

Discover Australia's Outback in comfort

On an epic Australian train journey you'll explore ever-changing landscapes and many different places on one trip. Whether you choose to travel between Perth and Sydney on the Indian Pacific, or aboard the iconic Ghan from the tropics of Darwin through the hard-baked plains and fiery sands of the Red Centre to Adelaide, you'll discover a world of indulgent dining, breathtaking views and warm hospitality.



Save up to 20%*
on your great Australian train journey.
NEW OFF TRAIN EXPERIENCE FROM APRIL 2015.
*Offers valid on bookings made 6 months prior to travel. Limited availability.



AUSTRALIA'S GREAT TRAIN JOURNEYS

ENDEAVOUR

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

TRAVEL LIKE A ROYAL

Follow in the footsteps of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge



Once in a lifetime Drive-time

Discover Australia's must-see sights on a road trip adventure



Top 5 Walks

Explore Australia and New Zealand on one of our favourite walking and hiking trails



A day in the life

Meet Fiona Read, Executive Chef at Hapuku Lodge & Tree Houses

WAKE UP TO THE VIEW OF AN AUSTRALIAN ICON

Imagine waking up to the spectacular view of Uluru, more commonly known as Ayers Rock. With Voyages, you can do just that. Choose from the stylish, four-star Desert Gardens Hotel offering a relaxing and comfortable base for your Red Centre stay, or opt for the five-star, oasis retreat Sails in the Desert for first-class service and range of facilities including an idyllic swimming pool and tennis courts. For a truly luxurious experience in the Outback, Longitude 131° is quite simply one of the best wilderness hotels in the world. Stay in one of the fifteen tented sanctuaries enjoying panoramic, uninterrupted views of Uluru and the surrounding desert landscape.



TAKE ME THERE

2 NIGHTS
DESERT GARDENS HOTEL
Prices from £139 per person
Based on travel May 2015

Find out more at
austravel.com



Above: The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on a Royal tour of Australia and New Zealand, see page 24. Front Cover: Great Ocean Walk, Victoria.

Welcome to ENDEAVOUR the magazine by Austravel

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.



G'day and welcome to our latest issue of Endeavour

As summer comes to an end and the cold weather draws in, things are starting to heat up down under. Our winter months are a great time to visit Australasia, so why not start planning your own adventure? Sit back, be inspired and let the Austravel Travel Designers create that ultimate holiday down under, just for you.

Karen Joyce,
General Manager.



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What's HOT for 2015

Our experts bring you the latest destination news...

Fly Emirates on your next holiday down under

If you want award-winning service and a huge variety of flight options then fly Emirates on your next holiday down under. All the entertainment you can ask for is right at your fingertips, with fantastic local cuisine on board to start your trip in the best way possible. Regional departures and Dubai stopovers are available for your convenience.

Return international flights to Australia from £719 per person

Based on flights to Perth

3 nights Dubai stopover from £159 per person



Spot humpback whales in Kingfisher Bay

Between August and October each year, magnificent humpback whales migrate north to the Great Barrier Reef, but not before having some fun off the coast of Fraser Island. A stay at Kingfisher Bay Resort puts you in a prime location to see this spectacle, which should be near the top of everyone's bucket list.

2 nights from £105 per person

Based on travel Mar 2015



Supreme sea views at Beach Club Hamilton Island

Hotel locations don't get much better than right on the beachfront, and every room at the Beach Club Hamilton Island directly overlook Catseye Beach. This newly renovated resort on the Great Barrier Reef is now better than ever.

3 nights from £559 per person

Based on travel Mar 2015



A Balinese touch at Segara Village

You'll receive a traditional Balinese welcome at Segara Village, which has its guest rooms spread out across the lush tropical gardens. You're spoilt for choice for places to swim, with a beachfront pool and the glorious coral beach sheltered waters both on your doorstep, while Japanese and international cuisine is on offer at the hotel's two restaurants, Minami and Le Pirate.

4 nights from £185 per person

Based on travel Mar 2015



A gourmet discovery

Embark on a Zest Food Tour in New Zealand with Austravel, which combines stunning sights with tasty treats. You can walk and taste Auckland, Wellington and Martinborough with us, on trips that were named in the Top 10 Walking Tours for Globetrotting Foodies by Lonely Planet in 2013.

Day tour from £155 per person

Based on travel Mar 2015



Discover paradise in Maitai Bora Bora

The islands of French Polynesia are among the most stunning and remote in the world, and you can go there with a stay at the Maitai Bora Bora. Situated close to Matira Beach this hotel offers a range of affordable accommodation to suit your budget, but for the very best views of the turquoise Pacific Ocean check out the overwater bungalows.

6 nights Bed and Breakfast from £369 per person

Based on travel Mar-May 2015



Top 5 Walks

Travelling from one place to another is a fantastic way to see more of a country, but sometimes an area is too enchanting to just travel through. Take the time to stop and explore by foot. Australia and New Zealand have scenery perfect for walking, so take a look at our top five walks.

Tongariro Alpine Crossing

TIME: 6 to 8 hrs; DISTANCE: 19.4 km

As full-day adventures go, the world-famous Tongariro Alpine Crossing is up there with the very best. On the six to eight hour trek, you'll walk across an active volcano, with the unique terrain and unrivalled views that come with it. The sights you see on the walk are just breathtaking; Mount Taranaki comes into view as you trek over layers of ancient and modern lava, and once at the top you can enjoy views of the Oturere Valley, Rangipo Desert and the Emerald Lakes. Finishing with the native alpine fauna of the Tongariro National Park, this is a once-in-a-lifetime hike.

2 nights 5★ Lake Taupo hotel & Tongariro Crossing Day Tour from £249 per person. Based on travel Mar 2015.



Milford Track

TIME: 4 days; DISTANCE: 53.5 km

Probably New Zealand's most renowned walk, Milford Track takes you through the stunning Fiordland National Park. The four-day adventure, which takes in 53.5km in total, goes from the head of Lake Te Anau and ends at the cool and misty Sutherland Falls, the highest waterfall in the country. On the way you'll cross suspension bridges and boardwalks all the while taking in the spectacular mountain peaks that surround you. This walk has a high standard of track and facilities, and is equally worth experiencing on a sunny day or in rain when water cascades all around.

Full Day Guided Taster Walk, Routeburn Track, Fiordland National Park from £275 per person.

Based on travel Apr-May 2015.



Kings Canyon Rim Walk

TIME: 3 to 4 hrs; DISTANCE: 6 km

Brief, yet fairly challenging, the Rim Walk offers increasingly stunning views all the way to the top, where you can then look down on the breathtaking sight of Watarrka National Park and Kings Canyon. Your walk starts with a tricky 500-step climb, but once that's been completed the photography opportunities to come are more than worth the effort. The 3-4 hour hike takes you through the 'Garden of Eden' and to the top of the 270m high cliffs – as tall as Melbourne's biggest skyscraper! For an easier trip, consider walking through the canyon walls back at ground level.

2 nights 3★+ Kings Canyon hotel & Rim Walk Tour from £149 per person. Based on travel Mar 2015.



Fraser Island Great Walk

TIME: 1 to 8 days; DISTANCE: 90 km

Flexibility is the name of the game on Fraser Island; you can relax at one of the freshwater lakes or you have the choice of many activities, and the Fraser Island Great Walk reflects this. Trek as much or as little of the 90-kilometre trail as you like, with short sections easily manageable or the full, eight-day walk an option for the adventurous. Starting at Dilli Village on the east coast, walk inland through rainforest and woodland along a mixture of old logging roads and trails. Lakes are scattered throughout, including Mackenzie, Wangoolba and Wabby.

2 nights 4★ hotel & Beauty Spot Tour from £199 per person. Based on travel Apr-May 2015.



