Luxury Lodges of Australia

A collection of independent luxury lodges and camps offering unforgettable experiences in Australia’s most inspiring and extraordinary locations.

In recent years, Australia has seen the emergence and consolidation of a new breed of exceptional luxury properties and experiences. These properties have joined forces to showcase Australia’s unique style of sophisticated, carefree, barefoot luxury.

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There’s nothing like Australia for its sheer diversity of natural luxury experiences...

For anyone who thinks they know Australia, but haven’t visited recently (or at all), take note. The Australian travel landscape has changed dramatically over the past decade or so. This vast continent continues to see the creation of a new breed of exceptional lodges and camps in some of its most beautiful and uniquely Australian regions. Australia now boasts a critical mass of experience-based luxury properties to appeal to upscale global travellers and adventure seekers. Formed in 2010, Luxury Lodges of Australia is a membership association offering a collective voice for these lodges and camps. It is a central point of reference for anyone searching for high-end Australian travel experiences.

The lodges in this collection are independently owned and operated. But this is no ordinary hotel ‘group’. This is a collection of like-minded entrepreneurs, each passionate enough about a unique region of Australia to invest deeply in creating the kind of upscale but intimate lodging and bespoke experiences they know sophisticated global travellers seek. Each lodge has signature experiences and activities to showcase the special aspects of its region – pristine natural landscapes, wildlife, indigenous heritage, nature, food and wine and more. It is these experiences that define the new Australian luxury and showcase Australia’s extraordinary diversity. There is particular focus on signature experiences that delve into the rich and diverse food and wine culture of Australia. Collectively, they represent a new style of distinctively Australian casual elegance and luxury.

The lodges are all about delivering a sense of place and connecting guests to their region. It is not about how much the same the lodges are, but how different, and how they reflect the diversity and authenticity of the Australian experience – whether it be coastal, desert, reef, island or wilderness lodges, luxe outback camps, vineyard retreats or culinary destinations. The lodges are so much more than just a place to stay. These are destinations with great appeal for the often time-poor, experience-seeking travellers for whom time-out and a genuine, memorable, often life-changing experience, is the real luxury.
Arkaba

An ancient landscape moulded by hundreds of years of geological activity, the Flinders Ranges offers some of Australia’s most spectacular outback scenery. Arkaba’s 60,000 acre private wildlife conservancy is home to a wondrous variety of bird and wildlife and a remarkable conservation story. Dating from the 1850s, Arkaba Homestead pays homage to a rich pastoral and exploration heritage in a style that is both rustically chic and utterly exclusive. With just five rooms the homestead is an oasis of comfort and style amidst a harsh and rugged landscape, where guests enjoy a taste of classic Australian country hospitality. The Flinders Ranges is in a class of its own for taking in the sheer size and scale of Australia’s outback offering the chance to immerse oneself in 600 million years of geological history. Arkaba’s conservation management program has seen a transformation in bird and mammal species on the property and offers guests a unique insight to the challenges that Australia faces in saving its unique and diverse natural heritage.

Activities include bush walking, photography, safari drives, visiting ancient Aboriginal sites, or just soaking up the sights and sounds of the bush. Enjoy picnics underneath magnificent River Red gums, track native wildlife, learn the stories of early European settlement or take a scenic flight over Wilpena Pound and the salt pans of Lake Torrens. The real luxury at Arkaba comes in sharing this spectacular conservancy with just a handful of other guests.

Arkaba

Nearest domestic airport: Port Augusta
Time to lodge: 75 minute drive

Nearest international airport: Adelaide
Time to lodge: 5 hours drive/or 55 minute private charter to Hawker + 15 minute drive

Number of rooms/suites: 5

You might come to Arkaba for the wild, open spaciousness of the outback, the sense of being far away from everything, the chance to dine under the stars. But your presence here is not just about you. It’s helping to fund a transformation, returning the land to its natural state, and turning a 150-year-old sheep station into a private wildlife reserve.

Louise Southerden, Sydney Morning Herald
Bamurru Plains

Bamurru Plains on the Mary River floodplains is Australia’s answer to the Okavango Delta. These coastal floodplains are home to prolific bird and wildlife, whilst nearby Kakadu and Arnhem Land are the heartland of Australia’s indigenous culture. This is the setting for a mesmerising wilderness experience.

Bamurru Plains offers one of Australia’s richest wildlife experiences: tens of thousands of magpie goose mingle with kites, egrets, herons and buffalo on the floodplain. Bamurru’s expert guides offer exhilarating airboat trips on the floodplains, safaris by open-top 4WD vehicles, fishing trips, excursions to the rock art galleries of Arnhem Land and crocodile-spotting river cruises.

Wake to the call of magpie goose and watch the parade of wildlife emerge from the comfort of your bed. Spot wildlife in the treetops from the camp’s ‘hide’, and sit back with a drink and enjoy the soft ‘Wild Bush Luxury’ touches.

Bamurru Plains lodge and 300km² of surrounding country are exclusively for in-house guests, assuring a quiet, privileged outback experience.

Bamurru Plains deliberately tries not to be a typical luxury hotel room in the bush, but a haven from which to closely connect with a unique Top End wilderness with ten safari suites blending seamlessly with the surrounding bush.

