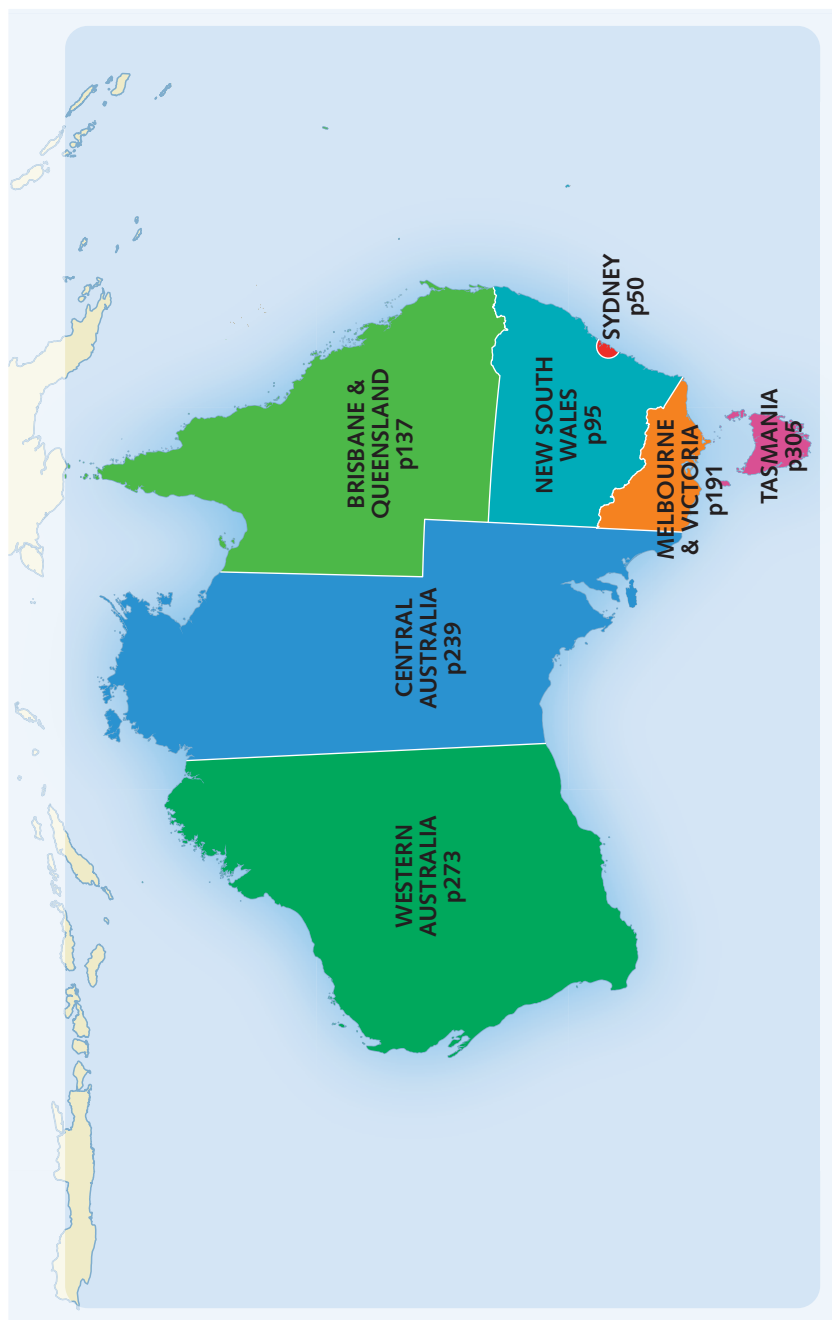


The background of the entire cover is a light gray field filled with a pattern of white circles of various sizes. Some circles are solid, while others are dotted, creating a sense of depth and movement. In the top right corner, there is a graphic element resembling a folded piece of paper with a rainbow-colored edge.

discover **AUSTRALIA**

LINDSAY BROWN

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REGIS ST LOUIS, PENNY WATSON, MEG WORBY**



DISCOVER AUSTRALIA



Sydney (p50) Brash, bronzed and brimming with confidence, this city, with its sparkling harbour, won't be ignored.



New South Wales (p95) From southern snowfields to subtropical northern beaches, this state has all the action covered.



Brisbane & Queensland (p137) Beaches, sunshine and a mighty coral reef; Queensland sizzles above and dazzles below.



