

Well, December was just so busy for all of us here at Northland "land" that we didn't even get a chance to say a **Happy Christmas** and have a **wonderful 2023**. Sodid you have a Happy Christmas? Is 2023 looking good for you? I hope so.



So what did we get up to then? Why were we so busy? Apart from the usual School End of year excursions, for me it started with our wonderful trip to **Tasmania**, then home for a couple of weeks and off to beautiful **Norfolk Island**, home for a day and then Alan & I flew off to the **United Kingdom** for a family wedding, back 3 days before Christmas and I came down with Covid Christmas Eve.

Alan says the highlight of his 2022 Christmas Day was having McDonald's chicken nuggets in the McDonald's South Grafton driveway!!!

So let's go back a notch to **Tasmania**. I took a boutique group of 17 travellers with me to **Tasmania**. We flew into **Hobart** and met our new driver Peter (from McDermotts Coaches) who was very much a Taswegian (!) through and through. Peter really bought the tour to life and showed us all lots of little extras here and there. My favourite places we visited on the tour was the **Cascade Female Factory** in Hobart where we had an actor portray many characters that inhabited the prison.



Another highlight for me was snow on **Cradle Mountain** and waking up in the morning to see the snow falling—magical! Oh and I couldn't forget the **Tulips at Table Cape**. My favourite city was **Hobart**. There was just something about it that made it feel so special.

Norfolk Island was just fabulous as per usual. We were fortunate enough to celebrate **Thanksgiving** on the Island. At **All Saints Church** all the locals bring to the Church their surplus fruit and vegetables so each end of the pew was

adorned with corn stalks loaded with corn. There were avocados, tomatoes, paw paws, carrots etc positioned down the aisle and flowers galore. There is a **Thanksgiving Church Service** there too and we enjoyed looking at the crowd through the produce. Then our Thanksgiving lunch was just amazing. Food so fresh and tasty. We were not as lucky when it came to the weather though as it rained and rained, was freezing cold and some days were slightly miserable but that's the luck of the draw. It didn't stop us from enjoying all our activities. Oh and did I mention the food at the **Fish Fry**. How is it that I don't normally go for fish but on Norfolk Island I go back for seconds! Just so fresh & tasty.



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Welcome Part 2

I arrived home from **Norfolk** on the Monday night and then early on Wednesday morning, Alan & I took off on our own adventure to the UK and what an adventure we had! We left **Australia** in 35 degree heat and arrived in **Heathrow** to -5! Fortunately I'd packed our big jackets in the top of our suitcases!



Alan's sisters' daughter (did you get that?) was getting married and what a wedding it was. The ceremony took place in an old Church in the English Countryside (with the obligatory Pub next door!). A magnificent old building but on the day of the wedding, the heaters packed it in and we all froze! It was a lovely day for Jaimie & Alex with the reception at an old Castle. A 10 piece swing band was bought in to entertain us, rehearsed dancing for the Father of the Bride & Jaimie, fireworks to music outside in the freezing cold and to top off the day, it started to snow in the evening.



I have always wanted to experience one White Christmas in my lifetime and I got a (pre) White Christmas. It was amazing. My mother in law told me that London would never snow at Christmas and she (kind of) scolded us for taking such warm jackets. Well, she was wrong and we were right!

I took Alan on an adventure including High Tea on a Double Decker Bus through London, High Tea at Fortnum & Mason, 5 West End Musical Productions, Tower of London, Churchill War Rooms, a day at Windsor Castle, a Sunday Roast in a Pub, London's fabulous Christmas Light displays, catchups with his sister in Richmond, numerous rides on Hop On Hop Off Bus and so much more. Alan said I walked his legs off and I loved every minute of it (without having to turn around & count that I had all my passengers—ha ha).



Arrived home, got sick, had Christmas and then we had our Hale Family Christmas a week later. Lovely to see the grandchildren interacting with each other.

In other family news, John & Alicia are moving back to Grafton with Amelia. At nearly 94, the time came for us girls to move our Dad (David) into a Nursing Home so Dad is now in Rathgar. It was pretty traumatic for everyone but I think he is now getting more settled and we can catch up with him more often and then.....our beautiful daughter (yes our baby girl) was pleasantly surprised when her partner Isaac got down on his knee and (finally) proposed to her. Just lovely....So here's to a (hopefully) great 2023 for everyone.....



So go grab that cup of something, find a comfy chair and time to read on.....

Janelle



Northland Travel Club Update

It's time for your 2023 renewals!

Attached with your Newsletter is a page which outlines the current details we have for you. Can you please check that all this information is correct especially your mobile number and email address.

If there are any changes needed to be made, you can make the changes and send the form back to me with your cheque. Take a photo of the changes and text it to me (0412 266 238). Email me the changes. You can always call me too.

Payment can be made via direct deposit but **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE** make sure your surname is put as the reference. If there is no name I will have no idea who has paid!

You can still sign up a friend for free this year. Conditions are they must be new to the Northland family and they will get 2023 membership for free.

All you need to do, is send us the following information and we will join them up on your behalf for 2023.

- We will need:-
- Their full name**
 - Their preferred name**
 - Street Address**
 - Postal Address**
 - Telephone number (home &/or mobile)**
 - Can they read a text message (yes or no)**
 - Email address**

Reminder

Member Fees

Now Due



↑ Tasmania—West Coast Wilderness Railway

Tasmania—Table Cape Tulip Farm →

↓ Angourie High Tea Christmas Day Trip



Do you have any Happy Snaps you'd like to share with your fellow Northland friends? Please feel free to send them to us.

We love seeing your holiday memories.

Where's Bryan? Just like Where's Wally

Bryan (like all of us) has had a very busy 2022 and late last year, decided that he and his partner Carole would like to have the first 3 months of 2023 off. Like all of us, they want to reconnect, go visit the **grandchildren**, spend some time **travelling** together (only the two of them!) and spend more time at home in their **garden**.

But, he will be around from time to time and will still continue to do our tour work and will pop into the office to help me with tour planning.

Hopefully after 3 months, he will come back on a part time basis, recharged and ready to go. I expect to see lots of leftover vegetables from his garden when he returns—share the love I say!

No, we can't deny **Bryan** the time off. He's done a great job working with us since 2007. His first tour he did with us was a complete rush job.

We had a tour planned back in **2007** to **North Queensland**. It was about 7 days prior to the tour and our regular **Tour Driver** called us up to say he couldn't do the tour and would have to pull out for various reasons. So here were **Alan & I** with a fully booked tour, food nearly all purchased, passengers with bags packed, me as Hostess ready to go and no Tour driver. After many frantic phone calls over the next couple of days, someone recommended this chap by the name of **Bryan Hindle**, said he was a "**good bloke**", "**had driven all over Australia for various companies**" and "**I think he may be able to help you out**".



Where it all started in 2007—Qld Tour

So, yes a call to **Bryan** (whoever this bloke was) and he said he'd come down the next day to see us. I don't think we had text or email back in those days so I think I quickly explained over the phone the outline of the tour.

He turns up at our depot in **New Street** and we go through the formalities of us, the **Coach**, what we expect etc. (Now here we are 2 days before the tour and Alan & I are sweating bullets like crazy that if he didn't like us or didn't want to go, we would have to cancel at the last minute and potentially lose a crazy amount of money on pre bookings as well as refunding our passengers). "**Yeah I can do that. I've bought all my stuff with me.**" Flips through the actual itinerary and says, "**There's no places here on the itinerary that I haven't been to so it's all good. See you Monday to start.**" Phew!

Monday arrives for the first day of the tour and normally I'm nervous anyway but this time around, I knew nothing about this person. Could he be a serial killer and no one has caught up with him yet? Will he treat the passengers ok? Can he drive? Will I have to



Longreach 2007

do all the commentary? Will he hate me? And all those panic dilemmas that go through my already stressed brain.

Well we survived and we survived very well. So well in fact that he came back and did more tours and more tours and then moved to **Grafton** without **Carole** at first. Then he did more tours and charters and she moved down and changed her job and the rest is history.

Bryan and I have had a marriage type arrangement in a lot of ways. He is my work husband as many people think that because we have spent so much time together that he must be my husband and me his wife. We (Alan, Bryan, Carole and I) all laugh about the work husband and wife relationship. We've argued, we've cried, we've

laughed until we are rolling on the floor uncontrollably with tears running down our cheeks, we've fumed, we've had husband / wife intuition together about people, places and situations. We've travelled numerous kilometres together (as has Bryan & Jan our previous hostess). He's been frustrated with me when I can't remember somewhere that"Janelle. Remember you go 50 kms down this road heading to a large tree. At the fork of the road, turn left, go past a bright painted letterbox, turn right and then a sharp left and you'll see it." I say, "But I don't remember all the roads. Remember Bryan half the time I'm either reading something, replying to a message, standing up with my back towards the front of the coach talking to someone or doing something else." Mind you, we could be talking about "this place" that we visited 10 years ago. And then sure enough, after all those crazy directions, there is "this place".



Promotional Photo after Northland won 2008 North Coast Local Business Award for Outstanding Tourism & Accommodation

His memory for roads, attractions and destinations is phenomenal. Alan and I have always said that Bryan is the only person in the world that we could say, without warning, that he has to travel to *Kick-a-tin-along* tomorrow and he would have it all prepared in his head by 6am the next morning. It's just all there! If only we could put some sort of cord out of his brain and into our computer!



Canberra Tour 2008
A few of us had been Hot Air Ballooning in Canberra so, while having morning tea on a clifftop overlooking the ocean, Bryan thought he'd try paragliding with the tablecloth!



Bryan & Carole
O'Reillys Rainforest 2009



Murray River Tour 2008

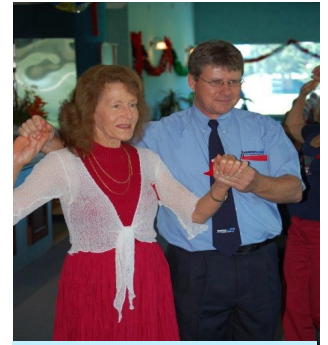
Thanks for the Memories



Canberra 2008
Role play at Old Parliament



Ballarat Begonia Festival 2008
What happens on tour.....



