

# Australia & New Zealand



## All Over Down Under

See the best of both countries,

From Outback to Great Barrier Reef!

**Nov 1-19, 2025**

When people list their dream destinations, Australia and New Zealand typically top the chart. From New Zealand's Waitomo Glowworm Caves to the adventure capital of Queenstown to Australia's incredible sights of Uluru (Ayer's Rock) to the Great Barrier Reef, these countries have so much to offer. Plus, we'll get to see Sydney via the water, tour the Opera House, visit a camel farm during our drive through the Outback, and tour the School of the Air and the Royal Flying Doctor service.

### **Sat, Nov 1, 2025: We're on our way!**

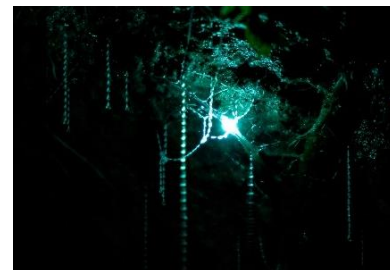
We are on our way! Meet Dea and Declan at the St Louis Airport as we begin our journey to New Zealand and Australia. (Note: if you are departing from a different location, contact our office and we can help you make connections for our overseas flight from your location.)! **(All meals on international flight portion)**

### **Sun, Nov 2 – The 'Lost' Day!**

We skip the day due to the International Dateline! Congrats, you're a time traveler!!

### **Mon, Nov 3, 2025: Glow Worms!**

We begin our journey with an early arrival into Auckland, New Zealand's most cosmopolitan city. Known as the "City of Sails," it is the Polynesian capital of the world. On arrival, we meet our vehicle and enjoy a scenic 2.5 hour drive south to Waitomo, home to the famous **Spellbound Glowworm Caves**. The lights are kept low to let us see the magnificent glowworm displays only inches away. Around a corner lie the bones of one of New Zealand's lost treasures, the ancient extinct Moa (a prehistoric flightless bird standing 12 ft tall) and the Te Anaroa cave stream that flows in the darkness below.



## **Are We There Yet?, LLC**

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Following our tour, we travel 2 hours south through the beautiful Waikato farmland to **Rotorua**, located in the heart of the central volcanic plateau and uniquely built on top of an active geothermal field. We stay two nights at the Pullman Hotel in the heart of Rotorua City and where our welcome dinner will be served. **(Breakfast on Plane, L, D)**

### **Tues, Nov 4, 2025: – Māori and Geothermal Wonders**

After our full hot breakfast, our local Māori host will lead us on a guided tour of



**Ohinemutu, an ancient Māori Village.** The Māori were the first people to settle these islands, and their descendants still live in this village today. We get to venture into areas not open to the public, including inside Te Papa-iouru Marae (meeting house). Here you will have the opportunity to see up close and personal how the locals harness the nearby geothermal resources for heating, cooking and bathing. Our lunch will be a **traditional Māori 'hangi' meal** – it's really good!

This afternoon we travel to **Wai O Tapu Thermal Wonderland.** Sculptured out of volcanic activity and thousands of years in the making, it is considered to be New Zealand's most colorful and diverse geothermal area. You are introduced to a uniquely different natural landscape thanks to one of the most extensive geothermal systems in New Zealand. After a fun and informative day, we return to our hotel. **(B, L)**

### **Wed, Nov 5, 2025: Christchurch on the South Island**

Bid farewell to Rotorua this morning after breakfast and board your flight to

**Christchurch** on the South Island. We enjoy a **walking tour of the city**, from the Arts Centre to Cathedral Square. See first-hand some of the areas affected by the devastating earthquakes and how Christchurch is preserving some of its iconic heritage buildings. Artists from all over have taken to the streets to create masterpieces of color and creativity that adorn building walls – from inspiring large murals right through to small paintings that entertain and inspire. Explore the city's laneways, filled with boutique stores, cafes, and surprises around every corner. Our tour ends with a

**Punt boat ride** along the tranquil Avon River as your punter propels you slowly along the water. Tonight dine at leisure at one of the many wonderful places nearby. **(B)**



### **Thurs, Nov 6, 2025: Ride the Rails through the Great Divide Mountains!**



This morning after breakfast, we explore the Southern Alps aboard the **TranzAlpine train** - one of the world's great train journeys, which travels through the 'Great Divide' and the indomitable spine of mountains that partitions New Zealand's South Island. Disembark at the top of the Southern Alps in the alpine village of **Arthurs Pass**, where we will board our transfer and travel through the Pass and across the 'grain bowl' of New Zealand, the Canterbury Plains, enroute back to Christchurch for dinner on your own. **(B)**



