

To get lost – or found – on the world's largest island, experience our

Journeys

Travel by car, camel, hot air balloon or train – you decide

Across this massive land and all its 12,000 islands, thousands of possible journeys connect endless unique Australian experiences, destinations and products. Short or long, by horsepower or horseback – it is journeys that have always created the threads which continue to connect us to each other; that make our land seem small and immense at the same time.

From the very beginning, Aboriginal people knew it was only by travelling the land, letting nature and spirits shape the journey, that they could have a true understanding of Australia. Over 50,000 years of 'Dreamtime', they have called the traces of these journeys 'songlines'.

Even today, travelling in Australia is not about getting from here to there, but discovering the diversity, the wonder, isolation and vibrant towns, the people and their unique way of life, on the journey in between.

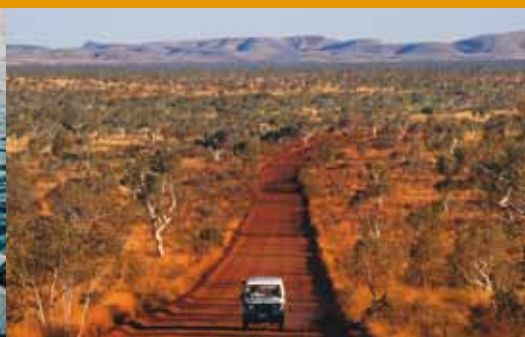
You can take weeks weaving through rolling countryside, red desert, sparkling waterholes and spiritual heritage, or a few days exploring wine regions, wilderness coast, island clusters and reefs . . . the choices are endless.

Here's a few more – go Outback to experience endless space and the roots of our culture in the vast Red Centre, or 'out bush' to country towns, to hinterlands and boutique regions. Or take a break from your usual world – meet a winemaker, go deep-sea fishing or spot a croc.

Travelling our ancient and lightly-travelled land is one of the most rewarding journeys you will experience – whether you take the luxury option, decide to camp under the stars, hotel-hop or tow a caravan, you'll create a songline of your own.

Some journeys facts

- > With a landmass of 7.69 million sq km, Australia is the world's smallest continent, and largest island.
- > Australia is the lowest, flattest, most stable continent, with desert comprising 35 per cent of the landmass.
- > 'Terra Australis' was one of the last discovered landmasses. The west coast was 'discovered' by the Dutch, but it was the British who staked their claim in 1770 following the arrival of Captain James Cook on the east coast.
- > The country was inhabited by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for many thousands of years before the arrival of European settlers in January 1788, following an eight-month journey by sea.
- > It takes several days and 3026 km to travel by road from Adelaide in South Australia to Darwin in the Northern Territory.
- > Highway 1, which circumnavigates the Australian continent, is 24,000 km in length. More than a million people travel on some part of this road each day.
- > Australia is home to the longest section of straight railway track (478 km) and the longest straight section of tarred highway (146.6 km) in the world.



Journeys

Uniquely Australian

- > **You can journey by car or four-wheel drive and set your own pace** – giving you plenty of opportunities to take roads less travelled and to meet the locals along the way.
- > **Join the great Aussie tradition and pack up your car, caravan or 4WD and head off on our vast network of highways.** There are thousands of roads that criss-cross our great nation, endless experiences to be discovered and plenty of Aussies to meet along the way; all ready to share a tale and to provide advice.
- > **This is the world's largest island and flying is a logical way to cover huge distances more quickly.** And we have aircraft of all shapes and sizes to take you on your way. You can buy a seat on a commercial airline, charter a private plane, and even take a hot-air balloon ride over our vast countryside. Or you may prefer to hitch a ride with a 'postie' as he makes his mail rounds by plane to some of Australia's remotest communities.
- > If you don't want to drive, or see the landscape from a plane, you **can experience some of the best railway journeys in the world.** Watch the scenery constantly change as you cross the country north to south or east to west, or choose to head inland to our great Outback. You can take an epic three-night journey or, from some cities, a short 90-minute trip into the hinterland.
- > **On an island like this, rich with waterways, reef and harbours, journeys afloat are an obvious choice.** You can choose everything from kayak trips, sailing tours and ferry rides to spectacular cruises and luxury adventures between tropical islands and warm-water reefs.
- > **Explore major cities or far-flung towns and communities on the back of a motorcycle.** Cruise coastal roads and highways and embrace the freedom of riding all day or making frequent stops whenever the mood takes you.
- > **Caravanning and camping are two of our own most-loved ways of exploring the country.** There are well-travelled trails and popular camping sites where you can join us on our holiday pilgrimages, and plenty of out-of-the-way roads and sites for a more solitary tour.
- > **Luxury camping is a specialty too** – there are glamorous camping-style retreats and resorts offering an elegant experience of island, Outback, forest, desert or beach life.
- > Or you can head out on foot and walk across our ever-changing and ancient landscape.

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