

Overseas Adventure Travel[®]

THE LEADER IN PERSONALIZED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES SINCE 1978

Your O.A.T. Adventure Travel Planning Guide[®]



A South Pacific Odyssey: Australia, the
Outback & New Zealand

2025

Overseas Adventure Travel®

347 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210

Dear Traveler,

I am thrilled that you are considering exploring the world with O.A.T. There are so many wonderful destinations to discover, and the itinerary described inside is a perfect way to fulfill a travel dream.

When you join us, you will slip seamlessly into local life as you explore off the beaten path in your small group. Like all our itineraries, this one is designed to give you an intimate understanding of your destination, not just a superficial view. You will get to know community leaders and try your hand at local trades during your *A Day in the Life* experience, share traditional fare and lively conversation during a Home-Hosted Visit, discuss the Controversial Topics impacting everyday life, and visit sites supported by Grand Circle Foundation. And if you choose to travel solo, you will enjoy all these cultural experiences at an unmatched value, with our FREE Single Supplements—just one of the reasons we continue to be the leader in solo travel.

To ensure you experience the true culture and feel supported every step of the way, we provide the services of a local Trip Experience Leader from the beginning of your adventure to the end. Along with introducing you to the history and culture of their homeland, these friendly experts will gladly help you out with any special requests to make your trip even more special. You can also rely on the seasoned team at our regional office, who are ready to help 24/7 in case any unexpected circumstances arise.

Plus, you can put your own personal stamp on your trip, like the **87% of our travelers who personalize their experience**. Perhaps you will choose to see more of your destination by adding an optional trip extension to your itinerary. You can also arrive a few days early to explore independently and get acclimated, customize your air itinerary, and more.

I hope you find this Travel Planning Guide helpful. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact one of our Travel Counselors at **1-800-955-1925**.

Warm regards,



Harriet R. Lewis
Chair
Overseas Adventure Travel

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Maori warriors, Murupara, New Zealand

A South Pacific Odyssey: Australia, the Outback & New Zealand Small Group Adventure

Australia: Melbourne, Alice Springs, the Outback, *Uluru* (Ayers Rock), Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Sydney | **New Zealand:** Christchurch, Hokitika, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Rotorua, Auckland

Small groups of no more than 16 travelers, guaranteed

30 days starting from \$11,495

including international airfare

Single Supplement: **FREE**

For departure dates & prices, visit www.oattravel.com/azo2025pricing

Delve into the remote rugged heartland of Australia when we spend a night in the Outback in a private tented camp, and explore natural landmarks like the Great Barrier Reef and Ayers Rock (*Uluru*). We'll also feel the pulse of Australia's cultural centers, from Melbourne to Sydney. In New Zealand, cruise Milford Sound and explore Rotorua, a center for Maori culture, and experience firsthand the Kiwi spirit of adventure.

IT'S INCLUDED

- 27 nights accommodation
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- All land transportation and 6 internal flights
- 54 meals—27 breakfasts, 13 lunches, and 14 dinners
- 30 small group activities
- Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- 5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next adventure

Prices are accurate as of the date of this publishing and are subject to change.

A South Pacific Odyssey: Australia, the Outback & New Zealand



ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAYS	DESTINATION
1-2	Fly to Melbourne, Australia
3-5	Melbourne
6	Fly to Alice Springs
7	The Outback
8-9	Ayers Rock (Uluru)
10-13	Fly to Cairns • Transfer to Port Douglas • Great Barrier Reef
14-16	Fly to Sydney
17-18	Fly to Christchurch, New Zealand
19-20	Hokitika
21-24	Fly to Queenstown • Cruise Milford Sound
25-27	Fly to Rotorua
28-29	Auckland
30	Return to U.S.

WHAT TO EXPECT

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Moderate

Pacing: 11 locations in 28 days with two 1-night stays

Physical requirements: There is one 7.5-hour overland drive in Australia; five 4- to 8-hour overland drives in New Zealand; and six internal flights of up to 4 hours each.

Flight Time: Travel time will be 19-27 hours and will most likely have one or two connections

Please note: Due to the length, location changes, long land transfers, distances covered, and both internal and international flights, this is a particularly challenging trip.

View all physical requirements at www.oattravel.com/azo

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND: THE O.A.T. DIFFERENCE

Unbeatable Value: Travel at the lowest price and per diems in the industry.

People-to-People Experiences: Learn about the challenges faced by Australia's indigenous people today, and spend time with members of a Maori community to learn about their history as well as their modern-day struggles and share a meal with a New Zealand family during a **Home-Hosted Dinner** in Christchurch.

O.A.T. Exclusives: Sleep under the stars in an Australian swag—a portable bedroll for outdoor sleeping—during an overnight stay in the Outback. Plus, engage in a **Controversial Topic** discussion with a local expert on the mass bleaching events of The Great Barrier Reef's coral.

PERSONALIZE YOUR ADVENTURE

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Undiscovered Tasmania: Hobart, Cradle Mountain & Launceston
PRE-TRIP: 7 nights from **\$2,795**

New Zealand's Bay of Islands
POST-TRIP: 4 nights from **\$1,695**

ARRIVE EARLY

We recommend that you relax after a long flight or explore more in depth before your trip. Prices shown include accommodations and private airport transfer.

- Arrive early in **Hobart** before your Tasmania pre-trip extension from **\$180** per room, per night
- Arrive early in **Melbourne** before your main adventure from **\$160** per room, per night

A South Pacific Odyssey: Australia, the Outback & New Zealand

YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

BEGIN YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

7 nights in *Undiscovered Tasmania: Hobart, Cradle Mountain & Launceston*

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Day 2 Cross International Date Line

Day 3 Arrive in Hobart, Tasmania, via Sydney or Melbourne, Australia

Day 4 Explore Hobart • Visit Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary and Richmond

Day 5 Explore Hobart • Optional Port Arthur tour

Day 6 Hobart • Transfer to Cradle Mountain • Evening “Spotlighting” tour

Day 7 Explore Cradle Mountain National Park • Overland to Launceston

Day 8 Explore Launceston • Platypus House Wildlife Center visit • Local winery lunch

Day 9 Cataract Gorge Walk • Explore Launceston

Day 10 Fly to Melbourne • Begin main trip

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Fly from the U.S. to Melbourne, Australia.

Day 2 Cross International Date Line

You continue your flight from Los Angeles to Melbourne, losing one day en route as you cross the International Date Line. You regain this day when you fly back to the U.S. at the end of the trip.

Day 3 Arrive in Melbourne, Australia

- Destination: Melbourne (*Naarm*)
- Accommodations: Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne or similar

Morning: Most travelers will arrive in Melbourne early this morning to begin your Australia and New Zealand travel experience.

With help from our regional office, we have made our first day in Melbourne a leisurely one, so that you can rest after the long flight here. To help you adjust to the time difference, we spend three nights in Melbourne, the capital of Australia’s “Garden State” of Victoria, to give you plenty of time to recharge and truly enjoy the city. You’ll have the day free here. You can

relax and make use of the hotel's amenities, visit local shops, or find your own ways to interact with the locals, who are not known for being shy.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: Travelers who chose to take our *Undiscovered Tasmania: Hobart, Cradle Mountain & Launceston* pre-trip extension will arrive at the hotel this afternoon.

Later, we will all gather for a welcome briefing, including travelers who arrived early in Melbourne before the main adventure. Afterwards, we'll set off on about an orientation walk with our Trip Experience Leader.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: Your evening is free to rest and relax before our explorations begin tomorrow.

Day 4 Explore Melbourne • Koorie Heritage Trust visit

- Destination: Melbourne (*Naarm*)
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today we'll set out for the nearby Koorie Heritage Trust, where we'll meet our local indigenous guide. There, we'll connect with the history of Aboriginal Victoria as we take a walking tour of the Birrarung Mar park and along the Yarra River. We'll discover sites of cultural significance to not only the aboriginal people, but to the history of Australia as a whole. Afterwards, we'll begin our walking tour of Melbourne. We'll witness the city's famous lanes and arcades, including Bourke Street Mall, the Royal Arcade, and the Block

Arcade, before continuing on to the neo-Gothic St. Paul's Cathedral via the cobbled bluestone alley of Degrave Steet. From there, we'll walk to Flinders Street Railway Station—Australia's oldest train station—followed by a visit to the expansive Federation Square. We'll then make our way down Hosier Lane—all of which is covered in elaborate street murals that reflect the pulse of the city.

Lunch: At a local café.

Afternoon: For the remainder of the afternoon, you are free to explore the city on your own. Melbourne is a city of broad boulevards, green parks, and Victorian architecture, whose growth in the late 19th century was fueled by a gold rush. Public trams running on rails criss-cross the city, as distinctive a symbol of Melbourne as cable cars are of San Francisco.

Perhaps you'll visit the Melbourne Museum to discover more of Australia's culture, history, and nature. Or simply return to the hotel to relax if you wish.

Dinner: Tonight, we'll enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. This is a great chance for you to mingle with your travel companions.

Evening: Free for your own discoveries. You can take some time for yourself, explore the surrounding area, or meet up with fellow travelers to discuss the day.

Day 5 Melbourne • Optional Healesville Sanctuary & Dandenong Ranges tour

- Destination: Melbourne (*Naarm*)
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Make your own independent discoveries during our last day in Melbourne. Perhaps you'll venture to the Melbourne Museum to trace the natural history of the area. Here, you can view dinosaur fossils and taxidermy animals. Or, if you are more interested in contemporary art, you can visit the Justin Art House Museum where the owners have been collecting pieces for around 40 years.

Or, join us on an optional tour to the Healesville Sanctuary & Dandenong Ranges. Our first visit begins at the Healesville Sanctuary, a small wildlife refuge nestled in the lush landscapes of along the Watts Rivers, features animals only native to Australia. Our visit here will include a guided walking tours and perhaps opportunities to feed wildlife. Then, we'll transfer to Dandenong Ranges, a natural oasis located just an hour outside of Melbourne, the Dandenong Ranges offer visitors a tranquil escape from the bustling city with its fern gullies, mountain ash forests, quaint artists' villages, and unique gardens. While there, we'll wander through fern-blanketed glades and lush woodlands with a local guide.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Or, if you have embarked on the optional tour, enjoy an included lunch at a local café.

Afternoon: On your own—perhaps you'll explore more of the city during a City Circle Tram ride and discover landmarks and major attractions.

Or, if you have joined our optional tour, we'll ascend 2,077 feet above sea level to Dandenong's Sky High Lookout for a sweeping view of the region below.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: The remainder of the evening is free. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations if you'd like to experience the city at night.

Day 6 Fly to Alice Springs • Visit Old Telegraph Station • School of the Air visit

- Destination: Alice Springs (*Mparntwe*)
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Crowne Plaza Alice Springs Lasseters or similar

Activity Note: Direct flights to Alice Springs are not always available—when this is the case, we will begin our transfer and depart for the airport early this morning.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the airport where we'll catch a flight to Alice Springs, located in the Outback. As we fly over Australia's "Red Centre," we'll see a sprinkling of remote towns, and an arid expanse of red dirt and desert flora from above. During our time in the Outback, our local Trip Experience Leader will provide their expertise on the region to help us see how the geography and culture differ from that of Australia's big cities. When we land, we'll then drive to Telegraph Station.

Lunch: At a local café in Telegraph Station.

Afternoon: Afterwards, we set off on a tour of the Telegraph Station. The station marks the European settlement of Alice Springs at the inception of the Overland Telegraph Line, which was established in 1872 to relay messages between Adelaide and Darwin, its neighboring town.

Following our tour, stop at the Alice Springs School of the Air, a school dedicated to enhancing the learning experiences of children in remote Australian areas. Founded in 1951 by Adelaide Miethke, it was originally a way to

foster community and education via radio, and has evolved over the years to encompass new technological innovations. After, stop at the Todd Mall shopping district for the opportunity to stop and buy any last-minute provisions for our overnight stay in the Outback.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: Enjoy some free time into the evening. Perhaps you'll take a dip in the hotel pool or enjoy a drink with your small group.

Day 7 Overland to the Outback • Begin remote Outback Camping experience

- Destination: The Outback
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Private Tented Camp

Activity Note: Today, our transfer from Alice Springs to our O.A.T. Private Tented Camp will involve a long drive over roads that may be bumpy, uneven, and winding. Our total transfer time is up to nine hours, with stops along the way.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll leave the hotel and head to Simpsons Gap, one of the most prominent gaps piercing the West MacDonnell Mountain Range. We will explore this scenic area, where towering red cliffs surrender to an open waterhole, and rust-hued walking paths lead us through large stands of mulga trees and witchetty bushes. You may even catch a glimpse of the Black-footed Rock-wallabies that make their home in this rugged landscape.

Following our visit, we'll make our way along the Stuart Highway, Australia's most prominent highway and stop along the way at a classic Aussie Outback roadhouse (truck stop).

Then, we'll continue along the Finke River, known as the oldest riverbed in the world and only flows for a few days a year.

Lunch: A picnic-style lunch along Finke River.

Afternoon: After lunch, you may explore the dry riverbanks. The remainder of our drive will take up to four hours with comfort stops as needed along the way, as we are getting deep into the true Australian Outback. Far removed from the tourists and big cities, we'll drive past flat, sweeping desert vistas with native bush fringing the red-dirt road.

Upon arrival at our campsite, we will be greeted by a camp host to welcome us to our home for the night. Our campsite is exclusive to our O.A.T. group and is set among the natural bush. At the camp, you'll stay in a walk-in canvas tent, complete with two cots. There are shared toilet and shower facilities with running water and a dining area in the common space. The accommodations are simple, yet comfortable, and as night falls, the paths to our shared bathrooms will be illuminated by lights. Please note that there are no power plugs or electricity ports in the tents.

Later, we will gather for a viewing of the sunset. As the sun goes down, you have the possibility of viewing native species, such as dingoes, black cockatoos, and other regional bird species.

Dinner: We will enjoy a traditional Australian barbecue dinner at the main dining area.

Evening: Tonight, you will have the opportunity to sleep under the stars in an authentic Australian swag—a portable bedroll for outdoor sleeping—to experience a one-of-a-kind Australian Outback experience. The stars you'll witness are quite different from the night sky at home—here you'll be treated

to views of the Southern Hemisphere, including scores of constellations only visible from this side of the world, including the Southern Cross.

Day 8 Outback • Kings Canyon • Overland to Uluru (Ayers Rock)

- Destination: *Uluru* (Ayers Rock)
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Desert Gardens Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the campsite.

Morning: We will depart our campsite early to take advantage of the cooler temperatures before the sun rises and drive to Kings Canyon. Upon arrival, we will set out on a 3-hour guided walk of Kings Canyon. It's a challenging hike up the high sandstone walls of the canyon—particularly the first half which consists of uneven, rocky and sometimes steep inclines, but we'll be rewarded for our efforts: From rugged ranges of desert terrain hugging forests of palms, to plunging chasms that seem to collide with the canyon floor, this hike offers views that stretch across the desert and showcase the diversity in this landscape.

For those looking for an easier walk, there are other trails along the base of the canyon, which lead you through ferns and eucalyptus to towering views of the canyon walls.

Lunch: Included at Curtin Springs Station.

Afternoon: We'll begin our drive to *Uluru* (Ayers Rock), arriving in the small town of Yulara, just a short drive from Uluru National Park. We will check in to the hotel, and you will then have some time to settle in and relax from our overland transfer.

Dinner: Included at the hotel.

Evening: Your evening is free to walk the hotel grounds or take advantage of its amenities.

Day 9 Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park • Uluru (Ayers Rock) • Sunrise and sunset viewings

- Destination: *Uluru* (Ayers Rock)
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Desert Gardens Hotel or similar

Early Morning: Rise early this morning to witness *Uluru* in the light of dawn, a dramatic sight seen by far fewer travelers than at sunset.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to Kata Tjuta National Park. While *Uluru* is the centerpiece of Kata Tjuta, the park also includes the spectacular rock formations nearby called the Kata Tjuta. A local guide will give us more insight into the spiritual symbolism of this natural wonder and the history of the indigenous people's rights to the land.

Lunch: We'll enjoy a "take-away" lunch from a local indigenous café.

Afternoon: We'll walk back to our hotel to enjoy a few hours of leisure time to settle in or explore on your own. We'll then drive to a sunset viewing area. Here, we'll enjoy a traditional sunset toast as the last daylight paints the massive monolith of *Uluru* into a kaleidoscope of colors. Our private guide will lead our small group around areas of the base of the massive sandstone monolith that are rarely visited by tourists. As we explore, our guide will point out the effects of millions of years of erosion by rain and wind.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: Your evening is free to make your own discoveries.

Day 10 Fly to Cairns

- Destination: Cairns
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Crystalbrook Bailey Hotel or similar

Activity Note: Direct flights to Cairns are not always available daily—when this is the case, we will begin our transfer via Sydney or Melbourne, arriving in Cairns later than scheduled. If this is the case, a meal voucher will be provided for you at the airport.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the airport for our flight to Cairns.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: After landing, we'll drive to our hotel in Cairns to check in. Then, our Trip Experience Leader will take us on a brief orientation walk to familiarize ourselves with the area around the hotel. After some time to relax and freshen up, we'll gather in the hotel lobby and walk over to a nearby restaurant for dinner.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: You are free to explore Cairns on your own this evening, or make use of the hotel's amenities.

Day 11 Cairns • Mossman Gorge • Controversial Topic: How healthy is the Great Barrier Reef?

- Destination: Cairns
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Crystalbrook Bailey Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to Cooya Beach, a traditional fishing hotspot located at the mouth of the Mossman River. Upon arrival, we'll begin our discoveries with a tour lead by a local guide, who will introduce us to the authentic fishing and gathering methods of the region. Your local guide will demonstrate traditional plant use and identify bush food. Then, we'll learn about the intricacies of fishing in this region and the long history of the area with locals while we visit their traditional beach palapa—a home-made dwelling made of dried palm leaves.