“An utterly remote, stunningly crafted wilderness lodge, Bamurru is... African-style bush luxury. Built on stilts over the wetlands, Bamurru is state-of-the-art rustic with staff who can morph from Jeeves into Crocodile Dundee.”

Tatler
Capella Lodge

A close-kept secret among stylish insiders, Capella Lodge is Lord Howe Island’s premium retreat and a haven of understated luxury. A short flight from Australia’s east coast transports visitors to a real ‘treasure island’, a paradise lost in time and perfectly preserved.

Gently melding modern design into glorious natural surroundings, Capella’s underplayed raw-teak-and-white-linen aesthetic lets the true star shine: views of the jaw-droppingly dramatic Mounts Gower and Lidgbird. A feeling of relaxed sophistication flows throughout with beach-chic furnishings, island-themed artworks and kentia palm fringed decks creating an easy ambience and barefoot luxury.

Fine dining is a drawcard and the innovative menu showcases a bounty of local seafood and fresh regional produce. The simple pleasure of a long and lazy barbecue lunch enjoyed alfresco is a favourite Lord Howe tradition with fish feeding on the white gold sands of Neds Beach not to be missed.

The verdant World Heritage site is a paradise of rainforests, reefs and beaches and is home to hundreds of rare and endemic species, meaning any visit to the island has the sense of a National Geographic expedition. Walking tracks scope subtropical forests, remote coves alive with magnificent birdlife and valleys brimming with ancient plants. Down below, the world’s southern-most coral reef is ablaze with kaleidoscopic colour and a riot of fish, perfect to discover by snorkel or glass bottom-boat.

Inspired by the carefree spirit of the authentic Australian beach house and refreshingly off the radar, Capella Lodge brings the ultimate castaway fantasy to life.

Nearest domestic airport: Lord Howe Island
Time to lodge: 5 minute drive
Nearest international airport: Sydney
Time to lodge: 2 hour flight + 5 minute drive
Number of suites: 9

Capella Lodge
Lord Howe Island, New South Wales
Cape Lodge

Nestled amongst Western Australia’s famous Margaret River vineyards and within earshot of the sparkling Indian Ocean, a beautiful country house hotel resides, its sweeping lawns and terraced rose gardens framing a glistening lake.

Cape Lodge sits on 40 acres of manicured gardens and native bushland and is surrounded by the great wine estates of Moss Wood, Vasse Felix and Cullen. Guests can while away the day away with a book under the shade of a peppermint tree or by the pool, or, for those with an energetic inclination there is tennis, croquet and hotel bikes for use to visit neighbouring vineyards, boutique breweries and artisan chocolate makers.

Described as one of Australia’s finest new generation gourmet establishments, dining at the lakeside restaurant is a highlight of a stay at Cape Lodge. Its seasonal menus feature local and home grown produce plucked from nearby oceans, local farms and the kitchen garden. All used to create innovative cuisine and for dishes demonstrated in the calendar of Cooking Classes and Culinary Events.

The Margaret River Region is one of the most pristine and naturally beautiful wine regions in the World with over 160km of spectacular coastline and beaches, karri forests and limestone caves. World class surfing, abseiling, mountain biking, golf and coastal hiking are nearby as well as a rich array of artisan studios, art galleries, farms shops and produce stores.

This private country estate has 22 secluded rooms and suites, a 4 bedroom Private Residence and its own 8 acre vineyard producing some of Margaret River’s finest handcrafted Sauvignon Blanc and Shiraz exclusively for guests of the lodge.

- Nearest domestic airport: Busselton
  - Time to lodge: 40 minute drive
- Nearest international airport: Perth
  - Time to lodge: 3.5 hour drive
- Number of suites: 22 suites plus 4 bedroom residence

“Cape Lodge continues to deliver a sophisticated and easy-going charm in the forest, a luxury oasis in the beautiful Margaret River wine region.”

Crystalbrook Lodge

Remote... wild... elegant. For a Bond style entrance guests can arrive by helicopter and land right at the lodge, an outback oasis in Northern Queensland. The lodge is perched on the only manicured green lawn for miles, overlooking a 120ha freshwater lake. With sundowner or champagne in hand, gaze across the wet-edge pool to the eye-cooling lake, ringed by green water lilies. This new boutique lodge, set in the wide red-dirt land of a 35,000 hectare outback Queensland cattle station, exudes an unexpected elegance and a sense of outback drama. For thrills or just to chill, this is not your every day luxury. Fully hosted, and limited to just 10 guests, the lodge is accessed by small plane - a 40 minute flight from coastal Cairns with its cane fields and rainforest, across vast outback. Or, for those who like to explore, it is a 3 hour drive on mostly sealed roads over the Tablelands. Apart from gourmet meals, hikes, scenic helicopter flights and connecting with the huge, blue skies, colours of the outback and ruggedly Australian scenes, guests will want to get up close and personal with some of the lakeside wildlife. Now it’s time for David Attenborough to take over from Bond in the form of a Crystalbrook lake guide in what one photographer described as an “absurdly photogenic setting”. Nesting Sea Eagles, delicately long toed Jacanas and rafts of water fowl supply an endless variety of subjects. Lucky guests might even spot one of the baby freshwater crocodiles floating amongst the lily pads. For a real thrill, try fishing for one of the huge barramundi – or stalk them from the lake edge with one of Crystalbrook’s secret lures. Absolutely must do: sip a Bond style Vodka Martini under a blood-orange sunset sky, as the endless outback horizon fades to stars.
El Questro Homestead

El Questro Homestead is an outstanding blend of remote regional hospitality and the exploration of the beautiful outback wilderness landscape of the Kimberley region of Western Australia. El Questro is one million acres in size and really is one of the world’s last true frontiers with rugged sandstone ranges, gorges, waterfalls and abundant wildlife.