Heysen Trail - Flinders Ranges

TIME: 1 to 4 hrs; DISTANCE: 500m to 4 km

The Flinders Ranges have some of the most beautiful views in Australia and this trail, whether you have just an hour or half a day to spare, will let you see the peaks in all their glory. There's no requirement to be an experienced hiker here either, so you can do as much of the 500m-4km walk as you like and at your own speed. The reward for the full distance is a scenic route through the cypress pine forest and rugged ridges on a hike that has an almost alpine ambiance.

2 nights 4★ Flinders Ranges hotel & Wilpena Pound Scenic Flight from £199 per person. Based on travel Mar-Jul 2015.



Meet the Guide



“Kia ora!
My name is **Laurie Stokes** and I am one of the many people who you could meet when you book your APT tour. I grew up in the geothermal town of Rotorua and have spent most of my life living here. I look forward to showing my home town to you on your New Zealand adventure.”

Laurie Stokes,
APT Tour Director

Q Why should people take a guided tour of New Zealand?

We Kiwi's pride ourselves on our hospitality and we want you to feel welcome and enjoy what our beautiful country has to offer. With an APT guided tour you can relax knowing that we will take care of you every step of the way. From the small and often overlooked details like luggage portage to your journey aboard the famous TranzAlpine train. Some of the best times of my life have been on tour, meeting all sorts of interesting people - I have seen passengers start as strangers and leave the country as lifelong friends. The most common compliment I receive is that passengers felt that everything was taken care of, and that they felt at ease with just sitting back, relaxing and taking in the amazing scenery and experiences without any of the worries involved with individual travel.

Q What is your favourite tour?

I love them all but if I had to pick one it would be our 17-day New Zealand Wonderland tour visiting both the North and South Islands. This tour is perfect for both the first-time traveller or for those returning to experience more of our beautiful country. I love the included sightseeing, memorable stays and Freedom of Choice options which allow you to personalise your holiday. 17 days is the perfect amount of time to discover all of New Zealand and guests have commented to me that even though we see and do a lot, they still feel completely relaxed at the end of their journey.

APT have been the experts in providing guided tours throughout Australasia for over 85 years, here we speak to one of their Tour Directors.



Q What is Freedom of Choice?

We know that not everyone will want to see and do the same thing. With Freedom of Choice Touring you can choose which activity you want to do in certain locations and they're all included at no extra cost. I love this concept because it means that even though you are on a guided tour, you can personalise the trip to suit you. There are lots of options to choose from too. In the Bay of Islands you can have a winery tour at Kerikeri; take a trip to the very top of New Zealand at Cape Reinga; go on a dolphin watching adventure or play a round of golf to name just a few.

Q What are the highlights of this trip?

There are so many amazing things to see on this trip. I still get a kick out of going round a corner and seeing Mt Cook come into view in all its glory. Plus you actually get to stay right at Mt Cook and wake up to the awe of the highest peak in Australasia out of your window – an experience many others don't provide. Then, of course the beauty of the Bay of Islands and Geothermal and Maori culture of Rotorua is amazing, not to mention a two night stay in Queenstown - the adventure capital of New Zealand.

Q What is the accommodation like?

The accommodation is outstanding and we include the famous Hermitage Hotel with mountain-view rooms looking right over Mt Cook. My personal favourite is Te Waonui Rainforest Retreat at Franz Josef Glacier. This stay is exclusive to APT and is a pure eco-retreat experience where you can unwind in complete peace. The rooms are very spacious and nestled among the rainforest.



Q When is the best time to travel to New Zealand?

New Zealand is beautiful all year round but I would say the best time would be in the summer from November to March when the weather is at its best. The winter months are still a great time to travel and if you're lucky enough to experience snow on the mountains it is breathtaking. Whenever you travel, rest assured that between my fellow tour directors, our amazing coach drivers and our locally based operations team – we'll always give you an unforgettable experience. 

Q And the food?

One of the things I say people must do when they visit New Zealand is to experience a traditional Hangi feast. We include this in our visit to Rotorua and it never fails to amaze! In Wellington and Queenstown we also offer Freedom of Choice dining so you can choose from a range of carefully selected restaurants to dine in at no extra cost. My favourite in Queenstown is the trip over to the Walter Peak High Country Farm where you can enjoy dinner at 'The Great Kiwi Carvery'.

In Te Anau we sample some regional cuisine in the Taste of Fiordland Menu, such as local Venison and Southern Blue Cod; and at Franz Josef we are wowed by a unique four course degustation menu at Te Waonui Forest Retreat.

TAKE ME THERE

17 DAYS NEW ZEALAND WONDERLAND TOUR
WITH APT

Prices from £3,395 per person
Includes selected meals

Based on travel May-Jul 2015. Excludes flights.

One of the World's Most Awarded Airlines

Singapore Airlines operates four daily flights from London Heathrow, plus a daily flight from Manchester, to Singapore onboard its Airbus A380 (London only) and Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, with convenient connections to Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

The next generation of onboard experience is now available on selected flights between London and Singapore on the new Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, created with special attention to comfort, convenience and design.

The new Economy Class seat provides additional comfort, with increased personal space and legroom. The new Business Class seat offers greater recline, two new seating positions and full-flat bed at 78" in length while in the new First Class cabin you can relax in your stylish Givenchy sleeper suit and suede slippers as you recline in your full-flat bed at 82" in length.

Additionally, a brand new KrisWorld in-flight entertainment system will offer the latest technology available, including larger LCD screens and video touch-screen handsets across all cabins.



Find out more at
austravel.com



Singapore Stopovers

Take advantage of Singapore Airlines' onward flights down under and spend a few nights exploring the sights of Singapore. Wander through bustling Little India, take a trip on the Singapore flyer and sip on a Singapore Sling at iconic Raffles hotel.

TAKE ME THERE

RETURN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

TO AUSTRALIA

from £789 per person

Based on travel May-Jun 2015

3 NIGHTS SINGAPORE STOPOVER

from £149 per person

Based on travel May-Jun 2015

A day in the life

FIONA READ

Job: Executive Chef and a MasterChef finalist.

Location: Hapuku Lodge & Tree Houses, Kaikoura, South Island New Zealand.





Located in one of the most beautiful places in the world, Hapuku Lodge & Tree Houses is a luxurious and relaxing retreat just 12 kilometres north of the renowned eco marine town of Kaikoura, on the coast of New Zealand's stunning South Island. A contemporary country lodge, Hapuku Lodge & Tree Houses is composed of five luxury tree houses set 10 metres up in the canopy of the native Kanuka trees, plus four luxury Lodge Suites and the Olive House Suite. At the heart of the Hapuku Lodge experience, is a passion for good food and wine. Fiona Read has been Hapuku's Executive Chef for the past two years, following on from her time as a finalist on MasterChef New Zealand.



