

TOURISM AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA KIT 2020







WE ACKNOWLEDGE
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE
AS THE TRADITIONAL
CUSTODIANS OF OUR
LAND – AUSTRALIA. WE
PAY OUR RESPECTS TO
THEIR ELDERS – PAST,
PRESENT AND FUTURE.



- PLACES TO GO AND PEOPLE TO SEE:
  - Australian Capital Territory
  - New South Wales
  - Northern Territory
  - Queensland
  - South Australia
  - Tasmania
  - Victoria
  - Western Australia

#### NEW IN AUSTRALIA

- New things to try in Australia
- Australia's food scene
- Australia's drink scene
- Sustainability and conservation in Australia
- Wellness in Australia
- Cultural Attractions of Australia
- Uniquely Australian bucket list experiences
- Australia's major events worth travelling for in 2020 and beyond
- ABOUT TOURISM AUSTRALIA
- SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE OF AUSTRALIA
- MAP OF AUSTRALIA



Exceptional Kangaroo Island, South Australia







#### CONTACT

- Tourism Australia
- © Level 29, 420 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
- mtourism.australia.com
- australia.com
- (i) @australia
- f /seeaustralia
- y @australia



## WELCOME TO AUSTRALIA



II nown across the globe for its ancient desert A landscapes and coastal cities fringed with golden beaches and deep blue oceans, Australia today is loved for much more than it's iconic landmarks and far horizons.

Home to the world's oldest living culture, the vibrant diversity of Australia's population today is matched only by the land itself.

With a shared spirit for land and lifestyle, together Australians have shaped and redefined modern Australia to offer something truly unique to the world.

While some things have remained the same namely the friendly locals that have perfected an effortless enjoyment for life - everything from fashion to food has had a fresh new makeover.

New experiences and hotels have opened up less-frequented destinations across the country while new attractions reflect the multicultural history of the population.

A nationwide love for fresh produce and great coffee has firmly embedded an urban cafe-



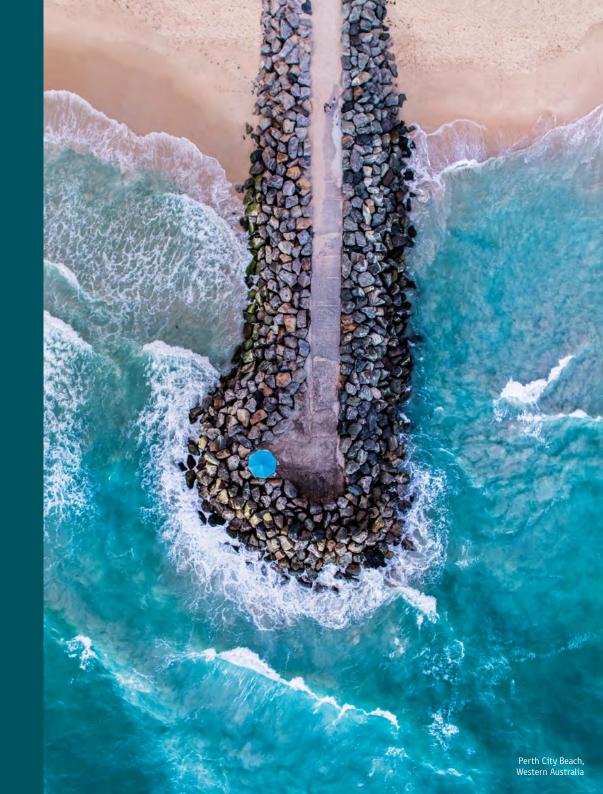
Top Didj Cultural Experience & Art Gallery, Northern Territory

culture across the country with innovative chefs and distillers making for a thriving food and drink scene.

Visitors are welcomed to learn the traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and share in the values that Australians hold close to their hearts: a love for nature and wildlife, a sense of adventure and an undying passion for sports and living life outdoors.

From the outback to the coast, to the icons and undiscovered, there's still nothing like Australia.





#### THE AUSTRALIAN

# PEOPLE S AND LIFESTYLE



A ustralia is a country of landscapes and wildlife you won't find anywhere else in the world, however the real beauty of Australia lies in its people.

From the world's oldest continuous culture to the cosmopolitan mix of today, Australians are a vibrant collection of different backgrounds, traditions and personalities.

Now one of the most ethnically diverse societies in the world, almost one in four

Australian residents were born outside of Australia and many more are first- or secondgeneration Australians.

This growing cultural diversity means more than 300 languages are spoken in Australian homes, while there are over 100 religions and more than 300 different ancestries\*.

This medley of new people and cultures, together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who have lived in Australia for over 60,000 years, have created a unique identity and spirit that is the **Australian way of life**.

While it's hard to define, ask anyone who has visited, and they will tell you the same: Australians are easy-going, fun and always up for a laugh.

To Australians, 'no worries' isn't just a saying

it's an approach to life and it's this laid-back
attitude that is the foundation of their culture.

"TO SAY THAT AUSTRALIANS
ARE LAID BACK, OUTGOING,
AND HAVE A GREAT SENSE
OF HUMOUR WOULD
BE BOTH BUYING INTO
WIDELY-KNOWN CLICHÉS

AND ADMITTING AN ABSOLUTE TRUTH. AN INCREDIBLE SENSE OF ADVENTURE AND AN INSISTENCE ON HAVING A GREAT TIME IS TRULY BORN INTO OUR DNA."

Chris Hemsworth, Australian actor and Global Ambassador for Tourism Australia

Aussies are known to stop and say "g'day", serving everything with a smile and a side

of humour. To them, a stranger is just a mate they haven't met yet and they pride themselves on being good friends and neighbours.



They live life outdoors and love a good adventure so no matter where you find yourself Down Under, you're sure to spot someone in the surf or making the most of the great outdoors.

Passionate about sports, Australians will find any excuse to come together and celebrate and with Australia's rich assortment of cultures and communities, there is a seemingly endless list of opportunities to share a table or raise a glass with the people around you.

Perhaps the secret is that Australians, blessed with such a naturally beautiful country, have always known there is more to life than 9-5, and it's this thinking that has shaped their uniquely Aussie lifestyle.

ncestry represents the cultural or ethnic group that a person ost closely identifies with, rather than just their place of birth.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016, www.abs. gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/2024.0Main%20 Features22016





# ORDER OF THE RESERVOIR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

AUSTRALIA

Acropolis. What's more amazing is that this culture can be experienced today.

#### UNDERSTANDING AUSTRALIA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND CULTURE

While 'Aboriginal' or 'Indigenous' may be used to describe Australia's First Peoples, it's best to ask individuals what they prefer to be referred to. Dr Ridgeway, Gumbaynggirr man and former chair of Indigenous Tourism Australia explains, "We are one, we are different to each other, and we are many,".

For example, Torres Strait Islanders who originate from the islands of the Torres Strait between the tip of Cape York in Queensland and Papua New Guinea are regarded as distinct from the Aboriginal peoples of mainland Australia and Tasmania and may use the name of their home Island to express their identity, even if they were raised on the mainland.

Aboriginal people may express their heritage by referring to themselves by the greater region they are connected to, or their traditional country (a specific geographic location). For example, the Gadigal people (original Aboriginal inhabitants of the City of Sydney local area) of the Eora nation (Coastal Aboriginal peoples around Sydney).

Another way Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may describe themselves, which again relates to their country, may be "saltwater people" meaning those from coastal regions, "freshwater people" those from river areas, or "desert people" those from Australia's central regions.



#### **CONNECTION TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY**

Aboriginal culture is holistic and can be defined by its connection to family, community and country. In Australia, the idea of "being on country" is central to the Aboriginal worldview. This is because Aboriginal peoples believe their ancestral spirits emerged from the earth and the sky.

"Country is not just a beautiful place, to us it is everything," says Juan Walker from Walkabout Cultural Adventures. "It holds out stories, our religion, our customs and our ancestors."

These ancestral spirits are their hero-creators, and it's through their journeys that Aboriginal peoples believe all living things are created. These creation forces are constantly present, hence the strong cultural connection between Aboriginal peoples, the land and place.

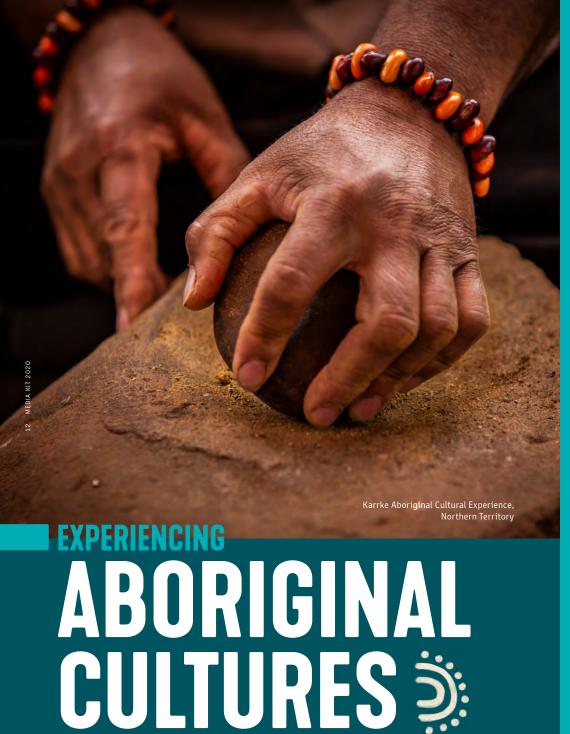
australians-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people











In Aboriginal culture, people and the land merge and are part of each other. This is why including an Indigenous tourism experience can be transformational and reshape how you connect with the world.

You can find opportunities to immerse yourself in Aboriginal culture throughout Australia. From urban festivals to rock art tours, trying and tasting native ingredients or walking with an Aboriginal elder who can read the tides by how the birds call, Aboriginal people bring another side of Australia to life.

"ABORIGINAL CULTURE
STARTS WITH ITS PEOPLE.
ABORIGINAL GUIDES OPEN
A DOOR INTO A WORLD THAT
MANY PEOPLE DON'T KNOW
STILL EXISTS. A WORLD
WHERE PAST, PRESENT
AND FUTURE MEET. THERE'S
NOTHING MORE EXCITING
FOR A TRAVELLER THAN A
TOTALLY NEW EXPERIENCE.
THAT'S WHAT MEMORIES
ARE MADE OF."

Dr Aden Ridgeway, Gumbaynggirr man and former chair of Indigenous Tourism Australia





## WAYS TO EXPERIENCE THE WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING CULTURE



CHOOSE AN INDIGENOUS GUIDE.
View Australia's distinctive landscapes through different eyes with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander guide and gain a deeper appreciation of country and its unique wildlife.

TASTE AUSTRALIA'S NATIVE INGREDIENTS. Choose to dine with chefs who are serving up native ingredients or take a guided 'bush tucker' walk and learn about the richness of the Australian landscape.



STAY IN ABORIGINAL-OWNED ACCOMMODATION. Unique stays including island wilderness retreats, safari tents and architecturally designed huts allow you to immerse yourself fully in Australia's remarkable and remote landscapes.



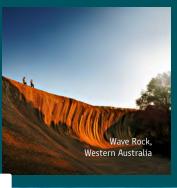
UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF ART IN INDIGENOUS CULTURE. Explore ancient rock art sites, take part in Indigenous artist-led workshops or visit a museum that supports Indigenous artists.



BE IMMERSED IN A LOCAL
COMMUNITY. Stay with the
traditional land owners and
their local communities
on a wilderness camp or
overnight tour to gain a deep
understanding of spirituality
and connection to country.

## PLACES TO GO AND PEOPLE TO SEE





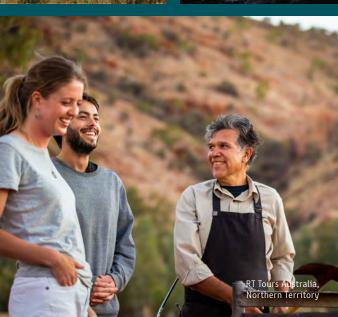














## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Home to Australia's capital, Canberra, the Australian Capital Territory is fast becoming renowned for its diverse culture and cool new edge. With a flourishing food and drink scene, a multitude of galleries and museums, and easy access to nature activities and national parks, it's the perfect base for a little indulgence and adventure.

O Instagram: @visitcanberra

**f** Facebook: /visitcanberra

Ƴ Twitter: @visitcanberra







#### **CANBERRA WINE REGION**

Canberra is surrounded by a distinct wine wonderland, featuring more than 30 wineries within 35 minutes' drive of Canberra's city centre.



## NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE RESERVES

The Australian Capital Territory is surrounded by the Great Dividing Range to the east and the foot of the Australian Alps to the west.

#### **TABLELANDS**

Pack up the car and explore the inland areas surrounding Canberra, otherwise known as the Tablelands. Head east through Queanbeyan and drive through wine country to the historic towns of Braidwood and Bungendore. Head west to the Yass Valley and explore a range of small towns. Or just over one hour from Canberra is the Hilltops region, renowned for its glorious countryside.



#### **CANBERRA**

Discover one good thing after another in Canberra. The nation's capital is nestled within the Australian Capital Territory and is the ideal base for exploring the wider region.

Australian War Memorial, Australian Capital Territory



#### **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

#### SEE & DO

#### **GET OUT AND INTO NATURE**

With about 80 per cent of the Australian Capital Territory a designated nature park, parklands and nature-based experiences are plentiful. Take a twilight tour of Mulligan's Flat to spot Bettongs (small kangaroo-like marsupials), hike the Centenary Trail or cycle around the man-made Lake Burley Griffin at the city's heart.

#### DISCOVER AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL TREASURES

Australia's rich and diverse stories come to life through the collections housed across the city's museums and galleries, many of which are free to enter. See the world's largest collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork at the National Gallery of Australia and discover the war experiences that shaped a nation at the Australian War Memorial.

## EAT & DRINK

#### TASTE COOL CLIMATE WINES

A cool climate, varied vineyard elevations and different soil types have made the Canberra District Wine Region an ideal spot for winemaking. Sangiovese, Riesling, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Shiraz, Tempranillo and rare varieties such as Grüner Veltliner are all produced in this region. Home to 140 vineyards and more than 30 boutique cellar doors, a visit to the wineries is a perfect way to spend an afternoon.

#### EightySix, Australian Capital Territory

#### TAKE A HOT AIR BALLOON FLIGHT

For the best views of Canberra, take a hot air balloon flight at dawn. It's the perfect way to fully appreciate this architecturally planned city as it shows just how integrated its urban and green spaces are. Each March the city celebrates with the Canberra Balloon Spectacular – where more than 30 balloons take off each morning of the event from a central city park location.





#### FINE DINING AND FUSION FEASTS

From fine dining to cheap eats, there's a breadth of culinary experiences on offer here, including the multi-award-winning Eightysix and Bar Rochford. Canberra has eight hatted restaurants, including Aubergine, a two hatted restaurant which focuses on highlighting the best regional seasonal produce.





#### **PLAN AHEAD IN 2021**

The annual Truffle Festival from June to August. Head to The Truffle Farm for the ultimate food experience: hunting for truffles before enjoying a lunch of truffle enhanced dishes.

