

ITINERARY FOR TWILIGHT TOURS ECLIPSE GROUP

Wednesday November 7th, 2012

Fly to Sydney from the U.S.

Thursday, November 8th, 2012

This “day” is spent in flight, during which time you will cross the degree of longitude, the International Date Line, and effectively “lose” a day flying west to Australia. Happily, you shall “gain” that day back, upon your return flight home.

Friday, November 9th, 2012

Welcome to Sydney, Australia!!

Morning Activities

Upon arrival into Sydney, you will need to clear customs and immigration, before making your way into the main arrivals hall.

Transfer from Sydney International Airport to the city via motor coach/bus

After collecting your luggage, please look for the driver from Wilderness Australia, who will be holding a sign with Twilight Tours’ name on it. You will then be transferred from the airport to our hotel for the next two nights.

Friday, November , to Sunday, November , 2012,
2 Nights at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Darling Harbour

Your double room includes a full buffet breakfast each day and roundtrip luggage portorage from the airport to the hotel and to your room. The Four Points Sheraton Hotel is approximately a 20 minute walk from Circular Quay and a 10 minutes stroll to get to the famous Sydney Opera House, and lies in the centre of Sydney's business district. The hotel is well-known for its impeccable service, comfortable rooms, and impressive views of the city and the harbour. The Four Points Sheraton is the largest commercial hotel in Sydney, with 630 rooms, and is located in the Sydney Central Business District, near such visitor sights as the Pitt Street Shopping Mall, the Queen Victoria Building, and Circular Quay. The hotel also has a friendly restaurant on the premises (the Corn Exchange), and a lovely lobby lounge/bar, as well as the Dundee Arms pub as part of the facility. There is a fitness centre on site and wireless Internet service for free, in the lobby and all public areas as well.



Evening Activity: Welcome Cocktail Reception

Your casual cocktail reception this evening will be held in the Four Points Sheraton hotel in a private function room. The reception includes: Hot & Cold Canapés, - Assorted Australian Beers, local Australian Wine, Soda, and/or Tea & Coffee. Dinner will be on your own tonight.

Saturday, November 10th, 2012 (B,L)

Sydney City/Harbor Tour or Blue Mountains Area Tour

Following your breakfast, you will either have a city/harbor tour, visiting some of the more famous highlights that any tourist to Australia should take in, while making their first visit “down under” or a full day tour in the famous Blue Mountain area to the west of Sydney.

On the city/harbor tour, we will pass through the historical “Rocks” area and Circular Quay as your guide points out and tells you about the history and significance of the area. View the famous Sydney Opera House and the Harbour Bridge from Mrs. Macquarie's Chair. This historic chair was specially designed for the governor's wife to look out over the harbor, one of the best vantage points in Sydney.

For the Blue Mountains Tour, you’ll spend a day in the Great Dividing Range west of Sydney - visit ancient Aboriginal sites, see the ranges from secluded lookouts and on short rainforest walks; examine rock formations, the unusual plants and wildlife that abound. There are quaint villages such as Leura and Bowral, private properties where you can paddle a kayak in search of platypus; lunch will be either a BBQ on the river bank or a leisurely meal enjoyed at an outdoor café in the Megalong Valley.

It is no surprise that when the British first arrived in Australia, they named the area they landed in “Botany Bay”. Even as the populated area surrounding the centre of Sydney proper has grown and expanded outward, Native Waratah wind their way through the historic Rocks area, palm trees frame long stretches of pristine beach, and Eucalyptus embrace the harbors endless and beckoning bays. It

is Sydney's manmade wonders, however, that draw most visitors. Unquestionably, the Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Harbor Bridge are the most photographed icons on the continent.

As another option for those who elect to take the city tour, you can choose to see the Harbor Bridge “up close and personal” by climbing the metal monolith and enjoy stunning 360° views of the glittering vista below with Bridge Climb. Whether it is an early morning visit to the largest fish market in the southern hemisphere or your very first surfing lesson on Bondi Beach, in this vibrant metropolis you will find no lack of energetic escapes and dynamic distractions. Learn about Australia's National Gemstone, the Opal, at Altmann & Cherny or The National Opal Collection, both right in the heart of the city on Pitt Street. Dinner is on your own this evening.



Sunday, November 11th, 2012

Transfer from the city to Sydney Airport

After your breakfast, you will be picked up by our motor coach and taken to Sydney International Airport (domestic terminal) for our onward flight up the East Coast of the country to Cairns --- the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and the “mustering point” for our eclipse viewing.

Fly from Sydney to Cairns

After collecting your luggage upon arrival at the airport, we transfer from Cairns domestic airport to our hotel in the main harbour area of the city – the Pullman Reef and Casino Hotel. As in Sydney when you arrived from the U.S., be sure to look for your driver who will be holding a sign with Twilight Tours’ name on it.

Sunday, November , to Thursday, November , 2012, 4 Nights – The Pullman Reef Casino and Hotel. Daily buffet breakfast included, along with indicated meals at the start of each day’s listing.

