



New Year's Eve in Australia & New Zealand

22 days | 25 days with Fiji extension

From the Great Barrier Reef and rugged Australian Outback to the sheep-dotted New Zealand plains and its cliff-lined fjords, the Land Down Under features a lineup of dramatic landscapes. In-between outdoor adventures and celebrating the new year, you'll discover sophisticated cities and an irresistible spirit.



Your tour package includes

19 nights in handpicked hotels
19 breakfasts
3 lunches
6 dinners with beer or wine, including a special New Year's Eve dinner and Champagne toast
1 tasting
13 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach
5 on-tour flights

Included highlights

Sydney Opera House
New Year's Eve in Sydney
Great Barrier Reef
Uluru
Milford Sound
Glowworm Caves
Kiwi Wildlife Park
Kiwi home-hosted dinner
Auckland's Sky Tower

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 1 hour daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and gravel paths, with few hills.

Group size

15-35

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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 Australia.

Sydney → 3 nights

Day 3: Arrival in Sydney

Included meals: breakfast, welcome dinner

Welcome to Sydney! Transfer to your hotel and then gather with your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner this evening.

Day 4: Sightseeing tour of Sydney

Included meals: breakfast

Join your Tour Director for a guided tour of one of the world's most pleasant cities.

- Pass Darling Harbour and the Royal Botanic Gardens
- See the Rocks neighborhood and stop at Mrs. Macquarie's Chair to take in views of the Sydney Harbour Bridge
- Soak in views of Bondi Beach and the Gap in Watsons Bay
- Step inside the UNESCO-listed Sydney Opera House with a local guide

Enjoy a free evening in Sydney or add an excursion.

+ Sydney Harbour Dinner Cruise

Day 5: Free day in Sydney & New Year's Eve celebration

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Enjoy a free day in Sydney or add an excursion. Tonight, enjoy a celebratory dinner and a Champagne toast to welcome the new year.

+ Royal Botanic Gardens & Bush Tucker Tour

Great Barrier Reef Region → 4 nights

Day 6: Flight to Cairns

Included meals: breakfast

Fly to Cairns, a coastal city in the state of Queensland, and then transfer to your hotel in the Great Barrier Reef region.

Day 7: Mossman Gorge, Daintree National Park & Port Douglas

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, tasting

Spend the day immersing yourself the northern coast's lush landscapes and its aboriginal heritage.

- Head to the Mossman Gorge Rainforest for a private Dreamtime Walk with a local indigenous guide
- Walk along gentle trails through the surrounding rainforest as you visit cultural sites and pass traditional bark shelters
- Hear about the special bond the aboriginals have with the land as your guide points out food sources and traditional plants used for medicines

Afterwards, enjoy a boxed lunch as you make your way to the UNESCO-listed Daintree National Park to discover a wealth of unique scenery and incredible wildlife.

- Cruise down the winding Daintree River in search of crocodiles and birds
- Relax and enjoy traditional afternoon tea while in Port Douglas
- Head toward Rex Lookout point for stunning panoramic views above the canopy

Please note: Travelers should feel comfortable getting in and out of ferries and boats. We recommend wearing a sturdy pair of walking shoes, and dressing accordingly based on the weather. In the case of inclement weather during the rainy season, if flooding occurs, today's schedule may be replaced with a visit to the Tablelands.

Day 8: The Great Barrier Reef

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Enjoy a full day at the Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef system.

- Head to Cairns Marina to board a catamaran and enjoy a cup of tea as you sail to the Outer Barrier Reef
- Dock at the Marine World Platform and learn about the reef's unique ecosystem from a marine biologist

- View the coral's colors from the underwater observatory, glass-bottom boat, or semi-submarine—or hop in the water with a snorkel
- Sit down for an included tropical buffet lunch aboard the boat
- Sip on some tea as you make your way back to the mainland

Please note: Snorkeling equipment is provided.

Day 9: Free Day in the Great Barrier Reef Region

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day in the Great Barrier Reef region or add excursions.

