

PORT DESCRIPTIONS

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

Adelaide, Australia

This easy-going capital of South Australia is your portal to every big outdoor adventure you could dream up. Trek the raw, rugged Outback in all its aboriginal glory. Hop over to Kangaroo Island, one of the world's best places to view wildlife, hence the name. Then hit the wine trail with glass in hand! Adelaide is in the thick of the country's finest vineyards. Don't feel like venturing out? The city center offers a wide array of excitement from architecture and art galleries to gourmet goodies. And if you happen to be in town during one of the many festivals, you don't want to miss out. People come from all over the world to participate in the festivities. So make sure to be one of them!

Airlie Beach, Australia

The town of Airlie Beach, often referred to as the "Gateway To The Whitsundays", radiates a certain bohemian charm, with a blend of cosmopolitan and contemporary Australian style. Facing north on the eastern coast of Australia, Airlie Beach is blessed with late afternoon sun in the winter and cool, refreshing breezes in the summer. The coastal village of Airlie Beach serves as the ideal launching pad to explore the majestic Whitsunday islands, vast areas of untouched natural forests and the idyllic Great Barrier Reef.

Akaroa, New Zealand

We are currently in the process of gathering information for this Port and hope to have it available for you shortly. Please visit us again soon.

Albany, Australia

Whales, wine and wildflowers beckon in Western Australia's oldest and prettiest town. In fact, some consider its rugged and cliffy coast to be some of the most scenic in the entire world. Albany is also aesthetically privileged with two incredible waterways, the stunning King George Sound and Princess Royal Harbour. And these once whaling waters are now a playground for humpbacks and dolphins. It's not unusual to spot some frolicking by the shore. So keep your eyes on the ocean and your camera on zoom!

Apia, Samoa

Located on the north coast of Upolu Island, Apia is the capital and largest city of Samoa. Here, the gentle old-world charm of the city blends with the lush tropical beauty of the island to create a slow and easy pace. It is no wonder Robert Louis Stevenson chose to spend his final years here. Saunter along the beach road to the promenade on the harbor wall or visit some colorful local markets.

Auckland, New Zealand

With a population of 1.3 million people, including immigrants from all over the world and a heavy concentration of Polynesian people, Auckland is far and away New Zealand's largest and most cosmopolitan city. Called the "City of the Sails" because of its beautiful location between two harbours and great weather, Auckland is a big fish on a small island and a swank city in a rural country.

Ayers Rock, Australia

Huge? Yes. But spiritual? See for yourself on an excursion to the awe-inspiring Ayers Rock, known locally as Uluru. This Aboriginal sacred site is the world's largest monolith, rising more than 1,000 feet out of the desert sand. Discover the mysteries of Uluru on a walking tour around the base or a guided hike to the rock's peak.

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Bay of Islands, New Zealand

With its warm azure waters, golden beaches and some of the bluest skies on the planet, Bay of Islands is a magnet for the vacationally deprived. Some 150 isles, many still secluded, and a handful of coastal towns make up New Zealand's favorite holiday haven. Waitangi is your historic hotbed imbued in Maori myth and legends. Then there's Russell, the tranquil fishing town, Kerikeri with its wineries and orchards, and pretty Paihia, with its semi-central location - the perfect jumping-off point to everything the beautiful Bay of Islands has to offer.

Benoa, Bali, Indonesia

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Bora Bora, French Polynesia

Bora Bora is universally revered as the quintessential vacation home for hopeless romantics. And why not? If its idyllic location isn't captivating enough, there's the sheer decadent beauty of the place. Silky stretches of deserted white sand. The rocky black peaks of Mount Otemanu and Mount Pahia. And all of it bounded by a necklace of coral gardens dotting a fish-filled lagoon. Maybe this explains why honeymooners and Hollywood types have been enchanted with this Polynesian pearl for decades.

