

Australia Eguide

“the definitive Australian travel guide”



2008

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Welcome to Australia Eguide!

Australia Eguide is a project that started in 2001 with the simple aim of providing the most comprehensive Australia travel information available. And making it all free!

Our team have worked hard, travelled all over and now able to offer this Eguide as a single document. Associated with this print document are Eguides for many of the major destinations such as Sydney, Melbourne and more. Just add the word “eguide” to the name and “.com” and you will find an amazing resource. Try it for SydneyEguide.com.

We very much welcome help and if you have information or travel stories please let us know. The Eguide is very dynamic and we update all the time. For contact information please visit www.eguide.com.au/contact.php. For travel stories then please sign on at www.eguidetravel.com, and this is also where you can read what others have said.

To save paper and trees we suggest that you read electronically where possible and print off the pages you need. Our design is very simple to make printing easy and cheap.

Do enjoy, and thank you for your support. Please tell everyone about this resource and encourage them to download themselves. Do not forward the document; just ask them to visit www.australiaeguide.com.au to download their own copy.

David Hearle
Project Director

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Australia Arrivals

At whichever airport one enters Australia, the air ticket cost will be similar, although one will, of course, be limited to the ports served by the airline chosen. Possible entry ports are Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Cairns, Perth and Darwin. Some airlines allow arrival into one airport and a departure from another. You might for example decide to land in the south in say Melbourne and depart from the north in Cairns or Brisbane.

Australian Immigration

Immigration is generally a fast efficient process but at peak times such as early morning when all the Asian flights arrive queues can build up. A [visa](#) will be needed and a passport that has at least 6 months validity. An arrivals card must be completed and normally provided by the airline.

Australian Customs

If arriving from an overseas location you will have to pass through quarantine as well as customs. This is a very strict process and nearly all bags are X rayed and many searched. Trained dogs will run around all the bags by the luggage carousel and you may be asked questions even before you reach the customs desk. Do not be alarmed, quarantine is a very serious issue in Australia and every step is taken.

It is simple, do not bring any food of any description into Australia. If you have by mistake brought something in there are bins to dispose of food items as you come off the plane. To attempt to smuggle food or flowers or other items on the list into the country is a very serious offence with heavy fines or imprisonment. If you wish to bring food into Australia **you must declare it.**

The importation of drugs is as in most countries a very serious crime and you will be caught due to the extensive screening of incoming passengers into Australia.

The duty-free concessions available to travellers are for A\$900 worth of goods (A\$450 for people under 18 and both air and sea crew members) including gifts (given to you or intended for others), souvenirs, cameras, electronic equipment, leather goods, perfume concentrates, jewellery, watches and sporting equipment. Alcohol and tobacco products cannot be included in this concession. These goods can be obtained overseas; purchased in Australia duty or tax free before departure; goods for which a tax refund has been approved through the Tourist Refund Scheme or purchased from an inwards duty free shop on arrival.

You are allowed to bring 2.25 litres of alcoholic beverages for each passenger aged 18 years or over. And for tobacco 250 cigarettes, or 250 grams of cigars or tobacco products for each passenger aged 18 years or over. One opened packet containing 25 cigarettes or less is also allowed.

If you exceed any of the concession limits set out above, Customs will charge you duty and tax on the entire importation or purchase within that group of items. You can pool

your duty free concessions if you are a family travelling together. Family means husband and wife and, if any, a child who is, or children who are, under the age of 18 years.

Most personal items such as new clothing, footwear, and articles for personal hygiene and grooming (but not fur or perfume concentrates) may also be brought into Australia in accompanied baggage free from duty and/or tax. If you have anything in excess of your duty free concession, declare the goods and provide proof of purchase to Customs for calculation of any duty and tax to be paid.

Business travellers carrying commercial goods or samples may need to obtain permits for their goods depending on the nature of the goods, regardless of value. Quarantine and wildlife regulations and other restrictions may also apply to certain goods. A customs entry for Customs clearance may be required if the goods carried are valued over \$A250.

Laptop computers and other similar electronic equipment for personal use may also be brought in duty/tax free provided Customs is satisfied you are taking these goods with you on departure.

Failure to declare goods in excess of your concession could result in the application of penalties.

Yellow fever vaccination

If you have travelled through or landed in Tropical Zone Central Africa or South America within the previous six days before arriving in Australia, you will need a valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate for each person who is over twelve months old. This applies even if there was no outbreak of Yellow Fever in the infected area at the time of your visit. You do not need any other health certificates to enter Australia.

Essential Information

Banks

Banks and ATM machines are everywhere. Banking hours are 9.30 – 4 on Monday to Thursday and until 5pm on Friday. The unit of currency is the Australian dollar, divided into 100 cents. Originally Australia used pounds, as in Britain, but the switch was made in 1966, with the dollar equal to 10 shillings, or, in other words, two dollars equal to one old pound.

Notes are in circulation in denominations of \$100 (green), \$50 (olive), \$20 (red), \$10 (blue) and \$5 (purple). The notes are all made of plastic, a field in which Australia has been a pioneer. Australia was the first country in the world to print all of its notes on plastic, the current series having been introduced between 1992 and 1996. The plastic notes last approximately four times as long as paper notes and can be recycled.

Coins in circulation are in denominations of \$2 (gold colour), \$1 (gold colour), 50 cents (silver colour), 20 cents (silver colour), 10 cents (silver colour) and 5 cents (silver)

colour). One point which sometimes causes confusion at first is that the \$1 coin is larger than the \$2. The copper coinage for 2 cents and 1 cent was removed from circulation some years ago, but items may still be priced in steps of less than 5 cents. In such cases, your final bill is supposed to be rounded up or down to the nearest 5 cents.

Each bank offers its own exchange rate for foreign currencies, but for common currencies rates vary but little. If you are exchanging travellers cheques, though, you may find that there is one particular bank which represents the issuer of your cheques and therefore does not make a charge for changing that brand of travellers cheque. Other banks will impose a charge. You will have to research to find which is the best bank for you.

In many cases you may be able to use a non-Australian bank card to withdraw money from a machine at an Australian bank. Many travellers like this method as it avoids their having to safeguard too much cash or too many travellers cheques. There will be a small fee for this service, but the fee will be determined by your home bank, so ask before you set out. Many Australian banks have reciprocal arrangements with overseas banks and may not charge a service fee for using their ATM. It is worth finding out before you arrive which is the best bank for you.

Business Hours

Business hours are most commonly 9:00 until 17:30, Monday to Friday, with a small variation either side. Places in the north of Australia sometimes open and close a little earlier. If trying to contact a business in another part of Australia, remember about time differences.

Government offices often close at 17:00, or even 16:30. Shops may stay open later, particularly on Thursday and Friday evenings, and most will be open on Saturdays, and some on Sundays. The larger the town, the more likely shops are to indulge in extended trading hours. Corner shops will usually stay open until about 20:00, and some even later. Supermarkets in the big cities are often open 24 hours a day, and even in smaller towns they are likely to remain open until about 22:00 on weekdays.

Etiquette

Australians are friendly and generally informal. A first name is used very quickly and with meaning. Extending your middle finger is very rude. Australians follow rules and expect everyone to do so.

Tipping is not expected in Australia. However due to the large number of visitors tipping does occur and like most places in the world is appreciated. If service in restaurants has been outstanding you might wish to leave 10% but if not then do not feel obliged to tip and if you just want to be generous round up the bill.

Food And Drink

One can find almost any type of food in Australia - and one can find it in all price ranges. Some of the restaurants are very good indeed, but if you are on a limited budget you can still find tasty food in a diversity of ethnic styles at reasonable prices. MacDonaldis have established his hamburgers in every corner of the nation, and Colonel Sanders is not far behind with his fried chicken. Almost every corner shop can sell you the ubiquitous meat pie, and usually has some other similar delicacies also. If you have a good appetite, the counter lunch will solve the problem. Most hotels (pubs) serve a hearty lunch at a modest price.

In Australia, each state has its own brands of beer and only in the last few years have the breweries been successful in expanding their sales into the foreign territory of other states. The most popular brand of beer is probably V.B. (Victoria Bitter), brewed, of course, in Victoria. A superior beer (in taste and price) which is gaining in popularity is Cooper's, brewed in South Australia.

Australia has also become the home of some good quality wines. Although the Barossa Valley in South Australia has long been the most famous area for wine production, in recent years a determined challenge has come from Western Australia, and latterly from Victoria and New South Wales too.

Health

There are no inoculation requirements for visitors to Australia, unless you have come recently from a list of rather unlikely countries. If you have visited somewhere off the beaten track on your way, check with an Australian embassy prior to travelling. Of course, medical attention, if required, will be expensive in Australia, so some form of health insurance is required. The main certificate in such cases will be a yellow fever certificate.

Some countries have reciprocal arrangements with Australia for health cover. This applies particularly to various nations which are members of the British Commonwealth. If you check this situation when you apply for your ETA, you may find that you are already covered for your time in Australia.

Hospitals are excellent and the ambulance service to get you there excellent all across the country. In remote areas helicopters an aircraft will be used. The risk is snakebites, crocodiles, insects and sharks. However despite various very high profile deaths they are very rare and most incidents such as snake bite if dealt with properly are not life threatening. Be careful in the bush and do not travel alone in case of a snake bite and teak mob lie if you have one. Watch the Australian sun and avoid skin cancer, remember the slogan "slip, slap, slop" i.e. put on a shirt, slap on a hat and put on a high factor sunscreen.

There is a risk of Dengue fever and caused by mosquitoes that bite in the day time. This really means that you need to consider using mosquito repellent 24 hours in areas where Dengue fever exists.

Internet

Most hotels and backpackers have internet facilities. There are many internet cafes in the main cities and some are linked as one group to provide you with a discount. If you have a laptop an option is to sign up to the one of the national wireless systems offered by Telstra and others.

Language

For overseas visitors we list some of our Aussie slang words that you will hear and enjoy using. There are more and the meaning is normally guessable. Some are also used in UK but not USA.

Arvo (afternoon); *barbie* (BBQ); *bloke* (male); *esky* (icebox); *fossick* (search for something); *mate* (good friend or used as a greeting); *outback* (interior of Australia); *petrol* (gas); *flog* (sell); *footpath* (sidewalk); *loo* (toilet); *ratbag* (dishonest person); *shout* (pay for someone); *sickie* (a day off work due to illness); *stubby* (small beer bottle); *ta* (thanks); *yakka* (hard work).

The term Pom or Brit is used to describe persons of British origin and Kiwi for New Zealander; these are used in a friendly and accepted manner. Australians are friendly people and you will often hear “*no worries*” and “*enjoy*” the meaning is really meant in the use of the word and you will find yourself using it. It is important to greet and the local term “*g’day mate*” will be heard on occasion.

The language of ordering a coffee is complicated! Coffee has become very popular and cafes exist all over Sydney that compete to make the best. The combinations are endless! Café staff are always pleased to help and best to describe what you want and then remember the name. For example we have flat white; long black; soy flat white; strong soy flat white; skinny strong decaff latte or soy decaff latte with a twist of almond and so on! To confuse further coffee time is often referred to as “morning tea” rather than “coffee time” Have fun and enjoy!

What To Pack

Packing - there are a few simple rules you should adhere to and a few little tricks to help you pack only what you will need and nothing that you won't.

Clothing: Layering is your best option because it will keep you from packing unnecessarily bulky items such as big sweaters. Start with 7 outfits which can be mixed and matched. In addition to this you should take one lightweight weatherproof jacket - sailing jackets are

the best because they retain body heat, keep you dry and are suitable for all climates and one long sleeved lightweight 100% cotton shirt for sun protection.

Towel: One medium weight beach towel is your best option as they dry much more quickly - a thick plush towel won't. You can also use the one towel for showering and going to the beach.

Day Pack: An essential item in your backpack. Choose a small sized pack which can carry your money, camera, light sweater, reading book and towel - make sure to choose a pack that is water resistant. A water resistant pack will come in handy if you need to carry around any wet items such as swimwear but it will also come in handy when hiking or for other activities where it is important that you keep items safe and dry such as your camera or a spare pair of dry socks. This could also be used as your every day "day pack".

Toiletries: Many people recommend that you pack miniatures to save space but this won't save you any money because you will only have to buy big bottles to refill the miniature bottles. We recommend that you buy a medium sized shampoo bottle which you can also use as body soap, toothpaste and toothbrush of course, maximum protection sunscreen, maximum protection lip balm, deodorant stick and in summer an all purpose moisturiser for face and body. You should be able to buy mid sized bottles of most toiletries and sunscreens.

Footwear: 2 pair of walking shoes or trainers, 1 pair thongs or flip flaps + hiking boots if you plan on partaking in adventure tours. Three pairs of socks is sufficient for anyone - the more clean socks you take the more dirty smelly socks you're likely to carry around with you. The same rule applies for underwear - limit yourself to 5 pairs of underwear.

Headwear: Sunglasses that have a good UV protection and a full brimmed hat or cap - visors are great for the beach but if you are out in the sun all day long aboard a boat or hiking, you should have your entire head covered and protected. If you have really short hair, consider protection for the back of your neck - you don't want to get sick from sunstroke, it's not nice.

How to pack

Pack everything you will need on arrival at your destination into a day pack which then fits snugly inside your backpack. Pack the day pack last, making it super easy to get everything you need at once ie; clean change of socks and undies, toiletries and hand towel.

Packing techniques depend on the type of pack you are using. Hiking packs require the most thought because you have to layer everything first and then squeeze all of your little bits and pieces down the sides into any empty spaces.

Roll all of your clothes into snakes. Yes that's right, flatten them out, fold them in half and in half again and then roll. This technique eliminates creases and crushed clothing, saves room and makes it easier to get to all of your clothing. You don't have to pull out your

nicely folded items one by one just to find a clean t. shirt - the rolled clothing is compact and easy to move around in your pack without messing everything up.

Shoes are great for packing things in eg; pack socks inside your shoes to save space and anything else that will fit.

Tip: In Queensland particularly, "mossie coils" are an essential for camping and any time spent outdoors from dusk.

Tip: So that you don't carry around too many individual bottles, use multi-purpose toiletries, such as moisturiser with maximum sunscreen protection, shampoo which is also a great body wash and conditioner which is great for shaving legs (but not faces). Vaseline is a great hair product instead of styling wax and is also highly recommended for dry or sunburnt lips

Make scans of the following documents and email them to yourself for safekeeping:

addresses of family & friends

passport

credit cards + theft notification phone numbers

flight tickets

driver's license

Post

Australia has a postal system which is reasonably efficient. One oddity of the system is that G.S.T. (Goods and Services Tax) applies to domestic postage, but not to international postage. As a result, different stamps must be used for the two purposes. When purchasing stamps, therefore, you must make it clear whether you require domestic stamps, with G.S.T. included, or international stamps, on which G.S.T. is not paid. You may not use international stamps on domestic mail. You may use domestic stamps on international mail, but only if you put on 10% extra (to cover the fact that 9.09% of the money paid for the stamps will not go to the Post Office, but will have to be given to the government as tax).

Parcels to overseas destinations may be sent by air mail, by economy air mail (slower and slightly cheaper), or by sea mail to more distant countries only. All methods are relatively expensive.

For items weighing up to 250 grams, a prepaid air mail envelope can be purchased. If you buy a pack of ten such envelopes, the cost of the envelopes themselves is negligible. You pay only for the postage. If your envelope weighs more than 250 grams, you may add the extra postage.

The Poste Restante system allows mail to be held for you for collection at any post office for up to a month. There is no charge. At the larger post offices a computerised system is employed and you can use a computer terminal to check whether you have mail or not.

Safety

Australia takes visitor and resident safety and security seriously. A stable democracy with a well resourced infrastructure means that visitors are unlikely to experience any problems. However there are some important areas where visitors can be endangered

Beach Safety - THE BIG KILLER

Surf on beaches kills! Swim between the flags and never swim alone. Surf life savers are on duty at most beaches and will be very pleased to provide advice. If nobody is patrolling the beach **do not enter the water**. Sadly many visitors die on our beaches each year from drowning. Sharks are not the main danger drowning is!!!! In some areas of the tropical regions are dangerous due to crocodiles and jelly fish. Take local advice in the tropical regions, some beaches will have nets to protect you in the water.

Road Safety - THE OTHER BIG KILLER

We drive on the left in Australia. It is illegal to use a mobile phone whilst driving, everyone in the car must wear seatbelts, and you must not drive with more than 0.05 grams per 100 millimetre of blood alcohol. Speed limits vary across the states and must be kept to and are enforced. The big danger is the long distances which means people fall asleep at the wheel, PLEASE take a rest if you feel tired. It is a real killer. Do take care on the roads as sadly visitors each year die in accidents. If you hire a four wheel drive take care as accidents often happen with rolling.

Australia crime

As in all world cities there is also a slight risk of street theft or crime on streets. The risk is low but be streetwise as you would be in any city. Crime is not a major problem in Australia and the police very responsive and alert to incidents. The emergency number in Australia is 000.

Air safety

Air safety is excellent and QANTAS is regarded as the world's safest airline.

Ambulance

Call 000 for an ambulance in Australia.

Dangerous animals

Australia has some of the most dangerous creatures in the world but do not panic. The risks are very low indeed and where incidents occur often due to not being sensible. Snakes do exist and will kill. If bitten do not move and seek help immediately and wrap the wounded area tightly. Spiders such as the funnel-web and redback can cause serious illness and death. Saltwater crocodiles are very dangerous and NEVER swim where they are found, they do kill! Sharks do kill but the chances are very low indeed. If you swim on patrolled beaches the risk is reduced dramatically as patrols watch for sharks. Dingoes can be aggressive and dangerous for children. The Irukandji jellyfish is nasty and can be killer. In the tropical areas beaches are netted and you swim inside the nets to avoid being stung. Beaches also have vinegar on them to be used if bitten.

Shopping

Visitors to Australia can reclaim any GST on good purchased over \$300 from a single store no more than 30 days prior to departure. Refunds are payable at the designated refund facility located past Customs up to 30 minutes before flight departure. You will need your tax invoice and goods to obtain a refund.

Sport

The principal sports in Australia are cricket, rugby and Australian Rules football. In the summer sport of cricket Australia is generally regarded currently as the world leader, especially in five-day test cricket.

In Australia cricket is popular and draws large crowds, the greatest struggle, of course, being against the old enemy, England, in a battle which takes place twice every four years - once in Australia and once in England - in a series of five five-day test matches, the reward for winning which is the title to the Ashes. The Ashes is a trophy reputedly containing the ashes of the stumps or bails from the first match in which Australia ever defeated England on English soil, on 29th August 1882, although probably it does not actually contain those ashes. The principal arena for cricket is the Melbourne Cricket Ground, built for the 1956 Olympic Games, and in which 97,000 spectators can be accommodated. However, other capital cities also have their famous cricket grounds - the Sydney Cricket Ground, the Gabba in Brisbane, the W.A.C.A. in Perth, and the Adelaide Oval.

In the winter Australia is divided between rugby and Australian Rules football. Rugby is the major sport in New South Wales and Queensland, while Victoria is the stronghold of Australian Rules football, with support from South Australia and Western Australia.

Australian Rules football is a fast and exciting game played on an oval field with an oval shaped ball. Two slightly different codes have teams of fifteen or eighteen players. The ball can be carried by players as long as they bounce it every ten metres (no mean feat) and it can be passed by being kicked or being punched, but not thrown.

If another player catches a kicked ball, he may claim a 'mark' and have a free kick, and one of the most exciting moments in the sport is seeing players rise high into the air to take marks. At each end of the field are four goal posts in line. If the ball is kicked between the centre two posts, a goal is scored and six points awarded to the team kicking the goal. If the ball passes between one of the centre posts and an outer post, however, only a 'behind' is scored and just a single point is awarded. A game consists of four quarters of twenty-five minutes of actual playing time each.

Horse racing is popular in Australia, mostly as a sport on which to bet. Greyhound racing serves a similar purpose. Australia has also produced some fine swimmers and tennis players over the years, as well as one or two famous golfers. As one might expect, surfing too is a sport at which Australians excel.

Telephones

There are always techniques to learn about each country's telephone system. Australia's system consists of timed long-distance calls, but local calls of unlimited duration. Public telephones exist, although not in abundance.

When making calls, look for 1-800... numbers. These calls are free. However, the owner of the number can choose the area from which he is willing to accept such calls. Quite often the 1-800 numbers can be used only within the same state as the party being called, and occasionally the effective area is even more limited. 1-300... numbers and six-digit numbers starting with 13 are charged as local calls, as long as you are calling from within Australia (but are extremely expensive or unusable if you attempt to call them from overseas).

Telephone cards are available and it is desirable to have one because telephones do not necessarily accept both coins and cards. As for international calls, the way to make these is to purchase one of the variety of cards available for the purpose. One first telephones the office of the company issuing the card. Then one taps in the code number on the card. Then one dials the number required. The most important thing with these cards is to ensure that you can telephone the office of the company by making a local telephone call. This means that there must be either a 1- 300 number given or a local number for the city from which you are making the call. Check this point before purchasing the card. It will affect the cost of the call very considerably.

Most cards offer the option of using a free 1-800 number, but you should understand that, although the 1-800 call is free, your international call will be charged at a considerably higher per minute charge than if you pay yourself for the call to the company. All this sounds complex, but the instruction is simple. Always use a local telephone number to contact the card company, so make sure that such a number is available before purchasing the card.

There are also kiosks provided for international telephone calls in some Internet shops. It should be noted that some establishments have private coin-operated telephones for the use of their customers or guests. With these telephones, local calls are usually timed and 1-800 numbers are sometimes unacceptable. These are not good telephones from which to make international card calls. It is better to go out and look for an ordinary public telephone.

Time Zones

This is not a matter as simple as one might suppose, so here are the facts.

Winter:

Australia is divided into three zones east to west.

From the east: Queensland, New South Wales (except Broken Hill), the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Tasmania are 10 hours ahead of G.M.T. South Australia, the Northern Territory and Broken Hill are 9½ hours ahead of G.M.T. (30 minutes behind Sydney).

Western Australia is 8 hours ahead of G.M.T. (2 hours behind Sydney). BUT the area in Western Australia between the South Australian border and Caiguna, or, along the railway, between the border and just east of Kalgoorlie, likes to keep an unofficial local time which is 8¾ hours ahead of G.M.T. (¼ hours behind Sydney).

Summer:

However, in summer the southern states and territories of New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia keep daylight saving time, which advances them one hour, but the other states and territories do not do so. Therefore, in summer the situation is as follows. New South Wales (except Broken Hill), the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Tasmania are 11 hours ahead of G.M.T.

South Australia and Broken Hill are 10½ hours ahead of G.M.T. (30 minutes behind Sydney).

Queensland is 10 hours ahead of G.M.T. (1 hour behind Sydney). The Northern Territory is 9½ hours ahead of G.M.T. (1½ hours behind Sydney). Western Australia is 8 hours ahead of G.M.T. (3 hours behind Sydney). The area in Western Australia between the South Australian border and Caiguna, or, along the railway, between the border and just east of Kalgoorlie, is 8¾ hours ahead of G.M.T. (¼ hours behind Sydney).

Visas

Australia visas are needed by most visitors to Australia. The Australia tourist visa is available from Australia Embassies, travel agents and airlines flying to Australia. The Australia tourist visa is in the form of an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA), of which there is no evidence in the passport.

When your Australia visa is granted, you may not be given a visa label in your passport. This is nothing to worry about, as immigration and customs officers can check your visa details electronically against your passport number. Just in case anything should go wrong with the system, be sure to take along the number with which you will be issued at the time of application for the ETA.

All airlines to Australia will do an electronic check on your visa as you check in. They use your passport number for that. In the event that you find you need a visa very quickly out of office hours some airlines are able to organise immediately for you at the airport. Do check first!

An Australia tourist visa can be applied for from outside Australia (offshore) or in Australia. Generally a tourist visa Australia will be granted for a stay of 3 months or 6 months, but in certain circumstances a stay of 12 months may be granted.

The most important thing you must remember about not having an Australian visa label in your passport is that you should use the same passport for travel to Australia that you used for your visa application. Be careful if you carry two passports. If you obtain a new passport after you have been granted your visa, you must advise the Department of Immigration of your new passport details. It is especially important that this information is provided before you board your plane for travel to Australia. If you have not given this information to the Department of Immigration you may experience significant delays at the airport and may not be allowed onto your plane.

If you wish to extend your stay in Australia for a holiday or to visit relatives or friends you will need to apply for a further stay as a visitor in Australia. You must apply for this visa before your current visa expires. The best time to apply is about two weeks before your current visa expires. You should note that the grant of a further stay Tourist visa will cease any visa/ETA currently held and the entitlements attached to that visa/ETA.

ETA (Visitor) Visa

The ETA visa (subclass 976) is for visitors who are coming for tourism, holidays and informal training or study. The ETA allows you to stay in Australia for up to three months within a 12 month period if the passport remains valid. The ETA is an electronic visa and will be seen by airlines before you enter Australia. You will not receive a stamp in your passport but there is a confirmation number you should record in case of any problems. A separate ETA is needed for each family member including those under 18 and also those on your passport. The ETA is valid for many countries including the USA, Canada, most of Europe and some Asian countries. The ETA is easy to obtain and can be done by your travel agent, airline or direct online with the Dept of Immigration in Australia or an Australian visa office. Do allow two weeks for safety in case of any problems.

It is important to check the latest information direct from the Australia Department of Immigration.

Transport

Buses

This is how most independent visitors elect to travel in Australia. There are two principal long-distance companies McCafferty's and Greyhound. However, since McCafferty's now owns Greyhound, there is less competition than might appear. The advantage for the traveller, though, is that now he or she can use the services of both companies with a single bus pass.

There is still some competition, however. Premier operates services up and down the east coast between Melbourne and Cairns. Unlike its competitors, it travels the coastal route between Melbourne and Sydney. Premier generally offers lower fares than McCafferty's and Greyhound. However, this tends to be nullified by the fact that one can use a section of a Kilometre Pass on McCafferty's or Greyhound buses, but nothing similar is currently available for Premier. Premier, though, does offer various unlimited-stops passes on its routes.

Between Sydney and Melbourne and between Melbourne and Adelaide services are operated by Firefly and these are often cheaper even than using a Kilometre Pass with McCafferty's and Greyhound. In Western Australia, Integrity offers competition on the Perth to Broome route, including an unlimited-stops ticket for the standard fare. This is appealing, but there is no onward service to Darwin with Integrity, whereas Greyhound can offer a pass right through from Perth to Darwin.

If one purchases individual tickets, travel with McCafferty's and Greyhound tends to be expensive. Therefore, most visitors purchase a pass. There are two types of pass - fixed-route passes and distance passes.

The former are shown as borders to the following pages, with maps, names and prices. Not all passes are shown, but this is a good selection of the options. If your itinerary fits one of these routes exactly, this will probably be the cheapest way for you to travel.

The period of validity varies according to the distance to be travelled. The shortest period is one month and the longest one year. The most common period is six months. You will have flexibility as to time, but no flexibility as to route. Moreover, in some cases, the bus company requires you to list all your stops in advance and you cannot then put in additional stops without a penalty (and sometimes not even with a penalty).

Although you do not have to decide your dates of travel in advance, you cannot travel without a reservation (theoretically) and if you ask one of the company's agents to make a reservation for you, you will be charged a fee. Instead, you must either make your reservations in advance, or telephone the company's reservations service (and be kept waiting for ages) every time you wish to travel.

Certain of the passes include Greyhound tours. These are marked on the maps on the following pages by the letter 'T'. Now a tour does not necessarily mean a tour. It may just mean that transport is provided from the main route of the bus to a nearby place of interest. However, even that is a valuable addition to the pass, of course, as getting from main highways to places of interest is often one of the most difficult parts of travelling.

The second type of bus pass is a distance pass, named by McCafferty's and Greyhound the Aussie Kilometre Pass. In this case, one purchases a certain number of kilometres of travel and uses those kilometres just as one thinks fit.

The Kilometre Passes are useful to everybody. Even if you decide to purchase a rail pass, if you are staying in Australia for any length of time, you will probably need to supplement your rail travel with a little bus travel. A 2,000 kilometre pass will enable you to make a number of short journeys which would otherwise be expensive.

All of the long-distance bus companies operate comfortable vehicles, airconditioned and with reclining seats and toilets. They make regular meal stops at intervals of three to four hours. However, despite the attempts at comfort, one does tend to feel cramped when confined to these vehicles for long periods - and some of the journeys in Australia can involve very long periods on the same vehicle.

Punctuality is variable with the long-distance bus companies, affected mostly by weather and road conditions.

Using a bus pass, one can reach all major places in mainland Australia, but one cannot travel to many of the smaller communities served by the state systems in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. Such communities can, though, be reached with a rail pass. Where the bus pass offers better coverage is in the north-west and in reaching out-of-the-way popular attractions such as Ayers Rock and Kakadu National Park.

It should be noted too that there are restrictions on short-distance travel with the long-distance bus companies. In general, journeys of less than forty kilometres are not permitted, although there are exceptions, and some of the states do not allow competition with their own transport systems. This is particularly so in Victoria and South Australia. Even though a fare and distance is shown in this book for a journey, that does not necessarily mean that one may make that journey in isolation. In some cases, it may be made only as part of a longer journey. As an example, a fare is quoted with McCafferty's from Geelong to Melbourne, but one cannot travel only from Geelong to Melbourne. One may travel from Geelong to Melbourne and there change buses and continue to Albury or Sydney, or any other place outside Victoria. The rules are relaxed somewhat for those with route passes, but still there may be some restrictions imposed, so check before committing yourself.

Tasmania has buses too, of course, but they are operated by different companies. TassieLink offers passes which are good value. Because of limited demand, some of the services in Tasmania are operated with smaller and less comfortable vehicles, but the routes served are relatively short, so this does not usually create problems.

Australia Bus Tours

Gaining in popularity in recent years have been bus tours aimed at young travellers. The prime purveyor of this mode of travel is Oz Experience, a company which started in a small way and has grown and grown in popularity.

The system works like this. One purchases a ticket for a fixed route, usually involving several days of travel. At any point along the route, one is free to leave the tour and join a

later bus when it comes round. Thus one does not travel with the same group all the way. The tour can be spread over as long as one year in most cases.

The object of these tours is to travel at a more leisurely pace than express bus services, to travel less direct and more interesting routes and to allow the passengers to see more of the countryside by stopping at points of interest, or even on request for photographs or replenishing of supplies.

At the end of the day, the driver will usually suggest places to stay, and those places will try to make sure that they have sufficient space available, since they value the regular custom of the bus.

This seems a good way to see in a simple manner places which one would not easily reach otherwise. On the other hand, one is still part of a group, even if that group is constantly changing, and that does tend to limit one's freedom to some extent.

The different routes offered are too numerous to show here, but at present they cover only the eastern half of Australia. That is to say that the western boundary of places served is the road between Adelaide and Darwin, except that there is a tour to Ayers Rock. There are also options which involve flying one way, or flying certain sectors.

A similar scheme is operated by the Wayward Bus, which has also proved popular enough to expand its routes and now has several options between Adelaide and Alice Springs, between Alice Springs and Darwin, and between Adelaide and Melbourne.

Cycling

Distances are great and temperatures often unpleasantly high. Thus two of the most important requirements are plenty of water and covering from the rays of the merciless sun. Stamina is another vital quality.

The bicycle is an option worth considering for the east coast, where communities are not too far apart. There are some problems, though. Roads are often comparatively narrow and traffic is travelling at speed, making cycling unpleasant. Especially be careful of vehicles crossing each other and having no spare road for the cyclist. Cyclists usually prefer, understandably, to get off main roads, but in Australia that is not always easy. The minor roads are even more narrow, although with much less traffic, of course, and they tend to degenerate into dirt surfaces unpleasant for those on two thin wheels.

Nevertheless, cycling up or down the east coast, and across to Adelaide, is certainly perfectly feasible and there have been books published recently recommending to the cyclist less frequented but reasonably surfaced routes.

Going further west, though, is more difficult, although not impossible. You really need to be well prepared for this - and the most important supply will be water. Be prepared to

cover a stretch of 200 kilometres without replenishing supplies and then you can probably see Australia by bicycle.

Driving

Renting a car is easy in Australia and one of the best ideas. Distances are long and it is possible to fly cheaply between the major destinations and then pick up a car at the airport. Most areas a normal car is fine but there are places such as Fraser Island and Cape York where a four wheel drive will be needed. To book a car do compare rates between the car hire firms. The Eguide car hire system operated for us by Vroom Vroom is great. You can compare the prices and then book and you only pay when you take the car. Do click the link below to see the best car hire rates.

Distances are vast in Australia, so fuel is going to be costly. Outside the cities, traffic is not too much of a problem, but the roads themselves have hazards with which you may not be familiar, so always expect the unexpected. The passenger in the front seat should always regard himself or herself as on duty as a spotter. Kangaroos are a hazard. If you see a kangaroo anywhere near the road, slow down. They are unpredictable - and big. A collision may not be very good for the kangaroo, but it will be almost as bad for you. Buffalo and cattle are even larger hazards, although their movements are less susceptible to sudden changes of direction. Then there is the question of road surface. Although Australian roads are improving, always be on the lookout for anything which appears odd in the road surface ahead, and slow down. If it looks odd, it probably is.

Once one leaves bitumen roads and starts driving on dirt, there are all sorts of additional hazards. The most obvious are the dust thrown up by other vehicles and the stones which fly off the road surface as another vehicle passes, and which can easily crack or break a windscreen. Then there are the corrugations in the surfaces of well used roads, which will shake your vehicle to pieces, and also lessen your control over it, since the wheels are touching the road for only part of the time. There may be washaways where streams cross the road, so always slow down for dips. Realise in advance that driving on a dirt road is going to reduce your average speed and increase your fuel consumption, so plan for this, rather than feeling pressure to reach a pre-determined destination on time.

Travelling at night is particularly not recommended. At dusk and dawn the kangaroos come out in force. They stand in the road and are mesmerised by the lights of oncoming vehicles. They appear to hop away and then, at the last moment, change their minds and hop back in front of your vehicle. Have a look at the front armour of the long-distance buses and trucks which are obliged to drive through the night. If you have something similar on the front of your vehicle, then drive at night with extreme caution. If not, then do not consider driving at night at all.

The remote areas of Australia are really worth seeing, for they are unique, but bear in mind that they can also be dangerous. Travelling by public transport will allow you to see plenty of remote places. However, if you choose to use private transport, remember that

you must be well prepared. You need spare fuel, plenty of water, some common spare parts for your vehicle, a good detailed map and a plan for emergencies.

This should involve telling somebody ahead (for example the police) when you will arrive at your destination and being sure that action will be taken if you do not so arrive. Every year people die on remote roads in Australia and you do not want to be included in such statistics.

Australia camper van hire

Combine driving with somewhere to stay. A great option if you want to explore. Australia has numerous campsites where you can park up. Large quiet roads making driving in rural areas easy. Have a look at the best prices organised by our specialist camper van agent.

Ferries

Many places in Australia can only be reached by ferry. Some are quick trips such as those to Fraser Island, others are major including the crossing from Melbourne to Devonport in Tasmania.

Spirit of Tasmania

The Spirit of Tasmania operates between Melbourne and Devonport, sailing from both locations most nights and some days during peak periods.

Inter Island Ferries

Ferry to Phillip Island, French Island or Seal Rocks.

Sealink Kangaroo Island

Provides regular, daily services from Cape Jervis (Adelaide) to Penneshaw.

Sydney Ferries

Regular services in Sydney to over 37 wharves.

Oceanic Cruises

Runs regular ferry service between Fremantle and Perth to Rottnest Island.

Rottnest Express

Offers ferry service between Rottnest Island and Fremantle.

Magnetic Island Ferries

From Townsville to Magnetic Island.

Flights

The four main carriers are Qantas, Jetstar, Tiger and Virgin Blue and there are other smaller ones. Flights are operated to numerous destinations and price varies according to allocation and competition.

Railways

The way to see Australia comfortably and economically is to purchase a rail pass. Few visitors discover this. The majority buy bus passes. This is because of their misunderstanding and because of superior marketing by the long distance bus companies. Visitors believe that rail passes limit them to trains and they look on the map and see relatively few railways in Australia. However, in fact, rail passes also permit the use of the state bus services in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia, plus a limited service in Queensland. You will find that you can go almost anywhere with a rail pass, except the north-west and Tasmania (the latter not covered by the major bus passes either). Unless the journey from Perth to Darwin and on to Alice Springs or Mt. Isa is one of your major objectives, you will be better off with a rail pass.

Historically, the problem with Australian railways has been that each state constructed its own and that each chose its own gauge. New South Wales chose a standard 4 feet 8½ inches gauge. Victoria chose a 5 feet 3 inches broad gauge. Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania chose a 3 feet 6 inches narrow gauge, and South Australia used both the broad and the narrow gauges. Then, when the Commonwealth of Australia was formed, a federally-operated trans-continental line was built to standard gauge. Thus no single train could operate between any two capital cities, except between Melbourne and Adelaide. It has taken more than a century to resolve this situation, and even then only partially.

The states still operate to their own gauges, but there is now a standard gauge line from Perth to Adelaide and on to Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, although no single train operates this long route. There are also standard gauge lines connecting Adelaide with Sydney and with Alice Springs, and the latter line will soon continue to Darwin.

To the traveller, these gauge problems will be unimportant, except that he or she will notice that it is still necessary to deal with several different railway companies.

Great Southern Railway has taken over the operation of what used to be the federal (Commonwealth Railways, then Australian National Railways) lines. Three services are operated and these will be the most important three services to the visitor.

They are: The Indian-Pacific Sydney - Adelaide - Perth
 The Ghan Sydney / Melbourne - Adelaide - Alice Springs (- Darwin)
 The Overland Melbourne - Adelaide

Countrylink operates trains and buses in New South Wales, with its network extending to Melbourne in the south and Brisbane in the north. You can travel to virtually any destination in New South Wales with Countrylink.

V-Line operates trains and buses in Victoria, with its network extending to Adelaide and Mt. Gambier in the west (by train plus bus service), and to Canberra and Batemans Bay in the north (also both by train plus bus service). You can travel to virtually any destination in Victoria with V-Line.

Queensland Railways operates trains and a few connecting buses in Queensland. You cannot reach places in the extreme north, such as Port Douglas, Cape Tribulation and Cooktown, and some of the popular beaches entail short bus rides from the railway stations, but otherwise coverage is comprehensive.

Western Australian Government Railways operates a few trains and many buses in Western Australia. These services are limited to the southern part of the state, extending north only to Kalbarri and Meekatharra, but coverage within the area served is comprehensive. Moreover, most of this area cannot be reached at all with the long distance bus companies.

South Australia no longer has any intra-state rail services. The only services are the interstate trains provided by Great Southern Railway and the V-Line bus plus train services to Melbourne via Bendigo and to Sydney via Albury. However, in fact, these options satisfy most requirements.

The Northern Territory is served by the Ghan to Alice Springs, with service soon to be extended to Darwin.

The only area which is not well served is the north-west, although there is also the handicap that there is no connecting route between the centre and the northeast.

Now to the types of rail pass which are available. For most visitors, the type likely to be most useful is the Austrail Flexipass. This is valid for fifteen days of economy class travel over a period of six months. There are also passes valid for eight days, for 22 days and for 29 days, but the eight-day pass does not permit travel to Perth or Alice Springs. For most visitors the fifteen-day pass will be about right. There are first-class passes too, but do not make the mistake of purchasing one of those, as most trains do not offer first-class sitting accommodation, so you then have to pay enormous supplements for a first-class sleeping berth, plus meals, in order to be able to use the benefit conferred by your first-class pass. Only in New South Wales and Victoria is first-class sitting accommodation offered, and, of course, only on the rail services in those states, not on the connecting buses.

For the purposes of the pass, a day is a period of twenty-four hours from when the journey starts. If you start at 19:00, you can travel until 19:00 the following day by the use of one day on the pass. Go to the ticket office with your pass and state your

destination and date of travel, but do not allow the pass to be marked yet, otherwise you cannot change your mind. You will be issued with a ticket for travel, and immediately prior to departure you return to the ticket office and ask for the journey to be recorded on your pass. If there is no ticket office at your point of departure it is usually acceptable to ask the conductor on the train to mark the pass. You will sometimes find, incidentally, that this system, unlike that of the long-distance bus companies, allows a day or two of bonus travel. Bus drivers, in particular, are not keen to spend their time bureaucratically marking days off passes.

There is also an Austrail Pass (not Flexi), which allows a solid period of travel of between fourteen and ninety days. Unless you intend to be travelling very busily, though, the Flexipass will usually be more appealing.

In addition to the Austrail Passes, the various railway companies offer rail passes for their own services only.

Well, then, out of this multitude of passes, which should we choose? For most travellers, the fifteen-day Austrail Flexipass will be the best bet. However, your itinerary will be an important factor. If you do not need to travel far north of Brisbane, the Countrylink Backtracker Rail Pass will be very good value.

If you just want to travel up or down the east coast, one of the East Coast Discovery Passes will be ideal.

You will find most of the trains in Australia spacious and comfortable. The Great Southern Railway trains have plenty of leg room, a lounge available, a restaurant and snack bar (but serving pre-packaged food from the Qantas caterers). There are also showers at the end of each carriage, and towels are provided on overnight services. For those with a weakness, a cramped smoking cubicle is provided, with an atmosphere through which one can barely make out the other side of the room. Unfortunately, though, sleeping berths now involve an impossibly high supplement. The trains are usually reasonably punctual, since the timetables allow margins for delays.

Queensland Railways trains are also comfortable, with ample leg room. Showers are provided, but no towels for sitting passengers. If you invest in this luxury, choose the upper berth, and then you will get the window also. There are three passengers to a compartment. At present, Queensland Railways has not degenerated to the level of pre-packaged food. Meals are still cooked to order by the chef on the train, and prices are not unreasonable. Punctuality is usually quite good.

Countrylink has a modern fleet of trains with aircraft-type seats. There are no showers for sitting passengers on overnight trains and berths are prohibitively expensive. The food is pre-packaged, but reasonable in price. Punctuality is variable.

V-Line offers only medium-distance trains. The seats are padded bench-type with five across the carriage, half of them facing backwards. There are no overnight trains.

Catering is limited, but the journeys are not so long. Punctuality is fair. Western Australian Government Railways has few trains. The Australind is relatively new and aircraft-style with pre-packaged food. The Prospector is ageing, but reasonably comfortable. Its disadvantage is that it is not a corridor.

The buses operated by W.A.G.R., Countrylink and V-Line are generally of the highest quality, with air-conditioning and toilets, and they are driven well. As long as the connecting rail services arrive on time, the buses are usually punctual. Purchase the most suitable type of rail pass, and then see the country comfortably and surprisingly cheaply. You will be able to travel to places of which you never would have heard if travelling by long-distance bus, and you will meet people too in a way which you would not on the buses.

Most importantly, realise that a rail pass does not restrict you to trains. You can also use bus networks which cover the whole of New South Wales and Victoria and the southern part of Western Australia. Your opportunities are much greater than with the long-distance bus companies and you will find that your costs are lower and your comfort enhanced too.

Climate

Australia is too extensive to have a single climate. It is not necessarily 'hot and dry', as it tends to be characterised, although such a description can be applied with moderate accuracy to the interior. It is important to realise that the Tropic of Capricorn runs through Rockhampton, towards the south of Queensland, and that approximately one-third of Australia is tropical.

One can, therefore, make a basic separation into two distinct climates - tropical and temperate. Again, very roughly, but for simplicity of explanation, Queensland, the Northern Territory and the northern half of Western Australia may be regarded as tropical, while New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and the southern half of Western Australia are temperate.

In the temperate area, the seasons are similar to, but at the opposite time of the year to, those in the northern hemisphere - in Europe or North America, for example. In an average year, the southern capital cities (Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide and Perth) will experience one or two occasions when the temperature rises to 40°C and one or two occasions when the temperature descends to 0°C (except that Perth has recorded 0°C (32°F) only once in its meteorological history - on 15th July 1997 - and Sydney's lowest is 2.1°C (35.8°F) on 22nd June 1932). As one moves further inland, temperatures tend to be more extreme and rainfall tends to decrease.

Australia claims to be the driest continent on this planet, and South Australia claims to be the driest state in the driest continent. In general, the rain falls mainly around the coast, so

that inland one finds dry, dusty conditions unsuitable for much agriculture and only very sparsely populated. Snow lies only in a small area around the border of New South Wales and Victoria where the nation's highest mountains are to be found, and also in some parts of Tasmania.

The northern parts are quite different in climate, for they have not summer and winter, but tropical Wet and Dry Seasons. Those unfamiliar with such a climate often misunderstand the temperatures which accompany such seasons. The Wet is the hotter of the two, while the Dry is pleasantly warm, but not overpoweringly hot. In between the two is sandwiched a season generally known as the Build-Up, when humidity gradually increases until it reaches almost 100% and temperatures too become higher and higher, reaching the highest levels of the whole year, until one day the heavens open and general relief is felt that the Wet has at long last started. If there is a season to avoid, it is the Build-Up.

The Wet typically lasts from December until March, the Dry from April until August and the Build-Up from September until November. Typical maxima might be 33°C in the Wet, 28°C in the Dry and 36°C in the Build-Up. This type of climate is coastal. As one moves inland rainfall decreases and day temperatures tend to be higher.

Most people believe that the best time to be in the southern half of Australia is during the summer or autumn, that is December until May, and the best time to be in northern Australia is during the Dry, that is April until August. The torrential downpours at the start of the tropical Wet Season, for example, are awe-inspiring sights. Just take the weather as it comes and enjoy it.

However, if your main purpose is lying on the beach, it is worth noting that from July until November you would be better off in the northern part of Australia, and also that the tropical Wet Season will limit access to places off the main routes. Also note that the north and north-west are prone to some very fierce cyclones during the Wet.

On the topic of climate, some of the Australian records are interesting and surprising. For example, which capital city has recorded the highest temperature? When asked this question, many people guess Darwin. However, in fact all of the other seven capital cities, even Hobart (40.8°C, 105.4°F), have recorded higher temperatures than Darwin's 40.5°C (104.9°F) on 17th October 1892. The capital city with the highest temperature is actually Adelaide with 47.6°C (117.7°F) on 12th January 1939. The highest temperature ever recorded anywhere in Australia was 53.1°C (127.6°F) in Cloncurry, Queensland on 16th January 1889. In recent years, the validity of this record has been challenged, since it was a while ago and the equipment used would not satisfy today's standards. However, most people still regard this as the record. The Meteorological Office, however, is prepared to vouch only for the 50.7°C (123.3°F) recorded in Oodnadatta, South Australia on 2nd January 1960.

Marble Bar in Western Australia claims a world record by having recorded 160 consecutive days with a temperature of over 100°F (37.8°C), from 31st October 1923 until 7th April 1924.

The coldest capital city, as one might expect, is Canberra, since it is inland and at an altitude of approximately 550 metres. It recorded -10°C (14°F) on 11th July 1971.

The lowest temperature ever recorded in Australia was -23°C (-9.4°F) at Charlotte Pass, New South Wales on 29th June 1994.

The wettest place in Australia is Mt. Bellenden Ker, near Tully in northern Queensland . It holds the record for rainfall in a year - 12,461 millimetres (490.6 inches, or nearly 41 feet) in 2000, and the record for rainfall in a day - 1,140 millimetres (44.9 inches) on 4th January 1979. During the same downpour, it also recorded 2,517 millimetres (99.1 inches) over a period of three days.

The record for wind speed is claimed by Learmonth, near Exmouth in Western Australia , where 267 km/hr (166 m.p.h.) was recorded on 22nd March 1999, during the passing of Cyclone Vance. There may have been higher speeds during Cyclone Tracy in Darwin in 1974, but the wind speed gauge jammed at 217 km/hr (135 m.p.h.).

Australian Capital Territory

The Australian Capital Territory came into being on 1st January 1911 and was, as the name suggests, the area reserved for the new national capital. The Commonwealth of Australia had been formed on 1st January 1901 and since then Melbourne had played the role of temporary capital. Now a new capital was to be built on this land given by New South Wales for that purpose.

The Australian Capital Territory comes under the direct jurisdiction of the Commonwealth (Federal) Government of Australia. Administratively, therefore, it is independent. Geographically, though, it is completely surrounded by New South Wales, on which state it tends to rely for some of its services. The rail service, for example, is provided by Countrylink.

The Australian Capital Territory occupies an area of 2,360 square kilometres and consists of Canberra and its suburbs, together with some surrounding countryside. That is all. It has, therefore, the distinction of being both the smallest and the most densely populated of the Australian states and territories. It even spills over into New South Wales, for Queanbeyan is in New South Wales, but the majority of that town's working population is employed in Canberra.

Canberra

Canberra has been the capital of Australia since parliament moved here in 1927. It is essentially an artificial city, created because both Sydney and Melbourne aspired to the position of national capital, so the logical compromise was to build somewhere new between the two.

The Australian Capital Territory came into being on 1st January 1911, and an international competition was held for the design of the capital itself. An American from Chicago, Walter Burley Griffin was declared the winner. Canberra was named on 12th March 1913 and construction began soon after.

You will soon find that Mr. Burley Griffin was not much of a straight lines man. Many of the roads in Canberra are circular or semi-circular. He also believed in grand sweeping avenues and using plenty of space, since it was readily available. This means that it is not easy to walk from one place to another in Canberra. Be prepared to use buses, or expend a lot of energy.

Burley Griffin's basic plan remains at the heart of Canberra. He designed a triangle of avenues linking three circles, Vernon Circle in the commercial heart of the city, Capital Hill, which is the centre of the nation's government, and Russell, lying to the east. In the centre of these was to be a lake, with important public buildings to its south, so that the sun, shining from the north, would strike them and cause them to be reflected in the lake.

The damming of the Molonglo River in 1964 brought this dream to fruition and Lake Burley Griffin was formed. You can see it now, just a short distance south of the city centre, with its famous Captain Cook Water Jet.

Burley Griffin's Canberra was designed for a population of 25,000. Now the city has spread out from its main centre to include four other major conurbations. These are Woden to the south, Tuggeranong even further south, Belconnen to the north and Queanbeyan to the east. Queanbeyan, however, does not lie within the Australian Capital Territory, but is a part of New South Wales.

Lake Burley Griffin divides central Canberra, with the city centre, called the "Civic", on the north side and the parliamentary and embassy area on the south side. National institutions are spread on both the North and South side of the Lake. Many people living in Canberra are employed by the Australian Government or service the Government.

Attractions

Aboriginal Embassy

In front of Old Parliament House, the Aboriginal Embassy is still standing, although constantly threatened with demolition. It is a temporary structure erected some years ago, in this most conspicuous of positions, by the aboriginal communities of Australia to emphasise and publicise their complaint that they had no say in the government of their own country.

Australian National Botanic Gardens

The Australian National Botanic Gardens are over two kilometres to the west of the city centre. They contain the best collection of Australian flora in the world. Other highlights are the rainforest gully with a treetop walkway; rock garden; guided tours; and a cafe, bookshop and visitor centre. *Clunies Ross Street, Black Mountain.*

Australian Federal Police Museum

This museum displays the history of the Federal Police Force. There are numerous historical displays of uniforms and police memorabilia and it is located in the Police Services and Training Centre. *Unwin Place, Westin.*

Australian Institute of Sport

This famous sporting institute opened in 1981 and since then has trained most of Australia's greatest athletes across a variety of sports. There are some fun and interesting tours conducted here, with well known members of the Institute conducting many of them. A highlight is the interactive Sportex museum, where you can test your fitness levels against our top Olympians. Access to the training venues is also available. *Leverrier Crescent, Bruce.*

Australian War Memorial

The Australian War Memorial is on the northern side of Lake Burley Griffin and is a moving display which is well worth visiting. It has been rated one of the best war museums in the world. The War Memorial is about three kilometres from the city centre. *Anzac Parade.*

Blundell's Cottage

This six room sandstone cottage was built before Canberra existed in 1860, it was moved to this site and restored in 1964. A hands-on historic home where you can touch the artefacts. *Parkes Way*

Canberra Railway Museum

Located near the Canberra Railway station, this museum has plenty of beautifully restored old and newer engines. The exhibits include the engine, built in 1878, which hauled the first train into Canberra on 25th May 1914. There are tours available. *Queanbeyan Railway Station, Henderson Road, Queanbeyan.*

Cockington Green Gardens

The world in miniature at Cockington Green Gardens with an old English village and other countries displayed in miniature. Gardens and lawns surround the displays and you can travel around on the mini steam train.

Deep Space Communication Complex

This information centre on space is still active tracking results from Mars Pathfinder, Voyager 1 and 2 and many other space explorations, it also provides a link with NASA spacecraft. Located 39km southwest of Canberra, it is a must for people interested in astronomy and space missions. *Tidbinbilla.*

Duntroon House

Home to the first settler along the Molonglo River, it is now part of the Royal Military College. Parts of this historic house date back to the 1830's. *Jubilee Avenue.*

Government House

The official residence of the Governor General but closed to the public except for open days but can be seen from the hill off the Scrivener Dam Road.

High Court of Australia

The building itself was the winner of a design competition and was opened by the Queen in 1980. This is the highest court in Australia and its main feature is its seven story public hall. *King Edward Terrace, The National Triangle.*

Namadgi National Park

This magnificent stretch of alpine wilderness is located near Tharwa and covers over 45% of the ACT. This park is ideal for scenic drives, bushwalking and flora and flora

watching. An informative visitor's centre is located here and can be found 30kms from Canberra. *Nass/Boboyan road, Tharwa.*

National Archives of Australia

The National Archives of Australia are kept in the Old Post Office in Queen Victoria Terrace, close to Old Parliament House. The archives are available to those carrying out research or trying to trace family trees, but there are also exhibitions of interesting documents. The building was constructed in 1927, at the same time as Old Parliament House. *Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes.*

National Gallery of Australia

The National Gallery of Australia lies on the south shore of Lake Burley Griffin and is located in The National Triangle. The National Gallery displays Australia's largest collection of Australian art, which includes aboriginal artists, as well as famous Australian artists Sidney Nolan, Arthur Boyd, Arthur Streeton, Tom Roberts and many more. Another highlight is the sculpture garden around the gallery that displays 24 sculptures. *Parkes Place.*

National Carillon

The National Carillon, a bicentennial gift from Britain, stands on Aspen Island in Lake Burley Griffin. It is a three column bell tower comprising 53 bells and chimes every quarter of an hour. *Aspen Island.*

National Dinosaur Museum

There are over three hundred exhibits including ten full-size replica skeletons of dinosaurs in this museum. Located 11kms North of Canberra. *Gold Creek Road.*

National Capital Exhibition

The National Capital Exhibition is at Regatta Point, walking distance from the city centre, right beside Lake Burley Griffin and near the Captain Cook Water Jet. It tells the story of Canberra from the start of aboriginal times up until the present. *Regatta Point, Commonwealth Park, Parkes.*

National Film and Sound Archive

This is a collection of radio, television and film archives housed in an impressive art deco building in McCoy Circuit, next to the Australian National University and walking distance from the city centre..

National Library

The National Library is near Lake Burley Griffin outside the library is a Henry Moore statue.

