

AUSTRALIA VACATION TOUR INFORMATION

SYDNEY

SYDNEY – Thursday, September 8th

Panoramic Sydney Half-Day Sights



Since our rooms will not be ready until this afternoon we'll be heading out right from the airport on this tour that will help us get our bearings and give you a pretty good overview of this beautiful city. In the days ahead you can decide where you'd like to spend more time. Depart our hotel for an

unforgettable Panoramic Sydney half-day city sights tour. On tour you'll visit the historic Rocks area and hear early convict history. Enjoy magnificent views of the Opera House & Harbour Bridge. See the shopping heart of the city, QVB, Centrepont. Visit Sydney's trendy new district Oxford Street. Travel through elegant Paddington with its terrace houses before arriving at the Pacific Ocean. See the superb coast cliff walk around Tamarama and Bronte. Travel on to famous Bondi Beach. Visit the beachfront promenade, enjoy a coffee or cool drink (at own cost). See bronzed Aussie lifesavers & Sydney's best panoramic view. Return to Sydney via Double Bay, Kings Cross & city centre.

COST: FREE! We're including this tour as our treat.



SYDNEY – Friday, September 9th

JET BOATING, 11:00 a.m.

35 minute Jetboat cruise on Sydney Harbour. After venturing out of Circular Quay, we jet to the closest calmest Harbour Bay and commence a mix of 270-degree spins, wild fish tails and awesome power brake stops all at 75km/h while a continual mix of music keeps the jet boat rockin! Cost: \$35 (reg. \$80!). <http://www.harbourjet.com/>

SYDNEY – Friday, September 9th



Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb

This afternoon will be the option to experience the Sydney Harbor Bridge Climb. We have space reserved for the "Express Bridge Climb". You will need to wear suitable rubber soled shoes and be ready to wear special suits over your existing clothing. Cameras, video recorders and other loose articles will not be allowed on the Bridge. Following your arrival and check in, you will be given a comprehensive briefing and demonstration of the safety equipment. You will climb to the top of the Sydney Harbor Bridge some 130 meters above sea level. The tour will take approximately three hours.

COST: They no longer offer group rates. Cost is \$245 AUD (reg \$268 AUD = \$175 USD). We have been given a group rate and they have space blocked for us on the 1 pm and 1:10 pm tours. <http://www.bridgeclimb.com/climbs/the-bridge-climb/>

SYDNEY – Saturday, September 10th
SYDNEY BIKE TOUR, 10:00 AM



The Sydney Classic Tour is Bonza's most popular tour. We'll take you to see the Sydney Opera House, Sydney Harbour (right next to the yachts themselves), the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Darling Harbour, the Royal Botanic Gardens (including the Flying Foxes), Hyde Park, Chinatown, Sydney Tower, Parliament House, Museum of Contemporary Art, Art Gallery of NSW, and many more great attractions! Our guides will provide great commentary along the way to give the group a bit of

history, culture, lifestyle, and some fun stories. The group will mostly stay together throughout the ride, but may split for just a minute at areas where we are using a crosswalk. The route will be tailored to meet the needs of the group, but will remain a relaxing, easy ride. We will provide one experienced guide for the event. We will receive top of the line bicycle (men, women's and children's - multiple sizes), helmets, a stop at one of Sydney most historic pubs in The Rocks - drinks NOT included, fun, entertaining guide knowledgeable in the city and surrounds, tailored tour route to your requests, private tour to ensure a personal and memorable experience. Cost is \$40 (reg \$105).

SYDNEY – Sunday, September 11th
Blue Mountains High Country Tour



Today we will have our own bus for a full-day private tour of the Blue Mountains and surrounding area. We'll cross the Sydney Harbour bridge and visit the award winning [Featherdale Wildlife park](#) where we can hand feed kangaroo's, wallabies and emus and cuddle up to a koala - great photo opportunity! Then we'll cross the



Nepean River where we'll visit the beautiful Wentworth Falls and discover Leura villages and Katoomba mountain villages and have time to explore the antique shops. We'll continue the tour on to Echo Point where we'll see the beautiful Three Sisters rock formation overlooking Jamison Valley. We'll see aboriginal art and

cultural items

We'll enjoy breathtaking views of Megalong and Jamison Valley and ride the worlds steepest incline railway, cable car or the Scenic Skyway. <http://www.scenicworld.com.au/> Complete your tour by returning to Sydney hotel.

