

Australia & New Zealand Discovery - OACQ

23 days: Cairns to Queenstown

What's Included

- Your G for Good Moment: Resourceful Ōtautahi Walking Tour, Christchurch
- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Discover Moment: Byron Bay
- Your Foodie Moment: Winery Visit, Central Otago District
- Your Discover Moment: Queenstown
- Guided rainforest walk
- Whitsunday Islands sailing excursion
- Blue Mountains stay with hikes
- Scenic Railway
- Jenolan Caves visit
- Jamison Valley walk
- Waitomo Caves visit
- Maori cultural experience
- Wine tasting
- Aoraki/Mt Cook NP visit with hiking opportunity (weather permitting)
- Aoraki/Mt Cook NP Visitor's Centre visit
- Fiordland NP visit
- Doubtful Sound day cruise
- Orientation walk in Sydney
- Free time in Cairns, Byron Bay, Sydney, Rotorua and Queenstown
- Internal flight
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing June 7th, 2019 - December 31st, 2019

Itinerary

NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1 Cairns

Arrive at any time.

There are no activities planned until the evening welcome meeting.

Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Day 2 Cairns/Cape Tribulation

Head north to Cape Tribulation. Stop en route to explore Mossman Gorge and take an interpretive walk through the Daintree Rainforest.

Private Vehicle

Cairns – Cape Tribulation 3h30m 140km

Travel 1.5 hrs to Mossman Gorge. Later, continue 2 hrs to Cape Tribulation.

Indigenous Peoples Interpretive Walk

Mossman Gorge 2h

Take an interpretive walk through the Daintree Rainforest. Follow an Indigenous guide and learn about bush food, medicinal plants and the lasting relationship of the Kuku Yalanji people with their natural environment. Find out how to make bush soap, watch an ochre painting demonstration and sample some bush tea.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Day 3 Cape Tribulation

With a free day, opt for a trip to the Great Barrier Reef or to explore Daintree National Park.

Free Time

Cape Tribulation Full Day

Head out and start exploring.

Optional Activities - Day 3

Great Barrier Reef Visit

Cape Tribulation

209AUD per person

Hop on a boat and head out to sea to reach the world-famous Great Barrier Reef. Don a mask and opt to snorkel the largest coral reef in the world. Say g'day to Nemo, the clown fish, and some of the 1,500 other species of tropical fish that thrive in the warm waters off Australia's east coast.

Daintree National Park Visit

Cape Tribulation

Free

Step back in time in this lush tropical rainforest, reported to be more than 110 million years old! Bring your binoculars to spot some of the 430 species of birds, including the buff-breasted paradise kingfisher and flightless cassowary. On the ground, look for possums, bandicoots, echidna and musky rat kangaroo. Discover why the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people consider this a spiritual and cultural significant place.

Cape Tribulation Horseback Riding

Cape Tribulation 2h-2h30m

110AUD per person

Hop in the saddle and explore the rainforest on your trusty steed. Ride through lush canopy floors and crystal clear streams, ending up on the stunning Myall beach. Cap off this adventure by galloping through the ocean spray!

Daintree Rainforest Night Walk

Cape Tribulation

45AUD per person

Once the sun goes down, grab a torch and head out into the jungle for a guided night walk. With your guide you'll spot various critters who call this region home. Keep your eyes peeled for sleeping bats, birds, lizards and spiders as you listen to the sounds of the rainforest at night.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4 Cape Tribulation/Cairns

Return to Cairns in the afternoon with free time to explore this laid-back city.

Private Vehicle

Cape Tribulation – Cairns 3h30m Afternoon

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time

Cairns Afternoon

Make the most of a few hours in this city.

Meals included: Breakfast**Day 5 Cairns/Airlie Beach**

Depart early for a full day of travel to reach Airlie Beach with time to explore the town.

Private Vehicle

Cairns – Airlie Beach 9h-10h 623km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Meals included: Breakfast**Day 6 Airlie Beach**

Set sail for a day in the Whitsunday Islands, visiting the Great Barrier Reef. Opt to swim or snorkel, and hike to an island lookout over Whitehaven Beach, known for its stunning white sand. Return to Airlie Beach for the night.

