

**BRENDAN
VACATIONS**
Taking You Personally

AND

RON AND VAL ONTELL

WELCOME

**AUSSIECON4 2010
WORLD SCIENCE FICTION
TOUR
AUSTRALIA**

SEPTEMBER 2010

BOOKING #: BV49533

BON VOYAGE

Dear Traveler:

Welcome to your Brendan vacation. Your itinerary and accommodations have been carefully selected and reviewed to make your vacation a memorable adventure. We hope that you enjoy this special journey as much as we have in putting it together. Please take a few moments to review the enclosed documents, which contain important information about your upcoming trip.

Our overseas representatives are experienced professionals committed to delivering outstanding service to Brendan guests visiting their homelands. On escorted tours, your Tour Director will look after the details, while on independent tours the local hosts are at your disposal throughout your vacation.

Relax and absorb the ambience of the magical settings and fascinating lands that you visit. As you travel, keep in mind that patience, understanding and the flexibility to adapt to a changing environment will enhance your vacation experience.

Traveling brings you to new and exciting experiences in lifestyle, cuisine and traditions. Remember that the customs and ways of other cultures are different from ours and we must respect them while we are guests abroad. In this way, your vacation will be infinitely more pleasant and rewarding.

We wish you an exciting and memorable vacation. Let us hear about it when you return by completing the enclosed passenger survey.

Bon Voyage!

BRENDAN VACATIONS

Val and Ron Ontell



ITINERARY

Monday, September 06, 2010 MELBOURNE / ADELAIDE

This afternoon, you will depart from the Hilton Melbourne South Wharf, 2 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf (located adjacent to the Melbourne Convention Centre) with Sita Coaches at **15.30pm** for Melbourne Domestic airport for our flight to Adelaide. Fly from Melbourne to Adelaide on QF 697 at **18.10pm**. Arrive in Adelaide from Melbourne at **19.00pm**. Meet your guide in the Adelaide Domestic arrival hall with signage of the group name (**AUSSIECON4 2010 World Science Fiction Tour**), then transfer from the airport to the Adelaide Paringa Motel. The balance of the day is at leisure. This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel at **19.00pm**.

About Adelaide

Adelaide is one of the nation's most beautiful and well-planned cities, with a great visual harmony and elegant style. It is harbored between the calm waters of Gulf St Vincent and the picturesque backdrop of the Adelaide Hills. Set in a square mile easily traversed in 20 minutes, central Adelaide features award winning restaurants, outdoor cafes, markets, elegant buildings and gardens, all surrounded by green parklands. Adelaide city center is approximately 1 mile square with the main shopping area being Rundle Mall and King William Street. Rundle Street (the continuation of Rundle Mall) is a hive of activity with numerous restaurants, cafes, pubs and unique shopping. The Barossa Valley - with famous wines, a feast of festivals, a lively heritage, and only an hour's drive north of Adelaide - is an ideal destination for a day trip. The Barossa, comprising the Barossa and Eden Valleys, is one of the world's greatest wine producing areas. Twenty kilometers wide and about thirty kilometers long, it has a rich European culture, with German and English-style villages, churches and chateau. The region has 50 wineries ranging from some of Australia's largest wine companies through to smaller individual winemakers. All offer wine tastings at their cellar doors, and almost all are open seven days per week. The Barossa has a unique wine and food culture. The local restaurants and cafes specialize in serving regional foods and butchers and bakers offer traditional wursts, breads and cakes. Tanunda is centrally located in the Barossa. It was the focal point for the early German settlement, growing out of the village of Langmeil, which was established in 1843. The town is known for its authentic heritage character and many fine churches. Porterage is not available at our hotel today.

Accommodation: Adelaide Paringa Motel (D)

Tuesday, September 07, 2010 ADELAIDE

Full breakfast is included in the hotel restaurant at normal restaurant times. This morning at **9:00 a.m.**, depart from our hotel for a walking tour of Adelaide, accompanied by our local guide, and be introduced to the charm of the city, including the best places for shopping. Adelaide, one of the best-planned cities in the world, is proud of its relaxed lifestyle, colonial heritage and reputation as the arts capital of Australia. Today's tour is designed to introduce you to the city's history and heritage. Highlights include visiting the city's square mile with its distinctive squares, and terraces, parks and gardens. See the diverse residential architecture of North Adelaide, with its bluestone

mansions and row cottages. You will stroll through the Central Market, rich in atmosphere and fresh produce. On completion of the tour, you will return to the hotel to enjoy the balance of the day at leisure. This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel at **19.00pm**.

Special Note: - *Due to weight restrictions on the light aircraft travelling from Kangaroo Island to Adelaide on 10 September, we recommend packing an overnight bag for your time while on Kangaroo Island. Your main luggage will be stored at the Adelaide Paringa Motel until your return on that date at approximately 21.00pm.*

Accommodation: Adelaide Paringa Motel (B,D)

Wednesday, September 08, 2010

ADELAIDE / KANGAROO ISLAND

Full breakfast is included in the hotel restaurant at normal restaurant times. Depart at **08.45am** to head to Mt Lofty. Mt Lofty is the highest peak of the Mt Lofty ranges and at 710m above sea level it offers a stunning panoramic view of the city of Adelaide and the Gulf St Vincent. From here, travel to Cleland Wildlife Park to wander among the trails and have the chance to come face to face with a variety of Australian wildlife. Travel to Hahndorf; visit Australia's oldest German settlement situated in the picturesque Adelaide Hills. Wander among the eclectic attractions and curios. Lunch is at the Hahndorf Inn. On completion of lunch, travel to Victor Harbour where we have time to look around this seaside town and walk across or take a ride on the horse-drawn tram (optional expense) and explore Granite Island. Travel to Cape Jervis to board a luxury ocean going ferry at **18.00pm** for the 45-minute crossing to Kangaroo Island. Upon arrival at **18.50pm**, a driver will meet the group in the ferry arrival hall with signage of the group name (**AUSSIECON4 2010 World Science Fiction Tour**). Then transfer from the ferry terminal to Kangaroo Island Seafront Resort. This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel at **19.00pm**. Portage is not included on check in/out at hotel.

Accommodation: Kangaroo Island Seafront Resort (B,L,D)

Thursday, September 09, 2010

KANGAROO ISLAND

Continental breakfast is included in the hotel restaurant at normal restaurant times. Leave the hotel at **09.00am** for the full day's touring of Kangaroo Island. Our first visit is Seal Bay, one of only two places in the world where you can stroll with your guide through a wild seal colony. Seal Bay is home to around 600 of the rare Australian Sea Lions. From here, travel to the site of the environmentally educational experience "Bird of Prey - Raptor display," where the birds are flown to display their individual flight and hunting characteristics. The display may involve various birds representative of those found on the Island including Wedge Tailed Eagles, Osprey, Sea Eagles, Australian Kestrel, Australian Hobby, Tawny Frogmouth and Barn Owls. Afterward, enjoy an Aussie Pub lunch at the Parndana Hotel. Then continue on to the Parndana Wildlife Park, where you can stroll through many aviaries housing a collection of Australian parrots, cockatoos, finches, Cape Barren Geese and many more. You will be able to get up close and personal with kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, emus and many other native and general farm animals. In the afternoon, visit the Island Pure Sheep Dairy to see the sheep being milked. There will be an opportunity to taste cheeses and yogurt made at the dairy. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. Enjoy dinner at the hotel at **19.00pm**.

