

Contents at a Glance

Introduction	1
Part I: Introducing Australia	7
Chapter 1: Discovering the Best of Australia	9
Chapter 2: Digging Deeper into Australia	17
Chapter 3: Deciding When and Where to Go	26
Chapter 4: Following an Itinerary: Four Great Options	36
Part II: Planning Your Trip to Australia	45
Chapter 5: Managing Your Money	47
Chapter 6: Getting to Australia	58
Chapter 7: Getting Around Australia	66
Chapter 8: Booking Your Accommodations	79
Chapter 9: Catering to Special Needs or Interests	87
Chapter 10: Taking Care of the Remaining Details	96
Part III: Sydney, Melbourne, and the Australian Capital Territory	105
Chapter 11: Sydney	107
Chapter 12: The Best of New South Wales	174
Chapter 13: Melbourne	194
Chapter 14: The Best of Victoria	224
Chapter 15: Canberra/ACT	235
Part IV: Brisbane, Queensland, and the Great Barrier Reef	247
Chapter 16: Brisbane	249
Chapter 17: Queensland and the Best of the Great Barrier Reef	269
Part V: The Red Centre and the Top End	349
Chapter 18: The Best of the Red Centre	351
Chapter 19: The Best of the Top End	374
Part VI: The South and West	399
Chapter 20: Adelaide and the Best of South Australia	401
Chapter 21: Perth and the Best of Western Australia	430
Part VII: Tasmania	461
Chapter 22: Tasmania	463
Chapter 23: Exploring the Rest of Tasmania	476

Part VIII: The Part of Tens.....	487
Chapter 24: Ten Convict Connections	489
Chapter 25: Ten Expressions You Need to Know	496
Appendix: Quick Concierge.....	498
Index.....	508

Maps at a Glance

Australia.....	28
Sydney Harbour Area.....	111
Central Sydney Hotels	118
Central Sydney Dining	132
Sydney Attractions	146
The Blue Mountains	175
The Hunter Valley.....	185
Central Melbourne Hotels and Dining	203
Central Melbourne Attractions	213
Victoria.....	225
Canberra	239
Brisbane.....	254
Queensland	272
Cairns	283
Port Douglas, Daintree, and Cape Tribulation	295
The Whitsunday Region.....	313
Central Queensland Coast.....	325
The Gold Coast	337
The Red Centre	353
Alice Springs	357
The Northern Territory	375
Darwin	381
Kakadu National Park.....	391
South Australia	403
Hotels, Dining, and Sightseeing in Adelaide	407
The Barossa.....	417
Kangaroo Island	422
Perth.....	435
Margaret River Region	455
Tasmania	465
Hobart	467

Table of Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	1
About This Book.....	1
Conventions Used in This Book	2
Foolish Assumptions	3
How This Book Is Organized.....	3
Part I: Introducing Australia	3
Part II: Planning Your Trip to Australia	3
Part III: Sydney, Melbourne, and the Australian Capital Territory	4
Part IV: Brisbane, Queensland, and the Great Barrier Reef	4
Part V: The Red Centre and the Top End	4
Part VI: The South and West.....	4
Part VII: Tasmania.....	4
Part VIII: The Part of Tens.....	4
Icons Used in This Book.....	5
Where to Go from Here.....	5
<i>Part 1: Introducing Australia</i>	7
Chapter 1: Discovering the Best of Australia	9
The Best Luxury Hotels.....	9
The Best Moderate and Alternative Accommodations	10
The Best Dining Experiences.....	11
The Best Museums.....	12
The Best of Aboriginal Culture	12
The Best Natural Scenery	13
The Best Places to Snorkel and Dive	14
The Best Wildlife Viewing	15
The Best Beaches.....	15
The Best Places for a Bushwalk	16
Chapter 2: Digging Deeper into Australia	17
History 101: The Main Events.....	17
Taking In Australia's Landscape.....	19
Meeting Australia's Unique Animals	20
Meeting the People Down Under	22
The Aboriginal people.....	22
How immigration has changed Australia's population.....	24

