

2014 - 2015

Essential Guide
AUSTRAVEL

Australia, New Zealand & South Pacific

We don't just go there, we know there



Whatever you are looking for in a holiday, a trip to Australia, New Zealand or the South Pacific will certainly tick all the boxes. The destinations conjure up an array of images – from secluded islands and untouched beaches, to vibrant cities with iconic sights – and deciding exactly where to go, or what to include, could be a daunting task, so allow Austravel to guide you along the way.

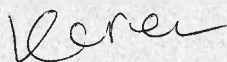
For over 35 years Austravel have been providing travellers to Australasia with holidays, tailor-made to exactly what they want, and we pride ourselves on our insider knowledge and unrivalled expert service. All our Travel Designers have travelled extensively to the destinations, and are keen to share their 'Austravel Secrets' with you.

The 'Essential Guide' by Austravel is perfect to help provide you with the ideas and inspiration to create that once in a lifetime holiday – exactly as you want it. You may be a first time visitor wanting to see all the iconic sights, or returning again and looking to try something different, but either way allow Austravel to piece together your dream trip.

Our guide is bursting with ideas to suit all tastes and budgets, and these can be combined to create a unique holiday. The diverse wildlife, world class food and wines, and being immersed in local cultures stand out as those 'must do' experiences, and you can opt to travel as independently as you choose. Include an epic rail journey, join an escorted tour, or pick up a car or campervan and have the freedom to explore at your own pace. The choice is yours.

It is our ability to offer a comprehensive range of holiday options which ensures that our customers travel with Austravel again, and again.

Our expert Travel Designers look forward to helping you plan your holiday 'down-under', and you will find even more inspiration at austravel.com.



Karen Joyce
General Manager



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Cover Image: Taken by Austravel Customer Nicky Underwood: "A close up of Uluru, Northern Territory, Australia sums up my mind's image of Australia: red earth and blue skies."



Essential Guide

AUSTRAVEL

Australia, New Zealand & South Pacific



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BOOK WITH AUSTRAVEL

At Austravel, we've been helping to create tailor-made holidays to Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific since 1977. Our expert Travel Designers have travelled throughout these destinations and we're here to share our knowledge with you. Whether this is your first time down under or you're back for a third or fourth time, we can build an itinerary that fits around you.

FINANCIAL SECURITY

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

AUSTRAVEL.COM

Make our website a must-visit destination. Not only will you discover a great range of exclusive flight and holiday offers, but make sure you don't miss a thing by signing up to our regular e-newsletter, giving you exclusive access to the best deals before they hit the weekend press. Plus you'll learn about new places to visit and receive insider tips from the Austravel experts.

AWARD WINNING

Austravel has been awarded Tourism Australia's Travel Company of the Year three times in recent years, recognising our expert knowledge.

There is no better endorsement of our passion and commitment than that.



LUXURY

Perfect for a romantic escape or the trip of a lifetime, from luxurious lodges to private spa pools.



ADVENTURE

Get off the beaten track with independent options which explore the vast landscapes of Australasia.



SELF DRIVE

Explore scenic countryside, rugged coastlines and wild Outback at your own pace.



TRAIN

Iconic Outback to stunning coastal landscapes, take a train journey to sit back and enjoy the view.



CRUISE

With miles of untouched coastline, cruising provides a great way to explore a multitude of destinations.



WEDDINGS AND HONEYMOONS

From sunset beach weddings to a mountain top ceremony, we can also arrange honeymoons in paradise.



ESCORTED TOURING

Get the most out of your trip with an escorted tour, experienced guides showing the best attractions on offer in every destination.



FAMILY

As a year round destination, whenever you travel downunder you'll find activities and experiences for the whole family.

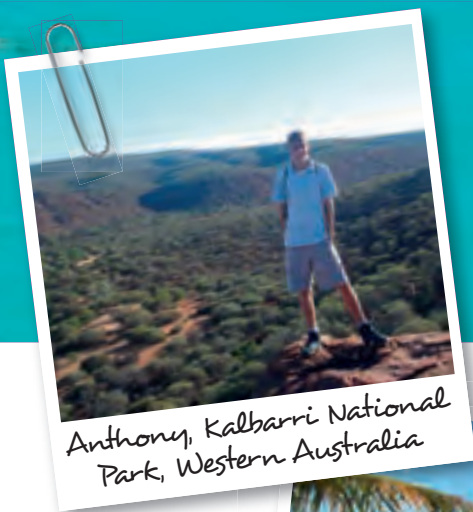


FLIGHTS

Catch a domestic flight within Australia or New Zealand to maximise your trip, or island hop in the South Pacific.



