



## ***Adventures Down Under (And even more down under) Australia & Tasmania***

***October 14<sup>th</sup>- October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022***

### **Day 1      Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> SYDNEY**

**D**

Welcome to **Sydney, Australia!** Radiating from the sparkling waters of Sydney Harbour, Australia's largest city stretches from the shores of the Pacific Ocean to the foot of the Blue Mountains. After immigration formalities, we'll meet our local guide and coach captain to take an introductory sightseeing drive enroute to our Darling Harbour Hotel. This afternoon, we walk to the **Chinese Garden of Friendship** located just across the road. Opened in 1988 for the Bicentenary, this garden was modelled after ancient private gardens in China from the 5<sup>th</sup> century and is a masterpiece of traditional Chinese culture infused with Australian characteristics. Welcome dinner in hotel tonight.



**Accommodation: Novotel Darling Square Hotel – 3 nights**

### **Day 2      Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> THE BLUE MOUNTAINS**

**BL**

Today discover the beauty of the **Blue Mountains** - a stark contrast to the hustle and bustle of Sydney. Our first stop is at **Everglades Gardens** in the village of **Leura**. Leura is aboriginal for "lava" because of the area's wealth of volcanic stones. It is this rich volcanic soil that is responsible for Leura's international reputation of possessing some of the nation's most beautiful gardens. This afternoon we take the scenic Cliff Drive to Echo Point and the Three Sisters at **Katoomba** – a great stop for a photo opportunity! Near here is **Scenic World** where we ride on the Scenic Railway, the world's steepest incline railway and then descend the escarpment at a gradient of 52 degrees and travel through the tunnel and ancient rainforest. We'll explore the 300m rainforest boardwalk to connect with the Flyway platform. The Scenic Cableway is the steepest aerial cable car in Australia. It will take us on a 545-metre ride up through the World Heritage listed rainforest of the Jamison Valley.



**Day 3                      Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**SYDNEY**

**BD**

This morning we start with a city sights tour, visiting the historical Rocks area, where the First Fleet landed in 1788 to establish Australia's first European settlement. Our touring also includes a stop for a great photo opportunity at Mrs Macquarie's Chair to see spectacular views of the **Sydney Opera House, Sydney Harbour Bridge** and **Fort Denison**, plus the harbourside million-dollar mansions. Our next destination is the world-famous beautiful, white sand **Bondi Beach**. Later at the **Opera House** we'll take a private, essentials tour allowing us to see behind the scenes of this most recognised building. In the heart of Sydney is the **Royal Botanic Gardens**, where we'll spend some time looking through Australia's oldest botanic garden learning about the people and plants that tell the story of their 200-year history. We finish the day at King Street Wharf to join a spectacular **Dinner Cruise** - the views are stunning as we cruise Sydney's beautiful harbour.

**Day 4                      Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**

**BLD**

Our morning begins with a visit to **The Mt Annan Botanical Gardens** on the outskirts of Sydney. This native plant garden of the Royal Botanic Gardens is the largest botanic garden in Australia. Covering 416 hectares, it showcases abundant native animal and birdlife as well as Australia Flora. After, we travel southwest to the **Southern Highlands** - an area that is home to some of Australia's best-known gardens, many established by wealthy Sydneysiders escaping the heat and humidity of the coast for the cooler climate of the highlands. The gardens range from large established country estates to smaller cottage gardens such as Cumberland Plain Woodland, a critically endangered ecological community of the region. We'll visit **Retford Park** and take a tour of this impressive mansion and gardens that is of great significant heritage to the area. Lunch today is at **Peppers Manor House** and the gardens here provide a glorious backdrop to the hotel. The next visit is to **Harper's Mansion**. This is a National Trust property set in two acres of strolling gardens of cool climate heritage plants overlooking the historic village of Berrima and features one of the largest hedge mazes in Australia.



**Accommodation: Peppers Craigeburn, Bowral – 1 night**

**Day 5                      Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**

**BLD**

**S. HIGHLANDS-CANBERRA**

Before leaving the area, we visit the **Red Cow Farm Garden**. This 6-acre garden is divided into different garden areas or 'rooms', with new vistas and surprises around every corner. Red Cow Farm is a dream come true for anyone with a green thumb. Late morning, travel on to **Canberra**, stopping for lunch at a winery located at the mysterious **Lake George** before arriving in Canberra.



