**ROTARY DOWN UNDER - TOUR 1**

**PRELIMINARY ITINERARY as of 12/1/22**

**(to be updated mid December, hotels & tours may change due to availability)**

# TOUR DAYS: 17 DAYS /14 NIGHTS

# TOUR TYPE: PRIVATE GROUP

**TOUR DATES: MAY 24 – JUNE 9, 2023 DEPARTING AUSTRALIA JUNE 9** (Airlines & flight times tbd)

**ATLANTA – MELBOURNE – CAIRNS – SYDNEY – ATLANTA**

**TOUR SUMMARY:**

Discover three of the most breathtaking cities in the Land Down Under with this 17-day group tour of Australia! Begin your tour in Melbourne, the country’s cultural capital filled with fascinating hidden gems including art, extraordinary restaurants, ample shopping opportunities, and a bustling atmosphere that is unlike any other city! Wander around the Fitzroy Gardens, one of the most beautiful gardens in Melbourne, and visit Albert Park, home to the Australian Grand Prix. Enjoy a one half day tour of Philip Island then two full day tours of the Great Ocean Road and Yarra Valley. All this including transport to & from the Rotary Convention May 27-31.

Then we fly to Cairns in North Queensland for 2 nights. Optional tours available: The Kuranda Scenic Rainforest (rail & cableway) or take the catamaran to Fitzroy Island to explore the Great Barrier Reef; full day tour of world heritage sites - Tablelands, Rainforest, Waterfalls & Paronella Park.

Next we’ll take a flight to Sydney to discover some of the most iconic attractions in Australia. Visit the Sydney Opera House, known for its extraordinary architectural design, and explore Bondi Beach, the most famous surfing beach in the country. Wander around Sydney Harbour and uncover the breathtaking views of the coastline. Your small-group tour of Australia will shortly come to an end in Sydney — and you will head home filled with unforgettable memories!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

* Visit Melbourne, a multicultural city with a bustling art scene and ample shopping opportunities, the Great Ocean Road & Yarra Valley
* Experience the Great Barrier Reef, Rainforests, gardens, and majestic mountains all near Cairns
* In Sydney visit the Opera House, discover The Rocks, and see the famous harbour, zoo and a full day at the iconic Blue Mountains
* Drive to Bondi Beach, the most famous surfing beach in Australia, located in South Whales

**TOUR PRICES:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Departure Dates** | **Atlanta (ATL)** | **Single Supp.** |
| **24-May-2023** | tbd | tbd |

**TOUR LODGING INFO:** *14 Nights Accommodation + 02 Nights Onboard on Inbound Flight*

Accommodation will be provided on a twin-sharing basis

**CITIES NIGHTS SUPERIOR HOTELS**

Melbourne 08 Nights Mercure Swanston Hotel

Cairns 03 Nights Cairns Sheridan Hotel

Syndey 03 Nights Aspire Sydney or Metro Marlow Sydney

**TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

* 14 Nights’ accommodation on twin sharing basis at the listed superior hotel or similar
* Daily Breakfast
* Arrival and Departure airport transfers
* Sightseeing as per itinerary
* International round trip airfare from Atlanta
* Domestic flights from Melbourne to Cairns to Sydney
* All air taxes and fuel surcharges
* All currently applicable local taxes
* **TOUR PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE:**
* Items of a personal nature, Tips & gratuities
* Baggage fees may apply and vary by carrier
* Optional Tours
* Items not mentioned as being included

**TOUR ITINERARY:**

**DAY 01: 5/24 ATLANTA – MELBOURNE** (likely layover in Dallas / DFW)

Make your own way to the Atlanta airport for your overnight flight to Australia. Enjoy inflight meals and services.

Overnight Onboard Flight

**DAY 02: 5/25 IN FLIGHT**

Continue your overnight flight to Australia. Enjoy inflight meals and services.

Overnight onboard flight

**DAY 03: 5/26 MELBOURNE (ARRIVAL)**

Welcome to Australia! Upon arrival at the Melbourne International Airport, you will be transferred to your hotel for check-in. Enjoy the rest of your day at leisure to explore the city at your own pace.

