

New  
This Year



Sydney Opera House

Includes most meals!

## EAST COAST AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

By land & sea: Sydney to Auckland

On this 12-night cruise, we will visit fantastic attractions and experience cruising along east coast Australia and New Zealand.

Commencing with two nights in Sydney, explore architectural marvels like the Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Visit a working farm also home to Kangaroos, Emus, Wombats and Koalas on a tour of the Blue Mountains, before embarking on the *Celebrity Solstice*. Visit Cairns, in north Queensland, a gateway to magnificent natural attractions, including lush, tropical rainforests. To the east lies the Coral Sea and the must-see Great Barrier Reef.

Your magnificent journey ends with two nights in Auckland, a city of natural wonders and stunning coastlines. *Celebrity* has wow-factor and is one of the most beautiful and innovative, new, large cruise lines launched in the past decade. Luxurious staterooms and 10 specialty restaurants are only part of this ship's charm. *Celebrity Solstice* also features Canyon Ranch SpaClub® and a fitness centre. With brilliant entertainment venues and exquisite dining, there are plenty of activities and amenities onboard to keep you busy or relaxed, no matter your interests and age.

Single supplements available!  
Call your local Merit Travel expert.

Celebrity X Cruises®

16 nights

\$8,595\* p.p.

Departs Toronto/Vancouver:  
Mar. 16, 2020

Group size: 30 maximum

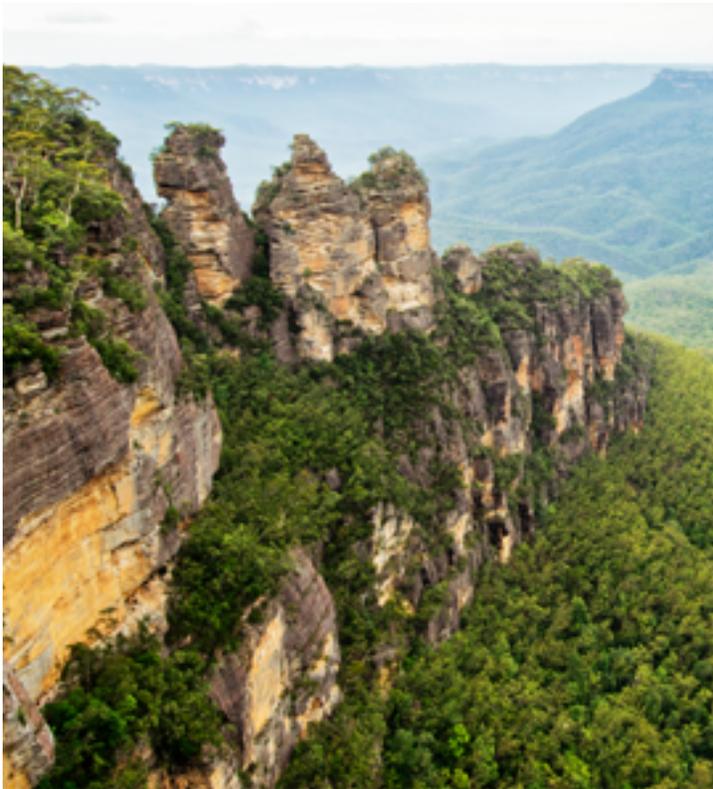
### 🚗 Visits to:

Sydney – Blue Mountains –  
Newcastle – Cairns – Yorkeys Knob –  
Airlie Beach – Queensland –  
Brisbane – Bay of Islands – Auckland

### 🎯 What's Included:

\* Roundtrip airfare

- Plaza Premium airport lounge pass
- Sydney: two nights 4-star hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Welcome dinner, full-day Blue Mountains tour with lunch, half-day city tour
- *Celebrity* cruise: 12 nights sailing onboard *Celebrity Solstice* with meals (onboard the cruise only)
- Auckland: two nights 4-star hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Half-day city tour, evening Pride of Auckland dinner cruise, and full-day tour incl. Waikato Island wine tour
- Merit Travel tour host\*\*
- All taxes and gratuities\*\*\*



ACTIVITY LEVEL:  
**SIGHT-SEEING**

#### APPROPRIATE FOR:

Travellers who are physically fit and comfortable with longer days of touring by transport and by foot and do not require mobility aids.

## Your Itinerary | Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner = (B, L, D)

### DAY 1 | Mar. 16, 2020 | Toronto/Vancouver - Sydney

Board your overnight flight to Sydney, Australia.

