

..just in case you needed another reason to visit AUSTRALIA

Sure it's got deadly spiders, snakes and sharks, but they don't stop people from coming here, never mind living here. And for good reason! From the gorges of Kakadu National Park to the white sails of the Sydney Opera House, Australia is a country as big as your imagination. Enjoy picturesque white beaches, labyrinths of laneways in culture-rich Melbourne, and humbling red desert suns in Australia's red centre. Australia is a place to be enjoyed!

FACTS & FIGURES

Plenty of room to stretch out...a wide, brown land, Australia is the sixth largest country in the world. It's about the same size as the 48 mainland states of the USA and 50 percent larger than Europe, but has the lowest population density in the world.

Beautiful one day...perfect the next...Australia's coastline stretches almost 50,000 kilometres and is linked by over 10,000 beaches, more than any other country in the world. More than 85% percent of Australians live within 50 kilometres of the coast, making it an integral part of our laidback lifestyle.

Hopping icon...the iconic kangaroo is unique to Australia and one of our most easily recognized mammals. There are an estimated 40 million kangaroos in Australia, more than when Australia was first settled.

Opals...Australia produces 95 percent of the world's precious opals and 99 percent of its black opals. The world's opal capital is the quirky underground town of Coober Pedy in South Australia.

ICONS



Great Barrier Reef...one of Australia's most remarkable natural gifts, the Great Barrier Reef is blessed with the breathtaking beauty of the world's largest coral reef. The Great Barrier Reef is one of the seven wonders of the natural world.

Uluru, formerly known as Ayer's Rock...the world's largest monolith, or single piece of stone. Uluru is the traditional name given to the monolith by the local Pitjantjatjara people of the region who greatly revere the structure and attach significant spiritual importance to it.



Port Arthur...founded as a penal settlement in 1830, Port Arthur originally served the British Empire as a timber station. Industry in the area soon followed and by the 1840s Port Arthur had a convict population of over 1100. However, by the 1870s the convicts were gone and left the buildings of the period that stand to this day that weren't destroyed by fires in the late 19th century.

ABORIGINAL CULTURE

The Dreamtime is the sacred 'time before time' of the world's creation. According to Aboriginal belief, totemic spirit ancestors emerged from the earth and descended from the sky to awaken a dark and silent world. They created the sun, moon and stars, forged mountains, rivers, trees and waterholes and changed into human and



animal forms. Spirit ancestors connect this ancient past with the present and future through every aspect of Aboriginal culture. Rock art, craft and bark painting reveal Dreamtime stories, mark territory and record history, while songs tell of Dreamtime journeys, verbally mapping water sources and other essential landmarks. Their special lyrics have been passed down virtually unchanged for at least 50,000 years, and are often accompanied by clapsticks or the deep throb of the didgeridoo. Similarly, traditional dances reveal creation myths, enact the deeds of Dreamtime heroes and even recent historical events.

HOST CITY...MELBOURNE

Fortunately; this lovely country is not without its urban havens, with our host city, Melbourne being one of these.

Greater Melbourne is set around the shores of Port Phillip Bay, while the city centre is laid out in a large rectangle on the northern banks of the Yarra River, about five kilometres from the bay.

lively and cosmopolitan city combines a fanatical love for the creative arts and good living with a state-wide sports addiction to make a city like no other. Food, art, music, wine and football – is there anything else?

One glance at a map and it's obvious that Melbourne is a planned city: a tidy, balanced grid of neatly angled streets. But beneath this lies a restless creative energy constantly pushing back at the city's seeming conservatism. From Southbank and the Yarra to the Flinders and Greek Quarters, the CBD is made up of precincts – distinct enclaves each with its own flavour and charm.

Extending around the bay are a number of inner suburbs, each with its own distinct character and personality. A short tram ride from the city centre, Melbourne's suburban neighbourhoods are a must see for anyone wanting to experience what life here is really all about.



More information on Australia and Victorian tourism visit:

www.visitmelbourne.com

www.visitvictoria.com

www.tourism.australia.com

More information on Skretting Australasian Aquaculture 2012 –

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