



8 DAY SYDNEY TO BRISBANE (COMFORT TOUR)

PRE-DEPARTURE TRIP NOTES, AND CUSTOMER FAQ'S

A comprehensive guide for your upcoming 8 Day Sydney to Brisbane comfort-level journey.

Australia's east coast, distilled into eight glorious days. Explore the style and swagger of Sydney, the jewel in the east coast crown, and one of the world's great cities! We continue on our Aussie adventure – wine and cheese-tasting in the Hunter Valley, getting up close and personal with the wildlife, chilling out at Byron Bay, and enjoying the lush rainforest and glittering turquoise waters of K'gari (Fraser Island) – before finishing in the country's most laid-back city, Brisbane.

Contents

Contents.....	2
About your tour.....	5
Introducing your Sydney to Brisbane region.....	5
Tour Details.....	5
Tour Highlights.....	5
Itinerary.....	5
Day 1: Sydney Welcome.....	5
Day 2: Hunter Valley and Newcastle.....	5
Day 3: Port Macquarie & The Koala Hospital.....	6
Day 4: Niigi Niigi (Sealy Lookout) & Byron Bay.....	6
Day 5: Byron Bay.....	6
Day 6: Noosa & Rainbow Beach.....	6
Day 7: K'Gari (Fraser Island).....	7
Day 8: Brisbane.....	7
Inclusions.....	7
Exclusions.....	8
Optional Activities.....	8
Room Amenities.....	8
What to Bring.....	8
Luggage Policy.....	8
Where to Meet.....	9
Finish Location.....	9
Important Booking Information.....	9
Things to know before you travel! (FAQ's).....	11
Overview and style.....	11
Q: What kind of tour is this?.....	11
Q: Who is this tour best suited for?.....	11
Q: What are the main highlights?.....	11
Q: How long is the tour and where does it start and finish?.....	11
Q: How many people will be in the group?.....	11
Q: What language is the tour conducted in?.....	11
Inclusions and exclusions.....	11
Q: What is included in the tour price?.....	11
Q: What is not included?.....	11
Q: Are national park and wildlife park entry fees included?.....	12
Meeting, finishing and emergency contacts.....	12
Q: Where and when does the tour start?.....	12
Q: Where and when does the tour finish?.....	12
Q: Who do I contact in an emergency?.....	12

Accommodation and rooming.....	12
Q: What standard and style of accommodation is used?.....	12
Q: What room configurations can I book?.....	12
Q: Is this tour suitable for solo travellers?.....	12
Q: Is there a single supplement?.....	12
Q: Can children join this tour?.....	12
Q: What facilities do rooms have?.....	13
Q: Is there a chance to do laundry along the way?.....	13
Transport and domestic flights.....	13
Q: What transport is used on this tour?.....	13
Q: Are domestic flights included, and what is the baggage allowance?.....	13
Q: Is airport or hotel pickup included on Day 1?.....	13
Passports, visas and entry requirements.....	13
Q: What passport validity and visa requirements apply?.....	13
Q: Should I carry copies of my documents?.....	13
Fitness, mobility and age.....	13
Q: How fit do I need to be?.....	13
Q: Are there age or medical restrictions?.....	13
Q: Is the tour suitable for mobility-impaired travellers?.....	13
Q: What medical precautions should I take?.....	14
Travel insurance and safety.....	14
Q: Is travel insurance mandatory?.....	14
Q: What safety measures are in place on tour?.....	14
Money, tipping and contingency funds.....	14
Q: What currency is used and how should I manage money?.....	14
Q: Is tipping expected in Australia?.....	14
Q: Tipping your tour guide?.....	14
Q: Should I have a contingency fund?.....	14
Luggage limits and packing.....	14
Q: How much luggage can I bring?.....	14
Q: What should I pack for this tour?.....	15
Q: Are there any “must-bring” items?.....	15
Q: What is the weather like along the route?.....	15
Beach, snorkelling and marine safety.....	15
Q: How can I stay safe at Australian beaches?.....	15
Q: What should I know about snorkelling on this tour?.....	15
Q: Are there stingers or dangerous marine life?.....	15
Inclusions, exclusions and meals.....	15
Q: What exactly is included in the tour price?.....	15
Q: What is not included?.....	15
Q: Can you cater for special diets?.....	15
Itinerary flexibility and group dynamics.....	16

