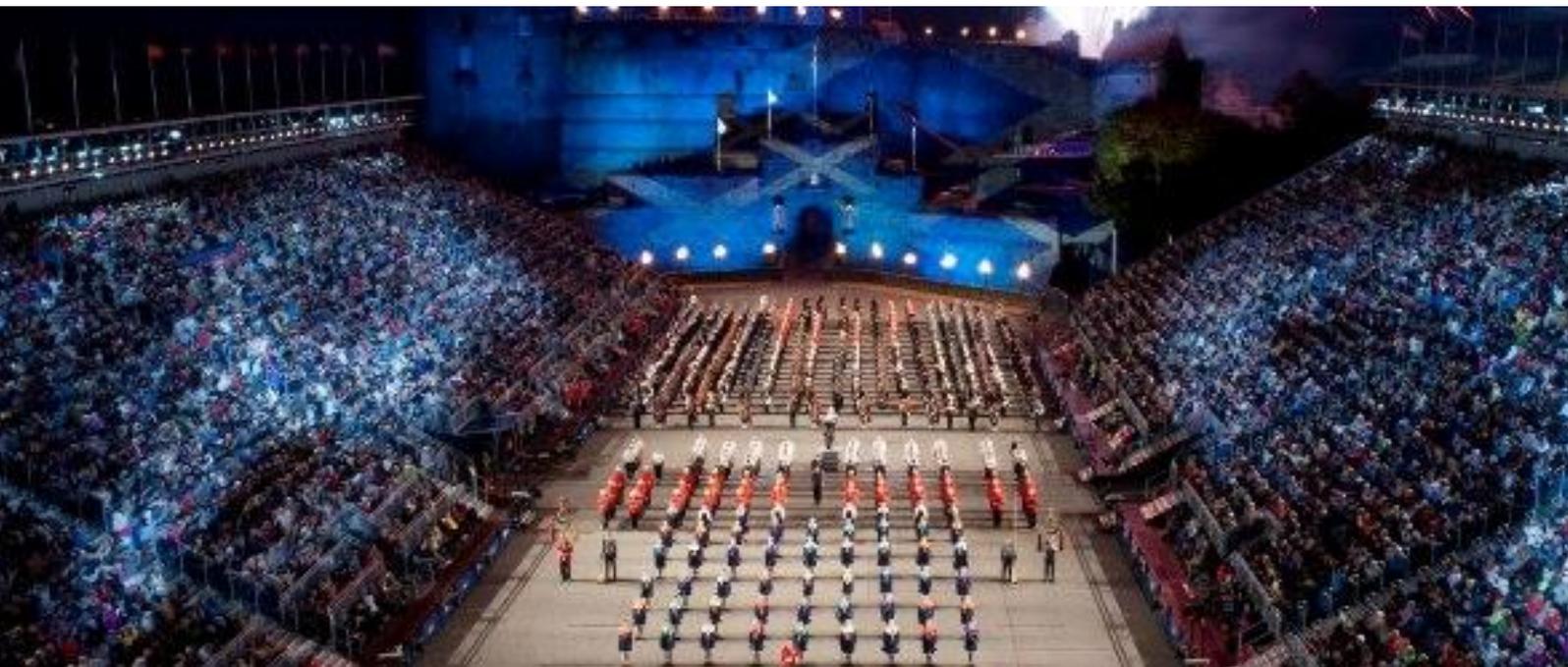




THE ROYAL
EDINBURGH
MILITARY
TATTOO



It's time to put on your kilts and head to the Tattoo

on the way enjoy some gripping Test match cricket

28 Nights on Tour – what an Experience!

Flights included from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns, Adelaide or Perth

Fully Escorted Small Group Tour

Set against the backdrop of Edinburgh's imposing castle, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is one of the most iconic events in Edinburgh's calendar. Bringing together audiences from across the globe, the Edinburgh Tattoo celebrates the skills and talents of military bands and display teams from the British Armed Forces, the Commonwealth and military teams throughout the world.



