

Jill Worrall Tours

# Awesome Australia

Inspiration for Travellers



# Introduction

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Australia as a holiday destination has been off our radars for what seems like an eternity! But, now we can look ahead to once again travelling to Kiwis' No.1 favourite overseas destination. I hope that this eBook will ignite your enthusiasm about travel to Australia, whether you're thinking about a first visit or a repeat journey to savour the multitude of landscapes, experiences and adventure it has to offer.

Read on to find out what makes Australia so special and for inspiration for your travels, whether you are a seasoned visitor or a first-timer.



# A little about me

I've made more than 20 trips to Australia over the years. Almost half of these journeys have been as a guest of state tourism boards who have invited me to visit and write about my experiences.



These trips, tours and personal travels have taken me from Darwin in the Northern Territory in the north to Eyre Peninsula in the south, Margaret River and Perth in the west to the Great Ocean Road in the east. I've scuba dived on the Great Barrier Reef, swum with sea lions in South Australia, ridden camels in Alice Springs, toured Sydney on a Harley Davidson, toured Barossa wineries by bike and captained a Murray River houseboat.

You could say I know the Great Southern Land well... and I do, but there's still so much more to see!



**Jill Worrall**

*Director - Tour Specialist*

Jill exploring an Australian beach



*Click me*



Read about Jill encountering a cassowary in Queensland (and inadvertently outdoing a National Geographic film crew!) here:

# Why Australia?

Well, let's be honest here – just at the moment it's one of the very few, quarantine-free international destinations open to us!

But, even if that were not the case, Australia is New Zealanders' favourite overseas destination and that's not just because it's close and relatively cheap to get there. So, what's to like about our nearest neighbour?

- It's so close! There's hardly time for a movie and a meal on a flight to Australia. Perfect for people who just don't like long haul flights.
- It's so big! There is always something new and exciting to see and do in Australia no matter how many times you've visited. I'm still nowhere near completing my Aussie bucket list after more than 20 trips.
- It's so easy! Australia is just familiar enough to make travel extra stress-free. Just like at home, you can drink the water, read the menus, drive on the same side of the road and most of the time we can even understand what the Aussies are saying!
- But it's also so different – the wildlife (kangaroos, kookaburras and crocs for starters!) the landscapes – tropical forests, red deserts, coral reefs; the diversity of cultures, including people from the world's oldest continuous civilisation (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders). Today one



You're never too far away from a classic, hospitable Aussie pub!

in four Australians was born overseas. Sure, quite a lot of those are Kiwis but this cultural richness means at the very least some of the best selection of authentic international cuisines in the world. Their wines aren't too bad either!

- It's really friendly. Sure, there's cut-throat competition on the rugby field, cricket pitch and Olympic medal tables and both sides of the Tasman have got more than their fair share of jokes about the other, but Australians are wonderful hospitable and friendly. And like us, they love a laugh, a beer or two and a decent BBQ (even if they've got more scope to chuck prawns on the barbie than we usually do!)



# A first trip to Australia?

Australia's an island, a continent and the world's sixth largest country. No, this is not a geography lesson but the message is: Just as you wouldn't expect to see all of Russia or Canada (the two largest nations on earth) in two or three weeks, you're not going to be able to see all of Australia in that time either.

Here are some hints on planning that first trip:

- Don't get too stuck on Top 10 places to see lists – make up your own mind based on your interests and what makes YOU smile and makes you fantastic memories. For sure, the Great Barrier Reef is one of the world's greatest natural wonders but if you don't like swimming, snorkelling or scuba diving, you just don't have to make it a priority! If food and wine are more your thing then concentrate on cities such as Melbourne and wine regions such as the Adelaide Hills in South Australia or Margaret River in WA.
- If you just like the idea of a great road trip, few countries are better for this than Australia but maybe choose one or two states to begin with. How about the Great Ocean Road in Victoria or head north from Perth along the Indian Ocean in WA through a springtime sea of wild flowers.



Parliament House, Canberra



Relaxing in a Margaret River winery, Western Australia

Read about Jill's experiences along the Great Ocean Road here:

[Road to Greatness](#)

[The 12 Apostles](#)



The Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road



Eating out in Darwin

Read about Jill taking things very slowly near Alice Springs here:

[Bird park provides respite from camels](#)

- Something I've learned from years of international travel – it's better to experience more in fewer destinations, than less in a lot. In other words, slow down and savour the birdcalls at dusk, the lights illuminating Sydney Opera House at night, a candle-lit dinner in the desert. You will tick fewer places off a "must see" list but you'll have more stories to tell, more memories to savour.
- Kiwis love to drive themselves around Australia and with good reason, plus there are some epic train journeys to consider too but if the planning, booking and driving especially seems too much hard work, consider a tour. The hard work will all have been done for you, plus a good itinerary will always have sights and experiences included that independent travellers either don't know about or can't access themselves. It can work out cheaper too!



Sunset at Uluru, Northern Territory

# Back again?

With a country as vast as Australia it's almost impossible in one traveller's lifetime to see all it has to offer. If you've spent most of your time between South Australia and north to Queensland, why not head to Kakadu in the Northern Territory or why not pop across to Tasmania? It's truly a place apart from the mainland.

