

Travel *Today*

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The HEART



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Discovering paradise

Welcome to our first Travel Today – a quarterly lift-out aimed at providing tips, ideas and options for your next holiday or may just a little time to dream.

There is something magical about planning a holiday, almost as magical as actually enjoying the adventure or rest that comes with taking a break.

It's all about the possibility of where you can go, what you can enjoy and after losing those options in the past couple of years we have all learnt not to take those opportunities for granted any more. To go and enjoy

what we can while we can. To scour the net, talk to the travel agents and now flip through the pages of our new publication.

Each season we hope to take a little of the leg work out of planning your next break by showcasing just a few of the things that you can see and do around your region, the state, the country and around the world. As well as finding out a little of what's happening in the world of travel.

Looking at all the amazing pictures and stories as they have tumbled into my email basket has almost been like taking a holiday

myself and we have lots of ideas of what we want to do and where we want to go, and we hope that you will feel the same way as you flip through the papers.

There is so much to do on our own doorstep whether it be staying in a tiny house on the edge of a rain forest in the Scenic Rim, travelling to the Whitsundays for their summer season, sitting in swing chair at Peregian Beach or spending a couple of days in the beautiful Brisbane.

And of course the world is our oyster again, the pictures of the ski runs in Utah

and the history of Greece, the excitement of Italy and the culture in India and Hong Kong.

It's hard not to imagine ourselves cruising through some of the most amazing places in the world with Viking Cruises, taking in the sites and sounds without having to keep unpacking as you float from destination to destination. Thanks for visiting Travel Today, we hope you sit down with a coffee and cake, enjoy and get inspiration from it.

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Keep the kids occupied with new tech

Summer holidays are coming and if you're planning to travel any distance by car or plane with young children and don't want to spend the entire trip getting acquainted with the latest Wiggles release Belkin may have a solution.

A leading consumer electronics brand for more than 40 years, Belkin have just announced the release of the SoundForm Inspire Over-Ear Headset for Kids, a premium over-ear headset with built-in boom mic and 35 hours of battery life, designed for kids aged 5-9 to provide all-day comfort while traveling or streaming online videos. According to Belkin the SoundForm Inspire is engineered for children to listen safely and comfortably while learning and playing. The headset is built with 40mm drivers to deliver Belkin Signature Sound, and a volume cap of 85 decibels to protect young ears. The soft, adjustable headband folds up for portability, and smaller ear cups provide an excellent fit for kids' ears. RockStar Mode

Soundform Inspire, black.

features an additional 3.5mm output port that lets kids share audio content with a classmate or friend. A quality boom mic keeps the sound clear during distance learning, with an indicator light to tell when the headset is on mute. It is available in black and lavender colors.

Soundform Inspire - lavender.

Product features:

- Belkin Signature Sound with 40mm drivers for clean and clear audio, tuned specifically for kids.
- 35 hours of battery life for extended playtime.
- 85dB volume limiter to protect hearing.
- 3.5mm input port to connect to laptops, tablets, infotainment systems, phones, and other devices.
- RockStar Mode allows audio sharing with additional 3.5mm output port.

- High-quality flip-up boom microphone to be heard on calls and games.
- Mute button and LED mute indicator for easily monitoring kids' activity.
- Bluetooth 5.2 connects easily to devices within 30 feet for wireless connection.
- USB-C port for fast charging and wired audio input.
- Foldable, extendable, and comfortable over-ear design for comfort and convenience.
- Product housing is made with minimum of 23 per cent post-consumer recycled plastics.
- 100 per cent plastic-free packaging.
- Belkin Kids collection includes the new SoundForm Inspire Over-Ear Headset, SoundForm Nano Wireless Earbuds and SoundForm Mini On-Ear Headphones.
- The SoundForm Inspire is available to order now for \$39.99 USD at Belkin.com and coming soon to Amazon.com and select major retailers worldwide.

Small but spectacular

By Kath Rose

The Tiny House phenomenon is sweeping the globe and luckily for getaway-loving Australians, the Scenic Rim has three of the best tiny house experiences in Baya Tiny House outside Boonah, famous Binna Burra Lodge's Tiny Wild Houses at Lamington National Park, and the about-to-open, Moogie Pod on spectacular Lake Moogerah.

Whether your idea of the perfect tiny house is surrounded by ancient mountains and rainforest, a patchwork of magnificent paddocks, or water and an endless sky of stars, here's three Tiny Houses that promise huge experiences, across the famed Scenic Rim, just an hour from both Brisbane and the Gold Coast in Queensland. And Mother Nature approves.

Baya Tiny House – Cannon Creek, Boonah
The very first Tiny House in the Scenic Rim, Baya is also a luxe eco-retreat, which means once you stay there for one night, you'll want to relocate forever. The plush queen Baya bed is in a loft, giving you a front row view to shooting stars and the extraordinary skies the region is famous for, and there's a comfy kitchen (with gas stove and full-sized fridge), and a bathroom with rainfall shower, all lovingly appointed.

Baya is owned by the Ketchup Bank team who can provide a host of itineraries, from wine and brewery tours to farm gate trips, food tastings and cooking classes. Plus you can have a Scenic Rim Farm Box delivered to your door, bursting with local produce to prepare in your tiny house.

Quick fact: Baya means 'to come in to view' in the language of the Yugambah people, the traditional custodians of the region.

■ 726 Green Hills Rd, Cannon Creek Qld 4310 - 07 5463 4592 - ketchupsbankglamping.com.au/stay/baya

Tiny Wild Houses – Binna Burra

The name says it all – welcome to Tiny Wild Houses atop the Bellbird cliffs, at the famous Lamington National Park.

So yes, your outlook is spectacular, aided by an impressive ceiling-to-floor window with unrivaled views of Woonoongoora and the Ship Stern Range. There's a cosy queen bed, two-seater couch, reverse cycle air-conditioning, an outdoor teak dining table, fully equipped kitchenette, and a separate



bathroom. Plus it's well-appointed and boasts Wallawa botanical toiletries, books, games and free Wi-Fi access. Binna Burra Tea House is just a three minute drive away, or a fantastic 25 minute walk, for breakfast, lunch, or dinner, and Groom's Cottage Bushwalker's Bar has drinks, light meals, and nibbles or you can order meals and locally sourced produce or cheeseboards. Bushwalking fans – you are welcome!

■ 1040 Binna Burra Rd, Beechmont Qld 4211 - 07 5533 3622

Moogie Pod – Lake Moogerah

Opening at the end of this month is the gorgeously named Moogie Pod, a Tiny House custom-built from a deluxe container featuring a contemporary studio room, ensuite, a queen bed, bathroom with Botanical toiletries, magnificent views to Lake Moogerah and a night sky that's an endless carpet of stars. It's perfect for couples. The complete front of the container is glass, meaning the view is your constant canvas, plus there's a deck, firepit, barbecue and



private bush garden; it's powered by solar energy and nods to the environment. It's the final in the Moogie trilogy, with bigger sisters, Moogie House and Moogie Glamp a good distance away, all at home on 19 acres of koala-protected habitat with an abundance of wildlife.

Order a Scenic Rim breakfast hamper or Scenic Rim Farm Box full of locally sourced produce.

■ 48 Moogerah Connection Road, Moogerah Qld 4309 - 0411 501 105

Scenic Rim: Feel on top of the world

In a major international coup, the Scenic Rim was named by global travel authority Lonely Planet as one of the hottest destinations to visit in 2022.

