



# KOALA SELECT

## 8 Day Sydney to Brisbane Tour

Stray Journey - Australia New South Wales

**TWIN SHARE PER PERSON:** AUD\$2645  
**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** AUD\$850  
**STARTS:** Sydney **FINISHES:** Brisbane  
**DURATION:** 8 Days / 7 Nights  
**START DAY:** Monday  
**FINISH DAY:** Monday  
**2025 DEPARTURES:** 8 Sep, 6 & 20 Oct, 3 & 17 Nov, 1 Dec  
**2026 DEPARTURES:** 12 & 19 Jan, 2 & 16 Feb, 2 & 9 Mar, 6 & 20 Apr, 11 May, 15 June, 13 July, 10 Aug, 7 Sep, 5 & 19 Oct, 2, 16 & 30 Nov  
**MIN. / MAX. NUMBERS:** 6 / 22 passengers

### Overview

If you're after a fun-filled Sydney to Brisbane trip without compromising on comfort, you'll love kicking back in a twin or double room after action-packed days full of unforgettable activities.



Explore mountains, golden beaches and rainforests while travelling in our own private mini coach, meet the cheeky wildlife and friendly locals, learn about our indigenous culture and discover some off-the-beaten-track New South Wales highlights that aren't on the usual tourist trail. You'll travel with a local guide (and get their insider knowledge) and a bunch of like-minded travellers (your new lifelong friends) and explore all the amazing places Aussie has to offer!

We believe in MORE! More authentic experiences, more iconic sights, more stops on the way, more connection. Keep a look out for sections in our itinerary where you can **See More** and **Do More**, these are unique ways to experience the Real Australia!

### Day 1 - Monday: Arrive Sydney

G'day and welcome to your epic East Coast adventure. Your tour begins in Sydney with a day to yourself to explore the city sights and world-famous landmarks. If you've just flown in, we recommend taking the train from the airport to Town Hall Station, your accommodation is located a short walk away and check-in is anytime after 3pm.

If you have time, take the opportunity to explore the city - we recommend jumping on the light rail and

heading down to Circular Quay where you'll see the iconic Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge. At 6pm make your way to the hotel reception where you'll meet your Stray guide and new travel mates for a welcome meeting and optional group meal (additional cost).

**Accommodation included:** Vibe Darling Harbour or similar

**Optional activities:** Bondi to Coogee beach walk, visit Darling Harbour, explore King Street Wharf, Royal Botanic Gardens, Taronga Zoo, walk around the Opera House and the Rocks, the oldest area of Sydney. You can also take the ferry from Circular Quay to Manly.

**Meal options:** Self-cater, local cafes, restaurants

**Included activity:** Welcome Meeting

## Day 2 - Tuesday: Sydney to Blue Mountains

Head down to the hotel restaurant for breakfast before joining the rest of the group for our first day of adventure.

Today we'll say goodbye to Sydney as we depart the harbour city and head west to see some of the most spectacular scenery in Australia! Our first stop is the local town of Glenbrook where we'll have a short break to grab a coffee or a snack. From there, we continue on to Katoomba in the heart of the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains, stopping at the iconic Echo Point and a walk to view the famous Three Sisters rock formation.

After a picnic lunch we'll head off for a 1.5-2 hour hike in the mountains. Along the walk we'll visit the stunning Wentworth Falls, view lush rainforest and dramatic clifftops, and enjoy breathtaking views over the Jamison Valley. Tonight, we'll enjoy dinner together and get to know each other better.

**Accommodation:** Blue Mountains YHA or similar. Note: there may be shared bathroom facilities at this location.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Meal options:** Self-cater, local cafes, restaurants

**Included activity:** Chasing waterfalls and walks.

## Day 3 - Wednesday: Blue Mountains to Port Macquarie

This morning we'll start our journey north by way of the famous Hunter Valley wine region where we'll stop for lunch and to taste some of the local wine and cheese (non-alcoholic options available). We'll then continue to our destination for the night - the coastal town of Port Macquarie, known for its wildlife, beaches and penal colony past!

