

2015 USA

Astronomical & Aeronautical Exploration Tour



Including the Texas Star Party

28 April – 17 May 2015

Organised by the Sutherland Astronomical Society, Inc., Sydney (SASI) & CBT Holidays



Any initial queries please contact
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SASI USA 2015 Trip Summary

Date	Day of week	Trip	Day	Trip Itinerary
26-Apr-15	Sunday	Pre-tour Hawaii	-2	Fly from Sydney to Hawaii, same day arrival
27-Apr-15	Monday		-1	Hawaii
28-Apr-15	Tuesday		1	Hawaii - Los Angeles
28-Apr-15	Tuesday	Main Trip	1	Fly from Sydney to Los Angeles, arrival on the same day.
29-Apr-15	Wednesday		2	Los Angeles
30-Apr-15	Thursday		3	Los Angeles
1-May-15	Friday		4	Los Angeles to Flagstaff
2-May-15	Saturday		5	Flagstaff
3-May-15	Sunday		6	Fly from Flagstaff to Phoenix to Houston
4-May-15	Monday		7	Houston
5-May-15	Tuesday		8	Houston
6-May-15	Wednesday		9	Fly from Houston to Orlando
7-May-15	Thursday		10	Orlando
8-May-15	Friday		11	Fly from Orlando to Washington DC
9-May-15	Saturday		12	Washington DC - Smithsonian Air and Space Museum
10-May-15	Sunday		13	Washington DC - Smithsonian; fly to Dallas and transfer to Prude Ranch, Fort Wade
11-May-15	Monday		14	The Texas Star Party.
12-May-15	Tuesday		15	The Texas Star Party.
13-May-15	Wednesday		16	The Texas Star Party.
14-May-15	Thursday		17	The Texas Star Party.
15-May-15	Friday		18	fly from Dallas back to Sydney
16-May-15	Saturday		19	Crossing dateline and lose one day
17-May-15	Sunday		20	Arrive into Sydney in the morning.

Itinerary:

Pre-Hawaii Tour:

26 April 2015 Day -2 Sydney - Hawaii

Fly from Sydney to Hawaii. Same day arrival; catch domestic flight to Kona, main island of Hawaii. The rest of the day remains free.

27 April 2015 Day -1 Hawaii

Visit Mauna Kea observatories via four wheel drive. Late afternoon / evening tour of lava flows at Volcanoes National Park

28 April 2015 Day 01 Hawaii – Los Angeles

Take morning flight from Kona, Main Island of Hawaii to Los Angeles, California. Upon arrival Los Angeles; met and transferred to hotel. Then join the group and start the Main Tour.



Main Tour

28 April 2015 Day 01 Sydney – Los Angeles

Fly from Sydney to Los Angeles, arrival on the same day, met & transferred to hotel.

29 April 2015 Day 02 Los Angeles
Meal: B/D

Morning coach transfer to tour Mt Wilson Observatory, west of Los Angeles, to visit the historic 100" Hooker Telescope and 60" Hale Telescope. Then afternoon tour of Jet Propulsion Laboratory, in Pasadena.



30 April 2015

Day 03

Los Angeles

Meal: B

Today we will drive to and tour Mt Palomar Observatory, south east of Los Angeles, to visit the historic 200" Hale Telescope and 60" Samuel Oschin Telescopes. Return to Los Angeles to tour Griffith Observatory and its Samuel Oschin Planetarium in the evening.



01 May 2015

Day 04

Los Angeles – Phoenix - Flagstaff

Meal: B

Take morning flight from Los Angeles to Phoenix. Upon arrival Phoenix Airport, met and drive to Flagstaff, afternoon visit to Lowell Observatory at Mars Hill. At Lowell Observatory we will visit the 24" Clark Refracting Telescope and 13" Pluto Discovery Telescope (used by Clyde Tombaugh in 1930 to discover the dwarf planet Pluto).

02 May 2015

Day 05

Flagstaff

Meal: B/D

Full day visit to Meteor Crater and Grand Canyon National Park.



03 May 2015 Day 06 Flagstaff - Phoenix – Houston Meal: B

Transfer from Flagstaff to Phoenix Airport for your flight to Houston. Upon arrival Houston, met and transferred to hotel.

04 May 2015 Day 07 Houston Meal: B

Full day visit Johnson Space Center at your own pace (transfer & admission fee included).



05 May 2015 Day 08 Houston Meal: B/D

Full day visit Johnson Space Center at your own pace (transfer & admission fee included).

