

Destination Central Australia: Adelaide to Darwin

On a continent where a 'road trip' can be anything from a drive to the shop to a summer holiday, this epic heartland journey is the big daddy of them all: 3000km of iconic landscapes, from the wild Southern Ocean, through South Australia's wine-growing valleys, past Uluru (Ayers Rock) in the central desert, and into the tropical north. Locals call it 'going up the guts'.

Start your big drive along the Limestone Coast, past the dunes and lakes of the sea-salty Coorong National Park. Further north, the Fleurieu Peninsula is a decadent weekender for Adelaidians, with expansive (often private) beaches, the magical McLaren Vale wine region, and Kangaroo Island's wildlife, forests and seafood just offshore. Adelaide itself remains a cultural high-water mark – a chilled-out city of 1.5 million people with world-class festivals, sensational restaurants and a hedonistic arts scene. Further north, the Barossa and Clare valleys are self-assured viticultural success stories.

Wheeling into the Flinders Ranges, wheat fields give way to arid cattle stations beneath russet and purple peaks and crags. North of here, you run headlong into the desert. As the dead-flat Stuart Hwy beats out across the red sand and scrub, you'll be forgiven for feeling sunstruck and a little parched! Eccentric outback towns such as Woomera and Coober Pedy emerge from the heat haze as welcome oases.

Of course, you can't visit central Australia without seeing Uluru and Kata Tjuta (the Olgas): big country, big desert, and some mighty big rocks. As the sun cuts into the horizon every night, 50 buses carrying as many nationalities pull up to watch Uluru glow with deep, bloodlike intensity: red, orange and burnt umber. The air out here is charged with desert ions; the night sky is milky with stars: camping out in a swag is an unmissable experience.

Back on the highway, Alice Springs and Katherine have rough-hewn, outback appeal. As you approach the tropical Top End, the foliage becomes taller, then denser and more lush, lustrous clouds appear and the air gains a sweetness and humidity. Darwin is a city on the rise. It has the youngest population of any Australian capital, a billion-dollar redevelopment of Darwin Harbour underway, and high-rise apartment blocks emerging as fast as tenants can sign up. Spotlight in Baz Luhrmann's film *Australia*, this is also a city with a turbulent history, bombed beyond recognition in WWII, then flattened again by Cyclone Tracy in 1974. Beyond the city, don't miss a detour to gorgeous Kakadu National Park, with its crocodiles, ancient Aboriginal rock art and crystal-bright waterholes.

Pull up a barstool in a country pub anywhere north-to-south and it won't take much to get the locals talking: the plight of the dwindling Murray River in South Australia and the federal government's 'intervention' into Northern Territory Indigenous communities are red-hot issues. Towns along the lower Murray are in an economic sleeper hold, while there are almost as many social workers as tourists occupying beds in Alice Springs. Out here, X-rayed under the southern sun, the nation's social conscience and environmental policies receive the toughest of scrutiny.

So forget the east and west coasts – if you want a definitive encapsulation of all Australia has to offer, central Oz is it! Crank up Midnight Oil's *Diesel & Dust* on the car stereo and hit the wide, open road: this is Australia at its most diverse, challenging and potent.

FAST FACTS

Population: SA 1,584,500;
NT 217,600

Area: SA 984,400 sq km;
NT 1.35 million sq km

Unemployment rate:
SA 5.4%; NT 3.8%

Median age: SA 38.8
(Australia's oldest);
NT 30.9 (Australia's
youngest)

Indigenous percentage
of population: SA 1.7%;
NT 31.6%

Median house price:
Adelaide \$412,000;
Darwin \$480,000

Koalas on Kangaroo
Island: 18 in 1925; 27,000
in 2001; 16,000 in 2008

Percentage of Australian
wine produced in SA: 50%

Air rescues from Uluru per
year: 3 to 4

Central Australia's fly
population: six trillion
(and then some...)

Getting Started

The only thing better than actually going on your trip is planning for it. Unfolding maps, dog-earring guidebooks, surfing the internet, reading up on history and dreaming of chance encounters – it's all part of the drill.

Australia is generally an easy, hassle-free country to explore. Central Australia is no exception, but it can cough up a few tricky situations by virtue of its size and remoteness. Travellers to South Australia (SA) will be met by a proficient tourism operation, primed to cater for every traveller's budget and whim: hurl yourself into arts and festivals in Adelaide, laze around on white sandy beaches, wobble through wine regions, and explore the natural landscape and its creatures. The Northern Territory (NT) offers up some of Australia's essential national parks – Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Kakadu and Litchfield – plus a hell of a lot of simmering, parched desert. If you're planning on bushwalking or outback driving here, you'll need to be better prepared than if you're sticking to the Stuart Hwy or taking a tour.

