



Your Journey Awaits...

Travel beyond ordinary™

Grand Australia and New Zealand



Itinerary

Monday, November 4, 2024

Arrive Melbourne, Australia

Tour Begins: Monday, November 4, 2024

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

DAY 1 ARRIVE MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Transportation from Melbourne International Airport to your initial accommodation is seamlessly arranged for your convenience upon arrival. It is crucial to prioritize a thorough review of the "Arrival and Transfer Instructions" section, which is integral to ensuring a smooth transition. This essential information can be found earlier in the menu contents of this comprehensive guide. To pinpoint the exact location of the "Arrival and Transfer Instructions," please refer to the table of contents at the beginning of this informative menu. Taking the time to familiarize yourself with these details will enhance your overall travel experience and guarantee a hassle-free journey from the airport to your first-night hotel.

Join your fellow travelers this evening for a welcome reception and dinner. Detailed information on where and when we'll gather will be provided on Day 1 of your Tauck itinerary.

Meal: Dinner

The Langham, Melbourne

One Southgate Avenue
Southbank, Melbourne
Victoria 3006, Australia
Tel: 61 3 86968888

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

DAY 2 EXPLORE MELBOURNE

Join us this morning for a walking tour of the city's laneways and arcades, discovering what the locals know. Later we'll board our coach to see Melbourne's modern business district

Return to the hotel for free time to explore Melbourne at your leisure and enjoy lunch and dinner on your own.

Meal: Breakfast

The Langham, Melbourne

One Southgate Avenue
Southbank, Melbourne
Victoria 3006, Australia
Tel: 61 3 86968888

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

DAY 3 FLY TO AYERS ROCK

Enjoy breakfast this morning, then depart for a flight to Uluru (Ayers Rock). Following lunch at your resort hotel, enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

This evening, join us for champagne and canapés as we watch Uluru change colors during an incredible desert sunset.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Sails in The Desert Hotel

17 Yulara Drive
Yulara, NT 0872
Australia
Tel: 61 8 89562200

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

DAY 4 FLY TO CAIRNS

This morning enjoy a walking tour at the base of Uluru. Learn about the sacred Aboriginal traditions and geological history of this unique monolith.

Fly from the Outback to Cairns for a three-night stay at your resort in Queensland, gateway to the Great Barrier Reef.

On arrival enjoy a coastal drive to Kuranda "the village in the rainforest." Join us for a magical gondola ride through the mist-shrouded rainforest with interpretive ranger talks.

Enjoy dinner at our hotel this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Silky Oaks Lodge

P.O. Box 396

Mossman, Queensland 4873

Australia

Tel: 61 7 4098 1666

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

DAY 5 EXPLORE THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Today you have the option to explore the Great Barrier Reef as you please.

Please choose one activity, you can let your tour director know your choice, the first day of your tour.

- A catamaran cruise to the Agincourt Reef via Quicksilver, a high-tech catamaran that whisks you out over the Great Barrier Reef where we'll dock at an anchored platform. You may swim and snorkel over the vast coral gardens and see colorful fish, or stay dry and explore this underwater world via a semi- submersible. A buffet lunch will be served aboard Quicksilver.
- An adventure boat trip via the Silversonic for experienced scuba divers and snorkelers out to the reef. The first introductory or certified dives are included. Morning Tea and a light lunch is included aboard the Silversonic.

Note: Snorkels, masks, fins and towels are all provided. Lycra wetsuits are provided for additional protection from the sun and possible irritations while in the water.

- Or have a relaxing spa day at the lodge. One Treatment is included, followed by lunch at the lodge.

Enjoy a leisurely dinner and evening at your resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Silky Oaks Lodge

P.O. Box 396

Mossman, Queensland 4873

Australia

Tel: 61 7 4098 1666

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

DAY 6 DAY AT LEISURE

Soar over the picturesque tablelands outside Cairns on an optional balloon flight in the early pre-dawn morning. Afterward, we'll drive back to our hotel for breakfast.

*** Please note: The timings for the transfer to the balloon site can be as early as 3:30AM and the drive is over 1 hour each way.

