

Missouri Retired Teachers Association presents...

Australia's Outback to New Zealand's South Island

with Optional 3-Night Fiji Post Tour Extension
with Optional 5-Night Tasmania Pre Tour Extension

April 14 – May 3, 2027



Book Now
& Save
\$200
Per Person

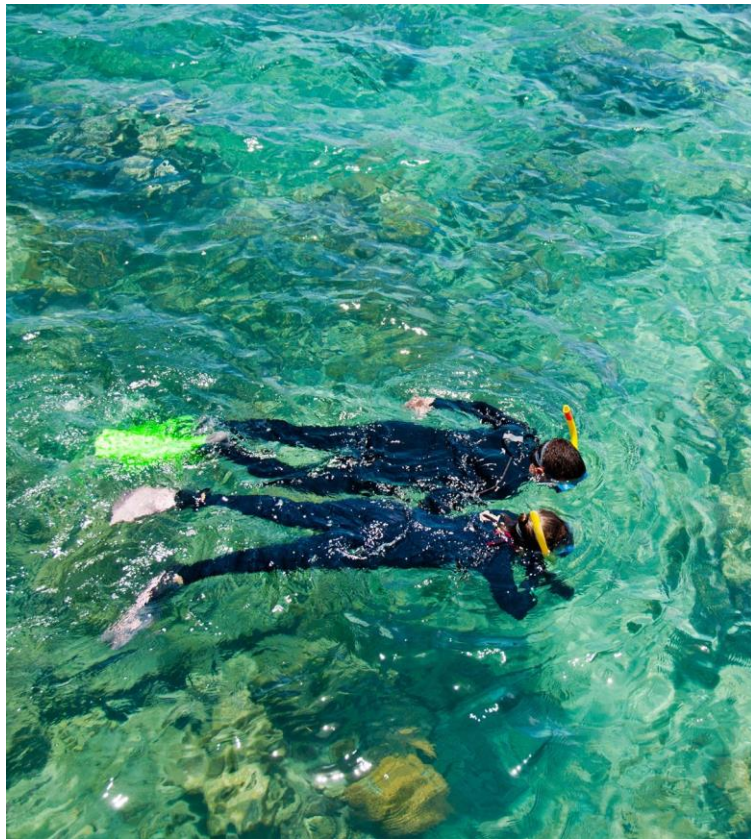
Upgrade to Elite Airfare! See inside for details.



MISSOURI RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL

For more information contact
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Missouri Retired Teachers Association
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travel@mrta.org

collette



20 Days • 28 Meals: 17 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 9 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Sydney, Sydney Opera House, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Alice Springs, Uluru, Melbourne, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Mt. Cook National Park, Christchurch

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

- Days 1, 2 Overnight Flight
- Days 3 – 5 Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, Sydney
- Days 6 – 8 Bailey Hotel by Crystalbrook, Cairns
- Days 9, 10 Crowne Plaza Alice Springs Lasseters, Alice Springs
- Day 11 Desert Gardens, Ayers Rock
- Days 12, 13 Crown Promenade Melbourne, Melbourne
- Days 14 – 16 Novotel Queenstown Lakeside, Queenstown
- Day 17 The Hermitage, Mount Cook Natl. Park
- Days 18, 19 Distinction Christchurch Hotel, Christchurch

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

Day 1 – 2: April 14 – 15, 2027 Depart from Home Cross the International Dateline (skipping a day ahead) for an adventure discovering the treasures of Australia and New Zealand, including their unparalleled beauty and captivating culture.

Day 3: Friday, April 16, 2027 Sydney, Australia Arrive today in Sydney, perhaps one of the friendliest metropolises in the world. Tonight join your fellow travelers and toast to the start of your adventure down under during dinner in lively Darling Harbour. (D)

Day 4: Saturday, April 17, 2027 Sydney See where English colonists first settled during a city tour of Sydney, starting with a guided walking tour of The Rocks district. Then, head to Circular Quay, famed for two of Sydney's most recognizable landmarks - the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House. Take an expert-led tour of the Sydney Opera House, poised majestically on Sydney Harbour, to discover its remarkable architecture and history. Continue your discovery of the city with a visit to the Botanic Gardens and its historic surroundings. Then, have the chance to join a special presentation at the National Opal Collection. (B)

Day 5: Sunday, April 18, 2027 Sydney Deepen your exploration of Sydney's many wonders with a day at leisure. Tonight, enjoy scenic vistas of Sydney during a delightful dinner cruise of Sydney Harbour. Marvel at the magnificent skyline and iconic attractions: the Sydney Opera House and the Harbour Bridge. (B, D)