The following tips should get you primed.

WHEN TO GO

Any time is a good time to be *somewhere* in central Australia. Across SA and the NT there are remarkably diverse climates – you'll always find somewhere that's sunny and warm.

Southern SA has a Mediterranean climate – hot, dry summers and cool winters. Spring and autumn afford the greatest flexibility for travellers, when you can see the sights and dodge the hot and cold weather. In summer (December to February) South Australians beat the heat by migrating to the coast. Further north, the hot, dry desert grips the landscape. Daily summer maximums of 40°C or more are par for the course in the outback – too hot to do anything much except slump under an air-conditioner with a cold beer. SA winters are chilly in the south, but the outback beckons with mild days and clear skies. It's cold at night here, which kills off pesky flies. Late winter (August) and spring (September to November) bring out SA's magnificent wildflowers, blooming from the coastal heath up through the mallee, the Flinders Ranges and into the outback.

See Climate (p288) in the Directory for more information.

ITINERARIES

If you're not into aimless wandering, try the following itineraries on for size:

- **Adelaide to Darwin** – The classic central Australian dash: up the Stuart Hwy via Coober Pedy, Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Alice Springs and Katherine. It's 3500km one-way; takes two weeks.
- **SA Wine Regions** – Circle Adelaide through McLaren Vale, the Adelaide Hills, Barossa Valley and Clare Valley. It's a 500km loop; takes one week.
- **Darwin, Kakadu and Litchfield** – The essential Top End experience. It's a 1300km loop; takes two to three weeks.
- **The Red Centre** – Really explore the 'dead heart': Alice Springs, Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Kings Canyon, Finke Gorge and the MacDonnell Ranges. It's 1000km (plus 3000km return to Alice from Adelaide or Darwin, driving or on the *Ghan* train); takes three weeks.
- **Cruising the Coast** – Roam SA's fringes from the Limestone Coast to Kangaroo Island, the Fleurieu Peninsula, Adelaide and the Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas. It's 1700km one-way; takes three to four weeks.

One thing to heed in SA is school holidays, when families hit the road – highways are cluttered, accommodation books out, prices soar and things get hectic, particularly during Christmas and Easter. The main holiday period is from mid-December to late January, with fortnight holidays also occurring early to mid-April, late June to mid-July, and late September to mid-October.

Southern NT has the same desert weather as northern SA – summers hot enough to fry eggs on your car roof, and mild-mannered autumns and springs. Spring can, however, be marred by plagues of flies if there's been recent rain, but rain also kicks the outback wildflowers into gear. Winter days remain warm, but temperatures plummet after dark – overnight temperatures below 0°C aren't uncommon around Alice Springs and Uluru. Rug up if you're camping!

In the tropical north there are two distinct seasons: the Wet and the Dry. The best time to visit weather-wise is the dry season between May and October – days are rain-free and warm, outback roads are open, swimming holes at Litchfield, Kakadu and Katherine are accessible and the northern beaches are free of stingers (box jellyfish).

The wet season (November to April) in the Top End is steamy and tropical with momentous downpours on most afternoons. The obvious disadvantages – apart from the rain and humidity – are that unsealed roads become impassable, you can't swim in the sea (stingers!) or waterholes (crocodiles!), and some attractions and camping grounds shut up shop. But it's not all bad during the Wet – everything is green and lush, electrical storms ravish the sky, there are no tourists crowding the joint and you can fish with the locals for barramundi.

The best of the NT festivals kick off between June and September – accommodation prices are higher during this period, and camping grounds and sights can get crowded. School holidays add more bodies to the mix (late June to mid-July, and late September to early October).

COSTS & MONEY

Holidays in central Australia are economical for international visitors, with reasonably priced accommodation, and affordable food and everyday costs.

In Adelaide, Darwin and Alice Springs, costs for most goods and services are comparable to the rest of Australia, but it's when you start getting into more remote areas that travel here becomes more expensive – especially for fuel and accommodation. Long distances mean that fuel will be a major expense. While the price per litre in Australian cities is normally less than half of what you'd pay in Europe (or half as much again compared to the USA), in remote areas you can expect to pay a fair bit more than this. For many travellers, fuel costs are offset by camping and self-catering. In most towns there are backpacker hostels with dorm beds for \$24 to \$30, or private doubles for around \$60 to \$100. Motel rooms range from \$80 to \$140 a double, while urban hotel rooms cost anywhere from \$120 and up. Resorts such as Yulara (at Uluru) charge premium prices for accommodation.

