

A visit to the **Land Down Under** has been on our “bucket list” for some time; we’ve also been searching for an exciting new production of the **Wagner's *Ring des Niebelungen*** for several years. Happily, those two priorities have come together with the Australian National Opera's premiere of a **new production of the full cycle in December 2023!**

Wagner's epic masterpiece, comprising 15 hours of music over four nights, will be imagined through a futuristic lens that creates an immersive virtual world, with astonishing costumes and props. The sets incorporate huge LED screens, suspended and "choreographed" to move seamlessly around the stage, [creating a striking visual landscape](#). **Philippe Auguin**, noted for his Wagner interpretations, conducts a cast that features **Lise Lindstrom as Brünnhilde, Daniel Sumegi as Wotan, and Stefan Vinke as Siegfried** - each at the very top of the international "A-list" for their roles. In addition to the requisite week in **Brisbane** for the Ring, we will spend four nights in **Sydney** and three in **Melbourne**, with musical events, including at the iconic Sydney Opera House, and sightseeing programs in and near each city, as well as ample free time for you to explore your own interests.

PLEASE NOTE:

We have been able to secure only 16 sets of tickets,
(each set provides one seat for each of the four Ring operas)
some in each of the top three seating categories.

They will be allocated based on the order in which reservations are received.

Details follow the Tour Description below.

TOUR DESCRIPTION

Wednesday, 29 November: Depart for Sydney (a day is lost, crossing the international date line)

Prices, per person

\$ 4,950 sharing a double
\$ 5,995 single occupancy

PLEASE NOTE:

Seats for the Wagner Ring
are priced separately,
at \$700, \$1250, or \$1,530
per set of four tickets.

(Details concerning
Ring Cycle ticket prices and
allocation can be found
beneath the day-by-day
description.)

All prices are stated in
U.S. Dollars
calculated on an exchange
rate of 70 US cents to the
Australian Dollar.

Friday, 1 December: Morning arrival in Sydney. After we unload the bags and obtain our transportation “Opal Cards,” we take the light rail to Circular Quay to embark upon a luxury cruise around Sydney Harbor. Expansive top, fore, and after decks allow you to experience amazing and uninterrupted 360-degree views of one of the world’s most famous harbors including the iconic Sydney Harbor Bridge, Sydney Opera House, and Luna Park. Take in the stunning scenery while feasting on a delicious menu including a decadent dessert, paired with wines from some of New South Wales’ most prestigious wine regions. The rest of the afternoon is free.

Saturday, 2 December: An orientation walk acquaints us with Hyde Park and the Rocks, the oldest neighborhood in the city, giving us insights into Sydney’s colonial past. Lunch follows at the waterfront, with stunning views of the Opera House and Sydney Harbor. Observe the ferries chugging in and out of the Quay and watch people as you dine on delicious Mediterranean/Modern Australian fare. We return to the hotel via light rail. In the evening, you might want to attend *The Dictionary of Lost Words* at the Drama Theatre, one of the venues that comprise the Sydney Opera House (optional).

Sunday, 3 December: Today offers you time to relax and explore Sydney on your own. *You might elect to start your day with an exclusive backstage tour of the Sydney Opera House, followed by a leisurely breakfast beside the Sydney Harbor. (optional)*

Package prices include:

Accommodation in these carefully chosen hotels

Four nights at
[Vibe Hotel Darling Harbour](#)

Three nights at
[Vibe Hotel Melbourne](#)

Seven nights at
[Capri by Fraser Brisbane](#)

◆ Breakfast each day

Lunch or dinner on eight days
(drinks included)

Wine tastings

Two internal flights

Airport transfers

Ground transport by
private coach

Local Transit Passes
for Sydney

Category I seats for
Australian National Ballet
production of *Swan Lake*
at the Sydney Opera House

Chamber Music Concert
in Melbourne

Monday, 4 December: Free day; a new production of *Swan Lake at the Sydney Opera House* is included for everyone this evening. Directed and realized by Artistic Director David Hallberg, this dynamic new production, honoring the company's 60th anniversary season, is a reimagining of one of the greatest works of all time, fusing its enduring beauty with crisp, realistic designs, showcasing the classic's timeless relevance.

