

*17-day
Australia Tour
July 6 - 22, 2025*



23RD BAPTIST WORLD CONGRESS
LIVING
the good news

*featuring Cairns, Uluru, Sydney,
and the Baptist World Congress in Brisbane*

Day 1, Sun, July 6

Today we depart on our journey to Brisbane. Dinner and breakfast will be served aloft. (meals aloft)

Depart USA

reptiles. Visitors can view crocodile feedings and have hands-on animal encounters. We have lunch at *Crikey Cafe* before visiting the Glass House Mountains, a group of rugged volcanic peaks with sweeping views of Brisbane, Moreton Island, and more. In Brisbane, BWA activities continue throughout the day and evening.

(B,L)

Day 2, Mon, July 7

Our journey continues as we fly over the Pacific Ocean and cross the International Date Line. (meals aloft)

International Date Line

Day 3, Tue, July 8

Upon arrival in Brisbane we are met by our assistant and transfer to the **Mercure Brisbane King George Square Hotel** (or similar) with the remainder of the day to relax and recuperate from our travel. (meals aloft)

Arrive Brisbane

Day 7, Sat, July 12

BWA activities will be available throughout the day. An optional tour will be offered as well. This evening we gather one more time with our global Baptist family and participate in the Closing Celebration.

(B)

Brisbane

Day 4, Wed, July 9

During our panoramic city tour of Brisbane, we learn about the unique places and architecture that characterize Queensland's capital city. See the sights of historic Brisbane, including views of St. Stephen's Cathedral and Cathedral Square, as well as the City Botanical Gardens. Travel under Story Bridge, a steel cantilever bridge spanning the Brisbane River that was first opened in 1940 and was named one of the *Q150 Icons of Queensland* in 2009 for its role as a structure and engineering feat. Pass by Queens Street Mall, Parliament House, and City Hall. Enjoy the panoramic views of Brisbane from Kangaroo Point Cliffs and then return to the hotel with some time to freshen up. This evening we participate in the Opening Celebration of the 23rd Baptist World Congress. (B)

Brisbane

Day 8, Sun, July 13

After breakfast we transfer to the Brisbane airport for our flight to Cairns. Upon arrival we are met by our local guide and transfer to the **Crystalbrook Bailey Hotel**, with the remainder of the day at leisure. (B)

Brisbane/Cairns

Day 5, Thu, July 10

BWA activities will be scheduled throughout the day and evening. Experience this one-of-a-kind opportunity to gather with Baptist sisters and brothers from around the world and learn how God is at work in and through our global family. Alternatively, there will be an optional tour available. (B)

Brisbane

Day 9, Mon, July 14

Enjoy an unforgettable full-day Barrier Reef Cruise to Michaelmas Cay - a pure sweep of white coral sand and fringing reef, set like a gem against the turquoise blue of its shallow lagoon waters. We enjoy a tropical buffet lunch on board and swim, snorkel and relax the day away. (B)

Cairns

Day 6, Fri, July 11

Today we drive outside the city for a visit to the Australia Zoo, owned by the family of "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin. This 700-acre zoo has won many tourism awards and contains a wide variety of birds, mammals, and

Brisbane

Day 10, Tue, July 15

Today we visit one of the oldest rainforests in the world on a day trip to the Daintree rainforest. We may spot crocodiles and other wildlife on a mangrove forest cruise, hike along boardwalks through the trees and learn about the biodiversity of this UNESCO-listed area. Upon arrival to the Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre, we are welcomed with a tea and then take a Mossman Gorge walk. Next we cruise on the Daintree River to search for wildlife. We have a delicious lunch set amongst the rainforest and then continue to Cape Tribulation Beach. Following our time here, we stop for ice cream and admire the view at the Alexandra Lookout. We then return to our hotel with the remainder of the day at leisure. (B,L)

Cairns

Day 11, Wed, July 16**Cairns**

Our excursion today takes us to picturesque Kuranda village, nestled amongst pristine World Heritage-listed rainforest. We board the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway, which is the longest cable car in Southern Hemisphere, and float over the rainforest taking in dreamy views over the green treetops. Once at the top, our visit to the Pamagirri Aboriginal Cultural Experience introduces us to the history, mythology and lifestyle of the Aboriginal people. Here we walk around the rainforest town of Kuranda and explore its shops, cafes and Australian pubs. This afternoon, we wind our way back to Cairns aboard the historic Kuranda Scenic Railway. After arriving at Cairns Central Station, we return to our hotel with dinner on your own. (B)

