

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE



INCORPORATING
BRIDGE &
WICKERS



AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE

Welcome to the second in our range of destination brochures, designed to inspire and to excite you about the places where we love to travel.

The focus this time is Australia and New Zealand, new worlds to which we were introduced with the acquisition of Bridge & Wickers back in 2012. B&W continue to look after all our business 'Down Under' (as well as Canada and North America), but are now fully integrated into the Ultimate way.

And that is best summed up in just one word: service. Everything we do is driven by a single-minded focus on providing the very best for you, our customer. From the first conversation you have with one of our travel experts to the moment you arrive home, we promise to do everything that we can to deliver a truly Ultimate experience.

First-hand, in-depth knowledge and unqualified enthusiasm from your B&W consultant are, of course, a given. But as important are the reliability and proven expertise of our in-country representatives and guides who will, without exception, go that extra mile and beyond to give you a holiday of a lifetime.

That's why we say that, wherever you choose to go, travelling with us is not simply an experience. It's the Ultimate Experience.

With best wishes,

Nick Van Gruisen

NICK VAN GRUISEN

WHY I LOVE AUSTRALIA

BY GRAHAM BOYNTON



Graham Boynton has been a journalist for more than 30 years. He has covered a range of subjects - from politics and the arts to travel and sport - and written for numerous publications including The Daily Telegraph, Financial Times and Washington Post.

If you are going to travel halfway around the world to a particular place, you rather have to love that place. The fact that I have made that epic journey five times in the last dozen years suggests that mine is more than an impetuous fling. It's a full-blown love affair.

Where does one start? Firstly, with the people. Aussies used to be sunburnt versions of us - a population with a British sense of humour but more outspoken because they were colonial, people with our values of justice and fair play, people with our spirited can-do attitudes. Now they are a 21st century mix of European, Asian, Latin American, African and Aboriginal cultures, a truly modern society that reflects the multi-ethnicity of our planet today.

Then there is the landscape, a gigantic sprawl of dramatic emptiness that reaches from the Great Barrier Reef to the Great Ocean Road (a stretch of highway that winds along the beautiful south-east coastline from Melbourne to Adelaide) and across the continent to Western Australia, where at Ningaloo you can swim with whale sharks, humpbacks, mantas and all the other creatures that inhabit this 300 kilometre long coral reef.

Then there is the food and wine. All the old clichés about Australia's cuisine being centred around tossing a couple of shrimps and a piece of raw meat on the barbie and its wines being sunshine in a bottle are long gone. These days Australia is a land of organic cultivation, elegantly balanced wines and award-winning international haute cuisine.

A tour of Australia's food and wine regions - Mornington Peninsula, Barossa Valley, Adelaide Hills, Margaret River to name but a few - is to travel through a country that has long emerged from beneath the petticoats of Empire and now expresses itself as a stand-out, global gastronomic centre. As the well-known chef Mark Best told me as we were sitting in the cool confines of his award-winning Sydney restaurant, Marque: "Finally, Australia is sure of itself, of its place in the world. It's a combination of no longer measuring ourselves against the Old World and also recognising that geographically Australia is part of Asia."

As I said, you need to love the place to travel all that distance. But there's a lot to love.

AUSTRALIA

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Sydney, Rock and Reef...the classic trilogy, tailor-made for first time visitors.
It's Australia under starter's orders.



Sydney



Lizard Island

This neat trinity of a package combines three world wonder icons: its most glamorous city, its most famous topographical feature and the world's most dazzling showcase of tropical marine life.

British visitors have been making landfall in **Sydney** since 1788. The harbour, framed by the Bridge and Opera House, and speckled with an armada of ferries, yachts and the occasional cruise ship, is a mesmerising sight to behold. And a welcome tonic after the long flight from home!

Stay at: Park Hyatt, Sydney's finest with spectacular harbour views

Uluru, better known as Ayers Rock, cries out to be seen and is at its most spectacular when bathed in either the rising or setting sun. This extraordinary natural site, sacred to its Aboriginal Anangu owners, is equally stunning at night when illuminated by a canopy of incandescent stars.

It's also well worth finding the time to visit Kata Tjuta or the Olgas, another domed rock formation of wondrous proportions.

Stay at: Longitude 131°, a luxurious tented resort within sight of Uluru

The Great Barrier Reef more than deserves its 'Great' accolade. Stretching some 2,000kms and clearly visible from space, its worldwide renown has taken on even greater significance in the wake of Sir David Attenborough's three part TV series. The real celebrities are, of course, its 1,500 kaleidoscopic species of fish and coral which can be enjoyed by divers, snorkellers and audiences in glass bottomed boats.

You can visit from the mainland, but better to stay at a resort on the Reef itself and engage in a more intimate relationship with one of the greatest natural shows on our planet.

Stay at: Lizard Island, right on the Reef itself

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE 16 DAYS



INCLUDES

5 nights at Park Hyatt Sydney
2 nights at Longitude 131°, Uluru
1 night at Shangri-La Hotel, Cairns
5 nights at Lizard Island, Great Barrier Reef

PRICES FROM

£9,890 per person (as outlined above)
£3,245 per person (using more modest accommodation)

WHEN TO GO

Year round, but Sydney and Uluru best from Oct - Apr, Lizard Island best from Apr - Dec

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Longitude 131°, Uluru



Longitude 131°, Uluru

DELAWARE NORTH, AUSTRALIA

A global leader in the hospitality industry, Delaware North's Australian portfolio includes Lizard Island and two other favourite properties of ours:



EL QUESTRO HOMESTEAD

Understated luxury awaits you at this exclusive nine-suite hideaway, set amidst Western Australia's rugged and remote Kimberley landscapes.

