

2025 Australia

Overview: Australia January – March 2025: Snorkeling, hiking, and a “drive about.” The cities: Sydney, Cairns, Hobart, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. Natural Wonders: Uluru, Great Barrier Reef, Lord Howe Island, Tasmania, and the West Coast. And wine: Tamar Valley, McClaren Vale, and Clare Valley and Margaret River.

>>> Australian Icons >>>

Jan 04 – Jan 06: Fly to Sydney 2N (Sat – Mon). CLT-SYD Dpt 2:20pm Arv 8:35am +2 ~28hr
Jan 06 – Jan 11: Sydney 5N (Mon – Sat). Re-visit and enjoy the city, and perhaps reconnect with friends

Jan 11 – Jan 14: Uluru 3N (Sat – Tues). The great spiritual rock with evening light show, sunrise, and bike/hike

Jan 14 – Jan 17: Cairns 3N (Tues – Fri). Great Barrier Reef and Fitzroy Island for snorkeling.

Jan 17 – Jan 18: Sydney 1N (Fri – Sat). Layover to get to Lord Howe

Jan 18 – Jan 23: Lord Howe Island 5N (Sat – Thurs). Hike, snorkel, relax in this UNESCO wonder

>>> Tasmania >>>

Jan 23 – Jan 27: Hobart 4N (Thurs – Mon). Salamanca and Farmers Gate Markets, Battery Point, MONA, & more.
Jan 27 – Jan 30: Bruny Island 3N (Mon – Thurs). Local fare, hikes, and beach time by the bungalow.
Jan 30 – Feb 01: Strahan 2N (Thurs – Sat). Historic Steam Rail and West Coast waterfront.
Feb 01 – Feb 4: Cradle Mountain 3N (Sat – Tues). Best hiking in Tasmania!
Feb 04 – Feb 6: Tamar Valley 2N (Tues – Thurs). Tasmanian sparkling wine and more
Feb 06 – Feb 7: Bay of Fires 1N (Thurs – Fri). White beaches with burnt-orange boulders for epic sunsets.
Feb 07 – Feb 13: Freycinet NP 5N (Fri – Thurs). Beautiful hikes, and a short rest after running.

>>> Melbourne and Great Ocean Road >>>

Feb 13 – Feb 18: Melbourne 5N (Thurs – Tues). Back to the continent for friends, shows, river runs, and food!
Feb 18 – Feb 21: Apollo Bay 3N (Tues – Fri). Great Ocean Road Pt 1 – Kennet Wildlife, Platypus canoeing
Feb 21 – Feb 22: Port Fairy 1N (Fri – Sat). Continue on the GOR, with the Twelve Apostles and The Grotto enroute.
Feb 22 – Feb 25: Hall’s Gap 3N (Sat – Tues). Leave the LOR to Grampians National Park for some mountain hiking.

>>> Adelaide and SA Wine Country >>>

Feb 25 – Feb 28: McClaren Vale 3N (Tues – Fri). Wineries, etc.
Feb 28 – Mar 03: Clare Valley 3N (Fri – Mon). Hahndorf and Barossa and route to Clare and the Reisling Bike Trail
Mar 03 – Mar 07: Adelaide 4N (Mon – Fri). Central Market, parks, Rundle Mall, museums & hidden bars.

>>> Perth and the Western Australia Coast >>>

Mar 07 – Mar 08: Pinnacles NP 1N (Fri – Sat). Get groceries and water, and visit Pinnacles NP and Lake Thetis
Mar 08 – Mar 10: Kalbarri NP 2N (Sat – Mon). Hike Kalbarri National Park enroute to Monkey Mia
Mar 10 – Mar 11: Pinnacles NP 1N (Mon – Tues). Stopover at a nice stay enroute south
Mar 11 – Mar 18: Margaret River Wineries 7N (Tues – Tues). Wineries and relax before heading home
Mar 18 – Mar 23: Perth 5N (Tues – Sun). Rottneest Island and exploring the city

>>> Home >>>

Mar 23 – Mar 23: Fly home 1N (Sun – Sun). PER-CLT Dpt 12:20am Arv 7:35am ~31½ hr

USA>>Australia Entry Requirements

You must have a valid U.S. passport and an approved Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) to enter Australia.

[ETA Application](#) costs \$20AUD/pp. *Applied and approved Nov 7 US / Nov 8 Oz.*

[US State Department site here](#). Level 1: Exercise Normal Precaution. Registered for [STEP](#)

2025 Australia

Weather – Summer Dec-Feb, Fall March-April. Temp H/L in F, Rain in//days. [Site here](#) and [Site here](#)

- Perth (Western A): Jan 90/64, 01//1D; Feb 90/64, 01//1D; Mar 86/61, 01//2D; Apr 80/56, 01//4D
- Sydney (NSW): Jan 82/68, 03//8D; Feb 81/68, 05//9D; Mar 78/65, 04//9D; Apr 74/59, 04//8D
- Melbourne (Victoria): Jan 79/58, 02//6D; Feb 79/58, 02//5D; Mar 75/55, 02//6D; Apr 69/50, 02//7D
- Adelaide (South A.): Jan 83/62, 01//3D; Feb 83/62, 01//2D; Mar 78/59, 01//3D; Apr 72/54, 01//5D
- Uluru (North): Jan 95/66, 02//3D; Feb 93/65, 02//3D; Mar 88/59, 01//3D; Apr 79/50, 01//2D
- Hobart (Tasmania): Jan 74/55, 02//6D; Feb 72/54, 02//5D; Mar 70/52, 02//7D; Apr 65/48, 02//7D

Prescriptions – must have a prescription, in original bottle, up to 90-day supply.

Diving – Current DL required (no IDL needed). Drive on the LEFT as in UKI.

VPN/Phone: Surfshark VPN for access to U.S. financials, streaming, etc. Surfroam for Mark's phone data

Money: \$1 USD = \$1.50 AUD / \$1 AUD = \$0.67 USD. Roughly 2/3 AUD = USD

Tipping in Australia: Food 10-15% is generous. Really only do it for good service, not expected though the practice is changing (those under 30 in Oz more likely too). See [SBS tipping article](#).

Resources / Ideas:

1. Adelaide best times to visit: [US News](#), [Holidify](#),
2. Perth best times to visit: [US News](#), [The Travel](#), [West Australia Guide](#), [Santorini Dave](#),
3. <https://www.travelandleisure.com/trip-ideas/places-to-visit-in-australia-according-to-australians>

Australia Foods – Vegemite (on toast, with butter or maybe avocado slices), pan-fried or seared, barramundi (aka Asian sea bass, giant sea perch, dangri, apahap, or siakap), crocodile (cooked like chicken), shrimp on the barbie, kangaroo (burgers or steaks), and witchetty grub (yes, a raw grub). Snags are hotdogs. Chikos are spring rolls sold right off the beach as a snack. And Moreton Bay Bug is a cross between lobster and crayfish, boiled or on the barbie. Pavlova is said to have been invented here...

Australian Slang: <https://www.cnn.com/travel/australian-slang-words-terms-visitor/index.html#openweb-convo>

Current Events Australia:

- The ALP (Australian Labor Party) is center-left. The center-right conservatives are a coalition of parties, the largest of which is called the "Liberal Party" (which is confusing for sure). The National Party is a smaller, more socially conservative part of the coalition, primarily representing rural and agricultural interests.

2025 Australia

Jan 04 – Jan 06: Fly to Sydney 2N (Sat – Mon). CLT-SYD Dpt 2:20pm Arv 8:35am +2 ~28hr

Transit Uber home to airport

Flight Delta | Comfort+ (domestic) / Premium Select (Int'l) | [Check-in](#)
Baggage: 1 personal + 1 carry-on 7kg + 2 checked 22kg (per person)

CLT-ATL DL3185 | Dpt 02:20pm – Arv T-South 03:37pm (1½ hr) | 13A, 13B |

Layover 2 hr ATL. Sam Adams or Minute Suites with [Priority Pass](#). Maybe The Club ATL in Concourse F

ATL-LAX DL0502 | Dpt T-South 03:45pm – Arv T3 07:45pm (5 hr, day) | 14D, 14E |

Layover 2¼ hr LAX. [No lounge](#) options with [Priority Pass](#) but maybe [Gameway T3 drink + snack](#)

LAX-SYD DL0041 | Dpt T3 10:30pm – Arv T1 08:35am (15 hr, day) | 22B, 22A |

Transit: Train T8/T2 City Circle via Museum + 8 min walk. \$12-14/pp tap on/off w/cc – **or** – **Taxi door-to-door \$30-40.**

Jan 06 – Jan 11: Sydney 5N (Mon – Sat). Re-visit and enjoy the city, and perhaps reconnect with friends

Sydney: Our entry point and hub, and near where Europeans first landed (Botany Bay, south of the airport). We are staying in the same building as we did in 2016 and will revisit favorite places and have dinner with friends.