Eating and Drinking in Australia	24
All about Australian wine.....	24
Australian for “beer,” mate!	25
Chapter 3: Deciding When and Where to Go	26
Going Everywhere You Want to Be	26
Sydney and New South Wales	27
Melbourne and Victoria	27
Canberra and the Australian Capital Territory	27
Brisbane, Queensland, and the Great Barrier Reef	30
The Red Centre	30
The Top End	30
Perth and Western Australia	31
Adelaide and South Australia.....	31
Tasmania.....	31
Scheduling Your Time.....	31
Revealing the Secrets of the Seasons	32
Perusing a Calendar of Events.....	33
January.....	33
February.....	33
March	33
April.....	34
May	34
June.....	34
July.....	34
August	34
September.....	34
October	35
November	35
December	35
Chapter 4: Following an Itinerary: Four Great Options	36
Seeing Australia’s Highlights in One Week.....	37
Seeing More of Australia in Two Weeks	39
Discovering Australia with Kids	41
Wining and Dining (and Wildflowers) in Margaret River, Western Australia	42

Part II: Planning Your Trip to Australia.....45

Chapter 5: Managing Your Money.....	47
Planning Your Budget	47
Transportation.....	47
Lodging.....	48

Dining	49
Sightseeing.....	49
Shopping and nightlife	50
Cutting Costs — But Not the Fun	50
Handling Money	52
Using ATMs and carrying cash.....	52
Charging ahead with credit cards.....	54
Toting traveler’s checks	54
Taking Taxes into Account	55
Dealing with a Lost or Stolen Wallet	55
Chapter 6: Getting to Australia	58
Flying to Australia (and Stops along the Way)	58
The major airports (and which airlines fly into them)	59
Getting the Best Deal on Your Airfare	60
Working with consolidators	61
Booking your flight online	61
Considering an Escorted or Package Tour	62
Choosing a package tour	64
Chapter 7: Getting Around Australia.....	66
Making Your Way Around Australia.....	66
By plane	66
By train.....	69
By bus.....	71
By car	72
Chapter 8: Booking Your Accommodations.....	79
Staying in Style	80
Hotels	80
Serviced apartments	82
Motels and motor inns	82
Bed-and-breakfast inns (B&Bs).....	82
Staying on an Aussie farm.....	83
Finding the Best Room at the Best Rate.....	84
Surfing the Web for hotel deals.....	84
Reserving the best room.....	85
Chapter 9: Catering to Special Needs or Interests	87
Traveling with the Brood: Advice for Families	87
Making Age Work for You: Tips for Seniors	88
Accessing Australia: Advice for Travelers with Disabilities	89
Following the Rainbow: Resources for Gay and Lesbian Travelers	90
Active Australia: Where to Go for the Gusto	91

Scuba diving	92
Bushwalking (hiking).....	93
Biking.....	94
Bird-watching	94
Canoeing and sea kayaking.....	94
Fishing	95
Golf.....	95
Sailing	95
Chapter 10: Taking Care of the Remaining Details	96
Getting a Passport.....	96
Applying for a U.S. passport.....	97
Applying for passports in other countries	97
Getting a visa for your trip to Australia.....	98
Playing It Safe: Travel and Medical Insurance.....	99
Staying Healthy When You Travel.....	100
Spiders, snakes, and other beasties	101
Slip, slop, slap in the sun	102
Staying Connected by Cellphone	102
Accessing the Internet away from Home	103
Keeping Up with Airline Security Measures	104
Part III: Sydney, Melbourne, and the Australian Capital Territory	105
Chapter 11: Sydney.....	107
Getting There.....	108
By air	108
By train.....	108
By bus.....	108
By cruise ship.....	108
By car	108
Getting from the Airport into Sydney	109
Finding Information after You Arrive.....	109
Orienting Yourself in Sydney	110
Introducing the Neighbourhoods.....	112
Circular Quay	112
The Rocks	112
Town Hall	112
Darling Harbour	112
Kings Cross and the suburbs beyond	112
Paddington/Oxford Street.....	113
Darlinghurst.....	113
Central.....	113

Newtown	113
Glebe.....	113
Bondi and the southern beaches.....	113
Watsons Bay	113
The North Shore	113
Manly and the northern beaches.....	114
Balmain	114
Homebush Bay	114
Getting Around Sydney	114
By train.....	114
By bus.....	114
By car	115
By ferry	116
By monorail and tram	116
By taxi.....	117
By water taxi.....	117
Staying in Style	117
Getting a deal on a good hotel	121
The top hotels	122
Runner-up hotels	129
Dining Out	131
Cafe culture.....	144
Exploring Sydney	145
Sydney Harbour	145
Exploring The Rocks.....	149
Darling Harbour attractions	151
Other top attractions	152
Attractions in the Sydney suburbs	154
More cool things to see and do.....	154
Getting a Tan on Sydney's Beaches	155
Sydney's best beaches	156
Sydney's Parks and National Parks.....	157
Exploring Sydney by Guided Tour	159
Harbor tours and cruises.....	159
Bus tours.....	161
Walking tours.....	162
Shopping the Local Stores	163
The best shopping areas.....	163
What to look for and where to find it	163
Living It Up after Dark	167
The performing arts	167
All that jazz and more	168
Dance clubs	168
Gay and lesbian clubs	169
The bar scene.....	170
Fast Facts: Sydney.....	171

