



EducationFirst

*College Study
Tours*

**AUSTRALIA &
NEW ZEALAND**

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Head south (*australis* in Latin) and see for yourself why Aussies and Kiwis have more in common than hopelessly endearing accents. Spend your time crossing “The Ditch”—what natives call the Tasman Sea—and find out why.

After a few days, it will become apparent that there are two distinct cultures in both countries—one of British influence and one of indigenous descent. While their histories may be a little rocky, they’ve

wound up being closer in political relations than ever before. From spiny echidnas to small flightless birds, neither suffers from a shortage of unique wildlife and raw iconic beauty. Aesthetically gifted Auckland makes its case as one of the world’s most beautiful capitals in New Zealand, and you’ll see why after watching steam pour out of mystical Rotorua.



Days 1-2: Fly to New Zealand

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Auckland. Cross the International Date Line mid-flight.

Day 3: Auckland

Arrive in Auckland: Welcome to Auckland, New Zealand's largest and most populous city.

Sightseeing tour of Auckland: Located on a narrow isthmus between two harbors, Auckland is also built atop seven extinct volcanoes. Your Tour Director will show you the city's major landmarks. Start at the Domain, a hilltop park. Stroll through the bustling downtown area and head to the waterfront for beautiful views of Rangitoto Island and the Harbour Bridge. You'll also have the chance to browse the goods and wares at Victoria Park Market.

Day 4: Rotorua

Travel to Rotorua: Head to Rotorua, known for its geothermal activity and Maori influences.

Rotorua Duck Tour: Hop on board an amphibious duck boat for a tour of Rotorua's historic landmarks and natural wonders.

Rotorua Agrodome: Watch a sheep-shearing demonstration at the world-famous Agrodome. New Zealand is home to over 55 million sheep, and their wool plays a huge role in the country's economy.

Hangi dinner: Enjoy Maori song and dance at a traditional Hangi dinner.

Day 5: Rotorua

Sightseeing tour of Rotorua: On your guided tour of Rotorua, learn about Maori legends and tribal customs as you visit a Maori Village. Then, a Maori guide leads you through the geothermal Whakarewarewa area, where you can marvel at bubbling pools of mud, crystal springs of hot mineral water, geysers and richly colored craters. View Mount Ngongotaha from hundreds of feet up as you ride the Skyline Gondola. Finally, discover New Zealand's exquisite green gemstone on a visit to a jade factory.

Day 6: Auckland | Sydney

Return to Auckland: Make your way back to Auckland, known as the "City of Sails," due to its close proximity to Waitemata Harbour.

Fly to Sydney: Board a flight to Sydney, your first stop in Australia. It's easy to see why this stunning, cosmopolitan city won the hearts of many as the host of the 2000 Olympic Games.

Explore the Rocks: Find all the souvenirs you'll need in the historic Rocks district. Situated in the shadow of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, this well-preserved colonial neighborhood marks the spot where Australia's first fleet of European settlers landed in 1788.

Day 7: Sydney

Sydney Tower: Enjoy a bird's-eye view of the city from the observation deck of Sydney Tower. At 1,063 feet, it's the second-tallest building south of the Equator.

National Opal Collection: Learn about Australia's national gemstone, the opal, at the country's prized exhibition. Highlights include the opalized skeleton of a pliosaur—named Eric—that dates back 110 million years.

Sightseeing tour of Sydney: Get to know Sydney on your sightseeing tour. First, see the skyline from a different angle on your Sydney Harbor cruise—and snap a picture of the iconic Sydney Opera House. Stop at Bondi Beach to get up-close to koalas and kangaroos at Sydney Wildlife World.

Day 8: Sydney

Blue Mountains of Katoomba: Join a full-day trip to the spectacular Blue Mountains, named for the blue mist that rises from the area's eucalyptus trees. Attend a screening of *The Edge*, Australia's only giant-screen destination movie, which recounts how explorers conquered the Blue Mountains in 1813. While conducting research for the film, scientists made an extremely rare botanical discovery: the Wollebi Pine Grove, made up of ancient pine trees not found anywhere else on Earth. Those who do not wish to join the excursion will have free time in Sydney.

Day 9: Sydney | Cairns

Fly to Cairns: Board a flight in Sydney on your way to Cairns, a city in Queensland popular with international vacationers.

Day 10: Cairns

Great Barrier Reef: Discover Australia's magnificent Great Barrier Reef, one of the natural wonders of the world. Stretching 1,240 miles along the Queensland coast, the reef is nature's largest living organism. It is home to 400 kinds of coral, 1,500 species of fish and 4,000 types of mollusk. Cruise from Cairns via speedy air-conditioned catamaran to the Outer Barrier Reef and be amazed by the dazzling blue of the ocean around you.

Snorkeling with a marine biologist: An underwater world opens up before your eyes on this optional excursion. Get up close to the incredible scenery of the Great Barrier Reef: the electric colors of tropical fish, swaying plants and exquisite corals. Your marine biologist guide will put all the sights into perspective.

Day 11: Cairns









Free time in Cairns: The last day of your tour is free for you to enjoy how you wish. You may choose to go out on your own, discovering the cafés and shops of the wharf district or strolling along the harbour front esplanade.

Kuranda: Begin your full-day excursion with a scenic train ride up the lush Atherton Tablelands, a tropical rainforest home to crystal clear crater lakes, pristine waterfalls and dramatic mountain ranges. The railway will bring you to the rainforest village of Kuranda. After time for browsing in the markets of Kuranda, descend down the escarpment on the Skyrail, the first ecotourism rail system in the world. Take in breathtaking aerial views of the rainforest canopy below while rangers discuss the rainforest and its inhabitants. Upon reaching the foot of the valley, visit the Tjapukai Aboriginal Park and learn about traditional Aboriginal culture and customs through the interpretive exhibits there.

Day 12: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport and check in for your return flight home. In flight, recross the International Date Line and gain your "lost" day. Arrive home on Day 12.

INCLUDED ON TOUR:

-  Round-trip flights on major carriers
-  Full-time Tour Director
-  Land and water transportation
-  Hotels with private bathrooms
-  Light breakfast daily; 3 local dinners
-  **Sightseeing tours**
Rotorua; Auckland; Sydney; Great Barrier Reef
-  **Entrances**
Maori Village; Skyline Gondola; Rotorua Agrodome; Sydney Tower; Harbor Cruise; Sydney Wildlife World; Barrier Reef
-  **Optional**
Blue Mountains of Katoomba; Snorkeling with a marine biologist; Kuranda

— the easiest ways to —

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