

Australia Trip Costs/Inclusions: The cost of the trip with an approved selected application is \$2500.00. This fee includes Airfare, Australian Visa, Travel Insurance, Accommodations based on Double Occupancy, Transportation, Guide/Driver, Tours, Technical Visits & documented meals which will include one soft drink.

Meals included in the cost of the trip ---- (B) - Breakfast, (L) - Lunch, (D) - Dinner, are recorded as such for each day.

Single room supplement fee (\$850.00) additional.

Costs or fees not included: *Cost of a valid U.S. passport, Gratuities for guide and driver, alcoholic beverages, airline seat upgrades, excess baggage fees, souvenirs, leisure activities on free days. Hotel charges for incidentals, including telephone calls, pay per view movies, mini bars, and snack trays, personal laundry, room service, and hotel penalties for smoking in hotel rooms.*

Day 1-2 (Friday, March 2 - Saturday, March 3) -

Departure from Des Moines, Iowa -- flight to Australia.

Day 3 (Sunday, March 4) -

Arrival in the morning and transfer to your hotel. Drive one hour south to the famous beaches in this popular destination. First, visit the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary where you can see wallabies, kangaroos and koalas. Afterwards, travel to the hotel to check-in and enjoy lunch at the hotel. In the afternoon, relax after your long flight on the beach, do some shopping or personal sightseeing. Enjoy dinner nearby before turning in for some well needed rest.

(Overnight Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast)

(L, D)

Day 4 (Monday, March 5) -

This morning, travel south into the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales. This is the heart of the Australian soy production, and today some local producers will be visited. Here, soybeans are used as a rotation crop with sugar cane. Climatic conditions are quite different than Toowoomba (where you will be visiting in the next couple of days) because of higher humidity/rainfall, especially during the summer growing period. Travel south to Grafton and visit the Department of Agriculture New South Wales (Federal Research Institute) and the Grains Council of Australia research station, operating this soybean facility as a collaborative entity.

(Overnight Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast)

(B, L)

Day 5 (Tuesday, March 6) - Depart the hotel and visit the Port of Brisbane, one of Australia's major export ports. Large shipments of grain and cotton are sent to overseas buyers and processors. During the visit, a request will be made for you to meet representatives of Graincorp,

one of Australia's largest agribusiness companies. Graincorp is Australia's largest grain handling and transport company, with seven bulk grain ports and a marketing arm that exports to over 30 countries. Following lunch, travel to Toowoomba which is the major population center for the area known as the Darling Downs. Upon arrival, visit the Queensland Department of Agriculture Research Station to get a feel for topics being studied as well as an overview of cropping on the Darling Downs.

(Overnight Toowoomba)

(B, L, D)

Day 6 (Wednesday, March 7) -

Travel to the Darling Downs and one of the premier cropping areas in Australia with deep black soils where both summer and winter crops are grown. During this time of year, inspect summer crops such as: cotton, corn, soybean, sorghum, and sunflowers. Lots of corn is grown for the feedlot sector in this area. In the afternoon, we will request a meeting with representatives of Pulse Australia, to discuss some niche markets in Australia's Ag sector and what they do as an organization to oversee it. In addition, a visit to a machinery dealer as well as a rural supply shop (supplies, fertilizers, vaccines, herbicides, agronomy services, crop insurance, etc.).

(Overnight Toowoomba)

(B, L)

Day 7 (Thursday, March 8) -

In the morning, visit a leading feedlot to discuss layout and yard design, different stock for different markets, preparation of the different rations, and the type of animals in the feedlot. Many of the stock are destined for export to the Asian market. Later in the morning, travel back to Brisbane with a short sightseeing tour of this sub-tropical city with lunch at riverside restaurant. In the afternoon, go to the Brisbane Airport for a flight south to Canberra, the national capital of Australia. Dinner at the hotel this evening with the possibility of the USDA FAS Attaché joining us.

(Overnight Canberra)

(B, L, D)

Day 8 (Friday, March 9) -

Following breakfast, participate in board room meetings with the National Farmers Federation, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, and Grains Research & Development Corporation. Later in the morning, visit the information center of the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) which is Australia's major research institution, covering all aspects of economic activity including agriculture. Lunch will be at Regatta Point, where there is an interesting display of the development of the National Capital. In the afternoon, there will be a guided tour of Parliament House, with an explanation of the system of government, including the Constitutional Monarchy and the two houses of parliament.

Later in the day, take a tour to get a bird's-eye view of the city from the lookout atop of Mount Ainslie, designed by American architect, Walter Burley Griffin, founded in 1913. Finish the day with a tour, tasting and dinner at a local winery.

((Overnight Canberra)

(B, L, D)

Day 9 (Saturday, March 10) -

Departing Canberra for Sydney, travel north east towards Sydney to visit a large dairy farm, milking approximately 3,000 cows to help supply fresh milk to the Sydney metropolitan market. Continue traveling into Sydney to visit the famous Bondi Beach and have lunch while watching the surfers riding the waves. Later, check into your hotel located in the heart of the shopping and tourist district. The remainder of the afternoon is free for relaxation, shopping or personal sightseeing. The tour guide can give ideas for activities and sightseeing options. In the evening, regroup and delight in a harbor side restaurant for dinner only a short walk from your hotel.

(Overnight Sydney)

(B, L)

Day 10 (Sunday, March 11) -

After breakfast, enjoy a city and beaches tour, taking in the southern end of the Harbour Bridge, the fashionable Eastern Suburbs, and the South Heads of Port Jackson. On returning to the city, be entertained by a guided tour of the world-famous Opera House! Enjoy the area and busy atmosphere this Sunday afternoon exploring on your own.

(Overnight Sydney)

(B)

Day 11 (Monday, March 12) -

Following breakfast, meet with the Agribusiness Division of one of Australia's major banks to discuss the effects of market access and currency fluctuations as well as some of the fundamentals of the Australian economy. Next, a meeting at the ASX (Australian Stock Exchange) for an overview of the Australian market, especially commodities markets, futures and how Sydney has positioned itself within the Asia/Pacific region. A request will be made to hold a lunch meeting in NSW Parliament House as guests of the Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly. Invitations will be issued to relevant ministers representing trade and industry, rural and regional affairs, primary industries etc. to address the group (subject to availability). During the afternoon, a visit with the Grain Growers and the Australian Farm Institute. This evening, regroup to enjoy a spectacular farewell dinner cruise on the Sydney Harbor.

(Overnight Sydney)

(B, L, D)

Day 12 (Tuesday, March 13) -

Depart for the airport and your return flight home arriving earlier in the U.S. than you left Australia.

(B)