Whitsunday Islands Boating Excursion

Whitsunday Island 8h 08:00-17:30

Enjoy a day out on the water amidst some of the 74 tropical islands that make up the Whitsunday archipelago. Visit Whitehaven Beach, jump overboard for a quick refreshing dip, and make friends with the tropical fish that thrive within Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

Barrier Reef Visit

Whitsunday Island

The Whitsunday Islands are in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. Spend the day out on a boat cruising through the waters around the islands. Then, when it gets too hot, pull on a mask and snorkel and dive overboard to check out the variety of brightly coloured marine plants, coral and fish that thrive right in these warm tropical waters.

Optional Activities - Day 6**Whitsunday Islands Snorkelling**

Whitsunday Islands 30m-1h

Free

Take advantage of the included snorkel gear, throw on a mask and see what lives in the Great Barrier Reef. (Note that fins are not provided in order to adhere with local coral conservation efforts.)

Meals included: Lunch**Day 7 Airlie Beach/Byron Bay**

Fly to Brisbane and transfer to Byron Bay for two nights in this "hippie" paradise.

Plane

Airlie Beach – Brisbane 2h30m

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Private Vehicle

Brisbane – Byron Bay 2h-2h30m 200km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 8 Byron Bay

Spend the day wandering the town or taking part in a multitude of optional activities like skydiving, visiting Cape Byron Lighthouse, or relaxing on the beach.

Pre-book the "Byron Bay Ocean Kayaking" activity on the checkout page ahead of time to include this optional experience on your tour.

Your Discover Moment

Byron Bay Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in Byron Bay, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like sea kayaking, yoga, and skydiving. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

Optional Activities - Day 8**Whale Watching**

Byron Bay 2h30m-3h

89AUD per person

Enjoy a thrilling excursion on the water in search of the magnificent Humpback whales. Between June and November, they migrate north from their feeding grounds in Antarctica to breed and birth in the tropics. See the distinctive flukes (tails), and also look for dolphins, turtles and a variety of sea birds.

Hinterland and Minyon Falls Tour

Byron Bay

139AUD per person

Head inland to Nightcap National Park, a subtropical rainforest in part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area, for a 2-hour guided walk through the rainforest to beautiful Minyon Falls. After a refreshing swim at the base of the 100m falls, visit the quaint town of Bangalow, the oldest town in the region and known for its historic storefronts. After perusing local shops and cafés, enjoy the drive back to Byron Bay, passing through historic towns and beautiful scenery. Locally sourced barbecue lunch included.

Cape Byron Lighthouse Visit

Cape Byron 30m-2h

Free

Cape Byron Lighthouse is 3km (1.9 mi) northeast of Byron Bay. The popular white structure emits the most powerful light of all working lighthouses in the country, and it's also located at the most easterly point of the Australian continent. Head up to the top of the tower to scan the ocean for whales (the Southern Cross University's Whale Research Centre is located here).

Byron Bay Ocean Kayaking

Byron Bay

Slice through the waters of the iconic Byron Bay in the morning on this half-day kayaking adventure. Paddle past the most easterly point of the Australian mainland, see the Julian Rocks Marine Reserve, and ride the waves into shore. On top of it all, keep a close eye for dolphins and whales (in season) who call these waters home. Epic? Definitely.

This activity is in the ocean and conditions can sometimes be rough due to weather. This is a very fun activity but first time kayakers may find this challenging.

Day 9 Byron Bay/Port Macquarie

Hit the waves with an included surf lesson. Head to the coastal township of Port Macquarie, featuring all the beauty of the beach set alongside gorgeous national parks. Enjoy an evening in Port Macquarie.

Private Vehicle

Byron Bay – Port Macquarie 5h 397km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Surfing Lesson

Byron Bay 3h

Hit the beach and get ready to hang ten with a surf lesson from trained surf instructors. Spend some time in the water getting friendly with the waves, practice paddling, then pop up to balance on the wider, softer beginner boards. Too easy.

Day 10 Port Macquarie/Blue Mountains

En route to the Blue Mountains, opt to stop at the Koala Hospital to learn about vital wildlife conservation work in the area.

Private Vehicle

Port Macquarie – Blue Mountains 6h-7h 500km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Optional Activities - Day 10

Koala Hospital Visit

Port Macquarie

2AUD per person

Visit the Koala Hospital, learn about these unique creatures and even adopt your very own Koala!

