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DESTINATION DETAILS

SYDNEY:

A unique concoction of natural and manmade beauty, Sydney is known as the Harbour City and is both, the oldest city as well as the most cosmopolitan city in Australia. A multifaceted hub, Sydney is laced with history, culture, art, fashion and a variety of cuisines. It offers the traveller intellectual stimulation through interactions as well as the platform to explore some of world's best natural resources. Young and old, children and adults, backpackers and luxury travellers - Sydney satiates everyone, with something unique on offer

Things To Do:

Soak up Sydney's gorgeous harbour, seductive outdoor lifestyle and great natural beauty. Kayak under the Sydney **Harbour Bridge** or wave at the **Opera House** as you ride a ferry across the harbour to Manly. Learn to surf at **Bondi Beach** or swim in the calm waters of **Coogee**. Visit the **Taronga Zoo** or **Sydney Wildlife World**. Lose yourself in the cobblestone cul-de-sacs of **The Rocks** or in the markets, boutiques, cafes and pubs of **Paddington**. As well as a world-famous harbour and more than 70 sparkling beaches, Sydney offers fabulous food, festivals and 24-7 fun.

More Sydney Information / Fast Facts and Orientation

- Country: Australia
- Location: New South Wales (NSW)
- Area: 2,100 square kilometres / 810 square miles
- Population: 4.3 million
- Language: English
- Currency: Australian Dollar (AUD)
- Time zone: GMT +10 hours (Western Standard Time)
- Country dialling code: +61
- Telephone area code: 02
- Religion: various religions
- Average daily January temperature: 30°C / 86°F
- Average daily July temperature: 16°C / 61°F

GOLD COAST:

The Gold Coast is one of the most developed regions of Australia, and offers something for everyone, and beaches, theme parks, malls, condominiums, restaurants and skyscrapers line the shore. The Gold Coast offers a fascinating contrast between the sea

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and the land, technology and nature's splendour. It is an area stretching over 35 km along the coast, northwards from Coolangatta on Queensland's southern border, and inwards into the beautiful Hinterland, which contains National Parks, rolling hills, canyons and waterfalls.

Things To Do:

Tackle the huge waves off Broadbeach, snorkel through a shipwreck off Main Beach or walk golden sand fringed by high rises in Surfers Paradise. Get your thrills on virtual reality rides at Dreamworld, swim with dolphins at Sea World and watch movies being made at Warner Bros Movie World. Explore the waterfalls, rainforest, lookouts and scenic bushwalks of the lush Gold Coast hinterland. Shop til you drop in art and craft markets, huge airy malls and high-end boutiques. Then get into the Gold Coast's glitz, glamour and fun at its bars, nightclubs and events.

More Brisbane Information / Fast Facts and Orientation

- Country: Australia
- Location: Queensland (QLD)
- Area: 1,360 square kilometres / 525 square miles
- Population: 1.9 million
- Language: English
- Currency: Australian Dollar (AUD)
- Time zone: GMT +10 hours (Eastern Standard Time)
- Country dialling code: +61
- Telephone area code: 07
- Religion: various religions
- Average daily January temperature: 29°C / 84°F
- Average daily July temperature: 20°C / 68°F

MELBOURNE:

Set around the shores of the beautiful Port Philip Bay, Melbourne is a visibly planned city, seen in its rectangular shape and a grid of tidily angled streets. A city of over three and a half million people, Melbourne is a lovely contrast of tranquil nature and bustling urbanity, conveyed through beautiful parks and waterways interspersed all through the metropolis. There is also an interesting blend of architecture, Victorian-era buildings of the Gold Rush mixed in with steel and chrome skyscrapers. It is a city with something for everyone: chic bars; exclusive restaurants and boutiques; botanic gardens; laneway cafes; sport stadiums and an effervescent and diverse music culture. Lying on the banks of the tranquil Yarra River, Melbourne captivates you with its lively cosmopolitan buzz, and gifts you a giddy sense of high adventure.

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Things To Do:

Melbourne is a maze of hidden laneways, opulent bars, exclusive restaurants and off-the-beaten-track boutiques. Here you can soak up culture, hit the sporting grounds, taste the dynamic food and wine scene, dance til dawn or wander the parks and leafy boulevards. Visit Federation Square, the city's landmark cultural space, and enjoy a sunset beer on the St Kilda promenade. Shop till you drop on funky Brunswick Street or upmarket Chapel Street. Wander Southbank's cafes, bistros and bars and get a world tour of cuisines in Carlton, Richmond and Fitzroy. Take an Aboriginal Heritage Walk through the Royal Botanic Gardens and cheer with a capacity crowd at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

More Melbourne Information / Fast Facts and Orientation

- Country: Australia
- Location: Victoria (VIC)
- Area: 2,020 square kilometres / 780 square miles
- Population: 3.9 million
- Language: English
- Currency: Australian Dollar (AUD)
- Time zone: GMT +10 hours (Western Standard Time)
- Country dialling code: +61
- Telephone area code: 03
- Religion: various religions
- Average daily January temperature: 26°C / 79°F
- Average daily July temperature: 13°C / 55°F

CAIRNS:

The ideal tourist town, Cairns has unlimited accommodation, myriad dining options, sprawling markets and a vibrant culture. It's the gateway to the astonishingly beautiful Great Barrier Reef, and to tropical rainforests nestled within mountain ranges. The city has a carnival atmosphere all year round, and is booming with people of various cultures. A stunning region to indulge in, it also offers a host of adventure activities, and is a great centre for aboriginal arts and crafts. Cairns is also the perfect base from which to explore locations like Port Douglas and Cape Tribulation.

Things To Do:

From this stylish international city, the islands, rainforest and reef of tropical North Queensland are on your doorstep. Snorkel, dive or do a day trip to the Great Barrier Reef – a World Heritage-listed spectacular of coral islands and marine life. Enjoy the

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oceanfront energy of the Cairns Esplanade and trawl the restaurants, shops and bars. Go white water rafting in the nearby rivers and take the scenic railway to the tranquil, butterfly-fringed village of Kuranda. Don't miss a day trip to the magical Daintree Rainforest, thought to be the planet's oldest surviving tropical rainforest.

More Cairns Information / Fast Facts and Orientation

- Country: Australia
- Location: Far North Queensland (FNQ / QLD)
- Status: city
- Area: approximately 187 square miles / 485 square kilometres
- Population: approximately 140,000
- Language: English
- Currency: Australian Dollar (AUD)
- Time zone: GMT +10 hours (Eastern Standard Time)
- Country dialling code: +61
- Telephone area code: 07
- Average daily Cairns January temperature: 31°C / 88°F
- Average daily Cairns July temperature: 25°C / 77°F