BALMORAL CASTLE, BALLATER, SCOTLAND

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Cricket Society once again heads to the hallowed turf at the home of cricket. Members and their companions will be enthralled by the diversity of our 2019 Tour where the all-important second and thirds Test matches are part of an outstanding overall travel experience, best enjoyed as a small group. This is your invitation to join ACS President Ken Piesse and his wife Susan, your hands-on experienced tour managers, on what promises to be a delightful tour. Highlights include Durham, Galashiels, Edinburgh for the Tattoo and lot's more including; St. Andrews, Pitlochry, Balmoral Castle, Loch Ness and the Fort William Jacobite Railway before heading south via Glasgow on the Intercity train to Euston. After 8 nights in the Capital it's off to the learning seat of Cambridge then on to Leeds for more cricket action at what will be a critical match in the 2019 Ashes Series. In both directions we take a welcome stop in bustling Hong Kong ensuring a well-earned break and more exciting tour highlights. This tour is limited to just 20 travellers so make sure you commit early and have your name engraved in ACS history!

ITINERARY

Sat, 3rd AUGUST: MELBOURNE to HONG KONG (L)

If you wish to overnight at Melbourne Airport prior to departure, please advise when booking.

- 05.30 Check in time at Terminal 2, International.
- 07.35 Depart Melbourne non-stop for Hong Kong.
- 15.10 On arrival transfer into the city via the Airport Express to our four-star hotel for an overnight to break the long journey to the UK.

City Garden Hotel (Northpoint, HK Island)

The evening is free to relax in the hotel and unwind from the flight.

Sun, 4th AUGUST: HONG KONG (B)

- 08.20 After a hearty buffet breakfast at your leisure we join a tour of Hong Kong Island featuring a tram ride to Victoria Peak, visits to Aberdeen and Stanley Market. The tour includes a complimentary Open Top Bus ticket on routes including Hong Kong Island or Kowloon.

Importantly you will be out most of the day, so your room has been reserved for a late check out – no need to store your luggage and you can shower and change in plenty of time.

After most of the day out and about we return to the hotel to freshen up for dinner.

- 20.00 Time to catch the shuttle bus to the station at Central, where we will check-in for the flight at the downtown Station before heading to the Airport, without luggage. This way we go straight into the departure area without navigating the airport counters.

Mon 5th AUGUST: HONG KONG to MANCHESTER (B)

- 01.00 Our flight departs Hong Kong non-stop to the UK.
- 07.00 Arrival in Manchester where we clear Immigration before we collect our bags and head for the arrivals hall.
- 08.30 After a well-earned coffee we depart with our driver on the beginning of our adventure in Great Britain.
- 11.00 The 3-hour journey north takes us by the stunning Yorkshire Dales before arriving at our destination in Durham in time for an early lunch whilst our luggage is stored until check-in later this afternoon.

Our hotel is brilliantly located close to the heart of the city and the famous Durham Castle is just a 10-minute walk from here. The afternoon is free to explore your surroundings on foot and walk off some of that jetlag. On

arrival our check-in time will be advised and we may be lucky to get in early, if not then lets walk to find a local pub for a refreshment or a café for a coffee or tea.

Marriott Hotel Royal County

- 19.00 A welcome dinner is included in a local restaurant this evening, where Ken will formally welcome you and bring you up to speed on the activities for the next few days with any fine-tuning required.

Tue 6th AUGUST: GALASHIELS and EDINBURGH (B, L)

Breakfast can be taken at your leisure so tuck in to the traditional English cooked breakfast to put you in stead for the day ahead.

- 09.00 After boarding the coach we make our way north with the first stop being less than an hour away at the village of Corbridge. Here we stop for a wander around this attractive Northumberland town just 16 miles west of Newcastle. You will find a plethora of small shops with decorated fronts in what was a Garrison town for Roman soldiers due to a safe place to cross the River Tyne.
- 11.00 We continue our journey north through the Northumberland National Park, where on leaving the park we find ourselves in Scotland.



- 12.30 Arriving in the Scottish Borders town of Galashiels we head for our lunch stop where we will enjoy a three-course Scottish meal, welcoming us to the country!

