



SYDNEY

Theatre, Music & Art

Overview

Academy Travel is delighted to present a four-night program in Sydney for lovers of the performing and visual arts. The itinerary is based around four outstanding performances: *The Boomkak Panto*, a delightful, big-hearted comedy by Virginia Gay; Pinchgut Opera's new production of *Platée*, one of Rameau's finest works; a performance in-the-round of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* by the Sydney Theatre Company; and the smash hit musical *Hamilton*. We have reserved excellent seats for all events.

Around the performances we have woven a program of gallery visits and experiences designed to show off some of Sydney's hidden treasures, including a private cruise on the spectacular Sydney Harbour. We will also experience several highlight meals in some of the city's excellent restaurants. Accommodation is in the luxurious Fullerton Hotel, located in the former GPO of Sydney on Martin Place.

Tour leader

The tour is led by Christopher Menz. Christopher is a former art museum director and curator of the Art Gallery of South Australia and has been leading tours since 2013. He has expertise and interest in the visual arts and music. He has published and lectured extensively on Australian and European decorative arts, and led several tours abroad for Academy Travel and *Australian Book Review*.

Essential information

Tour dates: December 7-11, 2021

Price per person: \$3,870

Supplement for sole use of double room: \$740

Deposit: \$500

Maximum number in group: 20

Start: 4.30pm, December 7, Fullerton Hotel

Finish: After breakfast, December 11, Fullerton Hotel

Fitness level

★ Reasonable stamina required

Itinerary

Sydney (4 nights)

Further information and bookings

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Highlights

The Boomkak Panto

Belvoir presents the premiere production of Virginia Gay's *The Boomkak Panto*, which she wrote and also stars in. This delightful big-hearted comedy is set in the dusty little country town of Boomkak, which happens to be confronting some very big challenges and a fight for its very survival.

Julius Caesar

The Sydney Theatre Company presents an exciting new 'in the round' production, by artistic director Kip Williams, of Shakespeare's complex study of power and moral corruption, *Julius Caesar*.

Rameau's Platée

Rameau's comic masterpiece *Platée* is brought to life in a new production by renowned director Neil Armfield for Sydney's Pinchgut Opera. The opera will be conducted by Pinchgut's artistic director Erin Helyard with the Orchestra of the Antipodes.

Hamilton

Lin-Manuel Miranda's once-in-a-generation musical is having a sell-out run in Sydney. *Hamilton* tells the dramatic story of one of the founding fathers of the United States with witty, poetic dialogue and an inventive score.

Detailed itinerary

Tuesday, 7 December 2021

Independent check in to the Fullerton Hotel from 2pm.

At 4.30pm meet your fellow tour participants for drinks and canapes at the hotel, then transfer to the Belvoir theatre for an evening performance of the *Boomkak Panto*, starring Virginia Gay. (C)

Wednesday, 8 December 2021

This morning after a talk in the hotel, we enjoy lunch at *Crafted* by Matt Moran at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, followed by a visit to the new Matisse exhibition with special guest Dr Nick Gordon. This evening we stroll across Martin Place to the City Recital Hall, the venue for this evening's performance of Rameau's *Platée*. (B, L)

Thursday, 9 December 2021

This morning we walk down to King St Wharf for a private cruise on Sydney Harbour, focusing on artists such as Lloyd Rees, Brett Whiteley and Arthur Streeton who were inspired by the harbour landscape. We will be joined by maritime artist Jeff Rigby and art historian Dr Nick Gordon, who will give both historical insight and aesthetic interpretation of the harbour. We then head to Clifton Gardens, where we enjoy lunch at Ripples, a restaurant in a historic building overlooking the beach. In the early evening, we transfer to the Wharf Theatre at Walsh Bay for this evening's performance of *Julius Caesar*. (B, L)

Friday, 10 December 2021

This morning, after a short heritage tour of our hotel, we hear a talk by US historian Dr Richard Bell on the musical *Hamilton*. Richard provides both an overview of the production and an expert appraisal of the way the story is told. The talk is transmitted live onto a large screen from Maryland in the USA. We then head to inner-city Chippendale for lunch at *Bistro Gavroche*, followed by a visit to the remarkable contemporary Chinese art collection at the White Rabbit, a private gallery run by philanthropist Judith Nielsen. This evening a coach takes us to and from the Lyric Theatre in Pyrmont for our performance of *Hamilton*, after which we gather in the hotel bar for farewell drinks. (B, L)

Saturday, 11 December 2021

The tour ends after breakfast. (B)

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