

Melbourne Cup Tour 2026




Sporting
Tours



MELBOURNE CUP
CARNIVAL
OFFICIAL TRAVEL OPERATOR

2026 MELBOURNE CUP CARNIVAL

Greetings everyone!

It's that time again when we starting counting down to the greatest 2mins and 20 seconds in sport, the Lexus Melbourne Cup on the First Tuesday of November.

It'll be my 36th tour with experienced tour operator Kel Munro (and his wife Marilyn) and the professional Sporting Tours operation.

Last year we invited multiple premiership winning jockey Lisa Allpress to be Co tour leader and by popular demand she's with us again.

Lisa was a big hit with everyone. Her infectious personality and story telling, either individually or at the various functions, was a hit and she topped it off with a one on one chat with fellow champion jockey Michael Walker at the Cup Eve dinner.

"I enjoyed every minute of last year and I'm excited to be asked to be Co host again," said Lisa ONZM who has not yet given up the opportunity to become the First Lady rider to win 2000 races. She's less than 50 away and the countless hospital visits to mend the leg break have thwarted her progress.

"I'm itching to get back on a horse again but in the meantime it's a very pleasant distraction to potentially mix and mingle with another great group of people on this years tour," she added.

Both Lisa and I would love you join us with a big team of passionate or casual racegoers; many who have been before or who will experience a well organised tour for the first time.

Welcome aboard!

Des Coppins



Being there, it's everything!

ESCORTED 5-DAY KIWI TOUR | 02 - 06 November 2026

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class airfare from New Zealand to Melbourne
- All airline levies and fuel surcharges, Australian and New Zealand departure taxes
- Airport transfers in Melbourne (applies to group flights only)
- 4 nights accommodation
- Cup Eve Gala Dinner including beverages with racing personalities
- Return coach transfers to Flemington Racecourse as per itinerary
- Reserved Hill Stand* seats on Lexus Melbourne Cup Day & Crown Oaks Day.
- Post-cup celebration
- Full Day Tours - A choice of a trip to a country race meeting at Kyneton for the running of the Kyneton Cup (race course admission at own cost)
- OR a trip to a Yarra Valley Winery lunch included cost TBA
- Farewell gathering.
- \$10 Lexus Melbourne Cup Sweepstake ticket
- Des's 35yrs. celebration bet - \$1000 bet for 1 lucky person on their pick in the Cup.
- Sporting Tours travel pack.
- Tour hosts Des Coppins, Lisa Allpress, Chris Hammonds, Kel Munro (subject to minimum numbers)

*The Hill Stand is covered, however the front and sides of the stand are subject to weather conditions Package extensions available, contact us today with your requirements

ITINERARY

Monday, 02 November

Depart from New Zealand for Melbourne. On arrival you will be transferred to your selected hotel. This evening we meet for our Cup Eve Gala Dinner and Racing Show which includes complimentary beverages and dinner. Hosted by Des Coppins with special guests.

Tuesday, 03 November

It's Lexus Melbourne Cup Day! Following breakfast we transfer to Flemington for the Lexus Melbourne Cup. Fun, fashion and frivolity will be on the cards as we celebrate Australia's most famous race day. After the last race we return you to your hotel for a post cup celebration.

Wednesday, 04 November

Today is at leisure. As an optional extra you are welcome to join Sporting Tours at the fun country race meeting at Kyneton for the running of the Kyneton Cup (racecourse admission at own cost). This is an all-day event that runs from 10am -7pm Or join us on a tour to a Yarra Valley Winery for wine tasting and lunch cost TBA

Thursday, 05 November

It's Crown Oaks Day at Flemington, traditionally known as 'Ladies Day' for the glamorous fashions. Return transfers to Flemington are provided. Join us at the "Farewell Gathering" this evening to say goodbye to some new friends.

Friday, 06 November

Today we return to New Zealand. We'll be transferred to Melbourne International Airport for our return flight home.



If you're making your own flight arrangements, we recommend you arrive into Melbourne no later than 4pm to be in time for the cup eve dinner

ESCORTED 8-DAY PHAR LAP TOUR | 30 October - 06 November 2026

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS:

- Return economy class airfare from New Zealand to Melbourne
- All airline levies and fuel surcharges, Australian and New Zealand departure taxes.
- Airport transfers in Melbourne (applies to group flights only)
- 7 nights accommodation.
- Welcome drinks & nibbles.
- Cup Eve Gala Dinner including beverages, with Racing Personalities.
- Return coach transfers to Flemington Racecourse as per itinerary.
- Reserved Hill Stand* seats on Howden Victoria Derby Day, Lexus Melbourne Cup Day & Crown Oaks Day.
- \$10 Lexus Melbourne Cup Sweepstake ticket
- Post- Lexus Melbourne Cup celebration
- Tour of well-known racing stable and visit Rosstown Hotel for lunch with Gary Willetts. Full Day Tours -
- A choice of a trip to a country race meeting at Kyneton for the running of the Kyneton Cup (race course admission at own cost)
- Or trip to a Yarra Valley Winery lunch included cost TBA
- Des's 35yrs. celebration bet - \$1000 bet for 1 lucky person on their pick in the Cup.
- Farewell gathering.
- Sporting Tours travel pack.
- Tour hosts Des Coppins, Lisa Allpress, Chris Hammonds, Kel Munro (subject to minimum numbers)

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ITINERARY

Friday, 30 October

Depart from New Zealand for Melbourne. On arrival you will be transferred to your selected hotel. This evening we meet for welcome drinks where you can get to know your tour escorts and fellow tour members.

