

# 2025 Australia, Tasmania and Sydney Mardi Gras



**Trip Dates: February 16<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025**

**Host(s):** James Mayo & Eric Dillemath

**Countries:** Australia

## Welcome to Your Australia Adventure!

We're thrilled to have you with us on this incredible journey. Inside this document, you'll find everything you need to know about your schedule, and tips to ensure a smooth and memorable experience. You will also find information about your schedule as well as important notes to keep in mind.

Join our WhatsApp chat group to stay connected with your Brand g hosts, Eric, James, and fellow guests. Scan the QR code below with your phone's camera to join. Don't have WhatsApp? Download it from your phone's app store.



### Group Travel

- Punctuality keeps everything running smoothly! If you're running late or need to skip an activity, just give your trip hosts a heads-up.
- We're all about the group experience, but if you have personal needs, let us know—we'll do our best to make it work.
- No wake-up calls have been pre-arranged. Need one? Just ring up the hotel reception and they'll sort it out.

### Luggage

- Ensure all your bags, including carry-ons, are labeled with your first and last name. Your Brand g host will provide paper luggage tags to help identify your bags as part of the group.
- On hotel check-out days, place your luggage just inside your room door at the designated time or bring it to the lobby yourself by at the designated time.
- Luggage restrictions for included domestic flights:
  - Each guest is allowed one checked bag weighing up to 50 pounds (23kg). This must be a single checked bag.
  - You may also bring one small carry-on (maximum 15 pounds/7kg with total dimensions not exceeding 46.5 inches, including pockets, wheels, and handle) and one personal item, such as a purse or laptop bag that fits under the seat.
  - For extra or overweight luggage, consult our local host for guidance.

### Health

- Stay rested and keep yourself feeling great, your adventure awaits!
- Don't forget sun protection, a little sunscreen goes a long way.
- Keep important medications handy in your day bag just in case.
- Not feeling 100%? Let us know right away so we can help you get back on track.

### Travel Documents

- Please make sure to keep your passports easily accessible on travel days.

### Safety and Security and Recommendations

- Keep your valuables safe by using hotel safes and staying alert in crowded areas—pickpockets can be sneaky!
- Rest easy during travel days, your valuables will be secure on the locked, attended motor coach.

\*\*\*Please note, the following schedule is subject to change. We will notify you as soon as possible of any adjustments. Please join our WhatsApp group for timely updates.

Upon arrival into Melbourne, you will be met by our local representative outside of baggage claim. They will transfer you to the luxurious Park Hyatt Auckland.

**Please note:** The standard check-in time at the Crown Tower Melbourne is 3.00pm. If a complimentary early check-in is not available, you will be able to store your luggage at reception until your room is ready. Brand g Vacations has placed a priority clearance on your room, which is subject to availability.

**11:00 am – 12:00 pm:** Welcome desk; your hosts, Eric and James will assist you with any questions you have concerning the program. Collect your name tags, collect luggage tags, or simply say hello.

**4:00 pm – 5:00 pm:** Welcome desk; your hosts, Eric and James will assist you with any questions you have concerning the program. Collect your name tags, collect luggage tags, or simply say hello.

**6:15 pm** Please meet your Tour Host Team, in the hotel lobby for your short walk to the Pure South Kitchen for dinner. *The walking time is approximately 10 minutes.*

**6:30pm** Enjoy a bespoke 3-course dinner including two glasses of beer or wine overlooking the Yarra River.

After dinner the evening is your to settle into your Premier room at the Crown Tower Melbourne, enjoy the casino, or explore one of Melbourne's many eclectic neighbourhoods.

**From 7:00 am:** Breakfast is available in the Conservatory (7:00 am – 10:30 am).

**8:30 am:** Meet Brand g hosts in the hotel lobby and commence your private Arcades & Alleyways walking tour through the heart of 'Marvelous Melbourne'.

This insider-look at Melbourne has been created by Kenneth Park, a museum and art curator by profession, who is a widely travelled and sought-after speaker and lecturer in archives, fine arts, architecture, social history, cultural tourism, travel and museum studies.