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 11 Blue Mountains

Explore the area around Leura and Katoomba including the Three Sisters. Visit the Jenolan Caves, take a walk in Jamison Valley, and ride on the Scenic Railway, the steepest railway in the world.

Jenolan Caves Tour

Blue Mountains 1h 30m-2h

Jenolan Caves are a protected feature of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains. These limestone karst caves are the world's oldest caves and are significant both a scientific and sightseeing perspective. Enjoy a guided tour in the cool climes of this fascinating underworld.

Scenic Railway

Blue Mountains

This railway is steep and plunges into the rainforest and through the valley. The ride is scenically stunning. At the end, opt to take a rainforest walk or a cable car back to the visitor's centre.

Jamison Valley Walk

Blue Mountains 1h-2h 30m 1-3km

Take in some amazing lookouts over the Jamison Valley, via the iconic Three Sisters. Descend down the 900 step giant staircase to the valley floor. Walk amongst the beautiful forest to the steepest incline railway in the world — The Katoomba Scenic Railway. Opt to ride its 52-degrees angle or take the Scenic Cableway. If you're keen for more walking, and time permitting, take the 900 stairs back up.

Blue Mountains Excursion

Blue Mountains

With charming Leura as your base, explore the major attractions of the Blue Mountains from sightseeing to bushwalking to cafés and more.

Day 12 Blue Mountains/Sydney

Private Vehicle

Blue Mountains – Sydney 2h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Free Time

Sydney Evening

Get out and explore.

Optional Activities - Day 12

Sydney Opera House Visit

Sydney

43-185AUD per person

Stroll along the waterfront to admire Sydney's most iconic landmark, designed by Danish architect Jørn Utzon and opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1973. Take a guided tour of this UNESCO World Heritage site to discover its history, folklore, and more.

Some two million people a year come to see concerts and cultural performances Opera House. Catch the boom of the grand organ—with more than 10,000 pipes, it took 10 years to build and is the largest mechanical organ in the world.

Day 13 Sydney

Get a feel for the city. Relax seaside at Bondi Beach. Enjoy an optional night out with the group.

Free Time

Sydney Full Day

Enjoy a free day to explore one of Australia's most exciting cities.

Optional Activities - Day 13

Coogee Beach to Bondi Beach Coastal Walk

Coogee Beach – Bondi Beach

Go for a walk along one of the most iconic trails in Australia. Pass by secluded beaches, massive cliffs, and more breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean than imaginable – all before arriving at the world-famous Bondi Beach. From May to December, keep a keen eye on the ocean to try and spot migrating humpback whales.

Jet Boat Ride

Sydney

85AUD per person

Want an adrenaline rush? A jet boat is the way to go. Hold on and get ready for a white-water thrill while gorgeous scenery whizzes past. Explore Sydney Harbour, jetting by the Opera House, Harbour Islands and more!

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Sydney Adrenaline Bundle

Sydney

Admire the city from new perspectives with this Adrenaline Bundle. Start with a climb to the top of Sydney Harbour Bridge – 134m (440 ft) above sea level! Learn the story of the bridge from an expert guide and soak in the epic views. Next, board a jet boat and enjoy the thrill of spins, slides, and fish tails, spotting iconic landmarks like the Opera House, Taronga Zoo, and Shark Island along the way. Book this Adrenaline Bundle and save on both activities.

Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb

3h-4h

Climb one of the most famous bridges in the world – the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Soak in amazing panoramic city views of Sydney at the top – a perfect photo opp and memory to take home with you!

Day 14 Sydney/Auckland

Fly to Auckland, New Zealand and enjoy free time in the city.

Please note that your flight from Australia to New Zealand and first night in Auckland will be unescorted.

Plane

Sydney – Auckland 3h

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Day 15 Auckland

Enjoy a free day to explore Auckland. Visit the Maritime Museum, walk the waterfront, or even take the ferry to Waiheke Island.

If you are interested in visiting the Hobbiton Movie Set, we recommended purchasing a day trip from Auckland for this day on your tour. OR, upon meeting your CEO, you can opt to book a ticket with them (please note that there are limited tickets on the ground - which could result in you missing out if you wait to book with your CEO).

