

GRAND EAST COAST TOUR OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

ROCS

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25 days
from
€4699

2016 ESCORTED TOUR 20 NOV - 14 DEC

**ALL
EXCURSIONS
INCLUDED**



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GRAND EAST COAST TOUR OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

VISITING: **VISITING MELBOURNE, CANBERRA, SYDNEY, THE BLUE MOUNTAINS, CHRISTCHURCH, KAIKOURA, BLENHEIM, PICTON, WELLINGTON, TAUPO, ROTORUA, WAITOMO, AUCKLAND, SURFERS PARADISE, THE GOLD COAST, BRISBANE**

DAY 1 - MALTA - MELBOURNE

Meet the tour manager at Malta International Airport for our flight to Melbourne.

DAY 2 / 3 - MELBOURNE

Arrival in Melbourne, transfer to Hotel. We will travel through the city centre past China Town and Parliament house to Fitzroy Gardens stopping to view Captain Cook's Cottage. We will then go to the Melbourne Cricket Ground, national Tennis centre and the famous Australian Grand Prix Track. We will then travel over Westgate Bridge for panoramic views and visit the Botanic Gardens. Entry to the Eureka Skydeck 88 to view the city from the Observation Deck.

DAY 4 - MELBOURNE

Today we travel to Melbourne's Eastern Suburbs, we will take a ride on the historic steam train Puffing Billy where we will ride through the forest from Belgrave to Menzies Creek and pass through the spectacular Blue Dandenong Ranges, with towering mountain ash forests, lyrebirds and fern gullies. Proceed to Warrock farm including lunch.

DAY 5 - MELBOURNE

Today we will visit Sovereign Hill to relive the gold rush days! Shop in 1850's style, meet costumed characters, watch craft men at work and pan for gold. Ride a coach and tour an underground mine (at own expense). We will then proceed to Ballarat Wildlife Park and experience close contact with koalas, wombats, kangaroos, crocodiles and more.

DAY 6 - MELBOURNE

For the visitor to Australia, the Queen Victoria Market offers a type of local experience in the buying and selling of goods. It is also an open-air bazaar, with a range of uniquely Australian items and souvenirs to take back home (transfers not included).

DAY 7 - MELBOURNE - CANBERRA

Depart Melbourne and transfer to Canberra - Australia's Capital City.

DAY 8 - CANBERRA - SYDNEY

There is plenty to see and do in Canberra. The most well known are Parliament House, Old Parliament House, The Aboriginal Tent Embassy, The Australian War Memorial and Lake Burley. Another place you can visit is the attractive Government House and the gardens. Depart Canberra and proceed to Sydney.

Day 9 - Sydney

Today we will tour this magnificent city known to be one of the most beautiful and picturesque cities of the world. We will cross the Harbour Bridge, visit the famous Opera House, see some of the nicest beaches that Sydney boasts about. We then return to King Street Wharf to

board the cruise vessel for a luncheon on the overwhelming Sydney Harbour.

DAY 10 - SYDNEY - MANLY

Visit Circular Quay which is the hub of Sydney Harbour, situated at a small inlet called Sydney Cove, the founding site for Sydney and Australia. It is a stepping-off point for most attractions based around the harbour. The quay is a vibrant, bustling place with ferries leaving every few minutes to different parts of the harbour, including Manly, where we will visit today. Manly has well been considered Australia's favourite seaside resort; on the water's edge, a destination for all seasons and all ages. It's an attraction famous for its breathtaking natural beauty, scenic walkways alongside harbour and ocean beaches and cultural events.

DAY 11 - SYDNEY

Sydney's market scene provides shoppers with an earthy alternative to the more glitzy retail outlets. If you get the weather right, then browsing through all the little stalls and knick knacks is a very pleasant way to spend your time, you never know, you might even buy something (transfers not included).

DAY 12 - SYDNEY - BLUE MOUNTAINS

Today we will travel past the site of the Sydney Olympics to the Blue Mountains National Park. On arrival at Echo Point we take a ride on the Scenic Skyway and/or Scenic Railway (rides not included) and see the Three Sisters rock formation.

