

OCTOBER 2015

# ENDEAVOUR

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

## *The First Nations*

Discover Australasia's indigenous culture and traditions

WHY I LOVE...

Jennie Bond shares her love for Australia

OUR GUIDE TO  
NEW SOUTH WALES

Explore Sydney and beyond

 AUSTRAVEL

# THE ONLY AQUARIUM VISIBLE FROM SPACE



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THERE'S NOTHING  
LIKE AUSTRALIA



DISCOVER BREATHTAKING GREAT BARRIER REEF

## 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! Kia ora! Bula!

Soak up Australasia's multi-cultural heritage, whether it's exploring the Aboriginal rock art of Australia, dining Maori-style in New Zealand or sipping Kava in Fiji. Embark on an epic rail journey through the heart of Australia, read our guide to New South Wales and check out the upcoming sporting events Down Under.

Did you know we also specialise in round-the-world travel? Break up your journey to Australasia with stays in Asia, the USA and Latin America, but don't just stop over – spend some time to explore these destinations too. Add a couple of weeks in Asia, stop off in Hawai'i or visit the majestic Galapagos Islands.

Now is the perfect time to plan, book and travel to Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific – take advantage of the fantastic exchange rate and get more for your money. We hope you enjoy reading this issue, our Travel Designers are waiting to create your dream holiday.

**Karen Joyce**  
General Manager



Above: Australian Open, Melbourne see page 36. Front Cover: Kakadu National Park see page 8.

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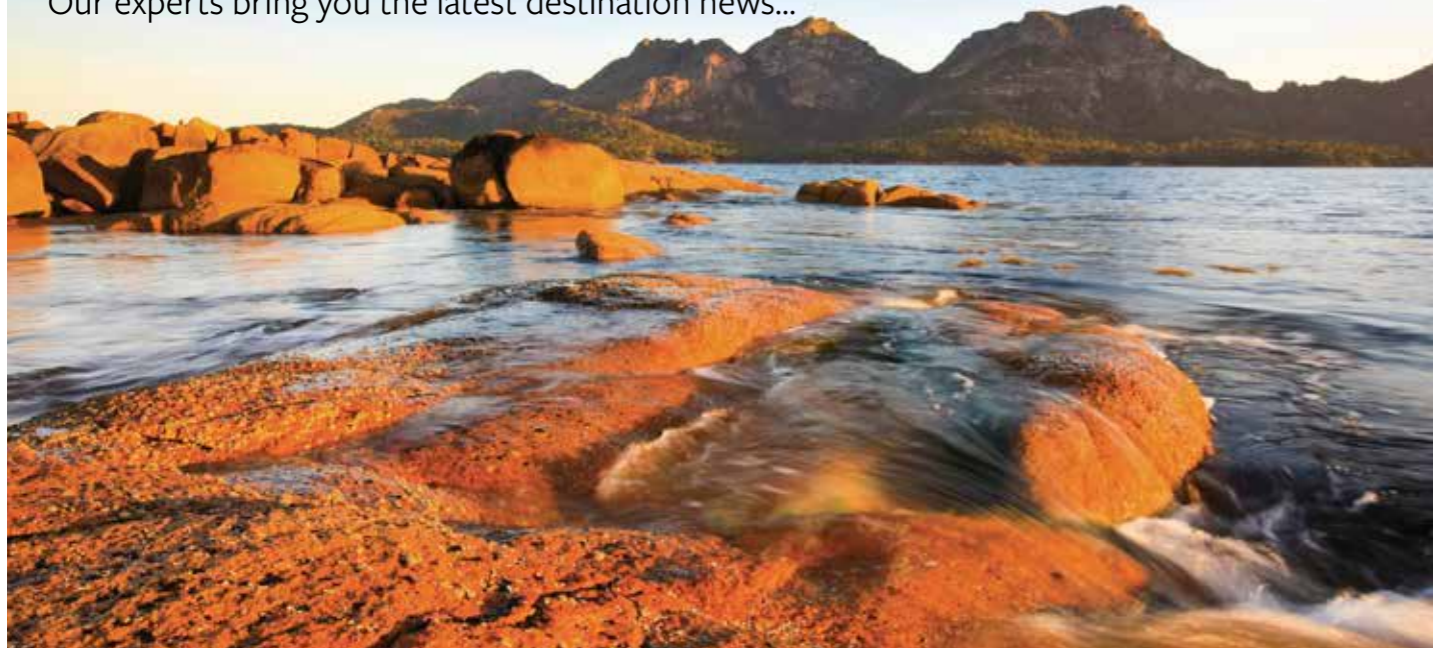
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# What's HOT

## Down Under for 2016

Our experts bring you the latest destination news...



Mike

### Grain Bar by Four Seasons Hotel Sydney

"Bar of the Year winner Grain Bar by Four Seasons Hotel in the Rocks district is a designer drinking establishment that embraces the artisan experience for passion, provenance and quality. Enjoy the classic cocktails, craft beers, organic and biodynamic wines, and for whisky lovers like myself, there is a delectable selection on offer."

**Mike, Travel Designer**

**3 nights from £188 per person**

Based on selected travel Mar 2016

### New direct flights from Wellington to Nadi in Fiji

"Fiji Airways have just announced that they will increase flights from Wellington in New Zealand direct to Nadi, Fiji. The new fleet will be serviced by an A330-200, two B737-800s and two ATR72-600s to allow visitors direct flights to the islands and then to fly on to American cities such as Los Angeles."

**Katie, Destination Manager**

**Prices from £195 per person each way**

Based on selected travel May 2016



Katie



Suzanne

### Escape to paradise at Nautilus Resort, Cook Islands

"On Rarotonga nestles the elegant eco-resort of Nautilus. Here the rainforest mountain backdrop is complemented by palm-fringed beaches and secluded blue lagoons. Contemporary styling effortlessly combines barefoot luxury and a celebrated Polynesian Spa to create the perfect desert island escape. Snorkelling on Rarotonga is second to none, so don your snorkel and flippers and discover the underwater world."

**Suzanne, Travel Designer**

**5 nights from £609 per person**

Based on selected travel May 2016



Tom

### Coral Expedition Cruise, Tasmania

"Embark on a seven night small ship cruise to explore Tasmania aboard the Coral Expedition. The cruise is perfect for nature-based adventure, wine and food tours while also encountering everything from seals, penguins, whales and dolphins and remote wilderness, allowing you to make disembark in out-of-the-way places."

**Tom Travel Designer**

**7 nights from £1,995 per person**

Based on selected travel Mar 2016

### Emu Walk Resort – Uluru

"Newly refurbished, Emu Walk is a serene desert resort just 20 kilometres away from Uluru (Ayers Rock) and still within plain sight. The resort features apartments surrounded by the breathtaking desert. There are many activities to take part in including bushwalks, Aboriginal storytelling and bush tucker demonstrations, making this the perfect choice for families, couples and friends."

**Julie, Travel Designer**

**2 nights from £142 per person**

Based on selected travel Mar 2016



Julie

### Lizard Island Resort, a Great Barrier Reef favourite re-opens

"Situated just off the coast of Queensland and accessed by light aircraft, Lizard Island Resort takes full advantage of its enviable position among coral gardens at the Great Barrier Reef. Bush-walking, diving and boat excursions allow you to explore this wonderful wilderness before relaxing at the magical spa for a touch of pampering."

**Karen, General Manager**

**3 nights from £1,295 per person**

Based on selected travel Mar 2016



Karen

# All aboard The Ghan Expedition Darwin to Adelaide

Ready yourself for an incredible, one-of-a-kind experience on The Ghan – an epic four-day journey through the heart of Australia, taking you to some of the most remote yet captivating parts of the country in style and comfort.



TOP CLOCKWISE: Darwin, Mitmiluk Gorge - Katherine, Barossa Valley, The Breakaways - Coober Pedy, Uluru, Jabiru bird - Kakadu.

## Day 1

Your journey begins in Darwin, where friendly staff will lead you to your comfortable private cabin. Settle in and explore the amenities as the view outside your window begins its spectacular transformation.

Lunch is bound to satisfy and delight with culinary wonders prepared onboard by talented chefs. All food is included, from a hearty cooked breakfast to a delectable dinner served with your choice of Australian wines. And as you sit back and loosen your belt, you'll have arrived in Katherine ready to experience your first included off-train excursion to the magnificent and spiritual Nitmiluk Gorge. Enjoy a leisurely cruise on the idyllic Katherine River and learn about the Aboriginal and geological history of the area as you gaze at the towering sandstone cliffs. You'll quickly realise that this is one of the world's untainted natural wonders.

Back on board enjoy drinks with new friends and dinner as the sun sets over the Outback. The Hospitality Attendants will have provided a turndown service in your cabin ready for you to wind down the evening. As the train rolls soothingly onwards, fall asleep in awe of wonders seen and excited by those yet to come.

## Day 2

Wake up to a new view outside your window. An Outback sunrise could be one of the most spectacular you'll ever see, setting the tone for the day ahead. After coffee, juice and a sumptuous breakfast you'll arrive in Alice Springs ready for another day of exploration.

Here you can take in the delights of this famous Outback town. Visit the town's landmarks and get up close and personal with Australia's incredible flora and fauna.

You can also pre-book an upgrade to the ultimate Outback experience; an intimate scenic fixed-wing flight over Uluru and Kata Tjuta with a guided base tour of Uluru with lunch included. Utilising small four-to-eight seater aircraft this tour provides an amazing insight into Uluru and the Aboriginal way of life in the region. There really is no better way to comprehend the vastness of the Northern Territory.

Come the evening you'll dine beneath a canopy of stars at an authentic Outback Bush Barbecue in Alice Springs. This truly unique experience includes live Australian music, dinner and Australian wines. With a full belly and deep sense of wonderment, it's back on the train to rest up and roll out of Alice Springs.

## Day 3

Wake up and rub your eyes with disbelief as you're pulled into the middle of nowhere – a stop at Manguri. Here, a friendly tour guide awaits ready to whisk you away for the day. Your destination is the sun-scorched opal mining capital of the world, Coober Pedy, where more than half the residents live underground.