Tuesday, 5 December: Fly to Melbourne; lunch on arrival. This evening, we attend a concert of **quartets by Mozart and Mendelssohn**, presented at the Primrose Potter Salon of the Melbourne Recital Centre, a uniquely intimate 150-seat performance and event space.

Wednesday, 6 December: The morning is dedicated to a get-acquainted tour of Melbourne, after which your day is free.

Thursday, 7 December: Our all-day excursion takes us to the Yarra Valley, a world-famous wine-growing region, less than an hour from Melbourne. We start at Healesville Sanctuary, home to more than 200 species of native birds and animals. Wine tasting and lunch follow at a famous local winery. We end at Yarra Valley Chocolaterie and Ice Creamery, where you'll enjoy tastings and food demonstrations. *Back in Melbourne, you might be interested in an evening concert by the Omega Ensemble at the Primrose Potter Salon of the Melbourne Recital Centre, featuring Shostakovich's Piano Quintet and the String Quartet No. 1 by John Adams. (optional)*

Friday, 8 December: Fly to Brisbane, enjoy lunch, and check in at the hotel. The rest of the afternoon is free to get settled into our home for the next seven nights. We'll reconvene to discuss Wagner's Ring Cycle before walking to the opera house for this evening's performance of *Das Rheingold*. Further conversations are certain to follow each opera!

Saturday, 9 December: An all-day excursion takes us to Tamborine Mountain, a rainforest-covered escarpment formed by a 23-million-year-old lava flow. Tamborine Mountain is the gateway to the "Scenic Rim," home to six distinct national parks. Enjoy the scenic drive up the mountain, panoramic views across the Rim, and the Gold Coast. The Skywalk is a breathtaking combination of forest floor trails, a series of high-tech steel bridges taking you through the highest points of the upper canopy, and a cantilever bridge that soars a breathtaking hundred feet above the creek and rainforest below. Hikers can continue through the rainforest to Curtis Falls. Apart from viewing the picturesque falls and Cedar Creek, this is a great spot for spotting some iconic bird life such as the rainbow lorikeet, kookaburra, king parrot, and colorful rosella. You may even see the shy pademelons (small rainforest wallabies). If you aren't up for the hike, there are plenty of shopping opportunities along the iconic Gallery Walk, Queensland's premier Arts and Craft district, boasting over 70 specialty shops, selling everything from fashion, jewelry, cottage industry arts and crafts, produce, cellar door outlets, chocolate, and food. Before sitting down to well-deserved wine-tasting and lunch, we discover a glow worm cave filled with thousands of vulnerable South East Queensland glow worms, or rather fly larvae, emitting a spectacular phosphorescent glow.

Sunday, 10 December: Our day starts with a walking tour to get acquainted with Brisbane. The rest of your day is free; curtain time for *Die Walküre* is 5 PM.

Monday, 11 December: Relax and explore more of Brisbane's cultural attractions and shopping opportunities . . . or join today's scenic trip to the Sunshine Coast and visit the world-famous Australia Zoo, home of the Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin. Australia Zoo is a highlight with more than 1200 animals from around the globe, daily wildlife shows, and the busiest wildlife hospital in the world where you can see vets saving native Australian animals. (optional)

Tuesday, 12 December: Today, we get an up-close and personal experience of an Aboriginal Village. Carry the message stick of acceptance to the elder of the village, go through the cleansing smoke ceremony, feel the sensations of the world's oldest continuous culture to the sounds of the didgeridoo, ancient chants, dances, and songs. We then continue to a family farm for a winery tour and tasting, including lunch. We'll get back to Brisbane in time for you to freshen up before this evening's performance of *Siegfried* at 5 PM.

Wednesday, 13 December: Free day - or cruise to Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary this morning, listening to commentary while gliding along Brisbane's waterfront, from the bustle of the city's skyscrapers to leafy suburbs with waterside mansions. You have three hours exploring the sanctuary, where you can see over 130 koalas and amazing birds of prey, hand feed kangaroos and emus, experience an authentic Australian sheep dog show, and spy on a platypus swimming. Lunch and snacks are available on board and at the sanctuary for purchase (optional)

Thursday, 14 December: Your last day is free till time for a late lunch prior to this afternoon's performance of *Götterdämmerung*. We'll have a world of experiences to share afterwards, from pre-European Australia to a 21st-century production of what is arguably the most massive achievement of Western musical/theatrical culture.

