



John Hall's ALASKA



**2023 DOWN UNDER DISCOVERY**

# DOWN UNDER DISCOVERY



**TWENTY-THREE DAYS** – exploring **Australia** and **New Zealand** – feature luxury hotel stays, local guides, and top-quality service. From coral reefs and thermal pools, penguins and koalas, Aboriginal and Maori cultures, snorkeling and boat safaris, your days are filled with wonders on this exciting, all-inclusive, small group tour.



## Luxury Overnights

### AUSTRALIA

- 3 Nights – PARKROYAL Darling Harbour, Sydney
- 4 Nights – Sofitel Melbourne on Collins
- 2 Nights – Sails in the Desert, Ayers Rock
- 3 Nights – Shangri-La The Marina, Cairns

### NEW ZEALAND

- 2 Nights – Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour
- 2 Nights – Novotel Rotorua Lakeside
- 1 Night – Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas
- 3 Nights – The Rees Hotel, Queenstown
- 1 Night – Peppers Bluewater Resort, Lake Tekapo
- 1 Night – Distinction Christchurch Hotel



“The Australia and New Zealand trip was outstanding. As with all John Hall trips the accommodations were 1st class, food was outstanding, and the itinerary was what you wanted to see and how you wanted to see it. We have been on several alumni trips and this year and next year we have planned two more. Thank you to all the outstanding staff for their great service.”

-Shirley, Florida

### 65 MEALS INCLUDED

Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner on every full day of your tour!

## 2023 DEPARTURE & PRICING

TOUR DATE	DOUBLE	SINGLE
ANZ3-0219: FEB 19 - MAR 13	\$18,509	\$23,699

Triple & Quad pricing subject to availability upon request.

**Per Person Price Includes:** Australia travel visa; flights within and between Australia and New Zealand; accommodations; fully guided service; airport meet and greet; listed attractions, 65 meals, taxes, baggage handling, and corresponding gratuities; one adult beverage (wine or beer) with all dinners; special Alumni keepsake.

**Additional Savings:** \$300 per person when tour payment is made by check. \$1,500 per person deposit may still be made by credit card.

**ACTIVE RATING:** Easy to Moderate; must be able to walk a mile & board small boats.  
**GROUP SIZE:** 32 guest maximum.

**Flights:** Included flights will be non-stop when possible, but this is not guaranteed. Home city arrival and departure airfare is not included. On the last day, flights should depart after 2PM if you wish to join an included city tour; those willing to forego the tour may depart any time after 10AM.

# DOWN UNDER DISCOVERY

## 1 ARRIVE SYDNEY

Welcome to Australia! Upon arrival at Sydney International Airport, you will be met by a John Hall's Alaska representative and transferred to the PARKROYAL Darling Harbour for an early check-in. As the name suggests, the hotel is situated right on the water, well located for wandering around the Darling Harbour precinct, or just relax and acclimatize after your flight. Radiating from the harbor, Australia's largest city stretches from the shores of the Pacific Ocean to the foot of the Blue Mountains. Many great days lay ahead and this evening is just the start. Enjoy a welcome reception, followed by a Sydney Harbour dinner cruise - taking in views of the Rocks area, Sydney Opera House, and Sydney Bridge over sunset. What a wonderful way to begin an adventure!

*Dinner*

## 2 SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE & CITY SIGHTS

This morning, embark on a city sights tour taking in the historical Rocks area, where the First Fleet landed in 1788 to establish Australia's first European settlement. Other highlights include Chinatown, cosmopolitan Kings Cross, and world-famous Bondi Beach. Returning to town, head to the Sydney Opera House for a fascinating guided tour. Sixty years ago, Jorn Utzon designed what is now considered one of the greatest buildings of all time. Following lunch, the final stop on the day's tour is Mrs. Macquarie's Chair on the harbor foreshore. The sandstone chair was carved by convicts for Governor Lachlan Macquarie's wife in order for her to watch the activity on the harbor and await the arrival of ships from England. The point provides wonderful views of the Sydney Opera House, the Harbour Bridge, and Fort Denison. This evening, enjoy a special group dinner outing. Afterwards, you can "kick on" in the comfort of your resort, or perhaps venture out for a taste of Sydney's nightlife.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 3 AUSSIE WILDLIFE & BLUE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Today discover the beauty of the Blue Mountains! Featherdale Wildlife Park houses a great variety of wildlife including kangaroos, koalas, wallabies, Australian reptiles, Tasmanian devils, wombats, and various species of Australian birds. By motorcoach, climb into Blue Mountains National Park where today's lunch stop is in the village of Leura - which is aboriginal for "lava." The name was given to the village because of the area's wealth of volcanic stones. This afternoon, take the scenic Cliff Drive to Echo Point and the Three Sisters at Katoomba. Near here is Scenic World, and an afternoon of highlights. Take a ride on the Scenic Railway, the world's steepest incline railway, and travel through an ancient rainforest. Disembark and walk the 300-meter rainforest boardwalk to connect with the Flyway platform. The Scenic Cableway is the steepest aerial cable car in Australia that travels 545 meters up through the World Heritage listed rainforest of the Jamison Valley. The final adventure of your visit is the Scenic Skyway journey 270 meters above ancient ravines and dazzling waterfalls. This ride boasts a world-first, state of the art Electro-Scenic Glass Floor. The 360-degree bird's-eye view takes in the Three Sisters, Katoomba Falls, Mount Solitary, and the never-ending expanse of the Jamison Valley. Time to return to Sydney for dinner.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## AUSTRALIA HIGHLIGHTS