“The sunrises in Kaikoura are incredible – an important incentive when my day starts at 5am! The gumboots are on and I'm out the door to feed our Wessex Saddleback pigs and a variety of ducks; let out the chickens for the day and then check on the Belted Galloway cows. Being involved with and having an intimate knowledge of the produce that we serve to our guests is extremely important to me. I want to know where it has come from and how it has been raised. Then it's into the kitchen to prepare breakfast for our guests. Everything is made in the lodge kitchen including preserves, peanut butter, granola, yoghurt, breads and delicious baked goods such as lemon fennel cakes and rosemary cheddar scones. Our eggs are free-range sourced from either our own chooks or local farmers. Cookies are baked for each of the rooms and feature local ingredients like lavender and organic mountain honey. As our kitchen has an open pass, which means we

cook and plate all of the dishes in front of the guests, most mornings I have the opportunity to chat with them, talk about their dinner at the lodge the night before and what their plans are for the day. Soon after breakfast I turn my attention to dinner and creating the day's menu. I'm inspired by the beauty of our surroundings and the incredible daily produce we source from our local fisherman, farmers and our own vegetable garden and olive grove. Foraging for wild treats is my time out, I take the dogs and head out to see what I can find. Our team of chefs at the lodge are just as passionate about the food experience as I am and together we design and develop dishes, catering for a wide variety of dietary requirements. For me cooking is all about bringing people together and creating fantastic memories. I get to do this every day at Hapuku Lodge. It's a chef's dream. ”



Hapuku Lodge & Tree Houses

★★★★★

Nestled between the Kaikoura seaward mountain range and the Pacific Ocean, the contemporary Hapuku Lodge is just a 10 minute drive north of Kaikoura. Hapuku Lodge features 5 luxury treehouses, 10 metres above the ground, plus an Olive House Suite and 4 rooms and suites in the main lodge. All rooms overlook the olive grove, deer farm, mountains and the Pacific Ocean.

TAKE ME THERE

2 NIGHTS

HAPUKU LODGE & TREE HOUSES, KAIKOURA

Prices from £419 per person

Based on travel Mar 2015

Karengo (Seaweed) and Sesame Crumbed Crayfish with Horseradish Mayo

Serves 2-4

Kaikoura is the Maori word for eating crayfish (kai = food/eat, koura = crayfish/rock lobster) so there's no better place to experience this New Zealand delicacy than at Hapuku Lodge, just north of Kaikoura town. This is one of our favourite ways to serve crayfish as it's like a Kiwi summer holiday on a plate – fresh, simple, relaxed, down-to-earth and great to share with family and friends.

2 crayfish
100g panko crumbs
50g white sesame seeds
25g black sesame seeds
3 tablespoons crumbled karengo (dried seaweed) or 2 sheets nori (broken up in a food processor)
1 teaspoon flaky sea salt
1 free-range egg, beaten
¼ cup flour

Horseradish Mayo

1 free-range egg
¾ teaspoon caster sugar
¾ teaspoon flaky sea salt
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 cup grapeseed oil
1 clove garlic, crushed
2 ½ tablespoons grated horseradish (a little less if it's freshly grated)

- 1 Your fishmonger should be able to prepare your crayfish by splitting it into two and opening out (butterfly), removing the shell and the tail meat. Keep the shells and make a crayfish stock or bisque which can be frozen and used another time.
- 2 Either leave the tails as they are, or for a canapé size, cut the tail into bite-sized portions.
- 3 Combine the panko crumbs, sesame seeds, karengo/nori and salt in a bowl.
- 4 Crumb the crayfish pieces by first dipping in flour, then egg and finally the panko crumb mixture. Lay the slices on a cake rack to allow the crumbs to dry a little (this will help the crumbs to stay on during cooking).
- 5 In the mean time make the mayo by whisking together the egg, caster sugar, salt, 1 tablespoon of the lemon juice and the crushed garlic (a stick blender is ideal for this but you can also make it by hand with a whisk). Very slowly add the grapeseed oil in a steady thin stream while continuously blending or whisking. This is particularly important at the beginning. Mayonnaise can “split” resulting in an emulsion that will not thicken. Once all the oil has been mixed in, you should have a glossy thick mayo. Fold in the grated horseradish, check the seasoning and add a little more of the lemon juice, salt or sugar if required.
- 6 Deep fry the crayfish in batches at 180°C until golden brown. Drain well and keep warm until the other pieces are cooked. Season with additional salt.
- 7 Serve the crayfish and mayo as an appetiser with a fresh green salad and extra lemon or with pre-dinner drinks as a canapé.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Stairs to the Treehouse, stunning views, kitchen, herb and vegetable gardens, lounge.

Once in a lifetime Drive-time

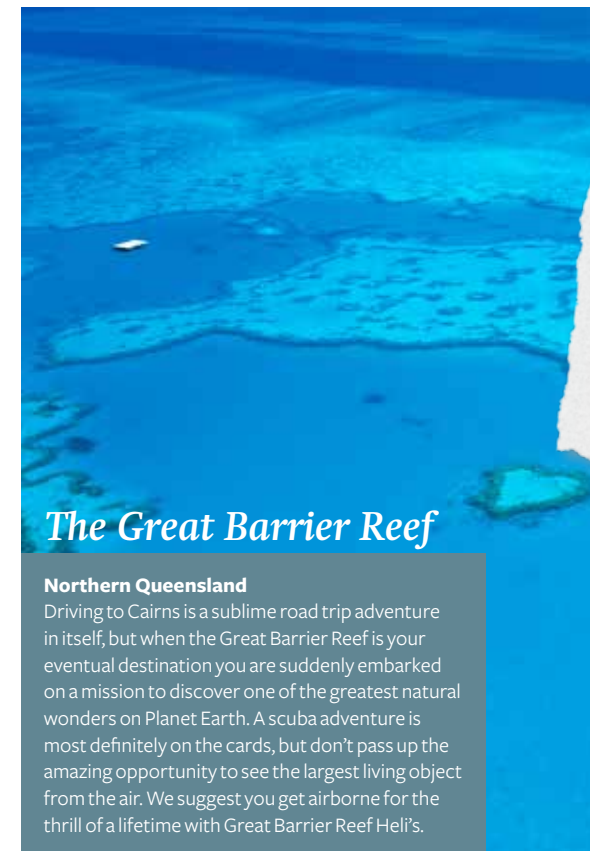
The roads that wind through Australia's beautiful, rugged scenery should place an outback road trip high on every traveller's 'to-do' list. There are so many attractions to encounter you'll be glad you chose not to fly. Our expert Travel Designers at Austravel have selected a number of highly recommended destinations to maximise those views of the stunning Australian countryside.

The Twelve Apostles

Great Ocean Road

Port Campbell National Park contains some of the most striking scenery in the state of Victoria, and the Great Ocean Road runs straight through it. So if you have always planned to see the Twelve Apostles for yourself one day, then the National Park has access to campsites and car parks so you can stop for a break and admire the splendour of Australia's wild coastline. We suggest you head beyond the main visitor centre for uninterrupted views of the Apostles and along the coastline.

14 Be inspired at austravel.com or call our Travel Designers on 0808 252 5894 to book.
Calls are free, mobile and other providers' charges may apply.



The Great Barrier Reef

Northern Queensland

Driving to Cairns is a sublime road trip adventure in itself, but when the Great Barrier Reef is your eventual destination you are suddenly embarked on a mission to discover one of the greatest natural wonders on Planet Earth. A scuba adventure is most definitely on the cards, but don't pass up the amazing opportunity to see the largest living object from the air. We suggest you get airborne for the thrill of a lifetime with Great Barrier Reef Heli's.



Austravel Secret...

“If you visit the Red Centre you have to see the impressive sunrise over Ayers Rock, it's simply stunning. Make sure you wrap up warm though, because it can be cold in the morning!”

Julie, Travel Designer

The Red Centre

Northern Territory

The Red Centre of Australia is an evocative aspiration for you to discover when you visit Australia and there is no better way of achieving your ambition than to drive straight to the heart of this mesmerising country. Dead-set in the centre is the majestic and magical Uluru, residing like a ruby jewel framed against an ochre desert ablaze in glory. Wake early to see the sun rising and the colours transform this inspiring landscape. But don't just stop at Uluru. We suggest you visit the brilliantly quirky Alice Springs en route to the great monolith and use it as a springboard to discover the Red Centre by camel safari, hot air balloon or quad bike. The choice is yours.



