



The Association of Former Students of  
Texas A&M University presents

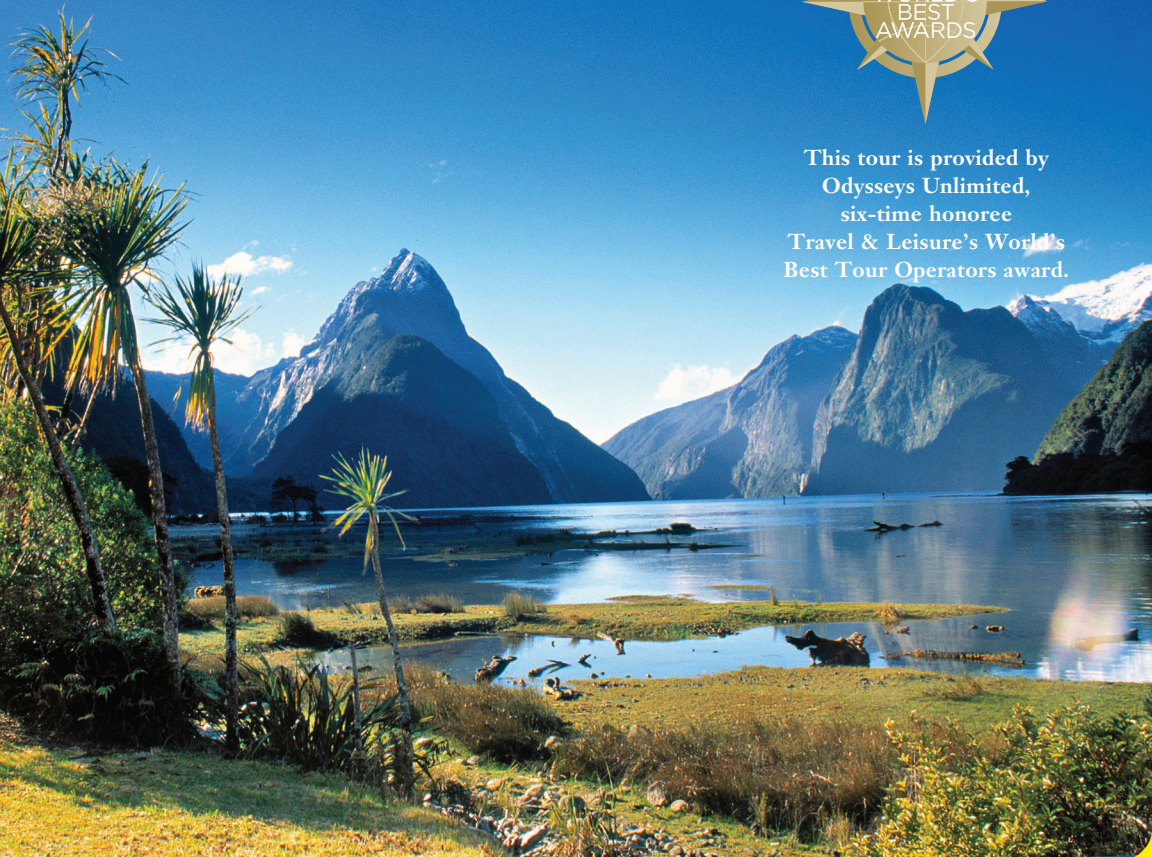
# EXPLORING AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

March 25-April 15, 2015

**22 days for \$8,957 total price from Houston**  
(\$7,895 air & land inclusive plus \$1,062 airline taxes and departure fees)



This tour is provided by  
Odysseys Unlimited,  
six-time honoree  
Travel & Leisure's World's  
Best Tour Operators award.



An Exclusive Small-Group Tour for  
Aggies & Friends of Texas A&M University

Tour membership limited to 24 alumni and friends

# EXPLORING AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

**22 days for \$8,957 total price from Houston**

(\$7,895 air & land inclusive plus \$1,062 airline taxes and departure fees)

**S**mall group touring and the Lands Down Under – they add up to a perfect combination as we travel from Australia’s spectacular Great Barrier Reef and the storied Outback and Ayers Rock to sophisticated Sydney; from New Zealand’s towering Mt. Cook and breathtaking Milford Sound to high-spirited Queenstown and nautical Auckland.