Free Time

Auckland Full Day

Enjoy the city or choose from the many day excursions available.

Optional Activities - Day 15

Optional Welcome Meeting for Travellers on Combos

You may be a seasoned pro at group travel by now, but there will likely be some new travellers joining the group. Sit in on the welcome meeting to meet the newest members of your group and learn about the next leg of your tour.

Hobbiton Tour

Rotorua 4h-5h

112NZD per person

Enjoy a 2-hour movie set tour and see where major scenes from The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit were filmed.

Day 16 Auckland/Rotorua

Visit the Waitomo Caves, famous for their glow-worms and adventure activities. Continue to Rotorua, notable for its geothermal activity and culture.

Waitomo Excursion - Ruakuri Cave

Waitomo Caves 3h30m

Walk through caverns covered with magical glowworms that are unique to New Zealand. Hundreds of thousands of these tiny creatures radiate luminescent light in underground caves carved by rivers and time. Take in more than 120 years of cultural and natural history on this unique excursion.

Private Vehicle

Auckland – Rotorua 7h-8h 275km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 17 Rotorua

Take advantage of free time in the adrenaline capital of the North Island, and opt to go whitewater rafting, check out a geothermal park with technicolour pools, hit up a nearby spa, or journey to Middle-earth on an excursion to the Hobbiton Movie Set. This evening, learn more about Maori culture with a local experience and dinner.

Free Time

Rotorua Half Day

With lots to see and do in Rotorua, get out and explore!

Tamaki Maori Village

Rotorua 3h-3h30m

Visit the Tamaki Maori Village. Receive the traditional Powhiri welcome ceremony followed by a captivating stage performance explaining Maori history, myths and culture. For dinner, enjoy a traditional Hangi meal, similar to the Hawaiian Luau, with dishes such as chicken, sweet potatoes (kumara), and lamb steamed over heated rocks.

Optional Activities - Day 17

Rotorua Canopy Tours

Rotorua 3h-3h30m

179-249NZD per person

Experience life among the treetops of a Kiwi forest through this one-of-a-kind nature tour. Gain a whole new perspective on the plants, animals, and insects that call this environment home, and learn about conservation efforts to protect the region's subtropical forests. Opt to book the Original Canopy Tour (3 hrs) or the Ultimate Canopy Tour (3.5 hrs).

Mountain Biking

Rotorua 2h-4h

35-130NZD per person

Head out on an exhilarating cycling adventure. Explore the stunning Redwood Forest on two wheels on what some call the world's best mountain biking trails. Whether you're a beginner or expert mountain bike enthusiast there's sure to be a trail perfect for you.

Whitewater Rafting

Rotorua 2h-3h

115NZD per person

Get your adrenaline fix on this exhilarating white water rafting trip. Enjoy the amazing scenery along the way, but don't forget to paddle!

Hobbiton Tour

Rotorua 4h-5h

112NZD per person

Enjoy a 2-hour movie set tour and see where major scenes from The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit were filmed.

Hot Springs

Rotorua

30-50NZD per person

Soak tired muscles in the area's natural hot springs and let the mineral water work its magic. Rotorua is home to a number of amazing geothermal parks – be sure you don't miss the healing and relaxing benefits of the city's naturally heated waters.

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

Day 18 Rotorua/Christchurch

Catch a flight to Christchurch on the South Island. Walk around town with a local guide and learn about how communities have rebuilt after the earthquake in 2011. This evening, enjoy free time and get a feel for the city.

Plane

Rotorua – Christchurch 1h

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Your G for Good Moment: Resourceful Ōtautahi Walking Tour

Explore lesser-known paths around Christchurch on this walking tour of the city led by a member of Rekindle — a social enterprise where resourcefulness skills are shared among members to build self-confidence and create art out of under-valued materials. The hands-on, workshop-based environment keeps everyone engaged and helps to strengthen the community.

Free Time

Christchurch Evening

Spend the evening exploring Christchurch during free time.

Meals included: Breakfast**Day 19 Christchurch/Lake Ohau**

Drive to beautiful Lake Ohau with a stop at Lake Tekapo along the way. Visit the Church of the Good Shepherd and admire the stunning alpine scenery that surrounds this local landmark.