El Questro is also the perfect base for exploring The Kimberley. It's a spectacular corner of the world and all excursions (on foot, boat, horseback and 4WD vehicle) are included in the price...so make the most of them!



KINGS CANYON RESORT

Combine bush comfort with the natural wonders of Kings Canyon at this wilderness oasis between Alice Springs and Ayers Rock.

Kings Canyon is a place of extraordinary and ancient beauty at the heart of Australia's Red Centre, and the resort is uniquely positioned to give you the definitive outback experience both on foot and from the air.

LIZARD ISLAND RESORT, GREAT BARRIER REEF

UNRIVALLED LUXURY
AT THE HEART OF THE REEF

Set in wonderful seclusion on the Great Barrier Reef, this private island resort is the perfect spot from which to explore this greatest of natural treasures.

Remote and picture perfect, Lizard Island is surrounded by white sand beaches and clear blue waters that are sanctuary to a spectacular diversity of marine life. Endless days can be spent snorkelling or diving with schools of tropical fish, manta rays and turtles among the spectacular reef and giant clam gardens, but make time to explore the island itself on one of the guided nature walks or a more challenging hike to the rugged summit of Cook's Look.

The accent here is on warm hospitality and relaxed exclusivity. The resort welcomes no more than 82 guests at a time, and all rooms and villas are serenely luxurious. The highly acclaimed Salt Water Restaurant changes its menu of fresh seafood and outstanding local produce daily. And facilities, which include a state-of-the-art fitness centre, tennis courts and spa, are everything you would expect at the Great Barrier Reef's most sought-after address.

SOME KEY FACTS:

- The one-hour flight from Cairns to Lizard Island passes over 200 kilometres of reef - a breathtaking introduction to its beauty and scale.
- Lizard Island is close to a number of the world's most famous dive sites. The Cod Hole, for example, is just a 45-minute boat ride away.
- The Essentia Day Spa offers a whole range of experiences in its private and couple treatment rooms, personalised with exclusive La Biosthetique skincare.
- Gourmet meals and selected drinks are automatically included in the cost of your stay, as are nature walks and the use of kayaks, motorised dinghies and stand-up paddle-boards.
- Lizard Island is an idyllic retreat at any time of the year, with a reliable tropical climate and average temperatures of around 27°C.





Many people think of Australia as a winter destination - after all, being on the opposite side of the globe, with the seasons back to front, it would seem logical to expect a serious downturn in the weather during our summer.

But so vast is the country that more or less the whole top half of the torso wallows in the best weather in July and August - which makes Australia such a brilliant destination for families who can travel during the longest of the school holidays. What's more, many of the places that children would love to see are at their best.

OUTBACK ADVENTURE

No modern day 'walkabout' of Australia is really complete without delving into its Red Centre. It is here you'll find - and can't really miss - that monumental red rock of Uluru.

WILDERNESS SAFARI

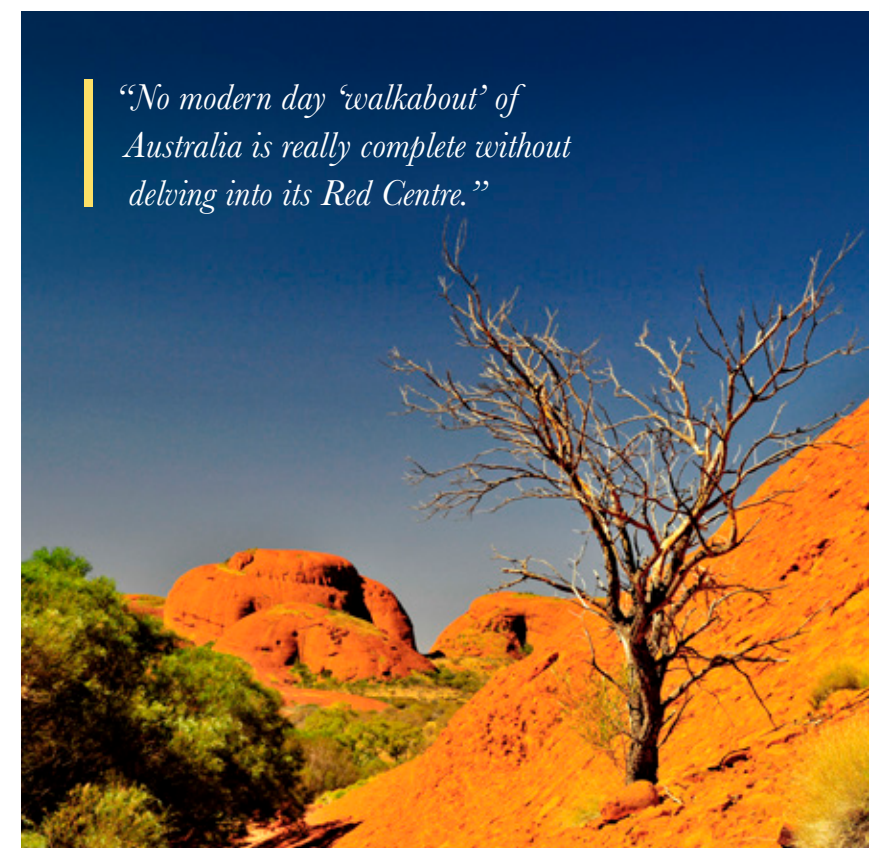
Soak up the space, solitude and spirit of the far north in the Kakadu National Park and the wholly Aboriginal-owned Arnhem Land. Booking a guided 'camping in comfort safari' here will give you an even greater sense of adventure.

LIFE'S A BEACH

After the rigours of such thirsty, biscuit dry landscapes, chill out on one of Queensland's magnificent beaches, with day trips out to the Great Barrier Reef.

GOING FOR CHRISTMAS

Enjoying the festive season on the beach is one of the great pleasures of Down Under in December. And if turkey in the tropics doesn't quite do it for you, just toss a few king size prawns on the barbie instead.