Drive to Mossman Gorge, gateway to the Daintree Rainforest, a region of sparkling waterfalls, lush landscapes, and towering mountain peaks. The oldest rainforest in the world, Daintree has been home to the Kuku Yulanji people for more than 50,000 years. Upon arrival, we'll enjoy lunch.

Lunch: At a local café in Mossman Gorge.

Afternoon: After lunch, we'll meet with a local Kuku Yalanji to learn about their culture and legends and participate in a traditional smoking ceremony to cleanse and ward off bad spirits. Then, you'll have time to enjoy a brief nature walk with one trail taking you to the Mossman River Lookout, and another to a gently swaying suspension bridge high above the waters of Rex Creek.

After returning to our hotel, you'll have some time at leisure. Later on, we'll gather outside near the hotel's colorful tropical gardens for discussion of the **Controversial Topic:** How healthy is the Great Barrier Reef? The discussion will be led by a marine biologist who will share with you some facts, provide you with some insights on the impact of climate change, and will also tell you about positive actions taken today to protect it.

There have been reports in the popular press that “the Great Barrier Reef is Dead!” This is a sad thing to say especially when you consider that Australia’s Great Barrier Reef is made up of over 2,900 individual reefs spanning more than 1,400 miles of coastline. But is climate change the only threat? Are the “coral bleaching events” destroying the reefs? If so, what do we do about it?

It’s hard to think of the crystalline waters off the Queensland coast without thinking of the brightly-colored Great Barrier Reef. One of the most complex natural phenomena on Earth, the reef makes up about 10% of all the world’s coral ecosystems, comprised of nearly 3,000 individual corals. The radiant reef brings travelers from around the world to witness its beauty, making it integral to the Australian economy—the Marine Park brings in over \$6 billion every year and employs around 64,000 Australians. But the danger of climate change and human impact has become increasingly apparent. Overfishing has resulted in a decrease in water quality; coastal development projects have introduced noise pollution; and extreme weather—like cyclones and flooding—has created lasting damage. These are just a few of the threats experienced by this once thriving ecosystem.

After the presentation, we’ll have the chance to ask any questions we may have during a Q&A session. You might ask about the conflicting reports in the media about the health of the Great Barrier Reef, and the difficulties convincing people of the reality of climate change.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend some local dining options.

Evening: You have the evening to yourself.

Day 12 Cairns • Cruise to the Great Barrier Reef • Optional Great Barrier Reef helicopter ride

- Destination: Cairns
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Crystalbrook Bailey Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We’ll walk over to the Cairns marina to begin today’s exploration: The Great Barrier Reef.

We’ll board a high-speed catamaran and depart Cairns for the Outer Reef. Possibly the best description of the Great Barrier Reef comes down to five simple words: “the world’s largest living thing.” Its nomination for World Heritage status stated, “The Reef supports the most diverse ecosystem known to man ... an ecosystem which has evolved over millions of years.”

Our destination is a stationary pontoon-style observation post at the Outer Great Barrier Reef, a fantastic spot from which to explore this ecological wonderland. The Outer Barrier Reef provides the best views because it is further from the shore and free from the runoff from the rain forests that can cloud the water. Additionally the outer reef supports a more diverse range of marine life than other locations.

After our catamaran drops anchor, you can swim or snorkel, probe the lower depths in a semi-submersible vessel, or behold the underwater world from the lower deck of the stationary pontoon. A local reef expert will also be on hand to enlighten us about this unique ecosystem and enhance our experience on the reef. You’ll also have an opportunity to join an optional helicopter ride, flying over the breathtaking views of the expansive Great Barrier Reef.

Lunch: A buffet-style lunch is included on a reef pontoon.

Afternoon: After lunch, we'll continue our discoveries at the Outer Great Barrier Reef. There's no one "right" way to explore the Reef, so you can swim or snorkel among the fish and wide array of corals. Or you can simply relax on the sun deck and take in the views. Later this afternoon, we'll board our catamaran and return to Cairns.

Dinner: On your own. You can ask your Trip Experience Leader for dining options in the area.

Evening: After a long day on the water, you may choose to use your evening to relax and refresh—or experience Cairns at night with a recommendation from your Trip Experience Leader.

Day 13 Cairns • Optional Best of Australia's Wildlife tour

- Destination: Cairns
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Crystalbrook Bailey Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: The day is yours to explore Cairns independently. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend several options depending on your interests.

Or, perhaps you'll take a half-day tour to discover the best of Australia's wildlife all in one place, from crocodiles, cassowaries, and wombat to koalas, emus, kangaroos, wallabies, and more. You'll also enjoy a 20-minute boat cruise on Hartley's Lagoon to view crocodiles and other wildlife up close in a coastal wetland setting. There are numerous daily wildlife presentations, along with about 1.5 miles of timber boardwalks and pathways where

you can explore on your own. There will also be opportunities to have your photo taken while petting a koala, python, or even a small freshwater crocodile at an additional cost.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions. Those on the optional tour will transfer to Palm Cove, a tropical village outside of Cairns, for an included lunch at a beachfront restaurant.

Afternoon: For those not on the optional tour, the remainder of your afternoon is free for you to explore independently.

Those on the optional tour will arrive back at the hotel in the early afternoon with time to relax before dinner. Later, we'll gather in the lobby and walk over to a local restaurant.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: While walking back to our hotel, you may wish to spend a little time at the nighttime markets along the waterfront.

Day 14 Fly to Sydney

- Destination: Sydney (Warrane)
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Tank Stream Sydney or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the Cairns airport for our flight to iconic Sydney. During our explorations here, we'll see the city from a couple of different vantage points as we discover Sydney's highlights on foot and during a ferry ride.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: We arrive in Sydney and transfer to our hotel. We'll have some time to settle into our rooms or explore the surrounding area on our own before we enjoy an orientation walk with our Trip Experience Leader.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: You have the evening free to get acquainted with this world-famous city. Experience nightlife in Sydney, take a walk around the neighborhood of the hotel, or get a look at the iconic sights after dusk.

Day 15 Explore Sydney • Sydney Opera House

- Destination: Sydney (*Warrane*)
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Tank Stream Sydney or similar

Activity Note: Depending on Opera House availability, we may reverse the order of today's activities.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to one of the city's most iconic sights: The Sydney Opera House. We'll begin our discoveries with a 1-hour guided tour of the Sydney Opera House, whose distinctive architecture has made it the city's signature attraction. This architectural masterpiece was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007, and you'll see firsthand why it deserves this title. This visually spectacular performance facility boasts four auditoriums that host symphony concerts and theater as well as opera. Following our visit, make our way to our next destination—The Rocks.

Upon arrival, we'll begin a walking tour of the historic Rocks District, exploring the winding streets on foot to get a true feel for the neighborhood. The Rocks boasts some of the

oldest buildings in Sydney, and some of the original European settlers camped here amidst the rocks of the sandstone ridges for which the area is named.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: We'll each be given an Opal Card to use to travel via public transit, so you are free to return to the hotel or further explore Sydney's many wonders. Perhaps you'll venture back to the Rocks District and explore the winding streets on foot.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: You are free this evening to continue exploring on your own, catch up with fellow travelers at the hotel, or perhaps see a show at the Sydney Opera House.

Day 16 Sydney

- Destination: Sydney (*Warrane*)
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Tank Stream Sydney or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today, conclude your Australia travel experience by exploring Sydney on your own. You can relax, visit local shops, return to the seashore to visit any of the several beaches that are accessible by public transportation, or you may choose to take a tour of Sydney Tower, an enormous structure that stands at around 1,000 feet, to take in panoramic views of the city.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: You are free to continue exploring independently this afternoon. Continue your discoveries at Circular Quay in the heart of Sydney's waterfront. Circular Quay is a hub of activity where a constant flow of ferries

and water taxis transport commuters and day-trippers to their destinations all around the harbor. If the weather isn't conducive to outdoor exploration, a visit to the Museum of Contemporary Arts is a great way to spend your time. Located directly on the harbor in an art deco-inspired building, the museum contains over 4,000 works in its collections. It also boasts a rooftop restaurant and sculpture terrace offering expansive views of the harbor. However you spend your day, you're sure to find your own ways to mingle with "Sydneyiders," who are not known for being shy.

Then, we'll meet back up at Circular Quay, where we'll board a ferry for Darling Harbor.

Dinner: Enjoy a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant in Darling Harbor.

Evening: After returning to our hotel in Sydney, you might use the evening to pack and rest before we head to the second country on our itinerary tomorrow morning: New Zealand.

Day 17 Fly to Christchurch, New Zealand

- Destination: Christchurch
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Distinction Christchurch Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to the Sydney airport to board our flight to Christchurch, New Zealand. We'll enjoy a more relaxed day today before we set off to explore Christchurch tomorrow.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: We land in Christchurch and transfer to our hotel.

Dinner: Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at the hotel restaurant.

Evening: Your evening is free to begin exploring Christchurch, or refresh before the second half of our adventure.

Day 18 Explore Christchurch

• Waka canoeing experience

• Home-Hosted Dinner

- Destination: Christchurch
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Distinction Christchurch Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Set off today on a walk along the Banks of the Ōtākaro Avon River, running through the center of Christchurch and opposite to Victoria Square. As a prominent recreational waterway for the locals, we'll experience the team- and skill-building skills required to paddle hand-crafted *waka* (canoes) down the Avon. We'll also learn how the *waka* has served the Māori culture for centuries.

Then, we'll head out to discover Christchurch on foot with our Trip Experience Leader. The largest city in New Zealand's South Island, Christchurch is also a city in transition as it is still recovering from two deadly earthquakes—one in 2011 and an even more severe 7.8 magnitude quake in 2016. Undeterred, the citizens here rose to the challenge of coping with these two epic disasters, rebuilding and re-imagining their city center, as well as maintaining their welcoming Kiwi spirit. Our Trip Experience Leader will share stories of Christchurch's revival as you walk around and see the city renewed—many buildings and structures created with the help of Matapopore, a charitable trust that has ensured the city retains its English heritage while incorporating more Maori representation as well.

We'll end our walking tour at Riverside Market, central Christchurch's new essential destination for both local and visiting foodies alike. After the earthquakes, many local families lost their businesses. Undaunted, these creative business owners switched gears and many of Christchurch's most popular food trucks are now represented at the market as permanent food stalls.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: The remainder of the afternoon is free for your own discoveries.

Dinner: Tonight, we'll break up into smaller groups and wait at our hotel to be greeted by local families who will drive us to their Christchurch residences for a **Home-Hosted Dinner**.

Together we'll share a traditional three-course meal, composed of typical Kiwi cuisine that local families would enjoy in their day-to-day lives. Our hosts will choose the menu, but we're likely to enjoy local favorites such as roast lamb, seasonal vegetables like kumara (sweet potato), and perhaps a taste of sweet pavlova for dessert—New Zealand's iconic meringue confection.

As we dine, we'll also enjoy lively conversation about life in New Zealand, an intimate opportunity for cultural exchange made possible only by O.A.T.'s small group size. As our hosts are likely to be fellow world travelers, we're sure to have much to talk about, whether we're sharing our favorite travel stories, or discussing issues that affect life in Christchurch.

Evening: Enjoy a free evening.

Day 19 Discover local farm • Conversation on opposing environmental views with local livestock farmers • Transfer to Hokitika

- Destination: Hokitika
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Stopforths Premium Accommodation or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to a farm in Rubicon Valley, nestled in the Southern Alps and home to more than 3,000 sheep. As we begin our back country exploration of the farm, we'll first have the opportunity to see the impressive teamwork of sheepdogs and sheep. We will get an in-depth look at the entire process of this farm—from the dogs rallying the sheep in the paddock and shuffling them into pen-to-pen to watching long-haired Romney sheep being shorn. While here, we'll also meet some of the farm's other furry residents, including alpaca.

After our look into the process as a whole, we'll board the farm's 4x4 vehicles and set off on the backroads of the property for one of the sheep shearing sheds. There, we'll learn about the different aspects of the shearing process, including the wool-grading process. Our small group will gain a deeper understanding of farm life and the importance of sheep in New Zealand when we speak to the local farmers.

We'll also engage in a conversation about the validity of New Zealand Tourism's slogan "100% Pure New Zealand" and the effects the debate it caused has had on farmers. Scientists, environmentalists, and New Zealand's Green Party see the "100% Pure" brand as an environmental statement, and argue that the country's intensification of agriculture is threatening this "pure" status. On the other hand, farmers point out that farming has long

been the backbone of New Zealand's economy, and is a significant part of its cultural and aesthetic landscape.

Lunch: At the farm.

Afternoon: Continue the journey to Hokitika via motorcoach. Hokitika is a small farming community with a rich history. It boomed in the 1860s with the gold rush, and was, at that time, the busiest port in the country. Today, it's home to a thriving coastal community.

You will have time to settle into our hotel before we set out on an orientation walk around the vicinity with our Trip Experience Leader before some free time to relax at the hotel. Or, perhaps you'll choose to discover more of Hokitika with our Trip Experience Leader during a walk to the local beach.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to suggest some local restaurants.

Evening: Your evening is free to enjoy Hokitika. Perhaps you'll discover something interesting as you wander the streets on your own.

Day 20 Discover Hokitika • Meet local artists

- Destination: Hokitika
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Stopforths Premium Accommodation or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Set off for the Hokitika Gorge where, depending on the weather, the water of the gorge may be an illuminating turquoise hue surrounded by lush forests.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Afternoon: Set out either on foot or by coach, depending on the weather, to discover Hokitika. Sights will include Hokitika Theatre, Carnegie Library Building, and Seddon House.

Then, visit Possum People, a New Zealand furrier business established in 1969. Here we'll meet self-proclaimed "Possum People" for a conversation about the government's use of 1080 poison to eradicate New Zealand's surplus possum population.

We'll then take a short walk to a local jade shop where we'll see a jade carving demonstration, and we'll learn about the symbolism of this art to the local Maori.

The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: Your evening is free to enjoy Hokitika. Perhaps you'll relax at the hotel, or stay at the restaurant and enjoy a drink with fellow travelers.

Day 21 Fly to Queenstown

- Destination: Queenstown
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Queenstown or similar

Activity Note: Today, our transfer from Hokitika to Queenstown will involve a bus ride of up to five hours, with stops included, over roads that may be bumpy or uneven at times, and about a 1-hour flight.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We will check out of our hotel this morning to begin our journey to Queenstown. We will start by driving to the Christchurch airport, which will take up to 5 hours with stops included. Along the way, we'll drive through Arthur's Pass, stopping to enjoy the massive peaks and take pictures.

Lunch: On your own at a town in the Canterbury Plains. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: We'll arrive at the Christchurch airport for our flight to Queenstown. Upon arrival, we'll transfer to our hotel. Following check-in, we will set out on an orientation walk with our Trip Experience Leader to familiarize ourselves with the surrounding area.

The city has gained notoriety for being the "adventure capital of the world," attracting skiers, white-water rafters, and other thrill-seekers who are drawn to its rapids and peaks. Yet it can also be seen as a rejuvenating retreat for those in need of some fresh mountain air.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: On your own. Perhaps you'll step out into the city for some nighttime exploring. For star gazers, Queenstown is quite a delight. In fact in wintertime, the southern lights or "aurora australis" can often be seen from here.

Day 22 Explore Queenstown • Arrowtown

- Destination: Queenstown
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Queenstown or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Depart on a walking tour of Queenstown with our Trip Experience Leader to orient ourselves with this vibrant city. Our tour concludes at the public bus where our small group will drive to Arrowtown. An old gold rush town, this charming destination offers streets laden in gold mining history and also quaint shops. Upon arrival, our Trip Experience Leader will bring us on a brief walking tour, and then, we will have some time to explore the shops or discover local history on our own.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: Reconvene with your fellow travelers to return to Queenstown where you'll have the remainder of the day on your own.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: Free for you to explore. Relax and retire to your room, or join fellow travelers at the hotel bar to recap your day's discoveries.

Day 23 Travel to Milford Sound • Cruise Milford Sound

- Destination: Queenstown
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Queenstown or similar

Activity Note: Today's excursion to Milford Sound will involve about 11 hours of driving roundtrip.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We rise early this morning for a full day of adventure, traveling to Milford Sound, situated in the heart of Fiordland National Park. Our journey will last approximately six hours and will take us through dense forests, past Lake Te Anau, and through the Homer Tunnel, a three-quarter-mile engineering wonder drilled through pure rock.

Upon arrival, our small group will board our ship for a cruise of Milford Sound. We'll marvel at towering cliffs and the perfect cone of Mitre Peak, and view thundering waterfalls, thick beech forests, and unique flora and fauna as we cruise along the sound's famous fjords.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: We'll continue cruising until the late afternoon, and then return to our hotel, stopping along the way again for a break.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: Take the evening to refresh after our day's journey, or head out into the city for some nighttime exploring.

Day 24 Queenstown • Optional Dart River Jet-boat Safari

- Destination: Queenstown
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Queenstown or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Let Queenstown truly awaken your sense of adventure when you spend the day making your own discoveries. Perhaps you'll choose to venture up the narrow roads of Skippers Canyon in a four-wheel-drive vehicle to take in incredible views of the Shotover River and learn about the importance of this landscape to gold miners in the 19th century. Thrill seekers may want to push themselves even further by taking advantage of the city's many exciting activities, including zip-lining and bungee jumping.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: Continue exploring Queenstown on your own, or consider joining a half-day optional tour for a jet-boat ride on the Dart River. We begin by traveling overland along the shores of Lake Wakatipu to Glenorchy, a frontier town at the base of the Southern Alps. Here, we board a jet-boat for a journey across the lake with huge snow-capped mountain backdrops made internationally famous by movies such as *The Lord of the Rings*. The Dart

River wends within a historic valley that has fascinated explorers for centuries, and as we head upstream, we'll enjoy views in an area so remote that few ever get a chance to experience it. On the downriver journey, our driver will demonstrate the maneuverability of the New Zealand-designed jet boat and show you how this unique craft can spin and turn.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: This evening, you are free to explore Queenstown's quaint streets—perhaps meeting some local people along the way.