**Next,** take the short walk to the National Gallery of Victoria, located at Federation Square, for an exclusive insider experience.

**12:30 pm:** Afterwards we will make our way to Stokehouse at St. Kilda. Stokehouse is synonymous with Australian beach luxe. Offering laid-back charm, overlooking the water, with a vibrant atmosphere, welcome feel and generosity, matched with an award-winning food and wine offer.

**2:30 pm:** The remainder of your day is at leisure. Take the short walk back to the hotel or continue exploring Melbourne's trendy neighbourhoods – the choice is yours!

**Please note:** Today's itinerary is focused on exploring and learning about Melbourne and its eclectic culture. We will be walking quite a bit, so please be prepared. *Sunblock, hats, sunglasses, and water are strongly recommended.*

**Crown Tower Melbourne**  
**Premier King Room**

Crown Tower Melbourne: 8 Whiteman Street, Southbank, Melbourne, VIC 3006, Australia

**3 nights**

**From 7:00 am:** Breakfast is available in the Conservatory (7:00 am – 10:30 am).

**9:00 am:** Meet your Brand g host and local guide in the lobby of the hotel for a stunning drive to the Mornington Peninsula.

**10:15 am:** Arrive at Moonlit Sanctuary – a fabulous 25-acre wildlife conservation park home to dozens of Australian native animal species. – *approx. 1 hour drive*

Join your private Keeper for an exclusive tour of the property as you meet our furry friends including hand feeding Kangaroos and Wallabies.

**12:30 pm:** Exploration of the finest the Mornington Peninsula has to offer begins at Queally Winemakers, home to the industry luminary, Kathleen Queally. Venture into the rustic cellar door and barrel room for an opportunity to sample locally produced cheese and creative wine blends, unique to the Mornington Peninsula.

**1:30 pm:** Next, is the renowned Pt. Leo Estate. Set on the Western Port side of the Peninsula, the Estate is nestled atop the hills offering sweeping views of the bay across to Phillip Island.

**Lunch:** Enjoy a 3-course shared dining experience in Pt. Leo Restaurant.

**After Lunch:** Join Georgina for a guided walk through the impressive 330-acre sculpture park (with a complimentary glass of Pt. Leo Estate wine in hand) - home to over 60 large scale sculptures.

**4:30 pm:** After your day of exploring enjoy the relaxing drive back to Melbourne, where the evening is at leisure.

**5:30 pm:** Approximate arrival time back to the hotel. *Approx. 1 hour drive*

The rest of the day is at your leisure.

**Reminder:** Tomorrow is a travel day. We will be headed to Hobart. Please prepare your luggage to be picked up inside your room at **9:30 am**. Please make sure that you have collected all of your belongings, double check safes, and make sure you have covered any additional charges to your rooms by **10:15 am** for our departure to the Hobart Airport.

*Please keep your passport any valuable and needed items on your person for this travel day.*

Wednesday, 19 February 2025 | Melbourne to Hobart

B, D

**From 7:00 am:** Breakfast is available in the Conservatory (7:00 am – 10:30 am).

**9:30 am:** Please leave your luggage just inside your room door to be collected by the hotel porters. Or, if you prefer, you may take your own luggage to reception. Please be sure to settle up for any in-room incidentals upon check-out.

*Please keep your passport any valuable and needed items on your person for this travel day.*

**10:15 am:** Meet in the lobby and transfer by private coach to the Melbourne Domestic Airport. The transfer time is *approximately 40 minutes*, depending on traffic.

**Lunch:** Lunch on your own at the airport.

**12:25 pm:** Depart Melbourne on-board Qantas Airways flight QF1293 to Hobart.

**1:45 pm:** On arrival into Hobart, transfer by private coach to the summit of Mt. Wellington for fantastic views of Hobart and the surrounding waters and countryside before

**Next:** Transfer to your one-of-a-kind hotel.

**Dinner:**

**MACq 01 Hotel**

**Superior Waterfront Room (King)**

MACq 01 Hotel: 18 Hunter Street, Hobart, TAS 7000, Australia

**2 nights**

**6:30 am:** Breakfast is available in the Old Wharf Restaurant (6:30 – 10:30).

**Please note:** For your full day Tasmanian Seafood Seduction cruise, please wear warm, comfortable clothes and bring a jacket and your camera.

