

# *China*

## **Photography Tour**

*Guest Photography Guru*

**Robert Keeley**

*Editor Australian Photography Magazine*



**18 Day Escorted Fully Inclusive Tour**

*Departing Sydney 13 October 2012*

*featuring*

**Beijing Xian Kunming Lijian Hangzhou**

**Yellow Mountain Shanghai**

## *Guest Photography Guru*



### Robert Keeley, Editor of Australian Photography Magazine

Robert Keeley has been the Editor of *Australian Photography* magazine for the last 12 years. During that period he's written on every aspect of the craft of making pictures, and interviewed many of our major Australian photographers about how they create their distinctive image styles.

He has photographed a wide range of different activities and subjects, from major sporting events to weddings. He also regularly shoots landscape and travel images in Australia and overseas. At one point he travelled independently throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico for one year, shooting photos and producing stories for magazines. His other credits includes images in Greece, Malaysia, Indonesia, Tahiti, Japan, and the UK.

His images appear regularly in *Australian Photography* magazine, but he has worked for a wide range of clients from the Australian Football League to individual companies, supplying anything from product shots to "people" pics.

Robert began his career as a journalist on the *Melbourne Age* newspaper and later moved into specialist magazines, where he learned the craft of photography shooting on the job for a wide range of publications. For many years he produced freelance feature packages, often including stories and images, for magazines and newspapers. For over a decade he also worked for the marine magazine division of Yaffa Publishing Group (publishers of *Australian Photography*) where his photography became a key component of several yachting and boating magazines. He likes to shoot in a photo-journalistic style, aiming to capture candid moments, a technique which is particularly suited to making high-impact travel images.



# VJ EVENTS

Bringing it together for you

A Division of Ville Jumelee Association Inc.

## ***Who we are and what we do***

VJ Events (VJE) is a section within Ville Jumelée Association Inc, a fully incorporated community association registered with the ATO, with "Charitable Institution" status ,based in Maroochydore on the Sunshine Coast

VJE was created by the association to utilise the expertise of its members as a method of raising much needed funds for its own programme of activities as well as other deserving community organisations.

Whilst VJE is based on the Sunshine Coast it has the ability to partner with businesses throughout Australia on a local, regional, state, national or with others on an international basis. VJE strive to offer a reliable and creative event programme delivering a quality, value for money memorable event. Each event is treated individually with VJE working diligently to ensure objectives are achieved.

VJE volunteers have extensive experience the event and tourism industry. The association's members experience includes the production and management of a number of successful events in Australia, New Zealand, Mauritius, Fiji, Norfolk Island, Cook Islands, China, UK and Europe

With the belief that a strong community will exist if efforts are made at every level VJE believe that great experiences change attitudes, and sometimes lives. Most Frequent events are outbound tours to China using members connections to create tours that differentiate themselves from others and provide exceptional value for money

Another avenue for fundraising is the creation and management of sporting and cultural events for numerous cities around the planet that have twin town, sister city relationships and Memorandum of Understandings (M.O.U.s) to develop closer economic and cultural connections.

Objectives of the events are:

- (a) To develop meaningful and long term links with cities and communities that have these established links in order to achieve greater international understanding and goodwill between the nations and the people of this world, and.
- (b) To encourage and involve citizens of these cities participate in national and international programmes involving Sport, Art and Culture.

Client service is important to VJE and prides itself on high organisational skills, flexible approach, friendly and personable manner and high standards. The team's liaison and relationship building skills are a vital link in the important role of an event and marketing organisation. VJE's goal is to ensure all stakeholders receive maximum benefit for their investment.

In summary VJE is passionate about delivering outstanding events. With experience in producing a wide variety of local, interstate and international events we are committed to

**Bringing it together for you!**



# VJ EVENTS

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### ***Why travel on a VJ Events Tour?***

VJ Events Group Tours provide exceptional value for money. Travelling in a group ensures you travel in the comfort safety and security of a group that is guided not only by fluent English speaking local guides but also by a representative from the Ville Jumelee Association. The association's guide acts as an additional source of information and as a cultural ambassador to assist with the smooth operation of the tour.

As stated in 'Who we are and what we do' we use this trips to raise funds for work within the community. We welcome enquiries from other not-for-profit community organisations, service and sports clubs and schools to discuss how we can assist them raise funds with VJ Events Tours.

### **Product Range**

VJ Events have the product breadth to create special interest tours such as Garden, Photography and Golf tours or general interest tours for individual groups. We are able to offer tours across the length and breadth of China and Tibet and Hong Kong if required. PLUS we can also add a cruise at either end of a tour to provide an additional dimension to the adventure.

### **Flights**

The range of tours offered are generally all inclusive of flights and land arrangements meaning we do all the work

### **Airport Transfers**

Return airport transfers are included in all itineraries providing peace of mind, knowing you will be met upon arrival and delivered to the airport for your return flight.

### **Meals**

Australians love their food, so to ensure a high standard and a good variety of food is provide at each meal we have increased the value to a level above that offered on other tours. Wherever possible we include a Gala meal on the last night of each tour to celebrate the company and surroundings we have enjoyed the trip and the discoveries made. The gala dinner is our speciality

### **Price**

We believe and our travellers confirm we offer exceptional value for money. Look at the inclusions for proof

### **Bookings**

You may book your tour by contacting VJ Events either by phone, fax, email or Skype. The choice is yours

*We are confident we offer the best value group tours to China and Tibet and look forward to sharing these destinations with you*

# VJ EVENTS

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## MAIN ATTRACTIONS

### Beijing

One of the most ancient cities in China and the modern Day Capital. It is a sprawling city, covering more than 16,000 square kilometres with a population of over 15 million people and home to the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Hutong and Ming Tombs



### Xian

The main magnet of Xian is terracotta soldiers. Another is the city wall, which is not only the most complete city wall to have survived in China, But is also one of the largest ancient military defensive systems in the world. The other the main reason for visiting Xian is to spend a day at the International Horticultural Expo site where you can photograph the many gardens and structures spread throughout the 400 hectares.

