

Australia New Zealand & Fiji

Escorted by: Lyle Couch

March 25 - April 18, 2019



Deposit \$1,000.00 at booking. Final payment 90 days prior. All payments are non-refundable. Cancellation Insurance is available.

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About Your Tour Director Lyle Couch (BSc, MEd)

Lyle has extensive experience in escorting groups all over the world. From his early years as an educator in Peterborough, Lyle escorted many student groups. In his retirement, Lyle expanded his horizons and has escorted tours to Iceland, Alaska, Europe and many North American destinations. But the South Pacific is Lyle's favourite place to visit and he would love to show you this very special part of the world!

This will be Lyle's last Adventure Downunder!

Proposed Itinerary

Day 1 Mon. March 25

DEPART CANADA FOR DOWN UNDER

(Inflight Meals)

We will arrange transfers from your home town (some conditions apply) to Pearson International Airport where we board our flight to Sydney, Australia.

Day 2 Tue. March 26

CROSSING THE INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

(Inflight Meals)

Day 3 Wed. March 27

ARRIVE IN SYDNEY, CITY TOUR ON ARRIVAL

(Inflight Meals, B)

On arrival in Sydney this morning, you will be welcomed by our local representative and transferred to your hotel. Early check-in has been included to ensure immediate occupancy of your rooms.

This afternoon, enjoy a city orientation tour highlighting the Botanical Gardens, Hyde Park, The Domain and a stop at Mrs. Macquarie's Chair for the best views of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. Pass through Double Bay and Rose Bay en route to the famous Gap located at Watson's Bay with its views of the Pacific Ocean. See the famous Bondi, Tamarama and Bronte Beaches. On your return to the city, journey through the quaint suburb of Paddington, home of many of Sydney's original terraced "workers cottages" which have now been transformed into much sought-after residences. It is also home to many of Sydney's art galleries.

Sydney is the "best city in the world" according to readers of Condé Nast Traveler magazine and Travel & Leisure Magazine. It was also the site of the Olympic Games in the year 2000. From its convict origins as the first European settlement in Australia, it has become the country's largest and most exciting city. Sydney is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and the most cosmopolitan city in Australia. It is endowed with a sparkling harbor, fabulous beaches and a sunny Mediterranean climate. It is your major gateway to the State of New South Wales and the rest of Australia.

Accommodation: THE PARK ROYAL DARLING HARBOUR HOTEL, Standard Rooms (3 Nights + early check-in)



DAY 4 – Thu March 28 TOUR THE ROCKS & OPERA HOUSE, AFTERNOON CRUISE (B)

This morning we transfer to The Rocks for a walking tour. The “Rocks” area was Sydney’s first settlement and boasts a colourful and notorious past. Today many of the old warehouses have been restored into lovely shops and taverns. The Rocks is a wonderful area to wander around, full of narrow cobbled streets, fine colonial buildings and countless historical touches.

Take a short walk over to the Sydney Opera House for a guided tour. The Opera House is Australia’s premier venue for the performing arts and home to the Australian Opera Company, the Australian Ballet, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Sydney Theatre Company. It was designed by Jorn Utzon and on completion in 1973, was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Beneath the huge sail roofs are four major halls which are acoustically balanced to suit its own particular form of entertainment. In addition to the spectacular architecture, the appeal of the Opera House is its location on the harbour foreshores, bounded by the Botanical Gardens, Circular Quay and overlooked by the Harbour Bridge.

After the Opera House tour, depart Circular Quay for your afternoon coffee cruise of Sydney Harbour which most travel experts agree is one of the most scenic harbours in the world. You will see spectacular views of Sydney Harbour Bridge, Circular Quay, The Rocks, Opera House, Fort Denison, Point Piper and Watson’s Bay. See Sydney’s foreshore parkland and many stately homes. Enjoy the live commentary while you enjoy a fresh brewed pot of coffee or tea and baked goodies. Transfer back to the hotel at the end of the tour.

DAY 5 - Fri. March 29 DAY AT LEISURE IN SYDNEY (B, D)

A full day at leisure to further explore Australia's most cosmopolitan city or perhaps to do some shopping. Tonight we enjoy a buffet dinner at the famous Sydney Tower with spectacular views of the city and harbour.

