



AUSTRALIAN  
CRUISE  
ASSOCIATION

# NEWS



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## *In this issue:*

- Message from the Chairman
  - ACA Conference Wollongong  
30 August – 1 September 2023
  - Global campaign to invite the world  
to Come and Say G'day
  - Phillip Island Hot Springs – Millowl,  
Phillip Island
  - Journey Beyond – Bringing  
Australia's Iconic Experiences to Life
  - 100 Days to Vivid Sydney 2023
  - Welcome to Great Keppel Island,  
Southern Great Barrier Reef...
  - Go West Tours' Karijini tours in WA's  
Pilbara
  - P&O Cruises sponsors Eden High  
School Students
  - Queensland offers 13 incredible  
Indigenous tours to lift the heart and  
bridge understanding
  - The shining Northern Territory
  - Lightscape to return to Royal  
Botanic Gardens Melbourne
- and much more...

## *Message from the Chairman*

**It's been a year since the announcement was made that the maritime ban on international cruise vessels visiting Australia would be lifted on 17 April 2022.**

It feels like a distant memory given the whirlwind of activity for our industry since then. I would particularly like to acknowledge the outstanding contributions by our members around the cruise re-start which has been no easy feat given the changing health protocols and regulations.

Strong communication was a key to our success I believe, and the roadshows held throughout Australia led by ACAs CEO, Jill Abel and supported by our State and Territory partners, CLIA and Tourism Australia enabled us all to work together on planning for a positive future.

Our MOUs with Tourism Australia and CLIA as well as our friends in New Zealand at NZCA will continue

to provide a framework to support a unified approach which is critical to good outcomes. Tourism Australia has already cited cruise as one of the growth areas of our future tourism industry.

That growth will be on the back of increasing visits by the cruise lines. We have already seen numerous maiden voyages to Australia, and we look forward to welcoming newcomers to our market such as Virgin Voyages, Disney Cruises, Seabourn Expeditions and Scenic Cruises.

We are thrilled to be returning to Fort Lauderdale in the coming days to attend Seatrade Cruise Global, to learn from the 2022/23 season and set our sights on the seasons to come with new itineraries and shore experiences to celebrate.

Once again, we will present a great regional perspective with New Zealand Cruise Association on booth # 2139. Be sure to join us for our 'down under bbq' from 4.40pm on the Wednesday afternoon at our stand.

I look forward to seeing many of you there to continue our work in restoring and growing the Australian cruise sector.

We are also excited to be holding ACAs milestone 25th anniversary conference in September in Wollongong, NSW. By that time, I am convinced that we will have stopped looking in the rear-view mirror to reflect on the past and will be talking about only the positive future for our very exciting cruise industry.

**Philip Holliday**  
Chairman

# ACA Conference Wollongong 30 August – 1 September 2023

After an amazingly successful and well-attended conference in Townsville last year we are excited to be heading to the city of Wollongong for our 25th Anniversary event.

With its rich port history, collection of world-class beaches, playful adventures, culinary scene, arts and iconic attractions, our conference embraces everything on offer. Following a fast-

paced restart of the cruise sector in Australia, we will have had a moment to take a breath through winter and then kick off the discussions for what looks like being a record breaking season in 2023/24.

Please note that cruise line executives are encouraged to join us and if the opportunity exists to present on relevant issues, we would be delighted to discuss this with you.

Registrations will be open soon.



## Cruising training module

Tourism Australia is launching the 'Australian Cruising' module as part of the award-winning Aussie Specialist Program.

Produced in partnership with CLIA Australasia, this new module is designed to help front line travel sellers better promote Australia's cruise experiences to their clients, and to highlight Australia as a premier cruising destination. The module covers a range of topics, from Australia's unique ports and destinations to the range of cruising options available.

Tourism Australia works in partnership with all eight State and Territory Tourism Organisations (STOs) on delivering the Aussie Specialist Program to more than 30,000 qualified agents across the globe. The training program features inspiring content and a range of useful sales resources including training modules on Australian destinations and experiences, webinars, an interactive map, suggested itineraries and much more.

Empower your teams to better sell Australia at [www.aussiespecialist.com](http://www.aussiespecialist.com)

## Global campaign to invite the world to Come and Say G'day

Launched in October 2022, Come and Say G'day is the next instalment of Tourism Australia's There's Nothing Like Australia global brand platform.

The campaign provides a joyful, creative and unmistakably Australian invitation to the world. The multi-channel campaign introduces the world to two lovable CGI animated characters; Ruby, a souvenir kangaroo, voiced by Australian actor Rose Byrne, and Louie, a toy unicorn, representing international visitors, voiced by actor Will Arnett.

Running across Tourism Australia's 15 key international markets, the campaign has captured the world's imagination with a short film and television

commercial (TVC) as well as print and high-impact out-of-home creative, social, digital, editorial and partner advertising. The music featured in the TVC is a re-interpretation of the classic Australian anthem Down Under, by up-and-coming Australian band King Stingray, who sing in both English and Yolnu Matha - an Indigenous language from North East Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.

Find out more about the campaign at [www.tourism.australia.com/campaigns](http://www.tourism.australia.com/campaigns)

## Destination NSW Content Library

The Destination NSW Content Library has added a 'Cruise Port Experiences' section that is filled with inspiring cruise excursion content for media and industry access, with assets available for all nine NSW ports.

The Content Library is a free, easy-to-use resource for images, videos and copy collections, which can be downloaded for promotion of destinations, experiences and events across NSW.

There are more than 34,000 assets available to bring your content to life. To use the Content Library, you simply

need to register for a username and password, then click on the search bar on the homepage and scroll down to the 'Cruise Port Experiences' section to access the individual albums that have been created for each port.

[Register here](#)





Phillip Island Hot Springs

## Phillip Island Hot Springs – Millowl, Phillip Island

An emerging hot springs development is set to become a signature wellness experience at one of Victoria's most popular tourist destinations.

Opening for bookings late 2023, the first stage includes large pools with a number of different experiences including a swim-up bar, reflexology walk as well as accessible and family friendly areas. The saltwater bathing and relaxation space will connect guests to the dramatic coastline and ocean views.

An Apothecary workshop will showcase a range of products based on marine

minerals and Australian botanical ingredients - inspired by nature and the healing powers of the ocean.

Future stages of the 30-acre development will include performance and cultural spaces, a spa centre and an oceanfront Thalassotherapy (saltwater bathing) facility and accommodation.

Award winning landscape architect Karl Russo has referenced the distinctive local geological formations in his stunning interpretation of the adjacent coastline. While 100,000 indigenous trees and shrubs have been planted across the property, extensive landscaping of the bathing areas will be underway in the coming months.

## New Destination NSW Cruise Team

Destination NSW has welcomed Annika Leslie, Product Manager – Cruise, Rail, Road & Air, and Tenille Jenkins, Senior Coordinator – Cruise, Rail, Road & Air.

