

CRUISE FROM AUCKLAND TO MELBOURNE: SUMMER DOWN UNDER, MILFORD SOUND, AND NEW YEARS IN SYDNEY HARBOR!

December 20, 2012 to January 5, 2013
Christmas and New Years at Sea!

A Stephen Harby Invitational Expedition

Building on two remarkable and wonderful voyages aboard the renowned Crystal fleet to Norway and the Polar Ice Cap (2010) and the Iberian Peninsula (2011), we are now proposing a voyage to New Zealand and Australia for the holidays 2012-13. We had such a great time on the last voyage that some of us immediately decided before the end of the voyage to return, and have made a booking on the *Crystal Symphony* for this year.

We chose this particular itinerary for the variety of its interesting port visits and the fact that this is terra incognita to many of us. The voyage combines spectacular scenery (Milford Sound in New Zealand is said to rival the Norwegian Fjords), as well as significant architecture (Napier, New Zealand offers a treasure trove of art deco architecture) Extended shore visits are possible thanks to three overnight port stays (in Auckland, Sydney--two nights at New Years--and Melbourne), as well as three back-to-back days in the spectacular scenic waters off the southwest coast of New Zealand.



Crystal Symphony in Sydney Harbor, where she will serve as our hotel for two nights.

* For link: <http://www.crystalcruises.com/VoyageDetail.aspx?CID=2231&RK=ANZ>

Crystal is among the best cruise lines in the world. I was an art instructor aboard the nearly identical sister ship, *Crystal Serenity*, in 2004, and although somewhat doubtful about the experience of being on a cruise, being more accustomed to traditional ocean liners and tramp freighters, I was pleasantly surprised to find the experience exceptional in every way. While a relatively large vessel (although considered small for cruise ships), the ships are intimate and never crowded, even when filled to capacity. Cabins are spacious and comfortable, and there are plenty of traditional open teak decks on which to promenade in an effort to undo the damage caused at table. Service and food are exceptional and one can always choose from among the traditional dining room, Italian and Japanese restaurants (the latter created by famed chef Nobu Matsuhisa) as well as informal dining on deck. We are planning for this to be an intimate group of kindred



spirits so that we can enjoy meals together in our small group (as well as to have the flexibility for private time) and organize our own shore excursions and other activities like sketching and going off to see important architectural sites, not to mention just catching up with each other!

The 17-night cruise originates in Auckland and ends in Melbourne.

Details of the itinerary are available from this [link](#). *

In order to be part of this group, Tom Vise at Vista Travel must handle your booking. Fares for the cruise only are from \$8,505 per person double occupancy and \$11,745 for single. These fares include all port taxes and are now all inclusive for drinks, wine at dinner, specialty restaurants, and gratuities on board, so in effect this price would be all-inclusive for the 17-night package. Booking should be made with a per person fully refundable (up to 180 days prior) deposit of 10% as soon as possible.

Since availability of cabins at this price is limited (as is the ideal size of our group), you are encouraged to secure your booking by contacting Tom Vise at 800 875 0100 x 4233. In addition, a further discount of 2.5% is available if full payment is made by June 23, 2012.

I hope you can join us, and please let *me* know as well of your interest and if you have any questions.