Floriade, Australia's celebration of spring. From mid-September to mid-October, Canberra's lakeside Commonwealth Park is transformed into a carpet of more than one million spring blooms



#### WHAT'S NEW

Canberra has a new local hero in the form of Pilot. Restaurant + Bar. This unique little restaurant is serving up the best of the region with an ever-growing focus on engaging local producers and artists.

Midnight Hotel is the new kid on the hotel scene in Canberra. Situated in Braddon, one of Canberra's emerging inner-city suburbs, it is the first Marriott International hotel to open in the capital.

#### **INSIDER TIP**



Canberra takes its coffee seriously. Find Australia's Best Barista champion Matt Lewin brewing up the perfect cup at ONA Coffee cafes across the city.



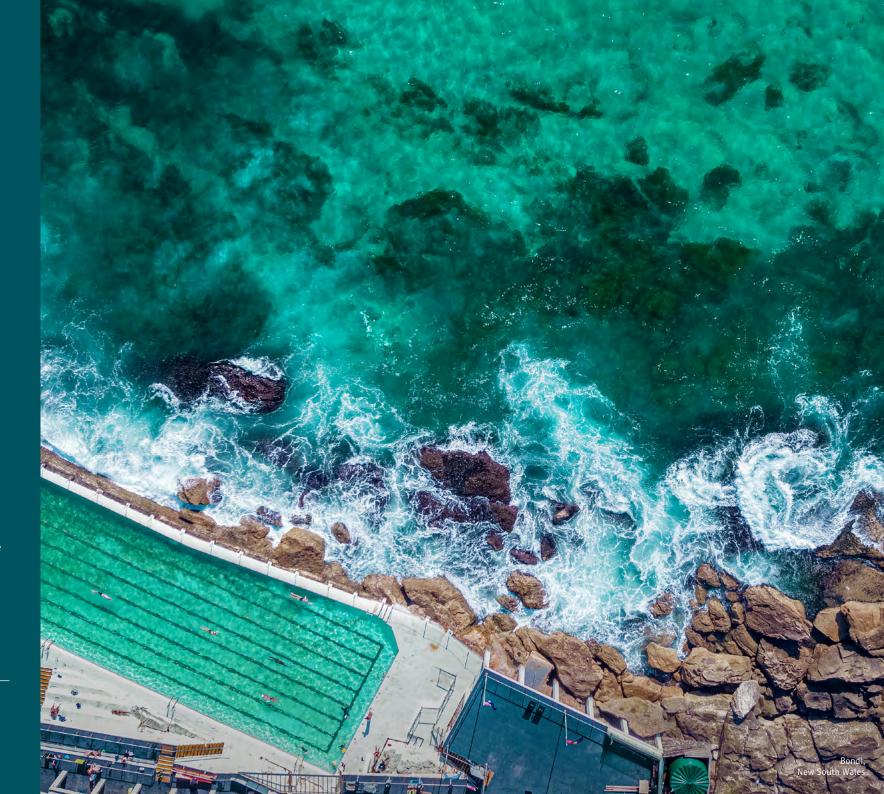
# NEW SOUTH WALES

With endless unspoilt beaches, breathtaking natural treasures and one of the world's most famous and vibrant cities, there's no place quite like New South Wales. From Sydney Harbour to the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains and the Hunter Valley, New South Wales beckons with indulgent wine regions, pristine seaside villages and high mountain country.

O Instagram: @visitnsw

f Facebook: /visitnsw

Twitter: @newsouthwales







#### **SYDNEY**

A city that needs no introduction, Sydney doesn't disappoint on wow factor. From its spectacular harbour, pristine coastline, vibrant culture, and picturesque surrounding rural and coastal landscape, there's no shortage of things to do and see.

Sydney Harbour Bridge, New South Wales

#### **BLUE MOUNTAINS**

Be captivated by the one million hectares of tall forests, sandstone cliffs, canyons and waterfalls that make up the magnificent Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, about two hours' drive west from the city of Sydney.

#### **BYRON BAY**

Unwind, relax and be the first to see the sunrise in mainland Australia's easternmost town. It's home to excellent beaches, lush rainforests, great regional dining and new-age retreats. You won't want to leave.



#### **HUNTER VALLEY**

Give your tastebuds a serious thrill in Australia's oldest wine growing region. Enjoy epicurean indulgences in the Hunter Valley, home to more than 120 wineries, gourmet restaurants, spa retreats and concerts in the vineyards.





#### **LORD HOWE ISLAND**

Leave the pace of modern life behind when you visit World Heritage-listed Lord Howe Island, a lush natural paradise less than two hours by plane from Sydney and Brisbane. with only 400 visitors allowed at any time. Birdsong fills the clean air and lush mountainous terrain rises up all around you.

#### **ORANGE AND MUDGEE**

A 3.5-hour drive west of Sydney take in rolling green hills, heritage landscapes, and some of the nation's finest cool-climate wines in Orange. Then head another 2.5-hours onto Mudgee for a tasty mix of country charm and epicurean delights, thanks to its flourishing food and wine scene.



#### **SOUTH COAST**

Take your pick of breathtaking beaches, meet local wildlife and enjoy a huge range water sports. All of this and more awaits on the unspoilt South Coast, where you'll find spectacular coastline and seaside and hinterland towns including Wollongong, Kiama, Shoalhaven and the Sapphire Coast.

#### SEE & DO

#### SWIM IN OVER 100 OCEAN POOLS

Carved into the rock shelves at coastal beaches and fed by ocean tides, almost 100 ocean pools can be found on the coast of New South Wales. Swim at the heritage-listed Bogey Hole in Newcastle twohours' drive north of Sydney. experience the crystal-clear waters of The Blue Pool at Bermagui on the Sapphire Coast or head for the iconic Icebergs Pool in Bondi Sydney.



#### WALK THE COASTLINE AND SPOT WHALES

From the famous Bondi to Coogee walk, to the Cape Byron lighthouse track in Byron Bay, New South Wale's coastline offers countless walking trails and headlands which are often also incredible vantage points for spotting whales. Dubbed humpback highway, each year between late May and November, catch glimpses of migrating humpback and southern right whales. There are also countless whale watching cruises for those wanting to get up close.





#### SUPPORT AUSTRALIA'S NATIVE ANIMALS

Australia's wildlife parks and sanctuaries play a vital role in conservation efforts for Australia's native animals meaning adding a wildlife experience onto your next trip can help to support these incredible creatures. Featherdale Wildlife Park which is home to over 1.700 native animals in Western Sydney, the Australian Reptile Park just over an hour drive north of Sydney and Taronga Zoo located on Sydney's shores, all have a range of research and education initiatives such as breeding and tree planting programs to ensure animals such as koalas. wombats and the Tasmanian devil can prosper.

#### LEARN ABOUT NEW SOUTH WALES'S ABORIGINAL NATIONS

Home to the country's largest population of Aboriginal Australians, New South Wales has countless opportunities to learn about different Indigenous nations and cultures with guided cultural tours, contemporary Aboriginal festivals, art galleries and more. On the South Coast, get insight into cultural teachings that have been passed down over nine generations with Ngaran Ngaran Culture Awareness, or in Sydney take a Dreamtime Southern X walking tour and learn of the city's dreamtime heritage.

#### **FALL UNDER SYDNEY'S SPELL**

The Harbour City is home to many of Australia's must-see attractions - Sydney Opera House, Sydney Harbour Bridge and Bondi Beach - but also abounds new restaurants and bars, hole-in-the-wall coffee shops, sun-drenched beaches and wildlife experiences. Cultural vultures will also find galleries, museums, theatre companies and alternative cinema, alongside a year-round iampacked event calendar.



Dreamtime Southern X, New South Wales

#### **EAT & DRINK**

#### TASTE THE URBAN CRAFT BEER MOVEMENT

Sydney's inner west is ground zero for the urban craft beer movement in Australia and a microcosm of what's happening across the state. Newly opened Willie the Boatman, all-American brewery Batch Brewing Co., microbrewery Sauce and Wildflower Brewing and Blending can all be found within a 2 kilometre radius meaning you can taste the 'hoppest' beer in an afternoon.



#### **FOLLOW FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE**

From organic produce in the countryside, to fresh seafood coastal restaurants. New South Wales's culinary delights are seemingly endless. For those looking to support local communities and business who often rely on tourism to thrive, there are a range of food and wine trails in the state that follow excellent produce and farmers markets, and can easily be timed to stop in one of the many regional food festivals and restaurants.



New South Wales

#### **SIP SURPRISING SPIRITS**

From Purple Ink Gin at Husk Distillery on the far North Coast to Archie Rose in Sydney's backstreets and North of Eden on the Sapphire Coast, boundarypushing distilleries and artisan producers who are experimenting with local flavours and ingredients can be found across the state in both urban and regional areas.

#### **WHAT'S NEW**

The new elegantly designed eco-retreat. Wildlife Retreat at Taronga Zoo, is now offering luxury sleepovers and exclusive wildlife encounters at the iconic Sanctuary which sits on the edge of Sydney Harbour.

Located in Sydney, Yerrabingin is the world's first Indigenous rooftop farm. Offering a series of events, workshops and farm tours, check their website for upcoming events such as a native ingredient cocktail class.

Opening in late 2019, Sydney opened the doors to a new major zoo – the first in 100 years. Sydney Zoo is now open in the heart of Western Sydney where visitors can expect to get up close to some of the world's most iconic animals.



#### **DON'T MISS IN 2020**

lacaranda trees bursting into bloom. From October to November, explore the Sydney suburbs which become blanketed in purple hues. You can also visit the Grafton Jacaranda Festival in northern New South Wales.

#### **INSIDER TIP**



Each day at sunset, the sails of the Sydney Opera House are illuminated with a free spectacular seven-minute projection that explores ancient First Nations stories. The free Badu Gili projections are best viewed from the top of the Monumental Steps.

Sydneysiders love their fresh seafood, and one of the best places to buy and eat it is the Sydney Fish Market in the inner-city suburb of Pyrmont. Book a Sydney Seafood School class and create market-fresh seafood dishes, before enjoying them over a glass of wine and views of Blackwattle Bay.

#### **PLAN AHEAD FOR 2021**

Vivid Sydney. Each winter between May to June, see Sydney city transform as the vivid festival brings together some of the best artists, music around the world.



The Northern Territory is unlike any place on earth; it's not a place you visit just to take a look around. From breathing in the fresh air as the sun rises over the West MacDonnell Ranges, to tasting fresh mud crab caught that day, hearing stories over 60,000 years old, seeing breathtaking horizons from the top of a Kakadu escarpment or experiencing history at an Aboriginal art gallery, the Territory is a place to immerse yourself and be free.

O Instagram: @ausoutbackNT

**f** Facebook: /northernterritoryaustralia

Twitter: @ausoutbackNT







#### DARWIN

Welcome to the Northern Territory's unhurried capital, Darwin. With balmy nights, colourful characters and outdoor adventures, find everything from Asian food markets and crocodile encounters to open-air movies and sunset cruises.

Darwin Waterfront, Northern Territory

#### **ARNHEM LAND**

Bordered by Kakadu National Park, the Arafura Sea and the Gulf of Carpentaria, Arnhem Land is a vast, unspoiled wilderness area of more than 97,000 square kilometres. Rich in Aboriginal culture, Arnhem Land offers unique Indigenous experiences, rock art and some of the best fishing in the world.

#### KAKADU

As Australia's biggest national park, Kakadu offers more wetlands, waterfalls, billabongs and escarpments than you can count. Covering nearly 20,000 square kilometres, Kakadu National Park is renowned for its cultural significance and stunning natural beauty with incredible wildlife and over 5,000 Aboriginal rock art sites.



#### **KATHERINE**

Katherine, located just over three hours from Darwin, may be best known as the gateway to Nitmiluk National Park, but there's plenty more to discover after you've floated down Nitmiluk (Katherine) Gorge including a range of springs and falls.





#### LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK

Let your worries fade away as you soak under a refreshing waterfall in the stunning Litchfield National Park. The plethora of thundering falls and cool plunge pools will entice you to stay awhile and breathe in the serenity of the surrounding monsoon forest.

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#### THE RED CENTRE

Rich in both culture and beauty, the Red Centre is often considered the spiritual centre of the country. Experience Aboriginal culture, desert adventures and the changing colours of Uluru, Kings Canyon, Alice Springs and West MacDonnell Ranges.



#### TIWI ISLANDS

100 kilometres north of Darwin, the Tiwi Islands are an off-the-beaten-track destination for intrepid travellers. The two main islands are Bathurst and Melville, which sit alongside nine smaller, uninhabited islands.



#### SEE & DO

#### **EXPLORE THE RED CENTRE**

The Red Centre is an extraordinary landscape of desert plains, weathered mountain ranges, rocky gorges and some of Australia's most sacred Aboriginal sites. Alice Springs – known to locals as simply "Alice" – is a great base for exploring famed sites such as Uluru, its sister rock formation Kata Tjuta, Kings Canyon, the West MacDonnell Ranges and their iconic Larapinta Trail.

Just outside Alice Springs, Animal lovers can also settle in for a cuddle with Australia's national animal at the Kangaroo Sanctuary. Open for tours Tuesday through Friday in the late afternoons and lasting about 2.5 hours, travellers get the chance to meet some of the beautiful red kangaroos that are typical of the Red Centre and even hold a joey.

#### EXPERIENCE THE SPIRITUAL HEART OF AUSTRALIA

You can feel a powerful presence the moment you first set your eyes on Uluru. The stunning colours of this 348-metre high monolith transform with the time of day – and there are over 100 activities and experiences on offer. Spend a night eating a bush-tucker inspired dinner under thousands of stars, before experiencing the Field of Light art installation. and even hold a joey.



Field of Light, Northern Territory





Davidson's Arnhemland Safaris, Northern Territory

#### ESCAPE TO AUSTRALIA'S TRUE WILDERNESS

Arnhem Land is the Top End's untouched home to beautiful scenery, remote islands, rainforest, rivers, towering escarpments and savannah woodland. Rich in Aboriginal culture, Arnhem Land offers unique Indigenous experiences, rock art and some of the best fishing in the world. There are also several famous indigenous arts centres to visit, including the community of Maningrida and Yirrkala, just outside the coastal town of Nhulunbuy on the Gove Peninsula. Experience it all with a stay in a safari-style camp on the rugged coastline of the Cobourg Peninsula.

#### **EAT & DRINK**

#### TREAT YOUR TASTEBUDS IN DARWIN

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This tropical capital city is famous for its food, so treat your tastebuds and indulge your sense of fun and adventure with mouth-watering outdoor sunset markets, waterfront dining, bush-tucker inspired menus, fresh seafood – and a local favourite – Laska. Locals favourites include Korean Charcoal BBQ Restaurant, Little Miss Korea, and Hanuman which takes inspiration from Thai, Indian and Nonya (Chinese Malay) cuisine.

#### PLAN AHEAD FOR 2021

The only First Nations festival of its kind, Parrtjima allows travellers to experience interactive workshops, talks, films and live music across two event precincts (Alice Springs Desert Park and Todd Mall). Bringing together the stories, sounds and rhythms of the oldest living cultures on earth, look out for dates in April 2021.

Set within the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park, Taste of Kakadu is a food festival unlike anything you've ever experienced. From basket weaving to barramundi cookups, explore the fascinating food culture of outback Australia. The festival is usually held in May (TBC).