The new team is working with the cruise industry to develop unique and authentic shore excursions in NSW ports.

The appointments are aligned with NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2030 – a roadmap for growing the visitor economy, which identifies coastal

cruising as a key strength for the state.

Annika and Tenille look forward to building their connections within the Australian cruise industry and to welcoming cruise guests to the nine cruise ports along the scenic NSW coastline.

Contact the team: [cruise@dnsw.com.au](mailto:cruise@dnsw.com.au)



Annika Leslie and Tenille Jenkins

# Geelong and The Bellarine is booming

**Geelong has welcomed cruise ships back to its shores in what was the largest season this coastal epicurean destination has ever had.**

With the depth of exceptional experiences now on offer in Geelong and The Bellarine, it isn't hard to see why some of the world's finest cruise lines are calling in.

Geelong's iconic Corio Bay serves as a port of call to not only access Geelong and The Bellarine but also the iconic Great Ocean Road and historic Ballarat. With multiple moorings possible at once, ships moor in the bay and use the Royal Geelong Yacht Club facilities to gain access to the shore.

## New immersive experiences

Ever evolving, there's always something new waiting to be explored in Geelong and The Bellarine.

## Portarlington Mussel Tours

A new curated foodie experience celebrating the sought-after Portarlington mussel will launch in April 2023, providing guests with a front row seat to the farming process in an intimate and unique setting. The boutique Portarlington Mussel Tour departs from Portarlington Pier aboard a 40-year-old Huon pine vessel, named 'Valerie', that has been immaculately restored by fourth generation mussel farmer Lance Wiffen, his wife Lizzie, and the team. Starting with a glass of local Bellarine sparkling, over three hours guests will observe how mussels are cultivated, see the mussel ropes as they're pulled from the water, pick magnificent fresh molluscs off the lines, and learn about the cleaning process and various stages of mussel farming. Lizzie will showcase the fresh produce with live cooking demonstrations onboard featuring two delicious mussel recipes to be savoured alongside premium local produce.

## First Nations Cultural Experience on Country

Wadawurrung family have looked after and cared for Country over thousands of generations. And are still caring for Country to this very day.

Wadawurrung Country is home to several sacred sites for Wadawurrung Traditional Owners. Cultural stories that connect the ocean, waterways, land, and people. Creation of these connective stories take people on a journey of time before, to where we are today and into the future. On arrival, a Wadawurrung Traditional Owner will formally welcome you to Country with a Smoking Ceremony on the shores of Red Rock. The tour guides guests through significant heritage sites located around the Otway National Park, Great Ocean Road and Bellarine Peninsula before returning to Dijlang (Geelong) via the Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre for a late bush tucker lunch and native animal meet and greet.

# Introducing Sunlover Reef Cruises' newest vessel, the Fitzroy Island Sundancer

**Cairns-based Sunlover Reef Cruises is going through an exciting growth phase with the recent acquisition of an additional vessel for its fleet, the Fitzroy Island Sundancer.**

Seating over 180 passengers, this vessel will support the ramp up of Sunlover's day trip offering to include snorkelling equipment hire and glass bottom boat tours, presenting a great value day trip ex Cairns Marina.

That's not where the fun ends, with a variety of guided tours available, such as snorkel tours, stand up paddle board and kayak tours. Passengers can also hire items to enjoy at their own pace.

The operation of the full day trip is already well underway with daily

departures, with half day options also available on demand. This lends itself fantastically to ships in Cairns with shorter port visits, passengers can enjoy a half day on-island and be back in Cairns with plenty of time to reboard prior to the cruise ship's departure.

The Fitzroy Island Sundancer has already proven versatile since its recent launch. The vessel is ideal for use as a Ship to Shore tender vessel for cruise ships offshore at Yorkeys Knob and Port Douglas.



Sundancer has already worked with numerous ships this season, and we anticipate that it will be in hot demand in the future.

For enquiries please contact Amy Davis [sales@sunlover.com.au](mailto:sales@sunlover.com.au) or 0439 850 282.



# Journey Beyond – Bringing Australia's Iconic Experiences to Life

As Australia's leading experiential tourism group, Journey Beyond's extensive national footprint allows us to showcase Australia's most iconic experiences to cruise guests.

Whether you're looking for a pre- or post-cruise tour experience, an unparalleled shore excursion, a ship to shore transfer, or a rail and sail adventure, Journey Beyond has you covered, Australia-wide.

Our award-winning experiences tell the story of the place, from the experience itself to the cuisine. We source the best produce and wine from the regions in which we operate to contribute to the bigger endeavour – sharing special places and shaping lasting memories.

Journey Beyond offers the opportunity to dive deep into this vast country, whether it's through the unfolding, ever-changing landscapes on an iconic rail journey aboard the Ghan or Indian



Pacific; joining Cruise Whitsundays to dive or snorkel the Great Barrier Reef or leaving footprints in the shimmering white sand on pristine Whitehaven beach in the Whitsundays. Enjoy a phenomenal sunset on a dinner cruise with Darwin Harbour Cruises in the Northern Territory, or soar in a seaplane and cruise through a natural phenomenon – the Horizontal Falls – with Horizontal Falls Sea Plane Adventures. You won't want to leave Australia without taking a Quokka selfie on Rottnest Island in Western Australia, and Rottnest Express will take

you there. We can show you Melbourne from new heights, 88 floors above the city at Melbourne Skydeck or you can dine sky high at Eureka 89. If you're looking for more spectacular views, a lunch or dinner cruise with Journey Beyond Cruise Sydney provides breathtaking views of Sydney Harbour.

Contact:

[renee.branton-brown@journeybeyond.com](mailto:renee.branton-brown@journeybeyond.com)

[journeybeyond.com](http://journeybeyond.com)

## Auriga Pilots extends Services to the Port of Melbourne

Through our provision of pilotage services and Master Reef Guides, Auriga Pilots (AP) has been protecting the Great Barrier Reef for over 125 years.

We are now excited to confirm the extension of our pilot services for the ports of Melbourne and Geelong.

As of January 2023, Auriga Pilots Melbourne was proud to have serviced more than 35% of the Melbourne pilotage market.

General Manager of Pilotage for Auriga Group, Gary Hunter commented "Over the past three years Auriga Pilots Melbourne has demonstrated our ability to safely expand our pilot team and service offering to the market and we are excited to see the return of cruise vessels into Melbourne.

*We have safely provided our services for many of the returning cruise vessels including Celebrity, RCCL, Viking and Silverseas.*

*We are projecting that our business will conduct 2400 pilotage movements in the port of Melbourne and Geelong over the next 12 months and the visits of cruise vessels will play a big part in this growth. We continue to grow our pilot team with our staff increasing by 50% since mid-2022."*

Auriga Pilots operates under a Pilotage Service Licence issued by Ports Victoria and is authorised to provide pilotage services in the Ports of Melbourne,

Geelong, Hastings and Portland. Auriga Pilots operates in accordance with stringent standards prescribed by Ports Victoria and is certified under the International Standard for Marine Pilot Organisations (ISPO) and independently audited by Lloyds Register.