Travel Club Christmas Party
2008



The caption was "Bryan in a ladies bedroom"
with Shirley Greenland 2010



Circa 2008



Lightning Ridge Tour 2014
Joy, Bryan & Lola



Cape York 2014
"Working" hard with Jan Lewis



Christmas Tour 2011



Channel Country Tour 2015
"It's only a slight puncture Alan"

And there's more



Channel Country 2015
And no, we weren't driving. It was a set up!



Christmas in July 2018
"Research"!



Tasmania 2017
Bryan doesn't do WHITE STUFF



West Coast Tour 2018
With Chris Webb



Long Neck Sheep Tour 2019
Bryan & his mate!



Marvellous Mystery Tour 2019
Qld Parliament House High Tea

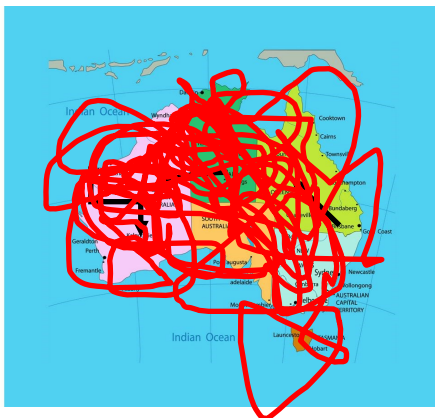
And there's more



Mungo National Park & Silo Art Tour 2021
Catchup with friends



Longreach Tour 2022
I have so many photo's of the back of Bryan's head!



A map showing where
Bryan has travelled in
Australia



Last photo.

This is a typical photo of Bryan. Sitting in the seat of the Coach either working in his Log Book, looking at a map or his notes for the next days' travels.

So to you Bryan

Alan & I can't thank you enough for all the bucket lists you have helped our passengers tick off. For all the safe miles. For all the memories - Thank you.

And it's not goodbye. It's just thanks for the full time work and now hurry up and come back for the part time work!

PS—Do you have any idea how much fun I had Bryan finding all these photo's? It bought back so many memories. I'll definitely have to write that book one day!

Where's Bryan? Just like Where's Wally

So what was **Bryan's** last 3 months like? I know he would have loved to have taken our **Tasmania Tour** and get the inside gossip from our driver Peter but I took dibs on that one !! Ha ha. Bryan stayed in the office and did our local charters while I was away in **Tasmania** and **Norfolk** and then on the day that we arrived back from the UK, he took our **Christmas Tour** to **Newcastle** away.

From all accounts, there was plenty of eating that took place on that tour! I ran into a fellow traveller who I had taken on Norfolk and he said "if you thought we ate well on Norfolk, we ate even more on the **Christmas tour!**". It's all about the food!



Some Post Christmas Thoughts.....

I discovered, after Christmas, my stomach is FLAT! The L is just silent.....

*I'm also recovering from an addiction to chocolate, nuts & marshmallows.
It's a very rocky road*

My goal in 2023 is to accomplish the goals I set in 2022, which I should have done in 2021, because I made a promise in 2020, which I planned in 2019!

Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race & changes you forever. We call these people the Police!



DAY TOURS IN 2023

For our Day Trips, we will continue to send out text messages to those who are able to read texts with updates about the next Day Tour. If you are not text savvy, please give our office a call when the dates are coming up to get all the information. *If you don't get our text messages, please give the office a call.*

We are still working on the dates

Bookings are essential. Payment will be made on the day in an envelope with your name on it unless otherwise advised.

Date	Event
Monday 6 March 2023	<p>A Mystery Day Trip.</p> <p>Put the date in your diary and we'll keep you posted in the New Year with more (kind of) details.</p>
Tuesday 4 April 2023	<p>A Mystery Day Trip—Yep it's another one!</p> <p>Put the date in your diary and we'll keep you posted in the New Year with more (kind of) details.</p>
Wednesday 3 May 2023	<p>A Mystery Day Trip—and yet again!</p> <p>If we keep them Mystery Trips then we keep all of us guessing! Seriously though, we are working on them and will let you know rough destinations as the dates approach!</p>



Future Day Trip

Leave Grafton mid morning, travel to Coffs Harbour Nursery (the newly refurbished one), have lunch own expense in the Café, shop in the Nursery and travel home. Just a nice little quick day out. Interested? Please let me know and I'll put a date on it.

Felt uncomfortable driving into the cemetery. The gps blurted out you have reached your final destination.

Don't complain about your research project. This was my google.





SOMETHING TO MAKE US LAUGH!

Due to inflation and food price increases the 5 second rule has been extended to 10 seconds

A little boy opened up the big family Bible....He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked it up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed between the pages. "Mum, look what I found", the boy called out. "What have you there dear?" With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

**EAT THE DAM CHOCOLATE CAKE
WALK IN THE RAIN AND SPLASH IN THE PUDDLES
RIDE WITH THE WINDOWS DOWN.
DANCE
SING
TALK TO STRANGERS
SMILE AT EVERYONE
HUG SOMEONE
GO BAREFOOT
TAKE NAPS
MAKE LOTS OF LOVE
TRY NEW THINGS
SPEND TIME WITH THE KIDS
LAUGH EVERY CHANCE YOU GET
HELP OTHERS**

Happiness is not always getting what you want. Happiness is also enjoying what you have.

Handy Laugh

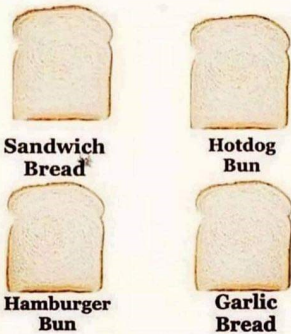
"Just cleared out some space in the freezer" sounds so much more productive than "I just polished off another pint of ice cream."

Middle Age in a Nutshell

1. "Who cares if it looks good? I'm comfortable."
2. "Has anyone seen my phone?"
3. "The scale... that cannot be right!"
4. "Did I already take my vitamin?"
5. "Huh, I wonder how I got this bruise..."
6. "Why is the print on these instructions so tiny?"
7. "\$5 for a box of cereal? They raised the price and shrunk the box... such a racket!"
8. "Software update again? I don't like updates."
9. "Who in the world is calling me at 9:30pm?"
10. "Sorry, I forgot what I was going to say."
11. "Wait! What did I come in here for?"
12. "I could've sworn that was my password!"



Growing up poor



The struggle was real.

REMEMBER MESSING UP ON THE LAST NUMBER, AND HAVING TO START ALL OVER AGAIN



**1. GOING TO BED EARLY
2. NOT LEAVING MY HOUSE.
3. NOT GOING TO A PARTY.
MY CHILDHOOD PUNISHMENTS HAVE BECOME MY ADULT GOALS**

Don't worry about getting old, worry about thinking old.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

Yep! On 13 January 2023 Alan and I celebrated 23 years of being in business. We are pretty darn proud of ourselves especially seeing what we've been through over the years.



We celebrated with a lovely lunch in Yamba overlooking the water. The simple things in life!

And to think one of our friends said, "If you get to 7 years in business, you're doing good." Wonder if he would be eating his words now!!! Ha ha.

Here's cheers to Northland!



Do you have any friends or relatives who are looking for a Farmstay in Grafton? Maybe they want to visit you in Grafton but you don't have the room in your home to accommodate them.

Our son Mitchell & his wife Rachael have set up their Mooey's Farm property as 3 Steers Farmstay. All bookings go through Airbnb. Just google

**Airbnb 3 Steers Farmstay Spacious 4 bedroom home
Or
www.themooeysgroup.com.au**

Located in Braunstone it's close to Grafton but far enough away.

Please help spread the word. Farm tours available too.

ITALY

FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER TO SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2023

Is Italy on your Bucket List?

Do you want to go to Italy but you don't necessarily want to travel by yourself?

Do you love Gelato?

Do you love Spaghetti?

Do you love Red Wine?

(No neither do I but over there all the wines tastes different and it's nicer)

Do you just want an Adventure?

If you answered **yes** to any of the questions or you are just plain curious, read on.

In **September 2023** I will be travelling to **Italy** and I want to take 10 new best friends with me.

I've travelled to **Italy** on two previous occasions and this tour that we will be joining has 7 of my favourite places in **Italy** included.

CastelBrando is one of the largest and oldest castles in Europe. It overlooks the hills of Prosecco and is halfway between **Venice** and the **Dolomites**. It's a national historical monument and has over 2000 years of history.

It is a 4 star Hotel and has very elegant rooms. I've stayed there and it's the kind of venue you just want to spend time exploring. There's rooms upon rooms. Long corridors where suits of armour adorn the walls. Cobblestone pathways surround the buildings. And the views from your windows are amazing. I slept all night (*in the middle of winter*) with my window open just so I could watch the snow falling. Crazy yes. An experience yes. Would I do it again—**ABSOLUTELY**.

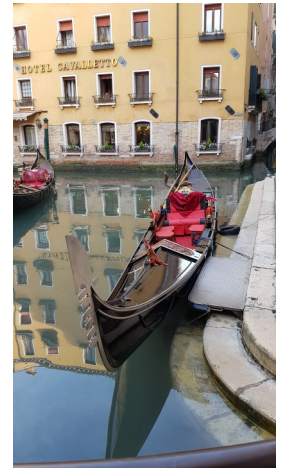
There's an indoor spa pool room which is just another fantastic experience full of old world charm. Walking on years' old terracotta tiles through long corridors and then this oasis opens up to reveal the pool area. I even had a massage treatment by a lady who I am sure her name was "**Helga**".

Venice—It's dirty, it's crowded and it's sometimes smelly but I love it. You can't go to **Venice** and not experience a ride through the canals on a **Gondola**. Sometimes the Gondoliers sing and their voices echo through walls of the buildings. You just sit back and relax and take in all the old world charm that the walls of Venice have to offer. I've even been on a Gondola ride to celebrate my



CastelBrando perched high up on the Hilltop. We got to the top via a funicular. Amazing views.

Venice. It's very surreal floating through the township on a Gondola, especially when they sing to you!