Check out these inspirational videos:

[A Journey Through Kakadu](#)

[Kakadu National Park](#)

[Tasmania Australia](#)

[Tasmania Trade Video](#)

←  
*Click me*



Maybe it's time for an epic continental journey - what about the Indian Pacific train that runs between Sydney and Perth across the expanse of the Nullarbor Plain or the Ghan between Darwin and Adelaide? You can drive the route too if you're feeling adventurous and are well prepared or you can really slow down and hitch a ride on a camel!



Read about Jill's journey aboard the Indian Pacific here (the story in three parts...it's a long way from Sydney to Perth!!)

[Train trip across the Nullabor](#)

[Abundant wildlife and the world's smallest miner](#)

[Journey's end in Western Australia](#)



Been there, done that? What about a luxury camping holiday on Cape York in the far north of Queensland or a roadie along the Savannah Way between Broome in WA to Katherine Gorge in NT? Prefer to stay put – then what about a farm stay on a historic outback sheep or cattle station? Or rent a cottage in the Barossa Valley, South Australia, and see how many wineries you can check out!

**Read about Jill's experiences in the Barossa here:**

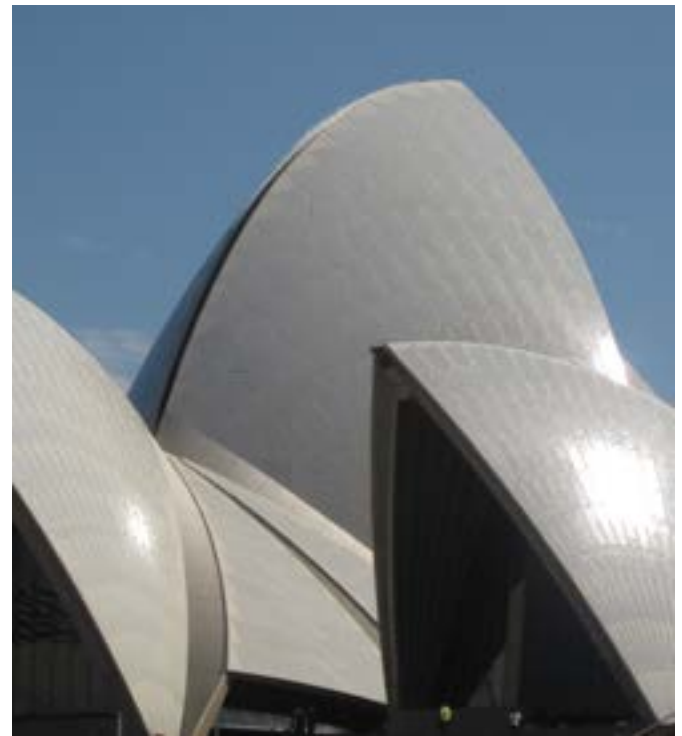
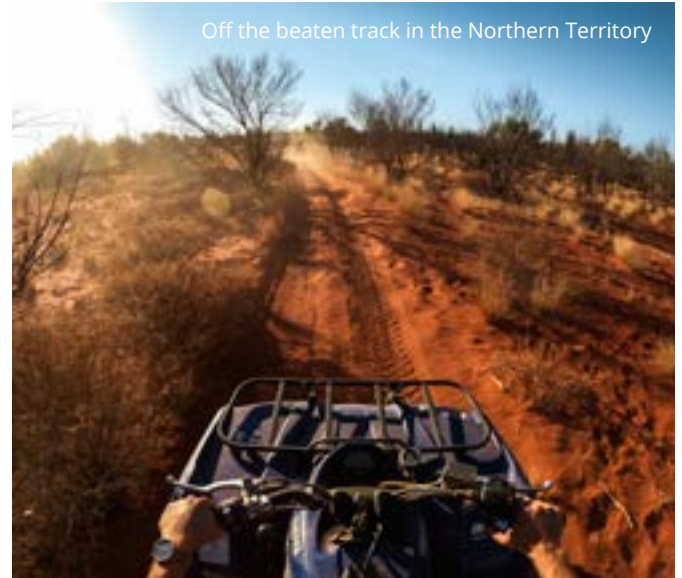
[Architecture trumps the refreshments in Barossa](#)

A few years back when I was invited by Sydney's tourist board to spend a few days there, I put to the test my theory that there's always something new to do in Oz. Wonderful they maybe but I didn't think the world needed more articles on the Sydney Harbour bridge climb, the Taronga Zoo or Bondi beach. So, instead, I went kayaking in the harbour, toured the city on a Harley Davidson and walked nervously around the historic Rocks area on a ghost tour. I can still bore my family with tales from those experiences!



**Read about Jill getting off the beaten track around Sydney here:**

[A haunted evening in Sydney](#)  
[Sydney's suburb of the dead](#)





# And finally....

Inspired? I hope so. Even as I have been writing this, I've been reliving moments of my Australian travels – spotting koalas cuddled in trees near the Great Ocean Road, encountering a cassowary at Cape Tribulation in Queensland, a birthday treat dinner on Melbourne's famous Colonial Tramcar Restaurant, waking to dawn over the Nullarbor desert while aboard the Indian Pacific train.

For what seems like forever we've only been able to dream about travelling beyond our shores again but that dream is now a reality with the establishment of the Trans-Tasman bubble. There's going to be a high demand for flights, accommodation and tours so now's the time to start planning your own memorable adventure in Australia.

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*Photo credits: Tourism Australia and Jill Worrall*

**For more information:**

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