Just an hour from Brisbane and 30 minutes from the heart of the Gold Coast,

the Scenic Rim stretches from Canungra to The Lost World, Beaudesert to Boonah, Tamborine Mountain to Kalbar and is home to the ancient World Heritage-listed Gondwana Rainforests, six historic national parks, charming towns and villages,

adventure parks, farm stays, craft breweries, boutique wineries, ecolodges, tantalising gourmet experiences, world class camping and glamping and breathtaking spaces in between.

It's a region of more than 4200 square

kilometres of rich volcanic soil surrounded by ancient mountains and home to thousands of farmers and food creators, more than 30,000ha of parkland, plus three dams - Lake Moogerah, Lake Maroon and Wyaralong Dam.



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Located 930-metres above sea level and surrounded by UNESCO World Heritage Lamington National Park, O'Reilly's is the perfect spot for a hiking getaway to Escape, Experience and Connect.

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Sun, sea and mangoes...

By Cait Fleming of Tourism Whitsunday

The Whitsundays is probably best known for sunny days and blue turquoise water but to get that weather for the majority of the year we have to trade in six weeks a year to the rain gods.

Most of our rain falls in summer so it's nice and warm, meaning that all the usual activities can happen except maybe picnics... nobody likes a soggy sandwich. The warmer days and evenings make it a perfect time of year to enjoy the water, both ocean (with protective suits) or pool and sample the variety of cold drinks and ice cream on offer in the region.

Summer is also the time of year for ripe mangoes! Bowen, the northern part of the Whitsundays, is the home of the Kensington Pride mango variety and during summer you'll find roadside stalls selling bags and boxes of beautiful ripe mangoes from Bowen to Airlie Beach.



Cait's Whitsunday summer highlights

- Warm weather even when it rains.
- Tropical storms that roll in from the ocean and create stunning moody vistas.
- Water temperature average of 25 degrees – perfect for exploring the Great Barrier Reef.
- Fish are already wet so a rainy day doesn't both them and they'll still be swimming around their underwater home for you to look at.
- Not every day is rainy – it's the weather and sometimes it's sunny, sometimes it's rainy.
- Incredible waterfalls and natural swimming holes come out of hibernation.
- The foliage of the area is lush and green, everywhere you look.
- We're built for summer in the Whitsundays, everything still operates and there's lots of fun to be had.
- It's lychee and mango season with roadside stalls selling buckets full for cheap! You'll never want to pay supermarket prices again.
- Perfect opportunity to head inland and explore the history of Collinsville – coal mining town since the late 1800s.
- Wonder through the Coal Face Experience and learn about the history of the Pit Ponies and the mining history of this quaint town.
- Wander through the Historical Society at the old hospital, home to remnants of the early days in Collinsville. Keep your eyes peeled as there are daily hauntings.
- Head into Proserpine and catch a movie at the Proserpine Entertainment Centre and enjoy the aircon and popcorn! Then stop in for lunch at Whitsunday gold Plantation and have a chat with the colourful variety of parrots on show.
- If movies and lunch aren't your thing. Head up the Proserpine River with Whitsunday Crocodile Safari and explore the riverway, smile at the crocodiles and immerse yourself in the wetlands.



• Bowen is the home of Mangoes in The Whitsundays and you can find a refreshing mango sorbet at the Big Mango on the southern side of Bowen. Keep your eyes open for a car or truck on the side of the road selling buckets of mangoes, this is the home place of the Kensington Pride.

Welcome to the Gympie Region!

From historic Gympie City to the rolling hills of the Mary Valley in the south, the trail of country towns in The West and the pristine waters of the Cooloola Coast in the northeast – we welcome you.

Located two hours north of Brisbane and only 30 minutes from Noosa, the region also acts as the southern gateway to the World Heritage-listed K'gari.

Whether you're here for a short or long stay, you're in for a good time, and an abundance of experiences from fishing, camping, nature, food and events.

No matter if you're an adventure seeker, young family or simply looking for a relaxing getaway, the Gympie region encourages you to make the most out of every moment.



To find out more about the region go to
visitgympieregion.com.au or
freecall 1800 444 222

Visit
**Gympie
Region**

Pretty as Peregian

By Kylie Mitchell-Smith,
Travellingsenorita.com

We booked a weekender to explore the Sunshine Coast, destination Peregian Beach. It's been a decade or so since we last visited and we are pleasantly surprised with the town's newest and hottest hotel, along with the burgeoning food scene.

We stay at the newly opened Essence Peregian Beach Hotel perched on the edge of a UNESCO listed biosphere - ideally located from Noosa and Sunshine Beach. The decadent hotel and styled beach homes are the vision of the Scanlon Group - a Sunshine Coast company.

The stunning resort surrounds house a three-level hotel with 32 well-appointed studios and two-bedroom apartments, along with 20 luxury beach homes. Coastal hues are complemented by clean architectural lines, with two magnesium resort pools and a swanky cocktail bar for guests to enjoy.

A state-of-the-art conference room, gym for guests, undercover parking and a boutique lobby shop are just some of the hotel's bespoke features. Breakfast, brunch and lunch are served in the adjoining Outer Square restaurant and bar, located next to the Peregian Village Market.

We devour a hearty breakfast that includes a delicious Chilli Fraser Isle Crab Benedict, a fresh granola and berry panna cotta, Noosa's Clandestino roasted coffee and an array of cold press juices, topped off with a slice of house made Persian Love Cake - heaven.

The pristine Peregian Beach is just a hop, skip across the road from the hotel and is as tranquil as it is inviting. Take a short stroll along the beach or pick up the pace and walk to Sunshine Beach and Noosa in the north.

The quintessential beachside village of Peregian has just the right mix of boutiques, restaurants, bars and cafes. Local artisans showcase their wares such as uber cool fashion designer B.A.E, along with a healthy array of the regions produce threaded throughout menus. We venture across to the renovated beach hotel for a sunset dinner and are suitably impressed by the modern fit out, affordable and good food, and casual coastal ambience.

Peregian Beach is the ideal place to switch off and wind down, with the recent opening of Essence Hotel and eateries such as Mariella Mexicantina there is a real buzz about town.

Take a trip to Peregian Beach, a nature-based destination, with a fine mix of food, art and culture. Indulge in global eateries and bars, artisan shops and boutique accommodation-along with local gems that have seen many a Peregian day.

For more travel inspiration and information, visit travellingsenorita.com



Essence Peregian Beach Hotel outlook.



The tranquil Peregian Beach.



Breakfast is served at Outer Square.



Hotel suites Essence Peregian Beach Hotel.



Travelling Señorita

Kylie Mitchell-Smith aka Travelling Senorita lives for travel - from cruising the Mediterranean with Azamara Cruises to exploring the beauty of Banff National park with the Fairmont Group.

Creating bespoke itineraries for the food, wine and arts lover-wandering to unique destinations across the globe.

For hotel and cruise bookings visit www.travellingsenorita.com



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Muster fun.

Strum under the stars

If you love great music, fun times and camping under the stars, then the Gympie Music Muster, famous for its good vibe and friendly atmosphere is the festival for you.

The first Gympie Muster, held in 1982 to celebrate the Golden Guitar win by the Webb Brothers, has grown to become one of Australia's most recognised and iconic fundraising events.

The Muster is proudly owned by the Apex Club of Gympie and its fundamental purpose has always remained the same — to raise funds for those in need within the community and to entertain music lovers from across the country.

Staged deep within the natural surrounds of the Amamoor Creek State Forest, the Gympie Music Muster features over 100 artists. Country music remains the heart and soul of the festival and proudly provides a platform for youth and emerging talent to launch their careers.

Chart-topping Aussie artists already announced to perform at the 2024 Gympie Muster include Lee Kernaghan, Beccy Cole, Brad Cox, James Johnston plus US mountain-rock band the Davisson Brothers.

