



## 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: Rotorua

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

**Explore 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.

## Day 4: Rotorua

**Skyline Gondola ride:** View Mount Ngongotaha from hundreds of feet up as you ride the Skyline Gondola.

**Jade Factory visit:** Discover New Zealand's exquisite green gemstone on a visit to a jade factory.

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

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

## Day 5: Rotorua | Auckland

**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.

**Travel to 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 6: Sydney

**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 plesiosaur—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.

## Day 8: Sydney

**Taronga Zoo:** Enjoy a half-day excursion to Taronga Zoo and get up close to some of Australia's exotic wildlife. See koalas, ring-tailed lemurs, and the majestic Sumatran tigers the zoo houses in part with their work to generate awareness about threats to endangered species. Learn about the zoo's budding conservation programs and their vision of securing a shared future for wildlife and people.

**Free time in Sydney:** Enjoy free time in the most populous city in Australia by exploring the beautiful botanical parks, dozens of museums or rubbing elbows with local "Sydneyiders".

## Day 9: Sydney | Cairns

**Fly to Cairns:** Board your flight 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.

**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 ever you'd like. You may choose to go out on your own, discovering the cafes 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 regain your "lost" day. Arrive home on Day 12.