

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

AUSTRALIA

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS



FIRST CHOICE 5-21 day Fully Curated Experiences **From page 26**

BEST BUYS 3-15 day Flexible Guided Holidays **From page 58**

Aboriginal Culture & Australian Highlights

Highlights

📍 Local Connection

Aunty Margret is a Sydney legend, pioneering First Nations tourism around the city. Discover Aboriginal sites and stories on one of her Dreamtime Southern X tours.

🎨 Cultural Immersion

Whether at sunrise or sunset, the beauty of Uluru is mesmerising. Aboriginal creatives at Maruku Arts capture it in their paintings and will show you how to do the same.

🌿 Sustainable Footprints

Big Esso not only crafts menus using sustainably grown native produce, but also supports Aboriginal growers, makers, bakers, and brewers.

🐠 Wildlife & Nature

Take a deep dive (literally) into the First Nations stories behind the creation of the Great Barrier Reef with Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel from Cairns.



1 Welcome to Melbourne

Arrive early in Australia's cultural capital to explore art-filled laneways, galleries and boutiques at your own pace. Melbourne is also Australia's food capital – we have something special planned for your Welcome Dinner. **Hotel: InterContinental, 3 nights. DW**

2 Melbourne Sightseeing

Australia's Aboriginal culture spans oceans, rivers, rainforest, outback and cities, as you'll discover with Koorie Heritage Trust. From the organisation's base at Federation Square, explore Melbourne with an First Nations guide along the banks of the Yarra River. It's only a few steps to Big Esso by Mabu Mabu, a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, celebrating contemporary Torres Strait Islander culture through cuisine. The menu is an explosion of native Australian bush flavours, from finger lime to quandong, with a drinks list that heroes Indigenous-owned businesses – their art also decorates the walls. More awaits at the National Gallery of Victoria, which hosts one of Australia's most significant collections of art from First Nations creatives. **B L**

3 Melbourne Free Time

Take the pulse of Melbourne in your own time. Need touring suggestions? Your Travel Director can assist. You might choose to stay in the heart of the city exploring the Royal Botanic Gardens with an Aboriginal guide. Or for a bird's-eye view, zip to the Melbourne Eureka Skydeck – it's the highest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. While it's tempting to linger, a bevy of attractions await on the outskirts of the city, including the Great Ocean Road. Spending a day driving this World Heritage-listed route is a rite of passage, uniting surf, seaside towns and wilderness walks. You might choose to head to the other side of the bay – Phillip Island is a mecca for wildlife, including penguins that waddle from the ocean to their sandy burrows every evening. **B**

4 Melbourne – Uluru

Uluru-Kata Tjuta is World Heritage-listed for a reason. Explore spiritual landscapes that are sacred to the Anangu people; your guide on the Kuniya walk to Mutitjulu Waterhole will point out rock art and bush foods. The ultimate way to end the day is watching

the sinking sun paint the outback all manner of fiery hues – flute of bubbles in hand. This is your backdrop for an exclusive barbecue dinner. **Hotel: Voyages Desert Gardens, 2 nights. B, DW**

5 Uluru

The outback inspires creativity, as you'll discover meeting First Nation artists at Maruku Arts. Their works capture the drama of Australia, and they'll show you how to do the same during an art class. Spend the afternoon visiting the Gallery of Central Australia (GOCA), spotlighting ethically sourced Aboriginal art. Or take to the skies on an optional scenic flight. Back at ground level, wander into Walpa Gorge, then say cheers to Kata Tjuta sunset with a glass of bubbles. **B**

6 Uluru – Sydney

50,000 – that's the number of lights that artist Bruce Munro used to create his alfresco artwork, Field of Light. This blanket of bulbs casts a surreal glow over the Uluru countryside, and is particularly beguiling on a sunrise visit. Tonight, is yours to explore Sydney. We have a little black book of hot restaurants to try if you need tips. **Hotel: Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, 4 nights. B**

7 Sydney Sightseeing

Bring your stamina for an action-packed day exploring the Harbour City, including a behind-the-scenes tour of the Opera House. It sits on land belonging to the Eora Nation, as you'll discover when you meet Aunty Margret of Dreamtime Southern X on a walking tour around the Rocks district. Swap the shore for the water on an expedition to harbour islands with Tribal Warrior Cruises and Tours, showing how Sydney's Aboriginal culture and colonial history unite. **B**

8 Sydney Free Time

Go your own way or ask your Travel Director to assist booking tours like the Burrawa Indigenous Climb, which sees you scale the Sydney Harbour Bridge accompanied by an Aboriginal guide. Or spend the day with an AAT Kings guide in the Blue Mountains. You don't need to go far to have an adventure, as you'll discover on Dave's Rocks Pub Tour, taking you to some of the city's most historic drinking establishments. Or take in the harbour in a heli, swooping over beaches

firstlighttravel.com.au



Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel

13 DAYS

16 Included Experiences

Departure Dates

2024	2025
Oct 10	Feb 20
	Mar 06, 20

Definite Departures highlighted in red.

For prices, latest deals and year-round offers including past guest offers, group booking discounts for 9+ guests, multi-trip savings and additional definite departure dates visit aatings.com/amsc or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

Dining

12 Full breakfasts B
2 Lunches L

3 Dinners with wine DW
1 Farewell Dinner FD

Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 1.00pm into Melbourne Airport
Day 13 – flights to depart anytime from Cairns Airport

Flights are not included in the holiday price.

Return airport to hotel transfers are included in the holiday price.

Internal-holiday flights: Please note the prices include land and internal-holiday airfares, which AAT Kings will book in order to fulfil the holiday itinerary.

Day 4 – Melbourne to Ayers Rock

Day 6 – Ayers Rock to Sydney

Day 10 – Sydney to Cairns

and bushland. It's an outlook that inspires creativity, as you might choose to discover on a guided tour of the Art Gallery of NSW. B

9 Sydney Free Time

If you're looking to continue your First Nations immersion, your Travel Director can organise optional tours including a bush-tucker experience in the Royal Botanic Garden, or an Aboriginal Cultural Tour at Barangaroo. A First Nations guide will also lead you around the Australian Museum's two Aboriginal exhibitions on a Waranara Tour. B, DW

10 Sydney – Cairns

After your morning flight from Sydney, spend your free afternoon soaking up the steamy climes of Cairns. Explore the vibrant esplanade or opt for an Indigenous-owned cruise by Mandingalbay Tours. **Hotel: Crystalbrook Flynn, 3 nights. B**

11 Great Barrier Reef

Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel's catamaran tours tell the story of the Great Barrier Reef through Aboriginal eyes. The company's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sea rangers regale you with 65,000-year-old Dreamtime creation stories while you cruise to Moore Reef; here, slip into warm water to flipper among some of the 1,500 species of fish. B, L

12 Cairns Free Time

Spend your free day soaking up the sights of Tropical North Queensland, perhaps joining a tour to catch the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway and Kuranda Scenic Railway deep into the rainforest. Or maybe on an Outback Tasting Adventure, uniting distillers, brewers, cheesemongers and farmers. You may opt to discover native bush tucker on a Cape Tribulation, Mossman & Daintree tour, taking you through one of the world's oldest rainforests. End your wild adventure with a Farewell Dinner at Ochre Restaurant on the Cairns waterfront. B, FD

13 Farewell from Cairns

You'll not only depart Cairns a more seasoned traveller, but also a more thoughtful one. And don't be surprised if you leave with a posse of new friends – Australia's Aboriginal guides are as generous with their stories as they are with their time. B



- START
- END
- ① Number of night stays
- Sightseeing stops

