

ITINERARY FOR WESTGEN AUSTRALIA, JAN 2017



Monday - 09JAN

DEPART VANCOUVER

Tuesday - 10JAN

LOSE A DAY CROSSING THE INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

Wednesday - 11JAN

ARRIVE SYDNEY

Upon arrival you will be transferred by coach to your hotel. Due to arrival time and hotel checkin times, we have included a city sightseeing tour. Sydney is one of the most beautiful cities in the World. It is endowed with a sparkling harbour, fabulous beaches and a sunny Mediterranean climate. Visit the Gap on the ocean headland at Watsons Bay and return to the city via famous Bondi Beach, Paddington a Victorian suburb of restored terrace houses richly decorated with cast-iron. Travel into the commercial area of the city passing the historical buildings of Macquarie Street, Parliament House, The Mint and Hyde Park Barracks including a visit to Mrs. Macquarie's Chair for a breath taking view of the city and harbour. Continue with a drive through the historic Rocks area where Australia was first found with its maze of terrace houses, resorted warehouses, pubs and restaurants. Drive under the famous 'coast hanger' the Sydney Harbour Bridge and view Sydney's famous architectural masterpiece, the Sydney Opera House before arriving at the hotel.

Note: You will be given some free time during the tour for lunch (lunch at own expense)

Note: Hotel check-in is after 3.00 PM

Accommodation: In: Wednesday 11-Jan-17 Out: Friday 13-Jan-17 (2 Nights)

Thursday - 12JAN

SYDNEY (B)

Free day at leisure.

Optional Sydney Opera House morning tour.

Optional Harbour dinner evening cruise.

Friday - 13JAN

SYDNEY – MELBOURNE (B)

Free morning at leisure. Check-out is at 11.00am, after this time luggage can be stored with the concierge until departure. At the appropriate time the group will be transferred from the hotel to Sydney airport for your flight to Melbourne (flight not included). On arrival into Melbourne you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Accommodation: In: Friday 13-Jan-17 Out: Sunday 15-Jan-17 (2 Nights)

Saturday - 14JAN

MELBOURNE (B)

Half day city tour. Melbourne is a blend of magnificent gold-rush heritage architecture and ultra-modern skyscrapers. It is surrounded by lush parkland, beautiful waterways and charming urban suburbs. This tour is a discovery of Melbourne's past and present. The drive will take in the central business district with its eclectic architecture, past the 170 million dollar Victorian Arts Centre and on to fashionable Toorak with its luxurious homes. View Captain Cook's Cottage in the beautiful Fitzroy Gardens with

Coral viewing semi-submersible
Underwater observatory and informative talk by a marine biologist

You will be collected from your hotel this morning by a Quicksilver Connections coach and taken on a scenic drive to Port Douglas. Quicksilver's friendly crew will take you to Agincourt Reef at the very edge of Australia's Continental Shelf, to an underwater world that is a dazzling kaleidoscope of colour and brilliance. Here you can experience first-hand the magic that is the Great Barrier Reef. You can choose to dive, snorkel, or stay dry and explore the stunning reef from the comfort of a Quicksilver semi-sub, just one metre underwater (please note diving is an extra cost). Watch the fish feeding from the unique underwater viewing platform and underwater observatory. Complimentary morning and afternoon tea and a delicious lunch are included. Other refreshments are available at an additional cost. There will be a Marine Biologist presentation shown on the vessel televisions as well as a snorkelling demonstration. Arrive back at Marina Mirage at approximately 4.30pm and join your coach for the transfer back to your hotel arrival back will be after 6pm.

Sunday - 22JAN CAIRNS (B)

Free day at leisure.

Optional day trip to Skyrail & Kuranda rail tour. (see optional tour information for more details)

Monday - 23JAN CAIRNS – BRISBANE – SURFERS PARADISE (GOLD COAST) (B)

Transfer Hotel to Cairns Airport for your flight to Brisbane (flight not included).

Coach transfer to Surfers Paradise accommodation on the Gold Coast.

Accommodation: In: Monday 23-Jan-17 Out: Friday 27-Jan-17 (4 Nights)

Tuesday - 24JAN SURFERS PARADISE (B)

Free day at leisure. Enjoy the day on the beach browse the many shops in Surfers Paradise! Or maybe do a little of both!

There are many activities for those who just want to see or do more during one of the final days on the coast. Checkout: www.surfersparadise.com/things-to-do/attractions; Options can include: Southern Cross 4WD Tours; River Cruises; Dolphin & Whale Watching; Scuba & Snorkeling; Kayaking & Canoeing; Slingshot Gold Coast; Surfing, Windsurfing & Kitesurfing; Visit Ripley's Believe it or Not and so much more! Many of these can be booked in advance online or at your hotel!

