

**DriveAway  
Holidays**

*Your road to freedom*

# Australia

## Self-Drive Guide



# Take a Self-Drive Holiday in Australia

With over 25 years experience and award-winning service, let DriveAway Holidays plan your next self-drive adventure. We offer an extensive range of vehicles to suit everyone's need at over 20,000 locations in 130 countries worldwide. Enjoy the freedom of having your own rental car and discover the world at your own pace.

With so much to see and explore, the best way to discover Australia's diversity is to travel by road. This DriveAway Holidays Self-Drive Guide will help you plan your next Australia driving holiday. Packed full of information about hiring a car and rules of the road, there are also some great touring ideas and self-drive suggestions. Taking a driving holiday by car or motorhome will bring you the freedom to stop when and where you choose at your own pace!

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# Renting a Car in Australia

When selecting a rental vehicle take into consideration where you will be travelling, how many people will be travelling in the vehicle, luggage size and the kind of driving you intend to do. DriveAway Holidays offers a vast range of vehicles from small economy sizes to larger full-sized cars, 4WDs, convertibles and luxury vehicles. The ACRISS system will help you find a car that suits your needs. This is internationally recognised code which will ensure you get the same standard of vehicle wherever you rent.

## Automatic and Manual Transmissions

Automatic and manual vehicles are available in Australia and are generally similar in price to rent, so choose which one you feel most comfortable driving.

## Do I need a Credit card?

Yes. A credit card will be needed when collecting, which will be used to take a deposit. The deposit is generally the insurance excess of the rental car which can vary between \$385 and \$3,500 (+tax) depending on the category of vehicle you have booked and the rate type.

## Collecting at an Airport in Australia

At most Australian airports you will find your rental company has a desk in the arrivals hall, with the rental cars being located within walking distance. However, at smaller airports you may be required to collect your vehicle from a downtown depot and a courtesy transfer will be provided from the airport to the depot. DriveAway Holidays offer all-inclusive prices which generally include any location / airport fees and charges that may otherwise apply. Remember to check at time of booking to ensure your rental will include all airport fees.

## Driving Off-Road

In most cases, car rental suppliers will not permit travel on un-sealed roads or off-road unless it is reasonably unavoidable. This will also include driving through rivers, streams or beaches and in some cases above the snow line in the Australian ski fields. You will not be covered by insurance if you do drive in these conditions - so check with DriveAway Holidays when you book to ensure exactly where you can drive.

# Rental Vehicle Insurance

Australian law requires all vehicles to have compulsory third party (CTP) injury insurance, although your car rental supplier should already have comprehensive insurance covering their cars. In the case of an accident it must be reported to the insurance provider immediately and an excess will be due.

Car Rental Companies in Australia will normally include:

- **Third Party Insurance:** Compulsory insurance and will be included in your car hire price. This covers you for other people's injury and damage to their vehicle.
- **Collision Damage Waiver (CDW):** This limits your financial liability for damage to the rented vehicle and is normally included in prepaid car hire prices. Rentals are normally subject to liability excess, which can be reduced at the time you collect your rental car or by taking out **DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance**.

# Rental Vehicle Insurance

- Theft and Loss Cover: This limits your financial liability for the loss or theft of the rented vehicle and is generally included in the prepaid car rental price.
- Fire and Liability: Limits your financial liability for bodily injury or death, and is normally included in the prepaid car hire price.
- Personal Accident Insurance: This covers the driver for personal injuries and is generally not included in your car rental rate. It is considered an optional extra that you can take out upon collection of the car.

# DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance

When renting a vehicle the rental rates include basic insurance, however, in the event that the vehicle is stolen or accidentally damaged, there is usually an insurance excess amount which the driver is liable to pay to the rental company. To avoid any unexpected costs opt for DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance which will offer a reimbursement for the supplier's damage and theft excess to a maximum for AU\$5,000. Simply add this onto your car rental booking prior to departure and you could save thousands of dollars in the long run! To find out more, simply call DriveAwayHolidays on 1300 723 972 or visit the DriveAway website.



Class	Fuel Capacity	Type	Transmission	Fuel/Air Cond.
M = Mini	0.8 - 1.0	B = 2 Door	M = Manual	R = Yes
E = Economy	1.0 - 1.4	D = 4 Door	A = Automatic	N = No
C = Compact	1.2 - 1.6	C = 2/4 door	N = Manual 4WD	D = Diesel Air
F = Full size	2.0 - 3.2	L = Limousine	C = Manual AWD	Q = Diesel No Air
P = Premium	2.0 - 4.2	S = Sports Car	B = Auto 4WD	H = Hybrid Air
L = Luxury	2.0 - 4.2	T = Convertible	D = Auto AWD	I = Hybrid No Air
X = Special	1.2 - 3.0	J = All Terrain	<b>Examples:</b> <b>ECMN:</b> E = Economy C = 2 or 4 door M = Manual N = No Aircon <b>FDAR:</b> F = Full Size D = 4 Door A = Automatic R = Aircon	E = Electric Air
	R = Recreational			C = Electric No Air
	F = 4 Wheel Drive			
	X = Special			
	K = Commercial Van/Truck			
	P = Ute			
	X = Special			
E = Executive				

The DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance is managed by Accident & Health International Underwriting Pty Limited, ABN 26 053 335 952, AFSL 238261 and underwritten by CGU Insurance Limited, ABN 27 004 478 371, AFSL 238291.

# Driving in Australia



## Important Road Signs

Stop Sign: Red octagon with 'STOP' in the centre.

Give Way: Triangle with red border and white centre.

Speed Limits: Usually a red or black circle with the speed limit in km/h in the centre.

Warning/Caution signs: Usually yellow diamond shaped signs showing the possible threat ahead.

Touring Routes: Brown background with white writing, indicating popular tourist routes.

## Road Tolls and E-tags

Whilst the vast majority of roads in Australia feature no tolls or fees there are some, particularly bridges, freeways and tunnels, which do charge drivers for their use. These are mainly found in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. You can pay with cash at some points, however many are now switching to electronic tolling, where an electronic tag (also called an E-Tag) is attached to the vehicle and is picked up by sensors along the route. If you are planning to drive in major cities enquire about these tolls with the rental company before you set off.

## Parking Laws

There are various types of free and paid parking options within Australia. In the larger cities parking can be costly for limited periods of time. As signage, rates and time limits vary between states, it is important to check your options before planning to drive into the centre of one of the main cities.

## Licence Requirements

When renting a vehicle in Australia, a driver will generally need to have held a full licence for a minimum of one year. Some suppliers may make exceptions, however fees may apply.

