

Grand Circle Travel[®]

THE LEADER IN VALUE AND WORLDWIDE DISCOVERY SINCE 1958

Your Grand Circle Travel Planning Guide



Australia & New Zealand
2026

Grand Circle Travel®

347 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210

Dear Traveler,

I am thrilled that you are considering exploring the world with Grand Circle Travel. There are so many wonderful destinations to discover, and the itinerary described inside is a perfect way to fulfill a travel dream.

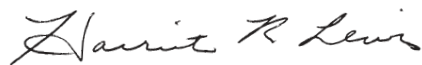
When you travel with us, you will enjoy a thoughtfully designed itinerary that balances unforgettable included discoveries with time for independent explorations. Your experience will be enriched by the company of like-minded American travelers and an **expert, local Program Director**. Assigned to a group of 30 travelers on average, these passionate leaders are ready and eager to share their homeland and insights as only a local can. Whether it is recommending their favorite restaurant, connecting travelers with people and culture, or providing the best regional maps to enhance your leisure time, your Program Director will be available to take care of all the details and ensure that you have a fun and carefree travel experience. You can also rely on the seasoned team at our regional office, who are ready to help 24/7 in case any unexpected circumstances arise.

Throughout your explorations, you will experience Exclusive Discovery Series events designed to connect you with local people and culture. From sharing traditional fare and lively conversation during Home-Hosted Visits, to discussing Controversial Topics impacting everyday life, you'll gain an intimate understanding of your destination, not just a superficial view. And if you choose to travel solo, you will enjoy all these cultural experiences at an unmatched value, with our FREE or low-cost Single Supplements—just one of the reasons we continue to be the leader in solo travel.

Plus, you can put your own personal stamp on your trip, like the **87% of our travelers who customize their experience**. Perhaps you will choose to see more of your destination by adding an optional trip extension to your itinerary. You can also arrive a few days early to explore independently and get acclimated, customize your air itinerary, and more.

I hope you find this Travel Planning Guide helpful. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact one of our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-2610**.

Warm regards,



Harriet R. Lewis
Chair
Grand Circle Travel

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Milford Sound, New Zealand

Australia & New Zealand

Australia: Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Sydney | **New Zealand:** Te Anau, Arrowtown, Queenstown, Rotorua, Auckland

19 days starting from \$6,995

including airfare

Single Supplement: **FREE**

For departure dates & prices, visit

www.gct.com/anz2026pricing

From Australia's Great Barrier Reef to New Zealand's alpine South Island, you'll discover a region of true natural and cultural diversity on our South Pacific Grand Circle Tour. And you'll do it up close, as your resident Program Director introduces you to Aussie cattle experts and New Zealand's native Maori—all the engaging people who give this part of the world its deserved reputation for friendliness and good cheer.

IT'S INCLUDED

- Choose to **purchase Grand Circle's airfare**, and your airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges are included. Or, make your own air arrangements
- All flights within the South Pacific
- **Accommodations** for 16 nights
- **31 meals:** 16 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 9 dinners
- **12 guided tours** and **4 exclusive Discovery Series events:** *Aboriginals Today* conversation • Returned Services League dinner • Opal discussion • Ohinemutu community visit
- **Gratuities** on your main trip for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- **Personal headset** for all included and optional tours on your main trip
- Exclusive services of a local **Grand Circle Program Director** (assigned to no more than 42 travelers)
- Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips
- **5% Frequent Traveler Credit** toward your next trip

Prices are accurate as of the date of this publishing and are subject to change.



ITINERARY SUMMARY

1-2 • Depart U.S.

3-6 • Cairns, Australia

Included Tours Hartley's Crocodile Adventures, Outer Great Barrier Reef

7-10 • Sydney

Included Tours Sydney & the Opera House, The Rocks, Sydney Harbor Cruise

11-12 • Te Anau, New Zealand

Included Tour Milford Sound

13-14 • Queenstown

Included Tours Arrowtown, Winery tour, Lake Wakatipu & Walter Peak Sheep Station

15-16 • Rotorua

Included Tour Rotorua

17-18 • Auckland

Included Tours Auckland Harbor Sailing, Auckland

19 • Return to U.S.

WHAT TO EXPECT

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Moderately Easy

Group Size

- A maximum of 42 travelers, led by a local Grand Circle Program Director

Pacing

- 6 locations in 17 days
- 3 internal flights of 3-4 hours each
- Air travel time will be 19-27 hours and will most likely have two connections

Physical Requirements

- Walk 1-2 miles unassisted and participate in 4-5 hours of physical activities daily, including stairs
- Balance and agility are required to board watercraft. Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters
- Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them
- We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send

travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience

- You may encounter animals on this trip. We make every effort to keep these encounters safe, however animals may behave unpredictably or dangerously at times. Please use caution when interacting with animals on this trip: Keep a safe distance, stay alert, and respect the animals

Terrain & Transportation

- Uneven walking surfaces, including unpaved paths, hills, stairs, and cobblestones
- Travel by 45-seat motorcoach, 36-seat boat, high-speed catamaran, gondola, water taxi, steamship, jet-boat, 280-seat boat, and sailboat

Climate

- Daytime temperatures range from 60-88°F during touring season
- December through March are the warmest months

MAXIMIZE YOUR DISCOVERIES & VALUE

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

all with FREE Single Supplements

Melbourne & the Outback
PRE-TRIP: 5 nights from **\$2,595**

Fiji
POST-TRIP: 4 nights from **\$2,095**

Australia & New Zealand

YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

BEGIN YOUR TRIP WITH AN OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

5 nights in *Melbourne & the Outback*

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Day 2 Cross International Date Line

Day 3 Melbourne, Australia

Day 4 Melbourne

Day 5 Melbourne • Fly to Alice Springs • Alice Springs tour

Day 6 Alice Springs • Desert Park optional tour

Day 7 Alice Springs • Transfer to Ayers Rock • Sunset visit to Ayers Rock

Day 8 Ayers Rock • Fly to Cairns, Australia

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Begin your international journey today. If you'd like to break up your flying time, consider an optional overnight stay in Los Angeles. Ask your Travel Counselor for details.

Day 2 Cross International Date Line

Crossing the International Date Line westbound, you lose a day as you travel to Australia (you'll gain it back on your return flight).

Day 3 Arrive in Australia • Cairns

- Destination: Cairns
- Accommodations: Doubletree by Hilton Cairns or similar

Morning: You'll arrive this morning in Sydney or Brisbane, and a Grand Circle representative will assist you in connecting with your flight to Cairns.

Afternoon: Upon arrival at the airport in Cairns, another Grand Circle representative will meet you and assist with the transfer to your hotel, where you'll meet your fellow travelers, including those who took our *Melbourne & the Outback* pre-trip extension.

Evening: The balance of the day is at your leisure to relax after your overseas flight before beginning your *Australia & New Zealand* tour in earnest.

Day 4 Cairns • Hartley's Crocodile Adventures

- Destination: Cairns
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Doubletree by Hilton Cairns or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Depart Port Douglas for Hartley’s Crocodile Adventures to visit Australia’s iconic wildlife, including koalas, kangaroos, and crocodiles. You’ll even have a chance to hand-feed the kangaroos. Then, embark on a boat ride through Hartley’s Lagoon to witness saltwater crocodiles in their natural habitat, followed by a behind-the-scenes tour of the park where you’ll get to know some of the park’s wildlife keepers.

Lunch: Included at the wildlife park.

Afternoon: You’ll have some free time in the park before we return to our hotel in Cairns.

Dinner: Enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 5 Cairns • Optional Hot-air Balloon Ride • Optional Great Barrier Reef Helicopter Ride • Outer Great Barrier Reef tour

- Destination: Cairns
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Doubletree by Hilton Cairns or similar

Activity Note: Weather conditions may affect your marine life-viewing experience. On rare occasions, strong winds or severe weather may prevent your visit to the Outer Barrier Reef.

Early Morning: You have the option to rise early for an optional sunrise balloon ride above the Atherton Tablelands. Float above a lush tableau of rain forests, mountains, and lakes, and watch the day break over the tropical landscape below.

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Rejoin the rest of your fellow travelers and board a high-speed catamaran to the Great Barrier Marine Park—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Stretching 1,240 miles, the Great Barrier Reef comprises acres of multicolored coral supporting an array of exotic sea creatures.

Your destination is a stationary pontoon-style observation post at the Outer Great Barrier Reef, a fantastic spot from which to explore this ecological wonderland. The Outer Barrier Reef provides the best views because it is further from the shore and free from the runoff from the rain forests that can cloud the water. Additionally the outer reef supports a more diverse range of marine life than other locations.

Lunch: A buffet-style lunch is included on a reef pontoon.

Afternoon: Upon arrival at the outer reef, you’ll have the opportunity to join an optional tour in which you’ll take to the sky aboard a helicopter for a scenic flight above the colorful coral. Enjoy a bird’s eye view of the wide expanse of this natural oceanic wonder before returning to sea level and joining your fellow travelers for an included tour.

At the outer reef, you can swim or snorkel, probe the lower depths in a semi-submersible vessel, or behold the underwater world from the lower deck of the stationary pontoon. A local reef expert will also be on hand to enlighten you about this unique ecosystem and enhance your experience on the reef. You’ll return to your hotel in the late afternoon.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 6 Cairns • Optional Pamagirri Experience, Kuranda Village & Skyrail tour • *Aboriginals Today* conversation • Returned Services League dinner

- Destination: Cairns
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Doubletree by Hilton Cairns or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: You have the choice to join us for an optional Pamagirri Experience, Kuranda Village & Skyrail Tour. This half-day tour begins at Rainforestation Nature Park, where you'll enjoy a Pamagirri Aboriginal dance performance and learn how didgeridoos are made and used in ceremonies. You'll also go on a Dreamtime walk where you can observe spear throwing and, after a demonstration and lesson, test your skills at throwing a boomerang. Then, you'll visit Kuranda, a picturesque village nestled in one of the planet's oldest rain forests, and board the Skyrail and glide above the pristine jungle canopy before returning to Cairns.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: Returning to the hotel later, you'll have some time at leisure before an **exclusive Discovery Series** conversation about *Aboriginals Today*. A speaker with ties to the local Aboriginal community will share with you the beliefs and contemporary challenges of the continent's First Peoples.

Dinner: Enjoy an **exclusive Discovery Series** visit to the Cairns branch of the Returned Services League, which supports veterans and present members of the armed forces. Here, you'll sit down for an included dinner.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 7 Cairns • Sydney

- Destination: Sydney
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: View Sydney or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the Cairns Airport for your flight to Sydney.

Lunch: On your own. You may opt to pick something up at the Cairns Airport to enjoy during your flight.

Afternoon: Arrive in Sydney in the late afternoon.

Dinner: After departing the Sydney Airport, you'll head to a local restaurant before transferring to your hotel.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 8 Sydney • Opera House

- Destination: Sydney
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: View Sydney or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Get to know Australia's oldest and largest city on a guided tour. Begin by taking a seat in Mrs. Macquarie's Chair, a bench cut into a sandstone rock formation, for panoramic views of Sydney's harbor.

Then, continue on to the Opera House for a guided tour of this famous landmark. Opened in 1973 by Queen Elizabeth II, the Opera House is a now-classic example of architecture's innovative Postmodern movement—and its

design, engineering, and scope are modern marvels. The building contains 1,000 rooms and five theaters. More than two million visitors each year are entertained by over 3,000 performances.

Lunch: Depart for Sydney's iconic Bondi Beach where lunch is included.

Afternoon: Enjoy free time soaking in the sunshine on the beach.

Dinner: Included at your hotel.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 9 Sydney • The Rocks • Sydney Harbor Cruise • Opal conversation

- Destination: Sydney
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: View Sydney or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Start this morning by riding to the historic “Rocks” area for a walking tour. Overlooking Sydney's beautiful harbor, the delightful Rocks district of today bears little resemblance to its scandalous incarnation circa 1788. That's when colonial expatriates—primarily English convicts and their families—arrived on the scene and established a lively settlement in this prime location. For the next several decades, the neighborhood's picturesque location amidst sandstone outcroppings (the “rocks” alluded to in its nickname) belied its rough-and-tumble reputation.

However, what was once a bawdy warren of warehouses, taverns, and houses of ill repute is now one of Australia's most charming enclaves, with fine shopping and superb restaurants. As you explore the colorful, cobbled streets lined

with bistros and boutiques, your Program Director will regale you with tales of the Rocks' illustrious history.

Then, at Circular Quay, a hub of activity at the heart of Sydney's waterfront, you'll board a boat to set off on an included Sydney Harbor cruise, spotlighting the upper reaches of the beautiful Middle Harbor. More than two centuries ago, European settler Captain Phillip proclaimed this the finest natural harbor on Earth; you'll know what he meant as you pass countless sheltered coves, dotted with yachts and lined with elite homes.

Following your cruise, you'll visit a Sydney opal store, where you will participate in an **exclusive Discovery Series** conversation about the various types of opals in Australia and how they are produced. You'll then enjoy a special glimpse at the world's largest gem opal when the staff opens the safe to reveal the “Olympic Australis,” which weighs in at 17,000 carats.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: You have the remainder of the day to explore Sydney at your own pace.

Dinner: Dinner is on your own tonight—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 10 Sydney

- Destination: Sydney
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: View Sydney or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Begin your day of free time in Sydney by getting to know Australia's largest and oldest city better. Perhaps you'll use the time to discover attractions in and around sprawling Hyde Park, including St. Mary's Cathedral, the Great Synagogue, and the Australian Museum.

Lunch/Afternoon: Following lunch on your own, continue your independent explorations. You could visit the world-renowned Taronga Zoo. Or simply relax at one of Sydney's waterfront cafes, and enjoy the view of the sailboats dotting the harbor.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 11 Sydney • Te Anau, New Zealand

- Destination: Te Anau
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Distinction Luxmore Hotel Lake Te Anau or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Depart for the airport and fly to Queenstown.

Lunch: On your own at the airport or during your flight.

Afternoon: Upon arrival to Queenstown, transfer to Te Anau—the first stop on your tour of New Zealand. Located on the southwestern corner of the South Island, Te Anau is a small town nestled on the shores of Lake Te Anau, the South Island's largest lake. A part of the Fiordland region, Te Anau boasts a majestic backdrop of Mount Luxmore and the Murchison mountains, and is the closest town to Milford Sound.

Get to know your surroundings with an orientation walk.

Dinner: Included at your hotel.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 12 Te Anau • Milford Sound cruise • Optional Fiordland jet-boat ride

- Destination: Te Anau
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Distinction Luxmore Hotel Lake Te Anau or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Start the day off on a cruise of Milford Sound, hailed by Rudyard Kipling as the "Eighth Wonder of the World." Dense forests, shimmering Lake Te Anau, and a mountain pass known as the "Avenue of Disappearing Mountains" mark your route. Marvel at towering cliffs and the stunning cone of Mitre Peak. You'll see thundering waterfalls, impressive beech forests, and unique flora and fauna as you cruise along Milford Sound's famed fjords.

Lunch: Included onboard your cruise of Milford Sound.

Afternoon: Return to Te Anau, where the rest of the day is at leisure. Or, join an optional jet-boat tour on the Upper Waiau River. A New Zealand invention, the jet-boat takes in water and ejects it from the stern under great pressure to create the propulsion. It needs very little room to maneuver, making it capable of handling twisting channels with ease (not to mention impressive moves like 360-degree spins). With a skilled jet-boat driver at the controls, you'll fly through the river, taking

in the wilderness of Fiordland National Park, and visiting a few of the locations used in the filming of *The Lord of the Rings*.

Dinner: Included at a local restaurant in Te Anau.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 13 Te Anau • Arrowtown • Winery tour • Queenstown

- Destination: Queenstown
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Queenstown or similar

Activity Note: Motorcoach transfer to Arrowtown is approximately 2.5 hours long and will include a brief comfort stop in Garston.

