

Australia: Sydney and the Blue Mountains

DAY 1

18 Jul

Welcome to Sydney!

Arrive in the bustling city of Sydney, where your adventure begins. Arrive on time for GEA Happy Hour and a welcome dinner for a chance to get to know your fellow travelers and soak in the excitement of what's to come. You'll settle into your accommodations in the heart of Sydney, ready for the days ahead.

DAY 2

19 Jul

Rocks Market and Sydney Opera House

Begin your day at the Rocks Market, where you can browse artisanal crafts and enjoy the vibrant street life. After lunch enjoy a walk to the Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb and take in panoramic views of the city. Afterwards, unwind on a relaxing Sydney Harbour cruise, soaking in the iconic skyline. In the evening, there's an opportunity to experience the Sydney Opera House with an optional show!

DAY 3

20 Jul

Discover Sydney's Artistic Charm and **Coastal Beauty**

Immerse yourself in Sydney's vibrant arts scene with a visit to one of the city's renowned art museums, exploring local and international masterpieces. Later, head to the iconic Bondi Beach for a stroll along the golden sands and ocean views. As you explore the city, take in the stunning landmarks on a guided tour.. Savor authentic Australian flavors with a stop at the Unicorn Hotel for delicious meat pies, a true local favorite.

DAY 4

21 Jul

The Enchanting Blue Mountains

Leave behind the city buzz and journey into the rugged beauty of the Blue Mountains. Visit a wildlife park, where you'll get up close with Australia's unique animals like koalas and kangaroos. Indulge in a savory lunch in the charming town of Katoomba or the quaint village of Leura. You'll meet a local knowledge holder, who will share with us rich aboriginal history and his respect for the land. End your day marveling at the breathtaking sunset over the Three Sisters, followed by a cozy pizza dinner in the Blue Mountains.

DAY 5

22 Jul

Nature and Art in the Blue Mountains

Begin the day with a walk in the magnificent Three Sisters area, soaking in the mystical landscapes. Take a ride through the canyons and forests in the Scenic World Nature Park for a unique perspective of the region's natural wonders. Later, enjoy an immersive art lesson in Billingara, where a local artist guides you in capturing the beauty of the region through painting that celebrates the indigenous roots of the area. Relax and reflect on your creative day as you prepare for your next adventure.

New Zealand: Queenstown and Fjords

DAY 6

23 Jul

Welcome to Queenstown

Fly to the adventure capital of the world, Queenstown, where you'll be greeted with a traditional Māori Welcome. Embark on a walking tour of this charming lakeside town, known for its breathtaking landscapes. Cap off your day with a delicious welcome dinner, ready to explore New Zealand's beauty.

DAY 7

24 Jul

Glenorchy and South Island Nature

Take a scenic journey to Glenorchy, a paradise for nature lovers. Visit a local rural school in the morning for a tour and opportunity to discuss with local educators. Enjoy a peaceful walk to a vista point that offers sweeping views of New Zealand's pristine wilderness. Feast on a hearty local lunch, a local specialty, before heading back to Queenstown to sample Fergburger, famous for its towering, juicy hamburgers.

DAY 8

25 Jul

A Day with Educators

Visit Te Kura, a local school where you'll meet teachers and learn about New Zealand's educational system and their focus on holistic wellbeing and cultural respect. Enjoy a lively lunch with the educators before traveling to Wanaka to visit another school. Experience a dinner in the charming town of Wanaka, surrounded by snow-capped mountains.

DAY 9

26 Jul

The Majestic Milford Sound

Embark on a full-day excursion to the world-famous Milford Sound, often called the "Eighth Wonder of the World." Board a boat to cruise through the fjord's towering cliffs and cascading waterfalls. For those seeking an unforgettable experience, there's an option to return via helicopter, soaring over the dramatic landscapes familiar from the Lord of the Rings movies.

