

# Australia & New Zealand

## February 2020

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*Discover a region of true natural and cultural diversity on our Australia & New Zealand tour. Join us on our comprehensive itinerary to explore iconic South Pacific locales like Australia's Great Barrier Reef, cosmopolitan Sydney, and New Zealand's mystical Milford Sound.*

*You'll also go beyond the landmarks to make up-close cultural discoveries, as your resident Program Director introduces you to Australian Aboriginal people, New Zealand's native Maori, friendly schoolchildren, and more—all the engaging people who give this part of the world its deserved reputation for friendliness and good cheer. Best of all, you'll travel in style with your friends from Southern Exposure!*

**REMINDER:** Space for this special journey is available on a first-come, first-serve basis and is truly limited. To reserve your place today, please call the Southern Exposure office at **(269) 962-1255**. If you haven't experienced a Southern Exposure travel adventure before, feel free to ask questions or meet with our staff.

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## Snapshot Itinerary: Holiday Spirit Along the Seine

Travel Dates: *February 2020 (call for exact dates)*

Day 1 – Depart U.S.

Day 2 – Cross International Date Line

Day 3 – Arrive Cairns, Australia

Day 4 – Cairns / Hartley's Crocodile Adventures

Day 5 – DAY 5 – Cairns / Optional Hot-air Balloon Ride / Optional Great Barrier Reef Helicopter Ride / Outer Great Barrier Reef Tour

Day 6 – Cairns / Optional Tjapukai, Skyrail & Kuranda Village tour / Aborigines Today Discussion / Returned Services League Dinner

Day 7 – Cairns / Sydney

Day 8 – Sydney & Opera House

Day 9 – Sydney / The Rocks / Sydney Harbor Cruise / Opal Discussion / Optional Sydney by Night Tour

Day 10 – Sydney

Day 11 – Sydney / Te Anau, New Zealand

Day 12 – Te Anau / Milford Sound cruise / Optional Jet-boat Ride

Day 13 – Te Anau / Arrowtown / Winery Tour / Queenstown

Day 14 – Queenstown / Lake Wakatipu / Walter Peak Sheep Station

Day 15 – Queenstown / Rotorua / Home-Hosted Dinner

Day 16 – Rotorua / Ohinemutu community visit / Optional Te Puia Dinner

Day 17 – Rotorua / School Visit / Auckland

Day 18 – Cairns / Hartley's Crocodile Adventures

Day 19 – Return to U.S.

Southern Exposure Phone: (269) 962-1255





## Detailed Itinerary: Australia & New Zealand 2020

### Day 1 – Depart U.S.

Depart today on your flight across the Pacific.

### Day 2 – Cross International Date Line

Crossing the International Date Line westbound, you lose a day as you travel to Australia (you'll gain it back on your return flight).

### Day 3 – Arrive Cairns, Australia

You'll arrive this morning in Sydney or Brisbane, and a Grand Circle representative will assist you in connecting with your flight to Cairns. On arrival at the airport in Cairns, another Grand Circle representative will meet you and assist with the transfer to your hotel, where you'll meet your fellow travelers, including those who took our Melbourne & the Outback pre-trip extension. The balance of your day is at leisure to relax after your overseas flight before beginning your Australia & New Zealand Tour in earnest.

### Day 4 – Cairns / Hartley's Crocodile Adventures

After breakfast this morning, depart Port Douglas for Hartley's Crocodile Adventures for an up-close visit with crocodiles, koalas, and kangaroos. Hartley's is a working crocodile farm located in the Australian Bush. You'll have the opportunity to meet a koala, hand-feed kangaroos in a private enclosure, and watch the crocs at feeding time. After an included lunch at the farm, you'll take a boat cruise on Hartley's Lagoon, a natural habitat for the saltwater crocodile. A behind-the-scenes Tour of the park will provide you with an informative and entertaining experience with the region's rich array of wildlife and the keepers who care for it. This evening, enjoy an included Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

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### **Day 5 – Cairns / Optional Hot-air Balloon Ride / Optional Great Barrier Reef Helicopter Ride / Outer Great Barrier Reef Tour**

This morning, you'll have the option to rise early for an optional sunrise balloon ride above the Atherton Tablelands. Float above a lush tableau of rain forests, mountains, and lakes, and watch the day break over the tropical landscape below.

