Luxury Lodges of Australia

A collection of independent luxury lodges and camps offering unforgettable experiences in Australia’s most inspiring and extraordinary locations.

In recent years, Australia has seen the emergence and consolidation of a new breed of exceptional luxury properties and experiences. These properties have joined forces to showcase Australia’s unique style of sophisticated, carefree, barefoot luxury.

www.luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au

Luxury Lodges of Australia

Arkaba
Bamurru Plains
Capella Lodge
Cape Lodge
Crystalbrook Lodge
El Questro Homestead
Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley
Lake House
Lizard Island
Longitude 131°
Pretty Beach House
Sal Salis
Silky Oaks Lodge
Southern Ocean Lodge
Spicers Peak Lodge
The Louise
True North

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Plan your journey
There’s nothing like Australia for its sheer diversity of natural luxury experiences...

For anyone who thinks they know Australia, but haven’t visited recently (or at all), take note. The Australian travel landscape has changed dramatically over the past decade or so. This vast continent continues to see the creation of a new breed of exceptional lodges and camps in some of its most beautiful and uniquely Australian regions. Australia now boasts a critical mass of experience-based luxury properties to appeal to upscale global travellers and adventure seekers. Formed in 2010, Luxury Lodges of Australia is a membership association offering a collective voice for these lodges and camps. It is a central point of reference for anyone searching for high-end Australian travel experiences.

The lodges in this collection are independently owned and operated. But this is no ordinary hotel ‘group’. This is a collection of like-minded entrepreneurs, each passionate enough about a unique region of Australia to invest deeply in creating the kind of upscale but intimate lodging and bespoke experiences they know sophisticated global travellers seek.

Each lodge has signature experiences and activities to showcase the special aspects of its region – pristine natural landscapes, wildlife, indigenous heritage, nature, food and wine and more. It is these experiences that define the new Australian luxury and showcase Australia’s extraordinary diversity. There is particular focus on signature experiences that delve into the rich and diverse food and wine culture of Australia. Collectively, they represent a new style of distinctively Australian casual elegance and luxury.

The lodges are all about delivering a sense of place and connecting guests to their region. It is not about how much the same the lodges are, but how different, and how they reflect the diversity and authenticity of the Australian experience – whether it be coastal, dessert, reef, island or wilderness lodges, luxe outback camps, vineyard retreats or culinary destinations.

The lodges are so much more than just a place to stay. These are destinations with great appeal for the often time-poor, experience-seeking travellers for whom time-out and a genuine, memorable, often life-changing experience, is the real luxury.
Arkaba

An ancient landscape moulded by hundreds of years of geological activity, the Flinders Ranges offers some of Australia’s most spectacular outback scenery. Arkaba’s 60,000 acre private wildlife conservancy is home to a wondrous variety of bird and wildlife and a remarkable conservation story.

Arkaba’s homestead pays homage to a rich pastoral heritage in a style that is rustically chic and utterly exclusive. The homestead’s five rooms provide an oasis of comfort and style amidst a harsh and rugged landscape, where guests enjoy a taste of classic Australian country hospitality. The Flinders Ranges is in a class of its own for taking in the sheer scale of Australia’s outback, offering the chance to immerse oneself in 600 million years of geological history. Arkaba’s conservancy program has seen a transformation in bird and mammal species on the property and offers guests a unique insight to Australia’s challenges in saving its unique natural heritage.

Activities include bush walking, photography, safari drives, visiting ancient Aboriginal sites, or just soaking up the sights and sounds of the bush. Enjoy picnics underneath magnificent River Red gums; track native wildlife, learn the stories of early European settlement or take a scenic flight over Wilpena Pound and the salt pans of Lake Torrens.

The real luxury at Arkaba comes in sharing this spectacular conservancy with just ten other guests.

“...You might come to Arkaba for the wild, open spaciousness of the outback, the sense of being far away from everything, the chance to dine under the stars. But your presence here is not just about you. It’s helping to fund a transformation, returning the land to its wild state, and turning a 150-year-old sheep station into a private wildlife reserve.”

Louise Southerden, Sydney Morning Herald
Bamurru Plains

Bamurru Plains on the Mary River floodplains is Australia’s answer to the Okavango Delta. These coastal floodplains are home to prolific bird and wildlife, whilst nearby Kakadu and Arnhem Land are the heartland of Australia’s indigenous culture. This is the setting for a mesmerising wilderness experience.

Bamurru Plains offers one of Australia’s richest wildlife experiences: tens of thousands of magpie geese mingle with kites, egrets, herons and buffalo on the floodplain. Kookaburras, parrots, cockatoos and Agile Wallabies inhabit the fringing woodlands. Bamurru’s expert guides offer exhilarating airboat trips on the floodplains, safaris by open-top 4WD vehicles, fishing trips, quad bike safaris, excursions to the rock art galleries of Arnhem Land and crocodile-spotting river cruises.

