



# Australia for Solo Travelers: Melbourne, Queensland Coast & Sydney

15 days | 18 days with Tasmania extension

With a vast terrain that offers a buffet of climates, histories, and cultures, Australia doesn't disappoint when it comes to immersive experiences. On this Solo Tour, you'll soak up the sights, learn from the Aboriginals, and bond with your fellow solo travelers. From exploring the metropolitan, coastal gems of Sydney and Melbourne to spotting manta rays while you cruise the pristine waters of the Whitsunday Islands, to being welcomed with an ancient ceremony led by an Aboriginal guide at Airlie Beach, this itinerary serves up a diverse array of Australian adventures. As if all that weren't enticing enough, add the Tasmania extension to see endangered animals like wombats and Tasmanian devils, explore sea caves, and shop the expansive Salamanca Market.



## Your tour package includes

- 12 nights in a private room at handpicked hotels
- 12 breakfasts
- 2 lunches
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 food tasting
- 7 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 3 on-tour flights
- 4 ferry transfers

## Included highlights

- St. Patrick's Cathedral
- Queen Victoria Market
- Aboriginal Welcome to Country ceremony
- Whitsundays cruise
- Noosa Everglades
- K'gari Island
- Bondi Beach
- National Opal Collection
- Sydney Opera House

## Tour pace

You will walk for about 1.5 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and gravel paths, with few hills.

## Group size

15-22

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## Overnight Flight → 2 nights

### Day 1: Travel day

Cross the International Date Line in flight and “lose” a day.

### Day 2: Travel day

Your flight continues to Melbourne.

## Melbourne → 2 nights

### Day 3: Arrival in Melbourne

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Australia! Settle into your hotel. Then, gather with your Tour Director and fellow group members at a mixer before enjoying a welcome dinner served with beer or wine.

### Day 4: Sightseeing tour of Melbourne

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

Set off on a guided tour of Melbourne, known for its coffee culture, restaurant scene, and artistic flare, to admire the city’s Victorian 19th-century architecture, historic landmarks, and sprawling parks.

- Explore Carlton Gardens, home of the Royal Exhibition Building and the Melbourne Museum.
- Visit St. Patrick’s Cathedral, known for being the largest church edifice in the country, and the Shrine of Remembrance—a national landmark honoring the service of Australians in both wartime and peace.
- Pass the Yarra River and the Sports and Arts Precinct, site of the Australian Open tennis tournament.
- Stroll through Queen Victoria Market where you’ll indulge in a tasting of a local favorite hand-picked by your Tour Director.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Melbourne or add an excursion.

+ Melbourne Wine Country & Lunch

## Townsville Region → 2 nights

### Day 5: Flight to Townsville

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Board a flight to the city of Townsville in Queensland, known for its picturesque beaches and access to the Great Barrier Reef.

After transferring to your hotel in the Townsville region, enjoy an included dinner with beer or wine with your group.

### Day 6: Free day in the Townsville Region

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a full free day in the Townsville region or add an excursion.

+ Great Barrier Reef Snorkeling Cruise & Lunch

## Whitsunday Coast → 2 nights

### Day 7: Transfer to the Whitsunday Coast

*Included meals: breakfast*

Continue through the Queensland province to the paradisiacal Whitsunday Coast, where you’ll find gardens of coral, turquoise waters, secluded beaches, and lush, tropical surroundings. Upon arrival to the Airlie Beach area, you’ll meet with a local Giya or Ngaro Indigenous guide who will treat you to a traditional Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony. The ritual is an ancient Aboriginal custom meant to cleanse and ward off any bad spirits before entering the lands of the traditional custodians.

*Please note: On some departures the Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony may take place in Townsville.*

### Day 8: Whitsunday Islands cruise

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch*

Take to the water today as you set out to explore the beautiful Whitsunday Islands, an archipelago made up of 74 islands surrounded by stunningly aquamarine waters that meet swirling white sands of beaches like the famous Whitehaven Beach.

- Enjoy time to swim in the warm waters or relax on the snow-white silica sands of Whitsunday beaches.
- Keep an eye out for the impressive marine life like manta rays (if you’re lucky, you’ll see one leap into the air!), turtles, and humpback whales while you feast on an included buffet lunch.

*Please note: We recommend bringing a bathing suit, towel, comfortable walking shoes, reef-safe sunscreen, and a reusable water bottle.*

## Sunshine Coast Region → 3 nights

### Day 9: Flight to Brisbane & transfer to the Sunshine Coast Region

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Fly to Brisbane this morning, then transfer to your hotel in the Sunshine Coast region, an area known for pristine waterways and UNESCO-listed national parks.

After settling into your hotel, gather together for an included dinner with beer or wine this evening.