Ahhh **Spa-get!** Del-ish-io!

I've never tasted the most flavoursome Spaghetti since.

ITALY

FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER TO SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2023

birthday. Imagine having **Happy Birthday** sung to you by not only your fellow boat companions but others on their boats joined in too. I'll never forget that moment.

Venice is also great for **Shopping**. Those narrow alleyways are lined with not only name brand shops but also little boutique shops where you can purchase anything from a brand new **Ferrari** to a **Pandora Bracelet** (yes, that's where it all started for me!), a **scarf** or just find a café and sit down and eat the most delicious, authentic **Pizza**.

Florence is another amazing city to visit. The architecture is unbelievable. Seeing the **Statue of David** up close and I mean, really up close and personal is just an experience. (no not for that reason but there are all these things as child you hear about but never expect to see). Oh and **Florence** is great for shopping. I've bought a red leather jacket and some great handbags there.

Lucca is another fantastic city. Last time I was there I went to the Opera as Lucca is home to **Puccini** whose most famous Opera is **Madame Butterfly**. Now that was a "pinch me" moment. The city of **Lucca** is lined with a wall around it and a favourite pastime of locals and visitors alike is to walk around the city taking in the views. The sunsets are just amazing from up there. Every building has a story, every street is something different.

The **Leaning Tower of Pisa**. Yes I have climbed all the way up to the top of the Tower and the views are outstanding. I was on a high for days afterward as it was again a pinch me moment. They say the Tower is starting to lean straight ever so slightly these days. Who knows! The Church is a must see as are the market stalls that surround the Tower.

San Gimignano is a cobblestone city full of surprises. It's a place where you can just sit in the centre of town and people watch. People do actually have bags full of bread sticks and cheese with delicious locally sold meats. The stall holders encourage you to try their produce before you buy.

Rome, well it's not my favourite city in the world but it's one you have to see when you go to Italy. I remember standing in the Colosseum looking at all the intricate buildings and thinking—wow—what foresight those early engineers had. You do get goosebumps when you think about what actually took place there but it's a must see. As is throwing a coin in the **Trevi Fountain** just like Gidget did all those years ago in the movies.

Plus our tour includes a whole lot more.....I'd love to take you with me.



Gelato—you must try it. It tastes so "Italian!"



Standing near the **Statue of David**. You CAN get up real close to it. The workmanship and detail is just so amazing.

The Leaning Tower of Pisa. There are plenty of steps to get to the top but it is so worth it and yes I took **THAT** photo of me trying to push the tower straight!



The Colosseum in Rome is a must do. Just amazing to see

The Trevi Fountain in Rome where you throw a coin into the fountain.





ITALY

FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER TO SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2023



**Day 1 - Thursday 31 August
Brisbane to Milan - Via Singapore**

Welcome aboard our exciting Italian Grande Adventure!

After our pickups on the North Coast, we will travel up to Brisbane where we depart from Brisbane Airport aboard Singapore Airlines flights to Milan, Italy via Singapore.

**Day 2 Saturday 2 September
Arrive Milan, Italy**

On arrival in Milan, we will be met by our local representative and transferred by coach to our hotel located on the outskirts of Milan. The rest of the day is at leisure so plenty of time to rest up before joining our tour tomorrow. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

**Day 3 Sunday 3 September
Milan to Stresa**

This morning we will be collected from our hotel and transferred by coach to the departure point of our tour, Milan. From here we will travel to Stresa on wonderful Lake Maggiore, where you will stay for the next four nights. Join us tonight for a welcome drink before dinner. This is an ideal chance to meet and get to your know your Tour Manager and fellow travellers.

**Day 4 Monday 4 September
Villa Carlotta and Lake Como cruise**

This morning we drive to the town of Como and follow the shore of the lake to Tremezzo where we visit the world famous Villa Carlotta. This wonderful Villa is set in 70,000 square metres of romantic Italianate Gardens and faces across Lake Como to the Bellagio peninsula. The classic gardens boast fountains and pergolas and in spring time is famous for its rhododendrons and azaleas. Later we board our private boat and enjoy a cruise on Lake Como past a number of striking lakeside villas to delightful Bellagio. This beautiful town is situated at the tip of the peninsula separating the lake's two southern arms with the Alps visible across the lake to the north. It's time to relax in this delightful town which boasts peaceful Villas and gardens nestled by the lakeside, elegant shops and walkways plus stylish al

fresco dining at its very best. Later we return to Stresa. Dinner tonight is included in a local restaurant.

**Day 5 Tuesday 5 September
Macugnaga and lakeside Orta San Giulio**

There is nothing like a day in the mountains especially amongst some of the highest and most dramatic in the Alps! Following a deep valley we soon reach the mountain village of Macugnaga, close to the Swiss border. Used as a location in many films, the village is famous for its beautifully preserved wooden huts and chalets and the stunning backdrop of the Monte Rose (Pink) Massif and the 4638 metres high Dufourspitze - Europe's second highest mountain. Your time is at leisure to explore the village and surroundings and perhaps take a mountain cable car ride (subject to operating) to enjoy lunch and the extraordinary views. Later today we also visit the delightful town of Orta San Giulio beside the beautiful and some say, most romantic of all the lakes - Lake Orta. Your evening is at leisure in Stresa.

**Day 6 - Wednesday 6 September
Islands of Lake Maggiore**

Boarding our private boat we visit the famous islands of Lake Maggiore. First stop will be Isola Bella where we have included entrance and a guided tour of the palatial Borromeo villa and gardens which dominate the island. The villa boasts Murano glass chandeliers, goblin covered chairs, intricate tapestries and paintings. The spectacular formal gardens rise behind the ornate villa with patterned flower beds falling in terraces with statues and ornamental stonework completing the Italianate style. Next we visit Isola Pescatori (the Fisherman's Island). Lunchtime is at leisure on this small, picturesque island with its quaint cafes and restaurants set amongst the old houses with wooden balconies, tiny boats and fishing nets. The afternoon and evening are at leisure in delightful, lakeside Stresa.

**Day 7 - Thursday 7 September
Lake Garda & CastelBrando**

Bidding farewell to Lake Maggiore we drive east and arrive at Lake Garda late morning. This is the largest of the Italian lakes with a circumference of approximately 100 kilometres. It is surrounded by lemon and citrus groves and is the meeting point of three Italian regions. There will be time at leisure for lunch in one of the colourful and diverse lakeside towns. You stay in the foothills of the Dolomites in the superb CastelBrando for the next two evocative nights.

**Day 8 - Friday 8 September
Venice sightseeing and "My Time"**

After a leisurely start we visit nearby 'Venezia' (Venice) which, arguably is one of the most romantic cities in the world. At Tronchetto we board a private boat to take us to St Mark's Square where we join our expert local guide for a walking tour. The rest of the day is free to meander through the myriad of narrow water lined streets and alleys, spanned by humped back bridges.

**Day 9 - Saturday 9 September
Montecatini Terme in Tuscany**

A leisurely start today as we travel south to Tuscany. We arrive in the charming spa town of Montecatini Terme mid afternoon. This was once a favourite "cure resort" of the crowned heads of state from all over Europe. We stay here for the next five nights in a traditional family run, 4 star hotel which is close to the major sights. As a highlight, this evening we drive into the picturesque Tuscan countryside where we have arranged dinner at a local olive oil farmhouse estate.

**Day 10 - Sunday 10 September
Florence sightseeing and "My Time"**

Today is dedicated to nearby "Firenze" (Florence). We are joined by a local guide who will bring to life this truly beautiful city which is otherwise known as the 'Cradle of the Renaissance'. Your tour starts with a



ITALY



visit to the famous Accademia Gallery, home to Michelangelo's 'David' and numerous other extraordinary Italian, Florentine and Renaissance works of art. We see the Duomo and take in the magnificent statues in the Piazza della Signoria. Your afternoon is entirely free to enjoy Florence at your own pace. Espresso coffee on Piazza Santa Croce where Michelangelo is buried? A gelato whilst strolling across the Ponte Vecchio? Don't forget the excellent shopping.

Day 11 - Monday 11 September Medieval Lucca, Pisa and Olive Oil tasting in a local farmhouse

Our first stop today is in one of the most typically 'Tuscan' towns in the area, Lucca. A medieval walled city, filled with palaces, churches, ancient houses and the former home of Puccini, where he wrote Turandot. Walk on top of the city walls for the very best city views or visit Piazza San Michele and stroll along the sloops of Borgo Giannotti. Later we visit Pisa with its famous Leaning Tower, Cathedral and Baptistery in the magnificent Piazza dei Miracoli. This afternoon we visit a local farmhouse to enjoy an olive oil tasting accompanied by Tuscan wines and a selection of antipasto including local meats, cheese and bread, all specialities of this region.

Day 12 - Tuesday 12 September Cinque Terre sightseeing

A delightful day is planned as we explore the famous Cinque Terre. The name means 'five lands' and comes from the five unspoilt fishing villages that cling to the cliffs, overlooking the sea. We have arranged a coastal boat ride for you to admire the spectacular scenery and almost inaccessible fishing villages and to visit Portovenere and Monterosso. Our return journey to Levanto to meet our coach is by train.

Day 13 - Wednesday 13 September 'My Time' in Tuscany

The whole of today has been purposely left entirely at leisure. This is a perfect opportunity for you to do as little or as much as you want! Maybe take the local train back to the museums and shops of

Florence. Alternatively explore Montecatini's old centre and parklands or pamper yourself in one of the spas. Perhaps just relax in your hotel or sip wine in a café and watch the world go by.

Day 14 - Thursday 14 September San Gimignano, Siena and Spoleto

We make the short drive across Tuscany to the fairytale 'town of towers' San Gimignano, famous for its 13th and 14th century Tuscan towers. Exploring the pedestrian walkways of this hilltop town is an absolute delight. Lunchtime will be at leisure in the beautifully preserved streets of medieval Siena amongst the great sights such as the gothic town hall and the Piazza del Campo, scene of the famous Palio horse race. Next we wind up to the hills of Umbria and the wonderful walled town of Spoleto where we stay for the next two nights. Medieval Spoleto is easily explored on foot. There are numerous Romanesque churches and cobblestoned alleyways lined with shops, bars and trattorias.

