

2019-2020



ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

A step-by-step guide to your AAT Kings holiday

Welcome

Amazing destinations.

Amazing experiences.

We'll take you there.



Dear Traveller,

At AAT Kings, our goal, every day, is to bring Australia and New Zealand to life. Our friendly, knowledgeable and engaging team are here to help and make your holiday great. We'll share our passion and knowledge for Australia and New Zealand in ways beyond expected.

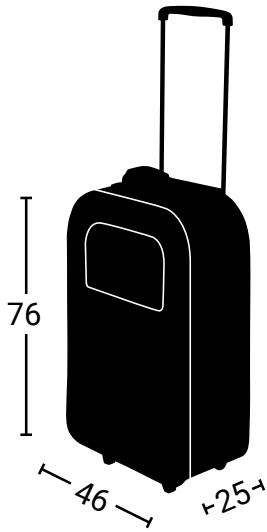
And to help you with your planning we've compiled this helpful booklet. We're sure it will answer many of the questions you may have. We've included the essentials of all you'll need to know before your holiday. And some information on Australia and New Zealand along with useful explanations to ensure you get the most out of your holiday.

Sustaining and supporting the destinations we visit is of great importance to us at AAT Kings. As such, we are dedicated to minimising the environmental impact of our operations in any way we can. By choosing an AAT Kings Guided Holiday or Small Group Holiday you will be opting for one of the most environmentally friendly ways to travel ensuring the environment and communities we explore remain vibrant for future generations.

We have forged strong relationships with indigenous communities throughout Australia and New Zealand who generously bring their history, culture and stories to life for our guests as they travel with us. We are proud to work with the Anangu people and we also have the pleasure of being able to experience a Maori village – the Tamaki family Marae.

At AAT Kings we wish you many memorable holiday moments and of course there's the pleasure of making new friends who you can share these experiences with.

Before you go



Baggage Allowance

We are required by strict Government vehicle weight regulations to enforce and adhere to these limits. If your luggage exceeds this limit, we ask that you make alternative arrangements for the excess to be forwarded to the termination point of your holiday. Please note we suggest you have wheels on your suitcase, as there are certain places where assistance is not available (e.g. airports, railway stations and cruise terminals). All luggage and personal effects are at all times and in all circumstances at the risk of the participant. Luggage insurance is recommended.

Luggage Allowance

This is restricted to one medium size suitcase per person not exceeding 23kg (50lbs) in weight and not exceeding 76x46x25 cm (30x18x10") in dimension. Please note: these allowances are for coach travel only and may differ from your airline luggage allowances. Porterage is included on your Guided Holiday.

Hand Luggage Allowance

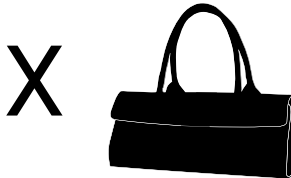
Hand luggage should be one piece per person and small and light enough to fit under your coach seat or in the small overhead compartment. If luggage does not fit comfortably in the overhead luggage racks, it will be stored in the coach luggage compartment whilst in transit.

Please note that luggage with adjustable handle and wheels will not fit in the overhead compartments and cannot be accepted as hand luggage.

Checklist: have you got your ... ?

- Passport (for guests travelling overseas)
- Travel insurance
- Credit cards
- Money
- Airline tickets
- AAT Kings holiday documents
- Camera
- Visas (if applicable)

Note: Do not pack your passport or money in your suitcase



Before you go



Start by writing a packing list. What clothing to bring will depend on your personal preferences, the destinations you are visiting and the time of year you are travelling. You should also take into consideration the activities and outings you will be going on. We generally recommend casual, lightweight, drip-dry clothing, which requires little or no ironing. Laundry facilities are available at most of the places we stay, however, take sufficient clothing to last for about a week.

Most people dress casually throughout the day, however, for the occasional evening out, you might want to pack something a little more formal. Please be aware that the Outback can be quite dusty. If you are travelling in these areas, we recommend you avoid packing good white clothes and other colours which show up the dust easily. A small supply of plastic bags for protecting clothing, camera or other items from dusty areas in inland Australia could also be useful.

Below is a list of suggested items to consider when packing for your AAT Kings Holiday:

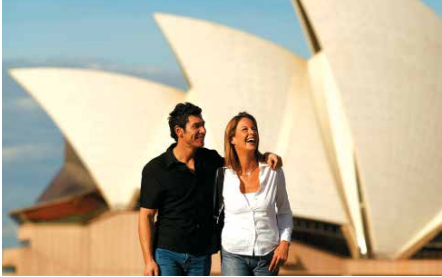
Clothing

- Underwear
- Swimsuit
- Good walking shoes & socks
- Sandals/thongs
- Sleepwear
- Waterproof jacket
- Shirts/blouses
- Jeans/trousers
- Shorts/skirts
- Pullover/cardigan
- Warm jacket
- Hat

General Items to Bring

- Toiletries
- Medications
- Portable umbrella
- Insect repellent
- Flynet (obtainable in Australia)
- Camera and charger
- Travel sewing kit
- Travel alarm clock
- Travel sachets of washing powder
- Plastic bags for soiled clothing
- Sunglasses
- Handkerchief/tissues
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle (with screw top lid)
- Beach towel

Before you go



Passport & Visas

Depending on your nationality, you may need to obtain visas for entry to Australia and New Zealand. Please check with your travel agent to make sure you have the necessary documents. Do not forget your passport and to make sure it is valid. It is compulsory to carry a passport for presentation at the port of entry and exit.

Travel Insurance & Security

It is essential that you are constantly security conscious. Your most important possessions such as your passport, money and camera should be safely guarded at all times. Loss of such items could disrupt your holiday so only bring your essential valuables along. It is imperative that you are adequately covered for Cancellation, Curtailment and Medical Insurance prior to your holiday departure, and we strongly advise insurance against loss of, or damage to, baggage and loss of personal money.

