

Highlights of Australia and New Zealand

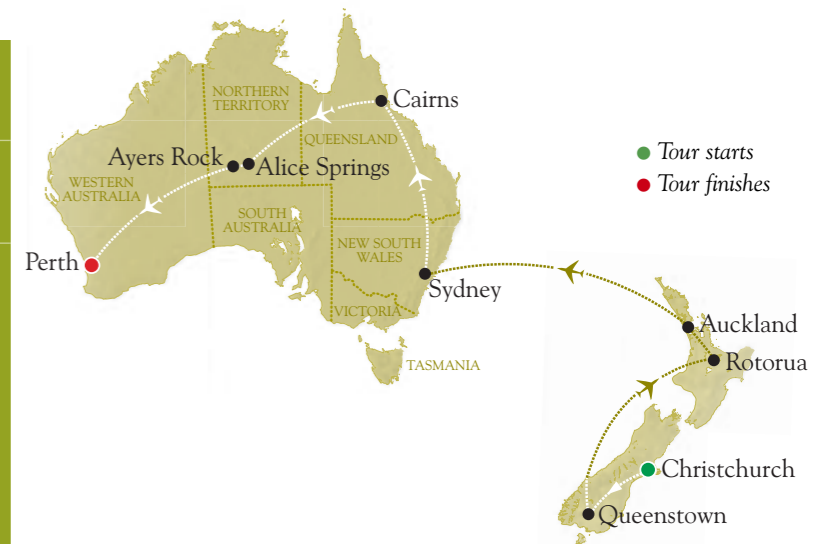
Prices start from £4,875

Fully escorted 31-day tour

Tour highlights

- * Sightseeing tours including Hong Kong, Christchurch, Queenstown, Rotorua, Sydney, Alice Springs, Ayers Rock and Perth.
- * Soar to great heights on Hong Kong's tram ride which offers breathtaking views from Victoria Peak.
- * Enjoy the serenity of Hagley Park, Christchurch with its 75 acres of splendid botanical gardens.
- * The stunning scenic drive from Christchurch to Queenstown captures the remarkable grassland of the Canterbury Plains.
- * Spend 4 nights in Queenstown, surrounded by New Zealand's great natural beauty and with so much to do and see.
- * Rotorua's unique Te Puia Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserves is a natural terrain with 500 pools and 65 geyser vents.
- * Explore the world-famous Sydney Opera House and harbour.
- * A day at the incredible Great Barrier Reef will seduce you with its warm clear waters, colourful coral and tropical fish.
- * Ayers Rock at sunset is the most wonderful sight. The light that is cast over this mammoth rock formation creates a spectacle of breathtaking colour.

Sentosa Island extension
Early booking offer £99pp



Tour itinerary

Day 1 Departure from London Heathrow

Join your Tour Manager and fellow travel companions in the executive lounge at London Heathrow before boarding your Qantas flight over to Hong Kong.

Meals: In-flight

Day 2 Arrive into Hong Kong

On arrival in Hong Kong you will be taken to the Harbour Grand, where we'll be staying for the next two nights.

The remainder of the day in Hong Kong is yours to enjoy, so why not venture out into this fabulous city?

Meals: In-flight Hotel: Harbour Grand Hong Kong

Day 3 Hong Kong

Before we start our tour of Hong Kong we make time for an introductory get-together, to welcome you on this exciting adventure.

Our first stop is Victoria Peak where we take a wonderful tram ride that goes straight up the side of the mountain to the 'Peak'. The view of Kowloon from across Victoria Harbour is breathtaking.

Then it's over to busy Aberdeen harbour for a trip on a traditional sampan boat dodging between fishing vessels and old boat houses. Our tour concludes at the southern tip of the island at Stanley Market, with views over the South China Sea.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Harbour Grand Hong Kong

Day 4 Depart Hong Kong

Enjoy a relaxing day in Hong Kong before we fly to the youngest country on earth, New Zealand.

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight



Sydney Opera House

Day 5 Arrive Christchurch

Today we arrive in the vibrant city of Christchurch, known as the Garden City due to its spectacular gardens and wide-open spaces.