Wednesday - 25JAN SURFERS PARADISE (B, L)

Full Day Australia Zoo. Private Coach Charter – Australia Zoo Admission. This morning depart the Gold Coast and travel north to visit Australia Zoo, home of the Crocodile Hunter for an ultimate wildlife experience. Located on over 70 acres of natural Australian bushland the Zoo is home to over 1000 native and exotic species. Australia Zoo features a variety of animal enclosures, lush gardens and amazing wildlife. See slithering snakes, beautiful free flight birds, crocodiles launch a strike in the 5000 seat Crocoseum, cuddly koalas, cheeky Asian Otters, birds of prey and the beautiful tigers. There is also an opportunity to have your very own intimate animal experience. You can hand feed a giant tortoise or gorgeous Asian Elephant, waddle with a wombat and even meet the lemurs exclusively behind the scenes (extra fee apply). At the end of the visit re-board your coach for the return journey to the Gold Coast.

NOTE: This excursion will take approx. 2.5hrs each way to get from the hotel to the zoo.

Thursday - 26JAN SURFERS PARADISE (B)

Free day at leisure.

There are many activities for those who just want to see or do more during on your of the final day on the coast. Checkout: www.surfersparadise.com/things-to-do/attractions; Options can include: Southern Cross 4WD Tours; River Cruises; Dolphin & Whale Watching; Scuba & Snorkeling; Kayaking &

Canoeing; Slingshot Gold Coast; Surfing, Windsurfing & Kitesurfing; Visit Ripley's Believe it or Not and so much more! Many of these can be booked in advance online or at your hotel'

Friday - 27JAN

DEPART (B)

Transfer back to Brisbane airport for return flight to Vancouver, BC

WESTGEN AUSTRALIA TOUR RATE

PRICES QUOTED ARE IN CAD DOLLARS:

LAND ONLY PACKAGE RATES:

Minimum of 35 paying passengers CAD\$3,699.00 per person

Single room supplement: on request

Triple room reduction: on request

(Please note in most cases we cannot provide a Triple room with 3 beds in hotels.

Inclusions in above prices:

- Hotel accommodation as per itinerary based on twin share
- All transfers and transportation is by private, air-conditioned coach with driver/guide (any individuals travelling outside the group arrangement must organize own transportation)
- Sightseeing and admissions as per the itinerary
- Meals as indicated on itinerary (B-full breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner)

Exclusions in above prices:

- All airfares, departure taxes & fuel surcharges, Seat Selection
- Optional tours as listed**
- Beverages
- Personal items
- Meals unless listed in itinerary
- Tips & Gratuities
- Early check-in & late check out of rooms (standard check-in time is 2pm and check out 10am)
- Travel Insurance
- Visa/passport handling fees

**Please note: Optional day tours will be available to purchase once confirmed on Westgen tour

AIRFARE

Flight itinerary:

International:

Air Canada #33 09Jan Depart Vancouver at 11:45pm arrive Sydney 10:25am – 11Jan

Air Canada #36 27Jan Depart Brisbane at 12:00pm (noon) arrive Vancouver 07:20am – 27 Jan

Domestic: Please note: flight times are subject to change.

Qantas #447 13Jan Depart Sydney at 4:00pm arrive Melbourne 5:35pm

Qantas #702 20JAN Depart Melbourne at 09:00am Arrive Cairns 11:20am

Qantas #655 23JAN Depart Cairns at 5:10pm Arrive Brisbane 7:20pm

FARE: \$2999.00 per person

It is important to note that any upgrade requests to Air Canada are strictly subject to availability and may not be possible. Forbes Travel International will do their utmost to accommodate all requests, however, cannot guarantee fulfilling all requests.

- Taxes and fuel surcharges are subject to change and are not guaranteed until tickets are issued and will be re-quoted at time of final invoicing.
- All international and domestic fares are subject to change with confirmation of flights
- IMPORTANT: When traveling in a group the airlines do not always allow seat assignments prior to departure. Seats may be assigned when checking in for the flight.