All Auriga Pilots are trained and assessed under a detailed training program that is endorsed and overseen by Safe Transport Victoria and Ports Victoria. Training and ongoing quality and competency assessments are performed by highly experienced check pilots.

*Continued on page 11*



## Taronga Zoo Sydney – New Australian Animal Precinct

Welcome to Nura Diya Australia - a new immersive Australian habitat opening in April.

Nura Diya is from the Sydney First Language and translates to 'this Country'.

Nura Diya Australia will open on 3 April, 2023, at Taronga Zoo Sydney, on Cammeraygal Country. The new experience will be home to a vast array of iconic Australian wildlife and will give guests the opportunity to listen, explore and connect with unique Australian habitats and the iconic animals that call them home, and learn about the important relationship Aboriginal culture has with Country.

Nura Diya Australia is located on the site of the original Australia Exhibit at the top of Taronga Zoo. Guests can connect directly with nature as they stroll among kangaroos, see our new dingo pups, and enjoy a canopy walk to see koalas up high and close up. There is also a specially designed new koala encounter area.

Following in May, Taronga's 'Night Walk' experience will open, taking guests on a journey from dusk until dawn

experiencing nature by night, including platypus, feathertail gliders, chuditch and the greater bilby.

With the opening of Nura Diya in April, the Taronga Trade sales team are excited to launch their reinvigorated tours, the Wild Australia Experience and Aussie Backyard Adventure.

## Sydney Opera House celebrating 50th year!

**The Sydney Opera House exists because a few brave people dared to think differently.**

They made the impossible possible and inspired a nation. From that courage and creativity, a place of extraordinary

experiences was born: where for five decades people have come together; to sing, dance, laugh, cry, play, create and debate.

That's a lot to celebrate. So, in our 50th year, we're throwing a party and everyone's invited. Join us for a

year-long festival celebrating the past, present and future of Australia's favourite building culminating in our birthday festival in October 2023.





Sydney Opera House

## 100 Days to Vivid Sydney 2023

**The countdown to Vivid Sydney 2023 has officially begun, with less than 100 days until the festival's Lights On moment at 6pm on Friday 26 May.**

Celebrating creativity, innovation and technology, Australia's largest festival will dazzle and delight audiences for 23 days and nights across four pillars this year - Vivid Light, Vivid Music, Vivid Ideas and the new Vivid Food.

Vivid Sydney is proudly owned, managed and produced by Destination NSW. It is a vital economic driver for NSW during the winter months. Last year Vivid Sydney was attended by over 2.5 million people and injected \$119 million into the NSW economy.

From our creative industries to entertainment and hospitality venues, accommodation and retailers, it supports the entire ecosystem of the NSW visitor economy.

This year's creative direction - 'Vivid Sydney, Naturally' - has been inspired by our connection to the natural environment and will be brought to life via a kaleidoscope of colourful light projections and activations, plus free and ticketed events, transforming buildings, spaces and venues throughout Sydney's CBD.

Among the Vivid Sydney 2023 highlights revealed to coincide with the countdown are First Nations artist Maree Clarke's Barerarerungar, which will be projected on the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Internationally renowned Jen Lewin's The Last Ocean will also enthrall audiences following its 2022 debut at Burning Man.

Brand new festival pillar Vivid Food will activate across venues in Sydney's CBD showcasing a variety of creativity, innovation and culinary experiences, from pop up restaurants to haute cuisine celebrating the city's vibrant and diverse food culture.

The Vivid Sydney Light Walk will return, with more than 49 light installations and 3D projections along the 8km illuminated walk.

The complete program for Vivid Sydney 2023 will be announced in mid-March.

# BICT celebrates 100 cruise calls!

The new Brisbane International Cruise Terminal (BICT) has celebrated its 100th cruise call on 26 February, just nine months after opening. Since celebrating the BICT's official opening on 2 June 2022, more than 430,000 passengers have travelled through the new cruise terminal.

Port of Brisbane's CEO, Neil Stephens, was at the terminal to welcome the *Quantum of the Seas* Captain, Arild Hansen, and mark the milestone with a special cake cutting. Reaching this milestone is a significant achievement, led by the hard work of the Port's team and all the workers at the facility.

It's clear that Brisbane and Queensland's cruise industry has experienced an exceptional restart, with 139 bookings at the BICT scheduled for the 2022/23 cruise season and 199 bookings currently forecast in 2023/24 – a 43% increase anticipated on this first year.



Captain Arild Hansen and CEO Neil Stephens

The industry is also delivering significant economic benefits, with each ship call contributing almost \$1 million to the Queensland economy. Cruising from Brisbane is forecast to contribute around \$1.15 billion to the state's economy over the next decade.

With strong future bookings and confidence in the future growth of the cruise tourism market in Australia, Port of Brisbane is already starting to look ahead to what the city may need in terms of future cruise infrastructure.

While those investigations are only very early and no commitments have been made, Port of Brisbane believes it's prudent to get the planning right to facilitate what would be a crucial element of the tourism sector's growth in Brisbane and Queensland.

For Port of Brisbane, the success of the BICT is testament to the support of the cruising public, the cruise lines themselves, especially its Foundation Partner, Carnival Australia, and both the state and local governments.

## Cruising the Kimberley

There aren't too many places on earth where you can watch the sun setting over the ocean from the back of an unhurried camel. The exotic pearling port of Broome is the gateway to the Kimberley region, one of the last true wilderness areas on Earth.

Broome is a 'dream destination' for many cruise guests, with 22 kilometres of beautiful white sand and turquoise water at Cable Beach, striking pindan red cliffs, Broome pearl farms and 130 million year old dinosaur footprints. Broome is a melting pot of cultures, creating an exotic mix of historic sites and fusion flavours.

The Port of Broome is set to welcome larger cruise ships with the construction of a new floating port terminal. This new and innovative facility is set to be constructed and funded by Kimberley Marine Support Base (KMSB) Pty Ltd, and is scheduled to be operational in late 2024.

The new KMSB facility will complement Port of Broome upgrades that were undertaken via a channel dredging project undertaken in 2019 to enhance all-tide vessel access to the port, particularly for larger cruise vessels, and



improve navigational safety within the Port.

For more information about cruising in WA, Broome and the KMSB project, please look for Shayne Murray, Chair, Cruise Broome, on the ACA stand and visit their website at <http://cruisebroome.com>



# Welcome to Great Keppel Island, Southern Great Barrier Reef...

Looking for a place that is exciting, diverse, and breathtakingly beautiful? An untouched wonderland that invites you to embrace the sun, sea, sand and uncover a distinctive, unforgettable destination that is just right?