### Day 10: Noosa Everglades

*Included meals: breakfast*

You’ve probably heard of the Everglades within the United States, but did you know that Australia is home to the world’s only other Everglades system? Spend the day exploring the Noosa Everglades, so serene that it is also known as the River of Mirrors, which has remained unchanged for thousands of years.

- Travel to the town of Noosa and enjoy free time to explore the coastal gem that is as full of charm as it is lush landscapes.
- Hop aboard a boat this afternoon and meander along the pristine waterways as you admire the surrounding scenery.
- Watch for pelicans, cormorants, the rare jabiru bird, and glossy black cockatoo as you cruise through the expansive, verdant area that more than 44 percent of Australia’s bird species call home.

### Day 11: A day on K’Gari (Fraser Island)

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

With its name translating to “paradise” in Badjala, the language of the Butchulla people, K’Gari is a UNESCO-listed island made entirely of sand—but don’t let that make you think you won’t find rainforests or freshwater dune lakes here. Spend a full day exploring the island, formerly Fraser Island, alongside a local guide, and you’ll understand why the Butchulla people named it “paradise.”

- Travel from the Sunshine Coast to Inskip and take a ferry to the island, where you will meet up with your local guide.
- Drive via a 4x4 to the shipwreck of SS *Maheno*, a Japanese ocean liner that was beached during a cyclone in 1935.

- Sit down for an included lunch at a local resort.
- Visit the Central Station Camping Area where you'll learn about the island's timber industry and rare tree species.
- Go for a swim in Lake McKenzie, a unique lake that's infused with natural tea tree oils that can reduce inflammation, soothe dry, itchy skin, and even act as a natural bug repellent.
- Explore the rainforest as you make your way back to the island resort where you'll enjoy afternoon tea.

Return by ferry to the Sunshine Coast and head to a local restaurant for tonight's included dinner, served with beer or wine.

*Packing tip: We recommend bringing a change of clothes, bathing suit, and towel.*

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## Sydney → 3 nights

### Day 12: Flight to Sydney

*Included meals: breakfast*

Fly to Sydney this morning. Then, enjoy free time to explore the city known for its scenic beaches like Manly Beach, notable architecture (hello, Sydney Opera House!), and vibrant green spaces like Hyde Park, or add an excursion.

+ Sydney Harbour Dinner Cruise

### Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Sydney

*Included meals: breakfast*

Join your Tour Director for a guided tour of Sydney and get a feel for the city's rich history, culture, and beloved landmarks.

- Pass the buzzing waterside district of Darling Harbour and the lush Royal Botanic Gardens in the city center.
- See the Rocks, Sydney's oldest colonial neighborhood, and stop at Mrs. Macquarie's Chair—a bench carved into sandstone in the early 1800s—to admire the view of Sydney Harbour Bridge.
- Soak in the sunny sights of world-famous Bondi Beach and its iconic Bondi Icebergs Club—with swimming pools perched on the ocean so that the crashing waves (weather depending) splash up into the pool—and the Gap, a dramatic dip in the cliffs of Watsons Bay.
- Enter the National Opal Collection and peruse the extensive assortment of the national gemstone of Australia, including its mass of otherworldly opalised fossils.

- Step inside the UNESCO-listed Sydney Opera House with a local guide.
- Walk to the neighboring park to view the *Bara*, a sculpture which celebrates the aboriginal First Peoples of Sydney

### Day 14: Free day in Sydney

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Spend one last free day exploring Sydney at your leisure or add an excursion.

This evening, join your group for a celebratory farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.

+ Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park Walk & Lunch

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## Flight Home

### Day 15: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue on to explore Tasmania.

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## + Tasmania extension

Tasmania is the perfect place for any nature enthusiast, history buff, and animal lover. The rugged island is full of lush green scapes, trendy small towns, and dramatic coastal views. Here, you'll learn about endangered species like the Tasmanian devil and wombats, and how professionals are working to protect and preserve them. Plus, explore the cobblestone streets of the colonial districts in Hobart, the capital of Tasmania, from the harbor to the Salamanca Market, both steeped in Tasmania's history of commerce and trade.

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## Hobart → 3 nights

### Day 15: Flight to Hobart & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Board a flight to Hobart, the capital city, located in the southeast portion of the island of Tasmania. Upon arrival, set off to uncover the charming seaside locale.

- Admire the city's colonial style homes as you stroll along the cobblestone streets of the historic waterfront.
- View Constitution Dock, famed finish-line for the Hobart Yacht Race, and the Maritime Museum of Tasmania which highlights the harbor's important role in trade and commerce.

- Visit the historic Salamanca Market, running the entire span of Salamanca Place and hosting more than 300 stalls stocked with local produce, coffee, tasty bites, and handmade items—this resilient and hearty market boasts that it stays open through rain, snow, and hail, and only closes for extreme weather conditions.