Day 15 - Friday 15 September Assisi sightseeing and 'My Time' in Spoleto

We spend this morning in the nearby beautiful Umbrian city of Assisi. Badly damaged by earthquakes in 1997, the city dominated by two medieval castles undertook a remarkable program of restoration which soon brought it back to all its glory. On arrival in Assisi we are joined by a local guide for a tour of the Basilica of St Francis with its magnificent frescoes. Afterwards there is time for you to explore Assisi at your own pace. Returning to Spoleto, the rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Perhaps take a leisurely walk along the path around the castle and across the medieval viaduct into the Umbrian countryside. This is the real Italy!

Day 16 - Saturday 16 September Ancient Pompeii and the Amalfi Coast

Driving south past Vesuvius we visit the ancient ruins of Pompeii where a local guide takes us through the city that was buried under volcanic ash in AD 79. Paintings, furniture, mosaics, sculptures, graffiti and even loaves in ovens are wonderfully preserved. From here it's only a short drive to the Amalfi coast and the port towns of Minori and Maiori, where we stay for the next three nights. A perfect base for visiting all the local sights and soaking up the unique atmosphere of the Amalfi Coast!

Day 17 - Sunday 17 September Ferry ride along the Amalfi Coast to the island of Capri

Enjoy your day as we take you on the ferry along the Amalfi coast and across to Marina Grande on the island of Capri which the Roman emperor Tiberius made his capital. On arrival we meet our local guide and board a bus which takes us up to the top of the island to explore the charming village of Anacapri. In the main town, Capri, we visit the Giardino d'Augusto overlooking the Faraglioni before 'My Time' amongst the boutiques and galleries. Your evening is at leisure in Minori.

Day 18 - Monday 18 September Amalfi Coast cruise to Amalfi and Ravello

The Amalfi coast is famous for its twisting, winding scenic drive with picturesque villages and towns hugging the cliffs and craggy coves. This morning we cruise from Minori along the dramatic coastline and spend time exploring Amalfi. Your afternoon is at leisure in Minori. Early evening we will drive up to perhaps one of the most scenic towns along the Amalfi Coast, Ravello. Perched on the mountain, commanding views across the coast, Ravello is evocatively described as being "nearer to the sky than it is to the sea" and has been a favourite haunt of artists and composers for centuries. You will have free time to savour the breath taking views, enjoy an aperitivo



ITALY



overlooking the piazza and explore the medieval streets of this enchanting village to discover a local trattoria for dinner.

Day 19 - Tuesday 19 September Rome and the mighty Colosseum

Arriving in the 'Eternal City' of Rome we drive right into the heart of the ancient empire, past ancient buildings, magnificent squares and monuments, to enjoy a visit to the mighty Colosseum. Later we check into our central Rome Hotel. Our finale will be a special farewell dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 20 - Wednesday 20 September Rome

Our official tour terminates today but we still have a little bit more to do in Italy! After breakfast we will have a leisurely day to take in the wonders of this wonderful and historic city. You may like to visit the Vatican, return to the Colosseum, walk the streets, shop, rest or just sit in a café and take in all the sights and sounds of Rome!

Day 21 - Thursday 21 September Roman Castle Countryside

No visit to Rome is complete without a charming trip to the lavish hill towns of the Castelli Romani. A delightful 45 minutes drive from Rome takes us into the Roman Hills area, to enjoy the pleasant scenery of vineyards, hills, valleys and lakes. Southeast of Rome, this area is mainly known as the "Roman Castles" area, once the summer residence of Roman noblemen and later by the Popes. We pass through Castelgandolfo village to see the Palace which, during the summer season, becomes the residence of the Pope. The church of San Tommaso and the fountain in front of it were designed by G.L. Bernini. On to Nemi, perhaps the smallest of the Castelli Romani, is located upon a precipice of lake Nemi.

Continue on to Frascati, the largest city in the area and famous for its dry white wine.

Day 22 Friday 22 September Return Home to Australia

After breakfast this morning we will be transferred from the hotel to Rome Fiumicino Airport to connect with our

Singapore Airlines flights home, via Singapore.

Day 23 - Saturday 23 September Singapore to Brisbane

Upon arrival in Brisbane, our Northland Coach depending on flight times, we will either transfer to a local Brisbane Motel or commence our homeward journey to our North Coast Homes. (actual times not available at time of Newsletter).

Approximate cost per person
Twin share \$15,500.00 includes

- return Coach travel to and from Brisbane International Airport
- Economy flights
- Local transfers Milan
- Accommodation pre & post tour Milan & Rome

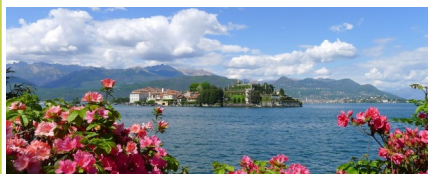
Single supplement available upon request.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO TO ITALY WITH JANELLE, WE NEED TO KNOW BY END OF JANUARY AS BOOKINGS WON'T LAST ON THE ACTUAL TOUR.

A \$2,000.00 deposit per person is required at time of booking.

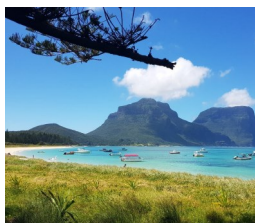
Balance due TBC approx. mid July 2023

Flight upgrades available upon request. Cost TBA



8 DAY LORD HOWE ISLAND

WEDNESDAY 11 TO WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2023



Day 1 — Wednesday 11 October Home to Sydney D

Welcome to our exciting holiday to the stunning Lord Howe Island. We travel by coach to **Coffs Harbour** for our flight to **Sydney** today, ready for our morning flight tomorrow to Lord Howe. Tonight, dinner will be in the hotel restaurant.
Ibis Sydney Airport | 02 8339 8500|

Day 2 — Thursday 12 September Sydney to Lord Howe Island B D

We are transferred to the Sydney airport today for our morning flight to the **World Heritage listed Lord Howe Island**. On arrival we are met by our local host at the airport and transferred to our accommodation. Our welcome dinner will be enjoyed at the **Bowling Club**.

Blue Lagoon Lodge, Lord Howe Island | 02 6563 2006 | 6 nights

Day 3 — Friday 13 October Lord Howe Island B D

We are collected from breakfast for our **Chase 'N' Thyme Half Day Island Tour**. This tour gives a fascinating insight into the flora, fauna and unique island way of life. We learn about the history from early settlement until now and are also invited in to the **home of a local for morning tea**. Our tour includes an explanation of every venue on the island including the waste and recycling centre (which is more interesting than you may imagine!). Tonight, we are off to **Driftwood Restaurant**, our hosts for dinner.

Day 4 — Saturday 14 October Lord Howe Island B D

Today we will take the opportunity to do our **Around Island Cruise**. The cruise takes us close to the stunning vertical cliffs of Mt Gower and Mount Lidgbird. We can spot Ball's Pyramid in the distance on our way around the island. Cruise past the Admiralty Isles, see the arch, the Gulch and the Herring Pools. Bird life is in abundance on the island and it's a great opportunity to see some of them, such as the red-tailed tropic bird,

masked boobies, sooty terns and common noddies that nest on the cliffs and outer islands. After our spectacular day we enjoy dinner tonight at the **Golf Club**.

Day 5 — Sunday 15 October Lord Howe Island B L D

We have a **"Big Day Out"** planned today as our Marine Adventures team will take us on an in-depth tour of the **North Bay** of the island. Here we can view the large variety of fish, turtles, stingrays and incredible coral. The islands history of marine life will be portrayed with the relaxed commentary through the eyes of a sixth-generation islander before an opportunity to snorkel in the waters with some of the best visibility available. Bring your bathers, walking shoes and a hat as the day could include anything and everything! We can choose our own pace today. *(Snorkeling gear and wetsuits are available on the boat).*

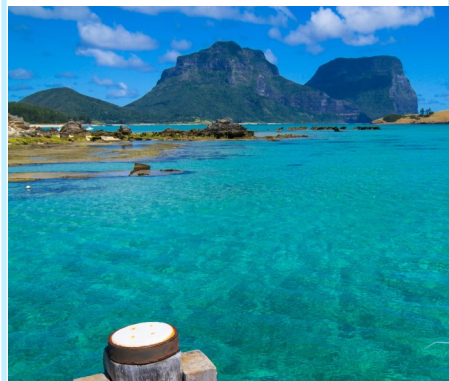
Day 6 — Monday 16 October Lord Howe Island B L D

We start the day on a guided environmental tour. We'll be kept informed as we wander through unique forest and listen to some interesting tales on our way. On our tour, we may also encounter the Lord Howe Island Woodhen, a brown flightless bird. After being almost extinct in the 1970s the island created a successful breeding program and now has a stable population. Lunch today is at the **Coral Café**. After lunch, in the **Museum**, we will be given a lecture by **Ian Hutton**. Ian is the curator of the museum and a passionate environmentalist, saying "living on Lord Howe Island is like living inside a David Attenborough documentary". He is involved in scientific fieldwork on projects as diverse as seabird ecology, rare plant surveys, snail surveys and climate change monitoring.

Day 7 — Tuesday 17 October Lord Howe Island B D

We have a relaxed start to the day and can enjoy some free time this morning. This afternoon we will be visiting the North Eastern section of the Island at **Neds Beach** where we have the opportunity to feed the fish (weather permitting). There are several species of fish that live in the waters at Neds Beach. You can expect to see silver drummers, wrasse, mullets, kingfish, garfish and even the spangled emperor. It's a real

frenzy of placid, but hungry, fish. Tonight's dinner is at the **Anchorage Restaurant**.



Day 8 — Wednesday 18 October Lord Howe Island to Home B

With our bags packed full of memories, we farewell Lord Howe Island. It's easy to see why this is such a special place to visit with its relaxed atmosphere, beautiful scenery and friendly locals. We board our flight back to Coffs Harbour and travel home after a relaxing holiday away.

Travel Club Members	\$4,985.00
Non Members	\$5,185.00
Single Supplement	\$1,015.00

Deposit of \$500.00 is required at the time of booking with balance due on or before 4 August 2023.