Q: Can the itinerary change once the tour has started?.....	16
Q: What is travelling on a group trip like?.....	16
Q: Who leads the tour?.....	16
Booking and departures.....	16
Q: When does the tour depart?.....	16
Q: How do I book and what details are required?.....	16
Q: Is travel insurance required?.....	16
Changes, cancellations and private groups.....	16
Q: Can the tour operate as a private departure?.....	16
Q: What if I need to change or cancel my booking?.....	16
Q: What happens if weather affects the itinerary?.....	16
Booking Confirmations & Enquiries.....	17

About your tour

Introducing your Sydney to Brisbane region

A curated 8-day boutique journey from Sydney to Brisbane, this small-group experience is perfect for the traveller seeking an easy-paced adventure. We blend iconic landmarks like Sydney Harbour, the laid back atmosphere of Byron Bay and the turquoise waters of K'gari, with immersive First Nations cultural encounters and hidden local gems, all while enjoying the comfort of hand-selected, en-suite accommodation.

Tour Details

- Tour code: **SB8-B** (twin share room), **SB8-S** (private double), **SB8-P** (private single)
- Operates: **Sundays** (select dates)
- 7 nights private or shared comfort style hotels/resorts - all rooms with ensuite
- Includes: 6 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- Hosted by an experienced driver-guide, with local tour commentary
- All transport (private small-group vehicle & boat trips)
- Sydney meeting point / Brisbane finish point

Tour Highlights

- **Boutique touring style** – enjoy a thoughtfully curated, small-group experience with a relaxed pace and a bespoke itinerary tailored for the comfort-level traveller.
- **Conservation Wildlife Park** visit – get close to kangaroos, wombats, emus, and more.
- **Hunter Valley** – wine & cheese tastings, chocolate shop visit.
- **Gumbaynggirr First Nations** cultural experience.
- **Koala Hospital** visit in Port Macquarie – learn about wildlife care and conservation.
- **Byron Bay** – enjoy the coastal town, get that small town feeling for the day and visit Cape Byron Lighthouse.
- **K'gari (Fraser Island) 4WD off-road experience** – explore the world's largest sand island.

Itinerary

Day 1: Sydney Welcome

We start in Australia's Harbour City, the glittering jewel in the east coast's crown. Check into your room, freshen up, then meet your tour leader and new travel mates for a welcome meeting at 6pm. Then we are off for a great welcome dinner, and the chance to get to know your fellow travellers.

Included Activities:

- *Get to know your fellow travellers with a welcome meeting and dinner.*

Meals: Welcome Dinner.

Driving Distance: No driving.

Accommodation: [Holiday Inn Potts point](#) or similar.

Day 2: Hunter Valley and Newcastle

We leave behind Sydney's skyscrapers and sidewalks for a wildlife park boasting an all-star cast of koalas, kangaroos, and more. We're in the heart of the Hunter Valley, so there's nothing better to do than wine & cheese tasting. We'll also visit the sunny port city of Newcastle, rounding off an eclectic day.

Included Activities:

- *Conservation Wildlife Park visit - Get close to many native / unique Australian animals like kangaroos, emus and more.*

- Hunter Valley wine & cheese tasting.
- Newcastle orientation tour.

Meals: Breakfast.

Driving Distance: 280 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walks.

Accommodation – [Lucky Hotel Newcastle](#) or similar.

Day 3: Port Macquarie & The Koala Hospital

After breakfast, we're off to Port Macquarie, where we'll have a chance to meet the volunteers at a Port Macquarie Koala Hospital. If you're unable to tear yourself away from the cuddly critters, don't worry – you're not the first. Expect to come away with loads more knowledge about these often misunderstood creatures & how, by joining our tour, you are supporting this amazing centre's conservation efforts. Relax for the evening with a stroll along the foreshore & a free night for dinner. Enjoy the sounds of the local bird population and keep your eyes peeled for the local wild dolphins.

Included Activities:

- Visit Port Macquarie Koala Hospital.
- Foreshore walk and a chance to spot wild dolphins.

Meals: Breakfast.

Driving Distance: 250 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walks / look out points.

Accommodation – [El Paso Motor Inn](#) or similar.

Day 4: Niigi Niigi (Sealy Lookout) & Byron Bay

Take part in an immersive First Nations experience of the Gumbaynggirr nation, that will get you in touch with the traditional custodians of this land. Then we're headed to Byron Bay, a laid-back surf paradise with boundless coastline, sand and friendly locals. We'll pay a visit to Cape Byron, for a unique photo opportunity, and the chance for the eagle-eyed to spot dolphins, whales, and other marine life.

