

# *Our Australia!*

## *By* *IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS*

**Day 1: MELBOURNE.** Upon arrival at Melbourne Airport you will be met and privately transferred to the **Langham Hotel** for a two night stay. The Langham Hotel overlooks the tranquil Yarra River and offers refined elegance and sumptuous comfort. The hotel is nestled amongst an abundance of al fresco cafes, restaurants and boutiques. Melbourne is set around the shores of Port Philip Bay and the city itself is laid out in a large rectangle and boasts a lively and cosmopolitan atmosphere.



**Day 2: MELBOURNE CITY SIGHTS.** This morning you will be picked up from your hotel for a small group tour of Melbourne and discover the diversity of this multi-cultural city. See historical buildings, beautiful gardens, and shopping areas famous for their restaurants and fashion. Melbourne is THE sporting city of Australia. Melbournians are passionate about their Aussie Rules footy and almost all sports known to mankind. Travel past the sporting precinct that became famous in the 1956 Olympic Games and now roars to the cheers of “Aussie Rules” crowds each weekend. See the nearby Rod Laver Tennis Center that hosts the Australian Tennis Open each year. Melbourne is home to people from all over the world and this cultural diversity is expressed in the food and fashion centers. Walk along the shopping strips of upmarket traditional Toorak, funky Chapel Street Prahan or culturally Vietnamese Bridge Street Richmond. Return to the Melbourne Botanic Gardens for afternoon tea near the banks of the Yarra River. Drive to the Italian precinct of Lygon Street Carlton and see the historic Exhibition Buildings alongside the ultramodern Melbourne Museum. Finish your tour at the bustling activity of Queen Victoria Markets, where a huge range of fresh produce, exotic foods, clothing and artifacts are sold amidst a chorus of stall holders.



**Note:** The Queen Victoria Markets are not open Monday and Wednesday.

This evening, join the award-winning Colonial Tramcar Restaurant for dinner including drinks ([www.tramcarrestaurant.com.au](http://www.tramcarrestaurant.com.au)). Dine in the Colonial Tramcar Restaurant as it cruises the scenic streets of Melbourne. Dining in Melbourne is a fabulous experience, especially aboard the fleet of historical trams that have become “The Colonial Tramcar Restaurant”. These glossy, burgundy restaurants on wheels are the first travelling tramcar restaurants in the world and ensure a delightful innovative approach to dining. As they cruise the scenic streets of Melbourne, diners can enjoy our fine cuisine and drink the very best of Australian wines, or make a selection from our fully stocked bar at a fully inclusive price. The atmosphere is cozy, the service friendly and the décor as inviting as the colonial period these trams reflect.



**Note:** Transfers to/from the tramcar are not normally included as many people are out doing other things beforehand or go on elsewhere for a drink later. The concierge will arrange taxis of required at your own expense. IQOTC will include transfers on request. Choice of early dinner 5:45PM, 3 courses or late dinner 8:35PM, 5 courses.

**Day 3: MELBOURNE / AYERS ROCK / SOUNDS OF SILENCE.** This morning, an early transfer to the airport for your flight to Ayers Rock (not arranged by IQOTC) On arrival at Ayers Rock, you will be privately transferred to the **Sails in the Desert Hotel** for an overnight stay. (National Park fee included) Named after the soaring white sails that crown its roof, this hotel offers interior décor focusing on Aboriginal heritage and culture, with significant art works featured throughout the hotel. Some free time to enjoy the Ayers Rock Resort before a late afternoon pick up (pick up times are seasonal, approx. 1 hour before sunset, check with the hotel for your pick up time) from your hotel to join the scheduled “Sounds of Silence” dinner tour. [www.ayersrockresort.com.au/sounds-of-silence/](http://www.ayersrockresort.com.au/sounds-of-silence/)



The event includes transfers, canapés, beer, wines and non-alcoholic beverages, gourmet barbecue buffet, scrumptious dessert, tea, coffee, port, star talk and stargazing. Entered into the Australian Tourism Hall of Fame, “Sounds of Silence” offers the best of the Red Centre distilled into four magical hours. An unforgettable evening, your journey begins on a lone sand dune. A meandering path takes you to an uninterrupted, three hundred and sixty degree view of this vast landscape. In front of you is the fabled Uluru; behind you are the domes of Kata Tjuta and possibly the most spectacular sunset you have ever seen. Here you enjoy sparkling wine and a selection of delectable canapés. As the sun sets in a blaze of reds and oranges, and well into the starlit night, you feast on a barbecue buffet, complemented by Australian wine. Attention then turns to some of the world's best stargazing, as our resident astronomer takes you on an unforgettable tour of the spectacular southern night sky. As you wind down after a delicious dinner, you are offered a choice of tea, coffee or port. In winter, guests gather around a campfire to savor a special treat of hot mulled wine.

**Note:** This is subject to availability and weather conditions permitting.

**Day 4: AYERS ROCK / SPIRIT OF ULURU / CAIRNS.** Early this morning, you will be picked up from your hotel for the small group “Spirit of Uluru” tour including a picnic breakfast.



your flight to Cairns.

A short guided walk is taken to areas of special interest, viewing rock art and waterholes whilst discovering the fascinating relationship the Anangu people have with Uluru. Absorb the images and gain an insight of how Uluru provided a tangible link with the creation time ancestors. Finally visit the remarkable Uluru Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre before returning to hotel. A late-morning private car transfer to the airport for

**Note:** Flight must depart at 13.30 or later, or IQOTC will need to change this tour to a similar one.



On arrival into Cairns you will be met and privately transferred to **Sebel Reef House** for a three night stay. The Sebel Reef House & Spa is a luxurious boutique resort with a sophisticated yet easy-going atmosphere positioned in the heart of Palm Cove with a stunning beachfront location. The hotel was designed to capture the romance of the tropics and the colonial splendor of a bygone era.