Overnight in Melbourne

**DAY 04: 5/27 MELBOURNE (B/-/-)**

Transfer to the Rotary Convention for the opening ceremony. (Pick up and drop off only)

Overnight in Melbourne

**DAY 05: MELBOURNE (B/-/-)**

Transfer to the Rotary Convention. In the afternoon pick up from the Convention for a city tour of Melbourne. (10 hours coach use)

Melbourne is home to many of Australia's best-known [landmarks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landmark), such as the [Melbourne Cricket Ground](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne_Cricket_Ground), the [National Gallery of Victoria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Gallery_of_Victoria) and the [World Heritage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Heritage_List)-listed [Royal Exhibition Building](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Exhibition_Building). Noted for [its cultural heritage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_Melbourne), the city gave rise to [Australian rules football](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_rules_football), [Australian impressionism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heidelberg_School) and [Australian cinema](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinema_of_Australia), and has more recently been recognized as a [UNESCO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO) [City of Literature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_of_Literature) and a global center for [street art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Street_art_in_Melbourne), [live music](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_Melbourne) and theatre.

Overnight in Melbourne

**DAY 06: MELBOURNE – PHILIP ISLAND (B/-/-)**

Transfer to the Rotary Convention. (12 hours coach use)

In the afternoon Head on a tour of Philip Island. On your way, enjoy the magnificent views of Melbourne’s affluent suburbs. Here you will see many modern buildings alongside beautiful federation homes — many of which were built in the late 1800s. As the South Gippsland Highway approaches the landscape, your sights will become more rural with smaller townships and farming properties along the way. San Remo is the gateway to Phillip Island and the seafood capital in the region. As you travel through this quaint fishing village, you will see local fishermen casting a line off the jetty. Next, you will cross the only bridge that connects Phillip Island to the mainland. While Phillip Island is famous for its Little Penguin Parade, it also boasts an incredible coastline with ideal surfing conditions and a wide range of wildlife. The Penguin Parade Visitors’ Facility has extensive information available for Phillip Island with its rich history, local wildlife, and of course, the Penguin Parade. Here you can learn about the Little Penguin and its lifestyle. You can also browse through their souvenir shop to find your own piece of Penguin memorabilia. Head down to Summerland Beach to see a Little Penguin magic. You will certainly fall in love with these little guys! Just as the sun sets over the ocean, the Little Penguins will emerge from the sea and waddle up the beach to their sand dune burrows. These Little Penguins are the smallest of the penguin species, and Phillip Island is fortunate enough to be home to the largest colony of these creatures in the world. They cherish their Little Penguin colony. To protect them, all the revenue generated from the parade is invested back into the research, environment, and education projects to ensure their species flourishes.

Overnight in Melbourne

**DAY 07: MELBOURNE (B/-/-)**

Return transfer to the Rotary Convention. (Pick up and drop off only)

Overnight in Melbourne

**DAY 08: 5/31 MELBOURNE (B/-/-)**

Return transfer to the Rotary Convention for the closing ceremony. (Pick up and drop off only)

Overnight in Melbourne

**DAY 09: 6/1 YARRA VALLEY (NO GUIDE) (B/-/-)**

Enjoy an authentic taste of the Yarra Valley on this full-day from Melbourne. Visit local farmers, family-run wineries, and artisan producers as you travel through the patchwork of vineyards and farmlands. Stop along the way to indulge in wine tasting at De Bortoli winery; sample scrumptious handmade chocolates at the Yarra Valley Chocolaterie; and enjoy a delicious lunch at Rochford Winery. That’s not all: other stops include Yarra Valley Dairy and Yering Station.

Overnight in Melbourne

**DAY 10: 6/2 GREAT OCEAN ROAD (NO GUIDE) (B/-/-)**

Spend a full day exploring the natural wonders of Australia’s Great Ocean Road. Your guide picks you up at centrally located Melbourne hotels in a comfortable, high-tech mini coach, where you join just a handful of other passengers for a personalized, small-group experience. Onboard narration is available in many different languages through the Go West Tours app. The Great Ocean Road officially begins at Torquay, a famous surf town of gorgeous, sandy beaches. Stop at a beachside location before continuing through several charming port towns before stopping at Great Otway National Park, which boasts ancient trees among a semitropical forest. The coastal landscape comes to a dramatic climax at Port Campbell National Park, where you can gawk at the Twelve Apostles—a grouping of massive limestone pillars that rise up out of the ocean. The rugged cliffs along the Great Ocean Road once made for perilous navigation for vessels sailing into the port of Melbourne. Hear the tragic tales of Australia’s ‘Shipwreck Coast’ and visit Loch Ard Gorge, the postcard-worthy site of a notorious 1878 shipwreck. Finally, view the Gibson's Steps for a dramatic example of the power of erosion. Take in the incredible cliff line and offshore stacks before continuing on your drive back to Melbourne. Stop for dinner (own expense) on the return drive to Melbourne. Relax on the ride back to your hotel or share snapshots of the day with family and friends using the coach’s free onboard Wi-Fi.

