

THE ULTIMATE TRIP TO AUSTRALIA

11 DAYS IN SYDNEY, BLUE MOUNTAINS, ULURU, GREAT BARRIER REEF, DAINTREE AND BRISBANE

Great Barrier Reef, Queensland

This cross-country itinerary allows you to experience Australia's rugged natural beauty, diverse culinary offerings and ancient tradition of storytelling, all while encountering some of its most iconic landmarks. As you explore Sydney's Bondi Beach, Uluru's vast red outback and the Great Barrier Reef's unmatched beauty, you'll not only witness incredible icons but also settle into the Australian way of life.

AT A GLANCE

- Journey begins Sydney Airport
- 3 nights Sydney
- 3 nights Uluru
- 3 nights Cairns
- 1 night Brisbane
- Journey ends Brisbane Airport

DAY 1

Welcome to sunny Sydney, a city that knows the secret to true balance. Where else can you start the morning with a surf and an acai bowl, don workout gear to lunch, and then get all dressed up for an indulgent night out on the town, all in the same day?

Begin your morning with breakfast and coffee at Bills Bondi. Walk off your ricotta hotcakes with a stroll along the spectacular cliff-tops between Bondi, Tamarama and Bronte beaches;

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Sydney like a local
- See the sun rise above Uluru
- Explore the colour and marine life of the world's largest coral reef

States visited: New South Wales, Queensland & Northern Territory

Best for: All, especially first-time visitors.

When to go: Year-round

Duration: 11 days





BridgeClimb, New South Wales
©Destination NSW



Blue Mountains, New South Wales



Bondi Iceberg Pool, New South Wales



Uluru Segway Tours, Northern Territory

a round trip should take about 1.5 hours. Then finish with a steam and a dip at Bondi Icebergs pool, or a surfing lesson with the friendly crew at **Let's Go Surfing** at Bondi Beach.

Stay 3 nights at **Taronga Zoo Wildlife Retreat**.

DAY 2

Home to the Sydney Opera House, Harbour Bridge, green foreshore and Aboriginal heritage, there's no shortage of ways to explore Sydney Harbour.

Wake early to climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge with **BridgeClimb** for breathtaking views across the harbour. Afterwards, meander through The Rocks, Sydney's historic quarter. Immerse yourself in Australia's Aboriginal culture on a walking tour of The Rocks with **Dreamtime Southern X**, where you will hear Dreamtime (creation) stories, a tradition that has existed for over 60,000 years in this country, stretching back to the origins of Aboriginal culture. You'll also learn about the history of this landscape and visit significant Aboriginal sites.

DAY 3

Just under a two-hour drive west of Sydney are the Blue Mountains. Catch a train, bus or day tour to Katoomba to see the impressive rock formation, the Three Sisters. **Scenic World** in Katoomba features a cableway, a walkway over the rainforest canopy and a glass-floored skyway. Suspended 270 metres (886 feet) above ancient ravines, this is an unparalleled way to view the mountain range in all its blue-hued glory.

Return to Sydney and spend your afternoon at leisure.

DAY 4

Wake up for an early morning three-hour flight from Sydney to the beating heart of the outback, Alice Springs, and spend the day exploring this unique and fascinating town.

Surrounded by red dirt and hauntingly beautiful mountain ranges, Alice itself is quite compact and built on relatively flat terrain, making it great for walking about. Stroll through the pedestrian-only main street, Todd Mall, exploring its many shops, cafés and art galleries. Then visit

Araluen Arts Centre, a reputable Aboriginal art gallery that is home to works by one of Australia's most famous Indigenous artists, Albert Namatjira.

Stay 1 night at **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Alice Springs**.

DAY 5

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is a four- to five-hour drive south-west of Alice Springs and includes both Uluru (formerly Ayers Rock) and the 36 domes of Kata Tjuta (formerly the Olgas).