Venture into the tunnels and caves of this underground town, where you may even catch opal fever as you mine for riches and visit the otherworldly underground Serbian Orthodox church. Below the earth's surface you'll enjoy a lunch in the most unique of locations before setting off to the stunning Outback moonscape that is the Breakaways.

After an eye-opening day it's back on board with plenty of time to ease into a slower gear and prepare yourself for your final evening onboard The Ghan.

## Day 4

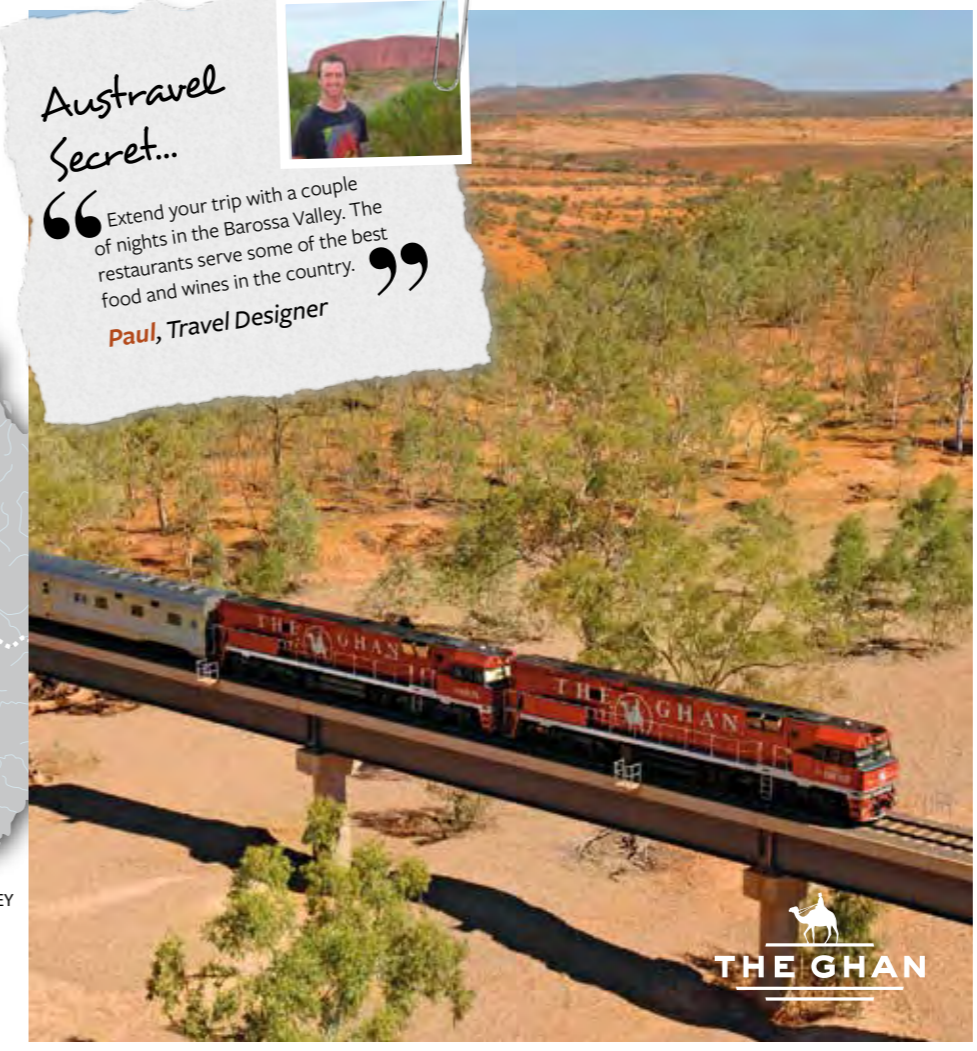
Looking out your window this morning you'll notice a dramatic change in landscape as the rich ochre tones of the Outback make way for the beautiful green fields of South Australia. After breakfast, reflect on your journey before The Ghan rolls into Adelaide. Here, you may wish to extend your stay with trips to the Barossa Valley or Kangaroo Island.

This 4 day itinerary on the Ghan will operate 13 departures in 2016 departing Darwin on Wednesdays through August, September and October. Book early and save with Advance Purchase fares offering great value. **A**

**Austravel Secret...**

“Extend your trip with a couple of nights in the Barossa Valley. The restaurants serve some of the best food and wines in the country.”

**Paul, Travel Designer**



Choose between the luxury of Platinum Service, with double bed private accommodation and Platinum Club for inclusive meals, including five-course dinners and a range of complimentary beverages; or the classic Gold Service with upper and lower berths, compact en-suite facilities and regionally inspired inclusive meals in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant. Rest and relax with a complimentary beverage in the adjacent Outback Explorer Lounge.



## TAKE ME THERE

**9 NIGHTS  
DARWIN, THE GHAN & ADELAIDE**

Prices from £2,095 per person

Includes: 3nights 4★ Darwin hotel, 3nights The Ghan, Gold Service 3nights 4★ Adelaide Hotel

Based on selected travel Aug 2016 - excludes flights



# First Nations of Australasia

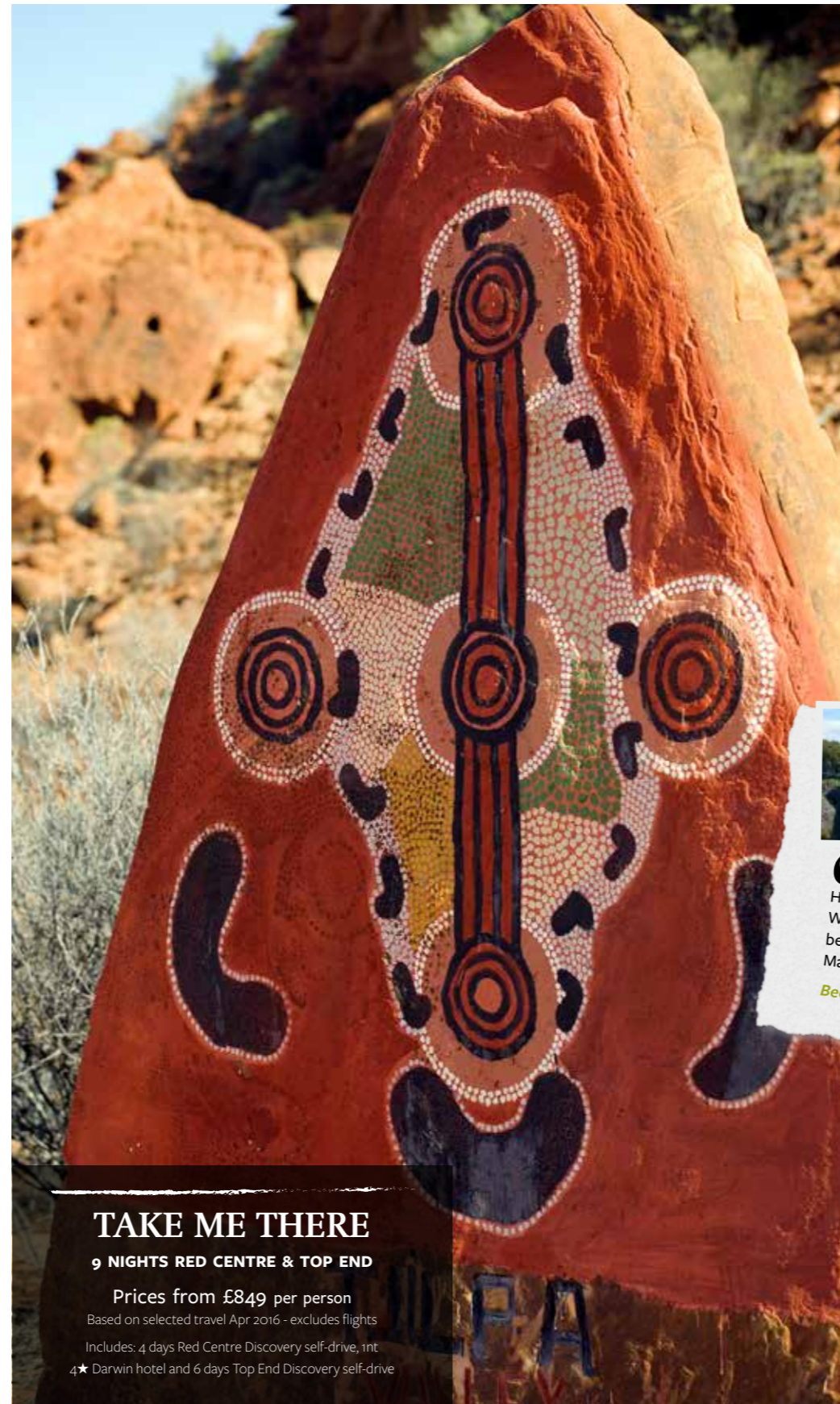
40,000 years before there was Australia there were Aborigines. Before the Portuguese explored the Southern Hemisphere, the greatest seafarers in the South Pacific were Polynesian. Seven hundred years before James Cook set foot on New Zealand, Maoris had called the Land of the Long White Cloud their home. These indigenous people of Down Under created a legacy so deep, rich and vibrant that it's only fitting we discover their heritage, traditions and legends. ▶



## AUSTRALIA: MIGHTY ULURU AND ABORIGINAL ROCK ART

Uluru (Ayers Rock) is of immense cultural significance to Australia. Here you will find evidence of Aboriginal settlements dating back 10,000 years. Sacred to the local Anangu tribe, according to legend Uluru was formed during the 'Dreamtime'. Ancient rock art found in caves nearby clearly show Aboriginal ancestral beliefs, legends, laws and tribal rituals. Today local indigenous people are available to lead tours so that visitors can learn all about 'the rock', the ancient people and their arts and crafts, including traditional bushcraft. This will not only enhance your experience but it could also change the way you perceive the world and our place within it.

