



Discovering Our Planet Together



Ultimate Australia Safari

From the Tropics to Tasmania, This Is Australia's Greatest Nature Extravaganza



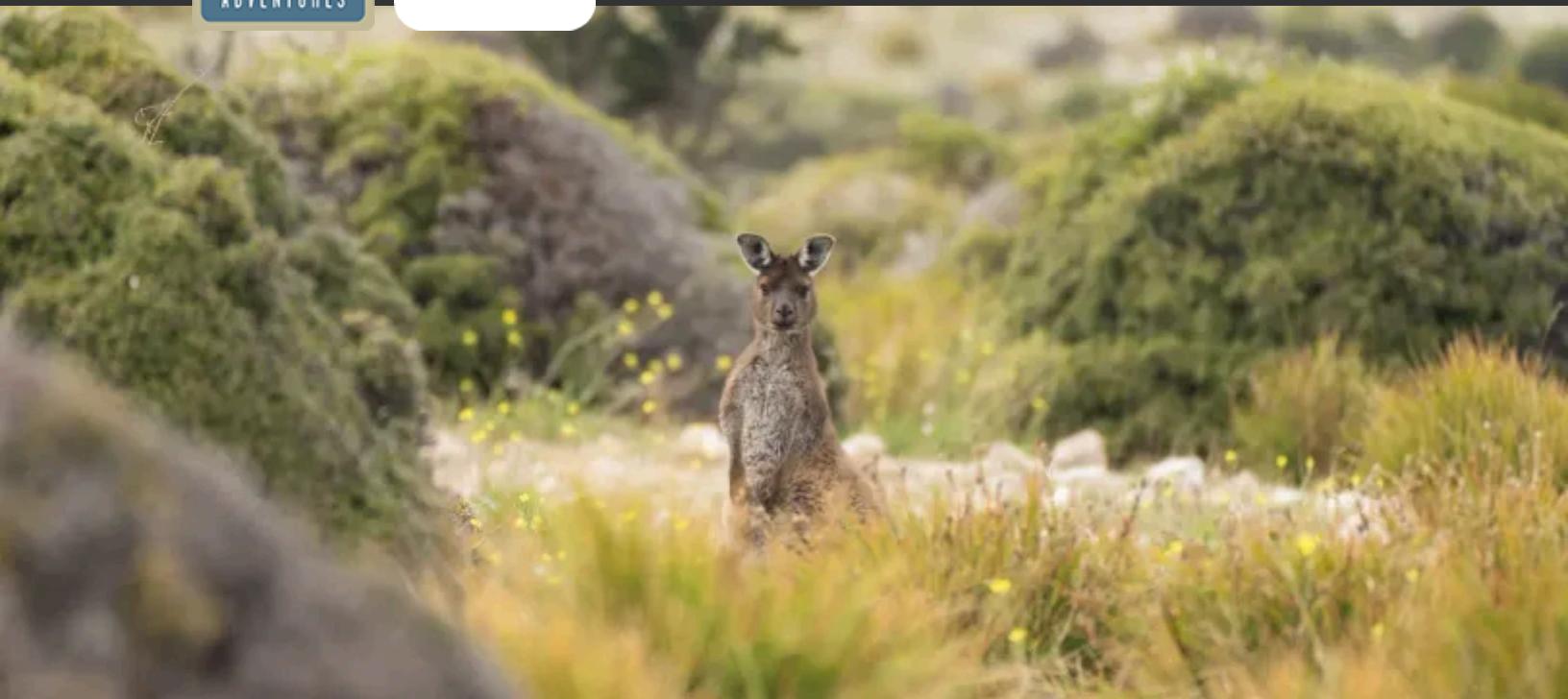
Discovering Our Planet Together

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Trip Details:

Ultimate Australia Safari

Days

21 Days /
Feb-Mar,
Oct-Dec

Price

From
\$28495
(+Air)

From the Tropics to Tasmania, This Is Australia's Greatest Nature Extravaganza

Australia is huge—about the same size as the continental USA. It's wide, it's wild, it's wondrous. And it's filled with some of the world's most intriguing creatures, many of which are found nowhere else. Search for koalas and kangaroos, wombats and wallaroos, pademelon, platypus, cassowary, crocodile, quoll, echidna, goanna, bearded dragon, Tasmanian devil and more species whose names are as quirky as their appearance and behavior. If you're a wildlife fanatic who wants to see it *all*, we've pulled out the stops to create a truly peerless encounter with the unique animals down under. Spanning the continent from top to bottom, our singular itinerary connects Australia's diverse ecosystems on a seamless route facilitated by our own chartered flights. Add a whole host of private encounters with local naturalists, expert biologists, conservationists and Indigenous guides, and you have the most exclusive, educational and entertaining nature adventure Australia has to offer.