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Check out of the hotel and transfer to Arrowtown. Upon arrival, embark on a guided coach and walking tour.

Lunch: Included at a local restaurant after your tour.

Afternoon: Enjoy free time. Perhaps you'll explore the main street of Arrowtown, which has been faithfully reconstructed with wooden buildings that evoke a bygone era. The town today contains some of the best shops in the country—selling popular products like jewelry, gold nuggets, jade, and woolen goods.

The population of Arrowtown grew to more than 7,000 during the Gold Rush, but has recently settled at around 2,000 residents. Walking around the town, you may mistake your surroundings for a Hollywood movie set—the deserted miners' cottages, historic wooden buildings, and old-time shops appear much as they did during the Gold Rush period.

After your free time, you'll visit a local winery, sampling vintages and learning about the wine-making process in New Zealand. The oldest existing vineyard here was established in 1851, although New Zealand has been producing wine since colonial times. Most of the vineyards are located near the coast, where the temperate climate allows the grapes to ripen slowly—retaining their vibrant and distinctive flavor.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner this evening at a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 14 Queenstown • Lake Wakatipu • Walter Peak Sheep Station

- Destination: Queenstown
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Queenstown or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Transfer to Queenstown's Wharf (either by foot or by vehicle, depending on the location of your hotel), where you'll board the TSS *Earnslaw*, a historic steamship that first launched in 1912. Cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Sheep Station for a guided farm tour.

Since Captain James Cook brought sheep to New Zealand in 1773, sheep farming has grown to be a mainstay of the country's economy. Today, New Zealand (with ten sheep for every person!) is the world's foremost producer of prized, strong wool. At Walter Peak, you'll learn about life on a Queenstown sheep farm, see sheepdogs run through their paces and watch a live sheep-shearing demonstration. To top off your visit, you'll enjoy a traditional English tea.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations in Queenstown.

Afternoon: You'll cruise back to Queenstown and transfer to your hotel in the afternoon. Spend the balance of your afternoon as you please. Even if you are not inclined to ski, boat, raft, bungee jump, hang glide, horseback ride, or sky dive, you can have fun watching these activities and appreciating the incredible scenery all around you.

Dinner: On your own tonight—ask your Program Director for local restaurant suggestions.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 15 Queenstown • Rotorua Rotorua • Optional Te Puia Dinner

- Destination: Rotorua
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the airport for your flight to New Zealand's North Island, which is scheduled to depart late this morning.

Lunch: Coffee and a light snack will be served on the flight. For a more substantial meal, you may wish to purchase food at the airport to enjoy as you travel.

Afternoon: Arriving in Rotorua, a small city known for its Maori culture and natural thermal pools, you'll check into your hotel and enjoy some time to unwind. Later, perhaps you'll join an optional excursion to Te Puia Cultural Center, featuring a visit to New Zealand's national carving and weaving schools; a tour

of natural geysers and thermal pools; and a traditional dinner with Maori storytelling and entertainment.

Dinner: On your own. Your Program Director can provide some dining options.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 16 Rotorua • Ohinemutu community visit

- Destination: Rotorua
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Sudima Hotel Lake Rotorua or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: On today's included tour, explore the city of Rotorua with your Program Director, and get to know this gem of New Zealand's North Island better. You'll start by learning more about the local Maori traditions during an **exclusive Discovery Series** event as you visit the Maori village of Ohinemutu.

Then, explore a Maori Church, as well as a hand-carved meetinghouse built on a *marae*, an ancient ceremonial site.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations. Later this afternoon we'll gather together and take the Skyline Gondola to the top of Mount Ngongotaha, where we'll have dinner.

Dinner: Enjoy a dinner buffet at Stratosfare while taking in panoramic views of Rotorua.

Evening: After dinner, we'll take the Gondola down the mountain and return to our hotel. You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 17 Rotorua • Auckland

- Destination: Auckland
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Sudima Auckland City Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Depart Rotorua for Auckland, where you'll continue your discoveries of New Zealand's North Island.

Lunch: Enjoy an included lunch en route.

Afternoon: Upon your arrival in Auckland, the "City of Sails," you'll find a waterfront spotted with ferryboats and sailboats of all sizes. Auckland Harbor hosted the exciting 2000 America's Cup Challenge, in which the Kiwis successfully defended their title against the American challengers. The downtown area is a great place to stroll and drop in on the street-level cafes.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 18 Auckland • Harbor cruise

- Destination: Auckland
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Sudima Auckland City Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Enjoy a memorable hands-on sailing experience aboard the 50-foot sailboat, *Pride of Auckland*. As you cruise, you'll gain a new perspective of Auckland Harbor, New Zealand's bustling commercial port.

After, you'll embark an included tour of the city, offering a closer look at such iconic sights as the Sky Tower, Auckland Harbor, and the America's Cup Village.

Lunch: On your own. You can take a stroll to mingle with locals and visitors alike at more than 20 restaurants and bars.

Afternoon: At your leisure. Perhaps you'll visit the Auckland War Memorial Museum or explore the Viaduct Basin, an entertainment area that was once home to the America's Cup. Or, try your luck at the Sky City Casino.

Dinner: Rejoin your fellow travelers at the hotel tonight for a Farewell Dinner.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 19 Return to U.S.

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Transfer to Auckland airport for your trip back to the U.S. Depending on your air itinerary, your route may include a connecting flight in another city. If you've chosen our new post-trip extension to Fiji, you'll fly to Nadi to begin your journey.

END YOUR TRIP WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

4 nights in *Fiji*

Day 1 Arrive Fiji

Day 2 Fiji • Fijian village experience

Day 3 Fiji

Day 4 Fiji • Kula Eco Park • Cooking lesson

Day 5 Fiji • Return to U.S.

OPTIONAL TOURS

During your trip you will be able to book optional tours directly with your Program Director. He or she will ask you to confirm the payment for these tours by filling out a payment form. Optional tours can only be purchased with a credit or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards. We also accept Visa and MasterCard debit cards, but it must be a debit card that allows you to sign for purchases. We do not accept American Express.

In order to correctly process these charges, there can be a delay of 2–3 months from the date of your return for the charges to be posted to your account. Therefore we ask that you use a card that will not expire in the 2–3 months following your return.

Please note: Optional tour prices include gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers, are listed in U.S. dollar estimates determined at the time of publication, and are subject to change. Optional tours may vary.

Great Barrier Reef Helicopter Ride

(Day 5 \$135 per person)

Fly above the waves and enjoy the sweeping panorama of the Great Barrier Reef aboard a helicopter. You'll soar for 10 minutes, taking in incredible views of the cerulean waters and colorful coral formations that make up this expansive aquatic wonder before rejoining your fellow travelers at sea level to participate in the activities of your included tour of the reef.

Hot-air Balloon Ride

(Day 5 \$300 per person)

Rise early this morning and float away from the city for a dawn balloon ride over the Queensland countryside. You'll fly gracefully above the wilderness of the Atherton Tablelands, a lush expanse of rain forests, lakes, mountains, and emerald fields, and marvel as the morning sun lifts the shroud of mist from the tropical tableau below.

Pamagirri Experience, Kuranda Village & Skyrail Tour

(Day 6 \$130 per person)

Ride to Rainforestation Nature Park, where you'll enjoy a Pamagirri Aboriginal dance performance which incorporates didgeridoos, showing you the techniques used to play this ancient instrument by imitating the noises of Australian animals. You'll also go on a Dreamtime walk where you can observe spear throwing and, after a demonstration and lesson, test your skills at throwing a boomerang. Then, you'll visit Kuranda, a picturesque village nestled in one of the planet's oldest rain forests, and board the Skyrail and glide above the pristine jungle canopy before returning to Cairns.

Fiordland jet-boat ride

(Day 12 \$105 per person)

A native New Zealand invention, the jet-boat takes in water and ejects it from the stern under great pressure to create the propulsion. It needs very little room to maneuver, making it capable of handling twisting channels with ease (not to mention impressive moves like

360-degree spins!). With a skilled jet-boat driver at the controls, you'll fly through the waters of the Upper Waiau River, discovering the breathtaking scenery of Fiordland National Park—including several locations used in the filming of *The Lord of the Rings*.

Te Puia Dinner

(Day 15 \$160 per person)

Located in an area of vast geothermal activity, Te Puia was a naturally formed fortress first occupied by the Maori people in 1325. Serving as New Zealand's first cultural tourism attraction, it now houses the Maori Arts & Crafts Institute and remains one of New Zealand's premier Maori cultural experiences. The native peoples of this region are known as the "tribe of hospitality," and they are famed for their performing arts. Tonight we'll join an exclusive guided tour of the center and discover many Maori legends and traditions. Afterward we enjoy a special dinner featuring a local specialty cooked in a *hangi* (underground oven). Then enjoy a performance of Maori song and dance during a Mai Ora celebration.

PRE-TRIP

Melbourne & the Outback

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » Air transportation from Melbourne to Alice Springs; and Ayers Rock to Cairns
- » **Accommodations** for 5 nights
- » **7 meals:** 5 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 1 dinner
- » **3 guided tours:** Melbourne, Alice Springs, Ayers Rock
- » **Gratuities** for local guides and motorcoach drivers on your extension and all optional tours
- » Exclusive services of a Grand Circle Program Director
- » All transfers
- » **Please note:** Travelers purchasing their own international flights will be responsible for additional internal flight costs.

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

The wonders of stylish Melbourne and the rugged Australian Outback await. Get to know Melbourne and its elegant English flavor through visits to sprawling gardens and bustling markets. In the Outback, delight in charming Alice Springs, and explore mystical Ayers Rock, the red sandstone monolith sacred to the Aboriginal people.

Day 1 Depart U.S.

You depart Los Angeles today and fly over the Pacific.

Day 2 Cross International Date Line

Crossing the International Dateline, you lose a day on the westbound crossing and gain it back on your return flight to the U.S.

Day 3 Melbourne, Australia

- Destination: Melbourne
- Included Meals: Dinner
- Accommodations: Victoria Hotel Melbourne or similar

Breakfast: On your flight or at the airport.

Morning: Arrive in Melbourne. Your Program Director will meet you at the airport and assist with the transfer to your hotel. Before checking in, join a brief orientation walk and get the lay of the land around your hotel's neighborhood.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: You'll have some free time to explore your surroundings and check in.

Dinner: Get to know your travel companions and Program Director during this evening's Welcome Dinner at the hotel.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 4 Melbourne

- Destination: Melbourne
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Victoria Hotel Melbourne or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Enjoy a tour of the sights of the city. See the Old Customs House and Town Hall. Pass by Parliament House and St. Patrick's Cathedral, and see the Shrine of Remembrance. Built between 1928 and 1934, the Shrine commemorates the 114,000 men and women of Victoria who served in World War I.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: You have the afternoon at leisure to explore Melbourne, the capital of Victoria and Australia's second-largest city. You might want to get a panoramic view of the city from the Eureka Tower Observation Deck, the highest public vantage point in the Southern Hemisphere.

Consider taking a tour of the Victorian Arts Center, the premier performing arts venue in the city, and visiting the National Gallery of Victoria, which houses world-class collections of Australian, Aboriginal, Asian, European, and pre-Columbian art. Or wander around Federation Square.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Trip Leader for recommendations.

Day 5 Melbourne • Fly to Alice Springs • Alice Springs tour

- Destination: Alice Springs
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Mercure Alice Springs Resort or similar

Activity Note: On select departures, the order of activities and hotel stays on your pre-trip extension may be reversed from this point forward; however, this will not impact the number of included features and meals. Also, depending on flight schedules, the visit to the Royal Flying Doctor Service may be moved to Day 6.

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Take an early flight from Melbourne to Alice Springs, with its frontier Outback atmosphere. For many, the Outback is synonymous with Australia. To Australians, it is known as the "Red Center" for the russet color of the soil and its location in the virtual geographic center of the country.

Begin your explorations with a visit to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which delivers emergency services and health care throughout the vast country. Continue to the School of the Air, the first of its kind in Australia. From this site, about 140 elementary-aged children, spread across one million square miles of the vast Australian interior, receive their lessons and education via computers, webcams, video, phone, and fax. Established in 1951, this unique school offers the only formal education (short of professional home tutors) for the children, who live on cattle stations and in other far-flung corners of the Outback.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: In the late afternoon, you can enjoy an included tour of the Old Telegraph Station. Set aside as a Historical Reserve, this is the area of original settlement in Alice Springs. Here the European settlers constructed the Overland Telegraph Line, a remarkable engineering feat that was the only form of modern communication in the Outback for 60 years.

Dinner: On your own tonight—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 6 Alice Springs • Desert Park optional tour

- Destination: Alice Springs
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Mercure Alice Springs Resort or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Enjoy a full day at leisure to explore the beauty of the Outback on your own.

Or, join an optional morning excursion to the foothills of the dramatic MacDonnell Ranges and Alice Springs Desert Park. Here, in three unique habitats, you'll experience the essence of Australia's beautiful and mysterious desert landscapes. Desert habitats comprise 70 percent of the continent, and Desert Park is home to more than 400 animals and 400 species of plants, including many rare and endangered species.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 7 Alice Springs • Transfer to Ayers Rock • Sunset visit to Ayers Rock

- Destination: Ayers Rock
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Desert Gardens Hotel or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Depart on your drive to Ayers Rock (Uluru, or “meeting place,” to the native Anangu people). You'll leave the MacDonnell Ranges, and drive through the starkly beautiful landscapes that most people imagine when they think of the Outback, stopping for an included lunch along the way.

Lunch: Enjoy an included lunch at Curtin Springs.

Afternoon: Depart for your hotel near Ayers Rock in mid-afternoon. Take some time to settle in, and later in the afternoon, experience a Champagne toast at Ayers Rock as the sunset bathes the red clay. You'll see why this is a sacred place to the Aboriginals, who believe the rock has mystical powers.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 8 Ayers Rock • Fly to Cairns, Australia

- Destination: Cairns
- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Discover the soaring rock domes of Kata Tjuta before you leave the Outback.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: In the afternoon, you'll fly to Cairns and transfer to your hotel, where you'll meet up with the rest of the group on your *Australia & New Zealand* vacation.

OPTIONAL TOUR

Desert Park

(Day 6 \$65 per person)

Join an optional morning excursion to the foothills of the dramatic MacDonnell Ranges and Alice Springs Desert Park. Here, in three unique habitats, you'll experience the essence of Australia's beautiful and mysterious desert landscapes. Desert habitats comprise 70 percent of the continent, and Desert Park is home to more than 400 animals and 400 species of plants, including many rare and endangered species. *Please note: This optional tour requires a minimum of 10 participants to operate.*

This optional tour requires a minimum of 10 participants to operate.

POST-TRIP

Fiji

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » Air transportation from Auckland to Nadi
- » **Accommodations** for 4 nights
- » **7 meals:** 4 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 2 dinners
- » **3 guided tours:** Fijian village experience, Kula Eco Park
- » **Exclusive Discovery Series event:** Cooking lesson
- » **Gratuities** for local guides and motorcoach drivers on your extension and all optional tours
- » Exclusive services of a Grand Circle Program Director
- » All transfers

***Please note:** Travelers purchasing their own international flights will be responsible for additional internal flight costs.*

POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Discover another sun-kissed South Pacific nation on this post-trip extension to Fiji. Absorb the laid-back energy of this island paradise as you wander on fine-sand beaches and visit local villages to meet with native Fijians and see where they live, work, and play. You'll also have the opportunity to learn about the exotic wildlife that call Fiji home during a memorable visit to an ecological preserve.

Day 1 Arrive Fiji

- Included Meals: Dinner
- Accommodations: Shangri-La's Fijian Resort or similar

Morning: Today, transfer to the airport for your flight to Fiji.