OPTIONAL TOURS:**Sydney – Visit to Sydney Opera House including return coach transfers****Sydney Opera House - Private Walking Tour**

This tour takes approx. 45-minutes and offers the opportunity to experience the Sydney Opera House in its daily operation. Visitors are guided into theatres, given a fascinating account of the history and architecture of the House and introduced to the magic of performance. With its white, sculptural 'shells' rising from the harbour foreshore at Bennelong Point, the Opera House is Sydney's most recognisable building and, officially, one of the seven wonders of the 20th century. Joern Utzon, the Danish architect who designed the Opera House, ascribed the inspiration for his masterpiece to the sails of yachts on the harbour. As the Opera House is first and foremost a performing arts centre, some areas may be restricted for viewing due to rehearsals and performances.

Sydney –Dinner on Sydney Harbour

Dinner Cruise (beverages at own expense)

Cruise Inclusions:

3 Course a la carte dining

Tea/coffee

This evening you will be transferred to Circular Quay for your dinner cruise. Check-in at Jetty 6 approx. 30 minutes prior – Departure is at 7.00 PM. Cruise Sydney Harbour this evening which most travel experts agree is one of the most scenic harbours in the world. You will see spectacular views of Sydney Harbour Bridge, Circular Quay, The Rocks, Opera House, Fort Denison, Point Piper, Watson's Bay. See Sydney's foreshore parkland and many stately homes. Includes 3 course a la carte dining, upper deck seating and entertainment.

Melbourne – Tramcar Dinner

Colonial Tramcar Restaurant - Late Dinner - 5 Course - Saturday

Departs: 8.35pm / Returns approx. 11.30pm

This evening you will be transferred from the hotel to the Tramcar Restaurant stop for boarding. This is an ideal way to conclude your day in Melbourne. Travel on a converted 1927 tram that has been transformed into a first class colonial restaurant. Experience the pleasure of dining on this restaurant on wheels. The tramcar restaurant covers a scenic route, showing Melbourne's gardens, trendy shops and boutiques, elegant homes, city centre and major attractions along the way. Travel past the Town Hall, Museum, National Art Gallery, Concert Hall, War Memorial and Botanic Gardens. Enjoy the fine cuisine and Australian wines or make a selection from the fully stocked bar.

Cairns – Full Day Kuranda Tour

One Way Skyrail Rainforest Cableway
Kuranda Scenic Rail (One Way)

Inclusions:

Pamagirri Experience
Army Duck
Koala & Wildlife Park
Full Day Kuranda Tour

This morning depart the hotel by private coach for transfer to Freshwater Station, here you will join the historic Kuranda Rail for one of the most spectacular rail journeys in Australia. Travelling slowly, it winds its way up the epic pioneer track with every turn revealing a new panorama - sugar plantations, Barron Falls, Stoney Creek Falls - until it reaches Kuranda Station, a cool, tropical environment of native shrubs, ferns and flowers. Upon reaching Kuranda, you will have some brief time to explore and enjoy the old-world charm of this “village in the Rainforest”. Later re-board your coach for the short transfer to Rainforestation Nature Park, boasting 40 hectares of gardens and rainforest set amidst World Heritage areas. Ride the amphibious army duck through the rainforest and visit the Koala and Wildlife Park. The Dreamtime Walk provides a comprehensive introduction to Aboriginal and Islander culture and history with practical experiences including boomerang lessons on spear throwing. Witness the dynamic performance of the Pamagirri Aboriginal Dancers in the natural amphitheatre where the rainforest serves as the theatre walls and the sounds of the forest and the didgeridoo create the backing music. In the afternoon we return to Kuranda and board the Skyrail. The Skyrail Rainforest Cableway takes you on an amazing experience over Australia’s World Heritage listed Tropical Rainforest canopy and deep into the forest. A oneway experience should take approximately 1½ hours, this includes spending time at the two rainforest mid-stations. On arrival at Smithfield Terminal your coach will be waiting to transfer you back to the hotel.

****Please note this tour may have you travel on Skyrail first returning on Kuranda Rail.**

PASSPORT & VISA INFORMATION*:

Please ensure clients have arranged all documentation with the appropriate consulate well in advance of their departure from Canada and that passports are also valid for the minimum validity required for **ALL** destinations being travelled to. The information following only applies to the itinerary booked with Forbes Travel and does not cover any independently arranged destinations.

I. PASSPORTS

Passports must be valid for a minimum of 6 months from your scheduled return date.

II. VISAS

Australia: ETA (electronic visas) are required to enter Australia. ETA's can be obtained on the Australian Government's Department of Immigration website: <https://www.eta.immi.gov.au/ETAS3/etas>

Alternatively, Forbes Travel can issue your ETA for you for a fee of CAD\$25.00 per person on receipt of full detailed information required to do so.

