

# Explore Your Passion For...

Nature can be experienced in many forms in Australia and is expressed in many ways on Australia's beaches, many of which fringe some great cities. Bondi Beach is one of the country's most iconic beaches that blends beach culture with sophisticated city lifestyle seamlessly and has gained a reputation the world over for its versatility in hosting events as well as delivering an exceptional authentic Aussie beach experience. This week we catch up with GO Holidays General **Manager Jason Buckley to** talk Bondi and beyond.

Why would you travel to Australia to indulge your passion for nature, and specifically coastal?

Australia has an international reputation for its beaches and incredible coastline which offers up a huge range of experiences for everyone; from sailing to surfing, to beach culture and just relaxing or attending a world class event. For me, I like to experience the best of both worlds where I can go barefoot on the beach and then walk straight into an amazing restaurant with incredible views and continue on from there for shopping, shows and everything a great city has to offer.

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



Bondi has to be top of the list. Its accessible, its easy, its fantastic and it has the world class Icebergs restaurant right above it for an out of this world dining experience beachside with "those" amazing views. The most incredible thing is that, apart from Bondi being an iconic and beautiful beach in itself, everything else that Sydney has to offer is within easy reach.

### What do you love most about this place?

There is something so holiday like about the beach but you don't have to leave the city, shows, shopping and amazing food and wine experiences behind to make the most of the beach and ocean views.

What do you think is most appealing about these places for fellow followers of nature / coastal experiences?

Whilst it may not be brimming with traditional nature experiences and there are certainly many more places in Australia to experience wildlife for example, Bondi

and Sydney's city beaches in general can give you a feeling of freedom and immersing yourself in nature with a beautiful, rugged coastal walk, national park hiking, canoeing, surfing, swimming or simply relaxing, and then take in a show in the evening or do something really sophisticated, all within the same holiday.

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

Spending a long afternoon at Icebergs above Bondi Beach followed by the truly incredible Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour. World class and stunning!

#### You would go back tomorrow for...

The next big event or show following a relaxing day beachside

## Sea A Wonder Of Nature

Considered one of the wonders of the natural world, the Great Barrier Reef is a rich tapestry of coral reefs, islands and cays, which stretches for more than 2,300 kilometres from Lady Elliot Island off Bundaberg to beyond Cape York at the tip of north-eastern Australia. Home to over 1600 species of fish, 215 bird species, 30 whale and dolphin species, as well as more than 400 species of hard coral, the Great Barrier Reef is nirvana for nature lovers both on, off and under the water. The Great Barrier Reef was listed as a World Heritage Area in 1981 as an outstanding example of a reef system, representing the major stages in the earth's evolutionary history; as well as for its important biological diversity.

The surrounding islands will spoil visitors to the region with luxurious resorts, eco luxe retreats, sailing, golfing and any number of water activities, including the exclusive opportunity to stay the night aboard a floating pontoon on the Great Barrier Reef as part of the Fantasea Reefworld experience. See

cruisewhitsundays.com.au





The iconic 6km walk from Sydney beaches Bondi to Bronte is amongst the regions most popular pursuits and certainly one of Australia's top short walks. Popular with visitors and locals all year round, from 24th October to 10th November a 1.2km section from Bondi to Tamarama is devoted to significant sculptural works as part of the world renowned 'Sculpture by the Sea' exhibition. The event promotes a sense of community and shares art with a wider audience by taking it outside and into an amazing setting.

In addition to appreciating the works along the coastal walk, there is also a comprehensive public programme around the event for those wanting to get even closer to this event. For further information including transport and accommodation links click onto sculpturebythesea.com

