

# The Very Best of Australia

Prices start from £4,595

Fully escorted 25-day tour

## Tour highlights

- \* Sightseeing tours include Singapore, Perth, Ayers Rock, Alice Springs, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney.
- \* A splendid colourful walk through Singapore's National Orchid Gardens.
- \* The incredible light transformation over Ayers Rock at sunset.
- \* The option of an over-night stay on Australia's legendary scenic train journey, The Ghan.
- \* Cleland Wildlife Park near Adelaide with its roaming landscape and diverse wildlife of kangaroos, wallabies and waterfowl.
- \* The drive over Westgate Bridge, Australia's largest cable-stayed bridge, with fantastic views over the River Yarra.
- \* The extraordinary Great Barrier Reef with its seductive clear blue waters, colourful coral and wealth of tropical marine life.
- \* A sensational cruise around Sydney Harbour captures the dramatic skyline including the iconic Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House

Hong Kong extension  
**Early booking offer £149pp**

Extensions also available in the Blue Mountains and Great Barrier Reef



## Tour itinerary

### Day 1 Departure from London Heathrow

Join your Tour Manager and fellow travel companions in the executive lounge at London Heathrow ready to board your Qantas flight.

Meals: In-flight

### Day 2 Arrive in Singapore

The lavish Swissôtel Stamford awaits your arrival this morning, so settle into your beautiful guestroom and relax. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy the surroundings of this marvellous hotel or venture out into Singapore.

Join your Tour Manager and fellow travel companions this evening for a get-together and welcome drinks.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Swissôtel Stamford

### Day 3 Singapore

This morning we enjoy a sightseeing tour of Singapore's modern and historic districts.

Visit Thian Hock Keng Temple, Singapore's oldest and most important monument before calling at Chinatown and Little India. We also visit the wonderful National Orchid Gardens. With over 60,000 plants of splendid colour this tranquil place is inspiring even if you're not the green-fingered type.

The remainder of the day is yours to venture out into this fabulous city with its abundance of dining experiences and varied entertainment.

Mark Crosby, JOD Product Manager, says: "Singapore always seems to be changing, and while busy and futuristic, it is a friendly and welcoming city with so much to see and do."

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Swissôtel Stamford

*Day 4 Singapore to Perth*

This morning we board our flight to Perth where our Australian adventure begins. On arrival we head to our hotel, the Parmelia Hilton, where the rest of the day is yours to relax. Settle into your surroundings ready for a wonderful few days in this city of wide open spaces.

*Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Parmelia Hilton*

*Day 5 Perth*

Our tour of Perth and Fremantle starts with a visit to Kings Park and Botanic Gardens with beautiful views over the Swan River.

We also stop at bustling Cottesloe Beach, Western Australia's summer retreat, with glorious beaches and clear coastline scattered with trendy café bars and smooth terrace lawns.

The district of Fremantle is a cultural and entertainment centre boasting colonial architecture scattered with vibrant restaurants, quaint streets and a number of fine art galleries.

*Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Parmelia Hilton*

*Day 6 Perth*

You have a free day to explore this stunning region. A ferry over to Rottnest Island with its beautiful bays is a relaxing way to discover this terrain of plants, birds and unusual animals including the quokka – a small marsupial that looks like a tiny kangaroo.

*Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Parmelia Hilton*

*Day 7 Perth to Ayers Rock*

This morning we board our flight to Ayers Rock. This landscape of rugged beauty is over 500 million years old and is one of Australia's key natural attractions.

In the afternoon we will drive across the stark, open landscape to Kata Tjuta, popularly known as the Olgas where the huge red domes rise out of the barren landscape set against vivid blue skies. Then take a steady guided walk through Walpa Gorge, learning about the region's cultural significance and unique flora and fauna.

Later in the evening we will see Ayers Rock at sunset as the light casts a shimmering spectacle of colour over this inspirational landscape.

*Mrs Bussey, JOD customer, says: "At Ayers Rock we all stood around chatting, sipping champagne and not taking much notice of what was around us, when the sun suddenly broke through the clouds and lit up the whole area in the most stunning colours I've ever seen. We all fell silent and just took it in – truly stunning!"*

*Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Sails in the Desert*



Sea lion, Kangaroo Island



Aboriginal performers

*Day 8 Ayers Rock*

This morning we head to Ayers Rock for our guided base tour. Later we will stop by the Aboriginal Cultural Centre for an insight into aboriginal history and discover its rich art antiquities. The afternoon is free for you to relax around the hotel

As our day closes here at Ayers Rock you have time to relax before we venture out into the dark twinkling sky to enjoy dinner at the mesmerising Sound of Silence experience.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Sails in the Desert*

*Day 9 Ayers Rock to Alice Springs*

This morning we journey through Australia's amazing desert landscape to Alice Springs, the heart of the 'Red Centre'.

