

# PACIFIC



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EDITION 2

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## Letter from The Managing Ed Edition 2

Well we made it. Edition 2.

Edition 1 has been well received both by everyone who has signed up to our newsletter for a freebie; as well as our advertisers, regional representatives and social media.

We've had a great time coming up with the stories for this edition and we're looking even more forward to continuing on this path, with you - our readers!

The best thing about travel is that it allows you to be who you want to be, to explore new destinations and experience the world's most amazing cultures. Hundreds of years ago, it took months and years for anyone to travel anywhere. We are so lucky now that we get to go anywhere in the world, to do ANYTHING, and to have the most exciting adventures - all with the click of a button! Booking a trip has never been easier, so if you haven't organised your holiday for 2017 - get on it now!

Check out some of the fantastic ideas we're giving you this edition, get online and go! Life is for living and if you want to make the most of everything, you have a choice. You can dream about it, or you can do it.

So go on, get travelling. Start 2017 in style and get out there.

We would love to get your feedback so visit our website [www.pacifictraveller.com.au](http://www.pacifictraveller.com.au) and contact us!



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Explore the hidden paradise of the South Pacific, an archipelago comprising a vast group of 992 breathtaking tropical islands. Feel the spirit of adventure and enjoy your own special piece of paradise - dive, fish, surf, hike, kayak or simply relax and discover a culture with a welcoming smile.

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# CONTENTS

**10**

**AUSTRALIA - Legendary Pacific Coast**

**26**

**NEW ZEALAND - Where fairytales are real**

**36**

**Norfolk Island: Unspoilt Beauty**

**40**

**JUST GO - Singapore**

**46**

**City Highlight: San Francisco**

**48**

**Gourmet Travel, Delight the Senses**

**54**

**Phillip Island: Within Reach**

**66**

**Oah'u: A Photo Journal**

**76**

**Top Travel Tips for Budget Travel**



Image Credit: Shane Downey

**Coral Crater**  
Adventure Park

**Ziplines**

**Adventure Tower**

**50 Foot Climbing Wall**

**6 Ziplines**

**ATVs  
2 Person**

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# OUR TOP DESTINATION

Edition 2

Norfolk Island

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# AUSSIE ROAD TRIP



## THE LEGENDARY PACIFIC COAST

Imagine a holiday that sees you travelling along coastal roads and river banks, through the mountains and rainforests, past villages and towns, taking in some of Australia's finest colours, contrasts and characters. If you're looking for something a little different and love taking to the open road, the Legendary Pacific Coast is one of Australia's leading tourist drives.

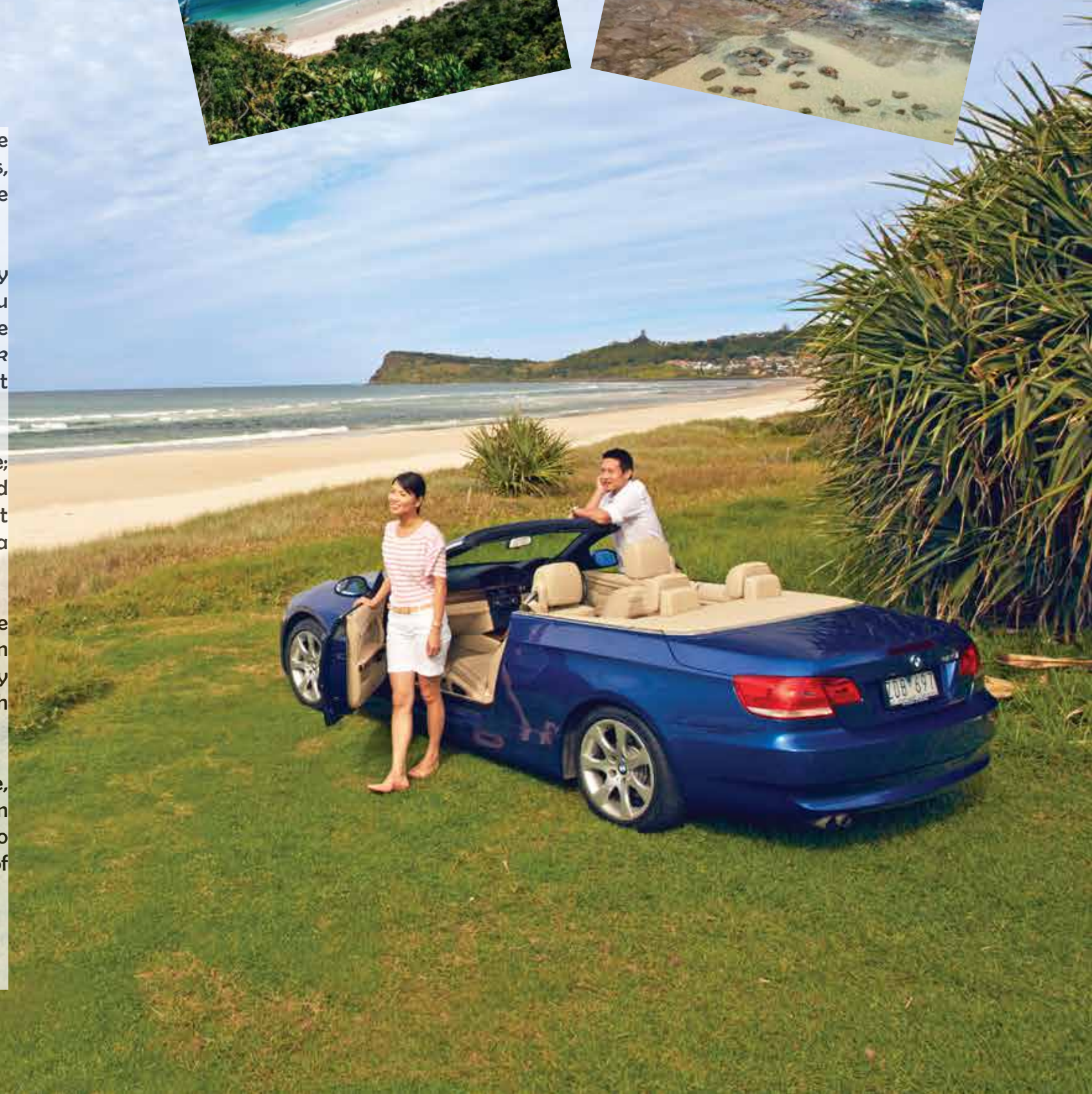
The drive takes you from Sydney in the south to Brisbane in the north through some absolutely stunning regions. From the Central Coast, Hunter Valley, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie, you will have the chance to embrace surf beaches and discover intimate hide aways, stop in at the largest coastal saltwater lake in Australia, visit some of the country's best wineries and take a walk through gorgeous colonial towns, and enjoy a picnic on the beach, go for a surf or stop in at a salt water ocean bath for a refreshing dip.

You will then travel onwards to Port Stephens, the Great Lakes, Manning Valley and Port Macquarie; through classic coastal country to quiet seaside towns, visit the dolphin capital of Australia and come face to face with hundreds of bottle nosed dolphins, enjoy a walk or 4WD tour on the largest moving coastal sand dune system in the country, and see where the Hastings River meets the sea while exploring the beaches, parks and riverways.

Further north you will find the McLeay River, Nambucca Heads and Coffs Harbour. See the legendary Smoky Cape Lighthouse and Trial Bay Gaol; camp out under the stars, catch your own fish and experience ocean life with a diving experience, visit a historic town in the hinterland, enjoy some shopping or take a cruise in Coffs Harbour and, if you're up for it, ride a camel on the beach for something different and exciting.

As you reach the final stretch it will take you through the Clarence Valley to Ballina, Lismore, Byron Bay and the Tweed Coast. Along this section you will visit the second largest fishing port in Australia, visit the largest regional Sikh/Punjabi population, explore the rainforests and a volcano in World Heritage listed national parks, and enjoy the colour and alternative lifestyles of some of Australia's best known "hippy" culture destinations.

Join us as we take you on a roadtrip along The Legendary Pacific Coast of Australia!





Taking off on our journey along the Legendary Pacific Coast, a little over an hour's drive from the bustling metropolis of Sydney, but a whole world away in attitude, is the Central Coast; where life takes a distinct change of pace. The relaxed atmosphere and easy access to areas of outstanding natural beauty draws countless visitors to the region year-upon-year. Blissful sunny days can be spent enjoying the stunning stretches of endless beach, hiking along the rugged coastline, taking a refreshing dip in small inlets, or hiking one of the many abundant nature trails which blanket the area.

Families particularly enjoy the Central Coast because of its accessibility from Sydney and the wide range of facilities available, catering to their every need. The Entrance, nestled between the clam waters of Tuggerah Lake and the shores of the pacific coast is a big draw for families. The tranquil waters of the lake and the coastal baths situated at the southern end of the beach are perfect for swimming with young children and the coastal boardwalk which wraps around the town is dotted with shady picnic spots and a whole host of dining options. After a lazy day by the beach, you can pop down to Memorial Park to catch the famous Pelicans gearing up for their daily feeding frenzy - a fun spectacle for families with young children.

If you go to the cosmopolitan seaside town of Terrigal you will find one of the area's best known and most exclusive getaway spots. The picturesque fishing village boasts magnificent soaring pine trees on the beachfront, casual alfresco dining in the small harbour and pretty boutique stores. A trip to Terrigal would not be complete without a hike up to the renowned Skillion to capture the spectacular 180 vista of the sparkling Pacific Ocean.



## SYDNEY TO LAKE MACQUARIE

Image Credit: Pernod Ricard Winemakers Pty Ltd

Equally exclusive is, Killcare, once a part of Hardys bay until it was divided in 1900. It's now a beautifully secluded fishing village and home to Putty beach, widely regarded as one of Australia's top 10 beaches. Enveloped by the Bouddi national park, the pretty town, despite its wide array of shops and amenities, still manages to retain its charming village atmosphere. One of Australia's most revered 5 star hotels, The Bells at Killcare is located here, boasting the Coasts only hatted restaurant.

Visitors to the Central Coast get to experience and fully embrace the Aussie outdoor lifestyle. There are some excellent and often challenging surf conditions to be found on Avoca, Wamberai and Soliders beaches and 1500 hectares of spectacularly diverse landscapes to explore at Bouddi national park. The park has an 8 kilometre coastal walk which stretches from Putty through to Macmasters beach, taking in Maitland bay and little beach. The walk takes 4 hours each way and boasts some spectacular views across to Palm Beach.

Between May and October, if you're lucky, you can spot humpback or southern right whales frolicking in the surf.

Follow the highway from the Central Coast, take a left turn when you get to Calga and take Peats Ridge Road through Wollombi to the world renowned Hunter Valley. Famous for its sprawling vineyards and the world class wines it produces, the Hunter is a gourmet delight. There are plenty of activities to enjoy here. Sign up for a tour with a local guide around some of the finest producers in the region, sampling the revered hunter valley semillion, a fruity sparkling champagne, or a robust and spicy Shiraz.

Wine tasting in the Hunter Valley would not to be complete without fine food to complement the experience and the Hunter certainly delivers on gourmet goodness.

A plethora of fine dining establishments exists to tantalise your taste buds, some ensconced within upmarket boutique hotels.



Image Credit: Audrey Wilkinson Vineyard Pty Ltd





Veering off the beaten path to the upper Hunter Valley, you will discover the charming rural outpost of Muswellbrook. This vibrant country town is a rural haven, dotted with lush vineyards and working horse studs. The beautiful country feel of the town makes it a compelling option when choosing to visit the Hunter region. Farm stays, country inns and quaint cottages provide a great base to explore the local wineries and olive farms and indulge in some of the delicious local produce on offer. Stunning scenery can be savoured at Wollemi national park, home to the prehistoric Wollemi pine and the world heritage listed Barrington Tops or take a stroll down the Muswellbrook heritage walk where you will see buildings dating back to the 1800s. From the 1st October to the 6th November every year, the town plays host to the Muswellbrook cup carnival, one of the highlights in New South Wales country racing calendar.

Back on the road and the New England Highway will take you back to the coast. Very few cities in the world can say that they are surrounded by eight beaches but the diverse town of Newcastle is one of them.

The city is an intriguing mix of beaches, country, city, and bush with a fantastic culture and a rich maritime history. Voted a top ten city in the Lonely Planet best in travel 2011, this place is definitely the unsung hero of the New South Wales coast.

There are three main beaches that wrap around the city, which are all interlinked by a stunning coastal walk, Bathers Way, which runs from Nobby's Head to Merewether. It's a real favourite with the locals who you will find walking and jogging down the 3 km pathway daily. Surfing is the chosen pastime in Newcastle and with so many beaches to choose from, it's no surprise that many professional surfing champions hail from these shores.

Merewether Beach is the Mecca for surf enthusiasts and home to an international surfing camp. The scenery of this town is stunning, with jagged cliffs, reefs, natural rock pools and large salt water baths, perfect for a quick dip. The Newcastle ocean baths, just outside the town, are located in a picturesque Art Deco pavilion providing a serene environment for a relaxing swim in an outstanding historic landmark.

But there's more to this city than sand and surf, there is also a thriving art scene. Newcastle art gallery is the second largest collection of art in NSW and the perfect place for a spot of culture. Nightlife in Newcastle is vibrant and diverse with The Kings Wharf brewery located at the harbour side being one of the most popular places to enjoy a drink or two, catch some live music, or relax on a Sunday afternoon with a glass of the local wine.

From Newcastle, take the coastal

road south again for around 30 kilometres to visit Lake Macquarie, the largest coastal saltwater lake in all of Australia - four times larger than the Sydney harbour. The lake spans 174 kilometres of foreshore and with such a vast expanse of water, the area has developed a well deserved reputation as an aquatic playground. Taking full advantage of the calm open water, visitors can explore the lake and its surroundings by hiring a boat and cruising on the serene lake, perhaps trying out a spot of fishing to catch the evening's supper. If you're more lively at heart, you can occupy the day by wake-boarding, rowing, or kayaking. For a more rural feel, the western side of the lake adorns the spectacular Watagan mountains which blankets a staggering 3 million hectares of parks and reserves. The scenery is spectacular with views out towards the rainforest gullies at Monkey Face and Gap Creek.

Similarly, if you like to be surrounded by woodland, the Treetops Adventure Park, a 30 min drive out from the lake provides great family fun. This unique and Eco friendly attraction allows visitors to monkey around on suspension bridges, flying foxes and treetop walkways. Couples visiting Lake Macquarie will be seduced by the shady picnic spots at the Pelican Foreshore Reserve, taking a stroll around Warners Bay whilst sharing an ice cream, and finally dinner at the pretty waterfront eateries whilst looking out at with twinkling lights across the lake.

