

An underwater scene featuring a large sea turtle swimming towards the left, a diver on the right holding a camera, and a vibrant coral reef in the foreground. The water is clear blue, and several small fish are visible.

ONLY IN AUSTRALIA

Welcome to Tourism Australia's Nature edition for a regional showcase of the very best of Australia's natural assets and unique flora and fauna.

Australia's natural environment is a spectacular draw card for visitors the world over and offers the most magical backdrop to indulge in some of our favourite holiday activities and pastimes....step inside and be inspired for exciting, new ideas on New Zealanders favourite holiday destination.

Sunshine Coast – Walk in Natural Wonders

Promoted as being ‘naturally refreshing’, Queensland’s Sunshine Coast offers the best of both worlds to those wanting both beach and bush. From the golden sands and sophisticated lifestyle of Noosa to a pristine hinterland, this region will have its visitors spoilt for choice. With more than 500 food and beverage producers calling the Sunshine Coast home, it is little wonder that the region is home to many exceptional food and wine festivals, most notably the Noosa Food and Wine Festival which will be held from the 16th – 19th May. There are also ‘Real’ food events that showcase the unique regional flavours that are attributed to the clean, green environment that the Sunshine Coast is renowned for.

The region is also a great place to indulge popular outdoor pursuits with walking being a key activity that is well catered for with circuit walks through pristine forests and amidst exceptional landscapes. Pictured is Kondalilla Falls which is on the first section of the Sunshine Coast Hinterland Great Walk. This lush eucalypt forest and spectacular falls lead to the aptly named Picnic Creek and make for a unique and natural breakaway. See visitsunshinecoast.com.au



‘Jaw Droppingly Spectacular’ – Barnbougale Dunes on Tasmania’s North East

Described by Australian golf commentator, Steve Kelpert as being “so jaw-droppingly spectacular” Barnbougale Dunes is a links course like no other seen in Australia. Nestled amidst the coastal dunes of Tasmania’s spectacular North East Coast, Barnbougale Dunes and adjoining Lost Farm present an exceptional golfing experience that combines an 18-hole championship course with a luxury accommodation and spa offering amidst some of the regions most impressive natural coastal landscapes. Just one hour from Launceston airport, Barnbougale is a destination to indulge in. Barnbougale is just one of a number of courses that now forms the Great Golf Courses of Australia programme. For further information click onto greatgolfaustralia.com.au

The surrounding region also boasts an impressive array of artisan food and wine producers as well as arts and crafts, much of which is inspired by nature and the pristine environment that is one of this island State’s greatest treasures.

Whale of Natural Wonders Out West

Western Australia has plenty to support its claim to being the State that is packed with extraordinary experiences, many of which are not found anywhere else on earth.

Pick your season to visit this diverse and expansive State, which boasts an excellent climate and some of its most exciting experiences when we are hunkered down over the winter. The region’s north coast is home to Ningaloo, the world’s largest fringing reef and playground to the world’s largest fish, the gentle whale shark. Here visitors can enjoy a plethora of natural experiences and environmentally friendly accommodation offerings, including ‘glamping’ as well as having the “experience of a lifetime” swimming with the majestic whale sharks in the months of April – July.

The wider region also offers visitors the treat of what is one of the longest whale watching seasons in the world where Humpback and Southern Right Whales can be seen at various locations from June - December.

See westernaustralia.com



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Take a Walk on the Wild – But Wonderful Side..

Tourism Australia, together with industry partners has just launched the Great Walks of Australia programme which features stunning hikes through some of the country's most revered landscapes. Great Walks of Australia has launched with the following walks-Tasmania: Cradle Mountain Huts Walk, Freycinet Experience Walk, The Bay of Fires Walk, The Maria Island Walk South Australia: The Arkaba Walk which takes in Wilpena Pound and Flinders Ranges in South Australia's outback. Victoria: The Great Ocean Road Walk which takes in the iconic 12 Apostles and featuring Bothfeet Lodge, Northern Territory The Larapinta Trail by World Expeditions which is a 6-day, 72km walk along the West MacDonnell Range just out of Alice Springs.

