

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL PTY. LTD.

33 Smith Street, Kempsey
NSW 2440
Australia

Email: info@macleayvalleytravel.com
Website: www.macleayvalleytravel.com

Telephone (02) 6562-6699
Toll Free 1800 81-0809
Fax (02) 6562-6276



Baltics, Russia and Scandinavia Tour

3 Week Conducted Tour

for **\$5,995** per person twin share

This price includes airport taxes & fuel levies

This is a wonderful comprehensive tour visiting Denmark, East Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Finland and Sweden. It is great value as all of the following are included:

- Air fares from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane with Thai International into Copenhagen and out of Stockholm.
- A 17 day tour of northern Europe.
- A 2 day stopover in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Good accommodation, mainly 3½ to 4 star.
- Many meals and all transport and transfers.
- Prepaid gratuities to the tour director and drivers.
- Services of European and Thai tour guides and if there are 14 or more tour Macleay Valley Travel tour participants, there will be an Australian tour escort.



If you don't have anyone to share with but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another person, but this is not guaranteed. For a single room there is an extra charge of \$1390.



**Tour departs Australia
2nd May and returns
22nd May 2018**

We try harder to find you the best travel deal

Itinerary for Baltics, Russia & Scandinavia Tour - May 2018

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

02.05.18 Australia - Bangkok

Depart Sydney at 10.00am on TG 476, arriving in Bangkok at 4.20pm.

Depart Brisbane at 2.00pm on TG 474, arriving in Bangkok at 8.20pm.

Depart Melbourne at 3.15pm on TG 466, arriving in Bangkok at 9.45pm.

All flights will be met at the airport and transferred to the Dream Hotel in Bangkok for a two night stay.

03.05.18 Bangkok

(B/L)

Morning tour to see Bangkok's beautiful flower market, followed by a boat tour of Bangkok's klongs (canals) and the busy Chao Phraya River. See the Royal Barges and the spectacular Temple of Dawn. Lunch is at a local restaurant. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

04.05.18 Bangkok

(B/D)

Today we have a morning tour to see Jim Thompson's House, which is a museum in central Bangkok. Jim Thompson was the American who commercialised the Thai silk industry in the 1950's and 1960's. His house consists of several traditional Thai teak houses joined together, with beautiful grounds. We will see his wonderful collection of antiques, pottery, silk and curiosities. There is also a high quality silk shop within the grounds. This is followed by a visit to Suan Pakkad Palace & Museum. The palace is a collection of eight traditional teak houses and is the former home of a Thai Princess. Within the buildings are displays of art, antiques and furnishings. The landscaped grounds are a peaceful oasis complete with ducks, swans and a semi-enclosed garden. The afternoon is at leisure with a 6pm late checkout from your hotel rooms. Afterwards we are transferred to Siam Square for a short shopping stop followed by dinner at a local restaurant in Siam Square. We are then transferred to the airport for our flight to Copenhagen.

05.05.18 Bangkok - Copenhagen, Denmark

(D)

Depart Bangkok at 1.20am on TG 950, arriving in Copenhagen at 7.40am.

We will be met and transferred to our hotel. The rest of the day is free to explore the Danish capital. Tonight, meet our tour director and fellow travellers with an included dinner.

Note: Your room at the hotel in Copenhagen may not be ready for check-in until about 2pm. If you would like to go straight into your hotel room, the previous night's accommodation would need to be booked, at an additional charge of \$203 per person twin share or \$362 single room. Alternatively, you can leave your bags in the hotel lobby and explore the surrounding area until the room is ready.

06.05.18 Copenhagen - Ferry Crossing - Berlin, Germany

(B)

A morning of guided sightseeing to enjoy the famed charms from the past and present, including the Little Mermaid and the Rococo Amalienbord complex of Royal Palaces. In the afternoon we head to Gedser for the two hour ferry crossing to Rostock. Then, onward by road to Berlin for an overnight stay.

