

# Sharing the Stories of Australia

## There's nothing like immersing yourself in Australia

Thank you to all who entered our 'There's nothing like Australia' competition. With so many amazing experiences it was hard to decide on a winner, but Jakes Jacobson has emerged as the favourite for his experience snorkelling with his wife at the Great Barrier Reef with a giant Maori Wrasse fish. Jakes has won a \$10,000 Australian holiday for his efforts.

The entries have all been loaded on to an interactive map of Australia which is a fantastic source of inspiration for unique Australian holiday ideas. You can see the spectacular finalist photos and browse the experiences at [nothinglikeaustralia.com/nz](http://nothinglikeaustralia.com/nz).

This edition of Mini-features features some of the finalist and highly commended entries that made for particularly inspiring holiday ideas. With so many amazing experiences your clients will have no problem immersing themselves in the culture, activities and beauty of Australia.

To book any of the suggested tours, products or events for your clients please contact your local wholesaler.



## And the winner is...

Jakes Jacobson described his winning experience as 'legendary' and said it should be on everyone's list. His amazing snorkelling experience was at the Great Barrier Reef in Queensland. With a

range of services and tours available to the Great Barrier Reef, your clients can experience this too.

A fun and easy way to access the reef is from Reef World – a large pontoon located on the reef, 70 kilometres from the mainland. A Fantasea boat trip from either the mainland or Hamilton Island takes visitors out to Reef World where they are free to spend the day snorkelling, diving and sunbathing. There is even a glass bottom boat operating trips throughout the day so visitors can enjoy the reef without getting wet!  
[fantasea.com.au](http://fantasea.com.au)



EXPERIENCE # 29,372

*There's nothing like discovering life under the water on the Great Barrier Reef from the furthest point away from Wally's business end.*

Jakes Jacobson, Puhol,



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## Off road adventures with Kalbarri Quad Safaris



EXPERIENCE # 30,567

*There's nothing like quad biking along the beaches of WA next to the Indian Ocean*

Danielle Street, North Dunedin,

Kalbarri Quad Safaris offer a range of different quad bike tours through Kalbarri, where the outback meets the ocean. The town of Kalbarri is surrounded by the Kalbarri National Park and a quad bike safari is a fun and adventurous way to see the beautiful scenery of this region.

Kalbarri Quad Safaris offer one, two or three hour tours which take guests to pristine beaches, rivers, bush and some of the longest and deepest gorges in Australia.

Throughout the tours there are plenty of chances to stop for photos and a chance to learn about the wildlife, geology and geography within the Murchison Delta and the Kalbarri National Park [kalbarriquadsafaris.com.au](http://kalbarriquadsafaris.com.au)

## Fly through the Sky in the Blue Mountains

Skyway allows visitors to glide through the sky suspended over the spectacular Blue Mountains. The thrilling ride is 720 metres long and hovers 270 metres high above the lush rainforest, ravines and waterfalls. The ride also features a world first – an Electro-Sceniglass floor which reveals breathtaking views through the Skyway floor.

Skyway is one of the attractions at Scenic World which offers a range of exciting scenic attractions in the Blue Mountains including the steepest aerial cable car in the world and the steepest incline railway as well as platform walks through the forest. [scenicworld.com.au](http://scenicworld.com.au)



EXPERIENCE # 31,529

*There's nothing like Sighting in the Blue Mountains*

Philip Rickerby, Silverstream,

## Cruisin' the Murray River



EXPERIENCE # 30,948

*There's nothing like houseboating down the Murray River with great friends, great food and great wine!*

Jan Harrison, Richmond,

Unforgettable's self-drive houseboats are a fantastic way to experience the spectacular Murray River in South Australia, just an hour's drive from Adelaide!

Catering for two to 12 people these 'floating baches' are fully kitted out for a fun and comfortable holiday on the water. The boats include full gourmet kitchen, en-suite bathrooms, onboard BBQ, and some even have a Jacuzzi!

There is so much to do along the river including; wildlife spotting, stopping in at historic river townships, bushwalking along towering limestone cliffs, kayaking into the backwaters and wetlands, wine tasting tours to the Barossa and more. [houseboats.com.au](http://houseboats.com.au)



*There's nothing like Australia.*



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## Tasmania's Salamanca Markets



EXPERIENCE # 29,437

*There's nothing like shopping the Salamanca Markets in Hobart, amazing stalls, food and beautiful people. The best place ever!*

Gabrielle Clark, Ashburton,

Hobart's historic waterfront is the idyllic setting for the Salamanca Markets which is held every Saturday. The huge colourful market is a fantastic cultural experience and a great place to find that special souvenir from the market stalls with a diverse range of crafts, antiques, clothes and more. The markets are also a great place to grab a bite to eat or pick up some fresh local produce for a picnic. Talented buskers complete the festive atmosphere by entertaining the crowds with their unique musical offerings ranging from barbershop quartet to the blues guitar. The markets are also close to the departure point for the ferry to Tasmania's hot new attraction - MONA, the Museum of Old and New Art. [discovertasmania.com](http://discovertasmania.com)

## Apollo Bay's Treetop Adventure

Otway Fly Treetop Adventures offer a range of fun forest activities including the 'Treetop' walk, a unique attraction where visitor can walk through the forest canopy on a walkway up to 25 metres high. The walk is the longest and highest of its kind in the world.

The structure also includes the 'Spiral Stair' which stands at a whopping 45 metres high. Those daring enough to climb the 'Spiral Stair' are rewarded with magnificent views and a rush of adrenalin.

