

# Australia Uncovered

## G'day,

and welcome to the latest edition of Australia Uncovered. Well it's the end of daylight savings and summer is well and truly over here in New Zealand, but there is still plenty of beach time to be had in Australia.

For this month's Destination Profile on page two, we decided to share a special spot in Australia's sun-loving state Queensland. The Southern Great Barrier Reef region boasts tropical islands,

pristine beaches and historical towns. Best of all, it's just a four hour drive from Brisbane. We also have some new and unique product ideas from around Australia as well as a snapshot of

upcoming events. To book any of the suggested products or events please contact your local wholesaler. For more unique Aussie holiday ideas to share with your clients visit [Australia.com](http://Australia.com).



## New Exhibition at Melbourne Museum

The Wonders of Ancient Mesopotamia exhibition at Melbourne Museum will explore an era of extraordinary invention and innovation, the impact of which is still shaping our lives thousands of years later.

It will feature over 170 artefacts from the world famous Middle East collection of The British Museum. From massive carved stone reliefs depicting scenes of battles and hunting to stunning gold jewellery.

This exhibition focuses on three of the great centres of ancient civilisation; Sumer, Assyria and Babylon – bringing their rich history to life through objects and multimedia. Themes in the exhibition include palaces and royal power, religious beliefs and rituals, burial practices and royal tombs, and the myths and legends that surround ancient Mesopotamia.

## Ozwest Airlines Launch in W.A

Ozwest Airlines have launched in Western Australia catering for groups with limited time to visit the state's major attractions with options including scenic flights to Margaret River, Monkey Mia, Rottnest Island and more.

Ozwest's small, 8-seater aircrafts with high wings and large panoramic windows allow for an enhanced viewing experience of the spectacular Western Australian landscapes including the outback and coastline. Ozwest offer a range of scenic charter flights and are also available for custom designed touring and adventure flights to remote destinations that can incorporate overnight stays and guided ground tours.



## A Guided Taste of Tasmania



Visitors can take a unique [Herbaceous Tour](#) through the farm gate to meet a diverse group of farmers, providers and producers of fine Tasmanian food and wines.

Tour goers can taste the delicious produce and learn how it is lovingly provided and get to know makers and growers of; cheese, saffron, honey, mushrooms, olives, organic beef, fruit wines, olive oil, ice-cream and more. Most of the facilities visited are working farms or factories that do not normally cater for visitors, making these tours a rare insight into growing top-quality produce Tasmania is well known for.

## South Australia is coming to a town near you!

The South Australian Tourism Commission and ten South Australian Tourism Operators will travel from Christchurch to Auckland from 28 Apr-4 May, showcasing what the state has to offer.

The nationwide roadshow and travel expo is a great opportunity for agents and consumers to talk directly with the experts and find out more about what there is to see and do in Adelaide and South Australia.

The roadshow will visit 9 destinations around New

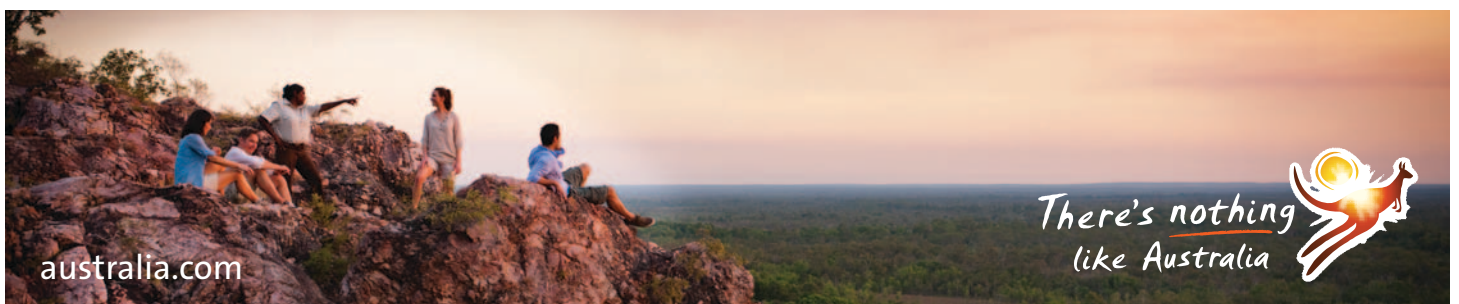
Zealand and everyone that attends will go in the draw to WIN a 10 day holiday to South Australia.