#### WHAT'S NEW

The Tiwi Islands – 70 kilometres north of Darwin – are famous for their traditional lifestyle, art and love of AFL. Tiwi Island Retreat, a glamping experience offers keen adventures 2-day, 2-night all-inclusive packages, expertly designed by "Outback Wrangler", Matt Wright.

Longitude 131° has announced the return of its popular artists-in-residence program offers guests a rare chance to meet the artists from Ernabella Arts in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands whose vibrant ceramics, paintings and weavings can be seen around the lodge.





Tiwi Island Retreat, Northern Territory





#### **INSIDER TIP**



Join in on the local's favourite day trip and head to the Litchfield National Park, about an hour's drive from Darwin. Plunge into crystal clear waterholes beneath the magnificent spring-fed waterfalls of Florence and Wangi, or soak in the gentle three-tiered cascade shaded by rainforest at Buley Rockhole.







## QUEENSLAND

With experiences to inspire, adventures to enthral and landscapes that awe, Queensland is often beautiful one day and perfect the next. From pristine beaches and lush rainforests, to the vast outback and the breathtaking Great Barrier Reef, when you holiday in Queensland you do it against a backdrop of natural wonder.

Instagram: @queenslandFacebook: /visitqueensland

▼ Twitter: @queensland



#### **CAIRNS**

Visit Cairns for the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics World Heritage Rainforest, but don't miss the great things to do in and around town including cafés, bustling markets and plenty of beaches. Day trip to island bays including Michaelmas Cay and Fitzroy Island or head inland for the Atherton Tablelands.

#### **FRASER ISLAND**

The largest sand island in the world, Fraser Island has superb scenery, with massive shifting sand blows, sensational swimming spots and thrilling 4WD track. Home to the purest strain of dingoes remaining in eastern Australia, it is also one of the best places to see baby humpback whales.



#### **GOLD COAST**

The Gold Coast's star attraction is its beaches, including the world-renowned stretch of sand at Surfers Paradise. Beyond the beaches, discover laid-back neighbourhoods, a booming culinary scene and the Gold Coast's famous theme parks.



#### LADY ELLIOTT ISLAND

With glittering white beaches made entirely of crushed coral, it's easy to feel like a modern-day castaway on Lady Elliot Island. Located at the southern tip of the Great Barrier Reef, walk the emerald green-edged island, or go snorkelling to see giant manta rays, colourful corals, fish, turtles and dolphins.



#### **SUNSHINE COAST**

Stretching from the coastal city of Caloundra, near Brisbane, to the Great Sandy National Park in the north, the Sunshine Coast is home to pretty villages, renowned surf spots and spectacular rural hinterland. Visit the holiday hotspot of Noosa or laidback towns of Coolum, Eumundi and Maroochydore.



#### THE WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS

An archipelago of 74 tropical islands, the Whitsundays lie just off the Queensland coast, next to the Great Barrier Reef. Protected from large swells, secluded islands beaches such as the iconic Whitehaven, are ideal for sailing, swimming, snorkelling and relaxing.

Queensland

#### SEE & DO

#### CONTRIBUTE TO THE MANAGEMENT OF GREAT BARRIER REEF

One of the best marine wildlife encounters in the world, the Great Barrier Reef stretches for more than 2,300 kilometres along the Queensland coastline. With approximately 1,625 species of fish and six of the world's seven species of marine turtles, there are hundreds experiences available to explore this underwater world - and with each experience ticket sold, you'll be helping to protect the long-term outlook of the reef with an 'Environmental Management Charge' built into the price.



#### STORYTELLING IN THE DAINTREE RAINFOREST

Indigenous people in Queensland have been passing down stories since before the reef was born, and when you visit, you become part of the story. Hear from the land's traditional owners on a guided walk through Mossman Gorge, where the Kuku Yalanji people share an special relationship with the world's oldest living rainforest – the World Heritage listed Daintree Rainforest.



There are more World-Heritage Listed areas in Queensland than any other state. If you plan to see all of them, you've just about covered the entire state.

#### RED DIRT, BIG SKIES AND EVEN BIGGER CHARACTERS

There's no better way to experience the spirit of Oueensland than with a visit to an outback event. In the Simpson Desert, the Birdsville Races each September is a party where you'll watch the sun rise, chat to fellow race-goers in tent city, and wind down over a beer at the Birdsville Hotel. Or if it's music that moves you, the Birdsville Big Red Bash in July is a remote, family-friendly festival which brings together top Australian music acts for a three-day event.

#### NEW AND IMPROVED WHITSUNDAYS ISLANDS

After a cyclone hit Australia's Whitsundays Islands in 2017, the blow was one that could have wiped out a region for good. Two years on and the Whitsundays' are back in action and better than ever. 2019 saw the reopening of two Whitsunday Islands, Daydream Island and Hayman Island, following extensive refurbishments, while bohochic boutique Elysian Resort on Long Island opened to quests in late 2018.

#### EAT & DRINK

#### BRISBANE'S EAT STREETS AND SMART-Casual eateries

Mixing snacking, socialising and sunshine, without conforming to a single genre, Brisbane's new wave of restaurants, small bars and creative cafes are distinctively, well, Brisbane. For delicious street eats, make your way to Fish Lane in south Brisbane, or arrive early to score a seat at one of Fortitude Valley's most coveted tables: hôntô, LONgTIME or Gerard's Bistro, which all sit within a few blocks of each other.



City Winery Brisbane, Queensland

#### **FOODIE FESTIVALS**

Find some of the country's most diverse produce and freshest seafood at a range of food festivals in the sunshine state. In May, enjoy sand-on-your-feet barbecues and chef-hosted dinners at The Noosa Food and Wine Festival or in August, The Curated Plate showcases produce from the Sunshine Coast hinterland region in a series of pop up events over four days.



#### DON'T MISS IN 2020

The Ring Cycle, the pinnacle of opera, a 15-hour epic performed over four nights. Heading to Brisbane in November 2020, the new production is exclusive to the Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

#### PLAN AHEAD FOR 2021

Between June and July, traveller can swim with one of the rarest visitors to Australian waters as dwarf minke whales appear off the coast of Tropical North Queensland. Scientists still don't yet know where they go after, making it the only place in Australia to witness their beauty.

At the Cairn Indigenous Art Fair experience the diverse cultures and artistic wealth of Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples through an impressive program of art, dance, music, fashion, talks and workshops. Usually held in July, look out for 2021 dates online.

## LAUNCHING IN 2020

Launching in 2020, Museum of Underwater Art (MOUA) is a collection of submerged art installations in four unique locations – John Brewer Reef, The Strand, Palm Island and Magnetic Island. Guests can explore the artworks, while also learning about the conservation efforts being undertaken to rehabilitate the reef.

Featuring floor-to-ceiling windows and underwater panoramic views, Reefsuites is Australia's first underwater accommodation on the Great Barrier Reef giving a new meaning to 'room with a view'.

Guests to Hamilton Island can now experience unprecedented access to the iconic Heart Reef with the launch of Heart Island. Starting with a helicopter flight over the picturesque Whitsundays, land on a private pontoon helipad to explore the lagoon.

Brisbane's Howard Smith Wharves has continued to grow in popularity with opening of new restaurants including Polpetta, Betty's Burgers, Ciao Papi, Good Times Gelateria, Stanley and Yoko Dining, alongside the stylist The Fantauzzo Hotel all in the last year.

### INSIDER TIP



Choosing to travel with a high standard tourism operator on the Great Barrier Reef means you can play a role in protecting the Reef. These operators help to protect reef health by adhering to responsible practices while also contributing to reef monitoring and education, with accredited Master Reef Guides often onboard tours.







Flinders Ranges, South Australia



South Australia is a brilliant blend of people, produce and place. With long summers, stunning beaches, vast outback landscapes and long list of world-class festivals, if you love good food, wine, craft beers and spirits, you'll love South Australia. There are 18 wine regions to choose from and you won't have to travel far to enjoy them.

O Instagram: @southaustralia

**f** Facebook: /seesouthaustralia

Twitter: @southaustralia







#### **ADELAIDE**

South Australia's capital, Adelaide, has undergone a rapid transformation with a burgeoning small-bar scene, world-class art and music, and a festival calendar to rival that of any other Australian city. Discover its laneway secrets and find delicious treats around every bend.

Pirate Life Brewing, South Australia



The opal capital of Australia, Coober Pedy is a working opal-mining town on a moonlike plain with underground homes and plenty of local characters. It just may be Australia's most unusual town, with much of it built underground including local homes, museums and churches.



The Eyre Peninsula is Australia's major seafood hub. More than 65 per cent of the nation's seafood comes from these waters, including green-lipped abalone, scallops, prawns, oysters and tuna. It's also a place of extreme beauty, with a multitude of landscapes and outdoor adventure on offer.



#### FLEURIEU PENINSULA

On Adelaide's southern doorstep, the Fleurieu Peninsula offers a mellow Mediterranean ambiance. You'll find dozens of white sand beaches, undulating vineyards and farmland, pretty coastal towns near the entrance to Australia's longest river, and world-renowned wetlands.





## **FLINDERS RANGES AND**

The rugged, weathered peaks and rocky gorges of the Flinders Ranges in outback South Australia form some of the most dramatic and beautiful landscapes in the country. Rich in Aboriginal history follow the scenic roads, 4WD tracks and walking trails that crisscross this wild countryside.

#### **KANGAROO ISLAND**

13 kilometres off the coast of South Australia and 30 minutes by plane from Adelaide, Kangaroo Island, is home to native animals, artisanal food, epic rock formations and epic hotels, perched on the edge of the sea.



### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S WINE**

With almost half of Australia's wine made in South Australia, find iconic wine regions such as the Barossa. McLaren Vale and Adelaide Hills within one hour's drive of Adelaide. Further afield, the Clare Valley, Coonawarra and Riverland offer not only quality wines but spectacular destinations to explore.

#### SEE & DO

#### DISCOVER AUSTRALIA'S LIFESTYLE **CAPITAL: ADELAIDE**

With its award-winning wineries, world-class festivals and stunning landscapes, it's easy to see why Adelaide is quickly becoming the lifestyle capital of Australia. And with more than 200 cellar doors all within an hour's drive from the city, visitors can enjoy the best of both worlds. For a different perspective on Adelaide and its surrounds. traveller can scale the unique roofline of Adelaide Oval for breathtaking 360-degree views of the city.

#### **HEAD TO THE COASTLINE AND ENJOY** THE OCEANS MANY DELIGHTS

The South Australian coastline combines long stretches of white-sand beaches. dramatic clifftop scenery. and a sparkling ocean full of dolphins and whales. Swim with dolphins, sea lions or cage dive with great white sharks. Delve a bit deeper and the pristine waters reveal a wealth of delectable seafood, including scallops, Southern rock lobster, Coffin Bay oysters, blue swimmer crabs and more.

#### VISIT KANGAROO ISLAND

Affected by Australia summer 2019/20 bushfires, there's never been a better time to plan a trip to Kangaroo Island. Choosing to spend, stay and shop locally will help the island, which relies on travellers, to thrive. With its raw and rugged coastline, natural wonders and wildlife, follow the road less travelled and enjoy the laidback island lifestyle. You can get to Kangaroo Island via ferry with Sealink or KI Connect, or fly with QantasLink or Rex.

#### EXPERIENCE THE OUTBACK

Outback South Australia is a vast land of red dirt, grassy plains, waterholes and rugged hills patrolled by emus, kangaroos and wedge-tailed eagles. Among the highlights are the craggy red mountains and ancient gorges that make up the Flinders Ranges, a spiritual place known for the giant natural amphitheatre, Wilpena Pound. Further inland, Lake Eyre in flood is a sight not to be missed. The huge salt lake changes from white to pink to blue and attracts waterbirds in their thousands.



#### EAT & DRINK

#### **DELICIOUS ADELAIDE**

A vibrant and culturally diverse city, Adelaide is best explored on a culinary adventure. Bars and restaurants serve local produce alongside local wines and spirits. Dine at one of the many modern restaurants such as the African-inspired Africola or head to Adelaide Central Market, or at Lot.100 in the Adelaide Hills for incredibly fresh, locally soured produce.



d'Arenberg Cube, South Australia

#### DRINK YOUR WAY ACROSS THE GREAT WINE CAPITAL OF AUSTRALIA

Enjoy cool-climate wine in the Adelaide Hills, taste bold Barossa Valley reds and don't leave without first visiting the iconic d'Arenberg Cube in McLaren Vale; a familyowned winery producing internationally renowned red wines. Visit their cellar door on the top level of this architectural masterpiece, with panoramic views over the surrounding vineyards.



#### **DON'T MISS** IN 2020

Booking one of Australian Wildlife lourneys 'conservation action days'. Play a part in the regeneration of Kangaroo Island's unique habitat and support wildlife such as the endangered Kangaroo Island Dunnart marsupial and Glossy Black-Cockatoo bird with handson activities such as planting and biodiversity observation.

#### **PLAN AHEAD FOR 2021**

Between February and March watch as Adelaide turn into a cultural hub. Engage the mind with arts at Adelaide Festival, experience a riotous month of cabaret, circus and comedy at the Adelaide Fringe Festival or head to WOMADelaide for a music and dance extravaganza.

From March - April (TBC) follow produce from paddock to plate and celebrate of the real food heroes of South Australia as Tasting Australia - an eating and drinking festival true to Australia's culture, producers and regions with a host of intimate events across the state.

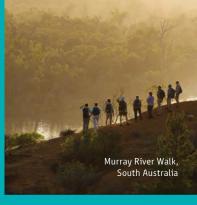
#### **WHAT'S NEW**

2019 saw the launch of two new tiny, super-instaworthy CABN properties. With views of McLaren Vale, find the new CABN Kuipto (Matilda) and CABN Georgia nestled amongst the wilderness of Adelaide Hills. Both perfect for a modern-day minimalist escape, it would be rude not to pour a glass of wine from this famed region as you sit back and relax to the sounds of the native wildlife.

Ranges to River is the new eight day 80-kilometre walking experience connecting the only two Great Walks of Australia in South Australia, The Arkaba Walk and Murray River Walk. Departing from Arkaba Homestead, walkers will experience great food, wine and a comfortable bed along the journey, as they pass through the spectacular Flinders Rangers, River Red Gums and the rolling floodplains of the Murray River.







South Australia will soon have a new boutique hotel with the final redevelopment stage at award-winning Mount Lofty House underway. Named 'Sequoia', the development, which will sit separate from Mount Lofty House, will include 15 luxury villas positioned on the front escarpment of Mount Lofty Estate offering unparalleled views of the Piccadilly Valley. Each of the spacious villas will feature private balconies overlooking the valley and fireplaces.

#### **INSIDER TIP**



Adelaide prides itself on being a '20-minute city', where you can hit the beach, hills or vineyards in that time. Start your morning with a dip at Glenelg beach, stop in for lunch at one of the many inner city cafes then head off to enjoy afternoon wine tastings at one of Adelaide Hills vineyards such as Bird in Hand.