Situated in the Top End of the Northern Territory to the west of Darwin, Kakadu is an enormous, bio-diverse nature preserve. It provides a unique opportunity to encounter not only the extraordinary wildlife, surrounding wetlands and limestone escarpments, but when you discover rock art that dates back 20,000 years you begin to realise its cultural and spiritual significance, and how the Aboriginal community have an increasingly important role to play in the stewardship of modern Australia.



### TAKE ME THERE

9 NIGHTS RED CENTRE & TOP END

Prices from £849 per person

Based on selected travel Apr 2016 - excludes flights

Includes: 4 days Red Centre Discovery self-drive, 1nt

4★ Darwin hotel and 6 days Top End Discovery self-drive



*Austravel  
Secret...*

“ I loved the Tamaki Village Hangi Dinner and cultural experience. Watching the traditional hangi dinner being made was a real insight to the Maori culture and community. ”

*Becky, Travel Designer*



## NEW ZEALAND: HAKA, HONGI AND HANGI

As the legend goes, Kupe was a great chief and fearless explorer who left his island on legendary Hawaiki (Tahiti). After many adventures on the high seas, in which he overcame numerous monsters and sea demons, he came upon a mysterious island shrouded in mist. He called the bountiful island Aotearoa or Land of the Long White Cloud – thus New Zealand was discovered. Kupe returned to Hawaiki where he inspired others to discover the beauty of Aotearoa for themselves. We suggest you do the same. Like the great Polynesian adventurers of old, you may never want to leave.

### THINGS TO SEE AND DO

#### 1) WAITANGI TREATY HOUSE – BAY OF ISLANDS

The Waitangi Treaty Grounds is the place where the treaty between the Maoris and the British Crown was signed in 1840. The agreement was called for by Maori chiefs in an effort to curb lawlessness of the new settlers, to protect the balance of culture upon the islands. Although still a contentious document today, the treaty is seen as an important artefact of New Zealand history and a foundation upon which the country still rests.

#### 2) TE ARAROA TRAIL

Along the Te Araroa Trail (the Long Pathway) near the small town of the same name, you can find a Pohutukawa tree known as Te Waha-o-Rerekohu, estimated to be over 600 years old. This tree is of cultural significance because the species is widely found across the Pacific, so when the early Polynesians arrived in Aotearoa, the sight of the tree instilled in them the belief that they had found a new home.

#### 3) TE PAPA MUSEUM

Te Papa is New Zealand's national bi-cultural museum located in Wellington. It has a permanent exhibition dedicated to the culture, history and legends of the Maori people. The exhibition celebrates the ancestral treasures, contemporary art and stories of New Zealand's indigenous people.

#### 4) TAMAKI VILLAGE ROTORUA

At the Tamaki Village in Rotorua, Maori songs and the traditional Haka dance are performed, plus you'll take a tour of Whakatane (carved Maori houses). Receive the nose-pressing greeting called Hongi, where both nose and forehead touch and the breath of life is shared. Once the Hongi is shared the visitor is no longer a stranger but regarded as one of their people, and one who now shares a responsibility to look after the land. The sharing of food is an important part of the Maori custom and you'll be invited to join the villagers for a traditional Hangi buffet – where food is cooked using heated rocks buried in a fire pit, creating a delicious smoky taste to meat and vegetables.


Prices from £48 per person ▶

**CLOCKWISE:** Rock art - Alice Springs, Red Centre, Tamaki Village - Rotorua, Rock art - Mount Borradaile, Rock art - Red Centre.

## SOUTH PACIFIC: A BULA WELCOME

The South Pacific Ocean is blessed with thousands of tropical islands containing rainforests and palm fringed, picturesque beaches. However, returning travellers always remark not only of the paradise setting, but also of the famed warmth of the islanders themselves. Once again we find that paradise is never complete without strong cultural ties to its people.

Friendliness might just have been invented in Fiji. On the islands you'll be welcomed with a Bula song and dance. The experience is so magical, little wonder Fiji is becoming increasingly popular as a wedding destination. When you visit a village you'll enjoy a Kava ceremony; where it's customary to present a gift of yaqona (Kava root) to the head of the village.

In the Cook Islands, beachside luxury combines with island traditions and stunning tropical landscape. On the isle of Rarotonga immerse yourself in cultural experiences at Te Vara Nui Cultural Village and overwater show, to feast on freshly caught mahi-mahi and steaming coconut curry, while tribal fire-dancers illuminate the tropical night sky. 



### TAKE ME THERE

5 NIGHTS

4★ MATAMANOVA ISLAND RESORT, FIJI

Prices from £549 per person

Add: Tivua Island cruise from £68 per person  
Based on selected travel Mar 2016 - excludes flights



MAIN IMAGE: Cook Islands. TOP RIGHT: Matamanoa Island.  
LEFT: Snorkelling in the Cook Islands. ABOVE: Dancers, Fiji.  
FAR LEFT: Frangipani flower, palm tree at sunset.

# TOP 5 Bucket List Experiences

From exploring the largest aquarium in the world to hiking a glacier, Australasia offers a wealth of incredible experiences we think everyone should enjoy in their lifetime. Here are our top five bucket list experiences in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific.



1

### Snorkel or dive the Great Barrier Reef

One of the jewels of Australia, the Great Barrier Reef is breathtaking for its colour and diversity. Diving into the depths or snorkelling this magnificent underwater world will provide sights and memories to last a lifetime.

Quicksilver Outer Barrier Reef Cruise  
Prices from £134 per person

## 2 Heli Hike a New Zealand glacier

No bucket list is complete without some adrenaline. On this Flying Fox tour you'll take a helicopter over the Fox Glacier and then follow your guide onto and across the ice before finishing with unrivalled views across this frozen wonderland.

Flying Fox Glacier Heli Hike  
Prices from £190 per person



## 3 Discover the Outback at Kakadu

Kakadu in the Northern Territory offers the complete outback experience, and the largest national park in Australia deserves the time to be explored. Here you can see crocodiles, spectacular waterfalls and Aboriginal rock art before relaxing in natural plunge pools.

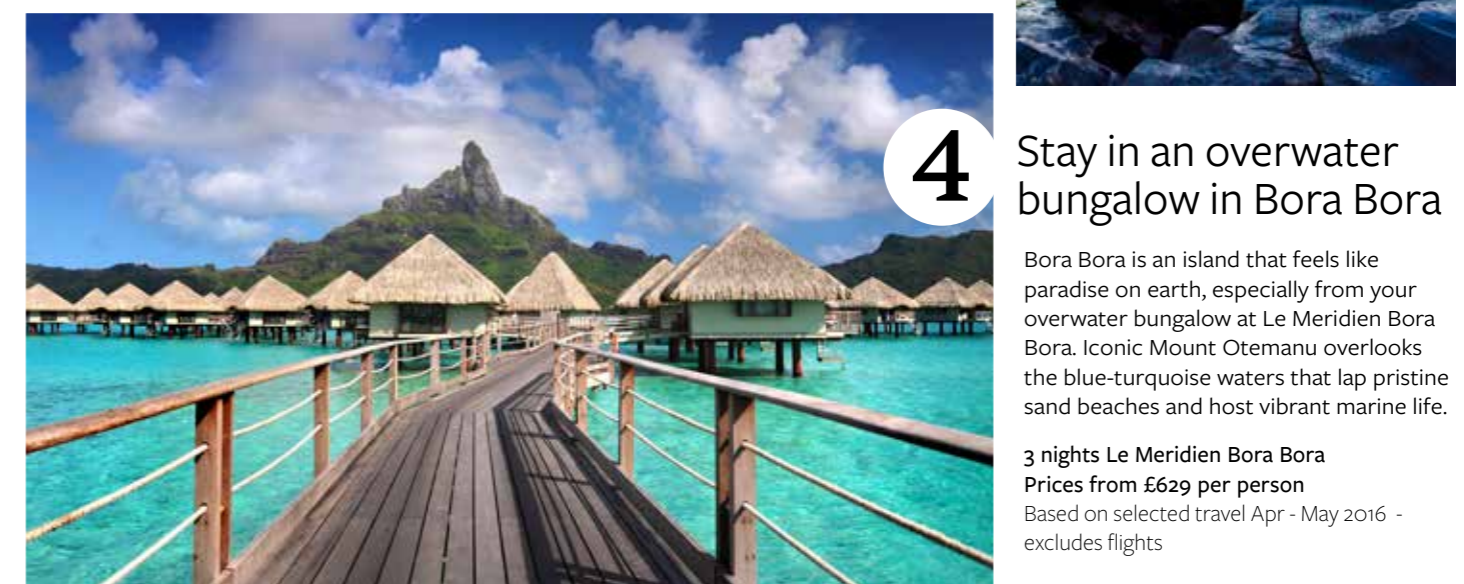
Kakadu National Park  
Prices from £118 per person



## 4 Stay in an overwater bungalow in Bora Bora

Bora Bora is an island that feels like paradise on earth, especially from your overwater bungalow at Le Meridien Bora Bora. Iconic Mount Otemanu overlooks the blue-turquoise waters that lap pristine sand beaches and host vibrant marine life.

3 nights Le Meridien Bora Bora  
Prices from £629 per person  
Based on selected travel Apr - May 2016 - excludes flights



## 5 Dolphin and whale encounters in New Zealand

Immerse yourself in the waters with jubilant dolphins off the coast of New Zealand at Akaroa, as these playful creatures encourage you to join in their dolphin games. Further along the coast at Kaikoura you can see giant sperm whales all year round in their natural environment.

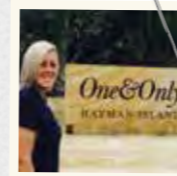
Whale watching in Kaikoura Prices from £68 per person





# Travellers' Tales...

Our Travel Designer Louise discovered the delights of Australia and encountered a dazzling stopover in Dubai on her return journey. We asked her for the highlights of her trip.



