



**Traveling Aggies**

A PROGRAM OF  
The Association of Former Students



The Association of Former Students of  
Texas A&M University presents  
**EXPLORING AUSTRALIA &  
NEW ZEALAND**

March 20-April 11, 2017

**23 days for \$8,957 total price from Houston**  
(\$7,895 air & land inclusive plus \$1,062 airline taxes and fees)



TRAVEL+  
LEISURE  
WORLD'S  
BEST  
AWARDS

This tour is provided by  
Odysseys Unlimited,  
six-time honoree  
Travel & Leisure's World's  
Best Tour Operators award.

An Exclusive Small Group Tour for  
Aggies & Friends of Texas A&M University

Tour membership limited to 24 Traveling Aggies and friends

# EXPLORING AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

**23 days for \$8,957 total price from Houston**

(\$7,895 air & land inclusive plus \$1,062 airline taxes and fees)

**S**mall group touring and the Lands Down Under – they add up to a perfect combination as we travel from Australia’s spectacular Great Barrier Reef and the storied Outback and Ayers Rock to sophisticated Sydney; from New Zealand’s rebuilt Christchurch, towering Mt. Cook, and breathtaking Milford Sound to high-spirited Queenstown and nautical Auckland.



## Days 1 & 2: Depart U.S. for Cairns, Australia

**Day 3: Arrive Cairns** This afternoon we arrive in Cairns, gateway to Australia’s Far North and the Great Barrier Reef. We transfer to our hotel where tonight we enjoy a briefing and dinner. **D**

**Day 4: Cairns/Kuranda** We take an orientation tour of Cairns then board an historic railway to the mountain village of Kuranda. After time to explore here, we descend via the gondolas of Skyrail. We return to our hotel and the remainder of the day is at leisure to explore Cairns independently. **B**

**Day 5: Great Barrier Reef** This morning we board a boat for a day-long excursion to the Great Barrier Reef, at 1,200 miles long the world’s largest living organism and richest marine resource. We pull up at Michaelmas Cay where we can swim, snorkel, or view the reef from a semi-submersible vessel. **B,L**

**Day 6: Cairns/Alice Springs** We take a morning flight to Alice Springs, where we see the Anzac Hill Monument to Australian and New Zealand soldiers, Royal Flying Doctors Service, and School of the Air, which provides schooling to widely scattered Outback children. Tonight we enjoy a traditional dinner in the “bush.” **B,D**

**Day 7: Alice Springs** This morning we embark on an Aboriginal “dreamtime” tour, to meet Walpiri tribespeople and learn about their ancient culture. Then we visit Simpsons Gap and Standley Chasm, where we enjoy a picnic lunch and see the sheer rock walls aglow in reflected sunlight. **B,L**

**Day 8: Alice Springs/Ayers Rock** We reach our Ayers Rock hotel early afternoon. After lunch on our own, we visit Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site that is the traditional land of the Anangu Aboriginal peoples and home to the Olgas rock formations and Uluru (Ayers Rock). We watch the sun set over this

Avg. High (°F)	Mar	Apr
Sydney	76	71
Alice Springs	90	81
Queenstown	67	60

## Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Ride aboard Vintage Kuranda steam train and Skyrail gondolas ... Great Barrier Reef excursion ... Sunset at Ayers Rock ... Sydney touring and Harbour cruise ... Koala Sanctuary Park ... Christchurch ... Two-night stay at Mt. Cook National Park ... Milford Sound cruise ... Geo-thermal Rotorua ... Maori cultural experience

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1-2	Depart U.S. for Cairns		
3-5	Cairns	Pullman Reef Casino	Deluxe
6-7	Alice Springs	DoubleTree by Hilton	Sup. First Class
8	Ayers Rock	Sails in the Desert	Sup. First Class
9-12	Sydney	Sofitel Wentworth	Sup. First Class
13	Christchurch	Rydges Christchurch	Sup. First Class
14-15	Mt. Cook	Hermitage	First Class
16-18	Queenstown	St. Moritz	First Class
19-20	Rotorua	Regent of Rotorua	First Class
21-22	Auckland	Stamford Plaza	Sup. First Class
23	Depart Auckland for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover Photo: Serene Milford Sound ranks as New Zealand’s most popular destination.