DAY 6 - Sat. March 30 FLY SYDNEY TO CAIRNS (B)

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Cairns. On arrival, you will be transferred to your resort. The balance of your day is at leisure. The bustling tropical city of Cairns is the gateway to the rainforests and reefs of far North Queensland. This area is truly a tropical paradise of beaches, islands, mountains, rivers, waterfalls, lakes and a vast wilderness fringed by the Coral Sea.

Accommodation: NOVOTEL CAIRNS OASIS RESORT, Standard Rooms (3 Nights)

DAY 7 - Sun. March 31 KURANDA RAINFOREST & ABORIGINAL CULTURE (B, L)

A very special breakfast this morning at the "Freshwater Connection" theme restaurant. You then board the Kuranda scenic train for a spectacular narrow gauge ride to charming Kuranda. Travel into the towering rainforest on an amphibious army duck. We enjoy an Aussie barbeque lunch and an authentic Aboriginal cultural performance under the canopy of the rainforest. Experience a "Dreamtime" walk with an Aboriginal guide. Throw a boomerang and see if it will come back! Take a look around town and hunt for bargains in the Kuranda open air markets (Sun, Wed, Thu & Fri) before travelling back to Cairns onboard Skyrail. Ride silently in a gondola over the rainforest canopy while enjoying all the unique sights and sounds of the rainforest below.

DAY 8 - Mon. April 1 CRUISE THE GREAT BARRIER REEF & GREEN ISLAND (B, L)

Today we depart Cairns and journey to Green Island for some free time before exploring the Great Barrier Reef for approximately 3 hours. This afternoon you can enjoy an excursion in a glass bottom boat.

DAY 9 - Tue. April 2 FLY CAIRNS TO AYERS ROCK (B, D)

This morning we fly into the "Outback" to Ayers Rock. The afternoon is spent visiting the Olgas and later viewing the spectacular setting sun lighting up the Rock, the world's largest monolith. This evening absorb the sounds of the didgeridoo and dine on true Outback cuisine as we enjoy our amazing Sounds of Silence Dinner under the stars.

Accommodation: OUTBACK PIONEER HOTEL, Standard Rooms (1 Night)

DAY 10 - Wed. April 3 AYERS ROCK TO ALICE SPRINGS (B)

All morning is spent exploring the fascinating Rock. We'll hear some of the Aboriginal legends about the sacred land. In the afternoon we coach through the semi-arid desert that is known as the "Red Centre" to Alice Springs. Originally founded as a staging point for the overland telegraph line in the 1870s, the Alice Springs of today is a pleasant, modern town and the jumping off point for adventures into the famed Australian Outback

Accommodation: LASSETERS HOTEL, ALICE SPRINGS, Standard Rooms (1 Night)



DAY 11 – Thu. April 4 TOUR ALICE SPRINGS, BOARD THE GHAN (B, D)

Start the morning with a tour around “The Alice” highlighting the original waterhole, the “Alice Springs” at the historic Old Telegraph Station. We also visit the Royal Flying Doctors base and learn how this facility provides a mantle of safety for the people of the Outback. The tour concludes at the train station where we board the legendary Ghan train. Overnight from Alice Springs to Adelaide onboard the train. Breakfast and dinner included.

Accommodation: THE GHAN TRAIN, Gold Kangaroo Class (1 Night)

DAY 12 - Fri. April 5 ARRIVE IN ADELAIDE (B, L)

Arrive into Adelaide train station at approx. 1pm and commence touring. This afternoon we visit the Adelaide Hills for lunch and wine tasting followed by leisure time in Hanhdorf before we continue to the hotel for check in.

Accommodation: MERCURE GROSVENOR HOTEL, Deluxe Rooms (2 Nights)

DAY 13 - Sat. April 6 ADELAIDE AT LEISURE (B)

Experience tells us that you would welcome a day at leisure part way through our tour and Adelaide is a wonderful city to allow that to happen. Choose from many things to see and do. Lyle and the hotel concierge will be happy to help you plan your day.

