

Escorted AUSTRALIA 2025

March 21-April 5, 2025 16 Days

Join Friendship Tours as we embark on a spectacular adventure
in the Land Down Under - AUSTRALIA!

President & Owner of Friendship Tours, Brett Isaacson, along with local expert
guides will lead the way on this land tour to explore this amazing continent.



- Sydney (4 nights)
- Ayers Rock (2 nights)
- Cairns (3 nights) • Melbourne (4 nights)

Sydney - Blue Mountains National Park - Opera House -
Bondi Beach - Ayers Rock Sunset & Sunrise Viewings -
Field of Lights - Cairns - Kuranda Rainforest -
Great Barrier Reef - Melbourne - Koala Habitat -
Penguin Parade - KaBloom - Royal Botanical Gardens

- Roundtrip motorcoach to airport
- Tour starts in Sydney / ends in Melbourne
- 3 Domestic Flights in Australia
- 13 Nts hotel - 4+ Star Properties
- Meals: Breakfast Daily, 5 Lunches, 6 Dinners

- Air-conditioned Coach for all transfers in Australia
- Local Guides throughout Australia
- Escorted by Brett Isaacson, President of Friendship Tours

\$8995.pp Dbl + Air*

*Air price is approximated at \$2,200 economy class. Let us arrange your flights with the group or you may make your own arrangements.



FRIENDSHIP TOURS
THE SHIP SHOP

705 Bloomfield Ave, Bloomfield, CT 06002
860-243-1630 • 800-243-1630



Discover the rich culture and awe-inspiring scenery of Australia. Considered one of the most unique destinations on earth, this land tour of Australia offers one-of-a-kind experiences from cosmopolitan cities to rainforests to the Great Barrier Reef. You will see some of the world's most scenic landscapes & amazing animal life. This exclusive trip is limited to 30 travelers and will be an immersive experience through Australia!

Days 0: Fly to Sydney - (Fri, March 21 & Sat., March 22)
Motorcoach transportation from CT to Boston for flights to Sydney. Board flight on evening of Fri., March 21 and cross the International Date Line. Arrive in Sydney on Sun., March 23.

Day 1: Welcome to Australia! (Sun., March 23)
Welcome to Sydney, a vibrant metropolis nestled along Australia's southeastern coast. Upon arrival at Sydney International Airport, clear Immigration and Customs and then be greeted by your guide for a short orientation tour of the city. Enjoy a 2-course lunch before checking in at the luxurious Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, situated in the heart of Sydney's shopping and business district. This evening, savor a welcome 3-course dinner with a glass of wine at a local restaurant close to the hotel, and unwind in the comfort of your accommodations. **L, D**

Day 2: Blue Mountains Excursion (Mon., March 24)
Embark on an unforgettable journey to the Blue Mountains, a World Heritage-listed region renowned for its breathtaking landscapes and rich biodiversity. Accompanied by your guide, explore Blue Mountains National Park, marveling at its towering cliffs, lush forests, and iconic rock formations such as the Three Sisters. Experience the thrill of Scenic World's attractions, including the Scenic Railway, Cableway, and Skyway, offering unparalleled views of the surrounding scenery.

Enjoy a 2-course lunch at Lookout Echo Point before visiting Featherdale Wildlife Park, where you can have your photo taken with a koala. See native Australian animals such as koalas, kangaroos, and wombats. En route back to the city, pass by Homebush Bay, the site of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. The evening is yours to explore Sydney at your leisure and dine at a restaurant of your choice. **B, L**

Day 3: Sydney City Tour - Bondi Beach (Tue, March 25)
Today, immerse yourself in the vibrant culture and rich history of Sydney with a guided city tour. Begin by exploring the historic Rocks area, followed by visits to Hyde Park, St

Mary's Cathedral, and Parliament House. Enjoy a guided tour of the iconic Sydney Opera House, marveling at its architectural brilliance and cultural significance. Next, venture to Mrs Macquarie's Chair for magnificent views of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. Then proceed to the picturesque Bondi Beach. Take in the stunning coastal scenery and soak up the laid-back atmosphere of this world-famous destination. Lunch is on your own at Bondi, providing an opportunity to sample local cuisine at one of the beachfront eateries. In the evening, explore the vibrant dining scene around Circular Quay before returning to the hotel. **B**

Day 4: Sydney Royal Botanic Garden & Dinner Cruise Sydney Harbour (Wed., March 26)

Begin your day with a guided highlights tour of the Royal Botanic Garden, a serene oasis nestled in the heart of Sydney. Accompanied by a local guide, explore the garden's diverse collection of national and international plants, including rare and threatened species. Take in the beauty of nature as you stroll through themed garden areas and learn about the garden's rich history dating back to its establishment in 1816. Afterwards, enjoy some free time to further explore Sydney at your leisure.