Whether you are dropping by for a few hours or longer on a visiting cruise ship, we welcome you to our barefoot paradise - Great Keppel Island.

Great Keppel Island sits proudly among its 17 neighbouring islands in Keppel Bay on the Southern Great Barrier Reef, surrounded by jaw-dropping and glittering shorelines, golden days, balmy moonlit evenings, and sensational crimson sunsets.

Great Keppel Island boasts unspoilt nature, beautiful coral gardens, striking turquoise waters, pristine, powdery white sandy beaches, and endless activities to suit everyone. It is located just under 10 nautical miles from the magnificent mainland coastal village of Yeppoon on the Capricorn Coast in Central Queensland. Yeppoon is a 30-minute drive from the beef capital of Australia - Rockhampton and only 600 kilometres from Queensland's capital, Brisbane.

This unique destination, located on the Tropic of Capricorn, shares a latitude with Rio de Janeiro to the East and Mauritius to the West, and celebrates sub-tropical climates and safe year-round swimming.

Wop-pa Great Keppel Island, means 'resting place' and is the perfect location to do exactly that – drop and flop. However, if you are looking for more adventure, to reconnect with nature, or revitalise your soul with magical underwater discoveries, Great Keppel Island is a one-stop holiday destination that wraps up iconic quintessential Aussie experiences and ticks plenty of boxes.



Keppel Bay Marina/Rosslyn Bay Harbour - Yeppoon/Capricorn Coast

Upon setting foot on the shores of Great Keppel Island, you can begin to choose your own adventure. From snorkelling or scuba diving with spectacular marine life, hiking across the stunning 1454ha landscape to reach brilliant lookouts, indulging in local native wildlife, or engage with friendly staff and locals at the island's bar and bistro, your options are endless.

Turn your focus back to Yeppoon and you will discover a charming waterfront esplanade in the heart of town boasting an iconic and renowned infinity-edged lagoon and state-of-the-art zero depth water play area.

Unique retail boutiques offering one-of-a-kind purchases, quirky street art, local cafes and restaurants featuring produce from nearby permaculture farms line the streets, beneath accommodation options to suit a range of requirements and offering the finest panoramic 'front deck' views.

Unique and award-winning attractions such as the Koorana Crocodile Farm, Cooberrie Park Wildlife Sanctuary, and the spectacular ANZAC Memorial at Emu Park are only a short journey

from the town of Yeppoon, and if time is on your side, visit ancient limestone Capricorn Caves or round out your reef experience with a visit to the rainforest in Byfield.

A destination for all seasons, Great Keppel Island and the Capricorn Coast prides itself on sustainability and community development, and recognises the critical importance of arts and culture, proudly celebrating different identities and social multiplicity, reflected within the warm welcome provided by the people who call it home.

If you are seeking sandy toes, salty kisses, eye-appealing scenery, and exciting tours and attractions, we invite you to come and discover our 'under the radar' must-see GREAT destination.

For more information go to [www.visitcapricorn.com.au](http://www.visitcapricorn.com.au)

#visitcapricorn  
#southerngreatbarrierreef

Email: [marycarroll@capricornenterprise.com.au](mailto:marycarroll@capricornenterprise.com.au)

Phone: 07 49272055 / 0417 669 286

# Go West Tours' Karijini tours in WA's Pilbara

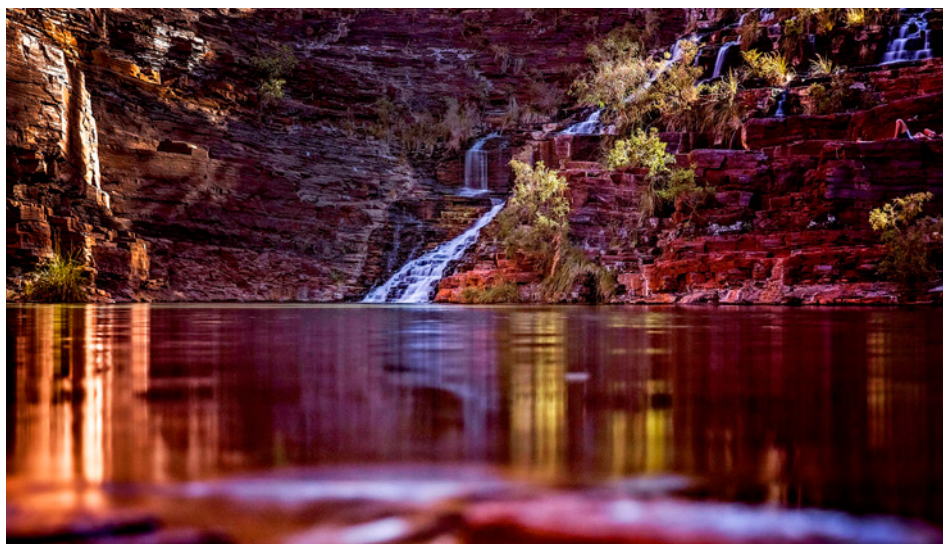
**The breathtaking Karijini National Park is a must see for visitors to WA's Pilbara region.**

Hidden amongst the 100-metre sheer-sided ochre coloured chasms are crystal clear rock pools, cascading waterfalls and tropical fern environments with easy walking tracks and access to viewing platforms.

Go West Tours offers a half day tour to Hamersley Gorge, one of the most spectacular and remote gorge pools that Australia's North West has to offer.

As visitors descend into the gorge to the natural spa pool below, they can see how the layers of rock bent and buckled before they pushed their way to the surface more than 2.5 billion years ago.

The full day Gorge Tour through the picturesque Hamersley Range takes visitors through ancient land formats to explore the Weano, Joffre and Dales Gorge areas.



Karijini

At the end of the walk down into the gorges are the stunning Handrail and Fern pools, Joffre and Fortescue Falls.

The tours feature first class comfort in air-conditioned coaches, led by experienced guides who have an unrivalled local knowledge of the area

and its history and love sharing their stories with travellers.

Tours can be arranged through Go West's Tom Price office: (08) 91892032 or online at [www.gowesttours.com.au](http://www.gowesttours.com.au)

## Full steam ahead with tours and experiences at Sydney Opera House

**After a successful season welcoming the return of cruise passengers to Sydney Opera House, it's full steam ahead working with our cruise partners to deliver even more amazing seasons in the future.**

From unforgettable tours, performances of all kinds, to incredible Australian dining options, our experiences provide cruise passengers the opportunity to experience why the Sydney Opera House stands as an iconic symbol of modern Australia.

The Sydney Opera House offers a range of tours which bring to life stories of the iconic building's past and present. The one-hour tour is perfect for those with limited time in port and is suitable for groups of all sizes from small groups to whole-ship touring. Our backstage tour,



Sydney Opera House

which goes behind-the-scenes in more-depth, has returned for more intimate groups, while incorporating dining or a performance ticket to their visit provides cruise passengers with the ultimate Sydney Opera House experience.