Wake to the call of magpie geese and watch the parade of wildlife emerge from the comfort of your bed. Spot wildlife in the treetops from the camp’s ‘hide’, and sit back with a drink and enjoy the soft ‘Wild Bush Luxury’ touches. Bamurru Plains lodge and 300 square kilometres of surrounding country are exclusively for in-house guests, assuring a quiet, privileged outback experience.

Bamurru’s team of passionate field guides focus on immersing guests in the story of the bush while the lodge provides a haven from which to closely connect with a unique Top End wilderness with ten safari suites blending seamlessly with the surrounding bush.

Nearest domestic and international airport: Darwin
Time to lodge: 3 hour drive or 30 minute scenic flight by light aircraft or helicopter
Number of wilderness bungalows: 10

Bamurru Plains
Top End, Northern Territory
Contact: +61 (0)2 9571 6399 or bamurru@wildbushluxury.com
WildBushLuxuryExperiences
wildbushluxury
WildBushLuxury

“An utterly remote, stunningly crafted wilderness lodge, Bamurru is... African-style bush luxury. Built on stilts over the wetlands, Bamurru is state-of-the-art rustic with staff who can morph from Jeeves into Crocodile Dundee.”

Tatler
Capella Lodge

A close-kept secret among stylish insiders, Capella Lodge is Lord Howe Island’s premium luxury retreat. A short flight from Australia’s east coast transports visitors to a real ‘treasure island’, a paradise lost in time and perfectly preserved. Gently melding modern design into glorious natural surroundings, Capella’s underplayed raw-teak-and-white-linen aesthetic lets the true star shine: views of the jaw-droppingly dramatic Mounts Gower and Lidgbird. A feeling of relaxed sophistication flows throughout with beach-chic furnishings, island-themed artworks and kentia palm fringed decks creating an easy ambience and barefoot luxury.

Fine dining is a drawcard and the innovative menu showcases a bounty of local seafood and fresh regional produce. The simple pleasure of a long and lazy barbecue lunch enjoyed alfresco is a favourite Lord Howe tradition with fish feeding on the white gold sands of Neds Beach not to be missed.

The verdant World Heritage site is a paradise of rainforests, reefs and beaches and is home to hundreds of rare and endemic species. Walking tracks scope subtropical forests and remote coves alive with magnificent birdlife. Down below, the world’s southern-most coral reef is ablaze with kaleidoscopic colour and a riot of fish, perfect to discover by snorkel or glass bottom-boat.

Inspired by the carefree spirit of the Australian beach house, Capella Lodge brings the ultimate castaway escape to life.

Capella Lodge
Lord Howe Island, New South Wales
Contact: +61 (0)2 9918 4355 or reserve@baillielodges.com.au
capellalodge
capellalodge
Capella.lodge

“A one explanation for the almost Edenic purity of Lord Howe... is that visitors are capped to a maximum of 400 at a time; 20 of whom get to stay in Capella Lodge, an unexpectedly luxurious yet laid-back hideaway.”
— Marion Hume, Time Magazine

Nearest domestic airport: Lord Howe Island
Time to lodge: 5 minute drive
Nearest international airport: Sydney
Time to lodge: 2 hour flight + 5 minute drive
Number of suites: 9

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Cape Lodge

Sitting on forty acres of manicured gardens, vineyard and native bushland within earshot of the sparkling Indian Ocean, Cape Lodge attracts those seeking a sophisticated retreat with all the trappings of a private country house hotel.

A home away from home guests can while away the day away with a book under the shade of a peppermint tree, by the pool or for those with an energetic inclination there is tennis, croquet and hotel bikes for use to visit neighbouring vineyards, boutique breweries and artisan chocolate makers.

Dining at the restaurant is a highlight of a stay at Cape Lodge. Menus feature local and home grown produce plucked from nearby oceans, local farms and the kitchen garden creating fresh, innovative cuisine.

The Margaret River Region is one of the most naturally beautiful wine regions in the World with over 160km of pristine coastline and beaches, karri forests and limestone caves. World class surfing, swimming, abseiling, mountain biking, golf and coastal hiking are nearby as well as a rich array of art galleries, farms shops and produce stores.

This private country estate has twenty-two secluded rooms and suites, a four bedroom private residence and its own eight acre vineyard producing some of Margaret River’s finest handcrafted Sauvignon Blanc and Shiraz exclusively for guests of the lodge.

Nearest domestic airport: Busselton
Time to lodge: 40 minute drive
Nearest international airport: Perth
Time to lodge: 3.5 hour drive
Number of rooms/suites: 22 + 4 bedroom residence

Cape Lodge
Caves Road, Margaret River, Western Australia
Contact: +61 (0)8 9755 6311 or stay@capelodge.com.au

“Cape Lodge continues to deliver a sophisticated and easy-going charm in the forest, a luxury oasis in the beautiful Margaret River wine region.”
Crystalbrook Lodge
Remote... wild... elegant. Perched overlooking the spectacular 300 acre Crystalbrook Lake, Crystalbrook Lodge is an outback oasis, set in the wide red-dirt landscape of the 85,000 acre historic Crystalbrook Station, which exudes an unexpected elegance and a sense of outback drama. Sundowner or champagne in hand, guests can gaze across the wet-edge magnesium pool to the eye-cooling lake, ringed by masses of colourful giant water lilies.