Trip Highlights

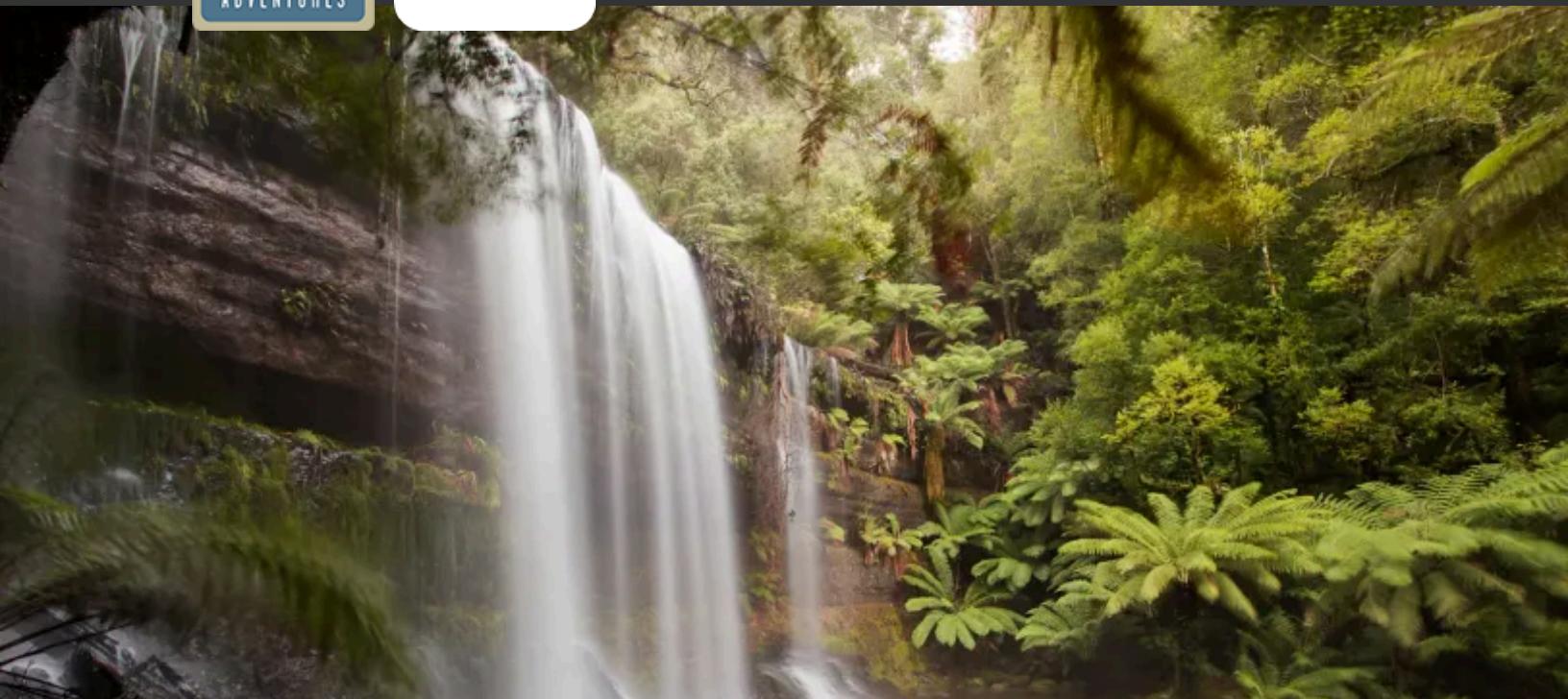
See more of wild Australia on this grand foray into eight national parks, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and seven private wildlife sanctuaries

With private chartered flights, we get you to the Great Barrier Reef, Daintree Rainforest, Tasmania, Flinders Ranges and Kangaroo Island on a single itinerary!

We've arranged special activities, personal visits and private tours to create the most meaningful encounters with nature and Aboriginal culture



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Cairns, Australia

Day 2

Atherton Tablelands—Lake Barrine / Curtain Fig / Private Bat Hospital Tour

Day 3

Atherton Tablelands—Hypipamee Crater / Malanda Falls Conservation Park / Lake Eacham

Day 4

Wildlife and Raptor Care Queensland / Daintree Rainforest —Private Dreamtime Walk

Day 5

Daintree Rainforest—Private Wildlife Cruise / Cairns / Brisbane / Margate

Days 6 - 8

Margate / Lady Elliot Island—Great Barrier Reef

Day 9

Lady Elliot Island / Margate

Ultimate Australia Safari Itinerary

From the Tropics to Tasmania, This Is Australia's Greatest Nature Extravaganza

Day 1: Cairns, Australia

Arrive in Cairns, the gateway to Australia's tropical north and jumping-off point for the Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, protecting Queensland's globally important rainforests. A transfer is included to our hotel, where we gather this evening for a welcome dinner with our Expedition Leader.





Itinerary At A Glance

Day 10

Brisbane / Hobart, Tasmania /
Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary
Private Tour / Derwent Valley

Day 11

Private Paddling with Platypus /
Mount Field National Park

Day 12

Central Plateau Conservation Area /
Marakoopa Cave Private Tour /
Cradle Mountain National Park

Days 13 & 14

Exploring Cradle Mountain–Lake
St. Clair National Park / Private
Tasmanian Devil Encounter

Day 15

Cradle Mountain / Private Flight to
Hawker / Ikara-Flinders Ranges
National Park

Days 16 & 17

Exploring the Outback in Ikara-
Flinders Ranges National Park

Day 18

Australian Outback / Port Augusta
—Private Flight to Kangaroo
Island / Cygnet Park Sanctuary /
Stokes Bay

Days 19 & 20

Kangaroo Island—Seal Bay
Conservation Park / Flinders
Chase National Park / Baudin
Conservation Park

Day 21

Kangaroo Island / Adelaide /
Depart

Day 2: Atherton Tablelands—Lake Barrine / Curtain Fig / Private Bat Hospital Tour

From Cairns, we head inland to the Atherton Tablelands, an uncommon destination for most international visitors to Australia. This large green plateau covered with highland rainforest, savanna and lakes is known for impressive waterfalls and unusual wildlife. In the vine forest at higher altitudes, we find fascinating marsupials and monotremes, including the mainland platypus and Lumholtz tree kangaroo. Tree kangaroos remained undetected by Western settlers until almost the 20th century, being secretive, well-camouflaged canopy dwellers in remote tracts of rainforest.

In Yungaburra, look for elusive platypus swimming in Peterson Creek. We find excellent wildlife viewing and birdwatching at Lake Barrine, a volcanic lake in Crater Lakes National Park. On a forest walk, we may see red-legged pademelon, musky rat kangaroo, snapping turtle giant eel, forest dragon, eastern water dragon, carpet python, saw-shell turtle and Ulysses butterflies. After lunch at Lake Barrine Tea House, we visit the astonishing Curtain Fig Tree, an epic rainforest survivor with its own complex ecosystem. Estimated to be at least 500 years old, this massive strangler fig has an aerial root system that drops 49 feet to the ground. The birdlife heard in the surrounding forest is also impressive. Then we have a private tour of Tolga Bat Hospital, one of Australia's most acclaimed and innovative ecotourism experiences. Learn about conservation of bats and their habitat through the community group's rescue and landcare work, advocacy, education and research. Continue to our rainforest ecolodge to spend the next two nights.