Head to Uluru first, a rock formation created entirely from sandstone half a billion years ago. It stands at 348 metres (1,141 feet) high and has a circumference of 9.4 kilometres (5.8 miles). But beyond the geology, it is a spiritual landmark for the local Anangu people. Learn about their stories with an Aboriginal-led tour, like the one offered by **SEIT Outback**, or sign up for a dot painting experience led by one of the local artists from **Maruku Arts**. Alternatively, cruise around this magnificent icon and explore the national park with **Uluru Segway Tours**.

Stay 2 nights at **Ayers Rock Resort**.



Tali Wiru, Uluru and Kata Tjuta, Northern Territory



Walkabout Cultural Adventures, Queensland



Walkabout Cultural Adventures, Queensland

DAY 6

Experience the ever-changing palette of Uluru at sunrise with a tour of the acclaimed art installation **Field of Light**, set glittering at the base of Uluru. You'll get a complimentary ticket with your **Tali Wiru** experience, or you can book directly.

Then take the road 50 kilometres (31 miles) west of Uluru to reach Kata Tjuta, a natural wonder of 36 domes covering more than 20 square kilometres (7.7 miles). Kata Tjuta is an extremely important site for Anangu men, and while everyone is welcome to explore the walking tracks, the stories and cultural knowledge associated with these rock formations are not shared with visitors. You can walk among the domes on the easy Walpa Gorge Walk, or tackle the four-hour Valley of the Winds Walk right into the heart of the landscape.

DAY 7

Take the 2.5-hour flight from Ayers Rock Airport to Cairns, the gateway to

the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Rainforest. But before you rush off, be sure to explore the brilliant cafés, bustling markets, and beautiful beaches nearby.

Cairns has a thriving café scene, with many trendy ones dotted along Grafton and Spence streets. Tuck into a hearty brunch of chilli eggs and a coconut latte at Caffiend, then mingle with the locals at Rusty's Markets (Friday to Sunday) where you can stock up on fresh local produce, including exotic fruits, dairy and seafood, from more than 180 stalls.

Stay 3 nights at Crystalbrook Flynn.

DAY 8

Stretching 2,300 kilometres (1,430 miles), the Great Barrier Reef has more than 3,000 coral reefs, 900 islands and 1,500 species of fish.

There are plenty of ways to experience the reef. Book a day cruise with **Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel** which combines a full-day Great Barrier Reef cruise with Indigenous cultural

storytelling from traditional owners with historical connections to the sea country visited. The cruise offers a rare educational opportunity to explore the reef with sea rangers whose north Queensland sea country stretches from the Frankland Islands to Port Douglas.

DAY 9

Today, immerse yourself in the spectacular scenery that is the Daintree Rainforest, a unique place where lush tropical rainforest meets white sandy beaches. The Daintree's incredible variety of wildlife includes more than 400 species of birds, the most famous of which is the large, flightless and endangered southern cassowary.

Head 2.5 hours north of Cairns by car (self-drive or on a tour) to explore the mighty World Heritage-listed Daintree Wilderness Area. Join **Walkabout Cultural Adventures** to immerse yourself in Kuku Yalanji traditions, including learning to throw a spear, mud crabbing, sampling bush foods and exploring forests and gorges through Aboriginal eyes.



Return to Cairns in the late afternoon.

DAY 10

From Cairns, fly just over two hours to Brisbane, the capital of Queensland and a city known for its thriving arts scene.

Enjoy the city's cultural highlights and feel enriched and awakened with an exclusive evening immersed in Queensland's unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture at the **Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA)**. Make memorable connections to First Nations art, music, native food, dance, culture, and storytelling through an Indigenous Welcome to Country, followed by a private artwork tour and a specially curated dinner. Take away a bespoke gift, courtesy of the QAGOMA store and Aboriginal Art Co.

Stay 1 night at **Crystalbrook Vincent**.

DAY 11

Depart for your onward journey.

