

Australia Uncovered

G'day,

Welcome to the April edition of Australia Uncovered, your guide to unique product, events and destinations across the Tasman.

Our destination profile this month is one of Australia's premier beach holiday spots – Byron Bay. We also have a range of other unique holiday options that will blow

your clients away including 'glamping' in Western Australia, self drive journeys from Melbourne to Adelaide, a golf by helicopter experience in Queensland and a range of

new sea plane adventures in Tasmania.

To book any of the suggested tours, events or accommodation please contact your preferred wholesaler.



Glamping in WA

Self Drive Journeys from Melbourne to Adelaide

South Australia Tourism is seeing an increase in enquires from holidaymakers interested in driving the Melbourne to Adelaide touring route. At least three to four days is recommended to explore the route and travellers have a choice of two different options – a coastal route or a food and wine route.

After enjoying the sights of Victoria's Great Ocean Road,

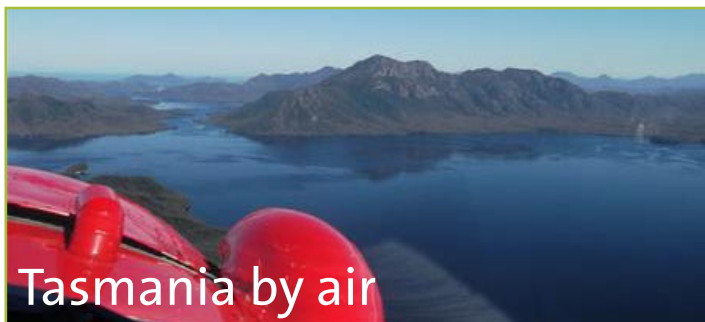
drivers can continue along the South Australia coast line to Mount Gambier – home of the remarkable Blue Lake before reaching the beachside suburb of Robe. Here, they can enjoy the local seafood before carrying on to the mouth of the Murray River – the spectacular Coorong for a [Spirit of the Coorong Cruise](#). Alternatively, the inland route winds through the famous Coonawara wine region and past

the heritage-listed Narracoorte Caves. From the Coonawara, it's not far to the Murray River where visitors can enjoy a scenic walk or a river cruise before heading on to Adelaide which is just an hour's drive away.



North Queensland's first golf and helicopter tour launched

[Skysafari](#), in conjunction with Paradise Palms Resort and Country Club, has created the ultimate golfing day tour. Taking in three of North Queensland's courses, golfers travel by helicopter to experience breathtaking views and 27 holes of golf on distinctly different courses; Paradise Palms Resort and Country Club, Sea Temple Port Douglas and Cooktown Golf Links at Walker Bay. Flying in a state-of-the-art R66 Robinson Helicopter, the tours depart from both Cairns and Port Douglas. A great option for C&I clients.

