

OCTOBER 2016

ENDEAVOUR

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



Never been before or heading back for more?

Suggested itineraries for first, second and third
time visits to Australia and New Zealand

VISITING FRIENDS AND
FAMILY DOWN UNDER

TRAVELLERS' TALES FROM
THE COOK ISLANDS



AUSTRAVEL
Experts in Australia, New Zealand & South Pacific



MAKE TRACKS ACROSS AUSTRALIA with Great Southern Rail

Welcome to ENDEAVOUR the magazine by Austravel

With the summer well and truly over, it's time to start thinking about where you want to travel next. Have you always wanted to see the world-famous Great Barrier Reef? Do pictures of New Zealand's beautiful scenery give you goose bumps? Or is soaking up the sun on a South Pacific island more what you're looking for? Something we think might help you decide is the new 17/18 Austravel Brochure out next month. For some Aussie or Kiwi holiday inspiration, head to austravel.com to pre-order yours now or call our Travel Designers on freephone 0808 252 5894* and start planning your dream trip today.

Karen Joyce
General Manager

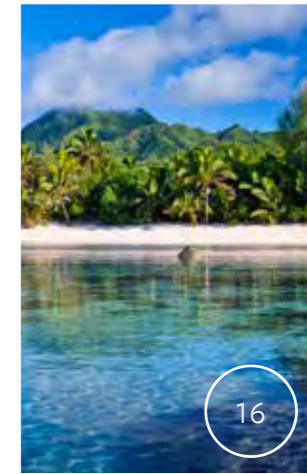


Our magazine is named after HMS Endeavour, the first seagoing vessel to reach the East Coast of Australia in 1770, when Captain Cook went ashore at what is now known as Botany Bay.



On the cover Queenstown, New Zealand

Queenstown is a picture perfect destination with stunning mountain scenery allowing you to relax away from the city bustle.



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Experience more of what you enjoyed in Australia, elsewhere in the world



Journey beyond and experience Australia with an all-inclusive rail journey aboard The Ghan or the Indian Pacific.

THE GHAN

3 days/2 nights Darwin <-> Adelaide

An adventure through the heart of Australia – visit Katherine Gorge, Alice Springs and have an Outback Experience under the stars or at sunrise. Travel all-inclusive of meals, beverages and Off Train Experiences. Alternatively, venture onto The Ghan Expedition (May to October) with extended touring of Alice Springs, an Uluru scenic flight and ground tour upgrade option, and touring of the unique opal mining town of Coober Pedy.

INDIAN PACIFIC

4 days/3 nights Perth <-> Sydney

From Perth to Sydney follow the Avon Valley to the Outback – discover the gold mining history of Kalgoorlie, step foot into the vast Outback, explore Adelaide and the silver mining town of Broken Hill. Alternatively travel from Sydney to Perth and savour a wine experience in the famous Barossa Valley as well as dining in the middle of the Nullarbor Plain. From City to Outback – all Off Train Experiences, meals and beverages are included.

Find out more at austravel.com



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Book now for travel between
Oct 2017 & March 2018



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

Expert destination advice

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Your holiday's in safe hands

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

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WHY I LOVE...

The west coast's wildlife

Calling all wildlife lovers! Our in-house wildlife enthusiast, Paul, shares his incredible animal encounters on his recent trip to Australia's west coast...



MEETING QUOKKAS ON ROTTNEST ISLAND

"Rottnest Island is a must! The island is beautiful with untouched beaches of dazzling white sand and the bluest water I've ever seen, all just 45 minutes ferry from Perth. If you're fit and able (it's quite a hilly ride), and have the time, hire a bike to cycle around the island – or at least part of it. However, the highlight of Rottnest for me, was meeting the cute marsupial residents – the quokkas."

How to see them...

"Native only to south west Australia and with over 10,000 quokkas thought to inhabit Rottnest Island, you're sure to come across them quite easily. Their cheeky smiles have won them the rep as the happiest animal on Earth, plus it makes them great selfie partners. But visitors should remember to be respectful and keep a reasonable distance (*selfie stick required*) from these animals. It's their home after all."



FEEDING DOLPHINS AT MONKEY MIA

"Monkey Mia is the perfect location for a few days break from driving if going up the coast to Exmouth or back down to Perth. The relaxed atmosphere and beautiful beach is more than enough reason for a pit stop but it's the dolphins that are the real stars of this place. They swim right up to the beach and there are free feedings three times a day which are a must. You can easily spot turtles from the beach too!"

How to see them...

"Head to the beach for the morning feeds. Or for a bit of activity, you can hire kayaks, canoes and paddleboards straight off the beach at reasonable rates – another great way to check out the local marine life. I rented a paddleboard and loved it – I'd never done it before. But if you'd prefer something that requires less exertion, I'd recommend the half-day Monkey Mia Wild Sights Cruise. And as if spotting dolphins and turtles wasn't special enough, you might even get lucky and see a dugong (sea cow)."



