

## Sirius Travel Inc.

presents

### 2012 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE AUSTRALIA

November 6 - 16, 2012

On November 14 (local time), 2012 a total solar eclipse<sup>1</sup> will pass through North Queensland, Australia. On that date **Sirius Travel Inc.** will lead travelers to the eclipse path near Cairns. From a platform on the Great Barrier Reef<sup>2</sup> we will stand in the centerline of the shadow of the Sun as it races past. Our journey will begin in Sydney on November 6, 2012. After exploring the city we will travel to visit Siding Springs Observatory, Parkes Radio Telescope, the Blue Mountains, and then on to Cairns on November 11. While in the Cairns area we will visit the Karunda Rainforest by scenic railway, visit the Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park, view a total solar eclipse, spend time on the Great Barrier Reef, and explore Cairns itself. From the historical Parkes Radio Telescope to the natural beauty of the Great Barrier Reef, this tour will be a wonderful adventure that will engage the most experienced traveler.



The eclipse will begin just after sunrise on November 14, 2012 (01:12 UT – November 13) with totality lasting approximately 2 minutes. The astronomers and climatologists of Sirius Travel are always committed to selecting an observation site that will optimize our tour's chances of a successful eclipse viewing experience. Our site in Palm Cove has been selected after careful consideration of eclipse duration, cloud statistics for this date (66% chance of sunshine), geography, politics, and November climate to insure the best possible viewing experience for our guests. In particular, because of Palm Cove's proximity to the nearby mountains, it can benefit from local winds in the early morning.

**Sirius Travel Inc.** provides at least one experienced astronomer tour guide for every 15 travelers who is with the tour at all times. Sirius Travel also provides all the equipment required to safely view a solar eclipse, including a small telescope(s) with the proper filters and eclipse viewing glasses. There is no better way to fully appreciate this magnificent event!

Sirius Travel strives to provide the best possible, hassle-free astronomy adventures. Space is limited on this extraordinary trip so send in your reservation materials today. To reserve, each traveler must submit a completed and signed reservation form (page 6) with initial deposit to: **Sirius Travel Inc., 3026 11th St., Boulder, CO 80304 USA**

<sup>1</sup> Eclipse Image: V. Sahami, Easter Island, 2010

<sup>2</sup> Reef images courtesy of Reef Magic Cruises, Cairns, Australia

Please note: Images of Australia in this document are royalty free from Inmagine.com unless otherwise indicated.

## BRIEF ITINERARY

### SOLAR ECLIPSE TOUR AUSTRALIA

NOVEMBER 6 - 16, 2012

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2012

If you have arranged to travel round trip from Los Angeles with Sirius Travel, you will board your Qantas flight this evening from Los Angeles bound for Sydney.

#### Day 1, Nov 6, 2012: Arrive in Sydney

Travelers will convene from their points of origin at the hotel in Sydney. Rooms will be available for check-in at 2pm unless otherwise arranged. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. Overnight Sydney.

#### Day 2, Nov 7, 2012: Sydney<sup>3</sup> (B, L)



Visit the Botanical Gardens, the Conservatorium of Music, the Art Gallery and Mrs. Macquarie's Chair. Then it's back to the city's commercial center, Darling Harbor and Chinatown before heading for Kings Cross and the exclusive suburbs of Double Bay, Rose

Bay and Watson's Bay for a spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean from The Gap before returning to the city and Circular Quay to join a scheduled luncheon cruise. Following lunch we will tour the Historic Sydney Observatory on Observatory Hill at the Rocks. Overnight Sydney.

#### Day 3, Nov 8, 2012: Sydney (B, L)

Full day at leisure or you may wish to join an optional tour. Overnight Sydney.

#### Day 4, Nov 9, 2012: Sydney - Coonabarabran (B,L,D)

Travel by coach to Coonabarabran, the 'Astronomy Capital of Australia'. Pass through the Hunter Valley region, New South Wales' premier wine growing area, and through the countryside, stopping enroute for lunch. In the afternoon we will visit Siding Spring Observatory, Australia's foremost optical astronomy research center and home of the giant 3.9 m Anglo Australian telescope. Overnight Coonabarabran.

