

Australian Eclipse 2012

E. AUSTRALIA · NOVEMBER 8TH – NOVEMBER 15TH, 2012



Let *Sky & Telescope* help you get the most out of the eclipse and the glories of Down Under. Join us November 8-15, 2012 for a swing through Australia, astronomy-style.

Join Greg Bryant, Editor of *Australian Sky & Telescope*, to bring you eclipse expertise, the latest on Australian astronomy, and a behind-the-scenes look at the innovative instrumentation and research found in Oz.

See beyond the obvious. We'll orient ourselves in Sydney, enjoying its fresh vibe and hear the latest on Australian astrophysics research from University of Sydney astrophysicist Julia Bryant, Ph.D. Then off to Australia's astronomy corridor. We'll visit "The Dish" at Parkes and the Siding Spring Observatory at Coonabarabran (Astronomy Capital of Australia).

North to Cairns, with suspense building. While we're in the neighborhood, we'll unwind with a visit to the Great Barrier Reef. After the eclipse, if you'd like to move on to Uluru, the wine country, wildlife viewing, and beyond, we can make your concept a reality. *S&T* is poised to assist you to extend and customize your journey with pre- and post-packages as you wish.

Map out a robust intellectual adventure. Reserve now, and join kindred spirits in a timeless moment. Visit <http://www.insightcruises.com/SolarEclipse>

**SKY
& TELESCOPE**



DAY 1: Nov. 8

Arrive Sydney

Upon your arrival at Sydney Airport, you'll be met by your guide for a City Tour of Sydney, including a tour of the Sydney Opera House, a refreshing stop at Bondi Beach, and a view of the historic Rocks area. In early afternoon, we'll relax on a luncheon cruise of Sydney Harbor, then check in to The Four Seasons Hotel of Sydney. We'll have an early dinner at a local restaurant, and call it an evening.



FOUR SEASONS
Hotels and Resorts

Lunch provided.

DAY 2: Nov. 9

Free day in Sydney

Enjoy a day at leisure on your own. We highly recommend the Royal Botanic Garden (with its famous flying foxes), The Art Gallery of New South Wales, and the Taronga Zoo — excellent options all within easy walking distance from our hotel.

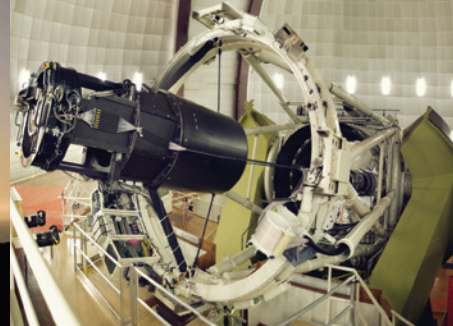
Breakfast provided.

DAY 3: Nov. 10

Travel to Parkes

Wake up Sydney hotel
Breakfast, 7am
Check-out/leave hotel at 8:30am
Arrive Parkes hotel, 4:30pm
(lunch en route at a resort)
Dinner in Parkes hotel
(Country Comfort Inn), 5:30pm
Depart hotel 7:30pm for night-time
Southern sky observing
Night-time Southern sky observing at 8pm
(weather permitting)
Back at hotel in Parkes at 10pm
Spend night in Parkes hotel





Today we head out to Australia's astronomy corridor. We'll traverse the UNESCO World Heritage Site Blue Mountains, preserved because of their unique mix of rain forest, blue mists, golden red sandstone escarpments, eucalyptus forest, and canyons. We'll pause in Katoomba to take in the view of The Three Sisters, and head into Central New South Wales for lunch in a country town. Our journey continues through picturesque farmland, arriving at Parkes in late afternoon. We'll have a relaxing dinner and take an informal first look at Southern Hemisphere skies.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner provided.

DAY 4: Nov. 11

Visit Parkes Observatory

Wake up in Parkes hotel
Breakfast, 7am
Check-out/leave hotel at 8:30am
Arrive Parkes Observatory 9am
Lunch at Parkes Noon to 1pm
Leave Parkes 1:15pm
Arrive hotel in Coonabarabran at 4:30pm
BBQ dinner at Coonabarabran hotel (Matthew Flinders), 5pm
Depart hotel 7:30pm for nighttime observing
Night-time Southern sky observing at 8pm (weather permitting)
Back at hotel in Coonabarabran at 10pm
Spend night in Coonabarabran hotel

This morning we head up the Newell Highway to the Australia Telescope National Facility, Parkes Observatory: The Dish. While we can't enter the observatory building itself, we'll receive exclusive briefings on the radio astronomy work executed with the 64-meter parabolic dish, and learn about Parkes' role in the Apollo 11 Moon landing, and other Apollo missions. Punctuated by the rumbling and whine that signals the movement of the dish, we'll wrap up our visit with lunch at The Dish Cafe (Elvis recommends the scones) and memorable photo ops.

After lunch it's onward to Coonabarabran, Astronomy Capital of Australia. With luck, we'll see emus, and with a lot of luck, we may spy kangaroos and koalas in the landscape. 5pm-ish we'll check in to our classic country motel, and unwind over a poolside barbecue. After dinner, we'll go to a local commercial observatory, and beneath a canopy of stars, tour the southern sky with a Siding Spring astronomer.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner provided.