Brisbane, Australia

The cool and casual capital of Queensland offers all the glitz and glam of a big city without the big city airs. Located on the banks of the Brisbane River and surrounded by rolling hills, this urban oasis sure is easy on the eyes. Whether you're headed uptown, downtown or out of town, you'll be sure to encounter your fair share of first-ever experiences. Scale the legendary Story Bridge, take a sandboarding tour on North Stradbroke Island. Or if you'd like to connect with your inner Aussie, try your hand at sheep shearing at the Australian Woolshed.

Burnie, Tasmania

Burnie is a lively, attractive port city on the northwest coast of Tasmania, originally settled in 1827 as Emu Bay. With its broad beaches and rising hills, Burnie is as physically attractive as it is culturally interesting. The city's architecture reflects the history of industry in this remote part of the world, starting with sheep and moving to tin to silver, and now to cargo shipping. Known for its lovely waterfalls, winding gardens and scenic vistas, Burnie is also a good place to see a penguin or a platypus.

Cairns, Australia

Rapidly becoming the "capital of the Great Barrier Reef," the tropical paradise of Cairns (pronounced "Cans") is one of Australia's fastest-growing tourist areas. Our cruisetour guests will experience both the wet and the wild as they explore lush rain forests, wetlands and woodlands and spy the glorious creatures that inhabit them.

Champagne Bay, Vanuatu

Aptly named, Champagne Bay, Vanuatu is truly one of the finest tropical getaways. Nestled within the island of Espiritu Santo, this paradise boasts one of the most beautiful beaches in the South Pacific. Famous for its pink sand, coconut trees and sun kissed waters, this heaven on earth has remained largely untouched. Leave the bustle of the touristy beaches behind, bury your toes in the soft sand, and watch time stand still.

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Christchurch, New Zealand

Named after a college at the University of Oxford, England, Christchurch has a reputation for being a conservative, “British” city. This may be true on the surface, but a bit of poking around this largest city of the South Island, population 360,000, will reveal a vibrant arts culture and adventurous spirit that’s 100% “Kiwi.”

Darwin, Australia

Located midway along Australia’s northern coast, Darwin is a youthful city known for its optimism and its melting-pot culture. Named after famous evolutionist Charles Darwin, the city is the capital of the Northern Territory and the gateway to several Southeast Asian countries. Strongly rooted in history, Darwin is also on the cutting edge culturally, which makes for interesting exploring. Meander the compact downtown, go for a bike ride along the harbor or venture into one of the many bustling open-air markets.

Denarau, Fiji

The Fiji archipelago is well known for picture-perfect tropical islands, and Denarau Island is one of the most popular. Pure white beaches and sapphire seas adorn this resort island. Your most difficult decision will be whether you simply want to relax on the coral sands or to participate in the array of adventures Denarau Island has to offer.

Doubtful Sound, New Zealand

Often referred to as the “Sound of Silence,” Doubtful Sound is a tranquil, awe-inspiring destination known for its cascading waterfalls, looming mountains and rare marine life. While years ago only the most courageous sailors would enter the sound, today it is one of the most beautifully protected bodies of water in Fiordland National Park, attracting photographers, adventurers and cruisers from all over the globe.

Dunedin, New Zealand

As gateway to Queenstown’s many adrenaline-pumping activities and guard to the unspoiled natural habitats of the Otago Peninsula, Dunedin, the second-largest city on the South Island, with its historic Victorian architecture, alternative collegiate vibe and outstanding outdoor recreation, stands second to none. Whether you want to peep at rare penguins, view historic buildings or take in a museum, Dunedin has it all and then some.

Dusky Sound, New Zealand

One of the most complex fjords on New Zealand’s southern coast, Dusky Sound is a place of serene beauty, accessible today only by sea or air. European explorers first spotted this treasure when Captain Cook and his crew happened upon its opening in the late eighteenth century. Although they returned to explore its waters months later, Cook and his crew named it Dusky Sound for the time of night when they first found it.

Esperance, Australia

The town of Esperance is located on the Southern Ocean coastline, approximately 720 kilometers east-southeast of the state capital, Perth. Today, the Esperance region of Western Australia is one of Australia’s fastest growing visitor destinations. The area is devoid of high rise structures and crowds, and is characterized by spectacular coastal scenery; an abundance of wildlife including seals, dolphins, whales, emus and sea eagles; a temperate climate year-round; and Australia’s best beaches.