Afternoon: After touching down in Nadi (pronounced NAN-di), Fiji, you'll enjoy tropical scenery and your first glimpse of island life during your overland transfer to your hotel on Viti Levu.

Fiji's beaches are lovely, but it's the culture here that truly intrigues. The Fijians have Melanesian origins, but have adapted to Polynesian traditions as well: manufacturing *tapu* cloth from paper mulberry, mat-weaving,

and wood-carving, as well as music, dance and ritual customs. In addition, part of the population is Indian, brought in to work the sugar plantations. The mix and mingle of peoples and cultures creates a fascinating fabric of life. The dense tropical nature of these islands adds depth—literally and figuratively.

Once you arrive, you'll gather at the hotel for an orientation briefing to familiarize you with the hotel and its environs.

Dinner: Gather with fellow travelers for an included dinner at your hotel.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 2 Fiji • Fijian village experience

- Destination: Fiji
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Shangri-La's Fijian Resort or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Begin a day of discovery that will surely draw you closer to the Fijian way of life. Tour a typical Fijian market with your Program Director and a local guide. Then get a glimpse of Fijian daily life with a visit to Nayawa, a local village. A village representative will meet you when you arrive and lead you to the community hall. You'll experience a traditional welcome, including a taste of the ceremonial drink *kava*. This is the traditional sacramental brew of Polynesia, made from the root of the kava plant, a member of the pepper family, and you'll gain an understanding of the drink's important role in Fijian life.

Elsewhere in the village, you'll see how important the coconut palm is to Fijians, who call it "the tree of life."

Lunch: After your explorations, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Dinner: Dinner is on your own tonight—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 3 Fiji

- Destination: Fiji
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Shangri-La's Fijian Resort or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Today is yours to make your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Or, you can choose to join us on an optional full-day tour of Tivua Island, a sandy enclave surrounded by nearly 500 acres of spectacular coral reefs. You'll sail aboard either a majestic tall ship or a sleek catamaran, and spend a day of paradise on this remote island upon arrival. You can search for local marine life on a snorkeling expedition or aboard a glass-bottom boat, or simply relax and soak in the peaceful island rhythm.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations. Or, if you've chosen to join our optional tour, you'll enjoy a barbecue lunch on the island.

Afternoon: Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations. Those on the optional tour will rejoin the rest of the group.

Dinner: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 4 Fiji • Kula Eco Park • Cooking lesson

- Destination: Fiji
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Shangri-La's Fijian Resort or similar

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Visit fascinating Kula Eco Park. Home to just one naturally occurring land mammal (the Flying Fox, or fruit bat), Fiji boasts a dazzling variety of reptile, bird, and insect species. Kula Eco Park is dedicated to the preservation of Fiji's wildlife, which has been threatened by pollution, deforestation, and the introduction of non-endemic species. You'll see wildlife in its natural habitat, thanks to walk-through aviaries and a wooden walkway through forest vegetation. Plus, you'll have the exclusive chance to ask questions of the experts with behind-the-scenes looks at the incubation center, and more.

Afternoon: You'll get a lesson in traditional Fijian cuisine during a Discovery Series cooking demonstration. An expert local chef will show you how to prepare *kokoda*, a Fijian variant

of ceviche, or raw fish "cooked" in citrus juice. The special ingredient of Fijian *kokoda* is coconut milk, and you'll see how it's used during your lesson.

Lunch: After your cooking lesson, you're free to have lunch on your own—ask your program Director for recommendations.

Dinner: Join your fellow travelers at your hotel for a Farewell Dinner.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Day 5 Fiji • Return to U.S.

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At your hotel.

Morning: Free for your own discoveries—ask your Program Director for recommendations.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Program Director for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

OPTIONAL TOUR

Tivua Island Cruise

(Day 3 \$140 per person)

Set sail for a remote island paradise on this full-day optional tour. Soak in the peaceful rhythm of island life on this sandy enclave surrounded by nearly 500 acres of spectacular coral reefs. You might choose to seek out exotic marine life on a snorkeling expedition or aboard a glass-bottom boat, or just relax on the pristine beach. Your optional tour includes a barbecue lunch on the island.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Your Passport

- Must be in good condition
- Must be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S.
- Must have the required number of blank pages (details below)
- The blank pages must be labeled “Visas” at the top. Pages labeled “Amendments and Endorsements” are not acceptable

Need to Renew Your Passport?

Contact the National Passport Information Center (NPIC) at **1-877-487-2778**, or visit the U.S. Department of State’s official website at **www.travel.state.gov** for information on obtaining a new passport or renewing your existing passport. The U.S. Department of State allows for passport renewal by mail or, for applicable citizens, renewal online. We advise you review the process and requirements for online passport renewal on the official website.

You may also contact our recommended visa service company, PVS International, at **1-800-556-9990** for help with your passport.

Recommended Blank Pages

Please confirm that your passport has enough blank pages for this vacation.

- **Main trip only:** You will need 3 blank passport pages
- **Pre-trip extension in the Outback:** No additional pages needed.
- **Post-trip extension in Fiji:** You will need an additional passport page, for a total of 4.
- **Both the pre- and post-trip extensions:** You will need 4 blank passport pages total

Visas Required

We’ll be sending you a detailed Visa Packet with instructions, application forms, and fees about 100 days prior to your departure. In the meantime, we’re providing the information below as a guideline on what to expect. *This info is for U.S. citizens only. All visas and fees are subject to change.*

- **New Zealand: A New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA) is required.** Note that this is a digital process only—you must apply online or via an app (we will send instructions), and you will not receive a visa sticker in your passport. In addition, all travelers should bring an extra copy of their air itinerary on the trip in case local officials ask for it at Passport Control.

- **Australia (base and pre-trip extensions): An Australian Electronic Authority (ETA) is required.** You must obtain the ETA via the Australian government's app, Australian ETA. This app is available for download on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Note that this is a digital process only and you will not receive a label or sticker in your passport. In addition, all travelers should bring an extra copy of their air itinerary on the trip in case local officials ask for it at Passport Control.
- **Fiji: No visa required.** U.S. citizens do not need a visa if their stay is four months or less.

Traveling Without a U.S. Passport?

If you are not a U.S. citizen, or if your passport is from any country other than the U.S., it is your responsibility to check with your local consulate, embassy, or a visa services company about visa requirements. We recommend the services of PVS International, a national visa service located in Washington D.C.; they can be reached at **1-800-556-9990** or **www.pvsinternational.org**.

Traveling With a Minor?

Traveling with a minor may require certain documentation for border crossings. For further detail on the required documentation, please contact the local embassy or state government.

Emergency Photocopies of Key Documents

We recommend you carry color photocopies of key documents including the photo page of your passport plus any applicable visas, air itinerary, credit cards (front and back), and an alternative form of ID. Add emergency phone numbers like your credit card company and the number for your travel protection plan. Store copies separate from the originals.

If you plan to email this information to yourself, please keep in mind that email is not always secure; consider using password protection or encryption. Also email is not always available worldwide. As an alternative, you could load these documents onto a flash drive instead, which can do double-duty as a place to backup photos during your trip.

Overseas Taxes & Fees

This tour may have taxes and fees that cannot be included in your airline ticket price because you are required to pay them in person onsite. All taxes are subject to change without notice and can be paid in cash (either U.S. or local currency).

Flight Itinerary for Entry to New Zealand

You will need to bring an extra copy of your flight itinerary for New Zealand in case local officials ask for it at Passport Control.

- **If you purchased airfare as part of your trip**, we will give you an extra copy of your flight itinerary in your Final Documents booklet for this purpose.
- **If you made your own international air arrangements**, you'll need to bring your own copy of your air itinerary and ticket numbers with you on the trip.

RIGORS, VACCINES & GENERAL HEALTH

Keep Your Abilities In Mind

Please review the information below prior to departing on this trip. We reserve the right for our Program Directors to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home if their limitations are impacting the group's experience.

GROUP SIZE

- A maximum of 42 travelers, led by a local Grand Circle Program Director

PACING

- 6 locations in 17 days
- 3 internal flights of 3-4 hours each
- Air travel time will be 19-27 hours and will most likely have two connections

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Walk 1-2 miles unassisted and participate in 4-5 hours of physical activities daily, including stairs
- Balance and agility are required to board watercraft. Not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs or scooters
- Travelers using walkers, crutches, or other mobility aids must travel with a companion who can assist them
- We reserve the right for Program Directors to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience
- You may encounter animals on this trip. We make every effort to keep these encounters safe, however animals may behave unpredictably or dangerously at times. Please use caution when interacting with animals on this trip: Keep a safe distance, stay alert, and respect the animals

TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- Uneven walking surfaces, including unpaved paths, hills, stairs, and cobblestones
- Travel by 45-seat motorcoach, 36-seat boat, high-speed catamaran, gondola, water taxi, steamship, jet-boat, 280-seat boat, and sailboat

CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures range from 60-88°F during touring season
- December through March are the warmest months

Health Check

Feeling healthy and confident of your mobility is essential to fully enjoy your trip. If you have ongoing medical conditions or concerns about your health, we highly recommend that you schedule a checkup with your personal physician at least six weeks in advance of your departure date.

- Discuss with your doctor any aspects of your itinerary that may affect your health and be guided by his or her advice. (You can use the “Keep Your Abilities in Mind” on the previous page as a guideline to discuss with him or her.)
- You may want to have a dental exam before your trip. A loose filling or developing cavity would be difficult to remedy while you are traveling.
- If you have a condition that requires special equipment or treatment, you must bring and be responsible for all necessary items related to your condition.

No Vaccines Required

Recommended Vaccines

Please note, New Zealand’s Ministry of Health is currently advising those with travel plans to Auckland to make sure they have been vaccinated against measles prior to commencing travel (although this is not a requirement for entry). You very likely have already had this vaccine in the past, but we recommend confirming this with your doctor. Should your doctor recommend you get the vaccine, please be aware that it takes two weeks to become effective.

Traveling with Medications

- **Pack medications in your carry-on bag** to avoid loss and to have them handy.
- **Keep medicines in their original, labeled containers** for a quicker security screen at the airport and a better experience if you get stopped by customs while overseas.
- **Bring copies of your prescriptions**, written using the generic drug name rather than a brand name to be prepared for any unforeseen loss of your medications.

We recommend checking with the State Department for medication restrictions by country: **travel.state.gov** (Select “Find International Travel Information” then select “Country Information”; if you don’t see any medications specifically mentioned under the “Your Health Abroad” section, then you can presume major U.S. brands should be OK).

Staying Healthy on Your Trip

Jet Lag Tips

- Start your trip well-rested.

- Begin a gradual transition to your new time zone before you leave or switch to your destination time zone when you get on the plane.
- Attempt to sleep and eat according to the new schedule.
- Avoid heavy eating and drinking caffeine or alcoholic beverages right before—and during—your flight.
- Drink plenty of water and/or fruit juice while flying
- Stretch your legs, neck, and back periodically while seated on the plane.
- After arrival, avoid the temptation to nap.
- Don't push yourself to see a lot on your first day.
- Try to stay awake your first day until after dinner.

Allergies

If you have any serious allergies or dietary restrictions, we advise you to notify us at least 30 days prior to your departure. Please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-321-2835**, and we will communicate them to our regional office. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.

Water

- Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji are healthy places, but it still pays to take care in what you eat and drink.
- Tap water is safe to drink but always beware of natural stream water. (Note that In Fiji tap water can sometime taste “off” due to the way it is processed, so you might prefer bottled water.)
- Take a bottle of water with you on outdoor excursions to stay hydrated. To limit waste, we suggest bringing your own reuseable bottle.

Food

- Food in Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji should not really cause any health problems—salads, fruit, and dairy products are fine.
- Be careful with food that has been cooked and left to go cold, which might happen in some self-service places.

Sun Exposure & Insects

The sun is stronger in the South Pacific than it is in most of the U.S., so the effect of intense sunlight is an important health consideration. Be prepared with sunblock (SPF 50 or higher), sunglasses, a hat or other head covering, and lightweight loose-fitting clothing for covering up even when it is warm.

Using insect repellent is advisable while you are out in the bush during the warmer months (November through April), especially in tropical northern Australia, or in southern New Zealand. Also, a head net is advisable for Ayers Rock in the summer due to the number of flies; this can be purchased in Australia or brought from home.

MONEY MATTERS: LOCAL CURRENCY & TIPPING GUIDELINES

Top Three Tips

- **Carry a mix of different types of payments**, such as local currency, an ATM card, and a credit card.
- **Traveler's checks are not recommended.** They can be difficult to exchange and are rarely accepted in shops and restaurants.
- **You will not be able to pay with U.S. dollars on this trip;** you will need local currency.

Local Currency

For current exchange rates, please refer to an online converter tool like www.xe.com/currencyconverter, your bank, or the financial section of your newspaper.

Australia: Australian Dollar (AUD)

New Zealand: New Zealand Dollar (NZD)

Fiji: Fijian Dollar (FJ\$)

How to Exchange Money

If you want to exchange money before your trip, you can usually do so through your bank or at an exchange office. Your departure airport in the U.S., a travel agent, or an AAA office are also possible outlets. Or you can wait and change money on the trip instead—but it might be helpful to arrive with some local currency in case you run into a bank holiday or an “out of order” ATM.

On your trip, the easiest way is to withdraw funds from a local ATM. The ATM will give you local money and your bank at home will convert that into U.S. dollars.

You can also exchange cash at some hotels, large post offices, and money exchange offices. To exchange cash, you'll usually need your passport and bills in good condition (not worn, torn, or dirty). New bills (post 2004) are best. Never exchange money on the street. All exchange methods involve fees, which may be built into the conversion rate; ask beforehand.

ATMs

When using the ATM, keep in mind that it may only accept cards from local banks, and may not allow cash advances on credit cards; you might need to try more than one ATM or more than one card. Many banks will charge a set fee or a percentage fee each time you use a foreign ATM. We recommend that you check with your bank before you depart. Don't forget to memorize the actual digits of your card's PIN number (many keypads at foreign ATMs do not include letters on their keys—they only display numbers.)

In most countries, ATMs are widely available in major cities. If you are in a rural location, it will likely be harder to find an ATM. If you are visiting a country that has different expectation for ATMs, they will be listed below.

Australia: ATMs are widely available throughout large cities and small towns in Australia.

New Zealand: ATMs are widely available throughout large cities and small towns in New Zealand.

Fiji: ATMs are widely available throughout large cities in Fiji, but we recommend that you bring some cash to cover expenses when visiting rural areas.

Credit & Debit Cards

While traveling, most countries and major cities will accept credit cards. We suggest that you bring one or two, especially if you are planning a large purchase (artwork, jewelry). We also suggest that you bring more than one brand of card (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, American Express) if possible, as not all are accepted around the world. If you are visiting a country that does not commonly accept credit cards, they will be listed below.

Australia: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted throughout Australia. Some establishments may charge additional fees for credit card payments. Australian shops and banks use PIN-based and Tap and Go credit card systems. You may be able to authorize a payment by signature if your card was issued by an overseas provider, but this is becoming rare. A PIN is usually required so keeping varied payment options available makes sense.

New Zealand: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted throughout New Zealand, though American Express and Diners Club may be more limited than some of the other majors credit card providers (such as MasterCard or Visa). Some hotels may charge additional fees for credit card payments on supplementary charges (such as bar bills, room service, etc.). New Zealand shops and banks use a PIN-based credit card systems. Depending on your credit card provider, you may or may not need a PIN to use your card. Please consult your credit card provider for more details.

