

Highlights of Australia

12 Day Tour from Melbourne to Sydney

Vacation Overview

Stunning natural attractions, vibrant cities, remote regions, and friendly people...this is Australia, and on this Australia tour, you'll experience all of this and more. Start in Melbourne, end in Sydney, and overnight along the way in Alice Springs, Uluru (Ayers Rock), and Cairns.

No vacation to Australia is complete without seeing the incomparable Great Barrier Reef. On this Australia tour, you'll take a catamaran cruise to the Outer Great Barrier Reef and have the chance to snorkel, take a semi-submersible watercraft tour, or attend a presentation by a marine biologist. With the radiant colors and fish swimming by you, it is nothing short of spectacular! But that's not all. You'll also witness the spectacular geological wonders of Uluru (Ayers Rock), the iconic monolith and symbol of the Outback, and Kata Tjuta (the Olgas), with its red rocks and 36 brilliant domes. Tour the base of Uluru with its caves and Aboriginal paintings, and enjoy a champagne toast while watching Uluru change colors at sunset—an amazing sight indeed!

Also visit some of Australia's most famous cities. In Alice Springs, learn about life, education, and medical services in the remote regions of the Outback. In Sydney, cruise along the world-famous Sydney Harbour. In Melbourne, enjoy guided sightseeing of the city's landmarks. In Melbourne, Cairns, and Sydney, you'll also enjoy plenty of free time to explore and discover on your own.

From the remote Outback to the tropical Great Barrier Reef, this Australia tour designed for value-minded, savvy travelers is a dream vacation!





Itinerary

Day 1 **ARRIVE IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

Welcome to Australia! Hotel rooms are available for immediate check-in. A pre-night is not required for early check-in. The remainder of the day is yours to relax or start exploring this vibrant city.

Day 2 **MELBOURNE**

This morning begins with a welcome briefing to meet fellow passengers and your Tour Director. Then, enjoy a city sightseeing tour which includes landmarks such as Flinders St. Station, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Botanic Gardens, and the Shrine of Remembrance. The afternoon is free to explore on your own. Your Tour Director will have suggestions for additional sightseeing, shopping, and dining.

Day 3 **MELBOURNE**

A full free day to explore more of Melbourne on your own. You may wish to consider a day tour to the scenic Great Ocean Road to see the "Twelve Apostles" or travel to Phillip Island and see the famous Penguin Parade.

Day 4 MELBOURNE–ALICE SPRINGS

Today, fly to the Outback and visit the School of the Air and the Royal Flying Doctor Service to learn how education and medical services are provided in remote regions (subject to opening times). Also, visit the Old Telegraph Station to discover how early settlers developed communications.

Day 5 ALICE SPRINGS–ULURU (AYERS ROCK)

Today, journey through the heart of the Outback, keeping a lookout for red kangaroos, dingoes, camels, and feral horses, known as “Brumbies.” Upon arrival, travel to a popular lookout to enjoy views of the magnificent Kata Tjuta (the Olgas), a geological splendor of some 36 brilliant domes. Later, visit the Sunset Strip, where you will enjoy a champagne toast while experiencing one of the world’s greatest spectacles—Uluru at sunset.

Day 6 ULURU–CAIRNS

Enjoy a tour at the base of Uluru, the extraordinary monolith whose circumference is studded with caves decorated with Aboriginal paintings. In the afternoon, fly to Cairns, “Gateway to the Great Barrier Reef.”

Day 7 CAIRNS. EXCURSION TO THE OUTER GREAT BARRIER REEF

The world’s largest coral reef, made up of over 3,000 individual reefs and over 1,250 miles long, is one of our planet’s most amazing natural wonders. Board a catamaran cruise to the Outer Great Barrier Reef. Experience this underwater world that is a dazzling kaleidoscope of color and brilliance. Choose to snorkel, take a glass-bottom-boat tour, view the reef from an underwater observatory, and watch a fish feeding. Return to Cairns, where your evening is at leisure.

✕ Lunch

Day 8 CAIRNS

Today is yours to relax and explore. Set amid lush rainforests, soaring peaks, and the ocean, Cairns is one of Australia’s most popular tourist destinations. It has many attractions including a scenic railway, which runs to the picturesque market town of Kuranda and a cable car that glides over Australia’s World-Heritage-listed tropical rainforest canopy. Your Tour Director will have suggestions for sightseeing, shopping, and dining.

Day 9 CAIRNS–SYDNEY

Board your flight to Sydney, Australia’s largest city. Tonight, you may wish to enjoy dinner at a waterfront restaurant.

Day 10 SYDNEY

Sydney boasts one of the most beautiful harbors in the world, home to the instantly recognizable Sydney Harbour Bridge and the world-famous architectural wonder—the Sydney Opera House. This morning, your sightseeing tour will take you through the heart of Sydney. End the day with a harbor cruise along Sydney Harbour for uninterrupted views of the city skyline.

Day 11 SYDNEY

Enjoy a full day at leisure for your own discoveries. You may wish to wander the cobblestone streets of the Rocks district, explore vibrant Darling Harbour, or climb to the top of Sydney’s Harbour Bridge. Your Tour Director will have suggestions to help you make the most of this exciting city.

Day 12 SYDNEY

Your vacation ends this morning.