Cancellation provisions apply contact our office for full details. Itinerary subject to change without notice. Minimum numbers apply.

3 DAY RIVERBOAT POSTMAN CRUISE

MONDAY 20 TO WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2023

Enjoy the magnificent scenery of the lower Hawkesbury River as they deliver mail to the isolated settlements dotted along the waterways. Be captivated by anecdotes of river life and experience a tradition that still continues to this day!



Day 1 — Monday 20 March Home to Gosford DL

Welcome to our 3 day getaway with Northland Coach and Travel. Our destination today is Gosford, the major commercial and administrative centre of the Central Coast. After departing Grafton and picking up our passengers, relax as we travel south. We will be stopping for morning tea and then stop for lunch at the Royal Hotel in Kew. This afternoon, we settle into our accommodation for the next 2 nights.

Accommodation:- Gosford Resort and Conference Centre . 02 4328 4666

Day 2 — Tuesday 21 March Riverboat Postman BLD

This morning we take a short drive to Brooklyn to join the Riverboat Postman. We hop on board and enjoy the magnificent scenery of the lower Hawkesbury River as we deliver the mail and other essentials to the river-access-only settlements upriver from Brooklyn. Known as one of Australia's greatest scenic waterways, with its historical isolated communities, the Riverboat Postman has been servicing

the region for over a century. Relax and enjoy the tranquil scenery of sandy beach coves and fiord like inlets while listening to the lively commentary from the Skipper as we make our all-important deliveries. Includes morning tea and lunch on board.

Back on dry land, we head back to Gosford to visit the Gosford Regional Gallery & Edogawa Commemorative Garden. The gallery hosts a diverse program of local, national and international exhibitions and regularly showcases a variety of styles in visual art, photography, sculpture and design. The garden is based on a traditional 'shuyu' (strolling style) garden, incorporating Japanese features. With meandering pathways, a roofed Japanese pavilion overlooking the Koi pond, raked dry stone garden and traditional Japanese teahouse, the garden offers a tranquil setting in which to relax and enjoy art and nature.

We then return to our hotel with time to freshen up before dinner.

Accommodation:- Gosford Resort and Conference Centre . 02 4328 4666

Day 3 Wednesday 22 March Gosford to Home BL

It's just what we all needed, a 3 day trip away with friends. Following check out we head for home stopping for morning tea along the way. Then we will stop for lunch at Ricardoes Tomatoes & Strawberries. Located just north of Port Macquarie, Ricardoes Tomatoes & Strawberries really taste the way nature intended. The Sarks brothers who own the farm, work hard to ensure that all the tomatoes & strawberries are given extra special care during the growing process. This is essential to achieve year round production

and to offer the best quality fruit. State of the art computerised technology controls two acres of greenhouses which produces high quality hydroponically grown Tomatoes & Strawberries.

Ricardoes pride themselves on being an environmentally friendly farm. They boast 5 varieties of hydroponic strawberries, with over 30,000 plants growing in their greenhouse which is in addition to the 8 varieties of tomatoes they grow.

There will also be time to browse for those who may want to purchase some supplies to take home!

We arrive back in Grafton this afternoon with many wonderful memories, ready to plan the next trip.

Travel Club Members	\$725.00
Non Members	\$755.00
Single Supplement	\$175.00

Deposit of \$200.00 is required at the time of booking with balance due on or before 22 February 2023.

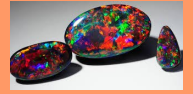
Cancellation provisions apply contact our office for full details. Itinerary subject to change without notice. Minimum numbers apply.





8 DAY LIGHTNING RIDGE TOUR

THURSDAY 4 MAY TO THURSDAY 11 MAY 2023



Lightning Ridge is located on the world's richest deposit of black opal. It's a place that abounds with colourful characters, barrels of dreams, opportunities and experiences! The 'Ridge', as it is known to the locals, welcomes visitors with classic country hospitality - but they are a unique bunch out there and pride themselves on a wonderful sense of eccentricity. Famous for the elusive and distinctive Black Opal which is unique to the area, Lightning Ridge is also famous as a thriving frontier town, full of the iconic Australian characters that remind the traveller that the Australian spirit is not a thing of folklore. That is the exact qualities that makes the 'Ridge' so unique.

Day 1 GRAFTON TO MOREE Thursday 04 May 2023 (LD)

Welcome to our tour to **Lightning Ridge**, the only place in Australia (and one of the few places in the world) where the precious and highly prized **black opal** is found. The black opal has carbon and iron oxide trace elements in it producing a very dark stone with hints of blue, green and red. Sit back and enjoy the views as we head west to **Inverell** where we stop for lunch at the **Inverell RSM Club**. This afternoon we travel to Moree which is the centre of a rich pastoral region and a district. It is also well known for its artesian bore baths, which are used by people from far and wide and renowned for relieving rheumatic and other muscular complaints. (Bring your cossies) **Artesian Spa Motor Inn, Moree** | 02 6752 2466

Day 2 MOREE TO LIGHTNING RIDGE Friday 05 May 2023 (BLD)

Following breakfast, we make our way through to **Lightning Ridge**. Upon arrival we have **lunch** at the **Outback Resort** then collect our **local guide** for a **tour** of town. With its stark and scarred landscape, this town has a peculiar fascination for visitors. During our tour we'll view an **open cut mine**, see the **Bore Baths** and **Coopers Cottage**. This authentic miner's camp was built in 1916 and is a genuine historical display of early pioneer living. After our wonderful day we check into our accommodation - home base for the next three nights. **Lightning Ridge Outback Resort** | 02 6829 0304 |

Day 3 LIGHTNING RIDGE Saturday 06 May 2023 (BD)

After breakfast we head to the **Open Mine adventures** to experience the atmosphere of an underground mine. We also have a tour including a video presentation and explanation about opal mining. We then visit the showroom to view the opals that came from the mines in this area. Next is a visit to the **John Murray Art Gallery**, well worth a visit. John has been kept busy adding to his mural on the outside wall of the Gallery, affectionately named "Billygoat Lane" (in reference to its original name). We now have some free time for lunch (own

expense) before an afternoon visit to the **Chambers of the Black Hand**. Opened in April, 2007, this is a unique tourist mine. At 11.2m underground, local artist Ron Canlin has created the most amazing paintings and sculptures. There is The Last Supper, Archangel Gabriel and the Chinese Terracotta Warriors. The second level is a mine that has been worked for over 100 years and all the old shafts and drives that were dug by the old timers are still there. On this level a geology tour will give us the different strata's opal formation - an experience not to be missed. Overall, it is a very unique visit. Our last stop for the day is to **Amigos Castle**, a huge Italian Style Castle built by one man from ironstone. We'll take a look around then return to our motel.

Day 4 THE GRAWIN Sunday 07 May 2023 (BLD)

No trip to Lightning Ridge would be complete without a trip to **The Grawin** **. We'll see interesting places like **The Pub in the Scrub**, **The Glengarry Hilton** and **Sheepyard Flats**. Located about 70km west of Lightning Ridge, The Grawin was established in 1908 with the discovery of the opal at "Hammond Hill". Further discoveries in 1920 at "Richards Hill" put the unofficial village on the map. It was at Grawin that the largest opal 'Light of the World' was found in 1928. Since the first discovery of opal in the region people have come and gone in tides with each new strike seeking their fortune in search of the rainbow in the rock. It is believed that a field at Grawin was discovered in 1905 but it wasn't until the 1970s that it became a major field in its own right. A **local guide** will join us on our day's tour and **lunch** is enjoyed at the **Glengarry Hilton**. After a great day we head back to Lightning Ridge. **** Please Note: Today's Touring depends on local weather and road conditions****

Day 5 LIGHTNING RIDGE TO BOURKE Monday 08 May 2023 (BLD)

Today make our way through to another unique outback township. Once a major nineteenth century river port and trading post, **Bourke** is an inviting outback town set on the **Darling River**. On arrival we enjoy lunch at the **Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre** with time to discover the stories of early exploration, farmers to Afghan cameleers and more. This afternoon we board the **PV Jandra**. We cruise along the peaceful waters taking in the serenity, as we recapture the romance of the old-river steamer. **Darling River Motel, Bourke** | 02 6872 2288 |

Day 6 BOURKE TO DUBBO Tuesday 09 May 2023 (BLD)

We express to Brewarrina to visit the **Brewarrina fish traps** that are estimated to be over 40,000 years old and one of the oldest man-made structures on earth. The elaborate network of rock weirs and pools stretches for around half a kilometre along the riverbed and was built by ancient tribes to catch fish as the swap upstream. We experience a **Dreamtime** story told by **Aboriginal elders**, watch how the local aboriginal children still catch their fish the traditional way and engage with the history with our local guide. We stop for lunch at the **Walgett RSL Memorial Club** before continuing onto **Dubbo**. **Dubbo RSL Club Motel** | 02 6882 4411 |

Day 7 DUBBO TO TAMWORTH Wednesday 10 May 2023 (BD)

Up and out early today to meet up with a few locals. **Dubbo** has one of NSW's most unique tourist attractions - the world renowned **Taronga Western Plains Zoo** offering clear views of over 800 animals from around the world in settings closely resembling their natural habitats. After our tour we head through **Gilgandra** and **Coonabarabran** and on to **Tamworth** for our last night on tour. **Ibis Styles Tamworth Towers** | 02 6765 8361 |

Day 8 TAMWORTH TO HOME Thursday 11 May 2023 (BL)

The outback of **Australia** is truly memorable. With our bags packed with wonderful memories we make our way to **Glen Innes** where we stop for lunch at the RSL Club for lunch. We arrive home early afternoon after 8 days away discovering outback Australia with friends.

If this tour is of interest to you, please give us a call or message us with your Expression of Interest. Final details will be available soon.



Travel Club Members	\$TBC
Non Members	\$TBC
Single Supplement	\$TBC



6 DAY CHRISTMAS IN JULY

MONDAY 3 JULY TO SATURDAY 8 JULY 2023

Immerse yourself in the awesome beauty of the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains, one of the most spectacular regions of Australia. Be swept away by dramatic views over deep valley troughs gouged out over millions of years, be awed by impressive limestone caves and experience wonders you won't see anywhere else in the country!

