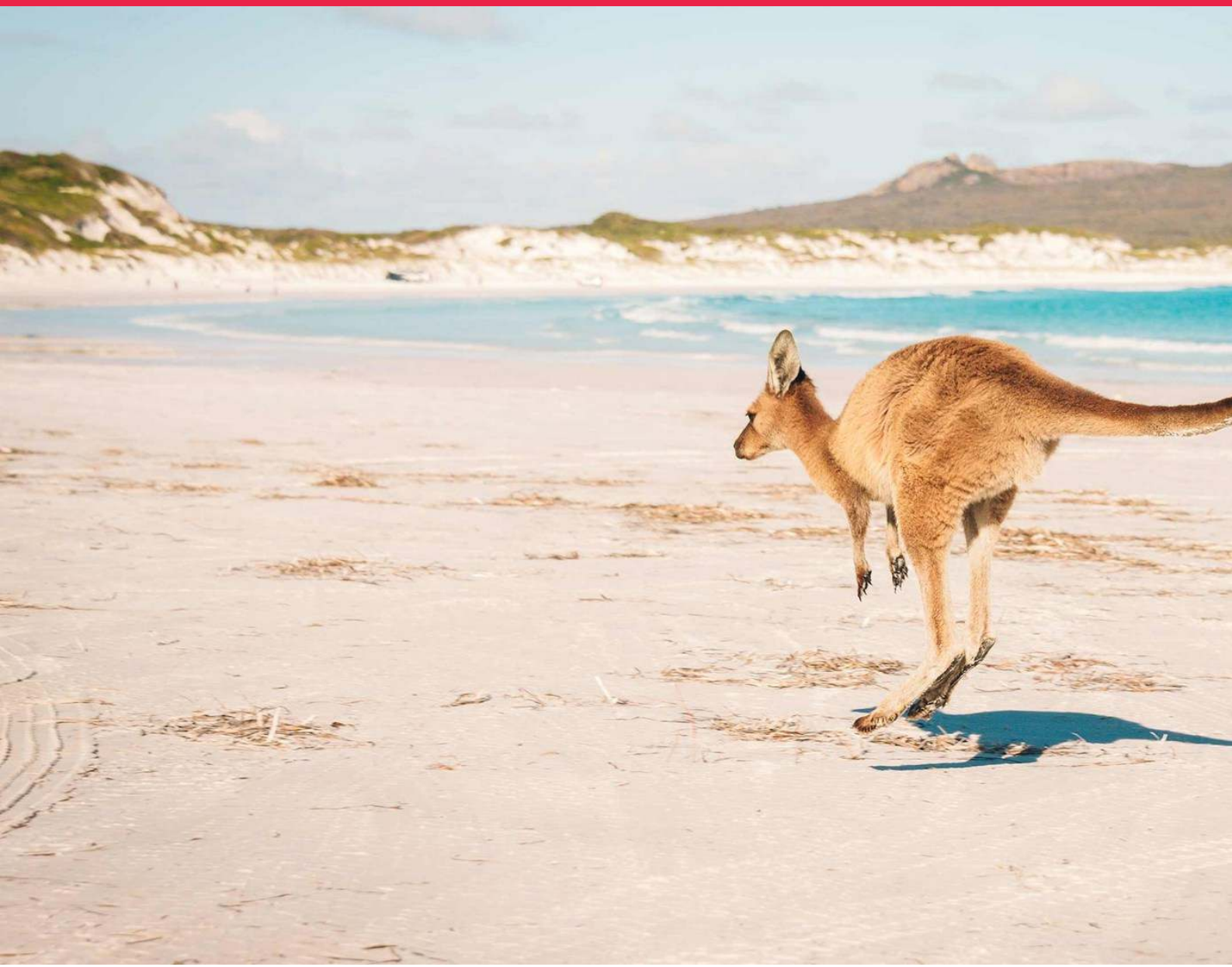


# Australian Highlights



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Start Location

Plane

Cruise

Over night

Visited Location

End Location

Train

Ferry

## Day 1 | Welcome to Melbourne



Welcome to stylish and elegant Melbourne! (Flights to arrive prior to 12pm). You'll be transferred to your hotel located on the banks of the Yarra River before starting your travels on a high note, getting to know your Travel Director and fellow travellers over dinner at a popular restaurant on the waterfront, a picturesque welcome to your Australia highlights tour.