## NEWCASTLE TO PORT MACQUARIE



Taking the highway out of Newcastle, turn off at Medowie Road to get to the dolphin capital of Australia, Port Stephens. You'll pass through the 2,800 hectare Medowie State Forest where you can go hiking, horse riding, biking, fishing, swimming, rock climbing and diving, just to name a few; then continue on to Port Stephens, home to around 140 bottle nose dolphins.

Port Stephens is a large natural harbour that lies within the Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park and it is popular with tourists, not only for the dolphins, but also for the uncrowded sandy beaches, sheltered bays and gorgeous national parks. You can visit the dolphins at any time of year and if you're visiting between May and November, you might also be able to see the humpback whales passing by during whale season.

The town of Nelson Bay is at the eastern end of Port Stephens and you will find a range of gourmet restaurants and chic cafes, boutique shopping and a range of accommodation to suit all budgets, from 5 star resorts and bed and breakfasts to caravan parks and camping grounds.

Surfers love to come to Port Stephens to visit One Mile Beach near Anna Bay, where you might even be lucky enough to catch the "perfect wave". There is plenty of wildlife to observe, particularly around the islands just off the coast. Go scuba diving, and you might even see the rare sea bird the Gould Petrel who make their home on Cabbage Tree Island.

Visit the sand dunes of Stockton Beach, the largest coastal sand dune system in Australia where you'll find a 32 kilometre stretch of dunes measuring at least 30 metres high! Walk, quad bike, 4WD... get on the back of a horse or even a camel, or grab a sand board and zoom your way down! And enjoy the experience. A walk to Tomaree Headland will introduce you to spectacular views of the bay and if you're a fan of fishing, you can hire a boat or book yourself on a fishing charter. The Tomaree National Park is 20 kilometres of scenic coastline and you can swim, snorkel, kayak and surf there.

Get back on the highway and follow it along to the Great Lakes region where you can visit one of the stunning lakes or beaches. The Great Lakes consists of 145

kilometres of coastline based around the Wallis, Smiths and Myall lakes. The Great Lakes is Australia's only triple lake system and it is here that the Great Dividing Range meets the ocean and there are plenty of places to stay if you decide to explore the region for a few days. There are many things to do in the region, from shopping and sailing, to kayaking and markets.

If you're looking to relax, rejuvenate at one of the secluded retreats that are scattered throughout the countryside. Visit the perfect beaches, trek through ancient palm forests and enjoy a picnic lakeside. The Myall Lakes National Park has fantastic picnic and barbecue facilities, as well as camping grounds. The park is home to the "Grandis", a 76 metre high flooded gum that is one of the tallest trees in New South Wales.

At the northern tip of the region you will find twin towns Forster Tuncurry, where Wallis Lake meets the ocean. Famous for its seafood, the area is a paradise for the keen fisherperson. Forster is famous for its oysters and is actually the largest provider of Sydney Rock Oysters in Australia. Throughout the year, Forster Tuncurry hosts a number of sporting events, as well as markets, film festivals, concerts and art exhibitions.

Forster itself has some fantastic boutique shopping and a range of different accommodation options, restaurants and clubs. Tuncurry has the atmosphere of a village and you will find plenty of shopping, excellent surf and the spectacular bridge crossing Wallis Lake to Forster. While in the area take some time out to visit the Booti National Park (and Wallis Lake) where you can check out the views from the lookout at the top of Cape Hawke, or camp at The Ruins in the Booti Hill area at the park's southern end.



If you don't any much else while you're in the area, you must visit the Whoota Whoota lookout. To the south you can see Smith and Myall lakes and as far as Port Stephens on the horizon, to the north you can see Crowdy head. The views are astounding and well worth the photo opportunity. Another recommended stop is the magnificent SugarLoaf Point Lighthouse at Seal Rocks where, if the seas are high, you can see the rock produce a blowhole just below the lighthouse.

As you get back on the highway you move into the Manning Valley region, named after the river which flows through the area. At the centre of the valley is Taree where you can go shopping and explore modern arcades and boutique gift shops, relax in one of the riverside parks, or grab your kayak, boat or jetski and head out on to the river itself. Taree has some of the most extensive waterways you'll find on the coast of New South Wales and the local Aboriginal people originally named the town "tareebit" after the fruit of the fig trees found growing in the region.

From Taree, you can stop by the beautiful coastal towns with their gorgeous white sandy beaches or stop in at the markets or take a walk through the quaint and quiet inland villages.

Leaving from Taree, the one thing you won't want to miss is Ellenborough Falls, one of the longest single drop waterfalls in the southern hemisphere. You need to travel further inland and some parts of the road are unsealed, but it is well worth the trip. The falls stand at 200 metres and you can either follow a 10 minute walk to The Knoll which will provide fantastic views of the falls themselves, or you can take the 30 minute walk to the bottom of the falls and stare up in wonder.

Back on the coastline and Crowdy Bay National Park has a history dating back more than 6000 years and is a place of significance to the local Birpai Aboriginal people. The 8000 hectare park is home to an abundance of wildlife and ... If you want to camp, Crowdy Gap campground is behind the sand dunes on the edge of Crowdy Bay and allows you to set up your tent amongst banksias and pink-barked angophoras. Take a walk through the rainforest to Crowdy Beach, which unlike the name suggests, is crowd-free, try your hand at some fishing or watch the sun set as you stroll along the sand. Take the road from Crowdy Bay and continue up to Laurieton at the base of North Brother Mountain in Dooragan National Park.

The village is a well known holiday spot for families and nature lovers and offers a range of activities for all tastes, particularly with its walking tracks. Drive to the summit of the mountain for panoramic views, take the rainforest loop – a half hour walk through the sub-tropical rainforest, or go kayaking along the Camden Haven River and surrounding lakes, Watsons Taylor and Queens Lake.

The Diamond Head Walk is popular as it takes you through blackbutt forests and rainforest to enjoy views of the coast and heathland; the Laurieton Track will take you through a tall eucalypt forest; and a visit to the Kattang Nature Reserve will introduce you to Perpendicular Point, with 40 metre high vertical cliffs that drop into the sea below.

The final stop on this leg of your journey is Port Macquarie – located exactly half way between Sydney and the Gold Coast; a vibrant town that is rich in both culture and natural beauty. Surrounded by the ocean, mountains and waterways, Port Macquarie is one of the most

popular holiday destinations in Australia and it is easy to see why.

The gorgeous town sits on the Hastings River and offers something for everyone, from great surf beaches to top quality fishing locations. Go for a swim at one of the 14 beaches, take a walk through the national parks or enjoy some of the region's historical sites (with European history dating back to the convict era).

The area is popular for a range of watersports, including deep sea fishing, windsurfing, jetskiing and parasailing and if you're after something different, you can treat yourself to a camel ride along the beach!

Follow the walking track around the headlands and beaches or enjoy a tour of the Hastings River wine region. And if you're visiting in October, you won't want to miss the Tasting on Hastings month-long food festival, or the famous Festival of the Sun in December. The options are endless.



Image Credit: Virgin Australia

From Port Macquarie, take the road to Hastings River. If you're a keen fisherperson, this is a hotspot for flathead, jewfish, bream and blackfish and there are plenty of bait shops around where you can pick up supplies. The river rises in the Great Dividing Range and flows until it reaches the Tasman Sea at Port Macquarie. While you can visit the mouth from town, it's a different experience if you stop by further up along the highway which crosses the middle of the river. Keep your eye out for the endangered Hastings River Mouse and if you enjoy a good wine, take some time to head to the local wineries along the way.

The area is still a developing wine region and although vines were first planted in the 1860s it wasn't until more recently that the modern era of wine commenced when the Cassegrain family established their vineyard in 1980. You can find a range of cellar doors, music events and restaurants and taste some of the region's Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Semillon and Verdelho – said to be the highlight of the local wines. The main vineyards are east of the Pacific Highway near Port Macquarie and west of the highway near Wauchope.

Heading along the highway and you move into the Macleay Valley Coast, a popular holiday destination for couples and families alike with its gorgeous beaches and stunning National Parks and wildlife. Keen surfers will find famous surf breaks; for the fisherperson there are plenty of riverways, including the mighty Macleay River, or you can throw in a line off the beach; fans of arts and crafts are in for a real treat while history buffs will find an abundance of things to see; and if you're looking to simply relax, the options are endless.

Crescent Head is just off the highway and here you will find a sleepy seaside village with some of the best swimming, surfing and fishing options on the Mid North Coast. There are no less than 5 surf beaches and it's one of the few places where surfing culture is prominent and particularly popular with Malibu board riders. It has one of the best right-hand point breaks in the world and is host to a popular international surf competition every May, the Malibu Classic. To try your luck at catching yourself some dinner, you can throw in a line off the rocks, sand, creek or try your hand at deep sea fishing with one of the local charter companies.

Hat Head National Park is nearby and is a great place to go for bushwalking, camping, or even just for a picnic or barbecue lunch. The Korogoro Peninsula Walk is popular and will take you through coastal rainforest and to a sea cave. Connors Track takes you to the headlands and secluded beaches. Hat Head National Park is particularly popular in Winter and early Spring as it is one of the best vantage points for viewing the migrating whales, and it is one of the largest 'live' sand dune systems in New South Wales.

The village of Hat Head lies in the midst of the National Park and offers a range of accommodation options if you choose to stay for a night or two. Accommodation ranges from holiday houses to units and shady campgrounds and cabins. Keep your camera ready in case you come face to face with some of the local kangaroos or wallabies, the gorgeous black swans or spoonbills in the wetlands, or look for the endangered glossy-black cockatoo in the she oak trees. The park has cultural significance to the Dunghutti Nation and there are ancient burial sites, ceremonial grounds and shell middens throughout.



Three walks, one each of West, Central and East Kempsey, have been devised to help people explore the town. Kempsey is home to the famous Australian icon, the Akubra hat, and was the birthplace for country music legend Slim Dusty.

Aboriginal heritage and culture are still very much a part of the town and you can see a range of artefacts and files at the museum. If you need supplies to continue on your drive, Kempsey is the place for it, and there are also a range of accommodation options if you want to use the town as your base to explore the region further.

Just a short drive from Kempsey you will find the riverside towns of Gladstone and Smithtown which are both small, but have a lot to offer.

Visit the local galleries, museums, and quirky shops to find some fantastic locally made gifts to take home. The area is home to a large population of potters, sculptors, weavers, quilters, furniture makers, jewellers, photographers and graphic artists. There are also monthly markets held in the area where you can pick up some great bargains, crafts and local produce.

South West Rocks is a seaside village that is extremely popular with tourists and as you drive in you can see why. With the gorgeous beaches and relaxed lifestyle, there are plenty of things to see and do here, from fishing and swimming, to surfing, sailing and snorkelling. Hire a catamaran or take a river cruise, grab yourself some fish and chips and head to the beach to watch the waves crash in, or take to the golf course or bowling greens.

Take a guided tour to Smoky Cape (named by Captain James Cook after he saw Aboriginal fires burning there) to the legendary

Smoky Cape Lighthouse which was built in 1891 and is one of the last lighthouses to be designed by Colonial Architect, James Barnet. And enjoy a walk around the well preserved grounds of Trial Bay Gaol, which opened in 1886, to discover the significance of this Heritage Listed site.

The drive takes you through Macksville, a relaxed fishing and oyster-farming town which has been built up on low-lying land around the Nambucca River, and along the river's edge to Nambucca Heads. The Nambucca Valley itself is not only home to some of New South Wales' most beautiful beaches, but also to rainforests, estuaries and farmland. If you want the best views of the region, take a drive to Captain Cook lookout or Rotary lookout, or visit the clean, uncrowded surf or river beaches. Nambucca Heads lies at the mouth of the Nambucca River, and there are plenty of accommodation and dining options available.

It was originally a coastal port with ship building and timber mills being the main industries in the 1800s and early 1900s, and with fantastic temperatures, it's a great place to take a holiday at any time of year. When you head back to the highway, shortly after you turn onto it there is a left turn which will take you to the colonial style town of Bowraville, with its tea gardens, chocolate shop, war museum, historic theatre and hotels.

It's well worth the visit and won't take you long to get there. The drive to Coffs Harbour will take you past Bongil Bongil National Park with its stunning beaches, coastal views, swamp rainforests, wetlands and mangroves and pristine estuaries. The name Bongil Bongil is Aboriginal meaning "a place where one stays a long time because of the abundance of

food" ... so stop by, stay a while, and enjoy the scenery – you might even find yourself looking up at one of the local koalas as the park is home to one of New South Wales' largest koala populations.

### **Birdwatchers will enjoy themselves as well with 165 species of birds, including some threatened species.**

The final stop on this leg of your Legendary Pacific Coast journey is Coffs Harbour, home to the Big Banana! Coffs Harbour is a great combination of bustling city and peaceful village, depending on where you visit. You will find excellent shopping, a range of accommodation types, great dining and plenty of activities.

Visit the City Centre or the Jetty district for great shops and boutiques, cafes and restaurants; enjoy the views from Sealy Lookout in Bruxner Park; or head down to the Jetty foreshores to see the historic jetty and marina.

Muttonbird Island is connected to the land at the marina via a breakwater and is a sacred and significant site to the local Gumbaynggirr Aboriginal people. The island is protected and is home to thousands of wedge-tailed shearwaters, also called muttonbirds.

The skywalk will take you above the treetops at Dorrigo's World Heritage listed rainforest; if you're feeling adventurous you can go white water rafting on the rapids and gorges of the Nymboida River; swim with dolphins; and a stop to Coffs wouldn't be complete without a visit to the Big Banana which attracts millions of visitors every year!



Leaving Coffs Harbour, take the highway drive up to Woolgoolga, home to the largest regional Sikh/Punjabi population in Australia. Woolgoolga was settled by Europeans in the 1870s, and before this was home to the Gumbaingirr Aboriginal tribe. The name is believed to have derived from an Aboriginal word referring to the lilly-pilly trees that grew there. It was an early centre of Sikh migration for families who arrived before the White Australia Policy was introduced. They moved to Woolgoolga when World War 2 resulted in less skilled hands to operate in the banana industry and today, 90% of the banana plantations are owned by the Sikh/Punjabi population. Stop off at one of the two beaches for a swim in the warm coastal waters before continuing further north to explore Woolli and Yuraygir National Park.

Located on the mouth of the Woolli River, Woolli itself is a relaxing beach resort town on the coast and a popular place for fishing and boating. Locally grown oysters are one of the finer flavours you can experience and you can take a fishing charter boat or go deep sea diving with tours leaving Woolli harbour.

If you have a boat you might want to try navigating the Woolli River yourself while at the Solitary Island Nature Reserve you can enjoy some diving around the soft corals, or birdwatching, keeping an eye out for the crested tern, wedgetailed shearwater and the sooty oyster catcher. The Yuraygir National Park combines gorgeous beaches for fishing, surfing and swimming, with walking tracks, striking cliffs, rocky headlands and peaceful lakes. Take the 65 kilometre Yuraygir Coastal Walk through heathlands plains, past crystal creeks and lagoons and enjoy a camp out under the stars.