Spend the afternoon hiking the region around Aoraki/Mt Cook. Learn more about mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary at the Aoraki/Mt Cook Visitor's Centre.

Private Vehicle

Christchurch – Lake Ohau 5h30m-6h30km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Aoraki/Mount Cook Visit

Mount Cook

Aoraki/Mount Cook is both a village, a national park and the name of New Zealand's highest mountain. Located in central South Island, the park includes a mix of rocks and glaciers, as well as alpine plants including the world's largest buttercup, the Mount Cook lily. There are several short walks that reward with spectacular views.

Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Visitor Centre

Mount Cook

Stop by the visitor's centre to learn more about the region.

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner**Day 20 Lake Ohau/Queenstown**

Drive to Queenstown, with a stop at Wanaka and a local vineyard for a wine tasting.

Private Vehicle

Lake Ohau – Queenstown 3h-3h30m 226km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Your Foodie Moment: Winery Visit

Visit one of the vineyards in the beautiful Central Otago region, known for its Pinot Noir. Learn about how this famous red wine is produced and, more importantly, sample some!

Meals included: Breakfast**Day 21 Doubtful Sound**

Take in the stunning scenery of Fiordland National Park and Doubtful Sound on a day cruise. Keep an eye out for the waterfalls and wildlife in this breathtaking area. Return to Queenstown in the evening.

Private Vehicle

Queenstown – Doubtful Sound 3h 250km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Doubtful Sound Wilderness Cruise

Doubtful Sound

Cruise through the stunning Doubtful Sound, one of the most untouched, remote places in the world. The only way to get here is by boat across Lake Manapouri, then bus across Wilmot Pass to Doubtful Sound. Marvel at the steep cliff walls and cascading waterfalls, and keep an eye out for area wildlife: dolphins, penguins, seals, and a variety of birds. This isolated part of New Zealand is truly a special place!

Private Vehicle

Doubtful Sound – Queenstown 3h 250km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch**Day 22 Queenstown**

Enjoy a free day in Queenstown, the adventure capital of the world. Opt to go bungee jumping (in its birthplace), jet boating (also born here!), skydiving, paragliding, hiking or mountain biking. Or take it a little slower and travel by gondola to the top of a local peak.

Opt to pre-book the "Queenstown Jet Boating" activity on the checkout page ahead of time, to include this optional on your tour.

Your Discover Moment

Queenstown Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in Queenstown, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like mountain biking, bungee jumping, and jet boating. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

Optional Activities - Day 22

Paragliding

Queenstown 15m-30m

210NZD per person

Hang on! Get a birds-eye view of Queenstown on an exciting ride in the sky.

Scenic Horse Riding Tour

Queenstown

220NZD per person

Unwind on a scenic horse trek through Queenstown's stunning scenery.

Bungee Jumping

Queenstown 1h30m-4h

265-450NZD per person

Adrenaline junkies will be happy with a stop at the world's original commercial bungee site (bungee in New Zealand!). Opt to take the plunge or simply observe where it all started from the comfort of solid ground. Shoot some amazing photos of those brave enough to dive into the abyss.

Vineyard Tour

Queenstown 5h-7h

210-230NZD per person

Visit vineyards in New Zealand's fastest growing wine region. Taste some of Queenstown's finest Pinot Noir, as well as Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc and learn more about the grape varieties that flourish here. Pick up a few bottles to savour back home.

Gondola Ride

Queenstown 1h-2h30m

52-79NZD per person

Take a ride up to the top of the mountain by cable car gondola. Get a spectacular 220° view of Coronet Peak, the Remarkables mountain range, and Lake Wakatipu below.

Shotover Canyon Swing

Queenstown 2h30m-3h30m

259NZD per person

The ultimate in adrenaline activities, this is the world's highest cliff jump! Jump off a cliff and swing into a canyon on the 109m high Canyon Swing. This is sure to get your heart pumping!

Earnslaw Steamship Cruise

Queenstown 1h-2h

99-120NZD per person

Discover the breathtaking Lake Wakatipu aboard the TSS Earnslaw, a 103 year old traditional steamship. This 90 minute cruise highlights that stunning alpine scenery that surrounds Queenstown, and lets you check out the views while relaxing on deck.

