

Pure New Zealand



AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

DownUnder Adventure Company

North Island

Auckland and Northland

Most international flights arrive into Auckland and is therefore the gateway to New Zealand's wonders. Auckland has everything from dining, shopping, art galleries to black sand beaches, islands and rainforests. Waiheke Island is easily accessible from New Zealand's main city and offers a great retreat with wonderful walks and amazing wines. Further north venture into the Bay of Islands and the Northland. Here you can go for a swim with dolphins, enjoy fresh oysters and local wines or even sail on a custom built catamaran.

Maori Cultural Experiences, Fishing, Biking and Hot Geysers

Meet with a local chief whose Maori lineage runs deep in Rotorua. Explore the fascinating Maori culture with their art carvings, beautiful meeting houses and traditional dances and feasts. Activities in the area are diverse including fishing for big trout on Lake Taupo and mountain biking through surrounding ancient forests. Visit places like the Whakarewarewa Forest, kayak on the Rangitaiki or explore some stunning glow worm Waitomo Caves where you can also participate in a black water rafting adventure.

Hides on Coromandel Peninsula and a Volcano on White Island

The Coromandel Peninsula lies east of Auckland, on the other side of the Hauraki Gulf. An impressive, heavily forested mountain range runs right up the middle of this peninsula and is bordered on each side by kilometers of spectacular coastline. On the west coast, there's a never-ending parade of beaches, coves and harbors lined with pohutukawa trees (a red flowering native tree of New Zealand). The eastern side of the Coromandel is furnished with an amazing collection of white sand and surf beaches.

Napier the Napa of the North Island and Wellington

It is now well known that New Zealand has been producing quality wines out of New Zealand's warmest and driest regions. They are the country's leading producers of cabernet sauvignon, merlot and syrah. From here you can enjoy some of the world's best golfing at Kauri Cliffs, Cape Kidnappers and other courses frequently listed on top 100 golfing lists. In Wellington you can enjoy the vibrant café scene for some good local cuisine, shop for merino wool products, visit unique art galleries or stop by Te Papa New Zealand's Maori must-see museum!



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SOUTH ISLAND

Bay of Many Coves, Abel Tasman and the Marlborough Region

Where to begin? The top end of the South Island has some of the most beautiful spots on the planet, but it is only one of several on the South Island. Here you will find hidden coves that offer tranquil escapes in pristine areas. It has been said some of the world's cleanest air can be found here. Another not-so-well-kept secret is the sauvignon blancs that are coming out of New Zealand's largest wine growing region. You may have tasted wines such as Cloudy Bay and Nobilo, among the many others that keep amazing the taste buds.

Heli-Hiking the Fiordland Glaciers

There aren't many better ways than starting your day with a Heli-hike on a glacier! Enjoy a scenic flight to the Franz Josef Glacier, where you experience a two-hour hike in ice caves, through pinnacles and seracs and witness amazing ice formations. This place provides stunning photographic opportunities. There aren't that many places you can walk on a glacier right alongside a rain forest! You may wish to consider taking the 6th most scenic train ride across to the West Coast where you follow rivers, skirt lakes and travel through beech forests.

Lake Heron Station – High Country in Style

Lake Heron Station is located in a stunning basin with glacial mountains, tussock-covered hills and beech clad valleys enveloping this high country station a few hours from Christchurch. This 48,400 acre high station is a true retreat from the hustle of the modern world where the rugged and wild beauty of the area provides ample backdrops for inspirational moments. This 4th generation run station is now owned/run by Philip Todhunter and Anne Palmer and staying in their Muster's Hut highlights the country's true national treasures.



Adventure Capital of the World - Freestyle

Queenstown is the Mecca of adventure-based activity and there is no shortage of adrenalin-fueled tours offered. For a true adventure, take a helicopter ride to the remote Mt. Aspiring, where you are dropped off for a day of hiking. You are surrounded by rugged beauty and a well marked trail that you follow for a few hours before rendezvousing with your jet boat captain on the crystal clear waters of the Siberia River. Navigate these glacial-fed waters back to your base. This is just one of the many awesome tours we can help put together for you that will leave a lasting impression.

The Sound of Silence

The Doubtful Sound is less well-known than the Milford Sound and that is why, but is why we recommend it! Enjoy the beauty of this pristine area as only one boat is allowed in to stay overnight. This experience allows you over 20 hours to take in the tranquility aboard an overnight sailing vessel. Enjoy activities such as kayaking through the still waters of the Sound surrounded by the many coves and inlets, hiking through magnificent forests, fishing or wildlife watching. This is an experience not to be missed.