Keep an eye on the Gympie Music Muster website and social media pages for more artist announcements and information in the lead up to the 2024 festival.

So much more. Muster days are filled



with live music in seven venues throughout the four days plus you can immerse yourself in the experience by joining a workshop or participating in the line dancing, clogging or rock'n'roll daily sessions.

The family friendly festival has a kids' country area to keep the young ones entertained during the day and even a bullride arena for those chasing some bucking wild action.

Camping at the Muster is a unique and integral part of the festival experience and is included in the cost of your festival ticket. Four-day ticket holders can camp for free for up to nine nights from Saturday, 17 August, 2024.

Early campers will be treated to Pre-Muster entertainment from 17-21 August, ahead of the official four-day festival commencing on 22 August, 2024.

The campgrounds are located within the beautiful Amamoor Creek State Forest, a riverine rainforest 15 kms past the township of Amamoor.

Don't have your own camping gear?

Well, you can check in to the Muster Banjo's tent motel from Wednesday, 21 August, 2024 which includes a pre-set-up tent with canvas floor, lighting, mattresses, bed linen, table, chairs, dedicated amenities and a communal mobile recharge station.

You'll also get breakfast each morning of the festival and a ride to the festival entrance on the free shuttle bus.

Booking for the Muster Banjo's Tent Motel open on February 1st, 2024 so book your tent early to avoid disappointment.

So, what are you waiting for, start planning your trip to the Gympie Music Muster, 22-25 August, 2024. Four-day festival tickets including general camping are on sale now go to muster.com.au



GYMPIE MUSIC MUSTER
the festival in the forest

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- FREE CAMPING FOR UP TO 9 DAYS
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Park City.

Pictures: Utah Tourism

Expanding horizons

As more and more Australians are discovering, Utah is one of the skiing meccas in North America. And perhaps its biggest ski resort is beautiful Deer Valley, which is just about to get even bigger.

The Deer Valley Resort, situated near Park City, Utah announced a major upgrade in August which will include a series of transformative resort projects including a major expansion of the resort's legendary ski experience. The resort is embarking on a multi-year mission to continue elevating the guest experience and solidify the resort's status as the leading innovator of the ski industry.

Situated in the Wasatch Mountains in Park City, Utah, Deer Valley is dedicated to delivering exceptional guest service and a ski-only experience with limited daily skiers.

The new expansion aims to more than doubles the skiable terrain of the resort, deliver a new village at its base, offer guests premier opportunities and amenities and reimagines Snow Park with a new base village, and revitalize Deer Valley Resort's existing facilities.

While Deer Valley will continue to unveil additional projects in the coming future, the first phase of their "Expanded Excellence" project will see Deer Valley develop and operate 3700 acres of new skiable terrain to be completely integrated into the existing resort and add substantial new skier services as part of a new village and portal accessed via U.S. Route 40.

The expanded terrain will include 16 new chairlifts, including a 10-passenger gondola, and ski access across South Peak, Park Peak, Big Dutch, Pioche, and Hail Mountains on the east side of Deer Valley's Bald Mountain (Terrain formerly referred to as the Mayflower Mountain Resort project).

Boasting nearly a 3000 vertical drop from the highest point on Park Peak at 9350 feet, the additional terrain will offer skiing for all abilities across 135 planned ski runs, including several wide-open bowls and gladed areas.

The new terrain will open over a number of seasons with 2900 acres serviced by nine chairlifts and 110 ski runs to be introduced as early as the 2025/2026 winter season.

When it's complete Deer Valley will offer more than 5726 acres of skiable terrain accessed by 37 chairlifts serving 238 ski runs, which will feature grooming that adheres to Deer Valley's existing standards, all supported by a new cutting-edge snowmaking system.

"Deer Valley Resort is committed to building upon our legacy as one of the world's most exceptional ski areas while staying true to our founding principles created over four-decades ago," said Deer Valley Resort President and COO Todd Bennett.

"This expansion will facilitate even better access to the resort for our guests, while offering a substantial increase in world-class amenities consistent with the resort's original vision."



Salt Lake City.



Snowbird.

The expansion will be anchored by a new village and portal at its base, envisioned in partnership with Extell Development Company.

The village will feature a new Deer Valley skier services facility that includes ski school, children's programs, rentals, retail, and food and beverage amenities.

The multifaceted expansion is expected to create approximately 2000 new Deer Valley job opportunities. Notably, the new portal will provide alternative access for guests visiting Deer Valley Resort directly from US. Route 40.

With 1200 new parking spaces planned for day-skier use, guests will have another means of entry that will expand on the resort's arrival experiences and help reduce traffic in the town of Park City.

"Deer Valley Resort is known across the globe for its unique approach to first-class



Sundance Ski Resort, Utah.

service. We are committed to building on their well-respected reputation and legacy by attracting some of the world's best brands, in addition to elevating the living experience by creating luxury residences with exquisite architecture and design," said Extell Development Company Founder and Chairman Gary Barnett.

"This partnership with Deer Valley brings together two of the very best in the business of real estate, service and hospitality, and we look forward to working with them to create what will be the crown jewel of Utah."

In addition to the ski-specific amenities, the new village at the base of the expanded skiable terrain is slated to have over 800 hotel rooms across multiple properties, nearly 1700 residential units, 250,000 square feet of retail and commercial space, and 68,000 square feet for recreation.



Ski-resorts Brighton.



About Deer Valley Resort

Deer Valley Resort located in Park City, Utah, revolutionised the ski industry by providing the first-class service one would receive at a five-star hotel.

The ski-only resort offers 21 chairlifts, 103 ski runs, six bowls, 300 annual inches of powder, 2026 acres of alpine skiing, limited lift ticket sales, numerous restaurants, three elegant day lodges, hundreds of luxury accommodations and a renowned Ski School and Children's Center.

Deer Valley is honored to be ranked as the United States' Best Ski Resort by the World Ski Awards for 10 consecutive years.



Getting there

Flights are available from Brisbane to LAX (or SFO) and then to Salt Lake City (SLC). From there it's a short 30-minute trip up to Deer Valley.

There are shuttles, rental cars or even an Uber to take you there. It's very close and easy.

IMAGINE
HOLIDAYS
MORE THAN JUST A HOLIDAY.



IT'S TIME TO VISIT

JAPAN

Embark on a journey of contrasts as you explore the captivating wonders of Japan with enlightening tours and scenic rail journeys.

Japan offers a window into a world of amazing contrasts. Here you'll find the home of cutting-edge technology and ancient temples where people flock to share a peaceful moment. It's a destination where pristine gardens showcasing the beauty of nature sit in the shadows of soaring steel-clad skyscrapers, and the delicate and fragile beauty of cherry blossom in the spring months is flooded by neon light as the sun goes down.

Your adventure begins with two nights in Tokyo, where you'll be immersed in the vibrant energy of its bustling metropolis. A city tour will showcase some of Tokyo's remarkable attractions including its most famous upmarket entertainment district, Ginza, and

the holy Meiji Jingu, the most visited religious site in Japan. Nestled in the sacred forested surroundings of Yoyogi Park, this beautiful space is dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken.

Two hours from Tokyo stands the majestic beauty of Mount Fuji, an iconic symbol of Japan's natural splendour, which you'll explore during a ride through the skies on the Mount Fuji Panoramic Ropeway cable car.

Your exploration then continues with your first scenic rail experience through the Japanese Southern Alps to Takayama. With an additional three high-speed bullet train journeys, marvel at ever-changing vistas as they whisk

you across at speeds of almost 321 kilometres per hour. Feel the thrill of the wind as you traverse the picturesque landscapes, passing by forested ravines, rippling rivers, and majestic mountains.