ENCOUNTERING MANTA RAYS AT CORAL BAY

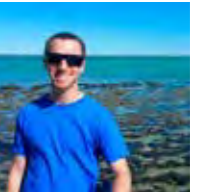
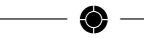
"It's well worth at least one night at Coral Bay. Snorkelling is incredible off the beaches and you can also go out to see manta rays. These magnificent creatures have wingspans of up to seven metres and are completely harmless (they don't have barbs like stingrays) so it's safe to swim, snorkel or dive with them."

How to see them...

"Coral Bay is one of the only places you can see manta rays year round. There are many tours in the area that depart daily and I guarantee that they'll know all the good manta hangout spots. If you're lucky, you may even find a school of mantas and possibly get to witness the males showing off their acrobatic skills for the ladies. What a sight that would be."



WHAT OUR EXPERTS SAY...




"Snorkelling with whale sharks is a must. Such graceful and totally harmless creatures. It's up there as one of the greatest things I have ever done."

PAUL, TRAVEL DESIGNER

SWIMMING WITH WHALE SHARKS IN EXMOUTH

"Last but certainly not least, the biggest fish on the planet - the whale shark - arrives in great numbers off the coast of Western Australia every March to feast on plankton, krill and shrimp. Lucky for us, they are harmless filter-feeders and friendly towards humans. They are however, absolutely huge! Reaching lengths of 12 metres and weighing up to a whopping 20,000 kilos, it's amazing how graceful they are in the water given their size."

How to see them...

"Head over to Exmouth to don your flippers for a day-long boat trip (I highly recommend the Exmouth Dive Centre, just make sure you pre-book). In high season (March to July), whale sharks congregate in such numbers that multiple sightings are possible. I'd suggest staying here for at least three nights in case bad weather prevents the boats going out. Also remember to prep your underwater camera, but nothing quite prepares you for your first sighting of these gentle giants as they materialise out of the blue." 

TAKE ME THERE

11 days Perth and Coral Coast self-drive

Prices from £849 per person

Based on selected travel Mar 2017 – excludes flights.

Top value picks from our experts

From a Kiwi road trip adventure to a South Pacific paradise island stay, here are our top pick offers.



Hamilton Island

The largest of the Whitsunday Islands, Hamilton Island is a tropical paradise of unspoilt beauty waiting to be discovered. Find yourself surrounded by azure waters, beautiful beaches and coral reefs, grab your snorkel and dive in.

6 days from £399 per person

Based on selected travel Mar 2017 – excludes flights.



Discover New Zealand with Apollo Campervans

Explore New Zealand in your own time, stopping when and where you want, enjoying the freedom of your own motorhome. Don't forget your camera to capture some of the world's most stunning views and your memories of a lifetime.

15 days from £179 per person

Based on selected travel May 2017 – excludes flights.



Sample the delights of Perth

Holidays to Perth are the perfect blend of relaxation and entertainment. Spend your days on one of the 19 beaches, or enjoy a day spent wine tasting, make sure to visit Rottnest Island, the only place you can see the smiling quokkas.

4 days from £239 per person

Based on selected travel Mar 2017 – excludes flights.



Explore the Great Barrier Reef with Quicksilver

The World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef is so vast it can be seen from outer space. Jump on board an Outer Reef Cruise with Quicksilver and see the kaleidoscope of colour that is the reef and its inhabitants.

Prices from £129 per person



Adults-only paradise in Fiji

There is so much beauty to be experienced on the idyllic Mamanuca islands of Fiji, fringed by reefs and offering unparalleled marine bio-diversity. Stay at the Matamanoa Island Resort for the perfect, intimate adults-only retreat.

6 days from £895 per person

Based on selected travel Mar 2017 – excludes flights.

NEVER BEEN BEFORE OR HEADING BACK FOR MORE?

Our trusty Travel Designers recommend the best places to visit across Australia and New Zealand, for first timers and those going back to explore some more...



Australia

First visit: SYDNEY, ROCK AND REEF

The perfect introduction for your first time Down Under. Combine the Aussie icons of Sydney, the fiery red sands of the outback, and the spectacular colours of the Great Barrier Reef. A trip to Sydney isn't complete without seeing the city from the water and cruising around the impressive Sydney Harbour. Opera House: tick. Harbour Bridge: tick. A trip to Sydney's famous Bondi Beach is also another quintessential Aussie holiday activity. Next head inland to see the magnificent Blue Mountains, then it's time to venture into the Red Centre. Words can't describe the magic of this place. Learn about the ancient Aboriginal legends and enjoy a sunset tour at Uluru (the sacred Ayers Rock). Finally in Cairns, cruise out to the world's largest reef – the Great Barrier Reef. Snorkel or dive with a vast array of marine life and be astounded by the sheer breadth of one of nature's finest masterpieces.

11 days from £649 per person.

Includes 4nts 3★ Sydney hotel, 2nts 4★ Uluru (Ayers Rock) hotel and 4nts 4★ Port Douglas hotel. Based on selected travel May 2017 - excludes flights.

