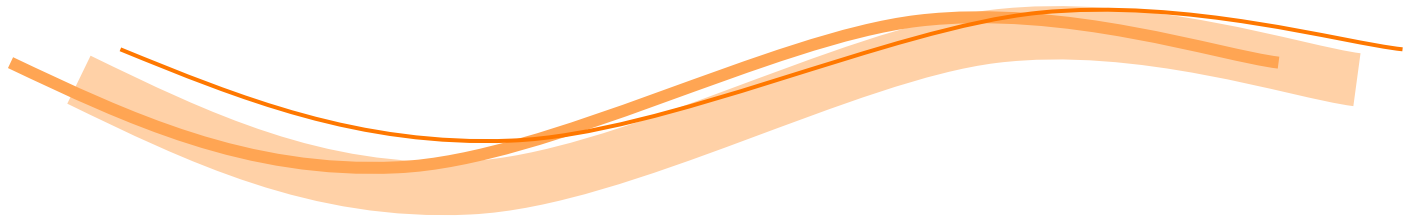




Chris' Travel Notes: AUSTRALIA





AUSTRALIA	
Location	Australia is positioned in the southern hemisphere below New Guinea and South East Asia. It is surrounded by the Pacific, Antarctic and Indian Oceans.
Geography	Covering a total area of 7.69 million square kilometres, mainland Australia is the world's largest island - but smallest continent. In distance, the continent stretches about 3700 kilometres from north to south and 4000 kilometres from east to west, making it the sixth-largest nation after Russia, Canada, China, the United States and Brazil. Australia is also the only continent that is governed as a single country. It is sometimes informally referred to as an 'island' continent, surrounded by oceans.
Name	For many centuries Europeans believed there must be a vast land in the southern hemisphere, variously called 'Terra Australis Incognita' or 'Unknown South Land'. After Dutch navigators charted the northern, western and southern coasts of Australia during the 17th Century this newly found continent became known as 'New Holland'. It was the English explorer Matthew Flinders who made the suggestion of the name we use today. He was the first to circumnavigate the continent in 1803, and used the name 'Australia' to describe the continent on a hand drawn map in 1804. When the map and book describing his journey was finally published in 1814 the name 'Terra Australis' was used instead, although Flinders stated that his preference was still 'Australia'.
Population	Australians have one of the most urbanised and coast-dwelling populations in the world, with more than 80 per cent of residents living within 100 kilometres of the coastline. Australia currently has a population of almost 23 million people.
Language	Australia's official language is English. However, being a multicultural nation with a significant migrant population, Australia also enjoys a tremendous diversity of languages and cultures.
Currency	Australia's national currency is the Australian dollar which comes in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 notes. Coins come in 5, 10, 20 and 50 cent and one and two dollar denominations. Currently (6 May 2016) one Canadian dollar is worth \$1.04 Australian dollars, which makes conversion simple.
Tipping	Hotels and restaurants do not add service charges to your bill. In up market restaurants, it is usual to tip waiters up to ten per cent of the bill for good service. However, tipping is always your choice. It is not custom to bargain in Australia.
Government	Australia has three levels of government – the federal Australian Government, the governments of the six states and two territories, and

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	<p>around 700 local government authorities. Australia has been a nation with a single national government since 1 January 1901. Although it is divided into states and territories which have their own state governments, we are all united as one nation.</p> <p>Australia is a constitutional monarchy with Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom as its head of state, which is why Australia's national flag comprises the Union Jack (along with the Commonwealth Star and the Southern Cross).</p> <p>The Queen appoints the Governor-General of Australia as her representative on the advice of the elected Australian Government. The Governor-General appoints ministers on the advice of the Prime Minister. Australia's system of government is based on the liberal democratic tradition, which includes religious tolerance and freedom of speech and association.</p> <p>The Australian Constitution sets out the functions of the Australian Government, such as foreign relations and trade, defense and immigration. States and territories are responsible for matters not assigned to the federal government.</p> <p>There are two major political groups that usually form government, federally and in the states: the Australian Labor Party, and the Coalition which is a formal grouping of the Liberal Party and its minor partner, the National Party.</p>
Documentation	<p>Canadians need a Passport and a Visa to visit Australia. A tourist visa is for people visiting Australia for a holiday, sightseeing, social or recreational reasons, to visit relatives, friends or for other short-term non-work purposes. There are a number of tourist visas available for people wishing to visit Australia as a tourist. Visit the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship website for more details.</p>
Time zones	<p>Australia is divided into three separate time zones: Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) covers the eastern states of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania & the Australian Capital Territory. AEST is equal to Coordinated Universal Time plus 10 hours (UTC +10). Australian Central Standard Time (ACST) covers the state of South Australia, the town of Broken Hill in western New South Wales and the Northern Territory. ACST is equal to Coordinated Universal Time plus 9½ hours (UTC +9½). Australian Western Standard Time (AWST) covers Western Australia. AWST is equal to Coordinated Universal Time plus 8 hours (UTC +8).</p>
Health	<p>Australia has an excellent health-care system. Privately run medical clinics and hospitals complement public hospitals funded by the Australian government. There are excellent and specialized public health facilities for women and children in Australia's major centres. As always, make sure you have travel insurance before you travel.</p>

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Safety tips	Australia is a very safe country and comparable to Canada. However, it's weird and wonderful wildlife do pose some risks. For a fun view of these – read Bill Bryson's "In a Sunburned Country".
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CLIMATE	
General climate	Australia experiences temperate weather for most of the year but the climate can vary due to the size of the continent. The northern states typically experience warm weather much of the time, with the southern states experiencing cooler winters. Australia is also one of the driest continents on earth with an average annual rainfall of less than 600 millimetres. Like all countries in the southern hemisphere, Australia's seasons are opposite to those in the northern hemisphere. December to February is summer; March to May is autumn; June to August is winter; and September to November is spring.
Today's weather	Today is 25C and sunny in Brisbane (14 May 2016)
Best time to visit	With their reverse seasonality, winter is a great time to visit Australia, but most regions are year round destinations.

GETTING AROUND	
Getting There	<p>Air Canada will offer non-stop service three times weekly to Brisbane from their Vancouver hub beginning June 1, 2016 with easy connections on the unsurpassed Air Canada network from across Canada.</p> <p>Starting June 17, 2016 non-stop service will increase to daily aboard the Boeing 787-8 aircraft.</p> <p>This is the only year-round, non-stop flight between Canada and the capital city of Queensland, a major business hub and gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and Australia's Gold Coast.</p> <p>These flights compliment Air Canada's year-round daily non-stop flights to Sydney, Australia.</p>
States	<p>Australia is divided into six states and two territories:</p> <p>Canberra is the national capital and the centre of government. It is located approximately 290 kilometres south of Sydney in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Canberra lies on the ancient lands of the Indigenous Ngunnawal people, and its name is thought to mean 'meeting place', from the Aboriginal word 'Kamberra'. It is home to important national institutions, including the Australian Parliament and the High Court of Australia.</p> <p>New South Wales is Australia's oldest and most populated state. It was originally settled as a penal colony on the shores of Port Jackson where the bustling capital city of Sydney now stands. More than a third of Australians live in New South Wales, and Sydney is the nation's largest city.</p>

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Victoria is the smallest of the mainland states in size but the second most populated. Melbourne is the capital and is Australia's second most populated city. During the gold rush of the 1850s, it became one of the world's largest and wealthiest cities. Melbourne is sometimes referred to as the "cultural capital of Australia" and is the birthplace of Australian film, television, art, dance and music. Victorians' enthusiasm for sport is also legendary and this is where Australian Rules football began.

Queensland is Australia's second-largest state in size. The state capital is Brisbane, the third most populated city in Australia. Queenslanders enjoy more winter sunshine and warmth than most other Australian states and it's perfect for all types of outdoor activities and water sports. Queensland is also home to the world famous Great Barrier Reef as well as five World Heritage listed areas.

South Australia is a state in the southern central part of the country which covers some of the most arid parts of the continent. It is the fourth largest of Australia's states and shares its borders with all of the mainland states and the Northern Territory. The state capital is Adelaide, the fifth-largest city in Australia. South Australia has a thriving arts scene and is sometimes known as the 'Festival State', with more than 500 festivals taking place there every year.

At the top end of Australia lies the **Northern Territory**. Darwin, on the northern coast, is the capital, and Alice Springs the principal inland town. Alice Springs is the physical heart of Australia, almost exactly at the nation's geographical centre. The Northern Territory is home to the famous Uluru (Ayers Rock), Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) and Kakadu National Park.

Western Australia is Australia's largest state by area. About three-quarters of the state's population live in the capital Perth, which is the fourth most populated city in Australia. The east of the state is mostly desert while to the west the state is bound by almost 13000 kilometres of pristine coastline. In the 1890s gold was discovered and mining is still one of the state's biggest industries.

Tasmania is separated from mainland Australia by Bass Strait and is the smallest state in Australia. The capital, Hobart, was founded in 1804 as a penal colony, and is Australia's second oldest capital city after Sydney. One-fifth of Tasmania is covered by national parks and wilderness areas. It is one of the world's most mountainous islands whose geology reflects Australia's connection millions of years ago with Antarctica.