Our tour begins as we re-live a bygone era with a visit to the old Telegraph Station and a stop at the Flying Doctor base and the School of the Air which educates over 140 children living across more than a million square kilometres.

We will also have some free time to explore this outback town.

*Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Crowne Plaza*

*Day 10 Alice Springs to Adelaide*

We have a lunchtime flight down to Adelaide in Southern Australia. Settle into your hotel and enjoy a day of relaxation or step out into this incredible region with all its delights.

You also have the option to make the journey from Alice Springs to Adelaide overnight on board the legendary scenic train, The Ghan.

*Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Adelaide Hilton or onboard The Ghan*

*Day 11 Adelaide*

A free day for those flying from Alice Springs and maybe a chance to explore Kangaroo Island. 'KI', as the locals know it, is a landscape so diverse with soaring cliffs, dense forest and native wildlife making it a spectacular and rewarding visit.

Adelaide is also home to many fascinating and sometimes moving museums including the nostalgic Museum of Childhood and the exhibitions on display at the Museum of Migration.

Those on The Ghan will arrive in Adelaide this lunchtime.

*Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Adelaide Hilton*

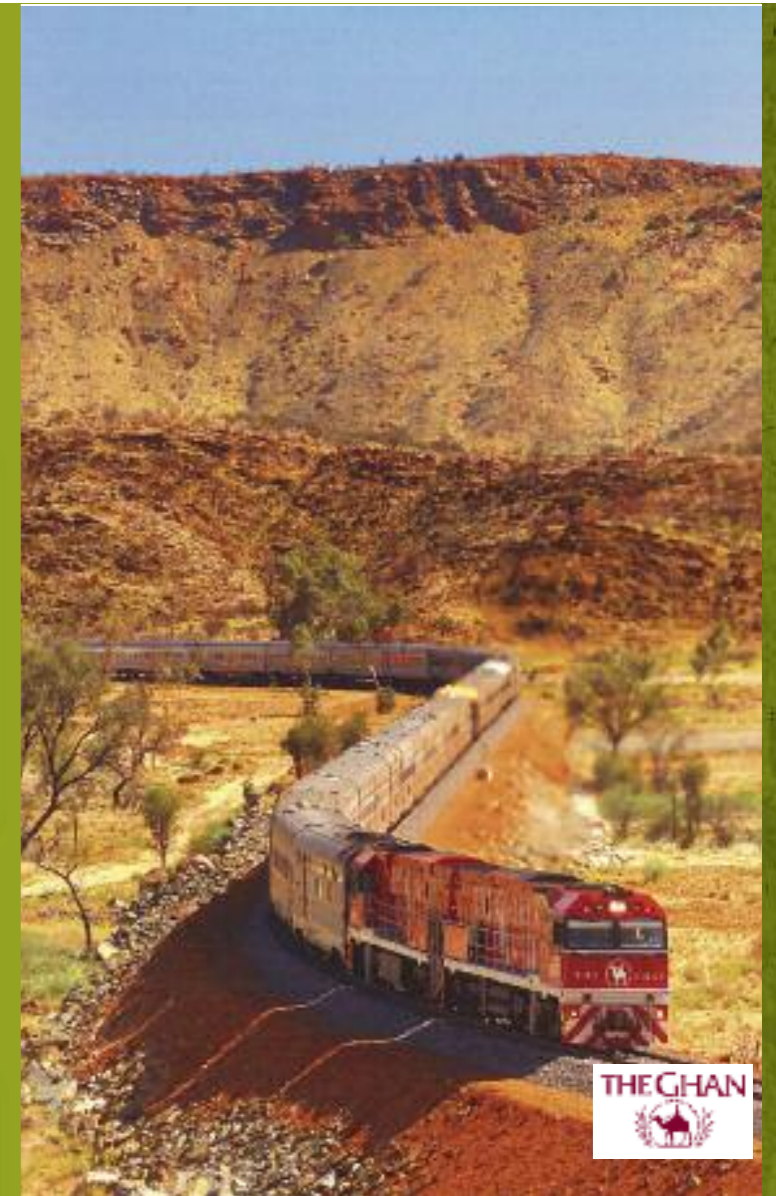
The Ghan

Join us on one of Australia's great rail journeys on board The Ghan. More than simply a mode of transport that takes you from Alice Springs to Adelaide, this trip is an unforgettable holiday experience. Experience unsurpassed views of the passing landscapes as we travel through the majestic Flinders Ranges to the sweeping Adelaide Plains.