Kalbarri and Monkey Mia

Western Australia

Western Australia holds many hidden gems along its stunning coastline. Just a seven hour idyllic drive from Perth, the Kalbarri National Park will treat you to spectacular ocean views filled with migrating humpback whales in the Indian Ocean and scenic wonders including Hawk's Head Lookout and the Loop and Z Bend. Further North lies Monkey Mia, a must-visit for animal lovers. Scientists first became interested in the Shark Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, when it was noticed that a pod of bottlenose dolphins were so friendly they would allow visitors to feed, stroke and even swim with them in the shallows. This is good news for you because under strict supervision you can do the same thing. We suggest you stay over for at least two nights; the dolphins naturally swim close to shore in the evening. Although no one actually knows where the name originated, one thing is undeniable; Monkey Mia will be an unforgettable highlight of any road trip through Australia.

If you're feeling inspired to create your own road trip adventure, our Travel Designers can help you craft a self-drive itinerary with Avis, one of our preferred partners. Their itineraries include pre-booked accommodation, so you don't have to worry about finding a hotel along the way, as well as a free backpack containing detailed maps, day by day driving instructions and even more tips on where the best photo opportunities lie.



TAKE ME THERE

5 DAYS

GREAT OCEAN ROAD SELF-DRIVE WITH AVIS

Prices from £345 per person

Based on travel Mar 2015. Excludes flights.

The Cook Islands

a true castaway experience

Welcome to the Cook Islands, a place of warming smiles, welcoming atmosphere and unforgettable beaches.

Rarotonga is the Cook Islands' vibrant centre, where high mountain peaks overlook palm fringed shores and lush green rainforest cascades to meet translucent waters. Discover the island's proud traditions including the legendary libidinous dances. Aitutaki is a breathtaking holiday haven with pristine white sands and turquoise lagoon, it's no wonder this atoll is considered one of the most beautiful islands in the world. Hop between these intimate islands and discover their friendly locals and laid back lifestyle, you'll never want to leave...



TAKE ME THERE

3 NIGHTS MOANA SANDS BEACHFRONT
HOTEL RAROTONGA

4 NIGHTS TAMANU BEACH HOTEL AITUTAKI

Prices from £1,049 per person

Includes Breakfast and flight transfers.

Based on travel Mar 2015

Find out more at
austravel.com

Top value picks from our experts

IT'S A DEAL!

These special offers have been handpicked by our experts.
Call our Travel Designers on **0808 252 5894** to book.

OFFERS
Not To Be
Missed

OFFERS
EXCLUSIVE
to Austravel



1

APT New Zealand Splendour – 28 days

SAVE £1,000 PER COUPLE

This epic tour takes in everything New Zealand has to offer, from the action packed activities to the buzz of the cities. Book before 31 Oct 2015 on holidays departing from 28 Sep 2015 to take advantage of this fantastic deal. Includes return international flights.



2

Great Southern Rail – The Ghan and Indian Pacific

SAVE 20% ON GOLD CLASS

Discover the breathtaking views of Australia in style aboard The Ghan or Indian Pacific. Offer valid on bookings made 6 months prior to travel.



3

3 nights at Shangri-La Hotel The Marina Cairns from £159pp

Lap up the luxury of this five-star hotel overlooking the Marlin Marina, just a short stroll from the Esplanade Lagoon and marina area. Includes one bonus night. Valid on stays Jan-Mar 2015.



4

Sounds of Silence Dinner, Ayers Rock from £109pp

Enjoy a glass of sparkling wine as you witness the sun set over Kata Tjuta and the spectacular Uluru. Then dine on a gourmet BBQ buffet and take a tour of the southern night sky hosted by the resident astronaut during some of the world's best stargazing.



5

3 nights at SKYCITY Hotel, Auckland from £100pp

Sample the luxury and comfort of this first-class hotel in the heart of the city. From the world-class casino to a selection of restaurants, bars and cafés, live entertainment and fantastic views across the city from the Sky Tower 328 metres high, there is something for everyone here. Includes one bonus night. Valid on stays 1-31 Jan 2015.



Whether you are watching your budget or are looking to splash out on the finest hotel, there are many ways to experience the best of Australasia. Here, our hotels go head to head...

Marlborough, New Zealand

FRUGAL: Scenic Hotel

This hotel has benefitted from a recent refurbishment and is a modern, relaxing place for any type of holiday. For those on a budget, the Scenic Hotel is a great spot for seeing Blenheim and there are room facilities that exceed the modest price tag.

2 nights from £109 per person. Based on selected travel Mar 2015.



FRIVOLOUS: Bay of Many Coves

On the Queen Charlotte Sound in Marlborough you can be pampered to extreme at the Bay of Many Coves. This exclusive retreat offers spacious hillside apartments with up to three bedrooms, a cedar hot tub and superb, unspoilt surroundings.

2 nights from £355 per person. Based on travel Mar 2015.



Bora Bora, French Polynesia

FRUGAL: Maitai Bora Bora

Take your place on the glorious island of Bora Bora with a stay at the Maitai. Set in the middle of the lush greenery of the tropical gardens and not far from Matira Beach, experience affordable luxury right here.

6 nights from £369 per person. Based on travel Mar-May 2015.



FRIVOLOUS: Intercontinental Bora Bora

As locations go, they don't get much better than the Intercontinental Bora Bora's spot on Motu Pita Aau, an island on the Great Barrier Reef. As well as the top class spa, this hotel has two gourmet restaurants on site and 24-hour room service.

5 nights from £1,549 per person. Based on travel Mar 2015.



Margaret River, Western Australia

FRUGAL: Margaret's Beach Resort

Just right for a cost-effective couples or family holiday, Margaret's Beach Resort puts you right in the famous Margaret River wine region. There are caves to explore, wineries to visit and national parks to walk around, all within easy access of this resort just 500m from Gnarabup Beach.

2 nights from £105 per person. Based on travel Mar 2015.



FRIVOLOUS: Cape Lodge

Secluded, unique and romantic, Cape Lodge is set in 40 acres of perfectly pruned gardens and with just 22 rooms and suites you'll feel like the only people around. Aside from the gorgeous lake in the grounds and the award-winning restaurant with cookery school, the lodge is just a few minutes from the breathtaking Indian Ocean coastline.

3 nights from £355 per person. Based on travel May 2015.



Tasmania

FRUGAL: Freycinet Lodge

With a unique location in the environment of the Freycinet National Park, this lodge is great for half- or full-day bushwalking. Here you can discover the forests, beaches and mountains of Tasmania all from your starting point in an economical cabin.

2 nights from £169 per person. Based on travel May-Jun 2015.



FRIVOLOUS: Saffire Freycinet

The views over Great Oyster Bay are already excellent, but your trip to Tasmania can be made perfect with a stay at Saffire Freycinet. With a private courtyard in each suite, fine dining in the restaurant that uses locally sourced food and the Hazard Mountains in the distance, this is the epitome of luxury.

2 nights from £1,085 per person. Based on travel Mar 2015.



Kangaroo Island, South Australia

FRUGAL: Wilderness Retreat

This eco-friendly hideaway is located right in the middle of natural bushland, giving you the perfect base for exploring South Australia. It's right by the entrance to Flinders Chase National Park and all the beautiful attractions of Kangaroo Island are within reach.

3 nights from £155 per person. Based on travel Mar 2015.



FRIVOLOUS: Southern Ocean Lodge

Modern luxury and stunning natural environments combine to create Southern Ocean Lodge. Each suite has the highest level of comfort including an in-suite bar, and when you fancy heading into the great outdoors guides will show you everything that Kangaroo Island has to offer.

3 nights from £1,699 per person. Based on travel Mar 2015.



Travellers' Tales...

Travel Designer **Louise Bell** embarked on a trip to Australia, taking in the spectacular sights of Tropical North Queensland, Red Centre and Victoria.



