



Australia



Andrew Bain, Samantha Forge, Anthony Ham, Trent Holden, Hugh McNaughtan, Charles Rawlings-Way, Andy Symington, Brett Atkinson, Fleur Bainger, Cristian Bonetto, Paul Harding, Rachael Hocking, Anita Isalska, Anna Kaminski, Tatyana Leonov, Sofia Levin, Virginia Maxwell, Kate Morgan, Tasmin Waby, Steve Waters

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Islander people should be
aware that this book may
contain images of or refer-
ences to deceased people.

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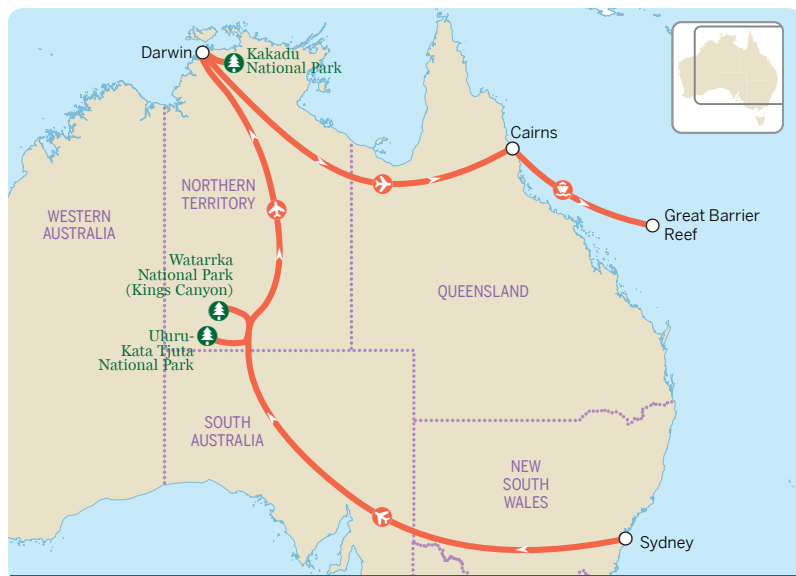
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Itineraries



2
WEEKS

Best of Australia

Two short 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 the sparkling waterfront, tour the Sydney Opera House and take a ferry out to Manly, all the while enjoying outstanding museums, cocktail bars, beaches and outdoor markets. Then get out of the city to the Blue Mountains or Royal National Park. Next, fly directly to the Red Centre to spend three days exploring **Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park** – both Uluru and Kata Tjuta deserve as much time as you can give them – with a night in **Watarrka National Park (Kings Canyon)**.

With a week left, you're heading for the Top End. Fly to **Darwin** and head straight out to **Kakadu National Park** for rock art, river cruises and fabulous wildlife. Swing over to **Cairns**, from where you can spend your last few days in Daintree rainforests at Mossman Gorge and snorkelling the **Great Barrier Reef**.



East Coast Van Life

Follow the coast from Adelaide to Cairns and you'll see every kind of Australia, from sleepy seaside hamlets to the bright lights of Sydney Harbour, plus wildlife, wilderness and waves galore. You could do it in four rushed weeks, but we recommend a minimum of six to really soak it all in.

Regal **Adelaide** is a low-key city to begin your Oz odyssey. Head south to dreamy **Robe** via the salty Coorong National Park, snapping a selfie with Larry the Lobster on the way. Next, the blue lake at **Mt Gambier**, after a winery cycle in **Penola** and you're into Victoria. **Port Fairy** is the first Great Ocean Road highlight but more await between here and **Torquay**, where you might want to stop a night and soak up the surf culture. Then it's due north to **Geelong** with its traditional seafront distractions and **Melbourne** for a city culture fix.

From Melbourne the Princess Hwy runs inland through rolling countryside, but choose a couple of spots to detour to the coast: **Wilsons Promontory**, **Cape Conran** and **Mallacoota** are all excellent. Once you enter New South Wales you're on twisting highway past ocean hamlets from **Eden** north to **Wollongong** and **Royal National Park**. Make sure you do the elevated Grand Pacific Drive during daylight hours.

