

JANUARY 2017

ENDEAVOUR

THE MAGAZINE FROM AUSTRAVEL, EXPERTS IN AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND & SOUTH PACIFIC



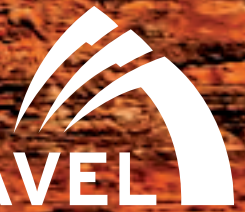
A Day in the Life

Meet the team at APT's Mitchell Falls
Wilderness Lodge in Western Australia

TWO WEEKS MOTORHOMING AROUND TASMANIA

Tick off all the major sights with this tried
and tested Tassie road trip

TRAVELLERS' TALES FROM AUSTRALIA'S NATURE COAST



AUSTRAVEL
Experts in Australia, New Zealand & South Pacific

Welcome to ENDEAVOUR

the magazine by Austravel

A very merry Christmas from everyone here at Austravel and we hope you've had a great 2016. But, if you're anything like me, now's the time I start planning out all the places I want to visit in the coming year. Last year I was lucky enough to travel around the Kimberley in Western Australia (see p.14) and also took my mum on The Ghan rail journey which she absolutely loved. This year, I'm determined to go to Tasmania for the first time! So what's on your 2017 holiday wish list? In the following pages, we hope to inspire you and give you a closer look at some of our fantastic destinations. Is this the year you swim on the Great Barrier Reef or venture off on that big New Zealand road trip? Call our Travel Designers on freephone 0808 252 5894* to start planning today. Let's make 2017 a year to remember.

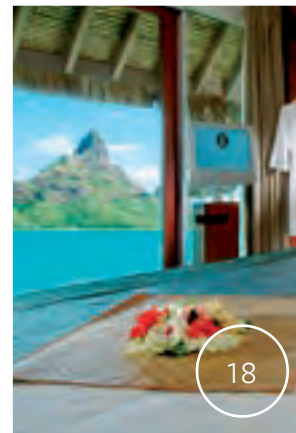
Karen Joyce
General Manager



Our magazine is named after HMS Endeavour, the first seagoing vessel to reach the East Coast of Australia in 1770, when Captain Cook went ashore at what is now known as Botany Bay.



On the cover
Bungle Bungle Range, Australia
Boasting an out-of-this-world landscape, the Bungle Bungle Range in World Heritage-listed Purnululu National Park, Western Australia has been around for 350 million years yet was only discovered in 1983.



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Tick off all the major sights with this tried and tested Tassie road trip

Why choose Austravel?

We're the leading Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific specialist and have been creating tailor-made holidays to these incredible countries since 1977. Our dedicated team of Travel Designers will listen to your holiday ideas, find you the best deals and create a personalised itinerary to suit you.

40 years' experience
We don't just go there, we really know there. Whether you're looking to discover the iconic sights of Australia, road trip around New Zealand or escape to an exotic island in the South Pacific, we've been creating award-winning holidays Down Under for almost 40 years.

Expert destination advice
Our Travel Designers have travelled to and experienced these amazing countries first hand. With their in-depth destination knowledge, they can help with the planning process and offer expert advice to tailor make your perfect itinerary, whatever your preferences and budget.

Your holiday's in safe hands
We take care of everything from your flights, accommodation, car hire and tours, to visas and travel insurance, we can even book your airport hotels and parking before you go! We're also ABTA, ATOL and IATA protected, meaning your money and booking is in safe hands when you travel with us.

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Correct as of December 2016.
feefo Service Rating 99%
334 reviews ★★★★★



WHAT'S HOT FOR 2017

From new hotels to unmissable events, here's our round up of what's hot Down Under this coming year.



Cheer on England at The Ashes

Watch the 2017-18 Ashes Series in the glorious Australian sunshine and support our boys in the stunning cricket grounds of the MCG, Adelaide Oval and more. Will you be there to hopefully see England retain the famous urn? Tickets go on sale early 2017.



Crown Towers Perth

Not many hotels can boast that they have six stars under their belt, but Crown Towers, opening this month (December 2016), is the epitome of luxury. Guest suites offer superb city views, while the leisure facilities include expansive lagoon pools, private cabanas, fine dining and the Crown Spa Perth to name a few. This world-class resort guarantees an experience of unimaginable opulence.

3 nights from £219 per person.
Based on selected travel Apr-Sep 2017.



Fly Business Class

If you've always wanted to travel how the other half travel, now's the time. When you fly Business Class with Emirates you fly in style from the moment you leave your door with the complimentary chauffeur-drive service taking you to and from the airport. So on your next flight Down Under, how does sipping a glass of bubbly followed by reclining your seat into a fully flat bed sound? Emirates flat bed seats are on all their A380 aircraft. Tempting? Treat yourself to flying Business Class in 2017.

Flights from £3,989 per person.
Based on selected travel Apr-Nov 2017.