## Min & Max Age Requirements

The minimum age for drivers renting a car in Australia does vary, with most suppliers requiring a minimum of 21. It is important to check this when booking rental car, and also be sure to enquire about a young driver's surcharge which may apply to those under the age of 24. This charge can range from AU\$20 to AU\$30 per day. Some suppliers do have a maximum age limit also, so drivers aged over 75 should check this at the time of booking with DriveAway Holidays.

## Wildlife

With wildlife found throughout Australia including near the outskirts of major cities, extra caution needs to be taken when driving on rural roads. Take care when driving in areas which aren't built up, particularly around dawn, dusk and night-time. Kangaroos, wombats and koalas frequently venture onto roads and can cause accidents to unsuspecting drivers.



# Driving Laws In Australia

- A valid licence needs to be carried by the driver of a vehicle at all times. For foreign travellers with a driver's licence in another language, an English translation needs to be carried. Some rental companies however will only rent to drivers who have an international driving permit, so be sure to check this with DriveAway Holidays when making your booking.
- Drive on the left hand side of the road in Australia and overtake in the right lane. Vehicles are right-hand drive.
- Seatbelts must be worn at all times by both drivers and passengers.
- Children younger than 6 months must be secured in a rearward facing restraint. Children aged 6 mths - 4 yrs must be in a rear or forward facing restraint. Children aged 4yrs - 7yrs must be secured in a forward facing child restraint or booster seat.
- The legal limit blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is under 0.05. Provisional drivers must have a zero BAC.
- It is illegal to talk on your mobile phone whilst driving in Australia.
- Speed Limits: (Unless signed otherwise) City and Residential roads: 50-60km/h Highways: 100 km/h Freeways: 110km/h School Zones: 40km/h at specific times of the day.
- In the case of accidents in Australia, it is essential to exchange details with the other parties involved. If the other vehicle is unattended you must leave a note with your details. For serious accidents involving injuries and detrimental vehicle damage, notify the police by dialling **000**.

## Australia Car Rental FAQs

### Can I collect my rental car in one Australian city and drop it off in another?

One-way rentals are possible in Australia however, fees may apply. Check with DriveAway Holidays when making your reservation.

### What do I do if I want to extend my car rental once I have already collected it?

There are two options - one is to contact DriveAway Holidays and we will assist you with your amendment if the supplier permits the change. Additional fees may apply and the daily car rental price may be different from what you initially paid. Alternatively, contact the supplier directly who will be able to assist you. If the vehicle is available, you will be charged at the supplier's local rate.

# Driving?

- 24/7 roadside assist
- One way rentals<sup>#</sup>

<sup>#</sup>Subject to availability

- GPS units<sup>#</sup>
- Baby & booster seats<sup>#</sup>

- Drive safe with our Protection Options<sup>#</sup>



Think **Thrifty**

# Exploring Australia

Australia is divided into States:

- ◆ Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
- ◆ New South Wales (NSW)
- ◆ Victoria (VIC)
- ◆ Queensland (QLD)
- ◆ South Australia (SA)
- ◆ Western Australia (WA)
- ◆ Northern Territory (NT)
- ◆ Tasmania (TAS)



## The East

The East Coast of Australia is the most populated and is made up of four states: New South Wales, Queensland, The ACT and Victoria. This is where you will find the larger cities such as Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, as well as popular holiday destinations such as Cairns, Byron Bay and Port Macquarie. The East is also home to Australia's ski fields which are located near the New South Wales and Victorian borders.

## The South

Featuring a rugged coastline along the Great Australian Bite, the southern region of Australia is where great deserts meet the Southern Ocean. Home to the cities of Adelaide, and Coober Pedy, the south offers visitors unique destinations and plenty of open space. If you are planning a driving holiday in The South try and spend some time exploring the Great Ocean Road - one of the most scenic drives in the world. Also consider taking a trip across to Tasmania for a breathtakingly scenic driving trip.

## The North

Travel to the north of Australia for a real outback experience. The vast wilderness combines amazing wildlife and cultural heritage. On your road trip, experience the varied climates of tropical rainforests and barren deserts. Visit the townships of Alice Springs and Darwin, along with the natural wonders of Uluru and Kakadu National Park.

## The West

The West Coast is an expansive area with few cities and endless natural space. Explore the cities of Perth, Exmouth, Geraldton and Broome, driving along thousands of kilometres of unspoilt rugged coastline!

# Sydney, New South Wales

The largest and oldest city in Australia, Sydney offers a laid-back, outdoor experience. Located on a stunning harbour, it is surrounded by endless stretches of surf beaches and five national parks. Settled in 1788, you can discover a blend of colonial and contemporary architecture along with a wide range of cultural heritages. This vibrant city offers diverse dining options and a temperate climate all year round.

## Events

### January

**Sydney Festival** - Three weeks of music concerts, dance, art and outdoor entertainment.

### March

**Sydney Mardi Gras** - A parade of costumes and colour, the largest gay pride event in the world.

### September

**Sydney Running Festival** - Choose from a number of courses to run - The Sydney Marathon, Half Marathon, Bridge Run (9km) and the Family Fun Run (4.0km)

### October/November

**Sculpture by the Sea** - A large outdoor sculpture exhibition located on the coastal cliffs between Bondi and Bronte.

### December

**Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race** - Departs from Sydney Harbour on Boxing Day.

**New Years Eve** - Spectacular firework display over Sydney harbour and around the City.

## Attractions

**The Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House** - Iconic symbols of Sydney.

**The Rocks** - Sydney's historical area, featuring classic sandstone buildings and lots of old style pubs.

**Sydney Aquarium** - One of the largest aquariums in the world, home to over 6,000 fishes.

**Darling Harbour and King St Wharf** - Enjoy a great lunch with a magnificent view.

**Beaches** - Visit the world famous beaches of Bondi and Manly or take your pick of roughly 70 others around the city.

**Take a ferry ride to Manly** - Leave from Circular Quay and visit one of the world's best harbours.

**Taronga Zoo** - Visit Australia's favourite zoo, situated on the hills of Sydney Harbour.

**Sydney Observatory** - Take in the great views from Observatory Hill and see the thousands of stars at night through the massive telescopes.

**Take the elevator up Sydney Tower** - Walk along the Skywalk.

**The Botanical Gardens** - Discover hundreds of native species of plants and horticulture in a relaxing and peaceful garden.