Day 25 Queenstown • Fly to Rotorua • Redwood walk

- Destination: Rotorua
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Prince's Gate Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to the airport, where we'll fly from Queenstown to Rotorua.

Located on New Zealand's North Island, Rotorua is a center for Māori culture. It's believed that New Zealand's Māori people settled on the North Island about a thousand years ago, and they have held on firmly to their identity and traditions. Nearly a quarter of a million indigenous Māori still maintain their unique lifestyle and culture, adding to the rich heritage of New Zealand.

Lunch: On your own at the airport.

Afternoon: Arrive to Rotorua late this afternoon. After settling in, we'll head to the Whakarewarewa Forest, an area where exotic tree and plant species were planted in the early 1900s and includes a stand of 27

majestic Redwood trees. Upon arrival, our Trip Experience Leader will lead us on a walk through this dense forest.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: You'll have the freedom to explore on your own this evening—whether wandering through the surrounding city, enjoying the atmosphere of the hotel, or retiring early to rest.

Day 26 Rotorua • Kiwi encounter • Maori village • Optional Canopy tour

- Destination: Rotorua
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Distinction Rotorua Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Depart for the National Kiwi Hatchery. While here, we learn from the staff about how the team breeds and raises baby kiwis, and witness adult kiwis—the national bird—in a specially-created environment. Kiwi comes from the Māori language and means “hidden bird.” One of only a few bird species with no tail feathers, they are now nearly extinct in the wild, which is why the nation has doubled down on conservation efforts, with Kiwi Hatchery teams across New Zealand.

Following our behind-the-scenes tour, we will depart for our hotel, stopping en-route to stroll through the Rotorua Lakefront and Government Gardens.

Then, we'll drive over to Ohinemutu, a Māori village on the shores of Lake Rotorua that is home to members of the Ngāti Whakaue tribe, who have been sharing their Maori heritage with visitors for more than 200 years. A resident of the community will accompany us on a stroll through the village, where we'll notice the intricate carvings on the outside

of the Marae, the community's meeting house, and gain a better understanding of the Maori way of life. We'll also see that the lakeside setting was chosen for its abundant geothermal energy, with hot water vents used for cooking, bathing, and heating. Then, our Maori host will join us for lunch at one of the local establishments owned and operated by Ngāti Whakaue.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: We'll return to our hotel, where the remainder of the afternoon is free for your own discoveries. Perhaps you will refresh during a soak in the thermal waters at a nearby spa. Or, if you choose to explore more of this lakeside city, ask your Trip Experience Leader for their favorite activities.

Or, you may join our optional Canopy Tour experience. We will depart the hotel on a shuttle to this tour. We will venture deep into the ancient New Zealand forest on swing bridges and ziplines to learn about flora and fauna from a personal resident guide. This company has an eco-focus, so we will also learn about their endeavors in regenerating the forest in the region.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: Yours to do as you wish.

Day 27 Explore Waimangu Volcanic Valley

- Destination: Rotorua
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Distinction Rotorua Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Rotorua is often called a thermal wonderland because of its volcanic activity. The region is replete with bubbling mud pools,

geothermal geysers, and steam vents—a place where it’s not at all unusual to spot the occasional small vapor stream rising from a crack in the pavement. Here, on the Volcanic Plateau, it simply comes with the territory.

We’ll drive via coach to the Waimangu Volcanic Valley, a relatively young geothermal site created by nearby Mount Tarawera’s last eruption in 1886. Upon arrival, we take a leisurely 1-hour hike alongside a local guide who will provide us with their insider knowledge of the landscape as we descend into the lush valley of green vegetation, pink silica terraces, and blue waters. We’ll discover the Inferno Crater, filled with brilliant turquoise water, and Frying Pan Lake, the world’s largest hot spring. Our small group will also embark on a cruise on Lake Rotomahana, where our captain explains more about the history of Rotorua and shows us more geothermal sites that aren’t accessible by land.

Lunch: At a local café.

Afternoon: Return to Rotorua, where the rest of your afternoon is free. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggested activities.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: This evening will be free to explore at your own pace. If you fancy dessert, perhaps you’ll savor some ice cream at Lady Jane’s Ice Cream Parlour, a local favorite, or join fellow travelers for a drink to recap your adventures in Rotorua.

Day 28 Explore Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari • Auckland

- Destination: Auckland
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Voco Auckland City Centre or similar

Activity Note: Today’s transfer by coach will take approximately 4.5 hours, with stops along the way.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We’ll begin our 4.5-hour journey to Auckland this morning. Along the way, we’ll stop at the Arapuni Suspension Bridge, stretching nearly 500-foot-long suspension bridge, and hangs over the Waikato River. We’ll have the opportunity to walk across the bridge and take in the views of our surroundings before we depart for a short drive to Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari, known locally as “The Maunga.” This conservation project aims to reintroduce endangered species and rare plants back into a controlled habitat that closely resembles a prehistoric environment. Covering more than 8,000 acres of land, this project has helped to grow the populations of rare tuatara lizards, endangered Hamilton’s frogs, long-tailed bats, and indigenous dactylanthus plants. Upon arrival, we’ll set off on a 1.5-hour guided bushwalk to learn more about the efforts to save these native species of flora and fauna.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: We’ll continue on to Auckland for another three hours. When we arrive, we’ll check into our hotel and set off on an orientation walk with our Trip Experience Leader.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: The evening is free for you to get acquainted with Auckland, the final city on our adventure “Down Under.”

Day 29 Auckland

- Destination: Auckland
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Voco Auckland City Centre or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Set off for a bus tour of the city. During this tour, we’ll learn about the early settlements of New Zealand, and the history and controversial issues confronting modern-day Maori. We’ll see sights like the Auckland Harbour Bridge, the Wynyard Quarter, Bastion Point, the Grafton Bridge, and the Auckland Domain. Our tour will conclude at the Auckland Waterfront, a popular area with bars and restaurants.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: The afternoon is yours to make your own discoveries. For real insights into Kiwi culture, perhaps you’ll check out the All Blacks Experience, where you can learn the

story of New Zealand’s legendary rugby team, test your skills against the mighty players, and experience the passion of the *haka*, the Maori ceremonial dance used to challenge opponents.

Later, we’ll regroup at the hotel to walk to the ferry terminal and head over to the seaside suburb of Devonport, located just outside Auckland, for dinner.

Dinner: We’ll reminisce about our New Zealand and Australia travel discoveries during a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant in Devonport.

Evening: You’ll have the freedom to make some final discoveries in Auckland tonight. Perhaps you’ll head back down to the waterfront to sip a cocktail in a bar or just relax at the hotel with your fellow travelers before tomorrow’s travel.

Day 30 Depart for U.S. • Begin optional post-trip extension

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We’ll transfer to the airport by coach for your flight home. If you are taking our *New Zealand’s Bay of Islands* post-trip extension, you’ll instead continue to your next destination.

END YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

4 nights in *New Zealand’s Bay of Islands*

Day 1 Arrive in Paihia

Day 2 Catamaran Cruise to Bay of Islands

Day 3 Tour Waitangi Treaty House

Day 4 Bay of Islands to Auckland

Day 5 Return to U.S.

OPTIONAL TOURS

During your trip you will be able to book optional tours directly with your Trip Experience Leader. He or she will ask you to confirm the payment for these tours by filling out a payment form. Optional tours can only be purchased with a credit or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards. We also accept Visa and MasterCard debit cards, but it must be a debit card that allows you to sign for purchases.

In order to correctly process these charges, there can be a delay of 2–3 months from the date of your return for the charges to be posted to your account. Therefore we ask that you use a card that will not expire in the 2–3 months following your return.

Please note: Optional tour prices are listed in U.S. dollar estimates determined at the time of publication and are subject to change. Optional tours may vary.

Healesville Sanctuary & Dandenong Ranges

(Day 5 \$210 per person)

The Healesville Sanctuary, a small wildlife refuge nestled in the lush landscapes of along the Watts Rivers, features animals only native to Australia. Our visit here will include a guided walking tours and perhaps opportunities to feed wildlife. Dandenong Ranges, a natural oasis located just an hour outside of Melbourne, offers visitors a tranquil escape from the bustling city with its fern gullies, mountain ash forests, quaint artists' villages, and unique gardens. While there, we'll wander through fern-blanketed glades and lush woodlands with a local guide.

Next, we'll ascend 2,077 feet above sea level to Dandenong's Sky High Lookout for a sweeping view of the region below.

Great Barrier Reef Helicopter Ride

(Day 12 \$135 per person)

Fly above the waves and enjoy the sweeping panorama of the Great Barrier Reef aboard a helicopter. You'll soar for 10 minutes, taking in incredible views of the cerulean waters and

colorful coral formations that make up this expansive aquatic wonder before rejoining your fellow travelers at sea level to participate in the activities of your included tour of the reef.

Best of Australia's Wildlife

(Day 13 \$145 per person)

On this half-day tour, you can discover the best of Australia's wildlife all in one place, from alligators, cassowaries, and wombat to koalas, emus, kangaroos, wallabies, and more. You'll also enjoy a boat cruise on Hartley's Lagoon to view crocodiles and other wildlife up close in a coastal wetland setting. There are numerous daily wildlife presentations, along with about 1.5 miles of timber boardwalks and pathways where you can explore on your own. Lunch is included at a beachfront restaurant in Palm Cove before returning to our hotel in Cairns. This optional tour also requires a minimum of six travelers.

Dart River Jet-boat Safari

(Day 24 \$195 per person)

On this half-day optional excursion, we'll explore the Dart River on jet-boats in Mount Aspiring National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We travel overland along the shores of Lake Wakatipu to Glenorchy, a frontier town at the base of the Southern Alps. Here we board a jet-boat for a journey across the lake with snowcapped mountain backdrops featured in *The Lord of the Rings*. On the return trip to Glenorchy, our driver will put our jet-boat through its paces, showing how it can make high-speed precision turns and 360-degree spins. Jet-boats were invented in New Zealand for shallow, braided rivers like the Dart, and this is a thrilling way to view some of the country's finest alpine scenery. After returning to Glenorchy we ride back to Queenstown.

Canopy Tour

(Day 26 \$131 per person)

Venturing deep into the ancient New Zealand forest, we'll walk on swing bridges and cruise on ziplines as we learn about flora and fauna from a personal resident guide, and discover how this eco-focused company has endeavored to regenerate the forest in this region.

PRE-TRIP

Undiscovered Tasmania: Hobart, Cradle Mountain & Launceston

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » Airfare from Launceston to Melbourne
- » 7 nights accommodation
- » 14 meals—7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 3 dinners
- » 5 small group activities
- » Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- » Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- » All transfers

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

One hundred and fifty miles off the southeastern coast of mainland Australia sits Tasmania—a land of pristine natural beauty with a history that is equally well-preserved. From charming Hobart to Cradle Mountain National Park, Australia’s only island state abounds with stunning scenery and vibrant culture.

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Depart the U.S. today on an overnight flight to Tasmania.

Day 2 Cross International Date Line

Continue on your journey to Tasmania. You lose a day as you cross the International Date Line and gain it back upon your return home.

Day 3 Arrive in Hobart, Tasmania, via Sydney or Melbourne, Australia

- Destination: Hobart, Tasmania
- Accommodations: Mantra Collins Hotel or similar

Activity Note: International flights from the U.S. will enter Australia in Sydney, Melbourne, or Brisbane with a connecting domestic to Hobart on the same day. If you are arranging

your own international airfare to Australia, you will need to arrange your own flight to Hobart, Tasmania where you will join your group.

Afternoon: We’ll arrive in Hobart from the Australian mainland by mid-afternoon and check in to our hotel.

We’ll then gather for a Welcome Briefing, and meet travelers who arrived early in Hobart before their pre-trip extension. Our Trip Experience Leader will also discuss logistics, safety and emergency procedures, and answer any questions we may have. We’ll then depart the hotel for an orientation walk, where your Trip Experience Leader will help you get to know the neighborhood around you.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: Due to the time difference and long travel times, you may want to retire to your room to get some sleep before we start exploring tomorrow.

Day 4 Explore Hobart • Visit Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary and Richmond

- Destination: Hobart
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Mantra Collins Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Set off on a 1-hour walking tour of historic Hobart. With the help of a local guide, we'll learn about Hobart's rich history as we tour the city center, Salamanca Place, and its surrounding areas. This rather small city is the capital of the Australian State of Tasmania, the largest offshore island in the country. It is a seaport where you are never far from the water, while on its landward side Mount Wellington rises more than 4,100 feet above the ocean's edge. Hobart has a fascinating blend of the "First Peoples," colonial, and maritime history that includes a wealth of Georgian architecture dating from its colonial period in the 1830s.

After our walking tour, we'll drive out to Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary. This is Tasmania's most popular wildlife park and a haven for injured and orphaned animals. Here, we may see species that are extinct everywhere but Tasmania, such as the eastern quoll, the Tasmanian pademelon, the shy Tasmanian bettong, and the famous Tasmanian devil. Then, we'll depart Bonorong and head to the historic town of Richmond.

We'll arrive in Richmond and have some time to explore historic Richmond Village, a picturesque locale that was once a military post and convict station that is home to many 19th-century buildings.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Upon arrival to our hotel, your afternoon is free for independent exploration in Hobart. You may wish to relax at the hotel, visit some of the nearby shops, head to the waterfront, or perhaps stroll through the lush landscapes and exotic plants of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

Dinner: Walk to a nearby local restaurant and get to know each other better during a Welcome Dinner.

Evening: This evening is also free to explore Hobart on your own or retire early to rest up before tomorrow's discoveries.

Day 5 Explore Hobart • Optional Port Arthur tour

- Destination: Hobart
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Mantra Collins Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: The day is yours to continue exploring Hobart on your own. Perhaps you'll visit the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. Or, maybe you'll join us for an optional tour of Port Arthur, one of Australia's most historic sites. A visit to Port Arthur is a must for anyone seeking a greater understanding of the history of Australia, as it played a significant role in the building of this island nation. Port Arthur served as a prison colony for Australia between 1830 and 1877 when some 12,000 convicts were confined here; in fact, a whole network of prisons once dominated the island. This was Australia's largest and most notorious prison colony. This full-day optional tour of Port Arthur will start by exploring the Visitor Center, where an interactive gallery will help explain much of the history of the penal colony.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: If you are not taking the optional tour, you have the afternoon free for your own discoveries. Maybe you'll visit the oldest operating brewery in Australia, Cascade Brewery, or discover the penal history of women at the Cascades Female Factory Historic Site. For those taking our optional tour, we'll take a guided walking tour that will bring us to some of the restored buildings and ruins that were part of the prison system. We'll also have some free time to stroll around the well-maintained grounds before returning to our hotel.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: You are free to explore Hobart on your own this evening or retire early to rest up before tomorrow's overland journey to Cradle Mountain.

Day 6 Hobart • Transfer to Cradle Mountain • Evening "Spotlighting" tour

- Destination: Cradle Mountain
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Cradle Mountain Hotel or similar

Activity Note: Our overland transfer today will take about 6.5 hours, with a stop for lunch on the way.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Set out for Cradle Mountain this morning. To break up our journey, we'll stop to visit Ross, a town awash with colonial charm and noted for a 19th-century bridge that was built to ford the Macquarie River. At the center of town, there is a famous crossroads known as the Four Corners of Ross, where one's soul can be led in four directions: temptation (the

Ross Hotel), salvation (the Catholic Church), recreation (the town hall) or damnation (the old jail).

Lunch: At a local restaurant in Deloraine, a charming town located on the banks of the Meander River.

Afternoon: Following lunch, we will continue our journey to Cradle Mountain. We will have a few hours to settle into our rooms and explore the surrounding area of Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair National Park.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: Tonight, we'll set off on an hour-long "spotlighting" tour where we'll spot wild nocturnal animals like wombats and wallabies during a nature drive.

Day 7 Explore Cradle Mountain National Park • Overland to Launceston

- Destination: Launceston
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Best Western Plus Launceston or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Enjoy some free time to explore Cradle Mountain National Park, part of Tasmania's World Heritage area. Cradle Mountain is Tasmania's best-known national park, and you will quickly see why. This is an area of lush natural vistas—high mountains towering over gorges and lakes, and with unusual wild moorlands that stretch for miles beyond the park. There are several excellent walking and hiking trails to choose from that will bring you close to the sights and sounds of the park. Once we arrive, we will have about three hours to explore all the park has to offer.

We'll then continue our journey to Launceston, with a stop in Sheffield, located near Mount Roland, along the way.

Lunch: At a local restaurant in Sheffield, known as the "Town of Murals" for the spectacular paintings that the town's history and landscape have inspired.

Afternoon: We'll arrive at our hotel in Launceston. You'll have the remainder of the afternoon to explore on your own.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: You're free to explore Launceston at your own pace, perhaps to visit some of the local shops, relax in your room, or enjoy a drink at the hotel's lounge with some fellow travelers.

Day 8 Explore Launceston • Platypus House Wildlife Center visit • Local winery lunch

- Destination: Launceston
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Best Western Plus Launceston or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: This morning we'll drive out to Platypus House for a guided tour of its platypus ponds. We'll have an opportunity to observe its duck-billed occupants playing and feeding and also visit the echidna (or spiny anteater) room. During our visit we'll learn how thousands of years of isolation have made Tasmanian varieties of the platypus biologically distinct from those on the mainland, making them among the most unique animals on Earth.

