

Australia & New Zealand Summer 2009



Sponsor: Melissa Matsu

Teacher sponsored trip to Australia and New Zealand during the summer of 2009. This trip does not involve any classroom time, tests, or research. It is a fun and educational trip for high school students. We will be doing many varied activities. The trip is open to all **CVHS students and their families**. We will be traveling with a company called EF tours, who has been doing educational tours since 1965. I have traveled with them before (Costa Rica - 2003, 2007 & Australia/New Zealand – 2004, 2006).

Dates: Departure scheduled for June 2009 (trip is 12 days).

Cost: \$4045 Includes:

- Program fee (\$3060)
- registration fee (\$95)
- airfare to and from Australia and New Zealand
- departure fees (\$650 airport tax)
- hotel accommodations (students room in triples and quads)
- breakfast daily and one included dinner
- full time local guide (guide is with us 24 hours a day)
- bus transportation around Australia and New Zealand
- sightseeing tour of Sydney and Rotorua
- entrance fees into exhibits, parks, and other planned activities
- Visits to: • Waitomo Caves • Whaka geothermal area • Maori Cultural Centre • Skyline Gondola • Rotorua Agrodome • Harbour Cruise • Opera house • Sydney Tower • Wildlife World • the Great Barrier Reef • Hangi Feast
- Excursions to the Blue Mountains, Featherdale wildlife park (kangaroo petting zoo plus other animals), Katoomba, Kuranda, and the rainforest (\$240)

The other costs related to this trip would be spending money for souvenirs and money for lunch and dinner. There is also a \$115 all inclusive insurance (baggage, accident, travel/cancellation, property); not “required” but HIGHLY recommended

Schedule of payment: \$95 registration fee is paid to lock in price, \$400 more is due within 30 days of registration, and the remainder is due 99 days before departure.

How to sign up: www.EFtours.com/student or call 1-800-665-5364 **Tour # 474371**

Adult/Parent Interested? Adults are welcome to join us. EF tours adds \$365 adult supplement to the cost of the trip. This is because adults are roomed in doubles, instead of triples or quads. Adults are only roomed with other adult chaperones, but can pay extra to have a private room.

- ▶ please contact me with questions, concerns, or anything else

mmatsu@houstonisd.org OR cell phone: 832-452-7172

Blue Mountains and Katoomba

Enjoy a full-day excursion to the spectacular Blue Mountains, Katoomba and the Featherdale Wildlife Park First, travel west of Sydney, passing by the Homebush site of the 2000 Summer Olympics Games, to the Blue Mountains, once a seemingly impenetrable barrier to westward expansion. You'll then attend a screening of *The Edge*, Australia's only giantscreen destination movie, which recounts how explorers conquered the Blue Mountains in 1813. While conducting research for the film, scientists made an extremely rare botanical discovery: the Wollebi Pine Grove, made up of ancient pine trees not found anywhere else on earth. So important was the discovery, in fact, that the film crew were blindfolded before being led to the spot so that they could not reveal its location. Next, enjoy a ride on the Katoomba Scenic Railway, the world's steepest, which descends almost vertically into the Jamison Valley. You'll also see the Three Sisters rock formation and test the acoustics at Echo Point. Later, visit the Australian Wildlife Park, home to koalas, wombats, wallabies, kangaroos, Tasmanian devils, dingoes, emus and other fascinating Australian species.

Kuranda and the Rain Forest

Your half-day excursion begins with a visit to the Tjapukai Aboriginal Park where you can learn about traditional Aboriginal culture and customs through the many interpretive exhibits. Enjoy a spectacular ride on the Skyrail and soak in breathtaking aerial views of the rain forest canopy below, as rangers provide you with informative details about the flora and fauna that surround you. Arrive in the rainforest village of Kuranda where you will have time to browse the market stalls before you rendezvous with the rest of your group for your next adventure.