**9:00 am:** Meet in the lobby for your short walk to the Pennicott Wilderness Journeys Booking Centre, situated on Franklin Wharf – *approx. 5 minute walk*

Cruise down the Derwent River and into the sheltered waters of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel that surround Bruny Island. As you voyage south, leave all traces of civilization behind to discover picturesque landscapes, clear blue water and beautiful deserted beaches. Your experienced guides will provide an entertaining insight into the surrounding landscapes and animals.

**Lunch:** Watch as the catch is turned into a delicious seafood feast - rock lobster, abalone, sea urchin, mussels, oysters, sashimi, salmon. This is paired with a delicious gourmet spread of fresh local breads, salads and artisan cheeses, and matched with Bruny Island Premium Wines, Jansz Sparkling, boutique Moo Brew beers, Willie Smiths & Frank's cider and locally made organic juices.

**4:30 pm:** Tour will conclude back at the Franklin Wharf and then back to our hotel, where the remainder of the day is yours to explore independently. *approx. 5 minute walk*

**Reminder:** Tomorrow is a travel day. We will be headed to Freycinet National Park and the Saffire Resort. Please prepare your luggage to be picked up inside your room at **8:45 am**. Please make sure that you have collected all of your belongings, double check safes, and make sure you have covered any additional charges to your rooms by **9:30 am** for our departure to the Saffire Resort.

*Please keep your passport any valuable and needed items on your person for this travel day.*

**MACq 01 Hotel**

**Superior Waterfront Room (King)**

MACq 01 Hotel: 18 Hunter Street, Hobart, TAS 7000, Australia

**2 nights**

**6:30 am:** Breakfast is available in the Old Wharf Restaurant (6:30 – 10:30).

**8:45 am:** Please leave your luggage just inside your room door to be collected by the hotel porters. Or, if you prefer, you may take your own luggage to reception. Please be sure to settle up for any in-room incidentals upon check-out.

*Please keep your passport any valuable and needed items on your person for this travel day.*

**9:30 am:** Meet in the lobby and transfer by private coach to the Museum of Old and New Art, Mona.

**10:00 am – 12:00 pm:** Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), is Australia's largest privately-owned gallery and museum. Showcasing the diverse collection of its owner. Mona exhibits everything from ancient Egyptian funerary objects and modernist masterpieces to a word waterfall and a machine that mimics the human digestive system.

**Please note:** *It is highly recommended to download the Mona O App to your personal devices, to assist your visit and discovery of the museum. If this is not possible, a device can be provided on request from the gallery's Information Desk.*

Download "The O" App:



iPhone

Android



**12:30 pm:** Enjoy a seasonal lunch before continuing on a scenic drive along Tasmania's sunny east-coast passing picturesque fishing villages en route to your luxurious accommodation, Saffire Freycinet. *Driving time is approximately two hours.*

**4:30 pm:** Upon arrival at Saffire Freycinet, check-in and take some time to enjoy the property.

**6:30 pm:** Join your fellow travellers in the Palate Restaurant for a delicious a la carte dinner.

**Saffire Resort**

**Luxury Suite or Signature Suite**

Saffire Resort: 2352 Coles Bay Road, Coles Bay, TAS 7215, Australia

**2 nights**



**7:00 am – 10:00 am:** Breakfast is available in the Palate Restaurant.

Your day at Saffire are at leisure to participate in lodge activities, or to simply relax and enjoy your spectacular surrounds.

**10:00 am – 12:00 pm:** Marine Farm Experience - Don a pair of waders and visit a working oyster farm located in a beautiful setting within an internationally significant wetland and ornithological site. Develop an understanding for wetland and marine ecology, plus a taste for prized Pacific oysters

**2:00 pm – 4:00 pm:** Marine Farm Experience – 2<sup>nd</sup> Group

**4:30 pm – 6:00 pm:** Tasmanian Devil Experience - Offers you the rare opportunity to encounter Tasmanian devils in a natural setting.

