



Want to discover the beauty and variety of Australia & New Zealand in your own time? Then hire a motorhome and hit the open road.

apollo has one of the newest fleets of motorhomes in the industry and all vehicles are expertly maintained and serviced. Its modern fleet offers a range of vehicles styles, from two-berth Hi-Tops to luxurious six-berth vans.

The great thing about Australia and New Zealand is that both destinations are packed with iconic drives, rugged coastlines and wild outback that embrace the spirit of the open road. Taking your 'home' with you offers an affordable and convenient way to travel – without compromising on luxuries. Just ask your expert Travel Designer which motorhome may suit you best.



#### BOOK IT NOW

Austravel offers some of the best rates in the market. Hire Rates start at just £240 pp for 20 days hire based on a two-berth Hi-Top in New Zealand  
Based on travel 15 Apr to 20 Sep 2014

SEPTEMBER 2013

# ENDEAVOUR

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

Discover

## Australia

explore cities, beaches and Outback

## PARADISE FOUND

Explore the treasured islands of Samoa

Cosmopolitan Cities and Beautiful Beaches:

## Our guide to Far East stopovers

## The World's Best Job?

Meet a man whose office is the Great Barrier Reef





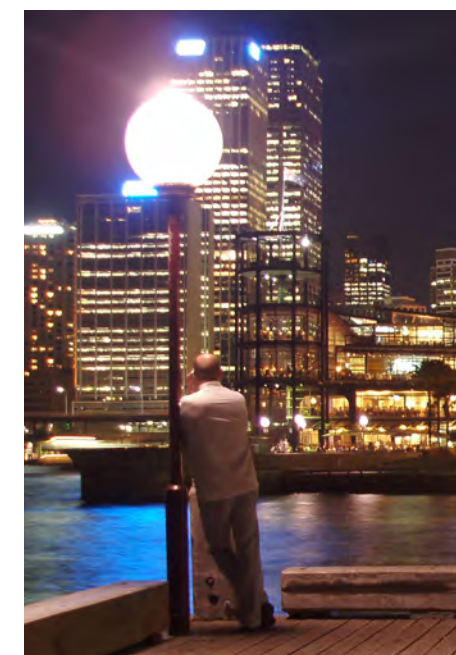
# Discover Australia with APT escorted touring

APT have been the experts in providing guided tours throughout Australia for over 85 years, and they continue to develop new and exciting itineraries to suit all budgets and interests. While the vastness of Australia may be daunting to some, it's surprisingly easy to see many of the famous icons in one trip of a lifetime. APT's 'Discover Australia' 18 day escorted tour, covers five states in one journey...



Begin your adventure in Perth, the sun-blessed capital of Western Australia. Take a sightseeing tour of the city to get your bearings, including the Botanic Gardens and the walkways of the beautiful Kings Park, for panoramic views of the city. The colourful port of Fremantle is a great base from which to explore. Take time to discover the historic buildings and the vibrant atmosphere of the Fremantle Markets. Cruise the historic Swan Valley Wine Region and sample some of the premium local wines, or visit stunning Rottnest Island, home to long sandy beaches and the resident Quokka marsupials.

From Western Australia travel east to the sun-baked Outback town of Alice Springs, with an enchanting pioneering history and ancient indigenous culture. Part of the advantage of travelling with APT is the ability to add on optional experiences - such as an awe-inspiring balloon flight over the desert at sunrise. If you want to keep your feet firmly on the ground, head up Anzac Hill for panoramic views of the town and the MacDonnell Ranges. The unmissable Uluru/Ayers Rock is next; visit Kata Tjuta and Walpa Gorge, enjoying a chilled glass of wine



Cosmopolitan Melbourne is next on the itinerary, with its cutting-edge design and heritage architecture, spacious green parks and diverse village-like suburbs, you'll quickly understand why Victoria's vibrant capital is considered one of the most liveable cities in the world. After you've explored some of the highlights of the city, its hidden laneways, Federation Square, and the fashionable South Bank, why not join APT to witness the Penguin Parade at Phillip Island. Each night the resident Little Penguins march up the dunes to their burrows, and you'll be able to witness this natural event from just a few metres away. Spend a day at leisure riding the City Trams, or why not head to the popular restaurant and cafes of St Kilda to dine al fresco with the locals.



while watching the changing colours of Uluru over the enchanting landscape. Explore the base of the famous monolith with a guided walk, viewing ancient caves and fascinating indigenous rock art sites, dating back thousands of years.

Fly on from the heart of Australia's Red Centre to the sparkling blue waters and lush green rainforests of Tropical North Queensland - an unmissable part of your Australian journey. The colourful coral and marine life is unique in its vastness to anywhere else in the world. Snorkel in sheltered coral lagoons, explore the underwater observatory or venture out in a semi-submersible all from the comfort of a reef platform. Your stay in Cairns will only present you with the problem of choosing what to do - with hot air balloon flights, the mountain village of Kuranda, the Daintree River where the rainforest meets the reef at World Heritage-listed Cape Tribulation, or experiencing Aboriginal Australia on a mysterious journey into the ancient Tjapukai culture by night. APT will make sure you have time to experience all there is on offer with two days at leisure to explore this unique region.

Your final leg on this epic journey is world-famous Sydney; discover the highlights of the iconic Harbour with the Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge. Then relax on famous golden sands of Bondi Beach. Again APT allow you the unique opportunity to explore Sydney as you please. Some of the most popular experiences are the spectacular rock formations and native wildlife in the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park, not forgetting to view the majestic Three Sisters rock formation from the panoramic viewpoint. Here your journey with APT will end, but with so much more on offer there is of course the opportunity to explore Australia further.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Perth, Sydney skyline, Phillip Island, mountain village of Kuranda, Uluru/Ayers Rock.

## TAKE ME THERE

18 DAYS

DISCOVER AUSTRALIA TOUR  
Includes 17 nights accommodation and select meals.

Prices from £2,795 per person  
**SAVING up to £400 per couple**

Based on travel Jan 2014



# Fly in Style

with Emirates



Emirates flies 16 times daily to Dubai from a choice of 6 UK airports, offering convenient onward connections to over 130 destinations. From Dubai, travel on to 5 gateways in Australia - Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. Emirates also work in partnership with Qantas, meaning that once you've landed down under, you can connect to 32 additional points across Australia on their wide network - making it easy for you to explore this vast country.

Onboard, passengers can experience award-winning service from multilingual cabin crew, savour regionally inspired multi-course gourmet cuisine and be immersed in up to 1,500 channels of the latest information, communication and entertainment on demand at every seat.

On the ground, First Class and Business Class passengers can take advantage of a complimentary Chauffeur-drive Service, expedited check-in, dedicated baggage handling and luxurious lounge access ensuring a seamless journey from start to finish.

On five daily flights from Heathrow and on a daily service from Manchester, travellers can experience the Emirates A380. The revolutionary superjumbo features Private Suites and onboard Shower Spas in First Class, an Onboard Lounge and flat-bed seats in Business Class, and even more room to relax in Economy Class.

There's really no better way of flying down under than with excellent service of award-winning Emirates.



Call our expert Travel Designers on 0808 252 5894 or visit [austravel.com](http://austravel.com)  
Calls are free, mobile and other providers' charges may apply.

# Welcome to ENDEAVOUR

the magazine by Austravel



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



G'day and welcome to Endeavour

With a late but rather hot summer finally arriving mid July why not pack up that suitcase before it starts to gather dust again and escape down under. Here at Austravel we pride ourselves on our expertise with all things Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific, and are keen to help plan that trip of a lifetime.

This edition of Endeavour covers a variety of top tips and holiday angles - from escorted touring with APT in Australia or New Zealand, to hiring a car to explore at your own pace. As well as articles on the amazing train journeys on offer in Australia and some top tips from one of our expert Travel Designers, there's a special feature on Far East stopovers, so you can discover what there is to do in these striking cities.

So sit back, relax, be inspired, and let the Austravel Travel Designers create that ultimate holiday for you.

Karen Joyce  
General Manager

Front Cover: The Devils Marbles, Northern Territory. Photographer: Nick Rains. © Copyright Tourism Australia.

## Contents

—06—

What's Hot for 2013  
A round up of what's new down under

—08—

Samoa  
Find out about these treasured islands

—10—

AVIS Australia  
Discover the beautiful Pacific Coast

—12—

Great Southern Rail  
Explore Australia by Rail

—14—

APT Discover New Zealand  
Find out just how much you will experience

—18—

Why I Love...  
Sarah Fenn tells us why she loves the state of Victoria

—20—

South Australia & Northern Territory  
Head down the Explores way and be mesmerised by the sights

—24—

A Day in the Life  
Find out about what a Marine Biologist does on a normal day

—25—

Far East Adventures  
Why not add a stopover at one of these stunning cities?

—31—

Travellers' Tales  
Our Expert Matt shares his favourite travel journey

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All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this magazine are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it.

Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: [www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate](http://www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate).





# What's HOT for 2014

Our experts bring you the latest destination news...



## Queensland Rail

Queensland Rail has announced its first new Tilt Train in almost a decade which will operate from late 2013 along the coast between Brisbane and Cairns. New features include on-demand personal entertainment systems, plus an Australia-first of RailBeds, which transform from a comfortable seat into a bed for overnight travel.

**Travel on the Tilt Train from £295 per person**

Based on travel Mar 2014



## Byron Surf Experience

Whether you're an experienced surfer or a complete beginner, catch a wave with Let's Go Surfing on their Byron Bay Experience – you'll be amazed at how easy, safe and enjoyable surfing can be. Why not add this onto a self drive up the East Coast of Australia and you'll discover some of the hidden gems of the New South Wales coastline.

**Byron Surf Experience from £39 per person**

Based on travel Mar 2014



## Murraylands & Wildlife Cruise

Cruise the dramatic South Australian Outback to discover the unique flora and fauna of the great Murray River. Choose from a 3 night Wetlands Discovery cruise, a 4 night Outback Heritage cruise, or combine both for the ultimate adventure.

**3 nights Wetlands Discovery Cruise from £545 per person**

Based on travel up to Mar 2014



## Tropica Island Resort Fiji

Situated on the magnificent Malolo Island, the newly opened Tropica Island Resort is nestled in a sheltered bay overlooking the sparkling waters of the ocean. Relax in the infinity pool, head out on a snorkelling tour, or just kick back and enjoy the paradise surroundings.