Ideas: Some ideas [here](#)

Getting Around – tips on transit from [Lonely Planet](#).

Stay: [Meriton Suites Kent Street](#),

1-BR Suite. Balcony, kitchen, washer and dryer. In 3pm, out 10am.

528 Kent Street, Central Business District, Sydney, 2000, Australia

tel: +61 2 9277 1111

Day 1 – Mon Jan 06 -----

- Check bags at hotel (~11am) and head out for a nice lunch... Mr. Wongs?
- Check-into room
- Paddy's Market for some supplies
- Walk Darling Harbor in the evening
- [Re-send Cairns arrival info to Port Douglass hotel](#)

Day 2-5 – Tues Jan 07 – Fri Jan 10 -----

Mix and match ideas below. Note: Sydney Festival is Jan 3 – Jan 26, much is free. Search events online.

- Day 1: Queen Victoria Building, Australia Museum.
- Day X: Miller's Point, Circular Quay, then ferry to Manley Beach and Thai Food
- Day X: Sydney Harbor Bridge Climb, Kirribilli, Luna Park,
- Day X: Botanic Gardens, Opera House, Potts Point, Woolamaloo, Kings Cross
- Day X: Train to Blue Mountains / Katoomba to hike (3hr each way via rail)
- Day X: Walk Bondi-Bronte Coast or Hermitage Foreshore (ferry CQ to Rose Bay Beach, walk to Shark Beach & back)
- **Thurs Jan 9 – Dinner with friends in Neutral Bay**

Day 6 – Sat Jan 11 -----

- Pack, taxi to airport, and on to Uluru

Next: The Spiritual Red Center - Uluru

2025 Australia

Jan 11 – Jan 14: Uluru 3N (Sat – Tues). The great spiritual rock with evening light show, sunrise, and bike/hike

Uluru: The mystical Uluru (Ayer’s Rock), a spiritual site to the Mala people for millennia. Nearby are the Kata Tjuta (“The Olgas”). There are more offers here than we can do in our short stay. Our plan is a sunset light show, sunrise over Uluru, and cycle the Uluru loop. Then sunrise at Kata Tjuta and do a hike... perhaps Valley of the Winds or Walpa Gorge.

Ideas: [See NT Itineraries](#). [Full Suitcase](#) also has a good summary. For Kata Tjuta, again, [Full Suitcase](#).

Transit: taxi from Sydney hotel to the airport

Flight [SYD -AYQ](#) Jetstar JQ660 | T2 Dpt 10:35 – Arv 12:25 (3½hr) | 1A, 1B | [Online Check-in](#)
Baggage per person: Carry-on 7kg + 1 checked 20kg

Transit Airport Transfers are complimentary, and we do not need to pre-book. Upon arrival at Ayers Rock Airport, collect our luggage and head out to the AAT Kings coaches waiting out the front. Take note of the signs and board the correct coach that is going to our hotel.

Stay: The Lost Camel Hotel at Ayers Rock Resort,
Standard Room, Queen Bed, wifi. Includes transfer to/from airport.

Note: The resort is cashless. 0.9% credit card fee on all transactions. Restaurants and a grocery store onsite.

Note: Uluru / Kata Tjuta NP 3-day pass purchased July 19. Print PDF or see Apple Wallet (saved there).

Day 1 – Sat Jan 11

- Arrive ~1-2pm. Check-in and explore the resort
- Check out the **Audio Guide** – [here is a bit about it](#) out, app with geo triggering
- WINTJIRI WIRU TWILIGHT tour (\$380 AUD PAP, Confirmation: RMQACLV).

Day 2 – Sun Jan 12

Uluru Hop-on/Hop-off 2-day pass + 1 audio app

<http://www.uluruhoponhopoff.com.au> sales@uluruexpress.com Phone: +61889562019

See the PDF schedule for January and also map of pick-up points

- HO/HO - Sunrise (4:30am) bus to viewpoint and the Culture Center
- Bike the Loop - <https://www.outbackcycling.com/uluru-bike-ride> Reserve ahead
- Mala Walk to Kantju Gorge ([AllTrails](#), easy, aboriginal rock art). Free ranger tours 8&10am?
- Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre
- HO/HO - Return 10:50am culture center to hotel and take a nap
- HO/HO - Sunset Viewing 17:55 Sunset

Day 3 – Mon Jan 13

- HO/HO - Sunrise 4:25am to Kata Tjuta (bus stops to view over a sand dune)
- Valley of the Winds hike – rates 4.8 on [AllTrails](#) 4½ miles, 1000’. [Walpa Gorge](#) is a shorter alternative.
- HO/HO - 10:45am hotel return
- HO/HO - Sunset Viewing 17:55 Sunset

Day 4 – Tues Jan 14

- Pack and head to the airport

Next: Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef

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Jan 14 – Jan 17: Port Douglas 3N (Tues – Fri). Great Barrier Reef snorkeling and Daintree NP, the world's oldest rainforest

Great Barrier Reef: Cairns and Port Douglas are the gateways to the northern Great Barrier Reef, the only living thing on Earth visible from space. Made up of over 2900 individual reefs and 900 islands, it stretches for over 1400 miles. For reference, that is about 300 miles more than a drive from home in Charlotte, NC to Dane's in Manhattan, KS.

Ideas: GBR, Run Four-Mile Beach, explore Daintree Rainforest w/ Croc Cruise

Transit Airport Transfers are complimentary and you do not need to pre-book.

Flight AYQ-CNS Qantas QF1932 | Dpt 10:50 – Arv 13:50 (2½hr) | 8E, 8F | Economy Red-E | [Online Check-in](#)
Baggage per person: Carry-on 1 41" (7kg) + 1 checked 23kg

Transit Free arrival shuttle from hotel – phone +61 7 4099 9100 – [call or email ahead to confirm](#)

Stay: [Peninsula Boutique Hotel](#), Oceanview Suite. Free arrival shuttle from Cairns airport
9-13 The Esplanade, 4877 Port Douglas Tel: 07 40999100 Email: res@peninsulahotel.com.au

Day 1 – Jan 14 (Tues) -----

- We arrive at the hotel about 3-4 PM.
- Go to *Wavelength* (snorkel tour operator) at *44 Warf Street* to get equipment, then practice snorkeling in the pool!
- Find dinner on Macrossan Street

Day 2 – Jan 15 (Wed) -----

- Full-day Outer Reef Tour with [WaveLength](#) +6107 4099 5031 Email: info@wavelength.com.au 15-min walk.
 - o Light breakfast 1 hour prior, and take TravelCalm (for seasickness) from local pharma (open until 6pm)
 - o **Arrive 8am** at Crystalbrook Superyacht Marina, Berth C10/C11 (boats blue/white w/ WAVELENGTH on side)
 - o Provided: wetsuit, snorkel gear, food, water, reef-safe sunscreen, photos, tea service
 - o Bring: Suit, hat sunglasses, change of clothes, jacket, towel, cash/card for soda, etc.
 - o Itinerary: A.) 90-min to reef w/briefing and snorkel fitting B.) 1st site – learn to snorkel on the reef, C.) 2nd site with guided snorkel tour, D.) Lunch and Lecture, E.) 3rd stop free snorkeling, F.) Cruise back & arrive 4pm

Day 3 – Jan 16 (Thurs) -----

- Daintree Forest with [Tony's Tropical Tours](#), +61 429 993 230 • info@tropicaltours.com.au
- Tour A. Included: Tour, lunch, park fees.
 - o 8:15 start, with **hotel pickup at 7:10am**, return ~5:30pm.
 - o Bring: comfortable shoes, a water bottle, swimsuit, towel, hat, light clothes.
 - o Itinerary: Mossman Gorge, River Cruise (look for crocs), Alexandra Lookout, Noah Valley walk, Cape Tribulation, swim at Cooper Creek, lunch at restaurant, and Daintree Ice Cream Company, then home.