Today is a chance to relax and soak up the city's pleasant atmosphere. A novel way to explore is onboard a vintage tram, which conveniently stops right outside our home for the next three days, the Heritage Hotel.

Meals: In-flight, Dinner Hotel: Heritage Hotel

Day 6 Christchurch

This morning our sightseeing tour starts with a visit to Canterbury Provincial Buildings near the Avon River. These small clusters of buildings have a certain historical charm to them.

Our next stop is at the fabulous Hagley Park hosting 75-acres of beautiful Botanic Gardens. Hagley Park was founded in 1863 and is known for its opulent gardens formed from rock, pinetum, azalea and water.

Located high on the Cashmere Hills with stunning views over Christchurch is Sign of Takahe. This historic building of national prominence is our last visit today.

The rest of the afternoon in Christchurch is for you to enjoy. Maybe unwind in the graceful ambience and elegant lounges of this fine hotel.

Mrs Bussey, JOD customer, says: "Christchurch was just amazing with a lovely, relaxed atmosphere. The parks were stunning with beautiful rose gardens. We sat and listened to a wonderful band playing in the park and had such a lovely day."

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Heritage Christchurch

Day 7 Christchurch

A free day – perhaps spend a fascinating hour or so in Air Force World, with 28 classic aircraft and stories from famous aviators. Hit the shops or visit the Christchurch Art Gallery, home to one of New Zealand's most important public art collections.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Heritage Christchurch

Day 8 Christchurch to Queenstown

Today we journey south to Queenstown on the state highway scenic route, capturing the remarkable pastures of the Canterbury Plains. This grazing grassland is an agricultural patchwork which provides 80 per cent of New Zealand's crops and seeds.

Driving on through Mackenzie Country and the beautiful Fairlie district we will be stopping at one of the region's farmhouses for a spot of lunch.

Mrs Bussey, JOD customer, says: "At the farm where we stopped for lunch, the family had put tables out in the garden and made the most beautiful home cooked food. They made us feel so welcome and after eating in mainly hotels and restaurants it really was an unexpected treat."

Our journey then continues south via dazzling Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain peaking at 3,754 metres.

The final part of this picturesque drive takes us down to Queenstown through Lindis Pass, a stunning dramatic drive with a backdrop of snow-capped peaks.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Hotel: Millennium Queenstown

Day 9 Queenstown

This morning we visit the former gold mining town of Arrowtown. Why not join one of the numerous leisurely walking trails later this afternoon?

There is also a wonderful atmosphere along Buckingham Street with its lanes of galleries and quaint shops including a remarkable sweet shop described as the 'naughty shop' with wall-to-wall treats. It's a great place for a little souvenir shopping.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Millennium Queenstown

Day 10 Queenstown

You can take it easy today, though we do have an optional excursion to the renowned natural wonder of Milford Sound.

John Allen, JOD Tour Manager says: "Keep an eye out for dolphins and penguins as we sail the pure, clear waters of the Milford Sound. This is a simply wonderful day out."

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Millennium Queenstown

Day 11 Queenstown

Today we have a host of optional excursions for you to indulge in. Why not leave Queenstown behind for a few hours and join the 4-wheel-drive tour of Skipper's Canyon? This marvellous drive captures some of the region's finest scenery and concludes with a scrumptious afternoon tea.

If you want something a little more genteel then take one of the city's garden tours. Queenstown is home to some of the most beautiful rural and residential gardens.

Save a little energy, as tonight we embark on the gracious vintage steamer TSS Earnslaw. We cruise across the splendid Lake Wakatipu and disembark at Walter Peak High Country Farm for a wonderful evening dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Millennium Queenstown

Day 12 Queenstown to Rotorua

It's an early start today as we board our flight to Auckland and then on to Rotorua. You have the remainder of the day to relax, so settle into your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Millennium Rotorua

Day 13 Rotorua

Today brings us closer to the drama of nature at the Te Puia Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserves. We will witness first hand the heritage and wonder of this famous thermal bathhouse. It has over 500 pools and 65 geysers vents which each have a name. You may get a chance to see Pohutu, which can erupt 30 metres high!