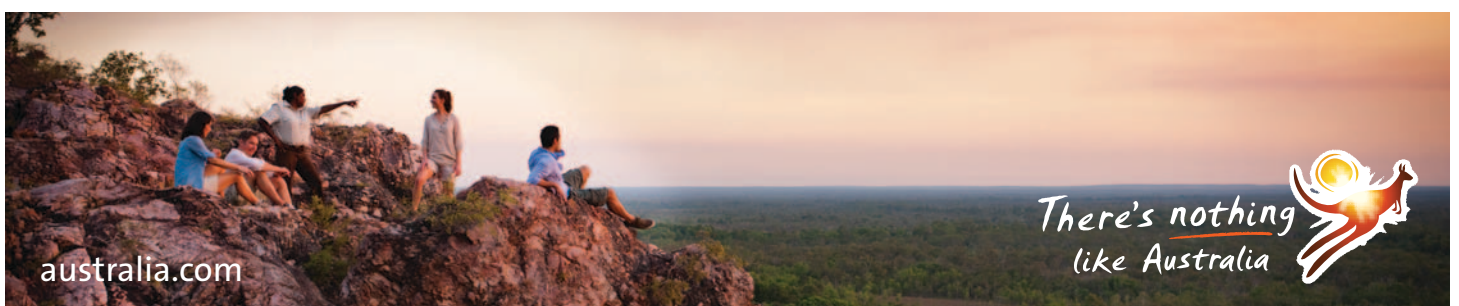


Tasmania by air

[Tasmanian Air Adventures](#) has released three exciting new sea plane adventures that showcase Tasmania's natural beauty. Departing from Hobart's picturesque waterfront, guests can choose from one of three scenic flights – a Hobart, Mt Wellington and Port Arthur experience; a journey over the striking tannin-stained waters of the Gordon River and Tasmania's iconic World Heritage Wilderness; or an aerial expedition over the aqua blue seas and white sands of the Freycinet Peninsula and Wineglass Bay. The planes land at each of the locations, allowing guests to disembark and walk along secluded beaches, through ancient forests and past waterfalls. Tasmanian Air Adventures also offers transfers to MONA, Saffire Freycinet, Port Arthur and Cradle Mountain.

The 'glamping' (glamorous camping) season has begun in the North West and Coral Coast of Western Australia. These regions offer an extensive range of high end 'glamping' options allowing guests to immerse themselves in prime wilderness locations – but in absolute comfort and luxury. The African safari style tents are generally spacious and are complete with beds, raised floors and spectacular views. Many of the camps also include meals and activities.

Coastal options include the exclusive [Sal Salis](#) at Ningaloo Reef, with safari tents just metres from the beach, [Red Bluff Quobba Station](#) which sits high on the cliffs overlooking the Indian Ocean or the [Kimberley Coastal Camp](#). Alternatively, there are a number of options in the Kimberley which allow guests to experience the waterfalls, gorges, rivers and wildlife for which this region is famed. [Bellburn Creek](#) and [Bungle Bungle Caravan Park](#) are prime spots from which to explore the Purnululu National Park in the Bungle Bungle region.



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PROFILE ON: Byron Bay

White sand, crashing waves and glorious sunshine have been luring beach bunnies to the Byron Bay region for decades.

In recent years Byron Bay has had an injection of urban sophistication adding art galleries, chic cafes, luxurious spa retreats and boutique shopping to the

region's assets. Even with these additions Byron Bay has retained its laid-back vibe and natural beauty, making it an ideal holiday destination for everybody.



Crystal Castle

Nestled in Byron's beautiful hinterland, [Crystal Castle](#) offers an enchanting getaway. A lifetime of passion has seen the magical grounds transformed into a breathtakingly beautiful landscape. Mystical statues, amazing crystals, exquisite jewellery and delicious delights await visitors.

Go Sea Kayak Byron Bay

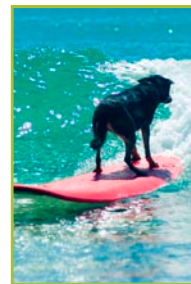
[Go Sea Kayak Byron Bay](#) lead guests on an escape to an aquatic wonderland on the pristine waters of Byron Bay's Marine National Park. As guests kayak, the experienced guides will share the history of Byron Bay and local indigenous stories while they enjoy the stunning landscape and wildlife. There is a high chance that

kayakers will even get to paddle alongside dolphins, whales or turtles. Snorkeling gear is also included so guests can jump in the water and snorkel over hidden volcanic reef with local Green and Loggerhead turtles. There is even the opportunity to surf the kayak on one of Byron Bay's famous waves.



Byron Bay Lighthouse & Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage

Built in 1901, Byron Bay Lighthouse is situated on the most easterly point of mainland Australia. This historic lighthouse commands spectacular views over the ocean, beaches and hinterland. A walk out to this iconic landmark is a must-do for Byron Bay visitors with the opportunity to spot dolphins, turtles, whales in season, and the small wallabies that inhabit the Cape. For a truly memorable experience the original lighthouse [keeper's cottage](#) at Cape Byron Lighthouse is available as accommodation.



Black Dog Surf School

The mascot of [Black Dog Surf School](#) is George, a black Kelpie, Jack Russel cross who has his own board, loves to surf backwards and often participates in a class. Joining George is a team of qualified instructors who teach the basics of surfing so guests can learn to catch, stand and surf a wave at one of the world's best beaches.



The Byron at Byron Resort and Spa

Set beneath the canopy of lush rainforest within stunning wetlands, [The Byron at Byron](#) is a fully integrated resort set on 45 acres only 5 minutes south of the Byron Bay township. This environmentally sensitive haven and stunning resort development has been designed to feel at one with nature, to relax, rejuvenate and revive guests' senses. Guests can opt for a range of relaxing or active activities including

yoga sessions on the beach as the sun rises with the in-house yoga instructor.