At the heart of the property lies El Questro Homestead, a boutique oasis, perched atop a cliff with bird’s-eye views of The Chamberlain River and Gorge. It is private, understated, exclusive.

The extensive experiences menu is key to The Homestead offering and includes guided 4WD drives, bush, culture and nature tours, bird-watching, gorge hikes, swimming at pristine waterfalls and rock pools, scenic flights, remote picnics and fishing excursions. This is personalised and intimate touring with knowledgeable guides.

After exploring this dramatic land of extremes, guests may soak in the thermal Zebedee Springs, curl up under an ancient Boab tree with a book, swim in the pool overlooking the Chamberlain Gorge or simply join the local wallaby population and lounge in the shade. The Homestead is renowned for serving premium cuisine and wines in dramatic locations, from a secluded cliff top table to The Homestead’s spacious verandahs.

The Homestead is an easy 90-minute drive from the nearest town of Kununurra, or may be accessed via private airstrip. It offers nine rooms and suites, hosting a maximum of 18 guests at any time.

“El Questro Homestead is certainly the most covetable getaway in The Kimberley. A stay here is all you need to provide you with an awe-inspiring life experience.”

Elisabeth Knowles, Australian Traveller Magazine

Nearest domestic airport: Kununurra
Time to lodge: 30 minutes by air or 90 minute drive

Nearest international airport: Darwin
Time to lodge: 1 hour flight plus 90 minute drive or 1.5 hour charter flight

Number of suites: 9

El Questro Homestead
Gibb River Road, East Kimberley, Western Australia

Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley

Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley is an ultra-luxury retreat, located 2.5 hours’ northwest of Sydney in the majestic World Heritage-listed Greater Blue Mountains region. Set on 7,000 acres of carbon-neutral conservation and wildlife reserve, the resort blends absolute luxury and seclusion with a quintessentially Australian bush experience.

Nestled between two national parks, the resort offers a unique blend of solitude, native wildlife, dramatic natural beauty, conservation and heritage combined with unsurpassed facilities and outstanding food and wine.

Occupying just one per cent of the total land area, the resort features 40 elegantly appointed, free-standing villas, each with its own swimming pool, double-sided fireplace and private verandah with stunning views of the Wolgan Valley and rugged sandstone escarpments. At the centre of the resort sits the Main Homestead with several dining settings, a heritage precinct, and the One&Only Spa – a sanctuary to revitalise the mind, body and soul, featuring Australia’s own Sodashi skin care products.

The resort’s impressive assortment of native wildlife, dramatic landscapes and heritage, can be explored through a range of activities including wildlife safaris, nature walks, heritage tours, mountain biking and horse riding. Guests are also invited to take part in the daily Conservation Hour, working alongside passionate field guides to help preserve this distinctive environment for the future.

Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley offers the rare opportunity to experience true luxury in a spectacular Australian bush setting.

“What can we say? Beautiful, and brainy, too — the world’s first carbon zero resort, which loses nothing to hairshirtery and gains everything in a real and profound engagement with its wild surroundings. A staff we found to be relaxed, open, full of personality and passion for their secret inland island.”

Cate Blanchett and Andrew Upton, Mr & Mrs Smith review

Nearest domestic airport: Bathurst (or Sydney)
Time to lodge: 1 hour drive
Nearest international airport: Sydney
Time to lodge: 2.5 hours drive
Number of villas: 40

Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley
2600 Wolgan Road, Wolgan Valley, New South Wales

Contact: +61 (0)2 9308 0550
or reservations@oneandonlywolganvalley.com
In an increasingly hurried world, Lake House provides an easily accessible haven of tranquility, nestled on the shores of Lake Daylesford. Food and wine are consuming passions here and throughout the surrounding region. A team passionate about hospitality led by owner and Culinary Director Alla Wolf-Tasker delivers beautiful cutting edge, seasonal food matched with an internationally acclaimed wine list. In fact the restaurant and cellar have won just about every national award including two Chefs Hats, Country Wine List of the Year and Victoria’s Best Gourmet Getaway in the Age Good Food Guide, The Financial Review Top 30 Restaurants and Australia’s Wine List of the Year. Produce for the seasonal menus are often handpicked for a morning delivery. Local lamb, rare breed pork, grass fed beef, fresh water fish, sheep and goat’s milk cheeses, heirloom fruit from old orchards and windfalls from local gardens are abundant.