### SYDNEY

- Sydney Harbour Dinner Cruise
- Chinatown, Kings Cross & Bondi Beach
- Sydney Opera House Tour
- Mrs. Macquarie's Chair
- Featherdale Wildlife Park
- Blue Mountains National Park
- Scenic World - Railway, Cableway, Skyway Tours

### MELBOURNE

- Melbourne City Tour & Eureka Skydeck 88
- Great Ocean Road & Great Otway National Park
- Port Campbell National Park
- Queen Victoria Market
- Dandenong Ranges & "Puffing Billy" Steam Train
- Phillip Island Penguins

### AYERS ROCK

- 'Night at the Field of Light' Dinner
- Uluru Caves & Kata Tjuta Domes

### CAIRNS

- Great Barrier Reef Snorkeling
- Kuranda Scenic Rail & Rainforest Canopy Tour
- Cairns Aquarium Tour & Oceanarium Dinner



# DOWN UNDER DISCOVERY

## 4 MELBOURNE TOURING

Say farewell to Sydney this morning and fly to another cosmopolitan city - Melbourne. Take in lunch and a city tour before getting a good overview of Melbourne at the Eureka Skydeck 88, the highest viewing platform in the Southern Hemisphere and currently the world's tallest residential building. Afterwards, arrive at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins with time to settle in and freshen up. Dinner this evening takes you to the Docklands area's Berth Restaurant to enjoy a relaxed atmosphere and three-course meal.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 5 GREAT OCEAN ROAD

Today is a full day exploring one of Australia's most spectacular coastal drives. Following an early breakfast, travel the Great Ocean Road, built to honor the servicemen and women of World War I. The road extends more than 300 kilometers along some of the best coastal scenery this country has to offer. Follow along the coast to Lorne, a popular Victorian seaside village, then continue on stopping for lunch in Apollo Bay. Next, wind your way inland through the slopes of the Otway Ranges and Great Otway National Park. This afternoon, travel the full length of Port Campbell National Park. Stop to see the famous Twelve Apostles, towering limestone stacks with wild waves crashing at their bases, as they dominate the coastline near Port Campbell.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 6 QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET, THE DANDENONGS & PENGUINS

Time to "shop 'til you drop" at the famous Queen Victoria Market - a celebrated market for buskers, souvenirs, and fresh produce. Later this morning, drive into the Dandenong Ranges for a ride aboard the historic "Puffing Billy" steam train through lush mountainsides from Belgrave to Emerald. Disembark the train and journey by motorcoach to the southwestern end of Phillip Island for an early dinner and the famous Phillip Island penguin parade. Every day at dusk the little penguins come ashore after fishing for whitebait for their young. To see them come out of the surf in small groups and waddle up the beach is a unique spectacle. Enjoy an upgraded viewing experience from the Penguins Plus platform - close to the penguins' favorite spot to exit the water. Return to the hotel late this evening.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 7 RELAX IN MELBOURNE

The last few days have been busy, so today is yours to relax or add an additional activity. Shop, unwind at the hotel, or do some personal sightseeing - options will be provided in your final documents. The choice is yours!