Geraldton, Australia

Located north of Perth, Geraldton has its own unique charm in part due to the city’s incredible variety of architectural styles. Beautiful windswept beaches, infamous leaning trees and a friendly holiday atmosphere add to the charisma of the Sunshine City. Whether you’re eager to strap on a surfboard or simply relax amidst white sands and turquoise shallows, it’s easy to relax in this friendly city.

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Hilo, Hawaii

The Big Island. The Orchid Isle. The Volcano Island. You'd expect a place that has inspired so many descriptive nicknames to be a land of rare beauty and wonder. Such is the island of Hawaii. Its 4,050 square miles are home to the snow-capped, 14,000-foot peaks of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, the fiery landscape of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, vast macadamia nut plantations, black-sand beaches, orchid-filled forests and posh resorts.

Hobart, Tasmania

There are few places as tranquil as the island of Tasmania. So it's no surprise that Aussies head here for a taste of laid-back island life. Over a third of the landscape is covered with national parks and wilderness World Heritage areas. It's even home to one of the world's best beaches and tons of aboriginal creatures such as the short-beaked echidna, little pygmy, and yes, the Tasmanian devil himself. And Hobart, the island's Europeanese harbor town, is the perfect prequel to it all.

Honolulu (Oahu), Hawaii

Hawaii's capital is indeed the jewel city of the Pacific. From Diamond Head and the world-famous beaches of Waikiki to the inspiring memorials of Pearl Harbor and the Punchbowl National Cemetery to the only royal palace ever constructed on U.S. soil.

International Dateline

The International Date Line is the meridian that separates two consecutive calendar days. Of course, since the line is mainly across open ocean, you can't see it. But without the IDL, if you cruised west around the planet you'd discover that when you returned home, it would seem as though an extra day had passed. This situation actually happened to Magellan's crew when they returned home after their circumnavigation of the earth. If your cruise should take you across this imaginary line, our staff will let you know the exact time one day turns into another - just in case you want to celebrate.

Isle of Pines, New Caledonia

It's been said that Captain James Cook named the Isle of Pines without ever stepping foot on its shore. Sure those sturdy Araucaria trees make a statement, but this pretty island deep in the South Pacific is so much more. Sleepy azure lagoons, untouched white sand and a copious collection of underwater wonders are just a few reasons why the isle's nickname is a tad better suited: "l'île la plus proche du paradis," or the closest island to paradise. Visit this speck of an island on the southern tip of the New Caledonia archipelago, and you'll undoubtedly find yourself spellbound by its beauty and carefree charm.

Lahaina (Maui), Hawaii

The Hawaiian phrase "Maui No Ka Oi" means "Maui is the best." You'll agree, after a visit to the enchanting Valley Isle. Explore the old whaling town of Lahaina and the nearby West Maui Mountains. Or explore Haleakala National Park and its 10,000-foot volcano crater. Then travel the road to Hana and experience a true taste of old Hawaii. Or snorkel off the emerald island of Lanai, where you'll delight in pristine reefs and colorful marine life.

Lautoka, Fiji

The city of Lautoka is situated on the northwest coast of the island of Viti Levu. The second-largest city of Fiji, Lautoka serves an important sugarcane-growing district and is the country's leading sugar export port. As a place with a vibrant population and a colorful life, the cultural lifestyle of the people here are worth exploring. The natural wonders of Lautoka, Fiji are just as outstanding. The dancing waves of the sea, the sandy beaches and the waving trees all are there to offer you a refreshing and memorable visit.

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Lifou, Loyalty Island

Lifou is the capital of the Loyalty Islands, a far-flung archipelago located off the French island New Caledonia, which is east of Australia. Known for its friendly inhabitants and its physical beauty, Lifou is truly an island paradise. The islanders are of mixed Melanesian and Polynesian heritage, with a small European minority. European whalers were the first visitors to the Loyalty Islands, and contemporary visitors can still enjoy the islands' timelessly relaxed beauty.