For true gourmands The Cooking School calendar of hands on classes, workshops and masterclasses with Australia’s most celebrated chefs are hot ticket items and book out months in advance.

A hotel with heart and soul, Lake House’s 33 rooms and suites nestle amongst 6 acres of country gardens. Each is decorated with original artwork from acclaimed resident artist and co-owner Allan Wolf-Tasker’s onsite studio. The stylish Retreat at Lake House, a private country house within the grounds, offers added seclusion and elegant country living with unique furnishings and works from the Wolf-Tasker Family’s private art collection.

A full size tennis court, the airy multi-level Salus Spa of ten treatment rooms, lake paths meandering past mineral springs into the surrounding Wombat State Forest and the walking distance proximity of the charming village itself, provide a myriad of diversions and activities.

Nearest domestic and international airport: Melbourne
Time to Lodge: 75 minute drive
Number of suites: 33
Lake House
4 King Street, Daylesford, Victoria
Contact: +61 (0)3 5348 3329 or info@lakehouse.com.au

“Leaving Lake House can be a bittersweet experience...there’s a sense of peace here that slows time.”
Australian Gourmet Traveller Hotel Guide
Australia’s Best Regional Hotel
Lizard Island

With the introduction in 2015 of the exclusive new Villa, the expansion of The Pavilion, the introduction of plunge pools and the refurbished interiors of the suites, Salt Water restaurant, Driftwood bar and Essentia Day Spa – Lizard Island – the northernmost resort on the Great Barrier Reef – is simply like nowhere else.

It is uniquely located right on the Great Barrier Reef, 240 kilometres north of Cairns, and has twenty-four powdery-white beaches, over 1000 hectares of national park, forty understated beach luxe suites, the day spa, and the bluest of clear blue ocean views from every angle.

The beaches are undisturbed but for occasional footprints. Coral reef gardens fringe the island shimmering in brilliant colour beneath clear turquoise water. Giant clams laze on the seabed as nosey Potato Cod keep watch. Here, the marine life is renowned the world over.

Lizard Island seduces with a multitude of reef and water activities. Sensational diving opportunities abound, including the famous Cod Hole or snorkel straight from the beach to experience coral gardens, brightly coloured tropical fish and giant clams. The nearby Ribbon Reefs are renowned for some of the best big game fishing in the world. These must-do reef activities are delivered by a highly professional and fun team at the resort’s Beach Club.

Lizard Island has a stunning choice of private rooms, suites, The Pavilion and the premium Villa. In addition to the reef and water activities, secluded picnics on private beaches, superb dining in the open and expansive main lodge area and indulgent spa treatments complete the Lizard Island experience.

“...The Reef, one of the world’s great wonders, is just outside your doorstep, you can snorkel right off one of the island’s 24 private white sand beaches, or take the boat trip to the outer reef to see even more vividly colored coral and larger fish... Lizard has always exemplified luxury in the country; it still does. It’s a place you really don’t want to leave.”

Laurie Werner, forbes.com
Longitude 131°

Camping certainly doesn’t come more glamorous nor the view from the ‘tent’ more spectacular than this. At Longitude 131°, a gathering of luxury pavilions overlooking Uluru, the vibe is intimate and civilised. Artfully arranged around a red-velour sand dune, the desert base fans out from the cool sanctuary of the Dune House, site of lounging, cocktails and Rock gazing. Dine overlooking the nation’s spiritual heart savouring contemporary cuisine combined with indigenous flavours to create a unique taste of Australia. Dinner at Table 131° is one of life’s most memorable, as the theatre is transported to a remote setting among the dunes for a degustation menu under a glittering canopy of stars.

In the spirit of the original pioneers, relax after a day’s exploring in a luxury tent, reimagined for the 21st century to meld style with sustainability. Bespoke furnishings, indigenous artworks and a swag of mod cons dispels any lingering sense of roughing it. The hedonism of the lodge is offset by discovery of the World Heritage listed wilderness of Uluru-Kata Tjuta, explored on a series of signature guided encounters. Connect with the ancient creation stories of the land’s traditional custodians and come face to face with this irresistible land rich in cultural heritage and history. Contrasting creature comforts with an experience of the elements, Longitude 131° is a place to really feel that the most desirable luxuries of today are infinite time, endless space and the sweet sound of silence.

““To stay at Longitude 131° is to buy front-row seats to the spectacular that is Uluru. Wake up, and there is Australia’s most iconic rock, framed by a room-wide sliding glass window, just a few fields of minty green spinifex between you and the prize. It’s dreamy sightseeing without getting out of bed.”
— Susan Skelly, Qantas, Australian Way Magazine
Pretty Beach House

Pretty Beach House is the epitome of relaxed luxury; intimate, laid-back, with personalised butler service offering the quintessential luxe Australian coastal bush experience.

Perched high on the escarpment at Pretty Beach, the house sits lightly within its surrounds, an ancient angophora eucalyptus forest with views over pristine golden beaches, glorious bays and coastal bushland. The beaches and bays are easily accessible via bushland walking trails and along coastal sandstone cliffs. Other activities include hands-on cooking classes; access to the property’s private boat; indigenous rock art by the local Darkinjung tribe dating back 10,000 years; and a ‘welcome to country’ indigenous smoking ceremony by a local indigenous elder is part of a truly unforgettable experience.