Friday, 15 December: Fly back to the U.S. (arriving in Houston later the same time today that you depart Brisbane, regaining your lost day, despite the overnight flight)

Ring Cycle Tickets

We have access to a limited number of seats for the four operas of the Wagner Ring Cycle in Brisbane, in the top 3 seating categories (all in the orchestra section):

4 Premium Category sets at \$1,530

8 Reserve Category A sets at \$1,250

4 Reserve Category B sets at \$700

The reservation form (below) includes spaces for you to indicate your seating preferences; please indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices. We will do our best to provide everyone's first choice. Requests will be fulfilled based on the order in which we receive your completed reservation form and deposit.

We are currently negotiating details for a 3-day extension to the Great Barrier Reef from and returning to Brisbane. Please indicate your interest on the reservation form (below) and we will provide details when they become available

Travel Protection

We strongly encourage all participants to be covered by a travel protection plan, whether just for this trip or annual coverage. You should be covered at the very least for medical emergencies and evacuation. Since group policies are no longer available, we now offer a variety of individual plans through Travel Insured International, one of which can almost certainly provide coverage appropriate to your situation. You can compare coverage and costs of the available plans, specific to you and this tour at **travelinsured.com/agency/?p=deanhdalton**.

We encourage you to explore other providers as well, to find the coverage that suits your needs. Once you have sent your reservation form and deposit check for the tour and have determined which plan you prefer, you should purchase it directly from Travel Insured International using the link above (or other provider) within the time limit indicated.

If you are more comfortable dealing with these issues by phone than via the internet, you may call Travel Insured International at 855-752-8303. Please identify yourself as a client of Dean Dalton Tours, agency # 49076.



**Australia with Wagner Ring Cycle
Optional Great Barrier Reef
November 29 - December 15 or 18, 2023**

**Reservations will be honored in the order deposits are received.
Payment in full is due by July 31, 2023**

<u>Prices per person</u> <i>(Ring Cycle tickets additional)</i>	<u>Sharing a double</u>	<u>Single occupancy</u>
	\$4,950	\$5,995

For details, visit DeanDaltonTours.com or email DD@DeanDaltonTours.com or call 713-213-6447.

Although this is not a strenuous program, some activities will require you to be on your feet for several hours and walk some distance. If your mobility is limited, you might have to forego some activities and/or need to rely on taxis to get to and from some events.

To reserve space, please complete and return this form and your check for \$1,000 per person, payable to **Dean Dalton Tours**, to:

**Dean Dalton Tours
1904 Banks St.
Houston, TX 77098**

Name 1 as it appears on passport (LAST/First): _____

Name 2 as it appears on passport (LAST/First): _____

Street address: _____ Mobile phone: _____

City: _____ St. _____ Zip _____ Email: _____

Passport # 1: _____ Issue date: _____ Date and place of Birth: _____

Passport # 2: _____ Issue date: _____ Date and place of Birth: _____

Name and phone of emergency contact: _____

If reserving for two: prefer one bed prefer two beds

If reserving for one: prefer a single room need help finding a potential roommate

will be sharing twin room with _____

My/our preference for Ring Cycle tickets is (please indicate 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices):

___ Premium Category (\$1,530) ___ Reserve Category A (\$1,250) ___ Reserve Category B (\$700)

I/we are interested in the 3-day extension to visit the Great Barrier Reef; please send details.

I/we prefer to pay by credit card and understand there will be a 3.5% merchant fee added.

Special needs: _____

I have read the brochure and accompanying "Terms and Conditions" and agree to their contents.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

We strongly encourage all participants to be covered by a travel protection plan, whether just for this trip or annual coverage. You should be covered at the very least for medical emergencies and evacuation. Since group policies are no longer available, we now offer a variety of individual plans through Travel Insured International, one of which can almost certainly provide coverage appropriate to your situation. Go to this address <https://www.travelinsured.com/agency/?p=deanhdalton> to compare coverage and costs, specific to you and this tour. You may also call Travel Insured International at 855-752-8303. Please identify yourself as a client of Dean Dalton Tours, agency #49076.

We encourage you to explore other providers as well, to find the coverage that best suits your needs. Once you have returned this reservation form and deposit check for the tour and have determined which plan you prefer, you must purchase coverage within the time limit indicated, usually 14 to 21 days of your reservation.

