

THE Lux LIST

If you're looking for exceptional experiences, Australia offers plenty. Here are a few of our favourite places to indulge.

1 Unwind amidst the Blue Mountains.

The pristine Wolgan Valley.

Waiting on the **Great Dividing Range** just a scenic drive out of Sydney, this breath-taking property is equal parts indulgence and outback. The resort sits on its own massive conservancy, offering endless space for authentic guided “walkabouts,” horseback riding on the property’s own elite horses – and a variety of exquisite dining choices, including personalised Champagne picnics and tastings at the on-site gin distillery.



2 Escape to the Adelaide Hills.

Luxury amidst nature.

South Australia’s **newest luxury lodge** offers just 14 suites, so you won’t have many neighbours enjoying the impeccable service, indulgent inclusions and expansive views of sun-soaked Piccadilly Valley.



3 Find solitude in North Queensland.

Relax in the Great Barrier Reef.

Just ten private villas wait amongst a vast tropical rainforest – each with **sweeping views of the Great Barrier Reef, elegant amenities and an invitation to the chef’s daily changing, locally sourced menu.** Enjoy candlelit meals on your private beach deck, escape with a gourmet hamper for a private picnic on one of the nearby deserted beaches, explore the nature surrounding or totally unwind with a signature spa treatment.

EXPERT TIP

from
SUSIE BERNARD,
House of Travel
Lakers Invercargill



“We’ve got creative ways to **add a splash of luxury to your holiday without breaking the bank.** If you’re on a budget but dreaming of the high end, chat to us about midweek stays, off-season perks and other ways to make it happen! Let us seek out the lux deals with all the extra inclusions at the same price as normal room rates.”



4

Your own private island – almost.

Paradise on Hayman Island.

This famed private island escape waits in the heavenly Whitsundays, heart of the Great Barrier Reef. Deeply indulge at the exquisite spa, dine in the award-winning on-site restaurants, join unforgettable island explorations – or do simply, perfectly, nothing.

For more on Aussie’s amazing islands, jump back to page 14.



5

Set sail on a luxury expedition ship.

Unparalleled accessibility.

Experience many of Australia’s most remote places – without sacrificing a moment of extraordinary comfort – on one of several exceptional voyages. **Small, luxuriously appointed ships call where larger ones can’t** and offer unforgettable extras like an onboard helicopter to enhance exploration.



6

Indulge in endless spa rituals.

An exceptional spa.

Incredible spa experiences aren’t hard to find in Australia, but few compare to The Dreaming Spa Journey at Orpheus Island Lodge’s **Gwandalan Spa.** Rooted in native essential oils and extracts, purifying desert salts and powerful marine elements, it’s an absolute marathon of pampering involving scrubs, warm mud wraps, massage, facial, hair mask and much more. You can’t help but feel new.



7

Taste the best of the Barossa.

A fine foodie escape.

Even in a country offering exceptional food experiences, this property stands out. Billing itself as a **“luxury vineyard retreat,”** our pick does food and wine to unparalleled standards, offering perhaps the region’s most indulgent tasting holidays. There are also unusual experiences on offer, from breakfast with the kangaroos to private tastings to guided market visits in historic town centres. If only stretch-waist pants were as elegant.

For more incredible wine experiences, jump to page 36.



8

Stay in timeless luxury.

Australia’s finest lodges await.

We can connect you with absolutely sumptuous properties in **many of Australia’s most spectacular places.** You may choose the calming quiet of a countryside haven on 12,000 beautiful acres just out of Brisbane. Or perhaps the tranquility of a bush hideaway in the Blue Mountains, complete with world-class spa and dining – or one of the others, which range from Old World elegance to modern eco-glamping. Whichever you choose, expect exceptional service and an unmatched experience.



Discover Uluru in absolute comfort.

Luxury in the Red Centre.

Imagine easing into your private spa pool or settling onto your private deck to watch the stars emerge over **Uluru** – that’s a standard evening at one of Australia’s most remarkable resorts. The entire experience **blends Outback heritage with luxurious modern amenities and fine dining** for a truly remarkable wilderness holiday. You’ll want a few days to join one of the property’s Uluru walks, dine al fresco next to the iconic Field of Light art installation, take a scenic flight or bask in the heavenly on-site spa.

10 Step into Outback life at an intimate eco-lodge.

Creature comforts aplenty.