The guesthouse sleeps up to eight guests in four impeccably appointed pavilions. In-pavilion comforts include king beds dressed with fine Italian hand-loomed linens, fireplace, underfloor-heating, heated plunge pool, outdoor day bed and full mini bar stocked with premium wines and spirits.

The main house is the heart of the property and a shared space for guests. It includes the atrium style dining room, lounging area, cocktail bar, wine cellar and open kitchen. Dining is a highlight at Pretty Beach House with seasonal menus prepared by Australia’s master of Italian cuisine, Stefano Manfredi. All dining is included, as is an open bar stocked with premium wines, beers and spirits, pavilion mini-bar, unlimited wi-fi throughout the property, and complimentary mountain bike use.

Nearest domestic airport: Sydney or Newcastle
Time to lodge: 90 minute drive from Sydney or Newcastle, 20 minutes by Seaplane (From Sydney only) or 20 minutes by Helicopter (From Newcastle or Sydney)

Nearest international airport: Sydney
Time to lodge: 90 minute drive, 20 minutes by Seaplane or Helicopter

Number of suites: 4 pavilions

Pretty Beach House 83 Highview Road, Pretty Beach, New South Wales

Belinda Kontominas, Travel Weekender, The Sun Herald

“A Love Nest in the Treetops... The exclusive Pretty Beach House, tucked away in a bush paradise, is perfect for romance.”
qualia is a unique Australian expression of world-class luxury and an outstanding example of design. It is situated on the secluded northern-most tip of Hamilton Island and surrounded by the unsurpassed beauty of the Great Barrier Reef. With a relaxed aspect and mesmerising calmness, time seems to stretch forever. It’s a truly special place where everything has been meticulously considered to relax the mind yet completely spoil the senses. qualia’s sun-drenched northern aspect provides the ideal location to appreciate the passing beauty of each day, with a choice of sixty private individual pavilions, many of which have a plunge pool and natural touches such as outdoor showers.

Guests may indulge and unwind at the stunning Spa qualia, which offers an authentically Australian spa menu, incorporating treatments that have been thoughtfully designed to rebalance the synergy between mind and body. qualia guests have priority access to Australia’s only island championship golf course, the Hamilton Island Golf Club, with stunning 360 degree views of the Whitsunday Islands from every hole; one of the world’s top 10 beaches, Whitehaven Beach; spectacular snorkelling and diving opportunities, or scenic flights over the Great Barrier Reef; and unparalleled sailing through the Whitsunday passage. Or if relaxation is the goal, qualia will take guests to a private beach for a gourmet picnic for two.

Nearest domestic airport: Great Barrier Reef Airport, Hamilton Island (HTI)
Time to lodge: 10 minute drive

Nearest international airport: Brisbane
Time to lodge: 1 hour 40 minute flight + 10 minute drive

Number of suites: 60 private pavilions, some with private pools

qualia
Hamilton Island, Queensland

“qualia has the low-key indoor-outdoor design that is quintessential unpretentious Oz luxury.” Maria Shollenbarger on qualia’s inclusion in the US Conde Nast Traveler Gold List 2015
Saffire Freycinet is Australia’s luxury coastal sanctuary on Tasmania’s East Coast, delivering sophisticated, intimate style and an inspirational experience. Discreetly positioned overlooking the Hazards Mountains, Freycinet Peninsula and the pristine waters of Great Oyster Bay, Saffire blends manmade and nature with breathtaking beauty.

Featuring twenty luxurious suites, exclusive day spa, restaurant, guest lounge and bar, this new experience is a celebration of the art of service, internal and external wellbeing, local culinary delights, ancient landscapes and abundant wildlife.

In Palate restaurant, Hugh Whitehouse, the head chef has ensured innovative dining does not compromise the true flavours of the freshest local produce. From breakfast through to a gourmet degustation or a la carte dinner, guests can customise their dining experiences to suit all tastes and schedules.

All guests can restore their wellbeing in the premium spa facilities and on-site gym. Soothe the busy mind and refresh the soul with a luxurious treatment in one of Spa Saffire’s three retreat rooms overlooking the inspiring landscape and reflective pools.

The Schouten Island Signature Experience has been designed exclusively for guests to deepen their East Coast discovery. There’s a world of deserted islands, wild bushland and secluded beaches to explore.

The Tasmanian Devil Experience offers guests the rare opportunity to encounter Tasmanian devils in a natural setting, and to participate in the quest to save this endangered species from extinction. A stay at Saffire Freycinet, World’s Best Boutique Hotel Award Winner 2014, is one of Australia’s most spellbinding luxury experiences.

“Very few resorts manage to get all the ingredients right when opening but we can assure you, this beauty of a hotel has ticked all the right boxes. We were literally left speechless — and that takes some doing — as we feasted our eyes on the breathtaking vistas, indulged our senses in our gorgeous suite and in the spa, and devoured the food that made any thought of a diet ridiculous.”