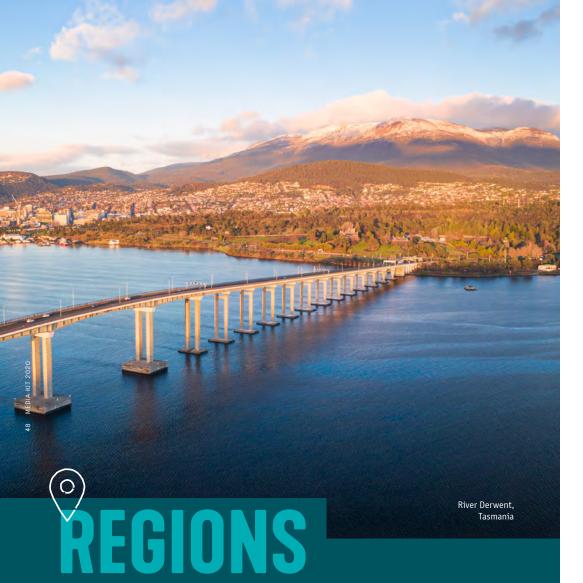


An antidote to a mass-produced modern world, come to Tasmania to indulge in history, vast wilderness areas, spectacular mountains, small-scale production of food, wine and spirits, and intimate meetings with friendly locals. Home to just over 500,000 people, the air is fresh, the water clear, the wildlife abundant and the way of life gives you space to simply pause, reconnect and take a breath.

⊙ Instagram: @tasmania **f** Facebook: /tasmania

▼ Twitter: @tasmania

Cape Grim cave, Tasmania



#### **HOBART AND SOUTH** Australia's littlest capital city punches well

above its weight when it comes to fine dining, cultural attractions, and stunning natural beauty. In Hobart savour delicious local produce then head out of town to take in incredible views from Mount Wellington or spend the day exploring windswept Bruny Island.

Mt Wellington, Tasmania



With the wild Bass Strait on the doorstep of Launceston, Tasmania's northern cities including Devonport and Burnie are home to secluded beaches, tranquil waterways and coastal views. And with a wealth of wineries, it offers the perfect blend of nature and culture.



#### **WEST COAST**

Home to untamed rivers, ancient pine trees and giant sand dunes, the west coast is at the heart of Tasmania's wilderness. Challenge the infamous Franklin River on a white-water rafting expedition, cruise down the majestic Gordon River, hike through age-old rainforest and visit historic mining towns.



Full of colour and flavour. Tasmania's north-west is the gateway to some of Tasmania's most beautiful natural places. Find classic coastal drives, food trails, national parks, nature reserves and with the world's cleanest air found at the northwestern tip on the Cape Grim Peninsula, you'll breath easy.



Sample the splendours of Tasmania's stunning east coast, from seafood and wine, to lush rainforest and powder-white beaches. Starting at Hobart, venture north through spectacular national parks, along surreal coastline, then finish in the remarkable Bay of Fires.







#### SEE & DO

#### TASMANIA'S CHARMING CAPITAL: **HOBART**

Nestled between a mountain and a river. Hobart is home to a diverse range of experiences. Wander among the city's beautiful sandstone colonial architecture, drive through wilderness to the summit of Mount Wellington or take in the view at one of Hobart's acclaimed eateries or wine bars. No trip would be complete without a visit to The Museum of Old and New Art. Jump on the ferry in the city centre to arrive at this multi-tiered museum cut into sandstone cliffs, with a collection of provocative art.

#### MEET THE TASSIE LOCALS

Tasmania is a natural haven for Australian wildlife. Bennetts wallabies, seals. penguins and wedge-tailed eagles can be found without venturing too far from the cities. Maria Island is a known wombat haven, rare white wallabies call Bruny Island home and the iconic Tasmanian devil who whilst nocturnal and shv. can be found at wildlife parks across Tasmania like Bonorong or the Tasmanian Devil Unzoo.



Tasmanian Devil joeys, Tasmania



#### HIKE PRISTINE WILDERNESS IN COMFORT

Home to some of Australia's best walks. Tasmania has long led the charge for soft adventure and eco-tourism. Classics include the worldfamous six-day Overland Track through Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park, the four-day Freycinet Experience that takes in the iconic Wineglass Bay, and the fourday Bay of Fires Lodge Walk along secluded beaches on the north-east coast.

#### EAT & DRINK

#### UNDENIABLY TASMANIAN FLAVOUR

In recent years, young chefs lured to the island has led to a new wave of bars and restaurants opening, Fico, a small bistro in the centre of Hobart, is one such example that was opened in 2016 by returned locals. While it might be inspired by the dining rooms of Europe, it's undeniably Tasmanian in flavour and approach.

Beyond Hobart there are myriad foodie experiences worth traveling for. From Willie Smith's Apple Shed in the delightful Huon Valley, just 30 minutes from the city centre, to Agrarian Kitchen Cooking School & Farm in the tranguil





Derwent Valley less than two hours away, and Bruny Island Cheese Co. on windswept outpost of Bruny Island a twohour drive, gems can be found across the island.

#### BE SEDUCED BY SEAFOOD

Fresh seafood is a known staple of the local's diet. To eat as the locals, do, take a Pennicott Wilderness Journeys Tasmanian Seafood Seduction Tour from Hobarts docks and enjoy a fresh underwater banquet pulled straight from the ocean. On this day-long tour you'll harvest oysters straight from the farm and feast on crayfish, sea urchin and abalone caught by before your eyes by a local diver.

#### **DON'T MISS** IN 2020

Tasmanian Whisky Week. From 10 - 16 August celebrate Tasmania's thriving whisky industry with over 20 events which take place across the island. Visit renowned local distilleries to see firsthand why Tasmania is the whisky capital of Australia.

#### **PLAN AHEAD FOR 2021**

Each winter. Dark Mofo takes over the city of Hobart and its surrounds. This three-week art and music winter solstice festival delves into winter-solstice rituals and explores themes such as religion, nature, darkness, light. death and renewal through creative expression.

#### WHAT'S NEW

Located in the historic docks of Salamanca Place, Moss is Hobart's newest boutique hotel. Set in Georgian sandstone warehouses and designed with a natureinspired concept, Moss offers 41-rooms with high timber beams, internal greenery and sun-drenched balconies.

Tasmania's offering to adventure travellers has been elevated yet again. Wukalina walk, a four-day guided walk based around the landscape of the larapuna (Bay of Fires) and wukalina (Mount William) is the first Indigenous-owned and operated tourism venture



wukalina walk,



in Tasmania and has already garnered a top international architecture award for its exquisitely considered krakani lumi lodge.

In the historic village of Stanley, in far north-west Tasmania, and nestled at the base of the Nut, a sheersided bluff, travellers will find newly opened Ship Inn Stanley. A boutique quest house with seven luxurious suites, quests are immersed in local narrative and enjoy characters that reflect the history of the township.



Tasmania

#### **INSIDER TIP**



Looking to restore the soul? Pumphouse Point retreat sits in the middle of Lake St Clair in isolation or sink into the King Billy Suite outdoor tub at the luxurious Cradle Mountain Lodge (if you're lucky, it will be sprinkling with snow).

Tasmania's north-east offers a range of walks to explore some of the world's largest and tallest trees. One of the lesser known walks is the Blue Tier Giant or 'Big Tree' walk. The walk descends through huge eucalypts, musk, myrtle, mosses and ferns to the maiesty of the Blue Tier Giant, the widest living tree in Australia. This massive Eucalyptus regnans has a girth measuring an amazing 19.4 metres.







Home to a captivating and creative capital city, a plethora of awe-inspiring natural wonders and rustic villages at once idyllic and cosmopolitan, exploring Victoria is a truly unique adventure. The regions surrounding Melbourne, complete with seaside villages, enchanting wildlife and rolling vineyards, are as diverse as they are breathtaking.

⊙ Instagram: @visitmelbourne **f** Facebook: /visitmelbourne **y** Twitter: @melbourne







#### **MELBOURNE**

Melbourne is a blend of laneways, world-class restaurants and captivating museums. The locals love their coffee, there's always a sense of excitement here. Attend a sports event, drink a cocktail on a rooftop and uncover the stories hidden within art-filled alleyways.

Hosier Lane, Victoria



## DAYLESFORD AND THE MACEDON RANGES

Invigorate body and mind in the natural mineral springs and historic villages of Daylesford and surrounding region. Indulge in spas and wellness retreats, enjoy country pubs and gourmet restaurants, explore heritage gardens and browse boutiques and arts galleries.

#### **GREAT OCEAN ROAD**

The spectacular Great Ocean Road winds alongside the wild and windswept Southern Ocean. Home to craggy cliffs, empty beaches and bountiful wildlife, there's an effortless affinity with nature along this iconic road. And with epic surf and unforgettable hikes, you'll find plenty of adventure around every corner.



#### **MORNINGTON PENINSULA**

With its wall-to-wall wineries, busy bayside villages, impressive restaurants, thermal pools and stunning walks along the coastline, it's easy to see why the Mornington Peninsula is a summer playground for Melburnians.



#### **PHILLIP ISLAND**

Phillip Island boasts breathtaking natural beauty and plenty of attractions for nature-lovers and adventurers, including the famous Penguin Parade. Or, follow the Southern Gippsland Wine Trail and experience the Island's excellent cool-climate wines and fresh organic produce.

## YARRA VALLEY AND DANDENONG RANGES

The stunning gardens, cool forests and quaint townships of the Yarra Valley and the Dandenong Ranges are an easy day trip from Melbourne. Home to vineyards, fine dining and quaint accommodation, go for the cellar doors and stay to try the delicious local produce.



#### SEE & DO

#### EXPLORE THE CULTURAL HUB OF MELBOURNE

Melbourne's reputation as one of the most culturally rich yet effortlessly laid-back cities in the world is certainly well deserved. It's city centre is full of street art, coffee roasters, independent boutiques and restaurants, while neighbourhoods like St. Kilda, Carlton and Prahran are perfect for exploring rooftop bars, local designers and tucked-away restaurants



#### **EAT & DRINK**

#### MELBOURNE'S LATE FOOD AND DRINK SCENE

Food is serious business in Melbourne. From Ben Shrewy's acclaimed Attica, to the cult followings of Chin Chin and Charcoal Lane, the local's never-ending appetite for new creations is rewarded with modern menus created by an ever-increasing number of innovative chefs. Expect easygoing elegance, with share plates, extended kitchen hours and no reservation policies.

Melbourne's cocktail bars, rooftop beer gardens and laneway speakeasies are as intriguing as they are welcoming. In a city known for its hidden treasures, discovering their whereabouts can be as much fun as sipping their wares.



From the late-night French flared Bar Margaux, to the rock 'n' roll Heartbreaker Bar watch mixologists create unforgettable cocktails using locally distilled spirits and chat with passionate bartenders as they talk you through their latest drops.

#### FRESH VICTORIAN PRODUCE

To find some of Victoria's best produce, make sure you take a trip to the Yarra Valley to taste an impressive array of fresh seasonal produce direct from the local farms and a range of cool climate wines at spectacular wineries. Rochford Wines hosts live jazz, Tarrawarra Estate comes complete with an art gallery to explore, and Oakridge Wines serves up the most delicious modern Australian dishes.

#### **EASY SIDE TRIPS**

#### MORNINGTON PENINSULA

Ninety minutes south of Melbourne, the Mornington Peninsula is saturated in local history, wineries and dotted with golden beaches. Relax at the Peninsula Hot Springs before stopping into Montalto Piazza and Winery and Pt. Leo Estate's Sculpture Park which houses an ever-evolving array of Australian and international pieces, before resting your head at the luxury Jackalope Hotel.

#### PHILLIP ISLAND

gton Peninsula Pt

Packed with native wildlife, coastal trails, surf breaks and sandy beaches, Phillip Island is a great spot to enjoy a laidback surf culture and spot animals. Two hours' drive from Melbourne, during the day, stop into the island's small batch breweries and boutique wineries, and at night, catch a glimpse of the island's native little penguins at the Penguin Parade as they come back ashore after a day of fishing.

#### **GIPPSLAND**

Some visit for the collection of wineries, while others visit to take advantage of the swimming, fishing, boating and sailing offered by the extensive network of rivers, lakes and beaches. Hit by bushfires in summer 2020, thankfully, Gippsland's doors are back open, and locals are ready to show visitors around. Make your next trip count by spending and staying locally which will help families and small business back on their feet.





#### **INSIDER TIP**



Thanks to its multi-cultural heritage you can eat you way around the world in Melbourne's suburbs. Find Italian food on Lyon Street, Asian dishes on Flinders Lane or Vietnamese on Victoria Street.

#### DON'T MISS IN 2020

Melbourne host some serious sporting events; this year watch the women's final of the 2020 ICC T20 World Cup at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on International Women's Day (8 March) or catch the men's matches in late 2020.

Melbourne is only the third city to welcome the critically acclaimed Harry Potter and the Cursed Child play following its world premiere in London. An unmissable experience of theatre and Harry Potter fans, tickets for the two-art show can be found online.



### WHAT'S NEW

Rain Room has made its
Southern Hemisphere debut
in Melbourne. A permanent
addition to the Jackalope Art
Collection, the 100 square
metre field of continuous
rainfall allows visitors to be
fully immersed within millions
of water droplets while
simultaneously protected
from it.

Di Stasio Citta is a unique, artinspired Melbourne venue that crosses Australia with Italy. Vibrant and dynamic, expect Italian classics cooked with carefully sourced ingredients alongside well-crafted wine and cocktail lists.

Experience the jaw-dropping coastline and granite rock

formations of Wilsons Promontory, Victoria's largest coastal wilderness area, on the new Pennicott Wilderness Journeys eco-boat-tour in the world's first, custom built amphibious boat.

The team behind Lake House Daylesford in the regional town of musk have raised the bar for immersive, experiential luxury with the opening of Dairy Flat Lodge and Farm. Featuring a vineyard, a bakehouse, a private lodge and 38-picturesque-acres of orchard and garden which generates some of the finest produce in the region.







# WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Journey across fiery red soils and pearly white sands. Swim, dive, snorkel or float above the brilliant turquoise-coloured waters. With a history and culture as colourful as its landscape, there's nothing quite like Western Australia. Combine this with fresh produce, premium wines, an abundance of sunshine and a thriving capital city and you have all the essential ingredients for an extraordinary holiday.

O Instagram: @westernaustralia

**f** Facebook: /extraordinarywesternaustralia

Twitter: @westaustralia

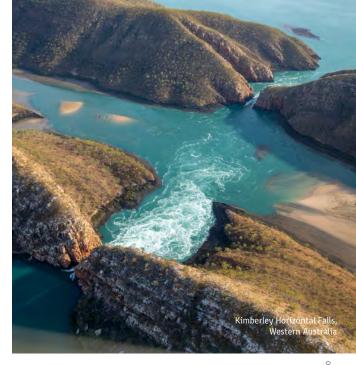




#### **ESPERANCE**

Remote and utterly remarkable, the town of Esperance has a coastline that would rival any in the world. Fine quartz sands edged by tumbles of rounded boulders and endless islands. Esperance is also the closest town to the sandy white beach of Lucky Bay, where kangaroos regularly visit.





#### **EXMOUTH AND NINGALOO REEF**

With the World Heritage-listed Ningaloo Reef only metres from its shores. Exmouth is a nature lover's dream. The world's largest fringing reef, this 260-kilometre long coral reef is swarming with turtles, tropical fish, manta rays, humpback whales and the elusive whale shark.

Gantheaume Point,

Western Australia

#### **KIMBERLEY AND BROOME**

Three times larger than England and with a population of less than 40,000, the Kimberley region – spread over Australia's entire north-western corner - is one of the world's last wilderness frontiers. Here you'll find wildlife, majestic canyons, freshwater swimming holes, several outback stations and the outback beach town of Broome.