National Museum of Australia

The National Museum of Australia uses new technology to display themes both old and new. This innovative museum has a focus on all things Australian with a range of

exciting displays and themed galleries. A full day's entertainment can be had here.
Lennox Crossing.

National Portrait Gallery

The National Portrait Gallery is housed in Old Parliament House and was once the seat of the Australian government between 1927 and 1988. The National Portrait Gallery is a visual who's who of some of Australia's notable political figures and other famous Australians. *King George Terrace.*

National Science and Technology Centre (Questacon)

This is a high-technology science museum and is the ultimate in hands on interactive displays. Highlights are the Cybercity display and the Earthquake House, great fun for all ages. It is located on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin in The National Triangle. *King Edward Terrace.*

National Zoo and Aquarium

This is a fun zoo for all ages with a mix of terrestrial and aquatic species. Not only is it the only mixed zoo and aquarium in Australia but, it also houses the largest collection of big cats. There are plenty of native animals on display as well as some favourite overseas visitors. *Scrivener Dam, Yarralumla.*

Old Parliament House

Old Parliament House is much more traditional than its more modern replacement, but still most imposing. Burley Griffin imagined that this was just going to be a temporary building however, Parliament sat here for 61 years, from 1927 until 1988. It now houses the National portrait Gallery and daily tours are available. *King George Terrace.*

Parliament House

The most important sight in Canberra is Parliament House, sitting atop Capital Hill and ruling the nation. It was opened in 1988 and now the 81-metre flagpole which surmounts it can be seen from almost any place in the city. Parliament House is three kilometres from the city centre and guided tours are conducted when Parliament is not sitting.
Capital Hill.

Prime Minister's Lodge

Closed to the public (except some open days) but the garden can be seen from behind the wall.

Royal Australian Mint

The Royal Australian Mint is interesting. You can even make your own coins here. The mint is in Denison Street, Deakin, about seven kilometres from the city centre.

Telstra Tower

The Telstra Tower is known for the view it gives of Canberra. It is 195 metres high and built on the top of Black Mountain, five kilometres from the city centre. The main purpose of the tower, of course, is its telecommunications functions, but it also has a

public viewing gallery and an exhibition showing the history of telecommunications in Australia.

Royal Australian Mint

If you want to see how to make money then, this is the place to go. You can see how the money is produced and learn the history of Australian currency. There is a coin collection housed in the mint and you can even make your own coins here. *Denison Street, Deakin.*

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

This rural heaven is located about 40 minutes drive west of Canberra. You can see hosts of native birds and animals in their natural environment. There are plenty of hiking trails, with some adventurous ones to the mountaintops. *Paddys River Road, Tidbinbilla.*

New South Wales

On 13th May 1787, Captain Arthur Phillip left England with eleven ships filled principally with soldiers and convicts. He landed successfully at Botany Bay on 18th January 1788, but found the position too exposed and moved to Port Jackson, a few kilometres further north, and established a new settlement there on 26th January 1788.

The new settlement was to become Sydney and the new colony New South Wales, Sydney being named after Lord Sydney, the British Secretary of State for Home Affairs, who had authorised the colonisation scheme. There were 1,373 new settlers, of whom 732 were convicts.

Now New South Wales is the most populous of the Australian states with 6.5 million people, almost exactly one-third of the total population of Australia. Many visitors see only the coastal areas, but inland lies a different type of outback terrain well worth investigating. Your impression of the state, and indeed of Australia, will be totally different depending on whether you have simply followed the tourist groove up the coast or whether you have explored the splendour of the interior.

Transport in New South Wales is operated under the generic name of Countrylink. The only services not under the control of Countrylink are the city and medium distance rail services around Sydney, which are operated by CityRail; the city and large town local bus services, the long-distance interstate bus services operated by Greyhound and just a few intra-state privately operated bus services.

Countrylink operates trains to Brisbane, Murwillumbah, Armidale, Moree, Dubbo, Broken Hill, Canberra, Griffith and Melbourne, and a network of bus connexions from those trains to places all over the state. If you purchase either a national or a state rail pass, you can use all of these services. With the national pass, you can use the CityRail metropolitan and medium-distance services as well.

Albury-Wodonga

Albury-Wodonga is a twin city on the Murray River border between New South Wales and Victoria. Albury is on the New South Wales side and Wodonga, the smaller of the two, on the Victorian side. Albury to the north and Wodonga to the south. Albury is 572km south west of Sydney.

Albury Regional Museum

There is a collection of local history artifacts in this former hotel that was built in 1884. *Wodonga Place.*

Ettamogah Pub

A result of a series of cartoons by Ken Maynard of an Australian drinking establishment.

A real one was built on the Hume Highway. There is also another one on the Bruce Highway on the Sunshine Coast.

Lake Hume

Close to Albury is Lake Hume a large artificial lake with plenty of water sports.

Monument Hill

Located just west of the twin cities and provides great views of the murray and surrounding landscape. *Memorial Drive*

Murray River

The main sight is the Murray River and is possible to swim in the river.

P.S Cumberoona

This is a replica of an old paddlesteamer which takes cruises up the river daily.

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

Located in the Civic Centre at the end of Bayliss Street.

Armidale

Armidale is in New England in New South Wales. A town with many National Trust buildings, two cathedrals and other historic buildings. The New England Regional Art Museu, contains the Howard Hinton and Chandler Coventry collections. The Oxley Wild Rivers National Park is south east of Armidale and world heritage site with a large area of dry rainforest and the Wollomombi falls where water drops 220 metres.

Batemans Bay

Batemans Bay is a coastal town situated on the Clyde River and at the foot of Mount Clyde. Batemans Bay is a popular holiday retreat with the city dwellers due to its coastal beaches and water activities. It is also a fishing village and if fresh seafood is required you can buy it direct from the fishing trawlers here, now that's a real catch of the day.

Beaches

Batemans Bay boasts about no less than 16 beaches, all as good as each other. Malua Bay, south of the surf club is considered one of the best and the most popular. Mackenzie beach is a small, sheltered beach and good for juniors. In the north there is South Durras Beach, Pebbly Beach and Merry Beach.

Birdland Animal Park

There is a cute animal nursery here, as well as snake demonstrations, koala and wombat exhibits. *Beach Road.*

Diving

Divers will enjoy the wreck of the Lady Darling which went down in 1880.

Historical Society Museum

Batemans Bay history is displayed in this former court house. *Beach Road.*

Mogo Goldfields

Located 15 kilometres from Batemans Bay is this former goldfields site. Here you can go on a guided tour of an underground gold mine. There is also a small historical village with art and craft shops. *Tomakin Road.*

Observation Head

This lookout is popular and has a panoramic view of the coastline and parks.

Opal and Shell museum

The Opal and Shell museum on Bach road has a collection of shells and opals.

Bathurst

Bathurst is just less than 100km west of Katoomba on the great Western Highway. In 1862, Bathurst became the headquarters of the famous Cobb and Co. stagecoach company, and a restored coach is now on display at the Visitor Information Centre.

Bathurst 1000

Bathurst is best known for is a car race the Bathurst 1000, raced over a distance of 1000 kilometres. Motor-cycle racing started in Bathurst as early as 1911, but the 500 arrived only in 1963, when it was transferred from Phillip Island in Victoria. The circuit is at the top of Mt. Panorama which is 874 metres above sea level. The track is 6.213 kilometres in length and has a height variation of 174 metres, with slopes as steep as 1 in 6.

Bathurst Goldfields

The Bathurst Goldfields is an area that you can practice gold panning.

National Racing Museum

The National Racing Museum is near the start and finish line of the circuit. The Bathurst Historical Museum provides a history of Bathurst.

Abercrombie Caves

South of Bathurst is the Abercrombie Caves which has a very large limestone archway.

Bellingen

Bellingen has a laid back atmosphere. Explore the Never Never creek and the Bellinger river. Close by is the Dorrigo National Park.

Berrima

Berrima is located in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. A village of charm with the Berrima Courthouse museum built in 1838. Australian life in the 1800's can be seen at the Jellore Cottage and The Settlers Hut.

The Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains is a natural adventure playground and a popular place for the city dwellers to get out of town and escape the heat. The scenery here is stunning from National Parks, mountain ranges and waterfalls. The reason for the name Blue Mountains soon becomes apparent, for the distant ranges do indeed appear to be covered in a blue haze. One theory is that this is caused by the evaporation of eucalyptus vapour, but it is only a theory.

Katoomba

Katoomba, the largest town in the Blue Mountains is the favorite destination in the area of the Blue Mountains National Park. It is 110 kilometres west of Sydney by CityRail train, a journey which takes two hours. The railway line runs through the Blue Mountains National Park from Lapstone onwards and offers some splendid views.

Katoomba Skyway and Scenic Railway

A ride on both or at least one of these attractions should not be missed. The Scenic Railway is the world's steepest, and is quite a thrilling ride. It drops some 415metres and only takes a few minutes, once at the bottom of the Jamison Valley you can explore the forest area. The Skyway is a cable car that takes you over the Jamison Valley on a round trip that takes 6 minutes, another stunning way to see the landscape.

Leura

If you are looking for a charming little village in set among mountain ranges, you have found it at Leura. Travel along Cliff Drive to access pretty picnic areas and walking trails or just hit the Mall, where there are quaint tearooms, boutiques, and gift shops.

Wentworth Falls

Another popular destination in the Blue Mountains is Wentworth Falls, two stations from Katoomba in the direction of Sydney. It is also possible to walk between Katoomba and

Wentworth, part of the walk being along the edge of the escarpment, as described above. The falls are triple-tiered and 180 metres high in total.

Yester Grange

Located just above the Wentworth Falls are these stunning landscaped gardens. The house dates back to the 1870s and is a well restored Victorian era homestead. Here you will find a museum, art gallery and tearooms, and of course a killer view.

Bombala

Bombala's is platypus country and an easy place to see this shy creature. A platypus looks like an otter, but with the beak of a duck, webbed feet and a fat tail used to store fat for lean times. Platypus are found in the Bombala River and the Coolumbooka River.

Bourke

Bourke is New South Wales most outback town, being located in the far northwestern corner of the state. The popular outback phrase Back O' Bourke refers to something being far away from everything which is what this township is. Bourke provides a very outback experience for tourists.

Aboriginal Cultural Museum

The Native aboriginals of this area are the Ngemba tribe and there are historical displays on their settlement and history in the outback. *Bathurst Street*.

Gundabooka National Park

This park is located 50km south of the township and has hundreds of rust red boulders with many exhibiting original aboriginal art drawings.

Mount Oxley

Offers great outback vies from it's peak of 309 metres and can be found 28km east of Bourke.

Bowral

Bowral in the southern highlands of New South Wales is the home of Sir Donald Bradman. The Bradman museum celebrates his achievements and provides a good history of cricket.

Broken Hill

Located in the middle of nowhere is the iconic Australian Outback town of Broken Hill. A long, long 1167km drive west from Sydney, Broken Hill is a noted mining area in Australia. Once a major excavator of iron ore until the resources were depleted, now zinc is the main metal mined here. However, Broken Hill is also noted for its rich cultural heritage with no less than 40 art galleries and exhibition houses displaying mostly Australian and Aboriginal art works. The stunning landscapes delight the local artist community here and bring them from across the globe.

Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery

This gallery is known to be NSW's oldest regional art gallery, however there is nothing old about the art. Local artists have displays here of painting, sculpture and photography exhibitions. *Argent Street.*

Delprat's Mine Tour

This is a great way to go underground, 40 metres that is, to explore an original Broken Hill mine. Two hour tours of the mine are conducted with the tour guides being former miners, so they have plenty of stories to relate.

Living Desert Reserve

These amazing sandstone sculptures sit atop a hill and are an incredible sight especially at sunrise and sunset. There is also a walking trail around the sculptures which takes about 1.5 hours to do the full circuit.

Pro Hart Gallery

This famous Australian artist is also a legend in the town of Broken Hill. He set up studios here years ago and a lot of his canvas were created here. *Wyamn Street.*

Silverton

Known as a bit of a ghost town, Silverton is located 25km west of Broken Hill. The mining has all dried up but artists enjoy the laid back area and many live and work here. They take their inspirations from the surrounding landscapes. Silverton has had at least 12 movies filmed here due to its very Australian outback feel. The Daydream mine here offers one hour tours underground.

Silverton Camel Farm

These beasts fit into the landscape perfectly and you can hitch a ride on one at this farm and feel like you are really trekking through the outback. Located on the road to Broken Hill.

Coffs Harbour

Coffs Harbour is located in New South Wales Australia between Sydney and Brisbane. Coffs Harbour tourism is well developed with many activities including surfing, whale watching and visits to icons such as the Big Banana. Inland from Coffs Harbour is a rich agricultural area and the World Heritage listed Dorrigo National Park. Offshore are the solitary islands for hiking and diving. Coffs Harbour has a very pleasant climate all year and normally maintains a least 19 degrees all year.

First named in 1847 as Korff's Harbour. It is shaped in a triangle. At one point of the triangle lie the Railway Station and the Marina, at another is the old town centre, and at the third is the Park Beach Plaza. Banana plantations line the backdrop to Coffs Harbour.

There are many National Parks, State Forest and nature reserves. And for adventure try sky-diving, scuba diving, white water rafting, horse riding, game fishing, surf rafting or surf board riding. The coastal area has many great beaches and some of the best beaches in Australia.

History

Coffs Harbour was originally the home of the Gumbaynggirr tribe. The name was changed by Captain John Korff who was seeking safety from the storm that prevented him from entering the river at Urunga in 1847 and called the place "Korffs Harbour". A spelling mistake when it was gazetted led to the name Coffs Harbour being recorded.

During the 1870's and 1880's Europeans settled the area to log cedar. The first school opened in 1885. The timber industry thrived as a result of the completion of the Coffs Harbour Jetty in 1892 and the building of many timber mills. The railway arrived in 1915 and that led to decline in shops using the jetty. The oldest buildings are to be found on the "Jetty Strip" along Harbour Drive.

The northern breakwater that linked Coffs Harbour and Muttonbird Island was started in 1915 and completed in 1935. In the 1970's Coffs Harbour was the home of an active fishing fleet which still continues today.

Bananas were found to grow well in the region and led to the arrival of many Indian migrants who formed a Sikh community and built the Sikh Temple at Woolgoolga.

During World War 2 Coffs Harbour was used as military operations base to defend Australia from an invasion.

Attractions

Beaches

Coffs Harbour has a large number of beaches that extend out from the city centre. Boambee Beach to the south of the Jetty Beach is an open beach. Jetty Beach is close to the Marina and Coffs Harbour Jetty extends from this beach. Protected by the breakwater makes for calm swimming conditions. Park Beach is the main beach on Ocean Parade and is patrolled,

Botanic Gardens

The Botanic Gardens are spread over 19 hectare close to the centre of Coffs. In the botanic gardens you will find a miniature botanic garden, mangrove boardwalk, creek walk, greenhouses and a sensory garden with it's roses and herbs. A small rainforest has been created. The botanic gardens have a number of endangered rare plants and seed is produced to enable their survival.

Big Banana

The Big Banana is a famous symbol for Coffs Harbour. Opened in 1964 and started a trend across Australian of BIG things. Behind the Big Banana is a theme park. You can toboggan, ice skate, and try the "World of Bananas" with a Banana Plantation Walk, and theatre that explains how the banana industry works. *Pacific Highway about 4km north of Coffs Harbour.*

Bunker Cartoon Gallery

An art gallery dedicated to black and white art and cartoons. Housed in an underground World War 2 bunker.

Coffs Harbour Butterfly House

Butterflies in a natural indoor setting. For the kids there is maze at the end of the visit. *5 Strouds Road.*

Coffs Harbour Zoo

A number of animal shows are held during the day. *1530 Pacific Highway about 10km north of Coffs Harbour.*

Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery

Coffs Harbour City Gallery presents a diverse programme of historical and contemporary exhibitions. *Rigby House Coff Street.*

Coffs Harbour Historical Museum

History of the area with many old photographs and a model of a banana plantation. *191 High Street.*

Lake Russell Gallery

A contemporary art gallery beside a small lake. *Pacific Highway.*

Legends Surf Museum

A display of classic boards. *Gauldrons Road.*

Pet Porpoise Pool

Touch and interact with dolphins and seals. Dolphin shows are presented.
Orlando Street.

Whale Watching

Whales can be seen from June to October from Scotts Head, Woolgoolga Headland Hungry Head and other high points along the coast. Cruises are popular so book in advance.

Woolgoolga

Woolgoolga to the north of Woolgoolga is influenced by the Sikh Community with the temple and Indian architecture. When you see the stunning white domes of a Sikh Temple you're in Woolgoolga, 25 kms north of Woolgoolga. The Woolgoolga Headland has good views

Wild Areas**Dorrigo National Park**

Dorrigo National Park is a World heritage listed national park. A good place to start is at the Rainforest Centre which is just west of Dorrigo. From here there is skywalk that goes through the canopy. Alternatively take the ground level walk which has a number of loops of differing durations. In other parts of Dorrigo are hiking trails and waterfalls including the impressive Dangar Falls. Dorrigo National Park is about 60 km west of Coffs Harbour and easy to visit by car.

Muttonbird Island

Just beyond Coffs Harbour Marina is Muttonbird Island Nature Reserve. Good for whale watching between June and October and for shearwaters from November to April. There are no trees on Muttonbird Island but is a nesting site for wedge-tailed shearwaters. The eastern side of Muttonbird Island has views out to sea.

Solitary Islands

The Solitary Islands are north east of Coffs Harbour. The Solitary Islands are the southern tip of the Great Barrier Reef. The whole area is reserve and made up of Muttonbird Island, South Solitary, Split Solitary, West Solitary, North West Rocks and North Solitary. The Solitary Islands are good for diving and viewing dolphins, turtles and whale watching between may and June and again in October and November as the whales move south. The Solitary islands cover 100,000 hectares of protected beaches and islands and combined with the mix of warm tropical waters and the cool temperate waters of the south creates a diversity of marine life.

Cooma

Cooma is 120 kilometres south of Canberra and is a cross roads. From here, roads run north to Canberra and Sydney, south to Melbourne, east to the Sapphire Coast and west to the ski resorts and Albury. Cooma is regarded as the main town in the Snowy Mountains region. Cooma achieved prominence in the 1950s when it became the headquarters for the Snowy Mountains Scheme which diverted the eastward flowing rivers of this area west through a long tunnel into the Murray River, permitting the generation of electricity as it did so. Nowadays, it is known as a base for the ski resorts which lie further west in Australia's highest mountains. Visitors are attracted to the nearby ski fields in winter, and to the cool, fresh air of the Snowy Mountains in summer. They enjoy Cooma's cultural heritage, and the town's natural attractions.

Cooma Manaro Railway

This 1924 engine departs for rides along the historic railway tracks of Cooma every weekend.

Centennial Park

located in the heart of the town, it is a popular place to walk through and picnic in. A highlight is the unusual sculpture of The Man From Snowy River.

Lambie Town Walk

This is a lovely walk through Cooma, it takes in the heritage sights of the town. The walk starts in Centennial Park and goes for about 10km.

Wadbilliga National Park

This park is close to the town and is filled with rugged mountain ranges, deep river valleys, pockets of rainforest and wide plateaus. Highlights of this park are the Tuross Falls and Tuross River Gorge.

Dubbo

Dubbo is situated on the Macquarie River, 400km northwest of Sydney. It is also a favourite stopover place for weary travelers heading from the South to the North (Victoria to Queensland) in search of holiday sunshine. The Newell highway which passes through Dubbo is about the midway point between these states.

Cruises

There are cruises on the river, some operating from Dundullimal and some from Bligh Street in the heart of the city.

Dubbo Museum

This museum features historical displays of Dubbo's past. There is a coach building display as well as Aboriginal artifacts and stories. *232 Macquarie Street.*

Old Dubbo Gaol

This gaol has held many infamous bushrangers since it opened in 1847. There are plenty of stories of the prisoners once held here, their crimes and their grisly fates.

Western Plains Zoo

The Western Plains Zoo is Australia's largest open range zoo covering 300 hectares on the Newell Highway just south of the city. The animals roam free here, and you can ride on bikes or hire mini mokes to drive through the park. The Friendship Farm is a great petting zoo for kids.

Observatory

There is an Observatory with nightly shows.

Eden

When you stand on the hilltop in Eden and gaze on it's beautiful coastline it's not hard to see how it scored it's perfect nametag. Stunning views are the highlight of a visit to this small township, located on the Sapphire Coast. Eden was once a whaling station and is now a popular deep fishing port. The town is located close to the Victorian Border and 500km south of Sydney.

Ben Boyd National Park

This park is split in two by Twofold Bay and boasts a stunning coastline. The most visible feature here is Boyd's Tower which was used for spotting whales when it was erected in the 1840's, later it was used as a lighthouse. Haycock Point to the north of the park has a picnic area.

Eden Killer Whale Museum

There is an old whaling station at Kiah Inlet, ten kilometres south of Eden. The Eden Killer Whale Museum, in the town, has exhibits from the time when whalers utilized the services of killer whalers to help them to herd the whales into the bay. *Imlay Street*.

Mount Imlay National Park

Located 19km south of Eden this park boasts an 886metre mountain peak surrounded by lush forest vegetation. Mount Imlay is a popular climb which is a 3km each way hard slog, but worth it for the views.

Twofold Bay

This deep body of water is lined by rocky headland and beaches and is a haven for humpback whales and for various other species, even including the occasional rare blue whale. The whales migrate south each year and are to be found here from September until November.

Goulburn

One of the things that strikes the eye when you drive into Goulburn is the huge Merino Sheep monument on the side of the road, and you would guess right to think that you have arrived in wool growing country. Goulburn in central NSW is one of the biggest and richest wool growing areas in Australia. Located 196km south west of Sydney, a stroll through the streets here is like a step back in time due to the historical chapels, buildings and cathedrals that line the streets of Goulburn.

Goulburn Historic Waterworks Museum

This unusual museum set on the banks of the picturesque Wollondilly River at Marsden Weir and was built in 1885. Highlights are the original steam operating pumps, engines and boilers, and is known to be the only complete original working engine water supply in the Southern Hemisphere. *Marsden Weir.*

Goulburn War Memorial

This War Memorial is dedicated to the men who died during the First World War (1914-1918). It is a rough stone square tower that stands 20 metres high and was built in 1924 by the local townsfolk. You can walk to the top of the tower via an internal staircase and there is a stunning view of the countryside from the top. There is a military museum at the entrance to the memorial.

Goulburn Brewery

Francis Greenway designed this building and it is the oldest working industrial complex in Australia. There are tastings of the traditionally brewed ales with self-guided and guided tours available.

Goulburn's Rail Heritage Centre

Here you can have a guided tour of a railway workshop and 1918 roundhouse where veteran locomotives and rollingstock are under restoration.

Great Lakes

The Great Lakes region is on the Central coast of New South Wales, an area of coastal scenery and quiet national parks. The main towns are Forster and Tuncurry.

Bombah Broadwater

This is the second largest of the lakes. There are a number of four wheel drive tracks through this area as well as walking tracks. The beach can be accessed as well.

Booti Booti National Park

Booti Booti National Park is a large area of coastal rainforest and Palm forest that lines Wallis Lake. A forty minute climb to the top of Cape Hawke gives great views from its look out tower.

Myall Lakes National Park

Myall Lakes National Park is an area of lakes, beaches and forest with walking tracks. What once were islands have now joined into sand dunes, however Broughton Island didn't join in but is still considered part of the park, and it is a popular diving place. The main entry points are at Tea Gardens and Bulahdelah.

Pacific Palms

This small community town is on the shores of Lake Wallis and is surrounded by several small beaches. Bluey's Beach, Boomerang Beach and Elizabeth Beach are great surf beaches.

Grafton

The City of Grafton is found on the northern coastal plains of NSW, on the Clarence River. Grafton is famous for its Jacaranda trees and is often dubbed the 'City of Trees'. The Clarence River is a majestic waterway and is used for a variety of water sport activities, mainly rowing, boating and water skiing. Grafton is the gateway to the pristine beaches and lagoons of Yuraygir National Park and the fishing ports of Iluka and Yamba, great places to pick up some fresh prawns. Grafton is also filled with wonderful historical buildings that gives the place an elegant feel.

Grafton Regional Gallery

This gallery is a premier visual arts space which displays contemporary and touring art exhibitions. You can also participate in workshops, classes and seminars here as well. *Fitzroy Street.*

Schaeffer House Museum

This homestead was built by one of the original pioneering families of Grafton and now has displays of furniture, glassware and old china pieces. *Fitzroy Street.*

Squatters Rest Private Museum

This is a good example of Australian heritage, where you can step back in time and enjoy old fashioned food and entertainment. All meals are prepared the 1880's style cook house, and you can enjoy morning and afternoon teas as well as lunches. *Collette Street, Tucabia.*

Yuraygir National Park

Not only does this park encompass some of the best beaches in Australia but it is also popular for bushwalking, canoeing and fishing. Angourie is a great surfing beach here and there is also a picnic area here.

Griffith

Griffith is a wine growing area, and has a rich agricultural history. The town was designed by Burley Griffin, the man who planned Canberra.

Cocoparra National Park

This park is located Northeast of Griffith and has over 8,000 hectares of cliffs, gullies and walking trails. The easiest trail to take through here is Ladysmith Glen. In the southeast of the park you will find the Spring Hill Picnic area, a lovely place to eat and explore a canyon and Falcon Falls.

Cranswick Estate

This winery is an exporter of wines worldwide, and does have daily tastings. *Walla Avenue.*

McWilliams Wines

This well known Australian wine label has tours and tastings, and can be found 8km South of Griffith.

Pioneer Park Museum

The Pioneer Park Museum is a display of an early Riverina town, with some 40 buildings here dating back to the late 1800s. Located 2km North of Griffith. *Airport Road.*

Hunter Valley

The Hunter Valley is located in New South Wales, Australia. An area of wineries, mountains and historic towns. The Hunter Valley stretches inland from Newcastle through the towns of Maitland, Singleton and to the Upper Hunter. The Hunter Valley extends about 150 km. In the Wine Country are the wineries, national parks, and lakes.

Newcastle is situated at the mouth of the Hunter River at the southern end and is the biggest city. Other major towns of the Hunter Valley are Maitland, Morpeth, Cessnock, Kurri Kurri, Singleton, Scone and Muswellbrook. The Upper Hunter consists of historic towns and small villages along with National Parks.

Places

Branxton

Branxton is a small town at the junction of the New England Highway and the freeway to Cessnock. Branxton is surrounded by wineries. Lot's for places to stay and many fine restaurants. Singleton is 22km away.

Broke

A short drive from Pokolbin the village of Broke lies on Wollombi Creek.

Camberwell

13 km north of Singleton along the highway is the small village of Camberwell where St Clements's Anglican Church was built between 1844 and 1855.

Cessnock

First settled in 1826, named after Cessnock Castle in Scotland and now a coal mining town. Cessnock is in the heart of the Hunter Valley wine-producing region. Cessnock includes small towns such as Paxton, Millfield and Bellbird. Cessnock is a gateway to the wineries of the region. Many art galleries, antique shops and craft shops.

Denman

Denman is a small agricultural town on the Hunter River.

Dungog

Dungog is on the Williams River on the way to Barrington Tops National Park. First settled in 1820 has wide streets and a rural feel. Good bush walking trails, trout streams and dams and lookouts.

Gloucester

Gloucester is an access point for Barrington Tops. Many outdoor activities are available in this area. In the town is an Aboriginal Art Centre, Folk Museum and the Gloucester Gallery.

Gresford

Gresford is an access point for Barrington Tops National Park. Gresford is on the Paterson River.

Greta

Greta is between Maitland and Singleton developed due to the Greta Main Colliery.

Kurri Kurri

Kurri Kurri is 15mins from Cessnock. Kurri Kurri is the heart of the coal fields. Kurri Kurri is close to the vineyards of the Lower Hunter.

Lochinvar

Lochinvar is close to Maitland and the wineries of Lovedale and Rothbury. Lochinvar has a rural village with pub, and buildings crafted with carved sandstone and kilned bricks made using convict labour.

Luskintyre

Luskintyre is a rural area 20 minutes from Maitland. The Luskintyre Bridge was built in 1902 and an important element in the development of the Hunter region.

Maitland

Established in 1818, the New England Highway connects Maitland with Newcastle to the south, and the Upper Hunter and New England regions to the north. Maitland has a riverine landscape with historic buildings wooden bridges and renovated industrial buildings. Maitland has plenty of places to eat and drink. The town is laid out with a series of radiating squares. On the outer edge are North, West, South and Shannon Terraces. Roads radiate in from the corners of this square.

Merriwa

Merriwa, a small town in the west of the Hunter. The Tourist Information Centre includes a Bottle Museum. Close by is Goulburn River Park a gem fossicking zone.

Morpeth

Close to Maitland is Morpeth established in 1821 on the banks of the Hunter River. There are cafes, restaurants, galleries, and antique stores. Morpeth Courthouse Museum offers an historical perspective of life in the district.

Murrurundi

The historical town of Murrurundi has a heritage town walk.

Muswellbrook

Muswellbrook is in the Upper Hunter Valley with many wineries and restaurants. The Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre has regular exhibitions. Muswellbrook has a large shopping centre and historic buildings line the Muswellbrook Heritage Walk.

Newcastle

Newcastle lies approximately 160 kilometres north of Sydney. Newcastle was founded on 30th March 1804 as a penal settlement, so has a selection of buildings, as well as beaches, surf, impressive coastal scenery, bushland and a well-known lake. It is also an important port, especially for the export of coal, of which resource some 70 million tonnes passes through the city annually. Most of the attractions of Newcastle are within walking distance of the station.

Paterson

Paterson is a small historic village between Maitland and the Barrington Tops. The Paterson Court House Museum built in 1857 displays historical artefacts. The Rail Motor Society of Paterson presents a history of train transportation in the region.

Paxton

Paxton south west Cessnock is a wine and horse stud region.

Pokolbin

6 kilometres west of Cessnock with resorts, guesthouses, restaurants and cafes in the town close to the Lower Hunter wineries. Very much a centre of the wine industry. Along Broke Road are many wineries and restaurants and around McDonalds Road. Many golf courses are found in this part of the Hunter Valley.

Scone

Scone is famous for horses. 15km east of Scone is Glenbawn Dam.

Singleton

Singleton is on the New England Highway between the Lower and Upper Hunter Valley. Singleton has gardens, historical and cultural sites, vineyards and modern wineries. The wine industry is the major attraction with many cellar doors on Hermitage Road. Singleton has heritage buildings dating from 1863 many are historic homesteads from the early days of settlement. The two main buildings are the All Saints Anglican Church and the elaborate Victorian Gothic rectory built in 1875. The Sun Dial at Singleton is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere and forms a gateway to the Hunter River and developed as part of the 1988 bicentennial project.

Upper Hunter

The north end of the Hunter Valley is called the Upper Hunter with the communities of Denman, Merriwa, Murrurundi, Muswellbrook and Scone. The vineyards here are larger and produce varieties such as Rieslings. The Upper Hunter is the location of the World Heritage listed Barrington Tops National Park. The area is a mix of agriculture, wine production, coal mining, power generation and rural life. The Upper Hunter Valley is renowned for its spectacular natural scenic beauty. Rocky outcrops, sandstone cliffs and rugged scrub-covered mountains provide a stunning backdrop to rich farmland, rolling pastures and manicured vineyards.

Vacy

Vacy lies on the banks of the Paterson River near Barrington Tops with some historic buildings.

Wollombi

Wollombi is on the Great North Road, a small historical town established in 1820, thirty kilometres from Cessnock. Wollombi is in a wooded river valley. In the valley are the villages of Laguna, Wollombi and Millfield.

Museums

Dobell House

A museum dedicated to Sir William Dobell. *47 Dobell Drive, Wangi Wangi.*

Dungog Historical Museum

A display of historical artefacts collected from around Dungog. *Dowling Street, Dungog.*

Endeavour Museum

The museum is in the first Wollombi courthouse that was constructed in 1866. Exhibits are from around the area and a large part showing 19th century clothing. Maitland Road, Wollombi.

Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery

A purpose built art gallery on the shores of Lake Macquarie. *Awaba House 1A First Street, Booragul.*

Gloucester Historical Society

The collection is housed in the Council Chambers that were built in 1909 and include displays of World 1 and II memorabilia. *Church Street, Gloucester.*

Maitland National Trust Museum

A collection of local memorabilia with Aboriginal and German heritage exhibitions. *Gardener and Kilkerran Terrace.*

Morpeth Museum

Morpeth was the original centre of commerce in the Hunter Valley and the museum explains this past history. *Morpeth Courthouse, 123 Swan Street, Morpeth.*

Newcastle Police Station Museum

The original building was built in 1926 and the exhibits are housed in this heritage house. *90 Hunter Street, Newcastle.*

Newcastle Regional Art Gallery

A mix of owned and visiting works. *Laman Street, Newcastle.*

Newcastle Region Maritime Museum

Housed in the grounds of Fort Scratchley with models of ships and other artefacts. Also included is the tunnel complex, barracks and guardhouse of the Fort. *Fort Drive, Newcastle.*

Newcastle Regional Museum

The museum is in the old Castlemaine and Wood Brothers Brewery. The collection covers mining, Newcastle's earthquake and other historical events. *787 Hunter Street, Newcastle West.*

Paterson Historical Court House Museum

The court house was built in 1857. *King Street, Paterson.*

Richmond Vale Railway Museum

A mining and railway museum and tours of the John Brown's Richmond main colliery. *Leggetts Drive, Pelaw Main.*

Royal Australian Infantry Corps Museum

The museum has a collection of infantry equipment, weapons and memorabilia. *Singleton Army Camp, Lone Pine Barracks, Singleton.*

Scone Historical Museum

A collection of 19th and 20th century portraits in a historic complex of buildings. *43/47 Kingdom Street, Scone.*

Singleton House Museum

Singletons first courthouse and jail with a collection of memorabilia. *Burdekin Park, New England Highway, Singleton.*

Sir Edgeworth David Memorial Museum

The main feature is the extensive library detailing the history of the Hunter Valley. *Grounds of Kurri Kurri High School, Kurri Kurri.*

Wild Places**Barrington Tops**

Barrington Tops is a World Heritage wilderness area with walking trails, white-water canoeing, kayaking, four wheel driving and rafting. Barrington Tops is a plateau rising to 1,500 metre between a series of extinct volcanic peaks in the Mount Royal Ranges. An area of streams, Antarctic beech forests, waterfalls, animals and birds with clear water flowing from sphagnum moss swamps. For the Gloucester River camping area and Gloucester Tops day use area, take the Buckets Way from Gloucester then take Cobark Road, to Gloucester River Road and then Gloucester Tops Road. The Williams River is accessed from Dungog. The Burruga Swamp area is about 1.5 hours drive from the Williams River picnic area, along the Mt Allyn Forest Road. For the Barrington Tops Plateau area, use Barrington Tops Forest Road between Gloucester and Scone.

Blackbutt Reserve

Blackbutt Reserve is about 6km from Newcastle and an area of Eucalypt forest and pockets of rainforest. *Carnley Avenue, New Lambton.*

Hunter Wetlands Centre

The Hunter Wetlands Centre is about 10 minutes drive from Newcastle and good for walking, bird watching and also has a children's discovery centre. *Sandgate Road, Shortland.*

Lake St Clair

To the north west of Singleton the lake, covering 1540ha, is named after St Clair homestead, which was covered by the lake. Camping, barbecue areas and a boat ramp are available.

Lake Macquarie

Lake Macquarie is a large coastal salt-water lake at the south of the Hunter Region and about an hour from Sydney. It is four times the size of Sydney Harbour and good for sailing, fishing, swimming, cruising and scuba diving. Surfing is possible at Blacksmiths, Caves, Catherine Hill Bay and Dudley. Wangi Point, Pelican, Cam's Wharf and Shingle

Splitter's Point are good for swimming. The Watagan Mountains at the back of the Lake Macquarie have hiking and horse back riding trails.

Mount Royal National Park

Mount Royal National Park is adjacent to the south-western edge of Barrington Tops National Park and contains part of the Barrington Tops Wilderness Area. It was declared over former state forest in 1996 and includes rainforest areas that provide habitat for threatened species such as the Hastings River mouse. The park is 50km north of Singleton. Turn right into Bridgeman Road off the New England Highway north of Singleton and follow the signs to Lake St Clair.

Wollemi National Park

A large wilderness area and part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. There are historic ruins at Newnes, across the Wolgan River from the camping area. Dunns Swamp has easy walks and plenty of opportunities for canoeing. Dunns Swamp is 20 km from Rylstone along Narrango Road.

Woko National Park

Woko is about 30km from Gloucester and a steep hillside with two walking tracks in the rainforest. *Curricabark Turnoff, Gloucester.*

Wineries

Climatic and soil conditions in the Hunter Valley are excellent for Semillion, Shiraz and Chardonnay production. The Hunter Valley is now recognised for its full-bodied white wines, 'medium weight reds' and some excellent ports. There are some world brands including Lindemans, McWilliams, Rothbury, Wyndham Estate, Tyrells and Draytons. Wine tasting is very much part of life in the Hunter Valley with most wineries opening daily. Wineries are found in the full length of the Hunter Valley. The area known as Wine Country is around the towns of Cessnock, Branxton, Maitland and Muswellbrook.

Jindabyne

Jindabyne is at the heart of the Snowy Mountains Scheme and is the closest town to most of the NSW ski fields. The Snowy Mountains scheme it was one of the great engineering feats of the twentieth century. It required the construction of sixteen large dams in this area, as well as many smaller dams, and also resulted in the building of seven hydro-electric power stations. The remains of the old town lie submerged under Lake Jindabyne and can occasionally be glimpsed when lake levels are low. Modern Jindabyne is a year round holiday resort. In winter Jindabyne is a base for skiers bound for the major resorts in Kosciuszko National Park and for the rest of the year it's a great place from which to go bushwalking, mountain biking, whitewater rafting and canoeing, horse riding and kayaking.

Lake Jindabyne

Lake Jindabyne is the southernmost of the lakes formed or extended by this damming. The lake provides superb opportunities for trout fishing and water sports.

Skiing

In winter Jindabyne is a base for the ski resorts in the area. The Skitube runs up to Perisher Blue. Nighttime is big in Jindy mainly due to the workers at the ski resorts many of whom stay in Jindabyne.

The Movie Jindabyne

The Movie is a 2006 Australian Drama film. Jindabyne was filmed entirely on location in and around the town and subsequently has made the name Jindabyne famous nationally and internationally.

Lightning Ridge

Lightening Ridge is located 780km northwest of Sydney and makes it's mark in NSW as the home of the opal. There are hundreds of mining sites set up in the district all searching for Australia's national gem. However, it's the black opal that everyone comes here in search of, it is a rare find and mainly discovered in this area. Shopping for opals is also popular in Lightening Ridge as the prices are at their cheapest here. Lightning Ridge is also known for it's outback temperatures where the average Summer day sits around 45 degrees Celsius.

Amigo's Castle

It's not what you would expect to see looming over an arid outback Australian town, but this castle comes complete with turrets, dungeons and even a wishing well. There are no official tours of the castle but people just like to wonder around and marvel at the 15metre tall structure.

Artesian Bore Baths

If its a warm outdoor bath you require to get rid of the dust, these are ideal. Located 2km from town, the water temperature sits at 40 degree Celsius and it is claimed the water has great therapeutic properties.

Bevan's Black Opal and Cactus Nursery

No surprise to see this arid plant in the outback and here you an view up to 2000 species of the cactus. There are also opals on display here.

Black Opal Tours

These tours take in some of the popular mines in the area and give an insight into the outback life here. They last for 3 hours and there are morning and afternoon tours available.

The Big Opal

This mine offers tours underground as well as historical displays on the towns opal mining history. There is a cutting room and a fossicking area here as well.

The Spectrum Mine

There is a showroom here where you can admire some of the opal discovered in Lightning Ridge. Video displays of the mining history in the area are here as well. *Bald Hill Road.*

Lord Howe Island

Lord Howe Island is part of New South Wales, but far out to sea, 700 kilometres north-east of Sydney and 700 kilometres south-east of Brisbane. Lord Howe Island is crescent shaped, eleven kilometres long and only two to three kilometres wide. At the southern end are two substantial mountains, the towering peaks of Mt Lidgbird and Mt Gower. It is a World Heritage site, making it only one of four island groups in the world to get on this list. Visitor numbers are controlled and accommodation must be pre booked. Born from a volcanic eruption seven million years ago, the Island is 11 km's long and barely 2 km's at its widest point. Two-thirds of the island is covered in natural forests, Banyan trees and Kentia palms. The waters are crystal clear, the beaches are pristine, there is no pollution, birds and marine. Lord Howe Island are home to 500 species of fish and 90 species of coral. Its sparkling lagoon is protected by the world's southern-most coral reef creating a spectacular line of white surf against a blue backdrop of the South Pacific ocean.

Ned's Beach

At this beach you can hand feed the fish

Balls Pyramid

Balls Pyramid is part of the erosional remnants of a shield volcano and caldera that formed about seven million years ago. Balls Pyramid is 10 miles (16 km) south of Lord Howe Island, and is a spectacular sight sitting in the middle of the ocean.

Lord Howe Island Historical Society Museum

This museum has valuable artifacts, photographs documents and collections relating to Lord Howe's cultural and natural history. There are also daily presentations on geology, birds, flora and fauna, history and marine life. *Middle Beach Road.*

Lord How Island Marine Park

The marine park surrounding Lord Howe Island contains the world's southernmost barrier coral reef. There are over 300 species of algae, 450 species of fish and 120 species of mollusc. Green and Hawksbill turtles can be seen during the Summer months. Swimming, snorkeling and scuba diving are all popular activities in the park, and boat trips and diving tours operate from the island.

Merimbula

Merimbula, located on NSW's beautiful Sapphire Coast has it all, whales, dolphins, fishing, surfing and boating, any wonder it is one of the coast's most popular tourist destination. Located between Australia's two largest capital cities, 9 hours drive North of Melbourne and 9 hours South of Sydney.

Beaches

NSW coastline offers some of the best beaches in Australia and Merimbula's are great for swimming, surfing, body boarding, wind surfing and for just lazing on. Main Beach is the most popular for swimming and surfing. There is also Lake Beach, Bar Beach and Middle Beach.

Merimbula Aquarium

This Aquarium can be found in the historic cargo sheds of the Merimbula Wharf. There are displays of local tropical fish as well as hundreds of other varieties of sea life. *Lake Street*.

Merimbula's Magic Mountain

A fun place for families as it has roller coasters, waterslides, putt-putt golf, mirror room plus lots more fun rides and activities for everyone. There are also facilities here to have a picnic lunch or cook up a BBQ.

Merimbula Marina:

This very busy Marina offers a large range of fishing charters, lunch and dinner cruising of the bay and Dolphin and Whale Watching expeditions. The Merimbula Princess is a glass bottom boat that offers great views of ocean life.

Whale Watching

A hugely popular thing to do in Merimbula between September and November. Many cruise boats leave from the Marina for whale watching tours.

Yellow Pinch Wildlife Park

Located 9km west of the township, this park has native wildlife, children's rides, picnic area and a cafe.

Mollymook

Mollymook is part of the coastal area that stretches from Ulladulla to Narrawallee. Mollymook is well known for its surf beach and for the Mollymook Golf Club that runs alongside Mollymook beach. Mollymook is named after an albatross, the 'Mollymawk'. Mollymook was first settled by the Dhurja, Walbanja and Wadandian Aborigines.

Attractions

Beaches

South Mollymook beach, North Mollymook beach and Narrawallee are all patrolled by surf life savers. The main beach is sheltered and good for swimming and for surfers. The surf at Green Island at Conjola is a good surfing location.

Bannisters Point

An attractive lookout at the northern end of Mollymook beach.

Booderee National Park

Booderee National Park is owned by the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community and has walking trails, beach and botanic garden with native plants. An area of 6000 hectares to explore. The visitors centre is just after the park entrance.

Burrill Lake

Burrill Lake is just south of Ulladulla and has windsurfing, fishing, swimming and other boating activities.

Golfing

Mollymook Golf Club's 9-hole Beachside Course has sea views from the course, clubhouse and restaurant. And the Championship Hilltop course is 18 holes of bushland, with views over Mollymook Beach and tree-lined fairways.

Lake Conjola

Lake Conjola is reached off the Princes Highway about 10km north of Milton. The town of Lake Conjola is to the south of the lake. Lake Conjola is popular for boating, sailing, water skiing and fishing and provides safe swimming.

Mollymook Bay

Mollymook Bay is home to bottlenose dolphins. Whales are often seen during migration seasons. Fishing in the bay is popular.

Morton National Park

To the west with scenic sites.

Murramarang National Park

South of Ulladulla a coastal park with protected beaches and Pebbly Beach

Narrawallee

North of Mollymook is Narrawallee Inlet, with safe waters and natural bushland. Narrawallee Beach borders a scenic reserve which stretches north for 5 km along Buckley's and Conjola Beaches which are good spots for fishing and surfing. Pattimores Lagoon is in the northern part of the reserve and a breeding ground for water birds. To reach Narrawallee Creek Nature Reserve turn east off the highway at Yatteyattah.

Pigeon House Mountain

Views of beaches, forest and wilderness and lots of native wildlife, eucalypts and pockets of lush rainforest, wildflowers and vines. The walk is 5km and well rewarded with good views from the top of Pigeon House Mountain. Turn off the Princes Highway at Wheelbarrow Road about 3km south of Burrill Lake.

The Bogey Hole

The 'Bogey Hole', is a large circular tidal rock pool on Mollymook Headland and very shallow at low tide. The ring of rocks provides a safe place to swim and easy snorkelling. Located around the headland at the southern end of Mollymook Beach.

Ulladulla

Ulladulla is a major commercial centre and fishing port. Commercial fish charters are available. The lighthouse at Ulladulla was built in 1871 and was moved to Ulladulla's south headland in 1889. It is made from wrought iron.

Mudgee

Mudgee is located on the Central Tablelands of NSW and is a three hour drive from Sydney. The name Mudgee is an Aboriginal word meaning, "Nest in the Hills". Situated in the Great Dividing Range of New South Wales, Mudgee is known as a good wine growing region boasts over 4500 hectares of grapes.

Frog Rock

This natural stone formation on the side of Cassilis Road looks like a frog, and can be found 19km from Mudgee

Goulburn River National Park

Bordering the Goulburn river, this park is 90km of rugged sandstone country. There are campsites here and it is located off the Ringwood Road between Wollar and Merriwa.

High Valley Wine and Cheese Company

This winery is very close to the Mudgee CBD, Here you can have tasting of wine and fresh and aged cheeses at the High Valley Cellar Door. There is also a cafe here that serves the fresh local produce. *137 Cassilis Road.*

Mudgee Museum

This museum is housed in an 1856 building and has displays and information on the Mudgee area. There is a doll display as well. *126 Market Street.*

Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve

This park is a half hour drive north east of Mudgee. A very popular area for birdwatchers with more than 160 bird species found here. Castle Creek track is a good walk through here, but will take over an hour. You can also enjoy a picnic or BBQ at the Moolarben Picnic area.

The Drip

These interesting rock formations are covered with ferns with water dripping from the rock face. You have to walk approximately 2km to access them. Located 50km from Mudgee.

Windamere Dam

This dam is on the Cudgegong River and is a good spot for fishing, boating, swimming and canoeing. You can also enjoy a picnic or BBQ here. Located 24km from Mudgee.
Sydney Road

Wineries

An area of vineyards and plenty of places to sample the wines.

Wollemi National Park

This park forms part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage area. There is plenty of wildlife to be found here as well as stunning scenery and views. Dunns Swamp is a camping and picnic area and good for canoeing, swimming or bushwalking.

Newcastle

Newcastle is at the mouth of the Hunter River about 150 km north of Sydney in the Hunter Valley region. Newcastle is the seventh largest city in Australia and is the largest city which is not a state or federal capital. It has a population of approximately 300,000.

Newcastle was founded on 30th March 1804 as a penal settlement, so has a selection of buildings old by Australian standards, as well as beaches, surf, impressive coastal scenery, bushland and a well-known lake. It is also an important port, especially for the export of coal, of which resource some 70 million tonnes passes through the city annually.

Beaches

Newcastle is very popular for its great beaches. They are mostly located on the eastern side of the city with Newcastle Beach being the main beach in the area. The Ocean Baths are manmade and are an enclosed swimming area. Nobby's Beach is near the baths and is a popular swimming and sunbathing beach. Mereweather Beach, just south of Newcastle has great surfing conditions.

Customs House

Located just to the east of the railway station, this building is recognizable for its clock tower with a time ball on top. Since Customs House was constructed in 1876, the ball was dropped every day at 13:00 as a visual time signal. However, since the earthquake it has not worked properly. The building is now used as a pub and restaurant. Next to it is the old Paymaster's Office for New South Wales Government Railways, dating from 1879. It also is now a restaurant. .

Convict Lumber Yards

This is the oldest surviving example of a convict industrial site. It was in operation between 1814 and 1846. Moreover, beneath it is an aboriginal site which dates back several thousands of years.

Foreshore Park ,

This area used to be railway yards, but now has been transformed into a park, with the old warehouses used as shops and restaurants.

Fort Scratchley

This fort was constructed in 1882, because of fears of a Russian invasion. However, its first and only action occurred on 7th June 1942, when a Japanese submarine arrived and fired 24 shots at Newcastle . Fort Scratchley fired two rounds in reply before the submarine disappeared. The fort is now a Maritime and Military Museum. Beyond the fort is the Breakwater constructed by convict labour to protect the port.

Newcastle Tram

This is a great way to take in the inner city historical sights, the tram departs from the railway station hourly and is a 45minute ride.

Bogey Hole,

This is a swimming hole cut in the natural rock, at the order of Commandant Morisset in 1819. Originally it was his private swimming place, but it became a public pool in 1863. The term 'Bogey' Hole is evidently derived from the aboriginal word for bathing.

King Edward Park

Given to the city in 1865, but renamed later after the monarch of the time. This park overlooks the ocean.

Nimbin

Nimbin was the site of healing for the Bundjalung people. In 1973 the Aquaris Festival brought back the Rainbow Serpent spirit and made Nimbin very much an alternative culture area. Nimbin museum is dedicated to hippie culture and Aboriginal culture.

Parkes

Parkes developed as a gold town after 1862 and originally called Bushmans. The name Parkes was from Henry Parkes the governor of New South Wales who visited in 1973. A main attraction is the Parkes Radio Telescope which transmitted Neil Armstrong's first images of his walk on the moon and all told in the film "The Dish".

Perisher Blue

Perisher Blue is a major ski resort in New South Wales. What was once four separate ski areas, became a huge ski resort in 1995 and was named Perisher Blue. There are seven mountains here with over 50 ski lifts accessing them. Perisher Valley is the main ski area here, with Front Valley, Smiggen Holes and Guthega most suitable for beginners. Mt Perisher and Blue Cow are good for all ability skiers and Kamikaze Australia's steepest ski run.

Skitube

This underground rail service offers a great way to access the slopes. It travels from Bullocks Flat, along the Alpine Way and ending up in Perisher Valley and Blue Cow.

Port Macquarie

Port Macquarie is a beautiful coastal city located midway between Sydney and the Queensland border. Named after the first Governor of New South Wales and was once used as a penal colony for the early convicts. Now it is a popular mecca for sun and surf lovers, as it boasts one of the best all year round climates in Australia. Port Macquarie sits on the mouth of the Hastings River which makes the city popular for all water activities including fishing, boating, swimming and snorkeling. The world's largest urban population of koalas can also be found in Port Macquarie.

Beaches

Port Macquarie's beaches are a highlight of this section of coastline. North Beach stretches 15km to Point Plomer; Town Beach is the local swimming hole and is patrolled in Summer and considered to be a safe swimming beach; Oxley Beach and Rocky Beach to the South are known for good surfing conditions; further on are Flynn's Point and Nobby Head which are good for swimming, sunbathing and snorkeling.

Billabong Koala Breeding Centre

Instead of just looking at these favorite furry natives, this centre gives you the opportunity to hold and feel the koalas as well. There are other native animals here including wallabies wombats and lots of colourful birds. Located 12km from the township, you will also find a cafe, picnic and BBQ areas, which make this a good day out for the family. *Billabong Drive*.

Cassegrain's Hastings Valley Winery

Here you can indulge in some wine tasting's, inspections of the winery and purchase wine at the cellar door. There is also a picnic area and playground here. *Pacific Highway*.

Fantasy Glades

This little snippet of fantasy world is set in 2.5 hectares of rainforest gardens. Here you

will find the mystical and magical including ghosts, castles, dragons and witches, there are also some fun rides such as mini cars and trains. *Parklands Close.*

Historical Museum

Inside this museum are 14 rooms full of historical artifacts about Port Macquarie's convict roots. All this is located in a convict built house that dates back to 1835.

Maritime Museum

This museum has stories on the shipwrecks of the area and the history of one of Australia's earliest ports. *William Street.*

Macquarie Nature Reserve

This lovely reserve has picnic areas, a visitor's centre and usually lots of koalas dozing high in the trees. Also located here is the Koala hospital which helps sick and injured koalas get back into the wildlife. *Lord Street*

Old World Timber Art

This is a great opportunity to see fine woodcraftsmen creating woodenware and souvenirs. There is a showroom and shop here to make woodcraft purchases. *Hastings Drive.*

Peppermint Park

This park provides lots of water fun and games. There are watersides, pools, mini golf, dodgem cars and roller skating, there is also some wildlife here as well in the form of birds and monkeys. *Corner Pacific Drive and Ocean Street.*

Port Macquarie Observatory

With the aid of high powered telescopes visitors here can observe the Solar Systems. *Rotary Park*

Sea Acres Nature Reserve

This rainforest reserve has a boardwalk of 1.3 km that finishes at the Rainforest Centre that gives information on all the flora inside the reserve as well as housing a cafe and shop. The reserve covers 72 hectares and is considered one of the best places to spot a Koala in their natural habitat. If you are not sure about roaming around on your own, there are guided tours and the experts know the best koala haunts.

Thrumster Village Pottery

Located 9km west of the township is this pottery and craft centre. Here you can watch the the art work being created or purchase a range of art and craft pieces including pottery, leatherwork, glassware and much more. *Oxley Highway.*

Port Stephens

Port Stephens is one of NSW most secluded yet popular bays and draws sea and sun lovers by the thousands. The bays around here are sheltered and pretty, the water is a beautiful emerald green and the townships are very laid back. Port Stephens is more of a region than a location and it encompasses four little townships, each with their own great beaches and parks. Port Stephens is 50km north of Newcastle and is known for its popularity with bottlenose dolphins who reside in the port. Whale watching and dolphin watching cruises are a very popular activity in the Port Stephens area.

Anna Bay

Here you can find some isolated beaches and some popular surfing beaches, one such being One Mile Beach. The sand dunes at Anna Bay are considered to be the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, with the biggest at Stockton Beach. There is also an isolated nudist beach at Anna Bay.

Nelson Bay

This is the biggest town in the Port Stephens region and has a marina, shopping centre, many eateries and lots of water based activities and cruises that leave from Nelson Bay Marina.