Apart from gourmet meals, relaxing at the Lodge and connecting with the huge, blue skies, colours of the outback and rugged Australian scenery, guests will want to get up close and personal with some of the lakeside wildlife – nesting sea-eagles, delicate long toed Jacanas and Kingfishers supply an endless variety of subjects. Activities include hiking or 4WD adventures into the outback, kayaking, or cruising the lake in the silent electric boat to observe prolific birdlife, or try fishing for one of the prized barramundi.

Fully hosted and limited to just ten guests, the lodge is accessed by light aircraft – a forty minute flight from coastal Cairns with its cane fields and rainforest, across the vast outback. Guests have the option to arrive by helicopter and land right at the Lodge. Or, for those who like to explore, it is a three hour scenic drive on mostly sealed roads over the Atherton Tablelands.

Nearest domestic and international airport: Cairns
Time to lodge: 40 minute charter flight or 3 hour drive (4WD recommended)
Number of suites: 5

Crystalbrook Lodge
Crystalbrook Road, Almaden QLD 4871
Contact: +61 (0)7 4094 8385 or sales@crystalbrookcollection.com

“Get your licence to chill... Boats, helicopters and plunge pools... The brand new Crystalbrook Lodge is where James Bond meets the outback.”
Australian Traveller 2014 Bucket List
El Questro Homestead

El Questro Homestead is an outstanding blend of remote regional hospitality and the exploration of the beautiful outback wilderness landscape of the Kimberley region of Western Australia. El Questro is almost 700,000 acres in size and really is one of the world’s last true frontiers with rugged sandstone ranges, gorges, waterfalls and abundant wildlife. El Questro Homestead, a boutique oasis, perched atop a cliff with birds-eye views of The Chamberlain River and Gorge. It is private, understated and exclusive. The extensive list of experiences is key to The Homestead offering and includes guided 4WD drives, bush, culture and nature tours, bird-watching, gorge hikes, swimming at pristine waterfalls and rock pools, scenic flights, remote picnics and fishing excursions.

After exploring this dramatic land, guests may soak in the thermal Zebedee Springs, curl up under an ancient Boab tree with a book, swim in the pool overlooking the Chamberlain Gorge or simply join the local wallaby population and lounge in the shade. The Homestead is renowned for serving premium cuisine and wine in your choice of setting, from a secluded cliff top table to The Homestead’s spacious verandahs. The Homestead is an easy ninety minute drive from the nearest town of Kununurra, or may be accessed via private airstrip. It offers nine rooms and suites, hosting a maximum of eighteen guests at any time.

“El Questro Homestead is certainly the most covetable getaway in The Kimberley. A stay here is all you need to provide you with an awe-inspiring life experience.”
Elisabeth Knowles, Australian Traveller Magazine

Nearest domestic airport: Kununurra
Time to lodge: 30 minute charter flight or 90 minute drive

Nearest international airport: Darwin
Time to lodge: 1 hour flight + 90 minute drive or 1.5 hour charter flight

Number of suites: 9

El Questro Homestead
Gibb River Road, East Kimberley, Western Australia
Contact: Toll free (AUS) 1800 837 185
Landline (US): +1 716 276 0089 or travel@delawarenorth.com
elquestro
Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley

Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley is an ultra-luxury retreat, located 2.5 hours’ northwest of Sydney in the majestic World Heritage-listed Greater Blue Mountains region. Set on 7,000 acres of carbon-neutral conservation and wildlife reserve, the resort blends absolute luxury and seclusion with a quintessentially Australian bush experience. Nestled between two national parks, the resort offers a unique blend of solitude, native wildlife, dramatic natural beauty, conservation and heritage combined with unsurpassed facilities and outstanding food and wine. Occupying just one per cent of the total land area, the resort features forty elegantly appointed, free-standing villas, each with its own swimming pool, double-sided fireplace and private verandah with stunning views of the Wolgan Valley and rugged sandstone escarpments. At the centre of the resort sits the Main Homestead with several dining settings, a heritage precinct, and the One&Only Spa – a pampering sanctuary, featuring Australian Sodashi skin care.

The resort’s impressive assortment of native wildlife, dramatic landscapes and heritage, can be explored through a range of activities including wildlife safaris, nature walks, heritage tours, mountain biking and horse riding. Guests are also invited to take part in the daily Conservation Hour, working alongside passionate field guides to help preserve this distinctive environment for the future.

Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley offers the rare opportunity to experience true luxury in the spectacular Australian bush.

“What can we say? Beautiful, and brainy, too — the world’s first carbonzero resort, which loses nothing to hairshirtery and gains everything in a real and profound engagement with its environment. And did we mention the staff? Going above and beyond the call of duty, they’re a great team full of personality and passion for their secret inland island.”

Cate Blanchett and Andrew Upton, Mr & Mrs Smith review
Lake House

Culinary excellence, art, natural beauty and world class service. Welcome to Lake House, Daylesford.

