**Last Updated:** September 18, 2023



# Best of the Red Centre & Eastern Australia - OAVS

25 days: Melbourne to Sydney

## What's Included

- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Discover Moment: Adelaide
- · Melbourne laneways walk
- · Brighton bathing boxes visit
- · Rainforest walk in Great Otway NP
- 12 Apostles visit
- Loch Ard Gorge Visit
- Hike at Grampians NP
- Tower Hill State Wildlife Reserve Visit
- Brambuk Indigenous Cultural Centre Visit
- · Wilpena Pound visit
- Champagne sunset viewing of Uluru
- Mala Walk around Uluru and cultural centre visit
- Guided Daintree Rainforest walk
- Whitsunday Islands sailing excursion
- Blue Mountains stay with hikes
- · Ienolan Caves visit
- Scenic Railway
- · Jamison Valley walk
- · Orientation walk in Sydney
- Free time in Cairns, Byron Bay, and Sydney
- Internal flights
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

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**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 April 25th, 2020 and onwards

## **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 Melbourne

Arrive at any time.

There are no planned activities during the day, so check into the hotel and explore the city. If you arrive early enough, head into the city to take in the 'cultural capital of Australia'. Get lost in the city's famous laneways, go on the hunt for the perfect flat white (hint: Melbourne loves its coffee shops), catch the tram to St. Kilda, or wander around the über-cool Fitzroy neighbourhood.

#### 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 Melbourne

Tour Melbourne's iconic laneways and learn more about coffee culture, and pick up some great pointers for your free afternoon of exploration.

#### **Free Time**

Melbourne Afternoon

There's lots to see and do - get out there and explore!

## **Melbourne Laneways Walk**

Melbourne1h30m-2h

Discover the small laneways packed with shops, cafés and restaurants that make Melbourne so unique. Grab a delicious barista coffee to-go (which no trip to Melbourne would be complete without!), and set out to experience Melbourne's laneways with an expert local host. Journey through this 'secret city,' seeing local hotspots and incredible street art while learning about the city's history.

#### Meals included: Breakfast

## Day 3 Melbourne/Mornington Peninsula

Continue your exploration of Australia's cultural capital before travelling to the Mornington Peninsula. Stop to see Brighton's brightly coloured bathing boxes, miniature beachfront cabins that are unique to the beaches in Port Phillip Bay.

Although fairly small in size, the Mornington Peninsula packs a big punch with the amount of things to do here. Be awed with the stunning coastal scenery while driving through quaint towns and past stunning beaches.

## **Bathing Boxes Visit**

Brighton

Stop to check out some of the famous bathing boxes that Port Phillip Bay is known for. These one-room "mini-cabins" are owned by families to store belongings on their favourite beach. Snap some photos of these brightly coloured boxes and breathe in the fresh ocean air.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Melbourne - Mornington Peninsula2h100km

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

# Meals included: Breakfast

# **Day 4 Mornington Peninsula**

Enjoy a free day in the Mornington Peninsula. Opt to visit a winery or hit one of the many incredible beaches in the area.

#### **Free Time**

Mornington Peninsula Full Day

Get out and explore the stunning Mornington Peninsula.

## **Optional Activities - Day 4**

## **Wine Tour**

Mornington Peninsula

Visit some local wineries to taste locally produced vino. The Mornington Peninsula is famed for its Pinot Noir, but the 50 plus wineries in the region produce over 200 different wines... bottoms up!

# Day 5 Mornington Peninsula/Port Campbell

Hop on a ferry to Queenscliff before spending the day travelling along the Great Ocean Road. Pass world-famous surf beaches, enjoy views of the 12 Apostles, and walk through the rainforest in Great Otway National Park.

# **Ferry**

Queenscliff - Sorrento1h15km

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

#### **Rainforest Walk**

Great Otway National Park30m 1-2km

Take in the beautiful greenery of the Great Otway National Park on a leisurely walk with your CEO.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Mornington Peninsula - Sorrento30m20km

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

## **Private Vehicle**

Queenscliff - Port Campbell8h

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

#### **Loch Ard Gorge Visit**

Port Campbell National Park15m-30m

Located along the Great Ocean Road, beautiful Loch Ard Gorge shows the process of erosion in action. See offshore stacks and blowholes, and watch short tailed shearwaters soar over the nearby island. This location is a perfect backdrop for a group photo. Get snapping!

#### **Twelve Apostles Visit**

Port Campbell National Park45m-1h

Stop at a scenic lookout point along the Great Ocean Road and capture the beautiful views over the ocean and the Twelve Apostles. Now with only seven formations still standing, these iconic attractions were once limestone caves which eroded to become arches and eventually stacks up to 45m (147 ft) in height.

