



Craig
travel

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

BOOK BY SEP 30
SAVE \$300 PP

A JOURNEY TO THE LANDS DOWNUNDER
FEB 15 - MAR 10, 2026 | 24 DAYS | 40 MEALS
JOURNEY LEADER: DEBORAH HART

The kangaroo is the largest marsupial on earth

Experience the beauty and culture of New Zealand and Australia on a journey with extended stays for in-depth exploration. Begin with two nights in Auckland before venturing through breathtaking landscapes, where extended stays of two, three, and four nights provide a deeper connection to these two distinct yet equally captivating nations.

Highlights include a full-day excursion to Milford Sound with lunch, a Great Barrier Reef cruise, and a rainforest journey in Kuranda by rail and Skyrail. Savour special meals, from a harbourside dinner in Auckland and a traditional "Hangi" feast in Rotorua to a gourmet BBQ cruise in Queenstown and a Field of Light dinner at Uluru. Conclude with a Sydney harbour cruise and a farewell dinner overlooking Darling Harbour.

With exceptional accommodations, warm hospitality, and a carefully planned itinerary, this is the journey of a lifetime through the wonders of New Zealand and Australia.



Highlights

- Rooms confirmed for early arrival in Auckland, with 2 nights to enjoy the delights of this city
- 3 nights in Cairns, Melbourne and Queenstown (New Zealand's premier resort)
- 2 nights in Auckland, Rotorua and Ayers Rock, the Outback
- 4 nights in Sydney
- Full day excursion to Milford Sound with lunch
- Full day cruise to the Great Barrier Reef
- Rainforest experience in Kuranda by rail and Skyrail
- Most meals included with many special outings:
 - Auckland Harbourside Restaurant dinner reception
 - "Hangi" dinner and Maori show, Rotorua
 - Cruise and gourmet BBQ dinner at Walter Peak, Queenstown
 - Bush BBQ lunch, Kuranda
 - Lunch cruise to Great Barrier Reef
 - Field of Light dinner, Uluru
 - Luncheon harbour cruise in Sydney
 - Special dinner at a local restaurant overlooking Darling Harbour in Sydney

Journey Leader

Deborah Hart has been a minister with the United Church of Canada for over 30 years. She believes that travel enriches lives by broadening horizons, breaking down barriers, promoting understanding, and building community. As a Craig Journey Leader, Deborah has led tours to South Africa, Iceland, Norway, Germany & Oberammergau, Tuscany, and Ireland. Her extensive travels on ecumenical and interfaith study tours have allowed her to learn about various cultures, histories, faiths, and lives around the world, taking her to countries in the Middle East, Turkey, Greece, India, Nepal, South America, East Africa, and parts of Europe. The more Deborah travels, the more she is amazed by the wonders of our planet and its inhabitants. She looks forward to travelling with you to Australia and New Zealand.



Inclusive Features

- Return airfare to/from Australia and New Zealand plus domestic flights in destination
- First class hotels, as indicated or similar
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as described
- 40 meals as noted in the itinerary (B - 21 breakfasts, L - 7 lunches, D - 12 dinners) plus in-flight meals
- Services of your Canadian journey leader and / or expert local driver/guides in each area visited
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

FEB 15-16, Sunday-Monday

DEPART CANADA

Tour members from across Canada gather in Vancouver and fly to Auckland, losing a day en route.

FEB 17, Tuesday

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Arrive in Auckland early this morning and transfer to our hotel, where our rooms are ready for immediate check-in, leaving the rest of the day free to relax or explore at your own pace. This evening we gather for dinner at our hotel.

Grand Millennium (2 nights)

D

FEB 18, Wednesday

AUCKLAND

Today we explore New Zealand's most populous city. Highlights include the National Museum with its excellent Maori displays, and a visit to the observation deck on the Sky Tower. Spend a relaxing afternoon at your leisure before gathering for a delightful evening, featuring a welcome reception and dinner at the Harbourside Restaurant.

BD

FEB 19, Thursday

WAITOMO

We follow the Waikato River to the famous Waitomo Caves where we cruise in the Glow Worm Grotto. After some free time for lunch, we continue to Rotorua and our hotel, located moments from the lakefront. Visit the Te Puia Thermal Reserve to see the mud pools and geysers, and to learn about the life and crafts of the Maori. Later this evening we enjoy a traditional 'Hangi' dinner in a Maori village complete with a concert of Maori songs and dances.

