



East Coast Gems

Classic Tour | 12 Days

Sydney - Hunter Valley – Cairns - Port Douglas

This itinerary encompasses the best of Australia's wonders, from the magnificent Sydney Opera House to the World Heritage Listed forest region of Daintree National Park. You will take a comprehensive journey through Australia's most iconic sights, experiencing everything that the bustling cities and the relaxing rural regions have to offer.

- Explore the famous landmarks of Sydney
- Gastronomic and Wine adventures in the Hunter Valley
- Discover the world's largest coral reef system – the Great Barrier Reef
- Stay at National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World lodge in the renowned Daintree Rainforest
- Cultural interactions at stunning Cape Tribulation



East Coast Gems tour inclusions:

- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- Domestic flight
- National Escort & English-Speaking Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

Classic Tours:

See the classic sights in the company of expert guides so you can really understand the culture of the destination. On our classic tours we take care of everything, leaving you to sit back and enjoy the experience to the full. The tours are fully inclusive with all meals and a comprehensive touring programme.

Physical Level 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

This tour is rated as a **physical level 1** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and walking around the sights and climbing some steps. There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time



Of course, our guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Joining Your Tour

The tour is 12 days in duration and does not include flights to Sydney or from Cairns. Tour price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your flight times to reservations.

Join the tour on Day 1 in Sydney and end the tour on Day 12 in Cairns. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

Itinerary Changes:

It is our attention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances, we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

Itinerary – East Coast Gems

Days 1: Arrive Sydney

Upon arrival into Sydney Domestic Airport, you will be met by your local guide and/or driver from Wendy Wu Tours. If already in Sydney, we can offer a private transfer to the hotel from your home. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer to your hotel in the heart of Darling Harbour for check-in. The rest of the day is at leisure before meeting your group at the hotel's rooftop restaurant and bar, Above 319, for a welcome dinner.



Hotel: Vibe Darling Harbour (Deluxe Room)

Destination Information

Sydney – Capital of New South Wales and one of Australia's largest cities. Home to the well-known icons Sydney Harbour and the Sydney Opera House.

Day 2: Sydney



Explore some of Sydney's famous landmarks such as the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge, Darling Harbour, the Fish Market and Mrs Macquarie's Chair. Enjoy a pit-stop in Chippendale at Koi Dessert Bar for a High Tea Lunch before sampling a Masterchef favourite - Reynold Poernomo's, signature collection of savoury and sweet dishes with free-flowing tea and coffee. Continue your sightseeing with an Aboriginal Dreamtime Rock Walk with an Indigenous guide. Commencing at Cadman's Cottage, you will uncover the authentic history of the

Aboriginal people's saltwater heritage within Sydney Harbour. Drawing upon knowledge populated from the oldest ecologists, conservationists, wildlife carers, botanists, astronomers, climatologists and marine biologists, your guide will explain how this ancient wisdom continues to reveal itself within the English settlement of The Rocks. Afterwards, explore beneath the sails of the world-famous Sydney Opera House on a guided tour inside one of the world's greatest performance venues. Tonight, enjoy dinner at Opera Kitchen, a popular restaurant and cocktail bar overlooking Sydney Harbour, as the sun goes down.

Hotel: Vibe Darling Harbour (Deluxe Room)

Destination Information

The Rocks – A neighbourhood of historic laneways in the shadow of Sydney Harbour Bridge. First settled by European settlers in 1788. The area has some of Sydney's oldest pubs and is frequented by locals and tourists alike for its abundance of restaurants and street markets.

