

United States Study Tour 2010

ITINERARY

DATE	ACTIVITY	OVERNIGHT
Day 1 (meals on plane) Sunday, August 15 <i>QF107</i> <i>Departs SYD 10.15am</i> <i>Arrive LAX 6.45am</i> <i>American Airlines AA3318</i> <i>Depart LAX 9.35am</i> <i>Arrive LAS 10.45am</i>	<p>Fly to Los Angeles with a morning arrival (still on the 15th) to connect with your flight to Las Vegas. Try to get bags checked right through to Las Vegas, although you will have to pick them up in Los Angeles to take them through customs.</p> <p>Brian and Therese will be on the Sydney flight arriving in LAX at 6.45am. LAX airport is pretty daunting after a long flight, but just follow the "cattle" through the immigration hall, pick up your bags and go through customs. Then deposit your bags again at the transfer desk. Turn your phone on when you arrive so Brian can contact you and vice-versa. Check the departure boards to confirm details of the flight to Las Vegas.</p> <p>At Las Vegas, transfer to hotel and settle in before a light welcoming pre-dinner snack and refreshment (Brian to organise). Free evening to rest up.</p>	Las Vegas Bellagio Hotel <i>3600 Las Vegas Blvd. South.</i> <i>Ph: 0011 1 702-693-7111</i> <i>Fax: 0011 1 702-693-8585</i> <i>www.bellagio.com</i>
Day 2 (B,L) Monday, August 16	<p>Departure at 7.45am for a charter flight across one of the world's engineering wonders – Hoover Dam – and onto one of the seven natural wonders of the world – the spectacular Grand Canyon. We have a guided land tour of the Southern Rim, stopping for numerous photo opportunities, as well as a helicopter flight over the canyon before our charter flight returns to Las Vegas at about 4.30pm. Free evening.</p>	Las Vegas Bellagio Hotel <i>3600 Las Vegas Blvd. South.</i> <i>Ph: 0011 1 702-693-7111</i> <i>Fax: 0011 1 702-693-8585</i> <i>www.bellagio.com</i>
Day 3 (B,L,D) Tuesday, August 17 <i>Southwest Airlines 51</i> <i>Departs LAS 12.55pm</i> <i>Arrive AMA 5.10pm</i>	<p>Morning at leisure before a flight to Amarillo in the Texas 'Panhandle', a major grain sorghum and ethanol production area in the US. Arrive around 5.30pm and transfer to hotel.</p> <p>NB: This flight is on Southwest Airlines and Brian holds your (paper) tickets. Limit of one checked bag per passenger.</p>	Amarillo Ashmore Inn and Suites <i>2301 I-40 East, Exit 72-A</i> <i>Ph: 0011 1 806-374-0033</i> <i>Fax: 0011 1 806-374-1399</i> <i>www.ashmoresuites-amarillo.com</i>
Day 4 (B,L,D) Wednesday, August 18	<p>This morning you will become acquainted with a typical American continental breakfast – enjoy. First port of call will be the USDA Research Station at Bushland, just west of Amarillo, where research into dryland crop rotations (such as wheat-sorghum), soil moisture conservation and various tillage methods is underway in a region with similar (low) rainfall as Australia. Then a visit to the NuSeed facility before a farm visit then continue south through the Panhandle to Lubbock for overnight.</p> <p>Lunch today (as for most days while travelling) will be a flexible affair with the aim of getting something fairly quick and healthy (can be difficult in the US). Some days will be a boxed lunch for a picnic.</p>	Lubbock Hampton Inn and Suites <i>5614 Englewood Avenue</i> <i>Ph: 0011 1 806-797-9600</i> <i>Fax: 0011 1 806-797-9601</i> <i>www.hamptoninn.hilton.com/enr/hp/hotels/index.jsp?cityhacn=LBBHSHX</i>
Day 5 (B,L,D) Thursday, August 19	<p>Lubbock is a major centre for grain sorghum, cotton and irrigation technology – and also home to Buddy Holly. We visit farms in the area today and meet with local farmers, researchers and advisers.</p>	Lubbock Hampton Inn and Suites
Day 6 (B,L,D) Friday, August 20 <i>American Airlines 3318</i> <i>Departs LBB 8.55am</i> <i>Arrive DFW 10.00am</i>	<p>Early flight to Dallas with a quick stop at the site of the Kennedy assassination. Then continue south in our charter coach to College Station, home of the famous Texas A&M University, world leaders in agricultural research. This afternoon we meet up with local farmers and consultants. We hope they can join us for dinner tonight.</p>	College Station Vineyard Court Designer Suites <i>1500 George Bush Drive East</i> <i>Ph: 0011 1 979.693.1220</i> <i>Fax: 0011 1 979.764.1250</i> <i>www.vineyardcourt.com</i>
Day 7 (B,L,D) Saturday, August 21	<p>Enjoy breakfast on George Bush Drive, then a farm visit before continuing southwest to the Gulf of Mexico and Corpus Christi. We have a specially customised tour this afternoon of the famous King Ranch, one of the leading (and biggest) livestock and cropping operations in the world.</p> <p>Then continue on to Corpus Christi on the Gulf coast (no oil spill jokes, please).</p>	Corpus Christi Omni Corpus Christi <i>900 North Shoreline Blvd</i> <i>Ph: 0011 1 361 887-1600</i> <i>Fax: 0011 1 361 887-6715</i> <i>www.omnihotels.com</i>

