

# ESCAPE

escape.com.au

## 50 SHORT BREAKS

Our experts pick their sweet spots for a quick getaway in 2024

## 10

TOP THRILLS FOR  
MOTORSPORT FANS

**KENDALL HILL**  
Walking with the Maasai

Maguk waterfall, Kakadu National Park, NT

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**WORLD**  
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# 50 SHORT

Escape's travel experts spill on their top destinations for a quick getaway in 2024

# BREAKS

**M**ore than a weekend away, but not as committed (or as expensive) as a full-blown holiday, a short break is often all you need to rest and recharge. To inspire your own refreshing mini-break, we've asked our expert team

of writers for the best places for a quick getaway. They've cast their eye across their home states and territories, and we've added some of our favourite overseas destinations a short flight from Australia.

From luxurious hotel stays to serene campgrounds, exhilarating road trips to idyllic retreats, our travel writers have scoured every corner to bring you the ultimate escapes. Whether you crave a quick overnight adventure, a rejuvenating long weekend, or a blissful week-long retreat, we've uncovered experiences to suit every taste and time frame.

Get ready to indulge in unforgettable moments, breathtaking landscapes, and unparalleled hospitality as you immerse yourself in the art of the perfect getaway.

# 1

## Townsville upgrade

Townsville has stepped it up and Ardo hotel is the embodiment of a new level of luxury luring travellers north. The rooftop is the place to be, with views over Magnetic Island from the infinity pool and caviar served steps from your sun lounger. [ardohotel.au](http://ardohotel.au)

**TIP:** Upgrade to truly elite at the new Pelorus Private Island – accessible via private helicopter charter or superyacht.

[pelorusprivateisland.au](http://pelorusprivateisland.au)

# QUEENSLAND



## ESCAPE EXPERT: CELESTE MITCHELL

Sunshine Coast local Celeste loves discovering new places to escape to in her home state, especially when she gets to see them through fresh eyes with her two young kids in tow.

### 2 Big-city life

There's been a lot of Brisbane buzz of late (thanks, Trent Dalton), but it will reach fever pitch in August when the \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf precinct opens. Frock up and check it all out at Cicada Blu, the Star's crowning open-air bar. [star.com.au](http://star.com.au)

**TIP:** August is a big month for families too, with Bluey's World arriving at Hamilton. [bluey.tv](http://bluey.tv)

### 3 Blooming big weekend

The Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers turns 75 this year, after a record attendance in 2023, but any weekend is a good excuse to book a stay in the pink corner store-turned Airbnb Norwood Roses with its own award-winning rose garden. [tcof.com.au](http://tcof.com.au); [airbnb.com](http://airbnb.com)  
**TIP:** Book ahead for a cosy night out at Cork and Lever wine bar. [corkandlever.com.au](http://corkandlever.com.au)

### 4 Farm stay in style

A family escape to the country no longer means tolerating dowdy digs in return for farm animal encounters. Chic new three-bedroom stays have just opened at both Seven Peaks in the Glass House Mountains and Sixty6 Acres in Woombye on the Sunshine Coast. **TIP:** Tossing up? The Acreage at Sixty6 Acres comes with a private outdoor bathhouse. [sevenpeaksfarmstay.com.au](http://sevenpeaksfarmstay.com.au); [sixty6acres.com](http://sixty6acres.com)

### 5 Design-led beach stay

A southern Gold Coast sojourn is all about matching your stay to the gorgeous beaches and hip bars on your doorstep. Check in at The Villas by Bilinga Beach Abodes or Cheshire Cat Motel and you're assured a good time within your immediate radius. [bilingabeachabodes.com.au](http://bilingabeachabodes.com.au); [cheshirecatmotel.com](http://cheshirecatmotel.com)  
**TIP:** Head to Las Palmas at Palm Beach for \$2 oysters during Happy Hour on weekends. [laspalmas.com.au](http://laspalmas.com.au)

