



Australia



Brett Atkinson, Anthony Ham, Paul Harding, Kate Morgan, Charles Rawlings-Way,
Andy Symington, Kate Armstrong, Carolyn Bain, Cristian Bonetto,
Peter Dragicevich, Trent Holden, Virginia Maxwell, Tamara Sheward, Tom Spurling,
Benedict Walker, Steve Waters, Donna Wheeler

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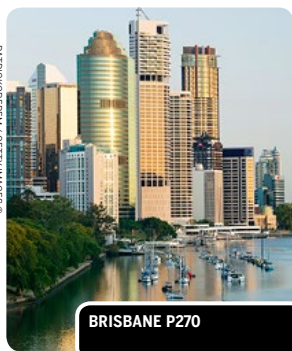
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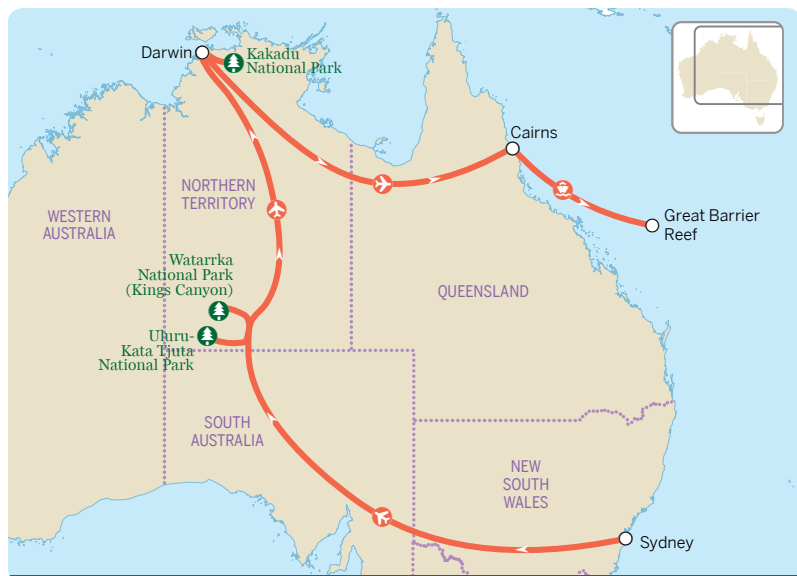
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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this book may contain images of or references to deceased people.

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Itineraries



2
WEEKS

Best of Australia

Two weeks to explore one of the largest countries on the planet will never be enough, but if you plan carefully and don't mind flying between stops, you can get a taste for Australia's greatest hits.

Fly into **Sydney** to explore one of the world's most charismatic cities – wander about the long and lovely waterfront, tour the Sydney Opera House and take a ferry to Manly, all the while enjoying outstanding museums and great food. After a minimum of three nights, fly directly to Yulara to spend four days exploring **Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park** – both Uluru and Kata Tjuta (The Olgas) deserve as much time as you can give them – including a night in **Watarrka (Kings Canyon) National Park**.

With a week left, you're headed for the Top End. Fly to **Darwin** and head straight out to **Kakadu National Park** – three days is a minimum to see the rock art, take the river cruises and enjoy the fabulous wildlife. Return to Darwin, then jump on a plane to **Cairns**, from where you can spend your last few days diving or snorkelling the **Great Barrier Reef**.

4
WEEKS

The Giant Loop

From Sydney to the outback, all the way out west and back again – this route is something of an Australian epic and covers many of the country's highlights in one busy month.

Bid a fond *au revoir* to the bright lights, bars and boutiques of **Sydney** and take a flight to **Alice Springs** in desert-hot central Australia. Check out the outstanding Alice Springs Desert Park, then tour south to the astonishing **Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park**. Uluru gets all the press, but Kata Tjuta's boulders are just as stunning (and less crowded).