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Day 8 (B,L) Sunday, August 22 <i>American Airlines 3343</i> <i>Departs GRP 2.05pm</i> <i>Arrive DFW 3.25pm</i> <i>American Airlines 1489</i> <i>Departs DFW 4.55pm</i> <i>Arrive MSY 6.15pm</i>	Free morning to relax, or join Brian on a visit to the <i>USS Lexington</i> , the most highly decorated aircraft carrier of WWII, now moored at Corpus Christi. Early lunch then transfer to the airport for flight to New Orleans via Dallas. We arrive at 6.15pm and will be met by a local guide who will give a rundown of New Orleans (especially post Katrina) on the way to the hotel which is in a great location in the French Quarter. There are plenty of restaurants nearby for a late-ish dinner.	New Orleans Omni Royal New Orleans 621 St. Louis Street Ph: 0011 1 504 529-5333 Fax: 0011 1 504 529-7089 www.omnihotels.com
Day 9 (B) Monday, August 23	Enjoy a morning city tour of the "Big Easy" including the French Quarter, Garden District and the cemeteries. Free afternoon for some well deserved rest and relaxation. There are many activities and options in this exciting city including a chance to ride the Streetcar named Desire or to take a cruise on the mighty Mississippi on an old fashioned paddle steamer.	New Orleans Omni Royal New Orleans
Day 10 (B,L,D) Tuesday, August 24	This morning we head out on our coach up the famous Mississippi Delta. Over the next couple of days, the cropping will change from sugarcane through to irrigated cotton and beans and finally maize and other crops. Lunch at historic Natchez-under-the-hill with a great view of the Mississippi before a farm visit and continuing on to Vicksburg. Overnight at Cedar Grove, an elegant southern antebellum mansion.	Vicksburg Cedar Grove Mansion 2200 Oak Street Ph: 0011 1 601 636-1000 Fax: 0011 1 601 634-6126 www.cedargrovemn.com
Day 11 (B,L,D) Wednesday, August 25	You won't want to leave Cedar Grove, but there is more to do. In the morning, we pick up a step-on guide for a short tour of the Vicksburg battleground – the siege of Vicksburg was one of the turning points of the Civil War. Continue up the Delta with farm visits along the way. Lunch at Doe's Eat Place in Greenville. It may not look much, but it is a southern institution and rates among the best steak houses in the US. Farm visit on the way to Memphis. And for some more southern institutions, you will be checking in to the famous Peabody Hotel with dinner at Rendezvous Ribs.	Memphis The Peabody Memphis 149 Union Avenue Ph: 0011 1 901 529-4000 www.peabodymemphis.com
Day 12 (B) Thursday, August 26	For all those Elvis fans, you can't go to Memphis without a tour of Graceland. If the rumours are true, you may even get a glimpse of the great man himself. Free afternoon and evening. Heading to Beale Street to listen to some blues at BB King's or any one of scores of musical bars and clubs is recommended.	Memphis The Peabody Memphis
Day 13 (B,L) Friday, August 27	Board our coach to travel through Tennessee. On the way, we will have farm visits and talk to local agronomists around Milan, the centre of one of the biggest no-till field days in the US. In the afternoon, we will continue on to Nashville. Country music fans will love the chance to get to the Grand Ole Opry tonight.	Nashville Renaissance Hotel 611 Commerce Street Ph: 0011 1 615-255-8400 Fax: 0011 1 615-255-8202 www.marriott.com
Day 14 (B,L) Saturday, August 28 <i>American Airlines 4532</i> <i>Departs BNA 9.50am</i> <i>Arrive DCA 12.25pm</i>	Morning flight to Washington DC, where we will book in to our hotel before an afternoon city tour including the White House and many of the famous monuments including the Lincoln Memorial. Late afternoon meeting with Australian agricultural trade officials to discuss the latest happenings in Washington and how they affect Australian agriculture. Free evening.	Washington DC The Fairmont 2401 M Street, NW Ph: 0011 1 202 429-2400 Fax: 0011 1 202 457-5010 www.fairmont.com/washington
Day 15 (B) Sunday, August 29	Free day to explore some of the city's magnificent sights and museums such as the Smithsonian, the National Museum of Crime and Punishment and the Folger Shakespeare Library just to name a few. Brian ("Options") O'Connell will have plenty of activities for you to choose from.	Washington DC The Fairmont
Day 16 (B,L,D) Monday, August 30	Visit the USDA's research headquarters at Beltsville, Maryland before steering our coach back in time and into the amazing Pennsylvania Dutch Country. We will visit an Amish farm and learn about their unique way of life and impressive farming methods. They may not use a lot of the day to day technology we take for granted, but they do get results. Continue east to historic Philadelphia to check in and maybe an evening stroll to some of Philly's famous monuments.	Philadelphia Marriott Downtown 1201 Market Street Ph: 0011 1 215-625-2900 Fax: 0011 1 215-625-6000 www.marriott.com
Day 17 (B,L) Tuesday, August 31	Morning city tour including Independence Hall (where both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were debated and drafted) and Philadelphia's most iconic landmark – The Liberty Bell. Then board a train from the historic and beautiful 30th Street Station – on the US National Register of Historic Places and a Philadelphia landmark – and travel to downtown New York, a journey of just over an hour. On arrival we are met by our city guide, lunch and are shown the main sights of New York. These include the Empire State building, Central Park, Harlem, Wall Street and Ground Zero. Free evening – maybe a Broadway show?	New York City Fitzpatrick Grand Central 141 E. 44th St Ph: 0011 1 212.351.6800 www.fitzpatrickhotels.com/grand-central

