



Australia Down Under July 22 - August 6, 2022

****Friday (July 22) - Please arrive at DFW around 6:50pm. Departure from Dallas (DFW) at 10:50pm for a non-stop flight to Sydney, Australia.***

Day 1 (Sunday, July 24) - Morning arrival in the beautiful city of Sydney, capital of New South Wales. Enjoy a little sightseeing around one of Australia's largest city and take a Sydney Harbor Lunch Cruise. **Optional Bridge Climb of the Sydney Harbor Bridge in the afternoon* (paid by participants prior, make a reservation on your own via this website at 2:00pm <https://www.bridgeclimb.com/>). Take some time to rest and check into your hotel before joining the group for a welcome dinner.

(Overnight Sydney)

(L,D)

<https://www.panpacific.com/en/hotels-and-resorts/pr-darling-harbour-sydney.html>



Day 2 (Monday, July 25) - After breakfast at the hotel, meet with NH Foods Group which is a leader in the global delivery of a wide variety of foods including fresh meats, ham, sausages, processed foods, seafood, dairy products and health foods.

www.ExplorationsByThor.com

This itinerary remains the property of Explorations by Thor and is subject to change without notice. Its unauthorized use, in whole or in part, is an infringement of copyright laws.

NH Foods Australia operates three large beef export processing facilities, each is strategically placed in prime cattle areas along the east coast of Australia and acknowledged as industry leaders in food safety and hygiene practices. These facilities are supported by one of Australia's largest and most modern cattle feedlots, Whyalla Beef, located in Southern Queensland. Your host will present on the global NH Foods business and also the company's interests in Australia. Next, a presentation from Tim Jackson, Business Analyst for Global Market Insights, Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA). Tim will cover topics of: international trade, world markets, exports, imports, agricultural production practices and agricultural commodities. There will also be a very high-level overview on the specialized areas of Integrity Systems. Lunch will follow with free time for you to explore Sydney on your own.

(Overnight Sydney)

(B,L,D)

<https://www.panpacific.com/en/hotels-and-resorts/pr-darling-harbour-sydney.html>



Day 3 (Tuesday, July 26) - Morning visit to the Sydney Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market. Sydney Produce Market is the largest fresh fruit and vegetable wholesale market in Australia and one of the largest in the world. It caters primarily to professional buyers from supermarkets, restaurants and green grocers but is also open to the public. It has become the price barometer for fruit and vegetables in Australia. Next, visit Leppington Pastoral Company which is a family owned and operated dairy farm, milking 2,000 cows in a modern dairy facility that is one of the largest found in Australia. The dairy is based on a US style of farming, milking cows 3 times per day. Continue to the Blue Mountains for lunch and some sightseeing. The Blue Mountains is known for its scenery of dramatic cliffs, forests and waterfalls. Later, dinner and overnight stay in Bathurst.

www.ExplorationsByThor.com

This itinerary remains the property of Explorations by Thor and is subject to change without notice. Its unauthorized use, in whole or in part, is an infringement of copyright laws.

(Overnight Bathurst)

(B,L,D)

<https://mantrabathurst.com.au/>





Day 4 (Wednesday, July 27) - After breakfast at the hotel, visit Rosedale Charolais. Rosedale is a family run business and has the largest Polled Charolais herd in Australia. Having commenced in 1970 Rosedale is one of Australia's foundation Charolais studs and is the longest running Stud in NSW today. Today they sell over 150 bulls a year, both privately and through their two annual sales. They offer Pure Charolais Bulls as well as Charolais Composite bulls comprising Charolais/Angus and Charolais/Shorthorn. Guided tour with a local livestock agent, Darren Connick, one of the principals of McCarron Cullinane, at the Central Tablelands Livestock Exchange (CTLX). Today, there will be a prime lamb and sheep sale! CTLX provides the Central Tablelands with a state-of-the-art livestock auction facility that promises a competitive market for buyers and sellers. As one of the most advanced livestock facilities in Australia today, CTLX represents a new era in livestock marketing. Strong weekly sheep and lamb markets are expected to build sales to 700,000 head per year. Later, explore a cool climate vineyard and winery. Continue your journey to Canberra (*the capital of Australia*), known for its beautiful nature reserves and surrounding mountain ranges. Wine tasting and lunch at The Quarry Restaurant and Cellar Door. A local wine grower has been invited to attend to talk to the group. Visit the Merryville Merino Stud near Boorowa. From early beginnings in 1865, the Merryville Stud today is made up of four main sections - Ultra Fine – 17.3 micron, Super Fine – 18 micron, Fine – 19 micron and Medium – 20 micron. Each of these is line bred to their own type to give pre-potency and consistency and are basically four individual studs. Today, modern technology permits objective analysis of both wool and sheep. Your host will be Wally Merriman. Continue to Canberra – with a short sightseeing coach tour upon arrival.