Saturday, 31 October

This morning we make our way to Flemington Racecourse for Howden Victoria Derby Day and experience fun, fashion and a few flutters. After the last race we will transfer you back to your hotel.
6.30 -7.30 pm Happy Hour drinks in hotel function room

Sunday, 01 November

This morning we visit a well known racing stable and then on to the Rosstown Hotel for lunch with well known jockey Gary Willetts. Lunch is included, drinks at own cost.

Monday, 02 November

This morning you are invited to attend the Sporting Tours Social Bowls Tournament (entry fee at your expense) This will be held at the nearby City of Melbourne Bowls Club from 9.00am -12.00. Bowls will be provided by the host club and refreshments will be available from the club bar. It will be a great opportunity to mix with fellow tour members in what promises to be a fun morning with fun prizes. This evening we meet for our Cup Eve Gala Dinner and racing show hosted by Des Coppins with special guests.

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Friday, 06 November

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PRICING

| HOTEL | STANDARD PACKAGE COST | | | LAND-ONLY PACKAGE COST* | | | EXTRA NIGHT COST PP | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------|---------|-------------------------|----------|---------|---------------------|----------|-------|
| | SGL | DBL/TWIN | TRPL | SGL | DBL/TWIN | TRPL | SGL | DBL/TWIN | TRPL |
| ESCORTED 5-DAY KIWI TOUR 2025 03 NOVEMBER TO 07 NOVEMBER 2025 | | | | | | | | | |
| MERCURE WELCOME | \$5,120 | \$4,460 | NA | \$4,120 | \$3,460 | NA | \$332 | \$166 | NA |
| PULLMAN MELBOURNE CITY CENTRE | \$5,785 | \$4,790 | \$4,545 | \$4,785 | \$3,790 | \$3,545 | \$496 | \$248 | \$188 |
| ESCORTED 8-DAY PHAR LAP TOUR 2025 31 OCTOBER TO 07 NOVEMBER 2025 | | | | | | | | | |
| MERCURE WELCOME | \$6,820 | \$5,660 | NA | \$5,820 | \$4,660 | NA | \$332 | \$166 | NA |
| PULLMAN MELBOURNE CITY CENTRE | \$7,995 | \$6,250 | \$5,820 | \$6,995 | \$5,250 | \$4,820 | \$496 | \$248 | \$188 |

*Triple costs on request for other room configurations please contact SPORTING TOURS | *Land-only packages exclude airfare, airline levies and fuel surcharges, departure taxes and airport transfers.
PLEASE NOTE: STANDARD PACKAGE COSTS ARE BASED ON AIR FARES EX AUCKLAND AND CHRISTCHURCH, SURCHARGE OF \$25 FOR DEPARTURES EX WELLINGTON.

ACCOMMODATION

The Pullman Melbourne City Centre

5 star Melbourne's newest upscale hotel, boasting contemporary style that plays on the senses. Located in the heart of Melbourne, Pullman Melbourne City Centre is the perfect destination

Mercure Welcome Hotel

3.5 star property located in the heart of Melbourne. Adjoining the Pullman City Centre Vibrant Bourke St Mall is right on your doorstep, other attractions like Federation Square, Southbank, Her Majesty's and Regent Theatres, Queen Victoria Markets and Melbourne Central Shopping Complex are just a short stroll away.



INTRODUCING YOUR HOSTS

DES COPPINS



Sporting Tours Co tour leader Des was the host for Trackside Radio and Sunday's popular 'Track Talk' program, Des has been involved in racing for the past 44 years as a journalist, TV presenter and talk back host. He has escorted our Melbourne Cup tours for the past 35 years.

LISA ALLPRESS



Sporting Tours Co tour leader. Lisa was the first female to hit 1000 wins and has won races in Singapore, Japan and Malaysia and was the first female jockey world wide to win in Saudi Arabia. New Zealand's most successful women jockey

KEL MUNRO



Kel is an avid horse racing fan, and 2026 will be his 44th Melbourne Cup tour. Kel is our Melbourne Cup specialist who has a vast knowledge of the Melbourne Cup Carnival.

CHRIS HAMMONDS



Chris is the CEO of Sporting Tours and has co-hosted this tour for the last few years and is the facilitator of your travel arrangements.



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TERMS & CONDITIONS: All pricing is in NZD and is per person. All packages are subject to availability at the time of booking. Packages are on sale until sold out or sales period finishes. Prices are correct at time of publication however are subject to change until full payment is received or due to events outside of our control, such as currency fluctuations and supplier price increases. A minimum non-refundable deposit of \$650 per person land only, \$850 full package is required to place a booking. Full payment dates will be advised upon booking. Cancellation fees apply. All payments made are non-refundable, travel insurance is required. All prices are based on cash, credit card payments will incur merchant fees. Accommodation is based on consecutive nights. For further details please refer to the full terms and conditions on our website.