Chapter 12: The Best of New South Wales174

The Blue Mountains.....	174
Getting to Katoomba	175
Guided tours from Sydney.....	176
Finding information on the Blue Mountains.....	176
Getting around the Blue Mountains	177
Orienting yourself in the Blue Mountains.....	177
Introducing the neighbourhoods	178
Staying in style	179
Dining out.....	181
Exploring the Blue Mountains.....	182
The Hunter Valley: Wining and Dining.....	184
Getting to the Hunter Valley	184
Finding information after you arrive	185
Visiting the wineries	186
Fun ways to see the wineries	186
The top hotels	187
The best places to eat	189
Outback New South Wales: Broken Hill.....	190
Getting to Broken Hill.....	191
Getting information after you arrive	191
Getting around Broken Hill.....	191
Cool things to see and do	192
Around Broken Hill	192
Staying in Broken Hill	193
Dining locally.....	193

Chapter 13: Melbourne.....194

Getting There.....	194
By plane	194
By train.....	196
By bus.....	196
By car	196
Orienting Yourself in Melbourne.....	197
Introducing the Neighbourhoods.....	197
City Center	197
Chinatown.....	197
Carlton.....	197
Fitzroy	197
Richmond.....	198
Southgate and Southbank.....	198
Docklands	198
St. Kilda	198
South Yarra/Prahan	198
South Melbourne	198

The River District.....	199
Williamstown	199
Finding Information after You Arrive.....	199
Getting Around Melbourne	200
By tram.....	200
By bus.....	201
By taxi.....	201
By car	201
By boat	201
Staying in Style	202
The top hotels	202
The runner-up hotels	206
Dining Out	207
Exploring Melbourne	212
The top attractions.....	212
More cool things to see and do.....	215
Shopping the Local Stores	216
Living It Up after Dark	217
Finding out what’s happening	217
Raising the curtain on performing arts and music.....	218
Checking out the club and bar scene.....	219
A Day Trip from Melbourne: Phillip Island	220
Getting there.....	220
Getting information after you arrive	221
The top attraction.....	221
Fast Facts: Melbourne	221
Chapter 14: The Best of Victoria	224
Driving the Great Ocean Road	224
Finding information along the way	226
Staying along the Great Ocean Road	226
Dining along the Great Ocean Road.....	228
Exploring the Great Ocean Road.....	228
Taking a guided tour along the Great Ocean Road.....	229
The High Country.....	230
Getting to the High Country	231
Finding information along the way	232
Where to stay in the High Country	232
Exploring the High Country.....	233
Chapter 15: Canberra/ACT	235
Getting There.....	235
By air	236
By train.....	236

By bus.....	236
By car	237
Orienting Yourself in Canberra.....	237
Introducing the Neighbourhoods.....	237
Finding Information after You Arrive.....	238
Getting Around Canberra.....	238
Staying in Style	238
The top hotels	240
Dining Out	241
Exploring Canberra.....	244
The top attractions.....	244
Guided tours.....	245
Living It Up after Dark	245
Fast Facts: Canberra	246

***Part IV: Brisbane, Queensland, and the
Great Barrier Reef.....247***

Chapter 16: Brisbane249

Getting There.....	249
By plane	249
By train.....	250
By bus.....	251
By car	251
Orienting Yourself in Brisbane	251
Introducing the Neighbourhoods.....	252
Finding information after you arrive	252
Getting Around Brisbane.....	253
By bus.....	253
By ferry	256
By train.....	256
By car	256
On foot.....	256
Staying in Style	257
The top hotels	257
A great B&B	258
Dining Out	258
Exploring Brisbane.....	262
The top attractions.....	262
Guided tours.....	263
Shopping the Local Stores	264
Living It Up after Dark	265
Finding out what's happening	265
Raising the curtain on performing arts and music.....	265

Checking out the club and pub scene266
 Cool spots for jazz and blues267
 Fast Facts: Brisbane.....267