**7 nights from £745 per person**

Based on selected travel Mar 2014

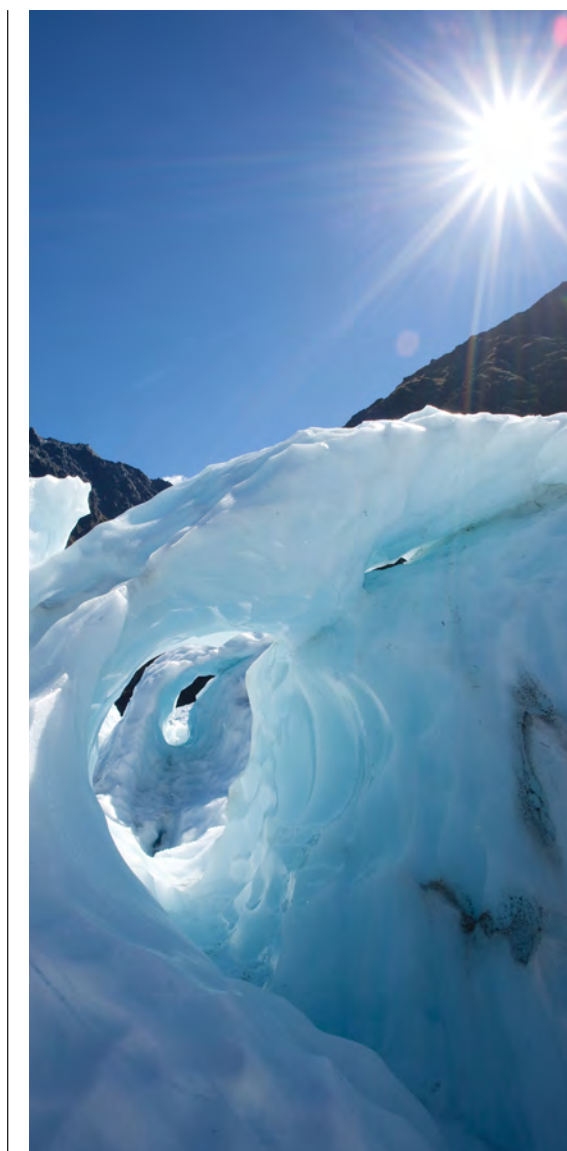


## Australian Open

Head to Melbourne in January 2014 for the Australian Open – Can Andy Murray go one better than he did last year and take the trophy?

**Flights with Royal Brunei from £879 per person**

Based on selected travel Jan 2014



## New Zealand – Rob Roy Glacier Walk

Easily accessed from either Queenstown or Wanaka on the South Island, between October and May discover the magnificent backdrop of the Mount Aspiring National Park on a full day guided walk, perfect for anyone interested in geology, native wildlife or if you're looking for some spectacular photography opportunities!

**Full Day Glacier Walk from £199 per person**

Based on travel up to Mar 2014

# Plus...

Check out our **Touring brochure**

One way to see as much as you can in one trip is to go on an escorted tour. With an APT tour not only do you get to see the main attractions you also get the added bonus of an expert tour local guide – to point out those hidden gems.

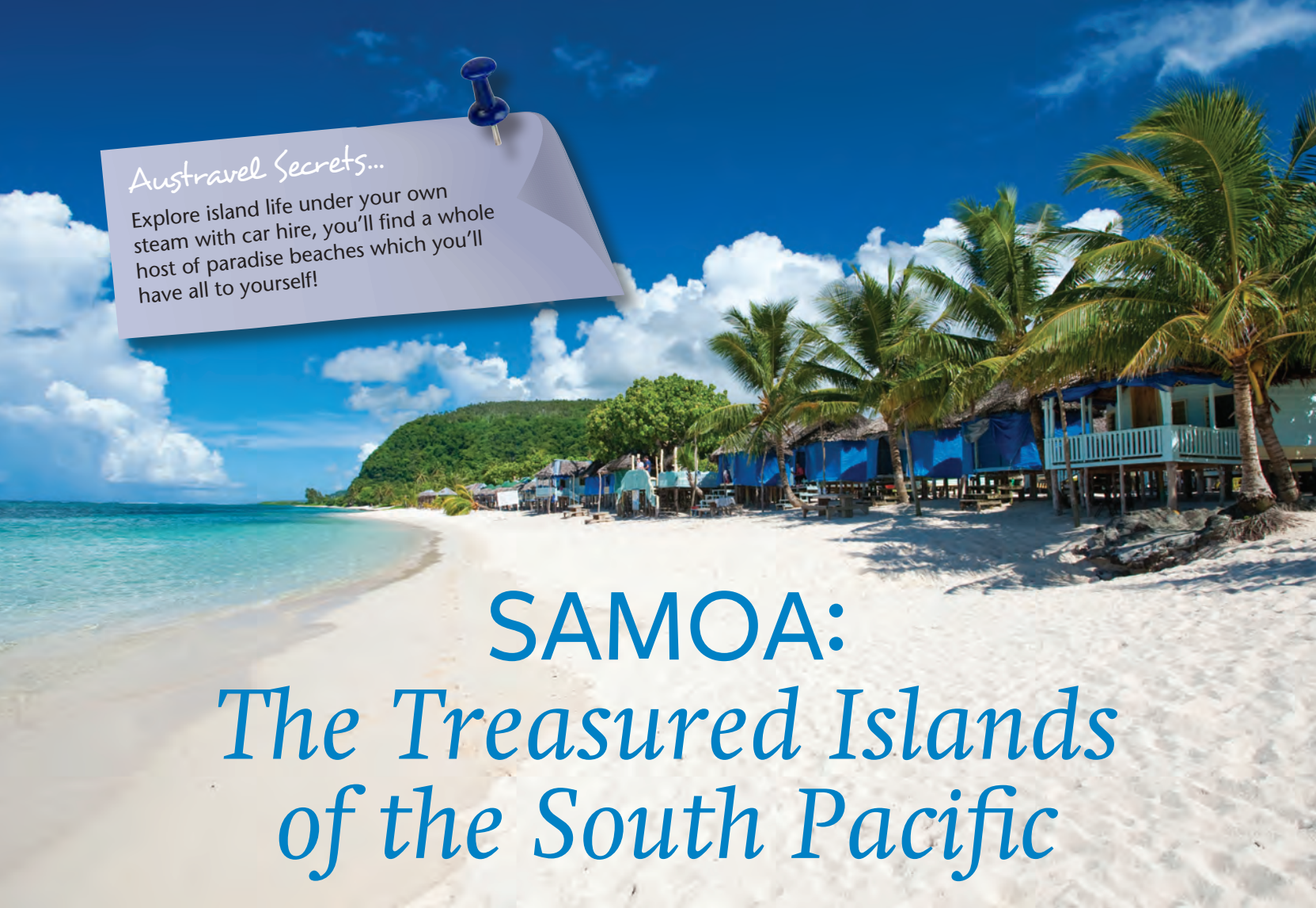
**Order online now!**





*Austravel Secrets...*

Explore island life under your own steam with car hire, you'll find a whole host of paradise beaches which you'll have all to yourself!



# SAMOA: The Treasured Islands of the South Pacific

The islands of Samoa are the true heart of Polynesia and offer an authentic South Pacific experience to add on to an Australia or New Zealand itinerary. The archipelago of Samoa, formally known as Western or Independent Samoa, is made up of ten stunning islands. The main island Upolu and sister island Savaii offers a wide spectrum of accommodation to suit any budget. The tiny island of Manono sits in between Upolu and Savaii and makes a great day trip or overnight desert island experience. The seven remaining islands are small uninhabited islets jutting out of the South Pacific Ocean, perfect for a day sailing trip or even a kayaking exploration. All of Samoa's islands are a paradise waiting to be explored with endless wildlife, waterfalls, national parks and conservation areas. Samoa's coastline is equally as dramatic, with dazzling white powdery beaches to sink your feet into and clear tropical coral reefs full of marine life for world class snorkelling.

The beauty of Samoa compared to other Pacific Islands is that it is still relatively untouched by mainstream tourism, offering a good value, 'off the beaten track' South Pacific experience with a unique culture to explore. Soak up the 'Fa'a Samoa' which means the Samoan way of life, and take a day tour through coastal villages finishing up with

sundowners in one of the capital's many waterfront bars or restaurants. The capital Apia is located on the northern tip of Upolu and is home to the Robert Louis Stevenson museum, Vailima, a superb stop on an island tour providing a fascinating insight into the Celtic author's life. For an unbeatable view out on to the Pacific, try the walk up to Stevenson's burial ground, his final resting place on his beloved 'Treasured Island'.

For the ultimate beach stay, the south coast of Upolu is just 45 minutes from the airport and home to some of the islands luxury boutique retreats. Try the Sinalei Reef Resort, Le Vasa Resort, Seabreeze Resort, the new Aga Reef Resort or enjoy one of the new over-the-water fale at the Coconuts Beach Club. Samoa's accommodation is locally owned and traditionally designed with the natural landscape in mind. Enjoy beachside villas set in lush tropical gardens with panoramic vistas looking out on to the coral reefs. Relax and enjoy the surroundings of your hidden hideaway, enjoy the white sands and azure waters, or choose to venture inland and explore the lush green interiors on a day tour.

The sister island of Savaii is just a short fifteen minute flight with Samoa Air or a sixty minute ferry.

More boutique resorts await such as the beautiful villas at Le Lagoto Resort. Alternatively try a 'sleep under the stars' experience in a beachside fale, a simple beach hut on the water's edge. A day tour of Savaii includes thundering waterfalls, lagoons, lava fields, ancient mounds and the awesome Alofaaga blowholes. For the more adventurous get on two wheels and cycle Savaii or trek the volcanic craters and Samoa's highest peak, Mount Silisili.

As Samoa lies near to the equator it has a tropical climate, with a pleasant year-round temperature—and even more importantly warm water year round for snorkelling, kayaking, or the diving experience.

Just over a three hour flight from Auckland or four hours from Sydney, Samoa is a South Pacific gem destined to be explored. Ask one of our experts about twinning Samoa with Australia or New Zealand and make Samoa the pinnacle of your journey down under.



The Treasured Islands of the South Pacific



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Lalomanu Beach – Upolu, Happy local children, Lalomanu Beach – Upolu.

**GETTING THERE:**

Getting to Samoa is easier than you think, with daily direct flights with Air New Zealand and Virgin Australia from Auckland and three a week from Sydney. And it couldn't be easier to twin Samoa with a holiday to New Zealand or Australia for the trip of a lifetime. To find out more contact our Travel Experts who can help you plan your ideal itinerary.