06 May 2015 Day 09 Houston – Orlando Meal: B

Take morning flight from Houston to Orlando. Afternoon visit to Kennedy Space Center and take KSC Guided Tour, potentially an in-depth view of Kennedy Space Center or Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on a guided, special interest tour. This is led by a trained space expert. The Discover KSC: Today & Tomorrow tour includes up-close views of the space shuttle launch pads.



07 May 2015

Day 10

Orlando

Meal: B

Transfer to Kennedy Space Center and you will have a full day free time there. Examples are Exploration Space (Explorers Wanted); 3D IMAX Films; Shuttle Launch Experience; Rocket Garden; Astronaut Encounter; US Astronaut Hall of Fame. Discover the 50-year history of the Cape and visit the historic rocket launch pads on the Cape Canaveral: Then & Now Tour.



08 May 2015

Day 11

Orlando – Washington DC

Meal: B

Take morning flight from Orlando to Washington DC. Afternoon visit some of Washington DC's famous sites and landmarks, including Ford's Theatre; Capitol Building and stop for a picture at the White House. FBI Building, Federal Triangle and Washington Monument; new World War II Memorial, a large monument which pays tribute to those who fell during the war. Visit the White House Visitor Center and learn all about the past and present US Presidents. View from your window the U.S. Capitol, the Library of Congress, the White House, Embassy Row.



09 May 2015 Day 12 Washington DC
Meal: B/D

Coach transfer to Smithsonian Air and Space Museum for a day at your own pace. In late afternoon coach pick up and transfer back to your hotel.



10 May 2015 Day 13 Washington DC – Dallas
(The Texas Star Party) Meal: B

This morning is at own leisure, a chance to visit another Smithsonian museum of your choice. In time transferred to the airport for your flight to Dallas. Then transfer to Prude Ranch, Fort Wade, home to one of the world's largest star parties-The Texas Star Party.

11 May 2015 Day 14 Prude Ranch Meal: B/BBQ/D
Own arrangement in the morning to join the Texas Star Party; afternoon tour to McDonald Observatory.



12 May 2015 Day 15 Prude Ranch Meal: B
Own arrangement to join the Texas Star Party.

13 May 2015 Day 16 Prude Ranch Meal: B
Own arrangement to join the Texas Star Party.

14 May 2015 Day 17 Prude Ranch Meal: B/BBQ/D
Own arrangement to join the Texas Star Party.

15 May 2015 Day 18 Prude Ranch – Dallas - Sydney Meal: B
In the morning transfer to Dallas and tour Dallas Landmarks. Transfer to the airport for your overnight flight departs at 2200 bound for Sydney.

16 May 2015 Day 19
Crossing dateline and lose one day.

17 May 2015 Day 20 Arrive Sydney
Arrive into Sydney in the morning.

Main Trip Estimate Price: \$5,990 per person

Single supplement: \$980

Inclusions:

1. Qantas Airways + American Airlines economy return flights Sydney – Los Angeles – Phoenix – Houston – Orlando – Washington DC – Dallas - Sydney including taxes and fuel surcharges (the **taxes and fuel surcharge is \$965** as at August 13 and subject to change)
2. Fully inclusive tour with tour guide (driver guides), entrance fees, all transfers and meals as per above itinerary except for Texas Star Party from 10 – 15 May see below remarks.

Attractions include:

- Mount Wilson Observatory; Jet Propulsion Laboratory
 - Mt Palomar Observatory
 - Griffith Observatory
 - Lowell Observatory
 - Grand Canyon National Park
 - Meteor Crater
 - Johnson Space Centre (2 day pass)
 - Kennedy Space Centre (2 day pass including "now and then" tour)
 - Smithsonian Air & Space Museum
3. Twin share hotels as per below references except for Texas Star Party from 10 – 15 May see separate remarks.

Exclusions: Personal expenses, Travel insurance; tipping; Texas Star Party from 10 – 15 May see separate remarks; Pre-tour to Hawaii.

Remarks:

Texas Star Party from 10 – 15 May: as up to date we have not yet confirmed which accommodation the Party can arrange for this group, which may be provided a year before. So we will inform you this package (hotel + transfer + tour) as soon as we can.

Pre tour to Hawaii from 26-28 April: To be advised, please express your interest so that we can provide a right group quote on this.

Child rate (2-11 years old): 85% of the adult fares. All children of 12 years inclusive or older will be considered as adults.