Fiji: Credit and debit cards are widely accepted throughout Fiji. Some hotels may charge additional fees for credit card payments on supplementary charges (such as bar bills, room service, etc.). Shops and banks in Fiji are moving to PIN-based credit card systems. You should still be able to authorize a payment by signature if your card was issued by an overseas provider. However, a PIN may be required in some instances, depending on the payment terminal and bank. Keeping varied payment options available makes sense.

Notify Card Providers of Upcoming Travel

Many credit card companies and banks have fraud alert departments that will freeze your card if they see suspicious charges—such as charges or withdrawals from another country. To avoid an accidental security block, it is a good idea to notify your credit card company and/or bank you will be using your cards abroad. You can do this by calling their customer service number a week or two before your departure. Some banks or credit card companies will also let you do this online.

You should also double-check what phone number you could call if you have a problem with a card while you are abroad. Don't assume you can use the 1-800 number printed on the back of your card—most 1 800 numbers don't work outside of the U.S.!

Tipping Guidelines

Of course, whether you tip, and how much, is always at your own discretion. But for those of you who have asked for tipping suggestions, we offer these guidelines. To make it easy for you to budget, we have quoted the amounts in U.S. dollars; tips can be converted and paid in local currency or in U.S. dollars.

- **Grand Circle Program Director:** It is customary to express a personal “thank you” to your GCT Program Director at the end of your trip. As a guideline, many travelers give \$7–\$10 per traveler for each day their Program Director is with them. *Please note that tips for your Program Director can only be in the form of cash. If you are taking any of the optional extensions, your Program Director during the extension(s) may not be the same as the one on your main trip.*
- **Hotel Housekeeping:** It is not common practice to tip hotel housekeeping in Australia or New Zealand.
- **Included in Your Trip Price:** Gratuities are included for local guides and motorcoach drivers on your main trip, extensions, and all optional tours.

Time at Leisure

When you are exploring on your own, it's useful to know when to tip and how much, because local customs often differ from the U.S. Here are a few helpful guidelines for the most common services a traveler might use:

- **Taxis:** Tipping is not customary, but many locals will round up the fare and let the driver keep the change.
- **Restaurants, cafes, and bars:** Restaurants do not generally add a service charge. It is common practice in Australia to tip approximately 10% of the bill for good service. In New Zealand, it is not customary to tip but you may choose to leave a 10% tip if you have outstanding service.

AIR, OPTIONAL TOURS & STAYING IN TOUCH

Land Only Travelers & Customized Air

Quick Definitions

- **Land Only:** You will be booking your own international flights. Airport transfers are not included.
- **Air-Inclusive:** You booked international air with us. Airport transfers are included as long as you didn't customize your trip's dates (see next bullet).
- **Customized Air:** You booked international air with us, and have customized it in some way. If you have customized your trip's dates to arrive early, stay longer, or stop on your own in a connecting city, airport transfers will NOT be included. You must also arrange your own accommodations for any additional nights. For your convenience, a preliminary list of your included hotels is available on your My Planner at www.gct.com/myplanner under "My Reservations".

Air Inclusive Travelers

If you have purchased air with Grand Circle Travel, there are some points that may be helpful for you to know.

- **Arrival:** Once you arrive, you'll need to collect your luggage and clear customs. A Grand Circle Representative will meet you outside of customs and assist you with your transfer to the hotel or ship. Important note on porters: Airport porters are NOT allowed in the baggage claim area. On arrival, you must take your luggage off the baggage carousel and load it onto a cart, which you will then move through customs. When you exit customs, you'll handle your cart until reaching your transfer vehicle. Your driver will load your luggage into the transfer vehicle.
- **Flight Delays:** Grand Circle Travel is not responsible for flight delays or cancellations. In the unfortunate circumstance that your flight is delayed or changed, please try to reach the regional Grand Circle office (their number will be in your Final Documents) in order to make new arrangements for your transfer. Due to airline regulations our staff is not notified of flight rerouting, and our local representative won't necessarily be aware of your new arrival time. In these cases you will need to arrange your transfer by taxi to your hotel.
- **Flying with a Travel Companion:** If you're traveling with a companion from a different household, and both of you are beginning and ending your trip at the same airport on the same dates, let us know you'd like to travel together and we'll make every effort to arrange this (please note, however, that this is not always possible). If you request any changes to your flights, please be sure that both you and your companion tell us that you still want to fly together.

- **Selecting Your Seats:** If your airline allows pre-assigned seats, you will be able to select and view them directly from the airline's website after booking. Some airlines will not allow seat confirmation until your reservation is ticketed 45–30 days prior to departure, and/or they may charge a nominal fee. You may locate your itinerary on an airline's website utilizing the Record Locator Number found on the Air Itinerary in your My Planner.

Airport Transfers Can Be Purchased

For eligible flights, airport transfers may be purchased separately as an optional add-on, subject to availability. To be eligible, your flight(s) must meet the following requirements:

- You must fly into or fly home from the same airport as GCT travelers who purchased included airfare.
- Your flight(s) must arrive/depart on the same day that the group arrives or departs.

Airport transfers can be purchased up to 45 days prior to your departure; they are not available for purchase onsite. To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-321-2835**.

If you don't meet the requirements above, you'll need to make your own transfer arrangements. We suggest the Rome to Rio website as a handy resource: **www.rome2rio.com**

Optional Tours

Optional tours are additional add-on tours that allow you to personalize your vacation by tailoring it to your tastes and needs. And if you decide not to join an optional tour? Then you'll have free time to relax or explore on your own—it's about options, not obligations.

What You Need to Know

- All optional tours are subject to change and availability.
- Optional tours that are reserved with your Program Director can be paid for using credit/debit cards only. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards; we can also take MasterCard or Visa debit cards as long as the card allows you to sign for purchases. (You won't be able to enter a PIN.)
- To ensure that you are charged in U.S. dollars, your payment will be processed by our U.S. headquarters in Boston. This process can take up to three months, so we ask that you only use a card that will still be valid three months after your trip is over. The charge may appear on your credit card statement as being from Boston, MA or may be labeled as "OPT Boston".
- Your Program Director will give you details on the optional tours while you're on the trip. But if you'd like to look over descriptions of them earlier, you can do so at any time by referring to your Day-to-Day Itinerary (available online by signing into My Planner at **www.gct.com/myplanner**).

Communicating with Home from Abroad

Cell Phones

If you want to use your cell phone on the trip, check with your phone provider to see if your phone and service will work outside of the U.S. It may turn out to be cheaper to rent an international phone or buy a SIM card onsite. If you want to use a local SIM, just make certain your phone can accept one.

Calling Apps

We recommend you use WhatsApp while abroad to communicate home and with your Program Director while onsite. You will need a Wi-Fi connection if you do not have international coverage. Other calling options include smartphone apps such as Skype or FaceTime. You will need a Wi-Fi connection for these apps and the calls may count towards your phone plan's data allowance. Many smartphones—and some tablets or laptops—come with one of these apps pre-installed or you can download them for free from the appropriate apps store.

Calling Cards and 1-800 Numbers

When calling the U.S. from a foreign country, a prepaid calling card can be useful because it circumvents unexpected charges from the hotel. Calling cards purchased locally are typically the best (less expensive, more likely to work with the local phones, etc.).

One reminder: Do not call U.S. 1-800 numbers outside the continental United States. This can result in costly long distance fees, since 1-800 numbers do not work outside the country.

Internet

Australia and New Zealand aren't as well set up with wireless hotspots as you might expect, and when you do find them, they tend to be expensive. Most hotels in Australia and New Zealand charge daily 24-hour rates for Internet connection, which average approx \$20-25 AUD or NZD for 24 hours. This is slowly changing in some hotels, which are now offering the first 30 minutes free, and then charging after that. Keep in mind that many places limit the amount of usage, even if you pay extra for internet access, so you may not be able to stream videos or other high-usage content.

Outside of the hotels, free hotspots are starting to catch on; chains such as McDonalds now have them available throughout both countries, as do some airports. Or you could look for an Internet Café. They are easy to find and charge around \$3-6 per hour. Many cafes are equipped with webcams and headsets to make Skype calls, and many also let you download photos from your digital camera.

In Fiji, wireless Internet service is fairly common in hotels in Nadi, but not out in the countryside. Hotels that do have Wifi may charge for the service; if so, the average fee ranges from \$3-\$10 per hour.

How to Call Overseas

When calling overseas from the U.S., dial 011 for international exchange, then the country code (indicated by a plus sign: +), and then the number. Note that foreign phone numbers may not have the same number of digits as U.S. numbers; even within a country the number of digits can vary depending on the city and if the phone is a land line or cell phone.

Australia: +61

Fiji: +679

New Zealand: +64

PACKING: WHAT TO BRING & LUGGAGE LIMITS

Luggage Limits

MAIN TRIP LIMITS	
Pieces per person	One checked bag and one carry-on per person.
Weight restrictions	Varies by airline. The current standard is 50 lbs for checked bags and 15 lbs for carry-ons .
Size Restrictions	Varies by airline. Measured in linear inches (<i>length+width+depth</i>). Generally, 62 linear inches is the checked bag limit; carry-on limit is 45 linear inches . <i>These sizes are OK if the weight limit is followed.</i>
Luggage Type	A hard-sided suitcase is preferred.
TRIP EXTENSION(S) LIMITS	
Same as main trip.	

REMARKS/SUGGESTIONS

Details on size restriction: Some of Australia's domestic airlines have size restrictions on suitcases as well as weight limits. For example, both Qantas Airlines and Virgin Australia state that your suitcase should not be more 54 linear inches total. This is a bit smaller than the largest suitcase most U.S. airlines allow (62 linear inches). In practice, this size restriction is rarely enforced as long as you do not go over the weight limit. Therefore, you can bring a U.S.-sized suitcase on this tour, but if you do so, we strongly recommend that you stay within the weight limit.

TIP from our regional office: Our staff in the South Pacific have found that the airlines in Australia and New Zealand can be surprisingly strict about enforcing weight limits. There have been incidences of travelers being asked to re-pack their suitcase at the airport. While you might be able "to get away with" more, we encourage you to stay within the limit whenever possible.

One suitcase and one carry-on bag per person: Due to the space limitations on bus transfers, you'll be restricted to one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person. This is to ensure that we have room for everyone's luggage. We ask that you abide by this limit to avoid inconveniencing your fellow travelers and prevent additional airlines luggage fees (which are your responsibility). Most airlines now charge to check more than one suitcase per person for international flights.

Luggage rules: Luggage rules and limits are set by governmental and airline policy. Enforcement of the rules may include spot checks or may be inconsistent. However one thing is the same across the board: If you are found to have oversized or overweight luggage, you will be subject to additional fees, to be assessed by—and paid to—the airline in question.

Don't Forget:

- **These luggage limits may change.** If the airline(s) notify us of any changes, we will include an update in your Final Documents booklet.
- It's a good idea to reconfirm baggage restrictions and fees directly with the airline a week or so prior to departure. For your convenience, we maintain a list of the toll-free numbers for the most common airlines on our website in the FAQ section.
- **Baggage fees are not included in your trip price;** they are payable directly to the airlines.
- The luggage limits above are based on your regional flights, which may be less than your international flights. Even if your international airline offers a larger weight limit, you will need to pack according to the lower restrictions.

Your Luggage

- **Checked Luggage:** One hard-sided suitcase. Look for one with wrap-around handles, built-in wheels, and a heavy duty lockable zipper. Porterage at the Cairns airport and hotels is provided for one bag per person. All bags should have luggage tags. Please note that all

other airports used on this itinerary do not allow us to provide portage service and you will be required to take your luggage from the luggage carousel to the awaiting coach. Carts will be provided where available.

- **Carry-on Bag:** You are allowed one carry-on bag per person. We suggest a tote or small backpack that can be used as both a carry-on bag for your flight and to carry your daily necessities—water bottle, camera, etc—during your daily activities.
- **Locks:** For flights that originate in the U.S., you can either use a TSA-approved lock or leave your luggage unlocked. Outside of the U.S. we strongly recommend locking your luggage as a theft-prevention measure.

Clothing Suggestions: Functional Tips

- **Travel light:** A good rule of thumb is to gather together everything you want to bring; then take half of that. Eliminate all but the essentials and start packing a few days before you leave. That way, you'll have time to think—not fret—about what you might be forgetting. To have a varied travel wardrobe, yet keep your luggage light, we recommend you select a color scheme and pack color-coordinated clothing items that can be mixed to create different outfits.
- **Consider clothing designed for travel, sports, or camping:** With modern fabrics, lightweight packing for comfort and protection through a wide range of weather is easy. A visit to any online or local sporting goods/outdoor stores (L.L. Bean, REI, EMS, etc.) will yield a treasure trove of lightweight, specialized, and fashionable clothing and gear that is readily adaptable to your itinerary.
- **Pack casual clothes:** In today's age of informality, comfortable and informal apparel is perfectly acceptable at each of your destinations. Basic pants, shirts, walking shorts, sportswear, everyday dresses/skirts, supportive shoes, and functional outdoor clothes that are relatively easy to care for are recommended. Men do not need jackets or ties and women do not need fancy dresses.
- **Clothes for mild weather:** For the temperate climate at each of your Australian destinations, pack lightweight, drip-dry clothing made of breathable fabric, such as cotton, cotton knits, or Dacron/cotton. The latter two material blends dry very quickly after washing and stay comparatively wrinkle-free. Evenings can be cool and may require a sweater or jacket. You can select an outer layer from the cold-weather gear that you need to bring for New Zealand's South Island, as outlined in the next paragraph.
- **Warm clothes for the year-round volatile weather on South Island, New Zealand:** "Be prepared" is the best maxim for travel to the South Island, where every kind of weather imaginable is possible—all within one day! Cold, wet weather is especially apt to occur near the island's southern Alps, where there may even be some snow. Winter lasts from May through September, but all the elements of that season—ice, hail, snow, sleet—can happen any time of year. An insulated jacket with hood (preferably waterproof), fleece pullover or wool sweater, gloves, and waterproof shoes are recommended for your comfort. Your outer

jacket should be roomy enough to comfortably fit over your sweater or fleece top. Since spurts of very warm weather are equally common, dress in layers so you can easily adjust to any sudden temperature shifts.

- **Comfortable, supportive walking shoes are an absolute must!** In addition, sneakers or casual shoes are fine for dinner and evening activities.
- **Sports attire:** Don't forget your swimsuit and exercise clothing if you plan on these activities.

What to Bring

We have included suggestions from Program Directors and former travelers to help you pack. These packing lists are only jumping-off points—they offer recommendations based on experience, but not requirements. We recommend using www.weather.com and consulting the “Climate” chapter of this handbook.

Your accommodations will supply soap, body wash, and shampoo/conditioner. If you prefer a certain brand you may want to bring your own, but otherwise you can rely on what they provide. **And don't forget a reusable water bottle**—you'll need it to take advantage of any refills we offer as we are working to eliminate single-use plastic bottles on all of our trips.

Custom's regulations prohibit some foods: Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji impose very strict regulations on the importation of food. Visitors must declare all food products at customs upon arrival and, as a general rule, are not allowed to bring dairy products (including cheese and foods containing powdered milk), fruit, crackers, meat, flowers, etc. For further details, please contact the Australian Customs Service: telephone from the U. S.: **011-612-6275-6666**; on the web: **www.customs.gov.au**. (Your Program Director can advise you on New Zealand and Fiji during the trip.)

