



Discovering Our Planet Together



Ultimate Australia Safari

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



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Trip Details:

Days:

21 Days, Feb–Mar & Oct–Dec

Price:

From \$27195 (+ Air)

Physical

Requirements:

Moderate

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

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



Discovering Our Planet Together



Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Cairns, Australia

Day 2

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

Day 3

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

Day 4

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

Day 5

Daintree Rainforest—Private Wildlife Cruise / Cairns / Brisbane / 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

Days 6-8

Margate / Lady Elliot Island—Great Barrier Reef

Day 9

Lady Elliot Island / Margate

Day 10

Brisbane / Hobart / Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary Private Tour / Truffle Lodge

Day 11

Private Paddling with Platypus / Mount Field National Park

Day 12

Central Plateau Conservation Area / Marakopa 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 / Private Flight to Kangaroo Island

Day 19

Kangaroo Island—Pennington Bay / Baudin Conservation Park / Cape Willoughby

Day 20

Flinders Chase National Park

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—Malanda Falls Conservation Park / Hypipamee Crater / 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, 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. At Hypipamee Crater, we stop where peregrine falcons are known to nest, then look for more wildlife around Yungaburra. 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.



Itinerary At A Glance

Day 21
Kangaroo Island / Adelaide /
Depart

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 bush tea and damper, the classic Australian soda bread. 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.



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.



Day 10: Brisbane / Hobart / Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary Private Tour / Truffle Lodge

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, we 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 the owner of the sanctuary, with an exclusive behind-the-scenes overview of its impressive conservation efforts. Then continue to Truffle Lodge, a luxury camping outpost in a remote part of the Derwent Valley that is our private accommodation for the next two nights. Once dusk falls, look for echidna, wallabies and pademelon, then enjoy dinner and stargazing from camp, if skies are clear.

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

Wake early and wander the environs of our private camp looking for wildlife. After breakfast, we have a private kayaking tour on the Derwent River, paddling in search of wild platypus that are often spotted just below our tents perched on the bank. 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. Cave sites, ochre mines, hand-stencil art, rock engravings and stone tool quarries provide a glimpse of their extraordinary lives here. 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 camp, more wildlife watching awaits this evening, as well as time around the fire under the stars.



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.



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 Bunyerroo 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 sunrise visit to the Cazneau Tree offers a chance to look for rare red kangaroos. The tree is a lone river red gum made famous by photographer Harold Cazneau in a 1937 image that brought him international recognition. It has remained an important landmark since, attracting other photographers and artists.

During our stay, we also learn about operations on a working Australian sheep ranch as we tour Rawnsley Park Station. The station runs approximately 2,000 sheep on more than 29,000 acres of land, raising Australian Merino and South African Dohne sheep for high-quality wool and meat. Hear about the pastoral history of the region and how these sheep prosper in this arid climate, learn how the wool is sorted and prepared for sale, and tour the property while checking on the watering points, equipped with windmills and solar pumps. Learn, too, about Operation Bounceback, a feral animal control program established in 1993.



Day 18: Australian Outback / Private Flight to Kangaroo Island

After breakfast, transfer back to the airport for our private chartered flight to Kangaroo Island. With more than 300 miles of coastline surrounded by turquoise waters, Australia's third-largest island is famous 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, New Zealand fur seals, Australian sea lions and one of Australia's largest koala populations. On arrival, we head to Cygnet Park Sanctuary, a haven for native island vegetation where we find significant populations of nationally threatened plant species. On a tour of the property, we'll get an overview of the park's revegetation program and glossy-black cockatoo recovery project as we do some birdwatching, seek out koalas, and have an orientation to the island over a seafood barbecue lunch. Then it's off to Seal Bay Conservation Park for a private tour among Australian sea lions sprawled along a sandy beach— 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. We watch pups nursing or playing in the surf, see old bulls scarred by territorial disputes, and learn about their unique breeding biology.

Continue to Stokes Bay to explore a range of varied habitats from scrub to woodland to rocky shoreline and sandy beach. Within these varied environments, we may encounter tammar wallabies, koalas, glossy-black cockatoos, Australian pelicans, hooded plovers, and a unique subspecies of kangaroo found only on the island. Along the way, we observe the way native plants have adapted to bushfires, before returning to our hotel where we gather for dinner later this evening.

Day 19: Kangaroo Island—Pennington Bay / Baudin Conservation Park / Cape Willoughby

At Pennington Bay, look for hooded plovers and other shorebirds on the beach, and climb the steps to the top of Prospect Hill for a vantage over the narrowest section of Kangaroo Island. We take a walk with a researcher who is a world expert on the short-beaked echidna—an ancient egg-laying mammal that once roamed with dinosaurs—as we delve into the ecology of the island. After a picnic lunch on Eastern Cove, visit Baudin Conservation Park to learn about the elusive glossy-black cockatoo. The park was a family farm from 1861 to 2002, comprised of she-oak woodland rolling hills with sweeping views across Backstairs Passage to the Fleurieu Peninsula. We may also see tammar wallabies, Kangaroo Island kangaroos, wedge-tailed eagles and small penguins that nest along the shoreline, and look offshore for dolphins and southern right whales. At Cape Willoughby, explore the exposed granite shoreline near the lighthouse, scouting for coastal raptors and oceanic seabirds from the exposed promontory.