## Days 1 & 2: Depart U.S. for Cairns, Australia

**Day 3: Arrive Cairns** This afternoon we arrive in Cairns, gateway to Australia’s Far North and the Great Barrier Reef. We transfer to our hotel where tonight we enjoy a briefing and dinner. **D**

**Day 4: Cairns/Kuranda** We take an orientation tour of Cairns then board an historic railway to the mountain village of Kuranda. After time to explore here, we descend via the gondolas of Skyrail. We return to our hotel and the remainder of the day is at leisure to explore Cairns independently. **B**

**Day 5: Great Barrier Reef** This morning we board a boat for a day-long excursion to the Great Barrier Reef, at 1,200 miles long the world’s largest living organism and richest marine resource. We pull up at Michaelmas Cay where we can swim, snorkel, view the reef from a semi-submersible vessel, or take a guided birding tour. **B,L**

**Day 6: Cairns/Alice Springs** We take a morning flight to Alice Springs, where we see the Anzac Hill Monument to Australian and New Zealand soldiers, Royal Flying Doctors Service, and School of the Air, which provides schooling to widely scattered Outback children. Tonight we enjoy a traditional dinner in the “bush.” **B,D**

**Day 7: Alice Springs** This morning we embark on an Aboriginal “dreamtime” tour, to meet Walpiri tribespeople and learn about their ancient culture. Then we visit Simpsons Gap and Standley Chasm, where we enjoy a picnic lunch and see the sheer rock walls aglow in reflected sunlight. **B,L**

**Day 8: Alice Springs/Ayers Rock** We reach our Ayers Rock hotel early afternoon. After lunch on our own, we visit Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site that is the traditional land of the Anangu Aboriginal peoples and home to the Olgas rock formations and Uluru (Ayers Rock). We watch

Avg. High (°F)	Mar	Apr
Sydney	76	71
Alice Springs	90	81
Queenstown	67	60

## Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Ride aboard Vintage Kuranda steam train and Skyrail gondolas ... Great Barrier Reef excursion ... Aboriginal “dreamtime” experience ... Sunset at Ayers Rock ... Sydney touring and Harbour cruise ... Koala Sanctuary Park ... Two-night stay at Mt. Cook National Park ... Milford Sound cruise ... Geo-thermal Rotorua ... Maori cultural experience ... Auckland touring

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1-2	Depart U.S. for Cairns		
3-5	Cairns	Pullman Reef Casino	Deluxe
6-7	Alice Springs	DoubleTree by Hilton	Sup. First Class
8	Ayers Rock	Sails in the Desert	Sup. First Class
9-12	Sydney	Sir Stamford	Deluxe
13-14	Mt. Cook	Hermitage	First Class
15-17	Queenstown	St. Moritz	First Class
18-19	Rotorua	Regent of Rotorua	First Class
20-21	Auckland	Pullman Auckland	Sup. First Class
22	Depart Auckland for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

Cover Photo: Serene Milford Sound ranks as New Zealand’s most popular destination.



We tour Sydney's iconic Opera House on Day 12.

the sun set over this fabled sandstone monolith that rises to a height of 1,114 feet. **B, D**

**Day 9: Ayers Rock/Sydney** This morning we visit the base of Uluru and the interesting museum here. Mid-day we fly to Sydney, arriving late afternoon. **B**

**Day 10: Sydney** Today's tour features the breathtaking Royal Botanic Gardens, Darling Harbour and Mrs. Macquarie's Point, Rose and Watson's bays, and popular Bondi Beach. Then we board a catamaran for a lunch cruise around Sydney Harbour. **B,L**

**Day 11: Sydney** This morning we tour Koala Sanctuary Park, where koalas roam free. Next we drive along Sydney's Northern Beaches, a string of 18 stunning playgrounds, then stop in fashionable Manly for free time and lunch on our own. **B**

**Day 12: Sydney** After we tour the iconic Sydney Opera House this morning, the remainder of the day is free for independent exploration. Tonight we enjoy dinner at the Waterfront Restaurant, with excellent seafood and beautiful harbor views. **B,D**