DAY 14 –Sun. April 7 FLY ADELAIDE TO MELBOURNE (B)

Transfer from the hotel to Adelaide Airport for our flight to Melbourne. Melbourne is often called Australia’s most “European city”. It is also known as the cultural, culinary and financial centre of the country. With its wide tree-lined boulevards, elegant public buildings and expansive gardens, Melbourne possesses an abundance of classic beauty. Melbournians are sports fanatics and it is here where the infamous game of Aussie Rules Football began.

Accommodation: CROWN PROMENADE HOTEL, Standard Rooms (2 Nights)

DAY 15 – Mon. April 8 MELBOURNE CITY TOUR (B)

Melbourne is the cultural capital of Australia with a rich multicultural identity, classic buildings, beautiful parks and gardens, sophisticated dining and enviable shopping. This morning's tour includes the Royal Botanic Garden, St. Paul's Cathedral and Parliament House. Morning tea is traditional Aussie style in a private home or in the Botanical Gardens. The balance of the day is free.

DAY 16 - Tue. April 9 FLY MELBOURNE TO CHRISTCHURCH (B)

Transfer to the airport for your flight across the Tasman Sea to New Zealand’s South Island. On arrival in Christchurch you will be met by our local representative and transferred to your hotel.

Accommodation: NOVOTEL HOTEL, Superior Rooms (1 Night)

DAY 17 – Wed. April 10 CHRISTCHURCH TO QUEENSTOWN (B, D)

Travel by coach over the Canterbury Plains past the turquoise shores of Lake Tekapo and the picturesque Church of the Good Shepherd to Queenstown. Rugged, snow-capped mountains towering over the deep blue waters of Lake Wakatipu, fringed by poplars and weeping willows form the backdrop to Queenstown - probably New Zealand’s most spectacular and popular resort town. Tonight, take a gondola ride to Bob's Peak. This is a wonderful spot from which to watch dusk fall, have dinner and witness the sun set over The Remarkables mountain range.

Accommodation: COPTHORNE LAKEFRONT RESORT, Superior Rooms (3 Nights)

DAY 18 - Thu. April 11 FULL DAY MILFORD SOUND EXCURSION (B, L)

Begin your trip to Te Anau and Milford Sound by travelling along the shores of Lake Wakatipu to New Zealand’s prettiest lakes. Continue through some of the world's finest vertical landscape. Hanging valleys, precipices and raging torrents surround you on your way to this beautiful Sound. The road follows through the Homer Tunnel and the Eglinton Valley to end on the shores of Milford Sound. Cleft during the ice age and dominated by the mile high Mitre Peak, Rudyard Kipling once described this Sound as the “eighth wonder of the world.” A cruise on the Milford Haven affords you a spectacular view of the Fiord as was seen by the earliest explorers. Cruise the length of the Fiord right up to the 1200 foot cliffs and thundering waterfalls. As you turn around where the Fiord meets the Tasman Sea, you’ll see how this majestic fiord, hidden at first, unfolds before you. The captain is an expert at seeking out playful schools of dolphins and fur seals basking on the sunny rocks.



DAY 19– Fri. April 12 FULL DAY AT LEISURE IN QUEENSTOWN (B)

A full day to relax or take part in the incredible variety of activities Queenstown has to offer. Magnificent scenery, lovely promenades, lake cruises and great shopping - there is something to do for everyone. Why not head out on the lake on the steamer T.S.S. Earnslaw (built in 1912) which cruises on Lake Wakatipu. For a thrill there is jet-boating on the Shotover or Kawarau Rivers. You may find a bargain in the shops or prefer to stroll through the civic gardens or hire clubs and chase a ball around one of the prettiest golf courses in New Zealand.

DAY 20 – Sat. April 13 FLY QUEENSTOWN TO ROTORUA (B, D)

Transfer to the airport as we fly north into the thermal heartland. Rotorua has the most energetic thermal activity in the country with boiling mud pools, gurgling hot springs, and gushing geysers. Rotorua also has a large Maori population whose cultural activities are the most interesting and accessible in New Zealand. This evening, we are guests at a Maori Hangi (meal) and concert on a traditional Marae (Maori community house) at a local village.