### Kunming

Known in China as the *City of Eternal Spring*, Kunming is at an almost-tropical latitude but being at an altitude of 2000 (6600 ft) it has a very temperate climate. A highlight is the UNESCO listed Stone Forest site featuring the remarkable karst geography.

### Lijian

Old and Beautiful, Lijian is the capital of the Naxi Kingdom and a town with an ancient canal system, traditional architecture, a delightful maze of cobbled streets and old wooden buildings

### Hangzhou

With enchanting natural beauty and abundant cultural heritages, and Known as “Paradise on Earth,” Hangzhou is regarded as one of the most beautiful tourist cities in China.

### Yellow Mountain

Of all the notable mountains in China, Yellow Mountain (Mt. Huangshan), is found in the south of Anhui Province is probably the most famous. It can boast not only of its magnificence but also its abundant resources and great variety of zoological species. As a result it has been listed as a World Natural and Cultural Heritage Site.

### Shanghai

Shanghai offers the perfect blend of cultures, the modern and the traditional, the western and the oriental. You have the opportunity to visit some of the best the “Paris of the East” has to offer including the Jade Buddha Temple, Yu Gardens and more

P O Box 957 Maroochydore Queensland 4558

T: 0407 699126 F: (07) 30099919 E: vjevents@hotmail.com Skype: VJEvents

**18 days/17 nights**

*This photography tour introduces you some of China's most fantastic sights: the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and the Temple of Heaven. In addition, it also brings you Yellow Mountain and Hangzhou, the most beautiful Mountain and city on earth selected by Chinese tourists. Enjoy more as you travel through Kunming, Lijian and Xian where you will see how the country exhibits herself in all her beauty and wonder.*



**Day 1. Arrive Beijing (X/X/X)**

Welcome to the People's Republic of China. Upon arrival in Beijing, the capital of China, you are met and transfer to your hotel.

**Day 2. In Beijing (B/LD)**

Today you will first visit Tian'an Men Square, the largest square in the world. Continue the tour to the Forbidden City and see the magnificent palace halls and gardens. Tour the Hutongs by rickshaw and visit the old houses. Lunch with a local family and observe the daily life of local people. Enjoy a Beijing Opera after dinner.

**Day 3. In Beijing (B/LD)**

A spectacular day today as you walk along the Great Wall, one of the most remarkable architectural wonders of the world. After lunch, continue your visit to the Ming Tombs, where 13 of the 16 Ming Dynasty emperors are buried. Tonight enjoy a traditional Beijing Duck Banquet.

**Day 4. In Beijing (B/L/D)**

This morning, you visit the Summer Palace, China's second largest imperial garden. After lunch, tour the Temple of Heaven, where the emperors performed annual rituals to pray for a good harvest for the nation.



### Day 5. Fly Beijing to Xian (B/L/D)

Day free before transferring to the airport for your flight south to Xian, the gateway to the Silk Road and the capital of eleven dynasties. Upon arrival, you are met and join the local guide to visit the city wall.



### Day 6. In Xian (B/L/D)

Enjoy a full-day excursion to the Terracotta Warrior Museum where you will see the life-size Terracotta Warriors. After lunch visit the Banpo Museum, the actual archaeological site of a Neolithic village. Continue the tour to Shaanxi Provincial Museum, displaying many aspects of Chinese culture. After dinner enjoy a special Tang Dynasty dancing and singing performance.

### Day 7. In Xian (BLD)

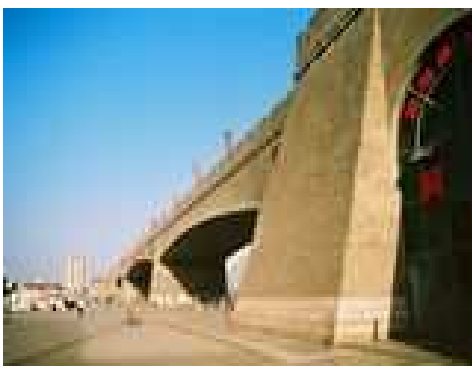
After breakfast you are transferred to the Xian International Horticultural Expo Site which attracted of 15 million visitors during its 6 month duration. You will spend a full day at leisure exploring and photographing the various structures and gardens

### Day 8. Fly Xian to Kunming (BLD)

Morning tour to Big Goose Pagoda, which keeps Buddhist scripts brought back from India in 652 A.D. Transfer to the airport for the flight to Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan Province. On arrival an orientation tour will show you the Spring City of China.

### Day 9. Fly Kunming to Lijian (BLD)

This morning's drive brings you to the Stone Forest where you will see a massive collection of grey limestone pillars. Later this afternoon you are transferred to the airport for a short flight to Lijian, capital of the Naxi Kingdom and a town with an ancient canal system, traditional architecture, a delightful maze of cobbled streets and old wooden buildings.



### Day D10. In Lijian (BLD)

You first stop today is at the Old Market Square. Next, a 30-minute drive brings you to the entrance of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain to enjoy the breathtaking views. You continue your journey to Yuhu, a small village and the home of Joseph Rock - who was in parts an explorer, a plant collector and a scholar of Naxi language. Tonight enjoy performances of the Naxi Orchestra.



### Day 11. Fly Lijian to Hangzhou (BLD)

Fly Kunming to Guilin. Transfer to the airport for the flight to Hangzhou. On arrival you are met and transferred to your hotel.

### Day 12. Hangzhou (B/L/D)

Known as the “Paradise on Earth,” Hangzhou is regarded as one of the most beautiful tourist cities in China. You spend a full day touring this fantastic city with a visit to a tea museum followed by a stop in the local village to sample the local tea. Continue your visit to Lingyin Temple followed by a cruise on West Lake.