In the evening, embark on a memorable dinner cruise aboard the Captain Cook fleet, offering panoramic views of Sydney Harbour. Indulge in a delicious 4-course à la carte dining experience accompanied by a glass of wine as you sail past iconic landmarks such as the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge. **B, D**

Day 5: Yulara - Sunset Viewing of Ayers Rock (Thu, March 27)

Depart from Sydney Airport for domestic flight to the remote town of Yulara, located in the south of Australia's Northern Territory. Serving as a gateway to the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Yulara offers a comfortable base for exploring the sacred world heritage site of Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock. Upon arrival, meet your driver-guide and transfer to Desert Gardens Hotel, offering stunning views of Uluru.

In the evening, experience the mesmerizing beauty of Uluru at sunset from the designated viewing platform. As the sun sets behind the horizon, witness the rock's transformation from pinkish hues to vibrant shades of orange and red. Enjoy dinner at one of the nearby restaurants or dine at the hotel's in-house restaurant before retiring for the night. **B**



Day 6: Yulara - Sunrise Viewing of Ayers Rock / Field of Lights Dinner (Fri, March 28)

Rise early for a sunrise viewing of Uluru from the Talinguru Nyakunyjtaku viewing platform. Marvel at the captivating spectacle as the first light gently embraces the desert landscape, offering unparalleled photo opportunities. Learn about the cultural significance of Uluru from your driver-guide as you explore the base of the rock, visiting sites such as the Mutitjulu waterhole and the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Center.

Continue your cultural immersion with a 90-minute Dot Painting Workshop with Maruku, where you'll learn about traditional indigenous art and create your own artwork to cherish. Enjoy lunch at your leisure before indulging in the Field of Lights Dinner, a unique culinary experience set against the backdrop of illuminated desert landscapes. After dinner, take a self-guided walk through the mesmerizing Field of Lights exhibition before returning to the hotel. **B, D**

Day 7: Cairns (Sat., March 29)

Depart Ayers Rock Airport for your flight to Cairns. Cairns, once a quaint sugar-milling town, has blossomed into a bustling cosmopolitan city in North Queensland. Today, it stands as a vibrant hub for sailing, diving, and snorkeling, offering access to the breathtaking Great Barrier Reef and lush rainforests that envelop the region.

Upon arrival, transfer to the Hilton Cairns Hotel, boasting a prime waterfront location and deluxe amenities. After settling in, enjoy dinner at the hotel. **B, D**

Day 8: Cairns - Skyrail - Kuranda Rainforest (Sun, March 30)

Start your day with breakfast at the hotel before embarking on an adventure through the lush rainforests of Cairns. Meet your guide and journey to Smithfield Station, where you'll board the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway. Glide over pristine rainforest canopy, stopping at two mid-stations for ranger-guided tours and breathtaking views. Upon arrival in Kuranda, explore the village and Heritage Markets at your leisure before visiting the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary, home to over 1,200 butterflies.

Next, board a shuttle to Rainforestation Nature Park for a buffet lunch and an Army Duck Rainforest Tour, immersing yourself in the region's natural beauty and indigenous culture. Conclude your day with a scenic ride on the Kuranda Scenic Railway, winding through tropical mountains and lush valleys back to Cairns. Enjoy dinner on your own, exploring the town and Esplanade area. **B, L**

Day 9: Cairns - Great Barrier Reef (Mon, March 31)

Prepare for an unforgettable day of exploration as you embark on a full-day Great Barrier Reef Cruise to the Outer Barrier Reef. Board the Ocean Spirit catamaran, setting sail for Michaelmas Cay, a pristine sand cay surrounded by fringing reef and teeming with migratory seabirds. Spend the day snorkeling in crystal-clear waters, cruising in a semi-submersible for a diver's view of the reef, watching the fish feeding presentation and observing the island's vibrant birdlife. For a more leisurely experience, relax on the beach or onboard Ocean Spirit's spacious decks. The beach buggy shuttle will transfer you between the Ocean Spirit and the beach. Enjoy morning and afternoon tea and a hot and cold buffet lunch during this excursion.

