

CLIA DESTINATION FACTSHEET

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

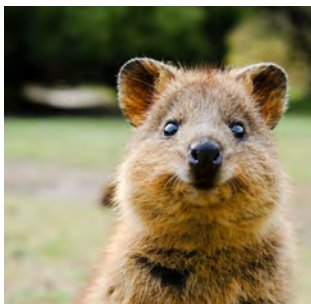


Uluru (Ayer's Rock)

BEST TIME TO GO/WEATHER

While cruises around Australia operate year-round, the main period – known as the Wave Season – runs from October to April. This is when temperatures warm up with the summer months from December to February being the peak. It can be the hottest time and also the busiest. However, cruises to Australia's Top End and Great Barrier Reef generally operate during the winter months from April to October. The cyclone season runs from November to April, with storms most likely in March and April.

New Zealand's main cruise season follows a similar pattern with sailings from October to April with the summer peak from December to February, though its weather tends to be more changeable with a higher risk of rain. North Island has more of a subtropical climate during summer while South Island is cooler.



Yirrganydji Aboriginal woman in Queensland Australia



10 REASONS TO CRUISE HERE

Bucket list bonanza – tick off world-class cities including Sydney, Melbourne and Wellington; go walkabout in the Australian Outback to sacred Uluru (Ayer's Rock); and marvel at the soaring peaks of New Zealand's Fiordland National Park.

Contrasting flavours – Australia and New Zealand may share a similar backstory, but they have their own individual cultures shaped by each country's distinct indigenous heritage and diverse landscapes.

Natural legends – ride the waves and revel in the lifeguard lifestyle of Australia's top surf spots; dive into underwater wonders of the Great Barrier Reef; or hop between the lush seductive outposts of New Zealand's Bay of Islands.

Indigenous cultures – explore the ancient traditions of Australia's Aboriginal people through rock art, tribal legends and mystical tales, and New Zealand's Māori tribes, famed for their haka war dance, arts and Polynesian-influenced statues and carvings.

Flavours of Blighty – English is the main language and driving is on the left. Australia has numerous familiar place names such as Gloucester and Brighton, while the Kiwi town of Dunedin is nicknamed Edinburgh of the South thanks to its Caledonian roots.

Heritage and history – from the 18th century era of Captain Cook, the shared colonial history is evident in the traditions, sports, architecture and British family links to both countries.

Wild wonders of Oz – from the curious: kangaroos, emus and dingos; to the cute: wombats, koalas and quokkas; and the awesome: crocodiles, sharks and spiders.

Chase the sun – with summer Down Under falling from December to February, escape to the sun-kissed side of the planet while Northern Hemisphere nations shiver in winter.

Thrill-seekers unite – rip it up on heli-flips, adrenaline-soaked jet-boat rushes, scream-filled bungee-jumps, and hair-raising canyoning escapades. Queenstown, New Zealand, bills itself as the world's adventure capital, while Kakadu National Park in Australia's Northern Territory is walkabout heaven.

Dip into the South Seas – enjoy a flavour of dreamy South Pacific islands such as Fiji, New Caledonia or Samoa on round-trip sailings from Australia or sail through French Polynesia and Hawaii on voyages between Australia/New Zealand and the USA.

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10 KEY ATTRACTIONS



1. Sydney – what's not to love about this iconic metropolis draped around a drop-dead gorgeous harbour with views to match, glamorous beaches and a bucket-load of chic bars and restaurants, plus the distinctive ivory peaks of its famous opera house.

2. Great Barrier Reef – the ultimate underwater playground and world's largest coral reef, stretching more than 1,400 miles off the coast of Queensland, accessed via Cairns and filled with colourful marine life and hundreds of tropical islands.

3. Kimberley region – famous as Australia's final frontier, this vast isolated stretch of coast in Western Australia is a land of giant terracotta cliffs, cascading waterfalls, secluded gorges and some of the highest tides in the Southern Hemisphere.

4. Tasmania – or Tassie, as it's known, sits approximately 150 miles off Victoria with Hobart as its capital. Australia's only island state is famed for its Aboriginal and colonial past, evident through former penal settlement Port Arthur.

5. South Australia – home to a casket of renowned wine regions, including the Barossa Valley, and pretty cosmopolitan hub of Adelaide whose streets teem with restaurants and novel speakeasy-style bars.

6. Perth – one of the planet's most isolated cities and capital of Western Australia, this metropolis brims with atmosphere and top-notch beaches while nearby Fremantle, where cruise ships dock, is a tourist draw all of its own.

7. Wellington – New Zealand's capital charms with its waterfront location and cool vibe. An enviable collection of museums jockey with bars and dining haunts, while beyond the city lie the Lord of the Rings film locations.

8. Bay of Islands – the first area of NZ to be colonised by Europeans, this collection of 144 islands north of Auckland is a subtropical paradise of lush outposts surrounded by bright turquoise waters brimming with marine-life.

9. Fiordland – this New Zealand national park's incredible landscape of soaring granite peaks and deep fjords make it a highlight of scenic cruising with Milford Sound, Doubtful Sound and Dusky Sound promising the most awe-inspiring vistas.

10. Auckland – the location of this North Island metropolis on a narrow isthmus gives it a spectacular natural setting. Strike out from its cosmopolitan heart to discover surfing beaches, rolling rainforest and picturesque wineries.

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Whitehaven Beach
Whitsunday Island,
Queensland, Australia

10 THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

1. Sail or fly – if you've time to spare, hop aboard a world cruise to sail Down Under. Alternatively, fly to one of the Australasian departure ports for sailings ranging from a few days to a few weeks, though the average is 14 nights.

2. Mainstream sailings v adventure – choose from big name, big ship lines that serve this region (mainly from Sydney) or jump on to adventure cruise companies with smaller vessels that focus on specific regions.

3. Stay a little longer – both Australia and New Zealand are tourist treasure chests packed with tours, adventures and experiences designed to bring out the best of each country's natural bounty and world-class cities.

4. Consider circumnavigations – it's the best way to tick off Australia's main cities and smaller towns, beautiful coastline, superb surfing beaches, off-shore islands and Great Barrier Reef, with sailings taking around a month and generally departing from Sydney.

5. Seasonal contrasts – while some cruises operate year-round, the main season runs during the Southern Hemisphere peak season from October to April with most sailings on larger ships that sail from Sydney.

6. Cyclone warning – the official season runs from November 1 to April 30, with March and April regarded as the peak for storms. Cruise lines monitor conditions and take necessary action, but this could mean changed itineraries and missed port stops.

7. All at sea – with long distances between Australian cities, be prepared for several sea days on circumnavigations, while Australia-New Zealand sailings involve a two-day crossing of the Tasman Sea.

8. Watch the weather – and pack accordingly because conditions can be variable, especially in New Zealand, where even in summer South Island can be cooler than North Island, so be sure to take plenty of layers and waterproofs.

9. Get a front row seat – with world-class views promised in Sydney Harbour and New Zealand's fjords it's worth booking a balcony cabin. Be sure to capitalise on the light evenings with an ocean view table in the ship restaurants.

10. Choppy waters – beware the Tasman Sea between Australia and New Zealand as it has something of a fearsome reputation, though November to March is regarded as the best time to cross with conditions generally calmer.



Milford Sound in New Zealand