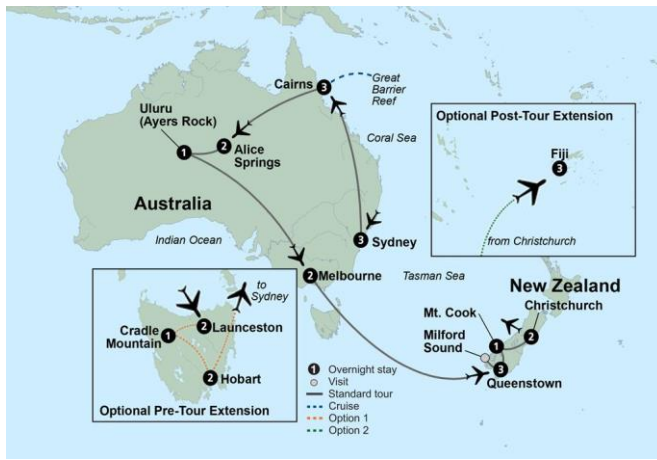
Day 6: Monday, April 19, 2027 Sydney - Cairns Fly to Cairns, the tropical gateway to one of the world's most spectacular natural attractions – the Great Barrier Reef (UNESCO). Established as a marine park in 1975, the reef is a haven for thousands of species of sea life, as well as turtles and birds. (B)

Day 7: Tuesday, April 20, 2027 Cairns Board a high-speed catamaran for an exciting excursion to the Great Barrier Reef. Explore the reef from your base on Green Island. Enjoy a glass-bottom boat ride, stroll the island's walking trails, relax on the beach, snorkel or just watch the fish and sea turtles swim past from the pier. For a more adventurous encounter with the reef, an optional outer reef tour is also available. (B, L)

Day 8: Wednesday, April 21, 2027 Cairns Soak up the tropical atmosphere – the morning is yours. Perhaps you will take an optional tour on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, taking you above the rainforest canopy for a bird's-eye view of unspoiled nature. This afternoon, visit Hartley's Crocodile Adventures to see crocodiles on a nature cruise. Head through rainforests on boardwalks to see animals such as wild birds, reptiles, and wallabies. Visit with a koala and chat with a wildlife naturalist to learn more about these furry creatures. (B, D)

Day 9: Thursday, April 22, 2027 Cairns - Alice Springs Experience the vast landscapes and tranquility of the Outback. Your flight takes you to Alice Springs, the perfect place to begin exploring this unique land. Tonight, continue your cultural immersion with a memorable bush dinner set against the backdrop of this unique desert environment. (B, D)

Day 10: Friday, April 23, 2027 Alice Springs Access the history and culture of the Arrernte Aboriginal people by enjoying a guided walk on their sacred land, followed by a talk with an Aboriginal guide. Gain insight into their cultural history and discover what makes this place so special. This afternoon, discover a more modern side to Outback living when you visit the Royal Flying Doctor Service, a lifeline to thousands across the vast terrain of Central Australia. Later, tour the Old Telegraph Station and Anzac Hill with its excellent views of Alice Springs and the surrounding area. (B)



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\$200
Per Person

Book Now & Save \$200 Per Person:

Double ~~\$11,229~~; **Double \$11,029***
Single ~~\$13,229~~ **Single \$13,029**

For bookings made after Oct 16, 2026 call for rates.

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Lambert St Louis Intl, Kansas City Intl Airport or Springfield Branson Regional Airport, Inter-flights from Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport, Australia, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$699 per person

* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change, based on air inclusive package from STL

Upgrade your in-flight experience with Elite Airfare

Additional rate of: Premium Economy \$3,990; Business Class \$9,990

- * Elite Air pricing (Premium Economy, Business Class or First class) is valid until 8 months prior to departure, after which rates are subject to change and will be quoted based upon availability.

† Refer to the reservation form to choose your upgrade option

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received and booking confirmed by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received and booking confirmed, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. **(See registration form for consent.)**

Day 11: Saturday, April 24, 2027 Alice Springs - Uluru Traverse the "Red Centre" and head to Uluru (the Aboriginal name for Ayers Rock) in the heart of the Australian Outback. This huge monolith and the sandstone domes known as Kata Tjuta were created through upheaval and erosion. Tour the base of "the Rock," learning about its geology and significance to Aboriginal culture. Witness the changing colors of Uluru at sunset accompanied by a champagne toast. (B)

Day 12: Sunday, April 25, 2027 Uluru - Melbourne Fly to the beautiful Victorian city of Melbourne. Set upon the shores of Port Phillip Bay and the Yarra River, the city exudes a lively and cosmopolitan atmosphere. (B, D)