Overnight in Melbourne

**DAY 11: 6/3 MELBOURNE – CAIRNS (B/-/-)**

This morning you will be picked up and transferred to Melbourne International Airport for your flight to Cairns. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel by airport shuttle. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

Overnight in Cairns

**DAY 12: 6/4 CAIRNS (B/-/-)**

Enjoy the day at leisure or pre-book one of the following optional tours.

Overnight in Cairns

**Optional: Kuranda Scenic Rail & Sky Rail Rainforest:**

**Optional: Kuranda Scenic Rail & Sky Rail Rainforest Gold Class:**

Enjoy a full day Kuranda Skyrail, and Scenic Rail tour. You will be picked up at your hotel and transferred to Smithfield Terminal to board the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway at the scheduled time advised by the driver and glide above the rainforest canopy to Kuranda. There are two stations en route where you can alight and enjoy a walk through the rainforest to spectacular lookouts or visit the CSIRO Interpretive Centre. Arrive at Kuranda to enjoy free time for approximately an hour and a half and explore the 'Village in the Rainforest' and its many attractions including the Heritage Markets which operate daily. You will have time to enjoy lunch (own expense). We recommend you visit other Kuranda Village attractions like Birdworld, The Australian Butterfly Sanctuary or Kuranda Koala Gardens (own expense). At 2:00pm board the Kuranda Scenic Railway for the journey to Cairns and enjoy spectacular views as the train travels through 15 hand cut tunnels and past spectacular waterfalls. Stop at Barron Gorge to view the falls before arriving at Freshwater Station. Tour concludes at approximately 4.00pm, at which time hotel drop offs will commence.

The Kuranda Scenic Rail Gold Class Upgrade includes: Dedicated host service; individual seating, moveable tub-style chairs; ambient, historical decor including timber looking flooring, historical photos and fans; quality refreshments including sparkling Australian wine, beer, orange juice, soft drink, ice water, appetisers and chilled towel during the journey; Kuranda Scenic Rail gift pack including pewter KSQ pin, pen, postcard and postage; and souvenir Z-card (commentary companion).

**Optional: Fitzroy Island Experience:**

# The high-speed catamaran departs daily from the Cairns Reef Fleet Terminal for the scenic 45-minute cruise to Fitzroy Island, travelling adjacent to the protected waters of the coastline. On arrival at Fitzroy you will discover one of the most unspoiled islands on the Great Barrier Reef, covered in lush rainforest that descends into crystal clear waters. Your day on Fitzroy Island offers ample opportunity to snorkel the fringed coral reefs and explore the underwater world in a glass bottom boat, take a leisurely paddle around Welcome Bay, relive your childhood on the ocean trampoline or just relax on the beach. You can also enjoy the rainforest walks through the National Park and a prepacked picnic lunch at your leisure.

***Tour Departs:*** *8:15am check-in, tour starts at 9:00am from Reef Fleet TerminalPlease note: Passenger Levy of AUD 5 per person, to be paid locally and subject to change without notice. This tour does not include transfers*

What to Bring: Hat, towel, sunscreen, camera, swimming suit, protective clothing, change of clothes, money for meals, drinks and souvenirs Sunglasses

**DAY 13: 6/5 CAIRNS (B/-/-)**

Enjoy the day at leisure or pre-book one of the following optional tours.