# Self-Drive Tours from Sydney



## Hunter Valley

Just two hours northwest of Sydney, the Hunter valley is famous for its many fine wineries. Head north of Sydney on the freeway towards Newcastle, then take the exit near Freeman's Waterhole, which will lead you to the Hunter region. Here you will find over 120 wine cellars, fine dining, gardens and health spas.

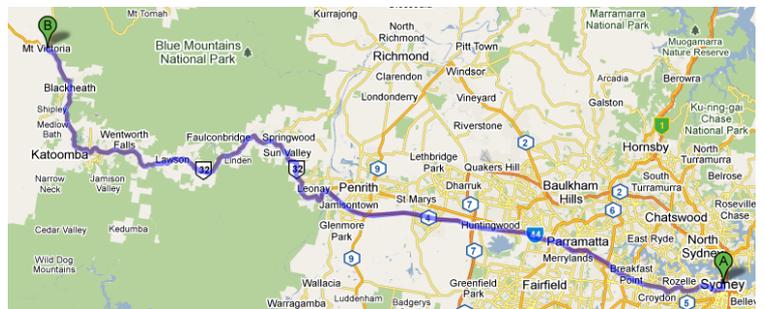


Vineyards in the Hunter Valley

## The Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains inherited its name from the blue haze given off by the eucalyptus trees. Located just 50kms west of Sydney, enjoy stunning scenery and spectacular views of the magnificent Three Sisters rock formations. Be sure to visit the charming city of Katoomba, picturesque Leura and the Jenolan Caves. Take a bushwalk along the Six Foot Track, the Megalong Valley and Wentworth Falls. Visit the small art galleries that display the local artist's work or visit the Norman Lindsay Gallery in Falconbridge with its magnificent gardens.

How to get there? From the City, follow signs to Parramatta and join the M4 Motorway (Great Western Highway) which starts at Strathfield and takes you to the Blue Mountains. Alternatively for a more scenic and longer drive, follow the Bell's Line of Road, commencing at Richmond and passing over Mount Victoria.



The Three Sisters, NSW

# Self-Drive Tours - New South Wales

## The NSW North Coast

When planning a road trip in Australia, a popular route is to head up the coast from Sydney. There are many stunning beaches and towns to check out on the road to Brisbane. Just north of Newcastle, stop off at Nelson bay, located just over 2 hours away from Sydney. Here you will find a small seaside town, with popular activities such as dolphin watching and camel riding.

Travelling north, stop off at Port Macquarie for a variety of water activities and take advantage of the network of rivers, canals, lakes and beaches. At Coffs Harbour, enjoy scuba diving and white-water rafting - don't forget to visit the Big Banana - one of the oldest "big things" in Australia! Kids will enjoy the toboggan rides, banana-splits, ice-skating and the wild waterslide.

Heading north towards the border you will find the laid-back beachside towns of Ballina and Byron bay. Discover stretches of stunning surf beaches, rolling hinterland and natural wilderness.



## The NSW South Coast

There are some magnificent places to explore on the south coast of NSW. One option is to follow the Grand Pacific Drive, which begins in Stanwell Tops, just south of Sydney, and winds its way south along the coast through such towns as Wollongong, Kiama, Shellharbour and on to Nowra. You will be able to drive along a stretch of road which was recently built and transverses along the coastline, over the waters edge. Stop off at fantastic beaches, coastal towns and villages. Head inland from Kiama and experience the Illawarra Fly Tree Top Walk which offers outstanding views of the surrounding rainforests and the coastline.

Travel further south through Nowra along the Princes Highway and along the south coast of NSW. Visit the white sands of Jervis Bay, the fishing villages around Ulladulla and the picturesque seaside towns of the Sapphire Coast such as Batemans Bay, Merimbula and Eden.



# Self-Drive Tours around ACT

## The Best of Country NSW

This route takes in some of the best country towns in NSW. Commence at the town of Coonabarrabran, which you can use as a base to explore the spectacular Warrumbungle National Park or visit one of the observatories at night to see millions of stars in the country sky. Drive through the Biddon State Forest to Gilgandra on the Castlereagh River where you can explore the museums and learn of the local indigenous Wiradjuri people who first inhabited this region. Head south on the Newell Highway to Dubbo, spending a day or two at the Dubbo Western Plains Zoo and visit the Old Dubbo Gaol.

Follow the Mitchell Highway south to Wellington, where you can enjoy the extensive town gardens, unwind or fish at the massive Lake Burrendong or explore the Wellington Caves just outside of town. Drive east to historic Gulgong which was famous in the gold rush era and was once home to the poet Henry Lawson. From here, drive through one of NSW's best food and wine producing regions south east to the town of Mudgee. This region is full of Australian history and beautiful vineyards, creating world class wines and produce.



Parliament House, Canberra



## The Snowy Mountains

Three hours drive from Canberra will take you to the alpine national parks - a playground of adventure activities. During wintertime, visit the ski resorts of Thredbo and Perisher, home to a vast network of ski runs and lifts. Activities in the summertime include mountain climbing, bushwalking and mountain biking. For a scenic hike, climb Mt Kosciuszko from Charlotte Pass, enjoying stunning scenery and wildlife.

# Melbourne, Victoria

The second largest city in Australia - Melbourne is bustling with cafes, bars, musicians and artists. Early settlers came in 1835, and today Melbourne has evolved into a world class city filled with people from a vast array of backgrounds. Rich in fine dining options, a thriving fashion industry and a great list of attractions, Melbourne is an exciting city to explore.

## Events

### January

**The Australian Open** - World Class Tennis Tournament.

### March

**Australian F1 Grand Prix** - Formula 1 Racing - 4 days.

### April

**Melbourne International Comedy Festival** - The third largest 3 week comedy festival.

### October

**Melbourne International Arts Festival** - Over two weeks of music, dance, art and theatre.

### November

**Melbourne Cup** - The biggest horse race in the Southern Hemisphere.

## Attractions

**Bourke St Mall** - For high class shopping, buskers and street entertainers.

**Queen Victoria Market** - The largest outdoor markets in Australia, popular with locals and tourists alike.

**Shopping** - Melbourne has some of the best shopping in Australia, from major department stores and brand names, to funky fashion stores of independent designers.

**Federation Square** - The cultural centre of Melbourne, complete with art galleries, exhibition spaces, bars and restaurants.

**Phillip Island** - Home to the famous Penguin Parade, where you can see hundreds of penguins emerge from the sea and cross the beach each night.

**The Mornington Peninsular** - Visit some of the most beautiful beaches and towns in Victoria, just a short drive south of Melbourne.



