

## Best of Australia - OACS

14 days: Cairns to Sydney

### What's Included

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- G Adventures for Good: Cafe Chloe, Tully
- Hands-on: Surfing Lesson, Byron Bay
- Guided rainforest walk
- Whitsunday Islands sailing excursion
- Blue Mountains stay with hikes
- Jenolan Caves visit
- Jamison Valley walk
- Orientation walk in Sydney
- Free time in Cairns, Byron Bay, and Sydney
- Internal flight
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing January 1st, 2018 and onwards

### Itinerary Notes

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**Please note that due to operational reasons the Dec 27, 2018 departure of Best of Australia will be staying in Tweeds Head instead of Byron Bay. Please see the full itinerary for additional details.**

### Itinerary

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#### Day 1 Cairns

Arrive at any time.

There are no activities planned until the evening welcome meeting.

#### Arrival Day and Welcome Meeting

1h19:00

The adventure begins tonight. Feel free to explore before your welcome meeting, but make sure you're back in time to meet the group. After introductions, your CEO will review the details of your tour. Please note that normal check-in times apply at our start hotels, but you can usually store your luggage for the day if you arrive early.

#### Optional Activities - Day 1

##### Bungee Jumping

Cairns

179AUD per person

Leave your fears at home and prepare to have your breath taken away as you jump from 164ft. Now's the time to release your inner daredevil - what are you waiting for?

### **Minjin Swing**

Cairns

129AUD per person

Soar through the rainforest on the fastest jungle swing in the world. Suit up and be pulled to 150ft above the ground before flying over the canopy at a heart-racing, adrenaline-pumping 120km/hr. We can already hear your screams!

### **Skydiving**

Cairns 2h-6h

310-400AUD per person

Enjoy the awe-inspiring beauty of Cairns from an eagle's perspective. Suit up, get briefed and board the prop plane to soar high above the land and sea. Strap onto your instructor, take a breath and leap into a once-in-a-lifetime free fall. This is what a natural high truly feels like!

### **Whitewater Rafting**

Cairns 12h-12h30m

138-210AUD per person

Put on a helmet, grab a paddle and raft the Class 3 & 4 rapids of the mighty Tully River, considered the best rafting river in all Australia & New Zealand.

### **Skyrail & Kuranda Scenic Railway**

Cairns

111-124AUD per person

Settle into a comfortable 6 seat gondola for a ride with a spectacular view along the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway. Pass over the canopy one of Australia's tropical rainforests, so close to the tree tops it's as if you could reach out and touch the leaves. After, ride the Kuranda Scenic Railway through a lush tropical paradise framed by rugged mountains, waterfalls and ravines back to Cairns. Travel on authentic timber carriages via hand-hewn tunnels and across towering bridges, through the awe-inspiring Barron Gorge. Experience the exotic beauty of North Queensland's tropical rainforests, marvelling at the incredible array of plants and animals encountered all along the way.

### **Day 2 Cairns/Cape Tribulation**

Head north to Cape Tribulation. Stop en route to explore Mossman Gorge and take an interpretive walk through the Daintree Rainforest.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Cairns - Cape Tribulation 3h 140km

Travel 1.5 hrs to Mossman Gorge. Later, continue 2 hrs to Cape Tribulation.

#### **Aboriginal Interpretive Walk**

Mossman Gorge 2h

Take an interpretive walk through the Daintree Rainforest. Follow the Aboriginal guide and learn about bush food, medicinal plants and the lasting relationship of the Kuku Yalanji people with their natural environment. Find out how to make bush soap, watch an ochre painting demonstration and sample some bush tea.

#### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Day 3 Cape Tribulation**

With a free day, opt for a trip to the Great Barrier Reef or to explore Daintree National Park.

#### **Free Time**

Cape Tribulation Full Day

Head out and start exploring.

### **Optional Activities - Day 3**

#### **Great Barrier Reef Visit**

Cape Tribulation

149AUD per person

Hop on a boat and head out to sea to reach the world-famous Great Barrier Reef. Don a mask and opt to snorkel the largest coral reef in the world. Say g'day to Nemo, the clown fish, and some of the 1,500 other species of tropical fish that thrive in the warm waters off Australia's east coast.