Luganville, Vanuatu

Luganville is the second-largest town on Vanuatu, one of over 300 islands of volcanic origin located in Melanesia. Its population is extremely diverse, with over 100 different languages, a multitude of dialects and a South Pacific island heritage that spans over 3,000 years of Pacific region immigration. On Luganville's main street, (which is unusually wide, thanks to a WWII general's insistence that it should accommodate four trucks abreast) visitors will find reasonably priced dining, interesting general stores, commercial shops and tourist boutiques.

Melbourne, Australia

Sitting pretty in the southeast corner of Australia is the very multi-dimensional Melbourne. Whether you're into football or funky fashion, local pubs or chichi cafés, out there or traditional architecture - this epicenter of everything truly has it all. Including a rich and notorious past. You'll find traces of it all over, from the Old Melbourne Gaol (one of the many Australian jails) to its many museums. Today it's considered one of the world's most livable cities. So pack accordingly.

Milford Sound, New Zealand

For first-time visitors and lifelong natives alike, Milford Sound is one of the most immediately breathtaking places in New Zealand. The 22-km-long fjord is dominated by beautiful Mitre Peak and calmed by gorgeous waters that mirror the sheer peaks surrounding them. Although remote, Milford Sound has visitors come from all over the world to admire its raw, unspoiled beauty and rare marine life.

Moorea, French Polynesia

If you're in need of an essential island escape - sun, sand, surf and all the tranquility that goes with it - say hello to Moorea. This ethereal atoll is an unsung romantic and a tad more laidback than its "big name" sister islands in the South Pacific. Heart-shaped and bordered by the Sea of the Moon, it's impossible to not fall captive to its charm. Or its natural good looks, for that matter. With aquamarine lagoons filled with angel fish, miles of pineapple and vanilla plantations, verdant volcanic peaks and extra-long stretches of white sand, expect love at first sight. And an endless supply of beach-blanket bliss!

Mystery Island, Vanuatu

Located on the southern most point of the Vanuatu archipelago, this little jewel of the South Pacific is completely uninhabited. Formerly used as an allied forces landing strip during WWII, today only palm trees and sweet seclusion grow from the white sand of Mystery Island. The locals live across the waters on Tanna and visit the island during the day to spread their warmth, culture and wares. It's the perfect spot for couples, beach lovers or anyone looking to lounge in an ocean of beauty and literally get away from it all.

Napier, New Zealand

Napier, a port city in the Hawke Bay region of New Zealand, is the art deco capital of the world. After a 7.9 magnitude earthquake, and subsequent fires, destroyed most of its commercial center in 1931, the city was rebuilt in the flamboyant art deco style prevalent at the time. The clean geometric lines, neon clocks and brightly lit fountains lend Napier a movie-set feel. Napier also boasts the highest number of sunshine hours of any town in the country, a feature that has made this region one of New Zealand's most important wine-producing areas.

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Newcastle, Australia

Newcastle is New South Wales' second largest city and provides all the excitement of a large city with the hospitality of a regional town. In fact, Newcastle is an Australian port city which stands apart from other port cities. A harbour with a picturesque coastline, an interesting topography, tree lined streets and a rich legacy of historic and architecturally significant buildings make up Newcastle. Exploring the downtown area comes with a variety of restaurants with diverse urban and waterfront dining options, a refreshing mix of boutique shopping and a range of inner-city galleries. Indeed, a treat for the senses.

Nourmea, New Caledonia

Nouméa, the charming capital of New Caledonia, has quite a few things to brag about. It's the third largest island in the South Pacific. It's home to the world's largest lagoon and second largest coral reef. And if that's not enough, it's part French. The cuisine is fabulous. The shopping, well, can you say haute couture? And you're never very far from a full-bodied glass of French wine. And yes, you also get to visit places like Pierre Vernier Walk, Baie des Citrons, and Place des Cocotiers. Which are almost as much fun to say as they are to see.