Health and Vaccinations

Again, please ensure you have adequate Travel Insurance before you leave home. If you suffer from any form of illness, be sure to have an adequate supply of medication before departing on your holiday and keep this in your hand luggage. You must advise us, through your travel agent, of any important medical conditions you may have before departure. In most cases, vaccinations are not required unless you have recently travelled through an infected area, in which case you should seek medical advice before travelling to Australia and New Zealand.

Before you go



Credit Cards

Most credit cards such as American Express, Visa, MasterCard and Diners Club are accepted in Australia and New Zealand. Some optional excursions cannot be paid by credit card. Your Travel Director or Driver Guide can advise you. Always remember to guard your credit cards, even on holiday.

Also:

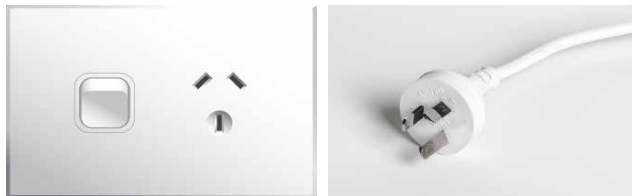
- Check the expiry date of your credit card and the amount of credit available to you (do not forget any credit card purchases made just before you leave).
- Ensure you know your Personal Identification Number (PIN). We recommend that you commit your PIN to memory and do not write it down.
- Ensure that your credit card is kept in view at all times when paying for goods and services.
- Ensure that the total amount of your purchase is entered on the sales voucher before you sign it.
- Retain all copies of sales vouchers until you have verified them against your statements.
- Insist that all 'spoiled' sales vouchers be destroyed in your presence.
- Only carry your credit card on you personally or in your hand luggage.
- Never leave your credit card unattended in your hotel room, vehicle or any other place.
- Treat your credit card as you would cash.
- Report immediately the loss or theft of your credit card.
- Notify your bank you are travelling to avoid your card being cancelled.

Flying Hints

Ensure you carry all your travel documentation in your hand luggage, which also includes camera, toiletries, reading material etc. For those travelling internationally, make sure you take advantage of duty free shopping, but check the current duty free limits that apply in the country of your destination. The longer flights can be made a little more enjoyable by wearing loose clothing, good comfortable shoes as well as walking the aisles regularly, eating sensibly and drinking plenty of fluids (not alcohol). Try to get some sleep and upon arrival, adjust immediately into local time by waiting until evening before sleeping – this should relieve the effects of jet lag.

Electricity (international visitors)

The electrical current in Australia and New Zealand is 220- 240V AC 50Hz. Power plugs are flat and three-pronged so you may need to bring an adaptor if you are planning to bring any electrical items.



Inspiring Journeys

Read this section if you are travelling on an Inspiring Journey

Your Driver Guide

On your Inspiring Journey small group experience, you will be accompanied by a qualified, experienced Driver Guide. Your Driver Guide is more than just a great driver. AAT Kings' Driver Guides are seasoned, experienced travellers, selected by us for their extensive knowledge of Australia. They are fully licensed, qualified and experienced professionals who are selected for their impeccable driving skills and record. Your Driver Guide will enrich your holiday with detailed, informative commentary about the history, geography, flora and fauna of the region while driving you on your holiday so you can relax and enjoy the sights.

Accommodation

At AAT Kings we pride ourselves in providing the best possible accommodation in the remote regions visited on Inspiring Journeys. Inspiring Journeys include a diverse range of accommodation styles. Please refer to the itinerary in your travel wallet for information regarding accommodation at each stop. Relax and unwind in comfort throughout your journey, with each trip featuring the best accommodation available at every destination. On many journeys, you will have the chance to stay somewhere truly remarkable, whether it's an eco-lodge in the heart of a pristine national park or a boutique hotel in an idyllic country town, these places will charm you with their unique heritage and unparalleled service.

Laundry Facilities

Limited laundry facilities are available on your Small Group Holiday, therefore it is advisable to bring light, practical clothing that can be washed periodically, plus something warm to wear in the evenings. Laundry facilities normally consist of coin-operated washing machines and dryers.

Meals

On Inspiring Journeys much care is taken to provide healthy, hearty meals in remote locations. On all Inspiring Journeys in Australia, a hearty breakfast is included every day with some lunches and many dinners also included. Indulge the senses with gourmet food, authentic local produce and award-winning wines. We offer multiple gourmet dining experiences and opportunities to try traditional Indigenous meals. While many meals including buffet breakfasts and a farewell dinner are included for each Inspiring Journey, we also provide you with the freedom to dine where you like in selected destinations.

Touches of luxury

We've thought of everything to make your journey as comfortable as possible. Travel in style with fully air-conditioned luxury coaches or 4WD vehicles, and enjoy on-board complimentary drinks and snacks. Our coaches come with reclining seats, and footrests, panoramic windows, and an on-board restroom, as well as phone chargers and free WiFi (coverage may vary in remote areas). We also provide free arrival and departure transfers between designated airports and our hotels.





Guided Holidays

Read this section if you are travelling on an AAT Kings Guided Holiday

Your Travel Director & Driver Guide

On your AAT Kings Guided Holiday you will be accompanied by one of our professional Travel Directors and an experienced Driver Guide throughout. An AAT Kings Travel Director is more than just a guide. They are seasoned and experienced travellers, especially selected for their extensive knowledge of the regions you will visit. They will enrich your holiday with informative commentary of the history, geography, culture, flora and fauna of the region. They will introduce you to your travelling companions and make you feel welcome. AAT Kings' Driver Guides are fully licensed, qualified and experienced professionals who are selected for their impeccable driving skills and record. So you can relax and enjoy the sights.

Accommodation

At AAT Kings we pride ourselves on our superior hotel and motel selection. Most of our hotels are centrally located and close to major attractions. As we travel from major cities to remote regions, the standards can vary, however you can rest assured that the hotels we have selected are the best available. All hotel and motel rooms are clean and well serviced. Each room contains a private bathroom with toilet, shower and/or bath and vanity. Rooms also often contain tea and coffee making facilities, STD/ISD phone, radio, mini bar and room service. Wherever possible we select establishments which offer additional facilities too, i.e. swimming pool, sauna, restaurants, bars and so on. Please refer to the itinerary in your travel wallet for information regarding accommodation at each stop.