#### **Daintree National Park Visit**

Cape Tribulation

Free

Step back in time in this lush tropical rainforest, reported to be more than 110 million years old! Bring your binoculars to spot some of the 430 species of birds, including the buff-breasted paradise kingfisher and flightless cassowary. On the ground, look for possums, bandicoots, echidna and musky rat kangaroo. Discover why the Aborigines consider this a spiritual place.

#### **Jungle Surfing**

Cape Tribulation

95AUD per person

See the Daintree Rainforest from the canopy top. This two hour tour will have you ziplining between six canopy platforms, with guides pointing out the different flora and fauna as you zip by. Channel your inner tree kangaroo as you hop from tree to tree, seeing the beauty of the world's oldest rainforest.

#### **Daintree Rainforest Night Walk**

Cape Tribulation

45AUD per person

Once the sun goes down, grab a torch and head out into the jungle for a guided night walk. With your guide you'll spot various critters who call this region home. Keep your eyes peeled for sleeping bats, birds, lizards and spiders as you listen to the sounds of the rainforest at night.

#### **Cape Tribulation Horseback Riding**

Cape Tribulation 2h-2h30m

110AUD per person

Hop in the saddle and explore the rainforest on your trusty steed. Ride through lush canopy floors and crystal clear streams, ending up on the stunning Myall beach. Cap off this adventure by galloping through the ocean spray!

#### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Day 4 Cape Tribulation/Cairns**

Return to Cairns in the afternoon with free time to explore this laid-back city.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Cape Tribulation - Cairns 3h30m Afternoon

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

#### **Free Time**

Cairns Afternoon

Make the most of a few hours in this city.

#### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Day 5 Cairns/Airlie Beach**

Depart early for a full day of travel to reach Airlie Beach with time to explore the town. Stop en route for lunch and a tour of the G Adventures-supported Ingan Cultural Centre. Participate in a dreamtime story painting activity with members of the local community.

### **Private Vehicle**

Cairns - Airlie Beach 9h-10h 623km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

### **G Adventures for Good: Cafe Chloe**

Enjoy a tour of the G Adventures-supported Ingan Cultural Centre and have an opportunity to participate in a painting activity with traditional Jirrbal Aboriginal artists - an excellent opportunity to see the diversity of an Aboriginal people from a local perspective!

**Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch**

### **Day 6 Airlie Beach**

Set sail for a day in the Whitsunday Islands, visiting the Great Barrier Reef. Opt to swim or snorkel, and hike to an island lookout over Whitehaven Beach, known for its stunning white sand. Return to Airlie Beach for the night.

### **Whitsunday Islands Sailing Excursion**

Whitsunday Island 8h 08:00-17:30

Enjoy a day sailing amidst some of the 74 tropical islands that make up the Whitsunday archipelago. Visit Whitehaven Beach, jump overboard for a quick refreshing dip, and make friends with the tropical fish that thrive within Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

### **Barrier Reef Visit**

Whitsunday Island

The Whitsunday Islands are in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. Spend the day sailing, then when it gets too hot, pull on a mask and snorkel and dive overboard to check out the variety of brightly coloured marine plants, coral and fish that thrive right in these warm tropical waters.

### **Optional Activities - Day 6**

#### **Whitsunday Islands Snorkelling**

Whitsunday Islands 30m-1h

Free

Take advantage of the included snorkel gear, throw on a mask and see what lives in the Great Barrier Reef. (Note that fins are not provided in order to adhere with local coral conservation efforts.)

**Meals included: Lunch**

### **Day 7 Airlie Beach/Byron Bay**

Fly to Brisbane and transfer to Byron Bay for two nights in this "hippie" paradise.

Please note that due to operational reasons the Dec 27, 2018 departure of Best of Australia, and the Dec 16, 2018 departure of Best of the Red Centre & Eastern Australia, will be staying in Tweeds Head tonight instead of Byron Bay.

### **Plane**

Airlie Beach - Brisbane 2h 30m

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

### **Private Vehicle**

Brisbane - Byron Bay 2h-2h30m 200km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

### **Day 8 Byron Bay**

Spend the day wandering the town or taking part in a multitude of optional activities like sea kayaking, visiting Cape Byron Lighthouse, or relaxing on the beach.