### Day 13. Coach Hangzhou to Yellow Mountain (B/L/D)

This morning you travel by road to Yellow Mountain, known to many Chinese as the “Marvellous Mountain on Earth.” On arrival, you are met and transferred to your hotel.

### Day 14. Yellow Mountain (B/L/D)

Today you are transferred to the Yungusi Cable Car Station for an eight minute ride to the summit. For the rest of the day, join the local guide to explore the mountain for photo opportunities.

### Day 15. Fly Tunxi to Shanghai (B/L/D)

You will be off early today to watch the sunrise. Enjoy a “sea” of low clouds blanketing the valley before coming back to the hotel for breakfast. Late this morning transfer to the station to descend the mountain by cable car and transfer to the airport for the flight to Shanghai, once known as the Paris of the East, and now the Pearl of the Orient. On arrival enjoy an informative city tour enroute to your hotel. Tonight, enjoy the well-known Chinese acrobatic show



**Day 16. In Shanghai (B/L/D)**

Enjoy a full day tour today as you visit the bustling Nanjing Road, China's No. 1 shopping street, and the legendary Bund. Continue the tour to the Jade Buddha Temple named after the milk-white jade Buddha brought from Burma. Visit the elegant Yu Garden, which houses beautiful pagodas, pavilions, fountains and ancient houses. Get together for Gala Dinner



**Day 17. Depart Shanghai (B)**

Free time to relax, explore or go shopping prior to being transferred to the airport for your homeward flight.

**Day 18. Arrive Brisbane**



# DEFINITIONS



## *THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW*



- **Tour Content**  
Fully Inclusive Tours are the most popular tour options. They include the major “must see and do’s”
- **Tour Duration**  
18 Days and 17 Nights inclusive of departure and return days
- **Tour Size**  
Minimum Tour Size is 16 with a maximum of 40 plus escort and subject specialist
- **Tour Hotels**  
VJ Events use 4\* Hotels throughout their tours. The only exception being in more remote locations where “Best Available” accommodation is utilized
- **Tour Cruise Ships**  
If a tour incorporates a cruise , vessels may be 3-4 star dependent upon availability of vessel to blend with tour itinerary
- **Departures**  
Set departure fully inclusive tours are scheduled to ensure flights and accommodation are available and to provide travelers with the best possible value
- **Highlights**  
Enjoy exploring new destinations, culture, exotic foods and the opportunity to capture those new memories for ever in the safety and comfort of like minded travel companions

# PRICING

*From*

**Fully Inclusive & Escorted Tour**

**\$ 3799 pp s/twin**

**\$ 650 Single Supplement**

**Inclusions:**

- Return economy class international airfare
- Twin Share 4\* Hotel Accommodation
- Meals as listed incl. Gala Dinner
- Air & and land transportation in China
- China Domestic Travel Insurance
- English Speaking Tour Guide Service
- Entrance fees as listed, Tips and Gratuities
- Australian tour leader

**Exclusions:**

- \*Chinese airport exit tax
- \*All personal expenses
- \*International Travel Insurance (compulsory requirement)

Optional Extras Available

**Important Dates**

Final Booking & Deposit by 6 July 2012

Balance due no later than 13 July 2012

VJ Events cannot confirm any bookings if terms and conditions are not adhered to and payments are not received and cleared into VJ Events account by the above dates.

**Earlybird  
Sale**

**SAVE \$100 !!**

**If paid in full by 12 April 2012**

# DEFINITIONS



## *THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW*

- **Inclusions**

- International Airfares, Airport taxes and Surcharges
- English speaking Guides in each city
- Accommodation and local taxes as specified
- Cruise ship as specified
- Onshore excursions as specified
- Coach transfers as specified
- Meals as specified (B/L/D) If X displayed no meal provided on that occasion
- Special meals as specified
- Sightseeing and entrance fees to specified attractions
- Evening entertainment as stated
- All domestic flights, taxes and surcharges as specified
- Basic tipping to local tour guide, and Driver

- **Exclusions**

- Chinese Visa Fees,
- Tips, and service charges on Ships
- Tips to Beijing Hutong Guide and Rickshaw operator. Not compulsory but expected
- Any items of a personal nature
- International Travel Insurance \*

\*PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A COMPULSORY REQUIREMENT WITH PROOF OF PURCHASE REQUIRED

- **Optional Extras**

Optional extras are available, dependent on location. Please contact us if you require any information

## **Travel Tips**

### **Major Public Holidays:**

New Year's Day 1st of January

Chinese New Year 23rd Jan 2012. (Year of the Dragon) 6 day holiday, International Labour Day Holiday 1st of May (with 3 day holiday following) National Day Holiday 1st of October (with 6 day holiday following)

### **Insurance:**

Travel Insurance is a compulsory requirement when travelling with VJH Events. Your choice of policy may be purchased through any Travel Insurance outlet.

### **Health:**

All travellers are advised to check with their doctor as regards medical issues before departing for China.

### **Food in China:**

Most of our hotels provide a full buffet style western breakfast. During the day, you will be granted the opportunity to sample some mouth-watering local cuisines at the settings for lunch and dinner. Prospects of savouring the fine local luxuries and thirst-quenchers are also available and on your return home, you will be master to all your mates in magic of the chopsticks. Enjoy!!

### **Beverages:**

The most common drink in China (and is served with every meal) is Chinese Tea. Other non-alcoholic beverages such as Coca Cola, Pepsi, Sprite, Fanta and, of course, water are available in most restaurants in China. Alcoholic beverages include beer and wine (both local and foreign) are also available along with China's most infamous alcohol, Bai Jiu (r) A. Drinking tap water is definitely NOT recommended. Bottled water is readily available and (perhaps some other cold drinks) may be picked up anywhere in China at a reasonable price. Alcohol is not permitted onboard any domestic or outbound international flights in China. If you carry a bottle of water, it will be tested, so do not think you can sneak a "fixed" bottle of water onboard.

