

# Australia Uncovered

## G'day and Happy New Year!

This issue of Australia Uncovered features a destination profile on Australia's stunning island state - Tasmania.

The summer and autumn months are a great time to visit Tasmania and discover its stunning landscape, turbulent history and fantastic food and

wine.

We also have a range of other news from around Australia to share with you and a selection of upcoming major

events. For more inspiration for unforgettable Australian holidays visit [Australia.com](http://Australia.com). To book any of the featured tours, events or accommodation for your clients contact your preferred wholesaler.



### Ahoy! Scale a Tall Ship Mast on Sydney's Harbour

[Sydney Harbour Tall Ships](#) is taking guests to new heights with the launch of the new Mast Climb experience. The Mast Climb is available as an add-on experience to the two hour harbour cruise on board Sydney's only authentic tall ship the Southern Swan. The adventurous 15-metre high Mast Climb is an incredible way to witness the views of the spectacular Sydney Harbour. Nowhere else is climbing the mast of a tall ship commercially available.

## Record Number of Events for Western Australia in 2012

[Western Australia's 2012 events calendar](#) has revealed a record 84 events for the state this year including Australia's richest golf tournament. The US\$2 million 'Perth International' will be held in October at Lake Karrinyup Country Club and is expected to attract some of the world's best golfers. The Perth International will be the only tournament sanctioned by the European

Tour and is expected to draw thousands of visitors to Western Australia and generate extensive television coverage worldwide. Another major upcoming event for Western Australia is the Action Sports Games in



Mandurah which will take place in March. Headlining the Games will be a round of the International Waterski and Wakeboard Federation World Cup. It will be the first time an IWWF World Cup has been hosted in Australia.

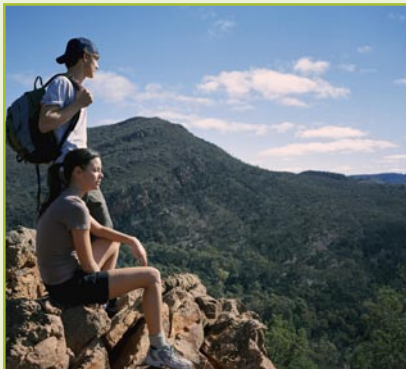
## Outback Walking Tours

Award-winning [Rawnsley Park Station](#) has launched a range of three and five day outback walking tours that will showcase the best of the spectacular Flinders Ranges in South Australia.

The tours commence in April and will be guided by renowned bushwalking author, Kym Tillbrook.

The guided walks will enable guests to get up close with the wildlife and incorporate highlights like mountain climbs with panoramic views and campfire dinners under the stars. The tours include luxury eco-villa or cabin-style accommodation and all meals.

Adelaide is the closest city to the Outback, and the Flinders Ranges are an easy 5 hour drive north of Adelaide via the scenic Clare Valley wine region.



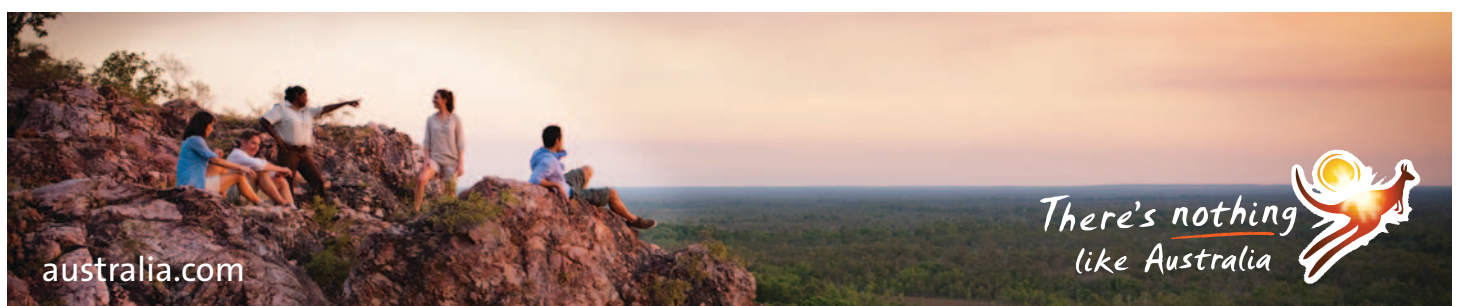
## Turtle Hatchlings, Mon Repos

The annual [turtle hatching season](#) has just begun in Mon Repos near Bundaberg in Queensland.

