

## 15 Day Wonders of New Zealand and Australia

**15 days**

Created on: 29 Mar, 2024



### Highlights

- Food & Wine pairing at City Winery, Brisbane
- Aboriginal Walking Tour of Meeanjin (Brisbane)
- Australia Zoo visit
- Koala Hospital at Australia Zoo
- Great Barrier Reef Cruise
- Sydney Opera House
- Locally Guided Tour Our Big Kitchen, Bondi
- Sydney Harbour Dinner Cruise
- TSS Earnslaw and Walter Peak
- BBQ Dinner Real Country Farm Experience (BMG)
- Ruakuri Cave Tour, Waitomo Mitai Village, Concert and Dinner
- Rainbow Springs and Kiwi Hatchery
- Whakarewarewa Living Village Tour
- Terrace Kitchen Farewell Dinner

### Inclusions

- Specialist team of two highly experienced Travel Director and Driver Guide
- 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites ? Great Barrier Reef, Sydney Opera House, Fiordland National Park
- Centrally located premium hotels

### Exclusions

- Airfare unless specified as included within the itinerary
- Taxes as applicable
- Travel Insurance and Cancellation Protection (strongly recommended, ask us for a quote!)
- Gratuities for Local Guides, Tour Managers, and/or Bus Drivers
- Meals not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary
- Items (attractions and sightseeing & entrance fees) not listed as included in the itinerary

### Itinerary

**Canada/USA**  
**1-866-814-7378**

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## Day 1: Welcome to Brisbane

The best way to make new friends? At a winery, of course. It turns out you don't even need to leave Brisbane to do just that thanks to City Winery, and urban hub for delicious drops. Grapes are sourced from across the state then turned into wine you'll enjoy under the guidance of a sommelier or vintner, plus your fellow travellers.

Overnight: Brisbane

Included Meal(s): Breakfast

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## Day 2: Brisbane

As the captivating sounds of the didgeridoo ring out, you'll discover (Meeanjin) Brisbane's First Nations history and art on a walking tour with an Aboriginal guide, whose ancestors inhabited the shores of the Brisbane River for over 40,000 years. You'll need some time to digest the morning's sights. The afternoon and evening are all yours - ask us for tips on where to drink and dine.

Overnight: Brisbane

Included Meal(s): Breakfast

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## Day 3: Brisbane - Hamilton Island

Get ready to set your body clock for 'island time'. Arriving on Hamilton is quite the experience: you land on a tiny airstrip, then are told the only way to get around is in a golf buggy or foot. Do either or both, and then regroup for sunset cocktails at One Tree Hill with some of the best views over the Whitsundays.

Overnight: Hamilton Island, Whitsundays

Included Meal(s): Breakfast

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## Day 4: Great Barrier Reef

Did you know that the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef, is home to 1,500 species of fish, 215 different birds, 3,000 molluscs, six of the world's seven marine turtle species, and 30 species of dolphins and whales are residents? Head out on a catamaran to swim and snorkel ? or enjoy a bird's-eye view of paradise on a scenic flight over Heart Reef.

Overnight:

Included Meal(s): Breakfast

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## Day 5: Hamilton Island Free Time

After yesterday's Great Barrier Reef overload, we wouldn't blame you for sleeping in. But? there are so many other things to see and do around Hamilton, at your leisure. Enjoy brunch at the marina, or lace up your hiking boots and head up Passage Peak for unbroken views across the archipelago. Perhaps followed by a well-deserved dip at Catseye Beach or Coral Cove. The stretch of sand that's regularly voted the most beautiful in the world, however, is Whitehaven ? so high in silica, it squeaks underfoot. It's a short boat-ride away, but we can help you get there.

Overnight: Hamilton Island, Whitsundays

Included Meal(s): Breakfast

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## Day 6: Hamilton Island - Sydney

One last Hamilton ocean swim? Why not. Touchdown Sydney and you have equally enticing views over Darling Harbour, where dinner is served. Is there any better way to end a day than this?

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Overnight:

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

### **Day 7: Sydney**

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You might have seen Sydney Opera House from the outside, but have you ventured within? This incredible architectural feat holds many secrets, as your local guide will reveal. From harbour to beach ? Bondi beckons. Stroll the promenade in the company of Sydney?s beautiful people ? perhaps lingering for a coffee or spritz ? before regrouping to help feed those in need via community organisation Our Big Kitchen

Overnight:

Included Meal(s): Breakfast

### **Day 8 : Sydney Free Time**

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Today is yours to get your final fix of Australia?s largest city. If you haven?t seen enough of the harbour, buckle in for a Sydney BridgeClimb, perhaps, before joining your companions for a sunset dinner cruise. What a way to end the day.

Overnight:

Included Meal(s): Breakfast

### **Day 9: Sydney - Queenstown**

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It only takes three hours to travel from Sydney to New Zealand. But you?ll feel like you?ve stepped back in time when you arrive at former gold-mining town of Arrowtown.

Overnight: Queenstown

Included Meal(s): Breakfast

### **Day 10 : Queenstown**

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Flying over New Zealand, the first thing you?ll notice is that there?s a lot of farmland. It?s fitting, then, that one of the first people you?ll meet is southern girl Laura, who will introduce you to the sheep farm she was born and raised on. Come dusk, cruise across Lake Wakatipu aboard the TSS Earnslaw; the only thing more inspiring than the peaks of the Remarkables that surround is the festive atmosphere welcoming you to Walter Peak High Country Farm, where a gourmet barbecue at the Colonel?s Homestead awaits.

Overnight: Queenstown

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

### **Day 11: Queenstown Free Time**

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You could spend a long time in and around Queenstown. But on your free day, we highly recommend either venturing into the end-of-the-Earth wilderness that is Milford Sound, to cruise past sheer cliffs, white-capped peaks and waterfalls. Or blissing out on an obligatory wine tour of the Otago region. It?s a difficult decision.

Overnight: Queenstown

Included Meal(s): Breakfast

### **Day 12: Queenstown - Auckland**

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Touching down in Auckland, you'll immediately understand why it's known as the "City of Sails". New Zealand's largest city has two lovely yacht-filled harbours, which you can explore at our leisure this afternoon.

Overnight: Auckland

Included Meal(s): Breakfast

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### **Day 13: Auckland - Rotorua**

Tonight, we experience Te Puia's world-famous hāngi buffet dinner. Enjoy spectacular geothermal views while dining on a range of delicious New Zealand flavours. The menu is smartly sophisticated – infusing Māori flavours, with an array of global cuisines and cooking styles. After dinner you will get to enjoy a cultural performance that will take place in their beautifully carved meeting house, Te Aronui a Rua. Witness a pōwhiri (traditional welcome), waiata (song), mōteatea (traditional chant) poi and haka. The evening culminates with hot chocolate and steamed pudding surrounded by steam and the geyser terrace bathed in coloured light

Overnight: Rotorua

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Dinner

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### **Day 14: Rotorua**

Cute and cuddly, NZ's national bird, the kiwi, is also endangered. Go behind the scenes on a working kiwi nursery and hatchery to learn how breeding programs are helping the population thrive. The natural drama reaches boiling point at Whakarewarewa, a geothermal reserve and the country's only living Māori village, home to famous Pohutu Geyser and the bubbling beauty of mud pools.

Overnight:

Included Meal(s): Breakfast

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### **Day 15 : Farewell from Rotorua and Auckland**

Most people travel for two weeks and don't even scratch the surface, let alone enjoy cultural immersion across two countries. What a wild and wonderful ride.

Overnight:

Included Meal(s): Breakfast