07.05.18 Berlin - Poznan, Poland

(B/D)

Enjoy a morning at leisure in Berlin, or join the optional sightseeing tour, which is a must for all who wish to experience the fascinating mix of history-laden past and the confident present. In the afternoon we cross the River Oder into Poland for an overnight stay in Poznan. Dinner this evening is included.

08.05.18 Poznan - Warsaw

(B)

Touring eastwards this morning through pleasant agricultural lowlands, reach the Polish capital, Warsaw. Discover the city on your own or find out more about its sights and history on the optional sightseeing tour. This is an excellent introduction to Warsaw's historic centre and you'll see why Warsaw is considered to be a Phoenix "par excellence," as European cities go.

09.05.18 Warsaw - Vilnius, Lithuania

(B/D)

Journey northeast towards Augustow and Suwalki to reach the biggest of the three Baltic states, Lithuania. Overnight in quaint Vilnius - the wedding-cake pretty capital since the 13th century and UNESCO World Heritage Site. This evening enjoy an included dinner.

10.05.18 Vilnius

(B)

On the included sightseeing walk, visit the historic streets of the Old Town. Later enjoy some leisure time or take the optional excursion to visit the medieval Trakai Castle on the shores of a picturesque lake.

11.05.18 Vilnius - Rundales Pils - Riga, Latvia

(B/L)

An interesting journey today as we travel right across Lithuania into Latvia for a stop in Rundales Pils to visit the restored baroque Palace of Rundale, the former summer residence of the Duke of Courland. The palace was built by the great architect Rastrelli, who also designed the Winter Palace in St Petersburg. Enjoy more lovely countryside before reaching Riga, the capital of Latvia, and rightly considered one of the most beautiful towns in the Baltics.

12.05.18 Riga, Latvia

(B/D)

On the included tour of the old city with a local guide, walk through the narrow streets to the town centre. Founded in 1201 by Bishop Albert, head of the Order of Teutonic Knights, Riga still boasts a multicultural population. This evening enjoy an included dinner.

13.05.18 Riga - Parnu, Estonia - Tallinn

(B)

Visit the lively, historical seaside town of Parnu, then take a stroll to the sandy beach, before continuing to Tallinn for a two night stay.

14.05.18 Tallinn

(B/D)

Start the day with an included walking tour to appreciate Tallinn's history and beauty. The Old Town, now on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, is certainly the most interesting part of the city. Also worth noting are the Hanseatic

merchant houses, the mile-long town wall, the medieval Town Hall and the House of the Brotherhood of the Blackheads. This evening enjoy an included dinner.

15.05.18 Tallinn - St Petersburg, Russia

(B/L/D) Drive east today towards the border town of Narva and cross into Russia. Then start the journey to St Petersburg, considered by most travellers to be Russia's most fascinating city. This evening we enjoy an included lunch and dinner.

16.05.18 St Petersburg

(B) St Petersburg was created in 1703 by the iron will of Peter the Great. He made it the capital of all the Russias and ensured that it should rival any other European capital in splendour, beauty and distinction. The included city sightseeing with a local guide introduces us to the palaces, parks, monuments, squares, wide boulevards and 600 bridges that delight visitors with their symmetrical beauty.

17.05.18 St Petersburg - Vyborg - Helsinki, Finland

(B) Realize the huge expanse of Russia as we take a last glimpse of St Petersburg. Set off north travelling through dense pine forests dotted with numerous lakes. Cross into Finland and head for Helsinki.

18.05.18 Helsinki - Overnight Baltic Sea Crossing to Stockholm, Sweden

(B) The included tour of the Finnish capital covers the Empire-style palace on Senate Square and the cathedral. The afternoon is free for your own exploration. In the evening, embark on the Silja Line Ferry to Stockholm. On board we can enjoy music, dancing and shopping.

