

Australia Uncovered

Summer Time in Australia

Now that summer is finally here there's no better time for a holiday in Australia to make the most of its spectacular coast, great weather and unique experiences.

In this issue of Australia Uncovered our destination profile is on the South West in Western Australia. This remarkable destination just three hours drive from Perth has it all; spectacular scenery, great food and wine and superb accommodation. Australia is renowned for its fantastic wine destinations;

Hunter Valley, Barossa, Yarra Valley, Margaret River just to name a few. Now we have another one to add to the list – Geelong in Victoria. You can read more about why this has been tipped as the new hot spot below. We also have some great new product ideas to share including a luxury sailing experience in

South Australia, a new way to see Uluru and a behind the scenes zoo experience for the kids.

For more inspiration about exciting Australian holiday ideas for your clients go to Australia.com. To book any of these tours, products or events contact your local wholesaler.



Outback Ballooning introduces new Uluru experience

For the first time ever, [Outback Ballooning](#) has introduced a new offering allowing visitors to witness the splendour of Uluru from the air. The land over which the balloon will fly is unchanged by humans, outside the National Park and has never before been accessible to visitors without special permits. Outback Ballooning will be available from March 2012.



Geelong Wine Region a new hotspot for wine tourists

The [Geelong Wine Region](#) is emerging as a new 'must-visit' destination for wine-loving tourists since Australian 'wine bible' The Halliday Wine Companion has awarded more than 80% of the region's wineries an impressive four or higher star rating in its just-released 2012 edition.

The Geelong Wine Region comprises of three 'subregions': The Bellarine, Moorabool Valley and Surf Coast. Only an hour's drive from Melbourne the Geelong Wine Region is a perfect stop for international visitors on route to the Great Ocean Road.

Junior Keeper for a Day at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary

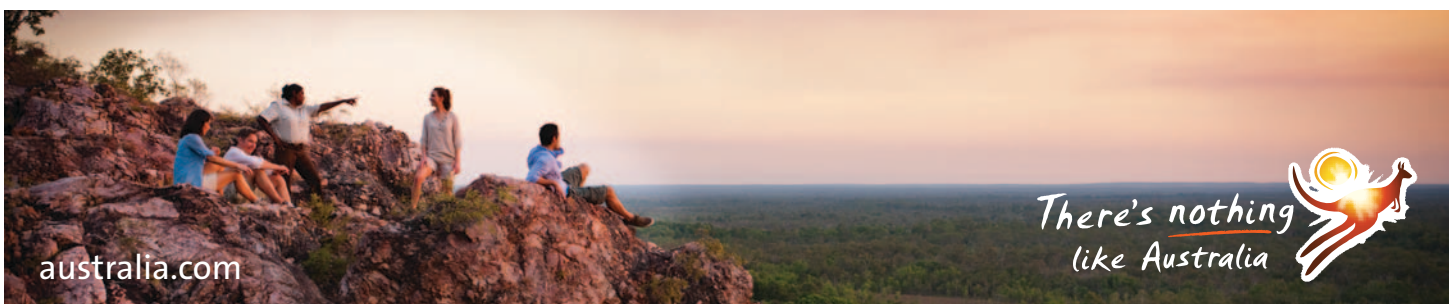
[Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary](#) in Brisbane is reintroducing their Junior Keeper for a Day Program for the summer holidays.

The fully supervised day is a dream come true for animal loving 5-12 year olds who undergo tasks of a wildlife officer and even get a peek behind the scenes. They also have the opportunity to escort dingoes or wombats on their daily walks, get close to scaly snakes and pretend to be a tree for the owls and koalas. The program includes fully supervised keeper tasks and activities, junior keeper badge, participation certificate, morning tea and a professional koala cuddle photo.



Five-star Sailing in South Australia

A new five-star sailing experience is available in South Australia allowing guests to experience the Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island in the lap of luxury. Guests of [Kangaroo Island Sailing](#) can set sail on the 21-metre luxury ketch, Lady Eugenie for a scenic day sail along the Fleurieu Peninsula or sip champagne on a romantic twilight cruise. Also departing from the Fleurieu Peninsula, the three day all-inclusive Kangaroo Island adventure combines the relaxing on-board experience with a full day Kangaroo Island tour so guests can see the best of this remarkable island. Guests are treated to delicious fresh local produce cooked by an onboard chef and served alongside fantastic South Australian beer and wines. Corporate packages and tailor-made options are also available.