“
To be enveloped by this geographical phenomenon and to walk over what used to be an ocean floor is an experience I shall never forget
”



“
Louise, Uluru
”

How would you sum up Tropical North Queensland?
Scenic, eye catching and beautiful landscapes. From the breathtaking Great Barrier Reef to the ancient forests of Cape Tribulation, the world is your oyster in Tropical North Queensland.

What was your favourite thing to do here?
There is so much on offer, it's tough to pick just one highlight. The quirky seaside town of Port Douglas is lovely for a chilled day out, a river cruise along the Daintree river is great for spotting wildlife including crocs and snakes, and the Kuranda All Inclusive day tour gives you an insight into aboriginal culture. But for me, the Great Barrier Reef is an absolute must, wow!

Where did you head to next?
After a few days in the Tropical North, we visited the iconic, alluring Ayers Rock, also known as Uluru. I stayed at peaceful Sails in the Desert which had a great pool area, lined with gumtrees and sun loungers, with a bar and restaurant for food and drinks. It had rained just before we arrived so we were lucky enough to see the Waterfalls of Uluru; a rare phenomenon to have witnessed and definitely one to strike off your bucket-list.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Watarrka National Park, Kings Canyon. Fraser Island.

What were your highlights of the Red Centre?
I woke up early to watch the sun rise over this awe-inspiring monolith, witnessing the rock change colour as dawn breaks is truly magical. If you're not an early riser, I heartily recommend a Sounds of Silence dinner. Set in the middle of the Outback, we arrived by camel and settled down for a bush tucker meal that included kangaroo and crocodile, I don't think I ever understood what silence was until this moment. Then to be treated to star-gazing using a telescope to view distant planets and constellations made the evening complete.

Why should our customers visit Kings Canyon?
It's not a name that instantly springs to mind when you think of visiting Australia, but it should be because the views are simply unbelievable. The Kings Canyon 'rim walk' is a particularly memorable event. Ok, so you need to be reasonably fit (as the name 'heart attack hill' would suggest). There are over 450 steps on a very steep incline, but once at the top you are rewarded with views that are so prehistoric you will believe you have stepped back in time.

There is a steady river walk which cuts through Kings Canyon, where, from way up high to being far down below, you'll be surrounded by impressive 100m high canyon walls. To be enveloped by this geographical phenomenon and to walk over what used to be an ocean floor is an experience I shall never forget.

A particular mention has to go to the Kings Canyon Resort where we stayed for the night. I have to say the food and entertainment was top notch. There was such a relaxed atmosphere, where local artists played music and fresh food was cooked by the resident BBQ chef. The evening was one of the best of the trip.

A very good idea for anyone intending to explore the Red Centre of Australia is to take a guided tour by APT Touring. They were knowledgeable, relaxed and the coaches we travelled on were comfortable, air-conditioned and wifi-connected.

What did you think of Melbourne?
I loved the hustle and bustle of the busy city with 1,000's of activities to keep you busy during your stay. I visited Phillip Island and got up close to the resident penguins and took a journey along the Great Ocean Road – the views were epic. Take a trip further out into Victoria to Mornington Peninsula to tie in a natural hot spring experience whilst sipping on local wine and chocolate.

It sounds like a fantastic trip, if you had to pick just one favourite destination, what would it be?
Cairns - there is just so much to experience within a stone's throw of the city. To experience the incredible Great Barrier Reef and to come up close and personal with the coral and fish in their natural habitat is a once in a lifetime experience. Back inland you have the opposite side of the spectrum with the rainforest and the amazing wildlife and Aboriginal culture. To be given a guided tour and an insight of their day to day life whilst in their natural habitat was very humbling and I felt very privileged to be able to experience that.

TAKE ME THERE

- 3 NIGHTS 4★** NOVOTEL CAIRNS OASIS RESORT
- 2 NIGHTS 5★** SAILS IN THE DESERT, AYERS ROCK
- 3 NIGHTS 4★** RENDEZVOUS HOTEL, MELBOURNE

Prices from **£399** per person
Based on travel May 2015. Excludes flights.

Explore

the world's
largest Aquarium

One of the seven wonders of the natural world and a national treasure, the Great Barrier Reef is a must when visiting Queensland, and Quicksilver offers the best opportunity to explore this breathtaking sight. From the Outer Barrier Reef cruise to the Agincourt Reef onboard a high-speed, luxury catamaran to the Silverseries for Divers cruise with five hours of diving and snorkelling at three different sites. For a totally different view of the reef, take to the skies onboard a helicopter for an exciting ten minute scenic flight.

TAKE ME THERE

QUICKSILVER

OUTER BARRIER REEF CRUISE

Prices from £129 per person

TAKE ME THERE

SILVERSONIC

OUTER BARRIER REEF DIVING

Prices from £157 per person

TAKE ME THERE

30 MINUTE

REEF OR RAINFOREST SCENIC FLIGHT

Prices from £236 per person

Find out more at
austravel.com



A View with a Room



Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort and Spa

With spectacular views of Mount Otemanu, this beautiful hotel is located on a small islet just ten minutes by private boat from the main island. With a traditional Polynesian feel, it is made with natural materials including pandanus and bamboo. Choose from the Garden and Beach Suites, or for that extra special stay, the Overwater Bungalows with direct access to the sparkling ocean are a must!



TAKE ME THERE

5 NIGHTS

BORA BORA PEARL BEACH RESORT AND SPA

Prices from £789 per person

Based on travel May 2015

Follow the Royal Trail *down under*

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge recently completed a Royal tour to some of the most spectacular locations in Australia and New Zealand. With a little careful planning you can follow in their footsteps and it needn't cost a king's ransom.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visiting Taronga Zoo in Sydney. William and Kate play with Prince George for the cameras, image courtesy of Auspic. Shotover jet boat in Queenstown. Yacht racing across Auckland harbour. Matakauri Luxury Five-Star Spa Resort, Queenstown. Luxury tented accommodation at Longitude 131°.



LONGITUDE 131° LODGE RESORT – ULURU – NORTHERN TERRITORY

Uluru (Ayers Rock) is a place of majesty and serenity, a red jewel set in the captivating silence of the Outback. Longitude 131° is a luxury tent resort and is the nearest accommodation to the sandstone formation. It is equipped with its own restaurant and spa and you wake in the morning with your own private view of Uluru. White linen luxury contrasts elegantly with the enchanting red ochre desert. The Royal couple listened to aboriginal tales and star-gazed here.

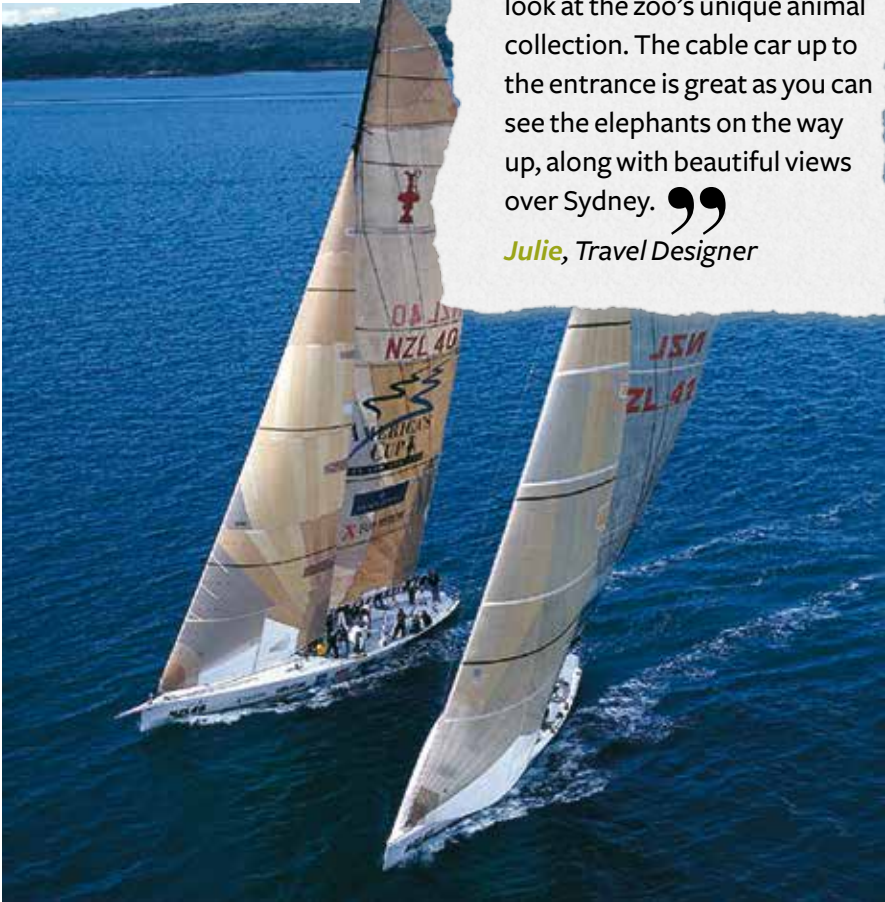
2 nights from £1,295 per person
Based on travel May 2015