Overnight in Cairns

**Optional: Full Day Tablelands, Rainforest, Waterfalls and Paronella Park:**

Depart from Cairns and head south travelling past Walsh's Pyramid, one of the largest naturally formed pyramids in the world. Here your guide will stop so you can grab a photo of this unique North Queensland landmark. Now it's time to travel up the World Heritage listed Gillies Highway climbing 730 metres above sea level whilst enjoying the breath taking views over the Goldbourgh Valley. Just before the top of the amazing Gillies Range is a short photo opportunity at the Heales Lookout before heading into the gorgeous Atherton Tableands. Your first stop is beautiful World Heritage Listed Lake Barrine Crater Lake National Park. On arrival, your tour guide will take you on a short walk to visit the 1000-year-old Twin Kauri Pines, true giants of the rainforest. After the guided walk, enjoy a delicious freshly baked scones with jam and cream accompanied by locally grown and freshly brewed Tea and coffee (unlimited cup refills). Then depart on a 40-minute guided wildlife cruise on the lake. Once the cruise is complete, you will all meet back at the bus for our departure to the historical town of Yungaburra. Yungaburra is recognised as having the most Nationally Listed Heritage buildings in Queensland. Next stop is The Curtain Fig Tree located in the Curtain Fig Tree National Park. Now it's time to descend from the mountains down the Palmerstone Highway through sugar cane and banana fields to the coastal town of Innisfail. On arrival, begin your delicious lunch at Roscoe's all you can eat Hot buffet. Paronella Park is the next destination, you will be guided through the extensive National Trust Gardens while learning the rich history of Hosea Paronella's wonderful achievements and his colourful history of how he built his Spanish Castle in the rainforest. Continue northbound passing the wettest town in Queensland, Babinda with an annual rainfall total over 4 metres per year. This "umbrella" town sits between Queensland’s two highest mountains; Mt Bartle Frere (1,611 metres) and Mt Bellender Ker (1,593 metres). These majestic mountains are all covered in World Heritage Rainforest and form part of the Great Dividing Range; Australia's most substantial mountain range and the third longest land-based range in the world. From there it is an approximate 50-60-minute drive back to the city of Cairns and return to your accommodation.

**DAY 14: 6/6 CAIRNS - SYDNEY (B/-/-)**

This morning, at the arranged time, you will be picked up and transferred to Airport for your flight to Sydney.

On arrival check in to your hotel.

In the evening enjoy a Showboat dinner cruise (no transfers - transfer).

Overnight in Syndey

**DAY 15: 6/7 BLUE MOUNTAINS – SYDNEY ZOO (No guide) (B/-/-)**

You will be picked up from your hotel and transferred to Wheat Road, the Streetside behind the Sydney Aquarium in Darling Harbour. Board your coach, sit back, and relax as you make your way into the incredible Blue Mountains as you listen to your driver-guide offer details on the day’s itinerary. Travel over the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge and head west towards the Blue Mountains. Visit the quaint village of Leura and then head to the Scenic World and take in the views of the Jamison Valley. You may choose to ride the Railway, Cableway, or Skyway. Your next stop will be at Echo Point to take in the breathtaking views of the Megalong and Jamison Valleys across to the Three Sisters. Learn about the Aboriginal Dreamtime legend of this rock formation. Stop at the Waradah Aboriginal Centre (entry will not be included), then head to the Sydney Zoo for the opportunity to get up close with the native wildlife. Hand-feed kangaroos, wallabies, emus, and enjoy a face-to-face encounter with a friendly koala.

Overnight in Syndey

**DAY 16: 6/8 SYDNEY (B/-/-)**

This morning you will enjoy a guided half-day tour around Sydney. You will discover many points of interest including the Rocks, Sydney Opera House, and Mrs. Macquarie’s Chair for breathtaking views of the harbour and city skyline. Head on a journey to Bondi Beach, the most famous surfing beach in Australia, where you can wander along the shoreline and dip your toes into the cool ocean. Your next stop will be the entrance of the Sydney Harbour, known as the Gap. With a dramatic ocean cliff on the eastern coast of Sydney, the Gap provides breathtaking views of the coastline. Return to Sydney through the famous suburbs of Double Bay, Paddington, and Kings Cross.

After visit your guide will walk you through the famous Sydney Opera House.

Remaining day at your leisure.

Overnight in Syndey

**DAY 17: 6/9 SYDNEY – USA (B/-/-)**

This morning, at the pre-arranged time, you will be picked up and transferred to the Sydney International Airport for your flight home to the Atlanta airport.

**END OF OUR SERVICES**