#### Day 5, Nov 10, 2012: Coonabarabran – Parkes - Orange (B, L, D)

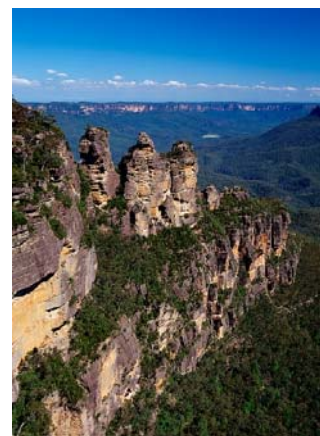
Travel through Central West New South Wales, which encompasses the Central Tablelands area that lies between the Great Dividing Range and the vast, dry expanses of the Outback.



Travel along the Newell Highway to Parkes<sup>4</sup>, home to one of the world's largest radio telescopes. While there we will visit the Parkes CSIRO Radio Telescope & Discovery Centre and enjoy lunch enroute. Overnight Orange.

#### Day 6, Nov 11, 2012: Orange – Blue Mountains – Sydney – Palm Cove (B, L)

Travel by coach from Orange to Katoomba and the Blue Mountains. We will visit Echo Point, viewing the Three Sisters and enjoying spectacular high country views overlooking Australia's Grand Canyon. Next we will visit *Scenic World*, where we will ride the world's steepest incline railway down into the valley, take a boardwalk through the rainforest, and return back up by the new cable car called the Flyway. Following a delicious buffet lunch at



*Mountain Heritage Resort* we will head down the mountains toward Sydney. Along the way we will visit *Featherdale Wildlife Park*, one of the largest collections of Australian animals in the world. After the park, we continue on to the airport in Sydney for our early evening flight to Cairns. Overnight Palm Cove.



<sup>3</sup> Opera House & Harbour Bridge: Copyright Tourism Australia

<sup>4</sup> Parkes Radio Telescope image courtesy of CSIRO

## Day 7, Nov 12, 2012: Palm Cove (B, L)



In the morning we will take a leisurely rail journey through tropical forests on the *Kuranda Scenic Rail* to a small village in the rainforest called Kuranda. From there we board the Skyrail<sup>5</sup> to pass over the rainforest canopy. A

short distance from the Skyrail Terminal is the Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park where we will have a buffet lunch. Afterwards we will have time to explore all the attractions of Tjapukai – history theatres, stage shows, craft demonstrations, the Aboriginal village, and the famous Tjapukai Dance Troupe. Return by coach to our hotel. Overnight Palm Cove.

## Day 8, Nov 13, 2012: Palm Cove (B)

Full day at leisure or you may wish to join an optional tour. Overnight Palm Cove.

## Day 9, Nov 14, 2012: Palm Cove – ECLIPSE DAY!! (B)



"Totality!"<sup>6</sup> Where the Sun once stood, there is a black disk in the sky, outlined by the soft pearly white glow of the corona, about the brightness of a Full Moon. Small but vibrant reddish features stand at the rim of the Moon's disk, contrasting vividly with the

white of the corona and the black where the Sun is hidden. These are the prominences, giant clouds of hot gas in the Sun's lower atmosphere. They are always a surprise, each unique in shape and size, different yesterday and tomorrow from what they are at this special moment. You are standing in the shadow of the Moon." (- adapted from *Totality: Eclipses of the Sun*)

We have selected to view this eclipse from a diving platform on the Great Barrier Reef on the centerline of totality. Our morning excursion to the reef is optional, our hotel in Palm Cove is also on the centerline and people are free to observe from there if they wish. We will leave from the Palm Cove jetty before dawn and take a boat out to a fixed diving platform, arriving shortly before sunrise. The eclipse will begin just after sunrise and totality will occur at 6:40 am Eastern Standard time with the sun 14 degrees above the horizon. Totality will last just over two minutes. Following the eclipse we will spend the morning snorkeling and diving from the platform on the Reef. We will return to the Palm Cove jetty by noon. Remainder of the day will be free. Overnight Palm Cove.

