

AMAZING LANDSCAPES

Explore a land unlike anything you'll find anywhere else...

A UNIQUELY AUSTRALIAN INVITATION

A single rock rising from the earth like a giant red heart, sandstone figures clustered like ancient cities - such are the unique wonders that distinguish Australia. You will find them nowhere else as Australia has its own rules.

Set adrift eons ago, our continent became a time capsule and Nature's canvas. Unique desert wonders, Pinnacles and Bungles, two giant coral wonderlands running down each flank and scenery you'll never forget. Rainforest, outback, mountains and savannah paint a colourful palette of magical sights against an azure sky.

From unspoilt beaches, tropical rainforest and rugged mountain ranges to vast tracts of desert, this is a country of contrasts and home to an amazing 16 World Heritage listed areas.

Stretching north from Gulf St Vincent in South Australia, the Flinders Ranges are among the most sensational Outback parks in the country. Here an ancient seabed has been sculpted into a fractured, furrowed landscape of deep valleys covered with twisted cypress pines, which drop away into creeks lined with river red gums.

There's desert and red rock, ancient, eroded slopes, rocky gullies and breathtaking landscapes such as the steep red slopes of the West MacDonnell Ranges rising dramatically from the Central Australian desert.

Western Australia's ancient land houses several unique wonders including the Pinnacles - thousands of pointed rock forms on a red desert expanse and the striking beehive landforms of Purnululu (the Bungles).

Covering the far north west of the continent, the Kimberley is sometimes called Australia's last frontier - a wild, arid plateau almost twice the size of Victoria. Its surreal, bottle-shaped boab trees and the wizened, biblical majesty of its landscape set the Kimberley apart from every other part of the planet.

South Australia's vast outback features incredible landscapes - amazing Wilpena Pound, underground Coober Pedy, the famous Oodnadatta Track and the almost endless Nullarbor Plain. Or you can wander among deep gorges and volcanic rock domes in the Gawler Ranges.

Further south, and seemingly a world away, is Tasmania's unspoilt green heritage wilderness, while in Queensland and NSW you'll discover spectacular reefs and beaches with thousands of idyllic offshore islands, tropical rainforests and outback deserts sprinkled with dinosaurs and fossils.

Key National Landscape Facts

- Mainland Australia, with an area of 7.69 million sq km, is the Earth's largest island but smallest continent. It stretches about 3700 km from north to south and about 4000 km from east to west.

- In area, Australia is the sixth-largest nation after Russia, Canada, China, the United States and Brazil. Its ocean territory—the third-largest in the world—spans three oceans and covers around 12 million sq km.
- Australia's average elevation is only 330 metres, the lowest of all the continents. Its highest point, Mount Kosciuszko, is only 2228 metres. The lack of height is more than compensated for in landscape variety.¹
- Australia is the world's driest inhabited continent containing the largest desert region in the southern hemisphere. More than 70 per cent of the continent is classed as arid or semi-arid. Within this vast area are not only classic landscapes of bare shifting sands, but also unique and varied environments such as mountain ranges, grasslands, woodlands, shrub, rivers and salt lakes.²
- The Australian Desert, comprising the Simpson, Gibson, Great Sandy and Great Victoria Deserts, is the second largest in the world behind the Sahara.
- Australia is the sixth largest country in the world and has the sixth longest coastline. We are also the third least densely populated country in the world.
- Australia has 558 national parks covering more than 31 million hectares - more than four per cent of the country.
- The Daintree is the world's oldest living rainforest and also the second-largest virgin tract of rainforest - the only tract that's larger is the Amazon Basin.
- Mt Augustus in Western Australia near Perth is the world's biggest rock and the world's biggest monolith, two and a half times bigger than Uluru.
- Despite being made of soft sandstone, the distinctive bee-hive like domes of the Bungle Bungle have survived for around 20 million years.

Uniquely Australian

- **Cruise the Daintree River through the sounds, sights and scents of an ancient heritage rainforest.**
- **Step into Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park**, a land where imposing russet monoliths loom over flat sand plains, and you step into a world of mystery and legend. This is the home of two of the most breathtaking unique wonders in Australia - Uluru, a monolith rising 348 metres from the earth, and Kata Tjuta, 36 red landforms clustered just 32 km away.
- **Stay at night in the bowl of Wilpena Pound**, cupped like a colossal upturned hand as the centrepiece of the magnificent Flinders Ranges National Park. Take a different walking trail each day to the rim for breathtaking views.





