

## VSA Melbourne Revised Itinerary

### Day 1 – Monday 8th May

#### Arrival into Melbourne, Australia

This morning you'll arrive into Melbourne after an overnight flight from Hong Kong.

Flight: Qantas flight QF30 from Hong Kong  
Arriving Melbourne 8:00am

Welcome to Australia! Your Rustic Pathways Australian staff will meet you at the airport in Melbourne when you land. After a warm welcome, our guides will take you into the city and check in to our youth hostel. Melbourne is arguably the most vibrant city in Australia, with a strong culture of art, sport, music and food.

After lunch, we'll catch trams down to the Docklands precinct and take a ride on the Melbourne Star for spectacular views across the city skyline and Port Phillip Bay.

On our way back to the hostel, we'll play some games and activities to have some fun and you can get to know each other and your Rustic Pathways leaders. Melbourne is unofficially known as the culinary capital of Australia, and we'll hit one of the funky neighborhoods for dinner tonight.

**Overnight:** Melbourne Metro YHA, Melbourne

### Day 2 – Tuesday 9th May

#### Warringa Park and Yarraville Special Needs Schools

This morning we'll split in two groups and then travel by van for 30 minutes to the western suburbs of Melbourne where each group will be visiting a special needs school.

Today will be an orientation day at the schools to get to know the students. You'll receive a tour of the school by the leadership team, then spend the day as teacher-aides in the classrooms. VSA students will be split into groups of two and placed in classes to support students with their learning. Activities will include one-on-one tutoring, helping with art classes, and listening to students read. Break times will provide opportunities for students to interact socially and have some fun!

When school concludes by midday, we'll make our way back across the West Gate Bridge into the city. After some down time at the hostel, we'll head into the heart of the city – Federation Square – and visit the Australian Center for the Moving Image before dinner back at the hostel.

**Overnight:** Melbourne Metro YHA, Melbourne

### Day 3 – Wednesday 10th May

#### Warringa Park and Yarraville Special Needs Schools

This morning we'll return to the schools and spend another full day with the special needs students. Today you'll be feeling more comfortable and confident at the school and should be starting to develop a great rapport with the students!

You will engage with the students in shared activities such as games, arts, music and cooking. Spend time learning about their lives and teaching them about life in Hong Kong. After school we will

explore the marvels of Melbourne itself. We can shop at the famous Queen Victoria Markets, (possible photo scavenger hunt!) and discover the contemporary and historic places in Australia's second-largest city.

We'll also take you on an urban walk to show you how in a marvelous city there are also people living on the margin. Despite its beauty, Melbourne has many homeless people who live in the shadows and laneways. You'll join social workers from a community group called Urban Seed to learn about urban issues in Melbourne.

**Overnight:** Melbourne Metro YHA, Melbourne

#### **Day 4 – Thursday 11th May**

##### **Warringa Park and Yarraville Special Needs Schools**

Today will be our final day at the schools and the schedule will be provided by them closer to the time. In the morning you will continue to help teach the students that you've worked with for the last two days, and this afternoon we'll have a party to celebrate our time together.

In the late afternoon, we may take you to see the old jail, visit the many laneways, take a walk in the Botanical Gardens, or perhaps visit either The National Gallery of Australia.

**Overnight:** Melbourne Metro YHA, Melbourne

#### **Day 5 – Friday 12th May**

##### **Wildlife Sanctuary and Phillip Island**

Today you will farewell Melbourne city and venture into the countryside. Located an hour from Melbourne, the Mornington Peninsula is one of Australia's premier wine growing regions. Within the Pearcedale Conservation Park lies Moonlit Sanctuary, known for its wide range of fascinating Australian wildlife including koalas, kangaroos, dingoes, wallabies and more! Here you will have a guided tour to learn about the unique Aussie animals.

In the afternoon we will make our way to Phillip Island. A popular holiday destination for many Melbournians, Phillip Island boasts gorgeous beaches and is a great place to soak up some of the beach culture that Australia is famous for.

This evening we'll head out to see some penguins! Each evening, hundreds of Fairy Penguins come in from the ocean and make their way up the beach and into their burrows. It's one of the must-do experiences on Phillip Island and is always a highlight! We will then have some dinner and share stories from our big day!

**Overnight:** Phillip Island YHA, Phillip Island

#### **Day 6 – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

##### **Departure Day**

Today we'll make our way to Melbourne Airport for your morning departure back to Hong Kong. You will reflect on your amazing journey with your group, say farewell to your newfound friends and then fly home, It's time to say goodbye!

**Flight:** Qantas flight QF29 to Hong Kong

Depart Melbourne 10:20am

Welcome home! We hope you have loved your time in Australia and we hope to see you again!