Yarra River, Melbourne VIC

# Self-Drive Tours from Melbourne

The Great Ocean



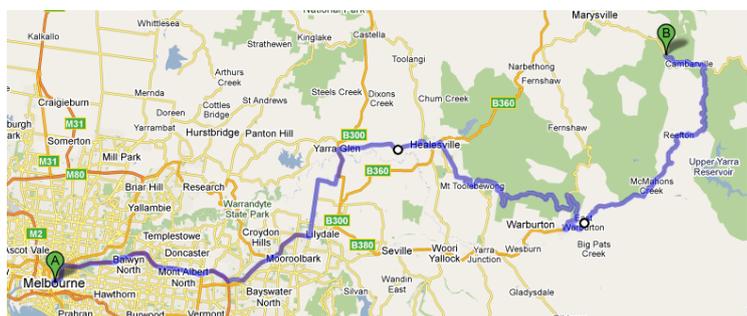
## The Great Ocean Road

Covering a distance of 243km, the Great Ocean Road is regarded as one of the most scenic drives in Australia. Head west of Melbourne and travel through this stunning scenery along the way. Stop at charming towns along the way such as Apollo Bay, Lorne and Warrnambool. Visit Bells Beach, one of the most famous surfing beaches in the country. As you make your journey along the coast, marvel at one of Australia's natural attractions, the 12 Apostles, making the drive even more scenic and special.



## The Yarra Valley

Located a short distance east of the city, the Yarra Valley is a popular destination for daytrips and short breaks from Melbourne. Visitors come here to enjoy the scenery and the great outdoors, as well as visit the many wineries and farms located here. Explore the region by car, sampling great local produce along the way. Stop off at the charming towns of Yarra Glen, Warburton, Badger Creek and Milgrove, or perhaps head into the Yarra Ranges National Park and explore the lush forests that it contains.



# Self-Drive Tours around Victoria

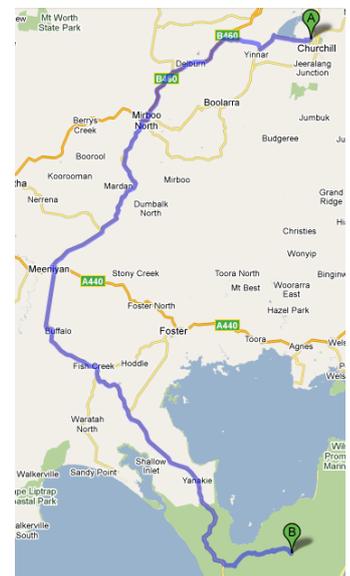
## Explore the Grampians

Located roughly three hours northwest of Melbourne, Grampians National Park is a popular destination for visitors keen to unwind and enjoy the scenery. Small towns can be found throughout the area and while touring here you will discover waterfalls, lakes, untouched forests and rugged mountain landscapes, which create a tranquil region.



## Grand Ridge Road, Gippsland

This drive will take you from Latrobe Valley to the southern-most tip of mainland Australia near Wilsons Promontory. Take a drive along the Strzelecki Mountains for 130kms, passing through charming towns and villages, impressive farms and gardens. Take time to stop off and enjoy breathtaking views and explore some of the national parks along the way.



# Queensland

Perfect for holidays, Queensland is a favourite among both Australian and international travellers alike. With vast World Heritage listed areas, miles of stunning beaches, great weather and hundreds of attractions, it's easy to see why! Travel by car or motorhome and experience the freedom to stop when and where you choose, exploring the lush tropical rainforests and unspoilt beaches.

## Events

### January

**Magic Millions, Gold Coast** - Horse Racing Carnival.

### May

**Port Douglas Carnival** - An art, music, food and culture event, held in a tropical paradise.

### June

**Wintersun, Coolangatta** - A rock & roll and retro nostalgia event, including music, cars and fashion from the 1950s and 60s.

### July

**Gold Coast Marathon** - A grand running race attracting over 20,000 competitors.

### August / September

**Festival Cairns** - An art, drama and culture festival with a tropical theme.

### October

**Nikon Indy 300** Surfers Paradise - A huge motorsport event held over a weekend.

### November

**Schoolies Week** - Annual pilgrimage for students who have finished high school often held in the Gold Coast.

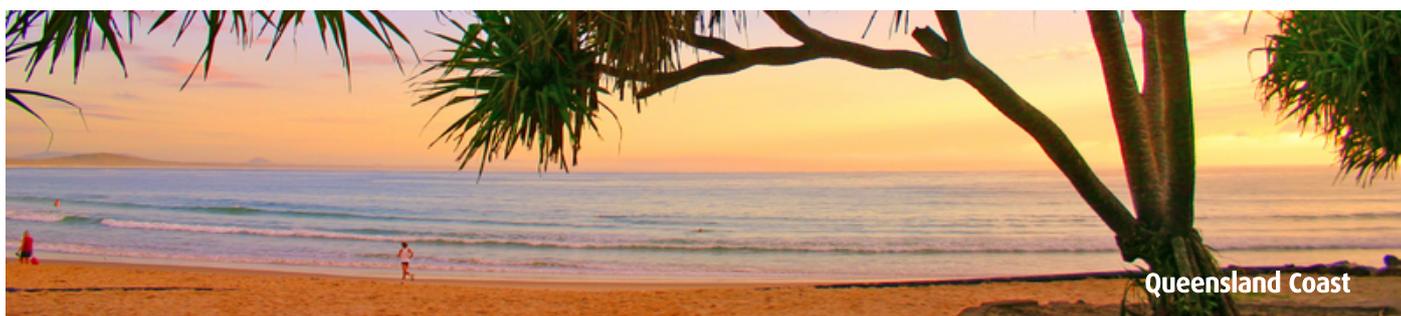
## Attractions

**Cairns** - Tropical weather, rainforest and reef tours, stunning resorts, restaurants and bars, all just minutes from the city. Be sure to make the drive north to Port Douglas, along one of the most picturesque coastlines drives in Australia, watching out for crocodiles!

**Brisbane** - The capital and also the largest city in Queensland, Brisbane is located in the southeast corner of the state. While here, you can visit great nearby destinations like Surfers Paradise and Coolangatta or if travelling with the kids, head over to one of the great theme parks in the area.

**The Great Barrier Reef** - The largest reef system in the world! A must for any visitor to Queensland. Take a boat trip out from Cairns, Townsville, Port Douglas, Mackay or Airlie Beach. Alternatively, spend a few nights on one of the many island resorts.

