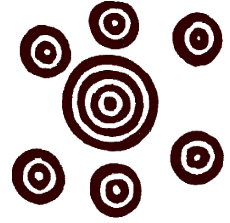


A.R.E. Travel Programs



Wisdom of Ancient “Dreamtime”* A Tour of Australia

Includes Aboriginal Sacred Sites, the Uluru Mala Walk, and Native Legends and Lore

Enjoy the Wonders of the Great Barrier Reef, the Blue Mountains, Daintree Forest, Captain Cook’s Cottage and Highway, and the beautiful cities of Melbourne and Sydney.

*An Aboriginal time long, long ago, before we incarnated into physical life.

With John Van Auken

October 14-27, 2012

Rates	Per person based on double occupancy	Land only rate	Additional Single Supplement
\$USD	*\$7,495	*\$5,095	\$1,550

ITINERARY

(Subject to change according to the needs of the tour)

Oct. 14 DEPART LOS ANGELES

Board a Qantas direct flight from Los Angeles to Melbourne. Overnight onboard the aircraft.

Oct. 15 LOSE A DAY CROSSING THE INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

Oct. 16 ARRIVE IN MELBOURNE

G’Day and welcome to Australia! Upon arrival in Melbourne, meet your local representative and transfer to hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure after a long flight. Enjoy a unique welcome dinner onboard the world’s only working tramcar restaurant. Overnight at the Swanston Hotel Grand Mercure, or similar, where you will stay for three nights. **(In-flight meals, D)**

Oct. 17 MELBOURNE SIGHTSEEING

After breakfast, explore famous parks and gardens including an Aboriginal heritage walk through the Royal Botanic Gardens. Journey into the ancestral lands of the Kulin nation and explore their rich and thriving culture on this award-winning walk in the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. Experience a

traditional smoking ceremony with our Indigenous guides and discover traditional uses of plants for food, tools and medicine. Continue our tour with a stop at Fitzroy Gardens to see Captain Cook's Cottage. Observe modern architecture blending with charming historic buildings and world-renowned sporting arenas. Have a look around Southgate, Melbourne's premier waterfront shopping, dining, theatre districts which is also home to the Crown Casino and Entertainment complex. **(B)**

Oct. 18 WARROOK STATION & PHILLIP ISLAND NATURE RESERVE

After breakfast, head out of Melbourne for the day and experience life on a real, working Australian farm at Warrook, a 300-acre working cattle farm situated one hour from Melbourne. See the historic homestead with its antique furniture, watch sheep dogs in action and enjoy lunch at the farm. In the afternoon, continue heading inland across the scenic Mornington Peninsula to Phillip Island to witness the nightly ritual of the fairy penguin parade. **(BL)**

Oct. 19 FLY MELBOURNE TO ALICE SPRINGS

After breakfast, transfer to airport for your flight to Alice Springs. Take a tour around "The Alice" highlighting the original waterhole, the "Alice Springs" at the historic Old Telegraph Station. Discover the Royal Flying Doctors base and learn how this facility provides a mantle of safety for the people of the Outback. Enjoy panoramic views of Alice Springs from Anzac Hill where you can see the MacDonnell Ranges that form the southern boundary to the town. After dinner at the delicious Red Ochre Grill and Restaurant, which specializes in the use of Australian native foods and regional produce, prepare yourself for a journey that takes you from the heart of the desert to beyond the stars. Experience a spellbinding musical and visual journey through the ancient land forms, history and space of Australia's outback. Overnight at the hotel Crown Plaza Alice Springs or similar. **(BD)**

Oct. 20 OVERLAND ALICE SPRINGS TO AYERS ROCK

After breakfast, journey over ancient river beds and scattered stations into the semi-arid desert that surrounds Ayers Rock and the Olgas. In the afternoon, experience the harsh Outback on a visit to the massive series of domes known as Kata Tjuta (Olgas). Spend some time exploring the gorge and the unusual rock formations. In the late afternoon, arrive at Uluru at the sunset viewing area to witness and photograph the striking color changes that can take place on the world's largest monolith. Overnight at the Desert Gardens Hotel or similar. **(B)**

Oct. 21 MALA WALK & DOT PAINTING WORKSHOP, FLY TO CAIRNS

After breakfast, the tour to Uluru includes a vehicle based tour of the rock and then an Aboriginal guided Mala walk. Learn the sensitive story of the Mala (Hare Wallaby) people who lived at Uluru, with their friend the Itjartitjari (marsupial mole). Along the Mala walk visit the many painted caves of the Mala people, and learn how they lived and prepared for ceremonies at the base of Uluru. Visit sacred Kantju Gorge, a quiet water hole at the base of a dramatic rock face. All tours are led by local Aboriginal people.