## Austravel Secret...

“ For an extra special experience, arrange a helicopter tour to Whitehaven Beach and enjoy a champagne picnic on the stunning white shore. ”  
 Louise, Travel Designer



### You started in Sydney - what was your favourite excursion?

Without a shadow of doubt it was the Sydney Bridge Climb. Soak up the stunning views from 143m high and learn about the city and how the bridge was built. If you are short on time, there is an express climb option to ensure you don't miss out on this experience.

### Where did your adventure take you next?

We headed inland to the Blue Mountains, for a stay at the One&Only Wolgan Valley. Four words describe this resort - out of this world! It's the ultimate relaxation retreat where you can simply unwind, or grab your mountain bike and explore the 7,000 acres of land surrounding the resort. Hire a ranger for a guided walk, run or cycle, for an informative tour of this stunning region.

### How would you describe Hayman Island?

There is no place better than Hayman Island for peace and relaxation. With a backdrop of stunning white sand and aqua blue waters, it's the emerald jewel of the Whitsunday Islands.

### Who would you recommend this destination for?

It has everything you could desire. The luxurious One&Only Hayman Island Resort accommodates children and adults effortlessly - there's a fantastic kids' club. The hotel offers a host of activities, including paddle boarding and snorkelling, plus tennis and squash courts. There are seven incredible restaurants to choose from, my favourite dining experience was at Fire, where I enjoyed a sizzling steak. Hayman Island Resort really is a well-equipped five-star experience and I recommend partnering this retreat with Wolgan Valley for an uber luxurious holiday.

### It sounds blissful. Is there anything on Hayman Island for those who like a little more adventure?

We arranged a 20 minute helicopter tour to capture the amazing views of Whitehaven Beach from above. It's great value for money and when you land, you step out on to the squeaky silica sand to take a stroll on the edge of the blue calming waters. You can even arrange a champagne picnic on the beach. If you prefer keeping your feet on the ground, a short walk to the pristine Blue Pearl Bay uncovers multi-coloured coral. In my opinion Hayman Island was the perfect end to an exhilarating trip Down Under.

### What did you think about Dubai?

I have never visited Dubai before and I was instantly hooked. Not only is it a great stopover destination to beat jet lag when travelling to Australia but the city will thrill you with its towering ambition.

### What would you recommend to see and do in Dubai?

Everyone should experience the Burj Khalifa - the tallest building in the world. The 30 second lift up 128 floors to the top is exhilarating. Then, step out and take in the 180 degree views and see which famous landmarks you can spot. It's always best to pre-arrange tickets as the price triples on the day if you turn up to book.

As an alternative, head to Aquaventure at Atlantis the Palm. It's one of the most thrilling water parks in the world and suitable for all ages - plus you don't have to stay at the Atlantis to visit the park. **A**



Champagne picnic, Whitehaven Beach

OPPOSITE PAGE: Hayman Island. **TOP LEFT:** One&Only Wolgan Valley. **TOP RIGHT:** One&Only Hayman Lagoon Room. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** Dubai at night.

## TAKE ME THERE

9 NIGHTS

Prices from £2,599 per person

Includes: Shangri-La Hotel - Sydney, One&Only Wolgan Valley - Blue Mountains, One&Only Hayman Island and One&Only Royal Mirage Dubai The Palace - Dubai.

Based on selected travel Mar 2016 - excludes flights

# APT ESCORTED TOURS

Discover more with the experts



APT provide an inspiring range of escorted touring options throughout Australia and New Zealand, with two tour levels to suit all budgets, expert guides and fantastic experiences.



**Why choose APT?**

**Travel with the experts** – APT’s friendly, knowledgeable local guides and tour directors will share their passion for the country they call home.

**Freedom of Choice** – APT understand different travellers have different interests, so take your pick from their selection of incredible sightseeing excursions, at no extra cost.

**Handpicked accommodation** – Each hotel and resort included has been tried and tested by APT’s experts.

**Tantalising flavours** – Indulge in a wondrous array of dining experiences and fantastic restaurants at each stop.

**New Zealand Wonderland**

This extraordinary journey provides a fusion of included sightseeing and leisure time, allowing you to discover Kiwi hospitality at its warmest. Spot dolphins on a magical Hole in the Rock cruise, immerse yourself in Maori culture and traditions in Rotorua and travel onboard the famous TranzAlpine train. Marvel at the impressive icy contours of Franz Josef Glacier, soak up the stunning surroundings of Milford Sound and journey to Australasia’s highest peak, Mount Cook.

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**TAKE ME THERE**

**17 DAYS NEW ZEALAND WONDERLAND TOUR WITH APT**

Prices from £3,845 per person  
Based on selected travel Sep 2016 - excludes flights

MAIN PHOTO: Milford Sound, South Island. RIGHT: Bay of Islands, North Island. Kiwirail – TranzAlpine train

**Find out more at [austravel.com](http://austravel.com)**



# OUR GUIDE TO NEW SOUTH WALES

New South Wales will transport you from soaring cityscape to beach, majestic mountains to rolling wine country, all on one trip. From Sydney to the Pacific Coast, the Blue Mountains to Hunter Valley, discover New South Wales with our handy guide. ▶





**Austravel Secret...**

“ The cable car up to the entrance of the zoo is great as you can see the elephants on the way up, along with beautiful views over Sydney. ”

*Julie, Travel Designer*



**3. BRIDGE CLIMB**  
While many people will be satisfied with a postcard of the Harbour Bridge as a reminder of their holiday in Sydney, others will want to climb 143 metres above sea level to enjoy one of the most iconic experiences available in this dazzling metropolis. Prices from £157 per person

**SYDNEY**

Take our word for it – Sydney, capital of New South Wales – is simply stunning. Make the most of your time here and check out the best of the city sights, tantalise your taste buds at unique dining venues and choose from a range of hotels to rest your head at the end of a busy day.

**TOP FIVE THINGS TO DO:**

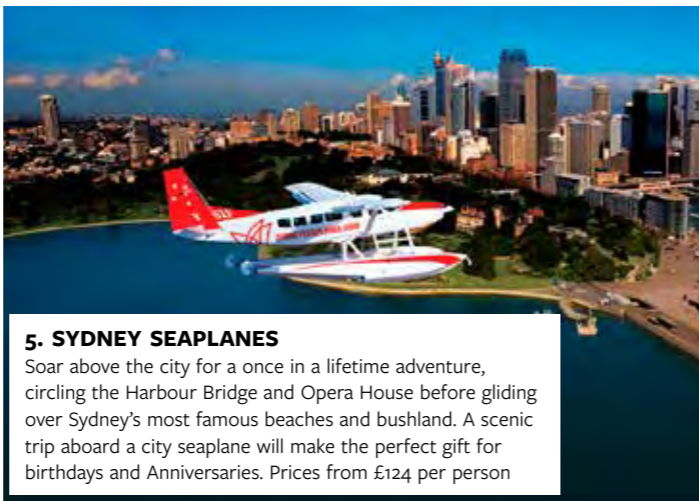
**1. HARBOUR CRUISE**  
Get out onto the water with a Harbour Cruise, it's one of the best ways to experience the city and allows you to get a perspective of the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House as they were meant to be seen; from the sea. Prices from £20 per person



**2. WHALE-WATCHING**  
If you are lucky enough to find yourself in Sydney from June to November then embark on an Oz Whale Watching Tour and rendezvous with humpback whales as they migrate via Sydney Heads en route to the Great Barrier Reef. Prices from £49 per person



**4. TARONGA ZOO**  
Taronga Zoo is a well known attraction in Sydney. What isn't immediately obvious is that you can find overnight accommodation among the creatures in a luxury tented village in the heart of the zoo. When the sun goes down, Sydney lights up and calls of the wild abound. Prices from £170 per person

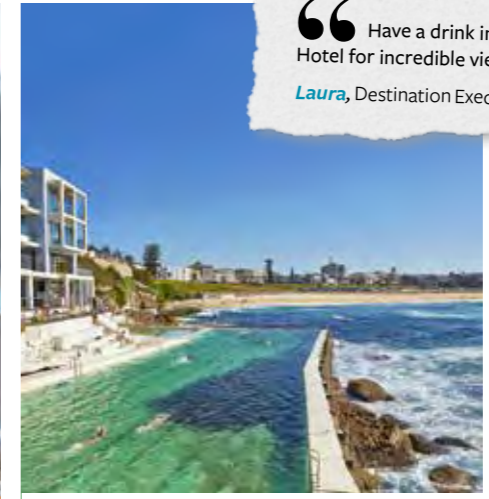


**5. SYDNEY SEAPLANES**  
Soar above the city for a once in a lifetime adventure, circling the Harbour Bridge and Opera House before gliding over Sydney's most famous beaches and bushland. A scenic trip aboard a city seaplane will make the perfect gift for birthdays and Anniversaries. Prices from £124 per person

**OUR FAVOURITE DINING EXPERIENCES:**



**SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE TASTING PLATE AND TOUR**  
Embark upon a VIP Tour and Tasting Plate deal that combines the delights of the Opera House with the culinary wonders of its kitchen. You get to decide when you want to sit down to eat, before or after your tour, for lunch in the sun or dinner at dusk.



**ICEBERGS DINING ROOM AND BAR BONDI**  
While we've all heard of Bondi, one of its greatest assets is Icebergs, which may have escaped your notice. It should not. With access to a seawater swimming pool below, this down to earth spot packs a big punch and perfectly defines the Aussie attitude to life; sun, sea, surf and seafood.



**ALTITUDE RESTAURANT - SHANGRI-LA HOTEL**  
Sydney is a beautiful city. It sparkles, day and night. If you want to see why then get up high. The Altitude restaurant with floor to ceiling windows allows you to absorb one of the greatest urban landscapes the world has to offer. Indulge your senses with top notch food and a top notch view.