Recommended Clothing

- ☐ Shirts: A mixture of short and long-sleeved shirts in a breathable fabric, like cotton or cotton-blend. Polo shirts are more versatile than T-shirts.
- ☐ Trousers and/or jeans: Comfortable and loose fitting is best.
- ☐ Include one or two changes of smart casual clothing for restaurant dining
- ☐ Walking shorts for summer (summer in the Southern hemisphere is winter in the U.S)
- ☐ Shoes and socks: Comfortable walking/running shoes and/or water resistant shoes
- ☐ Wide-brim sun hat or visor for sun protection
- ☐ Warm rain jacket or lined windbreaker with hood
- ☐ Light cotton or wool sweater, as motor coach air conditioning can be cold

- ☐ Warm clothing for the South Island – see “Functional Tips” for details
- ☐ Underwear and sleepwear
- ☐ Swimsuit

Essential Items

- ☐ Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, etc. Our hotels will provide the basics like soap and shampoo, but if you are sensitive to fragrances or new products, you may wish to bring your preferred brands.
- ☐ Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Sunscreen, SPF 50 or stronger
- ☐ Insect repellent with DEET (35% strength) – can also be purchased in Australia or New Zealand
- ☐ Light folding umbrella
- ☐ Moisturizer and sun-blocking lip balm
- ☐ Pocket-size tissues
- ☐ Moist towelettes and/or anti-bacterial hand cleanser
- ☐ Electrical transformer & plug adapters
- ☐ Camera gear with extra batteries or battery charger
- ☐ Fly net for Alice Springs (this can also be purchased in Australia)

Medicines & First Aid Gear

- ☐ Your own prescription medicines
- ☐ Travel first aid kit: Band-Aids, headache and pain relief, laxatives and anti-diarrhea tablets, something for upset stomach. Maybe a cold remedy, moleskin foot pads, antibiotic cream, or allergy medication.
- ☐ An antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness
- ☐ Optional: A strong prescription pain medication for rare emergency purposes

Optional Gear

- ☐ Travel alarm clock
- ☐ Lightweight binoculars (essential if birding)
- ☐ Hanging toiletry bag
- ☐ Hand-wash laundry soap and possibly plastic hang-up clothespins
- ☐ Reading materials
- ☐ Travel journal/note pad and pens
- ☐ Home address book
- ☐ Small gift for Home-Hosted visit
- ☐ Calculator for currency conversion
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Travel-size hair dryer: Many hotels will provide hair dryers, but not all.

TIP: *If you forget something, or run out of space, many of the basics listed above—daily toiletries, insect repellent, moisturizer, lip balm, moist towelettes—can be purchased in Australia or New Zealand. So can many of the over-the counter medicines that follow.*

Home-Hosted Visits

It is customary, though not necessary, to return your hosts' generosity with a small gift. If you do bring a gift, we recommend that you bring something the whole family can enjoy, or something that represents your region, state, or hometown. Get creative and keep it small—peach jelly from Georgia, maple sugar candy from New England, orange blossom soap from California; something that can be used or used up is best. When choosing a gift, be certain to consider the local culture as well. For example, we do not recommend alcohol in Muslim countries because it is forbidden in Islam, and your hosts may be religious. Not all Grand Circle vacations include a home-hosted visit; please check your final itinerary before you depart.

Electricity

When traveling overseas, the voltage is usually different and the plugs might not be the same shape.

Voltage

Electricity at hotels in Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji is 230–240 volts. In the U.S. it is 110 volts. Most of the things a traveler will want to plug in—battery chargers, smartphones, tablets or computers—can run off both 110 and 220–240. But you should check the item or the owner’s guide first to confirm this before you plug it in. Plugging a 110V U.S. appliance into 220/240V 50/60Hz service will ruin the motor. If you have something that needs 110 volts—like a shaver or a hairdryer—you can bring a transformer to change the current. (But transformers tend to burn out, so it might be better to leave whatever it is at home.)

Plugs

The shape of plugs will vary from country to country, and sometimes even within a country depending on when that building was built. To plug something from the U.S. into a local socket you’ll need an adapter that fits between the plug and the socket. Although you will only need one type of plug on this trip, it may be easier to purchase an all-in-one, universal adapter/converter combo. Versatile and lightweight, these can usually be found at your local electronics goods or hardware stores. Sometimes you can buy them at large retailers too, like Target or Walmart. If you forget to bring an adapter, you might also find them for sale at the airport when you arrive at your destination.

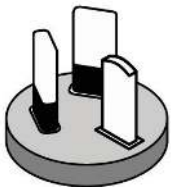
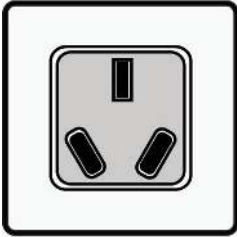
Different plug shapes are named by letters of the alphabet. Standard U.S. plugs are Type A and Type B. Here is the list of plugs for the countries on this trip:

Australia: I (some may not have a grounding pin)

New Zealand: I (some may not have a grounding pin)

Fiji: I

Type I



Availability

Barring the occasional and unpredictable power outage, electricity is as readily available on this adventure as it is in the U.S.

CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

Sydney, Australia: Sydney is in the temperate zone. As a result, temperatures are generally in the 50s–70s throughout the year, although highs in the 80s are common in summer and lows in the 40s are normal in the winter. Occasionally, heat waves will spike the highs up even more—to as much as 100 degrees—but this is the exception, rather than the rule. Compared to other cities in this climate zone Sydney gets the more rainfall, meaning that rain can happen at any time of year.

New Zealand: The winter season runs from May to September, but since weather in New Zealand is changeable throughout the year, especially in the South Island, all types of weather conditions can occur during any season. All months are at least moderately wet; though extended periods of settled, sunny weather can occur at any time of the year. Overall, the country has more sunshine than might be expected in such a variable climate. Weather conditions on the milder North Island differ from those on the tempestuous South Island.

- **North Island:** The northern region of New Zealand and its eastern coast tend to be sunnier and drier than the southern half of the country. While snow can occur almost anywhere at sea level in New Zealand, it is very rare in the extreme north of the North Island. Here the climate is almost subtropical with gentle winters and warm, humid summers. Rain is quite frequent in the northern part of the North Island and you should come prepared with adequate rain gear. Temperatures become cooler as you move south toward New Zealand's second major island.
- **South Island:** Known as the South Pacific's "Gateway to Antarctica," the South Island is equally famous for its unpredictable weather shifts. At any time of year, it's not unusual for a day to start with bright sunlight, turn to wind-driven rain, intensify to snow and sleet, and then miraculously go back to dazzling sunshine. Temperatures may soar into the 80s and 90s, then plummet into the 40s and 30s, all within a few hours.

Melbourne, Australia: These cities are in the temperate zone. As a result, temperatures are generally in the 50s–70s throughout the year, although highs in the 80s are common in summer and lows in the 40s are normal in the winter. Occasionally, heat waves will spike the highs up even more—to as much as 100 degrees—but this is the exception, rather than the rule. Rainfall can occur at any time of year. Snow is fairly rare, but can happen in Melbourne. Melbourne is also subject to a "bay effect" which causes sudden temperature drops and rainstorms, especially in spring and summer.

Alice Springs, Australia: Located in the desert outback, Alice Springs is generally hot and dry. Daytime highs will be roughly 10 degrees higher than other cities we visit—so if it is a pleasant 80 degrees in Melbourne or Sydney, expect 90 degrees in Alice Springs. Nighttime lows can also be more severe compared to other cities. The desert doesn't retain heat well, so lows in the 50s are common, even if it was very hot earlier that day. In winter, lows can dip down into the 30s and 40s. Heat waves are more common here than other parts of the country—and more extreme—with temperatures of 110 degrees or even more. On the plus side, there is very little rainfall.

Fiji: This island has a tropical climate, with sunny skies and warm temperatures year-round. The weather is most pleasant April through October, when there is less humidity and sea breezes are constant. Fiji does experience a wet season (November to April), but much of the Fiji's rain falls in heavy, brief local showers.

Climate Averages & Online Forecast

The following charts reflect the **average** climate as opposed to exact weather conditions. This means they serve only as general indicators of what can reasonably be expected. An extreme heat wave or cold snap could fall outside these ranges. As your departure approaches, we encourage you to use **www.weather.com** for a more accurate forecast of the locations you visit.

Average Daily High/Low Temperatures (°F), Humidity & Monthly Rainfall

MONTH	SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA			CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Rainfall
JAN	79 to 65	83 to 62	4.0	88 to 74	87 to 66	19
FEB	79 to 66	85 to 64	4.5	88 to 75	88 to 69	19
MAR	77 to 63	85 to 61	5.2	87 to 73	87 to 67	19
APR	73 to 57	84 to 59	4.2	84 to 71	86 to 66	19
MAY	68 to 51	83 to 57	3.9	81 to 68	85 to 65	16
JUN	63 to 47	83 to 58	5.2	78 to 64	84 to 61	12
JUL	62 to 44	80 to 52	2.5	78 to 63	82 to 58	11
AUG	64 to 46	79 to 50	3.2	80 to 63	83 to 56	10
SEP	68 to 50	79 to 52	2.2	82 to 65	82 to 54	9
OCT	72 to 55	79 to 55	3.1	85 to 69	83 to 57	10
NOV	75 to 59	78 to 56	3.4	87 to 72	84 to 60	12
DEC	78 to 63	82 to 61	3.1	88 to 74	85 to 61	16

MONTH	QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND			ROTORUA, NEW ZEALAND		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	71 to 49	66	3.2	73 to 55	78	4.4
FEB	70 to 48	70	2.9	73 to 55	81	4.2
MAR	67 to 46	72	3.0	70 to 52	81	3.6
APR	59 to 40	77	2.9	64 to 47	83	4.5
MAY	52 to 35	80	2.6	59 to 43	86	5.5
JUN	46 to 30	81	2.2	55 to 40	87	5.3
JUL	46 to 29	82	2.2	54 to 38	86	5.0
AUG	50 to 32	77	2.5	55 to 39	85	5.2
SEP	55 to 36	70	2.6	58 to 42	81	4.9
OCT	59 to 40	68	3.0	62 to 46	79	5.0
NOV	64 to 43	66	2.5	66 to 49	77	4.2
DEC	68 to 47	65	2.4	69 to 53	79	3.8

MONTH	AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND			MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	75 to 61	77 to 62	2.8	79 to 56	52	1.8
FEB	75 to 62	80 to 63	3.4	80 to 57	49	1.6
MAR	73 to 59	81 to 66	3.1	75 to 55	48	1.4
APR	68 to 55	83 to 69	3.8	68 to 51	54	1.9
MAY	63 to 51	86 to 73	4.5	62 to 47	62	1.9
JUN	59 to 47	88 to 76	5.0	56 to 43	69	1.6
JUL	58 to 46	88 to 76	5.2	55 to 41	69	1.5
AUG	59 to 47	86 to 74	4.4	57 to 42	62	2.0
SEP	62 to 50	82 to 72	3.7	61 to 44	58	1.8
OCT	64 to 52	79 to 71	3.7	66 to 47	55	2.3
NOV	67 to 55	77 to 67	3.2	71 to 50	56	2.4
DEC	71 to 59	77 to 65	3.1	76 to 53	49	1.9

MONTH	ALICE SPRINGS, AUSTRALIA			NADI, FIJI		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	97 to 70	35	1.4	89 to 72	80	12.7
FEB	95 to 69	40	1.6	88 to 72	80	10.0
MAR	90 to 63	35	1.5	88 to 73	83	15.1
APR	82 to 55	40	0.5	88 to 71	82	6.8
MAY	73 to 47	50	0.7	86 to 68	78	5.3
JUN	68 to 41	55	0.6	83 to 65	78	4.3
JUL	67 to 39	50	0.6	83 to 64	74	0.5
AUG	72 to 43	40	0.4	85 to 66	73	1.4
SEP	80 to 50	30	0.3	85 to 67	73	3.7
OCT	87 to 59	30	0.8	86 to 68	75	5.5
NOV	92 to 64	35	1.0	86 to 69	73	2.8
DEC	96 to 68	35	1.4	87 to 71	78	4.7

ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE

Your Program Director

During your exclusive Grand Circle vacation, you'll have reliable assistance available at all times from an on-site Grand Circle Travel Program Director. Your Program Director is fluent in English and can give you an inside perspective on your destinations. He or she is supported along the way by local tour guides, who guide you expertly through particular sites and cities.

Many Grand Circle Program Directors are graduates of professional education programs for travel guides. In addition, they receive specialized training directly from Grand Circle, training that is based on what we've learned from thousands of past travelers about how to make the trip most enjoyable. Your Program Director offers both a deep knowledge of the region and a commitment to make this a very pleasant, informative, and rewarding travel experience for you.

Your Program Director will provide sightseeing trips, handle all travel details, reserve optional tours you choose to take, oversee your Discovery Series events, and provide any other assistance you may need. You will be in the company of a Program Director throughout your vacation.

South Pacific Culture

Due to Australia's natural isolation as an island continent, the indigenous peoples developed their own culture and community over about 40,000 years—in which they had little contact with other societies. This remoteness is what attracted British settlers to New South Wales where they established a penal colony in 1788. Until about the mid-20th century, Australian culture was almost exclusively Anglo-Celtic. Efforts by the government over the previous two centuries helped to maintain the island's prominent homogeneity, including persecution of the indigenous population and the 1901 White Australia policy, which halted all non-European immigration into the country. In the latter half of the 20th century, immigration laws became more relaxed, and the country saw a large influx of immigrants and refugees from eastern Asia, the Middle East, and other parts of Europe. At the same time, the Australian government began addressing past wrongs against the indigenous peoples. In 1967, following the example of the American Civil Rights Movement, the indigenous peoples of Australia began fighting for equal rights. As a result, a referendum was passed to allow indigenous Australians the right to vote, officially recognizing them as citizens of Australia. While indigenous people are still fighting for full equality today, these progressive measures allowed the indigenous people to claim their identity and culture again. The influx of multiculturalism in the late 19th century has left a lasting imprint on the cultural fabric of Australia.

Akin to Australia's indigenous history, European settlers began to arrive in New Zealand after James Cook mapped the country in 1770 and native Maori traditions began to die out as settlers tried to assimilate the Maori to European culture, including converting them to Christianity. Maori culture suffered greatly in the years of colonization and into the 20th century as many were torn between the pressure to assimilate and the desire to preserve their own culture. Since the 1950s, there has been a cultural revival and preservation of Maori traditions. First held in 1972, the biennial Te Matatini festival celebrates Maori culture and history, especially the tribal

dance and song performances—known as kapa haka. The festival is held over several days and culminates in the national kapa haka championship. Maori waiata (songs) and dances have become increasingly popular in recent years. While 67% of Kiwis (an affectionate term for New Zealanders) are of European descent, waves of immigration brought a mix of cultures that are celebrated in New Zealand. Among the 19th-century settlers were Scandinavians, Chinese, Italians, and Indians. Today, there are large communities of Pacific Islanders and Asians. These cultures are celebrated in a variety of ways, including the Lunar New Year, the Lantern Festival, and Diwali. One of the major holidays in New Zealand is Waitangi Day (February 6), where the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi is remembered. The treaty promised Maori ownership of their land and rights as British citizens. Celebrations of this day include Maori ceremonies, sporting events, music, and parades. Waitangi Day is also used as a day of reflection on the historical effects of European settlement on Maori tribes.

Broadly, egalitarianism strongly underpins interpersonal values in Australia and New Zealand—commonly referred to as a “fair go” among locals. Australians typically show disdain for pretentious behavior and are often described as being informal or laid back—an impression cultivated through their iconic greeting “g’day mate” or “g’day sheilas.” Adding to their laid-back demeanor, Australia celebrates a large number of public holidays, making long weekends a frequent custom. In New Zealand, there is a strong individualistic attitude among Kiwis, which is believed to stem from their relative isolation in the South Pacific and the rugged terrain that surrounds them.