Wildlife Wonders of the Otago Peninsula

Private guides are one of the best ways to add value that can turn an ordinary trip into an extraordinary one. Travel with one of our specialized guides around the Otago Peninsula and venture to the Catlins coastline, enjoy mild bush walks, see fossilized forests and watch the world's smallest and rarest dolphins (Hector dolphins). Our guides embody passion and knowledge and enjoy sharing these qualities when it comes to protecting New Zealand's wildlife. Explore private farms where you can see a Yellow-eyed penguin colony, New Zealand fur seals, sea lions and an endless array of birds. With your guide you won't just see wildlife, you will get to feel and understand their plight.





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New South Wales

Lord Howe Beautiful

With the sublime beauty of Bora Bora, the laid-back pace of Byron Bay, the pristine nature of the Galapagos and the village style & spirit of Nantucket: Lord Howe is a melting pot of the best places in the world! Cycle, swim, kayak, snorkel, walk, relax, eat and drink; base yourself at Capella Lodge, an intriguing mix of international sophistication and Australian under-statement.

Wildlife and Wilderness on Sydney's Doorstep

Just 90 minutes by road or 45 minutes by scenic helicopter flight from Circular Quay, Blue Mountains Private Safaris provides an exclusive wilderness and wildlife experience on Sydney's doorstep. With access to a unique private campsite, your specialist guide knows the secret spots to find the wildlife. Explore the escarpments on foot, kayak the Wollondilly River, try your hand at fly-fishing, sleep out under the stars in a traditional Australian swag (the deluxe version!) and wine and dine in the glow of a campfire.

There's no Place in the World Like Sydney

Explore the elegant charm of the harborside suburbs or the steamy streets of China Town, browse weekend markets or learn to surf at Bondi Beach, climb the Harbour Bridge or go behind the scenes at Taronga Zoo. A must-do experience is a scenic seaplane flight to Cottage Point Inn for lunch. On the waters edge in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park indulge in modern Australian cuisine and a magical afternoon that ends with a flight over the Bridge and Opera House to land in Rose Bay.



Victoria

Melbourne's Hidden Lanes and Secret Arcades

Melbourne is a vibrant, multicultural city, renowned for the arts, a cosmopolitan food culture, cutting-edge architecture, brilliant shopping and its passion for sport. As the style capital of Australia it is best discovered with a local! Take a half day walking tour and your guide will reveal the city's maze of designer boutiques, specialty retailers, quirky galleries, historical lanes and arcades. Melbourne is also the gateway to wine making areas, breathtaking coastline and more.

Sea Stacks, Koalas, Blue Whales and Walks

The Great Ocean Road hugs the contours of a rugged coast and a spectacular array of cliffs, stacks, sea arches and the rolling waves of the Southern Ocean. Behind the coastline are waterfalls, tree ferns, towering eucalypt forests and a large population of koalas. Inland, the Grampians feature fabulous bushwalking and abundant wildlife. Kayak Lake Elizabeth to spot platypus, stay at a boutique hotel or a welcoming guest house, helicopter to the edge of the continent to see blue whales or join a three-day guided walk.



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South Australia

Barossa Valley - Food and Wine Culture at its Gourmet Best

An hour's drive from Adelaide, the Barossa is renowned for its big red wines and its German heritage. Lutheran churches, hilly paddocks, gnarled gum trees and small villages are surrounded by a sea of grape vines. The Saturday morning farmer's market offers the chance to gather picnic items. Blend your own wine at Penfold's and the chef at the Appellation Restaurant will prepare a gourmet dinner to match. Enjoy an overnight at The Louise, a charming stay and home to the Appellation.

Southern Ocean Lodge, a Heavenly Sweep on Kangaroo Island

Southern Ocean Lodge provides more than an accommodation experience – expect serenely beautiful guest rooms, captivating coastal views, a sanctuary of comfort, exceptional cuisine based on the island's fresh and innovative produce as well as a high level of intimate and professional service. Activities highlight the wildlife of this protected island haven – koalas, platypus, bandicoots, goannas, possums, echidnas, kangaroos and wallabies. Along the coast whales, dolphins and sea lions are frequently seen and throughout the island varied birdlife occupies every niche of its habitat.

Arkaba Station - Style in the Southern Outback

Arkaba Station is located on the edge of the Flinders Ranges National Park, a truly ancient landscape of craggy bluffs and dry creek beds lined with river red gums. It is home to an extraordinary variety of birdlife and wildlife. At Arkaba's heritage homestead guests enjoy classic Australian country hospitality, guided activities and chef prepared cuisine that proudly focuses on South Australia's strong food and wine culture. Arkaba also offers guided walking safaris - a great way to experience the sights and sounds of the outback. Camps are set up in spectacular locations and at the end of the day walkers are welcomed to a delicious dinner, a cold drink, a hot shower and a deluxe-swig.