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	<p>Australia also administers Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Christmas Island, the Cocos (or Keeling) Islands, the Coral Sea Islands, Heard and McDonald Islands, Norfolk Island and the Australian Antarctic Territory (covering 42 per cent of the Antarctic continent) as external territories.</p>
Brisbane	<p>Visit Brisbane and you'll find a modern, vibrant city with a sunny, sub-tropical climate and unsurpassed natural beauty. Best of all, you'll find friendly locals keen to show you around this pretty riverside city. They love their city and so will you.</p> <p>Here are the top 10 things to do in Brisbane.</p> <p>Climb Brisbane's Story Bridge... and Abseil Down Climb Brisbane's iconic Story Bridge for a glimpse of this amazing city. Whether you climb at dawn, during the day, in the twilight or at night, you will discover exhilarating views north to the Glasshouse Mountains and south to the World Heritage-listed Gold Coast Hinterland. Keep the adrenalin going with an optional 30-metre abseil back down.</p> <p>Walk through Brisbane's Entertaining South Bank Walk or cycle around South Bank on the Brisbane River and see the best of the city while you exercise. Famous for its diverse mix of entertainment, recreation and leisure activities, South Bank includes 17 hectares of parklands, restaurants, cafes, bars, boutiques, museums and galleries. For a fun perspective, take a ride on the Wheel of Brisbane.</p> <p>Lay on the Beach in the Middle of Brisbane City Experience the Aussie beach vibe in the heart of the city. This fully patrolled, man-made beach is free to use and boasts a sparkling lagoon surrounded by white sand and sub-tropical plants. Relax with an ice cream, have a swim and soak up the famous Queensland sunshine. Nearby Aquativity is a fun, interactive water-play park, ideal for young families.</p> <p>Dine at Brisbane's Best Restaurants Enjoy the perfect meal at Esquire, renowned as Brisbane's finest restaurant, overlooking the twinkling lights of Story Bridge and the river ferries. Dine a la carte or choose the degustation menu from chef Ryan Squires, matched with Australian and international wines. Gerard's Bistro, Public, Aria, Stokehouse and The Foraging Quail are also highly recommended.</p>

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Soak up the Art at GoMA and the Queensland Art Gallery

Explore GoMA, Australia's largest gallery of modern and contemporary art and the iconic Queensland Art Gallery. The galleries are architectural wonders themselves, boasting a diversity of Australian and international art as well as two galleries devoted to contemporary Indigenous work. Friday nights are perfect for drinks with friends in GoMA's stylish bar.

Enjoy a "Paddle and Prawns" Experience on the Brisbane River

Guide your own illuminated kayak up the Brisbane River on Friday and Saturday nights. Take in the shimmering lights of the cityscape on a leisurely 90-minute paddle before relaxing with a riverside meal of fresh king prawns (Friday) or a barbecue (Saturday) with famous Queensland lamingtons for dessert. Wash it all down with Australian beer and wine.

Relax in Nightfall's Luxury Wilderness Camp

Spend a night under the stars just 90 minutes south of Brisbane. Limited to six guests, Nightfall is an intimate camping experience situated on 257 acres beside crystal-clear rapids in the ancient rainforest of the Lamington National Park. Explore, relax and enjoy a fire-cooked organic dinner before drifting off to sleep in a private luxury tent.

Go on a Chocolate or Craft Beer Walking Tour

Sweet-toothed travellers will love the Chocolate Tour, more than two hours of all things cocoa with experts leading you to eight different stores. There's plenty of taste testing along the way! The Craft Beer Tour takes in four venues – each with a colourful past – and includes tastings of 20 craft beers plus a history of brewing in Brisbane.

Shopping at Brisbane's The Collective Markets

Browse the stalls for unique and eclectic clothing by emerging artisans. This fun and friendly market in the bustling Stanley Street Plaza is held on Friday evenings and weekends. The designers are mostly creative young people and the emphasis is on effortless cool. Listen to live music as you look over handmade jewellery, art, antiques, photographs and vintage fashions.

Personalise Your Tour of North Stradbroke Island

Expect a laid-back time at North Stradbroke Island (known affectionately as "Straddie") just short ferry ride across Moreton Bay from Brisbane. Packages can be customised to include eco-touring, 4WD tours, kayaking, fishing and sandboarding. Watch the dolphins surf, photograph the birdlife and wildflowers or just wander miles of untouched beach.

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Distances	Australia is a big country! Here are some sample distances: Brisbane – Sydney: 733 kms Brisbane – Cairns: 1,683 kms Sydney – Melbourne: 878 kms Melbourne – Perth: 3,421 kms Adelaide – Darwin: 3,029 kms
Ferries	The Spirit of Tasmania runs a passenger and vehicle ferry service between Melbourne and Tasmania nightly. Extra services are running during summer peak times. Sealink ferries connect South Australia and Kangaroo Island several times a day. Ferries connect suburbs in the capital cities – they criss-cross Sydney Harbour, the Swan River in Perth and the Brisbane River in Brisbane.
Trains	Train travel is a convenient, affordable and scenic way to explore Australia. Interstate and intra-state rail services connect our cities and regional centres, while cross-country train trips offer a unique insight into Australia's size and diversity. Travelling options range from budget to luxury, and a range of rail passes can reduce your costs if you plan to see large sections of the country. Countrylink trains connect New South Wales destinations and also travel along Australia's east coast to Melbourne, Brisbane and Canberra. VLine trains link Melbourne with regional hubs in Victoria, Traveltrain covers Queensland and TransWA criss-crosses Western Australia. Australia also has epic rail journeys such as The Ghan and Indian-Pacific, which sweep across the continent, offering comfort and a sense bygone romance. The Indian-Pacific travels between Sydney to Perth, stopping for whistle-stop tours of Broken Hill, Adelaide and gold-rich Kalgoorlie. The legendary Ghan travels between Adelaide and Darwin, taking in Australia's Red Centre and the tropical Top End.
Car Rental	Australia has a vast network of well-maintained roads and some of the most beautiful touring routes in the world. Travel from Sydney to Brisbane past sleepy seaside towns and lush hinterland. Experience Australia's Red Centre in an epic drive across the desert. Or follow Victoria's Great Ocean Road as it hugs the spectacular south-east coast. You'll find car rental companies at major airports, central city locations, suburbs and resorts. So hire a car, four wheel drive, caravans or motorbike and hit the highway.
Buses	Coach and bus travel in Australia is comfortable, easy and economical. Coaches generally have air conditioning, reading lights, adjustable seats and videos. Services are frequent, affordable and efficient. Australia's national coach operator, Greyhound, offer passes to fit every budget
Internal Flights	Flying is the best way to cover large distances in a short time. You'll

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	<p>spend less time travelling and more time on the ground savouring Australia's can't-miss landscapes and laid-back lifestyle. Australia's domestic airlines – Qantas, Jetstar, Virgin Blue, Rex and their subsidiaries - serve all state capital cities and regional centres. Competition amongst domestic airlines means that great fares are available.</p>
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ACCOMMODATION TYPES	<p>Australia has boutique hotels and backpackers, luxury resorts and self-serviced apartments, rustic country pubs and camping. You can expect friendly service and the best standards in whichever budget range you choose.</p>
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LIFESTYLES	
Kids	<p>I have travelled to Australia with my children when they were babes in arms, pre-teens and teenagers – and at all stages this was a wonderful destination to travel in their company. There is so much for kids of all ages here – starting with the natural wonders such as the Great Barrier Reef and tropical rainforest and continuing with some of the world's finest beaches and the great Outback itself.</p>
Romance	<p>Welcome to World Heritage-listed Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island, and one of the most romantic locations imaginable. Embrace nature on this World Heritage-listed island, a short ferry ride from Hervey Bay on Queensland's Fraser Coast. On the world's largest sand island, you can 4WD next to coloured sand cliffs, hike through rainforest, meet native wildlife, whale-watch and swim in freshwater lakes ringed with gold. Get here on the Pacific Coast Touring Route or Great Sunshine Way.</p>
Zoomers	<p>Australia is highly recommended for Zoomers. You need time to appreciate the immensity of this country and Zoomers often have the gift of weeks rather than days for their vacations. It is also an easy destination for Canadians: it's a direct flight to either Brisbane or Sydney and of course it's also an English language destination with a dollar that is essentially on par with our own.</p>

UNIQUES	<p>Uluru Located in the centre of Australia, Uluru (Ayers Rock) is the world's biggest monolith. It's 3.6 kilometres long, 2 kilometres wide and has a 9.4 kilometre circumference. Made of arkosic sandstone, Uluru changes colour in different lights, particularly at sunrise and sunset. It's a mystical experience and highly recommended the long journey to get there.</p>
Surprising	<p>Swimming costumes in Queensland are known as togs, in NSW cossies, but in Victoria, bathers. And while Victorians use the word cantaloupe, in the rest of the country the fruit is known as rockmelon.</p>

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History

Aboriginal people dream on a timeless continent

Australia's Aboriginal people were thought to have arrived here by boat from South East Asia during the last Ice Age, at least 50,000 years ago. At the time of European discovery and settlement, up to one million Aboriginal people lived across the continent as hunters and gatherers. They were scattered in 300 clans and spoke 250 languages and 700 dialects. Each clan had a spiritual connection with a specific piece of land. However, they also travelled widely to trade, find water and seasonal produce and for ritual and totemic gatherings.

Despite the diversity of their homelands - from outback deserts and tropical rainforests to snow-capped mountains – all Aboriginal people share a belief in the timeless, magical realm of the Dreamtime. According to Aboriginal myth, totemic spirit ancestors forged all aspects of life during the Dreamtime of the world's creation. These spirit ancestors continue to connect natural phenomena, as well as past, present and future through every aspect of Aboriginal culture.

Britain arrives and brings its convicts

A number of European explorers sailed the coast of Australia, then known as New Holland, in the 17th century. However it wasn't until 1770 that Captain James Cook chartered the east coast and claimed it for Britain. The new outpost was put to use as a penal colony and on 26 January 1788, the First Fleet of 11 ships carrying 1,500 people – half of them convicts – arrived in Sydney Harbour. Until penal transportation ended in 1868, 160,000 men and women came to Australia as convicts. While free settlers began to flow in from the early 1790s, life for prisoners was harsh. Women were outnumbered five to one and lived under constant threat of sexual exploitation. Male re-offenders were brutally flogged and could be hung for crimes as petty as stealing. The Aboriginal people displaced by the new settlement suffered even more. The dispossession of land and illness and death from introduced diseases disrupted traditional lifestyles and practices.