GENERAL:**I. CURRENCY AND PRICING FLUCTUATIONS**

This proposal is based on the current exchange rate(s). Should there be considerable currency fluctuations, we reserve the right to apply any necessary surcharges. In the event of any additional fuel surcharges by the Land Suppliers and/or airlines we reserve the right to add these to the costs of the land package and/or airfare. Any applicable increases will be advised in writing prior to final payment. Prices are guaranteed once final payment has been made.

II. GROUP DEFINITION

- a) A minimum of 35 paying adult passengers travelling on the same itinerary/arrangements.
- b) Should the number of passengers fall below the required minimum (10), the booking will be deemed as F.I.T. Travel. Our F.I.T. department will provide a revised quotation based on actual numbers of passengers travelling on the given program. The group quote and rates will no longer apply.

III. AMENDMENT FEES

Forbes Travel reserves the right to charge an amendment fee of CAD\$50.00 per proposal, when in excess of 3 proposals, and where extensive amendments are required. Once the group has been booked and confirmed, supplier charges may also apply for any changes made.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

Forbes Travel Ltd. and/or its agents act only as agents for the client in all matters pertaining to travel. They assume no responsibility nor liability in connection with the service of any train, vessel, carriage, aircraft, motor or other conveyances which may be used, either wholly or in part, in the performance of its duty to the passenger; neither will it be responsible for any act, error, or omission, or any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any vehicle or through

the neglect or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out the purpose for which tickets or coupons are issued. In the event that it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the passengers, conversely refund will be made to the passengers if any saving is effected thereby. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their planes or conveyance. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tours and/or passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, also to decline to accept or retain any passengers as Members of the tours. Forbes Travel Ltd or agent can assume no responsibility for lost tickets or coupons.

AUSTRALIA DESTINATION INSIGHT



Emergency Services

The emergency phone number for police, ambulance or fire brigade is 000.

Climate

Australia has the opposite seasons than the Northern Hemisphere. The summer months of December to February the weather in the north of the country is very tropical and experiences monsoon weather, whereas in the southern States, it is a very dry heat and generally sunny. Over the winter months between June to August the northern states are very dry whereas the south

experiences its wettest periods with snow falling on the highest alpine regions in New South Wales and Victoria.

Shopping

Australia's major capital cities have a variety of complexes to find a bargain. Whether it be funky boutiques, designer labels you'll find them in a range of shopping malls, arcades, department stores, and local markets. Shopping hours are generally from 9am to 6pm with late night shopping in major cities on a Thursday or Friday night.

Banking

Australia's currency is the Australian Dollar (AUD) and has both notes and coins. Denominations of notes are \$5 (pink), \$10 (blue), \$20 (orange), \$50 (gold) \$100 (green). Coins are 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, \$1 & \$2. Currency exchange is available at hotels, banks and international Airports.

The most commonly accepted credit cards are visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diners Club Cards. Banks are open Monday-Friday 9am-4pm, with limited banks opening on a Saturday morning from 9am-1pm.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

A 10% Goods and Services Tax is charged and for international visitors this may be claimed back. If \$300 or more has been spent in one store, and no more than 30 days prior to travelling from Australia a claim can be made at the departure area of an International Airport.

Tipping and Bargaining.

Hotels and restaurants do not add a service charge onto bills. Tipping is at your discretion and at more upmarket Hotels and Restaurants it is a general rule to add 10% of the bill for good service. It is not a general custom in Australia to bargain for goods.

Hotel Check in and Security Bond:

Upon check-in many hotels require a security bond in the form of a credit card imprint. Please ensure that your clients are aware of this requirement.

Communication

The Australian official language is English. Languages other than English which are common in our communities are Italian, Greek, Cantonese and Arabic. Some sightseeing companies will offer their tours in a language other than English.

Driving

Australian's drive on the left hand side of the road. A current drivers license must be held in order to hire a vehicle in Australia. Should the license be written in another language other than English, a certified English translation must be presented as well. Seat belts must be worn at all times. Speed zones should be adhered to as police cameras operate throughout Australia.

Time Zones

Australia spans 3 different times zones.

Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) is GMT +10 and includes Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania and Australia's Capital Territory (ACT).

Australian Central Standard Time (ACST) is GMT + 9 ½ and includes South Australia and Northern Territory.

Australian Western Standard Time (AWST) is GMT + 8 and covers Western Australia.

Australian Daylight savings Time (ADST) is observed in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. Clocks move forward an hour during (GMT +11) and usually occurs between the last weekend in October and finishes the last weekend in March.