After the drive if you're feeling energetic, we recommend walking a section of the stunning Port Macquarie Coastal Walk.

**Accommodation:** Port Macquarie YHA or similar. Note: there may be shared bathroom facilities at this location.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Meal options:** Self-cater, local cafes, restaurants

**Included activity:** Wine and cheese tasting

**Free activities:** Coastal walk

## Day 4 - Thursday: Port Macquarie to Byron Bay

Today we're heading to the iconic surfing town of Byron Bay, known for its relaxed vibes and no worries attitude. Before we depart, we'll visit the Guulabaa Wild Breeding Centre, where we'll get a closer look at Australia's laziest (and arguably cutest) marsupials - Koalas! Learn about the hospital's efforts to rehabilitate, protect and preserve the koalas and the new breeding centre's important efforts to save these iconic animals from extinction.

We'll then hit the road with a stop in Coffs Harbour for lunch, followed by a special experience learning about the First Nations people of Australia.

Your cultural experience takes place at an important site of the Gumbaynggirr people, the stunning location of "Niigi Niigi" (Sealy Lookout) within the Orara East State Forest. You'll go for a 1.5-hour tour and see 360-degree views, as well as getting the opportunity to immerse yourself in culture through stories, songs, language and the uses of native plants. This will be an unforgettable experience with an emphasis on authentic connection and contributing to helping a community regain their culture and identity.

***Do More:*** By taking part in the experience, you're making a direct contribution to the revitalisation of Gumbaynggirr language and culture with a percentage of the tour price going towards the local bilingual school to help foster cultural identity and education success.

When we arrive in Byron Bay, we'll take you on an orientation drive around town to help you get your bearings, showing you points of interest and the top spots for food, shopping and nightlife. For the next few nights, we're staying at boutique hostel The Surf House, located right in the heart of Byron and just a couple of hundred metres from the main beach - heaven!

**Accommodation:** The Surf House or similar

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**Meal options:** Self-cater, local cafes, restaurants, BBQ at the rooftop of the hostel

**Included activities:** Guulabaa Wild Breeding Centre and Aboriginal Cultural Experience

## Day 5 - Friday: Byron Bay Free Day

Today you have a full day in Byron Bay to really embrace the Byron Bay motto: "cheer up, slow down, and chill out". Start your day off with a morning yoga class on the rooftop of your hostel and then spend your day exploring the laidback hippy town.

Take a walk up to Cape Byron Lighthouse, mainland Australia's most easterly point, with your Stray guide. Check out the many eclectic boutiques and cafes around town. You could join a sea kayaking tour and search for dolphins and other marine life, or even go for an iconic Australian activity - learning to surf.

**Accommodation:** The Surf House or similar

**Included activities:** Morning yoga class, Cape Byron Lighthouse walk

**Meal options:** Self-cater, local cafes, restaurants

**Optional paid activities:** Surf lesson, dolphin kayak, cycle the rail trail

**Free activities:** Swim, relax on the beach, check out the shops and cafes, free surfboard hire

## Day 6 - Saturday: Byron Bay Free Day

You lucky thing - you have ANOTHER free day to explore Byron Bay today. Tick off any activities you didn't get the chance to do yesterday or pass the day wandering the township or relaxing on the beach. Hone your surf skills with more lessons or borrow one of the free surfboards at your hostel to try it out by yourself.

If you're a foodie then you're in luck, as eating your way around Byron is an experience in itself. There are heaps of vegetarian and vegan options available, a couple of our favourites are the Cardamom Pod for lunch and No Bones for dinner, both of which are super close to your hostel. This evening, head to the Saturday twilight markets for some live music and lots of boutique stalls showcasing local arts, crafts and some incredible food.

**Accommodation:** The Surf House or similar

**Meal options:** Self-cater, local cafes, restaurants.

**Optional paid activities:** Surf lesson, dolphin kayak, snorkel or dive, skydive

**Free activities:** Swim, relax on the beach, check out the shops and cafes

## Day 7 - Sunday: Byron Bay to Brisbane via Surfers Paradise

This morning, meet your guide and group outside the Surf House hostel at 8:50am and we'll depart north across the NSW border to Queensland, stopping for some lunch and a walk around the famous Surfers Paradise. Next, we'll head to a nearby nature reserve to spot some wild kangaroos, before continuing to Brisbane, the capital city of Queensland for the night. This evening, we recommend going for a stroll down to Southbank for a walk along the Brisbane River and then check out some of the many bars and restaurants.