**Chapter 17: Queensland and the Best of the
 Great Barrier Reef269**

Getting to and Around Queensland269
 By plane269
 By train.....270
 By car270
 Secrets of the Seasons270
 Discovering the Great Barrier Reef270
 Learning about the Reef before you hit
 the water271
 Ways to see the Reef.....271
 Deciding where to base yourself.....274
 Making day trips to the Reef274
 Major reef sites to visit275
 Diving the Reef279
 Welcome to Cairns282
 Getting to Cairns282
 Orienting yourself in Cairns285
 Getting around Cairns285
 Staying in Cairns and the northern beaches286
 Dining in Cairns288
 Exploring Cairns.....289
 Going Beyond Cairns292
 A day trip to Kuranda.....292
 Port Douglas, Daintree, and Cape Tribulation294
 Discovering the national parks302
 Mission Beach and Islands.....304
 Getting to Mission Beach.....305
 Finding information after you arrive305
 Getting around Mission Beach.....306
 Staying in Mission Beach306
 Exploring the Reef and rain forest from
 Mission Beach306
 Townsville and More Islands308
 Getting to Townsville.....308
 Finding information after you arrive309
 Getting around Townsville.....309
 Staying in Townsville.....309
 Dining in Townsville310
 Exploring the Reef.....310
 Exploring Townsville311

The Whitsundays	312
Getting to the Whitsunday region.....	314
Finding information after you arrive	315
Getting around the mainland and islands.....	316
Staying on the Whitsunday Coast and Islands	316
Dining in Airlie Beach.....	320
Exploring the Whitsundays	321
The Capricorn Coast and Heron Island.....	323
Getting to the Capricorn Coast	324
Finding information after you arrive	325
Staying on the Capricorn Coast and Islands	326
Exploring the Capricorn Coast and Islands.....	328
The Sunshine Coast	330
Getting to the Sunshine Coast.....	330
Finding information after you arrive	331
Getting around the Sunshine Coast.....	331
Staying on the Sunshine Coast	332
Dining on the Sunshine Coast	333
Exploring the Sunshine Coast	335
The Gold Coast.....	336
Getting to the Gold Coast	338
Finding information after you arrive	339
Getting around the Gold Coast.....	339
Staying on the Gold Coast.....	340
Dining on the Gold Coast	342
Exploring the Gold Coast	343

***Part V: The Red Centre and the Top End*349**

Chapter 18: The Best of the Red Centre.....351

Getting to the Red Centre	351
By air	351
By train.....	352
By bus.....	352
By car	354
Surviving the Red Centre	355
Secrets of the seasons.....	355
Permits	355
Water	355
Clothes	355
Alice Springs	355
Orienting yourself in Alice Springs.....	356
Finding information after you arrive	356
Getting around Alice Springs.....	356
Organized tours	358
Staying in style	358

Dining out.....	359
Exploring Alice Springs.....	361
Fast Facts: Alice Springs.....	364
Kings Canyon.....	364
Getting there.....	364
Exploring the park.....	365
Staying in style.....	365
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park (Ayers Rock/ The Olgas).....	366
Getting there.....	367
Visitor information.....	367
Getting around.....	368
Guided tours.....	369
Staying in style.....	370
Chapter 19: The Best of the Top End.....	374
Getting There.....	374
By plane.....	376
By train.....	376
By bus.....	376
Orienting Yourself in Darwin.....	377
Getting Around Darwin.....	377
By bus.....	377
By taxi.....	377
By car.....	377
On foot.....	378
Secrets of the Seasons.....	378
Staying in Style.....	379
The top hotels.....	379
Dining Out.....	380
Exploring Darwin.....	383
The top attractions.....	383
More cool things to see and do.....	385
Guided tours.....	386
Shopping the Local Stores.....	386
Aboriginal art.....	387
South Sea pearls and jewels.....	387
Crocodile styles.....	387
Living It Up after Dark.....	387
Fast Facts: Darwin.....	388
Heading to Kakadu.....	390
Getting to Kakadu.....	390
Seeing the sights en route to Kakadu.....	390
Finding information after you arrive.....	392
Where to stay and dine in Kakadu.....	393
Exploring Kakadu.....	395

Part VI: The South and West.....399**Chapter 20: Adelaide and the Best of****South Australia401**