Accommodation: Kangaroo Island Seafront Resort (B,L,D)

Friday, September 10, 2010

KANGAROO ISLAND/ADELAIDE

Continental breakfast is in the hotel restaurant at normal restaurant times. Leave the hotel at **09.00am**. Visit Pennington Bay, a wonderful surf beach. Please use extreme care at this spot. Huge crashing waves on the shore can be heard at American River 9km away. Kangaroo Island is the only place in the world where a pure strain of the Ligurian bee exists. Visit Clifford's Honey Farm and tour the honey room to see bees in glass hives, witness the extraction process, and taste the many different honey flavors produced at the farm. Then visit the Emu Ridge Eucalyptus Distillery, here you will learn of the distilling process, operating the way it began in the 1890s. You will also receive a souvenir bottle of this unique Aussie bush product. Enjoy a two-course Australian country style lunch at Vivonne Bay Bistro. After lunch, travel through Flinders Chase National Park. Enjoy breathtaking views of Yacca Flat and coastal scenery on your way to spectacular Remarkable Rocks. Take a walk around these huge rocks, which have been carved into many different weird and wonderful shapes by the wind and the ocean spray over many centuries. Drive past the ruins of an early settlement at Weirs Cove before going on to the Cape Du Couedic Lighthouse, built in 1906, and the natural land bridge that is "Admirals Arch." Look out for the New Zealand Fur Seals frolicking in the water and on the rocks under the arch. From here, travel to Aurora Ozone Hotel to enjoy a light dinner before arriving at Kangaroo Island airport at **19.15pm** for our **19.50pm** flight to Adelaide, ZL 4774. Arrive Adelaide from Kangaroo Island at **20.25pm**. Driver will meet group in Adelaide Domestic arrival hall with signage of the group name (**AUSSIECON4 2010 World Science Fiction Tour**). Then transfer from the airport to the motel.

Accommodation: Adelaide Paringa Motel (B,L,D)

Saturday, September 11, 2010

ADELAIDE / AYERS ROCK

Full breakfast is included in the hotel restaurant at normal restaurant times. Leave the hotel at **08.15am** for Adelaide Domestic airport for the flight to Ayers Rock via Alice Springs. Fly Adelaide to Alice Springs on QF 723 at **09.45am**. Arrive Alice Springs from Adelaide at **11.45am**. Fly Alice Springs to Ayers Rock on QF 1941 at **14.00pm**. Arrive Ayers Rock at **14.50pm**. Driver will meet the group in the domestic arrival hall with signage of the group name (**AUSSIECON4 2010 World Science Fiction Tour**). Transfer to the Outback Pioneer Resort. Depart tonight for our Sounds of Silence dinner at **18.10pm**, which includes entertainment, canapes, beer, wines and non-alcoholic beverages, gourmet barbecue (vegetarian arrangements made with prior notice), scrumptious dessert, tea, coffee, star talk and stargazing. This is a must do for all visitors. Entered into the Australian Tourism Hall of Fame, Sounds of Silence is a truly unique outback experience – this is the best of the Red Centre distilled into four magic hours. A special location is chosen and guests are escorted shortly before sundown in the desert. A diggeridoo echoes across the magical landscape as diners enjoy their canapés. Witness the spectacular sunset and feast on Northern Territory delights, including barramundi, kangaroo, emu, crocodile, bush salads, and classic Australian deserts. Attention then turns to some of the world's best stargazing with the assistance of our resident astronomer. As dinner wind down, coffee or tea is served. (In winter, guests enjoy a special treat of hot mulled wine whilst gathered around a campfire.) After dinner, we will be transferred back to our hotel, arriving at approximately **22.00pm**. *Note: It gets cold in the Outback at night, so warm clothing is a must.*

About Ayers Rock

To travel to the heart of the continent is to encounter a land of wondrous extremes. The country appears harsh, yet it has been travelled and lived in for thousands of years. Out of the dunes and spinifex rise two stone formations – the immense monolith of Ayers Rock/Uluru and the domes of Mt Olga/Kata Tjuta. Their scale and presence captivate the imagination of the thousands of visitors who travel to the region each year. For the Anangu people, the traditional owners, these features are not simply natural spectacles, but places of great spiritual resonance, connected to the country at large. The stories, ceremonies and art associated with Uluru and Kata Tjuta are much more than windows on the past. They embody the living knowledge, customs and Law that the Anangu people called Tjukurpa. No matter how many pictures you've seen, nothing will prepare you for your first view of Uluru. Even from a distance, across the rich red plain of The Centre, the power of its ancient spirit will overwhelm you. Once you stand at its base, touch it and explore its mysteries, you will understand why it's not only a treasured icon to local Aboriginal people, but also one of the great wonders of the world. Ayers Rock/Uluru rises 348 meters from the desert and has a girth of 9.4 kilometers. These statistics alone assure its star role as the world's most famous monolith, yet it is estimated that at least two-thirds of the Rock lies beneath the surface. The Rock changes color depending on the time of day, cloud cover and even where you're standing. At sunset, Ayers Rock/Uluru puts on a natural light show that changes its colors from red to orange to lilac in a matter of minutes. Fifty kilometers to the west of Ayers Rock Resort is Mt Olga/Kata Tjuta, a collection of weathered red domes, the tallest of which stands 200 meters taller than Ayers Rock/Uluru. The forces that thrust it out of the Inland Sea 300 million years ago created cracks and fissures that have been eroded to form the smooth domes you see today. In the Anangu language, Kata Tjuta means 'many heads.' The beauty of the lesser-known Olgas surprises people, many believing they hold even greater charm than the Rock. At sunset, the Olgas hold their own natural light show to rival the Rock's – both are inspiring, both unique. Ayers Rock Resort lies just 18km from Ayers Rock, its award winning architecture blending well with the surrounding landscape. The resort has bars, galleries, a bank, a news agency, post office, fashion shops, photo processing, café, bakery, souvenirs, ice-creamery, and supermarket. It also has an impressive Visitors Centre, which can provide all the information you need. Portage included on check in/out at hotel.

Accommodation: Outback Pioneer Resort (B,D)