How much you should budget for depends on what kind of traveller you are, and how you'll be occupying yourself. At the low-cost end, if you camp or stay in hostels, cook your own meals, avoid heavy nights out in the pub and catch buses everywhere, you could probably eke out an ascetic existence on \$70 per day. For a budget that realistically enables you to enjoy life, set aside \$100 per day. Midrange travel – seeing the sights, having a few drinks, staying in decent places and enjoying food a few rungs up from muesli bars and rice will cost you at least \$150 per person per day (twin share). With \$200 a day or more you can start to travel in style. Adding shopping,

HOW MUCH?

Cup of decent coffee

\$3 to \$4

Stubbie holder \$6 to \$10

Ticket to an AFL football match in Adelaide \$25

Didgeridoo \$150 to \$400

See also the Lonely Planet Index, inside the front cover.

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT...

- Sunscreen, sunglasses and a broad-rim hat to keep you UV-protected (see p313)
- Superstrength insect repellent to fend off flies and mosquitoes (see p313)
- A compass and good maps if you're bushwalking or headed for the outback
- A satellite phone, global positioning system (GPS) unit, emergency position-indicating radio beacon (EPIRB) and/or high-frequency (HF) radio if you're really going bush (see p309)
- Extra water – the central Australian desert heat can hit you for six (see p313)
- A belly primed to try some bush tucker, Shiraz and Coopers beer
- Heavy-duty travel insurance in case of an outback mishap (see p292)
- A swag or sleeping bag – for camping out under the stars
- A swimsuit and a towel – for beaches, billabongs and hotel pools
- The willingness to call everyone 'mate', whether you know them (or like them) or not

entertainment, long-haul transport and car hire to these estimates will further stress your wallet.

Outside the essential expenses, remember there are lots of free things you can do in central Australia. Bushwalking, swimming, wildlife-spotting, bush camping, beaches and parks can all be had for nothing more than the time and effort it takes to get there. Families with young kids will find that the ankle-biters get free (or heartily discounted) entry to most attractions and some transport and tours. For more info on travelling with children, see p287.

TRAVELLING RESPONSIBLY

Since our inception in 1973, Lonely Planet has encouraged our readers to tread lightly, travel responsibly and enjoy the magic that independent travel affords. International travel is growing at a jaw-dropping rate, and we still firmly believe in the benefits it can bring – but, as always, we encourage you to consider the impact your visit will have on both the global environment and the local economies, cultures and ecosystems.

There are myriad ways to minimise the impact of your central Australian experience. Here are 10 quick ideas to get you thinking:

- Do your homework on tour companies: do they employ locals and put money back into local communities? What size groups do they take on the road? Are they sensitive to Indigenous land rights and interactions?
- Don't feed native wildlife or encroach on habitats – if an animal knows you're there, you're too close.
- Always ask if it's OK to photograph Indigenous sites or people, and exercise cultural awareness. For example, Uluru's traditional owners don't like visitors climbing the rock (see *A Question of Climbing*, p155).
- Want to take home an authentic didgeridoo or dot painting? Make your purchase direct from an Indigenous community or artist, or if you're buying from a dealer, ask to see a certificate of authenticity and/or artist's biographical information.
- Hungry? Consider supporting local businesses by buy your food supplies from local, family-run stores rather than chain supermarkets.
- Thirsty? Try quality, local microbrews, or SA-owned Coopers.
- Use a tough, refillable canteen rather than buying a new plastic water bottle every time you're dry.
- In pancake-flat Adelaide, hire a bike rather than car to get around, or take a bus, tram, train or the free city-loop bus.

- Don't swim in waterholes if you're caked in sunscreen – oil slicks are unsightly and environmentally damaging.
- Sleeping out in the desert is a remarkable experience; see p284 for tips on responsible bush camping.

To help you choose eco-accredited and sustainable accommodation, tour, activity, eating and drinking operators, see our GreenDex on p329. See also p299 in the Transport chapter for info on climate change and travel.

Online, the following websites offer plenty of sustainable travel information:

Ecotourism Australia (www.ecotourism.org.au) National site listing eco-accredited tourism operators.