Included Activities:

- Immersive Gumbaynggirr First Nations experience.
- Visit to Cape Byron to see the famous local lighthouse, the most easterly point of Australia for a unique photo opportunity, and the chance for the eagle-eyed to spot dolphins, whales in season, and other marine life.

Meals: Breakfast.

Driving Distance: 400 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walks / look out points.

Accommodation – [Beachcomber Byron Bay](#) or similar.

Day 5: Byron Bay

Today we're talking relaxation, relaxation, and relaxation. Spend the morning on the warm sand, shopping for bargains, or indulge in one of our optional activities: surfing or kayaking plus many activities like balloon rides, whale watching, brewery tours etc. The day is all yours – put your feet up, head to a cosy bar, or watch the world go by from one of the local cafes.

Included Activities:

- Free day to relax, or enjoy optional activities: Surf lesson, kayak experience.

Meals: None.

Driving Distance: None.

Accommodation – [Beachcomber Byron Bay](#) or similar.

Day 6: Noosa & Rainbow Beach

We're crossing into Queensland – the Sunshine State. Your first stop is laid-back Noosa, and Noosa National Park where you will have the chance to spot koalas and other Aussie critters. We continue

further up the Sunshine Coast to our base for the next 2 nights, it's time to relax and soak up the atmosphere of the vibrant Rainbow Beach.

Included Activities:

- Noosa National Park & the chance to spot koalas in the wild (self guided walk).
- Noosa orientation including Noosa Main Beach and Hastings Street.

Meals: Breakfast.

Driving Distance: 420 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walks / look out points.

Accommodation – [Rainbow Getaway Apartments](#) or similar.

Day 7: K'Gari (Fraser Island)

Ready, steady, go, for a once-in-a-lifetime 4WD K'Gari adventure today. Once known as Fraser Island, the destination has been returned to its original name K'gari. K'gari is the local Butchulla nation's name for the island, meaning 'paradise' – you'll find out why soon enough.

You'll never want to leave, as we explore the largest sand island in the world, kick back at some of Queensland's most renowned lookouts, take a walk on the wild side in a lush rainforest, swim in the crystal clear Lake Boorangoora (Lake McKenzie) or Lake Birrabreen, see the famous S.S Maheno shipwreck and course go dingo-spotting along the golden 75 Mile Beach. The fun needn't stop there; after the tour feel free to enjoy Carlo Sand Blow and Rainbow Beach, or put your feet up in your accommodation.

Included Activities:

- Once-in-a-lifetime 4WD bus adventure to K'Gari (Fraser Island).

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch.

Driving Distance: 200 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walks / look out points (5KM total).

Accommodation – [Rainbow Getaway Apartments](#) or similar.

Day 8: Brisbane

It's Bris-vegas baby! We're off to Queensland's capital, Brisbane, soon to be home of the summer Olympics. Laidback, sunny, optimistic, buzzing – in many ways it's the quintessential Aussie city. See for yourself how wonderful Brisbane is with a walk (or ferry ride) along the aptly named Brisbane river and its surrounds. Your Aussie adventure wraps up this afternoon; however, feel free to join your new travel mates for one final dinner to say a proper farewell.

Included Activities:

- Orientation tour.

Meals: Breakfast.

Driving Distance: 240 kms.

Walking Distance: Short easy walk.

Accommodation – N/A

**Autopia Tours (Via Travel) reserves the right to alter the route or itinerary stops during seasonal weather fluctuations and/or during park closures.*

Inclusions

- 7 nights private or shared comfort style hotels/resorts - all rooms with ensuite
- Includes: 6 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- All National Park entry fees included
- First Nations cultural experience
- Wine & cheese tasting
- Australian wildlife encounter and rescue centre visit
- K'gari Fraser Island 4WD small-group experience

- Hosted by an experienced driver-guide, with local tour commentary
- All transport (private small-group vehicle & boat trip)
- Sydney meeting point / Brisbane finish point

Exclusions

- Any meals not indicated within the itinerary - plenty of opportunity will be provided to purchase food along the way or dine out with the group
- Hotel transfers pre/post tour itinerary to a nominated pickup point.
- Optional activities and/or tours, and hire equipment extra. Byron Bay optional activities like surf lesson, kayak experience
- Personal travel insurance is highly recommended
- Spending money for personal items and expenses
- International flights

Optional Activities

We don't offer any pre-bookable optional activities on this trip. The guide will be able to provide information once on the trip.