Meals

On your AAT Kings Guided Holiday you will enjoy great meals with varied menus with local specialities. Breakfasts are à la carte or buffet-style and comprise of cereals, fruit juices and cooked dishes – eggs, bacon, sausages etc., toast, preserves, tea and coffee. Lunches, where included, are a mixture of picnic style or special buffet selection. Dinners are always three-course meals, often with a choice of entrée, main course and dessert. Some dinners are à la carte and several are buffet-style offering a wide selection of food. Meals are always accompanied by tea and coffee.

Laundry Facilities

Most of the hotels and motels we use offer a limited number of coin-operated washing machines and driers. Ironing facilities are also available either in the hotel laundry or an iron and ironing board will be supplied to your room on request.

Vehicles

AAT Kings has the most modern fleet of coaches in which you will travel. Our coaches offer the finest in luxury and comfort. Features include air-conditioning, reclining seats, large panoramic windows, public address system, drinking water and luggage lockers which are pressurised to help prevent dust entry. All our coaches in Australia and New Zealand have a toilet/restroom. For smaller parties, air-conditioned mini-coaches may be used. On some occasions these vehicles may not be fitted with a toilet/restroom. All vehicles in Australia are equipped with a high frequency, Australia-wide radio which is in contact with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and our base stations around the country.

Porterage

Hotel porterage is included in the price of your Guided Holiday.

Seat Rotation on Vehicles

To enable everyone the opportunity of enjoying window and front seats, guests change seats daily during the course of the holiday.

Guest Comments

Your feedback is important to us. Towards the end of your holiday, your Travel Director will hand out a comment sheet. We ask that you answer the questions, make any relevant comments and hand these back to your Travel Director. The comment sheets are sealed and returned to our Head Office. Every sheet is read and where necessary, relevant action is taken to rectify any problems.





Short Breaks

Read this section if you're travelling on an AAT Kings Short Break

Your Driver Guide

We consider our Driver Guides to be of the highest professional standard and are proud of the reputation they have developed throughout the industry. They maintain an inherent interest in the Australian environment and are keen to impart their knowledge to interested guests who desire not only a holiday but a learning experience as well. During each day's sightseeing you will join a different scheduled Day Tour, with a different group of fellow travellers and Driver Guide.

Your Driver Guide is more than just a great driver. AAT Kings' Driver Guides are seasoned, experienced travellers, selected by us for their extensive knowledge of Australia and New Zealand. They are fully licensed, qualified and experienced professionals who are selected for their impeccable driving skills and record. Your Driver Guide will enrich your tour with detailed, informative commentary about the history, geography, flora and fauna of the region while driving you on your holiday so you can relax and enjoy the sights.

Accommodation

Short Breaks offer you up to three standards of accommodation, allowing you the flexibility to choose whichever category best suits your needs and budget. Our Superior category represents the finest accommodation available. Standard hotels are well located and offer a good standard accommodation and amenities. Budget category hotels offer service at affordable prices.

Laundry Facilities

Most of the hotels used will offer a limited number of coin-operated washing machines and driers. Ironing facilities are also available either in the hotel laundry or an iron and ironing board will be supplied to your room on request.

Meals

On selected Short Breaks, hearty full breakfasts are included to get your day off to a great start. We do not include breakfast in our Northern Territory Short Breaks due to departure times. At lunch and dinner you are free to do your own thing. You can choose where and when you want to eat, and discover some of our fabulous restaurants and cafés. However, on some occasions, we have included some special lunch and dinnertime dining experiences, such as buffet lunch on the Great Barrier Reef or a barbecue dinner in the Red Centre.

Vehicles

AAT Kings has a modern fleet of coaches in which you will travel. Our touring coaches, designed for vigorous off-road travelling in addition to highway cruising, offer the finest in luxury, comfort and safety. Features include air-conditioning, reclining cloth seats, large panoramic windows, public address system, drinking water and luggage lockers which are pressurised to help prevent dust entry. Most of our coaches in Australia have a toilet/restroom (on some occasions, coach restrooms may be inaccessible depending on operational conditions).

Seat Rotation on Vehicles

On our Inspiring Journeys to enable everyone the opportunity of enjoying window and front seats, guests change seats daily during the course of the tour.

Guest Comments

Your feedback is always welcomed. Towards the end of your holiday, your Driver Guide will hand out a comment sheet and envelope. We ask that you answer the questions, make any relevant comments, place the sheet in the envelope provided and hand these back to your Driver Guide. The comment sheets are returned to our Head Office in the sealed envelope. Every sheet is read and a summary is given to management, and where necessary, relevant action is taken to rectify any problems.



General information



Budgeting

This is a difficult subject to give advice on because the amount varies from person to person and a lot depends on how much you spend on shopping, entertainment, drinks and optional experiences. Guided Holidays, for example, are virtually all inclusive so you will only need money for refreshments, any meals not included, activities on free days and evenings, and personal expenses such as souvenirs etc.

Optional Experiences

In addition to the sightseeing activities that are included in your holiday price, there is a wide range of other exciting activities on offer. To assist you with planning your budget, with your final documents you received a day-by-day itinerary including full details and costs of the optional experiences available. Some optional experiences can not be paid by cash. Your Travel Director or Driver Guide will advise you.

Note: AAT Kings operates some of the optional excursions, but many are operated by third parties. AAT Kings accepts no liability where optional experiences are operated by a third party. Please remember that all optional experiences are undertaken at your own risk.

Tipping

While it's not compulsory in Australia or New Zealand, tipping is becoming an increasingly accepted practice in all areas of the service industry, but particularly in restaurants, bars and taxis. Please feel free to tip your Travel Director or Driver Guide if you would like to.

Photography

Australia and New Zealand offer many wonderful opportunities for photographers and photos are a great way to record your holiday. Be sure to bring your camera and charger. To protect your camera equipment from dust, we suggest strong, sealable plastic bags.

Pre or Post Connections

It is your responsibility to reconfirm your own air, road, rail or any other pre or post connections.

