

# Independent TRAVEL

## Australia – the ‘land down under’

Now is the time to book flights to Australia for the peak season of December to March in order to take advantage of the low flight prices which will only be around for a very short time.

However, a holiday to Australia needs careful planning, especially if it's a first trip.

Sydney, Rock and Reef – the big three for Australia and the must see places for most first time visitors. Sydney is a fabulous first stop for the tourist; one look at Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House and you know that you have arrived down under.

But don't just look, why not walk over the bridge and take a tour of the Opera House including back stage.

Most people stay just 3 or 4 nights, but there is so much to do: harbour cruises, bike tours, the Aquarium, Bondi Beach, that a week would not be out of the question.

### Next stop...Rock

Ayers Rock, or to give it its proper name Uluru, is fascinating and a great opportunity to learn about the Aboriginal culture. In order not to miss a thing, book an Uluru Pass, which includes sunset and sunrise tours, the Olga Gorge walk and the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre.



**Kristina Hulme**  
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### And...Reef

The Great Barrier Reef must not be missed, and a trip on a glass bottomed boat, or a scuba diving trip for the more adventurous is a highlight of any trip. The Queensland coast is also a great place to relax with some lovely beaches and great accommodation.

For those with more time, or on a second trip, Australia has so much more to offer. A favourite destination, often overlooked, is Tasmania. Roughly the same size as Ireland, Tasmania has a rugged coastline, snow-capped mountains, deserted beaches and fabulous gourmet cuisine.

Its size makes it manageable for a touring or self drive holiday, but



it is also a great walking destination with 2000 km of walking tracks.

Freycinet National Park is particularly beautiful with Wineglass Bay's perfect crescent of sand, perfect for a spot of kayaking! Hobart has a historic waterfront and a good centre from which to visit Port Arthur, the third oldest settlement in Australia with a notorious original prison and the Tasmanian Devil Conservation Park.

Adelaide and Melbourne, on Australia's south coast are two delightful cities, and linked by one of Australia's best known scenic drives – the Great Ocean Road, and we would recommend a leisurely 2 or 3 days to explore this area.

### And not forgetting...

Perth, on the west coast, for the dolphins at Monkey Mia and the wine region of Margaret River. Or Darwin, in the Northern Territory, where a short journey will take you to the Kakadu National Park for some crocodile spotting!

Knowing how to make the most of your trip to Australia is where you need the help of Aussie Specialist Agent, Travel by Design in Alderley Edge.

We have been members of the Australia Tourist Board's exclusive agent programme for many years and have been putting itineraries together, including stopovers and round the



world journeys for our discerning clients.

To put together the best itinerary to make good use of your time, we recommend you take advantage of our 'travel by appointment' system.

Book your visit and we will set time aside, with all the maps and guides, to plan the perfect trip. Call Kristina, Irene or Diana on 01625 584195 or email [info@travelbydesigngroup.com](mailto:info@travelbydesigngroup.com)



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