We take the overnight journey in Gold Service accommodation. Twin cabins feature a three-seater lounge which converts to upper and lower berths at night, as well as en-suite facilities with a WC, washbasin and shower. Carriage attendants ensure your every need is taken care of.



The Gold Service includes all meals during the journey, which are served in the beautifully decorated Restaurant Car. The meals are freshly prepared by the onboard chefs and menus feature a selection of Australian and international cuisine (drinks are not included). Gold Service passengers also have access to the on-board Gold Lounge and its licensed bar - the perfect place to socialise with your fellow travellers.



*Upgrade to Platinum Service*

For the ultimate in comfort and style, why not upgrade to The Ghan's Platinum Service? By day your cabin is a private lounge with plenty of space to relax and entertain. By night your private cabin converts to your choice of comfortable full size double or twin beds. Unsurpassed levels of luxury and service will leave you feeling pampered, relaxed and special.

*Day 12 Adelaide*

This morning we enjoy a city tour of Adelaide. We'll see Victoria Square in the heart of the city, the majestic Parliament House and the grand boulevard of King William Street.

Adelaide is surrounded by sweeping gardens and beautiful lush green belts including our next visit, Cleland Wildlife Park. This amazing landscape is home to a diverse area of wildlife including kangaroos, wallabies, emus and waterfowl.

*Sue Short, JOD Tour Manager, says: "My perfect Adelaide afternoon? Browsing the mouth-watering displays at Central Market and taking a picnic down the historic tramline to Glenelg Beach for fun in the sun."*

*Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Adelaide Hilton*

*Day 13 Adelaide to Melbourne*

This morning we fly to Melbourne. The remainder of the day is free for you to explore.

The heart of this city is enclosed to a large degree by some stunning parklands including the fine Royal Botanic Gardens - a wonderful place to take a peaceful stroll.

*Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Sofitel Melbourne*

*Day 14 Melbourne*

This morning our sightseeing tour of Melbourne starts with a visit to Captain Cook's Cottage in Fitzroy Gardens. This quaint cottage has undergone two restorations and now sits proudly surrounded by eighteenth century gardens.



Koalas

We see Westgate Bridge, an amazing feat of engineering high above the River Yarra. Our final stop is St Kilda, situated on the most picturesque point of the bay.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Sofitel Melbourne

#### Day 15 Melbourne

If you need any information on things to do or see on this free day, your Tour Manager is on hand to make suggestions.

As the city is known for its great shopping, why not visit Rose Street artist's market or the funky boutiques on Brunswick Street?

Browse a superb collection of international art at the National Gallery of Victoria or take an Aboriginal Heritage Walk.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Sofitel Melbourne

#### Day 16 Melbourne to Cairns

This morning we fly to Cairns. The rest of the day is yours to relax.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Shangri-La Marina

#### Day 17 Cairns

This wonderful city is yours to explore at your leisure. Perhaps visit the picturesque market town of Kuranda known as the 'Village in the Rainforest'.

One of the most invigorating ways to capture some of the region's beauty is on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway. This incredible journey glides above dense rainforest canopy offering dramatic views of natural tropical plantations and wildlife.

This region is also known for its markets including the famous Rusty's, with its exotic atmosphere, reminiscent of a colourful carnival.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Shangri-La Marina

#### Day 18 Cairns

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the natural wonders of the world and today is your chance to venture into this extraordinary environment of rich colourful coral, clear blue waters and a wealth of tropical marine life.

Whilst at the Reef and onboard the catamaran, marine naturalists are on hand to offer their expertise and guidance. Mrs Williams, JOD customer, says: "The Great Barrier Reef was so amazing! I overcame my fear of putting my face in water to go snorkelling and it was just the best thing I've ever done."

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Hotel: Shangri-La Marina

#### Day 19 Cairns

Enjoy another day at leisure in Cairns. If you want to explore a little further your Tour Manager can organise a stunning ride onboard the thrilling Kuranda Scenic Railway. This amazing train journey travels through dense tropical rain forest, steep ravines, and picturesque waterfalls and into the sensational Barron Gorge.

If you want a quiet, unhurried day then take a leisurely stroll along the boardwalk, with its relaxed atmosphere.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Shangri-La Marina

#### Day 20 Cairns to Sydney

Today we fly to Sydney where we stay right on the harbour. The rest of the day is free for you to relax and explore.