Re-Routing of Holidays

Decisions on this are made just prior to each holiday taking place and consideration is given to the conditions prevailing at the time. In transit, if weather or unforeseen circumstances interfere with the itinerary, it is at the discretion of AAT Kings' Head office operations team as to what arrangements are made.

Phoning Home (International visitors)

Before leaving home on your holiday, you can take steps to avoid returning home to an expensive phone bill:

- Check international calling and text rates. Disable data roaming and consider a prepaid service designed for international travellers.
- An international cell phone and prepaid SIM card lets you stay connected and in touch with family and friends, and control your costs at the same time.

General information



Train Travel

A number of our programmes offer the chance to include a journey by train before or after your holiday (e.g. The Ghan or the Indian Pacific). Rail travel in Australia is modern and comfortable with interstate train services including sleeping berths, dining cars, liquor service, lounge cars, etc. Travel on these trains is on an independent basis. On arrival at your destination, arrangements are as per your itinerary.

Alcohol

Alcohol consumption is not permitted on our coaches, nor in some public places in Australia and New Zealand.

Smoking

Government regulations prohibit smoking inside tourist coaches within Australia and New Zealand. Please restrict smoking to the ample stops en route. Please be aware that smoking is not permitted in restaurants and other public places in Australia and New Zealand, such as shops, art galleries and museums.

Drinking Water

It is recommended that you carry with you plenty of drinking water, particularly in the warmer climates. Drinking water varies from region to region and clients should check with their crew for suitability of consumption. Drinking water is available on our coaches.

Weekends and Public Holidays

Our tours operate during public holidays and festivals around Australia and New Zealand, but occasionally minor changes to the standard itinerary may be required. Retail shops, banks, museums and other commercial businesses could be closed for business but your Travel Director will ensure you are well advised in case of special holidays or public holiday trading. Hotels will operate normally.

WiFi

We are pleased to offer free Wi-Fi on most of our coaches. Select the AAT Kings network in the WiFi settings on your device and open your browser to access 100MB of data per 24 hrs. You will need to ask your Travel Director or Driver Guide for the WiFi password.

Social Media – Stay Connected!

Join the conversation on social media by following AAT Kings on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube. Just search for AAT Kings. Be sure to use our hashtag #smilekings when you post photos from your holiday. Feel free to leave a review on TripAdvisor as well.



facebook.com/aatkingsaustralia



instagram.com/aatkings



youtube.com/aatkings



twitter.com/aatkings

Australia

Explore.
Connect.
Smile.

Discover the enchanting beauty and soul of Australia. Your unforgettable, effortless exploration is brought to life by the **Guided Holiday experts, AAT Kings**, who have been sharing their passion, unrivalled knowledge and exceptional service with guests since 1912.

Delve into the fascinating stories of the Anangu people in the Red Centre and other Indigenous cultures in Australia. Proud of our roots and the traditions of our people, we enjoy showcasing their spellbinding stories – made possible through the strong relationships we have forged with indigenous communities across this ancient land.



Northern Territory



The heart of the Outback, Australia's Red Centre is an intriguing place, full of cultural and spiritual significance. Here you will find remarkable natural features such as Uluru (Ayers Rock) and Kata Tjuta (the Olgas), Kings Canyon, Palm Valley and Standley Chasm, as well as historic Alice Springs. The Top End is a region with magnificent scenery, world famous natural and cultural attractions such as the World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park, and many crystal clear waterfalls and swimming holes.

Top End & Darwin

The Wet season spans from November until April and is characterised by increased humidity followed by monsoonal rains and storms. While weather conditions at this time of year can restrict travel to some areas, the Wet Season is a stunning time to see the Top End. Waterfalls tumble, skies host incredible light shows, and the landscape turns a lush green. The 'Dry' season (May to October), is characterised by warm, dry sunny days and cool nights.

Annual Average Weather Patterns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max (°C)	32	32	32	33	32	31	30	31	33	34	34	33
Max (°F)	89.6	89.6	89.6	91.4	89.6	87.8	86	87.8	91.4	93.2	93.2	91.4
Min (°C)	25	25	25	24	22	20	20	21	23	25	25	25
Min (°F)	77	77	77	75.2	71.6	68	68	69.8	73.4	77	77	77
Rainfall (mm)	391	330	260	103	14	3	1	2	13	50	126	243

Things to do, Places to see.....

Kakadu National Park

One of the most scenic parks in Australia contains two kinds of wilderness: the black soil flood plains and paperbark lagoons of the Alligator River System, and the rugged walls of the Arnhem Land escarpment which is deeply indented with gorges, streams and waterfalls. At the northern end of Kakadu is a series of shallow lagoons and billabongs which attract thousands of water birds.

Katherine

Along the Stuart Highway, known as 'the track', 310km south of Darwin is the town of Katherine and the spectacular Katherine Gorge National Park. Here, the clear river flows between towering, brilliantly coloured walls to form one of the most fascinating river canyons in Australia.

Litchfield National Park

Litchfield National Park, west of Batchelor in the Tabletop Range, is a huge sandstone plateau cloaked with dry woodlands and forests. Close to the edge of the escarpment, springs bubble into creeks that have their ultimate destination within the rainforest valleys below, making spectacular waterfalls that flow throughout the year.

Tiwi Islands

We believe you haven't seen Australia's Northern Territory until you've seen the Tiwi Islands. The Islands are home to the Tiwi People, coastal island Aboriginal people with permanent smiles. A day tour will provide you with an insight into the Tiwi People's culture and lifestyle and reveal to you scenes seldom viewed by outsiders leaving you with a lifetime memory and a longing to return.

Northern Territory



Red Centre, Ayers Rock & Alice Springs

The Red Centre is a four season destination experiencing Summer (December-February), Autumn (March-May), Winter (June-August) and Spring (September-November) with large variations in temperature from season to season.

Annual Average Weather Patterns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max (°C)	37	36	33	29	23	20	19	22	26	31	34	35
Max (°F)	98.6	96.8	91.4	84.2	73.4	68	66.2	71.6	78.8	87.8	93.2	95
Min (°C)	22	21	18	14	9	6	4	7	10	15	18	20
Min (°F)	71.6	69.8	64.4	57.2	48.2	42.8	39.2	44.6	50	59	64.4	68
Rainfall (mm)	34	39	22	12	17	16	13	12	6	20	23	32

Things to do, Places to see.....