Room Amenities

Nights	Configuration	Facilities	Includes
1 to 7	Shared Accommodation Twin Room	Private Ensuite Facilities	Sleeps 2 people, solo travellers paired with another passenger, towel, linen, tv, air-conditioning
1 to 7	Motel Accommodation Private Double / Twin / Single	Private Ensuite Bathroom	Sleeps 1 or 2 people, towel & bed linen supplied, fridge, tv, lounge, air-conditioning, tea/coffee facilities

What to Bring

- 1L Refillable water bottle - It is important to stay hydrated at all times during your daily adventures in order to avoid health concerns arising.
- Wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses & sunscreen
- Beach towel and toiletries
- Bathers or swimwear, flip-flops shoes (beach thongs)
- Comfortable sturdy walking shoes (closed-toe shoes)
- All-weather clothing (In case extreme conditions day/night)
- Overnight bag 20kg & small day pack 7kg
- Personal medicine if required, any pre-existing medical issues, please let us know at time of booking
- Flashlight or torch (optional)
- Insect repellent & camera
- Money for snack and meals
- A sense of adventure!

Luggage Policy

To maximise the comfort of your journey no luggage storage facilities are provided on our (Short-Break / Extended Tours): Maximum baggage allowance per person is 20kg. Excessive amounts of luggage may incur

a surcharge fee. Mobility scooters, wheelchairs, walking frames and other walking aids cannot be stored safely on our vehicles, please advise prior to booking if there are any of these aids required.

Where to Meet

Our meeting point for this trip will be at our first nights accommodation in the heart of Sydney.

Meeting point

Holiday Inn Potts Point

203 Victoria St, Potts Point
Sydney, New South Wales

Your **welcome meeting** will take place at **6:00pm on Day 1** in the foyer at the starting point hotel. It's very important that you're on time, so we can set off on our adventures straight after the meeting.

Finish Location

Finishing Point

The Point Hotel

21 Lambert St, Brisbane
Queensland

Your tour finishes at **The Point Hotel approximately 3.00pm**. There is no accommodation included this evening but you can store your luggage if you are departing later in the day/evening. If you require post accommodation at The Point Hotel we are happy to assist, please advise us at time of booking or no later than 1 month prior to travel.

Important Booking Information

- **Mandatory Details:** Passenger details are required at the time of booking, including date of birth, food allergies, title or gender for rooming configuration, nationality and a contact phone number.
- **Dietary Requirements:** While we endeavor to cater to most dietary needs, passengers must inform their booking agent of any specific dietary requirements or food allergies when booking.
- **Medical Conditions:** The tour operator must be notified of any known medical conditions at the time of booking. This tour requires a moderate level of fitness and mobility.
- **Fitness Level:** Travellers can expect some light physical activities. Travellers should be mobile enough to walk unaided. A doctor's certificate is required for participants over 75 years old, submitted at least 30 days prior to travel.
- **Age Restrictions:** Children aged 12 to 17 must be accompanied by an adult or legal guardian at all times. The tour is not suitable for infants or children aged 11 and under due to the nature of the tour.
- **Solo Travellers:** Solo travellers who book separately in a **Twin Share Accommodation (SB8-B)** will be paired with another solo traveller in a twin room or with someone of the same gender.
- **Fare Type Options:**
 - **Shared Accommodation (SB8-B)** is restricted to Adults only 18+ years and over, as travellers stay in a shared room with shared ensuite. Not suitable for children.
 - **Private Double/Twin Room (SB8-S):** For Adults and Children staying in a double or twin room with ensuite and must be purchased by Qty2 people staying together.
 - **Private Single Room (SB8-P):** Restricted to Adults only (18+ years old and over) with ensuite.

- **Mobility Considerations:** This tour is not suitable for mobility-impaired travellers, including those using wheelchairs, walking aids or mobility scooters.
- **Baggage Limitations:** Limited storage space is available on our vehicle. Each traveller may bring 1 x 20 kg travel bag and 1 x 7 kg day bag. Larger or multiple suitcases are by request only.
- **Itinerary Variations:** Itineraries may change due to seasonal weather conditions, and occasionally sites in the parks may close for cultural or safety reasons or restricted swimming access. We prioritise safety and plan accordingly to ensure the best experience for our guests.