Further highlights include a visit to Hiroshima, where you'll pay a solemn visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, a poignant reminder of the city's tragic past and its message of peace, as well as stays in Kyoto and Osaka. Throughout your experience, you'll also relish a multitude of fantastic fully escorted tours including a Sumida River Cruise and a visit to Kinkaku-ji Temple, whose top two floors are covered in gold leaf.



Venture through Japan's Southern Alps

Experience the awe-inspiring beauty of the Southern Alps on a train tour. Traverse lush landscapes, winding through towering peaks, verdant valleys, and over the enchanting Oi River. Immerse yourself in nature's grandeur as panoramic windows frame breathtaking vistas, promising an unforgettable adventure through Japan's majestic heartland.

Enchanting Japan Discovery & Rail Adventure

Hotel Stays

2 nights in Tokyo or similar, 2 nights in Shizuoka, 1 night in Takayama, 1 night in Kanazawa, 3 nights in Kyoto, 2 nights in Hiroshima, 2 nights Osaka

All hotel stays are four star and include breakfast

Rail Journeys*

Southern Japan Alps Train, Bullet Train from Shizuoka to Nagoya, Sagano Romantic Train, Bullet Train from Kyoto to Hiroshima, Bullet Train from Hiroshima to Osaka

Fully Escorted Tours

Ginza, Hamarikyu Garden, Meiji Shrine, Harajuku & Sumida River Cruise, Lake Yamanaka, Mt Fuji 5th Station, Lake Kawaguchi, Southern Japan Alps short hike, Kenrokuen Japanese Garden, Noumara Samurai House, Nijo Castle and Tea Ceremony, Kinkaku-ji Temple (Golden Pavillion), Peace Memorial Park, A-Bomb Dome & Museum, Miyajima Island

All flights, taxes and transfers

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MEDITERRANEAN



From the bedroom sill of the Malvasia Traditional Hotel, Monemvasia.



Inside the Malvasia Castle, Monemvasia.



Greece's hidden gems

By **Kylie Mitchell-Smith**
Travellingsenorita.com

The Peloponnese region on the mainland of Greece is quite possibly the country's best kept secret. Hire a car from Athens and take the motorway south and in just over two hours, you'll arrive at the quintessential beachside town of Kalamata.

We choose to stay at an affordable family run pension, 'Ntouna' complete with a bountiful, garden terrace breakfast. The hotel is a short stroll to the pristine beach and the towns bustling marina, in full swing for the summer season.

Arriving in towns like Kalamata pre-season, affords us the time to get to know the locals and sample an array of produce along the way. We head out on a luxurious catamaran to explore the majestic coast, the 'Alegria' is a boutique yacht that cruises the coastline.

In just over an hour's drive we explore the stunning Costa Navarino region and the old town of Pylos. Historically known as Navarino the area is part of the Messenia region, with heritage listed buildings and cobbled stone streets. The character filled town is built into the cascading cliff face and overlooks the Mediterranean.

Costa Navarino is a destination that has been recently gentrified with international hotels and golf courses, making it a premier place for tourists and locals alike. The age-old story behind the region, stems back to King Nestor (as Greek legend has it) the wise king was known for his hospitality, befriending strangers along the way.

Naturally beautiful, Costa Navarino has welcomed the likes of the Westin and W Hotel. The W Costa Navarino is a stunning, architectural build that opens onto the vast ocean surrounds. Decadent in design, with signature W touches, like the Wet Bar, Wellness Spa and Pools, Artisan Boutique, Restaurants and a new plant-based eatery, Green Pepper.

Green Pepper is a place to eat slowly by the sea, dishes are layered with local produce, to suit vegans and vegetarians-but tasty enough to entice all. The curated cocktail list pairs perfectly with the setting sun, and there's an array of friendly staff on hand, to ensure top notch hospitality.

Next day we travel a couple of hours across the Peloponnese from Costa Navarino, to the historical city of Sparta, and onto Monemvasia in the Southeast. Arriving in



Breakfast view, Malvasia, Traditional Hotel.



Hotel peer walk.



Local bar, Malvasia Castle.

Monemvasia we are instantly mesmerised by the Malvasia Medieval Castle, carved into the sea rock, hundreds of years ago, to keep enemies at bay.

Monemvasia or Malvasia in Italian, is an old town built into the castle surrounds, accessible by bridge off the mainland. There are an array of traditional tavernas, cafes, artisan shops and hotels, that have been tastefully restored with a sense of pride- the castle walls are steeped in history.

Climb to the top of the town and you'll find a well preserved and commanding cathedral, perched high above on the cliffs edge-with arguably the best views we've ever seen. Monemvasia is the jewel in the picturesque Peloponnese crown, a must see and stay destination.

It's time to put the picturesque Peloponnese on your travel radar, delivering on all fronts, it's an affordable and authentic destination, that's far enough away from the swarms of tourists on the Islands.

For more travel inspiration and information, visit travellingsenorita.com



The hilltop of Malvasia Castle.



Navarino Hills Golf Course.



From Crazy Rich Asians to accidental tourist, actor Henry Golding has been taking the social media world on a tour of Hong Kong.



Henry Golding tours through Hong Kong.

ASIA

Magic of Hong Kong

In a stroke of promotional magic, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) recently invited international actor Henry Golding, who rose to fame in 2018 starring in Crazy Rich Asians, to visit Hong Kong and take in the sights, smells and sounds of the region. During his trip, he explored and recommended popular attractions and hidden gems in the city to global audience. The Malaysian English superstar also shared his feelings about re-visiting the energetic city.

“Hong Kong has truly captured my heart,” he said. “What I love most about the city is the pure diversity. “Everybody says Hong Kong is such a melting pot of all of Asia, and it truly is. “Every corner, every moment on the street is such a mix of old and new, from the buildings to the people, and to all walks of life. Hong Kong is so unique and unlike elsewhere of the world.” Leaving the comfort of his hotel suite he had a chance to to

take in breathtaking skyline of Victoria Harbour before making his way to Hong Kong’s iconic landmarks and hidden treasures in a flash, all within his tightly packed schedule. Golding had a chance to embraced the diverse array of experiences that Hong Kong has to offer, indulging in delectable meals at luxurious restaurants, sipping classic cocktail at a bar to enjoy the city’s vibrant nightlife, and immersing himself in the city’s rich cultural heritage at temples and traditional barber shops.

As he ventured, he engaged in heartfelt exchanges with the locals, eagerly shared his reflections on the trip and invited travelers to uncover the off-the-beaten-path gems and unique offerings that make Hong Kong an unforgettable destination. If you are looking for some Hong Kong holiday tips check out Discover Hong Kong’s social media channels and Henry Golding’s Instagram (instagram.com/henrygolding) for his memorable journey in Hong Kong.

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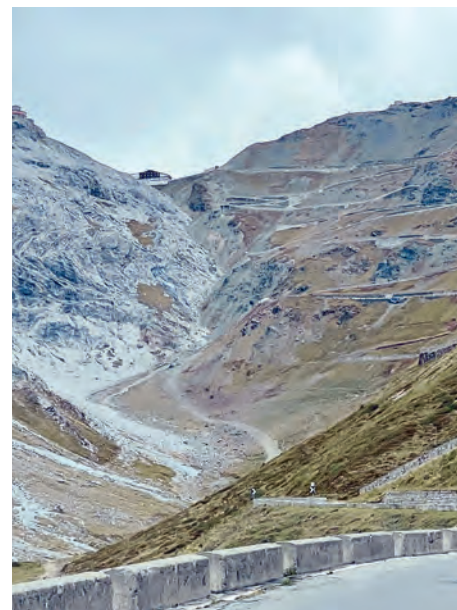




Stelvio Pass, the second highest paved road in the European Alps.