Getting There

Byron Bay is easily accessed from Gold Coast Airport from which it is just 50 minutes drive south. Alternatively, there are multiple daily flights from Sydney Airport into Ballina Airport which is 30 minutes south of Byron Bay township.



australia.com

There's nothing like Australia



Calendar Down Under

Events and Festivals

Australia's events calendar is chocker-block with concerts, exhibitions, festivals and quirky community events. Below is a sample of the upcoming festivities, for a more comprehensive database visit Australia.com/events.

The Wonders of Ancient Mesopotamia **From 04 May**
Melbourne Museum's latest exhibition will explore an era of extraordinary invention and innovation featuring over 170 artefacts from the world famous Middle East collection of the British Museum. museumvictoria.com.au

Savour Tasmania **23 May – 02 June**
Savour Tasmania is set to ignite the imagination once again with amazing displays of culinary creativity over two weeks in May in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie. savourtasmania.com.au

Blues on Broadbeach **24 – 27 May**
Four outdoor stages and a host of Broadbeach venues will showcase some of the world's best blues performers over four massive days and nights. Best of all, it's free for all visitors to enjoy. bluesonbroadbeach.com

Adelaide Cabaret Festival **8 – 23 June**
A major annual event in the Australian arts calendar, with a reputation of highlighting the best local, national and international artists in the cabaret genre, with classic and contemporary cabaret performances. adelaidecabaretfestival.com.au

The Biennale of Sydney **27 June – 16 September**
Australia's largest contemporary visual arts event presented free to the public every two years. The exhibition will bring together international artists to collaborate and create innovative works that are expressive of new thinking and art making. Program highlights include artist talks, guided tours, performances, forums, film screenings and family days. bos18.com

Festival of Voices **6 – 15 July**
Tasmania's Festival of Voices celebrates the vocalist and the power of song with dozens of events and performances across a range of disciplines including choir and ensemble singing, spoken word, cabaret, debate, poetry, storytelling and hiphop. festivalofvoices.com

Mundaring Truffle Festival **28 – 29 July**
A unique opportunity to taste, try, learn about and buy the rare culinary delicacy black truffles. Set in the Mundaring Sculpture Park just outside Perth, festival goers can savour a truffle-themed gourmet weekend, featuring leading local, national and international chefs. mundaringtrufflefestival.com

Cairns Festival **17 Aug – 2 Sep**
A multi-dimensional program of over 100 free and ticketed events for all ages spanning visual arts, music, dance, theatre, film, food, comedy, community celebrations and more. cairnsfest.com.au

Barossa Gourmet Weekend **18 – 19 August**
A weekend of indulgence in the Barossa, one of the world's most famous wine regions. Each of the cellar doors taking part in this event will be serving up gourmet experiences matched with premium wines and the smooth sounds of live music. nz.southaustralia.com

Shinju Matsuri - 'Festival of the Pearl' **31 Aug - 9 Sep**
Held every year in Broome to coincide with the natural phenomenon known as 'Staircase to the Moon'. The town buzzes with the excitement from this unique cultural celebration of Broome's multicultural heritage and pearling history. shinjumatsuri.com.au

Blooming Tasmania **1 Sep – 31 May**
A collection of floral shows, festivals and garden open days held throughout Tasmania celebrating the State's gardens and diverse horticultural and botanical delights in one of the world's most growable climates. bloomingtasmania.com

Floriade **15 Sep – 14 Oct**
Floriade, Australia's celebration of spring, transforms Canberra's Commonwealth Park into a tapestry of colour every year. As well as the horticultural delights, visitors can enjoy spectacular entertainment and a smorgasbord of activities. floriadeaustralia.com

Crave Sydney **1 – 31 Oct**
A month of extraordinary food events including the all-star World Chef Showcase, Barbecue Madness and the iconic Night Noodle Markets in Sydney's Hyde Park. cravesydney.com

Melbourne Festival **11 - 27 Oct**
Melbourne Festival is one of Australia's leading international arts festivals and has an outstanding reputation for presenting unique international and Australian events in the fields of dance, theatre, music, visual arts, multimedia, free and outdoor events. melbournefestival.com.au



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