A combination of a tour, Australian food and wine, and our goose-bump inducing private opera recital product will leave cruise passengers with unforgettable memories of their time in Sydney.



# Sydney's newest and most luxurious vessel is bringing luxe events to the Harbour

A new superyacht-style \$15 million vessel, exclusively available for private and ticketed events, has landed in Sydney harbour.

*The Jackson*, named after the shimmering waters of Sydney harbour (AKA Port Jackson), embodies the beauty, elegance and luxury aspirations that exemplify Sydney.

Each level of this luxurious vessel has been designed for Sydney, with the exclusive use of the whole vessel having capacity to host up to 700 guests cocktail style, making it perfect for weddings, gala dinners, corporate events, and any large special private event.

Commencing operations in late March 2022, *The Jackson* as charter vessel for private event hire and has delivered over 150 events in its first year of operation and is currently running a summer ticketed event series with a range of food and wine experiences available to Sydneysiders and visitors so they too can get onboard and share a slice of superyacht luxury.

Rose Sunday Brunch, Chandon Harbour Long Lunch, Melbourne Cup, and the ultimate New Year's Eve are just some of the events that have been on offer this season. With an exciting line-up of events planned for 2023, including celebrity chefs from all over the



*The Jackson*

world, the public will be able to enjoy a sophisticated restaurant and stunning cocktail bar on the top deck all offering guests the absolute best viewing position of Sydney's spectacular harbour.

Nick Lester, General Manager of *The Jackson* explains, "Everyone knows that Sydney looks its very best from the water and we are delighted to be bringing a unique events experience for those looking for something very special for a corporate function, wedding and now even a relaxed Sunday Brunch with friends on what is the best harbour in the world."

Guests can board *The Jackson* from two main pickup locations at King Street Wharf, next to the new Barangaroo Precinct or from Jetty 6 at Circular Quay. However, with the luxury tender vessel *The Jackson Flyer*, guests can be transported from any public wharf or private marina for their private event making it easier than ever to get on and off the harbour.

*The Jackson* is available now for events by contacting [events@thejackson.com.au](mailto:events@thejackson.com.au) and tickets to the Spring/Summer events are available via the website [www.thejackson.com.au](http://www.thejackson.com.au)

*Continued from page 5*

## Auriga Pilots extends Services to the Port of Melbourne

All Auriga pilots are subject to a comprehensive suite of ongoing continuous improvement and professional development training that includes Ship Handling Training, Advanced Marine Pilot Training, Emergency Preparedness and Response Training, Tug Handling, Bridge Resource Management as well as advanced simulation exercises conducted in conjunction with Vessel Traffic Services, towage providers and Harbour Masters.

Auriga provides exclusive pilotage services for the Great Barrier Reef,

Kimberley Coast, Northern Territory Coast and Whitsunday Passage. Our Great Barrier Reef pilots remain the first choice for specialised cruise ship pilotage. Our experienced pilots are pleased to work with onboard management to provide entertaining bridge commentaries when passing historical regions and offer passenger lectures when not engaged in pilotage tasks.

Recognised by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as Master Reef Guides, (a Queensland Government initiative), our team are the only Pilots in

Australia licensed as Master Reef Guides.

Our cruise team works closely with cruise operations management to provide local knowledge and advice on itinerary options for all vessels.

The cruise team at Auriga Pilots looks forward to continuing to service international cruise lines for both the Great Barrier Reef, Kimberley region and Melbourne.

For more information please contact [gary.hunter@auriga.com.au](mailto:gary.hunter@auriga.com.au) or [cruise@auriga.com.au](mailto:cruise@auriga.com.au)

# P&O Cruises sponsors Eden High School Students

The Port of Eden is well known for its 'Red Shirt Brigade' – the Welcome Ambassadors in red shirts who have greeted every cruise passenger with a smile and 'Welcome to Eden' since the first ship arrived in 2005.

Coordinated by Cruise Eden, the Welcome Ambassador program includes locals of all ages, as well as a steady stream of Bega Valley students in their senior years at local high schools studying Tourism and Travel. Volunteering for Cruise Eden provides these students with invaluable cruise industry experience that they wouldn't otherwise be able to receive.

Due to the well-known success of Cruise Eden's red shirts, P&O approached Cruise Eden during the pandemic to see if there was anything they could do to support Career Pathways for local Eden youth, to help boost opportunities for local students, and as a potential pilot for other regional ports.

This led to the formation of a Steering Committee involving Cruise Eden, Australian Training Company, Regional Industry Education Partnerships (Training Services NSW), Walan-Miya and the Port Authority of NSW. Together the committee formulated a proposal for P&O Cruises that involved sponsorship of a School Based Traineeship (SBAT) in Certificate III Tourism, for two local Bega Valley students. The aim of the SBAT project was to create a vocational employment and training pathway for young people in the South Coast region interested in a career in the tourism industry.

Several months of planning later, the Steering Committee involved the local school's career advisers with the ultimate outcome of successfully recruiting two Year 11 students from Eden Marine High School; Keely Grebert and Ocea Thiedeman. Keely and Ocea have now commenced their two-year traineeship with Cruise Eden, starting with a visit onboard P&O's Pacific Adventure while it was in port on 7 March 2023.



Students receiving a warm reception from the bridge

Keely and Ocea will work with the Cruise Eden team and assist with operations on cruise days, under the guidance of teacher and Cruise Eden manager, Debbie Meers. During the winter cruise offseason the students will work with other local tourism businesses to broaden their industry experience and knowledge while studying the Certificate III in Tourism and all other school subjects.

"We are so pleased to have Keely and Ocea from Eden Marine High School join our team of Welcome Ambassadors. The girls wish to pursue a career in the tourism and travel industry and are enjoying the start of their subject studies while gaining invaluable experience in cruise shoreside operations.

We wish to thank P&O Cruises Australia for sponsoring this opportunity for two of our local young students" said Meers.

The Welcome Ambassador SBAT Programme, tailored for cruise, is the first of its kind for an Australian regional port, providing opportunities for local

youth that haven't been seen before in the Bega Valley. Partnering with a cruise line further adds value to the entire Welcome Ambassador program, and particularly the SBAT opportunity.

Marguerite Fitzgerald, President of Carnival Australia and P&O Cruises Australia said, "The partnership with Cruise Eden is the latest initiative from our P&O Pacific Partnerships Program, where our generous guest donations are invested back to local communities that make our guests so welcome."

"We're thrilled to be supporting these local students in their pursuit of a dynamic career in the travel and tourism industry, and further our unwavering support of gender diversity in the cruise industry.

"It was a pleasure welcoming Keely and Ocea onboard *Pacific Adventure* and showcasing P&O's shipside operations to complement their shoreside experiences."



