

Contrasts of Australia & New Zealand

18 Day Guided Holiday | Melbourne to Christchurch | QCANA



The Tour

On this grand, wide-ranging journey, you'll explore the two diverse and fascinating nations that lie on the shores of the Tasman Sea. Vastly different in size, and each offering unique landscapes and experiences, Australia and New Zealand share a well-earned reputation for warm hospitality and great cuisine. Discover kiwis and crocodiles, exciting cosmopolitan cities, the Great Barrier Reef and stunning Milford Sound.

Choose This Trip If You'd Love To:

- Cruise Sydney's glorious harbor and the Great Barrier Reef
- Visit a local home and former stables for morning tea
- Cruise the magnificent and world-famous Milford Sound
- Plant a tree at a Queensland rainforest restoration project

Highlights

Local Connection

Join a local family for a 'Be My Guest' morning tea and hear tales of the amazing world record-setting motorcycle designed in their garage.

Insider Knowledge

Immerse yourself in incredible tropical North Queensland, taking in its diverse nature and wildlife aboard a local crocodile-watching cruise.

Cultural Immersion

Visit a traditional Māori marae at Tamaki Māori Village, and enjoy a concert and an authentic earth-oven 'hangi' dinner

Sustainable Footprints

Plant native trees as part of our Rainforest Restoration project in Queensland, providing sanctuary for local birds and wildlife.



Itinerary

Day 1 Welcome to Melbourne

Get to know your Travel Director and fellow travelers this evening at a Welcome Reception and dinner.

Hotel: Crowne Plaza Hotel Melbourne, 2 nights

Included Meals: Dinner with wine

Day 2 Melbourne

Explore Melbourne on a city sights tour this morning, then discover its gracious arcades, eclectic laneways and vibrant street art on a private walking tour.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 3 Melbourne - Cairns

Depart Melbourne by air this morning for Cairns, where you'll join a local expert for a wildlife journey at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures. Enjoy a cruise where you're sure to encounter koalas, wallabies and crocodiles. Then join us and take part in a Rainforest Restoration project to protect this natural wonder.

Hotel: Hilton Hotel Cairns, 3 nights

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 Great Barrier Reef

Board a high-speed catamaran today and cruise out to the iconic Great Barrier Reef beneath the sparkling blue waters of the Coral Sea. You'll have the opportunity to go snorkeling (equipment provided), or view the spectacular coral and tropical fish from the underwater observatory and semisubmersible craft. Enjoy a tropical buffet lunch on board before you return to Cairns.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 Cairns Free Time

Today is free for you to pursue your own interests in this vibrant tropical city. This evening, you'll be treated to a Highlight Dinner at Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park. Experience a personal Welcome to Country ceremony, witness an entertaining high impact performance by an indigenous dance group and enjoy dinner accompanied by the sounds of the didgeridoo.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Highlight Dinner

Day 6 Cairns – Sydney

This morning you'll fly to Sydney, where you'll have time to relax or explore before boarding a Magistic Cruises Dinner Cruise. Glide past magnificent waterfront homes, the legendary Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House.

Hotel: Hyatt Regency Darling Harbour, 3 nights

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with wine

Day 7 Sydney

Enjoy a tour of the Sydney Opera House then head to Bondi Beach to visit an Australian institution, the Returned Servicemen's Club. Your host, a local surf lifesaver, will lead you on an exclusive Be My Guest tour through the Members Only facility of Australia's oldest surf lifesaving club, followed by lunch overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Be My Guest lunch

Day 8 Sydney Free Time

Explore Sydney at your leisure. This evening, join your Travel Director for dinner at a restaurant by the waterfront.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with wine

Day 9 Sydney – Auckland

Fly across the Tasman Sea to the island nation of New Zealand. You'll meet your Travel Director over dinner this evening at your hotel.

Hotel: Stamford Plaza Auckland, 2 nights

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with wine

Day 10 Auckland

A morning city sightseeing tour is followed by free time when you can relax or explore.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 11 Auckland – Rotorua

Discover New Zealand's native flora and fauna, including the iconic kiwi, at Rainbow Springs Nature Park. This evening, enjoy a Hangi Highlight Dinner and cultural performance at the Tamaki Māori Village.

Hotel: Millennium Hotel, Rotorua

Included Meals: Breakfast, Highlight Dinner

Day 12 Rotorua – Queenstown

There's free time for an optional experience. Perhaps visit Te Puia, where a Māori guide will introduce you to their gift from the gods – mud pools, thermal springs and New Zealand's largest geyser, Pohutu. This afternoon, board your flight to Queenstown.

Hotel: Millennium Hotel, Queenstown, 3 nights

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 13 Milford Sound Cruise

Travel through Fiordland National Park to glorious Milford Sound. Cruise among sheer cliffs, massive waterfalls, glaciers and rainforest before you return to Queenstown in the late afternoon.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 14 Queenstown Free Time

Explore exciting Queenstown your way today. Join your fellow travelers at The Boatshed, set in the historic New Zealand Railways Shipping Office, for a Highlight Dinner.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Highlight Dinner

Day 15 Queenstown – Franz Josef

Visit the historic gold-mining village of Arrowtown, then indulge in some delicious stone fruit in Cromwell. Drive over the epic Haast Pass, past thundering waterfalls and ice-blue lakes. Continue to the magnificent Franz Josef Glacier.

Hotel: Te Waonui Forest Retreat

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with wine

Day 16 Franz Josef – Christchurch

Journey to Hokitika, known for its beautiful greenstone (jade) to witness a master carver at work. At Arthur's Pass board the TranzAlpine for one of the world's most scenic train rides through the Southern Alps to Christchurch.

Hotel: Distinction Christchurch Hotel, 2 nights

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 17 Christchurch

Join Isabelle and Tim Weston, for a Be My Guest experience at their home, Britten Stables. Formerly horse stables, the couple restored the property and transformed it into the exquisite home it is today. Spend the last evening with your Travel Director at a Farewell Dinner

Included Meals: Breakfast, Be My Guest, Farewell Dinner

Day 18 Farewell from Christchurch

Say goodbye when your vacation comes to an end this morning after breakfast.

Included Meals: Breakfast