Back in Alice, hire a car and scoot north along the Stuart Hwy to emerging, rough-and-ready **Darwin**. En route, paddle a canoe or take a cruise at gorgeous **Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park**, and check out some crocodiles and ancient Aboriginal rock-art galleries at **Kakadu National Park**.

From Darwin, hop on another flight to visit **Perth** and the soulful old port town of **Fremantle** nearby. Continuing south, wine away some hours around **Margaret River** until you're ready to tackle the flat immensity of the **Nullarbor Plain** – if you're not up for the epic drive to festival-frenzied **Adelaide**, the *Indian Pacific* train ride is unforgettable.

Check out the world-class wine regions around Adelaide (the **Barossa Valley** and **McLaren Vale** are both an easy drive), or head east along the impossibly scenic **Great Ocean Rd** to sports-mad **Melbourne**. Don't miss a game of Australian Rules football or cricket at the cauldron-like Melbourne Cricket Ground.

If you have a few extra days, take the car ferry across to **Tasmania**. The island state preserves some of the country's oldest forests and World Heritage-listed mountain ranges: **Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park** is accessible and absolutely beautiful.

Back in Melbourne, continue along the Victorian coast to the penguins and koalas on **Phillip Island** and white-sand seclusion of **Wilsons Promontory National Park**. Spend a couple of days somewhere along **Ninety Mile Beach** then cruise up the southern NSW coast to idyllic **Jervis Bay** (spot any whales?). Back in Sydney, there are so many beaches you're sure to find a patch of sand with your name on it.



2 WEEKS Adelaide to Darwin

This classic 3000km dash up the Stuart Hwy takes you into Australia's desert heart.

From the old stone pubs of **Adelaide**, head north to the **Barossa Valley** for world-class red wines. Next stop is **Flinders Ranges National Park**: Ikara (Wilpena Pound) jags up from the semidesert.

Just off the Stuart Hwy are the opal-tinted dugouts of unique **Cooper Pedy**. Continuing north into the desert, the Lasseter Hwy delivers you to iconic **Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park**. The chasm of **Watarrka National Park (Kings Canyon)** is 300km further north.

Overnight in the desert oasis of **Alice Springs**, then continue north (consider flying) to the wetlands and rock-scapes of World Heritage-listed **Kakadu National Park** and the waterfalls and swimming holes of **Litchfield National Park**.

Gone are the days when **Darwin** was just an outpost: these days the city is very multicultural, as a visit to the fabulous Mindil Beach Sunset Market will confirm. Don't miss the quirky Deckchair Cinema and excellent Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.



3-4 WEEKS Perth to the Kimberley

Feeling adventurous? Steer your 4WD north from Perth...and keep going till you hit Darwin! You'll need your own wheels.

After exploring the west's capital of **Perth**, the next stop is otherworldly **Nambung National Park**, followed by **Kalbarri** with its sea cliffs and incredible gorges. Commune with dolphins at Shark Bay's **Monkey Mia**, then hug the coast for superb snorkelling at **Ningaloo Reef**.

Inland are the ironstone hues of the Pilbara. Cool off at tranquil **Millstream-Chichester National Park** then plunge into the gorges at **Karijini National Park**. Down a beer at **Marble Bar**, then follow a coastline known as the Big Empty northeast to **Broome**: watch the camels on Cable Beach at sunset. Nearby **Dampier Peninsula** beckons with pristine beaches and camping in Indigenous communities. From here, veer east into the Kimberley along legendary **Gibb River Road**.

Restock in **Kununurra** before heading south to the sandstone domes of **Purnululu National Park**. Take the lonely Duncan Road into the Northern Territory: once you're on asphalt, **Darwin** isn't far away.



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Top: Brisbane (p270)

Bottom: Henley Beach,
Adelaide (p715)

1
WEEK

Sydney to Melbourne

Most people fly into Sydney, Australia's biggest city. But don't miss Melbourne, Sydney's arty rival, approximately 1000km to the south.

Check out **Sydney** from its sparkling harbour: the gorgeous Sydney Opera House and colossal Sydney Harbour Bridge are unmissable. Feel like a swim? Bondi Beach's backpackers, beach breaks and bikinis make for a quintessential Australian experience.