A few days in **Sydney** will recharge your batteries after all that driving as you're not even halfway yet. Next, meander north along the Pacific Hwy through central and northern NSW. Quaff wines in the **Hunter Valley** 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 wellness awakenings and superb beaches, then head over the Queensland border to the surf- and sun-addled **Gold Coast**. Pause in **Brisbane** for another big-city hit, then amble up through the **Glass House Mountains** and on to the unsung gem, **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**.



4 WEEKS

West Coast Adventure

Feeling adventurous? Fly into Perth, take a quick detour south to Margaret River, then drive north up the coast until you hit Darwin!

Enjoy the laid-back charms of **Perth** and Fremantle, then head southwest for wine, surfing, forests and foodie delights from **Margaret River** to **Albany**. Hammer back past Perth and north to the otherworldly **Nambung National Park**, followed by **Kalbarri** with its soaring sea cliffs and incredible gorges. Then hug the coast for superb whale watching or snorkelling at **Ningaloo Reef**.

Inland are the ironstone hues of the Pilbara. Cool off in the gorges at **Karijini National Park**. Then follow a coastline known as the Big Empty all the way north-east to **Broome**: watch the camels on Cable Beach at sunset. Nearby **Dampier Peninsula** beckons with off-grid camping with Aboriginal communities.

Take the Great Northern Hwy to the sandstone domes of **Purnululu National Park**. Restock at **Kununurra**, then cross the border to the NT. The last leg of your road trip adventure to **Darwin** via Katherine is not too far away.



2 WEEKS

Central Australia

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

From the eat streets and old stone pubs of **Adelaide**, head north to the **Barossa Valley** for world-beating red wines. Next stop is the Clare Valley followed by rust-coloured **Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park**: Ikara (Wilpena Pound) jags up from the semidesert.

Just off the Stuart Hwy are the opal-tinted dugouts of unique **Coober Pedy**. Continuing north into the desert, the Lasseter Hwy delivers you to iconic **Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park**. The gaping 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**.

Darwin is a remote but multicultural city with sunset hawkers markets and the excellent Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.



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Top: Surfers at Noosa
(p326), Queensland
Bottom: Pinnacles
Desert (p331)
stargazing, Western
Australia

Behind the Scenes

SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

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OUR READERS

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THIS BOOK

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Destination Editor

Tasmin Waby

Senior Product Editors

Kate Chapman, Anne Mason

Regional Senior Cartographer

Julie Sheridan

Product Editor

Hannah Cartmel

Book Designer

Lauren Egan

Assisting Editors

Sarah Bailey, James Bainbridge, Judith Bamber, Imogen Bannister, Pete Cruttenden, Jacqueline

Danam, Andrea Dobbin, Emma Gibbs, Carly Hall, Gabby Innes, Kellie Langdon, Lou McGregor, Kristin Odjik, Lorna Parkes, Fionnuala Twomey

Cartographers

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Map Legend

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- 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

- Body surfing
- 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



Virginia Maxwell

Victoria Although based in Australia, Virginia spends at least half of her year updating Lonely Planet destination coverage across the globe. The Mediterranean is her major area of interest – she has covered Spain, Italy, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia for LP – but she also covers Finland, Bali, Armenia, the Netherlands, the US and Australia. Follow her @maxwellvirginia on Instagram and Twitter.



Kate Morgan

New South Wales, Queensland Having worked for Lonely Planet for over a decade now, Kate has been fortunate enough to cover plenty of ground working as a travel writer on destinations such as Shanghai, Japan, India, Russia, 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.



Tasmin Waby

Western Australia A London-born writer with Kiwi *whānau* who grew up in Australia. Tasmin loves cartography, starry night skies, and getting off the beaten track. When not on the road for Lonely Planet she lives in a narrowboat and is planning her next adventure with her two school-aged kids. Tasmin also contributed to the Plan and Understand sections of this guide.



