



Australia

Australia is a vast country of nearly three million square kilometres, stretching from the tip of tropical Cape York Peninsula in the Coral Sea down to the cold wilderness at South East Cape in Tasmania, from the beautiful beaches and semi-tropical forests of Cape Byron to the arid Steep Point in Western Australia by the Indian Ocean. Most Australians live on the coastline of Australia, between the forests and the beaches, where the climate is warm in the summer and temperate in the winters. In the interior Australia is a vast desert, home to the 'Red Centre' and some of the most dramatic and barren country on Earth.



Please find more information's on www.australia.com.

The Great Barrier Reef

One of Australia's most remarkable natural gifts, the Great Barrier Reef, is blessed with the breathtaking beauty of the world's largest coral reef. The reef contains an abundance of marine life and comprises of over 3000 individual reef systems and coral cays and literally hundreds of picturesque tropical islands with some of the worlds most beautiful sun-soaked, golden beaches.

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the seven wonders of the natural world, and pulling away from it and viewing it from a greater distance, you can understand why. It is larger than the Great Wall of China and the only living thing on earth visible from space. Naturalists' estimate that a simple reef composed of millions of tiny coral creatures may act as a shelter for over 500 fish species, more than are to be found in the Atlantic Ocean. The reef is enormous. Its northern most point is in the Gulf of Papua and it extends south to the Tropic of Capricorn along 2,300 kilometres of coastline and covering an area of 230,000 square kilometres. The reef coast is dotted with hundreds of islands, which have their own fringing reefs.



Australia's Red Centre

Australia's famous 'Red Centre' certainly lives up to its reputation, with vast amounts of red soil and sparse greenery amongst its landscape. A trip here cannot be missed as the area holds something different to the rest of Australia. Ayers Rock/ Uluru, the world's largest monolith and an Aboriginal sacred site is Australia's most famous natural landmark. Visitors may wish to make the tough 1.6km ascent to the top or take a walking tour around the rock with an aboriginal guide, learning about its fascinating with the Uluru people and its importance in dreamtime legend.

Whether you're taking a short break or on a longer expedition, the range of adventures is like everything else out here...endless.



Blue Mountains

You'll love the blue-hazed beauty of the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area – one million hectares of tall forests, sandstone cliffs, canyons, waterfalls and bushland.

Take in the breathtaking panoramas on a bushwalk, mountain bike, climbing rocks, canoeing or abseiling. Marvel at natural attractions like Wentworth Falls and the Three Sisters - a trio of rocky pinnacles named after an Aboriginal legend.

Explore the underground rivers and chambers of Jenolan Caves, and then walk the historic Six Foot Track to Katoomba. In amongst the sandstone outcrops and eucalypt forests you'll find great dining, luxury retreats, the world's steepest railway and a vibrant community of artists.



Visit www.bluemountains.com.au to read more about the Blue Mountains.

Gold Coast

The Gold Coast experience is Australia at its best, delivering lively entertainment with naturally emotive landscapes in one charismatic city of year round enjoyment. Queensland's Gold Coast, an hour south of Brisbane, is famous for its fine, white beaches, but that's just a part of the story. With a cluster of theme parks, great shopping and restaurants, it is the place for travellers who want to do it all - quickly! The Gold Coast is known for being an action-packed holiday destination. Whether it is the theme parks, attractions or tours...there's something for everyone.



Melbourne

Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, is situated on the picturesque tree-lined banks of the Yarra River.

Melbourne is located on the south-east coast and is the 2nd largest city in Australia. Over 3.5 million people live in the city, which has been voted The World's Most Liveable City on a number of occasions. It is a thriving and cosmopolitan city with a unique balance of graceful old buildings and stunning new architecture surrounded by parks and gardens. Melbourne is Australia's leader in the arts, sport and fashion, and has some of the finest restaurants in the country.



Melbourne is renowned for its festivals and sporting events, staging an exciting variety of entertainment each year including the Formula One Australian Grand Prix, the Australian Open Tennis, the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, the Melbourne Film Festival, the Boxing Day Test Cricket, the AFL Grand Final, the Heineken Golf Classic, and the Spring Racing Carnival.

The recent Docklands development has seen Melbourne city embrace the beauty of the Bay, converting old port authority sheds west of the city into a vibrant residential, business, sporting and entertainment precinct by the water.

For the night cats, Melbourne has the most live music venues in Australia and a burgeoning number of chic and groovy inner city bars for every level and style of socialising imaginable. Melbournians are also spoilt by the quality and range of gastronomic delights available to them. And for the shop-a-holics, Melbourne fashion is the envy of many, from the Paris end of town in ritzy Collins Street to the urban cool of Chapel Street in South Yarra.

For more information on Melbourne including maps and guides, please visit www.thatsmelbourne.com.au.

Port Stephens

Back on the Pacific Highway, north of Newcastle the road crosses the Hunter River at Hexham and skirts the western shore of Port Stephens. Two and a half times the size of Sydney Harbour and blessed with both calm swimming coves and ocean beaches perfect for surfing, Port Stephens is home to a number of popular resorts such as the sophisticated Nelson Bay. The most famous attractions are its large population of bottlenose dolphins. Between May and



September it also offers whale – watching opportunities. The aquatic reserves at Fly Point and Halifax Point are popular with divers, and the surrounding bush offers ample walking trails.

Please find more information's on www.portstephens.com.org.