

AUSTRALIA VACATION TOUR INFORMATION

These are tours we ran on our last trip to Australia in 2016. We will be updating this information a bit closer to our trip.

SYDNEY

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.



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 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 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).

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.



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 Manley 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/>

HAMILTON ISLAND

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

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



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.

MORE TOURS ON HAMILTON ISLAND

<https://www.hamiltonisland.com.au/things-to-do/all-tours-and-activities>

With a choice of over 65 different activities available on and around Hamilton Island, there's something to appeal to holiday makers of all ages and interests. Whether you're joining us to relax by the pool or to explore the Whitsundays - or a bit of both - we are here to help you plan your holiday, your way.

Choose from a range of activities, including beach sports, kid's activities, group fitness classes, evening entertainment and more! You can also see our [daily activity guide](#) for times and location.