Day 4 – Jan 17 (Fri) -----

- Pack and fly to Sydney

Next: Layover in Sydney enroute to Lord Howe Island

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Jan 17 – Jan 18: Sydney 1N (Fri – Sat). Layover to get to Lord Howe

Transit: TBD – book shuttle or taxi

Flight [CNS-SYD](#) Jetstar JQ955 | Dpt 15:50 – Arv T2 19:45 (3hr) | Seats 1E, 1F | FlexPlus | [Online Check-in](#)
Baggage per person: Carry-on (7kg) + 1 checked 20kg

Transit taxi or hotel shuttle or Uber – [check with hotel](#)

Stay: Moxy Sydney Airport, Marriott points

Moxy Queen Sleeper Room, restaurant/bar, gym, lounge, airport shuttle (fee)

56 Baxter Road Mascot, New South Wales 2020 Australia tel: +61-2-9132-4800

Evening: Dinner at the airport hotel bar... exciting, huh?

Next: Lord Howe Island for hiking, snorkeling, and relaxing

Jan 18 – Jan 23: Lord Howe Island 5N (Sat – Thurs). Hike, snorkel, relax in this UNESCO wonder

Lord Howe: On this island of around 400 people, located 372 miles off the east coast of mainland Australia, the beaches are empty. The only sounds on a hike through its rainforests and mountains come from the wildlife. The coral reef, vibrant with fish, is a 10-min boat-ride. At 6km long, everything is within a short cycle ride. A UNESCO WH site since 1982, limited to 400 visitors at a time.

Ideas: See [CNN article](#), [official site](#) , [Lord Howe Island Nature Tours](#). [See also Aurora Australis Forecast](#)

Transit TBD Hotel Airport Shuttle

Flight [SYD-LDH](#) Qantas QF2264 | T3 Dpt 12:30 – Arv 14:35 (2hr) | Economy Red-E | [Online Check-in](#)
Baggage per person: Carry-on 1 41" (7kg) + 1 checked 14kg

Reduced baggage allowances for Lord Howe Island. Checked baggage allowance is 1 piece (Maximum 14kg/30lbs). Pack essential items, including medication in carry-on baggage.

Transit hotel will provide airport pick-up and drop-off

Stay: [Lorhiti Apartments](#),

Garden Apt. Full kitchen, W/D, wifi, LR, balcony, floor heating In 2pm, out 9am.

78 Anderson Rd, Lord Howe, 2898, Australia tel: + +61 265632081

Day 1-5 Sat Jan 18 – Wed Jan 22 -----

- Snorkel, hike, and enjoy local restaurants

Day 6 Thu Jan 23 -----

- Pack and fly on to Tasmania via Sydney

Flight [LDH-SYD](#) Qantas QF2261 | Dpt 9:40 – Arv 11:55 (2hr) T3 | Economy Red-E | [Online Check-in](#)
Baggage per person: Carry-on 1 41" (7kg) + 1 checked 23kg

Next: Hiking and exploring Tasmania

2025 Australia

>>> **Tasmania** >>> [Overall Route](#) >>> *Devils, Platys, hikes, wine and beautiful bays under the land Down Under.*

Ideas: See [Full Suitcase](#), [Turo](#), [Inspiring Vacations](#), [Lap of Tasmania 14 day RT](#), [In a Faraway Land 10 day RT](#) (basis for our Road Trip), [Discover Tasmania](#). See also [Aurora Australis Forecast](#)... just maybe! [Tassie 60 Great Short Walks](#),

Transit: Walk from arrival T3 (from LDH) to Qantas baggage claim, and re-check bags at T2 for Hobart flight

Layover: ~5hrs including baggage and security. Lounge options: T2 [Rex Lounge](#) via Priority Pass

Flight: [SYD-HOB](#) Jetstar JQ725 | T2 Dpt 17:05 – Arv 18:55 (2hr) | Seats 1B, 1C | FlexPlus fare | [Online Check-in](#)
Baggage per person: Carry-on (7kg) + 1 checked 20kg

Transit: Uber to Zip Auto or [arrange for airport pick-up](#)

Car: [Zip Auto](#) thru [Turo](#). Jan 23 19:30 – Feb 13 noon.

MG3 auto (small hatch), unlimited miles, fuel like-like

8 Cessna Way, Cambridge, TAS 7170

Tel: +61 490 372 206

Note: A taxi/ to downtown is ~\$90A. To/from \$180A = 3 days of rental car, so got it day 1 :-)

Parks Note: *Since most of the island is a protected area, we need a Tasmania National Parks Pass. The best option is an eight-week pass for AUD 89.50, good for all national parks on the whole island. [Pick it up at the Parks and Wildlife office at the gates of any of the parks](#) or online through [Parks & Wildlife Service](#) prior to your travels. NOTE: I tried online, the site didn't work.*

2025 Australia

Jan 23 – Jan 27: Hobart 4N (Thurs – Mon). Salamanca and Farmers Gate Markets, Battery Point, MONA, & more.

Hobart: Founded as a penal colony in 1804, Hobart is the second-oldest capital in Australia. Famous for its MONA, Salamanca and Farm Gate Markets, Battery Point/Harbor and the historic prison at Port Arthur. [Top 10 Hobart](#)

Route: [15 min](#), Zip Auto to 110 Hampton Apartments

Stay: [110 Hampton Apartments](#)

Exec One BR Apartment #6, parking, full kitchen, W/D. In 2pm, out 10am.

110 Hampden Road, Battery Point, Hobart, 7004 tel: + 61 419 404 778

Day 1 – Jan 23 (Thurs)

- We arrive at the hotel for check-in about 8PM
- Find a pub for dinner at Battery Point, known for its colonial architecture and happening scene.

Day 2 – Jan 24 (Fri)

- Morning Run
- Local Guide Walking Tour of Battery Point/Waterfront
- MONA – Museum of Old and New Art – includes “adult” content. Drive, or the more popular way to get to MONA is by ferry from Brooke Street Pier. The MR-1 fast ferries take approximately 25 minutes and also give you a nice opportunity to see Hobart and the surroundings from the water.
- Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (1-2 hr, closed Mondays)

Day 3 – Jan 25 (Sat)

- Salamanca Market (Saturday 8:30-2pm only, 300+ stalls, often live music)
- Afternoon Road Trip:
 - o Mt. Wellington – or Kunanyi, as it’s officially called. On a clear day, sweeping views over Hobart, the Tasman Peninsula, and Bruny Island. Sunrise and sunset are particularly special times to visit as you watch the colors in the sky dance over the city.
 - o Richmond - a picture-perfect town in the heart of the Coal River Valley wine region that tells the story of an early Australian colonial village. The town's most photographed landmark is the Richmond Bridge. Built by convicts in the 1820s, it's the oldest bridge in Australia and offers a perfect picnic spot on the grassy banks.
 - o Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary – Tassie Devils and other local critters at this rescue.
 - o Wicked Cheese Company for a taste
 - o Puddleduck Vineyard – for a late afternoon tasting

Day 4 – Jan 26 (Sun)

- Farm Gate Market (Sunday 8:30-1pm only) - Farm Gate started with the philosophy that if you can drink it, eat it, or grow it, then you’ll find it at this market. Many years later, it has grown to one of the top five markets in the country
- Options:
 - o Port Arthur Day Trip – by boat (GetYourGuide or ToursbyLocals)
 - o Hike Mt Nelson Signal Station
- Cascade Brewery – the oldest in Australia

Day 5 – Jan 27 (Mon)

- Pack and drive to Bruny Island, stopping Mt. Wellington enroute if not done already

Next: Local Fare and Hiking on Bruny Island

2025 Australia

Jan 27 – Jan 30: Bruny Island 3N (Mon – Thurs). Local fare, hikes, and beach time by the bungalow.

Bruny Island – Bruny is a foodie and hiking destination. Local wines, oysters, beers, distilled spirits, honey and other fare are found across the north of the island. One stop planned - Get Shucked Oyster Farm for lunch. The north and south ends of the island are connected by “the neck”, with a great viewpoint a short hike above.

The south is mostly a protected park, with nice hikes. [Animals](#) to look for include white wallabies (lack of predators means the coloration isn’t debilitating), echidnas, dusky antechinus (marsupial mouse, males die at 1yr at end of mating season), Southern Elephant Seals (rare), Australian Fur Seals, sea lions, and maybe penguins.