Day 3: Sydney - Blue Mountains Day Tour

Rise early and transfer to the Grounds of Alexandria, one of Sydney's premier breakfast restaurants, to enjoy an a la carte sitting and a cup of their award-winning coffee. Afterwards, travel out of the city and into the Australian bush, arriving at the picturesque Blue Mountains. After a short stop at a scenic lookout to admire the spectacular views, continue onto Scenic World and board the Scenic Skyway. Disembark at the Skyway's East Station to access lookouts along the Prince Henry Cliff Walk, including Echo Point and the iconic Three Sisters. After lunch and some time at leisure, depart Katoomba and stop at the Eagle Hawk lookout, where you will get to admire the famous Three Sisters Rock formation and marvel at the stunning views of the Jamison Valley. From here, continue around Narrowneck Plateau for more incredible vantage points. Head south to Wentworth Falls where you will be guided down a well-worn path towards the falls and stunning views. Experience the local flora and fauna up close as your guide informs you of the incredible geology of the Blue Mountains and how they were formed. Return to Sydney in the late afternoon. Tonight, enjoy dinner with a beer at Harajuku Gyoza and Beer Stadium, which is a big local favourite and within walking distance from your hotel.



Hotel: Vibe Darling Harbour (Deluxe Room)

Destination Information

Grounds of Alexandria – **Tucked** away in the inner city suburbs, it is a unique, rich and inviting space to eat, drink and explore.

Blue Mountains – A rugged region West of Sydney within New South Wales. World renowned for its dramatic scenery it encompasses steep cliffs, eucalyptus forests, waterfalls and villages. Most famous for and home to the Three Sisters rock formation.

Scenic Skyway - The 720-metre trip provides the best views of Katoomba Falls, the Three Sisters, Mt Solitary and Jamison Valley. Suspended 270-metres above ancient ravines, breath-taking views of rainforest canopy are revealed beneath your feet through the electro-glass cabin floor.

Day 4: Sydney – Hunter Valley



After breakfast and check-out, depart Sydney and head towards the Hunter Valley Wine Region, savouring on some delicious croissants from a local Sydney café - Buttercrumbs Bakery while enjoying the drive there. On arrival at McGuigan Wine Estate, enjoy your first tasting of the day before heading to Glenore Estate for a behind the scenes tour and further tasting. Next, enjoy lunch with paired wines at the Hunter Resort before having a final tasting at the celebrated local vineyard, Tulloch. After the tour, head to your hotel for check-in and take some time

to relax and explore your new surroundings. This evening, head to eRemo Restaurant a modern Italian Restaurant at Spicers Resort to enjoy a delicious 3-course dinner and sweeping views over Hunter Valley, and maybe spot a kangaroo or two grazing!

Hotel: Mercure Hunter Valley Resort (Superior Room)

Destination Information

Hunter Valley – Australia's oldest wine region producing exceptional wines and located north of Sydney, about two hours drive away. The region is also home to acclaimed restaurants, ancient rainforests, music festivals, cellar doors and lively farmers markets.

Day 5: Hunter Valley

Have a well-deserved sleep in this morning before heading to the Hunter Valley Cheese Company at around 10:00 for a premium tasting. Continue your gastronomic adventure with a chocolate tasting before arriving at Lovedale Smokehouse, where you will enjoy a fabulous handmade platter of smokehouse produce including their famous charcuterie goods. You have the option to take your lunch out into the grounds of their beautiful Hunter Valley vineyard if you wish. Afterwards, continue onto the famous Hunter Valley Gardens for some more time at leisure, or perhaps some Afternoon Tea (Tea at your own expense). This evening enjoy beer tasting and dinner at Matilda Bay Brewhouse before returning to your hotel.

Hotel: Mercure Hunter Valley Resort (Superior Room)

Destination Information

Hunter Valley Gardens - Award winning gardens located on 14 hectares and consisting of over 6,000 trees, 600,000 shrubs and over 1 million ground cover plants, plus waterfalls, statues, murals and much more. There are 10 individually themed gardens showcasing the artistry of gardens from around the world.

Day 6: Hunter Valley - Cairns

Following breakfast at one of the best café's in the Hunter - Enzo Café, and a little more time at leisure in Hunter Valley, transfer to Sydney Airport to board your flight to Cairns. A picnic lunch will be provided on board your transfer to the airport. Upon arrival into Cairns Domestic Airport, be met by your driver or guide at the baggage carousel and transfer to your seaside resort. Enjoy dinner tonight at Dundee's Restaurant overlooking the Coral Sea.