Day 3: Atherton Tablelands—Hypipamee Crater / Malanda Falls Conservation Park / Lake Eacham

Our Expedition Leader and local guides take us to little-known spots to search for the hard-to-find Lumholtz tree kangaroo this morning. At Hypipamee Crater, we stop where peregrine falcons are known to nest, then look for more wildlife around Yungaburra. Then on to Malanda Falls Conservation Park, rich in wildlife. More than 50 bird species have been recorded here, with frequent sightings of Wet Tropics endemics like Victoria's riflebird, gray-headed robin and Bower's shrike-thrush, as well as megapodes—the Australian brush-turkey and orange-footed scrubfowl among them. Listen for the whip-crack call of the male eastern whipbird, followed by the gentler reply of the female. The staccato call of the Lewin's honeyeater and "wallack-a-woo" of the wompoo fruit-dove are often heard, too. Skinks are well represented in the park, with six species confirmed. Listen for them scurrying through the leaf litter, and look for them basking in the sun on logs and roots. We frequently see eastern water dragons along the river, or sitting on logs or overhanging branches. Saw-shelled turtles are also common. Conclude the day at Lake Eacham to cool off in the clear, pristine water filling an extinct volcanic crater surrounded by rainforest. Once dusk falls, we make use of our lodge's wildlife viewing platform, which is illuminated at night, to spot sugar gliders and striped possums that live in the forest surrounding us.



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Day 4: Wildlife and Raptor Care Queensland / Daintree Rainforest—Private Dreamtime Walk

This morning, drive north to Cape Tribulation where two World Heritage Sites and distinct ecosystems—the Great Barrier Reef and Daintree Rainforest—converge. The route to our secluded ecolodge follows the coast before turning deep into the ancient ferns, emerald vines and dense canopy that inspired the film *Avatar*. En route, stop at Wildlife and Raptor Care Queensland for a private tour of this facility providing care and rehabilitation of raptors and other birds of prey, with an eye to their safe and sustainable release into the wild.

Continuing into the Daintree Rainforest, look for the endangered cassowary, the spectacular Australian bird that stands up to 6-1/2 feet tall. This afternoon, take a private "Dreamtime Walk" in Mossman Gorge. On this meandering stroll through lush rainforest with a local Indigenous guide, learn about traditional plant use, bush food sources, and cultural practices like ochre painting. At the end of the tour, gather around for a Welcome to Country. Then ferry across the Daintree River, thick with saltwater crocodiles, to reach our destination inside Daintree National Park—land traditionally the province of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Aboriginal people. This is part of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area, a spectacular region of rugged topography encompassing rivers, gorges, waterfalls and mountains draped in some of the planet's oldest rainforest.

Day 5: Daintree Rainforest—Private Wildlife Cruise / Cairns / Brisbane / Margate

Rise early for a private boat trip on the Daintree River, flanked by dense rainforest and mangroves, to enjoy birdwatching and nature photography in the golden light of morning. Our solar electric boat moves silently through the water as we cruise in search of crocodiles, tree frogs and other wildlife. It's an intimate way to explore the vast Daintree Rainforest, named for 19th-century Australian geologist and photographer Richard Daintree, which is one of the oldest on the planet, dating back 135 million years. Its dense vegetation shelters an unusual array of wildlife, including the musky rat kangaroo and southern cassowary. High in biodiversity, the Daintree holds 30% of Australia's frog, reptile and marsupial species and 90% of its bat and butterfly species. Some 430 bird species live in the canopy, including the locally endemic tooth-billed and golden bowerbird, lovely fairywren, yellow-spotted honeyeater, Victoria's riflebird, Bower's shrikethrush and fernwren. Ancient plant species date to the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods—remnants of the dinosaur age—with wisk and tassel ferns representing some of Earth's earliest land plants. Other ancient flora includes plum pines, southern yews and buny pines.

Then it's time to return to Cairns, where we catch our afternoon flight to Brisbane. On arrival, transfer to our hotel in nearby Margate where we'll have dinner and a chance to rest up before tomorrow's departure for the Great Barrier Reef.



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Days 6 - 8: Margate / Lady Elliot Island—Great Barrier Reef

Transfer to a nearby airstrip to board our small plane to Lady Elliot Island, situated directly on the Great Barrier Reef. We spend the next several days exploring the southern tip of the world's largest and most biodiverse coral ecosystem, spanning 1,400 miles in the Coral Sea. The reef sustains an astounding variety of marine life, earning it designations as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World.

Lady Elliot, a coral cay lying within the reef's most highly protected Green Zone, is the optimal base from which to explore its wonders. The island's sole accommodation is an award-winning family-run ecolodge focused on reef health and environmental sustainability. Because Lady Elliot Island sits directly on the reef, we can snorkel from the beach as well as on boat excursions. Snorkeling instruction is provided, while certified scuba divers can opt for deeper exploration at 20 dive sites around the island (extra cost). On a glass-bottom boat with local naturalists, view the undersea realm and learn how corals are being impacted by climate change. Other activities include a visit to the historic lighthouse, birdwatching and stargazing.

Day 9: Lady Elliot Island / Margate

We have one more half-day to discover the marine wonders of the Great Barrier Reef from our isolated outpost on Lady Elliot Island. The world beneath the sea is full of wonders, from graceful manta rays and gentle reef sharks to three species of sea turtles and huge schools of tropical fish in shimmering colors. On October and November departures, we may spot humpback whales spouting or breaching. Above the waves, look for seabirds including various terns, noddies, shearwaters, sea eagles and red-billed tropicbirds.

Our unhurried time on the island has given us an appreciation for the ecology of coral reef ecosystems and the conservation challenges they face worldwide. Ultimately, however, it's time to return to the mainland, and we fly back after lunch, landing at the airfield just 10 minutes away from our hotel in Margate, where we spend another night. Enjoy some free time late this afternoon to relax on your private balcony overlooking Moreton Bay, swim in the rooftop pool, or walk the beach out the front door.



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Day 10: Brisbane / Hobart, Tasmania / Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary Private Tour / Derwent Valley

Return to the airport in Brisbane this morning for our flight to Hobart, capital of the island state of Tasmania. Lying 150 miles off the southern coast of Australia across the Bass Strait, Tasmania covers more than 26,000 square miles, 42% of which is protected in national parks and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. A legacy of wilderness appreciation is intrinsic to Tasmania, the birthplace of the world's first environmental political party. The island was occupied by Tasmanian Aboriginals for 30,000 years before the British Empire arrived in the form of a penal colony in 1803.

On arrival, head to Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary for a private tour. Come face to face with unique creatures that became extinct long ago in other parts of Australia, and get a peek at rarely seen species such as the eastern quoll and Tasmanian bettong. We have a private lunch with an exclusive behind-the-scenes overview of Bonorong's impressive conservation efforts. Then continue to Mt. Field Retreat for the next two nights, located in the Upper Derwent Valley on the boundary of Mt. Field National Park. This prime setting gives us easy access via private trails to night walks in the park, which is teeming with nocturnal species, including echidna, wallabies and pademelon. We'll also witness the wonder of glow worms in the forest, sparkling like twinkle lights among the trees. After dinner, enjoy some superb stargazing, when skies are clear.