**Day 13: Sydney/Christchurch/Mount Cook Nat'l Park, New Zealand** We fly this morning to Christchurch, New Zealand, where we board a motorcoach for the drive to Mount Cook National Park (*Aoraki* in the native tongue). We reach our hotel located inside the park this evening in time for dinner. **B,D**

**Day 14: Mount Cook** This morning's tour of alpine Mount Cook Village and environs includes a visit to the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Center, where we see a 3D planetarium movie about

the region. We also visit the Hillary Gallery, commemorating Sir Edmund's achievements, including the first ascent of Mount Cook's difficult South face. At 12,316 feet, Mount Cook is New Zealand's tallest mountain. After time in the village for lunch on our own, this afternoon is at leisure; optional activities include hiking and scenic flights. **B,D**

**Day 15: Mount Cook/Queenstown** We depart this morning for Queenstown, stopping en route in historic Arrowtown for lunch on our own followed by a visit to Kawarau Bridge Bungy, the world's first bungy jump operation open to the public. Mid-afternoon we reach Queenstown, New Zealand's "adventure capital." **B,D**

**Day 16: Milford Sound** Our day-long excursion to Milford Sound includes a nature cruise through the breathtaking fjords. We have lunch on board then later have the opportunity to return to Queenstown on an optional scenic flight (weather permitting). **B,L**

### Post-Tour Extension

April 15-17, 2015

#### AUCKLAND – ON YOUR OWN

3 days/2 nights for \$245 total price

Single Supplement: \$145

*Enjoy the sparkling "City of Sails"  
at your own pace.*

#### Your Tour Price Includes

- 2 nights' accommodations at Pullman Auckland Hotel (Superior First Class)
- 2 meals: 2 breakfasts
- Transfer to airport

I AM THE LAND  
AND THE LAND IS ME.

— MAORI PROVERB

**Day 17: Queenstown** Today is free to explore Queenstown independently. Late this afternoon we take the T.S.S. *Earnslaw* across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a barbecue dinner and to watch the well-trained sheep dogs and see a sheep-shearing demonstration. **B,D**

**Day 18: Queenstown/Rotorua** We depart this morning for Rotorua, with its geysers, bubbling mud pools, hot thermal springs, and a center of Maori culture. This afternoon's tour includes the new Rotorua Museum, among other highlights. **B**

**Day 19: Rotorua** This morning and early afternoon are at leisure; late afternoon we visit Te Puia Thermal Reserve and Maori Cultural Center for a traditional *hangi* dinner and performance. **B,D**

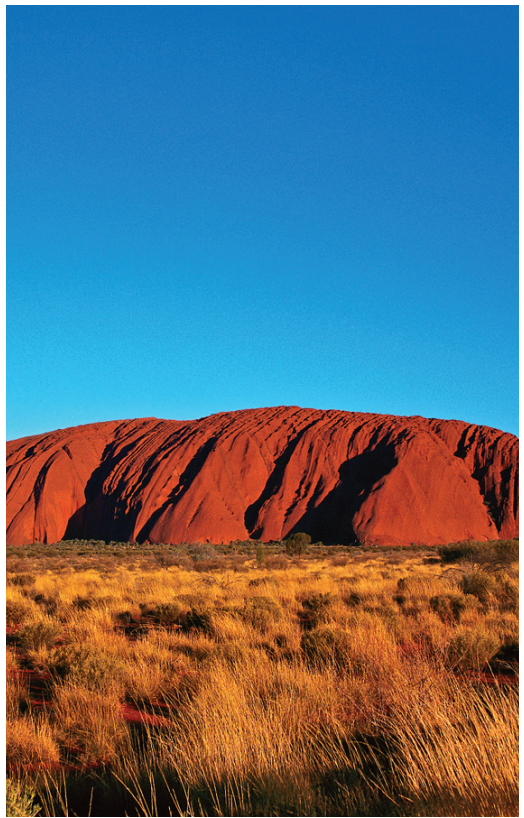
**Day 20: Rotorua/Auckland** En route to Auckland, we stop this morning at Ruakuri Caves to see the unique glowworms that illuminate the underground grottoes and caves. We reach Auckland late this afternoon; we're on our own for dinner tonight. **B**

**Day 21: Auckland** Our half-day tour of this city set atop 48 volcanic hills features glittering Auckland Harbour and the America's Cup Village. We also visit the War Memorial Museum, with its prized Maori and Pacific Islander collections. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner at our hotel. **B,D**