**TAKE ME THERE**

**13 DAYS**

AUCKLAND & SAMOA

Includes 3nts Mercure Hotel Auckland and 5nts Le Lagoto Resort, Savaii, B&B, and 4nts Sinalei Reef Resort, Upolu, B&B and flights with Air New Zealand

Prices from £2,249 per person  
**SAVING up to £1,045 per couple**

Based on travel Nov 2013

**TAKE ME THERE**

**11 DAYS**

NEW ZEALAND & SAMOA

Includes 3nts Scenic Hotel, Bay of Islands, car hire, 7nts Le Vasa Resort, B&B, Apia half-day tour and flights with Air New Zealand

Prices from £2,095 per person  
**SAVING up to £960 per couple**

Based on travel Nov 2013



# Discover the pacific coast

There's no better way to explore all that Australia has to offer than by picking up a car and getting out to discover Australia's scenic countryside, rugged coastlines and wildlife havens at your own pace.



Driving in Australia is easy – on the same side of the road as the UK, and with only a fraction of the traffic that we're used to. Whether you're after a small run around for journeying through the local area, or a 4WD to fit in all the family, Avis Australia will have the car for you.

Between Sydney and Brisbane lies miles of pristine coastline, the famous vineyards of the Hunter Valley, the stunning natural bay at Port Stephens, and the free spirited paradise of Byron Bay. Explore this stretch of the Pacific Coast on one of Austravel's favourite self drive adventures with Avis Australia.

After visiting Sydney Harbour with its iconic sights, head north across the world-famous Sydney Harbour Bridge and journey on to the Central Coast. This is an area of unspoilt beaches, picturesque villages and lush hinterland. Call into Wollombi, a town famous for its convict history and Aboriginal legends, and stop at the Gate Gallery, with a selection of contemporary and indigenous art. Pass through the town of Millfield into Cessnock before reaching the Hunter Valley to sample some of its classic wines.

Back on the road travel northeast to Port Stephens, a natural bay twice the size of Sydney Harbour and almost enclosed by two dormant volcanic headlands. Bottlenose dolphins frequent the bay and there is fabulous seafood and great scuba diving from the beach. Why not upgrade to the ultimate indulgence and stay at the Anchorage Port Stephens, a fantastic hotel nestling into the side of a tree covered headland on the shores of Port Stephens and its stunning marina.

Heading up the Pacific Highway, stop at Port Macquarie, the mid-way point between Sydney and Brisbane, and one of the oldest towns in the state of New South Wales. Coffs Harbour is home to fruit plantations, tranquil rainforests and long, sandy beaches and there's plenty to explore in this area to break up your journey. The Solitary Islands Marine Park is accessible from Coffs Harbour, encompassing sub-tidal reefs and a plethora of marine life – some year round, and some fluctuating with the seasons. Visit from May to November and the subtropical waters are home to Humpback Whales passing north on their annual migration.

The northern stretch of New South Wales contains some of the most beautiful natural areas in Australia. Travel on to Byron Bay, the most easterly point of the country, enjoying the restaurants and cafes, or perhaps taking a surf lesson to join in with the locals. Relax on the spectacular beaches or take a scenic walk up to the colonial Cape Byron lighthouse, standing on a rocky windswept headland, with views out to the ocean.

From here cross the state border and enter Queensland. The beaches of Coolangatta and Tweed Heads are great places for a pit stop. Carry on to Brisbane, or alternatively continue on an epic road trip to the tropical north of Queensland. With miles of unspoilt views and hidden treasures, exploring by car is undoubtedly one of the best ways to discover the vast diversity of Australia. 🇦🇺

## TAKE ME THERE

**6 DAYS CAR HIRE**  
PACIFIC COAST EXPLORER SELF DRIVE

Prices from £459 per person  
Based on travel Mar 2014

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Queensland, Byron Bay surfers, Port Stephens.



Austravel work closely with Avis to create some essential self drive itineraries, with all your overnight accommodation prebooked. All these come with a handy backpack containing maps, day by day driving instructions and even hints on where you should stop for photo opportunities. Or if you like a little freedom our Travel Designers can help you plan your own trip.

### Prices Include:

- Unlimited miles (excludes remote locations and groups K & W)
- Collision/Loss Damage Waiver (CDW)
- Goods & Services Tax (GST)
- Vehicle Registration fee (VFR)
- Premium Location Surcharge (PLS)

### Prices Exclude:

**(Payable at time of pick up)**

- One Way rental fees
- Refuelling Costs
- Excess Reduction (optional)
- Excess kilometres charge
- Optional extras (e.g child seats)



## Free Backpack

Receive a free backpack with every Austravel self drive. The backpack comes complete with maps and guide – make sure you book a night before your self drive to plan your trip and we will deliver your backpack to your hotel.



# Sit back and enjoy the views with Great Southern Rail

There are so many ways of seeing and discovering the magnificent country of Australia. If you're looking for a laid back option, why not travel on one of Great Southern Rail's routes? Choose from taking the Indian Pacific from Perth to Sydney or The Ghan from Darwin to Adelaide PLUS you can stop off at various places enroute.

The mighty Indian Pacific crosses Australia from Perth to Sydney via Adelaide and vice-versa between the sparkling waters of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, offering travellers a four day, three night experience on one of the most impressive and indulgent ways to travel across Australia.

On this incredible journey you may spot some of Australia's unique wildlife including camels, kangaroos and birdlife – such as the Indian Pacific's emblem, the wedge-tailed eagle. Not to mention the picturesque sites on the way such as Avon Valley and the spectacular Blue Mountains outside Sydney.

When you travel on the Indian Pacific you are in for the journey of a lifetime. With a choice of cabins, we recommend the Gold Service Twin Cabin which has a private shower, toilet and washbasin. The cabin converts into a 3-seater lounge for daytime use.

### Did you know?

You can break your journey in Adelaide. Why not stay for a week to discover the Barossa Valley, Murray River and Kangaroo Island?

### Routes:

- Indian Pacific
- The Ghan



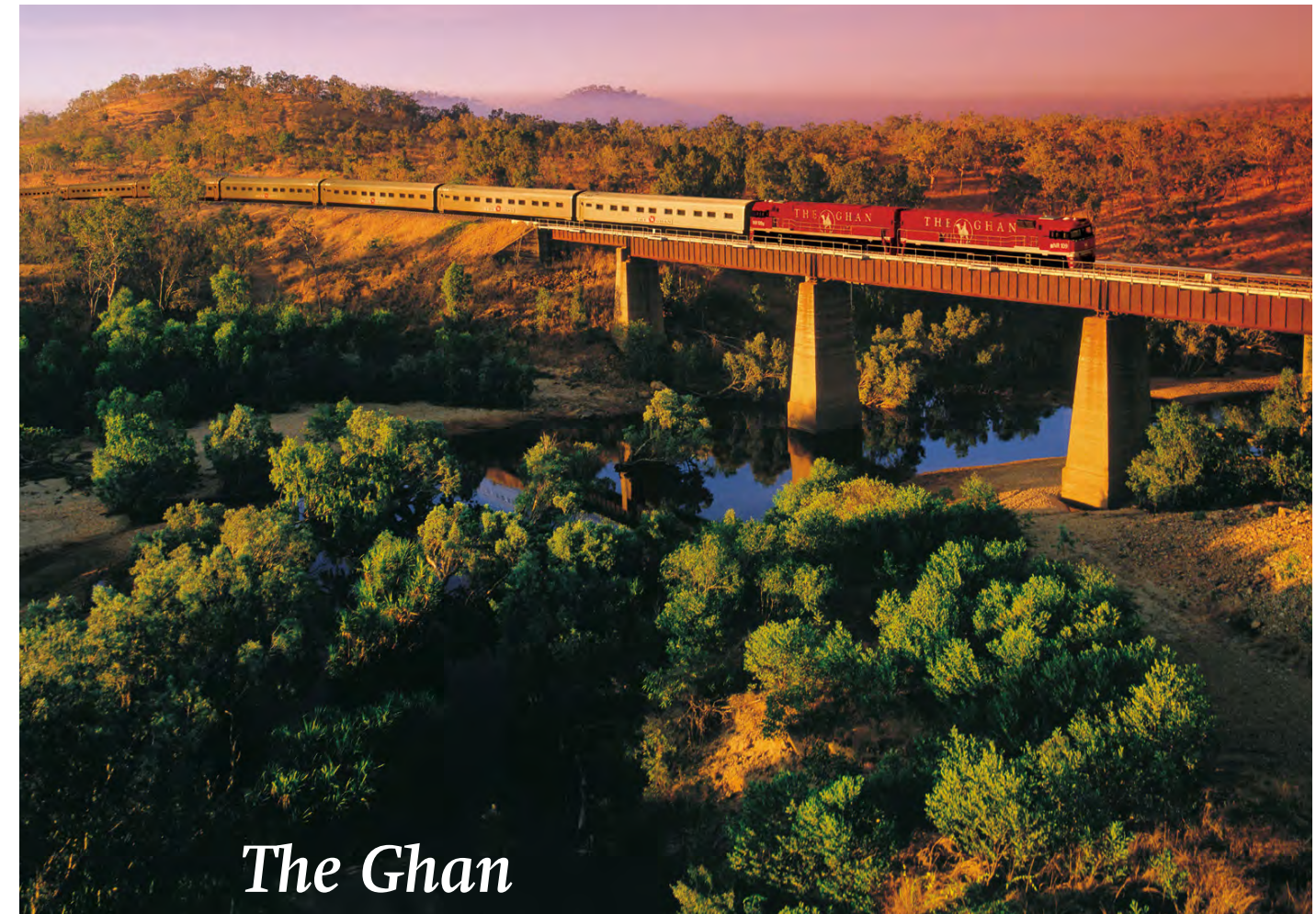
## Indian Pacific

### TIMETABLE: Sydney – Adelaide – Perth

- Departs Sydney – Sat (Sep-Nov only) and Wed at 18.30 Arrives Adelaide – Sun and Thu at 19.30
- Departs Adelaide – Sun (Sep-Nov only) and Thu at 23.30 Arrives Perth – Tue and Sat at 19.30

### TIMETABLE: Perth – Adelaide – Sydney

- Departs Perth – Wed (Sep-Nov only) and Sun at 10.00 Arrives Adelaide – Fri and Tue at 08.00
- Departs Adelaide – Fri (Sep-Nov only) and Tues at 14.00 Arrives Sydney – Sat and Wed at 15.30



## The Ghan

Travel just under 3,000km on the famous Ghan, which has been traversing Australia from Adelaide to Alice Springs for over 80 years. Named after the hardy Afghan camel trains, the Ghan provided the first ever form of transport into the Red Centre.