Day 13: Monday, April 26, 2027 Melbourne Set out on a city tour and see Fitzroy Gardens and Melbourne's bustling "laneways." Visit the Melbourne Botanical Gardens and Shrine of Remembrance. Then, **it's your choice!** Enjoy panoramic views from above at Melbourne Skydeck, the Southern Hemisphere's highest public vantage point -**OR-** unwind on a scenic cruise along the Yarra River, taking in Melbourne's sights from the water. With an afternoon to yourself, perhaps you will ride a free city tram, try the amazing array of cuisines on offer in this multicultural city, or enjoy the Victorian-era architecture. (B)

Day 14: Tuesday, April 27, 2027 Melbourne - Queenstown, New Zealand Leave Australia behind and fly to Queenstown, New Zealand. One of New Zealand's most popular towns, Queenstown is nestled against a picturesque bay and snowcapped mountains.

Home to ski resorts, hiking trails, and an abundance of natural beauty, the city is known as the "Adventure Capital of the World." Settle into your new home for the next three nights. (B, D)

Day 15: Wednesday, April 28, 2027 Queenstown - Milford Sound - Queenstown Soak in the rugged grandeur of Hollyford Valley as you travel through an ancient beech forest via the Homer Tunnel. Cruise the Milford Sound and see why this fjord is one of the most visited sights on South Island. Following the cruise, consider returning to Queenstown via a short optional flight (weather permitting) for spectacular views of New Zealand's Southern Alps. (B, L)

Day 16: Thursday, April 29, 2027 Queenstown Your day is free to experience Queenstown your way. Shop or people-watch in the village, find a unique eatery for lunch, sample some New Zealand wine – the day is yours to enjoy this stunning city. (B)

Day 17: Friday, April 30, 2027 Queenstown - Mt. Cook National Park Set off for the 19th-century settlement of Arrowtown, founded during the gold fever. Follow the Kawarau River and cross Lindis Pass before arriving in New Zealand's most famous national park – Mt. Cook. Savor some free time in this Alpine paradise. You may choose to take a nature walk or simply meditate on the beauty of the Southern Alps. (B, D)

Day 18: Saturday, May 1, 2027 Mt. Cook National Park - Christchurch Depart for Christchurch this morning and pay a visit to Willowbank Wildlife Reserve. A leader in the conservation of New Zealand species, Willowbank offers the chance to view New

For more information on extensions and options for this tour visit
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1372398>

Zealand's "Big 5" up close and personal. Learn about the local Indigenous culture of the Maori, with a paddle on the Avon River in a traditional canoe or *waka*. Later, join a local Kiwi family for a home-hosted dinner. (B, D)

Day 19: Sunday, May 2, 2027 Christchurch Devastated by an earthquake in early 2011, see firsthand how the "Garden City" is recreating itself during a sightseeing tour that highlights the city's magnificent gardens and elegant park district. As the day draws to a close, toast to your adventure down under at a farewell dinner with your fellow travelers. (B, D)

Day 20: Monday, May 3, 2027 Christchurch - Tour Ends Your tour comes to a close, leaving you with unforgettable memories of the South Pacific. (B)

Important Tour Information:

Book Now rates valid until Oct 16, 2026, valid on air inclusive packages only.

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

Travel with an average of 37 people (maximum of 44).

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

Due to changes in air schedules while on tour, the order of days in the itinerary may change.

There is one long transfer day with 8 hours or more of driving, including stops.

Personal audio devices (headsets) are not included on this tour.

Wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed with the exception of visits to wildlife parks.

Due to early arrival times into some cities, rooms may not always be available for immediate check-in.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability.

To complete your tour, we include round-trip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of *purchasing* these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Please be advised, many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Internal flights are required in order to participate on this tour and are included in the final price, quoted at time of booking.

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

Travel Requirements:

Passports and visas are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require a minimum of 6 months passport validity from date of return home. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements. **IMPORTANT:** We recommend that our travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

US and Canadian citizens: ETA's (Electronic Travel Authority) are required for this tour.

For travel to Australia: Your ETA must be processed in advance of travel through the Australian Immigration website by visiting <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601#HowTo> or by downloading the Australian ETA app on a smartphone. The approximate cost of the ETA application is \$20 Australian Dollars. Please allow for up to 72 hours for processing. In most cases, you will be notified of the result of your ETA application immediately.