**6:30 pm:** Dinner tonight is a degustation menu with matched wines.

**Reminder:** Tomorrow is a travel day. We will be headed to Adelaide via Melbourne. Please prepare your luggage to be picked up inside your room at **8:00 am**. Please make sure that you have collected all of your belongings, double check safes, and make sure you have covered any additional charges to your rooms by **8:30 am** for our departure to the Hobart Airport.

*Please keep your passport any valuable and needed items on your person for this travel day.*

**Saffire Resort**

**Luxury Suite or Signature Suite**

Saffire Resort: 2352 Coles Bay Road, Coles Bay, TAS 7215, Australia

**2 nights**

**7:00 am:** Breakfast is available in the Palate Restaurant (7:00 – 10:00).

**8:00 am:** Please leave your luggage just inside your room door to be collected by the hotel porters. Or, if you prefer, you may take your own luggage to reception. Please be sure to settle up for any in-room incidentals upon check-out.

*Please keep your passport any valuable and needed items on your person for this travel day.*

**8:30 am:** Meet in the lobby and transfer by private coach to the Hobart Airport. A gourmet packed lunch will be provided today. The transfer time is *approximately two hours and thirty minutes*, depending on traffic.

**1:05 pm:** Depart Hobart on-board Virgin Australia flight VA1323 to Melbourne.

**2:30 pm:** On arrival into Melbourne, connect with your onward flight to Adelaide.

**5:10 pm:** Depart Hobart on-board Virgin Australia flight VA237 to Adelaide.

**6:00 pm:** On arrival into Adelaide, transfer by private coach to accommodation, EOS by Skycity, where the remainder of the evening is at leisure.

**Eos by SkyCity**

**Allure King Room**

Eos by SkyCity: Level 1/1 Festival Dr, Adelaide SA 5000, Australia

**2 nights**

**7:00 am – 11:30 am:** Breakfast is available in iTL

**11:30 am:** Meet in the lobby and depart for a drive to see Mount Lofty Summit and its breathtaking views of Adelaide.

**Next:** Visit Cleland Wildlife Park for a private koala close-up encounter session out of public waiting times with a ranger, to learn about the lifestyle and habits of the koala in an immersive experience.

**Next:** Deviation Road Winery, which is regarded as the signature sparkling winemaker in the country. It produces exciting cool climate wines from mature vineyard resources in the Adelaide Hills.

Enjoy the classic wine flight at Deviation Road, including their most precious sparkling wines + still wines, followed by a delicious local platter of local cheese and smallgoods served with seasonal fruit, olives, cornichons & sourdough, plus their signature arancini.

**Next:** Shaw & Smith which focuses on exceptional single vineyards that sit behind Hahndorf, all of which are farmed organically to prioritise soil and vine health. Enjoy a flight that tastes a selection of their stunning single vineyard wines.

**4:30 pm:** Conclude back at the hotel, where the remainder of the day is at leisure.

**Reminder:** Tomorrow is a travel day. We will be headed to Port Lincoln. Please prepare your luggage to be picked up inside your room at **7:15 am**. Please make sure that you have collected all of your belongings, double check safes, and make sure you have covered any additional charges to your rooms by **8:00 am** for our departure to the Adelaide Airport.

*Please keep your passport any valuable and needed items on your person for this travel day.*

**7:00 am:** Breakfast is available in iTL (7:00 – 11:30).

**7:15 am:** Please leave your luggage just inside your room door to be collected by the hotel porters. Or, if you prefer, you may take your own luggage to reception. Please be sure to settle up for any in-room incidentals upon check-out.