Please note that due to operational reasons the Dec 27, 2018 departure of Best of Australia, and the Dec 16, 2018 departure of Best of the Red Centre & Eastern Australia, will be staying in Tweeds Head tonight instead of Byron Bay. The group will travel to Byron during the day today for free time to explore.

## **Carte Blanche**

Byron Bay Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in Byron Bay, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like sea kayaking, yoga, and skydiving. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

## **Optional Activities - Day 8**

### **Hinterland and Minyon Falls Tour**

Byron Bay

139AUD per person

Head inland to Nightcap National Park, a subtropical rainforest in part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area, for a 2-hour guided walk through the rainforest to beautiful Minyon Falls. After a refreshing swim at the base of the 100m falls, visit the quaint town of Bangalow, the oldest town in the region and known for its historic storefronts. After perusing local shops and cafés, enjoy the drive back to Byron Bay, passing through historic towns and beautiful scenery. Locally sourced barbecue lunch included.

### **Yoga Class**

Byron Bay

18AUD per person

Zen out during a yoga class with a qualified instructor and learn various stretches, postures, and breathing exercises.

### **Whale Watching**

Byron Bay 2h30m-3h

89AUD per person

Enjoy a thrilling excursion on the water in search of the magnificent Humpback whales. Between June and November, they migrate north from their feeding grounds in Antarctica to breed and birth in the tropics. See the distinctive flukes (tails), and also look for dolphins, turtles and a variety of sea birds.

### **Cape Byron Lighthouse Visit**

Cape Byron 30m-2h

Free

Cape Byron Lighthouse is 3km (1.9 mi) northeast of Byron Bay. The popular white structure emits the most powerful light of all working lighthouses in the country, and it's also located at the most easterly point of the Australian continent. Head up to the top of the tower to scan the ocean for whales (the Southern Cross University's Whale Research Centre is located here).

### **Byron Bay Ocean Kayaking**

Byron Bay

Slice through the waters of the iconic Byron Bay on this half-day kayaking adventure. Paddle past the most easterly point of the Australian mainland, see the Julian Rocks Marine Reserve, and ride the waves into shore. On top of it all, keep a close eye for dolphins and whales (in season) who call these waters home. Epic? Definitely.

## **Day 9 Byron Bay/Port Macquarie**

Hit the waves with an included surf lesson. Head to the coastal township of Port Macquarie, featuring all the beauty of the beach set alongside gorgeous national parks. Enjoy an evening in Port Macquarie.

### **Private Vehicle**

Byron Bay - Port Macquarie 5h397km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

### **Hands-On: Surfing Lesson**

Hit the beach and get ready to hang ten with a surf lesson from trained surf instructors. Spend some time in the water getting friendly with the waves, practice paddling, then pop up to balance on the wider, softer beginner boards. Too easy.

## **Day 10 Port Macquarie/Blue Mountains**

Opt to visit a koala hospital before travelling to the Blue Mountains Region.

### **Private Vehicle**

Port Macquarie - Blue Mountains 6h-7h 500km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

### **Optional Activities - Day 10**

#### **Koala Hospital Visit**

Port Macquarie

2AUD per person

Visit the Koala Hospital, learn about these unique creatures and even adopt your very own Koala!

### **Day 11 Blue Mountains**

Explore the area around Leura and Katoomba including the Three Sisters. Visit the Jenolan Caves, take a walk in Jamison Valley, and opt for a ride on the Scenic Railway, the steepest railway in the world.

In the case of bad weather or poor visibility, the Jamison Valley walk may take place on Day 12.

#### **Blue Mountains Excursion**

Blue Mountains

With charming Leura as your base, explore the major attractions of the Blue Mountains from sightseeing to bushwalking to cafés and more.

#### **Jenolan Caves Tour**

Blue Mountains 1h30m-2h

Jenolan Caves are a protected feature of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains. These limestone karst caves are the world's oldest caves and are significant both a scientific and sightseeing perspective. Enjoy a guided tour in the cool climes of this fascinating underworld.

