

# 2020 Table Football Downunder Tour



Written by Adrian Connolly, President Australian Table Football Association.

This is not an official Australian Table Football Association (ATFA) publication.

## Introduction

For the 2019-2020 season, the Australian Table Football Association (ATFA) President Adrian Connolly has developed a proposal to adjust Australia's typical FISTF calendar of events in an attempt to attract players from overseas to compete in Australia during the beautiful Australian summer, in a timeline between major FISTF Table Football tournaments in Europe.

Expressions of interest have been received from some prominent European players through conversations directly with them. February 2020 has been proposed as the preferred time period. This document has been created to gauge wider interest before a decision is made to commit to the FISTF dates for 2019/20 season

Travel to Australia is a significant commitment, just as it is for our players for each World Cup held in Europe. A detailed schedule has been proposed that allows for several opportunities to compete and sufficient time to see many the great attractions Australia has to offer. Why not escape the European winter for the Australian summer!

After Adrian was recently diagnosed with testicular cancer, ATFA has established a relationship with the testicular cancer awareness foundation DT38. This association at the recent Australian Grand Prix in iconic Bondi, Sydney attracted some local media attention. It is hoped that the "2020 Table Football Downunder Tour" may become the "2020 Awareness Downunder Tour" with great opportunities to raise awareness via media attention and fundraising for this cause.

Adrian is interested in receiving feedback from players, clubs or associations in regards to their potential attendance prior to Australia committing to move FISTF dates to attract international players. Details are included in this document. Please respond to Adrian at [subbuteoaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:subbuteoaustralia@gmail.com)

## 2020 Downunder Tour Potential schedule:

### **February 4<sup>th</sup> 2020: Depart Europe**

Depart Europe, arrive Wednesday 5th. As an example Qatar Airlines now offer some good prices via Doha approx €850 return.

### **February 5 – 6<sup>th</sup> 2020: Explore Melbourne**



Relax, explore the city. Highlights include:

- Museums and Art Galleries
- Cafes, groovy bars, great restaurants and fantastic coffee.
- See the nightly march of the penguins at Phillip Island
- Take a cruise on the Yarra River
- Visit the Yarra Valley wine region
- Melbourne Zoo, Werribee Open Range Zoo, Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary
- Tour the 100,000 seater Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) and it's national sports museum.
- Go to the theatre
- Rooftop cinemas
- Three Melbourne Table Football clubs. Opportunities for club events on week nights.

Plenty of accommodation options of all standards in Melbourne. Hotels, Serviced Apartments, Airbnb, backpackers: €30-250 per night depending on standard and location.

## February 8 – 9<sup>th</sup> 2020: Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne

Compete in the Australian Grand Prix, likely to attract in excess of 60 local competitors. Open, Junior, Women's and Club Team categories.



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## February 10- 14<sup>th</sup> 2020: Explore Sydney



Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February, fly to Sydney. Cost approx €75.

Highlights include:

- Sydney Opera House
- Climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge
- Bondi Beach
- Take in the views from the Centrepoint Tower.
- Taronga zoo,
- Four Sydney Table Football clubs. Opportunities for club events on week nights.

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Plenty of accommodation of all standards in Sydney. Hotels, Serviced Apartments, Airbnb, backpackers: €30-250 per night depending on standard and location.

**15-16<sup>th</sup> February 2020: Sydney Table Football Promotional event.**

Likely promotional and not a FISTF event. Open, Junior, Women's and Club Team categories.

**17-20<sup>th</sup> February 2020: Explore Queensland**



Option A: Tropical North Queensland (Cairns)

So much to see in tropical north Queensland. For some of the big highlights consider the following:

17<sup>th</sup> February fly to Cairns €140

18-19<sup>th</sup> Stay in Cairns or nearby Port Douglas. Highlights include:

- Snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef
- Take the cable car to the rainforests, crocodiles, butterfly and bird sanctuaries, kangaroos, Koala Park, and indigenous culture (throw a boomerang and play the didgeridoo!).

Backpackers as low as €10, large luxurious resorts as high as €500 per night. No Table Football clubs in Cairns. After your stay there, fly from Cairns to Brisbane €85.