### **Traveller's Safety:**

When travelling anywhere you should make at least two copies of all documentation to be taken with you (i.e. passport, airline tickets, insurance forms), leaving one at home (with a family member or friend) and packing the other copy in a safe place in your luggage. Never leave your luggage unattended or accept unusual objects and avoid carrying large sums of cash in hand. You can stay up to date with any current events and laws and regulations by visiting: [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au)

### **Shopping & Bargaining:**

China now possesses a booming commercial industry - from that strange little Chinese Tea Set you've always wanted to an inexpensive, good-looking Western Style Business Suit for your daughter's wedding, anything you wanted and more can be purchased in all the major cities in China! Whilst Government stores have fixed prices (strangely enough), you are expected to bargain for that odd memorabilia at smaller stores and markets (you never know if you never ask). The art of bargaining usually revolves around deciding on a price before asking, then offering the trader half of their opening price and working your way up. You can never pay too much for something you like, but if you can get it a little cheaper - that's even better.

### **Clothing:**

With more and more western tourists visiting China each year, western style apparel is becoming more and more popular. Smart and Casual is the best rule when travelling in China. Please note that you should not wear anything too revealing and remember to pack for the right season: when Australia is experiencing a hot summer, Beijing is freezing. Comfortable walking shoes are also a must have. Also remember that if you are embarking on a touring holiday within China geography and climates can vary greatly. We suggest you check the internet for details on each destination you will be travelling to, ensuring you are well prepared

### **Money:**

The renminbi (literally "people's currency") is the legal tender in the mainland of the People's Republic of China. It is issued by the People's Bank of China (PBOC, central bank). The official abbreviation is CNY, although also commonly abbreviated as "RMB". Chinese paper money usually comes in 1 fen (rare), 2 fen (rare), 5 fen (very rare), 1 jiao, 2 jiao, 5 jiao, 1 yuan, 2 yuan, 5 yuan, 10 yuan, 20 yuan, 50 yuan and 100 yuan. One yuan is divided into 10 jiao. One jiao is divided into 10 fen, pennies in English. The largest denomination of the renminbi is the 100 yuan note. The smallest is the 1 fen coin or note. RMB is issued both in notes and coins. The paper denominations include 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 yuan; 5, 2 and 1 jiao; and 5, 2 and 1 fen. The denominations of coins are 1 yuan; 5, 2 and 1 jiao; and 5, 2 and 1 fen. In spoken Chinese, "yuan" is often called as "kuai" and the "jiao" as "mao". Fen-denomination RMB is rarely used, except at supermarkets. It is easy to tell various denominations of RMB since there are corresponding Arabic numerals printed on every paper note or coin.

### **Tipping:**

Tipping in China is gaining increasing popularity with the introduction of the foreign market and is now part of the tourist organisation. It is essential to tip tour guides and drivers to ensure that full service is obtained. Whilst tips are included in the tour price in the case of hotels and cruise ships they are not, gestures of gratuity are always appreciated. Giveaways and novelties are also a great form spreading amity and goodwill - especially amongst children.

### **Time:**

Time throughout China is set to Beijing time, Sydney (AEST) is 2 hours ahead of Beijing and 3 hours ahead during daylight saving period.

**Checklist:**

- \* Informal clothing, with an emphasis on comfort and versatility \* A pair of non-slip shoes
- \* Electrical converter and adapter plugs. China's electrical system operates at 220 volts \* Personal Medical Kit (with a supply of common cold & stomach trouble remedies). Please remember to keep handy a copy of the prescription for any medicine you intend to bring on the trip
- \* Reading material, including a guidebook on the places you will visit \* Suntan lotion and sunglasses
- \* Camera, with additional memory sticks & be sure to pack extra batteries
- \* Currency: Chinese currency is known as the Renminbi (RMB: The People's Money) or commonly as Yuan
- \* 1 Yuan is divided into 10 Jiao
- \* International travellers' cheques or cash can be exchanged for Chinese currency at your point of entry into China or at the Bank of China and in many hotels all over the country. Major foreign credit cards are now widely acceptable in shops, hotels and large restaurants in many cities throughout. However many others still operate on cash therefore best to ensure you have sufficient to cover your intended purchases for the day

**Toilets:**

All restaurants, hotels, train stations and large department stores offer public toilets (some charge up to 1 RMB for use) Is it essential that you carry your own toilet tissue with you as most toilets do not provide it. Squat toilets are still very popular in many places in China, so if you are not prepared to use one, make sure you go when you can see a western style toilet. Although most toilets in China will now also have English on them, common sense should prevail if they don't (a woman would not follow a man into a toilet).

**Main Voltage:**

220 Volts. Nearly every power point in China support two types of plugs: the standard 2 pronged American plug, and some standard 3 pronged Australian plugs.

**Visas & Passports:**

When travelling to China you must carry a valid passport with at least 6 month validity and a Chinese visa in order to enter. If you are planning a trip into Tibet you will also need to apply for a Tibetan Permit in addition to your Chinese Visa. If you are departing and re-entering China as part of your trip you may require a multi-entry visa, to verify your requirements and to apply for your Chinese visa you should visit your local consulate, embassy or ask your local travel agent. Once you have confirmed your requirements. Visa application forms can be downloaded from the Chinese Consulate websites.

**Climate:**

China is a country of extremes, with temperatures ranging from cold, dry winters to hot, humid summers. The best time to travel is generally during the northern-hemisphere Spring (March - May) or Autumn (September - November) months.