APT's New Zealand Voyager

This 29-day luxury tour is the ultimate way to see all the highlights of New Zealand's North and South Island. Featuring a ride on the famous TranzAlpine train and a 15-night premium coastal cruise from Auckland to Sydney, you'll journey down New Zealand's east coast taking in the spectacular scenery and enjoying daily excursions. Find out more about this once-in-a-lifetime experience in our new touring brochure (order online).

29 days from £5,595 per person.
Based on selected travel Nov 2017.



Field of Light

The brilliant Field of Light installation by artist Bruce Munro is open for another year! This visual masterpiece is now running until March 2018, but get in quick as tickets book up months in advance. Walking amongst 50,000 fluorescent spheres in Uluru's outback desert is truly a unique experience, and something you'll remember forever.

From £139 per person.
Based on selected travel Mar 2017.

TRAVELLERS' TALES

AUSTRALIA'S NATURE COAST

Stretching from north of Brisbane up to the exquisite coral cay of Lady Elliot Island, Australia's Nature Coast is an adventure playground for nature and wildlife lovers. Our Travel Designer, Tom, shares his trip highlights and top recommendations from his recent travels along this lesser-known part of the Aussie east coast...



Q. In two sentences how would you describe Australia's Nature Coast?

What a place! All of it was spectacular, however, Noosa exceeded my expectations by a mile. It's perhaps one of the most underrated, undiscovered holiday destinations on Australia's east coast - perhaps that's why so many Aussie's go there for their own holidays.

Q. Who would you recommend Australia's Nature Coast to and why?

Certainly people who are looking for a bit of adventure. There's so much you can do and amazing places to explore. This part of the coast is renowned for its national parks including Noosa National Park and the World Heritage-listed Fraser Island with its huge sand dunes, perfect for some 4WD off-roading.

Q. Where was your favourite place on Australia's Nature Coast and why?

Get yourself to Lady Elliot Island for some of the best snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef. You can simply wade into the water, dip your head under and see all sorts of beautiful things. Lady Elliot is the most southern of the Great Barrier Reef islands

and as one of the most protected areas on the whole reef, the diversity of marine life is mind blowing. Lots of turtles make Lady Elliot their home and it's one of the reef's best spots to see manta rays. The island's accommodation is an eco-style resort so no TVs in the room, no phone signal and limited WiFi which means you can really disconnect and relax during your stay. The water is definitely the main attraction and that's what lures most people to the island. On a daily basis there are reef walks, snorkelling tours and glass-bottomed boat trips for those interested in learning more about the reef. The scenic flight transfer to and from the island is pretty amazing too.

Q. What was your favourite hotel and why?

Peppers Noosa is a stunning resort with excellent staff who bend over backwards to make your stay perfect. Located close to Main Beach, Peppers is set on top of a hill but don't worry - the hotel's shuttle golf buggy will take you up and down if you'd prefer not to walk. The apartments themselves are extremely spacious, many of which have fabulous views across Noosa's Laguna Bay. The hotel's aptly-named 'View Restaurant' was

fantastic too - especially the breakfast buffet.

Q. What was your favourite excursion and why?

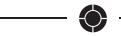
A trip over to Fraser Island is an absolute must. Our group saw some incredible sights including whales breaching as they made their way up the coast and we also had a couple of dugongs (or sea cows) swim past the boat on the way there! We were certainly really lucky, but even without those encounters, the trip was still amazing. Other highlights included watching the sunrise and swimming in the clear-blue waters of Lake McKenzie.

Q. Any top tips or recommendations for anyone visiting Australia's Nature Coast?

Definitely include a stay in Noosa on your itinerary. It's a chilled, easy-going place with a fantastic variety of places to eat and drink on the main strip, Hastings Street. Make sure you also take a walk along the coastal track to Devils Kitchen Lookout in Noosa National Park. It's got stunning views looking down the coast and you might even be lucky enough to see whales and dolphins out to sea. Or if you visit during whale



WHAT OUR EXPERTS SAY...



"Remember to pack your swimmers for your Fraser Island tour so you can take a dip in Lake McKenzie. The lake is pure rainwater which makes for a really refreshing swim. Your tour guide will also tell you an interesting story on how the lake was formed."

TOM, TRAVEL DESIGNER

TAKE ME THERE

9 days Nature Coast self-drive

Prices from £1,747 per person

Includes: 2nts in Brisbane, 2nts in Noosa, 5 day Rainforest and Reef trip with 2nts on Lady Elliot Island and flights, and 7 days car hire. Based on selected travel Mar 2017 - excludes flights.

migration season (mid-July to early November) you're almost guaranteed to see humpback whales making their way along the coast. Plus, Hervey Bay is one of the best places in the world to see these amazing creatures.

