

## DAY 10 – Sydney, Critters and Blue Mountains

Our first and only full day in Sydney we decided on an inland adventure. Began by visiting the Featherdale animal center to go play with koala bears, kangaroos, wallabies and emus!



What ya talkin' about, Dude?



Even wallabies like to cuddle!



No words necessary!!



Mama and baby in pouch



Yes, we were allowed to pat them!!



Hungry little buggers. They use their paws to hold onto your hand where the food is.

This was the highlight of the day and we were sad to leave, but the bus must go on and we headed off to the Blue Mountains about 90 minutes outside of Sydney.



Reportedly it is supposed to be some of the most beautiful views in the country. We wouldn't know, it was fogged in and rained the entire time we were there!

Highlight of that trip was eating bangers and mash in a local pub.

We saw literally nothing in the mist – or as Wendy said we were watching

ghosts eat marshmallows!

We did get one walk in down alongside a waterfall which was very pretty what little we could see of it in the fog.

After driving around in the fog and rain for 5 hours seeing nothing we went to drive through the Sydney Olympics Center which was pretty interesting to see what they have done with it since 2000.



Then finally we took a river boat tour back to Sydney, which was quite beautiful. This part of Sydney reminded us of Seattle. Tons of boats everywhere on mooring balls.

Notice how this guy has a ramp at his house to pull his boat out of the water!



Once again I was struck about how expensive Australia is. Bangers and mash at the pub was \$17.00 a plate!! Good Lord, I can get a Ribeye for that in the States!



In Fiji we used the hotel laundry for our clothes, shorts and shirts were \$1.20 each to wash. At our hotel in Sydney, laundry is \$9.00 a piece! Even the cruise ship is cheaper than that.

Went to a proper liquor store (you cannot even buy beer in a supermarket here) I could not find a single

bottle of liquor for less than \$32.00, and I am talking about a 750ml bottle here, not even a liter – let alone the 1.5L bottle whisky I buy for under \$12.00 back home!

Let's talk about smoking – not only are cigarettes OUTRAGEOUSLY priced at over \$20.00 a pack (prices set by government to stop smoking), but it's illegal to even display them for sale, they have to be hidden in a cupboard and asked for.

For you 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment fans out there, Australia gun law is unbelievable. You can apply for a gun permit, but you have to have a "genuine reason" for owning a gun and self defense is not regarded as a good enough reason.

Handguns may only be owned by target shooters and a handgun permit is only issued after 6 months of target practice at an approved shooting range and you have to participate in a specified number of shooting matches each year in order to retain your permit. Guns bigger than .38 are illegal as well as any gun holding more than 10 bullets. Automatic and semi-automatic weapons are illegal. Pump action shot guns can only be owned by skeet shooting clubs, not individuals.

OK, that's enough for today – at noon we board our cruise ship.

Cheers!!