Queenstown Jet Boating

Queenstown

159NZD per person

Jet boating is a typical New Zealand activity— go as fast you can in a boat over water. Hang on tight as you fly across the surface of the water. Shoot through narrow rocky gorges and dare to watch as the driver takes hairpin turns frighteningly close to the cliffs.

Skydiving

Queenstown

420-520NZD per person

Enjoy the awe-inspiring beauty of Queenstown from an eagle's perspective. Suit up, get briefed and board the prop plane to soar high about the rugged alpine landscape. Strap onto your instructor, take a breath and leap into a once-in-a-lifetime free fall. This is what a natural high truly feels like!

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 23 Queenstown

Depart at any time.

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

Meals included: Breakfast

What's Included

Your G for Good Moment: Resourceful Ōtautahi Walking Tour, Christchurch

Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group

Your Discover Moment: Byron Bay

Your Foodie Moment: Winery Visit, Central Otago District

Your Discover Moment: Queenstown. Guided rainforest walk. Whitsunday Islands sailing excursion. Blue Mountains stay with hikes. Scenic Railway. Jenolan Caves visit. Jamison Valley walk. Waitomo Caves visit. Maori cultural experience. Wine tasting. Aoraki/Mt Cook NP visit with hiking opportunity (weather permitting). Aoraki/Mt Cook NP Visitor's Centre visit. Fiordland NP visit. Doubtful Sound day cruise. Orientation walk in Sydney. Free time in Cairns, Byron Bay, Sydney, Rotorua and Queenstown. Internal flight. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

Highlights

Swim in the Great Barrier Reef, Go surfing in Byron Bay, Opt to visit Sydney's iconic Opera House, See glow-worms in the Waitomo Caves, Opt to stargaze around Lake Tekapo

Dossier Disclaimer

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Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

Important Notes

1. COMBO TRIP

Please note that this trip is a combination of multiple G Adventures tours. As such, the staff and/or particular vehicles operating your tour may change between tour segments. You may also expect some group members to join or leave the tour, between tour segments.

2. Please be aware that wifi and internet access is not as readily available in Australia as in other parts of the world. There are often additional charges to connect to the internet, and speeds may be slower than what you are used to.

3. Over public holidays in Australia and New Zealand (such as Christmas, New Years Day, Easter, and Anzac Day) there may be some limitations of services and disruptions to schedules. In general our tours still operate effectively over public holidays, but there may be closures of optional activities and restaurants, and slight itinerary adjustments in order to provide all tour inclusions.

Group Leader Description

This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our group leaders, otherwise known as a Chief Experience Officer (CEO). The CEO will be the group manager, leader and driver - this person is experienced in the routes travelled and will organize and lead the meal preparations and has experience in cooking a variety of local and international dishes for large groups.

As the group coordinator and manager, the aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. While not being guides in the traditional sense, you can expect them

to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. They will also offer suggestions for things to do and to see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends.

We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

Group Size Notes

Max 16, avg 12

Meals Included

13 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners

Meals

Eating is a big part of traveling. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility. Our groups tend to eat together for most meals but there is no obligation to so. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip.

On this trip we include one local breakfast experience. We love checking out what the locals are doing and what makes up their daily routines. In Italy that could be starting the day with an espresso and cornetto standing at the bar in a local café. In Australia it might include an iced coffee and sausage roll by the beach and in Vietnam it could be slurping a steaming bowl of pho sitting on a plastic stool on a busy street corner. Hey, variety is the spice of life!

Transport

Private vehicle, sailboat, plane, boat, walking

Local Flights

All internal flights are included in this trip (including 1 flight between Australia and New Zealand) - Your CEO will give you your ticket on the day of flight. The max luggage allowance on domestic flights within Australia & New Zealand is 1 checked bag (20 kgs) and 1 carry on (7 kgs) per person.

Solo Travellers

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Accommodation

Hotels (19 nts), rainforest cabins (2 nts), Maori Village (1 nt multishare).

My Own Room

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops

Joining Hotel

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

Joining Instructions

1. By Taxi: Approximately \$24
2. By Cairns Airport Shuttle: \$8 per person. By far the best option; trains leave the airport every 15-20 minutes.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other than your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time.