Lunch: At a local winery, where we share in a locally sourced gourmet platter accompanied by a tasting of its locally produced vintages while we enjoy the stunning cellar-door views of the surrounding Tamar Valley.

Afternoon: The remainder of the day is free to make your own discoveries.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Evening: Tonight, you are free to explore the charms of one of Tasmania's oldest cities at your own pace.

Day 9 Cataract Gorge Walk • Explore Launceston

- Destination: Launceston
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Best Western Plus Launceston or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Set off to explore Cataract Gorge in-depth. The Cataract Gorge was created by the flowing waters of the South Esk River, which over millennia have carved the rock. This is a slice of wilderness close to the heart of this Tasmanian city, giving travelers a unique opportunity to explore nature close by. We'll set out on foot into the gorge reserve, visiting King's Park and the King's Bridge, exploring the First Basin and its suspension bridge, viewing the decommissioned Duck Reach Power Station, and more.

Lunch: On your own in Cataract Gorge.

Afternoon: The remainder of the day is free to make your own discoveries. Perhaps you'll visit the Queen Victoria Art Gallery, a major destination for history, natural sciences, and visual arts or simply; or return to the hotel to relax if you wish.

Dinner: Sit down for an included Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant in Launceston, where you can toast to your Tasmanian discoveries.

Evening: Perhaps you'll spend your final evening in Tasmania exploring more of Launceston on your own.

Day 10 Fly to Melbourne • Begin main trip

- Destination: Melbourne
- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer by bus to the airport for our flight to Melbourne to begin our New Zealand and Australia travel experience. In Melbourne, we begin a new series of explorations and discoveries, arriving on Day 3 of *A South Pacific Odyssey: Australia, the Outback & New Zealand*.

OPTIONAL TOUR

Port Arthur

(Day 5 \$195 per person)

Spend the day exploring one of Australia's most historic sites. Port Arthur served as a prison colony for Australia between 1830 and 1877 when some 12,000 convicts were confined here; in fact, a whole network of prisons once dominated the island. Our tour starts at the Visitor Center, where an interactive gallery will help explain much of the history of this former penal colony. Then a guided walking tour will bring us to some of the restored buildings and ruins that were used as part of the prison system. Afterward, we'll enjoy a walk around the charming and well-maintained grounds, which offer great views of Pirates Bay and Eaglehawk Neck.

Please Note: This optional tour must be purchased on-site.

POST-TRIP

New Zealand's Bay of Islands

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » Overland transfer from Auckland to Paihia
- » 4 nights accommodation
- » 6 meals—4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 1 dinner
- » 3 small group activities
- » Services of a local O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader
- » Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- » All transfers

POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Discover New Zealand's exotic Bay of Islands—a historical crossroads of European and Maori cultures and a unique subtropical ecosystem. In this archipelago of nearly 150 islands, revel in the pristine natural environment and stunning coastal scenery as we cruise along crystal-clear turquoise waters, keeping watch for whales, dolphins, marlins, and penguins.

Day 1 Arrive in Paihia

- Destination: Paihia
- Included Meals: Dinner
- Accommodations: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Bay of Islands or similar

Activity Note: Today, our transfer from Auckland to Paihia will involve about a 4.5-hour bus ride, including stops along the way.

Morning: After bidding farewell to the rest of our group, we'll board our bus to begin our journey to Paihia in the Bay of Islands. We will make a quick stop in Orewa where we can take a stroll along the beach. After, we will arrive at Parry Kauri Park where we will walk on boardwalks under the shade of the mighty kauri tree, one of the world's largest and oldest trees.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: We will depart for Paihia with some more quick stops along the way, such as the Hundertwasser Toilets, a public toilet and international work of art. Once we arrive in Paihia, our Trip Experience Leader will lead a short orientation walk to introduce us to this quaint coastal town.

Dinner: Sit down with your fellow travelers for a Welcome Dinner at the hotel.

Evening: The evening is free for you to explore. From our hotel you can take a short stroll to the beach or take a taxi to the town center.

Day 2 Catamaran Cruise to Bay of Islands

- Destination: Paihia
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Bay of Islands or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Leave Paihia and explore the beauty of the Bay of Islands aboard a catamaran. Weather permitting, we make a passage through the naturally sculpted Hole in the Rock. We may spot local marine wildlife including dolphins, which inhabit these waters year-round, as well as seals, penguins, and even whales.

Our cruise will end at the peninsula town of Russell, New Zealand's first capital. Russell, a community with early ties to Europe, boasts many historic buildings such as the Christ Church, which is the oldest church in New Zealand.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: You're free to explore Russell on your own for the rest of the afternoon. We'll gather again later to take the ferry back to Paihia.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: The evening is yours to explore Paihia as you wish.

Day 3 Tour Waitangi Treaty House

- Destination: Paihia
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Bay of Islands or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Tour the historic grounds of the Waitangi Treaty House this morning. The house was originally built as a simple four-room cottage in 1834 but has been restored and altered several times since then. It was here that representatives of the British Crown and many leading Maori chiefs of the North and South islands signed the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. The Treaty is seen as the founding

document that transformed the homeland the Maori called Aotearoa into the nation of New Zealand. The Treaty Grounds include period homes and a war canoe so large it is capable of carrying more than 80 warriors.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: You have the afternoon free to continue exploring this delightful seaside area. You can choose to visit a museum, browse a bookstore, or just savor the quiet nature of a local walk. Outdoor activities include kayaking, snorkeling, golf, and swimming in the surf on one of the spectacular beaches. You can also follow one of the many enticing walking trails that lead you to views that will encourage you to linger.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: You're free to unwind after the day's activities, or relax with your fellow travelers in the common areas.

Day 4 Bay of Islands to Auckland

- Destination: Auckland
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Rydges Auckland Hotel or similar

Activity Note: Our bus transfer today will take about 5 hours, with a stop for lunch on the way.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We depart our hotel and head back to Auckland today.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: We'll arrive back in Auckland late this afternoon where you can enjoy time on your own.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Evening: You are free to make your own discoveries in Auckland, spend time with your fellow travelers at the hotel, or retire to your room to relax before tomorrow's departure.

Day 5 Return to U.S.

- Destination: U.S.
- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Enjoy time to rest or explore on your own in Auckland.

Lunch: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

Afternoon: The afternoon is free for your own discoveries. Later, we'll reconvene and depart for the airport, where you'll catch your flight back to the U.S.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Your Passport

- Must be in good condition
- Must be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S.
- Must have the required number of blank pages (details below)
- The blank pages must be labeled “Visas” at the top. Pages labeled “Amendments and Endorsements” are not acceptable

Need to Renew Your Passport?

Contact the National Passport Information Center (NPIC) at **1-877-487-2778**, or visit the U.S. Department of State’s official website at **www.travel.state.gov** for information on obtaining a new passport or renewing your existing passport. The U.S. Department of State allows for passport renewal by mail or, for applicable citizens, renewal online. We advise you review the process and requirements for online passport renewal on the official website.

You may also contact our recommended visa service company, PVS International, at **1-800-556-9990** for help with your passport.

Recommended Blank Pages

Please confirm that your passport has enough blank pages for this vacation.

- **Main trip only:** You will need 3 blank passport pages
- **Pre-trip extension to Tasmania:** No additional pages needed.
- **Post-trip extension to Bay of Islands:** No additional pages needed.
- **Stopover in Bangkok:** You will need to add 2 additional pages to the applicable total listed above.
- **Stopover in Denpasar, Hong Kong, or Seoul:** You will need to add an additional page to the applicable total listed above.

Visas Required

We’ll be sending you a detailed Visa Packet with instructions, application forms, and fees about 100 days prior to your departure. In the meantime, we’re providing the information below as a guideline on what to expect. *This info is for U.S. citizens only. All visas and fees are subject to change.*

- **Australia (base and pre-trip extensions): An Australian Electronic Authority (ETA) is required.** You must obtain the ETA via the Australian government’s app, Australian ETA. This app is available for download on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Note that this is a digital process only and you will not receive a label or sticker in your passport.

- **New Zealand: A New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA) is required.** Note that this is a digital process only—you must apply online or via an app (we will send instructions), and you will not receive a visa sticker in your passport. In addition, all travelers should bring an extra copy of their air itinerary on the trip in case local officials ask for it at Passport Control.
- **Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, and Hong Kong (optional stopovers only): No visas required.** A visa is not required for U.S. citizens for stays of 30 days or less.

Traveling Without a U.S. Passport?

If you are not a U.S. citizen, or if your passport is from any country other than the U.S., it is your responsibility to check with your local consulate, embassy, or a visa services company about visa requirements. We recommend the services of PVS International, a national visa service located in Washington D.C.; they can be reached at **1-800-556-9990** or **www.pvsinternational.org**.

Traveling With a Minor?

Some governments may require certain documentation for minors to enter and depart the country or to obtain a visa (if applicable). For further detail on the required documentation, please contact your local embassy or consulate.

Emergency Photocopies of Key Documents

We recommend you carry color photocopies of key documents including the photo page of your passport plus any applicable visas, air itinerary, credit cards (front and back), and an alternative form of ID. Add emergency phone numbers like your credit card company and the number for your travel protection plan. Store copies separate from the originals.

If you plan to email this information to yourself, please keep in mind that email is not always secure; consider using password protection or encryption. Also email is not always available worldwide. As an alternative, you could load these documents onto a flash drive instead, which can do double-duty as a place to backup photos during your trip.

Overseas Taxes & Fees

This tour may have taxes and fees that cannot be included in your airline ticket price because you are required to pay them in person onsite. All taxes are subject to change without notice and can be paid in cash (either U.S. or local currency). If applicable, you will receive a list of these fees with your Final Documents.

Flight Itinerary for Entry to New Zealand

You will need to bring an extra copy of your flight itinerary for New Zealand in case local officials ask for it at Passport Control.

- **If you purchased airfare as part of your trip,** we will give you an extra copy of your flight itinerary in your Final Documents booklet for this purpose.

- **If you made your own international air arrangements**, you'll need to bring your own copy of your air itinerary and ticket numbers with you on the trip.

RIGORS, VACCINES & GENERAL HEALTH

Is This Adventure Right for You?

Please review the information below prior to departing on this adventure. We reserve the right for our Trip Experience Leaders to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their condition would adversely affect the health, safety, or enjoyment of themselves or of other travelers.

PACING

- 11 locations in 28 days with two 1-night stays; 6 internal flights of 1-4 hours each; 6 drives of 4-8 hours
- International flights from Los Angeles to Melbourne depart around midnight, losing one day en route as you cross the International Date Line, regained on the return trip

Please note: *Due to the length, location changes, long land transfers, distances covered, and both internal and international flights, this is a particularly challenging trip.*

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Not appropriate for travelers using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids; agility required for embarking boats
- You must be able to walk 2-3 miles unassisted and participate in 4-6 hours of physical activities each day
- Some walks may be in areas of high heat and humidity in Australia and snow and cool temperatures in New Zealand
- We reserve the right for Trip Experience Leaders to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience
- You may encounter animals on this trip. We make every effort to keep these encounters safe, however animals may behave unpredictably or dangerously at times. Please use caution when interacting with animals on this trip: Keep a safe distance, stay alert, and respect the animals

CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures range from 40-100°F
- Northern Australia is warm and humid, and temperatures in the Outback can exceed 100°F during the day, and drop dramatically at night
- New Zealand's climate is temperate and weather conditions change quickly

TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- We'll travel over city streets on foot, with occasional uphill walks along uneven glacial and rocky mountain terrain, sandy beaches, and rugged Outback trails
- Travel by 21-passenger minibus (no toilet onboard) and 20-120 passenger boats
- 1 overland drive 7.5 hours long in Australia; 5 overland drives 4-8 hours long in New Zealand; 6 internal flights of up to 4 hours each
- 3 cruises of 1.5-3 hours, one 7-hour cruise to the Reef

FLIGHT INFORMATION

- Travel time will be 19-27 hours
- International flights from Los Angeles to Melbourne depart around midnight, losing one day en route as you cross the International Date Line, regained on the return trip
- Airport transfers in Melbourne take approximately 1 hour

ACCOMMODATIONS & FACILITIES

- Hotel rooms are smaller than those in the U.S., offer simple amenities, and feature private baths
- The private tented camp uses shared restroom facilities within walking distance from the tents
- Twin rooms in South Pacific are usually two single beds. Double rooms in South Pacific are usually a Queen size, but is dependent on the location
- Some hotels and the private tented camp do not have air conditioning

Steps to Take Before Your Trip

Before you leave on this adventure, we recommend the following:

- Check with the CDC for their recommendations for the countries you'll be visiting. You can contact them online at **www.cdc.gov/travel** or by phone at **1-800-232-4636**.
- Have a medical checkup with your doctor at least 6 weeks before your trip.
- Pick up any necessary medications, both prescription and over-the-counter.
- Have a dental and/or eye checkup. (Recommended, but less urgent)

No Vaccines Required

Recommended Vaccines

Please note, New Zealand's Ministry of Health is currently advising those with travel plans to Auckland to make sure they have been vaccinated against measles prior to commencing travel (although this is not a requirement for entry). You very likely have already had this vaccine in the past, but we recommend confirming this with your doctor. Should your doctor recommend you get the vaccine, please be aware that it takes two weeks to become effective.

Medication Suggestions

- An antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness
- Prescription pain medication in the unlikely event of an injury in a remote location

Traveling with Medications

- **Pack medications in your carry-on bag** to avoid loss and to have them handy.
- **Keep medicines in their original, labeled containers** for a quicker security screen at the airport and a better experience if you get stopped by customs while overseas.
- **Bring copies of your prescriptions**, written using the generic drug name rather than a brand name to be prepared for any unforeseen loss of your medications.

We recommend checking with the State Department for medication restrictions by country: **travel.state.gov** (Go to "Find International Travel Information", select "Country Information", then enter the country into the search bar; if you don't see any medications specifically mentioned under the "Health" section, then you can presume major U.S. brands should be OK).

Staying Healthy on Your Trip

Jet Lag Tips

- Start your trip well-rested.
- Begin a gradual transition to your new time zone before you leave or switch to your destination time zone when you get on the plane.
- Attempt to sleep and eat according to the new schedule.
- Avoid heavy eating and drinking caffeine or alcoholic beverages right before—and during—your flight.
- Drink plenty of water and/or fruit juice while flying
- Stretch your legs, neck, and back periodically while seated on the plane.
- After arrival, avoid the temptation to nap.
- Don't push yourself to see a lot on your first day.

- Try to stay awake your first day until after dinner.

Allergies

If you have any serious allergies or dietary restrictions, we advise you to notify us at least 30 days prior to your departure. Please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**, and we will communicate them to our regional office. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.

Water

- Australia and New Zealand are healthy places, but it still pays to take care in what you eat and drink.
- Tap water is safe to drink but always beware of natural stream water.
- Take a bottle of water with you on outdoor excursions to stay hydrated.

Food

- Food in Australia and New Zealand should not really cause any health problems—salads, fruit, and dairy products are fine.
- Be careful with food that has been cooked and left to go cold, which might happen in some self-service places.

Sun Exposure & Insects

The sun is stronger in Australia and New Zealand than it is in most of the U.S., so the effect of intense sunlight is an important health consideration. Be prepared with sunblock (SPF 50 or higher), sunglasses, a hat or other head covering, and lightweight loose-fitting clothing for covering up even when it is warm.

Using insect repellent is advisable while you are out in the bush during the warmer months (November through April), especially in tropical northern Australia, or in southern New Zealand. Also, a head net is advisable for Ayers Rock in the summer due to the number of flies; this can be purchased in Australia or brought from home.

MONEY MATTERS: LOCAL CURRENCY & TIPPING GUIDELINES

Top Three Tips

- **Carry a mix of different types of payments**, such as local currency, an ATM card, and a credit card.
- **Traveler's checks are not recommended.** They can be difficult to exchange and are rarely accepted in shops and restaurants.
- **You will not be able to pay with U.S. dollars on this trip;** you will need local currency.

Local Currency

For current exchange rates, please refer to an online converter tool like www.xe.com/currencyconverter, your bank, or the financial section of your newspaper.

Australia: Australian Dollar (AUD)

New Zealand: New Zealand Dollar (NZD)

How to Exchange Money

If you want to exchange money before your trip, you can usually do so through your bank or at an exchange office. Your departure airport in the U.S., a travel agent, or an AAA office are also possible outlets. Or you can wait and change money on the trip instead—but it might be helpful to arrive with some local currency in case you run into a bank holiday or an “out of order” ATM.

On your trip, the easiest way is to withdraw funds from a local ATM. The ATM will give you local money and your bank at home will convert that into U.S. dollars.

You can also exchange cash at some hotels, large post offices, and money exchange offices. To exchange cash, you'll usually need your passport and bills in good condition (not worn, torn, or dirty). New bills (post 2004) are best. Never exchange money on the street. All exchange methods involve fees, which may be built into the conversion rate; ask beforehand.

ATMs

When using the ATM, keep in mind that it may only accept cards from local banks, and may not allow cash advances on credit cards; you might need to try more than one ATM or more than one card.

Many banks charge a fee of \$1–\$10 each time you use a foreign ATM. Others may charge you a percentage of the amount you withdraw. We recommend that you check with your bank before you depart.

Lastly, don't forget to memorize the actual digits of your card's PIN number (many keypads at foreign ATMs do not include letters on their keys—they only display numbers.)

In most countries, ATMs are widely available in major cities. If you are in a rural location, it will likely be harder to find an ATM.

Australia: ATMs are widely available throughout large cities and small towns in Australia.