DAY 13 - SYDNEY - CHRISTCHURCH

Transfer to Sydney Airport for your flight to Christchurch. A sightseeing tour of Christchurch will highlight some of the places of interest, including Hagley Park and Botanical Gardens and the slowly rebuilding city centre and vibrant Restart District, a shopping area built in brightly coloured shipping containers. Dinner included.

DAY 14 - CHRISTCHURCH - KAIKOURA - BLENHEIM

After breakfast depart Christchurch and travel across Canterbury farmland to the Hundalee Ranges. Follow the Pacific coastline with the Kaikoura Mountains forming a rugged backdrop to the west, passing tiny holiday settlements before arriving into Kaikoura, famous for whale watching. Enjoy a Whale Watch tour, (weather permitting) which is a unique experience. The Giant Sperm Whale is the star of the show, resident in the area all year round. In addition to the Sperm Whale a number of different species of whales have been sighted off the coastline. As well as sighting whales a typical trip will cruise by colonies of New Zealand Fur Seals and perhaps take in groups of dolphins. In addition to the marine mammals Kaikoura has a wide variety of off shore birds. These include

Albatross, Shearwaters, Petrels, Gulls, Penguins and Gannets. Leave Kaikoura, drive through to the wine-growing region of Blenheim. Dinner included.

DAY 15 - BLENHEIM - PICTON - WELLINGTON

This morning after breakfast board the Interislander ferry for the journey across to Wellington. Sail through picturesque Queen Charlotte Sound, sheltered waterways, remote bays and isolated holiday homes. Cross Cook Strait and into Wellington Harbour for spectacular views of New Zealand's Capital City. A city tour will incorporate the summit of Mt Victoria for panoramic views of the city and harbour, the Houses of Parliament and the distinctive "Beehive", Wellington Cathedral, city centre and Oriental Bay. Later visit Te Papa, the "Museum of New Zealand" and enjoy a 90 minute guided tour. Dinner included.

DAY 16 - WELLINGTON - TAUPO - ROTORUA

Breakfast and drive to Paekakariki with views of Kapiti Island. Cross the Himatangi Plains, through the towns of Levin and Foxton to Bulls. Journey inland, across rolling farmland to the central North Island National Park region dominated by the volcanic cone of Mt Ruapehu. Follow the Desert Road to Lake Taupo New Zealand's largest lake and internationally famous for its trout fishing. Stop at Huka Falls where the Waikato River pours through a narrow chasm then to the Wairakei Geothermal Valley where natural steam is harnessed to generate electricity. Skirt massive pine forests to reach Rotorua, centre of Maori culture for the region and a thermal wonderland. Dinner included.

DAY 17 - ROTORUA

Breakfast and proceed for a sightseeing tour visiting the Agrodome for a display featuring New Zealand's various sheep breeds with a shearing demonstration. See pools of brown and rainbow trout at Rainbow Springs Park and native birds including the Kiwi. The spectacular Skyline Gondola offers superb views over city, lake and mountains and for a little excitement, try a Luge ride with our compliments. This evening you will enjoy a Maori Hangi (meal) which will include a selection of traditionally prepared meats and vegetables plus more conventional dishes, as well as a concert featuring Maori songs, chants and the stirring haka.

DAY 18 - ROTORUA - WAITOMO - AUCKLAND

Today after breakfast we will visit Te Puia for the Whakarewarewa Geothermal Valley, the Maori Arts and Crafts Centre and Thermal Reserve, with boiling mud, silica terraces and Pohutu Geyser. Cross the Mamaku Ranges to the Waikato region, noted for dairy farming and world famous horse studs. At Waitomo, a guide will escort the group underground to the limestone caverns and glow worm grotto. On through Hamilton to Ngaruawahia, centre for the region's Maori people, then alongside the Waikato River before crossing the Bombay Hills to reach New Zealand's largest city - Auckland. Dinner at the Fortuna Buffet Restaurant at Skycity.

