



AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
Map, country information, facts and advice





AUSTRALIA

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Australia is truly like nowhere else on Earth. The country possesses 36,735 kilometres (22,812 miles) of coastline, more than 3,000 national reserves and 15 World Heritage Sites. A brilliant combination of natural wonders, fabulous food and wine, culture, history, vibrant cities and laidback friendly locals, it is an idyllic backdrop to any vacation, beckoning visitors to return time and time again for an eclectic array of experiences.

The breathtaking Great Barrier Reef, off the Queensland coast, is the world's largest coral reef. The reef contains an abundance of marine life and is set among picturesque tropical islands with some of the world's most beautiful sun-soaked, golden beaches.

In the vast inland deserts, the ancient Aboriginal cultures add a spiritual dimension to the timeless landscapes. The arid Outback in Central Australia is dominated by mighty Uluru (Ayers Rock), a towering monolith with mystical tales of the Aboriginals, and where centuries-old rock paintings are waiting to be discovered. Further north to the wilds of Kakadu National Park, see the rugged Australian beauty and nature that will delight even the most experienced nature lover.

The southernmost state of Victoria offers dramatic coastlines along the Great Ocean Road, one of the world's most travelled roads, leading to Adelaide with its multitude of churches and the renowned Barossa Valley where you can indulge in a tippie of fine wine.

Wild, mountainous landscapes and colonial architecture provide a diverse encounter with Tasmania, a once forgotten island.

Sydney is a city that never fails to enthral, visit the iconic Opera House and Harbour Bridge as well as cutting edge restaurants and fashion houses.

Last but by no means least, is the largest state of Australia, Western Australia, home to the world's largest fish - the whale shark. Snorkel with manta rays, swim with wild dolphins, walk among the tops of ancient trees, sleep under a canopy of stars in the desert, or explore the beehive-like formations of the Bungle Bungles with the help of an Aboriginal guide.

WEATHER CHART AUSTRALIA

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
New South Wales - Sydney area												
Temp° C F	22 71	22 71	20 68	18 64	15 59	12 54	12 54	13 55	15 59	17 62	19 66	21 70
Rainfall (mm)	89	102	127	136	127	117	117	76	74	71	74	74
Tropical North Queensland - Cairns area & Great Barrier Reef Islands												
Temp° C F	27 81	27 81	26 79	25 77	22 71	20 68	19 66	20 68	23 73	25 77	26 79	27 81
Rainfall (mm)	277	85	183	84	33	36	15	13	18	33	48	137
The Red Centre - Ayers Rock and Alice Springs												
Temp° C F	28 82	28 82	24 75	19 66	15 59	12 54	11 52	14 57	18 64	22 71	26 79	28 82
Rainfall (mm)	43	33	28	10	15	13	8	8	8	18	31	38
The Top End - Darwin and Kakadu & Broome and the Kimberley												
Temp° C F	28 82	28 82	28 82	28 82	28 82	26 79	25 77	26 79	28 82	29 84	29 84	29 84
Rainfall (mm)	386	312	254	97	15	3	0	3	13	51	119	239
Victoria - Melbourne area												
Temp° C F	20 68	20 68	18 64	15 59	12 54	10 50	10 50	10 50	12 54	14 57	16 61	18 64
Rainfall (mm)	48	46	56	58	53	53	48	48	58	66	58	58
South Australia - Adelaide and Kangaroo Island												
Temp° C F	23 73	24 75	21 70	18 64	14 57	12 54	11 52	12 54	14 57	17 62	19 66	21 70
Rainfall (mm)	8	10	20	43	130	180	170	145	86	56	20	13
Tasmania - Hobart, Freycinet and Cradle Mountain												
Temp° C F	17 62	17 62	15 59	13 55	10 50	8 46	8 46	9 48	10 50	12 54	14 57	15 59
Rainfall (mm)	48	38	46	48	46	56	53	48	53	58	61	53
Western Australia - Perth and Margaret River												
Temp° C F	23 73	23 73	21 70	19 66	16 61	14 57	13 55	13 55	14 57	16 61	19 66	21 70
Rainfall (mm)	8	10	20	43	130	180	170	145	86	56	20	13

Measurements based on daily average temperatures across month.