Shoal Bay

This bay is very scenic and has plenty of good surf beaches. From Shoal Bay you can walk to the summit of Tomaree Head, it will take 30 to 40 minutes and the view is worth the walk.

Fingal Bay

Fingal Bay connects Port Stephens with the mainland and has plenty more pristine beaches as well as good walking trails

Oakvale Farm and Fauna World

This place is a delight for all ages as you get to pet and feed the native animals. *Nelson Bay Road.*

Sydney

Sydney, recognised as one of the most live able cities on earth, provides a very warm welcome to visitors. Stunning harbour, perfect climate, superb restaurants, energetic nightlife this safe efficient city is a must do destination.

Mix nature with the man made attractions led by the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House. Add in a city centre play area, Darling Harbour, with restaurants, museums, shopping, street artists and lots more. Build a complete Olympic park and run a very successful Olympic Games. Top it all with theatres, cinemas, nightclubs, a

gay/lesbian scene and some of the world's best restaurants and you have a lively pulsating city offering complete extremes of entertainment.

Sydney's skyline is large and widely recognizable dominated by the Sydney Tower. Buildings range from the simple Francis Greenways Georgian buildings, to Jorn Utzon's expressionist, the Sydney Opera House. Sydney also has a large number of Victorian buildings, such as the Sydney Town Hall and the Queen Victoria Building.

Sydney is located in a coastal basin with the Pacific Ocean to the East and the Blue Mountains to the West. The city features the largest natural harbour in the world, Port Jackson. Besides the Sydney Harbour there are more than 70 harbour and ocean beaches, including the famous Bondi Beach and Manly Beach to name just two. Sydney's urban area of 1687 square km is similar to that of Greater London. The metropolitan area is 12,145 square km, a significant portion of this area is national park and other unsettled land.

Places

Bondi Beach

Bondi is the nearest ocean beach to the centre of Sydney, only eight kilometres distant. The Surf Life Saving Club dates from 1906, only four years after the ban on daylight bathing in urban areas was lifted in Sydney.

CBD

The Central Business District (CBD) of Sydney is the historical centre of government, retail, finance, culture and entertainment.

Circular Quay

Circular Quay is the harbour gateway to the city. Next to the Sydney Opera House and Royal Botanic Gardens. Originally a major port for shipping now is mainly used by the Sydney Ferries.

Chinatown

Chinese culture and cuisine around Sussex Street at the entrance to Darling Harbour. Chinatown has distinctive oriental architecture, street lanterns and archways. Plenty of places to dine on Asian dishes.

Darling Harbour

An extensive, leisure and entertainment area immediately to the west of the CBD with many hotels and restaurants.

Darlinghurst

The area around Taylor Square, which marks the start of Darlinghurst, and Oxford Street at Hyde Park is popular with the gay and lesbian scene.

Kings Cross

Kings Cross is known as a nightspot for visitors with bars, strip clubs and the centre of the red light district. There are many restaurants, cafes and bars. Macleay Street runs down to the harbour where the Royal Australian Navy moors several warships, often open for inspection.

Paddington

Paddington starts at the end of Centennial Park and runs up Oxford Street. Many of its streets are steep and narrow and shops mainly boutiques, bookshops, cafes and pubs.

Manly

The journey to Manly is a beautiful ferry ride. It is also a popular and fashionable area, famous both for its tree-lined beach and for its food, much of which lies along the short but trendy street known as The Corso, joining the harbour and ocean sides of the peninsula. Manly lies on the North Head of the harbour entrance.

North

The northern suburbs start beyond the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The coastline has many beaches and runs from Manly to Palm Beach and on to the Hawkesbury region. The Hawkesbury runs from the ocean to Richmond and Windsor district. Some 30 km north of Sydney CBD is Ku-ring-gai Chase national park with bushland, waterways and fauna.

South Sydney

Between Central Railway Station and Sydney Airport.

Sydney Harbour Bridge

The Sydney Harbour Bridge is 502 metres long and 48.8 metres wide and it weighs 52,800 tonnes. The top is 134 metres above sea level. It carries both road and rail traffic and there is a footway for pedestrians. One of Sydney's wonderful attractions is Bridge Climb a three-hour climb right up to the top of the bridge.

The Rocks

The Rocks is one of the oldest areas of Sydney and was one of the first places to be settled. The Rocks is a thriving tourist attraction, full of souvenir shops and cafés, galleries and museums. Every weekend there is a lively market in George Street. The twisting alleys and old courtyards have an old-world character.

The Eastern Suburbs

The area between the City and the sea at Bondi Beach.

The Inner West

Sydney's original suburbs with King Street, Newtown with good shopping and eating.

West

Sydney has moved west and almost reaches the Blue Mountains. The west side of Sydney includes the Sydney Olympic Park, Parramatta and Penrith.

History

Lt Cook (he became a Captain later) first arrived at Botany Bay on April 29, 1770. The original aboriginal name of the area was Warrane but was to become Sydney, being named after Lord Sydney, the British Secretary of State for Home Affairs, who had authorised the colonisation scheme.

The discovery of valuable land west of the Great Dividing Range led to the early prosperity. By 1842 with the arrival of continuing convicts and free settlers, numbers had grown to 30,000. In 1848 the British Government stopped the policy of sending convicts.

The flow of immigrants continued as rural people escaped the poverty of Britain. It was in the 1800's that large scale development started and the Victorian architecture spread, going up the hill from the harbour.

The 1930's were hard for Sydney but it was a time of celebration with the completion of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in March 1932. The construction provided a living for many and had the nickname 'Iron Lung' due to the fact that it saved so many from starvation with the earnings workers made.

During the Second World War, Sydney was considered a target by the Japanese. That led to the deployment of large numbers of US troops in the city. Mass migration followed the ending of the war and migration continues to this day. The mix of immigrants who changed over the years now provides Sydney with its very mixed and rich culture.

The grandest building in Sydney, the Opera House was opened in 1973 after many years construction. In 2000 the very successful Olympic Games promoted Sydney to the world. Now Sydney continues to develop as a major world city with growing confidence and strength, helping power the thriving Australian economy.

Museums

Australian Museum

This museum deals with Australian natural history and the culture of the aboriginal people. 6 College Street.

Australian National Maritime Museum

At the entrance is the welcome hall as a tribute to the millions of migrants who have arrived in Australia over the years. Lots of boats and ships here, including Australia II, which won the America's Cup, and the huge destroyer H.M.A.S. Vampire. Many vessels are on the water and include Sekar Aman an Indonesian work boat, HMAS Onslow a retired submarine, a commando boat, a 'Little Toot' tug, an 1880's racing cutter and more. 2 Murray Street, Darling Harbour.

Buran

Buran is a Russian space ship and it lives just outside Star City. It is open for inspection, with a space simulation and small museum. Star City.

Customs House

Customs House is right outside Circular Quay Station and dates in part from 1840. Object Galleries on the third floor has Australia's largest exhibition of craft and design and is free. The City Exhibition Space on the fourth floor has an intricate model of the entire city area. 31 Alfred Street, Circular Quay.

Harris Street Motor Museum

A display of over 150 classic motor cars and other vehicles. 320 Harris Street.

Justice and Police Museum

Housed in three former courthouses, this is a museum of crime and criminals in Sydney. The museum includes a Magistrates Court, a police charge room, a remand cell, a gallery of mug shots of Sydney's early criminals and many more displays. Corner of Albert and Philip Streets.

Macleay Museum

A museum of the history of Science at the University of Sydney. Gosper Lane..

Museum of Contemporary Art

This 1930s building used to be the home of the Maritime Services Board, but has served in its present capacity since 1991. Circular Quay West, The Rocks.

Museum of Fire

All of the drama and danger of fire fighting. Castleragh Roar, Penrith.

Museum of Sydney

The museum stands on the site of the first Government House and contains exhibitions showing the history of Sydney. Inside the museum are the archaeological remains of the colony's first Government House built in 1788, the contemporary sculpture Edge of Trees and stories of the First Fleet. Corner of Bridge and Philips Street..

NSW Sporting Hall of Fame Museum

Photos and memorabilia of athletes from 1890's to the present. Sydney Olympic Park.

Outback Centre

Experience the sights and sounds of the outback in a free 30 minute live show 'Sounds of the Outback'. Darling Harbour.

Powerhouse Museum

This is Australia's largest museum. With 380,000 exhibits, although not all on display at any one time, it covers everything. It can take a day to walk around and view the films, attend the talks, watch the performances and demonstrations. Each exhibition tells a story

from the history of steam to the living conditions in the bush. There is a space exhibition, lots of interactive exhibits and hands on science exhibitions. 500 Harris Street, Darling Harbour.

S.H. Ervin Gallery

Run by the National Trust the gallery has an interesting collection of historical art. Observatory Hill, The Rocks.

State Library of New South Wales

This is the oldest research library in Australia and it has an extensive collection of Australian manuscripts, including eight of the ten diaries written by those who arrived in the first fleet. Macquarie Street.

Sydney Children's Museum

Hands on science for ages 2 – 12. Corner of Pitt Street and Walpole Streets.

Sydney Jewish Museum

The museum is dedicated to documenting and teaching the history of the Holocaust. The Jewish museum also tells the stories of Jewish life in Australia. 148 Darlinghurst Road.

Sydney Observatory

Perched up on Observatory Hill above The Rocks is the Sydney Observatory. The oldest observatory in Australia. Look through the telescopes or visit the exhibitions that show how Aboriginal people used the stars for navigation, fly through space in the 3D Space Theatre and enjoy the gardens. Watson Road, Observatory Hill, The Rocks.

Sydney Tramway Museum

The Tramway Museum lies some half hour south of the city by train, adjacent to Loftus station on the line to Waterfall. Corner of Rawson Avenue and Pitt Street.

The Rocks Discovery Museum

Learn about the Cadigal People who were the traditional owners of the area, explore the history of the English colony and see how the whalers, sailors and traders lived. Delve into the reasons behind the 1970's protests which preserved the Rocks. And try out the interactive technology on the archaeological artefacts found in the area. 2- 8 Kendall Lane.

Westpac Museum

Trace the history of the bank from 1817 to the modern day. 6 Playfair Street.

Art Galleries

Art Gallery of New South Wales

This is the largest art gallery in Australia and includes large elements of aboriginal and Asian art. There are also free performances of aboriginal dancing and didgeridoo playing in the Yiribana Gallery. *Art Gallery Road, The Domain.*

Hogarth Galleries Aboriginal Art Centre

A large collection of Aboriginal art. *7 Walker Lane, Paddington.*

Museum of Contemporary Art

This 1930s building used to be the home of the Maritime Services Board, but has served in its present capacity since 1991. Circular Quay West, The Rocks.

S.H. Ervin Gallery

Run by the National Trust the gallery has an interesting collection of historical art. *Located at Observatory Hill, The Rocks.*

Historic Places**Anzac War Memorial**

This sturdy and imposing Art Deco building is the state's moving tribute to those who lost their lives fighting for Australia, especially those who died with the first Anzac force at Gallipoli and during the remainder of the Great War. The monument was erected in 1934 and is at the south end of Hyde Park. Hyde Park.

Cadman's Cottage

This is one of Sydney's oldest surviving buildings, dating from 1816. It was built to house the Government Coxswain, who had the important task of organising all the water transport on the harbour. The cottage was named after the third and longest serving such coxswain, the ex convict John Cadman. 110 George Street.

Elizabeth Bay House

A superb example of colonial architecture overlooking the Harbour built by John Serge for the Colonial Secretary Alexander Macleay. Furnished to a mid 1800's style. 7 Onslow Avenue, Elizabeth Bay.

Elizabeth Farm

The oldest farmhouse in Australia located in Parramatta. Built by John Macarthur who arrived in 1790 and was one of the first farmers. Parts of the building date from 1793. 70 Alice Street, Rosehill.

Government House

Government House is situated within the Botanic Gardens. It is a Gothic revival building constructed in 1837 to 1845. Since the Governor is no longer in residence, the building is open to the public. Macquarie Street.

Hyde Park Barracks

This building originally housed convicts. It was designed in 1819 by Governor Macquarie and a convict architect named Francis Greenway. Now it is a museum of Australian history, with particular emphasis on the life of Francis Greenway and the history of this building. Queens Square Macquarie Street.

Old Government House

Located in Parramatta Park and built in 1799 Old Government House was extended in 1815, now home to a fine collection of Australian colonial furniture. Parramatta Park.

Parliament House

This the oldest Parliament House and was developed around one of the original “Rum Hospitals”. The building includes two restored legislative chambers. *Macquarie Street*.

Mrs. Macquarie's Chair

Located at the end of the Royal Botanic Gardens provides some of the best views of the harbour and the Opera House. This is the place to capture a classic souvenir picture.

Queen Victoria Building

A good example of 19th century architecture and also an up market shopping arcade. George Street.

Rose Seilder House

Built between 1848 and 1950 Rose Seilder House was designed by Harry Seilder using open plans, bold colours and started the modernist movement in Australia. A good collection of post war furniture is housed inside and good views of Ku-ring-gai National Park. 71 Clissold Road, Wahroonga.

Rouse Hill Estate

A very old and fragile property about an hour's drive from the city centre. You can see the farm buildings and many objects used in the 19th Century. Guntawong Road, Rouse Hill.

St James Anglican Church

The oldest church in Sydney, designed by Francis Greenway in 1824. *173 King Street*.

Strand Arcade

Running between George Street and Pitt Street Mall, The Strand built in 1892 features a very ornate interior.

Susannah Place

Susannah Place built in 1844 is a group of terraced houses retaining the traditional atmosphere of The Rocks and now converted into a museum. The houses bring to life conditions for working class people from 1844 until the 20th Century. 58 – 64 Gloucester Street, The Rocks.

Sydney Opera House

This famous landmark was completed in 1973, having taken fourteen years to construct. The architect, Joern Utzon, included in his design the surfacing of the ‘sails’ with more than a million ceramic tiles, which were imported from Sweden. There are five performances halls the Grand Concert Hall, Opera Theatre, Drama Theatre. Playhouse and The Studio. Banelong Point.

Sydney Tower

The tower stands at 305 metres. The turret weighs 2,259 tonnes and is held by 56 cables, each weighing seven tonnes. It includes a tank holding 162,000 litres of water to act as a counterbalance to strong winds. Views from here extend to the Pacific Ocean in the east, Wollongong in the south and the Blue Mountains in the west. Skywalk is an adventure on Sydney Tower. At double the height of Sydney Harbour Bridge will provide an adrenaline rush as you walk around the roof of Sydney Tower. The other attraction is Skytour's Great Australian Exhibition that takes you on a virtual tour through the landscapes of Australia. 100 Market Street.

Town Hall

The Town Hall was constructed to celebrate Sydney's centenary in 1888 and is an imposing edifice, both outside and in. It contains an 8,000-pipe organ, one of the largest in the world, and there are free lunchtime organ recitals held frequently. *George Street.*)

The Bounty

The Bounty is a replica of Captain Bligh's ship, recreated to star in the film Mutiny on the Bounty. Now it serves as a floating restaurant, sailing out onto the harbour at meal times. The ship is based in Campbell's Cove. Circular Quay.

The Mint

Built in 1816 this was the building where the gold sovereigns were made. You can see the former vaults and learn how raw gold was turned into currency. Macquarie Street..

Vaucluse House

Vaucluse House, not far from Watsons Bay, was, for a while, the home of William Charles Wentworth, the explorer who pioneered the first route through the Blue Mountains. Parts of the house date from 1803, although most of it is later. The gardens extend to ten hectares and there is a popular tearoom. Wentworth Road, Vaucluse..

Victoria Barracks

A colonial Georgian complex and home to the army since 1848. Oxford Street, Paddington.

Animal Attractions

Australian Reptile Park

Australian Reptile Park has some of the rarest reptiles in the world. Daily wildlife shows with pythons, crocodiles, koalas and kangaroos. View spider world with a tarantula exhibit. *Located an hour's drive for Sydney on the Pacific Highway, Somersby, next to the Gosford Exit.*

Australian Wildlife Park

Over 600 native animals in natural settings. Outback woolshed with shearing and other outback activities. *Wallgrove Road, Eastern Creek.*

Featherdale Wildlife Park

A collection of native wildlife with kangaroos and koalas. Over 320 Australian species are represented including both reptiles, birds, Tasmanian Devils and wombats. Plenty of opportunities to cuddle Koalas, hand feed kangaroos, wallabies and emus.. *217 Kildare Road, Doonside, NSW 2767).*

Oceanworld Manly

Situated on Manly Cove next to Manly Wharf has a glass wall that puts you face to face with sharks and other creatures. Even possible to have a sleep over at Oceanworld or dive with the Sharks. Manly Wharf..

Sydney Aquarium

Sydney Aquarium is a major Sydney attraction with sharks, all types of fish, as well as seals and penguins. Do not miss the Open Ocean Floating Oceanarium where you can walk beneath the ocean. The natural seal sanctuary provides close up views of seals as you walk through underwater tunnels. The Great Barrier Reef exhibit has live coral and many tropical fish. *Darling Harbour.*

Sydney Wildlife World

Australian wildlife living in the heart of Sydney. See koalas, wallabies, frilled neck lizards, and over 6000 animals. *Aquarium Pier, Darling Harbour.*

Taronga Zoo

Taronga zoo is just across the Sydney harbour on the north side and it commands a beautiful view of the city. Home to over 2,000 animals that live amongst the lush forests. Opportunities for photos with koalas, view the Flight Bird Show, take the Sky Safari and listen to the many talks and animal shows all day long. Bradleys Head Road, Mosman..

Waratah Park Sanctuary

A park set in a bush setting with Koalas, Kangaroos, Wallabies, Bettongs and Potoroos. *13 Namba Road, Duffys Forest.*

Outdoors

Beaches

Beaches stretch from North to South and everyone has their favourite beach. Most beaches are patrolled by voluntary surf life savers, it is essential to swim between the flags. Some of the ocean beaches (and there are many more) to the North of the harbour are Palm Beach famous for its connection with the TV series Home and Away; Dee Why Beach; Freshwater Beach and Manly Beach. Going south from Sydney is the famous Bondi beach; Clovelly is good for children as it has some shelter and Cronulla a good option as can be reached by train. Coogee beach is south of Bondi beach.

Within the confines of the harbour are beaches protected by shark nets that offer safe bathing and swimming without waves. These include Clifton Gardens; Balmoral with a

rotunda on the beach used for summer shows; Manly Cove next to the ferry wharf and so easy to visit from the city centre and Nielsen Park where there is Shark Beach (nets are in place!) and reached by ferry. Nude bathing is allowed at Lady Bay, located at Watsons Bay.

Centennial Park

A 220 hectare park in the centre of Sydney that was dedicated to the people of Sydney in 1888. Watch the guys on roller blades, horse riding, running or join in, bikes and roller blades can be hired. The gardens, ponds and BBQ areas provide for a relaxing break from the city buildings. Oxford Street, Paddington.

Chinese Garden of Friendship

Designed in 1988 to symbolise the friendship between China and Australia. The garden features a courtyard of welcoming fragrance; dragon wall; water pavilion of lotus fragrance; pavilions set amongst bamboo, the Gurr a hexagonal two storey building; rock forest and dragon rock. The garden was designed to use the four elements of water, plant, stone and architecture. Darling Harbour.

Cook and Philip Park

Across College Street from Hyde Park has a formal garden and swimming complex. College Street.

Hyde Park

Named after Hyde Park in London, this area was declared a park as early as 1792 and Australia's first recorded cricket match was played here in 1804. Elizabeth Street..

Royal Botanic Gardens

The gardens were established in 1816 and cover thirty hectares. They are the oldest scientific institution in Australia. Mrs. Macquarie's Road, Circular Quay.

Sydney Olympic Park

Built on former waste land, including an abandoned abattoir, the home of the 2000 Olympic Games, seventeen kilometres west of the centre of Sydney. There is an Information Centre, which is a good starting point, and there is an Olympic Explorer bus service.

The Games Trail tour celebrates the games and you can see the cauldron, wander amongst the interactive poles at the Games Memories installation and follow Cathy Freeman's strides to Olympic Gold. There is plenty of fun to be had at the Sydney Olympic Park with a monster skate park, parklands, golf, tennis, trapeze, archery, swimming and to relax use one of the many bars and cafes on site. Olympic Park.

Wild Areas

Royal National Park

The start of the Royal National Park lies only 32 kilometres south of the city of Sydney.

This park was established in 1879, making it the oldest national park in Australia and the second oldest in the world. It offers great natural diversity in a relatively small area, with rivers, surf beaches, and a coastal walk as well as many other inland walks and several cycling tracks.

South Head

South Head is at the entrance to Sydney Harbour. For a one hour walk take the South Head Heritage Trail from Watsons Bay which starts at the eastern end of Camp Cove beach. The Gap Bluff Centre is on 50 hectares of parkland at Gap Bluff and has two heritage buildings, the Armoury and Officers' Mess. Watson's Bay.

Islands

Clark Island

The area of the island is one hectare, with 150 visitors being permitted at a time. In 1789, Lieutenant Ralph Clark tried to use the island as a vegetable garden, but he eventually abandoned the idea. However, his name has been preserved for posterity. It has natural bushland and grassed areas.

Cockatoo Island

A historical island with a sandstone prison, tunnels and docks.

Fort Denison

Fort Denison occupies the entirety of a small island not far from the Opera House. The circular Martello tower is the only one to be found in Australia. Originally known as Mat-te-wan-ye it was renamed to Fort Denison in 1857. The Fort was abandoned in the 1870's. In 1906 the One O'clock Gun was fired each day to enable sailors to set their ship's chronometers correctly and still continues to this day.

Goat Island

Goat Island was first used to dispose of waste from a convict hulk in the harbour. Later, in 1839, a gunpowder magazine was constructed here by convicts and can still be seen. A further magazine was built in the 1850s. In 1900, the Black Death reached Sydney and Goat Island became a quarantine area. In the twentieth century, houses were constructed here and even a shipbuilding yard.

Rodd Island

The area of the island is 0.5 hectares, with 100 visitors being permitted at a time. In 1859, Mr. Brent Rodd paid a deposit for the island, which he later forfeited, but the island kept his name. It became a public reserve, but was also used in the late nineteenth century for biological research under the direction of Dr. Louis Pasteur. It has summer houses from the 1930s and a colonial hall dating from 1889.

Shark Island

The area of this island is 1.5 hectares, with 500 visitors being permitted at a time. The

island was used as an animal quarantine area from 1880 until 1975. It has good views and sandy beaches.

Tamworth

Tamworth is country music capital of Australia and can be found on the New England Highway 400km Northwest of Sydney. Tamworth is the commercial centre of northern New South Wales. Every January thousands of country and western fans flock to Tamworth for the annual Australian Country Music Festival.

Australian Country Music Foundation Museum

Everything you need to know about the festival and awards can be found out here. The exhibitions change and depict many aspects of the Country music phenomenon in Australia. *93 Brisbane Street.*

Calala Cottage

On the south side of the river is Calala Cottage at 142 Denison Street, This is the city's museum, in a house built for the mayor in 1875.

Fred Hillier Ceramics

If you are keen to see a dunny with a difference this gallery is well worth a visit. He doesn't only create dunnies but they are his specialty along with other unique ceramic works. Located 18km from Tamworth at Moonbi.

Golden Guitar

To the south of Tamworth beside the New England Highway is the Golden Guitar, a replica of the award given at the annual Country Music Festival and is 12 metres high. Behind the huge guitar is the Gallery of Stars, which are wax models of some of the entertainers who have won this award.

Marsupial Park

Native animals roam in this bushland area. You can get up close to kangaroos, wallabies, possums and a variety of birdlife. *Oxley Park*

Tamworth City Gallery

A great gallery to view Australian paintings. *201 Marcus Street.*

Tenterfield

Tenterfield in the New England region of New South Wales is famous for Peter Allen's song 'Tenterfield Saddler' and where Sir Henry Parkes delivered the Federation speech in 1889.

Thredbo

Thredbo lies within the Kosciuszko National Park and a well known ski resort in winter. However, due to its beautiful scenic parks it is also a popular place in the warmer months for hiking and sight seeing.

Alpine Slide

This is a fast bobsled run, that goes for 700metres and is located at the base of Thredbo.

Crackenback Express

This chairlift rises from Thredbo to a height of almost 2,000 metres and is the most accessible and easiest way to get to the High Country.

Dead Horse Gap

This is a popular 10km hike along the alpine ridge and then returns to Thredbo via the river.

Kosciuszko Alpine Way

This scenic drive runs from Cooma to Albury, and provides a good insight to the Snow Mountain region.

Mt. Kosciuszko ,

The highest mountain in Australia, Mt. Kosciuszko, 2,228 metres high, is near Thredbo and in summer a hiking trail can be followed to its summit. The mountain was first climbed in 1840 by the Polish explorer, Paul de Strzelecki and was named after a famous Polish patriotic hero, General Tadeusz Kosciuszko. You can take the Crackenback chairlift from Thredbo and travel over alpine moorland past the headwaters of the Snowy River and the granite boulders of the Ramshead Range. A walk of about 6½ kilometres each way.

Ski Tube

Ski Tube is a rack railway constructed in 1987, it runs in two sections, from Bullocks Flat via Perisher to Mt. Blue Cow, a journey which takes 19 minutes, with the latter section in a tunnel bored through the mountain, in one place as deep as 550 metres below the surface.

Wagga Wagga

Wagga Wagga, is the largest inland city in New South Wales, and is on the Murrumbidgee river. Translates from Aboriginal dialect to the “Place of many crows”. Wagga Wagga is 478km from Sydney. Wagga Wagga is a centre for industry, commerce, education and agriculture.

Murray Cod Hatcheries and Fauna Park

The murray cod is one huge fish and you can view some of the biggest of the species here. There are also other fish species as well as native fauna ranging from kangaroos, kolas, dingos and wombats. A small fossil museum is located here as well. *Sturt Highway.*

National Art Glass Gallery

National Art Glass Gallery opened in 1999 as part of the Wagga Wagga Civic Centre.

Wagga Wagga Botanic Gardens

More than just gardens, set on 9 hectares, there are chapels, walking trails, a petting zoo, an aviary, rainforest displays and a cafeteria.

Wagga Beach

Sand alongside the Murrumbidgee River.

Wollongong

Wollongong is 70km south of Sydney and the third largest city in New South Wales and the seventh largest in Australia. It is the gateway to the Illawarra and Southern Highlands regions.

Beaches

There are seventeen all of them popular for surfing and most known is Bulli, ten kilometres to the north of Wollongong. In town there is City Beach and North Beach is reknown for the best surfing breaks.

Cockatoo Run

This scenic mountain railway is well worth a ride on. It takes you through the Illawarra ranges to the Southern Highlands.

Kelly's Falls

A pleasant short drive from Wollongong will take you to these pretty falls, there are also walking tracks and picnic areas here.

Lake Illawarra

A very popular fishing hole located south of Wollongong. It is also good for sailing and sail boarding, with it often being quite crowded on weekends.

Mount Kembla Historic Village

Known as the site of the 1902 mining disaster, Mount Kembla is located 7km from Wollongong. There are old world art and craft shops and cafes to explore here.

Nan Tien Buddhist Temple

Located in the suburb of Berkeley is the Southern Hemisphere's largest Buddhist Temple. There are many workshops offered here and it is open to visitors.

Port Kembla Harbour

Home to Australia's largest steel mill, where it is exported from the harbour. There are also coal mines in this area with tons of coal exported as well.

Symbio Wildlife Gardens

A great day out can be had here for all the family. There are swimming facilities, native animals and wildlife, gardens and picnic areas. Animal handling and feeding demonstrations are a feature throughout the day. *Lawrence Hargrave Drive*.

Wollongong City Art Gallery

This gallery has displays of traveling exhibitions as well as permanent displays of modern and traditional art. Aboriginal works are also featured here. *Burelli Street*.

Wollongong Harbour

This area is a very scenic part of the city. A historic lighthouse overlooks some of the 17 beaches here. Flagstaff Point marks Wollongong's headland and the Foreshore Park provides a great surf culture and swimming feel in the city.

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory is the most isolated area of Australia, and one of the most isolated places in the world. The Territory covers an area of 1,349,000 square kilometres, making it the third largest of the Australian states and territories. There are but two main centres - Darwin in the north and Alice Springs in the south - and there is a road distance of 1,500 kilometres between these two.

The Territory is an area of majestic grandeur, where nature is strong and those who trifle with her put themselves in peril. It is not an area of a single climate, though, for Darwin, in the north, is a tropical city, with Wet and Dry seasons, the Wet bringing torrential tropical rain and the Dry converting the landscape to parched red earth. Alice Springs, near the south, by contrast, has an arid semi-desert climate, with annual rainfall of only about 350 millimetres and night temperatures falling below freezing in the winter months.

The Northern Territory is the last refuge of the Australian aborigine. Approximately 25% of the population is of aboriginal descent and more than 10,000 full-blooded aborigines survive here. Large tracts of land are Aboriginal Reserves, which cannot be entered without a permit, although where roads pass through it is sometimes permissible to travel those roads without formality.

It is either time-consuming or expensive, or sometimes both, to reach the Territory, so many visitors place it low on their list of priorities. Indeed, a substantial number see nothing but the east coast and leave thinking that they have seen Australia. However, in recent years an increasing number have made the effort to get here and have been well rewarded for doing so. In fact, the new National Parks, Kakadu in particular, have become so popular that they are beginning to suffer some of the minor symptoms of over-tourism.

Throughout Australia, the people have a feeling of state superiority. Somebody from Sydney has a natural suspicion of somebody from Melbourne and vice versa, but a Territorian is nobody's enemy and is respected and welcomed everywhere. A Territorian is the nearest that Australia has to a real-life Crocodile Dundee. The Northern Territory is indeed a great little place.

Whilst on the topic of size, and to put matters into perspective, the Northern Territory is about six times the size of Great Britain, and has a total population similar to that of, as an example, Hobart. The total population of the Northern Territory would fit into Sydney twenty times, and nearly half of those live in Darwin, which does not leave many people for the rest of the Territory.

Until 1911, the Northern Territory was a part of South Australia, but then the Commonwealth Government assumed responsibility. In 1978, the Northern Territory was granted a large measure of self-government and given its own parliament, and in 1994 the impressive new Parliament House in Darwin was opened.

The Northern Territory has no transport services of its own, except for the local buses which operate in Darwin and Alice Springs. Passenger rail service is provided by Great Southern Railway from Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide to Darwin.

Long-distance bus services are provided by Greyhound. There is a direct service from Adelaide to Alice Springs, and connecting services link Darwin with Adelaide via Alice Springs, Perth via Broome, and Brisbane via Tennant Creek and Mt. Isa. The bus companies offer various passes aimed specifically at those who wish to visit the Northern Territory, usually including visits to Kakadu National Park and Ayers Rock. There are flights to Darwin and Alice Springs from all major places in Australia.

Alice Springs

Affectionately known as "The Alice" this is the unofficial capital of Australia's outback. Alice Springs is a big, friendly city located in the dead centre of Australia. It is mainly frequented because of its proximity to Australia's favourite rock, Uluru, however it is still 462km from the city itself.

Aboriginal Art and Culture Centre

The Southern Arrernte Aboriginal people are the tribal founders of this area and this museum displays their long history. There are also sales of art and aboriginal artifacts here. Todd Street.

Alice Springs Desert Park

This park has native desert animals in their natural habitat. There are over 120 species, of mostly small mammals, reptiles and birds. A highlight is the Birds of Prey show. Located 6km west of Alice Springs. *Larapinta Drive*.

Alice Springs Reptile Centre

If there is one thing common to the Australian outback it's snakes and lizards, and for a safe close up this is the place to be. You can touch, hold and even feed bugs to the reptiles here. There are at least 30 species on display with some of the deadliest in the world. *9 Stuart Terrace*.

Araluen Centre

This gallery has Aboriginal and modern Australian art on display, it is also the performing arts Centre for the city. Located in the Cultural Precinct, 2km South of the CBD.

Aviation Museum

Everything you need to know about aviation as well as displays of old aircraft and wrecks. Located in the Cultural Precinct.

MacDonnell Ranges

Alice Springs is set amongst the MacDonnell ranges that can be visited as a day trip. A good view is from Anzac Hill. The MacDonnell Ranges run both east and west of Alice Springs. To the west there are a number of places to stop and include Simpson's Gap, Standley Chasm and the Finke Gorge National Park. To the east is Emily Gap, Trephina Gorge Nature park, Arltunga Historic Reserve, Ruby Gap Nature Park and N'Dhala Gorge.

Museum of Central Australia

Located at Alice Springs Cultural Precinct, this museum has collections of geological displays associated with the outback. Memorial Avenue.

Telegraph Station Historical Reserve

This is a true oasis in the harsh, brown, arid outback. Set around a water hole, there are lush lawns and gardens to meander through at your leisure. There are displays of historical bush telegraph equipment, blacksmith displays, original bush tucker cooking, camels, hiking trails, gift shop and cafe. There is plenty to do and see here, the reserve is located 4km from the city. *Stuart Highway*.

Territory Craft Gallery

Not only can you view the displays of local arts and crafts but you can make purchases as well. Located in the Cultural Precinct.

Darwin

Darwin, Australia is a long way from everywhere. Because of its isolation, it is a city frequently omitted from the itineraries of visitors, but many believe that the 'Top End', as the northern half of the Territory is known, is the best part of Australia. Darwin is a base for the Kakadu and Litchfield national parks.

Darwin is a place of sunshine, beaches and hectic nightlife. Darwin has a pleasant relaxed atmosphere. Darwin is a European city, but there are people here from many different ethnic backgrounds and a large Aboriginal population. Darwin has a tropical climate, and therefore no summer and winter, but instead a wet season from November until April and a dry season from May until October.

Darwin was badly damaged during World War 2, rebuilt and then destroyed a second time with the Cyclone Tracy that struck on Christmas Eve 1974. Darwin was rebuilt and has resulted in a well designed Central Business District with parks and outdoor malls.

Darwin sits on a peninsula and the CBD in the south eastern area of Darwin. The Esplanade and Lamerro Beach are on the western edge. The backpacker area is on

Mitchell Street close to the bus transit centre. The main shopping street is the Smith Street Mall.

History

The earliest European efforts to settle the Top End were mainly due to British fears that other European powers might get a toehold on the Australian continent. The harbour had been discovered back in 1839 by John Lort Stokes on the Beagle and named it Port Darwin after Charles Darwin.

Ludwig Leichardt reached Port Essington overland from Brisbane in 1845. In 1863 the region was under the control of the administration in South Australia. A settlement was established in 1864 at Escape Cliffs on the mouth of the Adelaide River but abandoned in 1866. Between 1824 and 1829 Fort Dundas on Melville Island and Fort Wellington on the Cobourg Peninsula, 200 km northeast of Darwin, were settled and then abandoned.

Darwin came into being in 1869. The city was originally named Palmerston after the British Prime Minister and changed to Darwin in 1911.

Darwin developed when gold was discovered at Pine Creek, about 200 km south of the city in 1871. When the gold rush ended growth in Darwin slowed.

Darwin gained prominence during World War II. Darwin was base for action against the Japanese in the Pacific. The road to Alice Springs was surfaced and made contact with the rest of Australia easier. Darwin was bombed many times and nearly 250 lives were lost.

By 1974, Darwin was a growing settlement. This changed dramatically early on Christmas morning of that year when Cyclone Tracy passed over Darwin, killing 69 people in six hours and flattening over 70% of the city.

Darwin in 2008 is an important city as the entry point for the Northern Territories, a centre for administration and mining. New port facilities and railway line to Alice Springs are likely to make Darwin a transport hub with Southeast Asia.

Attractions

Aquascene

Fish Feeding takes place at Aquascene, which is in Doctor's Gully, below the Y.M.C.A. The fish are wild and come in to be fed only at particular times, which depend upon the tides, so enquiry needs to be made in advance. From the foot of Doctor's Gully, you can follow a path (not the road; the path is to the left of the road) up through lush tropical vegetation, at the top you will find yourself at the back of the Y.M.C.A., from where the road runs down to the Gully. *28 Doctors Gully Road.*

Australian Aviation Heritage Centre

This is one of Australia's best displays of aircraft, it focuses on the role aviation has played in the Northern Territory. An American B52 bomber takes centre stage. 557 *Stuart Highway*.

Australian Pearling Exhibition

The Australian Pearling Exhibition is near Stokes Hill. It tells the story of the pearling for which this region has been famous since the aborigines first traded pearls with the Macassan sailors who arrived from Celebes (Sulawesi) in Indonesia. A highlight is the display of modern pearl jewellery. *Stokes Hill Wharf*.

Botanic Gardens

The George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens are located 2km from the city centre. They have displays of orchids that thrive in the humid conditions as well as palms, mangroves and every species of baobab. There is also an informative visitor's centre and Aboriginal plant trails. *Gardens Road, Fanny Bay*.

Casuarina Coastal Reserve

This coastal strip, north of the suburb of Rapid Creek has a good sandy beach. There are a number of Aboriginal sites including a rock formation.

Charles Darwin National Park

A waterfront park close to the city and shows the mangrove habitats of Darwin Harbour. *Tiger Brennan Drive*.

Chinese Temple

The Chinese have played a major role in the development of Darwin and the Chinese Temple is near the end of Woods Street. There is also a museum devoted to the history of the Chinese in Darwin.

Christ Church Cathedral

In the Esplanade is Christ Church Cathedral. The original was built in 1902, and in 1944 a porch was added, built by the armed forces using the stones of the old Post Office nearby, in memory of those who had lost their lives in the Territory during the war. Cyclone Tracy completely destroyed the Cathedral, except for the porch, which is incorporated in the new cathedral built in 1975.

Crocodylus

This is a crocodile museum displaying everything you need to know about Darwin's native reptile. The park has breeding and rearing crocodile pens and other native wildlife on display. A highlight is the guided feeding tours. *Brandt Road*.

Daly Street Lookout

Daly Street Lookout is at the northern end of the Esplanade and is especially good for viewing Darwin's beautiful sunsets.

Darwin Crocodile Farm

A commercial crocodile farm where visitors are welcome at feeding time in the early afternoon. *40 Km south of Darwin on the Stuart Highway.*

Doctor's Gully

Doctor's Gully is just to the north of the Esplanade. It can be reached by road or by a path leading from the northern end of the grassy area beside the Esplanade. The first Europeans to visit landed here. The area was originally market gardens, and then it became the site of the first hospital. During the war it was a base for flying boats, and some remains of the wartime activities can still be seen at low tide.

East Point Reserve

East Point Reserve is just north of Mindil and Vestey's and has picnic areas and safe swimming. *East Point Road.*

East Point Military Museum

There is an interesting display of WWII relics and the history of Darwin's war experiences. *East Point Road.*

Fannie Bay Goal

The name may be funny but, its history is anything but. This was Darwin's main prison from 1883 to 1979. It is now a museum where you can view the cells and eerie gallows where the last hanging took place in 1952. There is also a display on the Cyclone Tracy devastation. *East Point Road.*

Government House

Formerly known as The Residency and is still sometimes called by that name, Government House is an attractive old colonial style. Building begun in 1870 and completed in its present form in 1879. It was damaged by cyclones in 1897, 1937 and 1974, as well as by wartime bombs, but has survived all.

Holmes Jungle Nature Park

Adjacent to Crocodylus Park this 250 ha park features natural eucalypt woodland with pandanus palms and some monsoon rainforest. *Vanderlin Drive.*

Indo Pacific Marine

The Indo-Pacific Marine is near Stokes Hill and displays living coral reefs all man made. *Stokes Hill Wharf.*

Lyons Cottage

This stone bungalow built in 1925 once housed the staff of the British Australian Telegraph Company and demonstrates a colonial style of architecture mostly found in India, Malaya and Singapore. After the Second World War, it was used by the Mayor of Darwin, John Lyons, and became known as Lyons Cottage. Early exhibitions of Darwin's history are located here now and old photographs. *Corner of Esplanade and Knuckey Street.*

Lammeroo Beach

There is a path from the grassy area to the west of the Esplanade which leads down to Lameroo Beach. The beach is fairly stony, but there are the ruins of some sea water baths down here, although only foundations remain now.

Mindil Beach

Mindil Beach is near the Casino and the closest beach of good quality to the central part of Darwin. It starts about two kilometres from the city centre. In the Dry Season, from May until October, this is the scene of a market every Thursday and Sunday evening, specialising in food from many countries, reflecting the diverse ethnic origins of the residents of Darwin, but including many other wares and entertainments also. Swimming is safe in this beach except for the wet season when the box jelly fish are present.

Myilly Point Precinct

Located here are four pre-war houses which are the headquarters of the National Trust. This, the Myilly Point Precinct, was originally housing for high-ranking government employees.

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

The museum covers many aspects of the regions art, natural sciences, history and culture. Good collections of Aboriginal Art including bark paintings from Arnhem Land. There is also a display on the dramatic effects Cyclone Tracy had on the city in 1974. Highlights are the impressive Maritime Gallery and Sweetheart, the 5m stuffed crocodile. A neon lit exhibit shows the history of natural life in Darwin. The museum is set in a tropical garden on Darwin Harbour. *Conacher Street, Fannie Bay.*

Old Courthouse and Police Station

The Old Courthouse and Police Station were built for the South Australian Government in 1884. They suffered greatly from Cyclone Tracy, but have been restored, and are now used as the offices of the Northern Territory Administrator.

Old Town Hall

In a small park opposite the bus station are the ruins of the Old Town Hall. It was built in 1883 and survived until Cyclone Tracy in 1974. Now it has been left as a ruinous reminder of the forces of nature. Who could imagine that a sturdy stone building could be almost totally destroyed by the winds of a single night? The Territory is indeed a place where one learns to respect nature.

Oil Storage Tunnels

After the Japanese had bombed the oil tanks on the hills in Darwin several times during the Second World War, it was decided that it might be a good idea to put the tanks underground where they would be less vulnerable. Therefore tunnels were constructed and underground storage areas built. This was all done by hand and the underground storage areas were ready just as the war finished, and so were never used. Recently one of these tunnels has been opened to the public. It contains a collection of photographs depicting Darwin during the war years. *Kitchener Drive.*

Overland Telegraph Line

A memorial to the Overland Telegraph Line is situated on the Esplanade, not far from Parliament House. This is the point at which the undersea telegraph cable from Banjawangi in Java to Darwin was brought ashore in 1872, enabling the first telegraph messages to be exchanged between Australia and Britain.

Old Admiralty House

This pre war house has survived all Darwin can throw at it, from cyclones to bombings. Old Admiralty House was built as the residence of the North Australian Naval Commander and is a fine tropical style elevated building, its sturdy core survived Cyclone Tracy. It is not open to the public. *Corner of Knuckey Street and the Esplanade.*

Parliament House

At the southern end of the city is the Northern Territory Parliament House. This modern building, completed in 1994, is most imposing, especially considering that there are only 25 elected representatives meeting here. Parliament House also houses the State Library. *Smith Street.*

Stokes Hill Wharf

Stokes Hill Wharf is at the tip of the Darwin city area. On the way there, you will pass an artificial reef and fishing platform. This is a working wharf, but the area also has restaurants, cafes, shops and entertainment.

Territory Wildlife Park

Territory Wildlife Park is a 400 hectare open range sanctuary, it has an aviary, an aquarium, natural lagoons and a nocturnal house. The park is located 56km from Darwin along the Stuart Highway. *Cox Peninsula Road.*

Litchfield

To reach Litchfield, one travels south on the Stuart Highway beyond the point at which the Arnhem Highway goes off to the east. You will see a turn-off on the left to Lake Bennett, and soon afterwards there is a turning on the right to Batchelor and Litchfield National Park.

On the way down the Stuart Highway, you may notice some wartime airstrips used in the defence of Northern Australia. There is one, for example, at Coomalie Creek, just as you turn off for Batchelor. During the war years, Batchelor was an important place, with both Australian and American airmen stationed here. After the war, Australia's first uranium mine was opened at Rum Jungle, just north of Batchelor, in 1949, and most of the present buildings in Batchelor were designed to accommodate the miners. The mine was closed in 1971.

Litchfield National Park is only 7% of the size of Kakadu, although it is still not tiny. However, it is much more possible to 'do' it in a day. Litchfield, incidentally, was a

member of the Finness exploration party which passed through here and named the various features. He was fortunate to be able to live on in history by having his name given to such a memorable and beautiful location. Litchfield was originally a mining area, from the late nineteenth century until the 1950s. The minerals found here are copper and tin. When mining was no longer profitable, the area became a pastoral property. It was only in 1986 that it was proclaimed as a National Park. Admission to the park is free, but there is a fee for camping.

Waterfalls are some of the main attractions, the most noteworthy being Wangi Falls, Buley Rockhole, Florence Falls, Tolmer Falls and Tjaynera Falls. There are also groups of termite mounds ('ant hills'), such as you will find throughout the Territory, and one in particular resembles the tombs in a graveyard. The 'Lost City' is a sandstone formation resembling a city with fortifications, statues and inhabitants, but it is not easily accessible without a four-wheel-drive vehicle. There is no accommodation available within the park, but camping is permitted, for a fee, at designated camping areas. Accommodation is available at Batchelor and tours of the park are available from Batchelor.

Kakadu

The Kakadu National Park lies some 300 kilometres east of Darwin and is said by some visitors to be the most beautiful place that they have ever seen. Certainly the escarpment forming the eastern boundary of the park is impressive, and some of the waterfalls, when flowing in the Wet, are awe-inspiring.

The route to Kakadu first follows the main road south from Kakadu, and then, after forty kilometres, turns off east, and soon reaches Humpty Doo. Here you can find Graeme Gow's Reptile World, a display of snakes and reptiles, including 25 of the world's most venomous snakes. The road crosses the Adelaide River after a further few kilometres. This is the place at which there are cruises on the river to see the jumping crocodiles.

Continuing, the Djukbinj National Park is on your left, and then you will come to the Mary River Crossing, with Mary River Park and, three kilometres on, Bark Hut. A little further on is the entrance to the Mary River Wetlands, less famous than Kakadu, but offering plenty of wildlife observation, bushwalking and fishing. There are tours operating from here, especially bird watching tours, for several rare species are found in the area, attracted by the year-round water supply. There are also crocodile cruises every two hours. The scenery is less spectacular than that of Kakadu, but the area has a less touristic feel to it. Everybody knows about Kakadu, but few know how beautiful the Mary River Wetlands can be too. Budget accommodation and camping are both available here.

Travelling on eastwards, you will soon come to the entrance to Kakadu. It is a vast area, so there are several places to stay and many more which one ought to visit. The aborigines may have lived in this area for some 50,000 years and there are 5,000 sites

throughout the park bearing witness to their culture, of which Nourlangie and Ubirr are two of the best known examples. The Kakadu Park covers 19,804 square kilometres and also offers a huge range of wildlife to be observed.

Highlights of Kakadu are the art sites of Nourlangie and Ubirr, Bowali Visitor Centre at Jabiru, Warradjan Cultural Centre at Cooina, Jim Jim Falls, Twin Falls, Gunlom Falls, Yellow Waters and Mamukala.

Accommodation is available in Kakadu. It is a very good idea to book such accommodation in advance. Camping is permitted at designated camp sites, of which there are about a dozen.

The main Kakadu tourist office is the Bowall Visitors Centre just south of Jabiru on the Kakadu highway. Lots of information on Kakadu is available and the entire practical stuff that you will need.

Katherine

Katherine is one of only two towns of any size between Darwin and Alice Springs. Leichhardt was the first European to reach here, in 1844, on his exploratory journey to Port Essington, but it was the explorer Stuart who gave the town its name in 1862. He called the river here the Catherine, after the second daughter of his benefactor, James Chambers.

As throughout the Territory, it was the building of the Overland Telegraph Line which breathed life into the town. In 1878, Alfred Giles arrived with 12,000 sheep and 2,000 cattle and set up Springvale Station, eight kilometres outside Katherine. It was the cattle which prospered here, as the conditions were too hot for sheep, and this was the start of the cattle industry in the Northern Territory.

The railway from Darwin arrived in 1917, but stayed on the northern side of the river. It was not until 1926 that a bridge was built and a station constructed on the south side, where the present town centre lies.

Katherine is the place where the road west to Broome, and eventually to Perth, diverges from The Track (Stuart Highway) south to Alice Springs. The Track, until recent years, was just that a narrow strip of bitumen laid down by the American forces during the war as a tenuous link with the south. Only in the last twenty five years has it become a highway of ample width for two vehicles for its entire length to Alice Springs.

Katherine's great attraction is the Katherine Gorge, 29 kilometres from the town. Actually, there is not just a single gorge, but a string of thirteen of them, and they are now a part of the Nitmiluk National Park.

The gorges are filled with water and cruises operate regularly on the river which flows through, although occasionally, at the height of the Wet Season, water levels become too high to permit cruises. The cruises usually travel through at least two of the gorges, with a walk involved in between.

There is a Visitor Centre and there are walking tracks totalling 100 kilometres in length. There are also aerial tours of the gorge, by light aircraft or by helicopter.

Within the town, there are a few things to see. There is a Museum near the Hospital, but that is some four kilometres from the town centre. The building which houses the Museum was originally the terminal building at the Katherine airfield in 1944. The most interesting exhibit is the Gypsy Moth aeroplane used by the first flying doctor, Dr. Clyde Fenton, in 1934.

There is a walking and cycling path which leads beside the river to a point near the Museum. On the way there, you will pass the School of the Air, which can be visited. A little further along the river beyond the Museum is the site of the former Telegraph Station. The Telegraph Pylons remain and can be seen at Knott's Crossing, which is the original crossing point of the river and the location of the first town.

King's Canyon

King's Canyon is about 4 hours south of Alice Springs. A magnificent chasm 270 metres high. On the floor of the chasm are palm trees living off the constant water. A contrast of arid and lush make it very visual.

There are numerous hiking trails and the main one being the all day Kings Canyon Walk. The Garden of Eden leads to a pool. The Giles Track is a longer two day track.

Tennant Creek

Considered a welcome oasis for travelers heading to Darwin from Alice Springs, Tennant Creek is an outback haven. Known as the Golden Heart of the Northern Territory due to the gold rush of the 1930's. Now copper, gold and silver are all mined here. Tennant Creek is a true outback town as it lies 675km South of Katherine and 507km North of Alice Springs, making this city a very handy stop over point.

Battery Hill

This is a great place to see how the ore was originally crushed and this 10 head battery still does the job. There is a mining museum here as well, and guided tours of a replica mine. *Peko Road.*

Dot Mine

Known to be one of Tennant Creek's oldest mines. Tours of the mine are conducted and some special night descents are done as well. *Warrego Road (08 8962 2168).*

National Trust Museum

Housed in an old hospital this museum has displays and memorabilia of the area and it's history. *Schmidt Street.*

Mary Anne Dam

Located 6km north of the township is a lovely lake that is ideal for swimming and boating. There are also walking tracks and picnic spots here.

Purkiss Reserve

This shady reserve offers welcome relief from the heat, as there is a picnic area as well as a swimming pool. *Corner of Ambrose and Peko Roads.*

Uluru

Uluru (Ayers Rock) is 550 million years old and 862 metres high but rises 348 metres above the surrounding terrain. Uluru covers an area of 3.3 square kilometres and the distance round the base is 9.4 kilometres. The surface is a red colour which reflects the light of the setting sun. The red colour is due to Iron.

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

is in the south of the Northern Territory. Famous for Uluru (Ayers Rock), a rock formation, and for Kata Tjuta (The Olgas), a range of rock domes.

To Climb or Not to Climb

The aborigines do ask visitors to respect their wishes and not climb Uluru but if you want it is allowed. The climb is not an easy one, as parts of the Rock are very steep, but it should not be beyond the capabilities of those in reasonable health and fitness. There is a chain all the way up the side of the Rock, which assists considerably. It also depends on the weather conditions, Uluru will be closed if the wind is too strong, and on other occasions it can be freezing cold or unbearably hot. It is worth noting that many climbers have died trying to climb this monolith.

Base Walk

An alternative to climbing up is to do a complete circuit on the bottom of the Rock which is about 10km in distance. There is still a lot to see at the base, caves, waterholes and rocky overhangs, this walk will take about 2 hours in total.

Mala Walk

This 2km walk is a daily occurrence and is lead by a ranger who is often Aboriginal and

can tell lots of legendary stories about Dreamtime and Uluru. This 90minute tour leaves from the Mala Walk sign at the base of the rock

Sunrise and Sunset

To capture the true beauty of Uluru is sunset, when a stunning array of colours travel across the huge rock face. At sunrise it is cooler and the colours are muted but there is orchestra of bird calls to entertain you at the earlier hour. There are plenty of tours to take at these special viewing times.

The Olgas

(Kata Tjuta) lie fifty kilometres west although rather overshadowed by the fame and magnificence of the Rock, they too are well worth a visit. There are 36 unusual domed peaks, the highest rising some 200 metres above Ayers Rock.

Sounds of Silence

The Sounds of Silence evening dining and star-gazing in the desert here has become a major attraction and must be booked in advance. This dinner is held nightly and can be booked up three months in advance, so best to make arrangements before you start your trip to the outback. *Ayers Rock Resort*.

Queensland

Queensland is the second largest state in Australia, covering an area of 1,730,650 square kilometres and with a coastline stretching for 7,400 kilometres. It is seven times the size of the United Kingdom, or five times the size of Japan, or twice the size of Texas.

Queensland can claim to be both the wettest and the hottest state in Australia. Mt. Bellenden Ker, near Tully, once recorded 1.14 metres of rain in a single day, while Cloncurry claims Australia's record temperature of 53.1C (127.6F) on 16th January 1889.

The first European exploration of Moreton Bay, where Brisbane lies, was carried out in 1797 by Matthew Flinders, who landed where today Redcliffe is situated. In 1799, Flinders, in the Norfolk, charted the east coast of Queensland. In 1823, John Oxley in the Mermaid named the Brisbane River after the Governor of New South Wales at the time and travelled 100 kilometres up the river. A convict settlement was established at Redcliffe in 1824 and moved to Brisbane in the following year. At the time, this territory was still part of New South Wales. The first free settlers arrived in 1837 and by 1840 all convicts had been withdrawn from Brisbane. By 1851, the residents of Queensland had started to think of independence from New South Wales. Queen Victoria was petitioned and agreed, understandably preferring the name Queensland to the alternative suggestion of Cooksland. Queensland was proclaimed on 6th June 1859.

One of the great wonders of the world is the Great Barrier Reef stretching up the coast of Queensland, and it is this which makes Queensland the most popular state for visitors to Australia. The Great Barrier Reef extends for over 2,000 kilometres and actually consists of some 2,500 individual reefs and 700 small islands, covering a total area of 345,000 square kilometres.

Queensland Railways provides the state-wide transport system, almost entirely by rail, but with a few bus connexions. More than any other state, Queensland has kept its branch railways and continued to operate passenger services on them. However, in recent years this state too has bowed to economic pressures and the branch lines have been discontinuing passenger service one by one, so that what is left now is a route all the way up the coast from Brisbane to Cairns, plus three lines leading inland - from Brisbane to Charleville with bus connexions to Cunnamulla and Quilpie, from Rockhampton to Longreach with a bus connexion to Winton, and from Townsville to Mt. Isa. These are supplemented by three tourist train routes in the north of the state and a good electric suburban service around Brisbane. The Tilt Train operated by Queensland Railways between Brisbane and Rockhampton is the fastest service in Australia.

