Luxury Lodges of Australia MEDIA BACKGROUNDERS: NEWS

# Seasonal Update

# September 2025

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| This **Media News and Emerging Trends** is aspringboard for conversations around emerging travel trends plus a roundup of newsworthy developments, new experiences, upcoming events and seasonal promotions from across the Luxury Lodges of Australia collection. | |
| Luxury Lodges of Australia Resources | |
| Trusted ResourceMedia and Trade PortalMedia Backgrounders | * The Luxury Lodges of Australia website is a one-stop distillation of travel information, advice and insider tips for the 20 lodges, their 350+ experiences, their regions and essential destination information for high end travellers. It showcases the rich and diverse visuals of the places, experiences and people of the Luxury Lodges of Australia collection. [www.luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au](http://www.luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au) * Our media and trade portal provides easy access to a comprehensive set of media resources and assets. A simple signup is required. <http://www.luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/trade-media> Be sure to have a browse and bookmark this page as it is updated regularly. * A suite of [media backgrounders](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/trade-media-downloads/#media-backgrounders) includes a roundup of media bites with links to more detail across diverse and current themes including food and wine, environmental and cultural sustainability, First Nations experiences, architecture, art & design, our people and [more](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/trade-media-downloads/#media-backgrounders). |
| Key Travel Trends and Conversation Launch Points | |
| Luxury Lodges of Australia celebrates 15 yearsSignificant updatesAustralia, the antidote to overcrowded, overheated and overpricedDark Sky and Astro-awareness More than just a hot spot for events Getting under the skin of the Australia you don’t knowAccessing the vast unexplored North West corner of Australia | 2025 marks 15 years since the Luxury Lodges of Australia membership association was formed and launched in 2010. Key to Luxury Lodges of Australia’s success is its adherence to core DNA guidelines for membership including the member lodges’ extraordinary locations, rare or privileged access to place, experience and people (the lodges are much more than just a place to stay and collectively deliver more than 350 experiences across Australia), their connection to community and culture resulting in regional economic benefit or ‘halo effect’ for local producers, guides, growers, winemakers and artists, which all together creates an experience that is distinctively and exclusively Australian. The 15-year milestone offers a moment to reflect on the collection’s legacy in shaping the now significant high-end experiential tourism offering in Australia, and looking to further evolution and growth in the future.   * [Orpheus Island Lodge and Pelorus Private Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/orpheus-island-lodge/) joined the collection in January this year, bringing the number of member luxury lodges, villas and camps to twenty, collectively offering distinctively Australian, high-end experiences and hospitality across the continent. Guests staying at Orpheus Island Lodge and Pelorus Private Island can simply step from their luxury lodge accommodation to access the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef and an up-close and personal encounter with nature. * [Bullo River Station](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/bullo-river-station/), set on some 400,000 acres in the East Kimberley region of the Northern Territory, is excited to share that it will embark on a thoughtful redevelopment to further [enhance its homestead](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/news-offers-events/bullo-announces-redevelopment-plans/) and guest wing with a resulting closure in 2026, reopening in time for the 2027 season. * [Saffire Freycinet](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/saffire-freycinet/) has revealed plans for a new three-bedroom villa set separately to the main lodge’s sixteen suites, with capacity to sleep up to six adults as well as children. The new Saffire Villa will open in late 2026 and is ideally suited to multi-generational families, corporate retreats or small group travellers, and has been designed specifically in response to growing demand for exclusive, more intimate group travel. * [Capella Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/capella-lodge/) has undergone a significant refurbishment of its outdoor guest areas with Gowers Terrace receiving new dining and drinks banquettes, blackbutt decking and new premium outdoor furnishings, while all guest suites have also had an outdoor lounging area revamp. * The highly publicised reaction to overtourism around the world and an increasing desire to avoid crowds is redefining seasonality and inspiring interest to travel deeper in a destination. Australia’s natural isolation, demonstrated by the luxury lodges collective has always been the antithesis to travelling with crowds of tourists. * Australia is a veritable dark sky hot spot for major astro-events over the next 15 years. Darkness is disappearing across the globe. Reclaim the wonder of darkness in Australia where the night sky paints a picture that has been interpreted by our First Nations people for over 60,000 years; where the moon cycle simulates growth for our incredible food and produce and pulls the enormous tides of the western coastline and much more. * The country’s vast land and skyscape, untainted by urban sky glow, provides some of the most exceptional celestial clarity experienced