



EXPLORE YOUR PASSION FOR AUSTRALIA

THERE'S NOTHING
LIKE AUSTRALIA



Explore Your Passion For...

+
NATURE &
WILDLIFE

Each week we speak to an industry expert about indulging their passion in Australia. This week in our 'passion series' we speak to Go Holidays Product Development Manager, Maya Smithson, about nature and wildlife.

1. Why would you travel to Australia to indulge your passion for nature and wildlife?

The abundance of flora and fauna in Australia is incredible, with many of the species being unique to Australia: - and it's so close to home!

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

I have just got back from the Gold Coast and the nature experiences on offer there really amazed me. Holding a koala and hand feeding wild birds at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary were standouts. I also really enjoyed Philip Island- just out of Melbourne and seeing the Fairy Penguins come ashore each night in their groups. This is a very special place and highly recommended for an amazing nature experience.

3. What do you love most about these places?

The privilege to interact with these animals in their natural habitat and observe the amazing daily rituals of the likes of the Fairy Penguins. It is rare



to be able to get so close to the animals but this is very possible, especially at Currumbin where their daily wild bird feeding means you can actually take part and see wild birds so close - they even ate out of my hand. I found this a really special experience and was a personal first, along with holding a koala and seeing 'koala kindy' in action.

4. What do you think is most appealing about these places for fellow followers of nature and wildlife experiences?

The fact that an Australian nature and wildlife experience has something for everyone; young, mature, singles, couples and families, so these type of experiences have very wide appeal to holidaymakers.

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

Standing on the 26th floor of a Broadbeach apartment and looking out to see a large pod of whales frolicking in the ocean. I knew it was whale-watching season, but never dreamed I would be able to see them so clearly from shore. Currumbin was also a highlight and the koala experience was a personal first.

6. You would go back tomorrow for....

More of the same, longer at Currumbin and I would also love to get out on one of the whale watching safari boats - which is pretty easy to do seeing as they do hotel pick ups! - next time...

Tasmania's Mighty Tarkine

Australia's island state is a delight to discover with its fascinating history, fine food and wine and stunning landscapes and pristine wilderness areas. Australia's largest temperate rainforest and one of its most significant natural and archaeological sites is the Tarkine.

Iconic New Zealand broadcaster, Judy Bailey explored this greatest wilderness area during her television series 'Judy Bailey's Australia' and marvelled at the majesty of nature and felt "terribly, terribly small". The Tarkine is home to a magnificent array of mammals, birds, reptiles and unique flora. The region is also known for being the last bastion of the legendary Tasmanian Tiger which adds an element of mystique to an already enchanting and unique nature experience.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see more of what Judy found to be so inspiring.



Worldclass Wilderness Areas On Your Doorstep

Australia's vast and varied landscape ranges from sublime coastal scenery to snow capped mountains, with huge tracts of forest and exciting Outback scenery in between. There are plenty of options when it comes to a nature journey and you are sure to spot lots of unique wildlife as you travel.

With more than 500 national parks and 15 natural World Heritage wonders, you will be close to nature wherever you travel in Australia. If your passion is for nature in, on or under the water, then there are 200 protected marine areas including the world renowned Great Barrier Reef; - the world's largest living eco system.

83% of Australia's mammals, 89% of its reptiles and 93% of its amphibians are found nowhere else on earth making your Australian experience like nothing on earth.