Austravel Secret...

“If you’re visiting Taronga Zoo, take the VIP Aussie Gold Tour for a behind the scenes look at the zoo’s unique animal collection. The cable car up to the entrance is great as you can see the elephants on the way up, along with beautiful views over Sydney.”

Julie, Travel Designer



MATAKAURI LUXURY FIVE-STAR SPA RESORT – QUEENSTOWN – NEW ZEALAND

William and Kate adored Matakauri Lodge. They spent a romantic break at this charming boutique hotel. Located near Queenstown, the adventure capital of New Zealand, the lodge commands views over Lake Wakatipu, to the snow capped mountains beyond. All rooms have private terraces. This was the perfect hideaway for William and Kate, and can be a wonderful peaceful retreat for you too.

2 nights from £909 per person
Based on travel Mar 2015

TARONGA ZOO – SYDNEY – NEW SOUTH WALES

Perched on a cliff top overlooking the Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House, Taronga is one of the most beguiling attractions in Sydney. Little Prince George loved meeting the baby wallabies, koalas and a bilby named George, and so will you. You can also camp in luxury safari-style tents right in the middle of the zoo, waking up in this idyllic setting to one of the most spectacular city skylines in the world.

SHOTOVER JET – QUEENSTOWN – NEW ZEALAND

Shotover Jet is rated as one of the greatest thrill-seeking pleasure rides in the world today. Ride the rapids in this trip of a lifetime down the Shotover River in New Zealand. Gasp at the breathtaking scenery as you hurtle through the canyon at breakneck speed. It was sometime before the smiles left William and Kate’s faces.

AMERICA’S CUP – SAILING IN NEW ZEALAND

The America’s Cup is the world’s oldest active sports trophy and possibly the world’s most prestigious sailing regatta. William and Kate actually raced each other when they climbed aboard separate vessels at Waitemata Harbour near Auckland. Get the wind in your sails and discover the amazing thrill of seeing these impressive vessels in the flesh. You too could take to the helm, man the grinders and feel the power of the ocean at your fingertips.

WHAREKAUHAU LODGE AND COUNTRY ESTATE HOTEL – PALLISER BAY – NEW ZEALAND

On a bluff overlooking Palliser Bay and the waters of the Cook Straits sits the estate called Wharekauhau Lodge. It commands one of the most picturesque views on the North Island of New Zealand. The dramatic views are matched only by the luxury surroundings. Enjoy flickering fireplaces, walk-in wardrobes, marble floors and double spa baths, while you gaze out across Palliser Bay in this heaven on earth New Zealand retreat.

2 nights from £945 per person
Based on travel Mar 2015



WHY I LOVE...

New Zealand is home to some of the world’s most incredible landscapes, with jaw dropping scenes hidden around each and every corner. Our Destination Executive **Laura** visited the picturesque country for a 10 day exploration of the North and South Islands, where she spotted whales in the wild and took a leap off the Auckland Sky Tower.



“ Seeing such magnificent creatures against a stunning backdrop of snow-capped mountains is a sight I will never forget ”



It was my second time landing in Auckland. My first was five years ago when backpacking with friends through Australasia. I loved New Zealand and always wanted to go back, but never thought I would get the opportunity. So, when work offered me a trip, I leapt at the chance to visit again.

We started the trip in New Zealand’s South Island, spending two nights in Christchurch before taking a day trip to Akaroa. Just 75kms from Christchurch, Akaroa is a beautiful little French and British settlement with quaint colonial architecture, galleries, craft stalls and cafés lining the streets. It felt like the perfect place to enjoy a day or two relaxing and exploring the outer bays by bike, kayak or harbour cruise. Whilst out on a nature cruise I was lucky enough to spot wild dolphins leaping out of the water as we gently worked our way around the peaceful bay – it was a magical experience!

Working our way back up the South Island we stopped off in Kaikoura for a whale-watching cruise. To be honest I wasn’t sure what to expect, I had never seen a whale in the wild and didn’t think we would actually get the chance to see one up close. I remember sitting on the deck in the open sea, surrounded by this most incredible scenery and waiting patiently for a whale to surface. Watching the movement of the water and eyes peeled, we all waited with anticipation! After a short while we were rewarded with the sighting of two sperm whales and a large pod of dolphins dancing around the front of our boat. Seeing such magnificent

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Whale watching in Kaikoura. Wood carvings in Rotorua. Milford Sound.



Austravel Secret...
“ You don’t need to be a fan of the films to enjoy the Hobbiton Movie Set day tour in Rotorua! I’d never seen any of the films beforehand but just learning about a working movie set was a great experience. ”

Laura, Travel Designer



creatures against a stunning backdrop of snow-capped mountains is a sight I will never forget. It was unbelievable, and a must-do for anyone visiting the South Island.

While in Kaikoura I stayed in the luxurious five-star Hapuku Lodge – my favourite hotel of the stay. Surrounded by dramatic countryside, the tree houses are nestled 10 metres above the ground so they have breathtaking views out of each and every window. It was one of the most beautiful places I have ever stayed in, and an idyllic hotel to spend a few nights.

Heading further north we spent some time in Blenheim, wine tasting within the vineyards. Then we moved on to Nelson, where we visited the stunning Abel Tasman National Park with its beautiful untouched beaches and green forests. Concluding our time on the South Island, we took the Interislander Ferry from Picton across to Wellington in the North Island. While in Wellington I visited the Te Papa Museum, took a seal coast safari and enjoyed a Lord of the Rings tour where I got the chance to visit the workshops where the films were created.

From Wellington we travelled to Rotorua where I was lucky enough to enjoy a delicious Hangi dinner that’s cooked traditionally underground, followed by a lively cultural performance. Getting an insight into Maori culture was a great experience and I would definitely recommend the tour to anyone visiting Rotorua. I also got the opportunity to experience some of the fast paced activities available such as white water rafting, jet boating and the Skyline Luge.

For me though, the most incredible, adrenaline fuelled experience I had during my trip was in Auckland when I jumped off of the Skytower. Leaping

a total of 192 metres from the top, this was by far the highlight of my trip with the most incredible views as you fall (if you keep your eyes open!) It’s not quite as scary as a skydive or a bungee jump, so perfect for a first time thrill seeker. However for those not quite brave enough to take the dive, you can visit the top of the tower for beautiful views across the city skyline.

Although my trip was fast paced, I managed to see loads of what the North and South Islands offer. I think two weeks is an ideal amount of time in New Zealand, and I would definitely recommend doing a self drive so you can explore at your own pace. The Interislander ferry is also a great way to travel between the islands while being an easy and cost effective way to explore, plus the scenery when leaving the South Island by boat is second to none!