Squatters push across the continent

By the 1820s, many soldiers, officers and emancipated convicts had turned land they received from the government into flourishing farms. News of Australia's cheap land and bountiful work was bringing more and more boatloads of adventurous migrants from Britain. Settlers or 'squatters' began to move deeper into Aboriginal territories – often with a gun - in search of pasture and water for their stock.

In 1825, a party of soldiers and convicts settled in the territory of the Yuggera people, close to modern-day Brisbane. Perth was settled by

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English gentlemen in 1829, and 1835 a squatter sailed to Port Phillip Bay and chose the location for Melbourne. At the same time a private British company, proud to have no convict links, settled Adelaide in South Australia.

Gold fever brings wealth, migrants and rebellion

Gold was discovered in New South Wales and central Victoria in 1851, luring thousands of young men and some adventurous young women from the colonies. They were joined by boat loads of prospectors from China and a chaotic carnival of entertainers, publicans, illicit liquor-sellers, prostitutes and quacks from across the world. In Victoria, the British governor's attempts to impose order - a monthly licence and heavy-handed troopers - led to the bloody anti-authoritarian struggle of the Eureka stockade in 1854. Despite the violence on the goldfields, the wealth from gold and wool brought immense investment to Melbourne and Sydney and by the 1880s they were stylish modern cities.

Australia becomes a nation

Australia's six states became a nation under a single constitution on 1 January 1901. Today Australia is home to people from more than 200 countries.

Australians go to war

The First World War had a devastating effect on Australia. There were less than 3 million men in 1914, yet almost 400,000 of them volunteered to fight in the war. An estimated 60,000 died and tens of thousands were wounded. In reaction to the grief, the 1920s was a whirlwind of new cars and cinemas, American jazz and movies and fervour for the British Empire. When the Great Depression hit in 1929, social and economic divisions widened and many Australian financial institutions failed. Sport was the national distraction and sporting heroes such as the racehorse Phar Lap and cricketer Donald Bradman gained near-mythical status.

During the Second World War, Australian forces made a significant contribution to the Allied victory in Europe, Asia and the Pacific. The generation that fought in the war and survived came out of it with a sense of pride in Australia's capabilities.

New Australians arrive to a post-war boom

After the war ended in 1945, hundreds of thousands of migrants from across Europe and the Middle East arrived in Australia, many finding jobs in the booming manufacturing sector. Many of the women who took factory jobs while the men were at war continued to work during

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	<p>peacetime.</p> <p>Australia's economy grew throughout the 1950s with major nation-building projects such as the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Scheme in the mountains near Canberra. International demand grew for Australia's major exports of metals, wools, meat and wheat and suburban Australia also prospered. The rate of home ownership rose dramatically from barely 40 per cent in 1947 to more than 70 per cent by the 1960s.</p> <p>Australia loosens up</p> <p>Like many other countries, Australia was swept up in the revolutionary atmosphere of the 1960s. Australia's new ethnic diversity, increasing independence from Britain and popular resistance to the Vietnam War all contributed to an atmosphere of political, economic and social change. In 1967, Australians voted overwhelmingly 'yes' in a national referendum to let the federal government make laws on behalf of Aboriginal Australians and include them in future censuses. The result was the culmination of a strong reform campaign by both Aboriginal and white Australians.</p> <p>In 1972, the Australian Labor Party under the idealistic leadership of lawyer Gough Whitlam was elected to power, ending the post-war domination of the Liberal and Country Party coalition. Over the next three years, his new government ended conscription, abolished university fees and introduced free universal health care. It abandoned the White Australia policy, embraced multiculturalism and introduced no-fault divorce and equal pay for women. However by 1975, inflation and scandal led to the Governor-General dismissing the government. In the subsequent general election, the Labor Party suffered a major defeat and the Liberal–National Coalition ruled until 1983.</p> <p>Since the 1970s</p> <p>Between 1983 and 1996, the Hawke–Keating Labor governments introduced a number of economic reforms, such as deregulating the banking system and floating the Australian dollar. In 1996 a Coalition Government led by John Howard won the general election and was re-elected in 1998, 2001 and 2004. The Liberal–National Coalition Government enacted several reforms, including changes in the taxation and industrial relations systems. In 2007 the Labor Party led by Kevin Rudd was elected with an agenda to reform Australia's industrial relations system, climate change policies, and health and education sectors.</p>
Recommended Reading	Lonely Planet Australia is my favourite guidebook for this vast country: http://shop.lonelyplanet.com/australia/australia-travel-guide-18/

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	My recommended travel book on the place is without doubt Bill Bryson's "In a Sunburned Country" – hilarious!
1000 Places to See Before You Die	Blue Mountains; Hunter Valley; Sydney Opera House and Harbour; Arnhem Land; Ayers Rock; The Olgas; Kakadu NP; Great Barrier Reef; The Great Ocean Road, Victoria; Barossa Valley; Kangaroo Island, South Australia; Lizard Island, Hayman Island, Heron Island
Must Sees	Great Barrier Reef Australia's most famous natural wonder, the Great Barrier Reef, will stun you with its magnificence. It's as big as the total combined area of the United Kingdom and Ireland, and contains more than 1,000 islands, from sandy cays to rainforest isles. The beauty of the waters and the prolific life it supports dazzles visitors. You can reach coral sites by air and water taxi and scuba dive or snorkel for intimate reef views. Or choose comfortable accommodation on some secluded reef islands. And it's all reachable from Brisbane!

SPORTS ACTIVITIES	
Golf	Tee off at one of the Gold Coast's championship golf courses such as Palmer Coolum Resort, home of the Australian PGA Championship, or the Twin Waters Golf Club, Pelican Waters Golf Club or the Noosa Springs Golf Resort.
Fishing	Hervey Bay Hervey Bay, around 300 kilometres north of Brisbane, is an aquatic paradise and one of the best places in Australia to experience nature in the wild. The safe, sheltered waters of Hervey Bay make it ideal for year round water-sports from swimming, snorkelling and scuba diving to sailing and fishing. The waters of the Fraser Coast are ideal for either a family houseboat or luxury sailing yacht holiday. You can learn how to sail a yacht and go on your own boating adventure; or charter a crew to sail for you. There's also kayaking, jet skiing and wind surfing to enjoy. Scuba divers should head to Wolf Rock and the wreck dives at the Roy Rufus Artificial Reef, the largest artificial reef in the southern hemisphere. The waters of the Great Sandy Strait are also one of the best places in Australia to go fishing, attracting professionals and amateurs from around the world. Fishing enthusiasts can enjoy estuary,

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	<p>beach, jetty, reef and game fishing. Join a charter tour or your hire your own vessel.</p> <p>Along Hervey Bay Esplanade are cosmopolitan alfresco cafes, shops, picnic areas, playgrounds, piers and a vibrant marina. Walk or cycle along the 14-kilometre long pathway that lines the foreshore from Urangan Harbour at the eastern end to Gatakers Bay in the west. Discover Hervey Bay and its surrounding areas at your own pace on one of the Discovery Trails. The region abounds in quaint country cafes and pubs, boutique and stylish espresso bars, beachfront cafes and fine dining restaurants. Dotted throughout the Fraser Coast hinterland are boutique wineries and shops selling gourmet local produce.</p> <p>A short drive from Hervey Bay, the picturesque fishing villages of Burrum Heads and Toogoom offer kilometres of unspoilt beachfront. Stroll along soft, sandy beaches, or explore the rivers and creeks by boat or canoe. Sit and watch the pelicans and other abundant bird life. Hervey Bay also provides easy access to World Heritage-listed Fraser Island and Lady Elliot Island.</p>
<p>Horse riding</p>	<p>Horseback riding is available throughout the country and through often epic landscapes. But perhaps the best place to plan to ride is on one of the ranches in the Outback that offer both accommodation and excellent riding opportunities.</p>
<p>Hiking</p>	<p>Stretch your legs and expand your soul on Australia's epic walking trails. Do day walks, short scenic sections or stride end-to-end on journeys that take weeks and even months to complete. Traverse Tasmania's World Heritage-listed wilderness on the Overland Track or follow the Larapinta Trail across the Northern Territory's West MacDonnell Ranges. Do sections of South Australia's Heysen Trail, which stretches from the Fleurieu Peninsula to Flinders Ranges. Spend three days in the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains or hike through Gondwanan rainforest on the Gold Coast. Do day walks through Victoria's Wilsons Promontory or soak up the beauty of Western Australia's south-west corner on the Bibbulmun Track.</p> <p>Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk, Gold Coast</p> <p>Walk through lush Gondwanan rainforest and along the rim of an ancient, eroded volcano on this spectacular series of day walks. The trail traverses a landscape as old as the dinosaurs, linking World Heritage-listed Lamington and Springbrook plateaux with Egg Rock and Turtle Rock in the scenic Numinbah Valley. See the Tweed Volcano which erupted around 25 million years ago and the powerful, crystal-clear streams and waterfalls that continue to erode it today. Explore Woonoongoora, known to the local Yugambeh people as 'Queen of the Mountains'. Learn their ancient ancestral legends of how the rivers and valleys were formed. Camp in the rainforest at Green</p>