"No modern day 'walkabout' of Australia is really complete without delving into its Red Centre."

A FAMILY ADVENTURE 19 DAYS



INCLUDES

- 5 nights at Quay West Suites, Sydney (two bedroom apartment)
- 2 nights at Sails in the Desert, Uluru (family room)
- 2 nights at Mantra on the Esplanade, Darwin (two bedroom apartment)
- 2 night camping safari in Kakadu National Park
- 5 nights at Coconut Grove, Port Douglas (two bedroom apartment)

PRICES FROM

£4,745 per person (based on a family of four)

WHEN TO GO

Wet in the north from Nov - Mar, so best Apr - Oct

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



SIX OF THE BEST

WHEN IN AUSTRALIA...

“Western Australia’s Ningaloo Coast - the happy cruising ground of the gentle whale shark. No cage required!”

SOUTHERN COMFORTS
10 DAYS



INCLUDES

2 nights at Mayfair Hotel, Adelaide
2 nights at The Louise, Barossa Valley
3 nights at Southern Ocean Lodge,
Kangaroo Island

Note: Both the Ghan and Indian Pacific trains can be boarded at Adelaide, so you can easily extend the trip to include Sydney, Perth, Alice Springs and Darwin.

PRICES FROM

£3,490 per person

WHEN TO GO

Year round, but best Oct - Apr

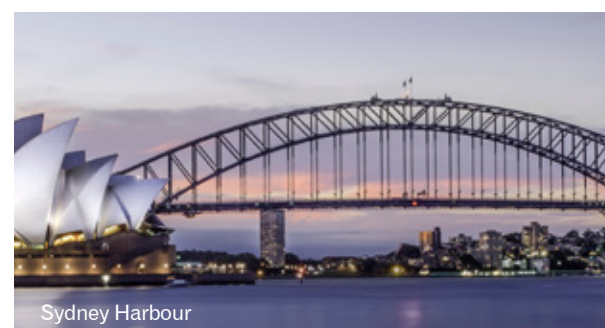
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Barossa Valley



Indian Pacific Railway



Sydney Harbour

1 ALL ABOARD

The Ghan runs north to south via Alice Springs and links Darwin with Adelaide; the Indian Pacific runs west to east between Perth and Sydney. Both deserve their places at the table of the world’s great train journeys.

2 ANIMAL THERAPY

Just south of Adelaide, Kangaroo Island is sanctuary to penguins, sea lions, koalas, emus, possums, wallabies, and of course kangaroos. It’s the ‘Galapagos of Down Under’!

3 AUSSIE VINTAGE

Margaret River (Perth), Barossa Valley (South Australia), Mornington Peninsula (Victoria) and Hunter Valley (New South Wales) are just some of the many iconic wine regions in Australia. Any itinerary deserves a day or two’s indulgence in at least one of them.

4 SUMMIT FEVER

Climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge is a whole lot easier than it looks. It’s also super safe and the views from the top, that extend to the distant ‘Heads’ defining the entrance to the harbour, are well worth every one of the 1,332 steps.

5 LIFE’S A BEACH

There are beaches where you can drive (Fraser Island), learn to surf (Bondi), ride a camel (Broome), feed dolphins (Monkey Mia) and meet kangaroos (Pebbly Beach). Common to all are white sands, warm turquoise seas, blue skies and spectacular marine life.

6 SWIMMING WITH SHARKS

Western Australia’s Ningaloo Coast may be a poor relation to the Great Barrier Reef, but this World Heritage Site boasts the longest fringing reef in the world and is the happy cruising ground of the gentle whale shark. No cage required!

AUSTRALIA, NATURALLY

◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇
A TREASURE HOUSE OF
SCENIC RICHES

■ Australia is a world of unique and wonderful natural treasures.

Many cannot be found anywhere else on earth. Indigenous wildlife, for example, comes in all shapes and sizes, from kangaroo to koala, emu to duck-billed platypus.

Landscapes are equally wonderful, on a scale that often dwarfs those of other continents. The world's largest coral reef, which can be clearly seen from space, lies next to one of our oldest rainforests. Only in Australia will you find two UNESCO World Heritage Sites sitting side by side.

There are rock formations that look like giant beehives, a monolith that's a sacred site to the Aboriginals, and native bush that sprawls in a seemingly infinite emptiness.

And yet, even in some of the most remote locations on the planet, in swathes of ancient forest, in the heart of million-acre cattle stations and on cast-off Crusoe islands, you can find yourself utterly pampered in luxurious comfort.

Great Barrier Reef



King's Canyon

NORTH QUEENSLAND

Don't just take our word for it. Sir David Attenborough's favourite place in Australia is North Queensland. 'It has an amazing rainforest,' he writes, while '...on the coast it has the Great Barrier Reef. On top of that there's terrific wine and food, so that's the place for me.'

The best way to enjoy the Great Barrier Reef, with its 400 types of coral and 2,000 species of fish, all in vivid and glorious technicolour, is underwater...be that diving, snorkelling or on a mini cruise with **Coral Expeditions**.

For unmatched luxury ashore, look no further than **Lizard Island** with its beautiful beaches, cutting edge accommodation and 'Fresh from the Reef' seafood.

Venture inland and you can stay at **Silky Oaks** in the Daintree Rainforest, dense jungle home to thousands of plant species and trees that have stood since the time of Christ.