Hotel: Rydges Esplanade Resort (Oceanview Room)

Destination Information

Cairns – located in the tropical north of Queensland and gateway to the Great Barrier Reef, Port Douglas and the Daintree Rainforest. The city is framed by a backdrop of rainforest mountain range and the 2.5km Cairns Esplanade which is a scenic promenade with a swimming lagoon, waterfront boardwalks and BBQ areas.

Day 7: Cairns



Today you will enjoy one of Cairns' most unique and exclusive Great Barrier Reef tours - a Dreamtime dive and snorkel cruise. Transfer to the Marina and set sail for the pristine Outer Reef as you enjoy morning tea enjoy guided snorkelling excursions at two incredible coral reef sites. After a delicious tropical lunch, set sail for Cairns where afternoon tea and informative talks from your Sea Rangers will be hosted before you arrive back at Marlin Jetty in the late afternoon. Later, enjoy dinner at Muddy's, a great local joint walking distance from your hotel.

Hotel: Rydges Esplanade Resort (Oceanview Room)

Destination Information

Great Barrier Reef – The world's largest coral reef system and one of the seven wonders of the natural world. Composed of over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands stretching for over 2,300 kilometres. Visitors can enjoy many experiences including snorkelling, scuba diving, aircraft or helicopter tours and glass-bottomed boat viewing.

Day 8: Cairns - Port Douglas

After breakfast and check-out, spend some time at leisure or opt for a 30-minute Reef Discovery Heli flight (at an additional cost). Enjoy lunch at Harbourside Bar and Kitchen, where the chef specials include Smoked Crocodile Carbonara and Batter Reef Filets with Lemon Myrtle Sauce, before transferring north (approximately 1 hour) to Port Douglas up the Captain Cook Highway.



On arrival, check in to your luxury eco-lodge, one of National Geographic's Unique Lodges of the World, and spend the day at leisure utilising the resort's facilities, such as the massage studio, or perhaps spend some time relaxing on the private beach or meandering the network of walking trails through the native forest, palm groves and a coconut plantation. The resort also offers activities such as Australia's only coconut tour and bird and butterfly walks. Alternatively, you can opt to embark on a full-day Kuranada Village, Kuranda Scenic Rail and Rainforest Cableway experience (at an additional cost). Tonight, enjoy a 2-course dinner at Thala's Treetop Restaurant, Osprey, before a star gazing experience. The Thala night sky is free from light pollution and filled with millions of stars. Surrounded by sounds of the rainforest and ocean, enjoy an introduction to the beautiful Southern Constellations from an experienced and passionate guide. View many fascinating stars and planets using telescopes and binoculars at the unique outdoor observatory.

Hotel: Thala Beach Nature Reserve (Jungle Bungalow)

Destination Information

Port Douglas – Port Douglas is known for its beach resorts and as the gateway to both The Great Barrier reef and The Daintree. It is considered to be paradise between the reef and the rainforest.

Day 9: Daintree National Park



Travel through the rich farming areas toward the World Heritage Listed forest region of the Daintree National Park. Stop at Mossman Gorge which forms the southern sector of the renowned Daintree Rainforest, which was World Heritage listed in 1988 and is the last remnant of the oldest surviving rainforest in the world. Enjoy a guided walk with a member of the local Aboriginal tribe who will explain about their indigenous customs and survival techniques. Continue south and enjoy a delightful afternoon at the Botanical Ark, a private ethno-botanical garden in the heart of the

Daintree Rainforest. Enjoy an interpretive garden tour with the founder of this tropical oasis, Alan Carle. Be inspired as you learn about the intrinsic link between rainforest plants and cultures and sample some of the most unusual and interesting tastes and sights imaginable. Relax and unwind on the veranda of this beautiful Queensland home as experience their Chef's Table lunch, before returning to your hotel for an evening at leisure. This evening enjoy a beach picnic dinner at your accommodation.