This evening, join your group for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

*Please note: Salamanca Market is only open on Saturdays. When day 15 falls on a different day of the week, an extended walking tour of Hobart will be offered.*

### Day 16: A day on the Tasman Peninsula

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch*

Spend the day seeing the Tasman Peninsula by both land and sea for a chance to take in the island's rugged landscape from multiple angles.

- Enter Tasman National Park, where you'll find yourself among towering sea cliffs and a variety of wildlife.
- Embark on a three-hour eco-cruise exploring sea caves and passing the towering dolerite cliffs, some of which stand more than 984 feet tall.
- Keep an eye out for the local marine life, like playful dolphins, seals, penguins, and even humpback whales.
- Back on land, enjoy an included lunch.

This afternoon, visit the Tasmanian Devil Conservation Park at the Unzoo, where, unlike traditional zoos, indigenous animals live in their natural habitat and roam free. At the park you'll have plenty of time to explore the grounds to learn about and see endangered Tasmanian devils, kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, and more.

### Day 17: Free day in Hobart

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend your last day getting to know Hobart on your own or add an excursion.

Tonight, rejoin your fellow group members and raise a toast to your trip with a farewell drink.

+ Penal Colony Tour & Tasman Wine Tasting

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## Flight Home

### Day 18: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.ca/AT6](https://goaheadtours.ca/AT6) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 4: Melbourne Wine Country & Lunch

\$239CAD/\$249CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon, includes lunch)

Make your way to Melbourne's surrounding wine region, a diverse area specializing in chardonnay, pinot grigio, and shiraz. While the vineyards outside Melbourne are well-known and loved by locals, visitors often overlook these hidden gems. Spend the day visiting two different wineries and indulge in all the region has to offer. At the first winery, you'll begin with a delicious included lunch featuring a pairing of different house wines to choose from. Continue on to a second winery for a guided tasting of different Australian varietals before heading back to your hotel.

## Day 6: Great Barrier Reef Snorkeling Cruise & Lunch

\$299CAD (8 hours, departs in the morning, includes lunch)

One of the seven wonders of the natural world, the Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef system on the planet. Enjoy a day on the water aboard a boat that will take you to John Brewers Reef, where you'll visit the MOUA, the Museum of Underwater Art—Australia's first and only underwater museum. At the reef, you'll be able to swim and snorkel among the marine life and view underwater sculptures and structures that are slowly becoming one with the reef. On board the ship you'll enjoy a tropical buffet lunch before cruising back to port.

Please note: Snorkeling equipment is provided. Travelers prone to seasickness may want to take special precautions for the boat ride to the Great Barrier Reef. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

## Day 12: Sydney Harbour Dinner Cruise

\$205CAD/\$215CAD\* (2.5 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Take a dinner cruise through Sydney Harbour, soaking in views of the city's famous bridge, opera house, and twinkling cityscape at night. The MV Sydney 2000, one of Sydney's most prestigious cruise ships, features multiple decks and live entertainment. Your dinner will be served on the Sky Deck, offering 360-degree views of the city.

## Day 14: Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park Walk & Lunch

\$225CAD/\$235CAD\* (6 hours, departure time varies, includes lunch)

Head outside of Sydney to the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and immerse yourself in the unique landscape where you'll find bushland, sandstone, and Aboriginal heritage. At the park, you'll meet up with your local Aboriginal guides who will take you through an in-depth experience through the park. As you walk through the bush, you'll view rock engravings and cave paintings, learn about the traditional plants, and have the option to have your face painted. At the end of your

adventure, sit down for an included lunch before returning to Sydney. Please note: Travelers should be comfortable walking around 2 hours along dirt trails and rocky outcrops.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 17: Penal Colony Tour & Tasman Wine Tasting

\$189CAD/\$199CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Spend the afternoon discovering Australia's darker history before heading back into town to get a taste of some of Tasmania's best wines. Start the day in the shadow of Mount Wellington at the UNESCO-listed Cascades Female Factory, an institute intended to reform female convicts during the 19th century. During a guided tour of Cascades Female Factory, you'll learn how Tasmania was the county's primary penal colony where over 12,500 female convicts were transported to harsh work camps known as Female Factories. Cascades is the last remaining of the female factories, now a museum dedicated to educating the public on the convict system of punishment and reform. As you explore the five different yards where thousands of convicts and their children spent their days doing endless hard labor, you'll get an idea of the terrible conditions they were subjected to. Afterward, head back into town to Berriedale Peninsula, where you'll view the vineyards and enjoy a wine tasting in a unique urban setting.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.ca/terms](https://goaheadtours.ca/terms)