There really is something for everyone in New Zealand. The North and South Islands are beautiful and diverse but in different ways; honestly it is a breathtaking, must-see destination. I cannot recommend a visit enough, and I’m already planning to return for a third time!

TAKE ME THERE

13 NIGHTS
SELF-DRIVE

Prices from **£1,019** per person
Includes 1 nt 4★ Christchurch hotel, 1 nt 4★ Hanmer Springs hotel, 2 nts 5★ Kaikoura hotel, 2 nts 3★ Wellington hotel, 1 nt 5★ Martinborough hotel, 2 nts 4★ Napier hotel, 2 nts 3★ Rotorua hotel, 2 nts 4★ Auckland hotel and car hire

Based on travel Mar 2014. Excludes flights.

Honeymoon in paradise



When you think of the ultimate honeymoon destination, you won't find a more perfect location than Hamilton Island. Situated in the middle of Queensland's Whitsunday Islands at the edge of the Great Barrier Reef, you'll experience everything that is great about Australia – beautiful natural surrounds, calm waters, warm weather, fascinating coral reefs and diverse flora and fauna.

There are also plenty of activities, from snorkelling the reef, to sea kayaking and scenic helicopter flights. Or perhaps you'd prefer to celebrate married life by doing nothing at all and simply lay around one of six pools or on stunning Catseye Beach. Enjoy casual and fine dining, with almost as many eating options as you'd expect to find on the mainland. When it comes to world-class resorts in world-famous locations, qualia, located on the secluded northern-most tip of Hamilton Island provides the ultimate honeymoon getaway for those searching for tranquillity, luxury and privacy. Begin married life in style with a stay in the luxurious pavilion accommodation, settle in with a bottle of champagne,

enjoy a romantic poolside dinner for two and explore the island on a two-seater electric golf buggy. qualia is a truly special place where everything has been meticulously considered to relax the mind yet completely spoil the senses, what more could you ask for on a honeymoon in paradise?

TAKE ME THERE

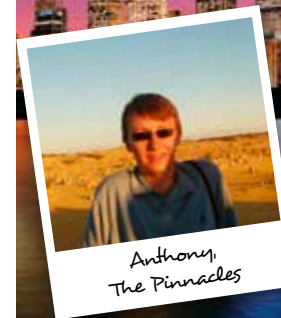
QUALIA SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE PACKAGE
7 NIGHTS

Prices from £1,669 per person
Includes a bottle of French Champagne, complimentary poolside dinner for 2, VIP resort transfers and non alcoholic beverages.

Top Tips for planning your trip

Whatever your idea of a dream holiday, you'll find it in Australasia. In this diverse part of the world you can sunbathe on white sand, explore the rainforest or trek across alpine glaciers. But with so much to see, spread across vast distances, a little pre-planning is essential.

To help you create your perfect holiday, we've asked Anthony, one of our Travel Designers, to share his best tips for planning a trip down under.



TIP 1: WRITE A BUCKET LIST BEFORE YOU GO

The best holidays happen when you go with the flow. But trying to decide what to do on the day can be stressful. Before leaving the UK, create a bucket list of the top places and activities you don't want to miss. A bucket list is a lot of fun to create. I find holiday inspiration can come from anywhere, but often our imagination is sparked by something we read or see on the TV. For me it was swimming with whale sharks. I'd seen them featured on the BBC series Blue Planet and after reading that you could snorkel with them off Australia's west coast, I knew I had to do it!



TIP 2: CHOOSE THE TIME YOU VISIT CAREFULLY

There's no bad time of year to visit Australia or New Zealand, but different seasons offer different experiences. For example, at the moment I'm trying to decide when to visit Darwin - during the wet season to enjoy the blossoming foliage and abundant wildlife, or the dry season when the unblocked roads mean I'll be able to explore more of the area. I suggest first deciding what your priorities in your chosen destination are, then researching the best time of year for that activity.

TIP 3: BEAT JETLAG WITH A STOPOVER

Don't fret about getting a "night's sleep" while flying, it rarely happens. When going as far as Australasia I always include a two night stopover. There are many exciting destinations in Asia where you can catch a morning flight down under to arrive early evening.



TIP 4: BOOK IN ADVANCE TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

It's a nightmare to find out on the day that the activity you've always dreamed of doing is fully booked. I always book in advance to avoid disappointment. I'm a sucker for rooms with sea views, so rather than risk staying in a room without one I request an upgrade in advance. I work hard for my holidays; I don't want to wake up to a view over the car park!

TIP 5: DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE DISTANCES

A three hour drive plotted on Google Maps doesn't factor in the traffic conditions, stopping for a coffee or pausing to take a photo. Three hours suddenly become four and a half! When travelling overland, give yourself ample time to stop off when the feeling takes you. That way you'll enjoy the experience so much more.

TIP 6: ALWAYS ADD AN EXTRA DAY

When deciding how long to stay in each destination, I work out the number of days I think I'll need to do everything I want to do. Then I add an extra day. You never truly know a place until you arrive. That extra day gives you time for something you hadn't thought of. And if nothing pops up, what's an extra day relaxing on the beaches of Port Douglas or exploring the best cafés in Melbourne?

Our Travel Designers have the expertise and experience to help you plan your holiday down under, so if you need a little help creating your dream trip, just give them a call.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Sydney. Singapore. Swimming with a whale shark. Darwin.

Why we can't get enough of Australia and New Zealand



Valerie & Tony

Valerie and Tony Aldred have been to Australia three times already. They've booked a fourth trip for later this year and are even thinking about a fifth! Here, they share their experiences of why they just can't get enough.

There is no bigger compliment to pay a holiday destination than if you return again and again. Australia and New Zealand has so much to offer, from glorious bays dotted along the coastline to scenic drives through the rugged countryside, and you cannot truly experience everything without going back.

"We travelled to Australia for the first time in January 2008, primarily to visit an elderly aunt who had emigrated there as a 'Ten Pound Pom' in 1951. She has never returned to England. We booked our first trip through Travelmood (now Austravel), as they had organised our godson's honeymoon itinerary. That journey proved to be such a great success so we chose them to arrange ours too.

Having travelled down the Sapphire Coast from Sydney to Melbourne, the Great Ocean Road from Melbourne to Adelaide and the south west coastal district between Albany and Perth, our next tour is to be from Brisbane to Cairns. From Cairns we'll fly west to Perth, pick up a car and drive to Busselton to see Aunt Grace, who is always our prime reason for visiting Australia.

It's difficult to single out just one, absolute favourite destination or holiday; however, if pressed, we would choose Sydney and the scenic drive down to Melbourne. We discovered some

beautiful bays and enjoyed amazing hospitality at the excellent hotels we discovered en-route.

The plane journey is long but there is no choice on the matter. We've realised that paying the extra to fly premium economy, or equivalent, is worthwhile for the extra space and comfort. I can always find something to watch or listen to on the in-flight entertainment while Tony sleeps - the lucky blighter!

If we had to choose where to live in Australia I think it would be the southwest Margaret River region. The scenery is glorious and the climate just right: not too hot. If we were many years younger, then Tasmania would prove a distinct attraction.


Our most memorable experience, which we both agree on, was arriving in our room at the Shangri La Hotel in Sydney Harbour. The view was thrilling: we could see both the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge, so we just had to raid the room's mini bar to celebrate the scene with a couple of Gin and Tonics. While in Sydney, we had a tour of the Opera House, saw a performance of La Boheme and witnessed a shark alarm and evacuation of a local beach.