Stelvio Pass.



The road to the summit.

A drive like no other

The Stelvio Pass in northern Italy is right out of a movie. **ERLE LEVEY** went along for the car journey of his life.

It was a drive like no other. We were expecting it to be scenic but this was just another level - right into the heart of the European Alps.

After leaving Vols am Schlern, a delightful alpine village in the northern-most province of Italy, we made our way up the valley through beautiful fruit orchards, ringed by the mountains, to one of the best examples of a medieval castle.

Churburg Castle, near Glorenza, was built toward the middle of 1200AD.

I was expecting it to be on top of the range, just over the border by a couple of kilometres into Switzerland ... standing out for all to see.

But that was the first misconception of the day.

The town was at the head of the valley and the castle just above the town itself ... beautiful, and sitting much like it was in the 15th century.

The castle was authentic and apparently it had a great collection of armour. But it was lunchtime so it wasn't open to the public.

However, it still gave you that sense of nostalgia, and as if you were touching history.

Lunch was in town, a pretty town with river running through it, then it was time to head up the pass.

It started off innocently enough - forest on both sides of the river that was running through the gully.

Just as we started to climb the range there was this a remarkable house and outdoor gallery - I don't know what you call it ... a bone museum, I think he described it as.

All sorts of bones from animals from the bush, mainly, but who knows what else was in there. It was bizarre in many ways.

The house was completely done with it. There was an open-air gallery alongside the river - again with the bones as works of art.

He wanted a euro to take the photos. I immediately thought back to Mexico when a woman got on the bus and she was looking for donations.

The American teacher I was standing with at that time said, give the money to her. Treat it as insurance against any curses she may put on you.

So I did the same with this fellow - I gave him a euro as insurance about making it over the pass safely.

Our host at Tirano had recommended this journey, as opposed to the one that went up and into Switzerland. She said it was much more scenic.

I was expecting to get up on the range and be looking down on beautiful lakes and valleys, but I should've guessed when they talked about it being part of the Giro d'Italia cycling event.

As we started to climb, we had rock walls as safety barriers and then we started to get into hairpin bends.

We still had forests either side when we



The southern side of the Stelvio Pass.

got to a little village with a resort of some sort - like the ones you will see on Swiss postcards. Then you start to see the mountains unfold in front of your eyes - glaciers and bare rock slopes.

The higher we got, the tighter the turns became.

In Italy, most cars are manual and my colleague was doing an amazing job driving ... missing third gear occasionally but getting us there.

It became edge-of-your-seat stuff - like a James Bond movie - because they were blind horseshoe bends going up.

Those drivers coming down had more of a look at who was coming, but when you going up you don't get much of a chance.

It seemed to be treated as a race by those driving down - a rite of passage.

They came down in groups: Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Maseratis.

It was the same with motorbikes and with cyclists.

I kept saying the only way I'm going do this trip again is to walk up or go on a bicycle.

We stopped just about to the top where we could see the hairpin bends below us and the sheer breadth of this journey.

This was glacier level. You could see ski lifts and powerlines on the landscape, sheer rock walls ... and then this creature popped out and made its way through the mountain grasses into the trees.

Was it a fox? A beaver? No, beavers are near the water.

Bigger than a possum though.

Later, we discovered it was a marmot. Marmota the locals called it.

At the top of the range was an inn and people gathered there, with their cars, motorbikes, bicycles, backpacks.

It was then we realised that only days before other colleagues had done the ride for a Ducati motorbike reunion.

We were in Italy but on the border of Switzerland. Austria was in the north east and France off to the west.

At 2757m above sea level, it is the highest paved mountain pass in the Eastern Alps, and the second highest in the Alps.

The Stelvio Pass is regarded as the great-

est driving road in the world. There are 75 bends - 48 of them on the northern side, numbered with stones.

Reaching the top was actually a breath of fresh air because on the way down, towards Tirano, the bends were not quite as sharp.

It wasn't as steep, but the countryside was stark - like the Scottish highlands or an Icelandic landscape.

There were abandoned lodges and workers hostels, pristine waterfalls and cattle grazing.

It was just like another world - the Swiss Alps were off to the right and now we were into another valley. Tirano was a welcome sight. Surprising in many ways.

Authentic, friendly, and having such a strong relationship with Australia.

This stemmed back to the 1950s, when so many people immigrated from there to find work here. It seemed as if everyone in the town had a contact or a relative who had made their way across to the other side of the world.

Would I do the Stelvio Pass again?

Probably ... but come from Tirano.

World under one roof

Whether you're a seasoned traveller or dreaming of your first getaway, the Sunshine Coast Cruise and Travel Expo presented by Noosa Cruise and Travel, Helloworld Travel Cooroy and Suncity Caloundra is the perfect opportunity to explore a wide range of travel options.

This exciting in-person event will be held Wednesday, 4 October, starting at 9am at Noosa Springs Golf Resort, Links Drive, Noosa Heads or Thursday 5 October at the Oaks Resort, Caloundra.

Noosa Cruise and Travel Owner Natalie Cherry said the travel expo was free, though booking was essential.

"Discover the latest trends in cruising and travel, and get inspired for your next adventure," Natalie Cherry said.

"Immerse yourself in the world of travel and connect with fellow travel enthusiasts.

"Attend informative presentations and get first access to earlybird and last minute specials. Whether you're looking for a relaxing cruise or touring holiday or an adventurous expedition, this expo has something for everyone."

She said the event, which was free to enter, would give participants a chance to speak to the experts, take in the presentations, be able to find out more about top global brands and get some travel inspiration while also being able to benefit from one-day-only exclusive specials and bonus Expo deals.

"From luxurious cruises to exotic destinations, our knowledgeable experts will be on hand to provide expert advice and help you plan your dream vacation. Don't miss the chance to learn about exclusive deals and packages and take advantage of the special offers.

"The world of travel has changed, and we have certainly realised that travel is something we should all do sooner rather than later," Natalie explained.

"Our appetites for travel have increased and we want to get out and see and experience the world.

"This event is a chance to talk to the experts and to plan that adventure of a lifetime."

Natalie said the event would feature the luxurious Regent Seven Seas, Silversea's and Viking cruise lines all showcasing their newest itineraries, round the world itineraries and new ships.

"We are excited to introduce some newer cruise lines redefining cruise holidays being both Virgin Voyages and Explora cruises," she enthused.

"If adventure cruising such as visiting Arctic or Antarctic is on your radar, then you must attend this event.

"Not only will we have Aurora and Ponant there to educate and offer you deals, but we have the Antarctic Specialists Chimu Adventures.

"If ocean or adventure cruises aren't your cup of tea, then Uniworld will also be there



Paris anyone?



Cruising into New York with Viking.



Cruising the Antarctic.



Enjoying the sites of Budapest.

showcasing river cruising. Uniworld not only cruise Italy, France, Portugal and Spain but Asia, India, Egypt and Peru and have themed cruises and packages incorporating rail.

"If you have ever thought of cruising around the Hawaiian islands NCL is the only cruise line to offer cruises around most of the islands and they will be there on the day too.

"They are a great holiday option for families wanting a fully inclusive family holiday."

Natalie said there would be tours and cruises for everyone from big ships, small ships, sailing ships, icebreakers, river boats

and even guided tours from Africa to India, the Middle East and South America.

"The luxury tour companies Tauck and Abercrombie and Kent will be attending," Natalie said.