Heading south, zip through **Royal National Park** to the elevated **Grand Pacific Drive**, continuing to **Wollongong** and the lovely coastal town of **Kiama**. Nearby, the Illawarra Fly Tree Top Walk and Zipline traverse the rainforest canopy.

Continuing south, meander through **Ulladulla**, **Narooma** and the aptly named **Eden** near the Victorian border. The road from here to Melbourne is low-key: throw in some blissful bushwalks and beaches at **Wilsons Promontory National Park**.

Melbourne is a vibrant city famous for the arts, Australian Rules football and coffee. Wander the laneways, mooch around the galleries, grab a pub dinner and catch a live band.

4
WEEKS

Sydney to Cairns

Hugging the east coast between Sydney and Cairns for 2864km, this is the most well-trodden path in Australia. You could do it in two weeks, but why not take four and really chill out.

Start with a few days immersed in the bright lights and glitz of **Sydney**, then meander north along the Pacific Hwy through central and northern New South Wales (NSW). Hang out in the **Hunter Valley** for some fine vino-quaffing, and stop to splash in the sea at family-friendly **Port Stephens** and **Coffs Harbour**, home of the iconic, kitsch Big Banana. Skip up to **Byron Bay** for New Age awakenings and superb beaches, then head over the Queensland border to the party-prone, surf-added **Gold Coast**. Pause in hip **Brisbane** then amble up through the **Glass House Mountains** and hippie **Eumundi** to affluent **Noosa** on the Sunshine Coast.

The Bruce Hwy traces the stunning coast into Far North Queensland. Spot some passing whales off the coast of **Hervey Bay** and track further north to the blissful **Whitsundays** archipelago, the coral charms of the **Great Barrier Reef** and the scuba-diving nexus of **Cairns**.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



Benedict Walker

Southwest, Central & Outback New South Wales Ben was born in Newcastle, Australia, and grew up in the 'burbs spending weekends and long summers by the beach, whenever possible. Although he's drawn magnetically to the kinds of mountains he encountered in the Canadian Rockies and the Japan and Swiss Alps, beach life is in his blood. Japan was the first gig he got for Lonely Planet, in 2008, and he's been blessed to have been asked back three more times since

then. He really is someone who is living his dreams, though life on the road can have its ups and downs. He's also written and directed a play, toured Australia managing the travel logistics for top-billing music festivals and is playing around with photography and film-making. Join him on his journeys on Instagram: @wordsandjourneys.



Steve Waters

Broome & the Kimberley Travel and adventure have always been Steve's life; he couldn't imagine a world without them. He's been using Lonely Planet guidebooks for more than 30 years in places as diverse as Iran, Central Asia, Kamchatka, Tuva, the Himalaya, Canada, Patagonia, the Australian Outback, NE Asia, Myanmar and the Sahara. Little wonder then that he finally got a gig with the company he was supporting! He's contributed to Iran and Indonesia guidebooks,

and to the past four editions of Western Australia, and come any September you're likely to find him in a remote gorge somewhere in the Kimberley. His travel ethos: Travel gives you a unique view of the world. Patience, acceptance, resourcefulness and flexibility are all lessons well learnt. Plans change, where some people see obstacles, others see possibilities. Go with an open mind. But go!



Donna Wheeler

Central Coast New South Wales, Byron Bay & Northern New South Wales, the Gold Coast Donna has written guidebooks for Lonely Planet for 10 years, contributing to guides to Italy, Norway, Belgium, Africa, Tunisia, Algeria, France, Austria and Melbourne. She is the author of *Paris Precincts*, a curated photographic guide to the city's best bars, restaurants and shops and is a reporter for Italian contemporary art publisher My Art Guides. Donna's work on contemporary art,

architecture and design, food, wine, wilderness areas and cultural history can be found in a variety of other publications. She became a travel writer after various careers as a commissioning editor, creative director, digital producer and content strategist.