Sunday, September 12, 2010

AYERS ROCK

Full breakfast is included in the hotel restaurant at normal restaurant times. Leave the hotel at **09.00am** and enjoy touring the base of this amazing monolith and the Mutitjulu Base Walk. This track leads to a special waterhole, which is the home of Wanampi, an ancestral watersnake. For centuries, Mutitjulu was an important campsite for Anangu at Uluru. Their modern community in the Park is named after the area. On this walk, you will learn about Kuniya Tjukurpa – the great battle between Kuniya (woma python) and Liru (poisonous snake man). From here, continue to the Mala Walk that ends at the inspiring Kantju Gorge. On this walk, you will learn about Mala Tjukurpa and see where dramatic events took place during creation times. From the waterhole you can stroll back to the coach parking area. From here, travel to the Cultural Centre. There you'll be introduced to Tjukurpa (law, knowledge, religion, philosophy), Anangu art, Anangu way of life (traditional and current), history, languages, wildlife and joint managements of the Park. The displays feature photo collages, oral history sound panels, Pitjantjatjara language learning interactives,

soundscapes, videos and artifacts. Explanations are provided in English. On completion of our time, transfer back to the Desert Gardens to enjoy some at leisure time for independent exploration before the afternoon tour. Depart from the hotel at **15.00pm** for Kata Tjuta to start our Walpa Gorge walk (formerly known as Olga Gorge). Walpa (meaning windy) Gorge is a desert refuge for plants and animals. The rocky track gently rises along a moisture rich gully, passing inconspicuous rare plants and ending at a grove of flourishing spearwood. Experience the sheerness of the domes and the vastness of the landscape. This area is just as holy to its aboriginal caretakers as Uluru, located just 45 kilometers away. The rocks of Kata Tjuta are even more ancient than those of Uluru. They have been subject to such tectonic stress over the millennia, that the mud bearing the hard nuggets of sandstone has also long been compressed into stone. The resulting conglomeration resembles chunks of candy studded with nuts and nougats. On completion of the walk, travel back to the hotel with a stop en route at the Dune Viewing Area, located off the Kata Tjuta Road. Dune-top platforms provide seating, shade and visitor information. The area offers spectacular panoramic views of Kata Tjuta and the sand dunes. The return walk will take about 30 minutes. Uluru can also be easily seen on the distant horizon from this lookout. Return to the hotel in late afternoon. This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel at **19.00pm**.

Accommodation: Outback Pioneer Resort (B,D)

Monday, September 13, 2010

AYERS ROCK / ALICE SPRINGS

Full breakfast is included in the hotel restaurant at normal restaurant times. Depart the hotel at **08.30am** for Ayers Rock Domestic airport for the flight to Alice Springs. Fly Ayers Rock to Alice Springs on QF 1940 at **10.15am**. Arrive Alice Springs at **11.00am**. Driver will meet you in the domestic arrival hall with the signage of the group name (**AUSSIECON4 2010 World Science Fiction Tour**). You will then be transferred to the hotel Aurora Alice Springs, with a tour of Alice Springs en route. Situated close to the very center of the vast Australian continent, Alice Springs is the country's best-known 'Outback' town. Originally settled as a post along the Overland Telegraph route, Alice Springs today is a lively town full of things to see and places to go. On our tour, visit the base of the Royal Flying Doctors Service and the Old Telegraph Station, two uniquely Australian organizations. Enjoy panoramic views of the town and the rugged West (dropping our luggage at our hotel) before reaching Alice Springs Desert Park. Enjoy free time at the park, time permitting, before the performance of the flying birds of prey at **15.30pm**. Thrill to their spectacular flying skills and unique behaviors. The Park introduces visitors to the incredible but subtle richness of Australia's arid zone. Designed to move well beyond the boundaries of traditional zoos, botanic gardens and museums, the park has adopted a holistic "habitat-based and story driven" approach. Discover the desert in its entirety: the landscapes, animals and plants, and their traditional use and management by Aboriginal people. This has been recognized by experts in the field, including Sir David Attenborough who claimed "There is no museum or wildlife park in the world that could match it." The Park is just 10 minutes drive, or a short bike ride, from the center of Alice Springs. A spectacular cinematic journey will take you through 4,500 million years of desert evolution. Along an easy 1.6 kilometer-walking path, explore the 3 major habitats - Desert Rivers, Sand Country and Woodland - featuring over 120 species of animals and 350 species of plants. Witness a free-flying birds of prey display and see rare and endangered animals in the largest desert nocturnal house in the world. Professional guides present aspects of life in the desert, including Aboriginal use of resources, bush foods and medicines. From here we depart the Park and arrive at our hotel at approximately

17.00pm. This evening, we walk from our hotel at **18.45pm** for our dinner at The Overlanders Steakhouse for our **19.00pm** dinner reservation. Enjoy the 'signature' menu of the restaurant, the world famous 'DROVERS BLOWOUT.' The menu features soup of the day with freshly baked damper (outback style traditional bread). This is followed by tastings of Camel, Crocodile, Emu and Kangaroo. Your main course is a choice of either a tender Rump Steak or the ever-popular Barramundi Fish. And if you're not 'blown out' at this stage, you will have a choice of either Apple Pie or the famous Australian Pavlova for dessert, with tea or coffee. After dinner, we walk back to our hotel.

About Alice Springs

It's the heart of Australia, the capital of the Outback and the most romantic country town in the world. It's where the Arrernte Aboriginal tribal group has lived for 20,000 years and where pioneer men and women gave "tough" a new meaning. It's where they race camels, hold hilarious holiday regattas in dry river beds and where Peter Finch finally caught up with Virginia McKenna in the 1956 film classic "A Town Like Alice." With a population of over 27,000, the town is a self-contained business community catering to its population and the many thousands of annual visitors. Visitors to this great Outback town can experience the \$19.6 million Alice Springs Desert Park, Aboriginal culture, visit the world's largest classroom - the School of the Air and is the perfect base to tour the Eastern and Western MacDonnell Ranges, the famous Uluru (Ayers Rock), Kata Tjuta (The Olgas) and Kings Canyon. Although tourism is Central Australia's most valuable sector, the region also supports a huge cattle industry. The retail sector encompasses a number of major shopping precincts including supermarkets and specialty shops where prices are comparable to those in other key Territory urban centers. The superb desert climate (with an average daily maximum temperature of 36C in January and a minimum of 4C in July) allows for cycling and walking along an extensive network of tracks. The town's modern airport sees the arrival and departure of more than 100 domestic commercial flights each week. The Alice is also the base for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, although the Alice Springs Hospital is the focus for Central Australia's special health facilities. Established as an important defense location with the development of the US/Australian Pine Gap Joint Defense Satellite monitoring base, the Joint Defense Facility Pine Gap is a major employer in the region, providing work for about 700 United States and Australian Defense personnel. Expenditure on salaries, in country supplies, local utilities, housing rentals and airfares contributes significantly to the regional and Territory economies. Porterage included on check in/out at hotel.

Accommodation: Aurora Alice Springs (B,D)

Tuesday, September 14, 2010
ALICE SPRINGS / CAIRNS

Full breakfast is included in the hotel restaurant at normal restaurant times. Leave the hotel at **08.00am** for a half-day Aboriginal Dreamtime & Bushtucker Tour. A specialist guide and Aboriginal people of the Walpiri Tribe will take you on a journey into the lifestyle and beliefs of traditional Aboriginal people as they have lived for thousands of years. When visiting the Aboriginal Bush Campsite 15 minutes from Alice Springs, you will be able to participate in boomerang and spear throwing with one of the Aboriginal men, learn of their traditional hunting techniques and bush survival skills. Try some bush food, including the infamous Witchetty Grubs. Photograph a fully decorated "Central Australian Corroboree" and mingle with the Aboriginal people in their

camp, talk with them and watch as various Dreamtime stories are depicted in paintings (which you may purchase). Learn about the Walpiri People's "Skin System" and how it related to various aspects of family life. Transfer back to the hotel, where you'll have some free time for shopping. Leave the hotel at **14.45pm** for Alice Springs Domestic airport for our flight to Cairns. Depart Alice Springs for Cairns on flight QF 1948 departing at **17.25pm**. Arrive Cairns at **20.00pm**. Driver shall meet group at the Cairns Domestic arrival hall with signage of the group name (**AUSSIECON4 2010 World Science Fiction Tour**). You will then be transferred from the airport to The Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort. This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel at **21.00pm**.