Second visit: MELBOURNE, GREAT OCEAN ROAD AND ADELAIDE

Done the east coast? Now let's head south. Begin your trip exploring the café-laden laneways of Melbourne sampling as many Asian-inspired eateries as you can. For a bit of seaside fun, head to Melbourne's bustling beach suburb of St Kilda before hopping in a hire car and experiencing Australia's most popular driving route – the Great Ocean Road. Voted one of the best coastal drives in the world, the Great Ocean Road is not just a way of getting from one place to another, the jaw-dropping scenery makes for an exciting 240-kilometre drive along Australia's rugged south coast. It's a thrilling five-day adventure that takes you along the coastline to the South Australian capital of Adelaide. This cosmopolitan coastal city is ideal for gallery and museum hopping, and is the launch pad to the wildlife haven of Kangaroo Island. Known as the 'zoo without fences', Kangaroo Island is the place to go to see Australia's native animals – kangaroos, koalas and even the elusive echidna roam freely and are easily spotted on a tour or self-drive around the island.

10 days from £649 per person.

Includes 3nts 3★ Melbourne hotel, 5 days Great Ocean Road Melbourne to Adelaide self-drive with car hire and 2nts 3★ Adelaide hotel.

Based on selected travel Mar 2017 - excludes flights.

Third visit: PERTH AND WEST COAST AUSTRALIA

Pipping sunny Queensland cities to the post, Perth is actually Australia's sunniest city. With plenty of outstanding beach suburbs for you to lap up this glorious weather, choose from the golden sands of Cottesloe, Scarborough and many others. For exploring more of Western Australia's coastline, your best mode of transport (and accommodation) is a motorhome. With numerous, well-equipped campsites up and down the coast, a road trip along WA's Indian Ocean Drive is the ideal way to see the state's big sights. If wine tasting and gourmet retreats tickle your taste buds, Margaret River's 200 plus vineyards and award-winning restaurants are sure to impress. Or if the east coast's Great Barrier Reef left you in awe, then make your way up the coast to WA's own marine wonders. Feed dolphins off the beach at Monkey Mia, snorkel the coral lagoons of Ningaloo Reef and visit Exmouth to swim with the biggest fish in the ocean – the whale shark.

9 days from £589 per person.

Includes 3nts 4★ Perth hotel and 6 day South West Highlights self-drive with car hire.

Based on selected travel Mar 2017 - excludes flights.



Sydney, Rock and Reef
Left to right: Sydney Harbour. Great Barrier Reef. Uluru (Ayers Rock).



Melbourne, Great Ocean Road and Adelaide
Left to right: Melbourne eateries. Great Ocean Road. Adelaide.



Perth and West Coast Australia
Left to right: Perth. Scenic Crawley Edge. Gourmet retreats in Margaret River.

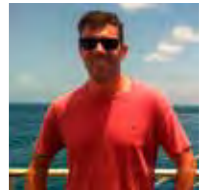


WHAT OUR EXPERTS SAY...



“When visiting Sydney make sure you buy a hop-on hop-off ferry pass so you can make the most of exploring Sydney Harbour and all its attractions, or even pop over to Manly.”

KELLY, DESTINATION EXECUTIVE



“Melbourne offers something completely different. I love the smaller streets with that chance of going down a road and seeing something totally unique. It's less about the big buildings and landmarks, and more about the bustling cosmopolitan café culture and shopping.”

MIKE, TRAVEL DESIGNER



“Hiring bikes is the best way to see and explore Rottnest Island. You can hire by the day if you want to cycle around the whole island or there's hourly rates if you just want to go on a leisurely ride in search of quokkas.”

CLAIRE, TRAVEL DESIGNER



New Zealand

First visit: AUCKLAND, ROTORUA AND QUEENSTOWN

Your first time to New Zealand is sure to leave you spellbound. To start, experience urban Kiwi life with a stay in the country's largest city, Auckland. Nestled between two beautiful harbours, Waitemata Harbour in the north offers access to the island-studded Hauraki Gulf with the foodie haven of Waiheke Island (think world-class wineries) only a 35-minute ferry trip away. Next stop is Rotorua. Here you'll find a geothermal wonderland of volcanic mud pools, spurting geysers and steaming hot springs, ideal for a relaxing soak. Rotorua's Te Puia (see p.20) is also a hub for New Zealand's fascinating Maori culture and experiencing a traditional hangi feast, where your food is cooked in the ground, is a must. Lastly, hop on a flight to the South Island where Queenstown – the world's adventure capital – awaits. Jet boating, skiing, bungee, hiking, biking – you name it, Queenstown has it. Or for something slower-paced, take a day trip to the Fiordlands for a cruise around the stunning Milford Sound.

10 days from £739 per person.

Includes 3nts 3★ Auckland hotel, 2nts 4★ Rotorua hotel, 4nts 4★ Queenstown hotel and internal flights. Based on selected travel Apr 2017 - excludes flights.