DAY 5: Nov. 12

Visit Siding Spring Observatory

Wake up in Coonabarabran
Breakfast, 7am
Check-out/leave hotel at 8:30am
Arrive Siding Spring, 9am
Depart Siding Spring, Noon
Sandwiches on bus
Arrive Tamworth Airport 3:30pm
Depart for Cairns at 5pm
Arrive Cairns 10:30pm
Check into hotel (Shangri-La) at 11:30pm

Wake up in Coonabarabran to the sound of parrots and kookaburras. We'll have a simple country breakfast, and head into Warrumbungle National Park. We head through eucalyptus forests, past the World's Largest Solar System Drive to Siding Spring Observatory, Australia's premier optical astronomy center, atop Mt. Woorut. Get the scoop on cutting-edge tools and exploration at the Australian Astronomical Observatory with an exclusive briefing, and visit some of the dozen other observatories on site.

We're off, then, through New South Wales' "New England" region, headed to Tamworth and our transfer to Cairns, Queensland, and our base at the Shangri-La Hotel.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner provided.

DAY 6: Nov. 13

The Great Barrier Reef

Breakfast in Shangri-La, 7am

All aboard at 8:30am for a Big Cat Green Island Reef Cruise. On a smooth-sailing catamaran, we head for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. On a 6,000-year-old coral cay, Green Island National Park's tropical vine forest is home to 60 species of birds. Offshore in the surrounding reef live green and hawksbill turtles, clams, fish, stingrays, and a diversity of creatures.

Your cruise includes five hours on Green Island, a semi-sub coral-viewing tour, the choice of a glass-bottom boat tour or snorkelling equipment for the day, a fish feeding display, lunch, and self-guided island walks. The Big Cat cruise ends at 5pm with a transfer back to our hotel in Cairns.

You're on your own for dinner, but our hotel is right on the water, downtown Cairns. Every imaginable food option, and price range, from dozens upon dozens of restaurants, is within a 10-minute walk. For those tucked out by snorkeling all day at The Reef, either the fancy Aisan Fusion restaurant, or the water front full-service cafe, both on the property of the Shangri-La, are fine choices!

Breakfast and lunch provided.

DAY 7: Nov. 14

ECLIPSE DAY ... at Dawn

Choices choices! Early this morning we leave the Shangri-La for our pre-selected eclipse viewing site options.

Option One: On the Beach
You can settle in at our gorgeous beach selected for weather and viewing prospects, positioned above the high-tide line for the entire eclipse experience, with exclusive use of an ocean-front cafe. We'll have a breakfast buffet going before, during, and after the eclipse ... just a 30-second walk down from the water's edge and equally "distant" to your camera equipment. We have rooms booked right next door in a charming, tropical motel ... a place to store your equipment or recharge your batteries.

Options Two and Three: In The Outback
You can choose to head to the statistically sunniest spot in the Outback, on the dry side of the Great Dividing Range. Once there, you have two options:

- Observe on the ground at a site in the Outback
- Hop into a hot air balloon in Mareeba (guaranteed to the first 45 people who book; any unused by the first 45 will be assigned to people in the order in which they book) optimizing our position for eclipse viewing "on the fly."

Tonight, join us for an eclipse celebration reception, by the sea, followed by a sit-down dinner of regional foods.

Roundtrip air from all major US gateways included!

PRICING: \$8,999 per person (pp) based on double occupancy. Roundtrip air to/from all major U.S. gateway cities, plus flights inside Australia, is included. For full terms and conditions please visit:
<http://InsightCruises.com/Sky-4>

For more info call 650-787-5665 or concierge@InsightCruises.com



Data for our approximate viewing sites:

The Beach

Total duration is 2 minutes and 0.2 seconds.

Event	Local Time	Alt.*
1st contact:	5:44:40.8 AM	1°
2nd contact:	6:38:26.6 AM	14°
Mid eclipse:	6:39:26.7 AM	14°
3rd contact:	6:40:26.8 AM	14°
4th contact:	7:40:13.5 AM	28°

The Outback — Balloon launch site:

Total duration is 1 minute and 40.2 seconds.

Event	Local Time	Alt.*
1st contact:	5:44:54.8 AM	1°
2nd contact:	6:38:44.0 AM	14°
Mid eclipse:	6:39:34.1 AM	14°
3rd contact:	6:40:24.2 AM	14°
4th contact:	7:40:13.1 AM	28°

For those not ballooning, we'll head north a few clicks:

Total duration is 1 minute and 58.8 seconds.

Event	Local Time	Alt.*
1st contact:	5:44:38.6 AM	1°
2nd contact:	6:38:15.3 AM	13°
Mid eclipse:	6:39:14.7 AM	14°
3rd contact:	6:40:14.1 AM	14°
4th contact:	7:39:48.1 AM	28°

*Alt. — Attitude of the Sun over the horizon

DAY 8: Nov. 15

Fly Home

Check-out/leave Cairns hotel, 10am
Fly home from Cairns; arrive LAX 7pm, Nov. 15



CST# 2065380-40