**Meals:** Dinner

**Hotel:** Crowne Plaza

## Day 2 | Discover Melbourne's Sights



Start your first full day seeing the best of Melbourne that includes a private walk with your Travel Director sharing their in-depth knowledge of the city. You'll stroll past postcard-worthy Victorian architecture, arcades, and eclectic little laneways. As Melbourne's signature coffee aroma wafts through the air, head to grand Federation Square, filled with shops, galleries, and exhibits and home to many cultural events. Have a look at the nearby neighbouring 19-century neo-gothic cathedral, St Paul's. After a big morning getting acquainted with the city, you have the rest of the day free to explore more tempting haunts and eateries or join an Optional Experience such as a trip to Phillip Island to see the famous penguin parade. Here you'll watch the Little Penguins make their daily trip from the sea to their onshore burrows. It's a once in a lifetime wildlife viewing experience. Don't miss it!

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Crowne Plaza

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Phillip Island – Penguins, Koalas & Wildlife*** - If you're curious about our native wildlife or just love animals, we've got you covered today! You'll get up close to Australian animals, including koalas and kangaroos. On Phillip Island the main attraction awaits – the Little Penguins waddling up the sand to their dune burrow homes returning from their daily fishing excursion.

Adult: 239.00 AUD

## Day 3 | Melbourne, there's More to It!



You have a free day in Melbourne to explore as you like. Stroll this stylish city browsing antique shops, checking out Brunswick Street's quirky boutiques, and taking in the town at one of the many cafes or world class eateries. Foodies will want to be sure to visit the historic Queen Victoria Market stopping for nibbles at one of the many stalls. Or, perhaps exploring the city on foot with a History and Donuts Walking Tour is more your thing. If you'd rather venture outside of the city, join an Optional Experience taking the ultimate road trip on the Great Ocean Road. Driving along this stunning coastline, you'll be in awe of breathtaking scenery from one moment to the next. Admire the famous Twelve Apostles towering limestone formations jutting out of the sea against jagged cliffs. From sea-hugging structures to seaside towns, you'll also stop in the quaint town of Apollo Bay. Whether you adventure in the city or along the sea, there's so much to experience in Melbourne and its surroundings.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Crowne Plaza

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Great Ocean Road And Twelve Apostles*** - Experience one of the world's great coastal drives, with its dramatic scenery of striking contrasts. Tour the length of the Great Ocean Road passing towering limestone cliffs, sweeping white beaches, peaceful townships and stunning forest scenery. Stroll along the pristine sandy beaches and wander through sleepy seaside holiday towns. See the amazing Twelve Apostles – limestone stacks rising dramatically from the ocean. Discover the deep fern gullies and eucalypt trees as they meet the sheer coast that plunges into the sparkling Southern Ocean and hear the legends of 'The Shipwreck Coast'.

Adult: 235.00 AUD

***History & Donuts Walking Tour*** - Discover the sweeter side of Melbourne on Fit City Tour's History and Donuts Walking Tour. This two-hour walking tour is best started on an empty stomach. The adventure begins at Federation Square. From there, you'll immerse yourself in the stunning laneway street art of Hosier Lane before stopping for the first coffee of the tour at a favourite laneway cafe. The tour continues to weave through city laneways sharing the story of Melbourne, its history and culture, while stopping off for donuts at some of Melbourne's most iconic donuts shops. After the second donut, you'll explore former city slums, and learn about the character of Melbourne – and the characters that made their name here. The tour finishes at State Library where you can stay on to explore one of Melbourne's finest buildings.