Join Aboriginal artists at the Uluru Cultural Centre for a fascinating introduction to Aboriginal art and the chance to join the artists to try your own hand.

Transfer to the airport for your afternoon flight to Cairns. On arrival, transfer to the Mercure Harbourside Cairns, or similar, where you will stay for three nights. **(B)**

Oct. 22 FULL DAY CRUISE TO THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

After breakfast, travel along the scenic Captain Cook Highway and the Northern beaches to the fishing village of Port Douglas. You will be taken to the Marina Mirage to spend the day on the Great Barrier Reef. One of the world's largest catamarans takes you to Agincourt Reef on the Outer Great Barrier Reef. On the way out there will be on-board educational presentations by trained biologists.

Once at the reef, there is a pontoon to wander about and a choice of ways to explore the reef, guided snorkeling, or a semi-submersible for fish and coral viewing. A wonderful seafood lunch is provided before returning to Port Douglas. **(BL)**

Oct. 23 FULL DAY TOUR TO THE DAINTREE RAINFOREST

After breakfast, enjoy a boat ride down the mighty Daintree River in search of the ferocious salt water crocodiles that lurk in the murky waters and surrounding mangroves. As you drift along you will see all sorts of other rainforest animals and learn all about the importance of the flora and fauna that make up the World Heritage Cape Tribulation and Daintree Rainforests and mangroves. **(B)**

OPTIONAL RAINFOREST ABORIGINAL "SPIRIT" CLEANSING EXPERIENCE

What better way to relax and wind down than a spa treatment in the tranquil surroundings of the World Heritage listed Daintree Rainforest Reserve? In consultation with Aboriginal elders, the Spa has created therapies and experiences that preserve indigenous traditions and harness local energies, spirituality and healing in their spa treatments and naturopathy medicines (call us for prices).

Oct. 24 FLY TO SYDNEY

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your domestic flight to Sydney. Upon arrival transfer to the Grace Hotel, or similar, where you will stay for three nights. The balance of your day is at leisure to explore Sydney. **(B)**

Oct. 25 SYDNEY SIGHTSEEING & HARBOR CRUISE

After breakfast, enjoy a tour of the city, including the Botanical Gardens, Hyde Park, the Domain and a stop at Mrs. Macquarie's Chair for the best views of the Opera House and Harbor Bridge. Depart Circular Quay for a luncheon cruise of Sydney Harbor, one of the most scenic harbors in the world. You will see spectacular views of Sydney Harbor Bridge, Circular Quay, The Rocks, Opera House, Fort Denison, Point Piper, Watson's Bay. Later, take a short walk over to the Sydney Opera House for a guided tour. **(BL)**

Oct. 26 FULL DAY TOUR TO THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

After breakfast, travel to the spectacular Blue Mountains, an awe inspiring canyon of giant rock formations, geological history, deep tree studded valleys and cascading waterfalls. See the world famous rock formation and hear the Aboriginal legend of "the Three Sisters". Enjoy views of the Jamieson Valley, Mount Solitary, Ruined Castle, Katoomba Falls, and the Burrigorang Valley. Ride the steepest railway in the world that descends through sandstone cliffs and emerges to spectacular views and lush fern-filled rainforest. During that tour, explore the Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural Centre - a true indigenous experience - aims to tell the story of the Darug people, the traditional owners of the area. Return to Sydney and to the Waterfront Restaurant for a farewell dinner. **(BD)**

Oct. 27 DEPART SYDNEY FOR HOME

Transfer to the airport for your international departure back to Los Angeles. As you will re-cross the International Dateline on this flight, you will gain a day to arrive back in Los Angeles on the same day you left Australia. Welcome home! **(B, In-flight meals)**

*This includes international group flight in economy class from and to LAX, all domestic flights while in Australia, meals where indicated, transfers to and from airports in Australia, transportation by private coach, tips, entrance fees, and portorage for 1 piece of luggage per person. This does NOT include airline upgrades, alcoholic beverages and personal expenses.

**The land only rate does NOT include any flight (international or domestic).