



"All you've got to do is decide to go and the hardest part is over. So go!"

TONY WHEELER, COFOUNDER - LONELY PLANET

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# PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions to help you put together your perfect trip

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# UNDERSTAND AUSTRALIA

GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP

Learn about the big picture, so you can make sense of what you see

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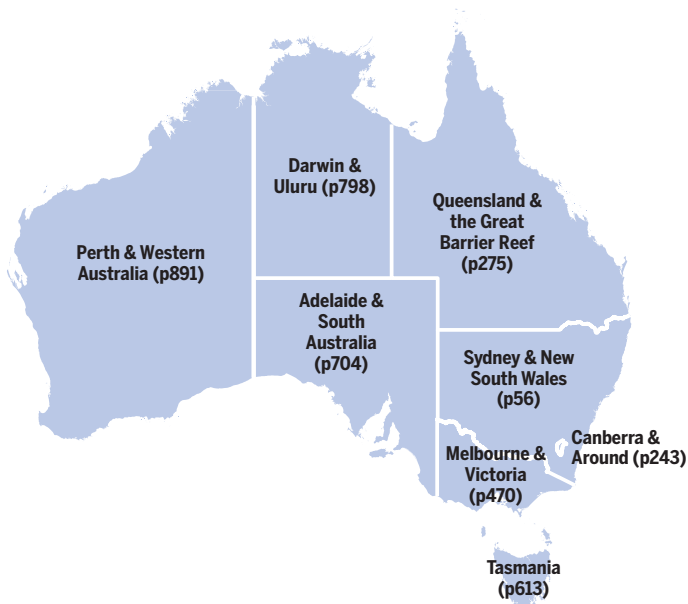
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Catherine Le Nevez, Virginia Maxwell, Miriam Raphael, Regis St Louis,  
Steve Waters, Penny Watson**



Look out for these icons:



Our author's recommendation



A green or sustainable option



No payment required

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# Australia



# Top Experiences >



**Daintree Rainforest**  
Butterflies, beaches and tropical jungle (p449)

**Great Barrier Reef**  
Snorkel or scuba through kaleidoscopic coral (p267)

**Wilsons Promontory**  
Wilderness and walking south of Melbourne (p601)

**Great Barrier Reef Marine Park**

**SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN**

**Lord Howe Island (NSW)**

**Fraser Island**  
Prima island sands and wildlife (p346)

**TASMAN SEA**

**Byron Bay**  
Hippies, surf and music festivals (p174)

**Sydney Opera House**  
Architectural opera in the Harbour City (p68)

140°E

150°E

155°E

160°E



### **Regis St Louis**

**Queensland & the Great Barrier Reef** Regis' love of Australia has taken him all across the country, from rugged WA to tropical Queensland. On his most recent trip, he explored the bohemian side of Brisbane, visited Granite Belt wineries and introduced his daughters to cuddly koalas at Lone Pine Sanctuary. Regis has contributed to more than 30 Lonely Planet titles, including *Queensland & the Great Barrier Reef*. When not travelling, he splits his time

between New York City and Sydney.

Read more about Regis at:  
[lonelyplanet.com/members/regisstlouis](http://lonelyplanet.com/members/regisstlouis)



### **Steve Waters**

**Perth & Western Australia** It's been 16 years since Steve first travelled through WA in a battered Torana, and he's been a regular visitor ever since. This trip covered 17,600kms, five blown tyres, four lost hats, three pairs of wrecked sunglasses and a close shave with an emu as he traversed the state from Kalumburu to Cervantes. Steve has also authored the West Sumatra chapter of *Indonesia* and, while not on the road, plays with databases in Lonely Planet's Melbourne office.



### **Penny Watson**

**Sydney & New South Wales** Penny Watson is a trained journalist and full-time professional travel writer. She grew up in regional NSW and has since become an expert on its varied landscapes. This is her second Australia guide and her third title covering this exceptionally unique and diverse chunk of her home country. For a Hong Kong resident, the opportunity to return to Australia and explore some more is always too tempting to ignore. Visit [www.pennywatson.com.au](http://www.pennywatson.com.au) for more of Penny's travel stories.

## **Contributing Authors**

**Dr Michael Cathcart** wrote the History chapter. Michael teaches history at the Australian Centre, the University of Melbourne. He is well known as a broadcaster on ABC Radio National and has presented history programs on ABC TV. His most recent book is *The Water Dreamers* (2009), a history of how water shaped Australia.

**Dr Tim Flannery** wrote the Environment chapter. Tim is a scientist, explorer and writer. He has written several award-winning books including *The Future Eaters*, *Throwim Way Leg* and *The Weather Makers*. He lives in Sydney where he is a professor in the faculty of science at Macquarie University.

**Alan Fletcher** has worked in every branch of the performing arts for over 30 years. He has played the role of Dr Karl Kennedy on *Neighbours* since 1994.

**Virginia Jealous** contributed to the Perth & Western Australia chapter. She has clocked up many kilometres for Lonely Planet over the years, and still reckons that travel and the environment can be mutually sustainable. She lives out of a suitcase and on the road when not at home in Denmark (the town in Western Australia, not the country in Europe).



