Discovering Our Planet Together



Ultimate Australia Safari

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

Table of Contents

Trip Overview 3

Itinerary 4

Accommodations 13

What Makes Nat Hab Different? 16

Dates, Pricing & Info 18

Extensions 22



Trip Details:

Days
21 Days / Feb–Mar, Oct–Dec

Price
From $28495 (+Air)

Ultimate Australia Safari

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

No One Shows You More of Australia's Diverse Nature

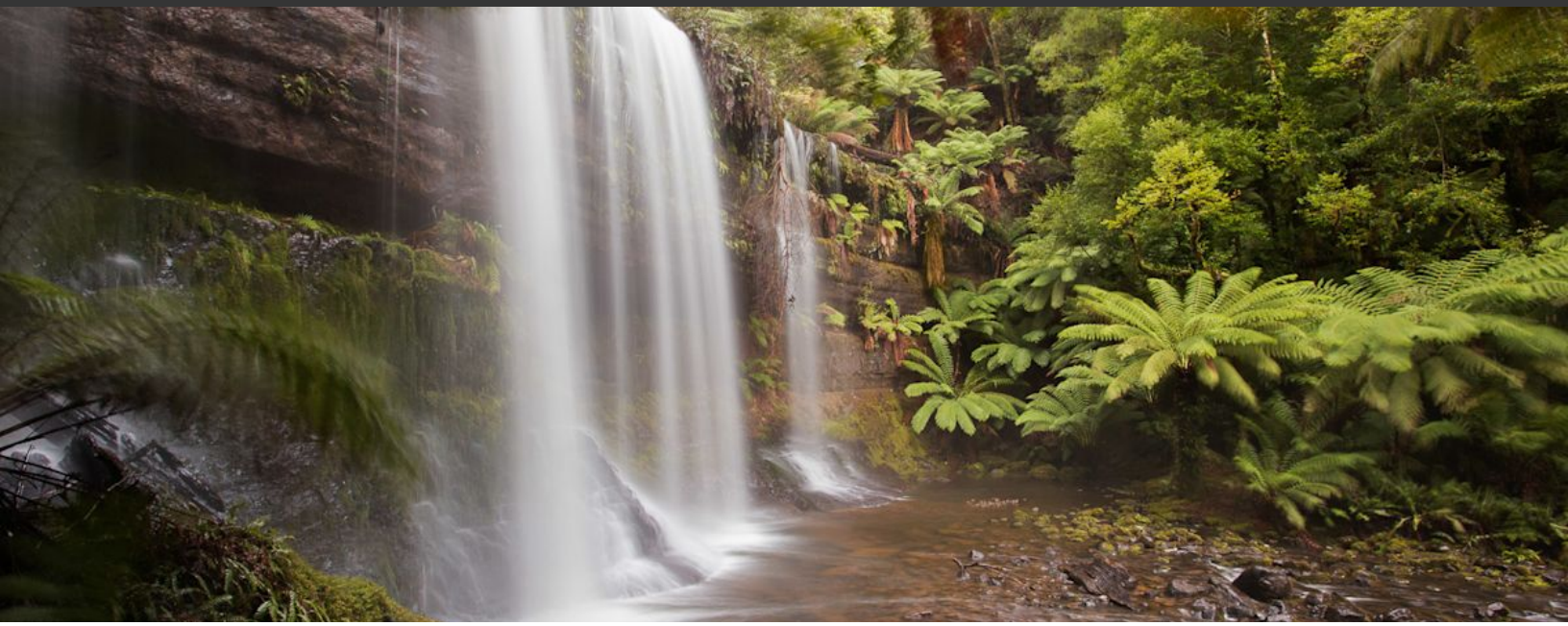
See more of wild Australia on this grand foray into eight national parks, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and seven private wildlife sanctuaries