**Accommodation and Itinerary Changes:**

While VJ Events makes every effort to provide correct information in this brochure, individual operators reserve the right to make changes to itineraries and property facilities. If at all possible, however, VJ Events will advise you of late changes. Advice regarding your final hotel selection and itineraries will be provided on the first day of your tour.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Whilst we take great care to ensure that the information in this booklet is correct at the time of printing, we urge you to check the details of your selected holiday with us prior to booking. You should enquire about local issues and conditions at the destination. Travel advice can be obtained from various sources including local governments, local consulate offices and the website of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au),

**Chinese:**

There are many different types of Chinese dialects in China, with the two common ones being Cantonese (mainly spoken in the south of China around Guangdong - Canton - and in Hong Kong) and Mandarin. Mandarin has become the official language of China, and whilst people in Guangzhou and Hong Kong still speak Cantonese, most of them will also speak Mandarin. In fact, it is rare to meet someone in China that does not speak Mandarin. Chinese writing is well known for its baffling Chinese characters, but did you know there is also a Romanised system of writing? You'll find these utilised in China (along with characters) and for Children (as well as foreigners) when learning to write Chinese Characters.

# Terms and Conditions - Please Read Carefully

## How to Make Your Reservation

We have taken care to offer you the simplest possible reservations service for our tours. Efficient and economical administration is an important part of our service. Just contact **VJ EVENTS** via any of the various options available - phone, email or Skype with your requests and we will supply answers to your queries or process your booking.

## Deposit and Final Payment

To confirm the reservation, you will be required to send **VJ EVENTS** a non-refundable, non-transferable deposit of \$350 per person for each tour and \$350 per person for each airfare (air-fare payments subject to fare conditions), which must reach us within 7 days from the date of booking, to secure the reservation. On certain departures, deposits/full payment may be required at time of booking to hold or to confirm space for you.

Payment can be made via bank transfer directly into **VJ EVENTS** account or deposited in person at any Suncorp Bank branch. Payment by credit card is not possible at this time. Your payment is not considered made until it is received by **VJ EVENTS**.

Your booking deposit forms part of your final payment, which must be received by us not less than nine (9) weeks before departure. If we do not receive the tour deposit and final payment by the due dates, we reserve the right to cancel the reservation. Please review and verify your booking invoice thoroughly and contact **VJ EVENTS** immediately if your invoice appears to be incorrect or incomplete, as it may not be possible to make changes later. **VJ EVENTS** cannot accept responsibility if it is not notified of invoice inaccuracies within 5 days of sending out the invoice. In the case of billing errors, **VJ EVENTS** reserves the right to re-invoice you with correct pricing.

Payment of the deposit means that you have read and accepted these Terms and Conditions.

Any late bookings after the nine (9) week deadline are subject to negotiation and confirmation and will incur a \$50 per transaction late booking fee.

## Exceptions

Some departures may require alternate deposit and/or final payment dates. Please refer to your invoice for more information on deposit and/or final payment dates. Please check with **VJ EVENTS** prior to booking for the Terms and Conditions of each departure.

## Air Travel Inclusive Holidays

An additional \$200 per person non-refundable air travel deposit is required for any air travel booked in conjunction with any holiday. Air travel can only be booked by **VJ EVENTS** in conjunction with a holiday package. All air travel is subject to the airline's terms and conditions and applicable laws, which may limit or exclude its liability to you.

Additional taxes and fees may apply to your holiday price if you book an air-inclusive holiday with **VJ EVENTS**. These taxes and fees may vary depending on your itinerary. Please ask **VJ EVENTS** at time of reservation for more information.

## Travel Documents

Travel Documents, including e-ticket itineraries, are sent by post approximately four weeks prior to departure, provided full payment and Emergency Contact Details have been received.

Acceptance on the holiday is subject to presentation of your Tour / Cruise Member Certificate, which details the services you have purchased from **VJ EVENTS** and which will be available in your final Travel Documents.

## Cancellations and Cancellation Fees

If cancellation is received in writing by **VJ EVENTS** before the final payment due date of your holiday, the non-refundable deposit will be retained in addition to any airline imposed fees or cancellation charges. If cancellation is received in writing by **VJ EVENTS** after the final payment due date of your holiday, the below specified per person cancellation fees apply for individual reservations. The total price specified below does not include discounts, promotions, or special incentives.

Standard Cancellation Fees for escorted and independent holidays:

45-22 days prior to scheduled departure: 20% of total price

21-08 days prior to scheduled departure: 30% of total price

07-01 days prior to scheduled departure : 50% of total price

On scheduled departure day and later: 100% of total price

Exceptions to the standard cancellation fees:

Other cancellation fees may apply to holidays listed in this brochure.

Exceptions apply to the following Group holidays:

- 75-57 days prior to commencement of services: 20% of total price

- 56-29 days prior to commencement of services: 50% of total price

- 28-16 days prior to commencement of services: 75% of total price

- 15-0 days prior to commencement of services: 100% of total price

Cancellation fees may also apply to any additional services reserved prior to, during, and after the holiday. If flight changes (including but not limited to flight cancellations or name changes) are requested, revision fees, change fees, or airline cancellation fees will apply in addition to the above cancellation fees (see "Revision Fees" below).

Airline revision or change fees may be up to 100% of the ticket price. Cancellation penalties will be quoted at the time of cancellation. If an air travel inclusive holiday is cancelled after air tickets have been issued, any applicable refunds will be processed after air tickets are returned to **VJ EVENTS**.

Cancellation fees relating to insurance policies will be subject to the Terms and Conditions of the insurance provider and will incur the standard Revision Fee (see "Revision Fees" below).

**VJ EVENTS** reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any holiday departure in accordance with operational requirements or circumstances beyond its control. If a holiday is cancelled prior to the scheduled departure date, **VJ EVENTS** only responsibility will be to refund the amount received for the reservation. Wherever possible, **VJ EVENTS** will offer an alternate similar holiday with a different departure date. If there is a difference in cost, it will be your expense. For air-inclusive holidays, **VJ EVENTS** will try to confirm air schedules for the selected new dates, subject to availability. **VJ EVENTS** is not responsible for any additional costs or fees relating to the issuance and/or cancellation of air tickets or other travel arrangements not made through **VJ EVENTS**.