**The Sunshine Coast** - Only a short drive north of Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast runs from Caloundra to Rainbow Beach, with Noosa and Maroochydore being favourite towns to visit, with plenty of beachside villages along the way. The hinterland includes lush rainforest and beautiful countryside, especially the magnificent Glasshouse Mountains.



# Self-Drive Tours around Queensland

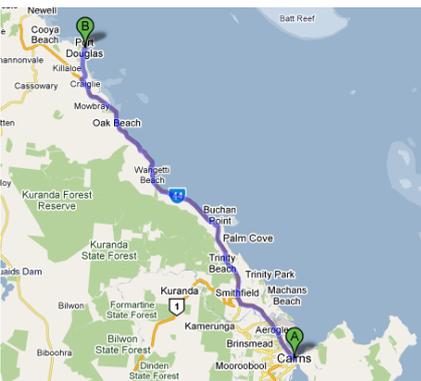
## Airlie Beach to Townsville

Starting off in Airlie Beach, gateway to the Whitsunday Islands. This drive will take you through areas of amazing scenery and intriguing history, while enjoying the great weather that this region is famous for. The first part of the trip will take you to the town of Bowen where the forest meets the Sea and is also home to a thriving mango industry.



Whitehaven Beach, Whitsunday Islands

Further along your journey, you will pass through vast sugar cane fields, fruit farms and the towns of Home Hill and Ayr. While here, be sure to head up to either Mount Inkerman or Mount Kelly, both of which will give you spectacular views of the area. Once you have reached Townsville, you will find yourself faced with yet more great options to explore. To the north lie lush rainforests and to the west is the start of the Queensland outback. Eastwards, discover more spectacular beaches and reefs.



## Cairns to Port Douglas

Covering a 70km stretch of coastline, the Captain Cook Highway connects Cairns to Port Douglas and is one of the most scenic drives in the country. The inviting waters of the Coral Sea are just metres away from most of the coast road, along with spectacular lookouts points, such as Yule Point and Rex's Lookout where you can experience a perfect view.



Cairns

# South Australia

South Australia offers long hot summers, perfect for self-drive holidays. A state renowned for its wine growing, there are 16 regions to explore with over 200 cellar doors. Explore the state's diverse landscapes and wildlife, including a trip to Kangaroo Island, The Flinders Ranges and the Limestone coast. Voted the most liveable city, Adelaide is a friendly, laidback place with hundreds of restaurants, cafes and pubs waiting to be discovered.

## Events

### January

**Santos Tour Down Under** – A cycling race attracting some of the biggest names in the world.

### April/May

**Tasting Australia** – A major event showcasing Australian food and drink.

### June

#### **Adelaide Cabaret Festival (06-21 June)**

Showcasing the best local, national and international artists in the Cabaret Genre.

### August

#### **Barossa Gourmet Weekend (15-17 August)**

This weekend is filled with wine producers generously showcasing their finest drops, matched with heart-warming food and the best of South Australia's live entertainment.

### October

**Kangaroo Island Art Feast** – The Kangaroo Island Art Feast is an annual celebration of the island's art, food and wine.

### November

**Credit Union Christmas Pageant** – A huge Christmas parade held in the streets of Adelaide.

### December

**Lights of Lobethal** – Huge lighting show put on by homes in this town.

## Attractions

**Adelaide** - The capital city in South Australia, Adelaide is a unique alternative to the larger cities. It has a friendly atmosphere at a relaxed pace. Adelaide is a city with a thriving food, art and music loving culture, as well as great beaches and charming architecture, perfect for a stress free easy paced holiday.

**Kangaroo Island** - Located just a short journey from the mainland, Kangaroo Island was the first place in the state that was settled as a colony. Due to its isolation, Kangaroo Island has become a huge sanctuary for wildlife, with koalas, penguins, wallabies, Australian Sea Lions, New Zealand Fur Seals and kangaroos all living here in safety with no introduced predators. Kangaroo Island is also famous for local produce, so while here be sure to sample some of the local Cheeses, wine and iconic lingurian honey.

**Cooper Pedy** - Known as "The Opal Capital of the World", Cooper Pedy is a desert town not only famous for its mining of gemstones, but also for the unique underground homes in which the locals live to escape the summer heat. When passing through Cooper Pedy, take a tour of mines and also visit underground homes and churches. Take the opportunity to do some opal shopping or perhaps enjoy a round of golf on the course without grass!



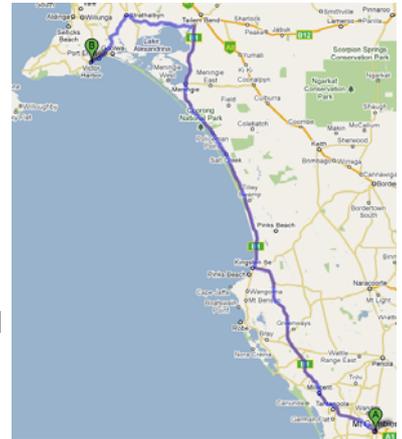
# Self-Drive Tours around South Australia



Victor Harbour

## Mount Gambier to Victor Harbour

Starting off in Mount Gambier in the southeast corner of the state, this drive will take you along a stunning coastline passing several charming towns along the way. Start off by visiting the most famous attraction of Mt Gambier - an impressive Blue Lake, located in a volcanic crater next to the city. Take the scenic coastal route as opposed to the highway, and encounter picturesque sights such as Lake George and Lake Ekza. Stop off at the tiny fishing town of Robe and also Kingston - home to the Giant Lobster.



The final destination, Victor Harbour, is a favourite holiday spot for travellers and locals alike from nearby Adelaide, who come to enjoy the sandy beaches and whale watching.

## Port Augusta to the Nullarbor Plain

This drive not to be taken lightly! The epic journey will lead you through seemingly endless deserts and some of the most isolated parts of Australia. Thorough preparation is a must before setting off but if well planned, this trip will be one to remember. You'll pass through remote towns such as Kimba, Wudona and Streaky Bay, experiencing some amazing scenery along the way. The Nullarbor Plain, a Latin name meaning *no trees*, begins at Ceduna and spans across to Western Australia. The landscape is indeed very flat with few trees, making it a real road trip of a lifetime!



Nullarbor Plain

# Tasmania

The southernmost state of Australia, Tasmania is a nature lover's paradise offering visitors huge areas of amazing wilderness to explore, while also having its own unique history. Truly perfect for touring in a rental car, Tasmania features excellent roads connecting the different parts of the island, little traffic and breathtaking scenery.