New Zealand: ATMs are widely available throughout large cities and small towns in New Zealand.

Credit & Debit Cards

While traveling, most countries and major cities will accept credit cards. Even if you don't plan on using a credit card during your trip, we still suggest that you bring one or two as a backup, especially if you are planning a large purchase (artwork, jewelry). We also suggest that you bring more than one brand of card (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, American Express) if possible, because not every shop will take every card. For example, although Discover and American Express cards are accepted in some countries outside the U.S., they are not widely adopted, so other brands will work at a much larger range of stores, restaurants, etc.

If you are visiting a country that does not commonly accept credit cards, they will be listed below.

Australia: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted throughout Australia. Some establishments may charge additional fees for credit card payments. Australian shops and banks use PIN-based and Tap and Go credit card systems. You may be able to authorize a payment by signature if your card was issued by an overseas provider, but this is becoming rare. A PIN is usually required so keeping varied payment options available makes sense.

New Zealand: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted throughout New Zealand, though American Express and Diners Club may be more limited than some of the other majors credit card providers (such as MasterCard or Visa). Some hotels may charge additional fees for credit card payments on supplementary charges (such as bar bills, room service, etc.). New Zealand shops and banks use a PIN-based credit card systems. Depending on your credit card provider, you may or may not need a PIN to use your card. Please consult your credit card provider for more details.

Notify Card Providers of Upcoming Travel

Many credit card companies and banks have fraud alert departments that will freeze your card if they see suspicious charges—such as charges or withdrawals from another country. To avoid an accidental security block, it is a good idea to notify your credit card company and/or bank you will be using your cards abroad. You can do this by calling their customer service number a week or two before your departure. Some banks or credit card companies will also let you do this online.

You should also double-check what phone number you could call if you have a problem with a card while you are abroad. Don't assume you can use the 1-800 number printed on the back of your card—most 1 800 numbers don't work outside of the U.S.!

Tipping Guidelines

Of course, whether you tip, and how much, is always at your own discretion. But for those of you who have asked for tipping suggestions, we offer these guidelines:

- **O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader:** It is customary to express a personal “thank you” to your Trip Experience Leader at the end of your trip. As a guideline, many travelers give \$10–\$14 USD (or equivalent in local currency) per person for each day their Trip Experience Leader is with them. *Please note that these tips can only be in cash. If you are taking any of the optional extensions, your Trip Experience Leader during the extension(s) may not be the same as the one on your main trip.*
- **Reminder about Trip Experience Leaders:** On this adventure, you’ll have the services of two Trip Experience Leaders. A resident Aussie Trip Experience Leader will be with you in Australia, and then a resident New Zealand Trip Experience Leader will take over during the time in New Zealand. This means that if you do choose to tip, each Trip Experience Leader would be tipped for the number of days you spend with him or her, not the length of the whole trip.
- **Waiters:** Restaurants do not generally add a service charge. It is common practice in Australia to tip approximately 10% of the bill for good service. However, this is at your discretion, and not expected by the staff. In New Zealand, it is not customary to tip but you may choose to leave a 10% tip if you have outstanding service.
- **Taxi drivers:** If you are taking a taxi by yourself, keep in mind tipping is not common practice, but many people simply let the driver keep the change by rounding up the fare to the next whole number.
- **Included in Your Trip Price:** Gratuities are included for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters on your main trip, extensions, and all optional tours.

Please note: For your convenience, tips to O.A.T. staff can be paid in U.S. dollars or local currency (Australian dollars or New Zealand dollars). Tips to non-O.A.T. staff—waiters, taxi drivers, etc.—should be in local currency. Please do not use personal or traveler’s checks for tips.

AIR, OPTIONAL TOURS & STAYING IN TOUCH

Land Only Travelers & Personalized Air

Quick Definitions

- **Land Only:** You will be booking your own international flights. Airport transfers are not included.
- **Air-Inclusive:** You booked international air with us. Airport transfers are included as long as you didn't customize your trip's dates (see next bullet).
- **Arrive Early or Stopover (select adventures only):** If you chose one of these Personalization options and purchased air through O.A.T, accommodations and airport transfers are included. However, if you chose one of our Personalization options, but did not purchase air through O.A.T., accommodations are included, but airport transfers are not. If you chose one of our Personalization options, and purchase air through O.A.T. but not the accommodations, the airport transfers are not included. We have included transfer options below.
- **Personalization on Your Own:** If you have not purchased air through O.A.T. and decided to arrive early, stay longer, or stop in a connecting city on your own, you are responsible for airport transfers and accommodations. For your convenience, a preliminary list of your included hotels is available on your My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner under "My Reservations" to help you with selecting a hotel for your additional time.

Air Inclusive Travelers

If you have purchased international air with us, there are some points that may be helpful for you to know.

- **U.S. Departure:** If you are among a group of ten or more travelers who depart the U.S. from your international gateway city, it is our goal to have an O.A.T. Representative assist you at the U.S. airport with the check-in of your flight. Unless there are extenuating circumstances beyond our control, the Representative will be at the check-in counter three hours before your departure time. If you are flying domestically before your international flight, the representative will be stationed at the check-in counter for your departing international flight, not at the domestic arrival gate.
- **U.S. Return:** If you are among a group of ten or more travelers who return to the same U.S. gateway city, an O.A.T. Representative will meet you as you exit Customs and help you find taxis, buses, hotel accommodations, or connecting flights. Again, it is our goal to have our Representative waiting to assist your group. In rare instances, unforeseen circumstances may prevent this service.

- **Flying with a Travel Companion:** If you're traveling with a companion from a different household, and both of you are beginning and ending your trip at the same airport on the same dates, let us know you'd like to travel together and we'll make every effort to arrange this (please note, however, that this is not always possible). If you request any changes to your flights, please be sure that both you and your companion tell us that you still want to fly together.
- **Selecting Your Seats:** If your airline allows pre-assigned seats, you will be able to select and view them directly from the airline's website after booking. Some airlines will not allow seat confirmation until your reservation is ticketed 45–30 days prior to departure, and/or they may charge a nominal fee. You may locate your itinerary on an airline's website utilizing the Record Locator Number found on the Air Itinerary in your My Planner.

Airport Transfers Can Be Purchased

For eligible flights, airport transfers may be purchased separately as an optional add-on, subject to availability. To be eligible, your flight(s) must meet the following requirements:

- You must fly into or fly home from the same airport as O.A.T. travelers who purchased included airfare.
- Your flight(s) must arrive/depart on the same day that the group arrives or departs.
- If you are arriving early, you must have arranged the hotels through our Arrive Early personalization option

Airport transfers can be purchased up to 45 days prior to your departure; they are not available for purchase onsite. To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**.

If you don't meet the requirements above, you'll need to make your own transfer arrangements. We suggest the Rome to Rio website as a handy resource: www.rome2rio.com

Optional Tours

Optional tours are additional add-on tours that allow you to personalize your adventure by tailoring it to your tastes and needs. And if you decide not to join an optional tour? Then you'll have free time to relax or explore on your own—it's about options, not obligations.

What You Need to Know

- All optional tours are subject to change and availability.
- Optional tours that are reserved with your Trip Experience Leader can be paid for using credit/debit cards only. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards; we can also take MasterCard or Visa debit cards as long as the card allows you to sign for purchases. (You won't be able to enter a PIN.)

- To ensure that you are charged in U.S. dollars, your payment will be processed by our U.S. headquarters in Boston. This process can take up to three months, so we ask that you only use a card that will still be valid three months after your trip is over. The charge may appear on your credit card statement as being from Boston, MA or may be labeled as “OPT Boston”.
- Your Trip Experience Leader will give you details on the optional tours while you’re on the trip. But if you’d like to look over descriptions of them earlier, you can do so at any time by referring to your Day-to-Day Itinerary (available online by signing into My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner).

Communicating with Home from Abroad

Cell Phones

If you want to use your cell phone on the trip, check with your phone provider to see if your phone and service will work outside of the U.S. It may turn out to be cheaper to rent an international phone or buy a SIM card onsite. If you want to use a local SIM, just make certain your phone can accept one.

Calling Apps

We recommend you use WhatsApp while abroad to communicate home and with your Trip Experience Leader while onsite. You will need a Wi-Fi connection if you do not have international coverage. Other calling options include smartphone apps such as Skype or FaceTime. You will need a Wi-Fi connection for these apps and the calls may count towards your phone plan’s data allowance. Many smartphones—and some tablets or laptops—come with one of these apps pre-installed or you can download them for free from the appropriate apps store.

Calling Cards and 1-800 Numbers

When calling the U.S. from a foreign country, a prepaid calling card can be useful because it circumvents unexpected charges from the hotel. Calling cards purchased locally are typically the best (less expensive, more likely to work with the local phones, etc.).

One reminder: Do not call U.S. 1-800 numbers outside the continental United States. This can result in costly long distance fees, since 1-800 numbers do not work outside the country.

Internet

Many hotels in Australia will offer some sort of complimentary WiFi, while others will charge approx \$20–25 AUD for 24 hours. Keep in mind that many places limit the amount of usage, even if you pay extra for internet access, so you may not be able to stream videos or other high-usage content. In New Zealand, Internet speeds are comparable to the U.S. but hotels may charge for a high-speed connection. Generally travelers report that they have enough WiFi to keep in touch with folks back at home without having to buy an expensive package from their service provider.

How to Call Overseas

When calling overseas from the U.S., dial 011 for international exchange, then the country code (indicated by a plus sign: +), and then the number. Note that foreign phone numbers may not have the same number of digits as U.S. numbers; even within a country the number of digits can vary depending on the city and if the phone is a land line or cell phone.

Australia: +61

New Zealand: +64

PACKING: WHAT TO BRING & LUGGAGE LIMITS

Luggage Limits

MAIN TRIP LIMITS	
Pieces per person	One checked bag and one carry-on per person.
Weight restrictions	Varies by airline. The current standard is 50 lbs for checked bags and 15 lbs for carry-ons .
Size Restrictions	Varies by airline. Measured in linear inches (<i>length+width+depth</i>). Generally, 62 linear inches is the checked bag limit; carry-on limit is 45 linear inches . <i>These sizes are OK if the weight limit is followed.</i>
Luggage Type	A soft-sided suitcase is preferred.
TRIP EXTENSION(S) LIMITS	
Same as main trip.	

REMARKS/SUGGESTIONS

Luggage rules: Luggage rules and limits are set by governmental and airline policy. Enforcement of the rules may include spot checks or may be inconsistent. However one thing is the same across the board: If you are found to have oversized or overweight luggage, you will be subject to additional fees, to be assessed by—and paid to—the airline in question.

Size restriction: Some of Australia's domestic airlines have size restrictions on suitcases as well as weight limits. For example, both Qantas Airlines and Virgin Australia state that your suitcase should not be more 54 linear inches total. This is a bit smaller than the largest suitcase most U.S. airlines allow (62 linear inches). In practice, this size restriction is rarely enforced as long as you do not go over the weight limit. Therefore, you can bring a U.S.-sized suitcase on this adventure, but if you do so, we strongly recommend that you stay within the weight limit.

TIP from our regional office: Our staff in the South Pacific have found that the airlines in New Zealand and Australia can be surprisingly strict about enforcing weight limits. There have been incidences of travelers being asked to re-pack their suitcase at the airport. While you might be able "to get away with" more, we encourage you to stay within the limit whenever possible.

Luggage handling: On arrival, you must pass through immigration/passport control and then take your luggage off the baggage carousel and load it onto a complimentary cart, which you then move through customs. When you exit customs, your driver will load your luggage onto your coach. You will need to handle your own luggage at all airports. Porterage at all hotels is provided for one bag per person.

Don't Forget:

- **These luggage limits may change.** If the airline(s) notify us of any changes, we will include an update in your Final Documents booklet.
- It's a good idea to reconfirm baggage restrictions and fees directly with the airline a week or so prior to departure. For your convenience, we maintain a list of the toll-free numbers for the most common airlines on our website in the FAQ section.
- **Baggage fees are not included in your trip price;** they are payable directly to the airlines.
- The luggage limits above are based on your regional flights, which may be less than your international flights. Even if your international airline offers a larger weight limit, you will need to pack according to the lower restrictions.

Your Luggage

- **Checked Luggage:** One soft-sided suitcase. Look for one with heavy nylon fabric, wrap-around handles, built-in wheels, and a heavy duty lockable zipper. Due to loading procedures, we prefer soft-sided suitcases.

- **Carry-on Bag:** You are allowed one carry-on bag per person. We suggest a tote or small backpack that can be used as both a carry-on bag for your flight and to carry your daily necessities—water bottle, camera, etc—during your daily activities.
- **Locks:** For flights that originate in the U.S., you can either use a TSA-approved lock or leave your luggage unlocked. Outside of the U.S. we strongly recommend locking your luggage as a theft-prevention measure.

Clothing Suggestions: Functional Tips

As you will experience a wide range of temperatures and weather conditions, we suggest several layers of clothing. If you like to hand-wash your clothes, look for fabrics that will dry out overnight. You can buy clothing designed especially for travel, with features like wrinkle-resistant fabric or built-in sun protection.

- **Laundry:** You will have access to laundry service at most hotels during your trip. (As hotels are subject to change, the facilities are not listed here; please refer to your Trip Experience Leader for details.)
- **Warm clothes for the year-round volatile weather in the South Island:** “Be prepared” is the best maxim for travel to the South Island, where every kind of weather imaginable is possible—all within one day! Cold, wet weather is more likely to occur near the island’s Southern Alps, where there may even be some snow. Winter lasts from May through September, but all the elements of that season—ice, hail, snow, sleet—can happen any time of year. An insulated jacket with hood (preferably waterproof), fleece pullover or wool sweater, gloves, and waterproof shoes are recommended for your comfort. Your outer jacket should be roomy enough to comfortably fit over your sweater or fleece top. Since spurts of very warm weather are equally common, dress in layers so you can easily adjust to any sudden temperature shifts.
- **Footwear:** You’ll be on your feet a lot during the trip, and walking over some rough and slippery surfaces. Look for shoes with excellent ventilation as well as arch and ankle support. Sport sandals, boating shoes, or beach footwear are useful in some locations like Sydney beaches.

Style Hints

- Australia and New Zealand are essentially sportswear countries, with dress on our trip being functional and casual.
- Don’t forget a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses for protection against the sun. Good walking shoes are a must.
- Smart casual clothing is accepted wear for Sydney Opera House performances.

Suggested Packing Lists

We have included suggestions from Trip Experience Leaders and former travelers to help you pack. These packing lists are only jumping-off points—they offer recommendations based on experience, but not requirements. We recommend using www.weather.com and consulting the “Climate” chapter of this handbook.

And don’t forget a reusable water bottle—you’ll need it to take advantage of any refills we offer as we are working to eliminate single-use plastic bottles on all of our trips.

Recommended Clothing

- ☐ Shirts: A mixture of short and long-sleeved shirts in a breathable fabric, like cotton or cotton-blend. Polo shirts are more versatile than T-shirts.
- ☐ Trousers and/or jeans: Comfortable and loose fitting is best.
- ☐ Include one or two changes of smart casual clothing for restaurant dining
- ☐ Walking shorts for summer (summer in the Southern hemisphere is winter in the U.S)
- ☐ Shoes and socks: Comfortable walking/ running shoes or low-cut hiking shoes, with arch support.
- ☐ Wide-brim sun hat or visor for sun protection
- ☐ Warm rain jacket or lined windbreaker with hood
- ☐ Light cotton or wool sweater, as motor coach air conditioning can be cold
- ☐ Warm clothing for the South Island – see “Functional Tips” for details
- ☐ Underwear and sleepwear
- ☐ Swimsuit

Essential Items

- ☐ Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, etc. Our hotels will provide the basics like soap and shampoo, but if you are sensitive to fragrances or new products, you may wish to bring your preferred brands.
- ☐ Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Sunscreen, SPF 50 or stronger

- ☐ Insect repellent with DEET (35% strength) – can also be purchased in Australia or New Zealand
- ☐ Light folding umbrella
- ☐ Moisturizer and sun-blocking lip balm
- ☐ Pocket-size tissues
- ☐ Moist towelettes and/or anti-bacterial hand cleanser
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Electrical transformer & plug adapters
- ☐ Camera gear with extra batteries or battery charger
- ☐ Trekking poles (optional)

Medicines & First Aid Gear

- ☐ Your own prescription medicines
- ☐ Travel first aid kit: Band-Aids, headache and pain relief, laxatives and anti-diarrhea tablets, something for upset stomach. Maybe a cold remedy, moleskin foot pads, antibiotic cream, or allergy medication.
- ☐ An antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness
- ☐ Optional: A strong prescription pain medication for rare emergency purposes

TIP: *If you forget something, or run out of space, many of the basics listed above—daily toiletries, insect repellent, moisturizer, lip balm, moist towelettes—can be purchased in Australia or New Zealand. So can many of the over-the counter medicines that follow.*

Home-Hosted Visits

Many of our adventures feature a visit with a local family, often as part of the *A Day in the Life* experience. It is customary, though not necessary, to return your hosts' generosity with a small gift. If you do bring a gift, we recommend that you bring something the whole family can enjoy, or something that represents your region, state, or hometown. Get creative and keep it small—peach jelly from Georgia, maple sugar candy from New England, orange blossom soap from California; something that can be used or used up is best. When choosing a gift, be certain to consider the local culture as well. For example, we do not recommend alcohol in Muslim countries because it is forbidden in Islam, and your hosts may be religious. Not all O.A.T. adventures include a Home-Hosted Visit; please check your final itinerary before you depart.

Electricity Abroad

When traveling overseas, the voltage is usually different and the plugs might not be the same shape.