This is a guideline only and unseasonal weather can occur so you should pack with a degree of flexibility in mind.



INSIDER ACCESS AUSTRALIA

PENFOLDS "MAKE YOUR OWN BLEND"



Penfolds "Make Your Own Blend" Tour is the first of its kind in the Barossa Valley. This is an interactive and fun wine experience for anyone who has wanted to be a winemaker for a day!

After a tour of the winery and cellars, guests are invited to the Winemakers Laboratory to try their hand at making their own wine from Grenache, Shiraz and Mourvedre, just like Penfold's own Bin 138. It's a fascinating and satisfying experience, blending to suit your own personal taste. Take your wine home in a personalised bottle.



RAPTOR REFUGE

The one-of-a-kind Raptor Refuge south of Hobart is doing incredible work taking in injured birds of prey and rehabilitating them for return to the wild. Threatened by power lines, farming, habitat loss and wind farms, more than a hundred raptors are killed each year, and there are less than 120 breeding pairs of wedge-tailed eagles left in Tasmania making them a threatened species. At the refuge, large flight aviaries, veterinary facilities and an educational centre provide a solid foundation for the important conservation work being undertaken.

Exclusive to Akorn guests, you can enjoy an inspirational behind-the-scenes experience where you are invited to observe how precious and endangered birds of prey are being rehabilitated and returned to the wild.



DARWIN ON DARWIN

In 1836 Charles Darwin travelled in the HMS Beagle to Australia as part of a world voyage that would subsequently form the basis of his earth-shattering theories of evolution. Meet and journey with Chris Darwin in the footsteps of his great-great-grandfather Charles through the Blue Mountains exploring the wildlife and landscapes that inspired his theories.

Chris Darwin, a conservationist, author and adventure guide, has led numerous major expeditions, including much celebrated "The Social Climbers" expedition in Peru – the eccentric attempt of nine amateur mountaineers to hold the world's highest dinner party. Darwin's quirky expedition was indeed recognised by the Guinness Book of Records and was later made into a documentary film. Darwin also financed the creation of the Charles Darwin Reserve in Western Australia, which provides habitat for over 230 native animals and over 680 native plant species, and has raised \$1.2 million as an ambassador for Bush Heritage Australia.

Your gift to take home is a copy of *Charles Darwin in Australia* personally inscribed by Chris Darwin. The book, by FW Nicholas and J.M. Nicholas, is a richly illustrated commentary considered the definitive account of Darwin's time in Australia.

Following the walk, experience the stunning views of the Blue Mountains with a gourmet clifftop lunch, before transferring back to Sydney.



NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand is a remote jewel in the blue waters of the southwest Pacific Ocean. Colonial British and local Maori cultures live side by side and the proud history of each is showcased throughout this beautiful country. Marvel at the unspoiled landscape of snow-capped mountains, sheer falling fiords, rolling meadows, picturesque bays and stretches of wild beaches. The country is composed of two main islands.

The North Island is best known for the geothermal wonders of Rotorua and the clear waters of the Bay of Islands, but also offers insights into the rich and rewarding Maori culture. Explore the Art Deco town of Napier close to the wine region of Hawkes Bay. Wellington is the capital of the country and has a wonderful museum celebrating the history, art and culture of New Zealand.

Crossing over to the South Island, visit Christchurch where you can punt in true English fashion along the Avon River or

try swimming with the dolphins at Akaroa. Some of the world's most peaceful retreats are found in the South Island but if that's not for you, there is excitement in Queenstown, the adventure capital of the world - home to bungee jumping, sky diving and canyon swinging. There is also the chance to explore farmlands, fjords and national parks where nature rules and glacial valleys glide gently and quietly into the sea.