In launching Great Walks of Australia, Tourism Australia Managing Director, Andrew McEvoy expressed confidence in positioning Australia as one of the world's great walking destinations saying "with so many of Australia's great hikes located in such stunning settings, the opportunities to build the best of Australia's walks into great Australia holiday experiences are enormous." Full details on the walks can be found at greatwalksofaustralia.com.au with two of these great walks being featured below.



South Australia's Arkaba Walk

Traverse a landscape 600 million years in the making on this four-day walk through South Australia's outback that includes the magnificent Flinders Ranges and Wilpena Pound. The Arkaba Walk takes place across Arkaba Station, a 40,000 acre private wildlife conservancy that offers the unique experience of 'wild bush luxury.' Guests can quite literally enjoy 'stargazing' from the comfort of their 'star bed', with the last night being spent in a traditional colonial homestead. The walk takes guests amongst awe inspiring, ancient landscapes and the opportunity to see Australia's unique flora and fauna in the most natural of habitats. See arkabawalk.com

Victoria's Great Ocean Road Walk by Bothfeet

The region, and one of Australia's most well known walks, the Great Ocean Road is a sought after route for the diversity of sights and experiences along the way and the unique combination of a spectacular coastal walk with a cool climate rainforest.

Share the stories of this spectacular coastline that carries the legacy of numerous shipwrecks and an associated convict history. At the end of the day, take comfort in the Eco-Luxe villas of the Bothfeet hiking lodge where guests can also enjoy fine food and wine and perhaps more importantly a sensational deep foot bath!

See visitvictoria.com/greatoceanwalk



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EVENTS

Floating Land Noosa, Sunshine Coast. 31 May-09 Jun 2013

10 day arts event at Boreen Point in the UNESCO Listed biosphere of Noosa with satellite locations around the Sunshine Coast. This 10-day 'green art' programme celebrates cultural diversity and the interplay of cultures, nature, science and art with the natural environment. Floating land is a concentrated cultural and environmental where event goers have the rare experience to sit, watch and engage with Australia's leading green artists.

The event explores the interaction between nature, sciences and the arts in a unique and engaging way.

For the art seeker who thought they had sought out everything this event presents a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in art with a twist.

See floatingland.com.au

Staircase to the Moon Cable Beach, Broome, WA. Mar -Oct 2013

Get our your Australian tide chart to experience an optical illusion of the most spectacular – and natural kind. The aptly named 'Staircase to the Moon' can be witnessed at extremely low tides between the months of March to October and offers visitors to the region a unique experience that is 'one of a kind' in the world. Broome is just a 2 ½ hr flight from Perth and is the gateway to the natural wonders of the Kimberlys and the ancient landscapes of the North West. Broome carries the exotic reputation of an excellent and world acclaimed pearling region – fish for your own pearl or be tempted by the high quality pearls available for sale. Just 22kms up from Broome is the white sand beach of Cable Beach and watching site for 'Staircase to the Moon.'

Add even more magic to your experience with a beach camel ride and then settle in, with eyes wide open to witness the natural phenomena of the ocean waters receding to reveal an expanse of mudflats and a spectacular optical illusion and magnificent lunar display.

See westernaustralia.com



Sydney Festival January 5-27, 2013

Visiting or thinking of visiting Sydney over summer? Don't leave town without checking out this stunning festival programme for a host of fabulous events and activities for everyone. Search for family fun, free events as well as secure some of the hottest tickets in Australia this summer. The Sydney Festival encompasses arts, culture, exhibitions and performances of a multitude of genres and takes place right around the city, which is something of a showcase in itself and makes use of Sydney's spectacular outdoor spaces as well as unique exhibition spaces. Be inspired and experience something exciting and new in one of New Zealanders most visited Australian cities.

See sydneyfestival.org.au

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