Q. Would you return to Australia's Nature Coast?

I feel like I've only scratched the surface. There are so many beautiful beaches on the Sunshine Coast and lovely little beach towns like Mooloolaba and Maroochydore. You could easily spend a few days exploring the Sunshine Coast Hinterland with the stunning Glasshouse Mountains National Park. Perhaps even find your own rainforest hideaway or visit the charming villages of Maleny and Montville with their art galleries, gift shops and stylish cafes. It's impossible to fit it all into one trip so I'll definitely be going back. Hopefully sometime very soon!

Images from top left clockwise: 75 Mile Beach, Fraser Island, Sea turtle, Lady Elliot Island, Noosa National Park.

SYDNEY

NEW YEAR'S EVE GUIDE

Everyone should spend New Year's Eve in Sydney at least once in their lifetime, because, let's face it... the Aussie's host possibly the best NYE party on the planet.



You may be a little too late this year, but don't worry, there's always NYE 2017. Not only is Sydney one of the first cities in the world to ring in the New Year, there's something special about watching this iconic city light up at midnight. The fireworks over Sydney Harbour are simply legendary. With more than 100,000 pyrotechnic effects, 10,000 aerial fireworks and 25,000 shooting comets, the event always promises to be spectacular. Here's everything you need to know about how you can make next NYE the best one yet.

Top tips for NYE in Sydney

- 1** Book everything well in advance. Bookings are essential as there is always limited availability across Sydney on NYE. Whether it's for accommodation, a NYE dinner or ticket to an event, book as early as you can.
- 2** Many hotels practice a minimum stay policy over the New Year period. Something you will need to factor in if planning a bigger trip around Australia and beyond.
- 3** Major roads in and around the city close for NYE. A lot more people in the city also means a lot more traffic. Public transport may be your best option for getting from A to B. Read up and plan ahead.

Where to stay?



Holiday Inn Old Sydney

The hotel's NYE package certainly ticks all the boxes. Not only does it include accommodation, dinner and drinks, you'll also have access to the hotel's rooftop terrace – one of the city's best spots to watch the fireworks.

5 nights from £1,679 per person.
Based on selected travel Dec 2017.



Four Seasons Hotel Sydney

If you want to enjoy a low-key NYE in the comfort of your hotel room, then the Four Seasons' Full Harbour-View Rooms are for you. With your own private vantage point, these rooms are extremely popular at NYE so book yours early.

5 nights from £1,499 per person.
Based on selected travel Dec 2017.



Harbour Rocks Hotel Sydney

This boutique hotel boasts a prime location in the heart of The Rocks historic district. Just a short stroll from Sydney's biggest icons, it's an ideal base for your NYE celebrations.

5 nights from £1,349 per person.
Based on selected travel Dec 2017.



Where to celebrate?

Captain Cook Cruises

Best for: the ultimate NYE experience

Entry: ticketed – get in touch with us to discuss what's available
Captain Cook Cruises offer a range of cruise options on 31st December. From fine dining experiences on their Sydney 2000 vessel to BYO picnics aboard their Matilda Rocket, you're guaranteed a front row seat for Sydney's world-famous NYE fireworks.

Prices from £965 per person.

Lawn with a View

Best for: the quintessential Aussie experience

Entry: ticketed – buy in advance

A relaxed picnic-style NYE event held on Bennelong Lawn with front-row seats to the Sydney Opera House. Suitable for the whole family, you'll enjoy uninterrupted waterfront views for the spectacular show and with a gourmet picnic hamper provided, all you need to bring is a rug.

Sydney Opera House

Best for: the most iconic experience

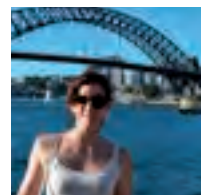
Entry: free

This popular vantage point allows you to marvel at the city's most iconic building before, during and after the display. A full day event, this experience lets you start the celebrations in the sunshine and keeps them going till late. Arrive early to secure a good spot.

Find out more about spending NYE in Sydney at sydneynewyearsve.com



WHAT OUR EXPERTS SAY...



"The Central Business District of Sydney pretty much shuts down for New Year's Eve, so stick to the tourist areas such as Circular Quay, Darling Harbour and The Rocks when looking for restaurants and bars, and check online before arriving to ensure they're open for business"

STEPH, MARKETING MANAGER

Follow in the Footsteps of Chris Hemsworth

In 2016, Australian actor and Tourism Australia Ambassador, Chris Hemsworth (a.k.a Thor), returned to his home country for a family holiday. Travelling through the heart of Australia



Uluru, otherwise known as Ayers Rock

Chris' itinerary:

Uluru – Darwin – The Kimberley – Darwin – Whitsunday Islands

Day 1: Uluru

Fly into Ayers Rock Airport where you'll have a bird's-eye view of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Once checked in and freshened up, travel to the base of Uluru for an up-close perspective. See Aboriginal rock paintings and learn about the rich cultural and spiritual indigenous history of the area. In the late afternoon, witness the sun set over Uluru, followed by a trip to the magical Field of Light. A unique art installation of 50,000 solar-powered glass spheres which glow against the star-studded outback sky.