Long-distance bus services are operated by Greyhound. Some other companies operate more local routes. The long-distance bus companies offer passes from Sydney, Melbourne or Adelaide up to Cairns with unlimited stops.

A good air system operates in Queensland, the main carriers being Qantas, Virgin Blue Tiger and Jetstar.

1770

1770 is located in Queensland Australia, 125 kilometres south of Gladstone. 1770 is next to Agnes Water and for visitor is very much one unit. Agnes Water is the northern most surfing beach in Queensland. The area has holiday accommodation, restaurants, a general store, and a marina. The wildlife and vegetation have been well preserved. 1770 is regarded as the birthplace of Queensland.

Captain Cook anchored his ship the Endeavour in Bustard Bay and made his second landing on the continent of Australia, this being in 1770, as the name of the town suggests. The original name was Round Hill and changed to 1770 in 1970 to commemorate Cook's bicentennial. The exact landing point is at Monument point. Captain Mathew Flinders and Captain Philip Arthur King on "Mermaid" followed Captain Cook in exploring the area. Rosedale was the first settled area in 1853 when John Little established a sheep and cattle station.

Beach

Agnes Water has an excellent beach and is the most northerly surfing beach in Australia.

Miriam Vale Historical Society Museum

The Miriam Vale Historical Society Museum is a small collection started by Arthur Jeffery in 1972 and located in two buildings. The main building houses the maritime and Endeavour display, aboriginal artefacts, photographic display and the reading room. The maritime display features Captain Cook's charts and journals. Information on Bustard Head lighthouse is also displayed and the original telescope from the lighthouse can be seen. There is walkway that goes through the museum to Agnes Water Headland. Plants collected by Joseph Banks are identified. *Springs Road, Agnes Water.*

Eurimbula National Park

Eurimbula is a landscape of dunes and mangroves and sits to the north of Round Hill Creek. Eurimbula National Park is on the northern side of 1770. Entry is via a turning 10km inland from Agnes Water; look for the sign post to Eurimbula National Park. The park entrance is 4km along this road. For camping turn to Middle Creek campground about 13km from the park entrance or to Bustard Beach campground 9km into the park. The lookout car park is 3km from the park entrance along the Bustard Beach track. A short walk takes you to the lookout where views of the swamps and heaths can be seen.

Deep Water National Park

A coastal park to the south of Agnes Water with long sandy beaches and creeks. Turtles can be seen between November and February. To reach Deepwater National park continue along Springs Road from Agnes Water for 4km and then turn left at the sign for Deepwater National Park. The unsealed road goes to the northern end of the park. Deepwater National Park has an impressive beach and there are places to stop on the road. There is a picnic spot and campground at Wreck Rock about 9km along the unsealed road with basic facilities, a camping permit is required. The beach is not safe for swimming as it is not patrolled. Fishing is popular on the beach and off the rocks on the

beach. There is a diversity of bird life including emus, red-tailed black cockatoos, honeyeaters, brahminy kites and water birds. From January to April turtle hatchlings emerge from the nests mainly at night. Please do keep light and noise to a minimum if you are watching the turtles.

Lady Musgrave Island

Lady Musgrave Island is a coral cay surrounded by reef at the western edge of a large lagoon. Lady Musgrave Island has reef walking, snorkelling, swimming, diving and bird watching. It takes under an hour to walk around the island. Cruises are made to Lady Musgrave Island from 1770. There is a National Park Camping Ground on the island but limited to 50 people and has no fresh water and limited toilet facilities. The "Spirit of 1770" sails every day to Lady Musgrave island.

Bowen

Bowen is about 40 minutes north of Airlie Beach. In 1875, the Gothenburg was wrecked off the shore here, with the loss of more than a hundred lives. Then, during the Second World War, it was a base for the Catalina Flying Boats. However, Bowen is now famous for it's beautiful climate and coastline.

Abbot Point

Abbot Point is situated 19 km north of Bowen and is Australia's most northerly coal-shipping port. Abbot Point was opened in 1984.

Beaches

Bowen has plenty of beaches, with Horseshoe Bay being one of the most attractive and popular. Other good swimming beaches are Murray Bay and Queens Beach.

The Bowen Historical Society Museum

This museum highlights Bowen's shipwreck history. There are also displays on the pioneers of the district and Aboriginal artifacts. *22 Gordon Street.*

Mullers Lagoon

There is some lovely beachfront parkland in the heart of Bowen. Mullers Lagoon is close to the beach and has parks, walks and grassed picnic areas.

Murals

A stroll through the township will acquaint you with Bowen's murals. There are at least two dozen and are bright and colourful and each tells a story about the township. Australia's popular artist Ken Done is responsible for some of this art work.

Queens Beach

This beach offers more than just surf and swimming, there is a variety of entertainment activities here. You can play tennis or golf, there is a bowling green and a cinema.

Stone Island

Stone Island, which lies 2 km offshore from Bowen, can be reached by ferry.

The Bowen Courthouse

Built in 1883 the courthouse is a large and impressive building in Herbert Street.

Brisbane

Brisbane, the capital city of the state of Queensland is situated in the southeast corner of Queensland, Australia. The fast developing Central Business District of Brisbane is situated in a curve of the Brisbane River. The eastern suburbs are along the shores of Moreton Bay, to the north is the Sunshine Coast and to the south is the Gold Coast.

Many historic sandstone buildings have been preserved, but the majority of the central business district now consists of high rise buildings. Brisbane city is very pedestrian & bike friendly. Excellent transport is available via fast Catamarans on the river. There are several parks around the city. Roma Street Parklands the Botanical Gardens and South Bank Parklands are well worth a visit.

History

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Brisbane, although it has a population of a million and a half, has quite a different atmosphere from the larger capital cities, Sydney and Melbourne. It was founded in July 1825 as a penal settlement, on the orders of the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Thomas Brisbane, and it soon gained a reputation as one of the harshest of such settlements. By 1840, however, with all the convicts withdrawn, Brisbane had become a city for free settlers. When Queensland was separated from New South Wales and became a colony in its own right, Brisbane became its capital.

Animal Attractions

Alma Park Zoo

This zoo located thirty minutes north of Brisbane, features Australian and exotic animals in a rainforest setting. During the day are a number of meet the keeper shows where all the animals can be seen more closely. Alma Road, Dakabin. Zoo Train from Roma Street to Dakabin.

Australia Zoo

The world famous Australia Zoo is about one hour north of Brisbane and easily reached by train, car or part of an organised tour.

Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

This is the ideal place to cuddle a koala and have a photo taken at the same time. The sanctuary first opened in 1927. You will also find an array of other Australian native animals and birds such as kangaroos, emus, wombats, Tasmanian devils, dingoes and various reptiles. The Sanctuary is located 11km southwest of the CBD. Jesmond Road, Fig Tree Pocket.

Daisy Hill Koala Centre

This conservation and information centre about koalas and their habitat can be found 25km Southwest of Brisbane. Koalas can be spotted in the wild, and there are beautiful bushwalking tracks and picnic areas to enjoy. Daisy Hill Road, Daisy Hill.

Walkabout Creek Restaurant and Wildlife Centre

You can enjoy a close up look at some of Australia's native animals in a recreated natural environment. 60 Mount Nebo Road, Brisbane.

Art Galleries

Institute of Modern Art

A contemporary art space founded in 1975. It offers a diverse program, including moving image, sound art and new music, featuring emerging and established artists. 420 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley.

Queensland Art Gallery

The Art Gallery is at the southern end of Victoria Bridge, within walking distance of the city centre. It was established in 1895, but moved to this new building in 1982. There is a large collection of Australian art from all periods, and also of Asian art, as well as British and European works. Melbourne Street, South Brisbane.

Queensland Gallery of Modern Art

Located in the Queensland Cultural Centre is Brisbane's newest gallery. It is the largest gallery of modern and contemporary art in Australia and also houses Australia's first built cinematheque, designed to show cinema in art form. This gallery is located 150m from the Queensland Art Gallery. Kurilpa Point, Southbank.

Historic buildings

Anzac Square

From Ann Street there is a fine view across the Anzac Square War Memorial to the Post Office standing imposingly on the other side of Post Office Square. In Anzac Square itself are various sculptures, and, most importantly, the Shrine of Remembrance. In the tunnel which leads from Anzac Square to Central Station is the World War II Shrine of Memories. Between Ann and Adelaide streets.

City Hall

Built in 1930, this sandstone building is situated in King George Square. Highlights are the marble staircase and gothic light fittings. An old fashioned elevator will take you to the bell tower, the bells chime every 15 minutes and can be deafening if you are inside the tower at midday. King George Square, Anne and Adelaide streets, City.

Newstead House

The U.S. Army occupied this historical house during World War II, and it is Brisbane's oldest surviving home. Built in 1846 it has been restored to its Victorian splendour. Breakfast Creek Road, Newstead.

Old Government House

Old Government House, in George Street, is now used by the National Trust. This elegant building was the home of the Governor for the first half century of the existence of Queensland. 2 George Street, City.

Parliament House

Parliament House is located in George Street, with free guided tours available. This building was constructed in 1868, and is the home of Australia's only single-house parliament. Corner Alice and George Streets, City.

St John's Cathedral

An Anglican Cathedral built in the 19th century Gothic Revival style and designed in 1888 by John Loughborough.

St Stephen's Cathedral

The foundation stone of the first church here was laid in 1848 and the building opened in 1850. It became a cathedral in 1859. This is now St. Stephen's Chapel, and it is the oldest church in Queensland. The present cathedral building dates from 1874, in part, but it has been added to several times since then. There is a good collection of 19th Century stained glass windows from Europe. 249 Elizabeth Street, City.

Story Bridge

Just near Chinatown is Story Bridge, from which there is a magnificent view of the river and city, by day or by night. The bridge itself is one to admire too. The unexpected height of the structure above the water below is breathtaking.

Treasury Building

The Treasury building which houses the casino is one of Brisbane's grandest buildings. The interior has a six storey atrium and provides all the standard casino games as well as over 1000 pokie machines. The Treasury casino is open 24 hours and provides a couple of quality restaurants as well as cafes and bars. Corner of Queen and George Streets, City.

Museums

Harts Flying Fighter Museum

This museum houses a collection of restored fighter planes and is located 12km South of Brisbane city at the Archerfield Aerodrome. Wirraway Avenue, Archerfield.

Maritime Museum

The Maritime Museum is at the southern end of the South Bank. Exhibits include a pearling lugger, a World War II frigate and a tiny ocean-going yacht. Sidon Street, South Brisbane.

Museum of Brisbane

This small museum can be found in City Hall. It displays an historical account of Brisbane's past, as well as having up to date information on the city. King George Square.

Queensland Energy Museum

Queensland energy explained with exhibits showing the early history of electricity and gas in Queensland. Herston, Brisbane.

Queensland Performing Arts Museum

A back stage view of the theatre and its artists. South Brisbane, Brisbane.

Queensland Police Museum

Some of the worst crimes explained along with displays on police investigative techniques. Queensland Police Headquarters.

Queensland Military Memorial Museum

The history of Queensland's service in the Commonwealth Defence Force goign back to the early 1800's. Fortitude Valley, Brisbane.

Queensland Museum

The Queensland Museum is part of the Cultural Centre at South Bank. It has many exhibits including a display on Queensland's endangered species of mammals. Included is the Science centre which has interactive and hands on displays to entertain all ages. Grey Street, South Brisbane.

Telstra Museum

Automatic phone exchanges and working exhibits provide an insight into telecommunications. Clayfield, Brisbane.

Parks**Boondall Wetlands Reserve**

An area of 1000 hectares of mangroves, tidal flats, grassland and forest on the edge of Moreton Bay near Nudgee Beach. Boondall, Brisbane.

Brisbane City Botanical Gardens

The City Botanic Gardens were established in 1855. Here you can find elderly palms and figs, and a mangrove walk, all beside a pleasant bend in the Brisbane River.

Brisbane Forest Park

This huge parkland is situated in the D'Aguiar Range, 10km north of the CBD. It has an abundance of walking trails of varying distances, all taking in native flora and fauna. It is an ideal park for horse riding, cycling, camping or scenic drives. The park houses the Walk About Creek study centre, where you can see many freshwater creatures close up, another highlight is the walk through aviary. 60 Mt Nebo road.

Mt Coot-tha

The place for obtaining a view of the whole city is Mt. Coot-tha, situated 7km west of the city centre. A collection spread over 52 hectares with over 20,000 plants and species from around the world. The lookout gives a spectacular view of Brisbane. There is also a large Botanic Garden and the Brisbane Planetarium can also be found here. Sir Samuel Griffith Drive, Mount Coot-tha.

Roma Street Parklands

Roma Street Parkland is a large sub tropical garden in the centre of Brisbane. There are a number of themed gardens, rainforest and places to sit and relax. Within the garden is a large collection of public art. There are also picnic areas, BBQ and a playground. Roma Street, Brisbane.

Southbank Parklands

These magnificent parklands in the heart of the city are situated on the western bank of the Brisbane River. Covering 16 hectares, which include restaurants, playgrounds, markets, walking and cycling paths and a beach. It really has something for everyone. Southbank.

Stadiums

The Gabba

Located at Woolloongabba, 2km from Brisbane's CBD, the Gabba is home to the AFL's only Queensland team the Brisbane Lions. The Gabba also plays host to local and world class cricket matches. Vulture Street, Woolloongabba.

Suncorp Stadium

This Stadium is 52,000 seat world class sporting arena. It plays host to local and international rugby and rugby union, football and outdoor concerts. Located close to the CBD, Suncorp Stadium was extensively redeveloped in 2003. Tours of the stadium are conducted on weekdays. 40 Castlemaine Street, Milton.

Theatres

Brisbane Powerhouse

Brisbane Powerhouse has been created within a historic old powerhouse situated on the banks of the Brisbane River. The Powerhouse exposes and celebrates the diversity of contemporary arts in Brisbane. 119 Lamington Street, New Farm, Brisbane.

Harvest Rain Theatre

A full range of shows at this innovative theatre with performances using a mixture of professionals and amateurs. New Farm, Brisbane.

Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts

This is Australia's first fully integrated creative arts space, and plays host to dance, music, visual arts, circus, multimedia, indigenous theatre, and youth arts displays and performances. Located in the trendy Fortitude Valley the centre was named after the late Australian poet, conservationist and aboriginal rights campaigner Judith Wright. 420 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley.

La Boite Theatre

Contemporary theatre with production by local artists. 6- 8 Musk Avenue.

Metro Arts Centre

This contemporary venue showcases community theatre, local drama productions and dance performances. 109 Edward Street, City.

Princess Theatre

This small theatre was constructed in 1888 and presents a variety of classical and contemporary performances. 8 Annerley Road. Woolloongabba.

Queensland Conservatorium

Concerts from both students and invited performers. South Bank, Brisbane.

Queensland Performing Arts Complex

QPAC on the South Bank provides a choice of venues that include the Lyric Theatre which seats 2000 guests and hosts opera, dance and musical theatre; the Concert Hall also seats 2000 and hosts the Symphony Orchestra as well as local and international acts; the Playhouse and Cremorne Theatre are smaller venues and host plays and dramas. Corner of Grey and Melbourne Streets, South Bank.

QUT Gardens Theatre

Not only does this University theatre host student productions it also a good venue for local and international plays, musicals and dramatic performances. George Street, City.

Shopping**Brisbane Arcade**

If you are looking for local designers and trendy labels this is a good arcade to stroll through in the CBD. 160 Queen Street Mall.

Broadway on the Mall

This arcade has a lot of everything over two levels; there are some good affordable fashions to be found here. Queen Street, City.

Chinatown

Chinatown, adjacent to Brunswick Street Station, offers some of the best food value in Brisbane. There is a market area here where fresh produce may be purchased, and there are also plenty of small Chinese restaurants. They are mainly small family operated businesses which provide tasty fare at reasonable prices, and where many of the customers are themselves Chinese. These restaurants stay open well into the evening.

DFO Factory Outlet

This is a bargain hunter's paradise, with over 120 brand name stores offering up to 70% of retail prices. There are a couple of food courts as well so you can rest in between shopping splurges. Located at the Brisbane Airport turn off. 1 Airport Drive, Brisbane Airport.

MacArthur Central

This is a new shopping precinct offering a variety of shopping including fashion, gifts, lifestyle, books and much more. Between Queen and Elizabeth Streets, CBD.

Paddington

This is a beautiful, historic suburb just west of Brisbane. It has quaint little shop fronts offering an array of shopping, from arts and crafts to specialty shopping. There are plenty of good cafes and places to be pampered. Given Terrace, Paddington

Queen Street Mall

This is Brisbane's main shopping precinct, with over 500 shops and several arcades. The Mall offers numerous dining options to suit all tastes, as well as having lots of impromptu entertainment, displays and music in the mall. There is always plenty to see and do in this area of Brisbane. Queen Street Mall, CBD.

The Valley

This is Brisbane's trendy, funky shopping precinct. It has a bit of everything and a lot of one offs and up to date labels. You can shop for everything here, fashion, accessories, home wares and much more. There are also plenty of cafes and eateries to revive you after pounding the pavements. Ann and Brunswick Streets, Fortitude Valley.

Wintergarden

This shopping complex located in the CBD offers upmarket shopping, with jewellery shopping and local fashion designers displaying their designs. 171-209 Queen Street.

Markets

Crafts Village Markets

On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, you can follow the brightly coloured tents to stroll these popular city markets. There is a variety of arts and crafts, handmade goods and plenty of souvenirs to purchase. These markets are part of the Southbank precinct, a short stroll from the CBD. Stanley Street Plaza, Southbank.

Farmers Market

You can purchase the best local produce in Brisbane at these markets, held on the second and fourth Saturday of the month. With over 100 stalls selling fresh produce, from fruit and vegetables to meat and seafood, and everything in between. Brisbane Powerhouse, Lamington street, New Farm.

Riverside Markets

Plenty to see and do at these markets at the Riverside Centre in Brisbane. Open only on Sundays, they also take in the Eagle Street Pier craft and Deli markets, where you can purchase a variety of handcrafted products as well as high quality local produce. 123 Eagle Street, City.

Bundaberg

Bundaberg is situated on Queensland's Burnett River, 378km North of Brisbane. Bundaberg is a rich agricultural area, and grows enough sugar to meet the supplies of one fifth of Australia's usage. The tropical weather here and plenty of sunshine makes the area ideal for growing large supplies of fruit and vegetables, so there are plenty of crops

in the outlying district of Bundaberg. This town also gives it's name and produces Australia's favourite Bundaberg Rum.

Bundaberg Rum Distillery

Here you can tour the distillery and find out the processes used to make this town's famous rum. There all also tastings and purchases can be made. *Avenue Street.*

Hinkler Glider Museum

Here you can view the replica of the glider Bert Hinkler flew for 35metres in 1912. There is also plenty of other historical relics that trace the history of Bundaberg.

Hinkler House

This is the former residence of one of Bundabergs famous sons, Bert Hinkler. Hinkler was famous for being the first pilot to fly solo from England to Australia in 1928. It now serves as an aviation museum. *Mount Perry Road.*

Lady Musgrove Island

This unspoiled island is located 49km off the coast of Bundaberg, and is a great place for water activities, especially snorkeling. Cruises travel across here daily and supply meals, snorkeling equipment and glass bottom boat rides.

Mon Repos Turtle Rookery

Located 13km from downtown Bundaberg is the wonderful natural wildlife attraction. The small beach here is the nesting and breeding area for loggerhead turtles. In the evenings visitors can witness the turtles making their life threatening journey from the shore across to the sea. *Bargara Beach Road.*

Byron Bay

Byron Bay is located on the northern coast of New South Wales in the Northern Rivers region, just off the Pacific Highway, about 800kms north of Sydney and about 175kms south of Brisbane.

Byron Bay is a favourite spot for backpackers and those seeking somewhere as a retreat. It's a perfect spot to soak up the natural environment and enjoy beach walks and restaurants for all tastes and budgets.

Byron Bay is small and compact, so finding one's way around is easy. The railway station and bus stop are adjacent to the Byron Visitor Centre. This small town caters very much to the backpacker market, so there are pubs, and a multitude of different and mostly moderately priced food establishments.

History

Aboriginals first came to the place they called "cavvanbah" which means "meeting place". Captain Cook noticed Cape Byron as he passed by in 1770, and it was he who named the location. However, it was not settled by Europeans until nearly a century later. The area where the town now stands was originally a swamp, a little of which remains on the eastern side. The village of Cavvanbah was surveyed in 1884 and the jetty built in 1886. The railway came in 1894 and the name then changed from Cavvanbah to Byron Bay.

The early growth was dairy and a number of separating stations were established. A co-operative was formed in 1895 to provide cold storage for perishable goods from the district, to manufacture, store, sell and export milk and dairy products. The factory over the years expanded to become the biggest butter factory in the southern hemisphere.

A jetty was built at the end of the nineteenth century and a steamer service provided to Sydney. Then Byron Bay became a whaling town and a whaling station was built at Belongil Beach. In 1921, the S.S. Wollongbar, a passenger liner which could accommodate 300 passengers, was wrecked here just off Belongil Beach. It remains buried in the sands, causing a surf break by its presence, but all that can be seen are the boilers, visible at low tide.

In 1973 hippies discovered Byron Bay and still come to Byron Bay. In recent years the developers have moved in and major developments have been taking place in what was once a quiet seaside village and now a significant coastal resort.

Attractions

Cape Byron

Cape Byron is the easternmost point on mainland Australia and it has a strong influence on marine currents and marine life in the park. Humpback whales travel close to shore around Cape Byron on their annual migrations. The park is also renowned for its dolphins, seabirds, turtles and corals. Several coastal nature reserves, Arakwal National Park and Cape Byron State Conservation Area adjoin the marine park.

Cape Byron Lighthouse

The Cape Byron Lighthouse has stood on the most easterly point of the Australian mainland for a century, and today you can take a tour of the tower. The rugged headland, surrounded by sheltered rainforest gullies and subtropical waters, is a great spot for watching turtles, dolphins and humpback whales on their annual migration.

There are many ways to see the lighthouse and one of them is a leisurely walk. To walk to the Lighthouse it is possible to start from the car park outside the Beach Hotel, at the end of Jonson Street in the heart of Byron Bay. The walk covers about eight kilometres and takes 2½ hours.

The lighthouse has been shining its warnings out across these waters for a century now, and is still in use. The headland here is 94 metres above sea level, and the lighthouse is a further 22 metres high. It was built in 1901, made of concrete blocks.

It uses a 1000-watt tungsten halogen lamp of 2.2 million candle-power, one of the most powerful lights in the southern hemisphere. It flashes every fifteen seconds and has a range of 27 nautical miles. The mirror is two metres in diameter and it continues to revolve even during the day to minimise the fire hazard.

Beaches

Beaches are one of the main attractions in Byron Bay. Broken Head Beach to the South of Main Beach and has a nature reserve. King's Beach is one of Australia's best known and popular nudists beach. Main Beach stretches a long way to the east of the town; it is a beautiful stretch of curved sand with cliffs behind, which is very appealing. The foreshore has grass and picnic areas. It is a good swimming beach and can get strong surf. Seven Mile Beach is a very long stretch of sand and sea between Broken Head and Lennox Heads. Watego's Beach is more secluded and faces north and has beautiful homes and hotels close to the beach. A little further up is Little Watego's Beach which is at the base of Cape Byron lighthouse

Byron Hinterland

Inland from Byron Bay the landscape has been transformed from rainforest trees to farmland. The original forest is still to be seen at the Nightcap National Park. The area is a scenic agricultural landscape with banana plantations, avocados, soft fruits, lemon myrtle, blueberries, custard apples and lychees and macadamias. More recently has been the introduction of coffee. The memorial stone tribute to the Pioneers of 1881 is seen from Eureka Road.

Crystal Castle

Located 20mins from Byron Bay, this mystical place with stunning views is a lovely place to explore and relax. Take in The Buddha Walk as you admire the view of Byron's hinterland, then enjoy a coffee on the decking of the Buddha Belly Cafe. The Crystal gallery is a rainbow of colour as all types of crystals are displayed and are for sale. Monet Drive, Mullumbimby.

Macadamia Castle and Animal Park

Located on the Pacific Highway 10 mins south of Byron Bay, this is a good family day out. There are train rides, merry go round, tree house playground and an 18 hole mini golf course. The animal park has an animal nursery, native animal viewing with hands on experiences as well as an aviary. Pacific highway, Knockrow.

Cairns

Cairns, located in the North of Queensland are just over 2 hours by plane from Brisbane. Cairns tourism means the Great Barrier reef, tropical rainforest, restaurants, spas and many Cairns adventures.

Cairns business district stretches from the Esplanade facing the ocean inland to Sheridan Street and at the sides Wharf and Alpin streets. The main industry in Cairns is tourism so the Cairns CBD is full of restaurants, bars, shops, banks and tour companies.

The main Cairns attraction is the Great Barrier Reef that is a short boat trip away. Cairns cruises depart from the Reef Fleet Terminal in the centre of Cairns. Cruise liners arrive at Trinity Wharf that is a further along Wharf Street.

The main Cairns beaches are to the north of Cairns and start beyond Cairns airport. The beaches stretch up a strip that is some 26km long. The Cairns beaches are each off the main Captain Cook highway which runs north from Cairns up to Port Douglas. The first beach to the north of Cairns is Machans beach and followed by Holloways beach, Yorkeys Knob, Trinity beach, Clifton beach and Palm Cove.

Inland from Cairns is the Atherton Tableland which rises at the highest point to 1657m at Bartle Frere. The Atherton Tableland has many small bed and breakfast places and much retreat style accommodation. The main town that is easily reached from Cairns is Kuranda which is connected to Cairns on the Kuranda Cairns railway. Lake Tinaroo is an artificial lake with some good rainforest walks.

Offshore from Cairns are a number of islands. Green Island is a popular day visit with many boats from Cairns. Fitzroy Island is a national park with a resort on the island. The Frankland Islands are five uninhabited islands that form the Frankland Group National Park.

History

The City of Cairns is sited on Trinity Beach which was named by Captain James Cook in 1770. The Aboriginal name for the area was Gimuy. In 1873 George Dalrymple led a Government expedition to survey Trinity inlet and reported favourably on its potential.

Once the gold was discovered at the Hodginson Goldfield in 1876 the inlet developed as a seaport. Cairns was proclaimed a port settlement on 7 October 1876 by the Governor of Queensland William Wellington Cairns. Cairns was made a town on the 28th May 1885 and in 1923 a city. Once the coastal railway opened in 1924 Cairns began to develop. There is a very useful Cairns Heritage City Walk map available from the Visitor Information Centre at 51 The Esplanade. The walk takes you around some of the historical buildings within the Shield Street, Lake Street area.

Attractions

Flecker Botanic Gardens

The Flecker Botanic Gardens located 5km from the heart of the city are a tropical oasis with 38 hectares of native Australian gardens. Many plants found here cannot be seen elsewhere. Admission is free and the gardens are open daily. There is a coffee shop serving breakfast & lunch from 9.30am - 4.30pm. Next to the botanical gardens is Centenary Lakes, offering an extensive natural experience, including boardwalks & rainforest walks. *Collins Avenue.*

Cominos House

A traditional Queenslander built in 1877 and one of the oldest in the city. *27 Greenslopes Street.*

The Esplanade

The most interesting street in Cairns is the Esplanade, with the sea on one side and a row of restaurants, hotels and backpackers lodges on the other. This area comes to life in the evenings, especially with the Night Market now held here. The Esplanade ended with a wall and mud flats below, not quite the romantic image which the city wished to propagate. The solution, it seemed, was evident and simple - construct a beach. What was once a grassy park is now a world class facility, featuring an outdoor amphitheatre, a large sandy swimming lagoon, grassy picnic areas, walking tracks, free public barbecues, children's playground, shops, restaurants, a Great Barrier Reef cruise departure terminal & an environmental interpretation centre, all right in the heart of the city.

Pier Marketplace

Next to the New Esplanade Project is the Pier Marketplace, a combination of marina and shopping areas. It boasts a diverse range of shopping, restaurants, a food court, tour booking lounge and much more. It also includes Undersea World, a living reef aquarium and is also the home of the weekend Mud Markets.

Cairns Museum

Cairns museum is located in the School of Arts building, Cnr Lake & Shields St, City Place. Displays and collections which include local history, Aboriginal culture, mining natural history and other collections are available for viewing. A small admission fee applies but the museum is air conditioned and well worth a visit.

Shipwreck Museum

The museum has good displays on the early exploration of the Great Barrier Reef. *Pier Marketplace.*

Royal Flying Doctor Service Visitor Centre

The RFDS centre has a former RFDS aircraft on display along with a range of medical instruments. The film "A day in the life of the RFDS" is also screened. *1 Junction Street, Cairns.*

Cairns Rainforest Dome

The Cairns Rainforest Dome is a wildlife exhibit encased by a 20 metre high glass dome on the rooftop of the Reef Hotel Casino. Approximately 60 species of rainforest animals are able to wander freely throughout the enclosure that replicates their natural environment. *35 - 41 Wharf Street, Cairns.*

Cairns Tropical Zoo

Cairns Tropical Zoo is a "hands on" wildlife experience. The philosophy at Cairns Tropical Zoo is that personal interaction with animals encourages a greater understanding of native wildlife and promotes the need to preserve their natural habitats. Cairns Tropical Zoo is about 20 minutes drive north of Cairns close to Palm Cove. Cairns Tropical Zoo is set in 6 hectares of gardens. Lots of opportunities to interact with the animals. The Cairns Zoo also has a night zoo which includes an Aussie BBQ.

Hartley's Crocodile Adventures

Hartley's Crocodile Adventures has a daily crocodile feeding session and crocodile cruises. Hartley's also has other animals you can learn about, such as snakes, koalas and the endangered cassowary. Located 40 minutes north of Cairns on the Captain Cook Highway.

Reef Teach

Reef Teach is a live 2 hour presentation about the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef. *14 Spence Street.*

Undersea World

Undersea World is a small aquarium offering the opportunity to swim with the sharks. *Pier Marketplace.*

Beaches

There are various beaches, all north of the city and nearly all accessible by local bus. They vary in character, with Palm Cove the most developed, but all are relatively quiet and unpopulated.

Machans Beach

The first beach beyond Cairns.

Holloways Beach

Close to Cairns airport and good for canoeing, fishing, golfing and sailing and has a few shops

Yorkey's Knob

About 10 north of Cairns Airport with a marina and boat club. Accommodation is along the beach and there are restaurants, a shopping centre and water sports.

Trinity Beach

Trinity Beach is 15 minutes drive north from the Cairns International airport. Plenty of accommodation, beachfront restaurants, shopping and activities.

Kewarra Beach

20 minutes drive from the Cairns International airport with some accommodation

Clifton Beach

20km north of airport with a shopping centre and some accommodation.

Palm Cove

Palm Cove is a very well developed beach resort about 30 minutes north of Cairns airport. Palm Cove is designed to make you relax. For many in Australia, Palm Cove is your idyllic place to be married or spend your honeymoon. Palm Cove stretches along a beach and restaurants and bars face out over the sea. Some Palm Cove accommodation is on Williams Esplanade facing the ocean and Great Barrier Reef and the rest a few streets back.

Around Cairns**Atherton Tableland**

A scenic one hour drive in the Highlands west from Cairns is the Atherton Tableland. Read more about the Atherton Tableland. A scenic one hour drive in the Highlands west from Cairns is the Atherton Tableland - Tropical North Queensland's own mountain getaway. Situated between the Bellenden Ker Range and the Great Dividing Range, it is regarded as one of the region's best kept secrets.

For people visiting the Tablelands there are great opportunities for bush walking, bird watching, a wildlife cruise, marsupial spotting, hot air ballooning and water sports as diverse as fishing and white water rafting. There are spectacular lookouts and waterfalls, including Australia's widest waterfall, Millstream Falls. Lake Barrine and Lake Eacham are deep blue waters of extinct volcano crater lakes. Lake Barrine has a teahouse overlooking the lake and lake cruises.

Yungaburra is a tranquil village situated 2500 feet above sea level and located in a pocket of open rainforest. Around the village are waterfalls, craters and lakes. Located about one hour from Cairns on the Atherton Tablelands. A major attraction is the curtain fig tree which is only 5 minutes from Yungaburra.

Barron Gorge

Barron Gorge National Park extends from the mid-altitude Atherton Tableland uplands near Kuranda down the steeply sloping range to the low-altitude coastal area northwest of Cairns. Barron Gorge National Park extends from the mid-altitude Atherton Tableland uplands near Kuranda down the steeply sloping range to the low-altitude coastal area northwest of Cairns. The Gorge is one of the most visited sites in the World Heritage Area, with visitors choosing between several modes of transport through the park,

including the historic Kuranda train and the Skyrail cableway. They provide spectacular views of the Gorge and the Barron River far below. At the top of the Gorge near Kuranda are the Barron Falls.

Daintree

The Daintree and Cape Tribulation is about 90 minutes north of Cairns. The Daintree and Cape Tribulation is about 90 minutes north of Cairns. It is an area of spectacular scenery with tropical rainforest and ocean. The Daintree Cape Tribulation coast is where the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree rainforest meet, the only place on earth where two World Heritage areas exist side by side.

Green Island

A coral cay on the Great Barrier Reef. The island is almost 30 kilometres from Cairns, but nowadays modern catamarans cover this distance in 45 minutes. The main attraction on Green Island is Marineland Melanesia which is an art gallery, aquarium and crocodile farm. At the end of the Jetty is the Marine Observatory, a good place to see corals.

Fitzroy Island

Fitzroy Island is larger than Green Island and 45 minutes from Cairns. Fitzroy has a resort with less obvious coral and much more vegetation than Green Island.

Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest World Heritage Area extending over 2000 kilometres and covering an area of over 350,000 sq km. The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest World Heritage Area extending over 2000 kilometres and covering an area of over 350,000 sq km. It is probably the best known marine protected area in the world including over 2800 individual reefs and more than 1000 islands. The Great Barrier Reef's great diversity reflects the maturity of the ecosystem, which has evolved over hundreds of thousands of years. It is the world's most extensive coral reef system and is one of the world's richest areas in terms of faunal diversity.

Lake Barrine

One hour from Cairns is the volcanic crater filled with crystal clear water. There is a pleasant teahouse overlooking the lake and lake cruises.

Kuranda

The settlement of Kuranda is located approximately 30 kilometres north west of Cairns. Kuranda's difference in altitude, together with its much smaller size, gives it a completely different feeling from Cairns, its city neighbour. In the market area you can also find Birdworld with many exotic species of Australian and overseas birds, including the cassowary. You can also find there a Butterfly Sanctuary, the largest in Australia, with some 2,000 butterflies. There are also various rainforest walks of greater and lesser lengths and there is a bat rehabilitation home on the edge of town.

Kuranda Scenic Railway

The trip by train to Kuranda is described by Queensland Railways as a 34 kilometre long picture postcard. It is a route which must rank amongst the world's best short journeys and is a ride which you will always remember. Construction of this route was commenced in 1882, but Kuranda Station was not opened until 1891. The builders had to surmount the tremendous challenge of rising from sea level to an elevation of 328 metres through rugged, inhospitable and thickly forested terrain. It was a great engineering achievement, necessitating the construction of fifteen tunnels and 37 bridges and viaducts.

The train starts out from Cairns on the flat through the residential parts of the city, stopping at Freshwater, if required, and Redlynch. This part of the journey, although pretty, gives little hint of what is to follow. Now we start to climb, and this is no ordinary climb, for there was nowhere to put a railway here. It follows the creek bed, twisting and turning with its host, but even here ledges have had to be carved to support the track. Where such engineering works proved impossible, tunnels were constructed, and soon we start to negotiate them.

The original plan incorporated nineteen tunnels, but in the end it was decided to convert four of them into deep cuttings, through which we shall pass. Fifteen tunnels remain. They vary in length between 60 metres and 430 metres and all have a gradient of approximately one in sixty. They were all opened to traffic on 15th June 1891. Particularly in the Wet Season, between December and April, this area receives heavy rainfall, which not only hampered construction of the line, but caused landslides, destroying work already completed and causing several fatal accidents.

The difficulties of working in such conditions can be imagined as we crawl up the forested slopes and thread our way through the tunnels. Several times we obtain panoramic views back over the foothills to the coastal plain and the Coral Sea glistening beyond. Stoney Creek station comes at approximately the mid-point of the climb. If one had to pick a single highlight of this journey, it would be the lofty curving viaduct which carries the railway in front of Stoney Creek Falls. It is the scene most often displayed on leaflets advertising this service and, during the construction of the railway, it was the spot chosen for a banquet held in celebration of the visit of the Governor in April 1890. It is said that the location chosen also eliminated the need for speeches, since nothing could be heard above the noise of the waterfall. On the section of line between Stoney Creek and Barron Falls we pass through the last two tunnels, the second of which is by far the longest on the line, at 430 metres. If precedent is followed, the train will be stopped at Barron Falls Station, a signal passed and water allowed to escape from the dam on the Barron River in order to permit Barron Falls to flow for the benefit of railway passengers, a charming custom.

Kuranda Station, at the end of our journey, is, in itself, something of a tourist attraction. Constructed in 1915, it has somehow managed to transform itself into a railway botanical garden. Much as stationmasters were once famed for their horticultural instincts, you will never have seen anything on a railway platform quite like this verdant and luxuriant

growth. The train used for this journey consists of refurbished 1920s carriages hauled by a modern diesel locomotive.

Cairns Skyrail

Skyrail is a 7.5km gondola ride over the rainforest to Kuranda. Two midway stations provide good views of the rainforest and the Barron falls. The ropeway carries you above the treetops of the dense rainforest here, causing no disturbance to it. The journey itself takes about 45 minutes, but there are two places on the way at which to stop. The first is Barron Falls Station, where walkways lead to three lookouts over the Barron River, the Barron Gorge and Barron Falls. Located there is also the Rainforest Interpretive Centre. Since you have already paid plenty for this journey, there is no extra charge for this museum.

The route then continues to Red Peak Station, where a twenty-minute guided tour of the rainforest environment is available. The Skyrail is located at the corner of Kamerunga Road and the Captain Cook Highway.

Tjapukai

Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park is a most awarded tourist attraction in Australia. It is located on 25 acres of land owned by the Tjapukai people at Caravonica, near Smithfield, 15 minutes north of Cairns along Captain Cook highway next to the Skyrail terminal. Seven separate areas allow visitors to experience every facet of the rainforest people's culture. This is a multi theatre experience, open daily. There are numerous packages available including transport or just entry to all park attractions.

Cape York

Cape York is Australia's northernmost tip. One of the remotest parts of Australia, it is only 100km south of Papua New Guinea, across the Torres Strait. There are only two ways to explore this area, take a professional 4WD tour and there are many available, or travel independently in your own 4WD. The later is only suitable for experienced and well organized remote area adventurers, as this trip is not for the fainthearted. There are nearly 1000km of unsealed road to reach Cape York and it could take up to 14 days return trip.

Archer River

Archer River famous for it's 'Archerburgers'. From here you can head north-west to Weipa or north to the Cape.

Bamaga Mission

Some of the unique activities to participate in here are pearl farming, Aboriginal Corroborees, barramundi fishing and black boar hunting.

Edward River Aboriginal Mission

If you are into crocs this crocodile farm will fascinate you.

Laura

Laura has provisions available and a camp site. Nearby are the Quinkin aboriginal rock paintings, of which the Split Rock Gallery is best known. Musgrave is the home of The Telegraph Station here was opened on 23rd December 1886 and operated until 1928, providing communications for all the stations located through the area up to the tip of Cape York.

Moreton

Heading north towards the Cape, you will come to Moreton, another former telegraph station where there is some accommodation and a camp site. The road then continues to Heathlands, and on to Jardine River, where there is a ferry crossing, and Bamaga.

Punsand Bay

Punsand Bay, much closer to the cape, also has accommodation and a camping ground, a seasonal ferry service to Thursday Island and trips to the cape.

Seisia

Seisia is six kilometres north-west of Bamaga and was founded in 1948 by a small group of people from Saibai Island. There is a ferry to Thursday Island, and Seisia is only 32 kilometres from the tip of Cape York. Loyalty Beach is three kilometres north-east of Seisia.

Thursday Island

Thursday Island is the most northerly easily accessible point in Australia. It lies in the Torres Strait which separates Australia from Papua New Guinea and it is approximately 30 kilometres north-west of the tip of Cape York.

Weipa

Weipa is a modern bauxite mining town operated by a company known as Comalco and it has a population of 3,000. It is the only place of this size on Cape York. Tours of the mine are available.

Capricorn Coast

The Capricorn Coast is the area of coastline around Rockhampton and named after the Tropic of Capricorn which runs through Rockhampton. Some of the other main towns are Yeppon, Gladstone and Emu Park. Offshore are a number of islands the major one being Great Keppell Island.

Charters Towers

Charters Towers was one of Queensland's former gold mining towns, and the ornate architecture reflects its golden history. The town is located in the Leichhardt Range district, 124km inland from Townsville.

The Stock Exchange Museum

This impressive building was erected in 1897, it has undergone restoration and is now a mining museum.

Venus Battery

This mill is the remnant of Charters Towers ore crushing days, when once lots of these mills operated in the area. *Millchester Road*.

Porcupine Gorge National Park

Located quite a long way from Charters Towers, 245km west, is this green oasis amidst the harsh brown outback of central Queensland. There is a flowing creek here that drops into the gorge, where the cliff faces are a sheer 120 metres high.

Ravenswood

Located between Charters Towers and Townsville is this gold mining ghost town. A huge gold rush started here in 1868, with the largest mine closing in 1912. All that's left now are abandoned mineshafts, buildings and machinery which give you a look into its mining history.

Cloncurry

Cloncurry has the highest temperature ever recorded in Australia 53.1°C on 16th January 1889. Cloncurry has been based on copper and that mineral is still mined at various places nearby, the best-known being Mt. Isa. Cloncurry was the destination of the first Qantas service, from Charleville. The hangar at the airport still bears the legend Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Service.

John Flynn Place

The modern John Flynn Place in the town is a museum, an art gallery, out door theatre and houses the Fred McKay Art Gallery. *Daintree Street*.

Mary Kathleen Museum and Park

The Mary Kathleen Museum and Park is to the east of the main town and tells the story of the failed uranium mining community along the road to Mt. Isa. Some of the buildings from the town have now been moved to this site in Cloncurry, and there is also a Rock and Mineral Display.

Cooktown

Cooktown is on the road to Cape York north of Cairns reached on the inland or coastal route. A gold rush started at Palmer River and a base named Cook's Town was established to serve as a port for the mining community. However, it is mostly noted, and named after the grounding of Captain Cook's Endeavour on his 1770 voyage of discovery.

Botanical Gardens

Not just gardens but also home to Nature's Powerhouse, which has displays of reptiles and is also an art gallery. *Walker Street.*

Cook Monument

The Cook Monument, commemorates the landing in 1770. There is a cannon there too made in Scotland in 1803.

Grassy Hill Lighthouse

This Lighthouse on Grassy Hill was built in England in 1885 and shipped out. It is here that Captain Cook sat and worked out his route back to the open sea. *Hope Street*

James Cook Historical Museum

Captain Cook stayed in Cooktown for 48 days. Joseph Banks and David Solander the botanists on the ship used this time to learn Australian flora and fauna. All explained in this museum. A highlight of the museum is the HMS Endeavour's anchor and canon. *Corner of Helen and Furneaux Streets.*

Lizard Island

This is Australia's most northerly reef island and is located 27km off Cooktown. Most of the island is National park, and there are 24 tropical beaches and reefs that offer great diving and snorkeling opportunities. One of the famous water holes is Cod Hole that is known as an exceptional diving spot. There are several air and sea transportation charters from Cooktown

Webber Esplanade

This is Cooktown's popular waterfront precinct. The site of Captain Cook's landing is marked with a statue of the explorer at Bicentennial Park.

Emu Park

Emu Park is a coastal village with swimming beaches. Emu Park has a range of accommodation, restaurants and pub. Bell Park is popular for picnics and barbecues and home to the Bell Park Picnic Markets which are held on every third Sunday of the month.

Singing Ship

The Singing Ship is a white sculpture on the headland and a monument to Captain James Cook. The design of fluted pipes 'sing in the wind'.

Emu Park Historical Museum

The Historical Museum, next door to the School of Arts has a collection of artefacts and a model of the railway line to Emu Park, a line which closed in 1964.

Koorana Crocodile Park

The first private crocodile farm in Queensland where you can learn all about crocodile farming. *Emu Park Road.*

Fraser Island

Fraser Island is the largest sand island in the world and a World Heritage Site. The original name for Fraser Island is 'K'Gari' meaning paradise. Fraser Island is approximately 125 kilometres from north to south. Airborne nutrients and seeds have accumulated until vegetation could gain a hold, and then the decaying vegetable matter has allowed other plants and trees to grow, and forests have sprung up.

Not all of Fraser Island is covered with vegetation some is composed of shifting dunes. There are no surfaced roads on Fraser Island. The beach acts as the main north south highway, with tracks crossing the island. A four-wheel-drive is a necessity.

Basin Lake has slightly acidic waters which support seven species of frog, freshwater turtles and the Australian grebe. Central Station originally a forestry township with a short boardwalk to Wanggoolba Creek. Central Station has camping facilities and an Information Centre. Eli Creek is the largest freshwater creek and fun to float down.

Lake Mckenzie is the largest lake on Fraser Island and has a camp site here. Lake Wabby is the deepest of Fraser Island lakes. Lake Allom is a small lake with tortoises.

The Cathedrals are towering cliffs of multicoloured sands eroded by the wind. The Champagne Pools at Middle Rocks Rock pools with bubbling seawater and good for swimming at low tide. Maheno Wreck lies buried in sand north of happy valley.

Mt. Boomanjin at 211 metres is the highest point in this part of the island with Lake Boomanjin at the bottom.

Gladstone

Gladstone is 550 kilometres north of Brisbane. The deep water harbour here was discovered and charted by Matthew Flinders in 1802. Within the harbour is a large marina full of yachts. Gladstone is home to the largest alumina refinery in the world.

Beaches are at Tannum which is joined to Boyne Island by a bridge. The southernmost tip of the Great Barrier Reef stretches down to Gladstone and Heron Island, lying 73 kilometres off Gladstone.

Tondoan Botanic Gardens

The botanic gardens are in Glenlyon Road, to the south of the city. These gardens are devoted entirely too Australian native plants, mostly local, and are free.

Art Gallery and Museum

There is an Art Gallery and Museum in the old Town Hall on the corner of Goondoon and Bramston Streets.

Gold Coast

The Gold Coast, Queensland is the most developed resort area in Australia. A coastline that extends 30 km from the New South Wales border to a long sandy spit that protects the mouth of the Nerang River. From south to north we have the towns of Coolangatta, Currumbin, Palm Beach, Burleigh Heads, Broadbeach, Surfers Paradise and Southport.

For those wanting a quiet sleepy resort the Gold Coast is not the place. High rise Gold Coast apartments dominate the skyline. Gold Coast theme parks provide a backdrop and active nightlife make for bustle and excitement. The Gold Coast hinterland provides relaxation with Tamborine Mountain a world away from the surf and sun of the Gold Coast beaches, "the green behind the gold".

Places

Coolangatta

The twin towns of Coolangata and Tweed Heads mark the southern end of the Gold Coast. Coolangata is more family orientated and relaxed than other parts of the Gold Coast. North facing beaches Rainbow Bay and Greenmount are popular with families and you can walk between the two of them. Coolangatta is home to the airport that serves the Gold Coast.

Currumbin

Popular with young families with its gentle surf and rock pools. Currumbin Creek is good for fishing.

Burleigh Heads

Burleigh Heads is in the middle of the Gold Coast and the whole Gold Coast is visible from Burleigh Headland. Beaches, national park, wild life park and beachfront markets are all at Burleigh Heads.

North Stradbroke Island

North Stradbroke Island is a sand island with some good beaches and possible to visit by boat from the Gold Coast.

South Stradbroke Island

South Stradbroke Island is one of Australia's sand islands and has a large flora and fauna collection.

Southport

Southport was originally established as the southern port for Queensland. Now an area of restaurants, cafes, shopping malls and the home to Southport Yacht Club and the Marina Mirage with its boutiques and nightlife. Southport is very close to Seaworld and the beaches at the northern end of the Gold Coast. Southport includes the Broadwater a huge area of calm water, walkways and parkland. Boating and fishing is easy and safe on the Broadwater. Southport has a popular swimming enclosure ideal for visiting families. To the north of Southport is Sanctuary Cove with its marina and shopping complex.

Surfers Paradise

Surfers Paradise symbolizes the energy of the Gold Coast. This is the active area full of people, resorts, shops restaurants and night life. Surfers Paradise operates 24 hours a day with beach fun in the day and busy clubs and restaurants in the evening.

Tamborine

Tamborine Mountain is a plateau 8 kilometres long and 4 kilometres wide and located behind the beaches of the Gold Coast.

Tweed Heads

Tweed Heads is in New South Wales and is twin town for Coolangatta. Tweed Heads has the Gold Coast beaches to the north and other beaches to the south such as Kingscliff.

Animal Attractions**Australian Outback Spectacular**

Australian Outback Spectacular is an exciting evening dinner show that provides all the excitement of the Australian Outback. The show features wild horses, stampeding cattle and lots of horsemanship with plenty of audience participation. Pacific Motorway between Movie World and Wet'n'Wild.

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary contains one of the world's largest collection of Australian native wildlife and many rare and endangered plant and animal species. Gold Coast Highway, Currumbin.

David Fleay Wildlife Park

Rare and threatened species amongst a backdrop of rainforest with a programme of shows run each day. West Burleigh Road, Burleigh Heads.

Olson's Bird Gardens

The maze will appeal to the kids and the lush sub tropical gardens house a collection of birds of the world in landscaped aviaries. 746 Currumbin Road.

Superbee Honeyworld

A live bee show where you will be surrounded by over one million live bees. 35 Tomewin Street, Currumbin.

Fun Attractions**Adrenalin Park**

A collection of adrenalin driven rides including a bungy trampoline, sling shot, fly coaster and more! Gold Coast Highway (southbound), Ferny Avenue (northbound).

Dreamworld

Dreamworld is one of the four main Gold Coast Theme Parks. Full of adrenaline charged rides and Australian wildlife experience. The big five attractions are some of the tallest, fastest thrill rides in the world: the Thunderbolt rollercoaster; Tower of Terror, Giant drop, Cyclone and Wipeout. There are 13 "worlds" including World of wildlife; World of Wiggly Fun; World of Nick Fun; World of Leisure and World of Waves. Pacific Highway.

Movie World

Movie World is one of the main Gold Coast theme parks. Movie World has rides and exhibits all based around famous films. Pacific Highway.

Sea World

Sea World is one of the major Gold Coast theme parks. A combination of rides, marine animals and extravagant shows makes for a fun day out for all the family. Sea World Drive.

Wet 'n' Wild

Wet 'n' Wild has attractions all based around water. They range from white-water adventures to hot springs. The surf is always present at the Giant Wave Pool that contains 3 million litres of water.

Whitewater World

The latest of the Gold Coast Theme Parks. Try some of the extreme water slides or chill out at the family friendly attractions. The Cave of Waves where you hear Surf God Huey responding to the call for the perfect wave. The Rip goes down Australia's biggest gurgler. Wiggle Bay is where you can make your own wiggly music. Whitewater World is linked to Dreamworld and tickets for both parks are available as one deal. Dreamworld Parkway, Coomera.

Draculas

A cabaret restaurant with entertainment and thrills. 1 Hooker Boulevard, Broadbeach.

Infinity Attraction

A 30 minute walk through journey into futuristic maze including worlds of wonder overflowing with special effects, spectacular illusions, innovative light shows and sound effects. Chevron Renaissance, Surfers Paradise.

QI Observation Deck

Travel to the top of the World's tallest residential tower in the World's fastest elevator. At the top there is a cafe and bar. Surfers Paradise Boulevard, Gold Coast.

Ripley's

Tour through twelve individually themed galleries featuring hundreds of unbelievable exhibits and amazing stories. Ratis Plaza, Cavill Mall, Surfers Paradise.

Space Walker

Space Walker is a 90 minute inter-galactic journey for all those aged 12 and over. Be transported 40,000 light years to Star City Zeta and experience the thrill of zero gravity. Space walk through the planets and across the Milky Way to the edge of the Universe. Piazza on the Boulevard, Elkhorn Avenue, Surfers Paradise.

The Train Place

A world in miniature, popular with model railway enthusiasts. 3 Orchid Avenue, Surfers Paradise.

Time Zone

Over 300 games for the whole family. Level One, Cavill Mall, Surfers Paradise.

Wax Museum

The largest wax museum in the Southern Hemisphere with Chamber of Horrors and models of famous people. Corner of Elkhorn and Ferney Avenue in Surfers Paradise.

Wild Areas

Burleigh Head National Park

Burleigh Head National Park provides a peaceful haven for wildlife and walkers. Remnants of past volcanic activity, littoral rainforest and reminders of the living culture of the Kombumerri people are protected in this park. The Kombumerri call the headland “Jellurgal”. In spite of its small size, the park is quite diverse, with fringing mangroves along the creek, and windswept tussock grassland, open forest, rainforest and coastal vegetation around the headland. Goodwin Terrace, Burleigh Heads.

Lamington National Park

Rugged mountain scenery, tumbling waterfalls, rainforest, wildflower heaths, tall open forests, picturesque creeks, varied wildlife and some of the best bushwalking in Queensland. The park’s beautiful rainforests include the largest subtropical rainforest remnant in the world and one of the most extensive Antarctic beech cool temperate rainforests in Australia. Lamington National Park is home to an incredible variety of wildlife including rare and threatened plants and animals such as the Coxen’s fig-parrot. An hour from the Gold Coast via either Canungra or Nerang.

Tamborine National Park

Tamborine National Park contains precious remnants of subtropical rainforest and open forest on and around the slopes of the scenic Tamborine Mountain Plateau. Much of the subtropical rainforest is dominated by the distinctive piccabeen palm. The unusual cycads *Lepidozamia peroffskyana* growing on the mountain are relics of plants which flourished 150 million years ago. Tamborine 30 minutes North West of the Gold Coast via the Pacific Highway and Tamborine-Oxenford Road.

Springbrook National Park

Springbrook Plateau is almost 3000ha of rainforest, open forest and montane heath. More than 100 bird species live in the park and rare and threatened animals like the Richmond birdwing rely on Springbrook’s forests for their survival. Springbrook is 45 minutes from the Gold Coast via Nerang or Mudgeeraba.

Great Keppell Island

Great Keppel Island is fifteen kilometres off the ‘Capricorn Coast’. Originally known as Wapparaburra by the local aborigines, whose history here dates back 4,500 years, the island was given its European name by Captain Cook as he sailed by in 1770.