Tue 6th AUGUST: GALASHIELS and EDINBURGH (B, L)

- 15.00 On departing Galashiels it's less than an hour's drive to the Scottish Capital Edinburgh, our home for two nights.
- 16.00 Edinburgh is a bustling hub and even more so at this important time of the year with its famous Tattoo in full swing. This is very much a peak period in this fabulous destination and you will soon find out why, but before that, it's time to check in and freshen up.

Novotel Edinburgh Centre



Tue 6th AUGUST: GALASHIELS and EDINBURGH (B, L)

Located in the very heart of the Scottish Capital this is an ideal position to explore the city on foot, which can be done at your leisure. This evening is free to wine and dine at your discretion and a good place to start, if in doubt, is the hotel's own Tap Bar & Kitchen, offering a range of craft beer and fine food.

Wed 7th AUGUST: EDINBURGH TATTOO (B)

Breakfast at your leisure.

Today is a free day to explore the city. Local buses operate to highlights such as the Royal Yacht Britannia and Holyrood House, well worth a visit. The Golden Mile is a lovely walk and just 15 minutes from our hotel as is our venue tonight at Edinburgh Castle.

TBA Edinburgh Tattoo – what a night is in store – walk to the Castle in around 15 minutes, Ken will lead the way!

Thu 8th AUGUST: ST. ANDREWS & PITLOCHRY (B)

Breakfast at your leisure.

09.30 Our coach departs Edinburgh. We make our way across the Firth of Forth, heading north and north east.

11.00 Arrival in the iconic home of golf in St. Andrews, a University town on the east coast. Here we stop for around 3 hours, so you can explore the town at will. Its rather small but quaint and steeped in golfing history. You can visit St Andrews Cathedral, the ruined Castle and indeed the fabulous British Golf Museum or the Botanic Garden. Golf memorabilia abounds! It's free time for lunch so a local pub should do the trick.

14.00 Time to depart heading north westerly via Dundee to the highlands town of Pitlochry, where we stay for the evening. Check in to our hotel for one night.

Pitlochry Hydro Hotel

15.30 After checking in and time to refresh it's free time to explore this charming village. Pitlochry is a burgh in the county of Perthshire with a small population of around 2,000. You may wish to pay a visit to Blair Athol Visitor Centre and Distillery to try a wee dram or two. This evening is free for you to plan dinner whether at the hotel or in town, which is around 10 mins walk away. The hotel itself is an iconic building boasting historic grandeur and dining in is not such a bad idea after a day out and about, to rest those weary legs.

Fri 9th AUGUST: BALMORAL to ABERDEEN and INVERNESS (B)

Breakfast is served at your leisure.

09.00 Board the coach for our departure and what is going to be a magnificent day touring the Highlands.

Our 90-minute drive is simply stunning as we head through the Cairngorms National Park with the Highlands all around us.

On arrival into Balmoral Castle you will see why the Royal family chose this place as a holiday residence in what is a very unspoilt area with natural beauty.

10.35 We commence our tour of the magnificent Royal Highland home, since 1852.

12.00 After the Castle we head through nearby Ballater and then along the meandering River Dee to Aberdeen.

13.30 We will stop in the city centre where you can wander off for lunch at your own pace, perhaps popping in some quick shopping, obtaining some essential items or just view this unusual city, built almost entirely from local grey stone.

15.30 Leaving Aberdeen we continue north west through the countryside to the city of Inverness, the largest city in the Highlands. The old town features the 19th Century Cathedral and the mostly 18th Century Old High Church. You can also visit the Old Victorian Indoor Market and the Inverness Museum. But before all that it's to the hotel!!

Royal Highland Hotel

This is the most central hotel in Inverness ensuring our short time here is well covered. A nostalgic old railway hotel with an amazing history and delightful Scottish hospitality so take advantage to enjoy your surroundings.

The evening is free to explore the city with more than ample daylight to do so, in fact by now you will be getting used to the long daylight hours and very short nights!

Sat 10th AUGUST: LOCH NESS to FORT WILLIAM (B)

Breakfast is at your leisure.