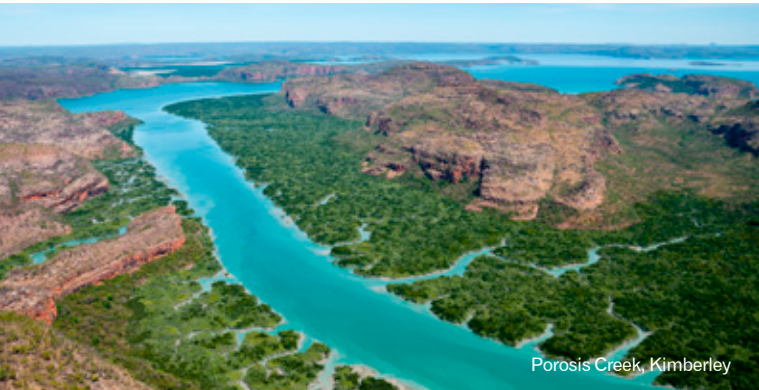
THE RED CENTRE

It's an odd boast, but residents of Alice Springs like to tell visitors that their town is the closest to every beach in the country - yet the nearest is 1,000 miles away! The town, which lies right at the very heart of Australia, is akin to an oasis surrounded by an arid, biscuity, infinite flatness.

Although there is much to see in town, including the School of the Air and the Royal Flying Doctor Service, it's the bush, that timeless land of silence and intense light, which beckons.

Three of the main topographical highlights are King's Canyon, a 300-metre deep cleavage in the earth, the distinct dome shaped rock formations of Kata Tjuta (the Olgas), and Uluru, the world-famous monolith steeped in the legends of Aboriginal Dreamtime. The place to stay? **Longitude 131°**, whose wonderfully spacious 'tents' offer full-on views of The Rock.





Porosis Creek, Kimberley



Sydney Harbour



The Flinders



Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road



Cradle Mountain, Tasmania



Kangaroo Island

THE KIMBERLEY

It's been called 'the last wilderness', a vast, remote region in Australia's northwest whose rugged escarpment landscapes, scarred by gorges and incised by waterfalls, teem with abundant wildlife.

Stay in one of the deluxe tented cabins or traditional homesteads at **El Questro**, a million-acre wilderness reserve within the fiery red walls of the Cockburn Ranges. Or cruise the otherwise inaccessible coastline aboard **True North**, an expedition yacht that carries just 36 passengers in real comfort and has its own on-board helicopter to access an area untouched by travel and tourism.

GREAT OCEAN ROAD

The state of Victoria is home to Australia's Great Ocean Road, which runs in tandem with the country's most iconic coastal scenery and broadside to the yawning Great Bight of the Southern Ocean.

Little surprise then that the 'GOR' is rated as a classic in the global gazetteer of spectacular drives. It is a pageant of natural spectacle topped by the Twelve Apostles, a stunning gallery of caves, arches, stumps and stacks that have been sculpted from the 300-foot high limestone cliffs by giant waves and howling winds.

From Melbourne, you can combine the coast with the dramatic sandstone outcrops of the Grampians, a region of waterfalls, wildflowers, birds, kangaroos and emus, as well as some koala spotting in the Otway Ranges, on a circuitous road trip that will live long in the memory. You might also want to detour to Phillip Island, famous for its nightly parade of penguins.

TASMANIA

'Tassie' is a pristine and temperate wilderness, with mountains so immense they look as if they could sink the whole island, towering virgin forests, magnificent cliffs and deserted beaches. Much of the island is protected by national park, notably the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair, a World Heritage Site of peaks, plains, mirror lakes and trees.

Tasmania is also rich in wildlife, with wallaby, possum, wombat, quoll, bandicoot, the elusive duck-billed platypus and, of course, the fabled Tasmanian Devil (a carnivorous marsupial) all making their home here.

The most rewarding way to explore is on one of the several spectacular multi-day walking trails, which include Maria Island, Bay of Fires and Freycinet Peninsula Experience. Complete the latter and you can earn yourself a couple of nights' indulgent luxury at **Saffire Freycinet**, with a national park on your doorstep and the amazing Wine Glass Bay beach close by.

KANGAROO ISLAND

Just a short hop from Adelaide is one of the best places on the continent to see a menagerie of native animals in their natural habitat, some that are rare, even extinct on the mainland.

It is the Galapagos of Down Under. On just a single day trip you are likely to meet koalas and wallabies, emus and kangaroos, possums and penguins, seals and sea lions, and birdlife from cockatoo to osprey. But take your time and spend a few nights at the clifftop **Southern Ocean Lodge** on a rugged stretch of the island's coastline.

THE FLINDERS

In the high heat of the Australian summer, the Red Centre can be far too baking for even the maddest of dogs and Englishmen. But that doesn't mean you have to put the Outback on hold. The Flinders Ranges in South Australia provide welcome respite and, despite their relative proximity to Adelaide, have remained an unspoilt wilderness of sharp edges, ridges, gorges and abundant wildlife.

The remarkable highland landscapes of the Flinders are Australia at its rugged best, the 'bones of nature laid bare' according to painter Sir Hans Heyesen who found inspiration in the striking, varied colours of the mountains, raw outcrops and spectacular chasms. **Arkaba** is the place to stay here.

SYDNEY HARBOUR

Sydney Harbour, with its iconic Opera House, 'Coat Hanger' Harbour Bridge, beaches, waterfront restaurants and colourful armada of boats, is a mesmerising sight to behold.

Much of the city's foreshore is fringed by a national park, which can only be fully appreciated by following the signposted ten-kilometre footpath from Spit Bridge on the North Shore to the seaside suburb of Manly. You'll pass golden beaches, rocky promontories with million-dollar views and canopies of native bush, unchanged since the British First Fleet of eleven ships arrived here in 1788. And all in the company of squawking lorikeets, cackling kookaburras and chattering mynas.

The waterside **Park Hyatt** has an unrivalled choice of rooms and suites with breathtaking harbour views.

AUSTRALIA NATURALLY 16 DAYS

Our two-week 'Australia Naturally' tour through the states of South Australia, Victoria and Queensland has been designed to showcase the very best of the country's extraordinary natural heritage.