For more information on dates and locations visit [nz.southaustralia.com](http://nz.southaustralia.com) or to register your attendance email [info@satc.co.nz](mailto:info@satc.co.nz).



## Nocturnal wonders in Manly

[After Dark Nature Tours](#) offer sunset and nocturnal tours of Sydney Harbour National Park departing from Shelly Beach in Manly. For the more adventurous, the Night Wonders tour uses the latest night vision technology to enable participants to interact with local wildlife such as possums, echidnas, bandicoots and owls. The tour also provides a snapshot of the area's Aboriginal and European history and the respective cultures' interactions with each other and the natural environment.



There's nothing like Australia

# Australia Uncovered

## PROFILE ON:

### Southern Great Barrier Reef

The southern gateway to the Great Barrier Reef boasts 140 kilometres of unspoiled coastline, several national parks and coral cays.

Visitors can also enjoy the great hospitality of the region's towns including Bundaberg, Rockhampton and Gladstone each offering a range of unique experiences and activities. The area also incorporates the

Capricorn region featuring dozens of isolated beaches as well as historic towns and a range of inland natural wonders including cave systems, rainforests, National Parks and ancient Aboriginal rock art..

### Bundaberg Rum Distillery

Bundaberg is the heart of Queensland's sugar country and produces the famous Bundaberg Rum.

The [Bundaberg Rum Distillery](#) offers a fascinating guided tour where visitors can see, smell and taste their way through the rum production process and learn about the history of Bundaberg Rum which was established in 1888.

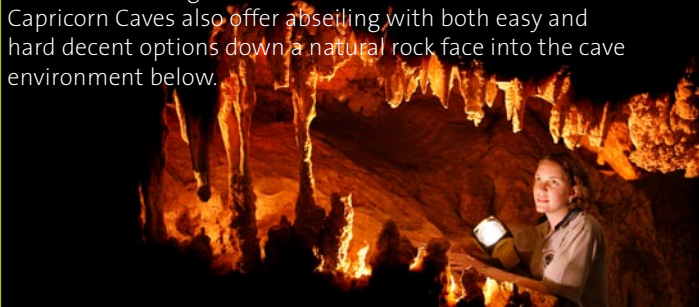
After being guided through each step of the rum making process, the tour concludes in the onsite bar where guests can enjoy a refreshing sample with a variety of Bundy mixes and rum liqueur based drinks.



### Capricorn Caves

[Capricorn Caves](#) are located north of Rockhampton and are a unique system of above-ground caves in a limestone ridge. There is a range of guided tours available ranging from easy walking tours to adventurous caving tours where visitors can squeeze, climb and explore their way through the caves and tunnels. There is even a Family Adventure Caving tour so children can experience the thrill of caving too.

Capricorn Caves also offer abseiling with both easy and hard decent options down a natural rock face into the cave environment below.



### Lady Elliot Island

Heavenly beaches, a declared Marine National Park and luxurious eco accommodation combine to make Lady Elliot Island a dream holiday destination.

Lady Elliot Island provides the

opportunity to truly interact and connect with the underwater world, with world class snorkelling and diving including the opportunity to get up close with turtles and manta rays.

As well as swimming with these special creatures, visitors can also witness green and loggerhead turtles as they return to the island each year between November and February to start a new life cycle. When the sun goes down, they clamber up the beach to dig deep pits and lay their eggs.

At the end of the nesting season from February to April, visitors can watch as hundreds of baby turtles hatch and make their way to the water.

### 1770 LARC Tours



[1770 LARC Tours](#) provide truly unique, multi award winning, amphibian adventures. The tours depart from the town of 1770 and take guests on a thrilling journey in a bright pink boat with wheels along the coastlines of Eurimbula National Park and the waterways of Bustard Bay. Highlights of the tours include a visit to Queensland's oldest lighthouse and the opportunity to have a go at sand boarding or fishing. Along the journey guests can enjoy the spectacular scenery and may even catch a glimpse of the local wildlife including kangaroos, sea eagles, turtles, dolphins and stingrays. 1770 LARC Tours also operate customised tours and one hour joy rides so there is something to suit everybody.

### Getting There

Brisbane airport is the closest international airport to the Southern Great Barrier Reef. Self-drive is the best way to access and experience this region and it takes approximately four hours to reach Bundaberg from Brisbane. Alternatively, there are domestic flights, trains and buses from Brisbane to the Southern Great Barrier Reef region.

