

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



Your South Pacific Travel Specialists

AUSTRALIA

2024-2025 GUIDED HOLIDAYS



FIRST CHOICE 5-21 day Fully Curated Experiences **From page 26**

BEST BUYS 3-15 day Flexible Guided Holidays **From page 58**

Tastes of Southern Australia



Highlights

Local Connection

Meet Craig Starr on his 400-hectare sheep farm Gold Creek Station for a tale or two, and a BBQ. The stories continue at Australian Parliament House.

Cultural Immersion

Walk with an Aboriginal Guide through Adelaide's Botanic Garden, as you learn some of its history from a First Nation's perspective.

Sustainable Footprints

By visiting Kangaroo Island's Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, you not only gain insights into Australian animals, but also have the chance to support them.

Wildlife & Nature

Across the Great Ocean Road's 240 kilometres you'll discover all manner of natural drama, from limestone stacks to World Heritage listed rainforest and untouched coastal coves.



Koomo Restaurant and Bar

11 DAYS

23 Included Experiences

Departure Dates

2023	2024	2025
Oct 17, 31	Jan 09, 23	Jan 09, 23
Nov 21	Feb 06, 20	Feb 06, 20
	Mar 05, 19	Mar 06, 20
	Apr 11	
	May 02	
	Aug 29	
	Sep 19	
	Oct 17, 31	
	Nov 21	

Definite Departures highlighted in red.

For prices, latest deals and year-round offers including past guest offers, group booking discounts for 9+ guests, multi-trip savings and additional definite departure dates visit aatkings.com/esma or contact your local travel agent.

A limited number of single rooms are also available.

Dining

10 Full breakfasts B 4 Dinners with wine DW
1 Be My Guest lunch BG 1 Farewell Dinner FD
2 Lunches L

Flight Information

Day prior – flights to arrive anytime into Sydney Airport

Day 11 – flights to depart anytime from Adelaide Airport

Flights are not included in the holiday price.

Return airport to hotel transfers are included in the holiday price.

As this holiday departs at 7.30am from the Vibe Hotel Sydney, accommodation will need to be pre-booked for the previous night.

1 Sydney – Canberra

As hard as it is to say goodbye to Sydney, it's just as easy to say hello to the Southern Highlands. South of the 'Harbour City', the bucolic countryside of Berrima awaits – fun fact: this is the oldest Georgian village in Australia. Further on, you're welcomed to Gold Creek Station by sheep farmer Craig Starr for a Be My Guest BBQ lunch and tales about life on the land. Onward to the country's cool little capital, home to Parliament House, where you'll go behind the political scenes. Tonight, join your Travel Director for a Welcome Dinner. **Hotel: Crowne Plaza. BG DW**

2 Canberra – Wangaratta

Get some Canberra perspective from the summit of Mt. Ainslie. You won't be able to see the Murray River, but you'll soon cross it en route to Beechworth, Victoria's best-preserved gold rush town. We'll give you the Beechworth lowdown, then set you on your way to explore character-filled antiques stores, galleries and museums at your leisure. There are plenty of charming places to refuel, as well, before Wangaratta's cathedrals beckon. **Hotel: Quality. B**

3 Wangaratta – Melbourne

Meandering south toward historic Glenrowan, you're well and truly in Ned Kelly country – this is where the infamous bushranger and his gang were finally captured in 1880. We'll tell you all the tales, then a few more about Melbourne, the home of Aussie rules football, some of the country's best arts institutions, and a swag of stellar restaurants, cafés and bars. Once you have your bearings, explore as you will. We can help with evening restaurant reservations. **Hotel: Crowne Plaza, 2 nights. B**