Day 20: Flinders Chase National Park

Spend the entire day exploring Flinders Chase National Park, one of the oldest in Australia and renowned for its geological phenomena and thriving populations of endangered species. View the massive shapes of the Remarkable Rocks, formed by 500 million years of wind, waves and rain that have left them impossibly perched on top a granite dome plunging into the ocean. Break for lunch with a gourmet bush picnic, then continue to Admirals Arch, a rock bridge and coastal grotto that provides a haul-out for a large colony of long-nosed fur seals. Seabirds flourish here, too, and we may see a range of terns, Australasian gannets, shearwaters, Pacific gulls, and potentially some southern emu-wrens.

Day 21: Kangaroo Island / Adelaide / Depart

Our grand Australia nature safari comes to a close this morning. A transfer to the airport is included for your scheduled flight from Kangaroo Island to Adelaide. From the airport in Adelaide, connect with homeward flights.



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Accommodation Details:

Pullman Cairns International Hotel

Daintree Wilderness Lodge

Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodges

Blue Summit Hideaway Lodge

Sebel Margate Brisbane Beach

Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort

MACq 01 Hotel

Truffle Lodge Tented Camp

Cradle Mountain Lodge

Rawnsley Park Station

The River Suites

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

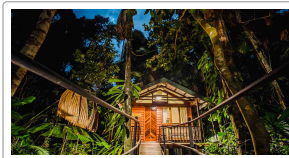
Ultimate Australia Safari Accommodations

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



Pullman Cairns International Hotel

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



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 rain forest.



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.



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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.



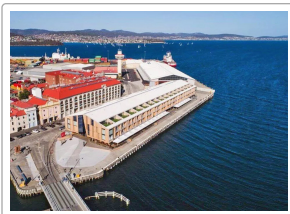
Sebel Margate Brisbane Beach

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.



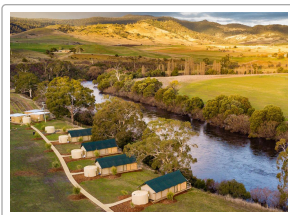
Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort

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.



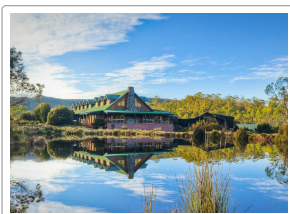
MACq 01 Hotel

Located in the heart of the historic Hobart waterfront, this unique hotel offers contemporary luxury and cutting-edge design accented with stories of the remarkable people of Tasmania.



Truffle Lodge Tented Camp

Featuring spacious tent-cabin suites, Truffle Lodge offers a peaceful deluxe camping experience in nature, where you may see platypus swimming in the river from your private veranda.



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.

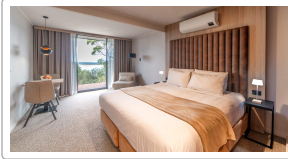


Discovering Our Planet Together



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.



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.



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!

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!





Make It Private with Your Family or Friends

Travel privately, exclusively with your immediate family, multi-generational family or group of friends. And when you choose a private departure, you're assured the most exclusive and authentic Ultimate Australia Safari on offer. Request your private departure by completing the form below.

Please note that on Ultimate Australia Make It Private departures we require a minimum group size of 6 travelers.

Also, please be aware that your per-person cost on a Make It Private trip will vary depending on the number of travelers in your group and may be as much as 10%-30% higher (ship-based trips may be even higher) than our normal trip cost unless you fill the trip.

This **Make It Private** option is available on nearly every Nat Hab trip for family and friend groups. Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917 or look for the "Make It Private" icon in the **pricing section** of a trip online at nathab.com to see prices based on your specific group size.



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$27195
(+ Air)

Group Size:
Please note that on Make It Private departures we have a minimum group size of half the maximum size of our regularly scheduled departures.

Physical Requirements:
Moderate

Ultimate Australia Safari Dates, Pricing & Info

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

2025 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Oct 3, 2025	Oct 23, 2025	
Oct 17, 2025	Nov 6, 2025	Pair with our New Zealand trip
Nov 3, 2025	Nov 23, 2025	
Nov 15, 2025	Dec 5, 2025	
Dec 2, 2025	Dec 22, 2025	

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Feb 20, 2026	Mar 12, 2026	Pair with our New Zealand trip
Feb 25, 2026	Mar 17, 2026	Pair with our New Zealand trip
Mar 3, 2026	Mar 23, 2026	



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$27195
(+ Air)

Group Size:
Please note that on Make It Private departures we have a minimum group size of half the maximum size of our regularly scheduled departures.