Melbourne & Victoria (p191) In a compact state of surprises, the multicultural capital blends coffee ritual, nightlife and sportlife.



Central Australia (p239) A quintessential blend of vineyards, mesmerising Red Centre landforms and tropical Top End.



Western Australia (p273) Majestic forests and vineyards down south; camel trains and marine-life spectacle in the tropical north.



Tasmania (p305) A premier bushwalking destination that's also epicurean hub, font of fresh air and antidote to city stress.

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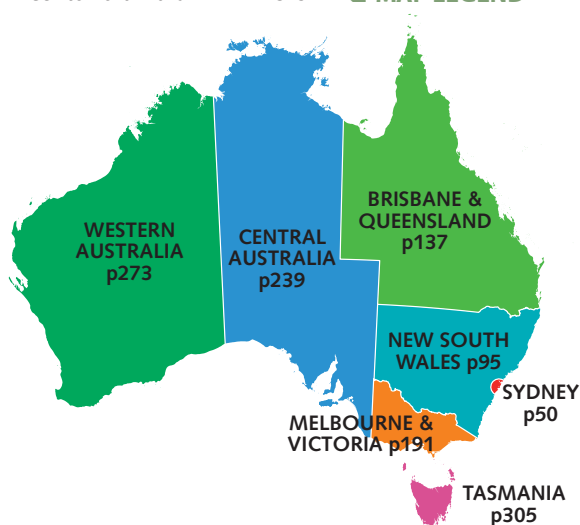
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KAKADU NATIONAL PARK p257

Encounter Indigenous culture and rock art in a stunning ancient landscape pulsing with wildlife

NINGALOO MARINE PARK p300

Accessible coral reef and the opportunity to swim with whale sharks and manta rays

SHARK BAY p294

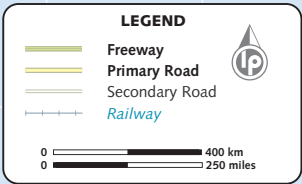
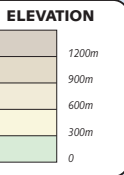
Mingle with Monkey Mia's dolphins and discover an amazing World Heritage marine park

