NEW SOUTH WALES AND QUEENSLAND

Aboriginal Adventure

POST ATE 2013 FAMILIARISATION ITINERARY
Get a taste of some of the amazing Aboriginal tourism experiences on offer in New South Wales and Queensland...

FAMILIARISATION ATTENDEES:

Mr Jeff Adam
Down Under Answers USA

Mrs Lisa Ruiz
Springboard Vacations, Inc, USA

Mr Martin Klug
Travel Essence Germany

Mr Markus Walter
Diamir Erlebnisreisen Germany

Ms Julie Cargueray
Monde Authentique/Australie Authentique France

Mr Luke Jones
Tourism Australia contractor (US)

Ms Kristi O’Brien
Tourism Australia

Ms Lindsay Stacpoole
Tourism Australia

TOUR ESCORT (tel: 0417 921 194)

Mr Earle Dresner
Film crew (Cinematographer)

Mr Brendan Fletcher
Film crew (Director)

Mr Nick Emond
Film crew (Sound)

CLIMATE (May):

Sydney: Autumn conditions with temperatures ranging from 11-20°C
Cairns and Great Barrier Reef: Mild subtropical climate with temperatures ranging from 18-26°C

WHAT TO BRING:

Smart casual clothing is required in most resorts, hotels, restaurants and bars in Australia. For Sydney you will require a jacket especially in the evenings. For Queensland, pack cool clothing that will protect you from the sun, including a hat, sunglasses and water resistant sunscreen. Bring a swimsuit, a light-weight long sleeve shirt, sandals or protective shoes. A comfortable wind-proof jacket may be useful after water activities. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for everyday wear and sturdy enclosed shoes or hiking boots with a good sole are a must when walking or hiking in the National Parks.

It is recommended that you bring a small day backpack to carry your hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, insect repellent, camera, personal medications and a water bottle.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Please kindly note that this itinerary is subject to change. Your guide will advise you of any changes accordingly.

Please ensure you pack a soft bag with a maximum of 10kg for your touring on 2-3 May. Please refer to the itinerary for further details regarding luggage storage.

You will require enclosed shoes for your touring on 3 May and shoes appropriate for water activities on 4 May.

Accommodation is included throughout your trip. Please kindly settle your room account for incidentals / meals etc. prior to the departure times as listed.

Meals and drinks are not included unless otherwise specified.

We are delighted to have a Tourism Australia film crew join us on the familiarisation tour. Thank you for returning your signed Talent Release form.

Tourism Australia has booked your flights from Sydney to Cairns.
Day 1: Wednesday, May 1st
SYDNEY (B,L)

Enjoy breakfast at leisure in your ATE hotel. Please be ready at Reception 10 minutes prior to your pick-up time.

You will be picked up from your hotel and transferred to ‘The Rocks’ area of Sydney with your Tour Escort.

9:30am Start the day with a fascinating ‘Walkabout Tour’ with ‘The Rocks Dreaming’ just minutes from Sydney’s CBD, commencing at Cadman’s Cottage. Discover a totally different side of ‘The Rocks’ area as you visit sacred and historic Aboriginal sites with a local Aboriginal guide. Your guide will share stories of the Aboriginal Dreamtime and you will never look at the magnificent city of Sydney the same way again.

11:00am Now it’s time to make your way to the Eastern Pontoon at Circular Quay.

11:30am For a welcome lunch you’ll never forget, we’ll take you on board the oldest wooden vessel on Sydney Harbour - the Tribal Warrior, a 15 metre gaff-rigged ketch. Set sail on Sydney Harbour to discover the stories of the Eora, Cadigal, Guringai, Wangal, Gammeraigal and Wallumedegal people, the original inhabitants of Sydney’s Harbour foreshore. Step ashore on one of Sydney’s Harbour Islands to see an authentic Aboriginal cultural performance and learn about the Aboriginal names and meanings of significant Sydney landmarks, ancient traditional fishing methods and food gathering techniques. The ketch itself is a work of art featuring numerous Aboriginal carvings and your cruise hosts will show you the harbour through the eyes of its original inhabitants. This is an unrivalled opportunity to not only see one of the world’s most picturesque harbours but to take a journey through time on a boat that’s as unique as the stories you’ll hear along the way.

Enjoy a delicious Aussie BBQ lunch whilst cruising the harbour. Shane Dredge, Sector Specialist - Aboriginal Tourism, Destination NSW will be joining us.

2:00pm After your lunch and cruise you’ll disembark at Taronga Zoo for the ‘Nura Diya - Aboriginal Discovery Tour’. Here you’ll interact with some unique Australian wildlife including koalas and kangaroos, seeing them in a whole new light as you hear the Dreamtime stories describing the creation of these wonderful creatures. Enjoy light refreshments at the end of the tour at the Top Plaza Café before you hop on the Sky Safari Cable Car to your departure point at the Zoo Wharf.
4:00pm  It’s back on board the Tribal Warrior for a quick ferry over to the Botanic Gardens where you’ll receive an overview of the ‘Aboriginal Heritage Tour’.