"Seeing Uluru for the first time was really awesome. There was a really cool art installation on called Field of Light, the colours at sunrise were amazing."

CHRIS HEMSWORTH

Days 2: Uluru to Darwin

Rise early next morning and head to the sunrise viewing area where you'll watch the first sunrays of the day light up Uluru. The perfect way to end your time in the Red Centre. In the afternoon, you'll fly from Uluru to Darwin (via Alice Springs). Spend the remainder of your day perusing Darwin's famous Mindil Beach Sunset Market. Sit down to a plate of fresh Asian food beneath the palm trees in time to see the flamingo sunset over the Timor Sea.



Chris with wife Elsa and their son at Uluru



Aerial view of Berkeley River Lodge

Days 3: Darwin to The Kimberley

Enjoy a lazy breakfast overlooking Darwin's Cullen Bay Marina before boarding your one-hour flight to Kununurra. You'll be staying at the exclusive Berkeley River Lodge. Settle in to your luxury surroundings, then the afternoon is set aside for a helicopter adventure to introduce you to the Kimberley region. The journey will take you to the coast and inland across the Kimberley wilderness. Finally, you'll land by a picturesque waterhole for a late afternoon swim.

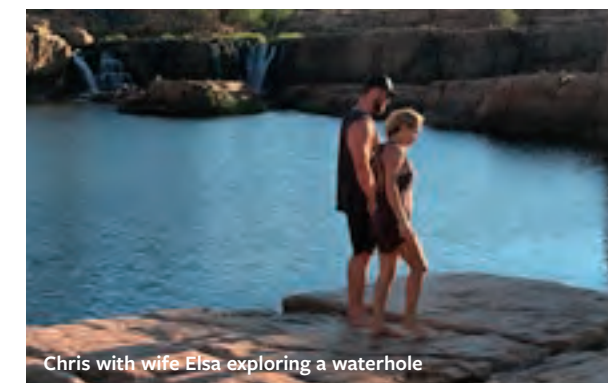
"We stayed at a beautiful place called Berkeley River Lodge, having dinner each night on a sand dune, barefoot in the desert sand was pretty cool." CH

Day 4: The Kimberley

On today's agenda: a full-day river cruise. The Berkeley River is incredibly scenic, bordered by rock escarpments and filled with hidden waterholes. The river is also home to an array of wildlife like saltwater crocodiles and wallabies, and an abundance of birdlife. With the chance to disembark and hike, you can explore Casuarina Falls by foot, or fish from the decks of the boat at anchor. The cruise will have you back at the lodge in time for dinner.

Day 5: The Kimberley to Cairns

After enjoying breakfast at the lodge, depart by scenic transfer for Darwin airport. From here, fly to Cairns in Far North Queensland and check in to your accommodation, the Shangri-La Hotel at the Marina. Ease into tropical holiday mode with cocktails by the pool before taking a stroll along the oceanfront Cairns Esplanade, the city's social and recreational hub. Cool off in the huge saltwater lagoon or take a walk through the Cairns Botanic Gardens and enjoy your lazy afternoon.



Chris with wife Elsa exploring a waterhole



Day 6: Cairns to Whitsunday Islands

Next morning you're flying to Hamilton Island in the glorious Whitsundays. From there, take a helicopter or seaplane transfer to your accommodation at One&Only Hayman Island – one of Australia's best luxury destinations. Spend the afternoon exploring Hayman Island or embark on a sunset sail of the Whitsunday Islands. With their palm-fringed white sand beaches surrounded by turquoise waters, the Whitsunday Islands are the epitome of a tropical paradise.

“The most romantic part of the trip was being dropped off on Whitehaven Beach, with my wife, a picnic basket and bottle of champagne. It was pretty special.” CH

Day 7: Whitsunday Islands

Spend the morning underwater on a half-day dive and snorkel tour. You'll experience the beautiful fringing coral reefs of the Whitsundays. Dive, snorkel, swim, or simply relax – the choice is yours. This evening, enjoy a beautiful Whitsundays sunset from Resort Lookout. This lookout is the second highest point on the island and offers stunning, panoramic views of the surrounding islands. Take the hike to the lookout before dusk, just as wallabies and flying foxes are emerging to forage for food.

Day 8: Whitsunday Islands

Today you'll experience the magnificent Great Barrier Reef with a visit to some of its most secluded and precious areas on an unforgettable day trip. At the less-visited Bait Reef, snorkel or dive the clear waters to see coral and a diverse range of marine life including colourful reef fish, huge groupers, turtles and manta rays. Other dive sites include Stepping Stones, Paradise Lagoon and Manta Ray Drop Off.

“On the Great Barrier Reef, I went scuba diving for the first time which was amazing. There is more sea life and vibrant colours of the coral than I've ever seen. It's like visiting another planet.” CH

Day 9: Whitsunday Islands

Spend your last morning relaxing at the One&Only spa. Nestled within lush tropical rainforest, you can indulge in aromatic massage beneath the rainforest canopy. After your morning of pure indulgence and rejuvenation, take the helicopter or seaplane transfer back to Cairns airport ready for your return flight home.