Day 12, Thu, July 17**Cairns/Uluru**

Following breakfast this morning, we transfer to the Cairns airport for our fly to Ayers Rock (Uluru). We are met upon arrival by our local driver-guide and transfer to the **Desert Gardens Hotel** with the afternoon at leisure. This evening we enjoy a night at *Field of Light* - a dining experience which combines the Sounds of Silence dinner under the outback sky with the once-in-a-lifetime Field of Light art installation. With stunning views of the Uluru at sunset, it includes a three-course bush tucker menu, premium selection of Australian drinks, fascinating star talk, and a self-guided walk through the Field of Light art installation. After our time here, we return to our hotel for overnight. (B,D)

Day 13, Fri, July 18**Uluru**

We rise early this morning and travel to the sunrise viewing area in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Here we enjoy a warm cup of tea or coffee while watching the changing colors of Uluru as the outback awakens to the first sunlight of the day. We then travel to the mystical 36 domes of Kata Tjuta and admire panoramic views of the southern side before arriving at the base of Walpa Gorge. Here we explore its unusual conglomerate rock formations via a walking trail through the gorge. We return to our hotel for breakfast, with the rest of the morning at leisure. This afternoon we depart on our Uluru Base Kuniya Walk and Sunset tour. We learn about the native flora, fauna and intriguing cultural customs of traditional owners, the Anangu, and discover an array of fascinating sacred sites. We walk to the Mutitjulu waterhole where we explore several caves and view Aboriginal rock paintings. Then we continue to the Uluru sunset viewing area where we relax with a beverage and snacks while taking in the many beautiful shades and color for which Uluru is renowned. After sunset, enjoy a barbeque dinner set amongst red sand dunes and desert oak trees, and then return to our hotel for overnight. (B,D)

Day 14, Sat, July 19**Uluru/Sydney**

Following breakfast this morning, we transfer to the Ayers Rock (Uluru) airport for our flight to Sydney - the capital city of the state of New South Wales and the most populous city in Australia. Upon arrival we are met by our local guide and transfer to the **Parkroyal Darling Harbour Sydney Hotel** with the remainder of the day at leisure. (B)

Day 15, Sun, July 20**Sydney**

The magnificent Blue Mountains are named for the evaporating Eucalyptus oil that bathes the mountains in a blue haze, and today we'll get a closer look at them. On the way, we'll visit the Featherdale Wildlife Park which contains various species native to Australia and is known to be one of the world's largest collections of Australian fauna. We then drive to Echo Point to view the Three Sisters - a sacred spot for the local aboriginal community, with a tragic legend describing how these rock sisters formed. Here we take in the views of the incredible Jamison Valley and the unique rock formations. We walk one of the many trails that allows us to weave around a number of enchanting spots. Next we have a relaxing lunch at the *Echo Point Lookout Restaurant* while we take in sweeping mountain and valley views. From there we return to our hotel with the remainder of the evening at leisure. (B,L)

Day 16, Mon, July 21**Sydney**

Today we have a panoramic city tour of Sydney. Set on the beautiful blue Sydney Harbour, this fast-paced city of cosmopolitan character features colonial history, stunning architecture, and superb waterways. We begin at the eastern beaches of Sydney, including Watsons Bay and Bondi Beach, and take a beautiful coastal walk along the bays. Then we make our way back towards the city centre with interesting viewpoints along the way and a drive through the historic district of Paddington and The Rocks, where we enjoy the magnificent views of this harbourside city. We continue to Circular Quay with time at leisure before walking to the Sydney Opera House for a tour of one of the world's most iconic buildings. This remarkable architectural achievement is UNESCO World Heritage listed and hosts over 1800 performances each year. Following our time here, we return to our hotel with some time to rest and freshen up. This evening, we have a memorable two-hour Sydney Harbour Dinner Cruise before returning to our hotel for overnight. (B,D)

Day 17, Tue, July 22**Sydney**

Following breakfast this morning, we transfer to the Sydney airport for our return flight, arriving home later this evening. (B, meals aloft)

All sites listed in the itinerary will be covered but the sequence and days may be altered to adjust to religious holidays, special closings of sites, air schedules, etc.