www.ExplorationsByThor.com

This itinerary remains the property of Explorations by Thor and is subject to change without notice. Its unauthorized use, in whole or in part, is an infringement of copyright laws.

This evening, have dinner with 2 special guests speakers from the U.S. Embassy.

	<p>Levin Flake Agricultural Counselor, <u>Australia</u> and New Zealand Tour of Duty: June 2019 – June 2023</p> <p>Levin Flake is the Agricultural Counselor at the Office of Agricultural Affairs in Canberra, Australia. Prior to arriving in Australia, he served as the Director of the Agricultural Trade Office in Guangzhou, China. He also served as an Assistant Agricultural Attaché in Lagos, Nigeria, as the Senior Agricultural Attaché in Moscow, Russia, and as an International Trade Economist in Washington, D.C. Levin has a Bachelor of Arts from Brigham Young University in International Studies and a <u>Master's Degree</u> from Oxford University. Levin and his wife Melissa have seven children.</p>
	<p>Zeljko Biki Agricultural Specialist Employment: February 2020- present</p> <p>Zeljko grew up on a family dairy farm in northern Victoria and went on complete a Masters of Agricultural Science. After a seven-year period as an agricultural consultant he went onto a lengthy career as an agribusiness banker across a large range of industries at one of the major Australian financial institutions. Zeljko joined the US Embassy in Australia in March 2020 as the Agriculture Specialist.</p>

(Overnight Canberra)

(B,L,D)

<https://www.mercurecanberra.com.au>



www.ExplorationsByThor.com

This itinerary remains the property of Explorations by Thor and is subject to change without notice. Its unauthorized use, in whole or in part, is an infringement of copyright laws.

Day 5 (Thursday, July 28) - Full day of visits with:

- Presentation from the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) by Tony Mahar, CEO. The NFF is the peak national body representing farmers and, more broadly, agriculture across Australia. It is one of Australia's foremost and respected advocacy organizations. Since its inception in 1979, the NFF has earned a reputation as a leader in the identification, development and achievement of policy outcomes – championing issues affecting farmers and dedicated to the advancement of agriculture. NFF will provide morning tea.
- 10.45 – 12.15 Meeting with the American Chamber of Commerce in Australia (AmCham). AmCham's aim is to be a critical hub offering connections and access to opportunity. They provide assistance to U.S. and Australian companies and they promote trade, commerce and investment to and from Australia. Host is Sheryle Moon (General Manager – ACT) plus some invited members that represent companies doing business in Australia.
- 12.30 – 15.45 Working lunch at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO). As Australia's national science agency and innovation catalyst, they solve the greatest challenges through innovative science and technology.
- The Australian National University Phenomics Team + CEAT (Center for Entrepreneurial Agricultural Technology) will also host a tour and a presentation on their work.
- 16.00 – 17.00 Guided tour of Australian Parliament House, providing an insight into the inner workings of this landmark building.

(Overnight Canberra)

(B,L,D)

<https://www.mercurecanberra.com.au>



Day 6 (Friday, July 29) - Early morning flight to Brisbane to visit the Port of Brisbane, the state's largest and fastest growing multi-cargo port. Next, visit with GrainCorp, a diversified Australian agribusiness, with integrated operations spanning four continents and a proud history of delivering for their customers for more than 100 years. Their ports are a crucial gateway to both domestic and international markets and are the backbone of their import and export capabilities. They operate seven of the eight bulk export grain elevators in eastern Australia. Brisbane is Australia's third largest city, located on the Brisbane river. Later, an evening session with the Brisbane chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce in Australia (AmCham). They are known as Australia's largest and most prestigious international business organization that promotes trade, commerce and investments to and from Australia. Presentation and networking drinks function with the Brisbane chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce in Australia (AmCham). Your host is Colin Fruk – General Manager – Queensland. There will be some invited members from US companies based in Brisbane. Fully sponsored (by AmCham - Brisbane) viewing of the Australian-made movie, *Elvis*.