Discover remote Far North Queensland without sacrificing creature comforts at this **all-inclusive, eco-friendly indulgence set within a working cattle station** in magnificent rugged outback. With just 12 suites and a focus on locally sourced cuisine, it offers a chance to totally recharge. Spend a few days soaking in the outback, doing a spot of Barramundi fishing – or just relaxing poolside beneath those iconic rock formations. ■



It’s time to rethink Australia. Come in-store, call us on 0800 713 715 or visit HOT.CO.NZ today.

Where to walk in Australia.

Six spectacular spots for putting one foot in front of the other.



Recommended by **CAROL SUTTON**
HOUSE OF TRAVEL HAMILTON CITY

The Heysen Trail

SOUTH AUSTRALIA | 1200KM | 60 DAYS

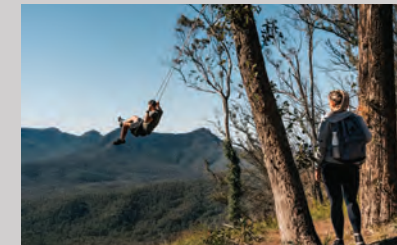


DIFFICULTY ●●●○○

This major track begins in the stunning **Flinders Ranges** and wanders through **five wine regions** before reaching Cape Jervis. The reasonable can select just a portion, which you can do on your own or guided. We love the **luxurious 4-day guided Arkaba Walk**, which follows the Wilpena Pound and includes meals and comfortable accommodation – complete with ‘swags,’ the canvas beds of Australia’s pioneers. The 5-day Park Trek through the Flinders Ranges is also breath-taking.

Scenic Rim Walk

QUEENSLAND | 50KM | 4 DAYS



DIFFICULTY ●○○○○

This gentle guided walk on private preserve is perfect for anyone preferring a **light load and a little luxury at the end of the day**. You’ll wander the World Heritage-listed Gondwana Rainforests and the **Spicers Peak Nature Reserve** before indulging in a fine tippie and 5-star fare. Accommodation is the permanent camp at Spicers Canopy and the indulgent Spicers Peak Lodge. The final evening’s 7-course degustation menu should keep you motivated.

The Great Ocean Walk

VICTORIA | 104KM | 8 DAYS



DIFFICULTY ●●●○○

Like doing Australia’s famous drive, but with your feet – and the advantage here is that when the road turns inland, the trail continues to follow the stunning coastline. You can do it yourself by booking the well maintained campsites, but we recommend the memorable **3- or 4- day guided variations**, which entitle you to custom-designed sustainable lodges and small thrills like firepits, rainforest showers and terracotta bowls to soak those tired feet.

Cape to Cape

WESTERN AUSTRALIA | 135KM | 7 DAYS



DIFFICULTY ●●●○○

This jaw-dropping track just keeps getting better: Follow the pristine coastline from Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin, **through the Margaret River wine region**. Do it yourself by booking a selection of comfortable campsites, or take it a bit easier with guided glamping and lodge options that offer you portions or the full track. However you go, treat yourself to wine tastings along the way – after all, you need fuel for those footsteps!

Overland Track

TASMANIA | 65KM | 6 DAYS



DIFFICULTY ●●●●○

Perhaps Australia’s most in-demand walk, this one books out early and with good reason. Every step of this World Heritage-listed area is utterly breath-taking, **from Cradle Mountain to Lake St. Clair**, with many of the highest peaks in Tasmania in between. There are guided options for all sorts: Adventurers with snowshoes can set off year-round on an expert-led camping tour, while the rest of us can ease into first-class with luxury lodge stays and even an outing by helicopter.

Murray River Walk & Cruise

SOUTH AUSTRALIA | 40KM | 4 DAYS



DIFFICULTY ●○○○○

This gentle guided walk offers a **unique combination of river cruising and walking**: Days are spent exploring the gorgeous river valley, while accommodation is onboard a modern, exquisitely comfortable houseboat with fine, locally inspired meals. (This is a perfect choice for groups with varying mobility – some guests choose to cruise during the days.) Expert guides bring your attention to wildlife all along. A final lunch is at the award-winning Wilkadene Woolshed Brewery. ■

Photos from South Australia Tourism, Tourism and Events Queensland, Visit Victoria, Tourism Western Australia, Tourism Australia

Ready to lace up your boots? Come in-store, call 0800 713 715 or visit HOT.CO.NZ and let’s chat.