We tour Sydney's iconic Opera House on Day 13.

fabled sandstone monolith that rises to a height of 1,114 feet. **B,D**

**Day 9: Ayers Rock/Sydney** This morning we visit the base of Uluru and the interesting museum here. Mid-day we fly to Sydney, arriving late afternoon. **B,D**

**Day 10: Sydney** Today's tour features the breathtaking Royal Botanic Gardens, Darling Harbour and Mrs. Macquarie's Point, Rose and Watson's bays, and popular Bondi Beach. Then we board a catamaran for a lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour. **B,L**

**Day 11: Sydney** This morning we tour Featherdale Park, where koalas reside. Next we drive along Sydney's Northern Beaches, a string of 18 stunning playgrounds, then stop in fashionable Manly for free time and lunch on our own. **B**

**Day 12: Sydney** Today is at leisure to explore Sydney as we wish; tonight we enjoy dinner together in the popular "Rocks" area at the Waterfront Restaurant, with excellent seafood and beautiful harbor views. **B,D**

**Day 13: Sydney/Christchurch, New Zealand** After a late morning tour of the iconic Sydney Opera House, this afternoon is free for independent exploration. This evening we board a flight to Christchurch, New Zealand's "Garden City." **B**

**Day 14: Christchurch/Mt. Cook National Park** This morning's orientation tour features the acclaimed Botanic Gardens and "Re:START Mall," the vibrant civic area that rose from the rubble of the 2011 earthquake. Then we board our motorcoach for the journey south to Mt. Cook National Park, stopping en route at a farm to watch

a sheep-shearing demonstration and to see the amazing sheep dogs in action. Upon reaching Mt. Cook in the Southern Alps late today, we dine together at our hotel. **B,D**

**Day 15: Mount Cook** This morning's tour of alpine Mount Cook Village includes a visit to the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Center, where we see a 3D planetarium movie about the region. We also visit the Hillary Gallery, commemorating Sir Edmund's achievements, including the first ascent of Mount Cook's difficult South face. At 12,316 feet, Mount Cook is New Zealand's tallest mountain. After time in the village for lunch on our own, this afternoon is at leisure; optional activities include hiking and scenic flight (weather permitting). **B,D**

**Day 16: Mount Cook/Queenstown** We depart this morning for Queenstown, stopping en route in historic Arrowtown for lunch on our own followed by a visit to Kawarau Bridge Bungy, the world's first bungy jump operation open to

## Post-Tour Extension

April 11-13, 2017

### AUCKLAND – ON YOUR OWN

3 days/2 nights for \$265 total price  
Single Supplement: \$165

*Enjoy the sparkling "City of Sails"  
at your own pace.*

#### Your Tour Price Includes

- 2 nights' accommodations at Stamford Plaza (Superior First Class)
- 2 meals: 2 breakfasts
- Transfer to airport

{ WE ARE JUST PASSING  
THROUGH.  
-ABORIGINAL PROVERB }

the public. Mid-afternoon we reach Queenstown, New Zealand's "adventure capital." **B,D**

**Day 17: Milford Sound** Our day-long excursion to Milford Sound includes a nature cruise through the breathtaking fjords. We have lunch on board then later have the opportunity to return to Queenstown on an optional scenic flight (weather permitting). **B,L**

**Day 18: Queenstown** Today is free to explore Queenstown independently. **B**

**Day 19: Queenstown/Rotorua** We depart today for Rotorua, with its geysers, bubbling mud pools, hot thermal springs, and a center of Maori culture. Our tour here includes the new Rotorua Museum. **B**

**Day 20: Rotorua** This morning and early afternoon are at leisure; late afternoon we visit Te Puia Thermal Reserve and Maori Cultural Center for a traditional *hangi* dinner and performance. **B,D**