Second visit: ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK AND KAIKOURA

Located at the top of the South Island, Abel Tasman National Park basks under the most sunshine hours in the country. Abel Tasman may be New Zealand's smallest national park, but it's also one of the finest. Offering golden beaches, hiking, sailing, kayaking and much more, the park is rife with adventure including the Abel Tasman Coast Track – one of New Zealand's 'Great Walks'. One of the best ways to experience Abel Tasman National Park is by a multi-day guided kayaking trip. Making your way down the coast from Totaranui and Marahau, you'll see all Abel Tasman's coastal highlights including Awaroa Inlet's secluded beaches, the seal colony on Tonga Island and picturesque Adele Island where you can hear the chorus of the ever growing population of native birds. Once back on dry land, hire a car for a self-drive to Kaikoura. This scenic seaside settlement is renowned for its marine encounters and is one of the best places to see whales, seals and dolphins just off the coast. Watch out for those huge whale tails!

5 days from £1189 per person.

Includes 3 day Abel Tasman Guided Walk and Kayak Tour, 2nts 4★ Kaikoura hotel and 3 days car hire. Based on selected travel Mar 2017 - excludes flights.

Third visit: TASMANIA

If you love the lush green scenery of New Zealand, but think it's time to venture somewhere new, why not try Australia's island state of Tasmania? With its dramatic landscapes and untamed alpine beauty, Tassie is one of the top hiking destinations in Australia. The island's rugged coastline also makes for one immensely scenic road trip. Key stop offs include Hobart – the state's capital – where you'll find an eclectic blend of heritage, culture and a burgeoning food scene. Freycinet National Park with its breathtaking Wineglass Bay, the west coast's Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, and the brilliant white beaches and rust-coloured rocks of the Bay of Fires in the north east, are but a few of Tassie's natural treasures. For flashbacks into Australia's turbulent colonial history, plan in a visit to the old convict settlement of Port Arthur. Of course, you can't leave without meeting the island's famous resident – the native Tasmanian devil. If you can find him that is! If not, we recommend a fourth visit back to this unique, awe-inspiring island.

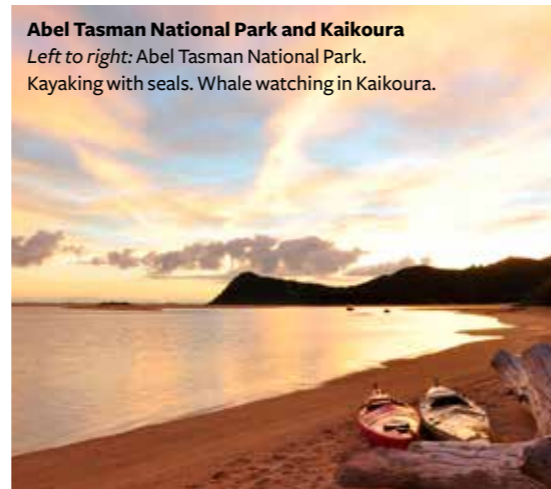
10 days from £849 per person.

Includes 10 day Grand Circle Tasmania self-drive with car hire. Based on selected travel Feb 2017 - excludes flights.

Auckland, Rotorua and Queenstown
Left to right: Auckland. Rotorua. View over Queenstown.



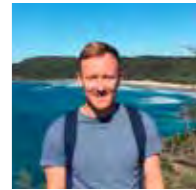
Abel Tasman National Park and Kaikoura
Left to right: Abel Tasman National Park. Kayaking with seals. Whale watching in Kaikoura.



Tasmania
Left to right: Hobart. Freycinet National Park. Port Arthur.



WHAT OUR EXPERTS SAY...



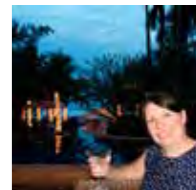
“Te Puia offers the chance to see mud pools, the Pohutu Geyser which can reach heights of up to 30 metres, Maori cultural performances and traditional dining – it's a great way to get a feel for the Maori way of life at the beginning of the 20th century.”

TOM, TRAVEL DESIGNER



“Abel Tasman is New Zealand's only coastal national park which means you can go from hiking, to swimming, to kayaking and even cruising, all in the one trip.”

JULIE, TRAVEL DESIGNER



“Hobart has fabulous weekend markets along the waterfront that sell an array of local arts, crafts and delicious produce. You can't miss Salamanca Market if you're there on a Saturday. Skip lunch and go nibble your way round them instead.”

SUE, TRAVEL DESIGNER



A VIEW WITH
A ROOM

— ● —
*Southern Ocean Lodge,
Kangaroo Island*

Blending flawlessly with its natural environment, the Southern Ocean Lodge is the epitomé of luxurious serenity. From the moment you step through the grand front door, you're greeted with 180-degree views of turquoise water, crashing waves and rugged coastline. The 21 boutique suites all boast floor to ceiling windows and tasteful, eco-friendly interiors. While outside, Australia's 'zoo without fences' awaits.

ADD TO MY TRIP

4 days

Prices from £1,899 per person

Based on selected travel Mar 2017 – excludes flights.



Queenstown
Renowned for its magnificent scenery as well as being the adventure capital of New Zealand.

72 HOURS in Queenstown

If you're more an alpine adventurer than a sun seeker then Queenstown on New Zealand's South Island, will be right up your street. With a reputation as the 'Adventure Capital of the World', here's how to make the most of 72 hours in this charming, yet thrilling, Kiwi town...



