

See the Total Solar Eclipse November 14, 2012

AUSTRALIA Eclipse 2012

November 5-16, 2012

with optional New Guinea Extension November 15-20, 2012

Come Explore With The Planetary Society

Dear Members & Friends:

We invite you to explore **Australia & New Guinea** with us in 2012 and to see the **Total Solar Eclipse November 14, 2012**.

This expedition will be a wonderful introduction to Australia, from its aboriginal heritage to the modern era. We will also discover classic Australian landscapes from the harbors of New South Wales to iconic Ayer's Rock, Alice Springs, and the tropical northeast in Queensland!

The trip will culminate in the Total Solar Eclipse in Cairns, overlooking the Great Barrier Reef!

More than 40,000 years ago a small population of indigenous people first inhabited the vast island continent of Australia. These people migrated from the islands of Indonesia while New Guinea was still attached to Australia.

Europeans long suspected the existence of "Australia Incognita," yet, it was not until the 1768-1771 voyage of Lieutenant James Cook that Australia was discovered by Europeans. He claimed this new land for England and called it New South Wales. This led to the beginning of European migration to Australia in 1788.

Today, the land and life in Australia captivates travelers, just as they intrigued the early explorers. Interwoven with the unique natural heritage and indigenous cultures are 200 years of European settlement, culture, and development. A sparkling tradition of hospitality, fine opera, superb gardens, parks, and modern science now characterizes the mysterious "terra incognita" of the Southern Hemisphere!

Our trip will include:

• **Sydney**, cosmopolitan heart of Australia—discover the historic Rocks area, and Australian wildlife at the Taronga

Park Zoo. Learn about Australia's astronomical heritage, current Mars program, and Australia's deep space research program.

• **Ayer's Rock, the Olgas, & Alice Springs**—explore these iconic images of the Australian Outback, including the Henbury Meteor Craters and go star gazing in the brilliant night skies.

• **Tjapukai Aboriginal Park**—enjoy this showcase of fascinating culture in tropical Queensland.

• **Green Island**, a delightful coral cay on the Great Barrier Reef, surrounded by a multicolored world of coral, giant clams, seabirds, tropical fish, crabs, and sponges—an extravaganza to relish while snorkeling or by glass bottom boat.

• **Cairns and the Total Solar Eclipse**, from a base in Australia's tropical resort city, at the edge of the Atherton Tableland and Great Barrier Reef, see the Total Eclipse from the oceanfront.

The **New Guinea Extension** will give a delightful introduction to this fascinating country, with Tufi Lodge as our home base. Amazing cultural experiences await you, as well as a look at New Guinea's superb natural heritage!

Enjoy leadership by Betchart naturalist **Bob Nansen**, popular leader of many Planetary Society eclipse trips.

We hope you will join us to explore Australia and New Guinea and see the 2012 Total Solar Eclipse!

Best regards,



Bill Nye, The Science Guy®
Executive Director



Itinerary

Days 1/2 Los Angeles to Sydney, Australia

Expedition members depart Los Angeles on a nonstop evening flight to Sydney, Australia. Cross the International Date Line en route.

Day 3 Sydney, Australia

Arrive Sydney in the morning of Day 3. Transfer to *Darling Harbour Holiday Inn (3 nights)*, in cosmopolitan Sydney. Today, our introduction to Australia will begin with a visit to Sydney's Powerhouse Museum, where many exciting exhibits capture the cultural background of Australia, as well as modern science. Enjoy an introduction to the "Pathways to Space" Mars program, including seeing the simulated Martian landscape. Welcome dinner. D

Day 4 Historic Rocks area

& Old Sydney Observatory

Today we will explore the historic "Rocks" area of Sydney—the birthplace of Australia! Learn about Captain Cook's exploration of Australia and see Sydney Cove, the site of Australia's first European settlement (and now the booming financial heart of Sydney). Visit the Old Sydney Observatory, situated on a hill in The Rocks. Built early in the 19th century, it is now a museum with modern telescopes for viewing. Special lecture on galaxy formation and deep space research this evening. B