## Day 10, Nov 15, 2012: Palm Cove (B)



Full day at leisure or you may wish to join an optional tour. Overnight Palm Cove.

## Day 11, Nov 16, 2012: Departure (B)

Transfer by private coach to Cairns Airport to connect with your departing flight.

<sup>5</sup> Skyrail image courtesy of Tourism Queensland

<sup>6</sup> Diamond Ring: V. Sahami, Easter Island, 2010

## TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

- Guides: One Sirius astronomer/scientist guide for every 15 passengers will accompany the tour. All Sirius Travel guides are experienced travelers, educators, and scientists.
- Lodging: 4/5 star hotels in Sydney and Palm Cove. Due to the limited accommodation available in Coonabarabran and Orange, services there are based on 3 star motel accommodations.
- Meals: As described in itinerary.
- Vehicles: Private coaches & Domestic flights
- Equipment: Sirius Travel will provide telescope(s) (with solar filter) and eclipse viewing glasses for safe eclipse viewing.
- Lectures: Several astronomy and science lectures by Sirius guides in the areas of their expertise.
- Park Entrance Fees: Included
- Portage: Hotel portage is included for one large suitcase per person where porters are available.

## RESERVATIONS, CANCELLATIONS, REFUNDS, AND PAYMENTS

To secure your space, a \$900 per person reservation fee with a completed reservation form is required. A second payment of \$1000 is due February 1, 2012. The final balance is due July 1, 2012.

For cancellations made before February 1, 2012, there will be a \$100 per person cancellation fee. For cancellations made from February 1, 2012 – July 1, 2012, there will be a \$900 per person cancellation fee. There are no refunds after July 1, 2012. Air cancellation terms are additional.

## SEAT ASSIGNMENTS & FREQUENT FLIER MILES

Advance seat assignments may not be possible due to airline policies, and should not be expected. Most airlines secure advance seat blocks for groups, but don't assign specific people to specific seats until airport check-in.

Frequent Flyer miles may sometimes be accrued, but cannot be used for upgrades or free tickets in group blocks.

## TOUR PACKAGE RATES

<i>Package</i>	<i>Rate per person</i>
Adult Australia only	\$5,850.00
Child Australia only	\$3,590.00
Single Supplement	\$1,200.00

International airfare can be added for those interested in traveling from Los Angeles with no trip extensions. The international airfares (including taxes) round trip LA – Sydney – LA in 2012 are estimated to be: Adult: \$1700, Child: \$1200

## NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PACKAGE

Items of a personal nature, passport and visa fees, gratuity to local guides, airport taxes, excess baggage fees

## INSURANCE

Trip cancellation, health, and accident insurance are recommended but not required. It can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip. We recommend TravelGuard trip insurance ([www.travelguard.com](http://www.travelguard.com)) and we recommend that all travelers purchase their insurance within 7 days of their initial reservation to take advantage of any pre-existing condition clause.

## VISAS & PASSPORTS

Depending on your country of origin, visas may be required to enter Australia. At this time visas are required for US citizens. Passports are required to enter Australia and must be valid for 3 months beyond the date of return. Visa and passport fees are not included in the price of this trip. We recommend obtaining your visa 6 months prior to departure and we will send notification to all clients.