WHAT OUR EXPERTS SAY...



"You'll find great activities year round in Queenstown. You can go skiing in the winter, hiking in the spring or wine tasting in the summer. Or simply do nothing but sit back and enjoy the views."

MIKE, TRAVEL DESIGNER

DAY 1

Morning

Arrive at your hotel. We recommend the five-star The Rees Hotel Queenstown for its breathtaking panoramic lake and alpine views, and sophisticated luxury apartments. Once settled in, take a gentle 3km walk along the shores of Lake Wakatipu into the town centre or hop on the hotel's free shuttle bus. It's time for coffee! Try Vudu Café and Larder on Rees Street (easy to remember) - the carrot cake is to die for!

Afternoon

Tolkien fans, this one's for you. Book in for an afternoon's scenic 4WD tour around the Wakatipu Basin - perfect for anyone wanting the thrills of an off-road adventure while also discovering the filming locations of the famous Lord of the Rings trilogy. Visit the filming locations of the Misty Mountains (The Remarkables), the Pillars of the Kings (Kawarau Gorge), the Ford of Bruinen (Arrow River) and more!

Safari of the Scenes Tour from £95 per person
Stay at The Rees from £89 per person per night

DAY 2

Morning

This morning, board the 103-year-old TSS Earnslaw for a vintage steamship cruise on Lake Wakatipu. This leisurely 90-minute cruise showcases Queenstown's spectacular alpine scenery and offers unrivalled views of the town from the water. Plus, you can even visit the engine room and see the giant steam engines at work. Choose to combine your cruise with a visit to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a guided farm tour, horse trek, barbecue lunch or evening dining.

Afternoon

Once back in Queenstown, spend the afternoon wandering around Steamer Wharf's many boutique shopping outlets and be sure to reserve a table at whichever waterfront restaurant takes your fancy for later. Or venture back towards the town centre to try the must-visit, bigger-than-your-head burger joint, Fergburger. If you find you're a fan of Ferg, there's also the Fergbaker. With its huge selection of baked goodies including meat pies, filled rolls, danish pastries and sweet tarts, it's a great option for breakfast or lunch.

TSS Earnslaw Cruise from £35 per person

DAY 3

Morning

Today you're in for the ride of your life! Queenstown's Shotover Jet is the world's most exciting jet boat experience. Let your breakfast go down before heading to 'The Station' Information Centre where a complimentary shuttle bus will scoop you up and take you to the boarding point. Then brace yourself for an exhilarating ride through Shotover River's dramatic and narrow canyons. Just remember to take in the stunning scenery in between those 360° spins. If it's good enough for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, it's definitely worth a spin.

Afternoon

From 360° spins to 360° views. For your final afternoon in Queenstown, take the Skyline Gondola up to Bob's Peak for panoramic views of the town below and surrounding Remarkables mountain ranges. Work up an appetite with a stroll along one of the peak's shorter walking tracks before indulging in a buffet feast at Stratosfare Restaurant & Bar. Yes, the food is delicious - especially the New Zealand green-lipped mussels - but it's the views that will really leave a lasting impression. It's the ideal place for your last night and the best place in Queenstown to watch the sun go down.

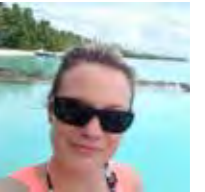
Shotover Jetboat Ride from £75 per person
Wilderness Safari from £129 per person



Small images from top left clockwise: Lake Wakatipu. Arrow River. TSS Earnslaw. Stratosfare Restaurant & Bar. Shotover Jet. Queenstown dining.



WHAT OUR EXPERTS SAY...



"Rarotonga Island is small so getting around is easy, and you can go off and explore by yourself on the bus or by hiring a bike or car."

SHARRON, TRAVEL DESIGNER



Images from top left clockwise: Picture perfect beaches. One Foot Island. Sunset dining. Pacific Resort Aitutaki. Overwater Bungalow, Aitutaki Lagoon Resort.

TAKE ME THERE

9 days Cook Islands

Prices from £2,349 per person
Includes: 3nights 4★ Rarotonga hotel, 5nights 5★ Aitutaki hotel, flight transfer to Aitutaki and Te Vaka Cruise.
Based on travel Mar 2017 - excludes flights.

Q. ANY TOP TIPS OR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANYONE VISITING THE COOK ISLANDS?

You need at least five nights to make the most of your time in the Cook Islands, or longer if you can. If you are staying on the east coast of any of the islands, make sure you get up early to watch the amazing sunrise. Then in the evening, head for a meal on the west coast and dine watching the sun set against the South Pacific Ocean. [1](#)

Poly' as it's fondly known. Offering very spacious rooms with beautiful views and a luxurious outdoor spa, the resort is also right on the beach – a fantastic snorkelling spot.

Q. WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE EXCURSION AND WHY?

Definitely the Vaka Cruise around Aitutaki lagoon. I feel very lucky to have experienced this trip. It really was a once in a lifetime experience and I can't recommend it highly enough. You board a 21-metre Polynesian style vaka (boat) which then stops off at several motu (small islets) including One Foot Island where getting your passport stamped with the little footprint is a must. You can post your postcards from here too - definitely the best way to make your friends at home jealous.