### 6 Wellness on the mountain

When it opens later this year, Sol Elements will be a Zen temple to wellness, seemingly floating on a circular lake in the Gold Coast hinterland. Expect communal onsens, cold plunge pools, float therapy, infra-red saunas, clay treatments, and a salt cave. [solelements.com.au](http://solelements.com.au)  
**TIP:** Stay overnight at the new Vistas at Cedar Creek Lodges on the same property. [cedarcreeklodges.com.au](http://cedarcreeklodges.com.au)

### 7 Gorge-ous attractions in the north

There's a new way to see the ancient landscape of Carnarvon Gorge and the regenerative growth following last year's bushfires with scenic helicopter flights over the national park recently launched. [southernqueenslandcountry.com.au](http://southernqueenslandcountry.com.au); [1800helicopter.com.au](http://1800helicopter.com.au)

**TIP:** Preparation is key – stock up on all the food and water you need in Rockhampton, Roma or Emerald.

Continued next page



Yeppoon

# 8

### Family fun

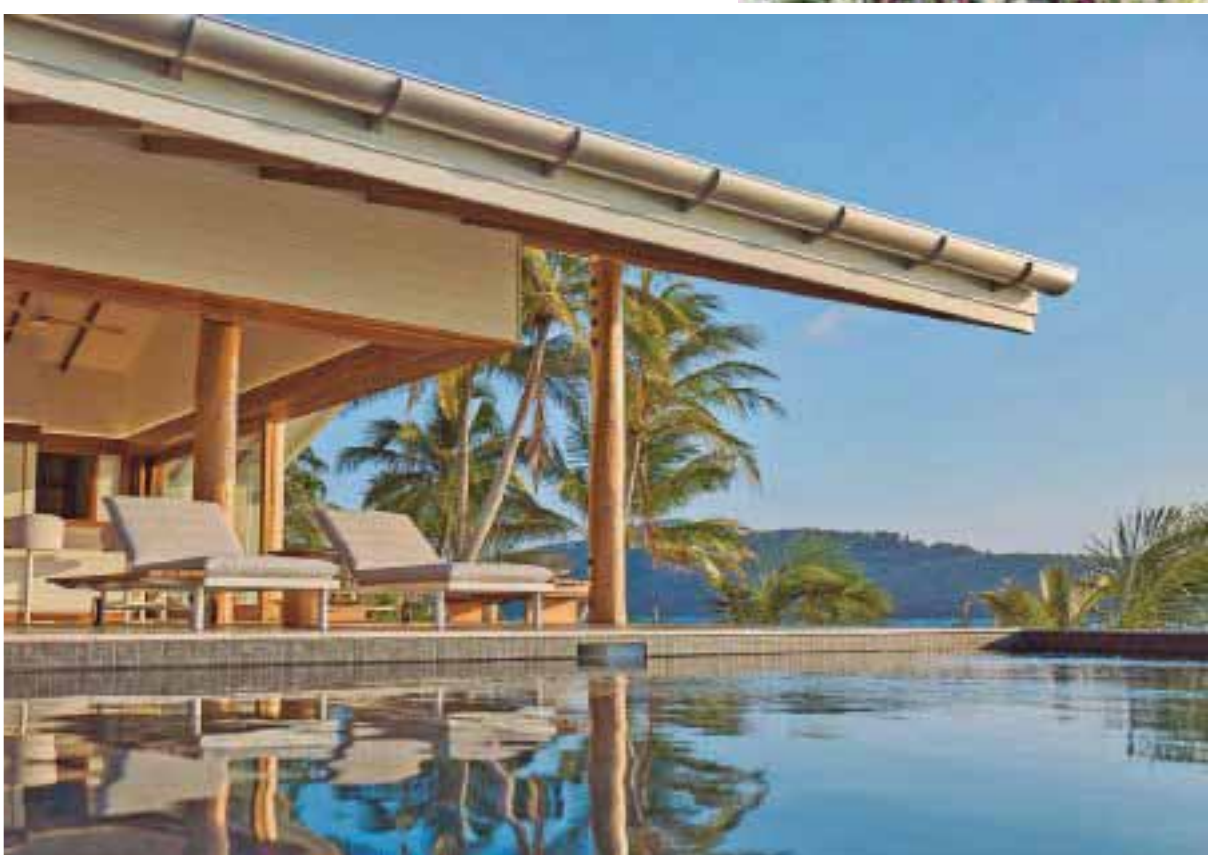
With street art, a free water park and lagoon, a dinosaur park and snorkelling offshore, Yeppoon is the most underrated family destination in Queensland.