“Growing up in Australia, you can sometimes take it all for granted. But after being away for ten years and coming back, exploring some of the most beautiful places I've ever seen has reminded me how unique and impressive Australia is, and how lucky we are.” CH

Images from top: Aerial view of Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet, One&Only Hayman Island. Chris and wife Elsa enjoy a walk along Whitehaven Beach.



2017-18 ASHES SERIES

TRAVEL WITH AUSTRAVEL,
ENDORSED TRAVEL OPERATOR

Travel Packages to the 2017-18 Ashes Series are now on sale, so don't miss out on your trip to support our England cricketers Down Under.

As an endorsed travel operator, Austravel can book your 2017-18 Ashes Series tickets, accommodation and flights. Ticket categories range from General Admission to Cricket Australia Official Hospitality, and we can also arrange your entry to special events.

Call our Travel Designers on 0808 252 5894* to book your 2017-18 Ashes package or visit austravel.com/ashes-2017 for more information.

Here are some of the packages available:

1st Test, Brisbane

7 days from £749 per person
Includes: 5 days' 2017-18 Ashes Series General Admission tickets and 6 nights' accommodation.

4th Test, Melbourne

7 days from £769 per person
Includes: 5 days' 2017-18 Ashes Series General Admission tickets and 6 nights' accommodation.

5th Test, Sydney

7 days from £1,379 per person
Includes: 5 days' 2017-18 Ashes Series General Admission tickets and 6 nights' accommodation.

72 HOURS in Perth

A laid-back waterfront city with more hours of sunshine than any other Aussie capital city, Perth is the ideal starting point to explore Western Australia's beautiful coastline, national parks and extraordinary outback. But first, let's spend a few days exploring the must-see sights in and around the city...

DAY 1

Morning

There's no shortage of places to stay in Perth. You'll find good value hotels such as the Mercure in the city centre or if you're looking for a bit of luxury, COMO The Treasury in Perth's central business district is a good choice. Once settled in, it's time for a wander round the city to get your bearings. One great way to do this is to head to one of the world's largest inner-city parks, Kings Park, as our Travel Designer, Claire, recommends. Grab a morning coffee on the way and sit on the green lawns looking out across Perth's cityscape. For lunch, head to Elizabeth Quay where The Reveley does a delicious high tea which you can enjoy from the decked seating right on the water.

Afternoon

Later on, head to Perth's southern suburbs to take a tour of Fremantle Prison. Voted one of Australia's top 10 landmarks by TripAdvisor, this is the country's largest and most intact convict-built prison. There's a range of interesting tours, but the one we'd recommend is the tunnels tour to explore the labyrinth of 20-metre deep tunnels beneath the prison. For dinner, you're in the right place. Fremantle has plenty of top-class restaurants to choose from and a lively night scene for after-dinner drinks. We love Bathers Beach House, enjoy a nice glass of wine on Bathers Beach, an Australian first!

3nts at COMO, The Treasury from £759 per person

3nts at The Mercure from £249 per person

Fremantle walking tour from £39 per person

DAY 2

Morning

Today you're heading out of Perth to the crisp-white shores of Rottnest Island. Who knew such a gem of an island was just a short ferry trip from the city? It's a popular getaway for locals too so book your tickets ahead of time, especially if you're visiting on a weekend. When you arrive, you'll likely be greeted by the island's cute furry inhabitants. These little creatures are called quokkas, and while they are rife on the island, it's rare you'll find them anywhere on the mainland. Super friendly and well-known for their photogenic smiles, you are guaranteed multiple sightings on the island's free guided walks.

Afternoon

After lunch (be that a pre-packed picnic or at one of the island's restaurants), it's time to explore the island some more. As a car-free island, your choices are by foot, bike or tour bus. To see more of Rottnest, we recommend hiring a bike. This way you can cycle to find your own secluded spot on one of the island's 63 beaches. Then simply relax and while away the rest of the day in the sunshine before it's time to catch the last ferry back to Perth. You'll be sure to have worked up an appetite after all that cycling so for tonight's dinner and drinks head to Northbridge – a vibrant and exciting inner-city suburb packed with cafés, restaurants and trendy bars.

Rottnest Island day tour from £110 per person

WHAT OUR EXPERTS SAY...



"Head up to Kings Park and the Botanic Garden for amazing views across Perth and Swan River. Just remember to give yourself enough time to wander around the peaceful gardens and bushland trails."

CLAIRE, TRAVEL DESIGNER

DAY 3

Morning

Your final day in Perth needs to be spent wisely, and what better way to do that than by sampling the local produce. Follow the Swan River slightly inland and you'll come to Western Australia's oldest wine-growing region, the Swan Valley. A great way to experience the area's tasty treats is to follow the award-winning Swan Valley Food and Wine Trail – a scenic loop taking you to some of Western Australia's finest wineries, breweries, distilleries, restaurants, cafés, and fresh-produce farms.