Accommodation throughout New Zealand is of an excellent standard from luxury lodges to private islands with beaches. While you may at times have to share the road with a flock of sheep, it will be hard not to be distracted by the dramatic scenery unfolding before you.

To top it all off, world renowned wines and fine dining are available wherever you go.

WEATHER CHART NEW ZEALAND

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
North Island												
Temp° C F	19 66	19 66	18 64	16 61	14 57	11 52	10 50	11 52	12 54	14 57	15 59	17 62
Rainfall (mm)	79	94	81	97	127	137	145	117	102	102	89	79
South Island												
Temp° C F	19 61	16 61	14 57	12 54	8 46	6 43	6 43	7 45	8 46	12 54	13 55	16 61
Rainfall (mm)	56	43	48	48	66	66	69	48	46	43	48	56

Measurements based on daily average temperatures across month.

This is a guideline only and unseasonal weather can occur so you should pack with a degree of flexibility in mind.



INSIDER ACCESS NEW ZEALAND

NATIONAL KIWI HATCHERY



This Insider Access tour is all about becoming better acquainted with New Zealand's elusive kiwi. Your tour includes a private guide that will be able to answer all of your questions about the kiwi. You also get the opportunity to meet and talk with the husbandry staff.

Tours begin with a brief introduction in the incubation room and hatchery. You will then continue into the 'staff only' areas to see the egg preparation room and get the opportunity to see and handle real kiwi eggs. Your tour then takes you to the kitchen where the artificial diet for the kiwi is prepared. A visit to the brooder room is next. This is the kiwi nursery where chicks stay until they are approximately 400gms in body size. The birds are then moved to outdoor enclosures where they grow until they are 1kg. From here you will enter the indoor nocturnal area where captive kiwis of different ages are on display in a natural setting behind glass. Your tour concludes at the static display, which provides a wealth of information and audio visual material about the kiwi.

Insider Access behind-the-scenes tours are exclusive for Akorn guests and offer a unique insight into the valuable conservation work done for the kiwi at Kiwi Encounter.

PRIVATE GARDEN TOUR OF LARNACH CASTLE IN DUNEDIN



Discover New Zealand's only Castle, built in 1871 by William Larnach, merchant baron and politician, for his beloved first wife Eliza. Situated on the picturesque Otago Peninsula, it took more than 200 workmen three years to build the Castle shell and master European craftsmen spent a further 12 years embellishing the interior. Larnach spared no expense on his dream home, which features the finest materials from around the world.

The Castle is still privately owned and cared for by the Barker family who purchased it as their home in 1967. Decades have been spent on the Castle's restoration, with the family having restored empty buildings from ruin and assembled a large collection of original New Zealand period furniture and antiques. Open to the public throughout, this conservation project has been funded through admission fees. The family has always been committed to opening their home and sharing this significant period of Dunedin's and New Zealand's history.

Enjoy this private tour with Margaret Barker whose passion was to create a beautiful garden on this stunning historical site.

PRIVATE ARTIST ENCOUNTER IN QUEENSTOWN



Enjoy a full day touring in Queenstown. Your day may include a visit to bungy jump site AJ Hackett Kawarau Bridge, historic Arrowtown and a stop at beautiful Lake Hayes.

It will also include a visit with a local artist. Learn their history and the techniques they have used in their craft.

Lastly, take a tour of Gibbston Valley, one of the pioneers of the Central Otago wine industry. Enjoy a wine cave tour, tastings and lunch. This region is also one of the most southernmost wine growing regions of the world.



BEST TIME TO GO – AUSTRALIA

Australia is home to tropical, subtropical, desert and temperate climates – we've got dewy rainforests, red sandy plains, snowy alps and sunny beaches. Temperatures vary greatly, so it's important to consider what kind of traveller you are and where you're going. We're the land Down Under, so our seasons are the opposite to the Northern Hemisphere.