# Optional Activities - Day 5 Helicopter Ride

The Twelve Apostles

145AUD per person

A series of limestone cliffs stretching into the ocean, the 12 Apostles is one of the most iconic sites in Victoria. Get a birds eye view of these massive rock columns and watch the swells of the ocean crash into them from above. Prepare to be awed by the sheer size of these cliffs and one of Australia's most famous coastlines.

#### Meals included: Breakfast

# Day 6 Port Campbell/Halls Gap

Travel inland to Grampians National Park, known for its sandstone mountain range and impressive rock art.

## **Private Vehicle**

Port Campbell - Grampians National Park3h260km

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

# **Grampians National Park Visit**

Grampians National Park1h-5h 3-8km

Walk past lookouts, sandstone ridges and other various rock formations. Be rewarded with sweeping views of the natural landscape.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Grampians National Park - Halls Gap30m-1h

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

# Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

#### Day 7 Halls Gap

Trek through the forest, lush with vegetation and wildlife. Visit the culturally significant MacKenzie Falls for a short hike. Walk to the stunning Balconies, then spend the afternoon relaxing with the locals - our resident wild kangaroos and emus.

#### **MacKenzie Falls Visit**

Grampians National Park30m-1h

MacKenzie Falls is the only waterway in the region that flows year-round and it is also the most visited waterfall in the Grampians; take a short walk and check out the falls out from a viewing platform. In Spring, see wonderful wildflowers in bloom along the path.

# The Balconies (Jaws of Death) Visit

Grampians National Park1h 2km

Set off from the Reed Lookout overlooking Victoria Valley, and enjoy a short walk with beautiful scenery to the Balconies, formerly called the Jaws of Death. Check out the gorgeous view, but be careful not to lean too far over the edge!

# **Free Time**

Halls Gap Afternoon

Spend this afternoon exploring the local area.

# Meals included: Breakfast

# Day 8 Halls Gap/Adelaide

Travel to Adelaide. Your CEO will point out important highlights of the city while driving in, before free time to explore the city.

#### **Orientation Drive**

Drive around to spot some of the main highlights of the area.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Halls Gap - Adelaide6h-6h30m500km

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

#### **Free Time**

Adelaide

There's lots to see and do, so head out and explore!

#### Meals included: Breakfast

## Day 9 Adelaide

Today is a free day to enjoy Adelaide, capital of South Australia and famed for its churches and gardens. Opt to stroll the city streets, hop on a tram to the coastal village of Glenelg, take in a full day wine tour of the famed Barossa Valley, or for the truly adventurous, take a day trip to Kangaroo Island.

#### **Your Discover Moment**

Adelaide Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in Adelaide, 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 hitting the beach, going on a haunted tour of the Old Adelaide Gaol, and visiting local wineries. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

# Optional Activities - Day 9 Kangaroo Island Day Trip

Kangaroo Island

283AUD per person

Remote, wild, and stunning, Kangaroo Island is the perfect mixture of all things Aussie. Hop over to the island for a day exploring the coastline and creatures that call it home. Prepare for a full day (up to 16 hours) that will leave you enchanted and in love with this slice of paradise just off the mainland.

# **Barossa Valley Wine Tour**

Barossa Valley3h-6h

Enjoy a full day wine tour in one of the country's oldest wine regions, home of the signature Shiraz of South Australia. Originally named after the Barrosa Ridge region in Andalusia, Spain, find out about vines that date back to 1843. Drink in the gorgeous surroundings, sample the latest vintages, then eat a delicious lunch at a vineyard with a view. Cheers!

# Meals included: Breakfast Day 10 Adelaide/Uluru

Board your flight to Yulara, in the heart of Australia's Red Centre and only a short distance to Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park. Experience a colourful sunset at Uluru with a glass of bubbly in hand.

Cross the border into the Northern Territory, where Australia's most iconic view awaits.

#### **Plane**

Adelaide - Uluru

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

#### **Uluru at Sunset**

Uluru30m-1h

Enjoy a glass of bubbly, and watch the setting sun transform Uluru into a glowing monolith bathed in deep reds and oranges. Capture the moment with your camera but also take a moment to soak in the serenity of the scene just with your own eyes. Magic!

## Meals included: Breakfast

## Day 11 Uluru

Enjoy the Mala Walk at Uluru to learn the importance of the rock to the Indigenous people that live in the area.

# **Uluru Mala Walk & Sunset**

Uluru1h-1h30m 2km

Take a guided walk along the northwest side of Uluru to learn about the history of the area, hear the stories of the Anangu people and gaze upon these awe-inspiring uplifted sandstone rock formations. Afterward, gather together to witness the sun setting behind this sacred site.

