



EXPLORE YOUR PASSION FOR AUSTRALIA

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE AUSTRALIA



Explore Your Passion For...

+ SHOPPING AND SHOWS

Each week we speak to a well known industry personality about indulging a passion in Australia. This week in our 'passion series', we chat with Flight Centre's General Manager, Marketing - Jodie Burnard.

1. Why would you travel to Australia to indulge your passion for shopping and shows?

It's so close and there is an amazing array of both shopping and shows to choose from in each of Australia's main cities, much of which you would not get at home and you don't have to travel far to get it.

2. Name your favourite place/s to best experience this in Australia

My "go to" cities would have to be Melbourne and Sydney simply because both of these places spoil me with choice.

3. What do you love most about these places

The variety is simply world class and I can move from one type of shopping experience to another with ease -from a vintage boutique in one of Melbourne's laneways or one of the hot new precincts such as Gertrude Street to the large department stores of Myers and David Jones - and all within an easy tram or taxi ride. Its much the same in Sydney, you can indulge in mainstream store shopping or go boutique and quirky all in the same morning or afternoon. The ease



of access in getting about the very distinct districts within these cities is second to none, with great public transport, walking or cycling. Then there are the shows. Shop by day and take in an amazing show in the evening, many of which never make it quite as far as New Zealand. With Sydney you can also add beaches into the mix, many of which host their own incredible festivals, and of course there is New Year's Eve where nobody does it better than Sydney. Melbourne, I love for her stage shows and outstanding sports events from tennis to racing and pretty much everything in-between.

4. What do you think is most appealing about these places for fellow followers

of shopping and shows?

The variety has to be right up there, along with accessibility, affordability and ease for Kiwis to just hop on over, see a world class show and take in a fabulous array of shopping experiences.

5. Your standout Australian experience to date was...

The Australian Open Tennis in Melbourne. It was a couple of years ago, but remains one of my most memorable experiences. Seeing those huge international stars such as the Williams sisters and Federer on centre court was just amazing and something I could not do at home.

6. You would go back tomorrow for...

All of it and more!

NZ's Top Fashionista Takes On Oz

New Zealand's favourite fashionista, Colin Mathura Jeffree recently headed across to OZ to check out some very hot shopping spots and "to free King Kong", but like the thousands of enthralled theatre goers to see this epic stage show, Colin was rather more caught in the grip of the great gorilla.

By day, Colin embraced the vibrant shopping scene of Melbourne and uncovered the perhaps lesser known retail treats of Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Colin's visit to renowned Melbourne milliner, Richard Nylon was magic in the making with his peacock inspired creation placing Colin well ahead of the field this season.

Colin said it was "amazing to really take another look at Australia - you think you know someplace and then kapow!" Read more about Colin's experiences in the NZ Herald and herald.co.nz



Eventful Australia

Wherever and whenever you are in Australia, there is bound to be an event, show or festival taking place. From world class major events such as the Australian Open (Melbourne) to the Santos Tour Down Under (Adelaide) to Opera on Sydney Harbour to regional events and festivals, there will something to suit most interests.

Food and wine lovers will not be left wanting with a veritable feast of festivals taking place right around Australia to showcase regional produce and chefs. Combine a passion for food and wine with a love of all things coastal and you have the Noosa Food and Wine Festival, held beachside May 15-18 noosafoodandwine.com.au. If you prefer to feast your senses with music and the performing arts, then Australia's vibrant performing arts and regional music scene will not disappoint in delivering a harmonious holiday experience. From coast to coast and much in-between, turn your holiday into an event to be remembered. [Click here](#) for inspiration