**Accommodation:** Roamer Brisbane or similar

**Meal options:** Self-cater, local cafes, restaurants

**Included activities:** Visit Surfers Paradise, kangaroo spotting,

**Free activities:** Explore Brisbane and catch the Brisbane city ferry

## Day 8 - Monday: Brisbane

Today is the final day of your Stray adventure. Give a wave and a hug to your new mates and head off for the next leg of your adventure, taking with you the most incredible memories, everything you've learned about Australia's special culture and wildlife, and of course some classic Aussie lingo - G'DAY MATES!

**Meals included:** Breakfast

*This itinerary is a guide. Given the spontaneous nature of our trips and lack of control over Australia's weather(!), what we do each day might occasionally vary.*

## What's Included:

- Experienced tour guide
- Private coach transport
- 7 nights' accommodation in twin or double rooms in a range of hostels and backpacker resorts
- 5 meals (4 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner)
- Blue Mountains, Wentworth Falls Hike and the Three Sisters Lookout
- Wine and Cheese Tasting, Hunter Valley
- Guulabaa Wild Breeding Centre (Koala Hospital) visit
- Aboriginal Cultural Experience & Bush Walk
- Optional Yoga class
- Byron Bay Lighthouse walk

## What to Bring:

Camera, Sneakers/trainers, Clothing (mainly light layers but some warm items), Waterproof jacket, Hat & Sunscreen, Swimsuit/towel, Reusable water bottle, Toiletries, Motion sickness tablets, Insect repellent

## Please Note:

- This tour starts on a Monday and ends on a Monday (8 days later).
- Pick up: As Day 1 is an arrival day, please make your own way to Vibe Darling Harbour, 319/325 Sussex St, Sydney, where you can check in from 3pm. Meet at reception at 6pm for a welcome meeting.
- Drop off: Roamer Brisbane 466 George St, Brisbane. Check out is 10am.
- Luggage is limited to one piece per person with a maximum weight of 20kg plus a day pack
- A basic to medium level of fitness is required for walks and activities
- All accommodation rooms are twin/double share (unless you purchase a solo upgrade) and include a private ensuite bathroom with the exception of the following:

- o your accommodation at Blue Mountains, Port Macquarie and Byron Bay where ensuite rooms are limited
- Single travellers will be put in a twin room with another single traveller of the same gender. For single travellers wanting a private room, they will need to purchase a solo upgrade.
- The Stray Select and Adventure Tour customers travel together on the same bus and have the same travel days.
- 5 meals are included. We make regular supermarket stops so you can self-cater for other meals, or there are usually quite a few cafe/restaurant options in each location.
- This tour is suited to active 18-60's singles, friends or couples who still want to see it all but with a side of comfort.

## Highlights:

Waterfalls, mountains, beaches, culture and wildlife spotting! There are so many awesome inclusions with the Stray Koala Sydney to Brisbane Select Tour and we can't wait for you to experience them:

- Enjoy a walk through the National Park and take in the dramatic scenery and stunning waterfalls at the **Blue Mountains**
- Discover your inner wine connoisseur at **Hunter Valley** and taste award-winning samples fresh from the vineyard
- Get a closer look at Australia's laziest (and cutest) marsupials at the Guulabaa Wild Breeding Centre (**Koala Hospital**)
- Connect and gain an understanding of the incredible **Aboriginal Culture** through a bush walk and cultural experience
- Centre yourself with a yoga class in laid-back **Byron Bay** followed by a walk to the famous Cape Byron Lighthouse and the easternmost point of mainland Australia.
- Drop into the iconic **Surfers Paradise** and enjoy views of kilometres of golden sand beaches
- Spend a night in the buzzing riverside city of **Brisbane**