

An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The beach is a long, narrow strip of white sand, curving from the bottom left towards the top right. A white helicopter is parked on the sand in the middle. Several people are scattered across the beach, some standing and some sitting. The water is crystal clear, showing various shades of turquoise and blue, with visible coral reefs and sandbars. The sky is bright blue with a few white clouds.

ONLY IN AUSTRALIA

‘LIFE’S A BEACH’...escape to some of the best beaches on the planet and dive into a coastal experience that is so much more than you thought and nothing like anything else....

Whoever said “life’s a beach” must have been referring to Australia. With more than 36,000 km of coastline stretching, 8,000 islands and most beaches than any other place on the planet, there is a lot more to an Australia’s coastal holiday than might be imagined. From native wildlife to a myriad of marine species, Australia is host to a world of unique natural experiences. Let Australia host your escape this winter and dive into something altogether new. With over 1,000 beaches to choose from, there is something to suit your own idea of the perfect coastal holiday. Inside this coastal edition of ‘Only in Australia’ be inspired by incredible marine wildlife, walk amidst

some of the world’s most impressive seascapes, indulge in gourmet dining on the beach, get amongst some great surf breaks or fish for your very own specialty dish of the day.

Australia is the world’s only island continent and whose shores are bathed by the Pacific, Indian and Southern Oceans. Each offers a unique coastal experience as special as each of its oceans. From the pink granite cliffs of Tasmania’s Freycinet to the world class resorts of Queensland’s Tropical North, from coastal adventurer to luxury lounge, select your style and indulge beachside in Australia this winter.

Islands In The Sun

For a tropical coastal indulgence this winter, look north to the tropics of [Queensland](#) and take your pick from a superb selection of island breakaways, each with their very own take on the ultimate island holiday.

From the gateways of Brisbane, Rockhampton and Cairns, it is only a short sea flight to world-class resorts and tropical retreats that will rest and rejuvenate the most winter weary Kiwi.

Take a scenic sea flight from Cairns to [Lizard Island](#) and land on the Great Barrier Reef's northern most resort. Fringed with spectacular coral reefs, 24 secluded powdery white beaches and 40 luxurious suites and villas. Spanning 1,013 hectares of pristine national park, Lizard Island consistently ranks among the world's Top 10 Luxury Resorts.

Considered one of Australia's most remote tropical destinations, Lizard Island boasts an outstanding collection of completely private pavilions, villas and suites, many with captivating ocean views, indulgent day beds and direct access to the island's isolated beaches.



A Natural Wonder – The Great Barrier Reef

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.

The Reef is an enormous, ancient, living organism, composed of live coral gardens growing on inert coral dating back as much as 20 million years. Described as the tropical rainforest of the ocean, this intricate living environment of extraordinary marine diversity is the world's largest coral reef system, so large that it can be seen from space.

A haven for diving and snorkelling, the Reef is home to over 1,600 species of fish, 400 species of hard coral and 150 species of soft coral that form a spectacular underwater world. Dolphins, rays, seahorses, sharks, sea snakes, shellfish and birds also call the Reef home.

Visitors are invited to share in this natural wonder through a range of environmentally sensitive experiences on, in and under the water – some don't even require you to get wet to marvel at this marine wonderland.

Port Douglas – Sea Side Sophistication And Style

Renowned as one of the regions favourite playgrounds for sophisticates, Port Douglas is also the perfect gateway to either the reef or the rainforest – the only place in the world where two World Heritage areas meet.

An easy and scenic 60 minute drive north of the gateway city of Cairns, [Port Douglas](#) presents a vibrant village styled atmosphere amidst excellent cafes, restaurants, galleries and shops.

With expansive coastal views that invite visitors to reach a little further up and out this coastline, Port Douglas is an excellent entrée into your northern Queensland experience and offers a range of accommodation and resort options that allow visitors to make the most of the sumptuous array of local tropical produce and seafood that the region is renowned for.

Port Douglas has also recently undergone an AU\$100m transformation to create one of the world's greatest waterfronts but one that still reflects the tropical, relaxed and unhurried character that is the allure of Port Douglas.



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'Bothfeet' Forward For Ultimate Coastal Walking Adventure

Start by car from the gateway city of Melbourne for just over 2 hours drive to what is regarded as one of the world's top touring routes – [The Great Ocean Road](#).

From here, you can continue driving this spectacular ocean road or put one of Australia's greatest walks beneath your feet – starting at 'Bothfeet Lodge' which marks the midway point of the Great Ocean Walk.

Guests can choose from guided or self guided walks over 7 or 12 days. The walk takes in the iconic [12 Apostles](#). 20 million years old, these giant forms have been carved out of the soft limestone headland over thousands of years of the mighty Southern Ocean crashing against them.