Ouvea (Wadrilla), Loyalty Island

If you've always wanted to see the South Pacific in its purest form, Ouvéa is your place. This super slender coral atoll is a member of New Caledonia's Loyalty Islands. And because it was declared a native preserve by the French in 1895, its people were able to hold dear their customs and traditions. The bungalows are still thatched. The villages still have chiefs. Life hasn't changed much for centuries. And if sinking your toes into the world's silkiest sand is on your agenda - lucky you. Ouvéa is home to some of the most heavenly beaches in the world.

Pago Pago, American Samoa Port

From the stunning deep-water harbor—formerly a volcanic crater that collapsed and filled with seawater—to the towering mountains that surround it, Pago Pago is unforgettably scenic. You'll find rocky islets that create warm lagoons perfect for swimming. And the stunning panoramic views from the Afono Pass guarantee impressive photos.

Papeete, Tahiti French Polynesia

Brilliant blue lagoons, proud jagged peaks, coconut groves and a hint of gardenia in the air. Everything you've ever imagined about this island is true. An enchanting place to say the least, its little wonder Tahiti is a muse to so many. Herman Melville and Paul Gauguin certainly found some inspiration here. And Papeete, the island's very cosmopolitan city, has its fair share. So before you immerse yourself in Tahiti's earthy delights, make sure to visit Papeete's vibrant waterfront and colorful market, brimming with everything from fresh fruit to artisan treasures. You'll find it, well, picture perfect.

Perth (fremantle), Australia

Perth, the capital of the state of Western Australia, is the fastest growing major city in Australia, with a population of over 1.5 million people. Situated alongside the tranquil waters of the Swan River (named for the indigenous population of Black Swans), much of Perth's growth and vitality is due to its proximity to surrounding natural resources, including gold, iron, diamonds, oil and natural gas.

Picton, New Zealand

Imagine a scene of regal sailboats floating atop blue waters, hugged by a picturesque landscape of rolling green mountains and cloud sprinkled skies. This is Picton, New Zealand, a charming seaside town at the head of Queen Charlotte Sound. Settled by early 19th century whalers, Picton is now a bustling seaport surrounded by award winning restaurants, delightful local art galleries, water sports' activities plus beautiful yet challenging nature trails.

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Port Douglas, Australia

Fishing village charm meets aquatic amusement and jungle intrigue in Port Douglas. And if you think this sounds like the perfect setting for your Australian adventure, wait 'til you experience it firsthand. Take a dip in the warm tropical waters. Sip a fruity drink at one of the many seaside cafés. Or relish the heart-pumping thrill of reef, river and rain-forest exploration.

Port Hedland, Australia

We are currently in the process of gathering information for this Port and hope to have it available for you shortly. Please visit us again soon.

Queenstown, New Zealand

Little wonder life is electric in Queenstown, it's built on a lake shaped like a lightning bolt, after all. Of course, the scenery created by the surrounding Remarkables and Eyres mountain ranges certainly doesn't hurt either. In fact, this gateway to Milford Sound and Fiordland National Park brims with so much natural beauty that a late 19th-century gold digger proclaimed it "fit for Queen Victoria" (and thus the name, or so the legend goes). Today, the regal resort town draws adventure and pleasure seekers from around the world, making it the number one destination on New Zealand's South Island. Yet despite its popularity, Queenstown still manages to hang on to its small-town Kiwi soul.

Rotorua, New Zealand

Spa lovers and culture vultures rejoice! This seething hotbed of spouting geysers, boiling mud pools and warm geothermal springs surrounded by silica terraces is a natural spa paradise set in the heartland of ancient New Zealand Maori culture. Located on the southern shore of Lake Rotorua in the Bay of Plenty, Rotorua is like no other place on earth - and you'll know it the moment you spy the constant steam drifts and sniff the rich, sulphur-scented air. Breathe deep and feast your eyes on the extraordinary landscape formed by thousands of years of mineral deposits. Certain spots in Rotorua can make you wonder if you've landed on another planet, but the city is actually home to over 50,000 people, with not a single little green man among them. In fact, half the population is genuine Maori, and they're just as warm, inviting and endlessly interesting as the incredible geography around them.

