

# Sharing the Stories of Australia

In this edition of Australian Mini Features we share a range of exciting new products in Australia and include a special update on National Landscapes and Outback holiday destinations. To book any of the suggested tours, products or events for your clients please contact your local wholesaler.

## Majestic Rail Travel

There is something special about rail travel and it is a great way to experience the vast beauty of Australia whilst relaxing in comfort.

Great Southern Rail has an-



### Walk with the Sharks at Melbourne Aquarium

A new attraction at Melbourne Aquarium gives brave visitors the opportunity to walk underwater in the aquarium while breathing naturally with a custom-made Shark Walker Helmet. Shark Walkers can explore the 2.2 million litre Oceanarium for 45 minutes while being surrounded by sharks, giant stingrays and hundreds of fish. The Shark Walk does not require a diving certification or training making it a great way for anyone to experience the underwater world. Those not willing to enter the water can still see all of these magnificent creatures up close through the panoramic fish bowl viewing area.

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

nounced a new, exclusive itinerary and enhanced service for the Southern Spirit's 2011 program.

The new route goes from Adelaide to Brisbane and vice versa taking in the sights of Australia's Great Dividing Range and East Coast over four states. The journey takes six days and includes tours of the Grampion Ranges, Ned Kelly Country, the Murray River, Dubbo, the Western Plains Zoo and the Hunter Valley as well as a spectacular crossing of the Blue Mountains and visits to the coastal towns of Port Stephens, Port Macquarie and Byron Bay.

With only two itineraries in 2011 places will be highly sought after so early bookings are recommended.

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

### Cairns' Only Night Dive Excursion

A new diving opportunity, and the first of its kind in Cairns, has been launched by The Quicksilver Group. Aimed at adventure-seeking certified divers, this excursion takes participants on a spectacular night dive on the outer reaches of the Great Barrier Reef. The dive takes place 60 nautical miles from Cairns at Norman Reef - an area rich in pristine coral reefs and prolific marine biodiversity.

Divers are escorted on two night dives before enjoying a hot dinner on the boat. Non divers are also welcome on the tour and



## The Jewel of Tasmania

The newest addition to Luxury Lodges of Australia – Saffire Freycinet has opened its doors and is receiving wide spread praise for its stunning beauty and attention to detail. The resort is an architectural gem located on a stunning beach on Tasmania's East Coast. With only 20 suites, a remote location, and breathtaking vistas the resort exudes a feeling of exclusivity and tranquillity. Catering to discerning clientele, Saffire operates with a focus on tailored one-on-one experiences and services to create a truly special holiday. To view the entire range of Luxury Lodges go to [luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au](http://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au) or [saffire-freycinet.com.au](http://saffire-freycinet.com.au)

can enjoy the experience as a "topside" observer, viewing from the underwater observatory. The tour departs at 5.30pm giving guests the opportunity to witness the spectacular sunset over the reef as they cruise out to sea. [quicksilvergroup.com.au](http://quicksilvergroup.com.au)

## Best Wine Tourism Experience

Wine aficionados will adore Voyager Estate in the Margaret River region of Western Australia which has been named the "Best Wine Tourism Experience" by the Australian Gourmet Traveller Awards 2010. Voyager Estate is said to be so beautiful that the grounds have become a tourism attraction in themselves. The



vineyard is applauded for their extravagant gardens, fabulous restaurant, regular music performances and events such as the Vintage Stomp and Grand Parade which convey the community spirit of the Margaret River. [voyagerestate.com.au](http://voyagerestate.com.au)



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## Australia's National Landscapes

A program called "Australia's Natural Landscapes" has been developed to highlight the most spectacular areas in Australia. Australia's Natural Landscapes are places of cultural, natural and spiritual significance which Tourism Australia has dubbed "Experiencescapes". For those who think they know Australia, blow them away with the magical destinations of Australia's Natural Landscapes. To add these exciting destinations to your clients itineraries please contact your local wholesaler.

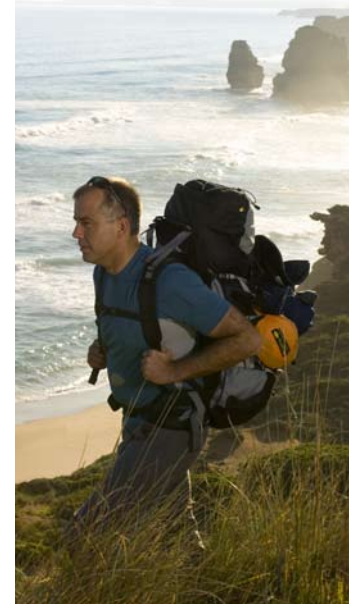
Distinctive outback areas of Australia such as the Red Centre feature on the National Landscapes list. The outback is a rugged yet incredibly diverse and beautiful element of Australia with a host of adventurous activities waiting to be discovered. The most recent addition to the



Natural Landscapes collection is the Kimberly region in Western Australia. The Kimberly region features an array of natural wonders including waterfalls, breathtaking gorges, wildlife sanctuaries and spectacular beaches; it is also a great place to go for a wild outback adventure.