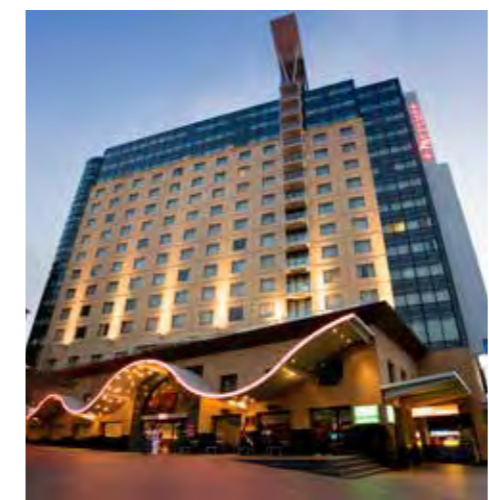


**Austravel Secret...**

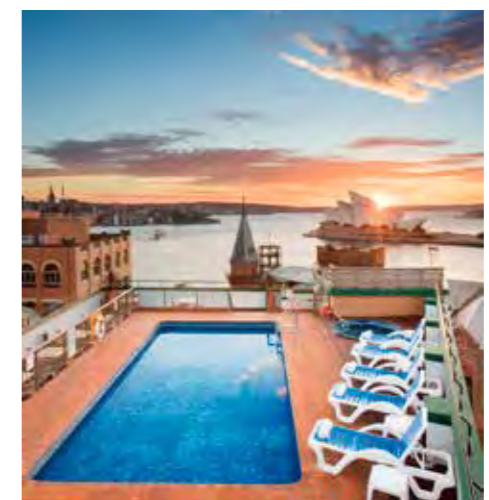
“ Have a drink in the Blu Bar at the Shangri-La Hotel for incredible views of the city. ”

*Laura, Destination Executive*

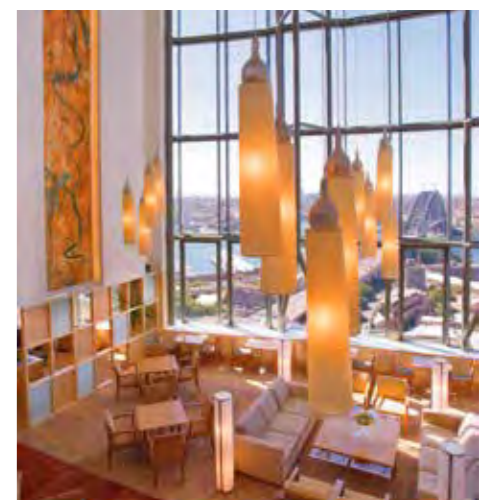
**WHERE TO STAY:**



**BEST FOR VALUE: THE MERCURE SYDNEY**  
The Mercure Sydney is ideally located near Central Station, a forty minute walk from major attractions including Darling Harbour, Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge, and should keep transport costs to a bare minimum. 3 nights from £185 per person



**BEST FOR LOCATION: HOLIDAY INN OLD SYDNEY**  
Almost on the water's edge, the Holiday Inn Old Sydney takes full advantage of its position among the bars, restaurants and attractions of The Rocks, providing access to harbour cruises and ferries across the bay to Manly Beach. 3 nights from £183 per person



**BEST FOR LUXURY: SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, SYDNEY**  
In terms of views the Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney will take your breath away. Towering over the Sydney Opera House and Bridge, this elegant hotel offers bars and restaurants of the highest order and the warmest welcome. You may never wish to leave! 3 nights from £427 per person ▶

## WHERE TO NEXT?

Swap the city buzz of Sydney for the serene landscape of the Blue Mountains. Taste world-class wine in Hunter Valley and embark on a road trip along the stunning Pacific Coast as you explore New South Wales at your own pace.



### HUNTER VALLEY

**245 kms – approx 2hrs 45mins driving time from Sydney**

Embark on an Australian Luxury Escapes tour and experience a mixture of cellar door food and wine opportunities among the country's oldest wine growing region. Increasingly a haven of health spa retreats and cookery schools, the Hunter Valley offers a fascinating opportunity to discover Australian vineyards of the highest calibre.



### PACIFIC COAST

In New South Wales you could spend two years exploring the coastline every day and never see the same beach twice, so make time to explore the coast of this beautiful state.

Jervis Bay is dotted with lagoons and secret coves, perfect for stand-up-paddle boarding, kayaking, swimming or surfing. Alternately hop back on land for the chance of meeting kangaroos, wallabies and echidnas and countless species of birds, plus boutique shops and hotels, art galleries excellent cafés, restaurants and bars. For a taste of the wild outback combined with elegant accommodation and wonderful food and hospitality, why not try a luxury tented safari-style village set in the peace and serenity of the Australian bush just three hours south of Sydney? The family run Paperbark Camp is the perfect place to unwind during your road trip adventure.

In addition to the amazing diving, dolphin experiences and boat cruises available, you will also be spoilt for choice by the 26 beaches on offer in Port Stephens.



**Austravel Secret...**  
“ While in the Blue Mountains make sure you take the glass bottom cable car for amazing views of the Three Sisters, Orphan Rock and Katoomba falls. ”  
*Lauren, Travel Designer*

**BLUE MOUNTAINS**  
**114kms – approx 1hr 45mins driving time from Sydney**

While Sydney is unquestionably a good-looking city, its position is made all the more favourable by its proximity to the Blue Mountains. Perfect for bushwalking; discover breathtaking rock formations such as the Three Sisters at Echo Point and Eagle Hawk Lookout. Try a day trip to the scenic lookout of Kings Tableland and visit the quaint village of Leura.

When you retreat away from shore you'll find gourmet restaurants and boutique shops plus activities including bushwalking and sand dunes tours.

Coffs Harbour is famous for its white sand beaches and crystal clear waters teeming with migrating whales and dolphins. Visitors also flock to the area for its bars, restaurants and friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

Byron Bay is internationally renowned for its pristine white sand, surfing and fabled relaxed lifestyle. Surrounded by beautiful rainforest, this coastal resort offers boutique retreats and therapeutic healing centres. Enjoy the wide variety of adventure sports on offer and vibrant café culture that makes Byron Bay one of Australia's best-loved beach towns. Set within the lush tranquillity of the rainforest, the luxury Byron at Byron Resort and Spa has spectacular views providing serenity and seclusion where each suite is designed to capture the atmosphere of its tropical location.

It's not just the destination but the journey that matters in Australia. Explore New South Wales on your own road trip adventure. Hire a standard SUV from Avis Australia or a motorhome from Apollo Australia, giving you the space and freedom to travel at your own pace. 🚗

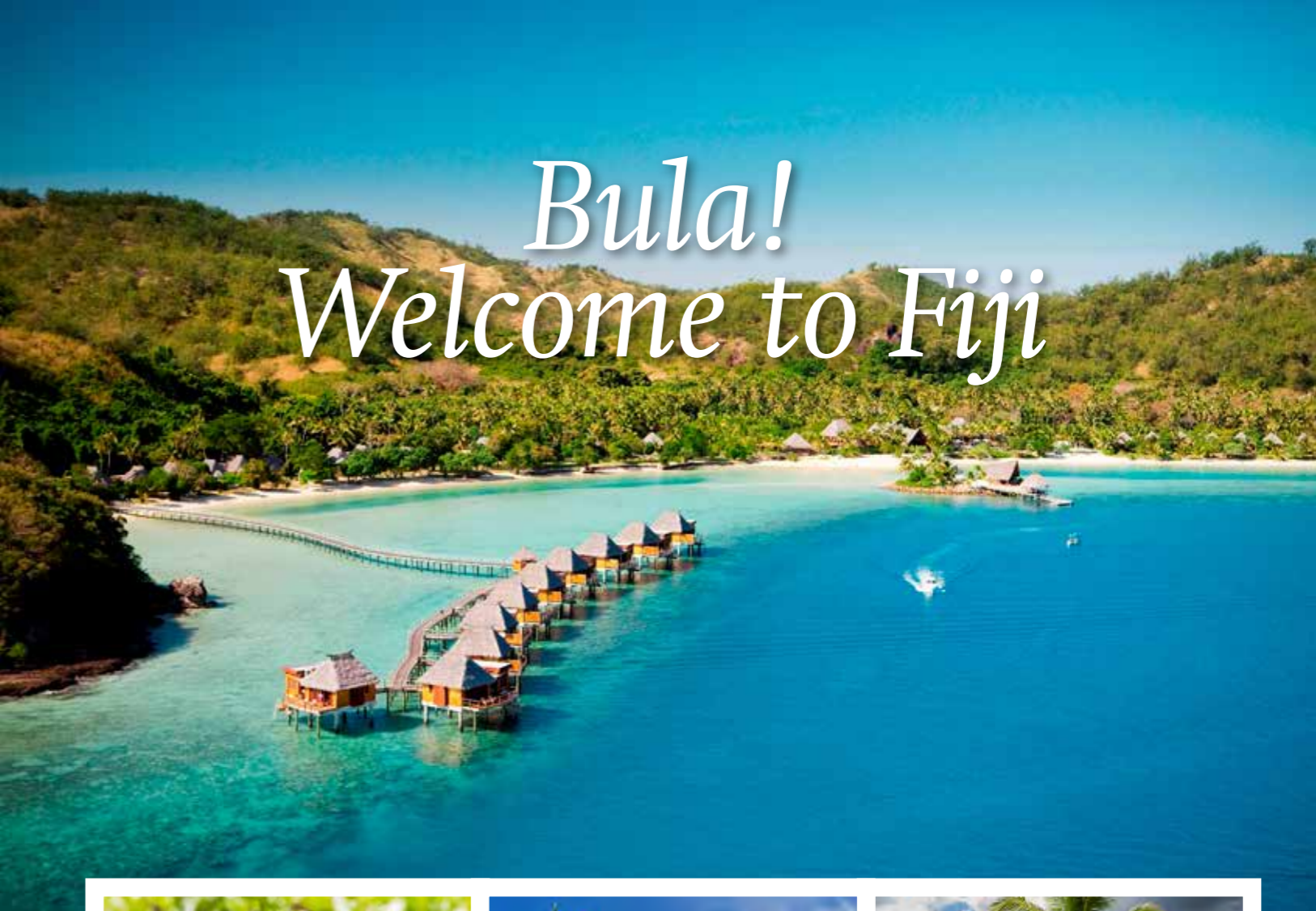
## TAKE ME THERE

**8 NIGHTS**

**Prices from £689 per person**

Includes 3nights 4★ Sydney hotel, Blue Mountains High Country Tour and 6 days Pacific Coast Explorer self-drive with car hire.  
Based on selected travel Nov 2015 - excludes flights

**CLOCKWISE:** Hunter Valley, Blue Mountains, Jervis Bay.



# Bula! Welcome to Fiji



The islands of Fiji are home to some of the friendliest people, best food and most idyllic beaches on earth. After a day spent snorkelling in crystal clear waters, sit back with a Fiji Gold beer and watch the sunset. Make sure you island hop for the ultimate experience – the resorts in the Mamanuca Islands are easy to hop between, and do it in style by seaplane for the best holiday snaps!