#### **MARGARET RIVER**

Margaret River and its premium wine region is the place for indulging many passions. It's the only wine region in Australia where you can hop from award-winning wineries and restaurants to stunning beaches, tall-timber forests, world-class surf breaks and ancient caves.







#### SEE & DO

#### DRIVE THE GIBB RIVER ROAD

One of Australia's great road trips, this 660-kilometre journey takes red dirt roads through the heart of the Kimberley. Following an old cattle droving trail, the trip from Derby to Kununurra gives you access to some of the most remarkable scenery, including red rock gorges, dramatic waterfalls, Aboriginal culture and ancient forests. Along the way, sleep in style at lodges such as El Questro Homestead and Home Valley Station's Grass Castles.

#### DISCOVER THE LARGEST OUTBACK ART **GALLERY ON EARTH**

You don't expect to find an open-air art gallery in the outback, but internationally renowned sculptor Antony Gormlev chose the dry salt flats of Lake Ballard as the backdrop for 51 of his eyecatching sculptures. The delicate figures, spread across an area of 10 kilometres, are striking at any time of day but appear particularly surreal when the dawn light sweeps across the salt flats.





#### WITNESS NATURE AT ITS BEST IN BROOME

A tropical oasis of striking contrasts in both colour and culture. Broome is home to white beaches, turquoise water, rust red cliffs, rich Aboriginal heritage and a melting pot of Asian flavours. Affectionately known as 'pearl of the north'. stroll along the extraordinary 22-kilometre Cable Beach, or discover Australia's only horizontal waterfalls or ancient dinosaur footprints.



#### **EXPERIENCE REGIONAL WA WITH A** SIDE OF ART

An outdoor regional art gallery, The PUBLIC Silo Trail lays the foundations for one of the state's most iconic tourist drives. Painted on grain silos, six murals have been created as part of the project, with each surprising, distinctive and unique. Brightening silos in Northam, Merredin, Newdegate, Pingrup, Ravensthorpe and Albany, catch work from international street art star HENSE, worldknown artist Phleam and local Fremantle artist Amok.

#### **EAT & DRINK**

#### SAMPLE YOUR WAY THROUGH THE SOUTH WEST

With hundreds of vineyards, orchards, farms and groves, the Western Australia's South West region is a one-stop shop for all things gourmet. Visit world-renowned wineries in Margaret River, such as Vasse Felix, Cullen and Leeuwin Estate, and between June and August, vou can also indulge in the region's finest delicacy, black truffle, grown on farms in the Southern Forest area.

#### UNCOVER THE HEART OF THE CITY AND FREMANTLE

Sitting pretty on the shores of the Swan River, the everexpanding metropolis of Perth has welcomed new cultural, entertainment and sporting precincts, with plenty of new bars and restaurants. Kick off the day at one of the city's 19 pristine beaches, followed by a meal at a seaside venue like Island Market, Head into Northbridge for a taste of Perth's lively bar scene then dine on locally foraged produce at rooftop restaurant Wildflower Perth. This year will also see the redevelopment of Fremantle's Kings Square. with new retail and dining experiences on their way watch this space.



#### **DON'T MISS** IN 2020

Shinju Matsuri. The 'festival of the pearl' will celebrate its 50year anniversary in September. A festival based on Broome's unique community spirit, cultural diversity and vibrant history, it celebrates the four diverse cultures which have come together in Broome over the past century for pearls: Aboriginal Australian, Japanese, Malaysian and Chinese.

Western Australia Gourmet Escape. Having previously hosted culinary heavyweights, like Marco Pierre White, Nigella Lawson, David Chang and Heston Blumenthal, Gourmet Escape will return in November 2020. A selection of mouthwatering events will be held across the Perth, Swan Valley and Margaret River regions, featuring a mix of culinary and music stars, alongside hundreds of local producers.

#### **PLAN AHEAD** FOR 2021

Each year between March and July, whale sharks visit Ningaloo Reef allowing travellers to swim just metres away from these gentle giants. Visitors to Ningaloo can also enjoy underwater encounters with humpback whales, who migrate the waters of Ningaloo Reef annually between August and October.





#### WHAT'S NEW

Discovery Rottnest Island is the first new accommodation offering on Rottnest Island in over 30 years. Nestled behind the dunes of the iconic Pinky Beach, the resort offers 83 ecotents which are connected via paths and walkways through the sand dunes and native landscaping. The perfect place to sleep under the stars, take a #quokkaselfie or sip on poolside cocktails at the resorts Beach Club, Rottnest Island is a 90-minute ferry ride from Perth or 25 minutes from Fremantle.

The Adnate Art Series Hotel is Perth's latest hotel. 27 storeys high with 250 suites on offer, the hotel is fit with signature Art Series prints, artworks and furnishings. Also home to a chic new international food and beverage destination, enjoy Mediterranean cuisine and cocktails around the spectacular outdoor pool.



#### **INSIDER TIP**



Time your trip to coincide with the largest floral show on earth and watch as the landscape turns into a of colour. The wildflower season begins in the north in June on the vast outback plains of the Pilbara and Coral Coast. By September, it has reached Perth's botanical gardens, nature reserves and national parks, finishing with a flurry in November in the South West.



## AUSTRALIA

- New things to try in Australia
- Australia's food scene
- Australia's drink scene
- Sustainability and conservation in Australia
- Wellness in Australia
- Cultural Attractions of Australia
- Uniquely Australian bucket list experiences
- Australia's major events worth travelling for in 2020 and beyond









Among the many iconic activities that Australia boasts, 2020 brings an abundance of new experiences for you. Cheer along with the crowd at the ICC T20 World Cup cricket, indulge in one-of-a-kind food and spirits or experience the Great Barrier Reef like few others have.



### SLEEP IN AN UNDERWATER HOTEL ROOM ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

By day or night, the Great Barrier Reef is simply magical. The islands are unforgettable, the beaches are sparkling white and the colourful marine life is abundant. Now, travellers experience of this incredible underwater world doesn't have to end when they emerge from the ocean.

Reefsuites, Australia's first underwater accommodation, gives guests a front-row seat to the reef's residents through floor-to-ceiling windows in your fully submerged room. Located among the Whitsunday Islands on the Reefworld pontoon, experience not only the unforgettable accommodation, but also a dinner under the stars, a private guided snorkelling tour and a semi-submarine tour.



This new way of experiencing one of Australia's most famous natural wonders is a memory you'll never forget.



The first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, The Museum of Underwater Art launches in 2020 on the Great Barrier Reef. Discover art, science, culture and conservation 80-kilometres offshore.

#### **EXPLORE SYDNEY'S HIDDEN CORNERS**

If striking white sandy beaches, rustic coastal walks and trendy waterfront dining sound like your pictureperfect holiday, the Bondi to Manly walk is a must for your 2020 hotlist.

Explore Sydney's natural beauty on this scenic trail and discover the city's most dazzling spots and magnificent wildlife, all on one hike. And it's not just breathtaking views and a good day's exercise on this hike, travellers will also discover momentous spots

including the 200-year-old Mrs. Macquarie's Chair, the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the iconic Manly Beach.

The Bondi to Manly walk kicksoff on the trendy sands of
Bondi Beach, and continues for
another 80 kilometres curving
along the coast, with plenty
of spots to take a breather
overnight or join in at various
points. Traveller can take an
overnight pitstop at Taronga
Zoo Wildlife Retreat for an
elegant evening overlooking
the idyllic landscape of Sydney

Harbour or enjoy 1920's Mediterranean coastal dining at its finest at the newly reopened Bathers Pavilion at Balmoral's beachfront is a perfect spot for beachside fish and chips along the route.







#### TREAT YOURSELF TO A GOURMET ESCAPE

Western Australia is spoiled with sensational produce, from Geraldton lobsters to Manjimup truffles. So, it's no wonder the state celebrates its stunning food and wine with an epic ten-day Gourmet Escape. In November, the Western Australia Gourmet Escape will span from the Margaret River region to include Perth and the Swan Valley. In past years the festival has drawn big names such as Nigella Lawson, Curtis Stone and Rick Stein, but the program of events includes far more than chef talks. Dine at a gourmet beach BBQ, sip chardonnay at long-table lunches among the vines and indulge in some of the country's most pristine produce.

#### CHEER ALONG AT A CRICKET MATCH

Few sports are as important to the Australian way of life as cricket. In 2020, Australia will host one of the most exciting cricket events of the year - the ICC T20 World Cup. The best men's and women's teams from around the world will battle it out in capital cities across the country. The ICC Women's T20 World Cup, held in February and March of 2020, will be the biggest women's sporting event ever staged in Australia. The ICC Men's T20 World Cup. held in October and November of 2020, will be played across seven cities. Choose to attend the action-packed matches in Sydney, Melbourne, Geelong, Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane and Hobart.



UrbnSurf, Victoria

Plan your trip to Melbourne to coincide with the annual Easter long weekend Rip Curl Pro on Bells Beach and watch the world's best male and female surfers go head-to-head.

#### LEARN TO RIDE LIKE A PRO

Looking to ride the perfect wave? Hop off the plane at Melbourne and within minutes surfers can be riding at Australia's first wave Chris Hemsworth's footsteps and carve your way through unlimited epic barrels on this customised lagoon, serving up the most delicious waves in the state for you to ride. Offering 1,000 waves and 3,600 surfable positions every hour, this pumping park is the ideal place for individuals of all surfing abilities to improve their skills in safe and controlled







## **EXPERIENCE TASMANIA'S NEWEST ADVENTURES**

Located just a 55-minute flight off Australia's South Coast, the island-state of Tasmania is bursting with history, colour, wildlife, and plenty of new experiences to be discovered in 2020. Start your trip by tucking into some of the juiciest and delicious seafood in Australia on an Oyster Bay Tour — new for 2020.

Freycinet Marine Farm, located on the spectacular Freycinet peninsula, is inviting travellers to join them on an authentic oyster

> Book a room at the newly opened Georgian Moss Hotel in Hobart and be moments away from untouched Tasmanian wilderness and the city's hidden treasures.

farm tasting experience. Wade out into the pristine waters, soak up the wonderfully fresh Tasmanian air and collect high-quality pacific oysters and mussels among the mecca of wildlife that surrounds these waters. The only thing better than eating seafood straight out of the ocean is picking it yourself.



## UNCOVER THE COOL IN AUSTRALIA'S CAPITAL CITY

Quirky fine dining, exquisite world-class art and hot air balloon rides are all on the menu in Canberra. Start your trip with a visit to the National Gallery of Australia to see Van Gogh's famous shades of yellow. For the first time in history the gallery will host the Sunflowers painting from November 2020 to February 2021, as well as other works of art that date back as far as 1640. If there's any time to

soak up the city's art scene, it's now.

Next up, delve into the delicious menu of the newly opened David Bowie-inspired, Rebel Rebel. This charismatic restaurant owned by head chef of the well-established and trendy Monster Kitchen, dishes up all-day dining at a fair price for you to enjoy under artistic architecture.



## SIP INSPIRED SPIRITS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

It's true that South Australia boasts beautiful wine, but the same regions that produce top drops are also known for their unique take on spirits. Just a one-hour drive from Adelaide is the Adelaide Hills Distillery, which has collaborated with Indigenous-owned Something Wild to create Green Ant Gin—made with hand-harvested green ants for pops of lime and coriander flavour. Just twenty minutes away is Ambleside

Distillers; relax with a handcrafted cocktail or sign up for a gin blending experience. You'll choose from over 20 botanicals to create your own unique blend. Continue your journey to the Barossa – try the Shiraz Gin at Barossa Distilling Company – and finally to the Clare Valley to follow the famous Riesling Trail.

North East Road, Inglewood, South Australia

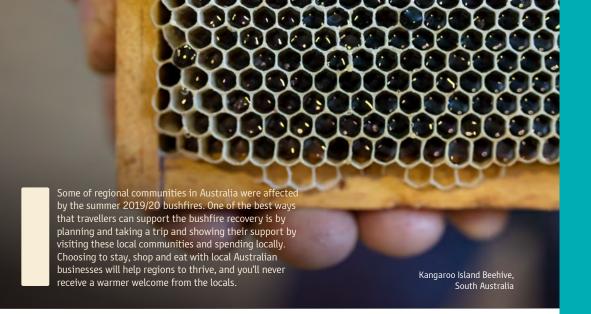






Unpretentious, authentic and pared back - the latest trends on the Australian culinary scene can just as easily be used to describe the passionate Aussies that are leading the charge. It's all about going back to basics by getting your hands dirty, rediscovering ageold techniques and championing sustainable practices and the dedicated local producers that put quality above all else.





#### **REGIONAL DINING**

Recent rumblings in regional Australia have put the spotlight on a new wave of restaurants rivalling their big city siblings. By tapping into the best in class produce of their region, these restaurants are staking a claim for a new Australian regional cuisine found nowhere else on Earth, and they're dotted across the countryside.

Leading from the front is Victoria's Brae, awarded one of the best restaurants in the world. It's heavily supported by other outstanding establishments in the state: Oakridge, The Royal Mail, The Lake House and Doot Doot Doot.

From the northern end of New South Wales, specifically around the Byron Bay region, comes the culinary kudos of Harvest, Paper Daisy, Fleet and Three Blue Ducks. Further south, foraging and seasonal change curate the menus of Muse, St. Isidore, Margan and Biota Dining as well the epitome of Australian country restaurant Clementine, found in the sleepy southern town of Yass outside of Canberra.

In South Australia The Summertown Aristologist, Appellation and Hentley Farm Restaurant have been monumental in the recent evolution of the state's food scene and represent not only the stunning produce of the region, but the communal and welcoming nature its residents.

The Long Apron and Harrisons by Spencer Patrick are setting regional Queensland alight, while Cullen Wines and Vasse Felix are putting Western Australia's best produce on a plate.





#### **FARM STAYS AND AGRI-KITCHENS**

There are few things more relaxing than leaving the big cities and absorbing the natural beauty of Australia. Of late this experience has been made even more magnificent with a proliferation of farm stays that give you a comfortable place to rest your head and also deliver a feast to be reckoned with. Australia is now dotted with exceptional eat-and-stay locations, where chefs utilise the land to grow the produce they cook in their kitchen. From Sydney, enjoy the landscape at Cooks Co-op, among the vines in the famous Hunter Valley region at Margan, or on the coast

at Cottage Point Inn or Bells at Killcare. Around Canberra, enjoy the farmhouse restaurant at Piallagio Estate and its market garden, winery and smokehouse.

Head to the Adelaide Hills to embrace the glorious harmony of the land and plate at Hentley Farm or retreat to Foragers Field Kitchen and Cooking School in Western Australia's truffle region for a convivial feast on a communal table. If cooler climates take your fancy, Red Feather Inn showcases Tasmania's excellent produce in heritage surrounds, with an acclaimed adjacent cooking school.



#### BRUNCH – BEYOND EGGS AND SMASHED AVO ON TOAST

No one does brunch quite like Australia. Breakfast – as a meal to start the day – has morphed into brunch – an occasion to savour. A fun get-together with tasty food, great coffee in a lively atmosphere.

