



June 3rd-10th, 2018

6nights/8 days from: \$2495 dbl/tpl \$3359 single

Sydney - set on the beautiful blue Sydney Harbor, this fast-paced city of cosmopolitan character is one of the world's most beautiful places. Colonial history, stunning architecture, superb waterways, gracious harbor side suburbs and friendly people epitomize the vibrancy of this spectacular city.

Let's face it, compared to its Australian sister cities, there is always something thrilling going on somewhere here, and if you turn the right corner, you can be a part of it. Fireworks displays are more dazzling here, heels are higher, bodies more buffed, contact sports more brutal, starlets shinier, and chefs more adventurous.

Join us, on this six-night tour and be a part of "Vivid Sydney", a unique annual festival of lights, music, and ideas. This 23-day event features an outdoor 'gallery' of extraordinary light sculptures, a cutting-edge contemporary music program, some of the world's most important creative industry forums and, of course, the spectacular illumination of the Sydney Opera House sails. 2018 will mark its 10th year and almost certainly to offer up its best ever.

And, yet there is more as we have included a day trip to the Blue Mountains National Park, a World Heritage site, famous for its geographic, botanic, and aboriginal culture and Featherdale Park, where you can have your photo taken with a cuddly koala, see kangaroos, wombats, dingoes, and cute little fairy penguins.

No tour to Sydney would ever be complete without a guided tour of Australia's most iconic building, the Sydney Opera House, hailed as "one of the indisputable masterpieces of human creativity, not only in the 20th century but in the history of humankind". It's included in our city tour as well as a stop for lunch at the Sydney Fish Market.

Itinerary

Day 1 – June 3rd, 2018 – Sunday- Departure from Honolulu (L/S)

Hawaiian Airlines # 451 Departs Honolulu at 12:45pm – Arrives Sydney at 7:30pm + 1

Please meet your Panda Travel representative at the Hawaiian Airlines check-in counter. Hawaiian Airlines will provide two meals on this flight, lunch, and snack.

Day 2 – June 4th, 2018 – Monday- Sydney

Welcome to Sydney!



On arrival in Sydney, it is necessary to clear customs and immigration. You will need to claim your checked bags from the carousel.

After clearing customs and immigration, we are off to our hale for the next six nights, The Rydges World Square Hotel, perfectly situated in the heart of Sydney. Located next to the World Square Shopping Center, a 5-minute walk from Chinatown and 10-minutes to Darling Harbor.

If you are in need of a late-night snack or beverage or maybe even a electric adapter, the City Convenience Store is steps away and open 24 hours.



Accommodations: Rydges World Square Hotel  **free**

Day 3 – June 5th, 2018 – Tuesday– Sydney (B)

After breakfast in the Sphere Restaurant, located on the lobby level, please meet your guide as we are off on a full day city tour of Sydney. It will include the major highlights as well as a guided tour of Australia’s most iconic building, the Sydney Opera House, hailed as “one of the indisputable masterpieces of human creativity, not only in the 20th century but in the history of humankind”.

Step inside this UNESCO World Heritage site and discover the stories behind Danish architect Jørn Utzon’s remarkable achievement. What inspired him to base his revolutionary design on ships’ sails? How did he solve an engineering challenge considered one of the most difficult attempted anywhere in the world? You’ll find out on this very special one-hour guided tour the intricate workings of a living, breathing Opera House.

Explore the hallowed theatres and foyers where more than 1600 concerts, operas, dramas, and ballets take place each year. Our guide will be on hand to lead you through every aspect of the building’s 14-year creation and 58-year history.

You’ll run your hands over the world-famous shell tiles, take a seat in the elegant custom-made white birch timber chairs and marvel at the vaulted ceilings of one of the biggest pillar-free chambers in the world.

Once you’ve visited areas off limits to the public and captured photographs from rare vantage points inside the majestic Sydney Opera House, you’ll realize that from the outside you’re only getting half the story.

We have also included a stop at the Sydney Fish Market, the largest market of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and the third largest seafood market in terms of variety in the world. Approximately 50 tons of the fresh seafood is auctioned each day. The incredible variety of seafood is sourced from individual fishermen, co-ops, fishing businesses and aquaculture farms in Australia, New Zealand, and the Asia-Pacific Region with over 100 species available to buyers daily.

The retail side includes numerous restaurants and cafes, bakery, butcher, gourmet deli, greengrocer, bottle shop, fishing supplies store and gift shop. Enjoy some free time here to shop, browse and lunch on your own.

On the way back to our hotel, a stop at Paddy's Market, which dates to 1834. It's not just a market, but an Australian icon, with over 1,000 stalls in two huge locations. Here you'll find just about everything, from souvenirs to sporting good, clothes to cosmetics, footwear, sheepskins, pendants, crafts and much more.

Enjoy free time here to browse and shop. At the designated meeting time, you can choose to walk back to our hotel or stay longer and make your way on your own. Either way, it is a short walk.



Accommodations: Rydges World Square Hotel free

Day 4 – June 6th, 2018 – Wednesday– Sydney (B/L)

After breakfast, please meet your guide in the lobby as we are off on a full day tour.