Day 1—Monday 3 July 2023

Home to Nelson Bay (LD)

Rug up in your winter woollies and enjoy the magic of **Yulefest in the magnificent Blue Mountains** where we celebrate a traditional 'Northern Hemisphere' Christmas. Today is a travel day so sit back and enjoy the ride with your fellow Northland Coach travellers. We will stop enroute for rest breaks and lunch at **Ricardoes Tomatoes & Strawberries**. On arrival into Nelson Bay we check into **Marina Resort** for the evening.

Marina Resort, Nelson Bay | 1 night

Day 2—Tuesday 4 July 2023 (BLD)

Nelson Bay to the Blue Mountains

This morning we travel to **Penrith** where we board the **Nepean Belle Paddlewheeler** for a luncheon cruise on the **Nepean River**. You will see the opulent scenery of the **Blue Mountains National Park** around us. The **Nepean Belle** is a romantic old-world style Paddlewheeler. Reflecting the grace and charm of yester-year, the "Belle's" interiors are beautifully panelled with stained timbers featuring cedar and teak. After a relaxing cruise and a delicious lunch we wind our way up into the **Blue Mountains** travelling to **Blackheath** for the next 3 nights.

Kyah Boutique Hotel, Blackheath | 3 nights

Day 3—Wednesday 5 July 2023 (BLD)

Christmas in July

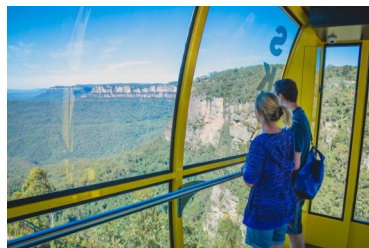
We travel to **Govetts Leap Lookout** for some breathtaking views of the Grose Valley and Bridal Veil Falls. Take a moment to breath in the mountain fresh air. Nearby we visit the **Victory Theatre Antique Centre**. The building is a revamped Art Deco picture theatre, originally named the Arcadia when it opened in 1921. Closing in May 1960, it was converted into a second-hand furniture shop before being transformed into a spectacular antique centre offering an impressive range. It's time now to get into the festive spirit for

our **Yuletide lunch** at the elegant **Carrington Hotel**. This tradition began in 1980 when a group of Irish guests saw snowflakes in the area, making them nostalgic about a cold Christmas and so the wonderful Yuletide tradition began in the Blue Mountains, although it needed to be in July and not always completely white! We enjoy a tour of the hotel with intriguing stories of the residents of the hotel over the years. Our lunch will include all the **Christmas trimmings**. After a lovely afternoon we return to the hotel to relax.

Day 4—Thursday 6 July 2023 (BD)

Scenic World

Scenic World is where we take a ride on the **Scenic Railway**, the world's steepest incline railway. We descend 415m down the escarpment at a gradient of 52 degrees and travel through the tunnel and ancient rainforest. When we disembark, we take the 300m rainforest boardwalk to connect with the Flyway platform. The **Scenic Flyway** is the steepest aerial cable car in Australia. It will take us on a 545 metre ride up through the World Heritage Listed rainforest of the Jamison Valley. Our final adventure at Scenic World is to join the **Scenic Skyway** to take the journey 270m above ancient ravines and dazzling waterfalls. This ride boasts a world first, state of the art Electro-Scenic Glass Floor. At the flip of a switch breath taking views are revealed through the cabin floor directly below. The 360 degree birdseye view takes in the Three Sisters, Katoomba Falls, Mount Solitary and the never ending expanse of the Jamison Valley. We have time here to explore at leisure and to purchase lunch. We make a time to meet up and return to the hotel.



Day 5—Friday 7 July 2023 (BD)

Blue Mountains to Port Macquarie

Time this morning to say goodbye to the area. Gee what a lovely area the mountains are! We travel down the mountain and start to make our way back up the Pacific Highway. First we have a few surprises for you which we can't reveal just yet! (No point revealing if we can't finalise it for you!!!) Later today we arrive into **Port Macquarie** for our last night on tour together.

Water's Edge Port Macquarie | 1 night



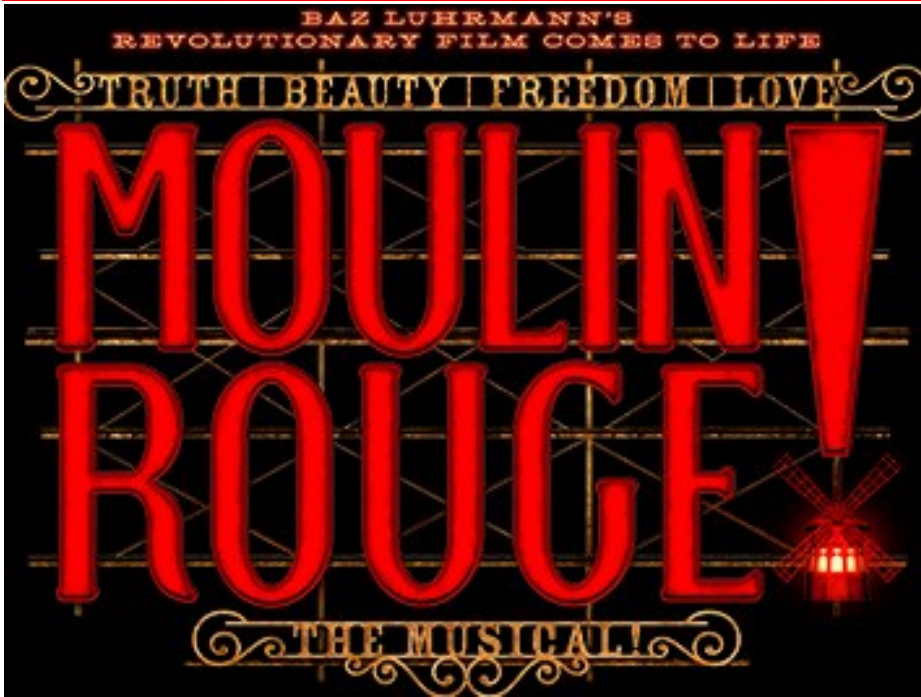
Day 6—Saturday 8 July 2023 (B)

Port Macquarie to Home

We farewell our hosts this morning and begin our return journey home. We make stops along the way to stretch our legs and to purchase lunch. We arrive home later this afternoon with many wonderful memories of our 6 day holiday travelling with friends.

Travel Club Members	\$TBC
Non Members	\$TBC
Single Supplement	\$TBC

**MOULIN ROUGE!
WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 2023**



We are heading up to the beautiful Lyric Theatre in Brisbane to see the fabulous production of Moulin Rouge on Wednesday 12 July 2023.

The story follows Baz Luhrmann's cult 2001 film in which a plucky courtesan (Satine) and star-crossed poet (Christian) find—and lose—each other in *Belle Époque*. The musical portrays the famous mantra—truth, beauty, freedom, love.

Moulin Rouge! was a postmodern roller-coaster that riffed on everything from Puccini's *La Bohème* to Bollywood to the Orpheus myth.

Moulin Rouge! The Musical has a giant, bejewelled elephant, raunchy costumes and dizzying choreography.

More than 70 songs by everyone from The Rolling Stones to Britney Spears to Eurythmics. But this production possesses a deeper emotional intensity. In an old story about a group of bohemians grappling to save a Paris theatre at the turn of the 20th century, it's forged new paths for its performers—and re-imagined the inclusive values of its world.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Departing:

Sth Grafton Bus Interchange.....6.30 am
Market Square.....6.45am
Maclean Boulevard.....7.30 am
Woombah.....7.45 am

Cost: \$195.00 per person

Deposit \$100.00 required at time of booking.
Full payment by 2 June 2023

Includes: Return Coach travel with
Northland Coach & Travel, morning tea
and A Reserve Seat.

TRAVELLING ON TOUR WITH MEDICATIONS

If you take medication, please ensure you have your scripts filled out and there is enough medication to last you the entire tour plus a few extra days in case something unforeseen happens. We do not always



have time to run around trying to find Chemists while on tour. Please double check your medications prior to leaving home.

NORTHLAND TRAVEL CLUB NAME BADGES

How is your name badge looking?
Is it a bit tired?

Would you like a new one?

Did you join our Travel Club and not receive a Name Badge?

Just give our office a call and we will give you a nice shiny new Name Badge for you.

We love it when all our passengers wear their name badges!



Future Tours For 2023

Queenslands Outback & Coast—June 2023

5 Day Mudgee Tour—September 2023

Singapore—late 2023

Christmas Tour—December 2023.

Watch this space for more information.

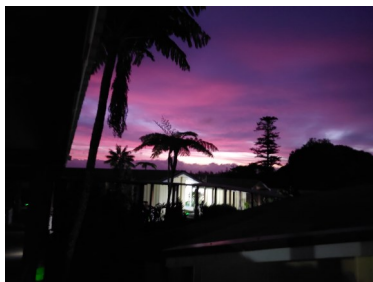
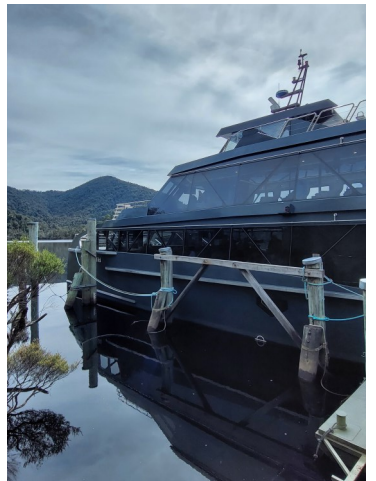
We would you like to go?

Where would you like to travel to?
Got any ideas?

Send them to us today and we'll see if we can incorporate them into our touring calendar.



in between



Did you follow our tours on Facebook? Here's what you missed.