Abercrombie and Kent can help you curate the perfect African safari holiday.

Collette tours will be on hand to showcase there affordable worldwide touring in destinations like Italy, France, Scotland, Ireland, USA, Canada, Greece, Norway and more.

"There will be many group or independent travel itineraries offered and op-

tions for all around the world but popular destinations and trips including an African Safari, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Japan will be something to look out for.

"Mark your calendar and get ready for an unforgettable day of travel inspiration. Join us at the Sunshine Coast Cruise and Travel Expo with Noosa Cruise and Travel, 4 October at Noosa Springs 9am.

"We can't wait to see you there."

For more information and to pre register to attend head to noosacruiseandtravel.com.au or phone 5449 8866.

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Caloundra expo - explore@suncitytravel.com.au or 07 5302 4188

Spicing up our screens

India is on the travel bucket list of a lot of Australians – including acclaimed chef, author, presenter and travel enthusiast, Luke Nguyen.

And while for most of us it will be the holiday of a lifetime, for Luke it's all in a days work as he immerses himself in the food and culture of the region for his latest television show.

Luke Nguyen's India premieres on SBS and SBS On Demand on Thursday 5 October at 8.30pm, taking viewers on a journey of the senses through India where food, religion, and rich culture go hand in hand.

But the nice thing is, for the rest of us, it's a chance to get some serious travel ideas and tips (as well as pick up a recipe or two).

In the brand new six-part series, Luke circumnavigates Southern India discovering the cuisines, sounds, and colours of this captivating region. Immersing himself in India's spices, ancient traditions, and unique locations, Luke gets to know local cooks and chefs, experts and loveable characters who introduce him to the wonderful world of Indian cuisine.

With breathtaking mountain backdrops to small towns, hectic cities and sacred waterways, Luke in his unique and respectful style will dive head-long into the diverse and colourful society that is India.

Luke Nguyen travels through the three Southern states of India, visiting 11 stunning locations, from the bustling streets of Bangalore and a charming historic harbour town in Fort Kochi, to the tranquil paradise of the Kerala Backwaters. Along with traditional recipes, Luke cooks dishes that are the culmination of his Indian experience and Vietnamese heritage.

In each episode Luke gets the chance to experience the local cuisine of the specific region, learning classic Indian cooking techniques, such as using a tandoor oven for the first time, receiving a Fish Puttu masterclass, making an infamous Mutton Biryani in Bangalore, and celebrates the biggest event in the Hindu calendar, Diwali, while cooking up some of the event's classic dishes.

"With India always being on my bucket list being given the opportunity to explore its Southern regions, I couldn't get there quickly enough," he said.

"With similarities to South East Asian ingredients, it piqued my interest even more. The discovery ahead of me, I must admit was daunting. India is entirely foreign to me, so the anticipation for everyone to go on this journey with me is personally so



exciting. For the viewer, it will be an oasis for the senses. With its depth of culture, history and spicy exotic cuisines, India has left me wanting more of this inspiring sub-continent."

SBS Food and Entertainment head Emily Griggs said it was a chance to follow Luke's journey and get some ideas of your own.

"Luke Nguyen's India is an incredible celebration of India and the country's unique and delicious cuisine," she said.

"We are extremely excited to have Luke Nguyen back on SBS and taking us on his journey discovering India for the first time and shining a light on the beautiful traditions and cuisine of Southern India. Our SBS Food audience loves adventuring and

exploring the world with Luke Nguyen, and we can't wait to bring his exotic flavours and exploration back into homes around Australia in Luke Nguyen's India."

This is a chance to join Luke on an unforgettable expedition as he travels through Southern India, unearthing the hidden gems of cuisine, culture, and community. Luke Nguyen's India is a symphony of flavours and senses that showcases the heart and soul of India, where exploration and gastronomy intertwine in a celebration of all that India has to offer.

Luke Nguyen's India will premiere on Thursday, 5 October at 8.30pm on SBS and SBS On Demand.



About Luke Nguyen

Luke Nguyen was born in 1978 in a refugee camp in Thailand after his family fled from Vietnam after the war.

A short time later the family moved to Cabramatta in Sydney, Australia.

At the age of 23, Luke fulfilled his dream by opening his very own restaurant the Red Lantern in Surry Hills, Sydney with his sister Pauline and has now grown with restaurants in Brisbane, Ho Chi Minh and Hong Kong.

Luke is also the author of a number of bestselling and award-winning cookbooks, *Secrets of The Red Lantern*, *The Songs of Sapa*, *Indochina*, *Luke Nguyen's Greater Mekong* and *Luke Nguyen's Street Food*.

Luke was inducted into the Sydney Morning Herald's Food Hall of Fame for his cooking and travel programs which are broadcast in over 150 countries these include: Luke Nguyen's Railway Vietnam (Best Lifestyle Program award at the 25th Asian Television Awards in 2020), Luke Nguyen's Asian Food Trail, Luke Nguyen's Street Food, Luke Nguyen's UK, Luke Nguyen's France, Luke Nguyen's Greater Mekong and Luke Nguyen's Vietnam.



Luke also hosted Top Chef Vietnam, Masterchef Vietnam and has been a special guest mentor on the Australian version of Masterchef.

Spring into summer with Oaks

Oaks Hotels, Resorts and Suites are looking to put the spring back in your step with an Oaks holiday and a nice discount to boot.

Here's a chance to make the most of the warmer weather, dust off the swimsuit, pack the sunnies and explore somewhere new.

From tropical, laid-back Cairns to busy Melbourne City sights, there's an Oaks nearby so you can spread out and take the time to stop and smell the flowers.

Need a room to bloom?

According to Oaks if you book now you could save 15 per cent on Studio or One Bedroom accommodation.

For families or bigger groups, spread out with 20 per cent off Two Bedroom accommodations.

With travel available now through to December 2023 here's a chance to lock in and early summer adventure.

Property Highlights

■ **Oaks Sunshine Coast Oasis Resort**
Ranked as one of the top 10 family resorts in Australia, Oaks Sunshine Coast Oasis Resort is a must-stay destination for your next vacation.

With sweeping lush tropical grounds, a fun-filled waterpark, a resort-style pool, a



Oaks Sunshine Coast Oasis Resort Exterior View Lagoon Restaurant.

putt-putt golf course, and more, there's a wide range of activities for kids of all ages.

Price starting from \$205 per night for an Executive Family Room.

■ Oaks Melbourne on Market

Stylish rooms with Luxury facilities, Oaks Melbourne on Market hotel is situated in the

heart of Melbourne, conveniently located within walking distance to all the action. The one and two-bedroom apartments offers inclusive WiFi and TV with streaming capabilities along with all your hotel favourites, including an onsite pool, gym and restaurant.

Prices starting from \$119 per night for a 1-bedroom Apartment.

■ Oaks Cypress Lakes Resort

Oaks Cypress Lakes Resort accommodation offers a range of picture-perfect villas as well as a variety of onsite restaurants and bars stocked with local wines for you to indulge in.

The resort also includes premium features such as a pro golf course and country club, three pools and two tennis courts, perfect for those who love activity and adventure.

One of the main features of Oaks Cypress Lakes Resort is the all-day access pass to our partnered wellness retreat, Elysia Wellness Retreat. Just a simple 5-minute walk from the hotel, you'll find the perfect place to relax and unwind as you escape the noise and distraction of daily life and restore your inner wellbeing.

Prices starting at \$216 per night for a 1-bedroom Premier Villa.

Don't stop to smell the flowers too long as these deals will sell out! Bookings must be made by 22 October 2023. A full list of properties and term and conditions can be found on their website.