Whether beginning from Darwin or Adelaide, your trip will let you visit the ochre soils of the Red Centre, the spectacular colours of the Outback, and the rugged MacDonnell Ranges. Take in the majestic Flinders Ranges and sweeping plains of the Adelaide Hills, before your arrival into the wine capital of Australia after an epic adventure through the heart of Australia.

### Did you know?

Jump off at Katherine to discover the splendour of Katherine Gorge, or break your journey in Alice Springs with time to discover the indigenous culture and the monolith of Uluru/Ayers Rock.

### TIMETABLE: Adelaide – Alice – Darwin

- Departs Adelaide – Sun and Wed (June-Aug) at 15.00, Arrives Alice Springs – Mon and Thu at 18.00
- Departs Alice Springs – Mon and Thurs at 22.30, Arrives Darwin – Tue and Fri at 20.00

### TIMETABLE: Darwin – Alice – Adelaide

- Departs Darwin – Wed and Sat (June-Aug) at 10.00, Arrives Alice Springs – Thurs and Sun at 07.30
- Departs Alice Springs – Thurs and Sun at 11.00, Arrives Adelaide – Fri and Mon at 14.00

**GOLD AND PLATINUM SERVICE**  
now inclusive of meals, beverages and off train excursions

Platinum double and twin cabins are double the size of Gold Service – ask your Austravel Expert for the prices to upgrade.



AUSTRALIA'S GREAT TRAIN JOURNEYS

## TAKE ME THERE

### INDIAN PACIFIC TRAIN JOURNEY

Includes 3 nights Sydney to Perth – Gold Service

Prices from £1,069 per person

### THE GHAN TRAIN JOURNEY

Includes 2 nights Darwin to Adelaide – Gold Service

Prices from £999 per person

**SAVING up to 25%**

Based on travel Nov – Apr 2014





# NEW ZEALAND Wonderland

A surprisingly compact country – just 1000 miles from the tip of the North Island to the toe of the South Island, and only 280 miles at its widest point – New Zealand is on the bucket list of many a traveller.

Auckland is the largest and most populated of New Zealand's cities, but with under 1.5m residents, you'll never feel crowded out. The central urban area occupies a strip of land between the Manukau Harbour and the Waitemata Harbour, with an array of surrounding beaches for those wanting to dip their toes into the Pacific Ocean. Home to many cultures, explore the Asian food markets off the central shopping street at Queen Street, Auckland's major commercial thoroughfare, or seek peace, tranquility and fine wines on a day trip across the harbour to Waiheke Island. From Auckland, travel with APT north over the Harbour Bridge to the Hibiscus Coast and to Matakohē's Kauri Museum. One of the most important locations in New Zealand's history, visit Waitangi Treaty House, where the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1840. The Bay of Islands is a spectacular area further north, and with APT you can add-on extra experience to make your holiday even more unique. Drive along the sands of Ninety Mile Beach on a

Cape Reinga day tour or step back in time aboard the R. Tucker Thompson ship. An overnight cruise option is also available for those wanting to visit tranquil areas when the daytrippers have gone home.

Head south on the next leg of your adventure via the underground limestone and glowworms caves of Waitomo, floating magically through the dark as your guide takes you on a journey illuminated only by these remarkable creatures. Immerse yourself in Maori culture at Rotorua, and enjoy an authentic Maori Hangi feast cooked in the heated soils of this geo-thermal wonderland, before enjoying the performance of song and dance by warriors. With time at leisure, whilst in this thermal heartland of geysers and hot springs, it's impossible to leave without a dip in the healing waters of the Polynesian Spa, or experience the icons of Rotorua at Te Puia Thermal Reserve.

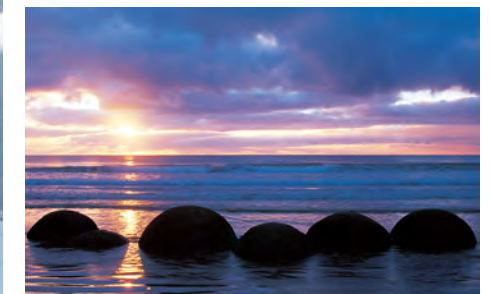
Following the Thermal Explorer Highway to the heart of the North Island, visit the spectacular Huka Falls and the aquatic playground of Lake Taupo before arriving in Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. APT again provide a choice of activities to suit everyone, from a city tour for those who want to acquaint themselves with the local area, to Lord of the Rings adventures for budding film fans. Step aboard the InterIslander ferry to cruise across the Cook Strait, and through the stunning Marlborough Sounds to Picton, before journeying further south to the fishing town of Kaikoura. The Kaikoura Peninsula reaches out south into the ocean, creating a current which brings with it an abundance of marine life; owing to this, whale and dolphin watching is amongst some of the best in the world.

From Christchurch, board the TranzAlpine train for New Zealand's greatest rail adventure, journeying through gorges, rivers, valleys and across the magnificent Southern Alps. Continue on to Franz

Josef, exploring these stunning glacial areas with the opportunity to get up close to the ice face. Some of New Zealand's hidden gems aren't necessarily the major tourist attractions, and they're also only known by those with insider local knowledge like APT. As you travel along the Haast River, stop off on the way and you'll capture views of the massive glacier-formed Haast River Valley, with its towering peaks, waterfalls and rainforest. Queenstown for many is the adrenaline-fuelled capital of New Zealand, and there's a host of activities on offer with APT that you can choose from. Experience the thrills of the Shotover Jet boat and ride deep into river canyons, or indulge in some of Central Otago's finest wines on a winery sightseeing experience. The views across Lake Wakatipu are sensational, with the often snow-capped mountains peaks surrounding the town. Driving south from Queenstown pass through the Eglinton and Hollyford valleys, and through the Homer Tunnel to be met by the impressive sight of Mitre Peak deep in the heart of Fiordland. Cruise the

full length of pristine Milford Sound, watching out for dolphins, penguins, and a host of other wildlife amongst the spectacular scenery.

Leaving Fiordland, travel through the rolling Southland countryside on to Dunedin back on the east coast, and home to New Zealand's only castle, a heavily Scottish influenced region. The incredible Moeraki Boulders are found north along the coast, a collection of unusually large, hollow and spherical boulders, scattered along Koekohe Beach. Travel through Mount Cook National Park and picturesque Lake Tekapo where you can pay a visit to the tiny Church of the Good Shepherd, built of locally gathered stone and oak and erected as tribute to the early pioneers of the region. Finishing in Christchurch on the Avon River, explore the 'garden city' before continuing your onward journey. **A**



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: New Zealand Fiordland, Wellington, Moeraki Boulders - Dunedin.



## TAKE ME THERE

**17 DAY APT GUIDED TOUR**

NEW ZEALAND WONDERLAND

Includes accommodation and select meals

Prices from £3,595 per person

**SAVING up to £400 per couple**

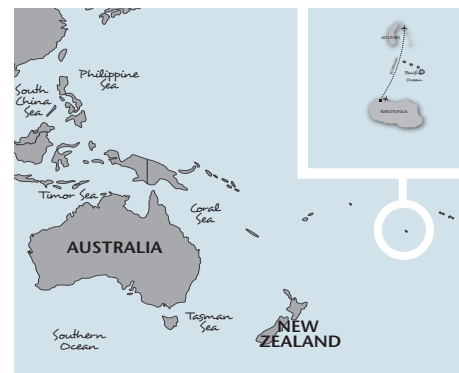
Based on travel Jan – Mar 2014





# Discover Rarotonga

## in the Cook Islands



The circular shaped Rarotonga is the vibrant centre of the 15 Cook Islands. The high mountain peaks overlook palm fringed shores and lush green rainforests cascade to meet translucent waters. Discover the colourful marine life in abundance on the reef, explore the warm lagoon and relax on many inviting white sandy beaches. Experience proud traditions like the tumunu bushland ceremonies, and their legendary libidinous dances.

beaches, nestled within lush tropical vegetation and a marine reserve right on the ocean front. The intimate lodgings have traditional architecture and have been designed with one purpose: to integrate harmoniously with nature's beauty. With just 14 well-appointed Are's (bungalow's) this private resort boasts individual verandahs and facilities that offer views of untouched horizons.

With so many stunning properties on Rarotonga, one of Austravel's favourites is the 4+ star Little Polynesian. Here you can experience the true South Pacific, set on one of the region's finest



### TAKE ME THERE

5 NIGHTS

LITTLE POLYNESIAN HOTEL

Prices from £629 per person  
**SAVING up to £305 per couple**

Based on select travel Mar 2014



# Top value picks from our experts

OFFERS  
Not To Be  
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OFFERS  
EXCLUSIVE  
to Austravel

## IT'S A DEAL!

To book any of these great value deals or to find out more information, call our expert Travel Designers on: **0808 252 5894**



### Explore the Great Barrier Reef with Quicksilver from £125pp

Travel on a high speed luxury catamaran to the floating platform at Agincourt Reef. Ideal for snorkelers, divers, or those who want to explore the reef from a semi-submersible or take to the air by helicopter, this is a once in a lifetime experience that will stay with you forever.

Based on travel up to Mar 2014.



### 20 nights Apollo Motorhome – New Zealand from £12 per person per day

There is no better way to discover the mesmerising landscape and scenery of New Zealand than by travelling around in a Motorhome.

Based on select travel May – Jul 2014.



### Captain Cook Cruise – Fiji 5 Days from £1215 per person

Cruise to white beaches, turquoise waters and coral reefs, with a new island or coral reef to explore every morning and afternoon.

Based on travel Mar 2014.



### Visit the Cook Islands – 6 nights Muri Beach Club, from £539 per person (2 free nights)

Enjoying an enviable location on the best stretch of beach on Muri Lagoon, the Muri Beach Club hotel boasts panoramic views over the crystal clear lagoon and is excellent for swimming and snorkelling.

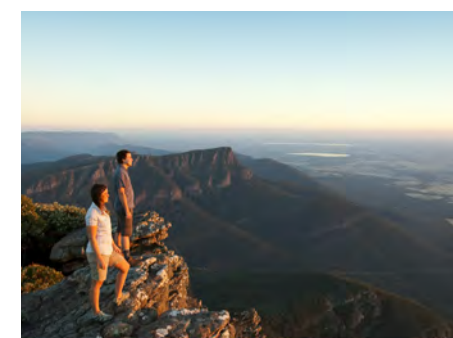
Based on travel Mar 2014.