About Cairns

It is the heart of Tropical North Queensland and an excellent base for exploring this region. Cairns has it all at its doorstep: the rich blue water of the Coral Sea and teeming tropical plants; the Great Barrier Reef and dense rainforests you can enjoy from the forest floor; the famous Kuranda mountain-climbing train; temperate tablelands; and bush-clad coral atolls. Set on Trinity Inlet, named by Captain James Cook on Trinity Sunday, 1770, Cairns has the total tropical package. A fleet of cruisers of all sizes is on standby to transport you to the off-shore coral gardens of Arlington, Moore and Sunbury reefs, while the quick sea trip to Green Island National Park leaves day-trippers plenty of time to snorkel, scuba dive or just potter about in a glass-bottomed boat. Perched in the shadow of the Whitfield Range – stepping stone to the Great Dividing Range and the Atherton Tablelands – Edge Hill is one of Cairns' fashionable, north-western suburbs. It overlooks the International Airport and is only minutes from the twin stations that transport visitors, either by the scenic railway or skyrail, to the rainforest village of Kuranda. The 110-year-old rail line zigzags through the spectacular rainforest, past and over rivers and waterfalls of the Baron Gorge, while the Skyrail's gondolas offer unparalleled views from over the forest canopy. The Skyrail makes several stops where passengers can alight to take the boardwalk trails through the rainforest. Kuranda's high spots include the Butterfly Sanctuary, where you can wander among superbly colored insects; the Noctarium, featuring nocturnal rainforest animals; and the Rainforest Markets. Portage included on check in/out at hotel.

Accommodation: Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort (B,D)

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

CAIRNS

Full breakfast is included in the hotel restaurant at normal restaurant times. Leave the hotel at **08.15am** and transfer to Cairns Wharf to join today's reef experience. Our vessel, the "Big Cat," is a comfortable air-conditioned 30-metre catamaran with spacious, luxurious interior cabins and a relaxed atmosphere. "Big Cat" departs and cruises to Green Island and remains there for the day. You will have 5.5 hours on Green Island to take part in the many activities or simply relax on the beach. The friendly crew will help you to organize your activities to make the most of your time on Green Island. Some of the included activities are viewing the sea life by glass bottom boat, semi-submarine or enjoy independent snorkeling. The day is complete with lunch served. Morning tea is included on this excursion, however, afternoon tea/coffee is at an additional cost of \$2.00 per cup. Lunch is served from 11.45am to 13.00pm, (see menu details listed below). Note: If you wish to snorkel there may be a \$20.00 deposit required, which is refunded when the equipment is returned. After the cruise, the coach will return you to the hotel. Buffet dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort (B,L,D)

Thursday, September 16, 2010

CAIRNS

Full breakfast is included in the hotel restaurant at normal restaurant times. Leave the hotel at **08.00am** and travel one of Australia's great scenic highways before arriving at the Daintree River. Cross the Daintree River and continue on to the Daintree Environmental Centre for a refreshing morning tea. Here an expert guide will take you on a boardwalk whilst explaining some of the fascinating secrets of one of the world's oldest rainforests. After the walk, guests can learn more through the interactive displays or obtain a closer look at life in the rainforest by ascending the Rainforest Canopy Tower. Afterwards, continue on to Cape Tribulation Beach while your driver explains the rich history of the area. Walk the beach or boardwalk and relax in this tranquil setting. The next stop is for lunch in a rainforest setting - relax and enjoy the delicious food. Stop en route to enjoy the panoramic view from Alexandra Lookout. Re-crossing the river, join the calm cruise of this important waterway, observing the wildlife that inhabits this environment. Your guide will point out the different types of wildlife and plants that make their home along the river. Keep your eyes peeled for the elusive and fearsome estuarine saltwater crocodile! The cruise terminates in Daintree Village, where there is time to indulge in a cup of tea or coffee before heading back to the hotel. This evening, transfer from the hotel at **19.15pm** for dinner at Oliver's – Australian Fine Cuisine for our dinner reservation at **19.30pm**. Transfer to our hotel at **21.00pm**.

Accommodation: Novotel Cairns Oasis Resort (B,L,D)

Friday, September 17, 2010

CAIRNS / BRISBANE

Full breakfast is included in the hotel restaurant at normal restaurant times. Leave the hotel at **08.15am**. Arrive at Freshwater Rail Station and then it is "all aboard" for the **08.45am** historic rail journey. Universally known as one of the world's great train experiences, the original Kuranda Scenic Railway is a spectacular ride comprising unsurpassed views of World Heritage Listed rainforest, steep ravines and picturesque waterfalls within the Barron Gorge National Park. Constructed between 1882 and 1891, it is considered an engineering feat of tremendous magnitude. Hundreds of men were employed to build the 15 hand-made tunnels and 37 bridges that stand as a monument to the pioneers of tropical North Queensland. Built under extremely difficult and dangerous conditions over 100 years ago, the line now winds its way 350 meters above sea level. Going from Cairns to Kuranda, the journey takes in 34 kilometers of breathtaking, heritage listed, tropical rainforest in the Barron Gorge National Park. You will travel aboard original historic carriages past spectacular waterfalls, deep ravines, winding tunnels and views to the Pacific Ocean. The journey ends in Kuranda, principal town of the Atherton Tablelands, at **10.15am**. From here, transfer across to Kuranda to arrive at **10.30am** at the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary. The Australian Butterfly Sanctuary's 3666 cubic meter aviary is home to over 1500 magnificent tropical butterflies, all local to the area, including the electric blue Ulysses butterfly and the largest butterfly in Australia. The butterfly's beguiling aerial dances and its tendency to land on brightly colored clothing, has inspired and delighted young and old alike. The landscaping within the aviary is often remarked upon, especially by keen gardeners. Much care has been taken to create a natural rainforest environment, with special attention to the needs of the Ulysses butterfly. There is a rainforest understory and canopy, complete with waterfalls that create a natural looking and feeling rainforest setting. As the butterflies are all rainforest species, the aviary is designed to re-create their natural habitat,

complete with a running stream and the correct food plants on which the female can deposit their eggs. These eggs are collected regularly by staff and taken to a specially designed laboratory where the caterpillars are raised until they pupate and eventually emerge as fully formed butterflies - ready to be released back into the aviary. This intensive handling over many generations has resulted in the sanctuary's butterflies being far more "domesticated," hence their propensity to land on people. After the visit to the Butterfly Sanctuary, there will be free time in the Kuranda village area to explore and have lunch independently.