Hilton Bora Bora Nui, French Polynesia



Anthony, Kalbarri National Park, Western Australia



Kate, Samoa



Mike, Mount Cook, NZ

KEY PARTNERS

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



Whether you fancy hiking through the Kimberley or sipping a latte in Wellington, APT will provide a portrait of Australasia, not just a snapshot. Choose from a range of touring options to ensure you experience your dream holiday.



With a multitude of depots across both Australia and New Zealand, plus a fantastic range of vehicles available to suit all budgets and road trips, Avis are the best choice for your self drive adventure.



As a proudly Australian, family owned company, Apollo Motorhome Holidays strives to exceed your expectations with award winning service. Offering a wide range of top quality motorhomes for hire, this is a great way to explore.



An alliance between Australia's major tourist orientated rail operators, including the iconic Indian Pacific and Ghan, which travel through the heart of Australia.



For more than 145 years Queensland Rail has been part of the iconic Queensland landscape. The Sunlander has been chosen as one of the world's top 25 journeys – see the spectacular coastline evolve from the comfort of your seat.

We don't just go there, we know there

TRAVEL IN STYLE WITH AUSTRAVEL AND EMIRATES

Emirates flies 16 times daily to Dubai from a choice of 6 UK airports, offering convenient onward connections to over 130 destinations including 5 cities in Australia. Onboard, passengers can enjoy world-class service, regionally inspired gourmet cuisine and up to 1,500 channels of the latest award-winning entertainment – plus phone, SMS and email connectivity from every seat.



Emirates A380 Onboard Lounge

Economy Class

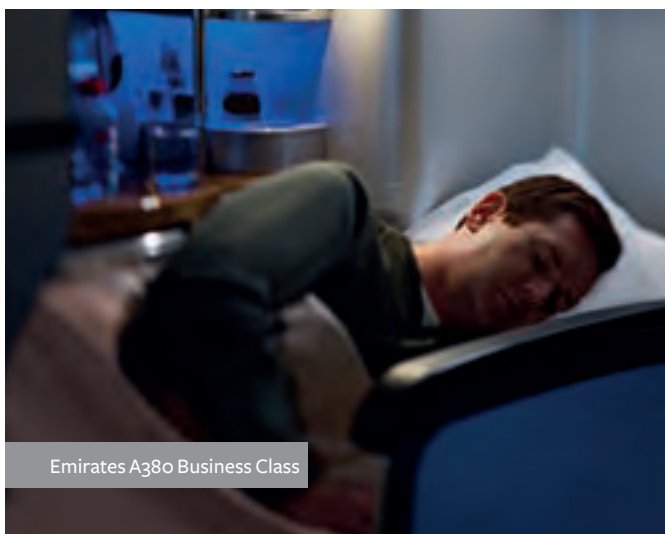
Enjoy the latest entertainment, stay connected to everything you love and savour flavours from around the world. Fly Emirates and experience a whole new class of Economy.

- Generous 30kg baggage allowance
- Complimentary seat selection at the time of booking
- Up to 1,500 channels of entertainment on-demand from every seat
- Ergonomically designed seats with adjustable headrests and up to 34-inch seat pitch
- World-class service from multilingual cabin crew
- Multi-course gourmet cuisine served with a selection of complimentary beverages
- Phone, SMS and email connectivity from every seat plus Wi-Fi onboard the Emirates A380

Business Class

From laid back to more upbeat, you'll find a range of inspirations in Emirates Business Class. Savour gourmet cuisine, laugh through the latest comedies or socialise in the Emirates A380 Onboard Lounge.

- Complimentary Chauffeur-drive Service in over 55 destinations*
- Generous 40kg baggage allowance
- Priority check-in and baggage handling
- Exclusive Emirates Lounges in over 30 destinations including Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester and Birmingham
- Airport Lounge access in over 60 destination worldwide, including Newcastle and Glasgow
- Lie-flat seats with massage function
- Multi-course gourmet cuisine served with fine wines
- Emirates A380 Onboard Lounge access



Emirates A380 Business Class

First Class

Retreat to a quiet space with personalised service designed around you and delivered right to the door of your very own Private Suite. Fly Emirates First Class and experience new heights of luxury.