Find out more at [austravel.com](http://austravel.com)

## TAKE ME THERE

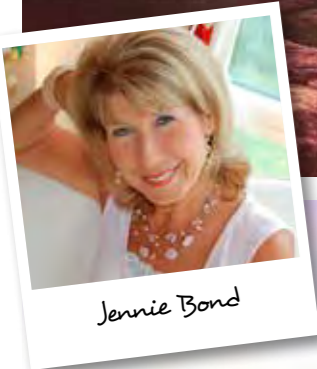
**4 NIGHTS**

LIKULIKU LAGOON RESORT

Prices from £1,195 per person  
Based on selected travel Mar 2016 - excludes flights



# Why I Love Australia



Jennie Bond



Jennie Bond's love affair with Australia began in 1988, when she covered the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales as a Royal Correspondent. Since, she's followed the royals on a handful of trips Down Under and took part on a famous TV show in the heart of the Queensland rainforest, here she shares her favourite memories from her travels to Australia.

“ I remember so vividly the day the call came. “Jennie, how do you feel about going to Australia to cover the visit by the Prince and Princess of Wales?” The year was 1988 and I was a general reporter at the BBC in London. I knew very little about the Royal Family and even less about Australia. A couple of weeks later, I was on a plane to the other side of the world to report not only on the royal visit, but on Australia's bi-centennial celebrations. I suppose it was love at first sight.

Sydney was, and is, a knock-out. Vibrant, buzzing, young and beautiful. I'm not a city lover, but as I discovered then and on subsequent visits, so many of Australia's major cities are beach playgrounds as well. It was hard not to smirk as I filmed on Bondi Beach in searing January heat while my BBC colleagues shivered back home.

And modern Australia is an exotic melting pot of cuisines, cultures and traditions. I've never felt so alive nor eaten such a fabulous choice of delicious food from around the globe.

That first trip took Charles, Diana and their press party onwards to a scorching Adelaide, where I was mesmerised by the paddle steamers making their way down the Murray River. It seemed more like New Orleans than South Australia. I promised myself then that I'd find time to go back and take a cruise on one of those steamers...and, one day, I shall!

But, for a sheer sense of adventure, nothing beats the Northern Territory. I felt a real pioneering spirit in Darwin, where they insisted I should always keep one eye over my

shoulder in case a saltwater crocodile came sauntering down the street! I did see them in the bay: huge and magnificently scary. And, from Darwin it's an easy stretch to the vast and wonderful Kakadu National Park, with its Aboriginal rock art paintings, where you really can get up close and personal with saltwater crocs.

There is so much to see and do in Australia – I've barely scratched the surface. From the tropics of Darwin to the cool, clear skies of Tasmania (where my cameraman and I were stranded on a mountain top and had to watch helplessly from a distance as the royal entourage motored by), there is an adventure to be had at every stop.

And I certainly had an adventure or two when I spent a couple of weeks in the Queensland rainforest in ITV's I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out of Here. Not many people

have been buried in a coffin full of rats or eaten a variety of live Australian insects and creepy crawlies on TV. I'm proud to have been one of them, but I'm sure there are many more pleasurable pursuits to be had in Queensland!

People often ask me for my favourite memory of my 14 years as the BBC's Royal Correspondent. And I suppose it should be some momentous, historic occasion. But, in all honesty – it's sitting in a Jacuzzi on Fraser Island, off the coast of Brisbane, with my fellow royal reporters. It was midnight and blissfully balmy. The Jacuzzi was fringed by bottles of chilled white wine. Prince Charles was already in bed. Our working day was over. It was sheer heaven.

And I can't wait to go back! ”



## Austravel Secret...



“ As a big wildlife fan, I would recommend doing the dolphin swim and going on the Fraser Island whale watch – it's a once in a lifetime experience which I feel privileged to have done. ”

Mike, Travel Designer

TOP LEFT: Kakadu National Park LEFT: Uluru (Ayers Rock) MIDDLE: Fraser Island TOP RIGHT: Saltwater crocodile RIGHT: Captain Cook Cruise, Murray River LEFT: Springbrook, Queensland.

## TAKE ME THERE

7 NIGHTS  
NORTHERN TERRITORY

Prices from £609 per person

Includes: 2 nights 4★ Darwin hotel and 6 days Top End Discovery self-drive with car hire

Based on selected travel May 2016 - excludes flights

# Round the WORLD Itineraries

Who says round-the-world travel is only for backpackers in their early twenties? It's never too late to embark on the adventure of a lifetime. Besides, now that you have the time and money, you can do it in style! Our expert Travel Designers are waiting to create your dream trip, here are their suggestions.



## Singapore – New Zealand – Fiji – Los Angeles

Combine the joys of the city with the pleasures of the beach in equal measure.

### Days 1-2: Singapore

Fly into sophisticated Singapore, the perfect stopover destination. Sip on a Singapore Sling at the iconic Raffles hotel and wander through the bustling streets of Little India.

### Days 3-5: Auckland

Next stop is Auckland, New Zealand. Take to the waters for a cruise around the harbour or ascend the Skytower for views from above.

### Days 6-8: Bay of Islands

Start your self-drive tour and head north to the Bay of Islands, with over 140 beautiful islands from Cape Brett to the Puruerua Peninsula.

### Days 9-10: Auckland

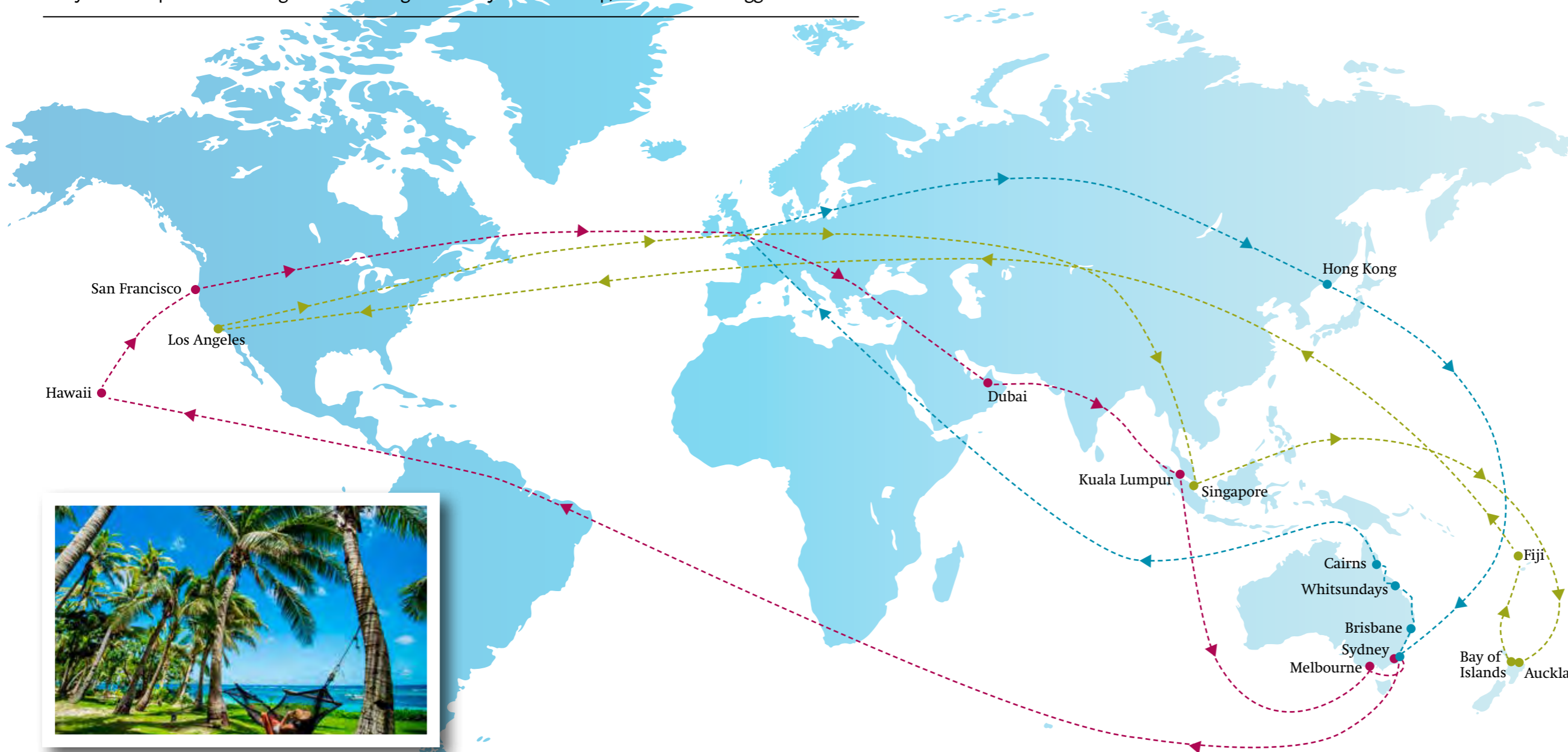
It's back to Auckland for another couple of nights to soak up the city atmosphere. Explore the nearby hiking trails and enjoy the Coast to Coast Walkway across Auckland.