Novotel Rotorua (2 nights)

BD

FEB 20, Friday**ROTORUA**

This morning we will take in the sheep show at the Agrodome and delight in a gondola ride to the Skyline Restaurant where we will enjoy a delicious buffet lunch. At the National Kiwi Hatchery, we will see New Zealand's unique national bird and symbol, the Kiwi. The rest of the day is yours to relax, whether unwinding in the hotel's geothermal mineral pools or exploring at your own pace.

BL

FEB 21, Saturday**ROTORUA / QUEENSTOWN**

Our journey into the picturesque landscapes of the South Island begins today. We will spend three nights in the heart of the South Island surrounded by the majestic mountain scenery and magical lakes of Queenstown, New Zealand's resort capital. This evening we cruise across the lake to Walter Peak sheep station on the tss Earnslaw where we indulge in a gourmet BBQ dinner.

Novotel Queenstown (3 nights)

BD

FEB 22, Sunday**QUEENSTOWN**

Spend the day at your leisure, whether you choose to ride a jet boat on the Shotover River, take the Gondola to Bob's Peak, or enjoy a peaceful stroll by the lake in the beautiful Botanic Gardens.

B

FEB 23, Monday**MILFORD SOUND**

Travel through the rugged grandeur of the Hollyford Valley to Milford Sound. Today's water adventure includes a picnic lunch as we cruise to the sea, past towering Mitre Peak and cascading waterfalls. This afternoon we return to Queenstown by coach.

BLD

FEB 24, Tuesday **QUEENSTOWN / MT. COOK / TWIZEL**

Our morning drive will take us through some of the magnificent scenery for which the South Island is known, including a visit to the historic gold mining centre of Arrowtown and the Lakes District Museum. Delight in a midday wine tour and tasting before we continue to Mt. Cook National Park, with free time at the Hermitage for views of the mountains. **Mackenzie Hotel** (1 night)

BD

Feb 25, Wednesday**MT. COOK / CHRISTCHURCH**

After breakfast at our hotel visit the Chapel of the Good Shepherd with its extraordinary altar. Continue across the rich farmlands of the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch, a city often described as more English than England. We will have a tour of Christchurch, with opportunities to stroll in the wonderful Botanical Gardens.

Distinction Hotel (1 night)

BD

Feb 26, Thursday**CHRISTCHURCH / MELBOURNE**

We gather for our flight across the Tasman Sea to Melbourne. Explore Australia's second city and financial capital this morning, including the Botanic Gardens, Captain Cook's Cottage, St. Paul's Cathedral, Fitzroy Gardens, Flinders Stations, Olympic Park and more.

Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne (3 nights)

B

Feb 27, Friday**PHILLIP ISLAND**

We drive to Phillip Island to see the fairy penguins once they return from a day hunting out at sea. En route we shall visit Churchill Island and Nobbies.

BD

Feb 28, Saturday**YARRA VALLEY**

Our day begins with a steam train excursion through the Blue Dandenong hills, to take in the tranquil Australian countryside. After visiting a local wildlife sanctuary to see



Australia's iconic koala bear



Kangaroos in a boxing fight



The incredible Great Barrier Reef



Sydney's Opera House

kangaroos and koalas, we explore the beautiful Yarra Valley. Savour a special lunch among the vine-covered hills and sample several local wines before returning to Melbourne.

BL

MAR 1, Sunday**MELBOURNE / AYERS ROCK**

This morning we depart Australia's Southern Coast and venture to Uluru or Ayers Rock, in the heart of the Outback and the Aborigines' most sacred site. Take in stunning views of the Rock before exploring Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) where we will take a walk deep into the gorge to experience the vastness of the landscape. On our way back to the hotel we stop for views of the Kata Tjuta and sand dunes before reaching the cultural centre to learn more about Aborigine history, law, language, and art. This evening we ride camels through the desert with Uluru and Kata Tjuta as our backdrop.

