

welcome to East Coast Australia



Spectacular Scenery

With nearly 18,000km of coastline, Australia's East Coast has some of the most captivating scenery on the planet. The most famous attraction is the colourful aquatic wonderland of the Great Barrier Reef, which stretches for more than 2000km and contains an astonishing array of marine life. Both on and off the reef, you'll encounter hundreds of islands – from craggy windswept nature reserves to rainforest-covered isles. Richly hued fringing coral, mesmerising beaches and ruggedly beautiful shorelines offer endless variety. Tear yourself away from the ocean, and you'll find bewitching national parks, with lush rainforests (temperate, subtropical and tropical), rolling mountains, pristine

lakes and a staggering array of wildlife that rates from cute and cuddly (koalas) to downright fearsome (crocs).

Big Adventures

The great outdoors holds endless possibilities in Australia. You can don a mask and fins and explore some of the most stunning underwater landscapes on earth. There's adrenalin-charged white-water rafting and scenic kayaking on peaceful seas and forest-lined rivers. Bushwalking and hiking is first-rate, whether you opt for a challenging trek on one of Australia's famous multi-day routes, or tackle a shorter trail through bush, up mountains or along gorges, rushing rivers and mirrorlike lakes. You can go sailing



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Beautiful beaches, cosmopolitan cities, wildlife-filled rainforests and the Great Barrier Reef are just a few reasons why so many have fallen under the spell of Australia's enchanting East Coast.

(left) Sydney Opera House (p53) and Sydney Harbour Bridge (p49) at sunset
(below) Blue Mountains (p97), New South Wales



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through the turquoise waters of the Whitsundays, stopping at powdery white-sand beaches along the way; hire a car and explore quaint coastal towns and wild landscapes from Victoria to northern Queensland; or go on a 4WD adventure, plying the 'beach highway' of Fraser Island, jostling past giant dunes and verdant forest growing right from the sand.

Eat, Drink & Celebrate

Sydney and Melbourne are gateways to Australia's rich culinary experience, with fantastic cafe scenes, sprawling food markets and award-winning restaurants serving temptations from every corner of the globe. After dark, wine bars, nightclubs

and good old-fashioned Aussie pubs provide memorable settings to raise a glass. Brisbane, ever on the rise, also has a great dining and drinking scene. But you don't have to stay in the city to savour the great Australian bounty. You'll find culinary rewards big and small, from seafood feasts along the coast to gourmet meals in the Gippsland Lakes district, Newcastle, Byron Bay, Noosa, Townsville, Port Douglas and countless other places. The vineyards of the Hunter Valley set the stage for a bacchanalian feast, with luscious wines, celebrated restaurants and gourmet produce of every flavour and texture. Wineries here and in Victoria's Mornington Peninsula make for some rewarding tasting tours. The hardest part is deciding where to begin...