The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Enjoy a special dinner at our resort this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Silky Oaks Lodge

P.O. Box 396

Mossman, Queensland 4873

Australia

Tel: 61 7 4098 1666

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

DAY 7 FLY TO SYDNEY

This morning you will learn everything you've ever wanted to know about the crocodile at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures, where a tour and special crocodile feeding presentation precede an exclusive boat cruise on the lagoon. At Hartleys, you may have the opportunity to see kangaroos, wallabies, wombats and take your photo with a koala.

Fly to Sydney and stay the next three nights in the heart of the city. This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

InterContinental Sydney

117 Macquarie Street

Sydney, NSW 2000

Australia

Tel: 61 2 9253 9000

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

DAY 8 SYDNEY HARBOUR CRUISE & OPERA HOUSE

This morning enjoy a private tour of the world-famous Sydney Opera House. This iconic landmark was designed by Danish architect Jorn Utzon, who won an international competition for the project in 1956. The home of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Ballet, and the Australian Opera, the Opera House has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Your guided tour offers fascinating stories about this miracle of architecture and engineering. Take in the major venues, where over 2,500 performances are staged each year, and immerse yourself in the dramatic world of Australia's premier performing arts center.

Please be advised that the Opera House tour includes navigating steps, periods of standing, and opportunities to sit throughout your visit.

After, enjoy a private cruise and lunch aboard the award-winning Captain Cook cruise line, and view the sights of Sydney from the harbour.

Return to the hotel. Tonight enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

InterContinental Sydney

117 Macquarie Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Australia
Tel: 61 2 9253 9000

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

DAY 9 SYDNEY

This morning, we will enjoy a walking tour from our hotel to Sydney's popular neighborhood The Rocks, with each phase of our tour focused on a different chapter in the area's history from the arrival of the Britain's "First Fleet" in 1788 to the present day.

A light Lunch follows, and your Tauck Director will be able to provide recommendations on how to enjoy the remainder of your day in Sydney.

If you would like to dine in one of Sydney's many restaurants, reservations are recommended well in advance of your arrival. Particularly, if there is one restaurant you have in mind. Restaurants may not be open everyday and their hours vary. Reservations can be made online.

Meal: Breakfast

InterContinental Sydney

117 Macquarie Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Australia
Tel: 61 2 9253 9000

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

DAY 10 FLY TO WELLINGTON

We bid farewell to Australia and depart for Wellington, New Zealand's intimate waterfront capital with vibrant artistic and cultural scenes.

Enjoy dinner at the hotel overlooking the lights of this impressive city.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

InterContinental Wellington

2 Grey Street
Wellington 6011
New Zealand
Tel: 64-4-472-2722

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

DAY 11 EXPLORE WELLINGTON

Today begins with a ride on the cable car, followed by a short motor coach tour of Wellington. Afterward, join in for a walking and food tour of the city.

Later, visit the five-story Te Papa Tongarewa National Museum, where we'll explore the diverse cultures, history, arts and geology of the country.

You're free to spend the afternoon and evening as you please enjoying the bustling port city of Wellington.

Meal: Breakfast

InterContinental Wellington

2 Grey Street
Wellington 6011
New Zealand
Tel: 64-4-472-2722

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

DAY 12 TO BLENHEIM & THE MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS

Board a private charter flight to the Marlborough Sounds region. Enjoy a cruise along the Queen Charlotte Sound as you dine on green-lipped mussels and savor some of New Zealand's finest Sauvignon Blanc.

Following the cruise, we drive to our home for the next two nights, Chateau Marlborough in Blenheim, where you'll enjoy dinner at your leisure this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Chateau Marlborough

P.O. Box 921
Corner High & Henry Streets
Blenheim, New Zealand
Tel: +64-3-578-0064

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

DAY 13 FARM LIFE, A WINERY LUNCH & DINNER WITH THE WARBIRDS

A memorable day in the Blenheim area begins with a visit to a working private farm for a sheep shearing demonstration and sheep dog experience; morning tea at the homestead with the farmer and his family.

Continue on to Wither Hills Winery for a wine tasting and lunch with matching wines at Wither Hills, followed by returning to the hotel for some free time.