09.00 Board the coach for our onward journey as it's here we start travelling south again.

As we drive alongside the famous Loch Ness via Drumnadrocht we visit Urquhart Castle. Although the Castle is in ruins you can get the feel of the place immediately, feeling glad you are not here in winter! With 1000 years of history the Castle watches over the famous Loch and what lays beneath?

Leaving the Castle ruins behind we continue our drive along the Loch, stopping for a photo opportunity where possible arriving at our destination in plenty of time for lunch at our leisure in the town of Fort William.

Alexandra Hotel



Sat 10th AUGUST: LOCH NESS to FORT WILLIAM (B)

13.30 It's lunch time (again!) before checking in so how about some spare time on your own to wander around this Western Scottish Highlands town, known as the gateway to Ben Nevis, the UK's highest peak. In the town you will discover the Western Highland Museum which focuses on regional life and history.

Finding a cosy traditional pub for lunch and dinner is on the cards and this afternoon, Ken will arrange for a local trip in the coach around the area, weather dependent.

The evening is free to relax in Fort William and maybe try a single malt whisky from the region.

Sun 11th AUGUST: JACOBITE RAILWAY & GLASGOW (B)

Breakfast at your leisure.

09.00 Bags will be loaded by this time with all present and ready to go for a highlight day!

10.15 The train journey commences at Fort William heading to Mallaig. The Jacobite is a steam locomotive-hauled train operating over the West Highland Railway Line. The 42-mile trip to Mallaig has many highlights including; Ben Nevis, Arisaig (the deepest freshwater Loch in Britain), Loch Morar with the shortest river in Britain, the Morar then ultimately arriving back at Loch Ness. On the way though the train stops at the village of Glenfinnan. The journey is renowned for its stunning scenery, tight curves and notorious gradients and is sure to be one of several highlights of the tour.

On arrival in Mallaig we have time to enjoy a wander around the town to indulge in lunch before boarding our coach for the drive to Glasgow.

13.30 Off we head out of the Western Highlands region turning south and retracing our path, this time by road through Fort William, Glencoe, the Bridge of Orchy and then via the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park to the city of Glasgow, on the famous river Clyde.

16.00 On arrival we will be able to check in to the hotel for our last night in Scotland.

Hilton Glasgow

The Hilton is located within easy walking distance of the city centre and Princes Square.

Dinner is at your leisure in one of many dining options in the city, so how about a pre-dinner drink at the Hiltons, Whiskey Mist Bar.

Glasgow is the cultural city of Scotland housing the Scottish Opera, Scottish Ballet and the National Theatre. Our time is limited here yet it's a welcome overnight in a city which has enlightened itself since its heyday of ship building and industry.

Mon 12th AUGUST: GLASGOW to LONDON (B)

Breakfast is at your leisure.

09.00 Our coach departs the hotel for Glasgow Central Station nearby, where we board our train bound for London – there should be time for a coffee and to grab some snacks for the 4.5 hours journey.

10.40 Its time to sit back, relax and watch the world of England go by as we leave Scotland and the memories that will remain forever of what was a stunning experience in the Scottish Highlands.

15.11 Arrival time in the Capital at Euston Station where we gather at the charter bus zone to find the coach and head off to our hotel for the next 8 nights – it's time to unpack and re-organise, find a laundry and take in this magnificent city, all in good time.

Corus London Hyde Park

Our four-star hotel is brilliantly located at #1 Lancaster Gate opposite the beautiful Hyde Park.

From here getting around is easy, with the Underground located just 2 minutes away. It's an easy walk in just 20 minutes to Oxford Street at Marble Arch adjacent to the upmarket precinct of Mayfair.

OYSTER Cards will be issued with a credit pre-loaded of £20 each. Using an Oyster Card is simple, just scan your way in and out of any Red Bus, Underground and Zone 1 Train in and around the Capital. You can see your remaining value as you go and if needed you can top up at any station. Not only that the fares for each journey are discounted giving you plenty of value to get around the city and to the Lords Cricket Ground.