Good food and wine are consuming passions here. A team of talented hospitality professionals with industry legend Culinary Director Alla Wolf-Tasker at the helm, deliver beautiful cutting edge menus and wines from the acclaimed cellar.

Regarded as one of the Best Restaurants in Australia, Lake House has two Chef Hats and has topped many respected restaurant lists including The Hot 50, Wine List of the Year and Australia’s Best Food & Wine Experience.

The hotel’s chic studios, suites and Retreat Villas nestle in six acres of lush gardens extending down to Lake Daylesford. Each boasts artwork from acclaimed artist and co-owner Allan Wolf-Tasker’s onsite studio.

Guests can join one of the hands on classes or demonstrations in the Cooking School; visit the Salus Day Spa; play tennis; explore lake paths meandering past mineral springs into the Wombat State Forest, and the walkable proximity of the charming village itself. Kookaburras fly in for dinner. Corellas, Cockatoos and Gang Gangs are frequent visitors. Many of Australia’s native animals can be encountered along the forest tracks.

As the sun sets over the far shore of the lake, the Argyle Library Bar or the Lagoon Deck are popular places to gather with fellow guests to share tales of the day’s adventures.

Lake House

4 King Street, Daylesford, Victoria
Contact: +61 (0)3 5348 3329 or info@lakehouse.com.au
LakeHouseDaylesford
lakehousedaylesford
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“Lake House is so intrinsically entwined with the land, the seasons, the local producers and the local artists, that it never stops evolving.”
Luxury Travel Magazine
Australia’s Best Food & Wine Experience
Lizard Island

Lizard Island, Australia’s northernmost island resort on the Great Barrier Reef, is secluded from the rest of the world, accessible only by a scenic one hour flight over the reef from Cairns. With only one resort on the island hosting forty rooms and suites – it is the tranquility and natural beauty of the island that will first greet you. Twenty-four pristine powdery-white private beaches – literally means you can have a beach to yourself. Snorkelling straight off the beach where clam gardens, coral and marine life are abundant and diving on the inner and outer reef to some of the world’s most famous dive sites, including the famous Cod Hole.

The food philosophy is simple and embraces local, fresh produce. Menus change daily at Saltwater Restaurant, guests can also enjoy gourmet picnic lunches on secluded beaches and beachside degustation dining for two at sunset.

Essentia Day spa is luxurious and indulgent, world class fishing locations to explore, personal dinghies for you to discover your own private place and a wide choice of activities to enjoy such as Research Station tours, night diving and sunset wine and cheese cruises.

With the bluest of clear blue ocean views from every angle, all of Lizard Island’s rooms and suites have been designed to be elegantly understated, allowing the natural beauty in.

Lizard Island – like nowhere else.

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**Nearest domestic and international airport:** Cairns

**Time to lodge:** 1 hour scenic flight over the Great Barrier Reef

**Number of rooms/suites:** 40

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Lizard Island

Great Barrier Reef, Queensland

Contact: Toll free (AUS) 1800 827 185

Landline (US) +1 716 276 0089

or travel@delawarenorth.com


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*“The Reef, one of the world’s great wonders, is just outside your doorstep, you can snorkel right off one of the island’s 24 private white sand beaches, or take the boat trip to the outer reef to see even more vividly colored coral and larger fish... Lizard has always exemplified luxury in the country. It still does. It’s a place you really don’t want to leave.”*  

Laurie Werner, forbes.com
Longitude 131°

Camping certainly doesn’t come more glamorous nor the view from the ‘tent’ more spectacular than this. At Longitude 131°, a gathering of luxury pavilions overlooking Uluṟu, the vibe is intimate and civilised. The desert basecamp fans out from the cool sanctuary of the Dune House, site of lounging, cocktails and Rock gazing. Dine overlooking the nation’s spiritual heart savouring contemporary cuisine combined with indigenous flavours to create a unique taste of Australia.

Central to a stay is discovery of the World Heritage listed wilderness of Uluṟu-Kata Tjuṯa, explored on a series of signature guided encounters. Connect with the ancient creation stories of the land’s traditional custodians and come face-to-face with this irresistible land, rich in cultural heritage and history.

In the spirit of the original pioneers, relax after a day’s exploring in a canopied pavilion designed to float above the rust-red dunes. Unparalleled views of Uluṟu’s changing lights play out from the end of the bed, or on balconies from the warmth of a luxury swag unfurled in the cool night air. Contemporary furnishings, artworks by local indigenous artists and an array of mod cons dispel any illusion of roughing it.

Outback-travellers inevitably become familiar with the beauty of loneliness. At Longitude 131°, it’s possible to soak up the solitude in exclusive Australian style.

“To stay at Longitude 131° is to buy front-row seats to the spectacular that is Uluṟu. Wake up, and there is Australia’s most iconic rock, framed by a room-wide sliding glass window. Just a few fields of minty green spinifex between you and the prize. It’s dreamy sightseeing without getting out of bed.”

