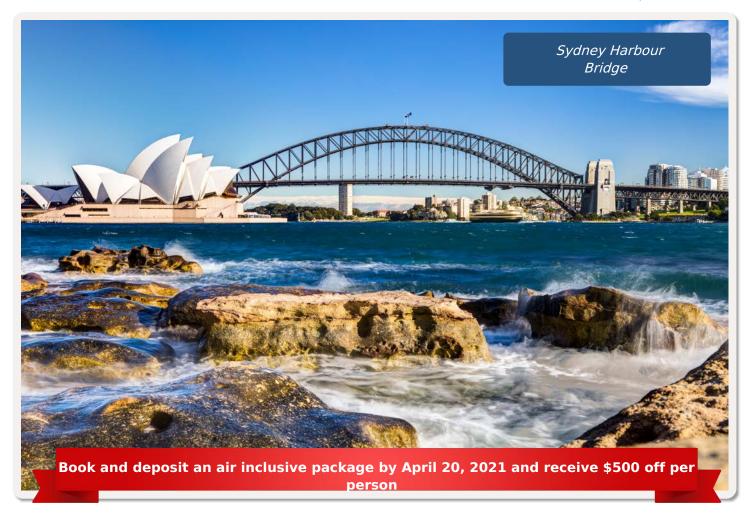
# From the Outback to the Glaciers

October 18 - November 7, 2021







### **INCLUDED FEATURES**

- Free parking with roundtrip transfers to Philadelphia International Airport
- Airfare between Philadelphia International Airport and Cairns, Australia, and Christchurch, New Zealand to Philadelphia International Airport
- In-country flights throughout Australia and New Zealand
- Roundtrip transfers airport/hotel
- 18 night hotel accommodations
- Services of Professional AAA Member Choice Vacations driver/guide
- Meals: 18 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 8 Dinners
- All local taxes, hotel service charges & porterage for one suitcase per person
- Services of a Discoveries Journey Manager

Optional excursions are available on this trip. Please see your AAA Central Penn Travel Professional for more information.

### **PRICING**

Occupancy	Rate Per Person
Double	\$9,909
Single	\$11,879
Triple	\$9,809

# All non-members must add \$60 to the above rates.

Rates are subject to availability at time of booking and include taxes, fees and fuel surcharges which are subject to change. All pricing and included features are based on a minimum of 15 passengers.



# **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Cairns, Australia
- Great Barrier Reef (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Melbourne, Australia
- Alice Springs, Australia
- Uluru (Ayers Rock)
- Sydney, Australia
- Sydney Opera House
- Queenstown, New Zealand
- Milford Sound
- Mt. Cook National Park
- Christchurch, New Zealand
- Willowbank Wildlife Reserve
- Local Kiwi Family home hosted dinner

### **ITINERARY**

# Monday, October 18, 2021 - Depart for Cairns, Australia

Transfer by motorcoach from Central PA to Philadelphia International Airport for your overnight flight to Australia.

# Tuesday, October 19, 2021 - Cross the International Date Line

While inflight you will cross the International Date Line and skip a day ahead.

## Wednesday, October 20, 2021 - Welcome to Cairns, Australia!

Your tour opens in Cairns, the tropical gateway to one of the world's most spectacular natural attractions – the Great Barrier Reef (*UNESCO*). Established as a marine park in 1975, the reef is a haven for thousands of species of sea life, as well as turtles and birds. Hotel: *Flynn Crystalbrook Collection Hotel, Cairns* (Dinner)

## Thursday, October 21, 2021 - Cairns

Soak up the tropical atmosphere, the morning is yours at your leisure. Perhaps you will take an optional tour on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, taking you above the rainforest canopy for a bird's-eye view of unspoiled nature. This afternoon, visit Hartley's Crocodile Adventures to see crocodiles on a nature cruise. Head through rainforests on boardwalks to see animals such as wild birds, reptiles, and wallabies. Visit with a koala and chat with a wildlife naturalist to learn more about these furry creatures. Hotel: Flynn Crystalbrook Collection Hotel, Cairns (Breakfast)