# WHY I LOVE...

Travel Designer **Sarah Fenn** tells us why she loves the state of Victoria

“The highlight of my time in Victoria was undoubtedly the helicopter trip over the Twelve Apostles, seeing the stunning rock formations from the air is simply breathtaking.”



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road at Lorne, Grampian National Park

Australia's 'Golden State' is home to some of the country's best National Parks, and the Great Ocean Road has been voted one of the best coastal drives in the world. Combine this with metropolitan Melbourne and an array of boutiques, eateries and fabulous café culture. Our Austravel Aftersales Advisor, Sarah Fenn, headed down under to see all that Victoria has on offer.

Travelling on a round trip from Melbourne, we left the city and headed down towards the Great Ocean Road. First stop was Torquay, at the northern end of the 'Surf Coast' section of the Great Ocean Road, a popular beach town with a host of cafes, bars and restaurants. Next we journeyed to the small town of Lorne, a lovely little seaside town – a fantastic place for a stroll along the waterfront at Louttit Bay and to break your journey with a coffee.

In Apollo Bay we stayed at Lady Bay Resort – which was my favourite hotel of the trip, we were lucky enough to have a 3 bedroom apartment, with a balcony that never ended! The food in the restaurant was some of the best that I was able to sample whilst in Victoria, and it was a shame we were here just for the night!

Rising early the next morning we headed to the Otway Fly Treetop Walk, joining a knowledgeable and passionate guide for a one hour walk high above the rainforest canopy. For the more adventurous there is also the option to book a zip-line tour through the trees – the photo opportunities are spectacular! An hours drive west took us to Port Campbell

National Park, where amongst other, the famous attractions of the Twelve Apostles and the Loch Ard Gorge are situated.

After an overnight stay in Warrnambool we headed into the Grampian National Park, an area of natural, rugged beauty, with magnificent mountain ranges and a wealth of Aboriginal rock art sites. Halls Gap is a great base from which to explore this area, at D'Altons Resort you could see the wildlife running freely around the grounds. A fantastic day out is a visit to the outdoor museum at Sovereign Hill, where you can step back in time to the 1850s when the gold rush was at its peak, and even take a tour of the mine. Just a 90 minute drive from here and we were back in Melbourne, for our final night on the banks of the Yarra River.

The highlight of my time in Victoria was undoubtedly the helicopter trip over the Twelve Apostles, there are viewing platforms where you can capture amazing photos, however for that once in a lifetime experience, seeing the stunning rock formations from the air is simply breathtaking.

## TAKE ME THERE

3 NIGHTS

IBIS HOTEL, MELBOURNE  
Includes Great Ocean Road Day Trip

Prices from £205 per person

Based on travel Mar 2014



# Australia *the explorer's way*

Spanning the entire country, from rolling hills and picturesque vineyards, across over 3,000 km of sun-scorched red earth, through indigenous lands to the luscious wetlands of the Top End, the Explorer's Way follows the Stuart Highway as it cuts through the vast lands of Australia from Adelaide to Darwin. The highway was named after John McDouall Stuart, an early pioneer who was the first European to cross Australia from north to south, and today follows the approximate route that McDouall Stuart took on his journey. The Ghan train runs alongside the highway for much of its path. To enable stops at some of Australia's most unique towns and breathtaking sights, you can comfortably complete the route in 10 days by car or motorhome. The only other modes of transport you may come across are the Royal Flying Doctors, who use the highway as an emergency landing strip when required.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT; Barossa Valley, Flinders Ranges, Salt water crocodile, Uluru/Ayers Rock, Darwin, Mindil Beach Markets, Ubirr - Kakadu National Park, Flinders Ranges.



Depart Adelaide and within an hour from the city you'll be exploring the cellar doors of the Barossa Valley, with world-class wineries and gourmet cuisine. It's well worth a night in the Barossa, perhaps exploring the vineyards by bicycle, with a host of trails on offer passing through vineyards and quaint towns. Head through the Clare Valley wine region and rejoin the highway at Port Augusta, known as the gateway to the rugged Flinders Ranges and the beginning of the Outback.

The Flinders Ranges are a short detour from the Stuart highway, with gum-lined creeks, abundant wildlife and the spectacular Wilpena Pound, a natural amphitheatre of mountains in the National Park. With some of the best countryside in the Flinders Ranges, choose from a bush walk to the rim, or alternatively take to the skies for panoramic views out over Wilpena Pound on a scenic flight.

The quirky opal mining town of Coober Pedy is next, where the majority of residents choose to live in underground 'dugouts'. The name Coober Pedy originates from 'kupa-piti', a local Aboriginal term for 'white man's hole'. Share the underground experience by taking a town tour or try your hand at noodling for opals before watching the sunset across the spectacular Painted Desert.



# Northern Territory



As the earth turns a deep red, and the Stuart Highway crosses the state-line into the Northern Territory, follow the Lasseter Highway to Uluru - Kata Tjuta National Park, home to Australia's most recognisable icon Uluru/Ayers Rock. Marvel at the ever-changing colours of the Rock at sunrise or sunset, discover local Aboriginal Dreamtime stories on a guided Uluru base tour or hike around the soaring rock domes of Kata Tjuta/The Olgas, these 32 ochre-coloured shapes are a intriguing and mesmerising sight. There are various outback dining experiences where you will feast on local delicacies whilst the clear desert sky is filled with constellations. In Watarrka National Park the star attraction is Kings Canyon. Take the mildly challenging yet stunning rim walk that traces the top of the canyon, at times over 100m high. Enroute encounter the Garden of Eden, a permanent water hole surrounded by blooming plant life.

The road north to Tennant Creek passes the Devils Marbles, gigantic, rounded granite boulders, some of which are spectacularly poised on the edges of other rocks, which are of great cultural and spiritual significance to the local Aboriginal people. Learn more at the Nyinkka Nyunyu Culture Centre in Tennant Creek. Reach the thermal springs of the Daly River, and the Nitmuluk National Park, home to Katherine Gorge, where you can take a cruise to see the sheer rock faces up close along with striking scenery. Head into Kakadu National Park and visit ancient Aboriginal rock art sites, take a cruise to spot saltwater crocodiles and birdlife or explore the park by foot and discover the stunning landscapes of the region. Swim under waterfalls and in crystal clear waters in Litchfield National Park, before following the Stuart Highway to your first glimpse of ocean and the vibrant capital city or the Northern Territory as your journey ends in Darwin. ☺



## TAKE ME THERE

12 DAYS APOLLO MOTORHOME  
EXPLORERS WAY SELF DRIVE  
Includes 12 nights motorhome hire

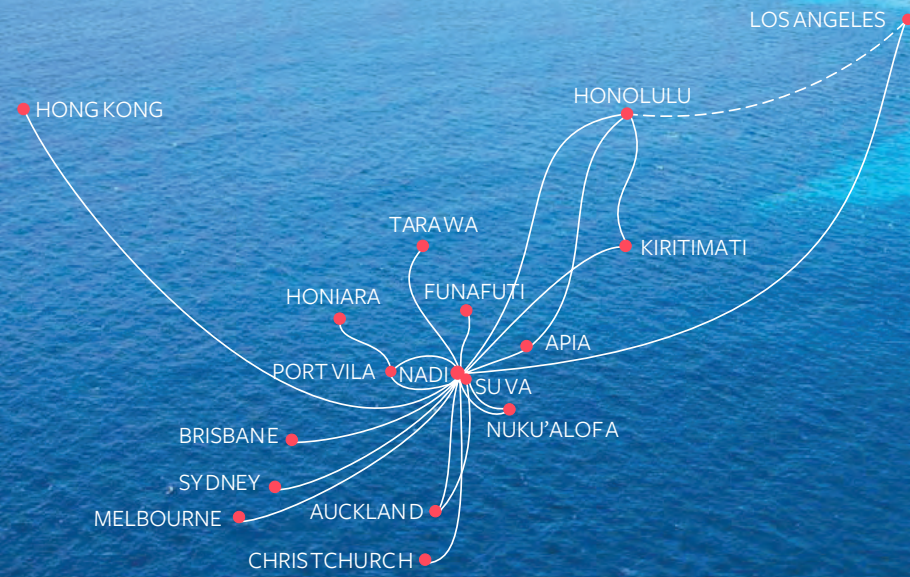
Prices from £249 per person  
SAVING up to £305 per couple

Based on travel Mar 2014



# FIJI AIRWAYS

PROUDLY CONNECTING THE SOUTH PACIFIC FOR OVER SIXTY YEARS.



MONURIKI ISLAND, FIJI  
FEATURED IN THE FILM CAST AWAY



Our new Fiji Airways livery



Our new A330 Business class

Fiji Airways (formerly Air Pacific) flies to Fiji from 25 different destinations using a fleet of Boeing 737s as well as brand new A330 Airbuses.

Fiji Airways network covers the islands of the South Pacific, Australia, New Zealand Hong Kong and the USA.

Code share routes with Cathay Pacific, Air New Zealand and Qantas makes flying to Fiji from the UK easy.



Relax  
*in paradise*



Tokoriki Island Resort is a boutique resort for couples seeking an affordable indulgence in paradise. Tokoriki exudes Fijian hospitality and is a relaxed blend of contemporary style and Fijian design.

All 34 luxury bures and villas are freestanding, air conditioned, enveloped in lush tropical gardens and positioned on the beachfront, offering the perfect south pacific sunset. The Sunset Pool Villas combine elevated views with the privacy of a horizon edge plunge pool and a daybed for that extra holiday indulgence.

Enjoy daily changing a la carte menus featuring South Pacific and Asian influences with a modern international twist. Dine on a romantic oceanfront deck or experience an intimate evening enjoying Teppanyaki.



New Beachfront Pool Bures feature a stunning pool on a large deck overlooking the ocean and surrounded by established tropical gardens. Furnished in a fusion of contemporary style and Fijian design, the freestanding bures feature air-conditioning, king beds, double vanities, indoor and outdoor tropical showers, double foldout doors delivering ocean views from your bure, pool or hammock.

Relax and indulge in the luxury day spa or simply soak up the sun by the resort's horizon edge pool. Experience Fijian culture with a visit to the local village and a traditional kava ceremony. Discover the beauty of snorkelling Tokoriki's coral reefs or dive with the PADI 5 Star Gold Palm Dive Team. With an abundance of sites including a Giant Clam Farm less than 30 minutes away by boat, keen divers and snorkellers are spoilt for choice.