**Day 21: Rotorua/Auckland** En route to Auckland, we stop this morning at Ruakuri Caves to see the unique glowworms that illuminate the underground grottoes and caves. We reach Auckland late this afternoon; we're on our own for dinner tonight. **B**

**Day 22: Auckland** Our half-day tour of this city set atop 48 volcanic hills features glittering Auckland Harbour and the America's Cup Village. We also visit the War Memorial Museum, with its prized Maori and Pacific Islander collections. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner at our hotel. **B,D**

**Day 23: Depart for U.S.** Very early this morning we depart for the airport for the flight to Los Angeles (via Sydney) and our return flights home. **B**

### Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within itinerary
- 20 nights' accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
- 34 meals: 20 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 10 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of a local Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



Aboriginal site of Uluru (Ayers Rock)

### Tour Departs: March 20, 2017

*Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.*

Los Angeles	\$8,657
Dallas, Houston, Phoenix Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	\$8,957
Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Tampa	\$9,057
Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, DC	\$9,157
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$7,395

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$1,062, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,995. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Pacific flight: Business Class - \$6,595 per person; Premium Economy - \$1,995 per person (upgrades subject to availability and pricing subject to change). Upgrades are in addition to the costs above.

**For more information and reservations, please call The Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514 or toll-free at 800-633-7514**



## Howdy, Ags!

From the Great Barrier Reef to the historic Sydney Opera House and breathtaking Milford Sound, Australia and New Zealand offer visitors a wealth of spectacular natural scenery and cultural diversity.

Your 23-day journey begins in Australia's Far North – Cairns, with a day-long excursion to the Great Barrier Reef. Fly to Alice Springs and embark on an aboriginal "dreamtime" tour, and watch the sun set over Ayers Rock. Spend four nights in Sydney. Take a catamaran cruise in the harbor and tour the iconic Sydney Opera House. Fly to picturesque New Zealand and drive to Mt. Cook National Park for a two-night stay. Explore New Zealand's "adventure capital" Queenstown, and visit stunning Milford Sound. Experience the geothermal features of Rotorua and learn about the local Maori culture. Conclude in Auckland, with sightseeing and time on your own.

With space for only 24 guests on this exclusive Traveling Aggies departure, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today to secure your spot!

Gig 'em,

*Jennifer Bohac*

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.  
Director of Travel Programs

## TRAVELING AGGIES RESERVATION FORM: EXPLORING AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$\_\_\_\_(\$500 per person) for \_\_\_\_ person(s) on **Exploring Australia & New Zealand** departing **March 20, 2017**. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA or by personal check. Please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and mail (along with completed form) to: **The Association of Former Students, 505 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840-2918. Or call the Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514 or toll-free at 800-633-7514. Or fax the reservation to 979-845-9263.**

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Bus Ph. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please book my/our air from \_\_\_\_\_ I/we request an air upgrade to \_\_\_\_\_

I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_ I request a single room (limited availability)

**Post-Tour "Auckland–On Your Own" Extension:** Please sign me/us up

**Please Note:** The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for **Exploring Australia and New Zealand, March 20-April 11, 2017**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment**     Check     American Express     Discover     MasterCard     VISA

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.

## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

### **Not included in tour price**

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only tour package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only tour package; communication charges, optional sightseeing, gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities \$10 - \$15 per day, per traveler); travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

### **Cancellations, refunds and changes**

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **Cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; Cancel 94-95 days before departure: 25% of tour price; Cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; Cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; Cancel 29-0 days before departure: No refund.** If a guest makes any changes between 94 and 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.**

**Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

**No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.**

### **Responsibility**

The liability of The Association of Former Students, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The Association of Former Students and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary, if unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

### **Health and Medical Issues**

We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own.** We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, The Association of Former Students and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

### **Air Transportation – Important Information**

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to: frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own flight arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**



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College Station, Texas 77840-2918

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Standard  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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