Great Keppel Island is about 1500 hectares in size and has 17 sandy beaches. It is an island for relaxing on the beautiful beaches, diving, or enjoying various types of water sports.

To reach the island, take a launch from Rosslyn Bay, south of Yeppoon. Launches are frequent and take only 45 minutes to reach the island. To reach Rosslyn Bay, there are bus services from Yeppoon and from Rockhampton.

There are also flights from Rockhampton to Great Keppel Island. There are other islands in the Keppel Group which can be visited. Vehicles can be left in the Great Keppel Island Security Car Park where transfers are organised to Rosslyn Bay Harbour and Keppel Bay Marina.

Hervey Bay

Hervey Bay (pronounced Harvey Bay) is a coastal city 300km North of Brisbane. It boasts two very important tourist attractions, first it is the main entry point for Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island, and second it is one of the best places in Australia to view humpback whales.

Other than those two highlights, Hervey Bay is known as a quiet suburban town made up of five suburbs, Point Vernon, Pialba, Scarness, Torquay and Urangan. The Suburbs are situated along 10km stretch of coastline, which allows for swimming, fishing and other water activities.

Urangan Boat Harbour is Hervey Bay's meeting location for many different aquatic activities, including the whale watching vessels, passenger ferries, the barge to Fraser Island, and fishing charters. You can also find restaurants and cafes in this area.

The Esplanade takes in the picturesque foreshore and has great walking and cycle paths as well as picnic and play areas, a bustling marina and entry point to the botanical gardens.

Whale watching

Day trippers and holiday makers flock to Hervey Bay every whale season, which starts late July and goes through to early November. Every year these huge whales migrate from the freezing waters of the Antarctic to the sub tropical coastal waters of western and eastern Australia.

They come to the warmer waters to give birth and mate, when they migrate back they head South, and find Hervey Bay an ideal place to stop and rest for a while. Therefore, not only can you view the adult whales here but you can delight in their young frolicking in the crystal clear waters.

There is no shortage of whale watching boat tours here to view the whale families. Various boats take visitors out for a look at the whales and rules have been laid down to preserve the safety of these huge mammals.

Museums

Burrum District Museum

A collection of natural and cultural artefacts located at the Burrum and District Heritage Centre. The emphasis is on the history of mining in the Hervey Bay region. Burrum Street, Howard.

Hervey Bay Historical Village and Museum

This museum has 19 buildings and 8000 exhibits which takes you on a history tour into Hervey Bay's past. Blacksmith and woodcraft demonstrations are held on Sundays. 13 Zephyr Street, Scarness.

Hervey Bay Regional Gallery

Hervey Bay Regional Gallery is a modern, purpose-designed building hosting touring exhibitions from state and national galleries as well as promoting the works of artists from within the local region. 161 Old Maryborough Road.

Parks and Gardens

Arkarra

Arkarra Lagoons and Balinese Tea Gardens are amongst 30 acres of sub tropical rain forest. There are great walking trails here as well as the opportunity to handfeed the fish, turtles, ducks and native birdlife who inhabit the gardens. Located at Dundowran Beach, 8mins from downtown Hervey Bay. 28 Panorama Drive, Dundowran Beach.

Botanic Gardens

The Botanic Gardens are unusual in being built on the 6,000 year old former sand dunes. Highlights are the Aboriginal bush tucker trail and the Orchid House. Elizabeth Street, Urangan.

Ipswich

Ipswich is a Queensland city located approximately 30 kilometres south-west of Brisbane on the Bremer River. Ipswich is popular for it's historical buildings, wineries and bushwalking trails outside of the city centre.

The Workshops Rail Museum

This rail museum has 15 exhibition zones and tells the story of Queensland's rail history in a fun, interactive way. *North Street, North Ipswich.*

Ipswich Art Gallery

This gallery is chock full of visual, interactive and multi media art displays. There is a kid's friendly zone that allows children to create their own original artwork. *D'Arcy Doyle Place, Nicholas Street.*

Ironbark Ridge

This winery produces many award winning wines. The historical tasting room built in the early 1900's, was originally a miner's cottage and now offers Cellar door tastings and sales along with a selection of cheeses, olives and coffee. *Middle Road.*

Bellevue Homestead and Vineyards

This historic homestead is heritage listed and is a rare example of a Victorian and Edwardian mix of architecture. The rooms are loving restored with period furniture to match the bygone era. *West Road, Coominya.*

Rosewood Railway Museum

This community oriented Railway Historical Society provides an opportunity to experience the bygone era of steam train travel. Train rides between Kunkala and Cabanda Stations available on the last Sunday of each month. *Kunkala Station, Freeman Road, Rosewood.*

Ipswich City Heritage Trails

There are six of these trails in and around the city of Ipswich, three for walking and three for driving. Ipswich has a plethora of historical buildings and sites, the heritage trails have more than 78 buildings listed. Some are open and provide guided tours whereas others are private and can be just viewed from the road. The map and pamphlet for the trails can be picked up from the council offices or the tourist information centre.

Nerima Gardens

These peaceful gardens in the city are a tribute to Ipswich's sister city Nerima in Japan. It is a lovely garden to stroll in or have a picnic in.

Longreach

Longreach is in the Central West area of Queensland and is the largest town out here. Longreach was originally a campsite for shearers and only started to expand when a railway line was put through here in 1892. Longreach is the pioneer home of Qantas, it had its headquarters here for seven years in 1922. However, today Longreach is thought of as a typical outback town and many tourists flock here to experience the pioneer feel of the place.

Banjo's Outback Theatre and Pioneer Shearing Shed

You can learn a lot about the wool industry here and there are hands on displays and demonstrations. Bush poetry is a popular feature hear and of course you will here recitations from the works of it's namesake Banjo Patterson. *Stork Road*.

Stockman's Hall of Fame

The inspiration of outback artist Hugh Sawrey, who wanted to collect and preserve the tales of the pioneers of rural Australia before it became too late. The story starts with the arrival of the aborigines here some 40,000 years ago, but concentrates mainly on the exploration, settlement and development of this huge area of inland Australia.

Qantas Founders Outback Museum

Longreach is the home of the Qantas Founders Outback Museum. There is a replica of the Avro 504K which was the first type of passenger aircraft used by the airline. Six such aircraft were built in this hangar between 1926 and 1930. A highlight is the walk on the wing of a Qantas 747.

Powerhouse Museum

There is another museum in the town, and that is the Powerhouse Museum in what was originally the electricity generation station. The old generating equipment is on display, but there are also displays of local social history, and agricultural and building machinery.

Mackay

Mackay, named after its first inhabitant John Mackay who arrived in 1862 is a commercial port city but offers visitors beaches and access to various islands on the Great Barrier Reef, of which the best known is Brampton Island.

The city centre has some historical buildings in particular the Courthouse and the Commonwealth Bank, both built in 1880, and art deco architecture. Pioneer River is a Mackay icon best viewed from the Blue River Boardwalk and rotunda. Mackay is a place to dine alfresco, shop or use the many bars and nightclubs. And for the arts visit Artspace Mackay a modern art gallery and museum.

Beaches

Black's beach is north of Mackay and stretches for 6km, it is a beautiful beach for swimming and sunbathing. Close by is Bocasia beach with a a safe swimming enclosure. Eimeo Beach is a part of the beautiful coral coastline and popular with day trippers and tourists, it is very easy to spend a day on this beach. Harbour beach is the best beach in Mackay for swimming, beach play and safety. Illawong Beach is 2km from Mackay and is popular with locals and families, a better swimming beach than Town Beach. Sarina beach is located at Sarina 38km South of MacKay.

Islands

Brampton Island

A 400 hectare National Park island with beaches at the southern entrance of the Whitsunday Passage. There is a resort on the island and day trips to the island not the resort are possible. Brampton Island is about 32km Northwest of Mackay and can be reached by boat from the Mackay Marina daily, this trip takes about an hour and a quarter. Or you can go by helicopter charter, which leaves from the airport. Once there you can snorkel at Sandy Beach and view some pretty coral, or try out the great walking trails.

Carlisle Island

Joined to Brampton Island at low tide. Carlisle Island has basic camping facilities.

Newry Island Group

A group of islands 50km off the coast from Mackay the largest island being Rabbit Island.

Keswick Island

Keswick Island is fringed by colourful coral reefs and white sandy beaches with some accommodation available. St Bees Island is close to Keswick Island and good for viewing koalas.

Scawfell Island

60 kilometres north east of the Mackay coast with a turtle nesting area. Bush camping is available on the island.

Parks

Botanic Gardens

The Mackay Botanic gardens surround a number of lagoons and are located 3km from the city centre. Highlights here are the themed gardens, one being the Tropical Shade Garden, there is also the Lagoon's Cafe. Lagoon Street, Mackay.

Cape Palmerston

South of Sarina accessible by 4WD only is fishing and camping area.

Cape Hillsborough National Park

A large park 45km north of Mackay where the rainforest meets the reef. Famous for the wallabies that visit the beach each morning at sunrise. The headland has a walking trail illustrating Aboriginal history from the Juperia Tribe.

Eungella National Park

To the west of Mackay, about 60 minutes drive away is the Eungella National Park. This park has a lot of tropical and sub tropical vegetation with good views from the Sky

Window. Platypus are often seen in the Broken River particularly during the period May to August. A platypus viewing platform has been constructed close to the bridge. Eungella has over 20 kilometres of walking tracks.

Finch Hatton Gorge

Located on the way to Eungella has rainforest walks and swimming is possible at Araluen and Wheel of Fire waterfalls. Forest flying is a great way to see this park; you can get harnessed to a cable suspended 25m above the ground and glide over the rainforest.

Orchid House and Queens Park

The Orchid House is in Queen's Park a park that covers six hectares with a very old Banyan Fig and Royal Palm. The Orchid House is circular in design with 3000 orchids some more than 50 years old.

Slade Point Reserve

A 73 hectare reserve with walking circuits. Enter from Pacific Esplanade at Lamberts Beach.

Magnetic Island

Magnetic Island is eight kilometres from Townsville. It is one of the largest islands in the Great Barrier Reef and 70% of it is national park. Captain Cook named the island when he sailed past on 6th June 1770 as his compass would not work well. Magnetic Island has 16 beaches and lots of accommodation from cheap to resort style. There are more than 22km of walking tracks on the island, as well as an aquarium, a koala sanctuary and a pottery. Magnetic Island is divided into four sections Picnic Bay, Nelly Bay, Arcadia and Horseshoe Bay.

The passenger ferry arrives at the new ferry terminal in Nelly Bay. The passenger ferry operates from two points on the city side of the river. The terminal is in Flinders Street . There is a second pick-up point closer to the mouth of the river, on the breakwater along the road to the Casino. The crossing takes 25mins. There is a bus service on the island that meets the ferry and can take you on a tour or just drop you at one of the locations. There is also a taxi service , moke rentals and scooter hire. You can take your car on the ferry but is often not necessary due to the good transport services provided on the island.

Picnic Bay

This is Magnetic Island's largest town and is located south of the island. This area is resort like and has shops, cafes and is the residential area of the island. The beach here is the safest one to swim in on the island as it has a stinger free enclosure.

Nelly Bay

This is the first place you see when you arrive as the ferry docks here. It is here you can book tours, hire equipment and get maps and tourist information about the island.

Arcadia

This is another settlement and is a 15minute drive from the ferry terminal. There are pristine beaches here as well as some good eateries.

Horseshoe Bay

This bay is a 30 minute drive from the ferry terminal and is the islands most northern settlement. There is a popular water sports centre here as well as some good walking tracks.

Maryborough

When Queensland became an independent state in 1859, this was a major port of entry. A town with strong history and a number of historical buildings. St. Paul's Anglican Church built in 1852; City Hall. Built in 1908 in American Colonial style; the School of Arts constructed in 1887 and Gataker's Building, built in 1868. Maryborough is 30 minutes drive from Maryborough. Home of P.L.Travers who wrote Mary Poppins.

Maryborough is home of Walkers Limited, built in 1873, their first steam locomotive named the Mary Ann. A replica of the Mary Ann engine hauls trains through Queens Park on the last Sunday of every month. Walkers built the Tilt Train now used by Queensland Railways.

Mt Isa

Mt. Isa is a sprawling mining city and the main street is technically 180km long! Mount Isa is known as Australia's greatest mining town, silver, lead, copper and zinc, are mined here. The mine is impressive with many hundreds of kilometres of underground tunnels. The Hard Mines Tour allows you to descend into the tunnels.

Boulia

Boulia lies south of Mt. Isa and has a fossil museum with the remains of dinosaurs. It is also the area of the strange and unexplained Min Min Light which has appeared mysteriously at various times over the last century as a hovering luminescent ball.

Frank Aston Underground Museum

More mining memorabilia as well as a replica of the Kilkadoon camp. *Shackleton Street.*

John Middlin Mining Display

Here you can explore a fake underground mine, as well as view mineral displays and get a close up look at some of the mining machinery. *Church Street.*

Kalkadoon Tribal Centre

The local tribes people are the Kalkadoon and their ancestors have a violent and bloody history with the European settlers in the area. This centre tells the history of those battles. *Centenary Park.*

Lake Moondarra

Located 15km north of Mount Isa, this is a good place for boating and fishing, especially if it's a feed of barramundi you crave.

Riversleigh Fossil Centre

The World Heritage listed Riversleigh Fossil Fields are located 250km northwest of Mount Isa. This centre has displays and information on the history of these intriguing fossils. *19 Marian Street.*

Underground Mine Tour

One of the most popular sights of Mount Isa and often requires reservations well in advance. The tour lasts for three hours and there are 500km of tunnels in here

Port Douglas

Port Douglas is, 70 kilometres of very attractive coastal highway north of Cairns. The village of Port Douglas has a natural harbour on one side which includes the Marina Mirage with its excellent shopping and restaurants and on the other side of the peninsula is the beautiful white sandy Four Mile beach.

Port Douglas offers a great selection of day trips. Dive or fish the Great Barrier Reef, take an escorted tour of the Daintree River and Rainforest. The coastal strip of the Daintree, Cape Tribulation region to the north of Port Douglas is home to some of the oldest forests in the world.

Port Douglas was founded in 1877 as the port town for the Hodgkinson River Goldfields. It went through a few names before it was named Port Douglas in honour of former Queensland premier John Douglas.

Port Douglas was a booming townsite during the gold rush years before its decline in the late 1800's. In the early 1980's, Port Douglas had a revival from the sleepy fishing village it had become. It became a popular destination for holidays during the winter months due to its excellent year round climate. Today the tourist industry brings visitors from all over the world.

Attractions

Bally Hooley Railway

This is one of the few narrow gauge sugar cane railways on which a passenger train operates. These little railways have long been the lifeblood of the sugar cane industry. The train runs from the Marina to St.Crispin's Station, a distance of approximately five kilometres. This journey takes fifteen minutes.

Courthouse Museum

The courthouse museum was built in 1879 and the oldest building in Port Douglas. Wharf Street.

Daintree

The Daintree and Cape Tribulation is to the north of Port Douglas. It is an area of spectacular scenery with tropical rainforest and ocean. The Daintree Cape Tribulation coast is where the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree rainforest meet, the only place on earth where two World Heritage areas exist side by side.

Great Barrier Reef

Diving trips go out to the Great Barrier Reef from Port Douglas. The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest World Heritage Area extending over 2000 kilometres and covering an area of over 350,000 sq km. It is probably the best known marine protected area in the world including over 2800 individual reefs and more than 1000 islands. The Great Barrier Reef's great diversity reflects the maturity of the ecosystem, which has evolved over hundreds of thousands of years. It is the world's most extensive coral reef system and is one of the world's richest areas in terms of faunal diversity. The Great Barrier Reef is larger than the whole of the United Kingdom.

Most trips offer a diving option, snorkelling, glass bottom boats and submarine. There are a large number of tour operators that depart from Port Douglas depending on what you want to do. If you do not want to dive, stick to the snorkel only options. If you would like to try diving, but never have before, look for the companies that offer "introductory" or "resort" dives. And if you only want to dive, check out the specialty diving services.

Four Mile Beach

A long sandy beach stretching from Island Point in one long arc. There is patrolled swimming at the north end of the beach with nets to protect swimmers from the stingers.

Mossman Gorge

Mossman Gorge is an attractive area for a walk and five kilometres from Mossman. Mossman is about 75km from Port Douglas. The walk is a through dense forest and with pleasant views of the river. There is also a swimming place in the Mossman River. A popular walk is to the suspension bridge across the river.

Port Douglas Market

Held every Sunday morning at Anzac Park set between the Dickson Inlet and Wharf Street. This well established market has a range of craft stalls, massage and lots more to entertain you.

Rainforest Habitat

At the edge of Port Douglas, where the road into the town leaves the main highway, is the Rainforest Habitat. Here you can view all types of local wildlife in a natural environment. There are 1,600 creatures resident, of 180 different species, including crocodiles, frogs, snakes, kangaroos, koalas, cassowaries and tropical birds. Breakfast is served with the birds every morning and a popular attraction. The Rainforest Habitat is open every day with an admission charge. Port Douglas Road.

Shipwreck Museum

A collection of shipwrecks from around Australia.

St Mary's by the Sea

A white timber church, the subject of endless photos standing amongst lawns with views out across the sea located on Anzac Park.

The Lookout

Good views from Flagstaff Hill of Four Mile Beach.

Rockhampton

Rockhampton, known by the locals as "Rocky" was first settled in 1853, when the Archer family arrived. Trading commenced when the Ellida arrived with supplies, at a point marked by a monument on the bank of the river in the southern part of the city.

In 1858, gold was discovered in Canonona, sixty kilometres north of Rockhampton and, as the miners were dependent upon supplies shipped through here, the prosperity of Rockhampton increased accordingly. Further goldfields were later discovered at Bouldercombe and Mount Morgan. The railway reached Rockhampton in 1903.

Rockhampton claims that it is 'the beef capital of Australia' with over two and a half million head of cattle to be found within 250 kilometres of Rockhampton.

A stroll along the banks of the Fitzroy River will give a good impression of Rockhampton. The river is attractive and some of the buildings facing it are stately. The Tropic of Capricorn runs through the southern edge of the city and is marked by the Capricorn Spire beside the main highway. Near the spire, still in the southern part of the city are the Botanic Gardens and the Zoo.

Rockhampton Botanic Gardens

The Botanic Gardens date from 1869 and were originally intended to experiment with the cultivation of various plants, to establish what could be grown profitably in this region. There are some especially impressive palms here dating back a century or longer. There is also a Japanese Garden, an Arid Garden and a Tropical Fruits Garden.

Archer Park Station

In the centre of Rockhampton is Archer Park Station now a Railway Museum. It is a handsome station, both from the front (entrance) side and from the Denison Street side where an arched roof covers platform and tracks.

Capricorn Caves

The Capricorn Caves, formerly called Olsens' Caves are located 23 km north of Rockhampton and are a system of above ground caves. Well known for the natural acoustics.

Dreamtime Cultural Centre

Displays relating to region's Aboriginal past. You can learn how to throw a boomerang or play a didgeridoo. *Yeppon Road.*

Kershaw Gardens

In North Rockhampton there are some more gardens. The Kershaw Gardens were started in 1976 on a land fill area, and opened to the public in 1988. They aim at a bush environment and stretch for a kilometre beside the main highway north. The Kershaw Gardens are free and open day and night.

Heritage Village

On the northern outskirts of Rockhampton is the Heritage Village. This is a collection of old dwellings from pioneer times, and includes an exhibition of vintage vehicles and one of various types of clocks.

Mt. Archer

Moving outside the city area of Rockhampton, Mt. Archer rises to a height of 604 metres on the northern edge of the city and offers good views. The mountain is a National Park and there are various walking tracks.

Rockhampton Zoo

Rockhampton Zoo is mainly devoted to Australian animals and birds. There are elevated walkways through the koala compound and the aviary, to permit better observation of the residents.

Sunshine Coast

The Sunshine Coast is a beautiful coastal area about one hour's drive north of Brisbane. Beaches, hinterland, rivers, bush, forest and villages merge to form an area of scenic beauty that makes the Sunshine Coast a very popular holiday destination. The Sunshine Coast stretches from Caloundra in the south to Rainbow Beach in the North. Noosa marks the top end of the developed area and beyond is the North Shore providing access to Fraser Island.

The visitor to the Sunshine Coast will enjoy a perfect climate, excellent restaurants, beaches, rivers, hinterland and award winning attractions. Golf, sailing, fishing, surfing, walking, pampering and lots more are all available on the Sunshine Coast.

The resource rich Sunshine Coast area was home to the Gubbi Gubbi people who used the trees for the canoes, plants for food and fibre and the marine animals for food, sewing and ornaments.

In the 1860's cattle leases were given and a timber mill started. Much land was cleared. In 1915 dairies, sugarcane and banana plantations were established and a major agricultural industry established.

In more recent times the Sunshine Coast has developed as a major tourism destination and home to families moving to this beautiful area from other parts of Australia and the world.

Places

Alexandra Headland

Locally called 'Alex', is a small coastal community surrounded by Mooloolaba, Buderim and Maroochydore. Alexandra Headland's main attraction is the beach, headland and parks. The beach is patrolled and good for surfing. There is an outdoor skate park on the beach.

Beerburrum

Beerburrum is located on the Glass House Mountains Road and a major pineapple growing area. The main attractions are the Queensland Reptiles and Fauna Park, Aboriginal Bora Ring, The Big Kart Track, Glass House Mountains National Park, State Forestry Lookouts, Matthew Flinders Park and the Wild Horse Lookout.

Beerwah

Beerwah is a small town off the Bruce Highway on the Glass House Mountains Tourist Route. Good views of the volcanic peaks and home to Australia Zoo.

Bli Bli

Bli Bli is a swampy area with boardwalks and home of Sunshine Castle with its drawbridge, moat, dungeon, and torture chamber. The cable water ski park is a good place to wake board, knee board or water ski and next door is a Barramundi fishing lake.

Boreen Point

Boreen Point is a small village overlooking Lake Cootharaba with sandy beaches and pleasant picnic spots and the historic Apollonian Hotel. A good sailing spot with easy beach launching.

Buderim

Buderim sits on a mountain plateau with ocean views and is about 15 minutes inland from the coast. The name is derived from Budderam, an Aboriginal word for honey suckle. The village has art and craft galleries, and is known for its floral exhibitions. Buderim Rainforest Park has easy walks with waterfalls and picnic areas.

Caloundra

Caloundra is at the southern end of the Sunshine Coast one hour's drive from Brisbane. It is the second largest shire in the Sunshine Coast area with a fast growing population. Caloundra has 10 excellent patrolled beaches, some rainforest areas and a number of national parks. The drive from Caloundra to Noosa at the northern end of the Sunshine Coast takes about one hour along the Sunshine Motorway.

Cooran

Cooran is a small village located at the bottom of Mt. Cooran. A good picnic spot is at Mothar Mountain Rockpools. The origin of the name is a dialect for tall, referring to local trees.

Cooroy

Cooroy is a traditional country town. The railway came to Cooroy in 1891 and soon after the main street started to develop. The town relied on the sawmills and local dairies and was a prosperous town until the collapse of the dairy and fruit growing industries in the 1970's. Cooroy is now famous for Cooroy Water which flows from Cooroy Mountain and the Lake MacDonald Botanical Gardens. Cooroy is about 15 minutes drive from Noosa.

Coolum Beach

Coolum is between Noosa and Maroochydore on the Sunshine Coast. Coolum has a very popular beach and has a relaxed holiday atmosphere. Cafes, restaurants and shops line the main street. Golfing enthusiasts will enjoy the proximity of golf courses at the Hyatt, Noosa Springs, Novotel Twin Waters and Pelican Waters. Bushwalkers will enjoy Mt Coolum and the walks alongside the beach. Surfers will enjoy the waves and swimmers the patrolled beach.

Eumundi

James Gridley in 1873 settled in what became Eumundi a town about 20 minutes drive from Noosa. On your way into Noosa, Eumundi is often missed due to the by pass that

skirts the town from the Bruce Highway. Eumundi comes alive every Wednesday and Saturday with thousands of visitors attending the Eumundi markets. A market that has grown as a major Queensland attraction. Eumundi combines old and new with its art galleries, restaurants, shops, strawberry farm and lots more.

Flaxton

Flaxton a small village on the Blackall Range, with arts and crafts and a winery. The Flaxton Barn and Model Railway is a miniature railway with trains based on real German trains.

Forest Glen

Forest Glen is just off the Bruce Highway on Tanawha Tourist Drive and home to Forest Glen Deer Sanctuary, Super Bee Honey Factory and Buderim Forest Park.

Kawana Waters

Kawana Waters is a popular residential area just south of Mooloolaba with patrolled beaches at Buddina and Wurtulla, with a large shopping centre and a marina.

Kenilworth

Kenilworth is home to the famous Kenilworth Cheese. A walk to the Booloumba Falls will result in a large rock pool that is good for swimming. The Kenilworth Historical Museum is Alexandra Street provides a history of the region.

Kin Kin

Kin Kin is a small village at the corner of Noosa Shire with an old and famous pub, the Country Life Hotel. Kin Kin is the aboriginal name for a species of small black ant that is common in the area. It grew in the 1870's into a settlement for bullock drivers hauling logs to the sawmill at Elanda point. The quality of the Kin Kin timber was famous throughout Australia.

Landsborough

Landsborough is an old inland town, just off the Bruce Highway that served the coaches running from Gympie to Brisbane. Named after William Landsborough a famous Australian explorer. The Landsborough Museum has a good social history collection and Australian memorabilia.

Mapleton

Mapleton is a small village on Blackall Range with restaurants and cafes and Mapleton Falls National Park. Close to the village are the Mapleton Falls.

Maleny

Maleny is high up on the Blackall Range well inland from Maroochydore. Maleny has great views of the Glasshouse Mountains, rainforest walks at Mary Cairncross National Park and lots of arts and craft galleries and Maleny Cheese. There are many delightful places to stay in and around Maleny.

Marcoola

Marcoola is an area of fast developing beach resorts just north of the Maroochy river. Very easy to reach from Sunshine Coast airport which is just a few kms away. Most of the Marcoola accommodation is on the beach and there are a number of shops, restaurants and the Marcoola Surf Club.

Maroochydore

Maroochydore is just north of Mooloolaba and is at the centre of the Sunshine Coast. Maroochydore is the main business centre for the Sunshine Coast and has the main shopping centre, the Sunshine Plaza. Cotton Tree Esplanade is on the Maroochy River and has safe beaches for children. On the seafront at Cotton Tree are open beaches and a number of caravan parks, motels and apartments. Further down the river on Bradman Avenue boats can be hired and the area is popular for sailing, boating, fishing and jet skiing. Close to Maroochydore are Buderim Forest Park and Maroochy Wetlands Sanctuary at Bli Bli. To the north of the Maroochy River is the resort area of Twin Waters and surf beaches.

Mooloolaba

Mooloolaba is a cosmopolitan beach front resort in the centre of the Sunshine Coast. Just over an hour from Brisbane and about 30 minutes from Noosa at the northern end of the Sunshine Coast. The Esplanade at Mooloolaba has cafes, restaurants, entertainment venues and shops that face onto beach and bay. Mooloolaba even has a toilet block, known locally as the loo with a view that has great views over the beach and ocean! Mooloolaba Harbour and the Mooloolaba Wharf have restaurants, shops, fishing trips and Under Water World.

Mooloolah

Mooloolah is located on Glass House Mountains Road and is the aboriginal expression for 'black snake'. Famous for the Ettamogah Pub, a cartoon style building viewed from the Bruce Highway. Next door is Aussie World with a number of attractions.

Montville

Montville was first settled in 1887 and sits high on the Blackwall range with shops, small art galleries, potteries and cafes on the main street. Close to Montville is the Kondalilla National Park. There are lots of small luxury retreats in Montville.

Nambour

Nambour is located to the west of the Bruce Highway in a valley just below the Blackall Range. Nambour was the original business centre of the Sunshine Coast due to the railway line passing through and the Sugar Cane industry. Close to Nambour are the Big Pineapple and the popular hinterland villages of Montville and Maleny. Nambour is the main railway connection for the Sunshine Coast and bus connections operate to Noosa and Maroochydore on the coast. In the centre of Nambour is Petrie Park with its footbridges and Quota Park with a large adventure playground.

Noosa

Noosa has a north facing surfing beach. Noosa Heads is the resort area that contains Hastings Street and the main tourist area behind Hastings Street. The main beach fronts onto Hastings Street. At the eastern end of Hastings Street is the Noosa National Park. Noosaville is the area that borders the Noosa River with its riverfront precinct and street restaurants. Noosa Junction is the central shopping area with cinema and banks and located behind Hastings Street over Noosa Hill. To the North across the river is Noosa North Shore a forty mile long beach that is navigable by four wheel drive vehicles. The Noosa River system is very much part of Noosa life. The Noosa River is one of the most pristine in Australia. It stretches south to Lake Weyba and to the North passes through Lake Cooroibah and Lake Cootharaba to the famous Everglade regions.

Palmwoods

Palmwoods is a small country town at the foot of the Blackwall Range.

Peregian

Peregian is a growing village with people attracted by its beach and relaxed shopping arcade with its galleries cafes and restaurants. Peregian has a good beach with lifesavers on duty. Peregian is linked to Noosa with a cycle way that runs along the Pacific Coastline.

Pomona

Nestled at the foot of Mt Cooroora, Pomona is a relaxed country town with some pleasant easy walking tracks around the delightful parks. Pomona was first settled in the late 1880's and the railway that arrived in 1891 started the expansion of the agricultural industries. Pomona is located about 25 minutes from Noosa, just beyond Cooroy.

Sunshine Beach

Sunshine Beach lies to the south of Noosa Heads and links to the Noosa National Park. Once known as Golden Beach to describe the vast sands. Very popular with experienced surfers who surf on the rolling Pacific Ocean waves. Just up from the beach is a cluster of small shops, cafes and excellent restaurants. Sunshine Beach Surf Club is has great views and a very popular eating and drinking place.

Tewantin

Tewantin originally a timber town now houses the Council Chambers. A ferry connects Hastings Street with Tewantin, which is reached after a short walk from Noosa Marina. The Noosa Gallery is located in the ground floor of the Noosa Council chamber and has river views. The Noosa Marina has a regular Sunday market.

Yandina

Yandina was surveyed by Fryer in 1870 as a location for the metropolis of Maroochy shire. Yandina relied on timber and saw milling until the 1960's and has now become famous for Ginger and sugar. The Yandina Ginger factory was established in 1980.

Attractions

Aussie World

The famous Ettamogah Pub, with attached small theme park is a good stopping point on the Bruce Highway. Attractions include mini golf, roller coaster, carnival fairground, giant Ferris wheel, fun luge, dodgem cars and specialty shops. Frizzo Road, Bruce Highway.

Australia Zoo

Australia Zoo established by the late Steve Irwin, offers visitors wildlife action, priding itself on promoting hands on interactive experiences with pythons, koalas, kangaroos, wombats, tigers, elephants and many more animals. Glasshouse Mountains Tourist Drive, Beerwah.

Beaches

The range of beaches on the Sunshine Coast is enormous. From the open waters of Rainbow Beach through to the white sands at King's Beach at Caloundra which is a unique combination of a surf beach with a salt water swimming pool. The calm waters of Mooloolaba Spit and Golden Beach are perfect for kids. Popular surf beaches include Alexandra Headlands, Coolum, Peregian, Marcus Beach, Sunshine Beach and Noosa Heads.

Bellingham Maze

The Bellingham Maze is a challenging hedge maze. First you negotiate the magic waterfall at the entrance to the attraction, once you get through without getting wet, make your way through sub-tropical rainforest pathways to the tea house. The idea is to then find your way through the pathways amongst the hedges until you find the fountain in the middle of the maze. 25 Tanawha Tourist Drive

Big Kart Track

Drive around what is claimed by the owners to be Australia's fastest and longest go-kart tracks at 1200m or ride the Bungy Bullet where you can be shot 50m into the air in just over a second. Glass House Mountains Tourist Drive, Landsborough.

Big Pineapple Plantation

Take a train ride through this working pineapple farm at which a number of additional tours have been added over the years since it opened in 1971. These include a ride on the Macadamia nut mobile where enthusiastic guides explain how Macadamia nuts are processed, the Harvest Boat ride that educates us on hydroponics, the rainforest walk or visit the wildlife gardens. Old Bruce Highway, Woombye.

Ginger Factory

The world's largest high tech Ginger processing plant with historic cane train through native rainforest and gardens. The ginger shop sells the biggest selection of ginger produce in the world. Enjoy the magical adventure ride on "Overboard, Adventures of a Stoaway". 50 Pioneer Road, Yandina.

Nutworks

The Sunshine Coast has long been known for its Macadamia nuts. You can visit the Macadamia Factory and experience the nut processing operation and sample the many flavoured nuts in the tourist shop. Opposite the Ginger Factory in Yandina.

Superbee Honey Factory

Superbee is a working honey factory with live bee demonstrations. Tanawaha Tourist Drive, Tanawha.

The Sunshine Castle

The Sunshine Castle is a mock mediaeval castle featuring a dungeon, medieval armoury, tower block and collection of 350 dancing dolls representing 57 countries. Relish the views from the 24 metre high tower. The only castle of its kind in Australia. Children can enjoy the Castle treasure hunt. 292 - 296 David Low Way.

Top Shots Adventure Park

Offers mini golf, rock climbing, blaster boats and a giant vertical trampoline, great for kids. 2 Allora Drive, Maroochydore.

Underwater World

The largest oceanarium in the Southern Hemisphere with around 20,000 sea creatures and an 80 metre walk through tunnel. A number of shows are held during the day. The Wharf, Mooloolaba.

Valley Rafter Railway

A scenic 80km steam rail journey along the Mary Valley visiting Kandanga, Imbil and Dagon. The journey starts at Old Railway Station, Tozer Street, Gympie.

Wineries

The Sunshine Coast has a number of boutique wineries and vineyards producing award winning wines. The vineyards are in the cooler hinterland areas of the Blackall range, Kenilworth and Traveston.

Natural Areas**Ben Bennett Botanical Park**

Natural bushland off Queen Street in Caloundra with a waterlily lagoon and good place for bird watching.

Buderim Forest Park

Rain forest on Buderim Mountain with walking tracks and timber bridges. Car parking is easy at Quorn Place and at Lindsay Road.

Coochin Creek State Forest Park

A few kilometres north of the Pumicestone Passage is a place of exotic pine trees and good for picnics, camping and swimming. There is a boat ramp and wood is supplied for the barbeques.

Currimundi Lake Conservation Park

Just north of Caloundra with beach access and a short circuit through wallum heathland. Parking, barbeques, toilets and picnic facilities are available at Crummunda Park.

Glass House Mountains National Park

The Glass House Mountains are located to the West of the Bruce Highway near Beerwah. They are very visible from the Bruce Highway and appear as volcanic cones. Many bushwalking opportunities exist in the Glass House Mountains and several of the mountains can be climbed. Mt Beerwah 556 m is 2.6km climb and recommended for experienced climbers only. Mt Tibrogargan is 364m and a challenging 3-4 hours. Mt Ngunyum at 253m is the easiest Glass House Mountain to climb.

Great Sandy National Park (Cooloola)

Extending from north of Noosa up to Rainbow Beach is the 64,000 hectare Great Sandy National Park, also known as Cooloola. From Noosa the best way to reach the park is by river. Many operators run day trips into the Everglades area of the park and combine with a BBQ or picnic in the park. The Everglades with their dark black water, due to the dye from the tea trees creates mirror images that make for wonderful reflections.

Foote Sanctuary

Native forest regeneration in this small park on the north east slopes of Buderim Mountain. Access is from Parkview Terrace, Park Street and Grant Street in Buderim.

Kondalilla National Park

Turn off the Mapleton to Montville road to Kondalilla National Park. There are several short walks. The Kondalilla Falls circuit is 2.7km. The track begins at the top of the Kondalilla Falls and winds down through the rainforest to the base of the waterfall. An alternative is the Picnic Creek Circuit which is a 2.1km walk through open forest with views of the rainforest valley.

Lake Baroon

Baroon Pocket dam covers 380ha and provides water for the Sunshine Coast. It is possible to swim fish and canoe on the lake and enjoy the barbeque and picnic areas. North Maleny Road, Maleny...

Lake Cootharaba

Located in Cooloola National Park, Lake Cootharaba is a beautiful lake surrounded by native plants.

Kenilworth State Forest

There are walking trails, picnic areas and camping facilities.

Mapleton Falls National Park

On the road to Montville a pleasant walk can be had at Mapleton Falls. The views from the car park are impressive but the water fall trickles most of the year! A pleasant circular walk of 1.3km provides a good introduction to the rain forest. This walk winds through rainforest and eucalypt forest. The Peregrine Lookout provides an excellent view of the Obi Obi valley.

Mapleton Forest Reserve

Some short walking trails through the Pilularis forest. Mapleton Forest Drive.

Maroochy River Conservation Park

A good place for bird watching. Maroochy River Conservation Park on Ocean View Drive off the David Low Way in Mudjimba. The walking track is 4.4km long and passes through open paperbark and eucalypt forest.

Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve

Great views from this vantage point with bushwalks in the natural rainforest. Mary Cairncross has a cafe and Natural History Education Centre. Mountain View Road, Maleny.

Mt Coolum National Park

Mount Coolum is a distinctive landmark on the Sunshine Coast and has a 1.6km walk to the summit. The car park is located on Tanah Street West, just off the David Low Way. The path is well marked.

Mt Ninderry

An easy walk for an excellent view of the Sunshine Coast. Access is from Mt Ninderry car park, Ninderry road.

Mt Tinbeerwah

An easy 30 minute walk to height of 265m with wonderful views from a lookout perched on a steep cliff. Part of the track is accessible by wheel chair. The car park is located on the Mt Tinbeerwah Road signposted off the Cooroy Noosa Road.

Mt Cooroora

This popular mountain walk that rises to 439m is steep and difficult. Every July the King of the Mountain challenge takes place. The car park is located on Mountain Road which is off School Road in the village of Pomona.

Noosa National Park

The park, first created in 1939, and officially opened in 1949 by Sir John Laverack, the then Governor of Queensland, has become one of the most visited national parks in Australia. The park is very organized with an information centre (07 5447 3243), picnic areas and a number of well marked walking tracks covering an area of 2290 ha. The main entrance is at the end of Park Road, a 15 minute walk from the end of Hastings Street. Car parking is available at the park entrance. From the main entrance a number of walks

are possible. There are a number of marked tracks in Noosa National Park. There are other sections of Noosa National Park at Peregrian, Emu Mountain and East Weyba.

Parklands Forest Reserve

Parklands is 4 km from Nambour and 5km from Yandina. Take the Parklands exit off the Bruce Highway north of Nambour. There are 15km of walking tracks.

Townsville

Townsville is in the far North of Queensland and the entry port for Magnetic Island. The third largest city in Queensland is a large tropical city with many historic buildings.

The centre of the city is Flinders Street, running from the Railway Station almost to the Strand with fine old buildings. Flinders Mall is the central section of the street and a pedestrian only area. Castle Hill reigns supreme over the city the Ross Creek weaves it's way through the city and there is coastline that goes on forever.

The Strand is Townsville's prominent promenade, providing entertainment, dining, playgrounds and picnic spots. It is located on the beach, which is patrolled and protected by two stingers enclosures. A highlight is the Rockpool, a swimming lagoon surrounded by beach like environs and a safe place to cool down.

Townsville boomed during WWII, as it's population tripled when it became a major base for Australian and US forces. It still has a strong military presence as it is home to the Royal Australian Air Force(RAAF) major base situated in Garbutt, five minutes from Townsville.

Townsville's popularity lies with tourists, both national and international, due to it's access to the Great Barrier Reef and Magnetic Island, where snorkelling and diving is an ideal past time. And of course it is the wonderful tropical weather that draws hoards of tourists. Townsville boasts 300 sunny days per year, with warm conditions most of the time, and humidity and tropical storms abundant during the summer months.

Townsville has a vibrant night life and restaurant scene, where all styles of entertainment and dining can be found. The hub areas for partying and eating are Flinders Street, Palmer Street, The Strand and the Marina.

Places

Hinchinbrook Island

This is the world's largest national island park and is accessible by ferry from Port Hinchinbrook. There are some good bushwalks here, taking in the reef, mountains and tropical terrain.

Magnetic Island

Magnetic Island is eight kilometres from Townsville. It is one of the largest islands in the Great Barrier Reef and 70% of it is national park. Captain Cook named the island when he sailed past on 6th June 1770 as his compass would not work well. Magnetic Island has 16 beaches and lots of accommodation from cheap to resort style. There are more than 22km of walking tracks on the island, as well as an aquarium, a koala sanctuary and a pottery. Magnetic Island is divided into four sections Picnic Bay, Nelly Bay, Arcadia and Horseshoe Bay.

The passenger ferry arrives at Picnic Bay, which is the southern tip of the island. The passenger ferry operates from two points on the city side of the river. The terminal is in Flinders Street. There is a second pick-up point closer to the mouth of the river, on the breakwater along the road to the Casino. The crossing takes 25mins. There is a bus service on the island that meets the ferry and can take you on a tour or just drop you at one of the locations. There is also a taxi service, moke rentals and scooter hire. You can take your car on the ferry but is often not necessary due to the good transport services provided on the island.

Orpheus Island

This island is mostly national park, but it does have a reef that is great for diving and snorkelling. Orpheus Island is 80km North of Townsville and can be reached by seaplane from Townsville.

Attractions

Anderson Park

Located 6km Northwest of the CBD are 20 hectares of gardens with a tropical fee, Gulliver Street, Mundingburra.

Anzac Park

A War Memorial commemorating the Battle of the Coral Sea. Townsville was one of the few places in Australia to be bombed during the Second World War.

Castle Hill Lookout

A fine view of the whole city as well as being great exercise.

Queens Gardens

These gardens were first established in 1870, and are situated at the base of Castle Hill. Great for picnics and kids play.

Queensland Military Museum

Located at Jezzine Army Barracks, a collection of military artefacts to explore as well as lovely area to enjoy a picnic and view the water.

Kissing Point

At the end of the Strand, at Kissing Point, are a rock pool, another swimming enclosure, and a lookout at the top of the headland there.

Toowoomba

Toowoomba is Queensland's largest inland city and is located 140km west of Brisbane. Known as the Garden City due to it's 200 parks and gardens. Toowoomba is also known for it's cooler, wetter climate and is always a few degrees cooler than most of Queensland's other cities.

Cobb and Co. Museum

This museum has Australia's largest collection of horse drawn carts and buggies, which were the major form of transport in the area in the 1800s. *Lindsay Street.*

Darling Downs

Located south of Toowoomba and west of the Great Dividing Range is this water basin that flows into the Darling River. There are many national parks here with the largest being Main Range National Park which has a lovely rainforest circuit.

Ju Raku En

This is Australia's largest Japanese garden and it is a delight to stroll through and can be located adjacent the University.

Picnic Point

This lovely park and picnic area offers 360 degree views of the surrounding landscape including the Great Dividing Range. *End of Long Street.*

Toowoomba Bicentennial Water Habitat

This wetland environment covers 8 hectares and there are plenty of locations to view the varied species of bird life that live here. *Mackenzie Street.*

Whitsundays

The Whitsundays, is a collection of 74 islands, most of them uninhabited. There are three areas, the town of Proserpine, Airlie Beach and the Whitsunday Islands. The name Whitsunday was given by Captain Cook who named the Whitsunday Passage when he passed through on Whitsunday on the third June 1770.

Most of the islands are now part of a National Park, the prominent exceptions being Hamilton Island and Hayman Island, which are privately owned. Hamilton Island has an airport. There are resort locations on various islands. Plenty of day trips to islands are

available at moderate prices, or you can just get on one of the many ferries and spend the day where you wish. Boats leave from Shute Harbour, nine kilometres east of Airlie Beach .

The Coral Sea level rose after the last Ice Age and left a series of islands which formed into coral reefs. The first inhabitants were the Ngaro and Giru tribes. Remnants of their life can be found on Hook Island and South Molle Island.

The Whitsunday islands vary from small rocks to large fertile islands. In amongst the islands are many places for boats to safely anchor and so make the Whitsundays an excellent area for sailing and cruising. Resort developments are limited and many islands have no accommodation on them.

Places

Airlie Beach

Airlie Beach owes its popularity, gradually increasing over the years, to its proximity to the Whitsunday Islands. Airlie Beach being cheaper encourages many visitors to stay at Airlie Beach and travel by ferry to one of the islands for the day, or take a cruise around the various islands. None of the islands is more than an hour away by boat. The main street is Shute Harbour Road with lots of cafes, restaurants, shops and more. There is no beach in Airlie Beach but there is a swimming lagoon. Airlie Beach has an active nightlife with many pubs and bars.

Daydream Island

Daydream Island is not part of the National Park and is the site of Daydream Island Resort. On the central hill of this small island is dense tropical vegetation which provides a home for colourful tropical birds, especially parrots and sunbirds. Daydream Island is 15 minutes ferry ride from Shute Harbour with Blue Ferries.

Hamilton Island

Level with Long Island, but on the outside of the Whitsunday Passage is Hamilton Island, the most famous of the Whitsunday Islands. This is a privately owned island with an airport offering commercial flights to and from Brisbane, Townsville, Cairns , Brampton Island , Sydney and Melbourne. Hamilton Island has a number of accommodation options for different budgets.

Hayman Island

Hayman Island is a small island at the northern tip of the group, and is privately owned with a five star resort.

Hook Island

Just south of Hayman Island is the much larger Hook Island. This is one of the few islands upon which camping is permitted. There are walking trails and two substantial peaks, of which the higher is Hook Peak at 459 metres. At Nara Inlet, at the south of the

island, there are aboriginal cave paintings. There is also an underwater observatory nine metres beneath the surface of the sea off the island. This is a popular island for day visits.

Lindeman Island

Home of Club Med resort. There is an airstrip for light aircraft. The island has some pleasant walks, but is a little too far away from Shute Harbour to be popular for day trips.

Long Island

There are twenty kilometres of walking tracks on the island, including some of the best walking in the Whitsundays. Long Island is close to Airlie Beach and water taxis link the Long Island resorts to the mainland. Most of the island is a national park.

South Molle Island

South Molle Island is also near the mainland. South Molle Island Resort is situated here. There are a number of walking trails to the peak of the Island which rises to 195 metres. Blue Ferries operate the transfer service.

North Molle Island

North Molle is not much visited.

Prosperine

Prosperine is the administrative centre for the Whitsundays. The town has some art deco buildings. Upstream from the town is Prosperine Lake .

Shute Harbour

10 kms east of Airlie Beach an inlet with lots of boats. Shute harbour is where most of the island transfer departs from. Secure parking is available at the harbour.

Whitehaven Beach

Whitehaven Beach is seven kilometres of fine white sand and contrasts with the blue sea to make for classical brochure shots.

Whitsunday Island

This is the largest of the islands and is not developed. Whitehaven beach is found on the island and a very popular day trip. Camping is allowed at the south end of Whitehaven Beach but has no facilities. Famous for the six-kilometre Whitehaven Beach on the eastern side of the island and popular for day trips. The island is uninhabited, though, and camping is not permitted.

Winton

Waltzing Matilda was written by Banjo Paterson while he was staying at nearby Dagworth Station in 1895. The words based on the events around the Great Shearer's Strike in 1891, and again in 1894. With this as a background, Banjo Paterson visited

Dagworth Station and wrote the verses for *Waltzing Matilda*. The words were set by Christina MacPherson based on a Scottish tune which she heard at the Warrnambool races. The first public performance was held at the North Gregory Hotel in Winton on 6th April 1895.

Hudson Fysh and Paul McGuinness started an outback airline Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Service out of Winton on 16th November 1920 and is still running today as one of the world's great airlines. One of the reasons for the choosing of Winton as a base for the new airline was that the local council supported the idea and was willing to provide a landing site as a contribution to the project. A memorial cairn on Hughenden Road shows where this landing strip was.

Royal Theatre

The main street has the Royal Theatre, established in 1918. This is an open-air cinema with deckchair seating.

Lark Quarry Environmental Park

The Lark Quarry Environmental Park, 113 kilometres south west of the town is where in the 1970s, the fossilized footprints of a dinosaur stampede were uncovered here, the only such instance discovered in the world.

Waltzing Matilda Centre

This museum is dedicated to Australia's most popular song. Here you can find out the history of the tune with the help of a sound and light show. There are also displays of outback legends as well as an art gallery and cafe. *Elderslie Street*.

Yeppon

Yeppon is 30 minutes drive north of Rockhampton. The beach area lying between Yeppon and Emu Bay has led to the seventeen kilometre road between the two being named the Scenic Highway. Yeppon maintains a village style. Just north of Yeppon is the very large Rydges Capricorn Resort set out on 22,000 acres.

Cooberrie Park Wildlife Sanctuary

Native animals are treated and cared for at Cooberrie. There is a daily interactive animal show and lots of chance to hand feed birds and kangaroos. 10 minutes north of Yeppon.

Shell World

A large collection of shells displayed by the Keppel Bay Shell Club. *Visitor Information Centre, Ross Creek Roundabout, Yeppon*.

Yeppon Doll & Antiquity Museum

Yeppon Doll & Antiquity Museum is the largest private doll collection in Australia. *Hidden Valley Road, Yeppon*.

South Australia

The South Australian Colonization Act received the royal assent of King William IV on 15th August 1834, the first colonists arriving on 20th July 1836 and landing on Kangaroo Island, the first place in South Australia to be settled.

The new Governor of South Australia, John Hindmarsh, arrived on 28th December 1836, together with the Surveyor-General, Col. William Light, who first visited the present site of Adelaide on 30th December 1836, soon choosing it for the new capital.

So began the history of the state. South Australia claims that it is the driest state in the driest continent on earth. With such a record, it is no wonder that agricultural development has always presented a problem here. However, wheat is grown in the coastal areas, including the Eyre Peninsula to the west of Adelaide, and this region extends almost as far west as the start of the Nullarbor Plain. However, it cannot continue very far inland.

The most famous rural area of the state is the Barossa Valley, which attracted German immigrants right from the start and soon became Australia's first and most important wine-growing region, a reputation which it maintains. The Barossa Valley is close to Adelaide and can easily be reached as a day excursion from the capital.

South Australia also produces minerals. Copper was discovered at Burra in 1845 and gold was also discovered in the same year. In recent times, however, it has been the iron ore from Whyalla which has been the most important mineral product. In addition, the lead, zinc and silver from Broken Hill is mainly transported by rail to Port Pirie, even though Broken Hill lies geographically narrowly within the borders of New South Wales. At Port Pirie, therefore, can be found the largest lead smelter in the world.

Towards the north of the state are two of Australia's three main opal mining communities. The better known is Coober Pedy, on the way to Alice Springs. A little less famous is Andamooka, to the south-east of Coober Pedy. In terms of scenery, South Australia offers some attractive coastal views all the way from the Eyre Peninsula in the west to Mt. Gambier in the east. It offers Kangaroo Island with its history as well as wildlife. It offers the European flavour of the Barossa Valley. It offers the stately Flinders Ranges some seven hours north of Adelaide, and, for the really adventurous, it offers outstanding outback travel to the huge Lake Eyre, or along the Birdsville, Strzelecki or Oodnadatta Tracks, all of which can be covered with tours, although not with ordinary public transport.

South Australia used to have its own state railway system. Indeed the state lays claim to having had Australia's first railway line, albeit a horse-drawn railway - between Goolwa and Victor Harbor. Because of the desirability of connecting its lines with those of Victoria, South Australia chose to copy the Victorian gauge of 5 feet 3 inches and that led to problems later, especially as the state also used a 3 feet 6 inches gauge in rural areas to save construction costs and then found itself linked to the west by the standard 4 feet 8½

inches Commonwealth Railways line. In recent times, South Australian Railways relinquished the operation of its country lines to Australian National Railways, which promptly stopped operating any country services at all. Thus there are now no intra-state trains in South Australia except for the Adelaide suburban services and the expensive privately-operated Wine Train to the Barossa Valley.

Longdistance trains through Adelaide are now operated by Great Southern Railway and consist of the Overland between Adelaide and Melbourne, the Indian-Pacific between Sydney and Perth via Adelaide and the Ghan between Sydney or Melbourne and Alice Darwin via Adelaide. As for buses, Greyhound operate from Adelaide to Melbourne, Sydney, Alice Springs and Perth, and have competition from Firefly and V-Line to Melbourne, and from V-Line to Sydney via Albury.

This network consists principally of services from Adelaide east to Renmark, south-east to Mt. Gambier and Bordertown, south to Goolwa and Victor Harbor, north to Moonta, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Wilpena, Roxby Downs and Whyalla, and west to Port Lincoln and Ceduna. There are also some services provided by private operators.

The Wayward Bus offers a service between Adelaide and Melbourne via the coast, a route which can be covered more cheaply, however, by a combination of Stateliner and V-Line services, and some careful planning.

Adelaide

Adelaide is, of all the Australian capital cities except Canberra (which dates from almost a century later), that which shows the greatest influence of thoughtful planning. In its centre it is the work of one man, Colonel William Light. He had first to choose a site for his capital. Despite opposition, he chose Adelaide and commenced his survey, at the junction of the present North and West Terraces, on 11th January 1837. An obelisk marks the place. The survey was completed on 10th March and the naming of the streets occurred on 23rd May 1837.

The city was named Adelaide after the Queen of the time, the consort of King William IV. Light's plan consisted of a city of one square mile, completely surrounded by park land, and with five additional small parks in its centre. That plan survives today and sets Adelaide apart from the other capital cities which, although not lacking in green spaces, seem to have had them positioned as an afterthought. In fact, Adelaide is regarded as one of the best planned cities in the world.

There are two places in particular where Light is remembered. One is at Montefiore Hill in North Adelaide. His statue was moved to this apt location so that he could have a commanding view over the city which he had created, the place and statue now being dubbed Light's Vision.

The second place is his grave in Light Square, right in the heart of his city. He resigned from his position in 1838, feeling that the task assigned had been performed, but also tired of the criticism and disputes, and he died of tuberculosis, almost penniless, only a year later, on 6th October 1839, at the age of 53. On 10th October, he was buried in Light Square, and a towering monument has been erected over his grave, a tribute to all that this city owes him.

Animal Attractions

Anstey Hill Recreation Park

This park is situated in Adelaide's north eastern suburbs, 16km from the CBD. Up to 35 species of reptile and amphibians live here with 145 species of native birds. Other native animals to be seen are echidnas, kangaroos, bats, carpet snakes, skinks and koalas. There are no visitor facilities or amenities, but, there is a comprehensive network of walking tracks.