by stargazers past and present. The remote, regional locations of the lodges provide unparalleled access to these night skies in different ways, including dinners under the stars, expert guides interpreting constellations, luxury ‘swag’ sleepouts, nocturnal wildlife watching, art installations. See more [here](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/experiences/stargazing/) * Australia is vast, the same size as the USA and not a one-trip destination. The concept of ‘cluster itineraries’ makes tackling Australia’s enormous diversity of experience and the discovery of relatively unexplored regions highly appealing. Improved direct air access to regional airports has made these itineraries even easier to do. In line with the growing desire to travel slower and more deeply, these itineraries offer a deeper discovery of a region and its diverse landscapes, people, produce and culture. Examples include South Australia’s [The Louise](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/thelouise/), [Southern Ocean Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/southernoceanlodge/) and [Arkaba Conservancy](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/arkaba/), Tropical North Queensland’s Trifecta [Silky Oaks Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/silkyoakslodge/), [Lizard Island](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/lizardisland/) and [Mt Mulligan Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/mtmulliganlodge/) and the great North West’s [Bullo River Station](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/bullo-river-station/), [El Questro Homestead](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/elquestrohomestead/), [Bamurru Plains](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/bamurru/) and [True North Adventure Cruises](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/truenorth/). * New to the Luxury Lodges of Australia website is a wonderful selection of these [cluster itineraries](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/plan/itineraries/), many along special interest themes or destinations. * The addition of [Bullo River Station](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/bullo-river-station/) and its focus on the sustainable coexistence of agriculture, tourism and conservation has added another dimension to the great north western corner of Australia – and is a great complement to those at [Bamurru Plains](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/bamurru/), [El Questro Homestead](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/elquestrohomestead/) and [True North](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/truenorth/) in the vast Kimberley and Top End regions. * New quality airline scheduling has never made it easier to seamlessly access this remote part of Australia: Daily direct Singapore – Darwin with Singapore Airlines and from March 2025 five times a week with Qantas is a game changer for access to one of the most remote and extraordinary wilderness areas in Australia, if not the world. This access makes for a seamless itinerary across up to four diverse lodges, accessible in a way that has never been seen before. |
| Wellness and the deep desire to connect with natureOur reconnection withhow the land nourishes usOur Halo Effect Sustainability & positive impact  Value proposition Villas within lodges – meeting the rising trend for extended family and friend travel Small Group Retreats | * Our awareness that our own wellbeing is linked to the health of the planet is rising, and experiences in nature have always been amongst the major reasons for travel. Now wellbeing and nature are being appreciated in their simplest but most luxurious form. We carry our wellbeing practices with us when we travel. And when we practice them in a new environment, they seem all the more enriching and restorative, whether it be hiking the forests, yoga on the beach, a massage overlooking the outback… * There was a saying, ‘don’t eat what your grandmother wouldn’t recognise as food…’ Today much of the lustre of travel is linked to the moments we reconnect with the land, and discovering how the land nourishes us. A trend in what we eat and drink as we travel has long been local, local, local. However, with the desire to connect with nature, there is also a rise in appreciation of provenance and flavour over fussy, formal dining as well as a chance to meet the people of the place, the producers, the farmers, the distillers, the makers. The lodges collectively partner with over 4,000 local businesses, whose character is integral to what it means to be Australian. * Each of the lodges seeks to partner as extensively as possible, often exclusively, with local producers of food and drinks, designers, artists, creators and spa experts as well as local tour operators and tradespeople. The influence of one luxury lodge can have a significant and exponential effect on the economy and the community of the region they are located in.   20 member lodges collectively offer more than 350 experiences, partnering with more than 4,000 other small, local Australian businesses. From local specialist guides to suppliers, the small scale, often sustainable or regenerative food producers, fishers, cheesemongers, winemakers, distillers and brewers who together bring a fresh innovative taste of the location to the daily changing menus, to local artists and artisans from all disciplines.  This sustained economic support for suppliers acts as further incentive for small businesses to set up in nearby regional locations, enriching the community and offering a genuine sense of place for visiting guests.  The term ‘halo effect’ describes the rich tapestry of experience created for guests that extends beyond just a stay but shines the light on all the components that are intrinsic contributors to the rich, dynamic character of a lodge.  