COST: This is our own private tour for just \$75 per person and includes both admission fees and the 2 rides. (normal price is \$125). We will need at least 40 people to get this group rate.

SYDNEY – Monday, September 12th
HARBOUR CRUISE & SAIL

This tour was one of the highlights of our last trip and a great way to end our last day in Sydney. This boat is awesome! Here's more info:



Sydney Sundancer is a ketch rigged motor sailing yacht, thus combining the stability and comfort of a motor boat with the grace and serenity of a sailing yacht. Our yacht is licensed to carry 70 guests plus crew, however, we prefer to limit the number of guests to 50 thus ensuring everyone's personal comfort at all times (through adequate space). She is super luxuriously fitted in teak below deck and there is a large canopy that extends virtually the whole length of the vessel giving perfect protection in all weathers. **We have won the prestigious Australian Bridal Industry Academy (ABIA) prize for the Best Wedding Reception Vessel in NSW, five years in a row.**

We are also the only charter boat ever, to win **both** the **City of Sydney Council Award** for The Best Decorated Boat on New Year's Eve, and **The Australia Day Council's award for The Best Presented Charter Boat** on Sydney Harbour on Australia Day (2000, 2001, 2002, 2007 & 2010), so you will appreciate just how much effort we invest in making your Harbour cruise a complete success!!

If we can get a minimum of 40 people on this the cost will be \$40 pp for this 3 hour cruise and I will supply some wine. THAT'S A GREAT PRICE! [Check out their website](#) We cap out at 50.

ANY DAY:

Hop on/ hop off Sydney Explorer Tour

This is one of the best ways to get to and spend time at the places you want to see most. ^{The} Sydney Explorer bus visits many attractions and Bondi Beach. You can hop on or off as you please, then simply catch the next bus when it arrives. Each Sydney Explorer is air-conditioned and includes on-board commentary, giving you fascinating insights into the history and culture of Sydney. You'll visit many Sydney landmarks including the Opera House, Royal Botanic Gardens, Mrs Macquarie's Chair, Kings Cross, The Rocks, Darling Harbour and a lot more. In fact this is the only hop on hop off sightseeing bus that stops. Cost is \$40 AUD (about \$28). No need to sign up for this one in advance. <http://theaustralianexplorer.com.au/sydney-tour-details-pricing.html>

OTHER THINGS TO DO ON A FREE DAY

VISIT MANLY BEACH - TAKE A BIKE RIDE! On our last trip some of us went to Manly Beach via water taxi. At Manly you can either enjoy a nice walking tour or you can [rent a bicycle](#) like I did which was very enjoyable.

TAKE THE SKY WALK AT THE SYDNEY TOWER! Did this one too. Really cool tour. <https://www.sydneytowereye.com.au/explore/skywalk/>

CAIRNS – September 14th **Great Barrier Reef Cruise to Michaelmas Cay & Paradise Reef**

This morning, transfer to Cairns wharf and board the Passions of Paradise, a luxury 120 passenger boat that they max out at 80 passengers.



We will sail to Michaelmas Cay, known as the Isle of the Birds, a year-round home to thousands of sea birds of some 14 different species. It is a spectacular coral reef that thrives in the ideal conditions of clear, shallow, sunlit water, and is home to a variety of marine life including giant clams and brilliant fish. Because Michaelmas Cay is a National Park, the fish are so tame you can feed them from the beach and birds know they are safe to wander among you with their chicks.

Features

- Calm, protected waters. Ideal for snorkeling off the beach.
- Excellent for those new to the art of snorkeling, have small kids, poor swimming ability or suffer from sea sickness. We have a staff member who helps teach snorkeling in the shallow water of the cay.
- Coral. As you can see from the photos, the coral is immediately adjacent to the cay. No long swims.
- Great place to soak up the tropical sunshine.
- Amazing marine bird population. At its height (during the summer breeding season), as many as 20,000 birds nest on the island.
- Many excellent scuba dive sites for certified scuba divers.
- Introductory or first time scuba divers can dive in shallow water, directly off the boat in a coral garden.
- A unique experience on the Great Barrier Reef which combines migratory sea birds, tropical marine life and a true coral cay.

Paradise Reef is a hard coral reef where fractured coral form a ribbon of small reefs. With depths of up to 25 meters along the edge, water clarity is good and the area is host to many exciting fish species. Located on the Outer Barrier Reef, Paradise Reef forms part of Breaking Patches, a system of reefs about 1 to 2 nautical miles north of Michaelmas Cay.