Adelaide Zoo

This popular zoo is located in shady parklands and only walking distance from the city centre. Highlights are the South East Asian rainforest and the Children's Zoo which has a petting area and nursery. *Frome Road, Adelaide.*

Cleland Wildlife Park

These beautiful parklands are situated just 12km from the city centre and offer magnificent views of Mt Lofty and the scenic Waterfall Gully. Highlights are the Ocean to Outback Interpretive Centre which is an interactive journey through South Australia's diverse landscapes. There are daily animal feeding presentations, koala close up and handling sessions and 90 minute guided nocturnal wildlife tours. *Mount Lofty Summit Road, Crafers.*

Gorge Wildlife Park

This park has one of the most comprehensive collections of privately owned animals and birds in Australia. See all your favourite native animals as well as some exotic breeds such as monkeys, alligators, meerkats and otters. *Reddan Drive, Cudlee Creek.*

Hahndorf Farm Barn

At this unique farm you can hold, touch and feed the animals. Guests are free to roam around the barn and can also jump into the pens to touch and feed the many tame animals. You can hold guinea pigs and baby chickens pat miniature horses and bottle feed lambs and goats. Located in the popular tourist village of Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills, a thirty minute drive from the city. *Lot 100 Mount Barker Road, Hahndorf.*

Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary

This native wildlife sanctuary was established in 1969; it is home to 100 species of birds and native mammals and is situated 25 minutes from the city. There are animal shows; self guided walks and nocturnal tours. *Stock Road, VIA Sterling.*

Art Galleries

Adelaide Central Gallery

This gallery was founded in 1987 and has quickly become a prominent contemporary art gallery in Adelaide. *45 Osmond Terrace, Norwood.*

Art Gallery of South Australia

This impressive gallery holds one of the finest art collections in Australia, which are housed in a beautiful, historic building. *North Terrace, Adelaide.*

Art Images Gallery

This modern gallery is located in Norwood and features contemporary Australian art, by local and interstate artists. *32 The Parade, Norwood.*

The Jamfactory

The Jamfactory has four onsite studios that specialise in contemporary craft and design. Visitors can watch the artists in action as they create designs in glass, ceramics, furniture and metal. Located in Adelaide's West End Arts precinct. *19 Morphett Street, Adelaide.*

Greenaway Art Gallery

This large converted warehouse shows a variety of artworks including painting, sculpture and photography. *39 Rundle Street, Kent Town.*

Hill Smith Gallery

Established for twenty years and featuring two floors of exhibition space, this gallery is in the heart of the CBD. It displays contemporary artwork by local and interstate artists. *113 Pirie Street, Adelaide.*

New Land Gallery

This public gallery provides an opportunity for emerging country and regional artists to display their works with a series of exhibitions. *2 McLaren Parade, Port Adelaide.*

Beaches

Beaches stretch all the way down the coast from Semaphore in the north, via Henley Beach, West Beach, Glenelg, Brighton, Marino, O'Sullivan Beach, Christie Beach and Aldinga Beach to Sellick's Beach in the south. The most famous and most popular is that at Glenelg. The nudist beach is Maslin Beach, between Noarlunga and Aldinga.

Aldinga Beach

This beautiful scenic beach is located in the seaside resort of Aldinga, close to Glenelg. This beach is popular with sunbathers, families, swimmers and scuba divers. *The Esplanade, Aldinga Beach, Adelaide.*

Boomer Beach

This beach is suitable for experienced surfers due to its huge waves and strong currents. A great beach in winter for whale watching as often humpback whales can be seen from the shoreline. *Ocean Road, Port Elliot.*

Brighton Beach

This beach in the Glenelg area is another good family beach, also popular for fishing and snorkelling. *Esplanade, Adelaide.*

Henley Beach

This is one of Adelaide's most popular beaches due to its proximity to the city. A great beach for swimming, and has plenty of eateries and shops nearby. *Esplanade, Henley Beach, Adelaide.*

Glenelg Beach

Glenelg is Adelaide's most popular seaside resort, located 11km southwest of the city. Its long white sandy beach is clean and safe which makes it a great beach for families and swimming, it is also surrounded by lovely picnic areas, an esplanade and many restaurants, cafes and bars.

Historic Buildings**Ayers House**

Ayers House in North Terrace is one of the most historic of Adelaide's buildings. From 1855 until 1897, this was the home of Sir Henry Ayers, the man after whom Ayers Rock is named. He was premier of South Australia on five different occasions, but only for a total of four years, between 1863 and 1873. The house was actually built in 1846 for William Paxton, a chemist in the city, but it was purchased by Ayers in 1855 and he then lived here until his death in 1897. *288 North Terrace, Adelaide.*

Beehive Corner

This small but incredible building gained its unusual name because of its turret and beehive cement mouldings. It was built in 1895 and is a good example of neo gothic architecture. Restored in 1998, it is the entrance to the Rundle Mall in the CBD. *32-40 King William Street, Adelaide.*

Government House

This is the oldest Government house in Australia. The oldest part of Government House, the East wing, dates back to 1839. *Corner North Terrace and King William Street, Adelaide.*

Edmund Wright House

Edmund Wright House was built in 1878 as the Bank of South Australia. The ornamental work required the skills of expert craftsmen, some brought from overseas to undertake

the task. The building became unoccupied in 1995, and was used as the State History Centre. It now hosts occasional functions and exhibitions. *King William Street, Adelaide*

Holy Trinity Church

This is the oldest church in South Australia. The foundation stone was laid by Governor Hindmarsh in 1838. The clock was made in 1836 and shipped from England. *North Terrace, Adelaide.*

H.M.S. Buffalo

In Glenelg, five minutes walk north of the town centre and close to the Sailing Club is a replica of H.M.S. Buffalo, which made the journey from Portsmouth in 1836 to bring the first settlers here. The original ship was later wrecked off New Zealand, but this replica was constructed from the original Admiralty plans. It was built here between 1980 and 1982 and is a seafood restaurant and museum. *Corner Adelphi Terrace and Anzac Highway, Glenelg.*

Light Square

Light Square contains the grave of and memorial to the man who designed this city, Colonel William Light.

King William Street

King William Street, the principal street of the city, is wide and lined by some imposing buildings.

Memorial Rock

Memorial Rock in Glenelg marks the place where Colonel Light and his team disembarked in 1836 to begin the task of searching for a site for the capital of South Australia.

Parliament House and Old Parliament House

Parliament House is in North Terrace between King William Street and the Railway Station. The western part of this building (Old Parliament House) was constructed in 1889, but the remainder was not added until 1939.

Old Adelaide Gaol

The Old Adelaide Gaol was opened in 1841 and operated until 1988; it is located centrally in Adelaide's parklands. Forty-five prisoners were executed here during the Gaol's period of service, including Elizabeth Woolcock in 1873, the only woman to be executed in South Australia. At first the executions used to take place outside the main gate, but later condemned prisoners were hanged on a gallows inside the Gaol. *18 Gaol Road, Thebarton.*

Scots Church

The Scots Church is in North Terrace, on the corner of Pulteney Street. It was constructed in 1850 and is the second oldest church in Adelaide, known for its stained glass windows and its sanctuary furnishings.

Victoria Square

Victoria Square, in the heart of the city, has a fountain in its centre. From its southern end the only remaining tram service in Adelaide departs for Glenelg.

Museums

Australian Museum of Childhood

This unusual and fun museum for children of all ages is located in Port Adelaide. Some of the toys date back to the 1890's. *95 Dale Street, Port Adelaide.*

Ayers House Museum

Named after this states Premier Sir Henry Ayers, is the centrally located Ayers House Museum. Victorian domestic life is displayed right through the historic house, from costume, furniture and artwork. *288 North Terrace, Adelaide.*

Bradman Collection

In part of the State Library, the South Australian Institute, built in 1861, is the Bradman Collection. Australia's most famous cricketer Sir Donald Bradman's own collection of cricketing memories are displayed here. Bradman lived much of his life in Adelaide, and died in this city on 25th February 2001 at the age of 92. *Corner of Kintore Avenue and North Terrace, Adelaide.*

Maritime Museum

The Maritime Museum is housed in the magnificent Bond Stores which were erected in 1850 in Port Adelaide. Highlights are a full scale copy of a sailing sketch and the lighthouse that was built in 1869, where you can climb the spiral staircase to the top. *126 Lipson Street, Port Adelaide.*

Migration Museum

This museum is dedicated to displaying and retelling the many histories and diverse cultures that have made South Australia. The main galleries of the museum take you on chronological tour of South Australia's history. *82 Kintore Street, Adelaide.*

Military Vehicles Museum

This museum is home to war memorabilia and military vehicles from the First World War to present day. There are numerous displays of uniforms, vehicles and radio equipment, as well as an impressive restoration workshop. *252 Commercial Road, Port Adelaide.*

National Railway Museum

This unique museum houses the largest undercover collection of locomotives, passenger carriages and freight vehicles in Australia. There are steam and diesel engines as well as railcars, carriages and freight wagons on display. *Lipson Street, Port Adelaide.*

National Wine Centre of Australia

Whatever you have ever wanted to know about wine you can find out here. South Australia is the wine capital of the nation and this centre promotes that fact by using interactive technology and multi media displays. There are also plenty of Australian wines available for tasting. *Corner of Botanic and Hackney Roads, Adelaide.*

Rodney Fox's Shark Museum

Rodney Fox's Shark Museum is in Glenelg, and has photographs and models of sharks and other items relating to encounters with those formidable fishes, and also various displays of nautical objects. *Glenelg Town Hall, Jetty Road, Glenelg.*

South Australian Museum

This large Museum has six floors of permanent and temporary exhibits. It displays the largest Aboriginal exhibition in the world. Other highlights are the Ancient Egypt display, rare fossils, Adelaide's astronaut Andy Thomas's space suit and life sized mammals. *North Terrace, Adelaide.*

Parks

Adelaide Botanic Gardens

At the eastern end of North Terrace are the Botanic Gardens, founded in 1855. Bicentennial Conservatory, the largest greenhouse in the southern hemisphere can be found in these gardens, it has up to 4000 plants from Australia and Malaysia, including rainforest trees. The Botanic gardens also feature an International Rose Garden. *North Terrace, Adelaide.*

Anstey Hill Recreation Park

This park is situated in Adelaide's north eastern suburbs, 16km from the CBD. Up to 35 species of reptile and amphibians live here with 145 species of native birds. Other native animals to be seen are echidnas, kangaroos, bats, carpet snakes, skinks and koalas. There are no visitor facilities or amenities, but, there is a comprehensive network of walking tracks.

Botanic Park

This huge park of 34 hectares is located in the Northeast Parklands, close to the zoo and Torrens River. The park is ideal for picnics and hosts many major events. *Hackney and Frome Roads.*

City Sk8 Park

Adelaide's premier skate park was opened in 2000 and is very popular with skateboarders and spectators. The park can be used day and night as it has lighting and camera surveillance 24 hours a day. *North Terrace, Adelaide.*

Elder Park.

This popular city park is adjacent the River Torrens and the Adelaide Festival Centre. There is a very modern outdoor dining area, as well as a kiosk. *King William Street.*

Mt. Lofty Botanic Gardens

These gardens are on the eastern slopes of the Mount Lofty Ranges, less than half an hour from the CBD. They include several walking trails that cover the seven valleys in the gardens, all displaying magnificent views. *Summit Road, Crafers.*

Victoria Park

This large park is comprised of a motor sports street circuit, the Victoria Park Racecourse, plus walking, running and cycling tracks and is bordered by some beautiful stately homes. *Fullerton Road, Wakefield Road and East Terrace.*

Wittunga Botanic Gardens

These gardens have a beautiful lakeside setting and are great for picnics, family gatherings and strolling through. They are located in Blackwood. *Sheperd's Hill Road, Blackwood.*

Barossa Valley

The most popular destination for a one-day trip from Adelaide is the Barossa Valley. This is Australia's most well known wine growing region, with up to fifty wineries operating in the area. Situated only a half hours drive from Adelaide, with beautiful scenery along the way, and plenty of towns and wineries to stop for refreshments. Listed below are some popular wineries in the area, most have tours and open cellar doors, with wine tasting and sales.

There are several small towns in the Valley, the principal of which is Nuriootpa, just off the main Stuart Highway leading to Sydney. To the south-west of Nuriootpa lies Tanunda, while Angaston is to the south-east of Nuriootpa. Accommodation is readily available in these three locations, much of it rather up-market.

Because the Barossa Valley is so close to Adelaide, only about ninety minutes by road, there are many tours offered, usually including lunch. Alternatively, there are bus services to Nuriootpa with Stateliner, while Barossa Adelaide Passenger Service operates to Tanunda, Nuriootpa and Angaston. It should be noted, however, that the morning service provided by Barossa Adelaide Passenger Service departs from Evanston, not from the centre of Adelaide. The best way to catch it is to take a train to Gawler Central, where the bus leaves from the Visitors Centre, 5 minutes walk from the station, at 7:30.

There is a privately-operated Wine Train, a restored 1952 railcar, which runs from Adelaide to Tanunda and back on Sundays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The train, being broad gauge, is able to operate from Adelaide Station in the centre of the city (platform

9). Departure is at 8:50, with the journey taking ninety minutes. Return from Tanunda is at 15:50.

You will find that the Barossa Valley caters very much for tourists, with the streets of the small towns lined with restaurants, souvenir shops, homely accommodation and, of course, stores selling wine. Some of the wineries are accessible on foot from the towns, but most require transport. About half of the fifty local producers lie along the road used by the Barossa Adelaide Passenger Service bus, so can be reached by that means of transport.

Below are listed some of the wineries located in the Barossa Valley

Burge Family Winemakers

Lyndoch

Chateau Tanunda

9 Basedow Road, Tanunda

Cocatoo Ridge Wines

Barossa Valley Way, Tanunda

Elderton Wines

3-5 Tununda Road, Nuriootpa

Jacobs Creek

Rowland Flat

Kaesler Wines

Barossa Valley Highway, Nuriootpa

Kellermeister Wines

Barossa Valley highway, Lyndoch

Kies Family Wines

Barossa Valley highway, Lyndoch

Penfolds Winery

Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa

Rockford Wines

Krondorf Road, Tanunda

St Hallett Winery

St Hallett's Road, Tanunda

Wolf Blass

97 Sturt Highway, Nuriootpa

Yalumba

Eden Valley Road, Angaston

Burra

Burra is in the Bald Hills Range and a former copper mining centre. The Monster mine closed in 1877 but the community carried on and Burra was declared a State Heritage Centre. Explore the Burra historic mine site, Morphett's Enginehouse Museum and the Burra Creek Miners' Dugouts.

Ceduna

Ceduna is located on the shore of Murat Bay in South Australia. It is the last official stop before travelers embark on the long crossing of the Nullarbor Plain. The main industry of Ceduna is cereal growing and production. Ceduna is situated on some great coastal strips that offer swimming, fishing, surfing and boating activities. Ceduna is popular for its oyster farming and the festival called Oysterfest is held here each October.

Old Schoolhouse National Trust Museum

This museum offers displays dating back to the founding days of Ceduna and its history through the years. *Park Terrace*.

Telecommunications Earth Station

Half of Australia's daily telecommunications with other continents goes through this satellite system, located 40km northwest of Ceduna. You can go on a guided tour to find out more.

Thevenard

This port located four km's from Ceduna transports grains and salt worldwide.

Coober Pedy

Coober Pedy is one of the world's leading opal mining towns. Founded in 1915 and known as the underground town, because most of the buildings are dugouts in the ground. You can have your own go at opal mining in Coober Pedy as there are old digging sites on the edge of town. Visitors cannot enter a mining field unless on a tour as these fields really are mine fields. Mine shafts up to 25metres deep and unmarked can cause very

serious injury or death if fallen into accidentally. Opals can be purchased at Coober Pedy, there are over 30 Opal dealers in town, but beware, prices do vary greatly from dealer to dealer.

Old Timers Mine and Museum

There is the Old Timers Mine and Museum in Crowders Gully Road, housed in an old opal mine dating from 1916 and with opal seams still visible in the walls.

Umoona Opal Mine and Museum

The Umoona Opal Mine and Museum in Hutchison Street is completely underground and houses a display of European settlement in Coober Pedy, with information on opal mining and many examples of opals.

Catacomb Underground Church

The Catacomb Underground Church, in Catacomb Road, is multi denominational and carved in the form of a cross out of the solid sandstone.

Faye's Underground Home

Faye's Underground Home in Old Water Tank Road is also carved from the rock.

Flinders Range

The Flinders Ranges stretch a long distance from near Port Pirie and consist of a number of towns, settlements and vast landscapes.

Flinders Range National Park Flinders Range National Park, covers an area of 94,908 hectares. A gateway to the park is Wilpena Pound that appears like a huge crater. There are seventeen walking trails within the Flinders Range National Park. There are aboriginal art sites, and two long-abandoned copper mines. The most spectacular gorge is Brachina Gorge, to reach which one follows the Brachina Gorge Geological Trail.

Birdsville

Birdsville dates from 1882 and famous for its annual race meeting, which occurs in September. The other route from Marree is north-west along the course of the old railway line to Oodnadatta and Alice Springs. This is the Oodnadatta Track.

Birdsville Track

The Birdsville Track is 513 kilometres long. The main route used to lie through Goyder Lagoon, with a wet weather track to the east for use when the main route was flooded. In 1974, however, the Lagoon filled to such a level that the main track remained impassable for most of the following three years and it was decided to make the eastern route the main track and use the short-cut through Goyder Lagoon as an occasional track. Along the track you will see the famous Dog Fence, 5,300 kilometres long, built to keep the dingoes out of the sheep grazing area.

Hawker

Hawker has the Yourambulla Caves decorated with aboriginal art, and the Kanyaka ruins lie a little south of Hawker and Fred Teague's Museum at Hawker Motors is a collection of gemstones, minerals, fossils, photographs and bottles.

Lake Eyre

Lake Eyre is a huge salt lake. And made up of Lake Eyre South and Lake Eyre North, and capture water from about one sixth of Australia.

Leigh Creek

Leigh Creek is quite a sizeable town. Coal was first mined here in 1941 and from here comes the fuel for the power stations in Port Augusta.

Mount Remarkable National Park

Mount Remarkable National Park is between Port Pirie and Port Augusta and good for walking and wildlife.

Innamincka

Innamincka lies on the southern bank of Cooper Creek, flocks of birds congregate here. Coongie Lakes are 112 kilometres north-west of Innamincka.

Marree Marree

Marree Marree was the base for the teams of camels which headed north with supplies and now a tourist base. Marree is the start of the Birdsville Track.

Goolwa

Goolwa is on the last bend of the Murray River and a popular fishing spot. The Cockle Train runs from Goolwa to Encounter Bay. The Signal Point River Murray Interpretive Centre is at Goolwa Wharf.

Hahndorf

As the name suggests this village takes it's origins from germany, and is Australia's oldest German settlement. Hahndorf is 20km southeast of Adelaide, and is nestled in the beautiful Adelaide Hills region. Hahndorf attracts many tourists because of it's authentic german buildings, culture and cuisine.

Antique Clock Museum

Clocks of all shapes and sizes can be found here, especially the famed cuckoo clocks with one cuckoo being a gigantic one! *91 Main Street.*

Cleland Wildlife Park

These beautiful parklands are situated between Adelaide city and Hahndorf , offer magnificent views of Mt Lofty and the scenic Waterfall Gully. Highlights are the new Ocean to Outback Interpretive Centre which is an interactive journey through South Australia's diverse landscapes. There are daily animal feeding presentations, koala close up and handling sessions and 90 minute guided nocturnal wildlife tours. *Mount Lofty Summit Road, Crafers.*

German Model Train Land

Another very German collectors tradition of wooden model trains and villages. The elaborate model railway will delight boys of all ages. *47 Main Street.*

Hahndorf Academy

This is a museum and art gallery, with works by Sir Hans Heyson, a popular Australian artist and former Hahndorf resident. *68 Main Street.*

Hahndorf Farm Barn

At this unique farm you can hold, touch and feed the animals. Guests are free to roam around the barn and can also jump into the pens to touch and feed the many tame animals. You can hold guinea pigs and baby chickens, pat miniature horses and bottle feed lambs and goats. *Lot 100 Mount Barker Road, Hahndorf.*

Hahndorf Hill Winery

Lot 10 Pains Road, *Hahndorf.*

Petaluma Winery

Located just before you reach Hahndorf, coming from Adelaide, is the stone Bridgewater Mill. This historic mill commenced operation in 1860 and has been restored and is now part of the Petaluma Winery. There is wine tasting available here as well as a restaurant. *Mt Barker Road.*

Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary

This native wildlife sanctuary was established in 1969, it is home to 100 species of birds and native mammals and is situated a short drive from Hahndorf. There are animal shows, self guided walks and nocturnal tours. *Stock Road*

Kangaroo Island

Kangaroo Island is Australia's third largest Island and is located 113km southwest of Adelaide. The untouched scenery, beautiful coastline and abundance of native animals draws tourists by the thousands. Kangaroo Island is considered to be a holiday resort, but is more suited to holidaymaker's who like camping, hiking and swimming.

There are several flights a day from Adelaide to Kangaroo Island. There are also ferry trips that leave from Cape Jervis, located 1.5 hours from Adelaide, the crossing takes an hour.

Beaches

There are plenty of swimming opportunities on the island. Safe family swimming can be found at Little Brownlow Beach in front of the town yacht club. There is also a popular rockbound seawater pool to swim in. American Beach, Browns Beach and Island Beach offer more sand and surf, but are unpatrolled and shouldn't be swum in alone. Pennington Bay is a long white sandy beach that is more accessible and popular with surfers. Snelling Beach is a good swimming and fishing beach. Western River Cove is the last beach before the parks begin and has a footbridge leading to a sandy cove.

Cape Willoughby Lighthouse

At the end of Willoughby Road and 25km from Penneshaw is this old lighthouse that sits on the exposed cliffs of the headland. The lighthouse keepers cottages are now available for holiday accommodation.

Hope Cottage

This 1850's building plays host to historical displays on maritime history, families and newspapers from the area. *Centenary Avenue*.

Memorial Park

This park is close to the city centre of Kingscote and on the seafront. It's a great area to BBQ and picnic in.

Penneshaw

This is a small township on the island and home to the ferry terminal. The fairy penguins of Kangaroo Is and can be seen doing there evening stroll from here. There is also a sandy beach to swim in and relax on.

Reeves Point Historic Site

This is the sight at which South Australia officially began in 1836. Remnants of the old cemetery are still here and the states oldest introduced tree still bears fruit here, it's a mulberry and was planted in 1836.

Mintaro

Mintaro is in the Clare Valley and now a State Heritage Area. See Mintaro Cottage Garden, Mintaro Slate Quarries and Mintaro Garden Maze which kids will love. To the south of Mintaro is Martindale Hall and Georgian Mansion built by Edmund Bowman in 1879.

Mount Gambier

This busy commercial centre is the midpoint between Melbourne and Adelaide. Mount Gambier is a thriving city located just over the Victorian border into South Australia, and is built upon the slopes of a 5,000 year old volcano. The city is known for its crater lakes, the largest being the mysteriously colored Blue Lake.

Blue Lake

This lake is such a popular tourist destination that often Mount Gambier's name gets changed to Blue Lake City by the tourists that have visited here. For most of the year the lake is a dull grey but for some undefined reason it changes to a vivid blue from November to March. It is also known as the bottomless lake due to its depth being 80metres.

Cave Garden

Right in the middle of the city is an underground cave that is surrounded by rose gardens and lawned area.

Engelbrecht Cave

The Engelbrecht cave is under the city and can be entered, there are tours every hour of this eerie underground cavern. *Jubilee Highway West.*

Lady Nelson Visitor and Discovery Centre

This centre with its large ship replica outside, gives an insight to the history and unusual geological landmarks in the region. You can pick up maps and information on tourist activities in and around Mount Gambier. *Jubilee Highway East.*

Mount Shank

This crater is a twenty minute drive from the city. It is a steep climb but the views from the top are worth it the walk.

Umpherston Sinkhole

Located three kilometres East of Mount Gambier is this large hole in the ground. There is a staircase descending to the sinkhole and the surrounds are gardens, picnic areas and BBQ's. *Jubilee Highway East*

Valley Lake

Is in the same vicinity as the blue lake but doesn't have the striking color change. However, it has lovely walks, gardens, picnic and play areas. There is also a free Wildlife park here and boardwalks that offer good viewing platforms to catch sight on the many bird species in the lake area.

Murray Bridge

As the name suggests this city is on the banks of the Murray River and located 80km from Adelaide. This is South Australia's largest river town and a great place to get involved in all types of water activities. Paddle steamers and Murray River cruises travel up and down the river for day cruises, overnights or even weekly trips. Water skiing, fishing and swimming are all popular activities in Murray Bridge.

Butterfly House

A great way to get up close and personal with these delicate insects. There are many different species and a myriad of colours. *Jervois Road.*

Captain's Cottage Museum

This museum has many displays and all sorts of memorabilia, including dolls, riverboats, machinery and model engines. *Thomas Street.*

Mypolonga

Located 8km from Murray Bridge this is a pretty place to visit as it is filled with fruit orchards and lovely picnic areas and more water based activities.

Proud Mary

This paddle boat travels slowly up and down the Murray River and is a very relaxing way to spend a holiday. Proud Mary offers 3 and 5 night cruises and leaves from Murray Bridge (08 8231 9472).

Puzzle Park

A highlight of this park is the 4.5km maze, and there are many more activities as well, including an aquarium and mini golf course. *Jervois Road.*

Nullarbor

The Eyre Highway between Norseman and Adelaide across the Nullarbor is long desert drive. Part of the road the Ninety Mile Straight is the longest straight road in the world. The name Nullarbor is a mock Latin word. Null equals no or nothing. Arbor means tree. Thus it is the plain with no trees, and you will certainly observe the truth inherent in the name. The plain is the world's largest slab of limestone. It was formed originally as a submarine plateau, which then became elevated by the forces of nature. It is riddled with caves, many linked with the sea, even a hundred kilometres inland.

To cross the Nullarbor by car, remote driving rules apply. From Adelaide take the Highway 1 to Port Nullarbor and Ceduna. Penong is the best place to stop for fuel and refreshments. The popular train journey across the Nullarbor is on the Indian Pacific.

Penong

The one and only real settlement on the Nullarbor is Penong. Located 75km west of Ceduna, Penong consists of a 24hour service station, grocery store, caravan park and of course a pub. Just up the road one km you will find the Woolshed. This 130 year old building is a museum and craft shop and is a great place to pick up an unique souvenir.

Cactus Beach

Turn off at Penong for one of Australia's best surf beaches. Surfers travel worldwide to catch a huge wave here.

Yalata Roadhouse

You will find this roadhouse if you just look for the gumtrees. Owned by Aboriginals you can see indigenous art and crafts and purchase them if you like. There is also budget accommodation here as well.

Head of Bight

Located 12km of the highway you can view the 80m high Bunda Cliffs, which join the coastline that meet up with the Eyre Peninsula. This is also a whale watching sight from June to October

Port Augusta

Port Augusta is known as the site of the crossroads of Australia. Located on the fringe of Australia's outback in South Australia, it is the junction of the major routes to Darwin, Perth, Adelaide and Sydney. Port Augusta ia also the home of the unusual air bases, School of the Air and the Royal Flying Doctor Service, a must for outback families due to the remoteness of the vast outback region. Port Augusta was established in 1852 as a wool port, now it main industries are the transporting of goods and services to the isolated residents of the outback, and to supply electricity to most of South Australia.

Arid lands Botanic Gardens

The Arid lands Botanic Gardens has a combination of native flora displays as well as bushwalking trails. You can enjoy some wonderful views of the Flinder's Ranges whilst enjoying a coffee in the café.

Fountain Gallery

Located next door to the Wadlata Outback Centre, this is a venue for touring art exhibitions, including many Aboriginal artists and their works.

Homestead Park Pioneer Museum

This museum has displays of the pioneering days of the area and the machinery used to start the settlement. *Elsie Street.*

Wadlata Outback Centre

This centre explains the geological history of the area, Aboriginal beliefs and the early European treks through the outback region. *Flinders Terrace*.

Port Lincoln

Port Lincoln sits on Boston Bay which is one of the world's largest natural harbours. This port is Australia's largest tuna fishing area and also has a thriving grain, wheat and sheep industry. The bay draws tourists for its water based activities that include swimming, surfing and most water sports. Port Lincoln also has a reputation for being the home of the great white shark as they seem to enjoy living in the waters here.

Apex Wheelhouse

This restored tuna boat has displays and a history lesson on the tuna industry that the town is so famous for. *Hindmarsh Street*.

Boston Island

Captained Flinders discovered this island and thought it to be perfect for sheep farming. The island can be accessed by day cruises from Tasman Terrace.

Dangerous Reef

Famous for the filming of the underwater scenes in the movie 'Jaws' this reef has plenty of real sharks to view. There is an underwater viewing platform here, which has a natural aquarium and a dive cage. Charters for diving and shark viewing tours leave from here as well if you feel more adventurous.

Lincoln National Park

Located 13km south of Port Lincoln is this popular national park. There are many bushwalks and trails to explore as well as camping facilities.

Whalers Way

Located south of Port Lincoln, this park has some of the best rugged coastline, with plenty of walks, caves and beaches to explore. It is a privately run park and there is an entrance fee.

Port Pirie

Port Pirie is considered to be an important Port in South Australia as it is the closest to Broken Hill. Port Pirie has a smelter that treats all of the metals that come from the Broken Hills mines and then exports them to other countries. Port Pirie is located 210km from Adelaide and is close to the Flinders Ranges.

Bundaleer Forest Reserve

Located between Port Pirie and Jamestown, this is the area for South Australia's first government forest plantation. There are walks through here, picnic areas and a look out tower.

Carn Brae

One of Port Pirie's fancier homesteads has a well preserved turn of the century feel. A highlight is the porcelain doll display that numbers 2,500. *Florence Street.*

Port Pirie National Trust Museum

Housed within three of the town's oldest building, the railway station, customs house and the police station, this museum has relics connected with the town's past including scale models of the lead smelters, the railway station and the docking areas. *Old Ellen Street.*

Solomontown Jetty

This is an ideal swimming location as well as a playground and picnic area.

Robe

Robe is situated on the southern tip of Guichen Bay and is a popular tourist destination for South Australians and Victorians. Robe's lovely beaches and crystal clear waters make it a perfect place for Summer water activities.

Little Dip Conservation Park

This small coastal strip offers lovely walks taking in coastline, cliffs and lakes. If you want to walk 2km take in the Freshwater Lake walk, and if you would prefer a 5km walk try the Big Dip and Lake Eliza walk. If you are into night walking you will sight wombats, possums and wallabies here.

Long Beach

This great surf, windsurfing and swimming beach stretches for 17km along Guichen Bay. The beach can be accessed by four wheel drive and driven along in Summer.

National Trust Museum

Located in the old Custom's House, this museum tell the history of Robe and South Australia (08 8768 2419).

Robe Historical Interpretation Centre

This building a also houses the library and provides details on all of Robe's activities, sights, walks and tourist information. *Smillie Street.*

Simpson Desert

The Simpson Desert is the largest parallel dune desert in the world with numerous dunes some reaching 50 metres. Travel is very difficult and you need to be self sufficient and be using a well equipped 4WD.

Victor Harbor

Located on Encounter Bay and only 83km from Adelaide is the very popular holiday destination, Victor Harbor. Victor Harbor's headland is stunning, the 100m high Bluff and Granite Island do their best to keep the wild Southern Ocean from damaging the harbor. Victor Harbor is well known for it's whaling history and the Southern Right Whales still cause a great stir when they pass by in Winter.

Beaches

Victor Harbor is very popular in Summer for it's lovely beaches. The safest swimming can be done near the pier to Granite Island. Oliver's Reef is good for snorkeling and Chiton Rocks is good for surfing. Waitpinga and Parsons are two beautiful long sandy beaches that are located in Newland Head Conservation Park which is 15km west of Victor Harbor.

Cockle Train

This is the best way to view the bay and esplanade area of Victor Harbor. This little steam train runs between Victor Harbor and Goolwa with a lot of the track running by the sea.

Granite Island

This island is linked to the shore by a long jetty and a great way to get here is on the horse drawn tram. If you are lucky, in Summer and at dusk, fairy penguins by the hundreds can be spotted making their way back home.

Museum of Historical Art

If you are into shells, rocks, coins, firearms, medals and miniature cars, they can all be viewed here in this interesting museum. *Yankalilla Road.*

Nagawooka Flora Reserve

Native Australian plants and trees cover this one hectare park, making it a pleasant place to walk through.

South Australian Whale Centre

The history of Victor Harbor's whaling background is displayed here as well as everything you wanted to know about their favorite whales, the Southern Rights. *Railway Terrace.*

Urimbirra Wildlife Park

This open range wildlife park has most of Australia's native animals, as well as some other exotic breeds. A highlight is the nocturnal house. The park is located 5km from Victor Harbor. *Adelaide Road.*

Yorke Peninsula

The Yorke Peninsula is North West of Adelaide. A boot shaped peninsula which is very fertile and produces significant amounts of grain. The main towns are Wallaroo, Moonta and Kadina, and the Innes National Park. Other towns are Ardrossan; Port Victoria is on the western side of the peninsula known for being the home of the windjammers. Minlaton, in the middle of the peninsula and is a centre for the barley, wheat and grazing industries. Edithburgh has a beach and a Flora Park. Yorketown in the centre of the peninsula and was an area for salt production.

Innes National Park

Innes National Park covers 9,141 hectares and offers coastal scenery, named after William Innes, who discovered gypsum in this area in the 1890s. There are many shipwrecks popular with divers. Innes National Park is situated at the southernmost tip of the Yorke Peninsula. It has stunning coastlines, popular bushwalks and shipwrecks to explore. Innes National Park is perfect for water activities due to its crystal clear water, colourful marine life and good fishing holes.

Kadina

Kadina is the largest town on the Yorke Peninsula.

Matta House Museum

Located 1.5km south of Kadina contains historical exhibits of the mining days of the district. Moonta Road

Banking and Currency Museum

If you are interested in viewing every Australian currency ever minted, this is the place to visit. Graves Street.

Wallaroo Mines

Located one kilometre west of Kadina you can go on a walking tour of an old mining site. Wallaroo Road.

Moonta

Moonta was once the richest of the three mining towns in the area and therefore the most popular. There are plenty of old buildings to explore here.

Moonta Mines Museum

Located in the former school house this museum has displays of mining life. Next door is a restored minor's cottage.

Wallaroo

Once the main port for exporting millions of tons of copper ore to overseas destinations, Wallaroo now ships wheat and barley from it's port. Wallaroo has good swimming, boating and fishing facilities.

The Welsh Chimney Stack

This unusual landmark in the town is made up of 300,000 bricks.

Wallaroo Nautical Museum

Located in the former post office, this museum displays of maritime history as well as local history displays.

Tasmania

Tasmania is by far the smallest of the six Australian states, only the Australian Capital Territory occupying less space. It is also the only island state or territory. Tasmania has an area of 68,400 square kilometres. It is less than a third of the size of the next smallest state, its neighbour Victoria, and it represents a little less than one per cent of the total Australian land mass. Tasmania has a population of 500,000, of which 200,000 live in Hobart, the capital.

The history of the island of Tasmania goes back a long way. It was originally a part of the Australian mainland, but was cut off by rising waters some 12,000 years ago. Aborigines had already been living here for 10,000 to 15,000 years, and, as they became isolated from their relatives on the other side of the water, they and their culture developed in different ways.

The first European known to have visited was Abel Tasman. He sighted the west coast at 16:00 on 24th November 1642, but did not appreciate that it was an island separate from the main Australian continent. It was he who gave it the name of Van Diemen's Land, Van Diemen being the Governor-General of the Dutch East India Company in Batavia (Jakarta), which had commissioned this voyage of exploration.

The island was renamed Tasmania in 1856. Tasmania was also visited by Marion du Fresne (French) in 1772, Tobias Furneaux (British) in 1773, James Cook (British) in 1777, William Bligh (British) in 1788 and 1792 and Bruni d'Entrecasteaux (French) in 1792. For Cook it was his last visit before he sailed to meet his death in Hawaii, and for Bligh it was his last stop before sailing to Tahiti, after which the infamous mutiny on the *Bounty* occurred. In 1798 George Bass and Matthew Flinders circumnavigated Tasmania and proved it to be an island, also naming the Bass Strait which separates Tasmania from Victoria.

The first European settlement of Tasmania was in 1803, and Hobart dates from 1804. Thus, of all the Australian states, only New South Wales has a longer history of European settlement than Tasmania.

Some of the fiercest clashes between Europeans and aborigines occurred in Tasmania and resulted in the virtual extermination of the aboriginal peoples of this state. They succumbed to European diseases as well as to physical oppression and in 1832 it was decided to move the remnants of the indigenous peoples to Flinders Island, off the north-eastern coast of Tasmania. However, they were poorly sheltered and cared for there and the decline in numbers continued. In 1847, the survivors were returned to Oyster Cove, near Hobart, but by 1876, the last of the group, the famed Trugannini, had perished, to end a dismal chapter in the history of colonisation.

This depth of history here in Tasmania is not always appreciated by visitors to Australia, who often by-pass this small state, especially as it is an island which is rather expensive to reach. It is well worth the effort, however, for Tasmania has a beauty of its own and an

atmosphere quite different from the rest of Australia. Its climate is unpredictable, but tends to be damper than in most other states, resulting in great tracts of pristine forests and, at times, raging rivers. It is a popular area for walking, and the Overland Track between Cradle Mountain and Lake St. Clair, in particular, is one of the world's most famous treks.

In recent years there has been considerable opposition to policies which have included the extensive logging of irreplaceable virgin forest in Tasmania and the flooding of forested valleys for the purpose of hydro-electric schemes when the state already has more than enough electricity to satisfy all its needs.

To reach Tasmania, one may either fly or take a ferry. Flights operate from Melbourne to Hobart, Launceston, Devonport and Burnie, and from Sydney to Hobart and Launceston. There is also a weekly service from Adelaide to Launceston. Island Airlines operates flights from Melbourne and Traralgon to Launceston via Flinders Island, which will give an additional interesting stop. Note, however, that Island Airlines flies from Essendon Airport, not from the principal Melbourne Airport at Tullamarine.

The main ferry service now consists of two vessels, Spirit of Tasmania I and Spirit of Tasmania II, one of which sails every night from Melbourne to Devonport. At peak times there are additional daytime sailings. These are large ships which are comfortable and reasonably fast. The crossing takes approximately ten hours. There is also a Devil Cat fast catamaran service which takes six hours from Melbourne to George Town, north of Launceston.

Travel within Tasmania is by bus. There used to be a daily passenger rail service between Smithton and Hobart via Launceston, but it was abandoned many years ago now, just as the Hobart suburban rail services were also eliminated. There are two principal bus companies, TassieLink and Tasmanian Redline.

Burnie

Burnie is a favourite holiday destination in Tasmania as it is located on Emu Bay. Burnie's main industry is paper and is known to be Australia's largest papermaker, with the mill in the town. Burnie is also a popular seaport and it is located 326km northwest of Hobart.

Burnie Park

Burnie's oldest building can be found in this park, it is known as the Burnie Inn and was built in 1847. There is also a creek the runs by the park and plenty of green picnic areas and shady spots here. *North Terrace*.

Creative Paper

This papermaking operation offers tours that cover the whole process of papermaking, and also allows everyone to have a go at making their own paper.

Fern Glade

Located 2km from the township is this pretty reserve that the Emu River flows through. Visits at dawn or dusk offer the highlight of seeing platypus in their natural habitat.

Guide Falls

Located 10km south of Burnie, these falls can be quite spectacular if the rain has been falling, there are also some lovely gardens nearby to visit and stroll through.

Pioneer Village Museum

As the name states this is replica of a 1890's pioneer village, with the main street lined with the traditional blacksmith, boot maker and bakery shops. There is also a collection of antique wedding gowns on display here. *Wilmot Street*.

Regional Art Gallery

Located in the Civic Centre Precinct on Wilmot Street, this gallery has a mix of historical and contemporary art works as well as good traveling exhibitions.

Cradle Mountain

Cradle Mountain is Tasmania's most famous landmark. The top of this jagged mountain is only visible about 30 days of the year, the rest of the time its peak sits in a cloudy sky. Lake St Clair National Park is located at the northern end of the mountain and is very popular for its short and long walking tracks.

Lake St Clair

Lake St Clair is bordered by, glaciers, mountain ranges and shoreline. It is known to be the deepest lake in Australia. Walks can be done to the Lake but the other way to view it is to take a ferry from Cynthia Bay to Narcissus Bay. Another option is to take the ferry one way and walk back to Cynthia Bay, this walk could take 5 to 7 hours. From this area you can walk to the summit of Mount Rufus which will give a great view of most of the National Park

Mount Ossa

This is Tasmania's highest point and is located in the centre of the National Park

Overland Track

This is one of Australia's, and the world's, best walking trails. The track links Cradle Mountain with Lake St Clair and covers an 85km route. The walk will take between 5 and 10 days, through the most amazing landscapes. The varying terrain includes flat grass plains, high alpine plateaus, rainforests, glacial lakes, icy crags and waterfalls. There are

many guided walks that last from one day to the full eight day trek. *Tasmanian Expeditions, Cradle Mountain Huts.*

Walls of Jerusalem National Park

This high alpine area contains 4000 lakes alone. It is a very exposed and harsh landscape and only recommended to experienced walkers. A detailed map would be needed to even attempt a short walk, 4-5 hours, or there are three day guided tours through this area.

Tasman Bush Tours

Devonport

Devonport is the third largest city in Tasmania and the arrival port of the Bass Strait ferry service from the mainland. Devonport has beaches, bush reserves and headlands that includes the Mersey Bluff with a lighthouse on top.

Devonport is where the Spirit of Tasmania I and II dock after their crossing from Melbourne . The Spirit of Tasmania vessels sail every night between Melbourne and Devonport and in the peak summer season there are additional daylight sailings.

Devonport Gallery and Art Centre

This gallery is housed in the former Baptist Church and features displays by Tasmanian artists. *Stewart Street.*

Don River Railway

The Don River Railway has a large collection of vintage steam trains, you can even go for a ride on one.

Latrobe

This small historic town is located twenty minutes from Devonport. This quaint little village is full of antique shops, craftwares, cafes and bakeries.

Lillico Beach

Located six kilometres west of Devonport, a feature of this beach are the Fairy Penguin colonies

Maritime Museum

This maritime museum has displays of maritime significance in the area and historical displays. *Gloucester Avenue.*

Mersey Bluff

Not only is this a magnificent headland but it ia also home to **Tiagarra**, the Aboriginal arts centre. Here you can learn the history of the Tasmanian Aboriginals right back to 23,000 years ago. A must see is the original native rock art that is found on a coastal track near the centre.

Port Sorell

Located just east of Devonport and lying on the Rubicon Estuary. This port was once a ship building centre and is the oldest Tasmanian town on the north west coast. There are still many historical buildings to view here.

Flinders Island

Flinders Island is part of a group of 55 islands called the Furneaux Archipelago which are located off Tasmania's northeastern tip. Flinders Island is the largest and has the gruesome reputation for being the site of the massacre of Tasmania's Aborigines. However, now the island is known for its beautiful unspoiled coastline and wilderness areas. People who holiday here can expect to do plenty of fishing, hiking, scuba diving and camping. There are only two settlements on Flinders Island; Whitemark is near the airstrip and the main commercial centre; and on the south coast Lady Barron, located on Adelaide Bay.

Emita Museum

Located on the west side is this museum detailing everything you need to know about the local shipwrecks and maritime history on and off the island

Muttonbird Rookery

Located at Settlement Point which is on the west coast of Flinders Island is this viewing platform to observe the muttonbirds coming home to nest at dusk.

Strzelecki National Park

Here you will find a treasure trove of pristine coastlines, bushwalks and trails, and a good hike to the top of the summit.

Hobart

Hobart is the second oldest capital city in Australia and sits between Mt Wellington and the Derwent estuary. Hobart was declared in 1812 and made the capital of Van Diemen's Land. Hobart developed as a whaling port and as a centre of ship building.

Downtown Hobart is around Sullivans Cove on the Derwent River, a busy area for ships of all sizes. And the end point of the famous Sydney to Hobart sailing race held every January.

Places

Alexandra Battery

Alexandra Battery is near the Shot Tower. It was built in 1885 to defend Hobart from possible invasion, and was named in honour of Princess Alexandra of Denmark. It has fine views over the Derwent River.

Anglesea Barracks

Anglesea Barracks is the oldest military headquarters still occupied in Australia. The Barracks were ordered by Governor Macquarie in 1811 and are still used by the military. *Davey Street.*

Battery Point

This was one of the first areas of Hobart to be settled and it contains some stately colonial housing, now mostly used as up-market accommodation or as restaurants.

Cenotaph

The Cenotaph is a prominent monument, on a hill overlooking Macquarie Point and the Yacht Club.

General Post Office

The magnificent General Post Office is in the heart of Hobart. It was from this building on 8th March 1912 that Roald Amundsen sent his telegram to confirm to the world that he had indeed reached the South Pole and returned safely.

Franklin Square

In the centre of Hobart, diagonally opposite the Tasmanian Travel and Information Centre on the corner of Davey and Elizabeth Streets, is Franklin Square, with Sir John Franklin standing at its centre. He was Governor of Van Diemen's Land from 1837 until 1843, and was also a polar explorer. He perished while trying to locate the North-West Passage. Hobart has a long association with Antarctic exploration, being the closest Australian city to the southernmost continent, so you will also find in this square photographs of the 1898 - 1900 Antarctic Expedition led by Carstens Borchgrevink. This was the first expedition to spend a winter in Antarctica. The members are pictured paying their respects to Sir John Franklin in this spot upon their return to Hobart in April 1900. One member, the physicist Louis Bernacchi, was from Hobart.

International Wall of Friendship

The International Wall of Friendship is at the Commonwealth Government Centre providing a tribute to the migrants who have settled in Tasmania. *188 Collins Street, Hobart.*

Kelly's Steps

Leading up from Salamanca Place is a flight of steps. These are Kelly's Steps, built in 1839 by the adventurer James Kelly to connect Salamanca Place with Battery Point. They lead into Kelly Street.

Old Hobart Gaol

In the northern part of the city is Old Hobart Gaol, with its Penitentiary Chapel. This was constructed in 1831, and later, part of it was converted into law courts. The Chapel continued in use until 1961 and the Courts were used until 1983. There are underground passages, cells for solitary confinement and an execution yard.

Parliament House

Parliament House is adjacent to Salamanca Place. It was designed by the famous convict architect John Lee Archer as a customs house and built by convicts between 1835 and 1840. Only when self-government was granted in 1856 did it become the home of the Tasmanian Parliament. There is a museum on the ground floor and a popular lawn outside in Parliament Square.

Penitentiary Chapel Historic Site

A collection of redbrick buildings which are some of the oldest in Tasmania. The Penitentiary Chapel was completed in 1835 and used for compulsory church services for convicts. Corner of Brisbane and Campbell Streets.

Runnymede

Runnymede is a stately home built in about 1836 and now restored by the National Trust. *61 Bay Road, New Town.*

Salamanca Place

Salamanca Place consists of a splendid row of Georgian sandstone warehouses dating back to the 1830s, now converted into cafes, craft shops, galleries and restaurants.

Shot Tower

The Shot Tower was built in 1870 and, of course, its purpose was the manufacture of lead shot by the process of dropping molten lead from a height so that it would form spherical pellets and solidify before hitting the ground. The tower is 48 metres high. It is no longer used for the manufacture of lead shot, but offers a good lookout over the city. *Channel Highway about 10 km south of Hobart.*

St. David's Cathedral

The building of St. David's Cathedral, commenced in 1868, the handsome edifice being the work of George Bodley. It is generally thought to be his best creation outside England. There is a small museum in the cloisters. *125 Macquarie Street.*

Tasman Bridge

The Tasman Bridge lies a little over one kilometre north of the city centre. It was the scene of a disaster when, at 9.27pm on 5th January 1975, the bulk ore carrier Lake Illawarra crashed into one of the piers and brought down a 127-metre section of the bridge. Four vehicles were on the section at the time and the five people in those vehicles died, together with seven crew members of the Lake Illawarra. Two cars were left suspended precariously over the gap in the bridge, but their occupants escaped.

Yacht Club

The Yacht Club, just north of the city centre, is where the famous Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race finishes.

Fun Places**Alpenrail**

Alpenrail consists of a model Swiss village and railway and is located in the north of the city not far from the Cadbury factory. *82 Abbotsfield Road, West Claremont.*

Antarctic Adventure

Experience the Antarctic with displays of the fauna and flora, geology and history. The displays bring the Antarctic to life and includes visits to a field camp, experience sub zero temperatures, ski in a blizzard and see live images from the Australian Antarctic Base. *Salamanca Square.*

Cascade Brewery

The Cascade Brewery is Australia's oldest brewery, founded in 1824, and is another example of splendid nineteenth century architecture, especially as it stands against the backdrop of Mt. Wellington. There is a small museum here and outside there are some fine gardens, with tours available. *140 Cascade Road.*

Cadbury Factory

North of the city is the Cadbury Factory, established in 1921. This factory uses over a million litres of milk a week. Tours are available. *Cadbury Road.*

Maritime Museum of Tasmanian

A collection of maritime memorabilia and other items to illustrate Tasmanian maritime history. *Corner of Davey Street and Argyle Street.*

Mercury Print Museum

The Mercury is Hobart's newspaper, dating from 5th January 1854, and the Mercury Print Museum is in Ingle Hall on the corner of Macquarie and Argyle Streets. The museum adjoins the newspaper's main printing operation. It is housed in a fine old Georgian building dating from somewhere between 1811 and 1814 and probably owned originally by a man named Edward Lord who sold it to his friend John Ingle in 1831. For three years from 1846, it was the site of the Hutchins School for Boys. Around the turn of the century it was a 'coffee palace' and later it became a boarding house, before being purchased by the Mercury in 1962.

Narryna Heritage Museum

Narryna Heritage Museum is housed in one of the early Hobart colonial homes, dating from 1836. It now contains a collection of furniture, china, paintings and fine arts. *103 Hampden Road.*

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery has a collection of fauna, gemstones, sea life and modern Australian art. *40 Macquarie Street.*

Tasmanian Distillery and Museum

At the point in Davey Street where it curves round to join Macquarie Street, you will find the Tasmanian Distillery and Museum. Sullivans Cove Whisky is produced here, in what was formerly the Gasworks. Tours operate continuously and discounted products are available in the shop. Another part of the Gasworks, you will observe, has been converted into a high-class hotel, while other areas serve as restaurants and shops.

Tasmanian Transport Museum

The Tasmanian Transport Museum is in the former New Town Station, containing a display on the history of Tasmanian Railways. There are also steam and diesel locomotives and railcars, trams, buses and trolley-buses. *Anfield Street, Glenorchy.*

Parks

Bororong Wildlife Park

Animals from around Tasmania can be seen and heard here. *Brighton.*

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens are within walking distance, about two kilometres north of the city centre. There is a path running beside the railway which leads to the lower entrance to the gardens and which will avoid walking along the main road. These gardens were established in 1818, only two years after Australia's first botanical gardens in Sydney, and they are some of the most pleasant gardens in the country.

St. David's Park

St. David's Park was once a graveyard and there are still tombstones dotted about it which make interesting reading. Considering its proximity to the city centre, it is a very pleasant little park in which to relax for a few minutes. *Corner of Sandy Bay Road and Davey Street.*

Wild Places

Mount Nelson

Mount Nelson is where the Signal Station was built in 1811 to announce the arrival of any ships sighted. It was linked with other signal stations, so that a message could be passed between here and Port Arthur within twenty minutes. Inside the tiny old Station building, you can learn the codes used for the signals. There is an excellent view from here and a tearoom is available. There is also a walking track, so that you can, if you wish, take the bus up its twisting route and return on foot down the slopes of the mountain.

Mt. Wellington

One of the great sights of Hobart is the view from the top of Mt. Wellington. Mt. Wellington rises to a height of 1,270 metres and provides a magnificent backdrop to the city of Hobart. At the top of the mountain it is generally cool, if not cold. One problem with this excursion is that it is often misty up there too, so try to pick a good day. The view on a fine day is truly magnificent. The whole of Hobart and the Derwent Estuary lie spread below you.

Queenstown

You could be forgiven for thinking that you had stepped onto another planet when you first come across Queenstown, located 260km west of Hobart. The barren, bald hills are the result of the copper mining that was done here over 73 years. The sulphurous residue from the Mount Lyall Copper Mine stripped the earth of everything living and left a grey and brown sludge over the surrounding hills and plains.

Abt Railway

This railway was constructed in the 1890's and connected Queenstown to Strahan, for the purpose of transporting the ore. It is now used as a scenic railway that uses steam or diesel locomotives to travel the 35km track. The track travels through rainforest and gives good views of the Queen and King rivers, there are several scenic stops along the way.

Gallery Museum

This museum displays the strong mining history of Queenstown and it's very unusual geology. Located in the former Imperial Hotel, it contains relics and memorabilia over two levels. *Corner Driffied and Sticht Streets.*

Lake Burbury

Located just east of Queenstown there are still some forms of natural vegetation to be found. At the summit near the lake is Mount Jukes which can be climbed and the Darwin Dam at the lakes southern end is a popular fishing hole for catching trout.

Miner's Siding

This is a display dedicated to the miners of Queenstown. There is a mining pictorial of copper sculptures and an old steam locomotive that once transported the copper on display as well.

Mount Lyall Copper Mine

This mine operated for over 73 years in Queenstown and it is responsible for the amazing landscapes that surround the town. Tours are conducted of the surface area of the mine and the history of the mine and it's workings are explained

King Island

King Island is surrounded by some of the roughest seas in Australia, as it is located in the heart of the Bass Strait. This island is the main one in the Hunter Group Islands and is located midway between Victoria and Tasmania. The only way for passengers to access King Island is by air, even though ships do dock here there are no provisions for passenger ferries. King Island is an important navigational point for ships, and its lighthouse has saved many a ship from smashing on the rocks here. King Island is a popular tourist destination due to its peaceful outlook, long sandy beaches and rare isolation from the mainlands. The main town is Currie, which is located on the west coast and is popular for its fishing harbour. Grassy, a former mining town is located on the southeast coast, with Naracoopa on the east coast is a lovely seaside town.

Lavinia Nature Reserve

Located in the Northwest, this bird life sanctuary houses many rare and beautiful birds.

The King Island Dairy

King Island cheeses are known world wide, and they produce award winning blue cheeses. The factory is located here and there are cheese tasting and sales outlets here as well. The dairy is located nine kilometres north of Currie. *North Road, Loorana*

Shipwreck Trail

The amount of ships wrecked on this treacherous strait is astonishing. There is a shipwreck trail walk pointing out some of the 70 shipwrecks sites. There are diving tours of the wrecks which are very popular with the tourists.

King Island Historical Museum

This museum has displays and stories of some of the tragic shipwrecks and is housed in the former lighthouse keeper's cottage.

Cape Wickham Lighthouse

This is King Island's main and most important lighthouse. It is Australia's tallest lighthouse and was built in 1861 and has kept a hectic schedule since it began watching over the Bass Strait.

Yarra Creek Gorge

King Island has some good native trails and bushwalks, this gorge has some good walks with the likelihood of seeing wildlife quite high. The fern gullies are popular swimming holes for platypus.

Launceston

Launceston is the second largest city in Tasmania and is on the north of Tasmania on the Tamar River. Launceston was first settled in 1805, which makes it Australia's third oldest city, and can be found 200km north of Hobart.