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Day 18 (B) Wed, September 1	Free time to do your own thing in New York – the city that never sleeps. Options include a relaxing horse and carriage ride around Central Park, shopping or just relaxing. A good option is a cruise on the Staten Island Ferry for a close-up view of the Statue of Liberty. Or talk to Brian about options.	New York City Fitzpatrick Grand Central
Day 19 (B,L,D) Thurs, September 2 <i>United Airlines UA405</i> <i>Departs LGA 10.20am</i> <i>Arrive DEN 12.48pm</i> <i>United Airlines 5161</i> <i>Departs DEN 2.19pm</i> <i>Arrive SHR 3.44pm</i>	Transfer to La Guardia airport for a morning flight to Sheridan, Wyoming, one of the biggest grain producing states in the US. It is also a major beef producer. This evening, we will meet with some local farmers and companies who are co-operating on the use of irrigation water from coal seam gas (CSG) production in the Powder Valley of Wyoming.	Sheridan Hampton Inn <i>980 Sibley Circle</i> <i>Ph: 0011 1 307-673-2734</i> <i>Fax: 0011 1 307-673-1261</i> <i>www.hamptoninn.hilton.com/enr/tpa/hotels/index.html?cityhocr=SHWYTHX</i>
Day 20 (B,L,D) Friday, September 3	We visit farms around Sheridan, in the northern end of the Powder River Valley. This highly productive agricultural area is dotted with over 17,000 operative coal seam gas wells. The by-product of these wells is an enormous amount of water which is being utilised by many of the local farmers for crop irrigation. We meet with some of these farmers and CSG well operators to discuss how the two industries profitably co-exist and how this resource-sharing model might apply in Australia. Continue west to Cody through the beautiful Big Horn mountains.	Cody The Cody <i>232 West Yellowstone Ave</i> <i>Ph: 0011 1 307-527-3398</i> <i>Fax: 0011 1 307-587-5765</i> <i>www.thecody.com</i>
Day 21 (B,L) Saturday, September 4	This morning we head west through Buffalo Bill country to Yellowstone National Park along what is widely regarded as one of the most spectacular drives in America. We enter the Park from the east and pass by the breathtaking Yellowstone Lake and the magnificent Hayden Valley – the first place to go to see wildlife in Yellowstone. We are likely to see herds of bison, elk and the occasional grizzly bear. Continue onto our lake-side hotel in the middle of the Park where we are met by our Yellowstone guide for an afternoon of guided touring. Free evening	Yellowstone Lake Yellowstone Hotel <i>Yellowstone National Park</i> <i>Ph: 0011 1 307-344.7311</i> <i>www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/lake-yellowstone-hotel-cabins-94.html</i>
Day 22 (B,L,D) Sunday, September 5	Full day touring Yellowstone with our specialist Park guides. Farewell dinner.	Yellowstone Lake Yellowstone Hotel
Day 23 (B,L) Monday, September 6 <i>United Airlines UA426</i> <i>Departs JAC 1.27pm</i> <i>Arrive DEN 2.50pm</i> <i>American Airlines AA3013</i> <i>Departs DEN 6.50pm</i> <i>Arrive LAX 8.10pm</i> <i>Qantas QF12</i> <i>Departs LAX 10.30pm</i> <i>Arrive SYD 6.30am</i> <i>(on September 8)</i>	Free morning in Yellowstone. Visit Old Faithful Geyser on our way out of the Park and through the Grand Tetons to Jackson Hole where we catch our flight to Los Angeles and our connecting flight home.	Flight to Australia or various tour add-on options