At Tokoriki you'll arrive as a visitor and leave as a friend!

## TAKE ME THERE

7 NIGHTS

TOKORIKI ISLAND RESORT, FIJI

Includes Fiji Air Flights and Free Helicopter Transfer

Prices from £1,529 per person  
Based on travel Feb - Mar 2014



# Quicksilver Marine Biologist *a day in the life*



Quicksilver Cruises is Australia's most awarded Great Barrier Reef tour operator and for over three decades has been showcasing the awe-inspiring majesty of the Great Barrier Reef to visitors from all over the world. Their multi-award winning outer reef cruise to the renowned Agincourt ribbon reefs is the perfect destination for swimmers and non-swimmers alike, whether staying dry and exploring in a semi-submarine or diving in and snorkelling with Nemo!

For guests wanting to learn so much more about the wonders of this amazing ecosystem, Quicksilver's team of university qualified marine biologists are passionate about sharing their knowledge each day through interactive presentations and fun, educational guided snorkel tours.

Russell Hore heads Quicksilver's Reef Biosearch environmental division and has been diving into his work for 24 years – and is still as passionate as ever!

A day in the life? How lucky are we to call the Great Barrier Reef our office - the only suits out here are wetsuits! With my team of fellow marine biologists we are focused on education, research and monitoring.



We take small groups of keen snorkellers for a once in a lifetime experience, turning the ocean into a classroom, and hopefully creating new ambassadors who are passionate about the reef. Reef Biosearch began in an era before the term "ecotourism" was ever spawned, but I strongly believe that what we do fits the bill nicely!

Snorkelling is the international leveller – we have taken out politicians and labourers, movie stars and accountants, rock musicians and mechanics. The youngest snorkeller was 18 months old (a very special trip!), and the oldest was a one legged 94 year-old gentleman from LA! One of my staff even took out a 60 year-old blind man, who had a hand held tour, and animals brought up so he could use his other senses of touch and smell. We learn as much from our guests as we pass on to them, and I always make a point of spending time with at least one person on the way home to find out about where they come from.

I've had hundreds of "memorable moments" out on the reef, from swimming with whales and large pods of dolphins, to a chance encounter with a rare whale



shark in several hundred metres of water. I've been lucky to witness coral spawning, humpback whales breaching and discovered several new species of jellyfish. I still get amazed by the peace and serenity every time I go to the reef. 🐠

**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** Marine Biologist Russell Hore, Great Barrier Reef, Starfish, small group of snorkellers.

## TAKE ME THERE

### DAY TOUR

QUICKSILVER GREAT BARRIER REEF

Prices from £167 per person

Based on travel 2014

# FAR EAST stopovers...



**1 KUALA LUMPUR**



**2 BANGKOK**



**3 SINGAPORE**



**4 HONG KONG**

We know that the journey to Australasia is a tough one, which is why so many of our customers like to break it up with a stopover. Over the next 5 pages you will find a glimpse of what some of our top selling Far East Cities have to offer as ideal stopover locations...

Break up the journey and arrive in Australasia feeling rested and refreshed

An ideal opportunity to experience something different en route

Take advantage of our 2 and 3 day city tours to see as much as you can





.....✈️  
**Flight times:**  
 UK to Kuala Lumpur – 12hrs 30mins  
 Kuala Lumpur to Sydney – 7hrs 20mins  
 Kuala Lumpur to Auckland – 10hrs 15mins

## Kuala Lumpur



**Istana Hotel ★★★★★**  
 In the heart of Kuala Lumpur's popular Golden Triangle district, the Istana is just a 5 minute walk from excellent shopping and 10 minutes from the Petronas Towers. Relax in the tropical gardens surrounding the pool or enjoy a delicious meal in the fine dining Urban restaurant before retiring to your modern, spacious room.



**Berjaya Times Square ★★★★★**  
 This hotel is centrally located in the heart of the city and is well connected with a shopping centre, theme park and easy access to the monorail transport system. Guest rooms are spacious and come with great city views. The hotel has an outdoor pool, fitness centre and selection of dining options making this an excellent choice.

### TAKE ME THERE 3 NIGHTS

Includes Deluxe Room and 1 FREE Night

Prices from £75 per person  
**SAVING from £77 per couple**

Based on travel Mar 2014

### TAKE ME THERE 3 NIGHTS

Includes Superior Room, Bed and Breakfast

Prices from £99 per person  
**SAVING from £81 per couple**

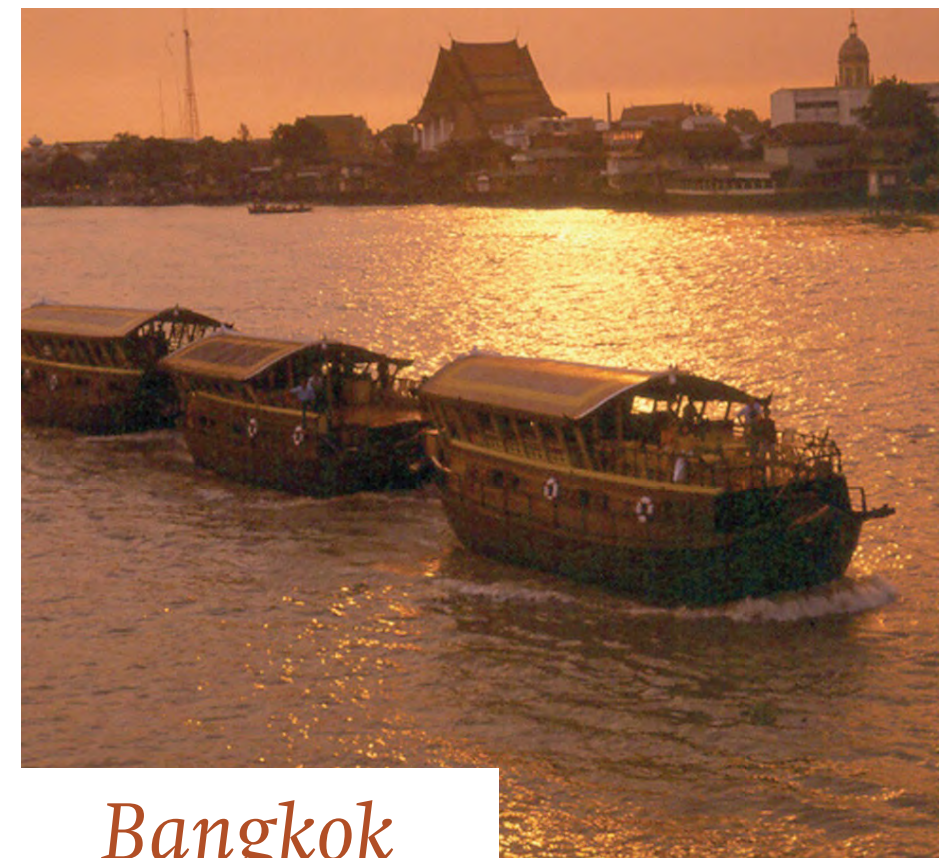
Based on travel Mar 2014



**Flight times:**  
 UK to Bangkok – 11hrs 30mins  
 Bangkok to Sydney – 9hrs 15mins  
 Bangkok to Auckland – 11hrs 20mins

## Thailand

A city like no other, Bangkok is filled with a fusion of fun, rich culture and heritage. A new age of sophisticated hotels, bars and restaurants along with famous markets ensures that this cosmopolitan city is a 'must see'. Bangkok tours will give you the opportunity to explore the palaces and temples and to take in the sights and sounds of this bustling metropolis. **Grand Palace and Temples Half day tour from £35 per adult**



## Bangkok



### Rembrandt Hotel & Towers ★★★★★

With a central location in the heart of Bangkok, the Rembrandt Hotel combines modern accommodation and great facilities. Despite its location, the hotel offers a quiet sanctuary in the centre of the city, with a lovely outdoor pool and a choice of five restaurants.

### TAKE ME THERE 3 NIGHTS

Includes Superior Room

Prices from £89 per person

Based on travel Mar 2014



### Anantara Bangkok Riverside Resort & Spa ★★★★★

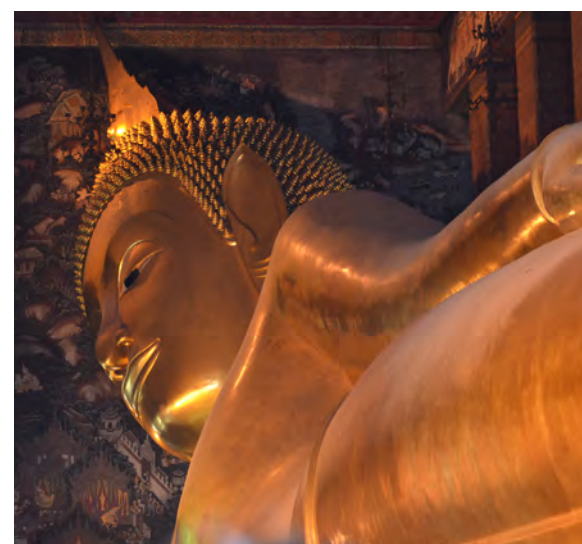
A city resort with a difference, the Anantara Bangkok Riverside is a luxurious colonial style hotel with five star facilities set on the edge of the Chao Phraya River amongst lush tropical gardens. Classical Thai architecture and cool river breezes offer the tranquillity of a resort within easy reach of the city's sights and Skytrain.

### TAKE ME THERE 3 NIGHTS

Includes Deluxe Room

Prices from £155 per person  
**SAVING from £55 per couple**

Based on travel Mar 2014



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Kuala Lumpur Petronas Towers, Chao Phraya River cruise Bangkok, Buddha.

## Malaysia

A Kuala Lumpur stay offers an excellent variety of shops, local restaurants and colourful markets. Enjoy a city tour and learn about the Malaysian capital's changing skyline, which includes the world-famous Petronas Towers, mosques, colonial buildings and temples. Take time to understand the city's unique and interesting blend of cultures.