*Please keep your passport any valuable and needed items on your person for this travel day.*

**8:00 am:** Meet in the lobby and transfer by private coach to the Adelaide Airport.

*Transfer time is approximately 30 minutes, depending on traffic.*

**10:40 am:** Depart Adelaide on-board Qantas Airways flight QF2583 to Port Lincoln.

**11:35 am:** Welcome to the Seafood Capital of Australia, Port Lincoln.

**Next:** Winters Hill, from this vantage point you gain a 360° degree view of the city of Port Lincoln, Boston Island, Boston Bay and all the way out to the stunning Port Lincoln National Park.

**Lunch:** French café L'Anse.

**After lunch:** Mikkira Station, Visit the restored original homestead and go for a stroll under the beautiful old Eucalypt trees and come face to face with the cuddly icon of Australia as they laze in the Manna gums.

As the sun settles for the evening, we will relax with a platter of local produce, wine and listen to the sounds of nature. It's beautiful!

From here we transfer the short drive back to Port Lincoln and your accommodation.

**Port Lincoln Hotel**

**Luxury Ocean View Balcony or Deluxe Spa Suite**

Port Lincoln Hotel: 1 Lincoln Highway, Port Lincoln, SA 5606, Australia

**2 nights**

**6:30 am:** Breakfast is available in the Sarin's Restaurant (6:30 – 11:00).

**7:00 am:** Meet your Brand g host and Local guide in the lobby of the hotel to head out to Cruise Port Lincoln National Park and Memory Cove Wilderness Sanctuary

- Bathing Suit and a towel
- Comfortable clothing: pack some warm clothes as it can get cool on the water
- Sunscreen
- Boat appropriate soft-soled shoes - preferably not thongs (flipflops).
- A reusable drink bottle as chilled filtered water is available on board

**1:00 pm:** Return to shore for our next activity and lunch. A mini master classes experience with Gav Myers. You will learn about the seafood industry from a local seafood producer and exporter.

This experience will be unusual as you will be tasting seafood that is unique to this region and not always available on menus. Learn about the versatility of the fresh seafood while you are enjoying an exclusive mini-masterclass for lunch in an authentic setting.

**Next:** Meet Ken Martin, a master sculptor in bronze and wood, who has evolved to master status since 1975. His artwork comes in the forms of busts, full figures, animals, humans and abstract.

**5:00 pm:** Return to Port Lincoln, where the remainder of your day is at leisure.

**Reminder:** Tomorrow is a travel day. We will be headed to Sydney by way of Adelaide. Please prepare your luggage to be picked up inside your room at **7:15 am**. Please make sure that you have collected all of your belongings, double check safes, and make sure you have covered any additional charges to your rooms by **8:00 am** for our departure to the Adelaide Airport.

*Please keep your passport any valuable and needed items on your person for this travel day.*

**6:30 am:** Breakfast is available in the Sarin's Restaurant (6:30 – 11:00).

**7:15 am:** Please leave your luggage just inside your room door to be collected by the hotel porters. Or, if you prefer, you may take your own luggage to reception. Please be sure to settle up for any in-room incidentals upon check-out.

*Please keep your passport any valuable and needed items on your person for this travel day.*

**8:00 am:** Meet in the lobby. Start the day with a 'pick me up'. You'll get an overview of the coffee process from crop to cup and learn how they select the beans.

**Next:** Head to Coffin Bay, an area of outstanding beauty, world famous Oysters and is home to a variety of important species of flora and fauna.

**Next:** Guided walk that will educate and inspire all with appreciation and the conservation of the natural environment in a 'critically endangered ecological community'. Learn about the unique natural bushland of the Grassy Low She-oak Woodland that is a 'Heritage Listed' area.

**11:45 am:** Enjoy a gourmet seafood lunch at 1802 Restaurant, before transferring to the Port Lincoln Airport for your onward flight to Sydney via Adelaide

**2:50 pm:** Depart Port Lincoln on-board Qantas Airways flight QF2588 to Adelaide.

**3:45 pm:** On arrival into Adelaide, connect with your onward flight to Sydney.

**7:25 pm:** Depart Adelaide on-board Qantas Airways flight QF746 to Sydney.

**9:50 pm:** On arrival into Sydney, transfer by private coach to your luxurious accommodation, Capella Sydney.

**Capella Sydney Hotel**

**Premier Room**

Capella Sydney: 24 Loftus Street, Sydney 2000, Australia

**3 nights**

**7:00 am:** Breakfast is available in Aperture (7:00 – 10:30).

**9:00 am:** Meet in the lobby and depart on your full-day private sightseeing tour that includes the highlights of Sydney, from 'City to Surf'.