Steve Waters

Western Australia Travel and adventure have always been Steve's life, and he couldn't imagine a world without them. He's been using LP guidebooks for over 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! Steve has contributed to *Iran*, *Indonesia* and the past five editions of

West Coast Australia, and come any September you're likely to find him in a remote gorge somewhere in the Kimberley. Steve says, '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!'

**Paul Harding**

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, Belize, Vanuatu, Iran, Indonesia, New Zealand, Iceland, Finland, Philippines and – his home patch – Australia.

**Rachael Hocking**

Rachael is a Warlpiri woman with roots in the Tanami Desert of the Northern Territory. She has been a reporter and presenter for the country's only national Indigenous TV channel since 2015, and currently co-hosts its flagship show, The Point. Her job has seen her travel to the annual Garma Festival in Arnhem Land and interview the first female mayor on Thursday Island. In her spare time she volunteers on an Aboriginal music show for community radio station 3RRR

in Melbourne. Rachael is an intersectional feminist who is passionate about Aboriginal women's rights, language revival and social justice. Rachael contributed to the Plan and Understand sections of this guide.

**Anita Isalska**

New South Wales Anita is a travel journalist, editor and copywriter. After several merry years as a staff writer and editor – a few of them in Lonely Planet's London office – Anita now works freelance between San Francisco, the UK and any Baltic bolthole with good wifi. Anita specialises in Eastern and Central Europe, Southeast Asia, France and off-beat travel. Read her stuff on www.anita.isalska.com.

**Anna Kaminski**

Western Australia Originally from the Soviet Union, Anna grew up in Cambridge, UK. Her restless wanderings led her to settle briefly in Oaxaca and Bangkok and her flirtation with criminal law saw her volunteering as a lawyer's assistant in the courts, ghettos and prisons of Kingston, Jamaica. Anna has contributed to almost 30 Lonely Planet titles. When not on the road, Anna calls London home. Having travelled on every single continent barring Antarctica, Anna has had her share of

memorable experiences, from seeing the sun rise from the top of Borneo's Mt Kinabalu and Jamaica's Blue Mountain peak and riding all day on horseback to visit the Tsaatan reindeer herders on the border between Mongolia and Russia, to spending the night in a Latvian Soviet-era prison and attending a Vodou ritual in Haiti.

**Tatyana Leonov**

New South Wales Born and bred in Sydney, when she's not traversing the globe Tatyana enjoys exploring (and writing about) her home turf. She has written about her travel adventures for a diverse range of publications both in Australia and overseas and edits a magazine for families who love to travel. See www.tatyanaleonov.com.au

**Sofia Levin**

Melbourne Seasoned traveller and food journalist Sofia believes that eating in a country other than one's own is the best way to understand a culture. It's why she feels so lucky to call Melbourne home, where the city's diversity allows her to eat all over the world without catching a flight. With Insta-famous toy poodle, @lifeofjinkee, on her lap, she writes for newspapers and travel magazines, acts as Lonely Planet's Melbourne Local and co-authors international guidebooks – often

rewarding herself with regional Vietnamese noodle soups for dinner. Follow her culinary adventures or ask her where to eat via Instagram @sofiaklevin.

**Hugh McNaughtan**

New South Wales, Queensland A former lecturer and restaurant critic, Hugh is a native Melbourne with deep family roots in New South Wales and Queensland. Jumping behind the wheel (and up the gangplank) to explore New England and the Queensland coast, islands and hinterland from Fraser Island to the Whitsunday was a dream assignment, made all the more memorable by the many kindnesses he encountered.

**Charles Rawlings-Way**

Perth, South Australia, Western Australia Charles Rawlings-Way is a veteran travel, food and music writer who has penned 40-something titles for Lonely Planet – including guides to Singapore, Toronto, Sydney, Tonga, New Zealand, the South Pacific and every state in Australia, including his native terrain of Tasmania and current homeland of South Australia – plus too many articles to recall. 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). He's also the author of a best-selling rock biography on Glasgow band Del Amitri, *These Are Such Perfect Days*. Follow Charles on the socials @crawlingsway and www.facebook.com/chasrwmusic. Charles also contributed to the Plan, Understand and Survival Guide sections.