**TIP:** Board the new Kraken fast boat with Funtastic Cruises to whip through the best of Keppel Bay, and check out The Surfhouse at Surfside Motel, which is undergoing renovations in 2024.

[yeppoonsurfsidemotel.com.au](http://yeppoonsurfsidemotel.com.au); [funtasticcruises.com](http://funtasticcruises.com)



Clockwise from top: Surfside Motel Yeppoon; Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers; Pelorus Private Island, off Townsville; The Acreage at Woombye's Sixty6 Acres, Sunshine Coast. Opposite: Pelorus Island.



## NSW AND THE ACT



### ESCAPE EXPERT: NATASHA DRAGUN

Natasha loves exploring her own backyard. The fact she doesn't drive hasn't put her off – there's always someone with a car keen for an adventure.

# 10

### Nature rules

From the largest moving coastal sand dunes in the southern hemisphere to swathes of rainforest, there's a lot to love about Port Stephens. Now you

have an added incentive to venture north of Sydney – to check into the freshly minted, eco-friendly villa precinct at Reflections Hawks Nest Holiday Park, replete with solar power and recycled timber furnishings.

**TIP:** Six of the 14 villas are pet-friendly, so bring your pooch. [reflectionsholidayparks.com.au](http://reflectionsholidayparks.com.au)

# 11

### Southern calling

In the south, near the Victorian border, Wagga Wagga unites world-class wineries with epic adventures along the Murrumbidgee River. Base yourself at the new St Hugh Hotel, which is like a

shrine for local design – expect murals, furnishings and sculptures created by Riverina talent. [sthughwagga.com](http://sthughwagga.com)

**TIP:** Book a Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge tour while you're in town. [bundyiculture.com.au](http://bundyiculture.com.au)

# 12

### Wine time

You'll be spoiled for space at The Lane Retreat in the Hunter Valley, newly opened and set in one of Bimbaden Estate's vineyards in Pokolbin. The 60

self-contained villas are surrounded by vines – when you're not lounging by the communal pool, enjoy a glass of wine in one of the outdoor gathering areas.

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

**TIP:** Check out the Hunter's new Tower Whiskey Distillery, set on the grounds of luxe Tower Lodge.

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

# 13

### On ya board!

On the Mid North Coast of NSW, Crescent Head is a mecca for avid surfers. In the coming months, the town will up its accommodation ante with the opening of Sea Sea,

a retro motel-turned-design-driven-bolthole thanks to fashionista George Gorrow (ex-Ksubi).

**TIP:** Forgot your board? You can rent one from the hotel's Surf Club. [seaseahotel.com](http://seaseahotel.com)

# 14

### Beach bliss

Steps from Werri Beach near Gerringong on the South Coast of NSW, Uma on Werri looks like it has slipped from the pages of a design

magazine. The newly opened holiday house comes with seven rooms, a pool and a spa, with everything decorated just so.

**TIP:** You don't have to leave your cocoon – your hosts can organise everything from on-site yoga and massages to a private chef. [umaonwerri.com](http://umaonwerri.com)

# 15

### Walk this way

The first phase of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail recently welcomed outdoor enthusiasts, running through the Tweed and connecting Murwillumbah to

Crabbes Creek. When complete, it will span 132km through this fertile region.

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

**TIP:** While you have your hiking boots on, set out on the multi-day, 39km Gidjuum Gulganyi Walk, slated to open

# 9

### Sail in style

Raes on Wategos has long been one of NSW's most exclusive stays. And now the boutique Byron Bay hotel has another sleep-in-style offering: all aboard *Sea Raes*, a luxe, 101-foot yacht with space for eight guests and just as many crew.

**TIP:** She's based in NSW for the spring/summer seasons, which means you can explore Sydney Harbour, Pittwater and the Hawkesbury on a private charter.

