# Australia & New Zealand The Land Down Under

# January 22 - February 16, 2016 (26 days)

Three night stays in Sydney, Cairns, and Melbourne / Guided Tour of Sydney Opera House Sydney Harbour Cruise / Blue Mountains with wildlife park visit / Koala Conservation Centre

Great Barrier Reef Day Adventure with lunch / Uluru sunset & sunrise Uluru & Alice Springs touring / Outback BBQ / Warrook Cattle Farm with lunch Phillip Island Penguin Parade with upgraded viewing / Sydney & Melbourne city tours All Breakfasts included / 12 day cruise aboard Princess Cruise Line's "Diamond" / Airfare Included

## DAY 1 Depart home cities.

**DAY 2 Lose day 2 in flight.** You will regain this day on the way home.

**DAY 3 Sydney.** Arrive Sydney and transfer to hotel. We expect to arrive to the hotel about noon. Enjoy lunch or join our WestWorld tour director for a leisurely walk to stretch our legs until our rooms are ready. The rest of the afternoon is free to allow you time to relax & refresh after our journey. Our hotel is centrally located in Sydney's CBD with views of the world famous Sydney harbor. This evening enjoy a chance to get to know your fellow travellers at our **Welcome Reception**.

## DAY 4 Sydney.

A fantastic **city tour** is planned today which includes the historic Rocks district, Chinatown, Bondi Beach, a guided



tour of the landmark **Sydney Opera House**, and an afternoon **Harbour Cruise**. Later enjoy some free time.



**DAY 5 Blue Mountains.** Today we have a full day planned. First, we have the chance to encounter Australia's native wildlife up close – perhaps feed a kangaroo or cuddle up with a friendly koala at **Featherdale Wildlife Park**. Then we're off to the World Heritagelisted **Blue Mountains** where we'll enjoy

breathtaking views and have the chance to ride the steepest passenger railway in the world.

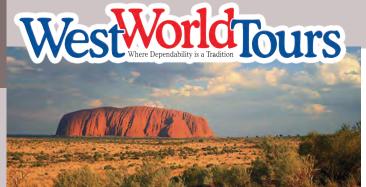
**DAY 6 Sydney to Cairns.** Today, we fly to Cairns, the gateway to Queensland's tropical north and the Great Barrier Reef. Tonight you may want to check out all the great shopping and food in the night market!!



# DAY 7 Great Barrier Reef.

The Great Barrier Reef can be seen from space. Now you can see it up close. We have a full day adventure planned as our airconditioned catamaran cruises us out to **Green Island**. There we can snorkel, view the reef from a

glass bottom boat, go for a swim in the crystal clear water, or enjoy an Eco Island walk. A **buffet lunch** is included today.



DAY 8 Cairns. Today enjoy a well deserved free day in Cairns.

**DAY 9 Cairns to Uluru (Ayer's Rock).** Our morning flight takes us to Australia's Outback! **Uluru** is one of Australia's most recognizable natural icons, and a must-see for many! Our tour this afternoon will include the equally impressive hike of **Kata Tjuta**, or the Olgas, as well as a stop at the **Culture Centre**. This evening we'll enjoy an **unforgettable champagne sunset!!** 

**DAY 10 Uluru to Alice Springs.** Early this morning we'll return to Uluru to watch the sun bring color to this famous rock – this is one sunrise you don't want to miss!! Then it's back to our hotel for

breakfast, before departing for Alice Springs.

This evening we'll get to experience the solace and tranquility of this harsh land at the **Outback BBQ** where



we'll have the chance to meet local people and learn their stories of life and survival. We'll enjoy a boomerang demonstration, listen as a bush balladeer sings timeless Australian songs, hear from local cattlemen and Indigenous people, and have a local astronomer show us this southern night sky! All this while enjoying an authentic Australian feast.

**DAY 11 Alice Springs to Melbourne.** Today we have time to visit the **Old Telegraph Station** and **The Royal Flying Doctor Service Post** before departing on our flight to Melbourne. The Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia is an air ambulance service for those living in the remote inland areas of Australia.



DAY 12 Phillip Island. At only 100 square kilometers, Phillip Island is famous for its nightly Penguin Parade, but first there is so much more to see! We will experience true Australian hospitality with a tour and delicious lunch at a local cattle farm. Then

we'll travel back in time as we learn about early Australian settlers and farming practices at historic **Churchill Island**.

Next we have a chance to experience koalas in their natural habitat, and meet them 'face to face' on treetop boardwalks at the **Koala Conservation Centre**. At sunset, we'll get to see the penguins emerge from the sea and waddle ashore to their sand dune burrows.



Passport must be valid at least 6 months after the completion of travel. It also must contain sufficient blank pages for entry and exit endorsements.

Our upgraded tickets allow us to view this nightly phenomenon from an exclusive viewing platform and boardwalk limited to 190 people.

DAY 13 Melbourne. Sleep in this morning, or perhaps enjoy some time to wander Melbourne's beautiful alleys and laneways, and pick up a few souvenirs. Later today we'll enjoy a city tour followed by a special dinner!

DAY 14 Melbourne to Sydney, board Diamond Princess.

#### DAY 15 & 16 At sea.





DAY 17 Auckland.

Straddling a narrow isthmus created by 60 different volcanoes, New Zealand's former capital boasts scenic beauty, historical interest and a cosmopolitan collection of shops, restaurants, museums, galleries and gardens. Rangitoto, Auckland's largest and youngest volcano, sits in majestic splendor just offshore.

DAY 18 Tauranga. New Zealand's natural bounty is always on display at the Bay of Plenty. Tauranga, the chief city, is a bustling port, an agricultural and timber center and a popular



seaside resort. Tauranga is also the gateway to Rotorua - a geothermal wonderland that is the heart of Maori culture.

#### DAY 19 At sea.

DAY 20 Wellington. New Zealand's capital offers stunning views of forested peninsulas, dramatic cliff-side homes and fine Victorian buildings. The sophisticated metropolis boasts museums, winding streets and even a cable car.

### DAY 21 Akaroa.

On the eastern shores of New Zealand's South Island, Akaroa is a popular tourist destination with a distinctly French flair



and a history steeped in legend. Akaroa harbour is home to a diverse array of marine life, including rare Hector's dolphins, and visitors are lured by the area's secluded beaches and quaint boutiques.

#### DAY 22 Dunedin (Port Chalmers).

Perched on the hills above one of New Zealand's loveliest harbors, Dunedin is a Kiwi city with a Scottish heart. Hailed as the "Edinburgh of New Zealand," Dunedin is proud of its heritage. The city also boasts a distinguished architectural and cultural history, a legacy of New Zealand's 1860s gold rush.

DAY 23 Fiordland National Park. Lined by cliffs that soar nearly a mile above its surface, Milford Sound cuts into the heart of the Southern Alps. Rainforest clings to the cliffs and graceful waterfalls plummet into the void. Mile-high Mitre Peak dominates the upper reaches of the sound. The town of Te Anau in Fiordland National Park is also your gateway to the South Island's other natural wonders including Lake Wakatipu, the resort of Queenstown and Mt. Cook National Park.



#### DAY 24 & 25 At sea.

DAY 26 Sydney and home. Sadly this morning it's off to the airport for our flights back home. But what friends we have made and memories that will never be forgotten from the world Down Under!