Ideas: A good [Planning Guide](#) here. [Top 10 to do on Bruny](#) and [BrunyIsland.org](#)

Route: [Drive](#) 3½ hr Hobart thru Bruny, several stops to explore then backtrack to our stay.
Note the [Ferry Schedule](#). No bookings, all tickets are open return tickets. Arrive 30 min early.

Stay: [Secret Spot – Bruny Island](#)

Beach Front Bungalow, shabby out, nice in. BBQ, parking, full kitchen, W/D. In 2pm, out 10am.
181 Cemetery Road, Lunawanna, 7150, Australia tel: +61 435 340 440

Day 1 – Jan 27 (Mon) -----

- Scenic, slow drive from Hobart, with a ferry to reach Bruny.
- Get groceries enroute! Limited options on the island (and expensive too)
- Explore sights enroute: *Two Tree Point* and *Resolution Creek Historic site* (both Cook and Bligh stopped here for water). Stop at a local winery, cheese/beer maker, Jurassic botanical garden, the neck lookout, and a lighthouse.
- Arrive at stay, maybe bonfire in the evening.

Day 2 – Jan 28 (Tues) -----

- Morning Run.
- Hike, snorkel, or both. See AllTrails “Australia” hikes – maybe Cloudy Bay Beach Walk or Fluted Cape.
- Dinner out or at the bungalow.

Day 3 – Jan 29 (Wed) -----

- Maybe [Bruny Cruise](#) to look for whales, seals, dolphins. - OR -
- Hike we missed – maybe Cape Queen Elizabeth Trek - OR -
- Chill!

Day 4 – Jan 30 (Thurs) -----

- Leave early for the long road-trip to the West Coast. Picnic enroute.

Next: Long lazy drive to the West Coast – Strahan and the Steam Railway

2025 Australia

Jan 30 – Feb 01: Strahan 2N (Thurs – Sat). Historic Steam Rail and West Coast waterfront.

West Coast – There are two key towns – Queenstown and Strahan, connected by a historic steam cog rail used to support mining. Strahan (population ~600) is our base, a former mining and logging town, now a tourist hub. We will stay along the waterfront in Strahan, to enjoy dinner and a morning run as we explore just a bit of the TAS west coast

Ideas: [Discover Tasmania / Strahan](#)

Route West – 6½ hr [drive](#) with several stops. Salmon Ponds (Museum of Trout Fishing and Platypus), Mount Field NP and Russell Falls, to Queenstown (quick look) and then on to Strahan to our stay and dinner.

Stay: [Aloft Boutique Accommodation](#)

Garden Studio 3. Parking, kitchen. In 2pm, out 10am.

15 Reid Street, Strahan, 7468, Australia tel: +61 407 045 197

Day 1 – Jan 30 (Thurs) -----

- Start early for the long drive to the west coast. The route above has some stops, but there are others pinned (and not) that may be of interest. We will take our time, and picnic somewhere scenic.
- Arrive late, so stretch your legs with a stroll along the esplanade enjoying the sights and sounds of this small fishing village. Stop by the nearby Peoples Park and see Horgath Falls.

Day 2 – Jan 31 (Fri) -----

- [Cruise](#) on the Gordon River or Pillinger Explorer ([book ahead while in Tasmania](#)) - OR -
- [West Coast Wilderness Railway](#). The 2½ hr Teepookana and the King run from Strahan along the harbor and up the gorge through the rainforest at 10am, departing from Regatta Point Station ([book ahead](#)) - OR -
- Local hike to Hogarth Falls, see the Henty Dunes and maybe dune surf

Day 3 – Feb 01 (Sat) -----

- Morning run, pack and go on to Cradle Mountain (about 2hr drive, no particular stops)

Next: Early-ish start to Cradle Mountain and a short afternoon hike

2025 Australia

Feb 01 – Feb 4: Cradle Mountain 3N (Sat – Tues). Best hiking in Tasmania!

Cradle Mountain – a 5,000' basalt peak in central Tasmania, with beautiful hikes and lakes. Wildlife includes devils, wombats, quolls and platypus. We will hike both days, and maybe see a devil feeding in the evening.

Ideas: See AllTrails for hikes

Route – [About 2 hr](#) including a stop at Henty Dunes.

Stay: [Cradle Mountain Wilderness Village](#)

Luxury Cottage with Spa Bath. Parking, kitchen. Lounge/bar on site. In 2:30pm, out 10am.

Cradle Mountain Road, Cradle Mountain, Australia 7306 tel: +61 364 921 500

Note: I booked the restaurant for 2nd night - must book ahead, not many other options! \$40A per person

Day 1 – Feb 01 (Sat) -----

- Start early-ish for the 2-hour drive to the lodge. Check-in and drop our bags if possible.
- Go to the visitor centre and shuttle to & hike Dove Lake Circuit (see AT). This is one of Australia's 40 Great Short Walks for the long drive to the west coast. It is short – 3-4 miles, easy afternoon hike

Day 2 – Feb 02 (Sun) -----

- Hike Crater Lake Circuit, Wombat Pool, or other (see AT "Australia" list) or kayak (see Day 3)
- In the evening, go to [Devils @ Cradle](#) to see Tasmanian Devil feeding (cool!)
- Dinner reservation made 7pm at *Cradle Mountain Wilderness Village Restaurant*, \$31AD to cancel w/in 48hr

Day 3 – Feb 03 (Mon) -----

- Whitewater kayak or Lake Dove Kayak with <https://cradlemountaincanyons.com.au/>

Day 4 – Feb 04 (Tue) -----

- Leave late morning for short drive (2-3 hr) to Tamar Valley for wineries and hiking recovery

Next: Tamar Valley Wineries

2025 Australia

Feb 04 – Feb 6: **Tamar Valley 2N (Tues – Thurs)**. Tasmanian sparkling wine and more

Tamar Valley – To Tamar for [wine tasting](#). Evidently, their product is [very good stuff](#). Enjoy a range of activities, including visits to charming villages, wine tasting, and witnessing the beauty of local natural attractions. Most wineries are north, nearer the coast, on both banks. We will stay on the left (West) and drive or cycle to a few wineries to tipple.

Ideas: [Tamar Valley Vinyards](#), [Tamar Valley App](#), and [Itinerary Ideas](#)

Route: [Approx Route here](#), 2 hr. This gives us time in the morning to hike one last time at Cradle Mountain, or to explore Launceston and its Cataract Gorge, or hit wineries early.

Stay: [Outlook BnB](#)

Apartment. Parking, kitchen. In 3pm, out 10am.

14 Hall Street, Rosevears, 7277, Australia

tel: + 61434246102

Day 1 – Feb 04 (Tues) -----

- One more Cradle Mountain Hike, or drive and explore Launceston and Cataract Gorge
- Maybe visit one winery then Check-in
- Plan our Day 2 (kayak, bikes, cellar door drive, winery tour, river cruise, etc.). Some wine tour options: [Valleybrook](#), [Tamar Valley](#). I searched for winery tours by bike, zero success. One [guided kayak tour](#) operator.

Day 2 – Feb 05 (Wed) -----

- Explore Tamar Valley per our scheming from Tuesday evening: Kayak, bike, drive, etc.

Day 3 – Feb 06 (Thurs) -----

- Leave mid-morning 3 hr drive (2-3 hr) to Ben Lomond and Bay of Fires (St. Helens)

Next: *Ben Lomond and Bay of Fires*

2025 Australia

Feb 06 – Feb 7: Bay of Fires 1N (Thurs – Fri). White beaches with burnt-orange boulders for epic sunsets.

Bay of Fires – St Helens, the largest town on Tasmania's north-east coast and just a few kilometres away from Binalong Bay and the southern end of the beautiful beaches of the Bay of Fires. There, white powder beaches pair with burnt-orange boulders for fantastic sunrise and sunset photography.

There are a few nice (short) hikes in the area along the coast. Binalong Bay, the Gardens, and Skeleton point are a few of interest (see AllTrails). There are some luxury stays here, but we will do a value hotel for a single night before taking a short drive south to our own "luxury stay" at Coles Bay / Wineglass.

Ideas: Good tips for the area here: [Bay of Fires Landscapes](#)

Route: [Approx Route here](#), 3½ hrs. We stop enroute maybe at a winery, and to do a short hike up Ben.