More than 400 loggerhead turtles come to this spot to lay their eggs between November and January. The fragile eggs will now continue to hatch until March and masses of tiny turtles will emerge from the sand and scurry across the beach into the ocean.



The area is well set up for turtle viewing making it an incredible experience for animal lovers.



[australia.com](http://australia.com)

There's nothing like Australia 

# Australia Uncovered

## PROFILE ON:



## Tasmania

Australia's island state is a beautiful destination with exceptional food and wine, a vibrant arts scene and a huge range of unique outdoor activities to complement its spectacular scenery. The capital of Tasmania, Hobart, is a stylish harbour side city which combines a rich heritage and diverse culture. There are many attractions within a 90 minute drive from Hobart including the impressive

MONA (Museum of Old and New Art), the fascinating historical sites of Port Arthur and the spectacular sea cliffs and pristine waters of Bruny Island. Venture further afield in Tasmania and visitors can explore the long white beaches of the East Coast, the vineyards of the Tamar Valley and the beautiful forests, rivers and mountains of the Western Wilderness.

## New Food Tour Uncovers Hobart's Gourmet Delights

Tasmania is a foodie haven, but it always helps to know the hot spots and local treasures. The newly launched [Gourmania Food Tours](#) leads visitors on a gourmet journey in and around Hobart where they are introduced to local cafes, providers, fine restaurants and the talented people behind them. Guests are able to sample Tasmanian produce and wine along the way, as well as discovering the unique local culture and urban history.

## Bonnet Island Experience

A signature experience at Strahan on Tasmania's West Coast, [The Bonnet Island Experience](#) offers the rare opportunity to go ashore on tiny island at the mouth of Macquarie Harbour. The island is home to a thriving colony of Little Penguins and Short-Tailed Shearwaters. In all weathers, these amazing birds spend their days fishing at sea, returning each evening at dusk to their burrows on the island.



## Unique Accommodation in the Tasmanian Highlands

The Nant Highland House is a country estate cottage situated in a quiet and peaceful location on the [Nant Estate](#) at Bothwell in the Central Highlands of Tasmania. Sleeping up to 9 guests, accommodation is available with exclusive use of the entire house. Activities include guided fly fishing to the highland lakes, clay pigeon shooting on the estate, and golf at the neighbouring Ratho Golf Course with all equipment available onsite at the Estate.



Guests can also enjoy a private in depth whisky tasting and master class and then sit and relax in front of an open fire in the atrium whisky lounge. Private tours of the distillery and mill can also be arranged.

## How to Get There

Tasmania is well serviced with flights from both Melbourne and Sydney. Air New Zealand now offers codeshare flights to Tasmania from New Zealand so getting there has never been easier. Visitors can also access Tasmania by a full day or overnight ferry from Melbourne. Being compact and with such varied scenery, Tasmania is a fantastic self-drive destination so hiring a rental car is recommended.

## Historic West Coast Railway

The [West Coast Railway](#) is a steam train journey through mountainous Tasmanian wilderness. The 35-kilometre journey transports visitors back in time to discover the inspiring story of the pioneers who built the railway more than 100 years ago. Departing daily from Queenstown and Strahan, the spectacular journey crosses the wild King River and climbs through sheer sided rainforest gorges.

New Zealanders voted the West Coast Railway Tasmania's number 1 'Must Do' experience in a recent campaign run by Tourism Tasmania.



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# Calendar Down Under

## Events and Festivals

Australia's festival season is in full swing with a huge range of major events happening across the country. Here are some of our picks for the coming months. For a more comprehensive database go to [Australia.com/events](http://Australia.com/events).