Aquarius Roman Baths

These baths of varying temperatures are a great way to chill out. The decor is very Roman including the marble columns and statues. You can also indulge in spa treatments and massages here. *George Street.*

Cataract Gorge Reserve

This spectacular gorge was believed to be formed by an earthquake 40 million years ago. Many walking trails cut through the gorge with most leading to First Basin, which is a deep water pool. It is here you will be able to explore the Interpretation Centre, swimming pool and tearooms. An exciting way to view the gorge is on the chairlift that is 300 metres long and ends at Cliff Grounds.

Penny Royal World

This fun park on the north end of Cataract Gorge, has displays of machinery from the 1800's, a watermill, candy factory and a paddlesteamer that you can cruise up the Tamar river on.

Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery

This museum has a bit of everything to interest everyone. From it's planetarium, to it's fine collection of porcelain and colonial paintings. *Wellington Street.*

Trevallyn State Recreation Area

This 400 hectare park is bordered by three sides of the Esk River and is close to the city centre. There are several walks here, a lookout, a dam and horseback riding and hang gliding activities.

Port Arthur

Port Arthur is one of most tangible relics of the convict system in Australia. Port Arthur itself is near the southern tip of the Tasman Peninsula. Port Arthur was used for those convicts who had committed further offences in Australia. In 1877 the prison was closed. Named after Lieutenant-Governor Arthur, it began life in 1830 as a timber station. In 1833 it became a secondary punishment male prison settlement.

As you enter the visitor centre at the Port Arthur Historic Site, you are sentenced to transportation and emerge in Port Arthur. Each visitor is expected to follow the history on

one convict. Within the grounds are prison buildings and homes of those operating the prison. Combined with the walk are boat tours that cruise past the Isle of the Dead.

One-day tours from Hobart are available from a variety of companies, or, if you wish to make your own way, TassieLink operates a bus from Hobart to here every weekday afternoon. In addition, there are services on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings in summer.

Along the route, a point of great interest is Eaglehawk Neck, which really is worth stopping for. If you go to Port Arthur with a tour, you will usually have the opportunity to look at the scenery here. In convict times, this is where soldiers and dogs guarded the Tasman Peninsula to ensure that escape from Port Arthur was almost impossible. At this point the isthmus is only one hundred metres across. A chain was run across and dogs tied to the chain. Then, since the only possible escape route was via the sea, a rumour was circulated that the waters were infested with sharks. Even so, in 1843 the bushranger Martin Cash and two of his friends did manage to escape from here.

Now, though, the point of interest is not the dogs, but the natural scenery. There are four natural wonders here within the space of a few hundred metres. They are labelled the Tasman Arch, a natural bridge across which one can walk; the Devil's Kitchen, where the waves rush in through a narrow gap producing a cauldron of churning water at the foot of a deep enclosed chasm; the Blowhole; and the Tessellated Pavement, caused by wave action. The scale of these natural phenomena is most impressive. There are also walks, and the Officers' Quarters from the convict days remain, now used as a small museum. There is accommodation available here, including a backpackers hostel.

Port Arthur had become almost self-sufficient by the 1840s, but when transportation lost favour, and new young convicts ceased to arrive in the 1850s and 1860s, that self-sufficiency was gradually lost. In 1877 the prison was closed. Thereafter buildings such as the church and penitentiary were destroyed by fire and by vandalism, and other constructions suffered from those seeking building materials. The settlement was renamed Carnarvon, but in 1927 it reverted to Port Arthur. In 1979, the state and federal governments decided to spend \$9 million on restoration and development work, since when it has won many awards.

Entry is now through the Visitor Centre, newly constructed in 1999 at a cost of a further \$4.5 million, although access can also be gained at some other points around the forty-hectare enclosed site. The Centre and grounds are open from 8:30 until dusk, but certain buildings have shorter opening hours. Tours are available from 9:00 and are included in the price of admission.

Passing through the Visitor Centre, one finds oneself in the role of a nineteenth-century criminal, being sentenced to transportation and then entering the ship and emerging in Port Arthur. One is given a prisoner identity card, relating to the circumstances of an actual past prisoner, and invited to trace his history and discover what became of him. Within the grounds are approximately thirty buildings, some restored and some just ruins,

some prison buildings and some the homes of those operating the prison, or just ordinary civilians residing in the area. There is also the separate prison, for those who not only were transported convicts who had committed further offences in Australia, but had then re-offended in Port Arthur. Their punishment was a life of silence and solitary confinement. Even in church, where they were allowed to sing and pray audibly, in the hope of some propitious result, they were segregated from their fellow prisoners in individual stalls.

There is a beautifully built church, and a hospital, where, in fact, patients were well tended. There is an avenue of trees forming a memorial for those lost in the Great War. There is a Post Office and a Policeman's Residence reminding us that this was a living community after its convict days, and even during them.

The admission ticket is valid for two days and includes a harbour cruise, except during July and August. The cruise lasts for twenty minutes and shows the shipbuilding industry here, the former boys' prison at the aptly named Point Puer and, from a distance, the Isle of the Dead, the cemetery for this prison community. A detailed tour of the Isle of the Dead is offered for an additional charge.

In recent years, Port Arthur made history again, as most visitors know. On 28th April 1996, a man with a semi-automatic rifle opened fire in the cafeteria, and later elsewhere, killing 35 people and wounding a further eighteen. A mentally impaired 28-year-old from Hobart, who for months protested his innocence, was eventually tried for the murders and convicted. The 35 innocent victims are remembered in a Memorial Garden near the Visitor Centre.

There is, of course, plenty of accommodation in the vicinity of Port Arthur, since it is a tourist spot rapidly gaining in popularity. Options include a youth hostel in a beautiful former guest house built in 1890 and just outside the back entrance to the Port Arthur enclosure, but this is an option which is frequently rather crowded. There is also a Caravan Park offering a bunkroom for backpackers.

There are other sights to see in the vicinity of Port Arthur. These include Remarkable Cave, five kilometres south, and various other convict sites. Of the latter the most interesting is the Coal Mines, in the north-west of the peninsula. Coal was discovered here in 1833 and, although it was relatively low-grade coal, it gave Tasmania a degree of independence from New South Wales, from where all supplies had previously been imported. A contingent of the most refractory prisoners was sent to work these mines, in very harsh conditions, and another prisoner, one Joseph Lacey, convicted for robbery, appointed as overseer, since he had experience of mining. He proved so capable in this position that he eventually became the lessee of another colliery following his release. There are also the remains of convict 'probation stations' (outstations) at Nubeena, Premaydena, Saltwater River, Koonya and Taranna.

Richmond

Richmond is old, as more than 50 of its buildings are dated back to the early 1800's. A trip to Richmond is like stepping back in time and it is only a 30km trip from Hobart. The must see of your visit is the Richmond Bridge, which was built by the convicts in 1823. A highlight of the trip to Richmond are the lovely old fashioned tearooms, craft shops, galleries and antique stores to browse through.

Old Hobart Town

This is a scaled down replica of the Hobart of the 1800's, it was painstakingly built from the original plans of the states capital. *Bridge Street*.

Richmond Gaol

This gaol housed the convicts that built the bridge as well as many other local construction projects in Richmond. Here you can find out the history of the convicts and the impact they had on Richmond's history.

St John's Church

This church built in 1834, boasts a history of being the oldest Catholic church in Australia.

Strahan

Located on the bay of Risby Cove at the head of the huge Macquarie Harbour, is the former logging and mining town of Strahan. The town attracts thousands of visitors annually due to it's proximity to one of Tasmania's natural wonderlands, the Gordon River. Strahan is popular tourist town as it offers coastal outlooks and many fishing and watersports activities.

Hogarth Falls

This is a pretty area and a good forty minute walk from the township taking in views of the cove as you go.

Gordon River Cruises

One of the major tourist attractions of Strahan is the chance to see a true wilderness heritage area. These cruises travel to the lower reaches of the Gordon River, and offer scenic stops along the way. Some of the cruises are full day with meals included. *Gordon River Cruises, World Heritage Cruises*.

Macquarie Harbour

This is known as Tasmania's largest natural harbour and has a history of wood and coal transportation as well as being a penal colony. Now fishing fleets operate from here as well as the tour vessels that cruise up the Gordon River to the famous Wilderness World Heritage areas.

Sarah Island

This eerie island has a brutal history due to the fact that it was a penal settlement in the 1800's. Boat cruises are available to the Island.

Strahan Wharf Centre

This modern centre constructed of glass and wood houses seven fascinating murals that depict the history of Tasmania. There are many other historical displays of the local history as well. Next door is an outdoor amphitheater where a play about the plight of the Sarah Island convicts is performed in the Summer months.

Swan Basin State Reserve

Here you will find walking trails, a look out and picnic areas. Located south of Strahan near Ocean Beach.

Swansea

Swansea is a small Tasmanian town located 140km north of the capital Hobart. It has stunning views as it overlooks the Great Oyster Bay and its coastline is a popular tourist destination. The main street of Swansea is Franklin Street and it is filled with original, charming buildings that date back to the 1850's, with one Morris Store being the eldest as it was built in 1834. The Swan River flows just north of Swansea, and joins up with Nine Mile Beach. Here you can find Dolphin Sands which is a lagoon like beach. All this area is great for swimming, fishing and relaxing.

Swansea Bark Mill

This mill began operations in 1885 and is located on the Tasman Highway. Here you can see how the tannin is removed from the bark and then used to tan leather goods.

Swansea Museum

Housed in the original School house that dates back to 1860, you can find out about the history of the town and the Great Oyster Bay. *Franklin Street.*

Swansea Wine and Wool Centre

Here you can taste and purchase wine as well as buy locally made wool products. There is also a cafe here to enjoy lunch with a wine. Located in the same complex as the Bark Mill.

Freycinet National Park

This is known to be one of Australia's best national parks, with Wineglass Bay being its prettiest attraction. This perfect blue/green sea is bathed in white sand, however, as there is no car access through the park, the walk to Wineglass Bay could take 1.5 hours but is well worth the hike. The park has some great walks with the most popular being the Wineglass Bay/Hazards Beach Circuit which spans 11km and could take up to 5 hours.

The summit of Mount Amos has great views of Wineglass Bay and the peninsula and is a three hour return walk. A longer overnight walk can be done to Mount Graham.

Coles Bay

This is a popular holiday town due to it's great fishing and it's proximity to Freycinet National Park. Coles Bay has a very remote feel and you need to bring everything with you when visit as there are not many facilities to make purchases.

Victoria

In 1803, Lt. David Collins attempted, but failed, to found a settlement in Port Phillip Bay, where Melbourne now lies, and it was to be more than three decades before a further attempt was made.

In fact, the first permanent settlement in Victoria was not in Port Phillip Bay, but at Portland in the extreme west of the state. Portland dates from 1834. Port Phillip Bay was settled in the following year, 1835, by John Batman and John Fawkner, who crossed Bass Strait from Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) in order to found the city which is now Melbourne. Unlike previous settlers, Batman and Fawkner made an attempt to purchase the land from the local aborigines. At the time, the government of New South Wales was trying to discourage settlement in outlying areas, but it was soon forced to recognise the existence of a community in Port Phillip Bay and to send administrators.

The new settlement strongly resisted the introduction of convicts, although in the end some convict labour was used in the area. The settlers also requested, from an early stage, independence from New South Wales, and this was granted in 1851, when the new colony of Victoria was established.

It was at this point that gold was discovered in Bendigo, Ballarat and several other locations in Victoria, and the finds included the largest known nuggets in history. Suddenly Victoria became rich. The population of the state trebled and the new-found prosperity endured for a period of thirty years, manifesting itself even now in the form of some magnificent public buildings, both in Melbourne itself and in the gold towns. When the gold ran out in the 1890s, a period of economic depression followed, but Victoria was already so well established that Melbourne was chosen in 1901 as the venue for the temporary capital of the new Commonwealth of Australia.

In the 1950s, Victoria became a great centre for immigration, particularly by those from Italy and Greece, and Melbourne was hailed as the third largest Greek city in the world. The city still retains a great cosmopolitan flavour reflected particularly in its cuisine and in its corner shops.

Victoria is the smallest mainland state, with an area of 227,420 square kilometres. Only Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory are smaller. In terms of population, however, it is the second most populous, after New South Wales, with a population of approximately five million, which is to say that this small state contains a quarter of the total population of Australia.

Only the Australian Capital Territory is more densely populated. In fact, though, as in other states, two-thirds of the population lives in the capital city. As soon as one leaves Melbourne it is difficult to believe that this is Australia's most densely populated state. Melbourne itself is an attractive and interesting city and its trams clattering through the streets give it a sense of individual character greater than that in any of the other capitals. It also offers a line of pleasant beaches stretching round the bay. Outside the big city, the

principal scenic rural attractions are the Great Ocean Road, the Grampians, the Murray River towns, the ski areas, the fairy penguins of Phillip Island and the beaches along the coastal route to Sydney (many of which, however, lie within New South Wales).

Public transport in rural Victoria is mostly operated by V-Line. In addition, there is a suburban network of trains, trams and buses in Melbourne, and there are long-distance bus services operated by Greyhound. To complicate the situation, two of the country rail routes are, in effect, sub-let to private companies. These are the routes to Warrnambool and Shepparton, together with the onward bus connexions from Shepparton to Cobram and into New South Wales as far as Griffith.

Ballarat

Ballarat is just over 100 km north west of Melbourne and is Victoria's largest inland city. Ballarat is a former gold mining town and the heritage buildings reflect the former wealth of the city. The Welcome Nugget, the second largest gold nugget was found here by the Red Hill Mining Company in 1858 and weighed 71.3 kg. A replica sits outside the Visitor Information Centre in Sturt Street.

Ballarat Wildlife Park

Ballarat Wildlife Park is to the east of the city contains all types of Australian native wildlife including kangaroos, koalas, wombats, crocodiles, Tasmanian devils and quokkas.

Dinosaur World

Dinosaur World, a park with statues of eighteen different breeds of dinosaur. There are also a small wildlife park and a fossil museum.

Eureka Stockade Centre

This famous historical monument also displays one of the most significant uprisings in Australia's history. There are many displays and stories about Australian history. *Eureka Street*.

Sovereign Hill

Sovereign Hill is a recreation of a nineteenth century gold town, a town of living people who act out the parts. A whole day is needed to explore the township, the underground mines and olden day shops. You can even pan for gold here. *Bradshaw Street*.

Sound and Light Spectacle

The Sound and Light Spectacle entitled Blood on the Southern Cross tells the story of the Eureka Stockade Rebellion. Found at the Sovereign Hill site, there is a stunning display of sound and light in an outdoor arena. The show goes for over an hour and commences at dusk. *Bradshaw Street*.

Tangled Maze

Tangled Maze, a maze composed of flowering plants grown on trellises.

The Gold Musuem

Here you can view the gold nuggets found in this area, there are all shapes and sizes with strange names attached. A history of the golden era is also displayed here. Located opposite Sovereign Hill. *Bradshaw Street.*

Bendigo

Bendigo is an inland city in Victoria 140 km north west of Melbourne. Bendigo has Victorian architecture built during the gold rush. Gold was discovered here in 1851 and was still being dug up 100 years later. The splendid buildings in Bendigo indicate it's affluent heritage, from it's huge cathedral, imposing public buildings to it's beautiful centrepiece, The Alexandra Fountain.

Bendigo Goldfield Experience

A place to search for Gold. *Watson Street.*

Bendigo Pottery

Bendigo Pottery claims to be Australia's oldest working pottery. Here you can see how the pottery is formed and kilned and you can purchase pottery items as well. Also located here is the Living Wings and Things musuem, where you can view butterflies, birds and reptiles.

Buda Historic Home and Garden

Set high above Castlemaine and built in 1861. *42 Hunter Street, Castlemaine*

Chinese Temple

Joss House, the Chinese Temple consists of the Temple itself, the caretaker's house and the Ancestral Hall.

Central Deborah Gold Mine

Tour the Gold mine. *76 Violet Street, Bendigo*

Discovery Centre

Next to the Railway Station and is a high-technology science museum. *7 Railway Place*

Bendigo Art Gallery

The Bendigo Art Gallery is a large gallery with changing displays. *42 View Street*

Golden Dragon Museum

The Golden Dragon Museum is a history of the Chinese people from when they first arrived in 1850. *5 – 11 Bridge Street*

Bright

Bright is southeast of Wangaratta on the Great Alpine Road. In winter an entry point for the ski resorts of Mount Hotham and Falls Creek. Skis can be rented here as an alternative to the resorts. Chains also, which will be needed in the winter to drive up to the resorts. There are many scenic walks and bike ride trails here as well.

Art Gallery and Cultural Centre

This gallery offers three exhibition spaces and displays artworks by up and coming artists as well as cultural displays. *28 Mountbatten Avenue.*

Hang Gliding

In the summer Bright is popular for hang gliding and paragliding due to the thermal currents in the valley.

Mount Buffalo National Park

This stunning National Park is only a short drive from aBright and features sheer cliffs, waterfalls and walking tracks that come with amazing views.

Rail Trail

This section of unused railway track has been converted to a popular trail ride. The track goes for 94km from Bright to Wangaratta.

Castlemaine

Castlemaine is in the Victoria Goldfield region and a town of charm, small shops and cafes. The Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical museum has a good collection of Australian art. Castlemaine Buda Historic Home was built in 1857 by a retired Indian Arm Colonel and has 19th Century gardens. Castlemaine market opened in 1862 and now features a craft and antiques market. Close by is the town of Maldon equally historic.

Dandenong

The Dandenong Ranges are 40 km from Melbourne with walking trails, picnic places and gardens. Mount Dandenong dominates the area as well as the National Park. The towns

of Olinda, Ferntree Gully and Belgrave are the main towns of the Dandenong area, as well as Sassafras which is located on the mountain itself.

Dandenong Ranges National Park

This park is divided into three sections and covers over 3,000 hectares of parkland, which is amazing considering how close it is to the heart of Melbourne. The Sherwood Forest section is a great place for bird watching especially if the Lyrebird is one of your favourites. The Ferntree Gully section has lots of walking and hiking trails, and the area off Mt Dandenong Road has picnic and walking areas.

Puffing Billy

Puffing Billy is a steam-operated narrow-gauge railway running in the Dandenong Ranges forty kilometres to the east of Melbourne city centre. For almost a century Puffing Billy has traveled the 13km track from Belgrave to Emerald Lake. Passengers ride in open carriages taking in the breathtaking scenery of the Dandenong. Every May hundreds of runners pit themselves against Puffing Billy's big brother G42 in a unique 13km fun run, racing the train. Read more about Puffing Billy . *Belgrave Station, Belgrave.*

Rhododendron Gardens

As the name suggests there are thousands of these pretty flowers as well as azaleas. There is a 3km walking track through the garden which makes it a very peaceful, pretty stroll. *Olinda.*

R J Hamer Forest Arboretum

There is plenty of trees and parkland and picnic areas here.

William Ricketts Sanctuary

This pretty park set amongst the towering trees, and waterfalls has displays of clay sculptures with Aboriginal themes.

Daylesford

Located 45km from Ballarat Daylesford and its sister town Hepburn Springs are two of Victoria's best spa towns. While digging for gold in the goldrush days it was discovered that there was something else buried deep in this area, mineral springs. Daylesford is now a big attraction for upmarket city folk who want to enjoy spa treatments and relaxation, as well as indulge in fine food and wine. Daylesford is also popularly known as the gay and lesbian country capital, and plays host to Australia's only gay and lesbian country festival every March.

Convent Gallery

This former nunnery now displays fine treasures such as antique jewellery and fine art, there is also a trendy cafe here. *Hill street.*

Hepburn Spa Resort

This resort not only uses the natural springs but it also offers luxury spa treatments, from one hour to all day packages.

Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens

Located in the township these gardens are great for strolling through, sitting in or picnicing at.

Echuca

Echuca once held the title for being the largest inland port in the Southern Hemisphere, however that was in 1869. It is still affectionately known as the Paddle Steamer capital because of its timeless riverboat culture. Echuca lies close to the NSW border and is located 200km north of Melbourne.

Barmah State Park

One of the borders of this 30,000 hectare national park is 100km of Murray River. It is also home to the world's largest red gum forest with some of them reaching more than 40metres in height. You can tour part of the park on the Murray via a flat bottom boat, the tour lasts 2 hours.

Coach House Carriage Museum

As well as offering horse drawn carriage rides around Chukka, this museum has displays of horse drawn vehicles that serviced the town. *Murray Esplanade*.

Paddlesteamers

Echuca has the world's largest collection of paddlesteamers, so a trip to this city would not be complete without taking a cruise on one up the famous Murray River. *Pride of the Murray* and *PS Canberra* are early 19th century paddlesteamers and take cruises out daily. Paddlesteamers go out from one hour cruises to one week cruises. *PS Pride of the Murray, PS Canberra*.

National Holden Motor Museum

This motor museum showcases 50 years of Australia's most well loved automobile. There are over 40 restored holdens here as well as other historical displays on the history of the motor car in Australia. *Warren Street*.

Port of Chukka

This Wharf surrounded by historical buildings is the main focus of the town. Surrounding sheds here have historical displays of the river life of Echuca, there are also three of the original paddle steamers wharfed here.

Port of Echuca Woodturners

Here you can view the blacksmiths and woodturners creating their wares in the midst of an original working sawmill.

Sharp's Magic Movie House and Penny Arcade

A movie theatre here shows Australian classics as well as a huge original penny arcade with all the lights and bell ringing. You can also have your fortune read and purchase sweets and refreshments.

Falls Creek

Falls Creek is an hour from Bright. Falls Creek is a major ski resort with many lifts and over trails.

Geelong

Geelong is a city located 70 km to the south west of Melbourne on Corio Bay which is part of Port Phillip Bay. Geelong is the west of Melbourne and the second largest city in Victoria, first settled in 1838. The port provided early wealth helped by the export of wool. In 1925, the Ford Motor Company established a plant in Geelong. Other industries followed including an oil refinery, aluminium smelting and cement manufacture.

Trains from travel from Geelong to Melbourne every hour. To the south Geelong is the gateway to the Great Ocean Road and close to many coastal towns, bays and beaches.

Bellarine Peninsula

Close by is the Bellarine Peninsula part of encircling of Port Phillip Bay. This is a great scenic drive from Geelong, where long stretches of beaches, scuba diving and fishing locations can be accessed.

Eastern Beach

Eastern Beach has art deco pools, beach side promenades, cafes and summer carnivals. The botanic gardens are a short walk past Eastern Beach.

Ford Discovery Centre

The Ford Motor Company has strong ties with Geelong with it's main plant operating here. This centre has a history of the design of cars over the years as well as displays of motor engineering. Gheringhap Street.

National Wool Museum

This old bluestone wool store plays host to history of Australian wool and sheep farming. Wool auctions are also held here. *Moorabool Street*.

Old Geelong Gaol

Old Geelong Gaol opened in 1853 and remained in service until 1991 and there is a recreation of the hanging of James Murphy in 1863.

Port of Geelong Maritime Museum

This museum is a chronological maritime history lesson of the shipping in and around the Corio bay and Port Phillip bays. Eastern Beach Road.

Gippsland

Gippsland is the rural heartland of Victoria, lying east of Melbourne. Gippsland's main attraction is Wilson's Promontory, a mountainous national park that is very popular for walking, wildlife watching, swimming, fishing and camping. In the centre of Gippsland's rich landscape are the Gippsland Lakes which is one of Australia's largest inland waterways and attracts thousands of fisherman and water sports enthusiasts annually.

Baw Baw National Park

This park extends south from the Great Dividing Range and covers over 13,000 hectares. The main access to the park is located 40 km north of Moe. The highest peak here is Mount St Phillip. There are many walking trails through this park and the best time to come is in spring when the wildflowers are in full bloom.

Gippsland Lakes

These popular lakes are made up of three main ones, King, Victoria and Wellington, which all drain into the ocean at Lakes Entrance. The lakes are mainly undeveloped, however Lake King has a few fishing villages.

Mitchell River National Park

This river flows down from the alpine country through to the Gippsland Lakes. The park consists of over 12,000 hectares of rainforest and rugged gorges. The Mitchell River Gorge is very popular for canoeing, kayaking and rafting. There are many walks through here ranging from one hour to two days for the more adventurous hiker.

The Latrobe Valley

this is Gippsland's industrial area and is located in the west. The fuel sourced here in the Latrobe Valley supplies most of Victoria with its electricity. Warragul, Moe and Erica are the major towns in this area, with Moe being the largest.

Wilson's Promontory

Affectionately known as the 'Prom' and is one of Australia's most loved National Parks. The park covers 49,000 hectares and is made up of a rugged peninsula, low lying granite divides and white sandy beaches. Nature walks, hiking and water activities are all enjoyed here.

Grampians

The Grampians are in North West Victoria, located 260km west of Melbourne. The Grampians are home to the Grampians National Park which is Australia's third largest park. The Grampians consist of four main ranges which are of about 100km's in distance. The Grampians offer stunning ranges of grey rock faces, hiking trails, waterfalls, native flora and fauna and sacred Aboriginal sites. The main centre of the Grampians is Halls Gap, with surrounding towns being Great Western, home to many wineries, Stawell and Ararat.

Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre

This centre offers a lot of information on the history and layout of Gariwerd (Aboriginal term for the Grampians). The focus is on active displays so tours and hands on activities are often organised throughout the week. There is a cafe here and souvenirs to purchase.

Grampians National Park

This series of craggy, grey cliff faces interspersed with forest and water features is a great park to explore. There are many spectacular viewing points but, most require a fair bit of walking effort to get to. The park is also the best place to view Victoria's largest variety of wildflowers, with the best viewings being September and October.

Halls Gap

This is the only town located within the boundaries of the National Park and is a very popular holiday spot. It sits at the base of the Wonderland and Baronia ranges so the rock crags and bluffs seem to hang over the town. It is here you can access a lot of the walks, picnic areas and hill climbs. However if you don't feel energetic there are plenty of arts and crafts boutiques and cafes to enjoy.

Mount Abrupt

As the name suggests this mountain just pops out of nowhere. A popular climb in the Grampians area, it is an 827metre single peak, that is climbed on a steep winding track. It is likely to take two hours to climb so make sure you take a drink. Once at the top the 360 degree views are worth the climb. *Mount Abrupt Road*

The Wonderland Range

This area is to the west of Halls Gap and is great for hiking as it has long and short walks. The Pinnacle has panoramic views and there are plenty of picnic areas to rest at.

MacKenzie Falls

These lovely falls are on a short, steep trail going down, they cascade over rocks and can be accessed off Mt. Victory Road

Zumstein Recreation Area

This area has plenty of walks, falls and picnic areas. It's a good one for all the family as the trails good and there are often plenty of kangaroos to see.

Great Ocean Road

The Great Ocean Road south of Melbourne was built to provide employment for returning soldiers from the Great War. The road is cut into the cliff face in many parts alongside the ocean. A road of 175 km running between Torquay and Warrnambool (South end). There are many entry points to shorten the distance and make it a day trip from Melbourne. This road trip is one of the world's most spectacular coastal drives, with the road often being the only thing separating the mountains from the beaches. There are several seaside towns to stop and walk around, dine or stay at on your drive. However, a word of warning, this road has one of the highest rates for accidents in Australia. It is hilly and winding and in peak tourist seasons traffic is at a crawl as cars and tourist buses travel through.

Below are the towns you will encounter going from Torquay 23 km's from Geelong to Warrnambool, the official end, on the southwest coast.

Torquay

Torquay at the eastern end of the Great Ocean Road is a well known surfing location. Torquay is home to the top label surf brands, Ripcurl and Quicksilver, and has a very popular outlet section in the middle of town that is always very busy. Bells Beach hosts the Rip Curl Pro Classic each Easter but is for advanced surfers, but also a great spot for spectators of the sport.

Lorne

Lorne is located on the Erskine River and surrounded by sea and forest ranges. It is a very popular holiday resort and offers incredibly scenic views to it's visitors. Highlights of Lorne are the Erskine Falls, Pennyroyal Valley and Lorne Angahook State Park. Lorne is also a popular place for upmarket retreats and holiday accommodation.

Apollo Bay

Apollo Bay at the base of the Otway Mountains and is one of the three major centres located on the Great Ocean Road. At Cape Otway National Park are the remains of the ancient rainforest. Other parks that can be accessed from Apollo Bay are Otway Ranges Forest Park and the Melba Gully State Park.

Lavers Hill

Lavers Hill is the highest point on the Ocean Road at 455 metres. This very small town with outlying rural areas is known for its spectacular Tree Tops Walk

Port Campbell

Port Campbell known for its fishing, and particularly for its crayfish and abalone. There is also a beach and there is surfing and, of course, there is no shortage of wrecked vessels for those who like diving. Port Campbell is known to be the heart of the Great Ocean Road due to its spectacular coastline, where you can view the famous 12 Apostles, Loch Ard Gorge and the site of London Bridge which partially collapsed in 1990.

The Twelve Apostles are just east of Port Campbell are rock stacks demonstrating the power of the sea, for all of the surrounding cliffs have been worn away, leaving only these stacks composed of harder rock standing sentinel out at sea. There is a visitor's centre that explains how the rocks were formed.

Warrnambool

Warrnambool is at the end of the Great Ocean Road and surrounded by lush hinterland. The beaches at Warrnambool are popular in the summer months and provide good surfing. Because of its location, hugging the Southern Ocean coast line, it has taken on the tag of Windy Warrnambool, due to the gusty southerly winds encountered through this area.

Lakes Entrance

Lakes Entrance is the gateway to the Gippsland Lakes, which is Australia's largest inland water system. Lakes Entrance is located on Ninety Mile Beach and can be found 360km east of Melbourne. It is a popular holiday destination due to its large water areas, making fishing, boating, swimming and surfing popular past times in the area.

Aboriginal Arts and Crafts

There are some genuine Aboriginal artifacts here as well as arts and craft items for sale. *239 The Esplanade.*

Entrance Walking Track

Just over the footbridge in Lakes Entrance there is a bush and beach walking track that is very scenic and will take approximately two hours return.

Griffith's Sea Shell Museum

This museum features at least 90,000 shells and also has a gift shop and a model railway area. *125 The Esplanade.*

Kinkuna Country Fun Park

This is a fun place for families as there are pools, water slides and toboggan rides. There is also a wildlife section where a highlight is the feeding of the lions. *Princes Highway*.

Nyerimilang Park

This park is situated on Lake King and has bush walking trails, picnic areas and also overlooks three islands in the area.

Wyanga Park Winery

Located 10km from town, there are wine tasting's here as well as a restaurant. The winery also runs popular day and evening cruises from Lakes Entrance Club Jetty.

Lorne

Lorne on the Great Ocean Road is a very popular coastal area and has an English atmosphere. The Erskine Falls are 10km from Lorne in Angahook – Lorne State Park.

Melbourne

Melbourne, the capital city of Victoria, is located in the south-eastern corner of Australia, and is the southernmost mainland capital city. As the capital city, Melbourne has become a large urban centre and is home to approximately 80% of the state's population. Melbourne is one of the world's most diverse and multicultural cities. Almost a quarter of Victoria's population was born overseas.

Melbourne has an extensive public transport network. It has one of the world's most extensive tram networks, one of a kind in Australia. For visitors there is a free City Circle Tram, which takes in many of Melbourne's sights.

Melbourne is referred to as the garden city, and the state of Victoria is officially known as the garden state with parks and gardens in abundance.

Melbourne is on the Yarra river and Melbourne runs inland from Port Philip Bay to the south. The central area is oblong with Flinders Street to the south, Latrobe Street to the north, Spring Street to the east and Spencer street to the west. Running north to South are Swanston and Elizabeth streets.

Animal Attractions

Melbourne Aquarium

This is a high-technology aquarium stretching over three levels. It features a Barrier Reef exhibit and a walk through tank with sharks that you can dive with if you so feel! *Corner of Queens Wharf Road and King Street.*

Melbourne Zoo

Melbourne Zoo was established in 1862 and is the oldest zoo in the world. Most animals are housed in spacious, natural surrounds. The zoo is located only 4km from the city centre at Royal Park. Highlights are the butterfly house, the large gorilla exhibit and the new elephant enclosure. And sleepovers are also possible at Melbourne Zoo. *Elliott Ave, Parkville. Train to Royal Park Station.*

Werribee Zoo

This Zoo has a strong African feel and is only 30 minutes from Melbourne. The animals graze in wide open parklands and can be viewed from a safari bus. The zoo offers an unusual overnight safari adventure where you can stay in a deluxe campsite. New to the zoo are the Kabu River Hippos. *K Road, Werribee. Take train from city to Werribee then bus to Werribee Zoo.*

Healesville Sanctuary

Healesville Sanctuary, opened in 1934, and is 65 kilometres east from the centre of Melbourne. Healesville Sanctuary specialises in native Australian wildlife and is one of the best places in the country to go to see such unique Australian creatures as wombats, koalas, kangaroos and, particularly, platypus. The Sanctuary has kept platypus since the 1930s and, during the 1940s, became the first place in the world to breed a platypus in captivity, a success not repeated until 1999. Included is the Australian Wildlife Health Centre which gives a behind the scenes view of a real wildlife hospital. *Badger Creek Road, Healesville. Take train from city to Lilydale and connecting bus at Lilydale.*

Art Galleries

Alcaston Gallery

The Alcaston Gallery specialises in contemporary Australian Indigenous art with changing exhibitions. *11 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.*

Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI)

ACMI is dedicated to the moving image in all its forms. Federation Square.

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art

This distinctive landmark on Southbank is a rust red steel structure that houses contemporary art exhibitions. The ACCA prides itself on displaying innovative exhibitions by International and Australian artists. *111 Sturt Street, Southbank.*

City Gallery

Changing exhibitions using the City of Melbourne's Art and Heritage collection.
Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston Street.

Melbourne Art Rooms (MARS)

MARS is located in Port Melbourne, it was originally an old dairy but, opened as a gallery in 2005. It has a reputation for not being bound to traditional formats and its gallery space is state of the art. MARS hosts exhibitions by local, national and international artists as well as exhibiting works by un represented and emerging artists.
Bay Street, Port Melbourne. Tram from city to North Port stop.

National Gallery of Victoria

The NGV has been displaying one of Australia's wealthiest and impressive art collections since 1861. The continuing growing collection out grew its home in St Kilda Road, and in 2002 was split in two. The Australian works are now displayed in the new Ian Potter Centre across the road at Federation Square. The international works are still displayed at the National Gallery of Victoria next to the the Melbourne arts centre. *180 St Kilda Road, Melbourne and the Ian Potter Centre at Federation Square.*

Post Master Gallery

This gallery is home to the National Philatelic Collection, Australia's most significant collection of Philatelic heritage and artwork. The gallery displays nine decades of Australian stamps. *321 Exhibition Street, Melbourne. City circle tram.*

RMIT Gallery

Changing exhibitions in the Storey Hall. *344 Swanston Street, Melbourne.*

State Library of Victoria

Regular exhibitions held in the Keith Murdoch Gallery, Cowne Gallery and Dome Galleries. *328 Swanston Street.*

The Ian Potter Museum of Art

Known as The Potter, this is the University of Melbourne's Art Museum. It houses and exhibits the University of Melbourne Art Collection as well as staging temporary exhibitions ranging from classic to contemporary. *Swanston Street, Parkville. Tram from city to University of Melbourne.*

Buildings**Captain Cook's Cottage**

This historic cottage is the only 18th century building in Melbourne and is located in the Fitzroy Gardens in East Melbourne, close to the CBD. It was built in 1755 in Yorkshire, England and transported to Australia in 1933. Although called Captain Cook's Cottage it was built and owned by his parents. *Fitzroy Gardens, Landsdowne Street, East Melbourne. Tram 48 or 75 from Flinders Street station, stop 9.*

Como Historic House and Garden

Como house is an historic mansion with antique furniture and tells the story of the early Melbourne aristocracy. *Corner of Williams Road and Lechdale Avenue, South Yarra. Take tram 8, stop 34.*

Eureka

View Melbourne from the highest point in the Southern Hemisphere at the 88th Floor of the Eureka tower on the banks of the Yarra river. *Eureka Skydeck 88, Riverside Quay, Southbank.*

Exhibition Building

Originally constructed for the Great Exhibition of 1880, this was the home of the Victorian Parliament from 1901 until 1927. The Royal Exhibition Building was also the site of the opening of the first session of the Commonwealth Parliament, on 9th May 1901. The Royal Exhibition Buildings and its surrounds, the Carlton Gardens received a World Heritage Listing in 2004. *Victoria Parade, Carlton and Nicholson Streets, Carlton. City Circle Tram to Victoria Street or tram 86 or 96.*

Federation Square

Its unique, modern design and its size (covers an entire city block) makes Federation Square Melbourne's newest, major cultural, arts and tourism venue. The Ian Potter Centre, NGV Australia has the world's largest collection of Australian art. Federation Square also houses the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Champions Australian Racing Museum and Hall of Fame, National Design Centre, Melbourne Visitor Centre, Restaurants, Cafes and Bars, as well as hosting many events and festivals. *Corner of Swanston and Flinders Streets, Melbourne. City Circle Tram*

Flinders Street Station

Flinders Street Station is an iconic Melbourne landmark, it is the oldest city station in Australia, being built in 1854. The row of clocks at the entrance to Flinders Street Station is a well-used meeting point, which coined a famous Melbourne saying "I'll meet you under the clocks". Flinders Street Station is the busiest suburban railway station in the Southern Hemisphere. *Corner of Flinders and Swanston Street, Melbourne. City Circle Tram*

Melbourne Exhibition Centre

The Exhibition Centre is Australia's largest, with 30,000 square metres of space available. *2 Clarendon Street, Southbank.*

Melbourne Town Hall

Built in 1870, the Melbourne Town Hall represents the glory days of Victoria's Gold boom. It has hosted hundreds of famous functions over many years, and houses the Town Hall Grand Organ, the largest grand organ in the Southern Hemisphere. The building is topped by Prince Alfred's Tower which includes the huge tower clock. It has ten function rooms and is a popular venue for the famous annual Melbourne Comedy Festival. *Swanston Street, Melbourne. City Circle Tram*

Old Melbourne Gaol

Most famous for its holding and hanging of Australia's most infamous bushranger Ned Kelly. The Melbourne Gaol was built in 1858 and in its 90 years of operation it was the scene of 135 hangings. The scaffold on which Kelly was hanged survives, as does his original death mask. There is a collection of other death masks too. It became a Museum in 1972. After dark spooky night tours available. *Russell Street, Melbourne .City Circle Tram, stop 7.*

Parliament House

Parliament House is built of granite from the Grampians. The Legislative Chambers were constructed in a mere ten months, built in 1856 and ready in time for the first sitting of the Victorian Parliament. This building was used by the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia while Melbourne was acting as the capital of Australia (1900-27). State Government sessions can be viewed in the public gallery, sitting times do vary. During non sitting periods upper house and lower house chambers are open to the public. *Spring Street, Melbourne. City Circle Tram*

Rialto Towers

The tallest office building in the Southern Hemisphere at 253 metres high and 66 levels. There is an observation deck on the 55th Floor from where you can view all of Melbourne and surrounding landscapes. There is a lift to the top which takes forty seconds to make the journey, or you can walk the 1,450 steps! *525 Collins Street, Melbourne. Trams run along Collins and King Streets.*

Rippon Lea Estate

Rippon Lea is a large Victorian suburban estate with gardens about 8km from Melbourne. Built by Sir Frederick Thomas Sargood between 1863 and 1903 with numerous rooms and landscaped gardens. *192 Hotham Street, Elsternwick.*

Sandridge Bridge

The Sandridge rail bridge is now a pedestrian and cycle path across the Yarra. This historic bridge was well used by the early migrants and to celebrate the bridge has glass panels recording details of immigrant arrivals and indigenous peoples. The Sandridge bridge also has interactive touch panels with immigration data and stories of the Sandridge bridge.

St Patrick's Cathedral

A gothic Catholic Cathedral built between 1858 and 1940. *Cathedral Place.*

St Paul's Cathedral

Anglican St Paul's Cathedral was built between 1889 and 1892. *Flinders Street.*

Shrine of Remembrance

This was originally Victoria's memorial to the 18,000 men from the state lost in the Great War. The Shrine was opened in 1934. After the Second World War, it was extended to include those who had been lost in that conflict. The perpetual flame was lit by Queen

Elizabeth on 28th February 1954. The Shrine is so designed that at 11am on 11th November each year (Remembrance Day) a single ray of sunlight will penetrate the roof and shine on the Stone of Remembrance in the Inner Sanctum. However, since Victoria has adopted daylight-saving time in the summer months, that event actually occurs at noon now. *St Kilda Road, Melbourne. Tram from city*

St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral

Building started in 1880 and the cathedral was consecrated in 1891. It was the final masterpiece of English architect William Butterfield. *Corner of Swanston and Flinders Streets.*

The Old G.P.O.

A majestic building dating from 1867 which, unfortunately, was gutted by fire in September 2001 and is used as the G.P.O. no longer. It has now been restored for use as shops, restaurants and offices. *Corner of Elizabeth and Bourke Streets.*

Young and Jackson's Hotel

This hotel (pub) is an important part of old Melbourne, dating from 1861 (then known as the Princes Bridge Hotel) and sits on the corner of one of Melbourne's well known, busiest crossroads. It is particularly famous for the painting of the naked Chloe which was purchased by Mr. Young and has graced its walls since 1909. *Corner of Swanston and Flinders Street. City Circle Tram.*

Museums

Australian Gallery of Sport and Olympic Museum

Located in the main entrance of the famous Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), this museum is a sports lover's dream. It has three levels, all filled with sporting memorabilia. The gallery has records of the country's sporting heroes, from Olympians, to footballers and of course Sir Donald Bradman. Exhibitions include the Cricket Hall of Fame, Aussie Rules Football exhibition and the Olympic Museum. *Brunton Avenue, Jolimont. Train from city to Jolimont Station.*

Camera Museum

Michael's camera museum has about 3000 cameras with some dating back to the 1880's. You will also find movie cameras, darkroom equipment and collection of books, magazines and brochures. *Corner of Elizabeth and Lonsdale Streets, Melbourne. Tram 19, 57 59.*

Champions - Australian Racing Museum & Hall of Fame

Champions celebrates thoroughbred racing and its role in Australian sport. *Federation Square.*

Chinese Museum

The history and culture of Chinese immigrants going back to the early 1800's. *22 Cohen Place.*

City Museum at Old Treasury

City Museum (also known as the Gold Treasury Museum) is in the Old Treasury Building, a most impressive edifice, generally regarded as one of the finest public buildings in Australia. It was built in 1862, having been designed by a nineteen-year-old architect. It was used as government offices until 1992, and then reopened as a museum in 1994. There are three permanent exhibitions here, entitled Built on Gold, Making Melbourne and Growing Up in the Old Treasury. *Old Treasury Building, Spring Street, Melbourne. City Circle Tram to Old Treasury Building or tram 31,42,109 and 112 along Collins Street. Admission charges apply.*

Fire Service Museum

History of the Victorian fire service with a collecting of fire fighting equipment. *Gisborne Street, East Melbourne.*

Immigration Museum

The Immigration Museum is housed in the Old Customs House. Construction of this building began in 1839 and it is the oldest public building in Melbourne. Immigration stories of people from all over the world are told here, from the 1800s to present day. *400 Flinders Street, Melbourne. City circle tram.*

Jewish Holocaust Museum

A Melbourne museum dedicated to the memory of Jews killed during the period 1933 - 1945. The museum has photographs, artifacts and models including a model of the Treblinka extermination camp. *13 - 15 Selwyn Street, Elsternwick 3185.*

Koorie Heritage Trust Cultural Centre

Victorian Indigenous culture all displayed in the Koorie Heritage Trust Cultural Centre. The displays are realistic and tell it "as it was" when the Europeans arrived in 1835. *295 King Street.*

Melbourne Maritime Museum

Home of the barque Polly Woodside.

Melbourne Museum

The Melbourne Museum in the Carlton Gardens and is Australian's largest museum. It houses 9 major exhibition areas, including the mind and body gallery, dinosaur exhibits, an indoor rainforest, insect and butterfly collection including real life insects. The Bunjilaka Aboriginal Centre is a living cultural centre dedicated to Victoria's Koorie people. Bugs Alive enlarges the world of bugs to human scale. The Melbourne museum is also the resting place for Australia's most famous racehorse, Pharlap. There is also an interactive, very colourful children's museum. The complex also houses the Imax Theatre with its eight story movie screen. *11 Nicholson Street, Carlton. City circle tram. Admission charges apply.*

Opals

The National Opal Collection is both a museum and showroom. The museum explains how opals were formed and how for example bones of prehistoric animals can become opalised. *119 Swantson Street, Melbourne.*

RAAF Museum

More than twenty aircraft that were operated by the Australian Flying Corps and the Royal Australian Air Force are now at Point Cook the birthplace of the Royal Australian Air Force. *Located at RAAF Base Williams. Point Cook Road Point Cook, 25 kms from Melbourne.*

Scienceworks

Lots of hands on exhibits, live demonstrations and shows. Stretch your mind and muscles at "Sportworks", look deep inside your house at "House Secrets". See the historic Sportswood pumping station and the working steam engines or perhaps visit the Melbourne planetarium with regular shows. Located 5 kms from the CBD a 10 minute walk from Spotswood which is on the Werribee train line. *Admission charges apply.*

The Grainger Museum

Dedicated to the life of composer and pianist Percy Grainger. *University of Melbourne, Grattan Street, Parkville.*

Parks and Gardens

Alexandra Gardens

The Alexandra Gardens are on the edge of the Yarra River, very close to the CBD. They include the historic rowing boathouses and are host to major events including Melbourne's Moomba Waterfest every March. These gardens are also popular with Melbourne's youth because they house the Riverside Skate Park. *Access from St Kilda Road, or from Southbank, under Princes Bridge.*

Albert Park

Albert Park was established in 1864 and named after the consort of Queen Victoria. It is located 3 km from the CBD of Melbourne and is 225 hectares of sporting and recreational parklands. It has a 5km running or walking track around the lake with many picnic, barbecue and play areas. It is a popular venue for charity events and fun runs, and comes alive every March when it hosts the Australian Grand Prix. *Tram, train or bus from city.*

Australian Garden

A garden built around the arid inland landscapes of Central Australia with a Rockpool Waterway. *Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, Ballarto Road, Cranbourne.*

Birrarung Marr

Birrarung Marr means 'river of mists' and 'side of river' in the language of the Wurundjeri people who originally inhabited the area. It is Melbourne's newest Parklands in over a

hundred years and opened in 2000. It is located in the heart of Melbourne on the North bank of the Yarra River. It houses the creative Artplay Gallery, a children's creative art facility and Gallery which opened in 2004. *Adjacent Federation Square, accessible from Swanston Street.*

Bundoora Park

A large park surrounding Mount Cooper which is the highest point Melbourne. There is Settlement theme park and exhibition of pioneer crafts. *Plenty Road, Bundoora.*

Carlton Gardens

The Carlton Gardens have a World Heritage Listing and contain the Exhibition Building, Melbourne Museum, lawns, lakes and trees. *City Circle Tram.*

Flagstaff Gardens

Named after the flagstaff used to communicate between the harbour and Melbourne town. Across the road from the Queen Victoria Market.

Fitzroy Gardens

The Fitzroy Gardens are within walking distance of the city centre, just beyond the Treasury Gardens. They were established in 1856 and house a Conservatory, a model Tudor village and Captain Cook's Cottage. *Tram from City, Train to Jolimont Station.*

Kings Domain

King's Domain is a huge area of parklands situated in the heart of Melbourne. It encompasses many parks, gardens and reserves. Kings Domain encircles Government House Reserve, Royal Botanical Gardens and the Shrine of Remembrance. It also is home to the award winning Sidney Myer Music Bowl, a popular amphitheatre which hosts popular and classical musical events. *Access from St Kilda Road. Tram from City.*

Queen Victoria Gardens

These beautiful gardens are part of Domain Parklands and a short walk from the city and arts precinct. Highlights are the famous floral clock facing St Kilda Road, sculptures and monuments. *St Kilda Road, Melbourne. Tram from city.*

Royal Botanic Gardens

The Royal Botanic Gardens are widely regarded as the finest botanical gardens in Australia, and among the best in the world. They are comprised of 35 hectares of beautifully landscaped gardens. The famous Melbourne running track, called The Tan, is very popular with joggers and professional athletes, it runs parallel to the perimeter fence of the Botanic Gardens. *Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra. Tram or train from city.*

Royal Park

Royal Park is the largest park in Melbourne and managed as native bushland. The Australian Native Garden is good place for bird watching. Royal Park is the home to Melbourne Zoo and the Royal Park Golf Course.

Treasury Gardens

Next to the Gold Treasury Museum and near Parliament house, these gardens are popular with city workers. They are also a popular venue for community events and rallies due to their proximity to the CBD. *Spring Street, Melbourne. City circle tram.*

Werribee Park

About 30 minutes from Melbourne with mansion from the 1870's and ten hectares of formal gardens. *K Road Werribee.*

Shopping

Bourke Street Mall

The Bourke Street Mall is recognised as Melbourne's shopping heart and has both the Myer and David Jones department stores.

Block Arcade

This is Melbourne's most stunning shopping arcade. Block Arcade forms a short narrow laneway connecting Collins Street to Little Collins Street, right in the heart of the CBD. Erected between 1891 and 1893 it is one of Melbourne's most richly decorated interior spaces, from the mosaic tiled flooring to the glass canopy overhead and lots of intricate detail in between. An absolutely must for window shoppers. *280-286 Collins Street Melbourne.*

Bridge Road, Richmond

Bargain Hunters and shopaholics can spend many hours in Bridge Road. Only a short tram ride to Richmond this historic road is chock full of fashion factory outlets where you will find designer clothes, shoes and accessories at 1/3 of the original prices. There are also plenty of trendy restaurants, cafes and bars to refresh and refuel. Bridge Road, Richmond. *Tram from city to Bridge Road*

Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

Fitzroy home of Melbourne bohemian culture with many interesting shops and galleries.

Chapel Street

This famous shopping strip is Melbourne's premier retail fashion district. Over 1000 shops make up the Chapel Street precinct which stretches for two kilometres. It has established the reputation of being Melbourne's style capital and that's just not for the fashions, it is also chock full of trendy cafes, ritzy bars and excellent dining venues. *Chapel Street, Phrahan. Trams, buses and trains from city to Chapel Street*

Collins Street

A well established shopping street with many boutiques and jewelers.

Melbourne Central

Spanning almost two city blocks this huge shopping centre has a range of quality designer labels and cutting edge street wear. All housed in a contemporary space that has

retained its historical features. Look up to see the heritage listed shot tower, the only feature remaining of its original home the Lead Pipe and Shot Factory. Another highlight is the hot air balloon suspended from the inner dome and a huge fob watch that entertains shoppers with Australian folk songs. It houses over 300 shops and a train station underground. *Lonsdale and La Trobe Streets, Melbourne.*

Esplanade Art and Craft Market-St Kilda

This unusual and trendy market has a stunning seaside vista and is very popular with visitors and locals. Every Sunday since 1970 the esplanade in St Kilda has come alive with brightly coloured stalls, selling an array of quality art and craft. It was established as an outlet for local artists and now there are more than 200 artists and craftspeople selling their wares here. *Upper Esplanade, St Kilda. Tram from city.*

Flinders Lane

The place to find Melbourne designers and lots of small designer shops along with furniture, books and craft shops.

Melbourne GPO

The old post office is now home for up market clothing shops, restaurants and bars.

Myer Melbourne

The largest department store in Australia and the most recognizable landmark in Melbourne's heart, Bourke Street Mall. Myer Melbourne consists of two connected buildings, known to Melbourne as the Bourke Street store and the Lonsdale Street store. With six huge floors in each building there is something to be found for everyone. One of Myer's traditional highlights are the Christmas windows. Since 1956 they have been a feature of Melbourne and continue delighting all ages every Christmas. Having a different theme every year, they draw crowds of people annually. *Bourke Street Mall and Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.*

QV

QV is a acreage shopping complex next to the State Library of Victoria. Corner of Swanston and Lonsdale Streets.

Queen Victoria Market

This huge market is an institution in Melbourne. More than just a shopping mecca it is an historic landmark and a popular tourist attraction. It has been serving customers in Melbourne's heart for 120 years. Taking up a huge seven hectares it is the largest open air market in the Southern Hemisphere. Over one thousand traders sell almost everything! Closed every Monday and Wednesday and most public holidays. *Elizabeth and Victoria Street, Melbourne. Tram from city along Elizabeth street*

Southbank

The Southgate Arts and Leisure Precinct is a mix of bookshops, fashion, homeware, music and jewellery and close to many popular Melbourne restaurants.

Toorak Road

Australia's answer to Rodeo Drive, is located in Melbourne's ultra hip suburbs, South Yarra and Toorak. Toorak has been long known as Melbourne's most affluent suburb and its main shopping precinct testify's to this. Toorak Road has a sophisticated mix of Australian and International designers and importers. The boutiques are elegant displaying many one offs and original designs in fashion, shoes and accessories. Toorak Road, South Yarra. Tram from Swanston Street in city, train from Flinders Street alight at South Yarra station, takes approx 20 mins.

Sporting Attractions

AFL World

An interactive multimedia experience on the history and legends of Australian Football. *QV, 292 Swanston Street.*

Australian Grand Prix

Melbourne comes alive every March to the roar of Formula One engines as it hosts the Australian Grand Prix. It is the first race of the Formula One season and is raced on a 5.3km circuit course around the famous Albert Park Lake. The Grand Prix moved from Adelaide to Melbourne in in 1996, 401,000 spectators turned out, a record for the event. *Albert Road, Albert Park, South Melbourne. Tram, train or bus from City to Albert Park.*

Australian Open

Melbourne Park is home to the Australian Open every January, the first of the world's four Grand Slam tennis tournaments. This popular sporting event attracts the best tennis players in the world, with the final being held on Rod Laver Arena, which features a movable roof, making it the only Grand Slam that can be played indoors. When the two main arenas, Rod Laver and Vodafone, are not being used for tennis they host numerous concerts, ice spectaculars, shows and exhibitions. Melbourne Park has four indoor courts and 22 outdoor courts that are available for public hire, except in January. *Batman Avenue, Melbourne. Tram from city, Train from city to Melbourne Park Station.*

Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)

The Melbourne Cricket Ground is one of the most historical and famous sporting stadiums in the world. It is the home of Australian Rules Football and World Class Cricket, as well as hosting many great events, like the 1956 Olympics and the 2006 Commonwealth games. It has hosted opera and rock concerts, international soccer matches and is famous for the Boxing Day Test Match. The stadium once had a capacity of 125,000 spectators, but the installation of improved seating has reduced that figure to 97,000. On non event days, tours of the MCG are conducted. It also houses the Australian Gallery of Sport and Olympic Musuem. Brunton Avenue, Richmond . *Trains from city to Jolimont station, tram, bus, water taxi.*

Melbourne Cup

Melbourne is home to the race that stops a nation. Melbourne Cup day is always the first Tuesday in November and is held at the beautiful Flemington Race Course. The race is

recognized as one of the world's greatest handicap races and is run over 3200 metres. The first Melbourne Cup was held in 1861, with the winner Archer being the first of a long line of famous horses to win the much coveted race. The event attracts an on course crowd of over 110,000 people with the record attendance being 122,376 in 2003. The Melbourne Cup is just one racing event that makes up the famous Melbourne Spring Racing Carnival. Others include Derby Day, Cox Plate, Oaks Day, and Caulfield Cup, all held at race courses in Melbourne. *Epsom Road, Flemington. Train from city to Flemington Station, Bus, Ferry.*

Rod Laver Arena

Home of the Australian Open Tennis Championship which can be visited on regular tours. Melbourne Park, *Batman Avenue.*

Telstra Dome

This very modern sporting and entertainment venue is Melbourne's, newest sporting arena. It was built in the Docklands precinct and was opened in 2000. It was designed for Australian Rules Football but is also host to many concerts, and has a seating capacity of up to 75,000. It is famous for its ultra modern retractable roof. *Tours are arranged around the Telsta Dome. Bourke Street West, Docklands. Tram from City*

The Tan

Officially termed The Tan Track as it has a surface of tan bark, it is affectionately known to Melbourne's runners as The Tan. It is a 3.8km running track that runs parallel to the Botanic Gardens. The Tan has been used by running greats Steve Ovett, Kathy Freeman, Robert de Castella and Steve Monaggetti, just to name a few. The current record on the track was run in 2004 by Craig Mottram in 10 minutes, 12 seconds. However, it is just as popular with local and visiting joggers and known as the best place to run in Melbourne. *Numerous entrances around the Domain. Trams from city to St Kilda Road*

Mildura

Mildura is located on the Murray river in the far west corner of Victoria. It is often the hottest location in Victoria and is surrounded by a vast arid landscape. However, Mildura is a large, thriving city with agriculture being it's main source of industry. Endless rows of vines, orchards and olive groves can be found in this area.