Despite the stereotypical image of Crocodile Dundee roaming the remote Outback, the majority of Australia’s population is concentrated in urban areas. Around 85% of Australia’s 25 million people live within about 30 miles of the coast and 10 million live in the two biggest cities, Sydney and Melbourne. While about 52% of Australians identify as Christian, there is no official state religion in Australia. In fact, the fastest growing religious affiliation is “no religion,” as 30% of the population nominated this category in the 2016 census. This nomination comprises many subcategories like agnostic, atheist, and other spiritual beliefs. Among young Australians aged 18–34, this was the most common choice. In New Zealand, Christianity is the largest religion; however, in the 2018 census almost half of New Zealanders reported they had “no religion,” which is the first time the number of people who are religiously unaffiliated exceeded the number of Christians in the country.

Laundry Service

Laundry facilities (self-service, coin-operated) are available at many of our hotels.

Dining on Your Own

Although many of your meals are included, you’ll have opportunities to dine on your own. Past travelers, however, have noted that prices in the South Pacific seemed higher than they expected. “Higher” is a relative term, of course, and depends on the restaurant you choose, what you order, what you’re accustomed to paying at home, and on the currency exchange rate. Rest assured: it won’t be difficult to find affordable dining options, but we’re passing these comments on so that you can better prepare your budget. We suggest that you research restaurants online before you

leave to what kind dinning scene and prices you can expect to encounter on your itinerary. During the trip, feel free to consult your Program Director—who will be able to offer you a list of dining options to fit both your taste and pocket.

Australian Cuisine

Two of the most popular cooking styles in sunny Australia are Mediterranean and Southeast Asian, though every type of cuisine can be found in its plethora of fine city restaurants, including Indian, Japanese, American, and French. The fresh local seafood is especially good, and the colorful regional vegetables are cooked up a hundred tasty ways to accompany traditional game dishes made with duck, beef, lamb, or kangaroo. Other items to be on the lookout for include:

- **Meat pies:** A relic from their English heritage, Aussies love a good meat pie, which is a savory pie with meat, vegetables, and gravy inside (similar to a chicken pot pie, but usually made with beef or lamb)
- **Mushy peas:** Peas that have been boiled and then lightly mashed—goes great with a meat pie
- **Sausage roll:** Think an oversized “pig in a blanket”, and you’re not far off
- **Chicken Parmigiana:** Yes, this dish has Italian roots, but it is well-loved throughout Australia (as is other Italian-Aussie cooking) and you’ll find it in many pubs
- **Fish and chips:** Fried fish with a side of French fries
- **Barramundi:** A type of sea bass that is often served grilled or pan-seared; a healthy alternative to fish and chips
- **Beetroot:** A popular vegetable that is often put in sandwiches and burgers
- **Vegemite:** This one’s an acquired taste, but while you’re in Australia you may wish to try this savory spread made from yeast extract, which is typically spread as a thin layer on toast
- **Pavlova:** A much-loved dessert made with layers of meringue, fruit, and whipped cream.
- **Lamingtons:** Quite possibly Australia’s national dessert, a lamington is a square of cake dipped in chocolate and then rolled in coconut flakes
- **Cherry ripe:** A candy bar only sold in Australia—cherry and coconuts in dark chocolate
- **Drinks:** Australia has both a vibrant wine industry and a plethora of brew houses. Local beers to look for are Coopers, Carlton Draught, Victoria Bitter, and Tooheys; while Shiraz (red), Cabernet Sauvignon (red), and Chardonnay (white) are popular wines.

New Zealander Cuisine

Major cities in New Zealand offer cosmopolitan dining and a wide range of restaurants that serve every choice of international cuisine and are renowned for their excellent quality. In rural areas, menus often still reflect the traditional English-style of cooking—a meat and two vegetables. New Zealand specialties include:

- **Lamb:** This is one of the country's major exports and not to be missed if you like red meat
- **Venison:** New Zealand claims to be the first country to farm deer, and as a result, you'll find venison on the menu at both high-end restaurants and burger joints (often humorously referred to as a "Bambi burger")
- **Hangi:** A traditional cooking style with meat and vegetables slow-cooked in an underground oven or fire pit (a bit like a luau). Some restaurants recreate the dish by cooking the same ingredients in a clay pot.
- **Kumara:** A type of sweet potato that is often used in *hangi*
- **Green-lipped mussels:** Served European-style as steamed mussels in broth, these larger-than-average mussels are native to New Zealand's waters
- **Oysters:** Pacific oysters served on the half shell are a popular starter, especially the succulent, white-shelled Bluff oysters, available from March to about July
- **"Lobster":** Actually crayfish, but just as tasty! You may see this on the menu as crayfish, rock lobster, or spiny lobster.
- **Whitebait fritters:** Deep-fried patties or balls of batter made with small whitebait fish
- **Hokey Pokey:** A flavor of ice cream in New Zealand, consisting of plain vanilla ice cream with small, solid lumps of honeycomb toffee.
- **Manuka honey:** A product on NZ that is renowned for its medical properties. It can be eaten or used in skincare products.
- **Lemon & Paeroa:** A lemon soda similar to—but stronger than—Sprite
- **Wines:** New Zealand produces some excellent wines, and is particularly known for its citrusy Sauvignon Blanc (white), dense Pinot Noir (red), and some light and refreshing rosés

Fijian Cuisine

Due to their nearby influences, two of the most popular cuisines found in Fiji are Indian and Chinese, with Western fast food coming in a close third. Other cuisines, such as Italian and Japanese, are more commonly found in major cities like Nadi or Denarau and in resort restaurants. Local foods are split into two distinctions: the traditional indigenous Fijian dishes and those from Indo-Fijians, who were brought over as indentured servants when the island was

a British colony. The introduction of Indian influences to the island added curries and chilies to the local cuisine. Common staples in the Fijian diet are root vegetables (such as taro, cassava, and sweet potatoes), coconuts, and seafood. Dishes to be on the lookout for include:

- **Lovo:** A traditional meal cooked in an underground oven, this dish has meats, such as chicken and fish, surrounded by root vegetables and wrapped in banana leaves. Once wrapped, the meal is placed in the underground oven and covered in dirt until smoking hot.
- **Kokoda:** The Fijian version of ceviche, *kokoda* is made with lemon-juice soaked fresh fish (usually mahi mahi), spring onions, red onions, chilies, capsicum, tomatoes, and coconut milk. At a restaurant, this dish is often served in a coconut shell, bamboo, or a pineapple.
- **Fijian curry:** With the high Indo-Fijian population in Fiji, the inclusion of curry in the island's cuisine is only to be expected. Fijian curry has its differences from Indian curry, however, with Fijian curry being made with coconut milk, tomatoes, and plantains, served with a side of dahl soup and roti.
- **Rourou:** A Fijian soup made from *daro* (taro leaves), cooked in coconut milk and can be served with chicken or left as is.
- **Topoi:** A sweet Fijian dessert dumpling made with grated cassava, coconut milk, and sugar

Manners

Kiwis and Aussies are famous for their friendliness. You won't have to work hard to strike up conversations.

The etiquette of photographing most people in Australia and New Zealand is about the same as it would be on the streets of your hometown. You need permission to take a close-up, but not for a crowd scene. For cultural reasons, some Maori and Aboriginal people usually do not want their photographs taken, even from a distance. You should not assume that it is OK to photograph them. Ask your intended subject first or ask your Trip Experience Leader for advice.

Shopping: What to Buy, Customs, Shipping & More

There may be scheduled visits to local shops during your vacation. There is no requirement to make a purchase during these stops, and any purchase made is a direct transaction with the shop in question, subject to the vendor's terms of purchase. Grand Circle is not responsible for purchases you make on your trip or for the shipment of your purchases.

Returns

If you discover an issue with an item, you should contact the vendor directly. If the shop is outside the country, you should expect that any resolution will take longer than it would in the U.S. We recommend that you keep a copy of all your receipts, invoices, or contracts, along with the shop's contact information. Keep in mind, local practice may vary from the standards you are used to, so don't assume that you have a certain number of days after the purchase to speak up or that you are guaranteed a refund.

Crafts & Souvenirs

Australia

You can find craft items and screen-printed garments made by Aboriginal craft cooperatives throughout Australia—especially around Alice Springs and Ayers Rock (Uluru). The opal is Australia's national gem, and is used in many different types of jewelry. Items with typically Australian symbols like koala bears, kangaroos, boomerangs, etc. can make fun gifts, while items made out of eucalyptus leaf are lightweight and durable. In addition, both Australia and New Zealand produce distinctive wines that make fine gifts or souvenirs.

New Zealand

New Zealand has a strong sheep herding industry, so quality woolens shouldn't be hard to find—possum fur and merino wool blend garments can be found in most places. Jewelry made from greenstone (a type of jade found on the South Island), pearls, or paua shells are popular buys. Traditional Maori crafts include carvings in wood, stone, or bone; and flax weaving. Less obvious—but still typically New Zealand—souvenirs include t-shirts for the national rugby team or beauty products like the Evolu or Living Nature lines.

Fiji

Fiji has creations of its local artisans available for purchase, including jewelry, handcrafts, a wide-ranging assortment of baskets, and various types of art.

U.S. Customs Regulations & Shipping Charges

For all things related to U.S. Customs, the ultimate authority is the U.S. Bureau of Customs & Border Protection. Their website, www.cbp.gov has the answers to the most frequently asked questions. Or you can call them at **1-877-227-5511**.

The top three points to know are:

- At time of writing, your personal duty-free allowance is \$800 for items brought with you. Items totaling more than \$800 are subject to duty fees.
- **Items shipped home are always subject to duty when received in the U.S.** Even when the shop has offered to include shipping and duties in the price, this typically means shipping to the nearest customs facility and payment of the export duties—not door-to-door shipping or payment of the import duties. All additional duties or shipping charges would be your responsibility. Unless an item is small enough to send by parcel service (like FedEx), chances are you will need to arrange shipping or pick-up once the item is in the U.S. and will need to pay customs duties.
- It is illegal to import products made from endangered animal species. U.S. Customs & Border Protection will seize these items, as well as most furs, coral, tortoise shell, reptile skins, feathers, plants, and items made from animal skins.

Australian Customs Regulations

Before you arrive in Australia, you will receive an Australian Arrival Card. Please keep in mind that Australian Customs Regulations apply when you enter Australia and that all regulations are subject to change without notice. In general, travelers are allowed to bring \$A900 (approximately \$818 U.S.) worth of goods into Australia free of duty and sales tax, not including alcohol or tobacco, when the goods accompany the passenger. The limit is \$A450 (approximately \$409 U.S.) for travelers under 18 years of age. The maximum amount of alcohol allowed per person is 2.25 liters. The maximum amount of tobacco allowed per person is 25 cigarettes or 25 grams of cigars. Food items of any kind—even ones that are allowed into the country—must be declared. For more information, you may want to contact the Australian Customs Service.

Security: In addition to their customs restrictions, the Australian government has security measures to limit the amount of liquids, aerosols, and gels that can be taken through the screening point for people flying to and from Australia. All containers with drinks, creams, perfumes, sprays, gels, toothpaste and similar substances should not exceed 100ml (3.3 ounces) each and will have to be carried in a re-sealable clear plastic bag, no larger than 20cm x 20cm, and be inspected separately. There is a limit of one bag per person. Any sharp items (i.e. nail scissors) should be in your checked luggage.

Telephone from the United States: **011-612-9313-3010** or on the web: **www.customs.gov.au**.

TIP: *Our regional office would like to remind you that you should NOT bring fruit or fluids of any kind into Australia. They will be confiscated and you will be fined.*

Tourist Refund Scheme (TRS): The TRS enables you to claim a refund, subject to certain conditions, of the goods and services tax (GST) and wine equalization tax (WET) that you pay on goods you buy in Australia. To claim a refund you must:

- Spend AUD\$300 (GST inclusive) or more in the one store and get a single tax invoice. (You can submit paperwork from more than one store provided that you spent AUD\$300 at each store.)
- Buy goods no more than 60 days before departure
- Wear or carry the goods on board the aircraft and present them along with your original tax invoice, passport and international boarding pass to a Customs Officer at a TRS facility
- Claims at airports are available up to 30 minutes prior to the scheduled departure of your flight

The refund only applies to goods that you take with you as hand luggage or wear onto the aircraft when you leave Australia. It does not apply to services or goods consumed or partly consumed in Australia, such as wine, chocolate or perfume. However, unlike other tourist shopping schemes, most of the goods, such as clothing and cameras, can be used in Australia before departure.

You can collect your refund through one of the following methods:

- Check

- Credit to an Australian bank account
- Payment to a credit card

Customs will aim to post check refunds within 15 business days. Bank and credit card refunds will be issued by Customs within 5 business days, however, payment will be subject to processing by your bank or card issuer.

New Zealand Customs Regulations

The following regulations were taken from New Zealand's government customs website: **www.customs.govt.nz**

All regulations are subject to change without notice.

Before you arrive in New Zealand, you will receive a New Zealand Passenger Arrival Card. You must tick (check) "Yes" in the Customs section of your arrival card if you are bringing any of the following into New Zealand:

- Goods that may be prohibited or restricted, such as weapons, hookah/shisha pipes, other ornamental pipes, objectionable (indecent) materials, wildlife products or illicit drugs.
- Goods in excess of the \$700 allowance and the tobacco and alcoholic beverages allowance. At time of writing, \$700 NZD was roughly \$500 U.S. The duty-free allowance for tobacco was 25 cigarettes, or 25 grams of tobacco, or 25 cigars, or a mixture of all three weighing not more than 25 grams. You could also bring up to 4.5 liters of wine, or 4.5 liters of beer, or three bottles each containing not more than 1,125ml of spirits, liqueur, or other spirituous beverages duty-free.
- Goods carried on behalf of another person
- NZ \$10,000 or more, or the equivalent in foreign currency (please have purchase receipts available)
- **Food items of any sort, whether restricted or not. This includes food given to you during your flight.**
- You will be fined on the spot (around NZD400) for anything that you do not declare on this form.

TIP: *Our regional office would like to remind you that you should NOT bring fruit or fluids of any kind into New Zealand. They will be confiscated and you will be fined.*

You do not have to declare your clothing, footwear, jewelry, or toiletries. These are regarded as personal effects if they are intended solely for your own use. **Important Note: If you have recently worn your shoes in rural or natural areas, please wash your footwear prior to entering New Zealand.**

Unlike other Customs administrations, there is no provision for travelers to obtain a refund of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on their purchases when they leave the country. In order to purchase goods without payment of GST, travelers are required to purchase from a duty-free shop.

DEMOGRAPHICS & HISTORY

Australia

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 2,988,902 square miles
- **Capital:** Canberra
- **Language:** English is the official language.
- **Ethnicity:** Australian: 25.4%, English: 25.9%, Irish: 7.5%, Scottish: 6.4%, Italian: 3.3%, German: 3.2%, Chinese: 3.1% Greek: 1.4%, Dutch 1.2%, other 15.8%, unspecified 5.4%
- **Location:** Australia is bordered by three oceans and four seas.
- **Geography:** Situated in the Southern Hemisphere and south of Asia, Australia is an island continent surrounded by three oceans and four seas. It is about 7,700 miles from Los Angeles. Australia is roughly the same size as the continental United States, measuring 2,500 miles from east to west, and 2,000 miles from north to south. The Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef, lies a short distance off the northeast coast and extends for over 1,240 miles. Australia is Earth's flattest continent. Eastern Australia is marked by the Great Dividing Range, although the name is not strictly accurate, since parts of the range consists of low hills. The western half of Australia consists of the Western Plateau, which rises to mountain heights near the west coast and falls to lower elevations near the continental center. This is the arid landscape commonly known as the Outback.
- **Population:** 22,751,014 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Protestant 30.1%, Catholic 25.3%, Orthodox 2.8%, other Christian 2.9%, Buddhist 2.5%, Muslim 2.2%, Hindu 1.3%, other 1.3%, unspecified 9.3%, none 22.3%
- **Time Zone:** Australia has three primary time zones, four when Daylight Savings Time is in effect. Time in Canberra is 14 hours ahead of U.S. EST. When it is it is 6am in Washington D.C., it is 8pm in Canberra.