### Friday, October 22, 2021 - Cairns - Great Barrier Reef - Cairns

Board a glass-bottom catamaran and sail to the Low Isles to discover the aquatic realm of the Great Barrier Reef. Spend the day however you please, perhaps choosing from a selection of included activities. Maybe you'll soak up the sun on a tiny remote island\*, located along the outer reef. Or consider snorkeling in the rolling waves, uncovering a pod of vibrant sea life. You can also meet with a marine biologist or join an expert on a heritage trail walk along the island. Hotel: *Flynn Crystalbrook Collection Hotel, Cairns* (Breakfast, Lunch).

\*There will be minimal amenities on the island, so be sure to bring everything you may need for the day including water and a change of clothes.

### Saturday, October 23, 2021 - Cairns - Melbourne

Fly to the beautiful Victorian city of Melbourne. Set upon the shores of Port Phillip Bay and the Yarra River, the city exudes a lively and cosmopolitan atmosphere. Hotel: *Mantra on Little Bourke, Melbourne* (Breakfast, Dinner)

# Sunday, October 24, 2021 - Melbourne

Set out on a city tour and see Fitzroy Gardens and Melbourne's bustling "laneways." Then, it's your choice! Enjoy free time to explore on your own -OR- visit the Melbourne Botanical Gardens and Shrine of Remembrance. With an afternoon to yourself, perhaps you will join an optional excursion to Phillip Island, home to the world's largest colony of Little Penguins, where you'll see hundreds of these birds waddle out of the sea and cross the beach to their dune burrows. Hotel: *Mantra on Little Bourke, Melbourne* (Breakfast)

# Monday, October 25, 2021 - Melbourne

The day is yours. Often referred to as Australia's cultural capital, Melbourne is home to a plethora of captivating art, delicious cuisine, and unique neighborhoods. Perhaps you'll wander through its vibrant "laneways" – narrow roads home to local restaurants, colorful murals, and trendy boutiques. Or, you may choose to join an optional full day journey through Yarra Valley, Australia's Wine Country, where you'll learn about the regional wines at a tasting paired with lunch. Hotel: *Mantra on Little Bourke, Melbourne* (Breakfast)

# **Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - Melbourne - Alice Springs**

Experience the vast landscapes and tranquility of the Outback. Your flight takes you to Alice Springs, the perfect place to begin exploring this unique land. Tonight, continue your cultural immersion with a memorable bush dinner set against the backdrop of this unique desert environment. Hotel: *Doubletree by Hilton, Alice Springs* (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Wednesday, October 27, 2021 - Alice Springs

Access the history and culture of the Walpiri Aboriginal people during a "Dreamtime Tour." A specialist guide shares Aboriginal creation stories and explains everyday life. This afternoon, discover a more modern side to Outback living when you visit the Royal Flying Doctor Service, a lifeline to thousands across the vast terrain of Central Australia. Later, tour the Old Telegraph Station and Anzac Hill with its excellent views of Alice Springs and the surrounding area. Hotel: Doubletree by Hilton, Alice Springs (Breakfast)

# Thursday, October 28, 2021 - Alice Springs - Uluru

Traverse the "Red Centre" as you drive to Uluru (the Aboriginal name for Ayers Rock) in the heart of the Australian Outback. This huge monolith and the sandstone domes known as Kata Tjuta were created through the process of upheaval and erosion. Tour the base of "the Rock," learning about its geology and significance to Aboriginal culture. Witness the changing colors of Uluru at sunset accompanied by a champagne toast. Hotel: *Desert Gardens, Ayers Rock* (Breakfast)

# Friday, October 29, 2021 - Uluru - Sydney

This morning, tour Kata Tjuta before saying farewell to the rugged Outback. Fly to Sydney, an energetic metropolis. Upon arrival in Sydney, enjoy dinner in lively Darling Harbor. Hotel: *Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, Sydney* (Breakfast, Dinner)