Passions of Paradise holds an exclusive permit for Paradise Reef. We pioneered this site in 1995, and have been snorkeling and scuba diving the area ever since. This means no crowds from other boats, and the coral is in magnificent condition.

Included:

- A stylish, fast and modern catamaran, taking you to the best reefs
- Air conditioned saloon
- A dedicated snorkeling instructor and FREE tuition for those who want to learn to snorkel
- **A tropical buffet lunch of hot and cold dishes including prawns and fresh tropical fruit. Our lunch is fresh, chef prepared on the boat, and tasty.**
- Highest quality masks, snorkels, fins and scuba diving equipment.
- Two unique destinations: Michaelmas Cay and Paradise Reef (weather permitting) • Exclusive mooring at Paradise Reef (no crowds)
- Free flotation vests to aid non swimmers
- Free guided snorkel tour
- Morning tea which includes fresh brewed coffee and muffins
- Cheese platter for afternoon tea
- An on-board marine naturalist presentation on coral and bird life
- 10 minute FREE SCUBA diving demonstration
- High caliber sailing. Passions of Paradise will always find time to turn their engines off and do some genuine sailing on the way home to Cairns.

<http://passions.com.au/>

COST: \$98 per person (reg \$113)

1st Scuba Dive \$52.50 net if pre-booked or \$70 gross if booked on board

CAIRNS – September 15th

KURANDA VILLAGE - Aboriginal Culture, Sky Rail, Rainforest



Down Under Tours KQS - Kuranda Rail & Skyrail: This breathtaking journey on one of the world's most [scenic train](#) routes will take you through hand-hewn tunnels and across bridges with amazing views. The journey takes approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes, with a ten-minute stop at Barron Falls for photo opportunities before arriving at beautiful Kuranda Station. The famous Kuranda Scenic Railway was built over 120 years ago and winds its way through the tropical mountain ranges between Cairns and Kuranda.



This package includes time for you to explore [Kuranda](#) 'The Village in the Rainforest'. Plus we will take a [riverboat tour](#) that we've included.

The calm waters of the beautiful upland Barron River provide great photographic opportunities whilst your local guides share their vast knowledge of this unique area.



The river is home to a host of wildlife including freshwater crocodiles, turtles, snakes, water dragons and fish together with over 100 species of tropical birds but there is no guarantee that you will see all of these on the cruise.

We'll enjoy some free time as well to browse markets, cafes, restaurants, and galleries. Explore Australian Butterfly Sanctuary and colorful Birdworld (these require extra admission fees). At the

scheduled time, board Skyrail for the world's most beautiful rainforest experience. Glide over the Rainforest canopy and take advantage of the two stops enroute to enjoy a walk through the rainforest or visit the CSIRO Interpretive Centre. Your journey ends at Caravonica Lakes where our coach is waiting to take you back to your accommodation.

<http://www.kuranda.org/> **COST:** \$87 per person (reg. \$99).

OR:

Exclusive 4X4 Half Day Rainforest/Waterfall Adventure



<http://www.discoverytours.com.au/tour-rainforest-4wd-adventure.php>

Your day will begin when one of our knowledgeable and friendly guides collect you from your hotel and we head north to the lower Barron Gorge National Park in the heart of Cairns city to visit Surprise Falls. This beautiful waterfall is 243 metres high and set amongst the beautiful lower Barron Gorge.

We then ascend the Lamb Range to the west of Cairns where you can appreciate spectacular views over Cairns city and out towards Green Island on

the Great Barrier Reef

Next we will visit Lake Morris and Copperlode Dam; this is Cairns' water supply and surrounded by World Heritage rainforest-clad mountains, it's a unique and outstanding location to visit. We'll stretch our legs and get some amazing photos from the lookout prior to crossing the dam wall where we begin our four-wheel drive journey

Our exclusive access permit lets us visit areas not open to the public. You want private and exclusive.... This is for you!!! Our track winds through some of the most amazing rainforest in the region and over the Great Dividing Range, which is one of the longest Mountain ranges in the world and Australia's largest.