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PROFILE ON:



Western Australia's Spectacular South West

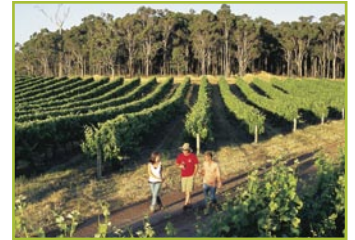
Ranked as one of the world's Top 10 Regions for 2010 by Lonely Planet, Australia's [South West](#) in Western Australia is a destination that really packs a punch. Vineyards and superb food and wine establishments sit nicely amongst this region's stunning natural landscape of

ancient forests and a pristine coastline. The South West is an ocean lover's paradise with beautiful bays and beaches offering excellent surfing, swimming, diving and snorkelling. All of this is just a leisurely three hours drive from Perth.

Wine and Dine in Margaret River

[Margaret River](#) is the heart of the South West, and an essential stop for anyone who visits the region. Once a small surfing community, this beautiful destination has evolved into a gourmet paradise with wineries, restaurants and a proud tradition of local produce.

Many of the cellar doors in Margaret River have restaurants, cafes and even galleries, adding a little luxury to the experience. There are also plenty of local experts on hand to educate visitors about the locally produced wine and why the region has earned its international fame. Margaret River is hot spot for



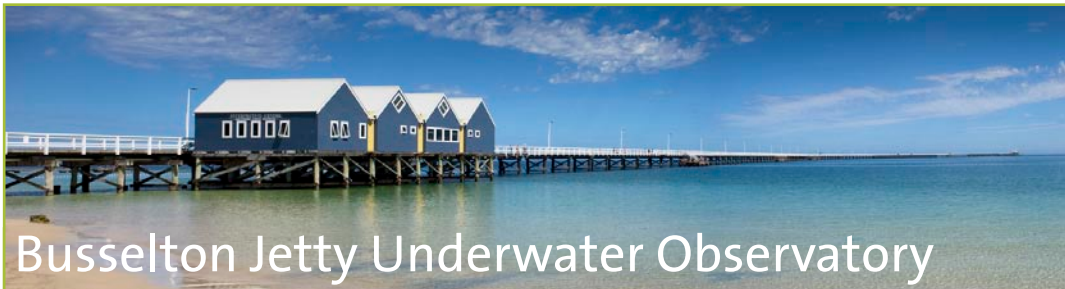
adventurous travellers too. Here in this stunning corner of Western Australia you can surf, whale watch, swim with dolphins and explore the area's extraordinary caving system.

Getting There

Australia's South West is located in the south west corner of Western Australia and is just a scenic three hours drive from Perth. The region is relatively compact with short, scenic drives between towns making it ideal as a self drive destination but it can also be accessed by public rail, coach, scheduled flights and extended tours from Perth.

Tree Top Walk in the Valley of the Giants

The South West is well regarded for its spectacular forests and one of the best ways to experience them is the [Tree Top Walk in the Valley of the Giants](#). Located in Denmark, visitors can walk at nearly 40 metres high through tingle tree forest through trees that reach up to 75 metres. The 600m long tree top walk has spectacular views of the forest canopy and surrounding wilderness areas and is suitable for all levels of fitness as well as wheelchairs and strollers.



Busselton Jetty Underwater Observatory

At 1.8 kilometres long, [Busselton Jetty](#) is the longest timber-piled jetty in the Southern Hemisphere. This iconic Western Australia feature has re-opened earlier this year following an AUD \$27 million refurbishment. The jetty, which stretches across

Geographe Bay, features a Jetty Train, swimming and diving platforms, heritage sculptures and an Underwater Observatory. The Underwater Observatory allows visitors to descend 12 metres down to the Ocean floor via a spiral staircase. Below the surface is Australia's greatest

artificial reef, teaming with vividly coloured tropical and sub-tropical fish, corals and other marine life. The Underwater Observatory has eleven viewing windows at various levels allowing visitors to view the amazing underwater garden at different depths.