Afternoon

Spend the remainder of your afternoon walking off the day's indulgences. A little further inland you'll find John Forrest National Park, home to waterfalls, walking trails and numerous lookout points – it's the ideal place for an afternoon stroll. For your final meal here, choose one of Perth's top restaurant experiences. Located on the fourth floor of COMO the Treasury Hotel, the Wildflower is fine dining at its best with superb views of Swan River and the CBD to boot. Book just before sunset and watch as the city starts to twinkle beneath you – the perfect end to your time in Perth. [F](#)

Swan River day tour from £46 per person

Images from top right clockwise: Rottnest Island. Quokka. Kings Park, Perth. Lancaster Wines, Swan Valley.



A DAY IN THE LIFE

Working in the Kimberley wilderness



Mitchell Falls
Situated in Western Australia



Holley Hibberson
Occupation: Lodge Host



Lauren Knighton
Occupation: Lodge Chef

Last June, our General Manager, Karen ventured off the beaten track to a lesser-known part of Western Australia – the Kimberley region. Tucked away in the country’s north-west corner, Karen met Lauren and Hollee. Both are dedicated staff at APT’s Mitchell Falls Wilderness Lodge and here they share their everyday experiences of working in the remote Aussie outback.

Q. Karen: What does a typical day on the job involve?

Holley: A typical day on the job in a remote lodge in the Mitchell Plateau is probably not what most people would call typical, but, for six months of the year during the dry season here in the Kimberley it includes greeting guests for breakfast, housekeeping, kitchen duties, camp maintenance, and taking guests on spectacular walks through the Mitchell River National Park to visit ancient Aboriginal rock art sites and the Mitchell Falls followed by a helicopter ride.

Lauren: My day starts early at about 5am. I get in and make breads and then do a plated breakfast service. Once the guests have left for the tour I start my preparation for the day. This consists of a morning tea and packed lunch, and then dinner prep for both staff and guests. Sometimes it’s an all day job depending on numbers. I also plan a day in advance to stay ahead of myself... and the tours. Being organised out here is key to producing an elegant three-course meal every day.

Q. Karen: What’s your favourite part of where you live and work?

Holley: The flora and fauna, the ancient culture, the spirit and synchronicities that make you feel very connected to this country.

Lauren: My favourite part of being out here is the sheer beauty and the lush camp creek that we swim in during the day. I also love getting to know the crew I work with. All of who I now call great friends.

Q. Karen: What’s the most enjoyable aspect of your job?

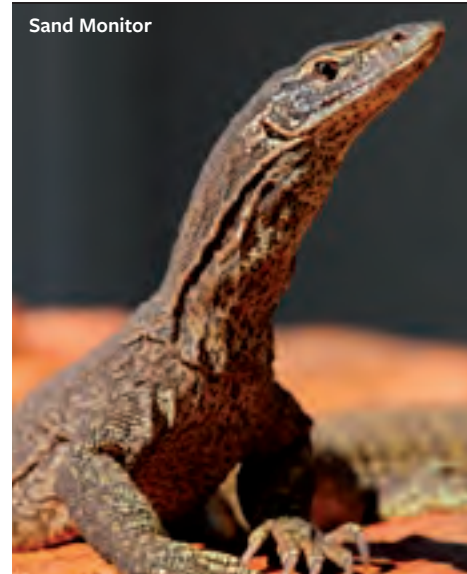
Holley: Walking with guests to the Mitchell Falls. Out in the wilderness and in the elements you get to hear the stories from the travellers who are still travelling. It leaves you feeling uplifted to be on part of their holiday.

Lauren: The most enjoyable part of my job is meeting all of our guests and seeing so many happy faces when we put these amazing meals in front of them. Seeing them in awe of the food we can produce in such an isolated place and their great feedback always makes you feel like there is no other kitchen you’d rather work in.





Beehive formations World Heritage-listed Bungle Bungles in Western Australia



Sand Monitor



Mitchell Falls Wilderness Lodge

Q. What's the most challenging aspect of your job?

Lauren: Being able to consistently produce meals of such a high calibre. We use fresh produce out here and it's lovely when the guests see that on their plates. They don't expect it because we are so remote and they always compliment us on having fresh greens as a part of their meals.

Q. Karen: What do people experience when visiting Mitchell Falls Wilderness Lodge or going on your tour?

Hollee: Arriving at the Wilderness Lodge, people are blown away by the facilities, service and food that is provided in such a remote location. It's great to see people connecting and enjoying themselves while on tour without the luxury of televisions or mobile phones.

Lauren: Our guests are wowed at the quality of the meals and how beautifully presented they are. We try to go above and beyond for all of our guests and it's the small things like adding native rosella flowers and foraging for bush passionfruit for guests to try. It makes the experience unforgettable for them.