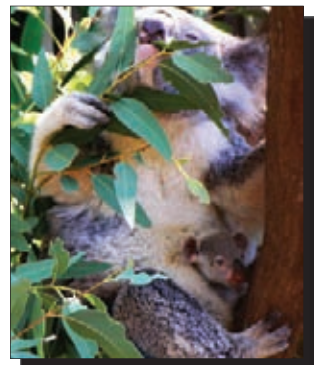
Day 5 Wild Australia & Indigenous Australians

This morning we will ferry from Darling Harbour to the Taronga Park Zoo for a look at the wildlife unique to Australia. We will take a special look at birds of the wetlands (from Australian kookaburras to cockatoos), animals at the interior (including wallaby's and red kangaroos), Australian night animals (from Tasmanian devils to brush-tailed Bettongs), and birds of the rain forest (lorikeets, bowerbirds, and crimson rosellas).

Afternoon visit to the National Museum for an insightful and fascinating look at the history, culture, and political struggles of Indigenous Australians (aboriginals). We will see artifacts and learn about the diversity of art and culture from the aboriginal Dreaming to the present day, with emphasis on the strength of the cultures and their connection to the land. B

Day 6 Alice Springs & the Outback

This morning, we will fly to Alice Springs in the heart of the Red Centre of Australia! In 1861-62, John McDouall Stuart led an expedition north across Australia near what is now the town called Alice, and was followed by the Overland Telegraph Line linking Adelaide to Darwin and Great Britain. According to local Arrernte aboriginal tradition, the landscape around Alice was shaped by caterpillars, wild dogs, traveling boys, two sisters, and other ancestral figures. Alice is still a focal point for native Australians today. This afternoon, we will visit the Old Telegraph Station and other sites of interest. Enjoy star gazing tonight. *Aurora Alice Springs Hotel*. B



Day 7 Alice to Henbury Meteor Craters & Ayer's Rock

Today, we will drive from Alice across the Outback to Ayer's Rock, stopping to explore Henbury Meteor Reserve en route. It contains twelve craters and is one of the best example's of a small crater field, created when a

AUSTRALIA & NEW GUINEA

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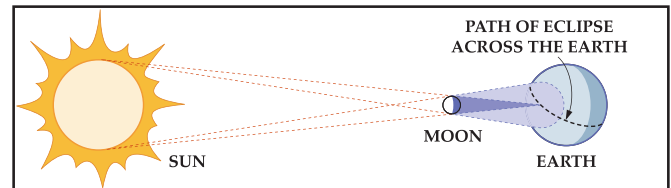
meteor broke up. Several tons of iron-nickel fragments have been recovered from the site. Camels were the original form of transportation for European arrivals in the Outback and we may stop at a camel farm today. Enjoy sunset at Ayer's Rock and a night of fantastic star gazing. *Desert Garden Hotel*. B

Day 8 Ayer's Rock & the Olgas to Cairns

Wake at dawn to see first light on Ayer's Rock, an immense sandstone formation, and the rounded Olgas, just 27 km away. These rock formations are colorful reminders of ancient seas and winds and the formation of Australia, the oldest continent on earth. Afternoon flight to Cairns in tropical Queensland. *Cairns hotel (3 nights)*. B

Day 9 Aboriginal Park & Cairns Eclipse Festival

Have a special visit to the Tjapukai Aboriginal Park, which showcases indigenous culture. Here we may watch theatrical performances and engage in interactive activities to learn about the traditional customs of the Tjapukai people. Enjoy time of your own today to explore the Cairns Eclipse Festival. Special Eclipse lecture this evening. B,L



Day 10 Total Solar Eclipse & Great Barrier Reef

This morning, we will rise early for the Total Solar Eclipse. All participants will receive solar viewing glasses. We will look for special phenomena of the eclipse. As the Moon slowly comes between the Sun and the Earth, you will see the dark crescent of the Moon cross the Sun and slowly advance to block all of the Sun's direct rays. The sunlight passes through craggy surface features of the Moon, and may create a phenomenon called "Baily's Beads."

Sometimes the depression of the Moon is so great that it produces a larger phenomenon called the "Diamond Ring. During the Total Eclipse, the rays of the Sun produce a corona or crown of light radiating outward behind the dark globe of the Moon. This rare event can be seen only with a Total Solar Eclipse.