Then, rejoin the rest of your fellow travelers and board a high-speed catamaran to the Great Barrier Marine Park—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Stretching 1,240 miles, the Great Barrier Reef comprises acres of multicolored coral supporting an array of exotic sea creatures.

#### **Important Travel Notes:**

- For your comfort and safety, we recommend this tour for individuals in good physical condition. If you have difficulty walking, this may be a difficult trip for you.
- We reserve the right to cancel this tour due to insufficient registration. Full refund will be given if tour is canceled due to insufficient registration.
- If traveling alone, we will match you up with a roommate (this tour is double occupancy only).
- Please read the “What to Expect” box on the next page carefully. If you have further questions, please contact the Southern Exposure staff at **(269) 962-1255** during business hours.

Your destination is a stationary pontoon-style observation post at the Outer Great Barrier Reef, a fantastic spot from which to explore this ecological wonderland. The Outer Barrier Reef provides the best views because it is further from the shore and free from the run off from the rain forests that can cloud the water. Additionally the outer reef supports a more diverse range of marine life than other locations.

Upon arrival at the outer reef, you'll have the opportunity to join an optional Tour in which you'll take to the sky aboard a helicopter for a scenic flight above the colorful coral. Enjoy a bird's eye view of the wide expanse of this natural oceanic wonder before returning to sea level and joining your fellow travelers for an included Tour.

At the outer reef you can swim or snorkel, probe the lower depths in a semi-submersible vessel, or behold the underwater world from the lower deck of the stationary pontoon. A local reef expert will also be on hand to enlighten you about this unique ecosystem and enhance your experience of the reef. A buffet style lunch is included. You'll return to your hotel in

the late afternoon. The rest of the day is yours to spend in Cairns as you please. Dinner tonight is on your own.

**Please note:** Weather conditions may affect your marine life-viewing experience. On rare occasions, strong winds or severe weather may prevent your visit to the Outer Barrier Reef.

■ **Hot-air Balloon Ride - \$170/person**

Rise early this morning and float away from the city for a dawn balloon ride over the Queensland countryside. You'll fly gracefully above the wilderness of the Atherton Tablelands, a lush expanse of rainforests, lakes, mountains, and emerald fields, and marvel as the morning sun lifts the shroud of mist from the tropical tableau below.

■ **Great Barrier Reef Helicopter Ride - \$120/person**

**Day 6 – Cairns / Optional Tjapukai, Skyrail & Kuranda Village Tour / Aborigines Today Discussion / Returned Services League Dinner**

This morning, perhaps you'll join us for an optional Tjapukai, Skyrail & Kuranda Village Tour. At Tjapukai Aboriginal Culture Park, you'll watch Aboriginal people perform traditional dances and learn about their controversial history in this region of Australia. Later, let them dazzle you with their boomerang skills—perhaps you'll even try your hand at the boomerang yourself. Afterward, ride up the beautiful Whitfield Range in a skyrail gondola to Kuranda, a quaint and picturesque village nestled in one of the Earth's oldest rain forests.

Returning to the hotel later, you'll have some time at leisure before an exclusive Discovery Series Discussion about Aborigines Today. A speaker with ties to the local Aboriginal community will share with you the beliefs and contemporary challenges of the continent's first peoples.

Tonight, enjoy an exclusive visit to the Cairns branch of the Returned Services League, which supports veterans and present members of the armed forces. Here, you'll sit down for an included dinner.

■ **Tjapukai, Skyrail & Kuranda Village - \$110/person**

Ride to Caravonica Lakes to visit Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Center. The Center presents and preserves Aboriginal culture and includes a model of a traditional Aboriginal camp on its grounds. You'll Tour the park, attend a cultural performance, and even try your hand at boomerang throwing. Then board the Skyrail and climb above the lush rain forest canopy for a visit to Kuranda village, renowned for its arts and crafts market.