Accommodation: NOVOTEL LAKESIDE HOTEL, Standard Rooms (2 Nights)

DAY 21 - Sun. April 14 ROTORUA SIGHTSEEING – FARMSTAY OPTION (B, D)

This morning we visit the Thermal Reserve and see the renowned geothermal activity including boiling mud pools, gentle hot springs and violent geysers. See a sheep demonstration followed by a visit to Rainbow Springs to experience Kiwi Encounter. This afternoon is at your leisure.

FREE OPTION (must be pre-booked): You can choose to be guests of a "Kiwi" family tonight. Your hosts will meet you and take you to their home for a traditional home-cooked meal. After a hearty breakfast the next morning, you will rejoin our group. This evening is the highlight of the tour for many and we highly recommend it to you!

DAY 22 - Mon. April 15 ROTORUA TO AUCKLAND (B, D)

Travel North via Te Awamutu and Hamilton past the Waikato Valley. The Waitomo, Ruakuri and Aranui caves are the feature attraction but the whole region is riddled with caves and strange limestone formations. At the famous Waitomo Glow Worm Caves and Grotto, a guided tour takes you through these beautiful caves and a boat ride on an underground river where you glide silently beneath the canopy of thousands of starry lights. Continue by coach to Auckland. Tonight enjoy a farewell New Zealand dinner at the lovely Harbourside Restaurant.

Accommodation: RYDGES HOTEL, Deluxe Rooms (1 Night)

DAY 23 - Tue. April 16 AUCKLAND SIGHTS & DEPART FOR FIJI (B, Inflight meals)

Enjoy a late morning sightseeing tour of the Queen City, Auckland. Highlights include the bustling downtown and waterfront areas, points of historic interest, a 360 degree panorama of this sprawling city from the summit of Mount Eden, an extinct volcano. Visit quaint Parnell Village, affluent residential suburbs, Tamaki waterfront drive and the pretty North Shore via the Harbour Bridge. Transfer to the airport for your evening flight to Fiji. On arrival into Fiji, transfer to your property for the next 2 nights, First Landings Resort and Villas.

Accommodation: FIRST LANDINGS RESORT, Deluxe Rooms (2 Nights)

Day 24 - Wed. April 17 THE ISLANDS OF FIJI (B)

Over the next two days enjoy time at First Landings Resort including continental breakfast daily, as well as a Vuda Lookout Tour including Garden of the Sleeping Giant, Viseisei Village, Namaka Market, Vuda Lookout and Fruit Farm and Namaka Market.

Day 25 – Thu. April 18 HOMEWARD BOUND (B, Inflight meals)

Transfer to the airport for your evening departure back to North America with memories of your Australia, New Zealand and Fiji vacation experience. Upon arrival back in Canada our motor coach will be waiting for us at Pearson International to return you to your home town.

*Thank you for joining our tour to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.
We truly hope you have experienced a trip of a lifetime!!
Welcome Home!*





Australia, New Zealand & Fiji

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Tour Inclusions

Transfers to/from Pearson International Airport
Round Trip Economy Class Airfare from Toronto
Air Conditioned Deluxe Touring Coach
All Interior Flights & Admissions as per Itinerary
Professional Driver with Tour Commentary
13 nights in Australia, 7 nights in New Zealand, 2 nights in Fiji
Breakfast Daily, Four Lunches & Seven Dinners
Sydney Opera House Tour, Sydney Harbour Cruise
Kuranda Rainforest & Aboriginal Tour
Glass Bottom Boat Ride at the Great Barrier Reef
Sounds of Silence Dinner at Ayers Rock
The Legendary Ghan from Alice Springs to Adelaide
Local Winery Tour in Adelaide
Gondola Ride & Dinner at Bob's Peak, Queenstown
Fiord Cruise & Tour at Milford Sound
Rotorua Thermal Springs, Mud Pools & Geysers
Optional Kiwi Family Overnight Stay
Relaxing 2 nights at First Landings Resort, Fiji
Tour Director - Lyle Couch

Tour Pricing

Double / Twin - \$13,495.00 per person

Single - \$15,995.00 per person

Includes Airfare & All Hotel Taxes and Departure Fees

Deposit \$1,000.00 at booking. Final payment 90 days prior. All payments are non-refundable. Cancellation Insurance is available.

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