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	Mountains, Woonoongoora and The Settlement or in the private camping area at Binna Burra. The best time to walk this track is between March and October, when temperatures are milder.
Cycling	<p>Bicycle Australia on city paths, downhill mountain biking trails or long-distance adventures, or experience the fun of their great cycling events. There are so many ways to bicycle Australia.</p> <p>Join the Australian cyclist along designated bike paths which connect city parks, beaches, waterways and cultural attractions. Take a leisurely ride through picturesque wine regions, such as the Hunter Valley near Sydney or the Barossa and Clare Valleys in South Australia. Tackle thrilling downhill mountain biking trails in rugged areas such as the Blue Mountains, Flinders Ranges and Australian Alps. Mountain bike more of Australia on long-distance adventures such as the Munda Biddi Trail through Western Australia's south-west or the Giro Tasmania, which circles the island state.</p> <p>You can also be a spectator at thrilling Australian triathlons, which have dedicated sections for road bicycles. Or watch elite cyclists at high-profile track cycling events, such as the Tour Down Under in South Australia.</p>
Diving	<p>Completely surrounded by water and rich in islands and reefs, Australia is a diver's dream.</p> <p>The waters shelter a treasure trove of marine life, with more than 4,000 species of fish and the world's highest diversity of sea grass. Swim with the giant, gentle whale shark on Ningaloo Reef or with sea-lions and dolphins on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula. Learn to dive on Queensland's Great Barrier Reef - the world's largest living organism. Or snorkel in sheltered and scenic Clovelly in Sydney. Discover kelp-encrusted submarines off the Mornington Peninsula or a maze of underwater caves along Tasmania's east coast.</p> <p>Great Barrier Reef, Queensland</p> <p>Don't miss the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef, a living masterpiece so big it can be seen from space. It stretches almost 2,000 kilometres along the Queensland coast, from Cape York to Bundaberg. Discover the diving havens of Heron and Lizard Islands. Or stay in the Whitsundays and take a sea-plane to spectacular Heart Reef. Base yourself in Cairns or Port Douglas and visit the reef gardens of Green and Fitzroy Islands. Travel further to Agincourt Reef, on the edge of the continental shelf. Kick through coral canyons filled with turtles, sea stars and crabs at Lady Musgrave Island and Fitzroy Lagoon near Gladstone. Explore the SS Yongala shipwreck from Townsville and the Llewellyn shipwreck from Mackay.</p>
Other Activities	Sport is something of a national obsession in Australia. Australians are avid followers of 'footy', which covers everything from rugby union to the

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	<p>uniquely Australian AFL. They play backyard and beach cricket all summer and turn out in their thousands to watch the iconic Boxing Day test at Melbourne's MCG. Summer is also the season they become amateur commentators at their Grand Slam tennis tournament. They have lush, championship-designed golf courses across the country and host many premier golf events. Their marathons attract hundreds of thousands of runners and rev-heads everywhere know about the car racing events such as the Formula 1 Australia Grand Prix.</p>
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<p>CULTURE</p>	<p>Australian society is made up of people from a rich variety of cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds, and this is a defining feature of modern Australian society. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have inhabited Australia for tens of thousands of years. Most Australians are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants who arrived during the past two hundred years from more than 200 countries. The most commonly spoken language in Australia is English, and the most commonly practiced religion is Christianity, although foreign languages and other religions are also common.</p>
<p>Arts</p>	<p>Brisbane is a city with some serious cultural credentials. This is where you'll find the sprawling Queensland Cultural Centre on South Bank, which hosts every manner of artistic endeavour and a growing number of world-class exhibitions. But this national treasure trove of galleries, museums, theatres and arts spaces is just the start. Brisbane's cultural hot-spots include eclectic New Farm and Fortitude Valley and the city, with its public art and heritage buildings.</p> <p>You can satisfy almost every type of culture craving beneath the architecturally-designed roof of the Queensland Cultural Centre on South Bank. Start in the Gallery of Modern Art, which houses more than 10,000 Australian and international artworks and is the largest of its kind in Australia. The retrospectives on Valentino and Warhol are just some of the many prestigious international exhibitions to have toured here.</p> <p>See the skeleton of a Queensland dinosaur in the Queensland Museum, where downstairs the Queensland Sciencentre offers interactive science fun. Dress up for the ballet, opera, concert or musical in the Queensland Performing Arts Centre or visit the huge State Library of Queensland.</p> <p>In New Farm, the transformed industrial space of the Brisbane Powerhouse is the venue for theatre, comedy, dance, art, markets and restaurants. Lunch in the riverfront restaurant, browse the exhibitions and enjoy the fun of the regular festivals. Walk along the floating</p>

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	<p>walkway from here to neighbouring Fortitude Valley, a hub for live-music, nightlife and counter culture. The once-gritty valley has been gentrified, but still retains a diverse cultural community and bohemian flair. Catch arthouse movies, visit the independent theatres and see musicians perform in venues steeped in local rock history.</p> <p>The city's cultural excitement ramps up even further during the Brisbane Festival, which runs from mid-September to early October. Enjoy the opening night party in Queensland's own Spiegel tent. Mix and match surreal circus performances with multi-media exhibitions on plasma screens and the latest Queensland Ballet productions. See international singers such as Chris Isaak or find comedy, cabaret, magic and sneaky sideshows on the festival's fringe.</p>
<p>Music</p>	<p>In Brisbane's CBD, you can see an orchestra play between the grand Corinthian columns of heritage-listed Customs House. Catch everything from cabaret to comedy in Treasury Building, built in the style of an Italian palazzo, or watch community concerts in the historic Brisbane City Hall. The city's other heritage landmarks include St John's Anglican Cathedral and Old Parliament House, which overlooks the lush Botanic Gardens. The Queensland University of Technology also has its own cultural precinct, embracing the Roundhouse Theatre, where the city's La Boite Theatre Company performs.</p>
<p>Film</p>	<p>Crocodile Dundee (1986) In 1984, actor and comedian Paul Hogan starred in an Australian tourism campaign, which coined the now-famous "shrimp on the barbie" expression. Two years later that advertisement received a feature length adaptation of sorts in director Peter Faiman's fish-out-of-water comedy Crocodile Dundee, about a Tarzan-like macho-man (played by Hogan) who falls for an American journalist and struggles to adapt to US life when he visits New York. The Akubra hat-wearing, knife-wielding, pun-making simpleton proved monstrously popular at the international box office. Crocodile Dundee racked up a number of smash-hit achievements, including trailing Top Gun as the highest earning movie released in America in 1986. It remains the most commercially successful Australian production at home and abroad, and for better or worse was influential in reinforcing perceptions of the country as an exotic backwater and its inhabitants as knockabout simpletons.</p> <p>Mad Max (1979) The latest instalment in director George Miller's world-gone-wrong franchise, Mad Max: Fury Road, is a \$150-million blockbuster on track to become one of the most critically acclaimed action movies of the decade. The 1979 original, which launched Miller's career and thrust</p>

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	<p>Mel Gibson into the international spotlight, has its roots in a decidedly cheaper DIY legacy. Miller's racy original boasts stunning production values – from visceral low-to-the-ground shots to the cars themselves, including Max's iconic Interceptor – but was made with a budget of around A\$350,000. Some of the crew were literally paid in beer, several props "borrowed" without permission and laws (such as speeding regulations) were broken. Mad Max's gritty and highly stylised aesthetic became the envy of action film-makers around the world.</p> <p>Picnic at Hanging Rock (1975) To this day question marks remain about the veracity of director Peter Weir's beautiful and haunting period drama, which follows a group of private school students who go missing while on an expedition to the eponymous location in Victoria's Macedon Ranges. Weir's surreally shot film begins with text announcing that the schoolgirls disappeared without a trace. Picnic at Hanging Rock (and the book it is based on) is complete fiction but the central location became an international tourist destination and the legend remained. In addition to being one of Australia's best-loved films, Picnic at Hanging Rock came to be known as one of the defining works of the Australian New Wave: a movement of sophisticated and critically championed films (including Walkabout, Sunday Too Far Away and My Brilliant Career) that emerged in the '70s, revitalising the local industry and putting it on the map overseas – particularly in prestigious film festivals such as Cannes.</p>
<p>Museums</p>	<p>There are so, so many to choose from... Here are a couple of suggestions for starters:</p> <p>Museum of Brisbane 157 Ann St, Brisbane City Open: Daily 10am-5pm Cost: Entry is free More info: www.museumofbrisbane.com.au Visit the City of Brisbane Collection cared for and managed by Museum of Brisbane. Insight into our historical and artistic past is gained through the Reveal collection. Many of the paintings, prints and other works on paper, sculpture and ceramics, are by Brisbane-based artists. Intriguing and rare artifacts and objects in the museum's Cabinet of Curiosities draw on the collections of Brisbane's Living Heritage Network and are sure to leave you in wonder.</p> <p>Queensland Art Gallery Stanley Place, South Bank Open: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat & Sun 9am-5pm Cost: Entry is free</p>

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	<p>More info: www.qag.qld.gov.au</p> <p>Experience Australian art dating from European occupation to the 1970s, and international and Asian exhibits in the gallery's vast collections. Other objects tastefully displayed include beautiful ceramics, textiles, furniture, photography and works on paper. Should you find the exhibitions overwhelming in size as you move between the rooms consider meeting up with a volunteer guide inside the exhibition entrance at 11am and 2pm daily.</p>
<p>Festivals</p>	<p>There's always something happening in Brisbane – for details on all the festivals, go to this link: https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/whats-on/type/festivals</p> <p>Brisbane Festival, 3-24 Sept 2016</p> <p>This is one of Australia's major international arts festivals. Each September, it explodes across the city with a thrilling program of theatre, music, dance, circus, opera and major public events such as Sunsuper Riverfire. Brisbane Festival attracts an audience of around one million people every year.</p>

