



AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND 2023

JANUARY 16 - FEBRUARY 5

Australia: 9 DAYS. Climb over Sydney Harbor Bridge. Watch surfers at Bondi Beach. Hold a koala. Go snorkeling at Great Barrier Reef. Enjoy spectacular sunset and sunrise at Uluru (Ayers Rock). Visit Victorian College for the Deaf, the oldest deaf school in operation since 1860, in Melbourne. See the penguin parade at Phillip Island.

New Zealand: 12 DAYS. Stunning natural wonders, charming towns, and more sheep than people on land. Be in awe of Queenstown and its surrounding landscapes. Learn about Maori culture. Visit Waitangi, the oldest settlement. See volcanoes, boiling mud and geysers near Rotorua. Feast your eyes upon glowworms inside Waitomo Caves.

JANUARY 16

Arrival into Sydney. Your guide will meet you at the airport, and take you to hotel to rest up. Welcome dinner. Stay in Sydney for 3 nights.

JANUARY 17

We do a grand tour of Sydney, including the City Hall, Opera House, The Rocks, Darling Harbour and boat tour around Sydney Harbour.

JANUARY 18

Relax and explore Sydney with optional activities - shopping, Taronga Zoo, Surry Hill Galleries as well as Oxford and William Streets. Also a chance of swimming at Bondi Beach. **OPTIONAL:** Do the amazing BridgeClimb to the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge (which would take approximately 3.5 hours).

JANUARY 19

We fly west to Yulara. Walk around the sacred site of Uluru (formerly known as Ayers Rock). Evening sunset of Uluru. Weather permitting, we experience a 3 course dinner under the stars. Stay at Yulara.

JANUARY 20

Rise early to see the sunrise of Uluru. Learn about Aborigines at the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre. Then fly north to Cairns. Swim at the saltwater lagoon on the esplanade. Stay in Cairns for 3 nights.

JANUARY 21 • • •

Ride on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway to Kuranda. Get the opportunity to hold a koala and see kangaroos. Return via Kuranda Scenic Railway.

JANUARY 22 • • •

Today, we have some optional activities: 1) An all day catamaran boat trip to a floating deck at the Great Barrier Reef for some diving and/or snorkeling as well as riding in a semi-submersible. 2) Go skydiving. 3) Take a hike to Glacier Rock Lookout or Behana Gorge Waterfall. 4) Go sea kayaking. 5) Free leisure time.

JANUARY 23 • • •

Fly down to Melbourne in the morning. Free time for lunch and shopping. By late afternoon, we head down to Phillip Island to see the penguin parade at dusk (as they arrive back to shore from spending all day feeding in the ocean). Stay in Melbourne for 2 nights.

JANUARY 24 • • •

See the colorful bathing boxes at Brighton Beach. Visit the Victorian College for the Deaf, established by a deaf man in 1860. We leave our hotel around 12:30 pm for an amazing late lunch experience, which would take 2 hours.

JANUARY 25 • • •

We fly out to Queenstown. Drive for 2 hours to Te Anau to check into hotel. Take a lakeside stroll to town for a pizza dinner. Stay in Te Anau.

JANUARY 26 • • •

Rise up early and take a morning cruise at Milford Sound. Return to Queenstown. Be sure not to miss the one and the only Fergburger for dinner. Stay in Queenstown for 3 nights.

JANUARY 27 • • •

Morning drive on breath-taking scenic Glenorchy route. Lunch at the quaint Glenorchy Cafe. OPTIONAL: thrilling ride on Shotover Jet boat, sky-diving, hot-air ballooning, trail-walking, fishing, shopping, bungee jumping, boating and more.

JANUARY 28 • • •

Drive to visit two charming towns, Wanaka and Arrowtown. In the late afternoon, we take a Skyline gondola to Bob's Peak for dinner with awe-spining views as well as take up a thrilling luge ride (for all ages).

JANUARY 29 • • •

We fly north to Auckland late in the morning. Then drive 1.5 hours south to Hamilton.

JANUARY 30 • • •

After breakfast, we take a 1.5 hour drive to Otorohanga to see kiwi birds. Waitomo Caves and ride on an underground boat to see thousands of glowworms, then Ruakuri Cave. Drive 2 hours to Rotorua. Stay in Rotorua for 3 nights.

JANUARY 31 • • •

See boiling mud and exploding geysers at Waiotapu. Then a scenic ride down south to visit beautiful Lake Taupo, including Aratiatia Rapids and Huka Falls. Eat huge prawns for lunch. Return to Rotorua. Experience an exciting Maori performance dinner.

FEBRUARY 1 • • •

In the morning, we visit Hobbiton in Matamata. After lunch, we head back to Auckland. After dinner, attend a deaf club and mingle with Deaf Kiwis. Stay in Auckland.

FEBRUARY 2 • • •

Ride to famous Northland area into seaside town, Paihia, in beautiful Bay of Islands. Visit historic site where Treaty of Waitangi was signed. Relax and explore Paihia and its surroundings. Stay in Paihia for 2 nights.

FEBRUARY 3 • • •

Ride on the sandy 90 Mile Beach to the “Top of New Zealand” where the Cape Reinga lighthouse is. Go sandboarding. Marvel the unique seascape.

FEBRUARY 4 • • •

After breakfast, we return to Auckland. Free time in afternoon in downtown Auckland. Dinner at a restaurant on North Wharf. Stay in Auckland for 1 night.

FEBRUARY 5 • • •

Free time in the morning before our farewell lunch at Sky Tower. Then head to the airport for your evening flights.

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\$500 deposit per person is required to reserve space. The availability of space is based on a first come, first serve basis. 100% of the balance is required 90 days before the first day of the tour.

\$5,990
per person /double occupancy

21 DAYS

SMALL GROUP 8 - 14

TOUR LEADER: Dan Brubaker • dan@handson.travel • 888-822-1577

WHAT'S INCLUDED??

- 21 nights in 3-star or 4-star accommodations.
- 18 meals: Breakfast (5), Lunch (2), Dinner (9)
- Services of a deaf Tour Leader on call 24 hours a day.
- Services of local deaf and/or hearing guides.
- All transportation expenses.
- All admission fees for attractions and museums mentioned in the itinerary.
- Single entry Australia tourist e-visa. No visa needed for New Zealand.
- Most tips, except for your Tour Leader.
- Informative travel preparation packet.
- Pre-tour and/or post-tour itinerary consultation.
- \$100 discount per person on your next regular tour.

WHAT'S EXCLUDED?

- Domestic and/or international airfares.
- All other meals not mentioned in the itinerary and personal expenses.
- Any COVID-19 related tests.
- Travel insurance.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

- EXTRA COSTS which will be added to the invoice.
 - \$1,200+ for 4 domestic flights (Sydney > Yulara > Cairns > Melbourne, and Queenstown > Auckland) and 1 international flight (Melbourne > Queenstown)
- Tour begins in Sydney, Australia and ends in Auckland, New Zealand.
- Tour will be confirmed when we meet the minimum number of participants.
- When the tour is confirmed, additional deposits/payments may be required.
- Substantial amount of walking expected during the tour. Appropriate physical fitness is necessary.
- Please consult the most recent version of the HOT terms and conditions.
<https://handson.travel/resources/terms/>
- Hands on Travel recommends that you purchase a travel insurance plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. To learn more:
<https://handson.travel/resources/protection/>
- Tour itinerary and price are subject to change.