Q. WHERE WAS YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE IN THE COOK ISLANDS AND WHY?

It has to be Aitutaki. The only way I can describe it is heaven on Earth. I often get asked by customers if Aitutaki is worth visiting. After my experience there, I would say that no trip to the Cooks would be complete without a trip to see the turquoise waters of Aitutaki's lagoon.

Q. WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE HOTEL AND WHY?

This is tough as all the hotels I went to see offered something different, but if I were to visit again, I would love to stay at the Pacific Resort on Aitutaki. It's absolute perfection and the ideal hideaway if you're looking for some peace and quiet. Over on Rarotonga, it has to be Little Polynesian or 'Little

Q. IN TWO SENTENCES HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE COOK ISLANDS?

Amazing! What you see in the brochures is what you get in real life, it really is picture perfect. The island of Rarotonga has a barrier coral reef surrounding it, so where ever you stay, you will always have access to great snorkelling and the abundant marine life. Sorry - technically that was three sentences!

Q. WHO WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS DESTINATION TO AND WHY?

Everyone. The islands have a real community feel, the hotels are owned by the locals so you always feel welcome. There are lots of family activities at the hotels to keep the kids entertained, and enough attractions on the island to appeal to all ages. There's a great range of accommodation to suit everyone too. From self-catering apartments and villas, to boutique hotels and larger luxury resorts, plus adult-only properties which are great for honeymooners.

TRAVELLERS' TALES

COOK ISLANDS

When James Cook set sail for the far-flung reaches of the globe, he found paradise. Today, we know this paradise as the Cook Islands. Our (lucky) Travel Designer, Sharron shares her most memorable parts of staying on these white-sand slices of heaven...



VISITING FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND FAMILY *Down Under*

Planning a trip is so much easier when you have relatives to rely on but why not surprise your hosts with a little itinerary of your own? You never know, it may be a first time visit for them too...

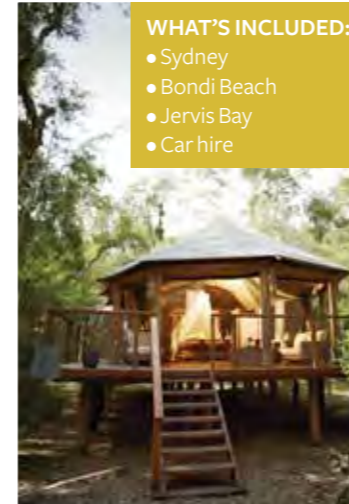


- WHAT'S INCLUDED:**
- Melbourne
 - Mornington Peninsula
 - Yarra Valley
 - Car hire

When visiting friends and family in **MELBOURNE**

Soak up Melbourne's eccentric city vibes with some laneway exploration and café sampling before escaping to the lush greens of Victoria's countryside. At its southern tip, the Mornington Peninsula holds plenty of day trip opportunities to suit everyone - secluded beaches, national parkland and rolling hills perfect for a group hike. Make sure to try the area's delicious produce and pack a picnic to feed the whole family. Then venture a little further north to one of the country's finest wine regions, the Yarra Valley. With over 80 wineries to choose from, there'll be a tippie to tickle everyone's taste buds. The pinot noir is certainly one to try.

2nts 4★ Melbourne hotel, 2nts 4★ Mornington Peninsula hotel and 5 days car hire from £399 per person.

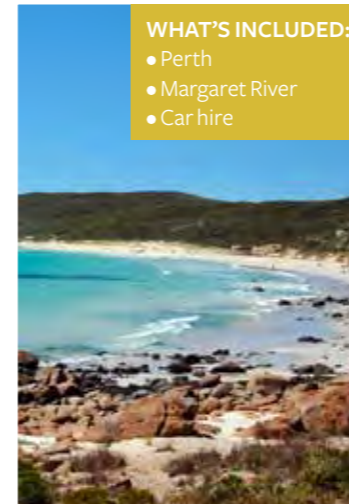


- WHAT'S INCLUDED:**
- Sydney
 - Bondi Beach
 - Jervis Bay
 - Car hire

When visiting friends and family in **SYDNEY**

Sydney is a sensational city with lots of iconic sights and beaches (aka Bondi) to fill a few weeks of holiday. But why not set a couple of days aside and whisk off your Sydney-sider friends or relatives for a back-to-nature camping trip to stunning Jervis Bay? A nature lover's paradise, wander the area's white-sand beaches and watch out for the whales patrolling the coast between May and November. Dolphins are also regularly spotted splashing around in the bay's calm waters. For your accommodation, stay slightly inland at the peaceful eco-retreat of Paperbark Camp - Australia's first luxury camp. We promise your hosts will thank you for the relaxing break.

3nts 4★ Sydney hotel, 3nts 3★ Paperbark Camp Deluxe Safari Tent and 4 days car hire from £749 per person.