Once we conquer the mighty Great Dividing Range we will continue through the rainforest, crossing several creek systems and stopping at a boardwalk for an interpretive overview of the rainforest from your guide. Here you will be introduced to the Clohesy River Fig, a truly unforgettable experience

Our next destination takes us from the lushness of the Wet Tropics rainforest to the beginning of Australia's mighty Savannah country. You will truly be amazed at the rapid change in the forest types and scenery

From here we will venture back onto the sealed road and head back towards the Wet Tropic World Heritage area and into Kuranda Village. Here you will enjoy a short tour of the village to browse Kuranda with its market stalls, shops and wildlife parks. From here we will continue to the Upper Barron Gorge National Park, where we will first stop at the Wrights lookout for a stunning photo overlooking the Barron Gorge and back towards the coastal plains and Cairns City. We will then take a very short drive to the Barron Falls lookout to view possibly the most famous waterfall in Northern Queensland -- the mighty Barron Falls.

Finally our day is coming to an end and we will start to head back towards Cairns via the Wet Tropic World Heritage drive on the Kuranda range, stopping at the Henry Ross Lookout overlooking the northern beach suburbs of Cairns and back out towards the Coral sea. Finally, we will then drop you back at your accommodation.

What's Included

- 5 lookouts with breathtaking views
- 3 National Parks
- Bonus stops
- Two waterfalls- Surprise Falls and the Mighty Barron Falls, with many more water falls in the peak of the wet season.
- Rainforest Boardwalk- Guided walk in a very private section of the rainforest
- Clohesy River Fig Tree - Massive hundred-year-old strangler fig tree
- World Heritage Rainforest
- Off-road Four Wheel Driving through creeks and river
- Access to "exclusive permit" areas in the rainforest
- Travel in late model, well-appointed vehicle
- Morning/Afternoon refreshments
- Transfers from and to the hotel
- National Park fees

OUR GROUP RATE: \$78 USD (reg \$99).



SPIRIT OF CAIRNS - Dinner Cruise – September 16th

A Cairns Dinner Cruise is the perfect way to end a perfect day in paradise.

Set sail aboard our newly refurbished 26-metre catamaran on the calm waters of Trinity Inlet, for an evening of dining, entertainment, and panoramic mountain and city views.

The ultimate in waterfront dining, your cruise includes a gourmet buffet style dinner, complimentary beverage on arrival, live entertainment, and (optional!) dancing after dinner. A selection of beverages and cocktails are also available for purchase from our fully licensed bar.

Throughout the evening you will cruise the waterways of Cairns, exploring the beauty of the natural harbour, and sailing past the waterfront and restaurant precincts. Watch the day transcend to night, against a backdrop of rainforest-clad hills, as the twinkling night-lights of the city appear.

The 26m sailing catamaran features two exterior decks and a fully air-conditioned interior, complete with table and chair seating, bar and servery, dance floor, galley and rest room facilities. Spirit of Cairns can comfortably accommodate up to 80 guests seated in the air-conditioned interior for the dinner cruise. In 2015 the vessel underwent a \$1.5 million refurbishment, and was outfitted with new soft furnishings, ambient lighting, state of the art audio-visual equipment and 2 x 55inch HD screens.

What's included...

A 2.5 hour calm water evening cruise

Luxurious air-conditioned vessel

Large outdoor decks

Complimentary glass of sparkling wine, beer or soft drink on arrival

Delicious hot and cold buffet, featuring fresh seafood and local produce

Live entertainment with DANCING!!

[Check out their webpage](#) with the menu!

COST: \$55 (reg \$91)

CAIRNS – September 17th

Snorkel and Dive Trip with Reef Magic Cruises

Here's a trip that can take both our divers and snorkelers together. Located out of Cairns, Reef Magic Cruises offer a full 5 hours to dive and snorkel at Australia's Latest Outer Barrier Reef Platform "MARINE WORLD". Cruises suit any person, family or group looking for personalized service and the ultimate Outer Great Barrier Reef diving or snorkeling experience. Reef Magic's vessel is a 22-metre air-conditioned fast and stable catamaran with a licensed bar, comfortable seating and spacious outer decks. Reef Magic caters to both certified divers and introductory divers. We offer some of the most awesome diving available. Certified divers can expect to see some of the best dive sites the Great Barrier Reef has to offer. Experience spectacular wall and drift



dives away from the platform. All our dives are guided by one of our highly trained and professional Dive Controllers. Five hours will be spent on the reef. Hot and cold lunch smorgasbord will be served. This trip operated by Reef Magic. <http://www.reefmagic.com.au/>

COST: \$120 (reg \$149);

DIVING - (pricing n AUD)

NOTE: If you prepay our group will receive 20% off these rates. See the form below.

