wine! (B/L/D)

Day 21 - Tauranga

Go on a **'walk-about'** and explore **Tauranga**, set on the beautiful **Bay of Plenty**. You're here from **10am-7pm**, time enough to discover the rich history. Nearby **Rotorua** is the heartland of New Zealand's **Maori culture**. The indigenous people of New Zealand, the Maori are central to the country's identity, and this is the perfect place to experience it! (B/L/D)

Day 22 - Auckland

You dock this morning in **Auckland** at **6am**, where you disembark after breakfast. You'll be assisted with your airport transfer and your flight home. **Your Ultimate Australia and New Zealand cruise/tour will be an experience that you'll not soon forget!** (B)



Inclusions

- Roundtrip international airfare to Australia and returning from New Zealand
- All transfers from airport to hotel, hotel to pier and pier to airport
- Full day Sydney tour including Opera House and Harbour Lunch cruise
- 3 flights within Australia: Sydney to Alice Springs to Cairns to Sydney
- Sunrise and sunset tours to Ayers Rock and special Sounds of Silence evening experience
- Catamaran cruise to Great Barrier reef including lunch
- 7 nights losing in 4 Star Hotels in Australia
- 12 nights onboard the Norwegian Star in your selected cabin category
- All meals while onboard the Norwegian Star
- All cruise, port charges and government taxes
- TRIPS document wallet and luggage tags

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