Susan Skelly, Qantas, Australian Way Magazine
Pretty Beach House

Pretty Beach House is the epitome of relaxed luxury; intimate, laid-back, with personalised service offering a quintessential luxe Australian coastal experience in a world class setting.

Perched high on the escarpment at Pretty Beach, this sophisticated lodge sits within an ancient angophora forest with water views over pristine Broken Bay, an idyllic natural wonder.

Pretty Beach House offers guests the opportunity to completely restore or explore – a very private haven and base for adventure, romance, rejuvenation or exploration.

Golden beaches and bays are easily accessible via hiking trails along coastal sandstone cliffs. Other adventure activities include cultural tours with Indigenous folk, boating and sailing, water sports, mountain biking and tennis.

An indigenous Welcome to Country smoking ceremony is included, performed with song, dance and dreamtime stories told by an indigenous elder making for a truly unforgettable experience. This ceremony is performed near aboriginal rock art created by the local Darkinjung tribe dating back almost 10,000 years.

Truly, a rare find, with just four impeccably appointed pavilions, the lodge houses up to eight guests at one time.

Dining is a highlight at Pretty Beach House with seasonal menus prepared by highly talented chefs with fresh ingredients straight from the kitchen garden.

All dining and beverages are included (cellar list additional) along with pavilion mini-bar, unlimited Wi-Fi and mountain bikes.

Nearest domestic airport: Sydney or Newcastle

Time to lodge: 90 minute drive from Sydney or Newcastle, 20 minutes by seaplane (From Sydney only) or 20 minutes by helicopter (From Newcastle or Sydney)

Nearest international airport: Sydney

Time to lodge: 90 minute drive or 20 minute flight by seaplane or helicopter

Number of suites: 4 pavilions

Pretty Beach House
83 Highview Road, Pretty Beach,
New South Wales
Contact: +61 (0)2 4360 1933 or stay@prettybeachhouse.com

A Love Nest in the Treetops...
The exclusive Pretty Beach House, tucked away in a bush panorama is perfect for romance.

Belinda Kontominas,
Travel Weekender, The Sun Herald
Located on the secluded northern-most tip of Hamilton Island and surrounded by the unsurpassed beauty of the Great Barrier Reef, qualia is a unique expression of world-class luxury and outstanding modern design. It is a truly special place where everything has been meticulously considered to relax the mind yet completely spoil the senses. qualia’s sun-drenched northern aspect provides the ideal setting to appreciate the passing beauty of each day, with a choice of sixty individual pavilions, many of which featuring a private plunge pool where guests can enjoy the breathtaking views across Whitsunday Passage. Within the resort, qualia offers two exclusive restaurants and the alluring Spa qualia which offers an authentic Australian spa menu, incorporating a comprehensive range of invigorating treatments designed to rebalance the synergy between mind and body. In addition to easy access to the Whitsunday region’s most desirable attractions, guests of qualia can take advantage of priority tee off at Hamilton Island’s very own championship golf course. This picturesque 18-hole course is the only in Australia located on its very own Island, and is challenging play for novice and professional players alike. If time spent together is the ultimate goal, qualia staff can arrange a complimentary beach drop off service – a rare opportunity to indulge in a gourmet picnic for two on an idyllic secluded beach.

“qualia has the low-key indoor-outdoor design that is quintessential unpretentious Oz luxury.”

Maria Shollenbarger on qualia’s inclusion in the US Conde Nast Traveler Gold List 2015
Saffire Freycinet is Australia’s luxury coastal sanctuary on Tasmania’s east coast, delivering sophisticated, intimate style and an inspirational experience.

Discreetly positioned overlooking the Hazards Mountains, Freycinet Peninsula and the pristine waters of Great Oyster Bay, Saffire blends mankind and nature with breathtaking beauty.

Featuring twenty luxurious suites, exclusive day spa, restaurant, guest lounge and bar, this new experience is a celebration of the art of service, internal and external wellbeing, local culinary delights, ancient landscapes and abundant wildlife.

In Palate restaurant, Todd Adams, the Executive Chef has ensured innovative dining does not compromise the true flavours of the freshest local produce. Fully inclusive dining from breakfast through to a gourmet degustation or a la carte dinner.

All guests can restore their wellbeing in the premium spa facilities and on-site gym. Soothe the busy mind and refresh the soul with a luxurious treatment in one of Spa Saffire’s three retreat rooms overlooking the inspiring landscape and reflective pools.

The Schouten Island Signature Experience has been designed exclusively for guests to deepen their East Coast discovery. There’s a world of deserted islands, wild bushland and secluded beaches to explore.

The Tasmanian Devil Experience offers guests the rare opportunity to encounter Tasmanian devils in a natural setting, and to participate in the quest to save this endangered species from extinction.

“The very few resorts manage to get all the ingredients right when opening but we can assure you, this beauty of a hotel has ticked all the right boxes. We were literally left speechless — and that takes some doing — as we feasted our eyes on the breathtaking vistas, indulged our senses in our gorgeous suite and in the spa, and devoured the food that made any thought of a diet ridiculous.”