## Fri, Nov 7, 2025: Queenstown, the Adventure Capital of New Zealand!

After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and catch a flight to Queenstown, the Adventure Capital of New Zealand! We first stop at the village of Arrowtown for a walking tour to discover the town's rich history. The town was established in 1862, during the height of the Otago Gold Rush. The settlement grew quickly as pioneers constructed cottages, shops and churches, more than 60 of which can still be seen today. Enjoy time to wander and eat lunch at leisure. We then have an optional tour this afternoon – a Shotover Jetboat ride! Our home for the next two nights is the Millbrook Resort, where we enjoy a group dinner this evening. **(B,D)**

**Optional Tour - Shotover Jetboat Ride** Get ready for the thrill of a lifetime with New Zealand's world famous Shotover Jet – the ultimate jet boat experience. Feel your adrenaline surge as you accelerate into the towering Shotover River canyons. Your expert driver takes you skimming through the shallows in mere centimeters of water, blasting past the canyon walls, rocky outcrops and boulders. (This is an optional tour because while it is exciting – Dea and Declan did it on their honeymoon – we know some people might not find it so exciting or might have conditions like Declan's VP shunt that would prevent them from participating.)



## Sat, Nov 8, 2025: A Day of Ships and Sheep

After breakfast, the morning is free for you to enjoy on your own, or, we have arranged an **Optional Tour to Milford Sound** for those who wish to experience this amazing scenery.

We all meet back at Queenstown before cruising aboard the iconic century-old **TSS Earnslaw across Lake Wakatipu**, a coal-fired steamship that's been a part of the region's history since 1912. Lovingly preserved, the TSS Earnslaw offers more than just a journey. Wander through its decks, visit the engine room to see the heart of this working steamship in action, and explore fascinating historical displays that bring its storied past to life. Sit back, relax and enjoy the spectacular scenery of *The Remarkables* mountain range (yes, that is really the name) as we cruise across Lake Wakatipu for a behind the scenes visit to a truly authentic, family run merino sheep station, the **Walter**



**Peak High Country Farm.** Join our guide on a tour of the farm, watch sheep being moved by the guide and farm dog, meet working animals used on the farm and learn about daily family life. Return late afternoon for dinner at leisure. **(B)**

**Optional Tour – Milford Sound** Often described as the 8th wonder of the world, Milford Sound is an amazing feature, where the sea cuts through the mountains. Begin this optional tour by flying from Queenstown by light aircraft or helicopter, experiencing panoramic views of the alpine scenery, lush rainforest and, finally, Milford Sound. Board a luxury vessel and cruise the full length of the Milford Sound to the Tasman Sea. A comprehensive commentary is provided throughout the cruise and there is plenty of time available to view the waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife. Make sure you have your camera handy, as these are sights you will want to show all your friends!



## Sun, Nov 9, 2025: Hanging with the Kiwis (The birds, not people or fruit!)

This morning after breakfast we visit the Kiwi Birdlife Park, devoted to helping conserve New Zealand's native fauna through advocacy, captive breeding and rehabilitation. Enjoy a personal encounter with the parks unique endangered wildlife, guided by an experienced park zoologist. This exclusive opportunity offers up-close experiences and a private kiwi-feeding. Our guide will share a wealth of knowledge about New Zealand's iconic bird and the work the park does to help save the kiwi. Conclude your tour with a live conservation show. Here you will meet the stars of the park as the birds fly free in the outdoor wildlife theatre.



Following lunch at leisure transfer to Queenstown airport to board our flight to Melbourne, Australia. On arrival we head to our home for the next 2 nights, the VOCO Hotel by IHG. Dinner at leisure this evening in this vibrant city. **(B)**

## Mon, Nov 10, 2025: Melbourne and Penguin Parade!

After breakfast we join our guide for a walk-through Melbourne's beautiful and iconic lanes and arcades to immerse ourselves in the heritage and culture of this cosmopolitan city, visit local artisans and up and coming fashion designers. With a vibrant public art scene and historical buildings that act as a backdrop, you will discover the sophistication and charm that makes Melbourne such a diverse city. Learn a little history and see some of Melbourne's amazing architecture.