Day 11: Private Paddling with Platypus / Mount Field National Park

Wake early and wander the environs around our lodging looking for wildlife. After breakfast, we have a private kayaking tour on the Derwent River, paddling in search of wild platypus. This 100-million-year-old semi-aquatic mammal has a duck-like bill, webbed feet and fur, and along with the echidna, it is one of just two egg-laying mammal species on Earth.

This afternoon, we head to Mount Field National Park, Tasmania's oldest, along with Freycinet, established in 1916. Yet the park has been a nature reserve since 1885, when early white settlers were awestruck by its waterfalls and natural beauty. The region had already been occupied for millennia, however, as the homelands of the Big River nation of Tasmanian Aborigines. They knew this place when it was buried in glacial ice, and later as rainforests and eucalypt forests flourished. Spend the day walking in their ancient footsteps among the tallest flowering trees in the world, and exploring the coastal rainforest. In summer, the high country can be a blaze of color with blooming waratahs, boronias and heath. Weather will determine our activities in the park, but we're sure to end the day with a sense of wonder at the many treasures it holds. Back at our lodge, more wildlife watching awaits this evening, as well as a chance to look for more constellations in the dark night sky.



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Day 12: Central Plateau Conservation Area / Marakoopa Cave Private Tour / Cradle Mountain National Park

This morning, we begin a half-day's drive to northern Tasmania, stopping en route at the Central Plateau Conservation Area, a wild realm of subalpine moorlands and countless tarns. In the isolated heart of Tasmania away from major roads, the region is known for its wilderness hiking and world-class trout fishing. We stop to admire the view of Great Lake and look for echidnas, yellow-tailed black cockatoos and Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagles, among other birdlife.

After lunch, continue to Marakoopa Cave in Mole Creek Karst National Park for a private tour of this dramatic limestone cavern. This immense structure contains two underground streams, large vaulted chambers, expanses of glittering flowstone and dramatic stalagmites, plus a sparkling display of bioluminescent glowworms. Then it's on to our lodge on the edge of Cradle Mountain National Park where we settle in before an evening outing to seek out wildlife abundant nearby. Keep an eye out for wallabies, echidna, pademelons and wombats as they come out around dusk and are often spotted in the vicinity of our lodge.

Days 13 & 14: Exploring Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair National Park / Private Tasmanian Devil Encounter

Over the next two days we delve into Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair National Park, part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. This UNESCO-protected realm covers 3.7 million acres, one-fifth of Tasmania's landmass. The park's imposing peaks, lakes and glacier-sculpted valleys comprise some of Australia's most stunning landscapes. Cradle Mountain, rising to 5,069 feet, is surrounded by diverse habitats of grassland, temperate rainforest and ancient plants that date to the supercontinent of Gondwana, including the King Billy pine, deciduous beech and pandani, the world's tallest heath plant. We hike around Dove Lake, gleaming sapphire-blue beneath Cradle Mountain's jagged profile, and stop at some waterfalls. Wildlife abounds in the park, and we seek it out on walks at dawn and dusk. We'll also take a night walk in search of difficult-to-spot wildlife, and while our odds are very slim, we'll hope for a glimpse of an elusive quoll or Tasmanian devil. We're more likely to spy wallabies, pademelon and echidnas, and wombats—a cuddly cousin to the koala—are prevalent here, although no koalas exist in the wild in Tasmania.

We will get a peek at Tasmanian devils on a visit to a nearby conservation sanctuary, however, where staff work to protect and sustain the mysterious marsupial. Our visit offers a rare opportunity to see and learn about these hard-to-find nocturnal species that are endangered in the wild. The sanctuary is involved with breeding, release and re-introduction of Tasmanian devils, in addition to field monitoring of wild populations and orphan rehabilitation. It also houses the closely related spotted-tail and Eastern quolls, offering a trifecta of Tasmania's three largest carnivorous marsupials. If our timing is right, we may even witness a feeding.



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Day 15: Cradle Mountain / Private Flight to Hawker / Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

Keeping an eye out for some last sightings of wombats, wallabies and pademelons as we leave the lodge, we drive this morning to Devonport on Tasmania's northern coast. From here, catch a private chartered flight to Hawker in the state of South Australia, our gateway to the Outback in the Flinders Ranges. Once we land, we drive 30 minutes to Rawnsley Park Station and check in to our luxury eco-villas, just minutes outside Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park—our base for a full slate of activities ahead.

Spanning nearly a quarter-million acres, Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park is an ancient, semi-arid landscape of rocky mountain ranges, tree-dotted gorges and a wealth of seasonal wildlife. It has been the home of the Adnyamathanha people for tens of thousands of years, and the Wilpena Pound area, a natural circular mountain amphitheater, is known as Ikara, or "meeting place," to its traditional inhabitants. The park holds many culturally significant sites, including ancient rock art, and during our visit, we'll discover the wealth of nature and human heritage that defines the region. Begin to get a feel for the Outback on an evening nature walk as we look for western gray kangaroos, wallaroos and emus.

Days 16 & 17: Exploring the Outback in Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

Spend two full days exploring a vast tract of rugged wilderness that few visitors to Australia get to experience, as we survey highlights of Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park. During our visit, we tour Sacred Canyon with an Aboriginal guide from Adnyamathanha Country and walk to a rock art site more than 65 thousand years old, where we learn the cultural significance of the stories these ancient engravings reveal. Wildlife drives are likely to reveal kangaroos, emus, wallaroos and more as we learn about local history and culture along the way, including bush tucker. Bush walks round out our exploration of the region's wild terrain, as we discover how the ancient sea floor was uplifted and eroded to create this amazing landscape. Drink in exhilarating views of Wilpena Pound and the Bunyeroo Valley as we make our way to Brachina Gorge to observe some of the oldest fossils on the planet. Meandering through the impressive rock formations, keep an eye out for endangered yellow-footed rock wallabies. Other species we might see during our time in the park are tawny dragons, red-barred dragons, sand goannas, shingleback lizards, skinks, rainbow bee-eaters and the short-beaked echidna. A morning visit to the Cazneaux Tree offers a chance to look for rare red kangaroos. The tree is a lone river red gum made famous by photographer Harold Cazneaux in a 1937 image that brought him international recognition. It has remained an important landmark since, attracting other photographers and artists.