For travel to New Zealand, your NZeTA must be processed in advance through the New Zealand Immigration online system by visiting <https://nzeta.immigration.govt.nz/> (approximate cost of \$23 NZD) or through their mobile app NZeTA (approximate cost of \$17 NZD) in addition to Tourism Levy of \$100 NZD. Please allow for up to 72 hours for processing. Many requests are processed in a timely manner. Rates are approximate and can be changed at any time based on governing authority.

Please be aware that if your flight schedule is via Dubai or if you are stopping over in Dubai and are carrying narcotic drugs, controlled or semi-controlled drugs, then you will be required to complete an electronic form prior to entering the country, to obtain approval to carry medication. Please use the link <https://mohap.gov.ae/en/services/issue-of-permit-to-import-medicines-for-personal-use> to view the guidelines. A user's guide is available to explain the application and the supporting documents required.

A deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the seat reduction date of October 09, 2026 are based upon availability. Final payment due by January 14, 2027. Deposits are refundable up until October 16, 2026.

CST#2006766-20 UBN#601220855 Nevada Sellers of Travel Registration No. 2003-0279

**For important reservation information visit
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1372398>.
You can also find this information on your tour documents.**

BOOKING NUMBER: 1372398

TOUR: Australia's Outback to New Zealand's South Island

DEPARTURE DATE: April 14, 2027

GROUP NAME: Missouri Retired Teachers Association

Available Options

Personalize your tour by adding an optional activity below. Our recommended options have been carefully chosen to help enhance your individual experience. Complete the provided Prepaid Options Form to reserve your options.

Availability is limited and reservations are on a first come, first serve basis. Payment must be received no later than 15 days prior to departure. Prices are subject to change.

Children under the age of 18 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

Alice Springs

Outback Ballooning

\$279 USD

Drift over the Outback on the gentle winds in the welcome cool of the early morning. The landscape erupts into color as the sun's rays strike the rugged MacDonnell Ranges. Watch as balloons slowly inflate and gracefully rise into the sky. Float aloft and enjoy the spectacular Australian scenery below you. Kangaroos and wallabies love the early mornings, so keep your eyes open for them as you glide over the bush. Return to the ground and enjoy a light breakfast as you toast your airborne experience! Actual balloon flight time is 30 minutes. This option operates on a weather-permitting basis only. Time is seasonal and will begin approximately one hour before sunrise. *Duration: Approximately 3 hours.* Please note a minimum of 1 passengers is required. Transportation is included.

Queenstown



Take a Steamship to Dinner

\$149 USD

Step back in time when you board the TSS Earnslaw, the beloved steamship that has been transporting goods and people on Lake Wakatipu since 1912. Nicknamed "The Lady of the Lake," she is the only coal-fired steamship still in operation in the southern hemisphere. Embark on a leisurely cruise across the pristine waters to Walter Peak High Country Farm. Enjoy the hospitality of the Colonel's Homestead at an impressive buffet where you can indulge in the best of New Zealand meats and seafood, fresh vegetables and garden salads. You are sure to find the house dessert specialties hard to resist! An after-dinner visit to the farm provides an entertaining glimpse into farming life in the high country. Cruise back to Queenstown, relaxing or joining in the revelry of the lively sing-along. Due to planned maintenance, some departures in May to June will not have the coal-fired steamship for the cruise across Lake Wakatipu. It will be replaced with a motorized vessel. *Duration: Approximately 4 hours.* Please note a minimum of 1 passengers is required. Transportation is included.

Cairns



Over and Through the Rainforest Canopy

\$119 USD

Glide over and through the lush rainforests of Cairns on the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, the world's longest gondola cableway. The comfortable gondola carries you 4½ miles through the rugged beauty of Barron Gorge National Park, part of the Wet Tropics, a UNESCO World Heritage area. The gondola dips through the layers of the canopy to bring you deep into the rainforest, stopping at two viewing platforms along the way. Experience the sights, sounds, and scents of this vibrant ecosystem up close and see the dramatic Barron Gorge and waterfalls. *Duration: Approximately 2 hours.* Please note a minimum of 15 passengers is required. Transportation is included.



The Outer Reef Experience

\$169 USD

Jump in and explore a vibrant, colorful world teeming with life at the Moore Reef at the very center of the Great Barrier Reef. This massive reef system, the largest in the world, can actually be seen from space. Cruise across the water by catamaran to the Great Adventures pontoon where a diverse, bountiful ecosystem is yours to discover. You may enjoy the fish feeding from the unique underwater platform. You're sure to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience exploring one of the seven natural wonders of the world. *Duration: Approximately 9 hours.* Please note a minimum of 1 passengers is required. Transportation is included.