### DAY 2 | Mar. 17, 2020 | In transit

### DAY 3 | Mar. 18, 2020 | Sydney (D)

Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel for check in. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner at Nicks Bar and Grill at the Promenade King St. Wharf, walking distance from your hotel.

**Accommodation at the Grace Hotel (2 nights)**

### DAY 4 | Mar. 19, 2020 | Sydney - Blue Mountains (B, L)

Breakfast at the hotel. Our first stop of the day is at Calmsley Hill a working farm that is also home to Kangaroos, Emus, Wombats and Koalas. Enjoy morning tea and time to wander at leisure.

From Calmsley Hill we continue to ascend the Blue Mountains, also visiting one of a range of stunning outlooks of the Jamison Valley.

We continue on and arrive at Eaglehawk lookout, for views of the famous Three Sisters. The character of the Three Sisters changes throughout the day and throughout the seasons as the sunlight

brings out the magnificent colours. After learning about the formation of the rocks and surrounding landscape from your guide, we then make our way to lunch at the Hydro Majestic.

Enjoy a two-course lunch with tea or coffee. The afternoon is spent visiting a selection of lookouts. We then stop briefly to enjoy a glass of sparkling wine or orange juice at the delightful Mt. Tomah Botanic Gardens, where we enjoy the sweeping views across to Sydney.

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### DAY 5 | Mar. 20, 2020 | Sydney (B, D)

Breakfast at hotel. Enjoy a half-day city tour of Sydney. Driving through the city centre, we will see many contrasts. See the traditional Victorian architecture of the Town Hall and the sweeping designs of the Opera House to the modern skyscraper developments of Darling Harbour.

Drive through the Botanic Garden to views over the city from Lady Macquarie's Chair and then head out to the exclusive eastern suburbs, passing Kings Cross en route to Vaucluse and Double Bay.

Continue to the Heads, famous Bondi Beach and historic Paddington with its iron railed town houses. Arriving at White Bay Cruise Terminal to board your 12-night cruise onboard *Celebrity Solstice*.

Cruise departs at 6:45 p.m.

#### **Accommodation onboard *Celebrity Solstice* (12 nights)**

Below is information on your cruise itinerary and ports of call you will be visiting. Shore excursions are not included. Meals (B, L, D) and prepaid gratuities are included onboard the cruise.

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### DAY 6 | Mar. 21, 2020 | Newcastle (B, L, D)

Arrive 8:00 a.m. Depart 5:00 p.m.

Newcastle is located on the eastern seaboard of Australia at the mouth of the Hunter River. Founded as a penal colony and booming with the discovery of coal deposits, Newcastle today is a modern thriving centre and Australia's sixth most populated city. It is a city with beautiful scenery, parklands and historical buildings and a bustling gateway for commercial shipping.

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### DAY 7 | Mar. 22, 2020 | At sea (B, L, D)

Enjoy the amenities onboard your cruise ship as you cruise at sea.

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### DAY 8 | Mar. 23, 2020 | At sea (B, L, D)

Enjoy the amenities onboard your cruise ship as you cruise at sea.

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### DAY 9 | Mar. 24, 2020 | Cairns (B, L, D)

Arrive 8:00 a.m.

Yorkeys Knob is situated on Queensland's northern coastline. Neighbouring the city of Cairns, Yorkeys Knob is home to an idyllic stretch of beaches, shopping and a top-notch marina.

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### DAY 10 | Mar. 25, 2020 | Cairns (B, L, D)

Depart 4:00 p.m.

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### DAY 11 | Mar. 26, 2020 | Airlie Beach (B, L, D)

Arrive 8:00 a.m. Depart 5:00 p.m.

Being the focal point of activity on the mainland and the gateway to The Great Barrier Reef and Whitsunday Islands, Airlie Beach is the perfect place to enjoy a holiday in paradise.

Popular activities in the Airlie Beach area include sailing the islands, day trips to the Great Barrier Reef, skydiving, snorkeling, and even crocodile safaris. Moreover, Airlie Beach is not only perfect due to its vast array of activities, but also its many dining options, shops, and pubs.

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**DAY 12 | Mar. 27, 2020 | At sea (B, L, D)**

Enjoy the amenities onboard your cruise ship as you cruise at sea.

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**DAY 13 | Mar. 28, 2020 | Brisbane (B, L, D)**

Arrive 7:00 a.m. Depart 4:00 p.m.

Laze in the lush riverside gardens of South Bank, then browse the markets and swim in its lagoon. Bike ride in the City Botanic Gardens and abseil the cliffs of Kangaroo Point. Glide down the river on a majestic paddle steamer or take a high-speed ferry to vibrant inner-city villages like Bulimba and New Farm.