On your way to Clarence River, stop in for a bite to eat and a walk around Grafton, or perhaps even stay a night or two in this commercial hub of the Clarence River Valley. Grafton is renowned for its gorgeous Jacaranda trees, historical buildings and its location on the bank of the Clarence River. "Discovered" by an escaped convict in 1831, Grafton was established in 1851 and a walk along the tree lined streets will take you past many fine examples of colonial architecture.

The city plays host to a number of festivals and community

celebrations every year, attracting thousands of visitors, in particular the Jacaranda Festival - Australia's oldest floral family festival which is held in conjunction with the bloom of more than 2000 jacaranda trees. Nearby you should also take time to visit Ulmarra, a heritage listed river port and one of the finest examples of a 19th Century river port in Australia. It is an artistic town filled with antique stores and arts and craft shops.

Follow the Clarence River to Maclean and enjoy looking out the car window at the gorgeous river scenery, with the water literally metres from the road. It's the largest river on the eastern seaboard and it stretches some 400 kilometres, through open plains, ancient forests, lush farmland and quiet villages. It was one the main trade route for the region and is home to the endangered Eastern freshwater cod as well as Australian bass.

Maclean is recognised as "The Scottish Town" of Australia and for more than 100 years it has hosted the Highland Gathering, a Scottish festival with athletic and cultural competitions, including bagpiping, highland dancing and caber tossing. Many of the signs in the town are even written in Scottish Gaelic and it is a small friendly town, very proud of its Scottish Heritage. Take a walk along the streets to discover your Scottish heritage on the tartan power poles, visit the bicentennial museum and enjoy the views of the valley from the lookout.

Just before you hit the river crossing, you'll reach the turn for Yamba. The second largest fishing port in Australia, Yamba is famous for its prawns and has excellent swimming and surfing beaches. Voted the "best town in Australia", it has a relaxed lifestyle, award winning restaurants and plenty of sights.



Take a dip in the ocean pool which has been built into the rocks, take a river cruise, try to catch the big one on a fishing charter or, at the right time of year, enjoy some whale watching off the coast.

Nearby Angourie was Australia's first surfing reserve while the peaceful village of Iluka on the northern side of the river has unspoilt beaches for swimming and surfing with numerous rock, estuary and beach fishing top spots. Iluka marks the southern end of the Bundjalong National Park, which stretches north to Evans Head. Take yourself for a walk along Ten Mile Beach, grab a mountain bike and head out to Macaulays Lead or the Serendipity fire trail, try your hand at fishing or take to the waters for some snorkelling along the shallow reefs.

The northern end of the park features coffee rock formations - hardened sands formed from ancient river sediments dating back some 11,000 to 2.5 million years ago. There are plenty of picnic and camping areas in the park, although the north eastern section is out of bounds as it has been used by the RAAF as an active bombing range since World War 2. Back on the road again and you'll travel alongside the Bundjalong National Park past Evans Head and through Woodburn, to Wardell and on to Ballina.

The road itself now bypasses Ballina, whereas just a few years ago you had to drive through the town. It's still worth the visit though and is a gorgeous little seaside setting where you can stop in, grab some fish and chips to enjoy in a park beside the beach, or you might want to base yourself in town to explore the region for a few days. The town lies at the mouth of the Richmond River and there are plenty of things to see and do here.

If you're a keen surfer, you'll have heard of Lennox Head, a mecca among surfers and famous for its right hand point break Lennox Point - which is one of the top 10 surf breaks in Australia. Lismore and Nimbin are both inland towns and well worth the turn off the main highway. Along the drive, stop in at Alstonville and pick up some local produce at the working Macadamia nut and Avocado farm.

Lismore, on the doorstep of a number of World Heritage Listed National Parks, is home to more artists and buskers per capita than anywhere else in Australia and is known for its cultural diversity and creativity, as well as its relaxed lifestyle. The city is vibrant and is abundant with history, including many buildings from the 1800s, arts and crafts and live music.

The Nightcap and Border Ranges National Parks are well worth a visit and you can even see a rainforest remnant in Lismore's City Centre. Just 30 kilometres away, Nimbin has been described in literature and mainstream media as 'the drug capital of Australia' and it is Australia's most famous alternative lifestyle capital. Nimbin is part of what is known as the "Rainbow Region", which is of cultural importance to the Bundjalung people.

In 1973 it hosted the Aquarius Festival, attracting students, hippies and visionaries from all over Australia, many of whom stayed on resulting in the creation of communes and an experimental society that seemed to break the rules of contemporary Australia. Enjoy a walk to Protesters Falls on Terania Creek or visit one of the art galleries. Head back to the highway and take the road further north to the beautiful region of Byron Bay.

What used to be a sleepy little seaside town has now become a mecca for tourists, particularly international backpackers and surfers. The population increases all the time and currently sits at around 30,000. It's teeming with activity - from surf lessons and skydiving, to hang-gliding, kayaking with dolphins and horseriding along the beach, to golf and fishing. Just to name a few.

Byron's most famous, and the most popular features are Cape Byron and the Lighthouse. Cape Byron is the most easterly point of Australian mainland and can be accessed via a walking track which starts at the lighthouse itself. Here you can enjoy views to Lennox Head in the south and across the Bay to Mt Warning.

You can't go to Byron and not go to the lighthouse, get your photo taken smiling as you stand next to the sign that tells you that you're at the eastern most point of Australia, take a walk to the point itself if you have the time and energy, and keep an eye out for dolphins frolicking in the waters below (or whales if the season is right).

Arakwal National Park is a nice place to visit and if you're a surfer, there are plenty of options. Tallow Beach is part of Arakwal National Park, a beautiful coastal heathland located just south of Cape Byron and the Lighthouse - and the beach is quiet, the waters were shallow and you can see to the bottom for metres and the sands are clean - if you love Byron beaches but aren't a fan of the crowds, this is where you should go. Though be aware there are no lifeguards here so be extra careful. It's great for surfing, swimming and fun in the sand. Other popular beaches are Wategos, The Pass, Belongil, The Wreck, Broken Head or Cosy Corner.





From Byron Bay, you drive on the final leg of the trip on to Tweed, at the heart of Australia's Green Cauldron. The region along the drive from Byron to Tweed is home to some beautiful National Parks and rainforests, and if you're looking for somewhere great to stop along the way, Kingscliffe is a gorgeous little resort town on the coast between Byron and Tweed Heads and is a great place to stay overnight, or even to spend a few days, with its high quality resorts and fantastic beaches.

The Tweed region of northern New South Wales is characterised by its vast network of local communities, brilliant mountain scenery, sub tropical rainforests, popular beaches and historic river ports.

20 million years ago, it was a very different story and the area was actually a massive shield volcano that stretched from Nerang in the north, to Byron Bay in the south,



inland and out to sea. As time passed, eventually the volcano disappeared and rain washed away the lava. What remained was a caldera, a large mountain which would become known as Mt Warning, a volcanic plug, mountain ranges and the birth place of the Tweed River.

It is a place where country meets the sea, where farmers meet city folk and where villages meet high rise buildings. Whether you're staying at Coolangatta or Tweed Heads, or further south towards Cabarita, there is plenty to see and do, and some of the finest accommodation around.

Tweed Heads is the most northerly town in the state of New South Wales and showcases some world-class surfing beaches as well as the expansive Tweed River, a great place to take a kayak or boat out if you're keen on some fishing, or bring a picnic to enjoy along the river's edge.

The great climate and gorgeous scenery makes for some fantastic relaxation. Hire a houseboat, take a relaxing cruise, visit the art gallery or Aboriginal Cultural Centre and explore the region.

There are so many options in the region for things to see and do. Take a walk along the river and have a picnic, take the kids to one of the playgrounds that you will find right next to the beach, or try one of the many adventure activities that you will find at Kirra, Tweed Heads, Kingscliffe and Cabarita – including water sports such as kayaking, canoeing, diving, snorkeling, stand-up paddleboarding, surfing, deep sea fishing and water-skiing. On the land, there are many options available as well, from high ropes courses to hiking in the rainforests, horse riding and abseiling, to visiting museums and art galleries.

The Tweed region moves on to Kirra, on the beach on the Gold Coast and just near the border into New South Wales. Kirra Point, a small rocky headland, actually separates Kirra from Coolangatta, and is one of the world's most well known point breaks – and the views are amazing! There are plenty of surf competitions held there every year, though none more notable than the Billabong Pro. If you're looking for more of a relaxing time in the water though, Kirra North is your best option. It's great if the weather is fine – or even if you just want to take a walk or run.



A fantastic drive to take in the Northern New South Wales region will take you from Lismore to the NSW/ QLD border. It's called Tourist Route 32 and is an 80km drive that takes you through the hinterland, from Lismore to Murwillumbah and then you continue on to Tweed.

You can do it in one hit – taking you around 2-3 hours (the roads are windy so speeds are limited), or take a day and stop in at some of the national parks, visit some of the local farms and just enjoy the road. If you've got a weekend free, why not leave from the Gold Coast or Brisbane and drive to Lismore via the coastal road, stop overnight and then take a trip back via the Tourist Route. A great option for weekenders.

First stop along the way after leaving Lismore is The Channon, and you will pass some lovely macadamia farms – even a lemon myrtle farm – and the little villages of Tullera and Modanville, along the way. The Channon is a gateway to the rainforests of Nightcap National Park and is close to the well known Protesters Falls.

Passing through The Channon village, you can see where the largest craft market in Northern NSW is held every second Sunday of the month.

Of course you can't visit the region without going to Protesters Falls either. It's just a 14 kilometre drive from The Channon and the falls were actually renamed after a protest against logging that was held in 1979.

If you're visiting, it's just a 1.4 kilometre easy walk to get to the falls themselves and you will find yourself taken on a path through the Bangalow palm forest, ending up at the base of the falls. Swimming there isn't permitted because it is home to the endangered Fleay's barred frog, but it's certainly well worth the journey!

From the falls you continue along Koonorigan Road, which is a steep and winding road – but it takes you through rolling hills and past some beautiful Jacarandas. The area is teeming with produce farms, including macadamia, coffee, dairy farms, avocados and stone fruit orchards. This road led me to Nimbin Road – and of course – Nimbin. Be careful on the road leading you in and out of Nimbin.

It seems like it's been many years since they were tended to and there are some large, and deep, potholes that might bust your tires! So just keep a sharp eye on the road to avoid them. From Nimbin, you take the road to Uki and Clarrie Hall Dam, which is just a few kilometres from town.

The dam is a great place to go if you want to have a picnic, do some bushwalking or if you're a keen bird watcher! The village of Uki itself is quaint and a great coffee stop, and just a few kilometres out of town you will find the turn off towards Mt Warning. World Heritage Listed Mt Warning National Park, or Wollumbin, as the original inhabitants of the land call the mountain, is the perfect place to go to escape.

It was originally a volcano which covered a massive 400 square kilometres in area. The history of the name for Mt Warning actually dates back to 1770 when James Cook saw the mountain from the ocean at Byron and used it and a point he named Point Danger Fingal Head to warn future mariners of the offshore reefs he encountered.

If you're there early enough you can actually be the first in Australia to see the sunrise! This is because of its proximity to Byron.

It was dedicated as a national park in 1966 and its inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage Listings in 1986 ensures its protection for future generations.

If you have time, make sure you join one of more than 60,000 people who make the 8.8 kilometre, 5 hour round trip walk to the top!

From Mt Warning, the road takes you to Murwillumbah – along the Tweed River – an area that is rich in dairy farms, sugar cane and banana plantations. Murwillumbah sits on the south eastern foothills of the McPherson Range in the Tweed Volcano valley and here it's nice if you can stop off and relax for a break in one of the gorgeous shady parks for a picnic, enjoy some boating or try your hand a little bit of fishing.

This is the last stop along Tourist Route 32. From here, you can take the highway back from Tweed, past the Gold Coast and into Brisbane.





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# NEW ZEALAND

Where fairytales become a reality





*New Zealand is easily one of the world's most beautiful and fascinating countries, with a rich culture, intriguing history and an abundance of natural beauty. If you love watching movie's, no doubt you have seen some amazing scenes in some of your favourites, that were actually set in New Zealand. Lord of the Rings, to Chronicles of Narnia; and the Hobbit. Notice a theme here?*

*Much of New Zealand looks as though it comes straight from a fairytale so it is no wonder movie producers are lining up to start filming. If you're travelling to New Zealand, whether you like the movies; or you simply want to visit the very best nature has to offer (world-wide), here are some of New Zealand's most enchanting destinations.*

### **Hobbiton Village**

Hobbiton Village was actually built as a set for the movie, Lord of the Rings; but once the filming was over, rather than pull it down, it was decided to leave it standing as a tourist attraction. And it has been a huge success. It is a unique place to visit and you'll never see anything like it anywhere else in the world, guaranteed. You'll feel as though you're walking through a real Hobbit village as you mingle with the locals (the sheep). Definitely a main attraction for fans of the movie, but also a must-see for anyone and everyone!



### **Coromandel**

Coromandel is one of New Zealand's most amazing places, and with its rainforests, beaches, greenery, it is a place where dreams are made to come true. New Chum Beach is one of the world's best beaches and is a great escape, with no infrastructure to be seen. Cathedral Cove is arguably the most picturesque place in the entire of New Zealand and was the setting for where the Pevensie children took their first steps back into Narnia.

This spectacularly beautiful part of the world boasts a naturally formed archway leading through a white rock headland.

The giant cavern passes through to join two secluded coves, with pristine white sandy beaches and pohutukawa trees along the foreshore.

If you're going to visit the cove, you'll want to go with a local tour guide who can take you there by boat or kayak – and tell you all about it along the way!

Karangahake Gorge is located on one of the most beautiful stretches of river in New Zealand, located on the Waitewheta River. This is where gold struck and you have the opportunity to discover old tunnels and walkways that are hidden within the gorge.

If you love to cycle, hit the Hauraki Rail Trail (accessed via Thames, Paeroa, Waihi, or Te Aroha), and you simply must visit the Windows Walkway, where windows have been blasted through the tunnels to provide stunning river views.





## Rotorua

Rotorua, located on the southern shores of lake Rotorua, derives from the Maori language and translates to the second lake. It is another popular destination with its seventeen lakes, aptly named Lakes of Rotorua, and provides visitors with geothermal areas, spa rejuvenation and amazing insight to the Maori culture.

It is a world like you've never seen before and if you want to take a walk to explore and look for fairies, the Rotorua City Walkway gives tourists the opportunity to choose from eight different sections. Each section is a haven for the fairytale lover, with a perfect blend of historical and cultural insight as well as scenic points, geothermal areas and native wildlife.