Uluru (Ayers Rock)

Known by Aborigines as Uluru, Ayers Rock is a place of great cultural and spiritual significance. It is not a rock but a huge bed of arkose sandstone, deposited on the floor of an inland sea some 600 million years ago. It is properly described as a monolith and is a world famous rock formation. Uluru was first sighted in 1872 and was given its English name after the then Governor of South Australia, Sir Henry Ayers.

Kings Canyon

The spectacular Kings Canyon is 100km to the southwest of Alice Springs. A climb to the rim of the Canyon will be rewarded with a view of the 'Lost City' – weathered rock which resembles the ruins of an ancient city and the 'Garden of Eden', a valley where permanent waterholes are overgrown with ancient cycad palms.

Kata Tjuta (the Olgas)

A total of 36 domes make up the awe-inspiring Kata Tjuta (the Olgas). The tallest of the domes, at a height of 546m, is some 200m taller than Uluru (Ayers Rock). AAT Kings offers day tours to Kata Tjuta including a walk into either the Valley of the Winds or Walpa Gorge.

Queensland



Rightly deserving its reputation as the 'Sunshine State', Queensland is fortunate to experience a perfect tropical climate. With over 1.7 million sq km, it is one of Australia's largest states with variety to match its series of distinct regions. From the lush coastal region, the mountainous Great Dividing Range and tablelands to the vast Outback, Queensland has many amazing sights.

Brisbane

With a population of over one million people, Brisbane is the capital city of the state of Queensland. Brisbane has a tropical climate and was the host city for World Expo in 1988.

Annual Average Weather Patterns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max (°C)	29	29	28	26	23	21	20	22	24	26	28	29
Max (°F)	84.2	84.2	82.4	78.8	73.4	69.8	68	71.6	75.2	78.8	82.4	84.2
Min (°C)	21	20	19	16	13	11	9	10	13	16	18	17
Min (°F)	69.8	68	66.2	60.8	55.4	51.8	48.2	50	55.4	60.8	64.4	62.6
Rainfall (mm)	162	164	145	87	69	69	57	47	48	75	95	130

Things to do, Places to see.....

Cairns

Lush tropical Cairns is the 'capital' of the tropical north and has something for everyone. The Cairns coastal and regional areas have their own unique beauty and draw visitors to Cairns all year round. Perhaps shop at the Pier or relax in one of the many cafés. It has also the perfect base for exploring both the Great Barrier Reef and delightful Kuranda Region.

Annual Average Weather Patterns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max (°C)	32	31	30	29	27	26	25	27	28	29	31	31
Max (°F)	89.6	87.8	86	84.2	80.6	78.8	77	80.6	82.4	84.2	87.8	87.8
Min (°C)	24	24	22	22	20	18	17	18	19	21	22	23
Min (°F)	75.2	75.2	71.6	71.6	68	64.4	62.6	64.4	66.2	69.8	71.6	73.4
Rainfall (mm)	399	441	464	177	91	51	30	26	36	35	84	167

Things to do, Places to see.....

Great Barrier Reef

Spanning more than 2000km along the north eastern coast of Australia, the Great Barrier Reef is where you can enjoy the immense beauty, colour and richness of a truly natural underwater wonder. It is not a continuous barrier, but a broken maze of coral reefs and coral cays. The Reef is home to many diverse species of marine life including 1,500 species of fish, 400 types of coral and 1,500 types of mollusc. It can be explored on daily cruises, by seaplane, air charters and on special helicopter flights.

Kuranda

The railway line from Cairns climbs through 15 tunnels and superb scenery to Kuranda at the top of the Macalister Range, 34km from Cairns. Kuranda's picture postcard railway station, decked out in tropical flowers and ferns is justly famous. Other attractions of this quaint village on the edge of the Atherton Tableland include the colourful morning markets with produce, coral arts and crafts.

New South Wales



New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, is home to our largest city, Sydney. Its temperate climate, with sunshine most days of the year, provides the ideal environment for visitors to this spectacular state.

Sydney

The capital of NSW and Australia's oldest and largest city, Sydney was established by Captain Arthur Phillip as a penal colony. The city grew in chaos for many years until 1810 when Governor Macquarie set about restoring order and improving roads and communications. The city soon became a major shipping and trading centre for the southwest Pacific. Today, Sydney has the world's best natural harbour with 55 sq km of water catering for 4,000 vessels each year.

Annual Average Weather Patterns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max (°C)	26	25	25	22	19	17	16	17	20	22	24	25
Max (°F)	78.8	77	77	71.6	66.2	62.6	60.8	62.6	68	71.6	75.2	77
Min (°C)	18	18	17	15	11	9	8	9	11	13	15	17
Min (°F)	64.4	64.4	62.6	59	51.8	48.2	46.4	48.2	51.8	55.4	59	62.6
Rainfall (mm)	98	113	128	127	124	131	105	81	70	75	78	80

Things to do, Places to see.....

Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains, located 100km west of Sydney, are a popular destination for Sydney-siders and tourists alike. The Blue Mountains take their name from the blue haze which lingers over the range, a result of the fine mist of oil from eucalyptus trees. Some of the most popular attractions include Echo Point where you can view the Three Sisters rock formation, the cable car and the scenic railway which show the splendour of the Jamison Valley and the quaint town of Leura.

Hunter Valley

Just 90 minutes north of Sydney lies the picturesque Hunter Valley, Australia's oldest wine producing area. Nestled amongst the exciting wineries are a fantastic spread of shops, restaurants and other attractions making the Hunter Valley the most visited region in Australia. Be amazed by the Hunter Valley Gardens, home to the largest gardens in the Southern Hemisphere.

Port Stephens

Port Stephens, an easy two and a half hour drive north of Sydney, is known for its nature and abundance of aquatic and land activities on its uncrowded sandy beaches, sheltered bays and unspoilt national parks. The resident population of 140 bottlenose dolphins has earned Port Stephens the tag of Dolphin Capital of Australia. Plenty of dolphin cruises are available each day and it's the premier spot along the NSW coast for whale watching from May to November. Explore the majestic and almost surreal sand dunes of Stockton Beach - the largest coastal sand dune system in Australia, a 32 kilometre stretch of sand with dunes that are at least 30 meters high.