- Complimentary Chauffeur-drive Service in over 55 destinations*
- Generous 50kg baggage allowance
- Priority check-in and baggage handling
- Exclusive Emirates Lounges in over 30 destinations including Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester and Birmingham
- Airport Lounge access in over 60 destination worldwide, including Newcastle and Glasgow
- Flat-bed Private Suites with sliding doors for total privacy
- Personal in-seat mini bar
- Exclusive Shower Spas and Onboard Lounge access on the Emirates A380
- Gourmet on-demand dining served with a selection of fine wines

*Chauffeur-drive mileage radius may apply.



TRAVEL IN STYLE WITH AUSTRAVEL AND QANTAS

When travelling to Australia, your journey should be as memorable as the destination. As you step on board the Qantas A380 you will experience an exceptional level of comfort, innovation and style in any of the 4 cabins.

Qantas operates flights on the award-winning Qantas A380 from London Heathrow to Sydney and Melbourne, both via Dubai. Complemented with an unrivalled domestic network, offering connections to more than 50 destinations across Australia allowing you to explore more.

Offering a great selection of 'Walkabout' fares, Qantas gives you the choice of return flights to Australia and New Zealand, Multi-city round the world itineraries, as well as access to a great value domestic air pass. Ask your Travel Consultant about the best Qantas Walkabout fare to suit you and book your domestic flights at the same time as your international to save money.

The Qantas A380

Relax on board the award-winning Qantas A380. Economy offers multi-adjustment headrests, cushioned armrests and a unique 'footnet'[™] support. Premium Economy offers more room and comfort, in a private 35 seat upper deck cabin. It feels special and it is, with extra wide seats and leg rests to keep you comfortable. Choose Business and enjoy the fully flat, almost 2m long Skybed with a mattress, duvet and pyjamas for extra comfort. Choose Premium Economy or Business to take advantage of Select on Q-Eat and choose your meal in advance online from a wider selection. There are also 14 First Suites available. Both Business and First mean you can enjoy the convenience of the complimentary Qantas Chauffeur Drive service too. Whichever cabin you're in, look forward to over 1,000 entertainment options and your cabin crew will be doing everything they can to ensure you enjoy the journey.

*On selected seats

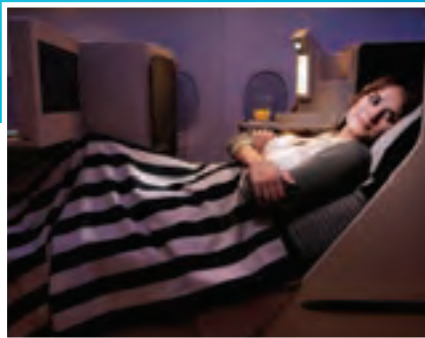


Qantas A380 Economy



Qantas A380 Business





AIR NEW ZEALAND 

Award-winning Air New Zealand has introduced the world's most innovative long-haul flight experience and as the airline that flies passengers on some of the world's longest routes, there's not much Air New Zealand doesn't know about long-haul travel.

Whether you choose their Economy cabin, designed with comfort and room in mind, Premium Economy where you can enjoy 50% more seat recline and one of the best seat pitches in its class (travel via Los Angeles to try out their revolutionary Premium Economy Spaceseat™), or their award-winning lie-flat bed in Business Premier, whichever cabin you chose to travel in you can be sure of Air New Zealand's unique Kiwi style and on-board hospitality.

With new inspired menu options, delicious New Zealand wines and a state of the art touch screen in-flight entertainment system you can order snacks and drinks 'on demand' at the touch of a screen – even while you are in the middle of a movie*

As well as a daily flight to New Zealand via LA, Air New Zealand offers more ways to New Zealand with a range of attractive stopover destinations using their partner airlines. You can also include a variety of fantastic Pacific Island stopovers en route.

*available via Los Angeles only

الإتihad
ETIHAD
AIRWAYS

Etihad Airways is delighted to have been voted the World's Leading Airline for the fourth year running at the World Travel Awards. Etihad flies brand new, custom designed aircraft to over 80 destinations via Abu Dhabi. Their partnership with Virgin Australia opens up travel to 44 destinations across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Etihad flies three times daily from London and twice daily from Manchester to Abu Dhabi and then onwards to Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane. The Etihad Airways Skypass also opens up exciting destinations such as Perth, Adelaide, Cairns, Gold Coast and Auckland.