# Saturday, October 30, 2021 - Sydney

See where English colonists first settled during a city tour of Sydney, featuring Kings Cross, the Harbour Bridge, Chinatown, the Rocks, Circular Quay, the Botanic Gardens, and the fashionable suburb of Darlinghurst. Take an expertled tour of the Sydney Opera House, poised majestically on Sydney Harbour. You'll have the chance to join a special presentation at the National Opal Collection. In the evening, consider an optional dinner and engaging performance at the famous Opera House. Hotel: *Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, Sydney* (Breakfast)

## Sunday, October 31, 2021 - Sydney

Deepen your exploration of Sydney's many wonders with a day at leisure. Tonight, say your farewell to Australia and take in the scenic vistas during a delightful dinner cruise of Sydney Harbour. Marvel at the magnificent skyline and iconic attractions: the Sydney Opera House and the Harbour Bridge. Hotel: Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, Sydney (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Monday, November 1, 2021 - Sydney - Queenstown, New Zealand

Leave Australia behind and fly to Queenstown, New Zealand. One of New Zealand's most popular towns, Queenstown is nestled against a picturesque bay and snowcapped mountains. Home to ski resorts, hiking trails and an abundance of natural beauty, the city is known as the "Adventure Capital of the World." Settle into your new home for 3 nights. Hotel: *Novotel Queenstown Lakeside* (Breakfast)

# Tuesday, November 2, 2021 - Queenstown - Milford Sound - Queenstown

Soak in the rugged grandeur of the Hollyford Valley as you travel through an ancient beech forest via the Homer Tunnel. Cruise the Milford Sound and see why this fjord is one of the most visited sights on the South Island. Following the cruise, consider returning to Queenstown via a short optional flight (weather permitting) for spectacular views of New Zealand's Southern Alps. Hotel: *Novotel Queenstown Lakeside* (Breakfast, Lunch)

# Wednesday, November 3, 2021 - Queenstown

Enjoy a day at leisure. Shop in the bustling village center or enjoy an optional and exhilarating jet boat ride on the Shotover River. You might also consider joining an optional tour of the countryside, showcasing many of the locations where blockbuster movies have been filmed. Hotel: *Novotel Queenstown Lakeside* (Breakfast)

## Thursday, November 4, 2021 - Queenstown - Mt. Cook National Park

Set off for the 19th-century settlement of Arrowtown, founded in the gold fever. Sample the freshness of the Central Otago region with a stop at a local fruit stand. Follow the Kawarau River and cross Lindis Pass before arriving in New Zealand's most famous national park – Mt. Cook. Savor some free time in this Alpine paradise. You may choose to take a nature walk, enjoy an optional glacier flightseeing tour (weather permitting) or simply meditate on the beauty of the Southern Alps. Hotel: *The Hermitage, Mount Cook National Park* (Breakfast, Dinner)

### Friday, November 5, 2021 - Mt. Cook National Park - Christchurch

Depart for Christchurch this morning and pay a visit to Willowbank Wildlife Reserve. A leader in the conservation of New Zealand species, Willowbank offers the chance to view New Zealand's "Big 5" up close and personal. Later, join a local Kiwi family for a home hosted dinner. Hotel: *Novotel Christchurch Cathedral Square* (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Saturday, November 6, 2021 - Christchurch