Josef Chromy Winery (enroute, maybe)– between Tamar Valley and St. Helens, near Ben Lomond

Ben Lomond: Yes, another Ben Lomond. See an [article here](#). The peak is called [Legges Tor](#), and the route on AT is ~2.5 miles and 500' The trailhead is at ~Ben Lomond Alpine Resort.

Sunset photos of Bay of Fires from National Whale Trail.

Stay: [Queechy Motel](#)

Queen Room with Sea View. Parking, kitchen. In 2pm, out 10am.

2 Tasman Highway, St Helens, 7216, Australia

tel: + 61 3 6376 1321

Day 1 – Feb 06 (Thurs) -----

- Mid-morning start – no rush
- If we want a fancy lunch – stop at Josef Chromy (or maybe vineyard bike ride)
- Short hike up Ben Lomond
- Takeaway from Lease65 Oyster Farm? Picnic with a white wine from Tamar Valley while waiting for sunset
- Sunset Photography over the bay: *From a photography blog, I think a good spot will be near National Whale Trail GM pin. The rocky point at the small harbour at the end of Binalong Bay Road is covered with granite boulders, and has many small rock-lined channels. There are views over water both to the east and west, making it an ideal place for photography either at sunrise or sunset.*

Day 2 – Feb 07 (Fri) -----

- Up early for sunrise photography – skeleton point or maybe the Gardens
- Back to the hotel to pack
- [Bay of Fires Eco Tours](#) (boat) if available (biz for sale as of July 2024, so tbd). - OR -
- Short hike or swim on Binalong Bay or other beach nearby (see GM pins and AllTrails) - THEN -
- Drive on to our long-stay in Cole's Bay, with more wineries enroute if we wish.

Next: Hike and chill at Coles Bay / Wineglass

2025 Australia

Feb 07 – Feb 13: Freycinet NP 6N (Fri – Thurs). Beautiful hikes, and a short rest after running.

Freycinet National Park – One of the most popular areas in Tasmania, with beautiful hikes and views to an inland bay and the Tasman Sea. There is some swimming and snorkeling, but it will be quite chilly.

Mostly though, we have a nice place, with a nice view, and chance to chill, cook and maybe play billiards :-)

We will stay in Coles Bay, a small town very near the park, with an easy walk to a beach. Up the coast is Bicheno, with an evening “Little Blue Penguins” walk that lets you get close to the wildlife. To the west, Cranbrook area wineries. To the south, beaches in Freycinet NP, with Honeymoon Bay, Wineglass Bay, great hikes overlooking the sea and bay.

Ideas: [Tracks Less Traveled](#), [Y Travel](#). Hiking, maybe snorkeling or swimming. Chill...

Route: About 2 hour [drive](#). Two possible stops enroute:

Bicheno (enroute) – stroll beaches, snorkelling in the crystal-clear waters of Governor Island Marine Reserve, or taking a ride on a glass-bottom boat to view some spectacular marine life.

Cranbrook area wineries. Milton's cellar door commands a glorious spot overlooking the vines, and Craigie Knowe is the region's oldest vineyard, with a cellar door inside an old barn. The sleek contemporary design of Devil's Corner delivers gorgeous views of your Freycinet

Note on finding our stay: ~6km before Coles Bay, turn right into Hazards View Drive, then turn onto your second left into Meika Place. Tranquility is at the bottom of the cul-de-sac on the left.

Stay: [Tranquility](#) (by Freycinet Holiday Houses)

3BR house, wrap-around deck, pool table, full kitchen, covered parking, etc. In 3pm, out 10am.

9 Meika Place, Swanwick (Coles Bay), Tasmania tel: + 61 3 6257 0119

Day 1 – Feb 07 (Fri) -----

- Enjoy Bay of Fires as above
- Get some groceries in Bicheno and look around town
- Possibly Cranbrook Valley wineries (can do both later in the week also, nearby)
- Check-in and chill

Day 2-6 – Feb 08 – Feb 12 (Sat – Wed) -----

- Scenic hike to Wineglass Bay Lookout for panoramic views of Wineglass Bay Beach below. If you're feeling adventurous, you can even take an extended hike down to the beach itself where you can enjoy swimming in its crystal blue waters.
- Visit Wineglass Bay, Honeymoon Bay, Friendly Beach
- Enjoy our nearby beach
- Kayak (from Coles Bay) to Schouten Island
- Guided morning cruise - The Sky Lounge is on the upper deck of Schouten Passage II. The adults only lounge with banquette style seating for up to 26 passengers provides an intimate experience, with direct access to the Captains bridge and private viewing deck
- Maybe one evening the [Bicheno Penguin Tour](#)?

Day 7 – Feb 13 (Thurs) -----

- Pack and depart by 8:30, drop car 11:30, at airport by noon for our 2pm flight.

Next: On to Melbourne!

2025 Australia

>>> *Melbourne and The Great Ocean Road* >>>

Feb 13: Flight to Melbourne (Thurs).

Route: To airport is about 3 hours, [here](#). Depart 8:30, drop car 11:30, at airport by noon.

Car Drop: [Zip Auto](#) thru [Turo](#). Jan 23 19:30 – Feb 13 noon.

MG3 auto (small hatch), unlimited miles, fuel like-like

8 Cessna Way, Cambridge, TAS 7170 Tel: +61 490 372 206

Transit: [Uber Zip Auto to airport or arrange for airport drop-off](#)

Flight: [HBA-MEL](#) Jetstar JQ706 | T2 Dpt 14:10 – Arv T4 15:30 (1½ hr) | Seats 3D, 3E | FlexPlus fare | [Online Check-in](#)

Baggage per person: Carry-on (7kg) + 1 checked 20kg

Transit: [Uber, taxi or bus to CBD stay](#)

Feb 13 – Feb 18: Melbourne 5N (Thurs – Tues). Back to the continent for friends, shows, river runs, and food!

Melbourne – The cultural hub of Oz. Friends for exploration and dinner, theater, river runs, Queen Victoria Market, and revisiting old favorite restaurants.

Ideas: Just see the map!

Stay: [Sunrise on Aurora](#)

2BR apt, full kitchen, W/D, balcony, etc. In 2pm, out 11am.

Apt 1006 Katherine Place, Melbourne, 3000, Australia

tel: + 61412136216

Day 1 – Feb 13 (Thurs) -----

- Check-in
- Night out – show? Dinner? Speakeasy?

Day 2-5 – Feb 14 – Feb 17 (Fri – Mon) -----

- See GM pins...
- Victoria Market
- Speakeasies
- Theater
- Dinner with friends
- River Runs
- Fav Restaurants

Day 6 – Feb 18 (Tues) -----

- Pack and Uber/taxi to Rental car for pickup (no need to be early)
- Head out on the Great Ocean Road

Next: Australia's Great Ocean Road

2025 Australia

Feb 18 – Feb 21: **Apollo Bay 3N (Tues – Fri)**. Great Ocean Road Pt 1 – Kennet Wildlife, Platypus canoeing

Apollo Bay – The first stop for us on the Great Ocean Road.

Transit: Uber or taxi to car rental

Car P/U: [Apex Rentals](#) Tel: + 61 1800 273 922

Tues Feb 18 noon – Tues March 4 noon, ~Kia Stonic small SUV, unlimited km, like-like, Jean 2nd driver

Pick-up: [Melbourne Airport](#) 5 Western Avenue Melbourne Airport, Westmeadows VIC 3049

Drop: [Adelaide Airport](#) 219 Marion Rd, Marleston SA 5033, Australia

Route: About 3 hr driving [to Apollo Bay](#), plus stops.

Stops planned: Torquay Beach, Memorial Arch, Erskine Falls, Teddy’s Lookout, Sheoak Falls, Marriner’s Lookout. We will stop for ~1-2hr at Kennett River Nature Walk to see wild koalas. See GM pins for other ideas enroute.

Ideas: [Visit Melbourne](#)

Stay: [Apollo Bay Cottages - Marriners](#)

2BR house, full kitchen w/hood, W/D, deck w/ shade, etc. In 3pm, out 10am.

2-6 Great Ocean Road, Marengo, 3233, Australia tel: + 61435899775

Day 1 – Feb 18 (Tues) -----

- Meandering, lazy drive down
- Check-in and cook dinner, bottle of wine on our deck or at the beach nearby

Day 2 – Feb 19 (Wed) -----

- Lake Elizabeth canoeing to see platypus! **Reserve ahead** <https://platypustours.net.au/#tours>. I enquired Nov 20 and requested dawn (sunrise is 7am, sunset 8:20pm) for either 19th or 20th or 21st. So far they offered sunset 18th
- Enjoy the beach and stay.