Bill Tikos, The Coolhunter online guru

Nearest domestic airport: Hobart or Launceston
Time to lodge: 2.5 hours drive from either airport

Nearest international airport: Melbourne
Time to lodge: 1 hour flight to Hobart or Launceston + 2.5 hours drive

Number of suites: 20

Saffire Freycinet, Tasmania
Contact: +61 (0)3 6256 7888 or stay@saffire-freycinet.com.au
Sal Salis

Where the outback meets the reef... With 16 luxury wilderness tents hidden amongst the dunes overlooking Ningaloo Reef, Sal Salis provides a unique place from which to explore Western Australia’s stunning coral coast and one of Australia’s best kept natural secrets.

The attraction lies in the coral reef just a few yards off shore with its marine residents, including Whale Sharks and Humpback Whales. Ningaloo is also acknowledged as the best place in the world to swim with the world’s largest fish, the Whale Shark, as these gentle giants migrate northwards every year. From August 2016, swimming with Humpback Whales will also be a highlight for guests at Sal Salis.

The coastal dunes and gorges in the Cape Range National Park provide a prolific terrestrial wildlife experience with Red Kangaroo, Euros and Emu seen regularly around the camp.

Sal Salis brings a touch of style to a remote and spectacularly beautiful wilderness region. Safari guides are on hand to provide an immersive wilderness experience, and the ritual of sundowners is a time of laughter, sharing of exceptional local knowledge and wonder at the inimitability of Ningaloo. A 3 course dinner and a selection of fine Western Australian wines is enjoyed under the starry night skies. The camp’s environmental credentials ensure a minimal footprint in this pristine environment.

Nearest domestic airport: Exmouth (Learmonth Airport)
Time to lodge: 1.5 hour drive

Nearest international airport: Perth
Time to lodge: 2 hour flight + 1.5 hour drive

Number of suites: 16 wilderness tents

Sal Salis
Ningaloo Reef, Western Australia

“...I discovered my hammock strung outside my tent and, more important, I discovered that if I lay in it long enough, I could watch whales blowing and curling out on the ink-blue horizon.”

Max Anderson, The Sunday Times
Silky Oaks Lodge

Silky Oaks Lodge is located in a stunning riverside location adjoining the oldest living rainforests—the World Heritage-listed Daintree National Park. The modernised and elegant Far North Queensland styled lodge offers ecological and culturally sensitive experiences, adventure or indulgent leisure. The surrounding region is diverse featuring lush tropical rainforests, vast savannahs, lava caves, unique river excursions as well as the nearby Great Barrier Reef. Just over an hour’s drive from Cairns Airport and 20 minutes from Port Douglas, the journey by road takes in the gorgeous scenery of sealed coastal road meandering along deserted beach vistas and the sparkling waters of the Coral Sea.

Located close to the Mossman Gorge and its indigenous experiences including the Dreamtime Walk, the activities at the Lodge itself range from hiking trails, river swimming, paddling, canoeing, snorkelling, picnicking, biking excursions, guided bird walks and yoga by the river. There are 40 designer furnished lodges with large spa baths and balconies ranging from the Billabong Suites and Family Retreat to River and Treehouses set in 80 acres of grounds adjoining The Daintree National Park.

The Treehouse Restaurant presents diners with an exciting menu using high quality locally sourced produce. The mineral rich waters of the river provide an inspiration for the Healing Waters Spa and a wide range of treatments using the luxurious organic Sodashi products enabling a perfect therapeutic escape and total relaxation. An absolute must to do whilst at Silky Oaks Lodge is a rock picnic on the Figtree Rapids Hiking Trail.

“There is no question of being impervious to the environment here. The lodge borders The Daintree National Park, home to 74 species of mammals, twice as many types of reptiles and amphibians, and 330 kinds of birds... It’s a companionable destination of appropriate luxury and lots of creature comforts.”

Susan Kurosawa, Wish Magazine

Silky Oaks Lodge
The Daintree, Queensland

- Nearest domestic and international airport: Cairns
- Time to lodge: 60 minute drive
- Number of suites: 40 (combination of Riverhouses and Treehouses)

Contact: +61 (0)7 4098 1666 or reservations@silkoakslodge.com.au

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Southern Ocean Lodge

Celebrated as a pioneer of Australia’s new breed of luxury lodges, the modernist retreat atop the limestone cliffs of Kangaroo Island invites a step into another world. A hop off the coast of Adelaide, ‘KI’ as the locals call it, is a true wilderness refuge, a place teeming with indigenous species including its furry namesake and where a steep, cliff-lined coast offers some of the world’s most dramatic ocean views.

Timeless in design, with myriad thoughtful details combining to create a feeling of genuine warmth and generous welcome, Southern Ocean Lodge blends pristine nature, superb fine dining and a personalised itinerary of exhilarating experiences to create a very real sense of place. From guided hikes led by naturalist guides, up-close wildlife encounters and exploration of the ‘Wonders of KI’ including an admirably grand coastal grotto with resident fur seals, there’s an adventure for every whim.