### Option B: Gold Coast

An alternative to exploring tropical North Queensland is to fly to the Gold Coast or the Sunshine Coast (both much closer to Sydney and Brisbane). Highlights include:

- Enjoy the famous beaches and surf!
- Visit some of the many theme parks: Warner Bros Movie World, Sea World, Waterworld, Dreamworld, etc
- Travel to Australia Zoo, famously established by Steve Irwin.
- Australian Outback Spectacular Show

Flight cost ex Sydney is approx. €30 - 125 depending on airline and flight time. Drive or take a shuttle bus or train to Brisbane.

### **21- 23 February 2020: Brisbane and FISTF event**



21<sup>st</sup> February relax in Brisbane. Take a cruise up the Brisbane river on the affordable modern public transport catamarans, or in a restored old Paddle Steamer. Relax at South Bank's man-made beach in the heart of the city. South Bank is Brisbane's premier lifestyle and cultural destination. Located on the southern banks of the Brisbane River, its 17 hectares of parklands, cafes, restaurants, and river views make it the great place to relax.

One Brisbane Table Football club. Possible table football club night.

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### **22-23<sup>rd</sup> February: Brisbane FISTF Satellite (or potentially an International Open).**

Plenty of accommodation of all standards in Brisbane. Hotels, Serviced Apartments, Airbnb, backpackers: €30-250 per night depending on standard and location. Typically hotel prices in Brisbane are cheaper than Melbourne and Sydney for comparable standard and location. Good options are approx. €95.

### **24<sup>th</sup> February: Depart Australia for Europe.**

The most cost-effective flights appear to be if you book your international airfare as a return ticket to and from the same Australian city. Therefore, it is likely you will need to fly back to Melbourne domestically and then board your onward flight from Melbourne back to Europe. International options do exist direct from Brisbane, Melbourne Sydney and even Cairns if you prefer.

### **Getting around:**

Local players may be able to collect you from the airports, and possibly even offer accommodation in some locations. Locals can give you more tips on things to do, how to get around, and where to stay. Taxis and Uber are widely available as are public transport options buses, trains and trams. Hire cars can also be a good option if you wish to see more sites. Shop around and you can get some good deals, especially mid week.

### **Australian Table Football Scene:**

Table Football has been steadily growing in Australia in recent years. There are clubs in all major cities and some regional centres, with events held regularly throughout each season. An Australian team travelled to Gibraltar to compete in the recent 2018 World Cup.

Each year the Australian Table Football Association hosts 5 FISTF events: Australian Grand Prix, 2x International Opens, and 2 x Satellites. Players from across Australia and Asia (Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan) travel to compete. There are presently 15 Asian players in the top 100 FISTF rankings: 4 Australia, 9 Singapore, 1 Japan, 1 Hong Kong. Players include former Welsh champion and current Asian Champion Carl Young and former French international player Cedric Garnier now of the Tokyo Table Football Club in Japan.

Travel to FISTF events from Australia is challenging so WASPA events are regularly held in between, or in support of, the five FISTF events in Australia each season. Australia held the most WASPA events in the world (79) and was second to Greece with 634 individual entries into WASPA events last season.

**Disclaimer:**

This is an example itinerary, with proposed dates and locations of events, subject to approval by the ATFA Committee for the Table Football events. This schedule is not confirmed.

Costs are typical and may vary considerably depending on type of airfare, airline, origin, destination, sales, and flight path amongst other factors. Costs have been identified via location Australian sources and current exchange rates. Prices may vary booking from Europe. The exchange rate is favorable for European travelers for your other expenses. 1€ = 1.6 \$AU so Euro currency goes further here.

International and Domestic airfares were based on Feb 2019 as 2020 prices are not available yet. Qatar Air presently looks like a great option depending on your flight path. Some slightly cheaper options available from United Airlines via Heathrow and the USA but with very long travel times. If you monitor for sales you can get really good deals for domestic flights within Australia (and potentially international flights), just check the fares offers enough baggage to avoid unexpected fees on check-in.

All players would need to make and pay for their own travel arrangements, but locals can give good advice and may be able to assist in some locations with transport and accommodation for those that commit early.

The information contained here is intended to give the reader an indication of what's possible and possible costs for flights and accommodation. It will not be an escorted tour of Australia. The itinerary is given to give players an idea of what is possible to be complete in this large country during the time period given.

Travel costs will not be reimbursed by Adrian Connolly or ATFA.