Golden River Zoo

This zoo is great for younger children and families as it has hands on feeding and petting of the wildlife and is located 4km from Mildura. *Flora Avenue.*

Hot Air Balloons

A very popular treat in Mildura is hot air ballooning. Cameron Balloons fly at dawn and provide a magnificent views of the arid landscape.

Mildura Arts Centre

Located at the site of Rio Vista an historic homestead, this centre is made up of an art gallery and theatre. *Cureton Avenue.*

Old Mildura Homestead

This was the first home of the Chaffeys, the town founders, it is surrounded by a heritage park.

Orange World

Located 8km from Mildura, this working orchard takes you on a tractor cart ride through the farm and showing how the orchard is run. *Buronga.*

River Cruises

One of the most enjoyable attractions of Mildura is a river cruise up the Murray. There are many boats operating with the paddle steamers giving the journey an old world feeling. You can cruise for an hour, or all day, some have meals and evening entertainment as well. The Melbourne, Rothbury and Avoca all operate from the Mildura Wharf in Deakin Avenue.

Mount Buller

Mount Buller is a popular ski resort about 3 hours drive from Melbourne. It is Victoria's largest ski resort and is very popular with week end skiers. The slopes are always open in the snow season regardless of falls due to the extensive snow making system operating here. The resort covers over 1260 hectares and has 26 lifts.

Alpine Museum

This museum shows the development of Australian's alpine history, and in particular the Victorian snowfields There is a large collection of early ski equipment as well as new up to date models. Guided tours are available here. The museum is located on the first floor of the La Trobe University building.

Scenic Chairlift Ride

You don't have to be a skier to enjoy the chairlift. The Horse Hill Chairlift departs from the day car park and can drop you at the Spurs Restaurant. There are other scenic lifts that allow you to see the skiing action below as you ride or just enjoy the spectacular views of the Mountain.

Mount Hotham

Mt Hotham is Victoria's premier ski resort. Located high in the Alpine region about six hours drive from Melbourne. Mount Hotham has the longest runs in Victoria. The ski area covers 775 hectares with 13 lifts and a variety of runs to suit all abilities.

Plenty of on snow accommodation is available and most runs are accessed from below the village. A free bus runs through the village to connect all the areas.

Kids Snowzone

Mount Hotham caters for children of all ages. The kids Club provides lessons and supervised skiing and snowboarding and caters to all levels. The kids learn in a safe and fun environment and meet friends along the way. Private lessons are also available as well as a daycare centre.

Bushwalking

When Summer arrives and the snow has melted there is plenty of bushwalking to do at Mount Hotham. There are plenty of walking tracks on the mountain and a popular route is the Razorback to Mount Feathertop.

Dinner Plains

Dinner Plains is 11 km south-east of Hotham Heights. Each week of the ski season, a 3-km race is held through the village at twilight.

Phillip Island

Phillip Island is a large island at the mouth of Western Port Bay about two hours from Melbourne. This island is known for its Fairy Penguin population that draws thousands of tourists at dusk to see them do their little penguin parade across the beach. Phillip Island is separated from the mainland by a channel and connected by a bridge.

A Maze N Things

Rooms built to confuse the eye and mind. A maze to be lost in. *Phillip Island Road.*

Australian Dairy Centre

This cheese factory offers cheese tasting with a sales section and a cafeteria. There is also a historical display of the dairy industry. *Phillip Island Road, Newhaven.*

Beaches.

On the south are the surf beaches and on the north island are the family beaches.

Churchill Island

Off the coast at Newhaven, offering pleasant walks through tranquil gardens with views of Western Port Bay, wildlife and an old homestead. *Off Phillip Island Road*

Coal Creek Heritage Village

Located East of Phillip Island in Korumburra, this is a recreation of a 1890's coal mining town.

French Island National Park

You will need to catch a ferry from Cowes on Phillip Island to reach this large, undeveloped island. Great vies and walking trails can be found here.

Koala Conservation Centre

Koala Conservation Centre is in the middle of the island. A tree-top walk has been constructed so that visitors can see the koalas at close range. *Phillip Island Road.*

Penguin Parade Visitors Centre

The Penguin Colony is at the south west of the island in Summerland Bay. The Penguin Parade is at dusk when the penguins start arriving. The penguin crass Summerland Beach and return to the sand dune burrows. The best months are November to January. *Off Vetnor Road.*

Phillip Island Nature Park

This park has many native wildlife species displayed in their natural habitat. There are a number of sections of displays and information on the penguins, koalas, seals, mutton birds and pelicans

The Seals Rock Life Centre

Located at Penguin Reserve, there are plenty of educational displays on the wildlife in this area. *The Nobbies.*

Vietnam Veterans Museum

A collection of stores and artifacts from the Vietnam War. *5 Churchill Road, Newhaven.*

Port Fairy

Port Fairy is one of Victoria's first ports and is located 290km west of Melbourne on the Southern Ocean. It is a picturesque town with old historical buildings dating back to 1842. Port Fairy has an old seaside town charm about it, with tourists flocking here every Summer. Port Fairy hosts the annual Port Fairy Folk Festival every March which is one of the most well known music festivals in the world. Port Fairy has many fine dining opportunities, day spas and upmarket accommodation. There are several good swimming beaches and large caravan parks and campsites as well.

Griffith's Island Reserve

Also know as mutton bird island. where thousands of mutton birds nest from September to April. A walk of the island can be done, where you can see plenty of nests and wonderful views of Port Fairy's coastline.

Lady Julia Percy Island

This island located 9km off the coast is home to more than 20,000 Australian fur seals. Charters are available from Port Fairy's wharf and the seals are easily visible from the boat, lying on the rocks or swimming in the sea.

Port Fairy Lighthouse

This historical, bluestone lighthouse has saved many sailors lives, was erected in 1859. Only a 400 metre walk from the Wharf, it is located on a rocky alcove where crabs by the thousands are hiding under the rocks and in the rockpools.

Port Fairy Wharf

This is one of Australia's prettiest wharfs as it is lined with charming stone buildings and huge norfolk pines. You can stroll along here and see the fishing charters returning with the catch of the day. There are lovely walks from the wharf as well as parks and picnic areas.

Portland

Portland is the oldest settlement in Victoria, founded in 1834 and is the home of Victoria's first port. The port receives and sends cargo and stock all around the world and has a large industrialized area. Portland is home to Alcoa, a large aluminum smelter.

Bridgewater Bay

This wide sandy beach is home to Portland's surf club and a good place to swim, relax or surf. At the Western end of the beach you can trail walk over rocks and dunes and view the whales and seals during September through to April.

Cable Trams

These quaint little trams carry passengers on a scenic route of Portland's bay.

Cape Nelson Lighthouse

This lighthouse was built in 1883 and is open for tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. From here you can view or walk through Cape Nelson National Park

Portland Maritime Discovery Centre

This modern designed museum located on the foreshore focuses on shipwreck history and maritime artifacts. You can also find good information on walks and trails here. *Lee Breakwater Road.*

The Great Southwest Walk

This amazing 250km circuit walk can be started in Portland and transverses forests, gorges, national parks, beaches, sand dunes and cliffs. The route can take 10 to 12 days

but can also be done just as day trips. There are 16 campsites along the way and good maps and signs to follow. You can also join in tour guided walks.

Queenscliff

This old world Victorian coastal town retains a Victorian splendor about it due to its architecture and its popularity with the wealthy gold diggers of the 1880's. This is one of Victoria's popular seaside destinations and is located 40km from Geelong and just over 100km south of Melbourne. The main street is a delight to stroll down as there are quaint little craft and antique stores as well as fine cafes. Queenscliff is also a popular port to catch the daily ferry that links the Mornington and Bellarine Peninsulas, with the ferry terminating in the popular seaside town of Sorrento.

Bellarine Peninsula Railway

This popular quaint railway service operates on weekends, and travels from Queenscliff to Drysdale and return.

Marine Discovery Centre

This is an important stop if you would like to explore some water activities. Information on cruises, swimming areas and other activities such as seal and dolphin sight seeing can be found here. *Weeroona Parade*.

Queenscliff Maritime Museum

Here you can learn the maritime history of the rugged coastal area. There is full size lifeboat and many stories of the local shipwrecks. *Weeroona Parade*.

Peninsula Princess

This popular ferry trip takes cars and passengers across to the Mornington Peninsula. There is a daily crossing, with the township of Sorrento being the end port. A far quicker and scenic way of linking the peninsulas than the road trip.

Shortlands Bluff

The views from up here take in Sorrento and the popular Arthur's Seat. From here you can go for a nice walk, which takes in the beach and foreshore and ends up at Point Lonsdale, which will take about 2 hours.

Swan Hill

Swan Hill is located on the Murray River between Echuca and Mildura. Swanhill's main industries are agriculture and engineering, and also attracts tourists due to it's river location.

Murray Downs Homestead

This well preserved original homestead is located 2km est of Swan Hill. It is located on a 4,000 hectare working farm, there is also an animal park here as well as tearooms.

Military Museum

There are relics and displays spanning several great battles. *Campbell Street.*

Pioneer Settlement Museum

This museum is the oldest outdoor museum in Australia. It is a historical pioneer town reconstruction. There are horse and carriage rides, and re enactments of life in the 18th century. In the evenings you can view a sound and light display. *Horseshoe Bend.*

Tyntynder

This is another original homestead that is located 17km from town. There is a lovely garden here as well as a small museum with historical displays. *Murray Valley Highway.*

Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery

This art gallery has contemporary works as well as short term exhibitions.

Torquay

Torquay on the south coast is a major surfing area. Bells Beach has great waves and hosts the Rip Curl Pro every Easter. The surf world museum has a collection that dates from the early 1900's.

Wangaratta

Wangaratta known locally as "Wang" is at the junction of the Hume Highway and the Great Alpine Road. It's settlement was as a river crossing in the goldrush era, and it also had it's fair share of bushranging activities, with Mad Dog Morgan's headless body buried in the local cemetery.

Brown Brothers Vineyard

This very popular Australian wine label is produced here, and you can enjoy plenty of tasting here as they are spread over five bars. There is also a restaurant that provides fine dining as well as being accompanied by the local wines.

Airworld

The huge hangar here houses 40 aircraft of varying ages and types. They are all operational and this is one of the world's largest collection of civil aircraft. *Wangaratta Airfield.*

Milawa

This small township is located 18km southeast of Wangaratta and is a gastronomical delight. This is home to the popular Brown Brothers Wine label and Milawa Cheese Co. which produces specialty cheeses.

Murray to Mountains Rail Trail

This popular path is paved and travels along 94km, passing through several historical towns in the area. You can bike it or horse ride or if you have a week, walking is an option.

Warrnambool

Warrnambool is a city on the south coast of Victoria, 263km south west of Melbourne and will take about 3 hours via Geelong on the Princes Highway. Warrnambool via the Great Ocean Road takes about 6 hours from Melbourne. Warrnambool is connected to Melbourne by train.

Warrnambool is at the end of the Great Ocean Road and surrounded by lush hinterland. The beaches at Warrnambool are popular in the summer months and provide good surfing. Because of its location, hugging the Southern Ocean coast line, it has taken on the tag of Windy Warrnambool, due to the gusty southerly winds encountered through this area.

Warrnambool hosts the worldwide popular Fun For Kids festival every July. It is the largest kid's festival in the world and draws hundreds of families from all over. Warrnambool also plays host to the popular horse racing event in May, known as the May Races. It is here that the longest steeple chase in Australia is run, the Grand Annual Steeple Chase.

Cheese world

Allansford is 10km east of Warrnambool and is the heart of dairy farming in the Southwest. It is here that the large Dairy Farmers factory is located which is one of the area's major employers. Cheeseworld is a large cheese tasting and fresh dairy produce sales outlet, as well as a good family restaurant.

Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village

Set atop Flagstaff Hill and overlooking the magnificent Lady Bay is the recreation of a 19th century fishing and sailing village. Here you can view the original lighthouse and the lighthouse keepers cottage. You can also view two restored ships of the shipwreck era, loads of information and multimedia displays of the history of many of the sunken ships. There is a shipwreck museum that houses some treasures that were washed up from ill fated voyages, one such treasure being the famous Lochard Peacock. *Merri Street.*

Lady Bay

This pretty bay with its long pier that can be walked along, shows a rugged view of the Southern Ocean. There is a swimming beach here with Penguin Island and Middle Island sitting close to the shore. Penguin Island can only be accessed when tides are low, however Middle Island can be accessed by a walkway bridge, the cliffs are sheer but there are some steps to access secluded little beaches and rock pools. The beaches on this side are not patrolled and there can be strong currents and rips at certain times. Main Beach is the long sandy surf beach, that is popular with swimmers, surfers and sunbathers in Summer.

Lake Pertobe

This huge area of parkland and playgrounds offers plenty of outdoor entertainment. Located in Pertobe Road, which is the road to the foreshore, there are adventure playgrounds, maze, flying fox's, lakes with water activities, cafes, BBQ's and picnic facilities.

Mahogany Walking Track

This is a great coastal walk that spans 22km and goes from Warrnambool to Port Fairy. It is also a mystery trail as it is rumored that the ill fated Mahogany ship is hidden under shifting sand dunes between the two townships.

Southern Right Whales

Warrnambool is popular with the Southern Right Whales as they stop here on their journey to warmer waters. Between mid July and mid September pods of whales arrive in the area with their young or to give birth. Logan's Beach has five viewing platforms and attracts hordes of tourists. The whales are visible from this location and when playful can be very entertaining.

Tower Hill

This is the site of Victoria's largest and most recent volcano. This huge hole in the ground can be found between Warrnambool and Portfairly, and adjacent to the township of Koroit. You can drive a steep, winding roadway to the base of the crater. There is an interesting Natural History Centre here with the focus being on Aboriginal history and artifacts. There is also a picnic area where the emus hover menacingly looking for some leftovers. Koalas and kangaroos roam free, as well as native trees, plants and wetland areas. If you are feeling energetic, walk to the top of the pinnacle and see a great view of Warrnambool, Portfairly and the sea.

Warrnambool Art Gallery

This contemporary art gallery is located in the heart of Warrnambool. It displays many exhibitions and its permanent works are mainly by Australian artists. *165 Timor Street.*

Wilson's Promontory

Wilson's Promontory is the southern most tip of Australia and is affectionately known as 'The Prom'. It is one of Australia's most loved and well visited National Parks. Wilson's Promontory is located 230km southeast of Melbourne and takes up a large part of Victoria's Gippsland area. Made up of 49,000 hectares of stunning coastline, rugged granite divides and over 700 species of plants have been discovered here.

Tidal River

This is the Prom's only settlement and has basic facilities, as well as camping. Most of the park's beaches and walks are accessible close to this township. A highlight of the visit to Tidal River are the native wildlife that roam free here, including parrots, wombats and kangaroos.

Lighthouse Trek

This lighthouse sits on granite on the Southern tip of Wilson's Promontory. This walk is long, up to 38km and will take a couple of days. Rangers do conduct guided walks through here from October to May.

Mount Oberon

A walk up this mountain can be accessed 5km from Tidal River. The walk is a two hour round trip that leads to the summit which is 558 metres. The view from the top is worth the energy expended getting there.

Sealer's Cove

This is a good day walk and can be accessed from the Telegraph Saddle Carpark, just out of Tidal River. This is a beach and rainforest walk, and you can rest up in the pretty cove before the return journey. Could take up to 5 hours for a return trip.

Western Australia

Western Australia covers 2,529,880 square kilometres and is the largest state in Australia. What cannot be denied is the remoteness of this state. It is separated from any other centres of population by the Nullarbor Plain in the south, by deserts in the centre and by rugged terrain in the north. Only in recent years has there been a sealed road from Western Australia to anywhere at all. Prior to that, hundreds of kilometres of pot-holed dirt had to be negotiated to enter or leave the state by road, although the railway has provided a link for nearly a century now.

Probably Western Australia was the first part of this continent to be inhabited by humans. The aborigines seem to have arrived in the north-west about 55,000 years ago and moved gradually across the continent from there. The first Europeans to come here were the Dutch. They discovered that the best route to Batavia (Jakarta) was to sail east from the southern tip of Africa and then turn north. In 1616, Dirk Hartog sailed too far east before turning north and found the northern part of what is now Western Australia.

He landed near Shark Bay at Cape Inscription and left a pewter plate nailed to a tree with an inscription recording his visit. 81 years later, in 1697, Willem de Vlamingh was skillful enough to be able to navigate to exactly the same place and retrieve the plate, which is now in the Rijksmuseum in Holland, leaving another in its place, which is now in the Maritime Museum in Fremantle.

The first Englishman to pass this way was William Dampier in 1688, but it was not until 1791 that Britain claimed this part of the continent, when Commander George Vancouver hoisted the British flag at Possession Point, near Albany. The British were concerned that the French might attempt to found a colony in this area, so in 1826, Darling, the Governor of New South Wales, dispatched Major Lockyer to Albany in the brig Amity with a total of 44 men, including 23 convicts, to establish a settlement and pre-empt any similar French move.

In 1827, the Swan River was explored by Captain James Stirling and there was discussion as to whether to establish the major settlement at Albany or on the Swan River. Eventually the decision went in favour of the Swan River and on 2nd May 1829 Captain Charles Fremantle established the new Swan River Colony.

It was intended that this should be a state for free settlers, but the temptation to import convicts to ease the burden of clearing land proved too great and transportation to Western Australia started in 1850 and continued until 1868. 9,718 convicts were brought to the colony, out of a total population in 1869 of 23,000.

It was the discovery of gold in the 1880s which changed the fortunes of Western Australia. The first find was in Halls Creek in the far north, but soon further discoveries were made in the south of the state, culminating in the gold rush in Kalgoorlie in 1893. Kalgoorlie has been producing gold ever since. Other minerals are produced in Western

Australia too and the state is also famous for its wheat, but most visitors will be coming for the climate, rather than for the minerals or agricultural produce.

Western Australia is famous for sunshine and for beaches, and for a modern relaxed lifestyle. In fact, many visitors see only the relatively populated south-west, but, interesting though that area is, there is far more to the state than that and those who venture further north are rewarded for their efforts.

Albany

Albany is on the south coast of Western Australia. Albany is a deepwater port. A cool city with a Mediterranean climate. Albany was settled in 1826 and the first settlement in Western Australia. Major Edmund Lockyer named the new settlement Frederickstown after Frederick Augustus, Duke of York and Albany, the second son of King George III. In 1831, the name was changed to Albany.

Anglican Church of St. John the Evangelist

The Anglican Church of St. John the Evangelist was the first church in Western Australia to be consecrated. It was started in 1845, but not completed until 1848, when the first clergyman arrived.

Amity

On the foreshore is a replica of the brig Amity which brought the first settlers to Western Australia.

Dog Rock

One of the most unusual features of Albany is Dog Rock. Viewed from one side, the rock looks exactly like the head of a dog and from the other side, however, it looks like a rock.

Residency Museum

The Residency Museum was originally constructed in the 1850s as the Commissariat and store. It became the Government Residency in 1873 and was used for that purpose until 1953.

Patrick Taylor's Cottage

Patrick Taylor's Cottage, is probably the oldest building in Albany. It was built in 1832 to 1833 and sold to Patrick Taylor in 1835. The cottage is now a museum.

Whaleworld

Whaleworld is at the site of the former Whaling Station, which was Australia's last commercial whaling operation and is twenty kilometres from the city centre.

Augusta

Augusta , 300 km from Perth is the south-western point of Australia . This is where the Indian Ocean meets the Southern Ocean and is Western Australia's third oldest settlement. Augusta was established in 1830 and named after the daughter of King George III.

Augusta Historical Museum

There are early shipping relics on display here as well as a pictorial history of the area.
Blackwood Avenue.

Blackwood River

This river is one of the largest and most unspoilt of the Western Australian river system. Boat Cruises conduct tours of the Blackwood.

Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse

The Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse marks the absolute south-westerly point of Australia. The lighthouse was built in 1895 and located nearby is a calcified waterwheel.

Whalewatching

Humpback and Southern Right whales frequent the waters about Cape Leeuwin during June and August. There are whale watching charters from Augusta between June and September and the whales are usually on full view daily.

Broome

Broome is a pearling town situated in the Kimberley region. Broome is over seven hours from Port Hedland and over 2000 kilometres north of Perth . In 1879, the pearl shell (*pinctada maxima*), the largest of all such shells, was discovered here. Broome had at one time a fleet of 403 pearling vessels. The fishing fleets were destroyed by the military in World War 2, for fear of their falling into enemy hands. Now Broome specializes in cultured pearls. The town centre of Broome is small and easy to locate and has a Chinatown. Many shops sell pearls. In Dampier Terrace, just on the edge of Chinatown, are two restored pearl luggers.

Broome has an unusual appeal, partly very aussie outback and the other part has a strong sophisticated asian feel. A more different outback Australian town is hard to imagine. The pearling history of Broome resulted in a true multi cultural feel in the area, so that there are very upmarket restaurants and seaside resorts mixed with outback stations, and of course tourists from all ends of the earth.

Broome Crocodile Park

If you fancy checking out some crocs for an hour you can tour through here. This park is

owned by one of Australia's well known adventurer and film makers Malcolm Douglas.
Cable Beach Road.

Cable Beach

Cable Beach is 22 kilometers of white sand. It is named Cable Beach because it was here that the cable for the international telegraph line disappeared into the sea. Located 6km from the Broome township it is a mecca for sunlovers in the dry season and has a seaside resort feel. However in the wet, November through to April, the water is a no go zone due to the deadly stingers.

Chinatown

This refers to the area in the middle of town that has a very asian feel with restaurants, souvenir shops and pearl boutiques

Gantheaume Point

Further south from Cable Beach is Gantheaume Point, where there are dinosaur footprints, 120 million years old, in the rocks.

Matso's

This art gallery has a large selection of Aboriginal and European artworks, as well as sculptures pottery carvings, books, a cafe and a boutique brewery. This is all housed in a historic pearling master's house. *60 Hamersley Street.*

Pearl Luggers

This is a tour of a pearling museum, where you can browse two restored pearl luggers and the pearl displays as well as hear commentary by former pearl divers. *31 Dampier Terrace.*

Sun Picture Theatre

The Sun Picture Theatre claims to be the world's oldest operating picture garden, established in 1916. There is no roof!

Town Beach

Town Beach on the Roebuck Bay shore has the remains of the flying boats which were bombed by the Japanese during the war are visible at very low tides.

Willie Creek Pearl Farm

This pearl farm is located 38km North of Broome. Here you can learn all about the delicate processes of pearl farming as well as purchase pearls and tips on what to look for when buying. You must book your tour here in advance and it's best to get a coach out to the farm.

Bunbury

Bunbury lies 180 kilometres south of Perth on Koombana Bay. Bunbury is best known for its dolphins, they arrive most mornings into the Inner Harbour. Bunbury is a popular port, tourist and industrial centre and is known as the gateway to the southwest region of WA.

Big Swamp Bird Park

Here all types of birds are represented. Cute penguins play in their own pool and cave, there is a wildlife and wetland area as well as a walk through aviary. *Prince Phillip Drive*.

Boyanup Transport Museum

Here you can get a close up look at Australia's oldest steam trains. Located at Coombana Bay, a twenty minute drive from Bunbury. *South Western Highway*.

Dolphin Discovery Centre

The Dolphin Discovery Centre on Koombana Drive has exhibits relating to the dolphins. Visitors to the centre can often interact with these bottlenose dolphins. *Koombana Beach*.

King Cottage Museum

This cottage was built in the 1880's and is a good example of a pioneer clay brick property. There are historical displays here relating to the area of Bunbury. *77 Forest Avenue*.

Mangrove Boardwalk

The Mangrove Boardwalk close to the Discovery Centre provides a good view of the mangrove ecosystem.

Old Convent Of Mercy

No longer a convent but an art gallery and community arts centre. *Wittenoom Street*.

Bussleton

Busselton is about 3 hrs south of Perth. It is a popular seaside resort, as there are very good surf beaches here as well as plenty of other water activities.

Bunyip Craft Centre

A total of 150 craftspeople show and sell their wares here. *Bunyip Road*.

Busselton Historic Museum

The Busselton Historic Museum is housed in the Old Butter Factory in Peel Terrace. The museum includes the old butter making machinery and a working timber mill.

Busselton Jetty

The longest wooden jetty in the southern hemisphere, a curved construction stretching 1,837 metres out to sea and good for fishing and crabbing. The jetty is also used by snorkellers and scuba divers, as there are corals here as well as colourful fishes.

Oceanarium

Located near the Jetty, this aquarium has a white pointer as well as many other varieties of fish and stingrays. *Geographe Bay Road.*

Old Court House

Here you can find plenty of information on the area at the information centre, as well as an art gallery, artists studios, book and craft shops and a cafe. *4 Queen Street.*

State Tuart Forest

If you want to see trees that are 300-400 years old, this is the forest to explore. Located north of Busselton. *Bussell Highway.*

St. Mary's Anglican Church

St. Mary's Anglican Church was built in 1848 and is the oldest stone church in Western Australia. It was built under the guidance of John Bussell, who gave his name to the town.

Yallingup Beach

Known by all the world's top surfers, and each November is host to the Margaret River Surfing Classic.

Yallingup Cave

These stunning limestone caves are full of stalactites and stalagmites. *Caves Road.*

Carnarvon

Carnarvon in Western Australia was established in 1883.

Big Dish

The Big Dish was one of the world's main links with the Gemini and Apollo space missions. The dish has a diameter of 29.6 metres.

Lighthouse Museum

The Lighthouse Museum is to be found near the jetty, and is in the Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage.

One Mile Jetty

The One Mile Jetty was constructed in 1897 and widened in 1912, then damaged by fire in 1988, but now restored. There is a little steam train which runs along the jetty.

Coral Bay

Coral Bay is very small but close to Ningaloo Marine Park. The park protects Ningaloo Reef and very easy to reach from the shore. Numerous fish can be seen along with whales, dolphins and whale sharks. Coral Bay has great beaches.

Derby

Derby is the oldest town in the Kimberley, gazetted in 1883. Derby is located on King Sound near the mouth of the Fitzroy River with very large tides. Derby is a popular place to start your tour of The Kimberley region as a lot of the tour companies operated out of the town.

Botanical Gardens

Botanical Gardens are in the centre of the town.

Derby Cultural Centre

This centre has a palm tree botanic garden to stroll through as well as Aboriginal artifacts displays and local arts and crafts. *Loch Street*.

Prison Tree

South of the town is Derby's Boab Tree, known as the Prison Tree, used as a staging point for prisoners being walked into Derby. Its age is estimated at 1,500 years and it has a girth of 14.7 metres.

Jetty

The jetty is a good location for fishing and for watching the sunset.

Wharfingers House Museum

Wharfingers House Museum is near the town end of the road which runs across the mud flats to the jetty.

Esperance

Esperance has an interesting coastline, beaches and is very good for fishing. Esperance is 720 kilometres from Perth. Named after two French frigates L'Esperance and the second was the Recherche. As a result, the bay was named Esperance Bay and the islands nearby became known as the Recherche Archipelago. The town lies on a bay, with the islands of the Recherche Archipelago visible offshore. Esperance is a popular tourist destination, an agricultural centre and a seaport.

Archipelago of the Recherche

Also known as the Bay of Isles and far easier to pronounce, is comprised of about 100 islands. Here you will find sandy beaches and tropical waters, as well as plenty of wildlife and sea creatures. There are a couple of cruise tours that can take you over to the islands for 2 hours or all day trips.

Australian Parrot Farm

Not just plenty of parrots to talk to, but, there are also pheasants and guinea fowl.
Fisheries Road, Yarrumun.

Beaches

Esperance is known for its beaches. Within walking distance are some beautiful white sandy areas. Twilight Cove is a good safe swimming beach.

Cape Arid National Park

Nearby is the Eden Killer Whale Museum 56km east of Esperance which offers beautiful coastal scenery, or on to the Cape Arid National Park. Cape Arid National Park lies 120 kilometres east of Esperance and can be reached by a good road.

Cape Le Grand National Park

Located 48km southeast of Esperance, this park has beautiful scenery and is abundant with native wildlife. There is a marked 15km walking trail that has great coastal views.

Historical Village and Municipal Museum.

Within the town of Esperance is the Historical Village and Municipal Museum. Exhibits include bits of the Skylab Spacecraft, pieces of which survived the ordeal of re-entry into the earth's atmosphere and reached earth near Balladonia. *James Street.*

Exmouth

Exmouth is about 1,250 north of Perth. Located at the tip of the Peninsula and 155km north of Coral Bay. One of Exmouth's major attractions is its coastline. The beaches are picture perfect with conditions ideal for swimming, sunbathing, snorkelling, watersports and fishing.

Bundegi Beach

Located 12 km north of Exmouth is Bundegi Beach. This beach marks the start of the Ningaloo Marine Park and is a great beach for swimming, snorkelling and fishing. A coral viewing boat departs from here and there is a kiosk adjacent to the jetty. There is a boat launching facility at the southern end of the beach.

Lighthouse Bay

There are good access tracks into this beach which is suitable for fishing, swimming, surfing and sunbathing

Lighthouse Drive

This steep drive has magnificent views of the reef and cape.

Jurabi Coastal Reserve

The access tracks along the Yardie Creek Road offer a variety of beaches to choose from. At low tide the rock pools hold many hidden sea creatures such as sea urchins, anemones, starfish and octopus.

Mauritius Beach

Located 21 kilometres from Exmouth, this is where turtles come to lay their eggs during the summer. This secluded beach was also declared clothes optional in 1999.

Town Beach

The nearest beach to Exmouth, Town Beach, is one kilometre from the town centre and is a good safe family beach, however, it is best to swim here at high tide. There is also a 4WD access road to the beach.

Ningaloo Reef

The Ningaloo Reef is also accessible from Exmouth and good for diving and snorkelling. Whale sharks can be seen from March until June and it is possible to go swimming with them.

Fremantle

It is easy to assume that Fremantle, the port at the mouth of the Swan River, is just a suburb of Perth, but it is more than that. It has an identity of its own. It has its own history and own atmosphere. It remains a port of some importance, and a fishing town, and also a cultural centre and a restaurant centre. This WA port hit the headlines in 1987 as it was the site of the America's Cup yacht race, and there is still a strong maritime focus in the township.

Didgeridoo Breath

This unique store in downtown Fremantle gives you a few basic lessons on learning to play Australia's first native instrument as well as having a myriad of varieties on display and for sale. *Market Street.*

Fremantle Crocodile Park

More than 200 crocodile call this park home. You can view them from a safe distance above their habitats and if you plan your trip in the afternoon you can see them dining. *Mews road.*

Fremantle Markets

A popular way for city residents to do their shopping as well as attracting lots of tourists looking for something a little different to take home with them. These markets operate on

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and sell everything from fresh foods to artwork. *Corner South Terrace and Henderson Street.*

Fremantle Motor Museum

This is home to a fine array of luxury restored vehicles, one being a pre war Rolls Royce limo. Motor bikes and racing cars are also on display.

Victoria Quay.

Fremantle Museum and Arts Centre

Once a lunatic asylum this building went through a total restoration and re opened in 1972 as a museum and arts centre. There are ever changing exhibitions here with the focus being on local artists and their works. The courtyard here often has music or theatrical performances. *Corner of Ord and Finnerty Streets.*

Old Fremantle Prison

This was WA's maximum security prison from the 1850's until its closing in 1991. A guided tour will fill you in on all the horrors that occurred within the stone walls. For something a little more spookier you can go on a torchlight tour of the prison. *The Terrace.*

Round House

The oldest structure in Western Australia, built by convicts in 1831. This unusual building has 12 sides but has lost it's roof, it also has the infamous tag of being the location of WA's first hanging. *High Street.*

Western Australia Maritime Museum

This wonderful building located at the mouth of the Swan River tells stories of all things maritime, including shipwrecks, fishing expeditions, war ships and much more. The tours are very informative and the tour guides are often real sailors with real seafaring stories.

Victoria Quay.

Geraldton

Geraldton is an Indian Ocean port which was established in 1850 after the explorer Gregory had reported mineral deposits to the north, now a port exporting bulk grain. Geraldton is the gateway to Abrolhos Islands.

Beaches

Geraldton has beaches, including one right in the city centre known as Town Beach. Most of the local beaches are safe for swimming and on weekends Mahomets Beach has surf patrols. The climate here is mostly sunny but the winds do get blustery, making the beaches great for surfing and windsurfing.

Fisherman's Harbor

Located on the westend's northern shore is the Live Lobster Factory, that is available to be toured in crayfishing season, which is from November to June.

Geraldton Regional Art Gallery

Along with traveling exhibitions there is a good range of contemporary and traditional permanent artworks here. *24 Chapman Road.*

HMAS Sydney Memorial

This relatively new memorial, opened in 2001, as a tribute to the victims of the sinking of this vessel off the coast in 1941. 645 lives were lost. The memorial is on a small hilltop overlooking the city.

Houtman Abrolhos Islands

These remote group of coral islands are largely uninhabited for most of the year. Fishing off these islands is a popular past time.

Marine Terrace

The heart of the city lies along Marine Terrace, an area which is half way to being a pedestrian precinct. The Courthouse lies at the northern end of this street, an imposing building.

Point Moore Lighthouse

The West End is where you will find the Point Moore Lighthouse. It is 34 metres tall and its light is visible at a range of 26 kilometres. It was constructed in 1878 and is the only lighthouse in Western Australia to be made completely of steel.

Old Geraldton Gaol Craft Centre

This gaol built in 1858 but shut up shop as a prison in 1986. Now it is used for craftworks and sales. *Chapman Road.*

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cathedral

In the centre of the city is the very impressive St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cathedral. The Cathedral was the work of the priest and architect Monsignor John Hawes.

Western Australian Museum of Geraldton

This is a maritime museum. A highlight is shipwreck hall which tells the story of some tragic shipwrecks and has plenty of memorabilia from under the sea. *1 Museum Place.*

Kalbarri

Kalbarri is at the mouth of the Murchinson River and the base for Kalbarri National Park. A park with gorges carved out by the Murchinson River. The Rainbow jungle is a

breeding station for parrots and cockatoos and the Seahorse Sanctuary is working on Seahorse conservation.

Kalgoorlie

Kalgoorlie sits on the richest square mile of gold mining soil in the world and is affectionately known as the Golden Mile. This gold rush boom town sits on the edge of the world's largest open cut gold mine and it still yields plenty, up to 850,000 ounces of gold annually. Because Kalgoorlie was built on gold the township is full of beautiful ornate architecture with wide spacious streets to stroll down.

Hammond Park

This flora and fauna reserve has native wildlife as well as a model of a Bavarian Castle. Next to the park is the Arboretum, which has a birdwatching walking trails. *Lyall Street*.

Hay Street

This infamous red light area serviced the hard working miners from the very early gold rush days. They started over a century ago with tents and then moved up market to tin sheds. The Brothels are still here and one **Langtrees 181** offers tours of an unusual nature. Here you can stroll through the themed rooms and be shocked or surprised, this is a tour for the over 18's only. *181 Hay Street*.

Mineral Museum

There is plenty of gold nuggets here, but unfortunately they are only replicas, but they do show just how large some of the gold chunks were. There is also a large collection of mineral and ore specimens. *Cassidy street*.

Mining Hall of Fame

Everything you need to know about mining is here, there are interactive displays on past and modern mining styles. You can see an underground mine, pan for gold the old fashioned way and pour over lots of mining memorabilia. *Broad Arrow Road*.

Museum of the Goldfields

There are displays here of life in the goldfields in the early days. Highlights are the gold in the basement and a collection of gold jewelry, miner's style, from the early days. *17 Hannan Street*.

Super Pit Lookout

Be awe inspired by the workings of a modern open cut mine, as a work in progress. But, beware the lookout is closed when the mine delivers it's daily blast. The lookout is located in Boulder off the Goldfields highway. *Outram Street*.

Karijini

Karijini National Park is 250 kilometres from Port Headland, the second largest of the National Parks in Western Australia. Formerly known as the Hamersley Ranges National Park, it can be reached off the Great Northern Highway, 180km west of Newman. There are waterfalls and gorges, mountains, rivers and diverse flora and fauna. There are some great adventure trails through the park, with walking and swimming being the main activities.

Dale's Gorge

This gorge is the most lush of the gorges and is located 10kms east of the visitors centre. There is a waterfall here called Fortesque Falls and close by is a large swimming hole. There is also a trail to Circular Pool which resembles a bowl made out of rock and is surrounded by ferns.

Hamersley Gorge

This gorge is located at the western border of the park and some 100km from Dale's Gorge and the Visitors centre. The Fortesque River runs through here and the colors of the rock and water combinations are vibrant.

Kalamina Gorge

This is the most beautiful gorge and is also easy to explore so very popular.

Mount Bryce

Known to be WA's second highest mountain, towering to 1235 metres is Mount Bryce. You can climb it to see the amazing view but be warned it is 9km trek and estimated return climb is 6 hours.

Oxer Lookout

This spectacular lookout provides a good viewpoint from the edge of a hundred metre drop and you can see the four different gorges.

Weano Gorge

This is the deepest gorge and the most challenging. You may need an experienced guide to take you to this one. A good degree of fitness is required to tackle Weano Gorge as it is quite adventurous.

Margaret River

Margaret River well to the south of Perth is known for wine, caves and scenery and makes for a busy tourist area. Margaret River is 100 km south of Bunbury on the Bussell Highway.

Beaches

Margaret River is also famous for its surf beaches, but the town itself is ten kilometres inland and the beaches are, in fact, closer to Prevelly. Prevelly is located 9km from Margaret River and is the closest as well as one of Australia's best surf beaches. Surfers come from around the world to catch a break here and it is home of the Margaret River Masters annual surfing competition. Gnarahap Beach, Smith Beach and The Three Bears are good for experienced surfers, and if you are looking for a more gentle surf there is Rivermouth Beach.

Caves

There are some 350 caves but only a few are open to the public. The nearest cave to Margaret River is the Mammoth Cave, 20kms south of Margaret River it has many fossil remains even some of the elusive Tasmanian Tiger. Three kilometres further south is Cave Works and the Lake Cave which at the base of it's crater is an underground lake. Jewel Cave has the worlds longest straws which are thought to be formed over 3,000 years as well as an underground river; and Moondyne Cave are both further south and close to Augusta; Calgardup Cave is on Caves Road and goes to depth of 27metres; and a great adventure cave is Nigilgi Cave which has three hour tours that must be pre booked, it can also be found on Caves Road.

Eagles Heritage

Here you can see the largest collection of Australia's birds of prey all in their natural habitat. *Boodjidip Road.*

Margaret River Chocolate Factory

This delectable factory produces fine chocolate and yes, there are free tastings. You can also watch the candy being made and make purchases. *Harman's Mill Road.*

Margaret River Regional Wine Centre

Not only do they stock every brand of wine bottled in the area but, they supply good information on the wineries and suggested itineraries for tastings and tours.

Marron Farm

Located 11km south of Margaret River is a farm that produces thousands of marron. There are also picnic and swimming facilities here. *Wickham Road.*

Old Settlement Museum

This is a depiction of a pioneering community from the 1920's. There are old buildings and historical displays as well as craft studios and shops. Located on the banks of the Margaret River.

Wineries

There are over 80. Some are world class and most offer wine tastings. The Wilyabrup wineries are mostly on Caves Road between Yallingup and Margaret River. There are some wineries close to Margaret River and can be found off Boodijup Road.

Monkey Mia

Monkey Mia has become internationally famous for its dolphins. They arrive every morning to see who has come to greet them and play with them. The whole area of which Monkey Mia is a part is known as Shark Bay, a World Heritage Area. Monkey Mia is 25km northeast of Denham.

When the dolphins come, you can just paddle in to play with them or take a cruise where you will see dugong ('sea cows') that live off sea grass in Shark Bay. The dolphins usually arrive at 8am looking for food and that's when the beach gets very congested with tourists. However, feeding is allowed three times a day between the hours of 8am and 1pm, so the dolphins often arrive back for more and often it is not as crowded then.

If the dolphins are a no show there is always plenty of other sea creatures to view in these waters including tropical fish, turtles, dugongs, manta rays and from June to October Humpback Whales make an appearance.

Stromatolites, the world's oldest type of living fossil are also found in the area and tours area viable to see them.

Blue Lagoon Pearl

This glass bottom boat will transport you to a pearl farm, where you can learn about the pearl industry and also purchase pearl jewelry.

Boat Cruises

You can take sailing cruises into the bay, there are several types, such as morning cruises, wildlife cruises and sunset cruises.

Pemberton

Pemberton is about 5 hours south of Perth. Well known for the karri forest and setting inside the forest. Pemberton's industrial history was the timber mill industry and there is plenty of evidence of that in the wooden cottages and woodcraft galleries. However, it is recently becoming more popular for its wineries, national parks and bushwalking.

Fine Woodcraft Gallery

Pemberton is known for its woodcrafts and this gallery has displays of some of the best that are made in the area. *Dickinson Street.*

Gloucester Tree

The Gloucester Tree is a fire look out and the highest fire lookout tree in the world. The lookout structure is situated sixty metres above the ground, and can be climbed. The tree is named the Gloucester Tree after the Duke of Gloucester, Governor-General of

Australia at the time, who visited and inspected the construction of the lookout in 1946. The Gloucester Tree is located in the Gloucester National Park.

Karri Visitors' Centre

In the centre of the town of Pemberton, you will find the Karri Visitors' Centre, which incorporates the Pioneer Museum, the Karri Forest Discovery Centre and the Pemberton Tourist Centre.

Pemberton Mill

Sawmill tours are offered by Pemberton Mill, which started its life in 1912 cutting sleepers for the Trans-Australian Railway.

Pemberton Trams

This is a great scenic way to see the forest and explore once you get there. The trams run along to the Warren River Bridge and Northcliffe. *Railway Cres.*

Warren National Park

It is here that you will find the Bicentennial Tree, which is a living lookout that was established in 1988, hence the name. Here you will find perfect views from the top. There are bushwalking tracks through here that lead to the Warren River and also riverside picnic and camping spots. Warren National Park is located 12km west of Pemberton

Wineries

Pemberton is becoming quietly popular for its wineries with the wines being cool climate varieties. There are at least 10 cellar doors you can visit and some offer food as well. Salitage is believed to have some of the best wines in the region and is Pemberton's grandest. There are tours through the winery, wine tasting and a restaurant. Located 10km from Pemberton on the Vasse Highway.

Perth

Perth is the state capital city of Western Australia, the largest state in Australia and the fourth largest city in Australia. For a city of its size, Perth is one of the most isolated places on earth. To reach Perth, the nearest Australian capital city and the nearest place of similar size, takes a day and a half of continuous travel by land, and Perth is closer to Singapore than it is to Sydney.

The centre of Perth is located on the northern bank of the Swan River, a very green city, with an abundance of parks and tree-lined boulevards. One of Perth's main attractions lies in the pristine quality of its beaches. Unbroken stretches of golden sands run the entire length of the city's coastal suburbs.

Perth was not the first place in Western Australia to be settled. That honour fell to Albany in 1826. Perth was second, the Swan River Colony here being established in 1829. The

city was so named because the Secretary of State for the Colonies in Britain at the time, Sir George Murray, was the member for the Scottish city of Perth.

Although this is not generally thought of as having been a penal settlement, in fact convicts were brought here from 1850 until 1868, and it was the last place in Australia to accept prisoners.

One of the incentives held out to the people of Western Australia to encourage federation in 1901 was that the Commonwealth Government would construct a railway line connecting the state with the rest of the continent. That was duly done, and proved a valuable link between this isolated city and eastern Australia, although the standard gauge line did not reach Perth until 1969.

Despite its fairly long history, by Australian standards, Perth gives the impression of being a thoroughly modern city. Yet, if one looks around, one can still find the older buildings and the history, especially in the city centre. It is a particularly attractive city, with the Swan River, named for the black swans which were always to be found on it, running through its centre, and with King's Park offering a fine view down over the urban area.

Animal Attractions

Armadale Reptile Centre

Over 200 reptiles with snakes, lizards turtles and lots more. Just off the South Western Highway in Armadale.

Aquarium of Western Australia

Hillarys Boat Harbour, a little north of Scarborough, is the home of the Aquarium of Western Australia. *91 Southside Drive, Hillarys.*

Caversham Wildlife Park

A collection of over 200 species at Whiteman Park. A good place to see kangaroos, and wombats. *Enter the park from Lord Street or Beechboro Road.*

Cohunu Wildlife Park

Lots of Koalas in a large parkland along with other native animals. *Mills Road, Gosnells.*

Perth Zoo

Perth Zoo is in South Perth and has more than 2,000 creatures of 280 different species. It tries to present its residents in their natural environment as far as possible. There is an Australian Walkabout section featuring native wildlife, through some parts of which one can wander with the animals. *20 Labouchere Road in South Perth.*

Buildings

Barracks Arch

This is the only remnant of the first military barracks constructed in Perth in 1860 for soldier settlers. *St. George's Terrace.*

Government House

Government House on St George's Terrace was completed in 1864 and is still the official residence of the Governor of Western Australia. If you walk down between the Concert Hall and Government House, you will also get a glimpse of the magnificent gardens here.

London Court

In the heart of Perth a small pedestrian street built in 1937 in a mock Tudor style. There are clocks at each end with hourly jousting tournaments and interesting little shops within. *Hay Street Mall and St Georges Terrace.*

Perth Boys' School

The former premises of Perth Boys' School date from 1854. This is the second oldest independent school in Australia, the oldest being King's School, Parramatta, near Sydney (1831). *Corner of the Esplanade and William Street.*

Perth Town Hall

The Town Hall on the corner of Hay Street and Barrack Street dates from the 1880s and was built by convict labour, but it appears older, copying a traditional English Jacobean style.

Perth Mint

Established in 1899, this is Australia's oldest operating mint and now specialises in the production of silver, gold and platinum commemorative coins and medals. There is a museum, and you can see a demonstration of gold pouring here. You can hold an ingot worth \$200,000 and see the world's largest collection of natural gold nuggets. *310 Hay Street.*

Supreme Court and Gardens

The Supreme Court building was constructed in 1897. The nearby Old Courthouse houses the Francis Burt Law Museum and is the oldest building in Perth. *Corner of St. George's Terrace and Barrack Street.*

Swan Bell tower

The modernistic Swan Bell tower contains twelve bells from the church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square, London. The bells, cast in 1725, were a bicentennial gift from the U.K. Government. *Barrack Square.*

St George's Cathedral

An Anglican cathedral in the city centre.

St. George's Hall

The building on Hay Street has been demolished, but the portico was allowed to remain as a reminder of the grandeur of Perth's first purpose-built theatre, constructed in 1879.

St. George's Anglican Cathedral

The Cathedral is built in Gothic style and found off St George's Terrace. It was started in 1880 and completed in 1888.

St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral

The western part of this Cathedral in Victoria Square was built in 1865. It stands on the highest point in the central part of Perth.

The Deanery

The Deanery on the corner of St. George's Terrace and Pier Street is one of the few buildings in Perth dating from the 1850s. It was originally the residence of the first Dean of Perth, but now it is used as Church offices. It still has its original timber shingles on the roof.

The Cloisters

The Cloisters in St Georges Terrace were constructed in 1859 as part of the first secondary school for boys in Western Australia.

The Old Mill

Built in 1835 and is one of the oldest buildings in Perth. *Mill Point Road, South Perth.*

Museums**Aviation Museum**

The largest aviation museum in Australia is at Bull Creek. Displays include a Spitfire and Lancaster Bomber and lots more.

Constitutional Centre

The history of democracy in WA is explained. *Havelock Street.*

Cricket Museum

A history of cricket. WACA Ground on Nelson Crescent in East Perth.

Fire Station Museum

The Fire Station Museum on Murray Street has a display of fire-fighting equipment, including a 1927 Dennis fire engine.

Fremantle Motor Museum

More than 50 cars including world land speed record holders, cars of the rich and famous and lots more.

Railway Museum

There is a Railway Museum adjacent to Bassendean Station on the Midland Line.

Scitech

The biggest planetarium in Australia with a huge 18 metre diameter dome screen providing a 360 degree view. *City West, Sutherland Street West Perth.*

Sport Museum of WA

Features WA sports stars. *Challenge Stadium on Stephenson Avenue.*

WA Museum

A large collection of exhibits to interest all. *Perth Cultural Centre, James Street.*

Outdoors**Beaches**

There are plenty of beaches around Perth, along what has become known as the Sunset Coast. Cottesloe Beach is one of the nearest ocean beaches to the city and a safe swimming beach. Scarborough and Trigg beaches are popular surfing beaches.

Botanic Gardens

The Botanic Gardens are just beyond the War Memorial in King's Park. *King's Park.*

Burswood Park

A public park with plenty of trails and places to picnic. The park foreshore runs along the Swan River. The Heritage trail tells the story of Western Australia. All the attractions and facilities are free. Resort Drive, Burswood.

Kings Park

Opened in 1872 it has developed as a beautiful park in the centre of Perth and extends to 400 hectares. The tree-lined Fraser Avenue leads to the heart of this 400-hectare park, where the War Memorial stands. The trees beside the road are karri, native to the state of Western Australia. The War Memorial is impressive in itself, but it also stands at the point where there is a magnificent view down over the whole of the city centre. There are lots of paths and view points. The Lotterywest Federation Walkway provides a walk through the treetops. Start at the Lord Forrest Statue on Fraser Avenue.

Whiteman Park

A large park of over 4000 hectares with most protected as a conservation reserve. Plenty of native wildlife to observe. *Lord Street, West Swan.*

Rottnest

The charming little island of Rottnest lies nineteen kilometres offshore from Fremantle, a distance which can be covered in only half an hour by the fast ferries plying the route. The island is eleven kilometres in length and a little over three kilometres across at its widest point. It is famous for its quokkas.

Rottnest is suitable for a day trip or for an extended visit. There is accommodation on the island, but it is a popular destination, so booking is advisable. It is especially favoured as a location for seeing in the New Year.

Ferries run to Rottnest from both Perth and Fremantle. There is also a service from Hillarys, on the coast just north of Scarborough. From Fremantle the crossing takes 30 minutes. From Hillarys it takes 45 minutes. From Perth, you get the beautiful journey down the Swan River to Fremantle first which takes an hour and, since passengers then have to be picked up in Fremantle, the whole voyage takes approximately two hours.

Although Rottnest was sighted by earlier Dutch navigators making their way to the East Indies, it was Willem de Vlamingh who named it in 1696. He landed and found the island inhabited by what he believed to be huge rats. Therefore, he called it Rottenest, meaning Rat's Nest. The 'rats' are, in fact, a very small type of kangaroo now given the aboriginal name quokka.

Although this is not quite the only place where they are found, it is one of the very few, and the only place where visitors are likely to meet them. Originally they inhabited much of the coastal area of Western Australia, but the introduction by Europeans of various species of animal has doomed them. In particular, domestic animals such as cats and dogs have hunted quokkas almost out of existence on the mainland. Here, though, cats and dogs are not permitted, and quokkas abound.

There are an estimated 10,000 quokkas here and they can be found everywhere, although there are certain places which are particularly good viewing spots. They are not particularly shy, having no enemies here, but they are basically nocturnal, so often sleeping during the day, unless they know that there are visitors around, with the possibility of food. In fact, it is prohibited to feed the quokkas, since anything with which humans are likely to supply them will not be good for their digestive system. Note that biscuits, in particular, are not the natural diet of quokkas, despite their being very adept at noticing that you have some hidden in your bag.

A feature of Rottnest is that private vehicles are not permitted on the island, with minor exceptions made for police, doctor and a few others. There is a bus service and there are bicycles and feet. Recently, the railway line has also been restored.

Pinnacles

The Pinnacles are part of the Nambung National Park in Western Australia. Lancelin is the small town which lies to the south of the Pinnacles, and Cervantes is the slightly larger town which lies immediately to the north of them. And about 250 km north of Perth.

The Pinnacles consist of curious rock formations protruding from the shifting sands in a small coastal desert area north of Perth. The Pinnacles are limestone pillars, thousands of them rising out of the yellow sands like stone termite mounds. They are up to four metres in height and seem like an extra-terrestrial landscape.

The Pinnacles cover an area of approximately 400 hectares. A good view is from the Pinnacles lookout and where the contrast between the Red Desert to the east and the White Desert to the west can be observed.

Nambung National Park

This park is home to the extraordinary Pinnacles. There are several walking trails and look outs here.

Walpole

Walpole in the South of Western Australia is on the shore of a peaceful inlet off another inlet. The open sea is not visible from the town itself making it very sheltered. Walpole can also offer cruises on the river, either upstream or downstream.

Coalmine Beach

Coalmine Beach on Nornalup Inlet, about three kilometres away.

Valley of the Giants

Fifteen kilometres away is the Valley of the Giants, a grove of huge Tingle well seen from the Tree Top Walk, a 600 metre walkway through the crowns of the tall trees forty metres above the ground below.

Walpole Nornalup National Park

Named after the two townships that sit either end of the park, there is over 18,000 hectares of bush here. Bushwalking is popular in here and you will stumble on plenty of deserted beaches as well.

York

York is an old inland town surrounded by the Avon Valley and has a lot of colonial architecture. The Castle Hotel dates back to the 1850's and the Town Hall to 1911. The Old Gaol, Courthouse and Police Station was opened in 1865. One of the oldest houses is Faversham House built in the 1830's.

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