Canberra (ACT)

Approximately 3 hours from Sydney lies the nation's capital, Canberra. Here you'll find Australia's Federal Parliament, the Australia War Memorial and the National Gallery of Australia. The gallery boasts an exceptional national collection and popular international exhibits.

Victoria



Victoria is our smallest mainland state, yet has the country's second highest population. Victoria's capital, Melbourne is recognised as the cultural capital of Australia with its wide array of restaurants, shopping, entertainment and sports.

Melbourne

Melbourne is renowned for its fine food, fashion, sport and culture, as well as its historic buildings and delightful gardens. It is 5km inland from Port Phillip Bay, by the banks of the Yarra River and has a population of over three million people.

Annual Average Weather Patterns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max (°C)	26	26	24	20	17	14	13	15	17	20	22	24
Max (°F)	78.8	78.8	75.2	68	62.6	57.2	55.4	59	62.6	68	71.6	75.2
Min (°C)	14	14	13	11	9	7	6	6	8	9	11	13
Min (°F)	57.2	57.2	55.4	51.8	48.2	44.6	42.8	42.8	46.4	48.2	51.8	55.4
Rainfall (mm)	48	50	54	59	57	50	48	49	58	67	59	58

Things to do, Places to see.....

Great Ocean Road

One of the world's great scenic coastline drives begins at Torquay, about 100km southwest of Melbourne and extends for over 300km. Visit the Great Ocean Road's most famous attractions including the Twelve Apostles, Loch Ard Gorge, Bells Beach and the seaside village of Lorne, on an AAT Kings 'Great Ocean Road' day tour.

Healesville Sanctuary

Healesville has been a popular resort town for over 100 years. Its feature attraction is Healesville Sanctuary, set among the natural mountain forest. All of Australia's distinctive fauna is on display here with many of the animals roaming freely.

Phillip Island

A popular location for Victorian holiday-makers Phillip Island is 140km from Melbourne on Westernport Bay. Phillip Island's attractions include its excellent beaches, the nightly 'Penguin Parade', the Koala Conservation Centre and the Seal Rocks Sea Life Centre.

Yarra Valley

A short distance from Melbourne is one of Australia's premier wine growing regions, the Yarra Valley. Some of the many superb wineries here are open to visitors for tastings and tours. AAT Kings offers an excellent day tour to the Yarra Valley which visits three wineries and includes lunch as well as stopping in the Dandenongs for a ride on Puffing Billy, Australia's oldest steam train.

Tasmania



Australia's island state is a treasure trove of things to do and see. With a temperate climate and four distinct seasons, Tasmania is a world away from Australia's tropical northern climates. With pristine wilderness areas and stunning historic sights, Tasmania is a beautiful state with something to interest everyone.

Hobart

An enchanting little city built around a beautiful yacht-studded harbour in the shadow of majestic Mt. Wellington. A strong sea-faring flavour and sense of the past gives Hobart an almost European air. This feeling is heightened in summer when Hobart gets plenty of sparkling blue days but temperatures rarely exceed 25°C. Many of Hobart's beautiful early colonial sandstone buildings were erected with the sweat and blood of the unfortunate convicts who formed the majority of the first settlers in 1803.

Annual Average Weather Patterns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max (°C)	22	22	20	17	14	12	11	13	15	17	19	20
Max (°F)	71.6	71.6	68	62.6	57.2	53.6	51.8	55.4	59	62.6	66.2	68
Min (°C)	12	12	11	9	7	5	4	5	6	8	9	11
Min (°F)	53.6	53.6	51.8	48.2	44.6	41	39.2	41	42.8	46.4	48.2	51.8
Rainfall (mm)	45	41	44	52	50	57	54	49	53	61	61	56

Things to do, Places to see.....

Salamanca Place

When in Hobart, make sure you visit Salamanca Place in Sullivans Cove, the city's bustling, waterfront heart. Life here in the 1830s was all about industry, but today this picturesque cobblestone square is a destination for food, art, shopping and music. Wander the galleries and relax under the sun umbrellas. Shop for fine Tasmanian craft in the Salamanca Market and dance outdoors in the courtyard of the Salamanca Arts Centre. Here Hobart's cultural life meets its rich history.

Port Arthur

Port Arthur has been Tasmania's premier tourist attraction since it ceased operation as a penal settlement in 1877. Even in the 1920s there were many visitors, fascinated by the tales of desperate convicts and attracted by the superb scenery of the Tasman Peninsula. In 1830, Governor Arthur chose the peninsula as the place to confine those prisoners convicted of crimes in the colonies. About 12,500 convicts served sentences here between 1830 and 1877.

Cradle Mountain

Set in the centre of western Tasmania, Cradle Mountain provides excellent bushwalking, and photography. Visit Dove Lake, the starting point for the famed Cradle Mountain/Lake St. Clair walk. Native animals can be seen feeding in the early evening.

Freycinet National Park

Freycinet is a spectacular national park on Tasmania's east coast. It features clean white sands, rocky headlands and granite peaks. There are many walking tracks through the park, with one of the most popular being the track to the Wineglass Bay lookout.

South Australia



Adelaide is the capital city of South Australia and fifth largest city. Adelaide is classed as one of the world's most convenient cities and boasts some of the world's best wine, food and environment. The host of many international events, Adelaide is known as Australia's arts capital. It is also famous for its internationally renowned wineries and as the world capital of opal, Australia's national gemstone. Adelaide has carefully preserved natural habitats and environments for its cherished fauna and flora, making it a perfect ecotourism destination. Approximately an hour from Adelaide is the Barossa, the largest single wine producing region in Australia. It consists of thousands of hectares of picturesque, meticulously maintained vineyards. Naturally, the Barossa is famous for its fabulous wines and gastronomic delights.