However, it is just one of many itineraries that we can create to include any combination of Australia's natural wonders.



INCLUDES

- 1 night at Mayfair Hotel, Adelaide
- 3 nights at Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island
- 2 nights at Boroka Downs, Grampians
- 2 nights on Great Ocean Road
- 1 night at Crowne Towers, Melbourne
- 4 nights at qualia, Hamilton Island, Great Barrier Reef

PRICES FROM

£6,870 per person

WHEN TO GO

Year round, but South Australia and Victoria best from Oct - Apr, Great Barrier Reef from Apr - Dec

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

AUSTRALIA

LODGING IN LUXURY



Wolgan Valley Resort

A collection of independent luxury lodges and camps that offer unforgettable experiences in Australia's most extraordinary and inspiring location

Longitude 131°, Northern Territory

Inspired by some of Africa's leading bush camps, each of Longitude's 15 luxury tents is air-conditioned with floor to ceiling panoramic windows for full-on views of Uluru.

Bamurru Plains, Northern Territory

A three hour drive from Darwin, and close to the wildlife rich Kakadu National Park, Bamurru first coined the phrase 'wild bush luxury'.

Lizard Island, Queensland

The definitive, 'barefoot luxury', private island experience at the very top of the Great Barrier Reef. Just as nature intended.

qualia, Queensland

Understated but very stylish, set amidst tropical palm and endemic flora on the northern tip of Hamilton Island, and overlooking sapphire blue seas at the heart of the Reef.

Wolgan Valley Resort, New South Wales

A conservation-inspired and award-winning hideaway, tucked away on its own 7,000 acre nature reserve deep in the Blue Mountains.

Saffire, Tasmania

Tassie's finest overlooks Oyster Bay on the Freycinet Peninsula and offers a wealth of experiences with a real sense of place.

Southern Ocean Lodge, South Australia

Enjoy far-reaching views across the Southern Ocean from Kangaroo Island's dramatic cliffs, with wallabies, koalas and of course kangaroos on your doorstep.

Cape Lodge, Western Australia

This elegant retreat is the perfect base for exploring Margaret River's ruggedly unspoilt coastline and world-class wineries.

El Questro, Western Australia

An exclusive homestead strikingly cantilevered over the Chamberlain River amidst the raw and remote wilderness of The Kimberley.

LODGING IN LUXURY 22 DAYS



INCLUDES

3 nights at COMO The Treasury, Perth
3 nights at Cape Lodge, Margaret River
1 night at Mayfair Hotel, Adelaide
2 nights at Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island
2 nights at Longitude 131°, Uluru
4 nights at Four Seasons Hotel Sydney
4 nights at Capella Lodge, Lord Howe Island

PRICES FROM

£8,290 per person

WHEN TO GO

Year round, but best Oct - Apr

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Cape Lodge



qualia



Capella Lodge



Southern Ocean Lodge



Bamurru Plains

SOUTHERN OCEAN LODGE, KANGAROO ISLAND

LUXURY REDEFINED IN 'AUSTRALIA'S GALAPAGOS'



Celebrated as a pioneer of Australia's new breed of luxury lodges, this stunning retreat atop the limestone cliffs of Kangaroo Island invites you to step into another world.

At the lodge's heart is the Great Room, its sweeping vistas the backdrop for lounging by the suspended fireplace, pouring a drink or two from the convivial open bar, or indulging in fine food and wine with a proudly local provenance.

Warm limestone and custom furnishings imbue each of the lodge's 21 suites with a feeling of relaxed luxury; spectacular glass-walled bathrooms, sunken lounges and outdoor terraces for those fabulous, far-reaching ocean views add the 'wow' factor.

Endemic and unusual wildlife also thrives here in Australia's Galapagos, and the lodge's varied menu of guided adventures offers the ultimate 'zoo without fences' experience.

SOME KEY FACTS:

- Daily 30-minute flights link Kangaroo Island with Adelaide. Or you can put your hire car on the ferry from Cape Jervis.
- Menus are inspired by seasonal, local ingredients and complemented by an exclusively South Australian wine selection - all included in the tariff.
- The Southern Spa offers a signature menu of treatments with Kangaroo Island botanicals that are designed to relax and rejuvenate.



BAILLIE LODGES, AUSTRALIA

A subtropical island hideaway and an exclusive desert retreat in the heart of the Australian outback complete the Baillie Lodges' collection:



CAPELLA LODGE

Inspired by the carefree spirit of the Australian beach house, this nine-suite haven of stylish understatement captures the imagination of all who fly in from Sydney.

With stunning ocean and island views, mouth-watering Pacific cuisine and the world's southern-most coral reef, there's a real magic to Capella that sets it apart from the rest.



LONGITUDE 131°

A truly unique 'campsite' of 16 pavilions overlooking Uluru, Longitude 131° offers a remarkable immersion into Australia's spirited heartland.

Discovery of a dual heritage-listed wilderness is offset here by refined dining, intuitive service and a contemporary take on laid-back luxury to create an essential outback experience.

WHY I LOVE NEW ZEALAND

BY DAVID WICKERS



David Wickers was the Chief Travel Correspondent on The Sunday Times for 17 years, during which he was voted 'Travel Writer of the Year' three times. He has travelled extensively across the globe but maintains a particular fondness for Australia and New Zealand. David is currently a director of The Ultimate Travel Company.

You don't have to go far in New Zealand to see what all the fuss is about. Or why it consistently tops those newspaper and magazine travel polls when readers are asked to name their favourite country.

For starters, the knock-your-socks-off scenery in New Zealand is simply outrageous. Snow-peaked mountains and wild coastlines, deserted beaches and volcanic cauldrons of thermal mud, deep finger fjords and island studded bays...if locations were awarded Oscars, New Zealand would have a sideboard groaning with them.