## Events

### January

**Taste of Tasmania**, Hobart - Weeklong festival showcasing Tassie's local food and beverage.

### February

**Australian Wooden Boat Festival**, Hobart - Fantastic festival held on Hobart's waterfront celebrating Australia's maritime culture and heritage.

### April/May

**Targa Tasmania** - A world class rally event which runs across many parts of the island over 5 days.

### June

**Antarctic Midwinter Festival** - Festival that celebrates Tasmania's link with the Antarctic.

### November

**Tasmanian Beerfest** - Join over 10,000 others sampling boutique beers from Tasmania and around the world.

### December

- Sydney to Hobart - Hobart turns into one big party celebrating the finish line of the famous yacht race.

## Things to See & Do

**Hobart** - The capital city of Tasmania, Hobart is also one of the oldest cities in Australia, having started off as a convict settlement in 1803. The city has avoided mass development, and with a great blend of historical buildings and modern architecture, Hobart has a charm all of its own. While in Hobart you can visit famous Salamanca Markets, the Cadbury Chocolate Factory, and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

**Launceston** - The second oldest and largest city in the state, Launceston is set in the Tamar Valley towards the north of the island, and is an excellent base for exploring the many attractions in the area. While in Launceston, check out the picturesque Cataract Gorge, take a tour of The Boags Brewery, or take a short drive north to Brady's Lookout, from where you'll get a great view of the Tamar River and valley.

**Cradle Mountain** - One of the most visited places in Tasmania Cradle Mountain can be described as breathtaking, and is a must for anyone touring the island with a rental car. This is possibly the best example of the amazing unspoilt scenery for which Tasmania is famous.



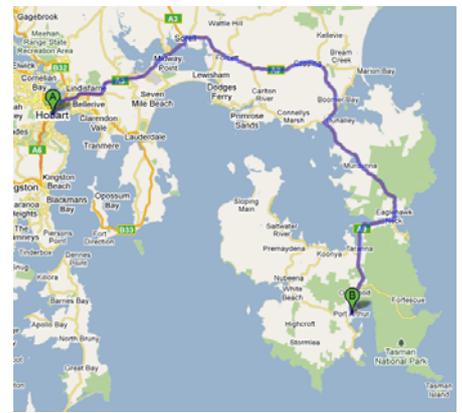
Hobart Harbour

# Self-Drive Tours around Tasmania

## Hobart to Port Arthur

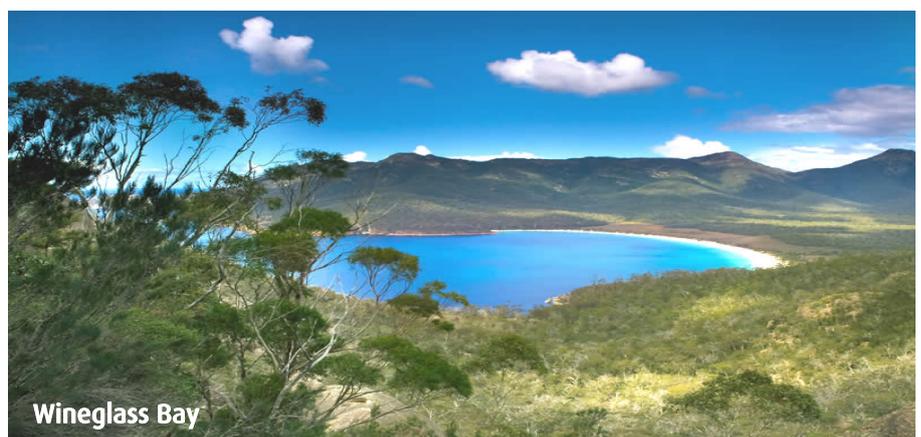
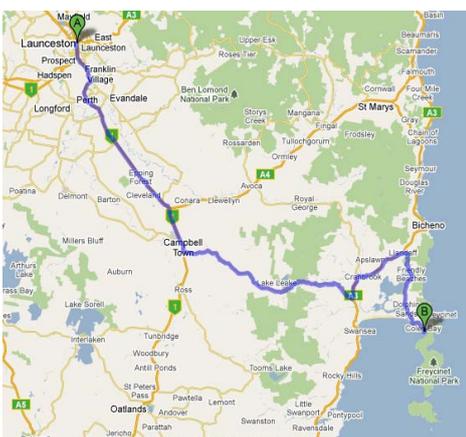
Starting off in Hobart, head east from the city, crossing the Derwent River, passing through Mornington and Hobart Airport. The drive gets particularly scenic from here on. Firstly, cross the Sorell Causeway and McGees Bridge with amazing views of the water on either side of you, then as you pass through rolling green hills and farmland. The rest of the journey is equally scenic, if not even more impressive, as you cruise along untouched coastline and through protected forests.

When you reach your end destination of Port Arthur, it will seem almost like a time capsule. With amazingly well preserved and restored buildings, it's easy to imagine life here two centuries ago.



## Launceston to Wineglass Bay

Heading southeast from Launceston and cutting across the vast countryside, this route will take you to one of the most picturesque scenes in Tasmania, Wineglass Bay, which is found in Freycinet National Park. The drive will take you roughly 2.5 hours as you pass through the classical Tasmanian landscape, and upon arrival there is a hike to the lookout. From the lookout you will get to see what many people believe to be one of the most picturesque beaches in the world, Wineglass Bay. Complete with picture-perfect shape, sand, and beautiful coloured water, it's easy to see why the beach is so highly regarded, and if you're travelling during warmer months, a bushwalk down for a swim might just be too tempting to resist!



# Western Australia

The largest state of Australia, WA, covers a huge area and offers visitors almost endless opportunities to explore remote untouched places. From miles and miles of beautiful coastline to deserts and ancient forests to canyons, Western Australia is filled with unique attractions unlike anywhere else in the world. With thousands of kilometres between major towns and cities, not to mention the distance from cities in other states, the remoteness and isolation of Western Australia is a major attraction for visitors, keen to explore a unique part of the country.

## Events

### January

Hopman Cup – A world class tennis tournament which runs for one week.

### March

Sculptures by the Sea – Perth's Cottesloe Beach is turned into an outdoor gallery for almost three weeks.

### April

Fremantle Street Arts Festival – Buskers and performers take to the streets to entertain over 100,000 people.

### August

Australasian Safari – An eight day off road race which passes through the WA outback.

### November

Red Bull Air Race – This is the final round of the competition which features planes racing above monuments, streets and the Swan River.

## Attractions

**Perth** - The capital of the state and home to over 70% of the population, Perth is usually first stop for most visitors to the state. With stunning beaches and natural attractions, as well as loads of fine dining, shopping and nightlife, Perth has everything a traveller could desire.