#### **Jamison Valley Walk**

Blue Mountains 1h-2h30m 1-3km

Take in some amazing lookouts over the Jamison Valley, via the iconic Three Sisters. Descend down the 900 step giant staircase to the valley floor. Walk amongst the beautiful forest to the steepest incline railway in the world -- The Katoomba Scenic Railway. Opt to ride its 52-degree angle or take the Scenic Cableway. If you're keen for more walking, and time permitting, take the 900 stairs back up.

### **Optional Activities - Day 11**

#### **Scenic Railway**

Blue Mountains

16-35AUD per person

This railway is steep and plunges into the rainforest and through the valley. The ride is scenically stunning. At the end, opt to take a rainforest walk or a cable car back to the visitor's centre.

### **Day 12 Blue Mountains/Sydney**

Travel to Sydney and enjoy a free afternoon to explore the city. Opt to rent a bike, stroll the botanical gardens, or visit the iconic Opera House.

### **Private Vehicle**

Blue Mountains - Sydney 2h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

#### **Orientation Walk**

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

### **Free Time**

Sydney Evening

Get out and explore.

### **Optional Activities - Day 12**

#### **Sydney Opera House Visit**

Sydney

37-165AUD per person

Stroll along the waterfront to admire Sydney's most iconic landmark, designed by Danish architect Jørn Utzon and opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1973. Take a guided tour of this UNESCO World Heritage site to discover its history, folklore, and more.

Some two million people a year come to see concerts and cultural performances at the Opera House. Catch the boom of the grand organ - with more than 10,000 pipes, it took 10 years to build and is the largest mechanical organ in the world.

#### **Taronga Zoo**

Sydney

46AUD per person

### **Day 13 Sydney**

Get a feel for the city. Opt to climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge, zip through the harbour on a jet boat, or relax seaside at Bondi Beach. Enjoy an optional final night out with the group.

#### **Free Time**

Sydney Full Day

Enjoy a free day to explore one of Australia's most exciting cities.

### **Optional Activities - Day 13**

#### **Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb**

3h-4h

Climb one of the most famous bridges in the world - the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Soak in amazing panoramic city views of Sydney at the top - a perfect photo opp and memory to take home with you!

#### **Jet Boat Ride**

Sydney

85AUD per person

Want an adrenaline rush? A jet boat is the way to go. Hold on and get ready for a white-water thrill while gorgeous scenery whizzes past. Explore Sydney Harbour, jetting by the Opera House, Harbour Islands and more!

#### **Coogee Beach to Bondi Beach Coastal Walk**

Coogee Beach - Bondi Beach

Go for a walk along one of the most iconic trails in Australia. Pass by secluded beaches, massive cliffs, and more breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean than imaginable - all before arriving at the world-famous Bondi Beach. From May to December, keep a keen eye on the ocean to try and spot migrating humpback whales.

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#### **Sydney Adrenaline Bundle**

Sydney

Admire the city from new perspectives with this Adrenaline Bundle. Start with a climb to the top of Sydney Harbour Bridge - 134m (440 ft) above sea level! Learn the story of the bridge from an expert guide and soak in the epic views. Next, board a jet boat and enjoy the thrill of spins, slides, and fish tails, spotting iconic landmarks like the Opera House, Taronga Zoo, and Shark Island along the way. Book this Adrenaline Bundle and save on both activities.

## Day 14 Sydney

Depart at any time.

### Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

## What's Included

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G Adventures for Good: Cafe Chloe, Tully

Hands-on: Surfing Lesson, Byron Bay. Guided rainforest walk. Whitsunday Islands sailing excursion. Blue Mountains stay with hikes. Jenolan Caves visit. Jamison Valley walk. Orientation walk in Sydney. Free time in Cairns, Byron Bay, and Sydney. Internal flight. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

## Highlights

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Follow an Aboriginal Guide through the Daintree Rainforest, Visit the Great Barrier Reef, Sail around the scenic Whitsundays, Try surfing in Byron Bay, Hike the Blue Mountains

## Dossier Disclaimer

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VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## Itinerary Disclaimer

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While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## Itinerary Notes

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## Important Notes

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1. Please be aware that wifi and internet access is not as readily available in Australia as in other parts of the world. There are often additional charges to connect to the internet, and speeds may be slower than what you are used to.
2. Over public holidays in Australia and New Zealand (such as Christmas, New Years Day, Easter, and Anzac Day) there may be some limitations of services and disruptions to schedules. In general our tours still operate effectively over public holidays, but there may be closures of optional activities and restaurants, and slight itinerary adjustments in order to provide all tour inclusions.