Nearly a third of the country falls within national park boundaries. And with only four and a half million people in a country roughly the size of ours, you'll have much of it all to yourself.

Layered upon these natural revelations are the cultural experiences, from Maori hakas and hangi feasts in Rotorua to the Te Papa Museum of national treasures in New Zealand's handsome waterfront capital Wellington.

On the food front, Kiwi chefs work wonders with abundant local produce while winemakers, many of whose labels are already familiar in our home stores, provide the accompanying tipples.

Looking for action? No, I have never wanted to leap into space with an elastic band tied round my ankles, but I can personally vouch for New Zealand's walking trails, white water rafting trips, adrenaline-fuelled jet boat rides down the Shotover River and trout fishing. Incidentally, I once had a particularly fine specimen vacuum packed as sashimi, took it back to the UK and enjoyed it at a birthday supper with friends. Such bragging rights!

My final songs of praise go to New Zealand's amazing lodges. Each one unique, usually family owned and run, supremely comfortable and found in some of the most remote parts of the country.

And here's the true test of what I feel about New Zealand. On my last visit I really didn't want to come home.



Milford Sound

NEW ZEALAND

THE GRAND TOUR

“New Zealand will take your breath away. It’s one long visual indulgence.”

THE GRAND TOUR 22 DAYS



INCLUDES

2 nights at Sofitel Auckland
2 nights at 970 Lonely Bay, Coromandel
2 nights at Koura Lodge, Rotorua
2 nights at Breckenridge Lodge, Hawke's Bay
1 night at Bolton Hotel, Wellington
2 nights at Bay of Many Coves, Marlborough Sounds
2 nights at Hapuku Lodge, Kaikoura
1 night at The George, Christchurch
2 nights at Te Waonui Forest Retreat, Franz Josef
3 nights at The Rees Hotel, Queenstown

PRICES FROM

£6,730 per person (self drive as outlined above)
£6,890 per person (escorted Grand Pacific Tour as described opposite)

WHEN TO GO

Year round, but best Oct - Apr

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

New Zealand will take your breath away. It's one of the most beautiful countries on the planet. From the voluptuous, volcanic topography of North Island to the alpine majesty and deep fjords of the South, it's one long visual indulgence. The decision you need to make is less a matter of whether to go, but where and when.

Begin in Auckland with visits to its various urban attractions and boat rides in the huge natural harbour, before taking the ferry to the island of Waiheke to explore its beaches, wineries and artist studios. Then head north to the Bay of Islands for a stunning combination of island-studded seascapes and historic sites.

Returning through Auckland, drive east to the Coromandel Peninsula, then south to Rotorua for a traditional Maori 'haka' feast and 'haka' greeting. Continue south to Wellington, pausing for breath at Lake Taupo before weaving through the incredible landscapes of Tongariro National Park.

From the handsome, waterfront city of Wellington, you can catch a ferry across Cook Strait to South Island, its scenery dominated by the snow capped mountains and glaciers of the

Southern Alps. Natural wonders abound here, notably the Abel Tasman National Park, but find time for whale watching in Kaikoura and a little indulgence in the Marlborough vineyards.

At Christchurch, our 'grand tour' abandons the road in favour of the TransAlpine, a super-scenic railway that cuts through the mountains to Greymouth, before rejoining it for the onward journey to Franz Josef for the ultimate glacier adventure. Further south, an extensive menu of outdoor activities awaits in Queenstown, including scenic flights to the magnificent fjords that penetrate deep into the south west corner of the island.

Choose either a self drive itinerary or a fully escorted trip with Grand Pacific Tours.



THE LODGE AT KAURI CLIFFS

THE EPITOME OF KIWI LUXURY IN
MATAURI BAY, NORTHLAND

Escape to the timeless beauty of The Lodge at Kauri Cliffs for an experience of total comfort and relaxation with panoramic views across the deep blue of the Pacific Ocean.

It's not hard to see why this sophisticated and elegant property was named the number one resort in Australia and New Zealand by Travel + Leisure. Guests will be made to feel immediately at home in the individually designed deluxe and family suites, the exclusive Owner's Cottage or unique Kauri Cove, an idyllic private hideaway on Moturua Island.

Comfort and relaxation may be key to the Kauri Cliffs experience, but the lodge is part of a remote 6,000 acre working farm at the top of the North Island and there are endless activities available for those who want them. You can swim, snorkel and kayak from three pristine and private beaches; explore stunning coastal scenery on foot, horseback and mountain bike; and test your game on the David Harman-designed championship course, ranked #39 in the world and pure, unadulterated golfing heaven. Play close to your handicap and you will have earned a drink or two back in the main lodge's warm and inviting living room!

SOME KEY FACTS:

- Facilities include a stunning infinity pool, fitness centre with cutting-edge equipment, and two AstroTurf tennis courts.
- The lodge's Northland location provides a bounty of superb fresh produce for its renowned kitchen, menus change daily, and you can choose to eat in one of the four 'dining spaces' or privately.
- With four treatment rooms, heated lap pool and Jacuzzi, the Kauri Cliffs Spa delivers a range of high quality, personalised treatments and services.

ROBERTSON LODGES, NEW ZEALAND

Kauri Cliffs and Cape Kidnappers (see pages 34-35) belong to Robertson Lodges. The third in this trio of quite remarkable properties is equally distinctive.



MATAKAURI LODGE

Only seven minutes' drive from downtown Queenstown, Matakauri enjoys uninterrupted and breathtaking views of Lake Wakatipu and the Southern Alps.

The lodge is also perfectly positioned to make the most of the 'adventure capital of the world' and the adrenaline fuelled experiences it offers - from Milford Sound cruises and heli hiking to river jetboating and canyon swings (not for the faint-hearted!).