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Day 18: Australian Outback / Port Augusta—Private Flight to Kangaroo Island / Cygnet Park Sanctuary / Stokes Bay

Transfer to the airport in Port Augusta this morning, about a 90-minute drive, for our short chartered flight to Kangaroo Island. With more than 300 miles of coastline surrounded by turquoise ocean, Australia's third-largest island is renowned for its pristine beaches, local wines and abundant wildlife that the island's isolation has naturally protected. "KI," as it's known by locals, lies less than 10 miles off the mainland, but its offshore status helps sustain considerable numbers of native Australian species, including kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas, goannas, New Zealand fur seals, Australian sea lions, and one of Australia's largest koala populations.

On arrival, we head to Cygnet Park Sanctuary, a private rewilding project that has reestablished a host of native plants and wildlife species, including abundant koalas and the rare glossy-black cockatoo, plus crimson rosellas, galahs and corellas. We'll get an overview of the park's habitat restoration program and glossy-black cockatoo recovery project. After a seafood barbecue lunch, we head to Stokes Bay to explore a range of habitats, from broom-bush low scrub, casuarina woodland and red gum forest to rocky shoreline and sandy beach. Exploring the Bay of Shoals and Reeves Point, look for black swans, cormorants, crested and Caspian terns, and a host of bush birds like superb fairy-wrens, crescent honeyeaters, rainbow and purple-crowned lorikeets. By late afternoon, continue to the community of American River where our boutique hotel overlooking the bay awaits. Dinners here are a gourmet treat, prepared by our talented resident owner/chef—we feel like we're dining in a private home.



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Days 19 & 20: Kangaroo Island—Seal Bay Conservation Park / Flinders Chase National Park / Baudin Conservation Park

Our itinerary is flexible over the next two days to take in a broad sampler of Kangaroo Island's best wildlife spots and striking coastal landscapes. There's plenty of wildlife right around our hotel on the eastern side of the island, with koalas often dozing in eucalyptus trees nearby, lots of birdlife including pelicans on the shoreline, and dolphins and southern right whales in the bay beyond. But it's the remote western reaches of the island that are wildest, and we focus much of our exploration there. On the drive, keep an eye out for wildlife as we go: we often spot tammar wallabies, koalas, Kangaroo Island kangaroos—a subspecies unique to the island—and echidnas right along the road.

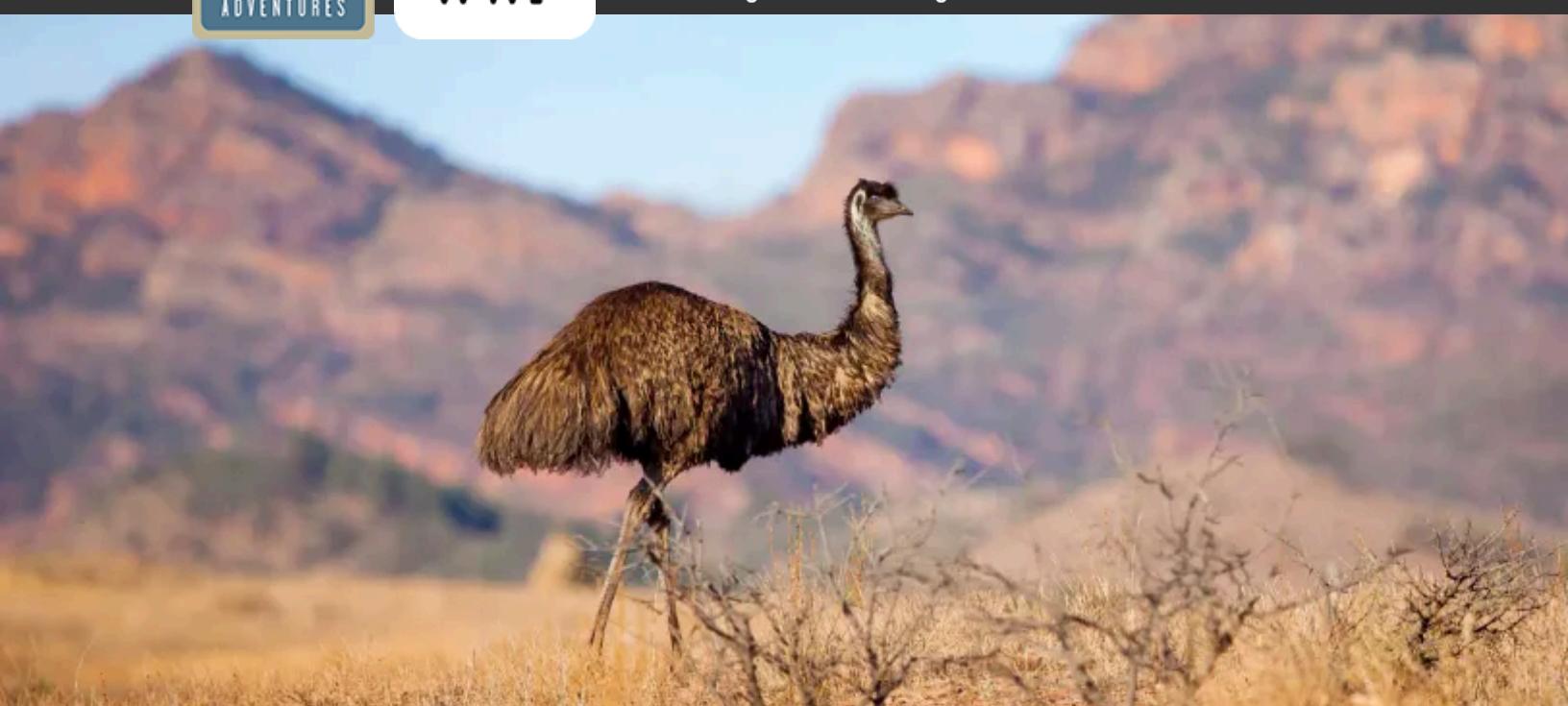
At Seal Bay, observe and learn about Australian sea lions, an endangered species nearly hunted to extinction in the 19th century. Today, about 800 of them thrive here, one of Australia's largest sea lion colonies. On a private guided tour with a park interpreter, watch pups nursing or playing in the surf, see old bulls scarred by territorial disputes.