Seashells at Yallingup

[Seashells at Yallingup](#) is an ideal accommodation option for visitors to the Margaret River region. This 4.5 star property offers a variety of accommodation including studio spa rooms or fully self contained apartments. Nestled amongst stunning gardens and by the sea at Yallingup beach, Seashells is an ideal location from which to explore the South West region.



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Calendar Down Under

Events and Festivals

From huge festivals, to quirky community events, there are a multitude of events happening all over Australia this summer. Below are some of the major events that are coming up, or for a comprehensive database that you can use to turn your client's holiday into something truly special go to Australia.com/events.

Picasso: Masterpieces from the Musee National Picasso, Paris **12 Nov 2011-25 Mar 2012**

The greatest Picasso exhibition ever to come to Australia will be held this summer at the Art Gallery New South Wales. The exhibition will showcase some 150 paintings, drawings and sculptures. artgallery.nsw.gov.au

Harry Potter: The Exhibition **19 Nov 2011-18 Mar 2012**

Step inside the famous wizard's magical world with 'Harry Potter™: The Exhibition', opening at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. Visitors can get up-close and personal look at the artistry and craftsmanship that went into creating the iconic props and costumes that have appeared throughout the 'Harry Potter™' film series. powerhousemuseum.com

The Taste Festival **27 Dec 2011-02 Jan 2012**

The Taste Festival celebrates Tasmanian food, produce, arts, culture and sporting activities. Held at the stunning Hobart waterfront, the Taste Festival allows participants to not only sample some of the best food, wine, beer and beverages in Tasmania but also the opportunity to learn about the journey from paddock to plate. tastefestival.com.au

Sydney Festival 2012 **07-29 Jan 2012**

Every January Sydney comes alive with a whole calendar of events covering dance, theatre, music and more. Sydney Festival kicks off with Festival First Night, a large-scale free event in the city's parks, streets and laneways and also features three free massive outdoor concerts in The Domain. sydneyfestival.org.au

World Tennis Challenge Adelaide **10 – 12 Jan 2012**

Four teams each featuring one current champion and one legend player compete over this three night international tennis event in Adelaide to be crowned the WTC Champion team. worldtennischallenge.com

MONA FOMA **13-22 Jan, 2012**

An annual festival in Hobart, Tasmania of eccentric, creative, world famous or little known, new and exciting music & art curated by rock legend Brian Ritchie of the Violent Femmes.

Crush Festival 2012 **30-31 Jan 2012**

Taste fabulous Adelaide Hills wine alongside music, art, fashion and fabulous fare in the stunning Adelaide Hills region at the annual Crush Festival. crushfestival.com.au

Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show **28 Mar-01 Apr 2012**

Ranked among the top five flower shows in the world, the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show features the best landscape and floral talent that Australia has to offer alongside an extensive array of garden retail product. melbflowershow.com.au

Australian Open of Surfing **11-19 Feb 2012**

A brand new global event set to take place at Sydney's iconic Manly Beach. The event will showcase the best in surfing, skate, music, fashion and art with an expected spectator audience of 125,000. aspworldtour.com

Adelaide Fringe 2012 **24 Feb-18 Mar 2012**

The annual Adelaide Fringe is Australia's largest arts festival and features a huge variety of shows and events in quirky venues including circus tents and other unique locations. The festival is centred in Rundle Park which is free to enter and comes alive with colourful tents, rides, food and market stalls and pop up bars. adelaidefringe.com.au

Perth ISAF Sailing World Champs and Worlds Festival **03-18 Dec 2011**

Thousands of competitors, supporters and socialites will soon descend on Perth for one of the world's biggest and most elite sailing events and its vibrant sideline event - the 'World's Festival'.

International rock superstars INXS will launch the Perth 2011 Worlds Festival with a one-off show in Fremantle. The remainder of the Worlds Festival which will feature more than 250 free activities and events that include the best of West Australian and international artists and contributors. perth2011.com/worlds-festival