Part of Australian culture, and a big part of many Aussies' Saturday morning routine, across the nation you can find a host of eateries offering all-day dining with dishes created by some of the country's best chefs. And with Australia's passion for coffee running deep, it won't be difficult to find a great espresso or latte.

In Sydney, head to Lankan Filling Station, for sweet hoppers with caramelised jaggery and whipped coconut or, to Melbourne's Lune Croissanterie, for bedrock Aussie flavours and French fabulousness with Lune flair. South Brisbane's Gauge offer up black garlic bread with brown butter, and Hobart's Pidgeon Hole serves up miso roasted Granola with dried fruit.





# AUSTRALIA'S DRINK SCENE Australia's drinks landscape is unrecognisable today compared with a decade ago. Natural wine, craft beer and hyperlocal spirits are the

Australia's drinks landscape is unrecognisable today compared with a decade ago. Natural wine, craft beer and hyperlocal spirits are the new normal, and there's been a groundswell of non-alcoholic innovation from creative bartenders and producers.



# THE RISE OF NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKING

Whether you're abstinent or just looking to skip the booze, you can now find a range of 100% alcohol-free options that offer up the same complex and deep flavour profiles of alcoholic drinks in Australia's top bars and restaurant.

When dining out, find carefully curated non-alcoholic drinks pairing options at Momofuku Seiōbo in Sydney and Attica in Melbourne. You can also spot zero-alcohol craft beer Sobah, NON a zero-alcohol wine alternative, and alcohol-free spirits Brunswick Aces and Altd distilled with Australia botanicals at good food and drink venues across Australia.

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## AUSTRALIA'S GIN BOOM

With an explosion of new bars, festivals and masterclasses all dedicated to the spirit, Australia's gin industry is one of the fastest growing and most diverse in the world. It is estimated that Australia even has more distilleries than Scotland, with more than 150 gin distilleries scattered across the country.

Home to a variety of incredible native botanicals alongside classical botanicas,





like juniper, a new wave of artisan distillers setting out to create their own unique blends with everything from green ants to sheep whey – which in turn are winning awards and dominating on the international stage.

In 2019, South Australia's Never Never Gin was named the world's best classic gin at the World Gin Awards 2019 in London and soon after, Four Pillars took out the ultimate title of 2019 International Gin Producer of the Year at the International Wine & Spirits Competition, also in London.



#### **URBAN DISTILLING**

Australian distilling is no longer a new trend but shaking up the industry is a recent increase in trendy distilleries cropping up in urban areas along with boundary-pushing operators and producers who are experimenting with uniquely Australia flavours. Now, travellers can experience top quality gins, vodkas, whiskies and rums on a tour, tasting or masterclass without ever leaving the city limits.

Sydney started it all with the opening of Archie Rose, which was shortly followed by a spattering of others taking their own spin on spirits.

Manly Spirits Co. creates botanical vodka and whisky blends inspired by its beach location, while Poor Toms Gin Hall is the quintessential experimental hipster outfit. In Surry Hills, you'll find Brix

Distillers creating spiced rums just minutes from the city centre

Melbourne's Starward led the way in Victoria with its approachable take on a modern Australian whisky, matured for three "Melbourne years" in Australian wine barrels; the result is distinctly Australian. Little Lon Distilling Co., housed in Melbourne centre's last remaining singlestory house, makes smallbatch gins.

In Adelaide, Prohibition
Liquor Co. was inspired
by the bootleggers of
the prohibition era, but
they've taken the artisan
route to create a premium
product. Twenty Third Street
Distillery on Melbourne
is a new outlet for the
Renmark stalwart, allowing
city dwellers to experience

the craftsmanship behind the resurrected distillery (originally built in 1914) in the Murray River region.

In Perth, Whipper Snapper Distillery use 100 per cent local grains, showcasing their commitment to provenance with a range if spirits on offer including traditional moonshine, barrel-aged moonshine and a bourbonstyle whisky.



#### **ORANGE WINE**

Orange, or amber, wines represent the resurgence of ancient winemaking techniques and lost skills that have been rediscovered by today's winemakers. With its pastel shade, you could be forgiven for mistaking it for a rose. It couldn't be more different.

In simple terms, they are white wines that have been made using the same processes as reds - with extended skin contact. This results in a full-body, intense flavour that more closely resembles a red wine than a

white. This makes them ideal for food pairings, and the novelty is taking the winedrinking world by storm.

They're generally made on a small scale, so head to Australia's wine regions and seek out small cellar doors to taste some of these unique drops or quietly pass an afternoon in one of the hip city wine bars such as Sydney's Love, Tilley Devine and The Dolphin Wine Room, or Marion in Melbourne's Fitzroy.



# SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSERVATION IN AUSTRALIA

In Australia, the collective consciousness around sustainability is growing and zero waste or low impact travel is on the rise. From dining at eco-conscious restaurants and bars, to activities that benefit the wider community, sustainability and conscious travel is more important than ever.

For the Australian tourism industry, responsible tourism has risen further up the agenda and is becoming an integral part of business decisions and planning, with many companies announcing plans to reduce their

carbon footprint and make holidaying more sustainable in the long term.

Conscious travellers that are considering the wider social and economic impact of their travels will find plenty of experiences that contribute to local communities and wildlife in Australia. Whether you engage in the works of a wildlife conservancy, discuss ancient art forms with local Aboriginal artists, or choose to shop with local producers, travellers can feel good about their next trip to Australia with these experiences.



Eco-conscious travellers looking to minimise their environmental footprint will find a huge range of eco-friendly accommodation options on offer, with operators providing responsible and educational stays, that respects both the natural environment and the traveller.

A stay at New South Wales' Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley isn't just about specular valleys and private pools, it's also about the locally sourced dishes in the on-site restaurants and the property's dedication to sustainability. A global leader in sustainable tourism, One&Only Wolgan Valley was the first carbon-neutral hotel in the world, and it continues to receive this certification

from CarbonZero every year. Take part in conservation efforts (plant trees, survey wombats, assess habitats and test water quality), or simply relax knowledge that your choice of stay is a responsible one.

Or in South Australia's rugged Flinders Ranges, Arkaba, home to just five guestrooms with stunning bush landscapes, invites guests to engage with the land, wildlife and their conservation work while enjoying the privacy of a luxury lodge. Set on 60,000 acres of bushland, it has changed the lives of over five million native animals thanks to its conservation efforts.

The first solar powered resort on the Great Barrier

# SUSTAINABLE DINING WITH SOPHISTICATION

With a shift towards zero-waste, a wave of new sustainable restaurants are curating their menus to make the most of their seafood, meat and produce. The best part? They're doing so in a classic Aussie, no-fuss style that showcases the food at its finest - fresh, simple and unpretentious.

Lake House, located 1.5 hours from Melbourne in Daylesford, is not only a luxury lodge with a consistently lauded restaurant and cooking school, but also a leader in nurturing an entire community of



local producers all driven by sustainable practices. The twohatted Lake House restaurant is a genuine example of paddock-to-plate dining, with a menu full of seasonal dishes - using what's available, what's local and what's best quality. Reef, Elysian Retreat in the Whitsundays, offers guests a blissful escape in their all-inclusive retreat catering to maximum of 20 guests at one time. Boasting a locally sourced island menu, personalised organic spa treatments and aquatic adventures to cater to individual needs, this new sustainable luxury eco resort offers it all.



Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley Resort, New South Wales

Other great examples of sustainable and innovative Australian restaurants include: Nomad and Saint Peters in Sydney, and Pipit Pottsville in New South Wales, Attica in Melbourne Victoria, Fervor in Kakadu Western Australia and The Summertown Aristologist Adelaide Hills south Australia.



## GET GREENING IN AUSTRALIA'S CITIES WITH URBAN FARMS

While the farm-to-fork concept isn't new, city-dwellers and urban travellers desire to connect with agriculture and food production has led to an increase in Australian urban developers going green.

Visitors to Australia can expect to find more urban farms popping up across Australia, along with restaurants and accommodation options offering hands-on experiences to allow guests to 'get greening', no matter where they find themselves in Australia.

Touted as one of the most sustainable supermarkets in the world, Melbourne's newest shopping centre. Burwood Brickworks, features a rooftop farm, renewable energy generation, and wastewater recycling system. After picking up souvenirs from the stores below, head to the rooftop Acre Farm and Eatery and help plant vegetables that, a few weeks later, will be consumed at the onsite restaurant. The sister site to Sydney's Acre Eatery attend workshops, talks or get their hands at both Acre Farms.



As the world's first Indigenousdesigned urban rooftop farm, the newly opened Yerrabingin in Sydney's inner-city suburb of Redfern, offers travellers the chance to learn first-hand about Aboriginal culture and native ingredients. Offering a series of events, workshops and tours, Yerrabingin, aims to rehabilitate threatened species. The financially sustainable project also sells edible native plants to nearby cafes and some of Sydney's chefs including Kylie Kwong.

## HELP SUPPORT AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE WILDLIFE

Australia's wildlife parks and sanctuaries play a vital role in conservation efforts for Australia's native animals, meaning adding a wildlife experience onto your next trip can help to support these incredible creatures.

For those looking to directly support wildlife affected by the unprecedented summer 2019/20 bushfires, can take an active role in rehabilitating habitat to support wild animal populations through Australian Wildlife Journeys' new series 'Conservation Action Days' running across multiple locations in July and August. Combining conservation projects such as tree planting, weed eradication and wildlife

observation for species such as koalas, glossy-black cockatoos, the action days are timed to create meaningful impact on local ecosystems.

In East Gippsland Victoria, Echidna Walkabout Nature Tours is now operating their Wildlife Journey (4-day) tour on a modified itinerary. Venture across East Gippsland's magnificent lush rainforests. coastal heathlands, giant eucalypt groves, white sandy beaches and pristine rivers, and encounter an incredible array of species. What's great about this tour is that Echidna Walkabout Nature Tours is internationally recognised in wildlife in the wild conservation travel, with 50%



of all profits used to support their mission.

For those visiting Australia's capital cities, support by stopping into the wildlife centres that have supported by treating animals affected by the bushfires including Taronga Zoo in Sydney, Zoos South Australia in Adelaide and Zoos Victoria in Melbourne.





Australia is home to a wealth of unforgettable experiences, but few are as profound - or personal - as the journeys you can take into Aboriginal cultures. Warm, welcoming and generous of spirit. travellers are invited to share in and experience exquisite art, ancient pilgrimages and unrivalled adventures. To share, discuss and learn from Australia's traditional custodians is a truly special privilege, and for many, a treasured spiritual connection with place.

Steeped in creation stories that interconnect spirituality, the land, lore, social life and care of the environment, passed down for tens of thousands of years – Aboriginal culture has endured the ages to become the oldest living culture on the planet today. What's even more remarkable is that the preservation of Aboriginal culture is largely attributed to the art of oral storytelling through verbal teachings, song, music, art, dance, ceremony and ritual.

With the arrival of settlers to the continent and ongoing modernisation, ancient storytelling and sharing of culture has evolved and diversified, even if the stories themselves have not. While storytelling remains at the heart of sharing Aboriginal culture, today it takes many forms, incorporating modern technology, tourism and digital media, creating a wealth of unique cultural experiences across the continent that ensure the past continues into the future.

In the Northern Territory's heartland, near the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Uluru, Maruku Arts has been contributing to cultural sustainability for over 30 years, helping to preserve Aboriginal practises like painting, drawing and carving through sharing these traditions with visitors and local employment.

Owned by the Anangu people, here you can peruse an extensive range of paintings and distinctive punu (wooden carvings) by some 900 Anangu artists. Beyond the retail gallery, this outback art centre offers hands-on dot-painting workshops, where travellers will be guided by a local Anangu artist to learn about traditional art form, symbols and tools.

Australia's Red Centre is also rich in archaeological sites that highlight the incomparable age of Aboriginal culture. Further north in the lands surrounding Uluru, SEIT Outback Australia will guide you to Cave Hill, where a painted cave ceiling illustrates parts of the ancient Seven Sisters creation story. Along the way, you'll also gain insights into traditional food gathering, bush tucker and ancient rituals, before returning to your accommodation.

North of Sydney in Port
Stephens, Sand Dune
Adventures combines cultural
preservation with quad biking
in their high-energy tours of
Stockton Beach sand dunes –
the largest coastal sand dunes
in the Southern Hemisphere.
Lead by local Aboriginal
guides, the tour gives
travellers exclusive access to
Aboriginal land, taking them







on an unforgettable journey where they'll learn about traditional Aboriginal food and history, as well as the cultural significance of the dunes.

In Tasmania's Bay of Fires, the wukalina Walk is one of the most meaningful walks in Australia. Led by a palawa guide, trace the footsteps of traditional custodians on the cultural homeland of wukalina and larapuna. This four-day journey will allow guests to hear palawa creation stories first-hand and participate in cultural practices passed down through generations.



SEIT Outback Australia,



Spirits of the Red Sand, Queensland



garan Ngaran Culture Awareness, New South Wales





### AUSTRALIA'S ANCIENT ART OF WELLNESS

Think wellness is just superfoods, day spas and mindfulness? Not in Australia. With wellness practises dating back tens of thousands of years, a closer look reveals Aboriginal healers that have nurtured the physical, emotional and social wellbeing of their peoples through food, massage, bush medicines and ceremony.

Australia's native ingredients have long been used as medicine by Aboriginal People with astonishing health qualities. For instance, the Kakadu plum, which grows in northern Australia, has the highest vitamin C content of any fruit in the world, while the lemon myrtle herb is rich in calcium, and endemic wattle seed is exceptionally high in protein, iron and zinc.

To taste and learn about this incredible bush tucker, Mandoon Estate outside of Perth offers a unique opportunity to listen to the stories of this area and learn about local Indigenous food and culture from Noongar Elder, Dale Tilbrook. Or, tour with Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Experience, near Kings Canyon in the central Northern Territory, and taste witchetty grub (an insect that produces a nutty, popcorn flavour when cooked).

On the south coast of New South Wales, Dwayne Bannon-Harrison runs Ngaran Ngaran Culture Awareness which introduces people to medicinal



plants, and Aboriginal healing methods. Using meditative vibration and song as a form of sound therapy, the traditional Djirringanj sunrise ceremony recognises that each day is unique and must be lived well – a ritual that speaks to the mindfulness so many of us now practice.

Ceremony and bush healing are also key to the Yolngu, a language group found in the Northern Territory's remote Arnhem Land. There, traditions are still a part of everyday life. Lirrwi Tourism's Dilly Bag Tour for Women is one way that Yolngu women are actively teaching and sharing their 'women's business' practices that are strictly open to that gender, staying true to the ancient culture. The experience includes a crying ceremony, a profoundly moving, communal event that mixes suffering with solace.



### A-BEAUTY, THE NEW K-BEAUTY

Known officially in skincare circles as the A-beauty movement, the rest of the world is fast catching on as time-poor people veto multistep beauty routines in favour of the Aussie way. Highlighting natural, pure ingredients that work extra hard to protect and nourish, A-beauty is basically the opposite of the complicated multi-step K-beauty routine.

For those looking to stock up while down under, every A-beauty kit should have the following products: a gentle cleanser, an antioxidant-packed treatment, a nourishing moisturiser, and a high-protection sunscreen. Look out for Australian native ingredients like locally frown desert peach, desert lime, Kakadu plum and wattleseed.