Coolly modern suites favour refined comfort over ostentation, channelling contemporary coastal glamour into bespoke furnishings, organic linens, artworks, even the warm limestone underfoot. The Great Room serves as the lodge ‘hub’ with spectacular sweeping vistas playing backdrop for lounging by the suspended fireplace, pouring a drink from the convivial open bar and for indulging in fine food and wine with a proudly local provenance.

Utter isolation is perhaps the biggest drawcard at Southern Ocean Lodge: the air is pure, the land is rugged and the native wildlife brings even the most committed urbanite closer to Mother Nature. Here in the vanguard of Australian luxury, enlightenment is guaranteed.

At Southern Ocean Lodge the mix of fabulousness and nature finds new frisson...it’s bold, it’s progressive, it’s queen of the wilderness wonderland. Southern Ocean Lodge is really a pair of cool, calm binoculars focused on an astonishing place.”

Melinda Stevens, Tatler

Southern Ocean Lodge

Hanson Bay, Kangaroo Island, South Australia

Contact: +61 (0)2 9918 4355 or reserve@baillielodges.com.au

Spicers Peak Lodge

Spicers Peak Lodge is Australia’s highest mountain lodge, standing 1,100 metres above sea level, and surrounded by breathtaking views of South East Queensland’s World Heritage listed Main Range National Park, Great Dividing Range and Scenic Rim. The lodge offers a range of activities designed to give guests an intimate opportunity to experience this strikingly beautiful part of the Australian wilderness including guided rain forest bush walks, 4WD tours, scenic helicopter tours, star gazing, mountain biking adventures, sunset picnics and wine tasting in the nearby Granite Belt wine region. Guests may also enjoy a four day guided trek exploring flora and fauna of the Scenic Rim and learning about the region’s rich history. Facilities in and around the architecturally designed lodge include an infinity edge swimming pool, tennis court, guided walking and bike trails, produce gardens, library with billiard table and telescope, onsite day spa and an extensive lounge with open fireplace and restaurant. The Peak Restaurant offers guests a truly gourmet dining experience, with an emphasis on respect for produce, producer and the environment. These values are blended with impeccable techniques to yield a culinary style that pleases guests and food critics alike. With ten luxurious Suites and two Private Lodges, Spicers Peak Lodge is a unique blend of relaxing accommodation and fine dining at the height of luxury in one of South East Queensland’s most beautiful and rugged wilderness areas.

Nearest domestic and international airport: Brisbane
Time to lodge: 90 minute drive from Brisbane, 2 hours drive from the Gold Coast
Number of suites: 10 suites, 2 private lodges

Spicers Peak Lodge
Wilkinson’s Road, Maryvale, Scenic Rim, Queensland

“After a relaxing stroll through an ancient hoop pine forest Spicers Peak Lodge, Australia’s highest non-alpine retreat, appears in front of us like a mirage. It is a stunning two-storey hideaway perched above the clouds and we cannot wait to step inside.”
Tiana Templeman, Escape
The Louise

Set atop a gentle hill and surrounded by hundreds of acres of vines overlooking the world renowned Barossa Valley, The Louise is just one hour from Adelaide. There are just 15 luxuriously appointed suites, each with its own terrace, privacy and stunning views over the adjacent vineyards. The look is soft contemporary, with inspired design and artworks a focus in every suite.

Integral to a stay at The Louise is dining at Appellation, one of Australia’s finest regional restaurants. Appellation’s culinary team are guided by the rhythms of the seasons, harvesting from their kitchen garden; baking their own breads; butchering and curing their own meats, and see wine as the most natural of partners. The kitchen team are passionate advocates for freshness, seasonality and regionalism varying their menus nightly to take full advantage of the bountiful produce sourced from a network of local suppliers. An extensive multiple award-winning wine list showcases the best of the Barossa, the rest of Australia and wines of the world.

Float over ancient vineyards and natural landscapes in a hot air balloon, enjoy a sunrise picnic breakfast with kangaroos in native bushland, tour the undulating valley in a vintage car, walk or cycle bush tracks, soak up the southern sun and glorious vineyard views by the pool; or relax with an in-suite massage. Make your most brilliant blend of wine and have Appellation prepare a dinner to match. Join Appellation’s chef while he peruses the local farmer’s market for dinner provisions. Discover amazing wines, meet warm local characters and fall in love some of the world’s most engaging wine country.

Together, Appellation and The Louise is the food, wine and luxury accommodation destination for discerning travellers.

Nearest domestic and international airport: Adelaide
Time to lodge: 75 minute drive
Number of suites: 15

The Louise Barossa Valley
375 Seppeltsfield Road,
Marananga, South Australia

Contact: +61 (0)8 8562 2722
or stay@thelouise.com.au
www.luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au

“Born of an holistic approach and intimate connection to the land, Appellation (at The Louise) brings food and wine together with a powerful guarantee of regional authenticity.”
Louise Radman, Australian Gourmet Traveller
North Star Cruises conducts adventure-cruises all around the magnificent Australian coast. An adventure on the True North has long been regarded as one of Australia’s most revered tourism experiences. All itineraries are activity based and designed for discerning travellers who want to ‘experience’ some of Australia’s most remote coastal regions.