<p>ATTRACTIONS</p>	
<p>Beaches</p>	<p>The Sunshine Coast is perfect for an action-packed holiday or quiet escape at any time of year.</p> <p>The superb weather of the Sunshine Coast, a little over an hour from Brisbane, is perfect for an action-packed holiday or quiet escape at any time of year. The Sunshine Coast has four sub-regions, all with their own unique attractions. Pristine beaches stretch for miles, with both safe swimming beaches and spectacular surf breaks.</p> <p>Hastings Street in Noosa is packed with stylish restaurants and fashion boutiques just steps from the beach. Sunshine Beach, Sunrise Beach, Marcus Beach, Peregian Beach and Coolum Beach are all uncrowded surf beaches with sparkling blue water and pure, white sand. At the end of Hastings Street, the Noosa National Park features spectacular coastal scenery and an abundance of native Australian wildlife.</p> <p>The region's markets are an exciting blend of sights, sounds and smells, where you'll find fresh food produce, artworks and original fashion and jewellery by local designers. The Eumundi Markets is one of the best known. Other excellent markets include the Noosa Farmers Market, Peregian Beach Market, Cotton Tree Market and Markets on Bulcock in Caloundra.</p> <p>Go horse-riding on the beach; or climb aboard a Harley Davidson motorcycle for an adrenalin-pumping ride.</p> <p>From Mooloolaba to Marcoola is the heart of the Sunshine Coast. Mooloolaba Spit is one of the safest swimming beaches on this part of the coast. Mooloolaba is also home to a large port, where you can learn</p>

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	<p>to sail or head out for a day of deep sea fishing or join a whale-watching cruise in season. For diving or snorkelling, head to the HMAS Brisbane Conservation Park, site of the shipwreck of the HMAS Brisbane.</p> <p>A waterfront walking track leads from Mooloolaba to Maroochydore through Alexandra Headland is always buzzing with activity. For peace and quiet, visit Marcoola or Twin Waters, where on some days you may be the only person on the beach. Watch out for the Hawksbill Turtles which come up on the beach to hatch their young. Take a cruise on the Maroochy River to Maroochy Wetland Sanctuary and see kangaroos, wallabies and abundant birdlife.</p>
<p>Nature</p>	<p>Australia's unique animals are one of the many reasons people visit this country. Australia has more than 378 mammal species, 828 bird species, 4000 fish species, 300 species of lizards, 140 snake species, two crocodile species and around 50 types of marine mammal. More than 80 per cent of the plants, mammals, reptiles and frogs are unique to Australia and are found no-where else. Some of their best-known animals are the kangaroo, koala, echidna, dingo, platypus, wallaby and wombat.</p> <p>Australia's native animals can often be difficult to spot in the wild, but you are guaranteed to see them in the world-class zoos and wildlife parks across their major cities and regional areas. These include Sydney's Taronga Zoo, the Rainforest Habitat in Port Douglas, Victoria's Healesville Sanctuary, South Australia's Cleland Wildlife Park and Queensland's Australia Zoo, amongst others.</p> <p>In the winter months (July - November), humpback whales travel along the Queensland coastline from Antarctica to the warm waters of the Whitsunday Islands, stopping in the calm waters of Hervey Bay to breed and nurse their young. Hervey Bay is one of the best places in the world to go whale-watching. See their playful antics with one of the accredited cruise operators around Urangan Pier. You might also see dolphins, dugongs and turtles.</p> <p>The arrival of the humpback whales each year is celebrated at the Hervey Bay Whale Festival, during July and August with concerts, street parades and educational displays.</p>
<p>Parks</p>	<p>Australian national parks are found in a diverse number of landscapes: from alpine regions to deserts, forests and marine areas. Australia has more than 500 national parks covering an incredible 28 million hectares - almost four per cent of the country.</p> <p>Australian national parks are found in a diverse number of landscapes: from alpine regions to deserts, forests and marine areas. Like Australian Zoos, Australia's national parks serve to protect native plants and wildlife. They are also places to enjoy and learn about Australia's</p>

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environment, heritage and culture. Whether it's meeting Aboriginal elders at Uluru, snorkelling the Great Barrier Reef or trekking through the Tasmanian Wilderness, here are some of Australia's top national parks to help plan your visit.

World Heritage Areas

Many of Australia's national parks are World Heritage-listed. These are declared as protected areas by UNESCO because they represent the world's best examples of cultural and natural heritage. You'll find them along the coast, in the outback, and within ancient rainforests.

Australia's World Heritage-listed national parks include the Tasmanian Wilderness; Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta in the Northern Territory; Purnululu National Park, the Ningaloo Coast and Shark Bay in Western Australia; Fraser Island, the Great Barrier Reef, the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia and the Wet Tropics in Queensland; and the Greater Blue Mountains and Lord Howe Island in New South Wales.

Australian Capital Territory

Namadgi National Park is located just south of Canberra at the northern end of the Australian Alps and makes up 46 per cent of the Australian Capital Territory. It offers a scenic detour through some of Australia's most spectacular mountain regions. It provides habitat for a wide range of native Australian animals. The park joins Kosciuszko National Park in the south-west with Brindabella National Park on the north-western border. Nearby Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve shows evidence that Aboriginal people were living in the region around 20,000 years ago, and there are hundreds of known Aboriginal rock art sites in the region. In the 1960s Honeysuckle Creek was the first place on earth to receive the images of Neil Armstrong as he became the first man to walk on the moon.

New South Wales

National parks in New South Wales offer a diversity of landscapes and wildlife: from rainforests, bush and outback deserts to seaside and alpine regions. There are even national parks on the edge of Sydney Harbour. Some of the most popular include Royal National Park (Australia's oldest); Sydney Harbour National Park; Blue Mountains National Park; Wollemi National Park; Lane Cove National Park; Kosciuszko National Park (Australia's largest); Kuring-gai Chase National Park; Bouddi National Park; Dorrigo National Park (part of the Gondwana Rainforest Reserves of Australia); Murrumbidgee National Park; Myall Lakes National Park near Port Stephens; and World Heritage-listed Lord Howe Island.

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Northern Territory

The Northern Territory's most well-known national parks include Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Kakadu National Park. Kakadu National Park is Australia's largest national park. It's a landscape of rugged escarpments, lush wetlands, cascading waterfalls, abundant birdlife and rich Aboriginal culture and history. World Heritage-listed Uluru in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is one of Australia's most iconic symbols and rich in Australian indigenous culture. Close to Darwin, the Charles Darwin National Park and Litchfield National Park feature unspoiled rainforests and a variety of Australian native wildlife. Some of the Northern Territory's most remote national parks include the Dampier Peninsula and Nitmiluk National Park in the Top End.

Queensland

Some of Queensland's most well-known national parks include the Daintree National Park; the Whitsunday Islands National Park; and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Wet Tropics of Queensland is one of only few sites worldwide which met all four criteria for World Heritage listing. The Great Sandy National Park on Fraser Island is home to the world's largest sand island and abundant wildlife, including whale-watching in winter. The waters from Caloundra to the southern tip of South Stradbroke Island form the Moreton Bay Marine Park. Lamington National Park in the Gold Coast hinterland is renowned as one of Australia's top bird-watching spots. The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area straddles the border between New South Wales and Queensland and protects some of Australia's oldest subtropical and temperate rainforests.

South Australia

Flinders Ranges National Park is located around 470 kilometres from Adelaide. This ancient landscape is like a walk back in time to the Earth's history. Here you'll find the remnants of early European settlement, Aboriginal culture, ancient rock art sites and some of the world's oldest fossils. The Flinders Ranges is the traditional home of the Adnyamathanha Aboriginal people. Many unique Australian animals and plants have adapted to this arid landscape and can only be seen in the region. Flinders Chase National Park on Kangaroo Island is another popular park where you'll see a wide range of Australian native wildlife.

Tasmania

Tasmania's outstanding national parks offer a wide range of opportunities to discover spectacular landscapes: from highlands carved by glaciers to ancient rainforests, solitary beaches; and alpine wilderness. Tasmania's national parks are home to a diversity of

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	<p>unspoiled habitats with ancient, plants and animals found nowhere else on Earth. The 1.4 million hectares that make up the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area cover one-fifth of the island and include Southwest National Park, the largest in Tasmania; Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park; Lake St Clair and Cradle Mountain; and the mountain landscapes of the Hartz Mountains, close to Hobart. Freycinet National Park offers spectacular scenery on Tasmania's east coast. Maria Island and South Bruny National Park are also rich in history and wildlife.</p> <p>Victoria The Alpine National Park stretches from central Gippsland to the New South Wales border where it joins Kosciuszko National Park. The park features some of Australia's most stunning alpine landscapes. In winter, many Australians head to resorts such as Mount Buller, Falls Creek, Mount Hotham and Mount Buffalo for tobogganing, skiing and snowboarding. The Great Otway National Park along the Great Ocean Road features rugged coastlines, sandy beaches and forests. At Port Campbell National Park there are historical shipwreck sites, abundant wildlife, and the Twelve Apostles. Croajingolong National Park in Victoria's far-east offers coastal camping, beach walks, bird watching, boating and fishing. Brambuk - the National Park and Cultural Centre in the Grampians is renowned for its Aboriginal history. At the southernmost tip of mainland Australia, the waters surrounding Wilsons Promontory National Park are protected as a marine national park and offer excellent diving.</p> <p>Western Australia Western Australia has many well-known national parks including Purnululu National Park in the East Kimberley, home of the Bungle Bungle Range; and Karijini National Park in the Pilbara. They're home to a variety of Australian native wildlife including rock wallabies and red kangaroos. Yanchep National Park, just an hour north of Perth is one of Western Australia's oldest national parks. It's rich in Aboriginal history and home to a colony of koalas. Kalbarri National Park, around 700 kilometres north of Perth, features red river gorges, sea cliffs and rolling sands, and wildflowers. Stirling Range National Park is home to Bluff Knoll, the highest peak in Western Australia's south-west for experienced bushwalkers and climbers. Visit the Valley of the Giants in Walpole-Nornalup National Park along Western Australia's southern coast or go 4WD touring in Cape Le Grand National Park near Esperance.</p>
<p>Gardens</p>	<p>Hervey Bay Visit the Orchid House within the beautiful Botanical Gardens. The</p>