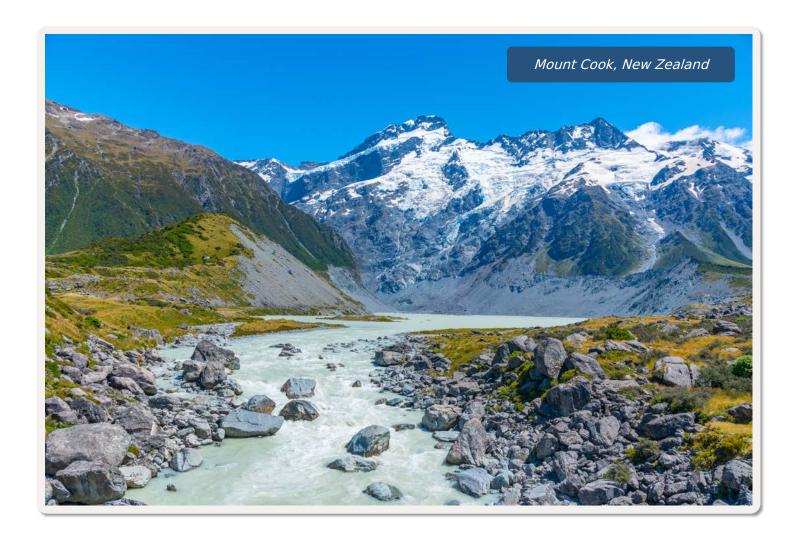
Devastated by an earthquake in early 2011, see firsthand how the "Garden City" is recreating itself during a sightseeing tour that highlights the city's magnificent gardens and elegant park district. The remainder of your day is free to continue exploring Christchurch on your own. As the day draws to a close, toast to your adventure down under at a farewell dinner with your fellow travelers. Hotel: *Novotel Christchurch Cathedral Square* (Breakfast, Dinner)

### Sunday, November 7, 2021 - Depart for USA

Today your tour comes to a close, leaving you with many unforgettable memories of your South Pacific journey. Transfer to the airport for your flight and transportation back to Central PA. (Breakfast)

#### Tour Activity Level: 3

This tour includes moderate physical activity. The itinerary blends some longer days with shorter days and more leisure time. Walking tours, as well as walking slightly longer distances, upstairs, or on uneven walking surfaces, should be expected.



### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **Travel Documents**

Original, signed passport valid for 6 months beyond stay, and with at least one blank visa page for visa stamp(s). All guests are required to obtain both an Australian ETA (Electronic Travel Authority) for travel to Australia and a New Zealand ETA for travel to New Zealand. The Visa's are not included in the price of the trip and will be an additional cost. Please see your AAA travel professional for additional information and pricing.

### **Payment**

Deposit of \$600 per person will confirm your reservation. Final Payment is due to AAA by **August 5, 2021**. **Solo Travelers Rewards Club maximum voucher redemption: \$100** 

### **Cancellation/Penalties**

Deposit date to day of departure \$25 per person, plus...

From April 20-August 18, 2021-\$600 per person, plus additional suppliers fees From August 19-October 2, 2021-30% per person, plus additional suppliers fees From October 3-October 17, 2021-50% per person, plus additional suppliers fees After October 17, 2021-100% Non-Refundable

\*Airfare is non-refundable after final payment.

#### Insurance

For your protection AAA recommends travel insurance. Pre-existing medical conditions may be waived with proper coverage if travel insurance is purchased within 14 days of initial deposit only. Other conditions may apply; ask your travel agent. AAA recommends Allianz.

### Flight

Air arrangements are handled by the tour operator. Seat assignments cannot be confirmed until the tour operator releases names to the airline 30 days prior to departure. Specific seat requests cannot be guaranteed. Some flights schedules may contain code share agreements.

## **Clothing/Climate**

Temperatures for Australia and New Zealand in October and November vary depending on your location and average between the 40s and 80s with cooler mornings and evenings. Pack for a variety of temperatures. Casual clothes that can be layered work best and comfortable walking shoes.

### **Baggage**

One suitcase per person will be allowed. You may also bring a carry-on bag small enough to fit under your seat. Baggage fees are not included in the price of the trip. Baggage fees and other charges may be directly assessed by airlines or airport.

#### **Travel Assistance**

For personal comfort, group participants who need assistance are required to have a traveling companion who is capable of and totally responsible for providing the needed assistance.

#### **GRP14121**

#### **Consumer Disclosure Notice - Part of Contract of Service.**

Please read this notice, it constitutes part of your contract for travel-related services.

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For reservations or more information, please contact:

AAA Reading-Berks 920 Van Reed Road PO Box 7049 Wyomissing, PA 19610 610-374-5600