## **Indigenous Cultural Centre Visit**

Uluru

Learn about Indigenous Australian culture in the area to get a better perspective of the history, beliefs and present-day life of the Anangu people. Discover the wild world of bush tucker (indigenous food), find out which plants are used in bush medicine, and hear creation stories.

# Optional Activities - Day 11 Outback Astronomy Tour

Uluru

60-70AUD per person

Enjoy a tour of the night sky, learning how Indigenous people of Australia used the stars for mythology and seasonal predictions while getting a chance to stargaze through telescopes and binoculars. The Outback is one of the best places to stargaze, with low humidity and surrounding light - take a peek and see whats out there!

#### **Sounds of Silence Dinner**

Uluru

225AUD per person

Enjoy a decadent three-course dinner while watching the sunset over Uluru. Try traditional bush tucker inspired food, including crocodile, kangaroo and barramundi, while listening to a didgeridoo performance as day turns to night. After dinner, learn more about the southern night sky during an astronomy tour with a local expert – prepared to be dazzled by the incredible clarity of the outback sky from this remote location.

# Uluru & Kata Tjuta Helicopter Ride

Uluru

165-285AUD per person

To fully appreciate the sheer size and splendor of Uluru, you need to experience it from above. Get a bird's eye view of the iconic red rock, and take in the vast expanses of desert surrounding the 'Heart of the Red Centre'. This is one ride you don't want to miss!

Prices will vary depending on length of flight chosen. The two duration options are a 15-minute flight or a 25-minute flight.

# Meals included: Breakfast

Day 12 Uluru/Cairns

Fly to the oceanside city of Cairns, the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef.

#### **Plane**

Uluru - Cairns4h

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

# **Optional Activities - Day 12**

## **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.

## Meals included: Breakfast

#### Day 13 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 Tribulation3h30m140km

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

# **Indigenous Peoples Interpretive Walk**

Mossman Gorge2h

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 14 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 14 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.

#### **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 15 Cape Tribulation/Cairns

Return to Cairns in the afternoon with free time to explore this laid-back city. En route, stop by Port Douglas and opt to have lunch at a local market.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Cape Tribulation - Cairns3h30m 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 16 Cairns/Airlie Beach

Depart early for a full day of travel to reach Airlie Beach, enjoying scenic views along the way.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Cairns - Airlie Beach9h-10h623km

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

### Meals included: Breakfast

## Day 17 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 Island8h08:00-17:30

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 17 Whitsunday Islands Snorkelling

Whitsunday Islands30m-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 18 Airlie Beach/Byron Bay

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

#### **Plane**

Airlie Beach - Brisbane2h30m

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 Bay2h-2h30m200km

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

#### Day 19 Byron Bay

Spend the morning down at the beach with a morning yoga session and before hitting the waves for a surf lesson.

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

#### **Surfing Lesson**

Byron Bay3h

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.

# Optional Activities - Day 19 Skydiving

Byron Bay2h-5h

409AUD per person

Enjoy the awe-inspiring beauty of Byron Bay from an eagle's perspective this morning. Suit up, get briefed, and board the prop plane to soar high about the land and sea. 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!

## **Whale Watching**

Byron Bay2h30m-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.

## **Cape Byron Lighthouse Visit**

Cape Byron30m-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 20 Byron Bay/Port Macquarie

Spend the morning wandering the town checking out the local shops or having one last coffee on the beach before heading 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.

#### **Free Time**

Byron Bay Morning

Get out and explore this lazy beach town.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Byron Bay - Port Macquarie5h397km

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

## Day 21 Port Macquarie/Blue Mountains

Travel from Port Macquarie to the Blue Mountains today. These mountains in Australia are best known for their soaring sandstone ridges. As you drive, pass by charming mountain towns, ancient Aboriginal rock art, lush green valleys, and loads of craggy cliffs. It doesn't matter if the journey is shrouded in clouds or glowing in the sinking sun, you'll still spot beauty around every turn.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Port Macquarie - Blue Mountains6h-7h500km

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

# Meals included: Breakfast Day 22 Blue Mountains

Travel deeper into the majestic Blue Mountains and experience the natural beauty of this World Heritage Area. Take a walk in Jamison Valley, and ride on the Scenic Railway, the steepest railway in the world. Explore the area around Leura and Katoomba and view the Three Sisters.

## **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 23 Blue Mountains/Sydney

Continue to Sydney and head out for an orientation walk. With some free time stroll the botanical gardens or visit the iconic Opera House.

# Jamison Valley Walk

Blue Mountains1h-2h30m 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.

