



DISCOVER AUSTRALIA'S SECRET TRAVEL STORIES

WITH  australia

Sydney or Melbourne? I'll take both!

Sue Matson

General
Manager Retail
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I've been very fortunate to travel to Australia a number of times, usually for work, but I always try and slip in an extra day so I can take in the sights and relax.

Melbourne is a cultural hub and I always enjoy spending time there exploring the laneways crammed with fine-dining restaurants and fantastic boutique shopping. The city is also full of historic gems and a standout for me is the Old Melbourne Gaol in Russell Street – one of the city's oldest surviving buildings. Melbourne's cafés and restaurants are now world-famous but so are Sydney's – and Sydney also has that harbour! For that reason I always enjoy dining at Cafe Sydney with its wonderful location on the top of the Customs House in Circular Quay. I also love exploring the Rocks



– Sydney's oldest neighbourhood – close by. There are great markets during the weekends. The Art Gallery of Victoria regularly offers wonderful exhibitions, but I think Sydney definitely leads the way with its many established and pop-up art galleries. I always check out what is coming up before I travel because there are often exhibitions by international artists.. On my next trip to Aussie I want to get myself to an evening

show. It is something I have been meaning to do for ages and the Australians have a great reputation for their productions! Whether you're checking out historical sights, cheering at a sporting match, grooving at a music festival or strolling through art galleries, there is definitely something to suit everyone in Melbourne and Sydney. People talk about the rivalry between the two, but I'll happily take both!



Hi, I'm Marea, Cabin Crew at Virgin Australia Airlines. The votes are in and we can now reveal Kiwis favourite Secret Travel Stories of Australia. To view the top stories in each category; Food & Wine, Nature & Wildlife, Culture, and Shopping & Shows and start planning your next Australian adventure visit australiatravelstories.co.nz

5 Things You Didn't Know About Culture

- 1 Culture abounds throughout this ancient land with visitors being spoiled for choice from a rich indigenous culture to popular and urban culture and performing arts right across a wide range of artistic expressions.
- 2 Widely known for its World Heritage Wilderness areas and spectacular flora and fauna, Tasmania is fast gaining a world reputation for its unique artistic offering. The AU\$75m subterranean Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) just outside of Hobart presents a radical new approach to engaging the creative spirit – be sure to sample other sensory delights on offer at Moorilla winery and craft brewery MOO Brew! mona.net.au
- 3 Kings Park Festival Perth 1- 30 September. Welcome in the wildflowers of Western Australia with this spectacular 'Magic of Nature' festival. bgpa.wa.gov.au
- 4 Adelaide has a well earned reputation as 'The Festival State'. This thriving arts scene can be experienced in many ways but for a starting point check out the Adelaide Festival Centre. adelaidefestivalcentre.com
- 5 Melbourne is renowned for its huge, hit shows but also for its fringe festival. From 17 September – 05 October 4000 artists and nearly 300 shows will come together in a spectacle of circus, visual arts, cabaret, dance, theatre and comedy. melbournefringe.com.au

An incredible living landscape



Jenny Aitken

General Manager
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In Darwin in May the temperatures range between 24 and 34 degrees and I'm in heaven, even before I immerse myself in the incredible indigenous art of the Top End. It has long been my passion and at the Outstation Gallery I encounter some of the most impressive contemporary artworks I have ever seen. Outstation promotes established and emerging artists from the Tiwi Islands, Arnhem Land, the Western Desert, the Kimberley and Central and South Australia; the colours and the stories that are told in a wide range of traditional and modern media make you lose all sense of time. Two hundred and forty kilometres east of Darwin, the

World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park abounds with indigenous rock art sites.

At Ubirr you will find paintings up to 20,000 years old; its setting, with panoramic views over floodplains and escarpments, is breathtaking.

At Nourlangie, a circular walk takes visitors through an ancient seasonal dwelling place for Aboriginal people with depictions of stories and ancestors from time past. The human expressions of cultural identity and connection to country you find here are among the oldest in the world and they make Kakadu a truly living landscape. And another powerful reason why I love Australia.

Kiwis' favourite secret travel stories of Australia revealed now australiatravelstories.co.nz