In the second half of 2020, Australian beauty retailer Mecca will take over a multilevel space in the 91-yearold Gowinas Buildina in Sydney to create the biggest beauty store in the southern hemisphere. Before then, browse hundreds of stores across Australia for easydoes-it beauty brands such as Go-to and Frank Body, skincare brands packed with native Australian ingredients including Dr Roebucks and Rohr Remedy, and make sure you stock up on some of the world's best everyday sunscreens with high SPF protection such as Mecca's To Save Face SPF50+ Superscreen.



RECHARGE IN AUSTRALIA'S WELLNESS EPICENTRE OR GO OFF GRID FOR A DIGITAL DETOX

The wellness epicentre of Australia, Byron Bay is considered one of the best locations to revive, refresh or detox. Dine at health-minded restaurants, relax at a wellness retreat or simply chill out at the beach. There's also plenty of activities, such as yoga and meditation, on offer in the town itself and its surrounding hinterland

In the lush hinterland find Gaia Retreat & Spa. With 14 treatment rooms and more than 35 healers and therapists, revive with range of retreat packages ranging from 2 - 7 days. A typical day starts with yoga, then guest can choose from a range of activities including art therapy, personal training or one of the many treatments offered on the spa

menu. Meals at the retreat draw on Gaia's own organic garden and, at dinner, guests can even enjoy a glass of organic wine.

With such a vast landscape, there are countless other remote areas across Australia that make the perfect backdrop to unplug from the daily grind. For the ultimate off the grid experience, look no further than Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef in Western Australia. Bordering world's largest coral reef that you can swim to from the shore, this beach safari camp is designed to help guest escape the distractions of everyday life, making it perfect for those seeking a digital detox.

Or to get a taste of off-the-grid living without traveling too far from the big cities, In2thewild,

Unyoked and CABN all offer luxury off-grid tiny houses set amongst the pristine natural Australian landscape. With all the amenities of a modern-day hotel, most are less than a few hours' drive from Australia's capital cities.

2019 saw the launch of two new tiny, super-instaworthy CABN properties in South Australia's Adelaide Hills. With views of McLaren Vale, find the new CABN Kuipto (Matilda) and CABN Georgia nestled amongst the wilderness. Both perfect for a modern-day minimalist escape, it would be rude not to pour a glass of wine from this famed region as you sit back and relax to the sounds of the native wildlife.

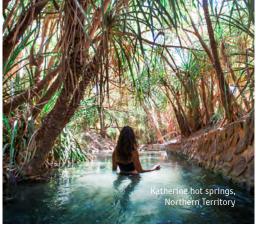


# AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL SPAS THAT WON'T COST YOU A CENT

Travellers looking to soak in a spa bath will be pleased to know that a spectacular range of natural spas, hot springs and fresh watering holes can be found all over Australia – and most won't cost you a cent!







#### **NATURAL SPAS**

The Champagne Pools on Queensland's Fraser Island are named for their natural fizz, created by waves crashing over the rocks. Similar quirks of geology have provided quite a few of these natural spas around the nation: The Cardwell Spa Pools in Tropical North Queensland, Noosa's Fairy Pools, also in Queensland, or the Wyadup Spa in Margaret River, Western Australia.

If you like your rock pools bubble-free, you are spoilt for choice, from unnamed pools at Whalers Way on South Australia's rugged Eyre Peninsula, to Elephant Rocks near Denmark, Western Australia and the pools at back beach at Blairgowrie on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula.

#### **HOT SPRINGS**

The warm, thermal-fed, clear waters of Bitter Springs, and Mataranka Springs near Katherine in the Northern Territory, are great for spotting freshwater turtles, and even have a gentle current, so you can float from one end to the other.

In Victoria, Daylesford and Hepburn Springs are home to more than 140 mineral springs, with resorts that allow you to soak up their health-giving properties in luxury. Try the Lake House Daylesford or the Hepburn Springs Bathhouse to combine a soak with some more indulgent therapies. Head down to the Mornington Peninsula to experience the day spa at Peninsula Hot Springs.



#### FRESHWATER SWIMMING

You'll find plenty of that in the bush and outback, where swimming holes are often fed by spectacular waterfalls. Gunlom Falls in the Northern Territory's Kakadu National Park is nature's ultimate infinity pool.

In Western Australia's remote Kimberley region you'll find spots such as Emma Gorge and Zebedee Springs; further west still, exploring Karijini National Park, you can freshen up in amazing swimming holes such as Kermits Pool.



















## NEW SOUTH WALES

Whether for a weekend stay or a full week of rejuvenation, the all-inclusive health and wellness programs available at Golden Door Health Retreat are perfect to give you a fresh lease on life. Experience a holistic blend of exercise, nutrition, health education, relaxation and spa indulgence, the program has been specially developed to motivate change and give you the tools you need for lasting results.

#### SOUTH Australia

Head to South Australia's rugged Kangaroo Island (known as Australia's Galapagos) for a complete lifestyle reboot. Kangaroo Island Health Retreat's five-day Dynamic Detox program isn't for the faint of heart: only six people at a time with reasonable fitness can undergo the program at the haven overlooking Emu Bay on the island's north coast. Daily activities include beach and country walks of up to 10 kilometres (six miles), while meals include soups and fruit platters.

#### TASMANIA

At Harmony Harvest Health Retreat, a 30-minute drive south of Hobart in Tasmania, it's possible to check in for just a day's worth of rejuvenation. The one day Relax Retreat program includes healthy meals delivered to your two-storey eco cottage (where a spa bath sits in a striking glass-walled sunroom), along with deep tissue massages and a detox mud treatment for two. Stay five nights and treatments include reflexology, an organic facial, chakra healing massage, spiritual consultation and more.

#### **QUEENSLAND**

Stay for two days or stretch it out to seven at Gwinganna Lifestyle Retreat in the Gold Coast hinterland. Try the ancient art of qi gong (a form of tai chi) while watching the sun rise over the distant Pacific Ocean. Explore the 16 walking trails or join a dance session before refuelling with an organic lunch. Afternoons are designated as dreamtime: nap, swim or read a book.



#### **VICTORIA**

Wade into the healing waters of Victoria's spa country (home to 141 mineral springs) at Hepburn Bathhouse & Spa. The historic spa, which has been around since 1895, is today a thoroughly modern affair, with communal bathing (swimming costumes are mandatory) in the mineral relaxation pool and salt therapy pool, as well as private tubs in the spa. The complex also includes an outdoor creekside spa pool and a Moroccan-style hammam. The Hepburn area's therapeutic mineral springs are rich with potassium, magnesium, silica and chloride.

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

East of Western Australia's famous Margaret River wine region is Bridgetown, home to the KalyaaNa Spa & Wellness Retreat. The exotic name – a Sanskrit word that translates as "the wellbeing of others" - says it all. This peaceful retreat focuses on rejuvenation and relaxation. Guests can indulge in healthy meals such as acai bowls with bee pollen, chia-spiked smoothies, pho, falafel, grilled vegetable stacks and zucchini pasta. Activities include biking, birdwatching, bushwalking and feeding the resident alpacas.

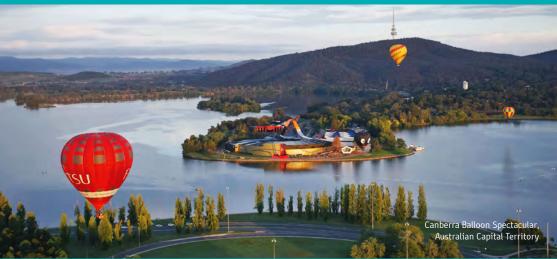
# CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS OF AUSTRALIA











n 2019, Signature Experiences of Australia welcomed its newest partner, Cultural Attractions of Australia (CAOA), a collective of iconic Australian cultural tourism attractions and museums that together tell the story of how our varied geographic, ethnic and cultural origins have been embraced and have shaped the way we define the nation.

The collective includes Adelaide Oval, Arts Centre Melbourne, Australian War Memorial, Australian Parliament House, Fremantle Prison, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Mona (Museum of Old and New Art), National Anzac Centre, National Gallery of Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, Opera Australia, Port Arthur Historic Site, Qantas Founders Museum, Sovereign Hill, Sydney Opera House and WA Maritime Museum.

Each of these institutions has developed one or more exclusive premium experiences, which provide unrivalled insight, access and

attention for guests. With 22 unforgettable experiences, ranging in price from \$140 to \$50,000 per person, they are some of Australia's most exclusive experiences.

As part of the collective, each year there are a limited number of opportunities to secure a walk-on role and star in show at the Sydney Opera House with Opera Australia. The role allows traveller to experience not only the spotlight on stage, but behind the scenes as well, as they are fitted with a handmade costume, rehearse with the Assistant Director and finally appear on stage for a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Hobart's Museum of Old and New Art (Mona) is one of Tasmania's most exciting attractions, but visitors can skip the queues and crowds with a customisable private tour. Enjoy a private boat ride down the Derwent River, which will bring you right to the entrance to Mona. Wander through the exhibitions - both strange



and spectacular - and afterwards, indulge in a tasting at the cellar door or a degustation at the onsite restaurant. For an even more in-depth experience, consider booking a Dinner with David, where you'll not only enjoy a private museum tour by Mona's head curator and a stay at the five-star Mona Pavilions, but also sit down to a private dinner with the man behind it all – art collector, David Walsh.

At the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) in Melbourne, get ready for an evening of art, music, fine dining and wine with the private gallery dinner: The Banquet of Cleopatra. Enjoy exclusive access to the gallery, meet at the iconic water wall entrance before being escorted on a private tour of the highlights of the NGV's international art collection. The evening also includes intimate live music performances and an indulgent dinner set in front of the NGV's revered masterpiece, Giambattista Tiepolo's The Banquet of Cleopatra.

# UNIQUELY AUSTRALIAN BUCKET LIST EXPERIENCES

From the food and wine to the accommodation and natural scenery, Australia is a destination full of extraordinary nowhere else in the word experiences. Swim through serene waters with whale sharks before falling asleep in a luxe lodge and waking up to a majestic sunrise.







# Hot air balloon sunrise, Australian Capital Territory

#### **GO BELOW-DECKS AT AUSTRALIA'S PARLIAMENT HOUSE**

Get behind-the-scenes access to Australian Parliament House, along with a dining experience usually reserved for visiting dignitaries with a More Than Politics tour in Australia's Capital Territory. Explore Australia's ancient beginnings in the impressive Parliament House forecourt, gain insight into architect Romaldo Giurgola's unique vision for the building and walk away with stories of one of Australia's lesser known but most significant collections - the exclusive Parliamentary Art and Furniture Collections. Visit other usually off-limits spaces, before finishing with a high tea prepared by the in-house chefs alongside a local gin tasting.



#### HELICOPTER OVER THE HEART OF AUSTRALIA

A sight to behold from any angle, Uluru in the Northern Territory is unforgettable. To get a sense of its enormity and see the fissures and crevices worn into its ancient surface, travellers can scale this famous natural landmark by air. Choose your flight of fancy from a range of short, day-long and sunset tours or book a charter flight get a new thrilling aerial perspective of this incredible icon. Travellers can compete this awe-inspiring experience with a stay at one of Australia's most awarded luxury lodge's Longitude 131°, or stay at one of five Ayres Rock Resort properties.

#### SEE AUSTRALIAN HISTORY FROM A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE

In Australia Capital Territory, travellers can take to the skies on a privately flown hot air balloon ride over Canberra's magnificent scenery to the National Museum of Australia on a In, Above and Behind the Scenes tour. Based on the shores of Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin, enter Australia's national museum before the doors open to the public with a private tour and explore compelling objects from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and European settlement. To finish, enjoy a champagne breakfast served with stunning views across the lake.



#### TAKE AN AIRBOAT SAFARI OF MARY RIVER'S WETLANDS

At Bamurru Plains lodge on the edge of Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory it's custom to head out in their airboat on to the floodplains. The floodplain wetlands of the Mary River catchment are the key natural feature of this area and some of the most important in the country, home to thousands of Magpie Geese, Plumed Whistling-Duck, Egrets, Ibis and a host of other birds. Guides will provide a hands-on demonstration of the many uses of the flora from the wetlands whilst drifting through a melaleuca forest or scoping crocodiles slowly swimming among the floodplain grasses. A morning trip out on the floodplains in an airboat is utterly exhilarating and the only way to truly experience the Top End environment.



#### HIKE MOUNT GOWER ON LORD HOWE ISLAND

With only 400 visitors allowed on the island at any time, and just 300 permanent residents, a visit to Lord Howe Island off the coast of New South Wales is a truly a bucket list destination. On the island, keen hikers can climb Mount Gower which rises some 852m from the sea directly in front of the luxury Capella Lodge. Rated one of the world's ten best hikes, a guided walk takes around eight hours and provides incredible views of World Heritage-listed Island. Climb the steep trail before reaching a cloud forest at the mountain's summit, then return for a well-earned sunset drink.



#### DREAMTIME DIVE THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Queensland's Dreamtime Dive & Snorkel experience offers guests a rare opportunity to explore the Great Barrier Reef accompanied by Aboriginal guides from the region, whose traditional ownership of sea country stretches from the Frankland Islands south of Cairns to Port Douglas in its north. Departing from Cairns, guests will embark on a day-long adventure of guided snorkel tours and learning about the ancient relationships between man, marine creatures and the ecosystem they've shared for tens of thousands of years. Launched in late 2018 by Reef Magic Cruises, it is the first – and only – experience that celebrates north Queensland's Aboriginal maritime heritage.



#### **CLIMB THE SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE**

Climbing the arch of the Sydney Harbour Bridge is a thrill like no other. It's a long way down from the top, but the view of the world's greatest harbour and the glittering city spread out below your feet is unbeatable. Before you go, BridgeClimb will kit travellers out with a climbing suit and a harness that is linked to a secure, static line. It's an easy walk but has lots of steps. Sunrise, daytime, sunset and night-time climbs are available, as well as climbs that go just halfway for those nervous about heights.



#### EXPLORE THE HEART OF THE WHITSUNDAYS LIKE NEVER BEFORE

In a world-first, guest to Hamilton Island can now gain unprecedented access to the iconic Heart Reef lagoon in Queensland with the launch of 'Heart Island'. After a decade of development, this is the first-time visitors will be able to see the intricacies of the iconic coral formation up close, with only scenic flights previously being offered to the area. Exclusive to guests of Hamilton Island and designed to look as if it was built for James Bond himself, Heart Island is only accessible via helicopter. Developed by Hamilton Island Air, the state-of-the-art split-level pontoon caters for only six quests at a time.







#### CAGE DIVE (OR NOT) WITH GREAT WHITE SHARKS

Port Lincoln, on the Eyre Peninsula's east coast in South Australia, is home to some of the world's largest great white sharks, with a handful of local cage diving operators offering the chance to meet them face-to-face. If the thought of diving doesn't appeal, Adventure Bay Charters with the world's first Aqua sub means travellers can still see sharks up close underwater without getting wet. The best bit, Adventure Bay Charters use the animal-friendly technique of underwater music to attract the sharks, allowing guest the unique opportunity to rock out to AC/DC (the sharks preference) whilst in the cage.