### Notes:

1. Base rates are double occupancy.
2. Price is subject to vendor price fluctuations and will be set 10 months prior to departure.
3. Australia-only clients will meet the group at the hotel in Sydney on November 6, 2012.
4. Child rates are for any children under 12 including infants requiring their own seat on an airplane. Infant rates (under 2) traveling on a parent's lap are available on request.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

**CANCELLATIONS:** Sirius Travel Inc. will confirm bookings, changes, and cancellations in writing. **Cancellation fees apply in the amount described in the “Reservations, Cancellations, Refunds & Payments” section of this contract.**

**CONDITIONS OF PAYMENT:** Payment and/or any other monies received constitutes agreement to these Terms & Conditions. Payments to Sirius Travel shall be made in US Dollars & shall be received by Sirius Travel per the specified deadline dates. Late payments will incur a \$50 fee and may result in the non-refundable cancellation of some or all services booked. The sender is responsible for all bank fees incurred in connection with the transfer of funds or payment of checks. Payment can be made by Personal Check, Cashier’s Check, Money Order, or Wire/Cable transfer. Some deposits may be paid via PayPal.

**RESPONSIBILITIES & LIABILITY:** In common with other companies, Sirius Travel Inc. acts only as an agent for passengers in arranging tour and transportation as appropriate and agreed in each itinerary. As such, Sirius Travel Inc. shall not be liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of any company or person engaged in conveying the passengers.

*Sirius Travel Inc. Reserves the right to decline, accept or to retain any person as a member of a trip.*

If the contract between STI and the passenger, on the one hand, and/or the designated carrier, on the other hand, is canceled for any reason whatsoever, all partial or full payments made for the trip will be refunded per the cancellations section of the contract with no future obligation on the part of the operator.

The right is specifically reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in a similar category or to change schedules without prior notice, should circumstances so require.

Sirius Travel Inc. does not own or operate, nor is it an agent for any of the firms which will provide goods and services for the trip or for any option which may be available in connection with the trip (including but not limited to optional sightseeing, car rental, etc.) and Sirius Travel Inc. has not priced the trip to allow Sirius Travel Inc. to guarantee against failure of any such firms. Accordingly, participant(s) agree to seek remedies directly with the supplier, and not to hold Sirius Travel Inc. or sponsoring organization liable, in the absence of its negligence, for any loss, injury, delay or expense which results directly or indirectly from any action or omission, whether negligent, criminal or otherwise, of any entity providing goods and services for the trip or any available option (e.g. without limitation, the quality of services or any flight delays). Participant(s) also agree not to hold Sirius Travel Inc. or sponsoring organization liable for circumstances beyond its control (e.g. force majeure, terrorism, war, or acts of God). Participant(s) acknowledge that neither Sirius Travel Inc. nor its agents have made any representation or promises with the respect to the travel described Herein except as expressly set forth in Sirius Travel’s literature, unless such agreement is in writing and signed by an officer of Sirius Travel Inc. Sirius Travel Inc. accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay, changes, or cancellations in train, bus, ship, airplanes or other services, sickness, weather, war, terrorist acts, strikes, quarantine, or other causes. Baggage is transported at the client’s risk throughout the trip.

## Reservation Form

### 2012 ECLIPSE TOUR AUSTRALIA (NOVEMBER 6-16)

-- Please provide one reservation form for each traveler --

-- All information is required --

-- Keep a copy of this page for your records--

**Names must be given exactly as they appear on the passenger's passport, otherwise additional penalties, re-issuing fees, or cancellation of airline reservations with full loss of monies paid may apply.**

Passport Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_ Passport Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency contact:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like the following tour package and supplement:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Australia Only (\$5850) | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Supplement (\$1200)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Australia Only (\$3590) | <input type="checkbox"/> International airfare from US (TBD) |

**I am traveling as a member of the Adler Planetarium:**  YES  NO

Enclosed is a payment of USD \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Checks should be sent payable to Sirius Travel Inc.*  
**3026 11<sup>th</sup> St., Boulder, CO, USA**

I have made a money transfer of USD \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 I have paid USD \$ \_\_\_\_\_ via PayPal  
 to Sirius Travel on \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

**By signing below I confirm that I have read and agree to the above responsibilities and the terms and conditions.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Traveler (Parent/Guardian if under 18)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