(Overnight Brisbane)

(B,L,D)

<https://www.royalonthepark.com.au>



Day 7 (Saturday, July 30) - Morning visit to a large suburban shopping center to learn about supermarkets, butchers and fresh food stores in this region. Travel one hour north for a visit with a major horticultural enterprise. Visit Fullerton Farms at Beerwah, growing macadamias in a big way on nearly 750 acres of farmland in various locations. Macadamias are originally an Australian native tree. The Fullerton's harvest, de-husk the nuts, store and then send them to the factory for processing. The farm also grows pineapples. Continue to the Australia Zoo, made famous by the late Steve Irwin for a visit and lunch. Established in 1970, this zoo encompasses over 700 acres. Later in the day, return to Brisbane for an evening at Suncorp Stadium for a National Rugby League match between the Brisbane Broncos and the West Tigers from Sydney.

(Overnight Brisbane)

(B,L,D)

<https://www.royalonthepark.com.au>



Day 8 (Sunday, July 31) - After breakfast at the hotel, travel west across the Great Dividing Range and onto the southern edge of the famous cropping region known as the Darling Downs. Join the local community in the small border town of Texas, where the annual 'Texas Show' is taking place. This festival and farm show is filled with music,

www.ExplorationsByThor.com

This itinerary remains the property of Explorations by Thor and is subject to change without notice. Its unauthorized use, in whole or in part, is an infringement of copyright laws.

horse events and local vendors.

SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT

- Barrel Racing
- 2nd Day of Campdraft
- Mutton Buster
- Motorbike stunt show
- BBQ run by NH FOOD (feedlot just outside of Texas)
- Tough Texan Challenge
- Dog show
- Ute Show
- Motorbike Challenge

Most of the fun kicks off from 10am and wraps up around 4pm.

Later, continue to Goondiwindi, a rural border town whose name is derived from the Aboriginal word meaning, 'the resting place of the birds'.

(Overnight Goondiwindi)

(B,L,D)

<https://www.thejollyswagman.com.au>



Day 9 (Monday, August 1) - Visit to Macintyre Gin owned by Namoi Cotton at Goondiwindi. Namoi Cotton has the largest ginning network in Australia, with 11 operational sites strategically positioned throughout the cotton growing regions of NSW and southern QLD. In addition to the gins, the Namoi Cotton Group also has offices, warehouses, commodity packing facilities and grower representative offices located throughout the same regions. Visit “Beefwood,” one of the properties of a prominent farming family. The family immigrated from the Netherlands and now own and manage a significant cropping enterprise with excellent agronomy, technology and modern management practices. Highlights here will include learning of their development/improvement of machinery technology such as

www.ExplorationsByThor.com

This itinerary remains the property of Explorations by Thor and is subject to change without notice. Its unauthorized use, in whole or in part, is an infringement of copyright laws.

autonomous (unmanned) tractors allowing 24-hour operations (especially spraying). This technology is used in combination with “weed seeking” technology that allows better weed management – combating resistance, use of more potent/specific chemicals but still keeping spraying costs low. Lunch at “Beefwood” before traveling to the town of Moree. Visit a large silo complex at CHS Broadbent, where grains such as wheat and barley are being stored in 2 bunkers and 4 sheds. From here, product is transported by rail for distribution. The Moree region is the second biggest wheat growing area of Australia after the entire State of Western Australia. Visit one of Australia’s foremost and oldest Shorthorn cattle studs - Weebollabolla. The Moree complex is the head office and encompasses the Annual Bull sale, 600 performance recorded females, 1,000 head feedlot and cropping. Return to Goondiwindi. Dinner in the restaurant at the nearby O’Shea’s Royal Hotel. Guests from the local historical society have been invited, providing an opportunity for a two-way community forum to discuss how rural communities have and are changing and evolving.