Peter Dragicevich

Canberra, ACT & Snowy Mountains, Melbourne & Victoria After a successful career in niche newspaper and magazine publishing, both in his native New Zealand and in Australia, Peter finally gave into Kiwi wanderlust, giving up staff jobs to chase his diverse roots around much of Europe. Over the last decade he's written literally dozens of guidebooks for Lonely Planet on an oddly disparate collection of countries, all of which he's come to love. He once again calls Auckland, New

Zealand his home – although his current nomadic existence means he's often elsewhere.



Trent Holden

Around Melbourne, Mornington Peninsula & Phillip Island, Great Ocean Road, Goldfields & Grampians, Wilsons Promontory & Gippsland, Victorian High Country A Geelong-based writer, located just outside Melbourne, Trent has worked for Lonely Planet since 2005. He's contributed to 30-plus guidebooks across Asia, Africa and Australia. With a penchant for megacities, Trent's in his element when assigned to cover a nation's capital – the more chaotic the better

– to unearth cool bars, art, street food and underground subculture. On the flipside he also writes guides to idyllic tropical islands across Asia, in between going on safari to national parks in Africa and the subcontinent. When not travelling, Trent works as a freelance editor, reviewer and spending all his money catching live gigs. You can catch him on Twitter @hombreholden.



Virginia Maxwell

Launceston & Around, Devonport & Northwestern Tasmania, Cradle Country & Western Tasmania Although based in Australia, Virginia spends at least half of her year updating Lonely Planet destination coverage in Europe and the Middle East. The Mediterranean is her favourite place to travel, and she has covered Spain, Italy, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt and Morocco for Lonely Planet guidebooks – there are only eight more countries to go! Virginia also writes

about Armenia, Iran and Australia. Follow her @maxwellvirginia on Instagram and Twitter.



Tamara Sheward

Cairns & Around After years of freelance travel writing, rock'n'roll journalism and insalubrious authorhood, Tamara leapt at the chance to join the Lonely Planet ranks in 2009. Since then, she's worked on guides to an incongruous jumble of countries including Montenegro, Australia, Serbia, Russia, the Samoas, Bulgaria and Fiji. She's written a miscellany of travel articles for the BBC, *The Independent*, *Sydney Morning Herald* et al; she's also fronted the camera as a documentary presenter for Lonely Planet TV, Nat Geo and Al-Jazeera. Tamara's based in far northern Australia, but you're more likely to find her roaming elsewhere, tattered notebook in one hand, the world's

best-travelled toddler in the other.



Tom Spurling

Fraser Island & the Fraser Coast, Capricorn Coast, Whitsunday Coast, Townsville & Mission Beach, the Great Barrier Reef For this edition, Tom Spurling bumbled from Mission Beach to Fraser Island, but he grew up further south where fewer things can sting you. He has worked on 14 Lonely Planet titles, including *Central America*, *India*, *Turkey*, *Japan*, *South Africa* and *China*. When not pretending to be a twenty-something backpacker, he is a much older married man with two

small children who discusses very grave matters with high school students in Hong Kong.



Charles Rawlings-Way

[Queensland, Hobart & Tasmania, Adelaide & South Australia](#)

Charles is a veteran travel writer who has penned 30-something titles for Lonely Planet – including guides to Singapore, Toronto, Sydney, Tasmania, New Zealand, the South Pacific and Australia – and numerous articles. After dabbling in the dark arts of architecture, cartography, project management and busking for some years, Charles hit the road for LP in 2005 and hasn't stopped travelling since. 'What's in store for me in the direction I don't take?' (Kerouac).



Andy Symington

[Sydney, South Coast NSW, Lord Howe Island](#)

Andy has written or worked on more than a hundred books and other updates for Lonely Planet (especially in Europe and Latin America) and other publishing companies, and has published articles on numerous subjects for a variety of newspapers, magazines and websites. He part-owns and operates a rock bar, has written a novel and is currently working on several fiction and non-fiction writing projects. Originally from Australia, Andy moved to northern Spain many years ago. When he's not off with a backpack in some far-flung corner of the world, he can probably be found watching the tragically poor local football side or tasting local wines after a long walk in the nearby mountains.