When culture cravings hit, wander the art galleries and museums, watch a performance by the Queensland Ballet, Opera or Orchestra perform or see cutting-edge theatre in the Powerhouse.

In the boating hub of nearby Moreton Bay and Islands, you can swim, sea kayak, snorkel coral reefs, toboggan down the world's tallest sand dune, hire a sail boat or tussle with a marlin.

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**DAY 14 | Mar. 29, 2020 | At sea (B, L, D)**

Enjoy the amenities onboard your cruise ship as you cruise at sea.

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**DAY 15 | Mar. 30, 2020 | At sea (B, L, D)**

Enjoy the amenities onboard your cruise ship as you cruise at sea.

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**DAY 16 | Mar. 31, 2020 | Bay of Islands (B, L, D)**

Arrive 10:00 a.m. Depart 8:00 p.m.

Rich in legend and history, the Bay of Islands is New Zealand's cradle of European civilization, with many points of interest relating to early European and Maori settlement.

There are many 'firsts associated with the Bay of Islands, such as the first European community, the oldest home and church in the country and the first capital of New Zealand, among others.

Reserves have been established to protect what is left of the once vast native kauri forests, magnificent trees rivaling California's redwoods. Major sites in the Islands include historical Waitangi, Paihia, a subtropical marine resort popular as a starting point for bay cruises and fishing excursions, and Russell, one of the oldest towns in New Zealand known as the 'Hell Hole of the Pacific'. Anglers still regard the Bay of Islands as a top fishing area, while residents cherish its unhurried pace, balmy climate and serenity.

Other sights include Motukako Island, Kawhiti Caves, Maori Meeting House, and the Bay of Islands Maritime and Historic Park.

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**DAY 17 | Apr. 1, 2020 | Auckland (B, D)**

Arrive 6:30 a.m. After breakfast, disembark your cruise.

Auckland is regularly voted one of the best lifestyle cities in the world, with the cosmopolitan city centre complimented by great escapes within half an hour of downtown. Indulge in Auckland's shopping, nightlife and unrivalled cuisine and experience some of the many attractions and adventure activities on offer.

Enjoy a half-day city tour of Auckland taking in the sights. We first visit the Auckland Museum combined with a Maori Cultural Performance and visit to Kelly Tarlton's SEALIFE Aquarium. Following this, transfer to the Maritime Museum and afterwards proceed to the hotel for a 3:00 p.m. check-in.

Rest for a few hours before being picked up again at 6:00 p.m. for the Pride of Auckland dinner cruise. You will be transferred back to your hotel after dinner.

***Accommodation at Stamford Plaza Hotel Auckland (2 nights)***

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**DAY 18 | Apr. 2, 2020 | Auckland (B)**

Following breakfast at the hotel, walk to Sky City where at 9:30 a.m. you will be admitted to Sky Tower. Travel up in the glass fronted lifts which open to the unparalleled views in all directions of the city and its surrounding area. You will have access to the main observation deck and sky deck.

At noon, a private transfer will be waiting for you outside Sky Tower to take you to Fuller's ferry terminal where you will catch the ferry to Waiheke Island.

Once on the island you will join the Waiheke Island wine tour which includes wine tastings and mouth-watering treats. Once the tour is complete, you will take the ferry back to Fuller's ferry terminal and a private transfer will take you to your hotel.

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**DAY 19 | Apr. 3, 2020 | Auckland - Toronto/Vancouver (B)**

After breakfast at your hotel, transfer to the airport for your flight home.



## RESPONSIBILITY

Merit Travel Group Inc. doing business as Merit Travel, acts solely as agents for the Travel Service Suppliers such as hoteliers, airlines, ground service operators, bus operators, etc. who are providing their facilities as described in this brochure. We do our best to select such suppliers but exercise no control over them and cannot be held responsible for the failure of these suppliers to carry out any obligations. Any and all bookings made with these suppliers by us, for you, are subject to the terms and conditions of each and every such supplier. Supplier liability may also be limited by law, tariffs, or conditions set forth in their documentation, tickets, etc.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Merit Travel and its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, successors, assigns, agents and other representatives are not responsible for any and all claims for losses, damages (whether direct, indirect, special, punitive, or other consequential damages, lost profits or opportunities) delays, illness, injuries, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, or anxiety (whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and even if Merit and the Travel Service Suppliers have been advised of the possibility of damages to such party or any other party) arising from:

- a. Fault or negligence or omissions on the part of the said travel service suppliers;
- b. Illness, theft, strikes, mechanical problems, quarantine, governmental intervention, weather conditions, acts of hostility or violence, and any other grounds beyond our control;
- c. Your failure to obtain passport, visas, other travel documents or inoculations
- d. Your failure to advise us the name of the traveller exactly as it appears on the passport;
- e. Your failure to report on time at an airport or ground transfer facility;
- f. Material damages, theft or other mysterious disappearances of your goods;
- g. Personal injuries or death;
- h. Force Majeure - an event(s) beyond our, or our supplier(s), reasonable control including, but not limited to, acts of God, strikes, lockout or other labour disputes or disruptions, wars, blockades, insurrections, riots, earthquakes, weather conditions, floods or acts of restraints imposed by governmental authorities.

## PRICING

All prices are per person in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted. GST, HST and provincial taxes are applicable on tours as noted.

## INCREASE IN TOUR COSTS

Merit Travel reserves the right to increase tour prices in the event of an increase in government and airport authority imposed taxes and fees, fuel and currency surcharges, supplier price increases, or any other cost increase. If the increase is greater than 7% of the tour cost, the client may cancel the booking within seven days of notification and obtain a full refund.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit of \$750 per person is required at the time of booking. Full and final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

**Please note, some of our suppliers may require additional deposit or full payments at time of booking, pending seasonality. You will be advised of additional requirements at time of booking.**

## LIABILITY

Merit Travel cannot assume responsibility for any costs incurred for any travel arrangements purchased separately from the Merit Travel tour. Merit Travel's responsibility shall extend only to the provisions of advice as to industry-standard or supplier recommended connections and check-in times. Provided Merit Travel supplies such advice, they shall not be responsible for missed connections or departures, regardless of the cause.

## TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN (INSURANCE)

Trip cancellation and interruption insurance, medical and hospital insurance, baggage insurance, and various additional insurances are available and

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. If you choose not to purchase insurance, you are required to sign an Insurance Waiver Form. Note that if you choose not to purchase insurance, you are fully liable for any and all penalties imposed as stated under Cancellation Policy on this page. Please speak to your representative at the time of making reservations about insurance.

## REFUNDS

The nature of travel involves risks and unpredictable weather and thus Merit Travel cannot assure any departure or arrival times at any point of an itinerary. Your right to receive a refund is limited. There will be no discounts or monies refunded for any missed or unused services. Merit Travel reserves the right to cancel the tour for any reason. Should this occur, a full refund will be made to the traveller.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

While Merit Travel will do its utmost to minimize any penalties charged, there are irrecoverable costs associated with your tour. The following penalties will be considered the costs incurred with cancellation:

- a. 90 days or more prior to departure: Loss of total deposit.
- b. 89 – 60 days prior to departure: Loss of 50% of total tour cost.
- c. 59 days or less prior to departure: Loss of 100% of total tour cost.

**Cancellation penalties for some tours will vary and there may be additional penalties associated with the airfare. If so, these policies will be noted separately at time of booking and will prevail.**

## TOUR CHANGES

We reserve the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines or vessels due to conditions beyond our control. In such cases we will do everything possible to ensure the locations visited, the excursions taken and the hotels offered are similar to the ones originally planned. Any change to itineraries will not result in eligibility for a refund.

## REVISION FEE

Changes to your tour reservation might not be possible. Should you request a change and we are able to accommodate it, you will be subject to any charges imposed by the airline or tour suppliers. In addition, we reserve the right to charge a \$50 revision fee for any change made after the deposit is paid. A change in name or departure date may constitute a cancellation, and the corresponding penalties may apply.

## PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION

All passengers travelling internationally must travel with a passport. Many countries require the passport to be valid for 6 months beyond the traveller's return date. Visas may be required for some destinations. It is the passenger's responsibility to obtain at the passenger's expense, all documentation required by all relevant authorities. In the event that the passenger does not possess the correct documentation, the air carrier has the right to refuse passage.

## DESCRIPTION

Every effort has been made to describe and produce the travel services and photographs as accurately as possible in the printed tour description. However we reserve the right to correct errors and we will make all reasonable efforts to inform you should any significant changes occur.

**Please note that the living standards and local conditions during your tour may be different from what you are accustomed to at home.**

## CONSENT

Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute your consent to the above terms.

If you encounter any concerns during your tour, please inform your local travel service provider. If the matter cannot be resolved, please inform Merit Travel in writing upon your return.