Hotels or similar class for your references only

Los Angeles Stay on Main Hotel	Flagstaff Ramada West Hotel
Houston Best Western Hotel (near NASA)	Orlando Ramada Convention Centre
Washington DC Comfort Inn Convention Centre	

All hotels are within walking distance of restaurants; this will enhance your experience as you can walk around to discover the surroundings in each city. We will prepare a list of restaurants and places of interest within walking distance for your reference when in due course.

Booking Form



Tour Name: **SASI Astronomical & Aeronautical USA Exploration Tour**

Departure Date: **28-Apr-15** Departure City: **Sydney**

Room Type: Single / Twin / Double / Triple _____ Airlines: **Qantas Airways**

Or: **Land only on request**

Clients Details:

	Title	Surname	Other Names	QF Frequent Flyer #
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1	_____			
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2	_____			
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Please attach your passport(s) copy (main page only) for reservation

Email Address: _____

Contact Tel: **Home:** _____ **Mobile:** _____

Home Address: _____

Next of Kin: **Name:** _____ **Tel:** _____

Any physical, medical or dietary problem? _____

Non-Refundable Deposit Details (A\$500/per person) by 15 April 2014:

Enclosed cheque total A\$_____ for _____ persons.

*Cheque to be made payable to **CBT Holidays**

Credit card details: Master Card___ Visa Card___ (1% surcharge for Master or Visa; 3% surcharge for Amex)

Card Holder _____ Total: **A\$** _____

Card No. _____ Expiry: _____ / _____

CCV #: _____ (The last 3 digits on the other side of the card)

Signature: _____

On behalf of all the persons named above, I have read, understood and accepted the Terms & Conditions in this brochure.

Signature: _____ Name: (please print) _____

Date: _____

Remarks (Special travel arrangement / special diet request):

_____ I will follow the group flight _____ I will extend my stay in USA (please advise details below)

TERMS & CONDITIONS

(Charter Group – SASI USA 2015)

1. Booking / Acceptance

Please read these Terms & Conditions carefully. By making a reservation with us, you have agreed to accept the Terms & Conditions herein. CBT Holidays accepts a booking with the understanding that full payment has been collected and held by CBT Holidays. Some of the group tours require a minimum number for guaranteed departure. CBT Holidays reserve the right to cancel the tour due to insufficient number at least 120 days before its departure date. On confirmation of your booking, CBT Holidays will reserve your place on your selected tours. It is your responsibility as the customer to check the accuracy of your booking and travel dates on receipt of your travel documents. The numbers of day duration in the itineraries include the day of departure and the day of return to Australia.

2. Deposit and final payment

All clients are required to complete the booking form and have them sent to your travel agent or CBT Holidays to start the reservation. To confirm the reservation, you will be asked to send us a non-refundable deposit for each tour of \$500 per person within 15 days from the date of the confirmation of your booking to secure the reservation. The full amount of deposit will be refunded if we cancel the tour due to insufficient numbers. We must receive the balance of the tour payment no later than 180 days before departure which is on **28 Jan 2015**. If we do not receive the tour deposit or final payment by the due dates, we reserve the right to cancel the reservation. In the case of billing errors, we reserve the right to re-invoice with correct pricing. For group tours, a late booking (within 60 days prior to departure) fee of \$120 may apply. All group air tickets are with strict conditions of non-refundable, non-transferable and non-changeable.

A second deposit for air ticket of \$3,000 per person will be required by **1 May 2014**.

Flights may be ticketed once deposit payment is on file to avoid airfare surcharges or additional tax increases levied by the airlines.

Many airlines has strict upgrade policy; not all booking classes are upgradable to premium economy or business class. Please check with us when making reservation. You may need to pay extra for certain upgradable booking class.

3. Cancellations and cancellation fees

This is a special charter group. Cancellations are very costly and usually do not occur in time for re-sale of the cancelled tour. All cancellation must be sent to CBT Holidays in writing.

The following per person cancellation fees apply.

Initial Deposit is non-refundable.

More than 360 days prior to departure: deposit
360-250 days prior to departure: 30% of total price
249-150 days prior to departure: 50% of total price
149-100 days prior to departure: 70% of total price
99-60 days prior to departure: 85% of total price
within 60 days prior to departure: 100% of total price.

CBT Holidays reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any tours; the only responsibility of CBT Holidays will be to refund to the passenger the amount we have received for the tour reservation. All tour itineraries are subject to minor change upon local arrangement.