National Holidays: Australia

In addition to the holidays listed below, Australia celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter. Each state in Australia also has a certain latitude in setting its own holidays. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/26 Australia Day

04/25 Anzac Day

12/25 Christmas Day

12/26 Boxing Day

Australia: A Brief History

Australia's indigenous peoples believe that their tribes have lived here since the dawn of time—the Dreamtime—when their spiritual ancestors brought the land into being with song. Anthropologists believe that indigenous peoples have lived in Australia for at least 40,000 years, developing their culture largely free from outside influence. During this immense span of time, the ancestors of many groups now lumped together under the term “Australia's First Peoples” developed over 200 different languages and many local traditions. The Wathaurong, Arrente, Walpiri, and Anangu cultural groups, which are roughly like tribes or clans, are among those still present today. In addition to passing along spiritual practices that are still observed, ancient Aborigines mastered the challenges of living in a harsh environment. There is evidence that they planted crops, diverted streams, and maintained grasslands by deliberate burning in order to attract game for food. During the last several thousand years, the population increased, and different groups of indigenous people traded with each other across the continent. After thousands of years of independence from outside influence, indigenous life changed dramatically with the arrival of Europeans.

Although people in Europe imagined the existence of a Terra Australis in late medieval times, they knew nothing of the real Australia until the 17th century. The first European to actually set foot on Australian soil was probably the Dutch sailor Dirk Hartog in 1616. In 1642, Abel Tasman of Holland explored the southern coast, which is why the Tasman Sea and Tasmania now bear his name. English Captain James Cook landed at Botany Bay on Australia's eastern coast in 1770, establishing an English claim that eventually led to colonization. Another Englishman, Matthew Flinders, circumnavigated the continent at the beginning of the 19th century. These early explorations revealed the coast, but Australia's inland geography remained a mystery. When England could no longer send colonists or exiled convicts to America, Australia became a new destination for them. On January 26—the date now celebrated as Australia Day—in 1788, English Captain Arthur Phillip founded Sydney as a penal colony. From its inception, Sydney has been the capital of New South Wales, then a colony and now the most populous of Australia's six states.

Before England ended the practice in 1853, more than 150,000 convicts were sent to New South Wales and Tasmania; one-fifth of them were women. From the 1820s to the 1880s, increasing numbers of free colonists also settled in Australia. First in New South Wales, and later in the

other colonies, governance became more democratic with power increasingly vested in legislative councils. Indigenous people were not included, and it was not until the 1960s that they were granted full citizenship in the group of British colonies that had come to occupy their native land.

In 1851 Edward Hargraves struck gold in New South Wales, an event that led to the tripling of Australia's population during the next 11 years. Australia remained a collection of distinct colonies until the dawn of the 20th century. In some ways, each colony's ties to Great Britain were closer than they were with the other Australian colonies.

After some earlier attempts at establishing greater unity had failed, the Commonwealth of Australia became a reality on January 1, 1901. A true national identity was forged only in the aftermath of World War I. Anzac Day, celebrated on April 25, commemorates the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps' landing at Gallipoli in the First World War, a milestone in the growth of national consciousness. World War II compelled Australians to look beyond their traditional ties to Great Britain, forge the new ANZUS alliance with the U.S., and see themselves anew as a Pacific Rim nation. Australia celebrated its bicentennial in 1988, and Aussies took great pride in having Sydney selected as the site for the 2000 Summer Olympics.

Recently Australia has been on the forefront of environmental activism, especially in regards to the question of water management, which came under scrutiny during a severe drought in 2005–2006. On the other end of the spectrum, Queensland had too much water a few years later, resulting in dramatic flash floods at the end of 2010. Another recent struggle has been the question of how to handle asylum seekers; this issue has been in the forefront of public debate and generated some controversial policies.

Events that Shaped Australia in the 20th Century:

Australia's Fight at Home and Abroad During World War II

When Great Britain declared war on Nazi Germany on September 3, 1939, Australia entered the war on the same day. Australian troops would go on to fight against Germans and Italians in campaigns across Europe, the Mediterranean, North Africa, and then the Japanese in Southeast Asia. But Australia was under no direct threat from Germany, so why did they enter the war at such an early stage? One reason, of course, is that they were still a Commonwealth of the British Empire, and Australians felt a strong loyalty to England. Another was assurances from the British that any Japanese advance toward Australia would be stopped in its tracks by Britain's warships stationed in Singapore, the largest Royal Navy base in Asia. Unfortunately, this position of power would eventually crumble as the war progressed.

As Britain continuously failed to defend their Navy base in Singapore, Australia experienced more attacks from the Imperial Japanese Army and the Australian government became discouraged with their allies, who, one by one, were falling in Europe against the combined Axis forces. Robert Menzies, the Australian Prime Minister, was determined to speak with his allies about the threat of Japan in the Pacific and the lack of British reinforcements in Singapore. He flew to London during the Blitz and met with Winston Churchill regarding the war in the Pacific. Upon his return to Australia in August 1941, when he was unable to gather support from his party to establish a War Cabinet, Menzies resigned as Prime Minister. John Curtin was sworn in a month later.

With the majority of Australia's forces focused in Europe and North Africa backing up the Allied Forces, Japan took the opportunity to take control of the Pacific and attacked Pearl Harbor. Shortly after, the British ships sent to reinforce Singapore were sunk. Australia, left with little support from Britain and facing off against Japan with most of their forces still assisting abroad, turned to the United States as their ally in the Pacific on December 27th, 1941.

The reinforcements from the U.S. came too slow, as British Malaysia, including Singapore, fell to Japanese occupation mere weeks after Pearl Harbor, with 15,000 Australian soldiers being taken as prisoners of war. On February 19th, 1942, Darwin, the capital of the Northern Territory of Australia, was attacked by 188 Japanese warplanes, the first attack made against the Australian mainland. It was not the last. Over the course of 19 months, mainland Australia suffered through over 100 air raids.

After the attack on Darwin, Curtin called two Australian divisions back home, refusing Churchill's plans to have the divisions back-up forces in Burma. President Franklin Roosevelt ordered General Douglas MacArthur, his commander in the Philippines, to cooperate with Curtin to establish a plan of attack in the Pacific. With Curtin's support, General MacArthur became the "Supreme Commander of the South West Pacific" and moved the American forces to his new base in Melbourne.

In response, Japanese forces moved to isolate Australia, attacking Sydney Harbour and invading Port Moresby, a territory of Australia in New Guinea. The U.S. Navy repelled the Japanese forces from Port Moresby following their victories during the Battle of the Coral Sea and the Battle of Midway. Defeated by sea, the Japanese Navy retreated and Port Moresby was instead attacked by the Japanese army on land.

The Australian army spend the next five months pushing the Japanese army out of Port Moresby, with their victory during the Battle of Milne Bay in August 1942 being the first noted instance of Allied forces defeating Japanese land forces. The Australian forces continued to battle against Japan in Papua New Guinea, steadily pushing their enemies out of the Australian territories. Due to the dense jungle, oppressive heat, and fierce Japanese resistance, the fight for New Guinea was said to be the most arduous campaign fought by the Allied forces during World War II.

As MacArthur pushed into the Philippines and towards Japan in mid-1944, Australian forces remained in the South Pacific, focused on the Japanese presence in Borneo and Indonesia. While the Borneo Campaign was heavily criticized as a waste of forces, the three goals of the campaign were achieved: the isolation of key Japanese forces, the capture of oil supplies, and the release of Allied prisoners of war.

When Allied forces prepared to invade Japan during the last couple months of the war, Australia served as a base of operations for the British Pacific Fleet and planned to participate in the invasion with land forces in Honshu and air forces in Okinawa. All plans were ceased when Japan surrendered after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

By the time the war ended on September 2nd, 1945, almost one million Australian men and women had served in one of the branches of military during the war. Of that total, an estimated 31,700 were killed in battle, and 8,000 as Japanese prisoners of war.

New Zealand

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 103,363 square miles
- **Capital:** Wellington
- **Language:** English
- **Ethnicity:** European 71.2%, Maori 14.1%, Asian 11.3%, Pacific islander 7.6%, other 2.7%, unspecified 5.4%
- **Location:** New Zealand, consisting of two main islands (the North Island and South Island, plus some smaller offshore isles), is situated about 1,250 miles southeast of Australia and surrounded by the South Pacific Ocean, the Tasman Sea, and the Southern Ocean.
- **Geography:** The Cook Strait, a rather turbulent waterway, separates the North Island from the South Island. From tip to tip, the whole country measures about 1,000 miles. Despite its generous length, its widest point is only 174 miles across. The South Island is divided along its length by the Southern Alps and the Fiordland's steep mountains and deep fiords record the extensive ice age glaciation of its south-western corner. The North Island is less mountainous, but its geography is marked by ancient volcanic activity.
- **Population:** 5,120,000 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Christian 44.3%, Hindu 2.1%, Buddhist 1.4%, Maori Christian 1.3%, Islam 1.1%, other 1.4%, none 38.5%, not stated 8.2%, objected to answering 4.1%
- **Time Zone:** New Zealand is on New Zealand Standard Time, 17 hours ahead of U.S. EST. When it is 6am in Washington D.C., it is 10pm in Wellington.

National Holidays: New Zealand

In addition to the holidays listed below, New Zealand celebrates a number of national holidays such as Easter, the Queen's Birthday, and Labor Day. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/02 Day after New Year's

02/06 Waitangi Day

04/25 Anzac Day

Late June/Early July Māori New Year (Matariki)

12/25 Christmas

12/26 Boxing Day

New Zealand: A Brief History

New Zealand's history is divided into two distinct phases: Pre-European settlement by the Maori and their ancestors, and European settlement from the 18th century onward. The first wave of settlement was by Polynesians from the Marquesas, Society, and Cook Islands. Their landing on

the beaches of the North Island in about 1300 A.D. signaled the end of the 5000-year migration of these “Vikings of the Pacific” across the vast ocean. Over time, farming took on a more important role. Since the crops would not grow in the cooler southern areas, the emerging Maori culture settled predominantly in the warmer North Island and began a “golden age” of agricultural settlement.

Villages sprang up, often with a central marae (village common) and elaborately carved whare runanga (meeting houses). The arts began to flourish: wood carvers, medicine men, tattooists, and priests were employed by a people who no longer had to spend all their time hunting and gathering food. But as the population increased, so too did the desire for good farmland. Inevitably, warfare broke out amongst the different iwi or tribes. These iwi, each linked by a different ancestral canoe, began to specialize in warfare and thus the Maori became a nation of warriors.

Between 1769 and 1777, British Captain James Cook made three voyages to the islands aboard the Endeavour. While he met with some initial hostility from the islands’ residents, Cook was able to forge a peaceful relationship with the Maori—but he soon claimed the islands for the British Crown without their consent.

The incursion with the most far-reaching and damaging consequences resulted from the introduction of liquor and European diseases, against which the Maori had no immunity. Thousands died from epidemics of what would be considered minor ailments today, such as influenza and measles. By 1830, New Zealand’s Maori population had been dramatically reduced. By the late 1830s, the Maori were beginning to accept Christianity. As more and more Maori embraced Christianity, fewer aspects of the centuries-old Maori society were observed. Traditional Maori culture began to dissolve.

On February 6, 1840, representatives of the British Crown and various Maori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi. In the English-language version, the treaty grants the Maori land rights and the right of British citizenship in exchange for ceding the sovereignty of New Zealand to the British crown. But in the Maori-language version, the word for sovereignty is weaker, suggesting governance or the right to make the first offer on land for sale, rather than ownership. Add a hasty translation to different cultural understandings of land rights, and the result is a controversy that continues to this day. By 1858, the decline in land sales combined with the pressure on the British government to allow more settlers into New Zealand resulted in a dangerous imbalance. The government responded by using a falsified story about an attack on the settlement of Auckland as the justification for launching an all-out war against the tribes of the North Island. Outnumbered, the Maori were forced to concede over 4 million acres of the best farmland to the settlers.

While the land wars raged on—in some parts of the country until 1865—colonists continued to arrive. They turned sheep farming, which remains a vital part of New Zealand’s economy. The discovery of gold in the mid-1800s brought bright new economic prospects, and a surging population, to the South Island. With the invention of refrigeration, New Zealand suddenly assumed a much greater role in the world economic scene, as it could now export perishable

products like meat, butter, and cheese. As New Zealand became more visible to the rest of the world, the native Maori population continued to decline precipitously. By 1900, fewer than 42,000 Maori remained.

New Zealand achieved complete independence from Britain in 1947. The economy soared following World War II, as agricultural prices rose dramatically. Soon, the country could boast one of the highest per-capita incomes in the world. Politically, New Zealand has been in the forefront of social welfare legislation for over a century. In 1893, it was the world's first country to grant women the right to vote. It also adopted old age pensions (1898); a national child welfare program (1907); social security for the aged, widows, and orphans (1938); and minimum wages, a 40-hour workweek, and unemployment and health insurance (also in 1938). Socialized medicine went into effect in 1941.

On May 29, 1953, Edmund Percival Hillary, along with Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, made history by ascending Mount Everest. Together, these two men went where no men had ever been. The 1970s saw a revival of Maori culture, driven by a demand for recognition and participation in economic prosperity. In 1985, the Treaty of Waitangi was amended to include claims dating back to the original signing of the treaty in 1840. Financial reparations were made to several Maori tribes whose lands were unjustly confiscated.

On the political front, Jenny Shipley became the nation's first female prime minister in 1997. The country has now had three female prime ministers. The Christchurch earthquakes of February 2011 drew international outreach and support. Many countries—the U.S. included—sent search and rescue teams or other aid.

Christchurch, New Zealand would be at the front of tragedy again, when two local mosques were the targets of a terrorist attack. On March 15, 2019, two mass shootings took place and 51 people were killed. In response to the terrorist attack The Arms Amendment Act was introduced later that same year. A Royal Commission of Inquiry was held and presented on November 26, 2020. The report made 44 recommendations, and in 2024, the current Attorney-General confirmed that the New Zealand Government was in the process of implementing 36 of them.

On December 9, 2019 Whakaari, also known as White Island, erupted in steam. The uninhabited island was a popular tourist destination that had frequent volcanic activity. There were 47 people on the island at the time of its eruption, 22 people were killed and 25 people were injured with life altering burns. Whakaari Management Limited (WML), who license tours operations to the island, was found guilty of not minimizing risk to the people who died on the island. Since its eruption in 2019, tourism has not resumed on the island.

Events That Shaped New Zealand the 20th Century: World War II

New Zealand's involvement during the Second World War began when it declared war on Germany alongside Britain on September 3rd, 1939. New Zealand troops in World War II had a very different perspective from their counterparts in the First World War fighting overseas as part of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). Having relatives who fought with ANZAC gave them some insight as to how badly a war can affect a country and its people.

Still, many New Zealanders felt a strong patriotic desire to join arms and fight alongside Britain—so much so that Michael Joseph Savage, New Zealand’s Prime Minister, gave a speech just after war was declared and stated:

“Both with gratitude for the past and confidence in the future, we range ourselves without fear beside Britain. Where she goes, we go. Where she stands, we stand.”

The first major engagement during the war occurred in Greece, where several thousand New Zealand troops were deployed to help strengthen the Greek army against Italian and German invasion. In April 1941, the rapid occupation of mainland Greece by German forces resulted in the deaths of about 300 New Zealanders while about 1,800 were able to retreat to the island of Crete, which Germany sought next to occupy.