Extended periods at sea are specifically excluded and daily activities can include walks, fishing, snorkelling, diving, picnics, natural history, cultural events and more. The True North is an Australian registered ship and is not required to leave Australian waters during Australian voyages. So every day on-board the True North is an activity day.

Destinations include the Kimberley, a panorama of rugged mountains, spectacular gorges and majestic waterfalls; the still-wild coast of Western Australia featuring the intriguing Abrolhos Islands, world-famous Ningaloo Reef, the Montebello Islands and the pristine Rowley Shoals; beautiful Sydney and surrounds and, a seafood safari around the Eyre Peninsula.

The True North has been designed to access wilderness, to go where no other ship can go. Multiple expedition vessels take guests in small groups to experience wilderness ‘up close’. Spacious cabins feature modern décor with en-suites. Guest numbers are limited to 36 and an Australian crew of 20 chaperones every experience. Most cruise options feature an on-board helicopter which adds another dimension to the adventure.

Discover virtually unseen and untouched parts of Australia and, why guests disembarking from the True North consistently respond with “that’s the best holiday I have ever had!”

- Nearest domestic airport: For Kimberley departures – Broome or Kununurra (depending on direction of travel)
- Time to lodge: Broome (10 minutes) and Kununurra (1 hour) drive (transfer provided)
- Nearest international airport: Perth and Darwin
- Time to lodge: 2 hours by air + road transfer
- Number of rooms: 18 cabins

True North
North Star Cruises Australia, Broome

“Cruising along the Kimberley coast on the True North is the trip of a lifetime.”
Jerry Hall, Actress and Model
The new breed of Australian experiential luxury...

Waiting to be discovered in all corners of the Australian continent are exclusive islands, fabulous wilderness lodges, decadent tented camps in the desert, private spa and vineyard retreats, and remote country lodges. These are places where time out is treasured, and the discovery of the unique sense of place for each is a gift reflecting Australia’s extraordinary diversity and enchanting landscapes.

Take in wide angle views and watch the sun melt into the sea. Walk barefoot on the beach, swing in a hammock, lounge about in the plunge pool or watch wildlife swim in the bay. Better still, swim with them. Rejuvenate on a secluded island retreat, be pampered and preened at a glorious day spa or explore the peace and tranquility of nature’s most spectacular landscapes.

Discover pristine, remote picnic spots and secluded beaches on a romantic journey by air, land or sea. Explore beautiful beaches, coral reefs, dramatic coastal cliffs and singing sands.

Absorb the outback’s breathtaking ruggedness, hike or bike in it, then lie back and let stress dissolve away under the influence of a little outback luxury. Wonder at the incredible diversity of terrestrial and marine wildlife. From locally inspired, character filled bush camps offering key luxury standards to architecturally striking lodges, heritage homesteads and stations offering indulgent spa treatments, retreat to your own exclusive piece of luxury in the outback.

Savour the flavours of pure Australian produce, its seafood and wine. From nature (or paddock) to plate, rustic to refined, dining at these luxury lodges is an innovative and deeply satisfying affair. The possibilities for memorable gourmet experiences never end. During the desert, guests may enjoy a meal of ocean catch on sandy shores, a superlative meal in a destination dining room; or a candlelit dinner by the beach in the warm glow of sunset.

Sail between tropical islands and warm water reefs, exploring the endlessly changing Australian coastline and stopping at isolated beaches where the only footprints are your own. Australia’s luxury barefoot paradises are exclusive by virtue of their remoteness, their special location and the small number of guests they accommodate at any one time. Australia’s sun, sand and open space are luxuries of the rarest kind.

All these experiences represent a new style of distinctively Australian casual elegance and luxury; the unforgettable coast, reefs and islands; the fertile mountains and vibrant food and wine producing regions; the breathtaking horizons of the outback. Our guests have the space to relax, a sense of timelessness, the chance to discover our land, our people, and yourself. Take home lifelong memories.

www.luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au

ULTIMATE WINERY EXPERIENCES AUSTRALIA

Ultimate Winery Experiences Australia is a hand-selected collection of Australia’s premium wineries offering quality wine experiences based around world class wines, warm and knowledgeable hospitality and culinary excellence. Experience the best in Australia’s wine regions.

www.ultimatewineryexperiences.com.au
Plan your journey

Australia is a welcoming and accessible place. It is also a vast land with enormous diversity of inspiring travel destinations, so planning the logistics of a trip can be daunting. The Luxury Lodges of Australia website has some great tools for planning trips to the furthest reaches and most special places on the continent. Trip ideas may be viewed by destination, experience or by property. There are also seamless itinerary suggestions. The aim is to minimise time in transit, and maximise time experiencing our incredible destinations. Brief information with great tips about getting to or between any of Australia's luxury lodges is an invaluable guide when planning a trip. Many of the lodges have helipads and close access to landing strips for even greater accessibility by private jet or charter. Whether you book direct with your chosen destinations, or via your preferred travel specialist, www.luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au is a great place to start.
A COLLECTION OF INDEPENDENT LUXURY LODGES AND CAMPS OFFERING UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES IN AUSTRALIA’S MOST INSPIRING AND EXTRAORDINARY LOCATIONS

Telephone: 888 410 5770
Email: info@travel2-us.com