+ Australian Hot Air Balloon Ride

+ Kuranda Village Aboriginal Park & Rainforest

Uluru Region → 1 night

Day 10: Transfer to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

Included meals: breakfast

Fly from Cairns to Uluru and visit Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Take in incredible views of Kata Tjuta, the weathered rock domes also known as the Olgas, and watch the sun set over Uluru, the magnificent monolith that's been worshiped by Aboriginal tribes for 22,000 years.

Melbourne → 3 nights

Day 11: Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre & flight to Melbourne

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free morning in the Uluru region or add an excursion.

Return to magnificent Uluru National Park where you'll meet with an Aboriginal guide at the Cultural Centre.

- Learn about the Anangu culture through the Centre's exhibits featuring the best of Anangu arts and crafts
- Head out into the park and enjoy free time to walk the various trails (*weather permitted*)

Later, transfer to the airport for your flight to Melbourne.

+ Uluru Scenic Plane Ride

Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Melbourne

Included meals: breakfast

Set off on a guided tour to admire the city's beautiful 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 and the Shrine of Remembrance
- Pass the Yarra River and the Sports and Arts Precinct, site of the Australian Open
- Enter the National Opal Collection
- Stroll through Queen Victoria Market

Enjoy a free afternoon in Melbourne or add an excursion.

+ Phillip Island Penguin Parade

Day 13: Free day in Melbourne

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Enjoy a free day in Melbourne or add an excursion.

Then, sit down for an included dinner this evening.

+ Yarra Valley Winery & Steamtrain

Fiordland National Park Region → 2 nights

Day 14: Transfer to the Fiordland National Park Region

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Say goodbye to Australia and fly to Queenstown, New Zealand this morning. Upon arrival, transfer to the town of Te Anau in the Fiordland National Park region and enjoy an included dinner.

Day 15: Milford Sound cruise, Lake Te Anau cruise & Glowworm Caves

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Depart early this morning to see the breathtaking scenery of Fiordland National Park.

- Pass through beautiful beech forests and by glittering mirror lakes
- Climb to the Homer Saddle and drive through Homer Tunnel
- Enjoy an included lunch as you cruise around Milford Sound, in view of Mitre Peak
- Cruise across Lake Te Anau to visit the Te Anau Glowworm Caves
- Walk along subterranean boardwalks inside the caves to view glowworms

Please note: The order of activities is subject to change.

Queenstown → 2 nights

Day 16: Queenstown via Arrowtown & Bob's Peak

Included meals: breakfast

Stop to explore the gold rush settlement of Arrowtown as you make your way to Queenstown.

Tonight, take the Skyline Queenstown Gondola 1,500 feet up to Bob's Peak, which offers panoramic views of the landscape below. At the top, watch the sun set as you admire the Remarkables, Walter Peak, and Lake Wakatipu in the distance.

Day 17: Sightseeing tour of Queenstown

Included meals: breakfast

Join your Tour Director as they introduce you to Queenstown this morning.

Spend free time in Queenstown or add an excursion.

+ Walter Peak: Lake Cruise & Dinner

Rotorua → 2 nights

Day 18: Flight to Rotorua

Included meals: breakfast

Fly to Rotorua, in the heart of the North Island's Māori country. Later, enjoy a free evening in Rotorua or add an excursion.

+ Māori Village & Hāngi Feast

Day 19: Sightseeing tour of the Rotorua Region & traditional Māori village dinner

Included meals: breakfast, wine tasting, tasting, dinner

pend the day exploring the highlights of the Rotorua region.

- Ascend to the top of Mt. Ngongotaha via the Skyline Gondola, admiring views of impressive Lake Rotorua and the city below
- Once at the top, head to the tasting room and enjoy a wine tasting featuring Volcanic Hills winery
- Visit the village of Whakarewarewa, which is home to thermal springs and bubbling hot pools
- Join a local Whakarewarewa guide to learn about the lifestyle and traditions of the Māori people, who live in harmony with nature in the village
- Explore Rotorua's Government Gardens, a public park and site of great historical importance to the local Māori people

Tonight, make your way to a traditional Māori village for a private home-hosted dinner experience.