## Group Leader Description

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This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our group leaders, otherwise known as a Chief Experience Officer (CEO). The CEO will be the group manager, leader and driver - this person is experienced in the routes travelled and will organize and lead the meal preparations and has experience in cooking a variety of local and international dishes for large groups.

As the group coordinator and manager, the aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. While not being guides in the traditional sense, you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. They will also offer suggestions for things to do and to see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends.

We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

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## Group Size Notes

Max 16, avg 12

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## Meals Included

4 breakfasts, 2 lunches

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## Meals

Eating is a big part of traveling. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility. Our groups tend to eat together for most meals but there is no obligation to so. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip.

On this trip we include one local breakfast experience. We love checking out what the locals are doing and what makes up their daily routines. In Italy that could be starting the day with an espresso and cornetto standing at the bar in a local café. In Australia it might include an iced coffee and sausage roll by the beach and in Vietnam it could be slurping a steaming bowl of pho sitting on a plastic stool on a busy street corner. Hey, variety is the spice of life!

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## Transport

Private vehicle, sailboat, plane, walking

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## About our Transportation

A variety of transport modes are used on this coastal tour.

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## Local Flights

Local flights are included in this itinerary. The max luggage allowance on domestic flights within Australia is 1 checked bag (20 kgs) and 1 carry on (7 kgs) per person.

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## Solo Travellers

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

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## Accommodation

Hotels (11 nts), rainforest cabin (2 nts).

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## My Own Room

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops

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## Joining Hotel

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

## Joining Instructions

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By Taxi: Approximately \$24

By Cairns Airport Shuttle: \$12 per person. By far the best option; busses leave the airport every 15-20 minutes.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other than your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time.

Your CEO will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

## Arrival Complications

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We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

## Emergency Contact

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Should you need to contact G Adventures during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call our local office in Melbourne. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so we may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Office (Melbourne)

During office hours, 9am-5pm Local Time: +61 3 9413 5820 (if dialing from outside Australia) or 03 9413 5820 (if dialing from within Australia)

After office hours emergency number: From outside Australia: +61 432 705 621

From within Australia: 0432 705 621

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local operations manager, please call the numbers listed below, which will connect you directly with our 24 hour Sales team, who will happily assist you.

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

## What to Take

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The max luggage allowance on domestic flights within Australia is 1 checked bag (20 kgs) and 1 carry on (7 kgs) per person.

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible.

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. Heavy luggage is not recommended for the health of the CEO, who will take a lead in loading the storage trailer. Due to space in the trailer, we will not be able to accommodate more than one piece of main luggage per person. A good size day-pack (20-35L) is also essential to carry your personal gear for the day, as access to luggage between destinations will be limited. This daypack will be used to carry your personal gear for the day, your lunch and a water bottle.

## Checklist

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#### Documents:

- \* Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- \* Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- \* Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- \* Required visas or vaccination certificates (required) (With photocopies)
- \* Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)

#### Essentials:

- \* Binoculars (optional)
- \* Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- \* Cash, credit and debit cards
- \* Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- \* Ear plugs
- \* First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- \* Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- \* Fleece top/sweater
- \* Footwear
- \* Hat
- \* Locks for bags
- \* Long pants/jeans
- \* Moneybelt
- \* Outlet adapter
- \* Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- \* Reusable water bottle
- \* Shirts/t-shirts
- \* Sleepwear
- \* Small travel towel
- \* Sunglasses
- \* Toiletries (Preferably biodegradable)
- \* Watch and alarm clock
- \* Waterproof backpack cover
- \* Windproof rain jacket

#### Warm Weather:

- \* Sandals/flip-flops
- \* Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- \* Sun hat/bandana
- \* Swimwear

## Laundry

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Your CEO will advise you along the trip where you will be able to do your laundry.