### Days 11-15: Fiji

Hop over to the Coral Coast and spend the next three days nestled in enchanting gardens of fragrant blossoms, admiring incredible ocean views. Then head to the Mamanuca Islands where you will be welcomed with a traditional Bula song.

### Days 16-18: Los Angeles

After reclining on palm-clad beaches your journey takes you over to the Golden State of California to explore LA, Beverly Hills, Sunset Boulevard and Hollywood – a glamorous end to an unforgettable trip. The best part... You'll gain some time as you travel from east to west. ▶



## TAKE ME THERE

17 NIGHTS

Prices from £2,739 per person

Includes: 3nts 3★ Singapore hotel, 1nt 3★ Auckland hotel, 3nts 3★ Bay of Islands hotel, 2nts 3★ Auckland hotel, 3nts 4★ Matamanoa hotel - Fiji, 3nts 4★ Coral Coast hotel - Fiji, 2nts 3★ Los Angeles hotel and return international flights.

Based on selected travel Feb 2016

**Austravel Secret...**

“ Sydney has some great coastal walks meaning you can see the best beaches and views the city has to offer. Some of the paths get busy at the weekend with joggers and dog walkers, but I would recommend getting out of the bustling city centre for a day. ”

Mike, Travel Designer



**Dubai – Kuala Lumpur – Melbourne – Sydney – Hawaii – San Francisco**

This multi-stop itinerary ticks many must-see boxes. Compare the lofty ambition of the Burj Khalifa in Dubai to the glittering Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur then throw in some stunning coastal drives and paradise islands.

**Days 1-2: Dubai**

Just seven hours from London, you'll arrive in this desert metropolis ready to explore the souks and shopping malls. Thrill-seekers will enjoy a 4x4 desert safari on the sand dunes, before watching the sun set.

**Days 3-5: Kuala Lumpur**

Exchange the Middle East for Asia and sample the food scene of KL. This melting pot of old and new sees historic mosques sat side by side with glistening modern architecture. Stroll through Lake Gardens and browse Central Market for local handicrafts.

**Days 6-8: Melbourne**

Board your flight for Australia's capital of cool, Melbourne, renowned as one of the world's most liveable cities. Dine al fresco in trendy eateries and soak up the city's cutting edge culture and historical past with some of Australia's best museums, parklands and 19th century Goldrush buildings.

**Days 9-16: Melbourne to Sydney**

Pick up your Apollo motorhome and begin the self-drive leg of your world tour, enthralled by the striking coastline all the way to Sydney. Equipped with all mod-cons, explore in total comfort at your own pace, experiencing highlights such as penguin-spotting on Phillip Island and beach activities on 90 Mile Beach.

**Days 17-19: Hawai'i**

Fly on to Honolulu to enjoy the multi-coloured sands and biodiversity of Hawai'i with a stay on O'ahu. Spend days on Waikiki's two and a half mile stretch of beach, buzzing with activity from morning until long after the sun sets, or take a tour through history with a visit to Pearl Harbor.

**Days 20-21: San Francisco**

Round off your memorable tour by dropping in on the streets of San Francisco and experience the Golden Gate Bridge and infamous Alcatraz. Sample the famous Boudins sour-dough bread with a tasty clam chowder in Fisherman's Wharf and shop 'til you drop in Union Square.

TOP: Penguin parade, Phillip Island. MIDDLE LEFT: San Francisco. MIDDLE RIGHT: Dubai.

**TAKE ME THERE**

20 NIGHTS

Prices from £3,095 per person

Includes: 2nts 4★ Dubai hotel, 3nts 4★ Kuala Lumpur hotel, 3nts 3★ Melbourne hotel, 7nts' Apollo motorhome hire Melbourne – Sydney, 3nts 4★ Hawai'i hotel, 2nts 4★ San Francisco hotel and return international flights.

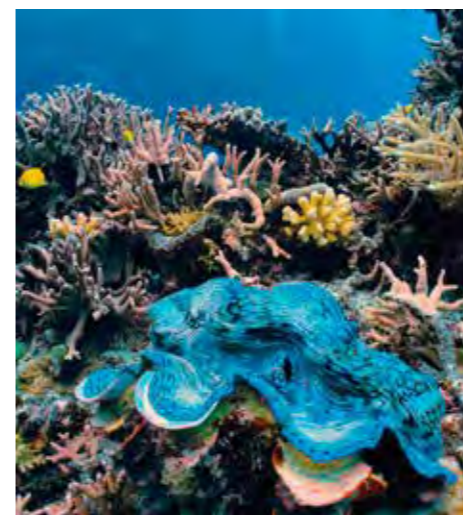
Based on selected travel Mar 2016



**Austravel Secret...**

“ When driving between Cairns and Port Douglas, make sure you leave enough time to stop off at the many picturesque lookout points for some fantastic photo opportunities. ”

James, Travel Designer



**Hong Kong – Sydney – Brisbane – Whitsundays – Cairns**

This itinerary focuses on Australia's east coast and allows a little more time to explore in each destination.

**Days 1-3: Hong Kong**

Spend your first few days in the vibrant, cosmopolitan city of Hong Kong. Wake up to dim sum, shop in Kowloon's bustling markets or enjoy the panoramic views of Victoria Peak on Hong Kong Island.

**Days 4-8: Sydney**

Hop on a plane and make Sydney your first stop in Oz. This most modern of cities is as relaxed or busy as you wish; as well as marvelling at the iconic Sydney Opera House, the adventurous might consider a Harbour Bridge Climb.

**Days 9-12: Sydney to Brisbane**

Time to get behind the wheel of your Apollo motorhome. The first leg of the drive is from Sydney, across the Queensland border to Brisbane. Great coastal views are to be had from Bouddi National Park

and you'll also pass through the Hunter Valley wine region, with a visit to Bryon Bay before arriving at Brisbane.

**Days 13-17: Brisbane to Whitsundays**

Visit some of the nearby beaches from Caloundra up to Noosa to continue your leisurely drive. En route to the Whitsunday Islands, visit Fraser Island's gorgeous sand cliffs and the gorges and rainforest of Eungella National Park before finishing with a cruise around Hamilton Island to spot incredible wildlife and secluded bays.

**Days 18-21: Whitsundays to Cairns**

It's up to Cairns and one of Australia's most famous destinations: the Great Barrier Reef. Take the time to snorkel or dive as many parts of the reef as you can – these will become some of your best memories. Once you've taken in as much of the reef as possible and if you still have the time, Port Douglas is just an hour's drive from Cairns. Here you can visit the Daintree rainforest and explore the beaches of Cape Tribulation. **A**

TOP: Cape Tribulation. MIDDLE LEFT: Great Barrier Reef. MIDDLE RIGHT: Hong Kong.

**TAKE ME THERE**

20 NIGHTS

Prices from £1,795 per person

Includes: 3nts 3★ Hong Kong hotel, 5nts 4★ Sydney hotel, 12nts' Apollo motorhome hire Sydney – Cairns and return international flights.

Based on selected travel Mar-Apr 2016

# A Day in the Life

New Zealand's South Island is a beautiful place, with fiords, mountains and lakes to take in. For some, work means showing wide-eyed visitors such wonders as Te Anau, The Remarkables and Mt Aspiring National Park. Meet Guided Walks New Zealand guide Travis Donoghue, who shares with us his love for New Zealand and why you simply must visit.

100% PURE NEW ZEALAND

AIR NEW ZEALAND 

30 Be inspired at [austravel.com](http://austravel.com) or call our Travel Designers on 0808 252 5894 to book. Calls are free, mobile and other providers' charges may apply.



## TRAVIS DONOGHUE

### Occupation:

Hiking and Snowshoe Guide for Guided Walks New Zealand

### Special Guiding Skill:

Retelling the stories of pioneers, settlers and Indigenous people

### Tip for Travellers:

Put the camera down on occasion to take in the surroundings

“ I've been in Queenstown on and off for 10 years and keep coming back — probably for good this time! Currently I'm working as a Hiking and Snowshoe guide for Guided Walks New Zealand. This entails taking both group and private walking tours into the Mt Aspiring Park, however we can work as far north as Mt Cook and down to Te Anau and also into the Hollyford Track where we have private lodges.

Being a guide, I definitely have the best job because I love showing off New Zealand and talking about the country. I get to be out with guests, and although we regularly see the same thing it's a different experience with each group of people. Sometimes it's surprising what exactly gives our guests a buzz, but it's always a great moment to find out.

It's the knowledge and stories of our guides that bring a place to life — transforming the scenery into an experience that is truly memorable. I think most people look at a forest as simply that, when actually it's an eco-system with so many layers that are interconnected. We also know when the time is right to stop and reflect. Our bush offers a great opportunity for spotting native birds. Not having a flight instinct makes these guys one of the highlights but you have to let them come to you rather than the other way around.



Here in New Zealand you're not restricted by the time of year, either. We have walks that run year-round and the tracks suit all weather conditions. Our settled southern climate means you can have it all, from downpours in a temperate rainforest to crisp and clear winter days — but of course it's still up to Mother Nature which one you experience!

Our most popular summer walk is undoubtedly the Routeburn Valley; we have a lot of guide options here and even the ability to go off trail which is pretty unique. It's awesome to take people to where only the fantails and bush robins hang out.

In the winter Snowshoeing takes over with most of it focused on the Remarkables. We can use the ski field road to get up quickly into the snow and heading off into Lake Alta is a pretty special spot regardless of the weather. It's good to have such big differences between the seasons and keeps us guides fresh.

We make sure that our guests have all the preparation they need for the tours, but we aim to get going quickly and provide many 'wow' moments along the way — this could be a route that nobody else outside Guided Walks New Zealand knows or it could be introducing you to the smallest species in our forest. Depending on the walk we'll also have morning tea or lunch: there is nothing quite as special as a hot cup of tea in the middle of nowhere! ”



LEFT: Fiordland TOP LEFT: Travis Donoghue  
RIGHT: Lake Sylvan guided walk. ABOVE: Jet boat.