- **See Lake Eyre and the Oodnadatta Track**, as remote and barren as you can get. Mound-springs create bush oases and wetlands for camping. Red plains stretch to a horizon that blazes at sunset and there's brilliant birdwatching and wildflowers after rain.
- **Discover the amazing Warrambungles** in Outback NSW. The Explorer Country's diverse landscape rolls from pastureland to dusty outback.
- **Explore Central Australia**, home of Uluru, and a land of contrasts - amazing rocks and gorges, ancient landscapes, glimmering rivers and ancient Aboriginal sites. The dramatic, rugged bluffs, rock forms and sandstone gorges of Watarrka National Park and Kings Canyon, are only three and a half hours' drive from Alice Springs.
- In the amazing Outback landscapes of **Mungo National Park** in the World Heritage-listed Willandra Lakes region, you'll find the first evidence of modern man – Mungo Man and Mungo Woman.
- Fly over **Wilpena Pound**. From the air, it resembles a lost world - the sort of place where you can imagine dinosaurs still stalking. This enormous, crater-shaped, natural amphitheatre, 11 by eight km in size, lies at the heart of South Australia's Flinders Ranges. Wilpena's rim consists of the stumps of mountains that were once as high as the Himalayas and have been eroded down over hundreds of millions of years.
- See the awe-inspiring lunar-like landscape of the **Walls of China**, where over thousands of years, wind, rain and erosion have carved the most spectacular formations from sand, quartz and clay. Standing 30m high, these walls are actually impressive sand sculptures, fragile towers of sand and clay that have been shaped by the elements and that run for over 30km.
- **Marvel at the world's only remaining evidence of a dinosaur stampede** as you gaze over the rich red escarpments and incredible preserved footprints at Lark Quarry in Outback Queensland. You can imagine the panic in the air as more than 1,500 small dinosaurs fled a predator. It's hard to believe it was an inland sea 95 million years ago.
- **See the Undara Lava Tubes**, formed 190,000 years ago when molten lava flowed down a dry river bed, leaving hollow tubes you can walk through.
- **Find some of the world's oldest landscapes** in Western Australia. You'll also find some of its rarest minerals, animals and plant life, the world's biggest country town and most isolated capital city – Perth, and, the world's biggest rock - Mt Augustus. You'll also find some of the world's longest beaches, biggest sunsets, surf, winds, skies, fish, tides and Outback.
- **Explore the famous karst-country caves** on the treeless **Nullarbor Plain**, one of the world's largest arid to semi-arid karst landforms. Stop for panoramic views of the Great Australian Bight as you go.
- **Head to the Cape York Peninsula** in spring and discover Australian native bushland at its best. With clear spring fed creeks and waterfalls, sandstone cliffs and massive white sand dunes, there's so much to explore at the very tip of Australia.
- **Explore Tasmania's iconic landscapes** – its ancient pristine heritage wilderness, spectacular Wineglass Bay and Cradle Mountain.
- **Arkaroola**, in the Northern Flinders Ranges, is a spectacular wildlife sanctuary with fascinating geological formations, picturesque gorges and a variety of wildlife.
- **See the Blue Lake** at Mount Gambier mysteriously change from a winter grey to a vivid cobalt blue each November.
- **Climb to the summit** of Mt Bruce in Karijini National Park: Karijini's incredible landscape is not to be missed. An unassuming landscape dramatically opens up to reveal deep craggy gorges, emerald coloured pools and permanent waterfalls.
- **See the unusual and unique beehive structures** of the Bungle Bungle range, rise an incredible 250 metres above the surrounding plain, a breathtaking sight from a plane. A scenic flight is one of the best ways to gain a perspective on their massive size. Or get up close to the orange sandstone domes in a four wheel drive.
- **Be inspired by the natural beauty of the Grampians National Park** which features walking trails, waterfalls, scenic lookouts, wildlife and seasonal wildflowers.
- **Bushwalk to the southernmost point of mainland Australia** at Wilsons Promontory National Park. the 50,000 hectare national park features magnificent and secluded beaches, cool fern gullies, great views, and spectacular rock formations.
- **See the spectacular Twelve Apostles** along the Great Ocean road, along with the sheer rock face and steep cliffs of the Port Campbell National Park.
- Sydney has its very own **Sydney Harbour National Park** that includes harbour islands and much of the foreshore. There are great harbour and ocean cliff walks that take you past famous beaches and secluded bays. During the whale migration season, you can see whales from headlands or on special whale-watching cruises.
- **Visit the Blue Mountains**, just outside Sydney, one of those rare world cities that have a UNESCO World Heritage-listed national park on its doorstep. See the Three Sisters rock formation, thick eucalypt forests and dramatic sandstone cliffs, the perfect environment for bushwalking, waterfall spotting and seeing kangaroos and native birds in the wild.
- **Discover the arid Lake Eyre in South Australia**, a huge remote salt basin — one of the largest internal drainage systems in the world. The surrounding vegetation of cane grass, mulga and acacia grow in the red sand dunes, together with needlebush and samphire. Together these hardy plants provide an ideal habitat for the Lake Eyre Dragon.
- **Camp at a beautiful outback oasis** at Lawn Hill Gorge in Boodjamulla National Park in far north-west Queensland, with its emerald waters and lush vegetation. The surrounding ranges include many ancient Aboriginal sites and the World Heritage-listed Riversleigh Fossil Fields.

For further information please contact:

Tourism Australia
International Media Relations
GPO Box 2721
Sydney NSW 1006
Phone: +61 2 9360 1111
Email: internationalmedia@tourism.australia.com
www.australia.com

