

Best Time to Travel

Remember: the seasons are reversed. When it's winter at home, it's summer in Australia (summer runs December–February; winter runs June–August).

Best overall window: The **shoulder seasons** — **September to November and March to May** — are the sweet spot for most clients: warm, comfortable weather, thinner crowds, and better value on flights and accommodation than the peak summer holidays.

BEST TIMES FOR SPECIFIC EXPERIENCES

Experience	Best Time
Great Barrier Reef (visibility & calm seas)	Jun – Oct
Whale watching (East Coast)	May – Nov
Uluru & the Red Centre (cooler days)	Apr – Sep
Tropical North QLD (the "Dry")	May – Oct
Sydney & the beaches	Dec – Feb
Tasmania (warmest, long days)	Dec – Feb
Wildflowers (Western Australia)	Sep – Nov
Snow season (Vic & NSW Alps)	Jun – Aug

MOST EXPENSIVE TIMES TO TRAVEL

Prices spike and availability tightens during Australian school holidays and peak summer. Steer budget-conscious clients around:

- **Christmas & New Year** → **late January** (peak summer + long school break)
- **Easter holidays** (late March / April)
- **School holidays:** ~two weeks each in **April, July, and late Sep / early Oct**
- **July** (winter school holidays + peak tropical season up north)

Booking in the shoulder seasons — or well in advance for peak dates — delivers the best value.

Flight Times & Getting There

APPROXIMATE FLIGHT TIMES — FIJI AIRWAYS

Fiji Airways offers a convenient gateway to Australia via Nadi (NAN), with the option to add a South Pacific stopover.

From	To Nadi	Nadi → Australia
Los Angeles (LAX)	~10.5–11 hrs	~5 hrs to Cairns, Sydney & Melbourne
San Francisco (SFO)	~10.5 hrs	
Vancouver (YVR)	~11.5 hrs	

Times are approximate and vary by season, routing & connection. Fiji Airways connects Nadi to **Cairns, Sydney, Brisbane, Canberra, Gold Coast & Melbourne**.

OTHER AIRLINES WE MAY USE

We select the best carrier and routing for each client's itinerary. We may also book:

- **Qantas** — extensive nonstop & domestic Australian network
- **United** — nonstop U.S. gateways to Sydney, Melbourne & Brisbane
- **American** — U.S. connections with Qantas partner routing
- **Air New Zealand** — ideal for Australia + New Zealand trips
- **Jetstar** — value fares on domestic & short-haul regional routes

MAIN GATEWAY AIRPORTS

- **Sydney (SYD)** — the primary international gateway
- **Brisbane (BNE)** — closest major hub to Tropical North QLD & the Reef
- **Melbourne (MEL)** — southern gateway for culture, food & touring

THE DATE LINE NOTE

Flying to Australia, you cross the International Date Line and **"lose" a day** — depart the U.S. and arrive two calendar days later. Coming home, you **"gain" it back**, often arriving the same day you left. Set client expectations early to avoid date confusion.

GETTING AROUND DOMESTICALLY

Route	Approx. Time
Sydney → Melbourne	~1.5 hrs
Sydney → Brisbane	~1.5 hrs
Sydney → Cairns	~3 hrs
Sydney → Uluru (Ayers Rock)	~3.5 hrs
Brisbane → Cairns	~2.5 hrs
Melbourne → Uluru	~3 hrs
Melbourne → Hobart (Tasmania)	~1.25 hrs
Cairns → Port Douglas (road)	~1 hr drive

Iconic Highlights

The must-see destinations featured in our sale itineraries.

Cairns & the Great Barrier Reef — The star of any Australia itinerary and the only place on earth where **two UNESCO World Heritage sites meet** — the Great Barrier Reef and the ancient Daintree Rainforest. Gateway to reef cruises, snorkeling, diving & rainforest adventures.

Port Douglas — A relaxed, upscale coastal town north of Cairns; the perfect base for both the Reef and the Daintree, with boutique resorts and a laid-back luxury feel.

Brisbane — Queensland's sunny riverfront capital; a vibrant, walkable city and a convenient hub for the Reef, the coast, and beyond.

Sydney — Australia's showpiece city: the Opera House, Harbour Bridge, Bondi Beach, and one of the world's most beautiful harbors. A must for first-timers.

Melbourne — The country's culture and food capital, famous for laneways, coffee, arts, and the Great Ocean Road on its doorstep.

Uluru (Ayers Rock) — The spiritual heart of Australia. An awe-inspiring monolith in the Red Centre, unforgettable at sunrise and sunset, and rich with Indigenous culture.

Tasmania — Australia's wild island state: dramatic wilderness, gourmet food and wine, the renowned MONA museum, and pristine coastlines.

Kangaroo Island — A pristine wildlife haven off South Australia, home to sea lions, koalas, and kangaroos in the wild, with dramatic coastal scenery and uncrowded beaches.

Hidden Gems

Elevate an itinerary and set yourself apart from the guidebook.

Sunshine Coast — Where Australians go for a holiday: laid-back beach towns, hinterland rainforest, and the home of Steve Irwin's Australia Zoo.

Gold Coast — Golden surf beaches, theme parks, and a lively dining scene; great for families and first-timers wanting sun and fun.

Canberra — Australia's capital, home to world-class national museums, galleries, and a growing cool-climate food and wine scene.

Alice Springs & Kings Canyon — The heart of the outback: rugged desert landscapes, the towering walls of Kings Canyon, and a gateway to authentic Red Centre and Indigenous experiences.

Ningaloo Reef — Western Australia's uncrowded UNESCO reef, where you can snorkel straight off the beach and swim with whale sharks (seasonal).

Flinders Ranges — Ancient, rugged outback scenery in South Australia; dramatic gorges, Aboriginal heritage, and true off-the-beaten-path adventure.

Wine Regions — World-class cellar doors including the **Barossa Valley** (SA), **Margaret River** (WA), and the **Yarra Valley** (VIC) — perfect for food-and-wine-focused clients.

Fast Practical Facts

Visa	U.S. & Canadian travelers need an ETA or eVisitor — quick online approval, required before departure
Currency	Australian Dollar (AUD). Tipping is minimal & not expected
Language	English
Electricity	230V, Type I plug — travelers need an adapter
Driving	On the left-hand side of the road
Time Zones	Multiple zones; the date line means clients "lose a day" flying over
Health & Safety	High standard of care; remind clients about strong sun (high UV) & reef-safe sunscreen
Connectivity	Excellent city coverage; eSIMs & local SIMs widely available

Trip Length & Pacing

SUGGESTED MINIMUM TRIP LENGTH

Given the flight investment, encourage clients to stay a minimum of **10–14 nights** to make the journey worthwhile and see more than one region.

RECOMMENDED "COMBINE THESE" PAIRINGS

- **Sydney + Cairns/Great Barrier Reef + Uluru** — the classic first-timer's bucket-list trio
- **Port Douglas + Sunshine Coast** — reef, rainforest, and a relaxed beachside base to visit Steve Irwin's Australia Zoo
- **Sydney + Melbourne + Tasmania** — cities, culture, and wilderness
- **Any Australia itinerary + a Fiji stopover** — break up the flight and add a South Pacific island escape

Pacing tip: Build in at least **2–3 nights per destination**. Long domestic distances mean travel days add up — pad the schedule so clients can truly enjoy each stop.