Bill Tikos, The Coolhunter online guru
Sal Salis
Where Australia’s outback meets the reef... Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef is an eco-luxe tented camp offering comfort and style in the World Heritage listed Cape Range National Park and overlooking the World Heritage listed Ningaloo Reef.
In this pristine and beautiful wilderness region Sal Salis takes great care to protect the fragile eco-system. Accommodation is in fifteen spacious Wilderness Tents and one Honeymoon Tent, all are designed to blend with the dunes. Each has an en suite bathroom with an eco-friendly loo and hot water shower as well as supremely comfortable beds and views of the Indian Ocean. The social heart of the camp includes lounge, bar and library areas and is raised above the coastal scrub affording views of the reef and the breakers beyond. Chef prepared meals are served communally.
The focus of your stay is the environment and a team of passionate guides are on hand to host guided snorkelling, kayak expeditions and walks in the Ranges. Sal Salis is the perfect base from which to swim with whale sharks (April to July) and with humpback whales (August to October). At night lie out on the beach to stare up at the Milky Way and a canopy of stars stretching across the southern night skies.

- Nearest domestic airport: Exmouth (Learmonth Airport)
- Time to lodge: 1.5 hour drive
- Nearest international airport: Perth
- Time to lodge: 2 hour flight + 1.5 hour drive
- Number of suites: 15 Wilderness Tents & 1 Honeymoon Tent

Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef, Western Australia
Contact: +61 (0)8 9949 1776 or info@salsalis.com.au

“...I discovered my hammock strung outside my tent and, more important, I discovered that if I lay in it long enough, I could watch whales blowing and curling out on the ink-blue horizon.”
Max Anderson, The Sunday Times
Silky Oaks Lodge

Silky Oaks Lodge is located in a stunning riverside location adjoining the World Heritage listed Daintree National Park. The modernised and elegant Far North Queensland styled lodge offers ecological and culturally sensitive experiences, adventure or indulgent leisure. The surrounding region is diverse featuring lush tropical rainforests, vast savannahs, as well the nearby Great Barrier Reef. Just over an hour’s drive from Cairns Airport and twenty minutes from Port Douglas, the journey by road takes in the gorgeous scenery via sealed coastal road meandering along deserted beaches and the sparkling waters of the Coral Sea.

Activities at the Lodge range from hiking trails, river swimming, canoeing, snorkelling, picnicking, biking excursions, guided bird walks and yoga by the river. Nearby, the Mossman Gorge offers guided indigenous experiences including the Dreamtime Walk.

There are forty beautifully appointed rooms and suites with large spa baths and balconies set in eighty acres of grounds adjoining the Daintree National Park.

The Treehouse Restaurant presents diners with an exciting menu using quality locally sourced produce. The mineral rich waters of the river provide an inspiration for the Healing Waters Spa along with a wide range of treatments using the luxurious organic Sodashi range.

“There is no question of being impervious to the environment here. The lodge borders The Daintree National Park, home to 74 species of mammals, twice as many types of reptiles and amphibians and 330 kinds of birds... it’s a companionable destination of appropriate luxury and lots of creature comforts...”

Susan Kurosawa, Wish Magazine

Nearest domestic and international airport: Cairns
Time to lodge: 60 minute drive
Number of suites: 40
(combination of River Treehouses and Treehouses)

Silky Oaks Lodge
The Daintree, Queensland
Contact: +61 (0)7 4098 1666
or reservations@silkyoaks.com.au

There is no question of being impervious to the environment here. The lodge borders the Daintree National Park, home to 74 species of mammals, twice as many types of reptiles and amphibians and 330 kinds of birds... it’s a companionable destination of appropriate luxury and lots of creature comforts...

Susan Kurosawa, Wish Magazine
Southern Ocean Lodge

Celebrated as a pioneer of Australia’s new breed of luxury lodges, this retreat atop the limestone cliffs of Kangaroo Island invites a step into another world. A hop off the coast of Adelaide, ‘KI’ as the locals call it, is a true wilderness refuge, a place teeming with indigenous species and where a rugged coast offers some of the world’s most dramatic ocean views.

Southern Ocean Lodge blends pristine nature, superb fine dining and a personalised itinerary of exhilarating experiences to create a very real sense of place. From guided hikes led by naturalist guides, up-close wildlife encounters and exploration of the ‘Wonders of KI’ including a grand coastal grotto with resident fur seals, there’s an adventure for every whim.

The Great Room serves as the lodge ‘hub’ with spectacular sweeping vistas playing backdrop for lounging by the suspended fireplace, pouring a drink from the convivial open bar and for indulging in fine food and wine with a proudly local provenance.

Contemporary suites cantilever along the curve of the clifftop each offering spectacular views of the wild Southern Ocean, while myriad thoughtful details from custom furnishings to warm limestone create a feeling of relaxed luxury.

To find a retreat this exceptional in a location this remote only adds to the wonder that is Southern Ocean Lodge.