After the eclipse, we will depart for Green Island on the Great Barrier Reef. Often called the "eighth wonder of the world," the Great Barrier Reef is a series of reefs which extend from Papua New Guinea to the Tropic of Capricorn south of Cairns. It is a fantastic creation of coral polyps which formed over thousands of years, creating the colorful reef gardens of coral, tropical fish, and shells which enchant us today. Enjoy

the coral and fish from the glass-bottomed boat or go snorkeling.

Festive dinner this evening in celebration of the Eclipse! B,L,D

Days 11/12 Cairns to Sydney & Home

Transfer to the airport for return flights to Sydney for overnight and fly home on the 16th. Or begin the New Guinea Extension. B



Reservations

#1275

OPTIONAL NEW GUINEA EXTENSION November 15-20, 2012

Day 1 Cairns to New Guinea

Fly from Cairns this morning, over the Torres Strait to Port Moresby, the capital of New Guinea. Take a charter flight to Tufi, 250 km to the east, on a headland above spectacular fjords. Have a sunset dinner and a demonstration of tapa cloth which is famous in Oro Province. *Tufi Resort (4 nights)*. B,D

Day 2 McClaren's Harbour Outrigger Safari

Today we will begin to explore the natural area surrounding Tufi by traditional outrigger. Here nature is at its finest—huge palms, wild orchids, birds and local villagers in traditional dress will fill your day with adventure. Also see the making of fire and safo processing (a starch staple of the Papua New Guineans). At Komoa Beach, enjoy snorkeling and meet the friendly village people, who will welcome you with a traditional singing celebration. B,L,D

Day 3 Jebo & Orotoba Villages

Today we will have an all day adventure to three local villages, including a one hour walk. See the Tufi lowlands and highlands and meet village head men who will welcome you. Walk through the village to view the spectacular Ibura fjord and look for butterflies, birds, and other things of interest. Have lunch in Garewa village. Relax and snorkel in this delightful location. B,L,D

Day 4 Rain Forest Walk or Snorkeling

We will depart this morning by boat into Tufi Fjord to Old Tufi Village. See jungle vegetation, hornbills, and parrots. You will also be shown a variety of trees and plants used for traditional house building and plants and herbs used in traditional medicine. The local head man will tell us about sorcery that is still practiced and feared by the local villagers. Festive dinner this evening. B,L,D

Days 5/6 Tufi to Port Moresby, Brisbane & Home

We will take a return flight to Port Moresby today, connecting with a flight to Brisbane for overnight. Then fly back home. B

Yes! I/We want to join the **Australia Total Solar Eclipse Expedition, November 5-16, 2012**, offered by **The Planetary Society & Betchart Expeditions Inc.** Please reserve _____ space(s) on the expedition, and _____ spaces on the optional **New Guinea Ext. November 15-20, 2012**. As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person for Australia + \$500 for New Guinea), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s): _____ Age _____ Sex _____
_____ Age _____ Sex _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (_____) _____
Work (_____) _____

Email: _____

Citizenship: ____ USA ____ Canada Other: _____

Membership: ____ Planetary Society ____ AAAS ____ Sigma Xi ____ ACS
Accommodations Preference:

____ Twin ____ Single ____ Twin Share ____ with a friend *or*
____ Nonsmoker ____ Smoker ____ assign a roommate

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Mail To: Australia Eclipse 2012
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

Costs & Conditions

Australia Expedition Fee: \$4,995 per person twin share + group air fare of \$1,795 + tax + fuel surcharge on Qantas from Los Angeles to Sydney, Ayers-Alice, & Cairns, round trip. Single Supplement: \$1,195.

New Guinea Extension Fee: \$1,995 per person twin share + air Cairns/Port Moresby/Brisbane \$795 + air Port Moresby/Tufi/Port Moresby \$995. Extension Fee includes Tufi accommodations twin share, meals at Tufi, village visits, special singsing for our group, guiding, snorkeling. New Guinea visa and scuba diving or fishing additional. All singles will be paired with a roommate at Tufi.