This afternoon join your guide for transfer to Phillip Island. At dusk every night, the world's smallest penguins waddle ashore after spending the day fishing out at sea. You will be truly enchanted as the stars of the show emerge from the surf and pass right before your eyes on their journey back to their homes. Your guide will ensure you get a great vantage point to enjoy the Penguin Parade. Following transfer for dinner before returning late evening to your hotel. Tomorrow we fly to the Outback! **(B, D)**

## Tues, Nov 11, 2025 Alice Springs, the heart of the Outback

This morning after breakfast we fly to Alice Springs in the heart of the Outback. On arrival we enjoy lunch before a tour of the Royal Flying Doctors Service. Enjoy heroic tales of the birth and growth of the RFDS at the original Alice Springs working base that commenced operating in 1939. Discover the importance of the RFDS to Outback Australians and the medical care required to service isolated regions. The new John Flynn the Hologram is an amazing experience. The pioneering holographic show forms the centerpiece of the facility, as Flynn tells the story of his vision and its realization into the RFDS of today. Experience the Virtual Reality and connect to the emotions of the RFDS. Relive the true experience of patient Gene Hildebrand and see what it is like to fly with an RFDS pilot. Step inside a replica RFDS aircraft and feel what it is like to be a patient at 15,000 feet. Walk through the museum and meet Alfred Traeger and Nurse Kathy through interactive technology. Afterwards we check-in to the Double Tree by Hilton and enjoy dinner on your own. **(B, L)**





### **Wed, Nov 12, 2025: From Snakes to School of the Air**

Today we explore this wondrous place, from how the earliest European pioneers in the 19th century survived on massive cattle stations to how they educated their kids. We also learn a bit about the many animals of Australia at the Reptile Centre where than 100 reptiles of over 50 different species are exhibited indoors and outside in naturally landscaped surrounds. This was a highlight for many people who went with us before!

After lunch we learn how children are educated in remote outstations and pastoral properties at the School of Air, the biggest classroom in the Outback. From the early days of radio to using phones and satellites, it is an amazing visit. We also stop at the Telegraphic Station which stands as a cherished museum precinct and tells the compelling tale of Australia's vital link to the global community through the establishment of the Overland Telegraph Line in 1872. Finally we stop at the ANZAC Memorial, a very important location for the Australian military during World War II. Visiting here will give you a deep understanding of Australia's fight during the second world war. We then return to the hotel to freshen up before dinner. **(B, L, D)**



### **Thurs, Nov 13, 2025: Driving through the Desert in the Outback**



Depart Alice Springs by coach this morning after breakfast as travel to Uluru by coach. A full day journey, taking in the phenomenal landscape. Enjoy stops along the way as you continue the journey towards Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park. Lunch and refreshment stops will include Stuart Wells Roadhouse, Erlunda and a stop at the Mt. Connor Lookout. On arrival in Uluru, check in to the Sails in the Desert Hotel. **(B, L)**

#### **Optional- Field of Lights**

This evening enjoy the 'Field of Lights' at the remote desert location with Uluru as the backdrop. As darkness gradually falls and the colored lights of the 50,000 glass spheres come to life, your host will provide insights into the art installation that awaits you. Then you're invited to immerse yourself in the Field of Lights, its pathways glistening softly with rhythms of colored light, beckoning you to explore.

### **Fri, Nov 14, 2025: Sunrise at Uluru**

Before sunrise you will be transferred by coach to experience the tranquillity of the pre-dawn land under a canopy of stars. Watch the amazing transformation of colors and life as the desert awakens with Uluru and Kata Tjuta as your backdrop. Travel away from the crowds to a secluded sand dune to watch the spectacular sight of sunrise over Uluru and Kata Tjuta. Your guide will introduce you to the natural and cultural landscapes of this remarkable region. Following your tour, and after lunch, you will be transferred to Ayers Rock Airport to board our flight to Cairns. We head to the Sheraton Grand Mirage Port Douglas for our included dinner. **(B, D)**



### **Sat, Nov 15, 2025: Great Barrier Reef!**

This morning, transfer to Port Douglas marina to board your vessel and enjoy a full day experience of the Great Barrier Reef with a snorkelling and sailing tour to the Mackay & Undine Coral Cays. The reef is alive with a large variety of reef fish such as parrot fish, angel fish, sharks, anthias, Māori Wrasse, butterfly fish, coral trout, and anemone fish hiding in their colourful anemones. Snorkel over the magnificent coral gardens on a guided snorkel tour with a marine biologist and swim with green turtles in their natural habitat. Enjoy a buffet lunch onboard. We then return to the hotel for dinner at leisure. **(B, L)**



### **Sun, Nov 16, 2025: Koala's on the Gold Coast**

This morning transfer to Cairns airport and board your flight to the Gold Coast. On arrival you will transfer to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, the Koala capital of Australia. Have lunch and explore the park before a special meet and greet with a resident Koala. A professional photographer will capture the moment, so you can treasure it forever as Dea and Declan can tell you, it makes a great holiday card! Learn more about the iconic Australian species and the great conservation work Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is doing to save Koalas. We then check into our hotel, the Langham Hotel. **(B,L)**