Voltage

Electricity at hotels in Australia and New Zealand is 230–240 volts. In the U.S. it is 110 volts. Most of the things a traveler will want to plug in—battery chargers, smartphones, tablets or computers—can run off both 110 and 220–240. But you should check the item or the owner’s guide first to confirm this before you plug it in. Plugging a 110V U.S. appliance into 220/240V 50/60Hz service will ruin the motor. If you have something that needs 110 volts—like a shaver or a hairdryer—you can bring a transformer to change the current. (But transformers tend to burn out, so it might be better to leave whatever it is at home.)

Plugs

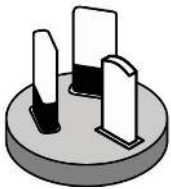
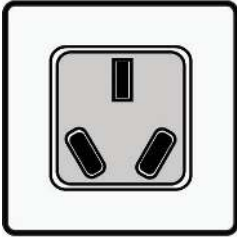
The shape of plugs will vary from country to country, and sometimes even within a country depending on when that building was built. To plug something from the U.S. into a local socket you’ll need an adapter that fits between the plug and the socket. Although you will only need one type of plug on this trip, it may be easier to purchase an all-in-one, universal adapter/converter combo. Versatile and lightweight, these can usually be found at your local electronics goods or hardware stores. Sometimes you can buy them at large retailers too, like Target or Walmart. If you forget to bring an adapter, you might also find them for sale at the airport when you arrive at your destination.

Different plug shapes are named by letters of the alphabet. Standard U.S. plugs are Type A and Type B. Here is the list of plugs for the countries on this trip:

Australia: I (some may not have a grounding pin)

New Zealand: I (some may not have a grounding pin)

Type I



Availability

Barring the occasional and unpredictable power outage, electricity is as readily available on this adventure as it is in the U.S.

CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Melbourne, Australia: These cities are in the temperate zone. As a result, temperatures are generally in the 50s–70s throughout the year, although highs in the 80s are common in summer and lows in the 40s are normal in the winter. Occasionally, heat waves will spike the highs up even more—to as much as 100 degrees—but this is the exception, rather than the rule. Rainfall can occur at any time of year. Snow is fairly rare, but can happen in Melbourne. Melbourne is also subject to a “bay effect” which causes sudden temperature drops and rainstorms, especially in spring and summer.

Alice Springs, Australia: Located in the desert outback, Alice Springs is generally hot and dry. Daytime highs will be roughly 10 degrees higher than other cities we visit—so if it is a pleasant 80 degrees in Melbourne or Sydney, expect 90 degrees in Alice Springs. Nighttime lows can also be more severe compared to other cities. The desert doesn’t retain heat well, so lows in the 50s are common, even if it was very hot earlier that day. In winter, lows can dip down into the 30s and 40s. Heat waves are more common here than other parts of the country—and more extreme—with temperatures of 110 degrees or even more. On the plus side, there is very little rainfall.

New Zealand: The winter season runs from May to September, but since weather in New Zealand is changeable throughout the year, especially in the South Island, all types of weather conditions can occur during any season. All months are at least moderately wet; though extended periods of settled, sunny weather can occur at any time of the year. Overall, the country has more sunshine than might be expected in such a variable climate. Weather conditions on the milder North Island differ from those on the tempestuous South Island.

- **North Island:** The northern region of New Zealand and its eastern coast tend to be sunnier and drier than the southern half of the country. While snow can occur almost anywhere at sea level in New Zealand, it is very rare in the extreme north of the North Island. Here the climate is almost subtropical with gentle winters and warm, humid summers. Rain is quite frequent in the northern part of the North Island and you should come prepared with adequate rain gear. Temperatures become cooler as you move south toward New Zealand’s second major island.
- **South Island:** Known as the South Pacific’s “Gateway to Antarctica,” the South Island is equally famous for its unpredictable weather shifts. At any time of year, it’s not unusual for a day to start with bright sunlight, turn to wind-driven rain, intensify to snow and sleet, and then miraculously go back to dazzling sunshine. Temperatures may soar into the 80s and 90s, then plummet into the 40s and 30s, all within a few hours.

Tasmania, Australia: Overall, Tasmania’s climate is similar to the Atlantic Seaboard in the U.S.—mild in spring and fall, warm and humid in the summer, and cold in winter. Snowfall is mostly in the mountains, although towns like Hobart and Launceston might get a dusting every now and then.

NOTE: If you are taking one of our optional stopovers before or after your OAT adventure, please be aware the climate and temperatures might be different from what you experienced during your tour. To prepare for weather differences and pack appropriate clothing, we recommend the following world weather sites:

- www.intellicast.com
- www.weather.com
- www.wunderground.com

Climate Averages & Online Forecast

The following charts reflect the **average** climate as opposed to exact weather conditions. This means they serve only as general indicators of what can reasonably be expected. An extreme heat wave or cold snap could fall outside these ranges. As your departure approaches, we encourage you to use **www.weather.com** for a more accurate forecast of the locations you visit.

Average Daily High/Low Temperatures (°F), Humidity & Monthly Rainfall

MONTH	MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA			ALICE SPRINGS, AUSTRALIA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	79 to 56	52	1.8	97 to 70	35	1.4
FEB	80 to 57	49	1.6	95 to 69	40	1.6
MAR	75 to 55	48	1.4	90 to 63	35	1.5
APR	68 to 51	54	1.9	82 to 55	40	0.5
MAY	62 to 47	62	1.9	73 to 47	50	0.7
JUN	56 to 43	69	1.6	68 to 41	55	0.6
JUL	55 to 41	69	1.5	67 to 39	50	0.6
AUG	57 to 42	62	2.0	72 to 43	40	0.4
SEP	61 to 44	58	1.8	80 to 50	30	0.3
OCT	66 to 47	55	2.3	87 to 59	30	0.8
NOV	71 to 50	56	2.4	92 to 64	35	1.0
DEC	76 to 53	49	1.9	96 to 68	35	1.4

MONTH	CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND			QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	73 to 53	--	2.1	71 to 49	66	3.2
FEB	71 to 53	--	1.8	70 to 48	70	2.9
MAR	69 to 49	--	2.1	67 to 46	72	3.0
APR	63 to 44	--	2	59 to 40	77	2.9
MAY	58 to 39	--	2.7	52 to 35	80	2.6
JUN	53 to 34	--	2.6	46 to 30	81	2.2
JUL	52 to 33	--	2.6	46 to 29	82	2.2
AUG	54 to 36	--	2.1	50 to 32	77	2.5
SEP	59 to 39	--	1.8	55 to 36	70	2.6
OCT	62 to 43	--	1.8	59 to 40	68	3.0
NOV	66 to 46	--	1.9	64 to 43	66	2.5
DEC	70 to 51	--	2.2	68 to 47	65	2.4

MONTH	AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND			HOBART, AUSTRALIA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	75 to 61	77 to 62	2.8	71 to 53	56	1.9
FEB	75 to 62	80 to 63	3.4	71 to 53	59	1.5
MAR	73 to 59	81 to 66	3.1	68 to 51	61	1.8
APR	68 to 55	83 to 69	3.8	63 to 48	66	1.9
MAY	63 to 51	86 to 73	4.5	58 to 44	70	1.8
JUN	59 to 47	88 to 76	5.0	53 to 41	75	2.2
JUL	58 to 46	88 to 76	5.2	52 to 40	75	2.1
AUG	59 to 47	86 to 74	4.4	55 to 41	68	1.9
SEP	62 to 50	82 to 72	3.7	59 to 43	63	2.1
OCT	64 to 52	79 to 71	3.7	63 to 46	60	2.3
NOV	67 to 55	77 to 67	3.2	66 to 48	57	2.4
DEC	71 to 59	77 to 65	3.1	69 to 51	56	2.1

MONTH	WHANGAREI, NEW ZEALAND		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	75 to 60	78	2.7
FEB	75 to 61	77	8.2
MAR	73 to 59	81	7.1
APR	69 to 54	83	6.1
MAY	64 to 51	84	8.6
JUN	61 to 47	88	6.8
JUL	59 to 45	92	8.1
AUG	60 to 46	81	10.1
SEP	62 to 48	84	5.3
OCT	65 to 51	80	6.9
NOV	69 to 54	75	4.2
DEC	72 to 57	75	5.4

ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE

O.A.T. Trip Experience Leaders: A World of Difference

During your adventure, you'll be accompanied by one of our local, Trip Experience Leaders. All are fluent in English and possess the skills, certification, and experience necessary to ensure an enriching adventure. As locals of the regions you'll explore with them, our Trip Experience Leaders provide the kind of firsthand knowledge and insight that make local history, culture, and wildlife come alive. Coupled with their unbridled enthusiasm, caring personalities, and ability to bring diverse groups of travelers together, our Trip Experience Leaders ensure that your experience with O.A.T. is one you'll remember for a lifetime.

Points to Know

This trip combines both our *Ultimate Australia* and *Pure New Zealand* adventures into an extended tour of this stunning region. Some passengers may join this tour as they travel the individual itineraries, while others may travel only the complete combined itinerary, and you may journey with a changing group of travel mates. No matter which tour you're on you'll enjoy the chance to share the adventures of like-minded travelers as your experiences intersect.

South Pacific Culture

Due to Australia's natural isolation as an island continent, the indigenous peoples developed their own culture and community over about 40,000 years—in which they had little contact with other societies. This remoteness is what attracted British settlers to New South Wales where they established a penal colony in 1788. Until about the mid-20th century, Australian culture was almost exclusively Anglo-Celtic. Efforts by the government over the previous two centuries helped to maintain the island's prominent homogeneity, including persecution of the indigenous population and the 1901 White Australia policy, which halted all non-European immigration into the country. In the latter half of the 20th century, immigration laws became more relaxed, and the country saw a large influx of immigrants and refugees from eastern Asia, the Middle East, and other parts of Europe. At the same time, the Australian government began addressing past wrongs against the indigenous peoples. In 1967, following the example of the American Civil Rights Movement, the indigenous peoples of Australia began fighting for equal rights. As a result, a referendum was passed to allow indigenous Australians the right to vote, officially recognizing them as citizens of Australia. While indigenous people are still fighting for full equality today, these progressive measures allowed the indigenous people to claim their identity and culture again. The influx of multiculturalism in the late 19th century has left a lasting imprint on the cultural fabric of Australia.

Akin to Australia's indigenous history, European settlers began to arrive in New Zealand after James Cook mapped the country in 1770 and native Maori traditions began to die out as settlers tried to assimilate the Maori to European culture, including converting them to Christianity. Maori culture suffered greatly in the years of colonization and into the 20th century as many were torn between the pressure to assimilate and the desire to preserve their own culture. Since

the 1950s, there has been a cultural revival and preservation of Maori traditions. First held in 1972, the biennial Te Matatini festival celebrates Maori culture and history, especially the tribal dance and song performances—known as kapa haka. The festival is held over several days and culminates in the national kapa haka championship. Maori waiata (songs) and dances have become increasingly popular in recent years. While 67% of Kiwis (an affectionate term for New Zealanders) are of European descent, waves of immigration brought a mix of cultures that are celebrated in New Zealand. Among the 19th-century settlers were Scandinavians, Chinese, Italians, and Indians. Today, there are large communities of Pacific Islanders and Asians. These cultures are celebrated in a variety of ways, including the Lunar New Year, the Lantern Festival, and Diwali. One of the major holidays in New Zealand is Waitangi Day (February 6), where the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi is remembered. The treaty promised Maori ownership of their land and rights as British citizens. Celebrations of this day include Maori ceremonies, sporting events, music, and parades. Waitangi Day is also used as a day of reflection on the historical effects of European settlement on Maori tribes.

Broadly, egalitarianism strongly underpins interpersonal values in Australia and New Zealand—commonly referred to as a “fair go” among locals. Australians typically show disdain for pretentious behavior and are often described as being informal or laid back—an impression cultivated through their iconic greeting “g’day mate” or “g’day sheilas.” Adding to their laid-back demeanor, Australia celebrates a large number of public holidays, making long weekends a frequent custom. In New Zealand, there is a strong individualistic attitude among Kiwis, which is believed to stem from their relative isolation in the South Pacific and the rugged terrain that surrounds them.

Despite the stereotypical image of Crocodile Dundee roaming the remote Outback, the majority of Australia’s population is concentrated in urban areas. Around 85% of Australia’s 25 million people live within about 30 miles of the coast and 10 million live in the two biggest cities, Sydney and Melbourne. While about 52% of Australians identify as Christian, there is no official state religion in Australia. In fact, the fastest growing religious affiliation is “no religion,” as 30% of the population nominated this category in the 2016 census. This nomination comprises many subcategories like agnostic, atheist, and other spiritual beliefs. Among young Australians aged 18–34, this was the most common choice. In New Zealand, Christianity is the largest religion; however, in the 2018 census almost half of New Zealanders reported they had “no religion,” which is the first time the number of people who are religiously unaffiliated exceeded the number of Christians in the country.

Taking Photographs

The etiquette of photographing people in most countries is about the same as it would be on the streets of your hometown. You need permission to take a close-up, but not for a crowd scene. Be especially polite if you want to photograph children or older women. If you want to shoot a great portrait, show interest in your subject and try to have a bit of social interaction first. Then use sign language to inquire if a picture is OK.

Please do not take photographs of military personnel, military compounds, or other official institutions/personnel (such as police). This may result in the confiscation of your camera.

In museums or at archaeological sites, there may be restrictions on using your flash. Please obey any signs or directions by staff; the no-flash rule protects the fragile artifacts and artwork from damage by repeated exposure to light. Occasionally, there may also be a small fee levied by the museum or site for the privilege of taking photos.

Safety & Security

As you travel, exercise the same caution and awareness that you would in a large American city. Don't be overly nervous or suspicious, but keep your eyes open. If you are venturing out after dark, go with one or two other people.

Carry a one-day supply of cash, and your passport, in a travel pouch. Don't leave valuables unattended in your hotel room. Most hotels will offer use of a hotel safe at the front desk or an electronic in-room safe (for which you can set your own personal number). Please utilize this.

Pickpockets may create a sudden distraction. In any sort of puzzling street situation, try to keep one hand on your wallet or money belt. If an encounter with a local turns out to be long and complicated and involves money or your valuables, be very careful.

Australian Cuisine

Two of the most popular cooking styles in sunny Australia are Mediterranean and Southeast Asian, though every type of cuisine can be found in its plethora of fine city restaurants, including Indian, Japanese, American, and French. The fresh local seafood is especially good, and the colorful regional vegetables are cooked up a hundred tasty ways to accompany traditional game dishes made with duck, beef, lamb, or kangaroo. Other items to be on the lookout for include:

- **Meat pies:** A relic from their English heritage, Aussies love a good meat pie, which is a savory pie with meat, vegetables, and gravy inside (similar to a chicken pot pie, but usually made with beef or lamb)
- **Mushy peas:** Peas that have been boiled and then lightly mashed—goes great with a meat pie
- **Sausage roll:** Think an oversized “pig in a blanket”, and you're not far off
- **Chicken Parmigiana:** Yes, this dish has Italian roots, but it is well-loved throughout Australia (as is other Italian-Aussie cooking) and you'll find it in many pubs
- **Fish and chips:** Fried fish with a side of French fries
- **Barramundi:** A type of sea bass that is often served grilled or pan-seared; a healthy alternative to fish and chips
- **Beetroot:** A popular vegetable that is often put in sandwiches and burgers
- **Vegemite:** This one's an acquired taste, but while you're in Australia you may wish to try this savory spread made from yeast extract, which is typically spread as a thin layer on toast
- **Pavlova:** A much-loved dessert made with layers of meringue, fruit, and whipped cream.

- **Lamingtons:** Quite possibly Australia’s national dessert, a lamington is a square of cake dipped in chocolate and then rolled in coconut flakes
- **Cherry ripe:** A candy bar only sold in Australia—cherry and coconuts in dark chocolate
- **Drinks:** Australia has both a vibrant wine industry and a plethora of brew houses. Local beers to look for are Coopers, Carlton Draught, Victoria Bitter, and Tooheys; while Shiraz (red), Cabernet Sauvignon (red), and Chardonnay (white) are popular wines.

New Zealander Cuisine

Major cities in New Zealand offer cosmopolitan dining and a wide range of restaurants that serve every choice of international cuisine and are renowned for their excellent quality. In rural areas, menus often still reflect the traditional English-style of cooking—a meat and two vegetables.

New Zealand specialties include:

- **Lamb:** This is one of the country’s major exports and not to be missed if you like red meat
- **Venison:** New Zealand claims to be the first country to farm deer, and as a result, you’ll find venison on the menu at both high-end restaurants and burger joints (often humorously referred to as a “Bambi burger”)
- **Hangi:** A traditional cooking style with meat and vegetables slow-cooked in an underground oven or fire pit (a bit like a luau). Some restaurants recreate the dish by cooking the same ingredients in a clay pot.
- **Kumara:** A type of sweet potato that is often used in *hangi*
- **Green-lipped mussels:** Served European-style as steamed mussels in broth, these larger-than-average mussels are native to New Zealand’s waters
- **Oysters:** Pacific oysters served on the half shell are a popular starter, especially the succulent, white-shelled Bluff oysters, available from March to about July
- **“Lobster”:** Actually crayfish, but just as tasty! You may see this on the menu as crayfish, rock lobster, or spiny lobster.
- **Whitebait fritters:** Deep-fried patties or balls of batter made with small whitebait fish
- **Hokey Pokey:** A flavor of ice cream in New Zealand, consisting of plain vanilla ice cream with small, solid lumps of honeycomb toffee.
- **Manuka honey:** A product on NZ that is renowned for its medical properties. It can be eaten or used in skincare products.
- **Lemon & Paeroa:** A lemon soda similar to—but stronger than—Sprite
- **Wines:** New Zealand produces some excellent wines, and is particularly known for its citrusy Sauvignon Blanc (white), dense Pinot Noir (red), and some light and refreshing rosés

Manners

Kiwis and Aussies are famous for their friendliness. You won't have to work hard to strike up conversations.