Tasmania

Quolls, Bettongs, Pademelons and Devils

Tasmania embraces fjords, magnificent beaches, dramatic sea cliffs, mountains and plateaus. It is home to bandicoots, wallabies, wombats, possums, echidnas and is the last bastion of the Tasmanian devil, eastern & spotted quolls and bettongs. In the coastal waters fairy penguins, seals, sea lions, dolphins and whales abound. Against this natural setting, Craig Williams knows the country roads and secret spots for exclusive wildlife encounters, gourmet bush BBQs, and to stand amongst ancient forests or climb alpine peaks.

When it Comes to Food He's the Wizard of Oz

Located so far from the rest of the world (though only an hour by air from Melbourne) Tasmania is renowned for its pristine air and water, a superb environment for growing all manner of foods, wines and beers. Surrounded by the beautiful Derwent Valley, Rodney Dunn's Agrarian Kitchen is located in an historic school house building set amongst veggie gardens, chooks and rare breed pigs. Spend a day with Rodney and learn about local boutique food producers, hone your cooking skills and sample local treats.

Four Days that Will Last a Lifetime

Just off Tasmania's east coast, Maria Island is a place where rush hour traffic is a line of fairy penguins emerging from the sea, where distractions come in the form of rare wildflowers and the most stressful thing you'll do is decide whether to have red or white wine with dinner! It is a pristine place of sweeping bays, rugged mountains and remarkable wildlife. The Maria Island Walk is a four day ramble that takes you into Maria's nature, reveals her hidden world of wildlife and a history rich with human stories.



Northern Territory

Sab Lord - a Real Life Crocodile Dundee

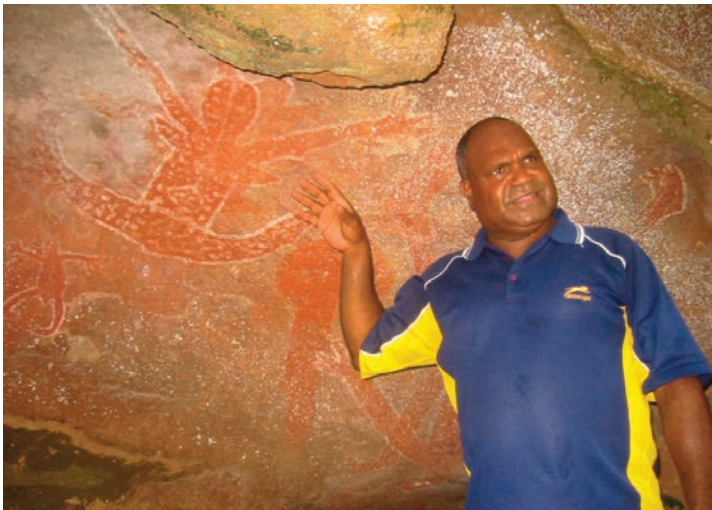
Kakadu National Park is World Heritage listed for both its natural and cultural bounty. In the 1950's Sab's father was a crocodile hunter in the area that is now Kakadu and Sab grew up with this land as his playground and with Aboriginal children as his playmates. These days Sab hosts private safaris in both Kakadu and Arnhem Land and his guests gain a real understanding of the people, their culture, the abundant wildlife and the magnificent escarpment country that make up Australia's Top End.

Bamurru Plains - a Wildlife Safari in "Wild Bush Luxury"

Take a safari in style from Bamurru Plains - on guided walks and drives; and out boating on the Sampan River search for brumbies, buffalo, dingoes, wallabies, big salt water crocodiles and more. Airboats are one of the best ways to see the birdlife: skimming through a wilderness of clear water and tall grass at dawn or at dusk is truly magical. Breezy safari bungalows overlook the floodplain and expose guests to the sights and sounds of the surrounding bush. Sun downer drinks are served on the pool deck before a 3-course hosted dinner.

The Earth Changes Color Before Your Eyes

Uluru is a popular spot and attracts mobs of tourists all year round. It is popular because it is truly amazing - the Rock rises out of the flat desert, a geological work of art adorned with ancient Aboriginal rock paintings. However, the Desert Centre is vast and you can get away from the crowds to spend time with local Aboriginal people, walk an ancient and barely touched canyon or enjoy a heli-picnic on top of a mountain. Early mornings and late afternoons show the colors of outback Australia at their very best.