The Battle of Crete, also known as Operation Mercury, began on May 20th, 1941, when thousands of elite German paratroops descended onto the island of Crete in one of the world’s first ever airborne assaults. For 12 days New Zealand, British, and Australian troops fought alongside the Cretan resistance under the command of Major General Bernhard Freyberg, who was head of the New Zealand Expeditionary force.

The initial invasion was mostly beaten back, as hundreds of German paratroops were killed before reaching the ground. As more German reinforcements poured in, the Allied forces soon found themselves overwhelmed and eventually surrendered on June 1st, 1941. Although the Allied forces had been defeated, their defenses proved to be quite effective as more than 6,000 German troops were killed or wounded while nearly 300 aircrafts were destroyed. Those staggering losses led Hitler to conclude that airborne invasions could no longer exploit the element of surprise and would therefore never be used again for the rest of the war.

By December 7th, 1941, the war had taken a radical turn when the Japanese Empire launched series of surprise attacks including the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Within a few months, Japan had seized a great amount of the Western Pacific as Japanese troops pushed down through Papua New Guinea and launched bombing raids in Australia. With the threat of war right on its doorstep, defenses were thrown up in New Zealand in fear of a Japanese invasion which fortunately, never came.

New Zealand forces were also present on D-Day, as the Allied forces launched their invasion to reclaim Western Europe from Nazi Germany on June 6th, 1944. World War II came to an end with the surrender of Germany in May of 1945 followed by Japan about five months later. Though news of Germany’s surrender had spread to New Zealand, the government banned all public celebration until the surrender was officially announced by Winston Churchill who served as the Prime Minister for the United Kingdom.

Fiji

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 7,054 square miles
- **Capital:** Suva
- **Language:** English is the official language; Fijian and Hindustani are also spoken.
- **Location:** The Fiji Islands consist of some 300 bits of land ranging in size from Viti Levu (“Big Fiji”), one of the largest South Pacific islands, to tiny atolls that barely break the surface of the sea. With a total land area of 7,054 square miles, Fiji is slightly smaller than the state of New Jersey. Viti Levu has 4,171 of those square miles.
- **Population:** 918,675
- **Religions:** Christian, 52%; Hindu, 38%; Islam, 8%; other, 2%.
- **Time Zone:** Fiji, like New Zealand, is 17 hours ahead of New York’s time; 16 ahead during Daylight Savings Time.

National Holidays: Fiji

In addition to the holidays listed below, Fiji celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter and the Queen’s Birthday. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year’s Day

06/26 National Sports Day

09/07 Constitution Day

10/10 Fiji Day

12/25 Christmas

12/26 Boxing Day

Fiji: A Brief History

The first known European to sight Fiji was Abel Tasman in 1643. His accounts of dangerous waters kept seamen away until, 131 years later, Captain James Cook stopped there in 1774. But probably the most famous visitor—albeit inadvertently—was Captain William Bligh, who had been ousted from his ship, HMS Bounty, and set adrift in a small boat. His passage between the islands of Vanua Levu and Viti Levu is still called “Bligh Water.”

Fiji’s history is a long and sometimes violent one. Inhabited for over 2,500 years, the original Melanesian settlers were invaded by Polynesians from Tonga and Samoa. Intertribal wars forced the people into fortified villages, and cannibalism became so common that Fiji became infamous as “The Cannibal Isles.” Further Tongan invasions in the 1800s added to the volatile atmosphere, while American, Australian, French, and British interests vied for supremacy. Levuka became so lawless that it eventually was destroyed by fire in 1847. When Fiji was annexed by the British,

indentured labor was imported from India. By the time this system was abolished in 1919, more than 60,000 Indians lived in Fiji, creating tension between Fijians and Indians and leading to racial segregation.

In 1970, Fiji gained its independence, although the political parties were organized by race. Violence against Indians destabilized the new government until 1987, when Col. Stiveni Rabuka seized power in a bloodless coup. He was formally elected in 1991. In 1999, Fiji elected its first Prime Minister of Indian descent, Mahendra Chaudhry, whose government was overturned by a coup in 2000. Fiji is now a Democratic Republic governed by President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, elected by the Great Council of Chiefs.

RESOURCES

Suggested Reading

General South Pacific

Kon-Tiki, Across the Pacific by Raft by Thor Heyerdahl, with F. H. Lyon, Translator (Exploration) On April 28, 1947, Heyerdahl and five other adventurous souls set themselves adrift on a raft off the coast of Peru. When they arrived in Tahiti five months later, they not only had a great tale of adventure on the high seas, but also changed the way historians viewed the migration of early humans.

Tales of the South Pacific by James Michener (Short Stories) Set during WWII in Polynesia, this series of loosely related short stories won the 1948 Pulitzer Prize and was the basis for the Rogers and Hammerstein musical *South Pacific*.

The Happy Isles of Oceania, Paddling the Pacific by Paul Theroux (Travel Narrative) When noted travel writer Paul Theroux decided to tour the South Pacific, he figured that kayaking would be the way to go. In the end, he explored the coastlines of 51 different islands from New Zealand to Hawaii. This book is a terrific introduction to the region, combining history, anecdote, and acutely observed detail on people and place.

The Journals of Captain Cook by James Cook (Exploration) Cook's narrative of his expeditions between 1768 and 1779. Includes his explorations of Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Hawaii, and a host of other previously unheard-of Pacific locales.

Australia

Lane's End by Jill Paterson (2014, Mystery) Part of the Fitzjohn Mystery Series set in Sydney, this novel sees Inspector Fitzjohn trying to solve a murder at a cocktail party in the Sydney Observatory.

Chasing Kangaroos by Tim Flannery (2007, Natural History) Part road-trip, part natural history, this book is an ode to Australia's national animal combined with the author's search to trace when and how the kangaroo first developed.

Dirt Music by Tim Winton (2001, Literature) A powerful and suspenseful story about the tragic passion between two vulnerable people—an alcoholic woman stuck in a broken relationship and a grief-stricken poacher.

True History of the Kelly Gang by Peter Carey (2000, Historical Fiction) Undoubtedly Australia's most potent legend, Ned Kelly is a mythic hero and Wild West-style outlaw. This is a breathless adventure, with many angles, such as a boy's defense of his mother, and a man's confiding letter to a daughter whom he will never meet. Winner of the 2001 Booker Prize.

The Fatal Shore by Robert Hughes (1986, History) An immensely readable yet scholarly account of Australia's tragic origins. Hughes combines thorough research with a compelling narrative in this splendid work.

New Zealand

The Luminaries by Eleanor Catton (2013, Fiction) In Victorian New Zealand a young gold prospector stumbles into a strange meeting of 12 local men who are there to discuss some even stranger events: a disappearance, a death, and a fortune.

Come on Shore and We Will Kill and Eat You All by Christina Thompson (2008, Memoir/History) An unusual mix of personal memoir and history that bounces between the story of the arrival of the European settlers in New Zealand and the American author's courtship and marriage to a Maori man. And the title? It comes from a famous story about the Maoris' reaction when they first saw the Europeans.

A Concise History of New Zealand by Philippa Mein Smith (2005, History) The title says it all. Travelers interested in a more detailed, scholarly history should look for the works of Anne Salmond, such as ***Between Worlds: Early Exchanges Between Maori and Europeans*** and ***The Trial of the Cannibal Dog*** (about Captain Cook's voyages).

Once Were Warriors by Alan Duff (1990, Literature) The controversial best-selling novel about the disintegration of Maori culture in contemporary New Zealand, and how the lack of a clear cultural identity can lead to strife and violence.

Fiji

Tears in Paradise: Suffering and Struggles of Indians in Fiji, 1879–2004 by Rajendra Prasad (2010, History). A detailed and intensely researched publication on the treatment of Indian indentured servants, called Girmitiyas, in Fiji by the British from 1879–2004. As the grandson of Girmitiyas, Prasad graphically describes the treatment of those under the Girit system, as they worked on sugar-cane plantations until 1920. The second half of the book outlines the history and uncertain future of Indo-Fijians.

Kava in the Blood by Peter Thomson (1999, Autobiography). Thomson describes his time as the secretary to the governor of Fiji during the coup d'état in 1987 as well as his childhood as a fifth generation Fijian born to a British colonial administrator.

Getting Stoned with Savages: A Trip Through the Islands of Fiji and Vanuatu by J. Maarten Troost (2007, Nonfiction). A travelog of Troost and his wife's time on Vanuatu and Fiji, *Getting Stoned with Savages* follows the couple as they experience typhoons, giant centipedes, nudity, and parenthood.

Dodging Machetes by Will Lutwick (2012, Biography). Lutwick, as young Peace Corp member stationed in Fiji, struggles with Fijian culture and taboos surrounding interracial dating when he falls for Rani Gupta, a young woman from a traditional Hindi family.

Suggested Films & Videos

Australia

Lion (2016, Drama) A five-year old boy is separated from his family in India and adopted by a couple in Tasmania. Later as an adult, he searches for his birth mother using a few memories and Google Earth. Based on a true story.

Sapphires (2012, Drama) Based on a true story, the movie follows four young Aboriginal women who become a soul singing group that entertain troops in Vietnam. A moving story that incorporates historical events, such as how the White Australia Policy and Stolen Generation affected mixed race families in the 60s and 70s.

Red Dog (2011, Comedy) Set in the late 70's and early 80's, this film tells the story of a rascally stray dog, named for the color of his coat, and how he brings the local community together. The story, which is based on a well-known book, showcases the new Australia that developed from the wave of immigration after World War II.

Animal Kingdom (2010, Thriller) A gritty Australian family-crime drama about an innocent young man who, when his mother dies, turns to his uncles for guidance. Too bad the uncles are a crew of hardened Melbourne bank robbers who are nearing the end of the line. Critically acclaimed film with an ensemble cast that features Guy Pierce playing the good cop for a change.

Australia (2008, Adventure) An English lady inherits a cattle ranch in Australia and works with one of the ranch hands to organize an immense cattle drive across the Outback, but then gets caught up in the events leading to WWII.

General South Pacific

South Pacific (1958, Romance) A Rogers and Hammerstein musical set on a tropical island during WWII. Will young the American nurse fall for the sophisticated French planter? Or will she wash that man right out of her hair?

The Endless Summer (1966, Documentary) The primary focus of this documentary is two young surfers searching the world for the perfect beach. But with scenes in Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, and Hawaii, it also captures the rise of surfer culture in the South Pacific during the 1960's.

New Zealand

Hunt for the Wilderpeople (2016, Comedy) Written and directed by Taika Waititi this charming, off-beat comedy follows a mixed-up 13-year-old named Ricky Baker and his cankerous, yet highly skilled foster father Hec as they hide in the woods from a manhunt launched by mistake.

The World's Fastest Indian (2005, Drama) A biographical film based on the life of New Zealand speed bike rider Burt Munro, and his attempts to break the land speed record on his Indian Scout motorcycle.

The Lord of the Rings (trilogy comprising of ***The Fellowship of the Ring***, ***The Two Towers***, and ***The Return of the King***) (2001–2003, Adventure) An epic retelling of the classic works of J.R.R. Tolkien, set in the legendary world of Middle Earth, which was loosely based on old Norse and Celtic myths. When director Peter Jackson needed to find diverse locations from craggy peaks, to lush hills, to peaceful meadows, he turned to his home country—the plot might be pure fantasy, but the scenery is real New Zealand.

Whale Rider (2002, Drama) A young Maori girl fights for a chance to lead her tribe. But will her grandfather consider a girl for their next leader?

The Piano (1993, Drama) A mute woman, who only expresses herself through her piano and in sign language to her young daughter, is sent to New Zealand for an arranged marriage. But soon after her arrival, a potential romance with a local worker leads to dramatic consequences.

Fiji

Reel Paradise (2005, Documentary). John Pierson, a New York film programmer, moves to Fiji with his wife and daughter for a year, and opens a movie theater.

The Land Has Eyes (2004, Drama). The first feature film made in Fiji, *The Land Has Eyes* is about Viki, a young Fijian woman, who uses the myth of the Warrior Woman as inspiration while she searches for justice for her wrongfully accused father.

An Island Calling (2009, Documentary). This movie examines the murder of John Scott, the head of Fiji's Red Cross, and his gay partner, who helped hostages during the 2000 Fijian coup in an increasingly conservative and hostile country.

Useful Websites

Grand Circle Forum (tips from previous travelers)

www.gct.com/forum

Grand Circle Frequently Asked Questions

www.gct.com/faq

**International Health Information/CDC
(Centers for Disease Control)**

www.cdc.gov/travel

Electricity & Plugs

[www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/
plugs-and-sockets](http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets)

Foreign Exchange Rates

www.xe.com/currencyconverter
www.oanda.com/converter/classic

ATM Locators

www.mastercard.com/atm
www.visa.com/atmlocator

World Weather

www.intellicast.com
www.weather.com
www.wunderground.com

Basic Travel Phrases (80 languages)

www.travlang.com/languages

Packing Tips

www.travelite.org

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

www.cbp.gov/travel

Transportation Security

Administration (TSA)

www.tsa.gov

National Passport Information Center

www.travel.state.gov

Holidays Worldwide

www.timeanddate.com/holidays

Useful Apps

Flight Stats

Track departures, arrivals, and flight status

LoungeBuddy

Get access to premium airport lounges around the world

Timeshifter

Personalized tips for avoiding jetlag, based on neuroscience and your own data

GoogleMaps or Maps.me

Maps and directions anywhere in the world

Triposo

City guides, walking maps, and more – and it works offline

Rome2rio

Where to go, what to see, and what to do in more than 160 countries

Flush or Sit or Squat

Find a clean toilet anywhere

Uber or Bolt or Grab

Ride sharing around the world

Visa Plus and Mastercard Cirrus

ATM locations

Shows the location of the nearest ATM in your network

TunnelBear

Provides a secure VPN (virtual private network) that will encrypt your browsing data when you use a public WiFi network

What's App or Skype or Signal

WiFi calling anywhere in the world

Duolingo, FLuentU, or Babbel

Learn dozens of foreign languages

Google Translate

Fast and simple translations

XE

Currency conversions

SizeGuide

Clothing and shoe sizes in all countries

Best Units Converter

Converts currency, mileage, weights, and many other units of measurement

Happy Cow

Locate vegan and vegetarian eateries in 195 countries

Eatwith

Dine with locals all over the world

Meetup

Connects you with locals who share your interests

Skyview

Identifies constellations and heavenly bodies

Travello

Find travel friends on the road

TripWhistle

Maps your location and provides emergency numbers for police, medics, and more

GeoSure

Safely navigate neighborhoods around the world

Tourlina

For women only, it connects you with other female travelers

ALIX for One

Created by and for women, it identifies solo-friendly dining spots in major international cities

Chirpey

For women only, connect with other women, find out what's safe, meet up, and more



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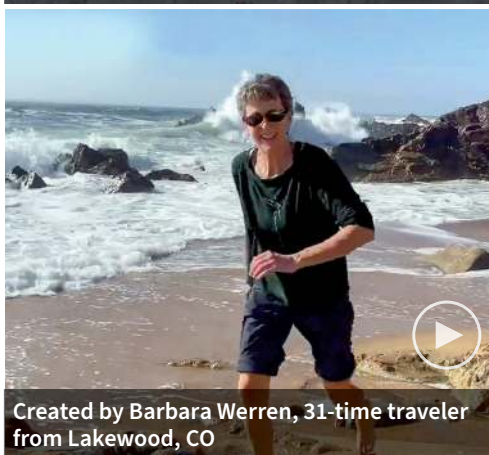
Submitted by Paul Motyka, 11-time traveler
from Acton, MA



Submitted by Kay Gevedon, 3-time traveler
from Mt. Sterling, KY



Submitted by David Woods, first-time
traveler from Rockport, TX



Created by Barbara Werren, 31-time traveler
from Lakewood, CO



Created by Sharon Fleury, 8-time traveler
from Poughkeepsie, NY



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