A great example is the [Lake House](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/lakehouse/) in Victoria’s Daylesford spa country, where the restaurant’s exclusive use of local and sustainably produced ingredients led to a proliferation of small and artisan producers, which in turn has contributed to the region’s growth and appeal as a food-tourism destination. In addition, guests are able to visit Dairy Flat Farm by [Lake House](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/lakehouse/), their own regenerative farm, to taste, see and learn about provenance, flavour, nutrition and the passion for these suppliers for regenerative, sustainable farming. Guests are connecting with and supporting the local community just by staying at the lodge. [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/trade-media-downloads/#media-backgrounders)   * Making a positive impact is core to the ‘why’ of each lodge’s contribution to and protection of the ecological and cultural sustainability of the environments and communities in which they operate. Operating sustainably is essential to the ongoing appeal of a destination and ultimately to the sustained success of the business. Sustainable operations and indeed regenerative impact are rising fast as consumer expectations. Travellers are conscious of the impact of their travel on the places they visit, and so [‘travel with purpose’](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/sustainability/) is a principal focus for each lodge. The initiatives in place vary according to the destination, its natural environment, wildlife, community and culture. Citizen science opportunities that are both educational and enriching for guests are increasingly popular as guests seek a more active, positive connection with the environment. Visit the dedicated sustainability page with up-to-date information on each of the lodges [here](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/sustainability/). * As we reflect on the travel trends off the back of the pandemic, geo-political unrest and conflict, and cost-of-living crises globally, the cost and quality of travel continues to shock many. As we look ahead, the value proposition offered by Australia and the Luxury Lodges is compelling. The inclusive rate structures and seamless offering of experiences of the destination, of excellent, local produce-led dining and wines and natural isolation and exclusivity of access to place will once again appeal to those looking to connect with each other, and with the people and places they’re visiting on holidays. * We live in a world of increasing longevity, and as many as seven generations of people are now travelling – often together. The rise and rise of extended family and friend travel, multi-generational and multi-family gatherings is creating a new dynamic for small luxury properties. Travel has become the keystone for marking connection between people who matter most to each other but may be scattered all over the world, celebrations of time and events, escapes and those all-important zero birthdays. * The ‘[Villa within a Luxury Lodge’](https://emag.lodgelife.com.au/issue-2/lodge-villas), positioned in prime ‘wow’ locations, with all the experiential offerings, hospitality excellence and personalised service and amenities of a luxury lodge is super-appealing for travellers on ‘celebration escapes’ and small groups of friends and multi-family, or multi-generation gatherings. Private luxury villas in the collection include: * Dairy Flat Lodge, [Lake House](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/lakehouse/), Daylesford VIC * Baillie Pavilion, [Southern Ocean Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/southernoceanlodge/), Kangaroo Island SA * The Residence, [qualia](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/qualia/), Great Barrier Reef, QLD * The House at [Lizard Island](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/lizardisland/), Great Barrier Reef QLD * Daintree Pavilion, [Silky Oaks Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/silkyoakslodge/), Tropical North QLD * Dune Pavilion, [Longitude 131°](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/longitude131/), Uluru NT * Outback Pavilion, [Mt Mulligan Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/mtmulliganlodge/), Northern Outback QLD * Private Lodge, [Spicers Peak Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/spicerspeak/), Scenic Rim QLD * Jabiru Suite, [Bamurru Plains](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/bamurru/), Top End, NT * Saffire Villa, [Saffire Freycinet](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/saffire-freycinet/), TAS – coming 2026. * Around half of the lodges have between 4 – 16 guest suites and their layout and operational style are suited to small group bookings or a full property buyout that suit the dynamic of these extended friends and family gatherings, or for highly tailored corporate retreats and meetings. |
| Lodge Updates Lodge news and story angle teasers |  |
| [Arkaba Conservanc](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/arkaba/)yFlinders Ranges, SA | * [Arkaba](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/arkaba/) has been a dedicated private wildlife conservancy since 2009. The result is a visible change to the landscape and biodiversity of native flora and fauna. [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/arkaba/business-with-purpose/) * Far from the city lights, [Arkaba](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/arkaba/) offers some of the clearest and darkest skies in Australia. As night falls, step outside to explore the Southern Cross, distant planets, and ancient constellations through the lens of Indigenous Dreamtime stories on a guided stargazing experience. |