Your afternoon is free to explore before dinner and a splendid Maori concert.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Millennium Rotorua

Day 14 Rotorua to Auckland

Before we travel on to Auckland we have a guided tour at the Waitomo Caves, home of the spectacular glow-worm grotto. It is mesmerising to see these tiny creatures radiate their luminescent light.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Heritage Auckland

Day 15 Auckland

You have a full day to explore or relax as you wish. Take a trip up Mount Eden at the top of the city or visit the fashionable suburb of Parnell with its glorious Victorian buildings and boutique shops.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Heritage Auckland

Day 16 Auckland to Sydney

It's a fond farewell as we leave New Zealand and board our flight to Sydney for the next part of our incredible journey.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Four Seasons Hotel

Day 17 Sydney

The Sydney Opera House is our first visit this morning. You'll enjoy a guided tour of this grand iconic building that is recognised the world over.

Then it's time for a little lunch as we board the splendid harbour cruise. The informative voyage takes in the sights and surroundings of this fabulous city, including the unmistakable Harbour Bridge.

Our tour ends with a visit to Sydney's most popular coastal region, Bondi Beach; an area best known for its terrific surf and stretch of sparkling golden sand. At certain times of the year the coastal pathways are scattered with art and sculptures, which are well worth a leisurely stroll through.

Sue Short, JOD Tour Manager says: "That first view from Dover Heights of the long blue-green waves crashing on to Bondi Beach below is a magical moment. It may be something of a cliché, but it's quintessential Oz!"

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Hotel: Four Seasons Hotel

Day 18 Sydney

The next two days in Sydney are yours to explore. If you need advice on things to see and do, your Tour Manager is a wealth of information.

How about a visit to the Blue Mountains or even the challenge of the Sydney Harbour Bridge climb?

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Four Seasons Hotel

Day 19 Sydney

Another free day. Our hotel in the historical district of The Rocks is perfectly located for discovering the area's boutiques, galleries, restaurants and street performance.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Four Seasons Hotel

Day 20 Sydney to Cairns

This morning we leave Sydney and fly to Cairns in tropical North Queensland. On arrival the day is yours to settle in and relax.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Shangri-La Marina Hotel



Milford Sound



Cairns

Day 21 Cairns

A free day to explore at leisure.

Christina Riley, JOD Travel Advisor, says: "Cairns is bursting with attractions and splendid scenery. Take in the famous carnival atmosphere of Rusty's Farmers Market or enjoy the picturesque setting of Dundee's waterfront restaurant down at the harbour."

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Shangri-La Marina Hotel

Day 22 Cairns

Today we visit the Great Barrier Reef, one of the natural wonders of the world with its splendid scene of colourful coral, clear blue water and a wealth of tropical fish. It is an incredible experience and during your visit knowledgeable marine naturalists are on hand to offer their expertise and guidance. So, whether you are a keen snorkeller or just wanting to relax in a glass bottom boat, this beautiful reef with its seductive waters awaits your presence.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Hotel: Shangri-La Marina Hotel

Day 23 Cairns

Our third wonderful day in Cairns offers you an optional excursion on the spectacular Kuranda Scenic Railway. This unforgettable journey travels through dense tropical rain forest, steep ravines, picturesque waterfalls and into the fantastic Barron Gorge.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Shangri-La Marina Hotel

Day 24 Cairns to Alice Springs

This morning we take our flight to Alice Springs and venture into the Red Centre, Australia's dramatic desert landscape. Our tour begins at Alice Springs as we are transported to a bygone era with a visit to the old Telegraph Station. We will also visit the Flying Doctor base and School of the Air that educates over 140 children living across more than a million square kilometres.

There will also be some time to explore this outback town.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Crowne Plaza Hotel

Day 25 Alice Springs to Ayers Rock

Today our journey continues into a landscape of rugged beauty that is over 500 million years old.

