

Sharing the Stories of Australia

Australian Adventures: Indulge the spirit with exciting experiences.

Australia's vast and spectacular landscape provides the perfect backdrop for a huge range of adventure activities that allow visitors to get in touch with their wild side.

Pages two and three of this edition of Mini Features share some of these exciting activities so you can ensure that your clients have the adventure holiday of a lifetime.

We also have a run down on Australian tourism news, new product and a list of upcoming events across Australia. For more information, or to book any of the suggested tours, products or events for your clients please contact your local wholesaler.

The winner for the There's Nothing Like Australia competition will be announced next week, so keep an eye

out. To browse the amazing holiday experiences that New Zealanders have shared go to nothinglikeaustralia.com/nz

Spectacular Western Australian sites added to National Landscapes program

Two iconic Western Australian landscapes have been added to Tourism Australia's National Landscapes program which highlights the most spectacular places that Australia has to offer. The two new additions are Great South West Edge, from Busselton

to Cape Arid National Park, and the Ningaloo-Shark Bay region. Great South West Edge is recognised internationally as a biodiversity hot-spot due to its pristine and highly diverse wilderness.

Ningaloo-Shark Bay is famed for its marine experiences including fantastic diving, swimming with whale sharks and the famous, friendly dolphins of Monkey Mia. Whale Shark season recently began at Ningaloo Reef, making the coming months the best time to visit the area.

australiacoralcoast.com
australiassouthwest.com



Andrew Lloyd Webber's Love Never Dies

Love Never Dies, the sequel to the Phantom of the Opera, commences in Melbourne at the Regent Theatre next month. Melbourne will be the second city in the world to host this musical masterpiece following its London launch.

The Phantom of the Opera is regarded as one of the world's greatest love stories and having been seen by over 100 million people worldwide, the most successful piece of entertainment in history. Now, the story comes back to life with Love Never Dies.

The scene is set in New York in 1907, ten years after the Phantom's disappearance from the Paris Opera House. The mysterious Phantom now lives among the freaks on Coney Island, in an electrically charged world where his music can soar. There he lures his love Christine, along with her husband and son, in a bid to win back her love.

This highly anticipated musical is an absolute must-see for any Broadway show lover.

LoveNeverDies.com.au

2010 National Tourism Award winners announced

Australia's best tourism attractions of 2010 were revealed at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards which were held in Perth last month. Winners included Taronga Zoo in Sydney for best Major Tourist Attraction, Eco Beach Wilderness Retreat in Western Australia for Unique Accommodation and Mutawintji Eco-tours in New South Wales for Indigenous Tourism.

Jungle Surfing Canopy Tours in Cape Tribulation, Queensland took out both the Tourist Attractions award and the Adventure Tourism Award. Jungle Surfing Canopy Tours offer amazing flying fox tours through the rainforest canopy as well as guided night tours of the forest. junglesurfing.com.au For a full list of the Qantas Australian Tourism Award winners [click here](#)



Outback's million star magic

Outback tour operator Kinnon & Co. Longreach is offering an overnight camping experience under a 'million stars' and vintage bike hire as new ways to enjoy Queensland's spectacular outback.

The overnight experience offers the opportunity to enjoy a memorable night out in the bush at a tranquil nook of Longreach's Thomson River. Highlights include a sunset cruise on the newly refurbished Thomson Princess Riverboat, a drover's dinner with entertainment, and sleeping in deluxe swags under a canopy of stars. kinnonandco.com.au



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Steep Point 4WD Tour

Ocean Park Aquarium in Shark Bay, Western Australia now offer fantastic four wheel drive tours to beautiful Cape Peron National Park and the most westerly point of mainland Australia - Steep Point.

After an introduction to the local marine life at Ocean Park, visitors are taken on an adventure filled day to spot amazing marine creatures in the wild including Western Australia's 'Big Five'; Dugongs, sharks, turtles, dolphins and rays.