Australia Expedition Fee Includes: Group airport transfers; transportation by motorcoach, monorail, and harbor cruise boat; accommodations twin share in first class hotels; group meals as indicated; entrance fees; special lectures; baggage handling; tips to drivers and local guide; leadership by an excellent naturalist and local guest experts; administration.

Australia Fee Does Not Include: Air fare (quoted separately); independent transfers; some meals; optional activities; Nov. 15 Sydney hotel or Nov. 19 Brisbane hotel; gratuities to expedition leaders; visa fees; personal items such as beverages at meals, alcoholic beverages, laundry, phone calls, internet, bottled water, snacks, personal insurance or foreign airport departure taxes.

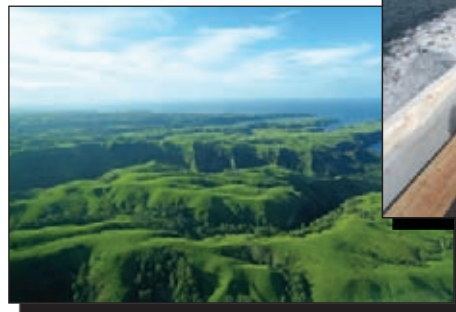
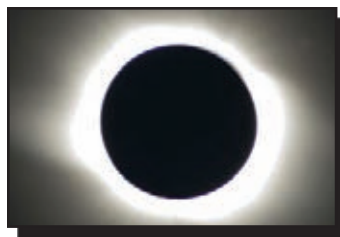
What to Expect: This expedition is for the travel enthusiast who would like to explore Australia & New Guinea, and see the Total Solar Eclipse November 14, 2012. Led by an excellent naturalist, explore renowned sites in Australia including Sydney, Ayer's Rock and Alice Springs in the Outback, and Cairns in tropical Queensland. Typically it will be summer weather in the 80's to 90's with the possibility of some rain. There is an excellent chance of clear skies for the eclipse, but it may be obscured by clouds. (No smoking in lectures, at meals, or in buses.)

Tufi Resort in New Guinea: Is a boutique resort, a hidden oasis situated overlooking an ocean inlet, with panoramic views of the sea and mountains. It is a one hour charter flight from Port Moresby. Tufi has comfortable bungalows with polished timber floors. The walls are lined with traditional woven material. The resort is charmingly rustic.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Group flights from Los Angeles are on Qantas, the Australian Airline, and include flights to Sydney, Alice Springs, Ayer's Rock, Cairns and return to Sydney for overnight. Then flight home on the 16th. Passengers on the New Guinea Extension will return Port Moresby to Brisbane for Qantas flight to the USA. For air information, contact **Taunya@betchartexpeditions.com**, or telephone **(800) 252-4910**. Air Fare quoted is approximate and will be confirmed by January 15, 2012. AIR FARES, AIR TAXES, and FUEL SURCHARGES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Reservations, Deposits & Payments: To reserve a place on this expedition, please mail a deposit of \$1,000 per person for Australia and \$500 per person for New Guinea with the completed reservation form. Final payment is due 150 days before departure (June 5, 2012).

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 150 days before departure, less a handling fee of \$300 per person. There is no refund for any cancellation within 150 days of departure. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered. No refunds are made for unused services.



Leadership

*Leading this expedition will be **Bob Nansen**, a popular leader of many Planetary Society Eclipse and Aurora Borealis Expeditions.*

Bob has led expeditions for The Planetary Society and Betchart to see Annular or Total Solar Eclipses in Costa Rica 2001, South Africa 2002, Iceland 2003, Turkey 2006, Novosibirsk and Lake Baikal in Russia 2008, and Tahiti in 2010.

The heritage of Australia has long been of interest to Bob, as well as the marine life, birds, natural world, and southern skies. He looks forward to sharing the delights of Australia, New Guinea, and the Total Solar Eclipse with you.

Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels and exercise every care possible. We can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident, or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, acts of God, terrorism, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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For reservations, please contact
Betchart Expeditions Inc.

17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

Telephone (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910

Fax: (408) 252-1444

Email: Taunya@betchartexpeditions.com

On the Web: www.betchartexpeditions.com