Leave No Trace (www.lnt.org.au) Nonprofit organisation promoting responsible outdoor travel.

Lonely Planet (www.lonelyplanet.com/responsibletravel) Lonely Planet's online compilation of smart, sustainable travel info.

South Australian Tourism Commission (www.southaustralia.com) Click on 'Experiences' then 'Nature' for info on SA ecotourism and conservation.

Sustainable Living Choices (www.sustainableliving.sa.gov.au) SA government site with info on getting around, carbon emissions, publications and links to ecological footprint calculators.

TRAVEL LITERATURE

Holing up with some travel lit or regionally biased fiction and projecting yourself into your future holiday is the perfect way to fuel your wanderlust. Swing by your local bookshop and browse around for any of the following tomes.

In *All Things Bright and Beautiful: Murder in the City of Light* (2004), Susan Mitchell explores Adelaide's notoriously snooty social structures and how the Snowtown murders, dubbed the 'body-in-the-barrel murders', could have occurred in this civilised and cultured city. Are there repressed evils lurking beneath the piety and fortitude upon which Adelaide was built?

In *The Dog Fence* (2004) James Woodford tracks life, people and dingoes along the 5400km fence that stretches from Surfers Paradise in Queensland to the Great Australian Bight near the Western Australian border and cuts through the Great Victorian Desert, Cooper Pedy, Moon Plain and the road to Oodnadatta.

We of the Never Never (1908) by Jeannie Gunn is an autobiographical account of her 1902 experiences at Elsey Station, 480km south of Darwin in the NT (Darwin was still called Palmerston in those days). The book was made into a film in 1982.

Burke's Soldier (2003) by Alan Atwood is a great historical novel set in central Australia, telling the story of the Burke and Wills expedition (and more) through the eyes of John King, the sole survivor of the ill-fated cross-country attempt.

Dollar Dreaming – Inside the Aboriginal Art World (2008) by Benjamin Genocchio is an exposé of the booming Aboriginal art industry; from humble beginnings to a controversial and complex present where a masterpiece can sell for hundreds of thousands of dollars while its creator can die in poverty.

Flinders Ranges Dreaming (1988) by Dorothy Tunbridge is a collection of 50 stories of the Dreaming from the Adnyamathanha people of the northern Flinders Ranges in SA. Dreaming stories are like a map of the environment, showing where resources are located and the laws relating to them.

Journey in Time: the 50,000 Year Story of the Australian Aboriginal Rock Art of Arnhem Land (1993) by George Chaloupka is the best reference on

'Dreaming stories are like a map of the environment, showing where resources are located and the laws relating to them'

TOP PICKS



MUST-SEE MOVIES

Trundle down to your local DVD store and check out some classic SA Film Corporation–produced flicks, or films that showcase the NT in all its desert/tropical splendour.

- 1 *Storm Boy* (1976) Director: Henri Safran
- 2 *Breaker Morant* (1980) Director: Bruce Beresford
- 3 *Gallipoli* (1981) Director: Peter Weir
- 4 *Crocodile Dundee I & II* (1986 & 1988) Director: Peter Faiman/John Cornell
- 5 *Evil Angels* (*A Cry in the Dark*; 1988) Director: Fred Schepisi
- 6 *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (1993) Director: Stephan Elliott
- 7 *Yolngu Boy* (2000) Director: Stephen Johnson
- 8 *Australian Rules* (2002) Director: Paul Goldman
- 9 *Wolf Creek* (2005) Director: Greg McLean
- 10 *Ten Canoes* (2006) Directors: Rolf de Heer and Peter Djigirr

FAB FESTIVALS

If there's one thing South Australians know how to do, it's run a good festival: Adelaide boasts some of Australia's classiest arts and cultural events. Not to be outdone, SA's wine regions also know how to party. Conversely, the NT proudly claims some of the weirdest festivals in Australia. See also p290.

- 1 Adelaide Fringe (Adelaide; p54) February–March
- 2 WOMAdelaide (Adelaide; p54) March
- 3 Adelaide Festival of Arts (Adelaide; p54) March in even-numbered years
- 4 Barossa Vintage Festival (Barossa Valley; p109) April in odd-numbered years
- 5 Barunga Festival (Katherine; p224) June
- 6 Sea & Vines Festival (McLaren Vale; p75) June
- 7 Beer Can Regatta (Darwin; p251) July
- 8 Camel Cup (Alice Springs; p184) July
- 9 Darwin Festival (Darwin; p251) August
- 10 Henley-on-Todd Regatta (Alice Springs; p184) September

Arnhem Land rock art. An awesome coffee-table book (you got a coffee table handy?) and still widely available.