About Oaks Hotels, Resorts and Suites

An industry leader in, Oaks Hotels, Resorts & Suites provide a home away from home for both savvy corporate travellers and leisure tourists alike. Maintaining consistently high standards of amenities and services across the board, each Oaks property prides itself on connecting the visitor to the spirit of its locale. Exemplified by quality and affordability, Oaks welcomes guests to an ever-expanding group of more than 60 properties in Australia, New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates, India and Qatar. Oaks Hotels, Resorts and Suites is a member of the Global Hotel Alliance (GHA), the world's largest alliance of independent hotel brands.

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Our national treasures

Nature enthusiasts and booklovers alike are in for a treat with the second edition of the bestselling NLA Publishing title *World Heritage Sites of Australia* now released.

This updated edition features a chapter on the newest Australian heritage site addition, the Buj Bim Cultural Landscape, and a new foreword from renowned environmentalist Bob Brown. This book serves as both a source of travel inspiration and an informative text. With its vibrant full-colour illustrations, readers can immerse themselves in the breathtaking beauty of Australia's diverse landscapes. From the ancient rainforests that showcase the connections of the supercontinent Gondwana, to the rock art that reveals a history of human settlement spanning over 60,000 years, author Peter Valentine delves into the outstanding qualities of each World Heritage site.

This second edition of *World Heritage Sites of Australia* is a testament to Valentine's dedication and passion for preserving and celebrating these remarkable sites. This includes conversations with the late Kakadu Elder Bill Neidjie, diving adventures on the Great Barrier Reef and developing safe protocols for swimming with whale sharks at the Ningaloo Coast. Whether you are a nature enthusiast, a history buff, or simply seeking travel inspiration *World Heritage Sites of Australia* is a must-have addition to your collection. This book not only celebrates the remarkable beauty of Australia's landscapes, but also serves as a call to action to protect and cherish these invaluable sites for generations to come.

Author Peter Valentine officially launched the book at the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) General Assembly 2023 in Sydney on



Cathedral Gorge.

5 September 2023.

About the author

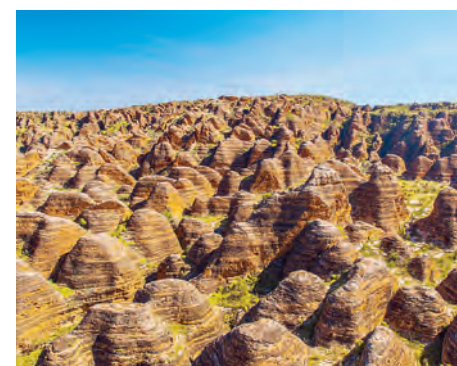
Peter Valentine is an adjunct professor at James Cook University, following an academic career in environmental management and conservation based in Townsville.

Picture: Tourism Australia

He has been intensely involved in natural heritage across Australia and throughout the world for many decades, assisting with the evaluation of nominations; establishing a graduate university program in World Heritage management; participating in the management and evaluation of



Elephant Seals.



Purnululu National Park. Picture: Shutterstock

several World Heritage sites; serving terms as director and chair of the Wet Tropics Management Authority; and serving as a natural heritage expert on the Australian Heritage Council. Today, he lives with wife Valerie near Malanda in the Wet Tropics rainforest.

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Stay, play and vacay

Rydges South Bank has issued an open invitation for locals and visitors alike: whether from Sandgate, Shepparton, Sydney, Singapore, San Francisco or Sippy Downs, Springtime is the time to stay, play and vacay in Brisbane! It's just about the best time to visit Brisbane – Springtime. The skies are vast and blue, the city lights shine a little brighter and the weather is perfect. What's even better is that the hotel with the very best location for holidaymakers and staycayers in Rydges South Bank has just unveiled its top three Spring packages.

Rydges South Bank neighbours Brisbane's acclaimed GoMA, the Cultural Centre, State Library and Queensland Performing Arts Complex which is home to a fantastic lineup of international musicals and major productions. It's a breath away from the city centre, immersed in the heart of South Bank and its family of restaurants, bars and open spaces, and just footy kick from The Gabba and Suncorp Stadium. It stands in the heart of the new Brisbane.

Here's the top Springtime packages to stay, play and vacay while Brisbane blooms:



Beautiful Brisbane from Rydges Southbank.

Suite Decadence Package

This is an experience to simply sit back, relax and enjoy! It starts with overnight accommodation in a stunning suite, a full Rydges Grand Room Service breakfast per adult daily with the choice delicious breakfast bites delivered direct to your room, plus a bottle of Australian sparkling wine and a

selection of handmade chocolates on arrival, valet car parking and a late checkout of 1pm. It's the perfect package to experience Brisbane in Springtime.

River Sights and City Lights Package

With a front row view to Brisbane's ever-changing cityscape, which is particularly stunning at night, this experience includes

overnight accommodation with a private balcony and guaranteed River and City views, a buffet breakfast per adult and child booked daily and served in the hotel restaurant, a bottle of Australian sparkling wine on arrival, valet car parking and a late checkout of 1pm.

Family Stays Package

The hotel is perfectly positioned for a big city getaway, or a holiday at home for families, being bang in the heart of South Bank. This package includes overnight accommodation, valet car parking and..... drum roll please.... children 12 and under stay, and eat breakfast free. Plus there's a fabulous tray of treats waiting in your room on arrival for the little ones on arrival!

Rydges South Bank is home to 304 beautifully designed guest rooms including 64 suites all with balconies as well as the signature and award-winning Bacchus Restaurant, and the terraced, rooftop Soleil Pool Bar.

- Rydges South Bank
- 9 Glenelg Street, South Brisbane 4010
- Ph: +61 7 3364 0800

Celebrating the Cup - Brisbane style

It's going to be a difficult choice in how to celebrate the famous Melbourne Cup in Brisbane this year – is it sophisticated elegance at the acclaimed Bacchus Restaurant's High Tea? Or cool excitement and racing chic at the fabulous terraced Soleil Pool Bar?

Either way, Melbourne Cup will be celebrated in style in Brisbane, but the message from both is – Book Now, because tickets are selling fast.

Bacchus Restaurant – Melbourne Cup High Tea

Far from the madding crowd is the famed Bacchus Melbourne Cup High Tea, a beacon of style and sophistication, for those who love the race and the fashions, but perhaps not the frantic pace. Bacchus Restaurant will be floored in style, with the High Tea menu featuring sweet and savoury treats, exquisite pastries, tantalizing finger sandwiches and delicious delicacies. Of course, there's Sparkling, the race is beamed live from Flemington, there's sweeps and wonderful prizes for best dressed. Enjoy!

- Tuesday November 7, 12 to 3pm
- \$89 per person
- Tickets here: bacchussouthbank.com.au/melbourne-cup-high-tea

Soleil Pool Bar's Melbourne Cup Celebration

Perhaps perching yourself poolside, sipping Sparkling in cool racing chic, and an afternoon of fun and frivolity is more your style



Ready to party.

– we get it! Soleil Pool Bar will be home to a full grazing menu that will keep you fuelled for the afternoon, then, the experience is yours to sip and savour - explore themed bars of crafted cocktails and more, featuring Stone & Wood, Gordons Pink Gin, Chambord and Mumm Marlborough. The race

will be beamed in live and then, it's time to Dance with DJs playing into the night.

Entry to Soleil Pool Bar's Melbourne Cup party is free (but we recommend registering)! So, assemble your squad and sort your looks because it's happening!