DAY 19 - AUCKLAND - BRISBANE - GOLD COAST

After breakfast we will start with a city tour visiting the summit of Skytower, at 328 metres the tallest building in the Southern Hemisphere, for panoramic views across the city and its two harbours, the Domain, the city area, the Waterfront Drive with its numerous yacht marinas and nearby residential suburbs. Transfer to Auckland Airport in ample time to join your flight to Brisbane. Upon arrival transfer to your Hotel.

DAY 20 - MOVIE WORLD

Today we will visit Movie World. A great day to discover the fascinating world of movie making. This is a place where you are likely to meet on the street — Batman and Robin, Wonder Woman, Marilyn Monroe, and many other characters from movies and comic strips, A fun filled day.

DAY 21 - SEA WORLD

Sea World Gold Coast is one of the largest and nicest Sea World Parks internationally. We will have the opportunity to see sharks, whales and the best of all the chance to swim with the dolphins. The day is full of first class shows, parades and much more, such as helicopter rides over the impressive coast. Today we can also swim in one of the many pools here plus try out one of the daring slides that Sea World Gold Coast offers. A day you will remember forever.

DAY 22 - SURFERS PARADISE

Pacific Fair is the most exciting fashion destination on the Gold Coast with over 130 fashion and accessory stores and the Gold Coast's biggest Myer department store. Relax and enjoy the resort style atmosphere in one

of the many cafes. Pacific Fair is conveniently located at Broadbeach, five minutes drive from Surfers Paradise along the Gold Coast Highway or a five minute walk from Jupiter's Casino, the Gold Coast Convention Centre or Kurrawa Beach (transfers not included).

DAY 23 - AUSTRALIA FAIR

Australia Fair is a fairly old shopping centre by Gold Coast standards, but is doing well for it's 20 years of business. It has all the shops you'd expect in a big centre (transfers not included).

DAY 24 - BRISBANE

Today is our final day. We check out from our hotel and proceed for our Brisbane city tour which provides a great overview of the city center and surrounding suburbs. We then head to Brisbane International Airport for our flight to Malta.

DAY 25 - MALTA

Arrival in Malta.



**ALL
EXCURSIONS
INCLUDED**

PACKAGE PRICE PER PERSON

BOOK	BEFORE 31 ST MAR	AFTER 31 ST MAR
TRIPLE SHARING	€ 4699	€ 4849
TWIN SHARING	€ 4869	€ 5069
SINGLE	€ 6169	€ 6369

OUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

- ✓ RETURN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS MALTA/ MELBOURNE/BRISBANE/MALTA
- ✓ ONE WAY FLIGHT FROM SYDNEY TO CHRISTCHURCH/ FROM AUCKLAND TO BRISBANE
- ✓ AIRLINE TAXES AND FUEL CHARGES
- ✓ 22 NIGHTS IN SUPERIOR ACCOMMODATION
- ✓ ALL TRANSFERS AS PER ITINERARY
- ✓ ALL EXCURSIONS AS PER ITINERARY
- ✓ 14 MEALS: 6 BREAKFASTS , 2 LUNCHESES, 6 DINNERS
- ✓ COMPREHENSIVE GUIDED SIGHTSEEING
- ✓ ACTIVE ITINERARY WITH UNIQUE CULTURAL FEATURES
- ✓ SERVICES OF AN EXPERIENCED ROCS TRAVEL TOUR MANAGER

VISA REQUIRED

All bookings are subject to our general information, booking conditions and information. Photographs of rooms are indicative of room type available. Facilities described may be seasonal. Rates are per person and include: return flights, accommodation as stated and airline taxes. Fuel surcharge may apply. Special offers applicable only in specific periods. Prices may vary without notice. For a full list of terms & conditions kindly visit www.rocsgrp.com/travel/terms. For a more detailed description, full details of facilities and supplements, please refer to our website. E&OE.