### **Insurance**

The above cancellation charges will be applied in all cases. **VJ EVENTS** strongly recommends you take out comprehensive travel insurance, including coverage for medical expenses, loss of luggage, and land content and airfare charges that may arise, including due to cancellation. It is a condition of travel with **VJ EVENTS** that each traveller must have comprehensive medical insurance applicable for the region(s) in which a particular tour travels to. Evidence of each traveller's policy will be required prior to departure.

### **Revision Fees**

A fee of \$30 per transaction will be charged for any alteration or revision made to a reservation after the original reservation is made. Any revision to an air travel reservation may result in the loss of confirmed airline reservations or increased airfare which will be payable by you. Additional airline and hotel charges may also apply and may be up to 100% of the full price. A change of traveller name, holiday date, or itinerary after the final payment date will be treated as a full cancellation and new reservation; holiday cancellation fees (as above) apply.

### **Air Travel Arrangements**

**VJ EVENTS** is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, varies or delays a flight for any reason. If you purchased an airfare through **VJ EVENTS**, **VJ EVENTS** will try and assist in making new arrangements providing you have not already checked in with your airline for your first flight segment. After check-in, you must work with the airline directly to reach your destination or to make any alternate arrangements including amendments to return services. Airline fees often apply for modifications to air schedules not related to airline imposed flight cancellations, reschedules, variations or delays. These fees will be payable to the airline directly on request. If you miss your departure flight or connection, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. No refunds will be provided by **VJ EVENTS** for portions of trips missed due to cancelled, rescheduled, varied or delayed flights after airport check-in, nor is **VJ EVENTS** responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip if you miss your departure flight or flight connection.

### **Participation**

For the benefit of everyone on your holiday, **VJ EVENTS** reserves the right to accept or reject any traveller and to remove any traveller whose conduct is deemed incompatible with the interests of the other travellers. **VJ EVENTS** will not refund or cover any cost or expenses incurred for termination of holiday arrangements due to unacceptable behaviour.

### **Travellers Who Need Special Assistance on Tours and/or Cruises**

You must report to **VJ EVENTS** at the time of reservation any disability requiring special attention while on tour or on a cruise. **VJ EVENTS** will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled travellers, but is not responsible in the event it is unable to do so; nor is **VJ EVENTS** responsible for any denial of services by air carriers, hotels, restaurants, or other independent suppliers. **VJ EVENTS** cannot provide individual assistance to a holiday participant for walking, dining, getting on and off motor coaches, cruise ships and other vehicles, or other personal needs. A qualified and physically able companion must accompany travellers who need such assistance and must assume full responsibility for their well-being.

Some locations and sightseeing activities may not accommodate wheelchairs and may require extensive standing, sitting or walking. **VJ EVENTS** is not responsible for any missed activities due to a traveller's inability to participate with the group. Most transportation services, including the touring motor coaches and cruise ships, are not equipped with wheelchair ramps.

### **Young Travellers**

Travellers under 18 years old on the scheduled departure date must be accompanied by an adult and share the adult's accommodation for the duration of the holiday.

The following age restrictions apply to **VJ EVENTS** escorted holidays: Children aged 16 years and over are eligible to travel.

Due to heightened security, many countries have adopted practices to prevent international abductions of children. If a person under the age of 18 years will be travelling with an adult other than his/her parents, or with only one parent, it is recommended that a notarised letter be written by the parents, or non-travelling parent, granting authorisation to travel, including the dates of travel. We suggest that you also contact the appropriate consulate and airlines because they may have additional requirements or recommendations.

### **Smoking**

Smoking is not allowed on transportation that is exclusively provided by **VJ EVENTS**

### **Price Policy**

All holiday prices are based on rates (including foreign exchange rates) known at the time of publication, are expected to be in effect at the time of departure and do not include airfare except where specified. Prices are subject to increase without notice if such rates change prior to departure. Holiday prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Single room supplements are listed where applicable. Not all accommodation types are available on all holidays.

Prices will be confirmed at the time of reservation. Prices are subject to increase without notice, subject to the guarantees set forth below.

Once **VJ EVENTS** has received your full payment for any holiday that price (excluding air travel) is guaranteed, and any subsequent land/cruise cost increases are at **VJ EVENTS** expense, not including surcharges, energy cost increases, air travel whilst on tour and/or any government tax increases. Air travel tickets booked via **VJ EVENTS** are guaranteed once full payment has been received. This guarantee does not include any government/airport tax increases and currency fluctuations.

### **Visas & Passports**

You are responsible for obtaining and paying for all visas and entry documents, for meeting all health and other requirements, and for any documents required by the laws, regulations, orders, and/or requirements of the countries you will visit. **VJ EVENTS** is not responsible for providing specific visa and passport information or documentation, and **VJ EVENTS** cannot accept liability for any traveller refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure of the traveller to carry correct documentation. All travellers travelling internationally are required to have a passport. Most countries require that the passport be valid for at least six (6) months beyond the conclusion of the trip. It is recommended you have a minimum of three blank pages in your passport when travelling, as many countries require blank pages. Multiple-entry visas are required for some holidays. It is your responsibility to verify all visa and passport requirements. The process of obtaining a visa and/ or passport can take up to three months or more.

### **Itinerary Variations**

The accommodation listed in our websites/ brochures is intended to be used on all departures. However, if a change becomes necessary for any reason, substitute accommodation will be equivalent in standard to that shown. No refunds are provided for accommodation variations and full cancellation penalties as noted above apply. Every effort is made to reserve only twin-bedded rooms. Occasionally, some hotels will only provide double-bedded rooms. These rooms will be allocated to couples where possible. Please note that check-in times vary worldwide and **VJ EVENTS** cannot control or guarantee check-in times. Triple-room configuration is at the discretion of individual hotels. Payment for a single supplement ensures your own room, not necessarily a twin bedded room. On cruises, staterooms are subject to change and are finalised upon embarkation.