**Accommodation: Novotel Canberra – 2 nights**

**Day 6                      Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**

**B**

**CANBERRA**

Spend the day exploring Canberra-Australia's capital city. Visits today include the **National Arboretum** - one of the world's largest living collections of rare, endangered, and significant trees – it features 94 forests of rare, endangered, and symbolic trees from around Australia and the world and the **Australian National Botanic Gardens** – the largest living collection of native Australian flora.

**Day 7                      Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**

**BD**

**CANBERRA/MELBOURNE**

After breakfast, we transfer to Canberra Domestic Airport for our morning flight to Melbourne. Upon arrival into **Melbourne**, we'll enjoy a **tour of the city**, including many of the public gardens and buildings around the city center. This afternoon we take a tour of **Captains Cooks Cottage** in **Fitzroy Gardens**. Originally located in Yorkshire, England and built by the parents of Captain James Cook, the cottage was brought to in 1934- each brick was individually numbered, packed into barrels, and then shipped to Australia! We'll explore Fitzroy Gardens before checking in to our centrally located hotel for a 3-night stay.



**Accommodation: Quality Batman's Hill on Collins – 3 nights**

**Day 8                      Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**

**BL**

**MELBOURNE-MORNINGTON PENINSULA**

There is a wonderful day ahead as we travel to the glorious **Mornington Peninsula**. Our first stop is the beautiful **Beleura House & Garden**. Next visit the **Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne** – a division of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, with its inspirational Australian Garden. This unique garden is a place where you can immerse yourselves in Australian flora, landscapes, art and architecture. Experience arid inland landscapes usually found in central Australia and admire the beauty of the 100,000 plants on display. Our final visit for the day is at **Heronswood** – a Mediterranean climate garden and headquarters for the famous **Diggers Garden Club**- Australia's largest garden club.





**Day 9                  Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**BL**

## **THE DANDENONG RANGES**

Today will be spent in the nearby **Dandenong Ranges**. For over 100 years, they have been an idyllic retreat for Melbournians wanting to take in the mountain air and escape the bustle of city life. Today, visitors from all over Australia, flock to the beautiful gardens and magnificent tall forests. First stop today is at Mount Dandenong for a visit to **William Ricketts Sanctuary** – a world renowned sanctuary depicting the sculptures and vision of William Ricketts. These sculptures are displayed amidst ferns and towering eucalyptus



expressing Aboriginal Man's spiritual relationship with his environment. At Belgrave, we join the famous **Puffing Billy Steam Train** on a ride through to Emerald and stop at the lovely **Cloudehill Garden and Nursery**. Within Cloudehill there are various "segments" of gardens including the Maple Court; below this lies the Green Theatre, which is reminiscent of old Italian gardens. The stage is overshadowed by a tapestry wall of green and copper beech perfectly placed to aid acoustics. In summer, this area is used for twilight musical recitals. The formal garden areas are surrounded by woodlands of Beech, Maple, Rhododendron and Magnolia. These magnificent trees, imported from Japan and Europe, date to earliest days of the original Woolrich Nursery and are now of historic importance.



**Day 10                  Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**BLD**

## **MELBOURNE/LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA**

Transfer to the Melbourne airport for our direct flight to Launceston. On arrival in Launceston, join **Tamar River Cruises** aboard the Lady Launceston, as we explore the old seaport enroute to Kings Wharf, viewing historic vessels and Launceston's delightful riverfront precinct. The highlight of the experience is cruising into the spectacular Cataract Gorge viewing the sheer cliffs and cascades from our seats on this 1890's style vessel. Enjoy the skipper's captivating commentary on the history of this fascinating area. Lunch will be at the Cataract Gorge Reserve and our afternoon will be spent in the nearby **Longford** region, just outside Launceston. Visit **Entally Estate** – an UNESCO World Heritage site where we'll have a guided tour of the house plus free time in the garden with its expansive borders and 180-year-old trees. Return to Launceston to check into our hotel.

**Accommodation: Hotel Grand Chancellor, Launceston – 2 nights**

**Day 11            Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**

**BL**

**LAUNCESTON**



Today will be spent in the nearby Mole Creek region visiting several gardens. In the afternoon, we **visit an Australian native wildlife sanctuary**, where we will have the opportunity to see some unique animals including Tasmanian Devils, Quolls, Wombats, Kangaroos and Possums!

