

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**

Australia and New Zealand Panorama

Highlights

Local Connection

From city life in Sydney to farm life in New Zealand, go behind the scenes while meeting passionate locals. How does an exclusive backstage tour of the Opera House sound?

Cultural Immersion

Say goodbye to the run-of-the-mill barbecue and have your meal prepared underground in a hangi, a traditional Indigenous experience at Mitai Maori Village.

Sustainable Footprints

Operation Nest Egg may sound like it's from a Bond movie, but it's actually a way that the National Kiwi Hatchery is helping boost the population of kiwi birds in the wild. Your visit helps.

Wildlife & Nature

Cairns is a place two World Heritage Sites meet: The Wet Tropics of Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef. Bring your sense of adventure to explore both.



Sydney Opera House

15 DAY

Departure Dates

2024	2025	2026
Apr 11	Jan 16, 30	Jan 15, 29
Jun 27	Feb 13	Feb 12
Aug 29	Mar 6, 20, 27	Mar 5, 19
Sep 26	Apr 10	
Oct 10	May 8	
Nov 7, 28	Jun 26	
	Aug 28	
	Sep 25	
	Oct 9	
	Nov 6, 27	

Definite Departures highlighted in red.

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

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

1 Welcome to Melbourne

We recommend arriving early in Melbourne – there's so much to see in the Victorian capital before you meet your fellow travel companions. Hotel: Crowne Plaza Hotel Melbourne. DW

2 Melbourne

Today, reach for rainbows in Melbourne's eye-popping street art. Follow the lead of a local to discover alleys emblazoned with murals by some of the world's greatest aerosol artists. Take note of the hidden bars and restaurants you pass – we can help you make a booking for tonight. Hotel: Crowne Plaza Hotel Melbourne. B

3 Melbourne - Cairns

Koalas, birds, wallabies, crocodiles – oh my! They all live side by side at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures in Cairns, as you'll discover on a boat cruise you'll with a private guide through this wilderness reserve. The Daintree Rainforest here is part of the World Heritage listed Wet Tropics of Queensland, and you'll help protect it on a restoration project. Hotel: Hilton Hotel Cairns. B

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? Get ready for an experience of a lifetime when you board a high-speed catamaran and cruise to the outer edge of the Great Barrier Reef. Strap on a snorkel and mask to view this marine menagerie up close and personal. Hotel: Hilton Hotel Cairns. B L

5 Cairns Free Time

If you're in the habit of getting up early now, you may wish to begin your day with a horizon-bending hot-air-balloon ride over the Atherton Tablelands. Prefer to stay grounded? Sign up for a guided walk through the Daintree Rainforest, or surround yourself with nature riding the Scenic Railway to Kuranda returning on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway. Tonight, join your companions for dinner, with native ingredients highlighted at Ochre Restaurant on the waterfront. Hotel: Hilton Hotel Cairns. B DW

6 Cairns - Sydney

You flew over Sydney Harbour to get here from Cairns; tonight you enjoy a front-row seat on a sunset cruise that takes you past the Opera House and under the Harbour Bridge. Talk about a mesmerising way to end a day. Hotel: Sofitel Wentworth Hotel Sydney. B DW

7 Sydney

Discover one of the highlights of Sydney, on a guided tour of the Sydney Opera House. If there was ever a place that slipped from the pages of a fairy-tale, Wendy's Secret Garden at Lavender Bay is it. Overlooking Sydney Harbour, this pocket of floral paradise is explained by a local volunteer – did you know this was once unused wasteland? Your visit provides a contribution to the ongoing maintenance of the enchanting garden. Explore Sydney's inner west and enjoy a lunch with the locals at a pub. Then drive through Sydney's hip inner west to Batch Brewery, where you will take part in a masterclass and learn how they combine creatively inspired limited release batches with sustainable practices. Hotel: Sofitel Wentworth Hotel Sydney. B L

8 Sydney Free Time

You could spend weeks exploring Sydney. Months even. But you have today, so get set for a wild ride. Your agenda is completely up to you, but we have more than a few ideas. Perhaps a bird's-eye perspective of the city on a Sydney BridgeClimb? Maybe a ferry to Manly for fish and-chips on the beach? This evening, celebrate Sydney at dinner beside the harbour. Hotel: Sofitel Wentworth Hotel Sydney. B DW

9 Sydney - Queenstown

New Zealand's adventure capital, Queenstown, awaits. Explore the alpine village and stunning Lake Wakatipu, then enjoy walkable bars and restaurants. Ask your Travel Director for tips. Hotel: Millennium Hotel, Queenstown. B

10 Queenstown

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. Think sheep mustering and whip cracking as well as the chance to feed and pet the farm animals. Then you'll think you've stepped back in time when you arrive in the former gold-mining village of

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 Highlight Dinner at the Colonel's Homestead awaits. Hotel: Millennium Hotel, Queenstown. B HD

11 Queenstown Free Time

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. Hotel: Millennium Hotel, Queenstown. B

12 Queenstown - Auckland

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. Hotel: The Grand by SkyCity. B

13 Auckland - Rotorua

Today is set to sparkle – quite literally – as thousands of bright green and blue glowworms light up your next destination: the cavernous Waitomo Caves at Waitomo. This evening, explore Te Puia's geothermal valley, and learn about Māori history and culture on this guided experience, which includes a dinner of hangi-inspired cuisine and a cultural performance in a finely carved meeting house, Te Aronui a Rua. It ends on a high at the Pohutu Geyser, where, armed with a hot chocolate you'll view one of New Zealand's geothermal wonderlands. Hotel: Millennium Hotel, Rotorua. B HD

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. Cap off your day at a Farewell Dinner with your Travel Director and companions. Hotel: Millennium Hotel, Rotorua. B FD

15 Farewell from Rotorua and Auckland

Two countries, multiple adventures, an abundance of new friends... Just how do you say goodbye to a journey like this? B