About Kuranda

Kuranda revolves around the Markets, which operate on every day. If you are a market buff, you will be in heaven. However, there is no shortage of things to see and in Kuranda apart from the Markets. The hardest part is to fit them all into a morning or afternoon, making it well worth the while to spend as much time as you can in Kuranda. The Kuranda train station is a tour in itself, famous as the most beautiful train station in Australia. Some of the attractions in Kuranda include Riverboat Cruises, the Aviary and the world famous Butterfly Sanctuary. There are some good shops to buy local arts and crafts and items such as opals, didgeridoos and t-shirts. Kuranda is a town that specifically caters for tourists. There is as much or as little to do as time permits. A visit to the Barron Gorge lookout, especially after heavy rain, is spectacular. From Kuranda, depart by Skyrail Cableway at **14.00pm** for Caravonica Station, which is a world first in environmental tourism, taking you on an amazing experience over Australia's World Heritage listed Tropical Rainforest canopy and deep into the forest. The Skyrail experience, spanning 7.5kms over pristine rainforest, allows you to explore the wonders of an ancient tropical rainforest and learn about one of the most botanically fascinating and diverse areas on earth. Gliding just meters above the rainforest canopy in comfortable 6-person gondola cabins, the Skyrail journey immerses you in an intimate rainforest experience where you'll see, hear, smell and become part of the tropical rainforest environment. Relax and enjoy the stunning rainforest scenery, panoramic views of the Cairns' tropical region and the glittering waters of the Coral Sea. Alight at Skyrail's two rainforest mid-stations, Red Peak and Barron Falls, where you'll explore this amazing environment from the forest floor on boardwalks, scenic lookouts and in the state-of-the-art Rainforest Interpretive Centre. Voted Australia's best major tourist attraction, the multi-award winning Skyrail is recognized not only as a premier tourist experience, but as a world leader in eco-tourism, providing you with a truly unique rainforest experience available no where else in the world. The one-way Skyrail Experience will take approximately 90 minutes to complete.

About The Skyrail Journey

Between Barron Falls and Red Peak Stations, you will be treated to some of the most pristine areas of this World Heritage environment; a hundred different shades of green and splashes of vibrant color make this nature's palette, complete and picture-perfect for your journey. Look out for the electric blue Ulysses butterflies as they dance through the canopy foliage accompanied by a chorus of calls and whistles from native birds and insects. On approach to Barron Falls Station, you will enjoy spectacular views of the majestic Barron Gorge and its mighty, granite walls. Look down the Gorge to see the Hydro-electrical Station - there will be more information on this at your second stop. Just before you arrive at your first rainforest mid-station, Barron Falls, you'll pass Barron Gorge, a deep chasm lined with dense rainforest vegetation. A friendly Skyrail attendant will welcome your gondola into Barron Falls Station before you alight to explore your second rainforest

station. Easy access walkways at Barron Falls Station lead you through the rainforest to three separate lookouts providing breathtaking views of the Gorge and Falls. Barron Falls was once the construction base site of hydro electric development in the 1930s. A display of some of the machinery used in the construction provides a fascinating insight as to how the development was undertaken. The station is also home to the state-of-the-art Rainforest Interpretive Centre. The Centre, developed in conjunction with CSIRO, Australia's premier scientific research organization, houses a visual and interactive presentation of the rainforest environment. Touch-screen computers, videos and pictorials will help you to unravel some of the mysteries of this complex ecosystem while providing you with a fun and entertaining learning experience to enhance your enjoyment of the rainforest. As you approach your second rainforest mid-station, Red Peak, your gondola will descend through the canopy layers and take you deep in the forest. Red Peak Station is nestled amongst pristine rainforest with a 175-meter boardwalk providing you with the perfect opportunity to explore the forest from ground level. Towering trees, lush palms, giant ferns and a diverse array of plants and wildlife surround the Station, and you'll witness the true grandeur of these ancient forests. Complimentary guided boardwalk tours are available throughout the day. Skyrail's qualified Rangers are on-hand to provide fun and informative rainforest tours sharing their knowledge of this fascinating eco-system. Rangers will help you identify some of the forest's more unusual native plants species and will be happy to answer any of your questions. Rainforest displays and interpretive signage provide you with additional information on the native flora and fauna. Make sure you take the time to relax and absorb the rainforest atmosphere before re-boarding the cableway and continuing your Skyrail journey to Caravonica Station. On arrival at **15.30pm**, transfer across to Cairns Domestic airport to arrive at **16.00pm** for the flight to Brisbane. Depart Cairns for Brisbane on flight QF 655 departing at **17.05pm**. Arrive Brisbane at **19.10pm**. Group met at Brisbane Domestic arrival hall with signage of the group name (**AUSSIECON4 2010 World Science Fiction Tour**), then transfer from Brisbane Domestic airport to The Metro Hotel Tower Mill Brisbane. This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel at **20.00pm**.

About Brisbane

Brisbane was established when Sydney and the colony of New South Wales needed a better place to store its more recalcitrant convicts. The tropical country further north seemed a good place to put them and in 1824 a penal settlement was established at Redcliffe Point on Moreton Bay. This location was soon abandoned in favor of the riverside site to the south where Brisbane's business district now stands. The penal settlement was abandoned in 1839 and the area was thrown open to free settlers in 1842. As Queensland's huge agricultural and mineral resources were developed, Brisbane grew into a prosperous city and in 1859 the state of Queensland separated from the colony of NSW; Brisbane was declared its capital. Queensland's early white settlers indulged in one of the greatest land grabs of all time and encountered fierce Aboriginal opposition. At the time of white settlement, Queensland was the most densely populated area of Australia, supporting over 100,000 Aboriginal people in around 200 tribal groups. Aboriginal people had probably been in the country for at least 50,000 years before the arrival of Europeans. For much of the 19th century, what amounted to a guerrilla war took place along the frontiers of the white advance. By the turn of the century, the Aboriginal people of Queensland had been completely run off their lands and the white authorities had set up reserves for the survivors. In the 1980s, control of the reserves was handed over to the residents, subject to rights of access for prospecting, exploration or mining. By the 1860s

Brisbane had shed its convict background and developed into a handsome provincial center, although it wasn't until the 1880s that the central business district was transformed by the construction of many fine public and commercial buildings. Despite a countrywide climate of jingoism and giving it all for the motherland, WWI saw Queensland vote in an anti-conscription Labor government. Labor hung on to government until 1957, introducing a series of social and industrial reforms, including compulsory voting and workers' compensation. During WWII, large areas of the state were transformed into military camps, with thousands of Americans garrisoned throughout Queensland as Australia and the USA fought against Japan throughout the Pacific. The war resulted in Australia shifting its allegiance from the UK to the USA, as the north of the country, in particular, realized how vulnerable it was to invasion. In the post-war years, Queensland shifted from a rural to an industrial economy and Labor was replaced by a conservative Liberal-Country Party coalition. Brisbane's political history is dominated by the right-wing Joh Bjelke-Peterson regime, which lasted from the early 1970s to the late 1980s (thanks to a bit of sleight-of-hand with electoral boundaries). Queensland (and Brisbane in particular) suffered a government which was at odds with the rest of the country in matters such as human rights, rainforest conservation, and Aboriginal land rights (although it must be said in its favor that economically, its policies were a huge success). Corruption was rife and since the defeat of the National Party in 1989, it seems everyone from the former Commissioner of Police to Joh himself has appeared in court on charges relating to some sort of shady deal. Brisbane's rapid economic growth, its favorable climate and Joh's 1977 decision to abolish death duties all attracted a massive wave of internal migration. Since 1980 over half a million Australians from other states have packed up and moved to Queensland. In recent years, Premier Peter Beattie's Labor government has dominated state politics to the point that the nationally-dominant Liberals were almost electorally obliterated at a state level in the late nineties. Yet, at the same time, Queensland is the state where the controversial far-right One Nation party has at times gained more than 25% of the vote, and where gun-owners in Gympie staged angry demonstrations opposing Federal gun-ownership reforms. Porterage is not available at our hotel today.