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



Sydney Harbour



mid-2024, and passing through World Heritage-listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia. BYO tent.

# 16

### Be wowed at W Sydney

Darling Harbour's towering new hotel, W Sydney is affectionately known as the ribbon building thanks to its glassy curves sandwiched between two

frenetic motorways. Inside the glass is all class, however. Featuring 588 stylish rooms and suites with a marine-hued theme and bright pops of colour, it's the ideal place to slumber whether you want to explore the city or just enjoy cocktails at the Wet Deck pool club.

**TIP:** Book midweek to secure a budget-friendly stay and a lounge poolside. [marriott.com](http://marriott.com)

# 17

### Capital assets

Staycation in the nation's capital? We have you covered. Canberra's newest attraction, Hijinx Hotel, is seriously fun. It's also not a hotel that you check into, but rather a

series of challenge rooms where your objectives become more difficult as time ticks down.

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

**TIP:** Meriton Suites has just opened nearby, with a range of one- to three-bedroom accommodation options on offer. [meritonsuites.com.au](http://meritonsuites.com.au)

# 18

### Amid the vines

The Canberra region is home to some of Australia's most exciting cool-climate wineries, not in the least Contentious Character in the

hills of Wamboin. Drop in for a cellar-door tasting or lunch in the restaurant, then check in to the nearby

1885 Carrington Inn – grand doesn't even begin to describe this historic place. [thecarringtoninn.com.au](http://thecarringtoninn.com.au)

**TIP:** This year, the estate will open an urban winery experience in the heart of one of Canberra's most exciting new precincts: Dairy Road.

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

# 19

### Go underground

In winter in the ACT, we truffle! From June through August the prized black Périgord truffle is on the menu at restaurants, cafés and wineries across the Canberra

region, with the cool-climate conditions ideal for growing this umami-rich fungus.

**TIP:** Enjoy a truffle hunt at one of the newest jewels in Canberra's culinary-experience crown, Beltana Farm.

[beltanafarm.au](http://beltanafarm.au)

# 20

### Go off-grid

Escape to calm serenity at The Cabin at Arcadia Nimbin, a one-bedroom off-grid hideaway replete with an outdoor granite bath, indoor wood fire, rain shower and a dreamy bedroom with huge picture windows perfect for feeling close to nature.

**TIP:** The cabin is on a working farm, which will open garden tours to the public later this year.

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



## WESTERN AUSTRALIA



### ESCAPE EXPERT: KATRINA LODGE

Based between Perth and Dunsborough, Katrina says a diverse landscape and the opportunity to experience nature makes WA the dream state for a good roadtrip.



## 22 Blaze a beer trail

The Margaret River region has craft beer lovers frothing with the highest concentration of microbreweries in the state – 13.

Discover award-winning ales as you wind your way past ocean and forest. You'll find family-friendly venues with sprawling lawns, together with delicious regional food on the menu. [margaretriver.com](http://margaretriver.com)

**TIP:** For ocean vibes, Shelter Brewing Co is beachside and Eagle Bay Brewing Co has ocean views across farm and bushland. Don't forget to designate a driver. [shelterbrewing.com.au](http://shelterbrewing.com.au); [eaglebaybrewing.com.au](http://eaglebaybrewing.com.au)

## 23 Dine on a semi-deserted island

Glide over glittering turquoise waters, by air or sea charter, to the Abrolhos Islands. Dig your toes in the sand at a long-table lunch and feast on chef-prepared local seafood and sip on WA wine. This ticketed culinary adventure is part of Geraldton's Shore Leave Festival, a seafood gala celebrating the Mid-West region.

**TIP:** There is no accommodation at the Abrolhos. Stay at The Gerald Apartment Hotel, a stone's throw from the Geraldton foreshore. [thegerald.com.au](http://thegerald.com.au)

## 24 Go 'wow' at Wharton Beach

This isolated, eye-squinting-white beach curves in a gentle arc for 4.5km and is touted as one of the best beaches in the world. The water is as transparent as glass and the sand is so fine it squeaks. Huge granite formations at one end offer a great climb and views.

