SEEYOUTHERE

# July **2023**

Victoria's Great Ocean Road affords one of the world's most scenic drives, while the distinctive cities of Perth, Melbourne and Sydney welcome guests to discover a wealth of urban adventures found nowhere else.

Australia's vast size makes air travel the most popular way to link major destinations. Luxury expedition cruising offers another way to explore some of Australia's more remote northern coastal regions, such as the Kimberley. After hearing the word Australia, the next comment usually includes the Great Barrier Reef which stretches over 1,600 miles. Accessed via boat from the mainland port cities of Cairns or Port Douglas, or from exclusive resorts on secluded island enclaves such as Lizard, Hayman and Whitsundays islands.

The Sydney Opera House is one of the world's most recognizable pieces of architecture and vibrant performance spaces. Celebrating 50 years, you can enjoy a historical tour where you'll learn how in the mid-1950s, Australia and a man from Denmark, Jørn Utzon, created a sculpture on Sydney Harbour that changed the course of twentieth-century architecture. Something particularly special to me is of course the Australian Ballet and Season 2023 marks 60 years. I definitely recommend watching a performance in this iconic theatre.

Who is Australia for? Explorers, adventure seekers, sight seeing, cultural experiences, couples, solo travelers, families... pretty much everyone. Any hesitation on how to get there? I've got some thoughts on page

#### G'day! Australia is a huge country with so much to offer. Divided up into chunks you can probably start to scratch the surface with a 14

**day** + **itinerary.** After 14 days you will either be begging to extend or start planning your return to a different region. Australia is a year-round destination and boasts unparalleled natural wonders, such as the vast Great Barrier Reef, the monumental rock formations of Uluru and the sprawling Outback, the biodiverse Daintree Rainforest, the Bungle Bungle Range of Western Australia, the wilds of Tasmania, the remote shores of the Kimberley and the fascinating wildlife of Kangaroo Island.





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#### Since Australia is so huge I wanted to mention a snippet about Tasmania...

Some activity highlights to get you excited!

Tasmania is Australia's undisputed mountain biking capital, threaded with purpose-built tracks through rare landscapes. Picturesque descents from mountains to sea, rainforests blanketed in moss and marathon-length trails to white-sand beaches.



Fly fishers can choose from expansive estuaries and swift rivers, creeks and crystal-clear lakes and remote tarns set in World Heritage landscapes, all within easy traveling distance of Hobart and Launceston. Allow me to curate something to inspire you.

Did you know that there is an entire subterranean world that exists beneath your feet in Tasmania?

It's the site of spectacular cave networks that include rivers, reflection pools and caverns full of glow-worms. At 395m below the surface, Niggly Cave in south-west Tasmania is Australia's deepest cave; it's part of the Junee Florentine system, which spans more than 600 caves and 50km of explored passages.

This mysterious world contains archaeological sites of extinct megafauna, ancient sediments from the glacial periods and unique cave-adapted





Valerie Wilson Travel THE POWER OF ACCESS

### Spotlight on... getting down under



## Air travel has changed a lot over the years... some for the better and some less good.

Non-stop flights on Qantas in approximately 14 hours each way. United also offers service and more options may be applicable depending on the departure airport.

Qantas Dreamliner Business class is designed with comfort and relaxation in mind.



Customers enjoy:

- Priority check-in counters, dedicated boarding lane and disembarkation access
  Complimentary access to one of their award-winning Qantas Business lounges, where available,
- or one of their partner airline lounges
- · Stretch out in a private Business Suite that reclines to a luxurious fully-flat bed
- Personal on-demand inflight entertainment system
- · Complimentary signature Qantas pyjamas and deluxe amenity kits
- Priority baggage handling

#### Something that works in well pre or post Australia, is a stop in Fiji.

Fiji is about 4 hours from Sydney and offers a fantastic beach vacation to the mix. Comprising of 333 unique and diverse islands, you will be spoilt for choice with options.

One of the first things you will hear from someone who has been to Fiji is that the people are incredible! The most humble and welcoming cultures in the world. Some guests leave in tears not because they are leaving paradise but because they have connected on such a deep level with the staff. Fiji is many things, a perfect honeymoon or family destination with the option to 'flop and drop' for R&R or it could be natures playground offering a lot of activities such as Diving, Fijian Cultural Traditions such as Weaving, Carving, and Sulu Styling, Kayaking, Local Village Tours, Motorized Watersports such as Water Skiing, Wake Boarding and Skurfing, Movement & Fitness Classes at resorts, Private Boat Charters, Snorkeling, Fishing, SUP, Surfing, Tennis, Basketball and other ball sports, Spa,



Yoga and some of my favorites: Sustainability Projects such as transplanting corals or restoring and planting Mangroves, Marine Biology experiences to seek manta rays and other under water creatures.

How about a food safari experience? Source your own bounty of fresh Fijian fruit, vegetables and coconuts from the local market, visit a local farm to learn about where the produce comes from and bring back your own ingredients to enjoy a warrior cooked traditional Fijian meal. Want more? Learn







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