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	<p>Hervey Bay Historical Village and Museum features historical buildings housing more than 8000 exhibits from the Fraser Coast and Wide Bay area. At the Fraser Coast Discovery Sphere you can learn all about the incredible world of the humpback whale.</p>
Historical Sites	<p>Connect to Australia's history, from ancient Aboriginal traditions through to convict and colonial eras. Learn about Sydney's traditional owners and see the colony's beginnings in historic sites stretching from the harbour to Parramatta. Check out Melbourne's grand gold boom architecture and dine, wine and shop in Brisbane's heritage-listed buildings. See Aboriginal and colonial art in Adelaide, near the historic German village of Hahndorf. Trace the Aboriginal lineage of Kings Park in Perth and walk with the ghosts of convicts, whalers and sailors in Hobart. Read Australia's first constitution in Canberra and learn about Darwin's dramatic World War II history.</p> <p>Sydney, New South Wales Follow a heritage trail down Macquarie St to Circular Quay. Browse social history exhibitions in the sandstone fortress of Hyde Park Barracks, visit the Justice and Police Museum and dine harbourside in Victorian-era Customs House. Take a ferry to Fort Denison, the tiny harbour island where petty criminals were once held. Explore the colonial mansions of Elizabeth Bay and Vaucluse Houses or catch a performance in the palatial State Theatre. Visit Old Government House, Australia's oldest public building, in Parramatta. See Sydney through Aboriginal eyes on a cultural cruise round Sydney Harbour or Cronulla or an Aboriginal tour of the Royal Botanic Gardens or Rocks.</p> <p>Brisbane, Queensland Connect to the area's long Aboriginal history watching local Yuggera dancers perform in the bushland of Kangaroo Point. Explore the landmark, heritage-listed building of Brisbane City Hall, which also houses the City Hall Art Gallery, the Clock Tower, King George Square and Brisbane Administration Centre. Built in the 1920s, the English neo-classical interior includes a sweeping marble staircase, vaulted ceilings, chandeliers and mosaic-tiled floor. Shop in the heritage-listed Brisbane Arcade and visit Old Government House, the original home of Queensland's early Governors. See an orchestra play between the grand Corinthian columns of Customs House and catch a performance in the Treasury Building, built in the style of an Italian palazzo.</p>

OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Shopping	<p>Shop till you drop in Australia's markets, mega malls, warehouses and high-end boutiques. Discover Australian designers in Melbourne's hidden laneways or trawl Surry Hills in Sydney for retro chic. Shop up a</p>

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	<p>sub-tropical storm in Brisbane's Queen Street Mall or browse at least 500 stores in Rundle Mall in Adelaide. Soak up the atmosphere of Fremantle Markets, near Perth, or the Saturday markets in Hobart's historic Salamanca Place. Shop beneath the palm trees on Darwin's Smith Street Mall or hit the huge shopping centre in Canberra's Civic. Shops are generally open until 6pm, with late night shopping offered either Thursdays or Fridays. You're covered by Australia's consumer protection laws which require businesses to treat you fairly.</p> <p>Brisbane, Queensland Discover more than 500 stores and Brisbane's biggest shopping centre in Queen Street Mall. It sits right in the centre of the city but has no traffic lights to slow your shopping pace. In the nearby heritage-listed Brisbane Arcade, you'll find designer fashion, jewelry, gift and antique shops. Trawl the 50 specialist stores while admiring the 1923 terazzo floors, elegant balustrades and dado paneling. You can pick up handmade art and crafts, fresh produce and locally designed clothes at South Bank Markets, where buskers wander the open air aisles. For unadorned bargains, join a shopping tour to the city's cut-price fashion warehouses.</p> <p>Sydney, New South Wales Combine history and high fashion in the Queen Victoria Building or elegant Strand Arcade, both built in the 1890s. Also in the CBD, hit the Market Street department stores, trawl Pitt St Mall or do international designers on Elizabeth and Castlereagh Streets. Head to Paddington for Saturday markets and the eclectic Oxford Street shops. Find retro fashions, edgy boutiques, homewares and cheap eats on Crown Street in Surry Hills or King Street in Newtown. Mix vintage chic with local designs in Bondi's Saturday markets or back streets. Snap up a second-hand bargain at Rozelle's weekend markets or the Glebe markets on Saturday.</p>
<p>Markets</p>	<p>Get a taste of Australia's vibrant markets, which sell everything from fresh produce to hand-crafted gifts and high fashion. Browse boutique souvenirs in Sydney's historic Rocks precinct or see the creations of local potters, painters and glassblowers in Hobart's Salamanca Markets. Stock up on fresh, organic food from Brisbane's many farmers markets or discover the country's largest arts and crafts markets in Canberra. Sample the spices of five continents at Darwin's Mindil Beach Sunset Markets or create the perfect picnic with ingredients from Adelaide Central Market. Grab an original fashion creation at Melbourne's Rose Street Markets or join busking musicians at Fremantle's lively weekend markets. You'll find a vibrant market almost everywhere you go in Australia.</p>

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	<p>Sydney, New South Wales Embrace the colour and chaos of Paddy's Market in Chinatown, open Wednesday to Sundays. Stall-holders sing out their bargains as you trawl the aisles of fresh produce, souvenirs and clothing. For fresh seafood, head to the daily Sydney Fish Markets in Pyrmont. Sign up for a seafood cooking class or take a behind-the-scenes tour. Shop for elegant, hand-crafted Australian art and jewellery at The Rocks Markets on Saturdays. Snap up a second-hand bargain at Rozelle's weekend markets or the Glebe markets on Saturday. Check out emerging designers in Paddington's Saturdays Markets or Bondi's Sunday markets, which also does vintage chic.</p> <p>Brisbane, Queensland Fill your eco-friendly bag with a rainbow of seasonal produce from the Powers Farmers markets in Michelton, Manly and New Farm's Powerhouse. The people manning the stalls have all grown, cooked or crafted the produce they're selling. More fresh foods, as well as flowers, plants, lifestyle products and craft, are on offer at the Rocklea Saturday Market. Check out a diverse mix of products and fresh produce at the popular West End Markets, which has stalls beneath the fig trees every Saturday. Shop for local designers, sample delicious snacks and soak up the vibrant riverside atmosphere at the South Bank Lifestyle Market, held every Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday.</p>
<p>Nightlife</p>	<p>Brisbane's Fortitude Valley is home to Australia's first designated entertainment precinct. Come nightfall, The Valley's streets are alive and pumping with the sound of live bands, laughter and nightclub beats. With countless bars, clubs and restaurants on every block, deciding where to go can be the hardest part.</p> <p>Queensland has year-round good weather and it's worth making the most of the great outdoors. Elixir Rooftop Bar on Ann St has a fresh, holiday feel with concrete slab tables, plenty of tropical greenery and a water feature. From there, hop on over to Up on Constance or Limes Rooftop, and finish at the very top – Eleven.</p> <p>For something with a grungier feel, Ric's Bar will welcome you with a young crowd, alternative music and cheap drinks. Step into its big backyard and feel like you're at a friend's house.</p> <p>A few blocks away, Alfred & Constance is a local favourite, open seven days a week, and featuring three themed bars. Using two Queensland style homes with a deck flowing between them, grab a bite and a beer on the main floor, or head upstairs to the tiki bar for pina colodas. Othwise there are the twinkly fairy-light lit beer gardens of the Pig 'n' Whistle, The Wickham or Beach Burrito.</p> <p>If you're looking for somewhere you can dance, The Valley is the place to be. Popular with the 20-something crowd, Oh Hello is a busy</p>

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	<p>nightclub where university students can be seen dancing the night away with a jam jar cocktail in hand.</p> <p>For those wanting variety, The Met has three dance floors within the club pumping RnB, house and techno music all night long. Just down the road the GPO will have DJs spinning dance and R&B hits.</p> <p>Sydney's nightlife canvas is wide and varying. Oxford Street buzzes with cafes, bars and clubs while the established red-light district spills out from Kings Cross. The Rocks and King Street Wharf are more upmarket; drinks at the harbourside terraces are expensive but worth it for the views. A large number of small Melbourne-like bars have sprung up across the city.</p> <p>As with its bars and clubs, the city's cultural life is equally diverse, from high classical at the Sydney Opera House to cutting-edge contemporary and experimental performance art.</p> <p>Nightlife and cultural listings appear in Metro, the Friday edition entertainment section of the Sydney Morning Herald and in Time Out.</p>
Casinos	<p>There are 8 states with gambling facilities in Australia which have 23 legal gambling facilities available in total. The types of gambling available in Australia are: casinos, horseracing tracks, sports betting parlours. The largest of the states in Australia is Queensland with 7 gambling facilities, 359 tables games, 9,613 gaming, slot, and video poker machines.</p>

CUISINE	
Food	<p>Australia's unspoilt landscapes produce an incredibly wide variety of fresh and tantalising produce. There's also a freedom and creativity to our food and wine culture that helps produce fresh and innovative flavours, including wines that are the envy of the world, as well as exciting ingredients and 'fusion' food. But what really sets Australia apart is the place – the stunning weather, sunshine, outstanding natural beauty and outdoor dining lifestyle means you can enjoy some of the world's best food and wine in some of the world's most stunning surroundings. Australia does open air dining like nowhere else.</p>
Wine	<p>Australia has more than 60 designated wine regions across the country and has developed a worldwide reputation for its award-winning wines. Discover some of the world's oldest shiraz vineyards in South Australia's Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale, or award-winning sauvignon blanc in Western Australia's Margaret River. Join one of the winery events held in the Hunter Valley near Sydney, or taste the flagship chardonnay, pinot noir and sparkling wines of the Yarra Valley near Melbourne.</p> <p>Almost every wine growing region has an annual festival where local wine, food and culture can be sampled. The largest is the biennial</p>