Strategic Chartered Flights Take You Farther, Faster

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

Exclusive Experiences Away from Crowds

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



Ultimate Australia Safari Itinerary

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

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Cairns
Day 2	Cairns / Daintree Rainforest
Day 3	Daintree National Park / Atherton Tablelands
Day 4	Atherton Tablelands
Day 5	Atherton Tablelands / Cairns / Brisbane / Margate
Days 6–8	Margate / Lady Elliot Island
Day 9	Lady Elliot Island / Margate
Day 10	Brisbane / Hobart / Derwent Valley
Day 11	Mount Field National Park
Day 12	Central Plateau Conservation Area / Marakoopa Cave / Cradle Mountain National Park
Days 13–14	Cradle Mountain–Lake St. Clair National Park
Day 15	Cradle Mountain / Hawker / Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park
Days 16–17	Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park
Day 18	Australian Outback / Kangaroo Island
Days 19–20	Kangaroo Island / Flinders Chase National Park / Baudin Conservation Park
Day 21	Kangaroo Island / Adelaide



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Day 1

Cairns

Arrive in tropical Cairns before exploring reef and rainforest

- Check in to your hotel in the heart of laid-back Cairns
- Join your Expedition Leader and fellow travelers for a welcome dinner

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 ancient rainforests. A transfer is included to our hotel in the heart of this laid-back small city. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner with our Expedition Leader.

Day 2

Cairns / Daintree Rainforest

The ancient Daintree and the world's oldest living culture

- Walk Mossman Gorge with an Indigenous guide, learning about bush foods and traditional plant use
- Look for southern cassowaries on guided walks in the Daintree Rainforest
- Set out after dark with your Expedition Leader in search of nocturnal rainforest wildlife

From Cairns, drive north to Cape Tribulation where two UNESCO 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.* Along the way, look for the endangered cassowary, the spectacular Australian bird that stands up to 6-1/2 feet tall. 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. As one of the world's oldest continuous living cultures, they have inhabited, managed and relied on this rainforest ecosystem for more than 50,000 years, maintaining a deep spiritual and physical connection to the land.

This area 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 the planet's oldest rainforest. The vast Daintree Rainforest, named for 19th-century Australian geologist and photographer Richard Daintree, 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, which we look for on guided walks. 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.

A highlight today is a private Dreamtime Walk in Mossman Gorge. On this meandering stroll with a local Indigenous guide through lush rainforest and along a clear, rushing stream, learn about traditional plant use, bush food sources and cultural practices like ochre painting, which have persisted over millennia. At the end of the tour, gather around for bush tea and damper, the classic Australian soda bread. Later tonight, after dinner, take a walk after dark with our Expedition Leader in search of nocturnal wildlife.

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Day 3

Daintree National Park / Atherton Tablelands

Cruise crocodile waters before reaching the Atherton Tablelands

- Cruise the Daintree River by silent solar boat, searching for abundant crocodiles
- Tour Wildlife and Raptor Care Queensland, a rehabilitation center for birds of prey
- Stand beneath the 500-year-old Curtain Fig Tree and its 49-foot aerial roots

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, which are abundant in the river, and we learn in detail about their important role in this ancient ecosystem, plus contemporary efforts to conserve them. Lunch at the Daintree Tea House, secluded in the rainforest and surrounded by the sounds of birds, is a special interlude in our day.

Continue to the Atherton Tablelands, a vast green plateau covered with rainforest, savanna, lakes and farms, and known for impressive waterfalls and wildlife. En route, stop at Wildlife and Raptor Care Queensland for a private tour of this facility caring for and rehabilitating raptors and other birds of prey, with an eye to their safe and sustainable release into the wild. Another highlight is 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 a wonder. On an evening wildlife experience deep in the rainforest, we'll scan the trees for possums and the well-camouflaged leaf-tailed gecko, as well as many other animals that only wake up at night.

Day 4

Atherton Tablelands

Search for rare mammals in the highland rainforest

- Look for elusive tree kangaroos, platypus and pademelons
- Tour Tolga Bat Hospital to meet endangered spectacled flying foxes up close
- Watch for sugar gliders and striped possums from the lodge's floodlit viewing platform

In the vine forest at higher altitudes, we find fascinating marsupials and monotremes including the mainland platypus and Lumholtz tree kangaroos. Tree kangaroos remained undetected by Western settlers until almost the 20th century, being secretive, solitary and well-camouflaged canopy dwellers in remote tracts of rainforest. In Yungaburra, we'll try to spot the elusive platypus in the wild, often on view in Peterson Creek. We also 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.