4 Melbourne Free Time

You're on your own today. Well, not really, because your Travel Director is at your service to help arrange optional sightseeing experiences. After you've enjoyed a strong coffee in one of Melbourne's atmospheric laneways, that is. Adrenaline junkie? Linger in the city, gaining bird's-eye views from the Melbourne Skydeck at the Eureka Tower. Animal lover? Venture to Phillip Island to see hundreds of little penguins

pad along the sand. Want to get back to nature? Chug through the lush Dandenong Ranges on the Puffing Billy Steam Train, followed by a sip or two of wine in the Yarra Valley. The choice is yours. **B**

5 Melbourne – Warrnambool

The Great Ocean Road is one of the world's most epic journeys, a dramatic 240-kilometre union of limestone stacks (Twelve Apostles, we're looking at you), World Heritage listed rainforest, untouched coastal coves and sleepy towns, like Lorne and Apollo Bay. It's hard to know where to point your camera. We recommend having it poised to snap shots of the Loch Ard Gorge and London Bridge rock formations. It doesn't get any better than this. **Hotel: Lady Bay Resort. B DW**

6 Warrnambool – Naracoorte

Emus, kangaroos, koalas, echidnas... These are just some of the animals you'll possibly spot as you drive through Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve – housed in a dormant volcanic crater. Remarkably, this pocket of paradise was once wasteland, transformed by volunteers. More volcanic history awaits across the South Australian border in Mt. Gambier, home to the crater-filling Blue Lake. By now you'll be pretty thirsty, so it's a good thing the Coonawarra wine region is around the corner. After a few sips, you may find yourself getting deep – literally. Naracoorte's Alexandra Cave is a maze of delicate needle-like stalactites and massive twisting columns. **Hotel: William MacIntosh Motor Lodge. B DW**

7 Naracoorte – Kangaroo Island

The Fleurieu Peninsula is a natural adventure playground, all rolling hills, rugged clifftops and sandy beaches. Seaside Victor Harbor turns on the charms – there are steam locomotives – before your ferry blasts its horn. All aboard for Kangaroo Island. A well-deserved tasting of craft beer awaits at a boutique brewery, the only one on the island. How does a Golden Ale sound? Your destination is South Australia's oldest European settlement, Kingscote. **Hotel: Aurora Ozone, 2 nights. B DW**

8 Kangaroo Island

If you like alliterations, you'll love today's attractions: first stops are Remarkable Rocks and Admirals Arch, home to an immense colony of raucous fur seals. Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary was

badly damaged by the 2019 bushfires. Through this MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, you'll assist with their bushfire recovery plan and wildlife rehabilitation program. Learn from one of their experienced guides about the delicate ecosystem and Australian native animals. More wildlife greets you at Seal Bay Conservation Park, where enormous sea lions barrel down the sand to the water. This is one of the most significant breeding colonies in the country. **B L**

9 Kangaroo Island – Adelaide

You've arrived in the South Australian capital, known for its well-preserved churches and well-admired cuisine. Did you know that Adelaide boasts more restaurants per capita than any other city in Australia? After a cultural walking tour in the Botanic Garden with an Aboriginal Guide, and an Adelaide city tour, the afternoon is yours to see just how many you can sample – we have a few recommendations, including the epic Central Market, where you can try green ant gin with cheese, among so many other delicacies. This place is the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. **Hotel: Crowne Plaza, 2 nights. B**

10 Adelaide Hills & The Barossa

Today is one of indulgences through the Adelaide Hills and atmospheric towns like Hahndorf, Australia's oldest German settlement. Wander down its tree-lined streets and take time to explore the quaint shops. This part of the state is known for its food and wine, and you'll discover local flavours over lunch at Lambert Estate, nestled in the rolling hills of the Barossa, enveloped by vines. Return to Adelaide through landscape dotted with stone cottages and olive groves to join your Travel Director for a Farewell Dinner at Koomo, Adelaide's highest restaurant, for a Japanese inspired feast. **B L FD**

11 Farewell from Adelaide

By day 11, you will have a suitcase full of wine and cheese; a camera full of dreamy images; and more memories than you can count. **B**