In general, the best time to travel the whole continent is during spring and autumn (March-May & Sept-Nov) because no matter where you are temperature extremes are avoided. Prices are moderate and there are fewer tourists. Summer (December-February) is our high season, when the temperatures can soar, and the beaches are dazzling. Keep in mind though that summer is also the wet season up north, and the climate can be very humid. Winter (June-August) is the low season and varies from cold and cloudy down south to sunny and moderate up north.

BEST TIME TO GO – NEW ZEALAND

The seasons in New Zealand are directly opposite to those in the Northern Hemisphere – as in Australia. But despite their proximity, New Zealand's climate is very different. Not only are the temperatures much less extreme than they are in Oz, but it's also possible to have 'four seasons in one day'.

In general, the ideal time to travel New Zealand is during spring and autumn (March-May & Sept-Nov) because the colours are magnificent, the weather is dry and for those wishing to do some skiing, there is often still snowfall. This is a great all-rounder time. Prices are moderate and there are fewer tourists. Summer (Dec-Feb) is our high season and has the advantage of the best overall weather. However, it is also the busiest time for tourists, prices are higher and accommodation harder to book. Winter (Jun-Aug) is the perfect time for skiing with deep snow bases and regular snowfalls providing excellent powder conditions.

GETTING INTO AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

A valid passport is required for travel to Australia and New Zealand containing at least two blank pages and a validity of no less than six months beyond the period of your stay.

Holders of passports other than Australian and New Zealand **do require** an eVisitor or Tourist Visa for entry into Australia. Please consult the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship for further information on the right visa to suit you: www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1

Holders of passports other than Australian and New Zealand may require a Tourist Visa for entry into New Zealand. Please consult the New Zealand Immigration Department for further information on the right visa to suit you: www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas

Important: Australia's customs laws prevent you from bringing drugs, steroids, weapons, firearms and protected wildlife into Australia. Some common items such as fresh or packaged food, fruit, eggs, meat, plants, seeds, skins and feathers are also prohibited. There is no limit on currency but you will need to declare amounts over \$10,000. For more detailed information go to the Australian government Customs & Quarantine page (www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/passports-and-travel/customs-and-quarantine). It is the passenger's responsibility to ensure they have the appropriate documentation including visas.

WHAT TO PACK

Australians and New Zealanders dress casually for almost all occasions. You will be comfortable in neat, smart-casual attire throughout your tour. As there are several climatic zones in Australia it is wise to take this into account when packing so that you are prepared for any eventuality.

We recommend that you pack lightweight, cotton clothes when travelling in the spring to summer time, and a swimsuit, sunscreen and hat are an essential addition to the holiday wardrobe. Pack a sweater or cardigan and a lightweight rain jacket should the weather turn cooler or you visit higher altitudes. Bring comfortable walking shoes with low or no heel. Bring clothing you can layer, remembering that autumn and winter temperatures can change without warning. Pack a coat, hat, warm socks and sleepwear, etc. if you are visiting between June and August, particularly in the southern parts of Australia and in New Zealand.

When dining at better restaurants, smart casual attire is standard



TIME ZONE

Australia has three time zones: Eastern Standard Time (EST) for the eastern states, Central Standard Time (CST) for the Northern Territory and South Australia and Western Standard Time (WST) for Western Australia. CST is half an hour behind EST and WST is two hours behind EST.

Most Australian states wind their clocks forward an hour during the Daylight Saving period. New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia do this from the beginning of October to the beginning of April. Daylight Saving is not observed in Queensland, the Northern Territory or Western Australia.

New Zealand operates on GMT+13 hours.

MONEY & CREDIT CARDS

Accepted credit and debit cards include MasterCard and Visa, and (usually) American Express. Credit card and debit card surcharges typically range from 0.5% to 2% of a transaction, but businesses can set their own card surcharge amount, as long as it is a reasonable representation of the costs incurred to the business. ATM outlets are numerous in Australia and New Zealand, and many now accept Tap & Pay with cards and (often) smart phones. Post-covid, Tap & Pay has become the preferred method of paying as a hygienic precaution; however, all places still accept cash.