### **Mon, Nov 17, 2025: Sydney**

After breakfast this morning we board a flight to Sydney. Often voted the world's number one city, Sydney is a place you can visit again and again, the sophistication and sheer energy of the city that has grown up around the beautiful harbor is breath-taking. We collect our bags and head to our home for the next 2 nights, the Sofitel Wentworth for an afternoon and evening at leisure. **(B)**

### **Tues, Nov 18, 2025: On The Rocks and Sydney Harbour Cruise**

This morning after breakfast we meet our local guide for a relaxed stroll around the historic Rocks District, with its quaint old cottages, pubs, and churches. The Rocks holds a unique place in Sydney's colonial history and is considered to be the birthplace of European Australia situated on the western shoreline of Sydney Cove. The Rocks village has retained its unique heritage qualities and is nestled beneath the dominance of Sydney's Harbour Bridge. The ambiance and setting of The Rocks is enhanced by the preservation of the heritage buildings and streets of 19th century Sydney.



This afternoon we visit Sydney's most famous icon, the Sydney Opera House, one of the world's busiest performing arts centers. Enjoy a guided tour as you hear some of the amazing stories behind this miracle of architecture and engineering. Tonight we have an amazing treat as we board a harbor cruise for your farewell dinner. Cruise spectacular Sydney Harbour while enjoying dinner and million-dollar views! **(B, D)**

### **Wed, Nov 19, 2025: Homeward Bound**

Following breakfast, a group transfer will depart to Sydney Airport to board international flight home. Thank you for traveling with us!

This Are We There Yet? Tour includes:

- ALL AIRFARE including international and local intra-air and country to country flights!
- Visits to the glowworm caves, Māori Village, Kiwi Birdlife Park and a sheep station!
- Ride the rails through The Great Divide and sail on a 1912 steamship!
- See amazing wildlife like penguins, crocs, kangaroos and even pose with a koala!
- Visit the Royal Flying Doctors, School of the Air and Reptile Centre in Alice Springs
- Drive through the Outback with its stunning views and quirky roadhouses
- Enjoy a sunrise visit to Uluru, on a secluded dune away from the crowds
- Spend a full day at the Great Barrier Reef where you can snorkel and see all the fish!
- See the Sydney Opera House and enjoy a dinner cruise in Sydney Harbour!
- Tours of Christchurch, Queenstown, Melbourne, Alice Springs, Sydney and more!
- Professional Tour Directors with you from STL to Australia and NZ and back
- All gratuities to step-on guides, at included meals, driver and director – YES ALL TIPS!!!!

\$13,891 per person, double occupancy      \$17,809 per person, single occupancy

**Save 4% on this tour! Head all over Down Under for just \$13,335 per person double occ\* when you pay with check, cash or money order!**

\$13,335 per person, double occupancy      \$17,097 per person, single occupancy

Airfare is based on current tax rate and fuel surcharges. If there is an increase in either or you book after the deadline, a supplement will be assessed. Call us if you want to fly from another location! -You may ALWAYS book your own air. Just be sure to arrive before the group. Ask for adjustment in pricing.

A **deposit of \$2,000** per person is due when signing up for this tour. Final Payment is due August 1, 2025. Multiple payments and types of payment are accepted towards the tour.

There will not be any discount on portions paid by credit card.

There will be 1.8% discount with ACH from your bank.

The 4% discount is only for checks and payment apps like Cash App, Zelle or PayPal

We have over 15 people requesting this tour and it will be less than 24 people. If you want to go, please call our office and you can also email you want to go. We will allow 7 days for your check to arrive or you can pay with credit card at the first listed above rate.

We are working in a new system called Group Collect. You may pay online with credit card too but receive no discount. If you enter your own bank account info and pay it then receive a 1.8% discount off the initial price shown above.

We encourage trip interruption and cancellation insurance. You will want to send that with your deposit so as to cover pre-existing conditions. We are also offering coverage through TripMate in conjunction with Group Collect and can begin offering it on tours not previously booked. The pricing on group insurance is NOT based on age, just the price of the tour.

The individual trip insurance policy is based on both age and price of tour. We can check for best fit. We also offer Cancel Any Time policies but they are often much more expensive and you receive either 75% or 80%, based on which insurance company, of what you paid for the tour if reason is not a covered reason. You MUST purchase 14 days after deposit. If it is covered, you will receive the full amount once the claim information has been filed and approved by the insurance company.

Call us at 314-304-3508 or email us at [info@arewethereyetdea.com](mailto:info@arewethereyetdea.com) to reserve your space.