19.05.18 Stockholm

(B/D) Dock in Stockholm, perhaps the most beautiful of the Scandinavian capitals. The effect of its crystalline waters flowing through the city's intersecting canals gives a luminous appearance to palaces, castles and parks. The best way to see and appreciate the highlights of Sweden's capital is to join the included sightseeing tour with a local guide. This evening enjoy an included dinner.

20.05.18 Stockholm

(B) Today is at leisure in Sweden's capital.

21.05.18 Stockholm - Bangkok

(B) Morning free in Stockholm. Transfer to Stockholm airport departing at 2.30pm on TG 961, arriving in Bangkok at 5.50am the next morning (22.05.18).

22.05.18 Bangkok – Sydney & Melbourne

Sydney passengers depart Bangkok at 8.00am on TG 471, arriving in Sydney at 8.00pm.

Melbourne passengers depart Bangkok at 8.10am on TG 461, arriving in Melbourne at 8.00pm.

Brisbane passengers depart Bangkok at 9.00am on TG 477, arriving in Brisbane at 8.50pm.

Note: The overnight cruise from Helsinki to Stockholm is in 2 berth cabins with private facilities. There are usually no single cabins available on the overnight cruise.

Note: The ground operator in Europe is Cosmos



Tour Difficulty Ratings & Advice

To ensure that you select the right tour for you, Macleay Valley Travel has provided a clear set of tour difficulty and fitness recommendations for our tours. The ratings, from 1, being the easiest, to 5 the most strenuous, will give you a good idea of what is reasonably required for you to be able to participate on each tour. Most tours require a moderate to good level of fitness, however there are others that are quite challenging. For your enjoyment of the tour, and also the enjoyment of your fellow travellers, please consider whether or not the suggested difficulty level for the tour you are interested in is compatible with your health and fitness.

1	2	3	4	5
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Tour Difficulty Level 3

This tour rating typically involves a good level of physical activity, such as ascending stairs, getting into a bathtub shower, being responsible for your own luggage at airports and hotels, boarding trains quickly with your luggage, walking distances of up to 500 metres at a time over possible uneven ground and/or cobblestone streets. Walking tours of considerable distances should be expected on tours with this rating as well as early departures.

Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's Baltics, Russia & Scandinavia Tour

Deposits and Payments - A non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. This deposit is not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable in full 11 weeks prior to departure.

Refunds and Cancellations - Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline.

Airline Tickets - Please note that any changes made to airline tickets once they have been issued will likely incur high cancellation and/or reissue fees. These fees are typically set by the airline and are outside of our control.

Insurance - Adequate travel insurance is essential. We can arrange this for you if desired. Macleay Valley Travel offers Suresave Travel Insurance. Please note that we can only process your travel insurance when we have received full payment for the insurance and the signed Suresave Travel Insurance application form, located on the last page of the Suresave Travel Insurance information booklet. Until this time the travel insurance cannot be processed and will not be valid. Macleay Valley Travel will bear no responsibility for any consequences that may occur as a result of an incomplete insurance application.

Passports - All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. Visas are required for Russia and the cost is \$150 plus \$30 processing. Please note that visa prices are subject to change.

Basic Tour Price and Taxes - Air taxes and Fuel Levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in Air taxes and Fuel Levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

Breakaway Fee - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary will incur a breakaway fee. The breakaway fee for most deviations including a post-tour extension on this tour is \$55 per person. Please inquire with our office for prices on any pre-tour extensions.

Not Included in the Cost - Travel insurance, visas and all items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals (except those specified in the itinerary), etc. are not included in the cost. Similarly, credit card payments (Visa/MasterCard) can only be accepted if 1% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 2% surcharge for America Express and 3% surcharge for Diners Club.

Health and Fitness - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. The Health & Fitness Questionnaire located on the last page of this itinerary needs to be completed in full by each passenger and accompany your booking form. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. Macleay Valley Travel is not permitted to provide medical advice as to vaccinations/injections which you may require for this tour and advise you to consult your local medical practitioner for specific medical advice. There are no compulsory injections required for this tour.