In exceptional cases where private bath or single rooms as reserved by us are not available, refunds will be made by the Cruise Director, Tour Director, or Local Host. Claims for such refunds will not be accepted after the holiday has been completed.

### **Baggage Allowance**

Porterage is not included in the holiday price. Your single bag should not exceed the dimensions of 76x53x28cm (30"x21"x11") and weight of 20kg (45lbs), however this is subject to change without notice due to any change in airline and service provider's policy. We are unable to accept a second suitcase or any luggage exceeding these limits. Some holidays have more restrictive regulations than these listed above. Please refer to your Travel Documents for applicable regulations.

Size and weight limitations for carry-on and checked baggage vary from airline to airline and even according to destination, and are becoming more restrictive. Most airlines charge fees for checked baggage and these fees are not included in the airfare or the holiday package price. Please check with your airline(s) directly for baggage information, regulations and fees. **VJ EVENTS** is not responsible for additional fees imposed by air carriers for baggage. Regulations within most airports require that travellers handle their own luggage through customs.

Carry-on baggage is limited to one bag per person travelling and must not exceed the dimensions of 30x28x14cm (12"x11"x6"), however this is subject to change without notice due to any change in airline and service provider's policy. Please refer to airline policy prior to departure. For safety reasons, wheeled carry-on bags are not suitable and will not be permitted as hand luggage on motorcoaches and mini-buses. Carry-on bags must be small enough to store in overhead bins or under the seat in front of you on motorcoaches and other transportation.

**VJ EVENTS** will not accept responsibility for loss of or damage to baggage or any of the traveller's belongings throughout the duration of the holiday. **VJ EVENTS** recommends that you ensure loss of or damage to baggage is included in your comprehensive travel insurance.

### **Not Included in the Holiday Price**

Airfares & airport taxes and fees (unless specified); passports; visas; vaccinations; tips to your Cruise/ Tour Director, Tour Driver (unless pre-paid, see below), local city guides and other ship personnel; gratuities on ferries, trains and cruise ships laundry; telephone; mini-bar; alcohol; beverages and food not on the contracted **VJ EVENTS** menu (these extra items will be billed to you before leaving the hotel, ship or restaurant); optional excursions; porterage at airports and train stations; insurance of any kind; baggage fees; and all other items of personal nature.

If you have prepaid your gratuities to your Tour/ Cruise Director and Driver or if they are already included in the price of the holiday, this will be detailed within your Tour/ Cruise Member Certificate and vouchers will be included within your Tour Documentation. Prepaid gratuities cover only the land portion operated by **VJ EVENTS** of the tour itinerary. Where The Company sources other leading operators for cruising, rail or local guided elements of your holiday, the option to prepay local gratuities is not available.

### **Service Inquiries after the Holiday and Complaints**

After returning from your holiday, if you wish to inquire about any services provided, please ensure that all correspondence relating to those services is received by **VJ EVENTS** at the address displayed at the end of this document. Should you have a complaint in respect of your holiday, you should inform your Tour/Cruise Director immediately so they may attempt to rectify the matter. Any complaint or claim involving the holiday services offered must be notified to **VJ EVENTS** within 10 days of the holiday completion date.

### **Holidays**

During local or national holidays or special events, on Sundays and religious occasions, certain facilities such as museums, places of worship, restaurants, sightseeing tours, and shopping may be limited or not available. Alternatives will be offered whenever possible. **VJ EVENTS** will not be held responsible for any closures or curtailments in circumstances beyond its control.

### **Acceptance of Risk**

Please be aware that during your participation in holidays operated by **VJ EVENTS**, certain risks and dangers may arise beyond our control, including but not limited to: the hazards of travelling in undeveloped areas; travel by boat, train, automobile, aircraft, or other means of transportation; forces of nature; political unrest; acts of lawlessness or terrorism; and accident or illness in remote regions without means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities. **VJ EVENTS** will not be liable for the provision of medical care or the adequacy of any care that may be rendered. While **VJ EVENTS** will use its best efforts to ensure that adequate measures are taken, by agreeing to participate in a holiday and/ or optional excursions you agree that you will hold **VJ EVENTS** harmless regarding any provision of medical care or the adequacy of any care rendered.

**VJ EVENTS** will use its best efforts to cater for your special dietary requirements and allergies. If you have any special dietary requirements please inform **VJ EVENTS** at the time of making your reservation. However, **VJ EVENTS** cannot guarantee that certain products will not be in food served. **VJ EVENTS** will not accept any liability in relation to any medical conditions, special dietary requirements and/or allergies of travellers, even if such conditions are listed in the Emergency Contact Details provided by the traveller. You must make your own decisions when selecting meals. **VJ EVENTS** comments are only to assist you in making an informed decision.

### **Photographs or Pictures**

Photographs or pictures appearing in any **VJ EVENTS** brochure/website should be used solely as an indication of facilities and attractions. Actual facilities and attractions may vary according to itinerary. Maps shown on the holiday pages are current at the time of printing and may not reflect the actual holiday routing should the itinerary change.

### **Exclusion of Liability for Optional Excursions & Activities**

Carriers, accommodation, and other suppliers ("the Suppliers") (including but not limited to trains, cruises, ferries, motor coaches, hotels, and restaurants) providing optional activities and excursions ("the Services") available for booking are not run, supervised, or controlled in any way by **VJ EVENTS**. These Services are provided by local operators or other third parties that are entirely independent of **VJ EVENTS**, which has no control and has no right of control over the operations of these independent contractors. Such Services do not form any part of the product or services sold by **VJ EVENTS**, even where **VJ EVENTS** suggests particular operators/other third parties and/or assists in booking such Services.

