

“TRIP FLIP” SYDNEY

Day 1

The travelers will begin their adventure at one of Australia's most iconic locations – the Sydney Opera House. The experience here will be far from a regular operatic or expected one however, with the guests being given a traditional “welcome to country” by the renowned Indigenous Bangarra Dance Company. Aboriginal dance ceremonies (called corroborees) traditionally occurred when clan groups gathered at Bennelong Point where the Sydney Opera house is now. The travelers will learn how to play the didgeridoo and use boomerangs as musical instruments while the incredible performers fuse traditional and contemporary dance to tell stories about the community, of the land, of relationships, of the culture of Australia's First People.



After the formal welcome is over, it's time to get a new perspective on Australia's beautiful harbor city. Surprised by an Aussie celebrity [Hugh Jackman singing “I Still Call Australia Home”? Nicole Kidman? Russel Crowe? Eric Bana? Cate Blanchett? AC/DC? Or one of the newer stars coming out of OZ like Liam or Chris Hemsworth? Or a famous sportsperson? Patrick and Bert's connections needed here!], the travelers will take a guided climb along the outer arch of the Bridge on catwalks and ladders all the way to the summit, 440 feet above Sydney Harbour.



After the exhilarating trek to the top of the bridge and seeing 360 degree views of Sydney, piqued appetites will be more than satisfied at the award winning Aria Restaurant. With a spectacular panoramic view of the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, this spot offers a stunning final perspective of this famous Aussie icon as the sun sets on the Harbor. Renowned master chef Matthew Moran offers an incredible menu featuring fresh Australian produce, prepared using innovative and contemporary methods. A definite must is also dabbling into the restaurant's extensive and exquisite fine wine collection. It's an elegant dining experience worth every penny at this upper class restaurant in the heart of the city!



After a whirlwind first day of experiences and new sensations, the guests' retreat to the luxury surrounds of the BLUE Hotel, an elegantly appointed 100-room boutique property. Described as "calm, comfortable and chic, the BLUE hotel is Haute Hospitality in a heritage listed building". Just a hop, skip and a jump from the CBD and Kings Cross, adjacent the Botanical Gardens and within easy access to the beaches, the hotel rooms of the BLUE hotel are all located around the perimeter of the open plan interior restored wool-storage facility – so that almost every room has a water view.



* Anticipating jet-lag I've made all the first days activities happen within a few minutes walk of each other and very close to the hotel.

Day 2

Australians are known to be a nation of sports lovers, and like to “have a crack” (try) virtually any kind of physical activity. Aussies love sport so much they even created their very own game – Australian Rules Football. The travelers will go to the magnificent Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) and meet with some of the big men of the game from the Sydney Swans Football Club. After a demonstration of the rough-and-tumble, full contact sport from the champions and “kitting up” in the unique uniforms of short shorts and tight, sleeveless tops they will learn how to “take a screamer” (catch the ball by leaping up on the back of one of your opposition) and “drop kick a daisy cutter” (a fast low-flying kick) through the goals while avoiding being given any “clangers” (unforced errors) from the “maggot” (umpire).



After working up a thirst, the travelers will participate in the ‘other’ Australian national sport – drinking beer! While brands like Fosters might be the best known internationally, there is a strong microbrewery culture Down Under and going down to the pub with mates is an essential part of life. The travelers will go to Australia’s oldest pub brewery (the Lord Nelson Brewery) to find out how the beer is made then serve up a couple of pints to the locals before joining them for a traditional Anglo-Aussie “pub grub” serving of rye bread, chunks of vintage cheddar, pickled onions, gherkins and an egg.



Day 3

After the day at the footy and the pub, the travelers will spend their third day on Aussie shores tackling perhaps the most popular aspect of Australian culture with a day at Bondi Beach. This will be no ordinary experience as they join a Surf Lifesavers Club as honorary “Nippers” (junior lifesavers) and launch a traditional surf life boat with a champion crew.





Developing great Australians.



With over 158,000 members, Surf Life Saving is the largest volunteer movement of its kind in Australia with volunteer patrol members involved in 12,042 rescues last year. The men and women of the Surf Lifesaving Clubs are some of the nations fittest and toughest, with a slightly quirky Aussie twist to the traditional life saver uniforms! The only way to row the old style boats is by “wedging the budgie smugglers” (tucking your swimsuit between your buttocks), which, combined with the Tweedle-Dum and Tweedle-Dee style swim caps makes for an amusing sight and a hilarious look for Bert and the guests to mimic!

The excitement of the day at the beach will be topped off by some more high brow culture as the travelers stroll around the incredible cliff top exhibition, “Sculture by the Sea – Bondi” (running 10/18 – 11/4 so perfect timing!). The spectacular Bondi to Tamarama coastal walk is transformed into a 1 mile long temporary sculpture park featuring over 100 sculptures by artists from Australia and across the world. After experiencing one of the world's largest free-to-the-public art events, the day will be topped off by a beach “barbie”, with a twist [i.e. some celeb chef throwing ‘shrimp on the barbie’ plus maybe eating some kangaroo? Roo is delicious; super sustainable and eaten regularly in Australia if you think the network could handle it!]





* Sculpture By the Sea is one of my favorite things in Sydney, it knocks your socks off...

Day 4

The travelers will leave the city for the stunning surrounding bushland on Sydney's doorstep, taking a trip to the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains region. Leaving the city behind, they'll visit Featherdale Wildlife Park to see koalas and other Australian animals up close; view the famous Three Sisters rock formation and have a chance to drive the train on the Scenic Railway (the world's steepest incline railway).





The travelers will finish their adventure in the incredible Jenolan Caves, the oldest discovered open caves in the world. With numerous marine fossils and stunning pure white calcite formations, the cave network is enormous - over 25 miles of multi-level passages – and still undergoing active exploration. The travelers will go with an expert to areas not usually able to be accessed / do some kind of adventure activity like caving or rappelling?