We have also been to New Zealand on one of our Austravel-designed trips. We loved both islands, and landing on a glacier from a helicopter was a memorable experience, as was seeing an evening Maori Haka followed by a feast.

As part of our trips we have tagged on stopovers in Dubai, Singapore, Bangkok and Hong Kong, and our favourite has to be Singapore. The Shangri La Hotel is amazing and so handy for the Botanical Gardens. Other local attractions we enjoyed included the Zoo and Sentosa Island, where we two 70-plus pensioners whizzed down the Luge Track - twice!

It is essential to take a high-factor sunscreen on any trip to Australia. The Australians are very careful to protect their skin from the extremely powerful sun. I know from experience how quickly one can burn, on our first trip my sunburn was spotted by a local and I was warned to take more care and advised what to do to relieve the situation. Mosquito repellent and after-bite sprays are also recommended.

Even though we haven't yet been on our fourth trip we're planning the next one! For visit number five we'd like to see the Kimberley and head up to Darwin. The TV programme Coast has made us curious to see this area for ourselves.

All of our holidays down under have been very successful thanks to the arrangements made by the willing and friendly Austravel staff. We just told them what we wanted to do and they sorted it for us. Brilliant! 



TAKE ME THERE

8 DAYS
QUEENSLAND CLASSIC SELF-DRIVE

Prices from £539 per person
Based on travel Mar 2015. Excludes flights.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Puku Hill, Tairua, New Zealand. Wairarapa Gourmet Escape, Wellington, New Zealand. Port Macquarie, Australia. Whale watching in Kaikoura. Aerial view of Sydney. Beach in Sydney.

Introducing Indochina

If you're looking to explore more of the world, we'd like to introduce our sister company Hayes and Jarvis. For over 60 years it has been tailor-making colourful holidays around the world and Indochina is one of its hottest destinations to visit in 2015.

The charming countries of Vietnam and Cambodia are both enthralling and eternally captivating and Hayes and Jarvis' destination specialists recommend either booking a tour or combining two or more destinations to create a bespoke multi centre trip to really get the most out of a holiday here. Meet some of the team on this page and be inspired by their favourite holiday itineraries to Vietnam and Cambodia.

"One of my favourite places is Vietnam – whether you want a relaxing holiday or a cultural extravaganza, it is an exciting choice for the inquisitive mind. A favourite local delicacy is elephant fish. It was served standing on its tail with a ball of sticky rice so looked very unusual, but it was really tasty!"

Barbara,
Destination Specialist



From bustling cities to a beach paradise in Vietnam

Vietnam is a captivating mix of busy cities, breathtaking scenery and pristine beaches. In the south, Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon, is the largest city in Vietnam. With its French colonial buildings, bustling markets, designer shops, incense-scented pagodas and stalls selling fragrant noodle soup, this city buzzes with tradition and modernity. In the north, the capital Hanoi offers a captivating mix of old and new. Take time to visit the Temple of Literature which once housed the country's oldest university and the Old Quarter, bursting with shops selling an eclectic mix of traditional goods and souvenirs. Just a short flight and a 30 minute transfer later, you can be in the enchanting town of Hoi An, where narrow streets lined with colourful lanterns have tailor shops selling made-to-measure suits and dresses at unbelievable prices. Head down by the river and watch the world go by from one of the cafés, or haggle for bargains at the central market. Once you've finished exploring Vietnam's bustling cities, spend lazy days on the stunning beaches of Nha Trang, easily reached by flight from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

"Cambodia has got to be the most charming and fascinating country I have ever visited. The highlight for me was sunrise at Angkor Wat – a real once in a lifetime moment! What really struck a chord with me was just how polite, friendly and happy the Cambodian people are, despite the incredible hardship they faced at the hands of the Khmer Rouge."

Rachael,
Destination Specialist



Combine old and new Cambodia

No trip to Cambodia would be complete without a visit to Siem Reap, home to the incredible Angkor Archaeological Park which stretches over 400 square kilometres dotted with impressive temples. In contrast, the capital city of Phnom Penh is a tantalising mix of Asia's past and present, with plenty of charm and just a little bit of chaos thrown in – it's truly spellbinding. After exploring the cities of Siem Reap and Phnom Penh you can take a short flight to the main beach destination of Sihanoukville. Life here is fairly laidback but with several beaches and plenty of restaurants, beach stalls and shops – there's lots to keep you entertained.

Feeling inspired to explore mesmerising Indochina?

Hayes and Jarvis' destination specialists have travelled the world, so they know the best hotels and tours, as well as insider secrets, giving you the opportunity to personalise your experience and create your dream holiday to Indochina and beyond. They know everyone's idea of a perfect holiday is different, so give them a call, speak to them about your holiday plans and let them create a bespoke getaway just for you.

Choose from one of Hayes and Jarvis' readymade, tried and tested tours:

A Journey through Vietnam

Your tour at a glance:

French Heritage in Hanoi • Cruise on Halong Bay • Picturesque Hoi An • Royal tombs in Hue • Cu Chi Tunnels near Ho Chi Minh City

9 nights A Journey through Vietnam tour **from £1499pp.**

Departing London Heathrow 05 May 2015.

Cambodia Discovery

Your tour at a glance:

Royal Palace & Genocide Museum in Phnom Penh • Irrawady dolphins in Mekong River • Rural villages • Angkor Temples in Siem Reap

9 nights Cambodia Discovery private tour **from £1799pp.**

Departing London Heathrow 12 Apr 2015.

Classic Vietnam and Cambodia

Your tour at a glance:

Culture and heritage of Hanoi • Cruise on Halong Bay • UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Hoi An and Hue • Royal Palace in Phnom Penh • Angkor Temples in Siem Reap

10 nights Classic Vietnam and Cambodia tour **from £1899pp.**

Departing London Heathrow 02 Jun 2015.



Meet the locals of Heron Island



Heron Island is a nature lovers' paradise. Part of the Great Barrier Reef, it is a natural habitat for Green and Loggerhead Turtles. Between December and April, witness in awe as the tiny hatchlings make their way to the water, a unique Queensland experience you'll never forget.

TAKE ME THERE

2 NIGHTS

Prices from £259 per person
Based on travel Mar 2015

Why choose Austravel?

Austravel are the leading specialist for holidays to Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific, and have been advising customers on these incredible destinations since 1977. Our dedicated team of Travel Designers have all travelled and experienced these amazing destinations first hand, enabling them to offer you the expert advice you need. Here are just some of the reasons people choose to book with Austravel:

EXPERTISE:

Being Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific specialists you can rest assured that our teams will use their intimate knowledge of these wonderful countries to best suit your preferences and budget. Offering an unbiased, informed opinion our Travel Designers are passionate about travel.

BEST PRICES:

We have worked hard to build special relationships with all of our partners and we continue to work hard in a commitment to providing you with the very best prices; our continued success means we have a significant buying power allowing us to be totally confident in offering you complete value for money.

FINANCIAL SECURITY:

Book with complete confidence in us and rest assured that you're safe in our hands. We are ABTA, ATOL and IATA bonded, and because we can book all of your travel arrangements in one place, you have the financial security of knowing you will not be left stranded should anything not go to plan.

ONE-STOP SHOP:

We'll take care of everything from great value flights, hotels, car and motorhome hire to escorted touring, day tours, worldwide stopovers, Australian Visas and Travel Insurance. We can even book your airport hotels and parking before you go!

To book call **0808 252 5894** or for more information visit austravel.com

What next?

Start planning your own adventure down under!

LATEST NEWS & OFFERS

Be the first to hear about our latest great offers or amazing sales, be inspired about new places to visit and receive expert tips on how to make your adventure extra special.

ORDER OUR BROCHURE

Head to our website to order a copy of our latest brochures, or for more inspiration simply browse our website which is full of recommended itineraries, destination, hotel details and more.

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