**TIP:** Just under an hour's drive from Esperance, Wharton Beach makes a great day trip, and you can four-wheel-drive onto the beach.

## 25 Head for Mount Hart

Mount Hart Wilderness Lodge delivers a true outback adventure. It's heralded as the Kimberley's best kept secret and is the ideal base to explore the region's deep gorges, waterfalls and rugged terrain. Board the new helicopter tour to remote areas not accessible by 4WD. Take your pick of camping, glamping or the homestead retreat to rest your head. [mounthart.com.au](http://mounthart.com.au)

**TIP:** Dry season (May to October) is the best time to visit for less humidity.

Continued next page



Clockwise from above: Sea Raes in Sydney Harbour; Shelter Brewing Co, Busselton; Beltana Farm, Canberra; The Cabin at Arcadia Nimbin, NSW; Bremer Bay, WA.



## 21

### Track whales at Bremer Bay

On the south coast of WA, this sleepy little town is the only place in Australia you can regularly spot orcas, or killer whales, in the wild. Join an all-day whale watching tour, hosted by a marine biologist, to the Bremer Canyon, which is teeming with sea life.

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

**TIP:** Tours operate December to April. Pack seasickness tablets.



## NORTHERN TERRITORY



### ESCAPE EXPERT: KATE DINNING

Kate is a Darwin writer who is on a mission to see everything there is to see in the NT – and she's still not even close.

# 27

### Fly into paradise

Jump straight off the plane and into the newly opened Darwin Airport Resort. Enjoy your own private plunge pool when staying

in the Tropical Pool Villas – or dip into one of the largest city hotel pools in Australia for a cocktail.

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

**TIP:** Time your visit with the Darwin Street Art Festival (May 18 to June 8) or look up at the epic street art in Darwin city or at the Larrakia water tank art at East Arm any time of the year. [darwinstreetartfestival.com.au](http://darwinstreetartfestival.com.au)

# 28

### Art in Alice Springs

For a short outback break, book into Ooraminna Station Homestead, a cattle station-turned-boutique accommodation

south of Alice with a new resort pool. Settle in for an evening painting lesson in front of a stunning backdrop at Simpsons Gap with recent Tourism NT award-winner Art Tours of Australia.

[ooraminna.com.au](http://ooraminna.com.au); [arttoursofaustralia.com](http://arttoursofaustralia.com)

**TIP:** Hire a 4WD to get to where you need to go – the roads to Ooraminna aren't sealed.

# 29

### A luxe wildlife adventure

Kakadu National Park is always a wonderful short break – enjoy walks, waterfalls and wildlife as

you embrace the culture of the Bininj/Mungguy people. Now you can soak it all up as you soak in your outdoor bath – a perk of a luxury stay at the new Yellow Water Villas at Cooina Lodge. [kakadutourism.com](http://kakadutourism.com)

**TIP:** Make it about the journey too: hire a barbecue boat on Corroboree Billabong, or stop at the Bark Hut for a Territory lunch on the way to Kakadu.

[barkhutnt.com.au](http://barkhutnt.com.au); [corroboreehouseboats.com.au](http://corroboreehouseboats.com.au)



# 26

### Heli-experience

It's certainly a top-shelf tourism experience – you can now go heli-foraging with Darwin Distilling Co. Take a scenic flight from Darwin to the luxurious Finnis River Lodge, forage for native botanicals via airboat or buggy, then head back to the city to blend your own Top End gin.

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

**TIP:** If you're in the CBD, try Ella by Minoli, *MasterChef Australia* contestant Minoli De Silva's Sri Lankan restaurant. [ellabyminoli.au](http://ellabyminoli.au)



Clockwise from above: Finnis River Lodge, NT; Lona Misa restaurant, South Yarra; Mount Buller mountain biking; Darwin city street art. Opposite from top: Ship Inn Stanley, Tasmania; pretty Richmond in Tasmania.