Kangaroo Island's dramatic southern shoreline is on display in Flinders Chase National Park. At Admiral's Arch, witness millennia of geological history, where the erosive forces of water and wind have sculpted a large natural rock arch with a view onto the often-tempestuous Southern Ocean. A colony of long-nosed fur seals lives nearby, congregating on the rocks. Seabirds flourish here, and we may see terns, Australasian gannets, shearwaters, Pacific gulls, and possibly some southern emu-wrens. A highlight is a walk through the Remarkable Rocks—a set of precariously perched boulders atop a seaside granite dome whose massive shapes are formed by 500 million years of exposure to the elements.

Continuing our deep delve into the ecology of the island, witness how habitats are rebounding from the bushfires that burned almost half of Kangaroo Island in 2020, and visit Baudin Conservation Park to learn about the rare glossy-black cockatoo—we often see wedge-tailed eagles here, too. A highlight is a meeting with the world's foremost expert on the short-beaked echidna—an ancient egg-laying mammal that once roamed with dinosaurs. Her research overview provides us with fascinating details about this unique creature that resembles a hedgehog yet is most closely related to the platypus.

Day 21: Kangaroo Island / Adelaide / Depart

Our grand Australia nature safari comes to a close this morning. A transfer to the airport in Kingscote is included for our scheduled flight from Kangaroo Island to Adelaide. From the airport in Adelaide, connect with homeward flights, or, for those staying an extra night in Adelaide, enjoy exploring the city's botanic gardens and excellent museums.



Accommodation Details:

Daintree Wilderness Lodge

Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodges

Blue Summit Hideaway Lodge

Sebel Margate Brisbane Beach

Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort

Mt. Field Retreat

Cradle Mountain Lodge

Rawnsley Park Station

The River Suites

Pullman Cairns International Hotel

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/asia-adventure-travel/ultimate-australia-tour-north-south/accommodations

Ultimate Australia Safari Accommodations

From the Tropics to Tasmania, This Is Australia's Greatest Nature Extravaganza



Daintree Wilderness Lodge

Surrounded by World Heritage-listed Daintree National Park, this remote lodge, which holds Australia's Advanced Eco Certification, features seven private cabins secluded within the heart of the world's oldest rainforest.



Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodges

Our base for exploring the Atherton Tablelands, this collection of 10 individual lodges has access to boardwalk paths through wildlife terrain and a nocturnal wildlife viewing platform.



Blue Summit Hideaway Lodge

Perfectly placed for exploring the Atherton Tablelands, this boutique property features 5-star villas set amid fragrant gardens in the village of Yungaburra.



Sebel Margate Brisbane Beach

Less than 30 minutes from the Brisbane Airport in the upscale beach suburb of Margate, this stylish boutique hotel offers contemporary rooms with private balconies overlooking Moreton Bay.



Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort

Lady Elliot Island, a coral cay at the southern tip of the Great Barrier Reef, lies inside a "green zone" sanctuary for 1,200 species of marine life, including manta rays, turtles and healthy corals.



Mt. Field Retreat

Tucked beside Mt. Field National Park, this off-grid ecolodge offers minimalist comfort—12 solar-powered pods amid tree ferns, plus glow worm-lit nocturnal walks through wild Tasmania.



Cradle Mountain Lodge

This lakeside lodge on the edge of Tasmania's Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair National Park features private cabins, a cozy fireside lounge, and acclaimed local food and wine.



Rawnsley Park Station

Offering easy access to the vast Outback of the Flinders Ranges, historic Rawnsley Park Station is an inspiring leader in sustainable tourism practices in Australia.



The River Suites

Situated high on a wooded ridge overlooking the ocean and surrounded by lush bird habitat, this nine-room boutique hotel offers expansive views from each guest room's private balcony.



Pullman Cairns International Hotel

Recently remodeled rooms feature bold contemporary decor with mid-century furnishings, striking local artwork, spacious marble bathrooms, and private balconies.



Discovering Our Planet Together

The Most In-Depth Encounter with Australian Nature You'll Find

For the nature lover in search of the wild and wonderful, Australia has an extraordinary amount to offer. Its vastly diverse environments, from wet tropics and coral reef to ancient canyons and arid desert, hold a panoply of intriguing creatures found nowhere else. It's a huge country, though, and it takes effort to get to. If you're going all this way, why not choose the ultimate down-under nature experience? For all these reasons, *this is it!*

1 An All-Encompassing Nature Adventure

You won't find a more immersive encounter with Australia's nature and wildlife. From tropical rainforests and the Great Barrier Reef up north, way down to Tasmania and Kangaroo Island off the south coast—and diverse points in between—we take you farther and deeper into wild Australia on this wide-reaching, one-of-a-kind itinerary. Leave the big cities behind and spend your time in nature!

2 Discover Wild Places of National & Global Renown

We explore eight national parks and four UNESCO World Heritage Sites -- plus seven private wildlife sanctuaries that are leaders in habitat and species conservation—together protecting some of the world's most interesting and unique wildlife, stunning landscapes, and human culture dating back tens of thousands of years.

3 Seamless Flights—Including Private Charters—For More Time in Nature

Australia is a huge country. That's why we fly between many locations, rather than waste time on long drives. But adhering to commercial air schedules and logistics can also eat up precious safari time. So we charter planes for certain legs, strategically avoiding complicated connections and layovers. You don't come this far to spend excessive time sitting in airports or vehicles (although the drives we do include are integral to your nature experience).

4 Distinctive Lodgings Immerse You in Australia's Wildest Places

Experience Nat Hab's signature brand of luxury as you stay in comfort surrounded by dramatic scenery and unique wildlife. We choose our accommodations for their proximity to nature, their unique atmosphere, and wherever possible, their commitment to sustainability and environmental leadership. Highlights include a fly-in ecolodge on a remote barrier reef island and an Outback safari camp under the stars in the Flinders Ranges.



Discovering Our Planet Together

5 Our Connections Grant You Access to Exclusive Experiences

Through our expertise and local knowledge, you'll be privy to locations, behind-the-scenes tours and private meetings with naturalists, scientists and conservationists that aren't offered by more conventional companies. At every turn, we offer private experiences – from bush walks to boat rides and much more – that give you a quieter and more meaningful encounter with Australia's amazing nature and wildlife.

