



INSTANT EXPERT

A travel professional's guide to
Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea

Abercrombie & Kent





There is travel and there is Abercrombie & Kent

A&K introduces the natural beauty and welcoming cultures of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. With over 30 years experience, A&K's office in Australia ensures arrangements are seamless right throughout the region. Whether exploring the Great Barrier Reef, visiting a remote cattle station, sampling New Zealand's adventure pursuits and accommodation, exploring the uncharted territory of PNG or enjoying the latest in fine dining, A&K's knowledgeable team will inspire your client. Our Insider Access opportunities embrace the need felt by today's discerning travellers to connect in a meaningful way with global destinations and cultures, A&K is committed to providing exclusive and up-close experiential travel in unmatched comfort and style. When travelling with A&K, each itinerary is designed exclusively for the individual and their travel companion. Our focus is on creating private and group journeys to accommodate individual interests and needs. To travel with A&K is to experience the unbelievable, to have the feeling of being in the right place at the right time, every single time. We go to the ends of the earth to create journeys that change lives.

Geoffrey Kent
Founder, Chairman and CEO
of the Abercrombie & Kent Group of Companies

Abercrombie & Kent

Abercrombie & Kent Australia is located in South Melbourne, Victoria, just on the edge of the Melbourne CBD. The Australian office is unique in the Group as it is both a TOC and a DMC, where most offices are either one or the other and it has been in operation for over 30 years. A&K's DMC office in Australia ensures a seamless journey throughout the region - whether it's exploring the Great Barrier Reef or visiting a remote cattle station, relaxing on a beach in Tahiti or enjoying the latest in fine dining, A&K's knowledgeable team will inspire all clients.





Australia

This country of startling diversity incorporates the arid outback of Central Australia, the rainforests and coral reefs of the tropical north, the pristine wilderness of Tasmania, bountiful vineyards, marine delights and rugged coastlines in the west and the fertile eastern seaboard. This vast nation possesses 36,735 kms (22,812 miles) of coastline, more than 3,000 national reserves and 18 World Heritage sites. It's a brilliant combination of natural wonders, fabulous food and wine, culture, history, vibrant cities and laidback friendly locals.

Best time to travel

A country as vast as Australia has a wide range of climatic patterns and huge temperature variations from north to south. No matter what time of the year you choose there is a destination in Australia that is ideal to visit. The northerly regions of Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia experience a tropical, hot, humid 'wet' season from December to March. While snow only ever falls on high peaks in the southern states and never in cities, conditions can be crisp in the south from June to August. September and October are mild in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia yet cool enough to visit Uluru. The wildflowers of Western

♦ **Best time to travel:** October to April

♦ **Capital City:** Canberra

♦ **Currency:** Australian Dollar

♦ **Visa:** Valid visa required

Australia are in bloom and the rainy season will not yet have reached Cairns or the Top End.

We have developed some amazing themed itineraries including, but not limited to, the following:

Gastronomic Journeys

Australia is blessed with a vibrant and contemporary culinary scene matched with outstanding natural produce. A&K's gastronomic journeys reveal gourmet secrets with executive chefs, winemakers and produce merchants on hand to share their passion. Enjoy Tasmania's world class accommodation with private wine tastings, gourmet picnics, fresh produce, award winning restaurant dining plus a private curator-led tour of the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA).

An extraordinary journey through South Australia provides ample opportunity for wine tasting in the Barossa Valley, home-cooked outback fare, gourmet meals at Southern Ocean Lodge and a chef-led mini-masterclass showcasing Kangaroo Island's rich local produce. An hour's drive from Melbourne, the Mornington Peninsula is both an ideal escape from the city and a place to enjoy the good things in life. Boutique vineyards abound, characterful restaurants and charming providores plus spectacular beaches.

The Gourmet South West of Australia affords a magnificent coastline and is home to world-class vineyards and gourmet produce. Chauffeur driven in comfort between wineries whilst meeting winemakers is a decadent delight.

Active Journeys

Enjoy expertly-planned walking and 'glamping' (glamorous camping) adventures whilst being accompanied by skilled guides, eager to share their extensive knowledge of local landscape, history, wildlife and flora. Experience the magic of the great outdoors in fully-supported style.

Experience Victoria's iconic Great Ocean Road and traverse the most picturesque areas on the Twelve Apostles Eco Walk.