Annual Average Weather Patterns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max (°C)	30	29	27	23	19	16	15	16	19	22	25	28
Max (°F)	86	84.2	80.6	73.4	66.2	60.8	59	60.8	66.2	71.6	77	82.4
Min (°C)	16	17	15	13	10	8	7	8	9	11	13	15
Min (°F)	60.8	62.6	59	55.4	50	46.4	44.6	46.4	48.2	51.8	55.4	59
Rainfall (mm)	19	20	24	44	69	72	66	62	51	44	31	27

Things to do, Places to see.....

The Barossa

The largest single wine producing region in Australia consists of thousands of hectares of picturesque, meticulously maintained vineyards. Naturally, the Barossa is famous for its fabulous wines and gastronomic delights. You can also enjoy exceptional views from the Mengler Hill lookout or browse the arts, crafts and antiques available here.

Kangaroo Island

The third largest island off the coast of Australia, Kangaroo Island is a nature lover's dream, with over 30% of the Island dedicated to national parks. With extensive touring options and a variety of quality accommodation, the Island has an enviable reputation as an excellent place to see Australian wildlife in its natural habitat including the world's largest breeding colony of sea lions. Regular ferries and coach connections are available from Adelaide.

Cooper Pedy

The world's opal capital, Cooper Pedy is South Australia's oldest and largest opal mining town. The town's population is multicultural with over 50 nations represented. The opal veins here occur up to 30m below the surface, but small opals are often found loose on the ground.

Western Australia



Western Australia is Australia's largest state and in fact, the largest state in the world! Despite its size it has a population of only 1.8 million people, the majority of whom live in the capital, Perth. Western Australia unique range of attractions also contains some of the world's last remaining frontiers.

Perth

Founded in 1829 and situated 18km up the Swan River on Australia's west coast, Perth is fast becoming one of Australia's most cosmopolitan cities.

Annual Average Weather Patterns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max (°C)	30	30	28	24	21	18	17	18	19	21	25	27
Max (°F)	86	86	82.4	75.2	69.8	64.4	62.6	64.4	66.2	69.8	77	80.6
Min (°C)	18	18	17	14	12	10	9	9	10	11	14	16
Min (°F)	64.4	64.4	62.6	57.2	53.6	50	48.2	48.2	50	51.8	57.2	60.8
Rainfall (mm)	8	11	20	40	124	186	174	139	81	55	21	14

Things to do, Places to see.....

Fremantle

Here you can discover the past with a stroll along the streets of terrace homes and historic buildings, or shop at the Fremantle Markets which is open every weekend. There are also plenty of shops, galleries, museums, restaurants and cafés to enjoy.

Rottnest Island

Located just 25 minutes off the coast of Perth, this is Western Australia's holiday playground. With spectacular beaches, history, colonial architecture and unique wildlife, Rottnest Island is the ideal day tour destination. The best way to visit Rottnest is by ocean-going ferry. Passengers departing Perth can also enjoy a cruise on the spectacular Swan River between Perth and Fremantle. Choose between a standard return ticket or a range of inclusive accompanied full day packages.

Broome

Pearlfishers have been diving into the waters of Roebuck Bay since the early 1870s and a small settlement was founded in 1883. Broome went on to become the pearling capital of the world by 1910, with large numbers of Japanese and Chinese businessmen taking control of the industry. Today, Broome is a thriving town whose main industry is tourism, beef cattle, fishing and pearls.

Annual Average Weather Patterns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max (°C)	33	33	34	34	31	28	28	30	32	33	34	34
Max (°F)	91.4	91.4	93.2	93.2	87.8	82.4	82.4	86	89.6	91.4	93.2	93.2
Min (°C)	26	26	25	22	18	15	14	15	18	22	25	26
Min (°F)	78.8	78.8	77	71.6	64.4	59	57.2	59	64.4	71.6	77	78.8
Rainfall (mm)	160	135	100	30	19	22	4	3	1	1	13	80

New Zealand

Explore.
Connect.
Smile.

Discover the enchanting beauty and soul of New Zealand. Your unforgettable, effortless exploration is brought to life by the **Guided Holiday experts, AAT Kings**, who have been sharing their passion, unrivalled knowledge and exceptional service with guests since 1912.

Delve into captivating culture of the Māori in New Zealand. Proud of our roots and the traditions of our people, we enjoy showcasing their spellbinding stories – made possible through the strong relationships we have forged with indigenous communities across these diverse islands.



The North Island



Auckland

New Zealand's largest city is also referred to as the 'City of Sails', as it reportedly has the most boats per capita in the world. It is situated on a narrow peninsula between two harbours and built around 49 volcanoes, thereby providing some spectacular harbour views. It also has the world's highest concentration of Polynesians.

Annual Average Weather Patterns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max (°C)	21	22	20	19	15	14	12	13	14	15	18	19
Max (°F)	69.8	71.6	68	66.2	59	57.2	53.6	55.4	57.2	59	64.4	66.2
Min (°C)	17	17	17	13	11	10	9	10	10	13	14	16
Min (°F)	62.6	62.6	62.6	55.4	51.8	50	48.2	50	50	55.4	57.2	60.8
Rainfall (mm)	71	87	92	114	123	142	139	137	110	98	92	97

Rotorua

Rotorua's main attractions are the boiling mud pools, hot springs and geysers. This geological activity is due to the fact that the earth's crust is very thin in this area, allowing pressures from deep within the earth to be released to the surface. For many years, these features were used in everyday life by not only the Maori people but also the early European settlers. Rotorua, meaning 'the second lake', is also of cultural significance, with one-third of the 70,000 strong population being of Maori descent.

Annual Average Weather Patterns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max (°C)	24	23	22	19	16	13	12	13	16	18	20	22
Max (°F)	75.2	73.4	71.6	66.2	60.8	55.4	53.6	55.4	60.8	64.4	68	71.6
Min (°C)	12	12	11	8	6	4	3	3	5	7	8	11
Min (°F)	53.6	53.6	51.8	46.4	42.8	39.2	37.4	37.4	41	44.6	46.4	51.8
Rainfall (mm)	103	113	126	108	114	135	130	157	127	118	107	129

Wellington

Wellington has been New Zealand's capital since 1865, when the seat of government was moved here from Auckland. As Wellington is only 2km wide, it is explored easily by foot. Located between a beautiful harbour and rolling green hills, Wellington has excellent shopping, professional theatre and cafés and restaurants all close to untouched nature spots.