Day 3 – Feb 20 (Thurs) -----

- Morning run, then kayak at the coast, or hike Great Otway NP

Day 3 – Feb 21 (Fri) -----

- Pack and continue on the GOR

Next: Port Fairy and Petrified Trees on the Great Ocean Road

2025 Australia

Feb 21 – Feb 22: Port Fairy 1N (Fri – Sat). Continue on the GOR, with the Twelve Apostles and The Grotto enroute.

Port Fairy – Second stop on the Great Ocean Road. In 2012, it was voted the most livable city under 20,000 people in the world. It has a charming historical area, good cycling, and of course the wild and scenic southern coast. We will stop for several sea cliff viewpoints enroute, and maybe hike down to the beach. It is a bit chilly to swim... we may wade :-)

Route: About 3hr from [Apollo Bay to Port Fairy](#) plus stops for The Twelve Apostles (well, eight remain) sea stacks, Island Arch, The Grotto cave formation/paved beachwalk, Warrnambool Promenade, and at Port Fairy the Griffith's Island lighthouse. This is mostly cruise and views, no must-dos.

Ideas: [The Gaurdian](#)

Stay: [Seacombe House Motor Inn](#)

Small Double Room with private bathroom (guest house), fridge, AC, small deck. In 2pm, out 10am.
22 Sackville Street, 3284 Port Fairy, Australia tel: + 61 3 5568 1082

Day 1 – Feb 21 (Fri) -----

- Meandering, lazy drive down
- Check-in and cook dinner, bottle of wine on our deck or at the beach nearby

Day 2 – Feb 22 (Sat) -----

- Pack and drive to the Petrified Forest before heading inland to Hall's Gap

Next: Petrified Trees and on to on the Great Ocean Road

Feb 22 – Feb 25: Hall's Gap 3N (Sat – Tues). Leave the LOR to Grampians National Park for some mountain hiking.

Hall's Gap – Alpine hiking enroute to Adelaide.

Route: About 3½ hr from [Port Fairy to Halls Gap](#) with only one short photo stop – the “Petrified Forest,” which are actually limestone tubes near an ancient volcano vent, with a rock blowhole.

Ideas: Maybe [Jenny's Blog](#)

Stay: [D'Altons Studios](#)

Studio, couch, table, small kitchen, fridge. In 2pm, out 10am.
7 Glen Street Halls Gap, Halls Gap, 3381, Australia tel: + 61 3 5356 4666

Day 1 – Feb 22 (Sat) -----

- Early run, then back and go.
- Slow drive to Petrified Forest and on to our stay in Hall's Gap.
- Check-in and cook dinner, bottle of wine on our deck

Day 2 – Feb 23 (Sun) -----

- Hike TBD

Day 3 – Feb 24 (Mon) -----

- Hike TBD

Day 4 – Feb 25 (Tues) -----

- Long drive to the Adelaide area.

Next: Adelaide and the WA Wine Region

2025 Australia

>>> **Adelaide and SA** >>>

Ideas: Ideas for bike day [here](#). The [Guardian](#) route through Epicurean Trail. [Epicurean Way](#) – Road trip from McLaren Vale to Adelaide Hills to Barossa to Clare Valley

Wine: South Australia is the home of Australian wine. Famous appellations include Clare Valley, Barossa (Barossa Valley, Eden Valley, Mt Lofty), Adelaide Hills and McLaren Vale. Each has its unique style. Wine Folly of course has a [great summary](#). Many of these are pre-phylloxera vineyards – while the louse devastated Victoria, it didn't reach here. The region is very protective of these vineyards.

Plan: *McClaren Vale or Hahndorf 3N.* Stop after long day the car, walk the old German town, morning run and onward. Explore McClaren Vale and Adelaide Hills wineries.
Clare 3N – in Clare Valley. Hahndorf and Barossa enroute. Cycle the Reising Path and perhaps Barossa.
Adelaide 4-5N. Kayak with Dolphins enroute to Adelaide, then enjoy the market, museums, parks and bars

Feb 25 – Feb 28: McClaren Vale 3N (Tues – Fri). Wineries, etc.

McClaren Vale – This is Shiraz country, with dry and hot rolling hills similar to Paso Robles in California. The climate gives the wine intense savory flavors and a high alcohol content – 15-16%. Many vines here are pre-phylloxera. The louse never reached here, and strong protections have been established in hopes that it never does. As a result, these are some of the oldest continually cultivated vines in the world, dating from the late 1800s. (Thanks Wine Folly!)

The “Shiraz” and “Flat to Vale” bike trails give great access to wineries near our stay – including Mollydooker! Not far away is Hahndorf, a German town known for its traditional German architecture and foods.

Route: About 6 hr from [Halls Gap to McLaren Vale](#), with no planned stops (lunch somewhere).

Ideas: see links for Adelaide area top of page. Also [Journey Beyond](#)

Stay: [WayWood Wines](#)

1BR house, AC, WiFi, kitchenette, fridge, stove, patio, vineyard and garden view
131 Blewitt Springs Road, McLaren Flat, 5171, Australia tel: +61 405 474 421

Day 1 – Feb 25 (Tues) -----

- Breakfast, pack and depart for the long drive. Stop if anything looks interesting.
- Check-in and dinner somewhere

Day 2 – Feb 26 (Wed) -----

- Bike the Vineyards: [SA-eBikes](#) and [Deluxe Bikes](#) are good nearby options for self-guided bike tours. See their maps and our own GM pins for recommendations. Prioritize [Mollydooker Cellar Door](#) (reserve ahead) and d'Arenberg Cube. We will go along the [Shiraz Trail](#) and the [Flat to Vale Trail](#), and backroads.

Day 3 – Feb 27 (Thurs) -----

- Hahndorf & Beerenberg Family Farm, Lane Vineyard – OR – d'Arny's Verandah Restaurant, maybe Port Elliot Bakery
- Biplane flight? <https://adelaidebiplanes.com.au/>

Day 4 – Feb 28 (Fri) -----

- Pack and depart, with Hahndorf (if not seen already) and Barossa Valley stops enroute to Clare Valley

Next: Clare Valley and the Reising Bike Trail, with Barossa enroute

2025 Australia

Feb 28 – Mar 03: Clare Valley 3N (Fri – Mon). Hahndorf and Barossa and route to Clare and the Reisling Bike Trail

Clare Valley – Known for its dry white wines and Pinot Noirs. We will explore via the Reisling Trail. Enroute, we will stop through Hahndorf (German immigrant town), Beerenberg Farm and Cafe and the Barossa (Eden Valley and Barossa Valley), home of bold Aussie shiraz and good GSM blends.

Book ahead: [ClairValleyCycleHire](#) Sat Mar 1 all day; [Barossa Bike](#) Sun Mar 2 avro, [Dolphin Sanctuary](#) Kayak Mar 3 1pm
Book Ahead: Parking for our next stay - 1 night March 3-4 tel: + 61 7 3844 5566 Realm Apartments by CLLIX

Route: About 3 hr from [McLaren Vale to our stay](#), with stops in Hahndorf and Barossa adding time.

Ideas: [A Lovely Planet](#)

Stay: [Stable by the Vines](#)

1BR, LR, kitchen w/MV, fridge. Walk to [Reilly's Winery](#) and [Magpie & Stump](#) Restaurant
14 Hill Street, Mintaro, 5415, Australia tel: + 61430647899

Day 1 – Feb 28 (Fri) -----

- Early run, then pack and go.
- Stop and explore Hahndorf if we have not yet
- Enroute visit cellar doors: Sevenhill Cellar, Pike's Wines

Day 2 – Mar 01 (Sat) -----

Cycle the Reisling Wine Trail on a cycle from [ClairValleyCycleHire](#) (20 miles)

Day 3 – Mar 02 (Sun) -----

- Run the relax or
- Bike in Barossa (Nuriootpa, [1 hr drive](#)) with [Barossa Bike](#). Ideas: Maggie Beer's Farm Shop and The Farm Eatery, Steppeltsfield Winery and Estate, Hentley Farm Cellar Door, El Estanco (Mexican Restaurant). Also, Jacob's Creek, Chateau Tanunda, Henschke, Rockfords and many more. Route

Day 4 – Mar 03 (Mon) -----

- Pack and depart
- [Dolphin Sactuary Kayak](#). Kayak Garden Island and the Mangrove Swamp with river dolphins. Both [Dolphin Sanctuary](#) and to [Adventure Kayak](#) offer rentals and tours. [Route](#)
- Short drive to Adelaide

Next: Adelaide City

2025 Australia

Mar 03 – Mar 07: Adelaide 4N (Mon – Fri). Central Market, parks, Rundle Mall, museums & hidden bars.