The 2.5 kilometre Motutara Recreation Reserve track is a short and effortless walk beginning from Whananaki village that offers coastal scenery. Another option to explore the region on foot is Hamurana Springs, which gives visitors astonishing views of the scenery and the deepest water spring of the North Island; while the Tarawera Falls track follows the Tarawera River upstream to the falls themselves, which will take your breath away.



Rotorua offers a range of fantastic places to visit, things to do and people to meet. With some of the most stunning natural assets in the world, to an outstanding selection of accommodation and activities, Rotorua has it all. From the Maori cultural experiences to geothermals and spas, adventure and adrenaline based activities, you will find everything you could ever wish for right here.

Rotorua is a city on the southern shores of lake Rotorua, in the Bay of Plenty region of the North Island. It is a 3-hour drive south from Auckland, taking you through a number of nice towns and villages along the way. The name Rotorua comes from Māori, the full name being Te Rotorua-nui-a-Kahumatamomoe - the second great lake of the Kahumatamomoe.

As history states, Kahumatamomoe was the uncle of the Māori chief Ihenga, the ancestral explorer of the Te Arawa and Rotorua was the second major lake the chief discovered. More than one third of the population here is Maori, making it an ideal place to learn about New Zealand's indigenous culture.

The region is popular with locals and international tourists alike, particularly for its geothermal activity, its geysers and hot mud pools, hot thermal springs and the Buried Village (named such after it was buried in 1886 by volcanic eruption).

This thermal activity is sourced to the Rotorua caldera and it is all within easy reach of the city. In Kuirau Park in particular – on the western side of the city, you will find hot bubbling mud pools where you can immerse yourself in clouds of steam and soak your feet to relax during a day of exploration.

## Fiordland National Park

The Fiordland National Park was established in 1952 and is the largest national park within New Zealand. In size, Fiordland National Park is 12,500 square kilometres and consists out of mountain, lake, fiord and rainforest environments. As the national park extends to a great part of the Te W'hipounamu, it too is recognised as heritage site. One of the most famous tourist destinations to experience in this region is Milford Sound, the best known fiord and the only one that can be accessed by road.

The Milford Road to Milford Sound is an alpine drive which offers viewing points and short hikes to soak up the fantastic scenery on a silver platter and shall definitely not be missed. Milford Sound is truly an impressive place to visit as it has remained unchanged throughout the years. The area is known as a breeding site for Fiordland Penguins and other animals that can be spotted are seals, dolphins and sometimes even whales.

Doubtful Sound – sometimes referred to as 'the sound of silence', is the second largest fiord within the region and its serenity contrasts perfectly with Milford Sound.

Rich in its flora and fauna, Doubtful Sound is home to an incredible range of wildlife, including seals, penguins and whales. It is also the habitat to bottlenose dolphins. They are only few in number and yet none of the individual dolphins has been spotted to leave or enter the Sound, hence they have an extremely close bond with another.

The fiord is 40.4 kilometres long and 421 metres deep which is filled with sea creatures that consist out of a vast array of fish, anemones and corals. Unlike Milford Sound the sound of silence cannot be accessed by road, but by a cruise across Lake Manapouri and a short coach trip across Wilmot Pass, giving you the opportunity to experience and explore the wilderness, its hidden waterways and the beautiful secluded islands that make up Doubtful Sound.







## Queenstown

Looking over this city from the mountains, it would be very hard not to believe this was what every fairy tale city looked like. The remarkable snow-capped mountainous surrounds of Queenstown are simply breath taking, and with everything there is to see and do here, it's no wonder this city is one of the most visited areas in the southern hemisphere.

Queenstown is the largest centre of the Otago Region of the South Island and there is no better way to soak up this incredible atmosphere than by ascending to Bobs Peak with the skyline gondola. Once at the top, you will be offered captivating and astonishing views of Coronet Peak and the southeastern shore of Lake Wakatipu, where the mountain range called The Remarkables are situated.

The scenery you will be heading towards may very well be your experience of ecstasy: the river so calming and comforting while the brown, grey and green colour mixture of the valley walls are so incredibly infiltrating.

Queenstown is a city that is for everyone, from the fairtale seeker to the adrenaline junkie.

You'll find thrilling adventures like bungee jumping and mountain biking, and on the other end of the scale, you'll also love Queenstown if you're looking to relax and treat yourself with a visit to the spa or to experience the mountains on foot or bike.

If you want to explore this beautiful fairtale region, take a hike through Ben Lomond, exploring Bowen Peak and Bob's Peak.

Ben Lomond's summit reaches 1,748 metres in height and offers scenic views of The Remarkables, Cecil and Walter Peak and Lake Wakatipu. Most of the hiking/ mountain bike tracks start from the town centre and are therefore easy to access.



## Christchurch - Canterbury

Christchurch is the gateway to the South Island. The city was devastated in 2010/2011 by a number of earthquakes, but it has fought back and is stronger than ever. The city is bordered by hills and the Pacific Ocean and is on the edge of the Canterbury Plains. There are a variety of things to see and do here.

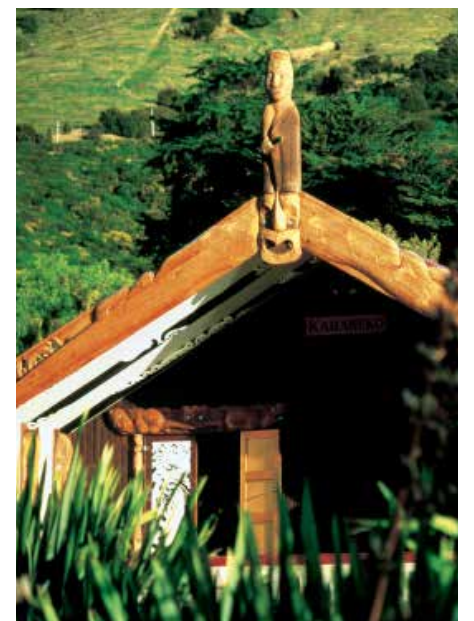
Take to the waters for some kayaking, get a thrill out of jet boating or try your hand at deep sea fishing; grab yourself a mountain bike, quad bike or 4WD and go on the adventure of a lifetime through the gorgeous terrain; or view the city and region from the skies with a helicopter or hot air balloon ride, or paragliding experience that is not to be missed!

There are also plenty of walking trails to choose from – including the ever popular (and “green jewel of the city”), Hagley Park. You can also take a walk (or bike ride if you prefer) through the forest and discover the native bushland and wetlands, or head up to Victoria Park to enjoy the views.



You will find that much of the city's area has been set aside for parks, natural reserves and recreation grounds, hence why Christchurch has been nicknamed “the Garden City”.

There are numerous locations around Christchurch that will take you into a fairytale world, including the Canterbury - Mackenzie region, New Zealand's most diverse ski region. And west of the city is where you'll find Flock Hill, with its limestone boulders and tors. Flock Hill became the setting for the great battle for Narnia.



## Mount Taranaki

Mount Taranaki is New Zealand's most perfectly formed volcano, and beyond the lush waterfalls, rainforests and mossy swamps Taranaki's legend sounds just like a fairy tale itself.

“Taranaki once lived with other volcanoes; Tongariro, Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe. When he made flirtatious advances towards a pretty hill named Pihanga,

Tongariro erupted in a jealous fury. Taranaki fled to the west, gouging out the Whanganui River on his way.”

(legend source: Pure New Zealand)





## Lake Taupo

With the largest freshwater lake in all of Australasia and having been featured in the popular Lord of the Rings trilogy, Lake Taupo is a unique holiday destination with so much to offer.

In the centre of New Zealand's north island, Taupo is a town on the shore of the lake. The name Taupo is the shortened version of its full name, Taupo-nui-a-Tia translated from the Maori meaning "The great cloak of Tia".

The lake itself is the largest in New Zealand – around the size of Singapore - and discharges to the Waikato River, in turn flowing over one of the most amazing waterfalls you will find in the country – Huka Falls, not far from town.

The falls are actually New Zealand's biggest tourist attraction, with more than 200,000 litres of water cascading over the cliff every second! The lake itself is actually more like an inland sea and was created some 2,000 years ago following a volcanic eruption that was so big it apparently could be seen in Europe and China.

The area is a centre for volcanic and geothermal activity, with the volcanic mountain of Mount Tauhara just to the east and a number of hot springs in the area.

Visit the beaches here and experience the warm, geothermal water currents; or head to the Craters of the Moon geothermal site to see geysers, steaming craters and boiling mud pools.

This is also a great place to experience something completely different – with the strong sulphur smell combined with the steam vents constantly shifting, collapsing and reforming creating an atmosphere like no other.

The Tongariro National Park was created in 1887 when its three volcanoes, Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe, were gifted to the people of New Zealand by the Ngati Tuwharetoa people, and is a must-see.

The lake itself is popular for an abundance of activities you can try to get your adrenaline pumping, with everything from bungee jumping to skydiving, canyoning to whitewater rafting and caving!

Mountain biking and trout fishing are also popular. And hikers will not be disappointed with a variety of tracks covering thousands of kilometres to choose from.

The walks cover a stunning array of environment types, from alpine terrain, lake and river trails to tracks in thermal and historic areas.

For those of you who enjoy a good challenge, you might like to try one of the Great Walks – there are 9 in total and all of these will take you between 2 and 4 days to complete, taking you through some of the most stunning New Zealand countryside.

For a fantastic full day walk that will take you well into the beauty of the region, you can't go past the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. This is a full day walk and it was rated as 'the best one day trek in New Zealand' and listed by many as one of the 'top 10 day treks in the world'.

No matter the season, a visit to Taupo and its extraordinary lake will not disappoint those seeking a real life fairytale.



### WHEN TO GO

**Summer:** December - February. Ideal for the beaches and lakes, water sports, hiking, camping and more. Temperatures average 21 - 32 degrees celsius (70 - 90F), depending on region.

**Autumn:** March - May. Great for sunny days, without too much heat. Hiking, kayaking, mountain biking are ideal. Temperatures average 7 - 21 degrees celsius (45 - 70F), depending on region.

**Winter:** June - August. Head to the hills for some skiing and snowboarding! New Zealand has some of the world's best snow fields! Temperatures average 1.5 - 15.5 degrees celsius (35 - 60F), depending on region.

**Spring:** September - November. Watch the country come to life with flowers, wildlife and waterfalls in abundance! Temperatures average 4.5 - 18 degrees celsius (40 - 65F), depending on region.

### HOW TO BOOK

*We recommend the following travel agents for your NZ trip:*

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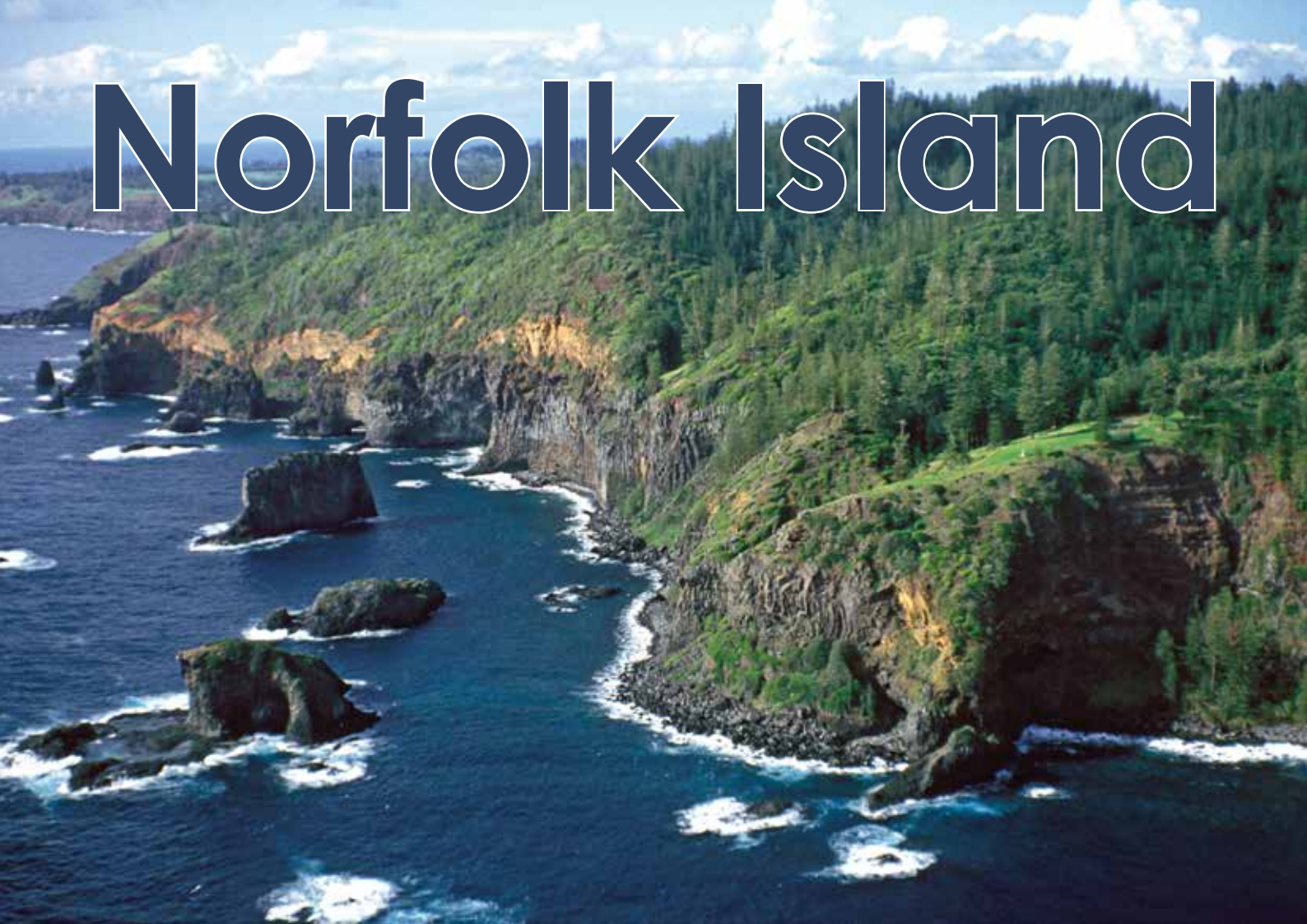


Images: 100% Pure New Zealand





# Norfolk Island



Barely visible from the sky, Norfolk Island is a world of unspoilt beauty, where a forest of evergreen pine meets the ocean, lush hills and valleys meet the beach. This is how life should be.

Part of Australia for more than 100 years, Norfolk Island was first settled in the 14th and 15th Centuries by seafarers from New Zealand – well before Captain James Cook arrived in 1774 and named the island. When the First Fleet arrived, 15 convicts and 7 free men were sent to the island to take control, with more arriving in the first 12 months. The commercial development of the island began and in the years that followed, the island was transformed into a prosperous region, predominantly through the export of the Norfolk Island Pine. Though there was development, the splendour and the beauty of the island remained intact and has been preserved since.