- Begin the evening with a whakatau, or welcome ceremony, by men and women of the village
- Enjoy a delicious dinner featuring regional specialties cooked using the area's geothermal steam
- Take time to get to know the villagers daily life, culture, architecture, aspirations, and so much more during cultural discussion after dinner

Auckland → 2 nights

Day 20: Sightseeing tour of Auckland

Included meals: breakfast

Drive from Rotorua to Auckland this morning.

Then, get to know "The City of Sails" with your Tour Director in the lead where you'll see the city's iconic spots such as Mount Eden, the Sky Tower and the Auckland Domain.

Day 21: Free day in Auckland

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Enjoy a free day in Auckland or add an excursion.

Later, celebrate your trip with your group at tonight's farewell dinner.

+ Waiheke Island

Flight Home

Day 22: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to explore Fiji.

+ Fiji extension

Fly to Fiji to continue your trip and discover what makes the island the definition of paradise. It definitely has something to do with all those palm trees and totally perfect beaches, which you'll have plenty of time to get familiar with.

Fiji → 3 nights

Day 22: Flight to Fiji

Included meals: breakfast

Fly to Nadi, Fiji, and transfer to your seaside hotel.

Day 23: Free day in Fiji

Included meals: breakfast

Enjoy a free day in Fiji or add an excursion.

+ Tivua Island Sailing & Snorkeling

Day 24: Free day in Fiji

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Spend another free day in Fiji or add an

excursion.

This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Fiji Village Visit: Indigenous Culture & Traditions

Flight Home

Day 25: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Spend the afternoon relaxing in a dayroom, then 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/AU8 | 1-800-754-5066

Day 4: 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 5: Royal Botanic Gardens & Bush Tucker Tour

\$175CAD/\$185CAD* (1.5 hours, departure time varies, includes lunch)

Immerse yourself in Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens Aboriginal history when you join a First Nations guide and set off to explore the lands the Gadigal people have taken care of for thousands of years. As you walk through this area of Sydney, originally called Woccamagully, your guide will teach you about the history and culture of the Gadi people. You'll learn about how local plant life was integral to the locals' survival and growth. Afterwards, head to a local restaurant and enjoy an included lunch before returning to your hotel.

Day 9: Australian Hot Air Balloon Ride

\$409CAD/\$419CAD* (4 hours, departs in the morning)

Sail through the morning sky high above the Atherton Tablelands on this breathtaking excursion. This area is known for its beautiful mix of lush rainforests, thundering waterfalls, and sprawling savannas. As you rise into the sky, you may spot local wildlife grazing below, including kangaroos and wallabies. Your balloon ride lasts 30 minutes. Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent.

Day 9: Kuranda Village Aboriginal Park & Rainforest

\$229CAD/\$239CAD* (9 hours, departs in the morning)

Join an expert guide and set out to explore the Rainforestation Nature Parks' Pamagirri Aboriginal Experience. Along the way, you'll learn how to make and play a didgeridoo and how to throw a spear, and watch performances that celebrate the culture of the rainforest's indigenous people. Next, you'll take a scenic ride on the historic Kuranda Train before a leisurely lunch break. Enjoy some free time to explore the Kuranda Village, where you may discover treasures at the markets, visit an Aboriginal art gallery, or hop on a river cruise. Before the end of your trip, take a ride on the Skyrail cable car, soaring high over the canopy of the forest. The cable car will stop along the way, giving you the chance to walk along a boardwalk on the rainforest floor.

Day 11: Uluru Scenic Plane Ride

\$159CAD (1.5 hours, departure time varies)

Make your way to the airport to board a small, private aircraft that will fly you over Uluru. Your local guide will provide commentary on the grand, red monolith, which indigenous Aboriginal tribes have worshipped for over 22,000 years. Everyone will have a window seat during the 24-minute flight to soak in the bird's-eye views as you travel over the Outback. Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent. There is no personal weight limit, but if you weigh over 198 pounds you will need to provide your weight to flight staff on tour to ensure the overall aircraft weight limit is not exceeded. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 12: Phillip Island Penguin Parade