Things to know before you travel! (FAQ's)

Overview and style

Q: What kind of tour is this?

A: Where comfort meets authenticity. A 8 day/7 night boutique journey from Sydney to Brisbane, this journey is curated for the traveller who wants to immerse themselves in unique Australian experiences while staying in comfort at hand-selected accommodation. It is a perfect blend of nature and wildlife, culture and heritage, and local authenticity, that define the true Australia. We manage and operate the tours ourselves, believing in personal, down-to-earth, and authentic experiences. We've handpicked the most beautiful locations, quality accommodations, and passionate guides.

Q: Who is this tour best suited for?

A: This boutique journey is tailor-made for those seeking an easy-paced, small-group adventure from Sydney to Brisbane. It's perfect for the comfort-level traveller who appreciates en-suite accommodation and a curated mix of iconic coastal highlights, immersive First Nations experiences, local wildlife, and exceptional food and wine. Our small group sizes ensure that you enjoy an intimate journey with plenty of opportunities to connect with your fellow travellers.

Q: What are the main highlights?

A: Highlights include Sydney's harbour, Hunter Valley wine, cheese and wine tastings, Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, Byron Bay and Cape Byron Lighthouse & K'gari (Fraser Island) 4WD adventure, plus First Nations experiences with Gumbaynggirr.

Q: How long is the tour and where does it start and finish?

A: The tour runs for 8 days / 7 nights, starting in Sydney at Holiday Inn Potts Point at 18:00 on Day 1 and finishing in Brisbane at The Point Hotel around **3.00pm**, you can store your luggage if you are departing later in the day/evening. If you require post accommodation at The Point Hotel we are happy to assist, please advise us at time of booking or no later than 1 month prior to travel.

Q: How many people will be in the group?

A: The group size is a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 16 passengers, allowing for a personalised experience.

Q: What language is the tour conducted in?

A: All touring and commentary are conducted in English.

Inclusions and exclusions

Q: What is included in the tour price?

A: Includes 7 nights hotel/resort accommodation (all with ensuite), 6 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 welcome dinner, all listed national park and attraction entry fees, First Nations experiences, K'gari 4WD tour, all ground transport and listed boat trip.

Q: What is not included?

A: Exclusions are meals not listed in the itinerary, optional activities (e.g. Byron Bay surf or kayak tours and other local options), pre/post-tour accommodation and transfers, personal travel insurance, personal expenses, and international flights.

Q: Are national park and wildlife park entry fees included?

A: Yes, all listed national park, wildlife park, and guided cultural experiences on the itinerary are included in the tour price.

Meeting, finishing and emergency contacts

Q: Where and when does the tour start?

A: The tour starts on Day 1 at Holiday Inn Potts Point, 203 Victoria St, Potts Point, Sydney. Your welcome meeting is at 6:00 pm in the hotel foyer, followed by a group dinner, so it is essential you arrive on time.

Q: Where and when does the tour finish?

A: The tour finishes on Day 8 in Brisbane at The Point Hotel approximately **3.00pm**. You can store your luggage if you are departing later in the day/evening. If you require post accommodation we can assist with post-tour accommodation at The Point Hotel, let us know at time of booking or before final payment.

Q: Who do I contact in an emergency?

A: During the trip, contact your group leader first for any issues; for genuine emergencies, call the local office on (+61) 02 7229 1083 and leave a message if there is no immediate answer so the team can return your call as soon as possible.

Accommodation and rooming

Q: What standard and style of accommodation is used?

A: You stay mostly in locally owned hotels and resorts, all with private ensuite bathrooms; the properties listed in the itinerary are a guide and may occasionally be substituted with similar standard accommodation if required.

Q: What room configurations can I book?

A: You can book:

- Shared Twin: Adult 18+ twin share with ensuite, solo travellers paired with the same gender.
- Private Double/Twin: For 2 people (Adults and/or Children) in a double or twin room with private ensuite; must be booked for two.
- Private Single: Adult 18+ in their own en-suited room

Q: Is this tour suitable for solo travellers?

A: Yes, many guests travel solo; you can choose a shared twin (paired with a same-gender traveller) or a private single room, and the small-group format makes it easy to meet people.

Q: Is there a single supplement?

A: Yes, travellers who prefer not to share can book the private single room option at the applicable single rate.

Q: Can children join this tour?

A: Children aged 12–17 may travel when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and must stay in a private room; the tour is not suitable for children 11 and under.