**Day 12            Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**BD**

**LAUNCESTON/HOBART**

Travel south to Hobart, via the scenic east coast, with a stop at **Kates Berry Farm** and the coastal towns of Triabunna and Orford. We visit the **Tasmanian Bushland Garden** showcasing Tasmanian native plants before travelling through to historic Richmond and seeing the convict-built **Richmond Bridge**. Upon arrival into Hobart, there will be a city tour before checking in to our hotel for a 2-night stay. Dinner at the nearby Drunken Admiral restaurant this evening.

**Accommodation: Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart – 2 nights**



**Day 13            Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**

**BLD**

**HOBART**

This morning travel to the **Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens**, which were established in 1818 on the slopes beside the Derwent River. At the Botanic Discovery Centre there are interactive displays that include information on the rich and diverse Tasmanian flora. Heading out of town visit **Frognore Winery** for lunch and a tasting at the winery. Later, we enjoy a delightful visit to **Runnymede**, a Colonial Homestead and Garden with a rich collection of maritime artefacts. Be captivated by the guide's colourful tales of past owners of a lawyer who went on to become a leading campaigner against the transportation of convicts to a ship's Captain who renamed it after a favourite vessel and what we know it as today. Return to Hobart for a special farewell dinner tonight.

**Day 14**

**Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**

**B**

**HOBART/AUCKLAND/OR HOME**

Following breakfast, head to the Hobart airport for our flight to New Zealand to continue our journey or back home.

Please note that the gardens and visits included in this itinerary are subject to availability. If a visit is not available, a suitable alternative will be found and will be finalized closer to departure. At each visit, the group will be hosted as specified.

**B= Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner**

**Inclusions:**

- 13 nights' accommodations in 3-4-star hotels centrally located
- breakfast daily and other meals where specified
- air-conditioned coach with professional driver
- all sightseeing and garden visits' entry fees per itinerary
- local guides per itinerary
- all taxes
- tour manager Dee Montpetit travelling with group at all times

**Land costs:**

Tour is priced in Australian dollars (AUD) and final payment will reflect the actual cost.

Price is based on double occupancy with a minimum of 20 participants:

**AUD 6612.50 per person-** based on today's rate of exchange (March 16, 2022): **USD 4875**

For 15-19 tour participants:

**AUD 7575 per person- based on today's ROE (March 16, 2022): USD 5580**

Single supplement: AUD 1975...based on today's ROE: USD 1456

**Airfare:** TBD based on travel options.

**Payment schedule and cancellation policy:**

A \$1500 per person deposit is due at time of reservation. The deposit is nonrefundable.

Final payment is due **August 15<sup>th</sup>** and is non-refundable. A check is the required method of payment for the deposit.

For final payment, a 4% surcharge will be added for credit card use.

Please make **checks payable to Direct Travel** and send along with your reservation form to the address below:

**Ma Petite Tours**

**9614 180<sup>th</sup> ST SE**

**Snohomish, WA. 98296**

**Insurance:**

Insurance is highly recommended. Please contact me directly for pricing as it is based on the final itinerary cost. Note that with most policies, you must include with your deposit or within 2 weeks of deposit if you would like pre-existing coverage. Insurance can be paid by credit card for no additional fee.

**Documentation:**

You will need a valid US Passport with at least 6 months' validity from the return date to enter Australia. If you are not a US citizen, please let me know and I will advise you on the required documentation.

An electronic visa or ETA (AUD20) is also required and can be obtained online at the following link: <https://www.eta.homeaffairs.gov.au/ETAS3/etas>

Please complete the attached reservation form and send your deposit to secure your reservation. For more information, contact: Dee Montpetit at 425-208-6515 or email: [dee@mapetitegardens.com](mailto:dee@mapetitegardens.com)

**COVID:**

You must be full vaccinated to travel in our group. Please enclose proof of vaccination with your reservation form and deposit.



# Australia Reservation Form 2022

(If doing both Australia & New Zealand, only 1 form required.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact person and phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Passport Information:

Passenger One: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal name as it appears: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Passenger Two: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal name as it appears: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

## Special requests:

Single or requesting share: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical: \_\_\_\_\_

Doing Australia and New Zealand: \_\_\_\_\_ With New Zealand extension: \_\_\_\_\_