Ash Rain (2002) by Adelaide Hills writer Corrie Hosking won the 2002 Adelaide Festival award for best unpublished manuscript. Set on the Eyre Peninsula and in the Adelaide Hills (and incongruously, Edinburgh), it's a complex family tale exploring the ties between adults and children, with potent descriptions of the SA landscape.

Knitting (2006) by Anne Bartlett is set in Adelaide – an unravelling story of two dissimilar women who stop to assist a stranger. Their friendship

blossoms over a shared love of knitting, as they help each other deal with profound loss.

101 Adventures That Got Me Absolutely Nowhere (2000) and *The 'Minor Successes' of a Bloke That Never Really Had Any Luck* (2008) by Phil O'Brien are full of entertainingly offbeat outback yarns. Phil is no literary genius, but he's experienced more than most in a lifetime of outback wandering.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Useful websites are listed throughout this book. A few general sites:

Adelaide Review (www.adelaidereview.com.au) Adelaide's fortnightly cultural publication with listings on what's happening in and around town.

Australia Bureau of Meteorology (www.bom.gov.au) The latest weather reports, warnings and forecasts.

Department for Environment & Heritage (www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks) Government site detailing SA's parks and conservation areas.

Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts & Sport (www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks) Government site with info on the NT's national parks.

South Australian Tourism Commission (www.southaustralia.com) Official SA tourism site with vast amounts of information on accommodation, activities, events, tours and transport.

Travel NT (www.travelnt.com) A comprehensive travel guide produced by Tourism NT. See also www.tourismtopen.com.au.

The Authors



CHARLES RAWLINGS-WAY

Coordinating Author

As a likely lad, Charles suffered in shorts through Tasmanian winters, and in summer counted the days until he visited his grandparents in Adelaide. With desert-hot days, cool swimming pools, pasties with sauce squirted into the middle and *four* TV stations, this flat city held paradisaical status. In teenage years he realised that girls from Adelaide – with their Teutonic cheekbones and fluoridated teeth – were better looking than anywhere else in Australia. These days he lives with a girl from Adelaide (see fluoridated teeth, below) in the Adelaide Hills and has developed an unnatural appreciation for Coopers Pale Ale. An underrated rock guitarist and proud new dad, this is Charles' lucky 13th book for Lonely Planet. Charles cowrote the following chapters: Destination Central Australia, Getting Started, History, Adelaide & Around, Fleurieu Peninsula & Kangaroo Island, Limestone Coast, Barossa Valley, Flinders Ranges, Adelaide to Erdunda: Stuart Highway, Directory, Transport and Glossary.



MEG WORBY

Coordinating Author

After six years at Lonely Planet in the languages, editorial and publishing teams, Meg swapped the desktop for a laptop in order to write about her home state, South Australia. After 10 years away, she was stoked to find that King George whiting is still every bit as fresh on Kangaroo Island, there are the same endless roads to cruise down in the Flinders Ranges, and the Adelaide Hills now has more wineries. In fact, obvious wine analogies aside, she found that most places in South Australia just keep getting better. This is Meg's third Australian guidebook for Lonely Planet. Meg cowrote the following chapters: Destination Central Australia, Getting Started, History, Adelaide & Around, Fleurieu Peninsula & Kangaroo Island, Limestone Coast, Barossa Valley, Flinders Ranges, Adelaide to Erdunda: Stuart Highway, Directory, Transport and Glossary.



LINDSAY BROWN

A former conservation biologist and Publishing Manager of Outdoor Activity Guides at Lonely Planet, Lindsay enjoys nothing more than heading into the outback to explore and photograph Australia's heartland. As a Lonely Planet author and photographer, Lindsay has contributed to several titles covering South Asia and Australia including *Australia*, *Queensland & the Great Barrier Reef*, *East Coast Australia* and *Sydney & NSW*. Lindsay wrote Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Uluru to Alice Springs and Alice Springs & Around chapters, as well as the Alice Springs to Tennant Creek section of the Alice Springs to Katherine chapter.