Annual Average Weather Patterns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max (°C)	20	20	19	17	14	12	11	12	13	15	17	19
Max (°F)	68	68	66.2	62.6	57.2	53.6	51.8	53.6	55.4	59	62.6	66.2
Min (°C)	13	13	12	10	8	6	5	6	7	9	10	12
Min (°F)	55.4	55.4	53.6	50	46.4	42.8	41	42.8	44.6	48.2	50	53.6
Rainfall (mm)	78	60	96	107	121	139	142	135	104	99	94	91

The South Island



Franz Josef & Fox Glaciers

The West Coast glaciers are some of the largest and most accessible glaciers in the Westland National Park. Franz Josef was named in 1865 in honour of the Emperor of Austria. The Fox Glacier was named in 1872 after an early NZ Prime Minister, William Fox.

Lake Tekapo

The turquoise colour of the lake is due to fine particles of rock, called 'rock-flour', held in suspension in the glacial melt water which feeds it. The Church of the Good Shepherd stands beside the lake and was built in 1935 from stone and oak. Not far from the church is a bronze sheepdog statue, a tribute to these animals which helped to develop the pastoral farming country in this area.

Lake Wakatipu & Walter Peak

Queenstown is situated on the shores of picturesque Lake Wakatipu, the third largest lake in New Zealand. During the gold rush days many steamships could be seen on the lake, transporting stakeholders from point-to-point. Now, only the vintage TSS Earnslaw remains. This stately 'Lady of the Lake' still makes trips across the lake to drop clients at Walter Peak, where there is an old colonial homestead and sheep station.

Milford Sound

Accessed from the resort town of Te Anau, Milford Sound is surrounded by walls that rise 1,200m from the sea. One of the most striking and famous features of Milford Sound is the 1695m high Mitre Peak. The region's annual rainfall is amongst the country's highest, receiving 5-6m each year.

Te Anau

The serene deep waters of Lake Te Anau make up the largest lake in the South Island and second largest in New Zealand, and are bordered on its western shore by lush virgin forest. The resort town of Te Anau, the gateway to the fiords, lies nestled on the edge of this beautiful lake, with a spectacular backdrop of Mt Luxmore and the Murchison mountains. The fascinating Te Anau caves system offers a charming underground adventure. This tour takes you to a mysterious underground world of rushing water before drifting in silent darkness beneath the luminous shimmer of thousands of glowworms.

Christchurch

The South Island's largest city and the 'English' city of New Zealand, Christchurch is known for its beautiful gardens and the tree-lined Avon River which runs through it. Early settlers wanted to call the river 'The Shakespeare'.

Annual Average Weather Patterns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max (°C)	20	20	18	15	12	9	8	10	12	15	16	19
Max (°F)	68	68	64.4	59	53.6	48.2	46.4	50	53.6	59	60.8	66.2
Min (°C)	14	13	12	10	6	5	4	5	7	10	10	13
Min (°F)	57.2	55.4	53.6	50	42.8	41	39.2	41	44.6	50	50	55.4
Rainfall (mm)	52	43	52	54	69	65	70	55	45	46	47	55

The South Island



Queenstown

Nestled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu is scenic Queenstown, surrounded by the mighty peaks of the Southern Alps and the Remarkables. During the winter months (Jun – Sep) the Remarkables are home to some of the world's most spectacular skiing. Coronet Peak, the centre of this skiing mecca, offers dry powder snow and the best facilities to match. During the warmer months (Nov – Feb) this winter wonderland transforms into a summer holiday resort town. Queenstown is recognised as the 'adventure capital' of New Zealand and there are plenty of things to do on the water, in the air and on the land! Queenstown also has a wide variety of relaxing activities including wine trails, art trails, museums, shopping, restaurants and cafés to enjoy.

Annual Average Weather Patterns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max (°C)	19	19	16	14	9	7	6	8	10	13	15	18
Max (°F)	66.2	66.2	60.8	57.2	48.2	44.6	42.8	46.4	50	55.4	59	64.4
Min (°C)	13	13	11	9	4	3	1	4	6	9	9	12
Min (°F)	55.4	55.4	51.8	48.2	39.2	37.4	33.8	39.2	42.8	48.2	48.2	53.6
Rainfall (mm)	75	57	71	74	78	65	57	60	70	83	71	68

Maori Pronunciation (Cheat Sheet)

The Maori people are the original settlers in New Zealand whose migrations are thought to have preceded European settlement by some 400-500 years. Isolated from outside influence until European discovery, the Maori developed a unique culture comprised of highly developed social and ritualistic customs, and as a race, they displayed a great deal of courage. Maori art reflects the Polynesian origins of the people, but it has a distinctive and unique form. Wood carving, intricately designed, was the principal expression, but weaving, stonework and tattooing became highly developed. The Maori language is still spoken, particularly by the North Island Maoris, but there are many who have never learnt to speak their native tongue. Educators and the Maori people have been aware of this shortcoming, and the language is being incorporated into the curriculum of an increasing number of secondary schools. Although Maori was not a written language before the coming of the white missionaries, it is a language rich in the traditions of both legend and poetry, which played primary roles in Maori life.

Some Maori words and phrases can be tricky to pronounce correctly, so we have included a cheat sheet for you on how to pronounce some common Maori words, phrases and names:

Kia Ora	Key – Orra
Kiwi	Key – Wee
Paihia	Pie – Here
Punakaiki	Pun – A – Kai – Key
Rotorua	Row – Ta – Ru – A
Tamaki	Tum – A – Key
Taupo	Tow – Poh
Te Anau	Tee – Are – Now
Te Puia	T – Poo – Ya
Waitangi	Why – Tang – Ee
Waitomo	Why – Toe – Mo
Wanaka	Won – A – Ka
Whakarewera	Fu – Ka – Ray – Wa – Ray – Wa