The Hale Family

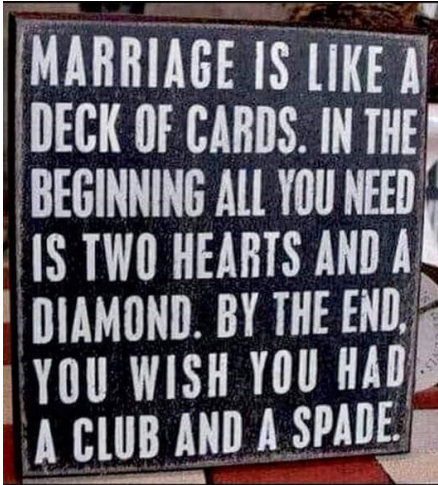
There are a lot of our Northland Family (Travellers) who have been following our Hale family over the years. This was our family photo taken in December 2022. Mind you we took about 50 photo's to get this good one! So from our Hale family to your family, whoever you are, wherever you are—Here's to a great 2023.

Me: (sobbing my heart out, eyes swollen, nose red)...I can't see you anymore... I am not going to let you hurt me like this again!

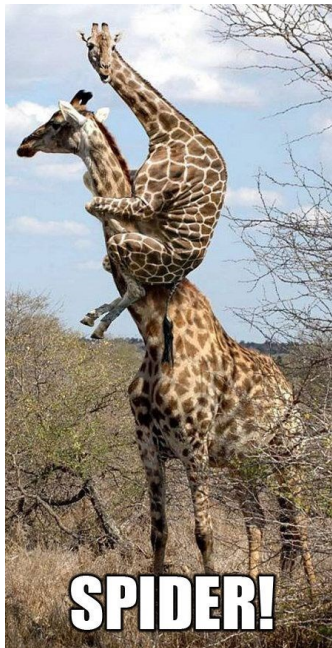
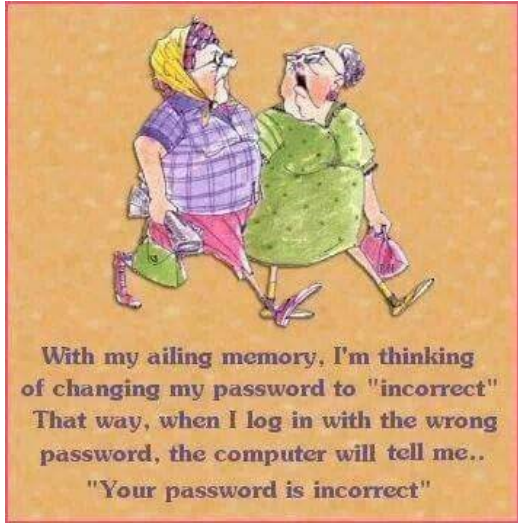
Trainer: It was a sit up. You did one sit up.

A truck loaded with Vicks vapor rub overturned on the highway.

Amazingly, there was no congestion for eight hours.



Last night I ordered a glass of wine with my dinner and the waiter asked for my ID. I replied do I look that young and the waiter said "No. I just wanted to see if you qualified for the Senior Citizen discount." 😞



Australia Day is coming up. Did you know?

Check out these fun and interesting facts about Australia. How many did you know?

1. The Australian Alps get more snow than the Swiss Alps.
2. 90% of Australians live on the coast.
3. Tasmania has the cleanest air in the world.
4. The Great Barrier Reef is the largest ecosystem in the world. It is made up of nearly 3,000 individual reefs and can be seen from space.
5. Australia has over 60 separate wine regions.
6. Fraser Island is the largest sand island in the world.
7. The Indian Pacific train has the longest straight section of train track in the world.
8. The Great Ocean Road is the world's largest war memorial.
9. 80% of Australian animals are unique to Australia.
10. 5 km of Uluru is underground.
11. Australia has the world's longest golf course measuring more than 1,350kms long. Where? Nullabor Links in WA.
12. Australia is home to 21 of the world's 25 most venomous snakes.
13. Perth is the only city in the world which can have aircraft land in its CBD.
14. Australia is bigger than we realise, it's almost the same size as mainland USA.
15. The largest cattle station in the world is located in Australia, Anna Creek Ranch in South Australia, and it's bigger than Israel.
16. The first Police Force in Australia was made up of the most well-behaved convicts.
17. It would take around 29 years to visit one new Aussie beach every day – there are 10,685 of them!
18. AFL was invented to keep cricketers fit in the off season.
19. The world's largest rock is not actually Uluru, but Mount Augustus in Western Australia, and is actually twice the size of Uluru.
20. There are 1 million camels that roam wild in Australia's deserts, the largest number of purebred camels in the world, they are exported to the Middle East.
21. You can fly from Perth to Melbourne faster than you can fly from one end of Western Australia to the other.
22. There are over 60 different types of kangaroos.
23. Australia has 19 World Heritage Listed sites.
24. 91% of the country is covered by native vegetation.
25. Over 300 different languages and dialects are spoken in Australia including 45 Indigenous languages.
26. WA is home to what is believed to be the oldest evidence of life on Earth – the Stromatolites.
27. Australia is the only continent in the world without an active volcano.
28. Australia was the second country in the world to give women the right to vote in 1902.
29. Per capita, Australians spend more money on gambling than any other nation, with over 80 percent of Australian adults engaging in gambling of some kind.
30. Canberra was selected as the capital because Sydney and Melbourne could not stop arguing which city should be the capital.
31. Australia is home to the longest fence in the world, the Dingo Fence. Originally built to keep dingos away from fertile land, the fence is now 5,614 km long.
32. The Australian dollar is considered to be the most advanced currency in the world – it's waterproof, made of polymer and notoriously hard to counterfeit.
33. Australia is the only continent covered by a single country.
34. The world's oldest fossil was discovered in Australia – 3.4 billion years old.
35. Australia has around 600 varieties of eucalypt trees.
36. Stonemasons in Australia instituted the 8-hour working day back in 1856.
37. The venom of the elusive platypus can kill a small dog.
38. Australia's most deadly marine animal is the Box Jellyfish, and is responsible for more deaths per year than snakes, sharks and saltwater crocodiles.
39. Both kangaroos and emus lack the ability to walk backwards. This was the reason they were chosen for Australia's coat of arms – to symbolise a country always moving forward.
40. The termite mounds that can be found in Australia are the tallest animal-made structures on earth.
41. Australia is home to more than 1,500 species of spiders.
42. The Great Victoria Desert is bigger than the whole of the United Kingdom.





Booking Conditions Northland Coach & Travel

These Booking Conditions set out the terms on which you contract with us for the delivery of travel arrangements for your trip. By making a booking with us, you acknowledge that you have read, understood and agree to be bound by these Booking Conditions. We reserve the right to change these Booking Conditions at any time prior to you making a booking request.

"You" and "Your" means all persons named in a booking (including anyone who is added or substituted at a later date). "We", "us" and "our" means Northlander Pty Ltd (ACN 091 030 358) trading as Northland Coach & Travel.

MAKING A BOOKING

A booking request is accepted when we issue a written booking confirmation and you have paid your deposit. It is at this point that a contract between us and you comes into existence subject to these Booking Conditions. We reserve the right to decline any booking at our discretion.

We commence providing services to you as soon as we accept your booking. This includes (often significant) work undertaken prior to travel to arrange and coordinate the delivery of your travel arrangements.

PRICES & EXCLUSIONS

Prices stated are in Australian Dollars (\$AUD), include GST and are current at the time of publication. The price includes transportation, accommodation and inclusions as per the published itinerary.

Domestic airfares and airport/hotel transfers are not included unless specifically stated. Costs associated with insurance, meals (other than those stipulated), emergency medical costs, gratuities, and all items of a personal nature are not included.

PRICE SURCHARGES

We reserve the right to surcharge the cost of your booked travel arrangements prior to commencement for circumstances beyond our control such as fuel or air fare surcharges, or the imposition of new or amended Government charges.

DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit per person of \$100.00 is required within 7 days (unless otherwise stated) of us accepting your booking. Please note that we may not hold any services for you until we receive payment of your deposit, meaning that services may become unavailable or prices may increase, in which case you will be responsible for paying the increased price, and we will not be responsible if services become unavailable.

FINAL PAYMENT

Payment in full must be received on or before the date as set out in our brochure. Note: some trips may require payment early or in additional instalments and this will be advised with the booking confirmation.

CANCELLATIONS BY YOU

You may cancel your booking by giving written notice to us. Cancellation fees and charges will be levied as follows irrespective of when notice of cancellation is received:

- any amounts we have paid or have contractually committed to pay to third parties to deliver your travel arrangements that we cannot reasonably recover (for example payments made or due to hotels);
- where we operate any of the services included in your travel arrangements (for example, coach travel), a reasonable amount attributable to such services which we determine we cannot resell;
- a fee which is the greater of the deposit and 10% of the booking value to compensate us for work performed up until the time of cancellation; and
- a fee not greater than 5% of the booking value to compensate us for processing the cancellation and any associated refund.

Cancellation fees and charges will not exceed payments received by us at the time of cancellation. If after the application of these fees and charges there is a surplus of payments you have made to us, we will refund this to you within a reasonable time.

You agree that these cancellation fees and charges are reasonable and required to protect our legitimate business interests.

Any payments we have made to third parties will only be refunded to you once we have deducted the above cancellation fees and charges and once we have actually recovered the amounts from the third parties. We will use reasonable endeavours to recover third party payments, but we make no guarantee that we will be able to make recoveries.

For group departures, a transfer of a confirmed booking to another departure date is deemed to be cancellation of the original booking.

ILLNESS PREVENTING TOUR COMMENCEMENT OR CONTINUATION

If due to any illness, suspected illness or failure to satisfy any required tests (such as a temperature test):

- an airline or other common carrier refuses you carriage;
- a hotel or vessel refuses to accommodate you; or
- we or our suppliers (acting reasonably) exclude you from the trip

and you are consequently prevented from commencing or continuing your trip, then:

- if you have already commenced your trip, we will provide you with reasonable assistance to arrange alternative travel arrangements or to continue the trip. This will be at your cost.
- if you have not commenced your trip then we regret we will not be in a position to provide such assistance.

We will not be liable to refund the cost of your trip (or any part of it) because we would have already paid (or committed to pay) suppliers and we would have already performed significant work preparing for the delivery of your trip and servicing your booking.