[Map and contact information]

“At Southern Ocean Lodge the mix of fabulousness and nature finds new frisson...It’s bold, it’s progressive, it’s queen of the wilderness wonderland. Southern Ocean Lodge is really a pair of cool, calm binoculars focused on an astonishing place.”

Melinda Stevens, Tatler
Spicers Peak Lodge

Spicers Peak Lodge is Australia’s highest mountain lodge, standing 1,100 metres above sea level, surrounded by breathtaking views of south-east Queensland’s World Heritage listed Main Range National Park, Great Dividing Range and Scenic Rim.

The lodge offers a range of activities designed to give guests an intimate opportunity to experience this strikingly beautiful part of the Australian wilderness including nature walks, 4WD discovery tours, scenic helicopter tours, star gazing, mountain biking adventures, sunset picnics. Guests may also enjoy a four day guided trek exploring the Scenic Rim and learning about the region’s rich history.

Facilities in and around the architecturally designed lodge include an infinity edge swimming pool, tennis court, guided walking and bike trails, produce gardens, library with billiard table and telescope, on-site day spa and an extensive lounge with open fireplace and restaurant. The Peak Restaurant offers guests a truly gourmet dining experience, with an emphasis on respect for produce, producer and the environment. These values are blended with impeccable techniques to yield a culinary style that pleases guests and food critics alike.

With ten luxurious suites and two private lodges, Spicers Peak Lodge is a unique blend of relaxing accommodation and fine dining at the height of luxury in one of south-east Queensland’s most beautiful and rugged wilderness areas.

Nearest domestic and international airport: Brisbane
Time to lodge: 90 minute drive from Brisbane, 2 hour drive from the Gold Coast
Number of suites: 10 suites, 2 private lodges

Spicers Peak Lodge
Wilkinsons Road, Maryvale, Scenic Rim, Queensland
Contact: +61 (0)7 4666 1083
or peaklodge@spicersretreats.com
SpicersPeakLodge
spicerspeaklodge
peaklodge

"After a relaxing stroll through an ancient hoop pine forest Spicers Peak Lodge, Australia’s highest non-alpine retreat, appears in front of us like a mirage. It is a stunning two-storey hideaway perched above the clouds and we cannot wait to step inside."
Tiana Templeman, Escape
The Louise

The Louise is located atop a gentle hill and surrounded by hundreds of acres of vines overlooking the world renowned Barossa Valley. Fifteen suites, each with its own private terrace and stunning views over the adjacent vineyards, feature soft contemporary design and artworks. Integral to a stay at The Louise is dining at Appellation, one of Australia’s finest regional restaurants. Appellation’s culinary team are guided by the rhythms of the seasons; harvesting from their kitchen garden; baking their own breads; butchering and curing their own meats; and celebrate wine and food as the most natural of partners. They are passionate advocates for freshness, seasonality and regionalism. An extensive award-winning wine list showcases the best of the Barossa, Australia and the world. Guests may float over ancient vineyards in a hot air balloon, enjoy a sunrise picnic breakfast with kangaroos in native bushland, tour the picturesque valley in a vintage car, walk or cycle bush tracks, make their own blend of wine and have Appellation prepare a dinner to match, or join Appellation’s chef while he peruses the local farmer’s market for provisions. Guests will discover amazing wines, meet warm local characters and fall in love some of the world’s most engaging wine country. Together, Appellation and The Louise is the food, wine and luxury accommodation destination for discerning travellers.

Born of an holistic approach and intimate connection to the land, Appellation (at The Louise) brings food and wine together with a powerful guarantee of regional authenticity.”

Louise Radman, Australian Gourmet Traveller

Nearest domestic and international airport: Adelaide
Time to lodge: 75 minute drive
Number of suites: 15

The Louise Barossa Valley
375 Seppeltsfield Road, Marananga, South Australia
Contact: +61 (0)8 8562 2722 or stay@thelouise.com.au
thelouisebarossavalley
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True North

An adventure on the True North has long been regarded as one of Australia’s most revered tourism experiences. All itineraries are activity based and designed for discerning travellers who truly want to ‘experience’ some of Australia’s most remote coastal destinations.

Extended periods at sea are specifically excluded and daily activities can include walks, fishing, snorkelling, diving, picnics, natural history, cultural events and more. The True North is an Australian registered ship and not required to leave Australian waters during Australian voyages - every day on-board the True North is an activity day.

Destinations include the Kimberley, a panorama of rugged mountains, spectacular gorges and majestic waterfalls; the still-wild coast of Western Australia featuring the intriguing Abrolhos Islands, world-famous Ningaloo Reef, the Montebello Islands and the pristine Rowley Shoals; beautiful Sydney and surrounds and, a seafood safari around the Eyre Peninsula.

The True North has been designed to go where other ships cannot. Multiple expedition boats explore even further and guests experience wilderness ‘up close’. Most cruise options feature an on-board helicopter which adds another dimension to the adventure.

Guest numbers are limited to thirty-six and an Australian crew of twenty-two chaperones every experience. Spacious cabins feature modern décor with ensuites.