Getting There.....	402
By air	402
By train.....	402
By bus.....	403
Orienting Yourself in Adelaide	404
Introducing the Neighbourhoods.....	404
Finding Information after You Arrive.....	404
Getting Around Adelaide.....	404
By bus.....	404
By tram.....	405
By taxi.....	405
By car	405
Staying in Style	406
The top hotels	406
Runner-up hotels	408
Dining Out	409
Exploring Adelaide.....	412
The top attractions.....	412
More cool things to see and do.....	413
Living It Up after Dark	414
Fast Facts: Adelaide	414
Wining and Dining in the Barossa	415
Getting there.....	415
Getting information in the Barossa	416
Touring the wineries.....	416
Staying in style	418
Dining in the Barossa	420
Hahndorf: Just Like the Old Country.....	420
Staying in style	421
Dining out.....	421
Meeting Marsupials on Kangaroo Island.....	421
Getting there.....	423
Visitor information	424
Island layout	424
Getting around Kangaroo Island.....	425
Organized tours	425
Staying in style	426
Dining locally.....	427
The top attractions.....	428
More cool things to see and do.....	429

Chapter 21: Perth and the Best of Western

Australia430

- Getting to Western Australia431
 - By air431
 - By train.....432
- Introducing the Neighbourhoods.....432
- Getting Around Perth433
 - On foot.....433
 - By bus.....433
 - By tram.....433
 - By bike.....433
 - By car433
 - By train.....434
 - By ferry434
 - By taxi.....434
- Staying in Style in Perth436
 - The top hotels436
- Dining in Perth.....439
- The Top Attractions.....443
 - More cool things to see and do.....445
- Hitting the Beaches.....446
- The Shopping Scene447
 - Art and crafts447
 - Aboriginal arts and crafts.....447
 - Jewelry447
- Perth after Dark.....448
 - The performing arts448
 - Hitting the pubs and nightclubs448
- Fast Facts: Perth.....449
- A Day Out in Fremantle450
 - Getting around Fremantle.....451
 - Finding information after you arrive451
 - Seeing the sights in Fremantle451
- Wining and Dining in Margaret River.....453
 - Getting to Margaret River454
 - Getting information after you arrive456
 - Getting around Margaret River456
 - The wines of Margaret River456
 - A food journey in Margaret River457
 - Staying in Margaret River.....458
 - Dining in Margaret River459

Part VII: Tasmania461

Chapter 22: Tasmania.....463

Getting There.....	463
By air	463
By ferry	464
Orienting Yourself in Hobart.....	466
Introducing Hobart's Neighbourhoods	466
Finding Information after You Arrive.....	466
Getting Around and Touring Hobart.....	468
Staying in Style in Hobart.....	468
The top hotels	469
Runner-up hotels	470
Dining Out	470
Exploring Hobart.....	472
The top attractions.....	472
More cool things to see and do.....	474
Living It Up after Dark	474
Fast Facts: Hobart	475

Chapter 23: Exploring the Rest of Tasmania476

Convict Heritage in Port Arthur.....	476
Getting there.....	476
Exploring Port Arthur	477
Exploring Freycinet National Park	478
Getting there.....	478
Getting information after you arrive	478
Exploring the park	479
Spending the night in the park.....	479
Visiting Launceston, Tasmania's Second City	479
Getting there.....	480
Spending the night in Launceston	480
Dining locally.....	482
The top attraction.....	483
More cool things to see and do.....	483
Exploring Cradle Mountain and Lake St. Clair	
National Park	483
Getting there.....	484
Finding information after you arrive	484
Exploring the park	484
Staying in style	485

Part VIII: The Part of Tens.....487

Chapter 24: Ten Convict Connections489

Fort Denison, Sydney Harbour	489
Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney.....	490
Richmond Gaol, Tasmania	490
Cascades Female Factory, Tasmania	491
Port Arthur, Tasmania	491
Maria Island, Tasmania.....	492
Fremantle Prison, Western Australia	493
St. Helena Island: “The Hell Hole of the Pacific”	493
Commissariat Store, Brisbane	494
The Old Windmill, Brisbane.....	494

Chapter 25: Ten Expressions You Need to Know496

Buckley’s Chance	496
Dag	496
Drongo	496
Dunny	497
Fair Dinkum.....	497
G’day.....	497
Hard Yakka	497
Stubby.....	497
Tucker.....	497
You Right?	497

Appendix: Quick Concierge.....498

Fast Facts	498
Toll-Free Numbers and Web Sites	503
Where to Get More Information	505
Official tourist offices	505
State and territory tourism Web sites.....	506
Tourist information for major cities.....	506
National park visitor Web sites	507

Index.....508

