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Australia: A Vacation to Remember

Every year many families argue over whether they should tour the United States or go to Europe, South America, or Asia for the family vacation. We are here to make that decision easy. How would you like to scuba dive in the Great Barrier Reef, tour the vast Australian Outback, see rare and exotic animals such as the koala, kangaroo and platypus, or just walk around the city of Sydney? Australia is a place that can appeal to a variety of people: adventurous travelers, outdoor enthusiasts, animal lovers, or those interested in cultures other than their own. A trip to Australia would include all of this and much more and would be a wonderful experience that would be remembered for a lifetime.

The wildlife of Australia is the most unique in the world. From the Great Barrier Reef to the Australian Outback there are many varieties of plant and animal life. In the Great Barrier Reef there are thousands of different plants and animals. From the coral reef, which is the largest coral formation in the world, to the most beautiful fish you have ever seen, it all is there (Asia 479). Many of you know the Outback as a great steakhouse, but in Australia it is nothing of the sort. The Australian Outback is a vast desert, which you can tour by camel, and is home to a variety of different animals.

Such animals range from the many different species of birds to the well-known kangaroo. You can also go on wildlife tours where you would have the chance to see various unusual animals. There is the koala, the duck-billed platypus, the kookaburra, the wombat, the dingo, and spiny anteater ("Commonwealth" 1). Just imagine swimming next to the sharks in one of the many seas surrounding Australia or riding alongside one of the forty different types of kangaroos in the Outback (Asia 484). Both the Outback and Great Barrier Reef would satisfy your need for adventure and would keep you coming back for more.

Like Americans, Australians enjoy a variety of sports, such as cricket, surfing, sailing, fishing, golf, tennis, and rugby. Cricket is "Australia's only truly national sport" and may attract as many as 80,000 spectators (Rajendra_93-94). While Melbourne hosted the first Australia Games in 1985, Sydney was the site of the 2000 Olympic games. Melbourne is also known worldwide for its horse racing and hosts Australia's most important race, the Melbourne Cup. In addition, Melbourne is known for its 120,000 capacity cricket ground, reputedly the largest in the world. The Australian enthusiasm for sailing was obvious in 1983 when Australia's entrant, Australia II, won The America's Cup, the most famous yachting competition world. If you like to surf, Australia is a very popular tourist attraction because of its fierce, towering waves ("Commonwealth" 1). Is golf your game? Australia boasts many world standard golf courses that are not as crowded nor as expensive as those you find in the United States (Rajendra 96). Whatever your interest in the sporting world, you are certain to find something that interests you in Australia.

While in Australia you will face a very diverse culture. Even though about 99% of the population speaks English, there is still a difference in religion and ethnic backgrounds. Explorers from Portugal, the Netherlands, and England arrived in the sixteenth century ([Australia](#) 7). Prisoners were sent to Australia at this time to improve overcrowded prisons in England. After World War II, Greeks, Italians, Lebanese, and Vietnamese moved to the country in great numbers ([Australia](#) 8). Among the religions is Christianity, which is the dominant religion in the country ([Asia](#) 492), but due to immigration, Islam, Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism, and Judaism are also part of Australia's diverse religious population ("Commonwealth" 1). Vijeya and Sudran Rajendra explain that another group that calls Australia home is the Aborigine tribe, or Koori, as they refer to themselves (51). In this tribe there is no one language and no written language. The Aborigine tribe was one of the first groups of people to settle in Australia from as far back as the last Ice Age ([Australia](#) 7).

The geography, outdoor activities, animals, and culture are just a few reasons to visit Australia. The unique land formations, wildlife, and wonderful attractions draw as many as 3,000,000 visitors a year ([Discovering](#) 4). The climate is moderate and pleasant, as shown by the following mean temperatures:

July mean temperatures average 9° C (48°F) in Melbourne in the southeast and 25° C (77° F) in Darwin in the north. January mean temperatures average 20° C (68° F) in Melbourne and 30° C (86° F) in Darwin. Summer readings often reach 38° C (100° F) or more in

almost any area of the continent and may exceed 46° C (115° F) in interior regions. (Discovering 4)

Start planning your vacation trip to Australia. It is an extraordinary experience that you will never forget.

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