## **What to Expect: Australia & New Zealand 2020**

We will make every effort to accommodate your travel needs and make sure you have a pleasant, memorable experience. At the same time, it is important to note the following advisories:

■ **Physical Requirements:** 6 locations in 17 days 3 internal flights of 3-4 hours each. Air travel time will be 19-27 hours and will most likely have two connections. Be able to walk 1-2 miles unassisted and participate in 4-5 hours of physical activities daily, including stairs. Balance and agility are required to board watercraft. Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them. We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience

■ **Terrain & Transportation:** Uneven walking surfaces, including unpaved paths, hills, stairs, and cobblestones. Travel by 45-seat motorcoach, 36-seat boat, high-speed catamaran, gondola, water taxi, steamship, jet-boat, 280-seat boat, and sailboat.

■ **Climate:** Daytime temperatures range from 60-88°F during Touring season. December through March are the warmest months.

## **Passport & Visa Information**

U.S. citizens do not need a visa for this trip. Your passport should meet these requirements for this itinerary. It should be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S. It should have the recommended number of blank pages (refer to the U.S. State Department handbook for details). The blank pages must be labeled "Visas" at the top. Pages labeled "Amendments and Endorsements" are not acceptable. U.S. citizens will need a visa (or visas) for this trip. In addition, there may be other entry requirements that also need to be met. Australia: Visa required. New Zealand: No visa required, but travelers should bring an extra copy of their air itinerary in case local officials ask for it at Passport Control. Travelers who are booked on this vacation will be sent a complete Visa Packet— with instructions, applications, and a list of visa fees—approximately 100 days prior to their departure. If you are not a U.S. citizen, do not travel with a U.S. passport, or will be traveling independently before/after this trip, then your entry requirements may be different.



### **Day 7 – Cairns / Sydney**

This morning, you'll transfer to the Cairns Airport for your flight to Sydney. Upon arrival in Sydney late this afternoon, you'll enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. After dinner, transfer to your hotel.

### **Day 8 – Sydney & Opera House**

After breakfast, get to know Australia's oldest and largest city on a guided Tour.

Begin at the Opera House for an exploration of this famous landmark. Opened in 1973 by Queen Elizabeth II, the Opera House is a now-classic example of architecture's innovative Postmodern movement—and its design, engineering, and scope are modern marvels. The building contains 1,000 rooms and five theaters. More than two million visitors each year are entertained by more than 3,000 performances.

Then take a seat in Mrs. Macquarie's Chair, a bench cut into a sandstone rock formation, for panoramic views of Sydney's picturesque harbor, followed by an included lunch at the city's Botanical Gardens. The rest of your afternoon and evening are at your leisure. Dinner is included at your hotel this evening.

### **Day 9 – Sydney / The Rocks / Sydney Harbor Cruise / Opal Discussion / Optional Sydney by Night Tour**

You start this morning by riding to the historic "Rocks" area for a walking Tour. Overlooking Sydney's beautiful harbor, the delightful Rocks district of today bears little resemblance to its scandalous incarnation circa 1788. That's when colonial expatriates—primarily English convicts and their families—arrived on the scene and established a lively settlement in this prime location. For the next several decades, the neighborhood's picturesque location amidst sandstone outcroppings (the "rocks" alluded to in its nickname) belied its rough-and-tumble reputation.

However, what was once a bawdy warren of warehouses, taverns, and houses of ill repute is now one of Australia's most charming enclaves, with fine shopping and superb restaurants. As you explore the colorful, cobbled streets lined with bistros and boutiques, your Program Director will regale you with tales of the Rocks' illustrious history.

Then stroll to Circular Quay, a hub of activity at the heart of Sydney's waterfront. Witness the constant flow of ferries and water taxis that transport commuters and day-trippers to their destinations all around the harbor.



Here, you'll board a boat to set off on an included Sydney Harbor cruise, spotlighting the upper reaches of the beautiful Middle Harbor. More than two centuries ago, European settler Captain Phillip proclaimed this the finest natural harbor on Earth; you'll know what he meant as you pass countless sheltered coves, dotted with yachts and lined with elite homes.