### Wim Delyoye exhibition at MONA **Until 2 Apr 2012**

Belgian conceptual artist Wim Delyoye has gathered his contraptions from around the world for one of the largest ever exhibitions of his work at Tasmania's spectacular and controversial MONA (Museum of Old and New Art) in Hobart. [mona.net.au](http://mona.net.au)

### Perth International Arts Festival **10 Feb-3 Mar 2012**

The three week Perth International Arts Festival is one of Western Australia's premier cultural events and features some of the world's best international and contemporary theatre, dance, music, film, visual arts and literature. [perthfestival.com.au](http://perthfestival.com.au)

### Australian Open of Surf **11-19 Feb 2012**

Australia's leading youth lifestyle event hits the shores of Sydney's Manly Beach featuring the world's best surfers & skaters, music, fashion & art. [australianopenofsurfing.com](http://australianopenofsurfing.com)

### Bleach – Surfing the Fringe **11-26 Feb 2012**

Music, art, writing, film and photography sharing the common theme of surfing will be on display across the iconic beaches and venues of the Southern Gold Coast. The festival will feature art galleries, installations and events in unconventional locations across the coast. [bleachfestival.com.au](http://bleachfestival.com.au)

### Sydney Mardi Gras **12 Feb-4 Mar 2012**

A program of art, sporting and social events celebrating gay and lesbian pride leading up to the fabulous parade and party on March 4. [mardigras.org.au](http://mardigras.org.au)

### Cellar Door Wine Festival **24-26 Feb 2012**

Adelaide's Cellar Door Wine Festival makes a triumphant return in 2012. Featuring more than 150 of South Australia's favourite wineries offering tastings of some of the newest and hottest varietals to hit the market. [cellardoorwinefestivaladelaide.com.au](http://cellardoorwinefestivaladelaide.com.au)

### Taste Great Southern **2-5 Mar 2012**

An annual event showcasing the rich and diverse flavours of one of Western Australia's most beautiful destinations – The South West. Events are spread across the region and include long lunches, markets, tastings, master classes, exhibitions, workshops and celebrity guests. [greatsoutherntastewa.com](http://greatsoutherntastewa.com)

### The Adelaide Festival **2-18 Mar 2012**

The Adelaide Festival is one of the world's great arts festivals. Every year, Adelaide becomes the arts and entertainment hub for artists and audiences, with a feast of theatre, film, dance and opera. [adelaidefestival.com.au](http://adelaidefestival.com.au)

### Melbourne Food and Wine Festival **2-21 Mar 2012**

Thousands of foodies will descend on Melbourne for this festival where more than 300 events fill the city's labyrinth of restaurants, laneways, down basements and dizzying rooftops as well as spilling into spectacular regional Victoria. [melbournefoodandwine.com.au](http://melbournefoodandwine.com.au)

### MS Fest **3 Mar 2012**

A one-day festival held on Hobart's inner city cricket grounds to raise funds for the MS Society of Tasmania. The impressive line-up includes NZ's own The Naked and Famous and Fat Freddy's Drop as well as Roots Manuva, Sparkadia and Little Red. [msfest.org.au](http://msfest.org.au)

### Grace Kelly: Style Icon Exhibition **11 Mar-17 Jun 2012**

Grace Kelly: Style Icon at the Bendigo Art Gallery in Victoria will highlight the spectacular wardrobe of Grace Kelly and examine her glamorous Hollywood image and enduring appeal. [Bendigoartgallery.com.au](http://Bendigoartgallery.com.au)

### Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour **24 Mar-15 Apr 2012**

For three weeks only, La Traviata one of the greatest operas ever written will be performed on a purpose-built shimmering stage on the waters of Sydney Harbour providing a stunning backdrop of the Opera House, Harbour Bridge and city skyline. The monumental production features a full orchestra, magnificent sets and costumes and a 9 metre purpose built chandelier. [operaonsydneyharbour.com.au](http://operaonsydneyharbour.com.au)

### Noosa Food & Wine Festival **May 17-20 2012**

A throng of celebrity chefs will descend in the sunny seaside town of Noosa for a long weekend of culinary events and celebrations. [youtube.com/queenslandnoosafoodandwine.com.au](http://youtube.com/queenslandnoosafoodandwine.com.au)