Sails in the Desert Hotel (2 nights)

B

MAR 2, Monday**AYERS ROCK**

Explore the base of this amazing monolith on the Mutitjula

Base Walk, leading to a special waterhole plus inspiring views at Kantju Gorge. This evening, we will be impressed by the changing colours of Uluru as the sun sets (weather permitting) and as darkness falls, 50,000 glass spheres will light up the night at the Field of Light Dinner, complemented by gourmet canapés and chilled sparkling wine. BD

MAR 3, Tuesday AYERS ROCK / CAIRNS

After a leisurely morning, we depart the Outback for the Gold Coast and the wonderful city of Cairns. This evening, sit down for a delightful dinner at Dundees Restaurant. **Novotel Cairns Oasis** (3 nights) BD

MAR 4, Wednesday GREAT BARRIER REEF

The catamaran Quicksilver will take us to the outer edge of the Great Barrier Reef, the largest and most spectacular undersea garden in the world. View the coral and sea life by glass-bottom boat, or better yet, while snorkelling. BL

MAR 5, Thursday KURANDA / PAMAGIRRI / SKYRAIL

After our scenic rail journey to Kuranda through the Barron Gorge, we venture into the rainforest to a wildlife park to see a variety of native fauna and witness talented Pamagirri Aboriginal dancers. Following our bush BBQ lunch, we return to the lowland on the Skyrail with close-up views of the rainforest. BL

MAR 6, Friday CAIRNS / SYDNEY

Say goodbye to Cairns as we fly south to Sydney. On arrival, we shall transfer directly to our hotel in the city centre. This evening's dinner will be at Meat & Wine Co, one of Australia's favourite steak houses. **The Grace Hotel** (4 nights) BD

MAR 7, Saturday BLUE MOUNTAINS

Embark on a full-day excursion into the beautiful Blue Mountains, passing picturesque villages, taking in spectacular views and waterfalls, and hearing about unique Australian flora and fauna. We visit the quaint village of Leura and skirt around Cliff Drive to Katoomba for views of the magnificent Jamieson Valley and the Three Sisters. Following lunch at a local restaurant, we visit Scenic World for a ride on the Scenic Railway, Skyway or Cableway. BL

MAR 8, Sunday SYDNEY

Today we explore Sydney's charming historic center, posh inner suburbs, and famous southern beaches. We'll indulge in a luncheon harbour cruise followed by a guided tour of the iconic Opera House. Our hotel, steps away from fantastic shopping and the vibrant Darling Harbour, ensures an unforgettable stay. The rest of the day is for you to relax and unwind. BL

MAR 9, Monday SYDNEY

Make the most of a completely free day, with options for many excursions or simply to explore on your own. Take a stroll in the Botanic Gardens, discover the excitement of Darling Harbour, or explore the wonderful shops of the Queen Victoria building, just steps from our hotel. This evening we will gather for our farewell dinner at the Harbourfront Restaurant. BD

MAR 10, Tuesday SYDNEY / CANADA

All too soon our journey draws to a close as we catch our flights back across the Pacific. Regaining our lost day, we arrive in Canada today. B

CT Rating 3/5 - Moderately Challenging: This journey involves extensive travel with long flights and travel days. Temperatures will range from comfortable to very hot and humid. Travel in the Outback can be strenuous, involving rough roads and hot conditions. Hotels are comfortable and the locals are very friendly.



**Book by September 30, 2025
and save \$300 per person**



Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Land Only* (Join / Leave Hotel)	\$14,995
Vancouver	\$17,685
Victoria.....	\$17,745
Calgary / Edmonton.....	\$17,845
Toronto / Ottawa / Montreal.....	\$18,045
Regina / Saskatoon / Winnipeg.....	\$17,985
Halifax **	\$18,185
Saint John **/ St. John's	\$18,245
Single Supplement	\$3,825

**Members joining from these cities may receive an overnight hotel stay in lieu of home city transfers.

*Land only clients join at the hotel in Auckland and leave at the hotel in Sydney. Land only price includes flight segments to and from the Outback and excludes all other flights. Airfares and air carriers are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Refer to inclusive features for details.

Tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room at hotels. Prices are based on a minimum of 20 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective February 2025 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group to be escorted with a minimum of 20 group members.

Visa Requirements: Travellers will need to apply online for e-visas, inquire for details.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your Confirmation of Coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

**Final payment is due November 12, 2025
Deposit is \$900 per person.**

To reserve your place on this tour, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:



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