Just 2 hours flight from Sydney and Auckland, Norfolk Island is a tropical paradise.



## Weather

The mild tropical weather conditions will have you comfortable at any time of year. The summer days are generally under 28 degrees, the nights a warm 20, while winter temperatures can be anywhere from 12 at night to 20 during the day.

## Accommodation

The island has a range of accommodation options to suit all kinds of traveller, with more than 60 properties to suit all kinds of budgets. From hotels and luxury cottages, to self contained units and budget apartments. When arriving you need to have your accommodation pre-booked or you won't even make it past immigration at the airport.

## Food & Shopping

The food on Norfolk is fantastic. All fruit and vegetables are actually grown on the island, freshly picked and ready to eat!! Not to mention the fresh fish and beef, as well as locally made produce like coffee, honey and cheese. There are more than 30 restaurants, cafes and clubs where you can enjoy fantastic fresh dishes.

If its shopping you're after, there are markets held every Sunday morning with a range of arts and crafts, souvenirs and home made produce. Meanwhile the Farmers markets are held every Saturday morning and you can buy yourself some seasonal fruit and vegetables for a great price!

## Beaches

Norfolk Island beaches include Slaughter Bay, Anson Bay, Norfolk Island Beach, Duncombe Bay and Emily Bay. Emily Bay is the safest place on the island to swim and the sparkling crystal clear waters are protected from both the breakers and the southern ocean.

It's popular for young families in particular who can rest assured their little ones will enjoy a swim in safe waters.

Anson Bay is the island's most gorgeous beach and is located at the bottom of a steep cliff face. Its more secluded than the other beaches and is a great place to explore.

The track down is not for the light hearted, but its well worth it once you're at the bottom. Its a popular beach for surfers and swimmers, but you need to be careful of the drop off when you're walking out into the water as it might come as a surprise.

If snorkelling is what you're after, Slaughter Bay is full of colourful marine life and well worth the visit.



## Tours

Most of the tours on the island are based around the natural environment, from 4WD eco tours to island discoveries, horse riding and reef tours. If you want to tour the island yourself, you can hire a rental car for a great price and take yourself around the island. Grab yourself a map and take a drive to some of the island's great beaches!

If you want to see the ocean from a different view, there are plenty of boat tours that will take you out to explore. To discover life under the ocean, without even getting your feet wet, take a glass bottom boat tour to see the wonderful array of tropical fish in one of the world's most southern coral reefs. You might also take to the waters in a kayak for a relaxing paddle, try your hand at fishing, or plunge right in with one of the diving or snorkelling tours.

Back on the land, you can find some fascinating tours and attractions that will take you around the island, whether you go on your own or with a tour group.

The island has a history of carnage that will have you cringing, but will also leave you fascinated, and a great walk to do is the ghost tour which will introduce you not only to stories of the past, but if you're lucky, you might even see or hear something "ghostly" yourself! Learn about the commandants, convicts and settlers who once lived on the island, which is actually known as one of the most brutal settlements of the British Empire.



Tours take you through Kingston – the main township during the Second and early Third Settlements. Kingston is in the centre of the World Heritage Listed Kingston and Arthurs Vale Historic Area - one of the group of 11 Australian Convict Sites.

There are 4 museums that tell the story of the island's history and you can take a guided tour of the Area or follow the walking tracks yourself.

As a place of secondary punishment, the area has a reputation as one of the harshest and cruellest penal settlement. Visit the cemetery, ruins and standing structures from centuries past, buildings from the convict era, and see the archaeological remains, landform and landscape elements.

If you take the ghost tour, you will hear about the harsh history of the region from locals in the know.

You might also like to take a historic tour of the old settlement sites at Pitcairn Settlers Village, visit Bloody Bridge, Captain Cook lookout and Cooks monument.

## Nature

If you love getting back to nature, the national park is the place to go with its abundance of Norfolk Island's pine trees and rainforest.



The National Park covers 650 hectares and comprises two sections, the Mount Pitt section on Norfolk Island 4.60 square kilometres and the neighbouring 1.9 square kilometre Phillip Island, as well as the much smaller Nepean Island. The National Park has some fantastic walking tracks, as well as stunning views from both Mt Pitt and Mt Bates – the highest points on the island. Take along a picnic or some food ready for a BBQ feast, get your walking shoes on and enjoy a journey through lush palm forests, along the coastal fringe and into a world of Norfolk Island pine.

You can even walk beneath the tallest tree ferns on the planet!

There are a range of walks, from gentle to moderate and varying in length up to an hour and a half. Some of the tracks include steep sections and many of the tracks can become very slippery if its wet, so just be wary of what track you are doing on what day.

The Bird Rock track has the most challenging section in the park and will take you on a steep walk, through pine forest to the cliff top overlooking Bird Rock and return. If you don't want to do the steep climb, you can take the Red Stone link track.

The Old Mountain track was the main access to Mt Pitt prior to World War II and you can still see the remnants of a gun emplacement; while the 1.7 kilometre Bridle track takes you along the edge of the coastline.



And easy walk is the Summit track which takes you along the ridge top from the peak of Mt Pitt to the peak of Mt Bates.

Within the park is the botanic gardens, which allow you to walk through the gorgeous flora and fauna of the region. The Botanic gardens have boardwalks suitable for wheelchairs and strollers and you can wander through a display of gorgeous plants in their natural environment, and if you're lucky you might even come across some of the island's birdlife, including the green parrot which is not found anywhere else in the world!

In fact, many of the species you will find in the National Park have evolved into unique, or endemic, forms due to the isolation on Norfolk.

The longest walk here is the Rainforest Gully circuit, 600 metres long, where you can wander through the rainforest gully looking in wonder at the giant vines and gorgeous surrounds.

Norfolk Island truly is a nature lover's paradise and with its unspoilt beauty.



# Just go



# Singapore

More than a  
stopover

Often overlooked as a holiday destination in favour of a stop-over Singapore is a world of beauty, offering an immense variety of activities to suit all tastes. Located off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, Singapore is a highly urbanised country. Its skyscrapers and subways reflect modern times, while the Chinese, Malay and Indian influences provide an abundance of cultures. The tropical climate, fantastic food and great shopping make the English-speaking Singapore an ideal choice for a short break.

Founded in the early 1800s as a British trading colony, Singapore is one of the world's most successful

countries and has the world's busiest port. Just north of the equator, it doesn't matter what time of year you decide to visit, with weather remains relatively the same year-round. Generally sunny and warm, small showers are experienced at least once almost every day, with the most rainfall during November, December and January. Severe thunderstorms can also happen at any time, so you might want to be prepared just in case.

With just over five million people on the island, Singapore is the second most densely populated country in the world – yet more than 50% of the area is covered by parks and reserves. Being small makes

Singapore ideal for a few days break, and despite its size, there are plenty of places to see.

The centre of the city includes Orchard Road – which is well known around the world for its fantastic shopping; Marina Bay, which features the famous boat-shaped 'SkyPark', perched atop the three towers that make up the world's most expensive hotel, and also includes casino, shopping mall, convention centre and museum; Riverside with its museums, theatres, restaurants and clubs; and the financial district Shenton Way, known for its commercial skyscrapers on both sides of the road.

The northern part of the island (Woodlands) is home to Singapore's residential and industrial neighbourhoods; the north-west is jungle – ideal for the military training that is completed here; and in the west, and along the east coast, you will find predominantly residential precincts as well as many kilometres of beach (on the east coast).

If you want to see the "real Singapore" away from the Central Business District (CBD), these are ideal places to visit.

You have probably heard about the "strange laws" in Singapore – the rumours are true.

*You can receive fines, a caning, hard labour, or even jail time, for things like not flushing the toilet after using it; littering; selling chewing gum; walking around your house naked; "excessive" hugging; and connecting to an unsecured wi-fi network (considered hacking).*

You also can't take more than one packet of cigarettes into the country; yet – prostitution is legal (although low profile).

Go figure.







## Eating Out, Singapore Style

When it comes to eating, with Malay, Indian and Chinese influences, there is no doubt that food in Singapore is amazing! Often, the best places to eat are found down side streets – small cafes with just a few tables and chairs provide a variety of local, authentic, flavours.

Tasting one of the “local” dishes is one of the best experiences you will have in Singapore, from sambal stingray, to clay-pot seafood and beef rendang. You will also find quality restaurants with world-wide cuisine, from American take aways, to Japanese, Thai, Italian and French restaurants.

Head to the SkyPark and have a luxury (and expensive) meal or snack with a Singapore Sling; or take yourself down to China Town, sit and relax with a bottle of Tiger beer and enjoy some of the best food the region has to offer.

## Shopping

Shopping is a great way to spend a day or two, or five, in Singapore. There are malls and markets, not to mention low taxes, and with most shops open from 10am til 10pm, you can't go wrong. Shops along Orchard Road and Scotts Road form Singapore's premier shopping district, with several kilometres of shopping malls and variety and quality products to suit all tastes.

### Haji Lane

If you are a fan of laneway or boutique shopping, bored with big fashion labels and want something with more character, the popular Haji Lane is an ideal choice for shopping in Singapore. This tiny lane is located in Kampong Glam neighborhood, historically home of the Malay aristocracy. The heritage district, once an empty street of pre-war shop houses, has been restored and many of the shop houses have new tenants, including a range of design and IT

firms, art galleries and restaurants; blending in with more traditional businesses like textiles, carpet stores and blacksmiths. Together, they represent a good mixture of old and new culture.

### Parco Marina Bay

If you are looking to shop around to find something a little special, Parco Marina Bay is a shopping centre which specialises in classy fashion and lifestyle. is a three level shopping centre, located in the Millenia Walk above Promenade MRT station (the Circle Line).

The centre opened in 2010 and measures 85,000 square feet, providing a great alternative to overcrowded malls with its quirky stores. The Parco brand opened its first mall in Tokyo in 1969 and the aim of the centre is to create shopping malls that enhance the market in which the mall is located in. With more than 100 tenants, you will not only find interesting apparel from Japan and Korea, but

you will also have the opportunity to step into a retro, handcrafted atmosphere. The first level caters to unique brands which have a strong emphasis on natural ingredients, including Ahava from Israel, Korres from Greece and Harnn from Thailand. Fashion labels and boutiques from Korea, Japan and Hong Kong adorn the second level and the third level provides an array of food options, with Japanese food taking centre stage. The food hall on the third floor is aptly called “Itadakimasu” which means “Let's eat” in Japanese.

Whether you're looking for something special for yourself, something for friends, or something to tempt your tastebuds, you will find it at Parco Marina Bay. Shops are open until 9.30pm, when you might take a walk along Marina Bay, also called “Garden City by the Bay” – a greenfield site surrounded by water and gardens, with more than 250,000 rare plants.

### Mustafa Centre

Feeling jetlagged after a long flight? Need to rush out to get a last minute birthday or Christmas present? Or just looking for a shopping experience like no other? Mustafa Shopping Centre is not only one of the best shopping malls in Singapore, but it is also the only one which open 24 hours a day; which makes it ideal if you really just want to shop – no matter the time of day!

Mustafa Centre is set in the Little India district, located at the Syed Alwi Road, with its closest MRT station being Farrer Park (North East Line). The first shop was established in 1971 selling ready-made garments and the centre has since grown with customers able to purchase almost anything from more than 300,000 items, covering an area of 400,000 square feet within this six storey building.



A cult favourite, you can find almost everything in this market, including jewellery, household appliances, books, CD, DVDs, souvenirs, watches, electronic goods, footwear, clothes and even groceries. Mustafa has a fantastic range of items, and good prices to match. There is also a large selection of Indian apparel and accessories available. The centre also offers business services, including Foreign Exchange, travel and a hotel.

The centre is convenient, large and there are plenty of interesting things to see and buy; but you will want to ensure you have plenty of time if you want to take full advantage of all the centre has to offer. A few hours, or a full day, get yourself ready to shop til you drop!

### Sungei Road Thieves Market

Sungei Road Thieves Market is the biggest and oldest flea market in Singapore and has operated since the 1930s. It and is located between Serangoon Road and Jalan Besar, close to Bugis MRT Station, and was named for its location along

the banks of the Rochor River (“sungei” means “river” in Malay). The market is one of the most popular flea markets in the country for tourists and locals alike, and has more than 400 vendors.

It is said the markets were originally the place where stolen goods were sold – and rumour has it that items and supplies looted from the British army in the mid-1900s would mysteriously find their way to the markets. Today, the market sells mostly old bric-a-brac or second-hand goods, including items such as old electrical goods, clothing and accessories, shoes, books, old souvenirs, watches, amulets, toys, kitchenware, old books and magazines, vintage suitcases, cuckoo clocks, old postcards and LP records. The size of the market has decreased, predominantly due to the construction of the Jalan Besar MRT station, and vendors have been forced to move on to the nearby streets. The market is open daily, but the best time to visit is in the afternoon during the weekend.





## Things to do

Whether you only have a few days, or a week, there is plenty to see and do in Singapore to ensure your visit here fully takes advantage of this stunning country. With a range of museums and galleries, colourful nightlife and watersports, rainforests and theme parks, there is something for the entire family.

A great way to see all the sights is to do a hop-on, hop-off bus tour around the area – it will take you past all the most popular areas, and give you the chance to explore at your own leisure (all you have to do once you have seen enough of one place, is to get on the next bus).

Travelling around this way, you might see more of Singapore in a day than you would otherwise see in a week; and if you're planning on staying a while – you can also source which places you would like to return to if time runs out in the first day.

For nature lovers, the Botanic Gardens will have you wandering through the rainforest and taking a walk amongst more than 1,000 orchid species and 2,000 hybrids.

Founded in 1859 by a horticultural society as a leisure garden, in 1990 the gardens came under the management of the National Parks Board and saw a comprehensive improvement programme which helped to bring it to the forefront of botanical and horticultural activity. There are also a number of other landscaped gardens and parks on the island. If you want to get up close and personal with the animals, Pulau Ubin is an island off the Changi Village and includes a tortoise and turtle sanctuary; or you might like to visit the island's infamous zoo, bird park or marine park.

With so much ethnic variety, Singapore is a great way to experience a range of cultures, through a simple tour of the region.

Little India, Chinatown, Kampong Glam, Joo Chiat and Katong are just some of the areas where you will experience many forms of Chinese, Malay, Middle-Eastern, Indian and European influences. Singapore is also home to a large variety of temples and mosques, including Thian Hock Keng Temple - a taoist temple dedicated to Mazu, the goddess of the sea, which was built in the 1830's; Sri Mariammam Temple - Singapore's oldest Hindu temple which dates back to 1827; and Abdul Gaffoor Mosque – a south Indian style mosque which was built between 1891 and 1919. With so much cultural diversity, there are also a great number of festivals and events held each year, including the Singapore Food Festival in July, the Singapore Grand Prix, Dragon Boat Festival, Singapore Sun Festival and World Gourmet Summit – to name just a few. No matter what time of year, you are bound to find a festival where you can experience an abundance of colours and flavours.