Kate Armstrong

[The Murray](#)

Kate has spent much of her adult life travelling and living around the world. A full-time freelance travel journalist, she has contributed to around 40 Lonely Planet guides and trade publications and is regularly published in Australian and worldwide publications. She is the author of several books and children's educational titles. Over the years, Kate has worked in Mozambique, picked grapes in France and danced in a Bolivian folkloric troupe. A keen photographer, greedy gourmand and frenetic festival goer, she enjoys exploring off-the-beaten-track locations, restaurants and theatres. You can read more about her on www.katearmstrongtravelwriter.com and @nomaditis.



Carolyn Bain

[Monkey Mia & the Central West, Ningaloo Coast & the Pilbara, Outback Western Australia](#)

A travel writer and editor for 16 years, Carolyn has lived, worked and studied in various corners of the globe, including London, Denmark, St Petersburg and Nantucket. She is regularly drawn north from her base in Melbourne, Australia to cover diverse destinations for Lonely Planet, from dusty outback Australia to luminous Greek islands, by way of Maine's lobster shacks and Slovenia's alpine lakes. The Nordic region stakes a large claim to her heart, with repeated visits to Iceland and Denmark for work and pleasure. Carolyn writes about travel and food for a range of publishers; see carolynbain.com.au for more.



Cristian Bonetto

[Brisbane & Around, Noosa & the Sunshine Coast, Melbourne](#)

Cristian has contributed to more than 30 Lonely Planet guides to date, spanning cities, regions and countries across four continents, including his homeland, Australia. His musings on travel, food, culture and design have appeared in numerous publications and media outlets around the world. When not on the road, you'll find the reformed playwright and TV scriptwriter slurping espresso in his beloved hometown, Melbourne. You can follow Cristian's adventures on Instagram ([@rexcat75](#)) and Twitter ([@CristianBonetto](#)).



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 Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, 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



Brett Atkinson

Perth, Around Perth, Margaret River & the Southwest Coast, Southern WA For this edition, Brett uncovered new restaurants, bars and distilleries in Perth and Fremantle, and jumped from beach to forest and back to beach throughout Margaret River and the southwest. In Albany, a poignant highlight was the National Anzac Centre telling the story of brave WWI soldiers. Brett has contributed to Lonely Planet guidebooks spanning Europe, Africa, Asia, the United

States and the Pacific, and covered over 60 countries as a food and travel writer. See www.brett-atkinson.net for his latest adventures.



Anthony Ham

Central Australia, Northern Territory Anthony is a freelance writer and photographer who specialises in Spain, East and Southern Africa, the Arctic and the Middle East. When he's not writing for Lonely Planet, Anthony writes about and photographs Spain, Africa and the Middle East for newspapers and magazines in Australia, the UK and US.



Paul Harding

Cairns & the Daintree, Cape York Peninsula, Gulf Savannah, Outback Queensland As a writer and photographer, Paul has been travelling the globe for the best part of two decades, with an interest in remote and offbeat places, islands and cultures. He's an author and contributor to more than 50 Lonely Planet guides to countries and regions as diverse as India, Iceland, Belize, Vanuatu, Iran, Indonesia, New Zealand, Finland, Philippines and – his home patch – Australia.



Kate Morgan

Melbourne & Victoria Having worked for Lonely Planet for over a decade, Kate has been fortunate enough to cover plenty of ground working as a travel writer on destinations such as Shanghai, Japan, India, Zimbabwe, the Philippines and Phuket. She has done stints living in London, Paris and Osaka but these days is based in one of her favourite regions in the world – Victoria, Australia. In between travelling the world and writing about it, Kate enjoys spending time at

home working as a freelance editor.

OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

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