With outstanding guest hospitality, over 600 hours of on demand cutting edge in-flight entertainment, and convenient connections, you will quickly learn why Etihad describes its customers as guests not passengers. Experience the choice of Coral Economy Class, stretch out on a fully flat-bed in Pearl Business Class, or relax in your own private suite in Diamond First Class.

*2012 World Travel Awards

malaysia 
airlines

Malaysia Airlines has been awarded 5-star status in the 2013 and 2012 SKYTRAX World Airline Awards™, joining an elite group of airlines to receive this prestigious ranking for their truly consistent and high quality of product and service. The airline has also received the prestigious accolades of World's Best Airline Cabin Crew' (2012) and 'Best Airline Signature Dish' (2012 and 2013) for its Satay, a traditional Malay dish, served in the Business and First Class cabins.

Malaysia Airlines flies the latest A380 aircraft twice daily from London Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur, with convenient connections to onward destinations in Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

As you would expect from an award-winning carrier, flying with Malaysia Airlines' A380 is an experience to savour. Once onboard, you can enjoy comfortable and spacious seating, inspired menu choices including the Chef on Call pre-order service for First and Business Class, an easy-to-use Thales touch-screen, on-demand system offering the latest in-flight entertainment, a USB port and satellite phone facilities equipped in every seat, in all classes.

Those travelling from Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen can take advantage of Malaysia Airlines' partner agreement with British Airways.



One of 7 airlines to bear a five star rating from Skytrax, Cathay Pacific has a well-deserved reputation for providing a premium product and outstanding service. Based in Hong Kong with the option to stopover, Cathay Pacific's is ideally positioned as the natural gateway to Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Five times daily since June 2013, Cathay Pacific flights from London Heathrow offer seamless connections to over 140 destinations worldwide including over 80 flights a week to Australia & New Zealand.

Economy Class is designed to make your travel experience better than ever. A cradle mechanism allows for 6" recline for sleeping while giving more space around your shin area when the passenger in front reclines.

Premium Economy offers more room between seats, eight inches of recline and the headrest has 4-way movement for excellent head and neck support. In addition the enhancement extends to dedicated check-in counters, priority boarding and a welcome glass of champagne & juice and hot towel once onboard.



Singapore Airlines operates four daily non stop flights from London Heathrow to Singapore as well as a daily flight from Manchester, with convenient onward connections to key gateway cities in Australia and New Zealand. With partnership airlines Virgin Australia and Air New Zealand, domestic connections are available in both countries.

The airline's multi award winning 5th service offers an optimum level of comfort across all classes, including three-course gourmet cuisine and extensive on demand in-flight entertainment providing personal TV screens from 10.6" – 23" depending on the cabin class. Flying Singapore Airlines also means a hassle-free transfer at Changi Terminal 3, Singapore's award winning airport. Experience the comfort of the A380 from London to Singapore and selected departures to Australia. From the end of October the airline takes delivery of its brand new Boeing 777 aircraft which will roll out on London route.

Singapore Airlines seeks to offer as much in-flight comfort as possible, by providing in Economy Class a seat designed to minimize intrusion creating more personal space, an adjustable headrest for greater support and maximized legroom. In Business Class they provide the widest seat in the sky at 34 inches, together with a 1-2-1 configuration to ensure direct aisle access for every seat.



Qatar Airways is one of only a handful of airlines to have been awarded a 5-star rating by Skytrax, the world's leading airline reviewer. The Doha-based airline has won numerous prestigious awards including picking up the titles of Airline of the Year 2012 and the World's Best Business Class at the Skytrax Awards 2013. Qatar Airways operates 45 flights a week from London Heathrow and Manchester to over 130 destinations worldwide via Doha.

Qatar Airways operate the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner on one of their five daily flights from London Heathrow to Doha. Designed with comfort and space as a prerogative, the B787's revolutionary cabin and seat design brings new dimensions to in-flight luxury.

Qatar Airways has daily flights to Perth and Melbourne from London Heathrow and Manchester, and offers one of the shortest journey times of 18 hours 35 mins to Perth from London Heathrow.