Expert marine guides will educate visitors on the rich biology and history of the breathtaking area which includes sweeping sand dunes, 200 metre high cliffs and secluded beaches.

oceanpark.com.au

Solar Segway, a unique way to explore

Based at the award-winning O'Reilly's in Lamington National Park, Segway Solar Tours is the country's first and only Segway guided tour that is surrounded by a World Heritage-listed National Park. Gliding silently through ancient rainforests within the Gold Coast Hinterland on a solar-powered Segway is a highlight of Australia's newest eco-friendly tour.

The private guided tour glides effortlessly through the rainforest aboard a Segway x2, virtually silent and with zero emissions. The tour takes in rainforest, an old dairy farm, a creek crossing, then into a Eucalypt forest for some spectacular views of Morans Falls and the Great Dividing Range. oreillys.com.au



Warbird Air Adventures

Take to the skies and enjoy the view of Barwon Heads from above. Warbird Air Adventures offers everyone the chance to fly like the aces of yesteryear in the supercharged CJ-6A military aircraft. This is a seriously strong and powerful machine capable of speeds over 400 km/h and G force loading up to +6. All aerobatic flights include a high speed low level jaunt up the stunning coastline of the Bellarine Peninsular - enjoy the thrill of seeing the beaches and lighthouses flash by before we break off and start our climb to the aerobatic area. flyingwarbirds.com.au



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Crocosaurus Cove

Darwin's Crocosaurus Cove has a range of exciting crocodile experiences including 'Swim with the Crocs', 'Fish for Crocs' and the daring 'Cage of Death Experience'.

These exciting activities get visitors up close with Northern Territory Saltwater Crocodiles including some of the largest in captivity. Visitors who are keen to take the plunge can opt to swim in a separate pool alongside the croc enclosure separated by glass walls. Alternatively, the 'Cage of Death' experience sees daring participants plunged into the croc enclosure in a glass cage which offers un-obstructed viewing yet full protection from those huge, chomping jaws!

crocosauruscove.com

Active holidays in pristine Tasmania

Tasmania boasts a huge diversity of wilderness adventure experiences which your clients can enjoy with a Tasmanian Expeditions holiday.

Tasmanian Expeditions offer a wide range of exclusive adventure holiday experiences across diverse locations such as Cradle Mountain, the Walls of Jerusalem, the South Coast Track, the Franklin River and many more.

Tasmanian Expeditions use an understanding of the various pristine Tasmanian areas to carefully craft sustainable trekking, cycling, rafting and rock-climbing adventures around these unique landscapes.

These unique and highly inspirational tours range from one day to up to two weeks in length allowing guests to choose a tour that suits their interests, ability and timeframe.

tasmanianexpeditions.com.au

Face to face with Great White Sharks

Cage diving with great white sharks is a must do on the bucket list of any adventure lover and Eyre Peninsula in South Australia is one of the best places in the world to accomplish this feat. Adventure Bay Charters offer full day

tours to see these magnificent creatures, with the option of cage diving or just watching from the boat. Adventure Bay Charters also offer tours where guests can swim with sea lions or blue fin tuna. And, great news for agents, Adventure

Bay Charters is offering commission on tour sales. Just a 30 minute flight from Adelaide, Eyre Peninsula is renowned as a fantastic destination for marine activities

antebaycharters.com.au

Just Cruisin' Harley Tours

The stunning coastal roads of Sydney and Illawarra make for a fantastic drive... even more so if it is on the back of a Harley Davidson motorbike. Just Cruisin' offer chauffeured Harley Davidson solo, sidecar and trike tours allowing passengers to have a thrilling ride while witnessing the region's beautiful scenery.