| [Bamurru Plains](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/bamurru/)Top End, NT[Bullo River Station](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/bullo-river-station/), Eastern Kimberley, NT | * This year, [Bamurru Plains](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/bamurru-plains/) has introduced two new day trips to explore the natural wonders of Kakadu National Park; Kakadu in a Day and Kakadu Cultural Experience Day tour. [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/news-offers-events/explore-kakadu-from-bamurru-plains/). * [Bullo River Station](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/bullo-river-station/) is where conservation, agriculture and tourism meet on 400,000 acres of epic landscape. In 2025, plans are at hand for a thoughtful redevelopment to further enhance its homestead and guest wing in 2026. To allow timing for these developments, the Station will be closed to guests throughout the 2026 season and will reopen again in May 2027. The redevelopment will include more generously sized guest rooms and the development of a new two-bedroom family suite.  It will maintain 12 rooms, with 24-guest maximum occupancy. [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/news-offers-events/bullo-announces-redevelopment-plans/) |
| [Capella Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/capellalodge/)Lord Howe Island, NSW | * A significant refurbishment has taken place at [Capella Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/capella-lodge/) in 2025 to the outdoor Gowers Terrace with timber decking, a new sunset lounge set by the horizon pool, new dining banquette and new outdoor furnishings. * Much-loved General Managers Libby Grant and Mark MacKillop have retired after 21 years at the helm. Libby and Mark will hand the baton to new managers, Bridie Bush and Ryan Ward, who arrive from management roles at Huka Lodge and [Longitude 131°.](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/longitude-131/) |
| Dairy Flat Lodge  at [Lake House](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/lakehouse/)Daylesford, VIC | * Dairy Flat Lodge and [Lake House](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/lakehouse/) guests can enjoy on-farm experiences at Dairy Flat Farm including properly fermented sourdough baking classes, beekeeping, kitchen garden growing and learning about regenerative farming. * New spa offering – The Farm Spa Experience at Dairy Flat Lodge. [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/news-offers-events/farm-spa-experience/) |
| [Lake House](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/lakehouse/)Daylesford, VIC | * An evergreen leader with a legacy of over 40 years of continuous innovation, forged over decades of tireless pursuit of excellence in hospitality combined with collaboration and community building. These efforts have led to the current iteration and addition to the Lake House offering, the regenerative farm and Dairy Flat Lodge. (SS condense) * The [Lake House](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/lakehouse/) restaurant was most recently again awarded two hats (taking their total to 78 hats and countless other accolades since 1984) in the Good Food Guide Awards 2024 with a score of 17/20. * This year Lake House claimed the [Gourmet Traveller Best Hotel Dining Award 2025](https://www.gourmettraveller.com.au/travel/hotel-travel-awards/best-hotel-dining-winner/) “The OG of destination dining in Victoria, Lake House continues to shine as a beacon of how to do it right.” **Gourmet Traveller Annual Restaurant Guide 2024 – 2025** |
| [El Questro Homestead](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/elquestrohomestead/)The Kimberley, WA[Lizard Island](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/lizardisland/)Great Barrier Reef, QLD | * As a result of the 2022 partnership with First Nations Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation (WAC) El Questro’s owners G’day Group returned 165,000 hectares of pastoral lease land to its Traditional Owners. For guests at [El Questro Homestead](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/elquestrohomestead/) , the Injiid Marlabu Calls Us immersive encounter extends a heartfelt Welcome to Country Cultural Immersion, unveiling the profound bond between the Ngarinyin Aboriginal people and the vast expanse of the Western Australia’s rugged Kimberley land and waters. [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/news-offers-events/unique-cultural-immersion/)   [Lizard Island](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/lizardisland/)’s first partnership with Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef took place in October 2022 as the Great Reef Census 3 recruited up to 80 boats departing from [Lizard Island](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/lizardisland/)’s Anchor Bay to survey the region’s remote reefs [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/news-offers-events/lizard-island-partners-with-citizens-of-the-great-barrier-reef/). The team of volunteer citizen scientists returned to the Great Barrier Reef’s remote northerly waters in late 2024, with a return partnership with [Lizard Island](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/lizardisland/) resort. In 2025, Lizard Island celebrates [50 years of operations](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/news-offers-events/50-years-of-iconic-barefoot-luxury/) on one of the Great Barrier Reef’s most northerly islands. |