DAY 10

27 Jul

Historic Arrowtown and Relaxation

Begin your day with a brunch at a local vineyard with optional wine-tasting. Explore the charming, historic streets of Arrowtown, a former gold rush town with a quaint, old-world feel. Wander through boutique shops, cafés, and galleries as you soak in the town's rich history. Visit the Chinese settlement, a well-preserved area that offers a glimpse into the lives of Chinese gold miners who settled here in the 19th century. For those seeking adventure, there's an option to hop on a fast-paced ride on the Shotover River. End your day with an optional visit to the relaxing Onsen Hot Pools, where you can unwind in a private, cliffside hot tub overlooking the Remarkables mountain range.

DAY 11

28 Jul

Journey to Christchurch

Start your day with a scenic bus ride from Queenstown to Christchurch, departing in the morning and arriving by the afternoon. Once in Christchurch, you'll be welcomed with a group dinner at a local restaurant, introducing you to the culinary delights of the city. After dinner, take a leisurely walking tour through the vibrant streets of Christchurch, and settle into your accommodations to prepare for your final day in New Zealand.

DAY 12

29 Jul

Final School Visit and Departure to Fiji

In the morning, visit a local school to connect with educators and learn about community engagement. Afterward, explore the Quake City Museum, documenting Christchurch's resilience following the earthquakes. Enjoy a farewell dinner and goodbyes. This marks the end of the program.

Fiji: Nadi to Naviti Island

In the afternoon, it's time to say your goodbyes to New Zealand and catch a flight to Fiji. Once you land in Nadi, you'll take a scenic drive to your resort. Enjoy a relaxing evening with dinner at the resort, settling in for your first night in paradise.

DAY 13

30 Jul

Fijian Culture and Island Life Start your day with a visit to a local market to purchase kava root, a key

Start your day with a visit to a local market to purchase kava root, a key element in the traditional Fijian kava ceremony. Afterward, drive to Lautoka for lunch. From Lautoka, you'll travel to the stunning Naviti Island, part of Fiji's Yasawa Islands. Upon arrival, you'll be greeted by the village chief. Spend the evening settling into your eco-resort, surrounded by the serene beauty of the island.

DAY 14

31 Jul

School Visit and Beach Bliss

In the morning, visit a local school on Naviti Island, where you'll learn about education in rural Fiji. Take part in meaningful exchanges with the students and teachers, gaining insight into the community's close-knit values and traditions. Explore the local crafts market, where you can purchase handmade souvenirs and support local artisans. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy the beaches of Naviti Island. Whether you choose to swim with manta rays, snorkel with reef sharks, or simply relax on the pristine sands, you'll be immersed in the island's natural beauty.

DAY 15

1 Aug

Beach Morning and Mud Baths

Spend your morning soaking up the sun and sea on Naviti Island's beaches, taking one last opportunity to explore the coral reefs or relax by the water. After a leisurely morning, you'll head back to Lautoka on the mainland. Upon arrival, unwind with a visit to the famous mud baths—a relaxing and rejuvenating experience surrounded by tropical scenery. You'll then settle into a beach resort on the western shore, where you'll spend a peaceful evening in paradise.

DAY 16

2 Aug

Cloud 9 Floating Bar or Resort Relaxation

For your final full day in Fiji, you have a couple of enticing options. For those seeking a unique experience, head to Cloud 9, a floating bar in the middle of the turquoise waters, perfect for sunbathing, dancing, swimming, and sipping cocktails. Alternatively, you can spend the day relaxing at your resort, enjoying the local shopping and dining scene at the luxurious Denarau Resort Island.

DAY 17

3 Aug

Cultural Farewell and Final Reflections

On your last day in Fiji, visit a special education school, where you'll have a chance to meet the students and staff and learn about inclusive education in Fiji. Afterward, explore one of Fiji's largest Indian temples, taking in the intricate architecture and learning about the Indian cultural influence on the islands. In the evening, you'll attend a Fijian cultural night, complete with traditional music, dance, and a light show. This will be a memorable farewell, celebrating the vibrant culture and experiences you've had throughout your journey.