**Half day tour from £18 per adult**





Flight times:  
 UK to Singapore – 12hrs 45mins  
 Singapore to Sydney – 7hrs 40mins  
 Singapore to Auckland – 9hrs 55mins

# Singapore

A melting pot of cultures, which blends Chinese, Indian and Muslim tradition in a modern metropolis to rival any Western shore, Singapore is definitely one of the ‘must see’ destinations in the Far East. From colonial monuments to the thriving cultural communities of China Town and Little India to the renovation of Sentosa Island with Resorts World including Universal Studios and the enhancement of the Marina Bay area, Singapore is catapulting into the International spotlight. Singapore really has it all with its stunning beaches, great shopping and fantastic nightlife.

Footsteps of Raffles tour from £70 per adult.



### PARKROYAL on the Beach Road

★★★★★

Conveniently located on Beach Road close to the Esplanade, the Parkroyal on Beach Road is in a great position for exploring the city. Resembling a tropical oasis, the hotel has a huge pool and sun terrace and the St. Gregory Spa offers everything from facials to Ayurvedic treatments. Stylish rooms and impeccable service make this a great place to stay.

### TAKE ME THERE

3 NIGHTS

Includes Superior Room

Prices from £235 per person

Based on travel Mar 2014



### Pan Pacific Singapore

★★★★★

Pan Pacific Singapore is located in the heart of Marina Bay, close to attractions such as the Singapore Flyer and Suntec City Mall. From the magnificent views from the contemporary guest rooms to the excellent range of facilities and services, this hotel defines luxury and relaxation.

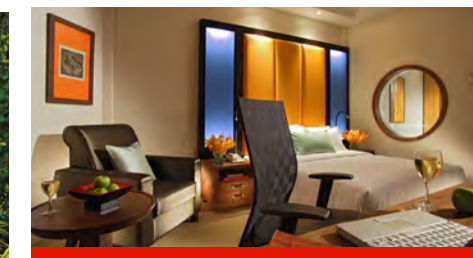
### TAKE ME THERE

3 NIGHTS

Includes Deluxe King Room

Prices from £365 per person

Based on travel Mar 2014



### Orchard Hotel ★★★★★

The Orchard Hotel offers cosmopolitan elegance and comfort, and is set on the world famous shopping and entertainment boulevard, Orchard Road. The Location means that you can step out of your hotel straight into some of the world's best shopping or simply relax by the pool.

Enjoy a truly unique culinary experience with dining options that include Hua Ting, one of the top Chinese restaurants in town where you can savour exquisite Cantonese delicacies by Master Chef Lap Fai. Indulge in Orchard Cafe's wide range of International and local buffet delights, or catch the fascinating creation of La-Mian at Noodles and enjoy bowls of affordable a la minute handmade noodles prepared with fresh quality ingredients! Unwind at the cosy Intermezzo Bar with afternoon tea and happy hour cocktails.

Orchard Hotel Singapore is indeed the perfect location for shopping and boast excellent, business, entertainment and relaxation facilities.

### TAKE ME THERE

3 NIGHTS

Includes Deluxe Room

Prices from £249 per person

Based on travel Mar 2014



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Singapore pagoda, Singapore city at twilight.





Flight times:  
 UK to Hong Kong – 11hrs 50mins  
 Hong Kong to Sydney – 8hrs 50mins  
 Hong Kong to Auckland – 10hrs 55mins

# Hong Kong

A vibrant metropolis where East meets West and ancient meets modern, Hong Kong will leave you with unique and unforgettable experiences. The junk boats of Aberdeen harbour contrast dramatically with the luxurious harbour front hotels. Full of energy and excitement, Hong Kong

is a dining and gourmet paradise with over 11,000 restaurants. There is also plenty for families to do, with Hong Kong Disneyland and Ocean Park metropolis as highlights. City day tour from £19 per adult.



### Harbour Grand Kowloon ★★★★★

The first class Harbour Grand Kowloon is in a stunning location on Kowloon waterfront with panoramic views of Victoria Harbour. With great facilities including a spectacular rooftop pool, a fitness centre, spa and choice of six restaurants. A complimentary shuttle service is also provided to the entertainment and shopping of nearby Tsim Sha Tsui Road.

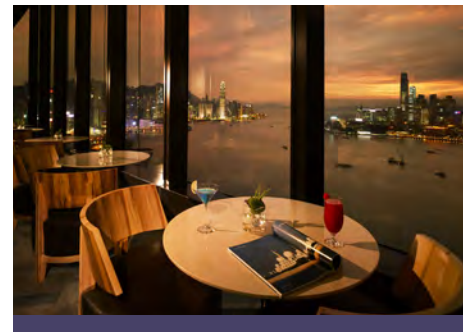
### TAKE ME THERE

3 NIGHTS

Includes Superior Court View Room

Prices from £199 per person

Based on travel Feb 2014



### Harbour Grand Hong Kong ★★★★★

The Harbour Grand Hong Kong is a new addition to Hong Kong Island and is an icon of the finest luxury hospitality. Located at the heart of the Island, each room enjoys unobstructed views of the world renowned Victoria Harbour. Nestled amongst the fashionable shopping areas of Causeway Bay, Wanchai and Central, the hotel is just 2 minutes walk from Hong Kong's extensive Mass Transit Railway (MTR) system.

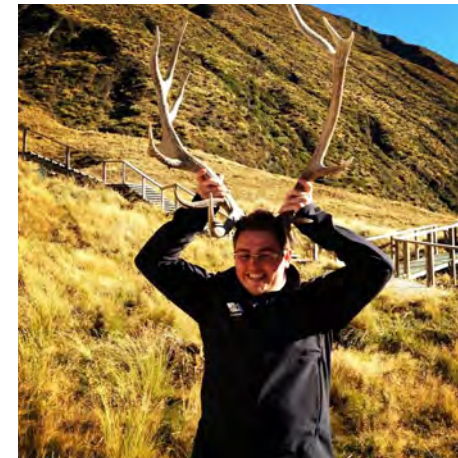
### TAKE ME THERE

3 NIGHTS

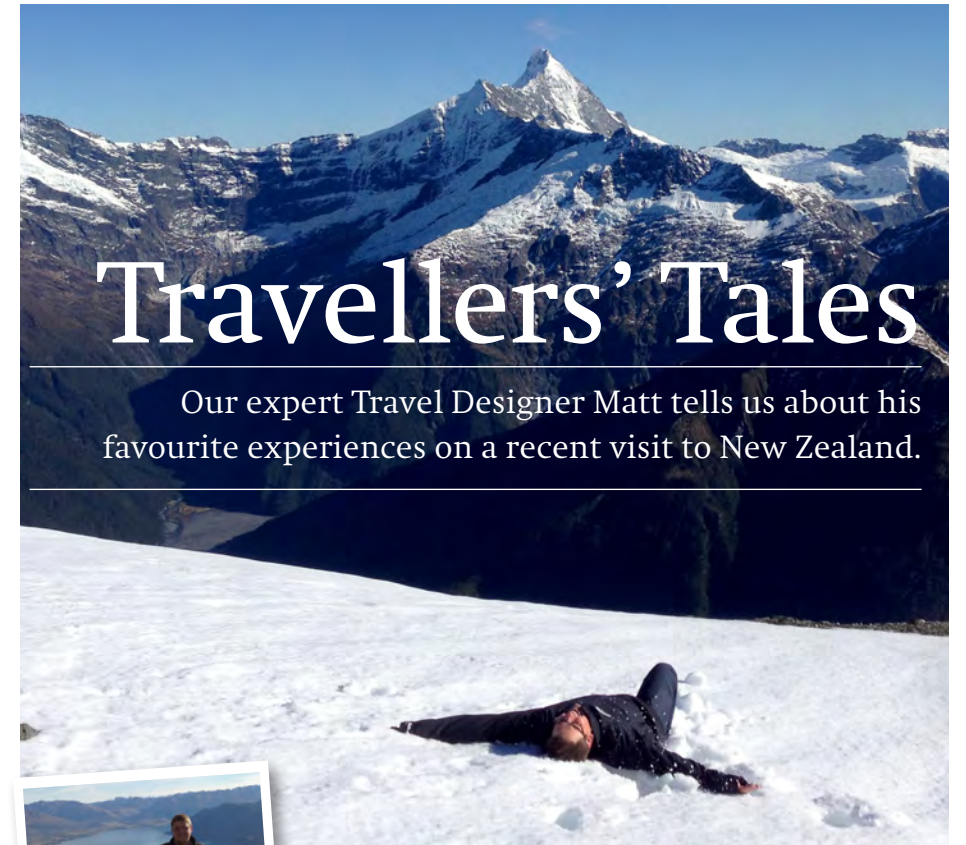
Includes Superior Harbour View Room

Prices from £245 per person

Based on travel Mar 2014



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Matt at Eagles Nest, playing golf in Queenstown, with Maori warriors at Waitangi.



# Travellers' Tales

Our expert Travel Designer Matt tells us about his favourite experiences on a recent visit to New Zealand.



Matt  
 Travel Designer

**What was your highlight?**  
 When staying in Queenstown we were lucky enough to go on a day trip with Dart River Safaris, picking us up from Glenorchy at the end of Lake Wakatipu, we were driven along a route where many scenes from Lord of the Rings were filmed. We were then taken on a nature walk through the ancient forest, before catching a jet boat back down the river. At some points the boats are able to navigate areas with as little as 4 inches of water, so you can really access many areas you wouldn't usually be able to. I also skydived from 15,000ft – not only was this a once in a lifetime experience, but one of the most scenic places in the world in which to jump.

**Where's next on your travel list?**  
 After this adrenaline fuelled visit to New Zealand, I'd love to travel to the Cook Islands – the spectacular Aitutaki lagoon is the ultimate in paradise destinations, and a great place to kick back and relax. 🍹

**Where did you go?**  
 I travelled with Tourism New Zealand on a 10 day trip which took us to many of the highlights of both the North and South Island of New Zealand. We landed in Auckland and then headed north to the Bay of Islands via the historic treaty ground at Waitangi. After flying down to Christchurch we visited Wanaka and Queenstown before returning for our last few nights in Auckland.

**What would you recommend?**  
 Staying in a luxury lodge! There are so many to choose from across New Zealand, but you'll find the same level of quality wherever you go. Eagles Nest in the Bay of Islands was simply breathtaking – there are just 5 luxury villas, all with private swimming pools; they have a helipad for the ultimate experience – we were picked up and taken to the Hole in the Rock for an amazing day trip. On the South Island we visited Minaret Station which is New Zealand's first luxury tented lodge – set amongst the landscape of Mount Aspiring National Park. There are just 4 lodges, all with private decks and hot tubs.

