Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF

The Association of Former Students

Exploring Australia & New Zealand

March 9-30, 2022

22 days for $9,484 total price from Houston

($9,095 air & land inclusive plus $389 airline taxes and fees)



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

Traveling Aggies
A PROGRAM OF
The Association of Former Students

Howdy, Ags!

Join fellow Aggies on an exclusive 22-day small group journey to Australia and New Zealand. The Lands Down Under offer visitors a wealth of spectacular natural scenery and cultural diversity.

Begin your touring in Cairns with an excursion to the Great Barrier Reef. Traveling on to Alice Springs, embark on an Aboriginal "dreamtime" tour and visit fabled Ayers Rock. Enjoy a three-night stay in cosmopolitan Sydney; tour English-accented Christchurch, New Zealand; and spend two nights in New Zealand's remarkable Mt. Cook National Park. After these explorations, you cruise stunning Milford Sound and discover New Zealand's "adventure capital," Queenstown. Experience Maori culture in geothermal Rotorua before your tour concludes in vibrant Auckland. For those who wish to spend more time in the "City of Sails," an optional 3-day/2-night post-tour extension is available.

This exclusive Traveling Aggies departure has room for only 24 guests, and the deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days prior to departure, so book risk-free today before it sells out.

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.
Manager of Traveling Aggies Program
Outreach and Engagement
The Association of Former Students

Marisa Liles

Marisa Liles
Manager of Traveling Aggies Program
Operations and Customer Service
The Association of Former Students

TRAVELING AGGIES RESERVATION FORM: EXPLORING AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

To reserve your place on tour, **please call the Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514 or toll-free at-800-633-7514, or fax the Reservation Form below to 979-845-9263. You may also call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765.** Please have the information outlined below available to share with a Traveling Aggies representative or an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor. ***If you prefer,*** you may instead complete the Reservation Form below and submit it to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit.

Please note that your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

If paying your deposit by check, please make check payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.** and include with the Reservation Form. Send to:

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.
Attn: Special Interest Groups
One Newton Place
275 Washington Street, Suite 300
Newton, MA 02458

EXPLORING AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND • MARCH 9-30, 2022

I/We would like to request _____ place(s). (Deposit amount is $500 per person.)

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Full Passport Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____)_____ Cell Phone (_____)_____

E-mail(s) _____ Badge Name(s) _____

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 ❑

Tour membership limited to 24 Traveling Aggies and friends

Exploring Australia & New Zealand

22 days for $9,484 total price from Houston

($9,095 air & land inclusive plus $389 airline taxes and fees)

Small 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 to sophisticated Sydney; from New Zealand's towering Mt. Cook and breathtaking Milford Sound to high-spirited Queenstown and nautical Auckland.



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

Small Group Tour Highlights

Ride aboard vintage Kuranda steam train and Skyrail gondolas • Great Barrier Reef excursion • Aboriginal "dreamtime" experience • Sunset at Ayers Rock • Sydney touring and Harbour cruise • Leisure time in Sydney • Christchurch touring • Two-night stay at Mt. Cook National Park • Milford Sound cruise • Geothermal Rotorua • Maori cultural experience • Auckland touring

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
9-11	Sydney	Sir Stamford	Deluxe
12	Christchurch	Rydges Latimer Christchurch	Sup. First Class
13-14	Mt. Cook	Hermitage Hotel	First Class
15-17	Queenstown	Hotel St. Moritz	First Class
18-19	Rotorua	Regent of Rotorua	First Class
20-21	Auckland	Grand Millennium Auckland	Sup. First Class
22	Depart Auckland for U.S.		

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

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, with the rest of the day at leisure. *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 an early morning flight to remote Alice Springs, where upon arrival we venture to Simpsons Gap and Standley Chasm for a picnic lunch amid the sheer rock walls. Then we visit the Alice Springs School of the Air, which provides schooling to widely scattered Outback children. *B,L*

Day 7: Alice Springs This morning we embark on an Aboriginal "dreamtime" tour, where we meet Walpiri tribespeople and learn about their ancient culture. After this First Australians experience, we encounter the acclaimed Royal Flying Doctor Service then visit the Anzac Hill Monument to Australian and New Zealand soldiers. Tonight, we enjoy a traditional Outback Bushman's Dinner around a campfire. *B,D*

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

Cover photo: Serene Milford Sound ranks as New Zealand's most popular destination.



The Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge at dusk

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 Rocks historic neighborhood, 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 Wildlife Park, where wombats, dingos, and koalas reside. Then the afternoon is at leisure; tonight we enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant. *B,D*

Day 12: Sydney/Christchurch, New Zealand After a late morning tour of the iconic Sydney Opera House, this afternoon is free for independent exploration. We board a flight this evening to Christchurch, New Zealand's "Garden City." *B*

Day 13: Christchurch/Mount Cook National Park This morning's orientation tour features the acclaimed Botanic Gardens and Cathedral Square, the beating heart of Christchurch and site of Christchurch Cathedral. Then we board our motorcoach for the journey south to Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, in the Southern Alps. En route, we stop in the town of Geraldine for lunch and to see sheep dogs and a sheep shearer in action at a local farm. We continue on to Mount Cook, arriving late afternoon. *B,L,D*

Day 14: 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 Ridge in 1948 (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 to relax amid the breathtaking scenery, hike, or take an optional scenic flight (weather permitting). *B,D*

Day 15: 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 the public. Mid-afternoon we reach Queenstown, New Zealand's "adventure capital." We dine tonight at our hotel. *B,D*

Day 16: 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*

Post-Tour Extension

March 30-April 1, 2022

Auckland – On Your Own

3 days/2 nights for $295 total price

Single Supplement: $225

Enjoy additional time in the sparkling "City of Sails," at your own pace.

Your Tour Price Includes

- 2 nights' accommodations at Grand Millennium Auckland (Superior First Class)
- 2 meals: 2 breakfasts
- Transfer to airport

> "We are all visitors to this time, this place."
>
> – Australian Aboriginal Proverb

Day 17: Queenstown Today is at leisure to enjoy New Zealand's adventure capital as we wish. *B*

Day 18: Queenstown/Rotorua We depart today for the Maori center of Rotorua, with its geysers, bubbling mud pools, and hot thermal springs. Upon arrival, we take a panoramic tour of this city on the shores of Lake Rotorua. This evening we visit Te Puia Thermal Reserve and Cultural Centre for a traditional *hangi* dinner and Maori performance. *B,D*



Auckland, City of Sails

Day 19: Rotorua This morning we visit Rainbow Springs Nature Park, a showcase of native flora, fauna, and birdlife, and where we tour the National Kiwi Trust, which rehabilitates injured kiwis, the national bird. *B*

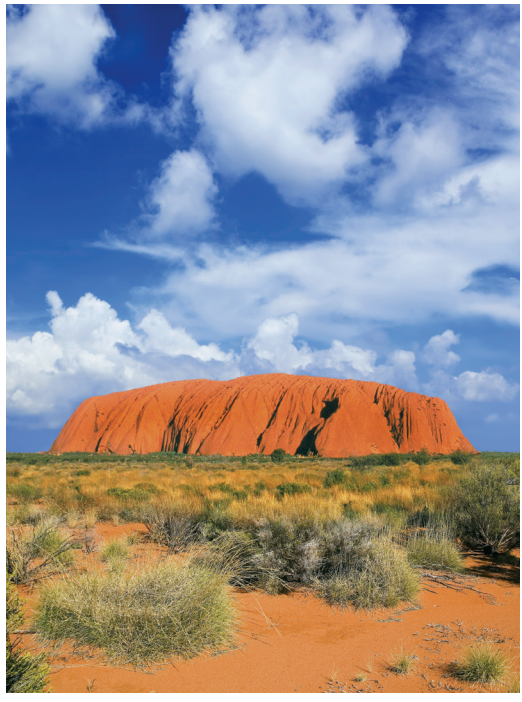
Day 20: Rotorua/Auckland En route to Auckland, we stop at Ruakuri Caves to see the unique glowworms that illuminate the underground grottoes and caves. We reach Auckland late this afternoon; we're on our own for dinner tonight. *B*

Day 21: 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 22: 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
- 19 nights' accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
- 34 meals: 19 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 10 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an 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



We visit the Aboriginal site of Uluru (Ayers Rock) on Day 8.

Tour Departs: March 9, 2022

Prices include int'l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Los Angeles	**$9,184**
Dallas, Houston, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle	**$9,484**
Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Tampa	**$9,584**
Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, DC	**$9,684**
Land Only (transfers not included)	**$8,095**

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $389, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add $2,195. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Pacific flight: Business Class – $5,995 per person; Premium Economy – $2,795 per person (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change). Upgrades are in addition to the costs above.

Please note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and significant amounts of walking on stairs and uneven surfaces. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.

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

or call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765

Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–7:00 PM, Eastern Time

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 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 package; communication charges; optional sightseeing; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per traveler, per day); and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: full refund; cancel 94-65 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 you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 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, and 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, or of 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 God, 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(s), 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 tour. There is a considerable amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats 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 many of our tour itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. 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 the company feels 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 assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. 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 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 air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols: *The well-being of our guests and staff members on tour will continue to be our highest priorities. To maintain a healthy environment for travel, we will be establishing and adhering to a detailed set of health and safety protocols for all facets of your tour. We are committed to following the guidelines of the State Department, CDC, WHO, and authorities of respective countries regarding travel to a particular destination. Detailed protocols for this tour, based on conditions at the time, will be provided approximately 115 days prior to departure.*

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Odysseys
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505 George Bush Drive
College Station, Texas 77840-2918



JOIN US FOR AN EXCLUSIVE TRAVELING AGGIES TOUR TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND!

Reserve risk-free: Your deposit is fully refundable up to 95 days before departure