**Exmouth** - Located on the coast of Western Australia's North West Cape, Exmouth is a small town which is surrounded by some stunning natural attractions. You can dive with whale sharks in nearby Ningaloo Reef, or perhaps go on a whale watching tour in the bay. A short drive from Exmouth you can also visit Cape Range National Park, which features amazing canyons, bird sanctuaries and beaches which are breeding grounds for turtles.

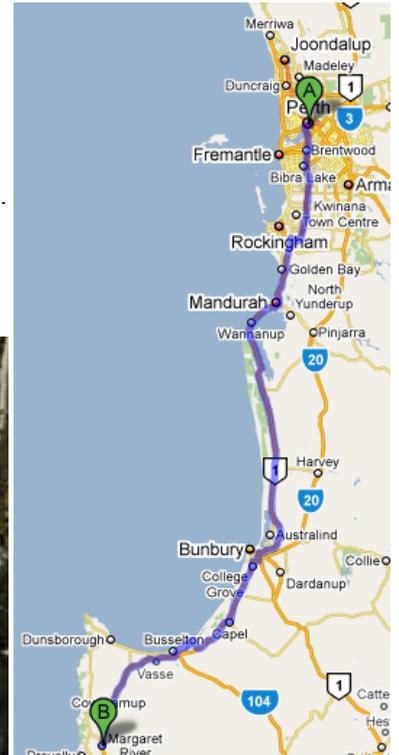


Kimberly Region WA

# Self-Drive Tours - Western Australia

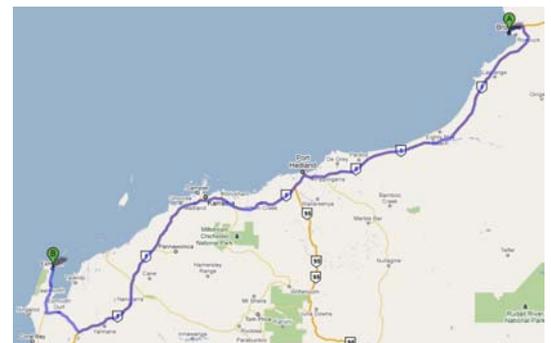
## Perth to Margaret River

Drive 270km south of Perth to the town of Margaret River and the surrounding area, which is a well known winery region, producing many award winning wines. There are over 130 wineries here, producing one fifth of Australia's wine. The drive will take you along the impressive south stretch of WA's east coast, and pass through towns of Mandurah, Bunbury and Busselton.



## Broome to Exmouth – The Pilbara Coast

This is a drive that should be taken over at least a couple of days, as it is almost 1400km in total, however this will cover some of the best parts of the West Australian coast. Begin in Broome, where you will see the dazzling white sand and aqua waters of Cable Beach, unique Roebuck Bay and see how pearls are formed and harvested. Follow the Great Northern Highway south along the coast along Eighty Mile Beach to Port Hedland, where mining of iron ore is the predominant industry, then onto Karratha. From here you can explore the heritage town of Cossack, the magnificent Millstream-Chichester National Park, and learn of the local aboriginal rock art and culture. Drive along the Northwest Coastal Highway until you reach the turnoff to Exmouth on Burkett Road. Exmouth is the gateway to the magical Ningaloo Reef, where you can swim with whale sharks or snorkel in aquamarine waters displaying fish.



# Northern Territory

Covering the central northern part of the country, the Northern Territory can be described with words such as remote, wild, breathtaking and untouched. With amazing natural attractions and landscapes appearing just as they would have millions of years ago, the Northern Territory is the territory where travellers can truly enjoy

## Events

### May

**Red Centre MTB Enduro** – A five day mountain bike race held on the MacDonnell Ranges.

### June

**V8 Supercars** – Darwin's very own round of supercar racing, held at Hidden Valley Raceway.

**Tattersall's Finke Desert Race** – A two day race across roughly 230km of desert.

### July

**Territory Day** – A day of celebrations also known as Fireworks Day.

### August

**Darwin Beer Can Regatta** – A boat race held on Mindil beach, where a race is held between craft made out of beer cans.

**Henley-On-Todd Regatta** – A race involving bottomless boats powered by people running through a dry riverbed in Alice Springs.

### October

**Global green Challenge** – A solar powered vehicle race. in and race the 3,000km to Adelaide.

## Attractions

**Darwin** - By far, the largest city in the state, and also the only one found on the coastline. One of the most cosmopolitan cities in Australia, over 50 different nationalities are represented in Darwin. Be sure to visit the Mindil, Nightcliff and Parap markets.

**The Red Centre & Uluru**– Rich in aboriginal culture, visit the natural monuments of Ayers Rock (Uluru), Mount Olga, the Macdonald Ranges and Kings Canyon. Alice Springs, one of the most remote communities in the country, was settled around a waterhole in the middle of vast deserts and makes a great centre to base exploration of this region.

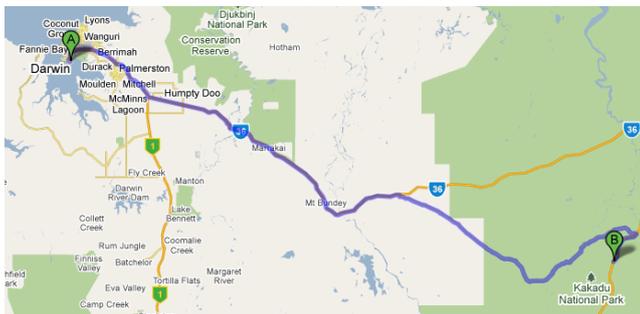
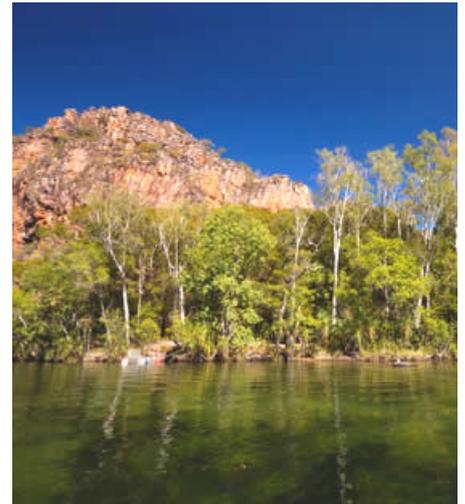
**Kakadu & Litchfield National Parks** - Experience amazing scenery and rich wildlife, as well as deep rooted Aboriginal culture. Take a boat trip on the Yellow Water, a billabong teeming with wildlife, and witness Aboriginal rock art dating back 40,000 years.