## TAKE ME THERE

Guided Walks New Zealand excursion  
Prices from £115 per person  
Return international flights  
from £849 per person

Based on Auckland - selected travel Apr-Jun 2016



# A View with a Room

## LIZARD ISLAND RESORT

*Wake up to the incredible views of the Great Barrier Reef at Lizard Island*

This resort is a jewel embedded in blue lagoons north of the Great Barrier Reef. Secluded and surrounded by powdery beaches, this naturally wild island will bring out the castaway in you. When you return to dry land discover fine dining at the Salt Water Restaurant and sensual pampering in the Essentia Spa.

### TAKE ME THERE

3 NIGHTS

BEACH VIEW ROOM

Prices from £1,295 per person

Based on selected travel Mar 2016 - excluding flights

# A Taste of Western Australia

In April 2015, Austravel's Press Officer Kelly hosted a press trip to Western Australia to showcase the region's tantalising food and wine experiences. With stays in Perth and the Margaret River, she embarked on a gourmet discovery of delicious desserts, world-class wine and tasty craft beers. Here, she shares her highlights from her trip – there's not a jar of Vegemite in sight!



**Austravel Secret...**

“ If you're feeling active, visit beautiful Rottnest Island, just 90 minutes on the ferry from Perth. Book a bike and follow one of the cycle paths. Reward yourself with fish and chips and then relax on the beach! ”

*Kelly, Press Officer*



“ You must try the Snickers dessert in Perth – it's amazing” – this was just one of many foodie recommendations from friends ahead of my recent trip to Perth and the Margaret River. And I can confirm the deconstructed sweet treat was pretty spectacular.

This was my second trip to Perth, and I noticed a real change compared to my first visit in 2005. Not only is the waterfront area of Elizabeth Quay undergoing development and changing the face of the city, but the restaurant and bar scene has exploded.

You are of course, spoilt for choice of wineries to visit. I joined the Bushtucker Gourmet winery and brewery tour and tasted wonderful Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon and Cabernet Sauvignon at four different vineyards and finished at the Cheeky Monkey Brewery for a paddle of beers in the sunshine. My guide Linda was knowledgeable and funny and really made the day memorable.

The region has something for everyone – the relaxed vibe and gorgeous food and wine certainly left me wanting to return for the third time. ”

Disused heritage buildings are now home to bustling bars and restaurants, including the Trustee Bar where I tasted the famous Snickers dessert. During a trip to eclectic Fremantle, I sampled locally-sourced sharing plates - the latest trend in WA - at Bread in Common and tasted craft beers at local brewery, Little Creatures.

Away from the city, I couldn't wait to explore Margaret River, just three hours' drive from Perth. En route I stopped at the picture-postcard town of Busselton, which is famous for having the longest jetty (almost 2km) in the Southern Hemisphere.

I stayed at Cape Lodge, a luxury country retreat with just 22 rooms, in the heart of Margaret River. Dining in its gourmet restaurant is not to be missed with its seven-course tasting menu. Breakfast is also a real treat with homemade granola and five varieties of honey!



## TAKE ME THERE

**6 NIGHTS**

Prices from **£809 per person**

Includes 3nights 5★ Perth hotel, Perth and Fremantle City Explorer Tour, 3nights 5★ Margaret River hotel, Bushtucker Gourmet Winery & Brewery tour and 7 days car hire. Based on selected travel Mar 2016 - excludes flights

**MAIN IMAGE:** Perth. **TOP CLOCKWISE:** Busselton Jetty, Cape Lodge. Wine tasting. Drinks at Cheeky Monkey.



# Sporting Events Down Under



## Austravel Secret...

“For a chance to meet your favourite driver at the Australian Grand Prix, keep an eye out for the meet and greet schedule and factor in queuing times. I also recommend booking grandstand tickets to get the best view of the action.”

**Steph**, Direct Marketing Campaign Manager



England may have just won the Ashes back from the Aussies and the Rugby World Cup is well underway in the UK, but there's plenty of sport still to see in the coming years.

They love their sport Down Under – from cricket, rugby and Aussie rules football to motor racing, tennis and golf – so what better place to take in some competitive action than in Australia or New Zealand?

### British Lions Tour – 2017

The British and Irish Lions' next destination is New Zealand. The team, on their five-week tour from 3 June to 8 July, will play against a number of local sides in some of the country's most scenic destinations, such as Christchurch and Rotorua. They then face the Kiwis in three test matches – two in Auckland's Eden Park and the other at Westpac Stadium, Wellington.

### The Ashes – 2017-18

After England successfully won back the Ashes this summer they'll now need to retain the urn Down Under in two and a half years' time. Join the players in the winter of 2017-18 as they do battle with the Aussies once more. Follow them around the country and watch the test matches in Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne and Sydney, and make sure you take in some of the sights while you're there.

### Commonwealth Games – 2018

Our action doesn't stop with team sports, as April 2018 sees the Commonwealth Games take place in the Gold Coast. Australia was edged out at the top of the medals table by England in Glasgow 2014, and they'll want victory in front of their home crowd. Plan your trip to Australia to take in some of the action.

### Australian Open

The start of the tennis Grand Slam season is always a spectacle and, let's face it, just another of the many reasons to visit Melbourne. Champions Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams will be looking to defend their trophies from 19 January to 1 February 2016, so why not watch them?

### Australian Grand Prix

The traditional venue for the first round of the Formula 1 calendar, Melbourne's Albert Park celebrated 20 years as the host of the Australian Grand Prix in 2015. Can Lewis Hamilton emerge victorious in Victoria for the second year running when the season starts again on 3 April? **A**

LEFT: Australian Open, Melbourne. ABOVE: Gold Coast, Queensland.

# Step into paradise on Hamilton Island

Great Barrier Reef



Escape it all in this tropical paradise of unspoilt natural beauty, edged by sugar-white sand beaches and vibrant turquoise waters. Explore the surrounding areas of the Great Barrier Reef, meet some unique Australian wildlife or tee off on one of the world's premier golfing destinations. Paradise is best served with a slice of relaxation, so take some time to simply kick back and enjoy the view.

Find out more at [austravel.com](http://austravel.com)



**HAMILTON ISLAND**  
GREAT BARRIER REEF AUSTRALIA

## TAKE ME THERE

**4 NIGHTS**  
**BEACH CLUB HAMILTON ISLAND**  
Prices from £625 per person  
Based on travel May 2016 - excludes flights

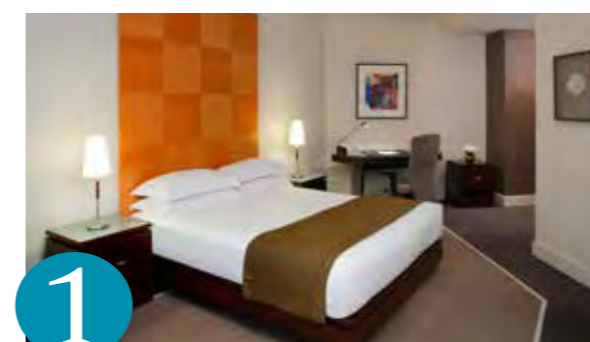
# IT'S A DEAL!

## Top value picks from our experts

OFFERS  
Not To Be  
Missed

OFFERS  
EXCLUSIVE  
to Austravel

From premium upgraded flights to city stopovers and reef cruises, here are our latest special offers.



1

### City central stay in Sydney

The Radisson Blu Hotel Sydney is an intimate boutique style hotel located in the heart of Sydney's CBD. Set within a stunning heritage-listed building dating back to the 1800s, the Opera House, Circular Quay, Royal Botanic Gardens and Pitt Street Shopping Mall are all on its doorstep.

4 nights from £389 per person  
Based on selected travel Mar 2016 - excludes flights



3

### Stopover in Hong Kong from £135pp

This vibrant, cosmopolitan city is perfect for a stopover en route Down Under. Merging cultures of East and West, witness traditional junk boats, delight your senses at a selection of fine dining restaurants and take in the incredible panoramic views from Victoria Peak. Discover the bustling markets and trams of Kowloon and peruse the glistening shopping malls.

3 nights from £135 per person  
Based on selected travel Mar 2016 - excludes flights



2

### Cruise the Great Barrier Reef

Explore the world's largest natural coral reef onboard Quicksilver's high-speed, air-conditioned luxury catamaran. You'll be whisked to their floating activity platform on Agincourt Reef where you can dive and snorkel in a kaleidoscope of coral gardens and marine life, or stay dry and explore the Great Barrier Reef from a semi-submersible and underwater observatory.

Prices from £134 per person



4

### A taste of Paris in the heart of Queenstown

Experience a new level of sophistication at Sofitel Queenstown Hotel and Spa. Inspired by the charms of Paris with the charisma of Queenstown hospitality, be mesmerised by its tasteful combination of French antique chic and local avant-garde design. Facilities include intimate LeSpa, award-winning dining at Vie Restaurant, Nue Lounge and sumptuous breakfast or lunch at charming Left Bank Café.

4 nights from £289 per person  
Based on selected travel Mar 2016 - excludes flights



5

### Fly Premium Economy with Singapore Airlines.

Upgrade to the new Premium Economy Class for enhanced comfort, additional choices and exclusive privileges – all brought together by the same award-winning service you love.

Prices from £1,735 per person  
Based on return flights to Sydney travelling May 2016

## Business Class. Reimagined

The Business Studios are the embodiment of style, simplicity and functionality. The seat converts into a fully-flat bed of up to 80.5 inches. Add easy aisle access, convenient storage space and a personal 18-inch touch screen TV featuring hundreds of hours of entertainment and ask yourself, when was Business Class ever like this?

We fly daily from London Heathrow, Manchester and Edinburgh, via Abu Dhabi to over 100 destinations worldwide.

The Business Studio features on Etihad's A380 – now flying London to Abu Dhabi.

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