CANCELLATIONS BY US

Force Majeure - Prior to travel

If your travel arrangements cannot proceed due to flood, earthquake, war or civil strife, acts of terrorism, hurricane, cyclone, industrial disturbance, strike, fire, lock out, epidemic, pandemic, failure or delays of scheduled transportation facilities, or other Acts of God, or any law, order, decree, rule or regulation of any government authority, or for any other reason whether of a similar or dissimilar nature beyond our reasonable control (**Force Majeure**), we may at our election:

- postpone your travel arrangements to a future date, in which case we will issue you with a credit note equal to amounts paid at the time of postponement; or
- cancel your travel arrangements, in which case our contract with you will terminate.

If we cancel your travel arrangements and our contract terminates, neither of us will have any claim for damages against the other. However, we will refund payments made by you less unrecoverable third party costs and less fair compensation for work undertaken by us up until the time of termination and in connection with the processing of any refund.

Force Majeure - During travel

If we cancel your travel arrangements after your trip has commenced due to Force Majeure, we will provide you with a refund of recoverable third party costs only.

General

If we provide you with any alternative services or assistance where travel arrangements are cancelled because of Force Majeure, then you agree the amount to be refunded to you will be reduced by the value of these services and assistance.

If we have to cancel your trip for reasons beyond Force Majeure, you will be offered (at your election) a full refund of all funds paid over to us, or the offer of a trip of substantially equal or better quality if appropriate.

We disclaim any liability to you for the costs of airfares, visas or any other expenses incurred by you as a result of cancellation by us.

AMENDMENTS BY YOU

We will endeavour to accommodate amendments and additional requests. You acknowledge that these may not be possible to fulfil, and for group departures a transfer of a booking to a different departure is deemed a cancellation of the original booking. An amendment fee of \$50 will be levied to cover communication and administration costs for any changes to bookings. You will also be required to pay any additional costs charged by suppliers.

AMENDMENTS BY US

Occasionally, we may need to make amendments or modifications to the itinerary and its inclusions and you acknowledge our right to make these modifications. If we become aware of a significant change to your itinerary or its inclusions prior to the commencement of your trip (where the trip can still proceed), then we will notify you within a reasonable time and give you the choice to accept the change, to receive a refund of the land portion of your trip or to accept an alternative trip if offered.

You acknowledge our right to substitute vehicles of a lesser standard in the event of mechanical breakdown or for other unforeseen reasons.

We disclaim any liability to you for the costs of airfares, visas or any other expenses incurred by you as a result of any amendment or change to the tour itinerary or its inclusions. In addition, you acknowledge that if an event of Force Majeure disrupts your trip (for example if a flood means that we are unable to leave a particular area), then you will be responsible for the costs incurred for additional accommodation and any other expenses incurred as a result of the disruption.

CLIENT NAMES – EXACTLY AS PER PASSPORT / DRIVER'S LICENCE

For security reasons, airlines and other suppliers, require names to be given exactly as stated in your passport or driver's licence. If you do not advise the correct information and we have to re-issue airline tickets or other documentation, then you will incur any fees charged, such as airline cancellation charges or re-issue fees, in addition to our own reasonable administration fees.

UNUSED SERVICES

No refunds will be made for of any travel arrangements not utilised, whether by choice or because of late arrival or early departure, including failure of transport to operate according to schedule, which we expressly disclaim liability for.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is strongly encouraged that you are adequately insured for the duration of your trip. We recommend a comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, health requirements, luggage and additional expenses. The choice of insurer is yours. We strongly suggest that insurance be purchased at the time your deposit is paid, as cancellation terms will be strictly enforced from that time.

ACCOMMODATION

We reserve the right to substitute hotels, vessels and other forms of accommodation with properties or vessels of a comparable or higher standard.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have a suitable level of health and fitness to undertake the trip of your choice. If you suffer from a medical condition which may impact your ability to participate during travel, then you must advise us at the time you make your booking request.

We welcome travellers with special needs. However, if you require special assistance (such as pushing a wheelchair or assistance with walking), you must travel with a companion capable of providing the required assistance or care. Please note that we do not provide any special assistance.

We reserve the right to cancel your booking if any changed or non-disclosed medical conditions mean that you will require special assistance from our personnel which we cannot reasonably provide. We strongly suggest that your travel insurance policy includes comprehensive cancellation coverage.

We will not be liable for any damage, injury, death or loss of any kind arising from your failure to fully disclose relevant medical information.

INDEPENDENT SERVICES

We are not responsible for any additional activities or excursions that you arrange which are not included in the booked itinerary or principally sold by us. Any advice or recommendation made by a guide or local representative does not make us responsible or liable in any way.

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

You acknowledge that travel involves personal risks which may be greater than those present in your everyday life. This could be as a result of activities such as swimming or visiting national or private parks. By placing a booking, you accept these risks.

GENERAL TOUR PROVISIONS

Room Share

We offer a matching service for solo travellers who are willing to share twin accommodation, saving on single supplements. Only travellers of the same sex will be matched. There are no guarantees that a match will be possible and we do not warrant the suitability or characteristics of any persons we match. **Please do not request a solo-match if you snore.** Please note that a person we match you with is not responsible to provide any assistance to you. If we are unable to find a match, single supplements will apply.

Authority on Tour

When joining a group tour, you undertake to conduct yourself in a manner conducive to good group dynamics. If you act in a manner that threatens or disrupts the safety or enjoyment of others on the tour, the tour leader may, acting reasonably, require that you leave the tour. You will not be entitled to any refund and you will be responsible for any additional costs you incur in this event.

Hygiene

While we may provide hand-sanitiser when you embark on coaches operated by us, you acknowledge that you are responsible for supplying your own hand-sanitiser, and any face-masks mandated to be worn by authorities.

Dietary Requirements

Special dietary requests are required to be notified to us at the time of booking. Although we will use reasonable endeavours to accommodate requests, we cannot guarantee requests will be met by suppliers. It is your responsibility to check that meals and beverages do not contain any allergens. We expressly disclaim any liability for meals or beverages that contain allergens.

Luggage

Due to strict government vehicle weight restrictions, you are permitted to a maximum of one (1) suitcase which must not exceed 20kgs.

RESPONSIBILITY

Services supplied by independent suppliers

Where a third party over whom we have no direct control (**Independent Supplier**) is the supplier of travel arrangements that form part of your trip, you acknowledge that our obligations to you are limited to taking reasonable steps to select a reputable Independent Supplier and arranging for them to provide those travel arrangements to you. Independent Suppliers over whom we have no direct control include but are not limited to airlines, railway and cruise operators, hoteliers, independent transport companies (i.e., vehicles not operated by Northlander Pty Ltd (ACN 091 030 358)), and common carriers.

We act as an intermediary only and you will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Independent Supplier. Any disputes between you and the Independent Supplier are to be resolved between you and them.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, we will not be responsible to you for any loss, damage, personal injury or delay attributable to the actions or omissions of an Independent Supplier.

Services we directly supply

To the extent only that we are the principal supplier to you of travel arrangements or other services which we control, then we will provide those travel arrangements and services with reasonable skill and care. We will only be responsible for our employees in the course of their employment, and for our agents and suppliers (where we are not the supplier's agent or an intermediary for an Independent Supplier) if they were carrying out the work we had asked them to do.

We will not be responsible for any loss, damage, claim or expense caused by the acts or omissions of yourself, of any other third party not connected with the provision of the travel arrangements or services, or due to an event of Force Majeure.

While we endeavour to meet scheduled arrival and departure times, we cannot guarantee this. We disclaim any liability for any additional expenses you incur or any missed connections/services attributable to delays.

General liability limitation

Australian Consumer Law and corresponding legislation in other jurisdictions in certain circumstances imply mandatory conditions and warranties into consumer contracts ("Consumer Warranties"). These Booking Conditions do not exclude or limit the application of the Consumer Warranties. Other than the Consumer Warranties, we disclaim all warranties.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, our maximum liability to you under these Booking Conditions, in tort (including negligence) and at law is limited to arranging for the travel arrangements to be resupplied or payment of the cost of having the travel arrangements resupplied.

COMPLAINTS

In the event of a problem with any aspect of your travel arrangements you must tell us or make our representative aware of such problems immediately.

We will only consider and be responsible for claims made against us where we have had the opportunity to put things right on the ground. If you notify us of a problem during travel and we haven't resolved it to your satisfaction, then you must make any claim in writing, within 30 days from the end of your travel arrangements.

DEEMED ACCEPTANCE

If you place a booking on behalf of another party, you represent and warrant us that you are duly authorised to provide the agreement and consent of the other party to be bound by these Booking Conditions. You agree that you will be responsible for any loss or damage we incur if this is not the case.

GENERAL

The contract between Northlander Pty Ltd (ACN 091 030 358) trading as Northland Coach & Travel and you is governed by the laws of the State of New South Wales. Any disputes shall be dealt with by a court with the appropriate jurisdiction in New South Wales.

If any provision of these Booking Conditions is found to be unenforceable, then to the extent possible it will be severed without affecting the remaining provisions.

Any personal information you provide to us will be collected, stored, used, protected and shared in accordance with Australian Privacy Principles, and our Privacy Policy, which is published here www.northlandcoaches.com.au

Updated: 28 January 2021

PLEASE.....Don't forget to give us a call BEFORE you decide to visit us at the Depot. We need to make sure we will be there for you.

Call our office number
6643 1212
To make an
appointment.



PO Box 45 South Grafton NSW 2460

I WANT TO BOOK ON A TOUR. WHAT DO I DO?

- Firstly give us a call on 6643 1212 to see if there are any vacancies.
- Then if there are vacancies, fill in the booking form and send that to us either by text, email or post.
- Pay your deposit by direct deposit into our bank account, send us a cheque or you can pay by credit card over the phone.

Phone 6643 1212
Text 0412 266 238
Email enquiries@northlandcoaches.com.au
Post PO Box 45, South Grafton

Bank details

Name Hale Client Trust Account
BSB 082 551
Account 24 556 3506
Reference Your Name & Tour

Be happy,
it drives
people
crazy