You will have no problems finding fun in Singapore, with one of the most notable attractions – and popular for families – being Sentosa, a separate island that has been transformed from a military fort, into a resort and theme park. Take the skyrail or monorail across from the mainland, and look out in wonder at the country from above. Visited by around five million people each year, Sentosa includes Fort Siloso, a 2 kilometre sheltered beach with restaurants and resorts, and Resorts World Sentosa, which includes Universal Studios theme park, a casino, and the world's largest oceanarium.

And if you're after adventure, you won't have any trouble finding activities, with everything from diving with sharks and mountain biking, to water-sports, go-karts and rock climbing.

No matter what your flavour in food, lifestyle and experiences, Singapore is a country that is brimming with beauty, culture and history, with exciting attractions and events all year round.



## Travel to Singapore

[www.yoursingapore.com](http://www.yoursingapore.com)

**Visas:** Most visitors to Singapore do not require a visa for entry. For more information on visa requirements and the Visa Free Transit Facility, you can check with the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority or the Singapore Overseas Mission closest to you.

**Airport:** Singapore's Changi Airport is one of the busiest and best connected in the world, handling over 100 airlines flying to some 300 cities. There are four local carriers, including the world-renowned Singapore Airlines and budget airlines Tiger Airways and Scoot. The award-winning airport itself is jam-packed with activities and amenities, making it a world-class attraction in its own right.

**Changi Airport handles more than 6,600 flights every week, or about one every 90 seconds.**

**Currency:** The Singapore dollar is used here and notes come in denominations of S\$2, S\$5, S\$10, S\$50, S\$100, S\$1,000 and S\$10,000. Coins come in 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents and S\$1.

**Weather:** Singapore is hot and humid all year-round, with temperatures usually reaching over 30°C. You should be prepared for rain at any time, which can be torrential but usually brief.

**Safe Drinking Water:** Unlike a number of other countries in this part of the world, you can drink water straight from the tap as the water in Singapore passes World Health Organization standards. You can also buy bottled water easily.

**Language:** You will be able to speak English to Singaporeans, most of whom are fluent in it. Many Singaporeans also speak an additional language, usually Mandarin Chinese, Malay or Tamil.



# CITY HIGHLIGHT

## *San Francisco, California*

Surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay, the beautiful city of San Francisco, California in the United States of America, is one of the world's most popular Pacific mainland destinations.

Things you must see or do:

San Francisco is best known for the iconic Golden Gate Bridge, which was once named the “bridge that couldn’t be built”. The bridge opened in 1937 and crosses the strait between San Francisco and the Marin headlands. The bridge was constructed over a period of 4 years, with 11 lives lost during the building process as workers faced winds, fog, rock and dangerous ocean tides. It stretches for 1.7 miles and is bright orange in colour. No doubt you’ve seen it on many TV shows, the least of which is the opening credits of Full House.

One of the major forms of transport in San Francisco is the cable car. They’ve been around since the late 1800s and run on tracks (with underground cables). You can hear the bells throughout the city.

San Francisco is home to the most amazing Chinatown. It’s like a city within a city and is filled with shops, restaurants, markets, temples and museums. It’s a great place to go if you want to test your fortune with some cookies or enjoy some of the tastiest Chinese food in the US.

In the bay itself, Alcatraz Island is home to the famous Alcatraz prison. Alcatraz was a federal prison that housed some of the worst felons America has ever seen, including notorious gangster Al “Scarface” Capone. It was open from 1934 until 1963 and in that time, though there were many attempts, no prisoner ever escaped. Most were captured, some shot and others drowned or were presumed drowned. There were typically around 275 prisoners at one time, with one guard for every 3 prisoners. Prior to 1934, it was a military prison. Today, there are numerous tour operators that take visitors to the island and it’s well worth the visit.

If you love shopping, take yourself to the famous Union Square where you’ll have the opportunity to shop at some of the world’s most exclusive designer boutiques. The Westfield Shopping Centre is home to the second largest Bloomingdale’s (after New York) and second largest Nordstrom in the country.

There’s so much to see and do in San Francisco – if you’re planning a trip, be sure you stay a while! And don’t forget to take a dip in the Pacific while you’re there!



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# Gourmet Travel

In this edition of Pacific Traveller, we take you on a journey with us to 4 of Australia's most amazing gourmet travel regions.

We visit the Margaret River region of Western Australia, Gippsland, Barossa Valley and the Dandenong Ranges in Victoria, and the beautiful Hunter Valley region in New South Wales. Join us on a journey that is filled with temptation, tantalising tastes and the most amazing flavours in the country (and the world).





## GIPPSLAND, VICTORIA

Your mouth will water before you even hit the road in Victoria's Gippsland region, where fresh produce and great wine come together as one to tempt you and entice even the fussiest of food lovers. From dairy foods to fine free-range meat products, organic fresh fruit and vegetables to locally caught seafood, Gippsland will take you into a world of taste, where exciting new ventures satisfy the gourmet senses. The Gippsland region stretches from just east of Melbourne to the state border with New South Wales in the far east, lying between the Great Dividing Range watershed and Bass Strait. The region is best known for mining and farming as well as its fantastic array of tourist destinations. It is a popular destination for tourists and locals with its gorgeous beaches, stunning rivers and lakes, spectacular forests and enticing snowfields (the Australian Alps), and the exceptional quality of local produce ensures people keep going back for more.



IMAGE: Tourism Australia

Whether you take yourself on a drive through the region, go on one of the many tours offered by local operators, or even if you decide to spend a few days on bicycle travelling through some of the towns you are bound to find an abundance of fantastic places to visit and tasty treats that will leave you wanting more. The Gippsland Gourmet Deli trail is one of Australia's longest established and best known food tourism destinations. You will feel welcome from the moment you drive past the "You are now entering Gourmet Deli country" sign on the highway and the trail takes you through a variety of farms, vineyards, dairies and outlets where you will find an array of local produce and smallgoods. In South Gippsland, there are vineyards and specialty farms where you can learn about producing everything in the region, from vines to premium grass fed beef and lamb. Have some lunch and enjoy some tastings as you travel through towns like Leongatha, Korumburra, Meeniyan, Fish Creek, Foster, Port Albert and Wonthaggi and step into a world of fantastic locally produced meat, wine and olive oil. While you're in the region, take a moment at the farmers markets which are held every weekend, wander through some of the many art galleries, buy yourself some organic produce and dine at quality restaurants. Visit the Coal Creek Historical Village, Mount Best Lookout and Wilson's Promontory National Park – one of Victoria's most loved destinations! Located at the southernmost tip of mainland Australia, Wilson's Promontory is a stunning world of huge granite mountains, open forest, rainforest and coastlines, with a variety of bushwalks, camping and retreats. You can also see the largest network of inland waterways at the Gippsland Lakes, enjoy some fishing at Port Welshpool, visit the popular coastal town of Inverloch where you will find an abundance of eateries, and follow the Southern Gippsland Wine Trail. Just to name a few! Spend time getting to know the people of South Gippsland, known for being an industrious and independent lot who have taught themselves how to manage the land and to thrive through the use of all things natural. Over the years, the Gippsland region has developed a high quality reputation for its fantastic dairy, seafood and meat products and it continues to grow. In the warmer months, you can not only enjoy the treats, but you can even pick your own fruit and berries from many of the farms and orchards. Farmers markets provide easy access throughout the remainder of the year and with a number of restaurants, cafes, pubs, bistros and bakeries in the region, you will find plenty of places to enjoy a meal cooked and served with a friendly smile. If you're looking to tuck into some fantastic fresh seafood, try one of the fishing villages along the coast. Gippsland is also one of Victoria's fastest-growing wine regions with more than 40 cellar doors in all directions. If fine boutique beers and real ales are more your thing, you will also find breweries where you can test some of the locally made flavours. The region comes alive year round with regional food and wine festivals; so sit back, relax with a glass of wine and some local cheeses, and enjoy everything the region has to offer.

## HUNTER VALLEY, NEW SOUTH WALES

The Hunter Valley region is known for its great wine, fantastic food and friendly locals. Hunter Valley is without a doubt, one of the top gourmet destinations in Australia – and it was even named one of the "top 10 wine travel destinations in the world for 2013" by wine magazine Wine Enthusiast! Just a few hours' drive from Sydney, Hunter Valley is Australia's oldest and one of its most well-known wine regions. Set amongst the Brokenback Range, the region is so popular it is actually the most visited spot in Australia after Sydney itself. It is here in the Hunter Valley region that you will find world class wines which can last for generations, a vast variety of traditional contemporary delights and a rich diversity of people, history and stunning natural attractions. There are more than 150 wineries and over 50 spectacular restaurants scattered throughout the region, including Pokolbin, Wollombi, Broke, Lovedale and Maitland, and it is a food and wine lover's paradise, with an array of award winning wineries and cellar doors mixing with high quality al fresco cafes and fine dining restaurants.



IMAGES: Tourism Australia

Local fresh produce is abundant in the region, from cheeses and other dairy, to breads and olive oils – to name just a few. From the locally made condiments, sauces and jams to the chocolates and homemade gelato, you will never want to leave. Visit any of the restaurants and you will have the chance to enjoy the delights of acclaimed chefs who provide their own unique styles and a personal touch to every meal. In Hunter Valley, wining and dining go hand in hand and your trip will be incomplete with a visit to the cellar doors, where you can taste an array of the area's specialty wines. Wine has been made in the region since the 1820s and outstanding flavours have been created from some of the oldest vines in the country, including plantings of Shiraz in 1867, Semillon in 1899, Chardonnay in 1908 and Pinot Noir in 1921. You can drive yourself through the region to experience the best food and wine there is to offer, or if you're looking for something a little different, join a bicycle tour or relax in the comfort of a horsedrawn carriage. There are plenty of food and wine tours available throughout the region, and you might even like to try to your hand at cooking at one of the fantastic local cooking schools. The Hunter Valley region is so renowned for its food and wine, they even have a full month to rejoice with the Wine and Food Month held in June, celebrating the lifestyle of the region through its wines and fresh local produce. Throughout the month, visitors can cosy up by the fire for taste sensations, experience up close and personal dining experiences with local chefs and winemakers, and you can even get in the kitchen yourself and learn how to create your own magic using local produce. In May, the Lovedale Long Lunch sees wineries along Lovedale Road showcase their wines and local produce through a series of lunches; and in October you will be treated to the Hunter Semillon and Seafood luncheon with seafood and cooking classes, oyster tastings and more than 150 local Semillon wines to taste, as well as the Opera in the Vineyards at Wyndham Estate and Jazz in the Vines at Tyrrell's Wines. Spring also signals the return of concerts at Bimbadgen Estate, Hope Estate and Tempus Two, so sit back in the sunshine, listen to some fantastic music and enjoy the wine! No matter what you decide to do in the Hunter Valley, you are guaranteed to leave with some sweet memories, a full belly and bags full of tasty treats. With fantastic food, wine and scenery, bring your family and friends and visit for a day, a weekend or even a week or two.



## PERTH / MARGARET RIVER REGIONS, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

From world class wineries to gourmet food and high quality dining, mixed with gorgeous coastal scenery, rivers and mountain ranges, the South West region of Western Australia is a dream destination. From the intriguing city of Perth, to the gorgeous Margaret River; Swan Valley to Albany – the regions here are as vast in their fresh produce as they are in their landscape. Driven by the mining sector, Perth is a city of variety and the food and wine is no exception. Sit back and relax with some gourmet fish and chips while you watch the sun set over the ocean, drink world class wines in the sunshine (with Perth being the sunniest capital city in Australia averaging 3,000 hours of sunshine per year), visit the fresh food markets and take yourself for a picnic in Kings Park or the Botanic Gardens – one of the largest inner city parks in the world! Enjoy local indigenous flavours as you see the wildflowers in bloom, or simply enjoy a meal at one of the city's many cafes, restaurants and bars. No matter what you fancy, you will find it in Perth, but if you want to step out further, there are plenty of places outside the city where you will experience gourmet travel like no other.



IMAGE: Margaret River Gourmet Escape



IMAGE: Tourism Australia

Just a short drive from Perth is Swan Valley and the Darling Range, where you will find an array of taste sensations. With the vineyards here being the oldest in Western Australia, many are still run by descendants of early European settlers, your palette will experience a party as you sample fruits and feast on the region's delicious, award winning produce. Tour the region by car, bike or horse drawn carriage, chat with the locals, dine at the restaurants and cafes, visit the distilleries and test some of the fabulous local produce – from cheeses and olives, to chocolate and ice cream; not to mention the fresh fruit and vegetable stalls you will find as you drive through. The region is filled with gorgeous boutique wineries set amongst larger ones, with the region's specialty being Verdelho wine. There are also have some of the world's finest fortified varieties and you will even find both liqueur Verdelho and liqueur Shiraz, which are rarely made outside this region. The Margaret River region is famous for its wines and you will find yourself wanting to stay longer as you taste the best the region has to offer. Located 277 kilometres from Perth, the coast here is renowned world-wide for its surf breaks, while the surrounding region is famous for its wine production and tourism, which sees around 500,000 visitors each year. There are more than 60 cellar doors in the area, many of which have free tastings. The region accounts for around 20% of all the country's premium wine sales and even in just one afternoon here, you can see why. Take a drive through the region, or a tour if you prefer, and taste the varieties of Chardonnays, Semillons, Sauvignon Blancs, Shiraz, Cabernets and Merlots. Visit breweries, cheese factories and olive groves. And be sure to dine at one of the many high quality restaurants and stay at one of the superb accommodation choices, from spas and five star hotels, to chalets and budget options. Excellent restaurants can be found at a number of wineries so be sure to drop in for a fantastic meal. Margaret River will also entice with a range of other fresh local products, including venison, coffee, ice cream and chocolates. The biggest recommendation – be sure to bring yourself a BIG bag! You are guaranteed to fill it. The Great Southern region of Western Australia, which includes Albany, Denmark, Frankland River, Mount Barker and Porongurup, offers a variety of wining and dining choices. The green fertile plains around Albany itself provide the ideal backdrop for fresh produce and farmers are flocking to the region. A 75 kilometre food and wine trail has even been established here which will take you along the coastline and through the hillside to discover locally produced wines and beers, as well as organic cheese, luscious seafood and fresh fruits and vegetables. While you're in the region, enjoy a BBQ at the Stirling Ranges and see nature at its best, take a picnic at the Porongurups Ranges where views are unsurpassed, and enjoy different flavours as you drop into each town and find yourself a local producer selling their best stock.

## YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONGS, VICTORIA

The Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges has an abundance of fine restaurants and quality wineries, not to mention secluded boutique accommodation where you can take yourself, your family or your friends to escape from the hum drum of the city and immerse yourself in country culture. The outstanding ambience of the food and wine experiences here match the region's history, which dates back to the early 1800s. From berry to dairy farms, cattle properties to vineyards, grand old pubs to specialty bakeries – the flavours of the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges are a world of their own and something you should experience at least once in your lifetime. Spend your day at a local winery, feasting on gourmet local produce and fruity sparkling wine for breakfast, before experiencing everything the cellar door has to offer. The valley is perfect for cool climate wines which are grown in mixed soil types, with the main grape varieties being chardonnay and sauvignon blanc in whites and pinot noir, cabernet sauvignon and shiraz in reds. There are, however, more than 40 types of wines and blends to try in over 100 wineries, so be sure to stay a while! Some of the wineries even offer free wine appreciation lessons, so get your taste buds and noses ready!



IMAGE: De Bortoli Wines Pty Ltd

If you're a lover of a good picnic, there are plenty of fresh foods to choose from. Follow the Yarra Valley Food Trail – with a number of stops sign posted along the way so you know exactly where to go and what you will see there. You will find orchards, farm gates and roadside stalls aplenty so you can stock up on all your favourite locally produced foods. Berries and cherries, cheese and chicken, chilli and capsicum, smoked salmon and pasta – the possibilities are endless! The town of Yarra Glen is just 40 kilometres north-east from Melbourne's CBD and is actually home to the first vineyard in the Valley, planted by brother William, James and Donald Ryrie in 1838. The town has a long history of gourmet indulgence and aside from the fantastic wines, you can find a range of fresh, locally grown produce. If you're really after something different, you might even stop by at a working farm and take a walk alongside the resident cattle, pigs and sheep. Stop by a farmer's market and pick up some taste sensations. The Yarra Valley Regional Food Group Farmers' Market is held on the third Sunday of every months and is the longest running market in Victoria. Speak to the local farmers and producers while you taste test or purchase delicacies, from seasonal fruit, juices and vegetables, to breads, biscuits, jams, cheeses, olives, honey and more. If you're a lover of cider, the Yarra Valley Cider and Ale Trail will be heavenly. With seven cider and beer producers in the region, you are sure to find some fantastic flavours. The history of beer making in the region dates back to the early 1800s when it was discovered the land was not only great for grapes, but also for hops. Cider production commenced in the 1900s and you will find flavours created from Australian apples and pears, as well as kiwi fruit. In the Dandenong Ranges, a drive will take you through rolling hillsides, steep valleys and gullies covered in rainforest where you can stop at one of the popular eateries and tuck into a famous Devonshire tea, enjoy a visit to a farm to taste fresh berries, or feast on local produce in a comfortable restaurant setting. Take a basket of local delicacies on a walk with you through the National Rhododendron Gardens or the Dandenong Ranges National Park and feast as you surround yourself in nature. If you're heading to the region in Autumn, be sure you stay for the Yarra Valley Food and Wine Festival which highlights the local produce and producers with a range of world class dining events. The festival has something for everyone, including cooking classes with the experts, tea parties and regional produce demonstrations.



# PHILLIP ISLAND

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Just a 90 minute drive from the hustle and bustle of Melbourne, Phillip Island is abundant in wildlife, has an alluring history and breathtaking coastal scenery,

When visiting Australia, Phillip Island is one island you don't want to miss!





by Chris Kolbu

You are a rock. You are sitting on a beach, perfectly still, near the mouth of a dry riverbed. The sun has set and twilight is draining the colour out of the landscape around you, rendering it in ever darker shades of blue and black. Through the deafening noise of winds and waves you can make out a frenzy of chatter coming from the water.

Lit now only by a crescent moon, you spot the source: a jagged shapelessness floating in the black water, lifted now and then by waves. The chatter grows louder. What you are hearing are the coordinating cries of a raft—a group—of little penguins attempting to rally more bodies together before their beach landing. Safety in numbers.

The little penguin is the smallest of the world's 17 known species of penguin. A fully fledged adult is a foot tall, weighing a mere kilo. It spends most of its time out at sea, alone, hunting pilchard and other schooling fish that live close to the surface. While they rarely dive deeper than six metres, the deepest recorded dive is more than twelve times that deep, at 73 metres. While at sea, they have few natural predators; starvation poses the larger danger. They move elegantly, effortlessly through water, insulated by a waterproof coating of feathers and a layer of air-trapping fur next to the skin.

They return to the surface only to breathe and eat, staying out for as long as 4 weeks at a time, ranging as far as 750 kilometres before returning home. There is real danger for them on land: strikingly appointed in blueish-black and white, they are a stark contrast to the light tones of a beach environment—easy to spot for birds of prey like the sea eagle, one their oldest predators.

In a performance played out thousands of times, this time for you, the rafts make their beach landing. They huddle together close to water and safety until everyone is ready. Larger groups appear more strident, while lone penguins and groups of two-three quickly lose confidence and seem almost shellshocked, bumbling back and forth. Confidence in numbers.

A group of little penguins on land is no longer called a raft. It becomes a waddle, for all the reasons you would think. During their adaptation to a life at sea, their legs have gradually receded into their bodies, to well below the knee.

Their forward motion on land looks more like a barely-controlled fall than anything else, a contrast made starker by their effortlessness in water.

It is now completely dark. The skies have cleared and the stars are out in full. This area of Phillip Island is unpopulated now—and unlit. In this darkness, free from light pollution, you can make out the the Milky Way stretching across the sky, and Orion—the great hunter—looming brilliantly over the sea. But you can only barely make out the shapes congregating at the water's edge, chattering away.

Like us, little penguins use their sense of sight for orientation and hunting; like us, they lack the night vision of nocturnal predators. Unlike us, they have a preternatural ability to find their way home, and to find the exact same route there every time.

While it differs from penguin to penguin—some enjoy a beachfront burrow while others waddle inland as far as 2 kilometres—they always take the same route.

You are still a rock. At any rate, a modern human camouflaged like one. And like any self-respecting modern human, you have a night vision scope equipped with an infrared torch.

You are, after all, on the Ultimate Adventure Tour, forgoing the grandstand with hundreds if not a thousand other people on the main landing beach. You have opted for a more intimate experience on a smaller beach with a maximum of 9 other rock-like beings, observing in rapt silence.

A complete ban on photography is ruthlessly enforced by the rangers at the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre.

During this part of the day, the little penguin is extremely wary of light; entire groups of penguins have been known to turn around and head back to sea after spotting a faraway flash. This is especially disastrous during the nesting season, where chicks are left in the burrows and are dependent on the protection and nourishment of their parents.





One by one, the waddles start, moving in tight formation toward the low brush on the far side of the beach.

In the harsh greens and blacks of night vision, you see them move homeward: some with uncanny precision, considering their awkward gait, others with no confidence at all, soon doubling back to join other groups.

Mostly, they share a certain absent-minded confidence honed by repetition—the commuter's ease—an ease that belies the very real danger they are in.

The penguins have no choice but to waddle this gauntlet every time they return home, closer to a violent death than at any other point in their life.

While a long game of evolutionary tug of war has allowed the penguins to mitigate the inherent dangers of their landings, it is a slow game, vulnerable to sudden upsets.

One of those upsets was the introduction by human settlers of the European red fox.

Originally introduced to Australia in the mid-1800s for no other purpose than suffer a gruesome death in fox hunts, the red fox has grown to become one of our most damaging invasive species, a carnivorous counterpoint to the rabbit.

After it was introduced to Phillip Island, it took less than 80 years to drive the little penguin population into near-extinction, reduced from ten thriving colonies to barely one.

That last colony—on the Summerland peninsula in the south-west corner of Phillip Island—is where the you can see the penguins today.

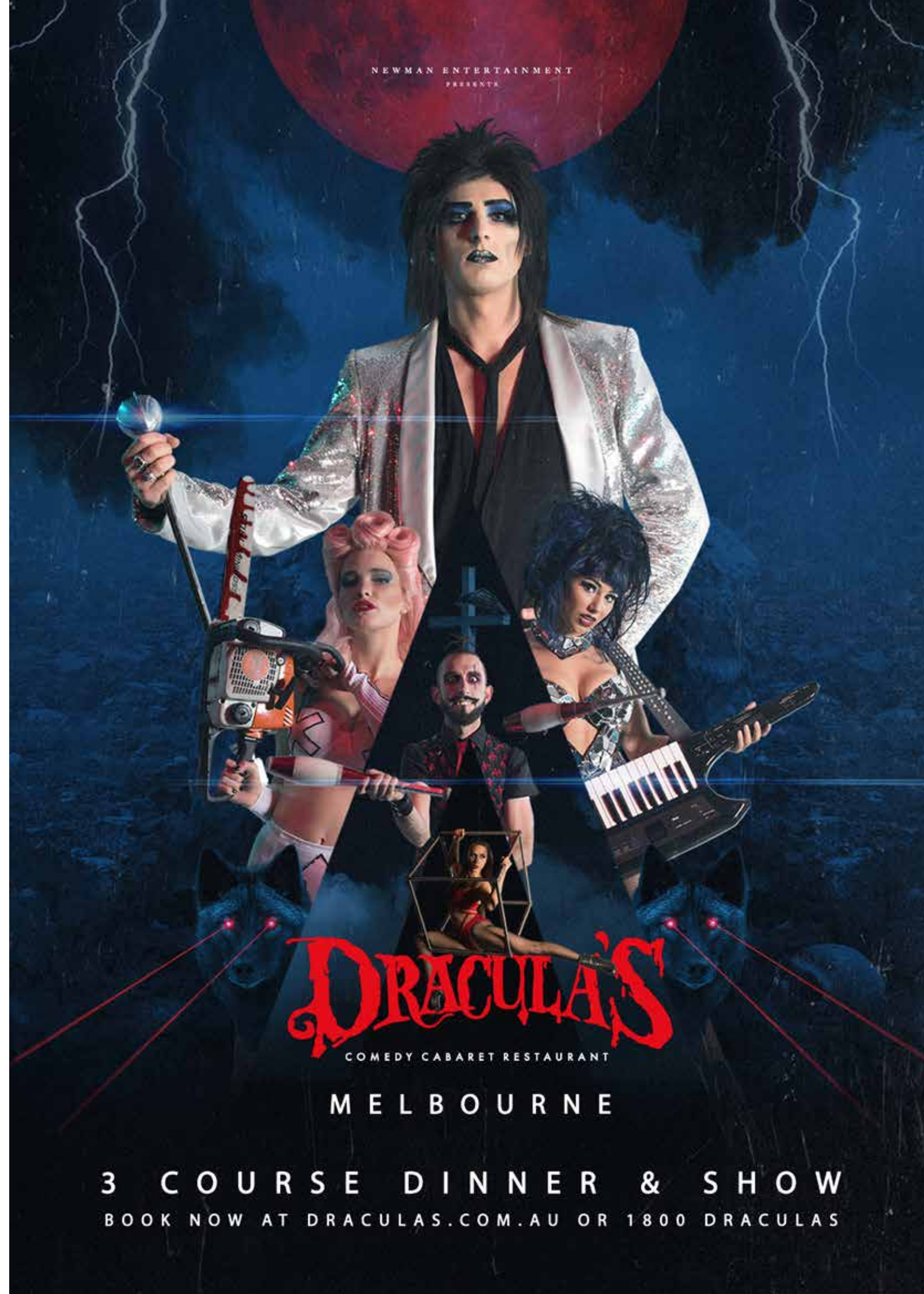


CREDIT: Phillip Island Nature Park

And something was. In 1985 the Penguin Protection Plan was announced, and it was no half measure. It dealt directly with the two largest dangers: foxes and humans. Further real estate development was halted and a buyback scheme put in place, with the ultimate goal of ending all human settlement on the peninsula. In 2010, that goal was achieved, and a year later Phillip Island Nature Parks was awarded a grant to rehabilitate the peninsula fully, including removing and demolishing houses and revegetating the area.

Today, foxes are all but eradicated from Phillip Island. Nature Parks employs a full-time hunter and even genetically tests fox droppings to see if any new foxes have wandered onto the island.

A 2012 fox estimate places the population at a mere 11 animals; years have gone by without a single penguin attack by a fox. The penguin colony is thriving, having nearly doubled its numbers since the 1980s. Now over 32,000 strong (not including 8,000 non-breeding penguins) it is the second largest in the world!



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With the majority of the penguins now safely vanished into dunes and vegetation, you and your fellow rocks rise and start making your way back to the centre. The wind is howling as you walk single-file down the beach, each of you lit by a single red beacon. All around you, a few meters off to either side, are little penguins: stragglers by the water; homemakers by their burrows, calling out for their mate. A society unto itself.

To be here at night is to be a privileged guest in a strange land—a silent witness to the rhythms and intricacies of a world normally hidden from us. It is a deeply humbling thought experiment to apply what you have seen tonight to the countless other societies out there in the animal kingdom. Worlds within worlds, most more ancient than ours.

After sunset, the roads on this part of the island are closed and parking lots evacuated; aside from the bitumen and the few remaining signs of human habitation, this is their space. Tens of penguin boxes—man-made burrows—have been placed around areas deserted by penguins after humans moved in, to encourage them to return. Everything that can be done is being done. The signs in the parking lot of the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre are telling: be sure to check under your car for penguins before you leave.

The Phillip Island Penguin Parade is the only commercial venue in the world where you can see penguins in their own environment. You will see the most penguins if you go during the breeding season, which lasts from August through to February. There is also a so-called false breeding season in May, where autumnal temperatures fool the penguins' hormones into believing it is spring again!

The Ultimate Adventure Tour starts around sunset every day and is limited to 10 people. Bookings are essential. Tickets are \$84 per person (\$100 including a 3 Parks Pass): <https://www.penguins.org.au/buy-tickets>

Phillip Island is located about 140km south-east of Melbourne, close to the Mornington peninsula. It has a year-round population of about 10,000, which swells to over 40,000 during summer and 100,000 on a busy weekend.

While people have been coming to Phillip Island since the 1920s to watch the penguins, it is not the only attraction the island has to offer.

There is something for everyone here, including a Grand Prix racetrack and some of the best surfing—the island has been declared a National Surfing Reserve—and snorkelling in the world.

Before Europeans arrived in Australia, Phillip Island was known by the Bunurong people of the Koolin nation as Corriang (or Millowl); their presence in the region around Western Port dates back over 40,000 years. In that period, Phillip Island was not settled permanently, but was visited and harvested in the summer months and during mutton bird season. It was discovered by Europeans in 1798, and settled a few years later.



CREDIT: Phillip Island Nature Park

Churchill Island is a small islet of only 57 hectares, tenuously connected to the main body of Phillip Island by wetlands. It was actually the first European settlement in Victoria, and has been farmed continuously since 1850. Today it is the home of the Churchill Island Heritage Farm, where visitors can catch a glimpse of farming life as it was back in the pioneering days. The farm has been extensively restored and features a homestead, farmhouse, cottages and workhouses. There are daily exhibits where you can learn more about farming and life back then, as well as see chores like sheep shearing and cow milking in action.