### **Peter Dragicovich**

**Perth & Western Australia** If his great-grandfather hadn't died in mysterious circumstances beneath a train in Kalgoorlie, Peter may have been born Western Australian. Instead the family continued to New Zealand, where Peter lived until his newspaper career took him to Australia in the late 1990s. He has subsequently worked on more than 20 Lonely Planet titles, including *Sydney* and *East Coast Australia*. Co-authoring *Perth & West Coast Australia* and the Perth &

Western Australia chapter of this book took him one step closer to his goal of circumnavigating the continent, one book at a time.

Read more about Peter at:  
[lonelyplanet.com/members/peterdragovich](http://lonelyplanet.com/members/peterdragovich)



### **Sarah Gilbert**

**Canberra & Around, Queensland & the Great Barrier Reef** Sarah grew up in Sydney, studied at the Australian National University in Canberra and has since lived in Amsterdam, New York and Buenos Aires. She cut her teeth on the Big Apple's tabloids, took up travel writing in Argentina and has contributed to several Lonely Planet guides. Based in Sydney and Buenos Aires, she makes her living as a freelance writer and a researcher for film and television.

She is currently writing her first book of non-fiction.



### **Paul Harding**

**Melbourne & Victoria** Melbourne-born but country-raised, Paul spent childhood summers in the Gippsland Lakes, and later took many fishing and camping trips along the Murray River and ski trips to Mt Hotham. He's since seen (and written about) a good part of the world, but still calls this part of Australia home. For this edition, Paul travelled around most of regional Victoria and discovered – yet again – what a beautiful state this is. A freelance writer and photographer, Paul

has contributed to more than 30 Lonely Planet guides, including numerous Australian titles.



### **Catherine Le Nevez**

**Queensland & the Great Barrier Reef** Catherine's first writing for Lonely Planet was about Queensland, which she did while completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in Writing during a 65,000km lap-and-a-half of the continent, driving through two cyclones. Since then, Catherine has authored more than two dozen guidebooks worldwide, including Lonely Planet's *Queensland & the Great Barrier Reef* and *East Coast Australia* guides (she relived one of those cyclone-

pounded drives for a Lonely Planet feature). Catherine jumped at the chance to return to tropical paradise for this assignment.



### **Virginia Maxwell**

**Sydney & New South Wales** Despite being born, bred and based in Melbourne, Virginia knows Sydney well and loves it to bits. Having lived there in the past and visited frequently ever since, she has a good grasp of where to swim, sleep and generally swan about. When not writing about the Harbour City, Virginia covers Turkey and Italy for Lonely Planet and produces a well-known Australian book industry catalogue.

Read more about Virginia at:  
[lonelyplanet.com/members/virginiamaxwell](http://lonelyplanet.com/members/virginiamaxwell)



### **Miriam Raphael**

**Darwin & Uluru** Miriam has lived in the NT since 2009, first in Alice Springs as a reporter for the local paper and now in tropical Darwin where she works as a writer and radio producer. Miriam makes the most of the famous 'Territory Lifestyle', heading out bush with her ol' Nissan Patrol Dot, jumping into waterholes and drinking beer like water. This is her eighth guidebook for Lonely Planet and the first one where she got to review her own wedding venue, the beautiful Olive Pink Botanic Gardens in Alice Springs.

beautiful Olive Pink Botanic Gardens in Alice Springs.



## OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

## OUR WRITERS



### Charles Rawlings-Way

**Coordinating Author; Adelaide & South Australia, Darwin & Uluru** As a likely lad, Charles suffered in shorts through Tasmanian winters, and in summer counted the days till he visited his grandparents in Adelaide. With desert-hot days, cool swimming pools and *four* TV stations, this flat city held paradisiacal status. Darwin and the tropical Top End are more recent distractions (...too many crocodiles is barely enough). These days Charles lives in the Adelaide Hills and

has developed an unnatural appreciation for Coopers Pale Ale. An underrated rock guitarist and sleepy new dad, this is Charles' lucky 21st book for Lonely Planet.



### Meg Worby

**Coordinating Author; Adelaide & South Australia, Darwin & Uluru** An Adelaide girl who went away and was inexorably drawn back, Meg thinks South Australia is like everywhere else was 10 years ago – yet the best bits of the Festival State (the wine regions, the Adelaide Hills, city parking) are definitely 10 years ahead. Which makes them very 'now'. Darwin and the magnificent Northern Territory, on the other hand, are from the future, when nature takes over... Meg

is a former member of Lonely Planet's languages, editorial and publishing teams; this is her fifth Australian guidebook.



### Brett Atkinson

**Tasmania** Brett Atkinson loves Tasmania's spectacular scenery, the laidback locals, and the island's superb food and wine. During extended research around his favourite Australian state, he most enjoyed rugged Bruny Island, the stunning Tasman Peninsula, and conducting diligent investigation of the local craft beer scene in Hobart's pubs. Based in Auckland, Brett combines working for Lonely Planet with exploring the world as a freelance food and travel writer.

See [www.brett-atkinson.net](http://www.brett-atkinson.net) to see what he's been eating and where he's headed next.



### Jayne D'Arcy

**Melbourne & Victoria** Growing up in the Victorian seaside suburb of Frankston had its advantages for Jayne: it motivated her to catch the Met through all three zones to hang out in Prahran's Greville St, Fitzroy's Brunswick St, St Kilda and the Queen Vic Market. She eventually switched sides and hung out on the Great Ocean Road while studying journalism. After a longish spell working in community radio in East Timor, she finally settled with her family in

Melbourne's vibrant north (in zone 1, just).

## OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

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