Q. Karen: What is the most memorable experience you've had on the job?

Hollee: I took a European couple on tour who had flown in to the Mitchell Plateau airstrip. The husband had only 3% vision and was a photographer. Other than his walking sticks, he completed the walk unassisted with 12kg of camera gear on his back in order to take his perfect shot of the Mitchell Falls. The walk came to be a lot more about all of the other senses.

The smell of the bush and different plants, the touch of rocks and trees, the taste of some bush foods. To this day, it's one of my favourite tours.

Lauren: Being able to teach the staff here. Many of them didn't have a lot of commercial kitchen experience or know how to cook. Now they're making desserts and breads with me, and plate up like professional chefs!

Q. Karen: Who is the most interesting person you've met on the job and why?

Hollee: Some of the APT tour guides/staff have lived and worked in the Kimberley for 20-30 years. Their knowledge and connection to the land and its people is fascinating. It's great to hear the stories of the Kimberley - very inspiring and educating.

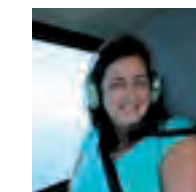
Q. Karen: Why would you recommend people visit the Kimberley?

Hollee: These days it is rare to visit a place that still feels so untouched. The Kimberley is rugged with ever-changing landscapes. The Mitchell Plateau really does differ from the rest of the Kimberley, the Livistona palms, birds and wildlife - the whole place is so alive!

Lauren: We live and work in such an amazing place for an amazing company. When the guests have experienced the surrounding sights, they get to come back to a unique gourmet meal. It's such a beautiful place and the food is just as good as any top city restaurant. When in season I like to infuse my food with some of the local bush tucker sourced from around our lodge. We're lucky we get the beautiful Australian outback setting we have here at Mitchell Falls, amongst everything else we have to offer.



WHAT OUR EXPERTS SAY...



"The service and amenities at Mitchell Falls were fantastic. There's a wonderful open-air dining area where you'd eat in the evenings and a campfire where you could enjoy drinks before and after dinner. I was amazed by the high standard of food they were serving given the remote location."

KAREN, GENERAL MANAGER

TAKE ME THERE

15 days Kimberley Complete APT tour
Prices from £5,595 per person
 Based on selected travel May 2017
 - excludes flights.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
 EXPERIENCE EXTRAORDINARY



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ADD TO MY TRIP

3 nights from £1,449 per person

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Different Perspectives of AUSTRALASIA'S ICONS

Here we uncover two, unique ways you can experience four of Australasia's top sights...



Great Barrier Reef



Quicksilver Outer Barrier Reef Tour

Get as close as you can to one of the 'Seven Natural Wonders' of the world. On this trip you'll head to the outer Agincourt Reef where you dock at Quicksilver's floating platform. From there you can choose between scuba diving, snorkelling or ocean walking - think underwater astronaut. There's also glass-bottomed boat tours and an underwater observatory, ideal for non-swimmers.

Prices from £145 per person.



Reef Helicopter Flight

Known as the largest living structure on Earth (made entirely of coral), it's true that you can't really grasp the scale of the Great Barrier Reef until you see it from the sky. A one hour heli flight gives you the chance to fully appreciate Mother Nature's masterpiece. Be amazed by the tapestry of coral and the changing blues and greens of the water. Choose to also combine your flight with a detour over the Daintree Rainforest.

Prices from £423 per person.

Sydney Harbour



Harbour Cruise

What better way to see Sydney Harbour than from the water? Soak up the Aussie sunshine on deck and relax as you cruise around the sights of this attractive harbour city. Glide past Sydney Opera House, under Harbour Bridge and around Fort Denison as you enjoy morning tea and listen to an informative commentary on the harbour.

Prices from £23 per person.



BridgeClimb

For panoramic harbour and city views, you can't beat standing at the top of one of Sydney's most recognisable structures - the Sydney Harbour Bridge. BridgeClimb is a thrilling 3.5-hour climb (or if you're short on time, opt for the BridgeClimb Express at 2.5 hours) that takes you to the summit where your Climb Leader will capture the special moment with a photo.

Prices from £179 per person.

Great Ocean Road



Self-drive

Voted one of the world's best coastal drives, this 240 km drive hugs Australia's south coast taking you through quaint seaside towns and past jaw-dropping rock formations. Take your time, stopping off to stretch your legs on the numerous sandy beaches along the coast. Explore the forests of Cape Otway, and of course a visit to the iconic limestone stacks of the Twelve Apostles is a must.

5 day self-drive Prices from £399 per person.



Helicopter Flight

Prefer not to get behind the wheel? Or perhaps you're short on time. Not to worry; you can still take in the best of the Great Ocean Road with a scenic heli flight. See the coast's spectacular natural features including Sentinel Rock, Bakers Oven, Loch Ard Gorge and the famous Twelve Apostles, as you soar over the mighty Southern Ocean.