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	<p>Tasting Australia, which showcases some of the very best Australia has to offer.</p>
<p>Restaurants</p>	<p>Some of the newest ingredients landing on plates at Australian restaurant tables are thousands of years old, as Australian chefs turn to their own backyard for inspiration. That backyard, mind you, stretches over 6.5 million square kilometres, so they have a bit of ground to cover. As Australian Aboriginals have known for 40,000 years, this vast, dry country is home to countless wild, native plants, herbs, nuts, seeds and berries across the six climatic seasons recognised in Aboriginal culture. Visitors to Australia can now sample the results of this inspiration on tables that range from the finest restaurant in the land to an outback country pub. Here are just a few.</p> <p>NEW SOUTH WALES' MOST UNIQUELY AUSTRALIAN RESTAURANTS</p> <p>Billy Kwong, Sydney</p> <p>Culinary evangelist and owner/chef Kylie Kwong has developed a way of cooking that is uniquely Australian-Chinese. "When you come to Billy Kwong, I want to offer you Australia on a plate," she says. "For me, this means integrating this country's extraordinary native ingredients with the classic Cantonese dishes of my heritage." For you, that means prawn and cricket wontons with sweet chilli sauce; lush, green saltbush pancakes; and red-braised caramelised wallaby with black bean and chilli, eaten while perched on a stool in a casual/chic modern Asian diner. Critics are raving, and the queues go out the door and down the street.</p> <p>Momofuku Seiobo, Sydney</p> <p>When New York superstar chef David Chang opened his first restaurant outside America in Sydney in 2012, his mission statement was simple: to use the bounty of Australia. Take a stool at the wrap-around kitchen counter under the black and white AC/DC posters and yes, you will still find the Momofuku trademark steamed pork belly buns on the menu, but chef Ben Greeno is just as likely to present you with subtly sweet marron (a native freshwater crayfish) with seaweed and salsify, or a dessert of malty ice-cream enlivened with the crunch of wattleseed meringue. "We have to get our heads around what's out there, and we have to use what we've got" says Chang. "I hope it gets to the point where everybody in this country starts cooking kangaroo and wallaby. That has to be the long-term goal."</p>

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Biota, Bowral

In a sleepy country town in the lush southern highlands of New South Wales, big-city chef James Viles combines high-tech cookery with a deep-seated commitment to local produce at Biota – right down to the ducks and geese grazing outside around a Disneyland pond. Indigenous ingredients appear as natural, integral and harmonious components of dishes such as molasses-glazed beef with saltbush, native berries and leek; and cuttlefish with its own ink, oyster crème and sea lettuce emulsion. A popular bar and monthly farmers’ market adds to the experience.

Bentley Restaurant + Bar, Sydney

Tucked into a gloriously tall-ceilinged historic building in the heart of Sydney, Bentley – led by restlessly creative chef Brent Savage – responds to the call of the wild. Sample rare and rested kangaroo fillet with a glossy sticky riberry sauce, and a dessert of aerated chocolate with fig leaf ice-cream and tangy lemon aspen. The corporate-by-day, chic-by-night crowds are lapping it up.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA’S MOST UNIQUELY AUSTRALIAN RESTAURANTS

Orana, Adelaide

Downstairs, you can knock back a coldie (beer) with a slow-braised kangaroo sarnie (sandwich) in Street-ADL, Glaswegian chef/owner Jock Zonfrillo’s accessible, energetic modern bar. Upstairs is Orana, an intimate, 25-seat fine dining restaurant inspired by Zonfrillo’s constant research and immersion into Australia’s native ingredients and indigenous culture. Kick off with crisp-fried saltbush leaves and Kangaroo Island scallops with salty iceplant, and go on to wagyu beef topped with vibrant green bittergrass and fresh mudcrab teamed with sandpaper fig and wild pea. An evocative, sensitive, modern Australian dining experience.

The Prairie Hotel, Flinders Ranges

Located a good five-hour drive from Adelaide “where the desert meets the Flinders Ranges”, Parachilna boasts an official population of just seven, but there is a constant stream of visitors to the Fargher family’s self-proclaimed “hip outback hotel”, The Prairie. Treat yourself to a local lager and the infamous Feral Mixed Grill of kangaroo fillet, emu, camel

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sausage and creamy mash with a red wine and pepper leaf glaze, followed by a quandong crumble pie.

VICTORIA'S MOST UNIQUELY AUSTRALIAN RESTAURANTS
Attica, Melbourne

Owner/chef Ben Shewry regularly forages for seaweeds and wild weeds and keeps two sizeable kitchen gardens near his quietly elegant inner-suburban restaurant, Attica, rated number 21 in the 2013 World's 50 Best Restaurants list. "Australia's pantry of native ingredients gives us the raw materials for a very special and unique cuisine," he says, serving up seared Flinders Island wallaby with Bunya pine shavings, macadamia nut puree, chicory, begonia and ground berries, and the grandly titled "Native Fruits of Australia": a gloriously sweet and sour assembly of lillypilly, Illawarra plum, poached quandongs, candied rosella flower, muntries, ribberries and Davidson's plum.

Charcoal Lane, Melbourne

This relaxed, inner-suburban restaurant also operates as a Mission Australia social enterprise program, providing on-the-job hospitality industry skills, training and experience for Aboriginal youth. As a result, Charcoal Lane offers a unique dining experience that offers seasonally inspired dishes infused with native ingredients, such as dukkah-crusted saltbush lamb with lilly pilly and pepper-leaf couscous, and steamed apple and muntries berry pudding.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S MOST UNIQUELY AUSTRALIAN RESTAURANTS
Greenhouse, Perth

The brainchild of Dutch-born artist, builder and environmentalist Joost Bakker, Greenhouse is as much about sustainable environmental choices as it is about rustic, honest eating in one of the hottest places in town. A roof garden supplies herbs and vegetables; furniture is repurposed and rebuilt on site; insulation comes from hay bales, and all waste is composted. It's a fitting environment for tousle-haired chef Matt Stone's serious-yet-casual take on contemporary cuisine, heavily biased towards locally sourced indigenous flavours. Rare kangaroo loin is teamed with native apple, sorrel and kohlrabi, and pan-fried barramundi with bush tomato butter and gazpacho.

QUEENSLAND'S MOST UNIQUELY AUSTRALIAN RESTAURANT
Tukka, Brisbane

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	<p>The kitchen garden here at Tukka grows a great deal of the indigenous produce used by head chef and keen gardener Bryant Wells, whose tasting platter of game meats, fruits, nuts, berries and dips acts as an open invitation to taste Australia. Meats border on the exotic, from Western Australian barramundi and Tasmanian possum, to Queensland kangaroo and crocodile from Cairns.</p> <p>Tukka's degustation menu showcases quality native Australian produce at its finest:</p> <p>Lavender cured Cairns crocodile with a melon salad, pickled cucumber and chilli lime emulsion</p> <p>Seared Queensland kangaroo, roasted apricots, buttered zucchini and a Davidson plum jus</p> <p>Marburg emu fillet, sweet potato and Tonka bean puree and cider braised nashi pear</p>
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<p>FOR MORE INFO</p>	<p>Website: http://www.australia.com/en-ca Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SeeAustralia Twitter: https://twitter.com/australia YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/australia</p>
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<p>CHRIS' PERSONAL EXPERIENCES</p>	<p>Cairns, Townsville and the Great Barrier Reef – Kewarra Beach Resort; Coral Princess cruise – Green Island, Moore Reef, Dunk Island, Orpheus Island</p> <p>Darwin - Kakadu NP;</p> <p>Alice Springs – Dreamtime Tour (witchetty grubs), Olgas, Ayers Rock/Uluru, fly over;</p> <p>Sydney – Sydney Tower, Opera House, Harbour, harbour cruise, Bondi Beach;</p> <p>Canberra – national capital, Tidbinbilla Nat Reserve;</p> <p>Victoria - Healesville Sanctuary – koalas, Tasmanian Devil; Yarra Valley wines; Phillip Island – fairy penguins;</p> <p>Melbourne</p> <p>Tasmania – Hobart; Wine Glass Bay; Port Arthur; Bruny Island; Mount Wellington</p>
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AIR CANADA & AUSTRALIA

Air Canada will offer non-stop service three times weekly to Brisbane from their Vancouver hub beginning June 1, 2016 with easy connections on the unsurpassed Air Canada network from across Canada.

Starting June 17, 2016 non-stop service will increase to daily aboard the Boeing 787-8 aircraft.

This is the only year-round, non-stop flight between Canada and the capital city of Queensland, a major business hub and gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and Australia's Gold Coast.

These flights compliment Air Canada's year-round daily non-stop flights to Sydney, Australia.

This expanded service underscores Vancouver International Airport's importance and attractiveness. The seamless connections made possible for visitors by its in-transit pre-clearance facilities, combined with Air Canada's extensive domestic and U.S. network radiating from Vancouver, position Vancouver to be the preferred gateway hub for trans-Pacific travel to and from North America.