Nearby the hotel you will find Paddington Station with an array of pubs and dining options. Close by is the very well-known Swan Hotel. To the west not far away as well is Notting Hill and Portobello Road Market, just 30 minutes-walk.

The evening is free to discover this area and maybe a walk in the Park is the order of the day.

Tue 13th AUGUST: LONDON (B)

Today is a free day to explore the city. If you are looking for ideas, then Ken & Susan are well versed at getting around in the City. A certain highlight is a visit to the Borough Markets for lunch with a stroll along the Thames or The Strand. There is so much to do in the city and never enough time so make the most of the day today.

Wed 14th AUGUST: LONDON (B)

If you are attending the Test match today, transport is available via the nearby Lancaster Gate Underground or it's a pleasant 40-minute walk along Edgware Road and then right into St. John's Wood Road. Susan will have maps at the ready.

Thu 15th AUGUST: THE CRICKET SOCIETY DINNER (B, D)

Sightseeing or attend the Test Match.

This evening we make our way under Ken & Susan's guidance to a dinner reception with our sister association. The Cricket Society featuring a buffet dinner and an Ashes Film Night. This is a unique opportunity to mix with like-minded cricket enthusiasts and our fellow cricket lovers based in London, most of whom will be at the cricket with us to see the second Test unfold.

Fri 16th AUGUST: LONDON (B, D)

Sightseeing or attend the Test Match.

Tonight, it's a special Tour Dinner, details TBA

Sat 17th AUGUST: LONDON (B)

Sightseeing or attend the Test Match.

Sun 18th AUGUST: LONDON (B)

Sightseeing or attend the Test Match.

Mon 19th AUGUST: LONDON (B)

Today is a free day to explore what you may have missed out on in the city. Not everyone attends the cricket each day so use their expertise to find out the best places to shop or take lunch. Shopping in Oxford Street, Regent Street or at Harrod's in Knightsbridge are almost essential must do's. The Imperial War Museum or Churchills War Rooms are always a priority for WW enthusiasts and Historians along with many other Museums in the city, many within walking distance of the hotel.

Tue 20th AUGUST: CAMBRIDGE (B, D)

After breakfast please have your bags ready in the lobby and make sure you have settled your personal account with the front desk.

09.00 We meet our driver and board the coach heading out of the City with a Test match under our belt and some fabulous memories and no doubt a collection of fine photos from our week and a bit in London. It's less than 2 hours to our destination in Cambridge noting that we won't be able to check in until this afternoon.

Doubletree by Hilton

Cambridge is of course a University City and what a place this is. Located on the River Cam the University dates to 1209 and its Colleges include; Kings College famed for its

choir and Gothic Chapel as well as Christ's College and the also very famous Trinity College founded by Henry VIII. St. John's College houses the 16th Century Great Gate. This is a fabulous afternoon of exploring these Colleges. Feel free to walk amongst them and find your own way through doors and alley ways – you will uncover amazing historical buildings and really get to feel the charm and character of this sensational place of learning.

This evening we have a Tour Dinner in a local restaurant, within walking distance of our hotel.

**Wed 21st AUGUST: LEEDS & CATO CRICKET FUNCTION (B, D)**

Breakfast is at your leisure prior to check-out, making sure you have all your valuables in hand.

09.00 Boarding our coach for the departure to Leeds we head north and onto the M1. The journey time will be dependent on traffic and should take around 3-hours.

12.00 Arriving at our hotel in Leeds, we will put the luggage in storage and wander off for lunch before returning to check in this afternoon around 3.00pm.

The Queens Hotel

Our hotel is in the very heart of this rejuvenated city in the appropriately named City Square. You are close to the city sights and main shopping district along with an array of great dining options for the next six nights.

Late this afternoon or early evening we will be attending the Cricket Australia Travel Office Pre Match Function. If required (venue TBA) transfers will be included. The function includes finger food and a guest speaker with free-flow drinks for the allotted period. More details will be provided in your final itinerary and at the hotel.

Return to the hotel for the evening to prepare for the all-important third Test match.