Following your cruise, you'll visit a Sydney opal store, where you will participate in an exclusive Discovery Series Discussion about the various types of opals in Australia and how they are produced. You'll then enjoy a special glimpse at the world's largest gem opal when the staff opens their safe to reveal the "Olympic Australis," which weighs in at 17,000 carats.

The rest of your day is at your leisure, with lunch and dinner on your own. Or, tonight, see Sydney in a different light on an optional Tour that includes dinner at a local restaurant and a ride across scenic Sydney harbor aboard a water taxi, taking in spectacular views en route.

■ Sydney by Night - \$125/person

Enjoy a night on the town in Sydney with an optional Tour that includes a meal at a local Sydney restaurant, as well as a ride to Sydney Aquarium aboard a water taxi, taking in views of the harbor en route. Your exclusive guided Tour of Sydney Aquarium—courtesy of an expert aquarist—introduces you to Australia's fascinating aquatic species such as platypi, sharks, and tropical fish.

**Day 10 – Sydney**

Enjoy an additional day at leisure in Sydney and a chance to get to know Australia's largest and oldest city better. Perhaps you'll use the time to discover attractions in and around sprawling Hyde Park, including St. Mary's Cathedral, the Great Synagogue, and the Australian Museum. You could also visit the world-renowned Taronga Zoo. Or simply relax at one of Sydney's waterfront cafes, and enjoy the view of the sailboats dotting the harbor.

Dinner is on your own this evening; your Program Director will gladly offer dining suggestions.

**Day 11 – Sydney / Te Anau, New Zealand**

After breakfast this morning, depart for the airport, and then fly to Queenstown, where you'll transfer to Te Anau, the first stop on your Tour of New Zealand. Located on the southwestern corner of the South Island, Te Anau is a small town nestled on the shores of Lake Te Anau, the South Island's largest lake. A part of the Fiordland region, Te Anau boasts a majestic backdrop of Mount Luxmore and the Murchison mountains, and is the closest town to Milford Sound.

Upon arrival, get to know your surroundings with an orientation walk followed by an included dinner at your hotel.

## **Day 12 – Te Anau / Milford Sound Cruise / Optional Jet-boat Ride**

Today, enjoy what is sure to be a highlight of your New Zealand Tour, during a cruise of Milford Sound, hailed by Rudyard Kipling as the “Eighth Wonder of the World.” Dense forests, shimmering Lake Te Anau, and a pass known as the “Avenue of Disappearing Mountains” mark your route. Marvel at towering cliffs and the stunning perfect cone of Mitre Peak. You’ll see thundering waterfalls, impressive beech forests, and unique flora and fauna as you cruise along Milford Sound’s famed fjords, enjoying an included lunch on board.

After your cruise, you’ll return to Te Anau, where the rest of the day is at leisure. Or, join an included optional jet-boat Tour on the Upper Waiau River. A native New Zealand invention, the jet-boat takes in water and ejects it from the stern under great pressure to create the propulsion. It needs very little room to maneuver, making it capable of handling twisting channels with ease (not to mention impressive moves like 360-degree spins). With a skilled jet-boat driver at the controls, you’ll fly through the river, taking in the wilderness of Fiordland National Park, and visiting a few of the locations used in the filming of *The Lord of the Rings*.

Dinner is included at a local restaurant in Te Anau this evening.

## **Day 13 – Te Anau / Arrowtown / Winery Tour / Queenstown**

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and transfer to Arrowtown, where you’ll enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant upon arrival.

Then, stroll the main street of Arrowtown on a guided Tour, which has been faithfully reconstructed with wooden buildings that evoke a bygone era. The town today contains some of the best shops in the country—selling popular products like jewelry, gold nuggets, jade, and woolen goods.

The population of Arrowtown grew to more than 7,000 during the Gold Rush, but has recently settled at around 2,000 residents. Walking around the town, you may mistake your surroundings for a Hollywood movie set—the deserted miners’ cottages, historic wooden buildings, and old-time shops appear much as they did during the Gold Rush period.