Tolga Bat Hospital is a special stop, one of Australia's most acclaimed and innovative ecotourism experiences. On a private guided tour, learn about the conservation of bats and their habitat through the community group's rescue and landcare work, advocacy, education and research. Get up close to spectacled flying foxes, a large Old World fruit bat native to northeast Australia that was declared endangered in 2019. If our timing is right, we may get to see bat babies, which are downright adorable. Back at our ecolodge, once dusk falls, we make use of the wildlife viewing platform, which is illuminated at night, to spot sugar gliders and striped possums that live in the forest surrounding us.

Day 5

Atherton Tablelands / Cairns / Brisbane / Margate

Leave the rainforest for Queensland's southern coast

- Spend a final morning looking for wildlife across the Atherton Tablelands
- Fly from Cairns to Brisbane and continue to peaceful Margate
- Rest beside Moreton Bay before tomorrow's charter flight to the Great Barrier Reef

Spend another morning searching for abundant wildlife in the Atherton Tablelands, then drive back to Cairns where we catch our afternoon flight to Brisbane. On arrival, transfer to our hotel next to the sea in the peaceful suburb of Margate, where we'll have dinner and a chance to rest up before tomorrow's early departure for the Great Barrier Reef.

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Days 6–8

Margate / Lady Elliot Island

Stay on an isolated coral cay in the Great Barrier Reef

- Fly by chartered plane over the Queensland coast to Lady Elliot Island
- Snorkel straight from the beach, watching for sea turtles, manta rays and tropical fish
- Explore the reef by glass-bottom boat with naturalists and learn about coral conservation

Transfer early this morning to a nearby airstrip where board our chartered small plane to Lady Elliot Island, situated directly on the Great Barrier Reef. The views en route are impressive, as we follow the Queensland coastline and fly over Fraser Island, surrounded by the deep-blue Pacific Ocean. After about 80 minutes in the air, we come in for a landing on Lady Elliot Island, on 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 over the next three days. The small 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 that take us farther offshore 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. Marine life is captivating, and we may see giant sea turtles, manta rays and schools of brilliant tropical fish as we explore beneath the surface. Other activities include a visit to the historic lighthouse, birdwatching and stargazing.

Day 9

Lady Elliot Island / Margate

Spend a final morning among the wonders of the reef

- Snorkel for reef sharks, sea turtles and schools of tropical fish
- Watch for humpback whales spouting or breaching on October and November departures
- Look for terns, noddies and red-billed tropicbirds along the island's shores

We have one more half-day to explore the marine marvels 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. Ashore, look for prolific 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 promenade path along the beach out the front door.

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Day 10

Brisbane / Hobart / Derwent Valley

Fly to Tasmania and enter its protected wilderness

- Tour Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary privately to see eastern quolls and Tasmanian bettongs
- Reach a secluded retreat beside Mount Field National Park in the Derwent Valley
- Walk private forest trails after dark for echidnas, wallabies and glowworms

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

Mount Field National Park

Encounter platypus in Mount Field, Tasmania's oldest national park

- Paddle the Derwent River in search of wild platypus, one of Earth's two egg-laying mammals
- Hike among the world's tallest flowering trees in Mount Field National Park
- Walk through coastal rainforest to 150-foot Russell Falls

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 / Cradle Mountain National Park

Cross Tasmania's Central Plateau to Cradle Mountain

- Spend a final morning at Mount Field Retreat looking for wallabies and pademelons
- Take a private tour of Marakoopa Cave past flowstone, stalagmites and bioluminescent glowworms
- Settle into Cradle Mountain Lodge before searching for wombats, wallabies and pademelons at dusk

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

Cradle Mountain–Lake St. Clair National Park

Explore Cradle Mountain's World Heritage wilderness

- Hike around sapphire Dove Lake beneath Cradle Mountain's jagged peak
- Visit a conservation sanctuary protecting endangered Tasmanian devils and native quolls
- Search on a night walk for wombats, wallabies, pademelons and echidnas

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 / Hawker / Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

Enter the ancient landscapes of the Flinders Ranges Outback

- Fly by private charter to Hawker, gateway to the Flinders Ranges Outback
- Stay at Rawnsley Park Station, a luxury eco-retreat beside the national park
- Look for western gray kangaroos, wallaroos and emus on an evening Outback walk