We drive close to Ayers Rock, arguably the most famous natural icon, and then continue to The Olgas. These dramatic rock formations represent nature on a monumental scale. We have the opportunity to walk through Walpa Gorge's barren terrain with its scattering of desert plants and wildlife.

Later in the evening we will return to Ayers Rock to capture the magnificent sunset as the light is cast over these stunning rock formations.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Sails in the Desert

Day 26 Ayers Rock

This morning we have an intriguing tour around the base of Ayers Rock and later in the afternoon stop at the Aboriginal Cultural Centre for an insight into Aboriginal culture and history.

This evening we'll enjoy the wonderful Sounds of Silence experience as we dine under the twinkling outback sky.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Sails in the Desert

Day 27 Ayers Rock to Perth

We leave the outback today and fly to Perth. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Parmelia Hilton Hotel

Day 28 Perth

This morning we have a sightseeing tour of the city including Perth's central business district and downtown area.

Later in the afternoon you will have time to relax or take a trip to Kings Park with its stunning array of native plants, wildflowers and animals.

Sue Short, JOD Tour Manager, says: "The Indiana Tea House on Cottesloe Beach, Perth is a landmark amongst Western Australia's iconic heritage treasures. Enjoy a glass of wine as the sun sets over the aquamarine waves of the Indian Ocean."

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Parmelia Hilton Hotel

Day 29 Perth

Today is yours to explore. Why not take a visit to the coastal area of 'Freo' – the local nickname for Fremantle – with its laid back ambience. It's a perfect place to soak up the café culture or visit the little craft shops of the South Terrace.

It is almost goodbye, and so tonight we celebrate your journey with an invitation to our stunning farewell dinner.

Dr Model, JOD customer, says: "We really enjoyed our tour of Australia and New Zealand. There were too many highlights to mention. Absolutely awesome!"

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner Hotel: Parmelia Hilton Hotel

Day 30 Depart Perth

There's time for a little last minute souvenir shopping before we board our flight to London Heathrow via Singapore.

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

Day 31 Arrive London Heathrow

Our wonderful journey comes to an end this morning as we arrive in London.

Your tour hotels

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

Early booking offer

Sentosa Island Stopover just £99

As an incentive for you to book early on our Highlights of Australia and New Zealand tour we are pleased to offer a 2-night extension on Sentosa Island, Singapore for an amazing £99 per person. This is a great way to break your journey home and relax on the shores of the South China Sea or explore the exciting city of Singapore. The newly-refurbished Shangri-La Rasa Sentosa Resort offers excellent facilities, spacious rooms and a large pool. Included in the price:

- * 2-nights bed and breakfast at the luxurious Shangri-La Rasa Sentosa Resort with late checkout until 4pm on day of departure
- * Return transfers

£99pp based on twin/double share
Single supplement £99

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 on this tour
Usual price £220pp based on twin/double share.
Single supplement: £170



Sentosa Island

Departure dates & prices

Highlights of Australia and New Zealand

Departure date	Price per person
2011 07 March*	£5,075
02 May*	£4,875
06 November	£5,695
2012 22 January	£5,795
19 February	£5,725
04 March	£5,695

*07 March & 02 May departures feature slightly different itinerary via Bangkok on outbound

Prices per person, based on double/twin share.
Single supplement: £1,940

Flight upgrades
Supplements for Qantas Premium Economy, Business or First class are available on request

Independent arrival – see page 4 for details
Deduct £760 from the tour price above

Your 31-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
- * 27 breakfasts
- * 5 dinners including a dinner on a working farm near Queenstown and the Sounds of Silence Dinner at Ayers Rock
- * 3 lunches including a lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour
- * Sightseeing tours of Hong Kong, Christchurch, Sydney and Perth
- * Tours of the Great Barrier Reef, Ayers Rock and Rotorua's thermal springs
- * Travel by luxury air-conditioned coach
- * Luggage service throughout
- * All local and state taxes
- * Airport taxes including air passenger duty

Flying time
London to Hong Kong 12 hours
Hong Kong to Christchurch 11 hours

Time difference
Auckland: GMT + 12 hours
Perth: GMT + 8 hours

Average monthly temperatures see page 51.