# A new era has begun at the expanded Art Gallery of New South Wales

An exciting new era in the cultural life of Australia began last December as the Art Gallery of New South Wales unveiled its new art museum campus.

The centrepiece of the expansion, the new building designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architects SANAA, is the most significant cultural development to open in Sydney in nearly half a century. The campus encompasses two buildings connected by an Art Garden on Gadigal Country overlooking Sydney Harbour.

From its dazzling new stage, the Art Gallery expansion has doubled the exhibition space for the display and enjoyment of art. The Art Gallery is an institution with a truly ambitious vision, supporting the community, artists, partnerships, educational programming, sector connections, tourism and thought leadership. 'Art for all' is the welcoming mantra at the Art Gallery – offering inspiration, joy, connection and enrichment for everyone.

The campus also creates a prominent destination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, with a larger dedicated space to showcase the Art Gallery's internationally renowned collection. Yiribana, meaning 'this way' in the Sydney language, is the first gallery visitors encounter when they enter the new building.

An Indigenous lens is held up across the displays as they powerfully herald new art histories to be written and shared. The Art Gallery's curatorial narratives are amplified through networks connecting the urgent social issues that motivate artists in the 21st century, including gender, race, the value of labour, and a strong concern for the precariousness of the natural world.



Art Gallery of NSW

Some of Australia's most highly regarded chefs and food identities – including Palisa Anderson, Matt Moran, Auntie Beryl Van-Oploo and Clayton Wells – lead the extended food and beverage options across the expanded Art Gallery, with The Fresh Collective reappointed to manage the restaurants, cafe, kiosk and event and catering services.

In celebration of the recent opening, the Art Gallery is renewing efforts to build unforgettable tourism products for a broad range of audiences. There is something for everyone to enjoy, whether it's a friendly introduction to this unique art museum and its renowned collection of Australian and international art or a special, one-of-a-kind experience.

State of the art is a one-hour guided experience during which guests will get to know the secrets of Sydney's most exciting new architectural landmark – the Art Gallery's SANAA-designed North Building – and encounter incredible artworks created especially for the campus.

Indulge a love of art, creativity, culture and food with our Yiribana experience and A night at the Gallery experience. With exclusive after-hours access to the Art Gallery, expert-led tours and discussions, as well as a five-course meal with matching wines designed by one of our celebrity chefs, photography, gifts and more, these are two immersive experiences like no other.

The Art Gallery is just a 15-minute walk from the Sydney CBD, nestled between tranquil parklands and the picturesque Sydney Harbour, on Gadigal Country. Contact the tourism team for further details on a range of unique experiences and event offerings via email [tourism@ag.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tourism@ag.nsw.gov.au) or visit [artgallery.nsw.gov.au](http://artgallery.nsw.gov.au)



Port of Townsville

## Townsville: Cruise the Unexpected

**Townsville is readying to welcome record numbers of cruise vessels in the coming years with plenty of immersive experiences in Northern Australia's largest city.**

Nestled between the well-known tourism hotspots of Cairns and Airlie Beach, Townsville is a hidden treasure that often elicits pleasant surprise from cruise passengers who had no idea what to expect from their visit to the harbour city.

Townsville uniquely offers guests all the ingredients of the North Queensland paradise - the Great Barrier Reef, tropical islands and beaches, rainforests and the outback - all within a short distance perfectly suited to day trips. Port of Townsville CEO Raneë Crosby said the city, port and the region's tourism operators are preparing for accelerated growth of cruise visits in the coming years. "In Townsville, guests always receive the warmest welcome

at every stage of their stay, starting on arrival at the cruise terminal with handmade markets, live music and wildlife encounters," said Ms Crosby.

Guests delight in experiences like the massive pink granite Castle Hill overlooking the city, strolling the world-class beachfront promenade, enjoying a wild west experience up close with a Texas longhorn or marvelling at Wallaman Falls, Australia's tallest permanent single-drop waterfall.

The city is seeing the addition of a range of new tourism products including the Museum of Underwater Art (MOUA) snorkel and dive sites, an array of fine local distilleries and breweries, and the new national education centre. The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium is scheduled to open in 2026.

A record 18 vessels are currently booked to call at the Port of Townsville for the 2023/24 cruise season, and 19 vessels the following season. Further bookings are expected as the Port increases its

vessel length limit from 238m to 300m, upon completion of the \$232 million channel upgrade project in 2024.

"Townsville is ideally located for cruise shipping along the eastern seaboard of Australia and the Pacific, with a dedicated cruise terminal and seamless connections for shore-products," said Ms Crosby.

"Our current works to widen the sea channels and install a new mooring dolphin at our cruise berth will allow us to roll out the welcome mat to bigger ships from late 2024, and we are looking to further enhance our cruise terminal with baggage handling, screening facilities and increased capacity for coaches."

Cruise is a growing portion of the Port of Townsville's business as a multi-cargo port.

The Channel Upgrade Project is the first stage of a \$1.6 billion Port Expansion Project.



# Queensland offers 13 incredible Indigenous tours to lift the heart and bridge understanding

Queensland is the only place where both of Australia's Indigenous cultures meet and offers a rich tapestry of Indigenous tours that lift the heart and promote a better understanding of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) people.

Connecting with nature is best experienced through the eyes of our Traditional Owners, who have used their knowledge of the land for thousands of years. Whether it's through dance, art or traditional feasts, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people proudly practice and preserve their cultures by sharing it with others, like you.

Below are 13 tours worth experiencing.

**Closest access: the Brisbane International Cruise Terminal**

## 1. Yura Tours, Minjerribah:

Travel around the iconic beaches and headlands of Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) stopping to identify bush foods and native medicines. Listen to the memories of Elisha, a proud Quandamooka woman, a mum of three, and a granddaughter of one of the last missionaries on Minjerribah who dug deep into her Aboriginal knowledge to write an almanac on the island's native bush tucker and vegetation. <https://yurabanjiscooters.com.au/>

## 2. Blackcard Cultural Tours, Brisbane:

Walk the streets of South Brisbane with a friendly Blackcard guide and pause before a selection of public art installations to make greater sense of Brisbane's traditional and contemporary Aboriginal history. Cross the Kurilpa Bridge (which means native water rat) and stroll past Roma Street, once a tournament ground. BlackCard guides are trained to speak candidly and bring a sense of friendliness, openness and availability to their tours. <https://www.theblackcard.com.au/cultural-tours/>



## 3. Quandamooka Coast Tour, Mingerribah:

Walk shoulder to shoulder along the beautiful Woolembah Headland Walk with Joshua Walker, a Nunukul man whose tribal name means 'bottle-nosed dolphin'. Hear about spirits "who make stars from sky clouds" and the difference between women's country and men's country as you keep your eyes peeled for Humpback Whales during the two-hour tour. <https://quandamookacoast.com.au/>