Find out why guests disembarking from the True North consistently respond with “that’s the best holiday I have ever had!”.
The new breed of Australian experiential luxury...

Waiting to be discovered in all corners of the Australian continent are exclusive islands, fabulous wilderness lodges, decadent tented camps in the desert, private spa and vineyard retreats and remote country lodges. These are places where time on earth is treasured, and the discovery of the unique sense of place for each is a gift reflecting Australia’s extraordinary diversity and enchanting landscapes.

Take in wide angle views and watch the sun melt into the sea. Walk barefoot on the beach, swing in a hammock, lounge about in the plunge pool or watch wildlife swim in the bay. Better still, swim with them. Rejuvenate on a secluded island retreat, be pampered and pretrained at a glorious day spa or explore the peace and tranquillity of nature’s most spectacular landscapes. Discover pristine, remote picnic spots and secluded beaches on a romantic journey by air, land or sea. Explore beautiful beaches, coral reefs, dramatic coastal cliffs and singing sand.

Absorb the outback’s breathtaking ruggedness, hike or bike in it, then lie back and let stress dissolve away under the influence of a little outback luxury. Wander at the incredible diversity of terrestrial and marine wildlife. From locally inspired, character filled bush camps offering key luxury standards to architecturally striking lodges, heritage homesteads and stations offering indulgent spa treatments, retreat to your own exclusive piece of luxury in the outback. Savour the flavours of pure Australian produce, its seafood and wine. From nature (or paddock) to plate, rustic to refined, dining at these luxury lodges is an innovative and deeply satisfying experience. The possibilities for metropolitan, gourmet experiences never end; whether it’s an ocean catch on sandy shores, a superlative meal in a destination dining room; or a candlelit dinner on a secluded beach in the warm gloe of sunset. Sail between tropical islands and warm water reefs, exploring the endlessly changing Australian coastline and stopping at isolated beaches where the only footprints are your own.

Australia’s luxury barefoot paradises are exclusive by virtue of their remoteness, their special location and the small number of guests they accommodate at any one time. Australia’s sun, sand and open space are luxuries of the rarest kind. All these experiences represent a new style of distinctively Australian casual elegance and luxury: the unforgettable coast, reefs and islands; the fertile mountains and vibrant food and wine producing regions; the boundless horizons of the outback. Our guests have the space to relax, a sense of timeless; the chance to discover our land, our people, and yourself. Take home lifelong memories. www.luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au

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Some of Australia’s best...

To assist in creating the ultimate Australian itineraries, there are a number of other ‘collective’ organisations we recommend. Each of these delivers some of the best experiences in their field and are a great complement to a luxury lodge trip.

GREAT GOLF COURSES OF AUSTRALIA

Great Golf Courses of Australia profiles and provides access to Australia’s leading golf courses, including the country’s seven World Top 100 courses: Barnbougle Dunes and Barnbougle Lost Farm (both in Tasmania), Kingston Heath (New South Wales), Royal Melbourne, Royal Adelaide and Victoria Golf Club. Great Golf Courses of Australia is a comprehensive and centralised resource for golfers, media and trade to access information on Australia’s leading golf courses and iconic golf tourism experiences. www.greatgolfaustralia.com.au

GREAT WALKS OF AUSTRALIA

Great Walks of Australia offers quintessentially Australian walking experiences that engage walkers in some of the world’s most spectacular terrain. They inspire travellers to explore Australia’s diverse landscape by foot, where guests reconnect with nature in small, intimate groups. The journeys are led by expert guides with a deep understanding and appreciation of the environment. The operators provide the utmost in style and comfort with gourmet food and wine and exclusive, comfortable accommodation facilities such as historic homesteads, wilderness safari camps, private huts and luxury lodges. www.greatwalksofaustralia.com.au

ULTIMATE WINERY EXPERIENCES AUSTRALIA

Ultimate Winery Experiences Australia is a hand-selected collection of Australia’s premium wineries offering quality wine experiences based around world class wines, warm and knowledgeable hospitality and culinary excellence. Experience the best in Australia’s wine regions... www.ultimatewineryexperiences.com.au
Plan your journey

Australia is a welcoming and accessible place. It is also a vast land with enormous diversity of inspiring travel destinations, so planning the logistics of a trip can be daunting. The Luxury Lodges of Australia website has some great tools for planning trips to the furthest reaches and most special places on the continent. Trip ideas may be viewed by destination, experience or by property. There are also seamless itinerary suggestions. The aim is to minimise time in transit, and maximise time experiencing our incredible destinations. Brief information with great tips about getting to or between any of Australia’s luxury lodges is an invaluable guide when planning a trip. Many of the lodges have helipads and close access to landing strips for even greater accessibility by private jet or charter.

Whether you book direct with your chosen destinations, or via your preferred travel specialist, www.luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au is a great place to start.
A COLLECTION OF INDEPENDENT LUXURY LODGES AND CAMPS OFFERING UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES IN AUSTRALIA’S MOST INSPIRING AND EXTRAORDINARY LOCATIONS