A beautiful footpath runs the entire circumference of the island, and is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about both the indigenous and settler history of the island. Walking along, you will be able to see many of the plants and trees indigenous to the island.

The most stunning are the ancient Moonah trees, some of which are at least 500 years old. Gnarled, with trunks that resemble twisted rope, they are considered sacred by the Bunurong people—and long-lived enough to have been standing long before the first European settlers arrived. The shoreline is beautiful in its own right, with dark red, almost purple rocks and wonderfully textured rock faces.

From the footpath you can also spot a great variety of birds: pelicans, cormorants, swans, royal spoonbills and shearwaters; the island and surrounding water is full of them.

One of the most unique is the Cape Barren Goose, one of the rarest types of geese in the world. Native only to Australia, it has an even grey plumage and a short, almost fluoro-yellow beak. You can't miss it.

The modern visitor centre houses a small museum of the island's history and a souvenir shop, as well as the the Churchill Island Café, a great place to stop for lunch while you are visiting the farm.

Tickets to the Churchill Island Heritage Farm are included in the 3 Parks Pass (\$40/\$20) offered by Phillip Island Nature Parks: <https://www.penguins.org.au/buy-tickets>

Located in a eucalypt woodland in the centre of Phillip Island, the Koala Conservation Centre is home to the majority of the island's koalas, first introduced to Phillip Island by settlers in the late 1800s. The centre itself is quite modern, with a museum, gift shop and modest café.

Outside the centre is a stunning old-growth manna gum well worth your time, a reminder of the island as it was—"well covered with trees of considerable height and much underwood" according to one of the earliest settlers—before it was cleared with fire repeatedly, to allow farming.



Though the koala population was large enough in the mid-20th century to justify moving thousands of koalas off the island, a combination of road kill, dog predation, habitat destruction and chlamydia infections—that render koalas sterile—have reduced the population enough to make their protection and conservation necessary.



Through two tree top boardwalks, it is possible to get right in amongst the koalas as they go about their lives just as they would in the wild. On cool days, you'll find them up in the treetops catching the sun; despite their size and conspicuous ball-like shape they are often difficult to spot! If you get lucky, a koala might be sitting only feet away from you on the boardwalk while you visit, not doing much of anything except being adorable.

Like kangaroos, koalas give birth to minuscule joeys. Weighing less than one gram, they stay in the mothers' pouch for six months after birth. If you visit between December and February, you might get to see them emerging from the pouch!



Koalas spend their days either eating or conserving energy in a variety of unexciting ways. Their diet of eucalypt leaves is very poor in calories, and given the time and opportunity, koalas will eat themselves out of a habitat. For this reason, the number of koalas in the centre is kept at a level the eucalypts can sustain—much to the consternation of bachelors on the wrong side of the fence, who can at times be heard in the distance, serenading them with a romantic and oddly evocative mix of croaks and burps.

Throughout the boardwalks, rangers are available to answer any and all questions you might have about koalas. A ranger-led Eco-Explorer Tour is also available, which will pair you or your group with a ranger for a walk through the eucalypts. There are also a variety of quiet nature trails in the surrounding area, where you can take in the local flora, and perhaps even spot a bit of wildlife. Tickets to the Koala Conservation Centre are included in the 3 Parks Pass (\$40/\$20) offered by Phillip Island Nature Parks: <https://www.penguins.org.au/buy-tickets>

In today's upside-down world, where loggers are somehow conservationists, a visit to Phillip Island is encouraging. Phillip Island Nature Parks—the organisation that organises almost all of the nature-oriented activities on the island—is a non-profit that invests its returns directly in conservation programmes across the island: everything from habitat protection, revegetation, wildlife rescue and animal control to academic research. PINP protects over 20% of the land, and with 200 staff is the biggest employer on the island. While the protected areas are owned by the Victorian state government, it operates without any recurrent public funding.

There is a mutual respect and appreciation between the rangers of Phillip Island Nature Parks and the local community. Most of the rangers are locals, and the majority are part-time employees or volunteers. Far from viewed as an obstacle to business, preservation of the diversity and quality of the ecosystems on the island is seen as a public good and a priority, evidenced by the lengths PINP are allowed to go to protect them.

Ash Belsar is a veteran ranger with PINP and a treasure trove of local and historical knowledge. A rugged, gregarious fellow, Ash runs an outdoor activity company called Out There that offers people the chance to go kayaking, snorkelling, surfing, or even mountain biking, all on Phillip Island.

Cape Woolamai is located on the south-east of tip of Phillip Island, in view of the bridge connecting the towns of Newhaven on Phillip Island and San Remo on the mainland. Today, most of the cape is a faunal reserve, and is the seasonal home of the short-tailed shearwater—or mutton bird—that migrates all the way from Alaska to breed between September and April. Woolamai beach is one of the most popular surf beaches in Australia. We, however, went to the other, more shielded side of the cape to try our hand at kayaking. It was a calm day, and with helpful instructions from Ash, we managed to get on and get going, the latter even with a sliver of grace now and then. Our time on the water was spent chatting, learning about the island, and spotting birds.



CREDIT: Phillip Island Nature Park

Before the bridge between the island and mainland was constructed, all access was by boat. It is easy enough to think of Phillip Island as being small, relative to the unfathomable enormity of Australia. But at sea level—bobbing in a tiny kayak—it seems both immense and unknowable.

For the Bunurong and European settlers alike, Phillip Island must've held some special kind of magic. With the right eyes, it might for you too.

Out There operates from a warehouse just off Phillip Island road, close to Panny's Chocolate Factory (well worth a stop beforehand!). The warehouse is stacked to the rafters with various sporting equipment, enabling Ash to cater to the needs of couples, families or entire school classes. Out There also offers equipment rental for those eager (and capable) to go out on their own. <http://www.outthere.net.au/>

Australia currently holds the dubious record for the most endangered and extinct species of land animals in the world, so seeing everyone pull together on Phillip Island to protect and nourish what they have is tremendously inspiring.

More impressive still is the balancing act Phillip Island has managed these last 30 years: to offer something for everyone, from Grand Prix racing and music festivals to surfing and snorkelling to beautiful, reflective moments in nature. It really is a rare place in this world, and well worth exploring.



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# OAH'U

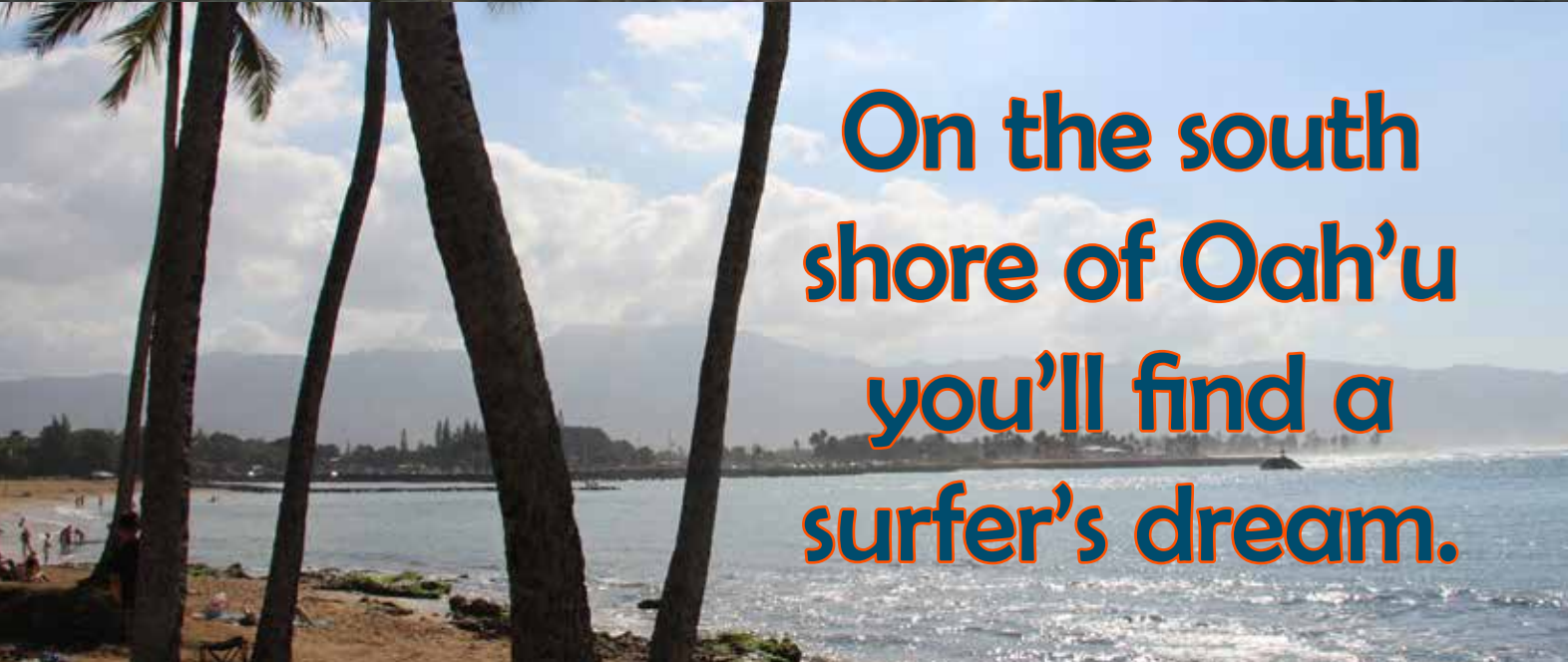
The Heart of Hawaii

A photograph of the Duke Kahanamoku statue, a large bronze sculpture of a surfer, silhouetted against a bright sky. The statue is positioned on a dark, rocky base. In the background, a dense line of palm trees stands against a hazy sky. To the right, a city skyline with several high-rise buildings is visible. In the foreground, a few people are walking on a path, and a body of water is visible on the left side.

Pacific Traveller's Shane Downey visited Oah'u recently and was so impressed, we wanted to share the experience with you through his amazing photo journal.



# WAIKIKI



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surfer's dream.



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waters on your board, explore the cafes,  
shops and restaurants, and watch the  
world's most amazing sunsets.







# HONOLULU

# HARBOR

(Kulolia / Ke Awa O Kou)

“Fair Haven”, the name Captain William Brown insisted it be called, on arriving in 1794





# CULTURE

Hawaiian culture dates back some 1500 years, stretching to the older areas of Polynesia

and beyond,

with a plethora of culinary, artistic and religious traditions.

# LIFESTYLE

Today, these cultures mix with modern conveniences, bringing Hawaii into the new world,

with a lifestyle that is famous world wide.



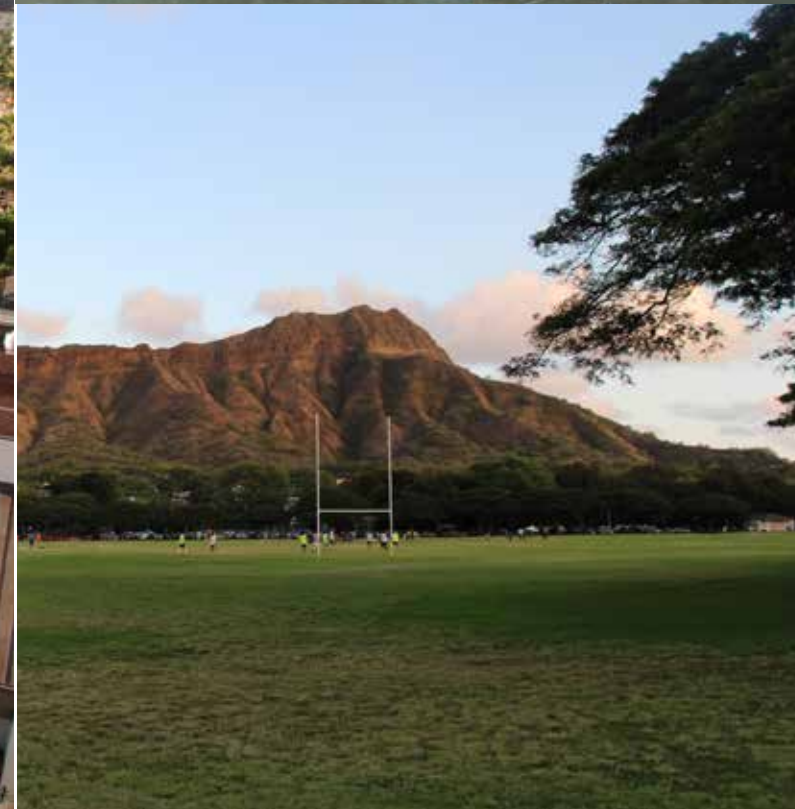
# EVENTS



Why we love it...



It was early November 2016, a time of hope, and a time of protest. The Hawaiian Pro was on; as were the anti-Trump rallies. We were witness to both.





# TOP TIPS FOR BUDGET TRAVEL



## 1. When to travel

Off peak season is best, so find out when off-peak is for your destination (usually Winter months, or close to)

Avoid travel at Christmas and Easter

Watch out for holidays at your destination, particularly religious, or things like Thanksgiving

Check the weather - colder or wetter will generally be cheaper

## 2. What to eat

Eat where the locals go. Stay away from touristy restaurants

Pack a picnic

Don't get room service and generally avoid the hotel bar

Go grocery shopping as soon as you arrive and stock up on snacks, bread, fresh foods and other essentials

Get breakfast included and stock up on fruit and bread for the day

## 3. Where to go

Head off the beaten track for budget options, the less people that visit a place, the cheaper it will generally be

Avoid major tourist cities and go for small towns

Head to countries that are known for being cheaper (such as Thailand and Indonesia)

Avoid accommodation that is right on the water's edge. 500 metres away is still really close and will be a lot cheaper



## 4. Best Budget Accommodation types

Backpackers hostels

Bed and breakfasts

AirBNB

Short-term room rentals

Home stays

Camping or caravans

Farm stays

## 5. BUDGET, LAST MINUTE OPTIONS

If you've left booking til the last minute and still want budget, here are some of the best budget places to look:

lastminute.com

webjet.com.au

Expedia®

Bestjet

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## 6. Travel types

If you are travelling by train, get one that is overnight so you have accommodation sorted as well

Use budget airlines

Travel by train or bus where possible as it will be cheaper than flights in most cases

Hire a moped rather than a car

Take advantage of car services in cheaper countries that can take you to all your tourist destinations for a set fee (and agree on a fee first)

## 7. Best tips

Get travel insurance in advance

Check if there are rail passes available for the places you are going

Try a tour group - might be cheaper (and safer) in the long run

Always negotiate to see if you can get a cheaper price, or free upgrade

Take your own water. Bottled water can cost a bucket!

Travel to areas where your local currency is strong

Check the local area before you go for museums, galleries, activities that are free





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