\$225CAD (7.5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Every night, the tiny penguins of Phillip Island waddle ashore in an adorable parade. On this excursion, you'll journey to Summerland Beach to see the penguins come home after a long day of fishing. They're returning to feed their babies, and you'll watch as the penguins arrive for dinner on the beach. Please note: This excursion is weather-dependent. Travelers should wear seasonally appropriate clothing as this excursion takes place entirely outdoors. Because of the penguins' sensitive vision, photography of the parade is not permitted. We recommend bringing snacks or purchasing food at the cafe as you'll arrive back at the hotel late this evening. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 13: Yarra Valley Winery & Steamtrain

\$265CAD (9 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)

Embark on a journey to the Dandenong Ranges rainforest. Next, board the authentic "Puffing Billy" steam-powered train en route to Menzies Creek. Along the way, admire the mountain's eucalyptus forest and fern gullies. After the scenic train ride, you'll travel to a regional vineyard to enjoy an included lunch and wine tasting, followed by a visit to another local winery. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 17: Walter Peak: Lake Cruise & Dinner

\$169CAD/\$179CAD* (4 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Board the steam-powered TSS Earnslaw in Queenstown for a cruise across Lake Wakatipu. Your destination is Walter Peak, one of New Zealand's most famous sheep and cattle stations. There, you'll enjoy a barbecue dinner and watch a sheep-shearing demonstration and sheepdog show before heading back to Queenstown. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs January to May and from October to December. A weatherproof jacket and comfortable shoes are recommended.

Day 18: Māori Village & Hāngi Feast

\$165CAD/\$175CAD* (4 hours, evening with dinner)

The Māori are an indigenous group of Polynesian descent who developed a cooking style known as hāngi, which uses steam, hot rocks, and cloth to cook food inside a manmade hole in the soil. Tonight, head to a Māori village, located in the forest outside of Rotorua, to learn about their unique artworks and ancient rituals before experiencing a traditional hāngi feast. After your dinner, enjoy watching a kapa haka performance which combines hake (posture dance), waiata-ā-ringā (action songs), and waiata koroua (traditional chants).

Day 21: Waiheke Island

\$199CAD/\$209CAD* (6.5 hours, departs in the morning)

Board a ferry and settle in for a scenic cruise across the Auckland Harbour to Waiheke Island. Upon arrival at the wharf, a local guide will provide full commentary regarding the history of the island, the native flora and fauna, and tales of the region. Make your way to a boutique vineyard for a wine tasting before continuing to a bustling olive oil mill. With the beach close by, take some time after the tastings to explore the coast and soak in the spectacular views. Before boarding the ferry back to Auckland, you'll have free time for lunch at a local cafe or restaurant.

Extension excursion options

Day 23: Tivua Island Sailing & Snorkeling

\$189CAD/\$199CAD* (7 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)

Set sail on a scenic cruise to Fiji's Tivua Island, a small tropical paradise surrounded by stunning coral reefs. When you're not enjoying afternoon tea or an included buffet lunch, the day will be yours to spend as you'd like. Soak up some sun on the white-sand beach or lounge in a hammock for the ultimate in relaxation. When you're ready to cool off, paddle around the island in a kayak, board a glass-bottom boat with a marine biologist, or hop in the water snorkeling. Back on shore, there will be plenty of opportunities to get acquainted with local culture as you take part in a traditional Kava ceremony, watch a coconut husking demonstration, or learn about herbal medicine on a nature walk. Please note: The Fijian sun is very hot and bringing a sun hat and sunscreen is recommended. If you'd like to enjoy the water, be sure to pack a towel and swimwear.

Day 24: Fiji Village Visit: Indigenous Culture & Traditions

\$129CAD/\$139CAD* (4 hours, departs in the morning)

Set off to Viseisei Village, one of the oldest settlements in Fiji. On the way, stop at Nadi Market for a guided walk through its fruit and vegetable stalls. Then, proceed to your destination where you'll be greeted with a traditional welcome ritual, including a taste of kava, a ceremonial beverage. After a walking tour of the village, learn how about husking and extracting milk from coconuts. Finish your day with a farewell drink

*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

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before you return to your hotel. Please note: Out of respect, travelers will need to clothes that cover your knees and shoulders. Easy to remove shoes are recommended as you will need to remove them for parts of the experience.

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