After your Tour, you’ll visit a local winery, sampling vintages and learning about the wine-making process in New Zealand. The oldest existing vineyard here was established in 1851, although New Zealand has been pro-

ducing wine since colonial times. Most of the vineyards are located near the coast, where the temperate climate allows the grapes to ripen slowly—retaining their vibrant and distinctive flavor.

Late this afternoon, you’ll arrive in Queenstown, where you’ll enjoy some time at leisure. Dinner is included this evening

## **Day 14 – Queenstown / Lake Wakatipu / Walter Peak Sheep Station**

This morning, transfer to Queenstown’s Wharf (either by foot or by vehicle, depending on the location of your hotel), where you’ll board the TSS Earnslaw, a historic steamship that first launched in 1912. Cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Sheep Station for a guided farm Tour.

Since Captain James Cook brought sheep to New Zealand in 1773, sheep farming has grown to be a mainstay of the country’s economy. Today, New Zealand (with ten sheep for every person!) is the world’s foremost producer of prized, strong wool. At Walter Peak, you’ll learn about life on a Queenstown sheep farm, see sheepdogs run through their paces and watch a live sheep-shearing demonstration. To top off your visit, you’ll enjoy a traditional English tea.

You’ll cruise back to Queenstown and transfer to your hotel in the afternoon. Spend the balance of your afternoon as you please. Even if you are not inclined to ski, boat, raft, bungee jump, hang glide, horseback ride, or sky dive, you can have fun watching these activities and appreciating the incredible scenery all around you. The late afternoon is yours to spend as you please. Dinner is on your own tonight. **Please note:** An alternate vessel will be used during late May through early July 2018, as the TSS Earnslaw will be on annual survey during this time.

## **Day 15 – Queenstown / Rotorua / Home-Hosted Dinner**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to New Zealand’s North Island. Arriving in Rotorua, a small city known for its Maori culture and natural thermal pools, you’ll check in to your hotel and enjoy some time to unwind this afternoon.

This evening, enjoy a Home-Hosted Dinner with a local family who can tell you about Rotorua’s rich culture and their daily way of life during an exclusive Discovery Series event.

**Please note:** Certain December departures will not include Home-Hosted Dinner due to regional holidays.

## **Day 16 – Rotorua / Ohinemutu Community Visit / Optional Te Puia Dinner**

On today's included Tour, explore the city of Rotorua with your Program Director, and get to know this gem of New Zealand's North Island better. You'll start by learning more about the local Maori traditions during an exclusive Discovery Series event as you visit the Maori village of Ohinemutu. Here you can admire a Maori Church, as well as a hand-carved meetinghouse built on a marae, an ancient ceremonial site. Enjoy time for lunch on your own and independent discovery this afternoon.

This evening, you can choose to join an optional evening excursion to Te Puia Cultural Center, featuring a visit to New Zealand's national carving and weaving schools, a Tour of natural geysers and thermal pools, and, included in the cost of your optional Tour, a traditional dinner with Maori storytelling and entertainment.

### ■ Te Puia Dinner - \$115/person

#### Encounter Maori culture at Te Puia

Located in an area of vast geothermal activity, Te Puia was a naturally formed fortress first occupied by the Maori people in 1325. Serving as New Zealand's first cultural Tourism attraction, it now houses the Maori Arts & Crafts Institute and remains one of New Zealand's premier Maori cultural experiences. The native peoples of this region are known as the "tribe of hospitality," and they are famed for their performing arts. Tonight we'll join an exclusive guided Tour of the center and discover many Maori legends and traditions. Afterward we enjoy a special dinner featuring a local specialty cooked in a hangi (underground oven). Then enjoy a performance of Maori song and dance during a Mai Ora celebration.

## **Day 17 – Rotorua / School Visit / Auckland**

This morning, you'll visit Kaitao Middle School (when in session), supported in part by Grand Circle Foundation. You'll be greeted by the students with a powhiri, a traditional Maori welcoming ceremony, and have the opportunity to interact with them throughout the morning. Please note: Select departures will visit the school on the previous day of the itinerary. The school visit will not be available during school closures.