4:30pm  Uncover the Royal Botanic Garden’s rich Aboriginal heritage on this 1 hour guided walk. Explore plant uses, culture, artefacts and taste seasonal bush foods.

5:30pm  As the sun sets over Sydney, the day ends with bush food inspired canapés at the Botanic Gardens Restaurant (beverages included).

6:30pm  You will be transferred back to your ATE hotel for an evening at leisure as you have an early start in the morning.

IMPORTANT NOTE:
You will need to pack a soft bag (maximum 10kg) inside your main suitcase for your travel to Cairns tomorrow, as on arrival in Cairns your main luggage will be transferred to your Cairns hotel and your overnight bag will be taken on your tour. You will need to bring enclosed shoes and your Tourism Australia beach towel for the activities on Friday 3 May.

Accommodation: Your ATE Hotel

Day 2: Thursday, May 2nd
SYDNEY TO CAIRNS/DAINTREE (L,D)

Today it’s time for an early start so you can head north to Cairns where you’ll spend the next three days in the region sharing some of the best Aboriginal experiences Australia has to offer. From discovering remote Aboriginal rock painting sites to four wheel driving through lush rainforests and kayaking down outback streams, this will be a journey like no other.

You will be picked up from your hotel and transferred to the Sydney Domestic Airport.

Transfer times:
3:40am  MS LINDSAY STACPOOLE
Novotel Rockford Darling Harbour Sydney
3:45am  MR MARTIN KLUG
Holiday Inn Darling Harbour
3:50am  MR MARKUS WALTER
Parkroyal Darling Harbour
4:00am  MR LUKE JONES
Grace Hotel
4:05am  MR JEFF ADAM
Adina Apartment Hotel Sydney Harbourside
4:10am  MRS LISA RUIZ
The Menzies Sydney
4:15am  MS JULIE CARGUERAY
Radisson Blu Sydney

Flight booking reference number: BGJ6SR
Adam, Ruiz, Klug, Walter, Cargueray

Flight booking reference number: EG8VQE
Jones, O’Brien, Stacpoole, Dresner, Fletcher, Emond

5:00am  Arrive at airport and check in for flight. (Opportunity to purchase breakfast at the airport or in-flight)

6:00am  Fly out from Sydney on Jetstar – JQ952. (please note catering and entertainment has to be purchased directly on Jetstar flights)
9:10am Arrive Cairns, collect luggage before commencing touring. *(Your main luggage will be transported to the Shangri-La Hotel The Marina for your arrival tomorrow, and you will take your soft-sided overnight bag with you on tour. Please ensure you have enclosed shoes and beach towel with you for your touring tomorrow).*

You’ll be picked up from Cairns Domestic airport by ‘The Bama Way – Aboriginal Journeys (Adventure North Australia)’ to join the exclusive ‘Daintree Dreaming Day Tour’.

Travel to Cooya Beach north of Port Douglas and meet with the Kubirri Warra brothers from ‘Kuku Yalanji Cultural Habitat Tours’ for a coastal beach walk. This special place is a traditional fishing ground of the ‘Kuku Yalanji’ and has three diverse ecosystems – beach, mangroves and coastal reef – that are connected to each other by the ever changing mudflats and tidal lagoons. The brothers will teach you how to throw a spear and demonstrate how to search and hunt for fish, mud crabs and mussels.

Continue your journey to ‘Mossman Gorge Centre’, a new Indigenous eco-tourism experience and the gateway to beautiful Mossman Gorge.

1:30pm At the Mossman Gorge Centre you will stop for a brief lunch before joining Kuku Yalanji Elder Roy Gibson for an abridged version of the a Ngadiku Dreamtime Gorge walk. The Ngadiku Dreamtime Walks conducted by the Kuku Yalanji journey along private, gentle tracks, visiting special places and culturally significant sites, past traditional bark shelters and over meandering cool rainforest streams. The walks are run daily and usually take approximately 1.5 hours but today as we are a little stretched for time, Roy will walk you through the main highlights. Time may also allow for a quick swim in the gorge.

3:00pm After lunch it’s time to visit the Janbal Gallery – a special place to experience Aboriginal art and culture through hands-on painting and storytelling. Here you will learn how stories are told through Aboriginal paintings. With the help of one of the region’s most acclaimed artists you’ll also have the opportunity to create your own souvenir.

5:30pm Next stop is the award-winning ‘Daintree Eco Lodge & Spa’. Staying in one of the tree-house style bayans you’ll be at one with nature, yet still enjoy all the creature comforts of a boutique retreat.

6:30pm Enjoy dinner in the Julaymba Restaurant where you’ll sample a fusion of native bush tucker and contemporary Australian cuisine. The menu has been carefully designed in consultation with the local Kuku Yalanji people and incorporates reef fish and local produce with native and indigenous nuts, berries, flowers, leaves and seeds *(beverages included).* Juan Walker from ‘Walkabout Cultural Adventures’ will be joining us for dinner.

**Accommodation:** Daintree Eco Lodge & Spa – Rainforest Bayan
Day 3: Friday, May 3rd

DAINTREE TO CAIRNS (B,L,D)

Enjoy a delightful packed breakfast today especially prepared by the Daintreee Eco Lodge and Spa.