| [Longitude 131°](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/longitude131/) Uluru, NT  [Mt Mulligan Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/mtmulliganlodge/)  Northern Outback, QLD  [On Board](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/on-board/)  Southwest, TAS  [Orpheus Island Lodge and Pelorus Private Island](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/orpheus-island-lodge/)  Great Barrier Reef, QLD  [Pretty Beach House](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/prettybeachhouse/)  Sydney Surrounds, NSW  [qualia](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/qualia/)  Great Barrier Reef, QLD  [Saffire Freycinet](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/saffire/), TAS  [Sal Salis](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/salsalis/) Ningaloo Reef, WA | * In partnership with the Ernabella Arts Community in the APY Lands, a series of five Aboriginal artists-in-residence visits in 2025 offers an extraordinary chance to connect with the artists and learn about their life and work. Dates will be releases in due course for the 2026 program. [More.](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/news-offers-events/artist-in-residence/) * For those who love an outback adventure, nothing beats getting behind the wheel of an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) to explore boulder-strewn creeks, navigate outback tracks and meeting the bovine locals before resting at the picturesque south end of [Mount Mulligan](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/mtmulliganlodge/) to delight in a chef-prepared gourmet picnic hamper. [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/mtmulliganlodge/experience/) * [Mt Mulligan Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/mtmulliganlodge/)’s most recent addition is a dedicated Spa Tent. * [On Board](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/on-board/) delivers guests to Tasmania’s remote west coast on its premium expedition ship, Odalisque III. [On Board](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/on-board/)’s signature experience is a five-day discovery of Port Davey on the remote Southwest coast, a spectacular region inaccessible by road. Expedition inclusions encompass daily guided walks, shore excursions and wilderness cruises by tender. Tailored itineraries including walking, birdwatching, photography, beachcombing, expert local crew including interpretive guide, return scenic seaplane flights. [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/on-board/) * In September 2025 On Board released a new two-night package called [Port Davey Highlights](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/news-offers-events/new-on-board-2night-port-davey-itinerary/) where travellers explore mirror-still waterways, Huon pine-lined rivers, untouched Southern Ocean beaches, and weather-beaten coastlines. * In 2025 Luxury Lodges of Australia welcomed Queensland’s properties [Orpheus Island Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/orpheus-island-lodge/) and the ultra-luxury Pelorus Private Island to the collection. Located a short, 30-minute helicopter ride from Townsville or a longer heli transfer from the international air hub of Cairns, Orpheus and Pelorus Islands rise from the northernmost cluster of peaks of the Great Palm archipelago, offering guests front row access to pristine and complex fringing reef systems along the protected Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park. The region’s clear, azure waters are home to colourful corals and a rich diversity of marine life from manta rays and turtles to dugongs and migratory whales. Designed for small exclusive groups of friends and families, Pelorus Private Island is the newest private lodge on the reef. Itineraries are tailormade to suit personal tastes and group dynamics, and guests can snorkel or dive the pristine fringing reef directly from the beach, cruise the Great Palm archipelago by boat and explore local islands and enjoy gourmet picnics on secluded beaches. * [Pretty Beach House](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/prettybeachhouse/) offers a raft of wonderful experiences of Sydney’s Central Coast and the Bouddi National Park including a private boat charter cruising the local scenic bays and golden beaches. Guest can choose from a luxurious sailing boat to a classic old timber cruiser, and the team at Pretty Beach House can supply a picnic lunch to make a day of it. * [Dark sky private touring](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/activity/stargazing-dark-sky-tour-at-pretty-beach-house/) Discover the celestial wonders of the [Bouddi Peninsula](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/destinations/sydney-surrounds/) through the lens of Aboriginal astronomy on a captivating Dark Sky Storytelling Tour with Girri Girra Aboriginal Experiences. * A new [VIP touring experience](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/news-offers-events/vip-road-trip-to-pretty-beach-house/) is available for guests travelling to or from Sydney, with Splendour Tailored Tours whisking guests away on a discovery of Sydney’s Northern Beaches, soaking up the coastal views of Balmoral Beach, Manly Beach, Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve and Shelly Beach, North Head and Freshwater Beach. The tour can be tailored to incorporate a wildlife park stopover, a visit to Sydney Oyster Farm and/or Broken Bay Pearl Farm. More * Pas de Deux in Paradise: [qualia](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/qualia/) and The Australian Ballet present ‘Pas de Deux in Paradise’, an exclusive showcase underneath the stars with one of Australia’s most idyllic backdrops; the Whitsundays and the Coral Sea. This special event provides guests with an opportunity to see some of Australia’s top dancers perform in a breathtaking setting, as well as a chance to immerse themselves with a rare insight into life behind the scenes of The Australian Ballet. May 15 - 17 and May 17 - 19 2026. [More](https://www.qualia.com.au/events/australian-ballet/) * Journey