Singapore

At first glance, this diamond-shaped island just off the coast of Malaysia gleams with modernism and commercialism, making it seem more Western than Eastern. But as you continue to discover the city-state, you'll uncover the eclectic mix of cultures, religions, ancient treasures and British colonial impressions that give rise to a unique Singaporean identity. The cultural fusion is perhaps best expressed in Singapore's unofficial language, Singlish, a unique patois of English, Chinese and Malay.

Suva, Fiji

The tropical paradise Suva lies on a beautiful peninsula on the Island of Viti Levu (pronounced Vee-tee Lay-vu), the largest island and the hub of the entire archipelago of Fiji. A city rich with color, life, and exuberant energy, Suva is Fiji's most concentrated confluence of ethnicities and cultures, mixing Indian, European, Chinese and South Pacific Islands. The city's downtown is a jigsaw of colonial buildings, modern shopping plazas, abundant eateries and a breezy esplanade. Retaining a charm of its own, there are plenty of things to do in Suva to keep you busy during your visit.

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Sydney, Australia

The whole world's in love with Sydney. It's stylish, it's sophisticated, it's home to some of the friendliest people on the planet. And yes, a few koalas, if you know where to look. What's not to love? This gateway to the Outback has it all: endless outdoor adventure around the harbor or in spots like the Blue Mountains. Golden sandy beaches named Bondi, Bilgola and Coogee (which are not only beautiful, but also fun to say). A bustling art and entertainment scene. Countless museums, galleries and world-class restaurants where the dishes go way beyond the local Vegemite.

Tauranga, New Zealand

Tauranga lies in the heart of the Bay of Plenty region, about 2.5 hours south of the city of Auckland. It has become one of New Zealand's fastest-growing areas thanks to plentiful sunshine and beautiful beaches. But with a population of only about 100,000, Tauranga can still offer you generous space to yourself. In fact, the densest concentration of attractions, and perhaps the biggest crowds, is on The Strand in the downtown area. Tauranga also hosts a variety of festivals throughout the year, including arts, comedy, film, jazz and blues.

Vila, Vanuatu

There are 83 idyllic islands that make up the amazing archipelago of Vanuatu. And Port Vila, the capital city of the island of Efate, is the heart and soul of them all. Sandwiched between the northern and southern atolls - it's like the city was built for island hopping. With its earthy beauty and ancient tribal traditions, this "Land Eternal" has been voted one of the happiest places on the planet. And when a typical day consists of floating in a hidden lagoon, lounging under a gnarly banyan tree, cooling off in a waterfall shower and snacking on freshly picked fruit, you'll be the happiest person on the planet.

Volcanic White Island, New Zealand

Located 30 miles off the east coast of the North Island of New Zealand, White Island is the country's only active marine volcano, and may be the most accessible marine volcano in the world. Named by Captain Cook in 1769 for the white clouds hovering around its peak, White Island's Maori name is "Te Puia o Whakaari," which means "The Dramatic Volcano." Declared a private scenic reserve in 1953, White Island offers some of New Zealand's most spectacular views.

Wellington, New Zealand

The fact that Wellington has become New Zealand's fastest-growing weekend destination tells you something about the city. Once merely its political capital, the city's calendar is packed with celebrations, festivals and some of the country's best theater and dance. Sandwiched between steep hills on one side and the ocean on the other, New Zealand's second-largest city is a walker's paradise. Because so much of the city is within walking distance, you'll never feel the need to hire a cab. And considering the number of cafés, bars and nightclubs that line the streets, you'll probably never feel the need to go to bed, either.

Willis Island (Cruising), Australia

Willis Island, located east of Australia just beyond the Great Barrier Reef, is the only permanently inhabited island in Australia's Coral Sea Islands Territory. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology has a weather monitoring station on the island, staffed by three people, who make up the island's human population. Thousands of masked, brown and red footed boobies - a seabird that looks like a dressed up seagull - keep them company.