- WHAT'S INCLUDED:**
- Perth
 - Margaret River
 - Car hire

When visiting friends and family in **PERTH**

The sunny city of Perth is the perfect place for some outdoor family fun. A visit to the glorious Kings Park is a must for a big picnic or BBQ, not to mention a great group photo opportunity with amazing city views for a backdrop. Next on the itinerary - and one for the adults - wine! And where better to catch up over a good glass of vino than Margaret River in WA's south west? We recommend a couple of nights at Margarets Beach Resort, so there's no short straws required for designated driving. Plus, with only a short stroll to Gnarabup Beach, it's the ideal location for the whole family to enjoy the sun, sea and sand, and explore the region's scenic coastline.

2nts 4★ Perth hotel, 2nts 3★ Margaret River hotel and 3 days car hire from £349 per person.



- WHAT'S INCLUDED:**
- Brisbane
 - Glasshouse Mountains and Australia Zoo
 - Sunshine Coast
 - Moreton Island
 - Car hire

When visiting friends and family in **BRISBANE**

Brisbane in southern Queensland offers year-round sunshine and is a great base for visiting friends and family living in the surrounding area. After a few nights in the city, drive north into the spectacular Glasshouse Mountains, where all the family can enjoy a day at Australia Zoo. Make sure you take time to watch the wildlife shows, especially the

croc feeding (midday) and amazing bird displays (afternoon). Next, enjoy the laidback Aussie lifestyle of the Sunshine Coast with its fabulous beaches for surfing, swimming, or just relaxing. Then sail over to Tangalooma Island Resort where you can hand feed the wild dolphins that swim into the shallows each evening - an experience you won't forget!

2nts 3★ Brisbane hotel, 2nts 3★ Glass House Mountains hotel, 2nts 4★ Sunshine Coast hotel, 2nts 3★ Tangalooma hotel, Australia Zoo tour and 7 days car hire from £689 per person.

WHICH STOPOVER CITY WILL YOU CHOOSE FOR YOUR JOURNEY DOWN UNDER?

SINGAPORE

The Marina Bay Sands' 'Wonder Full' laser show, a Singapore Sling at the Raffles Hotel and exploring the S\$1 billion fantasy land that is Gardens by the Bay, are all musts when you visit this island nation.

Prices from £85 per person per night



HONG KONG

A futuristic city of glittering skyscrapers, lively street markets and mega shopping malls. With its dazzling harbour, Hong Kong is an unforgettable city of colour, culture and great dim sum!

Prices from £89 per person per night



DUBAI

From camel riding in the desert and exploring the Al Fahidi Historic District, to supreme luxury shopping trips and sipping cocktails in opulent rooftop bars, Dubai is an exciting whirlwind of experiences.

Prices from £55 per person per night

Te Puia

Situated in Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve just 5 minutes drive from central Rotorua.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Te Puia Maori Guide



Karl Leonard

Occupation: Operations Manager / Maori Guide

Special skill: Weaving works of art

Travel tip: If you want to make sure you don't miss Pohutu Geyser erupting, ask one of our guides when she'll next burst into life!

Te Puia, just south of Rotorua on New Zealand's North Island, is the country's Maori cultural centre. Thousands visit every year to get a taste of the unique Maori hospitality and heritage, as well as see the area's natural geothermal wonders including the world-famous Pohutu Geyser. So who better to tell us more about the Te Puia experience than its Operations Manager?

Q. What does a typical day on the job involve?
Making sure that all the tours and activities we do at Te Puia run smoothly. When necessary I'll fill in with the tours. Manaakitanga (hospitality) is our number one priority. Looking after our visitors and making sure they are enjoying themselves is what's most important. I'd definitely recommend one of our famous hāngi feasts – they're delicious, especially the fresh-made rewana bread.

Q. What's your favourite part of the destination you live and work in?
Being outdoors amongst the geothermal activity of the mud pools and geysers. No day is ever the same out there. Things are always changing and it's such an interesting environment to work in. One minute you're walking past a little spurting spring and then next minute it's shooting 30 metres up in the air.

Q. What's the most enjoyable part of your job?
Sharing our culture with visitors and working with a whānau (family) oriented team.

Q. What do you find most challenging?
To be able to condense a Māori cultural experience down to an hour. There's so much to cover that you really only get to scratch the surface. There's the culture, art, practices, customs, beliefs and much more. We just hope we inspire our visitors to go away and learn more about our ancestral traditions.

Q. Why would you recommend people visit your destination?
There's a great mix of things to do and see – performances, carving and weaving arts, the geothermal activity and meeting the endangered kiwi at our Kiwi Conservation Centre. There's really something for everyone.

Q. Who is the most interesting person you've met on the job and why?
I've met a fair few famous people but the one that sticks in my mind is Ringo Starr. He just had such an abrupt nature and was very to the point – probably due to his fame. Another memorable experience was being part of the local kaumātua elders and iwi (tribe) when we welcomed Queen Elizabeth II on her visit to sign the Deed of Settlement (part of the Treaty of Waitangi settlement with the Crown) in 1995. That was a pivotal moment in Māori history.