## 4. Jellurgal Aboriginal Culture Centre, Gold Coast:

Beneath the modern skyscrapers all clamouring for front row seats to Australia's favourite playground, the Gold Coast is home to eight different Tribal Groups connected by one Yugembeh language. Take a two-hour tour with a Yugembeh language group Traditional Owner and pause along a popular Burleigh headland walking track to listen to Creation Stories that provide the Jellurgal people with an understanding of their world. <https://www.jellurgal.com.au/>

**Closest access point: Mooloolaba Sunshine Coast anchorage**

## 5. Saltwater Eco Tours, Mooloolaba:

Take a two-hour sail on a 100-year-old meticulously restored timber ketch

with a Torres Strait Island Saltwater Person at the helm while a Kabi Kabi Storyteller from the Sunshine Coast shares entertaining tales and Aboriginal legends of the region. Enjoy a platter of fresh Mooloolaba prawns as the boat breezes past the grand canal homes. [www.saltwaterecotours.com.au](http://www.saltwaterecotours.com.au)

**Closest access point: Kingfisher Bay, K'Gari, Great Sandy Strait anchorage**

## 6. Hervey Bay Eco Marine Tours, Hervey Bay:

Slow down and appreciate life and nature as you snorkel a healthy reef, learn about sustainability and listen to ancient Dreamtime stories from a local Butchulla guide. Tours cruise out to small islands that dot the Great Sandy Strait in a gentle vessel called "Milbi" which means sea turtle. This is the only tour that showcases the culture of the Butchulla people, who gained native title over K'gari (Fraser Island) in October 2014. New product: 90-minute Djinang Walking Tour of Hervey Bay foreshore. Your Butchulla guide will share Dreamtime stories of the area, share bush tucker and discover important gathering places. <https://www.herveybayecomarinetours.com.au/>

*Continued on page 19*

# The shining Northern Territory

## Litchfield Waterfalls and Finnis River Lodge

Just over 100km southwest of Darwin, Litchfield National Park attracts over 260,000 visitors a year and is a must-see when visiting Australia's Top End. This package combines Litchfield's amazing waterfalls including a visit to the secluded Sandy Creek waterfall followed by a 5-star lunch and beverage package at the stunning Finnis River Lodge.

Finniss River Lodge offers the chance to explore the wetlands surrounding the lodge with a one-hour airboat experience (seasonally from April to September and dependent on water levels).

[finnissriverlodge.com.au](http://finnissriverlodge.com.au)

[nautilusaviation.com.au](http://nautilusaviation.com.au)

## New Kakadu Experience

Autopia Tours and Kakadu Air have partnered to offer Kakadu by air and land, operating from October 2023. Departing Darwin on your scenic flight, view the Adelaide River, Mary River National Park, South and East Alligator river systems that form amazing snake-like bends. Take in the sights of Kakadu with views over massive erosions, floodplains, coastal mangroves and grand escarpments before arriving at the impressive Jim Jim and Twin waterfalls.

Stop by Kakadu's northern township of Jabiru for refreshments and a guided tour at Marrawuddi Arts and Culture. Then board your private bus to visit one of the most important Aboriginal art sites in Kakadu, the Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) region. Enjoy lunch surrounded by spectacular scenery and guided walk of the rock art before returning to Jabiru for your return flight to Darwin.

[Autopiatours.com.au](http://Autopiatours.com.au)

[Kakaduair.com.au](http://Kakaduair.com.au)

## Wintjiri Wiru – Voyages

Meaning 'beautiful view out to the horizon', Wintjiri Wiru is the latest breathtaking experience from Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia. Launching



Light-Towers © Bruce Munro. Photography by Chris Hardy

1 May, the experience tells a chapter of the Mala creation story from Docker River to Uluru. Twice nightly Wintjiri Wiru will illuminate the desert sky as traditional music, drones, projections and lasers weave in a kaleidoscope of colour. Book the sunset experience and receive a cocktail on arrival plus a gourmet hamper filled with native foods to enjoy while looking out to the iconic Uluru and Kata Tjuta.

[ayersrockresort.com.au](http://ayersrockresort.com.au)

## Light-Towers – Discovery Resorts Kings Canyon

World-renowned British light artist Bruce Munro is returning to Australia with his newest illuminating experience, 'Light-Towers', with tickets now on sale for the 1 April opening. Descending upon the Northern Territory's Red Centre, Munro's Light-Towers is a magnificent display of 69 towers, each made up of approximately 220 bottles filled with fibre optic cables. Set inside Discovery Resorts – Kings Canyon, Petermann (about three hours west of Alice Springs), guests are invited to wander among the maze of Light-Towers during one of three available viewing sessions; Sunrise, Sunset and By Night. A local guide will greet and introduce guests to the Light-Towers at Luritja

Lookout, before following an illuminated path into the field of red earth where the Light-Towers experience takes place. With colours changing to the celestial soundscape by Orlando Gough, Light-Towers will immerse you in the pure magic of light, sound and landscape in this iconic location.

[discoveryholidayparks.com.au](http://discoveryholidayparks.com.au)

## Darwin Port

Darwin Port has undertaken recent infrastructure upgrades to support cruise facilities and services. During 2021, installation of four new 150 tonne mooring bollards and upgrades to the western mooring dolphin were undertaken at Fort Hill Wharf. These upgrades were necessary to enhance the life span of the wharf and provide improved mooring safety for large vessels during high wind conditions. The completed works will also integrate with any future wharf extensions.

Over the next year Darwin Port will commence power supply upgrades of its electrical infrastructure at Fort Hill Wharf and pile wrapping works to protect 60 piles under the wharf from the effects of corrosion. These works will be carried out to extend the working life of the wharf and provide a safer berth for visiting cruise ships.





## *Skyrail Rainforest Cableway – Sharing sustainable stories from the ancient rainforest for 27 years!*

**A local family-owned experience dedicated to preserving and showcasing the oldest tropical rainforest on Earth in an accessible and sustainable manner, Skyrail recently celebrated their 27th anniversary of operations in Australia's Wet Tropics World Heritage listed rainforest.**

From our very beginning we have operated under Ecotourism Australia's eco-certification program and are recognised as a Green Travel Leader holding Advanced Ecotourism and Climate Action Innovator certifications. Skyrail has also achieved 20 years of EarthCheck certification, including

being the first cableway in the world to be recognised as an EarthCheck Master, and since receiving their highest accolade of Platinum status, we remain committed to improving our environmental responsibility.

Visitors will learn about this fragile ecosystem and ancient environment, on a guided tour with our Rangers and we recommend all guests download the free audio guide and interpretive app for in- gondola commentary and more (now available in four languages; English German, Japanese and Chinese).