Named for the early Aboriginal campfires along the coast, The Bay of Fires is one of Tasmania's most breathtaking locations. Pristine beaches, bushland and coastal wilderness provide the backdrop to an outstanding walking tour.

Bike ride through the picturesque farmland and forest along the East Gippsland Rail Trail in Victoria.

Take a journey over rivers, past rich pastureland and through forests teeming with wildlife.

The Arkaba Wilderness Safari adventure in South Australia offers both deluxe swag camping under the stars and gracious hospitality with the backdrop of rolling hills and open vistas.

Family Journeys

A&K is mindful of the needs of both parents and offspring, offering a range of expertly-designed itineraries ensuring a variety of adventurous, entertaining activities in some fascinating and diverse locations.

Australia's Red Heart is the perfect school holiday break. There's plenty to do with a range of family friendly activities from quad biking and four wheel driving to hiking and bush tucker.

Experience an ancient land and the indigenous people who have inhabited it for thousands of years on a unique journey to Australia's Top End with exciting adventure activities for young and old.

Looking for a school holiday getaway where sunshine is guaranteed almost year round? Then head to the historic pearling town of Broome in the remote Kimberley region for activity aplenty.

Search for dinosaur footprints in the sand, learn from a local about bush medicine and practice the art of crabbing.



Weather - Australia

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
New South Wales – Sydney area												
Temperature (°C)	22	22	20	18	15	12	12	13	15	17	19	21
Rainfall (mm)	89	102	127	136	127	117	117	76	74	71	74	74
Tropical North Queensland – Cairns area & Great Barrier Reef Islands												
Temperature (°C)	27	27	26	25	22	20	19	20	23	25	26	27
Rainfall (mm)	277	85	183	84	33	36	15	13	18	33	48	137
The Red Centre – Ayers Rock and Alice Springs												
Temperature (°C)	28	28	24	19	15	12	11	14	18	22	26	28
Rainfall (mm)	43	33	28	10	15	13	8	8	8	18	31	38
The Top End – Darwin and Kakadu & Broome and the Kimberley's												
Temperature (°C)	28	28	28	28	28	26	25	26	28	29	29	29
Rainfall (mm)	386	312	254	97	15	3	0	3	13	51	119	239
Victoria – Melbourne area												
Temperature (°C)	20	20	18	15	12	10	10	10	12	14	16	18
Rainfall (mm)	48	46	56	58	53	53	48	48	58	66	58	58
South Australia – Adelaide and Kangaroo Island												
Temperature (°C)	23	24	21	18	14	12	11	12	14	17	19	21
Rainfall (mm)	8	10	20	43	130	180	170	145	86	56	20	13
Tasmania – Hobart, Freycinet and Cradle Mountain												
Temperature (°C)	17	17	15	13	10	8	8	9	10	12	14	15
Rainfall (mm)	48	38	46	48	46	56	53	48	53	58	61	53
Western Australia – Perth and Margaret River												
Temperature (°C)	23	23	21	19	16	14	13	13	14	16	19	21
Rainfall (mm)	8	10	20	43	130	180	170	145	86	56	20	13



Insider Access: Penfolds Make Your Own Blend

Penfolds "Make Your Own Blend" Tour is the first of its kind in the Barossa Valley. An interactive and fun wine experience for anyone who has wanted to be a winemaker for a day!

After a tour of the winery and cellars, guests are invited to the Winemakers Laboratory to try their hand at making their own wine from Grenache, Shiraz and Mourvedre, just like Penfold's own Bin 138. It's a fascinating and satisfying experience, blending to suit your own personal taste. Take your wine home in a personalised bottle.

Insider Access: Botanical Ark

Visit a private ethno-botanical garden in the heart of the Daintree Rainforest. Located at the end of a jungle-clad valley, in the remote rainforest north of Mossman in Far North Queensland where you will meet with Alan and Susan Carle, the founders of this tropical oasis. The Carles founded the Botanical Ark in 1983 to realise their dream of preserving the world's most unique plant species. Enjoy an interpretive garden tour and be inspired as you learn about the intrinsic link between rainforest plants and cultures and sample some of the most unusual and interesting tastes and sights imaginable. The property also houses one of only two private Quarantine Stations in Tropical Australia, and the garden even includes species that are extinct in their original homes.

Relax and unwind on the verandah of this truly beautiful home as you are served morning or afternoon tea with a very exotic fruit tasting. Hear tales of the Carle's travels to remote indigenous communities where they further enhance their



broad knowledge of anthropology and collect examples of rare equatorial plant life. The Carles are certainly the most interesting people to meet and talk with and their home and property represent a beautiful example of Queensland lifestyle.