Adelaide – Founded in 1836 as the planned capital for the only freely-settled province – South Australia. It is known for wide boulevards, public parks and large public squares. Architectural Digest ranked it the most beautiful city in the world in 2024, and it consistently ranks among the top 10 most livable. The metro area population is about 1.4 million.

Route: About 2 hr from [Clare to Adelaide](#) CBD, with stop at Garden Island to kayak. Both [Dolphin Sanctuary](#) and [Adventure Kayak](#) offer rentals and tours. **Note: call ahead to Apartment to reserve parking for 1 night March 3-4**

Ideas: [Weekend Escapes](#), [Adelaide Guide](#)

Stay: [Realm Apartments by CLLIX](#)

1BR Apartment, LR, kitchen, AC, W/D. Walkable.

15 Austin Street, Adelaide CBD, Adelaide, 5000, Australia tel: + 61 7 3844 5566

Day 1 – Mar 03 (Mon) -----

- Enroute explore Barossa (by bike or car), or kayak the Dolphin Sanctuary
- Check-in and drop bags
- Return Rental car (below)

Day 2 – Mar 04 (Tues) -----

- Morning Run + Jean to the Central Market
- Return Rental Car by noon

Car Drop: [Apex Rentals](#) Tel: + 61 1800 273 922.

Tues Feb 18 noon – Tues Mar 4 noon Kia Stonic SUV /similar, unlimited km, like-like, Jean 2nd driver

Drop: [Adelaide Airport](#) 219 Marion Rd, Marlestone SA 5033, Australia

- Explore the CBD: Walk down Rundle Street. At Rundle Mall, find the pig and “Mall’s Balls” sculptures. Explore Adelaide Arcade and then head to the Central Market (the largest undercover market in the southern hemisphere).
- Rent a [BBQ Bouy](#) for a picnic on the river or do a [kayak tour](#). Or a [paddleboat](#)!
- Then, discover the Art Gallery of South Australia and The South Australia Natural History Museum
- In the evening, find the [Hidden Bars](#)

Day 3 – Mar 05 (Wed) -----

- Bike the River Torrens Linear Park to Henely Beach South or West Beach. 20 miles round trip, mostly flat, multiple e-bike rental places in CBD. [Route](#) - OR -
- Take a tram to Glenelg. Take a swim and enjoy the beach and an evening at a restaurant with views.

Day 4 – Mar 06 (Thurs) -----

- Browse boutiques, shops and amazing second hand stores on The Parade in Norwood, visit Adelaide Botanic Garden, or Hike Waterfall Gully
- Drink all our wine before we head to Perth!

Day 5 – Mar 07 (Fri) -----

- Pack and fly to Perth!

Next: Perth and Western Australia!

2025 Australia

>>> *Perth and the Western Australia Coast* >>>

Mar 07 – Mar 07: Flight to Perth (Fri).

Transit: Uber / taxi to airport

Flight: [ADL-PER](#) Jetstar JQ858 | A321 | Dpt 12:15 – Arv T2 13:00 (3 hr) | Seats 2D, 2E | FlexPlus fare | [Online Check-in](#)
Baggage per person: 1 Personal + Carry-on (7kg) + 1 checked 20kg

Car PU: [Apex Rentals](#) Tel: + 61 1800 273 922

Fri Mar 7 2pm – Tues Mar 18 2pm Kia Stonic SUV /similar, unlimited km, like-like, Jean 2nd driver

PU: [Perth Airport](#) Drop: [Perth Airport](#) 302 Great Eastern Highway, Ascot, Perth.

*After baggage collection phone 800 273 922 (or +61 8 6336 7764) and for an Apex shuttle pick-up.
From the baggage claim area in T2, exit the terminal via the main doors. Turn right and proceed to the sheltered walkway. Follow the signs for “Drop off and pick up”. Walk across both sets of pedestrian crossings to the other side of the road and look for ZONE D to your left. Wait here for the Apex shuttle van.*

Mar 07 – Mar 08: Pinnacles NP 1N (Fri – Sat). Get groceries and water, and visit Pinnacles NP and Lake Thetis

Jurien Bay – Seaside short stay after Pinnacles, enroute to Kalbarri NP and Monkey Mia.

Route: About 3 hr from [Perth airport to Jurien Bay](#), with stops:

- Pinnacles NP Overlook with a [1½ mile hike](#) or a [3mi drive](#) (AllTrails)
- Lake Thetis to briefly see stromalites.
- Get groceries!

Ideas: [Little Wandering Wren](#), [A Hole in my Shoe](#)

Stay: [Jurien Bay Motel Apartments](#)

Studio Apartment, LR, kitchen w/MV, fridge. Walk to nearby pub for dinner
7 Murray Street, Jurien Bay, 6516, Australia tel: + 61 8 9652 2062

Day 1 – Mar 07 (Fri) -----

- Fly to Perth and pickup rental car, groceries, water
- Drive to explore Pinnacles NP Overlook with a [1½ mile hike](#) or a [3mi drive](#) (AllTrails)
- See stromatolites at Lake Thetis
- Drive on to Jurien Bay stay, pub for dinner
-

Day 2 – Mar 08 (Tues) -----

- Morning Run and continue drive to Kalbarri NP
- [Book Rottneest Island Ferry and Bikes \(see Perth\)](#)

Next: *Kalbarri NP hikes*

2025 Australia

Mar 08 – Mar 10: Kalbarri NP 2N (Sat – Mon). Hike Kalbarri National Park enroute to Monkey Mia

Kalbarri – Seaside stay after Pinnacles, to see Hutt Pink Lake and Kalbarri NP.

Route: About 5 hr from [Jurien Bay to Kalbarri](#). One planned stop at Hutt Pink Lake.

Ideas: [Turo](#), [Beyond Wild](#)

Stay: [Murchison View Apartments](#)

2BR River View Apartment, balcony, kitchen, LR, W/D,
32 Grey Street, Kalbarri, 6536, Australia tel: + 61 497 550 054

Day 1 – Mar 08 (Sat) -----

- Long drive up to Kalbarri, with short stop at Hutt Pink Lake. Then check-in and relax at the beach and get dinner

Day 2 – Mar 09 (Sun) -----

- Hike in Kalbarri NP (short, start early – 6am – HEAT!). *Fly nets recommended.* Candidates:
- o [Pot Alley via Red Bluff and Mushroom Rock](#). 4mi / 500' elevation, 4.4 rating on AllTrails
 - o [The Loop and Nature's Window](#). 6 mi / 900' elevation, 4.8 rating on AllTrails.
 - o [Natural Bridge to Island Rock](#). 1mi paved with extensions. 4.6 rating on AllTrails
 - o [Bigurda Trail: Natural Bridge to Grandstand](#). 5 mi / 600', 4.5 rating on AllTrails. Great but repetitive, turn around when you want and maybe do only 3 miles.

Day 1 – Mar 08 (Sat) -----

- Morning Run along the River ([AllTrails](#)) then pack and head back south
- Enroute: [Kalbarri Skywalk](#) and short [Z-Bend hike](#), with views of the Murchison River gorge and surrounding landscape. Two cantilevered viewing platforms hang in mid-air 100m above the gorge, similar to the Grand Canyon.

Next: Back South...

Mar 10 – Mar 11: Pinnacles NP 1N (Mon – Tues). Stopover at a nice stay enroute south

Jurien Bay – Seaside short stay on our way back south, enroute to Margaret River Wineries.

Route: About 5 hr from [Kalbarri to Jurien Bay](#), with stops:

- o [Z-Bend overlook](#) or [Z-Bend hike](#) (AllTrails) of the Murchison River Gorge
- o [Kalbarri Skywalk](#) cantilevered overlook of the Murchison River Gorge
- o The Big Marble – just a simple sculpture on the coast to break up the long drive!