Join us this evening for a Tauck Exclusive event: a visit to the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre and a three-course dinner showcasing seasonal Marlborough produce and a selection of quality Marlborough wines.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Chateau Marlborough

P.O. Box 921
Corner High & Henry Streets
Blenheim, New Zealand
Tel: +64-3-578-0064

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

DAY 14 FLY TO TE ANAU

Today, depart Blenheim and fly off aboard Tauck's charter to Manapouri (Te Anau) in the magnificent Fiordlands region, for two nights at an ideally located hotel.

Dinner at your leisure at the hotel is included tonight.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Te Anau Hotel & Villas

Lakefront Drive
PO Box 46
Te Anau 9681, New Zealand
Tel: 64 3 2499700

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

DAY 15 FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK & MILFORD SOUND

Take a dramatic drive through the unparalleled scenery of New Zealand's Fiordland National Park, then set off aboard a private boat (with a naturalist onboard) for a scenic nature luncheon cruise among the sheer cliffs and glacier-hewn inlets of beautiful Milford Sound.

If you would like to dine in town this evening, it is recommended you make reservations in advance of your visit to Te Anau.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Te Anau Hotel & Villas

Lakefront Drive
PO Box 46
Te Anau 9681, New Zealand
Tel: 64 3 2499700

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19
DAY 16 DRIVE TO QUEENSTOWN

Travel across more beautiful South Island landscapes to Queenstown and enjoy lunch at the Kinross Winery. Known for its pinot noir, the winery is set in an iconic stone building offering gorgeous mountain views.

Later arrive in Queenstown, located on the shores of Lake Wakatipu. It's easy to see why New Zealand film director Peter Jackson chose this region for so many scenes in "The Lord of the Rings." Born as an 1860s gold mining camp, Queenstown has a compact and sophisticated downtown area 150 years later.

The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Sofitel Queenstown Hotel & Spa

8 Duke Street
P.O. Box 1797
Queenstown, New Zealand
Tel: 6434500045

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20
DAY 17 EXPLORE QUEENSTOWN

Speed along the Shotover River and enjoy beautiful views this morning aboard a New Zealand-designed jet boat during a thrilling ride through the canyons, followed by yet another thrill - a helicopter ride.

The remainder of the afternoon is yours to explore the many sites and activities available.

Dinner is included at the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sofitel Queenstown Hotel & Spa

8 Duke Street
P.O. Box 1797
Queenstown, New Zealand
Tel: 6434500045

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21
DAY 18 FLY TO AUCKLAND

Fly by private charter to Auckland, the North Island's "City of Sails" and the largest city in the country. Auckland sprawls over a narrow isthmus between the sparkling waters of Waitemata and Manukau Harbours. Its people are a melting pot of South Pacific and Asian cultures, with a strong indigenous Maori heritage.

Visit the Auckland museum, housing the world's largest collection of Maori and Polynesian artifacts, for a concert and special Maori cultural experience. Continue to your waterfront hotel for a two-night stay.

Dinner is at leisure in the hotel tonight.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sofitel Auckland

21 Viaduct Harbour Avenue
Auckland, New Zealand
Tel: 64 9 909 9000

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22
DAY 19 WAIHEKE ISLAND

Take a short ferry ride to lush Waiheke Island. We'll spend the morning touring the island before savoring lunch at a local vineyard.

Return to the hotel in the afternoon. The rest of the day is yours to explore Auckland and sample the international flavors of this diverse city.

Join us this evening for a farewell reception and dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sofitel Auckland

21 Viaduct Harbour Avenue
Auckland, New Zealand
Tel: 64 9 909 9000

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23
DAY 20 HOMEWARD BOUND

Complimentary transportation to Auckland International Airport is provided from your Tauck hotel today.

If you are traveling by air, please note that it may be necessary to arrive at the airport up to two hours before your flight's scheduled departure, as the time required to clear security can vary. Your Tauck Director will provide you with the current recommended airport arrival time, and advise you of your airport transfer departure time, so you may plan accordingly.

If you are extending your trip with one or more additional nights in Auckland, you will receive complimentary transportation to the airport, regardless of your day of departure. Please see your Tauck Director to confirm these arrangements prior to the conclusion of your Tauck itinerary.

Flying eastbound over the Pacific, you'll re-cross the International Date Line, regaining the day you lost, and arrive in the United States the same day.

Meal: Breakfast