Adult: 97.00 AUD

## Day 4 | To Magnificent Uluru



Get excited for a bucket list experience today as you depart Melbourne for Ayers Rock Resort, near the sacred ancient site of Uluru and your home for the next two days in Aussie's cultural heartland. You'll fly over dry salt lakes and red desert before your first of many mesmerizing encounters with Uluru in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. As the desert sun begins to set, you're treated to a classic Uluru sundowner: sparkling wine and light refreshments amidst the red dirt and blowing spinifex grasses as the Outback sky ignites in shades of red, yellow, and purple. Gazing at massive Uluru - which at 348 metres high is taller than the Eiffel Tower - you'll experience a kind of magical connection to the land. Relaxed and happy, you'll make your way to the Desert Gardens Hotel for a Stays with Stories experience. Surrounded by desert trees and distant Uluru, this indigenous-owned hotel showcases the natural beauty of the landscape. Stay in this evening or, after sunset, join an Optional Experience Uluru BBQ Dinner as you watch the changing desert colours and are treated to an informative star talk in one of the best places to view the southern night sky.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Desert Gardens

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Uluru Barbecue Dinner*** - After sunset continue to our exclusive dining venue with Uluru as your stunning backdrop. You'll wonder at the scale of Uluru at night on the only evening experience inside Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Relax in the company of friends and fellow travellers and enjoy sparkling wine and other beverages. Dine on favourites from the grill and a selection of freshly prepared salads, followed by a tasty dessert. There's even time for star gazing. Your driver guide will conduct a tour of the night sky, pointing out some of the visible constellations. (Prices are "From").

Adult: 229.00 AUD

## Day 5 | Behold Uluru and Kata Tjuta



Experience Uluru in a different light with magical sunrise. Savour every second as, hot cocoa in hand, the dawn makes its way across the desert and illuminates Uluru. After a grand start to the day, tour the base of Uluru with your Travel Director to learn about its ancient rock art hear stories of the Anangu, caretakers of this remote arid landscape, a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Later, an Anangu artist will explain just what makes it so spiritual over an introduction to Western Desert art, introducing totems and symbols important to the region and represented in paintings and installations, on another MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. The red desert follows you through the desert plains to Kata Tjuta. Explore it on a walk amidst its towering domes through Walpa (“wind”) Gorge to a lookout. You're then treated to another stellar sunset from a different vantage point at Kata Tjuta. Without many of the crowds at Uluru, you may have the beauty of this hidden gem to yourself. A glass of sparkling wine with new travel mates in a beautiful setting is the perfect way to end your day.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Desert Gardens

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Uluru Scenic Flights*** - A 20 minute, fixed wing scenic flight is a great way to take in the amazing landscape of Uluru. This small plane operator offer extended flights that include both Uluru and Kata Tjuta.  
Adult: 155.00 AUD

***Helicopter Flights*** - Experience a unique view with a scenic helicopter flight over the Red Centre and see Uluru from the Air. You might choose the 15 minute flight to appreciate Uluru from the air or the recommended longer flight to witness Uluru as well as the extraordinary Kata Tjuta. Prices from  
Adult: 335.00 AUD

## Day 6 | Cairns in Far North Queensland



It's your last day in Uluru. Consider the Optional Experience kaleidoscopic Field of Light art installation of artist Bruce Munro. Witness the darkness of night change to a rainbow-coloured dawn lit up from a field of changing colours, with Uluru in the distance. You'll feel like you're walking through flowers in this totally unique Uluru sunrise, then as dawn continues to creep across the land, you'll end the experience watching the desert awaken over Uluru from the top of a sand dune. Head to your next stop, Cairns for a change of scenery and more beautiful sites.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Hilton

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Field Of Light Sunrise*** - This morning you you'll be driven the short distance to the exclusive Field of Light location. With just enough time for some background commentary on the internationally renowned artist Bruce Munro, you will arrive to see his artistic endeavour. Arriving in complete darkness, this once-in-a-lifetime experience will be etched in your mind forever. Walk through the field of 50,000 spheres of light at your own pace, and then make your way to the top of a large sand dune to the Field of Light sunrise viewing area. The Field of Light site is dark, so to ensure you have the most unique experience, we recommend you use your phone light or bring a small torch to help navigate your way on the pathway provided. At the viewing area the AAT Kings team will serve you tea, coffee or hot chocolate as the sun starts to rise and lights up the surrounding desert. From the viewing area you can see both Uluru and Kata Tjuta as the desert comes to life.