6 A Nature Focus Illuminated with Aboriginal Perspective

Nature is the primary force sculpting Australia's diverse and dramatic landscapes, but humans have been at home here for millennia. From savanna to swamp to melaleuca forest, this is Aboriginal homeland. Through cultural encounters, including Aboriginal-owned and operated ecotourism enterprises, we witness how local people are bringing the wisdom of traditional sustainable living and land management to natural ecosystems today.

7 Explore with Just 12 Travelers—Plus Local Guides

In a small group, we can seek out more remote locations and stay in intimate lodges surrounded by nature and close to wildlife. With fewer people, you get a deeper, more peaceful nature experience. And with local guides supporting our Expedition Leader throughout, you get matchless interpretation and exceptional personal attention.

8 The World's Finest Naturalist Expedition Leaders

Natural Habitat Adventures has a well-deserved global reputation for employing the highest-quality guides in the industry. Our Expedition Leaders aren't typical tour guides. They are professional naturalists with years of experience and training, including access to resources from WWF's top scientists. You won't find more knowledgeable—or more personable—guides. Our philosophy is simple: a nature adventure is only as good as the guide who leads it, so we provide the very best! [Read our Expedition Leader bios](#) and traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

9 Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Australia Adventure

Natural Habitat Adventures is proud to offer our exclusive guarantee that clearly states that we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.

10 Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.



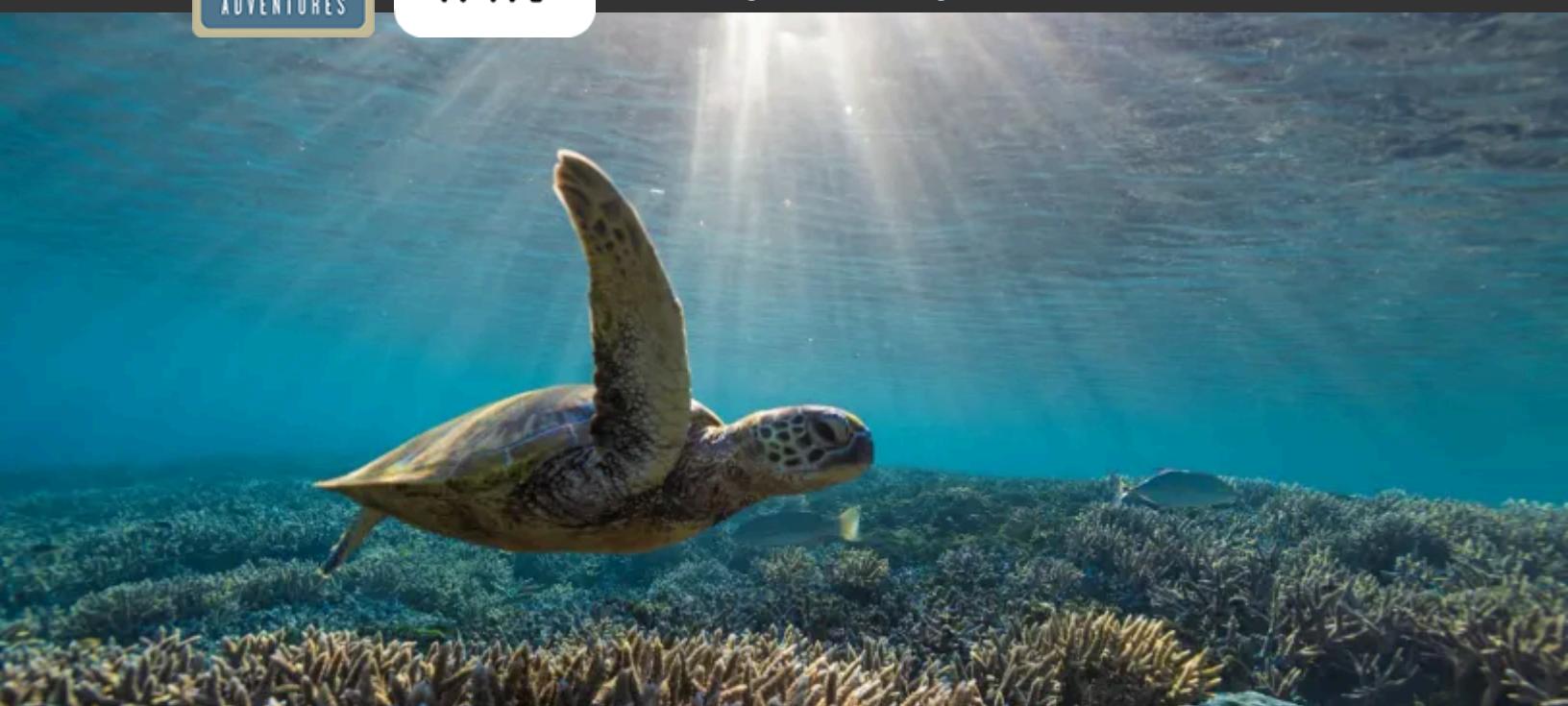
Discovering Our Planet Together

11 Natural Habitat Adventures Is WWF's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our small-group nature adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat Adventures its worldwide travel partner—a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



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**Dates & Pricing
Summary:**

Prices:
From \$28495
(+Air)

Group Size:
Limited to 12
Travelers

Ultimate Australia Safari Dates, Pricing & Info

From the Tropics to Tasmania, This Is Australia's Greatest Nature Extravaganza

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Feb 20, 2026	Mar 12, 2026	\$28495 USD (+internal air)
Feb 25, 2026	Mar 17, 2026	\$28495 USD (+internal air)
Mar 3, 2026	Mar 23, 2026	\$28495 USD (+internal air)
Mar 10, 2026	Mar 30, 2026	\$28495 USD (+internal air)
Mar 16, 2026	Apr 5, 2026	\$28495 USD (+internal air)
Oct 6, 2026	Oct 26, 2026	\$28495 USD (+internal air)



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$28495
(+Air)

Group Size:
Limited to 12
Travelers

Departure	Return	Notes
Oct 23, 2026	Nov 12, 2026	\$28495 USD (+internal air)
Nov 3, 2026	Nov 23, 2026	\$28495 USD (+internal air)
Nov 15, 2026	Dec 5, 2026	\$28495 USD (+internal air)
Nov 26, 2026	Dec 16, 2026	\$28495 USD (+internal air)
Dec 1, 2026	Dec 21, 2026	\$28495 USD (+internal air) <u>Habitat Club Pricing Available</u>