[Bothfeet Walking Lodge](#), was Australia's first dedicated walking lodge. Both the walks and lodge are Advanced Eco-Certified by Eco Tourism Australia, and are committed to sustainable operation as well as an exceptional guest experience that includes foot soaks, massage and the best 'walking cuisine' in Australia.

South Australia's Seafood Trail – Eyre Peninsula

The Eyre Peninsula is a region of contrasts, from the calm beaches of the Spencer Gulf on its eastern flank, spectacular limestone cliffs and shallow lagoons on its western side to glistening salt lakes and vast outback plains in between.

The Eyre Peninsula is Australia's Seafood Frontier, with world-class seafood on offer up and down the coastline. Pick up a rental car and drive a section of the Seafood Trail for a chance to taste and purchase oysters, tuna, mussels, abalone (paua), prawns, and southern rock lobster direct from the local suppliers.

With a coastline stretching 2,000 kilometres, experience some of the unique highlights including swimming with sea lions and dolphins, hand feeding 100kg plus southern blue fin tuna and cage diving with Great White Sharks.

The Eyre Peninsula doubles as both Neptune's playground – and kitchen with both serving up an array of exceptional Oceanside experiences.

The easiest way to access the Eyre Peninsula is via plane to one of three regional airports: Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Ceduna with daily services from Adelaide.



Tasmania's Turquoise Freycinet

A fully protected national park and formed over 400 million years, the [Freycinet Peninsula](#) is a 38 kilometre long promontory of pristine coastland on [Tasmania's](#) east coast. A relaxed drive of just over two hours from either of the gateway cities, Hobart or Launceston, Freycinet Peninsula is a breathtaking scenic combination of pink granite mountains, white sand beaches, crystal clear water and eucalypt forests.

The area is world famous for [Wineglass Bay](#), a perfect arc of pale sand and turquoise water that frequently ranks in lists of the world's best beaches. Another well-known feature of the Freycinet National Park is The Hazards, a unique red and pink rugged mountain chain made from granite that stretch skyward from the ocean making a spectacular backdrop to any onwater excursion such as kayaking.

The area is also a bird lover's paradise, there's been over 130 bird species recorded on the peninsula including yellow-tailed black cockatoos, white-bellied sea eagles and large Australasian gannets.

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EVENTS

AUDI Hamilton Island Race Week 17-24 August

Australia's traditional 'sun sea and sand' events happen beachside over the summer months, however the sun is still shining in the tropical north and there is plenty going on up there.

One of the signature events of the season is the AUDI Hamilton Island Race Week which takes place on [Hamilton Island](#). With direct flights from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, Hamilton Island is one of the most popular and accessible islands as a gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and a destination in itself. With around 70% of the island remaining in its natural state Hamilton Island also presents a raft of nature based activities and outdoor pursuits, that includes excellent golf.

Whilst Hamilton Island hosts a number of annual events, the annual Audi Hamilton Island Race Week is a headline act for which the yachting set flock to the island in August. Other on island events throughout the year include a triathlon and ocean swim, and PGA professional golf tournament.

[AUDI Hamilton Island Race Week](#) is Australia's largest annual offshore keelboat regatta and a firm fixture on the international sailing calendar. Competitors, family and friends come together to enjoy the carnival atmosphere on and off the water that includes gourmet dining, fashion, golf and wine! Hamilton Island Race Week is hosted by the [Hamilton Island Yacht Club](#).

Noosa International Food & Wine Festival Noosa, Queensland May 16-19

Based in [Noosa](#) on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, the [Noosa International Food and Wine Festival](#) is one of Australia's premier food and wine events. The festival features a line-up of more than 200 leading international and national chefs, iconic winemakers, high profile food and wine media, restaurateurs and serious food lovers, who converge on the seaside setting of Noosa to taste, talk, debate, dine and indulge over four days. The festival features an exciting combination of events including long lunches, wine tasting, food trail adventures, concerts, degustation menus, guest chef dinners, produce markets and cooking demonstrations by celebrity chefs.



Gatorade Clash of The Paddles Hamilton Island, Queensland 2-24 June

For all of those on water enthusiasts who have been perfecting their paddle strokes or become hooked on the 'stand up paddle (SUP)' craze over the summer, don't hang up your wet suits just yet!

In June, [Hamilton Island](#) in the Whitsundays hosts one of the world's toughest outrigger canoe racing events, the [Gatorade Clash of the Paddles](#). Formely known as the Hamilton Cup, the event is run over four exciting days, where competitive outriggers are joined by athletes from four other popular paddle disciplines; Surf Ski, Dragon Boating, Stand-Up Paddling and Board Paddling.

Capped off with an exciting off-water entertainment program, the Gatorade Clash of the Paddles is an oarsome event for every type of paddler.

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