Children, irrespective of their ages, will never be bored in New Zealand.

The older they are, the more they'll be drawn by the promise of such turbo-charged adventures as bungee jumping, jet boating and white water rafting. Lower the age band and there's the fascination of whales, swimming with dolphins, kayaking and catching their first trout. Seeing where Bilbo Baggins lived and all those Hobbit/Lord of the Rings landscapes only adds to the wide-eyed wonder of it all.

If you are tied to school holidays - with Christmas being the perfect time for a family trip to New Zealand - it makes more sense to combine just a few of the highlights from both North and South Island, exploring at a more leisurely pace rather than trying to do it all in a headlong tip to toe rush.

North Island

Much of North Island's family fun is to be had on or in the water. Try your hand at crewing an America's Cup yacht in Auckland harbour; bathe in the bubbling hot springs of Rotorua's aptly named Hell's Gate, sacred to the Maoris, or simply create your own by simply digging a hole in the sands of the Coromandel and immersing yourself in volcanically warmed waters; learn to surf

on some of the Peninsula's famous breaks; fish for trout on the tranquil waters of stunning Lake Taupo.

A family 'must do' is the Hobbiton Movie Set in Matamata, as is the drive south through the spectacular Lord of the Rings landscapes of Tongariro National Park to Wellington. Here, you can inspect the original props and costumes in the Weta Cave Workshop and take on a virtual bungee jump in the capital's excellent Te Papa museum.

South Island

The South Island is all about adventure and wildlife. Sea kayak in Abel Tasman National Park; whale watch and swim with dolphins year round in Kaikoura; heli hike on the glaciers of the Southern Alps; and search for the elusive kiwi in the spectacular fjords of the south west.

And do not miss out on Queenstown, self styled adrenaline capital of the world, where white water rafting, jet boating on the Shotover River and zip wiring are just some of the safe but exhilarating options on the menu.

A FAMILY ADVENTURE 21 DAYS



INCLUDES

- 2 nights at The Sebel Quay West Auckland (two bedroom apartment)
- 4 nights at Koura Lodge, Rotorua (two bedroom apartment)
- 3 nights at Atholwood, Abel Tasman (two bedroom cottage)
- 2 nights at Hapuku Lodge, Kaikoura (family tree house)
- 1 night at Hotel Montreal, Christchurch (family suite)
- 1 night at Glenfern Villas, Franz Josef (two bedroom villa)
- 5 nights at The Rees Hotel, Queenstown (two bedroom apartment)

PRICES FROM

£4,620 per person (based on a family of four)

WHEN TO GO

Year round, but best Oct - Apr

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



KING OF THE ROAD

Fancy the fun and the freedom of your own motorhome? New Zealand has a network of excellent campsites, many of them equipped with barbecues and often in stunning, secluded locations. The kids will love it!

SIX OF THE BEST

WHEN IN NEW ZEALAND...

"There's nowhere on the planet that can quite match the year round show of whales at Kaikoura."

WILDLIFE & WILDERNESS
24 DAYS



INCLUDES

2 nights at 970 Lonely Bay, Coromandel
2 nights at Koura Lodge, Rotorua
2 nights at Ruapehu Country Lodge, Tongariro
2 nights at Bolton Hotel, Wellington
2 nights at Resurgence, Abel Tasman
2 nights at Hapuku Lodge, Kaikoura
2 nights at Wilderness Lodge, Arthur's Pass
1 night at Westwood Lodge, Franz Josef
2 nights at Wilderness Lodge, Lake Moeraki
3 nights at Wanaka Haven, Wanaka

PRICES FROM

£6,580 per person

WHEN TO GO

Year round, but best Oct - Apr

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Kaikoura

1 WHALE WATCH

There's nowhere on the planet that can quite match the year round show of whales at Kaikoura. Here, on the Pacific coast of South Island, these leviathans of the deep venture close inshore to feed on the ocean's nutrient rich maritime smorgasbord. You can also swim with dolphins for an overdose of animal therapy.

2 TRAMP

To tramp, in Kiwi speak, means to hike, and New Zealand has some of the best walking trails you'll find anywhere. Many of them thread their way through national parks, notably the Hollyford Track in Fiordland and the Queen Charlotte which showcases the spectacular seascapes of Marlborough Sounds.

3 PADDLE

Hire a sea kayak and paddle past coves of white sand in the Abel Tasman National Park, its calm turquoise coastal waters protected by granite headlands.

4 STAR GAZE

Admire the incredible canopy of heavenly bodies at the Mount John Observatory near Lake Tekapo, an official 'gold star' Dark Sky Reserve. Telescopes are provided!

5 HELI HIKE

Hop on a chopper for a bird's eye view of the Southern Alps' awesome Franz Josef and Fox glaciers. You'll touch down to draw on the pure air before 'tramping' the ice. An unforgettable adventure.

6 WINE TASTE

Sample those famous Sauvignon Blancs at the cellar doors of several award-winning Marlborough wineries in the north-east corner of South Island. Cloudy Bay is of course the star attraction.



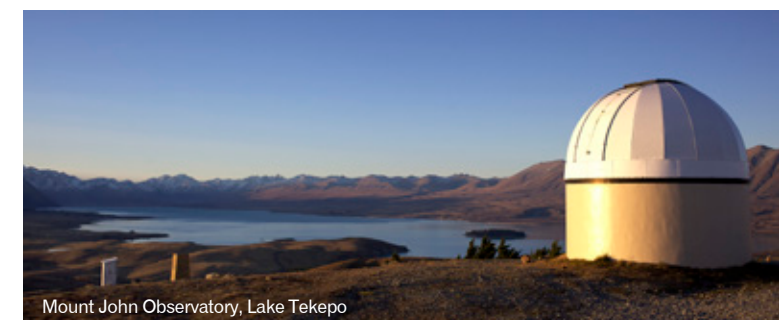
Abel Tasman National Park



Queen Charlotte, Marlborough Sounds



Franz Josef Glacier



Mount John Observatory, Lake Tekapo



Cloudy Bay, Marlborough

[illegible]

Invariably owner-run and often in stunning hideaway locations, some have historic pedigree, others offer more contemporary flair, but all are ideal roosts for exploring the very best that New Zealand has to offer.