After disembarking from the day cruise, walk back to the hotel and reflect on your remarkable memories of your Great Barrier Reef adventure. **B, L**

Day 10: Melbourne (Tue, April 1)

Board your flight from Cairns Airport to Melbourne. Welcome to the cultural heart of Australia, where the Yarra River meanders through a cityscape rich with gardens, culinary delights, and artistic treasures.

After settling in at the luxurious Sofitel Melbourne On Collins, centrally located on prestigious Collins Street, you'll have free time to explore the vibrant Central Business District (CBD). Take advantage of the complimentary trams within the CBD to discover the city's eclectic mix of attractions, from the stunning Royal Botanic Gardens to the bustling Queen Victoria Market. Dinner tonight is at your leisure, offering the chance to sample Melbourne's renowned culinary scene. **B**

Day 11: Melbourne - Phillip Island - Koalas - Penguin Parade (Wed., April 2)

Enjoy a leisurely morning before meeting your guide for a day of exploration. Your first stop is the Royal Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne, where the Australian Garden showcases the beauty and diversity of native flora across 35 acres of landscaped gardens.

Continue your journey to Phillip Island, home to an array of wildlife and natural wonders. At the Koala Conservation Centre, stroll along treetop boardwalks for an up-close encounter with these iconic marsupials in their natural habitat. Then, visit The Nobbies, where boardwalks offer panoramic views of the rugged coastline and the chance to spot seals basking on Seal Rocks.



Dinner on Phillip Island. As evening falls, head to Summerland Beach for the unforgettable Penguin Parade, as hundreds of Little Penguins waddle ashore to their burrows. After witnessing this magical spectacle, return to Melbourne for a restful evening. **B, D**

Day 12: Melbourne - KaBloom - Lotus Farm - Yarra Valley (Thu, April 3)

Embark on a scenic journey today as we depart for the Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Valley with our guide. Our first stop is KaBloom - Fields of Fabulous Flowers, where you'll be enchanted by millions of flowers across five acres of stunning plantings in the picturesque Dandenong Ranges. Continue to the Blue Lotus Farm. Although the Lotus may not be in full bloom in April, the garden boasts an array of vibrant autumn flowers, including begonias, bougainvillea, and sunflowers.

Afterward, we head to the renowned Yarra Valley, a region steeped in history and known for its wine production since the 19th century. Enjoy a wine tasting and lunch at a local winery before stopping at the Yarra Valley Chocolaterie & Ice Creamery to indulge in some delicious treats. Return to the hotel in the evening, where you're free to explore the Flanders Lane or dine at one of the many local Melbourne restaurants. **B,L**

Day 13: Melbourne - Aboriginal Talk - Botanic Garden - Skydeck - St Kilda (Fri, April 4)

This morning, join your guide for a tour of Melbourne's cultural highlights. Begin with an Aboriginal talk led by experienced Koorie guides, offering insight into the indigenous history and significance of the Birrarung Wilam to the local Kulin peoples.

Next, explore the Royal Botanical Gardens Victoria, a lush oasis in the heart of the city boasting over 23 collections of plants. Then, experience Melbourne from new heights at the Melbourne Skydeck, the Southern Hemisphere's highest viewing attraction.

We'll head to St. Kilda, Melbourne's seaside playground. Explore St. Kilda's attractions, including Luna Park, Acland Street, and Fitzroy Street, before returning to the hotel to freshen up. In the evening, enjoy a farewell 3-course dinner with a glass of wine at a local restaurant. **B, D**

Day 14: End of Itinerary (Sat., April 5)

Transfer to Melbourne International Airport for your return flight home with amazing memories from the Land Down Under.

TOUR DETAILS:

16 Days
March 21-April 5, 2025

PRICE PER PERSON:

Double: \$8995; Single: \$10,995
PLUS airfare*

* Air price is approximated at \$2,200 economy class. Schedules and fare will be available Spring 2024

DEPART/RETURN:

Motorcoach CT to Boston Logan & return to CT
Flights Depart/Return: (BOS) Boston Logan

INCLUSIONS

- * Escorted tour with Brett Isaacson, President of Friendship Tours
- * Professional, English speaking Local Guides/ Drivers throughout the itinerary
- * 24 Meals as indicated (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner) Breakfast daily, 5 lunches, 6 dinners
- * Fees and tips for included attractions and meals
- * Luggage Handling at all hotels
- * 3 Domestic Flights (SYD to AYQ; AYQ to CNS; CNS to SYD in economy class)
- * Gratuities to drivers and guides