#### LEARN TO COOK WITH SOME OF AUSTRALIA'S BEST CHEFS

At the Lake House in Daylesford, Victoria, visitors can learn from some of Australia's best and most interesting chefs, producers, growers and winemakers – including Lake House coowner, renowned chef Alla Wolf-Tasker. Classes are held in the purpose-built Cooking School kitchen and include masterclasses and cooking sessions, small group tutelage, a chance to work with the region's best produce, sit down meal of the dishes produced with matched local wines. Just 6km from the Lake House, guest can complete their experience with a night at the newly opened Dairy Flat Lodge and Farm which is home to regenerative farm across almost 40 picturesque acres.

#### HELICOPTER OVER FLINDERS RANGES AND PICNIC ON YOUR OWN MOUNTAIN TOP

At Arkaba Homestead in the Flinders Ranges, South Australia, safari days are designed by dedicated conservationists who share stories, wildlife-knowledge and the 60,000-acre private outback wilderness and wildlife conservancy. Exploring this ancient landscape by helicopter, hugging Wilpena Pound and the Elder mountain range and then swooping down into Brachina and Edeowie Gorges is a bucket-list thrill. The helicopter lands on a mountain top for a picnic with extraordinary views of the outback with views to the north of Wilpena Pound, east to the Chace Range, west to the Elder and Red Ranges and south to Yappala and Yourambulla Ranges.



#### DRIVE THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD AND WITNESS STUNNING VIEWS AT EVERY TURN

One of Australia's most celebrated road trips, you'll quickly lose count of the "wow" moments on the 243 kilometre Great Ocean Road in Victoria. See the famous Twelve Apostles (large limestone rock formations in the ocean) and historic lighthouses and visit waterfront cafés and hotels with sea views. Stay for a couple of nights at one of the seaside towns and see lush patches of rainforest, shipwrecks, koalas, migrating whales, national parks, wild surf and windswept beaches.



#### TEE UP ALONGSIDE THE WILD AND DRAMATIC DUNES OF NORTHEAST TASMANIA

Located along the wild and remote coast of northeast Tasmania, The Dunes Course at Barnbougle Golf Resort has gained a reputation as one of the world's most impressive links courses since its opening in 2004. Designed by US golf architect Tom Doak and former Australian pro golfer Michael Clayton, the course is a spectacular amalgamation of Mother Nature and human craftsmanship. The quirky par three seventh hole, nicknamed "Tom's little devil", demands a precise shot from a slightly elevated tee onto a tiny upturned green which can be difficult in windy conditions. The fourth hole boasts the largest bunker in the entire Southern Hemisphere. Golf enthusiasts can stay in classic beach-front cottages and four-bedroom villas and dine at the clubhouse with its superb views.



#### SWIM WITH WHALE SHARKS AND HUMPBACK WHALES

The World Heritage-listed Ningaloo Reef, Western Australia is the best place in Australia from which to experience the extraordinary privilege of a swim with the gentle giants of the sea, whale sharks (from April to July) and humpback whales (from August to October). Only a handful of operators are licenced to take guests on this life-changing experience, with only 10 people allowed in the water at any one time with whale sharks, and only 5 with humpback whales. A truly intimate experience, guest can complete their trip with a stay at the luxe base camp, Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef which overlooks the reef.



#### STAY ON A PRIVATE ISLAND OFF AUSTRALIA'S ISLAND STATE

In the south of Tasmania an exclusive private island awaits those looking to disconnect from the world. A short drive from Hobart to Kettering, a car ferry to Bruny Island, and a five-minute crossing to the rugged isle of Satellite, find Satellite Island. A place of unspoiled wilderness with clifftop walking tracks and pebble beaches, the island accommodation caters for 12 people and includes the three-bedroom Summer House. on the northern tip of the island, and the two-bedroom Boathouse, which opens onto lapping water. Stock up on local supplies such as fresh oysters and handmade cheeses, then sit back and enjoy the views with board games, kayaks, snorkels and a bonfire for when the sun sets.



#### GO HELI-FISHING IN ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S LAST TRUE WILDERNESS FRONTIERS

One of the most spectacular fishing adventures available to keen anglers is heli-fishing in the remote Kimberley landscapes in Western Australia. Heli-fishing adventures can last from five hours to three days, and once onboard your pilot will whisk you off to fishing hotspots spots most people can only dream about. From billabongs to coastal flats in search of big, beautiful barra as well as mangrove jack, archer fish, grunter, catfish and more, you'll also get to explore the regions natural beauty, much of which is only accessible by air. For those who aren't anglers, there are a range of other scenic flights on offer that explore the many waterfalls, gorges and cliffs in the region.





not look around?

#### DARWIN FESTIVAL, NORTHERN TERRITORY: 6-23 AUGUST 2020

Darwin Festival combines warm outdoor festivities with a program rich with local, national and international talent. Cabaret, theatre, dance, visual arts, outdoor concerts under the stars and fun family events transform Darwin for 18 days and nights. Relax in the balmy festoon-lit surrounds of Festival Park with a tasty dinner and drink from the iconic bamboo food stalls and pop-up bars as you listen to the soundtrack of local heroes on the Bamboo Bandstand. Or prepare to dance the night away to the hottest contemporary bands in the Festival's iconic open-air big top, The Lighthouse.



Darwin Festival, Northern Territory

#### HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK, QUEENSLAND: 15–22 AUGUST 2020

Hamilton Island Race Week is one of Australia's favourite yachting events and a firm fixture on the international sailing calendar. Competitors, family and friends come together to enjoy the convivial atmosphere and unique camaraderie of the event's on-water and offwater carnival. Every August,

spectators and yachties from around the globe sail to Hamilton Island for Hamilton Island Race Week - Australia's largest offshore keelboat regatta. Perfectly situated on the edge of the Great Barrier Reef, amongst Queensland's 74 Whitsunday Islands, Hamilton Island offers an experience like no other: glorious weather, azure waters, brilliant beaches, awe-inspiring coral reefs, fascinating flora and fauna, fine food and wines. and activities almost too numerous to mention.

#### FLORIADE, AUSTRALIA CAPITAL TERRITORY: 12 SEPTEMBER - 11 OCTOBER 2020

Floriade, Australia's biggest celebration of spring, returns to Commonwealth Park in Canberra from Saturday 12 September until Sunday 11 October 2019. With over one million blooms on display and free entry, Floriade is the perfect place to experience the beauty of spring. With a diverse and ever-expanding program of music, cultural celebrations, food and wine. horticultural workshops, market traders, artistic displays, entertainment, recreational activities and more, you'll find something for everyone.





Hamilton Island Race Week, Oueensland

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIA GOURMET ESCAPE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA: MID-LATE NOVEMBER 2020 (TBC)

Western Australia Gourmet festival spans over tendays and offers a range of extraordinary experiences with world-class culinary talent, produce and wine. Select from a diverse range of exciting events and dining experiences in some of Western Australia's most beautiful locations. The festival's events span across Swan Valley, Perth and Margaret River region.

### SYDNEY TO HOBART YACHT RACE AND TASTE OF TASMANIA, TASMANIA: 26 DECEMBER 2020 – 3 JANUARY 2021

The Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race is an occasion as much as a race. Each Boxing Day (26 December) a flotilla of sleek yachts races out of Sydney Harbour, following Australia's east coast down to Tasmania. where the yachts arrive in the city of Hobart in the days leading up to New Year's Eve. The arrival of the race yachts into the city, also coincide with The Taste of Tasmania which is held on Hobart's docks, almost in sight of the vachts, and showcases some of the state's best produce, food. wine and beer.

#### THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN, VICTORIA: JANUARY 2021 (TBC)

The Australian Open is one of the biggest events in tennis. There are only four Grand Slam events in the world and the two-week Australian Open is the first each year, kicking off the annual tennis calendar before players follow the circuit to the French Open, Wimbledon and US Open. The action takes place at Melbourne Park, a cluster of stadiums and outdoor courts right next to Melbourne's city centre.

#### TASTING AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA: March - April 2021 (TBC)

Experience the taste of South Australia at Tasting Australia a journey of eating and drinking, following produce from paddock to plate. The festival goes beyond consumption to uncover what South Australia's food scene is all about: crusading local and seasonal produce; promoting its diverse culture; championing premium producers; indulging in a kaleidoscope of tastes and being treated to unforgettable experiences.

#### HUNTER VALLEY WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL, NEW SOUTH WALES: MAY - JUNE 2021 (TBC)

The Hunter Valley Wine and Food Festival is the muchanticipated annual event which showcases the region's diverse wine and food culture with a series of themed activities throughout May and June. Hunter Valley Wine and Food Festival is the perfect antidote to cure those winter blues. It provides you with the chance to wine and dine with leading Hunter Valley winemakers and chefs, take part in an array of fun and interactive classes to fine tune your culinary skills.



#### DARK MOFO, TASMANIA: June 2021 (TBC)

Dark Mofo, Mona's winter festival, delves into centuriesold winter solstice rituals. exploring the links between ancient and contemporary mythology, humans and nature, religious and secular traditions, darkness and light, and birth, death and renewal. It is a heady fortnight of festivities, and highlights for travellers often include the annual City of Hobart Dark Mofo Winter Feast on Hobart's waterside docks. the ogoh-ogoh parade and burning on the solstice night, and the annual Nude Solstice Swim, where hundreds of brave souls plunge into the River Derwent at sunrise to welcome back the return of the light after the longest night.

#### VIVID SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES: MAY - JUNE 2021 (TBC)

If there's one place in the world where inspiration shines bright, it's Vivid Sydney. Lighting up Sydney's streets each winter, Vivid Sydney brings together light artists, music makers and creators from around the world. See the city transform, discover new art forms, ride soundwaves, spark new ideas and ignite conversations. Let your imagination take flight.

For more event and festival ideas visit our event calendar on australia.com.

#### BEST TIME TO TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA



Australia is one of the world's largest countries, so the best time to visit, depends entirely on where you're planning on going. Seasons in Australia are opposite to those in the Northern Hemisphere, with summer from December through February, and winter from June through August.

There are four seasons (summer, autumn, winter, spring) across most of the country while the Top End (including Darwin, Katherine, Kakadu and Arnhem Land), Broome, the Kimberley and Tropical North Queensland (Cairns, the Whitsundays and the Daintree Rainforest) experience a 'wet season' (November to April) and a 'dry season' (May to October).

There are also a series of spectacular seasonal fauna events that take place around the country which are bound to impress even the keenest wildlifewatcher. You can read more about Australia's seasonal wildlife events including turtle nesting and whale watching or seasonal nature experiences including lavender and wildflower seasons on australia.com.



# **ABOUT** TOURISM AUSTRALIA

Tourism Australia is the Australian Government agency responsible for promoting Australia to the world as a destination for business and leisure travel.

Tourism Australia's purpose is to increase the economic benefits of tourism to Australia. The organisation is active in around 15 key markets, where it aims to grow demand for the destination's tourism experiences by promoting the unique attributes which will entice people to visit.

Tourism Australia's activities include social and digital media, traditional advertising, public relations and media programs, trade shows and programs for the tourism industry, consumer promotions, online communications and

For more information visit tourism.australia.com facebook.com/seeaustralia





# SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES OF AUSTRALIA

Today's discerning international traveller is seeking out travel destinations that deliver unique and authentic experiences which tap into their passion points.

To help fulfil this need, Tourism Australia has partnered with industry collectives to develop Signature Experiences of Australia - a program which packages and promotes Australia's outstanding tourism experiences within a variety of niche areas and special interest categories.

The program focuses on shifting perceptions of Australia by broadening the

view of what it has to offer and in doing so, generates demand by highlighting experiences that have been carefully designed to capture the imagination of travellers around the world.

What sets these experiences apart is their connection to the diverse natural landscapes of Australia. They invite visitors to discover, learn and connect with Australia. Engaging travellers in memorable activities that are deeply personal, and they make connections on an emotional, physical, spiritual and social level.







#### **AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE JOURNEYS**

Australian Wildlife Journeys brings together like-minded and independently owned small businesses, that showcase immersive wildlife encounters that take place in the wild, with a special focus on high quality interpretative guiding, warm hospitality and conservation activities. www.australianwildlifejourneys.com

#### **CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS OF AUSTRALIA**

Australia's leading arts and cultural attractions come together to tell the story of how our varied geographic, ethnic and cultural origins have been embraced and have reshaped the way we define the nation. They curate the cultural narrative and provide visitors with a window into what it means to be Australian by exploring our history and sharing our ongoing, contemporary, creative life. The collective showcases premium experiences that offer a distinctive lens on Australia's culture and life. www.culturalattractionsofaustralia.com

#### DISCOVER ABORIGINAL EXPERIENCES

Discover Aboriginal Experiences is a flagship suite of extraordinary Aboriginal Australia experiences, showcasing the world's oldest living culture through the cornerstones of cultural insight, authenticity and meaningful connection. Importantly the experiences are guided by Aboriginal people who share personal stories about their own country to bring the landscape and their culture to life. www.tourism.australia.com/aboriginal

#### **GREAT FISHING ADVENTURES OF AUSTRALIA**

Great Fishing Adventures of Australia is the catch of Australia's best fishing operators who share Australia's world-class fishing destinations with fishing enthusiasts. With 60,000 km of coastline and nearly 4,000 marine species, anglers are spoilt for choice across both fresh and saltwater environments with an enormous amount of climates and habitats to choose from.

www.australia.com/fishing









#### **GREAT GOLF COURSES OF AUSTRALIA**

From the spectacular cliff-tops of Sydney to the wild and remote coastline of northern Tasmania, Great Golf Courses of Australia showcases the best courses in the country including seven courses included in the World Top 100 listing; Barnbougle Dunes, Barnbougle Lost Farm, Kingston Heath, New South Wales, Royal Melbourne, The National and Royal Adelaide. www.greatgolfaustralia.com.au

#### **GREAT WALKS OF AUSTRALIA**

Great Walks of Australia offers quintessentially Australian walking experiences that engage walkers in some of the world's most spectacular terrain. These multi day walks inspire travellers to explore Australia's diverse landscape on foot, where guests reconnect with nature and themselves in small groups led by expert guides who share a deep understanding and appreciation of the environment. www.greatwalksofaustralia.com.au

#### LUXURY LODGES OF AUSTRALIA

Luxury Lodges of Australia is an extensive collection of independent lodges and camps offering unforgettable experiences in Australia's most inspiring and extraordinary locations. These lodges are exclusive by virtue of their remoteness, their special location and intimate size, and offer a very personal connection to place.

www.luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au

#### **ULTIMATE WINERY EXPERIENCES AUSTRALIA**

Ultimate Winery Experiences Australia is a collection of premium award-winning wineries in Australia's most renowned wine regions. These wineries are not just places to sample and purchase wine but offer a diverse and unique range of cellar door, dining and private touring experiences.

www.ultimatewineryexperiences.com.au



MAP SYMBOLS

★ Major Airports Marine Parks National Parks and Reserves

Aboriginal Land

JOURNEY DISTANCES Road

965 600 1.20

1716 1065 2.05

1489 924 1.55

Sydney - Canberra

Sydney - Melbourne

Sydney - Perth

286 177 0.45

872 542 1.10

4110 2552 4.00

Adelaide - Broken Hill

Adelaide - Perth

Uluru - Cairns

Brisbane - Sydney

Brisbane - Cairns

Darwin - Alice Springs

Adelaide - Brisbane

Alice Springs – Uluru

Highways and Major Roads

Other Roads and Tracks



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TOURISM AUSTRALIA