

terrano^ovatours

13 DAYS HIGHLIGHTS OF AUSTRALIA INCLUDING THE RED CENTRE

Day 1 - Arrive Melbourne

Arrive into Melbourne where you will be met by your Tour Guide and transferred to your hotel. Known as Australia's mecca of all things trendy and tasty, Melbourne offers up exquisite dining, exhilarating sport and abundant opportunities to experience art. Melbourne is a blend of bustling laneways, world-class restaurants and captivating museums. The locals love their coffee, and serve it up in abundance at cosy cafes. There's always a sense of excitement here – whether its in the city's fascinating flavours or fierce sporting rivalries. This evening, you have an opportunity to get to know your tour guide over a **welcome drink in the hotel or welcome dinner**.

Meals: none

Day 2 - Melbourne

In the morning, take a city tour to see historic sights of the city, including the neo-Gothic St. Patrick's Cathedral, Fitzroy Gardens and the beautiful Victoria State Parliament. Hungry for more Melbourne? The city's acclaimed restaurant scene is perfect for your lunch break. And with the afternoon at leisure, you can then stroll through the city's attractive shopping streets and intricate laneways, visit sophisticated museums or take a relaxing cruise on the Yarra River. There is also an optional excursion to Phillip Island you may opt for, where you can experience the famous Penguin Parade.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3 - Melbourne - Great Ocean Road - Melbourne

After breakfast at the hotel, depart Melbourne and head west. Today, the journey is the highlight as you set off on one of the world's most scenic coastal drives, the Great Ocean Road. Just 20 km from the port city of Geelong, you will pass idyllic coastal towns and beautiful sandy beaches. In the most striking section, the dizzying cliffs offer breathtaking views of the "12 Apostles" limestone pillars that were once connected to the mainland cliffs. Waves and wind carved them into caves, then arches, and eventually battered them down into 45-metre (150-foot) tall columns. In the afternoon we head back to Melbourne.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 - Melbourne - Uluru (Ayers Rock)

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your **flight from Melbourne to Ayers Rock** (FLIGHT NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE). The day ends atmospherically at a vantage point: with a glass of sparkling wine at sunset, when the rock's play of colors revels in changing shades of red.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 5 - Uluru (Ayers Rock)

An early start sees our coach start the engine in the dark today, the reason for this is so that we don't miss the magnificent sunrise at Uluru (Ayers Rock). It is fascinating how the rock colossus takes on color at dawn. You may feel some of its spiritual energy, sacred to Aboriginal people. Afterwards we continue to the famous and iconic Uluru Ayers Rock. We circumnavigate the mystical monolith in a pleasantly air-conditioned coach, but you can also take short walks to places worth seeing at the foot of the mountain.

Optional at night: Field of Lights or Sound of Silence Dinner

Meals: Breakfast

Day 6 - Uluru (Ayers Rock) & Kata Tjuta (The Olgas) – Sydney

This morning, we drive approximately 60 km in distance to Kata Tjuta (The Olgas). This set of impressive domes to the west of Ayers Rock are believed to originate from a similar time as Ayers Rock, and are made up of 36 formations, although they are thought to have been one huge piece of rock, much like Ayers, that has weathered over millions of years. You can get closer to the imposing dome-shaped rock formation on a short walk. Afterwards you will be transferred to the airport for your **flight from Ayers Rock to Sydney** (FLIGHT NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE). Upon arrival, you will be transferred to the hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure in Sydney, capital of New South Wales and one of Australia's largest cities. It is best known for its Harbour front Sydney Opera House, with a distinctive sail-like design. Massive Darling Harbour and the smaller Circular Quay port are hubs of waterside life, with the arched Harbour Bridge and esteemed Royal Botanic Garden nearby.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 7 - Sydney

Today, take a seat in the comfortable coach and let yourself be chauffeured to the most beautiful spots in Sydney, this multicultural metropolis by the sea. A top stop is Mrs Macquarie's Chair in the Botanical Gardens, overlooking the Opera House and Harbor Bridge, both photogenic landmarks of this exciting city. But Sydney also has a wonderful beach-lined side: walking barefoot on the soft sands of famous Bondi Beach and watching surfers in the waves – what a pleasure. At noon, a boat awaits you for a panoramic tour of the huge natural harbor, lunch on board is included. After this pleasant afternoon you can be returned to the hotel or you can go on a stroll through the city and experience it at your own pace.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 8 - Blue Mountains Day tour