Other Natural Landscapes destinations include; The Australian Alps, Kakadu, The Greater Blue Mountains, The Great Ocean Road, The Green Cauldron, Australia's Coastal Wilderness, Flinders Rangers and Kangaroo Island. You can learn more about what these spectacular areas have to offer at [australia.com](http://australia.com)

## The Great Ocean Walk



If your clients enjoy getting outdoors and really experiencing the best of Australia's natural landscapes, then the Great Ocean Walk is a must for any Victorian itinerary. The Great Ocean Walk travels along the contours of Victoria's coast combining beach walking, purpose built coastal tracks and management vehicle tracks. Anywhere from a short walk to a 6 day trip covering the whole trail, your clients will be rewarded with amazing views and incredible memories. The Great Ocean Walk is 91km end to end, beginning from Apollo Bay in the East to just before the 12 Apostles in the West. Bothfeet Australia offers fully catered and guided walks showcasing the very best of the Great Ocean Walk. Visit the bothfeet website [here](http://here) for more information or visit [greatoceanwalk.com.au](http://greatoceanwalk.com.au)



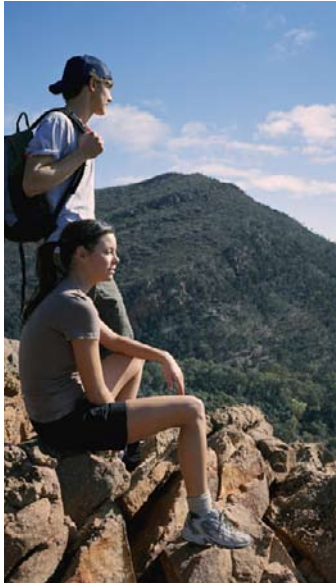
### Fly and 4WD on Kangaroo Island

Banksia Adventures has fantastic new fly and four wheel drive excursions to pristine Kangaroo Island. Kangaroo Island is a remarkable island just a short flight or coach and ferry ride south of Adelaide. Ranking on the National Landscapes list, Kangaroo Island is a remote yet accessible island famed for its scenic coastlines and extensive wildlife including some of Australia's rarest native animals.

A Banksia Adventures' tour begins with a 30 minute scenic small plane flight to Kingscote where passengers are met by an experienced guide who will take them to the best spots on the island. Highlights of the tour include a visit to the endangered sea lion colony at Seal Bay, the beautiful scenery or Remarkable Rocks, a delicious lunch and a stop at 'Australia's Best Beach' Vivonne Bay. Two day fly and 4WD trips are also available. [banksiaadventures.com.au](http://banksiaadventures.com.au)



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## Walking Safari by Wild Bush Luxury

The Flinders Ranges in South Australia span three national parks and feature some of the most spectacular outback scenery in the country. Located in the ranges is a 60,000 acre sheep station called Arkaba Station. Wild Bush Luxury has introduced a four day, three night walking safari which ventures across the diverse landscape of the station. This walking tour takes you through the outback wilderness including sandy riverbeds lined with 1000 year old gum trees, rolling grassland, native pine forests and incredible lookouts. Each day there is between three and seven hours walking but this can be adapted according to the walker's interests and fitness. At the end of each day guests are treated to a delicious dinner with selected wines in one of the semi-permanent camps before sleeping in a deluxe swag style bed under the stars. [arkabastation.com](http://arkabastation.com)

## Outback Luxury

Discerning yet adventurous holidaymakers will love the new Burrawang West Station Retreat on a fully operational cattle station in Central New South Wales. This exclusive retreat provides an Outback experience complete with style and luxury. The homestead is elegantly decorated in contemporary furnishings and features spacious formal living and dining areas as well as an extensive bar and cellar. Guests can enjoy award winning accommodation and creative fine dining as well as an abundance of activities such as four wheel biking, wildlife spotting, canoeing, catch and release fishing and sporting pursuits. Burrawang has a strong relationship with local aboriginal people and guests are encouraged to learn about aboriginal culture by partaking in activities with local artists and dancers. Access to the retreat is easy with just a short flight or relaxing drive from Sydney. [burrawangwest.com.au](http://burrawangwest.com.au)



## Golden Outback Weekend

Provide travellers with an authentic outback weekend complete with country hospitality at upcoming events in Western Australia. The first weekend of October sees two major events in Wheatbelt with the Kulin Bush Races and Cambinata Yabbies Extravaganza. The tiny country town of Kulin comes to life over the whole weekend for the races as residents turn on the hospitality for visitors. The event includes exciting horse races, an arts and crafts exhibition, a parade as well as a host of fun, family activities. Dedicated event goers can even camp onsite so as not to miss any of the exciting weekend. The Cambinata Yabbies Extravaganza held on October 2 showcases produce from the regions before an impressive multi-course silver service dinner. The unique dinner features local specialties and will be held in the romantic atmosphere of an extravagantly decorated shearing shed. Bookings for the Extravaganza can be made at [cambinatayabbies.com.au](http://cambinatayabbies.com.au)

## Under A Desert Moon

For a romantic and exclusive outback experience, Kings Canyon Resort offers a new dining experience called "Under a Desert Moon". Guests can enjoy a special dinner for two in the serenity of the outback wilderness, next to a blazing fire and under the starry night sky. The dinner is designed with intimacy in mind so is limited to eight couples each night. The gourmet menu has six courses featuring and is accompanied by fine Australian wines.