Accommodation: Metro Hotel Tower Mill (B,D)

Saturday, September 18, 2010

BRISBANE

Full breakfast is included in the hotel restaurant at normal restaurant times. Leave the hotel at **09.00am** to discover Brisbane's convict and colonial past and see its oldest buildings. See the magnificent St John's Cathedral and City Hall, Treasury Casino, Parliament House and the Commissariat Store. Pass the City Botanical Gardens and stop on top of Kangaroo Point Cliffs for great views of the river and the city skyline. Cross the Story Bridge, passing Chinatown to Bartley's Lookout, for a panoramic view of Brisbane. See Queensland's oldest home and enjoy sweeping views from Mt Coot-tha Lookout. From here, we arrive for our lunch at the historic Breakfast Creek Hotel at **12.00pm**. On completion of lunch we depart at **13.30pm** where we transfer across to Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary - the world's first and largest koala sanctuary - housing over 130 koalas. We arrive at approximately **14.00pm** and Australia's native flora and fauna are waiting to delight. Lone Pine is famous for allowing visitors to get up close and personal with Australia's precious wildlife. You can cuddle Australia's best known ambassador, the koala, at any time of day and have your unique souvenir photograph taken. Also in the free-range kangaroo reserve, you can hand feed over 130 kangaroos and wallabies at any time of day. Feed the beautiful wild lorikeets at two daily

feedings and the wild catfish in the Brisbane River during warmer months of the year. You can even hold a snake and have your souvenir photograph taken, if you're brave enough! After enjoying free time here, we depart at **16.00pm** and return to the hotel. This evening we enjoy dinner at our hotel at **19.00pm**.

Accommodation: Metro Hotel Tower Mill (B,L,D)

Sunday, September 19, 2010

BRISBANE / LIGHTNING RIDGE

Full breakfast is included in the hotel restaurant at normal restaurant times. Depart the hotel at **08.00am** for a full day of touring (approximately 10 hours) from Brisbane to Lightning Ridge, located in outback New South Wales southwest of Brisbane. Lightning Ridge sits on the world's richest deposit of black opal and it is a place that abounds with colorful characters, barrels of dreams, opportunities and experiences. Famous for the elusive and distinctive Black Opal, which is unique to the area, Lightning Ridge is also famous as a thriving frontier town full of the iconic Australian characters. This town reminds us that the Australian spirit is not a thing of folklore; but the exact qualities that make the 'Ridge' so unique is as elusive as the Black Opal itself. You can experience sculptures underground, bottle-houses, antique lamps, castles, astronomy monuments, unique gardens, hills named 'Lunatic,' 'Pig' and 'Raid,' and even tour underground mines. This evening we enjoy dinner at our hotel at **19.00pm**.

About Lightning Ridge

The 'Ridge,' as the locals know it, will welcome you with classic country hospitality but it will certainly not be 'more of the same.' The local folk are a unique bunch and pride themselves on a wonderful eccentricity. It is something about the pioneering spirit that allowed this area to develop and many visitors become so enamoured with the place that a 3 day holiday can turn into a lifetime of pleasure for the many who are so captivated by the place they stay. Porterage is not available at our hotel today.

Accommodation: Wallangulla Motel (B,D)

Monday, September 20, 2010

LIGHTNING RIDGE

Full breakfast is included in the hotel restaurant at normal restaurant times. Depart from our hotel at **09.00am** for our tour of Lightning Ridge. Enjoy fossicking (rummaging) for opals and visits to Amigo's Castle and the Artesian Bore Baths. Gain exclusive access to the inside of Fred Bodel's place, the oldest miners' camp at Lightning Ridge. Go underground at the Walk in Mine, exclusive entry to the Astronomers Monument, a hand built folly. Visit Lunatic Hill open cut and hear the history of opal bearing ridge amongst the black soil plains. The afternoon is at leisure for you to enjoy some of the art galleries. Local artist Paul Bird established the Bird of Paradise Art Gallery in 1977. Paul enjoys the challenge of painting the unique Lightning Ridge landscape, reflecting the beautiful colors of opal. Built by Paul, his large gallery/studio is situated on the deep 3-mile opal field, where visitors cannot only view paintings, but also fossick for opal on the nearby diggings. Open Hours: 9am - 5pm daily. Features: artworks, mining information, fossicking. Take the time to visit the home based studio of long time bush artist Valerie Van Emryk. Val's work is predominantly

oil on canvas landscape painting, but she also showcases other arts and crafts such as her beautiful oil on gum leaf miniature landscapes. You are sure to enjoy your tour of this versatile home studio. Situated in the main street, John Murray Art Gallery is full of the vibrant paintings that have made John Murray one of Australia's leading Outback artists. Entry is free; the gallery is full of large and small original paintings and hosts a wide range of reproductions, posters, cards and art souvenirs. Visitors can enjoy the artworks in the relaxed and friendly atmosphere, as well as hearing firsthand some of John's inspiration on the in-house DVD. Dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Wallangulla Motel (B, L, D)

Tuesday, September 21, 2010

LIGHTNING RIDGE / SYDNEY

Full breakfast is included in the hotel restaurant at normal restaurant times. Leave the hotel at **08.00am** for a full day of touring (approximately 9 hours) from Lightning Ridge to Sydney.

About Sydney

Wrapped around its majestic harbor, Sydney is the vibrant, cosmopolitan gateway to Australia. With nearly 4 million people, Sydney is Australia's largest city, and its best (according to the locals). "Sydneyiders" love their city, and that is evident in the intense way they embrace it. Sydney has the tallest buildings, the most expensive real estate, the finest beaches and the wildest nightlife of any Australian city. But it is the beauty of this multi-faceted city that visitors will long remember. The beauty of Sydney is truly unrivalled, and the shining gem is the harbor. The commander of the first European fleet to sail into these waters called Sydney Harbor "a most extensive and secure harbor filled with coves and rocks - one superior to any other." Two centuries later, few would dispute that Sydney Harbor is one of nature's extraordinary creations. With its small bays and inlets crowned by the billowing sails of the Opera House, it truly is a sight to behold. The Sydney metropolitan area also boasts over 40 spectacular beaches, including the famed Bondi Beach. Sydney has grown into a world-class city with all the amenities that come with the title, including great shopping and fine dining. In the new world order, Sydney has suddenly become one of the glamorous global food centers, ranking up there with London and New York. There is a tremendous variety of fine cuisine, but seafood is the obvious highlight. The visitor to Sydney will not be disappointed. It has joined the ranks of the great cosmopolitan cities, but it is uniquely Australian. It offers style, sophistication, great looks and warm vibrant people. With the 2000 Olympic Games held in Sydney, the city is now one of the most desired destinations to visit in the new millennium.

Sydney's Restaurants

Sydney's restaurant scene is truly international, reflecting an enormously rich and diverse range of cultures and cuisines - from Indian and Asian to Middle Eastern and Mediterranean, not forgetting Australia's very special seafood. The beautiful harbor boasts many superb waterfront restaurants, while city high-rise towers provide the location for a number of stylish ones - offering excellent cuisine and fabulous views - and, of course, both Darling Harbor and The Rocks are renowned for their casual outdoors style eating establishments, where you can dine under big shady umbrellas while you watch the world pass by. Most restaurants in Sydney serve liquor, and most accept a wide variety of credit cards. Unlicensed establishments are happy for you to bring-your-own liquor and you will usually see the letters "BYO" after their names in the various guides. You will normally find

a pub or a bottle shop near a BYO restaurant should you arrive unprepared. Portage is not included at the hotel.