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



# DOWN UNDER DISCOVERY

## 8 AYERS ROCK

Transfer to the Melbourne airport for a morning flight to Ayers Rock. Enjoy a tasty lunch, settle in at the resort, and spend the afternoon soaking up the Red Centre. This evening, a 'Night at the Field of Light' dinner experience delivers majestic views of Uluru. Sip sparkling wine and listen to the haunting sounds of the didgeridoo while watching the sunset. As darkness falls and the colored lights of 50,000 glass spheres come to life, enjoy a delicious Northern Territory gourmet barbecue. When the lights go down, they reveal a star filled sky, complete with a resident astronomer and an introduction to the magnificent constellations, stars, and planets that make up the skies of the Southern Hemisphere.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 9 ABORIGINAL SACRED CAVES & KATA TJUTA

Rise early this morning to watch the beautiful desert sunrise over Ayers Rock. See some of the many Aboriginal sacred caves which hold a special significance for the local Aboriginal Anangu people. Mid-afternoon, head out to the harsh Outback on a visit to the massive series of domes known as Kata Tjuta (Olgas). The walking trail through Walpa Gorge follows the natural creek between two of the domes of Kata Tjuta. Spend time exploring the gorge and unusual rock formations. In late afternoon, arrive at the sunset viewing area for drinks and canapes as you witness the striking color changes that can take place on the world's largest monolith - Uluru.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 10 AYERS ROCK & CAIRNS

Breakfast will be served in the hotel restaurant with your morning free for relaxing. Transfer by private motorcoach to the airport for your flight to Cairns this afternoon. On arrival in Cairns, head to Shangri-La The Marina, your home for the next three nights.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 11 GREAT BARRIER REEF WORLD HERITAGE AREA

Enjoy one of Australia's most unique treasures - the Great Barrier Reef - on a private day excursion. The area's spectacular outer reef sites present an opportunity to explore the underwater world with a snorkeling and glass bottom boat experience, or choose to splash out with extra activities like a Scenic Helicopter Flight (additional cost applies). A buffet lunch will be served on board. Return to Cairns for dinner.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 12 KURANDA RAINFOREST

Board the Kuranda Scenic Rail in a refurbished Heritage Carriage for a journey past massive Baron Falls, Stoney Creek, and across steep ravines to the rainforest village of Kuranda. There is time to explore Kuranda before boarding the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway and skimming over the canopy. At the Cairns Aquarium, enjoy an exclusive guided tour through ten amazing North Queensland ecosystems with over 71 different habitats. A special farewell Australia dinner will be served in the Oceanarium - surrounded by sharks, stingrays and the tropical beauty of the fish of the Coral Sea.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



# DOWN UNDER DISCOVERY

## 13 AUCKLAND

Fly to New Zealand! On arrival into Auckland - one of the best life-style cities in the world - transfer directly to the centrally situated Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour, your home for the next two evenings. Auckland has a plethora of great museums and galleries, and is a melting pot of cultures with a large Polynesian and Asian influence. Today is a full day of travel.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 14 AUCKLAND ADVENTURE DAY

Today, choose one activity from a selection of options designed to introduce you to Auckland's largest and most cosmopolitan city (options are sent with your final documents). Reunite for dinner at Harbourside Bar & Grill, located in the historic Ferry Building on Quay Street. There is something for everyone!

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 15 WAIKATO VALLEY & ROTORUA

Travel south into the fertile Waikato Valley. Here visit The Red Barn - a picturesque 500-acre park-like dairy farm nestled on a hill with 360-degree views of the Kaimai Ranges, Mount Maungatautari, and the greater Waikato dairy country. Take a rural tour on the fully functioning dairy farm with an interactive butter making experience before enjoying a country-style luncheon. Next up, the Hobbiton Movie Set, featured in the Peter Jackson directed movie trilogy The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey. On a guided tour, drive through a picturesque 1,250-acre sheep farm to see the Hobbit holes, Green Dragon Inn, Mill, and other structures created for the films. Late afternoon, journey to the unique geothermal area of Rotorua, part of the geologically active 'Pacific Rim of Fire.' Situated on the shores of Lake Rotorua, your hotel for the next two nights is the Novotel Rotorua Lakeside.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 16 RAINBOW SPRINGS, WAIOTAPU THERMAL POOLS & MAORI VILLAGE

A visit to Rainbow Springs showcases New Zealand's natural flora and fauna. See the endangered Kiwi bird, the national icon, and New Zealand's only reptile, the Tuatara. Visit Waiotapu, one of the world's most colorful thermal areas. This evening, feel the warmth of the Maori people during an evening of ceremonial rituals including karanga (welcome call), powhiri (welcome), wero (challenge), storytelling, and hangi feasting. Witness warriors training for war with traditional weapons, women weaving and making Maori crafts, and hear villagers tell stories of their ancestors and history. Dine on the traditional hangi buffet dinner (Maori feast). The evening ends with the Poroporoaki (official closing ceremony).