Your CEO will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you

arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

Arrival Complications

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact G Adventures during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call our local office in Melbourne. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so we may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Office and after office hours emergency number

From outside Australia: +61 432 705 621

From within Australia: 0432 705 621

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local operations manager, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

What to Take

The max luggage allowance on domestic flights within Australia is 1 checked bag (20 kgs) and 1 carry on (7 kgs) per person.

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible.

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. Heavy luggage is not recommended for the health of the CEO, who will take a lead in loading the storage trailer. Due to space in the trailer, we will not be able to accommodate more than one piece of main luggage per person. A good size day-pack (20-35L) is also essential to carry your personal gear for the day, as access to luggage between destinations will be limited. This daypack will be used to carry your personal gear for the day, your lunch and a water bottle.

Packing List

Cold Weather:

- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Scarf
- Snow Boots
- Warm gloves
- Warm hat
- Warm layers
- Warm waterproof jacket

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)

- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, band-aids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

Note: The weather in New Zealand varies depending on the season. Make sure to check the forecast for the time you will be visiting and pack weather appropriate clothing for your trip.

Laundry

Your CEO will advise you along the trip where you will be able to do your laundry.

Visas and Entry Requirements

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

Spending Money

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

Money Exchange

The Australian currency is the Australian Dollar (AUD) and currency in New Zealand is the New Zealand Dollar (NZD).

Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere in both countries and can be used to purchase small and large items. When purchasing products or services with a foreign credit card you may be charged additional fees by your credit card company for foreign purchases.

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances but you must remember to bring your PIN number (be aware that many ATM machines only accept 4-digit PINs). Both Cirrus and Plus system cards

are the most widely accepted debit cards. Both Visa and Master Cards are the most widely accepted credit cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work check with your bank before you travel. A visit to an ATM can be arranged on Day 1 and other days of the trip.

Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of local currency (preferably smaller bills, 5's, 10's and 20's) and credit cards is best. Currency exchange is best obtained prior to travel or at the airport, currency exchange is easy to find in New Zealand in the gateway cities and most banks do accommodate.

Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com

Emergency Fund

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Tipping

It is not customary in New Zealand or Australia to tip service providers, but if you do experience outstanding service it is good to do so. Such service would only usually be in places like quality restaurants and it would be very rare that you would tip more than 10%. Unless specifically asked to do so at the time (by your CEO) - do not tip your local guides. Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures Chief Experience Officer did an outstanding job, you may consider a small tip - but it certainly isn't expected.

Optional Activities

Cape Tribulation

- Great Barrier Reef Visit (209AUD per person)
- Daintree National Park Visit (Free)
- Cape Tribulation Horseback Riding (110AUD per person)
- Daintree Rainforest Night Walk (45AUD per person)

Whitsunday Islands

- Whitsunday Islands Snorkelling (Free)

Byron Bay

- Whale Watching (89AUD per person)
- Hinterland and Minyon Falls Tour (139AUD per person)
- Byron Bay Ocean Kayaking

Cape Byron

- Cape Byron Lighthouse Visit (Free)

Port Macquarie

- Koala Hospital Visit (2AUD per person)

Sydney

- Sydney Opera House Visit (43-185AUD per person)
- Jet Boat Ride (85AUD per person)
- Sydney Adrenaline Bundle
- Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb

Coogee Beach

- Coogee Beach to Bondi Beach Coastal Walk

Auckland

- Optional Welcome Meeting for Travellers on Combos

Rotorua

- Hobbiton Tour (112NZD per person)
- Rotorua Canopy Tours (179-249NZD per person)
- Mountain Biking (35-130NZD per person)
- Whitewater Rafting (115NZD per person)
- Hot Springs (30-50NZD per person)

Queenstown

- Paragliding (210NZD per person)
- Scenic Horse Riding Tour (220NZD per person)
- Bungee Jumping (265-450NZD per person)
- Vineyard Tour (210-230NZD per person)
- Gondola Ride (52-79NZD per person)
- Shotover Canyon Swing (259NZD per person)
- Earnslaw Steamship Cruise (99-120NZD per person)
- Queenstown Jet Boating (159NZD per person)
- Skydiving (420-520NZD per person)

Safety and Security

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. G Adventures can provide you with the appropriate coverage. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at customersolutions@gadventures.com and we will send it on to you.

Newsletter

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

Minimum Age

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

International Flights

Check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.