Accommodation: Park Regis Sydney (B)

**Wednesday, September 22, 2010
SYDNEY**

Full breakfast is included in the Coffee Club next to the hotel at normal restaurant times. The morning is at leisure to explore Sydney and its surrounding area independently. This afternoon, depart from the hotel with Coach Charter Specialists at **13.30pm** for No.6 Jetty, Circular Quay to board the harbor cruise at **14.15pm**. Cruise to spectacular Middle Harbor, which is a must for all visitors to Sydney. This world-renowned cruise to the upper reaches of Sydney Harbor features magnificent waterfront homes and parklands and gives a comprehensive view of what Sydney is all about. On completion of the cruise, you will be returned to No.6 Jetty, Circular Quay at **16.15pm**. Then, take a leisurely stroll to the Sydney Opera House for the guided tour at **16.45pm**. Departure point of our guided tour is the Tours Desk of the Box Office Foyer. This 60-minute tour offers the opportunity to experience the Sydney Opera House in its daily operation. Be guided through theatres for a fascinating account of the history and architecture of the House. ***Note: There are approximately 200 steps in this tour, so comfortable shoes are recommended.*** On completion of our guided tour we enjoy one of Sydney's most famous and exclusive restaurants Guillaume at Bennelong, which is situated in the southern shell of the Sydney Opera House, where diners sit beneath Joern Utzon's vaulted concrete "ribs." Sensuously curved, chocolate-colored banquettes surround generously spaced tables. Both the restaurant and the bar offer spectacular views of Sydney Harbor, the Bridge, Royal Botanic Gardens, Circular Quay and the city. Sit down for dinner at **18.00pm** and enjoy a magnificent 3-course dinner. On completion of dinner at **20.00pm**, take a short walk to the coach parking area of the Sydney Opera House (located opposite Quay Grand Sydney on Macquarie Street) to transfer to the Park Regis at **20.15pm**.

About Sydney Harbor

Australia's best-known city is spread around the bays and inlets of Port Jackson. Sydney's most famous landmarks, the Opera House and the Harbor Bridge, are in the heart of the city. The waters of the harbor are home to commuter ferries, cruise ships, speedboats and yachts. Sydney's foreshore stretches nearly 250km around the bay. The Pacific Ocean laps world famous surf beaches such as Manly and Bondi. The pride and joy of Sydney is its magnificent harbor. Hundreds of bays, coves and beaches and waterways contribute to one of the world's most beautiful cities. The ultimate way to capture the excitement is from the water. Lining the shores of the harbor are extensive green parklands and botanic gardens. Elegant sandstone buildings add charm and atmosphere to the Rocks, the oldest part of Sydney, where you can enjoy shopping and entertainment. Circular Quay is the hub of Sydney's water traffic where buskers gather to entertain passers-by. The towering cliffs of North and South Heads are at the head of Sydney Harbor. The amazing city views from the bluff along with the pounding of the surf make this an impressive place to admire the glory of Sydney.

Accommodation: Park Regis Sydney (B,D)

Thursday, September 22, 2010
SYDNEY

Full breakfast is included in the Coffee Club next to our hotel at normal restaurant times. Leave the hotel at **08.00am** for our full day Blue Mountains excursion. Travel to the Featherdale Wildlife Park, to arrive at approximately **08.45am** – hand-feed kangaroos, see koalas, wombats, emus, dingoes (the native Australian dog), plus crocodiles, owls and more. Leave the Park at approximately **10.15am** to continue on to Blue Mountains to discover the remarkable beauty of Blue Mountains National Park. From the quaint little village of Leura, skirt around Cliff Drive to Katoomba, where you will find yourself looking out over the magnificent Jamieson Valley (Australia's Grand Canyon) and the Three Sisters. After lunch (own expense), ride on the Scenic Railway or Scenicender at **13.30pm** down into the rainforest. (**Note:** Please collect tickets for the rides on Scenic Railway/Scenicender. These tickets entitle you to one way Scenic Railway and one way Scenicender. To help increase speed and efficiency in operations, it is suggested that the group takes the same ride, for example, take the Scenic Railway down into the rainforest and ride the Scenicender back or vice versa). From there, you can enjoy a walk in the forest with views of the beautiful Three Sisters before heading back into the city arriving back at our hotel at approximately **17.00pm**

About The Blue Mountains

Located in the Great Dividing Range, the Blue Mountains are approximately 69 miles, or a 90-minute drive, west of Sydney. The Blue Mountains offer a natural wilderness of untamed bush, spectacular rock formations and native wildlife. Walk through this famous World Heritage listed National Park with vast views reaching to the horizon and waterfalls cascading to the valleys below, where you can sit alone with nature or take in the blue vista at a number of outlooks. Highlights include picturesque towns and villages with shops, boutiques, art and antique galleries, museum and cafes. Katoomba is the most visited town in the Blue Mountains. It wasn't until 1879 that the town became known, when J.B. North opened the Katoomba Coal Mine. Coal was obtained from the side of the mountain near Orphan Rock using a cable car to bring the coal to the top. The now famous Scenic Railway operates in the original cutting in the mountainside. The Scenic Railway is the steepest railway incline in the world and is now one of the most popular man-made tourist attractions in Australia. The ride takes you down the steep descent past Orphan Rock, through a tunnel and the beautiful fern-damp cliff face. Adjacent to the Scenic Railway is the new Scenicender, the steepest aerial cable car in Australia. The Scenicender takes you on a 545-meter ride into the World Heritage listed rainforest of the Jamieson valley. Also, at the same site is the magnificent Scenic Skyway. The Skyway was Australia's first cable skyway for passengers and was built in 1958. The aluminum boxcar can carry 30 passengers 350 meters across the Jamieson Valley at a height of 300 meters. The views are breathtaking for those who have the courage to board the cable Skyway. Rest assured it is completely safe and has transported tens of thousands of visitors since it began operation. From the Scenic Railway west along Cliff Drive, you will discover Eaglehawk Lookout and Landslide Lookout. Further along Cliff Drive, take a walk to Narrow Neck lookout. There is also Cahills Lookout to for vistas of the magnificent Megalong Valley. A visit to the Blue Mountains would not be complete without viewing the spectacular Three Sisters at Echo Point. Directions to the Three Sisters are well signposted. Either take Katoomba Street or Lurline Street to Echo Point Road. The Three Sisters is approximately 2.5 kilometers from the Great Western Highway or Katoomba Railway Station. While the Blue Mountains features so much more than this natural attraction, you can't help but admire the unquestionable beauty of this amazing

rock formation. The character of the Three Sisters changes throughout the day and throughout the seasons as the sunlight brings out the magnificent colors. For those wishing to know more about the Three Sisters, the Aboriginal Dream Time Stories are well worth a read. The famous Giant Stairway is also found at Echo Point. If you are enthusiastic and energetic, you can take the 800 steps down to the floor of the valley. The Katoomba Visitor Information Center is located at Echo Point, where you can experience the spectacular views as well as an up close view of Rosellas feeding on sunflower seed. The Center has many Australian gifts for sale and can provide you with a vast array of information on things to do and see within the area, and how to get there.