Physical Requirements:
Moderate

Departure	Return	Notes
Mar 10, 2026	Mar 30, 2026	
Mar 16, 2026	Apr 5, 2026	Pair with our New Zealand trip
Oct 6, 2026	Oct 26, 2026	Pair with our New Zealand trip
Oct 23, 2026	Nov 12, 2026	Pair with our New Zealand trip
Nov 3, 2026	Nov 23, 2026	Pair with our New Zealand trip
Nov 15, 2026	Dec 5, 2026	Pair with our New Zealand trip
Dec 1, 2026	Dec 21, 2026	Pair with our New Zealand trip

2027 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Feb 20, 2027	Mar 12, 2027	Pair with our New Zealand trip
Feb 25, 2027	Mar 17, 2027	Pair with our New Zealand trip
Mar 3, 2027	Mar 23, 2027	
Mar 10, 2027	Mar 30, 2027	
Mar 16, 2027	Apr 5, 2027	Pair with our New Zealand trip
Oct 6, 2027	Oct 26, 2027	Pair with our New Zealand trip
Oct 23, 2027	Nov 12, 2027	Pair with our New Zealand trip
Nov 3, 2027	Nov 23, 2027	Pair with our New Zealand trip
Nov 15, 2027	Dec 5, 2027	Pair with our New Zealand trip
Dec 1, 2027	Dec 21, 2027	Pair with our New Zealand trip



Pricing

2024 Prices

➤ **Trip Price**

\$26895 to \$27195 (+internal air)

Internal Air Cost: \$3838 per person (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$3895.

Deposit: \$1000 per person (nonrefundable) Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars. Contact an Adventure Specialist for more details: 800-543-8917.

2025 Prices

➤ **Trip Price**

\$27895 to \$28195 (+internal air)

Internal Air Cost: \$3888 per person (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$4295.

Deposit: \$1000 per person (nonrefundable) Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars. Contact an Adventure Specialist for more details: 800-543-8917.

2026 Prices

➤ **Trip Price**

\$28495 (+internal air)

Internal Air Cost: \$4238 per person (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$4795.

Deposit: \$1000 per person (nonrefundable) Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars. Contact an Adventure Specialist for more details: 800-543-8917.



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, private boat excursion to Maria Island, 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 charter flight from Tasmania to the Outback, private charter 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



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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.

Physical Requirements

Moderate

Our Ultimate Australia Safari is truly that: an epic journey that covers a lot of ground in a vast country, often in remote terrain, over three weeks. While it does not require a particularly high degree of physical fitness, the scope and pace are ambitious. Several long travel days are required to get to all of the amazing places we cover in this 21-day itinerary, and our days in general are long, continuing after dusk for the best wildlife viewing. In general, while individual activities may not require a lot of exertion, the itinerary can be tiring and requires stamina. Guests should also be prepared for a wide swing in temperatures, from the low 90s F in the Outback and Daintree Rainforest to much cooler temperatures in Tasmania, sometimes dropping to the 40s F at night.

Activities are generally at an easy to moderate level. Walks can range from one to four miles in fluctuating weather and varied environments. Although these walks are not always difficult in terms of physical exertion, they sometimes include fairly steep, uneven or slippery terrain. A variety of early morning and night walks, often in dim light, are offered throughout the itinerary. In order to fully enjoy the entire trip experience, travelers should be able to walk unassisted for at least two miles over sometimes-rough terrain and inclines. A few of the walks and hikes include long sets of stairs, sometimes without a handrail. Days often start early and/or finish late and are packed with activities. During our time on the Great Barrier Reef, our primary activity is snorkeling, with the option to scuba dive at an additional cost. For snorkeling, a reasonable level of fitness and comfort in the water is required. On our kayaking activity in Tasmania, guests must be able to get into and out of a kayak without any type of boat ramp, and without the kayaks being perfectly still. Paddling participants must also be under 242 pounds, which is the weight restriction of the kayaks.

With local guides supporting us at various points along our itinerary, we are able at times to divide our groups according to varying physical abilities, facilitating the opportunity to move at the pace and travel the distance that suits your personal preference. Note that all activities are optional, and travelers should only participate in activities in which they feel comfortable. While travelers are not required to participate in all activities, should you opt out of a scheduled activity, we cannot always guarantee alternatives will be available. Travelers who would like to take longer or more strenuous hikes may have limited opportunities to do so at their leisure. Internal flights include large commercial planes and smaller aircraft. On the smaller aircraft, cabins are small and not pressurized, so travelers must be in suitable health for these conditions.

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.



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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 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. You must arrive in Cairns by 4 pm on Day 1 to join your group for your welcome dinner. We recommend that you arrive at least one day prior to Day 1 of your trip to adjust to the time difference. You may depart Adelaide after 2 pm on your final day.

We can best serve you if our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk makes your 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. Note that while we offer you the best possible rates available to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may find better fares online.



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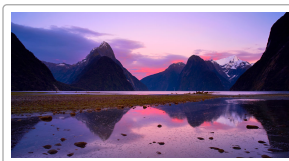


Extension Details:

New Zealand Nature Explorer
\$13695

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 rain forest, remote islands and legendary hospitality.

\$13695 (+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.