TIPPING

Tipping is a very personal matter and should only be considered when our staff have gone above and beyond for you. Australians and New Zealanders do not depend on tips; we suggest that you tip only if you have received excellent service.

Service charges are not automatically included in the bill. It is customary to add 10% to the bill in restaurants, if the service has been satisfactory. When travelling in taxis, it is the norm to round-up to the nearest dollar.

SECURITY & SAFETY

You should keep all travel documents, cash, passports and other valuables with you at all times, or make use of the hotel safe-deposit boxes.

Never leave an unlocked suitcase in a hotel room, and never leave suitcases unattended at airports or train stations. As is the case anywhere in the world, common sense should prevail and a high level of personal security awareness maintained.

Please liaise directly with Akorn offices regarding any type of emergency. In case of theft, notify the local police and Akorn immediately. Insurance claim forms normally require proof that the theft was reported, so a record must be kept.

ON-GROUND SUPPORT

In the unlikely event of dissatisfaction with accommodation or other local arrangements made by Akorn, it is essential to bring the matter immediately to the attention of either senior hotel management (preferably in writing) or your local tour coordinator, so that practical remedial action can be taken.

There is clearly no benefit in waiting until after you return home to issue a complaint where local assistance may have successfully resolved the situation.



ICONIC JOURNEYS

11-DAYS BEST OF AUSTRALIA

Australia hosts an epic landscape from ochre deserts and rainforest greens, to glistening oceans, rugged bush, unique wildlife and glittering cities. Discover the land Down Under on this flagship journey that combines life on the land, with contrasting cultures and culinary delights. Uncover the hidden arcades and alleyways of Melbourne, spend the day on a working sheep farm with a real Aussie family, and venture into the red centre to gigantic Uluru. You'll hear Indigenous stories of The Dreaming, explore the vast biodiversity of the Daintree Rainforest and snorkel the Great Barrier Reef, before travelling to trendy Sydney. Relish an exclusive cruise around the bays and coves of the harbour, enjoying world-class dining and private water sports, and gain behind-the-scenes access to the spectacular Sydney Opera House. This is Australia at its finest.

Day 1 Arrive Melbourne

Day 2 Melbourne

Day 3 Melbourne - Ayers Rock (Uluru)

Day 4 Ayers Rock (Uluru) - Cairns - Daintree Rainforest

Day 5 Daintree Rainforest

Day 6 Daintree Rainforest

Day 7 Daintree Rainforest

Day 8 Daintree Rainforest - Cairns - Sydney

Day 9 Sydney

Day 11 Depart Sydney

12-DAYS BEST OF NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand is a land of rich biodiversity and remarkable scenery, where otherworldly landscapes merge with the traditions of Maori culture to reveal a country of rare beauty. Discover Auckland where sparkling waters meet city sophistication, encounter spectacular ocean mammals at the Bay of Islands, and experience the real Middle Earth at Hobbiton. Get up-close to New Zealand's elusive Kiwi with insider access at Rotorua and spend a luxurious night in the alpine paradise of Mount Cook. Fly into Milford Sound fjord via helicopter, where you'll enjoy an exclusive snow landing, and cruise past cascading waterfalls, towering rock faces and unique wildlife. Savour the very best in New Zealand culinary excellence and bed down in stylish accommodations that meld flawlessly into the natural environment. This really is nature at its most pristine.