The company offer a range of different tours and itineraries ranging from 1 hour to numerous days. Riders can opt for scenic journeys to places like Grand Pacific Drive, Royal National Park or the Blue Mountains or see the bright lights of Sydney with a night tour. Real adrenalin junkies can get their fix with Just Cruisin's 'High Adrenalin' tours which combine a Harley ride with either a sky-dive or a hang-glide.

justcruisintours.com.au





Calendar Down Under

Adventure Events:

Australia embraces its adventurous side with a huge range of unique events and festivals all over the country. Clients who like to get active or head off the beaten track will love these adventurous events.

Barunga Cultural and Sports Festival 10-13 Jun

One of the major and longest-running indigenous community festivals in the Northern Territory. A chance to hear the stories and learn the culture of the Indigenous people. barungafestival.com.au

Perisher Snowy Mountains of Music Festival 10-13 Jun

A vibrant music festival to coincide with the opening of the winter ski season. Featuring over 100 concerts across nine venues. nowymountainsofmusic.com.au

NRMA CareFlight Woodford to Glenbrook 26 Jun

A fun ride or run over 25 kilometres of unspoilt fire trails in the picturesque Blue Mountains attracting almost 1,000 competitors. It has something for everyone, regardless of their skill level as a physical and mental challenge or just a chance to enjoy the pristine mountain air. careflight.org

Sydney Winter Festival 29 Jul -21 Aug

A unique set-up that recreates the atmosphere of alpine celebrations with an open air ice rink, winter delicacies from around the globe, stylish bars, live music and other entertainment. visitnsw.com

Walking with Spirits Festival 30 Jul

Beswick community's annual cultural celebration with dance, puppetry, fire and film. Visitors are invited to camp for the weekend in the spectacular lakeside setting. dijilpinarts.org.au

Australian Surf Festival 14-28 Aug

The best surfers across the nation converge upon the wave-rich Port Macquarie region to contest with barrels, wipeouts and hang tens which are sure to impress. australiansurffestival.com.au

Adventure Racing World Championships 2011 31 Oct-11 Nov

The West coast wilderness of Tasmania will provide a rugged and wild backdrop for the Adventure Racing World Championships 2011. Teams race day and night over a 700km course in the disciplines of trekking, kayaking, mountain biking and roping. xpd.com.au

Events:

The cooler months don't mean a change in pace in Australia with the upcoming calendar of events remaining full and exciting. For a comprehensive list of events across Australia go to www.australia.com/events.

MONA Opening Exhibition 21 Jan-19 Jul

Visitors to Tasmania can still catch MONAISM - the opening exhibition of the highly anticipated MONA (Museum of Old and New Art). mona.net.au

Tutankhamun Exhibition 8 Apr-17 Jul

Clients can revel in the splendour of Ancient Egypt and see a dazzling array of possessions unearthed from the boy king's tomb, such as his golden canopic coffinettes and the crown found on Tutankhamun's head when the tomb was discovered. Clients can also learn about the burial processes of ancient Egypt, along with results from the latest scientific testing on Tutankhamun's mummy. museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum

Cooly Rocks On 3-13 Jun

Cooly Rocks On is the brand new Rock and Roll Festival for Coolangatta and Tweed Heads with live bands, dancing, hot rods, classic cars and street parades. coolyrockson.com

Hunter Valley Wine and Food Month 3-27 Jun

A month-long celebration of the Hunter Valley's fantastic wine and produce. A range of events with iconic chefs and winemakers allows visitors to indulge their senses while learning about the wine and food making processes. hvwineandfood.hvva.com.au

Melbourne International Jazz Festival 4-13 Jun

The 2011 Melbourne International Jazz Festival is the largest and most diverse festival of its kind in Australia, with over 400 local and international performers and more than 120 events. melbournejazz.com

The Adelaide Cabaret Festival 10-25 Jun

The world's most comprehensive cabaret festival with a reputation of highlighting the best local, national and international artists in the cabaret genre. adelaidecabaretfestival.com.au

Surfers Paradise Festival Jun-Jul

Music, arts, food, film and fringe – Surfers Paradise Festival brings world class entertainment into the very heart of the Gold Coast. surfersparadisefestival.com