Insider Access: Darwin on Darwin

In 1836 Charles Darwin travelled in the HMS Beagle to Australia as part of a world voyage that would subsequently form the basis of his earth-shattering theories of evolution. Meet and journey with Chris Darwin in the footsteps of his great-great-grandfather Charles through the Blue Mountains exploring the wildlife and landscapes that inspired his theories.

Walk with Chris along the aptly named Darwin's Walk to Wentworth Falls through the dominance of Eucalypt forests that so intrigued the famous

naturalist. Gain a personal insight into the ideas and influences that shaped Darwin's thinking, rocking the foundations of human evolution and natural history forever. Chris Darwin shares his insights on the legacy of his famous forebear, and the influence Australia had in shaping his ideas. Chris Darwin, himself a conservationist, author and adventure guide has organised and led major expeditions including Social Climbers Expedition to host the world's highest dinner party in 1990 and has raised \$1.2 million for Bush Heritage Australia.

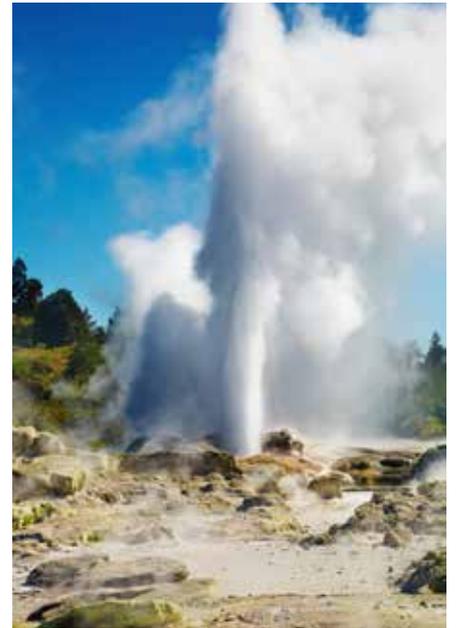
Your gift to take home is a copy of "Charles Darwin in Australia" personally inscribed by Chris Darwin. The book, by F.W. Nicholas and J.M. Nicholas, is a richly illustrated commentary considered the definitive account of Darwin's time in Australia.

Following the walk, experience the stunning views of the Blue Mountains with a gourmet cliff top lunch, before transferring back to Sydney.





New Zealand



A kaleidoscope of rolling hills, jagged mountain peaks, roaring rivers, steaming volcanoes, sweeping coastlines, glaciers and lush green rainforests, New Zealand possesses astounding diversity. On the one hand, it is an ideal hideaway inspiring rejuvenation amidst natural springs, on the other it beckons adventure as home to a multitude of thrill-seeking activities. Add to this a rich Maori heritage, a thriving arts culture and delectable cuisine – the result is one fabulous destination.

Best time to travel

New Zealand is enjoyable year-round depending on your activity. The north is subtropical and the south temperate. The traditional time to travel is September to April during the warmer summer months. From December to February, The Bay of Islands and Auckland are a water lover's paradise, with wonderful beaches, swimming, diving, fishing, sailing, and windsurfing. The central and southern regions of Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown are cool during the winter creating scenic snow-capped peaks and an excellent ski season in the mountains.

- ◆ **Best time to travel:** October to April
- ◆ **Capital city:** Wellington
- ◆ **Currency:** New Zealand Dollar
- ◆ **Visa:** Valid visa required

Highlights

- ◆ Venture to Abel Tasman National Park, renowned for its sculptured granite cliffs and world-famous coastal track.
- ◆ World Heritage Listed Milford Sound winds through awesome mountains and canyons. Explore its hidden coves and wildlife.
- ◆ See the geothermal attractions and Maori culture of Rotorua.
- ◆ Spectacular alpine scenery, award winning vineyards and world class lodges in Queenstown.
- ◆ Christchurch is a quintessentially English city with gracious homes, manicured gardens, venerable oaks, elms and limes.
- ◆ Enjoy a punt on the River Avon.
- ◆ Turquoise oceans, sandy beaches, superb boating, abundant fishing and magnificent scenery characterise the near 150 islands that make up the Bay of Islands.