Booking through other Agents - As we keep the cost of our tours as low as possible, there is insufficient margin for us to be able to pay commission to other travel agents, so some bookings can only be accepted if the client pays the other agent's commission.

Accreditation - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices. We are happy for any prospective traveller with us to check us out with your local Consumer Affairs (Fair Trading) department.

Twin Share Bookings - If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate. Additionally, if you are assigned a travelling companion to share with and they cancel off the tour prior to making the final payment, then you will either be required to pay the single room supplement or we will try our best to assign you with another twin share passenger, if one is available.

Limitation of Liability - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or defacto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to decline bookings made for any group tour. Any tour booking confirmation is conditional, contingent on our view of the ability of a person to be able to participate in a tour without the likelihood of conflict between members of a tour whether perceived or actual.

Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM

Name of Tour : _____ Departure Date: _____

Passenger 1 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Passenger 2 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____ **PostCode** _____ **Email** _____

Telephone / Fax Number: _____ **Mobile** _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Nationality: _____

Passport Nationality _____

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

Single room / Twin beds / Double bed: (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE / BRISBANE

Any existing medical conditions? – Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

Special Dietary Needs – Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

Optional Extensions: _____

Would you like to receive details of our travel insurance?: YES / NO (Please Circle)

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person and the health & fitness form.

DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name; If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.

HEALTH & FITNESS QUESTIONNAIRE

Macleay Valley Travel strives to make our tours enjoyable experiences for all passengers, however some countries and tour services lack the standards that you can typically expect in Australia.

To help ensure your personal safety and enjoyment on tour, please answer the following questions. The information you provide will be treated confidentially and will be used to check that the transportation, accommodation and facilities on tour are suitable for you:

1. Do you have any allergies? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details and severity: _____
2. Can you walk 500 metres to 1km in distance comfortably and unaided? Yes / No
3. Can you negotiate uneven, undulating and sometimes challenging terrain? Yes / No
If no, please provide details about these limitations: _____
4. Do you use a mobility aid? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
5. Are you travelling with a companion or carer who is able to provide all the assistance you need to enter buildings, disembark and embark ships, aircraft, coaches, small boats and assist you on excursions? Yes / No
If yes, please provide the name of your carer/companion and your relationship to them: _____
6. Are you taking any medical equipment to assist you? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
7. Do you suffer from any condition which may cause you to experience memory loss or become disoriented? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
8. Are you asthmatic or do you have other breathing difficulties? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details (travelling to high altitudes is not recommended): _____
9. Do you require supplementary oxygen? Yes / No
10. Are you currently taking medication? Yes / No
If yes, are you able to administer your own medication? Yes / No
11. If you have any other medical information that is not covered in the previous questions, please provide a description here: _____

The information you supply us will be passed onto relevant travel suppliers who will do their best accommodate you. However, it is very important to remember that meeting your needs cannot be guaranteed, especially when travelling to third world countries.

DISCLAIMER

I confirm that the information provided on this questionnaire is both true and correct and I understand that there is no guarantee that all these needs will or can be met. I agree that Macleay Valley Travel may offer a recommendation with regard to fitness to travel, based on the information I have provided. I also understand that this information may be passed onto those responsible for supplying the land arrangements for my travel, and that my information will not be communicated to any party which is not directly responsible or otherwise associated with my travel arrangements. I further confirm and agree that should I choose not to disclose information which subsequently requires me to return or be returned home from a tour or cruise, Macleay Valley Travel is not responsible for any costs associated with cancellation penalties, airfares, land transportation or any other related hardship. Please note that a refund for lost touring cannot be claimed. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to update the information I provided to Macleay Valley Travel immediately should my circumstances change.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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If yes, please provide the name of your carer/companion and your relationship to them: _____
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Signature: _____

Date: _____