Stay: [Jurien Bay Motel Apartments](#)

Studio Apartment, LR, kitchen w/MV, fridge. Walk to nearby pub for dinner
7 Murray Street, Jurien Bay, 6516, Australia tel: + 61 8 9652 2062

Day 1 – Mar 10 (Fri) -----

- Leave Kalbarri and see Z-Bend and Skywalk before long drive south to The Big Marble (see GM pins)
- Check-in to the hotel and dinner in the room or at a nearby pub

Day 2 – Mar 11 (Tues) -----

- Morning Run and continue drive
- Maybe repeat Pinnacles NP ([1½ mile hike](#) or a [3mi drive](#)) or Lake Thetis if we need better photos

Next: Margaret River Wineries and Big Trees

2025 Australia

Mar 11 – Mar 18: Margaret River Wineries 7N (Tues – Tues). Wineries and relax before heading home

Margaret River – Relax in own sanctuary at Simala Retreat and explore region: swimming, beach walks and sunsets at Cowaramup Bay, 4WD, off-road bike trails galore, including the Rails-to-Trails from Cowaramup to Margaret River (13.5 km), forest, caves, and bushland. The Cape-to-Cape walking track is 6 km to the West with easy access by bike or 4WD.

Ideas: [Salt and Charcoal](#), [Perth Weekend](#),

Route: About 5½ hr from [Jurien Bay to Simala Retreat](#). Maybe stop at Pinnacles for sunrise photos.

Stay: [Simala Retreat](#)

Superior Apartment, LR, full kitchen, ~~W/D~~, patio. Several wineries nearby.

427 Brockman Road, Cowaramup, 6284, Australia

tel: + 61 431 933 416

Day 1 – Mar 11 (Tues) -----

- Leave Jurien Bay early (5am), 40 min drive to Pinnacles for 6am sunrise photos
- Long drive south... 5 hrs but leaving early, so arrive maybe noon.
- Find a lunch restaurant and winery to enjoy before check-in. [Book Rottnest Island Ferry and Bikes \(see Perth\)](#)

Day 2-7 – Mar 12 – Mar 17 (Wed - Mon) -----

- Bike the the rails-trails route from Cowaramup – Margaret River. Bikes from [Golden Jersey](#), 6 min drive
- Bunbury [Dolphin Discovery Center](#) and [Farmer’s Market](#) (daily)
- Explore area wineries (see GM pins and local recommendations)
- Margaret River Farmer’s Market (Saturdays)
- Busselton Pier (with underwater observatory) and The Lions Vasse Twilight Market (GM pins)
- Kayak the river
- Explore nearby beaches for a walk, swim, or snorkel. See [YTravel](#) for more
 - o [Gnarabup Beach](#). Sheltered waters and nearby café to grab a bite.
 - o [Redgate Beach](#). It has a mix of surf and calmer sections for swimmers, a bit less crowded than other beaches.
 - o [Gracetown Beach](#). In a protected bay, ideal for swimming, surfing, and spotting whales during migration.
 - o [Smiths Beach](#). It’s a long, picturesque stretch of white sand, perfect for surfing, bodyboarding, and long walks.
 - o [Meelup Beach](#). In Cape Naturaliste, it has calm, turquoise waters and shady grassed areas for picnics.
 - o [Bunker Bay](#). It’s a hidden gem with calm, turquoise waters. Perfect for swimming and snorkelling, plus a café
- [Hamelin Bay where stingrays](#) glide right up to the shore! This gives you the rare opportunity to see these graceful creatures up close, in their natural habitat.
- Day trip to Yallingup. The beaches have crystal-clear waters and impressive surf breaks. Nearby, Canal Rocks and Sugarloaf Rock make for great photos. Then soak in Injidup Natural Spa, and snorkel in the Aquarium, a sheltered natural tidal pool teeming with fish. Also, Yallingup Art Gallery. See GM pins
- Beach cliff hike (search AllTrails), maybe near Canal Rocks / Yallingup

Day 8 – Mar 18 (Tues) -----

- North to Perth

Next: Perth and Rottnest Island

2025 Australia

Mar 18 – Mar 23: Perth 5N (Tues – Sun). Rottneest Island and exploring the city

Perth – The capital of Western Australia is located at the mouth of the Swan River on the edge of the Indian Ocean. Perth is the most remote large city on earth – the nearest city is Adelaide, 1336 miles east – about the same distance between New York and Dallas TX.

To the north of the city is wheat then deserts and beaches for days and days to the north, and wineries and giant trees to the south. Perth is the 4th largest Australian city, with ~2.3mm people. The city is consistently ranked as one of the world's most livable cities. It is relatively wealthy from mining gold, iron ore, nickel, alumina, diamonds, mineral sands, coal, oil, and natural gas. While the mines are elsewhere in WA, the non-base services are in Perth.

Ideas: [RoadAffair](#), [YogaWineTravel](#)

Route: About 4 hr from [Simala Retreat to our Apartment](#). Several possible stops enroute up Highway 1:

- Busselton Jetty and Underwater Observatory – if we have not yet visited
- Bunbury Farmer's Market then Any number of beaches along the way
- Fremantle Markets (drive by as a preview at least to decide if return later in the week)
- Bather's Beach in Fremantle (as a preview at least to decide if return in the week)
- IGA Grocery store!

Stay: [Nesuto Mounts Bay](#)

1 BR Apt, LR, full kitchen, W/D, balcony, AC, pool, tennis, breakfast, walkable
112 Mounts Bay Road, Perth CBD, Perth, 6000, Australia tel: + 61 8 9213 5333

Requested the 1BR be high ceiling and balcony off of the LR, as per pic in booking :-)

Day 1 – Mar 18 (Tues) -----

- Up Highway 10 / Highway 1 through Busselton, Bunbury, and Fremantle with stops above
- Check-in and drop car before walking to explore Kings Park or Elizabeth Quay

Car PU: [Apex Rentals](#) reservation # [2689860](#) Tel: + 61 1800 273 922. \$507A PAP, cancel by Feb 21.

Fri Mar 7 2pm – Tues Mar 18 2pm Kia Stonic SUV /similar, unlimited km, like-like, Jean 2nd driver

PU: [Perth Airport](#) Drop: [Perth Airport](#) 302 Great Eastern Highway, Ascot, Perth.

Day 2 – Mar 19 (Wed) -----

- Explore CBD, maybe find some music for the evening

Day 3 – Mar 20 (Thur) -----

- [Rottneest Island](#) ("Rotto" to locals). Read this [one-day guide](#), [SeaLink](#) article, [TripAdvisor](#), and this [blog](#)
 - [Book in advance the Ferry \(Rottneest Express or SeaLink\) and Bikes \(or HOHO\)](#) – they sell out
 - Suggested:
 - Ferry from Perth-Rottneest-Perth (short 20 min walk to ferry from apt) - OR -
 - Take the train to B Shed Ferry Terminal, Victoria Quay, Fremantle – 1hr + early ferry (30 min)
 - See quokka, and for a picnic, get food at the general store, a café, or bring with us

Day 4 – Mar 21 (Fri) -----

- Fremantle and it's [market](#) (Fri/Sat/Sun)

Day 5 – Mar 22 (Sat) -----

- Free Day – we leave at midnight to fly home

Next: Home!

2025 Australia

>>> *Home* >>>

Mar 23 – Mar 23: Fly home 1N (Sun – Sun). PER-CLT Dpt 12:15am Arv 7:35am ~31½ hr

Transit Uber to the airport

Flight Cathay Pacific | Chase points | [Check-in](#) |
Premium Economy Flex | Bags: 1 personal + 1 carry-on (may be fee) + 2 checked 22kg free (pp)

PER-HKG CX170 | A350 | Dpt 00:15a – Arv 07:55am (7½ hr) | 31H, 31K |

Layover 4.5 hr HKG. [Priority Pass](#) Lounges: Chase Sapphire, Kyra or Plaza Premium – all T1. Also two restaurants

HKG-ORD CX 806 | A350 | Dpt 12:35pm – Arv T3 14:00pm (14½ hr | 31H, 31K |

Layover 2½ hr ORD. [Priority Pass](#) Lounge: Swissport in T5. *Probably no time as I suspect we will have to collect our bags at baggage claim and re-enter security as we are arriving internationally*

ORD-CLT CX 7607 (by AA) | A321 | Dpt 16:36pm – Arv 19:35pm (2 hr) | seats TBD |

Transit Uber home