The Boatshed

970 Lonely Bay

Treetops

Breckenridge

Bay of Many Coves

Hapuku

Matakauri

NEW ZEALAND:
LODGING IN LUXURY
22 DAYS



- 2 nights at The Boatshed, Waiheke Island
- 1 night at Hotel DeBrett, Auckland
- 2 nights at Koura Lodge, Rotorua
- 2 nights at Greenhill Lodge, Hawke's Bay
- 2 nights at Eden House, Nelson
- 2 nights at Bay of Many Coves, Marlborough
- 2 nights at Otahuna Lodge, Christchurch
- 2 nights at The Hermitage Hotel, Mount Cook
- 3 nights at Matakauri Lodge, Queenstown

£11,690 per person

WHEN TO GO

Year round, but best Oct - Apr

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Hapuku

Breckenridge

Bay of Many Coves

THE FARM AT CAPE KIDNAPPERS



A UNIQUE 'HOME FROM HOME' IN HAWKE'S BAY



SOME KEY FACTS:

- Facilities include a stunning infinity pool, state-of-the-art gym, library and impressive wine cellar with its own tasting rooms.
- Menus change daily and feature the finest New Zealand lamb and beef as well as fresh local produce and seafood. Farm picnics are a speciality and you can choose to dine privately if you prefer.
- The Spa at Cape Kidnappers offers a wide range of treatments, customised to suit individual needs.
- Families of all sizes with children of all ages are more than welcome.



ROBERTSON LODGES

Together with Kauri Cliffs and Matakauri (see pages 26-27), The Farm at Cape Kidnappers makes up the acclaimed trio of Robertson Lodges. Three distinct destinations, one ultimate New Zealand experience.

For Kiwi style hospitality at its finest and jaw-dropping views of Hawke's Bay, look no further than The Farm at Cape Kidnappers.

This magnificent lodge and spa sits atop rolling hills and rugged cliffs amidst the breathtaking landscapes of Hawke's Bay on the east coast of the North Island. Ranked among the top 20 hotels in the world by Conde Nast Traveller, as well as one of the top two hotels in New Zealand and Australia by Travel + Leisure, Cape Kidnappers boasts just 22 cottage suites and an exclusive 4-bedroomed Owner's Cottage.

The spoiling luxury and vast ocean views aside, there is so much more to this 6,000-acre working sheep and cattle farm. Not least the golf course, 18 of the most dramatic championship holes that you'll find anywhere and which hug the cliffs and ravines

cascading vertiginously down to the sea below. For the non-golfer, there's mountain biking, walking trails, flat-rock fishing, quad biking, river kayaking, white-water rafting and even hot air ballooning should you want to extend the views even further.

Cape Kidnappers is also sanctuary for some of New Zealand's most precious flora and fauna, so make time for either or both of the Can-Am 4WD Tour and Kiwi Discover Walk, a rare opportunity to see the country's endangered national bird in its own natural habitat.

It's a farm stay like no other!





Bora Bora

THE SOUTH PACIFIC



LIVE THE SOUTH SEA ISLAND DREAM

The islands and atolls of the South Pacific - where beaches really are pearly white and are lapped by seas that cover the entire spectrum of blue from the palest peppermint to deepest indigo - lie scattered like confetti across the largest, emptiest and least explored ocean on our planet.

Whether you simply want to fly, flop and head straight home again, or take time out on your way to or from Australasia, these celebrated island paradises will capture your imagination in the same way as they have all travellers since their discovery by the legendary seafaring explorers of the 18th Century.



Hong Kong

STOPPING OFF



BREAK YOUR JOURNEY THERE OR BACK

Seven decades ago, when Qantas began its 'Kangaroo' service between London and Sydney on prop-driven Constellations, the journey took 94 hours. Today it can be done in just over 20. But what's the rush?

One of the benefits of having contractual arrangements with a number of leading airlines, including Air New Zealand, British Airways, Cathay Pacific, Emirates, Singapore Airlines and Thai

Airways, is not just the opportunity to choose your favourite carrier but to take your pick from a menu of stopover options.

Bangkok, Dubai, Hong Kong, Los Angeles, Singapore and Tokyo are all on the way to (or from) Australasia, each with a wealth of attractions and world class hotels to enhance any holiday 'down under'.

MEET THE TEAM

AND SHARE THEIR
'ULTIMATE EXPERIENCES'



DAVID MARRIOTT

Hardly original, but watching the sun rise over Uluru. Australia's outback is nothing less than spiritual and the experience feeds your soul.



GEMMA WILLIAMS

Climbing to the top of magical Mou Waho on South Island's Lake Wanaka. It's tough going, so you'll need to take the odd break and enjoy the views!



GINA MURRAY

A thrilling day in Mount Aspiring National Park, combining a wonderfully scenic jet boat ride with a helicopter flight across the peaks and glaciers of New Zealand's Southern Alps.



JEREMY WEBSTER

Cycling, hiking and snorkelling pristine fringing reefs - a perfect day on the spectacular dot in the Tasman Sea that is Lord Howe Island.

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&
NEW ZEALAND



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&
THE ORIENT



LATIN AMERICA
&
THE POLES



INDIAN
SUBCONTINENT



CANADA
&
ALASKA



EUROPE & BEYOND