Adventure seekers can also enjoy Otway Fly's new 'Zip Line Tour' where participants whiz along a series of cables suspended 30 metres high to reach platforms throughout the forest. The three and a half hour long tour isn't just fun, it's educational with a tour guide to teach participants about the flora and fauna. [otwayfly.com](http://otwayfly.com)



EXPERIENCE # 30,415

*There's nothing like the thrill of joining the birds in the forest treetops!*

Yvette Shore, St Andrews,

## The Ancient Art of Kakadu



EXPERIENCE # 30,313

*There's nothing like Australia - especially a magical journey to Kakadu. A top spot on the map to experience the culture and history of this great country.*

Cathy Weston, Rotorua,

The spectacular, World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park holds one of the highest concentrations of rock art in the world with as many as 5,000 Aboriginal sites. The art and other relics reveal a detailed and dramatic record of human life stretching back more than 50,000 years. Visitors can explore this vast treasure trove with a local Aboriginal guide who will help seek and explain these remarkable paintings depicting wildlife, hunting, the arrival of Europeans and Dreamtime spirits. This ancient art is a delight to behold within the breathtaking lush rainforest, wetlands and rugged gorges of Kakadu National Park. [kakadu.com.au](http://kakadu.com.au)



There's nothing like Australia.





# Calendar Down Under

## Events to be immersed in

Australia's cities and towns have a variety of unique and exciting events where your clients can immerse themselves in the Australian culture and way of life.

### Gold Coast Airport Marathon **2-3 Jul 2011**

Runners are attracted by the spectacular coastal scenery and beautiful weather to compete in this major sporting event which includes a range of races to suit different abilities. [goldcoastmarathon.com.au](http://goldcoastmarathon.com.au)

### Lasseters Camel Cup **9 Jul 2011**

Visitors from all over the world come to Alice Springs for this quirky event in the outback. As well as the hilarious camel races, there is a fun carnival atmosphere with music, bars and entertainment throughout the day. [camelcup.com.au](http://camelcup.com.au)

### Darwin Lions Beer Can Regatta **10 Jul 2011**

A regatta like no other, with boats primarily built entirely from aluminium beer cans. This annual family event is a spectacle for all who line Mindil Beach and cheer on the home-made boats of cans, plastic soft drink bottles and cartons, as they flounder and sink in the shallows. [beercanregatta.org.au](http://beercanregatta.org.au)

### Frost Fest **29 Jul-07 Aug 2011**

A winter festival in Orange, New South Wales with an arts, music, community, health and well-being focus. There are over 45 events and activities on offer during the ten-day festival. [tasteorange.com.au](http://tasteorange.com.au)

### Walking with Spirits Festival **30 Jul 2011**

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. [djilpinarts.org.au](http://djilpinarts.org.au)

### Audi Hamilton Island Race Week **19-27 Aug 2011**

Race Week is one of Australia's favourite yachting events and a firm fixture on the international sailing calendar. Competitors, family and friends come together to enjoy the atmosphere and unique camaraderie of the event's on and off-water carnival. [hamiltonisland.com.au/events](http://hamiltonisland.com.au/events)

### SWB — Secret Women's Business **8-11 Sep 2011**

The SWB – Secret Women's Business is a ladies-only fishing tournament held in Darwin, with the main focus on encouraging females to participate in recreational fishing. [swbchallenge.com.au](http://swbchallenge.com.au)

## Events

There are many exciting events and festivals coming up in Australia that you could incorporate into your clients' holiday plans. For a more extensive list of upcoming events go to [australia.com/events](http://australia.com/events)

### Melbourne International Film Festival **21 Jul-07 Aug 2011**

MIFF hosts a feast of cinematic delicacies from over 50 countries for some 17 days each winter, heavily garnished with a range of parties and special events that envelop the CBD. [melbournefilmfestival.com.au](http://melbournefilmfestival.com.au)

### Sydney Winter Festival **29 Jul-21 Aug 2011**

Sydney's CBD is transformed into a winter wonderland for the Winter Festival complete with a massive open air ice-rink. There will also be an authentic winter ski hut with live music every night and stylish bars and restaurants serving up winter delicacies from around the world. [winterfestival.com.au](http://winterfestival.com.au)

### The Avon Decent **6-7 Aug 2011**

Western Australia's own unique sporting event that attracts competitors and spectators from throughout Australia and overseas. Competitors challenge the Avon and Swan rivers in a variety of paddle and power craft in an exciting two-day time trial over 134 gruelling kilometres. The action packed white water race is a great event for spectators. [avondescent.com.au](http://avondescent.com.au)

### Barossa Gourmet Weekend **20-21 Aug 2011**

Set your taste buds free with a weekend of indulgence at the Barossa Gourmet Weekend, in 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. [barossagourmetweekend.com.au](http://barossagourmetweekend.com.au)

### Brisbane Festival **3-24 Sep 2011**

Brisbane Festival will intrigue, delight and inspire with a programme of free and ticketed events embracing dance, theatre, opera, classical music, visual arts, circus, sideshow and contemporary music. [brisbanefestival.com.au](http://brisbanefestival.com.au)

### Floriade **17 Sep-16 Oct 2011**

Floriade, Australia's celebration of spring is held each year in Canberra. Highlights include unique garden bed designs, artistic entertainment, exhibitions and NightFest – Floriade's night-time extravaganza. [floriadeaustralia.com](http://floriadeaustralia.com)

### Crave Sydney International Food Festival **1-31 Oct 2011**

A month long celebration of extraordinary food experiences in unique Sydney locations throughout October. The festival offers something for everyone from large scale food events to intimate dinners cooked by some of the world's leading chefs. [cravesydneyfoodfestival.com.au](http://cravesydneyfoodfestival.com.au)