Prices from £85 per person.

New Zealand's Fiordland National Park



Milford Sound Overnight Cruise

Cruise past waterfalls, towering mountains and spot seals and dolphins sheltering in the shimmering lakes of Milford Sound. Join the on-board nature guide for a kayaking tour or relax on deck and absorb the sheer beauty of your surroundings. What's more, you'll spend the night on board and have the unforgettable experience of waking up in one of the most breathtaking places on Earth.

Prices from £184 per person.



Milford Track

Known as the finest walk in the world, the Milford Track allows you to really experience the magical wilderness of New Zealand. Hike through lush forests, past the emerald Clinton River and gaze in awe across ancient valleys carved by glaciers. Suitable for everyone from first-time hikers to hardened trekkers, this multi-day walk takes you through the heart of Fiordland and ends at majestic Milford Sound.

4 day tour from £476 per person.



TWO WEEKS MOTORHOMING AROUND TASMANIA

Famous for its untouched wilderness and green landscapes, Australia's island state is a road trip destination with a lot to offer. Though it may look small on a map, Tasmania is close in size to Scotland so a motorhome holiday is the perfect way to give yourself enough time to fully explore this chocolate-box isle. Starting in Hobart, follow in the (tyre) tracks of our team of Austravellers who have shared all the must-see sights from their recent Tassie self-drive adventure...

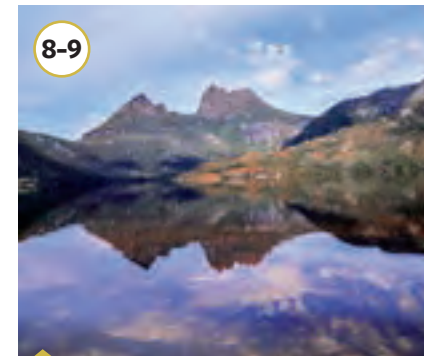


About Apollo Motorhomes

Apollo have a range of modern motorhomes available, from two beds to six beds, meaning you can travel between your chosen destinations with ease, stopping where and when you wish. Other benefits include:

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- Touring maps and discount vouchers
- 24-hour roadside assistance
- One-way rentals available (fees apply)
- Pick up/drop off locations in many major cities across Australasia

If you like the idea of booking a motorhome holiday, just ask one of our Travel Designers for more details and they'll be happy to help you piece together your ideal itinerary.



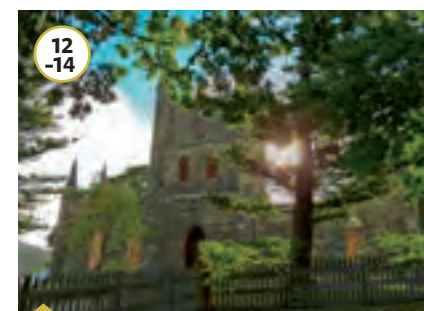
8-9

Cradle Mountain: The World Heritage-listed wilderness of Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park is one of Tasmania's most visited natural wonders. Climb the mountain, explore the forest boardwalks and stroll around Dove Lake for some of the best views of Cradle Mountain's towering spires.



10-11

Strahan: On Tassie's west coast, stay a few nights in Strahan and spend your days exploring the waterways of Macquarie Harbour, Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park and the surrounding rainforests of the Gordon River.



12-14

Port Arthur: This historic site nestled on the Tasman National Park is a fascinating day trip from Hobart where you can delve into the settlement's tumultuous convict past. Or if you're planning an overnight stay here, we recommend a wildlife cruise to see the Tasman Peninsula's stunning sculpted coastline.



7

Launceston: As one of Australia's oldest cities, this charming city boasts elegant colonial architecture and century-old parklands. Just a short walk from the centre, witness the vast Cataract Gorge, while further afield you'll find plenty more nature adventures such as zip-lining and Segway tours in Hollybank Forest.



5-6

Bay of Fires: Squeaky white sand, azure waters, vibrant orange-strained boulders, and not another soul in sight – that's what you can expect when you visit Tasmania's Bay of Fires. Spend a day here exploring the area's many scenic coastal trails.



4

Bicheno: Stop in the seaside holiday town of Bicheno for the night. Don't miss the parade of fairy penguins at dusk and we recommend getting up early to walk to see Rocking Rock and the famous Bicheno Blowhole.



2-3

Freycinet National Park: Make sure you have your camera on you for this pitstop. The unmissable Freycinet Peninsula is home to the pink-granite peaks of the Hazards Range, luxurious eco-lodges and one of the top ten beaches in the world – the picture-perfect Wineglass Bay.



1

Hobart: Start your journey in Tasmania's historic, waterfront capital. Here you can dine on sumptuous fresh seafood, see the stunning city views atop Mount Wellington or if you're visiting on a Saturday, the Salamanca Markets are a must visit.

TAKE ME THERE

15 days Tasmania self-drive
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