(Overnight Goondiwindi)

(B,L,D)

<https://www.thejollyswagman.com.au>



Day 10 (Tuesday, August 2) - Depart Goondiwindi and visit Sapphire Feedlot, owned by Smithfield Cattle Co. The 6,000 head Sapphire Feedlot has the capacity to grow to 8,700 head with the development to be rolled out in the future. Sapphire is being run using the industry leading standards and systems that have helped create and underpin the success at their Smithfield Feedlot. Sapphire covers 1,716ha of country that consists of about 1000 acres for irrigation cultivation, 2,500 acres of dryland cultivation and 600+ acres for grazing and water infrastructure. The property enjoys river frontage to the Dumaresq River, which serves the irrigation development as well as providing

www.ExplorationsByThor.com

This itinerary remains the property of Explorations by Thor and is subject to change without notice. Its unauthorized use, in whole or in part, is an infringement of copyright laws.

ample supply for feedlot stock water. Enjoy morning tea down by the river with your hosts. Visit Archer Pastoral's dryland grazing business, which principally runs cattle and sheep trading operations on 20,000 acres. The total area managed over two properties, plus additional leased land, is under time-controlled grazing and is broken into 320 paddocks. The time-controlled grazing is delivering benefits in profits, regenerative sustainability and carbon sequestration. There will be a coach tour followed by a talk and lunch with your hosts, Tom and Antoinette Archer, at the property's homestead. Travel north near Toowoomba where you will be joined by one of the leaders of Landcare Australia, Ken Stallman, who will accompany you to provide a full explanation on how cooperation between producers within a region has transformed land, soil and farming management practices.

(Overnight Dalby)

(B,L,D)

www.dmmi.com.au



Day 11 (Wednesday, August 3) - Visit to the Dalby Regional Saleyards, as this day is sale day where cattle are sold on a weekly basis. Dalby is one of the nation's most significant cattle market facilities, with the sale of more than 200,000 cattle per year. Attending the sale will enable you to appreciate the values, selling methods and the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) you would have been told about during the MLA presentation on Integrity Systems. There will be a guided tour of the facility and an explanation of the auctioning system. Visit Elders Limited, a local rural supplies store. This will provide an opportunity to see and hear about the main products being sold to the local livestock and cropping farmers. Travel to the Bunya Mountains, where the afternoon will be spent with the Bunya People's Aboriginal Corporation (BPAC) for a cultural interaction, demonstrations and a meeting. Essentially, BPAC undertake fire management workshops, manage invasive plant and animal species, and revive and share knowledge of the country.

www.ExplorationsByThor.com

This itinerary remains the property of Explorations by Thor and is subject to change without notice. Its unauthorized use, in whole or in part, is an infringement of copyright laws.

(Overnight Kingaroy)

(B,L,D)

<https://www.burkeandwills.com.au>



Day 12 (Thursday, August 4) - In the morning after breakfast, visit a sugarcane farm where you will receive a good insight into sugarcane farming in Australia. Travel south to the town of Gympie to stop for lunch. Visit Nolan Meats, a family owned, 100% Australian company founded as a small retail butchery business in Gympie in 1958. Today, Nolan Meats is a modern, well equipped, integrated export meat processing company moving rapidly with the time in response to consumer demands. Afternoon visit to the Terella boutique craft brewery.

(Overnight Mooloolaba)

(B,L,D)

<https://www.landmarkresort.com.au>



Day 13 (Friday, August 5) - Spend your last day at one of the most iconic (and one of the oldest) beachside locations in all of Australia. Farewell dinner at the beautiful Mooloolaba Surf Club.

www.ExplorationsByThor.com

This itinerary remains the property of Explorations by Thor and is subject to change without notice. Its unauthorized use, in whole or in part, is an infringement of copyright laws.

(Overnight Mooloolaba)

(B,L,D)

<https://www.landmarkresort.com.au>



Day 12 (Saturday, August 6) - Transfer to Sunshine Coast or Brisbane airport for your connection to homeward flights.

(B)

“This itinerary is subject to change without prior approval. Please note that if a last minute cancellation occurs, a replacement technical visit will be arranged.”

www.ExplorationsByThor.com

This itinerary remains the property of Explorations by Thor and is subject to change without notice. Its unauthorized use, in whole or in part, is an infringement of copyright laws.