# 30

### Climb the walls at Mount Buller

Rockwire is a guided climb that explores the summit's west face over a series of fixed anchors, ladders and bridges. To wind down, create your own artisanal spirits at Swiftcrest Distillery's new tasting pods in Mansfield.

[swiftcrest.com](http://swiftcrest.com); [rockwire.com.au](http://rockwire.com.au)

**TIP:** Enjoy the scenery on a trail ride. [mountainvalleytrailrides.com.au](http://mountainvalleytrailrides.com.au)



# VICTORIA



## ESCAPE EXPERT: DANIELLE NORTON

Danielle loves every nook and cranny of Victoria, from fine city restaurants to beaches and rainforests, and has also been visiting Tasmania for decades.

### 31 Stargaze at the Prom

Wilsons Promontory National Park is heaven for walkers and wildlife lovers. Hike from Tidal River to the turquoise water and white quartz sand of Squeaky Beach. Stay at the nearby Bubble Retreats, sleeping under the stars in a clear-roofed dome. [bubbleretreats.com.au](http://bubbleretreats.com.au)

**TIP:** East Gippsland is brimming with cider, wine and food producers. Stop in at Fleet Wines in Leongatha on the way home for a snack, tunes and a bottle of wine or two. [fleetwines.com.au](http://fleetwines.com.au)

### 32 Bubbles in the King Valley

The Dal Zottos have new studio pods in their vineyard, stumbling distance from the cellar door and the Whitfield township. Cycle between wineries on the Pedal to Produce paths, taste prosecco at Brown Brothers and Pizzini, and book a decadent lunch. There's hiking, horseriding and hot-air ballooning, too. [dalzotto.com.au](http://dalzotto.com.au)

**TIP:** The Mountain View Hotel in Whitfield is owned by the Pizzini family and you'll often find them dining in and talking wine. [mvhotel.com.au](http://mvhotel.com.au)

### 33 Spa time

One stop on the Great Victorian Bathing Trail is the Hepburn Bathhouse and Spa, which has dedicated wellness villas.

Escape to this region where spas, bushwalks, mineral springs, lavender farms and great restaurants, like Frank and Connie's Kitchen and the Lake House, are the norm. Catch a musical performance at the Hepburn Springs Palais. [hepburnbathhouse.com](http://hepburnbathhouse.com)

**TIP:** If you like fossicking for vintage goods, head to the Amazing Mill Markets in Daylesford. [millmarkets.com.au](http://millmarkets.com.au)

### 34 South of the river city staycay

Stay in five-star luxury at The Lyall in South Yarra. Shop the Chapel Street

boutiques, have lunch at Token, eat at Lona Misa, the Ovolo's onsite vegan restaurant, or try the Omakase Bar at Yugen. Wander the Royal Botanical Gardens, then head into town for an exhibition at the NGV. [thelyall.com](http://thelyall.com)

**TIP:** Book a meal at The Botanical and discover why this restaurant with prime position opposite the Royal Botanical Gardens is beloved by locals. [botanicalhotel.com.au](http://botanicalhotel.com.au)

### 35 Yarra Valley road trip

Visit Healesville Sanctuary then stop by one of the Yarra Valley's 80 cellar doors. Joel Alderdice,

formerly of Tarrawarra, is about to open a tiny restaurant inside Emerald City in Healesville. Enjoy vineyard views at the plush new Re'em boutique hotel at Helen and Joey Estate. [visityarravalley.com.au](http://visityarravalley.com.au)

**TIP:** Take an early morning hot-air balloon flight from Balgownie Estate for a bird's eye view. [balgownie.com](http://balgownie.com)



### 36 G-Town cool

If you haven't been lately, Geelong has changed. Little Malop Street dining precinct is booming and craft breweries, ramen bars and hole-in-the-wall cafés around the city are well worth a visit. Mt Duneed Estate has eight cool pods. [mtduneedestate.com.au](http://mtduneedestate.com.au)

**TIP:** Non Disclosure Bar, the fanciest new bar in town, is taking things up a notch with Champagne, caviar bumps and cocktails. [nondisclosurebar.com.au](http://nondisclosurebar.com.au)