**Day 22: Depart for U.S.** Very early this morning we depart for the airport for the flight to Los Angeles (via Sydney) and our return flights home. **B**

### Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within itinerary
- 19 nights' accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
- 33 meals: 19 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 10 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of local Odysseys Unlimited Tour Directors
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



Aboriginal site of Uluru (Ayers Rock)

### Tour Departs: March 25, 2015

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Los Angeles	\$8,657
Phoenix, San Francisco	\$8,857
Dallas, Houston, Portland (OR), Seattle	\$8,957
Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando, Tampa	\$9,057
Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, New York, Newark, Philadelphia, Washington, DC	\$9,157
Land Only	\$7,295

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees of \$1,062, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add \$2,195. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, fuel surcharges, and departure fees) are guaranteed.

An overnight stay at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport (upon departure or return) is available for \$89 per person (single supplement: \$59). Depending on flight schedules, certain U.S. departure cities may require an overnight stay at your expense.

Business Class upgrade on round trip Trans-Pacific flight: \$6,595 per person (upgrade subject to availability and pricing subject to change).

**For more information and reservations, please call The Traveling Aggies at 979-845-7514 or toll-free at 800-633-7514.**



*Traveling Aggies*

**Howdy, Ags!**

Join us in 2015 on a special tour to Australia and New Zealand. From the Great Barrier Reef to the historic Sydney Opera House and breathtaking Milford Sound, Australia and New Zealand offer visitors a wealth of spectacular natural scenery and cultural diversity.

Your 22-day journey begins in Cairns, Australia's Far North and the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef. Take a day-long excursion to the magnificent reef and see the rich marine resources. In the storied Outback, embark on an aboriginal "dreamtime" tour to meet the Walpiri tribespeople. While there, watch the sun set over enigmatic Ayers Rock. Spend four nights exploring the sophisticated city of Sydney. Take a catamaran cruise in the harbor, tour the iconic Sydney Opera House, and visit the Koala Sanctuary Park. Fly to picturesque New Zealand and drive to Mt. Cook National Park in the Southern Alps. Explore New Zealand's "adventure capital," Queensland, and visit stunning Milford Sound. Experience the geothermal features of Rotorua and learn about the local Maori culture. Conclude your journey in Auckland, the "City of Sails," with sightseeing before returning home.

With space for only 24 guests on this Traveling Aggies exclusive departure, we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today to secure your spot on our exciting tour to Australia and New Zealand!

Gig 'em,  
*Jennifer Bohac*  
Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.  
Director of Travel Programs

**TRAVELING AGGIES RESERVATION FORM: EXPLORING AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND**

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$\_\_\_\_(\$500 per person) for \_\_\_\_ person(s) on **Exploring Australia & New Zealand** departing **March 25, 2015**. I/we understand the final payment is due 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA or by personal check. Make checks payable to **Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.**, and mail (along with completed reservation form) to: **The Association of Former Students, 505 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840-2918**. Or call **The Traveling Aggies** at **979-845-7514** or toll-free at **800-633-7514**. Or fax the reservation to **979-845-9263**.

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

Full Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Ph. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please book my/our air from \_\_\_\_\_ I/we request a Business Class upgrade

I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_ I request a single room (limited availability)

**Auckland-On Your Own Extension:** Please sign me/us up

**Please Note:** The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for **Exploring Australia & New Zealand, March 25-April 15, 2015**, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment**     Check     American Express     Discover     MasterCard     VISA

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

### Not included in tour price

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only tour package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only tour package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

### Cancellations, refunds and changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **Cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; Cancel 94-65 days before departure: 25% of tour price; Cancel 64-45 days before departure: 50% of tour price; Cancel 44-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; Cancel 29-0 days before departure: No refund.** If a guest makes any changes between 94 and 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

### Responsibility

The liability of The Association of Former Students, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The Association of Former Students and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

**No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.**

### Health and Medical Issues

We request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. If you require the use of a wheelchair or have other personal needs, you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Odysseys Unlimited and The Association of Former Students assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

### Air Transportation – Important Information

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.**

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Standard  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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*Traveling Aggies*

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College Station, Texas 77840-2918



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