ACCOMMODATIONS: 13 NIGHTS

- * 4 Nights: Sofitel Sydney Wentworth
- * 2 Nights: Desert Gardens Hotel - Ayers Rock Resort
- * 3 Nights: Hilton Cairns
- * 4 Nights: Sofitel Melbourne on Collins

NOT INCLUDED:

- * Any meals not mentioned and beverages during meals other than tap water
- * Porterage at the Airports
- * Travel Insurance - required
- * Australia ETA VISA cost - required

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COST - LAND TOUR* (with 20-30 paying guests): \$8,995. per person based on double occupancy + \$2000. per person single supplement
Includes motorcoach transfer from CT to Boston Logan Airport on March 21 and return motorcoach transportation from Boston to CT on April 5, 2025.

***AIR TRAVEL:** Air price is approximated at \$2,200 economy class. Schedules and fares will be available Spring 2024. Friendship Tours can make your flight arrangements to travel from Boston to Sydney (SYD) with your tour escort, Brett Isaacson. Or, you may make your own flight arrangements to meet the group in SYD on March 23, 2025. Do not purchase your own air until you have been advised that the minimum number of travelers for this tour has been reached. This trip is based on a minimum of 20 travelers. International Flight arrangements are in addition to the LAND cost of this tour package.

The 3 domestic flights within Australia are included in the cost of this trip (economy class). The local agency will make those flight arrangements for each traveler. A copy of your passport will be required at time of final payment.

**RESERVATIONS VIA FRIENDSHIP TOURS:
CALL: 800-243-1630**

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

DEPOSIT: \$2,000. per person with reservation to secure your spot.

2ND PAYMENT: \$5,000. per person due Sep 20, 2024

FINAL PAYMENT: balance due Dec 10, 2024

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS:

International flight arrangements will be available to reserve in Spring 2024. Friendship Tours will reserve a block of group ticketing based on Economy Class tickets out of Boston for those that would like to travel together with Brett Isaacson, escort. Pricing and payment schedule will be announced. An upgrade can also be quoted.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If a passenger cancels after deposit to Sep 20, 2024, the fee is \$1,000; Sep 21 to Dec 10, 2024, the fee is \$5,000 pp; no refunds if cancelled after Dec 10, 2024.

PASSPORT: U.S. Citizens: Valid Passport required and must be valid 6 months past the return date. Non U.S. Citizens are responsible for obtaining proper documentation for travel.

AUSTRALIA VISAS: For U.S. citizens, a valid visa is required to enter Australia. Visas are available through: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601>

U.S. & Non-U.S. Citizens are responsible for obtaining proper documentation for travel.

PRICES & ITINERARY: Prices are valid at time of publication. Prices quoted are based on exchange rates and are subject to change. Friendship Tours shall not be liable for any fluctuation in price or change in schedule or equipment or accommodations for any travel booking or travel service to be provided by a Travel Supplier. Changes to itineraries may become necessary. These changes will not be considered a material change and will not be cause for cancellation or refund. This itinerary is planned & operated by 39 Degrees South.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE/ACTIVE

Walk 2-4 miles per day, often on uneven terrain in natural settings, including climbing stairs. Standing up to one hour or more may be required. Several long days of travel using multiple modes of transportation. Must be able to navigate various airports including the night flight.

TRIP PROTECTION COVERAGE:

Proof of travel insurance coverage is required for this tour. Friendship Tours can assist with the purchase of trip protection coverage through Travel Insured International's Worldwide Trip Protector Plan.

Additionally, Travel Insured International offers a policy with the option for **CANCEL FOR ANY REASON** coverage when purchased within 21 days of your initial deposit. Insurance Premiums are non-refundable. Ask Friendship Tours for more information.

To review the Travel Insured International plan, go to: <https://www.travelinsured.com/docs/comp-charts/wtp.pdf>

Or request a quote online: <https://www.travelinsured.com/agency/>
If prompted, use **Agency #18649**

RESPONSIBILITY: This package is subject to our full terms and conditions which can be found on our website at <https://www.friendshiptours.net/tour-policies>. Paper copies are available upon request. **By signing up for the tour, making a payment and continuing to use our services, you are agreeing to be bound by the Terms and Conditions.**



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