Queensland

Willie Gordon - Nugal-Warra Elder and Guugu Yimithirr Speaker

Willie is passionate about his Aboriginal culture and spirituality. As a small boy he would accompany his father on hunting trips, learning about the land, its bush foods, medicines and stories. Willie's people have been custodians of this land for more than 40,000 years and Willie, a natural teacher and traditional story-keeper, shares its secrets with themes of sustainability, family and community inter-twined in his message. Time with Willie is thought provoking and stimulates reflection on your own life and spirit.

Where the World's Greatest Reef Meets Ancient Rainforest

A place of remarkable beauty, the Great Barrier Reef is home to staggering diversity: 400 types of coral, 1,500 species of fish as well as whales, dolphins, turtles and more. In the north the reef is bordered by the ancient Daintree Rainforest, itself home to a terrestrial cornucopia of species. To best experience these two World Heritage listed areas get active - take a guided walk, try jungle surfing, snorkel a rainforest river, go sea-kayaking or mountain biking, tackle river rafting or cruise to the Outer Reef.

Qualia - New Luxury Australian Style

Located on Hamilton Island Qualia is surrounded by the incredible beauty of the Whitsunday Islands and is just a short hop from the Great Barrier Reef. It is the kind of place you might find yourself praying for rain... the pavilions at Qualia are so delicious they provide an excuse to stay indoors even on the best of days! Each guest pavilion offers space and light, blurring lines between inside and out. Expect a perfectly equipped living area, sumptuous bed, decadent bathtub and a private pool with sundeck. If you can tear yourself away there is Qualia's spa, a choice of restaurants, an island golf course and the myriad of activities on these island to keep you busy.

Western Australia

Australia’s Best Kept Natural Secret

Sal Salis is an exclusive safari camp hidden in the white sand dunes that border Ningaloo Reef. The nine wilderness tents are just meters from the water’s edge and the camp is operated to ensure a minimal environmental footprint. The guides at Sal Salis deliver an extraordinary insight to the region’s wildlife – a myriad of colorful fish & corals as well as dugongs, loggerhead, green and hawksbill turtles, manta rays and, from April to June, Ningaloo is perhaps the best place in the world to swim with whale sharks. On shore kangaroos, wallaroos, goannas and emus stroll through the camp and on a morning walk you might see a rare black footed rock wallaby.

Beautiful Beaches, Ancient Forests and Wining and Dining

Margaret River produces less than 1% of Australia’s wine but over 15% of its premium labels! Spend a day with a welcoming local guide or explore on your own. Blaze a trail in the Karri forests, check out the stalagmites and stalactites of giant limestone caves, learn to surf on a beautiful beach, take a coastal walk in the Leeuwin National Park and stop by a gallery or two. There are some great restaurants or delicious local produce (cheese, olives, marron, etc) to be gathered for a picnic.



Mind Bending Broome

Most famous of the Kimberley towns is Broome, a unique and exotic seaside town with a romantic and often flamboyant history. Established as a pearling port in the 1880’s, Broome now boasts a frontier atmosphere, a multicultural population, a wonderful choice of gourmet cuisine and some colorful characters. Join one of these fellows for the ultimate journey to the stars. Greg Quicke’s astronomy experience promises an educational and entertaining mind bender using big telescopes, lasers and fun under some of the best stargazing skies on the planet!



Research the Kimberley with Local Experts

The Kimberley is a land of majestic gorges, mighty rivers, ancient Aboriginal art and archipelagos. Its diversity of largely intact habitats supports an extraordinary assemblage of wildlife. The one thing the Kimberley lacks is people - it has one of the lowest population densities on the planet! In the very heart of this region is the Australian Wildlife Conservancy’s Mornington Sanctuary, a ruggedly beautiful 3,216 square kilometers of outback wilderness ideal for canoeing, bushwalking, and 4WD safaris all hosted by conservationists and wildlife researchers. Combine Mornington with a coastal camp, a few nights in Broome and living with locals on a cattle station for a complete Kimberley experience.

Kuri Bay – The Hidden Story of Australia’s Last Frontier

Hidden amongst the harshly beautiful and rugged coastline of the Kimberley in northwest Australia lie some remarkable stories of natural and human endeavor: of a rich and uniquely diverse habitat almost untouched by the modern world; of coastal cliffs of majestic grandeur; of 12 meter tides; of thousands of years of indigenous inhabitation; of Australia’s pearling history and evolution. Staying at Australia’s first south sea pearl farm, Kuri Bay, the team of guides will take you behind the scenes in the Kimberley area and immerse you in one of Australia’s most beautiful environments and the stories that are entwined with it. And with just 3 guest rooms this is an experience that only a select few have the privilege to enjoy.