**Day 5: GREAT BARRIER REEF CRUISE.** This morning you will be picked up from your hotel and transferred to the wharf for a scheduled full day Michaelmas Cay Cruise by catamaran. Michaelmas Cay is a picturesque reef sand island surrounded by magical coral gardens seething with an incredible diversity of marine life. The Cay is a protected seabird sanctuary playing host to over 20,000 migratory seabirds.... one of the most important nesting sites in the Southern Hemisphere - an absolute haven for any nature lover. Buffet lunch on tour included. Snorkeling equipment on cruise provided. The tour gives you four hours on the Reef, refreshments on the way to and from Michaelmas Cay, with a high crew: passenger ratio. Snorkel from a sand cay (island) rather than deep water; guides will make presentations on the ecology, and there is also a semi-submersible vessel for coral viewing.



**Note:** Also available, PADI certified and introductory diving - must be pre-booked.

**Day 6: KURANDA / STEAM TRAIN / RAINFORESTATION / SKYRAIL.** This morning, pick up from your hotel for full day Kuranda tour. Glide over the rainforest canopy and enjoy a walk through it, surrounded by a diversity of plants and birdlife. At Kuranda spend some time wandering through the village. The tour includes a visit to the koala and wildlife park. Hand-feed



the friendly Grey Kangaroos or have your photo taken with a cuddly koala. Join the amphibious Army Duck for a journey deep into the rainforest on land and water. Be entertained by the Pamagirri Aboriginal Dancers in the Rainforest Amphitheatre. On the Dreamtime Walk see spear throwing, didgeridoo playing and try your hand at boomerang throwing. WOW! Sounds like fun to us! The tour also includes a ride on

the Kuranda Scenic Railway - this historic rail journey winds its way along the Kuranda Range through 15 tunnels and over 40 bridges clinging to the rock face. Lunch on the tour included.

**Day 7: CAIRNS / SYDNEY.** Today meet with your driver for a private car transfer to the airport for your flight to Sydney (not arranged by IQOTC). Upon arrival in Sydney, you will again be met and privately transfer to the **Observatory Hotel** for your 4 night stay. The Observatory Hotel is superbly located near Sydney's historic Rocks area, nestled near the vibrant harbor and the world famous Sydney Harbor Bridge. Spacious, elegant, and beautifully appointed, the rooms and suites at The Observatory Hotel are designed to meet the needs of the most fastidious guest. Sydney is the capital of the New South Wales region and was Australia's first permanent European settlement. Sydney is admired for its large harbor, beautiful coastline and foreshores, bayside parks and gardens, warm and pleasant climate and cosmopolitan culture.



Balance of day at leisure

**Day 8: SYDNEY SIGHTSEEING / OPERA HOUSE PERFORMANCE.** This morning, you will be picked up from the hotel for a small group city tour. Departing your city hotel we travel to the charming Rocks, where you take a stroll around the historic area, with its quaint old cottages, pubs and churches. Rejoin the vehicle and travel along Macquarie St - the seat of government for N SW, the Mint and Hyde Park Barracks. Traveling past St. Mary's Cathedral you visit Mrs. Macquarie's Chair for an unsurpassed view of Sydney Harbor, the Opera House and Bridge.



Continuing along the shores of Sydney Harbor, you travel through King's Cross, Double Bay and Rose Bay. We pause briefly for morning tea in the beautiful Sydney Harbor National Park before



continuing to South Head with its breathtaking view of Sydney Harbor and the City. Take a short stroll along the cliff tops and rejoin the vehicle to continue to Bondi Beach and Centennial Park returning to Circular Quay at 12.00 where the tour ends. Free time before (late-afternoon) you make your own way to the Opera House for a "package" program which will include an inspection tour, a 3 course dinner and a concert performance - subject to season. Possible alternatives may be ballet or opera.

**Note:** No performances on Sundays and usually mid-December - end January.

**Day 9: BLUE MOUNTAINS HIGH COUNTRY ECOTOUR.** This fantastic Ecotour begins at your hotel and the historical Rocks area of old Sydney. Heading westwards across the coastal plain we make our way to the Great Dividing Range of Australia. It is here we leave the average Blue Mountains "tourist" behind and enter the National Park to unlock a piece of Australia you would never have known existed. We visit an ancient Aboriginal site; examine rock formations and the unusual plants and wildlife that abound the area. From the quaint little village of Leura we skirt around Cliff Drive to Katoomba where you will find yourself looking out over the magnificent Jamieson Valley (Australia's Grand Canyon) and the Three Sisters. We enjoy a delicious barbeque lunch including a selection of fine Australian wines with a cheese platter under the canopy of the Australian bush. Before returning to Sydney we drop into a hidden valley where we roam the area seeking out the many kangaroos that graze in the wild (conditions permitting). Reluctantly, we leave the National Park, passing through the Olympic 2000 site on our way back to the hotel.



**Day 10: SYDNEY HARBOR SAILING.** Another day of ADVENTURE! Join a small yacht sailing trip including lunch. You will be privately transferred to the pier at Darling Harbor, where you will cruise Sydney Harbor on board a fully equipped cruising yacht - no visit to Sydney is complete without sailing its unique Harbor. [www.harbourdays.com.au](http://www.harbourdays.com.au)



**Note:** Tour operates 10 am - 5 pm.

**Day 11: DEPART.** This morning meet with your private car and driver for a transfer to the airport to board your onward or homeward flight.

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