The etiquette of photographing most people in Australia and New Zealand is about the same as it would be on the streets of your hometown. You need permission to take a close-up, but not for a crowd scene. For cultural reasons, some Maori and Aboriginal people usually do not want their photographs taken, even from a distance. You should not assume that it is OK to photograph them. Ask your intended subject first or ask your Trip Experience Leader for advice.

Shopping: What to Buy, Customs, Shipping & More

There may be scheduled visits to local shops during your adventure. There is no requirement to make a purchase during these stops, and any purchase made is a direct transaction with the shop in question, subject to the vendor's terms of purchase. O.A.T. is not responsible for purchases you make on your trip or for the shipment of your purchases.

Returns

If you discover an issue with an item, you should contact the vendor directly and expect that any resolution will take longer than it would in the U.S. We recommend that you keep a copy of all your receipts, invoices, or contracts, along with the shop's contact information. Keep in mind, local practice may vary from U.S. standards, so don't assume that you have a certain number of days after the purchase to speak up or that you are guaranteed a refund.

Crafts & Souvenirs

Australia

You can find craft items and screen-printed garments made by Aboriginal craft cooperatives throughout Australia—especially around Alice Springs and Ayers Rock (Uluru). The opal is Australia's national gem, and is used in many different types of jewelry. Items with typically Australian symbols like koala bears, kangaroos, boomerangs, etc. can make fun gifts, while items made out of eucalyptus leaf are lightweight and durable. In addition, both Australia and New Zealand produce distinctive wines that make fine gifts or souvenirs.

New Zealand

New Zealand has a strong sheep herding industry, so quality woolens shouldn't be hard to find—possum fur and merino wool blend garments can be found in most places. Jewelry made from greenstone (a type of jade found on the South Island), pearls, or paua shells are popular buys. Traditional Maori crafts include carvings in wood, stone, or bone; and flax weaving. Less obvious—but still typically New Zealand—souvenirs include t-shirts for the national rugby team or beauty products like the Evolu or Living Nature lines.

U.S. Customs Regulations & Shipping Charges

For all things related to U.S. Customs, the ultimate authority is the U.S. Bureau of Customs & Border Protection. Their website, www.cbp.gov has the answers to the most frequently asked questions. Or you can call them at **1-877-227-5511**.

The top three points to know are:

- At time of writing, your personal duty-free allowance is \$800 for items brought with you. Items totaling more than \$800 are subject to duty fees.
- **Items shipped home are always subject to duty when received in the U.S.** Even when the shop has offered to include shipping and duties in the price, this typically means shipping to the nearest customs facility and payment of the export duties—not door-to-door shipping or payment of the import duties. All additional duties or shipping charges would be your responsibility. Unless an item is small enough to send by parcel service (like FedEx), chances are you will need to arrange shipping or pick-up once the item is in the U.S. and will need to pay customs duties.
- It is illegal to import products made from endangered animal species. U.S. Customs & Border Protection will seize these items, as well as most furs, coral, tortoise shell, reptile skins, feathers, plants, and items made from animal skins.

Australian Customs Regulations

Before you arrive in Australia, you will receive an Australian Arrival Card. Please keep in mind that Australian Customs Regulations apply when you enter Australia and that all regulations are subject to change without notice. In general, travelers are allowed to bring \$A900 (approximately \$818 U.S.) worth of goods into Australia free of duty and sales tax, not including alcohol or tobacco, when the goods accompany the passenger. The limit is \$A450 (approximately \$409 U.S.) for travelers under 18 years of age. The maximum amount of alcohol allowed per person is 2.25 liters. The maximum amount of tobacco allowed per person is 25 cigarettes or 25 grams of cigars. Food items of any kind—even ones that are allowed into the country—must be declared. For more information, you may want to contact the Australian Customs Service.

Security: In addition to their customs restrictions, the Australian government has security measures to limit the amount of liquids, aerosols, and gels that can be taken through the screening point for people flying to and from Australia. All containers with drinks, creams, perfumes, sprays, gels, toothpaste and similar substances should not exceed 100ml (3.3 ounces) each and will have to be carried in a re-sealable clear plastic bag, no larger than 20cm x 20cm, and be inspected separately. There is a limit of one bag per person. Any sharp items (i.e. nail scissors) should be in your checked luggage.

Telephone from the United States: **011-612-9313-3010** or on the web: www.customs.gov.au.

TIP: *Our regional office would like to remind you that you should NOT bring fruit or fluids of any kind into Australia. They will be confiscated and you will be fined.*

Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS): The TRS enables you to claim a refund, subject to certain conditions, of the goods and services tax (GST) and wine equalization tax (WET) that you pay on goods you buy in Australia. To claim a refund you must:

- Spend AUD\$300 (GST inclusive) or more in the one store and get a single tax invoice. (You can submit paperwork from more than one store provided that you spent AUD\$300 at each store.)
- Buy goods no more than 60 days before departure
- Wear or carry the goods on board the aircraft and present them along with your original tax invoice, passport and international boarding pass to a Customs Officer at a TRS facility
- Claims at airports are available up to 30 minutes prior to the scheduled departure of your flight

The refund only applies to goods that you take with you as hand luggage or wear onto the aircraft when you leave Australia. It does not apply to services or goods consumed or partly consumed in Australia, such as wine, chocolate or perfume. However, unlike other tourist shopping schemes, most of the goods, such as clothing and cameras, can be used in Australia before departure.

You can collect your refund through one of the following methods:

- Check
- Credit to an Australian bank account
- Payment to a credit card

Customs will aim to post check refunds within 15 business days. Bank and credit card refunds will be issued by Customs within 5 business days, however, payment will be subject to processing by your bank or card issuer.

New Zealand Customs Regulations

The following regulations were taken from New Zealand's government customs website: **www.customs.govt.nz**

All regulations are subject to change without notice.

Before you arrive in New Zealand, you will receive a New Zealand Passenger Arrival Card. You must tick (check) "Yes" in the Customs section of your arrival card if you are bringing any of the following into New Zealand:

- Goods that may be prohibited or restricted, such as weapons, hookah/shisha pipes, other ornamental pipes, objectionable (indecent) materials, wildlife products or illicit drugs.
- Goods in excess of the \$700 allowance and the tobacco and alcoholic beverages allowance. At time of writing, \$700 NZD was roughly \$500 U.S. The duty-free allowance for tobacco was 25 cigarettes, or 25 grams of tobacco, or 25 cigars, or a mixture of all three weighing

not more than 25 grams. You could also bring up to 4.5 liters of wine, or 4.5 liters of beer, or three bottles each containing not more than 1,125ml of spirits, liqueur, or other spirituous beverages duty-free.

- Goods carried on behalf of another person
- NZ \$10,000 or more, or the equivalent in foreign currency (please have purchase receipts available)
- **Food items of any sort, whether restricted or not. This includes food given to you during your flight.**
- You will be fined on the spot (around NZD400) for anything that you do not declare on this form.

***TIP:** Our regional office would like to remind you that you should NOT bring fruit or fluids of any kind into New Zealand. They will be confiscated and you will be fined.*

You do not have to declare your clothing, footwear, jewelry, or toiletries. These are regarded as personal effects if they are intended solely for your own use. **Important Note: If you have recently worn your shoes in rural or natural areas, please wash your footwear prior to entering New Zealand.**

Unlike other Customs administrations, there is no provision for travelers to obtain a refund of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on their purchases when they leave the country. In order to purchase goods without payment of GST, travelers are required to purchase from a duty-free shop.

DEMOGRAPHICS & HISTORY

Australia

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 2,988,902 square miles
- **Capital:** Canberra
- **Language:** English is the official language.
- **Ethnicity:** Australian: 25.4%, English: 25.9%, Irish: 7.5%, Scottish: 6.4%, Italian: 3.3%, German: 3.2%, Chinese: 3.1% Greek: 1.4%, Dutch 1.2%, other 15.8%, unspecified 5.4%
- **Location:** Australia is bordered by three oceans and four seas.
- **Geography:** Situated in the Southern Hemisphere and south of Asia, Australia is an island continent surrounded by three oceans and four seas. It is about 7,700 miles from Los Angeles. Australia is roughly the same size as the continental United States, measuring 2,500 miles from east to west, and 2,000 miles from north to south. The Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef, lies a short distance off the northeast coast and extends for over 1,240 miles. Australia is Earth's flattest continent. Eastern Australia is marked by the Great Dividing Range, although the name is not strictly accurate, since parts of the range consists of low hills. The western half of Australia consists of the Western Plateau, which rises to mountain heights near the west coast and falls to lower elevations near the continental center. This is the arid landscape commonly known as the Outback.
- **Population:** 22,751,014 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Protestant 30.1%, Catholic 25.3%, Orthodox 2.8%, other Christian 2.9%, Buddhist 2.5%, Muslim 2.2%, Hindu 1.3%, other 1.3%, unspecified 9.3%, none 22.3%
- **Time Zone:** Australia has three primary time zones, four when Daylight Savings Time is in effect. Time in Canberra is 14 hours ahead of U.S. EST. When it is 6am in Washington D.C., it is 8pm in Canberra.

National Holidays: Australia

In addition to the holidays listed below, Australia celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter. Each state in Australia also has a certain latitude in setting its own holidays. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/26 Australia Day

04/25 Anzac Day

12/25 Christmas Day

12/26 Boxing Day

Australia: A Brief History

Australia's indigenous peoples believe that their tribes have lived here since the dawn of time—the Dreamtime—when their spiritual ancestors brought the land into being with song. Anthropologists believe that indigenous peoples have lived in Australia for at least 40,000 years, developing their culture largely free from outside influence. During this immense span of time, the ancestors of many groups now lumped together under the term “Australia's First Peoples” developed over 200 different languages and many local traditions. The Wathaurong, Arrente, Walpiri, and Anangu cultural groups, which are roughly like tribes or clans, are among those still present today. In addition to passing along spiritual practices that are still observed, ancient Aborigines mastered the challenges of living in a harsh environment. There is evidence that they planted crops, diverted streams, and maintained grasslands by deliberate burning in order to attract game for food. During the last several thousand years, the population increased, and different groups of indigenous people traded with each other across the continent. After thousands of years of independence from outside influence, indigenous life changed dramatically with the arrival of Europeans.

Although people in Europe imagined the existence of a Terra Australis in late medieval times, they knew nothing of the real Australia until the 17th century. The first European to actually set foot on Australian soil was probably the Dutch sailor Dirk Hartog in 1616. In 1642, Abel Tasman of Holland explored the southern coast, which is why the Tasman Sea and Tasmania now bear his name. English Captain James Cook landed at Botany Bay on Australia's eastern coast in 1770, establishing an English claim that eventually led to colonization. Another Englishman, Matthew Flinders, circumnavigated the continent at the beginning of the 19th century. These early explorations revealed the coast, but Australia's inland geography remained a mystery. When England could no longer send colonists or exiled convicts to America, Australia became a new destination for them. On January 26—the date now celebrated as Australia Day—in 1788, English Captain Arthur Phillip founded Sydney as a penal colony. From its inception, Sydney has been the capital of New South Wales, then a colony and now the most populous of Australia's six states.

Before England ended the practice in 1853, more than 150,000 convicts were sent to New South Wales and Tasmania; one-fifth of them were women. From the 1820s to the 1880s, increasing numbers of free colonists also settled in Australia. First in New South Wales, and later in the

other colonies, governance became more democratic with power increasingly vested in legislative councils. Indigenous people were not included, and it was not until the 1960s that they were granted full citizenship in the group of British colonies that had come to occupy their native land.

In 1851 Edward Hargraves struck gold in New South Wales, an event that led to the tripling of Australia's population during the next 11 years. Australia remained a collection of distinct colonies until the dawn of the 20th century. In some ways, each colony's ties to Great Britain were closer than they were with the other Australian colonies.

After some earlier attempts at establishing greater unity had failed, the Commonwealth of Australia became a reality on January 1, 1901. A true national identity was forged only in the aftermath of World War I. Anzac Day, celebrated on April 25, commemorates the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps' landing at Gallipoli in the First World War, a milestone in the growth of national consciousness. World War II compelled Australians to look beyond their traditional ties to Great Britain, forge the new ANZUS alliance with the U.S., and see themselves anew as a Pacific Rim nation. Australia celebrated its bicentennial in 1988, and Aussies took great pride in having Sydney selected as the site for the 2000 Summer Olympics.

Recently Australia has been on the forefront of environmental activism, especially in regards to the question of water management, which came under scrutiny during a severe drought in 2005–2006. On the other end of the spectrum, Queensland had too much water a few years later, resulting in dramatic flash floods at the end of 2010. Another recent struggle has been the question of how to handle asylum seekers; this issue has been in the forefront of public debate and generated some controversial policies.

Events that Shaped Australia in the 20th Century:

Australia's Fight at Home and Abroad During World War II

When Great Britain declared war on Nazi Germany on September 3, 1939, Australia entered the war on the same day. Australian troops would go on to fight against Germans and Italians in campaigns across Europe, the Mediterranean, North Africa, and then the Japanese in Southeast Asia. But Australia was under no direct threat from Germany, so why did they enter the war at such an early stage? One reason, of course, is that they were still a Commonwealth of the British Empire, and Australians felt a strong loyalty to England. Another was assurances from the British that any Japanese advance toward Australia would be stopped in its tracks by Britain's warships stationed in Singapore, the largest Royal Navy base in Asia. Unfortunately, this position of power would eventually crumble as the war progressed.

As Britain continuously failed to defend their Navy base in Singapore, Australia experienced more attacks from the Imperial Japanese Army and the Australian government became discouraged with their allies, who, one by one, were falling in Europe against the combined Axis forces. Robert Menzies, the Australian Prime Minister, was determined to speak with his allies about the threat of Japan in the Pacific and the lack of British reinforcements in Singapore. He flew to London during the Blitz and met with Winston Churchill regarding the war in the Pacific. Upon his return to Australia in August 1941, when he was unable to gather support from his party to establish a War Cabinet, Menzies resigned as Prime Minister. John Curtin was sworn in a month later.

With the majority of Australia's forces focused in Europe and North Africa backing up the Allied Forces, Japan took the opportunity to take control of the Pacific and attacked Pearl Harbor. Shortly after, the British ships sent to reinforce Singapore were sunk. Australia, left with little support from Britain and facing off against Japan with most of their forces still assisting abroad, turned to the United States as their ally in the Pacific on December 27th, 1941.

The reinforcements from the U.S. came too slow, as British Malaysia, including Singapore, fell to Japanese occupation mere weeks after Pearl Harbor, with 15,000 Australian soldiers being taken as prisoners of war. On February 19th, 1942, Darwin, the capital of the Northern Territory of Australia, was attacked by 188 Japanese warplanes, the first attack made against the Australian mainland. It was not the last. Over the course of 19 months, mainland Australia suffered through over 100 air raids.

After the attack on Darwin, Curtin called two Australian divisions back home, refusing Churchill's plans to have the divisions back-up forces in Burma. President Franklin Roosevelt ordered General Douglas MacArthur, his commander in the Philippines, to cooperate with Curtin to establish a plan of attack in the Pacific. With Curtin's support, General MacArthur became the "Supreme Commander of the South West Pacific" and moved the American forces to his new base in Melbourne.

In response, Japanese forces moved to isolate Australia, attacking Sydney Harbour and invading Port Moresby, a territory of Australia in New Guinea. The U.S. Navy repelled the Japanese forces from Port Moresby following their victories during the Battle of the Coral Sea and the Battle of Midway. Defeated by sea, the Japanese Navy retreated and Port Moresby was instead attacked by the Japanese army on land.

The Australian army spend the next five months pushing the Japanese army out of Port Moresby, with their victory during the Battle of Milne Bay in August 1942 being the first noted instance of Allied forces defeating Japanese land forces. The Australian forces continued to battle against Japan in Papua New Guinea, steadily pushing their enemies out of the Australian territories. Due to the dense jungle, oppressive heat, and fierce Japanese resistance, the fight for New Guinea was said to be the most arduous campaign fought by the Allied forces during World War II.

As MacArthur pushed into the Philippines and towards Japan in mid-1944, Australian forces remained in the South Pacific, focused on the Japanese presence in Borneo and Indonesia. While the Borneo Campaign was heavily criticized as a waste of forces, the three goals of the campaign were achieved: the isolation of key Japanese forces, the capture of oil supplies, and the release of Allied prisoners of war.

When Allied forces prepared to invade Japan during the last couple months of the war, Australia served as a base of operations for the British Pacific Fleet and planned to participate in the invasion with land forces in Honshu and air forces in Okinawa. All plans were ceased when Japan surrendered after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

By the time the war ended on September 2nd, 1945, almost one million Australian men and women had served in one of the branches of military during the war. Of that total, an estimated 31,700 were killed in battle, and 8,000 as Japanese prisoners of war.

New Zealand

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 103,363 square miles
- **Capital:** Wellington
- **Language:** English
- **Ethnicity:** European 71.2%, Maori 14.1%, Asian 11.3%, Pacific islander 7.6%, other 2.7%, unspecified 5.4%
- **Location:** New Zealand, consisting of two main islands (the North Island and South Island, plus some smaller offshore isles), is situated about 1,250 miles southeast of Australia and surrounded by the South Pacific Ocean, the Tasman Sea, and the Southern Ocean.
- **Geography:** The Cook Strait, a rather turbulent waterway, separates the North Island from the South Island. From tip to tip, the whole country measures about 1,000 miles. Despite its generous length, its widest point is only 174 miles across. The South Island is divided along its length by the Southern Alps and the Fiordland's steep mountains and deep fiords record the extensive ice age glaciation of its south-western corner. The North Island is less mountainous, but its geography is marked by ancient volcanic activity.
- **Population:** 5,120,000 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Christian 44.3%, Hindu 2.1%, Buddhist 1.4%, Maori Christian 1.3%, Islam 1.1%, other 1.4%, none 38.5%, not stated 8.2%, objected to answering 4.1%
- **Time Zone:** New Zealand is on New Zealand Standard Time, 17 hours ahead of U.S. EST. When it is 6am in Washington D.C., it is 10pm in Wellington.