Q. If you could take anyone around on your tour – who would you choose and why?
I have no preference as long as they are interested. I am here to educate, entertain and inform.

ADD TO MY TRIP

Te Puia excursion
Prices from £29 per person



Images right, top left clockwise: Hāngi food. Te Puia Maori evening experience. Pohutu Geyser. Geothermal Valley.

5 Experiences ACROSS THE GLOBE to rival Australia's Icons

Australia is brimming with iconic experiences and must-see sights to fill a lifetime. But if you've already travelled Down Under and are looking to recreate your experience elsewhere in the world, look no further than our sister company Hayes and Jarvis. With over 60 years' experience in creating tailor-made holidays to the Far East, Indian Ocean, Africa, USA and beyond, Hayes and Jarvis and its Destination Specialists are on hand to help plan your next adventure outside of Australasia.



1

The Ghan



South Africa's Blue Train

If you've travelled through the outback on board The Ghan... Step aboard South Africa's Blue Train

Glimpse the soul of beautiful South Africa from the comfort of your carriage window. Attended by your own private butler, surrounded by wood panelling and gold-plumbed bathrooms - impeccable high standards are always well-observed. Cigars are well-stocked in the club car and dress codes change from casual to elegant evening wear in the dining car. You will feel as though you have entered a time capsule and are being transported into your very own Agatha Christie novel. The only suspense here is what culinary wonders the chefs will produce next.

Johannesburg, Blue Train and Cape Town
8 nights from £2149pp. Departing Nov 2016.

Includes: 3 nights in Johannesburg, 1 night on the Blue Train and 4 nights in Cape Town.

If you've explored the Great Barrier Reef... Dive underwater in the Maldives

If there is one pastime that allows us to explore other worlds, without the aid of space travel, it would be the world of wonder and weightlessness under the sea when you go scuba diving. The waters around the atolls of the Maldives are a haven for shoals of butterfly fish and oriental sweetlips, turtles, dolphins and manta rays. And with overwater villas suspended above a crystal clear lagoon, a PADI course in paradise awaits.

7 nights at Vilamendhoo Island Resort and Spa from £1399pp.
 Departing Jun 2017.



2

Great Barrier Reef

Dive in the Maldives



3

Great Ocean Road

California's Pacific Coast

If you've road tripped along the Great Ocean Road... Cruise down California's Pacific Coast Highway

Dazzling city experiences in Los Angeles and San Francisco one moment, amazing beaches including San Simeon and Monterey the next; a Golden California self-drive will provide adventure, glamour and wonderful landscapes. Stop off in the quaint seaside village of Carmel, cruise along the 17-Mile Drive toll road boasting magnificent seaside scenery, then finish with a stay in San Diego to ensure you have a truly memorable trip.

11 nights Golden California self-drive from £1149pp.
 Departing Apr 2017.

If you've cuddled koalas... Feed elephants in Thailand

Once you're escorted into Elephant Hills Luxury Tented Camp it's as though you have stepped through a portal into a magical hidden valley. Mists clear to reveal the tree-covered limestone cliffs that encircle your resort. Come face to face with Asian elephants on an Elephant Experience, where you can get involved during their bath and mealtimes, and plant food for their crop for the following year. Then take a relaxing canoe ride along lakes and rivers that teem with tropical flora and fauna.

12 nights from £1549pp. Departing Mar 2017.

Includes: 5 nights in Phuket, 2 nights Elephant Hills Jungle Safari and 5 nights in Khao Lak.



4

Koalas

Feed Elephants in Thailand



5

Uluru

The Grand Canyon

If you've witnessed the magnificent Uluru (Ayers Rock)... Explore the mighty Grand Canyon

Since man first encountered the vast plunging depths, temple-like buttes and dramatic white-water rivers of the Grand Canyon, they have held the landscape spread before them in awe. The canyon has been carved by the twisting Colorado River into a labyrinth series of segmented limestone cliffs and buttresses that change colour as the sun rises and falls. No photo can do the Grand Canyon justice, you just have to see it for yourself.

10 nights from £1849pp. Departing Feb 2017.

Includes: Helicopter ride to the Grand Canyon, overnight stay on a ranch and cowboy experience.



FLY IN STYLE WITH SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Flights to Australasia may be long, but the destinations that await are well worth the travelling time. We believe your holiday should begin on your journey Down Under, so why not upgrade your flights and fly in style?

Singapore Airlines' new Premium Economy Class offers enhanced seat comfort, additional food and beverage options and exclusive privileges – all brought together by the same award-winning service you love.

Take advantage of the 35kg baggage allowance and start your journey with priority check-in and boarding. On board, the separate Premium Economy cabin offers a 2-4-2 layout, ideal for couples and families. Sit back and relax in your 38" seat pitch and watch the latest films and entertainment on your personal 13.3" full HD touchscreen monitor with active noise-cancelling headset. Choose from three main courses or pre-order from the exclusive Book the Cook menu with inflight champagne and wine. Combined with Singapore Airlines' unrivalled service and attentive care, the new Premium Economy Class provides the perfect start to your Australasian adventure.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



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