Don't hesitate to contact us for a quote or to discuss the pros and cons of the various options.

Terms and Conditions of Sale – Australia with Wagner Ring Tour, Nov. 29 – Dec. 15, 2023

A deposit of \$1,000.00 per person is required to guarantee your reservation; the date of receipt will determine the order in which space and seats for performances are allocated. The balance of the tour price is due on or before July 31, 2023.

Prior to payment of performance tickets: deposit will be refunded, less a service charge of \$100 per person

From payment of performance tickets to 90 days prior to departure: full deposit is forfeited*

89 to 45 days prior to departure: 30% of tour cost, including optional performance tickets, is forfeited*

44 to 30 days prior to departure: 60% of tour cost, including all options and upgrades, is forfeited*

30 days or less, prior to departure: 100% of tour cost, including all options and upgrades, is forfeited*

** any amount recovered from the refund or resale of performance tickets will be refunded*

Included in quoted tour prices: All transportation in Australia, by private coach and scheduled airline, from arrival at Sydney airport, December 1 to departure from Brisbane on December 15; luggage handling (1 piece, maximum 50 pounds, at owner's risk); accommodations in hotels listed in the itinerary or comparable, including hotel taxes and daily breakfast; lunches and dinners, sightseeing, entrance fees, performance tickets, guide and escort services as indicated in the itinerary.

Not included in quoted tour prices: International airfare, costs of passports or visas; optional performances and sightseeing; meals, and beverages not specified in the itinerary; room service, laundry, etc.; travel protection; gratuities to guides and drivers; communication charges; excess baggage fees.

Exchange Rates: Dean Dalton Tours reserves the right to adjust prices to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. The listed prices for this program were calculated at an exchange rate of 1.00 Australian dollar = \$0.70 US dollar.

Dean Dalton Tours also reserves the right to withdraw a tour or any part of it, to make such alterations in the itinerary as it deems necessary or desirable, to refuse to accept or retain as a member of any tour any person at any time, and to pass on to tour members any expenditures or losses caused by delays or events beyond its control.

Passports and Visas: Passports are required; visas are not required for U.S. citizens.

Itineraries: Hotel accommodations, performances, and sightseeing are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Dean Dalton Tours guarantees the operation of this tour with a minimum of 10 participants, with exception only in case of "force majeure." That term refers to any major event, including but not limited to civil unrest, natural catastrophe, military action, public health emergency, etc. that adversely affects international travel patterns, or other circumstances beyond Dean Dalton Tours' control. In case of such cancellation by Dean Dalton Tours, refunds will be based on the actual cost of each traveler's tour package, less a proportionate share of any unrecoverable expenditures and a small overhead charge (not exceeding the amount of traveler's deposit).

Health Measures: In light of evidence of the effectiveness of face coverings in limiting the spread of airborne pathogens, including the common cold, flu, and other respiratory viruses, as well as Covid, participants in Dean Dalton Tours programs are expected and agree to wear masks when traveling together on a coach or other enclosed conveyance and to comply with any local masking requirements.

Claims and Refunds: Except for verifiable extenuating circumstances, refunds are not made for any missed tour services. For claims to be considered, they must be received in writing within 30 days of the termination of the tour and be accompanied by supporting documentation. Any adjustment will be based on the actual cost of the services involved and not on a per diem basis. Adjustments will not be made for sightseeing trips or meals not used at traveler's choice. Dean Dalton Tours will not accept any liability for any claims not received within 30 days of the termination of this tour.

Photography: Dean Dalton Tours reserves the right to take photographs or videos during the operation of any tour or part thereof, and to use the resulting photography for promotional purposes. By booking a reservation, tour members agree to allow their image to be used in such photography; tour members who prefer that their image not be used are asked to identify themselves to their tour escort at the commencement of the tour.

Limits on Responsibility: Dean Dalton Tours, LLC is a Texas corporation based in Houston. It purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from various independent suppliers that are not subject to its control. Dean Dalton Tours CANNOT, THEREFORE, BE LIABLE FOR DEATH, PERSONAL INJURY OR ANY OTHER LOSS that may occur (1) due to any act or omission of any such supplier, (2) by reason of any other event over which Dean Dalton Tours has no control.