The day begins with a visit to Featherdale Park, where you can have your photo taken with a cuddly koala, see kangaroos, wombats, dingoes and cute little fairy penguins.

From here we are off to the Blue Mountains National Park, a World Heritage site, famous for its geographic, botanic and aboriginal culture.

This rugged and beautiful region forms part of the Great Dividing Range, linking tropical north to temperate south, while dividing coastal cities from the vast Outback. Enjoy a stop at Echo Point and see the famous Three Sisters rock formation and have an opportunity to visit the Waradah Aboriginal Centre and hear the ancient Aboriginal legends of this impressive rock formation.

From here we are off to Scenic World, home to the steepest railroad in the world. You will be able to ride the railroad, glide out of the valley on the cableway and take a ride 370 meters above the valley on the Skyway. These rides are a great way to see the steep valleys, canyons, and Three Sisters rock formation.

Lunch is included in today's tour and is scheduled for approximately 1:00pm.

We now make our way back to Sydney and arrival back at our hotel will be in the late afternoon. The remainder of the evening is free.



Accommodations: Rydges World Square Hotel free

Day 5 – June 7th, 2018 – Thursday– Sydney (B)

After breakfast, enjoy a complete free day to shop, sightsee or people watch.

We have included a 2-day Hop-On Hop-Off city sightseeing pass to get around the city. Experience all the excitement of Sydney with the Sydney and Bondi Explorer. The ticket is valid for two days and full commentary is provided on both tours.

There are a total of 34 stops in great locations with a frequency of every 15 to 20 minutes for the Sydney service and 30-minute frequency for the Bondi and Bays Tour or take the full 90 minute tours.

This afternoon and evening, time out to enjoy the festivities around town at the largest winter festival in the Southern Hemisphere, Vivid Sydney 2018. While the complete schedule for the 2018 event is not out yet, below is a sampling of events from the 2017 festival.

Each night there will be luminous light installations from 6-11pm, stretching from the Botanic Gardens to Darling Harbor. Along the western waterfront of Sydney's Central Business District is Barangaroo where "Trapdoor", an

incredible optical illusion that brings the stories of Barangaroo to life through fantastical floor murals and sensational transitions between scenes takes place.

Step in (if you dare) and see a spectacular, cavernous underworld open up beneath your feet — with animations that celebrate the Barangaroo site’s history as a shipyard and sawmill, and reveal some of the initiatives in place to give back to the local community and environment.

The Royal Botanic Garden hosts light installations for Vivid, including the impressive ‘Birds of Lumos’, an artwork inspired by the rare Rowi species of the New Zealand kiwi. They glow and pulse with color.

At Taronga Zoo Sydney, its “Lights of the Wild” with its incredible giant animal light sculptures. Awe at the giant light sculptures and meet the magnificent Sumatran Tiger, the vividly colored Marine Turtle, a swarm of tiny buzzing bees and a giant Port Jackson Shark that will literally swallow you whole —plus a whole cast of other captivating creatures that will sparkle in the night.

Historic Cadman’s Cottage, one of Sydney’s oldest buildings, is often where you’ll find playful and interactive light installations that are especially fun for the younger set. Step into one of four themed 3D ‘stages’ and tinker with the keyboard projected on the ground. You’ll hear new soundscapes with every note you play and see an entertaining story displayed for all to watch and (hopefully) join in the fun.

Walk around Circular Quay after 6pm for one of the festival’s main attractions. In 2017 The Museum of Contemporary Art Australia lit up with *Organic Vibrations*, a collaboration between Australian artist Julia Gorman and the Paris-based creative and artistic collective Danny Rose. The MCA façade appears to be mutating with abstract shapes and colors, which grows and grows until it covers the Gallery’s waterfront façade.

Last on our list, but certainly to be top on your list, the Sydney Opera House, home to the stunning Lighting the Sails. Drop by as Vivid LIVE invites its audience to celebrate icons, innovators and tomorrow’s defining artists in contemporary music. With 2018 marking its 10th year, it’s almost certain to be one of the best.

Accommodations: Rydges World Square Hotel



free

Day 6 – June 8th, 2018 – Friday– Sydney (B)

After breakfast, enjoy another complete free day to go off and explore the city. Don’t forget you still have a full day remaining on your Hop-On Hop-Off pass and it’s a great way to get around the city.

This afternoon and evening, time out to enjoy Vivid Sydney

Accommodations: Rydges World Square Hotel



free

Day 7 – June 9th, 2018 – Saturday– Sydney (B)

After breakfast, enjoy another complete free day to go off and explore.

Accommodations: Rydges World Square Hotel



free

Day 8 – June 10th, 2017 – Sunday– Sydney–Honolulu (B)

It's our last day in Sydney! After breakfast there is time to free time for some last minute shopping and sightseeing.

Check out from our rooms is by 11:00am. Please bring your luggage down to the lobby where it can be stored until we depart for the airport.

We ask that you be back at the hotel by 4:30pm to meet your guide as we prepare to make our way to the airport. Departure will be promptly at 5:00pm. The drive time is approximately 1 hour.

Hawaiian Airlines # 452 Departs Sydney at 9:25pm – Arrives Honolulu at 11:15am (same day)

A meal and a light breakfast will be provided on the flight home to Hawaii.