2027 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Feb 21, 2027	Mar 13, 2027	\$28995 USD (+internal air)
Feb 26, 2027	Mar 18, 2027	\$28995 USD (+internal air)
Mar 4, 2027	Mar 24, 2027	\$28995 USD (+internal air)
Mar 10, 2027	Mar 30, 2027	\$28995 USD (+internal air)
Mar 15, 2027	Apr 4, 2027	\$28995 USD (+internal air)
Oct 3, 2027	Oct 23, 2027	\$29495 USD (+internal air)
Oct 13, 2027	Nov 2, 2027	\$29495 USD (+internal air)
Oct 28, 2027	Nov 17, 2027	\$28995 USD (+internal air)



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Departure	Return	Notes
Nov 3, 2027	Nov 23, 2027	\$28995 USD (+internal air)
Nov 14, 2027	Dec 4, 2027	\$28995 USD (+internal air)
Nov 19, 2027	Dec 9, 2027	\$28995 USD (+internal air)
Dec 2, 2027	Dec 22, 2027	\$28995 USD (+internal air)



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Pricing

See <https://nathab.com/asia-adventure-travel/ultimate-australia-tour-north-south/dates-fees> for the latest pricing details.

Included

- **Trip price includes:** Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader, local guides and lodge staff, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, private boat cruise on the Daintree River, wildlife and cultural presentations and excursions, private sanctuary tours, private kayaking excursion and kayaking gear, some gratuities, airport transfers for those arriving by air on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.
- **Internal air fee includes:** Flights from Cairns to Brisbane, roundtrip charter flights to/from Lady Elliot Island, flight from Brisbane to Hobart, private flight from Tasmania to the Outback, private flight from the Outback to Kangaroo Island, and flight from Kangaroo Island to Adelaide, plus any additional taxes and fees on these flights (these will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, some (most) alcoholic beverages, gratuities for Expedition Leaders, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), international airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.



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Important Information About This Trip

Our journey is designed to explore elements of wild Australia that are remote, least populated and replete with wildlife and rugged beauty. These are destinations that are difficult to see and interpret on your own, where the expertise of our Expedition Leaders and local guides adds exceptional value to your experience.

A Note About Travel Within Australia

Australia is a huge country, so we have organized our itinerary in the most efficient and streamlined way possible to minimize time spent traveling and maximize time in nature. However, the scope of this itinerary does involve point-to-point travel. Wherever we take commercial flights, they are the best way to get us from one destination to the next. Any time we charter our own private flights, we utilize them because they markedly improve our itinerary. By chartering planes, we can get to remote locations without long layovers or connections, and without spending hours driving to major airports to get a flight. The end result is that you get a lot more time with wildlife in the peace of nature. You've come this far to experience the wild wonders of Australia...and we want to make sure you spend as much of your precious time doing that as possible!

That said, because towns and populated areas are often far from the remote destinations we visit, and the nature highlights are often at substantial distances from one another due to the vastness of the country, drive times between activities can be long. We have done our best to minimize long drives, but we want to make sure you get the fullest experience, too. For example, Kangaroo Island is 90 miles long and 35 miles across, with fantastic wildlife viewing and landscapes on the east and south. Many roads are narrow or unpaved, and wildlife is often found near the road, which means we must drive slower than you'd typically expect. Roads in Tasmania are winding and narrow as well. Please expect some long, taxing drives, and understand that they are a part of nature travel in Australia—while knowing that we have arranged activities and flights to minimize these challenges wherever possible.

A Note About Our Accommodations

It is important to understand that Australia is a huge yet sparsely populated country, an isolated continent filled with wildlife and landscapes that are truly unique. Australia is also an English-speaking country, which, aside from some left-side driving and happy accents, feels pretty familiar to life in North America. Yet while it may seem similar to the U.S. and Canada in many ways, the culture around travel is a bit different. Many Australians travel via camper or caravan (trailer) to remote destinations. Those who do stay at ecolodges don't expect the same level of accoutrements, service or maintenance that most North American travelers are accustomed to, even when such lodges are designated as 4- or 5-star accommodations. And since the Covid-19 pandemic, staff turnover at many lodges has been very high, making regular upkeep more difficult. So, please be prepared that while you can certainly expect our accommodations to be clean and comfortable, the standards overall may be a bit lower than what you might anticipate.

However: there are important reasons we stay where we do! We choose our hotels and ecolodges based on their proximity to nature and wildlife, and the experiences we are able to have from these more remotely located bases far exceed what we could expect if our primary intent was finding the most luxurious accommodation. On this trip, the luxury is in the experience, including access to nature and wildlife, which is why we will choose an ecolodge that's just minutes away from a wild reserve, for example, rather than a luxury hotel that requires a 2-hour drive.

In sum: Many people visit Australia, but only an intrepid few Nat Hab travelers will experience Australia in such a rare and exclusive way.

And a Note About Weather & Climate

We'll be covering an enormous swath of the country, moving between wildly varied terrain and climates. Expect huge temperature swings as we move from tropical north to temperate south. We can anticipate very



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hot temperatures in the Outback, which may reach the low 90s F, and the same may be true for the Daintree Rainforest. Yet by the time we travel south to Tasmania, temperatures may drop into the 40s F. There will be opportunities to do laundry throughout the trip, so you need not worry about packing too much to cover the wide range of conditions we may get.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least \$250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins in Cairns, Queensland, and ends in Adelaide, South Australia. Because this is a long international journey with a significant time difference, **we recommend that you arrive at least one day prior to Day 1** to rest from your travels and begin the trip refreshed. For guests who come in early, recommended hotels in Cairns will be included in your pre-departure materials.

You must arrive in Cairns by 4 pm on Day 1 in order to join your group for a welcome dinner at 7 pm.

You may depart Adelaide any time after 2 pm on your final day.

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program and can arrange the most efficient travel. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.



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Extension Details:

New Zealand Nature Explorer
\$14995

Ultimate Australia Safari Extensions

From the Tropics to Tasmania, This Is Australia's Greatest Nature Extravaganza



New Zealand Nature Explorer

Discover New Zealand's celebrated natural beauty as we combine rare wildlife encounters with the South Island's stunning mountains, glaciers, fjords, coastal rainforest, remote islands and legendary hospitality.

\$14995 (+air)



Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than \$6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus \$175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.