

Exploring  
**Fiji, New Zealand  
and Australia**



**O**ur exploration of New Zealand and Australia combines the countries' most striking scenery with deluxe hotel stays and a three-day, two-night train journey. Begin your adventure among the exotic flora and lush forests of Fiji, then travel amidst the towering peaks and thundering waterfalls of New Zealand's Milford Sound. Beyond your next adventure along the underwater tapestry of coral reefs in Australia, you will find ample time to see the best of Queenstown, Christchurch, Brisbane, Cairns, Kuranda and Sydney.

Throughout your trip, you'll be accompanied by an experienced INTRAV travel director, along with expert guides and naturalists, who will enhance your enjoyment of the diverse places visited.

### *Highlights at a Glance*

- Enjoy an enriching, substantive travel experience, free from the lines of large package tours, as you explore the great diversity of Fiji, New Zealand and Australia.
- Discover the tropical lushness of Nadi, Fiji; the scenic beauty of Queenstown; the distinctive English flavor of Christchurch; the urbane sophistication of Sydney; the laid-back feel of the capital of Queensland, Brisbane; and the natural history of Cairns, all with deluxe accommodations and all-inclusive, in-depth excursions.
- Surround yourself with the brilliant glamour and scent of exotic orchids in the Garden of the Sleeping Giant, where you stroll through acres of mystical gardens, ponds and trees.
- Sail through beautiful Milford Sound, where towering cliffs soar high above, mirrored in glassy waters; water falls through lush mountain fjords; and peaks rise more than 6,000 feet into the mist.
- Relive the glamour and romance of luxury train travel—an era of impeccable service and elegant surroundings—aboard the Great South Pacific Express, from which you will see beautiful countryside during a rail journey through Cairns, Prosperine and Kuranda.
- View the vibrant colors and abundant sea life of the Great Barrier Reef—the world's largest living organism. Swim, snorkel or scuba dive in some of the finest marine environs in the world.

Day 1

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### *Depart the United States*

Depart the United States today, bound for Nadi, Fiji.

Day 2

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### *Cross the International Date Line*

Cross the International Date Line as we head for the land Down Under.



Day 3

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### *Nadi, Fiji*

After transferring to the Sheraton Royal Denarau Resort, unpack in your deluxe Garden View room and step out to enjoy the miles of sandy beaches right outside your window. Spend the full day of free leisure time with only the waves as your company, or do a little exploring around the area. Join us for a welcome cocktail reception this evening.

Day 4

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### *Nadi*

Breathe in the luxuriously scented air during your morning tour of the Garden of the Sleeping Giant. Created by the late actor Raymond Burr, this garden is dense with the aroma of exotic orchids, along with acres of gardens, ponds and trees. You will take a step back in time as you stroll through the ocean front village of Viseisei, where the first Fijian set foot in the country 3,000 years ago. Set your own feet wherever you would like during your free time to explore during the afternoon and evening.

Day 5

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### *Queenstown, New Zealand*

On arrival in Auckland you will join the flight, via Christchurch, to Queenstown, where you will be met by exceptional and diverse beauty. Known as the leading resort in the South Island, Queenstown is regarded by world travelers as one of the premiere scenic areas in the world. Backed by the sawtooth peaks of The Remarkables mountain range, the city lies in the curve of Lake Wakatipu at the head of its own small horseshoe shaped bay. After transferring to the Queenstown Parktoyal Hotel—the ideal base from which to explore—the remainder of your afternoon and evening is at leisure to relax and get acquainted with the town.

Day 6

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### *Queenstown (Milford Sound)*

Today begins with what is known as "the most magnificent flight in the world." Our plane ride to Milford Sound provides breathtaking views of the spectacular mountains, sparkling blue lakes, dense forests and impressive fiords of the Fiordland National Park. Relish in the stark contrasts of jagged cliffs reaching out to tranquil waters. Once at this panoramic wonderland,

board a launch for a luncheon cruise on Milford Sound. Glide past cliffs that rise thousands of feet from the water, including the mile-high Mitre Peak (6,024 feet)—and waterfalls that tumble into the fiord from lofty mountain lakes.

Back at Queenstown, catch your breath from the excitement of the early afternoon's activities with leisurely exploring at your own pace for the remainder of the day.

## Day 7

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### *Queenstown*

Board a jet boat on the Lower Shotover, the world's second-to-richest gold bearing river, for a wild experience skimming over thrashing rapids or planing in mere inches of water. Travel under the shadow of Coronet Peak to your exploration destination of colorful historic Arrowtown, known for its goldminers and scoundrels of years past. Then journey to Kawarau Gorge, where you can launch yourself into the world of bungy jumping or just sit back and watch as others boldly dive.

Following a leisurely afternoon back at the hotel, join us for a relaxing nostalgic sunset cruise aboard the T.S.S. Earnslaw steamer on Scenic Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Sheep Station. Explore the Colonel's homestead and watch sheepdogs in action with their herds—a classic New Zealand experience. A three-course carvery buffet awaits us in the Colonel's house. Savor traditional fare and local wines as the twinkling lights of Queenstown shimmer across the water.