A fine pale blue mist lies on the mountains of western Sydney, giving it an air of mystery, just waiting for us to explore. The extensive eucalyptus forests are the cause of this blue mist, allowing essential oils to evaporate. Experience this fulfilling day trip to one of the most beautiful and exciting places in the unique UNESCO World Heritage Site. In hot summers, Sydneysiders seek relaxation here in the always cooler, temperate high altitude. You will find a breathtaking canyon landscape with the "Three Sisters" carved in stone, mighty waterfalls, dreamy villages dotted with guesthouses, galleries and gardens.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 9 - Sydney – Cairns

This morning you will be transferred to the airport and for your **flight from Sydney to Cairns** (FLIGHT NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE). Upon arrival, in Cairns you will be transferred to the hotel in the bustling tropical city of Cairns, considered the gateway to Australia's Great Barrier Reef. This thriving tropical city where unparalleled natural beauty, spectacular reefs, ancient rainforests, rich culture, and an alfresco dining scene blend into one. It is a place that's about as laid-back as you'll find anywhere in Queensland, and certainly not short on a natural wonder or two. In Cairns & the Great Barrier Reef, you'll find UNESCO World Heritage sites begging to be explored in between cities and towns like Cairns and Port Douglas.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 10 - Cairns – Great Barrier Reef

Today you can look forward to the fascinating wonderland of the Great Barrier Reef. The day trip with a brisk excursion boat takes you far out to the Outer Reef, where colorful coral banks serve as a habitat for an exciting marine fauna. You can experience the magical underwater world up close: while swimming or snorkeling. Rich in biodiversity and natural wonder, the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system, stretching from the tip of Cape York in Queensland's north, all the way to Bundaberg in the south. With 3000 separate reefs and over 900 continental islands and coral cays, the Great Barrier Reef is home to some of the world's best dive and snorkel sights, with a myriad of marine life you won't find anywhere else on earth. (approx. 20km)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 11 - Cairns – Kuranda

Today's day trip takes you on a historic train ride through the rainforest up to Kuranda. A very special trip with sweeping views of the picturesque Pacific coast and the Great Barrier Reef. The final stop is the quaint jungle village of Kuranda, where you will learn about the history, mythology, and traditional way of life of the region's indigenous people. Surrounded by the world's oldest living tropical rainforest, the colorful village of Kuranda is well known as the Village in the Rainforest attracting visitors for well over a century and is a delightful mix of quirky surprises, colourful characters and natural beauty, perched at the top of a rainforest clad mountain. In the afternoon, board a gondola, the longest cable car in the southern hemisphere. Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, smells and tranquility of one of the world's most botanically fascinating areas that has remained relatively unchanged for 130 million years. Enjoy a truly unique perspective of this ancient landscape with unsurpassed panoramic views of Barron Gorge and Australia's Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Glide metres above the pristine jungle canopy between Kuranda and Smithfield (Cairns). Enroute descend to explore the rainforest close up at Red Peak and Barron Falls. What a day full of wonderful experiences you can reflect on during the transfer back to the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 12 – Cairns

Enjoy a day at leisure in Tropical Queensland. For example, you can optionally take a trip to the ancient rainforest of the Daintree National Park north of Port Douglas. Or you can explore the lively tropical city or simply laze around at the hotel pool after the eventful impressions.

Day 13 – Depart Cairns

This eventful tour of Australia comes to an end after breakfast. Transfer to the Airport.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotels 3/4* (subject to availability):

Melbourne: Vibe Hotel Melbourne Docklands or Courtyard by Marriott Flagstaff **** or similar
Uluru (Ayers Rock): Outback Pioneer Hotel ***+ or Desert Garden Hotel ****
Sydney: Mercure Sydney or Holiday Inn Darling Harbour **** or similar
Cairns: DoubleTree by Hilton Cairns **** or similar

Hotels 5* (subject to availability):

Melbourne: Stamford Plaza Melbourne ***** or similar
Uluru (Ayers Rock): Sails in the Desert Hotel *****
Sydney: Amora Hotel Jamison Sydney ***** or similar
Cairns: Hilton Cairns ***** or similar

We would be delighted to customise the itinerary to ensure it perfectly matches your clients' requirements, whether that means adjusting the schedule, changing hotels, or incorporating any additional regions/sightseeing/activities. Our goal is to create a personalised experience that exceeds your clients' expectations. We are happy to make modifications as required to ensure the tour is unforgettable. Please contact us at info@terranovatours.com.au if you would like to start creating a tailor-made itinerary for your clients.