Starting in the city's historic Rocks precinct, you will learn of Sydney's colonial past, gain an insight into her ancient Indigenous culture and take a glimpse into her future with her newest state-of-the art developments. Continue through the beautiful Royal Botanic Garden to one of Sydney's most spectacular vantage points - Mrs Macquarie's Chair. This garden paradise, in the heart of the city, is a favourite with Sydneysiders and tourists alike - it's also the perfect place to take photos of our famous icons, the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge.

**1:00 pm:** Journey on to iconic Bondi Beach where lunch is included at the iconic Icebergs Dining Room

**3:45 pm:** Conclude your tour with a one hour private behind-the-scenes tour of the Sydney Opera House.

**Please note:** There are approximately 200 steps during the Sydney Opera House tour.

**5:00 pm:** Your tour concludes at your accommodation.

The remainder of the day is yours to explore.

**Reminder:** Tomorrow is Mardi Gras! The morning is yours to explore, rest, and get excited for a very energetic evening at the famous parade.

**Capella Sydney Hotel**

**Premier Room**

Capella Sydney: 24 Loftus Street, Sydney 2000, Australia

**3 nights**

Saturday, 01 March 2025 | Sydney – Mardi Gras

B

**7:00 am:** Breakfast is available in Aperture (7:00 – 10:30).

**5:30 pm:** Meet in the lobby and transfer by private coach to Taylor Square Pride Village, Darlinghurst. The transfer time is approximately 10 minutes, depending on traffic.

**6:00 pm – 11:00 pm:** Taylor Square Takeover is a total timely revamp of one of the most sought-after spots of the Festival.

**On conclusion:** you may wish to continue to celebrate or return back to your accommodation. The choice is yours!

**Capella Sydney Hotel**  
**Premier Room**

**3 nights**

Capella Sydney: 24 Loftus Street, Sydney 2000, Australia

Sunday, 02 March 2025 | Sydney

B, D

**7:00 am:** Breakfast is available in Aperture (7:00 – 10:30).

Today is at your leisure to relax and recover from the festivities, or continue your exploration of Sydney independently.

**6:45 pm:** Tonight, meet in the lobby for your short walk to O Bar & Dining. Located on level 47. Enjoy a delicious farewell dinner in the company of your Brand g friends as you toast to the end of an amazing adventure!

The walking time is *approximately 5 minutes*.

**Reminder:** Several guests will be concluding their adventure through Australia with Brand g. Please review your departure timing, settle any bills prior to your depart, and please let your Brand g hosts know if you have any questions.

**Capella Sydney Hotel**  
**Premier Room**

**3 nights**

Capella Sydney: 24 Loftus Street, Sydney 2000, Australia



**6:30 am:** Breakfast is available in Bazaar (6:30 – 11:00).

A complimentary late check-out has been requested and is subject to availability. If a late check-out is not available, you will be able to store your luggage at reception until your departure.

Before meeting your driver, please be sure to settle your account for any personal incidentals that you may have charged to your room, such as the mini bar.

A few days prior to the end of the trip, your Brand g tour leaders will provide you with your transfer pickup time. At this time, meet your driver in the hotel lobby and transfer by private vehicle to the Sydney Airport.

### Farewell

Thank you for joining us on this memorable Brand g vacation. We were thrilled to share this bucket list experience with each of you.

In a few days, you'll receive a survey via email, and we would greatly appreciate your feedback. We hope you thoroughly enjoyed your Australia, Tasmania, and Mardi Gras adventures and look forward to the possibility of seeing you again soon.

Until then, we wish you safe travels, cherished memories, and lasting friendships.

Your Brand g hosts,

James & Eric

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