Insider Access: Kiwi Bird



This Insider Access tour is all about becoming better acquainted with New Zealand's elusive kiwi. Your tour includes a private guide that will be able to answer all of your questions about the Kiwi. You also get the opportunity to meet and talk with the husbandry staff. Tours begin with a brief

introduction in the incubation room and hatchery where you are able to see the equipment working. You will then continue into the 'staff only' areas to see the Egg preparation room and get the opportunity to see and handle real kiwi eggs.

Your tour then takes you to the kitchen where the artificial diet for the kiwi is prepared. You will also see a variety of interesting food including worms and insects! A visit to the brooder room is next. This is the kiwi nursery where chicks stay until they are approximately 400gms in body size. The birds are then moved to outdoor enclosures where they grow until they are 1kg. From here you will enter the indoor nocturnal area where captive kiwis of different ages are on display in a natural setting behind glass. Your tour concludes in the static display that provides a wealth of information and audio visual material about the kiwi.

Insider Access behind the scenes tours are exclusive for Abercrombie & Kent guests and offer a unique insight into the valuable conservation work done for the kiwi at Kiwi Encounter.

Insider Access: Private Garden Tour of Larnach Castle in Dunedin

Situated on the picturesque Otago Peninsula, Larnach Castle is one of New Zealand's premier visitor attractions. Lovingly restored by the Barker family the castle and surrounding grounds are at the heart of the Dunedin visitor experience.

Discover New Zealand's only Castle, built in 1871 by William Larnach, merchant baron and politician, for his beloved first wife Eliza. It took more than 200 workmen three years to build the Castle shell and master European craftsmen spent a further 12 years embellishing the interior. Larnach spared no expense on his dream home, which features the finest materials from around the world. The Castle is still privately owned and



Papua New Guinea

cared for by the Barker family who purchased it as their home in 1967. Decades have been spent on the Castle's restoration, with the family having restored empty buildings from ruin and assembled a large collection of original New Zealand period furniture and antiques. Open to the public throughout, this conservation project has been funded through admission fees. The family has always been committed to opening their home and sharing this significant period of Dunedin's and New Zealand's history.

Enjoy this private tour with Margaret Barker whose passion has been to create a beautiful garden on this stunning historical site.

Insider Access: Private Artist Encounter in Queenstown

Enjoy a full day touring Queenstown. Your day may include a visit to bungee jump site AJ Hackett Kawarau Bridge, historic Arrowtown and a stop at beautiful Lake Hayes. It will also include a visit with a local artist. Learn their history and the techniques they have used in their craft. Lastly, take a tour of Gibbston Valley, one of the pioneers of the Central Otago wine industry. Enjoy a wine cave tour, tastings and lunch. This region is also one of the most southernmost wine growing regions of the world.

It is easy to understand why Papua New Guinea is considered one of the most diverse nations in the South Pacific. It's untamed with a wonderful variety of complex cultures and awe inspiring landscapes. The Tari Basin is home to the Huli Clans, one of the most culturally intact indigenous groups in PNG. Visit both the Blackwater Lakes area and the Middle Sepik onboard a cruise vessel. River banks are dotted with traditional villages, each with its own spirit house.



Highlights

- ◆ Visit a local village in Mt Hagen and witness a fascinating cultural performance.
- ◆ Stay in dramatically located wilderness lodges in the highland regions.
- ◆ Enjoy a harbour cruise and snorkelling around coral islands at Madang.
- ◆ The dense forests of Tari are home to high altitude orchids, suspension bridges, waterfalls and boast over 13 species of exotic Birds of Paradise. Most display striking colours and vivid plumage which distinguish them as some of the world's most dramatic and attractive birds.
- ◆ The Karawari region is home to rich and varied flora and avifauna. Travel the jungle fringed waterways of the Karawari River and its tributaries.
- ◆ Discover the unique Sepik Spirit 'floating lodge' inspired by the local spirit houses.
- ◆ Visit the Southern Highlands, home to the Huli Wigmen and the colourful Tari market.

- ◆ **Best time to travel:** March to November
- ◆ **Capital City:** Port Moresby
- ◆ **Currency:** Kina
- ◆ **Visa:** Valid Visa Required

Weather - New Zealand

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
North Island												
Temperature (°C)	19	19	18	16	14	11	10	11	12	14	15	17
Rainfall (mm)	79	94	81	97	127	137	145	117	102	102	89	79
South Island												
Temperature (°C)	16	16	14	12	8	6	6	7	8	12	13	16
Rainfall (mm)	56	43	48	48	66	66	69	48	46	43	48	56



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