Hotel: Thala Beach Nature Reserve (Jungle Bungalow)

Destination Information

Daintree National Park- Located in far North Queensland the Daintree forms part of the Wet Tropics of Queensland and in 1988 was declared a World Heritage Site. It is one of the oldest rainforest in the world and believed to be 180 million years old.

Day 10: Port Douglas - Cape Tribulation Day Tour

Depart on your full day trip to stunning Cape Tribulation. Arrive at Cooya (Kuyu Kuyu) Beach for your Coast & Cultural Walk with a Kubirri Warra clan member. Cooya Beach is the traditional fishing grounds of the Kuku Yalanji people. Your guide will take you on a journey across Cooya Beach, demonstrating and teaching traditional fishing and gathering techniques which are still used today to source food for their family. Enjoy a delicious tropical BBQ lunch set amongst the rainforest before finally sinking your feet into the sand on famous Cape Tribulation Beach. En-route



back to Port Douglas, enjoy a delicious exotic fruit ice cream cup at the Daintree Ice Cream Company and a scenic photo stop at the iconic Alexandra Lookout. This evening, transfer into Port Douglas township for dinner at Salsas.

Hotel: Thala Beach Nature Reserve (Jungle Bungalow)

Destination Information

Cape Tribulation – is a remote headland and ecotourism destination in northeast Queensland. A coastal area within Daintree National Park offering a combination of rainforest and beaches.

Day 11: Port Douglas - Atherton Tablelands Day Trip

Embark on your full day Atherton Tablelands foodie adventure! This unique food and wine experience allows you to sample some of the best food and wine that this region has to offer. Enjoy a scenic voyage from the comfort of your vehicle through a variety of contrasting landscapes, from lush rainforest, crops and dairy land to stunning ochre savannah plains. The rich volcanic soil allows farmers to grow many diverse crops from bananas, coffee, sugar cane, avocados, mangoes, macadamia nuts, citrus and more, which you will learn about as you taste your way around the region. Make stops along the way at Mount Uncle's Distillery, Gallo Dairyland for cheese tasting, The Humpty Market, Golden Drop Winery and Platypus Hut Vineyard. This evening dine in tropical North Queensland in style with the 'Flames of the Forest' Aboriginal Cultural Experience for a very special farewell dinner. Enter a candlelit forest, enjoy wine and canapes upon arrival to be followed by a 7-dish banquet, Aboriginal cultural performance and storytelling experience.

Hotel: Thala Beach Nature Reserve (Jungle Bungalow)

Destination Information

Atherton Tablelands – A rural town in the tableland's region of Queensland. It features a huge variety of landscapes and attractions from ranges and waterfalls to spectacular national parks and coffee plantations.

Day 12: Port Douglas – Depart Cairns

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to Cairns airport, according to the departure time of your connecting flight home.

East Coast Gems - Travel Information

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard. All group tour hotels have private bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Porterage

Please be aware that porterage is included on our tours in Australia.

Transport

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

Group Size

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort and local guides. On this Classic Australian Tour there will be no more than 18 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 10 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

Tipping Policy

Although tipping in Australia is not customary, if you feel you have received an excellent service, please feel free to tip your guide at your discretion.

Packing List and Climate

You will find a complete packing list and a helpful climate chart in the 'Suggested Packing List', which will be included in the pre-departure information link sent within your deposit documentation. Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found on www.weather.com

Luggage

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 23kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 10 kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage.

Personal Expenses & Optional Tours

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of AU\$250 per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that cannot resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available. In your Final Documentation an Optional Excursion Sheet will be included outlining the activities available in each city and local cost associated.

Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

Vaccinations and Your Health

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au

Before You Leave

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

After Your Booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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To book call **1300 727 998** or visit your local travel agent

Visit wendywutours.com.au