**Andy Symington**

Sydney, New South Wales Andy has prowled the globe insatiably, speaks several languages and is passionate about human rights and international development issues. After studying archaeology and psychology, he worked in the navigation business and, for some time, in educational and community theatre before long travels through South America eventually saw him wind up in Edinburgh, selling whisky to the Scots. Andy first became involved in writing when someone cannily

contracted him to contribute to a pub guide, and his formidable research on that title broke a man but launched a career.

**Brett Atkinson**

New South Wales Brett is based in Auckland, New Zealand, but is frequently on the road for Lonely Planet. He's a full-time travel and food writer specialising in adventure travel, unusual destinations, and surprising angles on more well-known destinations. Craft beer and street food are Brett's favourite reasons to explore places, and he is featured regularly on the Lonely Planet website, and in newspapers, magazines and websites across New Zealand and Australia. Since becoming

a Lonely Planet author in 2005, Brett has covered areas as diverse as Vietnam, Sri Lanka, the Czech Republic, New Zealand, Morocco, California and the South Pacific.

**Fleur Bainger**

Perth Having worn her first backpack to Europe when she was just 10 years old, Perth-based journalist Fleur gets a heck of a buzz from being a freelance travel and food writer. As Western Australia's weekly food reviewer for *The Sunday Times Magazine*, she's constantly on the hunt for Perth's best new eateries, while her weekly 'what's on' slot on 6PR talkback radio means she's always got the lowdown on events and openings around town. She's a Lonely Planet Local, a

destination expert for *The Telegraph* (UK) and regular contributor to *Australian Traveller*, *Escape*, ABC radio and more.

**Cristian Bonetto**

Queensland Cristian has contributed to over 30 Lonely Planet guides to date, covering places including New York City, Italy, Venice & the Veneto, Naples & the Amalfi Coast, Denmark, Copenhagen, Sweden and Singapore. Lonely Planet work aside, his musings on travel, food, culture and design appear in numerous publications around the world, including *The Telegraph* (UK) and *Corriere del Mezzogiorno* (Italy). When not on the road, you'll find this reformed playwright and TV scriptwriter slurping espresso in his beloved hometown, Melbourne. Follow him on Instagram @rexcat75.

wright and TV scriptwriter slurping espresso in his beloved hometown, Melbourne. Follow him on Instagram @rexcat75.



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



Andrew Bain

Tasmania Andrew prefers adventure to avarice and can usually be found walking when he should be working. His writing and photography feature in magazines and newspapers around the world, and his writing has won multiple awards, including best adventure story and best Australian story (three times) from the Australian Society of Travel Writers. Andrew has unwittingly smuggled goods across the China–Russia border, shared his bed with a crocodile in the Northern

Territory, and been deported from Estonia. He lives in Hobart, a city that satisfies his need to be constantly near the mountains. His musings on the outdoors world can be found at www.adventurebeforeavarice.com.



Samantha Forge

Australian Capital Territory, Canberra Samantha became hooked on travel at the age of 17, when she arrived in London with an overstuffed backpack and a copy of LP's *Europe on a Shoestring*. After a stint in Paris, she moved back to Australia to work as an editor in LP's Melbourne office. Eventually her wanderlust got the better of her, and she now works as a freelance writer and editor.



Anthony Ham

Northern Territory, Queensland Anthony is a freelance writer and photographer who specialises in Spain, East and Southern Africa, the Arctic and the Middle East. In 2001, after years of wandering the world, Anthony finally found his spiritual home when he fell irretrievably in love with Madrid on his first visit to the city. Less than a year later, he arrived there on a one-way ticket, with not a word of Spanish and not knowing a single person in the city. When he finally left

Madrid ten years later, Anthony spoke Spanish with a Madrid accent and was married to a local. Now back in Australia, Anthony continues to travel the world in search of stories.



Trent Holden

Victoria A Geelong-based writer, Trent has worked for Lonely Planet since 2005. He's covered 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 books to idyllic tropical islands across Asia, in between going on safari to national parks in Africa and the

subcontinent. You can catch him on Twitter @hombreholden

OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

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