Adult: 129.00 AUD

## Day 7 | It's Your Turn to Explore Cairns



Today you get to experience Cairns your way with a full day to explore this tropical city or head out on an Optional Experience. Why not take in the view with a balloon flight over the Atherton Tablelands, the hot air ballooning capital of the southern hemisphere? Or, explore the Daintree Rainforest diving into nature on a guided, interpretive walk learning traditional hunting and gathering skills as you search for bush tucker of fish and mussels and feast on your catch. You could also see the rainforest on a historic rail journey winding across bridges and through tunnels to Kuranda village where you'll explore its colourful and interesting arts and crafts. Enjoy a different view soaring above and through the trees on your return trip on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway. Looking for a bit of wildlife on your adventure? Pair your trip to Kuranda with a visit to Hartley's Crocodile Adventures for a wetlands cruise through the ecologically significant Melaleuca wetlands, the home of the saltwater crocodile. Sure to be a bucket list day, relive the highlights with your travel mates over dinner on the Cairns' waterfront at Salt House. Here you'll indulge in regional seafood highlighting fresh, local ingredients and prepared on their custom-built Argentinian wood fired grill.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Hilton

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Down Under Tours: Kuranda, Scenic Rail Skyrail and Hartley's Crocodile (KHC)*** - Journey on the historical Scenic Railway to Kuranda, with breathtaking views across the cane fields of Cairns, to the tropical rainforest of Kuranda. Upon arrival you will have around one hour to explore this fascinating village of colourful and interesting arts and crafts. Make your way directly to the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway to experience this iconic rainforest. After arriving at the Smithfield Skyrail Terminal, the coach will transfer you to Hartley's Crocodile Adventures. Explore the park, including the unique eco experience of the Wetlands cruise through the ecologically significant Melaleuca wetlands; the domain of the saltwater crocodile.  
Adult: 276.00 AUD

***Kuranda, Skyrail And Scenic Railway*** - Join your Down Under Tours coach transfer to Smithfield Station. Here you join Skyrail Rainforest Cableway and marvel at the World's Most Beautiful Rainforest experience, including time at Red Peak and Barron Falls stations, both with spectacular lookouts. On arrival in Kuranda, the Village is yours to explore. Your return to Cairns is aboard the famous Kuranda Scenic Railway. Winding around curves, across bridges and through hand-hewn tunnels, this amazing engineering feat is a tribute to our pioneers. Upon arrival at historic Freshwater Station, you will board your coach back to your accommodation.  
Adult: 209.00 AUD

***Hot Air Cairns Classic Ballooning*** - Experience the fun & unique sensation of being in a Hot Air Balloon, flying gently high above the Atherton Tablelands, Australia. The balloon takes off from Mareeba on the Atherton Tablelands. Enjoy the picturesque landscape at dawn, floating in your Hot Air Balloon, time to really breathe in the wide-open spaces! We have Australia's largest fleet of Hot Air Balloons and a fun and highly trained crew to maximise the enjoyment of your balloon flight. It's just like a balloon festival, every day!  
Adult: 495.00 AUD

## Day 8 | Cruise to the Great Barrier Reef



Experience the beauty of the UNESCO World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef over a day of play on the water. The day begins as you board a high-speed catamaran and then it's up to you how you'd like to explore this underwater wonderland: Don your mask and fins (equipment provided) for an immersive look at this kaleidoscope of fishes and reef. Or, stay dry and explore the world's largest living reef system from the comfort of a semi-submersible craft. However you adventure, the whole way you're surrounded by beauty and insights on the local ecology and environment from your local guide. Be sure to just kick back, too. Your cruise includes an onboard tropical buffet lunch and plenty of time to soak up the glorious Aussie sunshine.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Hotel:** Hilton

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Great Adventures Introductory Dive*** - For an underwater adventure to remember, experience an introductory dive! It's fun and no experience is necessary to take a fully supervised introductory dive. Professional and experienced instructors will guide you through every aspect of your dive, allowing you to have a relaxed, enjoyable experience. (Subject to medical assessment. Your Travel Director can direct you further.)  
Adult: 198.00 AUD