The Skyrail Rangers play a vital role in sharing the stories of the rainforest, however they also play an important part in education, regeneration, and protection of the rainforest and its surrounding environment. They are

often seen taking coffee grinds from Skyrail's Canopy Café and fertilising the surrounding tropical gardens and hosting tree planting or rubbish clean-ups in the local community. Check out the Skyrail blog for more eco content and sustainability initiatives.

Both you and your cruise clients can feel confident knowing that Skyrail is doing their part to protect this fragile environment through sustainability initiatives and are acting to protect the natural environment for future generations, creating advocates, and a greater appreciation for a sustainable future.

Visit [skyrail.com.au](https://www.skyrail.com.au) for more information or contact Nerida Meakin [bdm@skyrail.com.au](mailto:bdm@skyrail.com.au).





## *Lightscape to return to Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne*

### **The much-loved, illuminated natural wonderland to return in winter 2023**

Returning in 2023 after a sell-out season, Lightscape, an extraordinary, after-dark experience at Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, is back with a brand new trail from 16 June to 6 August 2023.

Immersed in light, colour, reflection and music, the all-new 2.1km trail will take visitors through the green heart of Melbourne. Expect stunning lakeside reflections, colour-changing installations, large-scale illuminated sculptures and new surprises along the way with over 100,000 tiny lights.

In 2023, the trail of light and sound will include never before seen artworks along with the impressive Winter Cathedral that was a crowd favourite when it debuted earlier this year. The popular welcome zone filled with Melbourne's best food trucks and pop-up bars is also returning.

Following enormous successes in the UK and US, Lightscape, was an overwhelming success, quickly becoming a highlight of Melbourne's winter activities.

"Lightscape was an overwhelming success earlier this year and we are delighted that this world-class event is returning to Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne so that Victorians can again enjoy our Gardens in a whole new light," said Professor Tim Entwisle, Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

In addition to Lightscape, Royal Botanic Gardens will also present a number of other tours this winter including Forest Therapy, Guided Nature Walk and the Explorer Bus Tour. [www.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au)

#### **Lightscape:**

Fri 16 June to Sun 6 August 2023  
(Wed – Sun)

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne  
Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra

First entry 5.15pm, 5.30pm or 5.45pm depending on event date and sunset time last entry 9:00pm (Wed / Thurs & Sun) 9:30pm (Fri / Sat)

Main entry via Observatory Gate near the Visitor Centre, opposite the Shrine of Remembrance. Alternate entry via Bridge Gate (previously Gate A) corner Anderson Street and Alexandra Ave.

#### **Tickets:**

**Peak:** Adult: \$40, Child (4-12yr): \$32, Family: \$144

**Off-peak:** Adult: \$36, Child (4-12yr): \$28, Family: \$128

**Anytime pass:** \$55

For further information and to book tickets, visit [www.lightscapemelbourne.com.au](http://www.lightscapemelbourne.com.au)



## Queensland offers 13 incredible Indigenous tours to lift the heart and bridge understanding

Closest access point: Bundaberg Port Wharf

### 7. Taribelang Bunda Cultural Tours, Bundaberg:

Immerse yourself in Dreaming as you embark on a journey through time across the Bundaberg region with a Taribelang Bunda guide. Weaving through the streets of the region to sites of significance, sharing the intertwined First Nations history and modern day living through storytelling, Dreamtime and language, this half-day tour experience is an introduction to the region's First Nations culture and rich history. Learn how traditional artefacts such as the Boomerang were used in daily life, and taste bush flavours during a tantalising morning tea while your guides share authentic storytelling connecting with you on Country, together as one. <https://www.bundaculturaltours.com.au/>

Closest access point: The Whitsundays anchorage

### 8. Whitsunday Paradise Explorer, Airlie Beach:

There's 74 island wonders and now, a new way to see a couple of them. Only this time through the 9000-year-old prism of the First Nations peoples who call the Whitsundays their home and their Country. This is a story of one of the most astoundingly beautiful destinations in the world as told by Peter Pryor, a descendent of the Nggaro Sea People. Peter will guide you in a small boat across two islands and take you to a rock art cave that dates back 2350 years. Currently only offered as a chartered tour. <https://www.whitsundayparadisexplorer.com/>

Closest access point: Townsville Port Terminal

### 9. Mungalla Aboriginal Tours:

A cultural history that is as diverse as the Townsville North Queensland region itself, learn from the world's oldest living culture with an Indigenous tour with Mungalla Aboriginal Tours. Discover Hinchinbrook's rich Indigenous history at Mungalla Station. Located two hours north of Townsville, this historic site is more than just a cattle station. It is a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture and 45,000-year history of the Nywaigi Aboriginal people. On the property, you'll learn how to throw a boomerang or spear and hear the stories of both the Aboriginal people and Irish settler James Cassady who advocated for traditional land rights.

<https://www.townsvillenorthqueensland.com.au/things-to-do/product-things/?mungalla-aboriginal-tours-56b260b8d5f1565045da3fcb>

Closest access point: Cairns Port Terminal

### 10. Mandingalbay Yidinji Eco Cultural Tours, Cairns:

Located across Trinity Inlet just five kilometres from bustling downtown Cairns is a palm fringed peninsula that houses a new tourism gem. The Mandingalbay Yidinji Eco Cultural Tour is a three-hour ranger guided tour to a country that is abundant with food and medicinal plants. Here, rangers share bush tucker tips and ancient land management techniques designed to reinvigorate the land.

<http://mandingalbay.com.au/>

### 11. Walkabout Cultural Adventures:

Join proud Kuku Yalanji man, Juan Walker, as you walk ankle deep water through the mangroves and mudflats of his ancestral lands north of Port Douglas and forage for seafood in the world's oldest supermarket. The tour follows a typical outing for a 10 or 11-year old Kuku Yalanji child and unearths botanicals that were once used for sustenance and medicinal purposes. <https://www.walkaboutadventures.com.au/>

### 12. Pamagirri Aboriginal Experience Rainforestation, Kuranda:

A living textbook written with the family in mind, kids will learn about Australia by touring a compact wildlife park that is home to 13 iconic Australian animals prior to joining the Pamagirri Mini Mob experience and Dance Show for a first-person insight into the culture of Australia's First Nations peoples. This is a kid-friendly tour that can last for almost three hours and covers geography, sociology, zoology and anthropology. <https://www.rainforest.com.au/experiences/pamagirri-aboriginal-experience/>

### 13. Dreamtime Dive and Snorkel, Cairns:

Dive in deep and combine Australian Indigenous history with a marine biology class on one out-of-this-world Great Barrier Reef trip! Dreamtime Dive and Snorkel engages storytellers and spokespeople from four Indigenous tribes plus qualified marine biologists to deliver learnings about the world's oldest living culture and the world's largest living organism. Snorkel, dive, dance, swim; this is a Great Barrier Reef trip with a cultural difference. <https://dreamtimedive.com/>



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