



**AUIP FRIENDS AND FAMILY TRIP  
Draft Itinerary**

**AUSTRALIAN CULTURE AND LANDSCAPES  
June 15 - 24**

**Day 1 – Depart U.S. for Australia**

**Day 2 – En route to Australia (lose a day crossing the international date line)**

**Day 3 – Arrive in Sydney (D)**

Settle in at your hotel and enjoy free time to discover one of the most beautiful and cultural diverse cities in the Southern Hemisphere. This afternoon we introduce you to the themes of the AUIP Sydney programs: urban sustainability and Aboriginal history. An exclusive walking tour will introduce you to the historically significant Rocks and Darling Harbour areas, which you can explore further on your own tomorrow. We welcome you with dinner and a cruise around the iconic Sydney Harbour.

**Day 4 – Sydney (B)**

Explore the Sydney Harbour area by catamaran, including Darling Harbour (Sydney Aquarium), Circular Quay and the Rocks, Taronga Zoo and Watson's Bay. You can disembark at any of these stops throughout the day. Tonight you will enjoy a world-class performance at the famous Sydney Opera House.

**Day 5 – Sydney to Port Douglas (B)**

Today you will travel to Port Douglas, a quaint coastal town that is a perfect base for exploring the Great Barrier Reef and rainforests of tropical North Queensland. "Port Dougie" is always a favorite for students! Here we will introduce the three key ecosystems that AUIP explores during our North Queensland program: the Daintree rainforest, the Great Barrier Reef and the Outback. Enjoy a wildlife cruise on picturesque Trinity Inlet, and view hundreds of estuarine crocodiles at Australia's largest commercial crocodile farm.

**Day 6 – Port Douglas (B)**

This morning experience the symphony and color of tropical birds wandering freely amongst the tables as you enjoy North Queensland's best 'Breakfast with the Birds.' You will also have close encounters with iconic Australian wildlife such as koalas, kangaroos and wallabies. This afternoon you will explore a different environment with marine biologists, learning about coral reefs, fish and other marine life that you will see in a few days time.

**Day 7 – Great Barrier Reef daytrip (B, L)**

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the most spectacular natural features of our planet and an absolute highlight of AUIP programs. Today you will cruise by luxury catamaran out to the outer barrier reef, where you may choose to snorkel or scuba dive, or stay dry and view the many colorful fish and coral by glass bottom boat or semi-submersible vessel.

**Day 8 – Port Douglas to Cape Tribulation (B, D)**

This morning Kuku Yalanji, the traditional owners of Daintree National Park, will welcome you to Mossman Gorge, where crystal clear water cascades over large granite boulders and lush rainforests cloak the rugged eastern slopes of the Main Coast Range. Your Aboriginal guides will explain traditional plant use, identify bush tucker sources, share their dreamtime legends, explain the history of cave paintings and demonstrate the didgeridoo. Continue north to your accommodation in Cape Tribulation, home to one of the oldest and most diverse rainforests in the world.



### **Day 9 – Cape Tribulation (B, D)**

Enjoy free time this morning at Cape Tribulation, the site of the world's oldest rainforest and the only place in the world where a rainforest meets a coral reef system. You may choose to go kayaking, take a local fruit tasting tour, or simply relax and walk along a beautiful white sand beach. In the afternoon, you will visit the Daintree Discovery Centre, which offers visitors an opportunity to learn about and explore one of the few remaining unspoiled pockets of lowland rainforest in Far North Queensland. As the sun sets over the trees, watch the jungle come to life with a night wildlife spotting tour. Most rainforest animals are nocturnal and you may see snakes, lizards, possums, spiders, bandicoots, birds, insects and more.

### **Day 10 – Cape Tribulation to Cairns (B)**

This morning we depart the rainforest for the tropical city of Cairns. Enjoy free time today to visit the many cafes and shops of Cairns before your departure home tomorrow.

### **Day 11 – Depart for U.S.**

#### **Optional extension: New Zealand's South Island**

New Zealand is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful countries in the world. Imagine a place with snow-capped mountains, massive fiords and glaciers, deserted beaches fringing turquoise waters, and unusual plants and animals that are unknown elsewhere in the world. Spend 5 nights / 6 days exploring this natural paradise, including the Garden City of Christchurch, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Fiordland National Park, and the quaint seaside village of Kaikoura. Included in this tour are highlights from our students' experiences: a museum and garden tour in Christchurch, a special dinner and Maori cultural show at the Skyline Gondola in Queenstown, a scenic cruise on the World Heritage listed Milford Sound and a special cultural experience with Maori Tours in Kaikoura.