Q: What facilities do rooms have?

A: Rooms include ensuite bathroom, towels and linen, TV and air-conditioning; private rooms also generally include a fridge, lounge area and tea/coffee facilities.

Q: Is there a chance to do laundry along the way?

A: Your group leader will advise you along the trip where you will be able to do your laundry. Options may include onsite or in room laundry facilities, and might be free or charged.

Transport and domestic flights

Q: What transport is used on this tour?

A: Transport includes an air-conditioned mini-coach or small bus with luggage trailer for land sectors, 4WD vehicles on K'gari and car ferry.

Q: Are domestic flights included, and what is the baggage allowance?

A: There is no domestic flight included in this trip.

Q: Is airport or hotel pickup included on Day 1?

A: No, guests make their own way to the meeting point at Holiday Inn Potts Point in Sydney by 18:00. We can assist with pre-accommodation, please advise at time of booking or at least 30 days prior to departure if required.

Post-tour transfers are also at your own arrangement, although the guide is happy to assist with bookings.

Passports, visas and entry requirements

Q: What passport validity and visa requirements apply?

A: International travellers should ensure their passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond their travel dates and that the name matches the booking exactly; you are responsible for checking and obtaining the correct Australian visa and any transit visas based on your nationality by consulting your government's travel advisories.

Q: Should I carry copies of my documents?

A: Yes, carry printed or digital copies of your passport photo page, visas, insurance and flight details, and leave a copy at home, as these are useful if originals are lost or stolen.

Fitness, mobility and age

Q: How fit do I need to be?

A: The tour is graded "Easy – Relaxed Pace" but includes regular short walks to lookouts, beaches, waterfalls and through rainforest, so travellers must be mobile enough to walk unaided on uneven ground and manage steps.

Q: Are there age or medical restrictions?

A: The tour is not suitable for infants or children 11 and under; travellers aged 12–17 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, and participants over 75 must provide a doctor's certificate at least 30 days prior, confirming they are fit for an easy active holiday.

Q: Is the tour suitable for mobility-impaired travellers?

A: Unfortunately no; due to vehicle design, terrain and walking distances, this tour is not appropriate for those using wheelchairs, mobility scooters or walking frames.

Q: What medical precautions should I take?

A: Consult your doctor before travel for personalised advice and any recommended vaccinations; carry a basic first-aid kit and any prescription medications in original packaging, and check your government's guidance for rules on bringing medicines into Australia.

Travel insurance and safety

Q: Is travel insurance mandatory?

A: Comprehensive travel insurance **covering medical care and emergency evacuation** is strongly recommended for all travellers and is **mandatory for international guests**; policies should ideally also cover trip cancellation, delays and lost belongings, and proof of cover and emergency contact numbers should be available before joining the group.

Q: What safety measures are in place on tour?

A: The tour follows local safety regulations, uses licensed operators for activities and national parks, and your group leader may alter the itinerary in response to weather, road closures or other safety concerns to protect the group.

Money, tipping and contingency funds

Q: What currency is used and how should I manage money?

A: Australia uses the Australian dollar (AUD); cards are widely accepted in cities and towns, but it is wise to carry some cash for small purchases, and note that some businesses may apply a small card surcharge, while ATMs are limited in more remote areas.

Q: Is tipping expected in Australia?

A: Tipping is optional; you may choose to tip for exceptional service (for example, 10–15% in higher-end restaurants or a modest gratuity for your leader), but it is entirely at your discretion and not compulsory. You may consider tipping your leader for excellent service throughout your trip. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline 4-6 AUD per person, per day.

Q: Tipping your tour guide?

A: Tipping your group leader or local representative is completely optional, but always appreciated if you feel they've provided outstanding service during your trip. There's no set amount — it's entirely up to you. As a general guideline, many travellers choose to give around AUD 7-10 per person per day if they wish to tip.

Q: Should I have a contingency fund?

A: It is sensible to keep an additional emergency fund (for example, around the equivalent of USD 500) for unforeseen expenses such as weather-related itinerary changes, extra accommodation, or transport disruptions not covered by your insurance.

Luggage limits and packing

Q: How much luggage can I bring?

A: Each traveller may bring one main bag up to 20 kg and one day pack up to 7 kg due to limited vehicle storage; larger or additional luggage is by request only.

Q: What should I pack for this tour?