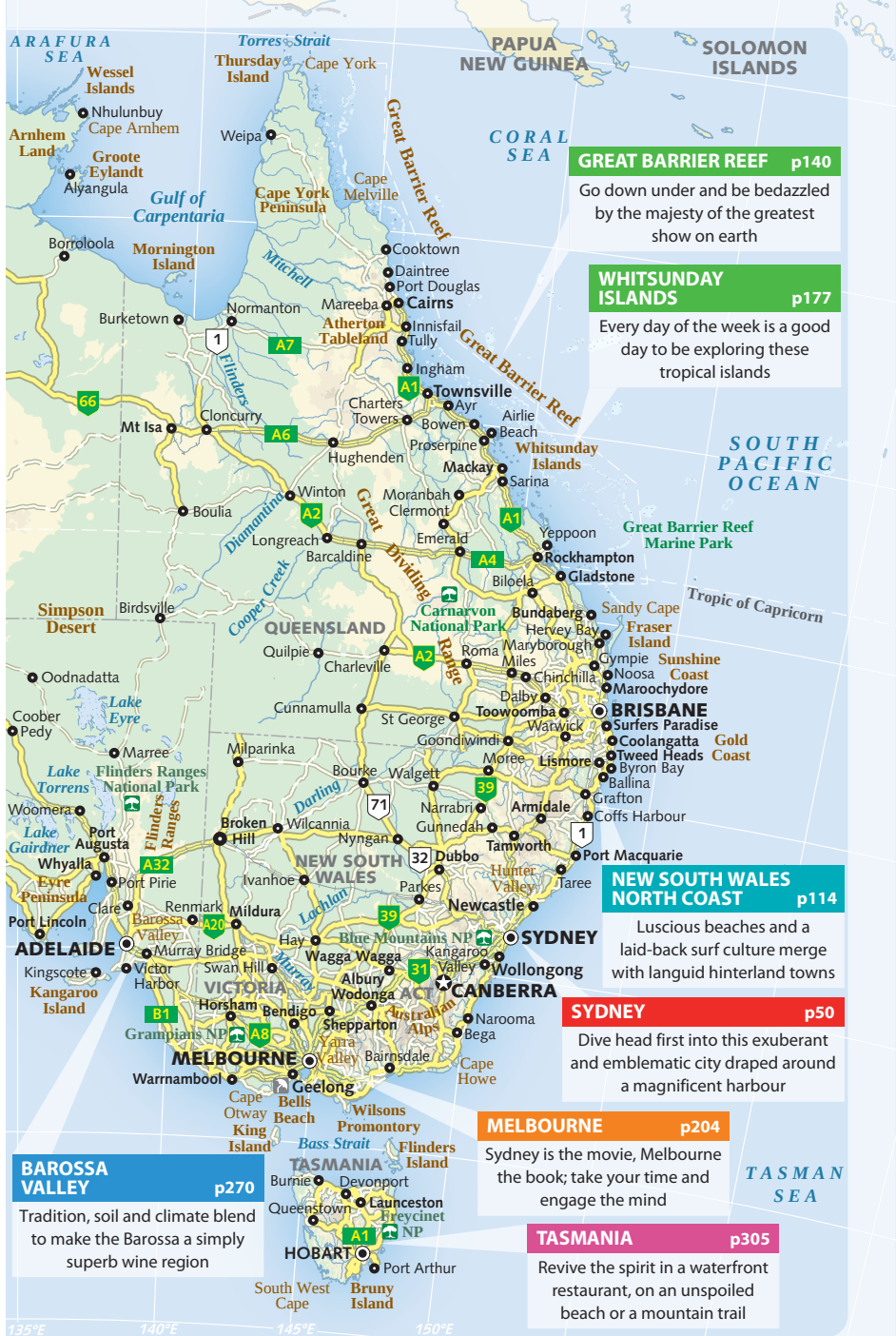
SOUTHERN FORESTS p294

Tread lightly among forest giants or climb the canopy for a bird's-eye view

ULURU (AYERS ROCK) p263

Experience the allure of this timeless and truly divine monolith in a profoundly spiritual land





GREAT BARRIER REEF p140

Go down under and be bedazzled by the majesty of the greatest show on earth

WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS p177

Every day of the week is a good day to be exploring these tropical islands

NEW SOUTH WALES NORTH COAST p114

Luscious beaches and a laid-back surf culture merge with languid hinterland towns

SYDNEY p50

Dive head first into this exuberant and emblematic city draped around a magnificent harbour

MELBOURNE p204

Sydney is the movie, Melbourne the book; take your time and engage the mind

TASMANIA p305

Revive the spirit in a waterfront restaurant, on an unspoiled beach or a mountain trail

BAROSSA VALLEY p270

Tradition, soil and climate blend to make the Barossa a simply superb wine region

↘ THIS IS AUSTRALIA



This immense island continent is a rare place of space on an increasingly crowded planet. As well as room to move and clean air, it has a relaxed lifestyle, fine weather, a big bridge and an even bigger, redder rock.

Australia is so vast and diverse it fulfils the full spectrum of holiday adventure, from active escapade to peaceful retreat. A well-developed tourism infrastructure provides options and opportunities for travellers on all budgets and allows you to land in any city with little more than your first night's accommodation sorted.

Australia's greatest enigma is its extremes. The driest and flattest inhabited continent on earth is also home to dripping wet rainforests in Tasmania and Queensland. The world's largest coral reef adorns 2300km of an immense coastline, golden sand and surging surf fringe gleaming modern cities as well as pristine forests, and at its heart, the iconic Uluru (Ayers Rock) overwhelms visitors with its spiritual presence.

Australians' love for home is matched by an intense interest in the foreign; their cities are in constant flux, absorbing fresh influences from far corners of the globe.



Former colonies were fused over a century ago during Federation, yet the cities retain distinct personalities: Sydney is a glamorous entertainer with a bounty of natural magnetism, Melbourne a European-inspired, caffeine-enriched artiste, and Brisbane a blithe and blossoming playmate, while the personalities of Adelaide, Perth, Darwin and Hobart are as dissimilar as their climates. In between are deserts, coastal villages, beaches, forests and outback communities, each adding definition to the ever-changing Australian portrait.

An important thing to remember is that Australia is big – *really* big – so planning is of the essence. An intrepid road trip through the outback or tropical Top End will require an extra level of investigation and planning. The state capitals and most regional centres, on the other hand, are well connected by airlines, so with a little groundwork you can cover a good portion of the country in just a few weeks.

**‘Australia is big –
really big – so
planning is of the
essence’**
