

VISUALLY STUNNING SYDNEY CITY & THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

8 DAYS DEPARTING TUESDAY 12TH MARCH TO TUESDAY 19TH MARCH 2024

MOTEL ACCOMMODATION IN DARLING HARBOUR - RESTAURANT MEALS



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HIGHLIGHTS

**WODONGA, DOG ON THE TUCKERBOX
SYDNEY, SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE
THE ROCKS, HARBOUR BRIDGE
DARLING HARBOUR, PADDY'S MARKET
SYDNEY HARBOUR DINNER CRUISE
SYDNEY TOWER, KINGS CROSS
BONDI BEACH, CHINATOWN, MANLY
STAR CITY CASINO DINNER
SKYWAY, SCENIC RAILWAY
BLUE MOUNTAINS
KATOOMBA THREE SISTERS
BATHURST, COWRA, YOUNG
JAPANESE GARDEN & CULTURAL
CENTRE**

DAY 1: TUESDAY 12TH MARCH D.
HOME TO WODONGA

After pick up from your home, join our luxury coach and travel through Bendigo making our way through the rich dairying, fruit growing and agriculturally productive areas surrounding the Goulburn River Valley. We continue on to Wodonga, set in a rich pastoral area and the industrial and commercial 'heart' of northern Victoria for our first overnight stop. Wodonga, and its "twin city" Albury, share an important part in the history of the development of the Melbourne-Sydney corridor. Dinner tonight is at the motel restaurant.

Accom: Blazing Stump Motel Ph: 02 6056 3433

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH B.D.
WODONGA TO SYDNEY

Depart Wodonga this morning and see the famous Ettamogah Pub as we head north along the Hume Highway. In Gundagai see the 1866 wooden bridge, the longest timber viaduct in Australia and visit Rusconi's Marble Masterpiece, a lifetime's

work of over 20,000 pieces of marble. See the legendary "Dog on the Tuckerbox". Continuing along the Hume Highway we make our way to Yass where we will be stopping for our lunch break. We continue our journey along the highway to Sydney. Sydney is the largest and most populous city in Australia and the state capital of New South Wales. Sydney is located on Australia's south-east coast of the Tasman Sea. With an approximate population of 5 million, Sydney has a reputation as an international centre for commerce, arts, fashion, culture, entertainment, music, education and tourism. Our accommodation for the next four nights is at the Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour, being a premium hotel offering Sydney accommodation right in the heart of Darling Harbour with stunning city & harbour views. Accom: Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour Ph: 02 8388 8888

DAY 3: THURSDAY 14TH MARCH B.D.
SYDNEY SIGHTSEEING

Today we begin the first of our three days touring New South Wales capital city. Sydney is Australia's oldest and largest city set on one of the most beautiful harbours in the world. We enjoy a tour of the breathtaking Sydney Opera House; one of the modern wonders of the world, before continuing on to the Historic Rocks area. The Rocks is nestled beside the great arch of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, which overlooks the famous sails of the Sydney Opera House. This area, previously Sydney's old quarter was restored to its early charm in the late 1970's, and provides a fascinating range of specialty shops, cafes and craft centres. We make our way through the cosmopolitan Kings Cross, an area close to the centre of Sydney that throbs with life day and night. Just 10km east of the city, we visit Bondi Beach one of Australia's most famous beaches. Bondi Beach is about one kilometre long and receives many visitors throughout the year, and is regarded as one of the best beaches in the world. Dinner tonight is in style cruising on Sydney Harbour where the beauty of the harbour will dazzle you by night. The harbour is renowned as one of the world's most beautiful harbours and its display of city lights and awe-inspiring ambience will make this a truly memorable experience.

DAY 4: FRIDAY 15TH MARCH B.D.
DARLING HARBOUR- SYDNEY TOWER

Our day begins in Darling Harbour, a lively and futuristic complex constructed to celebrate Sydney's 200th birthday. Free time to explore the shopping Mecca with over 200 speciality shops, waterfront restaurants, Chinese Gardens or perhaps sit and enjoy the festive atmosphere of this beautiful

harbour side setting. We travel over to the famous Sydney Tower, the highest building in the Southern Hemisphere. The tower is designed to withstand earthquakes and wind forces never anticipated in Australia. Express lift to the top of the tower and take in the fabulous views of Sydney. Free time for the remainder of the day can be a great shopping experience. You may like to visit Sydney's Paddy's Markets which is a Sydney shopping institution and a huge "buzz" on market day. The Sydney Harbour Bridge climb is another option for you to consider for the afternoon. (at own expense). For tonight's dinner, we visit Chinatown. Sydney's Chinatown is a colourful mixture of Asian culture, shopping and cuisine. The area's distinctly oriental architecture, street lanterns and archways confirm it as a showpiece for Australian Chinese culture.