A: Recommended items include a 1L refillable water bottle, wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen, swimwear and beach towel, comfortable closed-toe walking shoes, flip-flop, all-weather clothing layers, toiletries, personal medications, insect repellent, a small torch, camera and some cash or card for meals and optional activities.

Q: Are there any “must-bring” items?

A: Essential items include travel documents, insurance information, reusable water bottle (at least 1L), day pack, camera, adapters, small locks, basic first-aid kit, insect repellent, and optionally a money belt, earplugs and a small torch or headlamp.

Q: What is the weather like along the route?

A: Weather varies from temperate in Sydney and the Hunter to tropical in Queensland; summer can reach the high 30s°C, while winter is generally mild, but coastal areas can see sudden showers and cooler evenings, so layers and wet-weather gear are recommended.

Beach, snorkelling and marine safety

Q: How can I stay safe at Australian beaches?

A: Always swim between the red and yellow flags at patrolled beaches, never swim alone or under the influence of alcohol, check safety signage, ask lifeguards for local advice, and if you get into trouble, stay calm, float and signal for help by waving your arm.

Q: What should I know about snorkelling on this tour?

A: There is no snorkelling included in this trip.

Q: Are there stingers or dangerous marine life?

A: There can be stingers in the water this far south, but they are generally limited to minor, non-lethal species. While you won't find highly deadly Box Jellyfish or Irukandji like in Far North Queensland, you can occasionally encounter bluebottles and if stung, you should exit the water, notify lifeguards immediately and follow their first-aid procedures.

Inclusions, exclusions and meals

Q: What exactly is included in the tour price?

A: Inclusions cover 7 nights' hotel/resort accommodation with ensuite, 6 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 1 welcome dinner, all listed national park and attraction entry fees, Gumbaynggirr First Nations experiences, K'gari 4WD day, all ground transport and boat trip, plus the services of an experienced driver-guide.

Q: What is not included?

A: Exclusions are meals not specified in the itinerary, optional tours and activities (Byron Bay surf and kayak options and other local experiences), pre and post-tour accommodation and transfers, personal expenses, international flights and travel insurance.

Q: Can you cater for special diets?

A: Most common dietary requirements can usually be catered for included meals if advised at the time of booking (e.g. vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free), noting that options may be more limited in smaller or remote locations.

Itinerary flexibility and group dynamics

Q: Can the itinerary change once the tour has started?

A: Yes, the itinerary may be adjusted due to weather conditions, national park or road closures, cultural considerations or other unforeseen circumstances; any changes are made with guest safety and experience in mind, and alternative activities are arranged where possible.

Q: What is travelling on a group trip like?

A: Travelling in a small group (maximum 16) means sharing experiences with people from different backgrounds; flexibility, punctuality and consideration for others help keep the trip running smoothly and enjoyable for everyone.

Q: Who leads the tour?

A: Our experienced driver-guides lead the trip from start to finish, provides commentary, organises logistics, offers restaurant and activity recommendations, and is your main point of contact for questions and assistance. We are super proud of our passionate and enthusiastic guides

Booking and departures

Q: When does the tour depart?

A: Scheduled departures operate on Sundays within the season 01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, with updated schedules available for the following season.

Q: How do I book and what details are required?

A: At the time of booking you must provide full name as per passport, date of birth, contact phone, gender/title for rooming, any dietary needs and medical conditions.

Q: Is travel insurance required?

A: Comprehensive travel insurance **covering medical care and emergency evacuation** is strongly recommended for all travellers and is **mandatory for international guests**; policies should ideally also cover trip cancellation, delays and lost belongings, and proof of cover and emergency contact numbers should be available before joining the group.

Changes, cancellations and private groups

Q: Can the tour operate as a private departure?

A: Yes, private touring for families, friends or special interest groups can usually be arranged on request directly with our charters team at charters@gltg.com.au, subject to availability and minimum numbers.

Q: What if I need to change or cancel my booking?

A: Standard booking terms and conditions apply, including release periods and any applicable fees; exact conditions should be checked at the time of booking or in the current terms and conditions. All cancellation requests must be done in writing.

Q: What happens if weather affects the itinerary?

A: The operator may modify routes, timings or activities due to severe weather, park or road closures, flood or fire risk, or cultural reasons, always with guest safety as the priority and aiming to offer suitable alternative experiences where possible.

Booking Confirmations & Enquiries

info@autopiatours.com.au or hello@viatravel.com.au.

Information is valid for travel from 1 August 2025 to 31 March 2027.