4. Insurance

There is no insurance coverage in our tour price; and no responsibility is accepted by CBT Holidays for

any loss of or damage to baggage or any of the tour participant's belongings. We strongly recommend that you take out comprehensive insurance cover against any cancellation, medical expenses, personal accident, loss or damage of personal baggage / belongings, money and public liability when you pay the deposit.

5. Amendment fees

A fee of \$50 per transaction may apply for any alteration or amendment made to a confirmed reservation. Airline penalties may also apply. A change to traveller name after air tickets have been issued will be treated as a cancellation and cancellation fees apply.

6. Travellers who need special assistance

You must report any disability on the booking form at the time of reservation. CBT Holidays will assist the special needs of the less mobile travellers, but is not responsible in the event it is unable to do so. We regret that we cannot provide any individual assistance to a tour participant during the tour, so a qualified companion must accompany travelers who need such assistance, who must take total responsibility for the handicapped participant on the whole tour.

7. Single Traveller

For Group tours only, CBT Holidays will try to match up singles of the same gender in twin-bedded rooms. But when finalizing the tour, if we fail to match you, a forced single supplement, which is 75% of the normal single supplement, will apply. Please note this policy cannot be offered for pre and post tour accommodation.

8. Price Guarantee

All prices are in Australian dollars based on twin share and subject to change without notice due to increases of airfares, hotel accommodation charges or currency exchange rate fluctuations. However, the tour prices are guaranteed for those who have paid their deposit or full payment, but except any Government / airport taxes and charges, airlines fuel surcharges increase.

9. Visas & Passports

A valid national passport is needed for all tours. Please make sure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from date of travel, and at least there is two blank pages left in the passport for the visa label. All passengers must obtain visas to visit USA, you need to apply online <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>

it is your responsibility to make sure that you have obtained the relevant visa before leaving Australia.

10. Items not included in the tour price

Passports; visas and vaccinations; unscheduled meals and interstate travel from any place to departure city, tips to your tour manager (national guide), tour driver, local city guides; gratuities on cruise ships; laundry, beverages; travel insurance; excess baggage fees; and all other items of a personal nature.

11. Service inquiries after the tour

If after returning from the tour, you wish to inquire about any tour services provided, please ensure that all correspondence relating to those services is received to CBT Holidays (address below), within 30 days of the tour completion date. This will enable CBT Holidays to make a timely investigation. CBT Holidays will not be liable for any claims made 30 days after the tour / service completion.

12. Safety

Please be aware that during your participation in tours operated by CBT Holidays, 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; the forces of nature, political unrest and accident or illness in remote regions without means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities. CBT Holidays will not have liability regarding provision of medical care or the adequacy of any care that may be rendered. It is understood that CBT Holidays will use its best efforts to ensure that adequate measures are taken.

13. Limitations of Responsibility

CBT Holidays is a tour division of China Bestours (Aust) Pty Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as the Company) is responsible to you in making arrangements for the tour services offered in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing, and accommodation.

The carriers, accommodation providers, and other suppliers providing tour services are independent contractors and are not agents, employees, or servants of, or joint ventures with, the Company or its affiliates. All certificates and other travel documents for tour services issued by the Company are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the suppliers, and to the laws of the countries in which the services are supplied.

If, after tour departure, the services included in the tour cannot be supplied, or there are changes in an itinerary for reasons beyond the control of the Company, the Company will arrange for the provision of comparable services. Any resulting additional expense will be payable by travellers and any resulting saving will be refunded by the Company to tour participants.

The tour participant agrees that the Company shall not be liable for any damage, loss (including personal injury, death, and property loss) or expenses occasioned by any act or omission of any supplier providing tour services, or any insurer or insurance administrator or of any other person.

Legal proceedings against the Company may be instituted only in a state or federal court with the State of New South Wales, and any claim involved in such proceedings shall be decided in accordance with the laws of the State of New South Wales. Any legal proceedings against the Company must be commenced within one year following the date of tour completion. The Company shall not in any case be liable for other than compensatory damages, and you hereby waive any right to punitive damages.

14. General

Please note that no airlines or carrier depicted or recommended in this brochure by virtue of their endorsement of the brochure represents themselves either as contracting with or any other legal relationship with any such purchaser.

Every effort is made to ensure the brochure accuracy at the time of going to print, however CBT Holidays cannot be held responsible for printing and typographical errors, or errors arising from unforeseen circumstances.

15. Trade name

CBT Holidays
Also trading as China Bestours

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