Please ensure you check-out and are ready for our early pick-up. (Please ensure you have enclosed shoes and your beach towel today).

7:30am Start the day with a drive to Cooktown, stopping at the Heritage Lodge & Spa along the way for morning tea and a brief site inspection. This location is unique as it is the only place in the world where two World Heritage listed National Parks meet. Continue along the 4WD-only Bloomfield Track - the coastal route to Cooktown.

On the way, you will meet with the ‘Walker Family’ at the Wujal Wujal Community Arts Centre to share their knowledge of this special and sacred place. Lunch today is at the iconic Lions Den Hotel - a quirky hotel established back in 1875 and now as famous for its unusual decorations as it is its hospitality.

1:45pm As you drive in to Cooktown you’ll see the mysterious Black Mountains, a unique geological oddity that is steeped in myths and legends, before heading off on the Great Emu Tour with ‘Guurrbi Tours’. This tour will provide you with a wonderful insight into the local Aboriginal society and spirituality with a visit to three rock art sites including the Great Emu Cave and the Rainbow Serpent Cave. As you walk with Nugalwarra Elder Wilfred ‘Willie’ Gordon he will explain the significance of the paintings and the stories behind the art. (There is a short climb to one of the sites, but overall very little walking is involved).

5:00pm You will be transported back to the local airport in Cooktown and fly back to Cairns.

6:05pm Fly out of Cooktown to Cairns with Hinterland Aviation HND 158.

6:50pm Arrive Cairns General Aviation Airport where you will collect your luggage and be transferred to your hotel.

On arrival at the Shangri-La Hotel The Marina you will be able to collect your suitcase stored here prior.

7:45pm Meet at reception for a short walk to the Salt House Bar and Restaurant to enjoy a set three course à la carte dinner (beverages included).

Situated at Marina Point, Salt House is a unique dining, bar and entertainment venue offering a panorama of the ocean, marina and city on the waterfront in Cairns. Salt House has been designed by renowned Sydney designer Michael McCann of Dreamtime Australia Design and the fluid space allows uninterrupted views of the changing colours of the ocean and mountains that encircle the city.

Jeff Gillies – Director Tropics and Great Barrier Reef, Tourism and Events Queensland and Brian Hennessey – Director Sales and Marketing, Tourism Tropical North Queensland will be joining you at dinner.

Short return walk to your hotel at the conclusion of dinner.

Accommodation:

Shangri-La Hotel The Marina – Deluxe Marina View Rooms
Day 4: Saturday, May 4th
CAIRNS TO MISSION BEACH (B,L,D)

Enjoy breakfast at the Shangri-La Hotel The Marina. (Restaurant opens at 6:00am)

Check out of the hotel and have bags ready at reception by 6:45am. (Please ensure you have shoes appropriate for water activities today).

7:00am There’ll be no sleeping in today, but the early start will be worth it as you will be one of the first people to experience a new tour in the Cassowary Coast Region.

Transfer to Castaways Resort & Spa in Mission Beach where you will leave your luggage to be placed in your rooms and join Ingan Tours to experience a new freshwater adventure ‘Tully Kayak Tour’. This tour will give you the chance to relax and breathe in the beauty of Bulgan Creek and paddle your way down stream and see the environment through Aboriginal eyes. You’ll make your way through beautifully created creek tunnels and sense, feel, touch and connect with nature like never before.

During the day you’ll learn to weave a bracelet, build a traditional shelter and sample billy tea and damper – a bread made over a campfire. The tour is fully guided and you will learn all about the area as you make your way down the creek at a leisurely pace.

Although there’s plenty of bush tucker in the area, to save you putting your newly acquired hunting and gathering skills to the test, you’ll be given a tasty packed lunch to eat along the way.

3:30pm By mid-afternoon it will be time to hang up your paddle and transfer to Mission Beach for a final night in this stunning, unspoilt, natural environment. The area has a blend of sophisticated eateries, boutiques and galleries nestled up against lush, tropical rainforest and it’s here you’ll have your last dinner together before heading back to Cairns in the morning for your flight connections.

4:00pm Approximate arrival time at Castaways Resort & Spa for check in and time to freshen up.

6:00pm Enjoy your Farewell three course à la carte dinner at Castaways Resort & Spa (beverages included).

Day 5: Sunday, May 5th
MISSION BEACH TO CAIRNS (TO HOME PORT) (B)

Enjoy a packed breakfast today.

Check out of the hotel and have bags ready at reception by 6:30am.

6:45am Transfer to Cairns.

Enjoy your comfortable journey back to Cairns Airport for those meeting outbound flights or to the city for those staying on.

End of program.
ACCOMMODATION CONTACT DETAILS:

Shangri-La Hotel The Marina, Cairns
Tel: + 61 7 4031 1411

Daintree Eco Lodge & Spa
Tel: +61 7 4098 6100

Castaways Resort & Spa Mission Beach
Tel: +61 7 4068 7444

HOST’S CONTACT DETAILS
(for any itinerary queries prior to and during the familt):

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