# Self-Drive Tours - Northern Territory

## Darwin to Kakadu National Park

From Darwin, head along the Stuart Highway, which will take you out of the city and connect you to the Arnhem Highway which will take you east. The drive to Kakadu National Park is roughly 250km and can be done in three and a half hours, however heading out in a leisurely pace and stopping off along the way to see the sights is definitely recommended. Particularly worth a visit is the historic town of Humpty Doo which is just a short distance from Darwin, and also Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve.

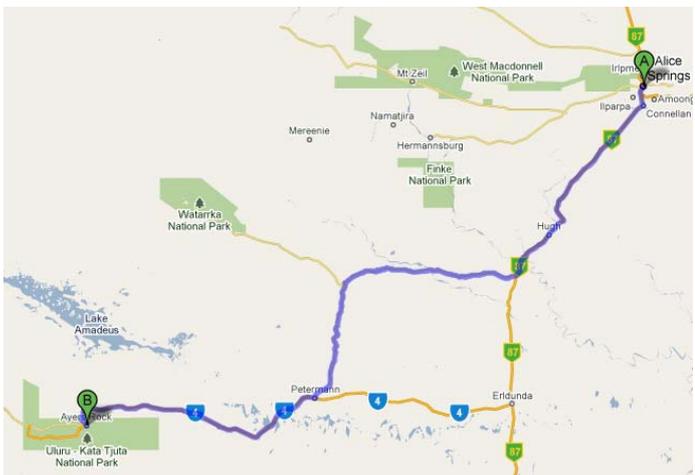


Once you reach Kakadu, you will have the chance to see amazing scenery and wildlife unlike anywhere else in the world. The largest National Park in Australia, Kakadu covers a huge area, and offers endless opportunities to explore, from wetlands and rugged coastlines to huge valleys and gorges, Kakadu has it all!

## Alice Springs to Kings Canyon and Uluru

Although not a short drive, the trip from Alice Springs to Kings Canyon and Uluru will take you through some outback areas with amazing scenery. Heading southwest from Alice Springs, it will take you around four hours to reach Kings Canyon, where you'll find spectacular views and great walking trails which will also lead you to ancient rock paintings. Once you have explored the canyon, you can either spend the night at a nearby camping ground or resort, or continue on to Uluru, which is roughly another four hours from here.

Uluru itself is a breathtaking site, standing at almost 350m tall and often appearing to change colour. For the best viewing times, aim to be here around sunrise or sunset when the colours of the rock are at the most vivid.



Northern Territory

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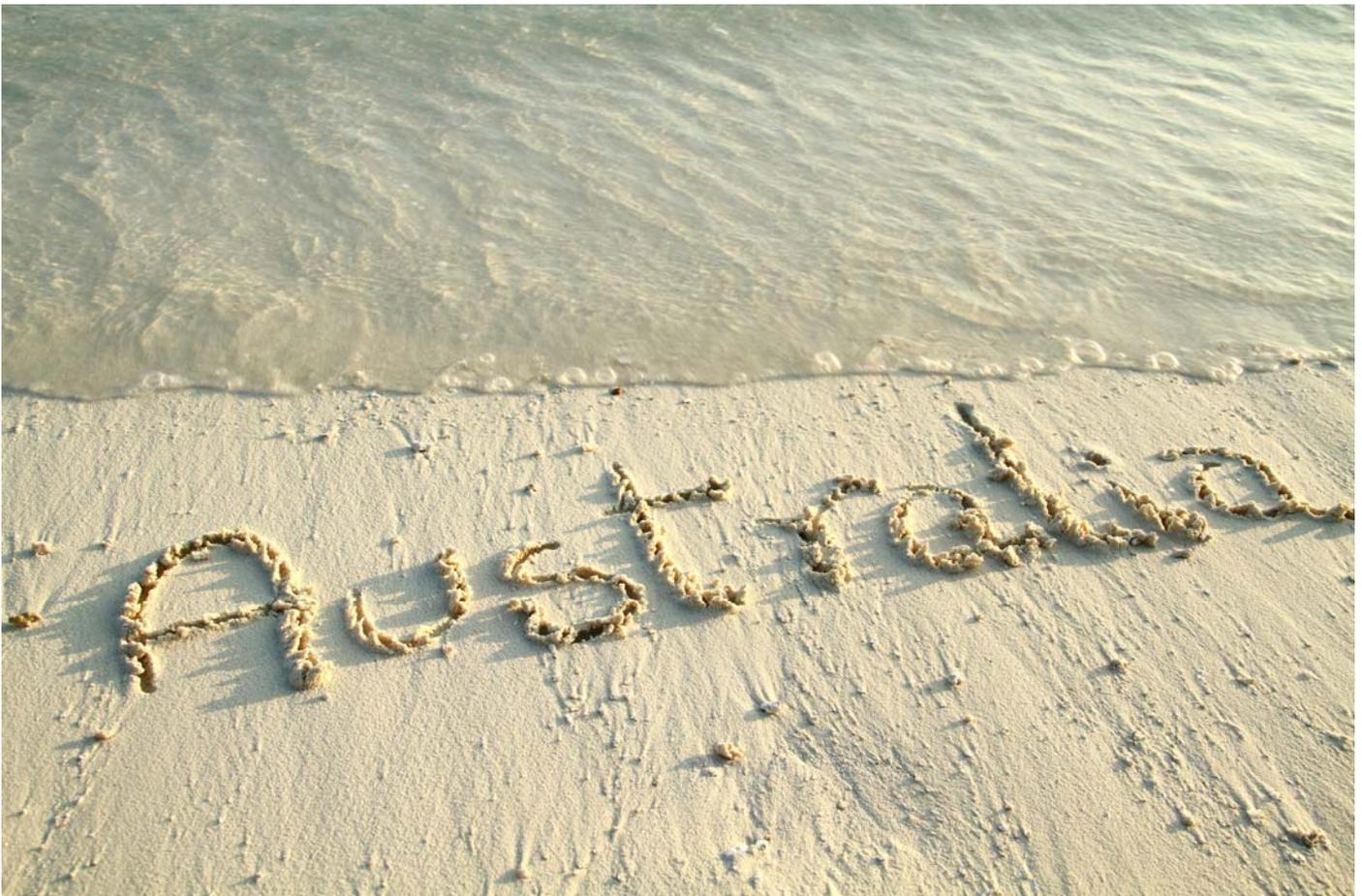
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