After your school visit, transfer by motorcoach to Auckland to continue your discoveries of New Zealand's North Island. Enjoy an included lunch en route.

In Auckland, the "City of Sails," you'll find a fine waterfront, well-used by ferryboats and sailboats of all sizes. Auckland Harbor hosted the exciting 2000 America's Cup Challenge, in which the Kiwis successfully defended their title against the American challengers.

The downtown area is a great place to stroll and drop in on the street-level cafes. This evening, is yours to spend at leisure. Dinner is on your own tonight.

## **Day 18 – Auckland / Harbor Cruise**

This morning, enjoy a memorable hands-on sailing experience aboard the 50-foot sailboat, Pride of Auckland. As you cruise, you'll enjoy a new perspective of Auckland Harbor, New Zealand's bustling commercial port.

After, you'll enjoy an included Tour of the city, offering a closer look at such iconic sights as the Sky Tower, Auckland Harbor, and the America's Cup Village.

Take the afternoon at your leisure. Perhaps you'll visit the Auckland War Memorial Museum or explore the Viaduct Basin, an entertainment area that was once home to the America's Cup. You can take a stroll to mingle with locals and visitors alike at more than 20 restaurants and bars. Or try your luck at the Sky City Casino. You'll rejoin your fellow travelers at the hotel tonight for a Farewell Dinner.

## **Day 19 – Return to the U.S.**

### **What's Included in the Package**

- International round-trip airfare from Detroit Metro Airport to and from the South Pacific.
- Accommodations for 16 nights.
- 31 meals: 16 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 9 dinners (including 1 Home-Hosted Dinner).
- 18 included features: 12 guided Tours and 6 exclusive Discovery Series events: Aborigines Today Discussion / Returned Services League dinner / Opal Discussion / Ohinemutu community visit / Home-Hosted Dinner / School visit
- Gratuities on your main trip for local guides and motorcoach drivers.
- Personal headset for all included and optional Tours on your main trip.
- Exclusive services of a local Grand Circle Program Director.
- Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips
- Traveling in style with your friends from Southern Exposure!



## Pricing Summary & Trip Dates

**Trip Name:** Australia & New Zealand 2020  
**Trip Dates:** February 2020  
**Base Price:** \$4,645 per person  
**Rd. Trip Airfare:** \$1,900 per person (DTW)  
**Trip Insurance:** \$699 (highly recommended)

**Exact Date:** The exact dates will be posted here as soon as they become available. For assistance in the meantime, please call the Southern Exposure at **(269) 962-1255**.

**Trip Cancellation Coverage** – Trip cancellation insurance for “Australia & New Zealand 2020” is not required but is highly recommended. For details and coverage information, please contact Southern Exposure at (269) 962-1255 during regular business hours.

**Reservation Deposit:** The deposit to reserve your space on this trip is \$500 per person, fully refundable until 65 days prior to departure.

**Need Help?** For personal assistance or more information about this trip in the meantime, please call the Southern Exposure office during normal business hours at **(269) 962-1255**, Monday - Friday.

## TOUR RESERVATION POLICY:

Reservations can be made by calling Southern Exposure Farm at **(269) 962-1255**. A \$500 deposit is required to guarantee your place (check, cash or credit card accepted), fully refundable until 65 days prior to departure. Remaining balance due 90 days before departure.

**Note:** The information, dates and prices provided in this document are estimates only based on currently available information. Pricing and itinerary are subject to change.

**Pricing Disclaimer:** *Every effort will be made to provide accurate pricing information. Operator reserves the right to correct promotional or pricing errors at any time, or to increase the trip price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, cruise fares, currency fluctuations, venue fee increases, taxes, or fuel surcharges, or other reasons, unless you pre-paid according to the terms of the Good Buy Plan prior to the cost increase going into effect. For more information, please contact Southern Exposure at **(269) 962-1255**.*