Your contract for the Services will be with the Supplier and will be subject to its Terms and Conditions, which may contain exclusions or limitations of liability. **VJ EVENTS** has no liability for any such activity or excursion or for any act(s) or omission(s) of the Supplier or for any of its employees or agents or any other person(s) connected with the Service. Any advice or assistance on or with the Service provided by any local representative does not mean or imply that the Service is sold, supervised, or controlled by **VJ EVENTS** or that any such advice or assistance is given on behalf of **VJ EVENTS**. Travellers are asked to check with the Supplier and the applicable Terms and Conditions before booking.

### **Exclusion of Liability for Tour Itinerary Changes and Cancellations:**

In the event of the charters of the vessels, strikes, lockouts, riots or stoppage of labour for whatever cause or for any reason whatsoever, **VJ EVENTS** may at any time cancel, advance or postpone any scheduled sailing and may, but is not obliged to, substitute another vessel and shall not be liable for any loss whatsoever to tour/cruise participants by reason of any such cancellation, advancement or postponement..

**VJ EVENTS** reserves the right to cancel, advance or postpone any scheduled tour date in accordance with operational requirements or circumstances beyond its control and may, but is not obliged to substitute another vessel and shall not be liable for any loss whatsoever to holiday participants by reason of any such cancellation, advancement or postponement. In the event of cancellation by **VJ EVENTS**, tour/cruise participants' only right of recourse shall be to a refund of monies paid to **VJ EVENTS** in connection with such tour/cruise

**Responsibility and Exclusion of Liability:**

Subject to the aforementioned information, **VJ EVENTS** is responsible for providing the services described in its brochures/website, including arranging transportation, sightseeing, and accommodation as described. All references to **VJ EVENTS** include its agents and volunteers.

These tours include the services of operators other than **VJ EVENTS**, for example accommodation providers, airlines, other carriers, and optional tour operators ("the Suppliers"). In making your travel arrangements **VJ EVENTS** acts only as an agent for the Suppliers who are independent contractors and are not agents, employees, or servants of, or in joint venture with, **VJ EVENTS** or its parent association. All certificates and other travel documents for services issued by **VJ EVENTS** are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the Supplier, which are available on request, and to the laws of the countries in which the services are supplied. While **VJ EVENTS** takes all reasonable care in selecting the Suppliers, it does not accept responsibility for any act or omission of the suppliers.

The international carriage of passengers is subject to international conventions and treaties. These international conventions and treaties limit and, in some events, exclude the carrier's liability to travellers. Where any claim or part of a claim (including those involving death or personal injury) concerns or involves any travel arrangements (including the process of getting on or off the transport concerned) provided by any air, sea, inland waterways, rail, or road carrier or any stay in a hotel, **VJ EVENTS** maximum liability is the maximum which would be payable by the carrier or the hotel keeper concerned under the applicable international convention or treaty applicable to the travel arrangements or hotel stay. International conventions and treaties that may apply include: the Montreal Convention (1999), the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to International Carriage by Air, signed at Warsaw, 12 October 1929 (the Warsaw Convention), the Warsaw Convention as amended at The Hague on 28 September 1955 and the Warsaw Convention as amended at The Hague and by Additional Protocol No. 1, 2 or 4 of Montreal (1975) and the EU Regulation on Air Carrier Liability for air carriers with an operating license granted by an EU country, in relation to air travel; the Berne Convention for rail travel; Athens Convention 1974 for carriage by sea; the Geneva Convention for carriage by road and the Paris Convention 1962 for hotels.

Booking and payment for a tour shall constitute agreement and acceptance by the passenger of these terms and conditions which cannot be varied except in writing by a management team member of The Ville Jumelee Association Inc. of which **VJ EVENTS** is a division.

After departure, if the services included in the holiday cannot be supplied, or there are changes in an itinerary for reasons beyond the control of **VJ EVENTS**, **VJ EVENTS** will arrange for the provision of comparable services wherever possible. Any resulting additional expense will be payable by travellers and any resulting savings will be refunded by **VJ EVENTS** to travellers.

**VJ EVENTS** reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a traveller, to expel any traveller from the holiday, to make changes in the itinerary whenever **VJ EVENTS** deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of travellers, and to cancel a holiday at any time in accordance with operational requirements or circumstances beyond its control.

Notwithstanding anything contained in these conditions, **VJ EVENTS** shall continue to be subject to any guarantees provided by the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 and the Australian Consumer Law (the Act) if and to the extent that the Act is applicable to these conditions and prevents the exclusion, restriction and modification of such guarantees.

**VJ EVENTS** excludes all liability including liability for any loss, damage, costs and expenses whatsoever (including personal injury, death, and property loss) that may arise in connection with or arising out of your holiday and liability under implied conditions, and warranties and guarantees except any guarantees, the exclusion of which would cause this Clause to be void, such guarantees being referred to in these conditions as "non-excludable guarantees".

**VJ EVENTS** limits its liability to you for breach of any non-excludable guarantees to the supplying of the service again or the payment of the cost of having the service supplied again, as determined by **VJ EVENTS**.

You agree that neither **VJ EVENTS** nor its affiliates shall be liable for any damage, loss (including personal injury, death, and property loss) or expense occasioned by any act or omission of any Supplier providing services, or of any insurer or insurance administrator, or of any other person.

Legal proceedings against **VJ EVENTS** be instituted only in a court within the State of Queensland, and any claim involved in such proceedings shall be decided in accordance with the laws of the State of Queensland. Neither **VJ EVENTS** nor any affiliate shall in any case be liable for other than compensatory damages, and you hereby waive any right to punitive or aggravated damages. No person, other than an authorised representative of **VJ EVENTS** by a document in writing, is authorised to vary, add, or waive any term or condition in any brochure/ website, including any term or condition set forth in the preceding provisions.

**Trade Name****VJ Events**

Our address is

Ville Jumelée Association Inc.

65 Willis Road

Bli Bli

Queensland 4560

Postal address

P O Box 957

Maroochydore

Queensland 4558



Email: vjevents@hotmail.com

Telephone: 0407 699126

Facsimile: (07) 30099919

Skype: VJEvents

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(Thank You)