Accommodation: Park Regis Sydney (B)

Friday, September 24, 2010

DEPART SYDNEY

Full breakfast is included in the Coffee Club next to our hotel at normal restaurant times. This morning, we depart our hotel independently for Sydney International airport for our homebound flight that arrives the same day. We take with us fond memories, images of the beautiful scenery and the many mementos we found along the way. ***We recommend departing from the Park Regis approximately 3 hours prior to your flight departure time. (B)***

(B) = Breakfast
(L) = Lunch
(D) = Dinner

***Thank you for traveling with Brendan.
We wish you a safe and pleasant journey.***

**ITINERARY AND HOTEL LIST ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
ADDITIONAL SERVICES REQUIRED WHILE TOURING ARE PAID DIRECTLY**

ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel rooms may not be available for check-in before 3:00pm.

We suggest that mail be sent only to those places where you will be staying two days or longer. Do not have any packages mailed to you; they seldom arrive both intact and on time.

The phone numbers given below sometimes contain the Country Code and Area Code used when dialing the hotel from North America. If in doubt, consult your local directory.

While reservations have been made at the hotels listed, we reserve the right to substitute similar quality hotels whenever necessary.

ARRIVE: September 06, 2010

DEPART: September 08, 2010

ADELAIDE PARINGA MOTEL

15 Hindley Street

Adelaide, SA 5000

TEL: + 61 8 8231 1000

FAX: + 61 8 8231 6807

ARRIVE: September 08, 2010

DEPART: September 10, 2010

KANGAROO ISLAND SEAFRONT RESORT

49 North Terrace

Penneshaw, Kangaroo Island, SA 5222

TEL: + 61 8 8553 1028

FAX: + 61 8 8553 1204

ARRIVE: September 10, 2010

DEPART: September 11, 2010

ADELAIDE PARINGA MOTEL

15 Hindley Street

Adelaide, SA 5000

TEL: + 61 8 8231 1000

FAX: + 61 8 8231 6807

ARRIVE: September 11, 2010

DEPART: September 13, 2010

OUTBACK PIONEER RESORT

Yulara Drive

Ayers Rock, NT 0872

TEL: + 61 8 8957 7888

FAX: + 61 8 9299 1763

ARRIVE: September 13, 2010

DEPART: September 14, 2010

AURORA ALICE SPRINGS

Leichhardt Terrace

Alice Springs, NT 0872

TEL: + 61 8 8950 6666

FAX: + 61 8 8952 7829

ARRIVE: September 14, 2010

DEPART: September 17, 2010

NOVOTEL CAIRNS OASIS RESORT

122 Lake Street

Cairns, QLD 4870

TEL: + 61 8 8950 6666

FAX: + 61 8 8952 7829

ARRIVE: September 17, 2010

DEPART: September 19, 2010

METRO HOTEL TOWER MILL

239 Wickham Terrace

Brisbane, QLD 4000

TEL: + 61 7 3832 1421

FAX: + 61 7 3835 1013

ARRIVE: September 19, 2010

DEPART: September 21, 2010

WALLANGULLA MOTEL

Morilla Street

Lightning Ridge, NSW 2834

TEL: + 61 2 6829 0542

FAX: + 61 2 6829 0070

ARRIVE: September 21, 2010

DEPART: September 24, 2010

PARK REGIS SYDNEY

27 Park Street

Sydney, NSW 2000

TEL: + 61 2 9267 6511

FAX: + 61 2 9264 2252

ROOM LIST

Ron Ontell (Tour Conductor)
Val Ontell (Tour Conductor)

Tony Lewis
Suford Lewis

Bill Thomason
Ilona Thomason

Sylvia Sotomayor
Gisela Sotomayor

Melissa Morman
Sally Woehrle

Robert Blum
Ines Madison

David Brummel
Emily Egan

Carole McMahan
Polly Peterson

Fred Moulton

Ha Nguyen

John Egeland

Steve Desjardins

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Check in time for all Domestic flights is a minimum of one hour prior to scheduled departure time for groups.
- Check in time for all International flights is a minimum of two hours prior to scheduled departure time for groups.
- Please reconfirm all International flights with the applicable airline at least 72 hours prior to scheduled departure time.
- Check in time at hotels is 2.00pm onwards (approximately), unless stipulated otherwise.
- Rooms must be vacated between 10.00am & 11.00am on the day of departure, unless stipulated otherwise.
- Australian departure tax has not been included in your tour land package. However, we suggest you check with your International Airline to ascertain if this has been included in the ticket cost paid through your travel agent.
- Please be waiting outside your hotel / meeting point at the specified departure time for all sightseeing activities, as mentioned in your itinerary.
- Please be waiting outside your hotel / meeting point at the specified departure time for all transfers.

NOTES:

Please check any 'Travel Advice' issued by the US State Department at www.travel.state.gov.

PASSPORT AND VISA REMINDER

Most countries require that your passport be valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of entry. Please note that it is the traveler's responsibility to secure the required documentation prior to departure. Our local travel representatives are unable to assist on arrival if you do not have the correct documentation and without limitation Brendan Vacations and its affiliates are not responsible for any losses, which may be incurred by travelers without the correct documentation.

For assistance with visas we recommend:

Zierer Visa Service (ZVS)
165 Post Street
Third Floor San Francisco, CA 94108
Tel: 866-788-1100 Fax: 415-901-0817

BAGGAGE INFORMATION

Please note regulations regarding airline baggage allowances are constantly changing. You are advised to check with your airline or travel agent in advance of traveling, to ensure that your baggage conforms to such regulations in force. Brendan cannot accept liability for passengers traveling with baggage exceeding the permitted airline allowances, or the sizes and weights.

AIRPORT AND AIRLINE SECURITY

It is important that you arrive at the airport at least two hours before domestic flights and three hours in advance for international flights. This will allow you time to check in your baggage and present your passport and ticket; get seat assignments and boarding passes, if you have not already done so; and pass through security procedures to the boarding area. All sharp objects and liquids should be stored inside the luggage you are checking in. Please contact your air carrier for specific policies on checking in liquids. Otherwise, they are likely to be confiscated if they are kept in your hand luggage.

AIRLINE DELAYS

Airfares, airline regulations and schedules are subject to change without notice. We are unable to reimburse you for any services or parts of a vacation program that are missed due to travel delays beyond our control. For this reason, we strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan for your own protection.

VALUABLES

Do not take anything with you that will create an emotional or financial hardship if lost or stolen. Leave keys, as well as, favorite or expensive jewelry at home. Carry all documents, money, passport, tickets, traveler's checks, drivers license, photocopy of your hotel contacts, cash and credit cards with you. However, don't put them all in the same place to limit the inconvenience in case they are lost. Do not carry these important items in your suitcase or hand luggage. You may find a money belt (worn inside clothing) useful while traveling. Never leave your hand luggage unattended or out of sight. Remember to make a final check of your hotel room before departure to ensure that you have not left anything behind. There is no guarantee that forgotten items will be returned to you either during or after your trip.

MEDICAL

Travelers can usually have in their possession a reasonable quantity of clearly labeled prescription medication. For large quantities, bring a doctor's certificate to produce to Customs if necessary. Check with your individual health insurance company for your coverage in foreign countries.