PAUL HARDING

Over the past two decades Paul has travelled to almost every corner of this wonderful Australian continent, but still has a particular affinity for the remote outback. He has driven from Melbourne to Darwin and back three times, taken the *Ghan* from Adelaide to Alice Springs twice, clocked up many a mile through the Territory's deserts and wetlands, and even wrote off his car on a treacherous outback road during a sudden thunderstorm. On this trip he explored the Top End's stunning national parks, hiked through ancient Aboriginal land, fished for barramundi and rediscovered Darwin's tropical charm. Paul has written for numerous magazines and travel guides, including Lonely Planet's *Northern Territory, Australia and Queensland & the Great Barrier Reef*. He lives by the beach in Melbourne. Paul wrote Katherine to Darwin, Darwin & Around and Kakadu National Park chapters, as well as the Tennant Creek to Katherine section of the Alice Springs to Katherine chapter.

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

Brenda L Croft updated the Indigenous Visual Arts chapter, which was first published in Lonely Planet's *Aboriginal Australia & the Torres Strait Islands: Guide to Indigenous Australia*. She is a member of the Gurindji/Mutpurra nations from Kalkaringi/Daguragu community in the Northern Territory, and is a lecturer at David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research, and the School of Art, Architecture and Design, Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences at the University of South Australia. Before that she was senior curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art at the National Gallery of Australia, 2002 to 2009. A practising artist since 1985, her works are held in public and private collections in Australia and overseas.

David Fuller & Kylie Strelan wrote the Outback Environment chapter. Dave has worked for the last 18 years as a parks and wildlife ranger, and Kylie is an editor with an environmental consultancy. They lived for more than 15 years on national parks throughout the Northern Territory, including Garig Gunak Barlu, the West MacDonnells and Nitmiluk. With a passion for road trips (and family to visit in Adelaide), Dave and Kylie have driven the length of the Stuart Hwy more times than they care to recall.

Dr Irene Watson wrote the Indigenous Cultures & Identities chapter, as well as the section headed The Land & Indigenous Peoples in the Outback Environment chapter. Both passages were first published in Lonely Planet's *Aboriginal Australia & the Torres Strait Islands: Guide to Indigenous Australia*. Dr Watson recently held a Sesqui Post Doctoral Research Fellowship from the University of Sydney, and is now working with the University of South Australia. Dr Watson writes: 'I am a Tangane-kald and Meintang woman; my ancestors are the sovereign peoples of the Coorong and the southeast region of South Australia. My knowledge in law, Aboriginal culture and history is in the essence of this material, as is the knowledge I have gained from Aboriginal Elders, my mother, uncles and aunts.'

Denise Lawungkurr Goodfellow translated and transcribed interviews with Esther Managku and Reverend Nganjmirra for the boxed texts Pandanus Weaving (p39) and Kunwinjku Painting (p37). A Northern Territory resident since 1975, Denise is a birdwatching guide, environmental consultant, writer and illustrator. She is an adopted member of the Ngalanbali clan of the Kunwinjku people. Denise is closely involved with the Baby Dreaming ecotourism project in Western Arnhem Land; for details, see www.denisegoodfellow.com.

Barry Hunter wrote the boxed text Aboriginal Land Management (p42), which was first published in Lonely Planet's *Aboriginal Australia & the Torres Strait Islands: Guide to Indigenous Australia*. With a Bachelor of Applied Science (Parks, Recreation and Heritage) and a range of experience in land and sea management, Mr Hunter works as an Indigenous Land Management Facilitator for the Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation in Queensland.

Esther Managku told the boxed text Pandanus Weaving (p39), which was first published in Lonely Planet's *Aboriginal Australia & the Torres Strait Islands: Guide to Indigenous Australia*. Born in Kudjekbinj, Arnhem Land, in about 1928, she is the oldest living member of the Nalangbali clan of the Kunwinjku people.

Reverend Nganjmirra told the boxed text Kunwinjku Painting (p37), which was first published in Lonely Planet's *Aboriginal Australia & the Torres Strait Islands: Guide to Indigenous Australia*. Born in 1954 in Gunbalunya, Arnhem Land, from an early age he watched his male relatives paint and learnt the ancient techniques from them. Reverend Nganjmirra passed away in 2006; as a mark of respect, his first name is not published.

Dr David Millar wrote the Health chapter. David is a travel-medicine specialist, diving doctor and lecturer in wilderness medicine who graduated in Hobart, Tasmania. He has worked as an expedition doctor with the Maritime Museum of Western Australia, accompanying a variety of expeditions around Australia. David is currently a medical director with the Travel Doctor in Auckland.

LONELY PLANET AUTHORS

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