# TASMANIA

### 37 A capital experience

Hobart has a knock-your-socks-off food scene, challenging art at Mona and the vibrant Salamanca

Market. Provider House is a tranquil, new Japanese-inspired stay just out of the centre at base of Kunyani (Mount Wellington) where you're surrounded by bushland. For a sophisticated urban retreat in Sandy Bay, there's Braithwaite Hobart. [providerstore.com.au](http://providerstore.com.au); [braithwaitehobart.com](http://braithwaitehobart.com)

**TIP:** Check out the gin cocktails and elegant snacks at the very "cool" wine bar and kitchen, Institut Polaire. [institutpolaire.com.au](http://institutpolaire.com.au)

### 38 King of the World, King Island

Wild, rugged and clean, King Island in the Bass Strait is a tiny destination with huge appeal.

King Island Dairy, King Island Distillery and fresh lobster and oysters straight from the sea are only some of the attractions. Stay at Tiny Rupetta or Red Rock Hut where the views are everything. [intothewildescapes.com](http://intothewildescapes.com); [redrockhut.com.au](http://redrockhut.com.au)

**TIP:** Golf lovers, bring your clubs. You can choose from three courses across the island.

### 39 Love art, love Launceston

Ensnounce yourself in Belvoir House, an Art Deco period home in West Launceston adorned with the work of

the artist/owner, John Wren. You can walk from here to picturesque Cataract Gorge. Also check out the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, and Design

# 40

**Go nuts in the northwest**

Visit Stanley to see the well-preserved colonial buildings and climb the massive volcanic plug, aka "The Nut". Stay at the luxurious Ship Inn, a storytelling inn with themed rooms. Great for romance, nature, beaches and wildlife. [shipinnstanley.com.au](http://shipinnstanley.com.au)

**TIP:** The Nut Chairlift has 360-degree views of the village and the Bass Strait. [thenutchairlift.com.au](http://thenutchairlift.com.au)

Tasmania. [belvoirtasmania.com](http://belvoirtasmania.com); [qvmag.tas.gov.au](http://qvmag.tas.gov.au); [designtasmania.com.au](http://designtasmania.com.au)

**TIP:** Great views and great designs are a feature of many Tasmanian restaurants. Have a meal at Stillwater or Timbre Kitchen. [timbrekitchen.com](http://timbrekitchen.com); [stillwater.com.au](http://stillwater.com.au)

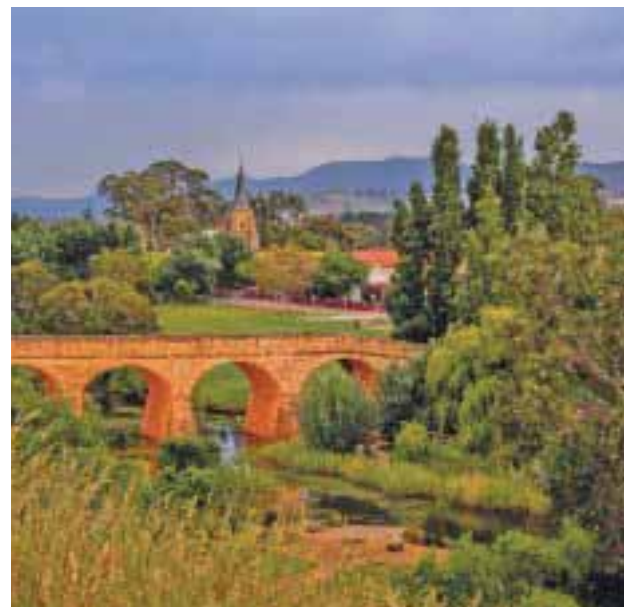
### 41 Heritage-listed history

Wander pretty Richmond, where most of the buildings date back to the 1820s. Visit the gorgeous sandstone bridge and one of Australia's oldest remaining

Catholic Churches, St John's. Sample premium cool-climate wine at the convict-built, heritage-listed Pooley Wines estate. [pooleywines.com.au](http://pooleywines.com.au)

**TIP:** Stay, surrounded by bush, at The Croft at Arden, an architecturally designed private cabin in the woods, made from blue gums sourced on the property. [ardenretreat.com.au](http://ardenretreat.com.au)

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# SOUTH AUSTRALIA



## ESCAPE EXPERT: ALEXIS BUXTON-COLLINS

Alexis is a proud Port Adelaide fan who loves nothing more than spending a weekend enjoying the wines, beaches and wide open spaces of his home state.