### TAKE ME THERE

11 NIGHTS APOLLO MOTORHOME  
 NEW ZEALAND

Includes 12 Days North & South Island, Auckland – Christchurch with Ferry transfers to the South Island

Prices from £359 per person  
**SAVING up to £150 per couple**

Based on travel May 2014



# Explore the green and the gold

With vast golden beaches stretching for over 40 miles, and more than 300 days of sunshine a year it's easy to see why the Gold Coast is one of Australia's top holiday spots. But should you decide to take a look beyond the world famous Surfers Paradise then you would be in for a pleasant surprise...



The lesser known areas of Broadbeach or Coolangatta just a few miles south of Surfers Paradise are a little quieter than their glitzy neighbour, still boasting those golden beaches but complete with beachfront markets, al fresco dining and relaxed atmosphere. Broadbeach has a village style feel, and is renowned for its award-winning eateries, chic coffee houses and gourmet delis. Throughout the year festivals, street performers and the Friday night Lantern Lit markets contribute to a family-friendly feel. At the southern tip, and just on the New South Wales border, is Coolangatta. The beaches are popular for swimming and surfing, and the walking tracks linking the headland between Rainbow Bay and the city allow you to explore the coastline on foot or by bike. Close by is also the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, where native Australian animals and birds are on display in natural bush or rainforest settings. Interactive displays mean you can see the wildlife up close, including a chance to hold a koala. The more adventurous can join the unique 'Green Challenge', and see the sanctuary from a different perspective via an exhilarating treetops ropes course – with some elements based on SAS training! It's all very safe, and has been designed with children in mind.

Moving just a short distance inland from the coast is the lush green of the Hinterlands, and the change of scenery is as dramatic as they come. The Lamington National Park is Australia's largest area of sub-tropical natural reserve, with almost a thousand species of plants, and an extensive mix of wildlife and birds. Lush rainforest, unspoilt waterfalls and cool streams contrast the coastline perfectly, and yet is close enough to explore at a leisurely pace. High in the Hinterlands is the family owned O'Reillys Rainforest Retreat, with traditional Australian hospitality and tasty home cooking on offer. Explore the peaceful natural setting, either at your own pace or with a guided rainforest walk. The Tree Top Walk is a must to try and spot

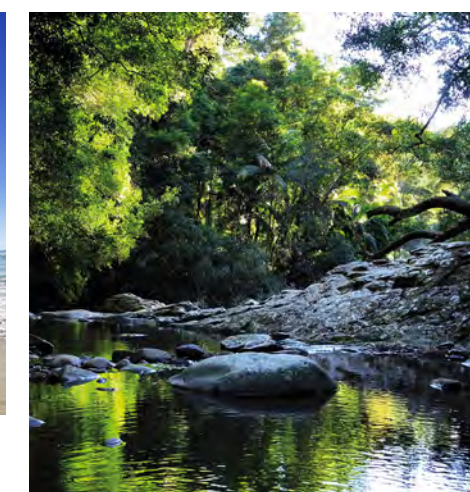
**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** Greenmount surfers, Coolangatta, Lamington National Park, Group on the beach.



wildlife, and there is even a Segway tour option for the more adventurous! For a touch of luxury Austravel recommends that you opt to stay in one of the self contained Mountain Villas, and pamper yourself at the Lost World Spa. Close to O'Reillys is the small town of Beaudesert, with its quirky arts and crafts shops, historic trails and pavement cafes, all set off against a rugged backdrop and working cattle stations.

Heading north, and yet still only 30 minutes from the iconic beaches, is Mount Tamar, a thriving region offering boutique wineries, art galleries, and a pleasant mix of old and new-world charm. Locally grown avocados, macadamia nuts, and award winning cheeses and fudge lend themselves to some seriously good eating! The fresh spring water and rich fruit of the area also combine to produce award winning wines at Cedar Creek not forgetting the hidden jewel of the Tamborine Mountain Distillery which is Australia's most awarded.

If its wildlife and nature you prefer then the Tamborine Rainforest Skywalk is perfect to explore the towering canopies of the ancient forests. Your adventure starts in the eco-gallery, where



interpretive displays provide a whole host of information, and ideas of what to look out for. Next step out onto the spectacular elevated walkway, through the seldom seen middle and higher rainforest canopies. The walk gently takes you past look outs, until you reach the incredible Cantilever, which at 30m above ground offers incredible views over the creek and forest below.

Although the hinterland is possible to explore from the coast via a day trip, the best way to see the area is to pick up an Avis car and explore at your own pace. An overnight stay at O'Reillys or Binna Burra Mountain Lodge will enable you to completely immerse yourself into the natural beauty of the area, and spot lots of wildlife too! 🐨

## TAKE ME THERE

**7 NIGHTS**  
THE VIBE HOTEL

Includes Flights with Singapore Airlines and transfers

Prices from £1,249 per person  
**SAVING up to £195 per couple**

Based on travel Nov 2013





# Explore the green and the gold

With vast golden beaches stretching for over 40 miles, and more than 300 days of sunshine a year it's easy to see why the Gold Coast is one of Australia's top holiday spots. But should you decide to take a look beyond the world famous Surfers Paradise then you would be in for a pleasant surprise...



The lesser known areas of Broadbeach or Coolangatta just a few miles south of Surfers are a little quieter than their glitzy neighbour, still boasting those golden beaches but complete with beachfront markets, al fresco dining and relaxed atmosphere. Broadbeach has a village style feel, and is renowned for its award-winning eateries, chic coffee houses and gourmet delis. Throughout the year festivals, street performers and the Friday night Lantern Lit markets contribute to a family-friendly feel. At the southern tip, and just on the New South Wales border, is Coolangatta. The beaches are popular for swimming and surfing, and the walking tracks linking the headland between Rainbow Bay and the city allow you to explore the coastline on foot or by bike. Close by is also the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, where native Australian animals and birds are on display in natural bush or rainforest settings. Interactive displays mean you can see the wildlife up close, including a chance to hold a koala. The more adventurous can join the unique 'Green Challenge', and see the sanctuary from a different perspective via an exhilarating treetops ropes course – with some elements based on SAS training! It's all very safe, and has been designed with children in mind.

Moving just a short distance inland from the coast is the lush green of the Hinterlands, and the change of scenery is as dramatic as they come. The Lamington National Park is Australia's largest area of sub-tropical natural reserve, with almost a thousand species of plants, and an extensive mix of wildlife and birds. Lush rainforest, unspoilt waterfalls and cool streams contrast the coastline perfectly, and yet is close enough to explore at a leisurely pace. High in the Hinterlands is the family owned O'Reillys Rainforest Retreat, with traditional Australian hospitality and tasty home cooking. Explore the peaceful natural setting, either at your own pace or with a guided rainforest walk. The Tree Top Walk is a must to try and spot wildlife,

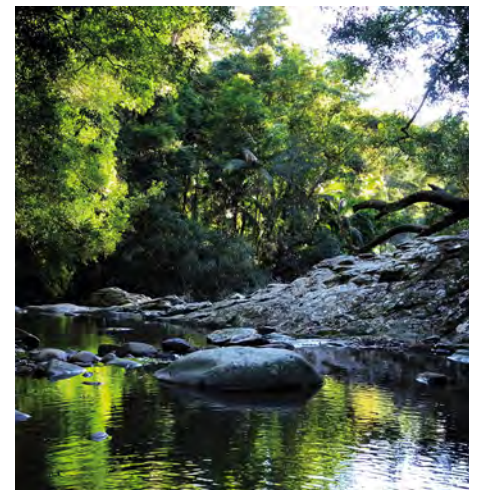
**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** Greenmount surfers, Coolangatta, Lamington National Park, Group on the beach.



and there is even a Segway tour option for the more adventurous! For a touch of luxury Austravel recommends that you opt to stay in one of the self contained Mountain Villas, and pamper yourself at the Lost World Spa. Close to O'Reillys is the small town of Beaudesert, with its quirky arts and crafts shops, historic trails and pavement cafes, all set off against a rugged backdrop and working cattle stations.

Heading north, and yet still only 30 minutes from the iconic beaches, is Mount Tamorine, a thriving region offering boutique wineries, art galleries, and a pleasant mix of old and new-world charm. Locally grown avocados, macadamia nuts, and award winning cheeses and fudge lend themselves to some seriously good eating! The fresh spring water and rich fruit of the area also combine to produce award winning wines at Cedar Creek and O'Reillys Canungra Valley, not forgetting the hidden jewel of the Tamborine Mountain Distillery which is Australia's most awarded.

If its wildlife and nature you prefer then the Tamborine Rainforest Skywalk is perfect to explore the towering canopies of the ancient forests.



Your adventure starts in the eco-gallery, where interpretive displays provide a whole host of information, and ideas of what to look out for. Next step out onto the spectacular elevated walkway, through the seldom seen middle and higher rainforest canopies. The walk gently takes you past look outs, until you reach the incredible Cantilever, which at 30m above ground offers incredible views over the creek and forest below.

Although the hinterland is possible to explore from the coast via a day trip, the best way to see the area is to pick up an Avis car and explore at your own pace. An overnight stay at O'Reillys or Binna Burra Mountain Lodge will enable you to completely immerse yourself into the natural beauty of the area, and spot lots of wildlife too! 🦘

## TAKE ME THERE

**DAY TOUR**  
SAFARI OF SCENES

**HALF PRICE**  
Prices from £xx per person  
**SAVING up to £xx per couple**

Based on travel xx 2014







Azur is a distinctively contemporary lodge with a hilltop location overlooking some of the most spectacular scenery in New Zealand. Set within natural bush and with stunning panoramic vistas of Lake Wakatipu, the Remarkables and Queenstown, the lodge is known for its privacy, discretion and serenity.

And being just 20 minutes from Queenstown International Airport, along with complimentary transfers, it couldn't be easier to get to.

The resort has just nine villas, each designed to allow you to soak up the incredible views of Lake Wakatipu and the surrounding mountain ranges, giving you an intimate and personalised feel. Each villa features a lounge area with gas fire place, LCD television and DVD/CD stereo system, not to mention the spa bath set into a bay window.

The Lodge is the public area where you will find the reception, along with an open kitchen where you can enjoy your meals and sumptuous canapés through the day and a relaxing guest lounge. You can also enjoy your meals in the privacy of your luxury villa.

If visiting Queenstown this is the perfect hideaway!

### TAKE ME THERE

3 NIGHTS

VILLA - AZUR, QUEENSTOWN  
Includes Free transfers

Prices from £1,219 per person

Based on travel Mar 2014

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