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## NEW ZEALAND HIGHLIGHTS

### AUCKLAND

- Pick Your Adventure

### ROTORUA

- Waikato Valley & Hobbiton Movie Set Tour
- Rainbow Springs & Waiotapu Thermal Areas
- Maori Cultural Experience & Feast

### TE ANAU

- Lakes Wakatipu & Te Anau
- The Remarkables Range

### QUEENSTOWN

- Fiordland National Park
- Milford Sound - Guided Nature Cruise
- Mount Aspiring National Park Forest Walk
- Lake Wakatipu & Jet Boat Safari
- Gondola Ride Over Queenstown

### LAKE TEKAPO

- Mackenzie Basin
- Pavlova Experience with Hosted Dinner

### CHRISTCHURCH

- Historic Akaunui Homestead Visit
- Christchurch City Tour



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## 17 QUEENSTOWN & TE ANAU

Fly to Queenstown this morning. Then by motorcoach, follow the eastern shores of Lake Wakatipu around the Devil's Staircase to Kingston with The Remarkables Range to your left. Continue on through the lovely Southland countryside where sheep, cattle, and deer farming predominate before reaching Te Anau. Renowned as the gateway to Fiordland National Park, the township of Te Anau is set on the shores of Lake Te Anau, the largest of New Zealand's southern glacial lakes. Overnight at Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 18 MILFORD SOUND CRUISE

From Te Anau, travel along the Milford Road into Fiordland National Park. Part of the UNESCO Southwest New Zealand World Heritage Area, Fiordland National Park is one of the great wilderness areas of the Southern Hemisphere. Situated on the west coast of the South Island, Milford Sound is a fusion of spectacular natural features with amazing vistas around every corner. At Milford Sound, embark on a nature cruise of this spectacular fiord. Take in the cascading waterfalls, dense rainforest, steep cliff faces, and marine life that inhabits these waters. An on-board nature guide with specialist knowledge of the region's history, flora, and fauna provides a detailed commentary. Lunch is served on board. Afterwards, reboard the coach and head to Queenstown. Nestled among glacier-rounded hills and dramatic rugged mountain peaks, Queenstown is New Zealand's premier four-season lake and alpine resort area.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 19 RELAX IN QUEENSTOWN

Today is a free day for relaxing at the hotel or getting out and exploring Queenstown on your own. There are more than enough shops, cafes, and colorful landmarks to hold your interest. A plethora of optional sightseeing activities are available and will be provided with your final documents.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 20 MOUNT ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK JET BOAT SAFARI & FOREST WALK

Journey by motorcoach to the small settlement of Glenorchy at the head of Lake Wakatipu. Here, join Dart River Adventures for a 1½-hour jet boat safari into Mount Aspiring National Park. The crystal-clear water in a wild and picturesque landscape, amidst the towering peaks, glaciers, and ancient forests of Mount Aspiring National Park captivate. Also enjoy a 20-30-minute guided walk through ancient native beech forest and learn about the flora and fauna, history, and geology of this World Heritage Area from knowledgeable guides. Return to Queenstown mid-afternoon and this evening, ride an aerial gondola high above Queenstown to Bob's Peak, where the Stratosphere Restaurant serves up a mouth-watering Taste of New Zealand buffet.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



# DOWN UNDER DISCOVERY

## 21 LAKE TEKAPO

Travel north through the rugged Kawarau Gorge, past pretty Lake Dunstan and across the distinctive Central Otago countryside to the Lindis Pass. Pass the small town of Omarama and after lunching in Twizel, drive along the shores of Lake Pukaki. On a clear day, Mount Cook, New Zealand's tallest mountain can be seen from the head of the lake. Continue across the Mackenzie Basin to the small town of Tekapo for a visit to The Church of the Good Shepherd, set on the shores of striking Lake Tekapo. See the memorial to working sheep dogs and the indispensable role they have had in the Mackenzie Basin. This evening, you are invited to the private home of Tekapo locals Angie and Stan Taylor for a Pavlova Experience and dinner. Their home is set on the shores of Lake Tekapo and Angie will share her secrets of this truly Kiwi dessert. Enjoy dinner - and a taste of pavlova. Drink in the views of this beautiful lake.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 22 AKAUNUI HOMESTEAD & CHRISTCHURCH

A morning crossing of the Southern Alps over Burkes Pass takes you to the rural settlement of Longbeach to visit Akaunui Historic House and Gardens. The garden includes magnificent old trees (both native and exotic) and complements the imposing century-old double story brick homestead. Enjoy a lovely country lunch at the Akaunui Homestead. Travel across the fertile Canterbury Plains to the city of Christchurch. Your evening will be at leisure with a private farewell dinner for the group at the Distinction Christchurch Hotel.

*Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

## 23 CHRISTCHURCH - FLY HOME

Take in breakfast at the hotel this morning before joining a local walking guide for a relaxed 1-hour walking tour around the central city. Learn about the effects of the 2011 Christchurch earthquakes and how the city is rebuilding. See the city's rebuilding program and depending upon the route your guide takes, you might see the temporary cardboard cathedral, the 'container' retail mall, and the reconstruction of the main arts buildings. Afterwards, transfer to Christchurch airport to catch your flight bound for home. Flights should depart after 2pm; guests willing to forego the city tour may depart after 10am.

*Breakfast*



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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### RESERVATIONS

Reservations may be made directly to John Hall's Alaska by mail, telephone, or in person. This tour is open to John Hall's Alaska returning guests and friends or family touring alongside our returning guests.

800.325.2270

1127 N. Lakeshore Drive, Lake City, Mn 55041

### DEPOSITS

To confirm your reservation please send a deposit of \$1,500 per person within ten days of your reservation. To reserve your space by credit card, please contact our office.

### FINAL PAYMENTS

Final Payment must reach John Hall's Alaska 90 days prior to tour departure date. If payment is not received on time, space may be released; re-booking will be subject to availability. Mastercard, Visa, Discover, American Express, and personal checks are acceptable forms of payment. A discount of \$300 per person will be extended for tours paid by cash or check. (\$1,500 per person deposits may still be made by credit card).

### CANCELLATIONS

If a cancellation is made in writing at least 90 days prior to departure, a full refund will be made. For cancellations made less than 90 days prior to departure, the following per person charges apply: 61-90 days - 50% of total charges; inside of 60 days - 100% of fare. In the event of interruption or cancellation of your tour after its commencement, there will be no refunds.

### PASSPORTS

Guests will be required to carry a passport valid for six months past the date of return. Passport information will be collected at the time of booking.

### TOUR DOCUMENTS

Tour documents, including detailed itinerary, Australia travel Visa, overnight duffel bag, luggage tags, and passenger lists will be mailed approximately 14-21 days prior to departure. This may be delayed if final payment is not received on time.

### ITINERARY REVISIONS

John Hall's Alaska reserves the right to revise the services included in the itinerary such as hotel accommodations and attractions. In cases of substitution, a comparable quality service will be used.

### PACKING RECOMMENDATIONS

The dress code for this tour is casual. Sweaters, jackets, gloves, and hats for mountain and glacier destinations. Swim wear and sandals may be useful at resort pools. Comfortable walking shoes, jeans, and shorts or capris for touring days are recommended. Consider packing in layers so that you may switch out warm and cool weather attire throughout the tour.

### TIPPING/GRATUITIES

All gratuities have been included in the price of your package with the exception of your John Hall's Alaska Tour Representative. This includes all waitering staff and luggage handling gratuities while on tour. Tipping your tour representative is not required and should reward exemplary service.

### EXTENDED STAYS & ADDITIONAL OVERNIGHTS

Should you wish to spend more time exploring Australia or New Zealand, we would be happy to help you make these arrangements. Some additional fees may be applicable and included in your final bill with John Hall's Alaska.

### SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Dietary requests, specific medical conditions, physical disabilities, or other special needs requirements must be noted at the time of booking. We do not discriminate against persons on the basis of disability and seek, to the furthest extent possible, to accommodate any person with a disability. Although we are unable to guarantee that all special meal requests can be accommodated, we will request where appropriate. In particular, please let us know if you have had a recent change in a medical condition such as change of diet or if you require the use of a mobility device that may include a wheelchair, scooter or walker.

### HEALTH & SAFETY

Our standards have always been high, and at John Hall's Alaska, we value guest health and safety as a top priority. To protect your wellbeing, protocols are in place for guests and staff to follow throughout your time with us. COVID continues to be a fluid situation and we reserve the right to alter the tour and/or our policies due to changes in COVID restrictions, travel requirements, mandates, etc. It is our utmost hope that when we travel together, you are comfortable and confident.