***Scenic Helicopter Flight on the Great Barrier Reef*** - Take to the sky on a 10-minute scenic flight. You will have the best seat to witness the iconic Great Barrier Reef from above.  
Adult: 199.00 AUD

## Day 9 | Sydney, the Harbour City



We say farewell to Cairns flying south to Sydney and spend the afternoon and evening exploring the beauty of this harbour city. From your centrally located hotel, you can take a stroll around the waterfront at Circular Quay or visit one of the city's many pubs, bars, or restaurants. Sydney is walkable and offers something for everybody.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** InterContinental

## Day 10 | Sights of Spectacular Sydney



There's plenty to discover in Sydney today and you'll kick it off on a guided tour of the iconic Sydney Opera House with a Local Specialist, delving into the story of a building 'that changed the image of an entire country' and learning the history of this iconic structure. Then see the city from the water on a Sydney Harbour Lunch Cruise, enjoying a menu focusing on local food and wine. One icon to another: The world's most famous beach beckons this afternoon, with your chance to pad along the sand at Bondi with Sydney's beautiful people.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Hotel:** InterContinental

## Day 11 | Sydney, the Choice is Yours



Enjoy a full free day to explore Sydney. Or consider joining an Optional Experience to discover even more further afield. You could take a day trip to the spectacular Blue Mountains, whose eucalypt haze you'll see looming in the distance, for fresh mountain air and stunning natural scenery. You'll see the famous Three Sisters rock formation - each of which stands over 900 metres high - and hear the Aboriginal legend behind these massive structures.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** InterContinental

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Blue Mountains and Australian Wildlife*** - Explore the World Heritage-Listed Blue Mountains in style, starting with a visit to Sydney Zoo, Australia's most advanced Zoo in the heart of Western Sydney, gateway to the Blue Mountains. See dingoes, koalas, wombats, Tasmanian devils and echidnas in a cage free environment in the Australian Precinct. Explore the heart of the Blue Mountains surrounded by locals as you enjoy some free time discovering the unique mountain town of Leura with its quaint shops. Visit the famous Three Sisters rock formation up close from Echo Point. A highlight of the day is a stop at Scenic World where you can enjoy a ride on the Scenic Railway, Cableway and Skyway, a great way to see the steep valleys, canyons and get another perspective of the Three Sisters. Take a walk along the Rainforest boardwalk and immerse yourself in nature from the valley floor. Return to Sydney via coach.

Adult: 289.00 AUD

## Day 12 | Sydney through Your Eyes



Now you've found your bearings in Sydney, you have a final day in the city for more sightseeing. Perhaps begin in the Rocks District, dating to before the arrival of British settlers in the late 1700s, to explore the historic buildings or view Aboriginal artefacts at one of the city's museums? Consider joining an Optional Experience climbing up and over the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge. Guided by a professional Climber Leader, you'll ascend 134 metres above Sydney Harbour for priceless views at the top. Spend the last evening of your tour enjoying dinner with your Travel Director and travelling companions, where you'll recap your favourite sights in Australia.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** InterContinental

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**BridgeClimb Sydney** - The Bridge Climb is a 3.5 hour guided journey to the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. It takes you along the outer arch of the Bridge on catwalks and ladders all the way to the summit, 134 metres above Sydney Harbour. Climbing in groups of up to 14 people, you'll be led by one of BridgeClimb's professional Climb Leaders on an adventure of the world's most recognisable Bridge. Various tours available and prices from: **FITNESS REQUIREMENTS / NEED TO KNOW:** A general level of fitness is required. Guests aged 75 years of age or older require a Certificate of Fitness signed by a medical professional. To download the certificate template and view all health and safety advice, please visit <https://www.bridgeclimb.com/plan-your-visit/pre-climb-checklist>.  
Adult: 364.00 AUD

## Day 13 | Farewell Sydney



It's been an incredible trip of wildlife, wild places, and stellar city sites but sadly your journey comes to a close today. Enjoy one last breakfast with your travel mates before saying goodbye before your transfer to Sydney Airport (flights anytime).

**Meals:** Breakfast

This document was last updated 9 September 2025.

While all information is correct at the time of publication, occasionally details or timings may differ.

Please refer to our website or speak to your Travel Director for the latest updates.