Air Canada offers customers unparalleled comfort and customers travelling to Brisbane can enjoy:

- Choice of 3 classes of service: International Business Class, Premium Economy and Economy Class
- Complimentary onboard meals, blankets, alcohol
- Up to 600 hours of IFE
- Eligible customers have access to our Maple Leaf Lounge in Vancouver

- International Business Class:

http://www.aircanada.com/en/about/media/facts/first_exec.html

- Premium Economy:

http://www.aircanada.com/en/about/media/facts/premium_economy.html

The Air Canada B787 aircraft provides travellers with an unparalleled onboard experience and features:

- A 3 cabin configuration: Business Class, Premium Economy and Economy Class
- State of the art Panasonic eX3 IFE system
- A quieter and smoother flight
- Lower cabin altitude and higher humidity levels
- Cleaner air continuously circulating through an advanced

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	<p>filtration system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ultra-violet (UV) water treatment - Largest windows of any aircraft flying today - Electronic window dimming system - Ambient mood lighting <p>Check www.aircanada.com for flight schedules, frequency and seasonality.</p>
AIR CANADA	<p>Air Canada is Canada's largest domestic and international airline serving more than 180 destinations on five continents. Canada's flag carrier is among the 20 largest airlines in the world and in 2013 served more than 35 million customers. Air Canada provides scheduled passenger service directly to 61 Canadian cities, 49 destinations in the United States and 73 cities in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Australia, the Caribbean, Mexico and South America. Air Canada is a founding member of Star Alliance, the world's most comprehensive air transportation network serving 1,316 airports in 192 countries. Air Canada is the only international network carrier in North America to receive a Four-Star ranking according to independent U.K. research firm Skytrax that ranked Air Canada in a worldwide survey of more than 18 million airline passengers as Best Airline in North America in 2015</p>
Air Canada rouge	<p>Air Canada's new leisure airline with stylishly affordable service to holiday spots in Europe, Asia and the Caribbean. Benefit from Air Canada's extensive network for smooth connections to flights departing daily from Toronto and Montreal.</p> <p>http://flyrouge.com/</p>
Dreamliner B787	<p>The Dreamliner B787 aircraft represent the latest generation of aircraft and provide an unparalleled onboard experience - everyone on board benefits from a quieter and smoother flight with these ultra-modern planes. Plus technological advances mean less travel fatigue. Ambient mood lighting eases the time zone changes, lower cabin pressure means better oxygen absorption and increased humidity reduces dehydration. The air you breathe is cleaner thanks to continuous circulation through an advanced filtration system and the water is pure thanks to ultra-violet light water treatment. These aircraft offer the largest windows of any aircraft flying today – and forget about blinds as these windows have an electronic dimming system!</p>
Flight Times	<p>Air Canada's flight timings on the Brisbane Australia flights are very convenient, getting you to your destination ready to go out exploring!</p>
Aeroplan	<p>You earn Aeroplan miles when you book your trip, making your next flight with Air Canada even more affordable.</p>
Award	<p>Air Canada has been voted Best International Airline in North America six years in a row in the prestigious Skytrax survey of global travellers. It has also been voted best scheduled airline by Canadian</p>

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	travel agents in the annual Baxter's Agents' Choice Survey.
Before You Fly	Air Canada have Apps for iPhone and BlackBerry making it easy to track flights, receive flight notifications and perform mobile check-in, seat selection and electronic boarding passes.
As You Fly	With Air Canada you enjoy personal touch-screen TVs and power outlets at every seat. There are up to 600 hours of on-demand entertainment available at every seat, gate-to-gate.
Personalized Service	Dedicated Concierge Service is available to Executive First and Air Canada Super Elite passengers in major Canadian airports.
Maple Leaf Lounges	The highly civilized Maple Leaf Lounges are available for eligible passengers in Canadian gateway airports such as Toronto and Montreal and Vancouver.
Toronto Hub	Toronto's Lester B. Pearson International Airport is Air Canada's main hub and has domestic, transborder and international operations centralized under one roof offering convenient connections for passengers travelling anywhere in Air Canada's global network. Recent improvements such as a simplified baggage process enable Air Canada to better serve customers travelling in-transit between the U.S., Europe, Asia and South America via Canada.
Contact Info	Website: www.aircanada.com Tel: 1-888-247-2262 Connect with Air Canada on facebook: https://www.facebook.com/aircanada Follow Air Canada on Twitter: https://twitter.com/aircanada

AIR CANADA VACATIONS	Air Canada Vacations can offer you not just your flight – they can help you create the perfect Australian vacation with hotels and all kinds of tours to help you explore the country. Flexibility is the name of the game as you can book flights across Naturally you earn Aeroplan miles on the whole booking as well as being able to tap into Air Canada Vacation's deep knowledge of the destinations.
Why choose Air Canada Vacations?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The service and reliability of Air Canada and Air Canada rouge - Convenient connectors from 61 Canadian cities - Over 200 destinations worldwide. - In-flight seat-back entertainment from gate to gate on most flights - Mobile app, web and mobile check-in - Access to your personal Vacation Planner website - Earn & Redeem Aeroplan Miles - Enjoy exclusive added values for Aeroplan Members in Asia, South America and the South Pacific - Flexible stays of 3, 4, 7 or 10 night - Upgrade to Executive Class service or rouge Plus and Premium rouge for more legroom and in-flight amenities

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special extras from Privileges, the added-value program, in Mexico & the Caribbean - A wide selection of hotels, coach tours, cruises, rail passes, day tours, car rentals and more - Carefree cruising with the Air Canada Vacation's Flight Guarantee & Best Price Guarantee - 15 industry leading cruise line partners, hundreds of itineraries around the world - Dedicated travel experts for groups of 10 or more
Air Canada Vacations in Australia	Air Canada Vacations offers a variety of packages to Brisbane which include flights, accommodations, tours and car rentals. They also feature a number of tours that you can pre-purchase before your trip.
Hotels in Brisbane	<p>Air Canada Vacations feature 27 hotels in Brisbane, so there's plenty to choose from! Here's a five star suggestion:</p> <p>Hotel Brisbane</p> <p>Located in central Brisbane, a 20-minute drive from the airport and a short walk from Brisbane's Central Station, the hotel is just 2 blocks from the famous Brisbane Casino. The Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre and the South Bank Parklands are less than 1 km away. The hotel has an Executive Lounge and stylish meeting rooms for 2,000 people, convenient for any large event. The hotel features beautifully appointed guestrooms and suites with all the comforts. Guests can choose from the privacy of the Executive Floor rooms and Executive Lounge on the top levels of the hotel or the modern style of the Deluxe Rooms. The hotel features a tennis court available to guests on a complimentary basis. It also houses a nice restaurant with stunning interior and a cosy atmosphere. Guests can enjoy a variety of dishes blended into great delicacies by the restaurant's expert chefs.</p>
Brisbane City Tour	<p>Discover Brisbane's historic city centre, river and wildlife on a full-day tour. You'll tour Brisbane's city-centre attractions by coach, take a cruise along the Brisbane River followed by a ride on the Wheel of Brisbane (own expense). Cuddle a koala at a wildlife sanctuary and enjoy Brisbane's most iconic views from the Mt Coot-tha Lookout.</p> <p>On your coach tour through Brisbane's city centre you'll pass prominent buildings like City Hall, Parliament House, St Johns Cathedral and Treasury Casino, and feel the vibrancy of the city's past and present. Then you'll see why Brisbane is known as the River City. From Newstead Gardens, you will cruise up the river past prestigious suburbs and historic buildings, including the magnificent sandstone buildings of Customs House. You'll cruise under Story Bridge past the Kangaroo Point Cliffs to South Bank, where you'll sample the cosmopolitan delights of colorful South Bank. After your scenic cruise, enjoy a ride on the Wheel of Brisbane (own expense) before an afternoon visit to Lone Pine</p>

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	<p>Koala Sanctuary. Australia's oldest and largest koala sanctuary, Lone Pine gives you the opportunity to cuddle a koala, an unforgettably moving experience available only in Queensland. Lone Pine is home to other unique Australian fauna such as kangaroos, wallabies and wombats. On your return to Brisbane you will visit Mt Coot-tha Lookout to take in views spanning the Great Dividing Range to the west and Moreton Bay and islands in the east.</p>
<p>Tours</p>	<p>Long Stay on the Gold Coast - 24 days/21 nights. The package includes accommodations in a one-bedroom apartment at the Surf Regency hotel located in the heart of Surfers Paradise – famous for its beaches, theme parks, shopping, night life and golf courses. Hotel description: Enjoy Australia's Gold Coast in the comfort of your apartment in the tropics of Queensland.</p> <p>Itinerary Day 1-2 Departure from Canada Board your flight to Brisbane, Australia.</p> <p>Day 3 Arrival in Brisbane Upon arrival, meet a local representative and transfer to your hotel.</p> <p>*** 21 night stay at Surf Regency ***</p> <p>Day 24 Return home Transfer from your hotel to Brisbane airport for your return flight to Canada.</p> <p>Your package includes:</p> <p>Transpacific flights aboard Air Canada 21 nights of accommodation in a one-bedroom apartment Private round trip airport transfers at destination</p> <p>Accommodation: Surf Regency ***1/2 All the spacious one and two-bedroom apartments in Surf Regency offer magnificent ocean views facing the Pacific Ocean. Ideally located opposite patrolled beaches, and only two blocks to Cavill Avenue in the heart of Surfers Paradise, the Surf Regency offers guests the perfect spot to sit back, relax and enjoy life while on a Gold Coast holiday. The area is known for its famous surf beaches, theme parks, shopping, night life, golf courses or the tranquility of the hinterland with its subtropical rainforest.</p>

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	<p>Apartment features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air conditioning - Wireless internet - Cable television - Choice of one- or two-bedroom ocean view accommodation - Fully equipped kitchen, washing machine and dryer <p>Resort facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barbecue and outdoor entertaining area - Heated outdoor pool with spa - Rooftop sun deck - Rooftop spa & sauna - Internet lounge - Children's wading pool <p>This is just one of 51 tours and excursions available on the Air Canada Vacations website.</p>
Air Canada Deals	Air Canada Vacations have great offers on a regular basis, so check their website and sign up for their e-newsletter!
How to Book	Your Travel Agent can help make your reservations with Air Canada Vacation or check out the many options available at www.AirCanadaVacations.com .
Contact Info	<p>Website: www.aircanadavacations.com</p> <p>Tel: 1-866-529-2079</p> <p>Connect with Air Canada Vacations on facebook: https://www.facebook.com/aircanadavacations</p> <p>Follow Air Canada Vacations on Twitter: https://twitter.com/AirCanadaVac</p>

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