## Day 8

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### *Brisbane, Australia*

Following breakfast, we will depart, via Christchurch, to Brisbane, Queensland's sleepy capital. This laid-back city boasts a year-round summery climate and 470 square miles of subtropical foliage. After transferring to the Stamford Hotel, delve into Australia's unique artistic heritage with a visit to an aboriginal gallery. Or try blending in with the locals (all

1.3 million of them) as you stop at one of Brisbane's oldest pubs for a bit of ale during your evening leisure time. Spend your time at our deluxe hotel or discover more of Brisbane on your own. As always, our local hospitality staff will be happy to assist you with dinner reservations or activity suggestions.

## Day 9

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### *Brisbane/Embark on Great South Pacific Express to Proserpine*

Begin your motorcoach journey out of Roma Station by boarding the Great South Pacific Express train for an all-day traveling adventure to Proserpine. Enjoy fine dining in the elegant salon cars, with meals prepared by onboard executive chefs. The train also features an open-air observation car, so views of the beautiful passing scenery aren't compromised. Enjoy your overnight travel in the classically styled sleeper cars of this luxurious train.

## Day 10

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### *Great Barrier Reef*

Hold onto your hat for a bird's eye view of one of the Seven Wonders of the World—the Great Barrier Reef, a 1,250-mile long living world of coral that stirs the imagination with its intricate detail. After a scenic drive from Proserpine to Shute Harbour, board a helicopter to Hardy Reef on the Outer Barrier Reef. Take advantage of the facilities of Reef World II, as you snorkel, scuba dive, swim or watch marine life scatter around the tranquil waters from the confines of the semi-submersible. Marine biologists and diving experts are on hand to answer questions and offer fascinating insight into the reef life and habitat. After taking in all of the reef's splendor, it's time to transfer back to the train at Proserpine for your overnight journey to Kuranda.

## Day 11

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### *Kuranda*

Lounge in luxury, with scenic views of the Atherton Mountains, as the Great South Pacific Express brings you to Kuranda, the "Village in the Rain Forest." Here you'll see North Queensland's tropical rain forest aboard a Skyrail gondola that glides above four miles of unique flora and fauna to Caravonica Lake. This tangle of vines and ferns—a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site—contains the world's highest diversity of local endemic species, including some of the most fascinating reptiles on Earth. You will rise above white rocks on Red Peak and massive fig trees. Enjoy lunch at the famous Tjabukai Aboriginal Cultural Center at the base of the Skyrail.

After returning to Cairns, your adventure continues with travel to Sydney, where you will find comfort in the harbor view rooms at the Sydney Regent Hotel.

## Day 12

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### *Sydney*

Our morning city tour begins in the historic Rocks District—the charming, restored harbor-side village where, in 1788, Sydney's first inhabitants disembarked after the journey from England. You'll see the convict-built Argyle Cut, Holy Trinity Anglican Church and Cadman's Cottage—the city's earliest surviving building. At Bennelong Point, marvel at the unique proportions of the Sydney Opera House—poised like gigantic white sails along the water's edge.

The drive past the Conservatorium of Music and St. Mary's Cathedral to Bohemian Kings Cross, Watson's Bay, famous Bondi Beach, old Paddington and Hyde Park.

Our city tour continues to Darling Harbor, where we embark on a lovely luncheon cruise before returning to our hotel. The remainder of your afternoon and evening is at leisure.

## Day 13

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### *Sydney*

You have the entire day to discover Sydney on your own. The major sights are always popular

options, but the quiet Victorian streets—lined with intimate cafes and shops—can provide much enjoyment as well. As always, our local hospitality staff can assist you with suggestions for on-your-own explorations, but be sure to join us for a farewell evening reception at our hotel.

## Day 14

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### *Return to the United States*

Following breakfast this morning, transfer to the airport for our return flight to the United States.



**T**he romance of long distance rail travel has its own kind of heady mystique. It allows you to step into another world, the moment you come aboard. Gone are the occupations and schedules of the everyday. On board the Great South Pacific Express there is only you, the incredible landscape, the enjoyment of your gracious surroundings and the attention of your dedicated staff.

the sumptuous décor pays tribute to Australia's early railway heritage. Walls are solid red cedar-wood and myrtle burl; roof panels are fitted with intricate stained glass which reflects the light in an atmosphere of



richness and casual elegance. Your attentive personal steward is available to tend to your every need and comfort, in keeping with a standard of service from another time.

Relax in the comfort of your private compartment; sink into a soft chair in one of the airy lounges or step into the open-air Observation Car to take in the ever-changing landscape as it unfolds before you.

In the evening, the Dining Cars await, with white linen, sparkling crystal, easy conversation and a menu as fresh as Australia itself. An experience like no other—on a continent like no other on earth.