WEDDINGS AND HONEYMOONS



Whether it's a beautiful, intimate wedding for two or a special shared gathering for friends and family, Austravel have selected some of the best wedding venues around the world. In Australia you can get married at Sydney Harbour, on a tropical barrier reef island or rainforest retreat. In New Zealand get married on a deserted beach, next to a wilderness lake or even take a helicopter to a mountain top! However, if paradise island hideaways are what you are looking for then Fiji, the Cook Islands or French Polynesia would be simply perfect.

Here are some of our favourite packages on offer, but ask your Travel Designer for more information.

Hamilton Island Weddings Queensland, Australia

Prices from £1,869 per couple

Perfectly located in the heart of the Whitsundays and at the edge of the Great Barrier Reef.

Your Luxury Package includes:

- Wedding coordinator
- Ceremony in a choice of selected locations
- Luxury vehicle transfers
- Marriage celebrant
- Licence and certificate
- Silver photography package
- Priority access to Hamilton Island's wide range of wedding product and service suppliers, such as, professional florist, hair and beauty salon and much more (additional costs apply)



Sydney Opera House Wedding Package Sydney, Australia

Prices from £2,193 per couple

Glistening harbour waters, dramatic backdrops and Australia's most iconic building - add this onto your Sydney hotel see page 41 for ideas.

Your Luxury Package includes:

- Wedding coordinator
- Wedding cake
- Bridal bouquet & buttonhole for groom
- Sparkling wine toast and canapés for the Bride and Groom
- Use of the Opera House and location fee
- All pre-wedding planning, co-ordination and correspondence
- Red Carpet
- Modern wedding car
- Wedding Certificate
- Marriage Witness

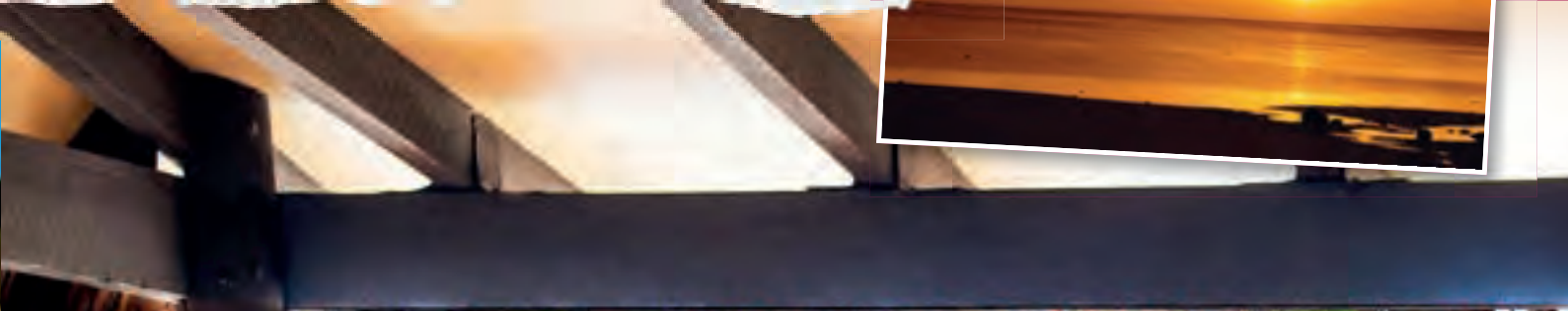
Togetherness Wedding Package Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Prices from £781 per couple

Warm smiles and glorious beaches in the heart of the Cook Islands – add this on to your stay at any Rarotonga hotel – see page 149 for ideas.

Your Luxury Package includes:

- Personal wedding coordinator
- Bridal bouquet & lapel for groom
- Your choice of beachfront, garden or church venue
- Transfers to and from registry office and wedding venue
- All marriage document fees
- Celebrant or minister
- Wedding Certificate
- Marriage Witness



Tokoriki Island Wedding Mamanuca Islands, Fiji

Prices from £1,252 per couple

Minimum 6 night stay at Tokoriki for free Wedding package*

Your Luxury Package includes:

- Ceremony by Minister or Celebrant
- Floral decoration in bure on arrival
- Floral turndown in bure on Wedding/Vow renewal night
- Decorated wedding table with flowers
- Toast – one bottle of French Sparkling Wine

*Selected dates apply