1st Introductory Dive: \$125 pp

2nd or 3rd Introductory Dive: \$75 pp

1st Certified Dive: \$75 pp (this is just \$55 usd!)

2nd or 3rd Certified Dive: \$45 pp (\$33 usd)

Included in Your Day

- 5 full hours at the Outer Barrier Reef and less than 90 minutes travel time from Cairns
- Unlimited snorkeling with all equipment and instruction
- Semi Submersible tours with interactive commentary
- Glass Bottom Boat tours with interactive commentary
- Underwater Observatory and fish feeding display
- Marine Biologist presentation
- Marine World Reef Activity Platform offers shelter and shade and includes sundeck, fresh water showers and change rooms
- Hot and cold buffet lunch
- Morning and afternoon tea
- Complimentary tea, coffee and drinking water all day

CAIRNS – September 17th



Certified Divers Trip to Great Barrier Reef with TUSA

Our divers may want to go on a dedicated dive boat today, so that's what we've arranged. In the 2,000 km expanse that is the Great Barrier Reef, Tusa Dive is the dive tour operator in Cairns who has the most modern fleet of purpose built dive vessels. Tusa takes divers and snorkelers to the most spectacular sites for the maximum number of hours on the outer Great Barrier Reef. In a day you will visit two magnificent sites chosen as the days best from Tusa Dive's range of 21 moorings. At any one site you may explore vast coral gardens, walls drop-offs, caverns and isolated pinnacles with an array of colorful marine life.

You'll leave the crowds behind you as you cruise at twenty knots and reach the Outer Great Barrier Reef, within 90 minutes from Cairns. You'll be only one of a handful of dive

enthusiasts aboard one of Tusa's large comfortable dive vessels. Each vessel is a specially designed, dedicated dive boat with state of the art navigation and communication equipment, on board compressors, spacious back deck areas and transoms that open onto water level platforms for easy entries and exits. This tour includes all dive equipment. You must present your dive card to take this tour unless you are only planning on snorkeling.

This trip operated by TUSA Dive. <http://www.tusadive.com/>

COST: \$170 for 2 or 3 dives (normal price is \$205, 3rd dive is free). Includes \$10 pp fee for a "reef tax". Snorkelers may join for \$119.

CAIRNS – September 17th



River Rafting on the Tully River

If you want the ultimate in rafting, you want an unforgettable day on the Tully River. The Tully is Australia's most famous one-day whitewater rafting experience. It's the North's guaranteed tropical white water, white-knuckle adventure. On our Tully River full day trip, rafters can tackle over 45 extraordinary rapids. The magnificent waterfalls that cascade down the gorge walls through World Heritage Jurassic era rainforest provide an unforgettable backdrop. November is an excellent time to raft, and the rapids are up to Grade 4. Lots of excitement. A person looking for a good, exciting time will absolutely love it. Hotel pick up and drop off included. Departure is 6:30 a.m. – return at 6:30 p.m. Lunch and snacks are included as well. Cost: \$125 (normal rate is \$149. Includes the \$30 levy). [More info](#)

OTHER INTERESTING TOUR OPTIONS YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN:

THE ROCKS WALKING TOUR: <http://www.rockswalkingtours.com.au/index.htm>

WHERE AND WHEN: <http://www.rockswalkingtours.com.au/daily1.htm>

[Chic in the City](#) [Chocolate Espresso Walking Tours](#) [Gourmet Safaris](#)

[Henry Mulholland Art Gallery Tours](#) [Thunder Down Under](#) – ride on the back of a Harley! \$95 for 1st hour, \$150 for 2 hours, \$250 for 4 hours.

Sydney Opera House Tours: <http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/visit/tours.aspx>

Sydney Skywalk

<http://sydneytower.myfun.com.au/Skywalk/About-Skywalk.htm>

Step out onto glass floor platforms and experience Sydney like never before with Skywalk. This 60 minute tour takes you on the rooftop of [Sydney Tower](#) where you'll take in breathtaking views at twice the height of Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Your Skywalk ticket also **includes** the following:

***Observation Deck**

Marvel at the stunning 360 degree views from the Observation Deck of the highest tourist attraction in Sydney