# 42

### Kick on in Adelaide

Fifty-thousand fans fill the Adelaide Oval every weekend during AFL season, but only a select

few get to stay the night at the stylish Oval Hotel. Wake up with breakfast overlooking the hallowed turf, then stroll over the River Torrens to explore the city. [ovalhotel.com.au](http://ovalhotel.com.au)

**TIP:** Enjoy the best seats in the house on the epic RoofClimb. [roofclimb.com.au](http://roofclimb.com.au)

# 43

### Make friends on the Fleurieu

Fresh ocean breezes, rolling farmland and secluded coves make the Fleurieu Peninsula ideal

for a weekend escape. Just don't be surprised if a mob of 'roos joins you at Tapanappa Campground for epic sunset views over the water to Kangaroo Island.

[parks.sa.gov.au](http://parks.sa.gov.au)

**TIP:** Stop at Lost Phoenix Farm for a memorable long lunch in an old dairy. [lostphoenixfarm.com.au](http://lostphoenixfarm.com.au)

# 44

### Go with the Murray flow

See another SA wine region in style by visiting a Riverland cellar door aboard a houseboat.

And make sure you grab a bottle of red to enjoy around the campfire when you moor beneath the massive river red gums lining the Murray River.

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

**TIP:** Sample the food bowl's finest produce at Renmark's Temperance restaurant. [hotelrenmark.com.au](http://hotelrenmark.com.au)

# 45

### Sleep under the outback stars

Take a 4WD trip through the remote northern Flinders Ranges and watch the ancient mountains turn bright red over sunset canapés. Then decide whether to watch the glittering night skies through a telescope or from your swag on Arkaroola's Ridgetop Sleepout. [arkaroola.com.au](http://arkaroola.com.au)

**TIP:** Visit Arkaroola Village at sunset to see cute yellow-footed rock wallabies feeding.

Flinders Ranges, SA.

# INTERNATIONAL

# 46

### Be cool in Auckland

The perfect cocktail of culture, arts, music, food and nature, Auckland offers world-class

exhibitions at the Auckland Art Gallery, and the All Blacks Experience where you can feel the power of the All Blacks' haka and admire the view before leaping 192m down the side of the Sky Tower, all before dinner and a show.

**TIP:** Hop on the ferry to Waiheke Island for the day to explore the villages and enjoy wine-tasting with incredible views at Stonyridge and Batch wineries. [waiheke.co.nz](http://waiheke.co.nz)

# 48

### Say 'aloha' in Honolulu, Hawaii

Honolulu is less than a 10-hour flight away and five days there can be easily done. Catch an overnight

Qantas flight and book into the Westin Moana Surfrider, the grand dame of the island-city's hotels. The charming property is fronted by the famous Waikiki beach and backed by the boutique-laden Kalakaua Boulevard. The gardens are shadowed by ancient banyan trees that rise over the Beachhouse restaurant and bar where Mai Tais and more will instantly transform your mindset into mini break mode. [marriott.com](http://marriott.com); [qantas.com](http://qantas.com)

**TIP:** Book into the early morning yoga on the hotel's front lawn for an incredible sunrise stretch. You'll also spot not only surfers but perhaps a turtle or two.

# 49

### Go green in Singapore

The Garden City is greener than ever after becoming the first country in the world to be certified as a sustainable

destination. Explore eco attractions including Gardens by the Bay, hike the Southern Ridges, dine at future-forward gastrobar Fura, and shop 'til you drop, sustainable-style, at The Fashion Pulpit.

**TIP:** Singapore's hawker culture is considered an important part of the country's cultural sustainability and an excellent way to help keep traditions alive while enjoying incredible food.



# 50



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Additional words: Amanda Woods

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