Thu 22nd AUGUST: HEADINGLEY (B)

Whilst in Leeds you will be provided with a local transport pass. From our hotel find the nearby Bishopgate Street bus stop Z1 where Yorkshire Transport Buses will take you to the Headingley Cricket Ground. The travel time including walking is around 25 minutes and the bus is every half an hour – Ken & Susan will guide you on day one and on subsequent days you can travel as you wish or as a group.

Fri 23rd AUGUST: HEADINGLEY (B)

Test Match day 2

Sat 24th AUGUST: HEADINGLEY (B)

Test Match day 3

Sun 25th AUGUST: HEADINGLEY (B)

Test Match day 4

Mon 26th AUGUST: HEADINGLEY (B)

Test Match day 5

We have an early start tomorrow so today is a good day to re-pack. Perhaps check out before you retire enabling a quick getaway in the morning.

Tue 27th AUGUST: MANCHESTER to HONG KONG (B, L, D)

- 06.30 Breakfast commences.
- 08.00 Our coach departs the hotel for Manchester Airport.
- 09.30 Arrival at Manchester for immediate check-in.
- 12.20 Cathay Pacific departs, non-stop to Hong Kong.

Wed 28th AUGUST: HONG KONG (B)

- 07.05 Scheduled arrival time at Hong Kong International Airport. After clearing Immigration, collecting your luggage and moving as a group through Customs we will make our way to the Hong Kong Express and board the next train to Central Station where the next shuttle bus will take us to our hotel for 2 nights. You will have become an expert on getting around in Hong Kong!

City Garden Hotel (Northpoint, HK Island)

- 09.00 Due to the early arrival we have guaranteed your rooms for immediate check-in. You will also qualify for breakfast so if you are hungry or just need a coffee it's a good time to head there straight away before the buffet closes. After a quick bite you can freshen up with a shower and a change and hit the streets of Hong Kong. Sleeping during the day won't help the jetlag but if you can manage a maximum 2-hour nap it may assist, otherwise push on and explore this amazing city.

It will be hot and no doubt quite humid so how about a dip in the hotel pool?

The best way to get around is using the MTR and there is a station close by. Tickets are easily obtained from the vending machines in the station using cash or cards and they are very affordable. One area to head for is Central. Here you will find some great designer shopping but also the impressive IFC Mall. After a look around there, an iconic thing to do is to take the Star Ferry across Victoria Harbour to Kowloon, where even more shopping awaits you - a good spot is the Ocean Terminal. The MTR at TST

(Tsim Sha Tsui) is the best way to get back to Northpoint changing at Admiralty or take the Star Ferry back to Central – it is ridiculously cheap and enjoyable. The Concierge at the hotel will provide maps and be able to assist with your planning.

By this evening you will no doubt be feeling a little jaded. If you feel like a pub meal how about heading to the Dickens Bar at The Excelsior Hotel. It's a 5 -minute taxi ride to Causeway Bay. The bar is down stairs and the menu offers good quality bar meals and beers on tap. This area around Causeway Bay is also a great local shopping district with many restaurants and its just 2 MTR stops from Northpoint. When sharing a taxi, it's very economical in Hong Kong.

Thu 29th AUGUST: HONG KONG: KOWLOON MARKETS (B)

Breakfast at your leisure with the morning free to explore the city streets around Northpoint and Fortress Hill – time to grab a quick snack for lunch.

- 13.00 Today Ken & Susan will be taking you on a fabulous tour of the Kowloon markets. This is a guided tour that starts in Kowloon, so we will catch the MTR to Admiralty changing to the Kowloon side and get off at Prince Edward MTR Station Exit A. It's here we meet our guide for the 3-hour walking tour – make sure you put on your shorts and your walking shoes. If walking is not suitable please advise us when you book this tour and we will make other arrangements for a different type of coach tour today.

The slow-walking tour will highlight 8 Markets: These include fresh fruit at Yau Ma Tei, precious stones at the Jade Market, fresh ferns at the Flower Market and the Bird Market in Yuen Po Street. You will also see a few other markets as well as Shanghai Street, Temple Street and more. The duration is around 3-hours.