Kings Canyon Resort rests in a remote area of Northern Territory between Uluru and Alice Springs. The resort is a fantastic base point to access these locations and to discover the Outback wilderness. They offer a range of accommodation and activities including canyon hikes, helicopter tours, bird watching and guided aboriginal tours. [kingscanyonresort.com.au](http://kingscanyonresort.com.au)





# Calendar Down Under

## Natural Landscapes and Outback Events Line-Up

Australia has a host of events and festivals which celebrate the country's unique outback areas and are iconic to Australia and would make for a memorable and special holiday experience. For those visiting one of Australia's Natural Landscapes areas, an event at one of these destinations could make the trip even more remarkable.

### **A Brush with Art** 11 September – 4 October 2010

A festival in the Flinders Ranges, just 4.5 hours drive from Adelaide, showcasing art which has been inspired by this colourful region. [abrushwithart.com.au](http://abrushwithart.com.au)

### **Bourke Outback Trek** 3-17 October 2010

A fully supported 14 day outback adventure departing and returning to Bourke. Participants take their own vehicle but follow an exciting planned route visiting outback hot spots. [outbacktrek.com.au](http://outbacktrek.com.au)

### **Nullarbor Links Golf Tournament** 14-19 October 2010

The world's most unique golf tournament on a course stretching 1000 miles across South Australia and Western Australia. Each hole is in a different town. [nullarborlinks.com](http://nullarborlinks.com)

### **Warwick Rodeo** 25-31 October 2010

Australia's most famous rodeo which has been held at Warwick Showgrounds in New South Wales since 1929. It includes a variety of events including campdrafting, rough riding and rodeo as well as a host of entertainment. [warwickrodeo.com.au](http://warwickrodeo.com.au)

### **Tamworth Country Music Festival** 14-23 January 2011

An annual event celebrating Australian country music, culture and heritage. The festival is the second biggest country music festival in the world. [tamworthcountrymusic.com.au](http://tamworthcountrymusic.com.au)

### **Santos Tour Down Under** 16-23 January 2011

The first race of the 2011 UCI ProTour road cycling calendar will see world, Olympic and Tour de France riders traverse over 800 kilometres of Adelaide and South Australia. [tourdownunder.com.au](http://tourdownunder.com.au)

### **Coopers Kangaroo Island Cup Carnival** 20 February 2011

A carnival atmosphere with everything you would expect from a race day - fashion, good wine and food and entertainment. The biggest tourism event on the Island. [southaustralia.com](http://southaustralia.com)

## What's on around Australia

Australia's calendar is chock-a-bloc with exciting events and festivals which are worth heading over to Australia for or incorporating into holiday plans. Information about a host of festivals and events in Australia can be found at [australia.com](http://australia.com)

### **Spring in the Valley** October 2010

A month long celebration in Swan Valley, Western Australian featuring the finest produce, wine and beer from the region. The 2010 program has a host of events including music, art, cooking classes and special tastings. [swanvalley.com.au](http://swanvalley.com.au)

### **Pan Pacific Masters Games** 6-14 November 2010

The 7th Pan Pacific Masters Games will be held on the beautiful Gold Coast. With 34 sports on the program and more than 10,000 people from all over the world expected to participate, each day of competition is followed by a jam-packed entertainment program. [mastersgames.com.au](http://mastersgames.com.au)

### **Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race** 26 December 2010-1 January 2011

An icon on the Australian sporting calendar the Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race begins on Boxing Day. A great sight as all the yachts sail out of Sydney Harbour. The finish line in Hobart will also be a buzz as locals and visitors celebrate the end of the race. [rolexydneyhobart.com](http://rolexydneyhobart.com)

### **Sydney Festival** 8-30 January 2011

A three week celebration of dance, theatre, visual arts, opera and music from the classics to hip hop. Incorporating events and artists from around the world, as well as the much-heralded outdoor program including the Domain concerts, the Festival presents the very best international and national performing and visual arts. [sydneyfestival.org.au](http://sydneyfestival.org.au)

### **Australian Open** 17-30 January 2011

Two weeks of explosive tennis in Melbourne and the first international title of the year. The Australian Open has a vibrant atmosphere with giant screens broadcasting the matches, live music, activities and a huge variety of food outlets. [australianopen.com](http://australianopen.com)

### **Australia Day** 26 January 2011

A great day join Australians as they celebrate national unity, heritage and history. Over 5,000 events around the country are planned for the Australia Day period. [australiaday.com.au](http://australiaday.com.au)