Day 1 Arrive Auckland

Day 2 Auckland

Day 3 Auckland - Bay of Islands

Day 4 Bay of Islands

Day 5 Bay of Islands - Rotorua

Day 6 Rotorua

Day 7 Rotorua - Christchurch

Day 8 Christchurch - Mount Cook

Day 9 Mount Cook - Queenstown

Day 10 Queenstown

Day 11 Queenstown

Day 12 Depart Queenstown

18-DAYS ICONS OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Experience the many wonders of Australia and New Zealand on this 18-day discovery through two landscapes that are like nowhere else on earth. Begin with the aquatic beauty of the Great Barrier Reef, the ancient paradise of the Daintree Rainforest and Uluru, the indigenous icon in Australia's red centre. Journey onwards to New Zealand and the breathtaking Milford Sound fjord, the geothermal marvels of Rotorua and the towering mountains and long river valleys of Mt Aspiring National Park. Hike, snorkel, paddle and soar in fixed-wing aircrafts and helicopters. Balance active adventures with delectable dining, cultural immersions, and unforgettable wildlife as you enjoy Akorn's hallmark blend of insider access and the finest local guides in the industry. At the end of each day bed down in unparalleled luxury. These two countries will leave you awestruck.

Day 1 Melbourne

Day 2 Melbourne

Day 3 Melbourne - Ayers Rock (Uluru)

Day 4 Ayers Rock (Uluru)

Day 5 Ayers Rock (Uluru) - Cairns - Port Douglas

Day 6 Port Douglas

Day 7 Port Douglas

Day 8 Port Douglas - Cairns - Sydney

Day 9 Sydney

Day 10 Sydney

Day 11 Sydney - Queenstown

Day 12 Queenstown

Day 13 Queenstown

Day 14 Queenstown - Rotorua

Day 15 Rotorua

Day 16 Rotorua - Auckland

Day 17 Auckland

Day 18 Depart Auckland



FLIGHT TIMES

FLIGHT FROM	TO	TRAVEL TIME (APPROX.)	DISTANCE
Melbourne	Sydney	1hr 20mins	439 miles / 706 kms
Melbourne	Cairns	3hrs 15mins	1432 miles / 2305 kms
Melbourne	Alice Springs	2hrs 40mins	1154 miles / 1857 kms
Melbourne	Darwin	4hrs 10mins	1941 miles / 3124 kms
Melbourne	Perth	3hrs 40mins	1681 miles / 2706 kms
Melbourne	Adelaide	1hr 15mins	399 miles / 642 kms
Melbourne	Hobart	1hr 15mins	383 miles / 616 kms
Melbourne	Brisbane	2hrs 10mins	857 miles / 1379 kms
Melbourne	Auckland	3hrs 40mins	1643 miles / 2644 kms
Sydney	Ayers Rock (Uluru)	3hrs	1354 miles / 2180 kms
Sydney	Cairns	2hrs 50mins	1222 miles / 1966 kms
Sydney	Queenstown	2hrs 45mins	1206 miles / 1941 kms
Ayers Rock	Cairns	2hrs 40mins	1111 miles / 1788 kms
Perth	Broome	2hrs 30mins	1040 miles / 1674 kms

Auckland	Kerikeri (Bay of Islands)	45mins	130 miles / 209 kms
Auckland	Rotorua	40mins	113 miles / 182 kms
Auckland	Napier (Hawke's Bay)	55mins	204 miles / 328 kms
Auckland	Wellington	1hr	298 miles / 480 kms
Auckland	Christchurch	1hr 20mins	463 miles / 745 kms
Christchurch	Rotorua	1hr 15mins	421 miles / 677 kms
Christchurch	Wellington	50mins	189 miles / 304 kms
Christchurch	Queenstown	55mins	216 miles / 347 kms
Christchurch	Dunedin	55mins	204 miles / 328 kms
Queenstown	Rotorua	1hr 40mins	617 miles / 993 kms

FINAL NOTE

We hope that you have found this information helpful in preparing for your holiday in Australia and New Zealand. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Akorn.

The information contained in this document was correct at the time of printing and is to be used as a guide only. Health, visa and other specific details should be double-checked by your travel agent at the time of booking.

We are constantly striving to update our information to keep travellers well informed, and would be delighted to receive your feedback or tips.





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