#### **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.

## **Private Vehicle**

Blue Mountains - Sydney2h

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.

43-185AUD per person

Optional Activities - Day 23 Sydney Opera House Visit Sydney Stroll along the waterfront to admire Sydney's most iconic landmark, designed by Danish architect Jørn Utzon and opened by Queen Elizabeth 11 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 24 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 24

# 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!

#### **Sydney Opera House Visit**

Svdnev

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 11 in 1973. Take a guided tour of this UNESCO World Heritage site to discover its history, folklore, and more.

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#### Day 25 Sydney

Depart at any time.

## **Departure Day**

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

#### What's Included

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

Your Discover Moment: Adelaide. Melbourne laneways walk. Brighton bathing boxes visit. Rainforest walk in Great Otway NP. 12 Apostles visit. Loch Ard Gorge Visit. Hike at Grampians NP. Tower Hill State Wildlife Reserve Visit. Brambuk Indigenous Cultural Centre Visit. Wilpena Pound visit. Champagne sunset viewing of Uluru. Mala Walk around Uluru and cultural centre visit. Guided Daintree Rainforest walk. Whitsunday Islands sailing excursion. Blue Mountains stay with hikes. Jenolan Caves visit. Scenic Railway. Jamison Valley walk. Orientation walk in Sydney. Free time in Cairns, Byron Bay, and Sydney. Internal flights. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

# **Highlights**

Discover the hidden laneways of Melbourne, Marvel at the 12 Apostles along the Great Ocean Road, Catch the magnificent colours of Uluru at sunset, Trek through Mossman Gorge in the Daintree Rainforest, Sail through the gorgeous Whitsundays, Pick-to-Plate in Byron Bay, Explore the Blue Mountains by foot

# **Dossier Disclaimer**

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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.

# **Important Notes**

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Please note that this tour combines with other G Adventures tours. As such, the staff and some travel companions on your tour may have previously been traveling together with G Adventures, prior to Day 1 of your tour. Likewise, some staff and travel companions may be continuing together on another G Adventures tour, after your trip concludes.

#### 4. 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.

# **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**

15 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner

# 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, ferry, sailboat, plane, walking.

# **Local Flights**

Local flights are included in this itinerary. The max luggage allowance on domestic flights within Australia 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 (22 nts), rainforest cabin (2 nts).

# 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 \$70, and it is 35km to the joining hotel.
- 2. SKYBUS, \$19 per person: A 24-hour service from the airport to the Southern Cross train station in the city centre. From here, check in at the Skybus Hotel Transfer Service booth and a SkyBus mini-bus will drop you at the hotel (Hotel Transfer Service operates until 7pm).

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other then 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 49 768 1378 From within Australia: 049 768 1378

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 <a href="here">here</a>.

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**

#### 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, bandaids/ 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

## Health & Safety:

- Hand sanitizer (required)
- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)
- Quick Covid Test/Antigen Test

#### Warm Weather:

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

# 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 <a href="https://example.com/here-page-new-new-page-new-page-new-page-new-page-new-page-new-page-new-page

# **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).

Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere in Australia 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), traveller's cheques and credit cards is best. Currency exchange is best obtained prior to travel or at the airport, currency exchange is easy to find in Australia 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 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**

Mornington Peninsula

- Wine Tour

The Twelve Apostles

- Helicopter Ride (145AUD per person)

#### Barossa Valley

- Barossa Valley Wine Tour

## Kangaroo Island

- Kangaroo Island Day Trip (283AUD per person)

#### Uluru

- Uluru & Kata Tjuta Helicopter Ride (165-285AUD per person)
- Outback Astronomy Tour (60-70AUD per person)
- Sounds of Silence Dinner (225AUD per person)
- Optional Welcome Meeting for Travellers on Combos

#### Cape Tribulation

- Great Barrier Reef Visit (209AUD per person)
- Daintree National Park Visit (Free)
- Daintree Rainforest Night Walk (45AUD per person)

#### Whitsunday Islands

- Whitsunday Islands Snorkelling (Free)

#### Byron Bay

- Skydiving (409AUD per person)
- Whale Watching (89AUD per person)
- Byron Bay Ocean Kayaking

#### Cape Byron

- Cape Byron Lighthouse Visit (Free)

#### Sydney

- Sydney Opera House Visit (43-185AUD per person)
- Jet Boat Ride (85AUD per person)

## Coogee Beach

- Coogee Beach to Bondi Beach Coastal Walk

# **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 jewelery 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 <a href="https://www.gadventures.com/newsletters/">www.gadventures.com/newsletters/</a>

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for <u>Planeterra's monthly news</u> 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.