to the heart experience: Heart Island. qualia guests can experience unprecedented access to the iconic Heart Reef lagoon in the Great Barrier Reef, with the ‘Heart Island’ boat and heli experience. [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/activity/journey-to-heart-island/) * [Saffire](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/saffire/) Wild Wellness Experience. [Saffire Freycinet](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/saffire/), encapsulated in Tasmania’s secluded and rugged landscape of Freycinet, offers a wellness experience that embodies tranquillity, luxury and untamed wilderness. This private coastal sanctuary is designed to rejuvenate guests with its stunning natural surroundings, luxurious accommodations, and curated wellness activities. [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/news-offers-events/saffire-freycinet-wild-wilderness-experience/) * A new, three-bedroom super-premium villa is planned for 2026. Set separately to the main lodge’s sixteen suites, the [Saffire Villa](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/news-offers-events/new-super-premium-saffire-villa/) is perfect to sleep up to six adults as well as children. * Set between Australia’s third largest fringing reef, Ninglaoo and the untamed wilderness of Cape Range National Park, [Sal Salis](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/sal-salis/) sits on a delicate coastal ecosystem and is regarded as a role model for sustainable operations. [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/salsalis/business-with-purpose/) * Wildlife seasonality - whale sharks cruise through Ningaloo from April each year, while humpback whales migrate past from July. Explore more of nature’s calendar here: [calendar of natural events](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/salsalis/our-seasons/spring/) |
| [Silky Oaks Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/silkyoakslodge/) The Daintree, QLD | * A new guided walk called the [Two Worlds Trail](https://silkyoakslodge.com.au/experience/two-worlds-trail/) offers a discovery of the deep connections between culture, nature and time in The Daintree in an afternoon of exploration traversing the grounds from garden to riverbank. * First Nations Kuku Yalanji experiences include a 90-minute guided Ngadiku Dreamtime Walk at Mossman Gorge or full day experiences of the Daintree National Park and Cape Tribulation with Walkabout Cultural Tourism. [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/silkyoakslodge/silky-experience/) |
| [Southern Ocean Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/southernoceanlodge/) Kangaroo Island, SA | * [Southern Ocean Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/southernoceanlodge/) has a new approach to the included adventures reframing the guest experience to a more tailored itinerary of Kangaroo Island based on scheduled departures. Guests are encouraged to join the ‘KI Essentials’, Seal Bay and KI Wonders, which operate in the morning, while a swag of optional afternoon experiences including new experiences Kelly Hill Caves, Koalas and Kangas and Taste of SA wine sampling allow guests to discover more of the wild island or opt to spend time poolside, spa side or just taking it all in. * Ultra-premium Baillie Pavilion reveals special new amenities include private sunset drinks and canapes served in-suite, along with private transfers to and from Kangaroo Island Airport, private touring on the island and a dedicated host for the duration of guests’ stay. |
| [Spicers Peak Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/spicerspeak/)Scenic Rim, QLD | * As eyes are turning to Brisbane in the lead up to the 2030 Olympics, Spicers Peak Lodge is easily accessible from Brisbane for a non-alpine mountain adventure with food, wine, hiking and mountain biking. [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/spicerspeak/) |
| [The Louise](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/thelouise/)Barossa Valley, SA | * [The Louise](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/thelouise/) offers guests a ‘backstage pass to the Barossa Valley’ much around food, art and community as it is about wine [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/thelouise/) * Cheeky little sister to [Southern Ocean Lodge](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/southernoceanlodge/), offering a great combination for the wine and wildlife of South Australia. * Access to regional art with nearby Wonderground Gallery and works exhibited at The Louise. |
| [True North](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/truenorth/)  Adventure CruisesThe Kimberley, WA | * [True North Adventure Cruises](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/truenorth/) comprises True North and True North II with signature Kimberley cruises from March – September. Featuring expedition tenders, on-board helicopter, both vessels are purpose-built for coastal exploration, including the upper reaches of shallow river systems. [More](https://luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au/lodges/truenorth/) * Discover the Australia’s tropical north on True North’s Great Barrier Reef Ultimate over 13 glorious nights. See more and the departure calendar for 2025/2026 [here](https://truenorth.com.au/itinerary/great-barrier-reef-cruises-from-cairns/). |
|  |  |

**Media contacts:**

**Penny Rafferty**

+61 428 633 408  
[penny@luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au](mailto:penny@luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au)

**Sarah Shields**   
+61 425 318 966  
[media@luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au](mailto:media@luxurylodgesofaustralia.com.au)

**Julie Earle-Levine**  
917673 3095 in New York  
[Julie@julieearle.net](mailto:Julie@julieearle.net)