Afternoon at Leisure to explore our hotel and the Cairns Pier/Quay

The Pullman Reef Casino and Hotel is the largest hotel in the city of Cairns. Its

plantation motif in the main public areas, lounges, and restaurants, underscores the tropical feel of the area encompassing the Great Barrier Reef --- one of nature's true wonders of the ocean. The hotel boasts two full service restaurants – the Tamarind and the Café China, as well as the more casual Flinders Bar and Grill for more simple fare. The hotel also has 2 lounges for those seeking a cold refreshment to slake their thirst, or to gain some relief from the warm tropical climate. The nearby Cairns Pier area has another 6 restaurants, as well as 8 shops and 4 bars to explore in depth.



Monday, November 12th, 2012 (B,L)

Kuranda – Half Day Tour

You will be transferred to the Sky Rail Cable Car station, after being picked up at our hotel lobby following breakfast. Once on board cable car, sit back to enjoy the scenic journey above the verdant rainforest canopy below your cable car “perch”.

Over the course of the nearly 7 mile cable car route, there are two stations en route where you can alight to walk through the rainforest to scenic lookouts. After completing our Sky Rail adventure, we will stop in Kuranda Station after disembarking from our cars, and take lunch at Frog’s Restaurant.

Before we board our rail cars, there are a number of attractions in the town of Kuranda that you can partake, following our lunch. There are craft demonstrations, “Bird World”, and an Aboriginal Village, to mention just a few of the attractions in the town. The Aboriginal Village provides an insight to Aboriginal culture and history of these indigenous people of Australia.

Following our lunch, we will board the world famous Kuranda Rail line, for a leisurely ride back down to sea level, ending just outside the main city area of Cairns, at the Freshwater train station.



Tuesday, November 13th, 2012 (B, L)

Green Island Reef Excursion – Full Day Cruise

Depart Cairns Wharf for Green Island and the Outer Great Barrier Reef. We will sail to the island with its spectacular coral reef, which thrives in the ideal conditions of clear, shallow, sunlit water of the Coral Sea. We will spend 2 hours on the island, giving us a chance to relax in the sun, swim in the freshwater pool, take a glass bottom boat cruise and explore the rainforest of this island National Park.

Travelling further beyond to the outer Great Barrier Reef, we will spend 3 hours at the Reef Viewing Platform. The Reef is home to a wide variety of marine life including giant clams and brilliant fish. Discover the reef for yourself or join a guided snorkeling tour led by a graduate marine biologist (at additional cost), or scuba dive with a qualified open water diving instructor (also at extra cost), or simply spend the time relaxing in the sea air. Our tour includes all boat travel, morning & afternoon tea, a delicious hot & cold buffet lunch, snorkeling equipment use, semi-submersible coral viewing, under water viewing platform and eco-reef talk. Return to Cairns in the afternoon, and take the few minutes stroll back to the Pullman Reef and Casino Hotel.



Tonight, we have a special “no host” event planned. We will be joining other eclipse “chasers” in Cairns, at a local restaurant, to meet and exchange thoughts and

experiences, etc, regarding tomorrow's impending total solar eclipse. The time and exact restaurant location will be determined as we get closer to the tour departure next year!!

Wednesday, November 14th, 2012 (B,D) – ECLIPSE DAY !!

We will have our motor coach at our disposal/discretion to transfer those NOT wishing to remain on the hotel grounds/on the beach to observe the eclipse, to a more remote observation site outside of Cairns city. Departure time for the coach will be VERY early (~ 3:30 AM), as first contact for this eclipse occurs shortly after sunrise.... The observation site lies approximately 30 miles to the northwest of Cairns, close to the eclipse track centerline.

Our viewing area is at the Amaroo Eclipse Camp, established by Don and Judy Freeman. The site is some 50 acres in area, and sits atop a bluff overlooking the Barron River, with an unobstructed view in the azimuthial direction of the eclipse. The Freemans have amassed over 20 years of travel/tour experience, and have received a number of travel industry awards/recognition for their travel related work.

Totality occurs at ~ 6:45 AM local time with a duration of ~ 2 minutes, 5 seconds. The group at Amaroo Eclipse Camp shall return after contact (end of the partial phases of the eclipse), rejoining the rest of our group who remained at our hotel.

The rest of the day is at your leisure. We will have a group dinner tonight at the Pullman Reef Hotel, to share our experiences, memories, and images/videos of today's eclipse event.

Thursday, November 15th, 2012 (B)

Transfer to Cairns Domestic Airport via motor coach. Our transfer includes portorage of your luggage at the airport. Please wait in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer. We will be met by our driver and then be transferred from Cairns to the domestic airport.

Fly from Cairns back to Sydney International Airport. Upon arrival in at Sydney Airport, connect to your onward flights back to the U.S.A. For those extending their tour to Ayers Rock, Perth, Tasmania, or New Zealand, you will be transferred to your hotel for an overnight stay before departing tomorrow morning for your extended tour destination(s).

Gain the day your "lost" on the way over to Australia, and arrive in the U.S. on the morning of the same day you departed from Sydney. Welcome back home!!

Meal Codes:

(B) = Breakfast

(L) = Lunch

(D) = Dinner

IMPORTANT NOTE: This itinerary has NOT been finalized. We anticipate that it will be “locked in” by the first quarter of 2012, regarding exact meals to be included, the day tour itineraries/sights, and other details regarding this tour. We encourage you to continue checking the Twilight Tours web site for updates to this material as they occur.