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

Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

Discover Australia's Outback in the Flinders Ranges

- Walk to 65,000-year-old rock art at Sacred Canyon with an Adnyamathanha guide
- Watch for endangered yellow-footed rock wallabies among ancient formations at Brachina Gorge
- Take advantage of a rare opportunity to search for red kangaroos in the cool early-morning hours

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 / Kangaroo Island

Search for koalas and other native wildlife on Kangaroo Island

- Visit Cygnet Park Sanctuary, a private rewilding project restoring habitat for koalas and glossy-black cockatoos
- Look for superb fairy-wrens and lorikeets across the varied habitats of Stokes Bay
- Dine on the owner-chef's gourmet cooking at your boutique hotel over the 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.

Days 19–20

Kangaroo Island / Flinders Chase National Park / Baudin Conservation Park

Explore Kangaroo Island with expert wildlife guides

- Search for kangaroos, koalas, Australian fur seals, echidnas and glossy-black cockatoos
- Walk among endangered Australian sea lions at Seal Bay with a park interpreter
- Explore Admiral's Arch and Remarkable Rocks in Flinders Chase National 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 on the beach or playing in the surf, and see old bulls scarred by territorial disputes. More of 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 among the Remarkable Rocks—a set of enormous boulders precariously perched atop a granite dome above the ocean, whose massive shapes have been 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 special highlight is a private meeting at Pelican Lagoon with Dr. Peggy Rismiller, the world's foremost expert on the short-beaked echidna. For more than 35 years she has been studying this fascinating monotreme, an ancient egg-laying mammal that once roamed with dinosaurs. Her research overview provides us with intriguing details about this unique creature that resembles a hedgehog yet is most closely related to the platypus.

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Day 21

Kangaroo Island / Adelaide

Depart Australia after your Ultimate Australia Safari

- Fly from Kangaroo Island to Adelaide to connect with homeward flights
- Or continue to Nat Hab's New Zealand Nature Explorer or spend a night exploring Adelaide's botanic gardens and museums

Our grand Australia nature odyssey comes to a close this morning. A transfer to the airport in Kingscote is included for our short 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 this walkable city's acclaimed botanic gardens and excellent museums. Or, for an even more ultimate Down Under adventure, consider extending your trip with our New Zealand Nature Explorer—ask an Adventure Specialist for details.

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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.

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

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

Ultimate Australia Safari

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.

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.

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

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. Read our important promise for yourself!

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.

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!



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
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	Pricing	Notes
Nov 26 - Dec 16, 2026	**$28495** +internal air	
Dec 1 - Dec 21, 2026	**$28495** +internal air	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available

2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Feb 26 - Mar 18, 2027	**$29495** +internal air	
Mar 4 - Mar 24, 2027	**$29495** +internal air	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Mar 15 - Apr 4, 2027	**$29495** +internal air	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Oct 3 - Oct 23, 2027	**$29495** +internal air	
Oct 13 - Nov 2, 2027	**$29495** +internal air	

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Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Oct 28 - Nov 17, 2027	**$29495** +internal air	
Nov 3 - Nov 23, 2027	**$28995** +internal air	
Nov 14 - Dec 4, 2027	**$28995** +internal air	
Dec 2 - Dec 22, 2027	**$28995** +internal air	

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028		
Feb 19 - Mar 10, 2028	**From $28995** +internal air	
Feb 27 - Mar 18, 2028	**From $28995** +internal air	
Mar 8 - Mar 28, 2028	**From $28995** +internal air	
Mar 13 - Apr 2, 2028	**From $28995** +internal air	
Mar 18 - Apr 7, 2028	**From $28995** +internal air	
Oct 3 - Oct 23, 2028	**From $28995** +internal air	
Oct 17 - Nov 6, 2028	**From $28995** +internal air	
Nov 1 - Nov 21, 2028	**From $28995** +internal air	
Nov 28 - Dec 18, 2028	**From $28995** +internal air	
Dec 3 - Dec 23, 2028	**From $28995** +internal air	

See https://www.nathab.com/australia-new-zealand-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.

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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, etc.), international airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

- **Internal air:** 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).

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.

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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 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.



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.