## Visas and Entry Requirements

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All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

A valid passport and visa is required. For some nationalities, the visa can be issued by your Travel Agency or the Australian Embassy via Electronic Travel Authority (ETA).

To apply for an ETA online, travellers must hold a passport from one of the following countries:

- Brunei - Darussalam
- Canada

- Hong Kong
- Japan
- Malaysia
- Singapore
- South Korea
- United States

More information about the ETA and how to apply can be found here:

<https://www.eta.immi.gov.au/ETA/etas.jsp>

If you do not hold a passport from any of the above countries, you cannot apply for an ETA online. You may be eligible to apply for an ETA through a travel agent, airline or an Australian visa office. Alternatively, you may be eligible to apply for other types of electronic visitor visas. See: [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

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## Spending Money

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

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## Money Exchange

The Australian currency is the Australian Dollar (AUD).

Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere in Australia and can be used to purchase small and large items. When purchasing products or services with a foreign credit card you may be charged additional fees by your credit card company for foreign purchases.

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances but you must remember to bring your PIN number (be aware that many ATM machines only accept 4-digit PINs). Both Cirrus and Plus system cards are the most widely accepted debit cards. Both Visa and Master Cards are the most widely accepted credit cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work check with your bank before you travel. A visit to an ATM can be arranged on Day 1 and other days of the trip.

Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of local currency (preferably smaller bills, 5's, 10's and 20's), traveller's cheques and credit cards is best. Currency exchange is best obtained prior to travel or at the airport, currency exchange is easy to find in Australia in the gateway cities and most banks do accommodate.

Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

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## Emergency Fund

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

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## Tipping

It is not customary in Australia to tip service providers, but if you do experience outstanding service it is good to do so. Such service would only usually be in places like quality restaurants and it would be very rare that you would tip more than 10%. Unless specifically asked to do so at the time (by your CEO) - do not tip your local guides. Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures Chief Experience Officer did an outstanding job, you may consider a small tip - but it certainly isn't expected.

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## Optional Activities

Please see the full itinerary for information on optional activities, descriptions and estimated pricing.

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## Safety and Security

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the

use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

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## Medical Form

Our small group adventures bring together people of all ages. It is very important you are aware that, as a minimum, an average level of fitness and mobility' is required to undertake our easiest programs. Travellers must be able to walk without the aid of another person, climb 3-4 flights of stairs, step on and off small boats, and carry their own luggage at a minimum. Travellers with a pre-existing medical condition are required to complete a short medical questionnaire, which must be signed by their physician. This is to ensure that travellers have the necessary fitness and mobility to comfortably complete their chosen trip. While our CEOs work hard to ensure that all our travellers are catered for equally, it is not their responsibility to help individuals who cannot complete the day's activities unaided. Please refer to the physical ratings in this Trip Details document for more information.

The medical questionnaire can be found online at:

[www.gadventures.com/medical-form](http://www.gadventures.com/medical-form).

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## A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our group leader has the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

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## Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. G Adventures can provide you with the appropriate coverage. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

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## Planeterra-The G Adventures Foundation

The Planeterra Foundation [planeterra.org](http://planeterra.org) is a Canadian non-profit organization that helps empower local people to develop their communities, conserve their cultures, and create humane and supportive systems for their endeavours. Planeterra provides capacity building and catalyst grants to get community social enterprises off the ground. These businesses address local challenges by

providing benefits for indigenous people, empowering marginalized women, and granting disadvantaged youth access to education, employment, and brighter futures. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating programs into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

#### Dollar-a-Day Program

G Adventures' Dollar-a-Day Program provides travellers with the opportunity to give back to the people and places visited on our tours by donating one dollar for every day you are on trip. 100% of these donations go directly to support community development projects worldwide that are implemented by Planeterra.

## Feedback

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After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at [customerservice@gadventures.com](mailto:customerservice@gadventures.com) and we will send it on to you.

## Newsletter

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Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at [www.gadventures.com/newsletters/](http://www.gadventures.com/newsletters/)

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation - Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

## Minimum Age

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You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

## International Flights

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Check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.