- Tuesday 7 November, 12.30pm to 3.30pm

- Free entry. Tickets here: soleilpoolbar.com.au/melbourne-cup

Bacchus Restaurant and Soleil Pool Bar

- 9 Glenelg Street, South Brisbane – Podium Level, Rydges South Bank
- Bookings: Bacchus Restaurant | Soleil Pool Bar | Call 07 3364 0870



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Australia’s major events

South by South West (SXSW Sydney) - Sydney/Warrane, New South Wales
 ■ 15 - 22 October
Adelaide Film Festival - Adelaide/Tarntanya, South Australia

■ 18 - 29 October
The Unconformity - Queenstown, Tasmania
 ■ 19 - 22 October
Fine Vines Festival - Margaret River Region, Western Australia

■ 20 - 29 October
Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix - Phillip Island, Victoria
 ■ 20 - 22 October
Melbourne Fashion Week - Melbourne/

Narrm, Victoria
 ■ 23 - 29 October
Boost Mobile Gold Coast 500 - Gold Coast, Queensland
 ■ 27 - 29 October

Book it in

From Bucking Broncs to Camel Racing to Big Music Stars under Big Starry Skies, Viking battles and quite a bit more ..these are the events to pack your bags for this Spring/Summer.

BIG SKIES FESTIVAL
 Head west to one of the Western Downs premier events held in the grounds of heritage-listed Jimbour House, a home-stead rich in history offering a stunning backdrop. Big Skies is a one stop festival shop featuring experiences and events that are unique to the region including stunning long lunches, and historic Jimbour House tours to camp kitchen feasts, happy hours in an aircraft hangar, country markets and the best live music.
 Some of the biggest names to come to Australian music feature as the headline acts including Eskimo Joe, The Angels, Diesel, Baby Animals, Thirsty Merc, and loads more.
 ■ Location: Jimbour, Western Downs Region. Drive 3-hours from Brisbane.
 ■ When: 28 September to 2 October 2023

WANDOAN CAMEL RACES
 Make a weekend of it exploring the Western Downs. From Dalby to Chinchilla, Miles to Wandoan where the main event kicks off. Featuring six camel races, pig races, kids rides, live entertainment, fashions on the field and to finish off a fireworks spectacular all happening in the small country town of Wandoan.
 ■ Location: Wandoan, Western Down - a five-hour drive west of Brisbane.
 ■ When: Saturday 27 October 2023.

WARWICK RODEO AND GOLD CUP CAMPDRAFT
 Join the adrenaline-pumping action at “Australia’s Most Famous” rodeo and camp-draft – the Ariat Warwick Rodeo and Pryde’s EasiFeed Warwick Gold Cup Campdraft!
 Watch bull, horse and rider fly out the gate as they battle it out across the historic high-stakes week-long event.
 Dance in the sand to Aussie country music legends, browse tradeshow alley for genuine country attire, tuck into great country cooking, wash away the dust with a refreshing drink, and so much more. Cowboy Up for this action-packed event, only 2 hours west of Brisbane in Southern Downs, Queensland.
 ■ Location: Warwick, Southern Downs.
 2-hours into the country from Brisbane.
 ■ When: 23 - 29 October 2023.

TOOWOOMBA CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND
 With Christmas light displays and entertainment each evening, ice-creams and popcorn for the kids plus sausage sizzles and Christmas raffles, this annual event is a favourite for locals and visitors, held amongst the gardens in Toowoomba’s most iconic park. Coordinated by the Lion’s Club, the event honours a beautiful tradition started in 2003 by the Burstow family putting charity at the heart of the event. Last year over 71,500 people enjoyed the event and this year is shaping up to be even bigger. Bring a gold coin donation or Tap-and-Go for entry, the event raises funds for multiple local charities - a true representation of the season of giving.
 ■ Location: Queens Park, Toowoomba - 1hr 40min country drive from Brisbane.
 ■ When: Nightly under starry skies, 2 to 24 December 2023



Elvis is back to the streets of Parkes in Western NSW.



Roll of Renown member Colin Buchanan.

MORT AND CO KING OF THE MOUNTAIN
 The richest provincial horse race in Queensland featuring only Queensland-bred horses trained by Queenslanders, Mort & Co King of the Mountain is a unique racing event. The inaugural race was held New Years Eve 2022 with 3-year old Yellow Brick trained by veteran Toowoomba trainer Tony Sears winning \$750,000 in prizemoney and the inaugural trophy of ‘Mort & Co King of the Mountain’.
 This year the event expands into six days of celebration, climaxing with the main event on New Years Day promising a day and evening of excitement and fun with fashions on the field and Recovery Party featuring DJ Kaitlyn.
 Visitors heading to the region for the event will discover a refreshing alternative to the usual big city or beach celebrations. Accommodation is available for the peak holiday period with rates much lower than other holiday hot-spots.
 Make this your reason for a getaway in the country with loads to explore off-track.
 ■ Location: Clifford Park Racecourse, Toowoomba - 1hr 40min country drive from Brisbane.
 ■ When: 27 December to 1 January 2024.
 Main race day New Years Day 1 January.



Lighting up the Big Skies.

ELVIS IS IN THE BUILDING – WELL STREETS
 Returning from Wednesday 10 - Sunday 14 January 2024, Parkes Elvis Festival will see over 25,000 people make the annual pilgrimage to Central NSW for the biggest tribute to The King in the Southern Hemisphere. Held every year in the second week in January, coinciding with Elvis Presley’s birthday, the 2024 Festival is themed around the 1957 classic Elvis film Jailhouse Rock and filled to the brim with more than 100 unique Elvis-themed events from concerts, Elvis tribute competitions, kid’s workshops, markets and more - so lace up those blue suede shoes and get ready for some hip swivelling fun! The Festival isn’t just about all things Elvis, Australia’s colourful rockabilly and vintage communities are also celebrated.
 The preliminary round of the international Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest also returns in 2024, with leading Elvis tribute artists from Australia and abroad battling it out at Parkes Leagues Club. Officially endorsed by Elvis Presley Enterprises, Inc, the winner will represent Parkes in the Semi-Final round of the 2024 Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest in Memphis, USA, during Elvis Week in August.



Gearing up for the Apple and Grape Festival in Stanthorpe.

SCOOT YOUR BOOTS TO TAMWORTH
 Some of the biggest and brightest stars are set to return to Tamworth in January 2024, for the nation’s largest live country music event, with the first line up of artists and ticketed shows announced for the 52nd Toyota Tamworth Country Music Festival.
 The huge 10-day celebration will welcome some of the country’s most accomplished artists.
 Stay up to date on the 52nd Toyota Tamworth Country Music Festival at tcmf.com.au TCMF Facebook and TCMF Instagram.
CRUSHING IT AT STANTHORPE
 Get ready to stomp, crush, and celebrate at the much-anticipated Stanthorpe Apple and Grape Harvest Festival, set to take place from 23 February to 3 March 2024. Renowned as Australia’s premier grape-crushing extravaganza, this biennial event promises to deliver an unforgettable experience amidst the breathtaking landscapes of Queensland’s Granite Belt. Situated within a convenient 2.5-hour drive from Brisbane, three hours from the Gold Coast or Byron Bay, and two hours from Toowoomba, Stanthorpe welcomes with open arms.
 ■ When: 23 February to 3 March 2024
 ■ Where: Stanthorpe, Queensland
 ■ Information: appleandgrape.org

THIS IS LIVIN' FEST

Rainbow Beach
QLD

IAN MOSS

DIESEL

THE BLACK SORROWS

MAHALIA BARNES
& THE SOUL MATES

JEM CASSAR-DALEY | CAITLYN SHADBOLT

CHRIS AHGEE & JAZZELLA

SATURDAY NOV 18



RAINBOW BEACH
SPORTS CLUB