National Holidays: New Zealand

In addition to the holidays listed below, New Zealand celebrates a number of national holidays such as Easter, the Queen's Birthday, and Labor Day. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/02 Day after New Year's

02/06 Waitangi Day

04/25 Anzac Day

Late June/Early July Māori New Year (Matariki)

12/25 Christmas

12/26 Boxing Day

New Zealand: A Brief History

New Zealand's history is divided into two distinct phases: Pre-European settlement by the Maori and their ancestors, and European settlement from the 18th century onward. The first wave of settlement was by Polynesians from the Marquesas, Society, and Cook Islands. Their landing on

the beaches of the North Island in about 1300 A.D. signaled the end of the 5000-year migration of these “Vikings of the Pacific” across the vast ocean. Over time, farming took on a more important role. Since the crops would not grow in the cooler southern areas, the emerging Maori culture settled predominantly in the warmer North Island and began a “golden age” of agricultural settlement.

Villages sprang up, often with a central marae (village common) and elaborately carved whare runanga (meeting houses). The arts began to flourish: wood carvers, medicine men, tattooists, and priests were employed by a people who no longer had to spend all their time hunting and gathering food. But as the population increased, so too did the desire for good farmland. Inevitably, warfare broke out amongst the different iwi or tribes. These iwi, each linked by a different ancestral canoe, began to specialize in warfare and thus the Maori became a nation of warriors.

Between 1769 and 1777, British Captain James Cook made three voyages to the islands aboard the Endeavour. While he met with some initial hostility from the islands’ residents, Cook was able to forge a peaceful relationship with the Maori—but he soon claimed the islands for the British Crown without their consent.

The incursion with the most far-reaching and damaging consequences resulted from the introduction of liquor and European diseases, against which the Maori had no immunity. Thousands died from epidemics of what would be considered minor ailments today, such as influenza and measles. By 1830, New Zealand’s Maori population had been dramatically reduced. By the late 1830s, the Maori were beginning to accept Christianity. As more and more Maori embraced Christianity, fewer aspects of the centuries-old Maori society were observed. Traditional Maori culture began to dissolve.

On February 6, 1840, representatives of the British Crown and various Maori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi. In the English-language version, the treaty grants the Maori land rights and the right of British citizenship in exchange for ceding the sovereignty of New Zealand to the British crown. But in the Maori-language version, the word for sovereignty is weaker, suggesting governance or the right to make the first offer on land for sale, rather than ownership. Add a hasty translation to different cultural understandings of land rights, and the result is a controversy that continues to this day. By 1858, the decline in land sales combined with the pressure on the British government to allow more settlers into New Zealand resulted in a dangerous imbalance. The government responded by using a falsified story about an attack on the settlement of Auckland as the justification for launching an all-out war against the tribes of the North Island. Outnumbered, the Maori were forced to concede over 4 million acres of the best farmland to the settlers.

While the land wars raged on—in some parts of the country until 1865—colonists continued to arrive. They turned sheep farming, which remains a vital part of New Zealand’s economy. The discovery of gold in the mid-1800s brought bright new economic prospects, and a surging population, to the South Island. With the invention of refrigeration, New Zealand suddenly assumed a much greater role in the world economic scene, as it could now export perishable

products like meat, butter, and cheese. As New Zealand became more visible to the rest of the world, the native Maori population continued to decline precipitously. By 1900, fewer than 42,000 Maori remained.

New Zealand achieved complete independence from Britain in 1947. The economy soared following World War II, as agricultural prices rose dramatically. Soon, the country could boast one of the highest per-capita incomes in the world. Politically, New Zealand has been in the forefront of social welfare legislation for over a century. In 1893, it was the world's first country to grant women the right to vote. It also adopted old age pensions (1898); a national child welfare program (1907); social security for the aged, widows, and orphans (1938); and minimum wages, a 40-hour workweek, and unemployment and health insurance (also in 1938). Socialized medicine went into effect in 1941.

On May 29, 1953, Edmund Percival Hillary, along with Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, made history by ascending Mount Everest. Together, these two men went where no men had ever been. The 1970s saw a revival of Maori culture, driven by a demand for recognition and participation in economic prosperity. In 1985, the Treaty of Waitangi was amended to include claims dating back to the original signing of the treaty in 1840. Financial reparations were made to several Maori tribes whose lands were unjustly confiscated.

On the political front, Jenny Shipley became the nation's first female prime minister in 1997. The country has now had three female prime ministers. The Christchurch earthquakes of February 2011 drew international outreach and support. Many countries—the U.S. included—sent search and rescue teams or other aid.

Christchurch, New Zealand would be at the front of tragedy again, when two local mosques were the targets of a terrorist attack. On March 15, 2019, two mass shootings took place and 51 people were killed. In response to the terrorist attack The Arms Amendment Act was introduced later that same year. A Royal Commission of Inquiry was held and presented on November 26, 2020. The report made 44 recommendations, and in 2024, the current Attorney-General confirmed that the New Zealand Government was in the process of implementing 36 of them.

On December 9, 2019 Whakaari, also known as White Island, erupted in steam. The uninhabited island was a popular tourist destination that had frequent volcanic activity. There were 47 people on the island at the time of its eruption, 22 people were killed and 25 people were injured with life altering burns. Whakaari Management Limited (WML), who license tours operations to the island, was found guilty of not minimizing risk to the people who died on the island. Since its eruption in 2019, tourism has not resumed on the island.

Events That Shaped New Zealand the 20th Century: World War II

New Zealand's involvement during the Second World War began when it declared war on Germany alongside Britain on September 3rd, 1939. New Zealand troops in World War II had a very different perspective from their counterparts in the First World War fighting overseas as part of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). Having relatives who fought with ANZAC gave them some insight as to how badly a war can affect a country and its people.

Still, many New Zealanders felt a strong patriotic desire to join arms and fight alongside Britain—so much so that Michael Joseph Savage, New Zealand’s Prime Minister, gave a speech just after war was declared and stated:

“Both with gratitude for the past and confidence in the future, we range ourselves without fear beside Britain. Where she goes, we go. Where she stands, we stand.”

The first major engagement during the war occurred in Greece, where several thousand New Zealand troops were deployed to help strengthen the Greek army against Italian and German invasion. In April 1941, the rapid occupation of mainland Greece by German forces resulted in the deaths of about 300 New Zealanders while about 1,800 were able to retreat to the island of Crete, which Germany sought next to occupy.

The Battle of Crete, also known as Operation Mercury, began on May 20th, 1941, when thousands of elite German paratroops descended onto the island of Crete in one of the world’s first ever airborne assaults. For 12 days New Zealand, British, and Australian troops fought alongside the Cretan resistance under the command of Major General Bernhard Freyberg, who was head of the New Zealand Expeditionary force.

The initial invasion was mostly beaten back, as hundreds of German paratroops were killed before reaching the ground. As more German reinforcements poured in, the Allied forces soon found themselves overwhelmed and eventually surrendered on June 1st, 1941. Although the Allied forces had been defeated, their defenses proved to be quite effective as more than 6,000 German troops were killed or wounded while nearly 300 aircrafts were destroyed. Those staggering losses led Hitler to conclude that airborne invasions could no longer exploit the element of surprise and would therefore never be used again for the rest of the war.

By December 7th, 1941, the war had taken a radical turn when the Japanese Empire launched series of surprise attacks including the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Within a few months, Japan had seized a great amount of the Western Pacific as Japanese troops pushed down through Papua New Guinea and launched bombing raids in Australia. With the threat of war right on its doorstep, defenses were thrown up in New Zealand in fear of a Japanese invasion which fortunately, never came.

New Zealand forces were also present on D-Day, as the Allied forces launched their invasion to reclaim Western Europe from Nazi Germany on June 6th, 1944. World War II came to an end with the surrender of Germany in May of 1945 followed by Japan about five months later. Though news of Germany’s surrender had spread to New Zealand, the government banned all public celebration until the surrender was officially announced by Winston Churchill who served as the Prime Minister for the United Kingdom.

RESOURCES

Suggested Reading

General South Pacific

Kon-Tiki, Across the Pacific by Raft by Thor Heyerdahl, with F. H. Lyon, Translator (Exploration) On April 28, 1947, Heyerdahl and five other adventurous souls set themselves adrift on a raft off the coast of Peru. When they arrived in Tahiti five months later, they not only had a great tale of adventure on the high seas, but also changed the way historians viewed the migration of early humans.

Tales of the South Pacific by James Michener (Short Stories) Set during WWII in Polynesia, this series of loosely related short stories won the 1948 Pulitzer Prize and was the basis for the Rogers and Hammerstein musical South Pacific.

The Happy Isles of Oceania, Paddling the Pacific by Paul Theroux (Travel Narrative) When noted travel writer Paul Theroux decided to tour the South Pacific, he figured that kayaking would be the way to go. In the end, he explored the coastlines of 51 different islands from New Zealand to Hawaii. This book is a terrific introduction to the region, combining history, anecdote, and acutely observed detail on people and place.

The Journals of Captain Cook by James Cook (Exploration) Cook's narrative of his expeditions between 1768 and 1779. Includes his explorations of Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Hawaii, and a host of other previously unheard-of Pacific locales.

Australia

Lane's End by Jill Paterson (2014, Mystery) Part of the Fitzjohn Mystery Series set in Sydney, this novel sees Inspector Fitzjohn trying to solve a murder at a cocktail party in the Sydney Observatory.

Chasing Kangaroos by Tim Flannery (2007, Natural History) Part road-trip, part natural history, this book is an ode to Australia's national animal combined with the author's search to trace when and how the kangaroo first developed.

Dirt Music by Tim Winton (2001, Literature) A powerful and suspenseful story about the tragic passion between two vulnerable people—an alcoholic woman stuck in a broken relationship and a grief-stricken poacher.

True History of the Kelly Gang by Peter Carey (2000, Historical Fiction) Undoubtedly Australia's most potent legend, Ned Kelly is a mythic hero and Wild West-style outlaw. This is a breathless adventure, with many angles, such as a boy's defense of his mother, and a man's confiding letter to a daughter whom he will never meet. Winner of the 2001 Booker Prize.

The Fatal Shore by Robert Hughes (1986, History) An immensely readable yet scholarly account of Australia's tragic origins. Hughes combines thorough research with a compelling narrative in this splendid work.

New Zealand

The Luminaries by Eleanor Catton (2013, Fiction) In Victorian New Zealand a young gold prospector stumbles into a strange meeting of 12 local men who are there to discuss some even stranger events: a disappearance, a death, and a fortune.

Come on Shore and We Will Kill and Eat You All by Christina Thompson (2008, Memoir/History) An unusual mix of personal memoir and history that bounces between the story of the arrival of the European settlers in New Zealand and the American author's courtship and marriage to a Maori man. And the title? It comes from a famous story about the Maoris' reaction when they first saw the Europeans.

A Concise History of New Zealand by Philippa Mein Smith (2005, History) The title says it all. Travelers interested in a more detailed, scholarly history should look for the works of Anne Salmond, such as ***Between Worlds: Early Exchanges Between Maori and Europeans*** and ***The Trial of the Cannibal Dog*** (about Captain Cook's voyages).

Once Were Warriors by Alan Duff (1990, Literature) The controversial best-selling novel about the disintegration of Maori culture in contemporary New Zealand, and how the lack of a clear cultural identity can lead to strife and violence.

Suggested Films & Videos

Australia

Lion (2016, Drama) A five-year old boy is separated from his family in India and adopted by a couple in Tasmania. Later as an adult, he searches for his birth mother using a few memories and Google Earth. Based on a true story.

Sapphires (2012, Drama) Based on a true story, the movie follows four young Aboriginal women who become a soul singing group that entertain troops in Vietnam. A moving story that incorporates historical events, such as how the White Australia Policy and Stolen Generation affected mixed race families in the 60s and 70s.

Red Dog (2011, Comedy) Set in the late 70's and early 80's, this film tells the story of a rascally stray dog, named for the color of his coat, and how he brings the local community together. The story, which is based on a well-known book, showcases the new Australia that developed from the wave of immigration after World War II.

Animal Kingdom (2010, Thriller) A gritty Australian family-crime drama about an innocent young man who, when his mother dies, turns to his uncles for guidance. Too bad the uncles are a crew of hardened Melbourne bank robbers who are nearing the end of the line. Critically acclaimed film with an ensemble cast that features Guy Pearce playing the good cop for a change.

Australia (2008, Adventure) An English lady inherits a cattle ranch in Australia and works with one of the ranch hands to organize an immense cattle drive across the Outback, but then gets caught up in the events leading to WWII.

General South Pacific

South Pacific (1958, Romance) A Rogers and Hammerstein musical set on a tropical island during WWII. Will young the American nurse fall for the sophisticated French planter? Or will she wash that man right out of her hair?

The Endless Summer (1966, Documentary) The primary focus of this documentary is two young surfers searching the world for the perfect beach. But with scenes in Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, and Hawaii, it also captures the rise of surfer culture in the South Pacific during the 1960's.

New Zealand

Hunt for the Wilderpeople (2016, Comedy) Written and directed by Taika Waititi this charming, off-beat comedy follows a mixed-up 13-year-old named Ricky Baker and his cankerous, yet highly skilled foster father Hec as they hide in the woods from a manhunt launched by mistake.

The World's Fastest Indian (2005, Drama) A biographical film based on the life of New Zealand speed bike rider Burt Munro, and his attempts to break the land speed record on his Indian Scout motorcycle.

The Lord of the Rings (trilogy comprising of **The Fellowship of the Ring**, **The Two Towers**, and **The Return of the King**) (2001–2003, Adventure) An epic retelling of the classic works of J.R.R. Tolkien, set in the legendary world of Middle Earth, which was loosely based on old Norse and Celtic myths. When director Peter Jackson needed to find diverse locations from craggy peaks, to lush hills, to peaceful meadows, he turned to his home country—the plot might be pure fantasy, but the scenery is real New Zealand.

Whale Rider (2002, Drama) A young Maori girl fights for a chance to lead her tribe. But will her grandfather consider a girl for their next leader?

The Piano (1993, Drama) A mute woman, who only expresses herself through her piano and in sign language to her young daughter, is sent to New Zealand for an arranged marriage. But soon after her arrival, a potential romance with a local worker leads to dramatic consequences.

Useful Websites

Overseas Adventure Travel

www.oattravel.com

Overseas Adventure Travel Frequently Asked Questions

www.oattravel.com/faq

International Health Information/CDC (Centers for Disease Control)

www.cdc.gov/travel

Electricity & Plugs

www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets

Foreign Exchange Rates

www.xe.com/currencyconverter
www.oanda.com/converter/classic

ATM Locators

www.mastercard.com/atm
www.visa.com/atmlocator

World Weather

www.intellicast.com
www.weather.com
www.wunderground.com

Basic Travel Phrases (80 languages)

www.travlang.com/languages

Packing Tips

www.travelite.org

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

www.cbp.gov/travel

Transportation Security

Administration (TSA)

www.tsa.gov

National Passport Information Center

www.travel.state.gov

Holidays Worldwide

www.timeanddate.com/holidays

History & Culture

en.wikipedia.org

Useful Apps

Flight Stats

Track departures, arrivals, and flight status

LoungeBuddy

Get access to premium airport lounges around the world

Timeshifter

Personalized tips for avoiding jetlag, based on neuroscience and your own data

GoogleMaps

Maps and directions anywhere in the world

Triposo

City guides, walking maps, and more – and it works offline

Rome2rio

Where to go, what to see, and what to do in more than 160 countries

Flush or Sit or Squat

Find a clean toilet anywhere

Uber

Ride sharing around the world

Visa Plus and Mastercard Cirrus

ATM locations

Shows the location of the nearest ATM in your network

TunnelBear

Provides a secure VPN (virtual private network) that will encrypt your browsing data when you use a public WiFi network

What's App, Skype, or Signal

WiFi calling anywhere in the world

Duolingo, FLuentU, or Babbel

Learn dozens of foreign languages

Google Translate

Fast and simple translations

XE

Currency conversions

SizeGuide

Clothing and shoe sizes in all countries

Best Units Converter

Converts currency, mileage, weights, and many other units of measurement

Tourlina

For women only, it connects you with other female travelers

Happy Cow

Locate vegan and vegetarian eateries in 195 countries

Eatwith

Dine with locals all over the world

Meetup

Connects you with locals who share your interests

Skyview

Identifies constellations and heavenly bodies

Travello

Find travel friends on the road

ALIX for One

Created by and for women, it identifies solo-friendly dining spots in major international cities

TripWhistle

Maps your location and provides emergency numbers for police, medics, and more

GeoSure

Safely navigate neighborhoods around the world

Chirpey

For women only, connect with other women, find out what's safe, meet up, and more

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8-time travelers from Stevensville, MI



Submitted by Julia Schneider,
5-time traveler from Pinellas Park, FL



Submitted by Martin Schwartzman,
30-time traveler from Woodbury, NY



Submitted by Paul Stark, 17-time traveler
from Edina, MN



Submitted by David Fong, 16-time traveler
from Foster City, CA



Submitted by Steven dos Remedios,
23-time traveler from Oakland, CA



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