Return to the hotel by the MTR and the evening is free to relax, re-pack and enjoy dinner. A great area to do so is called "Food Street" in Causeway Bay, between the Park Lane Hotel and the Excelsior Hotel – ask the Concierge. This is primarily Western dining so if you prefer Chinese instead, head for Time Square, where there are an abundance of both Asian and Western options in the main building – catch the elevator to the top and walk your way down.

Fri 30th AUGUST: HONG KONG to MELBOURNE (B, L, D)

- 06.30 Breakfast commences having checked out (you could do this the previous night to hasten the process)
- 07.00 We catch the shuttle bus to Central Station, where as we did on the way to the UK, check-in for our flight to Australia and farewell our baggage at this point.

Fri 30th AUGUST: HONG KONG to MELBOURNE (B, L, D)

21.55 Scheduled arrival time in Melbourne.

09.00 Arrival at Hong Kong Airport ready with your boarding pass in hand to proceed through security and Immigration to the departure hall to find your gate.

END OF TOUR

10.40 Cathay Pacific **CX163** departs Hong Kong, non-stop to Melbourne.

The idea of a day flight is to arrive home at night and head to bed for a good sleep straight away, beating the jetlag of the long flight from Europe which generally arrives in the morning.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class flights to Manchester
- All coach transport as outlined
- Airport Express tickets in Hong Kong (2 x return trips)
- Train to Hotel shuttle transport in Hong Kong
- 28 nights 3 & 4-star accommodation
- Early check-in guaranteed in Hong Kong (28 Aug)
- Breakfast daily
- Tour Dinners and Lunches as outlined
- The Cricket Society Function & Ashes Film Night 15 Aug
- Events Travel Test Dinner in London 16 Aug
- Cricket Australia Travel Office Function in Leeds
- 5 Day 3rd Test tickets (5th day free seating)
- Merchandise Pack
- Edinburgh Tattoo Reserved seating
- London Oyster Card with a credit of £20 per person
- Leeds/Headingley Bus Travel Card
- Jacobite Train Journey from Fort William
- Train between Glasgow & London
- Tour of Balmoral Castle (subject to Queens absence)
- 2 Tours in Hong Kong as outlined
- Services of Ken & Susan Piesse throughout the tour

TOUR EXCLUSIONS:

- Airline collected Airport & Government fees/charges*
- 2nd Test match tickets – these will be at face value and you can choose which days you wish to attend. Ticket prices are not known at the time of release of this tour and are subject to the terms and conditions of the MCC. Tickets provided do not offer access to the Members Pavilion however if you are an MCC Member please advise Ken when booking.
- Personal charges (phone calls, bar tabs, laundry etc.)
- Beverages at functions other than the CATO function
- Travel Insurance – a 15% policy rebate applies if Insurance is booked through Events Travel

TOUR PRICING:

Double (1 King or Queen) or Twin share (2 singles) \$12,695 pp
Single either in a double or single bedded room \$15,695

*Airline taxes are invoiced at final payment – approx. \$850 pp
Lords tickets will be advised when rates are advised.

NAMES: Must be strictly as per your Passport.

Hotels:

The hotels listed are subject to final tour numbers and may change. This will be updated on the final itinerary based on final tour numbers. If we do change any hotels a similar standard and location will be included.

Match Tickets in Leeds:

Match tickets in Headingley are provided as part of a Package supplied by the Cricket Australia Travel Office. Events Travel are an authorised Licensed Travel Operator for the 2019 Ashes Series. Tickets are not to be resold under any circumstances. Refunds are in line with the specific venue refund policy and refund administration charges will apply in case of play being cancelled. The 5th day of this Test is unreserved seating.

Deposit & Payment Schedule:

Initial deposit to confirm your place on tour: \$5,000 per person

Stage payment: \$3,000 per person to be made no later than 31st March 2019

Balance payment to include airline taxes/charges no later than 31st May 2019.

There are no refunds on unused services – we strongly recommend Travel Insurance – please contact us for the 15% policy rebate (CHI).

Contact: Australian Cricket Society

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kenpiesse@ozemail.com.au

Bookings: Events Travel

03 5989 7666 or 1300 788 666

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