Lady Elliot Island can be accessed on a 30 minute scenic flight from Bundaberg and from a number of other regional airports.





# Calendar Down Under

## Events and Festivals

Check out these fantastic events and festivals across Australia that will take place over the coming months. For a comprehensive database of Australian events go to [www.australia.com/events](http://www.australia.com/events).

### Targa Tasmania

17-22 Apr

It's the thrill of exotic fast cars competing under the toughest conditions. Over six days of Targa Tasmania, the world's best touring, sports and GT cars compete in competitive stages on the island's toughest roads.

[targatasmania.com.au](http://targatasmania.com.au)

### Sydney Comedy Festival

24 Apr-12 May

This year's Sydney Comedy Festival features big name international and local comedians who will be performing at venues across Sydney, including Charlie Murphy, Mark Watson, Stephen K Amos, Danny Bhoj and Jason Byrne.

[sydneycomedyfest.com.au](http://sydneycomedyfest.com.au)

### From France to Freycinet Festival

4-13 May

A biennial event celebrating French history on Tasmania's East Coast. The event is a celebration of the region's rich natural history, magnificent natural beauty, abundant marine life, delicious fresh seafood and award winning wines.

[fromfrancetofreycinet.com.au](http://fromfrancetofreycinet.com.au)

### Narooma Oyster Festival, Narooma

5-6 May

An annual event of high-class feasting, culture and entertainment surrounded by the pristine natural environment of the New South Wales South Coast. [narooma.org.au/oysterfestival](http://narooma.org.au/oysterfestival)

### The Noosa International Food and Wine Festival

17-20 May

One of Australia's premier Food and Wine events, boasting over 180 leading international and national chefs, winemakers, media and restaurateurs.

[noosafoodandwine.com.au](http://noosafoodandwine.com.au)

### High Country Harvest

18-27 May

Food lovers are invited to feast and forage their way around Victoria's bountiful High Country over 10 delectable days in May at the region-wide High Country Harvest, featuring more than 40 events.

[highcountryharvest.com.au](http://highcountryharvest.com.au)

### Clare Valley Gourmet Weekend

19-20 May

Wineries partner with restaurants and entertainment to provide the ultimate experience of elegant wine and fantastic food in South Australia's Clare Valley, just 90 minute's drive north of Adelaide.

[clarevalleygourmet.com.au](http://clarevalleygourmet.com.au)

### Argyle Diamonds Ord Valley Muster

25 May-3 Jun

Now in its twelfth year, the Argyle Diamonds Ord Valley Muster will feature an outstanding line-up of concerts and events for the entertainment of Kimberley residents and visitors from across the globe that the region attracts at this time of the year.

[ordvalleymuster.com.au](http://ordvalleymuster.com.au)

### Vivid Sydney

25 May-11 June

Vivid Sydney brings together large scale light installations and projections, music performances, creative ideas, stimulating discussions and debates, showcasing Sydney as a major creative hub.

[vivid Sydney.com](http://vivid Sydney.com)

### Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival

28-29 May

A fantastic festival held in Exmouth to mark the beginning of the whale shark season. The festival comprises of a family day of fun with live music and entertainment, educational displays and of course, the opportunity to view the whale sharks.

[ningaloo whalesharkfestival.com](http://ningaloo whalesharkfestival.com)

### Melbourne Winter Masterpieces - Napoleon: Revolution to Empire

2 Jun-7 Oct

Napoleon: Revolution to Empire is a panoramic exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria examining French art, culture and life from the 1770s to the 1820s. [ng.vic.gov.au](http://ng.vic.gov.au)

### Surfers Paradise Festival

20 Jun-14 Jul

An annual community celebration of music, food, fashion, film and art. Across the four weekends of the festival, the Surfers Paradise precinct becomes a dynamic, inclusive and interactive event space and a hub of Gold Coast creativity. [surfersparadise.com](http://surfersparadise.com)

### Avon Decent

4-5 Aug

One of Western Australia's premier sporting events that attracts competitors and spectators from around the globe. Competitors challenge the Avon and Swan Rivers in a variety of paddle and power craft in an exciting two-day time trail across 134 gruelling kilometres. [avondescent.com.au](http://avondescent.com.au)

### NAB Barossa Gourmet Weekend

18-19 Aug

The leading winery cellar doors of the region pull out all the stops to showcase Barossa hospitality, a range of outstanding wines matched with delicious food and musical entertainment.

[nz.southaustralia.com](http://nz.southaustralia.com)



australia.com