Mark Crosby, JOD Tour Manager, says: "We've chosen the wonderful Four Seasons hotel in the vibrant Rocks area of Sydney. It's the perfect base for exploring the city's key attractions and our guest rooms have a view of the Opera House."

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Four Seasons

#### Day 21 Sydney

This morning our tour starts with one of the city's great iconic buildings – Sydney Opera House.

Then it's time for lunch onboard our harbour cruise. The informative voyage takes in the sights including Sydney Opera House to Double Bay and under the magnificent Harbour Bridge to Balmain and Darling Harbour.

Our final visit today is to one of Sydney's most popular coastal regions, the famous Bondi Beach, known for its terrific surf and stretches of golden sand.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Hotel: Four Seasons

#### Day 22 Sydney

The next two days here in Sydney are yours to explore. Your Tour Manager is on hand if you need suggestions for your two free days.

Perhaps experience the fresh mountain air in the majestic Blue Mountains, home to many splendid attractions including Sylvia Falls, historic Hartley and the magnificent rocky outcrop known as Three Sisters situated at Echo Point.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Four Seasons

#### Day 23 Sydney

Our incredible adventure is near to an end. If you fancy a little last minute shopping Sydney is the place!

This evening we enjoy a wonderful farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Four Seasons

#### Day 24 Depart Sydney

Today we transfer to the airport ready for your flight home to London Heathrow via Hong Kong.

Meals: Breakfast, Inflight

#### Day 25 Arrive London Heathrow

You arrive back in London today. Time to bid a fond farewell to your Tour Manager and travelling companions.

## Your tour hotels

For full details of all the hotels featured on this tour please see pages 42-47.

## Tour extensions

### Blue Mountains

Stay at the luxurious Lillianfels Resort & Spa amid the breathtaking scenery of the Blue Mountains National Park.

This exclusive country house style hotel sits on the cliffs above the Jamison valley and offers the perfect place to relax.

3 nights from £595 per person based on double/twin share, including return transfers from Sydney & deluxe room accommodation with daily breakfast. Single supplement: £520.

### Great Barrier Reef

Stay 4 nights at the exclusive Hayman Island Resort. The resort offers an exclusive realm of luxury in an untouched environment close to the Great Barrier Reef.

4-nights from £975 per person based on twin/double share, Retreat Wing accommodation with daily breakfast, return scheduled flights to Hamilton Island, return launch to Hayman Island and 1 night at Four Seasons Sydney. Single supplement: £645.



Hayman Island Resort, Great Barrier Reef

## Early booking offer

Hong Kong stopover just £149

As an incentive for you to book early on our Very Best of Australia tour, we are pleased to offer a 3-night extension in Hong Kong for an amazing £149 per person.

This is a great way to break your journey home and offers the chance to explore this exciting city. We stay at the luxurious Harbour Grand Hong Kong which offers views across the harbour to the famous skyline and is well located for shopping and sightseeing.

- \* 3-nights bed and breakfast at the Harbour Grand Hong Kong
- \* Half day city tour
- \* Return transfers

£149pp based on twin/double share. Single supplement: £149

There is no expiry date to this offer, but only a limited number of rooms are available at these special prices and the offer is only available using the scheduled return date for this tour.

Usual price £295pp based on twin/double share.

Single supplement: £215

## Departure dates & prices

### The Very Best of Australia

Departure date	Price without Ghan	Price with Ghan
2011 12 April	£4,595	£4,940
08 November	£4,795	£5,245
2012 24 January	£4,845	£5,295
21 February	£4,795	£5,225
06 March	£4,735	£5,165

Prices per person, based on double/twin share.

Single supplement: £1,665

Flight upgrades

Supplement for Qantas Premium Economy, Business and First available on request

Independent arrival – see page 4 for details

Deduct £780 from the tour price above

### Your 25-day tour includes:

- \* The services of your JOD Tour Manager
- \* Return scheduled flights on Qantas
- \* Invitation to the airport executive lounge on your way out
- \* Quality hotels throughout – hand-picked for location and high standards
- \* 22 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners including the Sounds of Silence dinner at Ayers Rock
- \* Sightseeing tours of Singapore, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney
- \* Tour of the outback around Ayers Rock and the Great Barrier Reef
- \* Travel by luxury air-conditioned coach
- \* Luggage service throughout
- \* All local and state taxes
- \* Airport taxes including air passenger duty

Flying time

London to Singapore 12½ hours

Singapore to Perth 9 hours

Time difference

Perth GMT + 8 hours

Sydney GMT + 10 hours

Average monthly temperatures see page 51.