**DAY 5: SATURDAY 16TH MARCH B.D.
SYDNEY SIGHTSEEING - MANLY FERRY**

Sightseeing day today as we drive through Sydney to the beachside suburb of Manly. No holiday to Sydney is complete without a visit to the beachside suburb of Manly, which is most notable for its beaches, which are popular tourist destinations. Manly features a long stretch of sand on the ocean side, that runs from Queenscliff Beach to North Steyne Beach and Manly Beach. Norfolk Island pine trees are also symbolic of Manly and are a prominent feature of both the ocean and harbour beaches. The Manly ferry is a "must do" for any visitors to Sydney and we will take the ferry for 30 minute trip across the harbour from Manly to Circular Quay. Free time for the remainder of the day for passengers to do their own exploring. Dinner tonight will be a smorgasbord buffet at the Star City Casino.

**DAY 6: SUNDAY 17TH MARCH B.D.
SYDNEY-BLUE MOUNTAINS -BATHURST-COWRA**

Leaving Sydney this morning we continue into the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park, through Springwood and Wentworth Falls to Katoomba, stopping to take in some of the best scenery in Australia. We will travel the Scenic Railway and Skyway, or just admire the spectacular view across the Jamieson Valley. Continuing over the mountains we see historic Hartley and Lithgow and on to Bathurst located on the Macquarie River. Bathurst is Australia's oldest inland settlement and is a gracious city of wide tree lined streets and fine public buildings - a dignified contrast to its internationally famous image as the home of the motor racing circuit at Mt. Panorama. Experience a drive around the Mt. Panorama car racing circuit, famous for the Bathurst 1000 race. Continuing on we make our way through the highly productive agricultural Central Western NSW, an area studded with little historic villages and thriving towns, to Cowra a large town situated on the Lachlan River. Dinner tonight will be at the motel restaurant.

Accom: Cowra Services Club Motel. Ph 02 6341 1999

**DAY 7: MONDAY 18TH MARCH B.D.
COWRA TO NARRANDERA**

On the 4th August 1944 at Cowra, over 1,000 Japanese prisoners attempted to escape from a P.O.W. camp. Two hundred and thirty one prisoners and four Australian soldiers were killed. Time to visit the Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre. Opened in 1979, the Garden is a 'must-see' when visiting Cowra. The Japanese Garden & Cultural Centre is a tangible monument to peace and reconciliation between two countries. Later this morning we continue on to Young known as 'The Cherry Capital of Australia'. We will visit Poppa's Fudge Factory where there is delicate chocolates and tempting lollies as well as their well known freshly made fudge. All the fudges, jams and chutneys from Poppas Fudge

Factory are made in store from fresh produce. Leaving Young we travel through to Cootamundra, birthplace of Sir Donald Bradman, and on to Narrandera for our last overnight stay. Narrandera on the Murrumbidgee River was one of the first towns to be settled in the Riverina, and is a centre for nearby irrigated agricultural areas. Today the town is classified by the National Trust and features many handsome historic buildings. Dinner tonight will be at the motel restaurant. Accom: Gateway Motor Inn. Ph: 02 6959 1877

**DAY 8: TUESDAY 19TH MARCH B.
HOMEWARD BOUND**

Today we travel south along the Newell Highway through the Riverina plains, dotted with famous sheep studs to Jerilderie. This small town services the surrounding merino stud area and is famous for being where Ned Kelly staged an audacious robbery at the bank and Post Office in 1879. We continue on to Echuca, one of Victoria's oldest river towns and formerly Victoria's third largest port in the days of the Paddlesteamers. Located at the junction of the Murray, Campaspe and Goulburn Rivers, Echuca has now capitalised on its riverboat history with an enthralling restoration of the old Port area. Continue further south to Bendigo and home after a memorable eight days sightseeing.

Please note with this tour, the four nights superior accommodation and views in Sydney is at the Sofitel Sydney Darling Harbour, being a premium hotel offering Sydney accommodation right in the heart of Darling Harbour and Sydney with spectacular harbour views from our rooms.

PRICE: \$4480.00 per person twin share
SINGLE SUPP: \$1150.00
Prices include GST

PRICE INCLUDES:

Luxury Coach Travel

Brendan's Australian Tours Travel Wallet

Motel Accommodation Twin Share

**Meals as specified B=Breakfast
D=Dinner**

Admissions to attractions and cruises as specified

Pick up and return to your home

Travel Insurance is highly recommended and is the responsibility of each passenger.